

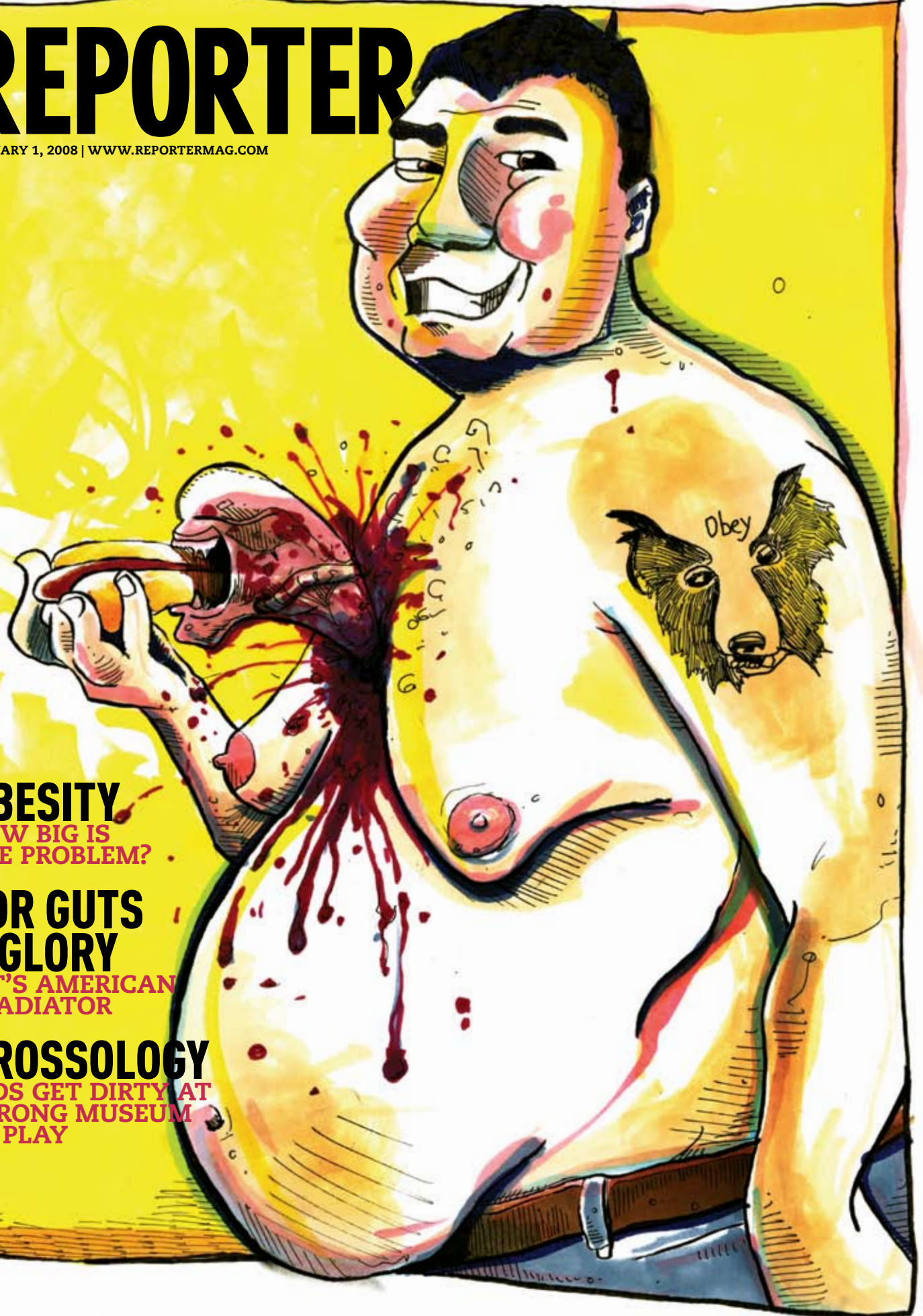
REPORTER

FEBRUARY 1, 2008 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM

OBESITY
HOW BIG IS
THE PROBLEM?

**FOR GUTS
& GLORY**
RIT'S AMERICAN
GLADIATOR

GROSSOLOGY
KIDS GET DIRTY AT
STRONG MUSEUM
OF PLAY



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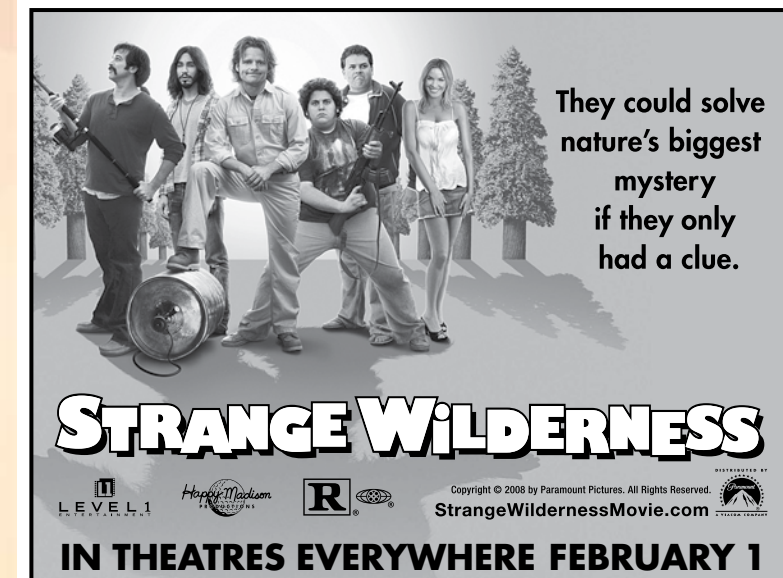
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EDITOR’S NOTE

ANONYMOUS COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT
“We are forged from the secret rage and tempered by the will of a people oppressed,” a slightly British, very mechanized voice utters in a poorly produced YouTube video. The rhetoric certainly leaves an impression, in part, I think, because it is borrowed from the greats. “Now is the winter of our discontent.” If he sounds very Shakespearean to you, he should— the Bard himself penned that last phrase in *Richard III*.

The Internet revolutionary group, Anonymous, must understand the nuances of copyright laws. Many of their declarations, including the speech quoted above, are laden with expertly borrowed material. Perhaps the most clever instance of fair use comes from a video titled “Anonymous – Second address to Scientology.” In it, a man in a motorcycle helmet implores believers to break from the cult: “Make up your own mind.” As he intones these words, an image of a leaked recruitment video starring Tom Cruise is reflected in his dark visor. The atmosphere is hauntingly post-apocalyptic.

Anonymous declared its intent to wage war on Scientology after Church officials forced websites to remove the referenced recruitment video from its servers. The reason for depriving the general public from viewing this spot? The video is copyrighted material.

This information deprivation sent hackers and script kiddies across the globe into a fit of epic proportions, and the ensuing war primarily concerns the free flow of information. Scientologists wish to protect their materials, stating that only those who have reached a higher level of spiritual enlightenment (via some hefty payments) can view their copyrighted works. In other words, you need to pay to see these videos.

Anonymous, on the other hand, believes that if the Church of Scientology were forced to make their highly protected documents public, many of their followers would see the sham and leave. They believe that the harm of copyright infringement of secret Scientologist documents pales in comparison to the harm that the Church inflicts on its members. To them, the ends justify the means.

Anonymous’ fight is deeply rooted in the distinctly modern debate on copyright, one that RIT is currently and hotly engaged in (see page 4). The fact is that many of us don’t give a damn about copyrights, particularly when it comes to music. The justification of stealing songs usually involves some finely tuned speech about the greed of evil music corporations, and the harm those corporations inflict on musicians themselves. That these songs can be stolen anonymously over the Internet provides a compelling circumstance for criminal behavior.

I’m *uncomfortable* because I find myself siding with the big money lawyers. I don’t believe that the Church of Scientology or the RIAA are moral organizations. I think they’re greed-consumed brutes who employ grievous scare tactics to keep the public in line, but I also respect their right to protect their work. The words on this page are my copyrighted material, sold to *Reporter* for your reading pleasure. I value copyright laws. They allow me to eat. If I work to produce something of value, and people wish to view it, they need to pay me. I believe that to be an immutable law of the marketplace.

“Beliefs should not come at a price,” a robotic voice drones. “Not from your wallet or compromising your thoughts.” Beliefs, certainly. But copyrighted works of art? Well, perhaps those should come with a price tag.



