

REPORTER

A man with long dark hair and a beard is shown from the chest up, submerged in water. He is looking upwards with his mouth slightly open, and his right arm is extended straight up towards the surface. His left arm is also visible, reaching out. The water is a deep blue-green color, and there are many bubbles rising from his mouth and around his head. Bright light from the surface creates a strong lens flare and illuminates the scene from above.

DECEMBER 14, 2007 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM

DEPRESSION
IS IT DROWNING YOU?

BIRTH CONTROL
FEWER OPTIONS FOR
COLLEGE WOMEN

TIGER TRACKS
FASTEST GROWING TRAIN
SHOW IN WESTERN NY

REPORTER

EDITOR IN CHIEF Jen Loomis

MANAGING EDITOR Adam Botzenhart

COPY EDITOR Veena Chatti

NEWS EDITOR Joe McLaughlin

LEISURE EDITOR Casey Dehlinger

FEATURES EDITOR Laura Mandanas

SPORTS/VIEWS EDITOR Geoff Shearer

WRITERS Casey Dehlinger, Ben Dekle, Rachel Hart,
Laura Mandanas, Evan McNamara, Michael Percia,
Lacey Senese, Ilsa Shaw, Geoff Shearer, Chris Tosswill,
Madeleine Villavicencio, Karl Voelker

ART

ART DIRECTOR Jason Sfetko

STAFF DESIGNERS Ryan Moore,

Kelvin Patterson, Susie Sobota

STAFF ILLUSTRATORS Bryan Williams,

Caitlin Yarsky

CARTOONIST Alex Salsberg

PHOTO

PHOTO EDITOR Dave Londres

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS Josh Lehrer

Megan Rossman, Tom Schirmacher,

Ross Thompson

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION MANAGER John Carew

PRINTING Printing Applications Lab

BUSINESS

AD MANAGER Geo Kartheiser

BUSINESS MANAGER Tim Wallenhorst

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE Kyle O'Neill

ONLINE

ONLINE EDITOR Dan Orth

ADVISOR

Rudy Pugliese

CONTACT

MAIN 585.475.2212

EMAIL reporter@rit.edu

ADVERTISING 585.475.2213

EMAIL reporterads@mail.rit.edu

EDITOR'S NOTE

GETTING BURNED BY GLOBAL WARMING

I remember a more innocent time, wherein the weather was a neutral topic of conversation. A safe haven, if you will, for the casual acquaintances and in-laws to retire to after the shallow wells of “hello” and “how are you?” ran dry. Nowadays, the weather is a dangerous thread of discussion—it's easy to get burned by global warming.

I hear a lot of arguments about global warming that make me shudder. I find that the true believers of this climate change theory tend to bicker furiously that Mother Earth is on her death bed, cite a few scientifically questionable facts about the polar ice caps melting, and finish up with a laughably simple suggestion at a solution, such as turning off the lights every time you leave a room.

The reason that this example argument feels so irrelevant to me is simple: I don't think that the temperature itself is a convincing focus for debate. I don't care about the ice caps and I *shouldn't* care—it's irrational for me to change my behavior because some polar bears (and some future Californians) might lose their habitats. Global warming, when discussed as such an abstract concept, loses any urgency it has as a movement. This doesn't negate my strong feelings about global warming. I care very much about the environment. So should everybody on this planet.

The crux of the global warming movement is oil. We burn it in our cars and homes—which, in turn, burns the earth via some sort of greenhouse effect. Maybe. With millions of skeptics as evidence, it's not hard to see that the long-term effects of the Industrial Age are easily dismissed.

There's another focus that's easier to sell, if you prescribe to the economist's staple argument that money motivates. We, along with a large chunk of the world at large, get our oil from Iran. As the future of that country becomes more and more uncertain (despite the recent National Intelligence Estimate, President Bush seems hell-bent on invasion), the price of that oil will continue to rise.

So, why not invest in alternative fuels now? It's an entirely likely scenario that oil will be gone before our generation dies out. And if not, that liquid fossil fuel will still grow more expensive as less of it remains buried in the earth. I don't know about you, but I'd prefer not to pay \$20 per gallon of gasoline, which makes hybrid and flex fuel cars very desirable by comparison.

Of course, alternative fuels aren't *necessarily* better for the environment than oil (look up the net energy loss of ethanol sometime), but here's the deliciously ironic clincher: To succeed in the marketplace, they'll have to be. Al Gore-inspired consumers are beginning to place a high premium on renewable, clean-burning energy. Ethanol is sexy. Switch is sexy. Even nuclear power is starting to bring its sexy back. These alternatives make coal and other fossil fuels look like ugly stepsisters, which means that researchers are more likely to secure grants for creating cheap, renewable, and eco-friendly technologies. There could be a huge demand for greener goods in tomorrow's market, which makes these technologies a good investment at the present. And, my fellow RIT students, we could very well be those researchers, toiling away on extremely interesting and profitable advancements in science and technology.

This new *Inconvenient Truth*-inspired consumer obsession with environmentally sound technologies may be the reason why Gore deserved his Nobel, because let's be honest: If we can simultaneously make the earth and our wallets greener, why shouldn't we?



Jen Loomis

EDITOR IN CHIEF

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECEMBER 14, 2007 | VOL. 57, ISSUE 13

NEWS PG. 04

THE BUDGET

What did that 5.9% tuition hike fund?

COMMUNITY WATCH PROGRAM

A student-led initiative to increase security on campus.

FORECAST

Plan accordingly

SG WEEKLY UPDATE

The Senate discusses the future of FlexCar, this year's disappointing Commencement schedule, and more.

LEISURE PG. 10

TIGER TRACKS TRAIN SHOW

Railroad tracks take over the running track in the Gordon Field House.

MIKE DESTEFANO

AIDS is finally funny.

REVIEWS

Music - Call Me Lightning

Insanity - Dancing in your car



10



Community Watch Program members left to right Robert Crampe, Adam Richlin, and Scott Backus

AT YOUR LEISURE

Your weekly source of Sudoku.

FEATURES PG. 16

MORE THAN THE WINTER BLUES

Drowning in Depression

A COMPROMISING POSITION

Why there are fewer contraceptive options for college women.

THAT GUY

Meet Keeno Young.

AVOIDING FINANCIAL ARMAGEDDON

This week's installment: Reprieve From Rising College Costs

SPORTS PG. 26

SPORTS DESK

Men's Wrestling takes the competition to the mat.

SPORTS BEAT

Men's Hockey. Men's Basketball. Wii Prescriptions.

VIEWS PG. 30

RIT RINGS

Please. Stop calling.

VIEWS

Lacey Senese lifts Santa off the scale.

Cover photograph by Tom Schirmacher

Train photograph by Ryan Randolph

Crime Watch photograph by Ross Thompson

INSIDE RIT'S BUDGET

by Rachel Hart

"Obviously, the first thing that comes to mind is the tuition rate increase," responded Budget Director Bill Bianchi, when asked for the biggest change in this year's budget.

Bianchi accounts for the 5.9% tuition increase: "The RIT operating budget is 85% supported by the tuition and fees from the students." He went on to explain that major expenses, such as the operating budget and salaries and benefits, are not generally supported by grants or other sources of income for RIT, making tuition the major funding for these services. With an inflation rate of three percent, many wonder why the percentage increase is so great. Bianchi cited other factors affecting the tuition increase amount, and claims that RIT does its best to adjust it. "We know the climate, we know—essentially— what we are trying to accomplish through our modeling. We are trying to keep that rate increase reasonable," he said.

As for any majors cuts to the budget, Bianchi maintained that there were none, saying that administrators in each college help to decide

their fate in the budget. "The colleges and divisions would look in their particular units and try to reappropriate funds and, maybe, give up some academic programs or temper them if they are not successful," he said. "They need be on top of that to make sure they are making the best use of their scarce resources."

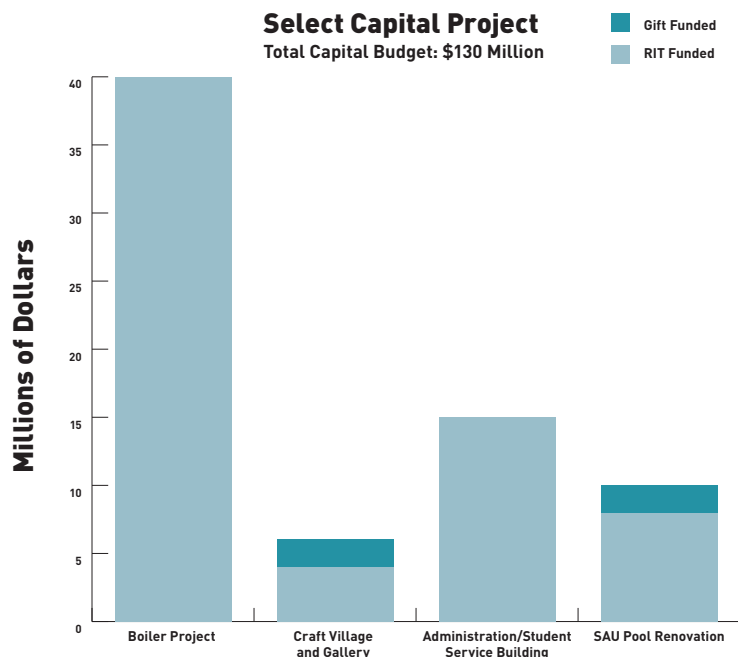
The budgeting process itself is a major undertaking involving millions of dollars, countless jobs, students, and numerous programs. The RIT budget actually consists of two parts, the capital budget and the operating budget. The operating budget totals \$452,608,823. This budget funds Institute operations such as academic services, financial aid, and general operating costs.

