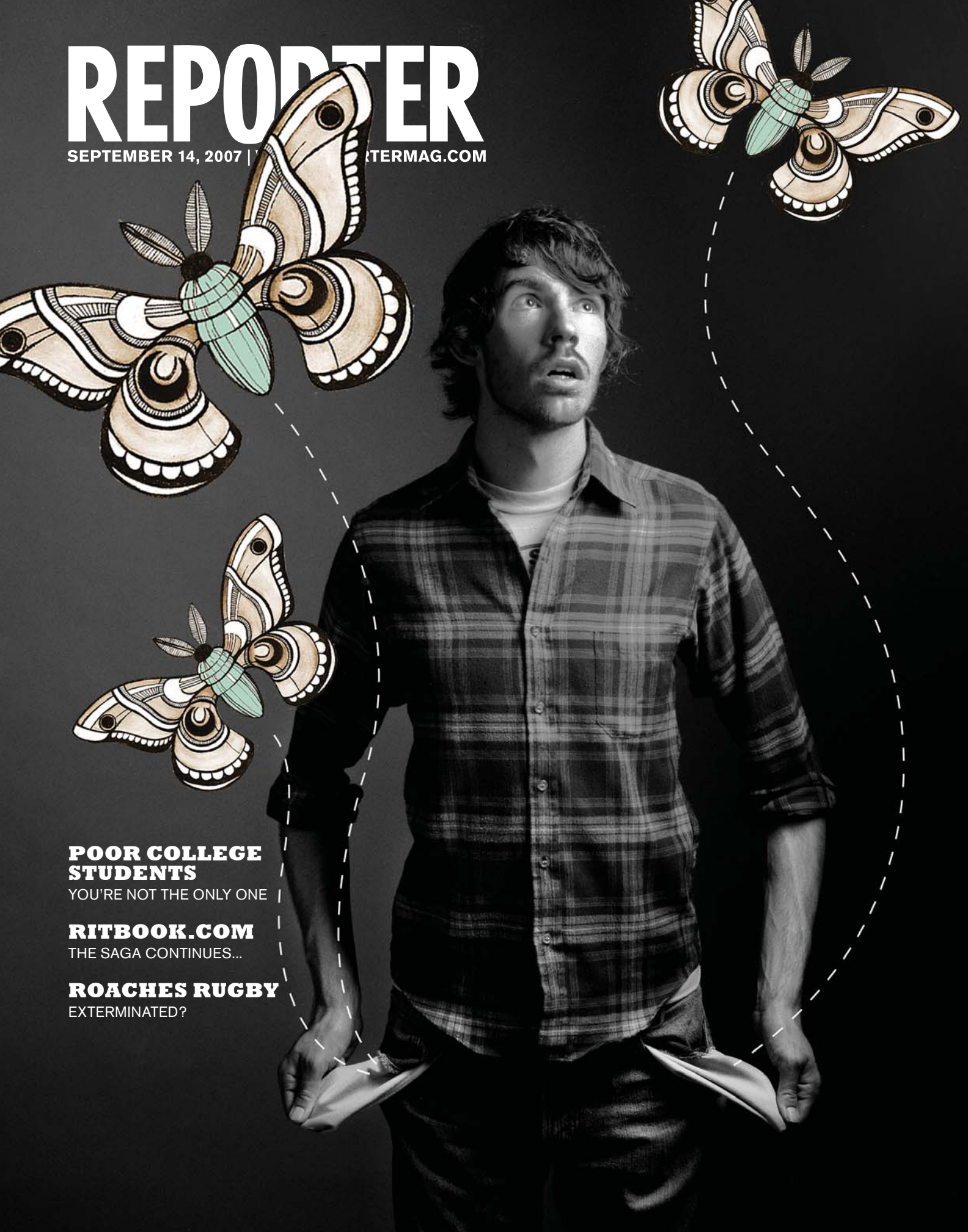


REPORTER

SEPTEMBER 14, 2007 | INTERMAG.COM



POOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE

RITBOOK.COM

THE SAGA CONTINUES...

ROACHES RUGBY

EXTERMINATED?

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EDITOR'S NOTE

KEEPING YOUR AMATEUR STATUS

I like RIT.

I feel as though I don't say that enough. That, in all of my editorializing, I've somehow communicated a lasting and consuming discontent with this Institute. But, that's simply not the case. I don't love it here, but I don't hate it either. *I like* RIT.

I enjoy the RIT experience. As cliché as it may sound, attending this brick city has made me a stronger, smarter, all-around better human being. Less cliché is the notion that much of this self-improvement has occurred as a by-product of this Institute's curriculum, rather than as a primary objective. I've learned far more outside of my classes here than I ever dreamed possible.

I think a major component to my "outside the classroom" learning experience has been through RIT-sponsored clubs. Student Government, and the administration in general, likes to tout this mind-numbing number of clubs on campus as a great achievement in the arena of student life. I don't necessarily agree with that— the sheer number of clubs on campus does not speak of their quality or their utility.

Still, the very nature of some of those clubs is a topic I find quite interesting. Take the RIT Players, for example. At a school like Nazareth, if you want to perform in a play, you absolutely *have* to be a theater major. You don't stand a prayer otherwise. In some cases, you're flat-out barred from auditioning. In other cases, the culture surrounding the performance groups merely blocks you out of principle. At RIT, however, we don't have theater majors. So, while it certainly takes some modicum of talent to land a leading role, you don't have to sign your life away to the stage to stand on one.

Reporter operates in much the same way. I am not a journalism major. I'm not even a writing major. And yet, I've been able to write and edit for this magazine for two years and counting. It's been an incredibly enriching experience— a nice supplement to that software engineering degree I'm working towards.

This campus is bursting with similar situations. Ed Wolf, the current Student Government President, is a Computer Engineering major. He's not in Public Policy, and he's not studying any form of law. He's an engineer. Craig Ceremuga, the General Manager of WITR, is in Information Technology. As far as I know, he has no broadcasting background, and no formal music degree.

These two gentlemen work in high-profile campus leadership positions that are not extensions of their majors. They, like me, man the helms as "amateurs," which is not to say that they're doing an amateur-ish job. It's sort of like the Olympics. Non-professionals working to achieve an accomplishment in an area that's usually dominated by professionals.

That's why I like RIT— it allows its students to participate in clubs and organizations that would usually be reserved for the pros. I'm convinced that this campus is crawling with accomplished students who are keeping their amateur status, and becoming better people for the experience.



Jen Loomis

EDITOR IN CHIEF

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Engineering students unroll streamers at the dedication ceremony for the new multi-million dollar research wing of the James E. Gleason Building on September 7. Photography by Dave Londres. Cover photography by Tom Schirmacher. Cover illustration by Erin Wengrovius.

ALERT: NEW ALERT SYSTEM

by Joe McLaughlin | illustration by Bryan Williams



RIT conducted a test of its new emergency message system on September 3. According to Bob Finnerty, RIT's Chief Communications Officer, parts of the system were tested, with the full system set to go on-line in October.

In a press release, RIT President William Desler said, "Safety and security at our university are of paramount importance. We are constantly vigilant about improving safety and security procedures and policies at RIT. Our community can be assured that we will use the 3n mass notification system and couple it with well-planned, -tested, and -reviewed continuity and contingency plans."

The university purchased the new system from National Notification Network (3n) in August. Said Finnerty, "What's coming down the line is an agreement with 3n to broadcast text messages and instant messages. In a crisis, this will give us the ability to send a notification to all students, faculty and staff." Finnerty also mentioned that students who do not wish to receive these messages will be asked to opt out.

According to Finnerty, "[RIT has] been looking for this kind of ability since last fall. When the tragedy at Virginia Tech happened last spring, that added urgency to this decision." (Virginia Tech announced a partnership with 3n in June.)

Jonathan Maurer, RIT's Director of Business Operations and Risk Management Services, said in a press release, "RIT chose 3n based on the reliability of the technology and the system's broad range of features, including real time reporting capabilities." The press release also said that RIT considered building its own system.

According to Finnerty, "The system will cost about five dollars per student." He also said, "One thing the community needs to understand is that the receiver bears the cost of getting a text message. We considered that, but in the grand scheme of things, it will come to about a buck or two a year. We're not going to use the system except in the utmost emergency."

Finnerty added that if the system had been in place at the time, the university would have used it to notify students about an ice storm that caused RIT to cancel classes last January. "You never know with an ice storm. On that day we used our [then-]normal protocol of putting the message out on TV, on the radio, and on our website. There were still commuters who showed up. Adding another layer will help us get the message out," he said.

In an emergency, the university will also be able to contact students by e-mail and via the RIT website. Additionally, television channels 8, 10, 31, and R News will carry closed-captioned messages during emergencies. (The Educational Technology Center has the ability to preempt all cable channels on campus.) RIT will have recorded messages on a "cancellation hotline" at (585) 475-7075 (voice) and (585) 475-7076 (tty). Radio stations WHAM (1180-AM), WCMF (96.5-FM), WDKX (103.9-FM), WITR (89.7-FM), WXXI (1370-AM), WDV1 (100.5-FM), WBEE (92.5-FM) and WPTY (97.9-FM) will also carry emergency messages. •

Inaugural Poetry Contest

RIT's new president, William W. Destler, will be inaugurated on November 9. In the spirit of creativity, unleash your inner poet and help welcome him! Winners of this competition will read their poems at the Inauguration and be invited to the banquet.



