

# REPORTER

APRIL 25, 2008 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM



**IMAGINE RIT** A SNEAK PREVIEW

**SG ELECTION CONTROVERSY** DEYHIM CLAIMS BIAS

**PARKING REDESIGN** RIT CONSIDERS PARKING GARAGES



# REPORTER

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# EDITOR’S NOTE

## AWKWARD SILENCE

I don’t agree with Josh.

It’s nothing personal; I think he’s a really great guy (see page 23), and I admire his willingness to make himself so vulnerable for something that he believes in. Still, I don’t think there’s an essay in the world that could change my mind about the absurdity of organized religion and most of the beliefs these religions hold.

Despite that, I find Josh’s assessment of our campus to be dead on. While it’s second nature for many of us to talk about the ethics of time travel or to have heated debates on the morality of local and national politicians, once the conversation turns to matters of religious faith, many of us (myself included) become decidedly uncomfortable. And then we shut up.

In a parallel situation, many of us feel that same creeping sense of discomfort—and then shut right up—when conversation turns to matters of sexual orientation. (Serious conversation, that is; we generally seem to be at ease with joking remarks and flippant stereotypes.) I can only imagine how difficult it must be to come out (see page 31) when the typical response is a resounding, awkward silence.

This is a problem—the silence, that is. Not the discomfort. People *need* to feel discomfort from time to time; it’s like Miracle-Gro for their karmic well-being. It keeps you from getting stale and closed-minded. It stimulates personal growth. Shutting up when confronted with challenging and uncomfortable situations, however, doesn’t do anyone a bit of good.

Fortunately for us, the RIT student body provides a near unending stream of awkwardness and discomfort, if you venture far enough to find it. The admissions office has done a pretty good job of gathering up a diverse group of people to populate our classes and hang out along the Quarter Mile. All you have to do is step outside of your comfort box a bit and talk to them.

So even though I don’t agree with Josh, I have a lot of respect for what he’s doing. Guerilla marketing for God? Brilliant. I’m not sure how many converts it will garner, but it’s sure to get people talking.



Laura Mandanas  
**EDITOR IN CHIEF**

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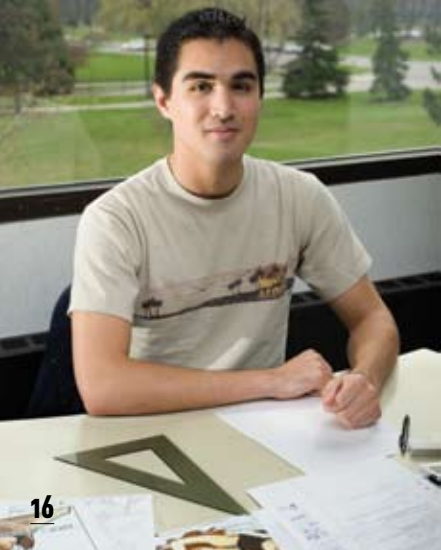
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Slackline photograph by Eric Drummond.  
Innovation photograph by Oscar Durand.



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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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**[WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM](http://WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM)**

## CORRECTIONS

// April 11 – The Polar Bear Club is currently on Red Leader Records, not Geffen records.

// April 18 – The RIT Spring Juggle-In was actually held from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday, with a show at 7 p.m.

### DEAR REPORTER:

I have attended RIT commencements for the past quarter century and I have heard commencement addresses spanning the entire range of quality from brilliant and inspiring (Dean Kaman) to preachy and self-promoting (Bill Clinton). None that I can recall evidenced the slightest interest or particular knowledge of RIT that might have made them memorable. I have more vivid recollections of the weather on each occasion than of the speeches. (The most dramatic weather was a torrential thunderstorm during RIT’s first outdoor commencement underneath a gigantic white tent, and I have long forgotten who spoke to us on that occasion.)

To those students who believe they are being shortchanged by this year’s choice of commencement speaker, I urge you to reconsider. You may be surprised at what you can learn from a man who has lived his entire professional life at RIT, through all kinds of storms

and stresses, triumphs and catastrophes, and who has proven time and again that he can deliver one hell of a great spoken performance when he is as passionate about the topic as he is about RIT.

I guarantee that Stan McKenzie’s words will be far more memorable in the long run than the canned remarks of an overpaid and disinterested professional commencement speaker—the standard drivelt at events of this kind.

PROFESSOR FRANK COST  
College of Imaging Arts & Sciences

### DEAR REPORTER:

As I write this, I cannot feel anything but concerned about the state of the student body on this campus. Yesterday, on April 16th, I participated in an event held by ResLife called “Ending Violence Everywhere.” The event was specifically held on the one year anniversary of the Virginia Tech Tragedy to raise awareness and concern about campus violence and its prevention, especially at R.I.T.

During my short period of time sitting at a table set up in Gracie’s, I have to say I was disappointed by the apathy demonstrated by the student body about this serious matter. When reminded about the tragedy, most students simply said “Why should I care?”

And why should you care? It is not as if as a low technology school we are not affected by the event. Granted, a year has passed, and no, I do not expect R.I.T. students to come marching out wearing orange and maroon carrying candles in remembrance. However I don’t think it is out of line to ask people to be aware and concerned about events like this.

What happened a year ago has passed, yes, but don’t we owe some sort of respect? Separating oneself from the events make them easier to cope with and forget, but being apathetic doesn’t change anything. If anything, it adds flames to the fire. I’m sure that people here would be devastated if something even remotely similar happened on campus. How would you as a student body feel if after a year people simply didn’t care about the fact that your friends, family, teachers, co-workers and

colleagues were brutally murdered?

I don’t expect this letter to change anything - in the almost three years that I have been here there seems to be a continuous cycle of complaints without action. Not to say that there aren’t people on campus that set out trying to make a difference, but there are many more who would, for all intensive purposes, allow themselves to be beat over the head, complain about it and never strike back. My hope is the same as it was yesterday - to raise awareness and get people thinking about what is important. I can only hope - the rest is up to the students.

PRAJNA CHOPRA  
Third year Diagnostic Medical Sonography

### DEAR REPORTER:

Thank you for taking the time to cover the launch of Fli Digital’s Fresh Mobile Platform, a suite of hosted applications designed for managing, optimizing, and delivering content to mobile devices such as cell phones and smart phones. Since there are so many “moving parts” in what our software does in the mobile industry, I wanted to further clarify a portion of the article, which was quoted in the 3rd paragraph.

The Mobile Carriers, specifically in the United States, are very protective of their customer base as well as their primary revenue stream, therefore they each impose their own set of rules for how you can interface with their systems to deliver and charge for content. Additionally, there aren’t a whole lot of standards across the device manufacturers, which adds another level of complexity. This combination of obstacles, in addition to the end-user knowing how to access the mobile Internet on their cell phone, are the challenges we have faced.

With these challenges multiplied by a device database of about 4,000 devices and hundreds of carriers world wide, our software development team was truly challenged when building out the Fresh Mobile Platform.

We invite you to learn more about the product at <http://FreshPlatform.com>, or if you want to see it in action on behalf of a client, visit <http://mobile.GoComics.com> for the most popular comic content.

SCOTT TEGER  
Managing Partner of Fli Digital, Inc.

# RIT FORECAST

compiled by Rohit Garg

## 26 SATURDAY

### TORA-CON

SAU, 8 a.m. – 11:59 p.m. The annual convention held by the RIT Anime Club. Here’s an excuse to dress up in a costume—make sure you can dance in it, though! Undressed (not in costume, that is) spectators permitted. **Cost: \$18.**

## 27 SUNDAY

### SCCA AUTOCROSS

Parking Lots G & H, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Autocross tests the bend maneuvering skills of competitors on a tight course with speed and noise limits in place. **Cost: Free for spectators, \$10 for Jr. Drivers, \$25 for SCCA members and \$40 for weekend members.**

## 28 MONDAY

### RIT DIVERSITY DAY

Gordon Field House, 9 a.m. – noon. Learn why diversity drives innovation, and what’s in the passenger seat. You will be shown what happens when cultures collide. **Cost: Free.**

## 29 TUESDAY

### ART OF SCIENCE TELEVISION

Ingle Auditorium, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. Alan Ritsko, Managing Director of NOVA will talk about “The Art of Science Television” show from PBS’s premier science series. He will also show clips and answer your questions. **Cost: Free.**

## 30 WEDNESDAY

### ISAAC L. JORDAN SR. FACULTY/STAFF PLURALISM

#### AWARD CEREMONY

Fireside Lounge, noon – 1 p.m. Find out who the champion of diversity is among several honorable nominees. The Isaac L. Jordan Faculty/Staff Pluralism Award recognizes a history of service and commitment toward diversity, inclusion and pluralism. **Cost: Free.**

## 1 THURSDAY

### LIP SYNC CONTEST

Grace Watson, 8:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. Think you can sing? Well, it doesn’t really matter. Watch students trying not to sing while moving their lips—a ventriloquist’s nightmare. Conquer stage fright and try some lip syncing yourself, for a chance to win prizes. **Cost: Free.**

## 2 FRIDAY

### SPRING 8-BALL POOL TOURNAMENT

RITz Sports Zone, 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. An 8-ball tournament being held by the Pool Club. I recommend stopping by the game room beforehand to sign up or take cues. **Cost: \$5 pre-registration, \$7 at door.**

# SG WEEKLY UPDATE

by Geoffrey H. Bliss

## SG ELECTION RESULTS

The election results for Student Government are in after the polls opened on April 14th, finally closing on April 18th. There was a total of 3,369 voters. Ed Wolf/Matt Danna won the SG Presidency with a total of 1,939 votes. The COB Election will be held again later in the week, because one candidate was accidentally placed on the wrong ballot, being in the COS instead of the COB. One presidential candidate, Michael Deyhim, asked that the election results be sealed and that Wolf and Danna be disqualified from the ballot for alleged election violations. After a closed session, SG denied his motion.

