

REPORTER

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EDITOR'S NOTE

A TOAST

Here's to America. You, dear nation, are one of only a handful of first-world nations whose legal drinking age is over 18. Your young adults—who in other arenas of their lives are considered old enough to drive a car, choose the next president, and make life or death decisions in the military—are driven to drink in secrecy (and, quite frequently, in excess; see page 20). Perhaps pursuing it precisely because it is the last “forbidden fruit” of adulthood, they plunge into the liquor cabinets of their parents and older friends like Olympian diving champs. With little to no guidance from their parents or older, more responsible role models, this behavior leads to approximately 5000 deaths every year, according to a 2007 report from the National Institutes of Health. That, I believe, is something to really take pride in. Congratulations, USA!

Er... Sorry. Did that come across as disingenuous? I admit, I wasn't being *entirely* sincere. Let me try that again; surely, despite our country's absurdly unrealistic, impractical, and, indeed, *dangerous* laws, there must be praiseworthy institutions in this country.

Here's to RIT. Ever watchful of your students' safety and morality, you have created a dry (or technically, “damp”) campus that even the Puritans would be humbled by. This is not because you ban alcohol outright (which, as it turns out, the Puritans didn't either); no, it is your system of rules and policies governing student behavior that our austere ancestors would be proud of. Students are not allowed to drink on campus unless they happen to be at the RITz. Students over 21 can drink if they live in the apartments, but not if they live in the dorms. Bulk containers of beer are fine in “institutionally designated party areas,” which may or may not be at the RITz (but never at the apartments). Although the drug and alcohol sections of these policies are more straightforward than, say, the rules regarding use of information in RIT student records, they're nuanced and prohibitive enough to foster plenty of secrecy in students, which can lead to unnecessarily risky behavior. When taken to extremes, a culture such as this can produce situations such as the hazing debacle that we saw with the Rugby team last year. Well done, RIT!

Okay, so that, too, was somewhat sarcastic praise. My point is, the way alcohol is handled at RIT (and even more generally, in this country) is totally backwards. A lot of it is out of RIT's hands—but not all of it.

The introduction of a Good Samaritan policy (page 4) is a huge step in the right direction—and I'm being completely serious this time. This policy allows students to get medical help for their friends without fear of getting in trouble for excessive, possibly underage, on-campus drinking. It doesn't punish students for the risky behavior, but it certainly doesn't encourage repeated risky behavior, either; it's a one-time-only deal, and is followed by an educational response. The Good Samaritan policy protects student health and safety, and allows students to act responsibly in a crisis. Furthermore, it allows students to get the help they need—both in the immediacy of an emergency situation, and later, as RIT's resources help them deal with whatever underlying problems may have caused that situation. That, at least, is something that I can honestly say deserves our praise.

Allow me repeat that one more time: RIT's Good Samaritan policy benefits everyone at this Institute, and makes our school a safer place.

So cheers to that.



Laura Mandanas

EDITOR IN CHIEF

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THEY CAN'T ALL BE CLINTONS

Would you rather have Stanley McKenzie for your Commencement speaker or take your own sister to prom?

Cover *photograph* by Scott Rounds

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RIT APPROVES GOOD SAMARITAN POLICY

by Kevin Keller

The Good Samaritan Policy, designed to give a one-time disciplinary break to students involved in an alcohol-related medical emergency, was recently put into effect. It drew mixed reactions from administrative figures and the student body.

Designed to protect students involved in alcohol-related incidents on campus who need to call the authorities. Under the policy, no charges will be brought up against the student who made the call, but they will be required to complete an educational program.

"It's not a get-out-of-jail-free card," said Ed Wolf, Student Government President. "It's designed for people that do the right thing. We want to make sure that [students] don't have to think twice about getting help for their friends."

"I am highly in favor of it," said Dawn M. Soufleris, the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs. "This policy was the result of a campus-wide alcohol task force that met for over a year during 2007. After it has been in effect for one year, we will re-examine [the policy] and make sure the wording is what works for our campus."

"Students will like this, because they get only a warning for something they shouldn't be doing in the first place," said Joseph Wong, a second year Biotechnology major. "This is a good policy, because once is enough. You give them an inch, and they'll take a mile."

The 2008-2009 fall quarter Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook will include this new policy. "We may also ask the FYE program to include it somewhere in their curriculum," said Soufleris. "We will incorporate it into our alcohol education program, SpiRITs, which we do for all incoming students, as well as active student groups."

MARCH ON-CAMPUS CRIME SUMMARY	
VIOLATION	FREQUENCY
Possession Of Marijuana	3
Computer Trespass	1
Arson	1
Disorderly Conduct	2
Forgery	1
Unlawful Dealing With A Child	2
Larceny	6
Auto Stripping	6
Burglary	1
Criminal Mischief	11
Reckless Endangerment	1
Harassment	7
Assault	2
Theft Of Service	1
Theft, Auto	1
Possession Of Stolen Property	2

Source: Public Safety

IMMERSIVE LEARNING TURNING HEADS

by Geoffrey H. Bliss | illustration by Bryan Williams

During an open house for RIT's CollaboRITorium, professors expressed their interest in what has been called an "immersive learning environment." The CollaboRITorium, billed as "RIT's mixed reality collaboration space for interdisciplinary creativity," operates under Wallace Library and is available to students of any discipline.

While still a work in progress, several classes are already using this space, such as Human Anatomy, Tangible Computing, and Frontiers of Science. The center's goal is to create a "trans-institute facility where collaborators from different disciplines can develop and display multidisciplinary projects" to "help develop a new culture of collaboration at RIT and elsewhere."

Dr. Jon Schull, professor of a class called *Innovation and Invention*, described his involvement with the CollaboRITorium with particular emphasis on the technology: "14 months ago, I got involved with the Dean of the College of Science [Ian Gatley] to help the science museum and planetarium replace their carousel projectors with digital projectors. I got very excited about that project because I realized that the planetarium was to become the world's largest immersive computer," Schull said.

This marked the beginning of RIT's interest in this technology. With regard to cost and how the project has changed, Schull commented, "Our immersion technology systems...can be put together for less than \$10,000, which is about a 10th as costly as commercial tele-presence systems and is arguably more versatile, though currently less polished-looking."

This technology has been used in several RIT classrooms. Dr. Richard Doolittle, Head of the Department of Biological Sciences and Professor of Human Anatomy (which uses the technology) stated, "It's been a terrific experience for me and my class of human anatomy students. I have no doubt in my mind that such an approach helps to improve student comprehension of material. In my opinion, any discipline that relies on the need to display images, video clips or animations from a variety of perspectives could benefit from such an approach. In teaching about human anatomy, this technology has helped improve the learning environment for students in dramatic fashion."