The capital budget, however, which primarily gets funded by grants and other sources, consists of construction projects and large additions to academic programs. In the capital budget summary for 2008, there are a few expenses which stand out. Money has been set aside for the demolition of Riverknoll, with the total cost coming to \$150,000. Another is the Student Af-

fairs Ritter Upgrade Study—a look at options to increase the capacity of the Ritter Arena or to replace it. The study will cost \$37,000. Lastly, improvements to the official residence of RIT's President, Liberty Hill, totaling \$115,640, also have been worked into the Capital Budget. This money will cover replacing the roof of the house, in addition to repairs to windows and trim on the structure.

Bianchi described the budget as a significant undertaking. "Each year," he said, "the budget comes together through a dynamic process of budget modeling, where we pull together the major categories of expenses." He explained that RIT's diversity and size requires such an elaborate approach.

As for the future of the budget, Bianchi speculated that there would be some spending to enhance the retention at RIT. A new direction could mean lots of new spending, but as Bianchi said, "Not everything has to cost bundles of money." •



ENDOWMENT & GIVING AT TOP 10 UNIVERSITIES AND RIT

University	Endowment (billions)	Gifts Received (millions)
Harvard	34.9	614
Yale	22.5	304
Stanford	17.2	911*
Princeton	15.8	254
MIT	10.0	333
Columbia	7.2	913
Uni. of Pennsylvania	6.6	450
Cornell	5.4	406
Dartmouth	3.8	159
Brown	2.8	126*
RIT	0.66	79*

Sources: Businessweek, Democrat and Chronicle

*Figures for fiscal year 2006. All other figures for fiscal year 2007.

Music for the Holidays

Featuring
Performances by ensembles from the
RIT Music Program

Ingle Auditorium
Student Alumni Union

Friday,
December 14th
8:00pm

\$2.00 donations benefiting the
Alfred L. Davis Endowed Music Fund
and the Woodward Pool Renovations

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

RIT policies?

grievances?

housing?

interpersonal relationships?

conduct matters?

fair treatment?

roommate conflicts?

harassment and discrimination?

grade disputes?

Lee Twyman

RIT Ombudsperson

585.475.2876 / 585.475.7200

ombuds@rit.edu

www.rit.edu/~ombuds

accommodations or access?

The Ombuds Office

NEW COMMUNITY WATCH PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

by Madeleine Villavicencio | photograph by Ross Thompson

It is the middle of the night, and you are on your way home from working late in the lab. Your car breaks down and your phone died hours ago. You are frustrated, and need to trek through the darkness to find some assistance. But you also have an eerie feeling that an axe murderer is going to jump out at you as you round the next corner. *What do you do?*

The scenario may be a bit extreme, but more typical emergency situations can and do occur on campus. In the event of car trouble or in the dire need of CPR, Public Safety would be the best bet, but one may not always catch them patrolling nearby. The new Community Watch Program, created by Student Government's Committee for Campus Improvement and Development, hopes to come to your rescue, regardless of your predicament.

During Student Government's (SG) November 19 meeting, Janvi Gauthaman and Adam Richlin, the chairpersons of the Committee on Campus Improvement and Development, first brought the Community Watch Program to the public. Although it was Public Safety who pitched the idea to SG President Ed Wolf, it was Gauthaman and Richlin's committee that did most of the development.

Gauthaman explains, "The program was first inspired by the University of Wisconsin in Madison's 'Associated Student of Madison Neighborhood Watch Program.'" After a long process, the program was approved by the SG Senate and is estimated to be put into motion by this spring or early next fall. It does not yet have an official name and will continue to be referred to as the Community Watch Program.

According to Richlin, "The creation of this project is not related to crime on campus because it is already very, very low." The statistics provided by the 2007 RIT Safety and Security Report demonstrate that although liquor and drug abuse referrals were among the major concerns in the last three years (over 450), arrests in proven cases related to these matters only ranged from zero to four cases a year. Over the past three years, there have been 81 cases of burglary on campus, which is the only other highly reported crime at RIT.

"The goal is to provide eyes and ears to Public Safety. The student volun-



teers will not have the power to bust parties or give tickets, but will be able to escort [those] who need company or need a ride during the late hours," states Gauthaman. The program also aims to decrease cases of drunk driving by students. Instead, they will be able to call for "a quicker, reliable, and friendly resource, without the fear of parties being busted."

"Volunteer students will be trained and equipped with radios, and possibly, a campus car for escort services and patrolling," continues Gauthaman. In addition, volunteers will be knowledgeable regarding services available on and around campus to prepare them for any issues that may arise. Volunteers will be trained by Public Safety officers in areas related to the position such as CPR, emergency help, and stress management.

Volunteers will be handpicked from a pool of applicants. "They will be screened first for crime records, as we need reliable and responsible students," mentions Gauthaman. Once hired, volunteers will first be able to sign up for shifts between 9 p.m. and 2 a.m. Then, they will be able to schedule times whenever else they may be available. In addition, volunteers will be continuously supervised by a dispatcher. Regardless, Gauthaman believes, "This will be a great opportunity for individuals or organizations to help the community, fulfill community service requirements, and get out of their rooms while having a good time doing it." •

In photo: left to right Robert Crampe, Adam Richlin, Scott Backus

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



DWI DEFENSE. IT'S ALL WE DO.SM

1209 East Avenue Rochester, New York 14607 (585) 244-5600
Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

www.DWILAW.com

HEY READERS...

**IN CASE YOU DIDN'T GET ENOUGH OF US IN PRINT,
NOW YOU CAN FOLLOW ALONG WITH TWO NEW
BLOGS!!!**

WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM

RIT FORECAST

compiled by Chris Tosswill

15 SATURDAY

WINTER WONDER LAN

SDC 1300 & 1310, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. It's cold outside, so why not enjoy the classic RIT pastime of Lanning? As always, it's BYOC (bring your own computer). Team and solo games will be played, including Call of Duty 4 and Half Life 2 Tournaments. Pre-registration at www.egslan.com is required. Cost: \$10.

FIFTH ANNUAL WINTER BALL

GCCIS Atrium, 8 p.m. - 11 p.m. With a theme of *Stairway to Heaven*, the fifth annual Winter Ball will be a great time. Hosted by The Society of Software Engineers, All RIT students are welcomed. Cost: \$15/person or \$20/couple.

GUITAR HERO TOURNAMENT

SAU Band Room, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Pretend you are in a rock band! Lots of pizza, soda and carpal tunnel for all. And prizes! You have to bring your own groupies, though. Cost: \$3.

ASIAN CULTURE FASHION SHOW

Webb Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Not your average fashion show! Almost two hours of fashion, skits, and other performances. Interpreters will be provided. Cost: \$5.

16 SUNDAY

ROCK CLIMBING COMPETITION

Rock Ventures, Registration: 10 a.m. Competition: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Climb Rocks. Beat People. Win. For more info, check out: <http://www.rockventures.net/>. Cost: \$30 to participate. \$5 to observe.

17 MONDAY

DR. ED LATESSA: CRITICAL ISSUES IN COMMUNITY SUPERVISION 06-A201, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Dr. Ed Latessa from the University of Cincinnati will be speaking on critical issues in community supervision and re-entry. Sponsored by the Center for Public Safety Initiatives and Rochester Safe and Sound. Cost: Free.

18 TUESDAY

E-CYCLING

SAU Lobby, 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sponsored by the Student Environmental Action League, RIT's sixth annual electronics recycling event. Bring your no longer desired tech gadgets and give them a proper burial and reincarnation. Cost: Free.

IMPROVING ORGANIZATION/

CONCENTRATION

01-2358, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Instead of being out to lunch, go to lunch and learn how to better organize your self and concentrate. Lunch 'n Learning workshop (bring your own lunch). Cost: Free.

19 WEDNESDAY

WORLD AS ONE

SDC, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Free food and entertainment. Be part of NSC's Annual World as One event, celebrating diversity and culture. Cost: Free.

20 THURSDAY

TIME MANAGEMENT

STRATEGIES 01-2358, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Lunch 'n Learning provides tips on how to effectively plan for the quarter. Bring your own lunch. Cost: Free.

THE DISCREET CHARM OF THE

BOURGEOISIE Dryden Theatre, 8 p.m. 102 minutes. French with subtitles. Polite society friends attempt to gather for a dinner party, but find themselves curiously incapable of convening. Through spartan direction, the visionary Buñuel led his cast and crew toward the most profoundly surreal film of his career. Cost: \$5.

21 FRIDAY

ROCHESTER AMERICANS V. TORONTO MARLIES

Blue Cross Arena, 7:35 p.m. The Americans take on the Marlies. All money's on the Americans, with a 48-30 record to Toronto's 34-39. Cost: \$11 - \$21.

It's break. Go home. Have a Happy New Year!

