

# REPORTER



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**COCHLEAR  
IMPLANTS**  
SAVIOR OR  
SUPERFLUOUS?

**BELL HALL**  
UNREST IN THE  
DEAF COMMUNITY

**HOCKEY**  
A HEARTBREAKING LOSS

# REPORTER

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

## NO SILVER BULLET

I wonder about the problem solving tactics employed on this campus. To me, it feels at times like the RIT decision makers ignore the root causes of problems and instead make monumental moves with their gut feelings as evidence of future success. That is probably an unfair judgment, but so it goes. Failure to provide compelling evidence for suspected improvements invites such modes of thinking.

Several administrators have commented to me that Global Village will be a training ground for students who seek to study abroad, thus fostering a more global reputation for the Institute. But, are students avoiding a semester overseas because they are too unprepared to travel, and do those same students think that living in faux-India will prepare them? I doubt it. I think the true problem lays in funding— study abroad is in many cases prohibitively *expensive*— and credits— study abroad semester credits often fail to map efficiently to our quarter system.

Per a couple of presentations I've heard at governance groups this year, the RIT Office of Development currently focuses on educating enrolled students on the importance of giving back to the Institute as a counter to lagging alumni donations. The assumption? Alumni do not give back because they don't understand the importance of donating. I can't imagine what sort of person came to that conclusion, and what sort of data they collected to back it up. RIT students know the value of money. They also know how this school makes them feel on a daily basis (hint: not good) and act accordingly upon graduation.

If RIT wishes to instill in its faculty an excited unity around the ideals of creativity and innovation (page 7), then perhaps insults delivered to perfectly qualified and, indeed downright inspiring, professors (page 9) should be minimized. Requiring that each tenured faculty member possess a doctorate is not a guarantee that our "career-focused" Brick City will be staffed by the best and brightest innovators and educators. In all reality, I imagine that invalidates a number of otherwise stellar candidates.

Fred Brooks, a famous engineer, wrote an even more famous essay titled "No Silver Bullet: Essence and Accidents of Software Engineering." In this piece, he describes software as being essentially difficult, characterized by, among other things, its inherent physical invisibility (software systems are intangible) and its natural complexity (software systems are large and non-repetitive). Complex and intangible problems require sophisticated solutions, backed by consistent, focused, and incremental change. There is no silver bullet to slay that beast, no series of magical steps to fix the industry's stagnant quality and growth.

I propose that RIT, too, holds within it a series of complex and intangible problems. And, just as software ailments cannot be slain with magical silver bullets, so too are RIT's shortcomings protected from grandiose and jarring efforts. Transformation— I mean deep-seated, substantive transformation— is by necessity slow and painful. Educating students on the power of giving is silly at its best and insulting at its worst. Determining the specific reasons *why* RIT students do not donate on the same scale as Harvard and Yale students (and then making steps towards correcting some identified grievances) is a much more painful, yet exceedingly more worthwhile, process.



Jen Loomis

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**

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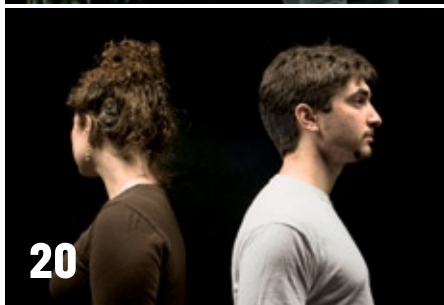
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Air Force players celebrate in the third period after their fourth goal of the game as RIT goalie Louis Menard pulls the puck out of the net on Saturday March 15, 2008 at the Blue Cross Arena in Rochester, NY. RIT lost the game 5-0.

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Hockey photograph by Jeff Conner

Cochlear implant photograph by Maegan Gindi

# THE SEARCH IS OVER RIT FINDS A NEW PROVOST

by Andy Rees | photograph by RIT University News

**O**n Monday, March 10, President William Destler announced that Dr. Jeremy Haefner would be succeeding Dr. Stanley McKenzie as RIT's Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs. This announcement comes after a five month, multi-national search for a replacement for McKenzie, who is retiring after 13 years as provost and a total of 40 years at RIT. The search, which narrowed a pool of about eighty applicants down to five finalists, placed the shortlist on Destler's desk in February.

"We were given a charge by the President at the end of the summer to find a new Provost," stated Dr. L. Paul Rosenberg, Interim Head of the Chemistry Department and Chair of the RIT Provost Search Committee. Rosenberg noted, "[Haefner is] a very student-centered individual...[and] brings experiences that are a very good match to what our needs are on campus." Haefner, according to Rosenberg, is an "exciting" choice for RIT, because he will be able "to help develop and move forward [RIT's] strategic plan."

Haefner, who holds a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin and is currently the Dean of the College of Science and Applied Technology at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, will begin serving as Provost this summer, starting July 1. Since July 2007, Haefner has also served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation at the University of Colorado, providing Colorado's Academic Affairs leadership for developing a research park on campus.

As Provost, Haefner will serve as the chief academic officer for RIT, overseeing the deans and working with the faculty's Academic Senate.

He will be working closely with Destler to further the goals of creativity and innovation. "The vision that President Destler has articulated... [is] truly exciting to me," Haefner said. "RIT can distinguish itself as a center for creativity and innovation...I think RIT is going to be a national leader and player."

Part of the job, Haefner said, is also working closely with Student Government as well as the student body. He noted that RIT has a very diverse student community that will require some adjustment on his part, however his hope is to be an accessible administrator. Looking around the RIT website for ideas, he said, "I really liked the blog that the Dean of the College of Business does on a regular basis...it's kind of a mechanism that allows students to have some interactivity when they're unable to have conversations."

"There's an opportunity for us to engage students in new ways," he remarked. As Provost, his plans are to begin bridging the gap between "learning that happens in and out of the classroom," he explained. "I want to work with Student Affairs...I want a really good partnership between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs. I think that just makes a lot of sense in this day and age."

Haefner said that he is excited about the opportunities provided by the broad scope of this position.

He intends to "dive into" the RIT experience, finding ways to connect with students. "I also want to have

lunch in the student cafeterias, to let me learn and listen," he stated.

"I can't wait to immerse myself in the RIT community." •



# RITZ GOES GREEN

Last fall, Dining Services decided to work towards a more environmentally friendly way of disposing of waste. Beginning this quarter, a new pilot program will see disposable dining ware in the RITZ Sports Zone being replaced by new, biodegradable options.

by Abhijit Bhehlade

Currently, most cups and plates are made of (or lined internally with) plastic or wax, which does not decompose. Said Gary Gasper, Director of Dining Services, "Plates and cups are only really used for five minutes. After this, what can you do? You have to throw them away. But they're still going to be around forever, lying in some garbage heap." As a solution, the Ritz Sports Zone will now see the use of products that are completely compostable. This means that they can be naturally recycled into soil that is rich in nutrients through a process of gradual decomposition.

The current list of pilot biodegradable products includes cold drink and yogurt cups, salad and take out containers, soup and coffee cups, French fry boats, and disposable plates. These are made up of polylactic acid, which is a new breed of biodegradable and compostable plastic produced by resin derived from renewable forest fiber that results in paper-like products and other natural fibers such as corn, sugarcane, grass, and reed plasma. Further, to discourage the use of plastic cups all over campus, students enjoy a 10% discount on all beverages if they bring their own non-disposable cups.

Although the pilot program is now underway, there are still some issues to be worked out. One major drawback of the use of products manufactured from polylactic acid is that they cannot be used to serve hot foods and beverages or be microwaved. In fact, as Gasper demonstrated, even pouring hot water into one such cup mutilates it into half its size. Most importantly, the cost of producing one such renewable product (such as a cup, plate, or container) is about two to three times that of manufacturing its non-degradable plastic counterpart.