WITR UPGRADES SYSTEMS

by Rohit Garg

WITR recently upgraded its equipment and wiring, nearly a year after Engineering Director and fourth year Imaging & Photographic Technology major Jarret Whetstone made the proposal. Completed in two weeks, the \$40,000 upgrade entailed a new control board and access nodes, among other things. The signal is now converted from analog to digital through the nodes, and transmitted to the modulator via Ethernet. This prevents loss of quality before the signal leaves the station, resulting in better sound quality for listeners.

In addition to technical improvements, the studio also received a face-lift, with new carpeting and freshly painted walls by the radio staff. It is now possible to air from Studio B, which previously lacked the ability to broadcast, although Whetstone comments, "I wouldn't want to broadcast out of Studio B," due to primitive equipment. Among other technical improvements, WITR is now able to host up to four callers simultaneously during a show.

Whetstone remarked, "There was a week's shipping delay for some of the equipment, which resulted in additional downtime [during the remodeling]...it is mostly complete now, and only the guest studio remains to be updated. That will probably happen [this week]."

More than quality improvement and redecoration, the renovation was required, as according to Whetstone, the old wiring system was difficult to work with and was "literally falling apart." During the recent upgrade, the entire system was ripped out and replaced with a 24-wire ethernet trunk. Future installation of new equipment is now a matter of rerouting the digital signal.

"It's much more convenient and allows for much more flexibility," said Craig Ceremuga, General Manager of WITR and a DJ at the station, adding, "And it sounds better!"

WITR broadcasts 24 hours a day on FM 89.7 or on the web at witr.rit.edu.

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REMEMBER THE DAY, NOT THE STAIN.



RIT FORECAST

compiled by Joe McLaughlin

19 SATURDAY

RIT BADMINTON PLAY

SLC, 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. The winner of this tournament will be asked to represent the school in badminton tournaments at other schools.

Cost: Free.

20 SUNDAY

RIT SPRING JUGGLE-IN

Clark Gym, 8 a.m. – 10 p.m. The 31st annual festival features a competition for those who are good and lessons for those who are not. Go if you have the balls. Or bowling pins, pieces of fruit, or chainsaws.

Cost: Free.

21 MONDAY

BEST OF CLUB SHOWCASE

SAU Lobby, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Clubs compete to show off their accomplishments for the year. The winners will be displayed at the SG banquet and receive \$100 credited to their account.

Cost: Free.

22 TUESDAY

CSA WEEK

Clark Meeting Room C, 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. The Caribbean Students Association presents on how their culture impacts them and the community.

Cost: Free.

23 WEDNESDAY

PROFESSOR VINCENT GOLPHIN PRESENTS "STORY"

Wallace Library Idea Factory, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. In "Story," Golphin presents on how stories are used and how they are important to culture. He pulls examples from memoirs, poetry, and ethnographic studies.

Cost: Free.

24 THURSDAY

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE DISCUSSION

GCCIS Auditorium, 8:15 p.m. – midnight. Lobbyist Lori Lipman Brown is RIT's guest at a discussion of a cherished American value.

Cost: Free.

25 FRIDAY

CAB MAJOR SPRING CONCERT: JIMMY EAT WORLD AND PARAMORE

Gordon Field House, 7 p.m. – 11 p.m. Remember that song that was on MTV when you were in middle school and everyone was rocking out in their underwear? That was Jimmy Eat World.

Cost: \$17 students, \$26 faculty/staff/ alumni, \$31 others.

SG WEEKLY UPDATE

by Geoffrey H. Bliss

NEW RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

RIT will be facilitating new research and development opportunities, which will be open to both undergraduate and graduate students. The RIT Board of Trustees has announced that it will be working with SG to meet with different companies, some involved with sustainability practices. "The main objective is to strengthen our relations with business," said SG President Ed Wolf. VP Sasha Malinchoc explained, "Companies will pay students to do research for them, while RIT continues to get its name out there in the technology sector. The Institute is in a good position."

RIT COMMENCEMENT

There was a great deal of concern expressed at the meeting about the 2008 commencement speaker, RIT Provost Stanley McKenzie. Many students and faculty were disappointed in RIT's ability to find a speaker. "We don't pay our commencement speakers. We thought we had something but it fell through...[Nonetheless] Dr. McKenzie will tell some great stories," said Wolf. "President Destler really tried to find someone. The tone in his voice was very evident that he was upset, and I haven't seen him this upset in some time." RIT commencement will take place on Friday May 23rd and Saturday May 24th.

NEW SAAC PROPOSAL

The Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) has submitted a proposal to SG about its interest in improving athlete registration. The document intends to "make a change in school policy so that student athletes are extended the same courtesy of early academic registration as Honors Students and NTID cross-registered students." The proposal generated some debate. COB Senator Carlos Cornejo stated, "I think RIT athletes represent more than just a club, because they represent the school name." A representative of the Greek community said, "We should make the decision that we are an academic institution and not an athletic institution." Overall, opinions varied and SG has decided to work with SAAC to revise the proposal for next week.

GLOBAL VILLAGE UPDATE

Dr. Howard Ward, Assistant Vice President of Housing Operations gave an update about the progress of Global Village. "We plan to use a company called ARC out of Boston. We've been looking at many other universities' housing for inspiration such as the University of San Francisco." The project, which is expected to cost \$42 million, will offer many different living situations such as suite-style apartments with an emphasis on rising as well as upper classmen." There is a primary concern about cost. "We can't have kitchens in every apartment, so there may be common kitchen areas and kitchenettes," said Ward. Construction begins in June 2008.

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BIO CUPS BEING TRASHED, NOT YET COMPOSTED

by Andy Rees | photograph by Eric Drummond



New bio-plastic cups and plates are not being recycled by RIT Dining Services, but instead thrown out.

On March 10th, 2008, the RITz Sports Zone began introducing special tableware products made from compostable material. This introduction was to act as a pilot program to facilitate the reduction of the amount of waste generated by on-campus dining facilities. After use, the compostable product would be sold to Freshwise Farms, a local organic grower, to help defray RIT's additional cost in purchasing the bio-plastics over normal tableware. At Freshwise, the material could then be properly composted. As of April 4th, according to a concerned RITz employee, the product was not being properly composted.

"They take the compost and throw it into the trash, and then into the trash compactor," said the employee, who asked to remain anonymous. "I think it's wrong to lie to everyone... I was pissed when I found out."