Guidelines:

- Deadline for submissions is October 8th
- All submissions must be accompanied by a cover sheet available in the Wallace Library Reference Desk, CLA Student Services office (06-2210), or the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs (01-3035)
- ASL and performance poetry videos **are** eligible

Winners:

- Receive an invitation to the inaugural dinner.
- Read their poems at the celebration.
- Receive a framed copy of the poems printed as a limited edition broadside by the Cary Graphic Arts Press.
- Will see their verses published in various RIT publications

BRICKBEAT

09.14.07

RIT INSTALLS NEW WASHERS/DRYERS

by Sarai Oviedo

Thanks to the collaborated efforts of Student Government (SG), RIT Housing, and the RIT Financial Office, all campus residents can now do their laundry free of cost. RIT has purchased new washers and dryers for all the laundry rooms in campus residence halls and apartments. The dryers were replaced in July, while the washers were installed in late August.

The changes to the laundry system, however, may not be finished yet. Matt Danna, second year Information Technology major and current SG Representative at Large, was a member of the committee which brought the initial changes. Danna sees room for improvement yet. One idea is a "smart laundry system." The system would allow students to check the status of washers and dryers online, thus preventing them from dragging their dirty clothes down to a room full of unavailable machines. The system would also allow students to reserve a machine and be notified by e-mail and/or text message when the machine is empty.

Currently, RIT laundry rooms are open to everyone. The university is also considering restricting students to two loads of laundry per week (which would be tracked by requiring students to swipe their ID card) or requiring card access to enter the laundry rooms. In either case, RIT is investigating measures to restrict the laundry rooms to campus residents. •

RIT ANNOUNCES PROVOST SEARCH COMMITTEE

by Jean-Jacques DeLisle

On August 31, President Destler announced the search for a new university Provost to succeed current provost Dr. Stan McKenzie. McKenzie, RIT literature professor for 34 years, took on

the position of provost in 1994 and is expected to retire at the end of the current academic year. Dr. Paul Rosenberg, associate professor of Chemistry, has been appointed chair of the search committee, which consists of nineteen other members.

Rosenberg commented regarding the committee's make-up that he was "very impressed with the breadth of the selection from RIT's community." Students, faculty, staff, deans, NTID, and many other groups are represented, making the search for the new Provost an inclusive one, spanning the whole university. The committee's purpose is to gather candidates who fit the extensive requirements for RIT's Provost, a position that calls for the management and care of the academic aspects of the university.

Rosenberg further explained that the committee aims "to do a thorough national and international search... We are very interested in getting input on desired attributes of our future Provost and will be seeking suggestions for candidates from the whole campus community. From a large and diverse candidate pool, we will have a better chance of finding the person who will be perfect for the position."

The committee recently had its first meeting and is laying out strategies for the selection of candidates. Rosenberg encouraged input from members of the RIT community, and said that he hopes to have a dedicated e-mail address to collect suggestions. The committee expects to have a list of names for consideration by February. •

CAMPUS WIRELESS NETWORK RECEIVES SECURITY UPGRADE

by Joe McLaughlin

RIT has launched a new wireless network, called "ritwpa", that requires DCE authentication to access. Dave Pecora, Assistant Director of Information and Technology Services, explained the

change, stating that "WPA is more secure than no WPA."

"Basically, right now, there's not a noticeable change," Pecora said, "But a bigger change is coming. At some point, everyone using the wireless network will need to configure their devices to work with the new network. We strongly recommend everyone changes to the new network as soon as possible."

WPA was created to add a level of security to wireless connections. One new feature is the Temporal Key Integrity Protocol (TKIP), which uses a constantly changing password to encrypt information traveling between a computer and the server. The fact that the password is constantly changing makes it harder for an intruder to "sniff," or identify, which packets are being sent. Anybody accessing these packets could impersonate the person whose packets they are viewing. WPA can also detect anybody who is trying to attack the network and temporarily prevent further communication with them.

Pecora said that the modifications to the network "had no incremental cost. It wasn't like we had to buy an expensive piece of equipment to make this upgrade. It was mostly turning on features in the equipment we already had."

The old network is currently active, although Pecora said that it will be changed to a "guest network" that would allow guests at RIT to still have internet access, although they would not have access to any RIT services. "Being on the guest network would be like being [on the internet] at home," Pecora said. He also said that RIT might change its e-mail services so that they are only accessible from the new network, not the guest network. •

For information on how to configure your computer to use WPA, visit the ITS page on the transition at <http://www.rit.edu/its/serviceswireless/wpaconnect.html>

RIT FORECAST

compiled by Sarai Oviedo

SG SENATE WEEKLY UPDATE

by Adam Botzenhart

Saturday
15
SEP

La Voz and Lambda Pi Chi Dance-a-thon

Fireside Lounge, 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month! Enjoy some Hispanic chill time with Lambda Pi Chi and La Voz. Cost: Free.

RITmo Latino

SAU Cafeteria, 10 p.m. - 2:30 a.m. Lambda Alpha Upsilon will be holding its fifteenth annual "RITmo Latino" dance party. Can RIT Tigers keep up with the best in Latin and contemporary rhythms? Dancing shoes are a must! Cost: Free for RIT, \$5 with college ID, \$7 after midnight.

Sunday
16
SEP

Mexico's Independence Day

Starting before dawn, Padre Miguel Hidalgo rang the church bells calling for a revolution that would last ten years. Celebrate Mexico's Independence Day with a *grito* and Mexican food!

Monday
17
SEP

Constitution Day

On this day in 1787, the 55 delegates to the Constitutional Convention held their final meeting to sign the Constitution of the United States of America. Do you know the preamble to the Constitution? *We the people...*

Tuesday
18
SEP

On this day, Jimi Hendrix was pronounced dead at St. Mary Abbot's Hospital London after choking on his own vomit. Hendrix left the message "*I need help bad, man,*" on his manager's answering machine earlier that night.

Wednesday
19
SEP

Byron Hurt presents: "Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats & Rhymes"

Time to be determined. Golisano Auditorium. Byron Hurt, former college quarterback, presents a documentary on gender roles in the hip-hop community. Cost: Free.

Thursday
20
SEP

Thursday Night Cinema Series: Lucky Number Slevin

Ingle Auditorium, 10 p.m. Ben Kingsley and Morgan Freeman think Josh Hartnett is Bruce Willis, and then everyone shoots everyone else. Cost: Free.

Friday
21
SEP

Crimson Delight: Savor the Crème

SAU Cafeteria, 10 p.m. - 2:15 a.m. Fund-raiser/party. Students, be ready to have a great time and meet new people! Sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta. Cost: Students - \$7.00, Faculty/Staff - \$8.00, Other - \$10.00.

Changes to FYE Curriculum

SG Advisor and FYE instructor, Colette Shaw, presented the changes which have been made in "revamping" the FYE curriculum. This summer, the curriculum was overhauled based on feedback from focus groups, on-campus surveys, and accumulated anecdotal feedback. The four areas of focus for the new curriculum include: Student Success, Community, Global Awareness, and Career—congruent with the four areas of focus outlined in RIT's Strategic Plan. One significant change to the curriculum is that PowerPoint presentations will no longer be the focus of FYE instructor presentations. "We're going to use more of the Socratic method style," said Shaw. Other changes include a shift in class time spent in lecture to greater focus on debates, case studies, and "smart talk." Rep. at Large Matt Danna commented that the new curriculum was "great," but called for continued changes to the structure of the FYE department as a whole.

RIT Readership Program

A representative from *USA Today* presented to the Senate regarding the RIT Readership Program. The program provides copies of *USA Today* and *The New York Times* free to students at five locations on campus: Crossroads, Grace Watson Hall, the Nathaniel Rochester Hall mail room, the Student Alumni Union, and the Student Development Center. Based on the data that has been collected, the service is used by 15-20% of students daily. Current stands are "open access," in that the papers can be taken by anyone. New stands, which require the use of a student ID to access the papers, are expected to be installed in six to eight weeks. Overall, the program has been allocated \$30,000 for the year. RIT is only charged for those papers that are removed from the stands.

New Committees Announced

There are five new committees this year: the Committee on Institute Policy and Procedures, the Committee on Institute Technology, the Committee on Community Improvement and Development, the Committee on Freshmen Engagement and Orientation, and the Transfer Student Engagement Committee. All committees will report to Student Government. It is hoped that that they will help to expand student involvement and SG's policy-making clout on campus. RIT students interested in further information or joining one of these committees should contact SG.

Various Votes

Liz Kovach was approved as Finance Director for SG. After some confusion over which members of Student Government could or could not vote and corresponding debate, Liz was approved by a vote of 16-0. Previously, Liz served as Treasurer for RIT's Anime Club. All of the cabinet members, save Matt Danna (Rep. at Large) are female.

The AALANA Collegiate Association, formerly the BACC (Black Awareness Coordinating Committee), presented changes to their name, constitution, and to the future outlook of the organization. Copies of the revised constitution were distributed to the Senate. The issue was tabled to be voted upon at the next meeting.

Christie Ong, who sits on the cabinet in the newly created position of MSO Liaison, announced that she would not only like to work with MSOs, but would also like the senators to help them achieve their goals.

