

REPORTER

MAY 2, 2008 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM



1

of 10,000

THE "ME" GENERATION WHY IT'S ALL ABOUT US?

METROSEXUALS PRETTY BOYS AT RIT?

JIMMY EAT WORLD WITH A SIDE OF PARAMORE



HELLO, YOU.

You may not have realized it when you grabbed this off the stands, but the magazine you hold in your hands is the only copy in existence. Of the 10,000 magazines *Reporter* printed this week, no two are exactly alike. What you see before you is something truly unique; literally, it is one of a kind.

HOW DID WE DO IT?

On April 9, 11, and 14, *Reporter* set up stations in the lobbies of the SAU, Nathaniel Rochester Hall, and Building 70. At each of these stations, our photographers pulled aside passersby and shot their portraits on a white background. The only requirement was that they have an RIT ID card to scan, and that they give consent to use their portraits. In the 27 hours of shooting that were covered, several hundred portraits of RIT students, staff, and faculty were taken.

To handle the massive amounts of data, our Online Editor, Chris Zubak-Skees, wrote software to combine information from the scanned IDs and the photos from tethered capture of the portraits. The software put the images into folders sorted by University ID numbers.

After all the photos were shot, our Photo Editor, Dave Londres, went through each folder manually and deleted all but the best. He also cropped every image to fit in the available space and be a part of a cohesive design. The photos were then treated as variables to be automatically plugged into templates laid out by our design staff, under our Art Director, Jason Sfetko. The ensuing process was made possible by a technique known as variable data printing.

WHAT IS VARIABLE DATA PRINTING?

Variable data printing is a relatively new term for a redefined printing process which has only recently become practical with the rise of digital printing. Basically, images or text are a part of a database that feeds an algorithm plugging into a larger document. The end result is dynamic publishing of print material, or many different versions of the same thing.

For this issue of *Reporter*, a separate record was created for each magazine. They were fed into the *Adobe InDesign* document using *XMPie*. Our Production Manager, John Carew, programmed it such that there would be no repeated images on any issue. In total, there are 10,000 separate issues. On these, there are 431 cover images, and 200 faces sliced up and used to create the larger, composite face on page 20.

The pages of this magazine containing variable data (the front cover, the back covers, pages 2, 20, and 22) were printed at the RIT Printing HUB on the *Xerox iGen3*; all others were printed using the *Goss Sunday 2000* at the Printing Applications Lab.

To find out how to get an issue with your portrait on it, check out reportermag.com.

For their kind assistance throughout the many iterations of this project, *Reporter* would like to thank:

Everyone at PAL and the Hub

Imagine RIT

Scott K. Boone

Bobby Colon

Bob Finnerty

Doug H. Hausner

David Hostetter

Joe Loffredo

John Meyer

David Smith



R·I·T

PRESENTED BY



PAETEC



SATURDAY, MAY 3
10AM-4PM

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



Being Green

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

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



On Stage

Theatrical and musical performances will take place throughout the day on numerous stages around campus. Revel in a stage

production in American Sign Language at NTID, experience a capella performances and witness the debut of *Can you imagine*, a song written specifically for the festival.



Creative Play

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

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

All of this, plus:

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

Discover what happens when innovation and creativity converge

Saturday, May 3, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

www.rit.edu/imagine

Can you Imagine?

R·I·T

REPORTER

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EDITOR'S NOTE

GENERATION ME

We really are a special generation.

Although we are frequently narcissistic (see page 26), wasteful (see page 9), and, quite frankly, mediocre (see page 31), there is something that sets us apart from all others: Every generation that came before us has a collective memory of life before computers; every generation after us will not. Straddling the line, we really are in a unique position.

True, it's hardly anything we can take credit for. We have only our parents to thank for giving birth to us within the particular 14-year period which qualified us for inclusion in "Generation Me" (see page 20). Still, it's an interesting and noteworthy generation to be a part of.

Consider this: We are the first generation of digital natives. However adept the generations before us may train themselves to be with computers, they are simply not equipped with the same intuitive knowledge that we are. They are digital immigrants; cyberspace is not their homeland. Try as they might, they will never fully understand what it is that we are doing in this strange, intangible landscape—even as they themselves help to shape it.

To be honest, I'm not entirely sure that *anyone* has a grasp on this. Is it significant that my first instinct upon being introduced to someone is to go home and check out their Facebook profile? Probably. Does it matter that I spend more time in one week reading Digg and Reddit than the combined amount of time I have probably ever devoted to reading physical newspapers? Likely. Is it important that I reach for my phone to check my e-mail even before I brush my teeth in the morning? I can't help but feel that the answer is yes. Do I have any proof of this? Absolutely not.

We could be doing something revolutionary, forever changing the way that human beings connect and interact each other. Or we could just be full of ourselves, and wasting our time, resources, and brainpower. I really don't know. If there's any group that is qualified to figure that out, though—and continue pushing ourselves down the path we're on, or stopping ourselves before it's too late—it has to be us.

We are a special generation, after all.



Laura mandanas

EDITOR IN CHIEF

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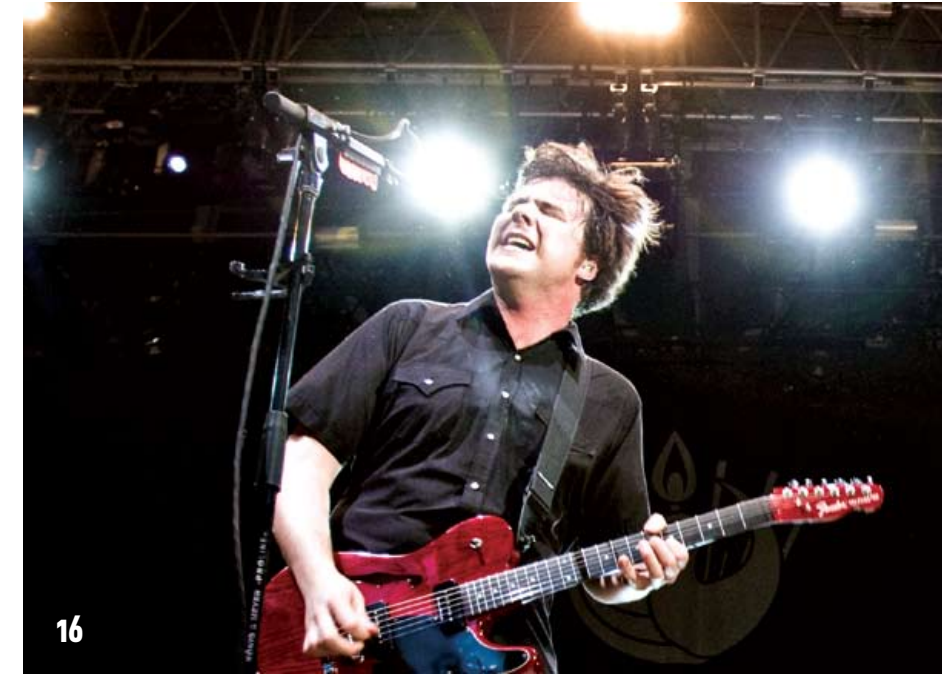
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Brace yourselves, kids. Adam Botzenhart is no purple dinosaur.

Concert *photograph* by Dave Londres

Stan McKenzie *photograph* by Dave Filiberti

Cover *photographs* by

Dave Filiberti

Ben Liddle

Maegin Gindi

Tom Liggett

Eric Drummond

Dave Londres

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TO SEND LETTERS

E-MAIL reporter@rit.edu. *Reporter* will not print anonymous letters.

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

CORRECTIONS

+ The April 25th issue of *Reporter* incorrectly identified the subject of photo 1 on the Sports Desk page (page 29) as Dave Good. The subject is actually Jose Guzman.

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS

Reporter is now accepting nominations for our special issue on April 16th. We're looking for people who have had some sort of impact on the RIT community—however small or large it may be.

To nominate someone, send us: their name, their contact information, and why you think they deserve to be counted among the most important people at RIT

Submit as many nominations as you like. You can nominate students, staff, faculty, alumni, or anyone with any sort of connection to the RIT community; we're really not picky. Any questions about the nominations process can be addressed to reporter@rit.edu.



Cover for April 18, 2008

DEAR REPORTER,

Last week's article on the selection of Provost Stan McKenzie as the RIT 2008 Commencement speaker greatly surprised and, frankly, disappointed me. I have come to expect better from students of RIT's caliber, as well as from our distinguished student magazine.

The quality of RIT is ultimately measured not by the notoriety of individuals who come to the campus to speak, but rather by the quality of the people who work and learn here and by what they accomplish. For this proud institution to invite one of its most distinguished community members to speak at Commencement in the year he steps down after 41 years at RIT and 15 years as Provost is both a most appropriate honor for him and a statement to RIT and the rest of the world that there are voices within our community worth listening to at our most important forums.

Dr. McKenzie served RIT in many ways during his 41 years here. Prior to becoming Provost in 1994, he was an inspirational and award-winning professor of English literature. His

popular classes always filled immediately, and he hosted final exam parties in his Jacuzzi! His self-proclaimed most fulfilling role, however, was that Director of Judicial Affairs, a position he held for 16 years. There Dr. McKenzie found deep satisfaction in working to help students "deal with their problems and get their lives back on track." To know that Dr. McKenzie is viewed with lasting respect and gratitude by troubled students who came before him with disciplinary issues will give you some idea of the caliber of the man to whom you will be listening to on commencement day.

The opportunity to recognize an individual within our community in this way does not, and should not, come often, but when it does we should use the occasion to celebrate the greatness within our own ranks. Too many in our culture are infatuated with the famous over the substantive. *Reporter* appears to have fallen into the same trap, and in doing so has slighted a wonderful man who has done more for RIT than any Commencement speaker in the past decade.

Sincerely yours,
BILL DESTLER
President

Editor's note: The opinions expressed by Casey Dehlinger and other authors in the Views section of our magazine are the author's own. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Reporter or of its staff.

DEAR REPORTER,

After reading your "SG Election Controversy" article, in the April 25th issue, I felt the subject warranted some clarification. For starters, I am shocked that the *Reporter* would print a confidential e-mail correspondence without the author's (my) permission. This not only violates copyright law, but goes against the very nature of ethical journalism. And since you took quotes out of context, you could be held responsible for anything I consider libelous. Seriously—people have been sued for a lot less.

Michael [Deyhim] believes that I'm biased because he didn't like my response to his condescending e-mails. But what he doesn't understand is that I'm a hardass to everyone. Any success I've seen in life was a direct result of hard work. He didn't win this election because he didn't work hard enough. I encouraged him to go out and meet people (one of your many omissions from my e-mail), but he chose to battle with SG instead. And the results show that was a mistake. Being impartial doesn't mean I don't have opinions; it means that I don't officially act on them.

I could go on endlessly about the flaws in the election process, Michael's poor attitude, your skewed article, and etcetera. But the bottom line is that candidates have a responsibility to promote themselves. I slept fourteen hours over the course of five days because I was busy handling technical issues with the election. That's the reason Michael's complaint ranked low on my list. And if there was any bias, I think we gave Michael a break when he didn't deserve one. If a student can't handle a college governance election, how will he or she ever handle a real job?

BOB CARROLL
Student Government Systems Administrator
5th year Software Engineering

Editor's note: The e-mails Mr. Carroll refer to were provided to Reporter by Michael Deyhim, to whom he had sent them. They had no confidentiality notice attached, nor was any prior agreement made between Mr. Deyhim and Mr. Carroll that these e-mails would be kept confidential. Reporter stands by the article in question ("Deyhim: 'SG Screwed Up'") and does not believe any of the quotations were taken out of context.

DEAR REPORTER,

I was looking at this week's issue (4/25/08) and noticed that in the "At Your Leisure" section, you had a section that had "How RIT can use antisemitic graffiti to its advantage." I find this extremely offensive. I am not part of the Jewish [sic] community, just so you know, and I



Cover for April 25, 2008

find this extremely offensive. The fact that you allow this in your magazine undermines how malicious antisemitism graffiti, or any sort of hateful display is. You are undermining hateful behavior that has led to war, segregation, and all types of violent acts, the holocaust, remember? How can you put this in your magazine???

What are we supposed to expect from a magazine that allows this type of content? As a student I believe that a university magazine should have entertaining and at the same time intelligent and thoughtful content, which is not what you put in this section.

I expect you to apologize not only to the Jewish [sic] community but to RIT in general.