**CAST SENATOR** Frank Pekarski  
**CIAS SENATOR** Adam Richlin  
**COLA SENATOR** Thisie Schisler  
**COS SENATOR** Heather Drake  
**GCCIS SENATOR** David Mullaney  
**WOMEN’S SENATOR** Emily Hughes  
**ACA PRESIDENT** Ashlee Alexander  
**NTID STUDENT CONGRESS PRESIDENT** Noella Kolash / David Baughman  
**OCASA PRESIDENT** John Connelly / Timothy Wallenhorst  
**RHA PRESIDENT** Phillip Amsler  
**GLOBAL UNION PRESIDENT** Aditya Manjrekar / Manasi Manjrekar

A complete list of election results is available on the SG website at: <http://sg.rit.edu/index.html>.

## GLOBAL VILLAGE COMMITTEES

In regard to Global Village, Vice President Sasha Malinchoc stated, “I met with Dr. Ward about Global Village, and we decided against a one-year lease of housing which has a lot to do with sophomore retention rates. We plan to have several subcommittees of Global Village including Theme and Cultural Housing, Entrepreneur House, Parking and Transportation, sophomore experience, architectural design and retail.” Senators will join any committees in which they are interested. These committees will give direction to the future of Global Village.

## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATOR POSITION REVISITED

Cory Cress, an RIT student working towards a Ph.D. in Microsystems Engineering, addressed the senate in regard to a graduate student senate position: “We had a meeting with Dean Moore of the College of Graduate Studies,” he said. “The graduate student council has met twice a week since its start. People have indicated that they want graduate student representation.” The way in which this senator will be elected was discussed. “The best thing we can do is keep moving forward,” Cress said. “For now, we’ll have to appoint someone for the remainder of the year.”





# URBAN DESIGN PLAN ENTERS THIRD STAGE

Cars parked in G lot, September 26, 2007.

by Andy Rees | file photograph by Dave Londres

On April 14th and 15th, Parking and Transportation Services (PATS) held open focus groups presenting proposals made for improvements to parking and transportation on campus. The focus groups were held in cooperation with national consultants Martin Alexiou Bryson (MAB), a transportation and traffic engineering firm, and Cooper, Robertson & Partners (CRP), an urban planning firm. These latest proposals represent the third phase in a strategic planning initiative by PATS, to improve how students, faculty and staff move to and around campus. This third phase comes after open forums, held in March, where students and faculty were invited to share concerns and problems with the current systems.

With the growth of the RIT student population in mind, parking problems took the forefront of the discussion. According to MAB, RIT has run out of usable land for parking lots, citing RIT's commitment to maintain a certain amount of wetland area. Among other options, MAB's proposal for new parking garages received the most attention.

"Knowing that we had significant environmental constraints with building surface lots, the only way to meet that desire... is to consider parking garages," said Paula Benway, Associate Director of PATS. "If you look at the future growth that the university will be undergoing in the next 5 to 10 years, we have some very difficult decisions to make. We'll have a significant demand for additional parking and somehow or another, we'll have to address that."

Student reactions were mixed toward the idea of parking garages, with many concerned about the cost of garage spaces. "As a commuter student... I'm already poor... costs really add up," said Aeryn Daboin, a fourth year New Media Design major. She noted that many of her friends already pay for reserved passes.

Other ideas presented at the focus groups included new bus lines, designed to better serve the demands of on-campus transportation. These lines would ferry students between apartment complexes and the center of campus. However, even with improved schedules

and more convenient routes, some residential students, like Jonha Smith, a second year Illustration major living in a Colony Manor apartment, said they would still drive to class. "I just feel comfortable in my car," said Smith, who says he bought a reserved pass.

CRP's section of the presentation focused on the urban design aspect of the planning initiative. Their recommendations included landscaping features in parking lots to cut down on wind gusts, and how to better improve pedestrian flow on the Quarter Mile. One suggestion addressed the need for a more solid connection between the residential and academic sides of campus, with a new tunnel spanning the area between the Student Life Center and buildings 28 and 30.

The final proposal, the fourth phase of the initiative, will be presented to the RIT community in May, for review and critique, according to Benway. Once the community has made suggestions, PATS will begin drawing up a plan during the summer to present to the Administration. •

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(over the munching sounds)



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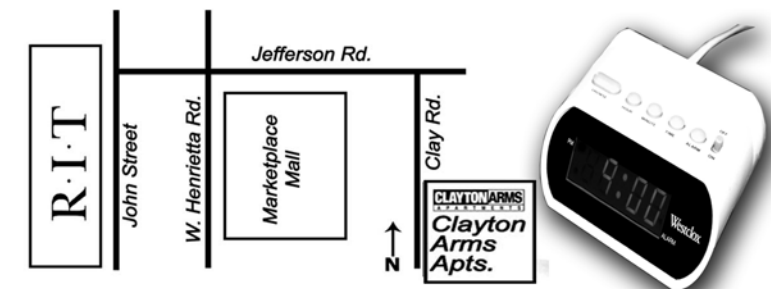
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# Deyhim: “SG screwed up.”

by Joe McLaughlin | photograph by Oscar Durand

Michael Deyhim, former candidate for Student Government President, claimed voting irregularities seriously hurt his election bid. “SG screwed up,” he said. “After all the money and time I spent, [SG is saying] basically, ‘Screw you.’”

Deyhim’s problems started early on Monday morning, when a profile was not posted next to his name on the election website. Deyhim had sent an e-mail to RIT student and SG Systems Administrator & Developer Bob Carroll the previous week, asking to review his profile. He did not receive a response. “That was intentional,” said Carroll, “candidates have no reason to contact me directly. I felt, ‘Wow, this guy is wasting my time.’”

A profile that was eventually posted for Deyhim came from information in his elections packet, which under SG rules, had to be submitted by March 28th. “SG may have had that data,” said Carroll. “I didn’t have that data... It’s sad that there was a miscommunication internally, but these things happen.”

## “There was so much misconduct by students, staff, and administration.”

Deyhim wanted to change that profile, and on Monday inquired with Carroll. At about 8:30 p.m. that night, Carroll responded by e-mail: “I would expect any serious candidate to put effort into his or her campaign... The basic profile I posted was a courtesy to the candidates, not an obligation,” he wrote. Carroll then listed technical requirements for the profile. He continued, “Your complaint, while valid, ranks low on my list. It became nil when you took on the attitude that SG owed you something. You might get away with that nonsense with other people, but it won’t work with me.”

Other members of the Election Committee disagreed with that e-mail. “Bob sent this e-mail as a representative of the Elections Committee without having met with [them] to get their feelings. If there was a profile for one candidate, there should have been a profile for all candidates. SG does owe Michael something, and I would generally disagree [with the e-mail],” said SG Vice President Sasha Malinchoc and Chair of the Elections Committee, adding that she does not believe Carroll is biased.

Dr. Heath Boice-Pardee, advisor to SG and associate vice president for Student Affairs, said, “I do not believe for one minute that [Carroll] would skew data toward one candidate.” He also said, “I can’t speak for what Bob said, or his choice of words.”

Colette Shaw, another advisor to SG, said that Carroll’s e-mail “was talked about and addressed,” at a closed meeting of the Elections Committee. “[The Committee] was making attempts to fix things. Their good will was turning into confusion,” she said.

The Committee decided to extend the elections by three hours, so they would end at 2:59 a.m. Friday morning. “That’s the amount of time other candidates had profiles posted while his was missing,” said Shaw.

Following this announcement, Dr. Harvey Palmer, dean of the College of Engineering, sent an e-mail to all engineering students endorsing Wolf for SG President. “While I prefer to remain on the sidelines with respect

to Student Government elections, I do believe that it is in the college’s best interests to have KGCOE students like Ed representing the interests of students on the RIT campus,” he wrote. Palmer then urged students to read a short paragraph written by Wolf and to visit his website.

A comment from Palmer was unavailable at press time.

Deyhim asked SG to seal the election results and disqualify Wolf and Danna at its April 18th meeting. After adjourning to a closed session, SG denied Deyhim’s motion and released the results, naming Wolf the winner.

