

REPORTER

MARCH 14, 2008 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM



ISLAM GET TO KNOW THE FAITH
THE MUSLIMS I KNOW RIT ALUM COMBATS STEREOTYPES

Hey, RIT Faculty!

It's not too late to sign up for...

myCourses Spring Training



Complete the webinar training series and receive a **myCourses** achievement certificate!

For more information or to register visit:

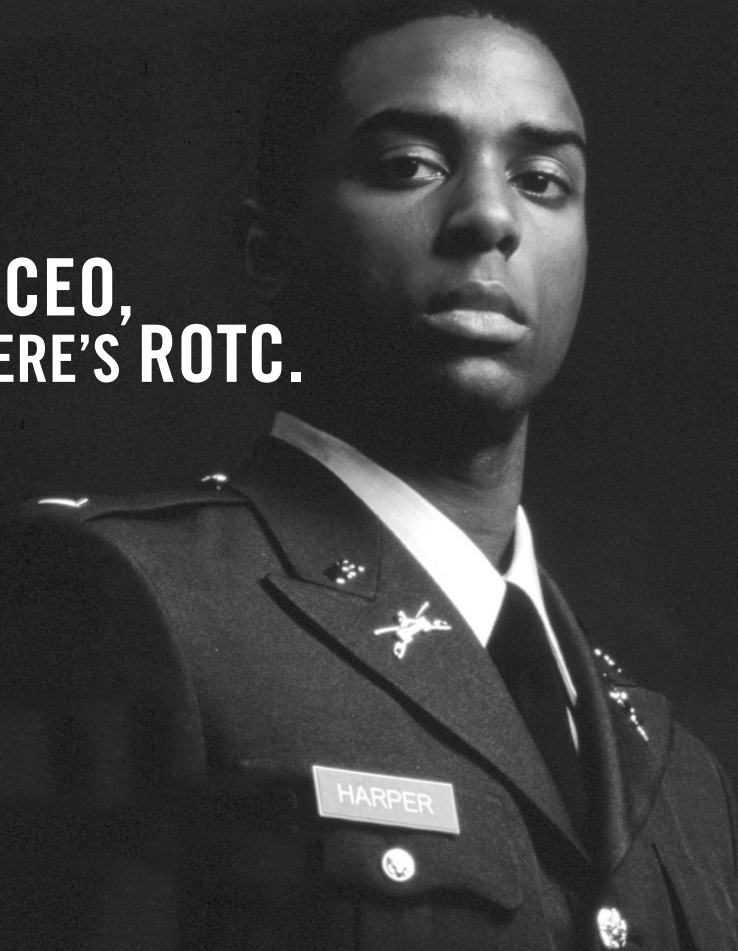
<http://online.rit.edu/springtraining>

Training Roster

- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| ✓ Getting Started | March 7 |
| ✓ Grade Book | March 21 |
| ✓ Peer Evals | April 4 |
| ✓ Quizzing | April 18 |
| ✓ Open Forum | May 2 |
| ✓ Final Grades | May 16 |

BEFORE CEO,
THERE'S ROTC.

©2008. Paid for by Army ROTC. All rights reserved.



The Army ROTC Leader's Training Course is a paid 4-week summer experience that jump starts your career as an Army Officer and teaches you leadership skills along the way.

For details about Army ROTC, contact LTC Paul Hansen at (585) 475-5547, email at armyrotc@rit.edu or log onto www.rit.edu/cast/armyrotc

ENROLL IN ARMY ROTC
BECOME AN ARMY OFFICER



INTERNATIONAL FOOD FEST

Get a taste of different countries and cultures, made by fellow students and faculty. Savor the flavors of our diverse school. Pick up recipes to spice up your own cuisine. And don't forget to vote for your favorite! No charge, the food is all free for you to sample!



And while you're nibbling on the tasty multicultural treats...

Get in line for the **Spring Passport Drive!** Check out the Study Abroad website for all the details and a list of what you need to bring with you.

studyabroad.rit.edu



Accelerated Culinary Arts Certificate Program



Raise the Bar on Your Career Possibilities

Increase the Marketability of Your Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management, Food Science, or Nutrition

In just 30 weeks of cooking, studying wine, developing menus, and exploring culinary trends, you will:

- Gain new skills and insight into culinary techniques, ingredients, and cuisines.
- Heighten your ability to work with chefs and lead a culinary operation.
- Learn in an inspiring setting in the heart of America's wine country.

Program Dates:
July 21, 2008–March 12, 2009
Apply by May 1, 2008.

www.ciaprochef.com/acap | 707-967-2496

The Culinary Institute of America at Greystone
Napa Valley, California

SWEET! The CIA has a certificate program in baking and pastry arts too! www.ciachef.edu | 1-800-CULINARY

The CIA at Greystone is a branch of the CIA, Hyde Park, NY. ©2008 The Culinary Institute of America



REPORTER

EDITOR IN CHIEF Jen Loomis
MANAGING EDITOR Adam Botzenhart
COPY EDITOR Veena Chatti
NEWS EDITOR Joe McLaughlin
LEISURE EDITOR Ilsa Shaw
FEATURES EDITOR Laura Mandanas
SPORTS/VIEWS EDITOR Rachel Hart

WRITERS Elizabeth Bennett, Geoffrey H. Bliss, Adam Botzenhart, Susan Cook, Casey Dehlinger, Carolyn Dunne, Joe McLaughlin, Andrew Rees, Ilsa Shaw, Mad-eleine Villavicencio

ART
ART DIRECTOR Jason Sfetko
STAFF DESIGNERS Ryan Moore, Kelvin Patterson, Susie Sobota
AD DESIGNER Lisa Barnes
STAFF ILLUSTRATORS Erin Wengrovius, Sara Wick
CARTOONIST Alex Salsberg

PHOTO
PHOTO EDITOR Dave Londres
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS Eric Drummond, Tom Schirmacher, Ross Thompson

PRODUCTION
PRODUCTION MANAGER John Carew
PRINTING Printing Applications Lab

BUSINESS
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

A FIST-SIZED HOLE IN MY BRAIN
Every time I go home for a break between quarters, my trip puts the striking ignorance of my life into stark contrast. My childhood lacked diversity in a supreme sense, and while I do not fault myself for the circumstances of my birth, or feel particularly ashamed at my upbringing, I can't help but feel sheltered.

I grew up in a white little suburb called Clifton Park, NY. Situated twenty minutes from Albany and an equal distance from Saratoga, my hometown is a typical middle class American dream, complete with an SUV in every driveway and a Starbucks at every corner.

If you take a drive down Main Street, you'll pass no less than six churches amidst the fast food joints and chain restaurants, each peddling its own unique brand of Christianity. Another dozen or so churches dot the outskirts of town, and a single (almost token) Jewish Temple is tucked into a lonely side street.

I have never set eyes on a mosque before, and beyond a few sentences buried deep in a high school history text, I have never bothered to educate myself on the topic of Islam. I feel suddenly and painfully aware of this lack of knowledge concerning that predominantly Eastern faith, this fist-sized hole in my brain. It's not as though I hold religion particularly dear to my heart—having shirked my Lutheran education for a more secular worldview— but I figure that if over a billion people practice a particular breed of faith (see page 16), I ought to know something about it.

While I am no longer a practicing Christian, I think that my upbringing in the church passed on a wealth of information on how to connect with people of faith, and with people in general. Understanding faith is part of a greater context, a piece of knowledge that helps one solve problem of how people think and feel and move, a skill whose importance should not be lost in the twenty-first century shuffle. Considering that the world shrinks smaller by the hour, I think it would be intensely useful to have a tighter grasp on less “mainstream American” topics than I currently do.

Middle class America has provided my cultural bread and butter for all 22 years of my life, and it's starting to get stale. I find my inability to push cultural boundaries both peculiar and a touch disheartening. If I had been born in New York City instead of in Upstate New York, would I be less afraid to just hop on a plane and go somewhere new?

Has my tiny little suburban lifestyle stunted my ability to understand different people? I think not, but it has (perhaps needlessly) tightened my perspective, sort of like a fisheye lens. My worldview dominates the center of my vision, and the peripherals wherein other people reside look at times blurred and nonsensical.

To be frank, I do not believe RIT has at all broadened my horizons in a societal sense. Henrietta bears an uncanny resemblance to Clifton Park, and, besides the notable upgrade to Wegmans from Price Chopper, my everyday life has not been altered in some fundamental way as a result of my residence in this region. I have come to softly regret this aspect of my college experience, with the understanding that come graduation, I will still have plenty of time to learn.



Jen Loomis
EDITOR IN CHIEF

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MARCH 14, 2008 | VOL. 57, ISSUE 22

LETTERS PG. 06
Comments and concerns from our readers.

NEWS PG. 07
DIGSBY
RIT alumni create a new and nationally buzz-worthy instant messaging client.

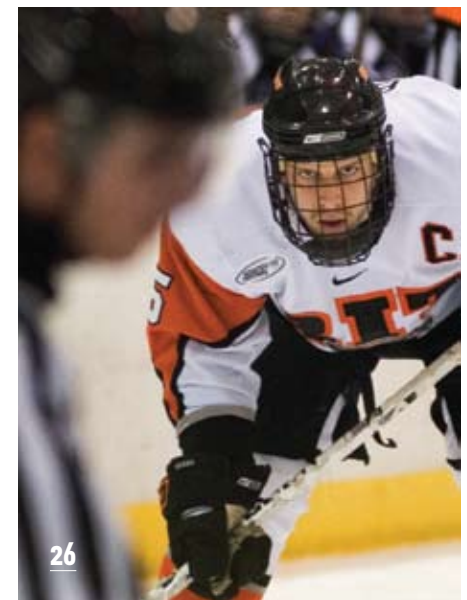
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
A new five-year plan from Parking and Transportation.

RIT FORECAST
Plan accordingly.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE
College of Science senator election results, spring programming, and more.

LEISURE PG. 12
WALL DECORATIONS
Creative methods of confusion.

GRAFFITI
A look inside Building 7's {art/vandalism/expression/elevator}.



RIT students have some trouble getting back to school after spring break on I-90 in Henrietta March 8.

SOME STRANGE CABARET
Your guide to some off-the-wall artists.

REVIEW
Product – Profect Protein Drinks

AT YOUR LEISURE
Your weekly source of Sudoku.

FEATURES PG. 16
ISLAM
The foundations, pillars, and misconceptions concerning one of the world's oldest faiths.

THE MUSLIMS I KNOW
An RIT alum challenges the stereotype with a Pakistani-American documentary.

THAT GUY
Meet Arion Doerr.

SPORTS PG. 26
SPORTS DESK
Men's hockey takes to the ice.

CURLING
An Olympic-inspired RIT club sport.

WINTER SPORTS REVIEW
Miss the highlights of last quarter's sports seasons?

VIEWS PG. 30
RINGS
Please. Stop calling.

VIEWS
Adam Botzenhart points out a fundamental problem with socialized medicine.

Cover photograph by Ross Thompson
Hockey photograph by Dave Londres
Accident photograph by Dave Londres

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR REPORTER,

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the students of RIT about the efforts of Dining Services—and in particular, the pilot program in the Ritz Sports Zone—to commit to sustainable business practices.