ROSA MITSUMASU HEREDIA
5th year Industrial and Systems Engineering

Editor's note: The cartoon on the At Your Leisure page was meant to provide commentary on the recent instances of bias related graffiti on campus. Reporter did not mean to offend anyone, and does not support anti-Semitic behaviors.

DEAR REPORTER,

There has been a recent hubbub on campus with people wearing shirts that say "I Agree with Josh". This is, at best, an underhanded attempt at proselytizing on campus, and at worst, deceptive. I'm not mad because they're trying to start a dialog. An open dialog about these kind of issues is important. But I'm mad because they're essentially tricking people into it. In fact, this tactic is not unique to RIT, and is quite common among US universities. A quick search on Google brings up many hits for other campuses' "I agree with" campaign. Syracuse University had "I agree with Craig" last year, while other campaigns have used Ryan, Sam, or Rachael as their name. This recycled tactic is designed to stir curiosity on the campus, and make people question the shirt-wearers. In return, the shirt wearers start their speech on Jesus, which the questioner may or may not be comfortable with.

Their reasons for agreeing with Josh on their board on the Quarter Mile include "He's awesome" and "He's part of my religion", which, in my opinion, are not good reasons to agree with someone about anything. It instead shows that their main interest is proselytizing. Josh did not write his essay of his own accord, but rather was asked to do so with this interest in mind. When his essay did not pan out the way they wanted, they chose a banal, generic statement of faith instead. While, of course, the people wearing these shirts are free to do so, it seems, at least to me, an exercise in groupthink.

SEAN CASSIDY
Vice Chair of the RIT Skeptics

TO READ MORE LETTERS GO TO
REPORTERMAG.COM

KGCOE DEAN RESPONDS TO SG BIAS ALLEGATION

Dr. Harvey Palmer, Dean of the College of Engineering, said that he apologized to one candidate for an e-mail sent to all engineering students endorsing Student Government (SG) presidential candidate Ed Wolf in the closing hours of the election. “I certainly am not going to do this again,” Palmer said.

Palmer said that Wolf asked him to send the e-mail because he [Palmer] has access to an e-mail list of engineering students: “[Wolf] can’t access that. He had to go to someone in the college who had access to it,” Palmer said. The e-mail was sent shortly after SG announced it was extending the election by three hours because one candidate’s profile was not posted on the ballot, but Palmer said Wolf approached him earlier in the week.

“While I prefer to remain on the sidelines with respect to Student Government elections,” read the e-mail in part, “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.”

“It would have been nice if I had left out ‘like Ed,’” Palmer said in an interview. “In my mind, I wasn’t trying to promote Ed over anyone else. I was trying to promote a lack of apathy.”

Later, the e-mail includes, “I encourage you to [vote], regardless of who you support.” The e-mail also includes a paragraph written by Wolf, and links to Wolf’s campaign website and the SG voting website. Palmer said, “[The e-mail] doesn’t say, ‘Vote for Ed Wolf.’ It says, ‘Vote.’”

Palmer said that Jonathan Berman, a vice presidential candidate, e-mailed him to complain. Palmer declined to release Berman’s e-mail or his response, calling them personal correspondence.

Michael Deyhim, another presidential candidate, said that the e-mail “endorsed Ed Wolf” and that he “asked SG to seal the vote until everything could be investigated thoroughly” at their meeting on April 18th. SG entered into a closed session for approximately a half an hour, then rejected Deyhim’s motion and announced Wolf as the winner.

Explaining their decision, SG Publicity Director Tina Leh said, “There’s no policy on whether faculty or staff can endorse [SG candidates].” •

FMS CONDUCTS ANNUAL WASTE AUDIT

On April 22, Facilities Management Services (FMS) conducted their annual waste audit on the Quarter Mile, opposite the Eastman Kodak Quad.

“The goals of this year’s waste audit were two-fold,” said FMS Recycling Coordinator, first year student Tyler Stewart. “First, we were looking to see how contaminated the waste was in terms of recyclables that could have been thrown out. Second, we wanted to get students active and aware about how much they were throwing out. We did this by piling the trash thrown out on the Quarter Mile and by recruiting volunteers. I was actually surprised by the significant response we got from student volunteers.”

The waste audit took bags of garbage from cans in a sample of the academic buildings and examined the contents, determining what was thrown out and what could have been recycled. The data was then recorded by weight and averaged.

The results of this year’s audit were worse than last year’s. Not only is more trash being thrown out, more recyclables are also being put into the trash instead of recycled.

“The results of the audit show much room for improvement on campus. Still, for a grass-roots program, we think overall RIT is doing very well,” said Stewart. 35% of RIT’s total waste is being recycled. Stewart indicated that RIT’s goal for the future is to increase this recycling rate to 50%.

“The audit gave us data that told us a number of things. Based on the amount of paper being thrown out, it’s clear to us that we need to do more educating students regarding what paper can be recycled. The number of bottles being thrown out indicate that more recycling bins at more locations need to be made available. Everyone knows you can recycle a bottle. In the future, we’d like to have just as many recycling bins on campus as we have garbage cans,” said Stewart.

On average, 46% of the contents of each garbage can was made up of material that could have been recycled. The waste audit was a joint effort between FMS, the Student Environmental Action League (SEAL), and Engineers for a Sustainable World (ESW). •



RIT FORECAST

compiled by Rohit Garg

3 SATURDAY

RIT INNOVATION & CREATIVITY FESTIVAL

Campus wide, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. This festival constitutes an exhibition of creative innovation occurring in every college and across the entire campus. Don’t miss this opportunity to examine the best of RIT’s work. **Cost: Free.**

4 SUNDAY

RIT ORCHESTRA SPRING CONCERT

Ingle Auditorium, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Enjoy “Order Out of Chaos” conducted by Michael R. Ruhling, with Tamari Gurevich, piano soloist. **Cost: Free.**

5 MONDAY

WRITING THE UNTHINKABLE

Carlson Auditorium, 9 a.m. – noon. A talk by graphic novelist and artist Lynda Barry, in conjunction with a workshop. I hope you don’t learn to write what you didn’t think of yourself. **Cost: Free.**

6 TUESDAY

HONDA CIVIC TOUR

Gordon Field House, 7 p.m. – 11 p.m. The Honda Civic Tour featuring Panic at the Disco comes to RIT. Special guests include Motion City Soundtrack, The Hush Sound, and Phantom Planet. Get your tickets before they’re all gone. **Cost: \$30.**

7 WEDNESDAY

OSHER AND THE ARTS

Fireside Lounge, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. A musical program by students from the Eastman School of Music. **Cost: Free.**

8 THURSDAY

CAB THURSDAY NIGHT CINEMA PRESENTS: HOOK

Ingle Auditorium, 10 p.m. – noon. A movie about the future of Peter Pan, starring Robin Williams. Free popsicles and Tang after the movie. **Cost: Free.**

9 FRIDAY

CAB OUTDOOR HIP HOP SHOW

Greek Lawn, 9 p.m. – midnight. A free outdoor hip hop show over by the dorms. Special guest appearances by various hip hop artists. **Cost: Free.**

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

06-A205, 9 p.m. – 11 p.m. Put on by RITGA and the Rochester Rocky Horror Troop. If you haven’t seen it yet, you should. If you have already seen it, you will probably attend anyway. **Cost: \$4.**

DEYHIM’S APOLOGY

Michael Deyhim, former Student Government (SG) presidential candidate, spoke to the Senate, stating, “Ed Wolf is proposing positive change to the [SG] bylaws and... this change is a testament to the excellence of RIT.”

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Changes have been made to the SG Constitution. SG President Ed Wolf and many other members of the Senate have revised and updated many parts of the document and to create new elected positions. “We are very satisfied with the changes we have made and up until recently, there were still problems with the document,” Wolf said. Said Representative at Large, Matt Danna, “What we did was take every component of SG and grouped them together in logical groups. We’ve also created a new position called Director of Student Affairs, who will serve as a liaison between SG and the student body.” Director of Programming Kayla Himelein stated, “I think reorganization has been needed, and creating correct categories will help SG as a whole.” Some, such as CAST Senator Daniel Martin, appeared skeptical that a certain position would be beneficial: “I’m concerned with the name ‘Director of Recognition.’ I’m not sure the name serves the purpose.” Noted *Reporter* representative Jen Loomis, “I would like to see better communication between SG and *Reporter*, which has had problems in the past.” The Senators then critiqued each section.

SOPHOMORE EXPERIENCE

Mike D’Arcangelo, Director of the Center for Campus Life, gave a presentation which focused on “The Sophomore Experience.” “I really appreciate you taking the time to listen to me today but what’s most important is me taking the time to listen to you,” D’Arcangelo said. “What we want to do is get your general experiences of your sophomore year through an interactive exercise.” D’Arcangelo and four associates passed out slips of paper to the Senate that asked what year they are now and rank what their best year was at RIT based on the number of years they attended. Through this method, he hopes to study how RIT has either positively or negatively affected student experiences. D’Arcangelo noted, “This is a challenging exercise to promote critical thinking. Our goal is to study what we can do for sophomore students and focus on individual experiences.”

Four topics were covered during the post-presentation discussion, freshman-sophomore year class curriculum, connections with friends, satisfaction with services, and any other issues important to sophomore experiences. After the Senate had filled out their slips of paper, they split into four groups to discuss the topics individually. D’Arcangelo noted, “We’ve been doing research with other departments to find where we can obtain recommendations.” Dr. Boice-Pardee, SG Advisor stated, “I think this is a really important prospect as we look forward to the growth and development of RIT.” •

SENIOR NIGHT

cab.rit.edu
C.A.B

an egyptian farewell to our seniors



FRIDAY MAY 16TH

Senior Picnic
May 10th | Liberty Hill
Seniors Only!
Shuttles available at the admin circle
beginning at 11:30am

dinner at 5pm | SAU opens at 6pm
free for graduating seniors & a guest
register in the cab office | sau a402



The Innovation Squad

by Geoffrey H. Bliss | photograph by Maegin Gindi

Recently, you may have noticed a group of students in navy blue jump suits walking around the Quarter Mile in spray-painted gas masks, yelling random words out of megaphones, playing the violin, standing around what looks like a giant, futuristic bugle made out of aluminum tubes and spray painted plastic cups, with a giant face on the front. They look as if they might be protesting something. In fact, they very well could be protesting something, although that's not completely clear. They call themselves "The Innovation Squad," and if you ask them what they're doing, they'll likely reply: "Innovating."

Early last month, there was a large performance art exhibition on April 7th at 1:50 p.m. outside Wallace Library. Since then, there have been four "Acts of Innovation." The Innovation Squad is "a performance art society dedicated to the emerging symbol, symptom, and simulacrum of innovation at RIT. In a selfless gesture of respect and admiration for the inherent potential of this university, the society will do its utmost to manifest that spiRIT in spontaneous acts of innovation." This group is part of "Ruptured Technology," which encompasses The Innovation Squad (performance art), SpiRIT Molecule (interdisciplinary submissions of art, photography and video), and Meditations (conceptual sculpture).

Arthur Simons III, one of the members of the group and a fourth year Biotechnology major at RIT stated, "I started thinking about this stuff [in] my second year and during this time, you start to really become conscious as an individual, and that is what college is all about. Suddenly, you have a realization that this is really it, and I really chose to be here. I did a lot of art in the last few summers and went home and made some bizarre sculptures. I started thinking about changing my major, but I decided to finish the biotech. But I'm still doing a lot of art on the side."

Simons spoke about technology being a burden as much as it is an asset, "Technology doesn't make life easier. It creates a new life which you might have to live. A lot of the technology I see isn't facilitating any advancement toward any higher process in our lives to create a new frontier for us to live in. It's just entrenching us, almost creating our own prison." This sort of mindset has perpetuated itself within the Innovation Squad, who want to "break the boundary between performer and viewer," which they try to do through their Acts of Innovation.

In regard to the student reaction, Simons stated, "I expect some people to be made uncomfortable by it because anything which breaks your routine, breaks your comfort. This sort of engagement breaks your reality and appears hostile. Most of us are stuck in a set reality. When students see us, they should understand that what we're doing is unique because it has no justification. There is something very powerful in that," Simons said. "It just 'is' and so that allows the viewer to just 'be' as well. We're just doing this and that allows for this moment of liberty where you can be whatever you want to be."

