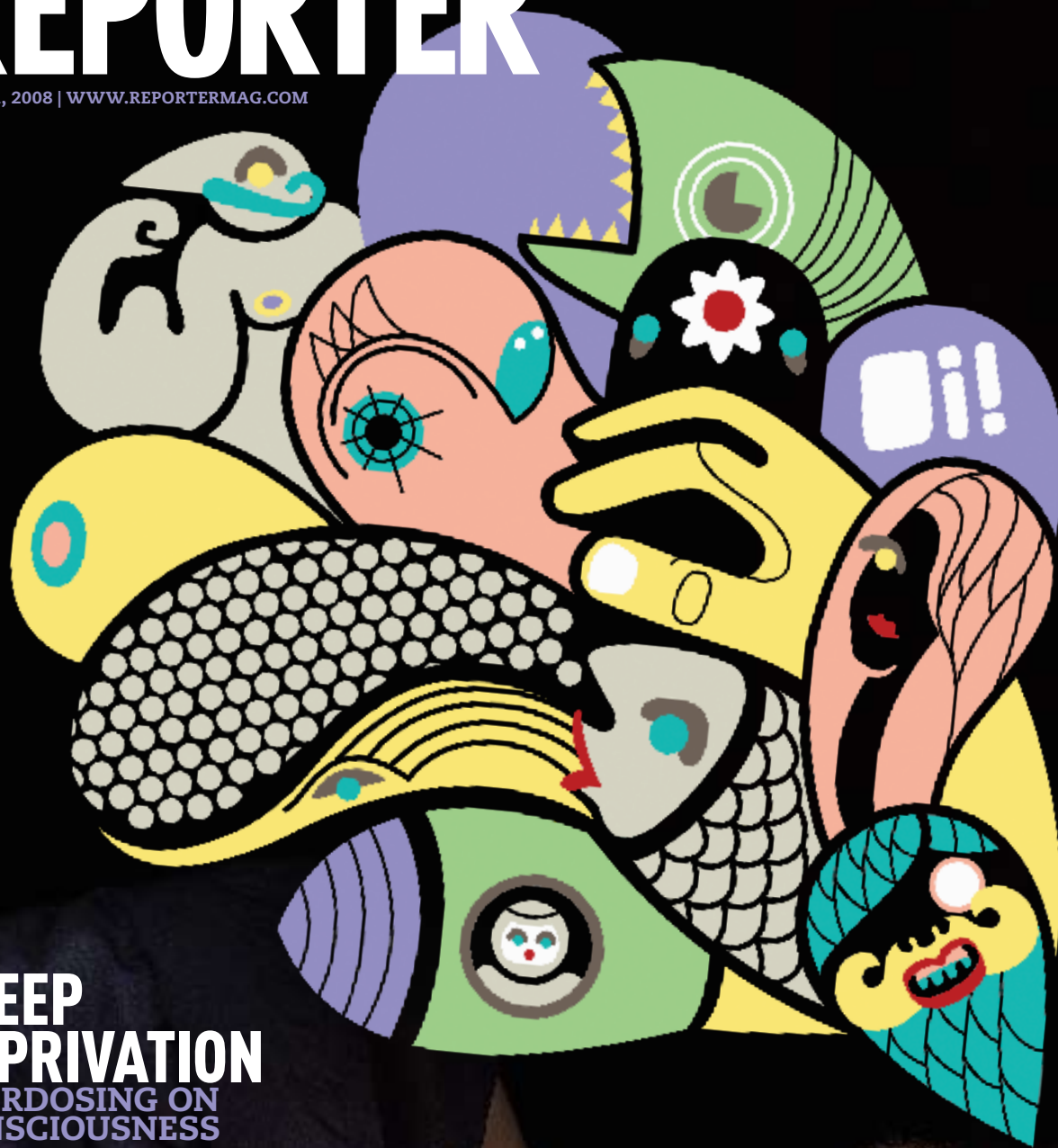


REPORTER

APRIL 11, 2008 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM



**SLEEP
DEPRIVATION**
OVERDOSING ON
CONSCIOUSNESS

LUCID DREAMS
WHO'S IN CONTROL?

ICE DISCO
FUNKIFY YOUR FRIDAY



REPORTER

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EDITOR’S NOTE

NO CARS GO
Going to the car wash is one of my favorite activities. It’s one of life’s simple pleasures. For a few fleeting instants, I’m able to take my hands off the steering wheel, sit back, and stop worrying. It doesn’t matter that I’m the one in the driver’s seat; nothing is required of me for the next two and a half minutes. Soap surrounds the car, dirt washes away, and I emerge from the other end of the tunnel sparkling clean, feeling almost virtuous... especially as I look at all the filth caked onto the other cars I share the road with. In short: I love my car, and pretty much everything that goes with it.

That having been said, it costs me \$50 to fill up my tank every week. With rent to pay, textbooks to buy, and groceries to purchase, believe me: if I thought it were possible, my car and I would have parted ways a long time ago. I’d be having my moments of zen in the shower or something. Traveling everywhere by car is an expensive habit, and it’s one that I’d rather not have to fund at this point. Unfortunately, I still need to get around, and RIT’s bus system far from meets my needs. As of right now, I really have no choice but to fork over the cash, grab the wheel, and make the best of it.

To date, my experience with the transportation services RIT provides has been very poor. Attempts to get off campus during my first two years at RIT met a red light at seemingly every turn; there was simply no good way for me to get into the city. Although I was able to make use of the “Golden Memories” shuttle bus which goes to the Marketplace Mall, the serpentine route it traveled on (in order to loop past the RIT Inn and various apartment complexes) meant that it took nearly an hour to get back to the dorms—usually more, since the bus always seemed to be running late. Not at all convenient. And if I wanted to venture any further than that? Well, I was just out of luck.

Flexcar (see page 11) provided a unique solution to this problem. Although I never used it myself (I moved off campus before it was available), it was encouraging to hear that RIT was taking action to address student concerns. Now that Flexcar seems to be reaching the end of the road, however, students will be stuck in the same situation as before.

Although I’ve heard some upperclassmen whisper of a bus which used to transport students downtown, this service has long since stopped; the bus’ main purpose was to give students a ride to the bars, and the Administration disapproved. Now, there is no system in place to allow on-campus students to go downtown, for the purpose of visiting the bars or otherwise. Considering the interesting attractions Rochester has to offer (movies at the Little Theatre, sushi at Village Gate, photography at the George Eastman House, etc.), this is a downright shame. I wasn’t even aware of most of these treasures until I had a car of my own—and why would I be, with no means of getting to them?

With construction for Park Point racing forward at near breakneck speed, I hope the Administration isn’t too proud to pull over and consult a map from time to time. Ask the students for directions. Here is what many of us will say: It’s great that there’s going to be something of a nightlife closer to campus, but that’s no excuse for not allowing us to travel off of it. We don’t need a hand to hold as we cross the street. We’re capable young adults, and we’re old enough to decide where we want to spend our Friday nights—whether that includes the bar scene or not. All we need now is a lift.

This is the perfect opportunity for RIT to overhaul its transportation system—specifically, the bus-ing options that are available to students. Stop and think about it; surely, you have at least a few minutes to spare. Perhaps now would be a good time to go get your car washed.



Laura Mandanas
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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Cover illustration by Erin Wengrovius
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CORRECTIONS

// Last Week’s Sign of the Week (April 4) was supposed to be “Sit down bitch,” but the photo showed “Down sit bitch.” An earlier Sign of the Week (March 21) also misrepresented “Marry me please,” showing “Marry please me” instead.



DEAR REPORTER,

The Editor’s Note in the March 21, 2008 edition of the *Reporter* displays a common fallacy regarding study abroad, namely that study abroad is expensive. As the editor, you should have took more time to check your facts and actually do some research before printing it.

While some study abroad trips can indeed be expensive, there are a number that can actually end up being cheaper than staying at RIT a quarter. I studied abroad in Germany, and my costs ended up being roughly the same as staying here a quarter, except I was off in Europe.

Everyone should visit the study abroad office and ask them about the price and details of study abroad trips before assuming it is too expensive! You will probably be surprised at how affordable it can actually be.

KEVIN TIERENY

Fifth year Computer Science major

PS. I don’t work or speak for the study abroad office in building 13 that you should go to!

TO SEND LETTERS

E-MAIL 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.

