

REPORTER

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Editorial

Laughing 101

Our grandparents were raised by the radios; our parents by the televisions. We were raised by one another, connected over towns, cities, states, and countries through little windows of text, and we never had anything better to say than "LoL."

We are not Generation Why, but rather the answer to the previous half-step generation's inquiry. The answer? Ask Jeeves, or Google, or Wikipedia. They'll all tell you in plainer language than I would dare. We are Generation LoL.

But don't be deceived; it has little to do with the amount of information out there. Rather, it's our ability to simultaneously hide and share ourselves with the world. It's our ability to represent ourselves whichever way we care to, whether to stroke our egos, conceal our insecurities, or flaunt our tragedies. Youtube. Facebook. LiveJournal.

Digitally, we express ourselves only in the most appealing light, and if anyone says anything different, we'll blog about it. We have created an in-group of ourselves, and an out-group of our buddy lists. Democratization through self-appointment. We write our own histories in HTML. It goes far beyond our role as self-historians, though.

We are a generation of superheroes, just look at the coming attractions. *Ghost Rider*. *Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer*. *Spiderman 3*. Screen names, e-mail accounts, aliases, all our secret identities. All self-aggrandizing. They are the costumes that we parade around in; our bulletproof vests and radiation-proof underwear, all subconsciously designed to protect ourselves while we patrol the city we have created through chatrooms, wikis, and forums. We always say what we mean, but don't always mean what we say. Who could blame us? Now that we have been given the ability to make ourselves famous, (so long as we have the time to update our web-sites), why not inflate ourselves ever so slightly? Why not laugh out loud a little more?

We all do it. Talking. Chatting. Facebook wall-writing. If it's funny, we LoL, but we don't *Laugh out Loud*. Occasionally we let out a little giggle, but we never literally ROFL. These aren't acronyms; they're punctuation. Just like ! means excitement, LoL means we find something funny. We are the first generation to create a literary signifier that actually replaces a physical act instead of merely representing it. Take that, Jacques Derrida.

Stone-faced, we sit there, staring at monitors and representing ourselves as laughing creatures, happy and content, because happiness is a desirable trait amongst friends. A friend who can't appreciate your sense of humor is never more than an acquaintance. If only computers could do the laughing for us, we could turn into trees like some old Greek myth and never worry again. If only computers would heat up, turn pink, and grow sore from a good laugh like only true friends can, we could concentrate on the "important" things in life, like housekeeping and tax returns.

Every generation has its mistakes. Our grandparents were racists and our parents were responsible for the 80s (LoL). Whatever lasting effects these offenses have had, they will pale in comparison to the consequences we will face for translating one of our most sacred blessings as sentient beings—our ability to laugh—into binary. 101.



Casey Dehlinger
Editor in Chief



Cover photo and illustration by Dave Londres and Erin Wengrovius, respectively. ▲ TOC photo by Dave Londres. Fourth year Illustration major Kelly DiCesare opens her case to reveal the highest possible prize in ResLife and RHA's Meal or no Meal on Thursday, February 8.

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Letters to the Editor

Addressing Mich Gerson's letter in the January 26, 2007 Issue.

I simply want to address a few points.

- 1 You want to be treated as equal (gleaned from you last paragraph). The full-time matriculated undergraduate tuition for me is \$23,949. The full-time matriculated undergraduate tuition for NTID is \$8,559. Wouldn't equal people, equal cost seem fair to you? You receive a 64% discount.
- 2 You called the point of view expressed by the author bigoted (third to last paragraph). My last name (Fernandez) would seem to tell the world that I am Hispanic (and I am), yet I am not a Hispanic-American, much less a Hispanic engineer. I am a part of this community as much as everyone else. I can honestly say that from my experiences at RIT, I can tell that many of the NTID students don't feel the same way. I heard discussions of making building 60 an ASL zone. How do a group of people expect to get accepted into a community when they insist on being different? The attitude of having your own community yet expecting unwavering acceptance into (what, by your logic, must be) another community is illogical and rather offensive.
- 3 In reference to the author's point (third paragraph), your letter spans a full-page single column, yet you state that you were distracted? You're criticizing someone while admitting you weren't paying attention? You cannot possibly expect a scathing response to be accepted when you entirely miss the point of the article. The author was simply using an example relevant to our campus. She was attempting to provoke consideration and thought not to insult you.
- 4 "You are not Deaf. You do not and cannot understand." Why not? You make being deaf sound horrible. If that wasn't your point (last paragraph again), then wouldn't we be the ones who are missing out? What is there to understand if deafness is not a handicap?

I have had deaf friends at RIT tell me that the same thing you say. Being deaf is not a handi-

cap. One of them used the words "I am special because this is how God made me." Well, going on that point, you should be more offended by this science than the author is. What makes your community special and what makes you proud is now a simple doctor's visit away. You can't expect to be treated equal, but receive special treatment. That is just another form of bigotry.

Todd Fernandez

Fourth year
Mechanical Engineer

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you today in the hopes that you will publish my article so that members of the University of Rochester community can be informed of shady business practices at a local establishment. My goal in writing this letter to you is to let the U of R community including all graduates, undergraduates, faculty, and staff come to an informed decision regarding doing business with this particular establishment.

This past weekend, a group including myself and a number of fellow graduate students went to the SoHo East dance club for a night of entertainment. Approximately halfway through our evening, one friend and I ventured downstairs to the Daisy Dukes and A-Pub Live portion of the establishment in order to use the restroom. Upon leaving the restroom we were informed that we were no longer allowed upstairs, regardless of the fact that we had paid our cover charge. While talking to the bouncer we were informed that we would have to call our party and tell them we had to leave, saying that the stairway had to be clear for fire code reasons.

While standing at the bottom of the stairs for nearly 20 minutes trying to reach our party via cell phone (which is impossible at a dance club) we were also told by this bouncer that the upstairs was closed because it was at capacity. However, during this 20-minute time period, 3-4 groups of 4-5 girls were allowed entry, even though the club was "filled to capacity". At this point, we were informed that we would need to go to the East Ave entrance to obtain access.

The two of us stood on East Ave in sub-freezing weather wearing only t-shirts, as our coats were upstairs with our party. We stood in line for nearly half-an-hour with a group of about 10 other gentlemen waiting to gain access to meet up with our party, again being denied access because the club was filled to capacity. However, as with the other bouncer, two different groups of girls were granted access, one of which was a group of at least 10 people. We never were allowed entry to the club after this point, even after having paid our cover fee and standing in the cold.

I would like the University of Rochester campus community to band together and boycott SoHo East, A-pub Live, and Daisy Dukes to send a strong message to the management that as a huge portion of the weekend economy in the City of Rochester, we students demand to be treated with more respect.

Thank you for your time,

Greg Donovan

U of R Graduate Student

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Cell 518.272.4724

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PS For those of you that have received this email who are not affiliated with the University of Rochester, I'm hoping that you too will read and seriously consider publishing this letter. I think that it is important to send a strong message that students, who comprise a significant portion of the economy in Rochester, be treated with more respect at the local establishments we regularly support.

Dear Editor of Reporter,

There is no excuse for the call printed in the "RIT Rings" February 2, 2007 issue of *Reporter*. "Yo, I just ran over a possum... I am pretty sure it's dead... There were all these baby possums who ran away too and they're all going to die... It was [...] awesome." The page explains that "not all calls will be run", because not all calls should be run.



This uncompassionate and tasteless comment was endorsed by *Reporter* when it was printed in the magazine. It is disgusting to see an RIT community publication printing viewpoints that delight in the suffering of animals. Instead of including the sadistic commentary, *Reporter* should have printed a kind and benevolent response to the caller's cruel lack of compassion.

I hope to see articles in future *Reporters* that show a sensitivity and concern for our fellow living creatures, instead of an unintelligent display of heartlessness.

Amy Rule

Fourth year
Business Management

Casey,

At first when I saw [the February 9, 2007] issue I was surprised and disgusted to see something of this nature being published in a school setting. However, as I moved through the issue I became less hostile and more interested in the issue. It was considerably different from what I expected. Though I was definitely taken outside of my comfort zone, I was pleased to see that

you took the opportunity to promote awareness about certain groups, and centered less on the actual act.

However, I still wanted to complain about two items. First of all, the nudes on the cover. I would not have minded so much if the models had certain areas covered at all times. However, the exposure on the cover was quite unnecessary. And when you did the section on A-Z of birth control, I was very displeased with the section on abstinence. You made it sound like it was impossible and that sex is necessary for a relationship to be enjoyable.

It would have been much better if you told the facts; abstinence is the only 100% safe sex and it is practiced far too little. I would have very much appreciated a more neutral and unbiased stance on this matter. In the future, please do more research before publicly discouraging a very safe and medically backed practice. Thank you.

Daniel Martin

Fourth year
Computer Engineering Technology

Retraction

In the February 9, 2007 issue of *Reporter*, the article Planet Perspectives: Cultural Differences in Dating should have been marked as an opinion piece. *Reporter* recognizes the fact that no individual perspective can represent the cultural beliefs of an entire nation, just as any two American students asked to represent the American dating scene to another country would surely have very unique perspectives based on their personal experiences. *Reporter* also apologizes for any perceived insensitivities expressed in the textual design solutions that made use of the Indian flag and the Islamic character for Allah.

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.*

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http://www.rit.edu/~300www/vp_alpha_sigma_lambda.php3



DECISION 2007: THE SEARCH FOR THE NEXT RIT PRESIDENT

by Joe McLaughlin

When RIT President Al Simone announced that he would retire at the end of this year after 15 years of service to RIT, the obvious question was “Who would replace him?” Ever since then, a committee of 21 people has been looking for an answer to that question.

