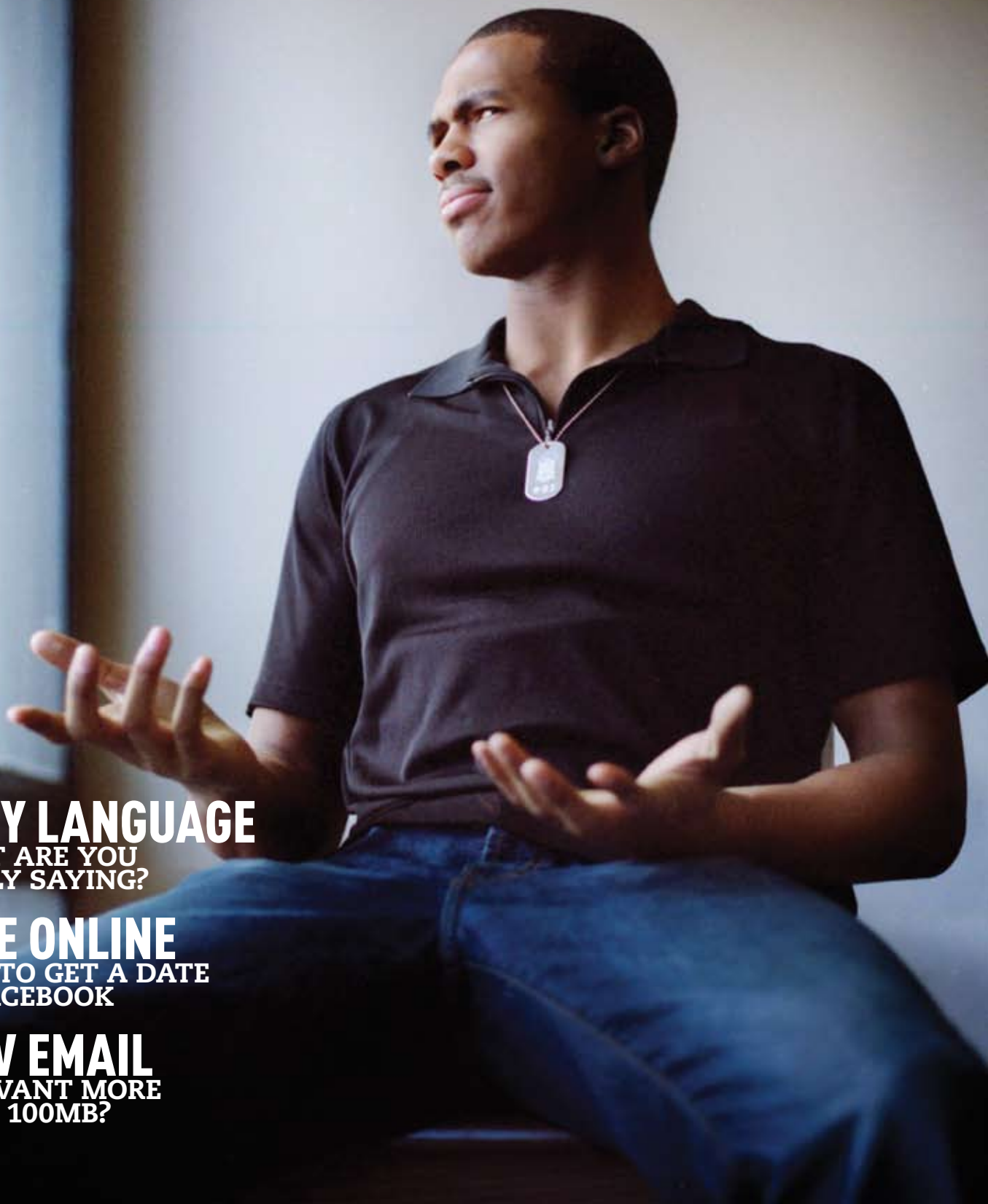


REPORTER

FEBRUARY 8, 2008 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM



BODY LANGUAGE

WHAT ARE YOU
REALLY SAYING?

LOVE ONLINE

HOW TO GET A DATE
ON FACEBOOK

NEW EMAIL

YOU WANT MORE
THAN 100MB?

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WRITERS Lino Alvarez, Geoffrey Bliss, Sam Cole, Alecia Crawford, Ben Dekle, Jean-Jacques DeLisle, Sam Griff, Max Herrera, Laura Mandanas, Joe McLaughlin, Evan McNamara, Andy Rees, Ilsa Shaw, Madeleine Villavicencio, Karl Voelker

ART
ART DIRECTOR Jason Sfetko
STAFF DESIGNERS Ryan Moore, Kelvin Patterson, Susie Sobota
AD DESIGNER Lisa Barnes
STAFF ILLUSTRATORS Greg Caggiano, Sara Wick, Caitlin Yarsky
CARTOONIST Alex Salsberg

PHOTO
PHOTO EDITOR Dave Londres
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PRINTING Printing Applications Lab

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AD MANAGER Geo Kartheiser
BUSINESS MANAGER Tim Wallenhorst
CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE Kyle O’Neill

ONLINE
ONLINE EDITOR Chris Zubak-Skees

ADVISOR
Rudy Pugliese

CONTACT
MAIN 585.475.2212
EMAIL reporter@rit.edu
ADVERTISING 585.475.2213
EMAIL reporterads@mail.rit.edu

EDITOR’S NOTE

PLAYING THE POLITICAL GAME
Our political system is broken. Unlike the more hysterical members of the media, I don’t believe this is a characteristic inherent to the state of having exactly two parties. In our system, initiatives come from the middle, wherein the sane and educated people are reported to live. Balance becomes the trademark of successful legislation, and relative stability is preserved by mankind’s utter inability to arrive at quick compromises. These qualities seem to project success on some level.

Why, then, is Washington “broken,” as so many of the presidential candidates say? It seems to me that any system designed to dictate human behavior and performance will break at one point or another. People learn the rules, and given time, they will exploit them. Athletes take steroids to break records, professors inflate grades to make themselves or their students look brilliant, and journalists file stories about Britney Spears to grab ratings.

And so I conclude that our political system has been exploited beyond recognition. For two examples, look to tacit filibusters as a halting mechanism in Congress and the president’s hijacking of legislative powers via the signing statement.

Filibusters are designed to allow the minority party of Congress to postpone voting in favor of continued discussion. They can also be used to prevent a vote from occurring; in those instances, filibustering politicians make speeches to stall. As soon as those speeches end (or 60% of the chamber decides to end them), Congress votes. The modern, tacit filibuster no longer requires speeches; filibustering has become laughably easy. This has allowed the Republicans to use it a record-breaking 62 times in 2007. Since the Democrats don’t have the requisite 60 votes in the Senate to forcibly end filibusters, no controversial bills can be sent to the President’s desk. The system has been gamed.

Suppose a controversial bill were to land in the Oval Office. Traditionally, the President would either have to sign the bill into law or veto it. The veto would force the bill back to Congress for continued debate. Nowadays, if President Bush does not like a bill, he can still sign it with strings attached. Those strings are called signing statements, and they can sometimes nullify the entire meaning of the bill. Look up the McCain Anti-Torture Law for an assiduous example of how this power can be warped and abused.

The signing statement is a legitimate tool when used in its intended fashion (to clarify law, or simply praise the politicians who passed the bill). Bush’s signing statements continually approach the line-item veto, which is very unconstitutional. He’s learned how to manipulate the system.

Separately, these two chinks in our Constitutional armor are merely bad. Together, they threaten to kill our entire system, as Democrats and Republicans who exploit the system avoid compromise. Naturally, this encourages the electorate to vote one party into both branches, Legislative and Executive. I cannot fathom a more telltale sign that our two-party system is flawed.

It is unfortunate that the current presidential hopefuls fail to mention these or any other detailed aspects of our manipulated system when they speak of a broken Washington. Partisan politics may be causing borderline schizophrenia in our country, but there are deeper problems to be solved than the mere inconvenience of Democrats and Republicans childishly refusing to play in the same pen.



Jen Loomis
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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Cover photograph by Ryan Randolph

Swimming photograph by Jeff Porter

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ITS TO OUTSOURCE E-MAIL

by Madeleine Villavicencio | illustration by Caitlin Yarsky



ITS plans to upgrade RIT’s mail system by transferring all handling of e-mail to an outside company. Emilio DiLorenzo, Associate CIO for ITS, said that offerings from Google and Microsoft are presently being researched.

Many have encountered problems with the current mail system. Some of the extra features that accompanied the system (e.g. calendars) do not work across platforms, because Microsoft products work best with PCs running the Windows operating system. According to DiLorenzo, “The main complaint among students has been the small mailbox sizes that they get with an RIT account.” RIT students currently receive 100 megabytes of storage space. External providers generally provide up to 5 gigabytes.

After identifying the key problems and surveying students, ITS started analyzing the solutions available on the market. DiLorenzo said, “We’re

looking at a few things. We’re looking at [approaching] a third party provider, like Google or Microsoft, to provide e-mail accounts for students which would still [uphold the RIT brand].” Basically, the third party will handle the service and technical operations, but RIT will customize the interface so that it will include the school logo, as well as RIT links and features. “Google and Microsoft [offer] high rebate programs and services specifically for this,” stated DiLorenzo.