REPORTER IS STILL HIRING!

MANAGING EDITOR

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DESIGNER

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

PRODUCTION MANAGER

PHOTO EDITOR

BRICKBEAT | 4.11.08

WOLF LEADS CANDIDATES IN REPORTER POLL, MOST UNDECIDED

by Joe McLaughlin

A *Reporter* poll conducted in week four showed current SG President Edward Wolf leading the race for Student Government President for next year, followed by Carlos Cornejo, Michael Deyhim, and Kari Hazzard. However, most voters are still undecided.

A stratified random sample of 100 students near the Infinity Quad were approached and questioned. Ten percent of respondents were Deaf or Hard of Hearing, compared to approximately 9% of the student body. No other demographics were controlled for.

“It’s still early in the race,” said Wolf. “I think a lot of students are waiting for the debates, and next week, all the candidates are going to put their message out in the form of fliers or posters.”

Cornejo said that he still has a lot to do. “The debates haven’t happened yet. I think that a lot of people are going to see the debates and make a decision based on that.”

“I’m very happy with the poll results,” commented Deyhim, “and proud to say that 5% of the RIT population is against volcanoes and for puppies and kittens.” He added, “I hope that me and all students at RIT can work together to make this campus as great as we dream.”

Hazzard declined to comment on the results.

Reporter will conduct a weekly presidential poll throughout the campaign season. •

RECYCLEMANIA HITS RIT

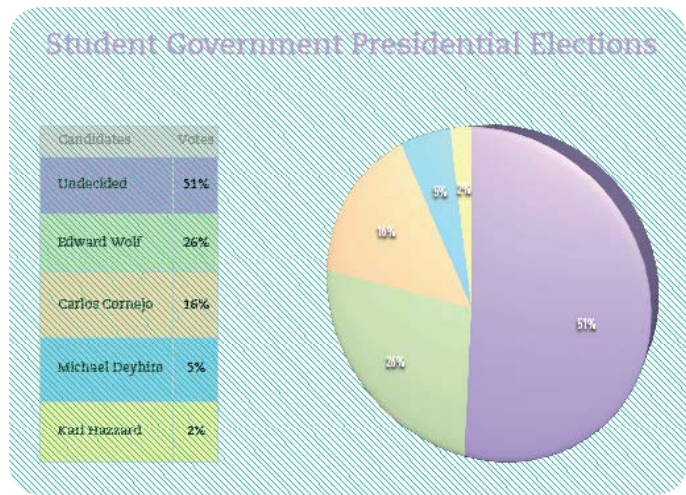
by Rohit Garg

Last week, RIT completed RecycleMania, a ten-week national competitive recycling event which has been taking place since 2001. This was the first time RIT took part in the competition, due to Recycling Administrator Tyler Stewart’s initiative.

Having started between Ohio and Miami Universities in 2001, the number of universities participating has been increasing exponentially every year, with this year’s competition including 400 colleges across the nation. There are four primary competitions; Grand Champion, Per Capita Classic, Waste Minimization, Gorilla Prize, and four targeted material competitions: Paper, Corrugated Cardboard, Bottles & Cans, and Food Service Organics. The ranking of an institute in these categories is determined by the average weight of recycled waste per student and the average amount of waste per student, respectively.

The recycling rates of RIT remained almost constant before and during the competition. As far as RIT’s performance goes, the institute ranked 15th out of 79 colleges in the Grand Champion competition, 5th out of 151 colleges in the Per Capita Classic competition, and 80th out of 87 in Waste Minimization. RIT did not significantly participate in the targeted material competitions, except in Bottles & Cans, in which it ranked 5th out of 136. During the competition, bottle and can recycling was 1.73 lbs per person during week 1, and it proceeded to remain at 0 lbs/person through weeks 2-8, when there was a sudden peak of recycling (9.79 lbs/person) during week 9.

Stewart remarked, “This was our first year in the competition. We spent more time trying to get the data right than actually publicizing it. I expect that in the next couple years, we’re going to do much better. We’ll drum up a lot of support for the competition.” He said that he feels RIT’s performance can improve if students are better informed about RecycleMania. •



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RIT Student Ombudsperson

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...we're here to help

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

RIT FORECAST

compiled by Elizabeth Bennett

12 SATURDAY

MR. RIT

Webb Auditorium, 7 p.m. – 11 p.m. RIT’s guys compete in a “male pageant,” complete with talent, formal wear, question and answer, and crowd favorite competitions. All proceeds go to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Cost: \$5.

13 SUNDAY

THE DEAF WOMEN PROJECT

LBJ 1510, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. A play depicting Deaf women as both ordinary and extraordinary. Written by School of Fine Arts student Ruthie Jordan. Free.

14 MONDAY

THINK PINK

Infinity Loop and Grace Watson Hall, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. The campus is “painted pink” by Zeta Tau Alpha in an effort to raise awareness and money for breast cancer. Free.

15 TUESDAY

TUESDAY EVENING DANCE

Edgerton Community Center, 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Dance your stress away while meeting people from the community. Music by Jack Allen. Free.

16 WEDNESDAY

MEN’S LACROSSE VS. UTICA

RIT Field, 3:45 p.m. – 6 p.m. Get some fresh air and root for our lacrosse team. Go Tigers! Free.

17 THURSDAY

CAB THURSDAY NIGHT CINEMA PRESENTS: SCARFACE

Ingle Auditorium, 10 p.m. – midnight. Scarface is a story about an immigrant living the American dream... kind of. Al Pacino takes over a drug empire in 1980s Miami while falling to his addiction. Free Tang and Snickers bars afterwards. Free.

18 FRIDAY

CAB FRIDAY NIGHT IN THE RITZ PRESENTS KARAOKE

Student Alumni Union: RITz Sports Zone, 10 p.m. – midnight. Can you sing? No? Even better. Free.

SG WEEKLY UPDATE

by Geoffrey H. Bliss

ENHANCEMENTS TO SG TV

SG President Ed Wolf announced that SG TV would have “major enhancements” starting very soon. There will be weather updates, up to date events listed, and RSS feeds.

GRADUATE SENATOR POSITION

Student Government has proposed a new amendment to the constitution, which represents graduate students through a seat in the Senate. The amendment states, “The Senator from the community including all students registered with matriculated graduate student status shall be elected by the prevailing graduate student organization advised by the office of the Dean of Graduate Studies.” A graduate student speaking to the Senate stated, “We’ve had over 700 responses. Twenty five percent of grad students are interested. They would like to have a grad student represent them, having a voice in this community that will work with SG to perceive how we will work with this organization...We’re trying to approach different issues, like students trying to get research and help students interact with their advisers. We can get this help through dean Moore in the College of Graduate Studies.” SG has decided to table this issue until next week.

SAAC ATHLETE REGISTRATION

The SAAC representative addressed the Senate in regard to getting athletes to have the same registration privileges as Honors students and NTID students. “For first and second year students, it’s very difficult to get your practice schedule to fit around your academic schedule. That, and most of the coaches aren’t full time, so they have to schedule their jobs around their practice times as well...We’ve talked about this with faculty and they agree that it would be better if athletes went to classes instead of having to skip them for games,” he said. Some disagreed that allowing athletes to register early would be a benefit. The GLBT Senator stated, “I think if this organization tries to get privileges before the rest, then another organization will, and then everyone will want those privileges.” The Senate decided that giving athletes particular attention could present a complicated situation. They vote next week.

PARKOUR REVISITED

Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Mary-Beth Cooper addressed the Senate in regard to complications with the Parkour club. “I’ve come here to hear your thoughts about the Parkour Club and what I rely on is that people are making good decisions before issues come up to my desk,” Cooper said. Despite its initial objection, the Senate has agreed that by and large that the Parkour Club presents issues of liability to the University, because its participants may become injured or injure other people and harm RIT property. COB Senator Carlos Cornejo disagreed, saying, “After they presented, they proved that they would be able to follow safety standards. I pushed forward to approve this club.” Cooper concluded, “This looks exciting to me...I love the organization and the training, but we still need to discuss administrative reliability.” •

BEFORE CEO,
THERE’S ROTC.

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



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE NATHANIELS, BABY!