Jen Loomis
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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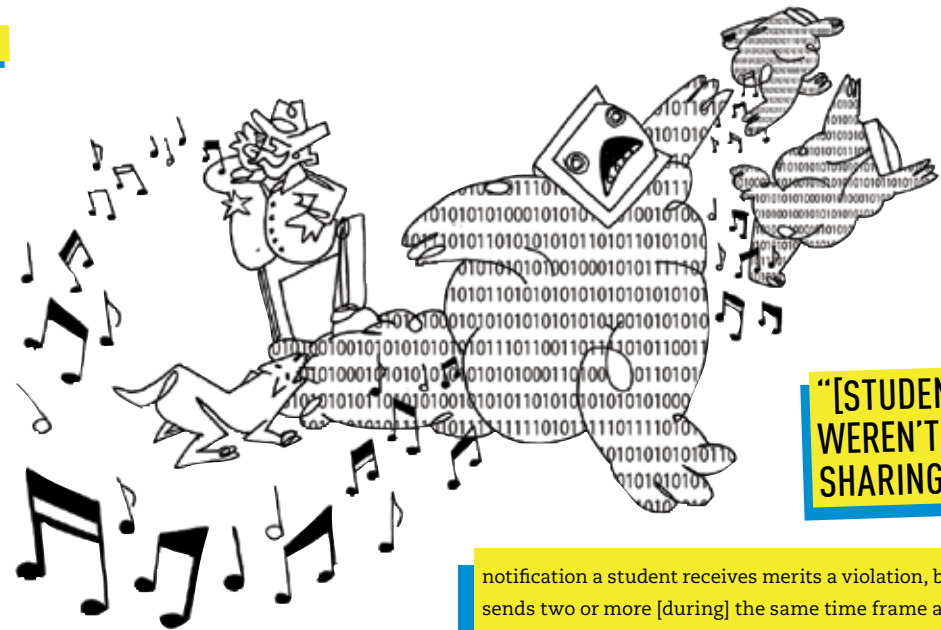
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NEW POLICY ON ILLEGAL FILE SHARING

by Madeleine Villavicencio

illustration by Ben Reubin



“[STUDENTS] FELT LIKE THEY WEREN’T [TAUGHT] WHAT FILE SHARING ACTUALLY MEANT,”

With an average of 50 to 75 Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) notifications per week, Information and Technology Services (ITS) is being bombarded. “[The numbers] used to be about five to ten a week, but it’s gone up dramatically as different organizations like the RIAA are trying to protect the copyrights of their areas,” said Dave Pecora, Associate Director for ITS Customer Support.

Although much of the old policy has been retained, there have been significant changes. “Essentially, [ITS] would receive [the notices], forward them to the student the computer was registered to, and that would all be done by e-mail...One of the problems with the existing process is that e-mail is often ignored and has become an ineffective way to communicate to the students,” explained Pecora. Another problem is that there is no way to check whether the student has actually complied with the notice. “The student usually replies, saying that they’ve taken [the material] down, and we assume our students are truthful, and that’s it,” added Donna Cullen, ITS Computer Policy Analyst. In May 2007, the Anti-Piracy Task Force was created with representatives from major RIT departments such as ITS, Public Safety, Student Affairs, Student Conduct, and Student Government.

In a recent e-mail to the student body, President Destler outlined the new policy, which only applies to RIT’s networks. Being registered for private Internet access, residents of Rivernoll will be unaffected. The policy will take effect in the first week of spring quarter.

The main focus of the new policy is the procedure in handling file sharing cases. “[Students] felt like they weren’t [taught] what file sharing actually meant,” said Cullen. The task force decided that the students should be educated rather than punished for the first few violations. “Each DMCA

notification a student receives merits a violation, but sometimes, the RIAA sends two or more [during] the same time frame and we most likely count these as one notice,” explained Cullen.

“The way the process works is if a computer is seen on the network by an entity that has copyright [privileges] and they believe that their rights have been infringed, the process they follow by law is to send a notification to a registered e-mail address. These go to our office,” explained Pecora. These notifications are forwarded to the user of that RIT account.

“With the new process, we block the device in question from network access. If you went to any website while connected to the RIT network, we would route you to a site that would present a notice,” said Pecora. You must then acknowledge that you have read the notice and that you understand RIT’s policy. Second and third violations involve more before regaining network connectivity. “What we hope [to accomplish] from this is that the students gain a better understanding of what happens,” said Cullen.

The case information for a third violation is usually referred to Public Safety and Student Conduct, but these cases are rare. “For 2007, we may have only received nine referrals,” stated Rodney Lezette, Investigator for Public Safety. According to Dawn Soufleris, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, “Student Conduct rarely gets involved. It is only if a student is non-compliant with ITS or a DMCA notice, if there have been numerous requests, or if there is some other infraction of the Computer Code of Conduct.”

In a presentation to Student Government, members of the Anti-Piracy Task Force were quick to point out that students are not asked to admit guilt during any of this process. They also indicated that proof of actual copyright infringement is not required for students to be subjected to the new process. However, there will be a means for students to challenge the validity of piracy allegations made against them. •

SG OFFERS MSOs MORE FUNDING, WITH PROVISIONS

by Chris Tosswill

illustration by Robert Modzelewski



Student Government has enacted a new policy providing additional financial support to Major Student Organizations (MSOs), provided that they work together.

All the events that occur on campus are sponsored by various student organizations. A handful of these clubs are known as MSOs, as their members or constituents make up a significant portion of the student body or provide a unique service to the school. Most recognized clubs, big or small, get a substantial portion of their operating budget from SG.

Recently, the rules by which funding is allocated to the MSOs have been revised as part of President Ed Wolf’s vision for the future role of SG. “Student Government’s role is to be a support mechanism for the student organizations of this campus. That is why we are shifting our efforts away from programming this year, and returning to our roots of governance,” said Wolf.

Basically, the new rules encourage MSOs to co-sponsor events. Wolf hopes that this will cause bigger events to be held on campus and reach more of the student body than any one MSO could on its own. Under the new rules, any event sponsored by two or more clubs is eligible for up to a 20% reimbursement from SG. The MSOs Reporter Magazine and WITR are exempt from the new funding rules.

While MSOs agree that more money is always a good thing, a number of new requirements for the MSOs were also tacked onto the bill. Most controversial of these requirements is that MSOs that are lax on attendance stand to lose a chunk of their funding during their annual review. The rules are not hard and fast, rather they are guidelines, with enforcement up to the reviewer’s digression. Nevertheless, some people are worried.

“It’s unfair for the MSOs’ funding to be so reliant on attendance. Involvement on campus should be important,” said Jacqueline Robinson, SG representative for the Off Campus & Apartment Student Association. Robinson said, “OCASA is more of a service MSO. We don’t have events like the other MSOs.” However, she also said that OCASA was working on “reaching out” to other clubs since before the SG changes were announced.

Rich Allen, the Greek Council representative to SG, pointed to how the bill was created. “I didn’t feel as if the Senate was involved. It was just dropped in front of us.” He also expressed concern that different MSOs have different goals. “The Greek Council isn’t a programming MSO; we may put on two or three events a year,” explained Allen. “The two-events-a-quarter requirement could cripple the Greek Council.”

However, not all MSOs feel the same way. Said Aditya Manjrekar, President of Global Union, an umbrella organization overseeing many cultural clubs on campus, “What I understood from the Finance Director is that [a joint event between] clubs under our umbrella would count [under the new SG rules].”

The new funding rules took effect this quarter. So far, enforcement has been lax. Many MSOs agree with the intent of the rules, but disagree on how they are implemented. Allen expressed this concern, saying, “I think, as a whole, the process is a great one. I’m just concerned about the issues it will cause us if not properly documented.” •

DINING SERVICES APOLOGIZES
FOR MLK MENU GAFFE

by Andy Rees

On Monday, January 21, the nation celebrated the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a champion of civil rights. To honor Dr. King’s birthday, RIT’s Dining Services offered traditional Southern foods at different venues across campus, including fried chicken and collard greens. However, some students took offense to this menu selection and its presentation.

“No one is opposed to serving traditional southern meals,” says Alvin Roberts, President of the African American, Latino, and Native American Collegiate Association (ACA) and third year Hotel and Resort Management student. “To have a meal with foods that are stereotypical, be served on Martin Luther King day, was poor planning... Tactless.”

“The way that the menu was worded [was] in a way that was almost patronizing,” Roberts remarked, noting that he didn’t believe it was done out of malice, but rather out of lack of knowledge.

According to Roberts, many students wrote complaints and submitted them to Dining Services. After receiving these complaints, Dining Services issued an apology on Tuesday morning through the RIT Message Center.

“We are truly sorry that our attempt to commemorate the life and memory of Dr. Martin Luther King may have instead detracted from his celebration,” the apology read. “In retrospect, we fully understand how this could be interpreted as inappropriate on this occasion.”

Other than the apology, Dining Services would not comment on this matter.

Roberts cited that Dining Services has agreed to work with students on future menu choices, so that it is done in a way that is respectful. “I don’t think our students should be offended, but more so willing to educate. We don’t want it to be a trend,” stated Roberts.

According to their apology, Dining Services still “looks forward to working with the university community in the future in celebration of our diversity.”

STUDENT CHARITY FUNDS FIGHT
AGAINST CANCER

by Geoffrey Bliss

Before the age of 19, one in every 330 children in the United States will develop some form of cancer, according to the National Children’s Cancer Foundation. But some on campus are working to remedy this problem, raising funds for treatment. “There is a new and exciting philanthropic event hitting college campuses nationwide called ‘Up ‘til Dawn,’ sponsored by Saint Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Its mission is to raise funds and awareness for children suffering from cancer,” said Carol Callesano, Executive Director of the program.

