

# REPORTER

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# REPORTER

**EDITOR IN CHIEF** Laura Mandanas

**MANAGING EDITOR** Adam Botzenhart

**COPY EDITOR** Veena Chatti

**NEWS EDITOR** Joe McLaughlin

**LEISURE EDITOR** Ilsa Shaw

**FEATURES EDITOR** Madeleine Villavicencio

**SPORTS/VIEWS EDITOR** Rachel Hart

**WRITERS** Geoffrey H. Bliss, Veena Chatti, Susan Cook, Rohit Garg, Jen Loomis, Evan McNamara, Elvis Montero, Andy Rees, Alex Salsberg, Ilsa Shaw, Karl Voelker

## ART

**ART DIRECTOR** Susie Sobota

**STAFF DESIGNERS** Ryan Moore, Kelvin Patterson, Rachel Poulin

**AD DESIGNER** Lisa Barnes

**STAFF ILLUSTRATORS** Greg Caggiano

**CARTOONIST** Alex Salsberg

## PHOTO

**PHOTO EDITOR** Dave Londres

**STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS** Ben Liddle, Josh Lehrer, Tom Liggett

## PRODUCTION

**PRODUCTION MANAGER** John Carew

**PRINTING** Printing Applications Lab

## BUSINESS

**AD MANAGER** Kyle O'Neill

**BUSINESS MANAGER** Tim Wallenhorst

## ONLINE

**ONLINE EDITOR** Chris Zubak-Skees

## ADVISOR

Rudy Pugliese

## CONTACT

**MAIN** 585.475.2212

**EMAIL** reporter@rit.edu

**ADVERTISING** 585.475.2213

**EMAIL** reporterads@mail.rit.edu

# EDITOR'S NOTE

## NOTES FROM THE INNOVATION FESTIVAL

I hope you all left your dorm rooms this past weekend. The Innovation Festival (see “Institute Hosts Imagine RIT”) was actually really cool.

If, by chance, you happened to miss the festival, here are some of the less publicized highlights of the weekend:

1. Roving, advice-dispensing alumni. I ran into one of the former Editor in Chiefs of *Reporter* from the 1960's, and was surprised to learn that there had once been a bar in the basement of the men's dorm on campus... and that it went out of business due to lack of interest. Can you imagine? (Also, I learned that *Reporter* used to have an unlimited budget. Any chance we could bring that back, RIT?)

2. President Destler's face. I had kind of assumed that he'd be shuttled from event to event to give introductions and that sort of thing, but that didn't appear to be the case at all. Instead, he wandered around campus like a child in a candy store, telling people how cool he thought their exhibits were. And I feel like he was being totally sincere, every single time. Honestly, I don't think I've seen anyone over the age of five look that excited in a long, long time. It was neat.

3. On-demand tours of just about everything on campus. Mistakenly going into in the wrong part of Building 78, my family and I found ourselves caught up in a tour of the CIMS building and all the projects there. It was a happy accident, however. Did you know they do military research there? They've got giant, full size aircraft hanging from the ceilings and stuff. Crazy!

4. Pleasant-smelling flowered trees. The ones with the little pink buds. I realize that they'll probably die off in a week, and all we'll have are the gross white ones along the Quarter Mile... but still. The good ones were in full bloom last weekend. You should have seen them.

5. Free food. All over the place.

6. Cheap food. All over the place.

7. Other students. Campus is absolutely deserted most weekends (even when there's nice weather), but there were actually other people around last Saturday. This probably won't happen again until the Innovation Festival rolls around again next year.

Laura Mandanas

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**

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### RINGS

Please stop calling.

### DON'T WORRY, I CAN SAY THAT

Alex Salsberg wants you to stop getting hung up on who's offended by what. That way, we can all party together more often.



Cover: Dr. David Mathiason holds a yellow warbler after banding it as part of a research project. Photograph by Dave Londres.

## CORRECTIONS

The April 25th issue of *Reporter* incorrectly gave credit to Dave Londres on the “Coming Out at RIT” photograph on page 27. The photograph was taken by Ryan Randolph.

The May 2nd issue of *Reporter* incorrectly identified Jonghyup Son in “3 Stars” on page 32.

The May 2nd issue of *Reporter* incorrectly identified Maegan Gindi in the table of contents on page 6.

## STILL LOOKING FOR YOUR COVER?

If you had your picture taken for the “Me Issue” of *Reporter* (May 2, 2008) and are still looking for a copy of your cover, go to [reportermag.com/swap.php](http://reportermag.com/swap.php). You can scroll through the 431 unique covers we printed, click on the cover you want for a cover that you have and would be willing to trade, and we'll do our best to hook you up.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## DEAR REPORTER:

I am writing this letter concerning the cartoon entitled, “How RIT Can Use Antisemitic Graffiti To Its Advantage” in the April 25 edition of *Reporter*. While we at RIT encourage artistic expression and freedom of speech, this cartoon crossed a line that is at the very least hurtful, and to many, hateful. Throughout history, symbols have held strong meanings and evoked powerful emotions. Our challenge is to respect the history of such symbols, and those who hold memories, feelings, and values associated with them that we might not know or share. Although the swastika existed long before Adolf Hitler, his adoption of this symbol as the logo for the Nazi Party has forever marred its meaning. Since World War II, the swastika has become primarily a symbol of hate, and for that reason, we should not be complacent to its meaning or use.

*Reporter* is a student run publication whose content is reviewed only by students, and is not made available to advisors prior to publication. This does not mean, however, that all of us in the RIT community should blindly accept or endorse what is published in *Reporter*. As a respected student magazine, the only one of its kind in the U.S., I encourage *Reporter* to take a close look at its editorial practices. Upon further review, it may become evident that *Reporter* crossed a line that goes beyond journalistic freedom or artistic expression.