**Apply for a Nathaniel Rochester Society Merit Scholarship,
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These unique RIT scholarships are available to:**

- ★ **Undergraduate students in a BA or BS program, WITH**
- ★ **A minimum 3.4 cumulative GPA, AND**
- ★ **72 credit hours of study completed by the end of the 2007-08 winter quarter, or 18 RIT credit hours for transfer students, AND**
- ★ **A minimum of three full-time quarters (not including co-op) remaining after the spring 2007-08 quarter.**

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 18, 2008!

- ★ **Scholarships are awarded based on academic merit, not financial need. Leadership, community service, and participation in extracurricular activities are strongly considered in the selection process.**

To apply, visit the NRS website at rit.edu/nrs, and click on the NRS Scholarships link in the right hand navigation bar.

For more information, email Tara Rosa at tara.rosa@rit.edu



CAR RENTAL SERVICES TO CHANGE AT RIT

by Geoffrey H. Bliss | photograph by Dave Londres

In September of this year, RIT entered a contract with Flexcar, a company providing easy car rentals. However, after a few months of business, problems popped up in the program. Cars were mysteriously “unavailable” at all hours of the day, but still sitting in the parking lots.

After some deliberation, on October 30th, Flexcar executives announced a merger with a competitor, Zipcar. This seemingly minor change caused a considerable loss of jobs for employees working in Flexcar’s Seattle-based headquarters, as well as the creation of an even greater inconvenience for those accustomed to Flexcar, many of whom had to adjust their service plans.

Applicants to Flexcar were required to provide a valid driver’s license and be at least 18 years of age. Zipcar, on the other hand, requires that its members be at least 21 to join. Cars were able to be picked up by RIT students at predetermined locations by swiping their “flexcards” on the electronic activation mechanisms located on the dashboards of every vehicle. After the driver’s identity was recognized, they were free to drive as they pleased.

John G. Zink, Interim Assistant Vice President stated, “We wanted to provide this service for students for them to take advantage of Flexcar. This was very good to work with...offering over one million dollars in accident coverage.” Zink continued, “After Flexcar became Zipcar,

they no longer honored the previous agreement. Zipcar expected more money and offered much less accident coverage. [Zipcar provides \$300,000 in accident protection.] They were simply offering unacceptable terms. We also didn’t want to originally use Zipcar, because we knew Flexcar offered better terms. I can assure you that these numbers indicate a bad deal. They were not providing the proper protection for students.” However, RIT did not end relations with Zipcar. “We wouldn’t care to kill something which we ourselves spent so much time committing to getting on campus,” said Zink.

The reaction to removing Flexcar has resulted in varied opinions. Industrial Design student Julie Zempke said, “I’m a committee adviser for FYE, and one day, we were talking about first year students, the concept [of Flexcar] is great and age becomes a problem for students who want to get off campus. If it were here when I was a freshman, I would definitely use it.” Ken Krug, a Software Engineering major, agreed: “This is an appealing program for parents, who would be smart in signing up. However, Flexcar had its detractors as well. Rebecca Strauss said, “I thought about using it, but I would break even. I also don’t think it’s affordable. I’d prefer to have more extensive bus services.”

Zink did not rule out changing services. He said, “One thing I will explore, though, is to reach out to other options.” •



SG ELECTIONS VOTE!

WEEK 6
APRIL 14 - 17

The time has come.
Voting starts
Monday April 14
and closes
Thursday April 17.

VOTE AT
www.sg.rit.edu/vote



STUDENT GOVERNMENT'S EXTRA MILE AWARD

The Student Government
Extra Mile Award is
presented annually to a staff
member or entire department within
RIT which exemplifies the principles
of outstanding and attentive service
to students, above and beyond
normal expectations. The award is
chosen by students.

Nomination Forms are
available online at
sg.rit.edu. Nominations will
close **TODAY**.



Elliott Miller, a fourth year Physics Major, dances in the middle of the ring during Disco On Ice.

SKATING THE NIGHT AWAY

by Alecia Crawford
photograph by Eric Drummond

No money, check. Skates, check. Funky disco music, check. Friends, check. That was all you needed for CAB's second Annual Ice Disco Skate on Friday, March 28th.

When you think of disco music, you think of a combination of *Saturday Night Fever*, the '70s, and roller skates. Since it's a bit difficult to set up a roller rink on campus, however, CAB came up with the idea to bring "funky town" to the Frank Ritter Ice Arena instead.

Lots of students came out for the disco skate. The event was free for all RIT students and was definitely something fun to do on a Friday night. With disco music blaring, record decorations greeting attendees on to the ice, and bright neon lights spinning around the rink, all skaters contributed to the classic '70s vibe for the night. Old disco favorites set the tempo for the skaters to "shake their groove thang" on the ice.

Halfway into the event, the zamboni was brought out to clean the ice for disco partakers, which provided a smoother ride and helped skaters knock off some killer tricks on the ice. This gave many participants the chance to get off their feet without feeling like losers as they took their cue to leave; it also gave new people who arrived around the same time an easy entry without missing their disco favorites.

From the Bee Gees to the Jackson 5, many disco hits that would make you want to "knock on wood," "stay alive," and "get up off that thang" were all present and accounted for. Bright lights, blaring music, and some kids in cool and semi-tacky dance gear definitely brought back memories of an average high school dance, save for the fact that they were on ice. Mini-groups of friends sprinkled around the Frank Ritter Arena with the real dancers (or in this case, good figure skaters) in the middle of the rink showing off their skills. Too bad there weren't any off-beat dancing principals dancing around—that, and

spiked punch—or the disco skate could quite easily have passed for one of those stereotypical high school dances that one is used to seeing in '80s and '90s movies.

The greatest thing about the event not being like a high school dance was the fact that you could skate by yourself or with a partner. Even if you didn't want to skate by yourself or hold a friend's hand, skating near them wasn't that hard. The only problem with that is that if you have too many people skating that way, it's harder to get around the rink. I nearly ran into at least two packs of people because they were either skating too slowly or had spread themselves too far horizontally in the same direction.

Even with a few trips and falls here and there, the disco skate was very entertaining, and was definitely something new to try. It utilized the facilities that we have on campus that are available to us as RIT students. •



BOTTLES IN TRANSLATION
by Susan Cook

“¿Dónde quedan los servicios?” That’s a pretty important thing to know how to say while traveling in Spain. Thankfully, Bottles In Translation has come to your rescue; you now know how to ask where the toilets are.

Each 32oz. bottle boasts 100 useful phrases in either French, Spanish, German, or Italian, all of which are translated into English. The phrases are divided into boxes based on their general categories, including locations, days of the week, and food. The bottles are also available in a variety of colors, such as red, blue, green, violet, grey, and pink.

While I may not be the most proficient speaker of Spanish, all the phrases adorning the bottle are familiar from the several classes that I’ve taken. They’re also printed very clearly and are easy to read. Plus, as the website suggests, if you don’t know how to pronounce something, you can simply point to the phrase on the bottle and the other person should be able to read it.

The bottles are slightly transparent, so you can see how much drink you have left. You can also store other things inside them, such as sunglasses, change, or papers. They have screw-off caps which are attached to the bottle so you don’t lose them. The size is also really nice, and you can put enough drink in it for yourself and a friend or two. A huge plus is that the neck of the bottle is even wide enough for ice cubes. The only minor drawback is that it’s not wide enough for your hand to fit inside to scrub it clean with a sponge if need be.



Overall, Bottles In Translation is a brilliant, useful idea. Another bonus is that the bottles also sold in multi-packs, for the avid traveler in you. A single bottle costs \$15.99 plus shipping.

So is it worth the cost? I think it’s a novel idea, and would love one of each bottle. They also will make great gifts for friends going on co-ops or summer vacations. You could get one just to impress the people you know, or even as a joke for your friends in Advanced Italian. Regardless, it’s still a really cool thing to have to show off while drinking water around campus. •

¡Dese prisa aquí! (Hurry here!): www.BottlesInTranslation.com



POLAR BEAR CLUB
THE REDDER THE BETTER
Ceffen Records
by Evan McNamara

There is no substitute for heart. This is true in most things, and especially in music. The most technically astounding composition is nothing if it isn’t played with feeling. On their debut EP, Rochester’s own Polar Bear Club wears their hearts on their sleeves, and you can hear it. The band’s sound is best defined by two standout elements: powerful guitar-work, and a flawless vocal delivery. This is not typical punk rock guitar playing on display. PBC sprinkles in dissonance, plus a knack for creative rhythmic patterns to lift their sound to a plane different from power-chord punk bands. The selling point for this disc, however, comes from the vocalist. Often gritty, and occasionally beautifully melodic, variety is in no short supply. Thoughtful lyrics touch on personal topics and broad metaphorical and philosophical leanings. But it is not just what Polar Bear Club says, but how they say it that makes this five-song EP so damned likeable. You can tell that these guys live for their music, and any success is secondary compared to the joy they seem to have in making music together.