DiLorenzo said that he does not anticipate any student to pay anything additional for an upgrade. He added, “One of the key requirements for us is that since the service [the students] have today is free, [the new service] must be the same.” ITS hopes to only have to shift the financial cost to another provider, while providing the same type of service. They are presently unsure whether upgrading would increase, decrease, or not affect the cost of the system. DiLorenzo said that after the shift, ITS workers can be reallocated to other projects such as improving SIS, wireless connections, network security, myCourses, and retiring old equipment and infrastructure.

ITS is now at the tail end of the analysis aspect of the process. “We are trying to make sure that [our] requirements can be met by the different product offerings. We are working with Student Government to make sure they understand what we’re doing and get some of their requirements. We’re checking out the legal aspect. After that, we can start the testing and go full-boat with the design of the project,” DiLorenzo explained.

ITS expects the system to be implemented by fall 2008 and confirmed that there would be no downtime while the upgrades are being made. “If we do implement, it will probably be over the summer, which will [have] the lowest impact [on] the students,” assured DiLorenzo. He added that the only way for this implementation date to be further postponed is if ITS were to stumble upon security legal issues, a greater financial burden than the Institute is prepared to take on, or if it becomes more difficult to integrate than anticipated. •

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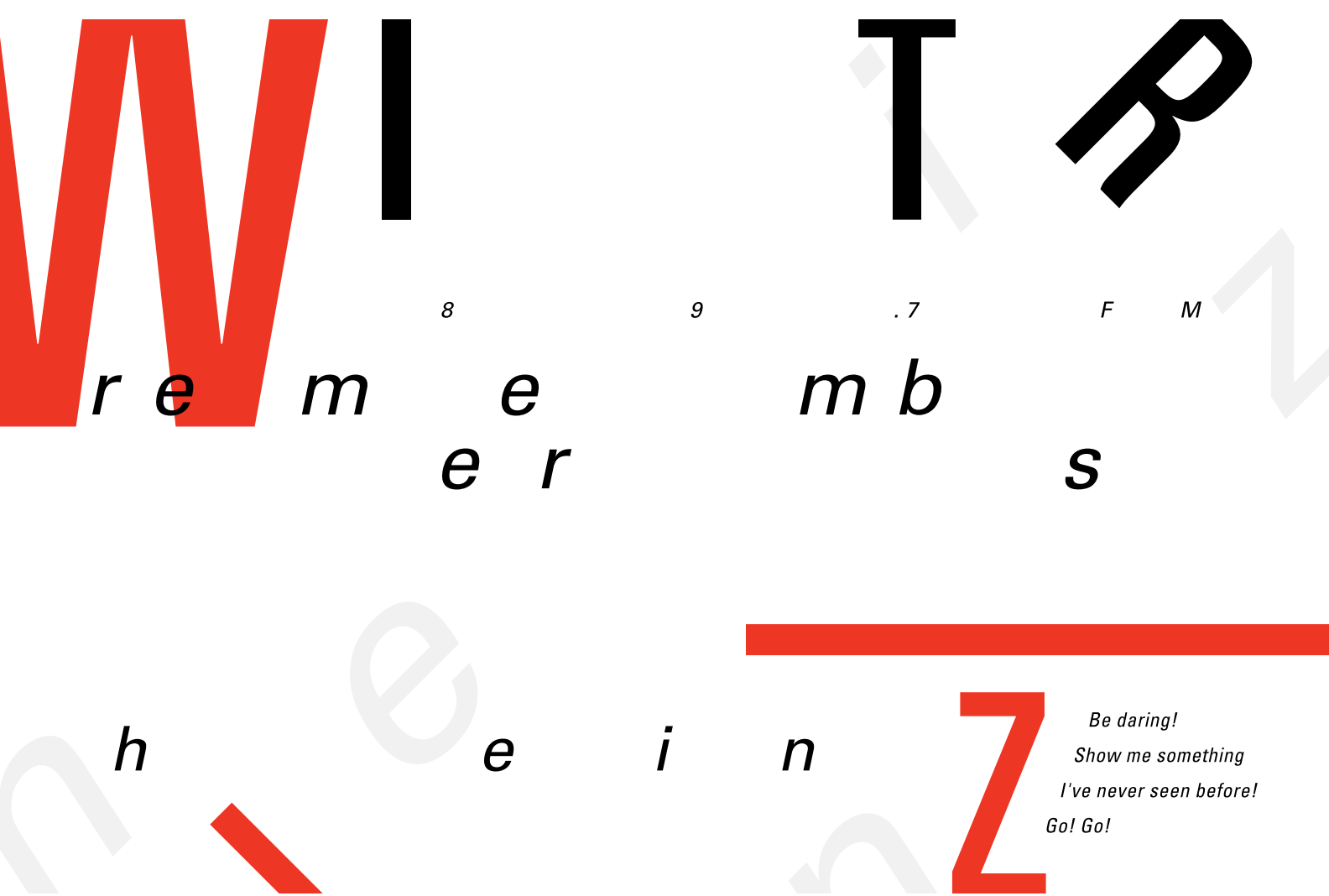
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Eric Lutley, third year software engineering major, is one of several students being evicted from his Riverknoll apartment.

RIVERKNOLL APARTMENTS ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK

by Andy Rees | photograph by Maegan Gindi

RIVERKNOLL, RIT’S OLDEST APARTMENT COMPLEX, is slated for demolition at the end of this academic year. This demolition is part of the first phase of RIT’s Global Village housing initiative, designed to replace older housing units. However, this replacement will take time, and students currently residing in these apartments will need to find alternate housing.

The first students to be affected by this construction reside in Riverknoll buildings one through ten. The residents received a letter from Dr. Howard Ward, Assistant Vice President in charge of Housing Operations, detailing the process of housing assignments for next year.

“Due to the construction,” the letter reads, “you will not be able to renew your current apartment... You will be prioritized to receive an assignment [...] similar to your current assignment.” Ward further explains that there is no guarantee that displaced students will get another Riverknoll apartment, but notes that they will be placed in a “special” group.

“THEY’RE DEFINITELY OLD, AND SOME OF THEM AREN’T IN THE BEST SHAPE.”

Housing Operations did not reply to a request for comment.

“I think that RIT is being level headed, [but] I’m not happy with where it’s currently put me in my housing situation,” said Eric Lutley, a third year Software Engineering student and a resident of one of the buildings slated for demolition. He and his three other roommates will be applying for housing for the next academic year, and are going to be processed in this special group.

Students have long cited the ancient apartments of the Riverknoll complex as being out of date. Riverknoll units are not wired to the RIT network; students receive a stipend for cable Internet from an outside provider. “I knew that Riverknoll was going to get knocked down at some point, I just didn’t think it would be this soon,” said Lutley. “They’re definitely old, and some of them aren’t in the best shape.”

One of the main concerns of displaced residents is that they will not receive comparable housing for next year. “I really don’t care,” says Bryan Sullivan, one of Lutley’s roommates and second year Software Engineering major, “provided we get another apartment next year. I really hope there [are] no dorms.”

A major drawback of relying solely on the lottery for assigning housing is the lack of alternatives. “By the time you get the results of the lottery, it’s already past the time when people are renting apartments,” observes Lutley, who wonders whether he should be looking elsewhere for housing.

After he made inquiries, Lutley was told by Housing Operations that the odds of a comparable assignment were very high due to a large number of graduates vacating housing, although nothing was promised.

Ward’s letter assures students that Housing Operations will be in constant communication with those affected. Housing plans on meeting students on an individual basis, and has assigned staff members to every building scheduled for demolition. •

DESTLER, COOPER TO MATCH STUDENT DONATIONS DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR

by Sam Griff

President Destler recently announced that he planned to donate up to \$10,000 dollars to RIT organizations to match student funds. Dr. Mary-Beth Cooper, Vice President for Student Affairs, will match another \$5,000.

According to James Macchiano, Assistant Director for Student/Recent Alumni Giving, the President Destler Challenge was initially a plan to raise money for the Woodward pool and provide more club space. However, the program has been expanded, and currently matches funds dollar-for-dollar to any RIT-recognized organization.

However, matched funds are not given to the organizations instantly. The money for this program is separated into two parts. Said Macchiano, “Destler will match up to \$10,000 and Dr. Mary-Beth Cooper will match an additional \$5,000,” for a total of \$15,000 to be distributed the day after the program for the current year ends. “June 30, 2008 is the last day to donate within this fiscal year,” he said, and the “matched funds are not dispersed until July 1.”

Macchiano said that the program was designed to promote student donation and participation

within the university. He said, “[It is] to encourage students to give anywhere on campus, [at] any level,” to any of the approved organizations. Unlike the ROAR Day fundraising program, which is open to participation from faculty, alumni, and all students, funds are matched by the President Destler Challenge only if the donation is directly from a current full-time RIT student.

So far, the program has raised \$9,950. Donation boxes are located outside the Student Government office and in the Eastman building. •

MIXED RESPONSE TO SPIRIT WEEK

by Joe McLaughlin

As Spirit Week drew to a close, Student Government (SG) President Ed Wolf offered his views on students’ level of school spirit: “We’ve got a long way to go, but we’re getting there.”

Spirit Week, held from January 25 to February 3, was a series of events hosted by SG and other groups to promote school spirit, most of which Wolf said were popular, judging by attendance. It included sporting events, shows by groups on campus, and giveaways. Days of the week were

also themed. On Monday, students were asked to dress like geeks, on Wednesday, to paint their faces brown and orange, and on Thursday, to wear camouflage.

