

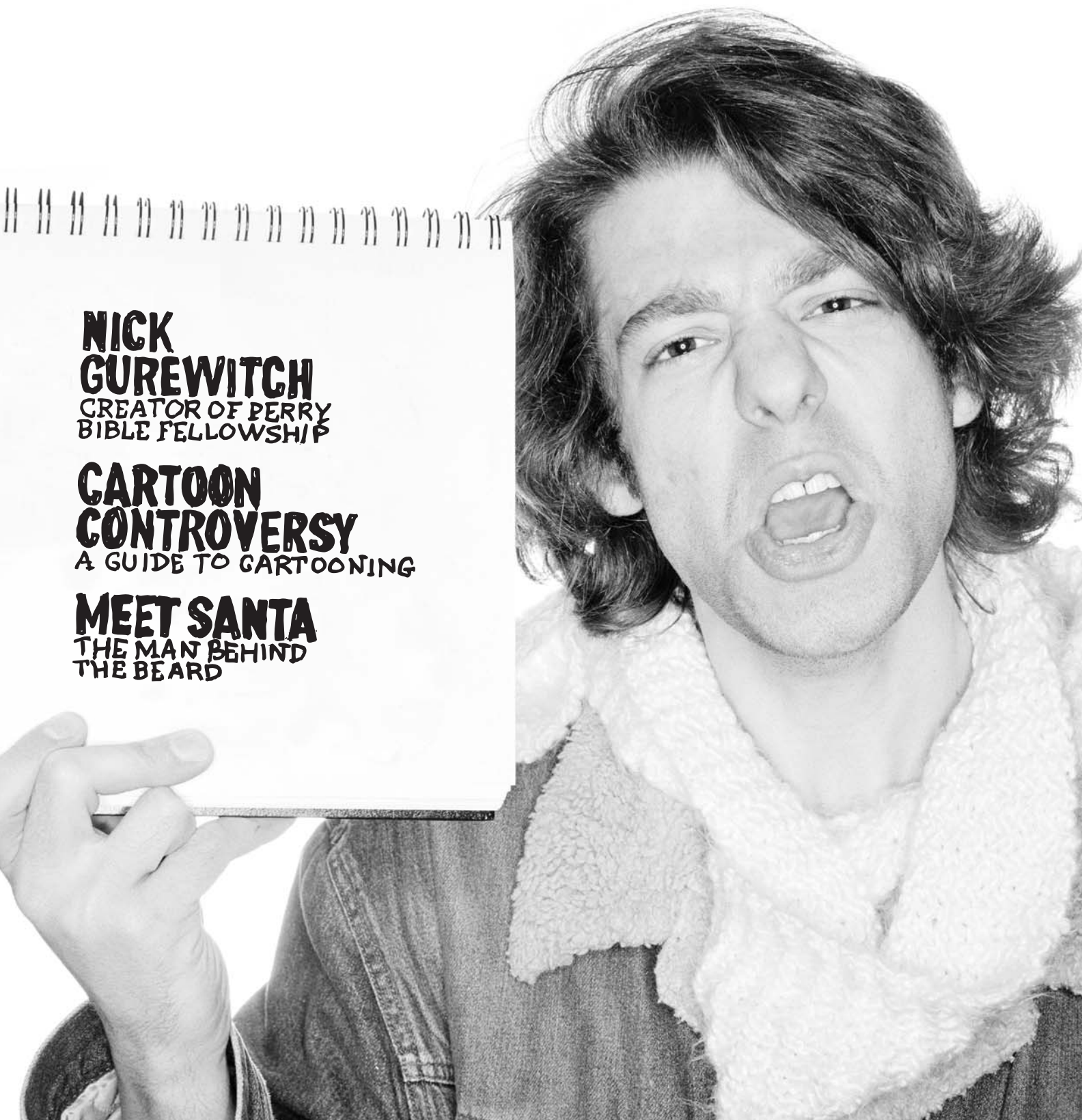
# REPORTER

DECEMBER 21, 2007 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM

**NICK  
GUREWITCH**  
CREATOR OF PERRY  
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

**CARTOON  
CONTROVERSY**  
A GUIDE TO CARTOONING

**MEET SANTA**  
THE MAN BEHIND  
THE BEARD



# REPORTER

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

## COMPETITIVE GIFT BUYING

Hair pulling, arm biting, nail scratching. A woman, prone on the floor, catches the full force of a high heel to her hand, but wastes no time in getting up. Two middle-aged mothers are engaged in a battle to the death. The stakes are too high: The last Wii in all the land—a much sought after gift this holiday season.

I never get through the month of December without seeing images of the previously described scene spliced with clips of some clean-cut, neck-tied father figure being interviewed on TV about the evils of greed and money during the holidays. *The Christmas season*, he begins, *is about loving and sharing and giving. It's not about money.* At this point, he may include a pregnant pause for dramatic effect before expertly delivering the final line with a stern, paternal look: *It shouldn't be about consumerism.* If he is a minister, he might perform the obligatory encore: *It's about the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

These broadcasts beg the question: Since when has consumerism become a synonym for pure evil?

The American economic system fuels our culture. Capitalism is about money and competition. These are our strengths, and I don't think it's logical for our society to find self-loathing in the attributes that make us great solely because we find competitive gift buying to be a confusing and peculiar substitute for hugs.

Take diamond commercials, for example. People watch those advertisements and *cringe* at their taglines, because the thought that a precious stone can show affection is beyond disgusting. But you know what? My dad hid a pair of breathtaking diamond earrings under the Christmas tree for my mother last year, and the look in her teary eyes when she opened the box was priceless. Maybe money can't buy love, but it can help express it.

There are so many classic stories written about struggle and competition and championing for a loved one's affections. A favorite of mine, revealingly childish though it may be, is *Beauty and the Beast*. In one of the very final scenes, the Beast fights Gaston, a battle that ends with the burly Frenchman being thrown off the parapet by the hero into the crocodile-filled moat below. And it's *sweet*; that's a great way to win a girl.

Imagine a modern day Paris dueling with a dashing Menelaus for the love of Helen, the most beautiful woman in the world. Only one man can win her heart, and they do so through a competition of strength. Now replace the combatants with two middle-aged housewives battling over the last Wii in WalMart. What's changed? They are locked in a battle over a game system, which has—in this age of consumption—come to symbolize their affection for their sons. It's still about loving and sharing and giving. These abstract concepts are not *completely* separate from money.

That previous example was probably a bit intense, and is an extreme case. I'm certainly not advocating that people start throwing elbows and dropping little old ladies in their quest for The Perfect Gift. But if Prince Charming can show his affection for His One True Love by buying her the perfect diamond engagement ring, why can't Regular Joe buy a nice bottle of wine or the perfect pair of earrings for a friend without being accused of heartless consumerism?

Happy Holidays, RIT. See you in 2008.



Jen Loomis  
Editor In Chief

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*Cover photograph by Alex Gagne*

*Club Changes photograph by Eric Drummond*

*Basketball photograph by Dave Londres*

### REGISTRAR: EXAM SCHEDULES TO BE ANNOUNCED EARLIER

by Joe McLaughlin

Student Government and the Academic Senate have approved a plan to announce exam schedules when students register for classes.

“The new plan will be implemented for the spring quarter in a modified form. You’ll know your final exam schedule by the first week of the quarter. It’s an improvement over the fourth or fifth week,” said Joe Loffredo, the Registrar. “In [future] winter and spring quarters, you’ll know your final exam schedules when you register,” he said. Under the new plan, fall quarter exam schedules will be available in July.

The new plan depends on taking classes that meet at the same time and putting their exams at the same time. According to a presentation Loffredo gave to SG, this means, “Courses that meet on Monday at 8:00 [no matter what other days the class meets on] would have the same exam period. This method automatically creates few conflicts.” Loffredo said that if the new plan had been in effect last quarter, 135 students would have had conflicting exams. The number of students who had exam conflicts last quarter under the old system was about 200, per Loffredo. To accommodate these students, the new schedule provides four make-up blocks.

According to Loffredo, the current system ensures multi-section courses that do not meet for lecture at the same time will still hold their exams at the same time. “In total,” he said in the presentation, “33 percent of exams in multi-section courses have a common exam block [under the new plan]. If we can get over the multi-section courses, this will work. If everyone says we need a common exam time, this will not work.”

In order to be effective for spring quarter, Loffredo said, “We’re working with ITS to make the necessary changes.”

### IMAGINE RIT CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION FESTIVAL

by Madeleine Villavicencio

President Bill Destler believes, “RIT is a collision of the right and the left brain,” and with his help, students can better materialize and show off their dreams and ideas. According to Dr. Barry Culhane, Chair of the Imagine RIT Planning Committee, “The Innovation and Creativity Festival, Imagine RIT, is Destler’s [attempt] to promote innovation and creativity.” Slated as an all-day, campus-wide May 3 event, RIT is hoping to attract over 30,000 people to campus.

“We plan to showcase from 400 to 500 exhibits... We will be showing projects down the Quarter Mile and [using] the Gordon Field House as the WOW Center... We’re even trying to employ a skywriter to write Imagine RIT that day,” said Culhane. The exhibits will contain various projects and performances, both academic and non-academic.