The lyrics of the closing track, “Most Miserable Life,” say it best: “We fucked our ears, we fucked our throats, singin’ for the sake of what we love most. These pretty scars aren’t going anywhere.” And hopefully, Polar Bear Club isn’t going anywhere either. •



Members of Rochester’s own Polar Bear Club



MURDER BY DEATH
RED OF TOOTH AND CLAW
Ceffen Records

I hate country music. That having been said, I was not very excited to review the latest album from Murder by Death, a group with a trademark country swagger. You can imagine my surprise when their newest album, *Red of Tooth and Claw* made its way into regular rotation in my CD player (yes, people still use them!). What makes Murder by Death a remarkable musical force is their ability to cram country, blues, folk, and just the right amount of punk into a compact and catchy format. Vocalist Adam Turla has a unique delivery that combines equal parts Johnny Cash and Glenn Danzig. The band provides musical backdrops that might be found in some post-apocalyptic saloon. Both the lyrics and the accompaniment drift towards the theatrical, with song topics ranging from battles with the walking dead, prison woes, and the poison love of women. In short, this is an extremely diverse album that will surely win over any skeptics by the time the last lyrics are uttered: “Could it be you?” You would be doing yourself a big favor to have a listen and find out. •



Members of Murder by Death

QUIZ

- 1.What slang dialect does Alex, the main character, use in Anthony Burgess’ *A Clockwork Orange*?
- a. Nadsat
 - b. Polari
 - c. Slavic
 - d. Cockney
2. Which of the following musical artists has not released a song called “Blackout?”
- a. Britney Spears
 - b. David Bowie
 - c. Muse
 - d. Asian Kung-Fu Generation
3. This rare neurological disorder affects basic human needs, primarily a person’s urge to sleep. Most of those who suffer from the disorder will sleep for at least 23 hour time periods. What is this disorder?
- a. Narcolepsy
 - b. Kleinfelter’s Syndrome
 - c. Kleine-Levin Syndrome
 - d. Sleep Apnea
4. This gay Olympic athlete competed in the Olympic games in 1992 and 1994 for the USA team. Who is this famous athlete?
- a. Holly Metcalf
 - b. Joan Guetschow
 - c. Blyth Tait
 - d. Lisa-Marie Vizaniari
5. True or False: It has been noted that director Stanley Kubrick, upon obtaining the novel *A Clockwork Orange*, ripped it in half, kept one and gave the other half to his screenplay co-writer.
- a. True
 - b. False

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

QUOTE:

“A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on.”
—Sir Winston Churchill

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS RIT MIGHT GET ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE:



REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Watching NOVA. Ever feel that ordinary feeling you hear so much about at RIT? Brick-related boredom, a dull city life, and the nearly popular (and daily) complaints from fellow classmates are sure to convince you of life’s sheer blandness. You may just be in need of a NOVA kick. No matter the subject, this scientific discovery driven show will be sure to fascinate and awe you. Chances are, you’ll learn more from an hour-long sitting than you will from an hour of repetitious Tuesday night homework. Yes, we did just recommend television over schoolwork.

DIFFICULTY RATING: MEDIUM

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

SIGN OF THE WEEK: REPORTER LOVES YOU





WHO NEEDS SLEEP?

by Casey Dehlinger | illustrations by Sara Wick

Two years ago, after a 96-hour overdose on consciousness, I lost control of my thoughts in such a way that my mind convinced me that reality was a dream. I was attempting to remain awake for 120 hours. In this quasi-hallucinatory state, I became belligerent and mildly violent towards the person designated to make sure that I stayed awake for a particular stretch of time. Once it was reestablished that the world was, in fact, real, the revelation was so shocking to me that I broke down in tears and shortly thereafter, unwillingly succumbed to the luxury of sleep.



OF MICE AND MEN

There is an image that still haunts me from the research before my 96-hour attempt. A close up of a dead rat's paw, swollen and covered with tiny lesions. It looked diseased, ancient, and decrepit. Imagine a rotting apple covered in concave bruises. Now imagine your body covered similarly. This is the paw of a rat killed after being deprived of sleep for 29 days.

Before seeing this image, I had no idea that lack of sleep could kill. My understanding, expressed by the doctor with whom I spoke, was that the brain was powerful enough to stop me when I had to be stopped. Mankind's willpower can only contend with the mind so long as the mind allows it. The idea that sleeplessness could kill was something new.

At the University of Chicago, Dr. Rechtschaffen created an experiment called the "disk-over-water" technique. Imagine a steel turntable bisected by two separate Plexiglas cages, each inhabited by a rat. The turntable made up the flooring and covered a semi-circular area. If one rat were to fall off the steel plate, it would plunge into a shallow pool of water and be forced to reposition itself.

Each rat had a wire leading out of its skull to measure its brain waves. The control rat was allowed to sleep whenever it wished. However, when the experiment rat approached the state of sleep, it was awakened by the turning of the turntable or by being knocked into the water. After 29 days, the experiment rat died, looking dirty, grey, and unkempt. The control rat looked just as young as when the experiment started, with a glossy white coat of fur.

Many explanations and speculations state that it would take several more months before sleep deprivation could actually kill a human being. One theory is that one of the functions of sleep is thermoregulation. Due to the sheer surface area of humans compared to rats, humans should be able to last much longer.

Due to the risks involved, studies of humans in sleep-deprived states are rare. The occasional all-nighter is pulled by a test subject; however, in 1896, three subjects were kept awake for a period of time between 88 and 90 hours. The most obvious effects were the subjects' impaired reaction time and motor abilities. One of the subjects even expressed that he experienced hallucinations.

STAYING AWAKE

Of course, you should not be concerned with the prospect of nearing the triple-digits of wakefulness. An all-nighter here and a catnap there should get you by without reaching the month-long expiration date of our rat friend. Death notwithstanding, the reactions are similar: drowsiness, irritability, and inability to focus.

Truth be told, staying awake is the easy part of the college student's conundrum. The tricky part is getting anything of intellectual value accomplished when clocking in consciousness overtime. Reading becomes near-impossible, particularly heady textbooks.

Sure, it isn't so hard to wiggle your tongue or watch a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles marathon; but rarely do we push the limits of our endurance to their threshold for such asinine things (not to say that The Turtles are

asinine). In fact, it is easier to play Smash Brothers Brawl after 48 hours of sleep deprivation than it is to read Derrida. Lots of students look to drug-based help for the latter.

Mmm... energy drinks. There are so many chemicals yet so little time to consume them all. Did you know that taurine is synthetic bull bile? Remember that next time you go to slam down a can of Red Bull. What is mostly doing the trick in these drinks is far less mysterious than the chemical names suggest. You can usually look to good old sugar for the buzz, along with its close friend, caffeine. Then you can refocus on sugar once again for the debilitating crash that occurs hours later. For these reasons, I vowed to wait 48 hours before consuming energy drinks during my stunt; but the things sure do work wonders for short stints.

However, when these drugs fail, drug abuse succeeds. This may lead to an abuse of Adderall and Ritalin, which can increase awareness and focus in persons not suffering from ADHD. Ritalin is sometimes prescribed to narcolepsy patients to help them stay awake while Adderall has become a popular "study drug" at major US universities. Unfortunately, potential risks include loss of vision, vomiting, and confusion.

SLEEP AND INEBRIATION

In some ways, sleeplessness can be considered a poor man's drink, at least in the most undesirable ways. One study filled a group of people up with alcohol, and deprived the other group of sleep. Each group member was put behind the wheel of a car on a test course and each group performed poorly at best. In some categories, the drunk drivers outperformed their sleep-deprived competitors.

The number of drunk drivers on roads at night is already horrendous. It is only worsened with drowsy drivers thrown into the mix. Perhaps the most dangerous thing about drowsy drivers is that police enforcement cannot take them off the road until they have already caused an accident. There is no breathalyzer for sleepiness, but the symptoms are a recipe for poor driving.