“Most of the student body participated in some part of Spirit Week,” said Wolf. He did not know the number of students who participated last year or this year. Wolf was interviewed during Spirit Week before several events (e.g. the Super Bowl Party), which Wolf expected a large number of students to attend. “We’re starting to see the buds of school spirit,” Wolf said. “In immediate terms, school spirit is on the rise.”

Students were divided on the issue of spirit. Phil Amsler, a first year Civil Engineering Tech major, said that he went to the hockey game during Spirit Week, “...because hockey kicks ass. I think there’s a lot of school spirit at RIT,” he said, “just ask the Corner Crew.” The Corner Crew is an unofficial group which attends all home hockey games to sit behind the opposing goal, taunt their goalie and cheer on the Tigers.

Said Alex Lader, a first year Film and Animation major, “I’m a first year, so I’m not as enriched in the whole ‘Go Tigers!’ thing.” Agreed another first year student, Robert Schwan, a Chemistry major, “Being a first year, I’m not into things, exactly,” He expects to have more school spirit as he advances at RIT. •

compiled by Joe McLaughlin

9 SATURDAY

THE ACTOR’S NIGHTMARE AND 15 MINUTE HAMLET

SAU 1829, 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. Craziness, betrayal, and more in an abbreviated version of the Bard’s classic. Cost: Free.

CAB’S 5TH ANNUAL LAZER TAG

SLC Gym Court 4, 6 p.m. – 1 a.m. Get ready for intense, adrenaline-pumping lazer action! Cost: \$3 one round or \$5 all night long.

BREAKIN’ IN THE BEGINNING: A HISTORY OF BREAK DANCING

Ingle Auditorium, 9 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. Performed by Zero Gravity, the history of break dancing depicting how it derived from Afro-Brazilian Culture. Cost: \$3 students, \$6 others.

THE SNOW BALL

SAU Cafeteria, 9 p.m. - 2 a.m. It’s a semi-formal dance. All the proceeds go to charity. Cost: \$8.

10 SUNDAY

CHINA NIGHT

Clark Gym, 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. Learn about Chinese New Year, and take part in a celebration of the Year of the Mouse. Cost: Free.

11 MONDAY

MEET THE PHOTOGRAPHER SERIES: ANDREW DAVIDHAZY

Genesee Center for Arts and Entertainment, 9 a.m. Andrew David-hazy, a professor at RIT, presents at the Community Darkroom. Cost: \$8 students, \$10 others.

12 TUESDAY

THE BEAR FACTS

Seneca Park Zoo, 11:30 a.m. Are they really godless killing machines? Did Davy Crockett really kill one when he was only three? Cost: \$18.

13 WEDNESDAY

THE EASTMAN JAZZ ENSEMBLE

26 Gibbs Street, Rochester, 8 p.m. Jazz fans, listen up! Cost: Free.

14 THURSDAY

HALE LECTURE SERIES: ETHICS, TRUTH, AND FALSEHOOD

Carlson Auditorium, 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Panel discussion with RIT philosophy professors. Moderator: Wade Robison. Cost: Free.

THURSDAY NIGHT CINEMA: THE PIANIST

Ingle Auditorium, 10 p.m. - 12 midnight. The story of a piano player surviving in the Warsaw ghetto during World War II. Cost: Free.

15 FRIDAY

RIT/NTID DANCE COMPANY IN CONCERT

Panara Theatre, 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. An exciting look back at some of the best works from the last 10 years. Cost: \$5 students, \$7 other.

FRIDAY NIGHT IN THE RITZ: OPEN MIC NIGHT:

RITz, 10 p.m. – 12 midnight. Stop wasting your talent on your room-mates and come show your musical talents for an audience at the RITz! All instruments and strange talents are welcome! Cost: \$1.

by Geoffrey H. Bliss

NEW RIT BOOKSTORE

James Fischer, Assistant Vice President for Finance & Administration, and Peter Briggs, Director of Campus Connections, spoke about the many features of the new Barnes & Noble bookstore located on Jefferson Road. The new store will have double the space of its predecessor, 40,000 sq. ft. as compared to the current 20,000 sq. ft. in the SAU. There will be an accompanying Starbucks café, a children’s book section, dorm shop, and a unique multipurpose room for presentations, author signings, and other academic purposes, sealed behind movable glass doors for privacy. The facility will also have an open floor plan, with one large skylight in the center surrounded by photographs of RIT. The store will be open from Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. and on Sunday from 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. These hours exceed those currently held by Campus Connections.

RTS has said that it will provide transporation to and from Park Point, picking up by the Sentinel. Just like Campus Connections, the store will strive to stock the correct number of textbooks. Unlike Campus Connections, the store will be able to quickly import books from other B&N locations if demand is incorrectly estimated. Long lines also will also be reduced by an increase of registers from the current ten to sixteen in times of high volume. The store is currently scheduled to open on August 1, 2008.

NEW CATEGORIES FOR MSOS

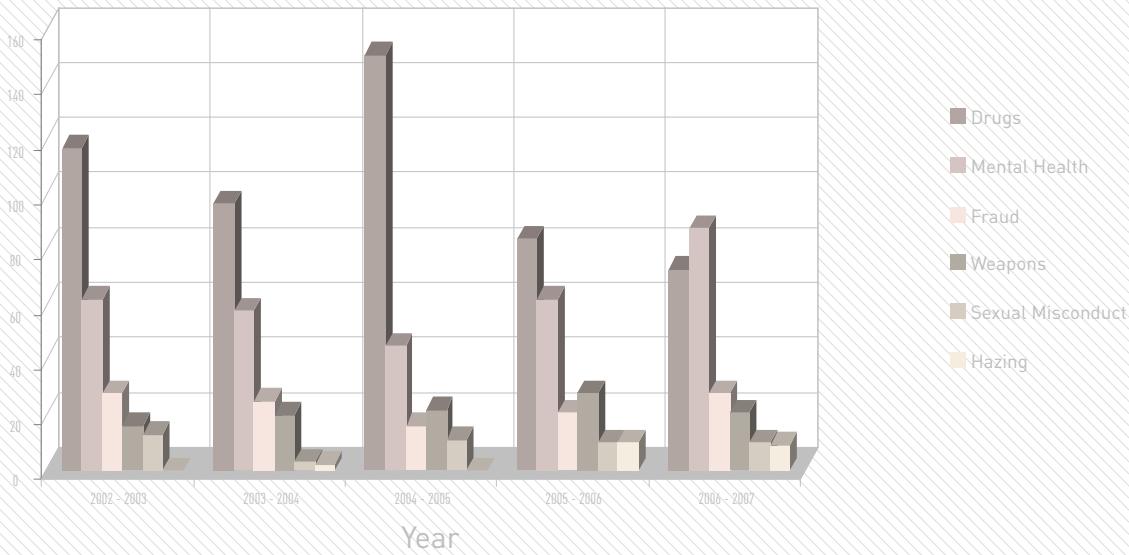
Student Government will change the way in which it recognizes student organizations. Major Student Organizations (MSOs) are to be divided into two new categories. A Representative Student Organization (RSO) will have a primary purpose of representing students with common needs, interests, and concerns to work with the RIT administration, faculty, Student Government, and other organizations to represent specific constituencies. These associations also organize events for the student body. A Student Service Organization (SSO) will offer services for the entire student body and campus. They provide services, programs, and special events to promote community building, socialization, and expanded education beyond the classroom. Student Government Clubs are to be further classified as Academic/Social, Art & Entertainment, and Cultural/International. Many of the current MSOs feel as though this change merely reflects how various organizations already function.

Reporter Magazine, WITR, and CAB will be placed in the SSO category. Global Union, ACA, Greek Council, RHA, and OCASA will be placed in the RSO category.

CHANGE WITHIN CIAS

The School of Print Media is changing one of its programs, merging Print Media Publishing and Graphic Media into a new program called New Media Publishing. This curriculum will encompass work in Flash, web design, and printing. One student, Sarai Oviedo, has stated her discontent with this issue as her curriculum has been changed, forcing her and many other Print Media students to spend more time on their respective programs (disclosure: Oviedo is a writer for Reporter). “We value the difference of our program. The change in program is extremely inconsistent,” she said. “I know people whose parents and grandparents were students in this program. Removing it would be a true loss to RIT.” •

Selected Student Conduct Cases 2002 - 2007



THE FOUR DAYS OF NIGHT OVER MAYBERRY, TEXAS • fiction series

by Sam Cole
illustrations by Sara Wick

DAY FOUR

At 3:00 a.m. on the fourth day of night, Julia was sleeping in a bed all by herself for the first time since she had married, eleven years ago. She groaned and rolled over in her sleep. In marriage, like in most things, you never really notice the good things until they are gone.

Outside her window, a lightning bolt cracked across the sky. Julia's eyes opened wide in a panic. The sky was fighting to prove it was still alive.

Charles woke up whenever he heard rain. Rain meant that he had to close the door to the chicken coop. The rain was making slow, soft sounds on his roof, but by the time he had put his boots on and was reaching for his big yellow poncho it was a loud, hollow roar.

As soon as he opened the screen door, he could hear the chickens above the torrent, even though their screams were far weaker than the storm. He took a step outside the door and his socks became instantly soaked.

He started running.

Toby woke up to the loud droning of the rain. He looked out the window and sighed. Not only was it still dark at 8 a.m., the streetlights were showing huge sheets of rain. Toby had to go out in it. He was always the one who had to go out in it, no matter what it was.