When asked about this situation, Gary Gasper, Director of SAU Dining Services, acknowledged that he was aware that the compost material was being thrown out, explaining that there had been delays with Freshwise. "The bio-plastic cups... under ideal composting conditions, which is about 155 degrees, break down in about 180 days," remarked Gasper. Whereas food compost such as vegetables and fruit, he said, take 60 days, which means that farmers "are very apprehensive to deal with bio-plastic."

"We're waiting for Freshwise Farms to get back the contract to us," he said, pointing out that RIT had hoped Freshwise would have been on board by now. Freshwise Farms could not be reached for comment.

Gasper noted that while they are yet to begin composting, the RITz staff is attempting to train customers to properly separate compost from trash. In cooperation with the Student Environmental Action League (SEAL) and Engineers for a Sustainable World (ESW), the RITz has hired employees to monitor the compost receptacles, as well as to remind customers what is trash and what is compost.

"We're trying to create an awareness with our customers, as to where this stuff is supposed to go," said Gasper. "People say just 'throw the stuff away,' but where's 'away?'"

"[Dining Services] knew that they weren't going to [compost] right away, but they wanted to get the program started and start teaching students what should be separated out," said Heather Newton, president of SEAL, and one of the coordinators for the composting project.

"[Freshwise's] concern is that the paper plates and cups will blow out of the compost pile into neighboring lands," she said, which may be a cause for the delay with the contracts. One solution to this problem, she said, would be to use the FMS wood chipper on the compost material before it is collected. However, there is some question as to whether that is feasible.

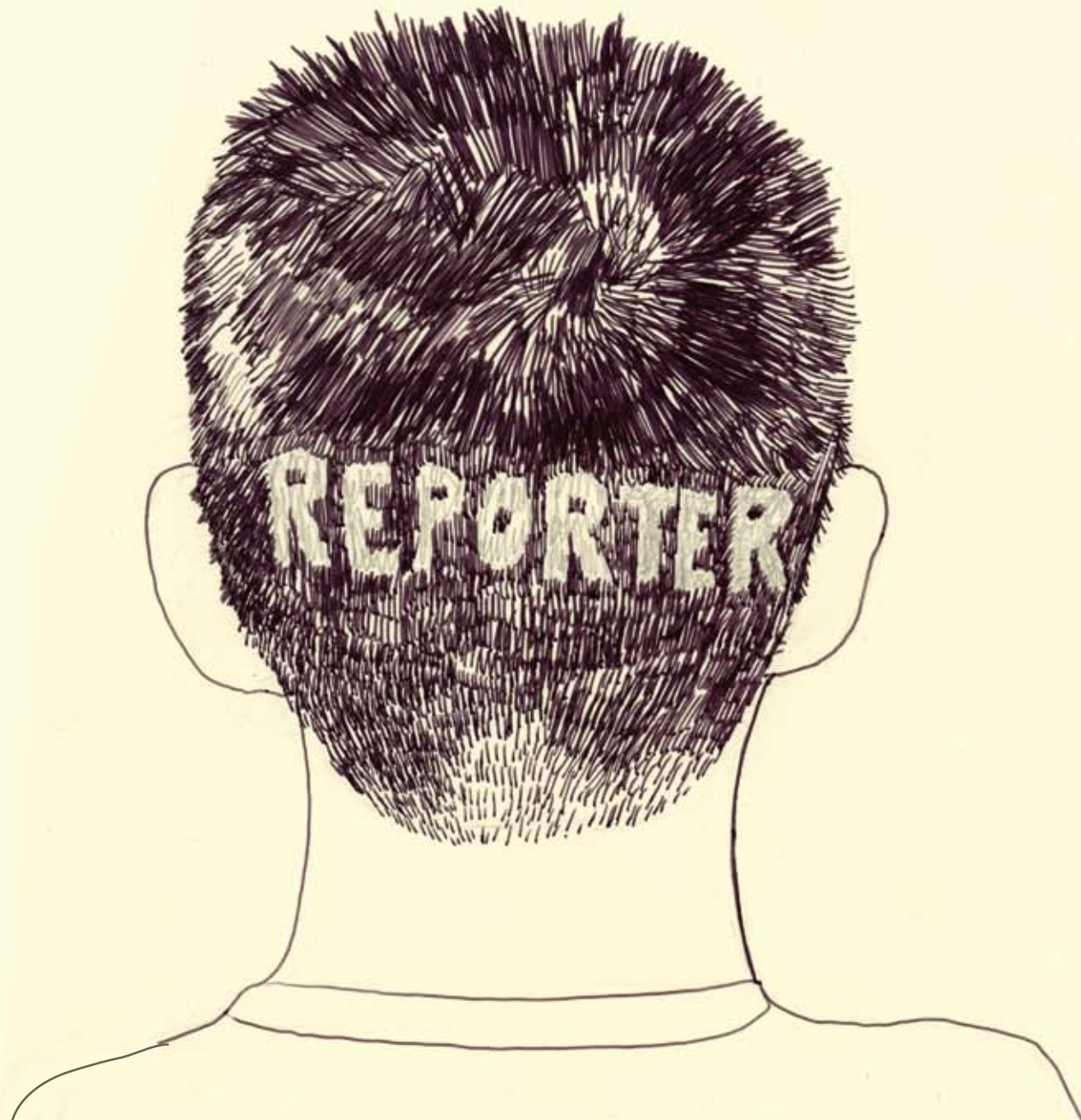
In the event that the Freshwise deal does not go through, Gasper, SEAL and ESW are looking into the option of creating a composting facility at RIT. "We're thinking about opening up our own compost," stated Gasper, but it will take time and consultation with organizations such as the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation." •

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JUDD LAIPPLY VISITS RIT

by Alecia Crawford | photograph by Tom Schirmacher

“Come on baby, let’s do the twist” blast from the speakers. The crowd went wild. Is it the song that’s making the audience go crazy? Think again— it’s the very first thing the audience hears when Judson Laipply starts the infamous “Evolution of Dance.” The “Evolution of Dance” has over 81 million views to date for the comedic and memorable dance moves that claimed YouTube fame. So why was he here April 12th? Not just to dance but to motivate.

The Ohio native got his BA in Recreational Leisure from Bluffton University and his Master’s in Recreational Leisure from Bowling Green State University. Laipply has always been performing and likes to entertain people, doing theater and chorus in high school and performing in college as well. He really liked talking to and entertaining people and that got him into motivational speaking. **The purpose of his lectures are “one, make you laugh, and two, make you think,” he says.** Laipply also reiterates two main themes in his lectures: the power of choice, and the idea that life is change.