Starting March 10, new biodegradable products are available at the Ritz Sports Zone, which consist of Polylactic Acid (PLA), Renewable Forest Fiber, and other natural fibers. PLA is a kind of “plastic” produced by a resin that is derived from renewable resources such as corn. Unlike conventional plastics, which take hundreds of years to break down and can leach harmful chemicals, PLA is capable of decomposing back into water, carbon dioxide, and organic material.

Renewable Forest Fiber refers to paper products that are made from 100% renewable forest fiber, which comes from forest lands certified under the Sustainable Forestry Industry® (SFI) and ISO 14001 standards. Green Wave is a specific brand of products being used, which consists of natural fibers including sugar cane, grass, and reed plasma. The pilot program involves sending pre-consumer vegetable scraps from the kitchen to Freshwise Farms, a division of Foodlink, to be composted. The next step will be to begin composting the bioplastics and other compostable single service ware also.

So next time you are done eating in the Ritz, be sure to look for the special containers for your biodegradable products.

HEATHER NEWTON

President of SEAL

Second year Environmental Management & Technology

DEAR REPORTER,

I am a second year RIT student who spent the first two quarters of her freshman year studying engineering. I then took off Spring 2006 for a medical issue. I came back this fall and continued with engineering, which was when

I decided I had to change majors because ISE (Industrial & Systems Engineering) just wasn't doing it for me. I wanted more. I wanted to do other things.

So, during fall quarter I spoke with Lynne Mazadoorian at the Institute Advising Office, who was a great help in finding a new major that better suited my needs. She even helped me decide on a few other schools in case I wanted to transfer out of RIT. She told me photography was a hard major to get into (especially in the middle of the year!), and to prepare myself for the prospect that I might be rejected, or that I would be told I'd have to wait until Fall 2008. I took all of her advice and eventually decided to contact Bill DuBois, the Administrative Chair of Photographic Arts programs. He agreed to meet with me to have a portfolio review.

Mr. DuBois was very nice and welcoming, and he placed me in winter classes of sequence courses even though I did not have proper prerequisites. He let me take 2D design, a course that is generally taken during your second year as a Photography major. And above all, he let me into the demanding summer photography program, and agreed to be my adviser. I don't have a 4.0 GPA, and I wasn't enjoying some of my engineering classes. He knew this, and asked me what I felt I could handle.

I was a girl who knew what she wanted and he saw that. I want the students of RIT to know that not every major changing experience at RIT is an awful one. Lynne Mazadoorian is a great help for anyone looking to change majors, or transfer out of RIT, and I recommend talking to her. She's located in the basement of Building 77, and appointments to see her can even be made online. The website for that is <http://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/transfer/>.

When I started my quest, I had no idea that Lynne even existed. I thought I'd just have to figure out how to change majors on my own. I

didn't give up though, and searched for information until I found the transfer website. Maybe it should be more widely known that she is there to help with internal as well as external transferring. She is even helpful if you're just unsure and you want to know what else might be out there.

RIT offers many resources for every type of problem. Sometimes, you just have to look to find them.

EMILY MOHLMANN

Second year Advertising Photography

TO SEND LETTERS

EMAIL reporter@rit.edu. Reporter will not print anonymous letters.

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

RIT GRADS ENTER IM BUSINESS

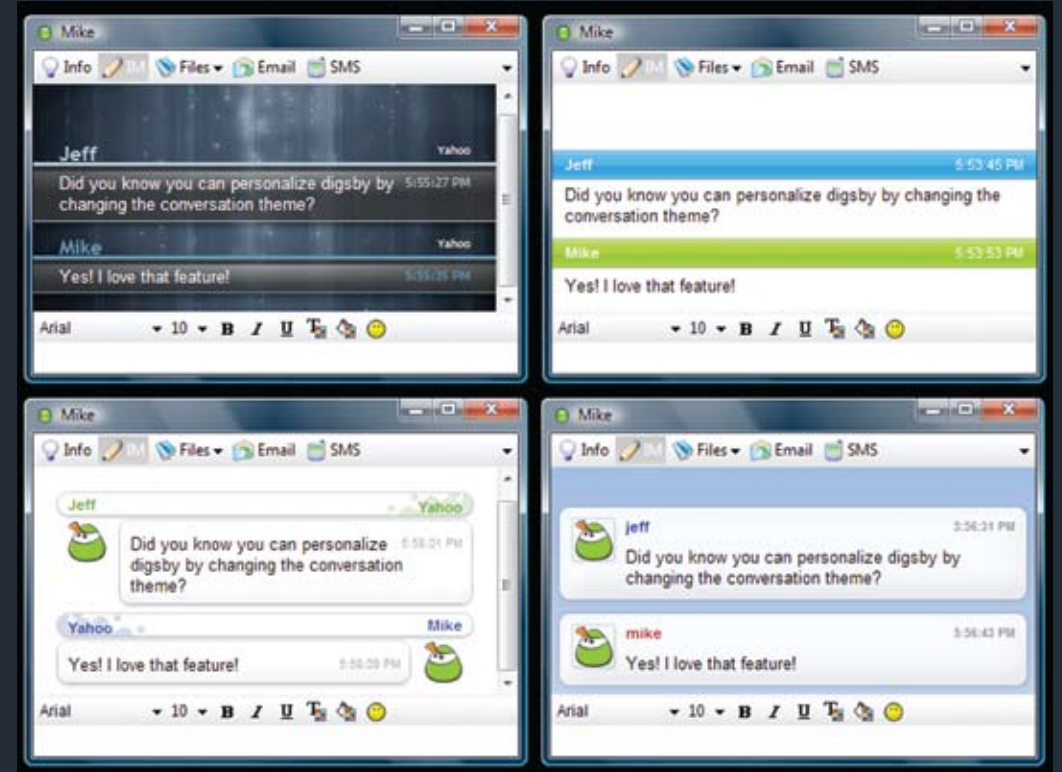
by Elizabeth Bennett

A team of RIT graduates has produced a new instant messenger client called digsbY that they soon hope to launch as a commercial product.

Steve Shapiro, an Information Technology graduate and a former president of Student Government, is the creator of the company dotSyntax, which employs six other RIT graduates. “There are currently four programmers, one system administrator, one marketing director, and myself. We are located here at the [RIT] Incubator,” he said.

Shapiro created his company and the idea behind digsbY because of an assignment to write a business plan. He came up with the idea of an IM platform because it did not need a large capital base. When he was done with the assignment, he realized that he had a viable business plan sitting in his hands. “After this class, I had this 100 page booklet of my plan and I really had faith in it,” he said. “So I pulled out my rolodex to see if [I knew anyone who] would be interested in investing.”

“The financing was with two private investors, and that's how the project got started,” explained Shapiro. dotSyntax is a for profit venture, although they “are not yet operating on a revenue model.” It's not clear how dotSyntax could switch to generating profit, as the team has kept quiet about their business intentions during interviews. Several online publications speculate that such a model could employ some form of advertising.



So, what sets digsbY apart from other IM integration clients like Trillian or Pidgin? Per Shapiro, there are two key differences. “The first major difference is the usability aspect... Our goal was to make a very user friendly [interface] aimed at a mass market audience. Therefore, the core focus of this operation was to make it very easy to use for the average person,” he said. Shapiro believes this focus differentiates his team's product from other products on the market.

“The second major difference is the addition of email and social networks [integration].” digsbY sports six instant messenger and six email clients that users can integrate into the system. “The protocols were chosen because they are the most popular,” said Shapiro. The instant messenger clients available are AIM, MSN, Yahoo!, ICQ, Google Talk, and Jabber; the email clients are Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo! Mail, AOL/AIM Mail, IMAP, and POP accounts. Some of these protocols were “reversed engineered, which is a long and difficult process... [so] the client took us two years to create.”

Users also have the options of using the social networks Facebook and MySpace. More systems are soon to be available.

Shapiro said that digsbY is aimed for a global audience because of its client choices. Although ICQ is not popular in America, it was chosen because it has a strong hold in “Russia, Israel, and a few points around Europe.”

digsbY is not named after anyone or anything in particular. Shapiro came up with 20 interesting available domain names, and then set out an opinion survey. The name ‘digsbY’ came back as the winner.

Shapiro said that the company hopes to have a complete launch in the next two or three weeks. In the meantime, RIT students can download the program for free by going to the website www.digsby.com and typing in the code RIT. •

PATS TO CREATE URBAN DESIGN PLAN

by Joe McLaughlin

Parking and Transportation Services (PATS) is planning a comprehensive strategy for automobile, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic for the next five to ten years. As part of this strategy, PATS plans on soliciting input from the RIT community at a series of public meetings.

Jonathan Maurer, Director of Business Operations for Global Risk Management Services, said an overall plan was needed, because “all of the pieces of moving people, including parking for cars, shuttle buses, walkways, enclosed tunnels, and bicycle and skateboard paths are interrelated.” He said, “The Urban Design strategy would look at the intersection of parking and transportation and all of these pathways.”

“We’re looking for sustainable, long-term solutions,” said Director of Parking and Transportation Paula Benway. “Once somebody gets here, they should be able to traverse the entire campus without a vehicle, no matter how the weather is, whether it’s 80 degrees in July or -10 degrees in February.” Maurer agreed, saying, “There’s a big difference between a car culture

and skateboard and bike paths... That’s not a decision PATS will make on its own, but something that all members of the community will have to come to a consensus on.”

PATS hired the national design firm Martin Alexiou Bryson of North Carolina to come up with a final plan. The company requested information including the current shuttle bus schedule; a map of walkways, bicycle paths, and tunnels; and statistics on parking. The firm will also be provided information gathered from RIT students, faculty, and staff at a series of open houses.

“The first open house will be an opportunity for members of the community where we will be asking people what we are doing well, and what we can improve,” said Maurer. “We can build remote lots or tunnels. We can do more with tunnels. We can put in bicycle or skateboard paths... Is it worthwhile to start connecting the tunnels [between the academic side and the residential side]? There are a lot of things we could do, but because we have limited resources we have to make very discerned choices about what we want to do.”

RIT also faces an additional environmental challenge. According to Benway, due to wetlands legislation, “nothing of significance” can be built on land in the center of campus that is not already developed. Instead, future growth will probably take place on a tract north of Bailey Road. “That would be somewhat incongruous with the main campus we know today,” she said.

“At the second meeting, we’ll have a better sense of what the costs are,” said Maurer. That meeting will be devoted to finding out, “What is the willingness of people to pay for these things?” he said. By the third meeting, Maurer said, PATS hopes to have a draft of the strategy to show to RIT. Maurer said that he plans to have the draft ready by May, although he said that the strategy may not be finalized until fall of next year. •

The first set of open house meetings, which are open to all at RIT, will take place over two days in the Fireside Lounge. The first day will be March 17 at 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and again from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. More meetings are scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. the following day.

RIT FORECAST

compiled by Elizabeth Bennett

15 SATURDAY

LATIN FLAVA

SAU Cafeteria. 10:00 p.m. - 2:30 a.m. Join the Latin American students for their Annual Latin American Student Association party. Cost: \$3 students, \$3 faculty/staff, \$5 other.

CAB SATURDAY NIGHT STANDUP: DAN HIRSHON AND JAMES GOFF

Ingle Auditorium. 11:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. Need an opportunity to laugh and enjoy a night out? Come laugh away the stress. Cost: Free

16 SUNDAY

LIPS APPRECIATION DAY

From tooth protector to whistle enabler to kiss initiator, your lips perform a number of essential and/or really entertaining functions. In short, your lips have done a lot for you this year. Take a moment to thank them. Buy some lip balm and celebrate.