Julia went outside to her backyard wearing only her bathrobe, it didn't matter anymore without the sun. The rain pelted her, and for a second she felt like a martyr, some victim of an eternal joke. She lay down on the old garden bed she had made when she was young and optimistic.



She imagined this was a scene in a movie. In the movie she would be crying, and so she started crying. It was a good scene.

When Toby got to the station, one of the other cops, George, was answering the phone. Toby started working on the paperwork. On a normal day, it would only take one officer to take care of this quiet town on a Sunday morning, but now they were starting to get reports of suicides. Toby was starting to feel a little hopeless himself.

He sighed, and grabbed the keys to the squad car.

At 2:15 p.m., Toby parked by Elmwood Park and unwrapped a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. The rain suddenly stopped pelting his windshield. Relieved, he turned off his windshield wipers. The sky was silent again.

Charles went outside to do some gardening as soon as the rain stopped.

Julia was at the deacon's house. They were making a salad.

And at 3:13 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon, the sky turned pink, as if nothing had ever been wrong, and the first sign of the sun appeared after four days of night.

Julia sat down at the kitchen table, and began slicing a cucumber.

Charles picked up a rooster to take it back inside. The rooster didn't like it.

Toby was listening as Mrs. Freidman complained about her neighbor's dog. She kept talking. He let her. •



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MAKING THE WORLD SMALLER: GLOBAL UNION UNIFICATION

by Alecia Crawford | photograph by Megan Rossman



What do you get when you pack two lovely hosts, an English professor from London and his assistant, and 10 different culture clubs competing for prize money in one room? This question was answered on Saturday, February 2, at Global Union Unification.

The two hosts opened the night with jokes and introductions and kept the audience informed on upcoming performances. The explorers Dr. William Smith (the English professor) and Mario (his flamboyant assistant) were sent on a quest by the Queen to find the “new world” to acquire some spices, tying the various cultural clubs together as they globe trotted with a “special” compass from Wal-Mart that the Queen had given them to aid the journey. It emerged after they had “visited” all the different countries (via presentations from cultural clubs) that Mario had a map to America all along, as someone from the court had informed him of the Queen’s mental instability when they had been given the assignment.

When the Professor wasn’t fighting with Mario, the two hosts and the explorers had comedic quarrels when they were both “mistakenly” on stage at the same time. Sadly, the explorers were not able to fulfill the Queen’s mission, and decided to stay in America instead, in order to avoid being beheaded at the Queen’s command for returning to London empty-handed.

When the hosts or the explorers weren’t on stage, the ten Global Union-affiliated culture clubs gave a series of performances. Furthermore, each of these clubs were vying for the top spot, as their performances accrued them points toward

winning the big prize. The clubs kept the audience involved by offering prizes of their own, and by spreading knowledge of their cultures. Dancing, games, and cultural demonstrations were all amongst the entertaining fare for the evening. As for the results of the scoring: International House took third place, the Asian Culture Society and The Malaysian Student Association tied for second place, and the Organization of the Alliance of Students from the Indian Subcontinent (OASIS) took first place. OASIS dominated the stage after their victory was announced. After the awards had been presented, the event ended with a speech from Global Union President Aditya Manjrekar. The MSO’s e-board then performed a routine to Michael Jackson’s *Thriller*.

The event was especially entertaining because of heavy audience participation throughout. In a game hosted by the Chinese Student Scholar Association, two roommates slaughtered the competition when partners had to feed one another with chopsticks. The Deaf International Student Association involved the entire audience by making them shout out the answers to trivia questions. The Asian fraternity, Pi Delta Psi, had a relay race, pitting the right side of the auditorium against the left side in origami, eating sushi with lots of wasabi, and charades. Each club received support from the audience after its performance. •

If you would like to find out more about Global Union, visit their office in the basement of the SAU (room A448).

“Hello...Hi.What do you say up here?” Sheryl Swoopes got off to a seemingly nervous start at her speech in the Clark Gymnasium on Saturday, February 2. Any impression of anxiety on her part quickly disappeared, however, as she broke the ice with a quick story about her son demanding that she take pictures of the Rochester snow. When asked for a reason, he replied, “Uh...duh, we live in Houston.”

Although the family life of this popular WNBA athlete was not the main focus of the event, it definitely played a critical part in her speech. As well as being a 3-time Olympic gold medalist, 3-time WNBA MVP, and current player for the Houston Comets, Swoopes is gay. Swoopes came out in 2005, making her one of the most highly ranked athletes to be openly gay. Since then, she has become an active spokesperson for the gay and lesbian communities. Swoopes was invited to give a motivational speech about her experience of coming out on campus by RIT’s very own GLBT Center and Center for Campus Life.

Life leading up to her announcement was hard, Swoopes said, “I spent so much time worrying about [how] others would think of me, how others would judge me, how I would lose endorsements. For two or three years, I would get up in the morning and throw up, have knots in my stomach, headaches, I was miserable.” Finally, she reached the point where she couldn’t take it anymore. “I was tired. Tired of putting my mom, my brothers, my friends, my career, my teammates ahead of admitting who I actually was.”

One thing that Swoopes stressed repeatedly throughout her speech was the idea of a comfort zone, and how you have to push the boundaries of that zone in order to change things in your life for the better. “What stops people from crossing that line is fear. Fear has a purpose; it warns us of dangers, pitfalls, urges caution. What it doesn’t mean is you should try to hide or retreat. By being courageous, you gain courage; by retreating, you lose it.”

Swoopes related her own act of breaking out of her comfort zone. She described the telephone conversation she had with her brother minutes before she was going to a press conference to announce she was gay. She had just been pleading with him 20 minutes earlier to break the news to their mother, so she wouldn’t have to do it herself. Yet she had suddenly been told to give her mom a call before the conference anyway. She mimics talking on the phone in a frustrated tone: “Okay, Mom, what do you need?” She switches to a sniffling, soft voice as she imitates her mother. “I just wanted to let you know that I love you.” “That was the point at which I finally went, ‘Waaaaaaaah,’” said Swoopes, now laughing at the memory.

Swoopes made it clear that the time immediately after coming out was difficult. She mentioned losing a few so-called friends and endorsement deals. What frightened her most though, was how her son might have been treated at school. Fortunately enough, that turned out to be a groundless fear. After that initial period, she found that the friends she gained and the endorsement deals she actually received far outweighed those that she had lost. She also gained the ability to “live her life and be happy.”

In the end, Swoopes said, her point of view could be summed up by a quote from Dr. Seuss: “Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don’t matter, and those who matter don’t mind.” •

THE REAL SHERYL SWOOPES

by Ben Dekle | photograph by Megan Rossman



WNBA player Sheryl Swoopes speaks in the Clark Gym at RIT on Saturday, February 2, 2008.



Batter Blaster deems itself an “innovative, quick and easy way to make wholesome organic pancakes and waffles”. When I first received the product, I was slightly unsure as to how a pancake in a can would work. Luckily, the can had convenient and impossible-to-miss instructions on the side: “Just point, blast, and cook!” in bright orange and white. I finally opened the cap of the Batter Blaster and followed the

first step by tilting the can downwards at the pan. Then came the blasting, which was reminiscent of using a whipped cream can to top a sundae. Instead of whipped cream, pancake batter emerged from the tiny plastic opening as I started to watch the batter cook. Anxiously, I waited for all of my questions to be answered. Will it taste good? Will it explode? Will it even cook? What followed the cooking was quite a surprise.

The Batter Blaster produces a pancake a little different from the buttery goodness of the home-cooked variety. It makes a pancake that’s more wholesome, light, and airy. They are also quite tasty, especially given that they’ve come from a

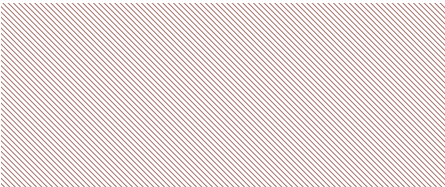
can. The pancakes cook a little faster than regular homemade pancakes, adding to the convenience factor that Batter Blaster really pushes in their advertisements. That’s really what it is all about: the convenience of being able to take a can of pancake batter with you everywhere and the convenience of pre-made pancake batter that anyone can cook fairly quickly. In the end, Batter Blaster provides a quick and delicious alternative to homemade pancakes. The can says you can make 28 4” pancakes; I made about 7 pancakes around 6-7” each. It’s fast, easy to clean up, and affordable (you can buy a three-pack for around ten dollars). Although it isn’t readily available in Rochester yet, I would be first in line to start a petition to bring it here. •



EL TEN ELEVEN

Every Direction Is North
by Evan McNamara

El Ten Eleven is an instrumental band which was apparently too lazy to find a second guitarist. Instead, the band opts to center their songs around live guitar and bass loops layered in real time to create the driving force behind their songs. Part indie rock, part dance, part post rock, and part ambiance, El Ten Eleven throws in a little of everything on their newest album. While the live loop construction would probably be amazing to see in a live setting, the songs on *Every Direction is North* tend to become a tad repetitive around halfway into the album. Things are spiced up from time to time with truly awesome guitar effects, but the tracks tend to lack identity. Fans of the band may also note some recycled riffs from their first self-titled album, such as the clean guitar line towards the end of the new album’s title track. However, the band has certainly grown since then. The addition of electronic drum beats and some keyboards are a welcome change from the standard guitar/bass/drum format.



