

REPORTER

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SAMANTHA
VEGA

PLUS

THE GLBTQ CENTER UNVEILED
GOLISANO'S \$10M DONATION

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EDITOR'S NOTE

CUTTING OFF YOUR OWN ARM

I remember the first time I ever tried to learn American Sign Language. I'd met this fiercely intelligent and breathtakingly beautiful deaf girl in one of my classes, and wanted so badly to buy her dinner. We had spoken quite often over instant messenger, but I wanted that face to face experience, that personal and up-close view. I wanted to look into her eyes when I was speaking to her.

One day, I mustered up the courage to ask her out. Looking back now, it was probably one of the dumbest moments of my life. There I was, a hearing girl with absolutely *no* knowledge of ASL— I could barely fingerspell my own name— asking a deaf girl out on a date. That she said yes is a surprise that sticks with me to this day.

The first five minutes were brutal; some of the most uncomfortable in my memory. I find it difficult to frame in words how horribly jarring it is to be suddenly deprived of speech. Communication is one of the first skills we learn as humans. To be stripped of that basic ability is shocking, and feels a little like you've just cut off your own arm. Let me repeat: the first five minutes were *brutal*.

The next five minutes, however, were some of the best in my life. Because, jarring as it may be to metaphorically cut off your own arm, there's nothing more empowering than figuratively picking that limb back up off the floor and sewing it back into place. We started by just writing back and forth in a notebook full of lined paper. I think our waiter laughed a bit every time he turned his back. But by the end of the night, I was starting to pick up a few signs. I was not (and am still not) fluent in the language, but I learned a bit. Food, car, dinner, J-E-N... it wasn't much, but it was something.

Last weekend, I heard a lot of sweeping statements from the other Major Student Organization leaders at the annual Student Government leadership training session. Nearly all of them said that they wanted to "reach out to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community" during the course of the 2007-2008 school year.

It's a noble goal, and I wish them the best of luck in that endeavor. But every time I hear it phrased that way, a small feeling of discomfort creeps into my stomach. They make it sound so procedural, so mechanical, so robotic.

I think that, in stating your goal of "reaching out to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community," you sort of lose the organic element of simply sitting down with another person— someone who just happens to be deaf— and trying to have a conversation. Perhaps it's merely an issue of semantics, but to me, it sounds more like an issue of perspective. Because, honestly, it's a goal I hear every year in one context or another. "We need to bring NTID into the folds of the mainstream RIT community." Great! But how do you start that process?

By looking into the eyes of one of your classmates— who just happens to be deaf— when you're speaking to him.



Jen Loomis

EDITOR IN CHIEF

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Correction

In the September 7, 2007 issue of *Reporter*, Brickbeat (page 7) indicated that September is Spanish Heritage month. This is clearly wrong—there *is* no Spanish Heritage month. September is Hispanic Heritage month.

Dear Reporter,

When I read the Editor's Note in the September 7 issue, I couldn't help but start a mental list of the times I've been treated less like a valued student (and customer!) at RIT and more like an accident or crime waiting to happen.

I'll start with my home department. All of our labs (including our studio lab classrooms) have a very strict "No food, no drink" policy. This means that if you are caught with any food or beverage, including water bottles and packed lunches—opened, unopened or empty—you can be kicked out of the room, even if you are with a class. Labbies will actually walk around and peer under tables and desks to make sure that you don't have any water bottles hidden from their sight. I'm surprised they haven't instituted bag searches at every door.

Then there's Housing Operations. My friend actually received an e-mail from Housing on Friday, September 14 stating that since he wasn't signed up for classes or co-op, he had until Monday, September 17 to move out and return his key. Now, he just hadn't gotten his co-op paperwork processed yet; he is on co-op and eligible for housing. But instead of telling him he didn't have his paperwork in order and giving him a chance to work it out, Housing simply told him to leave immediately.

At the end of the summer, Housing also informed us that we would be issued new keys for locks to be placed on the outside doors of our apartment complexes. All questions and concerns were to be directed to the author of the e-mail detailing the pickup process. No provisions were mentioned for installing any system for notifying residents of guests at the door, so I replied assertively with my concerns. I did not receive a response. Instead, I had to rely on second- and third-hand sources to discover that Public Safety wanted the locks installed to cut down on stairwell parties and give us a safe place to fumble with our apartment keys if we felt someone was chasing us (I'm not sure how the locks accomplish either of those, but that's what I heard). They expected people to be able to use

cell phones, but no considerations were mentioned for deaf students, people without cell phones, or acquaintances without people's numbers. The lock cores have not been installed yet, and apparently, they might be looking into notification systems now. What bothers me about all of this is that even though Housing's motto is "It Is ALL About OUR Students," they neglected to think about such a simple issue of guests coming to the door, and wouldn't even respond to my concerns.

In stark contrast, I would like to commend Meghan McDonald, the manager of the Campus Post Office, for meeting with me and satisfying all of my concerns about the recent change in package delivery to the eastern apartment complexes.

Our university indeed has a lot to learn about treating its students well enough that they'll want to give back. I've only got one year left here, so it would behoove them to hurry.

Sincerely,

Elliot J. Vos

I just read the editorial in the September 7 issue of *Reporter* and it called to mind an incident that occurred during my freshman year which involved (in approximated RIT legalese) "beverages of an inebriating nature" and "the college-owned dormitory facilities on campus." Now, to be honest, the fault was completely mine, and I fully expected to be chastised for my involvement. What I didn't expect, however, was Public Safety's belligerent reaction to my situation, which prompted an entirely unnecessary ambulance ride to the emergency room, the conclusion of which was a nurse dismissively sizing me up and waving me off to bed saying "he's fine, put him on a cot for a few hours." Because of this, in addition to the disciplinary charges, I was slapped with an emergency room bill (which my insurance surprisingly took care of) and an ambulance fee (which my insurance unsurprisingly did not take care of) for a nurse's critical glance. The punchline? Because I was "intoxicated to the point of hospitalization," my academic punishment was more strict than that of anyone else involved. While I was willing to accept my lumps and move on, the entire experience did sour me on anything and everything Public Safety has their little grubby mitts on, and for future reference, I will NOT allow them transport me to the hospital for anything short of a land-mine wound.

Good to know that their presence is keeping my judgment safe and sound, right?

Additionally, in response to Mr. Shearer's article that states (paraphrased) "RIT ain't so bad," I'd like to point out that I do enough learning and working for my classes without being forced to learn a new hobby and attend more "club" classes just to socialize, sports and intramural are roughly the same thing, and it doesn't really matter how glowing a city is if you don't have a way to get around and (typically more importantly) most of the more interesting social spots are 21+. Of course, that run-on sentence begs the question: what WOULD I like to do? Just hang out with friends, maybe meet some new people. What does RIT offer? Java Wally's is great, except for the fact that they don't take debit. The Ritz has plenty of fun things to do, if they didn't have prohibitive late-night hours. RITChie's ain't bad, except that it's tiny and tucked away and only open every third full moon. Fortunately, with the construction of College Town, there IS hope for the social slugabed like me just around the corner. Unfortunately, by the time it's finished, I'll have graduated and moved on.

Sincerely,

Maxwell (Jim) Dekle

R.I.T. listen,
you must stop interfering
with my social life.

Matthew Mazaika

To Send Letters Email: reporter@rit.edu.
Reporter will not print anonymous letters.

Note *Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are solely those of the author. Reporter reserves the right to edit submissions on the basis of content, length, grammar, spelling, and style. Letters are not guaranteed publication. Submissions may be printed and reprinted in any medium. Reporter will not run responses to letters that have responded to a letter.*



AS AN AMERICAN

YOU CAN MAKE A **COMMITMENT**.

FULLFILL A **COMMITMENT**.

BREAK A **COMMITMENT**.

THERE ARE BIG **COMMITMENTS**.

SMALL **COMMITMENTS**.

COMMITMENTS YOU NEVER

WANTED TO MAKE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

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OR EMBRACE IT.