TIGER

BLAST

schedule of events

week one

- thu 9/6 thursday night cinema series: "300"
(9pm greek lawn)
- fri 9/7 friday night in the ritz w/ sigma alpha
mu: giant panda guerilla dub squad
(7pm greek lawn)
- sat 9/8 alpha phi alpha's welcome back party
(10pm-2am fireside lounge, sau.
first 20 freshman free. \$3-\$7)

week two

- thu 9/13 thursday night cinema series: "billy
madison"
(10pm ingle aud, sau)
- fri 9/14 friday night in the ritz: skafest
(10pm ritz, sau. \$1)
- sat 9/15 late night bingo
(10pm fireside lounge, sau)

week three

- thu 9/20 thursday night cinema series: "lucky
number slewin"
(10pm ingle aud, sau)
- fri 9/21 friday night in the ritz w/ la voz:
reggaeton karaoke
(10pm ritz, sau. \$1)
- sat 9/22 mud tug
(12pm behind gracie's)
sum 41
(8pm clark gym. tickets on sale 8/25)
think fast game show
(11pm sau cafe. \$5)

week four

- thu 9/27 thursday night cinema series: "the
departed"
(10pm ingle aud, sau)
- fri 9/28 rpo mirimba band
(8pm ingle aud, sau. \$6)
friday night in the ritz: lijie
(10pm ritz, sau. \$1)
- sat 9/29 saturday night standup: andy
hendrickson & ryan belleville
(11pm ingle aud, sau. \$1)

week five

- thu 10/4 brick city homecoming
for up-to-date info on bch events,
visit www.rit.edu/brickcity
- fri 10/5 brick city homecoming
rihanna
(8pm gordon field house. \$16)
- sat 10/6 brick city homecoming
howie mandel
(8pm gordon field house. \$17)

week six

- thu 10/11 thursday night cinema series w/ rit
gay alliance: "transamerica"
(10pm ingle aud, sau)
- fri 10/12 te conozco bacalao /communicating
across cultures
(7:30pm ingle aud, sau. \$3)
friday night in the ritz: rit band night
(10pm ritz, sau. \$1)
- sat 10/13 soapbox derby
(12pm between buildings 70 & 17)

WHAT'S BLACK & WHITE AND GUERRILLA ALL OVER?

by Evan McNamara
photography by Eric Drummond



Rochester reggae band, Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad, performs on the Greek Lawn on Friday night.

By Friday of the first week of classes, many RIT students want to escape—to get away from the millions of red bricks and celebrate what could be the last enjoyable Friday before the upcoming nine weeks of academic hell. But this fall, there was a reason to stay on campus. That reason was a Giant Panda.

Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad (GPGDS for short), to be exact. Last Friday night on the Greek Lawn, over 100 of RIT's students were treated to the stylings of one of Rochester's most lauded reggae bands.

The name may sound strange, but the music was not. GPGDS plays reggae like they were born into it, and add their own flair along the way. If Jimi Hendrix and Ziggy Marley had a love child, and it happened to be an abnormally large militant panda bear, it would sound like GPGDS.

The band started a little after 7 p.m. to about 50 kids sitting on the ground. They kicked things off

with their tight reggae beats and soulful three-part vocal harmonies. By the third song, about 100 kids began to cluster around stage, and by the end of their set, nearly everyone was dancing. Those who were too bashful stuck to the back, casually tapping their feet and nodding their heads.

Each member of the band shared lead vocal duties, and all were more than capable. They sang from their hearts and gave off a great energy. No one moved around much on stage, but the energy was still there. In their own reserved way, GPGDS knows how to throw a party.

Their standard dub was peppered with entertaining embellishments. The three-part vocal harmonies were astounding, along with a keyboard player who knew when to throw in an extra few notes. At one point, a melodica was produced from behind the keyboard. This cross between a harmonica and an accordion was a unique addition.

The two guitarists traded solos throughout the performance, feeding off the energy of the crowd and the rest of the band. After it all, the only disappointment was that there wasn't someone dressed up as a giant panda stirring up the crowd.

The show was a great way to kick off the quarter, and everyone in attendance was having a blast.

At the very least, I'm sure a bunch of folks will turn some heads when they wear their Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad t-shirts out for the first time. •

*Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad has future shows on September 20 at Funk N' Waffles in Syracuse, NY and October 5 at Water Street Music Hall in Rochester, NY. For more information, check out their website at: www.giant-pandadub.com. The band's 2006 album, *Slow Down*, is currently available on iTunes.*



POLICE DEP
2375

SOL KITCHEN

by Alex Salsberg

So they asked me to write another cooking article, even though it turns out that "Mac n' Cheese n' Ham n' Peas" causes birth defects.* This time, they wanted me to talk about all the kitchen gadgets that college students can use.

Before I continue, I'll give a little disclaimer. Pretty much all of the following appliances are not allowed in the dorms. And RIT Housing Operations always makes rules for a reason. They had to make a specific rule against piranhas because this kid my friend's roommate's cousin knew had his face bitten off by one. And they make rules against cooking appliances in dorms so you don't start a fire.

But, hey, sometimes you need to skeleton-ize an entire cow in under three minutes. And, sometimes you need to eat something good for a change. So cook at your own risk, and don't be that guy who sets off the fire alarm. Everyone hates that guy almost as much as they hate RIT Housing Operations. And seriously, no joking. Be careful for realsies. Make sure you have a fan to blow smoke out of the window, and make sure you shut things off when you're done.

So now that I'm done lecturing you and using words like "realsies," here are the gadgets you might consider buying to turn Gleason 5 into a 5-star restaurant:



* See "Cooking with Alex," Vol. 56, Issue 22.

MICROWAVE

You may be thinking: *My floor already has a communal microwave.* Yeah, it does, but sharing anything with fifty other people is never ideal. Just like the bathrooms in the dorms, the microwave has something wet on the bottom, something sticky on the walls, and every time you want to use it you have to wait in line behind a lumpy, smelly kid.

PROS: The microwave is pretty safe. So even though your RA might care, you don't have to worry too much about fires.

CONS: It's still just a microwave. All you can really make is Uncle Ben's Rice Bowls and Big Az Chicken (which is made from the az of a chicken).

RECIPE RECOMMENDATION: Cape Cod Potato Chips for 30 seconds. Trust me.

HIDING PLACE: Throw a sheet over it.

SANDWICH MAKER

You don't have to work at Subway to be a "sandwich artist," or work at the Ritz to be a "sandwich thrower-together-er." All you need is a sandwich maker, which is like a little suitcase that closes, grills and cuts your sandwiches for you, then turns on a little green light. They usually come in red, with cool names like "The Snackster" or "The Sandwich Maker."

PROS: Really easy to use, really easy to clean.

CONS: So easy to clean that you'll put off cleaning it and never clean it.

RECIPE RECOMMENDATION: Peanut butter, banana and chocolate on white bread.

I swear, it doesn't cause birth defects.

HIDING PLACE: Throw a sheet over it.

TOASTER OVEN

The bravest of the kitchen appliances, a toaster oven is a great gadget to have. It has the magical ability to turn a disgusting raw Pop Tart into a mediocre cooked one. It's also got the oven function, which can make cookies, and more importantly, Shrinky-dinks.

PROS: If your toast has a religious figure on it, you're rich.

CONS: If one molecule of cheese touches the bottom of the toaster your entire building will burst into flames.

RECIPE RECOMMENDATION:

The Virgin Mary on rye.

HIDING PLACE: Throw a sheet over it.

RONCO OVEN

Ron Popeil offers some crazy inventions too, and despite having only been punched in the head once (by the Australian guy from The Magic Bullet commercial), some of them look neat. His rotisserie oven is only four payments of \$19.95, and it comes with a knife that can skeleton-ize a cow in under three minutes. But is it really worth it?

PROS: Set it and forget it.

CONS: Setting something and forgetting it in a dorm is a horrible, horrible idea.

RECIPE RECOMMENDATION:

Six whole pheasants.

HIDING PLACE:

Just tell your RA that it's a television.

GEORGE FOREMAN GRILL

The George Foreman Grill was recently voted the best product invented by a man who spent years being punched in the head repeatedly. Unlike the Mike Tyson Grill, which is only good for cooking human ears (someone in 1997 just laughed), the George Foreman Grill can cook any living thing to perfection. George Foreman named all of his kids George, but what people don't know is that he didn't name them after himself, he named them after the grill, because it's so freaking amazing.

PROS: It's better than America and Jesus combined. (According to Wikipedia, George Foreman is a minister now and would disagree with that statement outwardly, but we know he knows.)

CONS: There are no cons in choosing this grill, just like there are no cons to a career in professional boxing.

RECIPE RECOMMENDATION:

Two of every animal. With half the fat.

HIDING PLACE: Don't bother throwing a sheet over it. Just cook something for anyone who complains and they'll shut up.

So those are all the things you're not supposed to have for really good reasons. You'll thank me when you're eating delicious dorm-cooked meals every night. Rules were made to be broken. Except that piranha rule. That one should be kept, for realiesies. •



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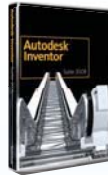
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by Casey Dehlinger

illustration Caitlin Yarsky

THEY CAN'T KILL SHERLOCK HOLMES,

Everyone's favorite morphine-addicted, pipe-smoking, megalomaniacal, insensitive detective is back and hitting the stage for Geva's latest performance, *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*, directed by Tim Ocel. However, as opposed to the traditional whodunit, this play is more of a holy-crap-is-he-actually-going-to-die set up, with Christian Kohn parading around the stage as Sherlock Holmes and laying it on thick a la, "I would gladly die to see Moriarty put away." And with sets such as "gas chamber" listed in the playbill, you may want to take the play's heavy-handed threats seriously, or mark them up as red herrings and see where it takes you.

As usual, the set designs at Geva are mesmerizing. This time it is due to the strong designs of set designer Rob Koharchik, who eschews the deliberately stuffy stereotypical British study for a dark, moody space that looks like someone built a black brick house and then knocked the fourth wall down (and parts of the second and third) and called it a day. It gives off unsafe vibes, as if Holmes is in danger, which clearly works for the plot, even if it looks more appropriate for a rendition of *Dracula*.

Also appreciated was the costuming decision to shy away from the deerstalker hat and magnifying glass that so often turn Holmes into less of an identifiable character and more of a preconceived symbol. Kohn usually bustles about in a robe, giving him a more relaxed appearance which oddly brings to mind Holmes' contemporary protégé, Dr. Gregory House. And, for *House* fans who are hearing this for the first time, go check out this play and do a little bit of comparing and contrasting. It will be well worth your while.