STUDENT GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE

FLEXCAR TAKEN OVER BY COMPETITOR ZIPCAR

Jarret Whetstone, representative from WITR and member of the Parking and Transportation Committee, presented a recent change to the Senate. FlexCar, the car rental service that RIT recently brought onto campus, has been bought out by its competitor, ZipCar. The FlexCars that are currently on campus will need to be rebranded, which may confuse some. More troubling to students, however, will be this slight discrepancy in policy between these two companies: FlexCar allowed drivers under the age of 21 to rent, but ZipCar does not. While the current terms and conditions for rental will remain in place for the rest of the year, this change in policy could affect younger students' eligibility for the program in upcoming years. Discussion over this issue will take place at the 12/14 Senate meeting.

COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULE REMAINS UNCHANGED

President Ed Wolf presented some disappointing news concerning the Commencement schedule for this year. He and other members of the Senate had pushed hard for a change to the schedule that would have allowed Commencement to occur on Saturday and Sunday, as opposed to Friday and Saturday. Due to the increased costs of paying staff members over that weekend (which is also Memorial Day weekend), this change was not possible. A small compromise was reached, however, in that only one ceremony—presumably for one of the smaller colleges—will occur on Friday. The rest will be fit into Saturday's schedule. College of Engineering Senator Adam Weissman reminded the Senate that they had originally voted to move the ceremony because some parents may not be able to attend a weekday ceremony due to work commitments. College of Business Senator Carlos Cornejo remarked that this Commencement schedule was acceptable, because parents should be able to take off one day from work to see their children graduate.

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Vice President Sasha Malinchoc informed the Senate that long-time Women's Senator Denise Herrera had resigned from her post. Elections for the new Women's Senator will be arranged in the upcoming weeks (it should be noted that these mid-year elections are voted upon by the Senate only and not by that position's constituents). Malinchoc also reminded the senators that the election for the new Freshman Senator position would be held at the 12/14 Senate meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

GLBT Senator Cory Gregory announced the creation of the GLBT speaker series this year, as well as the successful grand opening of the GLBT Center this week. Barry Culhane, the Chair of the Imagine RIT Creativity and Innovation Festival, came to speak to the Senate in order to increase student awareness and excitement about this event. The final 20 minutes of the meeting was held in a closed session, wherein the Senate discussed the current state of housing at RIT.



TIGER TRACKS

by Ben Dekle | photograph by Ryan Randolph

It's a familiar scene: A young child walks into a toy store. His eyes light up, his jaw drops, and he stands in awe of the overwhelming magnificence in front of him. Most of the time, that doesn't actually happen, but as I walked into the Field House on Saturday, the feeling that came over me was a pretty close match. I was greeted by the sight of trains in all shapes and sizes, steam and electric engines, model cities and forests bigger than my bedroom, along with people of every age enjoying it all. Railroad tracks had taken over the running track.



This is the Tiger Tracks Train Show, hosted by RIT's Model Railroad Club (MRC), and labeled as the "fastest growing train show in western New York." Vendors and fans of model trains came from as far as Canada and Pennsylvania to participate. Other than the models, train-themed lamps, mugs, and DVDs were scattered amongst the train sets. There was even one rather out-of-place booth selling Magic cards and Warhammer books.

Of course, the trains themselves were far and away the true stars of the show, and every kind of set you could imagine was present. Trains made of metal. Trains made of plastic. Engines and train cars ranging from over a foot long to no bigger than your index finger. Toy trains for kids. Ultra-realistic models for the die-hard adults. Harry Potter and Polar Express themed trains. There was something for every level of train enthusiast, and even things for the non-enthusiasts.

David Scheiderich, one of the members of the MRC, says that money from the event mainly goes towards the costs of the club. "This is our biggest event of the year. It kind of constitutes our fundraiser for our other activities. When we first started out 11 years ago, we didn't have any money. We were lucky enough just to get space. We were basically collecting soda cans to get \$20 to buy a cheap locomotive, so this is a major evolution from where we used to be."

Michael Roqué, another member, adds in, "We used to do the one-day shows in the SAU cafeteria and we were at capacity, so we really needed to expand into here. We spent about two years sort of planning and proposing this, and we were able to pull it off last year, so this is our second year here and I think it's here to stay."

As we were talking, I was offered a chance to run one of their trains. The track he led me to was probably over 30 feet long, complete with a train yard about seven tracks wide and with multiple trains running simultaneously. Handing me a control box with a daunting amount of buttons on it, Scheiderich brought me up to speed on the latest in model train technology, which blew the train I got for Christmas one year out of the water.

comes over it, all the locomotives have computer chips inside them. It's basically a small computer network." He points out a data port on the side of the table the track is on. "I could plug the throttle in here, select a locomotive and control it." In fact, he didn't even bother to, as the controller was a wireless version.

I only ended up running the train for a few feet, for fear of causing a horrific derailment of catastrophic and expensive proportions. Even so, there was a kind of mystical quality about it. Something about being able to not only control the train's movement but honk its horn as I drove it by Scheiderich made me feel peculiarly gleeful.

After the electric train, John Sommer (another MRC member) led me to the track running steam-powered models. No electronic magic here. As he went through the process of setting it up, it became quite clear that this was a real, honest-to-goodness steam train in miniature form. He filled it up with some distilled water ("Tap water's got a lot of minerals in it," he told me, smiling), oiled up the wheels, and finally opened the front of the engine and gave it a light. With an audible whoosh, a blue flame puffed out and began emitting a small but constant roar. After a few minutes of heating up, he set it in motion and it began happily puffing around the track. "You have to be a little bit crazy to be into these things," he noted.

It just goes to show how diverse the hobby actually is. Walking into the field house, I expected to find only a group of the most dedicated model train conductors. While there were certainly some, there were just as many who were there to have a good time with friends. "Yeah, we're here to show off trains to the public, and vendors are here to sell stuff to the public," Scheiderich said, "but it's like our social thing to do. We don't go down to the gun club, or to the bar, we go to a train show and hang out. You can go to a train show and it can be kind of lame, but you'll still find yourself there for three hours, because you know three-quarters of the people there." •

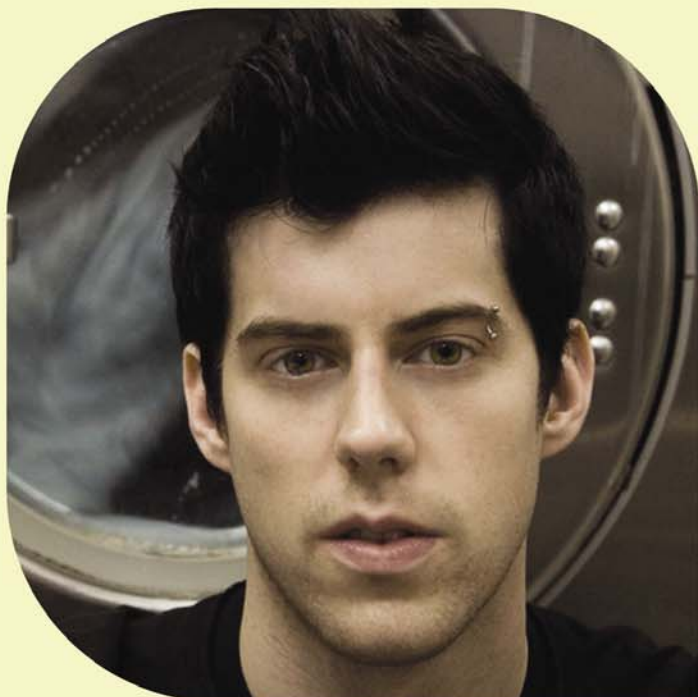
■ "Fastest growing train show in western New York"

■ "You have to be a little bit crazy to be into these things"

■ "The track is AC powered, and packetized data

PABLO FRANCISCO

students \$10 · fac.staff.alum \$15 · public \$20



friday feb. 8th
gordon field house
8pm (doors @ 7)

TICKETS ON SALE NOW
at the gordon field house box office 585.475.4121
and online at www.ticketmaster.com
*all tickets are subject to a \$1 handling fee

friday jan. 25th
clark gymnasium
8pm (doors @ 7)



JACK'S MANNEQUIN

with special guest

students \$12 · fac.staff.alum \$17 · public \$22

Major
Concerts

cab.rit.edu
c.a.b

COMEDIAN MIKE DESTEFANO LAUGHS AT AIDS

by Casey Dehlinger | photograph by Jeffrey Porter

The triangular paper advertisement adorning the tables of the RITz are misleading at best, depicting a 20-something who appeared to have lost his way to an audition for *West Side Story*. The man who takes the stage has short, grey, spiked hair instead of the slick black of his publicity photo, an unflashy khaki jacket instead of denim. Mike DeStefano's stylish rounded eyeglasses replaced the sharp dismissive stare of his image. To begin, he shouts, "Masturbation!" before looking expectantly at the interpreter.

THIS IS WHEN I REALIZE THAT IT COULD BE A VERY LONG ROUTINE.

The first batch of jokes doesn't alleviate my apprehension, touching upon overused stand-up classics such as children on airplanes, the superiority of black people, and what a terrible experience it is to puke after a night of partying. The audience is substantial for the space offered at the RITz, but when the laughter doesn't fill the room, he bullies the crowd gently, assuming that the lack of response was due to him pushing some sort of cultural button. Absurdism comes next. "I once punched a Jamaican woman in the vagina" is met with uproarious laughter before he explains that she demanded (in bed), "Make me remember you, white boy."