17 MONDAY

“DINING ETIQUETTE” - THE PROFESSIONAL WAY

Interfaith Center, Skalny Room. 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. A seminar on the proper way to dine in a professional atmosphere. Cost: Free

18 TUESDAY

TLC WORKSHOP: “AN INNOVATIVE & CREATIVE APPROACH TO PROBLEM SOLVING”

Building 78, room 2150. Noon - 1:30 p.m. Challenge your linear thinking and increase your problem solving potential. Bring a specific challenge to work through, and let Dr. Richard Morales teach you a thing or two about creativity and innovation. Cost: Free

19 WEDNESDAY

MINI GOLF ON

SAU Lobby. Noon - 9:15 p.m. Do you love to golf? Then join your friends and professors in participating in the 18-hole mini golf tournament to benefit the United Way. Cost: \$2 students, \$3 faculty/staff.

20 THURSDAY

PATHWAYS: A CENTURY OF WOMEN AT RIT

Wallace Library. 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. The library hosts an exhibition of student art projects by and about RIT women. Cost: Free.

INVISIBLE CHILDREN PRESENTS

“SUNDAY: THE STORY OF A DISPLACED CHILD”

Webb Auditorium. 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. A 45-minute documentary that follows one boy’s life in a displacement camp in Uganda. A discussion will follow the screening. Cost: Free.

21 FRIDAY

CAB FRIDAY NIGHT IN THE RITZ PRESENTS ZOX

Ritz Sports Zone. 9:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. A band hailing from Providence, Rhode Island, Zox is a self-described violin-laced reggae rock group. Most infamous song? A remake of Pachelbel’s Canon. Cost: \$3 students, \$5 faculty/staff, \$6 other.

SG WEEKLY UPDATE

by Geoffrey H. Bliss

COS SENATOR RESULTS

Student Government has elected Heather Drake to be the new College of Science senator. Her term begins spring quarter.

SAAC REVISITED

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) submitted a new constitution to SG to be accepted as a Representative Student Organization (RSO). However, SG, who believed that SAAC would not represent all student athletes, once again turned them down. “SAAC as an RSO would provide better school spirit,” GCCIS Senator Paul Solt said. “They should especially represent all student athletes.” Despite this setback, SAAC was still granted RSO status by the Senate, pending a revision of their constitution indicating that they are to represent all student athletes, including those who play non-varsity sports and participate smaller athletic clubs.

SPRING PROGRAMMING

There has been some talk of events, which may happen in spring quarter, covering a wide range of topics from pollution to community service. These might include Earth Hour, which will happen on March 28, 2008. This event encourages people in some of the world’s major cities to turn off their electricity for sixty minutes to fight climate change. The promotion of community service to RIT students was also discussed.

College of Business Senator Carlos Cornejo mentioned hosting a “College Olympics” which would “create teams from each college to compete against each other in friendly competition.” CAB Representative Megan Maksymowich indicated that when creating events for the annual Do Stuff For Stuff Challenge, her organization has to be careful to account for both deaf and hard-of-hearing people to ensure that no advantages or disadvantages are had from using ASL as a primary means of communication. She added that if the Senate followed through on the “College Olympics,” they would need to keep such things in mind.

THE OMBUDS OFFICE

Lee Twyymann, the RIT Ombudsperson, gave a presentation about the role of the Ombuds office on campus. The Ombuds Office, located in the SAU in rooms 1110 and 1114, exists to assist individuals in resolving conflicts and concerns. “We try to get resolution at an informal level and we serve the whole community,” Twyymann said. “The highest levels of disputes are usually academic disputes. However, we have had many other disputes which have happened at one time or another.” The process of providing resolution to students was summarized by Twyymann who stated, “Complaints often materialize into recommendations. The good thing is that we are getting a lot of things resolved.”

Student Problem Resolution Office
RIT Student Ombudsperson

Got Problems?
...we’re here to help

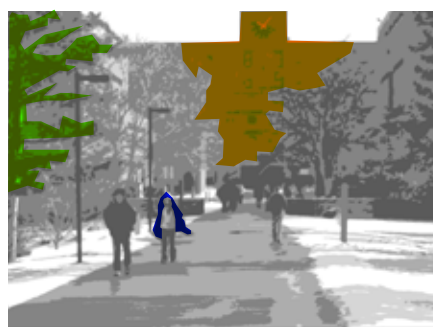
585.475.7200
ombask@rit.edu
www.rit.edu/~022www

We Want Your Opinion!

Tell us what you think about getting around campus



- Drop in to discuss:**
- **Parking**
 - **Transportation**
 - **Walkways, tunnels, etc**
 - **Bicycle, skateboard & rollerblade paths**



OPEN HOUSE

SAU Fireside Lounge

Monday, March 17: 11am-1pm & 3-6pm

and

Tuesday, March 18: 8-10:30am

Sponsored by: Parking and Transportation Services, Student Government, Academic Senate and Staff Council

For more information on the Comprehensive Parking and Transportation Strategies project visit the website at <http://finweb.rit.edu/grms/pats/patstrategy.html>



CREATIVE METHODS OF CONFUSION

by Casey Dehlinger

You might have taken the moniker “spring break” to mean what it implied: That spring was around the next corner in sight. But as you turn that proverbial corner, all you see is a month of ice and sleet followed by a month of torrential downpours and mud. You might find yourself staring at those eggshell white walls of yours for a little longer than previously anticipated. It’s time break a few of those eggshells (not literally; don’t sue me) and make a visually superior omelet that would make HGTV cringe.

FRAME SOME PHOTOS

I am in no way suggesting that you print out photos you have taken. Those are for Facebook.

Instead, get a stack of magazines and just cut out whatever you want. Cut out happy strangers and put them on your wall as if they were cherished family. Start to believe that they are cherished family. Make up complicated background stories for these people and tell naïve visitors about your Uncle Thelonius who makes a successful living selling hot dogs out of a Winnebago on the roadside.

ART THINGS UP

Real art is a tad expensive, and not everyone has earned enough to turn their own living space into a gallery. Posters will always be little more than posters: No matter how scantily clad the women are, they’re not going to get any more or less naked. You need something a little more organic. The dorms had the right idea with the little dry erase boards outside each door, but now you need to think bigger.

A friend’s hallway is lined with a strip of paper and duct tape holsters that are full of colored pencils and crayons. Think of it as your own personal graffiti wall. This works especially well in high-traffic apartments with large reserves of alcohol. If you don’t remember last night, there’s always the chance that someone has documented the events on the wall so that you don’t need to ask anyone.

Results may vary. Maintain control of your own wall. For some apartments, this will inevitably turn into a bathroom stall, or your own personal RIT Rings. Less vulgar residences might just put math equations on the wall. Just remember: Whatever ends up on the wall is a reflection of your inner soul.

DON'T PAINT THE WALLS

Most of us have RAs, landlords, and other authority figures in our lives who frown upon experiments in color. Even if you’re fine with telling them to go to hell, you probably don’t want to say the same to your security deposit, so it’s time to look for an alternative.

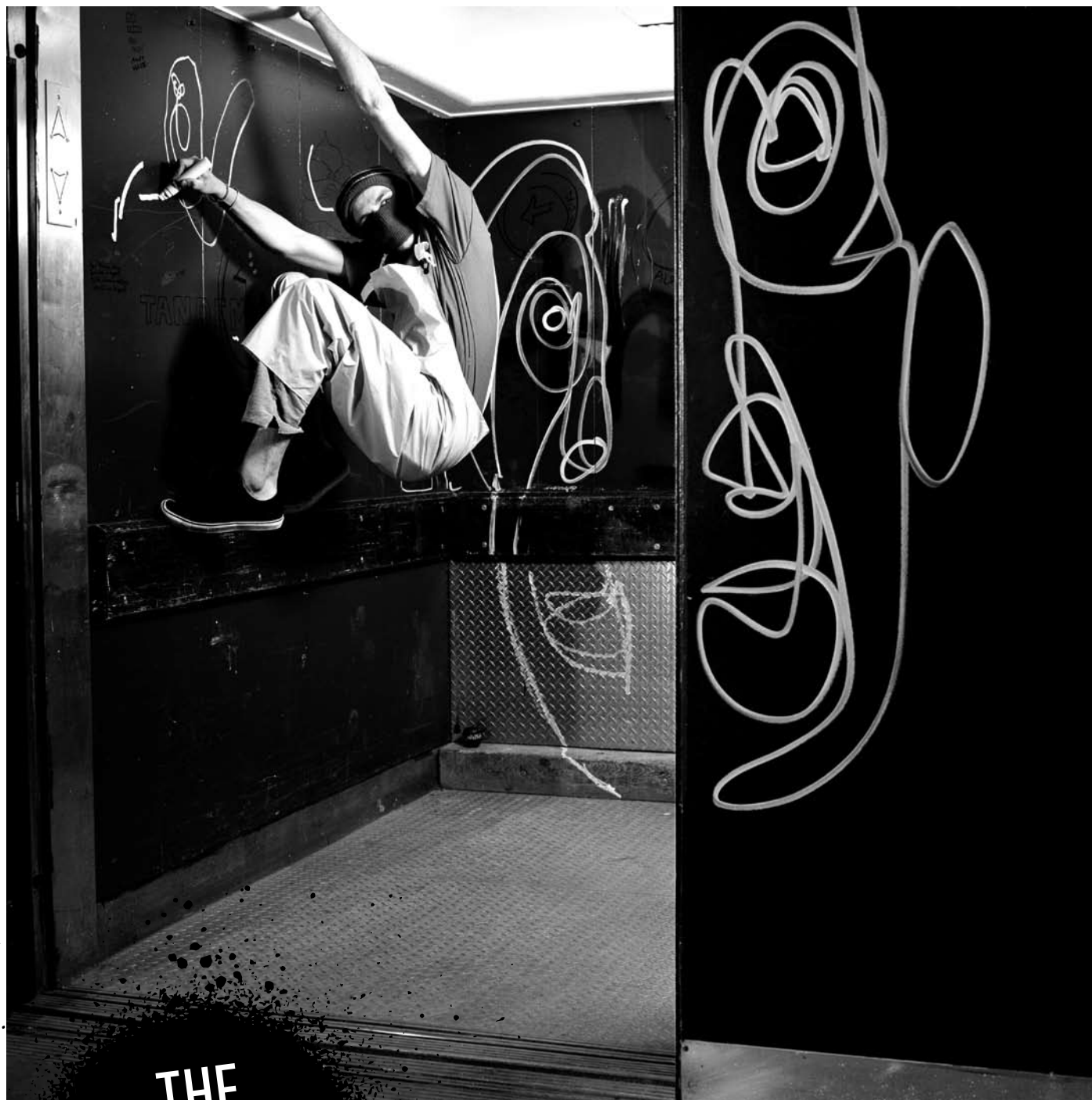
Party stores typically sell long rolls of opaque plastic, usually about 50-feet long by about three-feet wide. They come in a rainbow of colors, and are cheap at about \$15-20 a roll. Pick one color and stick to it. The indecisive or gaudy-of-taste can pick a couple of colors. Make sure the material doesn’t make good apartment kindling.

Two rolls can probably cover a living area. Used conservatively, it might be possible to faux wallpaper a dorm with one roll. Just cut strips to the height of the room and tack or staple the top corners in place. Leaving the bottoms free to flutter is an eccentric option.