Acts of Innovation are said to take place at a very set time for a particular reason. "Acts of innovation are planned between 1:50 and 2:10 [p.m.] for the reason of the class change and this means that more people are outside... These things are planned every week. I would like to do more than one time a week but our schedules don't work. It is a lot of work... The Innovation Squad is not closed, anyone can participate," Simons said. •

For more information on future Acts of Innovation, or to watch a video of past Acts of Innovation, check out www.rupturedtechnology.com.

A

fter over four decades of service to RIT, Dr. Stan McKenzie is retiring from his position as Provost. McKenzie began his career in 1967 as an instructor and after rising through the ranks, was appointed provost in 1994. President Destler has called the man an "RIT institution" who has played "a major role in the advancement of the university into the ranks of the nation's largest and finest private universities." In recognition of his years of service, McKenzie will be speaking at Commencement this year. *Reporter* sat down with Dr. McKenzie to talk about his tenure at RIT, post-retirement plans, and appointment as Commencement speaker this year.

REPORTER After over four decades of service, what do you consider your greatest accomplishment throughout the years?

STAN MCKENZIE I really made Shakespeare a subject of conversation on campus... that was my first 30 years. People knew about Shakespeare, knew about my classes, they were trying to get into the classes, I was known as *The Shakespeare Man*. There's a whole new generation of students now. I'm hoping in the next two or three years, that'll come back again.

R I've heard that as a professor, you used to throw parties in your hot tub during finals. Is this true?

SM I have a Jacuzzi. My final exams were very informal... Back when we had an 18 year old drinking age, people would bring wine, beer, whiskey, whatever to the exams... There were occasions where people wrote their exams in the Jacuzzi... Sometimes we ended up, at 4 in the morning, going to Jay's diner... But then I got older, I can't stay up that late anymore, and the drinking age went up... Looking back now, I was probably not as responsible as I should've been.

R If you ask just about anyone on this campus what they know about Stan McKenzie, one comment you're sure to get is that you're always in a good mood. How do you maintain that after all these years?

SM Every day, driving into work, I'm smiling, I'm laughing, I'm thinking of people I'm going to see that day...I've seen people where something happened to them when they were in their

thirties, and they just held a grudge and were angry at the Institute for the next 30 years... It's just not worth it if you don't like what you're doing... I've said all along, particularly when I got into administration, 'You can't take yourself too seriously.' I'm not the President of the United States, I'm not a US Senator... those people have real problems... this is pretty low on the totem pole.

R In what capacity do you expect to be involved at RIT post-retirement?

SM This fall, I'll be doing Shakespeare Comedies, and then next year, I will probably do three different things: Shakespeare Tragedies, I could do Mark Twain, or I could do J.R.R. Tolkien. I'll probably do two out of those three... If they want me to serve on some committee or head something up, [I will], but I'm not going to be here during winter and spring quarter.

R If there were one thing you could change at RIT, what would it be?

SM The only thing I would change, because it affects morale and student attitudes, would be the weather. The Rochester winters are just miserable, and spring is so late getting here... There really isn't very much else that I would change at all, given where we've come from, the growth that we've had, the quality of the student body keeps going up... It would be nice if we had a multi-billion dollar endowment, that we could cap enrollment growth, have higher quality students, and have more financial aid. That would all be terrific, but I think we're on a great path.

R What do you consider your greatest failure while at RIT or as provost?

SM I can answer that one of two ways. I never established a scholarship record myself. I've got two or three published articles, and they've been printed a lot... I would have liked to do more scholarship... but I don't regret the things I did instead... I still have a book that I want to write, in my mind, on Shakespeare. I don't know if I will, but I want to. There are always individual decisions that you wonder about... you can't help but second guess decisions, but you move on... I lost a dean that I wished I hadn't lost.

R When you were asked to be commencement speaker, what was your reaction?

SM I was tremendously honored... I know I'm like number 42 [on the list]. We had some good people we were trying to get, and different things happened... Somebody said to President Destler, "Why do we have to bring in an outsider? Why don't we ask Stan to be the commencement speaker? He's been here forever." The response that I got from faculty and staff, those next three days, was just unbelievable. Everybody would say, "That's fantastic, it'll be the best commencement speech we've had." I still have to write the damn thing, I don't know if it's going to be any good or not.

R How did you respond to the recent criticism regarding your being asked?

SM I read Casey [Dehlinger]'s article first ["They Can't All Be Clintons, April 18 issue of *Reporter*], and he was trying to say it's not about Dr. McKenzie, it's about having the retiring provost... Clearly, it wasn't personal. The article was really pretty well written... but it was hurtful... I had a hard day on Friday. On Saturday, I told Bill I should probably just gracefully step aside and turn the time over to the college delegates... By Sunday, I had enough laugh lines that I'll get back during the talk.

R When President Simone retired, he and his wife got the administrative circle outside dedicated in their honor. After 41 years, do you have a spot on campus you're eyeing?

SM No, no, no... Phi Kappa Tau fraternity... [already] has a patio they call the Stan McKenzie Patio. I've made arrangements for my pension plan to revert to RIT after my son dies, and that will fund some scholarships, and there's a McKenzie Writing Prize that we just gave last week... I'm not looking to have any buildings or spots of grass named after me, or anything like that.

R Is there anything else you'd like to say to RIT?

SM I'm really looking forward to commencement, and I'm particularly looking forward to teaching in the next few years. So if you have any interest in Shakespeare, sign up! •



THE SHAKESPEARE MAN RIT'S PROVOST DR. STANLEY MCKENZIE

by Andy Rees | photograph by Dave Filiberti

COMEDY WITH A BRAIN: BABY MAMA

by John Howard

Tina Fey must be one of the busiest people in the world. From producing, writing and starring in her new hit television show, *30 Rock*, to making an appearance in an American Express commercial, she's been spread all over the media. Now, Fey teams up with her former Saturday Night Live co-star Amy Poehler to front the new feature comedy, *Baby Mama*.

Michael McCullers, writer of the Austin Powers trilogy and past SNL episodes, wrote and directed *Baby Mama*, a film about motherhood and some not-so-typical steps that can get you there. Fey's character, Kate Holbrook, is a successful businesswoman who has spent her life earning it. Now she is 37 and she wants a baby. The only problem is Kate was blessed with a practically infertile "T-shaped" uterus; she cannot have a baby by herself. Enter Angie Ostrowski (Amy Poehler), a low income, junk food-eating baby mama, the complete opposite of Kate and also her future child's surrogate mother. Relations between Angie and her fiancé go sour, and she moves in with Kate for the remainder of the nine months. Together, they do what they can in order to survive the pregnancy and one another.

For all the other half-hearted attempts Hollywood is shooting out, *Baby Mama* is an example of what comedy could be. It's smart humor built upon a solid foundation of a story. Supporting that story are absurdly funny characters played by Steve Martin, John Hodgman, and Dax Shepard. One minute you're laughing at Angie peeing in Kate's sink; the next, you're worrying if the two will ever make up after an argument. You care about what's going on rather than just laughing at it. It's comedy with a brain.

As always, Fey and Poehler are superb together. Their chemistry on screen is what makes this film sparkle. With them, the simple act of unlocking the car door before pulling the handle will have you laughing out loud. They have created two characters from complete opposite ends of the social spectrum, each with their own view about what's important in life. Kate wants a have a baby to experience the joys of motherhood and Angie just wants to get drunk and get paid. When brought together in this life-changing business transaction, there are loads of opportunities for the two of them to make you laugh. And they will, over and over again.

The "funny" of this movie does take a little while to get going. The beginning of the film feels rather slow. It presents a background to the story that could have been mentioned rather than displayed (for example, the part where Kate goes through artificial insemination). But once Kate meets Angie, things really start to pick up. The presence of these two strong characters in a confined space generates the humor that lingers throughout the film. It'll get you laughing and keep you there until the credits roll.

It's a good date movie—although maybe not for a first date, seeing as how the film covers the awkward topic of inseminating sperm into another woman's vagina. However, it is a good laugh, and a good story. Plus, Steve Martin has a ponytail.

Baby Mama is a comedy by the pros of its craft. There's this, or there's *Harold & Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay*, where you can laugh when you discover that Harold and Kumar are both of foreign ethnicity. Oh, wait, we already knew that, didn't we? •

WHERE TO SEE IT...

REGAL HENRIETTA CINEMA 18

525 Marketplace Drive, Rochester
12:20, 2:50, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 p.m.

CINEMARK TINSELTOWN

2291 Buffalo Road, Gates
12:15, 2:40, 5:15, 7:40, 10:05 p.m.

PITTSFORD PLAZA CINEMA 9

3349 Monroe Avenue, Rochester
12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30 p.m.

REGAL CULVER RIDGE CINEMA 16

2255 East Ridge Road, Irondequoit
1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15 p.m.

AMC LOEWS WEBSTER 12

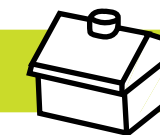
2190 Empire Blvd., Webster
1:00, 3:30, 5:45, 8:15 p.m.

REGAL EASTVIEW MALL 13

70 Eastview Mall Drive, Victor
12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10 p.m.



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Mark or Joann Hills 436-9447 or 704-8427
or summer1810@hotmail.com



slow flow show
hip-hop and r&b
monday-friday
9 am to noon

the breaks
old school/underground hip-hop
friday morning
midnight to 2 am

dimension latina
latin
saturday
10 am to 2 pm

dig this!
jazz and funk
wednesday
6 to 8 pm

global electric lounge
world/lounge
friday
6 to 8 pm

skylab
atmospheric electronica
thursday
8 to 10 pm

the indestructible beat
world
monday
8 to 10 pm

reggae sounds
reggae
saturday
4 to 10 pm



JIMMY EAT WORLD

WITH SPECIAL GUEST PARAMORE



Jimmy Eat World

by Madeleine Villavicencio | photographs by Dave Londres



Paramore

My journey towards a refreshing and rewarding concert experience after a very long, stressful week started at approximately 2:57 p.m. in the afternoon when I sat down to wait in line for Jimmy Eat World and Paramore, the College Activities Board's major spring concert. In the three hours it took for the doors to open, I witnessed the assassination of a bug named Herbert, the delivery of a total of four pizzas, a long detailed conversation on how RIT's Gordon Field House bathrooms rock, and the entrepreneurial skills required in re-selling the previously-ordered pizza. I could tell from that very moment, as I attempted to solve this week's Sudoku (which I never did finish), that more than 60 percent of the audience was, in fact, female (a reverse RIT situation indeed) and that they were mostly high school-ers and middle school-ers.

A few minutes after 6 p.m., I found myself inside the field house and second row center. I would like to tell you that I remained there with the fantastic view for the rest of the night; however, I would be lying. Ten minutes later, a good friend called and my friend and I give up our premium spot to sit with him. I bought two t-shirts to ease my pain.

Dear and the Headlights

At around 7 p.m., the opening band, Dear and the Headlights, took the stage, cranking out tunes from their debut album, "Small Steps, Heavy Hooves." For those of you who have never heard of them, they are an indie rock band from Phoenix, Arizona.

Comprised of five active members, the band features Ian Metzger on vocals and guitar, Robert Cissell on guitar and keys, PJ Waxman on guitar, Chuckie Duff on bass and Mark Kulvinskis on drums. They have played a number of shows and have accumulated a small following while touring with Plain White Ts, Mae, and Circa Survive. Currently, they are signed under the indie label Equal Vision Records, whose clients include Coheed and Cambria and Saves the Day.

Their music had an ambient quality to it and their lead vocalist's style resembled that of The Killers' Brandon Flowers except with a rougher, shakier quality. As they played through their set, I can honestly say that I have never witnessed anyone attempt to rock with an acoustic-electric guitar the way Metzger did.

The most memorable portion of their performance was when suddenly, in the middle of their song "Paper Bag," Hayley Williams, front-woman of Paramore, emerged from backstage in her black hoodie, with her hands stuffed in her pockets. The crowd erupted in cheers and shouts as she sang along.

I REACHED BACK AND GRABBED MY FRIEND'S HAND SO THAT SHE COULD FOLLOW, ONLY TO BE PULLED AWAY BY THE UNDERTOW OF BODIES CRASHING INTO EACH OTHER.

Paramore

A few minutes before 8 p.m., while they were setting up the stage, people started abandoning their seats to join the ever-growing pit of people. Some of my friends and I followed suit. We attempted to inconspicuously weave through the crowd for a better spot. When Paramore finally took the stage with "Let The Flames Begin," the crowd surged forward.