“There was so much misconduct by students, staff, and administration,” Deyhim said. “I am not going to let this issue drop.” He said plans to introduce an amendment to the SG bylaws making several changes “so these mistakes cannot happen again.” •

## DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL SPEAKS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

by Kevin Keller

Katherine Kennedy, New York State Special Deputy Attorney General for Environmental Protection, spoke at RIT last Wednesday to raise awareness of the environmental challenges that face New York State, and to work with the public to bring light to problems and explore new solutions.

The evening opened with a short speech by Kennedy highlighting key areas and court cases that the Attorney General’s office had been investigating over the last year. Topics ranged from air pollution to water pollution to toxic pollution, all taking place in the state of New York. After the speech was finished, there commenced a question and answer session. “It’s been an exciting year. We’ve been able to get a lot of work done across the state, yet we know that New York faces tremendous challenges moving forward, whether it’s global warming [or] toxic pollution,” Kennedy said.

Kennedy said that one of the major accomplishments of the Attorney General’s office for the year was the enforcement of the Clean Air Act against coal burning power plants and other companies. The Clean Air Act is a law that works to reduce the amount of smog and air pollution. “Many [plants] have expanded their operations, increased their emissions, and yet still not put those modern controls on, and that’s a violation of the Clean Air Act,” Kennedy said.

Litigation has included reaching a settlement about two months ago to shut down a power plant in Greece, which released roughly 20,000 tons of air pollution each year. “[We] were able to negotiate, very promptly, a settlement with the company which we feel is really in the best interest[s] of everyone,” Kennedy said. “In ad-

dition, the settlement required the company to pay a \$200,000 civil penalty to the State of New York, and also to provide \$500,000 to fund pollution reduction projects in the area. At the last check, the company has already closed down three of its units. The last unit is slated to be closed down in May.” The old plant will be replaced by a modern natural gas facility that will deliver cleaner energy to the community.

One question was raised related to the nation’s energy crisis and topics dealing with gas taxes and whether removing said taxes was a wise move. “It’s not clear that higher gasoline taxes or gasoline prices have good environmental impact. I think the way that we want to move is to have alternative fuels and better vehicles... consumers want change and are willing to look at cars that are cleaner and to buy cars that are cleaner,” Kennedy responded. “I think that there are many ways of getting at reducing the air pollution from the transportation sector without getting the taxes.”

One audience member questioned the progress being made in the state’s hydroelectric power projects. Kennedy replied that the state was making efforts to expand the systems currently in place and was also working to get new systems in place. “The state has adopted... a requirement... that calls on the state to get 25% of its energy from renewable sources by 2013,” said Kennedy.

Kennedy was appointed to her current position in February 2007 by NYS Attorney General Andrew Cuomo. The position was created as part of Cuomo’s emphasis on protecting New York’s natural resources. •



# FROM MARRIAGE TO MUSICAL

by John Howard | illustration by Greg Caggiano



Stewart Lane has been married to the theatre ever since his first experience with it: a production starring the father of his best friend. It was love at first sight. Since then, Lane has worked as an actor and producer on Broadway, in addition to receiving a Tony Award for his work in *Jay Johnson: The Two And Only*.

Recently, Lane came out with a very approachable and encouraging book titled *Let's Put On a Show* that offers a step-by-step process for the theatre rookie—from raising funds to dropping the final curtain—outlining how to put on a successful play.

Reporter caught up with Lane and talked to him about his new book and experience in Broadway.

**REPORTER** How did you get started as a producer in the Broadway industry?

**STEWART LANE** Well, I started off as an actor. I was a graduate of Boston University, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre. But by my late twenties, I felt as though I was always going to my next job with my hat in my hand. I wanted to have at least the illusion of some control over my life. And being a producer (kind of) offered that illusion. So if [a show] worked, I could take credit, and if it didn't, I could say I tried my best, and I can't point my finger at someone else.

**R** Was it hard to get started?

**SL** Well, certainly, when I went into producing, nobody wanted to be a Broadway producer. All the glamour and money was in television and movies. But by 1981, Broadway started to get its legs back again, and today, there's an amazing array of things on Broadway.

**R** What are you currently working on?

**SL** I have three shows running. I have *Legally Blonde* running at the Palace Theatre. I've got *The 39 Steps*, a very funny interpretation of Alfred Hitchcock's famous movie, playing at the Cort Theatre. And then, I've got *Sunday in the Park with George* (a revival from England) that's playing at the Studio 54 Theater. And then for next season, I'm bringing together a musical called *Stormy Weather* based on the life of Lena Horn. When written, it will be a younger Lena and an older Lena who reflects back on her life. Leslie Uggams will star as the older Lena.

**R** Any shows that you would recommend?

**SL** Oh, boy, it's a great season... Just take the revival categories. I mean, I did *Cyrano de Bergerac* earlier this year, which got wonderful reviews. Since then, *Macbeth* just opened up with Patrick Stewart, which got wonderful, wonderful reviews. And they just opened up *Cat on the Hot Tin Roof*, a revival of the Tennessee Williams play, which also got very excellent reviews. Then in terms of musicals revivals, you got *Sunday in the Park with George* and *South Pacific*, which got equally good reviews, and also *Gypsy* (with Patti LuPone) got very nice reviews. Even best new play, you've got *The 39 Steps*, you've got *August: Osage County*. Very exciting stuff! This is a very wide range of things out there.

**R** Let's talk about your book. How long has it been out?

**SL** It came out in April and I'm just hitting my stride now in getting it to universities and getting it on the college radar. I'm learning that it takes time to write a book. It's much different than producing a show.

**R** Why did you want to write a book?

**SL** There is nothing out on the market now like this. Mounting theatrical productions is difficult anywhere and no professional in the business has ever written a book like this. No matter if it's a high school, community theatre, or even a Broadway production, this is a book that you can use to actually put on a show and solve some of the hurdles that come along. A lot of the questions that I mention in the book are the same questions that you ask when you're putting on a Broadway show: "Who's my audience? How do I reach them?"...That kind of thing.

**R** So you wrote the book to reach people interested in theatre?

**SL** Not only did I write the book, I actually sent the book out to a high school outside of Philadelphia to use because they had no budget for their theatre program. They went to use my book to see if [it] works or not and it turns out it was a resounding success. The director got three schools in the district to come together to put on their show of *The Wizard of Oz*. They had, like, 150 kids all together in this show. Even the parents got involved. It was a great theatrical experience and solid foundation for being in the theatre.

**R** So you'd recommend this book to anyone doing this for the first time?

**SL** Doing it for the first time, and even you wanted to start your own regional theatre company, this is a terrific book to have.

**R** Any future books planned?

**SL** Well, I am planning a DVD version of this book. I just finished taping it and hopefully, in the next two or three weeks, I should have a DVD version available.

**R** You mention in this book that your relationship with the theatre is like a marriage. How would you say your marriage is going?

**SL** Right now, the marriage is going swimmingly. But you know, the theatre can be a hard wife. Sometimes, it'll embrace you for being a genius and wonderful, but the same community will say, "How could you put on such a wreck?"

**R** Overall, has it been a rewarding experience?

**SL** Oh, I've been very lucky. It's been extremely rewarding, you know, and I mean this in the best way: it's almost schizophrenic. The highs are really, really great. To hold the artistry together, the money together, the concept together, and to have it work is amazing. And likewise, the disappointments are really tough to take, because, you know, you put a lot of years into these projects. They say it takes a musical six to seven years to go from a concept to the stage.

**R** Any words of advice for aspiring theatre actors or producers?

**SL** My major advice is to enjoy the work involved in it. Don't get involved if you think you want to be a star and make a lot of money. Do it because you enjoy the process. Otherwise, I think that way lies madness.

Stewart Lane's book, *Let's Put On a Show!*, is available at Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble. Or, go straight to the publisher and get a 20% discount at HeinemannDrama.com. •

RIGHT NOW, THE MARRIAGE IS GOING SWIMMINGLY. BUT YOU KNOW, THE THEATRE CAN BE A HARD WIFE. SOMETIMES, IT'LL EMBRACE YOU FOR BEING A GENIUS AND WONDERFUL, BUT THE SAME COMMUNITY WILL SAY, "HOW COULD YOU PUT ON SUCH A WRECK?"



REVIEWS



PUBLIC ASSISTANCE  
Why Bother Working for a Living?  
by Susan Cook

Have you finally unlocked all the new characters in *Smash Bros. Brawl*? Then maybe it's time to take a step away from your electronics. It's warming up outside, so why not gather a few friends and play *Public Assistance*?

**GAME PLAY:**  
You begin the game as an able-bodied welfare recipient. Your general goal is to spend as little time as possible in the "working person's rut" with a real job. Instead, you want to commit as much welfare fraud as possible. As you go around the board, you do everything from committing robbery to prostitution, having as many out-of-wedlock children as possible to collect benefits from them, and so on. Welfare recipients can then spend money on the lottery and horse betting.

If you're unfortunate enough to get stuck in the working person's rut, you have to pay for things like groceries and gas. At the end of the game, if you're still there, then you pay taxes as well.