Another factor affecting the implementation of this project is the lack of nearby compost farms willing to compost products made from these new substances, in particular those made from polylactic acid. This is largely due to the comparatively longer time required to compost polylactic acid (about 180 days) as opposed to regular food scraps (60 days). "However," Gasper said, "efforts are continuing towards dealing with these issues. In fact, we have already sent samples to a few farms for experimentation'.

Other campuses around the nation have already begun becoming serious about sustainability. At CalTech (Pasadena, CA), dining ware made of corn plastic has been in use since November of last year. Stores in CalTech now have biodegradable corn bags. Boston University's "Greening the Campus" movement (<http://www.bu.edu/green/>) urges students and teachers to reduce paper waste in classrooms, use travel mugs for coffee, and describes how the University has practiced Green Purchasing in 2004.

As good an idea it seems, there still remains significant scope for expansion in the future. Gasper put in a final word: "We need to do something about our throw away societal tendencies. Every generation has a responsibility towards leaving the earth in a better shape. Hopefully, this program should work out, and the cost should come down eventually to allow adoption of such practices and policies on a much wider scale."



Delicious.

# RIT FORECAST

compiled by Elizabeth Bennett

## 22 SATURDAY

### MEN'S LACROSSE VS. CLARKSON

Turf Field, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Come see the RIT Men's Lacrosse team play against Clarkson. Cost: Free.

## 23 SUNDAY

### HAPPY EASTER

Today, Christians celebrate Jesus rising from the dead. The Center for Religious Life is hosting many celebrations during Holy Week.

## 24 MONDAY

### OPEN DISCUSSION ABOUT ISSUES ON CAMPUS

Ingle Auditorium, 7:15 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. An opportunity for students to ask Student Life and Student Government representatives questions during an open forum. Cost: Free.

## 25 TUESDAY

### MEN'S BASEBALL VS. SUNY ONEONTA

RIT Field, 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Come watch the RIT baseball team play their home opener after playing in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for spring training. It should be a great game. Cost: Free.

## 26 WEDNESDAY

### RIT CAREER FAIR

Gordon Field House, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Opportunity for students to meet representatives from prospective companies to possibly find a required co-op. It is also a great experience to network with possible future employers even for those who are not presently looking for a job. Cost: Free.

## 27 THURSDAY

### INTERNATIONAL FOOD FEST

Clark Gym, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. International Food Fest is a great opportunity to try different foods from all around the world. Fall in love with a new food, pick up the recipe and try it out with friends. Cost: Free.

### THURSDAY NIGHT CINEMA SERIES: THE 11TH HOUR

Ingle Auditorium, 10 p.m. - midnight. CAB brings you the Leonardo DiCaprio-narrated documentary exploring the state of the global environment, including practical solutions for restoring the planet's ecosystems. Co-sponsored by SEAL and ESW. Cost: Free.

## 28 FRIDAY

### CREATIVITY: CIAS CAREERS IN MOTION

Webb Auditorium, 1 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. This seminar is a great opportunity for graduating seniors from CIAS. Many speakers, including alumni, will present ideas and advice from their own experiences about how to launch a career within the arts. Cost: Free.

### ICE DISCO

Ritter Ice Arena, 10 p.m. - midnight. Got a bad case of Saturday Night Fever? Join the College Activities Board for its second annual Ice Disco. Cost: Free.

# SG WEEKLY UPDATE

by Geoffrey H. Bliss

## PROFESSOR PROMOTIONS

Dave Morgan, a graduate student studying IT, addressed the Senate with a concern about the role of teaching at RIT. Previously, the administration would allow professors to attain tenure with or without a 'terminal' degree (a doctorate in most cases, a masters in some). The primary test was whether or not the individual professor was qualified for tenure, and not necessarily how they got that experience (through industry or through graduate school).

Recently, the RIT administration has begun systematically passing up non-doctors for tenured promotions. "[Favoring those with advanced degrees] discourages people from [the] industry who are experts in their area from becoming professors at RIT. A good professor needs passion, needs to want to work in their field, they need expertise in their field... They don't need that piece of paper that hangs on their wall," Morgan said. "We're not looking for Ph.D.s. We want people who want to educate students, who want to work with students."

Student Government has decided to invite the Provost and others in to a Senate meeting so that they may voice student concerns over this issue.

## STUDENT CONDUCT

Dawn Soufleris, Chief Conduct Officer of the Center for Student Conduct & Conflict Management Services gave a presentation about the current state of student conduct on campus. Soufleris stated, "There were a total of 1,474 student misconduct cases this year, that being a 7% decrease from last year, having a demographic breakdown of 76% male and 24% female. 13% of students of 2006-07 were repeat offenders." Of these cases, she said, "96% of these cases are not appealed. We're very proud that most students are happy with our decisions." These cases are said to cover misconduct in the forms of drug use, alcoholism, mental illness, and violence. "Unfortunately, the thought of suicide increases each year. The age between 18-25 is when most mental health problems appear," Soufleris said. "If we think someone is going to freak out, we try and help them." Soufleris also noted, "Most of these problems occur with first year students and graduate students." These cases are also said to spike during winter quarter. SG has worked with the Center to increase student-focused printed material and increase awareness on campus.

Full Student Conduct statistics are available at [www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/studentconduct](http://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/studentconduct)

## GLOBAL VILLAGE

Dr. Heath Boice-Pardee, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, addressed Global Village and how its construction and appearance will affect students. "The first phase of the project will begin this summer with the removal of 10 Riverknoll apartments," Boice-Pardee said. "There will be different cultural themes throughout, which will prepare and expose students to different cultures before they may decide to study abroad... All housing will be open to students, studying abroad or not, and will be very affordable. The ground levels may house small retail stores." Students who are being relocated due to the removal of their apartment will be accommodated by RIT Housing.

# THE GALLERY R BENEFIT

by Geoffrey H. Bliss | photography by Eric Drummond



Partnering with The Strathallan Hotel, Gallery r's ninth annual gala event celebrated work by RIT faculty, students, alumni and friends. Each ticket, priced at \$109, admitted two guests who received one work of art each, while permitting gratuitous wining and dining among some of Rochester's most prestigious art patrons. After checking my coat and bag, I quickly tried to blend in. However, my informal appearance (blue jeans and black notebook) made me easy to spot amidst the well-dressed and well-to-do guests.

Zerbe Sodervich, Art Coordinator for Gallery r and the person in charge of Extended Studies in Art at RIT stated, "Through this event, we're trying to create awareness of student and faculty art [while] bringing together family and friends."

In the moments before the event started, I spoke to Rochester's Channel 13 news anchor, Norma

Holland, who appeared exceedingly excited and honored to be there. Despite being a local celebrity, she stated, "I use that term very loosely...the talent is clearly around the room."

The large and dimly lit room was truly timeless in appearance. Filled with guests who were talking and laughing, all stopped to admire each of the 76 pieces of art, which were delicately laid out on three tables that encircled the room. This event has had a long history of success and support, as Sodervich explained in her introduction. All guests quieted intently as the event began. "My job is straightforward. Thank you to the individuals who make this happen. I'm honored to work in a university that has such terrific support, a real learning laboratory where I work with outstanding students and faculty. There are so many generous people who have been helping since the opening of this institution." Norma Holland, who gave a comedic introduction,

caused many to laugh. "I love art and I married an artist. However, I'm not going to lie. My idea of art used to be Bed, Bath & Beyond. But I've grown to appreciate good art!" she said. "It's great to get out, meet people, and support local artists."