Performance-wise, all the actors from *Random Cop* to *Holmes and Watson* are on about an even keel. Every performer was convincing enough for me to suspend disbelief, but none of them were incredible enough

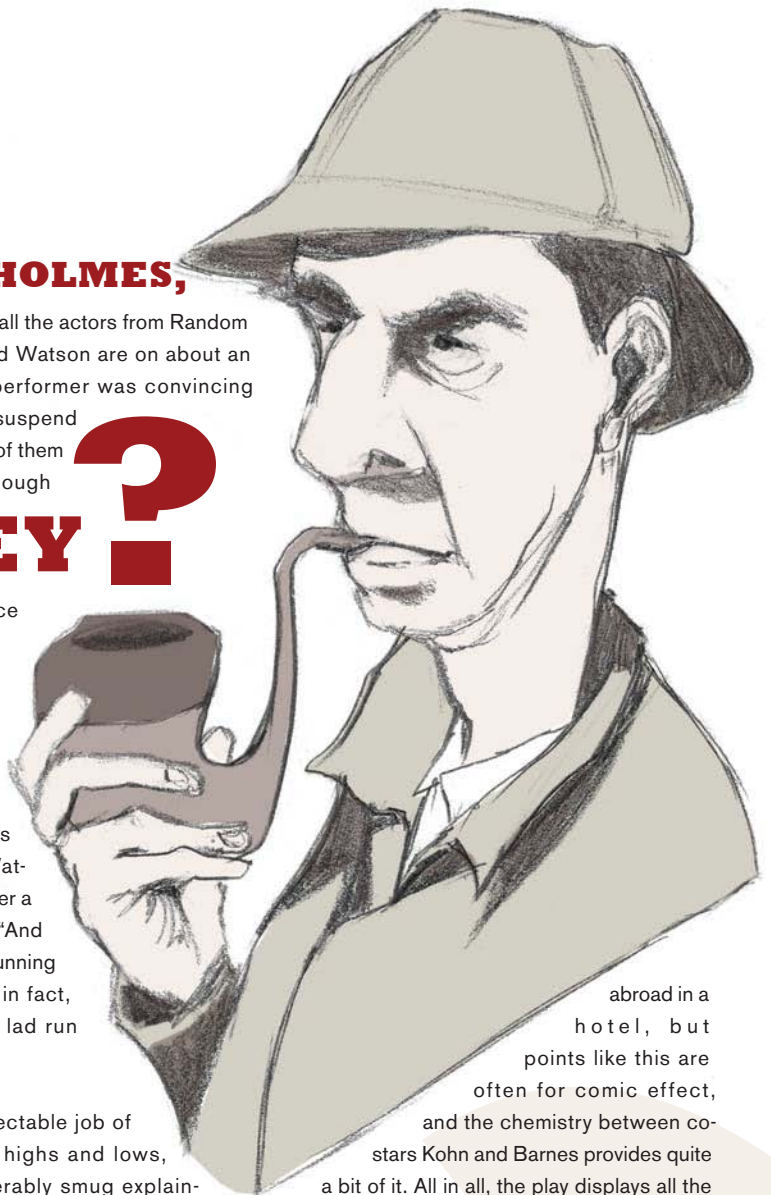
CAN THEY?

to get the audience to throw articles of clothing onto the stage. However, as Watson, Nick Bern Barnes did a good job with terribly written narration. (It's beyond me why Watson must stand under a bright light saying, "And a Swiss lad came running at me" while I am, in fact, watching a Swiss lad run at him.)

Kohn does a respectable job of showing Holmes' highs and lows, from being insufferably smug explaining his overly-developed sense of logic to standing on chairs and furniture for no good reason because he's excited and thrilled about being threatened by his only worthy nemesis, Dr. Moriarty.

Speaking of Holmes meeting his match, he is also confronted by a love interest in this little tale—a love interest who, in one of the darkest scenes of the play, points a gun at her ex-husband's crotch while reciting marriage vows.

For a moment, the play might even be mistaken for a '70s Bond flick, especially with an unexpected attack from a previous villain while



abroad in a hotel, but points like this are often for comic effect, and the chemistry between co-stars Kohn and Barnes provides quite a bit of it. All in all, the play displays all the crucial elements that worked for Arthur Conan Doyle and his compendium of detective stories, which also make this "final" play a success.

Student rush tickets are \$8, making the journey worth it. Should you spend that much on a mediocre wide release movie, or get a live performance experience for the same price? The answer is elementary, my dear reader.

Geva Theatre is located in downtown Rochester and performs plays throughout the year. Check out show times and upcoming plays at www.gevatheatrecenter.org.



PRODUCT REVIEW



MOTORAZR V9M

by Laura Mandanas

Despite what you see advertised on TV, Sprint's new Razr phone won't *actually* cut the clothes off sexy strangers. Trust me, I tried. It won't even cut the clothes off non-sexy strangers, or somewhat sexy acquaintances—so if that's what you're looking for in a phone, you'll probably have to look elsewhere. Fortunately, the Motorazr V9m has plenty of other ways to entertain and amuse you... at least for a little while.

The shiny, oh-so-sleek (3.125x4x.5" thick), saliva-inducing cell phone features a large, external LCD touch screen. Unlike a certain other touch screen phone, this has tactile feedback built in, giving off a nice little half-buzz to let you know when you're pressing a button. Kinda cool.

But with a discounted price of \$249 and a two-year contract, the Motorazr V9m ought to be more than "kinda cool." For something that has approximately the same up-front cost as a Nintendo Wii, I expect something much more mind-blowing and awesome.

The delightfully self-indulgent downloadable ringtones were neat, I guess, but they cost a couple of dollars each and expire after a few months. The 99-cent full songs seemed a better deal, financially, but the selection was limited and wholly unsatisfactory. The same general problem arose when I tried to use the phone's Internet capabilities; purposely crippled as it was, I was unable to figure out how to maneuver to access my Gmail account. It's probably not even possible.

The laggy, pixelated "Sprint TV" stream didn't put me on the edge of my seat, either— it merely put me on edge. Do I really need to carry exclusive episodes concerning behind-the-scenes gossip of High School Musical 2 in my pocket? I think not. And without those features, is there really anything noteworthy about this phone?

Bottom line: stop salivating. This phone is not worth lusting over; in the end, you'll find that the Motorazr V9m just doesn't cut it. •



MUSIC REVIEW



SHAPES AND SIZES – SPLIT LIPS, WINNING HIPS, A SHINER

by Evan McNamara

I have ADD. It's a wonder that I can sit down and listen to an album straight through without any interruptions. The truth is, I'm rarely able to. When an album captures my attention, I am impressed.

Shapes and Sizes are a little-known band from Vancouver who put their own unique spin on the genre of indie-pop. Their latest record, *Split Lips, Winning Hips, a Shiner* sends the album off right with the angular "Alone/Alive" which alternates between up-tempo guitar driven verses and spacey, minimalist choruses.

As the album progresses, Shapes and Sizes seems to throw a new idea, theme, or twist in every few minutes. They certainly aren't afraid to send a song in a completely different direction

a few times before it comes to an end. This is particularly successful on the track "The Taste in My Mouth," which starts with a lonely banjo. A horn section and the unique vocals of Caila Thompson-Hannant are soon thrown into the mix. Soon after, the guitars start building up, the drums kick in, and the full band lends its talents to the climax of the tune.

The songs on this album all seem to individually evolve before they are laid to rest, which is refreshing. When Shapes and Sizes get it right, the results are songs that aren't a chore to listen to. "Can't Stop That (Sinking) Feeling" starts off as a progressive post-punk anthem, before transforming into a spacey, indie-tinged dirge, while "The Long Indifference" morphs from a free-jazz freak-out to the evil twin of a Mates of State song.

The album is not without its flaws. Some of the songwriting choices throughout the album are downright head-scratchers. For instance, "High Life (I Had Been Duped)" inexplicably dissolves into a drunken sea chantey smack dab in the middle of the tune, killing any momentum the song had before captain black beard pillaged the recording booth.

Most of the songs on *Split Lips* tend to start off very quietly, which would be fine in most cases. However, I kept cranking my speakers at the beginning of each song, trying to hear what was going on, only to be blasted to the back of my seat once the song kicked in.

Before I knew it, the album was over. Shapes and Sizes are fun to listen to because every few seconds, you hear a little bit of a different band in their sound. One moment, it's Architecture in Helsinki with a dash of Cursive. The next, it's At the Drive In sitting in with Ornette Coleman. There are moments when it works wonderfully, and there are moments when it misses the mark, but if you are in the mood for an entertaining and engaging dose of indie, then this may be a record for you. •

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

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW ROCHESTER...

SEPTEMBER 14, 2007

1. Which of the following has never been a sporting team's name at RIT?

- a. RIT Techmen
- b. RIT Techwomen
- c. Cockroaches
- d. Cockless Roaches

2. Which of the following organizations is Rochester's top employer?

- a. Rochester Institute of Technology/National Technical Institute for the Deaf
- b. University of Rochester/Strong Health
- c. Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.
- d. Eastman Kodak

3. President Destler's past research has focused on which of the following?

- a. High-power microwave sources and advanced accelerator technologies
- b. Velocities of gamma particles in extremely low temperatures
- c. Alternative metallic compounds for use in rechargeable batteries designed for electric vehicles
- d. Golden amplitudes observed in the resonances of banjo strings

4. What qualifications must a student have in order to receive the McClure Scholarship?

- a. Be a Deaf woman with a history of strong leadership skills and a GPA exceeding 3.5
- b. Balance participation in at least one Major Student Organization and one RIT athletic team, along with a 3.0 GPA and a displayed commitment to personal fitness
- c. Be proficient at video games (one of the bullet points in the guidelines calls for "extraordinary pwnage skills.")
- d. Have a birth date of June 12, 1979.