According to Michael Morley, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of RIT, the search process began when Simone announced his resignation. The trustees formed the search committee that “include[s] members from all across the campus: students, faculty, staff, alumni, and trustees led by Donald Boyce (a trustee and an alumnus). It’s a very large committee, but a very campus-representative committee,” said Morley.

Around September, the committee “went more public with the search, advertised in a number of journals, and—through a search firm—solicited candidates,” continued Morley. By January, the committee had significantly cut down the long list of candidates. Then the search committee interviewed several people, and plans “to bring a relatively small number of candidates on campus so the campus community can interface with these candidates and provide feedback to the search committee.” The final step, as Morley explained it, was the search committee’s submission of no more than three candidates to the Board of Trustees for consideration.

But before the search committee can make this recommendation, their charter charges them with gathering input from various constituent groups and developing a leadership qualities statement that incorporates suggestions from those groups. Morley explained that the committee had already solicited input from various groups on campus, “through e-mail access, through open forums, and through discussions with various governance groups.” Bringing the finalists to visit RIT and interact with some of the people on campus has always been planned as part of the process. Currently, the committee intends to hold these visits between February 19

and 22. Morley said that during these visits, the search committee plans to hold open forums for the general RIT community to attend, along with further meetings with the governance groups, including Faculty Senate, Staff Council, and Student Government. Each candidate will only remain on campus for a day and a half.

When it came down to choosing the qualifications that RIT seeks for its next president, Morley said that “[The committee] did go through a lot of work in terms of what we felt as a campus that the next president should be able to do, and the style and the manner that the president would lead the university.” As a result of this wish list, the search committee created the Position Profile, a 13-page document describing the traits and expectations that the university feels that an RIT president should possess. Portions of the Profile were created based on input from the entire RIT community—everyone from student to alumni or trustee.

Part III of the position profile explains the various challenges the new president is charged with, including keeping the momentum on goals that Simone has already set for RIT. Among them, maintaining the student-centered focus of the institution by enhancing existing programs—like co-op and career counseling—and creating more opportunities for students. Fitting in with SG’s push for increased school spirit and pride, one of the new president’s responsibilities is to build up the RIT community and students’ connection to the Institute. Essentially, the qualities that the new president should have are “bold vision, a world view, extraordinary energy, and the personal qualities, integrity, and ethics to inspire the university community to new levels of excellence.”

Morley also listed some things the new president will *not* do. “We’ve said that anyone coming in as president has to understand that RIT is a student-centered university and our intention is to remain that,” he said. “If you’re someone who had intentions of coming in and changing that fundamental strategy for RIT, then you’re

not someone we would have an interest in. We’re very committed to a shared governance type of leadership style, so we don’t want a person coming in who’s going to be dictatorial or try to drive everything on the campus from their perspective alone.” •

More information can be found at the “Search for the RIT President” website: www.rit.edu/~newpres

Ever wonder how to describe RIT’s ‘Commander-in-Chief?’ Here’s a sampling from the list of characteristics that the new hire should possess:

Successful experience as a strategic leader, including a record of institutional leadership marked by being responsive to market challenges and an ability to bring campus constituencies to consensus of action.

Enthusiasm for the RIT student-centered, technology-focused mission and an appreciation for maintaining a healthy, productive balance between research and high-quality teaching.

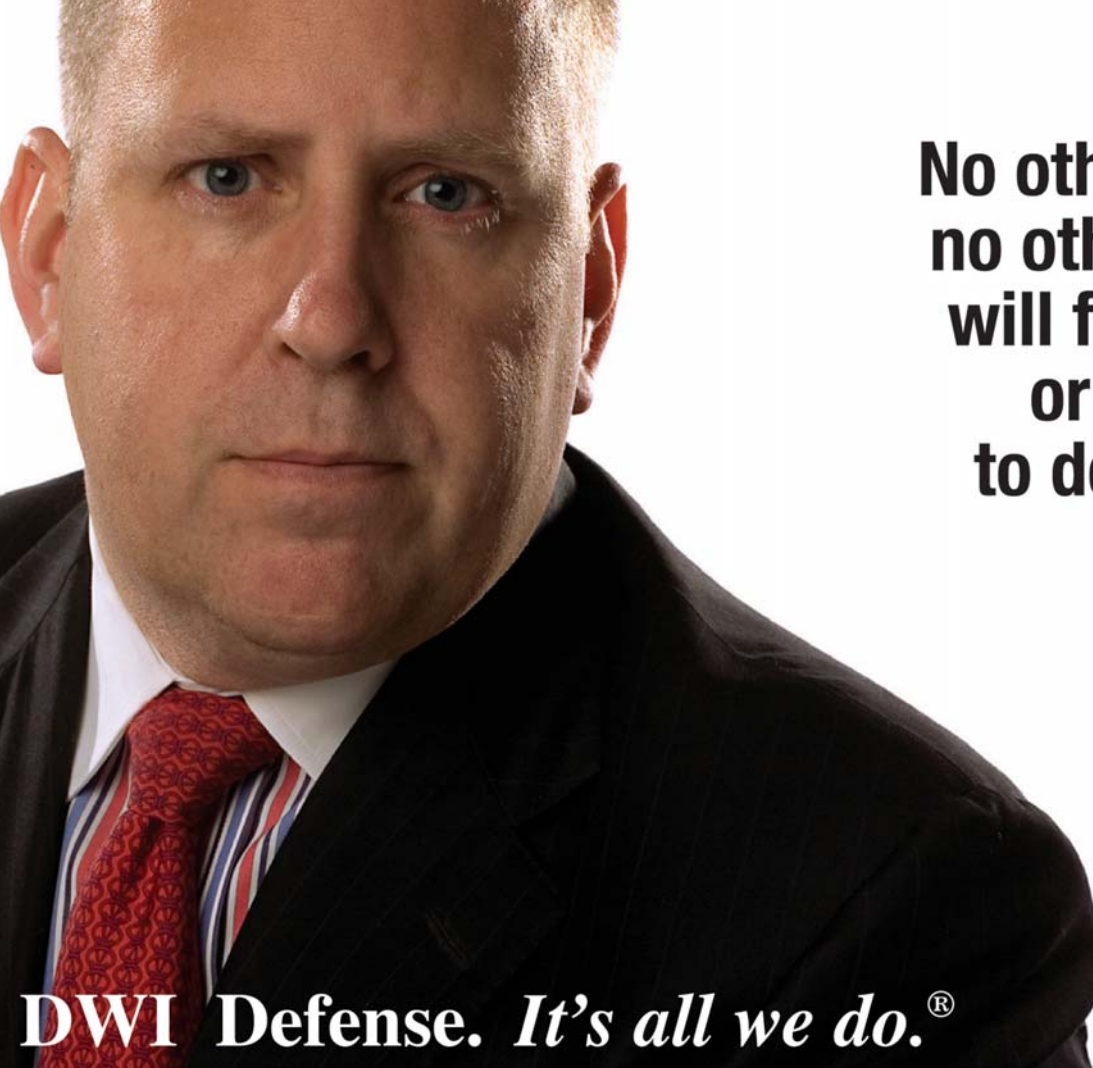
Ability to energize and inspire students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, trustees, and other external constituencies.

Willingness to learn to communicate with the deaf and hard-of-hearing.

Experience in and knowledge of national and global business, educational, and cultural matters, plus rapport with corporate, educational, and governmental leaders.

Proven success in fundraising; understanding of strategic issues and ability to execute large, ambitious plans.

A commitment to diversity shown by individual action and institutional leadership to advance diversity; the ability to work with different people of all backgrounds.



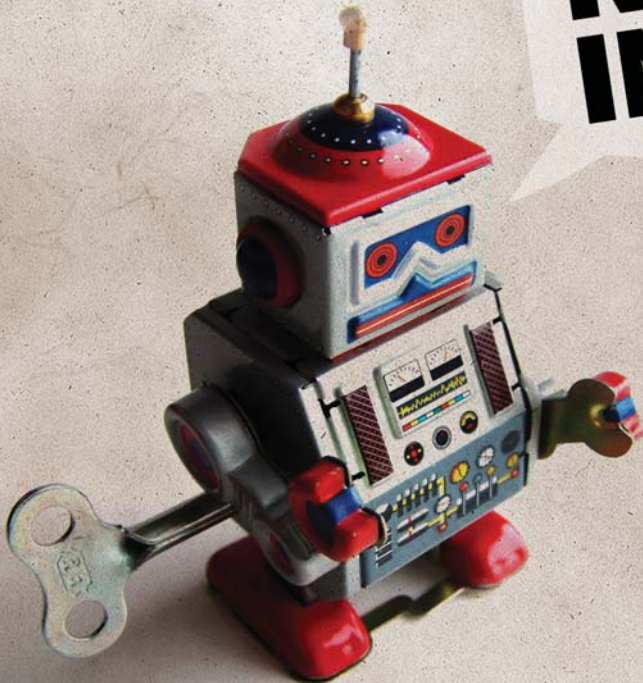
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2/17	Mercyhurst	Home	7 pm
2/23	Bentley	Away	7 pm
2/24	Bentley	Away	7 pm

RIT FORECAST

compiled by Govind Ramabadrán

Saturday
17
FEB

Digital Arts Competition & Exhibition

GCCIS, 70-3690. 12 p.m.–2 p.m. Third day of competition of digital works of art from high school and college students. Cost: Free.