**AS AN AMERICAN AND
A MARINE CORPS OFFICER**

YOUR **COMMITMENT** WILL IMPACT

THE FUTURE OF THIS NATION.

FEW CAN BE MARINES.

EVEN FEWER CAN LEAD THEM.

CAN YOU?



MARINEOFFICER.COM

by Adam Botzenhart
photography by Dave Londres

Tom Golisano, founder of Paychex, announced on Wednesday, September 12, that he pledged \$10 million to RIT for the creation of the Golisano Institute of Sustainability. The Institute, which is expected to start next year, will be an extension of RIT's Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies (CIMS) and will offer, among other things, the first Ph.D. in Sustainability in the country.

The announcement was met with a filled-to-capacity audience in the Golisano Auditorium, packed with RIT administrators, government officials, and local business leaders. RIT Board of Trustees Chair, Michael Morley, called the Institute "great news for RIT and, we believe, for the world." Separate video-taped statements were shown from former President of the United States, Bill Clinton and New York Senator and presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton, applauding both Golisano's leadership and RIT's focus on creating sustainable, profitable technologies for business.

The Institute will be headed by Nabil Nasr, Assistant Provost and Director of CIMS. Said Nasr, "It is my sincere belief that in addition to training future generations of leaders in this field [of sustainability], the Golisano Institute for Sustainability will help to bring the importance of this global issue to the forefront of America's social and political agendas."

In addition to a Ph.D., the Institute will also offer masters degrees. The Institute will create new tenure track and research faculty positions, and will require about seven new faculty members and associated staff by next year, said President Destler. The new building which has been planned for the Institute still needs funds to be raised. President Destler has pledged that it will be built "as a model of sustainability and sustainable design."

According to a Center for Governmental Research study prepared for RIT, the Institute and its resulting research could create up to 6,000 new jobs with a payroll of \$650 million. Golisano admitted that when he was first approached by then-RIT President Simone, he was skeptical of the idea of a sustainability institute. "But the



GOLISANO PLEDGES \$10 MILLION FOR NEW SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE

more I thought about the concept and the potential importance...to RIT and the community... and to the world, it became more and more evident that this was a very positive thing to do," said Golisano. At the Wednesday press conference, Simone called Golisano "the George Eastman of the modern era." *A Democrat and Chronicle* editorial echoed that characterization, stating that Golisano could be the most influential philanthropic force in Rochester since Eastman.

Golisano is no stranger to giving to RIT. It was his \$14 million gift that created the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences in 2001. The \$10 million sustainability

gift will come in installments of \$2 million over the next five years. The first \$2 million check was handed over to President Destler at the press conference on Wednesday. The Henry Luce Foundation has also pledged \$465,000 and the Charles and Dorris Carlson Charitable Foundation has donated \$500,000 toward the development of the doctoral program. All in all, Destler hopes to raise an additional \$50 million for the Institute.

"This is the beginning, I hope, of a very important, very large project that is going to have a great benefit to our world," said Golisano. A complete video of the press conference can be found online at http://www.rit.edu/videos/?file=sustainability_institute. •

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO AL?

by Dave Spiecker

photography by Dave Londres

“...Al Simone has given new President William Destler the keys to our brick city, but what few know is that Simone has a spare key.”



We all know that former President Al Simone has given new President William Destler the keys to our brick city, but what few know is that Simone has a spare key. Retired and all, Simone is still hanging around town.

Even after the transition from President to President Emeritus, Simone has plenty to do. “Emeritus” is given to a retired professional so that they may retain their titles after retirement. They may use the title to give themselves credibility when lecturing or writing.

Describing his typical day, Simone said that he gets up at 3:30 a.m. to get ready, because he has to be in downtown Rochester by 7:30 a.m. for a Board Meeting at the Center for Governmental Research. It takes an hour and half to commute to the place from his Keuka Lake residence. On certain days, his commute time totals six hours because he has to go home and pick up his wife, Caroline Simone, and return for dinner functions. He doesn’t reach home until midnight. “I might as well ask for a full-time job at RIT so I can actually get some rest!” joked Simone.

Simone still maintains ties with the local community at RIT. He serves on half a dozen boards around the RIT community and is Chair of the Greater Rochester Enterprise, which is composed of representatives from the business community, the county, and some universities. Simone advises Destler whenever he can, but indicates that our new President would be just fine on his own. “Destler’s very experienced, he doesn’t need much support from me,” said Simone, “I still help him with community fundraisers.”

Simone commented that on a recent Saturday, he participated in the RIT Presidents’ annual softball tournament. “My team won,” he adds proudly. After the game, he and two other alumni went out for ice cream. Simone explains that the softball game and ice cream are some examples of how he maintains contact with the campus.

Simone currently operates out of an office in Venture Creations inside the RIT Technology Park. “I have three reasons for choosing this particular location. First, I wanted to be on campus. Second, I didn’t want to be in the middle of

campus, I wanted to be out of everyone’s way. Third, the RIT Technology Park is part of the RIT Incubator, and that holds a special interest,” explains Simone. The office has a number of pictures and assorted decorative pieces lying on the floor. “The furniture is still on order, so I can’t put anything up yet!” he mentioned.

In closing, Simone said, “I am very proud to be here because I am able to complete my career here. I think RIT is a great and unique university. It is on a faster path towards excellence in education. It has an outstanding President, vice presidents, faculty and staff, students, trustees, and friends. RIT’s future is bright. It will continue to introduce programs relevant to professions. It will form partnerships with companies, governments, and universities. It will have an increased international stature. It will provide students with opportunities for research experience, professional experience, excellent teachers, and a full program of extracurricular activities to develop leadership.” •

▲ Reporter file photo.

BRICKBEAT

09.21.07

ASBESTOS REMOVAL THROUGH CAMPUS

by Danny Iland

Facilities Management Services reports that materials containing asbestos were removed from the academic and residential sides of campus this summer. Fibers released by asbestos (which was used in construction until the 1970s), have been linked to Mesothelioma, a type of lung cancer.

Ted Weymouth, who is a Senior Project Manager for RIT Planning, Design & Construction Services; said, "RIT follows New York State and Federal OSHA requirements" regarding asbestos removal. The Occupational Safety & Health Administration, a division of the U.S. Department of Labor, suggests that air be sampled to determine the density of asbestos fibers in the air. Weymouth said that while regulations require surveys of all buildings built before 1974, RIT performed a campus-wide survey last summer, identifying the location and condition of all asbestos-containing materials in buildings owned by RIT.

Weymouth stated that RIT's policy on asbestos-containing materials is to keep the materials in good condition while they remain in place on campus, and to remove any materials if they will be disturbed during a renovation project. The release of asbestos fibers can increase more than 100-fold with construction activity, so extra precautions must be taken to protect workers

and other individuals in the area. Careful removal greatly reduces the amount of asbestos fiber released into the air.

When asked for a list of areas from which asbestos had recently been removed, he said that such a list would be "pages and pages" long. Reporter staff have spotted warnings not to enter certain areas in the tunnels connecting the SAU and Building 1 (George Eastman building) due to asbestos.

Weymouth explained, "Due to the large number of full-building renovations performed over the years, the majority of the buildings [that] RIT owns that were built prior to 1974 are asbestos-free to the best of our knowledge. This includes all the student dorms, as well as a fair number of the core campus academic buildings." •

RIT INSTALLS ADDITIONAL CARD-ACCESS LOCKS ON RESIDENTIAL SIDE

by Tiffany Mason

According to Chris Denninger, Director of the Public Safety Department, card-access locks have been placed on several buildings on the dormitory side of campus, including Grace Watson Hall, Nathaniel Rochester Hall, and Sol Heumann Hall, for the safety of RIT students. He said that this was primarily important during the late hours of the night. Only students living

on campus have card-access to these buildings, which are locked after 11 p.m.