After this first round, the act takes an unexpected turn; DeStefano starts trying to be inspirational, talking of his time in drug rehab, and eventually leading up to the revelation that he was diagnosed with HIV. Aaaaaaaawkward. What do you do? Laugh? Cry? Sympathize? Empathize? Apologize? Put a breathing mask on? A (metaphorical) cloud of his tainted blood hovers above the audience.

It takes a while for DeStefano to earn the belief (and then the trust) of the audience. Can being HIV-positive be funny? Not particularly, but there was a message in his ability to talk about it. As his stories took on related themes— from neighbors with Down's Syndrome who could find the meaning of life in a glass of chocolate milk, to paraplegic assholes who deserved to be yelled at— the more preachy, inspirational bits start making a bit of sense, and somehow manage to feed the content of the latter half of his act. He even stopped exploiting the interpreters, save for the lovably rotund and white-bearded David McCloskey, whom DeStefano makes sign, "You better not pout, you better not cry, you better watch out, or I'll crack your fucking skull with a pipe." The audience erupts in laughter and applause.

As DeStefano steers away from the clichés of the first act, he draws his material from unique experiences that are much funnier: Qualms about being the only straight guy at a support group for people with HIV. The time his paraplegic friend called him from Florida to ask how the wintry New York weather was, to be met with the response, "It's cold, but at least I can walk." The paraplegic's wife called him back minutes later, crying, not from having her feelings hurt, but from laughing hysterically along with her husband at the crack.

DeStefano also talks about the stupidity of the American public when it comes to contracting HIV, another subject that he ventures to talk about on stage. Audiences ask if one can get HIV from a bloody doorknob or a bloody toilet seat. DeStefano has little to offer them besides, "If you're dumb enough to sit on a bloody toilet seat, you deserve what's coming to you. You might as well cut your ass up with a razorblade before you do it."

"YOU BETTER NOT POUT, YOU BETTER NOT CRY, YOU BETTER WATCH OUT, OR I'LL CRACK YOUR FUCKING SKULL WITH A PIPE."



Before the final stretch of comedy, he lapses one last time, finally successfully, into the inspirational, with a beautiful story about his wife being entered into HOSPICE with AIDS and DeStefano finally getting his Harley Davidson motorcycle. In the parking lot with a vertically challenged gay man, the paraplegic, he and his wife decided to take off for a joy ride down Florida's I-95 at 80 mph. They abandoned her morphine drip's stand and held the bag up by hand while her gown flew behind her in the wind. She died shortly thereafter, leaving DeStefano a widower at 28.

After lightening things up with a few more jokes, he opens things up for questions, and there are only two: "Did you get HIV from needles or sex?" DeStefano responds, "Don't know. It's hard to tell. I did both." The questioner retorts, "At the same time?" Thrusting his pelvis and pressing down the plunger of an imaginary syringe, DeStefano pantomimes the act, and another audience member shouts, "That's called 'The Injector,'" making it apparent that it is possible to laugh at AIDS, and that DeStefano has proven his point. •

// Above: Comedian Mike DeStefano performs to a "tough" crowd at the RITz Sportszone on Friday night.

REVIEWS

CALL ME LIGHTNING THE TROUBLE WE'RE IN

by Evan McNamara



Call Me Lightning is a dance-punk outfit from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. That's pretty much all one can say about the band. In itself, that is simultaneously good and bad.

After first listening to *The Trouble We're In*, an obvious comparison to draw is to the Talking Heads. Their influence is clearly heard in the vocal stylings of Call Me Lightning, and this is a welcome change to the many new-wave bands whose singers are polished Robert Smith impos-

tors. No, Call Me Lightning are not like the Killers, and you can now rest a little easier because of it. Still, the lead singer does get a little carried away. The vocals on this album can be so extreme and flamboyant from time to time that it takes away from the song (e.g. Blood Brothers). If the band's singer found a good balance between the wailing and actual singing, the band would be in stellar shape.

Another aspect of this album worth discussing is the lyrics. Call Me Lightning's lyrics set them apart from the new wave/dance punk pack, because they don't talk about girls, and they don't talk about wallowing in depression, and they don't talk about any of the other cliché topics that their contemporaries tend to dwell on. They talk about ghosts, dragons, getting high, young entrepreneurship, and, obviously, lightning. I think it's safe to say that the members of Call Me Lightning know their way around a Dungeons and Dragons map, but we won't count that against them. They have a fresh and original take on things, and that is one of their best qualities.

This album is extremely danceable, with most songs being fairly uptempo. A fat bass tone helps lock in the groove with the drummer. Some of the band's songs, namely "Ghosts in The Mirror" and "Ghouls," are reminiscent of music from Castlevania. You can't help tapping your foot to this band, and I suppose that in a live setting, the crowd would probably really dig them, but this isn't captured so well on disc. The guitar tone is harsh and borderline irritating, and the drums sound way too open, almost as if they were recorded in the Bat Cave. The vocals are mixed so that they have a very close sound, which makes the band seem sort of distant, almost like a karaoke track.

Overall, this album is a good effort. It has its high points of dance-punk glory, and it has its low points of overindulgence, repetitiveness, and likeness to video game soundtracks (or is that a high point in disguise?) It is, however, a solid release. We can only hope that the band will develop their sound further and come back with a stronger album in the future. •

CONFESSIONS OF A CAR DANCER

by Laura Mandanas

She's spastic. Epileptic. Totally and completely insane. Seemingly unaware of the traffic around her, she flaps her arms around like a large flightless bird—a really sexy flightless bird, it should be noted—singing and bouncing and drumming to the beat. Though fellow drivers and innocent passersby may frown, perplexed, I fully encourage such unabashed boogieing. *You go girl!* I think to myself. *Get down with your bad self.*

Ahem. Full disclosure: I was that girl. Yes, you've caught me. I am a car dancer. It's a completely ridiculous activity, I know, but I'll take my fun where I can get it. And in the interest of spreading a little holiday cheer, I am willing to share. So here's my Christmas/Hannukah/Kwanzaa/Festivus gift to you: The first five tracks of the ultimate car dancing mix CD.

TRACK 1 // "Dragostea Din Tei" by O-Zone – Also known as the "Numa Numa" song, this song even has a dance to get you started. You can thank Gary Brolsma (think fat guy + webcam) for this later—right now, you've got some dancing to do.

TRACK 2 // "What is Love" by Haddaway – If the "Numa Numa" song doesn't catch your fancy, here's another song with a well-known dance to get you going. The exaggerated side headbang à la Night at the Roxbury is a great place to start.

TRACK 3 // "Hey Mama" by the Black Eyed Peas – Don't even try to make sense of the lyrics. But "cutie cutie, [do] make sure you move your booty." It's a challenge while sitting, to be sure, but one well worth the effort.

TRACK 4 // "Turning Japanese" by The Vapors – An upbeat, catchy tune from 1980. Just...trust me. It's insanely danceable.

TRACK 5 // "Damn it Feels Good to be a Gangster" by Geto Boys – A little slower than the previous track, but equally enjoyable. Remember that scene in *Office Space* where the guys smash the printer? Yeah, that was this song. •

12.14.07

AT YOUR LEISURE

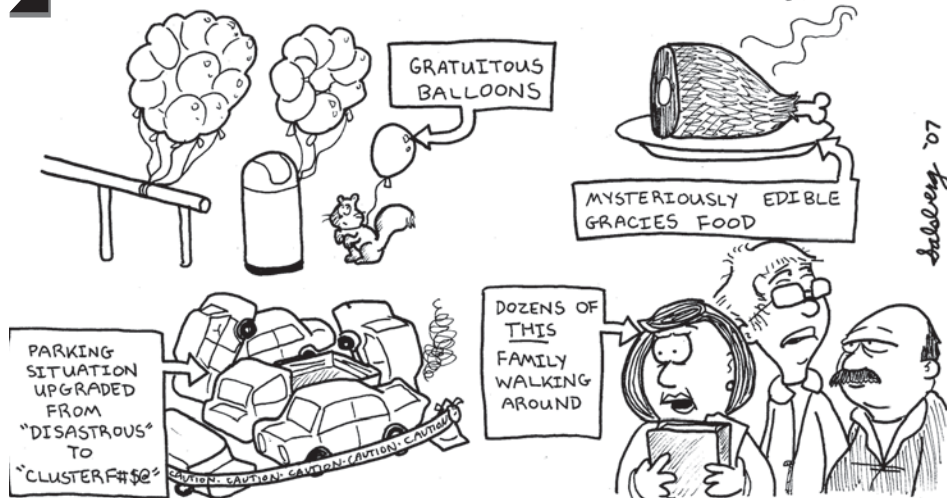
by Ilsa Shaw

QUIZ:

- Which frozen treat, native to Rochester and available mostly near the shores of Lake Ontario, is often referred to as the most sought-after indulgence of the region?
 - Al's Lemon Ice
 - Gitano's Custard
 - Abbot's Custard
 - Netsin's Meringue
- Which of the following sculptors has works gracing the entrance to Bausch & Lomb, the railing of the Main Street Bridge, and the Memorial Art Gallery's collection in Rochester?
 - Wendell Castle
 - Albert Paley
 - Margery Eleme Goldberg
 - Leonard Urso
- Which park in Rochester encourages its guests to "feed the chickadees" on any stroll?
 - Mendon Ponds Park
 - Ganondagan
 - Black Creek Park
 - Northhampton Park
- Where can one find an exhibit of professional photographs that depict lucha libre wrestlers?
 - Gallery R
 - George Eastman House
 - Memorial Art Gallery
 - ARTWalk
- True or False? RIT was located in downtown Rochester 'til 1968, when it was moved to Henrietta.
 - True
 - False

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

SURE SIGNS RIT IS HAVING AN OPEN HOUSE:



REPORTER RECOMMENDS:

Toting around duct tape. Long since hailed as the trustworthy prevention of frostbite for sled-dog drivers everywhere, the tool may come in handy with the harsh Rochester winter coming on. You can even use the roll as a fancy bangle to ward off the wind and snow. Chances are, you'll become popular as a useful supplier of on-demand adhesive. If you can conquer the arduous task of keeping sticky ends separate, surely you can manage patching yourself up some nice makeshift gloves. If anything ever ruptures, we trust you'll know how to repair them.