As strange as it may seem, arranging rides for oneself after an all-nighter may not be a terrible idea. Finishing that final paper will not mean much if you cannot submit it on account of wrecking your car during your morning commute.

As tortured insomniac Axel Munthe once wrote, "An attack of insomnia set in, so terrible that it nearly made me go off my head. Insomnia does not kill its man unless he kills himself [...]t kills his *joie de vivre*, it saps his strength, it sucks the blood from his brain and from his heart as a vampire. It makes him remember during the night what he was meant to forget in blissful sleep. It makes him forget during the day what he was meant to remember...Voltaire was right when he placed sleep in the same level as hope."

Do not let sleep deprivation take you down that road. Do not figure out firsthand what 96 hours without dreams will do to you. For every hour you deprive yourself of sleep, you accumulate a sleep debt. The hours you miss must be made up before things are entirely returned to normal. By the time you are out of college, this debt may look like the national deficit. Unfortunately, if I tried to convince you that I wasn't writing this at 3:45 a.m., I would be lying. •

A LONG HISTORY OF SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

1959: PETER TRIPP

Peter Tripp set the world record for staying awake during a "wakeathon" to support the March of Dimes. His 201-hour stunt was conducted while running his top 40 countdown radio show from a desk in Times Square. In staying awake for over eight days, Tripp experienced several hallucinations in the late phases of the stunt. He became paranoid, believing that someone dropped an electrode in his shoe and that certain objects should be in his desk drawer that weren't. After setting the record, Tripp lost his job, his wife, and suffered through a downward spiral, which some people (and at least one documentary) have attributed to staying awake for 201 hours. However, it is worth noting that Tripp started taking drugs like amphetamines to help him stay awake.

1964: RANDY GARDNER

Gardner set the bar at 264 hours (11 days) in 1964. He was a 17-year-old high school student at the time. Keeping his wits to the end, Gardner was available for a press conference after he reached his goal. At the conference, he seemed in perfect health. He slept for 14 hours and 40 minutes after completing the stunt, then stayed awake for a full day before shifting back into a normal sleep schedule of eight hours a night. Between Tripp and Gardner, Honolulu resident Tom Rounds held the record, at 260 hours. Gardner was the last person to carry the title in the Guinness Book of World Records.

MAY 2007: TONY WRIGHT

In May of 2007, Wright set out to beat Gardner's record and prove his theory that each side of the brain requires a different amount of sleep. Wright believed that by relying on the right half of the brain, he could deprive himself of sleep for long periods of time without ill effect. To achieve this, he remained on a strict diet of raw foods and did his best to abandon conceptual thought. To pass the time, he played pool at The Studio Bar in Cornwall. His 266-hour feat beat Randy Gardner by two hours, but the Guinness Book of World Records no longer accepts attempts to break Gardner's record for fear that the stunt is too dangerous to pursue. There are speculations that other records have been exceeding Wright's between 1964 and 2007, but many are vague or unmonitored.

MAY 2008?: DAVID BLAINE

Although no official confirmation has been made, street illusionist and endurance artist David Blaine is expected to attempt a stunt in May 2008. He has stated that he has adopted a diet similar to that of Wright and is known for publicity stunts that push the limits of human physical capabilities. In 2006, Blaine failed to set the world record for holding his breath (8 minutes, 59 seconds) but set the record for most days submerged in water (seven).



a JOURNEY THROUGH LUCID DREAMS

by Madeleine Villavicencio | illustration by Erin Wengrovius

There have been many theories regarding the meaning and purpose of dreams. Some believe dreams are messages from one's subconscious or a representation of inner desires or needs. Others, like myself, believe that dreams may merely be another form of entertainment. That in mind, I realized that if my mind controlled my dreams and I controlled my mind, then I should be able to control my dreams. After approximately 11 days of on-and-off practice and mental exercise, I achieved a quasi-lucid dream.

●●● *I should have realized it from the beginning. Like almost every other horror flick, it involved (from what I remember) running for my life. I was beaten and breathless, but I didn't have time to stop. My goal was to get home and lock the door behind me. Terrified and ignorant of the reason why, I was puzzled to discover upon entering my apartment that I was somehow transported to my bedroom in the Philippines. I then realized I was dreaming.* ●●●

In order to achieve lucidity in a dream state, there must be a trigger. One may become aware that they are dreaming through an unlikely event, such as flying or meeting the deceased. One may also realize that they are dreaming through more mundane circumstances, such as a rapid time change or observing that something is happening that should not be possible.

Once lucid, the person may be able to enjoy the occurrences within the dream while fully acknowledging that none of them are real. Eventually, the person may even be able to control the occurrences of the dream itself. Therefore, the quicker one realizes that one is dreaming, the more likely that they will achieve lucidity and even gain control.

●●● *I was starting to calm down when there was a pounding on the door and a rattling of the doorknob. Panicked, I quickly searched for a way out. I attempted to "will" myself awake without success. The noise outside continued and my desperation intensified. Spotting the window, I climbed onto the ledge, only to realize that jumping from the third floor would probably hurt like hell. Suddenly, there was silence... THWACK! The blade of an axe broke through the door "Where the hell did he get an axe?!" As he began to break through, I helplessly stared below. "Screw it. I'm jumping."* ●●●

Many have dedicated their time to furthering lucid dream research. Dr. Stephen LaBerge, a researcher in the field since the 1980s, founded the Lucidity Institute in 1987 for the same purpose. The institution intends to "advance research on the nature and potential of consciousness and to apply the result...[for] the enhancement of human health and well being." Through time, the researchers at the institute developed a number of techniques and devices to aid in their work.

Primarily, they suggest keeping a dream journal to record accounts of each dream. Entries may be fragmented or focus on describing a single person, place or feeling. The purpose is to write anything that will help one recall the dream. Each account should be written immediately after awakening because many of the details are forgotten by the time morning comes. However, one should also take the time to recall the dream in detail before writing. Additionally, events or scenes that remind the person of his or her dreams throughout the day should be noted.

Reality testing is also helpful. Reading text carried in one's pocket or glancing at a watch and then waiting a few moments before rereading is supposed to help detect dreaming. Research by the Lucidity Institute indicates that text changes 75% of the time when re-read once and 95% of the time when re-read twice. Obviously, if the characters change, seem abnormal or nonsensical, it is likely a dream.

●●● *I was running again. I was about to round the corner when I came face to face with the cause of my nightmares: an axe-wielding clown-faced circus freak that only a Stephen King novel could accurately depict. "It just had to be clowns." My childhood coulrophobia had resurfaced.* ●●●

Another technique, the Mnemonic Induction of Lucid Dreams (MILD), was personally developed by LaBerge as an essential component of his doctoral dissertation. The first step, which we already tackled, is setting up dream recall. Next, the person must focus one's intent on remembering and recognizing that they are dreaming. Finally, the subject must see oneself becoming lucid by imagining that he or she is dreaming and searching for signs to indicate this fact. One must also envision oneself carrying out plans for the next lucid dream. The second and third steps are alternated as one drifts off to sleep.

Moreover, napping has improved the chances of lucid dreaming. According to a study conducted by LaBerge and his colleagues, "Wakefulness interjected during sleep increases the likelihood of lucidity." The study showed a 15 to 20 percent increased likelihood of lucid dreaming for those practicing the nap technique. They recommend rising two hours before one's normal wake-up time, remaining awake for an hour, and then taking an hour long nap—supposedly allowing your mind to retain part of that waking consciousness during the nap.

There are many other lucid dream induction methods. For example, controlled and illegal substances such as alcohol, marijuana, and drugs in the LSD family such as psilocybin and tryptamines are used to induce REM sleep, which is criticized by the Lucidity Institute. Another example is the use of specifically engineered devices such as the Lucidity Institute's NovaDreamer, a sleep mask that detects rapid eye movement and cues the dreamer with flashing lights and sounds.

●●● *All's a blur. For a few moments we danced: an axe swing here, a dodge there... but somehow, in all the excitement, the axe wound up flying into the swimming pool, and I wound up falling to the ground. He started strangling me. As I struggled in his grip, I felt the terror and panic, but not the pain, bruising, or suffocation. "If I die in a dream, do I die in real life?"* ●●●

In the end, some may wonder if all this work is worth it. The answer is purely subjective. Some do it for the freedom from social and physical consequences within the dream state; bending the rules of reality seems intriguing to many, so for them, it is definitely worth it. But the possibilities do not end there.