The committee has already received about 100 proposals. Some examples include a collaboration project between College of Science and the Rochester Music and Science Center involving projecting images on buildings, the College of En-

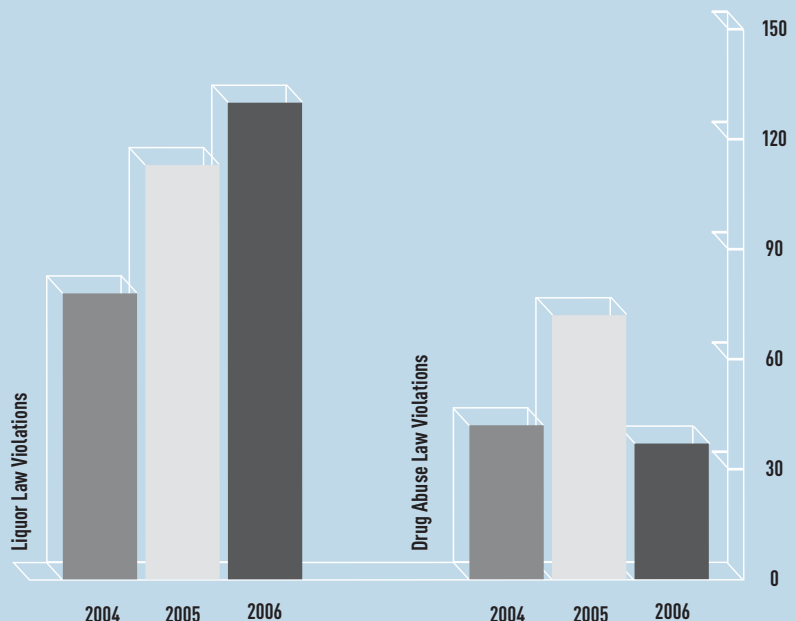
gineering senior thesis projects, and glassblowing projects, studio work, and photographs from the College of Imaging Arts and Science. Students who are interested in doing a project for the festival are asked to submit a one page proposal via the Imagine RIT website. The committee will be accepting proposals through February.

Students who participate will be able to make connections and network for co-ops and future job opportunities while showing off the pride of RIT. “We are also trying to get hometown press for students who participate in the event,” mentioned Culhane. He added that small grants would be available to fund projects.

“It’s going to be the busiest open house we’ve ever had, but it’s not for prospective students, it’s for everybody,” said Culhane. The festival will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., coinciding with the Spring Festival. •

Anyone wishing to participate can find more information at the festival’s website, <http://www.rit.edu/imagine>

### DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE AT RIT



Both categories list “referrals” to Public Safety, which may not have led to an arrest.

# REVAMPING FYE

by Joe McLaughlin

photograph by Ross Thompson

**L**ike in years past, this year's incoming freshmen are required to take First Year Enrichment (FYE). As a result of feedback from previous students, however, large portions of the curriculum have been changed to allow for what FYE instructor Colette Shaw hopes will instill in students a greater understanding of what being a college student is all about. Last year, as the result of a 2005-2006 white paper, several forums and feedback surveys were administered to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the FYE program. From that followed a 2007 "Assessment Committee" comprised of both faculty and students who created the current curriculum.

Shaw commented that the new initiatives were aimed at providing a more meaningful and informative program with clearer purpose. In a presentation made to Student Government in September, Shaw said, "What FYE needs to teach is not rocket science, but facts that students wouldn't have learned in high school." Her examples were RIT-specific, such as the layout of the Wallace Library, myCourses, and the course registration system.

In previous years, Shaw said, "FYE was taught as 'Here are some answers,'" with students expected to accept and conform to those answers. She added, "The new FYE never wants to tell students what's right and wrong. There are no right answers."

On stressing student independence, FYE Director Latty Goodwin commented, "FYE aims at providing a focus on giving students experience in resolving problems and finding real solutions for themselves." To achieve this goal, they have integrated many new problem-solving activities for students, such as a hypothetical selection of a new provost for RIT out of a pool of differing job candidates. Other changes include an at-

tempt to provide more appealing material for students to learn from, including media such as YouTube videos.

Peer Mentors, student volunteers who assist FYE instructors and provide a student viewpoint to the curriculum, are a new addition. Peer Mentor Salvatore Cornacchione, a second year biotech student, said, "The new FYE represents less of a lecture, and more of an interactive experience. Although teachers teach on their own model, it's very open in terms of where the students want to go. Students have the opportunity to mold their own FYE experience." Cornacchione said that one FYE class requested and got a tour of the tunnel system on the academic side of campus for a class. Another group had a session on things to do in the greater Rochester area, not just at RIT.

Previously, Cornacchione said, "Some students found that they got next to nothing. [The class was just] concepts and things handed down

from the teacher." But now, "We've all noticed a different attitude to the program. It's less painful to go to a required one credit class." Still, there remain some freshmen who are discontented with their current FYE experience. Two students, in particular, who were running for Freshmen Senator, expressed this discontent at last Friday's SG meeting.

Students in the program have mixed feelings, however. First year IT major Dave Mullaney, the newly elected SG Freshman Senator, said that "Overall, FYE is a good program, but there is room for improvement. A lot of students feel the syllabus is very influenced by the instructor. Not all sections are getting the same experience. There are a lot of students who like it, but also many who don't." Mullaney says that he "...Is hoping to open up a dialog [with the FYE department] in the future." •

(Pictured above: Colette Shaw, FYE Instructor)





# CLUB RECOGNITION STANDARDS CHANGE AT STUDENT GOVERNMENT

by Andy Rees  
photograph by Eric Drummond

**R**ecent changes in the RIT Student Government (SG) Club Guidelines allow more organizations to be recognized. Leading the charge for these changes was Matthew Danna, second year Information Technology student and Representative at Large for SG. “The old guidelines said that no two clubs on the same topic could exist, so we couldn’t have two anime clubs or two drama clubs,” said Danna. “We felt that was very restrictive to our campus.”

One of the clubs affected the most by this change is the Brain Wreck improvisational group. “Brain Wreck is a performance-based improv group, but we also do weekly workshops,” says Jason Eberle, a second year New Media Interactive Development student and President of Brain Wreck.

Brain Wreck, formed in 2006, discovered problems with the SG guidelines after attempting to register for performance and practice space. An unrecognized student organization at the time, Brain Wreck was informed that in order to apply for meeting space, they should be a recognized club. When the group tried to apply for club status, they were initially denied, due to a clause in the SG regulations. The clause stated that SG would not recognize applicant organizations that shared “similar interests and constitutional goals with a recognized group.” Brain Wreck could not be recognized at the same time as the pre-existing improv and sketch comedy club, RIT’s Comedy Troupe.

Brain Wreck, which currently has about six active members, brought the issue to the attention of Danna, and action was taken in order to change the guidelines.

“We rewrote the whole document; it took almost all of fall quarter...We changed the whole system of how clubs work,” stated Danna. The new guidelines allow previously unrecognized student organizations to apply for recognition. Under the old guidelines, a variety of clubs were excluded from recognition. With the new rules, clubs no longer have requirements on membership numbers or on how they govern themselves. It also allows clubs with GPA requirements. While on the surface, this seems to throw the doors wide open for club recognition, Danna stresses that new qualitative requirements will be placed on clubs, such as their benefit to the entire RIT community.

**“When the group tried to apply for club status, they were initially denied, due to a clause in the SG regulations.”**

After gaining SG recognition, an organization has access to different services provided by the SG office, ranging from group transportation to the use of SG staplers, as well as free meeting space in the Student Alumni Union.

With the rewrite of the SG guidelines complete, Brain Wreck is now a recognized student organization and holds weekly public workshops on Mondays at 8 p.m. in Clark B. “We get between 15 and 30 people every week,” stated Eberle. Brain Wreck expects to hold performances in the near future, showcasing their comedic improvisation. •

## CLUBS APPROVED SINCE THE GUIDELINES CHANGED:

- Brainwreck Improv
- Public Relations Student Society of America
- RIT EDM Club
- Imaging Science and Technology (Student Chapter)

## APPROVED AS INTENT TO FORM GROUPS (OFFICIAL RECOGNITION PENDING FUTURE REVIEW):

- RIT Scuba Club
- Smash Heroes’ Finest Fighting League
- RIT Riders
- Students for Students

.....  
(Pictured on the left) Jason Eberle, president of Brain Wreck Improv, poses with the rest of the group. left to right; Lowren Lawson, Jean-Jacques DeLisle, Nathan Horn, Kyle O’Neill, Jeremy Allston

# PABLO FRANCISCO

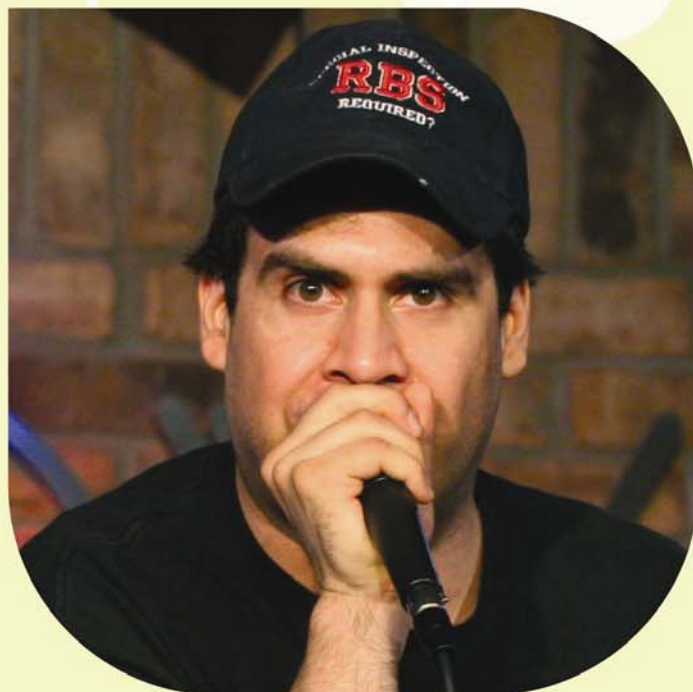
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# RIT FORECAST

compiled by Joe McLaughlin

# STUDENT GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE

## FRESHMAN SENATOR ELECTIONS

The Student Government senators and cabinet members listened to speeches from seven different candidates for the Freshman Senator position. Each candidate had previously submitted a formal résumé containing details on their leadership experience and other qualifications as well as an essay elaborating why they were well suited to the position. After every candidate delivered his speech, the floor was opened to specific lines of questioning by the senators. This entire interviewing process took about an hour.