The Evolution of Dance came about after a conversation with a few friends, in regards to how dance has changed over the years. The change in the dance goes hand in hand with his theme of change. After purchasing music editing software, picking out a playlist of 12 songs, and creating the choreography, the rest was history. The popularity of the dance has even gotten him to perform at a few NBA finals games. Even so, his message is often ignored in all the hype. Unworried, Laipply related, “If people are interested, they’ll find out more about it.”

Most interestingly, he talked about how life changes all the time; there are times when we have control over the situation and times when we have no control whatsoever. If we don’t have any control over the situation (for example, with a plane delay), Laipply advises not to stress about it, just let it go. **“The more stress you have, the quicker you die,”** said Laipply, jokingly, but nonetheless trying to prove his point: stressing all the time isn’t good for anyone.

Laipply was at RIT for Connectology to speak to the audience about rolling with the punches and making the best of any situation. He started off with jokes that reflected his theme and then moved on to presenting a game called fast fingers. The game entailed joining up with a partner, throwing your hands out quickly, pulling them back in, and then adding the total number of fingers between both your partner and yourself correctly to win. The point of the exercise was to show everyone their power of choice, since the way to win quickly was to think of the number you would throw out, then just add the number your competition had.

Laipply is currently working on another dance that should be out within a couple of months. •

REVIEWS



HULK HOGAN AND THE WRESTLING BOOT BAND
—Hulk Rules
by Evan McNamara

I have a unique fascination. I find it absurdly entertaining when things are done horribly. Whether it be they are zombie movies, crazy commercials, or oddities on the home shopping network, it seems that how much of a failure something may be just adds to its humor. There is something greatly satisfying about watching “Attack of the Giant Leeches” and noticing that the jaws of each creature were fashioned with plungers, and the “disgusting” larva sacks were nothing more than plastic garbage bags drenched in jelly.

Luckily for us, this principle of finding value in the most horrible of things extends to music

quite well. Enter Hulk Hogan and the Wrestling Boot Band. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that Hulk Hogan has no business making an album. We all know how it turns out when celebrities try to make music, and it is not good. Hulk and his band tackle every mid '90s style on Hulk Rules. From synthesized pop to rap and everything in between, there is surely something here for everyone to enjoy. Hulk's wife even sings back up! What more could you ask for? The album as it stands today is just so wonderfully horrendous that it must be appreciated. Such lyrical gems as “I used to tear my shirt, but then you tore my heart” from the monster ballad “Hulkster in Heaven” are one in a million. Hearing Hulk Hogan attempt to rap is only outdone when his wife chimes with a chorus of “Hey, check out the pythons, baby.” If you can sit through that without bursting out in laughter, you probably aren't human.

This album was put out in 1995, after Hulk had already established himself as a wrestler in the

World Wrestling Federation. The irony of this whole situation is that Hulk was actually discovered as a wrestler while playing bass in a bar band. The Wrestling Boot Band also included wrestler Jimmy “Mouth of the South” Hart, who actually enjoyed a bit of musical success before his days as a wrestler. His former band, The Gentrys, toured with Sonny and Cher, as well as The Beach Boys.

Ladies and Gentlemen, if you have a chance to get your hands on this album (and I won't detail how), you will thank me for it. If you fail a test, get dumped, or break your arm, this is a sure-fire pick-me-up. I leave you with words of wisdom from the song “Hulkster's In The House”:

We're rocking down the house The band is playing loud We're blowing off the roof And we're gonna rock n' roll.

It doesn't even rhyme— and that's what makes it so awesome!



PROM NIGHT
by John Howard



What do proms and psycho killers have in common? Nothing, but they're both in this movie.

Prom Night is a remake of the 1980 film titled (surprisingly enough) *Prom Night*. It centers around a girl named Donna Keppel (Brittany Snow), whose family is murdered when an obsessed teacher raids her house while she is out at the movies. Life goes on and the teacher goes to prison. Now, a few years later, it's prom night, and the psychotic teacher has escaped. He wants what he came for before, and will stop at nothing until he can hold Donna in his arms.

Plot-wise, this story was more of an equation than a structure:

Psycho in prom hotel + Character A that goes to get something from their suite upstairs = Psycho kills Character A. (Repeat with remaining cast.)

Things you expect happen exactly the way you expected them to happen. The only “scariness” in the film is the result of shock value, an easy cop out for any director with a bad script in their hands.

What isn't bad in *Prom Night* is genuinely cliché. From the Hollywood Club-style Prom at an extravagant hotel to the feuds between the popular and not-so-popular girls to the hip hop music that drones out any chance for the characters to say anything remotely intelligent, this film seems to be geared toward making America look cool to overseas audiences, or for fifth graders who just can't wait to get to high school. So if you've never stepped foot on American soil, or have yet to go through puberty, no worries, you'll have an easy time following this story.

If you're a gore fan who hasn't missed a sequel of *Saw* yet, you may want to pass on this movie. The effects are weak and unrealistic. If you're into the thriller stuff, come for the last ten minutes. If romance is your thing, this movie isn't that either. The relationships of the characters in this story are superficial and unnecessary to the plot.

Basically, the main flaw of this film is that it lacks any kind of focus. The movie is like a high school teenager trying to find their own style by borrowing from what has already been done (including a total rip of *Kill Bill: Vol. 1* in the opening scene). There is nothing new here, only remnants of other movies collaged together to cover up a gaping hole where originality should lie.

On a positive note, if you were a huge supporter of the day “*The OC*” went off the air; you should definitely check this film out. Sure, you have to sit through about an hour of *OC*-like characters blabbering about the same old melodramatic garbage, but they all get stabbed to death in the end, so, in fact, it's a lose-win situation. •

04.18.08

AT YOUR LEISURE

by Isa Shaw

QUIZ

1. Which YouTube “Top 10” list is Judson Laipply's “Evolution of Dance” video not on?

- a. Most Viewed
- b. Most Discussed
- c. Most Favored
- d. Most Rated

2. What does the “HD” in HD radio stand for?

- a. High Definition
- b. Hybrid Digital
- c. Hit Dice
- d. It doesn't stand for anything; it is a trademarked brand name.