Recently, lucid dreams have been used to rehearse for success in waking life, and profit seekers have been taking advantage of this. Since brain activity within dreamed events are very similar to those of the actual event, lucid dreamers are able to practice for real events such as public speaking, facing difficult confrontations, or exercising artistic and athletic performances.

●●● *I had had enough of dying in dreams. My mind wandered to thoughts of gauging eyes out and breaking noses as I struggled. I would either die and start a new dream, or wake up; now fully cognizant of my options, I decided I wanted to see this bozo for what he truly was. I unmasked him. The faux flesh and adhesive made a sickening sound as it tore off. "You have got to be kidding me." It was a man in a bunny suit. I felt—and indeed, still feel—embarrassed, and a little weirded-out. Deciding that this wasn't worth my time, I walked away. "Man, I have a screwed up mind."* ●●●



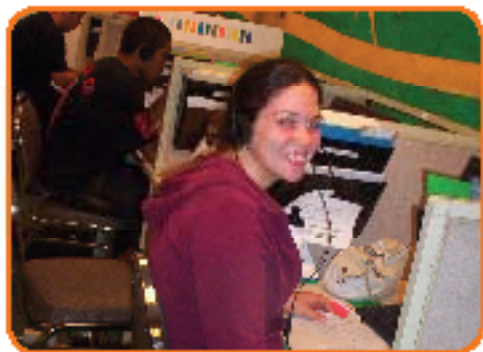
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R·I·T

HOW DID YOU WIND UP AT RIT?

I am primarily an archaeologist. I also teach Cultural Anthropology, but that is something I do mainly because in the United States, archeology is considered a subfield of anthropology. I mainly work in the part of the world known as Mesoamerica, in the Mexican state of Oaxaca, studying a group of people called the Zapotec. In addition to that, I'm also an archeological scientist, or what we call in the field, an archaeometrist, and that's really what brings me to RIT... I saw the job and I said, “That's what I want to do.”



THAT PROFESSOR

William Middleton
by Ilsa Shaw | photograph by Maegan Gindi

ARE YOUR STUDENTS USUALLY VERY ENGAGED IN YOUR CLASSES?

Well, teaching archaeology is really a wonderful thing. In a sense, it's like shooting fish in a barrel: you don't have to sell the subject to students. A lot of people come to archaeology classes with a real desire to learn, and as a professor, you can't ask for a better situation...RIT students are very interested in applied learning, so I try to do a lot of that... I've got kits of artifacts, some of them as much as 5000 and 7000 years old, that students can do things with. In “Exploring Ancient Technology,” we have students doing things like making stone tools. They've really done some amazing pieces.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU TRAVEL?

I'm in Mexico as much as three times a year. The longest single time I was ever there was five months. I come by [travel] naturally: I was actually born in Turkey because my father was in the American Navy, but I'm not actually Turkish. Although at some point, I had the right to Turkish citizenship because I was born in a Turkish hospital and my birth certificate is Turkish (which causes me no end of trouble)... After Turkey, my father had lots of tours of duty over the world, and I've lived in the United States, Korea, and Japan. Since becoming an archaeologist, I've worked in Israel, Turkey, China and the United States—just sort of all over the place.

HAVE YOU EVER MADE ANY PARTICULARLY INTERESTING DISCOVERIES?

Actually, there is one really interesting one: I was working on an excavation a number of years ago... As we were digging outside this wall, we found a pit. Inside, we found the skeletal remains of two eaglets, both of which had their heads cut off. I was like, “Oh, that's interesting, they've been very carefully laid in this pit. They weren't food rubbish.” Aside from missing the head, all the bones were there and in place. The Zapotec I was working with said, “I know what this is. This is a curing.” Then he went on to describe to me that when someone is really sick and the doctors don't seem to be able to cure them, what they do is undergo a special ritual where whatever is afflicting them is magically transferred to a bird...They'd then kill the bird, bury it, and it would take the sickness away...I thought, “Well, that's really interesting. Here we have an archaeological data point that's over 1000 years old, and people are still doing it in modern times.”

SOME OF YOUR STUDENTS HAVE SAID YOU'RE PRETTY WACKY.

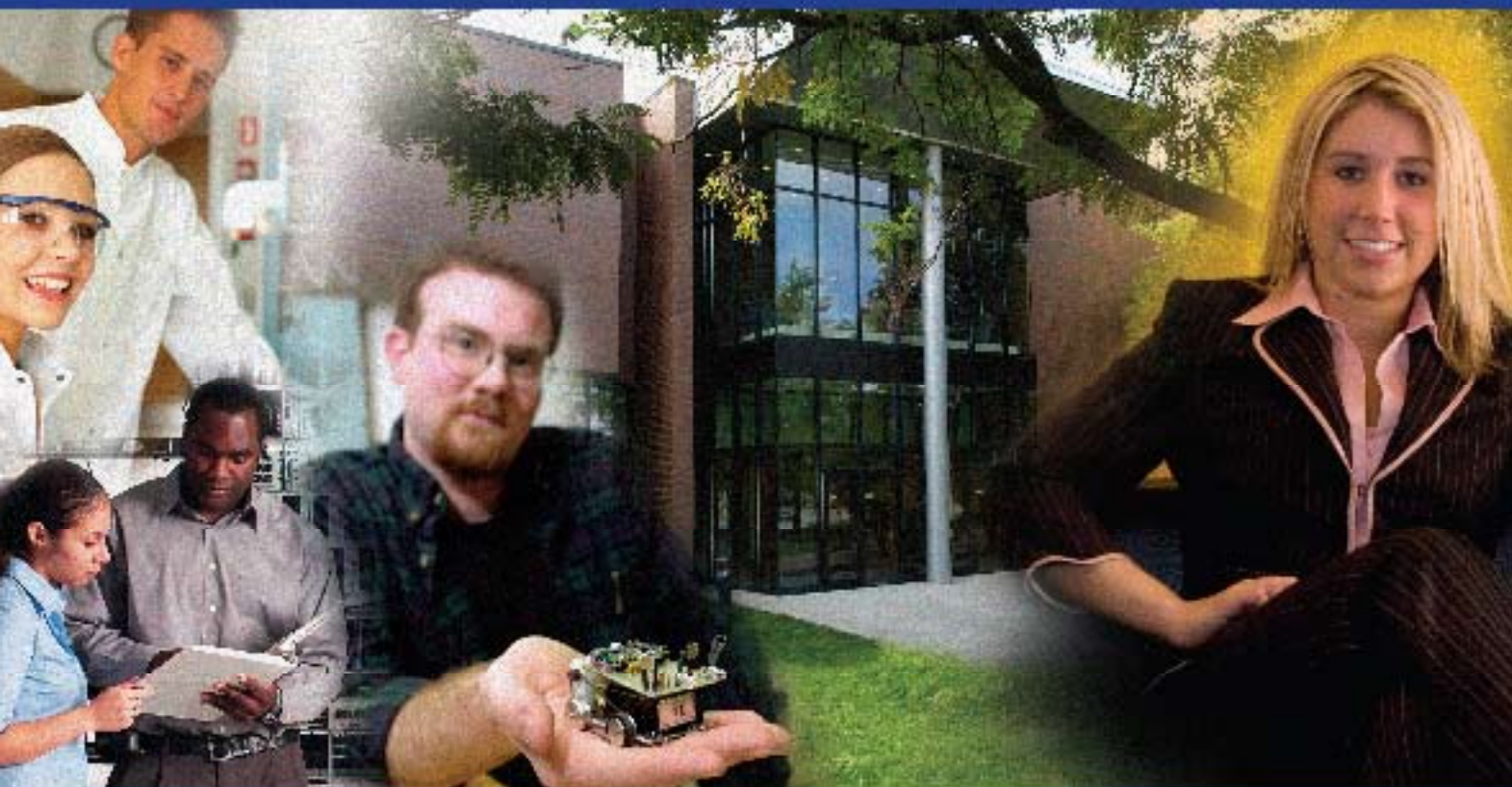
As far as the wackiness, I think I was dropped on my head when I was a child. Actually, my father tells me that at least on one occasion I fell out of my high chair before my first year. And I continue to bang my head, so that might have something to do with it—the cumulative brain damage. I think part of the goofiness comes from having spent so much of my life outside of the United States. When I came to the US to go to college, I'd spent half my life outside of the US, so I had sort of a different socialization than a lot of people do here. Sometimes, I probably say things that are a little too edgy... Like today, we were talking about sexuality in Cultural Anthropology and whether or not there's a gay gene, so I posed the question: If there's a gay gene, is there a gene for bondage? Or masochism? Or nurse's uniforms? That's a ridiculous thing to say, of course, but it sort of drives home the point. •