One of the major reasons for installing the lock to Grace Watson Hall is due to the transformation that the space has taken in recent times— specifically, the inclusion of the coffee shop Beanz, as well as the (relatively) new lounge area. This location used to be an open space with very little traffic, but these two installments have attracted many people to the area.

With more students taking advantage of the lounge area, Public Safety needed to rethink security of the building. "We noticed this past year that non-campus members and sometimes homeless people were coming in and sleeping in the lounge" said Denninger. "We put the locks on the doors to protect the students better, for their safety. On two occasions, we found a homeless person there. We said, 'Okay, now this person knows not to come back, but how can we do a better job?' The main focus is student safety."

Many students have not noticed the change. Fourth year student Anthony Reese said, "It doesn't matter, because I need a key for other buildings. So what are a few more?"

As far as off-campus students are concerned, Denninger said, "People must use the blue calling boxes, and students have messaging devices [anyway]," (to contact people to let them into the locked buildings). •

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Saturday
22
SEP

Mud Tug

Lot Behind Gracie's, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. A chance for good, old-fashioned tug-of-war in a mud bank! Raise money for breast cancer while having fun in the sun! Winners will receive prizes. Sponsored by Zeta Tau Alpha. Cost: \$50 per team, ten people per team.

Sum 41 in Concert

Clark Gym, 8 p.m. - 12 midnight. A CAB Event. Special Guests: Amber Pacific and Monty Are I. Cost: \$10 for students.

ThinkFast!!

Ingle Auditorium, 11 p.m. - 1 a.m. So, what do you know about pop culture, current events, sports, and movies? Know the most and walk out with the cash prize! Brought to you by CAB. Cost: \$5.

Monday
24
SEP

1890 - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints officially renounces polygamy. This is from Wikipedia, so take it for what it's worth.

Tuesday
25
SEP

Time Management Strategies

Building 01-2358, 12 noon - 1 p.m. Can't seem to get a grip of the quarter system? You aren't the only one! A Lunch 'n' Learning workshop is being held to help improve planning skills. Cost: Free. Bring your own lunch.

Audition for RIT/NTID Dance Co.

Building 60-1831, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Open try-outs on Tuesday and Wednesday. Cost: Free.

Wednesday
26
SEP

Fall Career Fair

Gordon Field House, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Grab your best tie and résumé! Ready for a co-op, or ready to graduate? Find out about co-op and full-time positions from company representatives. Cost: Free.

Thursday
27
SEP

Taking and Using Lecture Notes

Building 01-2358, 12 noon - 1 p.m. Another Lunch 'n' Learning workshop. Learn how to take lecture notes (because professors talk a lot) and how to use them to study. Cost: Free. Bring your own lunch.

Jam Session

Fireside Lounge, 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. Meet other RIT musicians. Cost: Free.

Thursday Night Cinema Series: The Departed

Ingle Auditorium, 10 p.m. - 12:45 a.m. Leonardo DiCaprio! Matt Damon! Oh, wow! Come and watch them. Afterwards, eat peanut butter and jelly sandwiches! Cost: Free.

Friday
28
SEP

RPO Marimba Band

Ingle Auditorium, 8 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. As part of Hispanic Heritage Month, the RPO Marimba band comes to RIT. Cost: Students- \$6, Faculty/Staff- \$14, Others-\$20.

Friday Night in the Ritz: Lijie Yang

The Ritz, 10 p.m. - 12 p.m. Pronounced "Lee Jay," she is a self-described indie/alternative artist with three songs on MySpace. Check her out at <http://www.myspace.com/lijiemusic>. Cost: \$1.

Global Village

Laura Stell of Housing Operations announced to the Senate that there would be several focus groups conducted during the year concerning the development of Global Village, a new housing complex which will eventually replace both Riverknoll and Colony Manor. She went on to say that the project was very early into its planning stages. Scott Bailey, the NTID Senator, asked if there was a budget yet for the new housing complex. Stell replied that there was not, further adding that as far as she was concerned, the sky was the limit. College of Business Senator, Carlos Cornejo, asked if there would be two different compounds. Stell replied that there would be only one, and would be located where Riverknoll currently stands.

President's Report

Ed Wolf, Student Government President, mentioned that plans for the SAU renovation were currently being drafted, but was hesitant to share details, as the plans were far from finalized. Wolf also spoke about a recent Institute Council meeting he attended, in which President Destler promised that student mailbox capacities would be increased from 20 megabytes to 100 megabytes by the end of the year. At the same meeting, Destler also mentioned that final testing schedules would be released earlier.

New Club Status Announced

Matt Danna, Representative at Large, announced that there was a new club status that would allow clubs to become recognized by Student Government without receiving a budget. Such recognition would allow those clubs to register their events and reserve room space more easily than they presently can. Adam Weissman, Senator for the College of Engineering, clarified that these clubs would be "SG Affiliated," as opposed to clubs with budgets, which are "SG Recognized."

Miscellaneous

Adam Weissman was elected the President Pro Tempore for the Senate. Should both Wolf (the President) and Malinchoc, the Vice President, be absent or incapacitated for any reason, this position would grant Weissman full Presidential powers. Such an occasion will occur next week, as Wolf and Malinchoc will not be in attendance at the Senate meeting due to the American Student Government Association conference.

Matt Danna announced that he is working with Dawn Soufferis, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, on a "Good Samaritan" policy, which would allow students in dangerous and possibly illegal situations to call for help and not be punished for their indiscretions.

Carlos Cornejo proposed a new non-smoking policy in front of all academic buildings. Danna, Wolf, and several Senators noted that this policy already exists, citing that smoking cannot occur within 25 feet of any building. They are incorrect; the 25-foot rule applies to residential buildings only.

Paul Solt, Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences Senator, asked if this year's Student Government would continue the tradition of Orange and Brown Fridays. Tina Leh, the Director of Public Relations, indicated that they would, further elaborating that they were waiting for the hockey season to begin.

(FRONT)

SUBJECT Back to School Sale

CLASS Communications

NAME RIT Students

3. A PDA is better than a parent because it'll remind you when class is, but won't make you go to it.

True

False

Tuesdays and Thursdays? Or Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays? A new PDA will help you keep it all straight. To check out all our cool devices, stop by your local AT&T store. Make sure to ask about your student discount.



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IS THE UNIVERSE INFINITE?

MAYBE.

by Lacey Senese

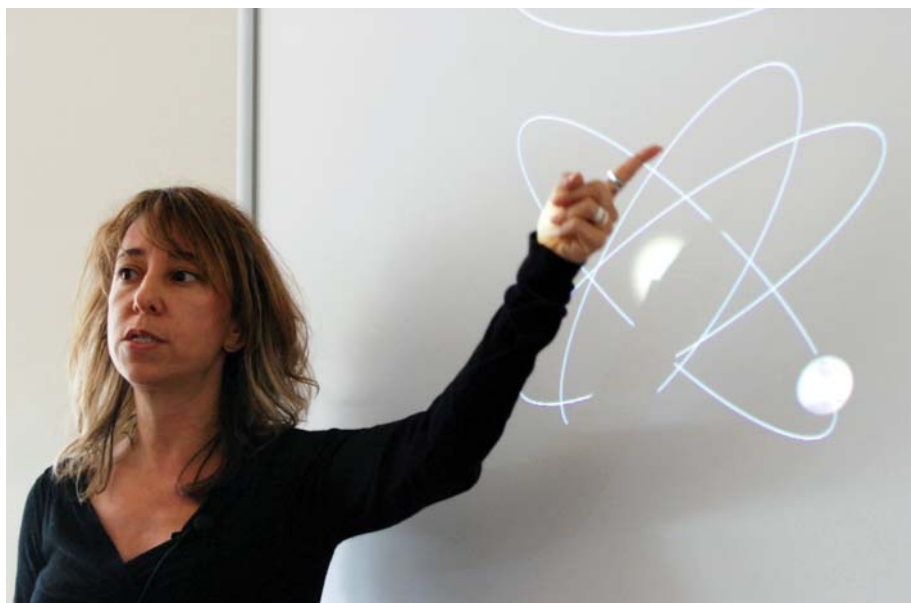
photography by Megan Rossman

“Don't you hate technology?” asked Dr. Janna Levin when technical difficulties delayed her PowerPoint presentation at the beginning of her speech, which kicked off this year's Caroline Werner Gannett Lecture Series.