MARY-BETH COOPER

Vice President for Student Affairs

## DEAR REPORTER:

I am intrigued by your “Coming Out at RIT” article. As I read I thought this article is not covering all the athletes at RIT. You focused on one male athlete from RIT, whose opinion I agree with. However, you didn’t get any other athletes that are participating in any other sports. You picked three ex-crew members who left the team for reasons not related to their sexual orientation. You didn’t search very hard for athletes that participate or have participated for maybe more than a few months in a sport. I am writing as the captain of the Women’s Crew team. It’s my

third year on the team, and I’ve been openly gay since day one on the team. Never have I had an issue, and I would have to say no one else who has joined after me really has had an issue with the team and their sexual orientation.

I know of many other gay or lesbian athletes on this campus, and many of them are not ashamed or in the closet. I am very disappointed with your reporting skills that you couldn’t track down a few other athletes to get a broad scope of opinions. I think in general the athletes on this campus will agree with Mr. Stevens but you should have tried a little harder...In the future for GLBT related articles *Reporter* can feel free to contact the GLBT Center on campus. This is the kind of resources and connections that the center can provide.

JENN KOLLING, WOMEN’S CREW CAPTAIN

Third year ASL English Interpretation

*Editor’s Note: Thank you for your feedback; we will be sure to make better use of the GLBT Center in the future.*

## DEAR REPORTER:

As someone who has long been involved in the movement to end poverty, I was appalled when a friend sent me the piece in the RIT *Reporter* on “the welfare game,” reviewed by Susan Cook. The game is discussed without the slightest attempt to present the reasons why many organizations devoted efforts to stop the sale of this game.

The premises and “rules” of the game are founded in stereotypes and false assumptions about the nature of poverty, and they reflect generalizations about the poor that are not born out in study after study of this population.

One of the primary myths reflected in this “game” is that most of the people on welfare are unmarried mothers who have extra children so that they can get more money. Families on welfare average two children. The average monthly increase in a welfare grant for each additional child is \$90. This hardly pays for diapers and formula. On the other hand, the standard deduction on federal income tax per child is \$3400. How many people do you know who boast that they have additional children due to this “incentive”?

Perhaps most importantly, let’s look at the typical welfare recipient. In Monroe County, 73% of the recipients of family public assistance are children, and welfare limits enacted by the federal government over the past decade have corresponded with a rise in child poverty and child welfare. The basic cash grant has not been increased since 1990. In Monroe County, a mother with two children gets a welfare grant of \$647 per month, plus about \$399 in food stamps.

Out of these amounts, the family must pay for food, rent, gas and electric, clothing, dishes, dish soap, toilet paper, school supplies, cooking utensils, over the counter medications, Medicaid co-pays, toothpaste, tooth brushes, light bulbs, furniture, entertainment, transportation, women’s supplies, stationary, pens or pencils, laundry and bath soap, shampoo, make-up, boots, shoes, combs, tools, newspapers, towels, washcloths, church or temple dues, and other expenses.

Another theme in this “welfare game” is the pervasiveness of fraud. 93% of welfare fraud is committed by vendors. And of all of the welfare fraud committed, one might argue that it is a drop in the bucket compared to the burdens on the American taxpayer of military fraud, government waste, and corporate welfare.

Finally, another myth reflected in the game is that welfare dependency is the result of the moral failings of poor people: addiction, unwillingness to work, lack of family values and sexual control. The fact is that—overwhelmingly—people need assistance when they are in financial hardship, and they are usually in financial hardship for economic reasons.

Work is not a sure cure for poverty, either. At the current minimum wage of \$7.15/hour, a full-time employee would make \$14,872 per year. This means that if a family of four has one spouse working full-time, they will still make \$6,328 less than the current Family Federal Poverty Guideline Standard.

I’m sure RIT students are taught to “do their research” no matter what their major is, and to be sure to examine all sides of an argument. I only wish Ms. Cook had followed that advice.

BARBARA KASPER

Associate Professor, SUNY Brockport



# RIT FORECAST

compiled by Rohit Garg

## 10 SATURDAY

### JOHN “LENO” MAUCERE SHOW

08-2355, 9 p.m. – 1 a.m. Maucere will be presenting a new monologue reflecting Deaf cultural issues. The show is a “Deafywood” spinoff, and consists of jokes like Maucere’s infamous ‘John Leno’ character, a parody of the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. Cost: Free.

### KIM MURRAY KARATE TOURNAMENT

Clark Gym, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Karate demonstrations in a tournament setting for those interested. Cost: \$2 spectators, \$35 participants.

## 11 SUNDAY

### ART SHOW AND CRAFT SALE

Our Lady of Mercy High School (off-campus), 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Head out this Sunday to appreciate some art. Not much is happening on campus, anyway. Cost: \$2.

## 12 MONDAY

### ROCHESTER RED WINGS VS. BUFFALO BISON

Frontier Field, 7:05 p.m. – 10 p.m. It’s spring, and that means it’s baseball time. Watch Rochester’s minor league team take on the team from Buffalo. Cost: tickets start at \$6.

## 13 TUESDAY

### LASA END OF THE YEAR BARBEQUE

Greek Lawn, 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. An outdoor event featuring barbecue grilling, music and recreational games. This is not just for LASA members; non-members are welcome. Cost: Free.

## 14 WEDNESDAY

### TOO LATE BLUES

Dryden Theater, 8 p.m. – 10 p.m. Bobby Darin stars in a 1962 movie about a pianist who tries to avoid selling out. Cost: \$5 for students.

## 15 THURSDAY

### CAB THURSDAY NIGHT CINEMA PRESENTS: 1408

Ingle Auditorium, 10 p.m. – midnight. A movie about a man who specializes in debunking paranormal occurrences. Soon after checking into the fabled room 1408 in the Dolphin Hotel, he confronts genuine terror. Free Lifesavers and Tang after the movie. Cost: Free.

## 16 FRIDAY

### I LOVE YOU, YOU’RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE

Downstairs Cabaret Theater, 8 p.m. – 10:10 p.m. The longest currently running off-Broadway musical is being presented in Rochester. Come see a musical about dating and relationships over the course of a lifetime. Cost: tickets start at \$24.