There were a few common characteristics amongst all of the candidates. A number of them have been in the Boy Scouts, and nearly all of them have had prior experience in student governance.

When asked about problems faced by the current freshman class, several of the candidates mentioned the First Year Enrichment program's lack of uniformity. Others could not name any problems that currently faced their would-be constituencies.

After the speeches and questioning, a vote was conducted by the Senate, and first year Information Technology major David Mulaney was elected.

## SMOKING POLICY COMMITTEE

College of Business Senator Carlos Cornejo announced that the Smoking Policy committee would be meeting sometime in the new year to discuss the future of smoking at RIT. He also indicated that he had yet to find a smoking student to serve on this committee, and that he would appreciate having such a student's perspective during this process. Students interested in this committee may contact Cornejo at his RIT e-mail address: cxc3056@rit.edu.

**05 SATURDAY**  
**FIRST ROBOTICS KICKOFF**  
**SIMULCAST** Webb Auditorium, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Local FIRST Robotics teams gather on campus to see the kickoff ceremony for this year's competition. FIRST Teams have six weeks to build robots to compete in a game. The rules of this year's game will be announced at the kickoff ceremony, which will be simulcast at RIT. Cost: Free.

**06 SUNDAY**  
**DORMS REOPEN** The dorms will be closed for the holiday break. They reopen at 8 a.m.

**07 MONDAY**  
**GRADUATE STUDY OPEN HOUSE** Bausch & Lomb Building, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Can't get enough of this place? Want to stick around for grad school? RIT is hosting an event for anyone looking into graduate study here. Cost: Free.

**THE LIMITLESS IMAGINATION OF THE MUSCLES & THE BONES: ACTION IN TIME & SPACE** Carlson Auditorium, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Elizabeth Streb, the Artistic Director of the Streb Extreme Dance Company, will speak as part of the Caroline Warner Gannett Lecture Series. The *New York Times* called Streb's work "...A daring, sometimes near-violent performance style that borrows from dance, extreme sports, and Hollywood-style stunt work." Cost: Free.

**08 TUESDAY**  
**TIME MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES** 01-2358, 12 noon - 1 p.m. A Lunch 'n Learning workshop devoted to teaching you how to manage time so you do not inconvenience others on a regular basis. Bring your own lunch. Cost: Free.

**09 WEDNESDAY**  
On this day in 1768, the first modern circus was held.


**10 THURSDAY**  
**THE TRUE BENEFITS OF FALSITY** Carlson Auditorium 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. RIT Professor of Philosophy, David Suits, talks about why things that aren't true are so important. Drug testing, true/false sections on multiple choice tests, and careers in politics...All useless without falsity! Cost: Free.

**TALLADEGA NIGHTS: THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY** Ingle Auditorium, 10 p.m. - 12:15 a.m. CAB's Thursday Night Cinema series presents Will Ferrell as he makes driving around in a circle entertaining. Really, really fast. But can he go fast enough to beat himself? Cost: Free.

**11 FRIDAY**  
**FRIDAY NIGHT IN THE RITZ: LAST COMIC STANDING** RIT's Comedy Troupe is looking for talent for their winter finale. No word on prizes, although the first 50 people get free pizza. Cost: \$1.

# AN INTERVIEW WITH SANTA

by Ilsa Shaw | photograph by Tom Schirmacher



We've all seen him. The man at the forefront of classrooms, concerts, and crowds, signing away for NTID and cross-registered students. With twinkling eyes and a woolly white beard, he seems to stand out as an icon for everything even minutely related to compassion. Chances are, you've even murmured his nickname, "Santa Claus" to yourself as you've watched him, quite mesmerized. Reporter sat down with Associate Interpreter j. david mccluskey about the upcoming winter holidays, interpreting, and life as RIT's very own neighborhood Santa Claus.

## TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF.

j. david mccloskey. My interests are varied. It's difficult to find something I'm not interested in trying or doing. There's no particular type of book I read, but I do read everything people give me to read. My current hobby seems to be interpreting, and that's also what I do to earn a living. One could say I have the best of both worlds. I'm doing something I truly enjoy and getting paid to do it!

## WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO ROCHESTER?

I was director of an interpreting service in Utica, New York. I had been in management-type positions for 37 years. One day, I realized I no longer enjoyed being a manager. I contacted the people at RIT/NTID to see if they had an interpreting position that I was qualified to fill. They did, and I took it. I really thought I'd be here for a year and move on. I had no idea how exciting the environment would be at RIT. I still look forward to coming here every day!

## DESCRIBE YOUR TYPICAL DAY.

I get up about 5:30 a.m., chat with my wife about what her day will be like, head to campus and check to see what is on my schedule for the day and do it. There are times when I need to participate in specific meetings. I serve as Parliamentarian for the RIT Staff Council, am a member and sometimes Chair of the Institute Appeals Board, carry a pager for the CARES program on the weeks that I'm the designated contact person, serve on the RIT Campaign Committee as one of two representatives from NTID, and am one of three advisors to the RIT Student Music Association. There's a few other things that fill in any empty spaces in my day-to-day activities, but I can't think of them right now!

## DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE SAYING?

I think that would be a quote from Lenny Bruce: "The truth is what is. Anything else is a lie!"

## HOW ARE YOU COMMONLY DESCRIBED?

Folks seem to think I look like Santa Claus (Ho, ho, ho)!

## IS IT NICE TO BE KNOWN AS THE "SANTA INTERPRETER"?

If I didn't think so, I'd probably shave and lose weight. I know my doctor has recommended I do the latter. Perhaps after the holiday season is over. I find it nice being able to say "Merry Christmas!" without having to apologize. By the way, I usually follow the "Merry Christmas"

with an "Enjoy ALL the holidays that happen at this time of year!"

## TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF THAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW.

I have seven sons, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

## TRUTH OR RUMOR: YOU POSED AS SANTA FOR A PLAYBOY SHOOT.

Rumor. I did pose for a shoot with the Playmate of the Year in 2002. She was part of my photo shoot as Santa Claus. I was not part of her shoot. I've been on American Greeting Christmas cards and other items they market since 2002. Their makeup artist adds extra beard, so I look a bit more like the Coca Cola Santa. However, if you look at the eyes, you may recognize me. I know I do. There was a large poster in many of the Wegmans stores a few years ago. That was me!

## WHAT ARE YOUR CHRISTMAS PLANS?

Just relaxing and spending some time with family members who make it to Rochester. My wife, , and I are looking forward to some quiet time.

## HAVE YOU BEEN NAUGHTY OR NICE THIS YEAR?

Like most folks, I think I probably fit quite comfortably into both categories. It may depend on whom you ask. I'm sure some people see me as nice, and others would much rather not know me (smiles).

## WHAT IS YOUR BEST MEMORY OF CHRISTMAS?

Wow! When you get to be my age, hopefully, you'll have so many wonderful thoughts it's virtually impossible to pick one as the best. I think I'll opt for a future memory. This will be the first year I spend with Margo. I imagine it will be my best Christmas so far!

## WHAT'S THE ONE CHRISTMAS SONG YOU NEVER WANT TO HEAR AGAIN?

While I like both songs, it wouldn't bother me if I had to *remember* hearing Barbara Streisand's version of "Jingle Bells" or Jose Feliciano's "Feliz Navidad" a long, long time ago.

## WHAT IS GEORGE W. BUSH GETTING FOR CHRISTMAS?

The opportunity to look forward to being out from under all the pressure and criticism in a year and a week.

## DOES SANTA WRAP PRESENTS OR JUST SET THEM UNDER THE TREE?

Santa just puts them under the tree. He's the famous front man for a multi-faceted, extremely complex operation. He has elves all over the world working diligently to make him look good. He appreciates all their efforts and knows there is no way he'll be able to thank them enough for all they do. He'd love it if every one could look at the world through his eyes for even one day. He is sure that many of the problems of the world would be resolved if that could happen! This question requires a much longer dialogue to explain the previous remark!

## SNOW: LOVE IT OR HATE IT?

Love it!

## CAN YOU ICE SKATE?

Yep. Used to be quite good at it. Don't get the chance to do it often enough these days.

## EGGNOG OR CIDER?

Each in its time! The cider started moving to the back burner at Thanksgiving. Both share the spotlight at my place.

## WHAT IS THE ONE THING THAT WILL NEVER GROW OLD?

Peace! I'm beginning to wonder if it will ever get the chance to try to grow old. I can tell you that Santa truly believes that the youth of today (meaning people under 35, especially those under 25) will bring a peace to the world by the year 2030 that has never before been seen. You're chatting with people who are significantly different than you with today's technology. You don't have any idea who they are or what they look like. Some of you will be very surprised when you're face-to-face with those you've called friends! That will break down some of the hatred that's been passed down by well meaning but misinformed parents, family members, and friends. Maybe I do believe *peace* will get a chance!

## WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

The spirit that folks share with each other. If you have a flat tire at this time of year, someone will stop and help you. It's too bad that isn't a lifestyle year round instead of just at the "holidays". •



Mike Howard (left) plays a new student getting advice from Mephistofui (right), played by Nicole Wixom in the RIT performance of "Our Faust."

# SPEAK OF THE DEVIL

## A REVIEW OF "OUR FAUST"

by Laura Mandanas | Photographs by Ryan Randolph

Close your eyes and think of the devil. What comes to mind? Cloven hooves? Red skin? Pointy beard and a tail? Even if these descriptions aren't an exact match (George Bush doesn't actually have a tail, as far as I'm aware), most of us probably pictured at least one thing in common: His gender. Last weekend, however, this was turned on its head. In the RIT Players' production of "Our Faust," the face of evil is played by a woman—very convincingly, I might add.

To be sure, RIT alumna Nicole Wixom has had plenty of practice in the role. This is the second year in a row that the RIT Players have put on "Our Faust," their reinterpretation of Goethe's haunting tale in which a man sells his soul to the devil. "As a woman, it's drawing," said Wixom. "For me, I feel there shouldn't be a gender. [The devil] isn't human."

The gender swap was not the only change that the troupe made. As Director and RIT Fine Arts Professor Peter Ferran noted, Faust was a play "...Written a long time ago, for a long time." Under his guidance, the Players adapted the work to appeal to today's cultural climate and values. To begin with, they trimmed it down significantly—something which was greatly appreciated on my part. (Although they only went through the

first two acts of five, their production was over three hours long.) Ferran also invited certain students to do rewrites of entire segments, and other students to act as apprentice directors of individual scenes. Finally, recent film graduate Alden Kendall was brought on board to make videos which were projected on parts of the set, and a guitar player and singer were recruited to perform live classical music.

As you may well guess, the result was something really, really weird.

Still, it wasn't anything unpleasant, per se, just unsettling. And this, apparently, is sort of what they were going for. In the Walpurgis Night scene, for example, the two main characters sit next to one another on a green couch, facing the audience, and get high. With alarming speed, Faust and Mephistofui (a rewrite of the original name, Mephistopheles) smoke, snort, and pop pills in rapid succession, quickly finding themselves in a bizarre, shared hallucina-

## “IT’S SUPPOSED TO BE DISTURBING.”

tion of a party. “It’s supposed to be disturbing,” explained Ferran in the roundtable discussion following the show. “That was the intent of Goethe’s original.”

Crediting the flexible nature of the university setting, the cast took certain liberties with the play that they might not have otherwise. Greg Austin (responsible for the rewrite of the Easter Morning scene with co-writer Kent Wilson) noted, “Everything is open to an interpretation. One thing is allowed to be a polar opposite to the thing right next to it.”

A whirlwind of a play, the audience was indeed jerked from one extreme to another. Aside from mixing traditional rhymed verse with the frank (non-rhyming) vernacular of today, the soothing classical music with beat-driven techno, the production also jumps from genre to genre without a second thought. In one scene, a hilarious mini-production of the Odyssey made everyone in the audience laugh until our stomachs hurt; just minutes later, we were shown Gretchen (played by Brianna Byrne), the young girl Faust had seduced earlier in the play, now a prisoner in a dirty and shredded nightgown, driven insane with grief and guilt.

In one quick costume change between scenes, Jennilee Johnson said, “I go from being a bar boy to being a sex monkey literally within a minute.” As an actress, however, it was not just her costume that had to change; her entire demeanor had to be made over. For all the abrupt changes of pace, she (along with the rest of the cast) did an amazing job of keeping up.

For the most part, the play was very well done. “I’m sort of a Faust junkie, and this performance very much spoke to my habit...It was very much foregrounded, the habit forming nature of the play,” said Jane Brown, a professor from the University of Washington taking part in the *Fate of Romanticism* conference RIT hosted last weekend.

“Our Faust” is one of the Players’ most successful endeavors in the past few years, and by far one of the most interesting things I’ve seen in recent memory. Goethe’s Faust is an undeniably challenging piece or work, and you could tell

how much hard work the group had put into it. That having been said, I do wish they had shown a little more restraint and a little less ambition in choosing the amount of ground they were going to cover. Three and a half hours is an awfully long time. Fine actor though Alex Hensel (who played Faust) is, some of those beginning scenes with Faust were unspeakably boring. Occasionally, I found the actual actors being upstaged by the interpreting of David McCloskey (see page 10).

Kristine Greenizen, a former RIT employee and theater aficionado, shared in my sentiment. “I found myself at times riveted by the beauty of

**“I GO FROM BEING A BAR BOY TO BEING A SEX MONKEY, LITERALLY, WITHIN A MINUTE.”**

his gesture, watching the poetry of his motion,” she complimented. As for the abrupt genre changes within the play, she said, “As in painting, you can’t have white without black. You can’t have brightness without darkness. It’s the contrast that makes it work.” Ferran chimed in, “It’s about values!” •



As “Our Faust” gets underway, Wagner (left), played by Evan Stark, and Faust (right), played by Alex Hensel stand stage right in preparation for the night’s events.

## ROMANTICISM FOR DUMMIES

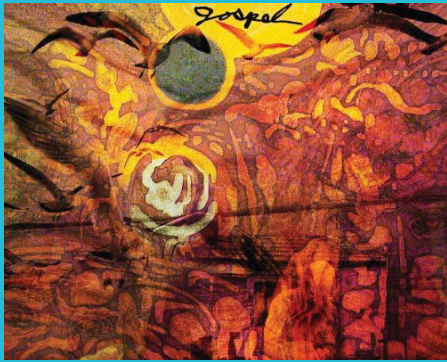
“Our Faust” was a part of the *Fate of Romanticism* conference RIT hosted from December 13-15. Katie Terezakis, Professor of Philosophy and one of the main organizers of the conference, related, “We just kept thinking, if you’re going to sit down and think about romanticism for three days, who would you want to come?” She adds with a smile, “We whittled down our fantasy of sitting around on velvet couches and sipping champagne, but we mostly got what we wanted.”

Asked what romanticism is all about, she explained that one of the key themes present throughout romantic works is the relationships between emotion and our relationship with nature, to our very own reasonable selves. “[Romanticism] rejects the idea that humans are completely reasonable [and asks], ‘What are we going to do about that?’” She added, “Especially with poets and music, they develop the notion of a fragment. It is not a traditional narrative and conclusion... Across all these different genres, romantics are exploring the limits of reason.”

# REVIEWS

## GOSPEL - THE MOON IS A DEAD WORLD - LEVEL-PLANE RECORDS

by Evan McNamara



Gospel's full length, *The Moon Is A Dead World*, clocks in at a blistering 39 minutes and 5 seconds of catharsis, noise, melody, groove, and spazz. This is one of those albums which knocks you out when you first listen to it in its entirety.

Gospel flex their prog muscle frequently on this disc, but there is much more to them than that. A unique aspect of their song structures is that they emphasize rhythm a lot more than most bands, which creates much intensity. But it doesn't stop there—Gospel is also a fan

of melody, harmony, and flat out anthemic riffs. These riffs aren't anthemic in a We-Aren't-Gonna-Take-It Twisted Sister kind of way, rather they come across with such raw emotion that the songs and riffs can't help but be anthemic. I hear sincerity much akin to Converge, with some riffs owing much to their *Jane Doe* album. However, Gospel doesn't just rip off Converge. Nay, they give the proverbial head nod on their way to lighting their amps on fire with awesomeness.

These tracks find a groove, stay with it for a while, then turn on a dime to the next groove, all the while bombarding you with machine-gun drumming and lightning-fast guitar work. Gospel also doesn't bash you over the head with songs in the same key, and shows much variety in writing riffs and song structures. The track "Opium" stands out as an exotic one, almost reminding me of label-mates Anodyne at times. "And Redemption Fills The Emptiest Of Hearts" also fires at you with noise à la Dillinger Escape Plan meets Dream Theater.

Gospel set themselves apart with a vocalist who sounds like he has lived in a van for five years, and hasn't shaved or showered in ten.

He has a raspy, dishevelled hybrid of yelling and screaming that really hits you in the pit of your stomach, and his delivery is spot on. The lyrics, while not jumbled by overindulgent 10-cent words, are cryptic at times. But this is overshadowed by the band's ability to play their little freaking hearts out.

Gospel is like the George Foreman Grill of post-punk; they cut the fat, but they don't leave out the tasty parts. The opening bass line in "Congratulations... You've Hit Bottom" channels Killers-era Iron Maiden. Also, another unique highlight to this album and the band in general is the keyboard. It fits seamlessly into the mix, and lends a good depth to the songs. It also adds as an awesome accent, and gives the band a distinctly more prog-like sound (which is a good thing). It does not come off as pretentious in the least, and it's a rare (if not the only) band that does not play horrible new-wave and can pull off using a keyboard. Thumbs up to that!

So if you liked The Mars Volta better when they meant what they said and called themselves At The Drive In, if you appreciate musicianship, and if you want to hear a band that doesn't make music to get laid, Gospel is your band. •

## MOVIE REVIEW: THE BUCKET LIST

by Laura Mandanas



So here's the plot: Two cancer patients meet in the hospital. They both find out that they're going to die soon, blah blah blah...The greedy, unfulfilled billionaire and the poor, wise car mechanic become fast friends, make a list of things to do before they "kick the bucket," and go on wild, crazy adventures, "truly living" before they die. Yes, it's a buddy movie, and yes,

it's cliché. But there are suckers who actually go for this kind of thing, and yes, they actually exist in Rochester.