Callesano explained that St. Jude’s treats children suffering from cancer. No patient is ever charged or refused for the services they receive. “In 2006, Up ‘til Dawn made its first appearance at Brick City, earning a remarkable \$13,000 dollars for St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital. The warm generosity of these donations has helped the program continue into its second year. This year, donations are hoped to double. There are several upcoming events, which shouldn’t be missed,” Callesano said.

The “All Team Meeting” is the program’s kickoff event, which will be held on February 8 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge. During this time, participants will write letters to friends, family, or businesses in hope of raising charitable donations for St. Jude’s. Students are encouraged to stay for refreshments, games, and live entertainment.

The finale is to be held on April 25 in the Clark Gym, where participants will stay up until 5:00 a.m. Music, games, and karaoke are among the many events going on that night. A patient and their family will attend to express their grati-

tude for team participation. Callesano added, “There will be trophies for teams and individuals with the most donations earned.”

Joining a team is simple and straightforward. Find five other friends who are interested, fill in the online registration form and attend one of the informational meetings, the times for which are posted online. Callesano concluded by saying, “The benefits for participating are to make a difference to St. Jude’s and take part in the first campus-wide philanthropy event which I hope will unite the campus under one common goal.”

For more information, please see rit.edu/sg/uptildawn.

BASKETBALL COACH DISMISSED
MIDSEASON

As of early January, Debbie Buff will no longer serve as Head Coach for the women’s basketball team. Her record with the team was 51-83, which makes her the all-time coaching victories leader for women’s basketball at RIT. Under her guidance last season, the Tigers had a record number of wins (15) and reached the postseason for the first time. Buff was named the Empire 8 Women’s Basketball Coach of the Year in 2007 for her efforts.

The co-captains of the team, as well as Vice President of Student Affairs Mary Beth Cooper, declined to comment on the reasons for Buff’s dismissal. According to the *Democrat and Chronicle*, school spokesman Steve Jaynes also declined to comment.

Assistant Coach Rob Peterson is now serving as the interim coach for the Tigers. This is his second year with the team. Peterson has concentrated heavily on recruitment during this season, but the transition to his new position should be smooth, given his previous experience as York High School’s Head Coach, a job that he performed for 12 years.

RIT FORECAST

compiled by Tiffany Mason and Sarai Oviedo

2 SATURDAY

ACA - 5TH ANNUAL UNITY FASHION SHOW

SAU Cafeteria, 6:30 p.m. - 11 p.m. Hit the runway with a night of fashion and fun. Cost: \$10 students, \$20 faculty/staff, \$20 others.

LUNAR NEW YEAR

Student Development Center, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. Join the Asian Deaf Club as they celebrate the Year of the Rat, starting on the lunar new year.

Cost: Free.

SPEECH BY SHERYL SWOOPES

Clark Gym, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. Swoopes, a WNBA star, talks about coming out of the closet. Cost: \$5 students, \$8 faculty/staff, \$8 others.

CAROLINE WERNER GANNETT LECTURE SERIES: POETRY IN MOTION

Webb Auditorium, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Watch Peter Cook’s and NTID’s Kenny Learner’s performance of experimental visual poetry. Cost: Free.

CAB FRIDAY NIGHT IN THE RITZ AND EGS: GUITAR HERO CONTEST

RITz Sports Zone, 9:30 p.m. - 12 a.m. Rock the guitar for awesome prizes. Cost: \$1.

3 SUNDAY

SUPER BOWL PARTY

Clark Gym, 3 p.m. - 12 a.m. The underdog Giants play the undefeated Patriots. SG is hosting a party to watch the big game. Beer will be available, so bring ID. Cost: Free.

4 MONDAY

AUDITIONS: THE DEAF WOMEN PROJECT

LBJ 1510. 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. All are welcome to try out for this original work.

5 TUESDAY

PREPARING FOR AND TAKING EXAMS

Building 01-2358, 12 noon - 1 p.m. Crunch time is right around the corner. Develop winning strategies for preparing for tests and finals.

Cost: Bring your own lunch.

6 WEDNESDAY

WRESTLING VS. SUNY ONEONTA

Clark Gym, 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. The Tigers take on the Red Dragons on the mat. Let’s see some pins! Cost: Free.

7 THURSDAY

THURSDAY NIGHT CINEMA: SUPERBAD

Ingle Auditorium, 10 p.m. - 12 a.m. A super hilarious comedy about super high school seniors on a mission to score booze and get chicks. You know, the finer things in life. Free hot chocolate and Rice Krispie bars. Cost: Free.

8 FRIDAY

JACK’S MANNEQUIN

Gordon Field House, 8 p.m. - 12 a.m. Another major winter concert from the fine folks at CAB. \$12 students, \$17 faculty/staff, \$22 others.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT
WEEKLY UPDATE

LIVE WELL, EAT WELL

Vice President Sasha Malinchoc presented the “Live Well, Eat Well” program to the Senate. This program is already in place for faculty and staff. Malinchoc would like Student Government to extend the program to the student body. The Live Well, Eat Well program encourages healthier eating and exercise habits by creating a competition. Small teams are formed, and each team works to be healthier than the other teams by walking more, logging time at the gym, and eating fruits and vegetables.

Malinchoc indicated that the program may come at a cost to Student Government, because pedometers are used to track the number of steps that each participant takes. The pedometers cost \$5 a unit.

Representative at Large Matt Danna liked the idea. GLBT Senator Cory Gregory also liked the idea, but was concerned with the potentially large cost. College of Engineering Senator Adam Weissman suggested that small prizes could be offered as an incentive for winning.

BUSSING CHANGES

As a result of the RTS Bus Forum that NTID Senator Scott Bailey organized, two changes will be made to the bussing service. First, a stop will be added to the off-campus route to accommodate travel to the McDonald’s/Ruby Tuesday plaza on Jefferson Road. Second, a bus shelter will be constructed at the Rustic Village stop.

WOMEN’S SENATOR ELECTIONS

Second year Business major Emily Hughes was elected as the Women’s Senator for the remainder of the 2007-2008 academic year. Hughes is a member of the Honors program, serves as an RA for Baker Hall, sits on the Women’s Advisory Board, and is helping to coordinate the Relay for Life at RIT.

COS SENATOR RESIGNS

Jawad Tawakali, the elected College of Science Senator, resigned from his position after last week’s meeting. He had been coming under some heavy fire from the Cabinet for tardiness, lack of communication between himself and other members of Student Government, and failure to meet his stated goals. •

PABLO FRANCISCO

LIVE AT RIT

by Susan Cook
photograph by Eric Drummond

"I had a major accident tonight. I cut my toe open...My toe is never gonna be the same," said Shane Mauss' wife in the saved voice message through his cell phone. The audience was filled with laughter as she over-exaggerated the pain of a plastic garbage can falling on her toe. As Mauss exited the stage, comedian Pablo Francisco came jogging out in his traditional t-shirt and ball cap attire.

From the All State Insurance guy to gay karaoke singer, Francisco performed his numerous famous impersonations, much to the crowd's enjoyment. As a fan of Francisco, I was impressed to see material that I wasn't familiar with. Although he repeated small portions of acts to which many of us were accustomed, it seemed as though most people were far from disappointed.

Despite his fans' avid devotion, Francisco began the act in the unfortunate, unsettling cliché of teasing the interpreter. However, he partially redeemed himself when he invented his own form of sign language. Continuing along the same lines, he joked about gang signals being impossible while wearing mittens and, instead of shootings, snowball fight drive-bys occurring.

His act jumped from topic to topic, and he largely avoided lingering on one subject for too long. At one end of the spectrum, he joked about Praying Mantis Kung Fu style, while at the other was an impression

of poor, confused Ozzy Osbourne ordering at Subway: "What kind of bread would you like?" "Eeehhh, the...you know, that...eeehhh."

The truly impressive aspect of Francisco's act was that when some people audibly voiced their distaste for some of the material, he also managed to make those same people laugh within minutes. The whole act was incredibly versatile and appealed to everyone's sense of mischief, and even their dark sides. While many subjects may be considered taboo by most in broad daylight (such as a stripper's ability to dance to Mexican music), under the stage lights, anything was fair game.

After all, who wouldn't love to have the bravery to stand before a crowd and proclaim they're David Meatball Fire, the singer of a death metal band, and say, "We'll sacrifice the unicorn tonight." He proceeded to

"WE'LL SACRIFICE THE UNICORN TONIGHT."

explain that he got his singing capability from the Green Goblin, who asked him to sing like King Kong, Alien, and a screaming cat.

Perfectly balanced with his deep-throated singer persona was a teeny-bopper sounding metal band fan.