The art-as-parting-gift was chosen in the following manner: Tickets were placed in a bowl and then guests looked at the artwork, noting which ones interested them most by placing them in a hierarchy. Guests would raise their hand after listening and watching for their ticket to be drawn. They also paid careful attention to pieces which they themselves had hoped to go home with. In this approach, there were frequent moans, grumbling, and laughter as tickets were announced. This continued throughout the evening until all art was eventually chosen. There was continuous light comedy, as some guests would sing the Jeopardy theme as they waited for certain patrons to be found.

The original idea of this benefit was said by RIT Printmaking Professor

Keith Howard to have started in Vancouver, Canada. "Guests would get together and raise gigantic sums of money, having open access to all artists."

One RIT student whose work was chosen in the benefit, third year Fine Arts Studio major Shawna Boynton stated, "Gallery r gave me my first commission. I met people through them, which inspired me to come tonight to give back to them, because they helped me."

As people gathered their belongings and left for their cars, I felt as if I had been part of something unique. The generous patronage and respect paid towards toward the RIT community of artists that evening was well earned and certainly felt by everyone who attended.

**IT'S GREAT TO GET OUT, MEET PEOPLE AND SUPPORT LOCAL ARTISTS.**

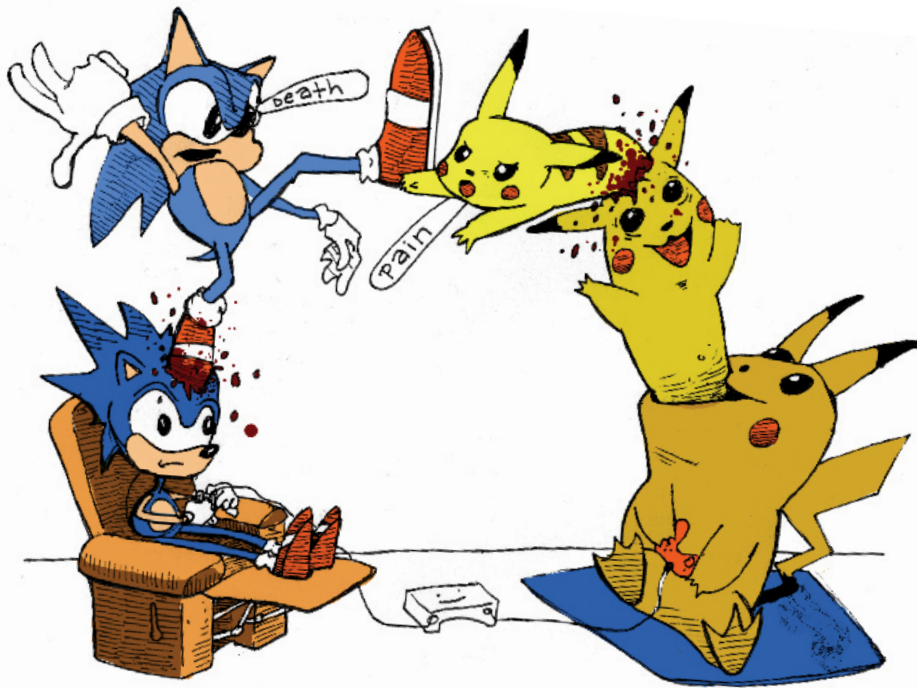
Next time, I'll have to bring my dinner jacket. •



Norma Holland, anchor of 13 WHAM News entertains the crowd during the Gallery r Art Auction Fundraiser.



Patrons pick up their new pieces of art after the auction has ended.



ing games, it also offered challenges where you may have had to run from one end of the stage to the other, or fight an über-powerful opponent with a severe handicap. Other features included Homerun Brawl (where you tried to knock a giant sandbag as far as you can) and Multi-Man Melee (where you fought up to a hundred opponents with only one life).

### IT'S A BRAWLER!

Knowing the insane popularity of the series, and the phrase 'third time's the charm,' Nintendo pulled no punches for the latest *Super Smash Bros. Brawl*. Metal Gear Solid series Game designer Hideo Kojima begged to have Solid Snake included, despite knowing that *Smash* is meant as a Nintendo-only game. Smashbros.com revealed that Sonic the Hedgehog had been invited, maybe giving closure for Nintendo and Sega fanboys from the NES and Genesis era as to who is the better character. The list of composers include many veterans who composed music for other games, including the man behind the famed *Final Fantasy* theme song.

The Adventure Mode has been blown up into its own little epic known as *The Subspace Emissary*. The overall feel of this mode is akin to the classic beat-'em-up brawlers such as *Final Fight* or *Streets of Rage*. Since this is a relatively plot-heavy feature, you are limited to only characters

who appear in the various chapters. There is also a *King of Fighters* feel to the game, because in some segments, you have no need to select your characters. You can simply put them in the order you want to use them in the event that one of them is knocked out.

A little has been taken out of *Brawl*, such as a few characters and stages, but overall, you gain a lot. You even have the option of taking pictures and posting them on the in-game Bulletin Board. There is also a simple program floating around the Internet that can convert the pictures you took in *Brawl* into JPEG image files, allowing the gamer to show off interesting shots taken in the game.

The major elements added to the game are the "Final Smash," Super Combo or Desperation Move, as well as the Assist Trophies (which are like Pokéballs, but with other Nintendo characters like *Punch Out's* Little Mac). Control-wise, *Brawl* is one of the few games which does not use the Wii sensor bar, so it plays very traditionally. There are also four different control types: the Wiimote (either alone or with an attachment), the Classic Controller, or the GameCube controller, all of which work very well. Other elements include online play and a stage creator.

Overall, is the game good? I can simply say this: it's *Smash* and it's fun. The basic formula and gameplay is consistent throughout the series, so newcomers can pick it up easily. It's the best one in the series, as long as one of your favorite *Melee* characters wasn't excluded. •

# BUT IS IT SMASHING?

by Chester Kwan | illustration by Greg Caggiano

For many, the release of Nintendo's latest blockbuster game *Super Smash Bros. Brawl* on March 9 was the perfect end to Spring Break. Chester Kwan looks back at the *Smash Bros.* brand from its first launch over eight years ago.

### THE INITIAL SMASH

With the release of the first *Super Smash Bros.*, I was skeptical yet intrigued as an avid fighting game fan back in the day. It featured basic four-player bouts determined by knocking your opponents out of the arena rather than knocking them out cold. Graphically, it was on par with other games on the system, but that didn't stop the game thanks to its charm and ideal of letting fans live out their dreams of finding out whether Mario or Link was the better character. Little did I know that this game laid the foundations for what would become one of the most acclaimed multi-player game series in its generation.

### MAYDAY, MAY-LAY

In typical Nintendo fashion, every console should have their own Mario, Zelda, *Strikers* and, well, the list goes on. Obviously, the next installment coming to the GameCube system was *Super Smash Bros. Melee*, bringing with it a host of additional features that knocked the original *Smash Bros.* out with 999% damage. This installment featured a true single player mode where you chose a fighter and ventured around stages based on various Nintendo worlds.

It also featured a host of extras such as various histories of Nintendo in the form of "trophies." A staple in most home conversions of fight-



# REVIEWS



## THE WALL-MOUNTABLE GUMBALL MACHINE

by *Ilsa Shaw*

Long gone is the era of gumball machine pedestals. You can now mount one on your wall. It certainly makes for an interesting conversation piece and, yes, it really dispenses gumballs. Made to look as if it were simply a framed picture of a gumball machine, the frame itself has a small plastic knob at the bottom that one twists to receive the prized gumball. Gum-

balls can be refilled from the back of the frame, where a small removable cap can be found.