5. The colors of the Rochester flag resemble those of the original jerseys of which sports team?

- a. Boston Red Sox
- b. New York Yankees
- c. Buffalo Bills
- d. Buffalo Sabres

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

QUOTE

"You better take care of me, Lord. If you don't, you're gonna have me on your hands."

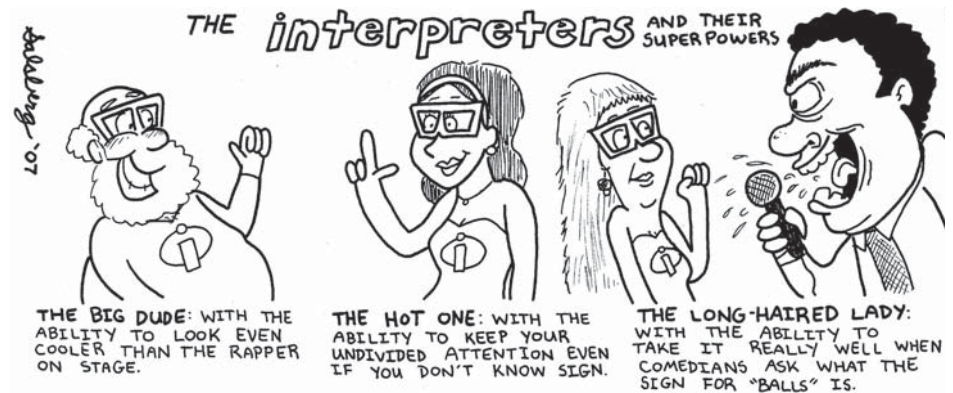
Hunter S. Thompson

REPORTER

RECOMMENDS

Waking up on Saturday mornings with a heaping bowl of sugary cereal and watching The Tick. With seasons one and two out on DVD and the final season available at your (a-hem) local torrent provider, you could be reliving your childhood this very weekend. It may not be as productive as, oh, studying, but sometimes, being able to vicariously grab villainy by the collar and scream "Spoooooon!" in its face is just what you need to prevent the real world from getting you down. If you prefer your dose of justice in green instead of blue, the classic Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles episodes are out there, but The Tick offers more sophisticated jokes that you may have missed as a kid.

CARTOON | by Alex Salsberg



SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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

If you've never done one of these, this is how it works: each row and column should contain the numbers 1-9 once and each of the blocks should contain each number once too. The answer is on the website, go check it out!

JUMBLE

Foreign currency

- bluesr
- robavil
- lihgsnil
- zorcdua
- qlhees
- cranf
- rugdile
- eny
- orbaktensav
- rail
- erpue
- karm
- raind

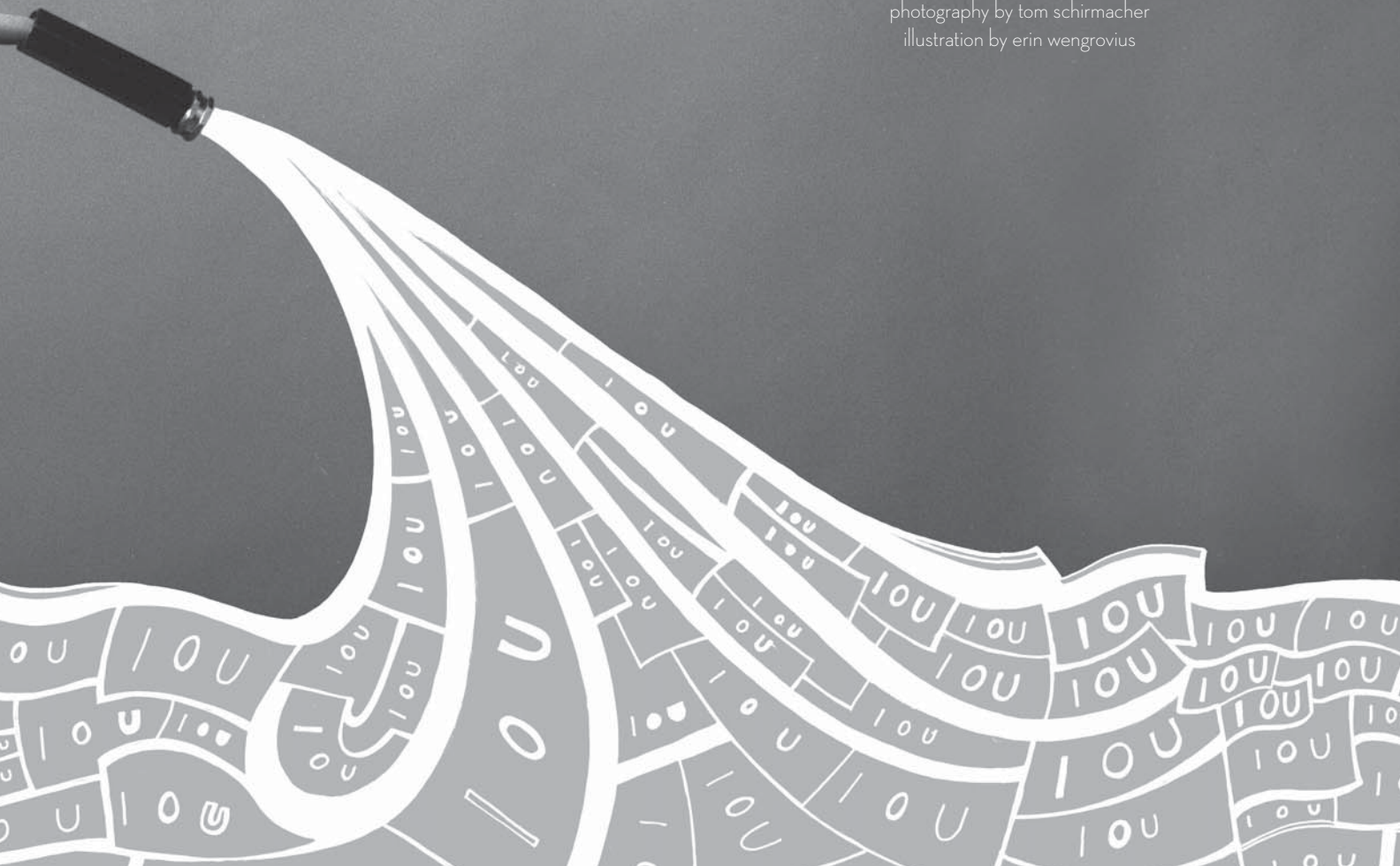
Rubles, Bolivian, Shilling, Cruzado, Sheqel, franco, guilder, yen, Karbovanets, lira, rupee, mark, dinar



STUDENT DEBT

pay attention now or pay the price later

by laura mandanas
photography by tom schirmacher
illustration by erin wengrovius



"I went into RIT believing that no matter what it cost, I would find a way. And about two and half years into that, I realized that really wasn't going to cut it." These are the words of Stephanie Collins, an RIT student who faced one of most students' worst nightmares last year: dropping out of school. Although it sounds like a drastic measure to take, the situation that led to it may not be quite as unique or different from your own as you might like to think.

Collins explains, "The moment all of this really started for me was when I started tracking what I was spending." By pure chance, a friend sent her a link to *Iwillteachyoutoberich.com* one day. Written by a recent Stanford graduate, the website is intended to teach other recent graduates the basics of personal finance. Step one: write down what you're spending—and that's exactly what Collins did. "I set up an Excel document and I just put everything down. It makes a huge difference. You don't think it does until you do it and you start thinking...[before] you go to buy something."

Soon, Collins began to wonder about the other parts of her financial life that she had never really thought about; could there be more going on there too? An investigation was launched. "I looked at how many loans I had taken out and how much money I already owed, only being half done with my degree. I finally did the math on what my monthly payments were going to be when I graduated, and they were just way too high *already*... and I still had two more years to go."

For most of us, there has never been such a pointed moment of realization—and that's not necessarily a good thing. The situation of not *knowing* what your true situation is may be the worst of all. According to Dr. Robert Manning, Professor of Finance at RIT and author of *Credit Card Nation*, "What I've found in teaching personal finance is [that] the more attuned you are to your personal financial situation, the less likely you are to get into financial trouble...We have shifted from a lifestyle based on cash and savings to a lifestyle based on borrowing and deferring the financial responsibility until later. I want to raise awareness...We are a culture that does not have a long memory of the past. [We think our economic prosperity is] somehow a form of entitlement and destiny." Of course, Manning says, that is not true.

Unfortunately for Collins, she did not become attuned to her personal financial situation until quite late. At the same time, debt was also building up in other areas. "As I was working on my film project, I had started putting necessary expenses from them on my credit card, and they started to grow and grow and grow...I could technically afford the tuition but I couldn't afford to do my projects without putting them on a credit card...it was my big sophomore project and I realized that my junior project would be that much more expensive, and my senior project would be *that* much more expensive..."

And that was it. A couple of weeks into winter quarter, Collins officially left RIT and moved back home with her parents. After some time, she got a

job in web design and worked out of her parents' home. She also started a blog outlining her personal journey through the world of finance—*poor-erthanyou.com*. With her new stream of income, and no tuition or room and board to pay, Collins slowly but surely began to work her way out of debt.

Although Verna Hazen, Assistant Vice President of Financial Aid and Scholarships, would have strongly recommended that Collins go to her Financial Aid Officer before dropping out, Collins did do one thing absolutely right: not ignoring the problem. Says Hazen, "Let me draw a parallel to your coursework. If you have a homework assignment that you know is coming, but you procrastinate, it doesn't take care of itself. In fact, if you wait too long, it just gets worse. [It is the] same with financial issues. Whether it's college costs, credit card bills, anything like that...The worst thing that anybody could do is try to avoid it, even though it may not be pleasant to deal with."