Showing real love for his fans, Francisco ended his act by reenacting his popular "Movie Preview Guy" skit. (Halfway through the show, an audience member shouted his request for that famous skit— looks like Francisco followed through). For those who don't know the act, he talks about movies that Don LaFontaine can make cool, no matter what. He started with a movie starring Keanu Reeves, which-induced some chuckles, and then placed Arnold Schwarzenegger in a trailer for an action-packed film called "Little Tortilla Boy."

While most people may frown on reusing old jokes and generally subjects which are off limits, Francisco demonstrated a genuine willingness to please. At least, if nothing else, we can enjoy the fact that he hasn't become the repeating train-wreck better known to Blue Collar fans as Ron White. •

GROSSOLOGY EXHIBIT OOOZES INTO STRONG NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PLAY

by Lino Alvarez
photograph by
Megan Rossman

The Strong Museum of Play prides itself in providing a place reserved for fun and play for kids of every age. With its many interactive exhibits and massive galleries (which include the National Toy Hall of Fame), the Museum of Play provides an engrossing environment for parents and kids for hours on end. Recently, on January 19, a new exhibit known as Grossology was brought to the forefront of the museum. Based on best selling books of the same name by author Sylvia Branzei, Grossology promises sophisticated animatronics and imaginative exhibits to explain the good, the bad, and the downright ugly of runny noses, body odor, and much more. That description seemed pretty intimidating, but luckily, there was a guide available to help me through the muck and gunk that Grossology offered.

Our guide was none other than Susan Trien, the Director of Public Relations and Advertising for the Museum of Play. As we made our way towards the Grossology exhibit, which was just down Sesame Street and to the right of Storybook Adventureland, we could hear loud exclamations of "Ewww!" and "Gross!" coming from a group of children watching a massive animatronic faucet with an ever-dripping nose, affectionately called "Nigel Nose-It-All." The exhibit itself was quite huge with a variety of displays that were chock full of things to touch and, sometimes, smell. "Each exhibit focuses on different daily functions of the human body, from sneezing to burping and even vomiting," Trien explained.

The vomiting exhibit made me curious. The goal was to press buttons on a display in order to match up with the steps the body takes before actually vomiting. The available choices were the mouth, the brain, the esophagus, and the



stomach. After a couple of tries, I was finally successful in making the cartoon character vomit. The combination of brain, followed by stomach, mouth, and esophagus, all resulted in a rather realistic vomiting sound to spew from the display.

It was then that Trien left me to face Grossology nose first, with everything disgusting it had to offer. I moved on to the exhibit nearby and was faced by a giant. Burp-man was his name, and burping was his game. The exhibit had you pump soda into Burp-man in order to increase his stomach pressure and make him burp. Regular pumps didn't seem to affect Burp-man, as most of the time, the soda wouldn't even reach his stomach. I pumped the lever a little faster and began to make some progress. After a couple of minutes, the "Burp-o-meter" finally reached the maximum level and Burp-man let out an enormous roar of a burp. At this point, I knew I was hooked on Grossology.

Once I left, I had smelled some of the worst smells, watched a cartoon vomit, and made a man burp.

That's the thing about Grossology: it grabs your attention and holds on to it, even after the first couple of exhibits. As I visited each station, I felt like I was embarking on a new journey, from the climbable skin wall (which teaches you about warts, pimples, and all other skin-related topics) to playing the ever popular

"Urine: The Game" (in which one learns how the kidneys process and what is either good or bad in urine). After having left each station, I always felt accomplished and a little more knowledgeable, which kept my mind more on the active side of things, rather than on the bored side.

As I came to the end of the exhibit, I noticed that I had spent just a little over an hour in a room with only about seven exhibits. My favorite of these would have to be the giant-sized Operation game, a replica of the famous board game that came complete with a loud buzzer sound whenever one touched the sides of the body. I suppose that's the beauty of the whole thing, you start moving from display to display, excited for what's coming up next, all the while entirely engrossed by the objective of each station. After all, striving to complete each task for the reward of a disgusting sound byte is hardly tedious or boring. Once I left, I had smelled some of the worst smells, watched a cartoon vomit, and made a man burp. It was a great experience, one that I would highly recommend to kids of all ages. It surely lives up to the museum's standard of providing a place to have fun and learn while you are around. •

The Strong Museum of Play is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except on Fridays, when it closes at 8 p.m. Adult tickets are \$9.50. For more information, visit strongmuseum.org

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

by Sam Cole
illustrations by Sara Wick

DAY THREE

a boy ran down the empty street. It was pitch black at 11 a.m. The sun still hadn't risen over Mayberry, Texas. A street lamp flickered to a beat that no one would ever record or even play. A woman's maternal voice pierced the air:

"Robert!"

Six miles away, on the outskirts of town, Charles' ranch house stood in just exactly the same way it stood for the last twenty years since Charles had built it for his late wife. Some of the blue paint was beginning to peel. In this lack of light, it was impossible to tell.

Inside, Charles grabbed his flashlight and marched outside to do the gardening. Usually, he found this easy to do. It was his routine, and routine made everything so much simpler. Today, maybe because the sun broke its cycle, Charles couldn't bring himself to pull one more weed. He went back inside and sat down on the bed he and his wife once shared, and he cried. It was the first time he had cried in ten years. He wasn't sure if he would be able to stop.

After a couple of minutes like this, Charles rooted around in the night stand drawer to find the thing that stopped the tears ten years ago, and it was probably the same bottle.

Julia's husband usually came home from work at 6:12 p.m. exactly. He read his mail until 6:17, and he ate dinner at 6:18. Order, he called it.

Julia had dinner in the oven (a quiche), so she was reading at 6:10. Two minutes later, she glanced up without really thinking about why. Another couple of minutes and she felt a raw gnawing feeling in her stomach. She got

up to check on the quiche. She sat back down on the sofa and put her cell phone on her lap. She pretended to read.

She called the police at 7 p.m. Toby answered the phone.

As soon as she hung up the phone with Toby, she called her lover, the deacon. The deacon had spent his day in prayer. He could not remember the last time he had really prayed. Not like this thing in church where you recite words, but *really* prayed because your life depended on it. This might have been the first time.

One of Julia's husband's coworkers called the police station at around 8 p.m. The report he

gave was of Julia's husband hunching his broad shoulders as if against a strong wind and walking off into the dark. Toby sighed, and filed the report next to Julia's missing persons report. This town was starting to get a little weird.

It was still dark at 10 p.m. The sun had usually set by then anyway, and so when a business man stopped into town because his car was running low on gas, he didn't notice anything wrong. He found the only hotel in town.

"Do you have any rooms left?"

There were always rooms in Mayberry, Texas. •





RAMBO
by John Howard

“Heroes never die...they just reload.” And they did. Over, and over, and over again.

Sylvester Stallone wrote, directed, produced, and starred in his latest film *Rambo*, a story about Vietnam veteran John Rambo living in Thailand and catching cobras for a living. Problems start when a group of missionaries convince Rambo to taxi them in his boat to Burma, where they will aid the villagers in the ongoing war. Soon after dropping them off, Rambo learns that the missionaries have

been taken captive. With the help of some mercenaries, he goes in to attempt to rescue them, killing everything in his path.

This is all a lot of words for a film that can be summed up in one sentence: endless killing separated by montages of people going to get more killing done. The film fails on so many levels that it is hard to pinpoint a main flaw. The story line is weak, the acting is mediocre at best, and the characters are shallow. Although the script did attempt to touch base on the war going on in Burma, the topic was pushed aside to leave room for Stallone to show off his muscles.

The only thing more disturbing than the endless bloodshed was the female lead. Julia Benz butchered the part in a sickening display of bad acting. To give her a little bit

of credit, Stallone didn’t give her much to work with in the screenplay.

On a more positive note, the only apparent reason for making this film in the first place was that Stallone was as cool as ever. He provided the classic macho factor that is customary for his films. The audience was on the edge of their seats for each of the three lines that he spoke— I’m sorry, I mean grunted. The special effects were also impressive.