The machine takes standard size gumballs (that's about 13mm in diameter, in case you didn't know) and doesn't require batteries of any kind, simply the need and know-how to twist a plastic knob. The wall-mounted gumball machine certainly stands out in any room and tends to gather many odd looks from guests, making it a perfectly strange gift or wall decoration.

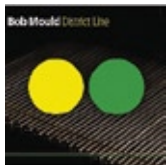
I suggest fooling guests into believing you have an unnatural obsession with gumballs, even-

tually inviting them over and showing them this artistic homage to gumballs hanging from your wall. Naturally, when they aren't looking, sneakily snag a gumball, and leave them guessing as to where it came from.

Don't think that you'll be making a profit from it, though. That's perhaps the only downside. The machine doesn't actually take quarters (it's all part of the illusion) and I wouldn't expect it to stand up to the gumball addiction most other machines are used to dealing with.

Got gumballs?

Visit [www.baronbob.com](http://www.baronbob.com)



## BOB MOULD

*District Line*

by *Evan McNamara*

The latest solo album from Bob Mould, formerly of '70s punk stalwarts Husker Du, is possibly his best yet. Bob Mould's solo work could best be described as an updated '90s rock sound, with a few electronics thrown in as accents. Honest lyrics are delivered in Mould's classic powerful tone, on top of driving and creative rock backdrops. As opposed to some of his earlier solo work, *District Line* doesn't feel dated or repetitive.

Opener "Stupid Now" channels the punk edge of Mould's adolescence, while thoughtful tunes such as "The Silence Between Us" utilize a lyrical maturity that is truly rare in music today. There are no groundbreaking musical developments here, resulting in un-cluttered songs that are easy to listen to.

Mould does not attempt to recreate the wheel, but turns his attention to assembling tunes that are enjoyable from start to finish. Mould sounds truly vulnerable on *District Lines*, but without sounding depressed or sappy. Instead, the listener is offered a glimpse into the personality of a man, and insight into a few of his experiences. This personal quality, coupled with top-notch song writing, makes this album a must-hear.



## GIRAFFES? GIRAFFES!

*More Skin with Milk-Mouth*

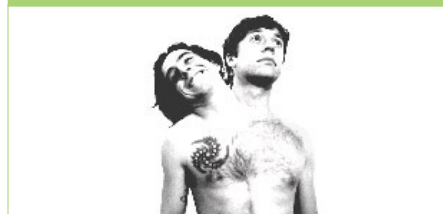
This quizzically named duo offers up a healthy dose of mathematics with their instrumental rock. Giraffes channels the early work of math-rock pioneers Don Caballero, and layers on top of that a playful experimentation that morphs each song into a stylistic sketch all its own.

The first track, "When the Catholic Go Camping, then the Nicotine Vampires Reign Supreme," repeats a thematic finger-tapped riff before

exploding into a spacey, psychedelic freak out, complete with blistering guitar solo. Similarities to fellow instrumental rockers The Fucking Champs can be heard once the song is truly pushed over the edge. The second track, "The Ghost of Eppiepee's Ghost," is a free-jazz inspired number that would be completely at home on the last Fridge album. "Emily Sagee's Secret" draws on the dissonance and rhythmic variation of the band Dysrhythmia in its first half, before breaking into a hauntingly simple groove punctuated by eerie-sounding bells. The EP is rounded out by Giraffe's best and most unique track, "A Quick One, While She's Away." A triumphant, lyrical guitar riff drives forward, only to morph seamlessly into a flowing theme driven by acoustic guitar. Then, Giraffes hits the distortion, and rocks out to a disjointed, abrasive stretch, before returning back to more finger-tapped guitar wizardry with the agility of a jackrabbit.

Bottom line: Giraffes? Giraffes! combines some of the best elements of many instrumental bands and adds their own flavor to create something that will please anyone with an ear for the unusual. •

Artiste: Giraffes? Giraffes!



Bob Mould in concert



## QUIZ:

- From which game did the character Ike, a playable combatant in *Super Smash Bros. Brawl*, originate?
  - Final Fantasy XI
  - Fire Emblem
  - Pokémon
  - Phantasy Star
- Who was NTID's first deaf faculty member?
  - D. Robert Frisina
  - Robert Panara
  - Troy Justesen
  - William Castle
- Which new degree will soon be offered at RIT?
  - Ph.D. in Sustainability
  - B.A. in Animal Husbandry
  - B.A. in Talmudic Studies
  - Ph.D. in Color Science
- Rooted in Native American religion, this sport is said to have often been played in order to resolve conflicts, heal the sick, and develop strong, virile men. Which is it?
  - Rugby
  - Parkour
  - Lacrosse
  - Soccer
- True or False: There are currently over 500 students on campus with cochlear implants.
  - True
  - False

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

## QUOTE

"University politics are vicious precisely because the stakes are so small."  
—Henry Kissinger



## REPORTER RECOMMENDS:

**Bloxorz.** Like I do for any online game, I have dedicated countless hours of stressed concentration to figuring out this mental block (no pun intended) of a puzzle. The objective is to navigate a rectangular block around a narrow maze-like area to its home, a square-shaped hole, using only the arrow keys. It's puzzling and often requires strategy and careful planning, but as you cross each level, you'll feel like an intellectual wizard.

## DIFFICULTY RATING: HARD

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

## SIGN OF THE WEEK: PLEASE MARRY ME







communication and demonstration



# the renaming of

# BELL HALL



by Casey Dehlinger | photographs by Jeff Porter

amidst all the noise and confusion leading up to the Super Bowl, there was a moment of silence. On all the TVs at bars and homes showing the game, Pepsi chose to air a 60-second commercial with no audio. The spot, entitled “Bob’s House,” features two Deaf men driving a car through a suburban neighborhood, looking for their friend’s house. Unsure of which house it is, they lay on the car’s horn and roll down the street, watching lights turn on in the houses as pestered residents peer out of their windows. When only one house on the street remains unresponsive, they know where to find their friend.

The first-time actor portraying the driver in the commercial is none other than RIT/NTID alum Darren Therriault, who received a bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering in 1989. He then moved on to become an application configuration specialist at Pepsi, where he was given the opportunity to take part in “Bob’s House.”

In an interview with NTID News, Therriault stated, “I’m hoping [the commercial] will raise awareness for the whole deaf community; I’ve always wanted to do something like this.”



>

According to David Spiecker, Vice President of the NTID Student Congress (NSC), “The Pepsi ad was something of a milestone. It was something that made our culture and its idiosyncrasies known to a wider audience. It should have been something that every advocacy organization should have appreciated, because from there, the picture of deafness could be expanded.”

### ntid vs. alexander graham bell

However, not everyone agreed with the commercial’s message of acceptance. The Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell) President Karen Youdelman sent a letter to Julie Hamp, Senior Vice President of PepsiCo Communications before the spot even aired. In the letter, Youdelman states, “Your advertisement perpetuates a common myth that all people who are deaf can only communicate using sign language and are, therefore, isolated from the rest of society. In fact, today’s hearing technology, coupled with early screening identification and intervention, has led to incredible advances in listening and spoken language skill development.”

Many NTID students, including Spiecker, were outraged at the response from AG Bell. “When I first read the letter, I couldn’t stop shaking my head in disbelief,” says Spiecker, adding, “I really

felt that [AG Bell was] nitpicking, if not picking a fight, at a time when we (all of the deaf people) should celebrate the ad. I can’t help but feel that the letter was written on impulse without proper consideration of a much larger group(s) of deaf people that they could be offending.”