DIFFICULTY RATING: HARD

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

SIGN OF THE WEEK: YOUR EYES ARE BEAUTIFUL



Moon + The Winter Blues

by Madeleine Villavicencio
photograph by Tom Schirmacher



College is a stressful place—that much is obvious. You may not have experienced the full brunt of it yet, but you most certainly will feel the pressure before you graduate. In all probability, your professor will assign you that gigantic project due next Monday, the work in your other classes be damned. Your girlfriend will cheat on you. You will get lost for three hours on your way back from Java's in downtown Rochester because you missed that one tiny left turn, and when you finally get back to campus, you will accidentally hit a light post on the back loop and total your car.



If you're unfortunate enough to experience all of that and more in the span of a couple of days, you may start forgetting things. Maybe you'll neglect to take that daily dose of vitamin C. And because of all that work you need to do on that gigantic project, you might start skipping your meals and sticking to a steady, alarmingly unhealthy diet of Snickers bars and Mountain Dew. You're very likely to catch a cold, and also likely to be quite miserable.

It could be that the above symptoms are due to simple stress. It's also possible, however, that they are signs of a more serious condition, such as depression.

In the fall of 2006, the American College Health Association National College Health Assessment (ACHA-NCHA) revealed that 15% of college students cited depression and/or an anxiety disorder as an impediment to their performance in school, along with stress, common sicknesses, sleep disorders, concerns with a loved one, and relationship difficulties. Between the ages of 15 to 19, a person is most susceptible to depression. In fact, many who suffer from this disorder experienced their first symptoms in their adolescence. If left untreated, major depression may lead towards even greater problems, with potentially life or death consequences.

ENCODED IN OUR BODIES

Although the precise cause of depression is still unknown, there are about as many hypotheses regarding its origins as there are bricks at RIT. What researchers *do* agree upon is that it is not a simple, singular cause. The onset of depression can be due to many things. Two of the most obviously studied aspects are biology and genetics.

As a biological anomaly, depression has to do with malfunctions of a person's neurotransmitters and certain hormones. Neurotransmitters are affected by light, structural abnormalities in the brain, sleep disorders, and genetic susceptibility. An imbalance in any of these can trigger depression and other mood disorders.

Serotonin, one of the aforementioned neurotransmitters, may be the most important for feelings of well being in that it affects many basic psychological functions such as anxiety mechanisms and the regulation of

All information from the ACHA-NCHA Fall 2006 survey, available at: <http://www.acha-ncha.org/data/PHYSMENTALF06.html>

Percentage of students who have felt hopeless in the last 12 months

Never:
35% female
48% male

1-2 times:
27% female
24% male

3-8 times:
25% female
18% male

9 or more times:
14% female
10% male

mood and sex drive. Medications that boost serotonin levels also stimulate hippocampus neuron growth, which may have been damaged by stress-related factors. The rejuvenation of this memory-processing center may aid in the recovery of depression patients. Interestingly, MRI scans have shown that those who suffer from extreme depression have frontal lobes that are approximately 7% smaller than what is considered to be normal.

Catecholamines are another group of neurotransmitters that play a role in clinical depression. In general, catecholamines prepare the body for physical activity by increasing heart rate, blood pressure and blood glucose. Norepinephrine, a type of catecholamine, is specifically known to increase arousal and boost mood. It is scarce during depression, but unusually overabundant during mania episodes, the "upswing" of manic depression.

Imbalanced levels of hormones such as estrogen and progesterone have also been identified as a cause of depression, typically in

Percentage of students who have felt very sad in the last 12 months

Never:
17% female
32% male

1-2 times:
30% female
30% male

3-8 times:
32% female
24% male

9 or more times:
21% female
14% male

Percentage of students who have felt so depressed that it became difficult for them to function in the last 12 months

Never:
55% female
64% male

1-2 times:
21% female
18% male

3-8 times:
14% female
11% male

9 or more times:
10% female
7% male

women who are undergoing menstrual periods, pregnancy, and menopause. Women have an increased risk of depression, and are thought to be more likely to harbor negative thoughts.

Research has also proven that depression is related to genetics. A person with a depressed parent or sibling is two to six times more likely to develop a problem than individuals without a family history. Studies have shown that adopted children with depressed biological parents are more prone to developing a problem, while adopted children with depressed foster parents are not as likely to become depressed themselves.

In addition, studies among twins have also emphasized the importance of genetics as a factor in depression. It has been proven that if one identical twin suffers from a major depressive disorder, there is a 50% chance that the other twin also will. Fraternal twins, however, are only 20% likely to suffer from it together. Identical twins have identical genes, but fraternal twins are like ordinary siblings when it comes to extent of similarity in genetic make up.

As if that weren't complicated enough, biology and genetics are not the only factors affecting depression. Personal beliefs or attitudes, living environment, gender, and even side effects of withdrawal have also been proven to increase the likelihood of depression. Unfortunately, there is frequently a lack of mental health information available, leading to undiagnosed (and therefore untreated) cases. After all, how would a person know to get treatment without knowing the symptoms?

THE TELLTALE SIGNS

It is impossible for a person to be happy all the time—after all, we don't live in Pleasantville. It is normal to feel the whole spectrum of human emotions. We must all, at times, feel joy, anger, pain, and even sadness. But what sets "healthy sadness" apart from depression?

According Kathleen Kane, Interim Director of Clinical Services at the RIT Counseling Center, "Most often, a student is diagnosed with depression by answering questions about their symptoms of depression. These include questions about mood, activity level and involvement in daily life, sleep habits, eating habits, energy level, feelings about self, levels of anger

PICK YOUR POISON

Depression is the common cold of all psychological disorders. Though it is not as popular as phobia, it is the disorder for which most people seek mental health services. There are many different types of disorders related to depression, some more grievous than others. Here are some of the more extreme or less conventional cases.

MAJOR DEPRESSIVE DISORDER occurs when a person experiences approximately five to nine of the aforementioned symptoms of depression. Usually caused by great distress in important aspects such as home or work, it is not caused by substance use or medical disorder and can be triggered by a single traumatic event if feelings of depression linger for more than two months after the event. Symptoms last for about two weeks or more, occurring daily within the same time period. There will be a noticeable and maybe even drastic change in the person's level of functioning.

Similar to Major Depressive Disorder is **DYSTHYMIA**. The difference is that dysthymia lasts longer, with fewer effects on the person's daily tasks and functions. Persons with this disorder suffer from more intense and chronic symptoms that could last at least two years. Although there are gaps between depression episodes, the intervals never last longer than two months. It is neither caused by substance abuse nor by a previous medical disorder.

BIPOLAR DISORDER or MANIC-DEPRESSIVE DISORDER occurs when a person undergoes a period of mania or hypomania followed by a major depression episode, either vice versa or simultaneously. A number of cycles between the two extreme disorders usually last between three to six months. The greater the number of cycles in a given time, the more severe the case or prognosis may be. Medications may increase the risk of rapid cycling. Cases under this disorder may be classified under Bipolar I, Bipolar II, Cyclothymia and Bipolar-Not Otherwise Specified (Bipolar-NOS).

PREMENSTRUAL DYSPHORIC DISORDER (PMDD) is a severe form of premenstrual syndrome that affects about 8% of all women. It usually rears its head right before "that time of the month" during the luteal phase of the menstruation cycle, which starts at ovulation and ends the day before your next period.

SEASONAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER (SAD) occurs when a person suffers from depression symptoms only during the winter months of January and February. Although symptoms usually seem to subside during the spring and summer months, they tend to resurface in the next winter. It is believed to be caused by the seasonal variations of light that causes a shift in a person's biological internal clock. This affects the person's production of melatonin, a sleep-related hormone secreted by the pineal gland that is produced in increased levels of darkness. Youth and women are at greater risk. Eighty percent of those who suffer from SAD are women, and the disorder can be treated by phototherapy and an increase in melatonin.

or irritability and thoughts of suicide"

Physical symptoms may include a decline in energy and a decreased interest in bodily needs or pleasure such as food or sex. Sleep disturbances such as insomnia, oversleeping, and waking earlier than usual may arise. Usually, there is a decline in motivation and self-confidence. Eventually, an inability to tend to daily functions may become evident (see "Is This Depression, Or Just the Blues?" for a full list of symptoms).

SEEKING HELP

IT offers many resources. The Counseling Center (CC), which is found above the Student Health Center in building 23A, is run by many qualified psychologists and counselors willing to help in any way they can. In addition, mentions Kane, "There is a psychiatrist in the Student Health Center who is licensed to prescribe medication if needed." The CC's website—which can be found at <http://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/counseling>—also holds valuable information about their services and programs,

and includes links to other mental health resources online.