Once the lecture got off to a true start, Levin—Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Barnard College of Columbia University—started posing even more powerful questions, such as, “Is the Universe infinite?” Levin claims that most people, when attempting to answer this question and analyze the Universe, put themselves outside of it. This, she says, is a wrong approach. You have probably come across many artist renditions of the Milky Way— a bunch of other stars and black space and have embedded that image in your mind as “the Universe”. The Universe, however, is *all* matter: energy, space, and time.

Research is continuing on the topic, so Dr. Levin couldn't answer this question; She merely pointed out what is known- and what could lead to different theories.

Levin suggested thinking of the universe as a video game. I'm not talking about the latest RPG games, rather the old-school Nintendo. Mario would be jumping across the screen, and all of a sudden, as he approached the right side of the screen, he would magically be back on the left side with a new path in front of him. Levin theorized, “If we took a spaceship up in space and kept going straight, never turning, we would see the Earth getting smaller as we moved away from it, and eventually we would end up where we started, wouldn't we?” Or maybe it is that the Earth-like planet we now see is just similar to our Earth. Could we be in a different Universe? The theory of a Megaverse makes such a claim, a theory that she describes as such: “We are one bubble in an infinite sea of bubbles.”



Janna Levin, physicist and cosmologist, speaks about “Chaos and Black Holes” on Wednesday, September 12 in building 75.

What we know is that the Universe was once hot, and has been expanding. Roughly 14 billion years ago, something called the Big Bang happened and gave birth to a phenomenon that we still cannot completely understand. “There is something beyond the physics we know, that's for sure.” Dr. Levin said as she explained that there was much more research to be done and many more theories to prove.

Earning her Ph.D in Physics from MIT, Janna Levin reflects on how she wasn't interested in Physics until half way through her undergraduate studies, “I thought Physics was the horrible subject where you built bombs and memorized equations.” During the question-and answer session, a student asked how they could get started in the field. Dr. Levin simply stated, “Take classes and get involved with your professor's research.” •

You can check out Dr. Janna Levin's latest book, *A Madman Dreams of Turing Machines*, available at Campus Connections, along with her debut book, *How the Universe Got Its Spots*. For those who are interested, the next lecture in this series will take place on Wednesday, October 3 at 7 p.m. in Ingle Auditorium. Go to <http://www.rit.edu/~cwjg/> for more information and to take a peek at the other speakers.

Waltzing through the doorway of the SAU, I was greeted by fields of eager people, all sticking to the signature RITmo Latino rule: "Dress to impress." Taking care not to trudge into the girl in the glitzy metallic go-go boots before me, I made my way through the men with metal detectors into a room surging with music, rouged spotlights, and bustling bodies.

RITMO LATINO: DRESSED TO IMPRESS

by Ilsa Shaw

photography by Eric Drummond

15th annual RITMO LATINO Merengue Contest in the SAU on Saturday night, September 15.



The 15th annual celebration, thrown by Lambda Alpha Upsilon, was not an attraction for RIT students alone. Searching the crowd, one could tell who was older than college-age; all were swaying to whatever music was thrown their way, from bachata to salsa. In fact, I almost found it difficult to find someone from my alma mater. Whilst mingling about the dance floor, I elegantly managed to stumble upon a group of University of Rochester kids, only to swing around and bump into a friendly group of girls from MCC.

Sometime after midnight, there were so many dancers that the designated dancing area, lit with a staggering array of different colors, spilled over to the rest of the room. Everyone was dancing. Why, even that one creep from computer programming class was twitching out a tango.

At around 1:30 a.m., while I was in the middle of spurring out lyrics to *Hot In Here* in my comfy group of five, several well-dressed attendants tried to push the crowd back from the center of

the dance floor as the DJ announced the Merengue dance contest. Inching back and tripping over toes, the crowd slowly managed to amble backwards and create an egg-shaped area containing several dancing couples interested in the competition.

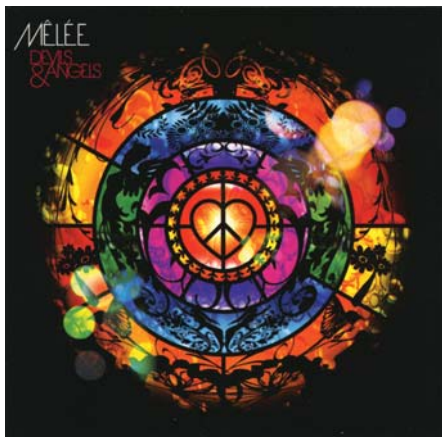
The next 10 minutes consisted of shout-outs to various organizations, from schools to Greek houses, none of which I could really make out due to the muffle placed upon the DJ's voice by all the noise. I did, however, happen to catch the chants of bawdy-voiced frat boys and hoot from sorority girls, the sound of which was akin to aroused hyenas.

Wedged in a rather uncomfortable space behind two giants stacked higher than six feet ten inches each, I could not see much of the actual competition. It was also packed to the extent that I could not easily navigate to another area around this egg-shaped spectacle. I did, however, manage to catch the occasional glimpse of a smiling face mixed with the seductive sway of the Merengue, all intensified by the incredible energy of the crowd as they cheered the couples on.

It was then that I had a striking thought: these couples weren't entering for the prize, nor was the crowd cheering with a particular favorite in mind; everyone was here because they were genuinely having a fantastic time, viewing not competition, but different ways of expression. •



MUSIC REVIEW



MÊLÉE - DEVILS & ANGELS

by Evan McNamara

stale [stayl] *adjective*

1. not fresh; vapid or flat, as beverages; dry or hardened, as bread.
2. musty; stagnant: *stale air*.
3. having lost novelty or interest; hackneyed; trite: *a stale joke*.
4. having lost freshness, vigor, quick intelligence, initiative, or the like, as from overstrain, boredom, or surfeit: *He had grown stale on the job and needed a long vacation*.

See also: Mêleé

As evidenced by their latest album *Devils & Angels*, Mêleé are the flat coke in the refrigerator that is the modern music scene. They display practically no creativity, innovation, or spin whatsoever in their typical radio-rock sound.

Mêleé rides on the coattails of Elton John, as the main melody is carried by the vocals and piano playing of frontman Chris Cron. The piano playing is something that everyone has heard before in the background of many pop tunes. The only difference here is that it's found louder in the mix, which wouldn't be a problem if said piano playing was worthy of being a focal point of the album. Hint: It's not.

Every cliché is present. Ninety percent of the songs are about girls- check. A track worthy of Monster Ballads? "Can't Hold On" and "She's Gonna Find Me Here" provide two big ol' checks here. Gang Vocals? Look no further than "My Biggest Mistake." Swanky '70s throwback tune? "You Make My Dreams." Bee Gees style falsetto? Check. String Section? Present and accounted for in "Drive Away."

Devils & Angels is pop music. The same pop music that Fall Out Boy and countless other bands have capitalized on as of late. The sound is formulaic, bland, and altogether uninspired. Mêleé sounds like a band that could be played on the John Tesh radio show and fit right in. If that doesn't scare you off, then Mêleé might just be your new favorite band.

If the band set out to make an album that would get played on the radio and please their managers at Warner Brothers, then they certainly succeeded. I mean no disrespect to the music that Mêleé has made, but this is an album full of the same songs heard on the radio every day.

I am sure that there are loads of people who will love this band. They are the same people who jumped off the Backstreet Boys bandwagon just to get on the *NSYNC train, and when that locomotive crashed, they had already moved on to hip-hop, or Hawthorne Heights, or whatever the next trend was.