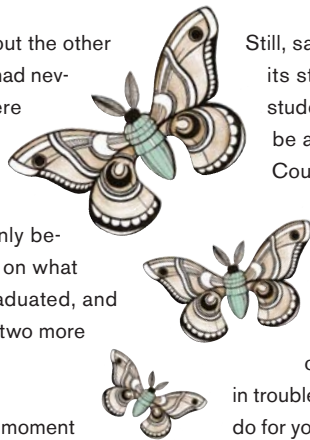
Still, says Hazen, beyond a certain point, it is not up to RIT to 'protect' its students. "You know, we can't control—nor *should* we control—students. They've got mail, e-mail, websites... All we can try to do is be a resource and be available.." Every student has a Financial Aid Counselor, whether or not they have applied for aid. There is at least one counselor per college—larger colleges (such as engineering) are split and have two. Appointments with a counselor can usually be made within 24-48 hours of calling.

According to Collins, "One of the things I've learned is that you can see a debt counselor or a school counselor if you feel you're in trouble, but anything that someone can do for you is something you can do for yourself, when it comes to money. All of the information is out there, you just have to seek it out."

When choosing which information and resources to use, however, students must exercise caution. This is especially true of online resources. As Hazen notes, "Some of the information which comes to students...tries to give easy outs. [Like] you should go bankrupt—you should blow everything up and start over. It's not true! That doesn't help people...Students have to take that responsibility when they get into this situation not to over-spend, not to over-borrow, and to know what their resources are and what they need to do... and if they struggle with that? Talk to some people who are older and wiser and have some experience. That can help them budget. We can do that."

In order to address her financial problems, Collins has been doing something called "compacting" since January. Originally, an environmental movement, it basically means not buying anything new except food and toiletries/health items. Although it sounds fairly drastic, she's become used to it.

One thing does bother her about the whole situation: the attitudes of other students. She explains, "I noticed that a lot of people didn't know whether they had loans or not because their parents took care of everything. I felt like [asking], 'Am I the only one?'"



As she was leaving, Collins told some students why she was going, and was told that she should just get more loans. When she explained that she was at the end of her rope on loans, many responded, "That's what parents are for." Says Collins, "I couldn't believe that someone would just assume that my parents had money to give me for school, but then I realized that's how it is for everyone else."

"In RIT, I felt like I was poorer than everyone else—which is where the name of my site [poorerthanyou.com] comes from, actually. [That] was the feeling I got at RIT. I mean, there were a lot of people that were working a lot of hours to pay for school, but so was I... and I *wasn't* making it."

But is she the only one not 'making it?' While it's true that most of the rest of us have not abruptly dropped out of school to have to deal with a financial situation, most of us are unable to pay the full 'sticker price' of RIT without help.

RIT invests about \$80 million in aid through scholarships. Of the 2,213 entering full-time freshmen this year, 1,910 of them applied for need-based aid—and 1,590 (~70%) were offered it. The average financial aid package (including outside merit scholarships and government loans) at RIT is \$17,600.

Even that is not enough, leaving \$8,900 in tuition and fees every year, plus the costs of book, food, rent, and other living expenses. In 2005, the average debt of graduating RIT students was \$22,000. With tuition going up every year (see graph), the average debt can only be rising—if only minimally. When faced with the prospect of paying thousands and thousands of dollars of debt, students can sometimes panic.

According to a recent study by the American Council on Education (a lobbying group for colleges), one in five student-borrowers pass up on the less expensive federal student loans, ending up with more expensive private loans. In 1995, private loans made up four percent of all borrowing; by 2006, private loans accounted for 20 percent of all education borrowing, according to the College Board. That's a total of \$17.3 billion nationally. At RIT, private loans are much fewer in number. In 2000, they totaled about \$7.5 million, while tuition, fees, room and board were \$186 million; in 2005, private loans totaled \$25.5 million, and tuition, fees, room and board costs were \$252 million. Private loans accounted for approximately four percent of costs in 2000, and grew to 10 percent in 2005.

Shockingly, half of all student borrowers do not even bother to file the paperwork necessary to qualify for federal, state, and institutional aid. That, says Hazen, is a mistake. At RIT, the only form students must fill out to qualify for aid is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). "That form has a long name and people get intimidated by it...[but] if you break it down page by page it's not that bad...We try to make it as simple as possible for students."

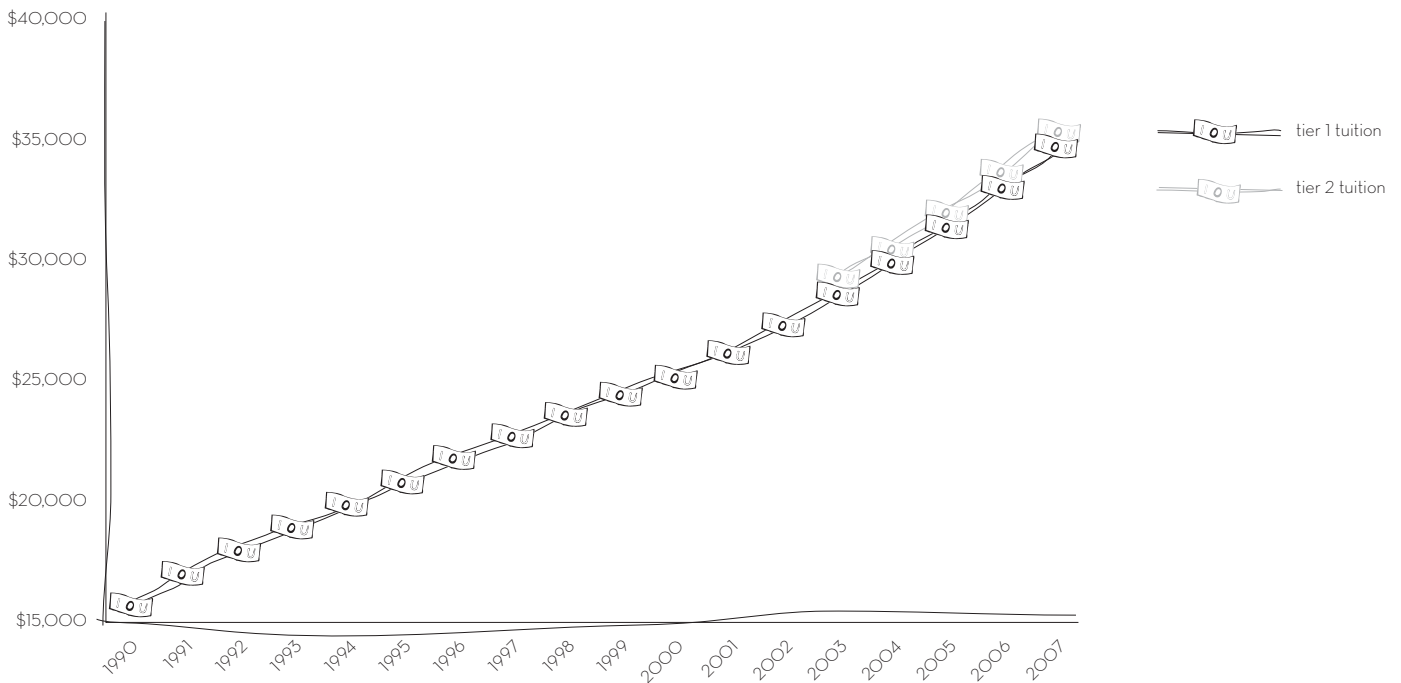
"...We're a direct loan school, and we made the choice to go into lending in 1995, because we believe that that was the best way to serve RIT students. Because we're on a quarter system...the best way for us to process federal student loans and to get money to students at the right time was to participate in direct loans. So that means when our students



"i went into rit believing that no matter what it cost, i would find a way. and about two and half years into that, i realized that that really wasn't going to cut it."



rit tuition, board, and fees 1990-2007



borrow at RIT, they'll know who their lender is: it's the Department of Education...We don't have a preferred lender list for federal loans. We don't have any special arrangements with lenders for the federal loans or for the private loans."

In general, Hazen feels that students are more knowledgeable today than they were 15 years ago, when she started. "Students are more educated...now they're not as afraid to ask questions. I think e-mail has opened up a whole new world for us. Students will fire off a question instead of sitting and wondering about it."

Additionally, says Manning, "It's okay to make financial mistakes." He notes that it's better to do so while you're young, when you may only have hundreds of dollars at a time to manage. When you become older and are in the position of having to manage thousands of dollars, you'll be glad for the earlier experiences.

Through scrimping and saving, Collins was able to repay her way back up to what she feels is a manageable amount of debt. Although she considered transferring to a cheaper school, the film credits she had already earned would not count. In the end, she decided that it was better to finish what she had begun at RIT than to start afresh elsewhere.

This quarter, Collins has returned to RIT, and plans to take business classes to learn more about personal finance. She explains her situation as such: "Financial problems are sort of my bread and butter these days, but I get along...Right now my net worth—which is my assets minus my debt—is about $-\$27,000$...and that's up, it's been steadily going up." Of course, now that Collins is back in school, she'll have to take out yet another loan, which will once again decrease her net worth. Still, she remains optimistic. "I feel pretty good that I have been able to bring it up. I'm hoping that it will go up [as I repay that loan] ...I think just controlling my spending well in school [would have put me in a much better situation now]. If I had put more money away or put more money into starting to pay off my loans, anything like that would have been smarter than whatever I did with it."