PAINT THE WALLS

If you are rich enough to pay the fines, abandon your security deposit, or own your own place, get a few colors mixed up specially. First, paint the top half of a room blue-grey, like the sky, then paint the remaining third of the bottom a sandy beige color. The space in between should be a mid-tone blue-green, like water. Paint a darker shade right at the “horizon line.” The space won’t look like a beach, per se, but out of the corner of your eye, you will see a horizon line in the room, and it will make the space seem a bit larger than usual.

The trick is in keeping it simple. Don’t paint a beach, just get the colors and horizontal lines of the beach in there, and go with naturalistic colors. The sky isn’t cyan. The water isn’t blue. The sand isn’t yellow. And if the beach isn’t your thing, try to come up with color schemes to represent your own favorite landscape.



THE EXPRESSIVE ELEVATOR

by Susan Cook | photograph by Alex Gagne

Graffiti is all over our campus. It may be cute and clever, or it may be vile, uncomfortable, and crude. It could inform you that “The cake is a lie,” or it could cause you to chuckle (“Anime: satiating potential pedophiles for over 30 years!”).

But every so often, a layer of paint hides it all, and what you see is a plain wall once again. It seems as though not everyone loves or appreciates graffiti. This is the case in the Booth (Building 7A) elevator. So why is the paint job being done? After all, many art students argue that it is their building and that students have the right to self-expression. Others share a different opinion of what to do with the elevator. Reporter talks to three concerned individuals.

“We don’t want to stifle creativity, you know?”

HEIDI NICKISHER

Professor of Art History.

DO YOU FEEL THAT GRAFFITI CAN BE CONSIDERED ART?

I like graffiti. It can be shocking. It can be thoughtful, silly, knee-jerking, and it can serve a purpose. And while I understand Maintenance [Services’] point of view, whenever you allow somebody to do something, you’re probably infringing on somebody else’s rights in the process.

SHOULD IT BE PAINTED OVER? LEFT ALONE? SHOULD A MURAL BE PUT UP?

No, not painted over. The problem with a mural is that someone will still come along and start doodling on it and chances are that a “pretty” mural will also end up with graffiti on it. You see it on buildings, streets, schools...You see it even in grade school! Some would argue that cave painting is a form of graffiti. Even when it’s “raunchy,” graffiti is a form of expression. So who gets to pick and choose? As for attacking graffiti, I don’t agree with that—especially if it’s not about a certain person, race, or religion. But even then, it’s still a personal, subjective point of view and therefore also free speech.

SINCE IT’S AN ART BUILDING, SHOULD STUDENTS BE ALLOWED TO USE THE SPACE TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES OR SHOULD THE WALLS BE KEPT BLANK FOR THE SAKE OF PROVIDING A “CLEAN” IMAGE?

Not all the walls. Keeping them all white does provide a sort of minimalist aesthetic. Some like it; some don’t. I visited Alfred University a few years ago, and in the art building there was all kinds of stuff on the walls. There were drawings and paintings right on the wall. It actually looked like an art building.

DO YOU THINK THIS PROBLEM COULD EVER BE RESOLVED?

I think it is an ongoing issue that does not have an end in sight. Graffiti is not unique to RIT. When someone commits acts of graffiti here at RIT, it is likely that it is not the first time they have done it. It is a societal problem, not an RIT problem, in my opinion.

So what’s the overall thought? You can’t give art students a “blank canvas” and expect it to be left that way. They spend most of their college lives in the art building, covered in charcoal, paint, and ink. Perhaps a mural is a temporary fix, but it will probably need to be repainted just as frequently as the solid-colored walls, since not everyone will agree with the art chosen, and almost no one likes a clean, sterile, hospital-like atmosphere. There may be no end in sight to this graffiti situation.

CAITLIN YARSKY

Fourth Year Illustration Major
CIAS Student Government Senator
Editor’s note: Caitlin Yarsky is an illustrator for Reporter.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE GRAFFITI IN THE 7A ELEVATOR? DO YOU CONSIDER IT ART OR VANDALISM?

I would not consider the elevator artwork vandalism if people put time and thought into it, but it is really (kind of) awful. I think if art students are going to vandalize something, it should at least be something you want to look at, and no one I know likes the way it is now.

ASIDE FROM A MURAL, DO YOU KNOW OF ANYTHING THAT COULD BE PUT ON THE ELEVATOR WALLS TO LESSEN OR ELIMINATE THE AMOUNT OF GRAFFITI?

Aside from a mural, I think if we just painted it a lighter, less oppressive color, students would actually draw more on the walls, which could be a great thing! And if students started doing fun things on the walls that got painted over quarterly, it could be really nice. We don’t want to stifle creativity, you know?

ARE YOU THE HEAD OF AN ORGANIZATION OR COMMITTEE WORKING ON THIS PROBLEM?

I am not the head of an organization to paint the elevator; it’s just a project I proposed as senator to make the school look nicer.

DO YOU KNOW OF ANY COMMITTEES OR GROUPS ATTEMPTING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM?

Debbie Kingsbury (Assistant Dean of CIAS) and I have been working with Facility Management Services, and they’ll be making the walls a lighter color for us to paint the elevator at the end of Spring Break, so hopefully there’ll be a cool mural there by next quarter.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE WAYS THAT STUDENTS CAN INPUT THEIR IDEAS TO YOU?

I am available for suggestions and concerns through email (on the Student Government website) and Facebook, and through office hours at the SG office by appointment.

REVIEWS



PROFECT FROM PROTICA

by Susan Cook

At first look, the test tubes of Profect protein drink look like they're going to be fun, delightful, and even delicious. According to the accompanying pamphlet, Profect is for medical patients who have special protein needs and is suggested for almost anyone from teenagers to pregnant women to burn victims.

A single 2.9-ounce vial will provide you with 25 grams of protein. (By comparison, a 6-ounce

steak packs around 40 grams of protein). Profect claims to have a palatable taste with a smooth texture, all without the heavy use of flavoring and sweeteners. It is also hypoallergenic.

For \$5 plus shipping, the website sells a sampler kit with four randomly selected flavors. If you happen to like one of the flavors, you can purchase a kit of four specific flavors for \$11 plus shipping.

Cracking open a tube, I took a sip of Cool Melon Splash. The initial flavor was somewhere between bland and slightly decent. That was until the aftertaste kicked in. Very suddenly, it became like warm creamy Jell-O with a hint of horrible. I asked my friends to try a few sips. Some com-

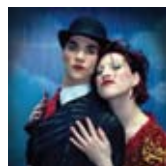
plied, but then immediately handed the drinks back to guzzle down water. After having experienced their flavor, second year Industrial Design major Steve Caruso commented, "I'd rather drink steak from a blender." I have to admit that the blended beef would probably taste much better. However, the looks on peoples' faces as they sipped were priceless enough; it might make for a great April Fools' joke.

Take a sip at profect.com.



YOUR GUIDE TO STRANGE CABARET

by Ilsa Shaw



THE DRESDEN DOLLS

Nowadays it may seem like generic piano-driven power pop, especially now that the Dolls are bopping around with the execrable likes of Fall Out Boy, but this band has an oft-overlooked history. Diehard fans pine for the old Amanda Palmer (lead vocalist and pianist), the absolutely off-kilter musician who, long before the Dolls, was known for tearing off her clothes while screaming as part of an interpretive art show she used to perform in downtown Boston. That was the very edge they seem to miss now. Songs about pederasty, regret, and even NPR radio hosts are all spindled together with the often eerie, emotional tunes of both piano and drums. It's witty, ironic, and somewhat silly at times. If you've only listened to *Yes, Virginia*, which seems to be more of a "shopping mall CD," I'd suggest skipping to something of more substance, something inherently more human and real. Try their first release, which is self-titled, or even the less polished *A is for Accident*. While you're at it, stop shopping at FYE and get out of the mall.



CLARE FADER & THE VAUDEVILLAINS

This band is in the same neck of the woods as the Dresden Dolls, save for some crucial differences: more quirk, less bipolarity, and an eclectic cast of instruments—from cellos to bicycle spokes. The result is a colorful and witty mix of different styles, most notably cabaret and jazz, led by the voice of a throaty Clare Fader. In short, it's guaranteed fun music, and you'll find yourself laughing at the witty story-like lyrics that every song has to offer. Try *Seventh and Trade* for starters, and let yourself be whisked off to a quirky land of lyrical pulp fiction.



CHING CHONG SONG

Kitschy and loopy, one is never sure whether Ching Chong Song is being honest or genuinely demeaned. Backed by the whaling, strange shrieks of a saw, Julie LaMendola and Dan Gower are a true act to behold. The music is far from conventional and is almost a bit too hyperactive at times, switching from one crazed tone of voice to another and often immediately changing tempos. It's confusing, surely, but they are an interesting band to see live if only for their eccentric personalities. Some call it "odd cabaret," while they themselves call it "subversive anti-folk." Whatever the case, they certainly pull off the key element of uniqueness: Being strange.

03.14.08

AT YOUR LEISURE

by Ilsa Shaw

QUIZ:

- What was the name of the first online user-to-user messaging system?
 - ICQ
 - AOL Instant Messenger
 - Quantum Link OLM
 - Freelancin' Roundtable
- Of more than 700 tons of garbage produced per year at RIT, about how much winds up in a landfill?
 - 32.0%
 - 43.5%
 - 72.5%
 - 90.8%
- Where on campus can you buy Betty Boop bobblehead dolls?
 - Crossroads
 - Corner Store
 - Sol's
 - Ritz Sports Zone
- Two years ago, there was a movement to litter RIT's Liberal Arts building with graffiti. Surprisingly, RIT sponsored it. What was the name of this course?
 - Wall Writing 101
 - Tolstoy
 - Advanced Creative Writing
 - It wasn't a course; it was a group of 23 frustrated students.
- True or False: The RIT Ambulance Club has a Constitution.
 - True
 - False

Answers: 1.c 2.c 3.b 4.c 5.a



REPORTER RECOMMENDS:

Celebrating Pi Day. That's right, on March 14 at 1:59 p.m. (from 3.14159...), nerds around the world gather in a peaceful, pi-centered ambiance. Go ahead and bake a pi pie, use pi as a unit of measure for everything, and watch the movie, *Pi*. It's all bound to get you in the right celebratory mood. Did you miss the date? Don't fear—it's never too late to gather and join hands in the shape whose ratio of its circumference to its diameter is the most revered mathematical constant in the known universe.

DIFFICULTY RATING: HARD

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

QUOTE

"Everyone is a genius at least once a year; a real genius has his original ideas closer together."

—Georg Lichtenberg

getting
to know

ISLAM

by Madeleine Villavicencio | photographs by Ross Thompson

The first time I met Rauf Bawany, the Muslim Chaplain at RIT's Interfaith Center, was on the steps leading to his office. He stood four steps above me and carried a stack of books. I had stretched my arm out to shake his hand, and although he was about to take it, he stopped himself. To me, it looked like he was going to drop something, so I thought nothing of it. He frowned and said, "I don't usually do this." My hand dropped to my side. Had I managed to offend him so quickly?

In short, no. Brother Rauf had his reasons for not shaking my hand that day. In Islam, it is not proper for a man and a woman to touch, even in the form of a handshake. I was relieved when he explained this to me.