Fans of Stallone and the other *Rambo* movies will go to watch this film simply because of the title and Stallone’s face on the poster. However, if you only have enough money to see one film this weekend, please skip this one, for your own sake. You could do much better. •



THE MARS VOLTA
• Bedlam In Goliath •
The Good

After dual disappointing releases in *Frances The Mute* and *Amputecture*, The Mars Volta has finally brought an album to the table that isn’t watered down with electronic drones and other methods of musical auto-fellatio. The band has returned to a form similar to their stunning debut, *De-loused In The Comatorium*. The album is a breath of fresh air in the stagnant state of music today. One of the most notable improvements compared to their past work is a newfound ferocity that is blatantly obvious throughout the album. Surely there are still some annoying points, principally that the lyrics are so jumbled and cryptic that the album should really come with a decoder ring. The band sometimes resorts to what can only be described as “musical noodling” merely for noodling’s sake, leaving the listener to scratch their head for a number of seconds until the real music emerges again. But other than that, *Bedlam in Goliath* is a solid release from a band which has had two other tries to get it right...and failed. Third time's the charm! •



DEAD MEADOW
• Old Growth •
The Bad

Dead Meadow found its amps at your grandparents’ garage sale. The sound’s ancient vacuum tube amplification is the centerpiece for their album *Old Growth*. Dead Meadow plays a slow, groove-laden brand of rock with a heavy southern swagger. The band even ventures into the realm of psychedelia, prompting some to file them under “stoner rock.” However, Dead Meadow falls upon a most unusual circumstance; they duplicate the sounds of ‘60s and ‘70s rock so well that they serve no purpose. If you wanted to hear this kind of music, it would do you better to dig up your parents’ old vinyl than to waste some hard-earned dough on what is essentially a musical replica of the real thing. •



THE SILVER MT ZION ORCHESTRA & TRA-LA-LA BAND
• 13 Blues for Thirteen Moons •
The Ugly

Ouch. That describes the first twelve tracks of this album in a nutshell. For no apparent reason, the dozen “songs” (and I use that term loosely) that lead off this album are six second snippets of high-pitched, atonal screeches. And unfortunately for the listener, it doesn’t get much better after that. The four remaining tracks average 14 minutes in length apiece, and— oh, the agony! This is music run amok. Even if these songs were condensed into eight-minute tracks, they wouldn’t stand a chance. Guitars, strings, and chanted vocals drive forward like a broken record. Atmospheric sounds litter the audible landscape as TSMZO&TLLB strive to craft the perfect climax. The problem is that it never comes. I can’t imagine many with the patience to sit through this album in its entirety of their own accord. Then again, I can barely think of anyone with enough attention span to make it through their name. The abbreviation alone is mind-boggling. •

by Ilsa Shaw

QUIZ:

- Which annual winter one-day-long celebration held by the city of Rochester features free horse-drawn sleigh rides, contests, and live entertainment? It will be held this year on February 10.
a. Bristol Winter Celebration
b. Lakeside Winter Celebration
c. Coldrush
d. Mendon Ponds Winterfest
- Rochester was one of only two small metropolitan areas to make the top 10 on Places Rated Almanac’s “Best Place to Live in America” list. Where was Rochester ranked?
a. 3rd
b. 4th
c. 5th
d. 6th
- RIT student volunteers played a notably active role in this program about one year ago, in which large amounts of people gathered to clean and beautify the city of Rochester. What was the program called?
a. Clean Sweep
b. LitterRid
c. The Robert Duffy Project
d. Partners for a Cleaner Rochester
- On February 2nd of this year, this museum will be holding a fairy tale themed Royal Ball, a costumed affair where guests can meet the likes of (or actors of) Cinderella, Prince Charming, and the Fairy Godmother in person. At which museum will it be held?
a. Rockwell Museum of Western Art
b. Rochester Museum & Science Center
c. Strong Museum of Play
d. Geva Theatre Center
- True or false? About one-third of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra’s concerts are free educational and outreach performances.
a. True
b. False

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

RIT RECENTLY DID RESEARCH ON HOW TO MAKE OUR MASCOT SCARIER... HERE ARE THE RESULTS:



REPORTER RECOMMENDS:

Learning how to sleep standing up. Just think about it: you’d never have to make the bed. You’d be in the prime functional position, and there’s no question of risking yet another awkward morning backache. A cup of coffee would be perfectly level with your hand and breakfast would be a mere step away. None of this blanket-longing, time-consuming nonsense. Clearly, sleeping standing up has its benefits. By the way, Reporter is not responsible for any incidents that may occur during your learning phase.

DIFFICULTY RATING: MEDIUM

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

SIGN OF THE WEEK: I LOVE ANIMALS





OVERWEIGHT and OBESE

the new norm

Imagine yourself,
in another life,
as a wooden bench
in a park.

by Veena Chatti | photograph by Nick Brandreth

People had been sitting on you for decades, but it was about twenty years ago that you began to notice something different: they had all started becoming heavier. Your entire frame groaned under the weight once, when a particularly heavy one sat on you about eleven years ago. Worse still, she had polished off a large order of chips as she sat, while you prayed that you wouldn't simply break from the weight. When it had started becoming a frequent thing, you accepted it as one of the burdens of your job (quite literally), and only responded by pushing your legs further into the ground in the dark of night, when you thought no one was looking.

Alas, the day that every bench dreads had dawned upon you. You had panicked and cursed yourself for rooting so firmly into the earth when you had seen him. Happily clasping in his porky hands a meal from one of those dreadful fast food places, he had sighted you from across the park and started towards you to comfortably partake in his gluttonous indulgences. The very earth seemed to tremble under such a massive form as his footsteps approached. If benches could run, you would have been hot-footing it to escape the horror that awaited you, to glorious freedom from the immense weights you simply could not bear anymore. But it was not

to be. Sit he did. And it was one time too many. Your memory is hazy from this point onwards because of the trauma. You broke. They've replaced you now, with one of those new cast-iron affairs. They don't seem to have been able to break those yet.

Isn't it nicer to be on the other side? At least humans don't snap in two pieces. For the most part, we know not to try and carry what our bodies cannot cope with, and no one forces us. Sadly, we don't seem to know how to avoid eating more than our bodies can handle.

HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM?

The weight of an average person has been escalating rapidly in developed countries for the past two or three decades. Current estimates suggest that about 66% of adult Americans are overweight, and 23% are obese. This affects the United States more than any other country in the world. Seven of the eight heaviest people ever weighed were American. The number of obese adults in the population is twice what it would have been in the '80s, and the number of overweight children and teenagers is thrice what it would have been then.

So where do you lie? Doctors would calculate your Body Mass Index (BMI) to find out. Use the formulae below to determine your BMI. Then place your BMI within the intervals of the table to find your status. Athletes, please note: your muscular weight will likely invalidate this simple evaluation.

YOU COULD BE WHAT YOU EAT

"This is what a slice of pizza would have looked like forty years ago," says Timothy C. Keady, Associate Director at the Student Health Centre (SHC), indicating a cardboard cutout of serving sizes. Compared to the gargantuan offerings at our campus eateries, it is minuscule. He observes, "The problem is with people associating value for money with serving sizes. When they go out to eat, they are not satisfied with smaller portions."

BMI	STATUS
<18.5	Underweight
18.5–24.9	Normal
25.0–29.9	Overweight
30.0–39.9	Obese
>35 or 40	Morbidly obese

BMI

=

Weight (kg)

[Height squared] (m²)

or

Weight (lbs) x 703

[Height squared] (in²)

Keady is part of a team offering nutritional counseling at the SHC. On the problem at RIT, he comments, "At RIT, our statistics are probably where most places are. We're 17%, 18%, maybe even 19% obese."

As per statistics from 2006, about 15% of people aged 18-24 years were obese, with a BMI of 30-99.8. The numbers fluctuate with age, as seen in Graph 1 (page 19). RIT is not hugely above the average, but perhaps the slight increase is due to the sedentary lifestyle that the atmosphere on our campus promotes. Videogames, while being hugely popular here, do nothing to encourage outdoor activity, and neither is the harsh winter conducive.

College students are often at risk for other reasons, such as less sleep, all-you-can-eat cafeterias, high stress environments, and increased alcohol consumption. The "myth" of the Freshman Fifteen isn't as far from the truth as one might think.

Foods offered on campus have recently been much more nutritious and healthful than in the past (for example, the 100-calorie food packs available in vending machines as a result of Student Government's "Healthy Eating" campaign), but the most popular food sold on campus is still pizza. Mentions Keady, "SHC works with Food Service, who are very responsive, to have less fat in diets. We make recommendations, and they also have a registered dietician working for them. They changed the oil used to cook food, got rid of trans fats, and added more vegetables. They added the Mongo Grill at Gracies last year. That's very low fat."

Keady adds, "We want to educate and prevent [unhealthy weight gain]. It can begin here. We want to make everybody see that even as a student, one can eat healthy. It's a problem, because as a student, you sleep late, your resources are limited, your exercise goes down, you need to manage stress, and these things might stay with you all your life. We are here to help you prepare for it while you are here."

BUILD A BETTER BODY

Last year, the Build A Better Body Group was founded in RIT. John Buckholtz Jr., Wellness Instructor at the Student Life Center (SLC), explains, "The Build A Better Body Group is the collaboration between the SHC, Counseling Center (CC), Center for Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation (CIAR), and the SLC to assist people who are obese in their quest for weight loss."

The dozen participants meet once a week and receive assistance on various factors combining exercise, nutrition, and psychology. The students were chosen from a screening process they had volunteered to enter. Remarks Buckholtz, "What I often find is that these are people who have been uncomfortable where exercise and activity were involved."

Adds Keady, "If an overweight or obese person comes for help: first, we make a clinical appointment. Then, we look for any underlying medical disease causing their weight increase. They are weighed and we test their thyroid levels, because that affects metabolism. Then, they go to the CC for psychiatric help, before starting exercise at the SLC."

Then, says Buckholtz, "I set up a workout regimen for them, depending on the severity of excess weight, which could limit their ability to perform it."