Seventh Annual RIT Dodgeball Derby

SLC Courts 2-4. 12 p.m.–5 p.m. Sponsored by Phi Kappa Psi and Alpha Sigma Alpha. Teams of 10 play to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Cost: \$5.

NTID Performance: "Laughing Stock"

Panara Theatre. 7:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m. Third performance about a summer stock theatre company that can't get anything right. Performed in ASL and spoken English. Cost: \$5 students, \$5 faculty/staff, \$7 public.

Premedical Students Association Date Auction

SAU Cafeteria. 8 p.m.–11 p.m. Approximately 15-20 people auctioned off in hopes that money will be raised. Sponsored by the Premedical Students Association. Cost: \$2 students, faculty, and staff, \$3 public.

Vagina Monologues

Ingle Auditorium. 8 p.m.–11 p.m. Performed in ASL and spoken English as part of a fundraiser to help anti-violence groups. Cost: \$5 students, \$8 faculty/staff, \$10 public.

Sunday
18
FEB

NTID Performance: "Laughing Stock"

Panara Theatre. 2 p.m.–4 p.m. See Saturday, February 17.

Monday
19
FEB

Chinese New Year Celebration

SAU Lobby. 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m. Line dancers and martial arts performers bring in the Year of the Boar. Cost: Free.

Tuesday
20
FEB

Today is International Pancake Day. Enjoy it with a trip to IHOP down on Jefferson Road.

Wednesday
21
FEB

Today is International Mother Language Day.

Thursday
22
FEB

Today is National Chili Day, and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day.

Friday
23
FEB

RIT Applied Music Students' Recital

SAU Music Room. 1 p.m.–2 p.m. Performances from players in the Applied Music: Voice, Piano, Woodwind, and String classes. Cost: Free.

Friday Night in the Ritz Presents...Karaoke Night

Ritz Sports Zone. 10 p.m.–1 a.m. People attempt to sing various songs for a chance to win prizes. Free food for the first 50 people to show up. Sponsored by the College Activities Board. Cost: \$1.

SG SENATE WEEKLY UPDATE

by Sarai Oveido and Govind Ramabadrán

President's Report

SG President Lizzie Sorkin wants to continue the "Identify" campaign, thanking everyone who has played a role in this effort. According to Sorkin, our campus had no sign of students wearing RIT clothing as recently as five years ago, yet now there's a huge display of school spirit.

Registration

Various groups on campus are asking for a change to SIS, and a representative of the Registrar's Office asked VP Blonski to find out exactly what the complaints about SIS are. Blonski and SG Senators will take a five-question survey to the student body.

Textbooks Are Their Own Genre

Margaret Barlett responded to SG about textbooks being stored in the Library. According to the Library, there is storage space available to keep all the required textbooks. The main concern, however, is the cost. According to a report done a few years back, buying all the required textbooks for classes each quarter would total nearly \$62,000. Per academic year, that's \$185,000.

Though individual Colleges and departments are making the effort to have the textbooks available, the end goal is to have the cost split between the student body and RIT. This split cost would mean the students would suffer only a \$2.50 increase in tuition to fund the project.

New Goals

Among SG's goals for the future, depending on what they and the students deem important: Longer hours at the SLC, a large-scale community service event, beautifying RIT with more logos, and the possibility of holding a Brick Olympics.

Miscellaneous

New developments on the "Keeping food places open past midnight" goal: Food Service will survey employees to see if they can work later shifts at Sol's and the Corner Store.

Interesting people nominated for next year's Horton Speaker are Bill Gates, Howard Stern, and Dr. William Nye "Bill Nye the Science Guy."



ON CHILLING AND KILLING:

Psychologist Lectures On Why People Murder

by Joe McLaughlin

photography by Matt Bagwell

Murder. Death. Graphic violence. And while we're at it, sex. Not the "Aww, they love each other and are going to live happily ever after" kind, but the kind involving love triangles, infidelity, and jealousy. If it's sensational, University of Texas professor Dr. David M. Buss studies it.

Dr. Buss gave a lecture on his new book, *The Murderer Next Door: Why the Mind is Designed to Kill* at RIT on February 7. The book promotes a controversial theory Buss holds, summarized in his lecture as such: "Humans have developed specialized adaptations designed to murder other human beings."

In the book, he writes, "Nearly all the many kinds of murder...can be explained by the twists and turns of a harsh evolutionary logic. Killing is surely ruthless, but it is also most often not the result of psychosis or cultural conditioning. Murder is a product of the evolutionary pressures our species confronted and adapted to."

Buss is an evolutionary psychologist, which means he believes that the way the mind works has evolved to its present state over time. In an

interview after the lecture, he asserted that "evolution by selection is the only known cause or process capable of producing complex, organic mechanisms...there's no aspect of psychology that was unaffected by [evolution]."

Other scientists have alternate theories on why people kill; causes include poverty, mental illness, and access to violent media. Buss countered the last of these claims in his lecture. "It is true, we are exposed to thousands and thousands of killings in the media, so perhaps the media is to blame...[But] if you go to cultures that lack media violence entirely...and you look at their homicide rates, they are higher than homicide rates that occur in our culture, even in LA, or New York, or Rochester, or Detroit." Similarly, he said, "Most murderers, when they are diagnosed by forensic psychologists are found to be lacking [mental illness]."

Basic Instinct, Killer Instinct

Buss noted that many murders occur because of sexual rivalry, saying, "Most of these adaptive problems [that cause people to kill] are closely tied with mating motives." Most of his previous work was in human mating strategies, or why

people are attracted to the people they're attracted to. In the lecture, he said, "I thought maybe I'd get away from mating for awhile and study something totally different. Study why people kill. As I found out, I couldn't get away from mating."

There are two general strategies for attracting a mate. According to Buss, "The first is to acquire the reproductively relevant resources for yourself more effectively than your rivals do for themselves...or you can do things that decrease the success of your rivals relative to you."

Historically, reproductive resources sought by females include hunting skills to provide food for the family, and the ability of a mate to protect them and their children. In modern times, resources include displays of expensive watches, larger televisions, and good jobs. Therefore, Buss asserts, men try to improve their skill in these areas; however, he notes in his book, "A man is more likely to scoff at a rival's success, indicate that his rival lacks ambition and drive,...and denigrate the quality of a rival's house, car, stereo system, or TV size."



“Scientist Discovers That It’s Bad To Be Dead”

Part of Buss’s lecture was devoted to what he calls “anti-murder strategies,” or ways to prevent being killed. While some—himself included—may scoff at the obviousness of the statement that it’s “bad to be dead,” Buss made the statement nonetheless, and then went on to talk at length about why being dead is even worse than everyone thought.

The argument goes something like this: The murdered man “cannot provide for his existing children, cannot protect them from the hostile forces of nature, and cannot help them in their mating.” He can no longer prevent other men from having sex with his wife, and letting them sire children that otherwise would have been his. Also, Buss says that his children risk becoming stepchildren, which Buss says is “the single biggest risk factor for child abuse.” The murdered man’s children are less likely to reproduce, aiding the murderer’s children at their genetic expense.

The murderer also gains by killing. In the book, Buss claims that by killing, the man’s gains may include “prevent[ing] injury, rape, or death to one’s self, spouse, or kin, eliminating a crucial

antagonist, acquiring a rival’s resources or territory, securing sexual access to a competitor’s mate, preventing an interloper from appropriating one’s own mate, cultivating a fierce reputation to deter the encroachment of enemies, avoiding investment in...stepchildren, protecting resources needed for reproduction, and eliminating an entire lineage of reproductive competitors.”

Love Hurts

In his book, Dr. Buss cites one study that says that in 63% of all crimes in which men killed their wives, the primary motive was “female initiated separation.” He states that the biological reason many women have affairs is to get “superior genes that can be transmitted to her children.” Women who become more successful than their husbands are also more susceptible to cheating. Buss notes bluntly, “We may admire a woman who stands by her loser husband. But few of those who did are our ancestors.”

It seems counterintuitive to say that killing your spouse increases your odds of having children, even if they were cheating; both sexes generally find the living more attractive than the dead. How-

ever, Buss says that the resources spent providing for a rival’s children are wasted, in a biological sense. Plus, tolerating being cheated on hurts one’s pride and reputation. If one can “remove” their former partner, future partners are less likely to get hit on by others, and if they are, less likely to stray themselves. Finally, killing a former mate prevents the adversary from getting at them.

Buss has found that “outright estrangement, in which a woman leaves the relationship...and a woman’s infidelity are by far the two most powerful predictors of men’s recurrent, persistent thoughts about killing their romantic partners.”

Though entertaining, Buss’s lecture and book present a somber message to us all. Use those anti-homicide defenses you’ve evolved. Be careful in love. And, above all, don’t make excuses; as Buss wisely noted, “The mere existence of psychological adaptations that lead us to murder in certain circumstances does not mean that we are *inevitably* driven to kill.” •

01// Dr. David Buss shares his new theories with a large audience in Ingle auditorium on Wednesday, February 7.

02// Buss presents study results while explaining his radical theory on homicide.

03// Buss discusses his Homocidal Adaptation Theory.

Tandoor Tuesday

by Joseph A. Jacir | photography by Ashley Poole



RIT's best worst-kept secret sits tucked in the near corner of Jefferson plaza, oh-so-close to campus—but only on Tuesdays. No, it's not our dubious links to the CIA; it's the comfortable and handsome restaurant, Tandoor of India. Particularly of note to dorm dwellers, as the throngs of snarkily-sloganed t-shirts that bustle about inside should indicate, is the Tuesday dinner buffet, which costs six dollars with RIT ID (\$11 otherwise).