According to Kane, “When students come in to the CC to make an appointment, they are asked to complete some paperwork. This paperwork gives the counselor an idea of what the presenting problems are.” Alternately, the CC’s website provides users with a link to an online mental health screening exam. The results may be printed out and used in place of the paperwork.

Treatments for depression range from the most common (antidepressant medication) to the most unusual (magnetic therapy, for instance) and infamous (such as electroconvulsive therapy). At the health center, said Kane, “Some of the options include a psychiatric referral for consultation about medication, individual therapy, and group therapy. Most often, the treatment for depression is a combination of medication and talk therapy.”

Most students seek treatment on their own, but sometimes, faculty, staff, or friends may contact the CC because they are concerned about someone. Kane suggested, “When students are having symptoms that interfere with the quality of their lives, they should seek help. This might include problems with their emotions, their relationships or their functioning, academic or otherwise.”

Unfortunately, some students do not want to or find it difficult to seek assistance. Some are afraid that their problems are too small or too big for someone to help or that the person will not understand. Some may even think that they are being weak by asking for help, but that’s definitely not true.

For those concerned that someone will find out, do not worry. It is the CC’s policy not to release any information about their patients. “All of the counselors on staff are ethically bound to maintain the confidentiality of the clients in the CC and this includes the identity of students who use our services,” explained Kane. The CC could contact a student’s family if they have been given written consent or in case of emergency. “If we determine that a student’s life is in danger or the lives of others are in danger, we may make the decision to refer the student to the psychiatric emergency department of the hospital. In those cases, we may contact family without the written permission of the student.”

The CC provides individual, couples, and group counseling, where groups may either be educational or therapy oriented. After the first meeting, a counselor will help the student formulate a plan of treatment. If the counselor believes that the student will benefit from medication, then the counselor might refer them to a psychiatrist in the Student Health Center. Kane stated, “All treatment is voluntary, unless a student is at risk to harm themselves or someone else.”

In the case of an emergency, a student may request to see someone at the CC right away. In addition, if a student is believed to be at serious risk for suicide, the student will be transported to a hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

If you cannot access the Counseling Center, you may also get help for depression from psychiatric departments in hospitals, private, state or specialized outpatient clinics, community and mental health centers and family service or social agencies. You may even ask your physician to refer you to a mental health specialist. •

IS THIS DEPRESSION, OR JUST THE BLUES?

If you’ve been feeling down more often than not for the past two weeks or more, then you might be depressed. The following is a list of common symptoms that may indicate clinical depression. Take a moment to look it over, and check off those that apply to you. This test is **not** a diagnosis. If you tick three or more of these items, you may want to consider getting a professional opinion.

- 1 Finding it hard to get motivated and feel interested in things ☐ YES ☐ NO
- 2 Desire to avoid friends and everyday activities ☐ YES ☐ NO
- 3 Difficulty concentrating or making decisions ☐ YES ☐ NO
- 4 Loss of interest in eating, or the urge to overeat ☐ YES ☐ NO
- 5 Loss or gain in weight without dieting ☐ YES ☐ NO
- 6 Difficulty in sleeping, getting to sleep, waking during the night, or waking too early and not being able to get back to sleep. Alternatively, a desire to sleep all the time ☐ YES ☐ NO
- 7 Thinking about death or suicide ☐ YES ☐ NO
- 8 Having unpleasant, negative thoughts (such as guilt or worthlessness) ☐ YES ☐ NO
- 9 Experiencing pain in your body or head aches that don’t seem to have any physical cause ☐ YES ☐ NO

NOW HIRING AT REPORTER

- > **SPORTS EDITOR**
- > **PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER**
- > **WRITERS**

SEND ALL INQUIRIES TO:
reporter@rit.edu

HOUSE FOR RENT

110 Weidner Road
5 Bedroom, 2 Bath
Plenty of parking
Greenway Trail
About a mile from campus

Contact
704.8427 or 436.9447
for information

WITR^{89.7}FM
call our
comment
line!

585 475 5100

tell us what you love about WITR,
what you ate for lunch,
what's bothering you,
what you hate about WITR,
what we can do better
or
just make squawking noises!

if we dig it, we might put you on the air!

internet stream at witr.rit.edu



fewer contraceptive options for college women

by Laura Mandanas

illustration by Caitlin Yarsky

all across the country, college women have been put in a compromising position. The birth control pills once offered at their college health centers for a fraction of the regular cost are no longer available, thanks to a new federal law that went into effect at the beginning of this year. Many find themselves faced with an unpleasant decision: Switch to a generic, cheaper pill, or pay three times as much as they had previously paid...Or, in some cases, don't use birth control pills at all. What happened? Reporter takes a look.



a mistake / The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 was intended to stop people from abusing Medicaid, the main federal health insurance program for the poor. The act changed the way drug manufacturers calculate the Medicaid rebates they owe the government for medications sold each quarter. Since college health centers were not identified as an exception, drug manufacturers giving them a discount would have to pay more to participate in Medicaid. Unsurprisingly, when the Deficit Reduction Act went into effect in January, many companies stopped offering the discounts to college health centers.

“The Deficit Reduction Act wasn’t targeting this particular issue, but as a fallout from it, student health centers weren’t identified as an exception,” says Dr. Brooke Durland, Medical Director at RIT. As a result, she says, the health center is no longer able to purchase medications at nominal and discounted pricing. The benefits of the heavy discount were many. “That [discount] allowed us to have a variety of birth control pills, which meant that we could tailor them more closely to each student based on her response to them, side effects, that kind of thing...Now we don’t have the same ability with pills that can be purchased right here on campus to tailor the side effect profile.”

“And if we can offer it under \$20, that’s an appropriate savings, considering a college student’s financial assets.”

side effects / “People often ask if we think there are unexpected pregnancies occurring because people aren’t accessing [medication]. And it’s way too early to tell. I don’t have a sense of the nature of the impact yet,” says Durland. “Are people choosing not to use appropriate contraception, or are they using less reliable methods? At this point, I don’t have a sense of that.”

Durland has worked in college health for 20 years, and has been with RIT for 15 years. In the past, she says, the health center has offered varied numbers of choices. At one time, there were five varieties of birth control pills available for purchase at the health center. Since the Deficit Reduction Act went into action, there are now only two types of pills available. The health center also offers Nuva Ring, a ring saturated with hormones, and Depo-Provera, a shot (neither of which were effected by the Deficit Reduction Act, yet cost more than the pills anyway).

“Our job, I think, our focus is to provide good access to appropriate treatment—including contraception, if that’s the choice of the person—and have it be affordable,” explains Durland. “You know, these brand name medications in the drug store—if you pay out of pocket—would be \$35 or more. And if we can offer it under \$20, that’s an appropriate savings, considering a college student’s financial assets.” The two pills that are offered at the health center are in the range of \$13-15. “We managed to find that, negotiate for that, and have it available,” says Durland. The more expensive pills are no longer offered at the health center.

Concerning the two varieties of pills that are carried, Durland says, “One is what we call a phasic pill, meaning there are three different proportions of estrogen and progesterone in it, and the other is what we call a monophasic pill. They’re similar to ones that we have carried, but students, for example, who were on one of the ones that we carried before and really liked it, now we can give them a prescription, but we can’t sell it here. That means they have to find transportation, go off campus, and pay for it, either out of pocket—and I’m sure it’s probably three times as expensive as what they could buy it for here—or they have to use insurance, if they have insurance that provides a benefit for pharmaceuticals.”

the (possible) remedy / As a district representative in the American College Health Association (ACHA), Durland went to Capitol Hill last February with the rest of those at the ACHA’s executive meeting. She explains, “ACHA had done a survey across the country, and we had data to show them about the potential impact of this. We met the people who had written the original Deficit Reduction Act, and it had not been their intention at all to have this as a ripple effect.”

Two remedies were described to the ACHA representatives: A rules remedy, or entirely new legislation. The rules remedy has already failed (college health centers were not added to the exception), but the legislation option—which would take much longer—is still open and, in fact, making headway.

On November 1, Congressman Joseph Crowley, joined by several ACHA representatives, introduced the Prevention Through Affordable Access Act, which would restore a nominal price exemption to colleges and university health centers. This would allow them to purchase prescription medications at discounted rates and, in turn, pass the savings on to the students.

While there are some who object to the discounted contraceptives on moral or religious grounds, Durland notes that there are multiple reasons that a woman might choose to take birth control pills. She explains, “I think it’s important to know too that there are women who take birth control pills not just for contraception, but because they struggle with difficult, irregular, or heavy menstruation, and this will tend to regulate them. Not all of the women that we’re prescribing birth control pills to [use them] for contraception, which I know is sometimes a hot issue for people who wonder if that really should be part of the care we give. I believe it should, but I know people disagree.”

She adds, “We certainly—I think everyone on this staff—would strongly urge any young woman who was choosing to be sexually active that her responsibility is to use contraception, so we would be very supportive if she had made that choice to make the next choice, which is to be appropriately protected.” •

REPRIEVE FROM RISING COLLEGE COSTS

by Michael Percia

President, RIT Financial Management Association

Cash-strapped college students and their parents are expressing outrage over the ever-rising cost of a college education—and for good reason. According to the College Board, the average tuition at private four-year colleges has increased over 6% to \$23,712 during this school year. With the addition of room and board expenses, the price tag easily exceeds \$32,000.