Members of El Ten Eleven



Members of Meniscus



MENISCUS

Absence of I

Great music pops up in all corners of the globe, and Meniscus is a testament to that fact. Hailing from Sydney, Australia, Meniscus puts a most unique spin on the post-metal style. Yes, you can hear the influence of Isis and at some points, Red Sparrows, but the ordinary formula stops there. Meniscus opts for a more straightforward approach, moving quickly between themes and letting no riff sit long enough to grow stale. In this respect, they draw more from Deftones during their heavier moments than their obvious post-metal peers. But the element that tips this four song EP over the edge is the drumming. The drummer has a unique style, blending African and Latin beats into places you would have thought impossible. The result is a refreshing new take on the genre. The guitars, when not being pummeled into a state of overdriven submission, also add unique quips here and there, be it wah-wah, or tasty overlapping delay. Not many people may know who Meniscus is right now, but if this is an indication of what’s to come from the group, that will change very quickly.

by Ilsa Shaw

QUIZ:

- 1. Which celebrity will be visiting Rochester for a presentation about global warming on February 21?
a. Pail Zaloom
b. Bill Nye
c. Jonathan Hare
d. Billy Van
- 2. Before expanding to other cities in 1978, Wegmans could only be found in Rochester, New York. Which city marked the beginning of Wegmans’ expansion?
a. Charlottesville, Virginia
b. Hagerstown, Maryland
c. Buffalo, New York
d. Baltimore, Maryland

- 3. Alumnus and one-time RIT professor, this person was respectfully regarded as one of Rochester’s foremost professors of the arts during the first half of the 20th century. What is his/her name?
a. John Prip
b. Emma Lampert Cooper
c. Chester Steinman
d. Clifford McCormick Ulp

- 4. This Rochester local was part of the Hillside Stranglers, two serial killers who were infamous for strangling women to death. They were eventually arrested in 1979. What was this local man’s name?
a. Kenneth Bianchi
b. Steven Walker
c. Angelo Buono
d. Nicholas Alessio

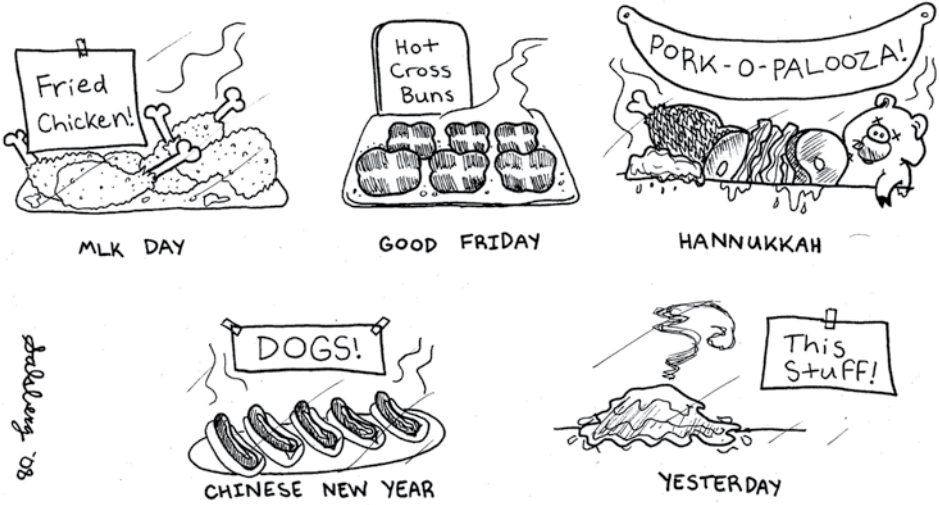
- 5. True or false: Xerox employs more people in the city of Rochester than the Eastman Kodak Corporation.
a. True
b. False

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

QUOTE

“I think *Hail to the Chief* has a nice ring to it.”
—John F. Kennedy,
when asked about his favorite song

FAMOUS RIT DINING HALL MENU GAFFES:



REPORTER RECOMMENDS:

ExperimentalGamePlay.com, a website which challenges its members to invent and create new forms of gameplay. One person is given no more than one week to develop an exceptional (and oftentimes surreal) game with a unique take on gaming objectives, plot, and so on. From game players to developers, the site has something to offer, and is bound to inspire a sense of fascination with one game you may stumble upon. Take it from someone who’s been entranced by growing vines (.exe style) for the past hour.

DIFFICULTY RATING: EASY

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

SIGN OF THE WEEK: I LIKE SKIING



by Jean-Jacques Delisle
photographs by Ryan Randolph

sometimes body language is all you need + a shrug

It's a handshake, a head turn, and a roll of the eyes...the language you speak every day, often subconsciously. Body language is a predominant form of communication for many creatures, and even with the advent of verbal language, body language is still an important communication tool in the day-to-day lives of most people.

Some of you may be thinking, "So what? I wave my arms around when I am excited. What does that matter?" The truth is that your body language portrays much more than strong simple emotions. People generally broadcast a wide range of thoughts and feelings through body language, much more than most realize.

Body language also serves as the predominant form of interpersonal communication within the hard-of-hearing community. Without the ability to process vocal expression, body language becomes tantamount to portraying thoughts and feelings. An entire language has been born from the need for the deaf and hard-of-hearing to communicate, and it relies heavily upon the common body language cues.

These factors make body language especially important at RIT, since interaction between the hearing, deaf, and hard-of-hearing communities depends upon effective awareness of what exactly your body is saying. In pursuit of this, *Reporter* interviewed Dr. Nicholas DiFonzo, RIT Professor of Psychology, and Anna Ka, second year ASL Interpreting major, about body language and non-verbal communication as it concerns the RIT community.

+ body language at rit

"You know how in spoken languages our voices and body language change the meaning of our sentences? With ASL, body position, pauses, and eye gaze all have a lot of meaning. For example, role shifts can place you as one person over here [moves over] and another over here," says Ka. "Eye gaze also has a lot of meaning. I can be an adult and then a child based on my eye gaze and head position. Facial expression and body language are grammar in ASL. The entire language relies on spatial organization and agreement demonstrated by body language."

As an Interpreting major, Ka is graded by her professors on how accurately she conveys ASL through facial expressions and body language. To demonstrate, Ka says, "With a yes-or-no question, you lean in, raise your eyebrows,

and you can tilt your head to the side a little, and that makes a question. As an example of role shifting [signs the intro of "I'm a Barbie Girl" by Aqua, playing both Ken and Barbie]. So you can see, it's an integral part of the language. It is part of the functioning of the language, not just an add-on. Body language is superimposed on spoken language; in ASL it is part of how the language operates. Let's be clear here, I am not talking about signs, those are obviously done with the body."

Giving an example of how her coursework reflects this emphasis on body language and non-verbal signals, Ka explains and demonstrates, "Right now, we are telling stories of horse and bike accidents. To accurately display a story in ASL, you have to be part of it. You have to make it like a movie. You can't tell the story like an observer. You have to shift to display your role. For example, if you have two people on a bike and you are doing a bike trick, you have to be three people: [gets up and does what looks like Irish folk dance], the person on the handle bars, the bike, the rider."

Besides sign language interpreting, there is much to be gained for hearing students and teachers as well. Says Dr. Nicholas DiFonzo, Professor of Psychology at RIT, "The degree of interest someone has in what another person is saying [can be determined]." For example, professors interact with students all day long. Though they might not be consciously thinking about it, they are constantly getting nonverbal signals as to how the students perceive them. "[Some of these include] whether or not they are paying attention, are interested, or are frightened by the teacher," notes DiFonzo.

Other important scenarios in which RIT students often find themselves are job interviews or professional scenarios. On these occasions, it is especially important to display your best body language, as research shows that 93% of communications effectiveness is determined by eye contact, body language, facial expression and voice quality. In response to this, Dr. DiFonzo agrees, "Yes, it can give you an edge. First impressions are formed in the first few seconds and these tend to predict the interviewer's evaluation. Firm handshake, smile, moderate eye contact... These tend to produce [the] impression that the interviewee is self confident."

+ common messages

Although much of a person's body language has its own distinctive flair, people generally share a wide extent of common non-verbal cues. These motions manifest everything from simple thoughts and emotions inspired by daily interactions to states of extreme stress. For the most part, they are not consciously performed, but they do say a lot about what people are thinking and feeling. Let's look at some of these common messages, and what's really being said.

arm cross

Around a group of friends, leaning against a wall or leaning back in a chair, resting, seem like perfectly normal situations to fold the arms, and it certainly leads to some additional degree of comfort. Unfortunately, with this comfortable position come a few negative messages. It is often used as a defensive barrier to physically and emotionally defend oneself. Variations of this, like pulling the arms close and tight into the body can display nervousness and anxiety. Also, higher elbow elevations and tense upper arms can demonstrate a guarding stance that may display messages of arrogance, dislike, and disagreement.

arm show

There are a lot of messages to be read from just a bare arm. Aside from the obvious offensive gestures, a bare arm seen from the length of the arm displays gender-specific messages of sexual appeal, and power for men. Especially in courtship, muscular arms can display challenge to rival men, and the obvious differences between masculine and feminine arms demonstrate gender.

jaw drop

Everyone has witnessed and probably performed the infamous jaw drop, an exaggerated gesture involuntarily performed during times of extreme shock or fear. Aside from the obvious, a drooping jaw is often displayed by those who are lost and confused about where they are going, traveling in unfamiliar or threatening places, or to express more mild feelings, such as surprise, uncertainty, or unvoiced disagreement.