More importantly, AG Bell’s stance has shed light on the history of a man that many members of the Deaf/HoH communities no longer wish to honor. A petition demanding the removal of Alexander Graham Bell’s name and plaque from RIT’s Bell Hall dormitory recently acquired over 1,000 signatures. According to NTID Senator Scott Bailey, those signatures are more than enough to rename the dorm that resides near the Lyndon Baines Johnson building.

Bailey explains, “NTID is offended by [Alexander Graham] Bell, because he was a eugenicist, an oralist, and on the plaque in Bell Hall the last sentence says NTID follows [his] ideals, when we don’t. We deaf people use sign language mostly, not just oralism. We’re a diverse school.”

Robert Davila, Laurent Clerc, and George Veditz are all potential candidates to replace Bell, but, according to Bailey, the decision won’t be made until a future advisory board meeting with NTID Dean Dr. Alan Hurwitz.

### other voices

Besides NTID, the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) replied to AG Bell’s letter, “We are disappointed with the negative tone of your letter and obvious lack of respect for deaf people

who use ASL. We are also sensitive to the fact that many members of the AG Bell Deaf and Hard of Hearing section know and use ASL. We find it deplorable that AG Bell continues to perpetuate the myth that the use of ASL isolates deaf people from mainstream society, a stereotype that is far from the truth.”

The main objection to AG Bell is that they fail to teach or accept American Sign Language, opting instead for the exclusive use of auditory-verbal communication. One of the principles expressed on their website states that their mission is to “guide and coach parents to help their child use hearing as the primary sensory modality in developing spoken language without the use of sign language or emphasis on lipreading.”

NSC has since decided to draft and send a letter to PepsiCo, thanking them for airing “Bob’s House” and encouraging them to disregard the criticisms brought forward by AG Bell.

AG Bell cites that the majority of the 30 or so million Americans living with hearing loss use spoken language as their primary mode of communication. However, an overwhelming amount of these people are elderly men and women who are hard of hearing and do not participate in Deaf culture, and that is the root of the debate: does culture (capital-D Deaf) supersede the inability to hear (little-d deaf)?

### >the loudest group on campus

*When it comes to political activism, protests, and demonstrations on campus, the NTID community is second to none. Look at their track record over the past of couple years.*

#### April 24, 2006 On-Campus Communication

When NTID students noticed last year that many NTID faculty and staff were not using ASL in public areas of the LBJ building, it was demanded that the situation be corrected and that all spoken conversations held in the building should be carried out in conjunction with ASL, if possible.

#### October 23, 2006 Gallaudet

Gallaudet is a Washington D.C. university for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. When their administration announced their new President, Jane Fernandes, in May of 2006, Gallaudet students immediately protested until the decision was reversed at the end of October 2006, stating discontent with the lack of diversity among the finalists, Fernandes’ cold demeanor, and the fact that she didn’t learn ASL until a relatively late age. NTID students rallied behind Gallaudet, incorporating their colors into decorations, sending letters of encouragement and mediation, and camping outside of LBJ in a “Tent City” event.

#### March 23, 2007 Lisa Lampanelli

After CAB invited insult comedian Lisa Lampanelli to perform on campus, she did a radio interview where she said some unpopular things about deaf people, stating that the entire deaf community was “retarded.” NTID stood up quickly, disagreeing with the statements. In light of her statements, a small protest occurred the night of her performance and a discussion was held after her performance.

## culture or disability?

The prominent mentality on Deaf campuses such as NTID and Gallaudet is that being deaf is not a disability to be corrected, but a culture to be embraced. There is a certain degree of cultural tension between deaf individuals who use cochlear implants and deaf individuals who don't. As Spiecker explains, "A difficult thing about deaf culture is that we're essentially based on our hearing loss. If someone tries to restore hearing or assist hearing, it's almost like saying, 'I don't want to be deaf.' While this is often not the case, the small size of our culture makes us more protective of it."

Bailey offers, "People who use cochlear implants use them to understand sound, get sound waves, etc. Deafness is a disability, yes, but I consider oralists who use cochlear implants equal." Individual decisions are respected until groups or individuals start claiming that receiving cochlear implants is either right or wrong, such as AG Bell has done. No one wants to be told that they need to be "fixed." (For more information on cochlear implants, see page 20 of the magazine.)

As Spiecker asserts, "People who embrace assistive hearing technology sometimes frown on people who don't because often they are the people who say, 'I don't need to talk to hearing people.' You see divisions within the polar extremes of deafness. This conflict often expresses how it can be difficult to establish an identity that you feel comfortable with, and in what method you interact with the rest of the world.

Those different factions within the deaf community are essentially people who feel strongly that their method of interacting with the world works and shouldn't be encroached on."

## the squeaky wheel

"[...]We have people here who are not afraid to be heard. At RIT/NTID, we have a safe community here where people are educated about deafness. This means that any objections or concerns raised by deaf people won't be ignored," explains Spiecker.

Bailey adds, "I think NTID is a proactive school, because we have been involved in several protests over last few years. For example, Lizzie Sorkin, our former SG President, wanted Respect from staff and faculty of NTID who wouldn't sign in public places. That ended up in protests, and Dr. Hurwitz asked all staff to please sign in public places," states Bailey. With such a track record of sticking up for themselves, the Deaf/HoH community constantly establishes themselves as the squeakiest wheel of RIT. With so many organized protests and political actions on their part, NTID has perhaps become the loudest college on campus (see sidebar).

As Spiecker puts it, "If people feel strongly about something, often a protest is the best way of earning sincere attention. The most important of all factors is that people have an invested interest in making a better place for everyone and actively pursue change." •

## >five things you didn't know about alexander graham bell

*It's old news that Bell's title as father of the telephone is being contested, but there's a lot more to the man than your high school history book ever told you.*

1

### Tinkering At an Early Age

His first invention was a wheat de-husker, which Bell created at the age of 12, after being admonished for not doing anything useful with his time. This same year, his mother began to go deaf.

2

### Familial Influences

Bell learned a form of sign language in order to communicate with his mother, relating and translating words to her in this manner. However, his father and several other family members were elocutionists who developed ways to teach deaf/mutes to lip read and pronounce words. Bell eventually discovered that his mother could "hear" him when he spoke directly into her forehead.

3

### Early Experiments

In his late teens, Bell and his brother developed a false human head that could speak when its bellows were manipulated. Although its vocabulary was limited, one of its words was "mama." Bell attempted similar-yet-less-successful experiments on his dog by making it growl and then manipulating its mouth to create crude sounds meant to simulate human speech.

4

### Eugenics and Marriage

Bell was involved in many eugenics groups, in part due to his experiments breeding livestock. He advocated the sterilization of deaf individuals and the prevention of marriage between deaf people, yet he was close friends with Helen Keller and fathered four children by his deaf wife and former student, Mabel.

5

### Death

Both of Bell's brothers died of tuberculosis. Two of his sons died at birth, leaving him with only two daughters, both of whom were able to hear. The last words Bell heard were orally spoken to him by his deaf wife, Mabel. "Don't leave me," she said. Bell replied in sign, "No," and passed away.

## Spring 2007 Lizzie Sorkin

Last year's Student Government President, Lizzie Sorkin, was the first Deaf President in RIT's history. A Film and Animation student, her thesis film was a documentary displaying hearing perspectives of the Deaf community and Deaf perspectives on their own community. Her goal was to have it integrated into the FYE curriculum. Current Film and Animation student Ruthie Jordan is working on a multimedia play demonstrating the history of famous Deaf women.