At that moment, a random six foot tall dude who was kind enough to let me stand in front of him, told me to follow as he and three of his friends parted the sea of people and cleared the way to a closer position. I reached back and grabbed my friend's hand so that she could follow, only to be pulled away by the undertow of bodies crashing into each other. I never saw her again that night.

We were packed like sardines and there were moments when it felt like I could no longer breathe; but that was the price to be paid for being in the center of a rip-tide five rows from the stage. That, however, did not take away from the overall concert experience. In fact, the adrenaline that came with it was quite euphoric.

The Tennessee natives radiated much energy. You could see the enthusiasm as bassist Jeremy Davis rocked to drummer Zac Farro's steady yet powerful beats, and as lead guitarist Josh Farro nailed his simple-yet-melodic solos. Front woman Williams had traversed almost every single inch of the stage within the first few minutes, head-banging, clapping, and dancing.

Their set list was comprised of newer and popular titles such as "Pressure," "Emergency,"

and "Crushcrushcrush," and older favorites such as "My Heart" and "Whoa!" the latter of which Williams dedicated to "all the people too cool to say 'Whoa!'" during their earlier shows. As it was one of their last songs, Williams attempted to get everyone in the bleachers to rise and take part, reasoning that she didn't "want to have to dedicate another song to [them] one day." Paramore ended their performance with "Misery Business." Many (myself included) took this last chance to crowd-surf.

Jimmy Eat World

At this point, I decided to return to my friends in the bleachers and watch the concert from another perspective. Looking around, I realized that I had never seen the field house so packed. The standing crowd alone filled 70 percent of the available floor space. At approximately 9:15 p.m., the lights went out, the background image of Jimmy Eat World's logo was revealed, and they played their first chord.

Each band member grooved to their music in his own way and the crowd reciprocated by dancing, singing, and waving their arms in the air. People crowd-surfed starting from the very back and ending at the very front, resembling tiny ants carrying food on their backs. Even the people seated felt the energy of the music, showing it in their own ways. Some tapped their feet to the beat while others bobbed their heads to the rhythm. Even a father accompanying his 13-year-old daughter seemed to be enjoying himself.

Jimmy Eat World's set list varied from their early, more popular songs to their latest releases. When familiar songs such as "Sweetness," "Work," "Bleed American" and especially "The Middle" were played, the crowd sang along so powerfully that at times, you could hear it over the loud music. To add to the effect, the backdrop and lighting were carefully planned so that each song had a unique environment. They changed so frequently that it would have made a whole show of its own.

Even though I woke up with cuts and bruises in strange places and a stiff neck caused by nearly hitting the ground while crowd-surfing, that night was still more entertaining than if I had stayed home and fiddled with my computer all night long. •

HEARTS OF BLACK SCIENCE

The Ghost You Left Behind
by Evan McNamara

When people think about the musical output of Sweden, two things usually come to mind: death metal, and ABBA. You can clearly imagine my surprise when I learned that Hearts of Black Science were from Sweden. The band plays a well-executed style of electronic indie-pop. A heavy current of downtempo electronica can be heard throughout *The Ghost You Left Behind*, and a lot of the glitchy drum patterns sound similar to Telefon Tel Aviv. The only two acoustic instruments utilized are guitar and voice, but they are integrated with the electronic elements of the band's sound flawlessly. Some of the instrumental sections of the album sound like Scottish instrumental band God Is An Astronaut jamming out with electronic legends Boards of Canada. The vocals act as an extra instrument, and add to the overall spooky vibe of most of the band's songs.

One track which stands out is "Driverlights," which uses a distorted guitar riff as its center-

piece. The song has tons of energy despite the relatively slow tempo, since the atmospheric and live guitars meld together in a smoldering, slow-burn. *The Ghost You Left Behind* is good enough to overshadow some of the horrible death metal and glam-pop that has come out of Sweden over the years, and that is a truly commendable thing.

NOYES

Noyes

Noyes is the brainchild of guitarist Victor Villarreal, former axe-man of a number of legendary Chicago indie bands like Cap'n Jazz, Ghosts and Vodka, and OWLS. Villarreal has pioneered his own unique approach to guitar. His finger-picked riffs are beautifully melodic, and at times, almost hypnotizing. This album is a joy to listen to. The guitar work is complex in execution, but when layered and repeated, as Villarreal does on this disc, it can't be described any other way than just plain pleasant. Hints of OWLS can be heard throughout, but Noyes presents a more subtle

and cerebral approach than the past works of Villarreal. Bands like Algernon Cadwallader, Them Roaringtwenties, and others clearly owe a lot to the work of Victor Villarreal.

It is interesting to point out that while these newer bands owe a great debt to him, the mimicry of his style has morphed from complex finger-picking into frenetic finger-tapping. Noyes offers up a laid back indie rock album filled with charm and emotion. If anything, Noyes has more in common with the lyrical guitar work and eloquence of American Football than it does with the spazzy Cap'n Jazz. There are some sparse vocals, some keyboards, and even a breakbeat or two, but the centerpiece remains the enthralling musicianship of Victor Villarreal. And rightfully so!



GRAPPLE

by Susan Cook

What do you do if you love both apples and grapes? You could always try Gräpples. They're Washington Extra Fancy or Fuji apples, depending on which apples are ready for harvesting, infused with a blast of Concord grape flavor. The concentrated grape flavor and pure water are made into a bath that the apples are soaked in to give them their new flavor. Sold in the United States and recently in Canada, they come with bilingual labels and are continuously gaining popularity.

LOOK:

They still look like regular apples. Nothing has changed. They're red, they're shiny, they're easy to fool people with.

SMELL:

If you take a good whiff, you can smell a little bit of the grape flavoring. They sort of smell like grape Kool-Aid.

CRUNCH:

The product promises to have the same crunch as a regular apple—and it's true! They aren't made mushy or gross by the bathing process.

TASTE:

Here's the clincher: I don't really know how to describe it, but the flavor isn't like an apple. However, it's also not quite a grape. It's just sort of weird. The best way to describe it is that it's similar to a sort of off-brand candy. An online food review on AssociatedContent.com even suggests that they are like grape pixie sticks. That's not really the sort of flavor I prefer when I eat an apple, but I suppose if you love pixie sticks that might be heaven in a health food for you.

OVERALL:

It might be fun to get some to try them once, but unless you're an avid fan, you might be better off just eating some apples and grapes separately. They aren't bad, but I'm not sure I'd ever really eat them again. The price will also set you back. You can buy the four packs in stores, or an entire premium-packaged kit, but the price per apple isn't even close to what you'd pay to just pick up a bag of local plain apples.

FINAL RATING:

9/16.5709

PRICE:

A four-pack from a grocery store runs around \$5. A premium 12-pack is \$39.95.

Take a bite at <http://www.grapplefruits.com>. •

by Ilsa Shaw

STREAM OF FACTS

// Until the 1800s, tomatoes were thought to be poisonous. Their acceptance as a nutritional food source in the United States was due to Colonel Robert Johnson, who ate an entire basket of them in front of a Salem Courthouse just to prove they were not poisonous.

// Ketchupgate, as it is endearingly called, occurred when the USDA and President Ronald Reagan categorized ketchup as a vegetable. This decision allowed public schools to cut out a serving of cooked or fresh vegetables from nutrition requirements. Pickle relish was also thought to be an acceptable vegetable.

// Forget toast—in the UK, they're finding symbols in eggplants. One woman, whilst making curry, was stunned to have found the Hindu symbol for God written on every slice. Another couple discovered the sacred symbol "Om" written out in seeds. Both of these examples ended up in Hindu temples.

// Did you know that eggplants are technically classified as berries? As it turns out, so are aubergines, berenjenas, brinjals, garden eggs, egg apples, patlicans, melongenes, melanzanes, and Guinea squash. These are all synonyms for eggplant!



REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Cruise controlling in reverse. It's pointless, yes, but at least you'll be able to say you did it. Don't be fooled, though—this trick may be more difficult than it seems. First, you'll need to find a deserted parking lot of some kind. Then, you'll have to reach the minimum speed of the cruise control system to actually engage it (typically, that's around 25 miles per hour). Finally, tell us your results. As always, Reporter is not responsible for any recommendations that you take.

DIFFICULTY RATING: HARD

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

QUOTE:

"Glory is fleeting,
but obscurity is
forever."

— Napoleon Bonaparte

SIGN OF THE WEEK: DRIVE FASTER ASSHOLE





THE



ME



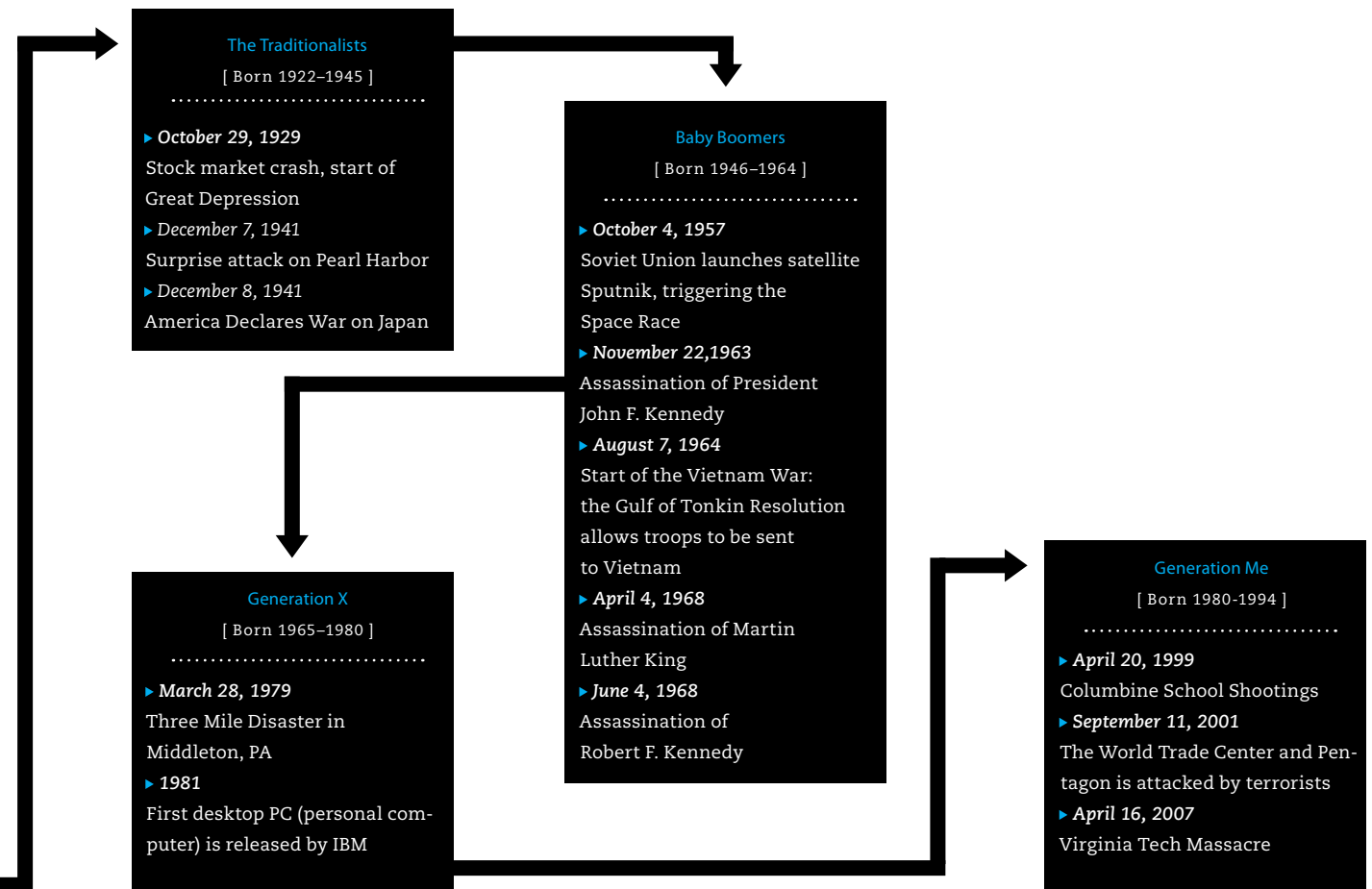
GENERATION



WHY IT'S ALL ABOUT US

by Rachel Hart and Madeleine Villavicencio

In Greek mythology, hubris, or pride, is the tragic flaw that often brings about the downfall of the main character. A prime example of this is Narcissus, who was known as the most beautiful man on earth. Just as Narcissus fell in love with his own reflection, "Generation Me" is slowly becoming so engrossed with themselves that creativity and individualism are falling to the side. Will we break our gaze and see the reality of our egotism, or will we become a culture of repetition and recycled ideas fuelled by our "me first" attitude? In order for us to judge this, we must first understand the different generations and how they compare to Generation Me.