To take a line from the very definition of the word bland, Mêleé has grown stale on the job, and could probably do with a long vacation. •



MOVIE REVIEW



BLOOD AND MICE AND EVERYTHING NICE

by Casey Dehlinger

It is a world where living sunflowers have faces, and dead sunflowers have skulls. Spiders have women's heads and build webs of red string. Aristocratic mice drink blood tea and play cards without suits or faces. This trippy, not-for-children, stop-motion animation, *Blood Tea and Red String*, is the first independent effort— and overwhelming labor of love— of writer, director, producer, animator, and bug-wrangler, Christiane Cegavske.

Playing at the Dryden Theatre on September 22 and 23, as well as being available on DVD, this fairytale is a masterpiece of sorts, but like most masterpieces, it is only for the most fanatical of film buffs. The slow story of the oak dwellers (brown, poofy things with beaks and pointed ears) being commissioned to create a doll for the aristocratic tortoise-riding mice is not the sort of Wallace and Gromit experience that your average movie-goer associates with the medium.

Despite being a mere 70 minutes, the story itself could perhaps be portrayed in fifteen. However, the visuals stay interesting enough to carry the film, even if the brook is obviously just cellophane, and the flowers are cloth, and, yes, that's Cegavske's thumb-print in the sand. Once the viewer realizes that every ten seconds took about a day to film, with one woman moving from apartment to black widow-spider-infested garage to wherever she could, filming on an old Bolex (the introductory camera for students in RIT's own film program), then the film becomes rather remarkable, even if shot at 12 frames per second instead of the standard 24.

When the story slows down, you can lose yourself in the process and take a moment to interpret what appears to be rich symbolism. Even though Cegavske disavows any intentional creation of some of the film's more illustrious symbols such as the "crucifixion" of the doll to a tree very early in the film, they're impossible to ignore. Regardless, the film's surreal quality and creepy tone make it a must-see for student animators or fans of off-beat cinema. Popcorn-munchers may want to save their money and check out CAB's Thursday Night Cinema Series instead.

Check out the theatre's website at <http://dryden.eastmanhouse.org/calendar/> for show times and upcoming films. Their address is 900 East Avenue, and student tickets are \$5. •

❧ RIHANNA ❧

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in the Gordon Field House

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Alumni/Parents/Faculty/Staff \$26

General Public \$31

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Concert

BRICK CITY WEEKEND

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❧ HOWIE MANDEL ❧

Saturday, October 6th

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\$35 Alumni/Parents/Faculty/Staff

\$50 General Public



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Comedian

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September 21, 2007

Which of the following is not an accomplishment of a former Commencement speaker at RIT?

- a. Inventor of the Segway
- b. Hawaiian Senator
- c. Best-selling author
- d. Commander-in-chief

Which of the following classes is not offered at RIT?

- a. Anatomy as Observed in Science Fiction.
- b. Underwater Cinematography
- c. Overcoming Adversity
- d. Space Tourism Development

Where would you be unable to find a Sandella's on campus?

- a. Under Sol
- b. Under the SAU
- c. Under the Gordon Field House
- d. GCCIS

How many snow days has RIT had in the last six years?

- a. 1
- b. 3
- c. 6
- d. 12

In which way is RIT not connected to the CIA?

- a. Former RIT President Richard Rose was working for the CIA during his tenure as President.
- b. A CIA Director spoke as a commencement speaker at RIT.
- c. The CIA's Chief Technical Officer pays occasional visits to the campus.
- d. The CIA funded the construction of the College of Science and played an integral role in installing the RIT webcams that can be found on the myRIT webpage.

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

CARTOON | by Alex Salsberg



SUDOKU

Difficulty: Hard

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!

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

QUOTE

Anna Freud

"Creative minds have been known to survive any sort of bad training."

REPORTER

Recommends

Brainstorming the perfect Halloween costume. What are you waiting for? Wegmans has been selling Halloween-themed M&Ms for two months already. Plus, good costumes take time and creativity, and once mid-terms come around, you simply won't have the time or desire to make yourself the colorful-yet-dreaded Mac "pinwheel of doom". Don't discount the power of group or paired costumes. Get some rope, some boxes, and some white paint and go with your best gaming buddy as a Wiimote and Nunchuk (don't forget to place the joystick strategically). And, to all the ladies who want to send their boyfriends running off into the night with chattering teeth and buckled knees, the scariest thing you can pretend to be for Halloween is pregnant.

JUMBLE

Wines

aeetcnbr
aisclhb
oetmlr
aaoycnnhdr
aizsrh
aaairsgn
oitpn oiiggr
uuydbnrg
xoueadbr
eialzdnnf
ooatmcs
oaiunnsgv

Answers: cabernet, chablis, merlot, chardonnay, shiraz, sangra, pinot grigio, burgundy, bordeaux, zinfandel, moscato, sauvignon



SAMA
V

ROCK

ANTHA

VEGA

ROCHESTER'S RENAISSANCE MAN

BY JOHN VALENTI

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVE LONDRES

if students of technical schools have ever been accused of having flat, one-sided personalities, then surely Sam Brett makes that stereotype seem laughably wrong. Offering more variety than the dinner buffet at *Tandoor of India*, the Venezuelan-born RIT alum ('98) who studied Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, is an avid chef, volleyball player, and bowler. While at RIT, Sam was no stranger to the campus. He served in his beloved fraternity, Alpha Chi Sigma, and worked for Residence Life and the Information Desk. A regular renaissance man. What distinguishes Sam from most other renaissance men, however, is what he currently does for a living. Better known at work as Samantha Vega, Sam Brett is a drag queen.

Believe it or not, it was his alma mater that taught him what was perhaps his most lucrative lesson in life: that he could wear women's clothes and flaunt them like a pro. He was helping to organize a drag show as a fundraiser for BiGALA (now known as RITGA, the RIT Gay Alliance), an on-campus organization that provides support for the gay/lesbian community at RIT. Although a two-hour performance-worth of students and professors had signed up, only three remained committed on the eve of the show. Sam and the other organizers made an executive decision: "We have to do it."

Submitting to the goal at hand, Sam took to the stage for the first time. Not only did he help to save the show through his shouldering of responsibil-

ity, he also won the competition, earning him a gig at *Marcella's*, one of Rochester's premiere gay bars at the time. Little did he know that ten years later, he would still be in a dress. While he was not entirely smitten with ladies' attire, he realized, "Maybe I feel attractive in it," or "Oh my God! I am pretty!" or "I can be somebody else."

However, he remained engaged in his Biotechnology studies at RIT, and worked in a few pharmaceutical jobs after graduating. It was then that Sam decided that his field of study was much less interesting as a profession. "You're in a lab by yourself a lot, and I'm kind of a social person," he says, snickering at his own understatement. "I just couldn't take the lab." Once again, the stage beckoned: "Yolanda Vega was really big then— like '95, '96— so I [thought]- *Let's just go with the Latin thing.* My gimmick was to be a Latino girl [and] to be a little slutty with the curly hair."

The deceptively simple formula has spelled nothing but success for Sam. He now performs at least three nights a week at *Muther's* nightclub, and recently won the Miss Gay Rochester pageant, which is like winning Miss America or the Oscar of drag awards, describes Brett. The pageant is the longest continuously running show of its kind in the country, and Sam's current title is sure to open up doors in other venues. "It gives you that little *umph.*" Although, he admits jokingly, "If I'm going for a biotech job, then I wouldn't put that on my résumé, it doesn't really contribute to my skills."



While he has become a local celebrity for his performances, most of Sam's Venezuelan family is in the dark about this part of his life. "My parents know that I'm working at a bar, they just don't know [that] I'm a drag queen." His mother, a schoolteacher, spurred Sam and his siblings into high-tech professional careers. Wanting to see her children pursue careers that would provide well for them, she discouraged teaching and human services fields: "[It is] ironic, because nowadays, I'm spending half my time volunteering and half my time working at a bar." He is very unlike his sister, who is a chemical engineer, his brother (a biologist), and his father, an electrician. He adds (in good spirit) that he isn't completely "out" to his family either. "I think, deep down, every parent knows, they just don't want to think about it. I think their time will come, I don't want to give my mom a heart attack right away."