# SG WEEKLY UPDATE

by Geoffrey H. Bliss

## COB ELECTIONS

“College of Business (COB) elections will be next week,” said Student Government Vice President Sasha Malinchoc. “There will be tables in the COB in a similar voting fashion to what happened in the SAU during the primary elections. These elections will span four days.” Laptops will be set up for voting for an hour on each of the four days in the COB.

## CLUB REVIEW BOARD DENIES PARKOUR CLUB, SG OVERRULES

The Club Review Board has decided to deny Parkour’s application for club recognition. Parkour is an activity where individuals attempt to overcome obstacles, such as walls or buildings, as quickly as possible. Parkour is said to be in “violation of RIT policies” and “indulging in endangering behavior” where institute liability, including rules and regulations related to RIT facilities, buildings, and students, were in jeopardy. There was a following debate in regard to what specific policies Parkour breaks and if these policies are reputable and what changes could be made to accommodate future clubs like Parkour.

Mike D’Arcangelo, Director of the Center for Campus Life, spoke in regard to this issue, “We have a field of what we call ‘minimum standards of care,’ for instance, athletes playing lacrosse must have a helmet and a chest pad. We’re trying to prevent a serious injury or death. We want to make sustainable decisions about our students... This isn’t just about Parkour, but future groups that come after it. I think it’s important that we talk to [Parkour] now and make sure what they are doing falls within specific safety guidelines.”

Zachery Cohen, President of the Parkour club, stated, “I’ve been trying to work with John Zink [Interim Assistant Vice President for Global Risk Management Services], but we’ve had difficulty staying in touch with him. I also should note that no person has ever died of this. We want to make clear that certain videos which show Parkour as dangerous do not represent Parkour as a whole.”

SG President Ed Wolf stated, “I think if we can’t recognize you as a club, we can still recognize you as an organization which SG can help support. We have to take into consideration that RIT is a private institution, and with that comes a special liability.” It was noted that there is a difference in state and private schools, in terms of clubs or activities that they can allow. “In some cases, when a student sues a private school, the school usually settles whereas in a state school, these cases tend to last longer. Suing the state is very different than suing RIT,” said Rep at Large Matt Danna.

In light of this, Cohen stated, “I feel like we could do a great deal of good in the community...If we could advertise our club, then we could create a better awareness on how to teach and learn Parkour.” SG voted on the issue in favor of Parkour, overruling the Club Review Board, and recognizing the club. •

# INSTITUTE HOSTS IMAGINE RIT

by Andy Rees

On Saturday, May 3rd, people of all ages swarmed to RIT’s campus to attend Imagine RIT, the inaugural “innovation and creativity festival.” The festival, coinciding with the traditional Spring Festival, sought to showcase the Institute’s commitment to becoming an “innovation university.” With over 400 exhibits, Imagine RIT displayed a wide variety of projects by students, faculty, and businesses.

Some of the more popular exhibits included an automated hot-dog-making robot designed to assemble hot dogs to order, as well as a demonstration of combat robotics, complements of a BattleBots veteran. These demonstrations, along with over 60 others, were housed in the Gordon Field House, dubbed the “WOW Center” during the event, which was reserved for premier innovative projects.

“There’s a computer generated poetry booth, and I was reading some of the poetry. I thought it was pretty cool,” said Travis Popkave, a second year Computer Science major, referring to a computer program designed to generate unique poetic verse. Popkave, an off-floor member of Computer Science House (CSH), was demonstrating CSH’s project, *Drink*, a networked drink dispenser, and its companion delivery robot.

“It’s really great to see all the changes that have happened,” said Brittany Wooten, who graduated from RIT in 2007 with a degree in Advertising Photography. She noted that Imagine RIT was an excellent way for students to get noticed. “When I was a student, you had to wait until someone acknowledged your ideas... I think this really brings attention from not only the local community, but also the parents and alumni... about what we’re doing here at RIT that may go unlooked otherwise.”

“It’s giving this broad spectrum of what RIT has to offer,” said Wooten, pointing out that the most interesting exhibits had interactive features, such as Hotel Proxy, an online hotel community. “[It] was really interesting, just because of their set up, you walked up to what looked like a hotel welcome stand.”

“I liked the [Mobius] kaleidoscope thing that Professor Thurston was showing off,” said Max Wunderlich, a fourth year Information Technology major, in reference to a walk-in kaleidoscope. Wunderlich also remarked that while he enjoyed the festival, he would not like to see it annually, as a year’s worth of innovation might not be adequate for the festival.

Another popular exhibit was FIRST Robotics, a national high school robotics program, designed to encourage innovation through friendly competition. Students, with the help of engineers, built 120-pound robots designed to compete in a sports-like game. The exhibit consisted of two local FIRST teams demonstrating some of their robot’s abilities, like manipulating large exercise balls.

Outside of the WOW center, other demonstrations were happening across the campus, including an NTID-sponsored miniature golf course and a pumpkin cannon demonstration. President Destler has already announced that following the success of Imagine RIT, the festival will return to RIT next year on May 2nd. •

# HILLEL INTERFAITH SHABBAT SERVICE

by Geoffrey H. Bliss

At 6 p.m. on Friday, May 2nd, RIT Jewish community organization Hillel hosted its weekly service in the Allen Memorial Chapel. Normally, this happens in Hillel House, which is located in the dorm-side tunnels under Colby Hall, but for this occasion, larger numbers were expected. The Shabbat service, which celebrates the weekly day of rest, featured traditional songs and prayers, which were aimed at introducing and opening the Jewish community to any interested RIT students or faculty.

A line from the opening song, titled *Hineh Mah Tov* (Psalm 133:1) reads, “How good and pleasant it is for all of us to dwell together in this community!” Chaplain Jennifer Gravitz stated at the start of the service. “It’s a delight to see everyone. I think the best way to pray is from the heart, and Shabbat is such a special day. We recreate this celebration [of faith] every Friday.”

Second year Illustration major Blaire Moskowitz noted, “We can’t do any work today since the Sabbath is the traditional day of rest.” The remainder of the service continued with more songs and the reading of prayers, some of which encouraging worshipers to say prayers to loved ones whom they might have lost or someone they are concerned about.