3. Which recyclable product does the Greenpeace website highly recommend using whenever possible?

- a. Plastic
- b. Timber
- c. Ferrous Metals
- d. Concrete

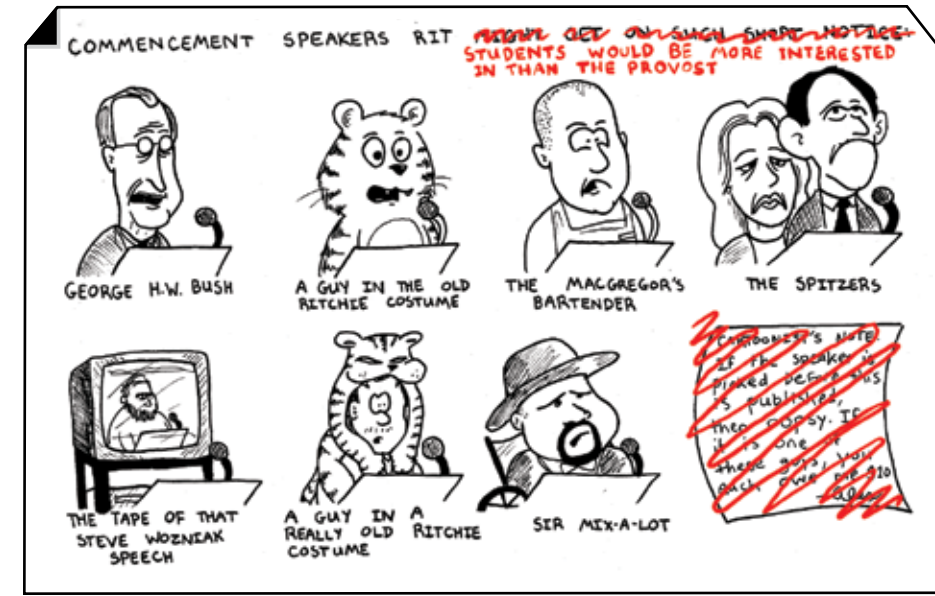
4. The “Big Book” released by Alcoholics Anonymous compares alcoholism to...

- a. a mosquito bite
- b. an allergy
- c. Mel Gibson
- d. a band-aid

5. True or False: In Indiana, it is illegal for liquor stores to sell milk or cold soda.

- a. True
- b. False

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



REPORTER RECOMMENDS

You don't wear a wife beater. Just because it's warmer outside doesn't mean you have to look like just another dull-witted frat boy. If you really want to do that, why not go all out and don a Mickey Mouse tee with parachute pants and matching rhinestone gloves? That's sure to garner the attention you desire and truly deserve for making such a statement. On second thought, maybe you should hold the gloves; it is, after all, nice out.

DIFFICULTY RATING:

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

SIGN OF THE WEEK: ARE YOU SINGLE



QUOTE:

“I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.”
—Thomas Alva Edison



» students behind the bar

by Ilsa Shaw
photograph by Scott Rounds

b

ehind every vodka tonic, dirty martini, or slippery nipple are the caring hands of a bartender. During the hectic hours of the night, they are the order takers and drink servers who provide a generally enjoyable time which represents the atmosphere of the bar as a whole. Perhaps the most prominent image of the bartender has been a likable and extremely charming individual who is fun to talk to and also a great listener. However, despite their usual charming and laid back disposition, bartenders can lead quite stressful lives, especially when paired with 18 credit hours and a quarterly school system.

When last call finally rolls around at 2 a.m., everyone must leave the establishment. Bartenders, on the other hand, have to stay. The closing ritual requires ejecting the drunks, cleaning up, and counting every single penny earned. Chances are, the whole ordeal will take at least another hour, and at the back of that student bartender's mind is that midterm tomorrow.

The most obvious reason to consent to this 4-a.m.-to-bed-8-a.m.-to-rise schedule is this: money. The possibility of earning large amounts of cold hard cash at the end of a busy work night is very appealing. But where a slow night with minimal clean-up might mean an earlier arrival home, it may also spell financial disaster.

» *the works*

"All week, everyone is looking forward to the weekend to go out, party, and unwind from the week before it. As a student bartender, though, if you want to make money, your weekend is filled with work," remarked Mike Katz, a former student of RIT. "One of the smartest things a customer ever told me after I had told him I was contemplating changing my major from Finance to Hospitality was that I didn't want to do that for one reason... 'You're working the hardest when everyone else is having the most fun.'"

As opposed to the Sunday night homework and cramming sessions most students are used to, Katz had to be at the bar on both this day and the following one. "If I made it to class on time or at all, I was usually far too tired to comprehend anything."

Katz also chose to get certified at the Bartenders Professional Training Institute, by Jefferson Road. Nevertheless, certification simply proved to add to the level of stress. "During the certification, I attended my RIT classes during the day. [I had] 16 credit hours, Monday through Thursday,



ful guide for those first learning to bartend. Even so, seasoned bartenders are often met by puzzling questions of mixology. “It took me maybe...three months before I was totally comfortable with making drinks. I’m still learning, because there are so many drinks... It doesn’t matter what manuals you have, people are going to have different shots,” noted Armstrong.

» *the balance*

A common problem in the world of bartending students is the thought of cutting out school entirely. A late-night Friday shift more than makes up for the cash-flow of most other weeknights. This sometimes leads some to the belief that perhaps the money made from bartending may bring about more than the career for which their degrees are aimed. Accordingly, academics often ends up taking a back seat.

When asked if his academics suffered at all during his time as a bartender, Katz replied, “Big time... it really got in the way of a lot of things; and things like double shifts, or open-to-close shifts left me too tired to even con-

template classes and school work. There were still days during the week that work didn’t affect, but those days were for classes. Soon, it got to a point where I was either at work, or in class, 60 plus hours a week.” Hayes added. “It’s just hard to keep up sometimes. You just look at the kid next to you who got a higher grade and think, ‘Well, he didn’t just work 30 hours this weekend.’”

Of course, all this leads to stress, an important emotion every bartender (or prospective bartender) must learn to keep in check. “It’s always stressful, but letting it get to you just creates more stress, and that’s exactly what you don’t want,” noted Hayes. “You just have to be able to juggle time really well and understand that days off don’t mean play time. They mean homework and studying.” Or, as Katz delicately puts it: “Just suck it up and deal with it!”

» *the perks*

Despite the stressful combination of work and school, it seems as if these bartenders enjoy being kept occupied. The monetary incentive

surely helps. “Financially, it was definitely worth it,” said Katz. “Slow shifts and day shifts can be awful, but a really busy Friday night can more than make up for it. One week, my Friday night tips were close to \$350, which was more than my Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday tips combined.”

“I have met some amazing people, learned true dedication, and [that] sometimes it is worth it to be busy. I am never really bored. There is always something going on with me,” said Hayes. “I love my job so much that on my nights off, I normally find myself there hanging out with everyone.” With a reminiscent smile, she added, “I am really close with everyone there; they treat you like family.” Last call after last call, these are the students who are able to manage it all: the quarterly school system, the high double-digit credit hours, and the cumbersome late nights. •

photograph to the left by Dave Londres

and then I went to BPTI from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, as well. These days were definitely a bit rough, which is why, for anyone interested, I would suggest taking the course over the summer if you aren’t registered for classes, or over a break.”