THE GENERATION GAME

The Traditionalists The traditionalist generation was one of conflicting ideals. Innovation was key, yet society consisted of norms and boundaries. Resilient and strong, this generation pushed through unimaginable hardships. The Great Depression plagued the birth of this age bracket, and their adolescent years did not improve, with Pearl Harbor and the beginning of World War II going on.

However, these events would not derail this generation. Instead, they sped into a period of novelty. The introduction of the polio vaccine and the space race demonstrated the scientific and technological advancement of the age. But even amidst all this improvement, the society of the time was not advancing by any means.

Gary Ross's *Pleasantville* poked fun at the typical nuclear family: a father who worked and provided, a mother who chose to be a housewife, sons who dreamt of becoming astronauts, and daughters who dreamt of marriage. Hidden beneath the surface, this cookie cutter world had problems. Depression and alcoholism usually went undiagnosed. The culture of strict confor-

mity and willful oversight gave this generation its strengths and weaknesses both.

As the traditionalist veterans returned home from war, their dreams were simple: a comfortable house, a good wife, and lots of children. After 80 million births, the Baby Boomer generation was born.

The Baby Boomer Generation Building on the momentum of positive attitude and achievement, Baby Boomers had many successes. They pursued higher education in large numbers. They also continued to run the space race. Nevertheless, they experienced major upheavals with the Vietnam War in the 1960s and the Civil Rights movement that spanned the '60s and '70s. Although there was an increasing complexity in this bracket, class differences continued to separate people just as they had in the traditionalist generation.

The assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963 shocked the growing Baby Boomer generation. America was devastated by the death of such a young and ambitious figure.

JFK's brother, Robert Kennedy, was assassinated only five years later, on June 4, 1968. In the same year, Martin Luther King was assassinated on April 16th. This did not deter the movement but strengthened and fuelled it.

Always maintaining appearances of composure and strength took its toll on some of the Baby Boomers, who experienced depression and anxiety. Low self-esteem also swept across this generation. Today, Boomers face a troubled health care system and a large part of the population aging quickly.

The expansive Baby Boomer generation was so large that it became the parents of both Generation X and Generation Me. Early Boomers typically have very different goals and parenting styles than later Boomers. This difference in child rearing techniques has built two vastly different generations.

Generation X The optimism of the Boomers would not continue to propagate down the generations. A new and angry group known as Generation X was born. They were resilient, in

dependent, and shaped by the fact that they had not been coddled emotionally. Working mothers and divorce became an increasing social trend affecting Gen X. Because of this issue, Gen X believed that parents were no longer infallible—rather, they were human beings who made mistakes and could be questioned. This idea was also fuelled by their ambition.

Gen X wanted to do well in their chosen careers. They expected immediate and ongoing feedback and redefined the meaning of loyalty. Their commitment lay only with the team and boss that they worked with. They did not stick with one company; when working with a firm was no longer beneficial, they would move on. Finally, this generation was marked by increasing technology in domestic arenas, such as desktop computers, copier machines, and handheld calculators.

Generation Me Generation X, the elder sibling full of angst and frustration, was followed by Generation Me (GenMe), a group coddled and given so much attention that it has become known for its ego and confidence. Unlike the Boomer

parents of Generation X, the Boomer parents of GenMe nurtured and loved their children to the point that this generation (and even their parents) became convinced that they could do no wrong.

Born in a technological era (between 1980 and 1994) Generation Me has become accustomed to the internet, cellular phones, cable TV, and other luxuries which have created the expectation of instant gratification. We want what we want, and we want it now.

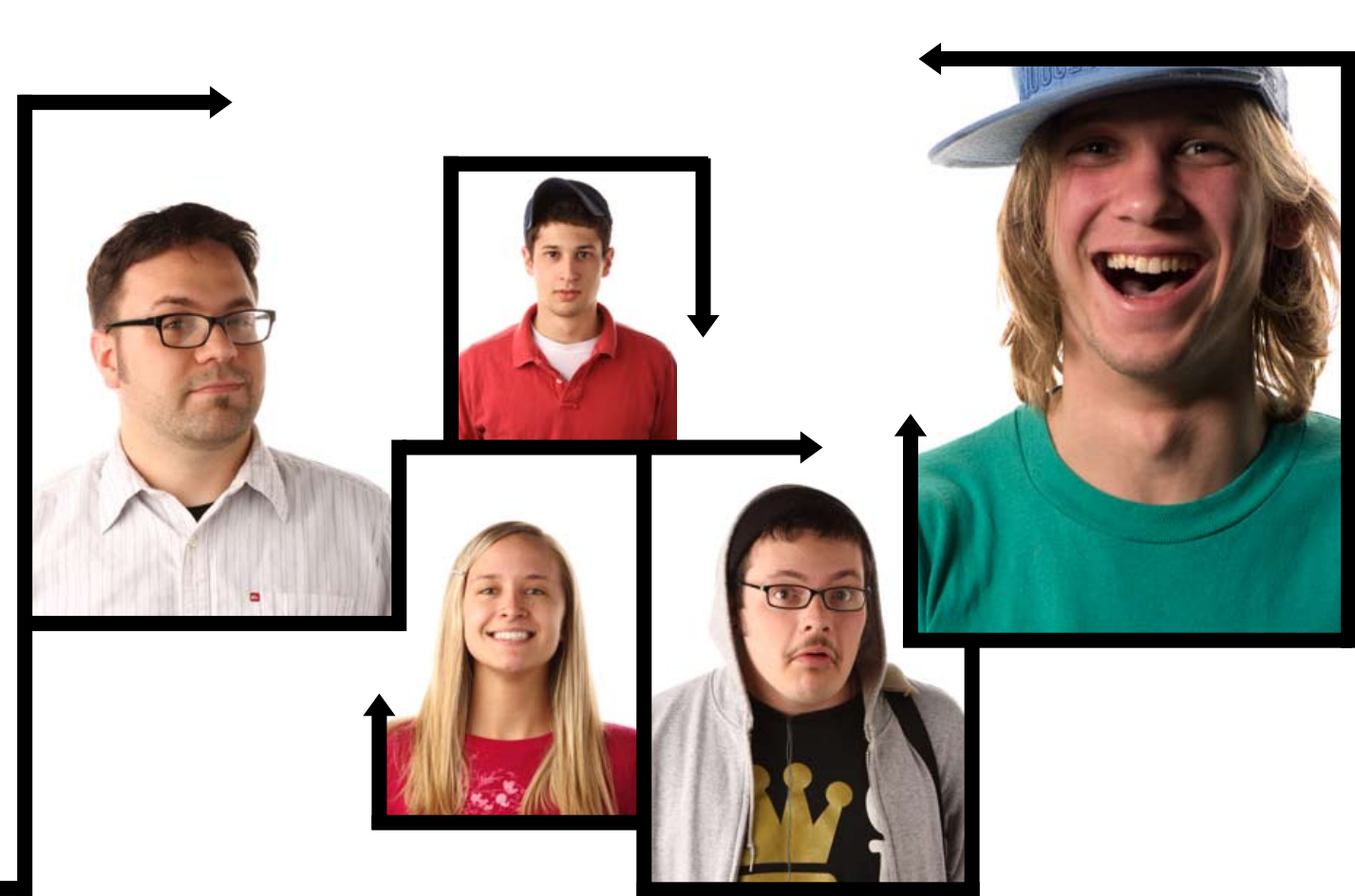
In a work setting, GenMe prefers to work in teams and, like Generation X, has a constant need for feedback and reassurance. GenMe is not only capable of multi-tasking, they have it down to a science. They are known to do homework, listen to music, text message, and chat on instant messenger all at once. A technologically advanced group, Generation Me learns quickly.

GenMe has also been affected by many tragic events, however. For example, September 11th made GenMe more aware of the world around them, forming a generation that is slightly more

global and knowledgeable of the world beyond America. Additionally, the Columbine shooting, which killed 13 and injured 23, flooded the media with images of students holding their hands on their heads and rushing out of the school building. The next day, it seemed as if every school in the nation had bag checks and metal detectors. More recently, a student opened fire on the Virginia Tech campus, killing 32 people and wounding many more on April 16, 2007. The massacre ended in the student-shooter taking his own life.

These random tragedies rocked the core of this generation and brought about a frightening confusion. Somehow, innocent people died simply by going to school or work. GenMe endured these events, but also became immune and desensitized to the violence in the process.

None of these facts, however, explain how we became so self-involved. In order to get a more accurate picture, we must dig deeper under the surface.



Through the Looking Glass

When brainstorming what experts mean when they call our generation narcissistic, the 2004 movie *Mean Girls* suddenly comes to mind. A character named Gretchen Weiners, whose father allegedly invented toaster strudel, most memorably said, “I’m sorry people are jealous of me, but I can’t help that I’m so popular.” At first this is laughable, but on second thought, it’s dead on. Sometimes, we get so self-obsessed that we feel the world revolves around us. Sometimes, we feel like we deserve more credit and attention than others would actually care to give us.

Blogs and YouTube

The internet and its endless capabilities have catered to our apparent self-loving attitude. It has never been as easy for us to spread our opinions as it is now. Almost anyone can post a message on an online message board or create their very own blog using LiveJournal (LJ), Blogspot, and even Facebook. If you were a little bit more ambitious, you could even design and program your own website from scratch. Nevertheless, according to Jean M. Twenge, author of the book,

Generation Me: Why Today’s Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled—and More Miserable Than Ever Before, “Blogs are built around the idea that everyone wants to hear your thoughts. Had a bad day? Tell the world on LJ.”

The advent of YouTube has only added more fuel to our self-centric fire. Look at the very name of the website. YouTube enables an ordinary person to attain his 15 minutes of fame by recording and uploading any of his or her videos. Without it, how would we have ever shown the world our capability as amateur stuntmen, innovators, musicians, and filmmakers? How would Chris Crocker have earned his claim to fame by defending Britney Spears from the media?

Reality Television

Reality television has put a different spin on the same idea. As the *New York Times* reported, “Reality television has spawned a generation of viewers who feel entitled to be on camera.” In 2000, “Survivor” started the reality show craze, with “Big Brother,” “Temptation Island,” and “The Bachelor” quickly following suit. Eight years later, a whole slew of shows have followed suit, including “Fear Factor,”

“I Love New York,” and “America’s Next Top Model.”

When you really think about it, no matter how differently you dress them up, the underlying themes and messages for these shows are all the same. They’re all about love, money, and fame. Even more broadly, they’re all about one’s struggle to prove that he or she is better than the rest. Therefore, one can prove that he or she deserves to be on TV and to receive that \$1 million, that recording or model contract, or that hot guy or girl. We start believing that if we can attain that prize at the end, we can get almost everything that we want.

I Want It, When I Want It

In *Generation Me* by Jean Twenge, this culture of self-centeredness is described as such: “Materialism is the most obvious outcome of a straightforward, practical focus on the self: you want more things for yourself.” We want movies, books, and video games that entertain us. We want clothes and accessories that complement our style. We want products that will please us; and sometimes, that isn’t enough.

Brand name products have never been as

popular as they are now, because we have become accustomed to having the best available. However, the problem arises when we start wanting and purchasing things we cannot afford. If we’re not careful, we become victims of credit card debt because we have become too preoccupied with our desires.

Many of us already use our hard-earned cash from our part-time jobs to pay for our cars, laptops, cellular phones, and mp3 players, instead of saving it for that rainy day our parents told us about. One might wonder how much money could be saved by avoiding such expenses.

In Dollars or In Utils...How Can Success Be Measured?

In our parents’ time, success was measured on a fiscal or influential scale. How much money you made or your impact on the world was the barometer of your accomplishments. Today, GenMe measures success by how happy you are. Sometimes, happiness is brought by how many toys you own and sometimes, it is triggered by something more substantial.