I know this because I saw it with my very own eyes. As my roommate and I smirked, groaned, winced, cringed, wept, and wailed and gnashed our teeth as the predictably cloying plot unfolded before us, I averted my eyes for a minute, turned back, and looked at the other faces in the theater gazing up at the silver screen. Apparently, they all loved it. Apparently, I'm in the minority. So if you want to ignore what I've just said and what I'm about to say, go right ahead and buy yourself a ticket to this movie. Be sure to bring lots of tissues.

Basically, main actors Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman are pretty much all that the film has going for it. Sadly, even they are not enough

to redeem it. Nicholson does a great job portraying the cynical asshole with a lot of money—so good a job, in fact, that it's really hard to find any shred of sympathy for him, even knowing that he's about to die. Freeman, on the other hand, portrays the kind-hearted, dutiful husband (and was supposed to be the likable one of the pair, I assume)—but I just couldn't believe him. Of all the characters, it was his wife whom I sympathized with most. Am I seriously expected to cheer as he abandons her in his final days to travel around the world with a stranger, questioning, among other things, to "kiss the most beautiful woman in the world?"

I'm sure you can guess how that went, of course. A hint: It's sickly sweet. Saccharine. Ugh! I don't even want to think about this anymore. I think I'm going to throw up. (Will someone please get me a bucket?) •

## QUIZ:

1. On Friday the 13th, 178 years ago, this man became the first person to successfully jump the Niagara Falls. Five months later, his body was found near the mouth of the Genesee River. What was his name?

- a. Sam Patch
- b. Kirk Jones
- c. Lute Woodward
- d. Christopher Fortier

2. The RIT campus has recently been placed as one of the 20 Ugliest College Campuses in the U.S. What is its ranking?

- a. 4th
- b. 8th
- c. 12th
- d. 16th

3. When did RIT acquire the Bengal tiger statue located near the Eastman Kodak Quad?

- a. 1969
- b. 1978
- c. 1989
- d. 1991

4. Seneca Park Zoo is the only zoo in the state of New York to house which animal?

- a. Gorillas
- b. Zebras
- c. Orangutans
- d. Bengal Tigers

5. True or False? The RIT academic tunnels were originally constructed in segments to make potential riots easier to control.

- a. True
- b. False

ANSWERS: 1)a 2)d 3)c 4)c 5)b

### HANDY GUIDE TO WISHING YOUR FRIENDS A HAPPY HOLIDAYS:

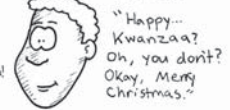
YOUR CHRISTIAN FRIEND



YOUR JEWISH FRIEND



YOUR BLACK FRIEND



YOUR CONSERVATIVE D-BAG FRIEND



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JESUS



Salsbery '07

### REPORTER RECOMMENDS:

Deep-fried Mars bars. What could be more appropriate, given the holiday season, than a greasy, fat-filled slab of chocolate? The dish, which originated in Scotland, is a hearty dose of chocolate, oil, and beer, and is still quite a popular treat in the British Isles. To top it off, you can even serve the traditional French fries and ice cream on the side. Think of it as a Twinkie spritzed with cocoa, alcohol, and a palatable potential heart attack.

### QUOTE

"From a commercial point of view, if Christmas did not exist it would be necessary to invent it." — Katharine Whitehorn

### DIFFICULTY RATING: MEDIUM

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   |   | 3 | 4 |
|   | 4 | 6 |   |   |   | 1 |
|   | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |
| 9 |   |   |   |   | 4 |   |
|   | 8 |   |   |   |   | 6 |
|   |   |   | 1 |   |   | 2 |
| 3 |   |   |   |   |   | 5 |
|   |   |   | 6 | 8 |   |   |
|   |   |   | 2 |   |   |   |

### SIGN OF THE WEEK: LET'S GET FAT



# CARTOON CONTROVERSY

BY ALEX SALSBERG

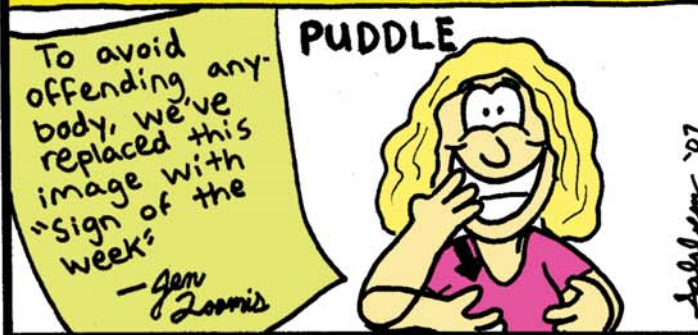
CARTOONS, THOUGH OFTEN VIEWED AS FLUFFY CHILDREN'S CRAP, DO HAVE THE ABILITY TO CAUSE A STIR...



NEWSPAPER COMICS ARE USUALLY TOO HEAVILY EDITED TO BE OFFENSIVE, THOUGH WE ALL KNOW GARFIELD IS MILDLY RACIST...



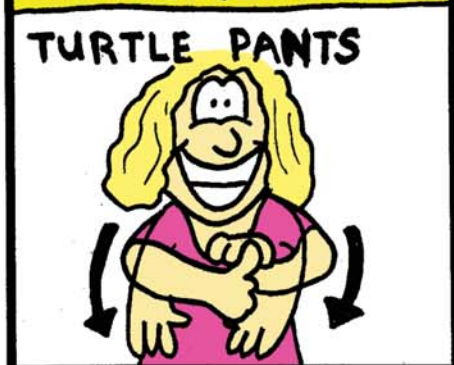
COLLEGE COMICS HAVE MORE FREEDOM, BUT THAT CAN BE RISKY. THIS UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY TOON, "ETHIOPIAN FOOD FIGHT," LED TO THEIR CARTOONIST'S RESIGNATION:



EVEN REPORTER HAD SOME ISSUES SURROUNDING A CONTROVERSIAL CARTOON LAST YEAR...



OVERSEAS, THERE WERE RIOTS BECAUSE OF THIS DANISH CARTOON, DEPICTING MOHAMMED:



SO, IF YOU WANT TO BE A SUCCESSFUL, NOT DEAD, CARTOONIST, JUST AVOID THESE TOPICS:

guns, affirmative action, Jesus, Mohammed, nipples, immigration, Christmas, CAB, Mohammed, Telefund, Frats, corner crew, restless leg syndrome, and of course, The Hindenburg (too soon)

DONT WORRY. YOU CAN STILL MAKE FUNNY CARTOONS...





# CARTOONS

BY ALEX SALSBERG

THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF CARTOONS...  
LIKE COMIC STRIPS:



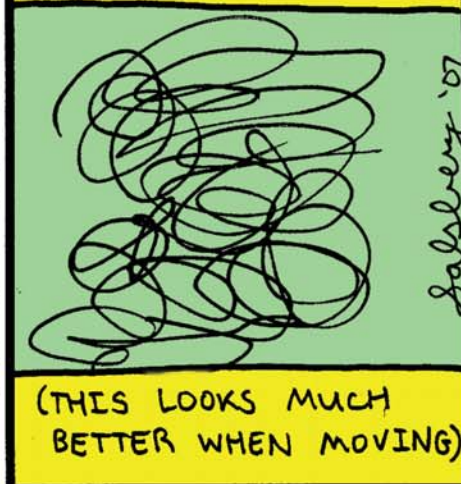
...ONE GAG COMICS:



...EDITORIAL CARTOONS:



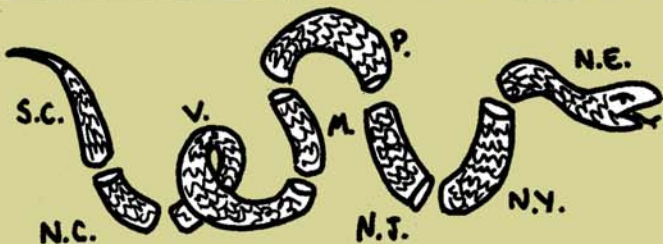
...ANIMATED CARTOONS:



...AND WEBCOMICS:

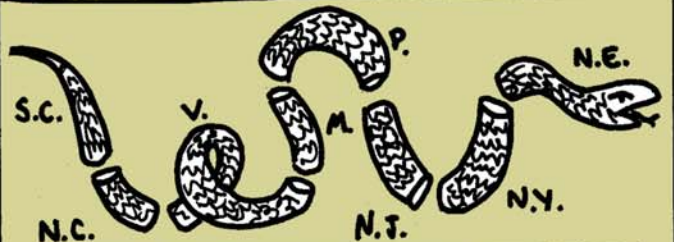


CARTOONS HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR CENTURIES. BEN FRANKLIN DREW THIS IN SUPPORT OF THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR...



JOIN, or DIE.

... THOUGH ONE WONDERS WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED HAD HE STUCK WITH HIS ORIGINAL CAPTION...



Though he loved to play, Barry the snake was soon cut.

# REPORTER CARTOONS

BY ALEX SALSBERG



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AT  
REPORTER



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**WARNING:** Winner must paint the mural!

WITR 89.7 FM



violin duo stands on the small corner stage, playing something akin to chamber music over the din of the crowd that is dispersed throughout the back room of the small coffee shop. Customers sip wine, espressos, and draft beer. Most are college aged or slightly older, but all are young at heart. There's a constant line of them waiting with books in hand to meet the man of the hour at this quaint little book signing. But, honestly, the atmosphere at Alexander Street's Boulder Coffee seems a bit stuffy for a writer/illustrator who once drew a comic of a zookeeper's wife screwing an ape.