Narrates Keady, "We work with people who have difficulty walking up and down the Quarter Mile, or people who just come in and say, 'I want to get back in shape.' Believe it or not, a lot of the time, obese people don't eat enough calories. They diet severely to lose weight, and don't get enough calories to be energetic, so they become lethargic and don't exercise. It's one vicious cycle we have to break. Or they might have no control over their eating. This could have an underlying psychological cause. But I've seen a number of students lose 60-70 lbs each year. The key is to break the cycle of no control." Buckholtz agrees with the sentiment, and relates, "I've had people come in and lose 80-100 lbs and changed their lives. It's really gratifying to see, especially

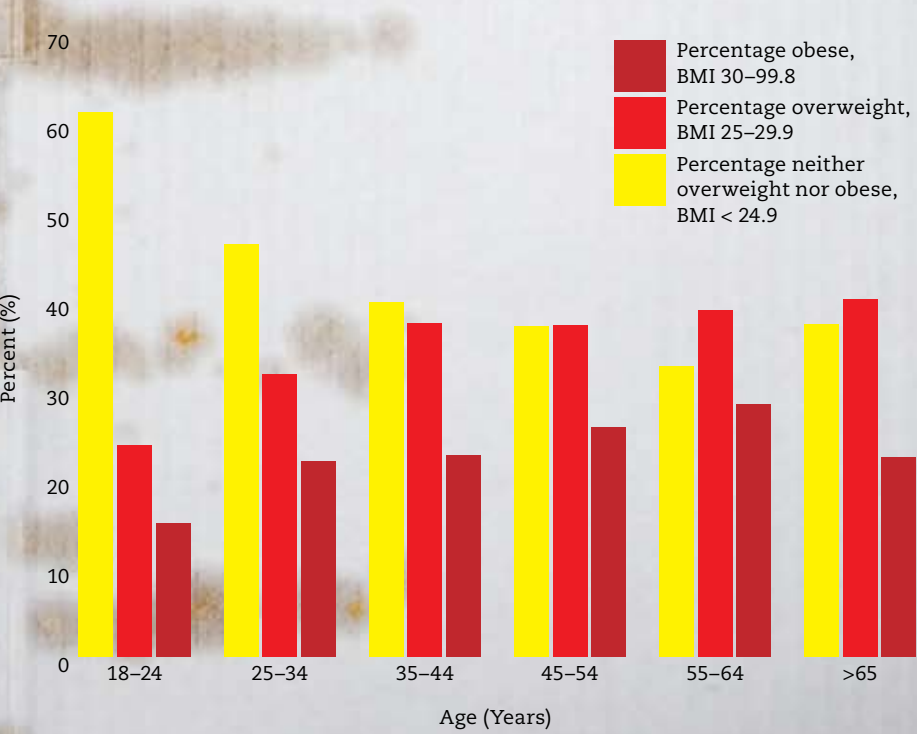
the number of students who have dropped out, and then come back to do it again."

Buckholtz also used to teach a Wellness for Life course. This used to be mandatory for students transferring to RIT, and there were times when about ten of these classes were running simultaneously. However, RIT decided that the Wellness for Life course was no longer required to be compulsory, and put FYE in its place. He does not comment on why the Institute might have taken that action, but gestures towards a copy of the syllabus, adding, "There are a lot of things in there that FYE doesn't touch."

CAUSES & EFFECTS

In the short term, the effects of obesity are seen in limited physical ability, breathlessness, and low self esteem due to social stigmas. In the long term, it is seriously threatening to health. Obese and overweight people can find physical activity difficult and tend to suffer from lifelong depression, eating disorders, heart disease, diabetes mellitus type two, and osteoarthritis.

While the underlying causes for this problem are many, the principle behind it is seemingly very simple: excess calorie intake causes weight increase. It may surprise some that the Surgeon General of the US declared obesity a Public Health Crisis in 2003, but if you stop and think for a moment, it's not difficult to see why people gain weight.



Take a look around. Everything around you seems to discourage not only exercise, but even simple physical activity. Walkways at airports. Elevators. Escalators. Cars. Buses. Videogames. Television. Computers. Fast food.

...And genetics. While there is no single "gene" for obesity, the interactions between numerous genes can be a factor. However, the reason that fat parents tend to have fat children combines genetics with lifestyle. If physical activity is difficult for the parent, they may not be able to take their children outdoors or engage them in such activity. They might not be feeding their children balanced diets.

Comments Buckholtz, "When the school district looks to remove what they call "fringes," what gets cut? The first things to go are marching bands and PE. We're paying for that now. They have lost the opportunity to have the benefits of an active lifestyle from high school and grammar school."

Keady adds, "We can't separate genetics from this, but it's a combination of things. Even someone born to obese parents does not have to be obese. While it is true that they are predisposed, a lot of it, I think, is lifestyle. Basically, it is being lazy which will cause it. But what comes first? It's hard to say. Health insurance companies have taken numbers and decided via the science of longevity studies that people who are not overweight will live longer."

FAT ACCEPTANCE

We live in a society which dictates that one must be thin in order to be considered attractive. Says Amber Gulley, RA and third year RIT student of Biology, "It took me a long time to say, 'There's nothing wrong with me.' I have been large all my life, and it has really affected me. I've gotten a lot of feedback for it. I think I'm healthy. My blood pressure and cholesterol levels are fine. At the same time, I'd like to be more fit."

Known as the "Fatosphere," there is an entire world of web blogs in support of the Fat Acceptance movement. Phrases like "Thin people die, too!" "The BMI is crap!" and "Don't be afraid to order the cheesecake!" adorn pages such as therotund.com and fatfu.wordpress.com. Gulley agrees, "I honestly agree with that. Entirely. According to the BMI, I'm morbidly obese. I would have to lose over 100 lbs to be in the normal range. It's not specific enough. It's too arbitrary."

While Gulley admits that these blogs understate the risks to health, she agrees with the sentiments expressed in these pages, saying that it is healthy for each individual to accept their body type and feel comfortable with themselves. Gulley confesses, "I'll admit, I'd love to be a size 16. If I worked hard for two years, I could probably do it. But it looks so daunting as to seem impossible. I'd much rather see myself as beautiful, if a bit unhealthy. It doesn't help to have a negative self image."

Gulley has written a poem on this, and says, "The poem is an empowerment. It says, 'I'm fat, 100% natural.' It's about being bootylicious, aerodynamically curvaceous. I've been put down, screwed over and put through hell, but I was just trying to be happy, and everyone was telling me I shouldn't be. I wasn't going to apologize for trying."

Keady agrees, "I think that's actually a good thing, especially with young women. You see, they are shown these thin, unbelievably sized people, who may not be in good shape, or have no body fat. They're like waifs, really, and more often than not, they're too young to be fully developed. So they grow up with unusual, unrealistic expectations. That's why it's good that they accept how they are and work to be healthy, whatever their body type...And males, too. No one is immune." •



EYE OF THE TIGER RIT ALUM COMPETES ON

AMERICAN GLADIATORS

by Carolyn Dunne
illustration by Caitlin Yarsky

F

or those of you who have never heard of American Gladiators, here's the basic idea: four amateur contestants (two men and two women) compete in a series of physical challenges. Hoping to advance to the semifinals, they compete against each other in tests of strength and endurance. The twist? In every course, the show's professional "gladiators" are standing in their way, pelting them with tennis balls or yanking them off the rock wall, doing their very best to prevent the contestants from finishing. From Crush (a muscular mixed martial arts fighter) to Toa (a beefy stuntman, who has been seen as the stunt double for Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson), the gladiators all come from different backgrounds, but are united by two key factors: incredible physical prowess and badass stage personalities.

As stated on the official American Gladiators website, "American Gladiators celebrates the everyday, true American heroes— weekend warriors who excel and take pride in their physical fitness. These contestants will go up against the show's gladiators— charismatic and eclectic warriors— in the ultimate David & Goliath battle." The popular original series of American Gladiators ran from 1989 until 1996 before being taken off the air, but has been recently been brought back to NBC. Viewers are in for a treat with Hulk Hogan and Laila Ali as hosts, a whole new set of gladiators, and 24 new contestants hoping to earn the grand prize of \$100,000, a new car, and a place as a new gladiator for the next season set to air this summer.

Among the contestants in this newest installment of American Gladiators was one of RIT's own. 2006 engineering alumnus Adonis Lockett was among the 24 contestants this season. Calling it a dream come true, Lockett reminisced that he had watched the show as a kid, and had only gone to the open casting call when a friend had asked him to tag along

because he didn't want to go by himself. "I never thought they'd actually pick me, I just thought it'd be cool to see what the contestants at the open calls looked like," he said. Once he was on the show, Lockett hoped that he would be able to advance to the finals and use the prize money to help his mother, who had given him so much.