The game instructions can be a little heavy on the liberal-hating, but once you're already playing, politics are the last thing on your mind while boasting about your eleven out-of-wedlock children earning you benefits each month. (I got that many playing the game the first two times!) The game doesn't even require any real knowledge or specific opinion of the welfare system.

**STYLE:**  
The board is in full color and the printing quality is really nice. The economy version of the game is printed on cardstock. The deluxe version comes with a flat-lying vinyl spill-proof board. Both games come with half a million (game) dollars, 30 out-of-wedlock children, game pawns, 50 Welfare Benefit cards, and 50 Working Person's Burden cards. The Benefit and Burden cards are

almost exactly like Chance and Community Chest in Monopoly.

Also, the game doesn't have its own special box. Instead, you are given a label that you put on the box in which it was shipped. The sticker label is the same one that was on the original game, and very clearly states that it was banned in the '80s. Several groups were working together to get the game banned until recently. If you'd like to read more about that, there's a full 10 pages on the website which talk about it as well as the idea behind the creation of the game.

**COST:**  
Economy version: \$19.90  
Deluxe edition: \$35.90

**RATING:**  
9 out of 10 (Lots of fun!)  
  
Discover the fun of fraud at <http://www.welfare-game.com>

?

MYSTERIOUS MYSTERIES  
- Mysterious Mysteries -  
by Evan McNamara

Mysterious Mysteries' self-titled EP is perhaps one of the most cohesively written pieces of music I have ever had the pleasure of hearing. Even though lyrics are scarce and there are no repeated musical or lyrical themes, there seems to be a strong plot that strings each song together without morphing them into one composition. This EP plays like a novel that, while short, is extremely interesting from start to finish.

The opening track, "Chapter One," serves as an introduction to the scene where the story will take place. Reverberating guitars drone ominously as an eerie birdcall echoes on the air. This seems to cleanse the musical palette, as a lilting fingerpicked baseline fades in until it reaches full volume, and the second track, "Chapter Two," begins. The drums and bass lock tight together and lay the foundation for vocalist Jade Soto's soft, throaty croon. Soto possesses a smoky tone that seems to channel the jazz singers of old. The vo-

cal melodies and those carried by the guitar are simple yet memorable. Towards the end of the track, the band gains momentum, and conflict builds into a monstrous wall of dissonance until the clash is gloriously resolved. The track rides out on a major chord and all-around good vibes. As the plot thickens, "Chapter Two" showcases a conflict which is ultimately resolved as the parties go their separate ways and, to quote Soto, "say their goodbye." Of special note is the amazing slide guitar that closes out the track.

Track three paints an image of a sunny, spacious scene with a bright guitar cadence and smooth vocals. A new character is introduced when bassist Brandon Musa lends his voice to provide a new dimension to both the sound and the plot. It is now clear that "Chapter Three" outlines a passionate love story. The anecdote is told with clever metaphors comparing the choosing of a lover to picking fruit from a tree. But be careful... there is no way to tell if your fruit is fermented until you take a bite!

As track three fades to a close, we are met with the interlude of "Chapter Four." Simple ukulele

and bells serve as accompaniment as Soto sings of a longing for the past. "Chapter Five" opens with a western-styled guitar lick, painting a picture of a lonely desert road. As the track wears on, however, the plot evolves to include a triumphant and climactic march.

I won't spoil the final two tracks, or "Chapters" as the band calls them, but you would be doing yourself a favor to check out Mysterious Mysteries. With a sound that draws from the theatrical leanings of Mogwai, the shimmering buildups of Explosions in the Sky, a little bit of the experimental side of Deerhoof, and an emotional intensity all their own, there are nuances to their sound that will please even the pickiest of critics.

This is as much a story as it is a piece of music, and considering the fact that this is the band's first release, there is no reason to believe that their next record will be anything short of breathtaking. Does the story end in triumphant fanfare, or in a fateful dirge? In either case, the suspense created while listening for an answer keeps the ears attentive until the very last note. •

04.25.08

AT YOUR LEISURE

by Lisa Shaw

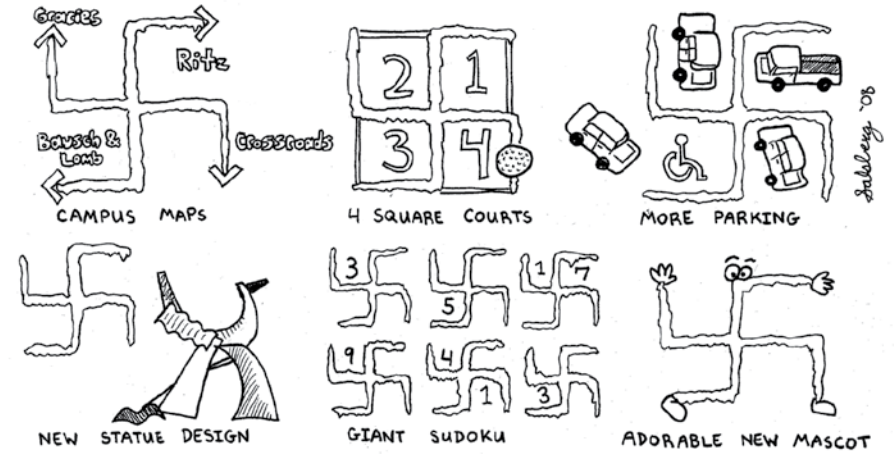
STREAM OF FACTS

Forty six years ago, a group of researchers decided to administer LSD to an **elephant**. The dose was 297 milligrams, about 3000 times the level of a typical human dose. To this day, it remains the largest dose of LSD ever given to a living creature. After firing the cartridge-syringe, Tusko the elephant shifted around in his pen for a few minutes and eventually keeled over on his side. The researchers concluded: "It appears that the elephant is highly sensitive to the effects of LSD."

The film *The Elephant Man* portrays the life of Joseph Merrick, a man with a frightful condition that winds up socially exiling him, even landing him a spot in various **freakshows**. The main condition behind the disfigurement is known as Proteus Syndrome, a congenital disorder which causes an overgrowth of skin, bones, muscles, fatty tissues, and blood and lymphatic vessels. In Merrick's case, it caused him to look less like a human and more like an elephant.

**Freakshows** were outlawed in Britain during the 19th century, yet continued until the 1960s. Two years ago, a London exhibition known as 'Pleasurelands' paid homage to the history of freakshows and included displays of midgets, the deformed, and the morbidly obese. The exhibit was protested, mainly by disabled groups, and deemed "the pornography of disability." •

HOW HIT CAN USE ANTISEMITIC GRAFFITI TO ITS ADVANTAGE:



REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Sitting in the grass. Embrace your inner hippie and enjoy the wonderful weather for once. Make the study time in between classes relaxing and avoid the indoors like a bad case of the bubonic plague. Fear not, laptop junkies, there are power cords near just about every pole, tree, and brick on this campus. While you're at it, pick up a cheap bike and make time for an interesting adventure. It's a little known fact that there are great trails in the area.

DIFFICULTY RATING: MEDIUM

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

QUOTE:

“Black holes are where God divided by zero.”

— Steven Wright

SIGN OF THE WEEK: I SLEEP NAKED





# Imagine RIT

by John Howard and Madeleine Villavicencio  
photograph by Eric Drummond

**O**n May 3, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., innovation will take over the RIT campus. Thanks to the Innovation Festival's major sponsor, Paetec, left and right brain thinkers will gather for RIT's first (and soon to be annual) Imagine RIT festival, to kick off the month of May.

"The idea is to take the lid off of RIT," said Bob Finnerty, Chief Communications Officer of the Institute. Students, alumni, and the general public will gather to see all of what is going on here on campus. Projects from GCCIS to CIAS will transform the RIT campus to a playground of innovation. There will be robots to control, poster sessions to participate in, and performances to watch. With the Spring Fest happening the same day, there will also be a carnival to enjoy. "It's just a great way to show off RIT in one day," said Finnerty.

The Quarter Mile will be lined with exhibits guiding people to other regions on campus where organizations and colleges will open people's eyes to what RIT has to offer. "It's the full brain experience of RIT," said Barry Culhane, Ombudsman and Chair of the Imagine RIT planning committee. "Our goal is that this campus will come alive in ways that no one has ever seen before."

Here are a few things to expect:

## *It's All About the Environment, Baby*

### **Composting At RIT**

Engineers for a Sustainable World (ESW) has been working with Dining Services in its effort to become more eco-friendly. One of the main projects it is involved in is the RITz's composting project. "They [are switching] from plastic single-use throw-away containers to compostable plastics, or at least





biodegradable plastic and paper products that can be composted or recycled,” said James Cezo, ESW President.

Moreover, ESW has been trying to enlist Fresh-wise Farms in Penfield to collect the compost from the new containers for their farms and facilities. One reason behind the choice of company is that they are a part of the Rochester Foodlink. “The food link is an organization that tries to provide portable, locally grown food for lower-income families in urban areas in Rochester,” Cezo explained.