This particular comic, admits Nicholas Gurewitch, was where a lot of newspapers drew the line. As Gurewitch puts it, "I did publish one where an ape makes love or gets physically involved with the zookeeper's wife, and I think that was the one that very few papers were able to run."

"I remember that one having a little bit of side boob in it or something," I recall.

"Side boob, and frontal butt, and full-on intercourse. A lot of [newspapers] drew the line on that one," he admits.

Sure, it's an extreme example, but nothing less is to be expected from Gurewitch's comic. The Perry Bible Fellowship, a cacophony of styles and wit, which despite their colorful candy shell, are often filled with dark, twisted ironies that occasionally border on the perverse.

Dark Horse Books recently released a compendium of the majority of his strips since his start about five years ago. The colorful Candyland cover may look appealing to those who have yet to lose their first set of teeth, but *The Trial of Colonel Sweeto and Other Stories*, as the first page states, is "for mature readers."

Gurewitch explains the selection process for the comics that are featured, "Not a whole lot of strips didn't make it into the book, and I don't think it's out of the question that all of the strips will eventually be in a book someday, but these ones are the tried and true favorites that I've discovered by selling them as prints, and just the ones that I get the most feedback on."

Most of the comics, no matter how cheerfully they begin, end with death, adultery, perversion

or perhaps most commonly, the destruction of the entire planet (or at least an orphanage or two).

Most striking, however, is Gurewitch's ability to make such dramatic story arcs in a mere three frames, only occasionally betraying this format in favor of four or five condensed frames. Frame 1: Boy intently reads a book on turtle care, sitting next to his pet turtle. Frame 2: Woman in bra and skirt interrupts boy, saying, "Let's do it and never stop." Frame 3: Dead turtle.

Not all of the strips show or imply graphic sex. In one, a man goes to a wishing well, asking for true love. A woman rushes to his arms, kissing him. As they walk off, the next customers leave with space fighters, wheelbarrows of money, and superpowers. The man starts looking glum about his decision. Others are as simple as a man trying to make it rain bacon by strapping dynamite to a live pig. In another, the Earth and Sun fall in love and attempt to embrace, much to the chagrin of Earth's inflamed residents. Each comic creates its own unique universe of playful treachery, sexual innuendo, and white, noseless, plump figures with manipulative father figures.

"I like the comic strip format because a lot of work goes a long way, for some reason. I'm not sure why that is, but I think people really appreciate a static image sometimes. Especially when it goes along with two or three other images that offer a wealth of comparison."

Before the signing is underway, before the crowds and the violins, Nick is pulling copies of his book out of a box, setting them up to prepare for the evening. He's tall and thin, very laid back, but obviously trying hard to keep up with what is bound to be a busy night. "Making comic strips leaves you in a little bubble. It's not a very social activity by any means. Besides making people laugh, you really don't have a lot of contact with the world," he confides.

He realizes that this particular box of books has large, unsightly "Made in China" stickers on the back. Gurewitch and the woman taking money decide they're too difficult to take off the backs at this stage of the game. A fan approaches, unsure of whether or not the tall wavy-haired 20-something before him is the mastermind



# Life is short: be hard

by Casey Dehlinger  
photograph by Alex Gagne

an evening  
with nicholas  
gurewitch

Perry Bible Fellowship. "Err, are you Nathan?"

"No," says Nick.

"Oh. I was looking for him to sign this," says the fan, holding up a copy of *Colonel Sweeto*.

"Well, I can sign it," Nick says, "I'm Nick."

"Oh! Nick. Right," says the embarrassed fan.

After signing the book, Gurewitch thanks the fan, "I'm glad you dig it."

A middle aged man approaches, asking, "How do you get your ideas?"

"Whatever's on my mind, really," responds Gurewitch, still setting up the table, "I think a lot of the ideas come from problems, actually. Like, if I hate something, I'll want to comment on that."

"Gotta be careful. A lot of people have thin skin," the man replies.

"Hate does wonders," says Nick.

**"Frame 1 //**  
**Boy intently reads a book on turtle care, next to his pet turtle.**

**Frame 2 //**  
**Woman in bra and skirt interrupts boy, saying, "Let's do it and never stop."**

**Frame 3 //**  
**Dead turtle."**

Later, in an interview, Gurewitch expounds on this, "I think a lot of what ends up in your head is the result of frustration, and hopes, and the loss of hope, and despair. All these things kind of amalgamate and create the ideas in your

head. And I think if a person has more problems, they tend to have more ideas, somehow. I'm not sure what accounts for that. I think it's just the stirring of these thoughts and feelings that creates wonderful new ideas."

I ask, "A lot of your strips deal with adultery or patriarchal no-funnery. If you often get ideas by thinking through things that you hate, do you have a particular hatred for cheating lovers or fathers who kill funbots with laser-eyes and put their children to bed with sedatives administered via blow dart?"

"An artist is in a position to do something honest and exciting when strong feelings are being handled," says Gurewitch, "'Hate' might be the wrong word— you can have strong feelings about something you love, too— but I suppose the PBF is at its most interesting when it dives into areas that make me uncomfortable. I am afraid of being rejected. I do have difficulty with father figures. I dislike technology. Maybe there's a lot of commiseration in the enjoyment of some of these things."

The line stays consistently long throughout the night as more fans enter the coffee shop. At any given moment, there are two dozen fans waiting to get their copies of *Colonel Sweeto* signed. The 20-minute wait gets them a personalized message, written on the spot by Gurewitch, even if it takes him a moment or two to figure out what to write. Scribbled on one fan's book is, "Life is short." Gurewitch stares at the fan, trying to complete the statement, "I'd say 'die young,' but that seems insensitive." After a moment or so, he settles for "Life is short. Be hard."

I ask him, "A lot of people would consider your comic a web comic, even though it's published in print. A lot of web comics that make the jump to print tend to be watered down a bit, but yours seems to have maintained its integrity perfectly. What do you attribute that to?"

"Maybe the fact that I don't care too much about appealing to people's fears? I don't think that's why the comic was created, so that's not something that I've ever tried to keep an eye on."

He pens into other books fortune cookie-like sentiments. "Conquer your enemies." "Love is real." His mother is among the fans, sometimes

offering to take photos of people with her son as he contemplates what to write in their books.

"The idea [for Perry Bible Fellowship] hatched when I realized that I wanted to do more for my school paper. I was really involved with my school paper in high school; I was the editor. I loved every minute of it. So when I got to [Syracuse University], I tried to continue being active with *The Daily Orange*, but it was a different scene, and I realized that it was much more difficult to make an impression on people with an article, so I think I just ended up going and looking at the comic page and putting work there. Much more people responded to that than the work I was doing in article form."

A lot of people at the event know Nick personally. A distant cousin of his waits to get something signed. People peck at cheese and crackers set out on a table by the small stage. The violinists have left. A third of the crowd thumbs through *Colonel Sweeto*, laughing out loud.

Nick comments on the deeper concerns of being a comic artist. "I don't mean to indicate that I'm having second thoughts about what I'm doing, but I think that it can be a little stifling to know that at this stage, at our age, you end up doing something and that thing you do doesn't always affect the world at large. Sometimes it appeals to a very small demographic or a single boss. So as the world's problems get worse, I'm sure a lot of people feel helpless. I don't think I'm singular in that feeling. But it would be great if someday I could have a job that let me feel more in touch with what's going on."

Before we part ways, I ask him for advice to any up-and-coming cartoonists. "I would tell them to harvest more of their pain; harvest more of their problems. Deal with those issues. Put them on paper, sort them out, and other people will see it, and it will probably have an effect on them, too."

I ask him what the greatest obstacle standing in their way may be. "Self-consciousness. They should just go insane and do whatever it takes to have a good time."



See Nicholas Gurewitch's work for yourself at <http://pbfcomics.com> or purchase *The Trial of Colonel Sweeto and Other Stories* online or at any book retailer. •

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# CASH BACK CREDIT CARDS FOR STUDENTS

by Michael Percia

President, RIT Financial Management Association

Seemingly engulfed with endless expenses and a paltry income (if any), the average college student could always use a few extra bucks. Many of you probably find the idea of a cash back credit card for students very appealing. I thought so too— until I did the research.

Getting cash rebates for spending money sounds pretty cool. However, the “spend to earn” sales pitch that credit card companies may give you goes against conventional wisdom. And as always with credit cards, the devil is in the details.

As I conducted my research into cash back cards, I was instantly drawn to a specific Discover Card for students. As advertised on the Discover website, the card earns “5% Cashback Bonus in categories like travel, apparel, gas, restaurants, movies and more, and up to a 1% Cashback Bonus on all other purchases automatically.” This sound like a great deal, right? Not exactly.

First of all, the marketing people at Discover don't make the details very easy to find. It took me five minutes to find the exact details about the 5% Cashback Bonus on the website— practically an eternity on the Internet. However, the “Apply Now” button is jumping out at every turn.

Once I finally found the information on the 5% cash back bonus, I was surprised to learn that the applicable categories rotate throughout the year. For example, you could only earn 5% cash back on select gas stations from July through September of this past year. And you can only earn the 5% cash back from January through March 2008 on categories such as Airlines, Cruises, Hotels, and Car Rentals.

As you can see, it is possible to earn 5% cash back on the Discover Card, but there are more than a few restrictions to stop you from doing so. Well, how about that 1% Cash Back Bonus on all other purchases that the website talks about? As it turns out, you can only get the 1% rebate when your annual purchases exceed \$3,000. In fact, for your first \$1,500 in purchases, you only earn .25% and for your second \$1,500 you earn .5%.