On the occasions I had dropped in for a lunch or dinner on other days, I had found it to be a rather quiet, dignified affair, and felt embarrassingly casual in my standard collegiate attire. However, during the dinner buffet, the same well-ornamented, intimately-lit environment is inundated by the ebb and flow of RIT students exercising all the restraint that they might in Gracie's.

Another indication of the establishment's more typical role is the extremely well-mannered waitstaff. Although they will do little more than refill your water on Tuesday, they will do so very upstandingly, despite the more boisterous environment. They seem to have come to terms with the student population, welcoming us and our way of life. How very classy on their part.

All this would amount to naught, though, were the food objectionable to the RIT student's discriminating palate. Fortunately, in this regard, Tandoor is no disappointment.

The buffet table holds an assortment of about seven or eight main dishes, along with various sauces (*tamarind chutney* being my favorite of these), a couple of salads, and a couple of desserts. The sauces, rather spartan salads



(lettuce/tomato and chick pea), and *basmati rice* are up towards the front of the line. A word to the wise: don't blow all your plate real estate up front. The variety of colors and textures further down the line will make one regret having filled up on so much white rice.

Further down, the meat and potatoes. It is worth mentioning that there is no shortage of vegetarian-friendly options, and that even avid carnivores like myself can be enticed to make room for some of them. For most, though, the stars of the show are dishes like the *chicken masala*—sweetly spiced, tender chunks of chicken in a creamy sauce. Towards the end is a large pan full of *tandoori chicken*. This is actually quite tender, crispy, and not too loudly spiced, despite the *en masse* style of preparation. The pan is re-

freshed often by the kitchen staff. The squeamish may be put off by the green, sludgy appearance of *matar paneer* but I found it among the most rewarding tastes on offer. It is made of a kind of purée of peas and seasonings along with an unfermented cheese (paneer), with a subtle buttery flavor.

There are a few elements that don't stand up to the rest—the *seafood xacutti* looks like a promising stew of assorted seafood and legumes, but it has a kind of pervading general fishiness that may be symptomatic of sitting in a buffet table until the late hour, 9 p.m. or so, when I sampled it. Not awful, but I didn't finish it. There are spinach and potato side dishes that suffered from a lack of crispness and a general blandness, probably due to the same reason. These, luckily, are the exceptions.

None of the dishes are too spicy, but after sampling a few of them, one does get a mild sense of heat from the overall assortment. Much of the spicing is smooth and delicate, with a preference for sweeter accents in many of the dishes. Especially expertly spiced was the *chai*, a highlight for me. The sugary, spiced milk tea is, at the dire risk of sounding sentimental, reminiscent of kissing an old girlfriend.

You could hardly ask for a better deal or a more welcoming environment. Though the waitstaff deserves to be tipped well (they were courteous enough to ask whether they might close the buffet despite my party's lingering past closing), you will still feel like a bandit for making off with a stomach full of such quantities of good food for the minimal price. •

Left// *Tandoori Chicken*
Right// *Mattar Paneer*

Music Review

Loney, Dear – Loney, Noir

by Evan McNamara

Mix one cup of sincerity with two tablespoons of introversion. Fold in half a cup of melody, and sprinkle with equal parts indie pop and folk. Bake at 350 degrees for half a lifetime, and out comes *Loney, Noir*, the latest album from Loney, Dear.

Loney, Dear is the solo work of Emil Svanängen, who writes and records most of the music captured on disc himself. (When performing live, he is sometimes aided by up to eight musicians). Acoustic guitar and introspective vocals take center stage on this album, which may be best described as indie pop with deep roots in acoustic folk. The songs are at the same time uplifting and full of melancholy. Right off the bat, Loney, Dear calls early Death Cab for Cutie to mind; at times, the vocal work of Svanängen sounds



strikingly similar to Death Cab's own Ben Gibbard. However, Svanängen often extends into an upper-range style which owes much to the Bee Gees. The overall folky feel of the album draws some parallels to singer/songwriters such as John Denver, but with a modern flair.

The high point of the album is the use of orchestral arrangements, which include everything from flute to clarinet to string bass to harp. This creates a wonderful backdrop for Svanängen's smooth voice to paint a wonderful emotional picture. Another surprise on this record is the somewhat abrupt introduction of electronics in "I Won't Cause Anything At All," which lies at the end of the album. Svanängen seems to channel Ben Gibbard once again, but this time his work in The Postal Service is paid homage.

This record sounds as if Svanängen toiled for years over it, meticulously choosing lyrics, and fitting each puzzle piece perfectly into the musical jigsaw that he has created. The end result is a catchy, emotionally-driven album, accented by tasteful use of less-than-usual instruments.

Product Review

A Mindstorm of Frustration LEGO Mindstorm NXT

by Alexandra Howland, Elliot Jenner, and Chester Kwan

Everybody loves a robot, especially here at RIT. Tales of flying machines, automated cars, and robots that retrieve drinks from vending machines circulate through this campus in exactly the same way that books don't. One conspiracy theory even proposes that the Sentinel itself is a robot, ready to defend the campus against invaders at a moment's notice. While this may seem a bit far-fetched, we can still dream. And, what better way is there to start building that dream than with a big pile of LEGO bricks?

The LEGO Mindstorm NXT is a robot kit. It comes loaded with a central programming block, LEGO bricks for body construction, sensors, and software to make it go. Simple-to-follow instructions are included to build several example designs including vehicles, animals, and a primitive biped; although printed building instructions are only given for the vehicle robot (the others can be found online).

Unfortunately, there is a serious problem with this kit. It is powered by a dumbed-down LEGO-themed version of LabVIEW, the notoriously difficult-to-use GUI-based programming language that even experienced coders will have some difficulty with. The simplest algorithms easily become over-complicated and hard to follow, mostly due to the strange system of control flow.

Making the robot behave according to our wishes was a lot like teaching a two-year-old table manners. All we wanted was for our little Praying Mantis Bot to roll forwards until it hit something then move backwards, but this took us over an hour and a half to implement and debug. When the program finally decided to cooperate, we were excited, but too frustrated and exhausted by our efforts to attempt anything more advanced. Praying Mantis Bot went back into his box, and we went home feeling less than satisfied.

Overall, we were disappointed by the Mindstorm NXT. It's just too complicated for its own good. Despite the LEGO name, this is clearly not for children; in fact, it's so frustrating that it's not worth the \$200 price tag for *any* robotic enthusiast. The slow learning curve makes this kit hard to recommend—robot enthusiasts are probably better off dreaming about the Sentinel.



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

STREAM OF FACTS

FEBRUARY 16

February 16, 1568 –The entire population of the Netherlands is sentenced to death by the Roman Catholic Church for heresy. This took place in the initial stages of the **Eighty Years' War**.

In phenomena that follow the Pareto principle, **eighty** percent of outputs stem from twenty percent of inputs. Applications are far-reaching and versatile: 20% of the population holds 80% of wealth in the United States and 20% of people who **marry** (thanks to constant remarriages) account for 80% of divorces.

In the social sciences, hypergyny is term for when women "**marry up**" to men of slightly **higher** social status.

At 29,028 feet in height, Mount Everest is 777 feet **higher** than the next tallest mountain in the world: K2, in the Karakoram segment of the Himalayan mountain **range**.

Falsetto can extend the vocal **range** of a male singer up to an octave above; flaggello can extend vocal range of a female singer to nearly an octave **down**.

Last year, the CDC estimated the rate of **Down** syndrome in the US as 1 per 733 **live** births, or about 5429 new cases per year.

One month ago, it was announced that **Live with Regis and Kelly** has been renewed through the 2010-2011 season, which will be the show's 27th year on the **air**.

In Tibet, many corpses are left in the open **air** for birds to eat. They're not doing it to be morbid; it's a matter of practicality in a land where the earth is too hard for an easy **burial** in the ground.

February 16, 1923 –The **burial** chamber of Pharaoh Tutankhamun is unsealed.

QUOTE

I don't believe in mathematics.

Albert Einstein

HAIKU

by **Brian Garrison**

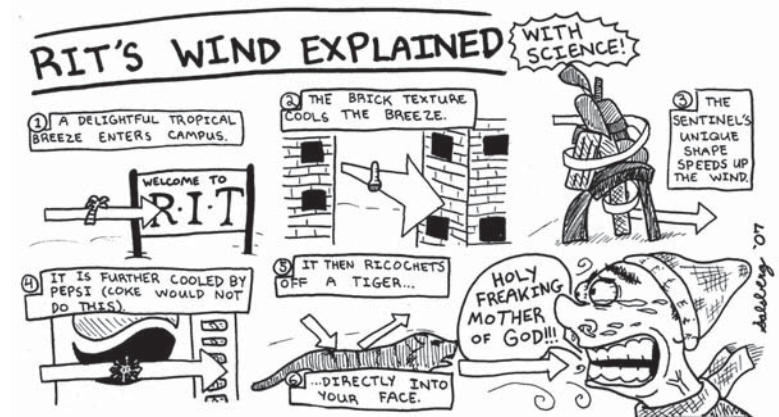
A deer and a car
Dance on the side of the road
In motionless twist

REPORTER

RECOMMENDS

Singing in the shower. In the small area of the shower, you're bound to sound better than usual, even if you're the only one who hears it. Your ears receive reflected sound waves a short time after you produce them, which prolongs the sound and makes it sound richer and fuller. Plus, studies have linked singing with a lower heart rate, decreased blood pressure, and reduced stress—and who couldn't use a little help with stress management at the end of the quarter?