In preparation for the physically demanding competition of American Gladiators, the contestants, said Lockett, "...Spent several days conditioning at the set of NBC. We would do endurance exercises and get familiarized with events that required some practice for us to compete on." Since it was mostly individual training, he tried to spread his training out to prevent injury and keep from getting too tired, but admits that this had an effect on his endurance in the challenges. However, he also felt that his background in basketball and football, as well that of a competitive "stepper," gave him the agility and ability to push through the pain during his performance in the gladiator arena, and hoped that it would give him the advantage in the end.

Throughout the competition, Lockett's favorite event was "Hang Tough," the event in which contestants use rings to advance from one platform to another while a gladiator tries to pull them off. Lockett said, "It's what I had most practice on and what I thought was the most exciting of all the courses I competed on." Some of the other events on the show include the "Assault" (navigating an obstacle course as gladiators pelt them with tennis balls), the "Earthquake" (a wrestling match on an unstable, elevated platform), the "Eliminator" (a timed obstacle course with a reverse escalator and a pyramid), and the "Wall" (in which a gladiator chases them up a rock wall, trying to pull them off).

Asked which gladiator he thought he had the best chance against, Lockett responded, "The gladiators aren't really there to defeat us, just slow us down from scoring points or getting good times. We are competing against our opponents, not the gladiators, and I think several people get confused [about] that in the course of the show. Each gladiator, just as the contestants, has strengths and weaknesses, so it's difficult to say who will do what, because if anyone is able to exploit their weakness, everyone stands a pretty good chance."

As for Lockett's performance, in the first round of competition, he was able to beat his opponent in the Eliminator with a time of 3:47. Because there are 12 contestants in each bracket and only four spots in the semifinal round, however, the two slowest times of the 6 Eliminator winners also do not get the opportunity to continue in the competition; Lockett was unfortunately knocked out of the Final 8 by a future competitor, who earned the best time in the Eliminator to date for the season with a time of 1:29. Lockett noted that he had a time in the Eliminator that was almost a minute and a half slower than the others in the semifinal round because he "did not pace [him]self in the eliminator," when he "should have spread it out instead of going so hard initially." Lockett currently lives in Los Angeles and works for Boeing. •

To learn more about American Gladiators or to follow the show, go to nbc.com, where you can look up all of the contestants and watch full episodes of the show with limited commercials. Lockett competed in the second episode of the season.

(FRONT)

3. If the professors get assistants to help them with everything, you should too.

☒ True

☐ False

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NAME, MAJOR, YEAR?

John Skinner, first year Fine Arts
Photography major.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF?
I honestly don't know how I would describe myself. I'm just, kind of, me.

DREAM JOB AFTER GRADUATION?
Probably being a concert photographer for Rolling Stone or Hit Parade. Either that, or a DJ.

WHAT'S ON YOUR IPOD?
I've got a lot of techno, a lot of rock. I'm actually listening to DJ Kyur right now. I listen to a lot of ska. I just grew up on every type of music. It's all pretty good, in my opinion, except for country and that Top 40 crap.

IF YOU COULD MEET SOMEONE FAMOUS, WHO WOULD IT BE?
I'd want to meet Johnny Cash, because he was just badass. He was the only decent country musician.

WHAT IS YOUR IDEAL DATE?
I don't really know if I can remember what that is. I mean, guys don't really get to go on too many dates here at RIT...Someone just walking up to me and giving me a million bucks and saying, "Have a blast." Then, for some reason, I end up with a pool of Jell-O.

ARE YOU A DAREDEVIL?
I'm up for trying anything. But I definitely did get suspended in high school for climbing up into the rafters of my gym. I don't know why I got in trouble for it, I didn't fall or anything. One of my friends kicked a girl's rugby ball into the rafters, so I climbed up there, and, apparently, I wasn't supposed to. I never read any rules about climbing onto rafters, but I figured it out: chivalry is dying, and public schools are killing it.

WHAT IS THE ONE THING THAT WILL NEVER GROW OLD?
There's always candy— that'll always be deli-

icious. And then there are the cartoons that come on at four or five in the morning on Cartoon Network that are absolutely hilarious.

WHAT IS THE COMPLIMENT YOU GET MOST FROM PEOPLE?
I don't necessarily know if it's a compliment, but I hear [that] I'm original a lot. I don't see *why*.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS?
I try not to really have any weakness. If I see that I'm weak in something, I fix it. I suppose I'm a pretty good listener, and I'm really open to whoever anyone is. Not really going to be hatin' on them, to put it "gangsterly".

DESCRIBE YOUR TYPICAL DAY.
I suppose it depends what day of the week it is, because I only sleep about two nights of the week as it is.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE SAYING?
I have a couple that I try and live by. One of them is serious and one of them is funny. The serious one is "Quit stalling and make a name for yourself," because, honestly, if you just piss through life, you're going to be a nobody. You just have to get out there and be remembered. The funny one is, "I'm an art kid, not a smart kid."

ARE YOU PERCEIVED WRONGLY?
I know that I'm perceived wrongly due to the way I look. I actually get stopped multiple times by cops.

THAT GUY

by Ilsa Shaw
photograph by Tom Shirmacher



2 companies, 2 events,
2 days, 2 resumes.

Intel/Toyota Technology Challenge

Monday, Feb. 4 • CIMS Bldg., Rooms 2240-2210

Co-op Competition: 3-4 p.m. Toyota / 5-6 p.m. Intel

Graduating Seniors Competition: 7-8 p.m. Intel / 8-9 p.m. Toyota

Test your gaming skills with Intel.

Test your production system and process skills with Toyota.

Great prizes! Snacks and sodas provided!

Cost to enter: your resume.

Intel & Toyota Luncheons

Tuesday, Feb. 5, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Toyota – Erdle Commons, Bldg. 9 • Intel – Golisano Atrium, Bldg. 70

Cost for lunch: your resume.

Students from the following majors are invited:

Intel

Industrial Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Computer Engineering
Software Engineering
Computer Science
Info Tech & ANSA
Gaming & IT New Media
Imaging Science



Toyota

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Technology
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SPORTSDESK CARPE VIAM: RIT TRACK AND FIELD “SEIZES THE ROAD”

by Carolyn Dunne
photographs by Eric Drummond

First year Mechanical Engineering major Bill Caton performs long jump during the competition.

In case you didn't know, our track facilities are a big deal. With an outdoor track, an indoor track, treadmills in the gym, and that suspended track above the SLC basketball courts, you would think that people would get tired of running. However, there is a select group which runs on these tracks for most of the year and can't seem to get enough of it. Senior Andrew Varble, one of these rare specimens, said, "While most teams are either running around cones in a basketball gym or battling all the elements that New York winters can throw at them, we have a top-notch track."



Michael Hardbarger, a third year Mechanical Engineering major, leads the group in the first lap.



Alex Dibble, second year Illustration, performs the weight throw.

The contribution that even a single tenth of a second makes to the team's success is one piece that makes it worth the hard work. As senior Kevin Smith put it, "We do our best to represent RIT." In agreement, senior Kevin Turko notes about many teammates, "[They are] spending the extra time, after practices, [in] lifting weights and [doing] core training to improve." When asked whom she sees contributing to the teams' efforts on a regular basis, senior LaKeisha Perez notes that everyone works hard, saying, "Everyone contributes something."

In his eleventh season as head of the RIT's men's cross country and the men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field programs, not only has Coach Dave Warth been getting to know his athletes very well, he has also helped them achieve greatness. In particular, the 2006-07 track season was a big one for both the men's and women's teams, with the men's team qualifying for the NCAA championships, an achievement some of them had already enjoyed with the cross country program that same year. The women had their strongest season to date, with current senior Adrienne Gagnier and '07 graduate Trisha Sliker qualifying for the NCAA indoor track championships. The women also won their first Empire 8 and New York State Championship titles in indoor and outdoor track, while the men took the Empire 8 Championship title in indoor and outdoor as well. Outdoor track saw five athletes from teams qualify for the NCAA Championships.

The four Empire 8 Coach of the Year awards given to Coach Warth during the 2006-07 season serve as a phenomenal testament to his team's success, but ask the athletes themselves and they'll readily agree that their coach truly deserves it. Calling him

“a real cornerstone” for the team, distance runner Varble remarks on Coach Warth’s ability to coordinate a true team in a sport based largely on individual performance. As Varble put it, “[He] sets our team up for excellence and improvement throughout the season.” Assistant Coaches Dave Stevens and Ken Rasmussen, both in their second season at RIT, are also seen as valuable assets to the team, giving important support where needed. The athletes see this as a very good thing to have; as Gagnier jokes, “We’re such close friends that it makes running in the snow and doing our exhausting workouts seem bearable.”