Despite disregarding his mother's career advice, Sam seems to have found contentment in his job and his tireless volunteer work at AIDS Rochester, where he cooks, counsels, and does HIV testing— yes, *volunteer* work. Sam receives no payment for his efforts. "[AIDS Rochester] has become like a second family for me."

What first piqued his interest in becoming a volunteer and adoptive child of the organization was that he could share his deep love of cooking with others. "Cooking is something I have a passion for." An artist and autodidact through and through, Sam says his favorite thing to cook is "whatever you can create with what you have in the fridge." He recounts the time he cooked with Julia Child. "It was a great experience"

Since he applies the same innovation and dour work ethic to his night job as his volunteer work, preparation for performances is no small effort. He does not have drag queen make-up artists bustling about the dressing room, doing all the hard work for him before a show. The painstaking process begins with a shower and then a thorough shave.

"I'm a hairy beast," he admits. In addition to eliminating unladylike facial hair, his razor must also traverse chest, arms, and back. "Make-up's the big component, and then putting the bits n' pieces away" (all innuendoes implied).

Of course, Samantha Vega is not brought about merely through the handiwork of a shaver and some cover-up. Via shoddy yet effective means, the Latina hottie has all the curves to match. "I like to work with my cleavage, which I don't have much of, so duct tape comes in handy. Just press your breasts together, like man-boobs." And to achieve those sensuous, Tina Turner-esque legs: "really small underwear and lots of layers of pantyhose."

Although he happily assumes the role of Samantha Vega on stage, Sam admits that there are drawbacks to having his alter ego. "If you're looking for a partner, it can be very difficult. There's a lot of stigma associated with being a drag queen, and even though I do try to portray a female when I'm doing a show, there's absolutely no other time in my life where I feel like a woman or want to be a woman."

Sam draws a rigid distinction between "gender expression" and "artistic gender expression." To him, Samantha Vega is strictly an entertainment persona, not an essential aspect of his own identity. "It's very hard to find someone who's open-minded, or at least understanding of it and realizes that in my case the person on stage is a completely different person off-stage."

Familiar with stigmas attached to being a drag queen as well as those of being gay, Sam's attitude is remarkably diplomatic and easy-going. "It's not just about being gay, but being a good person, although you shouldn't deny your gay identity."

Even under the lipstick, rouge, heavy eyeliner, padding, and duct tape, Sam Brett believes in being true to who he is as a human being. "I don't think I'm hiding. I'm still an asshole, no matter what, but it definitely is a different persona and it develops as time goes by, so Samantha Vega now is not the Samantha Vega of ten years ago."

Even Samantha is known to portray other characters. One of Sam's favorite acts is his Bette Midler medley. "I know that doesn't really relate to the younger crowd, but I have back up dancers and that's the one I won Miss Rochester with." To bridge the generation gap, he has recently done Storm from the X-Men.

"I'm very proud, not only because I'm able to assume that person, but I really love sewing." To add to the work load of showing up at the club, getting in costume, and putting on the show (which he choreographed), Sam designs and

makes all of the clothing for the performances ahead of time. One of his biggest thrills is seeing himself pull off a new character for which he's created the costume on his own.

In last Thursday night's show at *Muther's*, he donned an exceptionally haunting number which mixed fishnet and skulls. He wore six-inch black heels and raspberry-red highlights in exotic wisps of hair, setting off his regular dark curls. The costume made Sam a gothic drag goddess. He came out on stage lip-syncing a Britney Spears song. The audience looked amused as Sam approached the bar to burlesque around

them. Like a painter with his brush or a surgeon with his scalpel, Sam was using what he had in order to get the job done, finding that in his case, it paid to use a woman's touch.

Sam performs at Muther's every Thursday and Sunday nights. He will also be making an appearance in RIT's Drag Bingo next month, so keep an eye out for him.

photographs by Tom Schirmacher





THE GLBTQ CENTER UNVEILED

BY LIZ KIEWIET
PHOTOGRAPH BY ROSS THOMPSON

JUNE 28, 1969, just after 1:20 a.m.: Eight police officers walked into the Stonewall Inn and began making arrests on charges of indecency. The Stonewall Inn was a gay bar, and its patrons were used to such raids—kissing, holding hands, cross-dressing... simply being present at the bar during such a raid meant that they were risking arrest. Usually, these raids meant that the bar would clear for a while as people left to avoid arrest, but the crowd would return to normal during peak business hours. That night, however, was different; rather than quietly dispersing, patrons of the bar violently struggled against the police officers, showering them with bottles and stones, and eventually throwing them out of the bar, using parking meters used as battering rams. Word of the rioting quickly spread through the country, and an otherwise unremarkable gay bar in Greenwich Village became a symbol of the struggle for gay rights.

FAST FORWARD THIRTY-FIVE YEARS: GLBTQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning) communities all over the United States are still fighting for their rights. Many gay-action organizations and clubs trademark themselves with “Stonewall” as a way to signify unity and to commemorate the fight against discrimination; indeed, RIT itself has a Stonewall Program.

STONEWALL PROGRAM AT RIT

Two years ago, the Women’s Center was the resource for GLBTQ students to address their concerns. Gay men often felt awkward there, however, and their concerns were raised by Student Government. The Center for Campus Life, whose mission is to provide a safe environment for all students, was assigned the task of addressing the issue.

Michael D’Arcangelo, Director for the Center for Campus Life, co-authored a proposal for the GLBTQ program, also known as the Stonewall Program. “It focused on the potential crisis that can await GLBTQ students who must function in openly hostile environments,” D’Arcangelo explains. “It also focused on those students who are questioning their orientations and identities to help to link on-campus services in such a way as to coordinate efforts for GLBTQ students.”

Through time, the Stonewall Program’s offerings increased. It added educational speakers, coordination of Safe Zone training, and co-sponsorship for Ally Week to its repertoire. Safe Zone is a training program designed to increase awareness about GLBTQ issues and concerns. Ally Week consists of activities encouraging people to take a stand against bullying and harassment of GLBTQ students, identifying and celebrating those who have done so.

Although the Center was able to offer many services, the lack of an office made it difficult to centralize resources. D’Arcangelo researched GLBTQ programs at other colleges and noticed that they all had permanent offices where they could coordinate professional services and standardize programs.

When the Women’s Center moved into its new location in the SAU basement this summer, it left two offices vacant. Sparked into discussion by Jennifer Gravitz, a member of the Interfaith Center, the RIT Gay Alliance (RITGA) held an open forum dedicated to creating a physical center. A group of students affiliated with RITGA met with Mike D’Arcangelo a couple of times a week to discuss ways to improve the Stonewall Program. “When space became available, the students wrote to Ed Wolf, President of Student Government, who in conjunction with Vice President Sasha Malinchoc contacted Dr. Mary-Beth Cooper, Vice President for Student Affairs. Dr. Cooper was then instrumental in allocating the space,” D’Arcangelo explains.

A PHYSICAL SPACE

Now that the Center has been secured, it needs to be inhabited. The first step, according to Jennifer Kolling, the 2006-2007 GLBT Senator and the Student Assistant currently working on the program, is to move all of the RIT Gay Alliance’s supplies into the Center.

RITGA provides advocacy and education for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and ally community. They hold many events during the year; some of their most popular events include the screening of “Rocky Horror Picture Show” and the annual Spring Drag Show. Unfortunately, according to Kolling, “There have been problems with keeping RITGA’s supplies in Club Space—things get vandalized. Most of RITGA’s stuff is all over the e-board’s apartments.”