Sonny Bleicher, a fourth year Environmental Science major, commented on the Shabbat service, its history, and why this particular service was unique: “There’s a whole ritual, which started about 400 years after Jesus died in Galilean Israel, where some rabbis would dress in white robes, running in the fields and singing songs to welcome the Sabbath in. Later [Jewish people] took all those songs and compiled them into a service which makes it much more simple and focused on community building, being together, and singing and dancing together. It’s very nice.”

Bleicher added, “Today’s idea was to invite the RIT community to see what we’re doing and what Judaism is all about. It was also good to bring in the Jewish faculty. On most campuses, the Jewish faculty is very involved. However, on this campus, many of them are not. It’s kind of a call out for the community where we’re saying, ‘Join us,’ we’re looking for those connections.”

Following the service, dinner was served. Preceding the meal was the series of traditional blessings. First was the blessing over the wine, known as the Kiddush, followed by the ritual washing of hands and, lastly, Ha’motzi, grace before the meal. The meal consisted of traditional Jewish home-cooked foods such as challah, a special braided bread, and brisket. The meal concluded with Birkat Ha’Mazon, grace after the meal. This was followed by Shira which means “to sing” in Hebrew. Rebecca Strauss, a junior fine arts major and an active member of Hillel, commented: “It’s a part of my identity, and it’s exciting to share it with people I know.” •

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## ACADEMIC SENATE DELAYS ATHLETES' EARLY REGISTRATION

The Academic Senate voted not to approve a proposal by the Student Athletics Advisory Committee (SAAC) to allow student athletes to register for classes one day earlier than they are otherwise able. By tabling the motion, the Senate has delayed action on it until next year.

The proposal called for the Senate to "make a change in school policy so that student-athletes are extended the same courtesy of early registration as Honors Students and NTID Cross-registered students for the period which the athlete will be in season to ensure that they meet their academic requirements and needs."

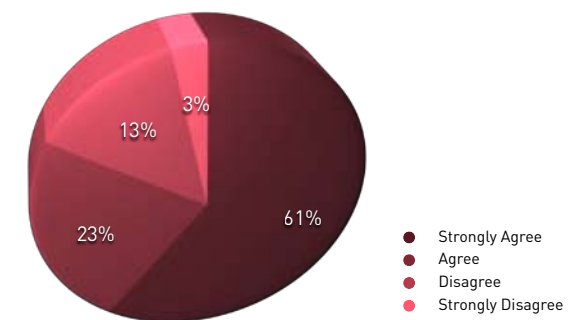
According to Anna Kolnik, fourth year Business major and Student Government representative for SAAC, the men's Lacrosse team missed 15 players three times a week due to classes. Additionally, half of the men's Tennis team missed practice at least twice a week. "The purpose [of the proposal] is to keep athletes in the classroom," she said.

Some members of the Senate expressed concerns over the plan. Stephen Diehl of the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences said, "I think it diminishes the status of Honors students. I don't feel comfortable extending this to athletes."

Others questioned whether this would solve the problem. Provost Stan McKenzie said that the proposal would only

help with practices and not games. (Instructors are currently required to let student-athletes miss class for games.) "It would help slightly with electives...but once you get into your third or fourth year, you have required classes that only offer one section," he said.

McKenzie suggested possibly finding out which classes are likely to have a high concentration of athletes, and scheduling those classes so that they do not conflict. Another proposal was to use the STARS system to manually reserve seats for athletes. The Senate decided to appoint a working group to help SAAC retool their plan. The full Senate will consider the proposal again in the fall quarter of next year. •



Students frustrated by onflicting class and practice times

## CAST ANNOUNCES DEAN FINALISTS

The College of Applied Science and Technology's Dean Search Committee is finishing its search for a new dean, and has informed the Academic Senate that the dean will be appointed by May 30th. The committee named five finalists:

**Valentine James** is the dean of the graduate school at Fayetteville State University in North Carolina. He earned his Ph.D. from Texas A&M with a major in Urban and Regional Planning, and wrote his dissertation on "Attractiveness of New Towns to Industries and Workers: A Comparative Study of the Midwest and Sunbelt New Communities in the USA."

**Carol Richardson** is currently the acting dean of CAST. She earned a master's degree from Union College, majoring in Electrical Engineering. Before coming to RIT in 1978, she worked for General Electric on instruments for nuclear submarines.

**H. Fred Walker** is the chair of the technology department at the University of Southern Maine. He earned his Ph.D. with honors from the University of Iowa in 1995, with a de-

gree emphasis in Workforce Development with Automated Manufacturing Systems. Walker also has master's degrees in Business Administration and System Administration. Walker has written nine books on quality control and the Six Sigma business strategy, and is under contract for five more.

**Mulchand Rathod** is the chair of the division of Engineering Technology at Wayne State University in Michigan. Rathod helped to create distance learning programs for Wayne State, as well as on-site degree programs at General Motors and Chrysler. Rathod is also a licensed engineer in three states, and was registered in four others.

**James Meyers** is the director of the Center for Multi-Disciplinary Studies at RIT. He earned his Ph.D. from Michigan State University with a focus on Natural Resource Economics. Meyers is also an RIT alumnus, earning his bachelor's degree in Food and Hotel Management and his master's in Packaging Science. •

It's hard to feel out of place dressed as Rukia from *Bleach* while standing in a line of people ranging from *Inuyasha* to *Kingdom Hearts* characters—especially considering most cosplayers were cross-dressers. It was a little after 7 a.m. and I was waiting in the pre-registered line to enter Tora-con, the annual convention held by the RIT Anime Club.

Cosplay was, of course, a huge part of Tora-con, part of the incentive being a Cosplay Competition. For instance, Sara Jackson, second year Computer Science major, entered herself as Asuka Langely Sohryu from *Neon Genesis Evangelion* in a maid waitress outfit and wound up winning first place for Craftsmanship. Still, she noted that there were flaws with the contest: "I would try to get the cosplay

contest to run more smoothly. I didn't go to the one last year, so I'm not sure if it's always like this, but the rehearsal part was very unorganized."