The new legs on the team give a whole new dimension to two teams which were strong to begin with. Coach Warth sees promise in many of the underclassmen, including freshman Abby Arday, Alston Dupra, Zach Loughery, Brian Walker, Ryan Warner, Seth Whitaker, and sophomores Samantha Mitchell and Jamie Morey. While the underclassmen are helping to fill out the sprinting events, where they were needed to round out the team, Coach sees several upperclassmen who are working to continue their success in the events they compete in. Perez and Gagnier look to continue to improve upon their fantastic seasons from last year for the women’s side, while distance runners Turko, Varble, and Dereck Bojanowski, sprinter Querstein Smith, shotputters Rahul Gupta and Tim Wesley, and pole-vaulter David Falcinelli all seek to help the men’s team qualify again for the NCAA Nationals. Junior distance runner Mike Hardbarger will also be looking to improve his school records for the one mile run and distance medley relay. •

The RIT men’s and women’s Indoor Track and Field teams will host their next meet in the Gordon Field House on February 1 for the Black and Orange Invitational.



Computer Engineering major Erwins T. Milord pole vaults on Saturday.



Rick Smith, the Referee Starter Track Official, starts the 400-meter with a gunshot.

RIT

Gospel Fest

2008



featuring the RIT Gospel Ensemble

special guests include:

SOS Gospel Choir,
Alexis Hancock,
Jason Wright & the Masters Touch,
and 5th Sunday Ensemble Memorial
AME Zion Church

Friday, February 8th
SAU Ingle Auditorium
7:00 PM

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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.

SATURDAY, 1:20 A.M.

Hey Rings. What’s going on? I have a funny story to tell you. It turns out I was playing dodgeball the other day, and somehow, I ended up tearing my lateral meniscus. So I think that’s kinda funny. Have a good night.

SUNDAY, 4:20 P.M.

Hey, Reporter, could you try finding more attractive people for the That Guy/That Girl thing? I know we’re at RIT, but it can’t be that tough.

FRIDAY, 9:41 P.M.

So I just came back from the vicious head-to-head battle of the Skeptics versus InterVarsity on God’s existence, and it was amazing. While I was walking home, I thought of a question for InterVarsity: if we are all made in God’s image and likeness, then why don’t we all look more alike? And, that makes God ugly, because Lord knows I have seen some really ugly people. Okay, thanks. Bye.

SATURDAY, 10:34 P.M.

Hey, RIT Rings, I have a joke for you! Why did Cinderella get kicked off the basketball team? She was always running away from the ball!

SATURDAY, 2:07 A.M.

Hey, RIT Rings! I just want to thank Public Safety for picking my drunk [self] up walking back from B Lot and being so kind not just to drop me off at the dorms, but to give me a ride all the way to the [_____] ambulance station just so they could tell me that I wasn’t really all that [_____] drunk. What the [_____] is their problem offering me a ride, and then not taking me where they said they were going to go? Doesn’t that constitute kidnapping or something? No? Alright, over and out.

SATURDAY, 3:20 P.M.

Hello. I’m the crazy lady from RIT Grace Watson, just saying to whoever put that in the magazine, thanks for the compliment. And just tell them: life’s too short, have fun. Thank you.

THURSDAY, 3:09 A.M.

YO, I’M KINDA WONDERING WHY THE FIELD HOUSE KEEPS THEIR LIGHTS ON ALL NIGHT, BECAUSE IT’S A WASTE OF ENERGY IN THIS ECO-EFFICIENT WORLD WE’RE TRYING TO HAVE.

THURSDAY, 4:51 P.M.

Male voice: Yo Rings, I’m the girl who did that groping. No, but seriously, if I ever ran into you in the stairwell, would you grope me?

WEDNESDAY, 8:44 P.M.

MORE COWBELL!

WEDNESDAY, 8:11 P.M.

Hey, I was just looking through the latest Reporter, and I noticed that RIT Dining Services gets more pounds worth of condiments than they do of natural foods (such as oranges), and people wonder about this obesity epidemic that we have. Hmm.

MONDAY, 6:53 P.M.

We work at Gracies, and we just wanted to say that we think Crossroads and Commons are a bunch of racist [body part, plural] with their Martin Luther King Jr. specials. I mean, come on, Crossroads: fried chicken, collard greens, black-eyed pea rice, and cornbread? And the Commons: Herman’s famous southern fried chicken, barbecued ribs, macaroni and cheese, tender-lovin’-cared candied yams. You guys are a bunch of racist [body part, plural]. Bye!

FRIDAY, 7:53 P.M.

RIT Rings! I just read the article on guns, and the reference to the Hackenburg case at the RIT Inn. The Grand Jury refused to indict him, which is highly, highly unusual. In fact, it might even be rare. That’s because they found that he did not have an AR-15 as defined by New York state law, and the RIT Inn is not strictly school property. Anyone who is not an Institute-affiliated individual may possess a gun in that building (according to the Grand Jury). With regard to the whole issue of guns, you must keep in mind that if we didn’t have the second amendment, the first amendment wouldn’t be worth very much. Goodbye.

PINING
FOR LESS
OPINING



by Alexander Salsberg | illustration by Bryan Williams

We are lucky to live in a country where we have the right to express our opinions. Opinions are very important because they give the individual a chance to apply his/her values to a situation. There are certainly places for them, like the first and last page of this magazine, but our culture has taken them a little too far. Opinions have become overused and trendy. As a result, they are becoming empty and losing their power.

People argue endlessly about whether our news media is liberally biased or conservatively biased. I would argue that there is a far more detrimental bias. A lot of our news media is biased toward opinions over facts. Turn on any cable news station, and you’ll see the same show over and over again: a host with some varying degree of loudness is joined by a guest on either side. The guests are usually professional opinion-makers (columnists, or “bloggers”) who are vaguely connected to the issue at hand. Without fail, they lie on opposing ends of a question. “Should we be letting this happen?” “Did he go too far?” By presenting the “liberal” side and the “conservative” side, the news networks are attempting to protect themselves from accusations of bias. But to call any issue two-sided is to oversimplify it beyond repair. Instead of being presented with only the facts and given the chance to develop their own opinions, viewers are encouraged to choose a side they may not agree with or even understand, and to defend that side as staunchly as Anne Noname from IwriteAboutStuff.com.

The hosts of these shows are part of the problem, too. Turn on any episode of “O’Hannibeckercarlboroughbaugh’s Hour of Yelly Smugness” and you’ll see the rock stars of opinions. Rather than presenting their opinions in a straightforward manner, they present them with a certain “just try and stop me” attitude. They invite guests just to disagree with them, and while the guests may at times be more reasonable, the host is inevitably victorious, because he doesn’t have to get up at the end of the interview. These pundits create the appearance that expressing harsh opinions loudly and bluntly is rewarding, and fool themselves and their viewers into thinking they are powerful for doing so.

The effects of our opinion-obsessed culture start early, as I learned in my experience as a camp counselor. Almost every day, I heard a young child not just say, but shout, his hatred for President Bush. It was funny at first, but also disappointing. These children have already gained the ability to express, with an in-your-face attitude, an opinion they don’t necessarily understand. And since I don’t think eight-year-olds can sit through an MSNBC broadcast, my money’s on them having picked this up at the dinner table. Of course, it’s alright to instill your values in your children, and that will naturally influence their opinions, but I wish parents would also instill some notion of when and where opinions are appropriate.

Children grow up. They become atheists who like to push religious peoples’ buttons, animal rights activists who tell kids their parents are murderers, or pro-war people who accuse pacifists of terrorism. Where did respect go? If, for example, you have negative views about the military, it might not be best to present them directly to someone whose family member has been posted overseas. Your personal disagreement is not more important than their personal concern for the safety of their family member.

I’m not suggesting that opinions be regulated or stifled. To me, this is not a free speech issue. This is an issue of expressing opinions when and where there is a purpose. Opinions are too important to try to force, like our news stations do with their debate-style reporting. They are too valuable to be used as self-serving weapons, like our television pundits do. Although it may be considered stylish, making someone mad with an opinion only makes it seem more powerful, when really, opinions are most powerful when called for. •

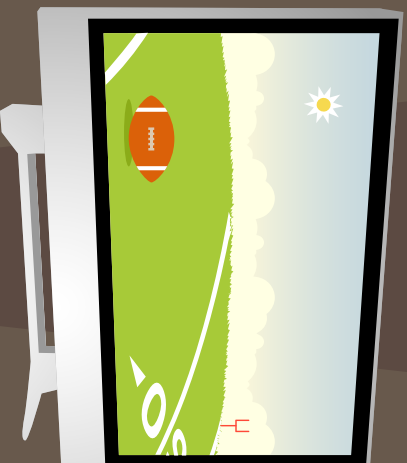
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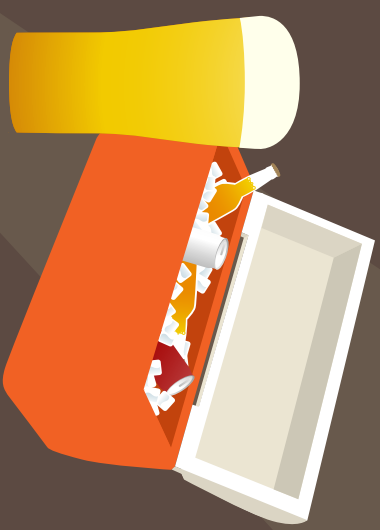
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