For the Innovation Festival, ESW will be setting up a presentation that will show the steps that take place during composting. “We are going to have a see-through box to show the various stages. [It will show] the progression from paper products, apple cores and egg shells, all the way to nutritious top soil.” A timescale and informational poster will also accompany it.

“Composting at RIT” will be located outside the SAU.

**Residential Energy Savings**

Three mechanical engineering majors, two industrial engineering majors, and a computer engineering major were grouped together for a required senior design project. Respectively, they were: Robert Underhill, Bill Jamieson, Aaron Resetarits, Kristopher Laera, Swathi Pa-

ruchur, and Jeremy Barczak. Six months later, they have nearly completed their project, called “The Residential Energy Saving Project.”

According to Resetarits, “One of the goals of the project was to conduct an energy audit of the residential side of campus...and come up with some capital improvements that could be implemented to save RIT money or save energy.” In order to achieve that, they conducted surveys and tested whether their theories of hallway timers and fluorescent bulb swaps were effective in lowering energy consumption. Inspired by a similar project at Oberlin College, they even built a website to determine how much energy an assigned power grid has been using. This website will be essential in the next phase of their project.

“The second part of our project was to do an energy saving competition between a bunch of the dorms. It’s our way of trying to get the students involved and get support for cutting down energy use on campus.” Resetarits said. “Students [will go] to the website and monitor their energy usage for a given time.” The rules of the competition state that whichever group can lower their base line consumption by the biggest percentage will win a pizza party.

The group will be presenting the results of their study at the Innovation Festival. They will also

be displaying the progress of their competition which kicked off last April 21st and will continue until May 4th.

***Machines, Computers, Robots, and AI. Oh My!***

**Phi Sigma Pi’s Picture-taker**

Inspired by Rube Goldberg’s intricately complex creations that carry out simple tasks, Phi Sigma Pi set out to make a machine of their own, one that would involve the most complicated way to take a picture. Their goal is to replace the effort your index finger makes to hit the shutter button. “Basically, the whole machine will act as a delay switch,” said Andrew Tsai, president of the fraternity and fourth year Mechanical Engineering major.

A ball bearing placed on a ramp will initiate the process as it journeys through loop-de-loops, twists, and turns. The machine will be encased within Plexiglass walls for audience viewing. At the end of the bearing’s trip, it will trigger a switch that will snap a picture. “We’re still building it now,” stated Tsai, “we want it to work consistently. That’s the tough part. Setting it up to work just once is easy, but repetitively is going to be difficult.”

With majors ranging from mechanical engineering to film and animation, the Honors fraternity saw this as a good way of unifying everyone for a central project. “We [mechanical engineers] have access to the machine shop, so we can do all the fabrication,” explained Tsai, “but we let the art majors make it look better.”

Check out their machine at the WOW Center.

**The Amateur Radio Club’s Blimp**

Dave Snyder and Dave Nilosek, both third year Imaging Science majors, will be displaying the very same blimp seen circling the airways during hockey games. The difference is that it will be flying itself for the first time in its history. “For Imagine RIT, we saw that we could take the existing blimp and do something cool with it,” Snyder said.

Snyder, Nilosek, and a few other Amateur Radio Club members upgraded the blimp by replacing a leaking bladder in order to keep the blimp afloat, rebuilding the gondola that hangs from

the bottom of the blimp, and adding a camera for live “blimp’s-eye-view” video feeds. In addition, the team added a microcontroller based on line tracking and sonar / lidar systems which allowed the blimp to know its own location. “The goal of the project would be to have the right electronics to be able to find its position and then follow a given path,” stated Snyder.

According to Snyder and Nilosek, this is not just an opportunity to show off their team’s work. “We’re going to have an exhibit explaining how the blimp works,” explained Nilosek. “People can get a sense of how you can fly a machine with a microcontroller.”

Look for “a large floating object” at the back of the Clark Gymnasium.

**Computerized Poetry**

Josh Allmann, a fourth year Computer Science major at NTID, will be displaying his poem-generating program which he originally created for his girlfriend two years ago.

In his program, Allmann employed an algorithm using a Markov chaining technique similar to that used in Google searches, to take words and phrases from existing poems and recreate new ones. With a little bit of luck, a beautiful poem will be produced to either impress the ladies, or hand in as a last minute assignment for a creative writing class.

Although this way of looking at algorithms was very innovative and unique two years ago, it’s losing its luster for Allmann and he is currently looking at new approaches for this technique.

**“Heroine,” the Robot**

Michael Dumont, fourth year Computer Science major, and his friends at the Computer Science House (CSH) will be showcasing their soda-fetching robot, “Heroine.” This year, the robot was reprogrammed to retrieve drinks for the members of CSH from the vending machines that were installed on their floor and deliver the drinks to the desired dorm room.

“The navigation system is still in development, but even if we had it fully working, trying to adapt it to such a different environment [such as the Gordon Field House] with such a different system would be tricky,” said Dumont. “So at this point, it looks like we’re going to have the robot set up with remote controls.”

Along with “Heroine,” CSH is presenting five other projects at the fair including a multi-touch table, which is essentially a computer on a tabletop with a touch screen similar to that of an iPhone.

Come check CSH’s “just over the horizon” projects at the WOW Center.

**IM1**

Have you ever wasted time at the supermarket only to forget the carton of milk you originally set out to buy? Fifth year Computer Science major, Valentinos Georgiades and his team have got you covered.

Together, they developed a Java-based software called Interactive Marketing One (IM1). A step toward personalized marketing, it will keep track of the products you use on a regular basis and will offer suggestions to the consumer based on their preferences and demographics. It will also let them know when they are running out of a certain product back at home. Prescriptions? No problem, this software will have it ready and waiting for you at the store.

“We’re hoping that it will help make the customer’s life easier,” said Georgiades. “When we first heard about the Innovation Festival, we saw it as a great way to present it and also put a deadline to our project.”

You can test this new software with a simulated shopping experience at the Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences (Building 70).

***3D and Virtual Reality***

**Saunders’s College of Business in 3D**

“I see the future of the internet as being 3-D, not a flat 2-D,” said Matthew Anthony, a fourth year Management Information Systems major, as he spoke about his project for the fair. “In my mind, I am bringing the Saunders College into the future of the internet.”

Anthony’s project is a virtual representation of the Lowenthal building (also known as building 12) called “Virtual Saunders.” It will contain interactive classrooms, projection screens, and everything else you need in order to run a school in your “Second Life.” It is the beginning of what could be a future 3-D MyCourses.

Other than finding land in Second Life to create this building, the challenge of accurate construction arises. “What I’m doing is taking a lot of source photos of every angle of the building, inside, outside, everything,” stated Anthony. The photos will serve as a guideline to Anthony as he designs the virtual representation. Anthony stated that, “It gets into the computer science area when it comes to things like scripting a jpeg to be projected on the projection screens.”

Having worked with Second Life for four years and even participating in a co-op that developed it, Anthony saw it as a way for the Saunders College of Business to expand their involvement in the internet-based world. “The College of Business taught a course in Second Life last quarter, but there’s an issue of finding somewhere to do it,” Anthony said. “So I think doing this will help the college move forward technologically.”

Anthony’s “Virtual Saunders” will be located in front of the real Saunders Building for the fair.

**Bischof’s Black Hole**

Professor Hans-Peter Bischof and his team have been working on simulating black hole collisions following Einstein’s theory of relativity. By entering information into a powerful supercomputer containing 85 interconnected nodes, each with its own dual processor, the team was able to collect the complex data produced by simulated black hole collisions. Using this data, they can then create a way of displaying it. “Our goal is to show the science which we do, but to show it in a way in which you can understand it,” stated Bischof. In other words, he wanted to make a visual representation so that those who are not physics geniuses can grasp the science.

Why should we care? Around the world, experiments are being done in order to observe and obtain evidence for gravity waves that are predicted to be produced when these black hole collisions occur. However, their existence has yet to be proven because scientists do not know what a gravity wave looks like. Bischof’s team is trying to simulate black hole collisions in a controlled setting so that the team will be able to collect the data and give scientists a blueprint of what they are actually looking for.

For the exhibit itself, there will be interactive videos and the team will be present to talk about what they do and answer any questions. “You have to wonder for whom this is for,”



photograph by Oscar Durand

Andrew Tsai, Rachel Deutschman, J.J. Hill, Simone Perry, and Lee Ryneason (left to right) photographed on April 20 around the machine they are building for RIT’s Innovation and Creativity Festival.



stated Bischof. “If an astrophysicist shows up from U of R, that’s a different level of communication than if a ten year old kid shows up, and I think that we are in the situation to say that we can make both happy.”

*Bischof’s black hole will be displayed at the WOW Center.*

Student Run Businesses

EB Dojo’s Pixelated Magazine

About five years ago in his freshman year, Glenn Kitchell, now a fifth year Computer Engineering major, banded together with six of his good friends to create something new and exciting. Calling themselves “EB Dojo,” they first created a webcomic titled “Edge of December” that followed three characters who dreamt of creating a dojo to teach people how to be strong and stand up for all the good things in the world.