## September 22, 2007 RTS Protest

Earlier this year, two deaf RIT students claimed that they were discriminated against because of their deafness when they were not allowed to board a Regional Transit Services (RTS) bus at the Regal Theatre. One of the students, NTID Senator Scott Bailey, made the issue somewhat of a cause célèbre, setting up a table in front of the College Grind reading "RTS Discrimination Against the Deaf," collecting signatures as part of a petition, and scheduling a forum at which RTS and other transportation issues could be discussed.



It all started with a pair of metal rods, a mad scientist, and a 50-volt circuit connecting the two. Alessandro Volta, a pioneer in the realm of electricity, inserted said rods into his ears, turned the switch on, and heard a noise like a “thick boiling soup,” amplified and bellowing. With this, Volta had discovered the phenomenon which would later enable a series of inventions: that electricity could stimulate the perception of sound.

# COCHLEAR IMPLANTS



by Ilsa Shaw  
photography by Maegan Gindi

Cochlear implants work just like that. Unlike a hearing aid, which simply amplifies a sound so that it may be detected by a damaged ear, cochlear implants bypass these damaged sections of the ear and directly stimulate the auditory nerve. Sounds are first received by a microphone, which are then sent to speech processor, which arranges them. Lastly, a transmitter converts the sounds into an electrical impulse.

Currently, over 200 students at RIT have cochlear implants, and that number is growing rapidly. Hearing parents of deaf children see it as a restoration of communication within the family, a savior masked as an ingenious medical advancement. Some argue that the implant will lead to the destruction of Deaf culture and that cochlear implants should not ever be used.

Within this culture, there are two types of deafness: deaf and Deaf. The former refers strictly to one's inability to hear. The second, big D Deaf, is an identity and cultural term that indicates a certain pride in being deaf; the inability to hear is not seen as a disability, but a way of life. The use of sign language in the Deaf community is pervasive, but not a pre-requisite. Interestingly enough, physical deafness is also not a set-in-stone requirement, as many sign language interpreters are often included in Deaf communities.

Many members of the Deaf community feel strongly that cochlear implants are absolutely unnecessary. According to them, there is no need for a deaf person to be “fixed,” as deafness is neither a sign of weakness nor a handicap.

“I have noticed that it's the older generation that is more against them,” notes second year Graphic Design student Megan Clegg, who has had a cochlear implant since the age of 14. “I've just seen that from doing a lot of research on Deaf culture. It's an important part of Deaf culture to have on-

line sites and such to keep it together, and that's where you see them expressing their opinions. A lot of the older generations are all robots and are like, ‘You're not deaf anymore,’” says Clegg.

While the feud surrounding cochlear implants is mostly fueled by the ongoing debate as to whether or not being deaf is a disability, not all objections to cochlear implants are cultural in nature. The implants are not guaranteed to actually work, and the process of inserting them can cause permanent loss of most of an individual's natural hearing ability. Success hinges on a number of factors, including the pre-operation state of the patient's cochlea—if the auditory nerves are significantly unhealthy, there's a low chance for success. And even after the surgery is complete, the patient requires a great deal of therapy in an attempt to train his or her brain to properly translate the signals that the implant sends. The older the patient, the harder this task becomes.

Clegg has been hearing impaired since the age of three and grew up in Syracuse, where she attended an ordinary school and relied on the use of a hearing aid. One day, however, she completely stopped hearing. She began considering a cochlear implant. “I didn't really notice I was different until I got older, until I actually went through that. That's when I realized, ‘Oh wow, I'm really deaf.’ It was definitely kind of a traumatic time. I was afraid to go up to people, because I was afraid to misunderstand them, because then I would look stupid and it would be awkward. That whole period where I was waiting for my implant, waiting for it to really start working...that was a very withdrawn time for me, because I was just so alone in the hearing world.”

Like all patients who receive a cochlear implant, Clegg went through audio-verbal therapy to further develop her hearing skills. To ensure that

Clegg wasn't relying on lip-reading, her therapist would stand behind her and read to her as Clegg attempted to understand and repeat what was just read aloud. In therapy, Clegg was also encouraged to work on the telephone and to not be afraid of being misunderstood by anyone, Deaf and hearing cultures alike.

Since therapy, Clegg's hearing has improved drastically. “When I got my implant, I had 80% of normal hearing, which went up from 0%. I can hear without reading lips if I'm in certain situations, and I do have the ability to talk on the telephone a bit,” notes Clegg. “I notice my cat purrs. I never noticed that before. The animals in my house make a lot of sounds, apparently. And things like washers [and] dryers— those little low rumbling sounds they make— I never noticed those before. If there's a sound that's really high-pitched, I know it's there. It's weird, but I can feel that it's there.”

“I have noticed that it's the older generation that is more against them,”

Clegg is now also able to enjoy music once again, and the implant affords quite an interesting method of doing so. “I would say that the coolest part of having an implant is that I [was] able to hear music again. It used to feel like trash when I lost my hearing, it was like banging on garbage cans. I don't use headphones [because they don't work]...I use a cord that I plug directly into my implant, so if I turn the music up to a certain level, it bypasses all your sounds so I get music straight to my brain, uninterrupted, unfiltered. It's a beautiful thing.”

Overall, Clegg is extremely happy with her implant, but realizes that it isn't for everyone. “I have friends who tried it and it just wasn't their thing. With them, they got it at a later date. They grew up in silence, and when you grow up in silence, sound is not always welcome to you. It can be overwhelming. It can be painful. I know that when I first got mine, I didn't hear anything, I felt it. It's like being a newborn, you have to hear all over again, so you feel the sound. It's really painful, and it takes a while before you can get used to it. Some people don't want to go through that. It's a lot of work, but it's a great thing.” •



# THAT GIRL

by Ilsa Shaw

photograph by Nick Brandreth

## NAME, MAJOR, YEAR?

Li Evans, first year Computer Science major.

## WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO RIT?

Aside from the good CS program, my mother lives in Philly. I wanted to be close enough to her that in case of an emergency, I could go to her, but far enough that she couldn't just show up whenever she wanted to.

## DO YOU VISIT PHILLY A LOT?

Not as much as I did when I lived in New Orleans. I lived there during the Katrina year, so I'm pretty done with it.

## WHAT WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE LIKE DURING THAT TIME?

I'd experienced so many storms before, so naturally I thought Katrina would get me out of a week of school, and everything would be back to normal. Kind of like the North's snow days. But once it hit and I had to evacuate, I couldn't wrap my mind around what had happened. I spent my junior year of high school in a blur. I don't remember much. The occasional joke comes to mind though. "Hey, Katrina girl, you wanna try out for the swim team? Hey, Katrina girl, did you have to boat to school? Hey, Katrina girl, how's life under the sea?" Kids these days, right?

## YOU DON'T GET OFFENDED?

Oh, most definitely. But I'm not a confrontational person. I just continued on my merry way, counting down the days until I got to go back home. The thing that bothers me the most though (and this isn't just pertaining to Katrina) is when people say "New Orleans," like it rhymes with jeans or beans. Southerners wince at the sound of it. And people try to correct me like that's not where I'm from. It's "Orlinns," kids. If I don't say "Orleans," neither should you.

## HOW HAVE YOU ADJUSTED TO LIVING UP NORTH?

Lots and lots of layers. Coming from 80 degrees on a chilly day, this is a culture shock. I miss the sun so much. I can't wait for summer.

## ARE YOU HEADING BACK TO NEW ORLEANS THEN?

Not until sometime in the fall. I'm going to save up money this summer and try to get a car.

## HAVE YOU GOT A TYPE OF CAR IN MIND ALREADY?

A black '60s or '70s Cadillac El Dorado Fleetwood, or something like it.

## HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF?

I like making people smile, even for a minute. So if seeing me strutting down the Quarter Mile with purple hair wrapped in a lime-green shoestring screaming the words to a Coheed and Cambria song off-key brightens someone's day or gives someone a chuckle, so be it.

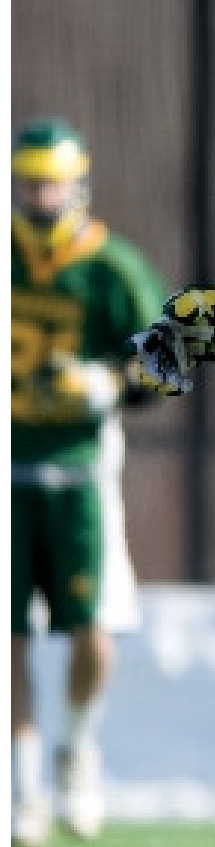
## I MUST SAY, YOU HAVE A VERY COOL STYLE. FROM WHERE DO YOU DRAW YOUR INSPIRATION?

Thanks. I don't really know where it comes from. It just kind of happens. I love color, but then again, I love black and white. I get bored pretty easily. It all depends on how I feel that day.

## EVER GET BORED WITH RIT? YOU GOTTA ADMIT, IT'S PRETTY COLORLESS.

That's exactly what I said when I visited the first time. It was a rainy, gloomy day, and the bricks made everything so sepia. I'm used to bright pink and green and yellow houses, Mardi Gras beads everywhere, rainbow flags flapping in the air. But after a while, it sort of grew on me. I like it here. The excessive graffiti helps. •







3

## SPORTSDESK

*photography by Josh Lehrer*

1// Sean Gillies of RIT and Michael Kline of Oswego vie for possession at the RIT turf field on March 12.

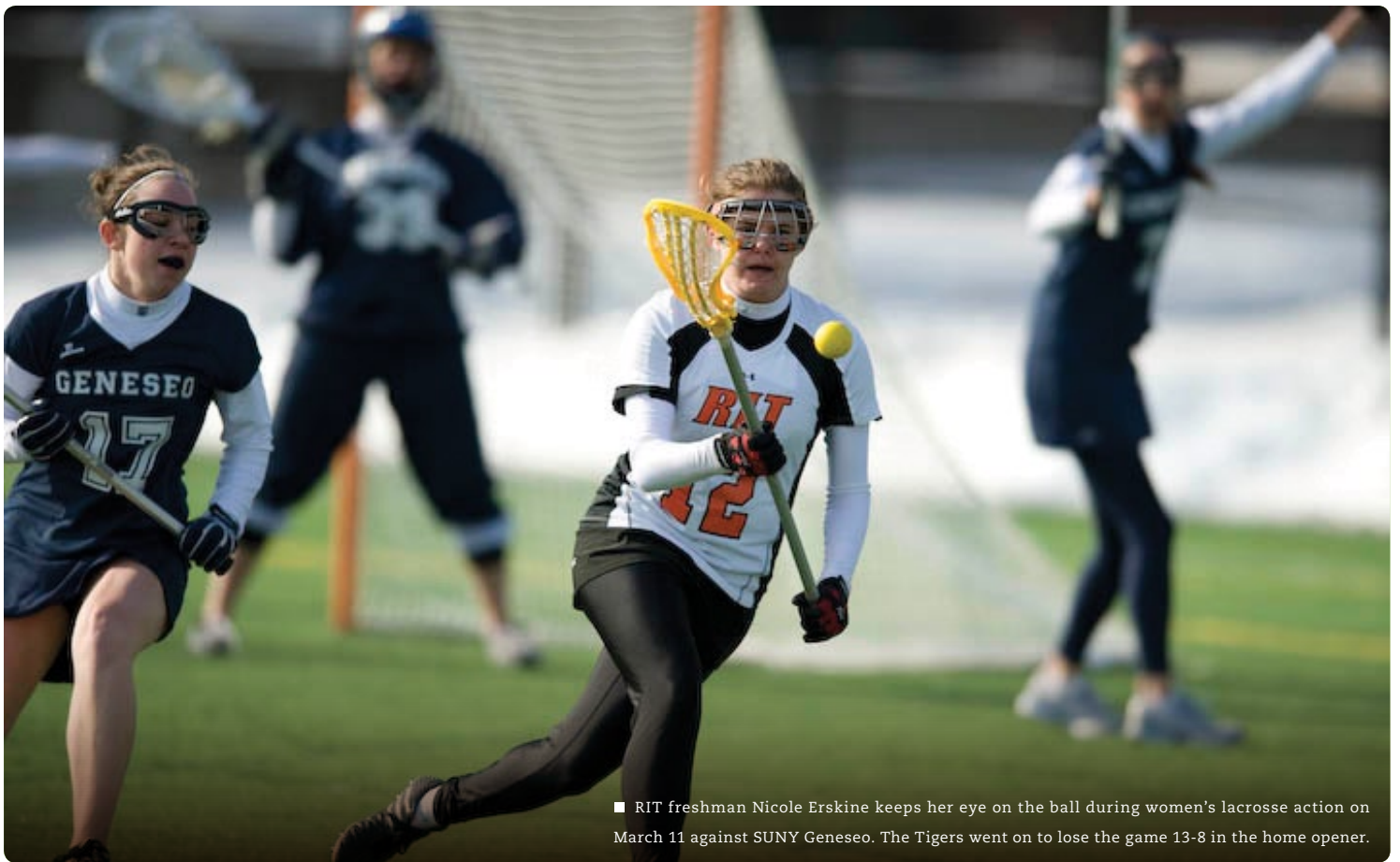
2// Jacob Tuller brings the ball upfield while Mike Strohm of Oswego is not far behind.

3// Oswego defenseman Mike Recor struggles downfield with David Burke of RIT.

4// Midfield, RIT's Braden Hergott and Oswego's Dan Rogers keep their eye on the ball.



4



■ RIT freshman Nicole Erskine keeps her eye on the ball during women's lacrosse action on March 11 against SUNY Geneseo. The Tigers went on to lose the game 13-8 in the home opener.

## REGAINING THE MOMENTUM

by Rachel Hart | photography Andrew Ong

In a nail-biting finish, the Women's Lacrosse team was victorious over Denison University in their season opener. RIT was down 2-6 at halftime. Another unanswered point in the second half would have been disastrous. Goalie and co-captain Kelsey Evans, a sophomore in Photojournalism, described what helped to turn the tide: "Coach told us we needed to step it up, start winning the draw and scoring some goals." Coach McGuigan felt it was a few dedicated players who kept RIT in the game: "We had some returning players [who] stepped up in the second half and refused to lose." The final score was 9-8, a seven-point comeback from halftime. Co-captain and midfielder Jessica Cotton, a junior in Biotechnology, scored three times. To her credit is the game-winning goal, which she scored with only 5 minutes and 36 seconds left on the clock.

This momentum would be impeded at the girl's home opener against Geneseo. Many factors were to blame; Cotton described, "RIT started out the game slow and just [wasn't] able to pick it up enough to come up with the win." Evans described the main downfall, "The biggest thing in the first half that killed us was not winning the draw. We can't win a game or score goals if we don't get and maintain possession of the ball." However, Cotton added, "I am very proud of what we were able to do [versus such a well-established program]." Despite the loss, Evans made a whopping 20 saves.