CARTOON | by Alex Salsberg



SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

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

Assassinated People

eonl tsktyor
hbmaara cnillon
hec rgaavue
lmlawii imkclnye
awanr dsata
mtarni htltreu kgni rj
retrob enydekn
glrneiilpo srois
ohjn eonnln
haosadnm dagnhi
olrd ridfcerek vnsidheac
rchkuaed rafnz addinrfen
luiusj aeracs
ahimecl nlisoci

Ferdinand, Julius Caesar, Michael Collins
Gandhi, Lord Frederick Cavendish, Archduke Franz
Kennedy, Pelagino Rossi, John Lennon, Mohandas
McKinley, Anwar Sadat, Martin Luther King Jr, Robert
Leon Trotsky, Abraham Lincoln, Che Guevara, William

What you

Politics. Religion. The next American Idol. Abortion. Healthcare. Affirmative Action. Gay Marriage. Wars—Terror, Iraq, Drugs, Gender, Poverty, AIDS, Christmas, Ratings. Desperate Housewives. Beliefs. Ideologies. Creeds. Convictions. Opinions. Feelings—gut and otherwise.

BY ADAM BOTZENHART | ILLUSTRATION BY ERIN WENGROVIUS | PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATT BAGWELL

We are generation Y, or the Boomerang generation, or the MTV generation—no one is really certain. We live in the era of the Culture War—this is according to Wikipedia, our generation's go-to for general knowledge and popular misconception. The last era was the 'Consciousness Revolution' that most of our parents grew up in, characterized by the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the rise of counterculture. It died when we were born.

"The culture war (or culture wars) in American usage is a political conflict based on different idealized cultural values." That was as of Friday, February 9, 2007. Back on September 27: "The term "culture war" (sometimes pluralized as "the culture wars") has been used to describe ideologically-driven and often strident confrontations typical of American public culture and politics since the 1960s, but especially beginning in the 1980s." Or on April 20, 2003: "Culture Wars is the term used by William Strauss and Neil Howe in their 1996 book *Fourth Turning* to describe the historical period from 1984 to approximately 2005." The idea is that there is a fundamental disagreement in our culture, our generation, in what it is we believe today. So who are we? What do we believe? What is it, if anything, that we value and hold to be true?

PART ONE:

BOB CARROLL is a fourth year Software Engineer. His Facebook interests include cosmology, climbing, numismatics, and friends. Numismatics, of course, is the study and/or collecting of coins. Bob believes he works too much and his favorite ice cream is chocolate. Also, Bob thinks Cindy Sheehan is an idiot.

Bob was raised in a conservative household and was taught the merits of personal responsibility at a young age. He believes his parents are the best people he's ever met and that they were a major influence on

his political and philosophical outlook on life. Bob's grandmother is very religious, and growing up he attended a Catholic school. It was after his grandfather died that he first started to question religion. Today, Bob is an atheist.

Bob believes the government should serve one purpose and one purpose alone: war. Most everything else the private sector can do better. Very often, the way to achieve peace is through war, and he doesn't think enough people understand that. America is the land of the free and he doesn't need the government telling him anything. He thinks our government has become too large and we blame too much on our leaders. In reality, he believes President Bush has remarkably little power to do anything.

In Bob's eyes, we're a society that's far too worried about being politically correct—too focused on words and not nearly enough on action. Bob doesn't put his faith in anything. He believes in the power of reason and in rational inquiry. He believes in a woman's right to choose but he also believes in a child's right to live. Marijuana should never have been made illegal. He hasn't yet heard a good argument against same sex marriage however, technically speaking, he believes homosexuality is a genetic defect. If there were fewer restrictions on gun ownership, the crime rate would fall and there's not nearly enough evidence to believe that global warming is currently a problem. A lot in life is just luck of the draw and racial discrimination is only a problem because we continue to acknowledge race.

Bob's *for* liberty, *for* a flat tax, and *against* national healthcare, but if you ever break your leg and have no means of fixing it, he'll be the first to help.

believe...



NAQI HAIDER is a third year Biotechnology student. He plans to attend medical school. He has no listed Facebook interests but his favorite movie is *Malcolm X*, the 1992 Spike Lee film. Naqi doesn't like to label himself as liberal or conservative, as he finds labels intrinsically limiting. He thinks people wrongfully categorize each other and doesn't think it's correct to portray Chomsky as extremely left of center. He's frustrated by the two-party system, believes the U.S. occupation of Iraq is absurd, and thinks healthcare is a major problem in the United States.

Naqi's belief system has emerged organically through a sort of thesis/antithesis/synthesis over time. His parents were a major influence, and he doesn't think most people realize how hard parents work and how hard they try to do what's best for their kids. Naqi's other influences include Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Nietzsche, Noam Chomsky, and the *Nahjul Balagha*. Naqi often finds contradictions among the beliefs of people he admires, and it is among these contradictions that his own beliefs emerge.

Naqi believes the mass media and special interest groups skew reality. Americans watch too much TV. He doesn't understand why people watch reality shows 24/7 and are no longer living their own lives. He's encouraged because America has achieved a high literacy rate but is disillusioned by the number of Americans who read little more than gossip magazines.

Naqi doesn't understand how we can spend billions on a war but can't help out a guy down the street that needs surgery. Too many Americans are uninsured and the government doesn't do enough to take care of the problem. More Americans need to be aware of the civilian casualties in Iraq—when an innocent Iraqi is killed they feel the same feelings we feel when an innocent American is killed. He believes that, often, people serving in the military are those from low-income situations who could not otherwise afford college, and that this is a big problem. He fears that our government may no longer be for the people but instead only for itself. He believes America is a beacon to the world, but it hasn't been living up to that calling.

Naqi's *for* abortion rights, *for* a progressive tax, *against* the legalization of marijuana, and strongly believes the death penalty should be abolished.



NAQI HAIDER • BOB CARROLL • AMY JERRET

AMY JERRET is a third year Multidisciplinary Studies major. She's focusing on political science and international relations. Miles Davis is her favorite musician and she has a strong penchant for jazz and a large array of indie rock. She likes vegan sushi a lot and has been playing the saxophone for 12 years. She thinks one of the major problems with our society is we're too closed-minded. Women have lost their identity because they are materialized and sexualized. The war terrifies her and she'd like to think all humans are naturally good.

Amy places her faith in change—the only thing we can rely on is that things will consistently change. She grew up on a farm, then moved into the city, then moved into the suburbs. These drastic changes allowed her to learn how to adapt and converse with people from all walks of life which, she believes, much of her belief system and moral standards have stemmed from. The fundamental beliefs she entered college with hindered her intellectual development. With time, she was able to move past some of these beliefs while keeping her moral standards in place. Her influences include Alexis de Tocqueville, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Plato.

Amy believes we've lost our sense of individualism and, as the Frenchman de Tocqueville warned in his 1835 book *Democracy in America*, we're

slowly slipping into a nanny-state where we're becoming completely reliant on the government for everything. Amy believes the government is no longer representing the people because the people no longer have purpose or identity. She's concerned that our parents' generation works all day, comes home exhausted, sits in front of the TV for hours and hours to recharge, goes to sleep, and then wakes up and does it all over again. People are lost and media and marketing, to some extent, are to blame.

The gay marriage debate concerns her because it shows the closed-minded mentality of our generation. We've become the world's police and we're imposing our government wrongfully on others. The current division between race, class, and sex in America is crippling. We shouldn't have national healthcare. She's a feminist and believes there is currently a strong social, political, and economic divide between males and females. She doesn't think the federal government should raise taxes and colleges shouldn't ban extreme speakers.

Amy's *hesitant* to say the government should do more to control pollution, *for* the death penalty, and believes affirmative action should be abolished, but not necessarily the concept of promoting diversity in educational environments.

PART TWO:

They are three. At RIT, there are about 15,000. Across the nation, over 200 million above the age of 20—maybe 50% who turn out to vote for presidential elections. Each of us hold a wide variety of beliefs, oftentimes conflicting; some deeply personal while others we choose to make public. And while few of us ever have beliefs that perfectly line up (the three students above are an example), it is somehow through the democratic process that we can reach agreement—that despite our opposing philosophies or values, a course of action ultimately can be agreed upon.

Every year for the past 41 years, the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) has conducted a survey of entering college freshmen in an attempt to capture their characteristics. In 2006, they surveyed 271,441 first-time, full-time students at 393 U.S. baccalaureate colleges and universities. Later this year, as part of their 40th anniversary, the CIRP will release a longitudinal study regarding how the beliefs, conditions, and priorities of entering freshmen have changed since the study began.

THE AMERICAN FRESHMAN: NATIONAL NORM FOR FALL 2006

Discussing politics is more prevalent today than at any point in the past 41 years for entering freshmen—33.8% responding say they discussed politics frequently as seniors in high school. Of the entering freshmen, a plurality identify themselves as “middle-of-the-road” (43%), followed by “liberal” (28.4%), and finally “conservative” (23.9%). But conservatives shouldn’t dismay; the percentage of students identifying themselves as conservative is at its highest level since the Freshman Survey began. Likewise, the percentage identifying themselves as liberal is at its highest level since 1975. Clearly then, there is at least something behind those who believe we are becoming increasingly polarized.

CHANGING CONCERN FOR: GUN CONTROL AND GAY RIGHTS

The single issue that saw the greatest decrease in support from 2005 to 2006 was “the government should do more to control the sale of handguns,” moving from 78.7% to 73.6%. The study also reveals that “greater

support for gay rights is also evident among this year’s entering freshmen.” 61.2% of students agree that “same sex couples should have the right to legal marital status,” up from 57.9% in 2005.