After opening ceremonies, the Anime Music Video contest began. One that got a lot of attention was a comedic *Neon Genesis Evangelion* video, which featured the teeth-gritting "I Know A Song That Gets on Everybody's Nerves." Everyone eventually ended up singing and it was topped off with a Rickroll, featuring Rick Astley's "Never Gonna Give You Up."

In the section known as the Artist Alley were several artists including Kirsten Canfield, third year International Studies major, who designed the badges worn by everyone at Tora-con.

When asked if she would come to the con again next year, she replied, "If I can get a job in the Rochester area, I'll definitely attend again. Tora-con is actually the reason I'm trying to get a job in the Rochester area for spring quarter."

Another panel that drew a huge amount of attention was that of the MetalWorks Club, RIT's chain-mail club. Several MetalWorks members, joined by Michael Delles, MetalWorks President and second year Computer Engineer, taught people how to make simple designs while Delles stood by dressed in a 16-pound chain-mail vest with two wrist guards. By the end of the workshop, my hands were red and sore, but I had caught on so quickly that I had made a bracelet before most people finished their first inch.

Throughout the day, there were also anime showings. Based on suggestions in the online forum, they arranged a list of shows such as *Vampire Hunter D: Bloodlust* and *Outlaw Star*. To top it all off, there were even three gaming tournaments going on upstairs for *Brawl*, *Double Dash*, and *Guitar Hero 3*.

Later that night, the band *unicorn table* performed a concert and the crowd went wild. Although there were some issues with singing along (almost no one knew Japanese), the energy in the room was overwhelming, and it was a huge hit. At around 1:30 a.m., the crowd began to disperse and the DJ slowed it down. The lights were turned up and tired ravers left to go home and hit the hay. •

Megan Paddi, dressed as Hsien-Ko from "Night Warriors," lays in the grass. Paddi made the costume herself and has been into anime since she was 10.

#### COSPLAY

From the words "costume play," cosplay is the act of dressing up in costumes (usually emulating comic book, sci-fi, or anime characters) and pretending to be a fictional character.

#### RICKROLL

An act of deception resulting in unexpected exposure to Rick Astley's 1987 song, "Never Gonna Give You Up."

#### CON

Short for "convention."

## TORA-CON 2008

by Susan Cook | photograph by Jeffrey Porter



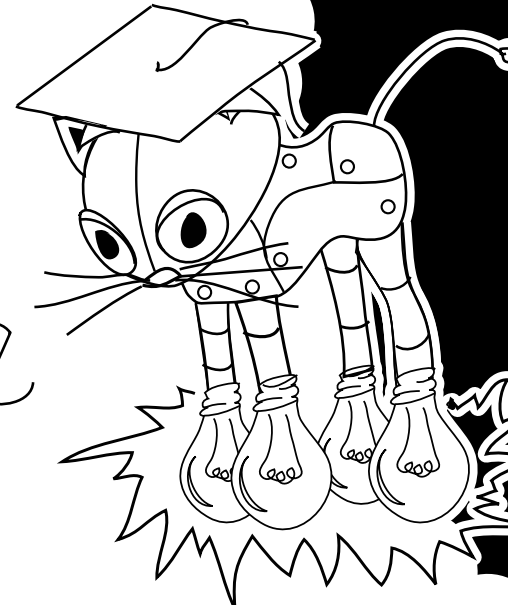
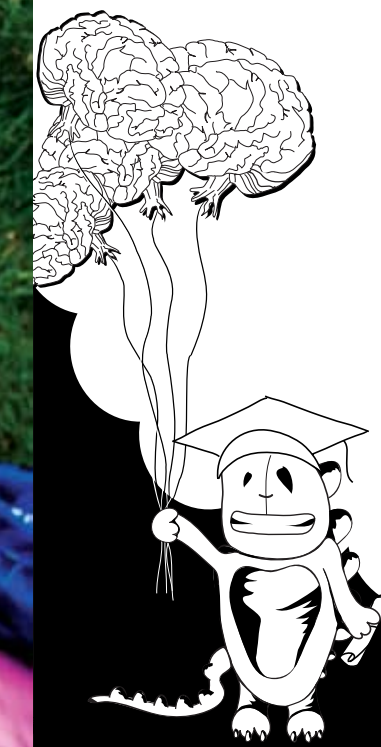
# HEY, GENIUS

Congrats  
on Graduating!

Now it's time  
to take the world  
by storm.

Don't hold back  
on your thunder  
and genius lightning!

-Your fans  
at Microsoft





# FOR VIEWERS LIKE YOU

by Ilsa Shaw  
photograph by Tom Liggett

You wouldn't think it, but there's life here. In the depths of a pitch-black cavern, where the atmosphere is ridden with hellish toxic fumes at a feverish 165 degrees Fahrenheit, you're shocked to see it: rocks covered in green plants and no light source in sight. Moving in closer, you notice that the rock is teeming with insects and spiders, adapted to toxins and shadows. So what is the purpose of these strange life-forms? How have they even come to be? For answers, you'd simply have to start on one captivating episode\* of NOVA.

"People come to NOVA because they love the idea of science. People who are inquisitive and want a program that is exciting with a science nature tune us in," notes Alan Ritsko, Managing Director of NOVA. Ritsko, who graduated from RIT with a degree in Professional Photography, recently visited the campus to talk about the award-winning series.

The NOVA team is comprised of about 50 people, a small group of whom (typically around five people) are research scientists, whose job it is to fact-check and analyze the scientific accuracy of the show's contents. As Managing Director, it is Ritsko's duty to oversee the entire production. "Quite frankly, my job is the hub and the core of the NOVA activity. Everything flows in to me and then flows out from me. That makes it thrilling, which is why I have a passion to do it," said Ritsko.

The typical hour-long NOVA program takes approximately nine months to finish, where most time is spent planning, preparing, and researching. "One thing that NOVA is known for is scientific accuracy. In fact, our viewers count on it. In a recent report from the National Academy of Sciences, NOVA was ranked as the most trusted source of science news, behind only two journals: *Nature* and *Science*. That puts us ahead of those esteemed sources such as *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*," said Ritsko.