Shinay McNeill, a third year Visual Media major,

admits that the job market does not look good. According to McNeill, even professors have commented on the current job market for photographers, “More than half of us will not have photo jobs when we graduate.” Many will be forced to edit and do other behind-the-scenes jobs and never get to shoot. “Even if there is that risk out there that you are not going to be making billions of dollars, you still want to do it,” said McNeill. Emily McKean, a second year Photojournalism major, is also undeterred: “If I want it, I will do it.”

Sculpting Our Own Future

Nowadays, students have more freedom in what they decide to take in college. Children no longer have to aspire to be lawyers, doctors, and bankers. They can choose whatever makes them happy, and even if a college doesn’t have your dream major, you can now build it.

Many colleges have a multidisciplinary studies program which allows students to take a variety of classes and concentrate in a certain area. While in some cases this works for students who have changed their majors or will be furthering their degrees anyway, that cannot outweigh the sneaking suspicion that it is a way to avoid the

effort to earn a more specified degree.

One Major Pitfall

Even though we have become so confident with ourselves and have become so driven to succeed, there is still at least one major drawback. When all our lives we are made to believe that we can do anything, we develop higher expectations. We feel that we are entitled to and deserve so much more; and when we don’t get what we want, sometimes we don’t know how to deal with it.

In the 1999 film *Fight Club*, Tyler Durden was frighteningly accurate when he said, “We were raised on television to believe that we’d all be millionaires, movie gods, rock stars, but we won’t. And we’re starting to figure that out. And we’re very, very pissed off.” At times, it seems that we were given false hope that just because we try hard enough for something, it will come. Although being rich and famous is not impossible, we fail to see how difficult the journey itself could really be. •

Really, Really Ridiculously Good-looking *

by Michael Barbato | photograph by Tom Schirmacher

I'm

I'm pretty sure there's more to life than being really, really ridiculously good-looking... This quote from the movie *Zoolander*, starring Ben Stiller, describes the handsome yet sometimes intimidating persona of the metrosexual man. Metrosexuality is the choice to spend time and money buying and using high-fashion goods.

What makes the metrosexual man? It takes more than a straight guy in clean clothes. For starters, it is his highlights, well-moussed hair, and body chiseled out of marble. This guy works out, not at the gym, but at the *fitness club*. He can also be very picky and pays attention to the smallest of details.

For example, Thomas Bottom, a third year Computer Science major and borderline metrosexual uses nothing but his moisturizer *du jour* and the best creams. "I buy a specific non-comedogenic moisturizer...and I wouldn't use anything else unless it was recommended by someone who matched my dressing style or taste," he explained. "I would just assume only they would know about that kind of thing."

Similarly, Josh Zagaczkowski, a second year Marketing and Public Relations major and self-described "metro" cares very much about the condition of his nails. "There is such a negative stigma on long nails and no one wants to shake your hand if you have nasty nails all over the place" he reasoned.

Although this issue has only recently been tackled by the media, there are already two distinct subsets within this sect of man-pretty.

Which Type Are You?

Members of the first subclass are referred to as a girl's best friend. Also known as Type I, they are the sensitive metrosexuals and are most likely to compliment your mom on her dining set. Usually extremely outgoing, they are often observed to start conversations with anyone they make eye contact with. Some remark, "It's almost like an obligation." Another common trait is charisma, which leads many to following careers in Human Resources or Communications.

However, a Type I's single most defining trait is his effeminate nature, which often causes others to ponder the metrosexual's sexual preference. This is because metrosexuals often give the impression of being "too clean-cut" and "too sensitive" or "too empathic" which is the complete opposite of the stereotypical "manly-man." This is often the case, especially at RIT, where some guys give no attention to their personal appearance by wearing the same clothes every day and growing a scruffy neck-beard.

"This actually happened to me. I liked a guy in high school who was actually very metro. I wasn't sure if he was straight or not. [It] turned out he was straight," commented Kailyn Brand, a second year Biotechnology major.

In stark contrast to the first subclass, Type II metrosexuals possess an unyielding, incorrigible, macho attitude. The term *guido*, which previously only applied to Italian-Americans with loud personalities living in the Northeast cities, is often associated with this group.

At present, *guido* describes almost any guy from the *Popped-Collar Movement*. These metrosexuals have many common attributes with Type I metrosexuals such as extroversion, charisma, and maybe even likeability. They are, however, very self-involved.

The main difference between the two types is why they are so conscious of their appearance. Type Is tend to dress nicely and give the impression of being more approachable, while Type IIs tend to dress nicely for the attention they receive from those around them, especially the women.

Pretty Boys at RIT

"The way I dress is how I act. A loose sweater means I'm loose and easygoing," Zajaczkowski remarked on his chosen lifestyle. He mentioned, "Layers and form-fitting shirts" were two aspects he looked for in clothes.

Jonathan Halloran, a third year Biochemistry major and another self-described metrosexual, said, "I dress the way I do, not necessarily



because the clothes are comfortable, but because I'm most comfortable in them." His style seemed to have an impact on his personality. "I met a lot of people I otherwise wouldn't have met [since I started dressing metrosexually]. I used to be a lot shyer than I am now," Halloran remarked.

Even the smallest detail matters. "There's a pinstripe effect," Zajaczkowski explained while talking about deliberately hanging his keychain tassel down his leg. In this respect, it takes a lot of subtle planning to pull off metrosexuality.

Some believe that metrosexuality defines who they are. It is a constant state of being, whether they are out with friends or at home. "I think [metrosexuality is] more of a lifestyle," Halloran commented. However, for some metrosexuals,

it is only a social behavior to dress up when they go out or meet new people. "Metrosexuality isn't a lifestyle; it's a...social thing," said Zajaczkowski.

A Female Perspective

When asked about her opinion on metrosexual men, Nadiah Ghazalli, a fourth year Biotechnology major, said, "I like guys who take the time to look nice, but not guys who take the time to look pretty, but I definitely prefer guys who look nice and presentable rather than guys who don't take the time to dress up at all."

However, Monique Harris, a second year Biotechnology major, said, "I think that if the right guy can pull it off, then it's totally acceptable." The manner in which a guy uses his ability to look good must be balanced with the situation, or he might come off as ridiculous.

Said Natalie McHugh, a second year Visual Media major, "A guy who actually spends time with a comb and gel, I don't get that....For me, personally, my parents would be, like, 'What the hell?' if I brought one home." •

Thanks to the guys at Glover's Barbershop, 672 South Ave, Rochester, NY.

NAME, MAJOR, YEAR?

Ben Isserlis, first year Computer Science major.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM ORIGINALLY?

Around Syracuse. I've lived in Manlius (which is south of Syracuse) since I was five.

SO WHAT'S WITH THE PINK HAIR?

I need something so that people recognize me; and this really gets a lot of people to stop and take a second look. It also helps my professors learn my name at some point.

HOW MANY COLORS HAVE YOU DYED IT?

I started with blonde, went to blue, which sort of faded to grey... I don't know if that counts. I purposely dyed it pink, dyed it red and it's gone to pink, dyed it purple and it's gone to pink, and dyed it blue a couple of times. I think that's about it.

WHAT SETS YOU APART FROM OTHERS?

I'm pretty radical, politically. Right now, I'm going through a phase of Agorism. It's sort of like anarchical capitalism, but with a nicer spin. Not revolutionary with violence, but more so that a black market could potentially phase out the need for a government. I'm anti-authoritarian.

DID YOU GROW UP IN A POLITICAL FAMILY?

Not really. My mother and father are both Republicans, but when speaking to them, they don't really know why. They want lower taxes and that doesn't seem to be what the Republicans are doing.

WHAT OTHER BELIEFS ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU?

I believe in universal ethical egoism, that everyone should make choices that are good for them, but not interfere in any one else's life. I've read a lot of Ayn Rand, but I'm not really an objectivist. [Also] I'd say that I'm a strong agnostic.

...YET NOT ATHEIST?

A strong agnostic and an atheist are pretty much the same thing, but I don't really like the term "atheism" because I don't see a lot of religions as having a lot of credibility in the first place. I'm all about logic, so it sort of seems rational that you can't prove that there is or is not God, so it's fair to operate as if there isn't one.

IS THAT HOW YOU WERE RAISED?

Well, it's sort of interesting, because my father is Jewish and my mother's Christian. Technically, according to both religions, I should have been raised Christian. So I always felt that my upbringing as a Jew was more for political reasons within the family because my father's family is rather domineering and my mother was always trying to get in good with them. So I went

to Hebrew school for a while, finally had my Bah Mitzvah, and stopped going. So I drifted away from that.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

That's a good question. I go to a lot of events here, listen to music, watch movies—typical young adult things.



THAT GUY

by Ilsa Shaw | Dave Filiberti

TECH COMMENTARY

A Closer Look at the Mac Phenomenon

by Elvis Montero

We all love our iPods, right? That's an understatement. It's not just love; it's zealotry. Take a look around, and you'll quickly realize that iPods have become extensions of many students' bodies. However, there's another trend that has struck RIT: the use of Mac laptops.

Two days ago, I counted six MacBooks and one MacBook Pro at Java Wally's. You may think that's nothing special; but when you take into account that there were only nine students at Wally's that day, then it is a big deal. RIT's faculty seems to be just as Mac-loving. Two out of three of my professors this quarter are heavy Mac users. One of them even has a MacBook Pro as well as a Mac Pro.

This makes me ponder: *Do people really understand the implications of switching to a Mac? Are students and faculty buying Macs just because they're hot? An inquiring mind will surely make you wonder whether Apple's iron grip is beneficial or detrimental to its consumers.*

Let us take a bird's-eye view of the Apple phenomenon. Firstly, if you own a Mac, you already know that there are not many options for software out there. Despite the increasing popularity of Apple's latest operating system, Leopard, the software market for Macs remains minuscule in comparison to that of the PCs.

Secondly, as an OS X owner, you cannot install your legally purchased copy on anything but a Mac. Therefore, if your computer does not have an Apple logo, then, in layman's terms, you're screwed.

Why? Because the End User License Agreement (EULA) that you cheerfully signed upon receiving your system clearly stipulated that you cannot install OS X on anything but a Mac. "I didn't sign anything!" you exclaim. But you did. Remember that you-must-agree-before-proceeding window dialog?

Finally, you are undoubtedly paying a premium for Apple hardware when equivalent configurations can be obtained with significantly less money. Why? Apple is the sole owner of the entire platform, including hardware and software. Thus, Steve Jobs and his company have the power to sell at whatever price deemed necessary. The bottom line: if you'd like to be a Mac convert, you'll have to relinquish a little of your freedom (and money, of course).

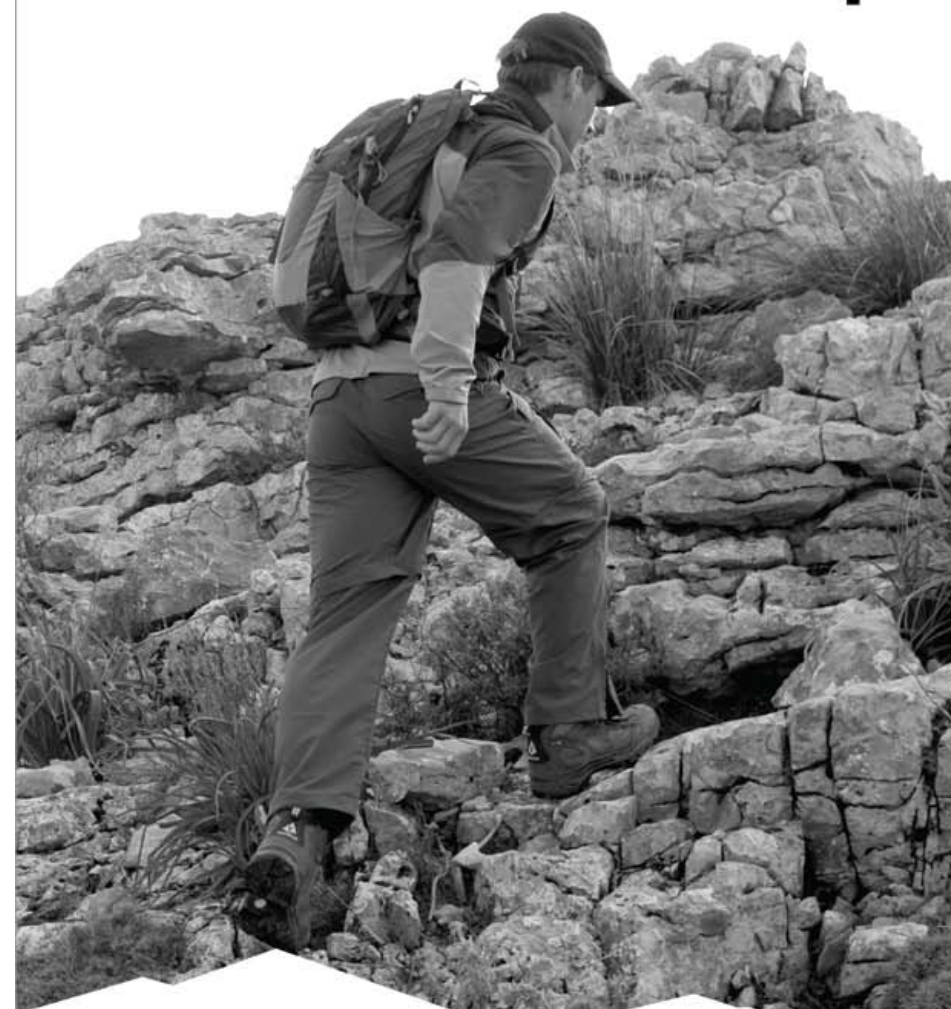
Before hordes of Mac fanboys hunt me down, I must



admit that Macs have their advantages. OS X is based on the uber robust Unix operating system. Also, malware, including viruses, spyware, and worms, is not as big an issue in the Mac world. Furthermore, OS X now comes with Boot Camp, a program allowing you to run Windows on your Mac.