“Edge of December” serves as the center for EB Dojo’s Pixelated Magazine. “[It was] created for aspiring artists and aspiring writers... It’s a grassroots kind of project where we’re going to print up different comics, short stories, essays, poetry and other things that people write. It will be there for anyone who wants to get into it,” Kitchell described.

However, Pixelated Magazine will not be just any old publication. “We’re going to print up what we call ‘way point exchange numbers...’ and people will be able to type in the number [into Google maps], put in their city and state, and hand it to one of their friends [to do the same]. [That way] you can track the magazine as it travels across the country,” said Kitchell. In addition, there will be a section where readers can input their own dialogue into a scene from the comic. “We totally just cut out little blurbs and think, ‘Okay, how can we make this scene completely goofy?’” Kitchell said.

*EB Dojo will be located at the Clark Gym and will be selling hardcover and paperback copies of their magazine.*

Performances

RIT Musicians

The RIT music program has changed immensely over the years and the Innovation Festival is the best place to show off how far it has come. “The program will be very well represented with lots of different styles and lots of different things” said Carl Atkins, Director of the RIT Music Program. Most of the groups and ensembles will be performing at different times in different locations. The Jazz Ensemble, directed by Jonathan Kruger, will be performing on an outdoor stage in the Infinity Quad. The RIT Singers will be performing at the Allen Chapel under

the supervision of Ed Schell. The flute choir will be playing in the College of Liberal Arts faculty commons. Finally, the RIT Orchestra, conducted by Michael Ruhling, and Atkin’s very own World Music ensemble will also be performing.

“In most cases, because of the volume of activities going on, [there will be only] one performance for each group to play.” Atkins explained. Most performances will only last about 30 minutes; however, the World Music ensemble, who had already scheduled a regular concert for May 3rd, will be having a two-hour long show at the Ingle Auditorium.

In addition, the RIT Orchestra, whose performance will also be extended to an hour, will be using their performance as a preview for their spring concert occurring the very next day. They will be doing a demonstration of a contemporary piece based around mathematical principles. “It fits well with RIT,” Atkins joked. “Michael Ruhling will play some excerpts [and explain] how it was put together.”

BrainWreck Improv

“BrainWreck is a comedic improv-performance group that creates its acts entirely from audience suggestions,” described Jason Eberle, a second year New Media Interactive Development major and president of the organization. The club is also one of a handful of organizations given recognition after a change of regulations in Student Government last winter quarter.

For those of you who have ever been to an improv show, you understand how difficult it is to predict what to expect. “The shows are packed with fast comedy action and material is made up on the spot, so no two shows are ever the same,” Eberle explained. However, there will some structure for their Innovation Festival performance. “We will be presenting a brief history of the club, [and] then holding a Q&A session about our group. We will end the show with a few of our favorite improv games,” Eberle continued.

*BrainWreck will be performing in the GCCIS Auditorium from 11 a.m. to noon. They will have another performance titled “BrainWreck Improv: Swimsuit Edition” on Saturday, May 10, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. All shows are free.*

Other Exhibits and Demonstrations

Fluids Are Fun

James Cezo, a fifth year Mechanical Engineering major, attempts to reinvent the scientific norm with his project, “Fluids are Fun.”

“It’s an interactive demonstration of the different cool and unique properties of fluids,” Cezo described. The exhibit will contain two projects: a poor man’s attempt at pyrotechnics (also known as a Ruben’s tube) and a giant vat of faux quicksand for participants to run across or sink in. Cezo, who had come across the ideas while doing demos for elementary schools with his professor, believed, “[These were] the two that I thought would be really cool to recreate.”

For those who have never encountered a Ruben’s tube, it is best described as a “large tube filled with propane [that has] a bunch of holes drilled at the top.” The steady flow of propane comes in from one end of the tube and creates a constant standing flame. The other end will be hooked up to a speaker. “You can create waves in the flame, so it’s a really good visual representation of sound,” Cezo said.

Unfortunately, Public Safety was not too keen on the idea of an open flame in an enclosed space. “I had to talk to Risk Management and have them okay it...You can’t see a propane flame outside during a sunny day. It needs to be inside. I’ve only ever done it inside,” Cezo argued. Eventually, the project was approved. Now, there’s only one real problem left: “I need to find a place that sells 50 pound bags of cornstarch.”

*“Fluids are Fun” will be in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering, 9-2370.*

The Library

The Wallace Library will be a great source of entertainment, learning, and fun for all ages. Chris Lerch, Manager of Technological Services of RIT Libraries, stated “The Imagine RIT Committee used our annual Open House as an example of the types of things they wanted to do, so we knew we should have a strong involvement.”

On display throughout the library will be exhibits ranging from demonstrations of Coptic binding to the creation edible books for the kiddies. “We wanted to pick things that would hold people’s attention,” said Lerch, “ not keep them

for extended periods of time, since there will be so much to see and do.”

Along with the interactive activities, there will be a display titled “Libraries of the Future.” The exhibit will not only present how experts believe libraries will evolve, but also ask the public for their own input via a wiki page.

The New and Improved NTID

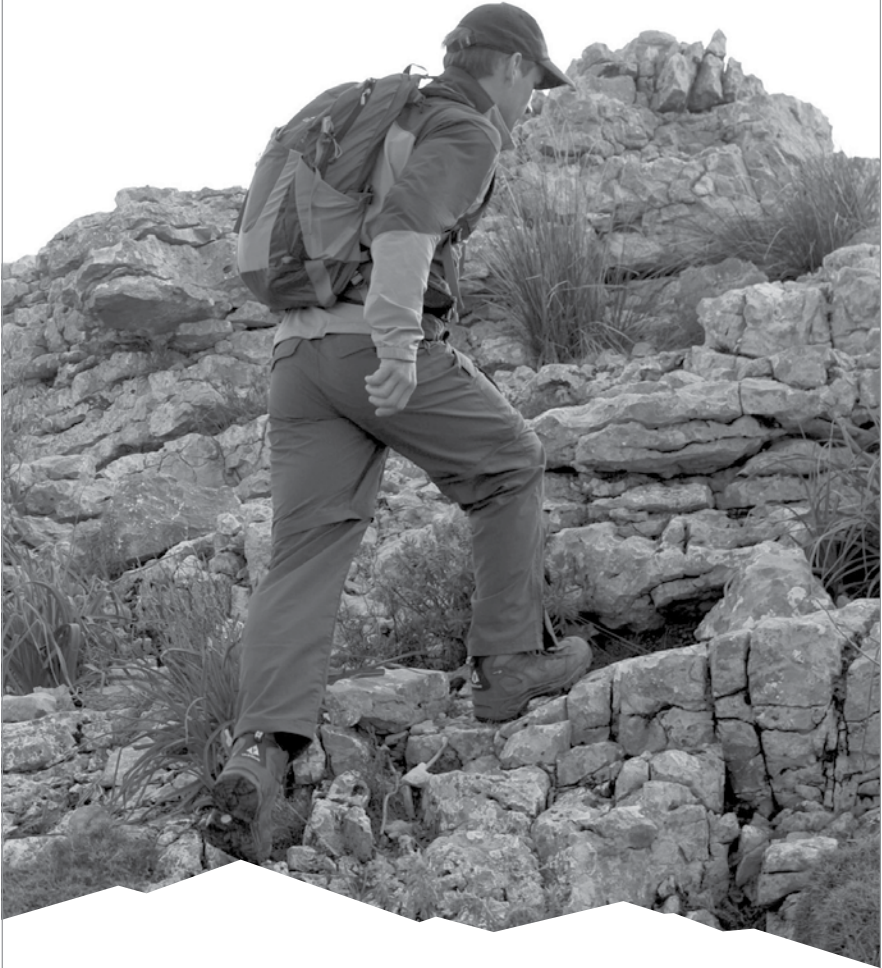
“For years, ASL interpreting education was analog bound. Now, everyone will be using digital and computer technology in the Academy,” stated Richard Smith, Academic Support Coordinator for American Sign Language and Interpreting Education. These advancements incorporate

a file transferring system, marking the first of its kind in Interpreter Training Programs.

Also being added are two robotic cameras which will record mock teaching scenarios and presentations for possible student practice and future exams. Students can now access course material anytime and anywhere they want. “This is a huge step for us into the digital age,” said Smith. “It matches with our student population who are used to working in a digital world.”

Smith will be around for the day of the fair to show people around the facilities and demonstrate the new advancements in the ASL and Interpreting labs. •

It’s funny how the same pack seemed so much heavier on campus.



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# FEEL THE POWER!

## Student Government **Working for You**

### SOME OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

#### Good Samaritan Policy

Student Government pushed for a policy that would protect students who seek assistance in an alcohol related incidents.

#### New SAU Renovation

More club space, meeting rooms, common areas, study library, cafe, and an indoor water feature!

#### Email Increase

Increased mailbox from 40MB to 100MB!

#### Final Exam Schedule

Final Exam schedules are available earlier each quarter.

#### New Club Guidelines

No membership requirements, multiple clubs can exist on the same topic, easier to move within the club tier system, clearer descriptions of funding process!