In addition to science news, NOVA is also a source of entertainment, and Ritsko strives for balance between the two. "NOVA programs are built to appeal to a dual mission, the first being education, but we all know that if television is on, there's so much competition. If the first mission (education) is met, and the second

**"WE DON'T GO AFTER THE GHOSTS, THE GOBLINS, THE CRASH COURSES— THAT'S NOT OUR AUDIENCE. WE FOLLOW SCIENTIFIC PROCESS AND PRINCIPLE."**

(and equally important one)—that is entertainment—is not met, people are not going to watch what you make. So, we ride the very fine line of making programs that are educationally accurate, scientifically accurate, but those programs that are fun to watch. People come to watch NOVA for that reason. There are many places where you can get science on television, but many more places where science falls under the banner of pseudoscience. We don't go after the ghosts, the goblins, the crash courses—that's not our audience. We follow scientific process and principle."

NOVA investigates just about anything interesting and relevant to the scientific community, and due to their reputation as a reliable source, it often receives episode ideas from said community. "Much of it comes to NOVA from the connections that we have in the science community. Our program is about cutting-edge science, and to do that, we need real people, scientists who are passionate about what they do. They're all over the world," said Ritsko. Aside from that, NOVA has an impressive network of collaborative producers throughout the world who frequently pitch story ideas. Viewers are also credited for episode ideas. This is why, at the beginning of each show, homage is paid to the viewers by a screen with a simple "thank you."

The determining factor in whether an idea makes the cut is linked to the second important element in NOVA's creation: entertainment value. "If we view that the content is engaging and entertaining enough, then we research it to see if there is science that's involved in that topic that can be added to the film, if it's not there already, that would make sense and is realistic for the flow of the show," Ritsko noted.

If the subject passes the test, the episode mutates from conception to preparation, as a 9-month-long bout of research and fact gathering begins. In the end, Ritsko believes, "NOVA is successful because... it tells a good story. NOVA, for all these years, has sought out the best stories in science. But the best stories in science aren't so different than the best story arc that makes a good book, or a good dramatic film. NOVA... has characteristics. We look for story arcs that people can relate to, the *mystery* that can be solved, the *mission* that can be accomplished, the *obstacle* that needs to be overcome. These are actually the same kinds of things you might see in the story arc in a dramatic film. Well, science is no different, only we find *topics* that exhibit those traits. That's what has made it successful for the past 35 years."

\* The episode referred to is titled "The Mysterious Life of Caves."



## CAPSIDERM

by Susan Cook

Would you get sprayed in the face by pepper spray? Doesn't sound too appealing, right? Wayne Perry apparently begs to differ. As a self-defense instructor who travels the country and demonstrates police pepper spray, he discovered the healing power of peppers. Later, he went on to create Sinus Buster, the company that bases all their products around capsaicin, a pepper extract.

Sinus Buster's world-famous product is the original Sinus Buster Nasal Spray, but they've branched out to make several other products, including other sprays and a face wash called Capsiderm.

Capsiderm is made from African Black soap and 11 exotic herbals (all natural), as well as hot pepper extract. Sounds painful, right? Actually, it fights acne, cleans pores, and tightens and conditions skin. The first time I used it, my roommate came into our room and commented on just how great it smelled. That, and it had basically cleared her sinuses. I have to agree, the smell is spicy, but not in an acidic way; it's surprisingly refreshing.

The product is for normal to oily skin types (mine falls in this spectrum) and promises to fight acne. Since using this product, my skin has been much healthier-looking. After two weeks of use, the little bit of acne that I had seems to have cleared up, as well.

Sinus Buster is also made with capsaicin pepper extracts, which caused the claims that with only a few sprays, your congestion, headache,

allergies, or sinus pressure will decrease or even disappear. I even tried this product while I had a pretty harsh cold and although it did burn a little for a few seconds, it was invigorating enough to really wake me up. Within about five minutes, it felt as if I hardly had a cold at all. My stuffed nose was completely gone!

Both products work really well. It seems all the claims they make are accurate and I recommend giving their stuff a try.

Final grades:  
Capsiderm wash: A  
Sinus Buster: B+

Prices:  
Capsiderm: \$29.99  
Sinus Buster Nasal Spray: \$15.99

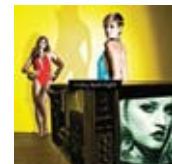
Get the hot stuff at: [www.sinusbuster.com](http://www.sinusbuster.com)



## RUSSIAN CIRCLES

- Station -  
by Evan McNamara

With the release of their previous EP, *Enter*, Russian Circles generated about a metric ton of buzz. The short offering showcased their blend of post hardcore song structure, intricate guitar, driving bass, and their signature epic flair, and left many, including myself, wanting more. Sadly, *Station*, the band's debut full length, just falls short. Sure, the musicianship is stellar, and yes, the songs seem more developed. However, the intensity that made their first EP so enjoyable is lost. The biggest failure of this album is not in any of the individual parts, but in their sum. The songs take great care to establish long build-ups, only to give way to an anti-climactic shift in the song. That signature epic flair seems to have been lost on *Station*. *Station* is an interesting listen, but don't expect it to blow you away like its predecessor. Hopefully, Russian Circles finds the epic that fell out of their pocket somewhere between "Enter" and "Station."



## MOBY

- Last Night -

Everyone knows who Moby is. Yep, he's still bald. And I bet you wouldn't be surprised that he is still making electronic dance music. The problem with Moby is what made him so appealing when he first gained his notoriety: his creative use of samples. Who could forget the soulful sample that rooted "In This World," or the inverted strings that propelled "Porcelain?" The problem with Moby's new album is that he's just stopped being creative and settled for anything that will make you dance. Sure, this album will make you hit the linoleum like you have fire ants in your jock-strap, but it is completely formulaic and forgettable. You see, we've come to expect more from Moby than just a bald head, or the occasional appearance on VH1's *I Love the '90s*. We kind of expect music that isn't, well, bad. Maybe next time?