So what do you think? Are MacBooks destined to be replaced by a newer, potentially hotter brand in due time? Or are we all fated to become fervent Mac fanboys? In time, we'll know; but in the mean time, you can have fun counting MacBooks while asking yourself: *Do they really know what they're getting for the extra cash?* •

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



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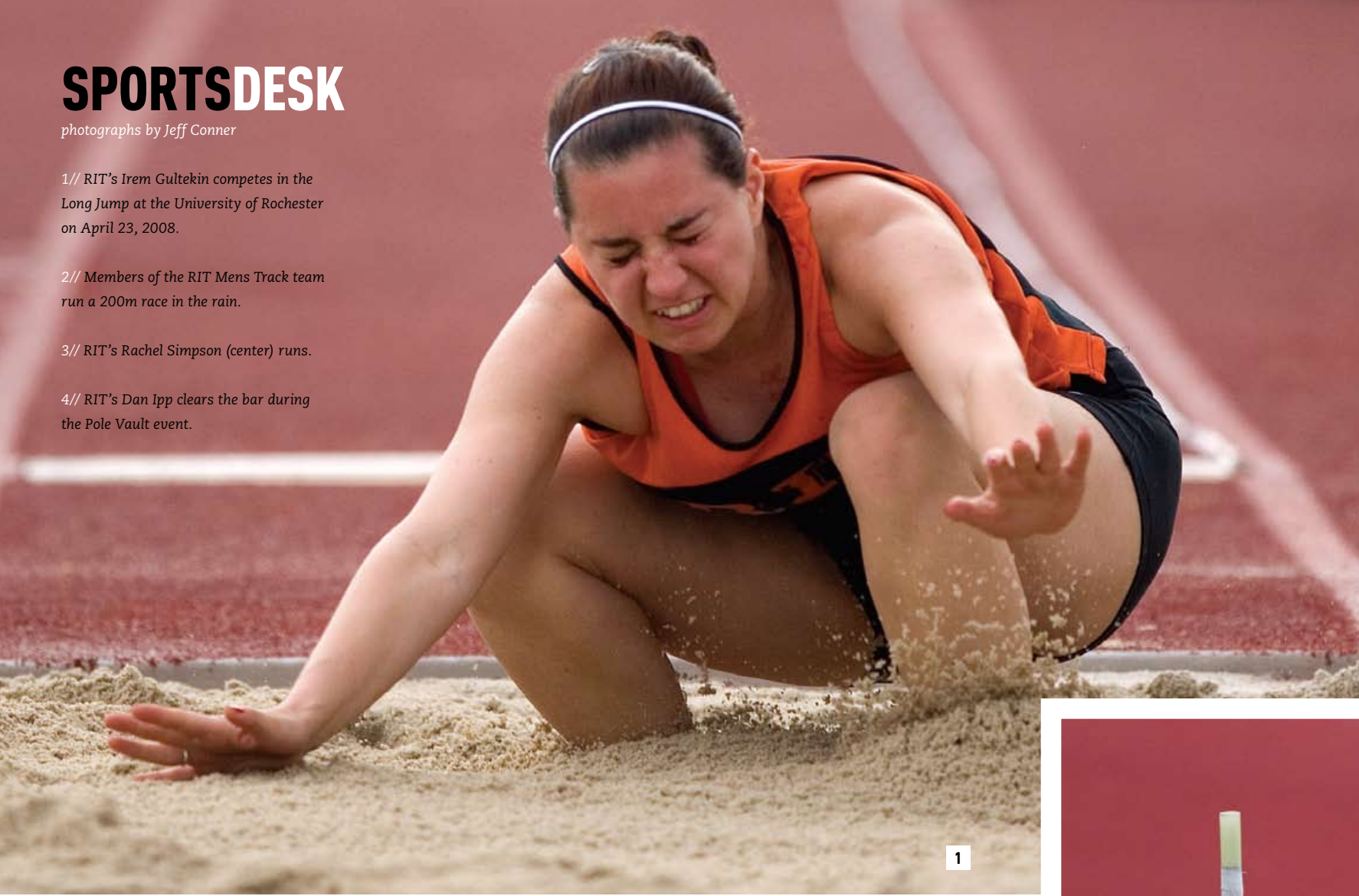
photographs by Jeff Conner

1// RIT's Irem Gultekin competes in the Long Jump at the University of Rochester on April 23, 2008.

2// Members of the RIT Mens Track team run a 200m race in the rain.

3// RIT's Rachel Simpson (center) runs.

4// RIT's Dan Ipp clears the bar during the Pole Vault event.



3 STARS

ANDREW RUOCCO

by Rachel Hart | photograph by Johngyup Son

Lacrosse has been a life-long endeavor for fourth year Andrew Ruocco. "In the town I'm from, Corning, NY, you pretty much grow up with a stick in your hand," said Ruocco, who started playing at the age of six. Ruocco described Corning as "lacrosse land," its devotion stemming from a strong high school program.

"When I came in as a freshman, I had the opportunity to step into a pretty important role," told Ruocco of his arrival on the RIT team. Ruocco began as a starter, along with many other freshmen that year. As a "close knit-group," the now senior-class has grown, gained experience, and become the core of this year's team. "It all generates from the seniors," said Ruocco.

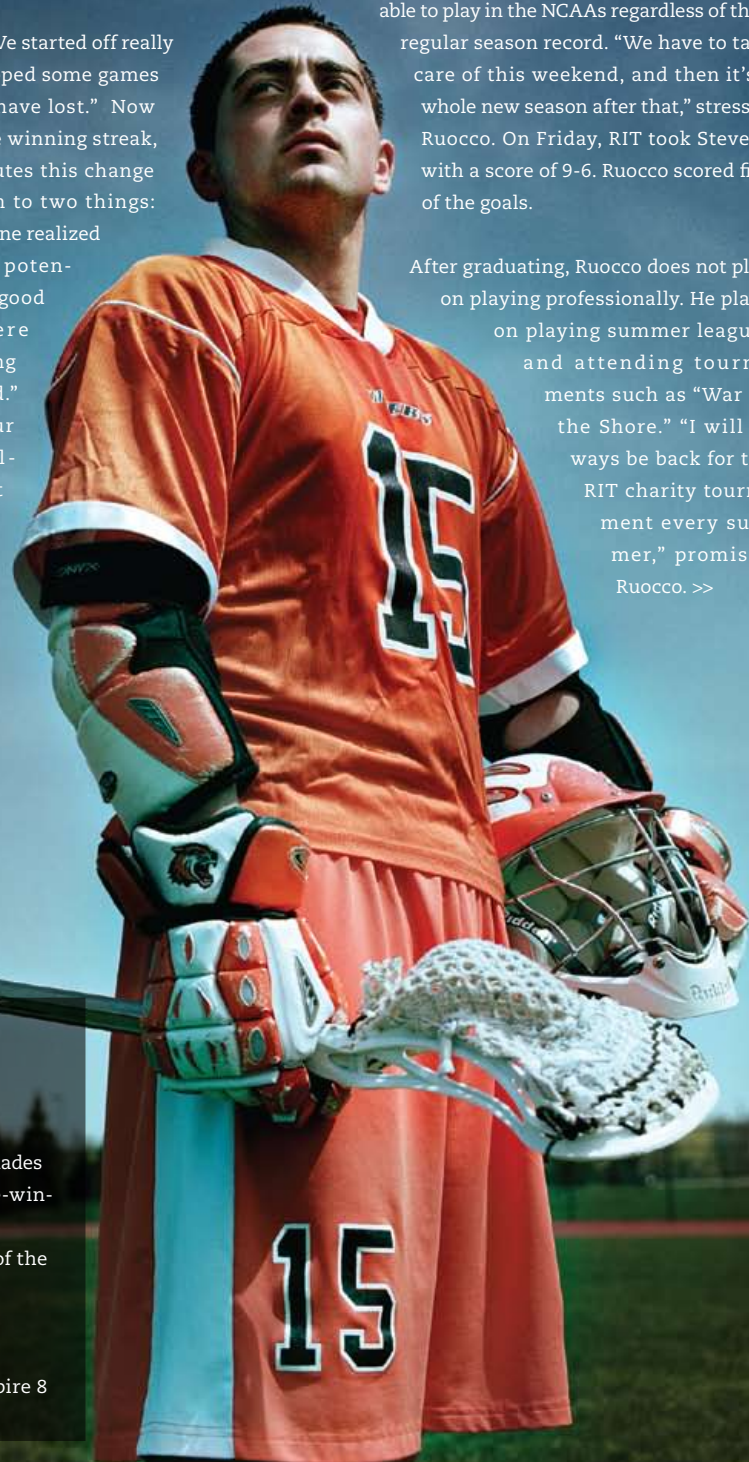
As a sophomore, Ruocco truly showed his potential in what he described as one of his biggest moments in lacrosse. Playing at Nazareth College, "It was a tie game, someone took a shot, there was a rebound at the (goal) crease, I picked it up and threw it behind my back for the winning goal." "I

love playing them (Nazareth)," said Ruocco, "everyone always brings their best game"

This season, "We started off really slow...We dropped some games we shouldn't have lost." Now on a five-game winning streak, Ruocco attributes this change in momentum to two things: Firstly, "everyone realized we have this potential, we are a good team we were just not playing like we should." Secondly, "our seniors realized if we don't start picking it up, it's done. There is no coming back."

RIT entered the Empire 8 semifinals this past weekend. If two wins are secured, RIT will be able to play in the NCAAs regardless of their regular season record. "We have to take care of this weekend, and then it's a whole new season after that," stressed Ruocco. On Friday, RIT took Stevens with a score of 9-6. Ruocco scored five of the goals.

After graduating, Ruocco does not plan on playing professionally. He plans on playing summer leagues and attending tournaments such as "War on the Shore." "I will always be back for the RIT charity tournament every summer," promised Ruocco. >>



ANDREW RUOCCO SENIOR MIDFIELDER LACROSSE

Career:

2008: Inside Lacrosse/Face-Off Magazine Second Team Preseason All-American.
2007: All-Empire first team honors
25 goals, 6 assists, 2 game-winning goals

2006: First team All-Empire 8 accolades
33 goals, 32 assists, 4 game-winning goals
two-time RIT Male Athlete of the Week, March 6 and April 27
2005: Empire 8 Rookie of the Year
Honorable mention All-Empire 8 honors

3 STARS

RYAN TRYT

by Rachel Hart
photograph by Ben Liddle



Ryan Tryt, fourth year Catcher, had humble beginnings in baseball: "I got my first start in baseball in my backyard playing with my Dad, my two older brothers, and even my Mom." Tryt began playing organized baseball at the age of six, and has not stopped since.

When it came to choosing colleges, RIT was not Tryt's first choice, "Both of my older brothers went to RIT as engineers—one electrical, the other mechanical—so when it was time for me to go to college, I wanted to carve my own path." Tryt ended up going to Ithaca College for Sports management, only to transfer a year later into the marketing program at RIT. "I decided to transfer based on the experiences my brothers had at RIT, the value of the co-op and an RIT education, and the good people here."