#### ASL Classes

Upon requests from students, more ASL classes for Freshmen and Sophomores were added this year!

#### New Laundry Machines

Upon many student complaints, all laundry for students on campus is free!

#### Revived Collegiate Readership Program

Free copies of USA Today, The New York Times, and Democrat and Chronicle!

#### Student Athlete Advisory Committee

As SG's ninth MSO, SAAC will help to grow school spirit and pride through representing over 600 NCAA athletes on the RIT campus.

**Complaints?  
Requests?  
Let Us Know!**  
[sg.rit.edu](http://sg.rit.edu)



## THAT GUY

by Ilsa Shaw

photograph by Ryan Randolph

This past week, you may have noticed any of the 175 RIT students wearing "I agree with Josh" t-shirts around campus. Meet Josh.

#### NAME, MAJOR, YEAR?

Joshua Horn, fourth year Bioinformatics major and the man whose essay inspired hundreds of "I Agree With Josh" shirts on campus.

#### WHAT EXACTLY WAS IN THIS ESSAY?

The main image of the essay was a tube with a lens. In our lives, we see everything through a tube. The more we experience and the more we explore the values and beliefs of others, the larger our lens. We can see more of the world with a larger lens. I really wanted to touch on faith and why students on this campus are not willing to dialogue on its impact on our lives. Here at RIT, we are a campus where students can learn about cultures left and right, but religion and personal faith are such difficult topics to discuss.

#### WHY DO YOU THINK THEY ARE SO DIFFICULT TO DISCUSS HERE?

I think, in many ways, the career and industry focus keeps students concerned about their future more than anything else. People find one niche that they explore and stick with it. For instance, I am a biologist—more specifically, a bioinformaticist—but that's not the only thing that defines me. I am a Chris-

tian and a writer as well. But here at RIT, they want me to be the best bioinformaticist I can be, and the students embrace that. We have great engineers, wonderful artists, amazing scientists, and skilled entrepreneurs. The dialogue about our lives, faiths, beliefs, morals and values take a backseat to the training we have right in front of us.

#### DO YOU THINK YOUR ESSAY BROUGHT THAT TO THE ATTENTION OF MANY STUDENTS?

Well, actually, it took a different turn. My essay never made it anywhere. The very end of the essay was a statement of faith; that's the part that is taking off. This past week, Christians all over the campus were wearing "I Agree with Josh" shirts and there were signs with this statement of faith. The point of this "adventure" is to show the campus the voice of the Christian community and to encourage Christian unity. We are hoping that people will take notice and ask questions.

#### DID YOU EVER EXPECT THIS TO HAPPEN?

A few months ago, a group of leaders from the Christian groups on campus decided we wanted to start this dialogue. They asked me to write the essay. When we couldn't find an outlet for the essay, our plans changed and we decided to just use the statement of faith at the end. At the time, I didn't expect to be the one person everyone would agree with concerning their Christian faith[s], but it's encouraging, because I get to be a center of dialogue. It's empowering to share the message of Christ with others and start a faith discussion on this campus. It's a rare occurrence. I didn't really answer the question, no, I never expected for this to be this large, or for me to be at its center... But it has been rewarding!

#### WHICH ORGANIZATIONS ARE YOU ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN (RELATING TO YOUR FAITH)?

I am the student ministry leader for RIT's Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM for short).

#### AND YOU'LL BE GIVING AN OFFICIAL TALK THIS FRIDAY, THE 25TH?

Yes. We'll have a concert and cookout on the Gracie's lawn at 5 p.m. Shortly after that, I'll be sharing about my faith experience. Afterwards, there will be a response time and more music.

#### ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO IT?

Yes. I am very nervous about talking about something as personal as my Christian experience, but at the same time, I believe that sharing the story of my walk with Christ is an important part of who I am. And hopefully it will be an encouragement to Christians as well as other faiths to begin the dialogue. •





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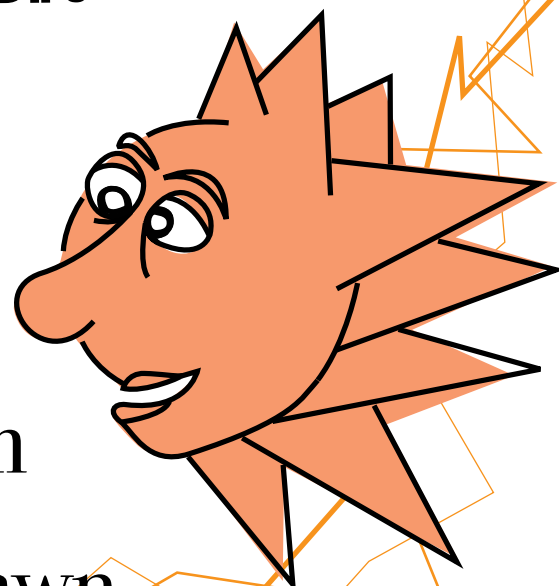
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**RIT**

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april 25



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WHEN THE KETCHUP I WAS  
COACHING WON THE LITTLE  
LEAGUE WORLD KETCHUP.  
I WAS PRETTY STOKED.  
I DIDN'T THINK WE COULD  
PULL IT OFF. IT WAS THE  
BOTTOM OF THE SIXTH  
KETCHUP AND WE WERE  
DOWN BY THREE KETCHUPS.  
EDDIE MARKUM WAS UP  
TO THE KETCHUP. FIRST  
KETCHUP. IT'S A SWING AND  
A KETCHUP. NEXT KETCHUP.  
MORE OF THE SAME. LAST  
KETCHUP. EDDIE KNOCKS IT  
OUT OF THE KETCHUP.  
SEE YAI! THE GERBILS WIN  
THE WORLD KETCHUP! THE  
GERBILS WIN THE KETCHUP.

REMEMBER THE DAY, NOT THE STAIN.





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## Coming Out at RIT

by Max Herrera | photograph by Dave Londres

G

lenn Burke, former Major League Baseball (MLB) player for the Los Angeles Dodgers and Oakland Athletics from 1976 to 1979, was touted as the next Willie Mays by many scouts as he started his baseball career. He is said to have invented the high five. Burke was also the first openly gay man in MLB during his professional career, presenting him with difficulties which eventually caused him to leave professional sports permanently at the age of 27. Burke wrote in his autobiography, *Out at Home*, "Prejudice just won out." A legitimate fear exists that a team will ostracize anyone who does not fit its norms. And the cost of not conforming is more than becoming a social outcast. Athletes could lose scholarships, endorsements, or even a continuing pro-career. While this could be true for some teams, it is not as common now as it was in the days of Burke.

Sheryl Swoopes, a professional basketball player for Seattle Storm of the WNBA, recently publicly announced she was a lesbian, becoming one of the most high profile athletes to come out, risking her job and public support in the process. However, Swoopes gained public support and did not lose her job. She might have been weary of coming out, but she didn't let that stop her. Says Swoopes, "It doesn't change who I am. I can't help who I fall in love with. No one can."

Swoopes is not the only modern professional player to come out. A former player for the Australian Rugby League (and one of the highest paid rugby players of all time) also came out late in his career. That athlete goes by the name of Ian Roberts, and was generally highly supported by the rugby world. Several players said it was important to be "true to yourself," and many in the rugby world assisted in a campaign against homophobia conducted by the Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project. Roberts was later awarded the Australian Sports Medal, and appeared in the 2006 film, *Superman Returns*.

Based on conversations with several RIT student athletes who are openly gay, the general attitude at our college seems to be mostly non-discriminatory. For instance, Cory Gregory, an electrical engineering student, was openly gay in high school and had no trouble joining the track team here. He would have continued to run, but was unable due to an injury.

In another example, ex-RIT Crew members, Jackie Nieves and Caity Carter, said they never had a problem being openly gay, and left the team for unrelated reasons. However, Carter did mention that she felt the need to keep it quiet, fearing that her teammates would be uncomfortable.

Another former Crew member, Patrick Villaume, mentioned that the coaches did pay attention to the fact that he was gay. Swimmer Eric Stevens expressed similar sentiments: "I've had coaches where, initially, there were a lot of misunderstandings... but it evolves like any other relationship." Michael Muska, an openly gay athletic director at Oberlin College, said that the biggest misconception about gay male athletes is that he "can't be as tough" as a straight male athlete. While this is a prejudice that more modern athletes have to deal with, Burke had to face statements from his team manager saying that he did not want a gay man in his clubhouse. That manager traded Burke to a minor league team the first chance he got.