Of course, there are varying degrees of faith and not every Muslim follows this particular practice. The only things that remain constant are the fundamentals of the religion. The root of Islam is its five pillars: Shahadah, Salah, Zakat, Sawm and Hajj.



THE FOUNDATION OF ISLAM

According to Shuaib Mansoori, a fourth year Electrical Engineering major who actively practices the faith, “The belief of Islam centers around *Tawheed*, which means: ‘to single out Allah in worship,’ and to believe that there is no deity who has a right to be worshiped, to be revered, and to be given ultimate love except for the one and true God. This is the crux of Islam.” What Mansoori described is *Shahadah*, the very first pillar and basic creed of Islam. In this pillar, Mohammad is described as the last and most important of a series of messengers sent by Allah (God).

The second pillar, *Salah*, has to do with prayer. “There are five prayers that a Muslim is supposed to perform,” explained Naqi Haider, a fourth year Biotechnology major. “They remind you of your religion throughout your day.” Aside from being a quiet time of meditation and reflection, the *Salah* has a very specific structure and process involved. Before one even begins to pray, a ritual ablution—the symbolic washing of the face, hands and arms, and feet— must take place. Explained Mansoori, “The whole purpose is [when] you are standing before God to worship him, you must be clean and in a state of cleanliness.”

The next pillar, *Zakat*, involves sharing wealth with the underprivileged. “*Zakat* means to pay the yearly charity that is due for the poor. God legislates this to nurture a love for the less fortunate and bring about a healthy society,” stated Mansoori. The amount given is equivalent to approximately 2.5% of a person's annual income, assuming it exceeds a minimum level and can just be given to a mosque to be taken care of.

The next pillar is *Sawm*, or fasting during the month of Ramadan. Fasting not only involves abstaining from food and drink, but also sexual relations and many other actions. Ramadan, the month that the Quran began to be revealed to Mohammad, is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, which follows a lunar cycle. It has two aspects: Social and spiritual. “In the spiritual aspect, it is a month when you focus more on your spirit, on praying and on remembering God. In the social aspect, it is a way to feel the situation of the poor,” explained Najeebullah Bieg, a third year International Studies major.

The fifth and last pillar is *Hajj*, or the pilgrimage to Mecca. “This is obligated on a Muslim to be done at least once in his lifetime, if he is able to afford the journey...[Hajj] symbolizes walking in the footsteps of Abraham and particularly, the mother of Ishmael,” explained Mansoori. The Hajj entails many rituals, the most famous of which is the circling of the Kaaba seven times. The Kaaba is considered the holiest place in Islamic faith. “Many Muslims believe that this is the first house built for worship of God by Abraham and his son Ishmael,” added Mansoori.

“To reject any one of these pillars is tantamount to rejecting Islam,” stated Mansoori. He explained that not practicing a pillar is not an issue; it does, however, become a problem if you reject the importance of the pillar within your heart. “For example, if a person feels that prayer is not obligatory, then he is rejecting Allah himself,” Mansoori explained.

THE SEPARATION OF MUSLIM MEN AND WOMEN

When it comes to worship and prayer, it may seem advisable to separate men and women. You would be surprised how many people spend at least a minute of their time distract-

ed by someone of the opposite gender during church services. “The point is when you pray, it is a [spiritual] and physical act. You do not want to be staring at the opposite gender or vice versa. You want to focus. This is one of the practical reasons why we separate during prayer,” said Haider.

In fact, the separation is not very extreme. Group prayers need not be scheduled at separate times or locations. At RIT, men are asked to sit in the front of the room while women remain at the back. “It is just so the men do not get distracted by the women because generally, men have more hormones,” explained Saba Shahid, a fourth year Interior Design Major and one of the few Muslim women on campus.

Unfortunately, it is with everyday interactions that the distinct lines begin to blur. “[In the Islamic faith,] it is not allowed for a man and a woman to chat without a reason. You cannot just hang out, let alone touch,” said S. Shahid. Circumstances, such as business, will arise where one may have to interact with a person of the opposite gender and generally the interaction will be allowed. “But even then, [a woman] must remain proper and be careful that [she does] not become an attraction,” elaborated S. Shahid.

However, many Muslims of this day and age are a little more liberal. “It is more of a personal decision now...There are all types of Muslims. There are Muslims who drink. If a person wants to give [another] a hug or shake someone's hand, it's up to them,” said Haider. It all comes down to society and culture, and this changes depending on where you are. “It's not rigid, in the sense that in Islamic society, it is exactly the same in every single place. It molds and it changes. It isn't supposed to be a burden. It isn't something where you freak out and alter your every-

day relations, just to go through these complex parameters. Religion is supposed to be easy,” said Osama Eisa, a third year Multidisciplinary Studies major focusing on Political Science.

THE HIJAB AND MUSLIM WOMEN

“Hijab means to cover your body in a modest way. You can do this with clothing or a simple t-shirt, or if you wear something loose and it doesn't really show your figure,” said S. Shahid. While many non-Muslims feel that the veils associated with the hijab are oppressive, the idea behind the hijab is to maintain the woman's honor and preserve her beauty. “In Islam, when you go out, you must be modest. What you have, your beauty must be reserved for your husband, or for men, your wife,” explained S. Shahid.

In response to criticism about the hijab, Beig responded, “I don't understand how people who stand for the freedom of choice, democracy, and liberty [question] the right of the women to wear a hijab. They seem to be stepping upon the very principles that they believe in.”

POLYGYNY AND MULTIPLE WIVES

Another practice that raises many questions is polygyny, which is the practice of having more than one wife at a time. Many Westerners are unaware of the historical context involved. Eisa explained, “During the prophets' time, if a husband died in combat, then the woman wouldn't be able to survive. What would happen is [another man] would take her as another wife, but that wouldn't necessarily mean that they would have children or there would be sexual relations. She would merely be able to live [in] his house and eat.”

“It is more of a personal decision now...There are all types of Muslims. There are Muslims who drink. If a person wants to give [another] a hug or shake someone's hand, it's up to them”

In fact, polygyny involves many rules and regulations. In order to marry another woman, a man must be able to apply justice between his wives and treat them equally. It may still be strange to some, but it is worth noting that this practice is the exception rather than the rule. “It's one of those topics that is blown out of proportion. I don't know anyone who has more than one wife or who is in a relationship with more than one woman at once. I think this is one of those topics that [people use to] flame the fumes because it's something different,” stated Haider.

THE REAL MEANING OF JIHAD

None of the aforementioned issues, however, is as controversial as *jihad*. Terrorists have made *jihad* one of the explanations for their actions, yet their interpretation of their own religion remains extreme. “*Jihad* is really internal struggle...It's the idea that you put forth this effort to overcome what difficulties you have because God does not put a burden on any man's shoulders that He knows he cannot carry. I think you can really take those terms and turn them around to scare people,” said Eisa.

There exist two parts of *jihad*. The first is the greater *jihad*, which is the internal struggle; the second is the lesser *jihad*, which is what is most often misconstrued as “holy war.” Explained Bieg, “This smaller *jihad* is a war, but it is a defense mechanism. If you or your country is attacked, you or anyone who is able is supposed to stand and defend those who are unable. But even for this, you must meet the prerequisite of greater *jihad*.”

There are many rules that come attached to this idea. “You cannot kill old people or children. You cannot kill civilians in a marketplace or people who are worshipping,” said Hamza Shahid, a fifth year Microelectronic Engineering major. Therefore, he related, terrorists who use Islamic beliefs as reasoning behind their at-

tacks are failing to follow the true meaning of these very beliefs.

There are a number of reasons why *jihad* can be exploited for selfish reasons. “Religion is the biggest force in Islamic societies. It is the most powerful force, so it is the easiest for those with political agendas to use to recruit people, because a lot of people are uneducated about their own religion,” explained Bieg. When most rely on their local religious leaders for the interpretation of their religious texts, those fed with corrupted ideas can be easily swayed.

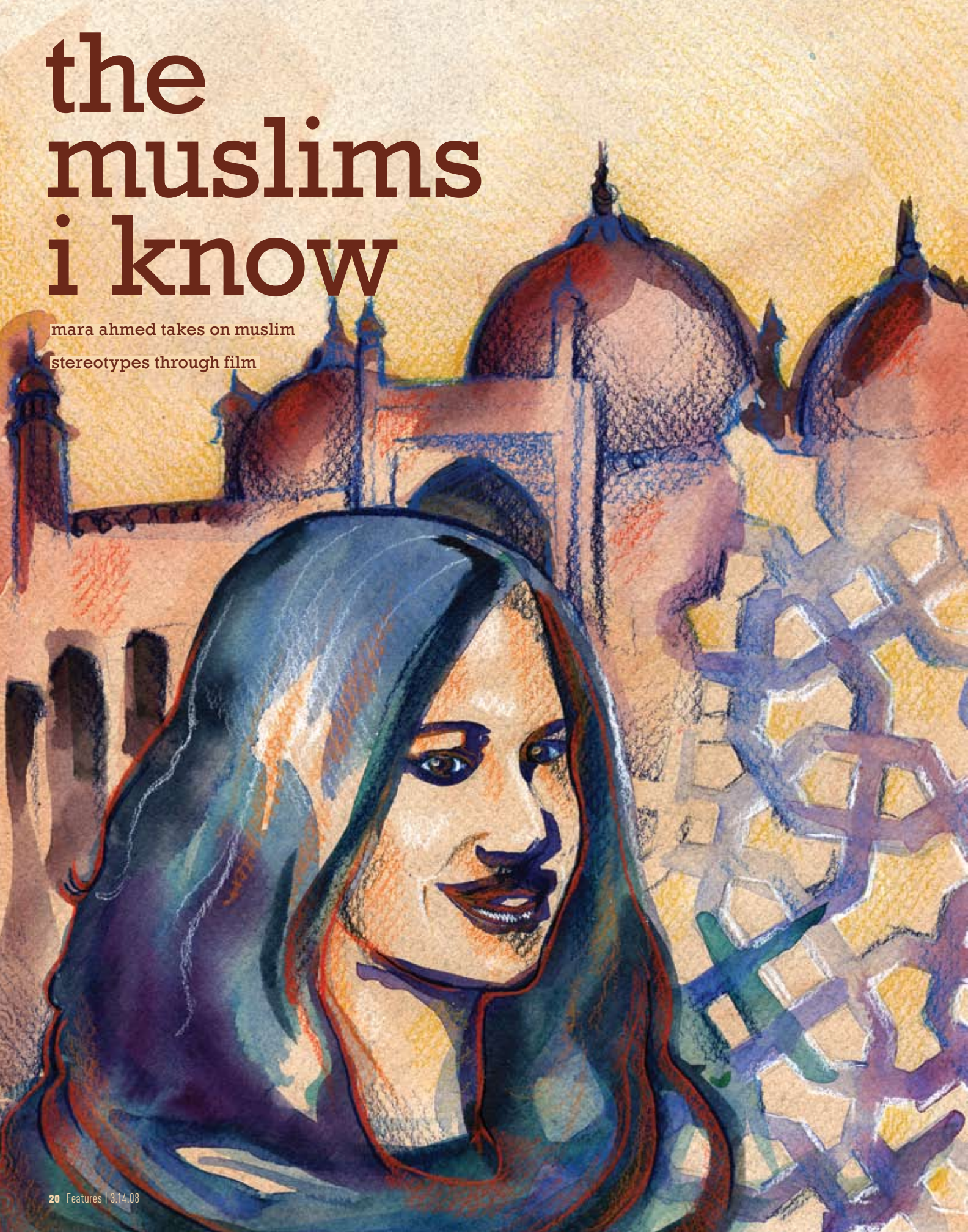
A good way to sum up the issue of *jihad* is to tackle why there are people who use Islam for evil purposes. “In extreme situations, you get extreme people. They are not a representation of Muslims in general,” stated Haider. Some believe that these people are products of oppression, political-economic situations, post-colonial situations and post-war situations. The list goes on and on. “There are extremists and they tend to speak the loudest and bark the loudest, so we hear them. But they aren't the representation of the majority. There are about 1.4 billion Muslims in the world and we give attention to this topic, and I think that this is really unfair,” continued Haider.