The class certainly was intense, but thankfully for Katz, it lasted only two weeks and provided preparation for what was to come. It isn’t necessary to take a bartending class and be certified, but some bar owners require it. Some bartenders-to-be choose to jump directly into training, as was the case with Alyssa Armstrong, a third year Advertising and Public Relations transfer

student. “I bartended [at Dub Land Underground] a couple of times and then, after maybe three or four times, one of their bartenders was fired. So they asked me if there was any way that I could come in every night...I served as a server for three years, so it wasn’t like I was completely clueless. I knew what [ingredients were] in certain things just [from] being a server so long,” noted Armstrong.

Such is also the case with fourth year Advertising and Public Relations student Robin Hayes, who happened to stumble upon bartending through a friend. “She just asked me if I wanted to bartend and I was more than ecstatic, and

so grateful that [the bar’s owner] was willing to let us work even though we had no idea what we were doing,” recalled Hayes. “The most interesting experience was our opening weekend. I had no idea what I was doing and the bar was packed. I learned everything by trial-and-error and by just jumping into it. I would joke around with customers asking them if they knew what was in the drink, as if I was testing them. When, in reality, I had no idea what was in the drink.”

Each bar is usually equipped with a guidebook describing how to make just about every mixed drink imaginable. It serves as a help-

Ever wanted to be able to say, “Would you care for a Screaming Purple Jesus?” with a straight face and a drink in hand to boot? For those who haven’t said it already, here are some mixes for the most oddly named of concoctions. ▼

» *screaming purple jesus*

2 liters of grape soda
2 cans of Mountain Dew
1 pint of white rum
1 pint of vodka
1 splash of triple sec
Instructions: Mix everything in a gallon-sized container and add a splash of triple sec for taste. Then chill, serve over ice, and start offering Screaming Purple Jesuses to people.

» *the slippery nipple*

1/2 shot Sambuca
1/2 shot Bailey’s Irish Cream
Instructions: Pour Sambuca into a shot glass (preferably conical; that is, after all, what coined the slippery nipple’s name), then slowly pour the Irish cream down the sides of the glass so that the two liquids do not mix. For that extra touch, place a cherry in the bottom of this conical shot glass.

» *the vegan russian*

Rice Dream or other rice milk
2 shots vodka
1 shot Kahlua
Instructions: Simply pour into a glass over ice and stir. As always, vegan Russians are tasty, low-fat, and lactose-free.

IN EXCESS: DRINKING AT RIT

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, part of the U.S. National Institute of Health, defines binge drinking as “a pattern of drinking alcohol that brings blood alcohol concentration (BAC) to 0.08 gram percent or above...[within the span of] two hours.” Roughly, this translates to approximately five drinks for men and four drinks for women, depending on body mass.



by Maximiliano Herrera | illustration by Greg Caggiano

Certainly, not every RIT student stops before they reach that four or five drinks. Many of us have stories involving our friends walking in drunk at one in the morning. They disappear and we think nothing of it, only to find them passed out, propped up against a toilet an hour later. Even if you have never been the one propped up against the toilet, the scenes which lead up to that are a familiar scenario. It seems to be a staple of every college and high school movie—*Superbad* comes to mind. The message so frequently depicted in the media is that partying and having a great time while getting drunk is much more fun than being responsible. But is there more to the story?

It may be surprising, but according to the U.S. Office of Substance Abuse Prevention, the average college student spends up to \$466 on alcohol a year. Put together, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that college students spend over \$5.5 billion on alcohol annually.

While it is possible for a party to take place without vomit, accidents, or fights, it is highly unlikely that there was not at least one example of the negative effects of inebriation. On average, 1400 college students die in alcohol-related incidents says the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University. Health issues, poor academic performance, destruction of property, and sexual assault add to the mix.

According to the Harvard School of Public Health's College Alcohol Study, “About 10% of female students who are frequent binge drinkers report being raped or subjected to non-consensual sex, compared to only 3% of non-bingeing female students. Furthermore, most campus rapes occur after heavy drinking.” In addition, CASA reports, “Alcohol is involved in 90% of campus rapes.”

Despite the undeniable harm that drinking can bring, why do students continue to do it? Hardly out of the ordinary, first year Mechanical Engineering Tech major, Tom Coppinger says he drinks twice a week. He reasoned, “RIT sucks,” and he wants to “to have some fun,” while Jared Clark, a first year Polymer Chemistry/Pre-Med major, says that he drinks “to get away at the end of a hard week, and to have a good time.” This indicates that there is definitely an aura of novelty surrounding drinking. “You can do things that are socially embarrassing and nobody will hold it against you,” Coppinger added. In essence, the idea of binge drinking is tied to reck-

“I drink once or twice every week... [but] I control everything I do”

lessness and freedom.

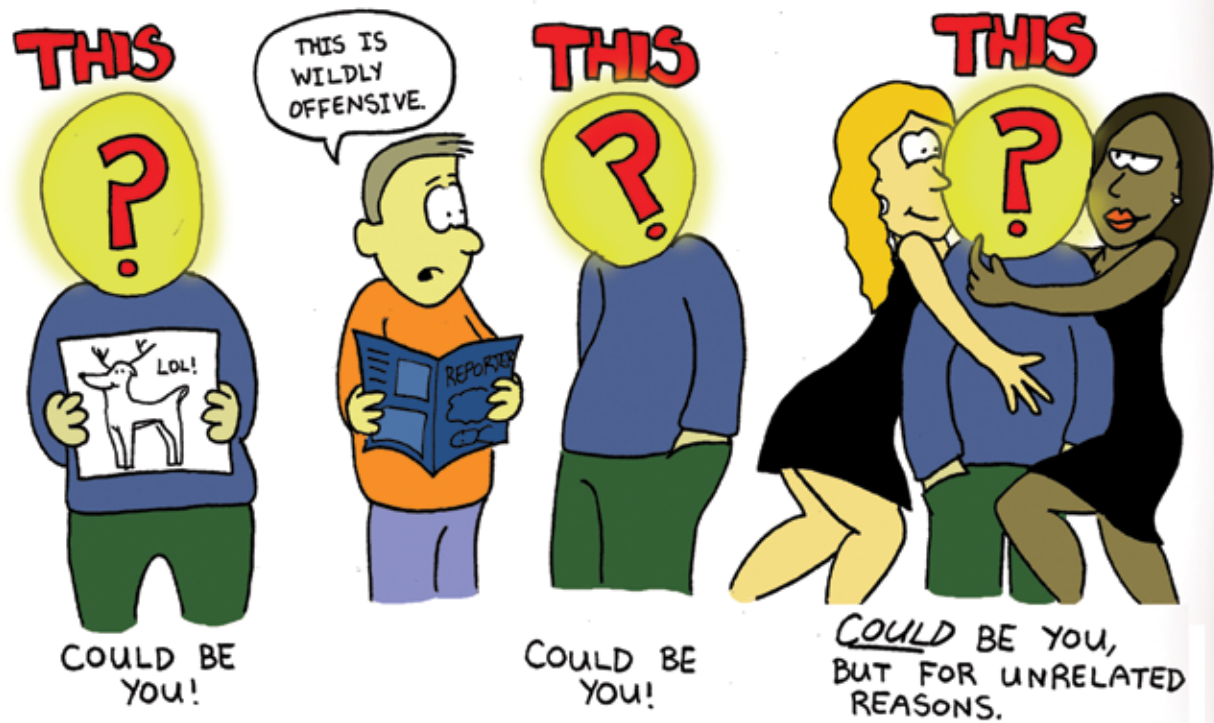
However, some RIT students feel they are being responsible. Coppinger affirmed, “I always have a DD.” Additionally, Clark offered this advice: “If you're going out, be responsible...and don't make it a habit. Be smart about it.” Clark is no teetotaler: “I drink once or twice every week... [but] I control everything I do”.