Despite the setback, the team turned its sights to Allegany, a new addition to the schedule this season. Against a new, unpredictable, and unfamiliar team, Cotton said, "[We] prepared as we would for any other game, putting emphasis on the issues we had against Geneseo." Mainly focusing on defense, Evans worked on her goal-keeping skills. "I like to get a fast break started, and sometimes I force a clear that isn't there." The preparation was a success. The women's lacrosse team rallied to win over Allegany 11-6. Danielle Pravi (a freshman in Psychology) and co-captain Amanda Crozier (a junior in Civil

Engineering Technology) racked up four goals apiece. Amazingly, the first five goals for RIT were scored in a five-minute time frame, shelling the Allegany goalie.

With this win under their belt, the team looks to the rest of the season unanimously hoping to clinch a spot in the Empire 8 Tournament. "I think we would all like to do this by decisively winning one of the slots. Not like last year, where three teams were tied for fourth place and the final spot in the tournament was decided by scores," described Evans. Cotton is dreaming even bigger: "We're looking to do things that this team has never done and go further than we ever have." McGuigan's response was similar: "We always plan to go as far as the season will go." •

**"COACH TOLD US WE NEEDED TO STEP IT UP, START WINNING THE DRAW AND SCORING SOME GOALS."**

# RIT'S HOCKEY SEASON ENDS WITH HEARTBREAK

by Rachel Hart

photograph by Josh Lehrer

The men's hockey team fell to Air Force 5-0 in what was described as an "abrupt end to the season" by RIT Head Coach Wayne Wilson. Air Force took the lead early in the game with one goal scored by the end of the first period. Brennan Sarazin, a third year left wing, crashed the net late in the first period, only to be stopped by Air Force's goalie Andrew Volkening in one of RIT's best attempts at scoring.

Despite a brief mid-second period RIT rally, with an RIT power-play advantage of five men on the ice to Air Force's three, the Tigers remained scoreless. That series would ultimately end in a shorthanded goal by Air Force, and by the end of the second period they would bring their lead over the Tigers to four. Both a frustrating and heartbreaking game, the Tigers were outshot 29-24.

However, this loss in the semifinals ends what has been a strong season for the Tigers. Their final record? 19-12-6. A new addition to the Atlantic Hockey Conference this year, RIT is still in its infancy within Division I sports. For only a second year member, what has been accomplished so far is nothing less than admirable.

Highlights of the season included beating Sacred Heart twice solidly and taking, for a time, the first place spot in Atlantic hockey. There were also the overtime wins against Holy Cross to put RIT in the semifinals.

This marks an end to the RIT career of a few players including defenders Matt Harris, Stephen Burns and Brent Patry; left wings Simone Lambert and Ricky Walton; and right wings Matt Smith and Darrell Draper—all huge losses to the offense and defense of RIT's team. Next season, goalie sophomore Louis Menard returns along with rookie Andrew Favot. •

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RIT Head Coach Wayne Wilson reacts to Air Force's third goal in the second period of the Atlantic Hockey semifinals.



# 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.

RIT RINGS,  
I'VE MISSED YOU OVER  
BREAK. MY BED HAS BEEN  
SO LONELY AND COLD.

FRIDAY, 12:10 P.M.

Well, I was supposed to run into the George Eastman Building and pick up a check today, RIT Rings, and what happened was that there's some President's Round Table or something...some SAT thing, I don't know. The parking lots are full, and D Lot is full, so I asked if I could park in the Simone Loop, so I could just run in and grab my check, and he said, "No." I had to park in G or H Lot, which is, like, 40 minutes away from the George Eastman Building. It's ridiculous. Students are treated like second-class citizens compared to whatever the President has going on.

SUNDAY, 5:43 P.M.

RIT, you suck! What the [beep]! We don't have no type of [silly] RA no more! We didn't know our RA got fired! What's up with that? [I am angry at you], RIT!

SUNDAY, 12:40 A.M.

Yo, I haven't seen one [plowing] plow all night and it's snowing like [Lassie]. Tell RIT to get on plowing this [excrement] 'cause I almost died earlier from these [sinful] plows. It was epic!

MONDAY, 7:48 P.M.

Day One of classes, and my philosophy professor just said that 'implicit' means that it's not 'explicit.' Way to go.

SUNDAY, 7:27 P.M.

I AM DRIVING HOME FROM BREAK, WHICH SUCKS, BECAUSE I HAVE CLASS TOMORROW. BUT ANYWAY, I'M LISTENING TO THE PRETENDERS.

MONDAY, 7:07 P.M.

I just got a paper outside my dormitory saying that someone had called and left a threat. I hope it wasn't to this number, because if it was, the fact that there are now papers and e-mails and other notices flying around would be really, really sad.

WEDNESDAY, 7:32 P.M.

*We're just calling you from space here at WITR. I say listen to bad radio, Wednesdays 8:00 to 10:00, live from space. It's ballin' in space. 89.7, badradio.info. Live blog later!*

SUNDAY, 1:50 A.M.

I'M GOING TO FLIP OUT IF I DON'T FIND SOME LUNCHABLES RIGHT NOW.

THURSDAY, 7:47 A.M.

Whee! Hi Reporter! Like, oh my gosh, I just stayed up all night, and it's so frickin' awesome! So awesome that the awesomeness swells and should be so awesome that everyone who has this (and I'm not drunk, I swear, I just stayed up all night) and it's so good that your mom should be on this, yeah, your mom should be on this! Totally frickin' on this! Oh my gosh! I love you, Reporter! I should sleep.

SATURDAY, 1:37 A.M.

I'm in Philadelphia right now. I can't believe how many girls there are and how much more fun it is. For being in the middle of Rochester, it's surprising how secluded RIT really is. I'm having a great time and I hope you have— well actually, you won't have a good one, because there aren't girls around.

TUESDAY, 12:26 A.M.

Oh, I just called again by accident.

# ILLOGICAL CONSUMPTION

by Elizabeth Bennett

illustration by Bryan Williams



Ever wonder why at the end of every quarter, a student has six 24 packs of Mountain Dew, 10 board games, 10 bags of chips, three mega Goldfish containers and six pints of ice cream in his dorm room? Or why you hear at the end of the quarter, “Who wants to go to Ben & Jerry’s? My treat!”

Food Debit rules require all students living in the dorms to spend a minimum of \$1,281 on food, to be bought only on campus. In addition, food debit is not available as a form of currency at every campus eatery. Java’s, a coffee shop that facilitates meetings, studying, and student collabora-

the wacky spending sprees that have become legend. Students may clear out their debit by buying 30 cans of Campbell’s soup, 30 bars of candy, 10 boxes of cereal, and 40 Ramen packs, sometimes to donate and other times for their dorm rooms. Ever wonder why only chicken soup is gone, or why there is no shampoo left?

Rather than encouraging students to learn budgeting, saving, and smart financial management—important skills that students need to master in order to succeed in the workforce—these regulations actually cause and encourage illogical and erratic spending sprees. If RIT wants students

## “WHO WANTS TO GO TO BEN & JERRY’S? MY TREAT!”

tion, does not accept food debit as a form of payment. Therefore, while food costs are high, many are still unable to spend the roughly \$16.67 per day allocated to them.

As a result of these regulations, students are often challenged to find creative ways to spend extra debit rather than wasting it. Many volunteer organizations take advantage of the surplus by holding drives for various non-profit organizations. These drives, held at the end of each quarter, can be found every night in front of Sol’s or the Corner Store. They help fuel

to be more responsible with their money, all they have to do is provide incentives that already exist in a real world setting.

Many colleges allow food debit to be reduced, rolled over, or even returned to the students at the end of the school term. If this occurred at RIT, students might even be able to use their remaining debit to buy RIT gear at the bookstore, or even try to offset the outrageous costs of new books. But the price of textbooks is just a bone to pick on another day. For now, a lot of us would simply like more flexibility in food debit. •