Not surprisingly, gay rights is one of the issues that divides liberals and conservatives the most. Four out of five (83.7%) of liberals agree that same-sex couples should have the right to marry, compared to only 30.4% of conservatives. The same can be seen with respect to abortion—78.4% of liberals agree it should be legal while only 31.8% of conservatives concur.

In only two of the twenty-one issues surveyed did liberals and conservatives seem to have very little difference—both agree in similar proportions that “dissent is a critical component of the political process” and “realistically, an individual can do little to bring about major change in our society.” The full survey report can be downloaded at: <http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/cirp.html>

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO AGREE “STRONGLY” OR “SOMEWHAT” BY POLITICAL ORIENTATION

Middle
of the
Liberal Road Conservative

	Liberal	Middle of the Road	Conservative
The federal government is not doing enough to control environmental pollution	88.5%	79.3%	62.5%
A national health care plan is needed to cover everybody’s medical costs	83.9%	74.2%	57.0%
Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status	83.6%	63.0%	30.4%
The federal government should do more to control the sale of handguns	81.8%	74.8%	62.1%
Abortion should be legal	78.3%	56.3%	31.8%
Only volunteers should serve in the armed forces	73.0%	62.1%	53.6%
Wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now	71.6%	57.8%	42.2%
Through hard work, everybody can succeed in American society	68.3%	79.9%	85.4%
Dissent is a critical component of the political process	66.1%	59.5%	63.2%
The chief benefit of a college education is that it increases one’s earning power	59.6%	68.8%	70.8%
Marijuana should be legalized	51.5%	34.7%	23.5%
The death penalty should be abolished	48.0%	31.7%	22.5%
Affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished	44.6%	46.2%	52.7%
There is too much concern in the courts for the rights of criminals	43.2%	58.3%	67.6%
Undocumented immigrants should be denied access to public education	34.0%	47.5%	61.4%
The federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit	33.4%	24.2%	23.3%
Colleges have the right to ban extreme speakers from campus	28.5%	40.6%	55.1%
Realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society	25.3%	28.2%	26.4%
Federal military spending should be increased	18.4%	31.7%	50.4%
Racial discrimination is no longer a major problem in America	12.6%	18.7%	27.8%
It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships	11.0%	22.8%	48.5%

As the table, numbers, and above profiles of Bob, Naqi, and Amy suggest, there is perhaps little our generation—or our nation—completely agrees upon, and yet there are at the same time numerous things that we hold to be true. We are all American. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights...We, for the most part, believe that slavery is wrong, that all have the right to have their voice heard, and Prince’s half-time show during the Superbowl was little more than lackluster.

What do we believe? Specifically, it’s hard to say, but somehow from the milieu of American culture and discourse, beliefs emerge, and a general American conviction makes itself apparent. What do we believe? All of the above. •

When asking why, prepare to stay awhile

If you gave blood last Friday you greatly assisted the American Red Cross. You may, however, have also helped save the life of a murderer, a pedophile, or a home-grown terrorist.

BY ANTONIO CASTILLO | ILLUSTRATION BY CAITLIN YARSKY

Blood donations go to the people that need them, including those who would negatively impact society. For the 61 volunteers who gave blood at Phi Sigma Pi's Blood Drive, they may not have even fathomed that their donation may possibly benefit a criminal. For the blood donors, one decision was made: save a life—no qualifications for the *kind* of life that it might be.

Our belief system subconsciously directs our actions; when we perceive an action to be 'good,' rarely do we consider the possible negative impacts of our good intentions. Society does not embrace that mindset. Dr. Jameson Hirsch, Assistant Professor of Psychology at RIT, explains that *schema* is the framework for how we see the world. We develop different schema for different scenarios. Our schema helps us answer one of life's most nebulous questions: *Why?*

WHY DO WE BELIEVE IN GOD?

A person's religious identity is often inherited. It is something most people acquire from their parents. "It's really imposed upon us," says Dr. Brian Barry, Professor of Sociology. "We're taken to a synagogue or a church and told this is who we are. It is also implicit if you're going to be a part of this family, this is who you are as well."

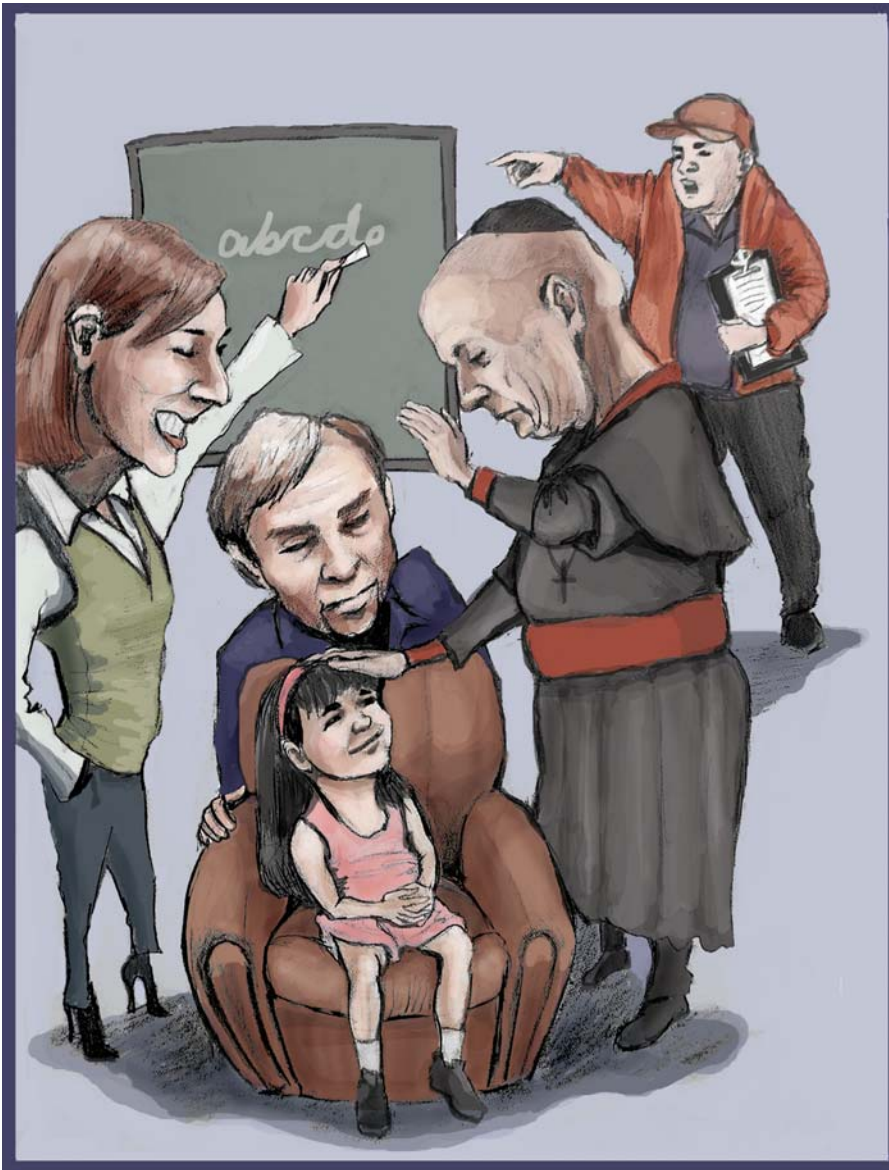
Barry's example is just one way religion can be incorporated into a person's life. Individuals are pulled toward religion for many different reasons, as student Jacki Valli explains. When her father figure, a former minister, died, everything was shaken to its core. From 1997 to August 2006 she considered herself agnostic, but in September 2006 she was compelled to explore Christianity.

According to Barry, a person's beliefs are supported by plausibility structures. This means if all the people around you believe in a certain thing, the chances are high that you're going to believe it. "There are some experiences that people have in life that convinces them there must be a God, and there are experiences that convince them otherwise. Such as, 'no loving God would allow such things to happen.'"

"I couldn't understand why God would choose to let him die," Valli said. "I realized that my faith was based on things that people told me to believe; there was nothing that I actually believed for myself." Valli's faith-based reassessment began at the InterVarsity's Expedition retreat. There she reflected on her life, especially the horrible things that occurred during the previous school year. The support network at the retreat won Valli over and she wholly adopted the lifestyle.

Hirsch's research in cognitive psychology expounds on what happens during times of crises. "There's only a few things that people turn to in life when the going gets rough: family and friends, liquor and drugs, or the Lord. You don't hear people say, 'I was having a real hard time, so I went to McDonalds.'"

In times of stress, all people—including students—want a place where there's support. Difficult times might evolve during changes of majors and degree programs. Talk about stress—how would you explain to your parents that the last three years were just for fun?



Valli's reason is a mixture of love for the community overshadowed by a disdain for the programs she enrolled in. She began as Graphic Media, applied for the Interpreting Program, and eventually realized neither suited her interests. "Mostly, I thought about not leaving because of all the people I wouldn't get to see anymore," Valli said. Eventually, her dissatisfaction outweighed the social perks.

A freshman or any other first-time college student may *think* they know what they want to do, but then realize their dream career takes a lot of work—maybe more than they can handle. "They jump in at once to those areas that they may or may not want to continue. They have a preconception as to how valuable and lucrative these positions are. When they come in and actually take those courses, they find it isn't really what they want to do," Dr. Kathleen Chen, Chair of RIT's Psychology Department, explained.