What it comes down to is that every person, religion, culture, country, and race is different. Said S. Shahid, “Whenever you do something, you have an intention. Your intention counts. If you tried your best to do the right thing, and you couldn't because there were circumstances...In the end it's all up to Allah to judge.” •

“To reject any one of these pillars is tantamount to rejecting Islam”

the muslims i know

mara ahmed takes on muslim stereotypes through film



by Andrew Rees | illustration by Sara Wick

When Mara Ahmed moved to the United States from Pakistan with her husband in 1993, the world was a different place. Terms like “Muslim Extremist” and “Islamic Jihad” barely registered in the minds of Americans. However, after the events of September 11, 2001, these words became irrevocably embedded in the American consciousness.

Ahmed, who grew up in Lahore, Pakistan, is a Muslim woman living in Rochester, and has two master’s degrees to her name. Until 2003, she was a financial analyst working at a prominent Rochester company. That year she decided to quit her job and begin pursuing her love of the arts. She considers herself a moderate Muslim.

When America declared war on terror in 2001, Ahmed and other Muslims like her felt the weight of the media bias towards her people. Muslims were being portrayed as violent extremists bent on jihad. Seeing this misrepresentation, she immediately felt the need to do something about it. A documentary, in her mind, was the only option. She needed to show the world a different side of Muslims. She calls her documentary, *The Muslims I Know*.

She began taking classes at RIT in 2006 to help her take on this project. In collaboration with RIT film students and faculty, she began building her project from the ground up. Ahmed started by interviewing non-Muslims to get their take on the people of Islam. She asked them, “If you could ask a Muslim person anything, what would it be?”

The responses gave her a strong base to move forward, to help combat the negative image of Muslims.

Ahmed’s film focuses primarily on a series of interviews, using the questions from non-Muslims, with Rochester area Muslims of Pakistani origins. These interviews attempt to break down the stereotypes associated with Muslims and help address how non-Muslims view the culture. “You can’t just talk about Muslims as if it’s one thing, so I didn’t want to make that same mistake, and say, ‘I represent all Muslims’... so I kept it very narrow in that sense.”

The interviews take place in coffee shops and living rooms, giving the viewer the feeling that they’re actively involved in the conversation. Subjects range from college-aged students

“if you could ask a muslim person anything, what would it be?”

raised in the States to middle aged men who came to seek the ‘American Dream.’

Ahmed’s homeland, Pakistan, takes a lead role in the film. In 1947, when the British Empire left the Indian subcontinent, Pakistan was formed, as a primarily Muslim country, in an effort to ease communal tensions between Muslims and Hindus. Some Pakistanis regard religion similarly to some Americans, using it as a political tool, rather than as a basis for a fundamentalist government.

Pakistan’s recent history has seen extremes of democracy and dictatorship. The military dictatorship of General Zia that ruled in the 1980s was supported by the United States, and was only toppled after Zia was killed accidentally when his airplane crashed. He was replaced by a series of democratically elected leaders, including the recently assassinated Benazir Bhutto. This came to an end when then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was deposed in a military coup by President Musharraf. Musharraf, who has cooperated with the United States in the war on terror, is supported by the current U.S. administration. Recently, Pakistan held democratic elections, during which the parties of Bhutto and Sharif received the majority vote. Only about 3% of the vote, according to Ahmed, was given to any strictly religious party.

Ahmed’s take on American foreign policy in the Pakistani region comes through strongly in her work. She points out that America has taken a hypocritical stance when it comes to the support of democratic movements. During the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the late 1970s and 1980s, America supported a military dictatorship in order to stem the Soviet advance. However, when the Soviets withdrew from the region, American interests shifted away. When the region regained prominence during the War on Terror, American support fell on another Pakistani military dictatorship, despite what Ahmed calls a “grass roots” movement for democracy.

She also tries to enlighten the viewer about Islam itself. Ahmed’s interviews with local scholars and experts cover the basic tenets of Islam. These tenets do not call for violence, as many point out, but rather for peace and brotherhood.

In a description of the film, she writes, “[It] answers the question: ‘Where are the moderate Muslims?’ This question is asked by the media. The silence (and therefore culpability) of the moderates is still a hot button issue seven year[s] after September 11, 2001.” She continues, “*The Muslims I Know* attempts to redress this imbalance by giving mainstream Muslims a voice and a face—something not often seen in American media.”

Throughout the film, the segues between interview subjects are done with footage of Lahore, Pakistan, Ahmed’s hometown in the Punjab province. Scenes of the ancient city of Lahore are filled with energy and color, set to exotic traditional Pakistani music. She says, “I have scenes from a wedding in Lahore...[and] scenes from the streets of Lahore...to kind of show people where we come from.”

The film was self-financed, as Ahmed drew upon friends and local artists to help out with filming. She hopes to start showing the film at festivals, and hopes that one day it will be shown on televisions. “I just try to screen it as much as I can, wherever I can, however I can.” In addition to a number of RIT students who were involved in the production of the film, Ahmed has also screened the first half of the film at the School of Film and Animation. *The Muslims I Know* is currently in post-production, and when it’s finished, Ahmed wants to show the film on campus. She hopes that the film will stir interest in the subject, and perhaps, as she writes, “deconstruct... stereotypes by showcasing first generation Pakistani American[s]” •

SPRING CAREER FAIR '08

Career Fair is your opportunity to talk with recruiters from 200+ companies to see where you might fit in, and may be selected for interviews the next day!

Search a list of companies and what they're looking for at RIT Job Zone:

www.rit.edu/co-op/careers

March 26th
11am - 4pm
Gordon Field House

Sponsored by RIT Office of Co-op and Career Services



NAME, YEAR, MAJOR?

Arion Doerr. I'm a fourth year Advertising Photo major.

HOW DO YOU LIKE RIT SO FAR?

Well, I feel like I'm finally getting into my groove, just in time to graduate this spring.

FINALLY?

Yeah, I mean, I have always loved photography in high school and now college, but always felt like I was missing something. I'm not sure what it was, but I feel like I am finally really happy with my work nowadays. It was more than just within school, it was kind of like feeling comfortable in my own skin. Now it shows in my work.

WHAT ARE YOUR OTHER INTERESTS?

I really like bookmaking, and I have recently started oil painting. Bob Ross has been my mentor for little over a year, and I finally gave it a shot. I'm pretty happy with what I've been painting so far. Ross takes all the stress out of trying to make a masterpiece; he lets me get up there and create at my own pace. It's good stuff.

NICE HAT. IS THERE A GOOD STORY BEHIND IT?

Well, it all started two years ago. I was going to be a redneck for Halloween and I had most of the outfit, mullet wig included, but I needed something to top it off—the icing on the cake—and I found the Bills hat in Wal-Mart. It was love at first sight. After Halloween, I never wore it much, but over the past few months I've started breaking it out. I feel like I fit in Western New York a little better, and I'm pretty sure it got me out of a speeding ticket on the Thruway once.

DO YOU TRAVEL A LOT?

I have family in Ireland, so I've been there a lot, and this past spring I went to Croatia for the Photography in Dubrovnik program. I was able to finagle my way into being a vagabond in Europe for two months after that.

HOW DID THAT GO?

It was the best thing I have ever done. The experience of seeing so many different places, not only as a tourist seeing landmarks, but meeting individuals and really experiencing other cultures was amazing. I owe my family a lot for helping me out when money was getting tight over there and letting me say longer.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN TOUGH LIVING AS A VAGABOND. HOW DID YOU MANAGE?

Well, I pretty much couch surfed for two months, staying with people I either knew from the States studying abroad or people I met. I met a German girl named Sinje in Croatia and I ended up sleeping on a futon in her kitchen and living with her for about five weeks. It was kind of my home base, and I would take trips to visit different friends here and there. I have no idea how it actually worked out, but somehow it all seemed to flow.

ARE YOU PLANNING ANY FUTURE TRAVELS?

Yeah, I would really like to. I have no plans yet, but after just recently watching *The Darjeeling Limited*, I really want to visit India.

Know someone who would be just awesome on this page? Send suggestions to thatguy@reportermag.com



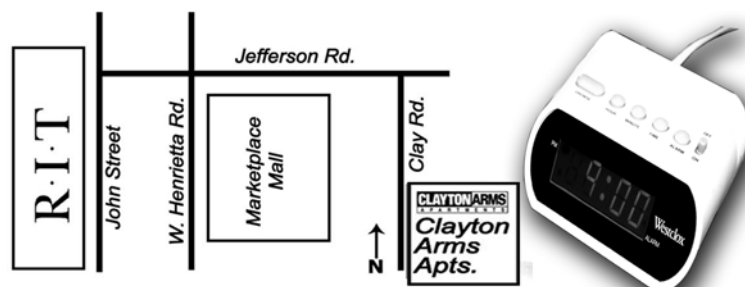
THAT GUY

by Ilsa Shaw
photograph by Tom Schrimacher

Rent Now for August 1*!
5 minutes from campus! Limited Availability*!

CLAYTON ARMS APARTMENTS
• Pool
• Heat Included
• Balcony

OFF JEFFERSON ROAD Rentals from \$565
Henrietta | 334-9110



Live close.
Sleep late.
*Restrictions apply. Rents subject to change.

www.EastwoodManagement.com



**When things don't go as planned...
Protect your future.**

Emergency contraception or the "morning-after pill" can reduce the risk of an unplanned pregnancy. It must be used within five days following unprotected sex or a birth control failure. Emergency contraception will not work if you are already pregnant.

Call Highland Family Planning at 279-4890.

Highland Family Medicine • 777 South Clinton Avenue
East Ridge Family Medicine • 809 East Ridge Road

Also offering for men and women: Birth control, STD testing and treatment,
HIV rapid testing, Pregnancy testing, Health education.

HIGHLAND HOSPITAL | An Affiliate of the UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER

PARK POINT UNIMASKED



Retail area is 100% leased!

Residential Leasing is at 70%

10, 12, 15 & 24 month leases available
300 market-rate apartments, 920 beds

Amenities include: fully furnished
apartments, in-unit washer/dryer, phone/
data/cable and a Residence Fitness Center

Grand Opening: August 2008



Barnes & Noble @ RIT

Rochester Institute of Technology and Barnes & Noble College Booksellers will be opening a new collegiate superstore. This new, multipurpose "Barnes & Noble @ R.I.T." superstore, will serve both the academic needs of the university while offering a wide selection of products and services for the Rochester community. It is nearly double the size of the previous bookstore. In addition to selling new and used textbooks, school supplies, a full range of art supplies, and dorm accessories, the store will offer an expanded selection of general interest books and periodicals, a children's department, books on local topics, a section dedicated to faculty authors, and a full-service cafe serving Starbucks beverages.