"You don't have to be in trouble to start thinking about money," Collins advises. "Money is sort of a taboo in our society – people don't talk about it, even more than sex. You just don't talk about money. I think that's really sad because a lot of people don't know what to do or don't even think about what to do because no one talks about it. But it's something that you come in contact with every day... It's important to know at least a little bit of what you're doing. Pay attention." •

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THE LEGAL BATTLE OF RITBOOK.COM

by Casey Dehlinger

photography by Ryan Randolph

Usually, when Public Safety knocks on your door, the experience is less than traumatic. An amicable “We’ve received a noise complaint. Would you mind keeping it down?” or stern “May I see some ID, please?” may dampen one’s spirits, but it’s not until they start delivering your mail that you really need to worry.

Second year New Media student Dan Leveille received such a letter on April 3, 2007. It was from Robert Colon, RIT’s Chief Legal Officer. Until this point, Leveille had been running the successful book-swapping website, www.ritbook.com. This site allowed RIT students to swap textbooks for pre-negotiated prices. Sellers were pleased to peddle their books for more than the RIT’s buyback window’s price, while buyers were enthusiastic to purchase textbooks at bargain prices. Approximately 1,700 books were listed on the website, and at least 100 had been sold (Leveille assumes that the number is higher due to the fact that sellers often forget to take their books off the website once they sell them).

However, Robert Colon was writing to inform Leveille that he was in violation of the Lanham Act (15 U.S.C. § 1114 and 1125). In other words, RIT did not want visitors of RITbook.com to be misled into thinking that Leveille’s site was in any way associated with “RIT” or “Rochester Institute of Technology,” which are both registered trade names (1,705,506, and 1,716,652, respectively).

“They could have just called me and explained the law and I would have gladly changed it, but they just came at me like this and expected me to shut it down,” explained Leveille, who was told to relinquish the website once the domain name expires on December 7, 2007. Colon also demanded that Leveille share whatever new design and domain name he may pursue in order to continue his business. It was also strongly suggested, and eventually demanded, that Leveille refrain from using the colors orange and brown.

“The funny thing is that I looked on RIT’s site, and they have a whole document on how and how not to use the logo and colors. The specific [RIT] colors were listed on their website, and those weren’t even the colors I used,” stated Leveille. “I tried contacting a few different lawyers, and I went to the SG [Student Government] lawyer. He wasn’t an [intellectual property] lawyer, so he wasn’t able to give me advice on exactly what to do regarding intellectual property, but he did give me some advice.”

Having trouble getting in touch with Colon, Leveille appealed to Vice President of Student Affairs Mary Beth Cooper, writing, “My business, like any other, cannot afford to lose potential customers...This is something I cannot let happen. RIT’s trades are not losing authenticity. There is absolutely no reason why RIT should demand I do this, and thus I am not going to comply with this demand.”

Having officially drawn the line in the dirt against RIT’s Chief Legal Officer, Leveille started planning his escape to his new website: www.bookmaid.com. Leveille explained, “A lot of people said, ‘What about brick city book or tiger book?’ but I just wanted to get completely away [from RIT]. I didn’t want to deal with that any more. I ended up trying more than 100 domain names. And I thought, ‘What about a character?’ I tried book dad, book

butler, and then one of my friends said, 'A maid!' and [the domain name bookmaid.com] wasn't taken, so I went with that."

"A LOT OF PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THE WHOLE LEGAL SITUATION...A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY HEARD IT, AND IT'S REALLY GOOD PUBLICITY. I PLAN ON USING THAT"

"[RIT is] trying to promote education and entrepreneurship, and that's what I'm trying to do. I tried to start a business, and they just came and knocked it down...It was really discouraging," says Leveille, "I had a course with professor Clyde Hull. He runs a few business courses, and he asked me if I'd be a client for him, so RIT-book.com was a client for two business courses at RIT, and at the end of that, they provided me with consulting. They gave me ideas for what to do and how to do it, and how to make more money. At the end of the quarter, I had a fifteen page business plan for the company."

Colon responded by informing Leveille of his intent to commence a proceeding with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy, which would cost RIT anywhere from \$1500 to \$5000. Leveille responded to Colon, "I can be assured that once ICANN opens this case, it will be quickly terminated, seeing how foolish it is. Because there is no trademark infringement remotely involved, I will be extending the registration of www.RITbook.com again this December, so that I can continue its sole purpose to redirect potential customers to the new site, bookmaid.com. As we discussed, this new site will be clearly unaffiliated with RIT. RIT's paying thousands of dollars to prevent this redirection?"

Perhaps Leveille's wisest move was CCing President Destler on this most recent correspondence with Colon. After reviewing the situation, Dr. Destler decided that there was no need to continue with ICANN proceedings, and that Leveille should be able to use RITbook.com to redirect customers to bookmaid.com.

Despite Leveille's unpleasantly busy summer, his brief legal scuffle has brought him a few advantages. "A lot of people know about the whole legal situation...a lot of people have already heard

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The Marketplace Mall
391 Miracle Mile Dr.

it, and it's really good publicity. I plan on using that," mentions Leveille. "Just as a joke, I posted an ad on Craigslist looking for a model [as a "mascot" for bookmaid.com]. I just wanted to see if anyone would be willing to do it for cheap. I got a whole lot of beautiful models saying, 'Oh, I'll charge you \$500.' I got one that said 'For \$300' but then I e-mailed them back and explained my situation and then one got back to me [willing to model for a very cheap price]."

Also, being forced to switch from one website to another has given Leveille the opportunity to examine RITbook.com, note its flaws, and improve upon his original design to make bookmaid.com a more powerful tool for RIT students. It will soon include a transaction system, and images of the books it has to offer. Although Leveille has run into delays, he is planning to have bookmaid.com fully operational in time for winter quarter.

**Eastern
Mountain
Sports**
EASTERN MOUNTAIN SPORTS

WORD ON THE STREET

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY BELVEDUDE

Q: What is your favorite thing about having debt?



"Not having it."

Jordan Pelovitz

Digital art imaging, First year



"Don't need to face it for four years."

Gabrielle Ripka

Graphic Design, First year



"Debt loves me."

Jessica Quinn

Biotechnology, Fourth year



"Allows me to live my life."

Jaime Winch

Materials Science, Fourth year



"Hope that there'll be a brighter day."

Bryan Wilson

Advertising Public Relations, Second year



"Dodging the phone calls."

Juan Jackson

Electrical Engineering, Second year



"Never getting out of it because I'm broke ass."

Suwing Ben

Information Technology, Second year



"The great feeling of pulling out of it."

Nathaniel Carrera

Psychology, Second year



"I'm too cheap to be in debt."

Allyson Miller

Engineering, First year



"The flat air mattress, Ramen noodles, and returning cans for the deposit to buy more Ramen."

Scooter Kupp

Graphic Design, Fourth year

(FRONT)

SUBJECT Back to School Sale

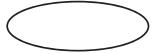
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NAME RIT Students

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SECRETS OF THE SCRUM



by Geoff Shearer

illustration by Caitlin Yarsky

The goalposts have been taken down, the broken bones and blackened bruises from dirty scrums exist no more. At this time last year, it was not unusual to see stocky men with knee socks appearing from within the brickwork, each one making their way to the Rugby field, each one after the other, across from Ellingson Hall.

Their practices were gritty, rough, and often in less-than-beautiful weather, but that would not deter them. No—instead, the Roaches, RIT's Rugby team, went undefeated in each game and tournament they attended, despite the "Upstates" being cancelled, a tournament they planned on winning for the third year in a row.

It is remarkable what a difference a year makes; the Rugby team is dissolved, banned from any reformation for the next three and five years for the women's and men's teams, respectively.

Why, you ask? Well, this is one of those "the-truth-is-more-absurd-than-fiction"-type stories, one that still is shrouded in secrecy and court cases. The premise was innocent enough—players from both the RIT women's and men's Rugby

teams would be having two separate and unofficial "rookie nights," in an effort to welcome new Rugby players to their respective teams in the Spring of last year.

What seemed to be a fairly typical college party, however, took a significant turn within the next few hours.

Many on the team were wary of giving details on the incident, and understandably so, as some team members are still fighting legal battles.

According to one team member who was not at the event, the night started off with the initiation of new players, hence the name "rookie night". The men's and women's teams began to commence the night's festivities at two separate locations.

The men's team relocated to the women's party after being kicked out of their original location. As the "rookie night" progressed, so too did the drinking. According to one of the female players' boyfriends (who was not at the scene), one rookie from the men's team

quaffed a bottle of tequila mixed with a bottle of hot sauce.

Shortly thereafter, said male rookie was looking pale and breathing shallowly. It was suggested that perhaps this was an allergic reaction to the hot sauce, and that he would be alright. However, one woman stepped up and decided that if his breathing was shallow, there would be no debate, and an ambulance must be called.

Police and emergency services rushed to the scene. According to the police report, the inebriated women were in the basement as the police asked questions and poked around. These women were eventually found, and the most inebriated of the students were taken to the hospital. According to Dawn Soufleris, Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs, the hospitalized students had blood alcohol content (BAC) levels between .08 and .50+. According to WebMD, BAC levels greater than .40 can induce coma and possibly death.

All students recovered from the blood alcohol poisoning thanks to the level-headedness of the player(s) who had decided to call 911. In all, six

players were hospitalized—two men and four women. They were all under 21 years old. All six players were treated and released within a few days.

Mary Beth Cooper, who could not discuss the judicial outcomes of the students involved because of FERPA (the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), stated, “The school and myself, as an administrator in the school, were deeply concerned... The BAC levels of the students transferred to the hospital were higher than I’ve ever seen... they were very lucky.” She continued to state, “The students that provided the alcohol to them were very lucky that the students that were consuming the alcohol didn’t die... The good part is that some students, at least one student in particular- recognized that things had gone south. One individual made a decision that was critical in terms of the safety of others, and that’s good.”

Eight of the players were charged with hazing and unlawfully dealing with a child. All eight were also suspended. The longest suspension sentence is two years, and no player was expelled permanently from RIT.