By moving RITGA’s supplies to a central location, the club will be able to more easily focus on the year ahead. There will also be other resources in the GLBTQ Center: pamphlets, resource books, and videos and DVDs. Kolling also hopes that the GLBTQ Center will be able to hire a professional to work as a counselor in one of the offices. “Right now, there really isn’t any GLBTQ counseling,” Kolling says. “The Student Health Center tries to send everyone with GLBTQ and questioning issues to one individual that specializes in that.”

According to RITGA, the GLBTQ Center will be most beneficial in “providing advice and support for individuals who might be questioning their sexual identity and who might not be ready to attend RITGA meetings or be ‘out’ in the community.” They also note that while RITGA is designed to be a supportive, safe place for individuals, they cannot really give counseling. “RITGA can’t provide the same one-on-one discussion that many such individuals might need or want. In addition, even individuals who are not questioning and who identify as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, or Queer might not want to discuss certain topics in a forum environment like RITGA; perhaps, topics of romance or personal issues that may require expertise.”

WHAT NEXT?

“In the long term, we’d like RITGA to become an MSO, or Major Student Organization, with large-scale events for the RIT and Rochester community that continue our efforts to promote positive awareness for our community,” says RITGA’s Executive Board.

According to D’Arcangelo, the Center will “create a sense of official endorsement for not only its programs, but as an endorsement for the GLBTQ students as a part of the community at large.” RITGA will have a place to put their roots and grow.

First, however, the offices will be painted, recarpeted, and will house new furniture. Soon, it will become the Center for any student – gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual, questioning, or ally— to approach to discover the resources available regarding GLBTQ issues. •

◀Mike D’Arcangelo, Director for the Center for Campus Life.

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Presented by

William Cruz

October 12, 2007

Rochester Institute of Technology

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FALL SPORTS LINEUP

by Carolyn Dunne

WOMEN'S SOCCER

This season, the women's soccer team is ready to make the push for postseason with Head Coach Tom Natalie at the helm. With 13 returning players and 12 new players, one would think that this season would be a rebuilding one, but hard work in the off-season, the cohesiveness of the players, and a tough regular season schedule has made for a team that is in as good a position a winning season as ever. Despite fighting injuries that have somewhat depleted the offensive line, the team has come together to an overall of two wins, two losses, and one tie so far. Considering that the team played six of the top 25 teams in the nation, the girls are playing very well together. Coach Natalie feels that his team is completely capable of making it to the postseason due to the work ethic of the team as a whole, despite the challenging teams they face in the regular season.

Coach Natalie stressed that two large Empire 8 games for the team would be hosted during the Brick City homecoming, with the Tigers playing newcomer Stevens Institute of Technology on Saturday and Utica College on Sunday.

MEN'S SOCCER

The deeper we get into the season, the more success the men's soccer team enjoys. After rebounding from a tough loss in their first game of the season, the Tigers showed their terrific resilience in a four game winning streak to improve to a record of four wins and one loss. Voted to finish fourth in the Empire 8 in a preseason coaches' poll, the momentum of the team could very well help them win the conference for the second year in a row. With a fairly balanced team in regards to varsity competition experience, expect the men's soccer program to have a very successful season.

Future home games include Buffalo State on September 25 at 4 p.m. and St. John Fisher on September 29 at 12 noon.

CROSS COUNTRY

The men's and women's cross country teams are returning with a great work ethic and a desire to continue last year's successes. The entire men's team was selected in 2006 to compete in the NCAA Division III National Tournament, placing 19th overall. At the first meet of this season, the RIT Quad Meet on September 8, the team started off their season right with underclassmen and upperclassmen alike contributing to a strong second place finish. Despite having a relatively young team, the Tigers are clearly on their way to being a powerhouse team once again.

Trisha Sliker and Adrienne Gagnier also ran in the NCAA's Division III individual competition last year as representatives for the women's team. Returning as a senior, Gagnier started the season off with a breakaway win at the RIT Quad Meet, finishing with a 30-second lead. With several returning runners, the season looks like it will be a competitive one for the Lady Tigers.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Expectations are high for the 2007 RIT women's volleyball team. Having had a 2006 season of 24 wins and 15 losses, the team is looking to create another solid season with their current record of six wins and two losses. These wins place Coach Roger Worsley merely four wins from becoming the all-time leader in RIT volleyball victories. Jessica Schaffer, a third year Mechanical Engineering student, earned both All-Tournament at the recent Ithaca Invitational and Empire 8 Volleyball Player of the Week status for the week of September 8. The Lady Tigers ended the Ithaca tournament with three wins and a single loss.

The team's last home game of the regular season will be on October 10 versus SUNY Geneseo at 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

With new talent and several All-Empire 8 returning members, RIT women's tennis has the advantage of a young team which will improve while having the success of a seasoned team. Senior Leigh Bryson, a Packaging Science student, was also recently named the Empire 8's Women's Tennis Player of the Week for her performance in RIT's shut-out against Utica College and the tough loss to Stevens Institute of Technology. Currently, the team has accumulated three wins and a single loss under the leadership of new Head Coach Krystina Bachner.

The Empire 8 Tournament will be held at the RIT courts on October 13 and 14, with specific times to be announced. The way the women are playing now, plan on cheering for them on that weekend as they seek the title. •

For the latest in RIT sports updates and complete fall schedules, check out RITathletics.com.



SPORTSDESK

photography by Jeremiah Tamagna-Darr

1// RIT players go up for a header in a physical game against St. Lawrence. The game ended 1-1 with RIT tying the game in the 61st minute.

2// Fans celebrate Chris Somers' game tying goal in the 61st minute of the game against St. Lawrence.

3// Chris Somers celebrates scoring the game-tying goal in the 61st minute against St. Lawrence University. The game ended 1-1 after two overtime periods.





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compiled by Ryan Metzler

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

HERE'S A THREAT: CALL MORE, OR RINGS DIES.

Friday 11:20 p.m.

Hey, I just want to know what the hell is up with RIT girls complaining that there's no available guys now and then shutting you down every time you try and get with them. What the hell is up with that? Seriously.

Saturday 2:28 a.m.

Hello? Why does RIT always have to be busting balls about people drinking? I mean it's, like, second week of college, and they're being dicks. So, let us drink, please? We've got to get it out of our systems. We've got to enjoy college. Bye.

Saturday 2:29 a.m.

Alright, listen, *Reporter*, there has been an alien sighting in Colony Manor and they've taken me aboard their ship. Now, I'm not going to say that I enjoyed the anal probe, but they were okay. That's all, bye.

Saturday 2:32 a.m.