The tone with which Valli discusses her decision to leave college is noticeably less somber than the one used to describe her religious epiphany. Leaving RIT was a natural progression; she was not happy in her program and resigned as an active student. Becoming a Christian took a support network, which she says was imperative to her success.

"Career decision is what you want to do with your life. Religious thinking is more related to the values that you've acquired from childhood," Dr. Chen said. "[With religion] one cannot say, 'I'm going to do some critical thinking and make a change.' Religious values are not easily changed."

The actions we take or decisions we make are constant reflections of our internal beliefs. Every interview with a student who donated blood last Friday indicated that they would still give blood—even if it went to a child molester. Both religious and non-religious students agreed that judgment would come for the criminal, but it was not theirs to deliver.

Reasons for donating blood stemmed from 'a tribute to family members that have been helped by blood transfusions' to 'just serving the community.' The brief survey clearly illustrated that the answer to "why" greatly depends on who is doing what. 'Belief' turns out to be an incredibly subjective term. •

WHY DO WE CHANGE OUR MAJORS?

It may be difficult for a student to reconcile a deep desire to choose a new career path with the possibility of starting college over from scratch. Stress factors surround a decision of this magnitude, which some may consider as having a negative affect on their life.

Hirsch explains that there are three questions for a person who encounters a negative event:

1. DO YOU BLAME YOURSELF INTERNALLY, OR DO YOU BLAME THE OUTSIDE WORLD EXTERNALLY?

2. DO YOU THINK THIS IS AN ISOLATED INCIDENT, OR DO YOU THINK THIS IS GOING TO BE A GLOBAL FAILURE ON YOUR PART?

3. DO YOU THINK THIS IS JUST ONE BAD INCIDENT, OR DO YOU THINK THIS IS GOING TO LAST YOUR WHOLE LIFE?

Valli, fed up with her major, decided to leave school entirely. "You're often away from family, you have no social support, or face financial pressures as a starving college student," Hirsch said. "A lot of things come into play that really set college students up for failure."

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1. How do you think SG is doing?
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 - b.) Awful
 - c.) Room for improvement!

2. Could you do better?
 - a.) Yes
 - b.) No

3. Prove it!!

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WORD ON THE STREET

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY BELVEDUDE

Q: What is the most important political issue to you?



"Daylight savings time."

Rob Drury

Fourth year Film and Animation



"Foreign policy."

Anthony Ethangatta

Third year Management
Information Systems



"Immigration laws."

Mahfuza Ahmedin

First year Packaging Sciences



"Same sex marriage."

Andrew Harris

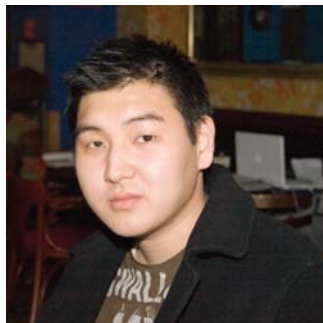
First year Interpreting



"Funding for special needs
versus funding for gifted children
programs."

Tom Smith

First year Computer Engineering
Technology



"Foreign affairs. We disregard the
stances other countries take on
issues too easily."

David Hur

Fourth year Marketing



"Get Bush out of office. He is a
[fornicating] asshole."

Teresa Castillo

Fourth year Graphic Media
Marketing



"Immigration laws and the
inconsistency of regulation."

Catalina Bery

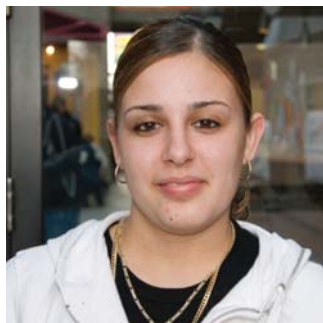
Fourth year Spanish



"The mentality of us as Americans!"

Mona Ahmed

Fourth year International Business



"Bilingual education."

Mayra Rodriguez

First year Physician's Assistant



"Prevention of closing down the
program for closed captioning in
TV shows by the FCC."

Deven Lee

Third year Business Finance



"The U.S.A.'s position on stem cell
research."

James Curley

Second year Biology



SPORTS

DESK





RIT SWIMMING: 02.05.07

Photography by Katharine Sidelnik

01// Adam Luptak competes in the Men's 200-yard butterfly.

02// RIT's Phil Baudoin in the Men's 1000-yard freestyle.

03// RIT swimmer Theresa Burr (second from left) prepares for the 100-yard backstroke. She went on to win second place.

04// Judges observe and score divers during the meet.

05// Kristen Curtze (right) hugs teammate Angie Palomaki after Palomaki breaks the RIT record for the Women's 1000-yard freestyle with a time of 11:29.48 beating the original record of 11:30.07.

06// RIT Swimmer Svilen Piralkov ices his shoulder after an injury that occurred at a meet previous to this event.



05



06

Mike Herb: Almost Locked in the Vault

by Chad Carbone photography by Dave Londres

With a vault of 4.67 meters or 15'3.75", Mike Herb qualified provisionally for the NCAA Division III Championships and broke the RIT school pole vault record for the fourth time in three years.

Herb's own words expressed the event well. "There were four vaulters that were attempting 4.67 meters, the national provisional height," stated Herb. "We had all just cleared 4.40 meters [about 14'5"] and had all agreed to pass on the next height 4.55 meters [14'11"], knowing that we all just really wanted to hit the national standard. The other three vaulters were all before me in the order, so they all took their first attempts at 4.67 and missed. Luckily, I was able to clear 4.67 meters on my first attempt and take all the pressure off of myself."

Standing alongside fellow Tiger pole vaulter Dave Falcinelli, who placed third with a vault of 4.40 meters, Mike took a different approach in his RIT Invitational jumps. He tried different starting heights and skipped heights during the competition to help establish himself in "an excellent physical and mental place when the higher

heights came up," said Head Track and Field Coach David Warth. Breaking his own record of 14'11" earned Herb the title of Empire 8 Men's Indoor Track and Field Athlete of the Week, ending February 4, 2007.

After clearing the provisional qualifying height in his first attempt and following with "two very near misses at 4.73 meters," as Coach Warth described it, Herb left the field on the top 20 list of Division III pole vaulters. If he can make the 4.73-meter height, he will be in good position to make the trip to the DIII Championships, which is something he and his coaches strive for. "Hopefully [he will be able to reach] another 10-15 centimeters," insisted Coach Warth, but Herb thinks bigger. "In order to get [to Nationals], I am going to have to jump at least 16." That would be about a nine-inch improvement over the course of the four remaining meets left on Mike Herb's schedule.

Despite his recent achievement, this pole vaulter had been in a bit of a funk prior to his February 2 vault, but still maintained his confidence "Even though I had not cleared anything over 15' this year in any practices or competitions, I was gaining my confidence back that I could [do it]." The

last time Herb cleared 15' was April 8, 2006. He set the RIT outdoor pole vault record at the University of Rochester with a jump of 15'3".

Nevertheless, in his seventh year vaulting, Herb has only been getting better. Coach David Warth explained, "Mike came in as a good vaulter, but with a lot of technical flaws." When Herb was a freshman, he was jumping at 13'9", a foot and a half difference from today. With the aid of his vaulting coach, Rich Suhr, and his own efforts to improve through means of study, "he has turned himself into an exceptional technical vaulter," said Warth.

Through his fruitful studentry on and off the field, he will now qualify for Academic All-American honors. Coach Warth appreciates this achievement because "it gives us a chance to recognize how special Mike is as a student-athlete." This is evident in his academic achievements. Herb graduated in spring '06 with a BS in Criminal Justice in only three years. In his last year of athletic eligibility, he is studying in the Science, Technology, and Public Policy Department in RIT's own graduate school.

"His excellence in the classroom and on the track is truly unique," concluded Warth. •

Mike Herb competes in the Gordon Field House on December 8, 2006.





by Matt Shand
photography by
Coco Walters

In 2010, representative lacrosse teams hailing from nations all across the globe will meet in Manchester, England to compete in the World Lacrosse Championship (WLC). The Italian Lacrosse Federation, one of the newest teams to enter the fray, will be hoping to stake their claim on the world circuit. The man at the helm? RIT's very own Men's Lacrosse Coach, Gene Peluso.

Peluso was called up for the 2006 WLC in Canada by Greg Zecca, friend and General Manager of Italian lacrosse. This was Team Italy's very first appearance on the international stage. They did not disappoint, winning four of their seven games. Peluso's time in Canada was served in a co-head coach role, where he assisted Zecca and saw Team Italy finish ninth out of 23. Peluso demonstrated a skill and enthusiasm that did not go unnoticed, and which ultimately led to his selection as head coach.

Peluso will also be leading Team Italy at the 2008 European Lacrosse Championship in Finland. The ELC will serve as a precursor to the WLC in 2010, and Peluso will use this as a benchmark for how far his team has progressed since 2006, as well as how much further they need to go by 2010.

“The ultimate goal
when I came aboard
was to coach and field
a national team.”

The World Lacrosse Championship is a three-tier system. At Tier 1, the top three contenders are USA, Canada, and Australia. Italy, in Tier 2, will be competing against Ireland, Scotland, Hong Kong, and Wales. Should Italy triumph, they will battle it out with the Tier 1 giants and have a shot at bringing home the glory. “The ultimate goal when I came aboard was to coach and field a national team,” Peluso says. “Half of my time is spent preparing to coach, and the other half is spent preparing resources to build the sport of lacrosse in Italy.”

Despite the demands of being an international head coach, Peluso has not neglected his duties here at home. RIT Men's Lacrosse saw its best season in history last spring, notching a record 15 wins, winning the Empire 8 Championship, and making it to the second round of the NCAA playoffs. RIT finished the season ranked fourth in the nation, with five All-American athletes, ten All-Conference players, and one player selected for the North-South Senior All-Star games.