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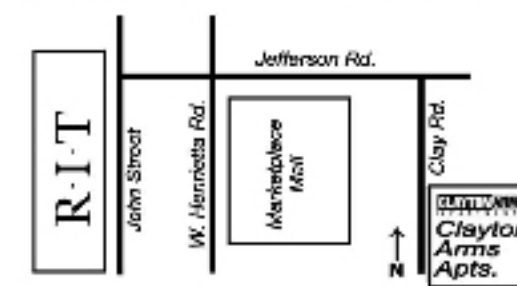
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SPORTSDESK

photograph by Jeffrey Porter

Brendon Evans, Nate Fukawa, and Brett Fritzsche of the Men's Second Varsity Eight rowing team carry their boat from the boathouse to the Genesee to race against St. Lawrence on March, 29th. RIT won the 2000m race with a time of 6:34.14.



*MADLIBS RIT RINGS 585.672.4840

**** Instructions: Use these prompts to fill out the lines below. When you’ve finished, plug those in to the corresponding Rings calls. | compiled by Karl Voelker

1.

NOUN, LIQUID

NOUN

NOUN

NOUN
2.

ADJECTIVE

NOUN, PLURAL
3.

DEITY

NOUN, AN EVENT

YEAR

ADJECTIVE
4.

RIT APARTMENT

APPLIANCE
5.

NOUN

CURSE

REPRODUCTIVE ORGAN

REPRODUCTIVE ORGAN
6.

RIT BUILDING

ORDINAL NUMBER

A GAME
7.

NOUN

NOUN, PLURAL

NOUN
8.

ADJECTIVE, ABSTRACT

NOUN, COMPLICATED
9.

FAMOUS PERSON

NOUN, A ROOM

WEAPON
10.

ADJECTIVE
11.

NOUN, IMPRESSIVE

NOUN, MAN-MADE
12.

FAMOUS PERSON

VERB
13.

NOUN, A ROOM

VERB

NOUN

NOUN
14.

RIT MAJOR

RIT MAJOR

1. WEDNESDAY, 12:56 A.M.

HI, RIT RINGS? MY FRIEND JUST TOLD ME THAT HE WAS GOING TO POUR <NOUN, LIQUID> ON MY <NOUN> AND THAT I’M GOING TO GET <NOUN> BECAUSE THERE’S <NOUN> IN <NOUN, SAME LIQUID AS BEFORE>. [THAT’S TOO BAD]!

2. FRIDAY, 12:08 A.M.

YEAH, EVERYONE AT RIT IS <ADJECTIVE> LOSERS, AND THERE’S NO <NOUN, PLURAL>, AND IT SUCKS.

3. THURSDAY, 3:57 P.M.

Okay, so, oh my <deity> Rings. It was just the great <noun, a kind of event> of <year>, and it was <adjective>! I miss the <same event> already!

4. FRIDAY, 12:08 A.M.

IF YOU LIVE IN THE <RIT APARTMENT COMPLEX>, DON’T USE THE <APPLIANCE>.

5. FRIDAY, 12:59 A.M.

I’m really hopped up on <noun> right now. Whoa, <curse>, <reproductive or-gan> <reproductive organ>.

6. MONDAY, 11:46 P.M.

SO, I’M IN <RIT BUILDING>, <ORDINAL NUMBER> FLOOR, AND I WALK INTO THIS ELEVATOR THAT’S ALREADY OPEN, AND NOBODY’S PRESSED ANY BUTTONS YET, AND IT WON’T MOVE, AND WE’RE AFRAID THAT AT ANY MOMENT WE MAY PLUMMET TO THE GROUND AND DIE. BUT UNTIL THEN, WE’RE ENJOYING THE TIME WE HAVE ON THE ELEVATOR WITH EACH OTHER. WE’RE PLAYING <A GAME>.

7. THURSDAY, 8:08 P.M.

HEY RINGS, SO WE’RE SMOKING A <NOUN> IN THIS HIPPIE DEN WE CREATED OUT OF SOME <NOUN, PLURAL> AND THE <NOUN> BY THE TENNIS COURTS. SOME OF THE KIDS DIDN’T REALIZE THIS PLACE EXISTED. IT’S MADE OF AWESOME.

8. FRIDAY, 5:11 P.M.

I have come to a <adjective, abstract> understanding: Women are more complex than <noun, something complicated>. Evil vixen!

9. SATURDAY, 3:18 A.M.

Alright, Rings, I’ve got it figured out this time! It was <famous person>, in the <noun, a room>, with the <weapon>!

10. TUESDAY, 12:15 P.M.

Ed Wolf looks <adjective> in an orange blazer.

11. TUESDAY, 5:45 P.M.

Hey, I was just reading the Reporter, and I just read the article about George Hotz who apparently hacked <noun, impressive>. After reading the article, it kinda sounds like he just invented the <noun, man-made> again. So, yeah, way to go, George!

12. FRIDAY, 9:58 P.M.

Hello, RIT Rings, this is <famous per-son>! I’ve <verb>ed your fricken’ puzzle. The answer is “your mother,” Trebek!

13. SATURDAY, 3:14 A.M.

Yo Rings, I was in the <noun, a room> the other day and the power went out, so it was dark. It was like Resident Evil. I was pissing. I thought I was going to get <verb>ed. If someone had touched my <noun> I would have turned around and pissed them yellow. So, anyway, I pissed, I made it fine, and I used my <noun> to get out of there. But [gosh], scariest thing that’s ever happened to me.

14. WEDNESDAY, 3:11 A.M.

MOMMY, CAN I BE A <RIT MAJOR> IN-STEAD OF A <RIT MAJOR>?

We remember

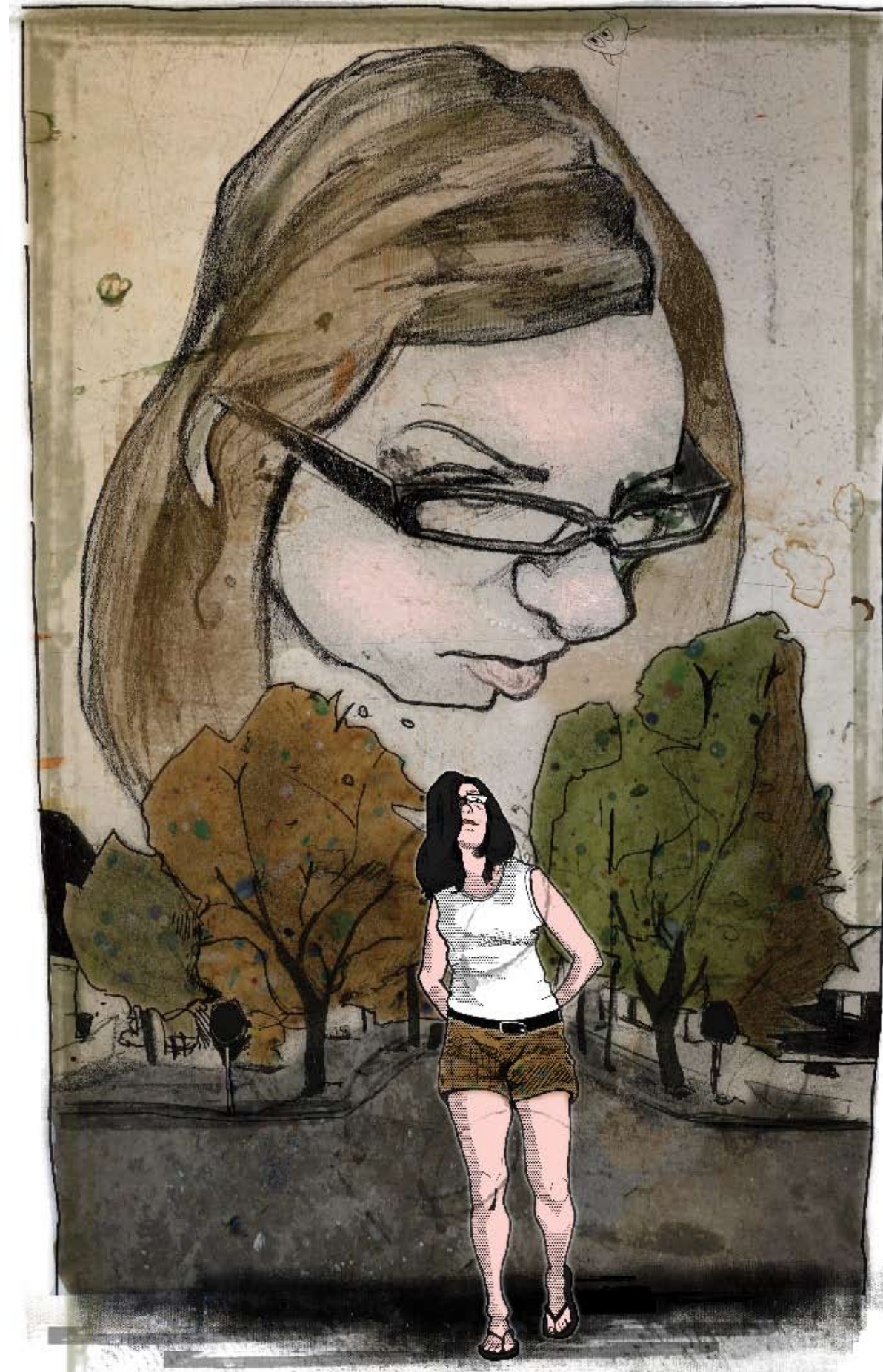
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STUCK IN A STANDSTILL