By the way, you can only redeem your cash back bonuses in \$20 increments. If you used your card on the 5% Cash Back categories exclusively, you would have to

spend \$400 to get your first rebate— not bad! However, this is a highly unlikely scenario, given the restrictions. Assuming you used your card on other purchases not covered in the 5% category, you would have to spend a whopping \$3,875 to get your first rebate.

Another caveat to consider is the difference between a student credit card and a regular credit card: Student credit cards usually have lower credit limits, a trade off for the shorter credit history that many students have. Even if you wanted to use the Discover Card for a

been planning, your credit limit might not be high enough to make the purchase.

The bottom line: Credit cards are a necessity for many college students, but choose (and charge) wisely. Getting a cash rebate should not be a reason to use your credit card. As my research shows, it doesn't make sense. Credit card reward programs are designed to get you to spend more. That being said, if you do use a credit card, getting money back certainly does not hurt— just don't think you are going to consistently earn 1% (let alone 5%)

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# THAT GUY

by Ilsa Shaw | photograph by Tom Schirmacher

## NAME, MAJOR, YEAR?

Nick Corson, fourth year  
Mechanical Engineering  
Technology.

## HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF?

Fast.

## DREAM JOB AFTER GRADUATION?

Getting paid to ride bikes fast, but  
if that doesn't work, I'd love to  
design ski lifts.

## WHAT'S ON YOUR IPOD?

AFI, Anti flag, Motley Crue, Bob  
Dylan, Neil Young, The Offspring,  
Sublime, anything that rocks.

## WHAT IS YOUR IDEAL DATE?

Skiing. Or Biking. I'm a sucker for  
athletic girls.

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

Nick Brandreth.

## TELL ME ABOUT YOUR STYLE.

Jeans. T-shirt. Hat.

## DO YOU LIVE IN THE MOMENT?

If the moment can keep up.

## WHICH WEBSITES DO YOU FREQUENT?

Freeridepark.com and NJDirt.com.

## DO YOU HAVE ANY BAD HABITS?

Biting my nails and Pabst Blue  
Ribbon.

## WHAT IS THE ONE THING THAT WILL NEVER GROW OLD?

Walking like robots at the end of  
the night with my roommate.

## WHAT IS THE COMPLIMENT YOU GET MOST FROM PEOPLE?

You're the Jim Beam drinkiest  
motherf---er.

## IF YOU WERE ANOTHER PERSON, WOULD YOU BE FRIENDS WITH YOU?

Yeah! Especially if you want to  
bike or ski. We would have a blast.

## WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS?

Riding mountain bikes really fast.  
Light beer.

## DESCRIBE YOUR TYPICAL DAY.

I work for the RIT grounds crew,  
so three days a week, I'm at work  
at 6 a.m. If I'm not working, I'm  
usually on campus before class  
to do homework, get through my  
classes, do some more work, and  
head to the gym in the evening.

## DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE SAYING?

88 miles per hour!

## ARE YOU PERCEIVED WRONGLY?

Sometimes. I'm a straightforward  
person, but I have a hard time  
speaking my mind, so it's  
probably my fault.

## WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU HAD A LOT OF FUN?

Last night! We had a snowball  
fight in my apartment.

## WHAT IS YOUR HIDDEN TALENT?

Going fast.







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## SPORTSDESK

photographs by Dave Londres

- 1 Freshman Danielle Weekes takes on two defenders to score during the second half.
- 2 All 15 of the Lady Tigers played at least three minutes in their 72-42 victory over Hilbert College Friday night.
- 3 Freshman Brianna O'Dell lunges for the ball during the first half.



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# RIT MEN'S WRESTLING

by Carolyn Dunne | photographs by Dave Londres



157lb Nathan Bachmann won his bout with Nick Santo of Ithaca 5-4. The Tigers lost the meet 33-12.

This season, the RIT wrestling team returns eight starters from last year and adds 12 rookies to their roster. Despite being a young team which has suffered several personnel losses due to injury, they are definitely not lacking in dedication or talent, earning 27th place in the Brute-Adidas National Wrestling Coaches Association Division III ranking for teams.

Also contributing to the higher level of competitiveness in the team are the veteran players taking more of a leadership role in this season. Coach Stever sees McNally and Baum as two players who demand excellence and hard work from their teammates on a daily basis, which is invaluable to any team.

The drive of each individual athlete is the final component that positions the team for success, in terms of this season as well as future years. As some may know, last season, the team had such personal dedication and desire that they were able to take fourth place at the conference championships, despite having only seven players competing when ten players are considered to be a full team. This season's team, while much larger, is keeping quality ingrained in their efforts as the season progresses. According to senior Nick Ryan, staying healthy and mentally focused has been vital to the team's ability to compete at the highest levels. Even if it may not be immediately evident in the statistics of the team, Ryan believes that the tremendous heart that each athlete has shown in competing is reflected in how hard each of them work in every aspect of their sport.

Following Christmas, the team has a match every weekend until the end of winter quarter, with other matches scheduled during the week. The next home meet is a dual meet against SUNY Oneonta in the Clark Gym on February 6 at 6 p.m. •

With two returning athletes who have made the National Qualifiers and the New York State Collegiate Tournament (junior Mike McNally and sophomore Luke Baum), Coach Stever believes that the team will continue to improve as the younger players mature in the same way that the older athletes have matured with more match experience. At this point in the season, Stever sees consistency in the contest performances of McNally, Baum, senior Nate Bachmann, and sophomore Jason Wake. McNally's overall individual record is 15-2, Baum's is 14-5, Bachmann's is 19-3, and Wake's is 10-6. "We do well in tournaments. Some good individual play happens," Coach Stever comments, "We have lots of place winners."

Although they are admittedly "heavy on the freshman side," Stever asserts that there is a lot of promise and talent in this year's roster. However, their depth has been hurt by a series of early injuries, with freshmen Chris Kendall

and Mike Lewis undergoing knee surgery and McNally, seniors Nick Ryan and Josh Schneider all working to come back from knee problems as well. Everyone on the team agrees that the decrease of weight classes RIT can compete in as a result of injuries has hurt their play in dual meets, in which RIT competes directly with another college. The problem is particularly evident in RIT's current dual meet record of 0-3.

But the underclassmen have been stepping up to support the team's efforts; "Stephan Avorkliya has a lot of potential, but is just coming off an injury," Bachmann noted. Bachmann believes that after his first win in the Ithaca dual meet, Avorkliya will "break out and have a winning season." With three starters out of the line up due to injury, athletes with less experience at the college level are expected to perform, and often do, although Coach Stever notes, "Freshman inexperience can sometimes cost an athlete the match."



1971b Stephan Avorkliya pulls the leg of Jamie Facenda. Avorkliya won the bout 6-3.



1411b Luke Baum was defeated by Willie Horwath 3-2.

#### 2007-08 RIT Wrestling Stats (as of Dec. 14, 2007)

| NAME              | YEAR | WEIGHT  | OVERALL RC. | DUAL RC. | TECH. PINS | MAJORS FALLS | DEC. |
|-------------------|------|---------|-------------|----------|------------|--------------|------|
| Adam Abdethamed   | Sr.  | 285     | 7-8         | 1-2      | 3          | 0            | 0    |
| Tom Armentano     | Fr.  | 174     | 0-5         | 0-0      | 0          | 0            | 0    |
| Stephan Avorkliya | Fr.  | 197/285 | 1-3         | 1-1      | 0          | 0            | 0    |
| Zach Anderson     | Fr.  | 141     | 3-4         | 0-0      | 2          | 0            | 0    |
| Igor Babushkin    | So.  | 184     | 0-3         | 0-1      | 0          | 0            | 0    |
| Nathan Bachmann   | Sr.  | 157     | 19-3        | 3-0      | 2          | 0            | 4    |
| Luke Baum         | Jr.  | 141/149 | 14-5        | 1-1      | 3          | 1            | 2    |
| Shawn Burrington  | Fr.  | 125     | 4-9         | 0-2      | 3          | 0            | 1    |
| Erik Cisneros     | Fr.  | 133     | 2-5         | 0-1      | 1          | 0            | 0    |
| Brian Eisenmann   | So.  | 141     | 0-0         | 0-0      | 0          | 0            | 0    |
| Zach Feador       | Fr.  | 165     | 5-8         | 1-2      | 4          | 0            | 0    |
| Ted Furutani      | Jr.  | 133     | 3-1         | 0-0      | 1          | 0            | 0    |
| Chris Kendall     | Fr.  | 157     | 0-0         | 0-0      | 0          | 0            | 0    |
| Tyrone Kin        | So.  | 133     | 0-1         | 0-1      | 0          | 0            | 0    |
| Mike Lewis        | Fr.  | 165     | 2-3         | 0-0      | 2          | 0            | 0    |
| Mike McNally      | So.  | 125     | 15-2        | 1-0      | 3          | 2            | 2    |
| Ryan McLellan     | Fr.  | 125     | 3-6         | 0-2      | 3          | 0            | 0    |
| Scott Morrison    | So.  | 285     | 0-0         | 0-0      | 0          | 0            | 0    |
| Julian Nicholas   | Sr.  | 133     | 0-0         | 0-0      | 0          | 0            | 0    |
| Jerry Pilkenton   | Fr.  | 133     | 0-8         | 0-2      | 0          | 0            | 0    |
| Nick Ryan         | Sr.  | 157     | 1-2         | 0-0      | 0          | 0            | 0    |
| Josh Schneider    | Sr.  | 141     | 1-2         | 0-0      | 0          | 0            | 1    |
| Brad Strite       | Jr.  | 149     | 1-5         | 0-1      | 0          | 0            | 1    |
| Kyle Travers      | Fr.  | 125     | 1-4         | 0-0      | 0          | 0            | 0    |
| Giovanni Vazquez  | Fr.  | 141     | 1-2         | 0-0      | 0          | 0            | 0    |
| Jason Wake        | So.  | 165     | 10-6        | 0-2      | 2          | 0            | 3    |
| Evan Williams     | Fr.  | 157     | 0-1         | 0-1      | 0          | 0            | 0    |

# RIT RINGS 585.672.4840

compiled by Geoff Shearer

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

## FRIDAY 2:37 P.M.

Hi RIT Rings! I'm one of the girls who lives in the bed bug apartment that was written about in your last issue, and I just wanted to say "thank you" to the two geniuses who brought their mattresses from the streets covered in bed bugs. Thanks to them, we got new carpets, a new fridge, a redone bathroom... Everything was redone, so thanks!