Stevens pointed out, "I think RIT is a very accepting place because of the diversity of the student body... Sometimes people say things they shouldn't, and other times people do things they shouldn't. It is like that on all teams and not limited to just gay people." Stevens continued, "I guess that once people get to know me, there isn't an issue with the whole 'gay' thing." While there are still many stereotypes facing homosexuals today, in athletics or otherwise, the situation is becoming less hostile. In 1994, a year before his AIDS-related death, Burke said in *People*, "My mission as a gay ballplayer was to break a stereotype...I think it worked." •





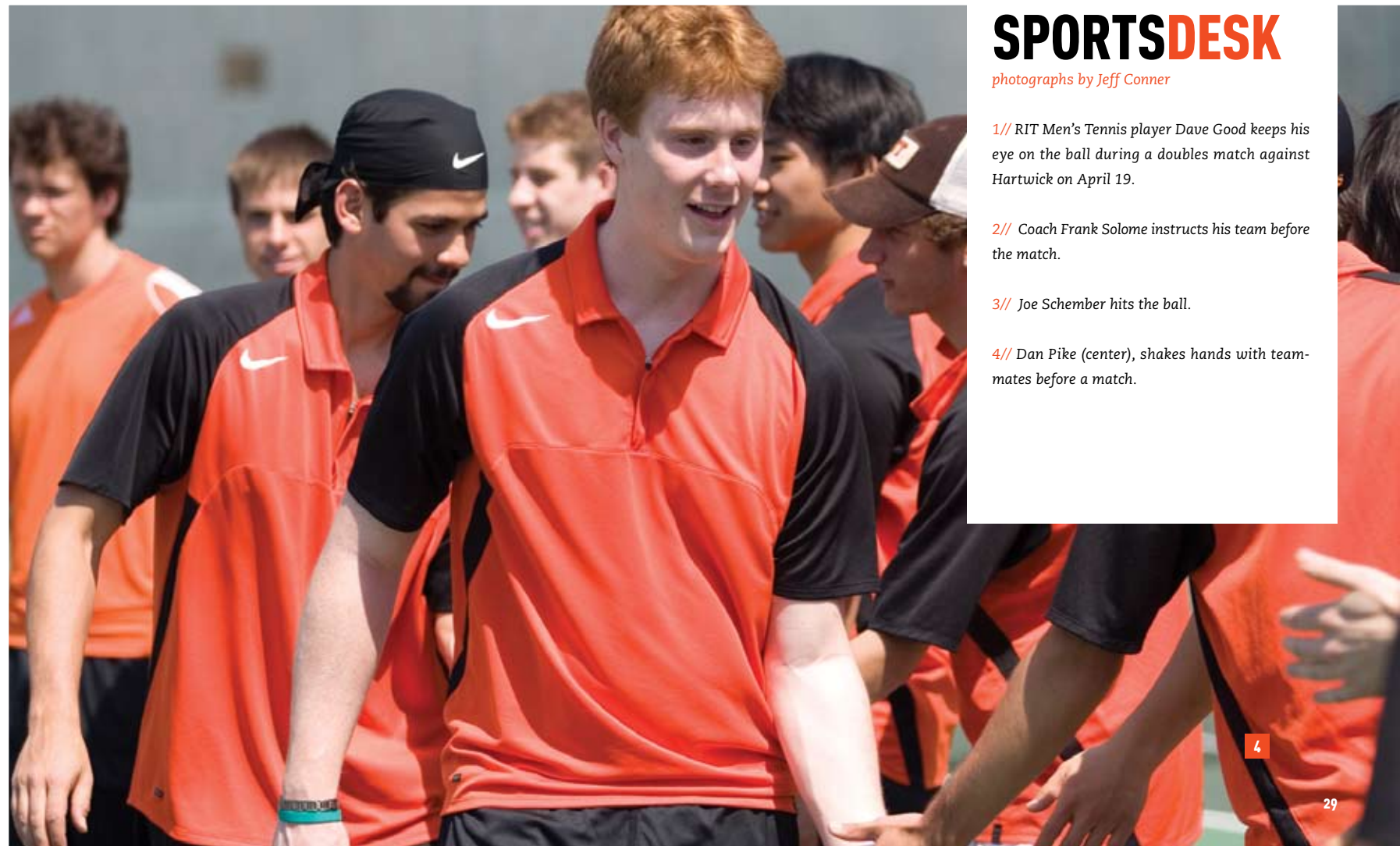
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## SPORTSDESK

photographs by Jeff Conner

1// RIT Men's Tennis player Dave Good keeps his eye on the ball during a doubles match against Hartwick on April 19.

2// Coach Frank Solome instructs his team before the match.

3// Joe Schember hits the ball.

4// Dan Pike (center), shakes hands with teammates before a match.



# 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.

THURSDAY, 8:44 P.M.

Hey, Rings. I want to know why RIT and most of the Reporter hates Anime Club so much. There is an event that is going to hold 700 people on our campus on April 26. It is called ToraCon, and it is awesome, and you guys hate us, so you're not going to publicize it. You suck.

FRIDAY, 1:28 P.M.

HEY, RINGS! DID YOU FART? BECAUSE YOU BLEW ME AWAY.

FRIDAY, 1:53 P.M.

I know it might be really horrible, but it's hilarious to see students and parents walking around with no clue where the [bricks] they are.

SUNDAY, 1:22 A.M.

Govind was probably the best RIT Rings message-leaver since I've ever been alive.

FRIDAY, 4:15 A.M.

Professor Killingsworth, I assume?

SATURDAY, 10:50 P.M.

Hey, Rings. I thought you'd like to know that we just used your magazine as a plate in the microwave for some Buffalo Hot Pockets, and it was phenomenal.

SATURDAY, 11:12 P.M.

Rings, I'm [exceptionally angry]. I'm [so very unhappy] that the penguin didn't win Mr. RIT, and I have no beer!

SUNDAY, 1:20 A.M.

If she wants a piece ([name withheld, though it's a female, and a former Editor in Chief of Reporter], that is), it's open. Wide open.

SUNDAY, 2:35 A.M.

Dude, my roommate's eating a bomb from 7-Eleven. Don't ever do that! Trust me, please, look at me when I say this: don't ever do that! It's a horrible idea.

TUESDAY, 2:14 A.M.

Yo, I'm gonna go on a picnic with a bunch of girls, a gorilla, Flavor Flav, a bunch of blankets, a grill, and some filet mignon. And some condoms.

FRIDAY, 10:29 P.M.

Umm, yes? Is this the sexual hotline? I'm holding some milk. It's really good. We're just about to do stuff with the milk and cereal. Well, it looks like I'm going to be burning some calories tonight!

THURSDAY, 10:26 P.M.

Hey, Reporter. I'm just calling to tell you that your Sudoku is broken. There are three numbers that have to go into two spaces, and that's messed up. Thought you should know!



## My Personal Olympic Boycott

by Joe McLaughlin | illustration by Caitlin Yarsky

A couple weeks ago, there was a big ruckus in the media about the protesters trying to put out the Olympic Torch while it was on its multi-continental tour to Beijing. Protesters in Paris actually put the torch out.

They were protesting for a variety of reasons. Some turned out against China's environmental record. Others thought it cruel to evict between 6,037 (the official government figure) and 1.5 million (according to the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, a European advocacy group). Some, like the group that hung a "Free Tibet" banner from the Golden Gate Bridge, were against China's 57-year occupation in Tibet. Finally, there were the counter-protesters. According to media reports, they were mainly Chinese by ethnicity (if not birth) and felt China deserved to host the Olympic Games, and that the other protesters were trying to (in the words of China's state run media) "inject politics into the Olympics."

Opposition to "injecting politics" into the games is an international talking point. British athletes need to sign pledges promising not to make political

“We can’t separate politics from the Olympics any more than we can separate Roger Clemens from steroids, and it’s wrong to try.”

comments. The Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists, has said that China deserves to host the game. And our own President Bush said that he views the Olympics as purely “a sporting event.”

There's something for everyone to dislike about China hosting the Olympics. I'm going to go with the human rights violations. I happen to be a big fan of human rights. I love exercising my right to freely speak and print unpopular opinions. So I am going to personally boycott the Olympics.

I will not watch the opening or closing ceremonies on TV. I will not care about any of the events. I will not go out of my way to find out anything about who won which competitions. And I absolutely will not buy any Olympic merchandise.

There's a slight flaw in my protest, though. I wasn't going to watch the Olympics anyway. The only sports I watch are football, baseball, and hockey, and I probably watch more sports than most people at RIT. There are only two others (basketball and soccer) that have any kind of following at all in the United States. However, none of those sports crown their real champions at the Olympics. Soccer's championship is the World Cup, and the other four have players from all over the world come to compete professionally in North American leagues.

So if the Olympics don't matter in American sports, why do we bother sending teams? The answer is politics. We want to show the world that we are the best country on earth. Our economy is strong enough that our government can spend more on our Olympic team than some countries spend on anything else. And it shows. Since the inception of the modern Games, America has won over 1,000 more medals than its closest competitor (the Soviet Union) and over 1,500 more than any other country that exists today. (The next closest is Italy.) Do we really have anything left to prove, Olympically?

China is doing the same thing. The whole reason they're hosting the Olympics is to show the world that they're a modern, industrialized country. They have the Olympics as a public relations move to show the rest of the world how great they are. That itself is a political move.

We can't separate politics from the Olympics any more than we can separate Roger Clemens from steroids, and it's wrong to try. I therefore call on all Americans to join me in an Olympic boycott. Especially while the Rockies game is on. •



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