Are RIT students as responsible as they claim to be? Steph Lipari, a third year Ad Photo major and Resident Advisor (RA), said, “Drinking is not a huge problem [in the dorms], but it is still an issue.” On the other hand, Diana VanGorder, a third year Interior Design major and RA, noted, “[Drinking] can be a problem, depending on the person, because students are not always responsible when they choose to drink.” When asked about the difficulty in dealing with drunk students, VanGorder responded, “It can be frustrating depending on the situation, and whether the person is being belligerent.”

Unfortunately, just because RIT students think they are responsible, it does not mean that the problem is any less severe on other campuses. “We're the national average for a university our size in respect to the amount of drinking problems” said Karen Pelc, Coordinator for the Alcohol and Drug Program at the Student Health Center (SHC). When asked about students being responsible when drinking, Pelc responded, “The age group of students under 21 are using it illegally, and that's not being responsible.” She also mentioned that students above the age of 21 tend to take more responsibility, but many will still act irresponsibly. That being said, I asked Pelc which groups are the most likely to binge drink or abuse alcohol, and she answered, “Freshmen do drink a lot because they are just away from parents, and they are exposed to a lot. Statistically, Greeks and athletics are also a high risk group, but a lot of them do have educational programs inside their organizations.”

With this in mind, RIT does provide services to prevent alcohol abuse through the SHC. “We try to do non-alcohol events. We are involved in the Gordie Foundation, and we have giveaways with educational messages. We hold programs with peer educators, and speeches. We have a big focus on social norm-ing,” Pelc mentioned. In addition to the prevention services, the SHC has the Alcohol and Drug program to help people cope with and manage their substance abuse. “The big thing for us is that we want to educate it and let people know that we're here.” •

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THAT GUY

by Ilsa Shaw | photograph by Ross Thompson

NAME, MAJOR, YEAR? James McNabb, fourth year Woodworking and Furniture Design major.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THAT? Well, I kind of struggled in high school with my academics but strived in the arts; so I took a lot of woodshop and a lot of art classes. That led me here, mostly because of the facilities. This is my last year here, so I've been here for a while, doing this.

ARE YOU IN THE WORKSHOP A LOT? It's a pretty demanding program. It takes up a lot of time, but you get a lot out of it, because there's a physical reward at the end. You get a finished piece that you can have forever.

DO YOU EVER GIVE ANY OF THE PIECES AWAY? Yeah, I've kind of given a lot of my student work away. I'm doing a couple small commissions. I'm designing a couple of products that I'd like to start getting manufactured, which would be interesting. I'm making these iPod accessories.

IPOD ACCESSORIES? I'm making these iPod pedestals. They have the cord running through them, and it kind of just presents your

iPod. But I'm doing a couple of those, and I'm just trying to finish up as much as I can before I graduate.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO AFTER RIT? I'm going to try to apply to a couple of different places: either a production shop where they're building furniture, or a design firm where they're designing. And it's not limited to furniture. I want to be involved in new ways of thinking and innovative ideas. I just want to be surrounded by creative people and new ways of thinking about things.

I SEE YOU'RE WEARING HEADPHONES. WHAT SORT OF MUSIC DO YOU LISTEN TO? I like to try out everything. I kind of like to say that I'd listen to anything once.

EVEN RAP AND COUNTRY? Oh, yeah. And a lot of hip-hop.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE ARTIST? No, not right now. I'm listening to a lot of things. I'm trying not to restrict myself to any one genre. It's too hard to narrow it down like that. •

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1



3



2



4

SPORTSDESK

photographs by Jeff Conner

1// RIT starting pitcher Carlissa Cole pitches during game one of RIT's double header sweep of Elmira on April 6, 2008.

2// RIT's Stephanie Nailos slides into home. Safe!

3// RIT first baseman Amanda Morehouse applies a tag to an Elmira player during an attempted pickoff play.

4// RIT's Breana Sniezek bats in the second game of the double header sweep of Elmira.

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APRIL 18TH



Photo by A. Sue Weisler/RIT

The 5th Annual Conference for Undergraduate Research in Communication, sponsored by RIT's Department of Communication, takes place April 18 in the Student Alumni Union and the Wallace Library Idea Factory. College students from throughout the Northeast come to RIT to present their research in talks and posters displays. This is a free event for the RIT community.

www.rit.edu/curc/

date	location	time
4/18/08	STUDENT UNION WML IDEA FACTORY	ALL DAY

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RIT RINGS 585.672.4840

compiled by Karl Voelker

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

SATURDAY, 1:37 A.M.

They found the source of the music. This is truly the day the music died.

MONDAY, 12:46 A.M.

I just want to let you know my floor is sopping wet, but at least it's clean.

FRIDAY, 12:29 P.M.

HEY RIT RINGS, OPEN HOUSES SUCK.

SATURDAY, 12:37 A.M.

Yo, there's a kid passed out on the floor right here, and I'm in a hammock. Why don't bears like hammocks, dude? They're so comfortable. And when you hibernate, bears hibernate, man, it's, like, winter. Peace.

SATURDAY, 11:59 P.M.

[I don't like] prohibition! I am at a speakeasy, and the password is "I'm here to see a man about a bunny." You should totally come.

SUNDAY, 2:40 A.M.

Some one just gave me a shot with a fish in it. Does that mean I'm gonna die? I don't know. If so, please call 9-1-1 immediately and send them my way.

SATURDAY, 2:50 A.M.