blank face

Often, a blank face is described as a bland, uninterested expression, but can also express inner calmness and relaxation. With the eyes partially open, lips closed softly, and all facial muscles moderately relaxed, a person ap-

pears to be calmer and without intent to action. This can be used as a disarming expression. A blank face can also be a demonstration of disinterest and boredom. The blank face is also used to maintain a polite distance between people, almost like a nice “keep away” sign. People do this all the time, especially with large crowds, in elevators, and mass transit. This face can easily be confused for an angry or disgruntled face if the lips droop slightly into a frown.

blush
Everyone has witnessed and probably been the target of some embarrassment and reddened in the face a little. This is a common occurrence and applies to more situations than just being embarrassed. Many people begin to redden when they are the center of a group, speaking in public, excited, angry, or begin to feel anxious. A red face can also show that you are flustered and not prepared.

eye blink
The eyes give away a lot about how you are feeling, and blinking can be an obvious hint of heightened emotions and insincerity. The average normal blinking rate is roughly twenty blinks per minute (as opposed to President Nixon, who hit rates of forty blinks per minute during the first Watergate Conference). Rapid blinking betrays emotional stress and possible dishonesty.



body alignment
The slightest lean of your upper body can display messages of liking, loyalty, and agreement, or just the opposite, depending on how you hold yourself. Usually, people in a group will orient themselves towards whom they identify as the person with the highest status or most power. Even with attention diverted in either discus-

sion or other interactions, people will lean a little towards those they admire more. Also leaning toward a professor or speaker demonstrates your interest in their message and attentive-ness, while leaning away shows apathetic con-sideration or disagreement. A forward leaning, open armed posture can make you seem more invested and active in the conversation.

broad side
Showing the length of your body or trying to appear larger, with a broader chest, wide should-ers, and looming posture is common body lan-guage amongst most vertebrate species, and no less so for humans. It is a show of physical pow-er to demonstrate the largest features of your body, and can either be used in a defensive or offensive and intimidating fashion. This is also seen in business and military jackets that widen the chest and extend the shoulders to make the wearer seem more authoritative and powerful.

hand behind head
You can often see people leaning back with their hands propping their heads in an assured, relaxed posture, but in conversation and a work environment, a hand behind the head can reveal feelings of uncertainty, disagreement, conflict, dislike, frustration, or even anger. It is representative of negative thoughts and emo-tions, and often telegraphs an unresolved issue. This is important to remember in a conversa-tion where you want to seem confident and agreeable, since such things can easily send negative messages.

tickling
Tickling can range from a sensual, soft trac-ing of the skin to a malicious jabbing prod at the sides, and is often a playful tool for bodily interaction for child to child, parent to child, friends, or courting pairs. This non-violent physical interaction can mean many things to people, including trust and familiarity, and can stimulate bonding and strengthen-ing of emotional ties. Tickling also causes the release of brain chemicals that produce euphoria that causes laughter. To many, tickling conveys a strong message of physi-cal intimacy, something that may be uncom-fortable for people who do not share such a physical bond.

eye contact
Gazing into another’s eyes is an extremely powerful tool that can display a great deal of emotional intent, interest, aggression,

sexual attraction, and acknowledgement. There are many links between eye contact and apparent sincerity, as well as eye contact ben-efiting effective communication. Gazing at the eyes of a speaker, or into the eyes of a listener, shows respect and willingness to accept their message. This is very important for all com-munication, especially during professional interviews, conversations with professors, and intimate conversations.



+ lessons to be learned
As a form of communication, body language does more than its share of sending mes-sages, displaying thoughts, demonstrating feelings, and helping to get your point across. Even more surprising is that many people aren’t aware of it, and simple non-verbal cues go right under their radar, leaving them ne-glectful of much of the real meaning behind another’s expression.

High-speed communication is definitely a boon to modern society, but with any important deals, professional meetings, day-to-day classes, or hanging out with friends, face-to-face inter-action is often required. There is a great deal of quality and depth of communication lost with-out the use of body language; it’s really what makes or breaks any message you are sending, and is very difficult to transmit through e-mail, cell phones, instant messages, or any other form of technology-assisted communication. So the next time you find yourself face-to-face with a real live human being, stop, think, and observe your body language. You may be rewarded with a new level of awareness of something that you’ve been doing all along.

+ RIT students on body language

+ lisa barker,
fourth year photojournalism

is there any particular gesture that you find annoying?
There is this one guy who comes into Java’s and he always shifts his weight back and forth and seems really nervous and un-comfortable. It makes me feel nervous and uncomfortable, too.



how do you feel about hugs?
Oh my gosh, I love hugs! I think they are really important. I think you should get as many in a day as you can... within reason.

what do you do when you get really offended, happy, perplexed...?
I get quiet sometimes, and I start doing things really quickly and get very brusque. I use more exaggerated gestures and talk with my hands even more, sometimes it is a full-body thing. I fiddle with my hair a lot, and probably do that more when I am happy.

when around friends in a com-fortable place, how do you hold yourself?
I do this! I touch my nose when I am thinking. I like doing things with my nose in general. I think I nod a lot when trying to figure something out and fiddle with my hair when confused.

what do you do when you are under a lot of stress?
I don’t know. I put my hands behind my head, holding my hair. I don’t think I do things that are that different than normal.

during exams (whether you are confident or not), how do you sit?
I don’t really think about it, I probably just sit up straight and write quickly. I would slouch more, I would probably be thinking harder and have my head propped up.

what is your favorite non-verbal way of showing people you care?
I really like nudging people with my nose. Or nuzzling them.

if you were being chased by a bear in the woods and it was dead set on eating you, what would you do?
A lot!

+ stephen oyarajivbie,
third year game design

is there any particular gesture that you find annoying?
“Antennaing” up here [arm waves]. Definitely when people are all up here.

how do you feel about hugs?
I don’t want to feel obligated to give a hug, there has to be a good connection. Especially fake hugs, those are the worst.

what do you do when you get really offended, happy, perplexed...?
When happy, I have big open smile. I have an expression like, “What are you trying to say?” Usually, with friends, I like to lean for-ward and be more open, chillin’ and relaxing. Sometimes, I will have my hands on my belt.

during exams (whether you are confident or not), how do you sit?
I am usually focused [on] the paper while testing, but when confident, I am more upright. Maybe a lot of head down action and “What am I doing?” I might be holding my head, and maybe take a nap, trying to get the brain juices again.

what is your favorite non-verbal way of showing people you care?
I don’t care, I don’t know. I can’t answer it, so I must not care. A kiss on the cheek or something, and look at them and smile.

if you were being chased by a bear in the woods and it was dead set on eating you, what would you do?
Try to match him as a bear. I am not going run. I am a better bear than you are. What are you going to do?

+ rosmy darisme,
third year marketing

is there any particular gesture that you find annoying?
When people try to dap you (form of a hand-shake), the dap thing. Because there are so many ways to do it, all types of nonsense, especially when they try to bring you in for a hug.

how do you feel about hugs?
Hugs between a guy and a girl are great, get a cheap feel. I don’t hug men, so it is kinda awkward. I am pretty into hugs, and I hug any women I can.

what do you do when you get really offended, happy, perplexed...?
Probably give them the “Are you serious?” It’s more in the shoulders. I am a laid back guy, so I wouldn’t get in their face. I smile, just a big “Kool Ade smile” and open my arms up. I would give them the blank face, like it just goes over your head. If it is a professor, you want to them to think you know what you are talking about, so you give them the “thinker.”





when around friends in a comfortable place, how do you hold yourself?

When I am around the girl, I try to lean back, get comfortable, and lengthen the body. When around guys, you hang out and chill.

what do you do when you are under a lot of stress?

I do this. The rubbing of the head, it calms me down.

during exams (whether you are confident or not), how do you sit?

Oh like this: "just write write write write", and huddle over it, 'cause you are trying to get over with quickly. I just push it to the side and I am done. I used to try, but now I just get it over with. It's quicker.

what is your favorite non-verbal way of showing people you care?

If it is asexual, I just put my arm over their shoulder, let them know you care. And if you want, it can lead into a hug.

+ theresa manning, fourth year packaging science

is there any particular gesture that you find annoying?

When people aren't actually paying attention to you, but are pretending. Also, when people slouch. It shows that they are not fully aware of how they are holding themselves, like they are more focused on other parts of their lives than posture.

how do you feel about hugs?

Hugs are awesome. I love hugs. They are comfortable and great.

what do you do when you get really offended, happy, perplexed?

I would lean back like I am scared, "I don't like you." "Happy," or I will just jump around. I guess what I am doing right now.

if you were being chased by a bear in the woods and it was dead set on eating you, what would you do?

"Oh my god." •

HEY
RIT

DOES \$20 GET YOU



AMP'D?



login to rocloop.com
for a chance to win!

13120

ZERO
GRAVITY

Breakin' In
the Beginning

A History of
Break Dancing



Sat. Feb 9th
9:00pm
Ingle Auditorium

Tickets:
\$3 students
\$6 faculty/staff
\$6 public



Center
for Campus
life
Building SPIRIT

There is nothing as powerful in this world as a woman’s cleavage. That’s the first lesson I learned last weekend. The second: Facebook caps the number of pending friend requests you can have at 63 or so. Bummer, right?