## FRIDAY 7:58 P.M.

I just beat one of my friends in NHL for Xbox 360— six-nothing. And now he has to run around the Quarter Mile naked. Woooo! And he has a little [Richard].

## SATURDAY 2:38 A.M.

Hey, I just read this "That Girl," and I think it's a fake. I think it's a [blatant] fake, because she's attractive and appears to be interesting and she says she's single, so she must not be an RIT student. So seriously, RIT Rings, if you're going to have this section in your magazine, don't make people up. That's just demoralizing. Okay, bye!

## SATURDAY 3:31 A.M.

Dear Rings, we thoroughly enjoyed your article this week, just wanted to let you know that and remind you that...Balls!

## MONDAY 10:00 A.M.

Hey Rings. I read your article about the bed bugs this week, and I think you should check out my roommate. He hasn't moved his crap since he got in. Please help.

## MONDAY 6:12 P.M.

Hey Rings. I just wanted to tell you that one of my friends is so hungry that she is actually excited about going to Gracies. Yeah, that's really all there is.

## MONDAY 9:33 P.M.

Hey Rings, there's a bat in the hall and it's flying around, and it's freaking me out! What the [muffled noises]. There it is! It's in a room and we're all trying to catch it with a laundry basket, and I just don't know what to do. But it seems exhilarating, I just love little furry creatures, and we don't have rabies yet, which is a good thing. Bye.

## TUESDAY 12:19 A.M.

Okay. So yesterday, there was a bat in Ellingson 9. A fricking bat! What the hell?! There was a bat flying up and down the hallway, and my friend and I chased it for about fifteen minutes, screaming hysterically. Yeah, everyone on Ellingson 9 knows what I'm talking about, because they were sticking their heads out of the doors, wondering who the hell was making so much noise. We eventually caught it. I don't know what happened to it. I think some guy said he would take it outside. Yeah, seriously, what the hell?

## TUESDAY 2:10 A.M.

Hi. I'm calling in response to the message left on Sunday 7:43 p.m. about the message left on Sunday the ninth at 2:33 a.m. Okay, I'm the one who left the message originally. I don't know who you are, because there is no way we have been playing chick music, and I don't know who uses the word "beef" anymore, but this is the year 2007, so grow up. Thanks.

## TUESDAY 5:49 P.M.

Hey Reporter. I just pulled up to my night class and of the eighteen cars that are here parked in handicapped, only one of them has a handicapped sticker. Can you ask these people what they're thinking? Do they think they're better than the rest of the people who park in

## MONDAY 12:43 P.M.

Yo, thanks a lot, RIT, for making more spaces reserved parking so I can't park anywhere without getting a [good golly] ticket. So, uh, yeah. Thanks.

reserved or one of the regular lots who aren't handicapped? What makes them handicapped, and why they don't have a sticker? Bye.

## WEDNESDAY 2:30 A.M.

Hey RIT Rings. My sister just called me for the dumbest reason ever. She said it was really important. She asked me where her wallet was, and I haven't been home in two weeks...I don't know what that says about her intelligence.

## FRIDAY 3:04 A.M.

Hey. Whoever designed this campus to be one gigantic wind tunnel is a very bad man.

## FRIDAY 3:05 A.M.

Yeah, I just called about this campus being a wind tunnel. I just wanted to emphasize my point that this is a very, very bad architectural style. I'm freezing. Bye. •

# THE RON PAUL “SORT-OF” REVOLUTION

by Adam Botzenhart | illustration by Robert Modzelewski

I'm not voting for Ron Paul. Anyone who looks at the five-foot-eight, 72 year old obstetrician-turned-congressman and sees the next leader of the free world isn't serious about electing a president. But Ron Paul's campaign for the presidency isn't about Ron Paul or the presidency. At its core, it's a campaign about *ideas*. It's about a powerful, grassroots, limited-government movement sweeping across the nation, and one that's only gaining momentum.

To say that Ron Paul has been defying expectations this election cycle would be an understatement. Indeed, there's nothing new about the ten-term Texas congressman or the classic free-market, strict constitutionalism he's been ped-

dling for over thirty years. He's been in and out of politics since the '70s, running for the presidency once before in '88 as a Libertarian and picking up only .47 percent of the popular vote. But something's different this time around, and what started as an obscure candidate literally left out on the edges of the Republican debates has quickly turned into a political phenomenon that's taken center stage.

It's been called the *Ron Paul Revolution*— first coined by the *Washington Post* and later followed by the *New York Times* and *TIME* magazine— and a *revolution* is perhaps the only way to aptly describe Paul's immense and growing online following. On November 5, Guy Fawkes

Day, Paul's campaign set an all-time GOP fundraising record, amassing over 4.2 million dollars in only 24 hours. He wins just about every online poll conducted, though nationally he's hard-pressed to poll above five percent. Visit the websites Digg or Youtube on any day and you'll find a plethora of top videos and articles featuring Paul. One Youtube video, in particular, features a drunken John Mayer arguing about Ron Paul with Justin Long (think the Mac guy in the Apple commercials) outside of a Hollywood club. "Ron Paul knows the Constitution... I read the Constitution is what I'm saying," Mayer yells to an apparently Constitutionally-deficient Long. •

Read the rest of this post online at: [reportermag.com/theblog](http://reportermag.com/theblog).

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# MICROCELEBRITIES: JOBS IN JEOPARDY

by Casey Dehlinger | illustration by Robert Modzelewski

A recent article in *Wired* by Clive Thompson compared Web 2.0 to an en masse microcelebrity maker. Facebook has allegedly turned into a poor man's paparazzo, with photos popping up and documenting our daily debauches. We Twitter and blog our own press releases and get positive and negative reviews from the posts of others.

Thompson is absolutely correct in the mechanics of the microcelebrity, but the portrait he paints of the result is perhaps a few shades too flattering. What could be wrong with a fanbase of anonymous dozens, linking and posting and discussing your latest blog entry? Even debating over the future of your work or hypothesizing about your personal life? Anonymity is the key, though: Having fans and rivals that stay in the shadows of the Internet. There is perhaps no better way to refer to them than "the Internet" (i.e. The Internet didn't like my last post). It's when people you know find your soul on the Internet that you start running into trouble. Particularly employers.

Mankind has a long history of being able to perform jobs exceedingly well while utterly abhor-

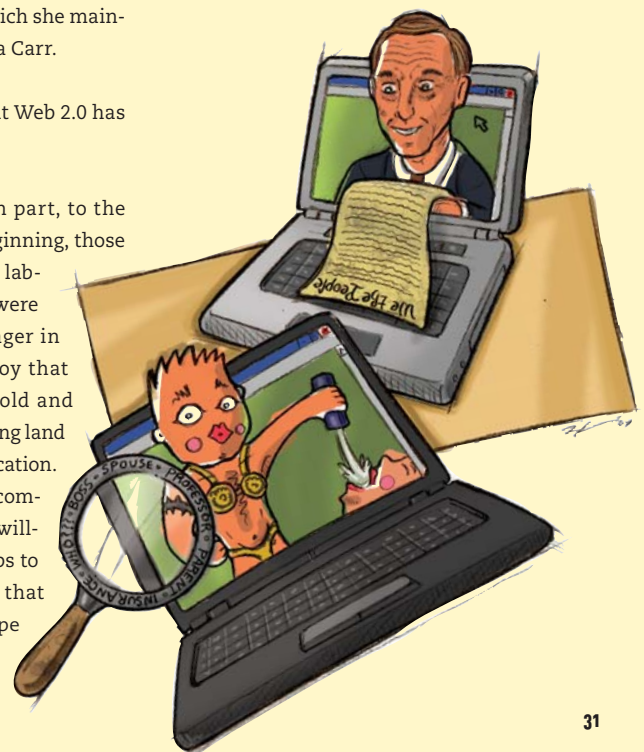
ring the job in question. Even people who love their jobs need the occasional night out with the friends to bitch about how much better they could do their supervisor's job. Don't you dare blog about it, though. Last September Jessica Zenner was fired from Nintendo for comments she made on her personal blog, which she maintained under the pen name Jessica Carr.

Take a minute to think about what Web 2.0 has really done to us.

I feel that much of this is due, in part, to the versatility of computers. In the beginning, those archaic monoliths surrounded by lab-coated scientists with clipboards were undeniably tools, but as a teenager in the late 90s, computers were a toy that allowed me to talk to friends— old and new— and play *Myst*. It was a rousing land of LoLs and OMGs and self-identification. As we age, the computer starts becoming a tool, but our generation is unwilling to let go of the toy. No one stops to think how sincerely strange it is that we play *World of Warcraft* and type our résumés on the same hunk of

metal, plastic, and wires. •

Read the rest of this post online at: [reportermag.com/generationlol](http://reportermag.com/generationlol).



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