## M83

- Saturdays Youth -

*Saturdays Youth* is a departure from typical M83 sound, but in a good way. Previous M83 releases were trademarked by their less-than-straight-forward song structures, while the instrumentation was completely electronic with sporadic vocals. *Saturdays Youth* turns a corner, with the band leaning towards a more poppy sound, with hints of introspective ambience. There still exist some straight-ahead tunes, like "Kim & Jessie," but for the most part, the album is a very relaxing, intriguing listen. Little atmospheric nuances are perfectly placed, and at times, the album sounds like an electronically-realized version of an Eluvium album. Moods range from haunting to uplifting, airy, and bright. If you listen closely, especially in "Graveyard Girl," you might just hear M83's first ever use of acoustic instruments! This album still sounds very much like the M83 of old, it is just a different flavor, and trust me, the flavor is delicious. •

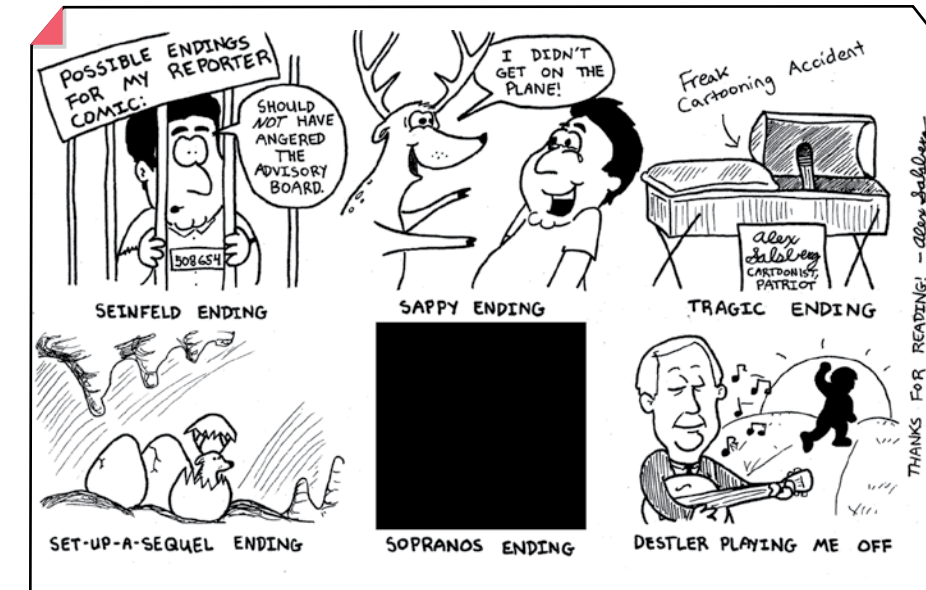
## STREAM OF FACTS

Skittles are rumored to have been invented by a man named Rick Walden, a worker for Mars who became bored during a business meeting and started to punch holes in Starburst candies. His boss saw the circular results scattered all over the table, and the idea for Skittles was born. This occurrence is neither endorsed nor denied by the Mars candy company.

Originally conceived as a club designed to alleviate boredom, the Ku Klux Klan began as a society club for former Confederate soldiers, by former Confederate soldiers. The ideals weren't more friendly, of course; they are still quite similar to those of today. It was only when General Nathan Forrest started to lead the clan that it grew into a radical and often violent group of vigilantes.

Roman society during the Golden Age dictated that any man found guilty of adultery should have every single one of his pubic hairs ripped out. Not only that, a large radish (or an acceptable substitute of relatively the same size and effect) would then be shoved up the Roman man's rectum.

Commonly used in Greco-Roman cooking, the extinct plant known as silphium once formed the crux of trade for the area. It also had medical uses and was the primary herbal contraceptive at the time. This sexual concept, combined with the fact that silphium seeds are shaped like the modern day symmetrical heart, has led many scholars to believe that the heart symbol may have been derived from these seeds. •



## REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Making nihilist jokes. For starters, check out Uncyclopedia's Nihilist page at [www.uncyclopedia.org/wiki/Nihilism](http://www.uncyclopedia.org/wiki/Nihilism) and be prepared for the joke that doesn't actually exist. I won't spoil the surprise for you, just check it out. Then, while you're cruising through Uncyclopedia, you may as well check out RIT's page for something of a little more substance. I guarantee you will discover at least one fact about the college you weren't aware of. For instance, did you know that former President Al Simone taught Murderface Murderface (of *Metalocalypse*) to play bass with his penis? Neither did I, friends, neither did I.

## DIFFICULTY RATING: MEDIUM

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

## SIGN OF THE WEEK: YOU HAVE ISSUES



## QUOTE:

"Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former."

— Albert Einstein



# bird banding at rit

by Veena Chatti | photographs by Dave Londres

*“Aieeee! Mmimblewhimble,”* seems to accurately describe the scream-turned-whimpering noise I made. I couldn’t scream, but I badly needed to. *“Please let go, let go please, please! Ouuucch!”* I was pleading with—no, not an assailant, and I was not in some questionable part of downtown Rochester—a chickadee.

The impish little bird had my cuticle clasped painfully in its beak while I was trying (unsuccessfully) to measure the length of its leg. It felt as if someone had taken a pair of particularly sharp geometrical compasses and decided to shove them between my cuticle and thumb.



It's so absurd, isn't it, how all of my 100 pounds are of no match to the needle sharp beak of a 10 g bird I'm supposed to have complete control over? Anyway, the result was yet another band-aid around my mutilated thumb, and what I thought looked like a rather self-satisfied chickadee flying away in an indignant huff after I had (somewhat clumsily) managed to put an aluminum ring around its minuscule right foot. Precious, no?

But injured fingers are not uncommon on banders. Bird banding, or "ringing" as it is known in other countries, is an ornithological research tool, one that the North American Banders' Study Guide terms as "a delicate art and a precise science." It involves putting uniquely numbered aluminum rings or bands around birds' feet and gathering data about various aspects of them. Under faculty sponsors Dr. John Waud, Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, and Dr. David Mathiason, Director of the Honors Program, bird banding happens on campus.