Of course, I’m not actually as voracious a Facebook user as the above might lead you to conclude. Although I might spend an undue amount of time on the now endangered Scrabulous application, my use of the social networking site is typically well within the bounds of healthy moderation. This is not something that can be said for all of us.

With a network of over 58 million users and a status as the sixth-most-trafficked website in the United States, there’s no denying Facebook’s influence on our generation. At the risk of being deemed socially irrelevant, it is a force that every one of us must reckon with at some point. Yet while this may be an uncomfortable truth for some of us, it is nothing short of a dream come true for many researchers.



As researchers are able to browse through our conveniently organized self reports of friends, interests, relationship status and more, the information they gather is being used to explore some of the fundamental questions of social science. While this research hasn't provided any definite answers yet (and indeed, there may never be any), it certainly does beg the question: how can this be used to our advantage? In other words, for the average RIT student: how can this help me get a date? Inspired by such selfless and noble queries, I decided to do a little research of my own.

...Meet Alicia. Having just transferred to RIT, she is “lonely” and is looking for friendship or dating. Her favorite TV shows are *Friends*, *Lost*, *Heroes*, and *Will and Grace*; favorite movies are listed as *Titanic*, *Lord of the Rings*, *The Notebook*, and *Little Mermaid*. Alicia also writes that she is interested in hanging out with her friends, listening to music (favorite music: “everything!”), and “snuggling...”

Under screennames “sexychica85” and “sexyychica85,” two versions of Alicia were put up based on the same original photo: one with a simple head shot as her profile picture, and one with a less cropped shot, displaying her ample cleavage. Two male versions of Alicia were also put out (with identical interests, minus, of course, the girly TV show *Friends* and switching *Titanic* for the more manly *Gladiator* in the movies section). The physically fit “ladiesman986” was shown without a shirt; his alter ego, “ladiesmann986,” had a cropped, head shot version of the same photo.

After finding two similarly rated photos on hotornot.com (one male, one female), I put them up on Facebook with the generic interests listed above. I sent out friend requests to as many people as I could before Facebook cut me off, being careful to control the number of males vs. females requested for each person (40 opposite-gender requests and 23 same-gender requests for each), and not to send a request to the same person from more than one profile. The results exceeded expectations.

Five days after the profiles went up, each had at least 30 friends, approximately half of whom were gathered within several hours of posting the profiles. At the head of the pack was cleavage-enhanced Alicia with 39 friends; Cleavage-less Alicia followed with 33 friends; The cropped photo of the male was next with 32 friends, and the shirtless male placed last with 30 friends. While some of the accepted requests could have been due to mistakes or absentminded clicking, others clearly were not. As it turns out, you can get dates through posting an attractive profile picture on Facebook (or that’s what I assume, anyway; my guess is that it wasn’t a result of their sparkling personalities).

One particular male in his junior year at RIT (surrounded by no less than eight bottles of liquor in his profile picture, in case you were wondering) wasted no time in contacting the cleavage-endowed Alicia. In a message under the subject of “Hey wats up,” he wrote to her mere minutes after her profile appeared, “I am sorry that your alone like me, what you say for a hang out sometime tonight or some other time... Give me a buzz if you would like 585-[xxx-xxx].”

Individual results for each profile are in the accompanying table, but here’s the moral of the story: Ladies, if you’re looking for some attention (however sketchy it may be), cleavage is a surefire way to accomplish

	cleavage girl	head shot girl	shirtless guy	head shot guy
accepted				
friend				
requests	39	33	30	32
messages*	8	7	2	3
wall				
posts*	3	1	0	1
application				
requests	8	0	0	2
event				
invitations	1	0	0	1
group				
invitations	1	0	1	0
friend				
detail				
requests	5	1	1	0
friend				
requests				
(unprompted)	2	0	1	0
*Unique hits only; multiple messages from the same person were not counted.				

this. Gentlemen, you can keep your shirts on; it doesn’t appear to make that much of a difference, but in this test, the results showed a slight preference for fully clothed men.

Of the 134 people who accepted the requests, only three seemed to notice that something was amiss with their new friends: one member of Reporter’s staff who was accidentally sent a friend request, and two skeptical gentlemen. One of them was fourth year Biology student (and Skeptic) Jonathan Berman (whose Facebook profile does not list his major; however, it does reveal that he spent a good deal of time reading the *Animorphs* book series as a kid).

“It is a very poor hoax,” commented Berman, who noted that anyone with even a modicum of skepticism would have seen through it. Citing an odd time of the quarter for someone to be transferring to RIT, a birth year inconsistent with the stated year of graduation from RIT, and suspiciously generic interests (as well a nearly identical friend request his lab partner had received just minutes before Berman got the request), he knew right away that she was a fake, but accepted her friend request anyway. Why? “I don’t discriminate based on fictional status. If someone chooses to ‘friend’ me, I’ll approve them, and if I get too much spam, then I’ll just delete them.”

As for the others who did not question the authenticity of the profiles, many sent private messages inquiring how they knew each other, complimenting both females’ “smokin hot pic[s],” or welcoming the “transfer student” to RIT. While I had originally planned to respond to all the messages and see how many real life dates the fake profiles could snag, I decided against it in the end. It seemed a little bit cruel. And sad.

Said Berman of online dating sites, “[It’s] stupid. It’s a system that grants a selective advantage to the best liars.” He advised, “If you must use them, be skeptical, and require evidence. Also, use condoms/birth control, there are enough people already.” •

AS AN AMERICAN

YOU CAN MAKE A **COMMITMENT**.
FULFILL A **COMMITMENT**.
BREAK A **COMMITMENT**.
THERE ARE BIG **COMMITMENTS**.
SMALL **COMMITMENTS**.
COMMITMENTS YOU NEVER
WANTED TO MAKE
IN THE FIRST PLACE.
YOU CAN EITHER FEAR **COMMITMENT**
OR EMBRACE IT.

AS AN AMERICAN AND
A MARINE OFFICER

YOUR **COMMITMENT** WILL IMPACT
THE FUTURE OF THIS NATION.

FEW CAN BE MARINES.
EVEN FEWER CAN LEAD THEM.
CAN YOU?



MARINEOFFICER.COM

THAT PROFESSOR

by Ilsa Shaw | photograph by Tom Schirmacher



NAME, DEPARTMENT?

Timothy Engström, Department of Philosophy

HOW DID YOU WIND UP IN ROCHESTER?

There were really two reasons. One, I had spent about a decade in Europe as a student, doing my grad work and all of that, and wanted to get back to the U.S. As the oldest child of aging parents, I had wanted to be nearer home for a bit. My first teaching job, of all places, was at the University of Hawaii...In fact, I ended up, oddly enough, feeling that although I was back in the U.S., I was a lot farther away from the northeast being in Hawaii than I was living in the U.K. So, this job became available and I applied. I was just delighted to find something near home that got me back to upstate New York, where I wanted to be. It was partly opportunism on the one hand, and then, of course, I grew to love the place.

WHERE ARE YOU ORIGINALLY FROM?

I'm originally from a little village on the edge of the Adirondacks, about two and a half hours from here.

WHERE IN EUROPE DID YOU STUDY?

I started in Sweden at the University of Lund, which is just over the channel from Copenhagen. It's in the south of Sweden, a really pretty, pretty university town, although Copenhagen was the much more fun place to be. And then mostly at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, then a couple of universities in Germany (Tübingen and Göttingen).

I'VE BEEN LOOKING AROUND YOUR OFFICE, AND YOU SEEM TO BE INTO ANTIQUES AND MOTORCYCLES.

Well, yes, I admire certain kinds of older things, and I like tinkering with them. I have a few old vehicles, an old bike, and a couple of old cars.

WHAT KINDS?

The motorcycle is a 1939 Indian, so that's been around a good long time, a lot longer than I've been around. I love it, shamelessly, I must admit. It's a machine, but it's more than a machine, and I personify it like any idiot would. You love something that's inanimate, but you love it anyway. I've got a Triumph roadster, it's a little TR3 1957. I drive them all here pretty regularly. And a little four cylinder 1960 Mercedes, a little diesel.

WHAT WAS IT THAT ATTRACTED YOU TO STUDY AT SWEDEN?

Sweden was always an ideal for me in terms of its sense of social conscience, social tolerance, and its relative peacefulness. It just always seemed to me to be a beacon of what the intelligent and safe society ought to be. So I just wanted to go find out if that was true and, if it was, how they went about doing it. It just always seemed like the most rational possible society.

IS THAT WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A PHILOSOPHY PROFESSOR?

No, I think that evolved over time. I started out thinking more about double-majoring in philosophy and English literature. I thought those in combination would be the best preparation for law school. The philosophy would give me the argument and the rigor and the logic and all of those skills, I'd hoped, and with English the sense of narrative, story telling, persuasiveness, and art, if you will. Then I just grew, increasingly, to love philosophy. I just incrementally found myself wanting to make that a career, instead of law or something else.

WHAT TRAITS DO YOU VALUE MOST?

I certainly value those people who are consistently honest and willing to continually inquire about those things that matter to them. That's in part because I'm convinced that the more we inquire, the more we'll continually astonish ourselves that we're being silly and stupid, or that we have a lot more to understand, or that the things we thought were true just need to be dumped... At the same time, I think a sense of irony about needing to pursue those things honestly and seriously, and yet kind of acknowledging the occasional futility of doing so. It just might not always matter, and I guess we have to know that and admit that in advance.