Paradiso Pizza

Bringing a New York City style eatery to Park Point at RIT, Paradiso Pizza features original Brooklyn style pizza and other homemade treats in a casual and fun atmosphere. Offering a full menu in a comfortable eat-in or take-out dining, Paradiso Pizza offers pizza, hot subs, wings, desserts and daily specials along with beer and wine to complete your meal. Come and relax, watch the big screen TV, and enjoy the taste of New York City in a little slice of paradise.

lovin' cup

lovin' cup will be more than just coffee. lovin' cup is a full-service Restaurant-Cafe and Music Bistro combining the funky feel of a bohemian New York City coffee shop, with the individualistic feel of a European lounge. lovin' cup was named after the Rolling Stones song, symbolizing our love for music and individuality. Indulge in our famous, made-from-scratch soups, sandwiches, salads or individual pizzas while relaxing by the fire or sitting out on the patio. Relax at our coffee, wine and beer bar, enjoying a fine glass of sauvignon blanc and a cheese board.

Tiger's Sports Bar and Nightclub

At Tiger's you'll feel right at home in this sports bar created for sports fans. Whether your coming from a game or coming to watch a game, find everything you need right here-Great Food, Great Drinks and of course a plasma TV in every direction showing all the best in sports. Going out for the Night? Check out our dance club right next door! The very best in local live music as well as DJ's spinnin' the hottest hits of today-all in your backyard! This truly is a venue for the entire community to enjoy. Next time you're going out, tell all your friends -Let's meet at Tiger's!

7 Day's Convenient Store

7 Day's is a 2,200 sq.ft. convenient store that will provide customers with over 1,200 different products and services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. 7 Day's will meet the needs of convenience-oriented customers by providing a broad selection of fresh products in a clean and friendly shopping environment. Whether Park Point residents and local customers are shopping for groceries, looking to purchase lotto tickets, or simply need to use an ATM, you can count on 7 Day's to be open and meet your needs anytime.

King David's

King David's Restaurant, the finest in Middle Eastern and Greek Cuisine. King David's offers a variety of authentic Middle Eastern and Greek dishes along with a large selection of vegetarian dishes. There is something for everyone, from our famous Falafel Sandwich, to our House Special Shish Kabob Platter. We serve a variety of fresh salads including our signature Greek Chicken Salad. Our House Specials feature the finest in marinated chicken, lamb, beef and shrimp. We serve Shish Kabob, Kibbeh, Mousaka, Pastichio, as well as special combination platters. Before you leave, allow us to tantalize your taste buds once again; with our delicious variety of Baklava and Turkish coffee. A variety of beer and wine is also available.

Gallery Salon Too

The staff of Gallery Salon Too believes in sharing our skill and knowledge with each client so that he or she may effortlessly recreate the custom style at home. The space was designed with a very unique objective in mind ... the mobile walls and stylists' easels free the space to create a dynamic exhibition floor. Gallery Salon Too offers each client a personalized opportunity to "Discover the art of you." Gallery Salon Too is a Full-Service Salon, and Natural Nail Spa set in a unique environment that offers our clients and the public an opportunity to exhibit and view original artwork by local talent. Our staff of highly-trained and diverse Stylists provide a full array of services.

Abbott's Frozen Custard

Abbott's new location at Park Point will be the company's 38th store. The plans include a new upscale and contemporary design, with the old soda shop feel. We hope this new store will be a gathering place for students and loyal Abbott's customers. A food critic once said "a custard stand is where God gets his ice cream." Frozen custard is richer and creamier than your average ice cream because of a higher butterfat content, slower production time and less air blended into the mix.

Wok With You

Wok With You will be a unique combination of its three sister restaurants: House of Sushi, Siam Fine Thai Cuisine and Golden Port. This diverse mix of cuisines will feature a hip Sushi Bar and Vietnamese and Thai specialties like The Mango Tango and the King of the Jungle Shrimp. Students and loyal patrons will enjoy flavors from all over Asia, reasonably priced and prepared to order. Situated in a corner location at Park Point, Wok With You's chic interior will include modern decor while the exterior will have comfortable outdoor seating overlooking Simone Square.



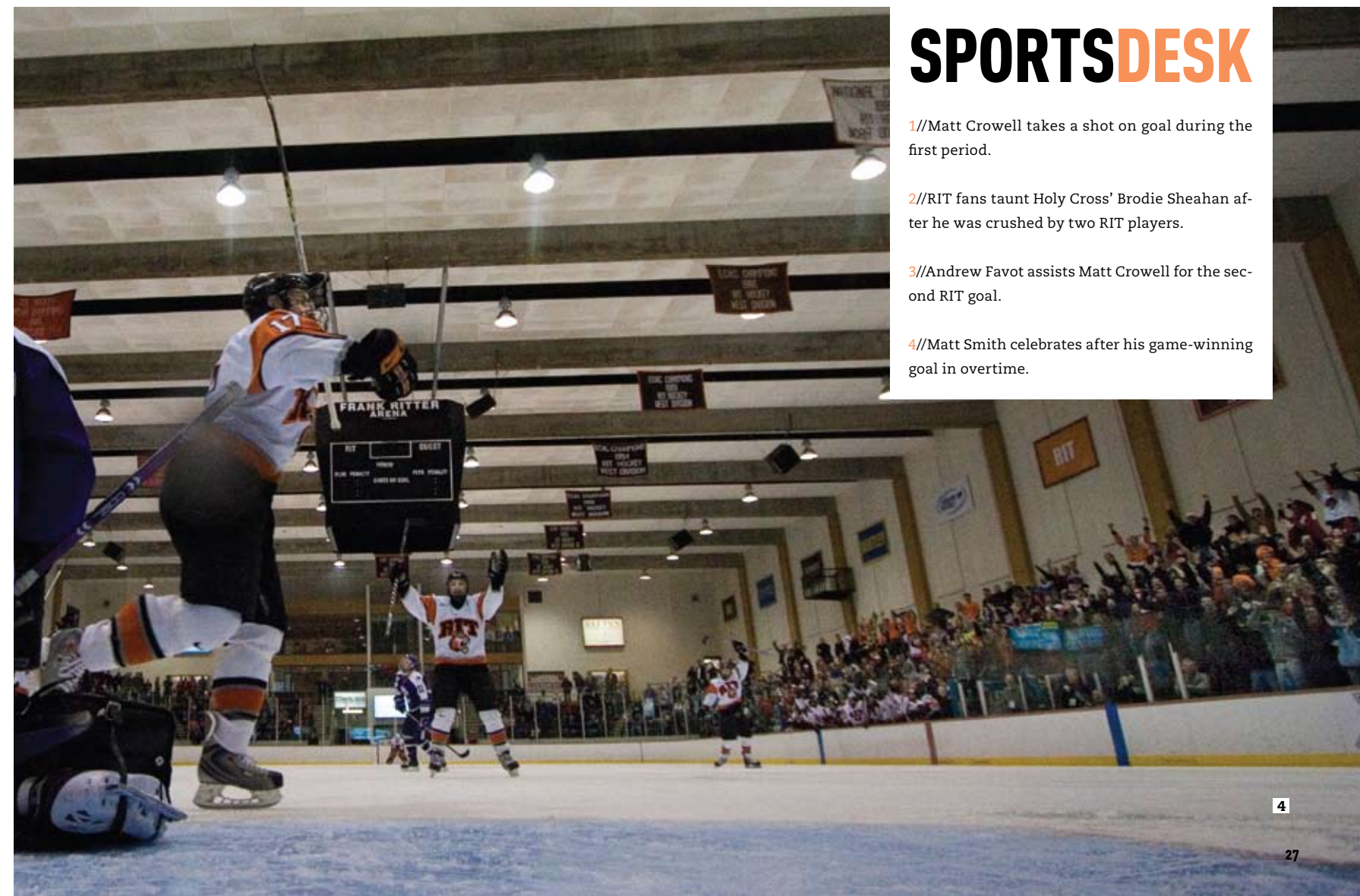
1



3



2



4

SPORTSDESK

- 1//Matt Crowell takes a shot on goal during the first period.
- 2//RIT fans taunt Holy Cross' Brodie Sheahan after he was crushed by two RIT players.
- 3//Andrew Favot assists Matt Crowell for the second RIT goal.
- 4//Matt Smith celebrates after his game-winning goal in overtime.



SWEEPING UP: RIT'S CURLING CLUB

with reporting by Elizabeth Bennett
photo by Eric Drummond

For many spectators, the Olympics is a source of both excitement and wonder. For the RIT Curling Club, it was a source of inspiration. "When Brian and I saw [curling] on the Olympics, we saw commercials for the local curling club on TV," said Mike Graziano. So, they decided to check it out. A sport that began as "looking for something to do" has since become a passion for its players. Originally, Mike Graziano (a senior Computer Engineering Technology major) and Brain Norsworthy (another RIT student) supplemented their four-man team with club members from the Rochester Curling Club. Two years later, the RIT Curling Club consists exclusively of RIT students.

The goal of Curling is to place more rocks near the target painted on the ice than the opposing team. This is accomplished by four team members—the lead, second, vice, and skip—who alternate pushing rocks toward the target while two other team members sweep the play area with a broom. Aggressive sweeping melts the ice in front of the rock, which essentially allows the sweeper to control speed and trajectory. Team members are not allowed to have contact with the rock after it is pushed.

The RIT Curling Club has gone on to make a national name for itself. Last year, they came in first place within their division at the College National Champion-

ships in Chicago. Earlier this year, they placed third at the Francis Dykes Memorial Tournament.

Unlike most sports, RIT's team practices by participating in tournaments against the club who sponsors RIT's team. The members of the club team are usually older and often have much more experience than the RIT's team members. All players have time on the

Mike Graziano, and his teammate Mark Gehan, prepare to sweep as the stone heads towards the target.

ice at least twice a week, although many members log additional practice time.

This past winter quarter, Graziano helped co-teach the Curling Wellness course. Along with the wellness course, RIT students can practice on Sunday nights at the RIT students-only league. •

WINTER SEASON REVIEW

by Carolyn Dunne



MEN'S HOCKEY

Seeded #2 in the Atlantic Hockey Postseason Tournament, the RIT men's hockey team is eligible for the NCAA postseason for the first time since their move into Division I competition. Ending the regular season with a record of 17 wins, 11 losses, and 6 tied games, the men's hockey team certainly has momentum behind them as they go into Division I NCAA postseason. With team captains Simon Lambert, Brent Patry, and Ricky Walton leading the way, the goal of making a run for the NCAA national title seems only a few games away.

The Tigers are poised to perform well in the postseason. On both the defensive and offensive end the talent of the players is undeniable, with sophomore Louis Menard in goal as two time Atlantic Hockey Association Goalie of the Week and senior Lambert, who was nationally ranked fourth with 45 points scored in the 2007-2008 regular season.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

With more new players than veterans taking the ice, Coach McDonald was uncertain in the beginning of the season as to how the 2007-2008 year would go for his team. With a regular season record of 19 wins and only 6 losses, the athletes in the RIT women's hockey program proved that collegiate experience is not necessarily a prerequisite to a successful season. "Everyone can play on this team," McDonald asserted, and "everyone is always in the gym ... to keep their edge." This superior conditioning, paired with the dynamic team chemistry they possess, has also been a big part of the powerhouse team and will be a huge asset for them in the ECAC playoffs.