However, these figures can be misleading. After taking advantage of grants and certain tax benefits, the average private college student spends around \$14,400 per year on tuition. Additionally, 75% of college students received some sort of financial aid during the last academic year.

Regardless of the available student aid, the marginal increase per year in tuition has drawn attention across the nation. The battle against rising college costs has made its way to Capitol Hill in the form of the Higher Education Act. This bill has recently been approved by the House Education and Labor Committee for renewal for the next five years. It's focused on increasing funding for student aid and making college costs more transparent. The bill is expected to go to the House floor before 2008.

The Higher Education Act would increase Pell grant amounts for low-income college students, bringing the maximum grant per year from \$5,800 to \$9,000. Grants could also be used during the summer. Currently, Pell grants are not available year round.

Subsidized Stafford loans would also see a gradual reduction in interest payments. The current interest rate on subsidized Stafford loans is 6.8%. Over a four-year period, this rate would drop by half to 3.4%.

Another provision of the bill would punish states that have reduced funding for higher education. If states were to fund less than the preceding five-year average, they could be denied matching federal grants.

Finally, the bill would promote transparency regarding college educational expenses. A "Higher Education Price Index" would be developed. This would allow an easy comparison for tuition increases across various colleges and universities. A government watch list would also be created. Colleges that significantly increase their tuition would face government scrutiny. An audit of the colleges' operations would be made public.

Mandatory endowment payouts make for another hotly debated topic that is not specifically addressed by this bill. Some lawmakers are considering a mandatory 5% payout from colleges with endowment funds exceeding \$500 million. Private foundations are already subject to this legislation in order to maintain their current tax status. Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa, who is heading this debate, feels that increased payouts could be used to lower tuition expenses for students.

However, many college officials have expressed skepticism. Some donors impose restrictions

on endowment funds designating specific purposes. Donors don't just donate to a school to lower the cost of tuition for students. These restricted funds can provide monies for a plethora of things, from professorships to capital projects.

These recent developments could provide college students and their families some reprieve from the crippling costs of a college education. Time will tell if government intervention can help save the day. Stay tuned. •

Landing a sled on a roof? Santa needs some lessons.



Use your **15% OFF** student discount and save on gifts for everyone on your list.

Must show valid college ID. Restrictions apply; visit store for details.

Pittsford

Pittsford Plaza
3349 Monroe Ave.

Eastern Mountain Sports
EASTERN MOUNTAIN SPORTS

THAT GUY

by Ilsa Shaw | photograph by Tom Schirmacher

NAME, MAJOR, YEAR?

My name is Keeno Younge. My major is (unfortunately) Accounting. I really don't like it, probably because it's just not for me. I tried forcing myself to like Business because it's easier to get a job and it brings the coins to my pocket. My true passion, however, is Photography (specifically, Fashion Photography). I'm actually friends with an upcoming designer, Damien Peterkin, who is the Haute Couture Designer of ODP. He's been teaching me the ins and outs of the fashion industry as well as how to use a sewing machine. It was really difficult in the beginning, but for my first year at RIT, it's been cool.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF?

That's easy. One word: *sexy*. But seriously, I'm very dominant when it comes to being the center of attention. I love for people to see and remember me, and so far, I've been doing a good job. I'm also a party animal, too. I love to dance. Oh my God, it doesn't matter, even if I don't like the song. I will still get up, and I hate when people sit at parties, so I'm usually the one to grab someone who's sitting and start dancing.

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

Tyra Banks or Kanye West. I think I would like to meet Mr. Kanye West, because just like me his style is so freaking sick and he just keeps it real. He has no boundaries.

WHAT'S ON YOUR IPOD?

Well, anything me and my friends Bryan, Melvin, and Juan can run-way to. I love music that has that special beat. I love doing runway challenges with my friends. My top songs on my iPod have to be "OMG China Wine" by Sun, "Get Me Bodied" by Beyonce, and "Radar" by Britney Spears. I love her. She's such a freak. I'm blasting the music in my dorm room so loudly that I could basically have a club on my floor.

DREAM JOB AFTER GRADUATION?

My dream job after graduation, once I change my major to Photography, will be a high fashion photographer who travels to the fashion capitals in France, Italy, Japan, England, South Africa, and so on.

DO YOU LIVE IN THE MOMENT?

Yes! Yes! YES! I live in the moment because the moment is now.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR STYLE.

My style has no complete definition because it has no boundaries. I wear basically anything that I see as being fashionable and different from others. I'm always changing my style every single day. I have a wide variety of clothes: Retro, skate board, edgy, sporty, casual, and business-attire looks. I love showing skin, so winter is a very difficult time to do that.





SPORTSDESK

photographs by Josh Lehrer

- 1 Assistant coach Dan Marciniak watches a bout while head coach Scott Stever give instruction to one of his wrestlers.

photograph by Dave Londres

- 2 Adam Abdelhamed of RIT wrestles Jake Taylor of Oswego State in a 285-pound bout during the first round of the RIT Invitational on December 1.

- 3 RIT's Luke Baum competes in the final round for the 149-pound weight class against Wilkes' wrestler Erik Smith.

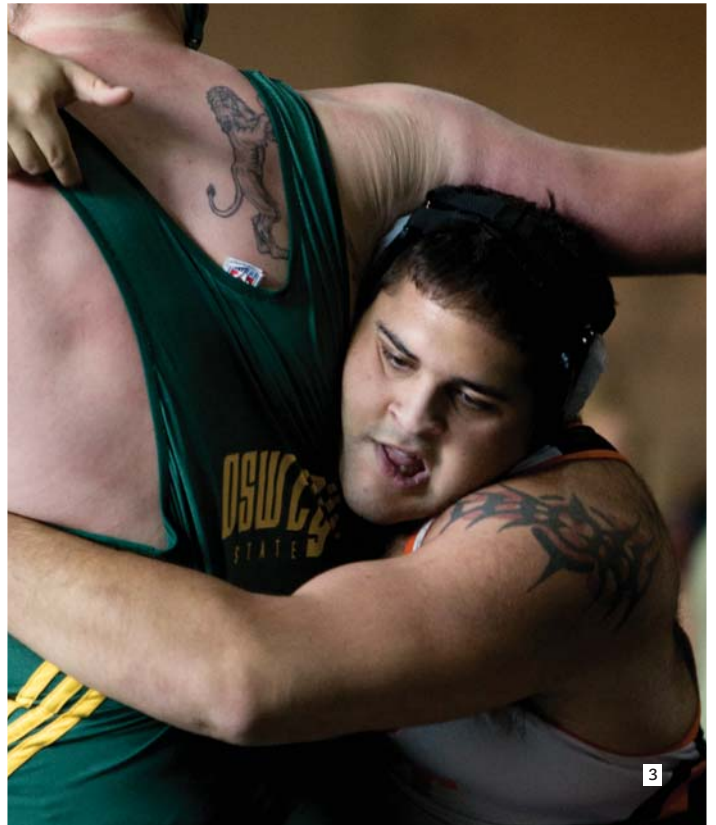
One of RIT's two wrestlers to make it to the final round, Mike McNally, competing in the 125 pound weight class, wrestles against Rob Miller of Thiel College.



1



2



3

SPORTS BEAT

by Geoff Shearer



RIT WINTER SPORTS

Basketball:

Men's: 4-3

Women's: 3-3

Swimming & Diving:

Men's: 3-1

Women's: 1-3

Hockey:

Men's: 6-6-3

Women's: 8-3-0

Wrestling:

Men's: 0-2

MEN'S HOCKEY

The 6-6-3 Tigers had their five-game winning streak, which ended on December 7 by American International College in West Springfield, Massachusetts. This was the first win by the American International Yellow Jackets over the Tigers in their past 10 meetings, one of which being an 8-0 shutout by RIT in October last season. Fortunately, the Tigers' second game of this two-game series ended with a 5-0 shutout win.

This win over American International puts RIT in fourth place in their division.

One crucial part in obtaining a shutout is Goalie Louis Menard, who was named AHA Goalie of the Week for the second week in a row and third time this season for the week ending December 2, 2007. Menard, a sophomore, currently has a .909 save percentage this season, and given his sophomore status, fans can only expect his goaltending gridlock to grow over his coming years at RIT.

The Tigers' next home game isn't until January 18 & 19 at 7:05 p.m. against Sacred Heart. Until then, the Tigers are traveling to Minneapolis for the Minnesota Dodge Holiday Classic, then making their way to Worcester, Massachusetts and Colorado Springs, Colorado before returning home.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Men's Basketball moves up to a 4-3 record after last Saturday's tough win over Utica. Despite currently being ranked sixth in the Empire

8—with a 1-3 Empire 8 record—the Tigers came through to win 64-60 at Utica.

Barrett Zeinfeld, who led the team with 19 points, landed a three pointer that put the Tigers on top 57-55 with 6:41 left in the second half, poising the Tigers with a lead that lasted non-relinquished as time expired.

Two of the Tigers' three losses this season have been tough losses by only four points, 84-80 each.

The team's next home game is on December 14 at 8 p.m. against D'Youville for the Harold J. Brodie Tournament, which is continuing on December 15.

RIT will host rival Stevens College on January 4, 2008. Stevens is currently ranked first in the Empire 8 with a 3-0 standing.

DOCTORS PRESCRIBING WII?