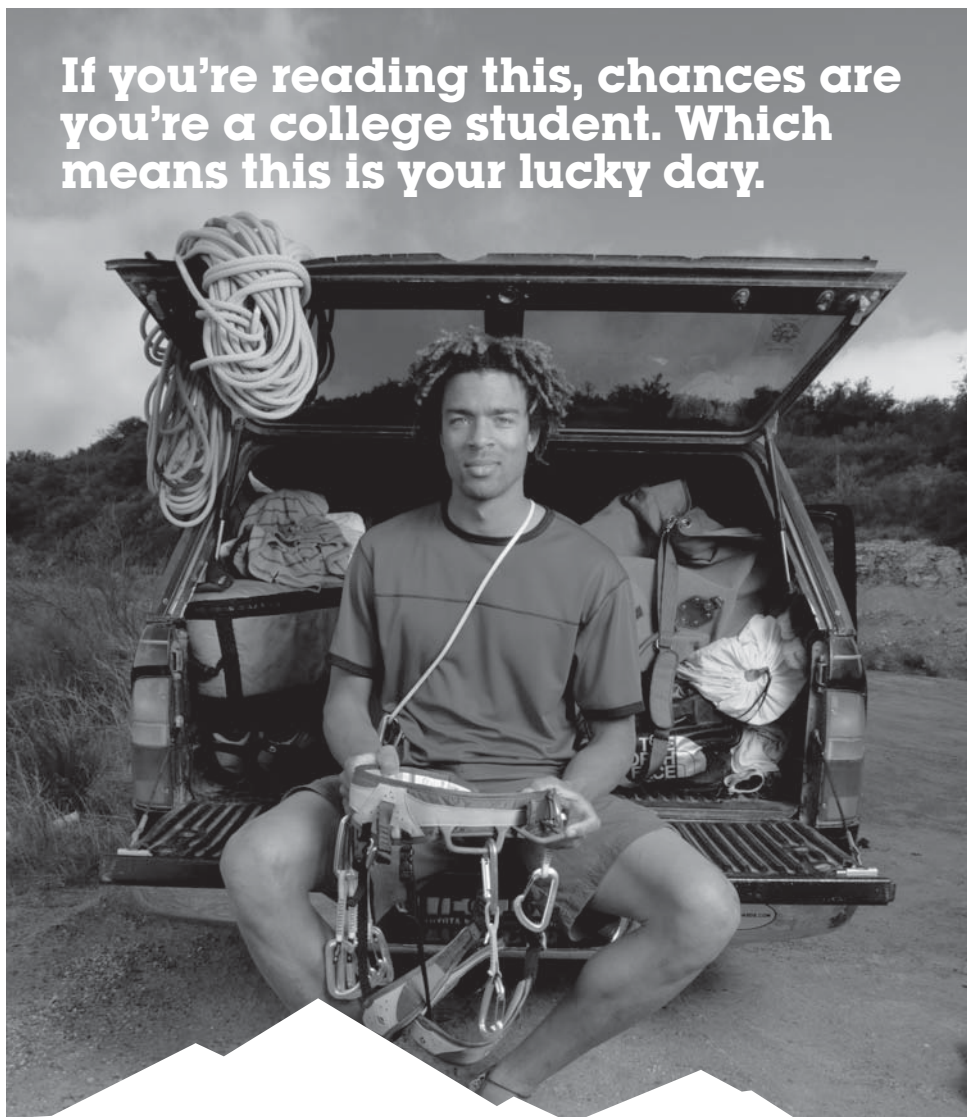
By the way, *Reporter*, this is a follow up message. Screw anime. All of it. I really don't care how great Japan is either. They are Saturday morning cartoons, just ask anyone who isn't trying to hide something. Changing the name of something does not make it okay. I really don't care if I piss off the largest club on the campus, they don't have any other friends anyway.

Saturday 8:55 a.m.

Hey, Rings. I was just reading your paper at, like, 9:30 in the morning and am coming off from being wasted all night. So, it basically sucks and I think you guys should maybe work on getting some better ones so I can enjoy something for once.

Saturday 8:30 a.m.

Hey, Campus Safety, here's an idea: don't [expletive] light saber battle on the Quarter Mile.



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THE END OF IN LOCO PARENTIS

BY ADAM BOTZENHART

ILLUSTRATION BY BRYAN WILLIAMS

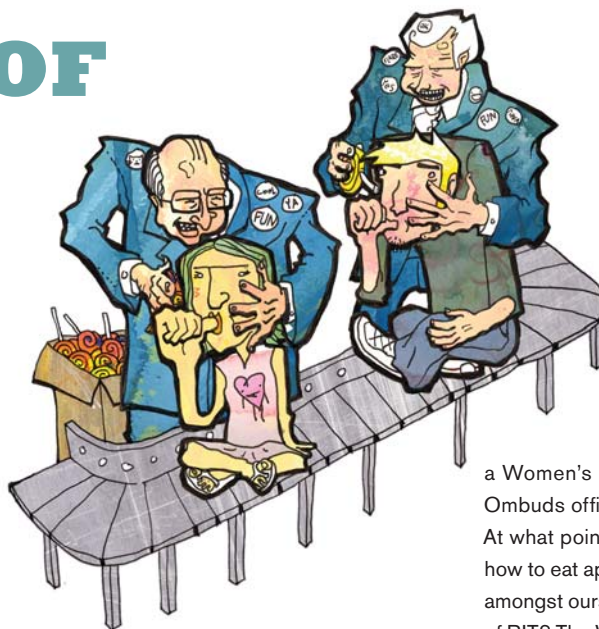
After three years at RIT, I had almost completely lost all hope that it would ever be the college I thought I had applied to. I was expecting a university teeming with ideas, initiative, and excellence. What I found instead was a sort of socially awkward nursery, where kids had their hands held and were coddled both inside and outside the classroom.

Generally, I eschew any sort of “new beginning” optimism, whether it be the “we’re really going to be the ones to change things,” spoken by every entering Student Government or the “this year promises to be one of the best yet,” cheered by RIT administrators as they annually “rally the troops” before the entering freshmen arrive. But Bill Destler and Ed Wolf give me hope.

Somewhere along the way, RIT went wrong. I don’t know exactly when or how it happened, but somewhere, in some room on this campus, someone came up with the idea that fun had to be planned. They called it “programming,” and it has since created a culture on campus which, in essence, has prevented any authentic culture from emerging.

Talk to any Student Affairs staff member and “programming” is all the rage. The underlying assumption is that fun can’t emerge organically, that it doesn’t simply happen spontaneously, that it needs to be manufactured, “programmed,” by some sort of committee, board, or team— Residence Life is notorious for this. RIT students were and are apparently incapable of having meaningful fun on their own. Fun needs to be scheduled, formalized, and registered on events.rit.edu. The fatal conceit is that by creating enough campus organizations, by hiring enough professional staff members, RIT can create fun for its students better than the students themselves.

And students have generally bought into it. What we formally call “Student Government” has act-



ed more like a Ministry of Barbequing. There has been nothing “government” about the organization— they have abandoned any policy-making clout they once had in exchange for dance competitions, L.A.N. parties, and an assortment of pizza parties. The Student Government of recent years hasn’t been interested in making decisions or altering policy, but has instead become a sort of orange-and-brown obsessed second cousin of CAB.

But current President Ed Wolf has set his sights on changing this, and rightfully so. His 2007 Strategic Plan explicitly states that programming “is not the purpose of SG,” and in a recent interview he expanded on the theme, explaining that SG will be “getting out of the programming business” and instead “leaning more toward a governance, a proactive governance.”

One hopes that Wolf follows through, and that this is the first change in a greater shift from a state where students are “serviced” by RIT, to one where students are self-sufficient and ultimately taking responsibility for their own college experience. One of Wolf’s themes is to *Empower* students, and that’s right on the mark— but “empowerment” needs to be an exercise in putting a burden of action and responsibility on students, not creating more services for them to consume.

RIT’s attitude regarding programming is emblematic of a larger outlook. We have a free Counseling Center, nutritionists, psychiatrists,

a Women’s Center, a GLBTQ Center, and an Ombuds office dedicated to conflict mediation. At what point did we become unable to decide how to eat appropriately or settle disagreements amongst ourselves without the professional help of RIT? The Women’s Center has just expanded, the Counseling Center boasts that more students are using its services than ever before, but this is all backward. We should, instead, be working toward a day when Counseling Centers and Women’s Centers are no longer needed, a day when RIT students have “grown up” and are able to address the many challenges of life on their own.

To call RIT paternalistic has become a tired cliché. That doesn’t mean it isn’t true. When he came to visit RIT during the presidential search process Dr. Destler pledged to end the culture of *in loco parentis*. That is a promise, I hope, he’ll make good on.

On the front page of RIT’s *University News*, bold letters blare out, “Imagine RIT as the first ‘innovation university.’” That’s a fine vision— to have a university filled with innovators. But expecting students to take initiative and innovate while doubting their ability to create fun or resolve conflicts on their own is an incoherent vision of what RIT students are and what they should be. Wolf needs to allow students to create their own social experience without having SG do it for them. Destler needs to create a culture where RIT students are expected to be responsible, mature individuals, not twenty-year-old infants who need to be cared for and coddled. The RIT I thought I had applied to was one where intelligent students were taking control of their lives in pursuit of excellence, not one where they were taught to be reliant on a generally over-energetic and overstaffed RIT administration. •

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