Recently ranked fifth nationally in the USCHO.com Division III Women's Hockey poll, the Tigers' hard work and determination has certainly paid off as they begin the postseason. Three freshmen (Traci Galbraith, Amanda Klas-

sen, and Katie Stack) earned 2007-08 All-ECAC West honors along with senior Isabelle Richard. Klassen was also named co-Rookie of the Year.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Ending their season with 14 wins and 11 losses, the men's basketball team showed their talent on the court behind Coach McVean, a mainstay in RIT men's basketball for the past quarter-century. Freshmen such as point guard Nate Korin-chak and shooting guard Shane Foster stepped up into roles the team badly needed filled, while junior center Mark Carson anchored the team on the post end.

Foster earned co-Rookie of the year honors, while Carson and senior Kenny Gethers earned All-Empire 8 honors. Sophomore Adam Sweet was named Sportsperson of the Year.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Making it to the postseason for the second year in RIT history with a record of 12 wins and 13 losses and ranking only behind the 2006-2007 season for best record, the RIT women's basketball team experienced a reasonably successful year despite serious losses in personnel (Disclosure: I play on this team). Beginning the season with 16 players, the postseason game against Potsdam saw only ten athletes suit up to play.

Captain Joanna Dobeck had a great senior year, averaging 12.6 points per game and leading the Empire 8 conference with 9.6 rebounds per game. Freshman Brianna O'Dell had a strong showing this year, averaging 16.2 points and 5.4 rebounds per game before a fractured wrist prematurely ended her season. Both starters earned 2007-2008 All-Empire 8 honors. Senior Jamie Snyder was named Sportsperson of the Year. As a team, the women also set a record this season for their longest winning streak with five consecutive wins.

WRESTLING

Despite a season that may not seem terribly successful to the average spectator, the wrestling team was very optimistic about its performance. With very few veteran athletes returning, the team looked to many of its freshman to provide them with the strength they needed to get through the season.

On March 7, sophomore Mike McNally, junior Luke Baum, and senior Nate Bachmann all competed in their weight classes in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in search of a national title. Despite Baum and McNally's wins in the consolation round, all three were eliminated in the first day of competition. Baum will return next year for his senior season with a current career record of 104 wins and 39 losses, a mere five victories from taking the top spot as the RIT wrestler with the most career wins.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

This season was a strong one for the men's and women's swimming and diving teams, with several athletes establishing new school records, including one that will replace a time that was the school's best for more than two decades. In terms of dual meets, where the RIT team competes head-to-head with another school, the men's team finished with eight wins and two losses, while the women's team finished with four wins and seven losses.

Seven men and three women received season honors; seniors Quinn Donahoe and Matt Joseph earned All-Empire 8 Diving honors, while junior Phil Baudoin, sophomore Steve Berus, sophomore Caitlyn Burr, junior Kristin Curtze, junior Brian Duffy, sophomore Jeff Kaemmerlen, and sophomore Steve Rois all earned All-Empire 8 nods for various events. Earning Sportsperson of the Year was Duffy and freshman diver Cat Jones, with Donahoe earning Empire 8 Diver of the Year for the second consecutive year. •

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.

WEDNESDAY, 3:39 A.M.

WHAT DO YOU CALL FOUR BULLFIGHTERS IN QUICKSAND? QUATRO SINKO!

TUESDAY, 6:11 P.M.

I just found a picture of my dad smoking hookah on Facebook, and I've decided to never smoke hookah again.

MONDAY, 2:54 P.M.

What the [profanity]? We pay \$36,000 for tuition here, or whatever, and every bathroom I go to in this place has single-ply toilet paper. I am tired of wiping my [bottom] and having my finger go [like a proctologist].

SUNDAY, 2:19 A.M.

So, oh my God, it's quiet hours. I'm in my room, and me and my roommates are scared because there's a panda outside my door, scratching on it, whispering my name. It's [quite] creepy. Oh my [angry] God! Oh God, oh God!

WEDNESDAY, 2:21 A.M.

So I'm up really late, working on this stupid project, and the only memory that has me keep going is that this weekend I tried minnow shots. You grab a live minnow and put it in a shot glass and put some really cheap vodka on top of it and down it, so it's swimming in your stomach. I took a couple of those, and I didn't see any skeletons in my poo, so I guess everything's okay.

TUESDAY, 11:05 P.M.

Hey Rings, I have a problem. There's a big fence by Golisano, and I can't play on the swing sets anymore. Could you fix this please?

MONDAY, 1:57 P.M.

Hey Rings, these are some people in Building 8, floor 3. We have been studying calculus for three or four hours now, because our final is in four hours. We are making paper airplanes and throwing them off the edge. It's a pretty good time.

FRIDAY, 11:32 P.M.

RIT RINGS, I THINK I'M STUCK IN A DRYER! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. I'M A LITTLE SCARED, AND ALL THESE PEOPLE ARE LAUGHING AT ME.

SATURDAY, 3:50 A.M.

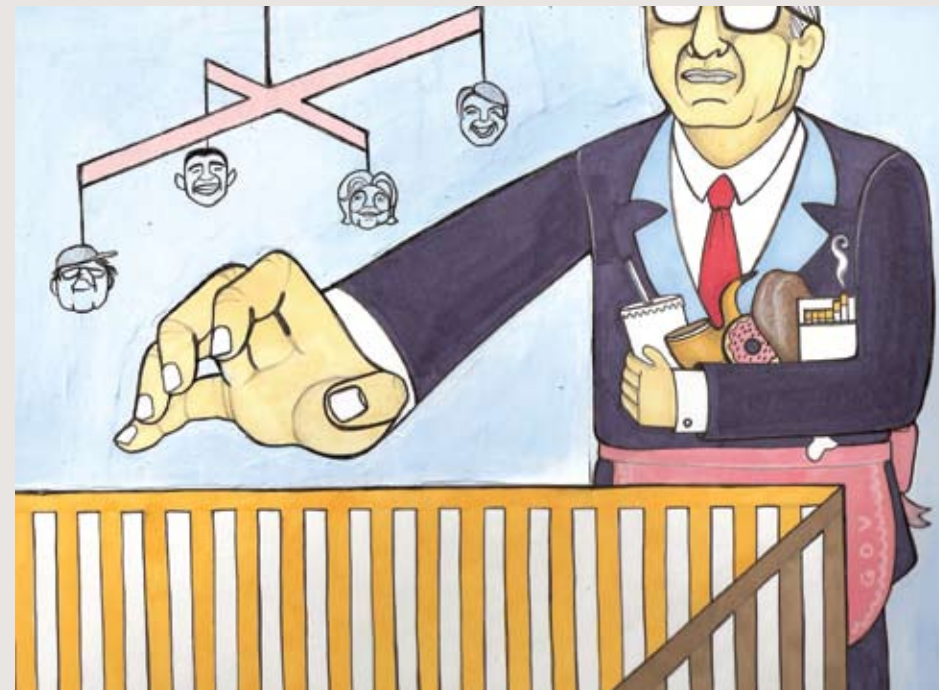
Yo, what's up, Rings? Check out how lame this is: I'm roasting [delicious] mini-marshmallows on the tip of my knife with a cigarette lighter.

TUESDAY, 4:45 P.M.

HEY RINGS, IT'S ME. I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I HATE MANHATTAN. I HATE EVERYTHING ABOUT IT. GOD BLESS YOU, NEW YORK.

MONDAY, 2:10 P.M.

Hey Rings, I'm on the second floor of Building 8, and I just got hit in the head with a [pointy] paper airplane. What the [fire and brimstone] are these people on the third floor doing? They're [upsetting me]. Yeah, the back of my head hurts.



CONCERNING HEALTHCARE

by Adam Botzenhart | illustration by Erin Wengrovius

THERE ARE AT LEAST A HUNDRED GOOD ARGUMENTS AGAINST SOCIALIZED MEDICINE.

For one, it's expensive. Hillary Clinton's plan comes with a price tag of \$110 billion a year at a time when Social Security teeters on insolvency and the national debt is over \$9.4 trillion.

Then there's the issue of incentives— it destroys them. Patients have no economic reason to seek out healthcare that is anything less than the absolute best available, expenses be damned. For that matter, patients have no incentive not to consume as much healthcare as they possibly can, no matter what they truly need. Doctor's no longer have an incentive to offer superior services at competitive prices; the government will pay them regardless of their skill level.

There's the notion that increased access necessarily comes with increased prices or decreased quality— Kling's Iron Trilemma.

Finally, there's the concern that if we can't trust the government with the war in Iraq, Hurricane Katrina, it's own fiscal responsibility, education, the war on drugs, welfare, and the environment, why, exactly, would we trust them to provide proper healthcare for over 300 million citizens?

But none of these things necessarily concerns me. Increased prices, gross inefficiency, longer wait times, leviathan bureaucracy; they all pale in comparison to what I believe is the larger problem, the truly troubling long term prospect of socialized medicine.

There was a time in our nation's history when one's health was a private concern. It had to do with freedom and it had to do with responsibility. A citizen was free to live his or her life as he pleased with the understanding that he, ultimately, would have to face the consequences of his actions. Want to eat a diet consisting solely of Twinkies and McDonald's? Interested in smoking two packs of cigarettes a day? Exercise not re-

ally your thing? Fancy taking up the street luge? Fine. It's your life. It's your body. But the implicit understanding was that, at the end of the day, you would reap the benefits or bear the costs of your actions.

Socialized medicine changes that dynamic. To be clear, neither Clinton nor Barack Obama are proposing full-on socialized medicine. But they set the stage for a shift wherein an individual's health moves from what was once a private concern to one now completely public. No longer do you exclusively bear the costs for your actions. All Americans, through taxation, foot the bill for your behaviors. What you do, the status of your health, and how you take care of yourself are now all legitimate interests of society and, even more so, legitimate interests of the government.

Here, the true costs of "free" universal health care become clear. Forfeit your responsibility to pay and you subsequently forfeit your freedom as well. As the federal government tries to limit expenses, it only makes sense that they'll also try to limit those behaviors that result in high costs downstream.

The arguments will be straightforward and invasive. "Why allow citizens to engage in high-risk behaviors when it only increases the tax burden?" "If we limit the amount of junk food in vending machines, we can reduce health care expenditures by \$2 billion." "What gives you the right to smoke when I, ultimately, will have to pay for the results?" To be sure, we've already seen encroachments of government in this area. New York State has outlawed smoking in most public spaces. New York City has banned trans fat from food served in restaurants. Socialized health care only accelerates these encroachments and provides a new and compelling justification for regulation.

Ever since "no taxation without representation," who has to pay and who has a say have been, appropriately, intimately linked. Socialized medicine, however, opens up a Pandora's box concerning legitimate interest in an individual's health and behavior. Increased prices, gross inefficiency, longer wait times, leviathan bureaucracy; these don't concern me. What does concern me is the perfectly justifiable regulation— the shift to the public purview of what was once only private— socialized health care invites and may even require. •



FEEL THE POWER!

**ELECTIONS ARE COMING!
RUN FOR STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

NOW

**Packets are Available
(pick up in SG office)**

March 28

Packets are Due

**March 31–April 13
Campaign!**

**April 7 & April 8
Debates!**

**April 14–17
Vote!**