A growth in balance, coordination, endurance, and upper and lower body strength are all being attributed to gaming on the Nintendo Wii, claims Robbie Winget of Ohio State University Medical Center's Dodd Hall Rehabilitation Center. Winget, an occupational therapist, realized the potential of the Wii for many of his patients after learning of a rehabilitation center in Alberta, Canada that was utilizing the Wii for more than just seemingly trivial gameplay.

In an interview with Reuters, Winget stated that the Wii provides very real rehabilitation benefits for patients who have suffered from a stroke, spinal cord, or traumatic brain injuries.

Patients at Dodd Hall under Winget's recommendation now use the Wii two to three times a week for 30-minute intervals as part of a daily three-hour rehabilitation program.

Winget also reiterated that the integration of a Wii in therapy is by no means a substitution to conventional therapy, but merely "one more way to meet specific goals associated with therapy."

Winget noted that the Wii used in Dodd Hall was not provided by Nintendo. While it seems other rehabilitation centers are taking notice, it may take time before they can implement a Wii for rehab themselves, since the Wii is quickly proving to be this season's hot holiday item, often leaving the shelves of retailers as quickly as they are moved into inventory.

Winget notes the particular appeal of this system to older patients, "The idea of sitting there, fiddling a couple of buttons on a game [controller] is not motivating or interesting at all." Fortunately, no matter what the age of his patients, the Wii is an intriguing fusion of fun and practicality; whether or not this new medical gaming phenomenon is only a fad remains to be seen. •



SAY **ANYTHING!**

ASK A **QUESTION!**

BE PART OF THE **DIALOGUE!**

visit **sg.rit.edu/forum**

SG FORUM online*

ALSO CHECK OUT THE
NEW SG WEBSITE!

* **sg.rit.edu**

RIT RINGS

585.672.4840

compiled by Karl Voelker

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.

FRIDAY, 4:56 A.M.

I take pictures of people when they don't know about it.

FRIDAY, 4:57 A.M.

What do you call a famous geologist? A rock star!

FRIDAY, 4:58 A.M.

Hello, RIT Rings. For the past 24 hours, you've been living your life as nothing but a silent observer to the actions of several thousand college students in upstate New York. It's time to change that. Live or die, RIT Rings. Make your choice!

FRIDAY, 5:01 A.M.

Why don't blisters have emotions? Because they're callous!

FRIDAY, 5:02 A.M.

I don't care what you say! Charlie Chaplin is a great actor! Charlie Chaplin could make *Matrix: Revolutions* a good movie! Charlie Chaplin could make *Spanglish* a good movie. That's what I'm saying!

SATURDAY, 2:26 A.M.

Hi, this is Gustav. I'm just letting you know that a Public Safety officer sexually assaulted me earlier this evening, and I was wondering if this was newsworthy. I was penetrated pretty significantly, I'd say. I'm actually calling from the hospital. I've yet to receive the bill, per se, but I'm figuring a lot of damage, and then, who knows about the psychiatry bill. Anyway, the point is, I was sexually assaulted, and yeah, it hurts. So give me a call, and I'll talk to you later.

SATURDAY, 3:05 P.M.

I don't understand how someone can turn "dual-DVI graphics card" into a sexual term.

SUNDAY, 2:37 A.M.

Hey, I'm calling because we just got back on campus. It's Saturday night, and there's so much snow on the roads that the roads on campus are indistinguishable from the surrounding fields. I think that's very unsafe. I'm really mad that our highway department didn't take care of this problem. Peace.

SUNDAY, 5:21 A.M.

Hi, Reporter, I'm just calling to complain about the terrible weather I'm driving through currently. I'm on my way back from Murrell's Inlet, South Carolina, where we had a flat tire. We were delayed a full four hours. But that's okay, because we met a nice homeless man at a Wal-Mart in Fayetteville, North Carolina, who called us clever crickets because we changed a tire. We offered him the rest of our Oreos, which he kindly accepted. Then we went backward on an exit ramp, and we have been driving since 1:00 p.m. of yesterday, and it's currently 5:21 a.m.

SUNDAY, 6:31 P.M.

I'm watching the RIT TV network, and someone is signing. In the little inset box, the woman is just nodding and talking, but you can't hear anything. That doesn't help anyone at all. They should fix that and put in a microphone.

MONDAY, 3:50 P.M.

RIT Rings! Snow and winter have come upon us. I just drove into the main entrance, and somebody has already crashed, right in front of the main entrance. It's awesome. Winter's here! Only eight more months of it. Enjoy!

WEDNESDAY, 4:21 P.M.

I would just like to say that this campus sucks. What genius engineered stairs with metal across them, so when it snows or rains, they're slippery as [slippery stairs fill me with rage],

THURSDAY, 8:42 P.M.

HELLO, THIS IS COMMON SENSE CALLING. DID YOU KNOW THAT IT'S SNOWING OUTSIDE? FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, PUT ON SOME LONG PANTS AND JACKETS, YOU SOCIAL REJECTS!

and people will eat [I'm so angry] on them. It's a [more anger] idea. They should get rid of it, because I've seen 20 people slip today, and I almost busted my ass. I wish I did, so I could sue.

THURSDAY, 8:42 P.M.

Hello, this is Common Sense calling. Did you know that it's snowing outside? For the love of God, put on some long pants and jackets, you social rejects!

THURSDAY, 11:29 P.M.

Hello, RIT Rings. I just wanted to tell you about these very nice gentlemen, who, in the past week, were on East River Road pushing people's cars up the hill, because they're very nice! They're very nice. I just decided to call you now. Plus, it's my birthday soon. I'm turning 21. I might have drunk a little bit early. Just a little bit. But I wanted to tell you about their very nice deeds. You should write about it in the *Reporter*, because that is where you write about it. That's all I have to say, really. Da-de-da-de-da!

THURSDAY, 11:31 P.M.

Hi, I just called a minute ago to tell you about some very nice gentlemen, and I forgot to tell there is a ring pop! That is imperative, because ring pops are delicious and handy, because you put them on your hand and then you lick them. Anyway, I just thought I would tell you that we love you, and we all want to read the *Reporter*. •

SLIM DOWN SANTA!?

by Lacey Senese | illustration by Bryan Williams



Imagine your five-year-old self on Christmas Eve. You've written your letter to Santa, because you have been good all year and deserve that puppy that you've been begging your parents for. After the milk and sugar cookies are put out by the fireplace, you eagerly jump into bed and await the Jolly Man's arrival.

Santa Claus is a benevolent figure of legend with a heart of gold, but, in our superficial society, some people are pointing their accusatory fingers squarely in the direction of his stomach. He's fat, sure, but do they really want him to start dieting? That's exactly what the U.S. Surgeon General Rear Admiral Steven K. Galson insinuated in an interview with the *Boston Herald*, stating, "It is really important that the people who kids look up to as role models are in good shape, eating well, and getting exercise. It is absolutely critical."

What did you want to be when you were growing up? A lawyer? An engineer? A journalist? *Santa Claus*? I think not. Santa is not meant to be a role model. Santa influences the behavior of those children who believe in him, in the sense that they tend to mind their manners and behave better to get the presents they have been waiting for. I find it very unlikely that children aspired to be him when they were younger. For those men who do take the role of Santa during the holiday season, their beer bellies have found a purpose, and are valued in our minds and hearts as they bring smiles to the faces of children who believe that he just flew in from the North Pole. We need someone to fill the big red pants of the Santa suit for lining up in a mall to tell him what we want and take photos of him.

As defined in the dictionary, "Santa Claus is the personification of the spirit of Christmas, usually represented as a jolly, fat, old man with a white beard and a red suit, who brings gifts to good children on Christmas

Eve." Why mess with tradition? If we start being critical of Santa Claus (who, I'd like to remind the Surgeon General Rear Admiral, is not real) then what's next? The banishment of Trick-or-Treating, because 99.9% of items passed out are "unhealthy"?

Santa has already been regulated. He can no longer enjoy his pipe tobacco, for obvious reasons. His cheerful "Ho! Ho! Ho!" has been outlawed in some places because some women took offense to it. Give me a break, ladies. Santa isn't calling you a whore. He's merely expressing his joy during the holiday season.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY IS UNRELATED TO SANTA CLAUS.

Parents and caregivers are essential role models for children. They feed their children, whether the food is healthy or not. They are the ones who encourage exercise. Even if Santa were to be a role model for some children, I don't think it's his physical appearance being mimicked. He is a happy, elderly man who is unselfish and brings joy to people all around the world. I actually wish there were more people like good old St. Nick.

The holidays are supposed to be a time for relaxation with the people we love. Let's not hate Santa for enjoying his Christmas cookies and candy canes. We should instead thank him for the holiday cheer that he magically spreads throughout the world. Indulge yourself this season, but remember, it's better to give than to receive. And for that, we can look to Santa Claus for the perfect example. •



RIT Alert will send urgent messages via:

- ⇒ Instant Message (AOL, MSN, Yahoo)
- ⇒ Text message (SMS) mobile devices
- ⇒ Voice message (mobile or land-line)
- ⇒ E-mail (RIT official e-mail address)

UP-TO-DATE CONTACT INFO NEEDED FROM STUDENTS!

New Contact Methods in SIS
Instant Message & Mobile Phone

Connect. .

<http://infocenter.rit.edu>

Select. . .

"Student Info System" link

Click. . . .

"Address Information" link and then the
"Emergency Notification" link to update mobile
phones and instant message

Update. . .

your contact information in order for you to
receive emergency notifications.