Though the Tigers had a stellar 2006, Peluso has kept his goals reasonable for 2007. “First, we look to be the best in Rochester,” he said. “From there, we look to win the Empire 8, and progress in the NCAA. Ultimately, we look to get better every day. I know it sounds corny, but it's true.”

Leading RIT's offense at attack in 2007 will be Eric Pritchard and Scott Farress, who have played together since the fourth grade. Pritchard led the team in goals in 2006 with 55, while Farress scored 32. Andy Ruocco will be strong in the midfield, having finished 2006 with 33 goals and 32 assists. Jake Tuller will lead RIT's defense. As a preseason All-American, Peluso will look to match Tuller up with the opponent's best offensive threat.

If his success at RIT is any indication of his coaching aptitude, Peluso is sure to take Team Italy to new heights. •

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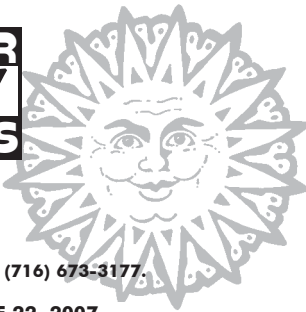
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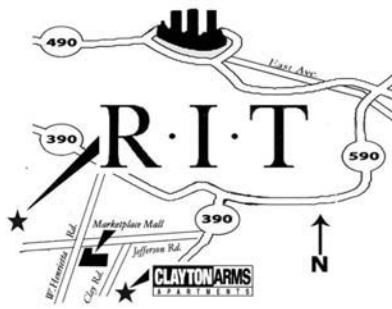
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RIT RINGS

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compiled by Ryan Metzler

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the right to publish all calls in any format.
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endorsed by Reporter.

Monday 12:24 p.m.

Sometimes Rings are funny, most of the time, they're NOT.

Monday 12:25 p.m.

This is to say that the parameters of a particular place or institution no longer matter.

Tuesday 10:28 p.m.

Hi RIT Rings, I am calling about the school breaks. Why last year they had a two-week break but then this year it's different. Since I am an international student, this doesn't work for me. And it's not just me, it's all those other international students, also. You cost me about 2,000 bucks to go back home and only for two weeks. That is not enough. Why don't we just have a whole month off? And then for Thanksgiving, have like a week off. I don't know. They used to have one week for that, but now we don't. They had three weeks for winter break. We should go back to that way. Thanks, bye.

Thursday 10:04 p.m.

You know, I've never called RIT Rings, yet I still have nothing interesting to say.

Friday 4:44 a.m.

I'm calling to say that most of the people at this school are so busy complaining about how much they hate RIT and how much it sucks, but they don't realize how good their lives really are. I mean, they don't really have to worry about anything. Some people have to worry about how much money they're going to make

and if they're going to be able to pay tuition, or if their parents' are going to be able to keep their house. All everyone else ever thinks about is whether they're going to get laid or wasted. This pisses me off.

Friday 9:07 a.m.

Hey RIT Rings, I'm at work right now and we were looking at the current RIT Rings and we notice that you put some weird stuff in the brackets in place of the profanity and someone actually highlighted it and realized that it makes an awesome little story. So, we came up with a great idea that you should do this throughout the whole magazine and you should make it a weekly little contest. Like, the first person to figure it out every week gets some sort of little prize like an ice cream at Ben & Jerry's. It would be cheap and would definitely increase the desire for people to read your magazine. That's my two cents.

Friday 1:50 p.m.

Hey Reporter, I just called the Rochester Regional Cryobank and they are not accepting donations anymore. So, your get \$500 in five days is incorrect because that was the only one I figured potentially viable. You know what? Find me another place to dump some sperm. Love you, Reporter. Bye.

Friday 5:58 p.m.

Hello RIT Rings, I'm at work right now and I'm so hammered. I hope you have a good time and don't forget the corn dogs.

Friday 11:03 p.m.

Hey, RIT Rings, I'm looking through the Reporter and found that my name was spelled wrong on the Word on the Street. I know where you live and sleep. You know me. You told me you knew how to spell my last name. It's all right, we can still hang out. There's ice everywhere. Oh no.

Saturday 12:20 a.m.

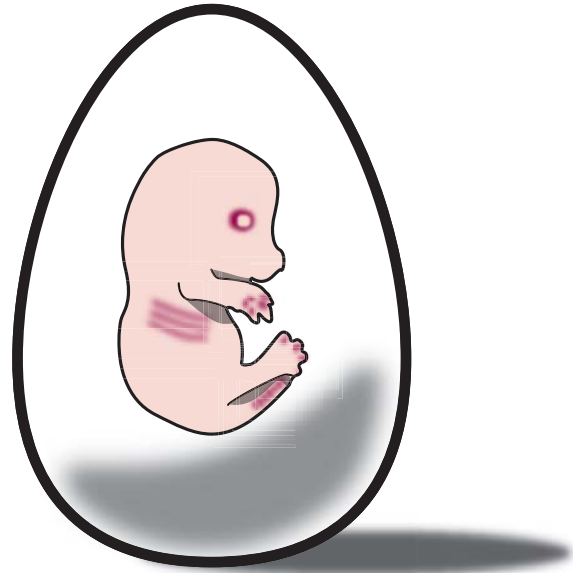
Man, why is everybody in bed at 12:30 on a Saturday night, and no one will go to the strip club with me? What the hell's with that?

Saturday 3:19 a.m.

Alright, I just called to say that I think your idea about making this like a "late line" is [make love]ing ridiculous because nobody is actually going to listen to the RIT students, so that idea is so ridiculous. I could call and complain about the prices on campus like your article this week or I could call about admissions, trimesters, drop out rate, or how they're [love mak]ing us, or room crowdedness. You can complain about anything you want and it won't happen. What this line is for is for kids who actually live like college students. Who actually like what they do. For you to say that there is nothing fun to [do is] ridiculous. I had a fun time tonight out. Anyone who just stays in the dorms is a [making love for one]ing loser. Get out and get a life. Go out and enjoy your Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

TO KILL A CHICKEN EMBRYO

by Veena Chatti



It was bound to happen someday. One doesn't go too long in a biology-related field without having to dissect or kill something. I'd always avoided it vehemently. But how does one choose between belief in not harming another life, and belief in standing by one's own decisions? Let me back up and explain the scenario...

I am perplexed to see eggs in the tissue culture lab class. I look at the board for further info, and find the following instructions:

- 1 Break open the egg shell.
- 2 "Grab" the embryo with forceps.
- 3 Slice open its chest with scalpel.
- 4 Extricate heart using forceps.
- 5 Dice heart into 1 cu mm pieces.
- 6 Make a culture of these tissues, as mentioned in the lab manual.

The egg sits in front of me for a good forty minutes before I even contemplate doing anything to it. Surely this can't be expected of us? I can't kill it, this can't be happening; they're not being serious! I don't know what I expect to see inside it, even! I look around at everyone else, and they seem to have no qualms whatsoever. One girl actually squeals in delight at the sight of the beating heart she's just pulled from an embryo. I don't think I can do it.

My professor asks how I'm doing, probably puzzled because I haven't begun yet. "I don't want to kill it," I tell her.

"They're going to die anyway," she says, "Well, you can ask someone to do it for you if you want. Or, ask your instructor if you can be exempted."

I don't even consider the above as possible options. I *chose* to sign up for this course. I'm 18, for God's sakes, I'm an *adult*! I've got to stand by my decisions; I can't squirm and refuse to do this now! I am *not* going to back out.

So I did it. I broke open the egg. Step one. Check. *okay*, I tell myself, *now that you've broken the egg shell, there's no going back, there's no way this embryo will ever live. Go on, pull it out. Get the heart.* It's still alive. It's within the egg white, cushioned by the yolk. I tip the contents of the egg into a petri dish, and do a sharp intake of breath at the sight of the little one. It looks so *human*. Just like a little baby.

It's still alive. It's blinking its eyes at me. I'm the first living thing it's ever seen, and I've got my scalpel raised to kill it. Its eyes are **HUGE**, like small marbles stuck into translucent membranes. It's been blinking its eyes at me slowly. I pause to observe. It has tiny feet, and very tiny wings. I pick it up with forceps to get it out of the egg white and put it into a petri dish by itself. Step Two. Check. Doing so separates it from its only protection, the amniotic sac, and shocks me even more because of how human it looks. I have eerie images of newborn infants being held, feet upwards, and spanked when they are late in taking their first breaths. It, too, is an in-

fant. I'm holding the scalpel, ready to kill it. *Wait*, I think. *It's still alive...* I look around, and the other students have already begun making their cultures. My embryo is alone in the petri dish now, and it's still blinking. I take a deep breath, pick up the scalpel, and rip apart its chest. Step Three. Check. It's blinking a bit faster, watching me. I can't seem to find its heart. I pull out part of a reddish-brown organ, and figure that it's the liver. I find the heart and pull it out, too. Step Four. Check. It stopped blinking while I heartlessly rummaged through its insides. It is dead now. I'm almost relieved. I don't know when exactly it died. It lies there in the petri dish as I chop its heart into pieces and carry out the procedure required to grow its cells *in vitro*. Steps Five and Six. Check.

My instructor is kind. "Are you alright?" he asked, a couple of times through the entire thing. "How goes it?"

I'm alright, thank you very much. It's the baby chicken that's just died. I just killed it. It watched me do so. I'm fine. It's dead. •



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