by Madeleine Villavicencio | illustration by Greg Caggiano

When I first stepped into the two-bedroom Colony Townhouse assigned to me and my three roommates, I was in awe. It was more spacious than I could have ever imagined, at least compared to the dorm room I had been stuck in the previous year. As I unpacked all my belongings, tantalizing thoughts of cramming a drum set in the basement danced through my mind. Everything was going quite well and fall quarter progressed rather nicely, but the nearly perfect living situation came at a price. Eventually, I realized that Colony Manor was an island... and I was stranded on it.

It is difficult enough to get around Rochester without a vehicle to drive to buy food off campus, go to the movies, or make a run to Wegmans with. This problem was addressed by Flex Car; if you really needed to go somewhere, that option would always be present. Unfortunately, it would not be logical to rent a Flex Car every time your stomach rumbled.

If you live in the dorms, Perkins, or Riverknoll, you hardly have to walk far to get something to eat. Living in Colony and finding your refrigerator empty makes the situation a little trickier. Assuming you have the cash and your parents are not already spending money on a meal plan, you can order take-out food from your restaurant of choice. If you need to finish off your debit, you can order a plate of wings and a number of other items to fill the ten-dollar minimum to order food from the Commons for delivery. Either way, you'll probably be spending more than you should, and have to wait longer. However, there is another option: **You could choose to walk all the way to Commons through the wind and the rain and the wind and the snow just to purchase another Quiznos sub.**

I suppose any two places on campus could be considered walking distance from each other, but Rochester weather hardly permits a walk that would not end with catching a bad cold or with slipping in a puddle or black ice and cracking your head open. It may sound lazy, but I am not too keen on walking to class every day when the surroundings are covered in snow or rain. For people like me, the bus would seem convenient, but RTS and I have a very frustrating love-hate relationship.

It began the very first day classes started, when I waited an hour and a half for the bus to simply pass me by. The stroke of bad luck continued when I ended up on the bus to Rustic Village and had to ask a roommate to come and pick me up. I need not mention the constant battle I face on Tuesday nights, wondering if I'm going to get out of the Reporter e-board meeting on time to catch the last bus at 9:25 p.m.

Students in similar situations probably encounter the same problems. It is difficult to get around when you do not want to inconvenience your friends and roommates and make them think that all they are to you is a driver. Maybe this will change for Colony students when Park Point is set up and fully functional. **Until then, who is willing to be hired as my personal chauffeur? •**

IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT

by Veena Chatti | illustration by Greg Caggiano

Where there is a will, there is a way. Living close to Colony Manor and opposite Perkins, I'm proud to say that I've been tough enough to walk to all my classes and labs and wherever else I want to go, come hail or storm. I chose to live here to experience life off-campus. I chose to avoid driving. As per DMV rules, if I (as a foreign national) want a driver's license in the US, it's got to be from the DMV of the same state as the institute mentioned on my visa (RIT, in New York state), and I've got to "turn in" my "foreign driver's license" so they can have it "destroyed." Since I shall definitely be returning home and using that document, such clauses do not strike me as reasonable. And maintaining a vehicle in America can become quite the pain. If you're always on the move, ready to hop onto a plane in the quickest of flashes, and unwilling to settle down anywhere for any duration of time, quickly getting rid of a vehicle becomes a hindrance. Presently, I like to live such that at any given point of time, I can pack everything in two large suitcases and be ready to permanently leave a place within a matter of hours, if I so choose. It's simple and hassle-free.

I do not feel that not driving a vehicle in Rochester makes my life any less of anything. Yes, we all know how cold it is from November to April, we all experience frozen branches and slush and what not, but these things are only minor impediments if you're spirited at life. If you've got the energy and are willing to think positively, this won't stop you from enjoying RIT. Tell good friends to call you when they're off to purchase groceries, but even if you can't, the shuttle goes to Wegmans on weekends. Keep a well-stocked refrigerator. Plan wisely. Go out with at least one friend who will be returning to campus in a sober state. Most importantly, think positively. Life is what you make of it. Incidentally, so is the weather.

Friends always understand when it comes to drop-offs at the airport, because everyone, regardless of whether they drive, generally appreciates a lift to the airport. If any of the friends I've made in the U.S. were to come to India, they all know that they can always rely on me a 100 percent for any help they would need there, and I'd be more than happy to drive them through our frighteningly, haphazardly beautiful traffic and quirky zigzag roads to show them around. It is only natural to want to avoid inconveniencing people, but you would do the same for them without any hesitation whatsoever if they needed it. Yes, the apartments are far away from the academic side, but it is essentially a five-minute walk to the dorms. **If you don't find the prospect of walking through snow enthralling, why attend RIT?**

The Institute cannot do anything to change weather conditions. It should really focus on ending the huge wastage it burdens the environment with: food waste, fuel waste, energy waste, paper waste... RIT's efforts at being environmentally friendly look like a pathetic joke when compared to other campuses across this nation. An institute which can't stop harping on about sustainability (or was it innovation? I forget) has got to have more to show for it than a green roof and a handful of hand dryers, and students whining about how far apart things seem to become in the cold only serve as another opportunity for RIT to be evasive when questioned about how it spends students' fees. •

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IMAGINE RIT

INNOVATION + CREATIVITY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, MAY 3
10AM-4PM

PRESENTED BY



PAETEC

Imagine... a festival showcasing the work of fellow student engineers and artists, entrepreneurs and designers, scientists and photographers. Envision how your talents, when combined with the abilities of your peers, could potentially change the world. Experience 400+ examples of innovation and creativity.



Being Green
Tired of outrageous gasoline prices? So is a team of RIT students. And they're doing something about it. RIT's

Greenvehicle Team R will showcase its first vehicle in its "R"eliability series, a car that can attain more than 800 miles per gallon and was built for less than \$5,000.



Creative Play
Watch pumpkins soar out of an air cannon toward a target more than 100 yards away. Use a laser putter to help line up your miniature

golf shot, then have your ball return by way of a conveyor belt. Enjoy interactive fun.



On Stage
Theatrical and musical performances will take place throughout the day on numerous stages around campus. Revel in a stage production in American Sign Language of NTID, experience a capella performances and witness the debut of Can you imagine, a song written specifically for the festival.

All of this, plus:

- Enter a virtual theater
- Learn how video games are developed
- See a 3-D asteroid
- Pilot a radio-controlled blimp
- Test drive a Segway
- Climb a rock wall
- Research and design projects
- Discover how a green lung cleans the air

Can you Imagine?

R·I·T

Discover what happens when
innovation and creativity converge
Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

www.rit.edu/imagine