1



3



2



4

SPORTSDESK

photographs by Jeff Porter

1 // RIT student Mike Ellis of the undefeated intramural dodgeball team Our Balls Are Fine hurls a ball towards the also undeated team G 4rce on Wednesday night at the SLC.

2 // Our Balls Are Fine teammates prepare to attack team G 4rce during thier intramural dodgeball game.

3 // Torry Butler of Our Balls Are Fine intramural dodgeball team winds up for a shot against G 4rce.

4 // Members of the intramural dogeball team Sol Fly dodge incoming attack from team Platoon during the Monday night intramural dodgeball games.



RIT MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

by Max Herrera | photograph by Jeff Porter

It takes a lot of courage to perform in front of a crowd, and it takes even more courage to do that half naked. Yet almost every week that is how our swimming and diving team spends their time. Diving and swimming are sports that require absolute focus and training, and this season, our men's team has been excelling.

Their first meet was with Alfred University and its results were unfortunate, although stellar performances were given by swimmers Jeff Kaemmerlen (who won the 50-yard freestyle in 22.34 seconds) and Quinn Donahoe (a four-time All-American who won the 1- and 3-meter diving events). However, the honest attempts by the rest of the team were unable to overcome Alfred in their opening meet. Their spirits were not broken by defeat, as was best exemplified by a statement from Kaemmerlen: "Losing races like that can be a positive experience for me, because it motivates me to train even harder."

Despite starting off on the wrong foot with a loss to Alfred University, the swim team would not let anything hold them back from having

a great season. The team continued the season with three consecutive wins over their next opponents. The first of the three meets was against SUNY Fredonia, which was a victory for the Tigers with twelve single events and both relays won. They continued their streak by defeating SUNY Oswego, winning five single events and both relays. Gaining confidence from the previous two meets, the Tigers not only decimated St. Lawrence University, winning eight single events and both relays, but Donahoe broke two pool records which were over twenty years old. When asked how it felt to be the hero of the hour, Donahoe replied, "The St. Lawrence meet was a solid stepping stone for me. It gave me two qualifying scores for Nationals and a good video tape of my dives to send in to the NCAA selection committee."

The season continued with two more wins, and another loss, this time to the undefeated SUNY Geneseo. The meet was intense and finished with a close score of 156-136, the Tigers winning six single events, and ended with Donahoe breaking a personal record in the 3-meter dive. Facing only two losses so far, the season has a positive outlook for the Tigers, leaving Head Coach Cahill saying, "They are a dedicated team,

a great team, and we're looking very optimistic for the rest of the season and Nationals."

With Nationals coming up, Coach Cahill says they expect many of their swimmers to make the NCAA, including Kaemmerlen, Donahoe, Matt Joseph, and Adam Luptak. The attitude of the swim team has been humble, and not directed towards just winning the meets, but also enjoying the sport, as demonstrated by Kaemmerlen as he said, "Mainly, I'm just happy to be swimming again." This is the attitude that has driven the team to success and, as put by Coach Cahill, "It has been a very great year for us." Through ups and downs, the team has carried on.

Our Men's Swimming and Diving team were not only able to keep their heads above the water but have won five out of seven meets, and finished third in the Don Richards Invitational. The swim team may have not started the season with victory, but that's definitely where they are headed. •

RIT swimmer competes in the breast stroke during Saturday's meet against Geneseo.

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Lee Twyman
RIT Ombudsperson
585.475.2876/585.475.7200
ombuds@rit.edu
www.rit.edu/~ombuds

RIT RINGS 585.672.4840

compiled by Karl Voelker

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

SUNDAY, 1:15 A.M.

Hi, my name is Barack Obama, and I'm calling to let you know that without Oprah Winfrey's support at the Iowa caucus where 12 people showed up to vote, I surely wouldn't have won. I just want to give a shout out to my peeps: Oprah, George Clooney, and the rest of Hollywood. Thank you for your contributions, because otherwise I wouldn't be able to compete in a political atmosphere. Holla, playa!

SUNDAY, 9:23 P.M.

Hey, the lights are off right now in B Lot, so I'm gonna hide behind this truck and see how many people I can scare when I jump out and frighten them.

FRIDAY, 12:32 P.M.

I was just looking at your Reporter here with Dr. Destler on it, and he was like Skeletor.

SUNDAY, 1:30 A.M.

HEY RINGS, THIS IS HILLARY CLINTON. I'D JUST LIKE TO SAY THAT THE GUY WHO [CALLED] NOT TOO LONG AGO SAYING THAT HE'S BARACK OBAMA IS A FAKE. SO YEAH, I'D JUST LIKE TO GIVE A SHOUT OUT TO ALL MY FRIENDS IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

TUESDAY, 3:56 P.M.

Hey, RIT Rings. I nearly fell out of my chair when I read Dr. Destler's quote in the Reporter, "The days in which campuses act like surrogate parents and watch over their students' every activity are over. It's not our job to look our for their safety and ensure they aren't imbibing alcohol." Hallelujah! It's about time. Anyone attending college is an adult and should take responsibility and be accountable for his actions. That's the way it was back in the '60's, and I'm glad to see RIT is getting away from the 1984, Stalag mentality. I just might start donating some big money to the campus. Thank you. Bye-bye!

SUNDAY, 7:38 P.M.

Hey Rings, all the lights are out in B Lot. It's really scary, because some girls could get raped out here or something. But it's okay, because I'm here to protect them. Alright, peace.

TUESDAY, 12:22 P.M.

So, this morning at 7:45, our campus decided to have faulty fire alarms. It set off the fire alarms. We all had to go the Commons at 7:45 in the morning. I had class at 9:00. I was late. You suck, Ellingson. You suck, RIT.

SUNDAY, 2:37 A.M.

Hey, you won't believe this. I saw a lady scratch her head with her tongs that she feeds us with. How gross! I'm gonna throw up after this.

SUNDAY, 9:22 P.M.

I would just like to say that the lights are not on in B Lot, and I sincerely hope that I do not get raped by a lurking lurker hiding between the cars. Also, two parking spots [are] not for one car, so don't do it, because it's really stupid. Thank you.

FRIDAY, 1:12 A.M.

Hi, RIT Rings. My cat...it was around Christmas...we bought it catnip, and it went crazy. I was hiding weed in the ceiling tiles in my basement. So, my cat ate the whole bag of weed. It was, like, \$20 worth of weed. I was playing video games, and it fell over, broke the ceiling tile, fell into my lap, screamed and ran into another part of the basement, and we didn't see it for three days.

YOUR PAPERS, PLEASE

by Max Herrera

illustration by Greg Caggiano



Airports have become the stuff of an Orwellian dystopian novel, with increasing security, random searches, television screens at every ten feet spouting visual Valium, and a voice constantly reminding you, "The threat level is orange." Out-of-state students at RIT must resign themselves to this sickening experience every time they go home. Yet our government, once established for the people, by the people, has decided that this totalitarian checkpoint is not enough to protect us from "terrorists" and the "threat of illegal immigrants." So, they did what any self-respecting governing establishment would do: seize power. This grab at power came in the form of many bills, such as the Patriot Act, H.R.1955 Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act, and others. Among them exists HR 418, or the REAL ID Act, passed all the way back in 2005 as a rider bill in an \$82 billion Katrina Tsunami Relief and War Spending Bill.

Despite having been passed in 2005, the REAL ID Act comes into effect this year in May, and the consequences of it are dire. Imagine the airport security checkpoint not only becoming stricter, but security checkpoints being placed anywhere that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) deems it necessary. Not only that, the bill states that the DHS sets the minimum standards for all state issued IDs, including any electronic technology placed in the card. Conversely, they have set no maximum limitations on what could be placed on this card. Presidential candidate Dr. Ron Paul gives an example of what DHS could do with this bill: "If they would like to put on there the fact that you belong to a pro-gun group,

it may well appear on your national ID card, because there may be an administration, one day, that may want to have that information." Nothing is sacred in regards of this ID. Biometrics, DNA information, political persuasion, and even sexual orientation are not considered off-limits. Anything about you can be put on this card. Our elected officials, who are supposed to represent us, have given the president and one of his many minions (DHS) the power to do this.

Supporters claim that since the ID is voluntary, this is irrelevant, but to make that claim is to ignore the fact that anyone without the ID cannot pass any federal checkpoints; federal checkpoints that students, like us, must pass every Christmas, every Thanksgiving, and every summer. Then there is the fact that these federal checkpoints can be established anywhere they want. So is it really as voluntary as claimed? Is it really voluntary, if we cannot even go home without one of these de facto national IDs? They also claim that it will keep us safer, because we will be able to identify terrorists and illegal immigrants. However, consider who is really being punished here with the ID. Thugs, criminals, and terrorists are not going to get an ID before committing a crime. To attempt to register every American citizen in order to search for terrorists is absolutely ridiculous, because the people who would commit the crimes we are trying to prevent will just avoid this law. We, as American citizens, are the ones who are punished simply because some bureaucrats think that it is a better system.

The effect of this bill is just as chilling and totalitarian as anything Orwell ever wrote. We have allowed our nation to be usurped by socialites, warmongers, and megalomaniacs. Our Founding Fathers would be ashamed if they saw what has become of America. They sacrificed tirelessly to free themselves and their children from oppression, all to be given away because we have become too complacent to even care if we are free anymore. But if I was unable to convince you of the dangers of this national ID, at least consider what our very own president, George W. Bush, said about it in an administrative statement made on February 9, 2005: "The administration strongly supports House passage of H.R. 418." •

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