It's Friday night: it's a Destler night! We're calling it the sink, we're calling it the trashcan, we're calling it the Vomit City, son! 14623, it's the vomit town!

SUNDAY, 3:11 A.M.

Yo, RIT Rings! There was some guy that called and said he liked the redheaded lady at Gracie's. Well, I wanna say, she's mine first. She's so hot.

SUNDAY, 2:31 P.M.

Hey, Rings! Yeah, it's 60 out and I'm eating this fudge cake. But it's not even cake, man, it's like fudge, pure 100% fudge, man. You've gotta eat this [crap], but you're gonna get diabetes.

WEDNESDAY, 12:34 P.M.

Yo, Rings, you want an easy way to let everyone know that your parents have money? You should wear the Park Point apparel or messenger bag that they give you when signing up.

SATURDAY, 1:35 A.M.

So, I'm standing out in Sol Quad with three friends and myself, and on the fourth floor of Gibson, somebody's blasting music into the quad at practically two in the morning. I'm just wondering, how many officers of Public Safety does it take to turn down the music? ... Because, so far, two have shown up and have not been able to find the source of the music.

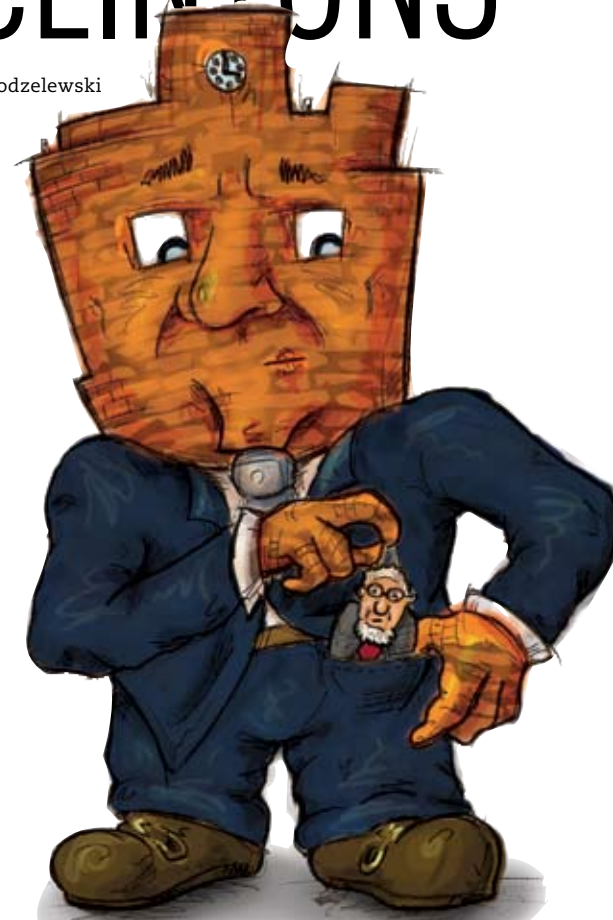
SATURDAY, 10:46 A.M.

Rings, I have bad news: Free Willy has been released for the third time. When will that [splash]ing whale die already?

THEY CAN'T ALL BE CLINTONS

by Casey Dehlinger

illustration by Robert Modzelewski



No one is happy with the situation. No one profits from having our own Provost serve as our special guest speaker at Commencement. In all fairness, there is nothing wrong with Dr. McKenzie as a person. (Granted, I've only seen the man once, and that was when he spoke at that other "big C": Convocation.) It is unfortunate that he will be leaving RIT with the most stigmatized RIT Commencement in recent history.

Being stuck with our own provost for a Commencement speaker is about as taboo as taking your own sister to prom. That isn't to say that your sister is a poor prom date. For any other guy, she could be the belle of the ball, but as is the case with our man Stan, it's the incestuous nature of the engagement that troubles all parties involved. And the fundamental question is the same in both scenarios: was a "family" member asked because the inviter believed it was actually a good idea, or because the inviter was actually that desperate?

I'm not sure which is the lesser evil. I respect Dr. Destler, and feel like he's doing his best to promote positive change on campus. That being said, couldn't he recycle a speaker from the University of Maryland? How can Destler talk the big wigs into donating the big bucks to RIT if he can't even convince one to say a few words to our graduating class? I almost hope that Destler thought McKenzie would be a wise choice for fear that the alternative actually puts the Institute's future in grave danger.

It isn't too much of a stretch to want to honor Stan, though, is it? Does the man not deserve an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from RIT? Sure he does, but I have

serious qualms about him signing and validating his own degree, since that's sort of his job here: making sure that our BS degrees add up to more than their initials.

And yes, the situation brings up logistical nightmares. Since the provost serves as an MC of sorts, will he have to welcome himself? The student voice at the ceremony has already been castrated by selecting a representative from each college and giving them a mere 30 seconds to inevitably thank their families, congratulate their colleagues, and watch the long cane pull them away from the podium before they manage to say anything of great consequence. Did I mention that their 30-second pitches are pre-screened by the administration? Destler and McKenzie offer the threat of a homoglossic ceremony. We need an outsider for the sheer sake of adding another voice to the mix.

In light of all this, I feel sorry for Dr. McKenzie. There is no doubt in my mind that he will give a great speech (at least, he should: he has a Ph.D. in literature), and it is regrettable that many students have attached a ball and chain to his name and dropped it in the pool during the early stages of frustration when their comments can more constructively be directed to Sue Provenzano, who is always calm and keen to respond to rational student concerns involving Commencement. To be clear: what I protest is the invitation, not the man.

I'm afraid it's too late to change things, no matter how loud we scream. The Administration has a good reason not to budge: the only thing more offensive than asking your own provost to speak at Commencement is to imply that he is unfit for the task by revoking the invitation. We were never meant to be happy with the 2008 Commencement speaker; we would inevitably consider them lackluster in the shadow of Bill Clinton. As the last eight years have proved, and as the Administration will inevitably defend themselves, "They can't all be Clintons." The truth is that they couldn't find anyone better.

Jokes and rationalizations aside, there is something much more personal and deeply demoralizing. I just spent four years at an Institute that I've found has more or less catered to my needs. Imagine working every day for four years on a masterpiece: your greatest painting you could ever hope to accomplish. And, after all that time it spent materializing in your mind, haunting your thoughts, tying itself to your very identity, you show up to opening night at the gallery and not a soul is willing to introduce your accomplishment.

I am not being taken seriously as a student. A seed of doubt has been planted in my mind concerning the prestige of this institute. Had my family not already booked a hotel room for the ceremony, I would seriously consider skipping out on it, as oh-so-many RIT students do, and oh-so-many more RIT students will. •



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