This transfer led to some of Tryt's favorite moments in his career here at RIT, "playing against my former teammates and my former college makes games against Ithaca very special to me, especially when we play at Ithaca." RIT lost two double headers to Ithaca this year in mid-April.

With only three seniors on this year's team, a young team has been RIT's biggest strength and biggest weakness. "At the start of the year, we weren't sure how well our underclassmen would develop. We needed them to develop as quickly as possible because of all the seniors we lost to graduation." The season is still a work in progress to some degree, but RIT will be left with a strong team regardless of the outcome.

On a personal level, Tryt does his best to be a role model for his team: "Since I do not consider myself much of a vocal leader, I let my actions speak louder than words." No inspirational speeches, only hard work and effort.

The team's goal this year is the same as every other season since the team's inception, to be the first team in RIT history to make it into the NCAA Tournament. "We've come close before, but we have never received a berth."

After RIT, Tryt plans on playing in local Rochester leagues. However, at some point, he would like to coach, most likely at the college or high school level. "I need to secure a job and good career before I can make that happen." His willingness to give back comes from a positive experience at RIT: "The experiences and memories I have shared with everyone while a member of RIT Baseball and the RIT community are plentiful enough to last a lifetime." >>

RYAN TRYT SENIOR CATCHER BASEBALL

2007: RIT's first ever Academic All-American

All-COSIDA/ESPN The Magazine second team national honors
COSIDA/ESPN The Magazine first team all-region selection

All-Empire 8 first team selection

ABCA/Rawlings All-New York Region second team selection

27 RBI, 19 walks, 10 doubles and two home runs
10 doubles are tied for the 10th most in a season at RIT

Empire 8 President's List for maintaining a 3.75 grade-point average.

2006: Played in 23 games, starting 20

Recorded six multiple-hit games.

3 STARS

LaKEISHA PEREZ

by Madeleine Villavicencio
 photograph by Jeffrey Porter

For LaKeisha Perez, running has always come naturally: "I've been running since I was little. I continued in high school. Now, basically all I do is run." When she was younger, competing in her local "Children's Summer Track" team provided her with a fun pastime. In high school, it became a means for her to stay in shape. However, further down the line, running became something much more. "I'm just a competitive person," Perez says.

Surprisingly, Perez admitted that she had no plans of running when she first arrived at RIT. Fortunately, the combined efforts of her best friend, Kim Williams, a sprinter atinghamton University, and their high school track coach motivated her to continue to pursue track. Little did they know how far Perez would go.

Here at RIT, Perez attributes much of her success to RIT's sprint coach, Ken Rasmussen. "He's trained me every day, trying to get me better and [telling me] what I need to do. I feel like having someone who is constantly there and pushing you really makes me want to do better."

Perez was named Empire 8's Athlete of the Week five times in the last three months. In addition, she automatically qualified for NCAA's last outdoor season. However, it isn't the success that Perez loves most; she loves the feeling of being on a team. "It feels really good to have people cheering for you and you cheering for them. It's really fulfilling."

The journey has had its obstacles. Every season, without fail, Perez develops shin problems which she associates with her "bad arches." "When you get injured, all your other body parts have to work much harder." Her teammates help her get through. "I don't feel like I just run for myself. I feel like I run for my team...It's like I'm doing it more than just for myself."

At the end of

LaKEISHA PEREZ

2005

Rookie of the Meet in the 2005 Empire 8 Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Championships

2006 Indoor

Empire 8 Women's Indoor Track and Field Championship Athlete of the Meet

2007 Indoor and Outdoor

Empire 8 Track and Field Athlete of the Week

2008 Indoor

All-Empire 8 first team honors 100- and 400-meter hurdles

Empire 8 Female Track and Field Athlete of the Week

this year, Perez will be graduating with a degree in Accounting. Afterwards, she plans on remaining at RIT for grad school and wants to continue running locally unattached. She also wants to give back to the team that has given her so much. "It will be easier to help other people, because I won't be running myself." •



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IF THEY DON'T WIN, IT'S OUR SHAME: IT'S TIME TO SUPPORT RIT'S ATHLETES

by Jen Loomis | illustration by Bryan Williams



I have never been, nor will I ever be, an athlete. I prefer to watch it all from a safe distance by occasionally attending basketball games, cheering on the Crew Team at the Genesee River, or elbowing my way into a seat at Ritter Arena. Yet even at this arm's length vantage point, I can easily see that sports are under-supported at RIT.

If I were one of the Tigers playing on the field day-in and day-out, I'd feel mightily shafted. Games are poorly attended by spectators and, remarkably enough, by the players themselves. There's a noticeable number of athletes who can't always attend their own matches, let alone their own practices, due to conflicting class times. Let me repeat for clarity: Athletes at RIT are often forced to choose between doing well in classes or doing well on the field. I believe this to be a worrying and unnecessary cycle, an exercise in circular and self-perpetuating thought.

Athletes at RIT are considered hobbyists. They can't be professionals, after all, because our school has a notoriously mediocre athletics program. These 'hobbyist' athletes, then, are considered to be playing sports as a mere recreation, an amusing if nonfunctional departure from their studies. As such, they are not afforded much help in arranging their class schedules to accommodate their rigid practice schedules, which causes them to miss valuable practices. So, while the teams do improve throughout the season, they don't improve nearly as much as they ought to, and thus end up playing potentially disappointing and mediocre seasons.

But what if those athletes were given a little help via early course registration, as Student Government has suggested in one of its latest proposals?

I bet that two things would happen: The first is that athletics at RIT would take a serious turn for the better. Athletes who can attend practice without worrying about deferring their graduation or routinely missing classes due to schedule conflicts will self-evidently perform better come game time. The second is that the general student body would be excessively and perhaps irrationally pissed off.

The argument against offering athletes early registration involves perceived inequality amongst students. Athletes, they say, should not be given preferential scheduling because it would signal that RIT was beginning to value athletics over academics. I find this argument confusing, because as I look around this Institute, it is clear that academics are the leading lady. Athletics, meanwhile, seem so far off center-stage that it can't even place its big toe in the spotlight's luminance, let alone dominate it. There is certainly room to grow the athletics program without shrinking our educational merit. One could even argue that, should it come at a price of reduced educational process, a slight increase in athletics would still be worthwhile for this campus. Man needs more than mere brainpower to be happy and healthy.

I think that RIT has a lot to gain by supporting its athletes. First, it would help grow RIT's national prestige. We could spend the next hundred years arguing about garnering fame through an excellent basketball team, and whether or not that's morally or intellectually desirable, but the results of that conversation would be meaningless. Duke, a damn fine school in its own right, has no doubt been made more successful as a result of its NCAA bids over the years.

There's a more personal reason that I'd like to see RIT's athletes succeed both on and off the field, though, and that has to do with campus culture. Four years ago, I arrived at a school that was more or less exactly what I expected it to be: heavy on the academics and light on life. I have six more months 'til graduation. If I could do it all over again, I probably wouldn't come here. My education has been stellar, certainly, but my

overall college experience has been on life support for some time now.

I wish I could have heard people cheering on the Quarter Mile during Homecoming, and it would have been nice to feel like there was a community here that wasn't based on classes and whining about the stormy weather. I wanted to feel and see and taste Tiger Pride. I am not delusional, in that I do not believe that supporting

our athletes via early registration would instantly usher in an age of Division I Prosperity at RIT. I do, however, believe that it's a reasonable step towards improving the quality of life on this campus. •

"There is certainly room to grow the athletics program without shrinking our educational merit."

RIT RINGS

585.

672-4840

compiled by Karl Voelker

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

WEDNESDAY, 11:34 P.M.

Rings, my buddy's girlfriend showed me her boobies over video chat. Very nice!

THURSDAY, 12:34 P.M.

Yo, I'm out here, walking to Crossroads, and there's these two trees cut down. What happened to going green? We're going green and we're cutting down trees? That doesn't make any sense.

WEDNESDAY, 11:34 P.M.

I peed in your pool! Yay! It's okay!

WEDNESDAY, 11:35 P.M.

Rings, I was just sitting on the commode, [urinating] out my sphincter, and it was the [unholy] Commons. That pasta toss, it got me!

SUNDAY, 12:58 A.M.

So a kid just walks into our apartment and asks if we found a dictionary in the parking lot. We said, "No," and he left. And that was it.

THURSDAY, 9:57 P.M.

So I was just walking down from class, and I saw a bunch of foreigners running past me, and my first instinct was to run the same direction they were running? Is that bad?

SATURDAY, 4:31 A.M.

We're no strangers to love. You know the rules, and so do I! Never gonna give you up, never gonna let you down. Never gonna run around and desert you.

WEDNESDAY, 11:36 P.M.

RINGS, YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND.

WEDNESDAY, 11:38 P.M.

Whatever you do, Rings, don't shop at Wal-Mart. Their towels are inferior.

THURSDAY, 3:07 A.M.

Holy [cow], Rings! I came down to the NRH basement to get snacks out of the machines, and the [broken] glass is pressed in. Free snacks, Rings, hurry your [rear end] up! Free mother[impregnating] snacks.

SATURDAY, 11:11 A.M.

Hi Rings. Why is it whenever RIT has some kind of sports event they feel the need to blare music all around the dorms when people are sleeping? It's Saturday. No one's up at eleven.

MEDIOCRE GENERATION

by Adam Botzenhart | illustration by Sara Wick

You're remarkable—you really are
You're the only one like you
There isn't another in the whole wide world
Who can do the things you do
Because you are special, special
Everyone is special
Everyone in his or her own way
Yes you're special, special
Everyone is special
Everyone in his or her own way!
-Barney, the Purple Dinosaur

In 2007, Midwest Trophy Manufacturing Company, Inc. sold 82 million dollars worth of trophies, pins, plaques, and other miscellaneous mementos signifying achievement. Founded in 1971, 2007 has been its best year yet. Americans, it would seem, are doing better than ever.

By the time I was 12, I had accumulated no fewer than 15 trophies on the shelf in my bedroom. What, exactly, I had accomplished as a young boy who had just finished fifth grade meriting such high praise remains unclear. As best I can tell, I had participated on a non-competitive soccer team, bowled a personal high of 92, and submitted a project in the annual science fair at George H. Nichols Elementary school. I tried to demonstrate the greenhouse effect by placing Saran Wrap over a styrofoam cup filled with dirt. Unfortunately, it didn't actually work.

Ours is a mediocre generation, made worse by the fact that we've always only been told we're exceptional. We have never really had to try; and yet, somehow, we just keep going on succeeding. The truth is, we're actually pretty unremarkable. More than that, most of the time we're lazy.

Our ethic is one of entitlement. We believe getting an education is some sort of fundamental human right, not a privilege. We don't understand anything other than instant gratification. We like the language of needs and rights. We have a right, we argue, to universal healthcare. We'll sit at a desk and work for six to eight hours a day, but we need a latte or comparable drink from Starbucks first. In other places at other times needs might have had something to do with shelter, water, food, those things. Today we're disadvantaged if we don't have air conditioning or an mp3 player. We are, in short, complacent. We feel we're entitled to a B if we decide to show up and sit through class. Grading, come to find out, is purely subjective. If we fail it isn't in any way related to our performance. A's are for effort, trophies are for participation.



Our generation is one uncomfortable with the idea of virtue and suspicious of anyone who claims to be exceptional. Our mantra is one of personal authenticity. We don't believe in much, but above all else we believe that no one has a legitimate right to pass judgment on us but ourselves. We're offended by the idea that anyone could be objectively better trained or more talented than we are. We are men without chests. Most of us can't spell, but it's not that big of a deal since there are computers for that.

We don't have passion, we have apathy. We don't set goals more than three weeks in advance. Current technology only fuels our narcissism. MySpace, YouTube—the bar for celebrity is at an all-time low.

The trouble, of course, is that we aren't actually entitled to anything. Maybe, just maybe, we aren't remarkable. We haven't quite figured out that it took hard work, real labor, and an uncomfortable dedication to excellence to produce what we conspicuously consume today. While students in India study and work with an ethic that they are owed nothing but can attain everything through hard work, we're contented with being told we're "special."

Our generation has talent, but we also have a bad attitude, and eventually we're going to have to pay the price. America has always been a land of opportunity, but it's been one where its citizens constantly strive to become better—they aren't convinced they're the best (or reject the very idea of a best) at the outset. The "Me" generation certainly has a lot of swagger. But with all its swagger, it's really just a lot of mediocre. •