The men’s team is now banned for five years, the women’s team, for three. This is an effort to flush out what Cooper describes as a “culture.” “When you put a five-year ban on a club, or an organization, or a fraternity, or a sorority, or an athletic team, whatever you may put it on, it moves all those students that have been a part of that culture out and it gives that team or entity an opportunity to start fresh.”

The teams can no longer practice at RIT, or recruit new members. As men’s Rugby player Spence Thompson, second year Information Technology major, states, “Most of us still practice, though, with our coach’s men’s team, the Genesee Creamers.”

Calling the punishments “too strict and harsh,” Thompson continued that RIT was “not willing to listen to a way to preserve the team [to] make it better and more helpful to the RIT community. They simply wanted to weed out the player base and didn’t care that 4/5ths of our team wasn’t there and didn’t want to partake or acknowledge that night’s events, but... [they] joined the team because they loved the game.”

Fellow teammate Mike Phillips, third year Software Engineering major, had this to say on the punishment: “It is unnecessarily severe, as we’ve had a clean record for years. This was one incident that did not involve all of the team... We all, including the rookies at the time, are distraught to see the team banned.”

A similar incident occurred with RIT Rugby at St. Bonaventure in 1983, where the St. Bonaventure administration claimed that the RIT men’s team behaved in a “drunken manner and entered the women’s dormitory showers,” as published by *Reporter*. Stan McKenzie, then RIT professor, now Provost, stated at the time that this incident stemmed from a “lack of supervision of the club by RIT and improper planning for facility use.” However, the team was allowed to participate in the “Upstates” during the Institutional review.

In fact, only a year later, the team was still playing and actually won the “Toasted Rat” tournament against the University of Rochester in the final. Of course, note that this was in 1984.

Last year’s incident came during a time of heightened awareness to alcohol abuse at a time of the year when police and the media were paying particular attention to under-age drinking. Thanks to proms and graduations, hazing fell most directly into their limelight. Phillips added, “Hazing is a bad tradition, and unnecessary. Although it can be argued that there could be a ‘peer pressure’ effect on our incident—what happened was not hazing. There are multiple members of this team that have never participated in these events and hold no less standing on the team than those who have.”

Cooper took a look into the role of initiations for organizations, “A lot of fraternities and sororities have a lot of rituals in their practice that help the group re-focus who they are and what they believe in. So I would not say that initiation itself is bad, except if it puts them in harm’s way or makes them compromise what their values are, or they find themselves doing something that’s not a part of who they are just to please someone else. That doesn’t seem very accepting or inclusive.”

Cooper further commented in the alcohol policy, as it relates to athletics at RIT: “We already have drug and alcohol testing for our athletic

“NO BAN OR RULING WILL DESTROY OUR UNITY”

teams. We’re required to do that for our Division One men’s hockey team, but we put it in place last year for the other 23 teams... We have not done that for clubs and organizations, not that I think we would go in that direction, but the message should be about them being in charge of their own activities.”

In any case, the damage is done, and perhaps unexpectedly, as Thompson articulates, “Although we may not wear the gold and brown, we are still very tight knit and hang out, live with, or practice [with the Creamers or, for the ladies, the Rochester Renegades] at least weekly. There is no hate amongst the group, just the disappointment that we won’t be able to play together as a team again.”

Yes, the Roaches’ days at RIT are over for now, and whether the team will be nearly as successful in the future as they were in past seasons remains unknown. Until then, Phillips puts it all together with one simple truth: “No ban or ruling will destroy our unity.”

Those interested in pursuing Rugby can still play for the Genesee Creamers or Rochester Renegades and can get involved, ironically, by sending an instant message to: RITRugby.



SPORTSDESK

photography by Dave Londres

Women's soccer is off to a great start to the season. As of September 8 (and after tying a game in overtime with Clarkson), the team is tied for second with Ithaca and Stevens. The Tigers are working steadily towards pulling in the Empire 8 title this year and are poised to perform much better than last season, which finished with a 7-7-3 regular season record and a loss to Utica in the first round of the Empire 8. The first round of the Empire 8 tournament this year is scheduled for October 31.

1// Freshman defensive back Sarah Frisicano takes the ball from Buff State's Barb Kiliszek during the second half.

2// Midfielder Kristen Denninger battles for the ball during the final seconds of the first half.

3// Head coach Tom Natalie addresses his team during halftime. The Tigers rallied in the second half to beat Buff State 4-1.



RIT RINGS

585.672.4840

NEW
NUMBER!

compiled by Ryan Metzler

All calls subject to editing and truncation. Not all calls will be run. Reporter reserves the right to publish all calls in any format. The views expressed on this page are not endorsed by Reporter.

Tuesday 2:12 a.m.

My name is not E. Oliver Killthweit, I am not advertising intompier.net, and my power level is not over 9,000!

Tuesday 3:15 a.m.

You all have probably heard by now about the iPhone kid here at RIT. In case you haven't, he created the iPhone. Yeah, I know you think Apple did, but no, it really was him.

Monday 10:43 p.m.

Oh, my God! So we're watching *Life as a House* and I totally want Hayden Christensen to be my boyfriend, but he definitely has to wear that weird fishnet thingy.

Wednesday 10:35 p.m.

Hey, Rings! I have got a little confession to make. When my roommate leaves the room I sometimes move his things around, nothing too big or anything, but little stuff like his pen or keys. Last night, he spent two hours looking for his television remote, the longest yet! I have been trying to kick this habit but it's very hard to go cold turkey. Is there anywhere on campus where I can get help?

Wednesday 10:48 p.m.

Reporter! I just like saying your name, screaming

it in fact. It really turns me and my girlfriend on. Thank you for your aphrodisiac qualities.

Thursday 2:03 p.m.

So which is it, soda or pop? It's so weird how every year these dumb freshmen get grouped together and the only culture conflicts they find are homosexuality and soda versus pop. So which is it? Who the [eff] cares! You're not the first bunch to talk about this and make a bunch of jokes about how different we all are. It really doesn't matter. I might be going a bit far here but everyone in the history of college has talked about this difference, you're not new.

Thursday 12:08 a.m.

So I just walked by these kids running and jumping up a wall trying to touch an overhang. What the hell is happening to this school? I guess they're outside instead of playing video games, but that still doesn't explain why six kids are running up a wall. [Fecal sludge], six kids is a table of two-on-two pong with the other team playing winner. That's like a tournament if I've ever seen one. Honestly, why aren't those wall jumpers just out getting drunk?

Thursday 1:35 a.m.

Does anyone know how long the Quarter Mile really is? It blew my mind when I found out.

Thursday 1:42 a.m.

It's so hot. Why doesn't Sol have air-conditioning? How can you just skip an entire building? Damn it, why did RIT enslave the [race of people] to do the construction?

Friday 2:29 p.m.

RIT Rings, I just want to say thank you for getting me through this night. People were calling me an alcoholic for staying in my room and drinking alone, but I've got you and you've got me. Thanks, Reporter.

Friday 3:08 p.m.

If you have Friday classes, raise your hand. Suckers! By the way, I just woke up.



THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

BY LAURA MANDANAS

ILLUSTRATION BY GREG CAGGIANO

I don't think I could ever truly love someone with an iPod full of Bob Dylan. Sad though it may be, it is true. Some things are truly unforgivable. And this, dear readers, is one of those things.

While it concerns me that I am so thoughtlessly and readily able to make the above statements, I feel certain that I am not alone in these sentiments. Maybe it's Garth Brooks for you, or Death Cab for Cutie; whatever your personal musical hang-up happens to be, the idea is the same at the core: what you're carrying around on your iPod says something about you as a person, and other people are judging you based on it.

Don't worry—I'm not going to bore you with a list of what's on my iPod and an explanation of what each and every song says about me. What interests me most is this: why do the haphazardly chosen contents of my iPod say anything to anyone at all?

Well, for one thing, the world's most popular MP3 player is, however paradoxically, a symbol of individuality. A lot of this has to do with marketing, of course—you needn't look any further than the name itself for evidence of Apple's intentions in that regard. And as good consumers in this individualistic, freedom-loving country, we eat that sort of stuff right up.

We live in an age of mass marketing, mass circulation, mass consumption. Every day, we are categorized, standardized, networked and, in large part, anonymous. The naïve claim of radical individuality, however romantic a notion, is positively laughable. Yet the closer mass marketing brings us, the more we long to be separate. It is that longing, more than anything else, that Apple is capitalizing on with the iPod.

Advertising based on the notion of transgression and individuality is most effective and appealing. The message—that we are all unique, special, and different from other people—is exactly what we want to hear. I'm not sure who started the idea that someone's selection of files on a particular type of portable music player is representative of that unique, special difference. To be honest, it's a pretty dumb idea... but it's also a comforting one. And if that's all we've got, then so be it.

Our generation may not be able to remember all ten items on the Bill of Rights, but we hold close to our hearts the most important right of all: the right to choose and buy whatever we want. Or rather, the right to choose and buy whatever we are *told* to want. If Apple is telling us to buy iPods, there's only one question we ask ourselves. Not 'how much,' 'what model,' or 'why;' rather, we ask, 'What will I fill it with?' Or, in other words, 'How will I construct my identity?'

So let's get back to the Bob Dylan rant you were probably expecting to read, shall we? For me, the answer to the question of what to put on my iPod (and, consequently, the construction of my identity) absolutely positively does not include Bob Dylan. With one lone song as the exception, I simply cannot stand the stuff. I find it to be ear-bleedingly, head-poundingly, nauseatingly, indisputably, inexcusably *terrible*. Whatever other redeeming qualities a potential partner may have, an affinity for Bob Dylan music will render them absolutely unlovable to me.

On second thought, if he's got good taste in movies... •



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