## RITBO!

The RIT Bird Observatory, or "RITBO," as the banders affectionately call it, is located on the edge of campus by the Astronomical Observatory. The Army Corps Engineers and RIT have agreed that the land around it will not be developed; rather it will be kept as a conservation area for wildlife.

"We [RITBO] are allowed to be out there," explained Mathiason, "the Banding Station can stay for scientific reasons. It's a very unique situation, this little 32-acre wild microcosm that we are allowed to be inside. We are inside the conservation area... If we hadn't put that shed [the Banding Station] up two years ago, we wouldn't be able to put it there now."

"I've been involved in bird banding since 2000," said Waud, "banding was new to me, but the interest [in the environment] wasn't new. I would say that my interest probably began when I was a child." RITBO was set up by the initiative of both

professors. "About three years ago," said Mathiason, "I got interested in bird banding, I was looking at the hawks, and then when John found out I was moving towards banding, he diverted me towards songbirds."

It is at RITBO that Waud, Mathiason and their group of students and volunteers band birds.

## Voilà! La Procédure!

To be banded, a bird must first be caught. There are several ways of catching birds. As only songbirds are banded at RITBO, these are usually caught in "mist nets"—thin, light nets strung up between tress—put up by the banders. They regularly check the nets and extract caught birds (easier said than done; expert bander and instructor Betsy Brooks of the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) once detailed how grown men have been known to cry in despair when trying to extract a difficult bird completely entangled in the net, its feathers and tongue caught and knotted). The birds are carried in soft cotton bags and "processed," i.e. data about them is collected after banding. Processing a bird may involve some or many of a variety of things. Its species is noted, and an appropriate band size is chosen.

Once banded, (if it's not an already-banded bird, what banders call a "re-cap") its wing chord—the un-flattened length from wing joint to the tip of the longest primary wing feather—is measured. Its tarsus (leg) is also measured. Age and sex are determined by indicators such as plumage. Its beak or bill may also be measured. A jet of air is directed at its neck hollow via a plastic straw, and fat deposits are gauged on a scale of 0 to 5. Finally, it is weighed, usually in an empty cardboard Minute Maid cylinder, and set free.

## Objections to banding:

Some people object to banding based on what they perceive as cruelty to the birds. Indeed, the first rule of the Bander's Code of Ethics states: "Handle each bird carefully, gently, quietly, with

respect and in minimum time," to minimize any trauma to the bird. "The first priority is the safety of the bird," affirmed Waud, "and the second priority is the integrity of the data, because if the information we collect isn't right, then it's not going to help conservation. In that order: the bird first, and the data second."

Mathiason said those who believed banding was cruel had a short-term view: "They don't realize that the research that's being done is for the long-term continuance of the species. There are plenty of examples; [American Bald] Eagles were nearly extinct, then people paid attention to the declining numbers to figure out why, and now they're on the rebound! So you try to tell people why you're banding."

## ...And Why is That?

As ornithologists are able to track banded birds, their "stopovers" during migration can be determined. A bird banded in RITBO could show up in a banding station elsewhere, where they will read its band, and enter it as a "re-cap" in the huge database of banded birds. Here's an absolutely amazing example: the Yellow Warbler (see photo on page 17) caught on Wednesday, April 30, 2008, was first banded at RITBO on May 7, 2004. It was aged as a "second year" bird at that time based on how it looked, which means it is now five years old, and has returned here.

But in fast urbanizing landscapes, birds' migratory stopovers are often replaced by the newest mall or parking lot, depriving our feathered friends of the nourishment and rest they need during migration. About 95% of mortality in birds occurs during migration. The survivors will only decrease if humans continue to disregard the birds' needs. What conservation agencies try to determine are which areas the birds need as stopovers in migratory routes. "Every piece of wood that you see serves as a stopover site," explained Mathiason, "so what we're trying to do with the Nature Conservancy is to identify what are the characteristics that make an area good. We can't look at a site, necessarily, and say how good it is.

Our knowledge is very basic, we just don't know. There's a lot of research to be done to identify good stopover sites."

Waud elaborated, "And that is the importance of it. We're talking about unimaginable amounts of money that could be spent buying lands [to conserve]. There just isn't that much money available. For an organization like Nature Conservancy, the question is, *If there's a limited amount of money, where should they direct it?* How to spend limited resources to do the most good? So we do enjoy what we're doing, but it's certainly not to make us feel good."

Agreed Kelli Fagan, second year Biology major, "The data collected from banding is extremely important to ornithology. The information has lead to a better understanding of migrations, productivity, behavior, and disease amongst birds. It's also tons of fun. I know waking up before dawn doesn't sound very appealing to most people, but it's worth it."

## Of Challenges Past and the Future of RITBO

"Certainly, at a faculty level, we had to convince some other faculty that what we were doing was worthwhile," mentioned Waud, "because it's a very different course than most of what RIT teaches." RIT offers two courses: *Adventures in Ornithology and Bird Banding*. "The other challenge is that most students at RIT don't know that we have these courses. The people who might take it don't even know it exists," Waud said. "...And they don't know that we're doing banding right on campus," finished Mathiason.

On potential effects that the construction of Park Point will have, Waud and Mathiason explained that Park Point has resulted in a new mitigation land near RITBO, essentially to restore the acreage of wetlands lost due to Park Point. "So that's given rise to another research project, to see what that impact is," said Mathiason, "but it's too early to know. This the first season we've been banding [since Park

Point]. Over the next few years, we can assess the impact... It's not obvious yet, you'll never know, *would they have been better off the way they were*, because we were not doing banding over there, and we can't now."

Said Waud, "My sense is that over the period of years, it could be a positive thing for the area around the banding site and the mitigation site, but in the short haul, it's not clear if that's going to be the case, because we've shifted the deer herd all around, and that affects the birds' willingness to use the area, when the deer graze."

Continued Waud, "The other thing that would come to mind is that RIT ... is trying to increase building density rather than spread out any further. I would really like to see a couple of things happen. I'd like to see a grassland area created beyond the wetland. I think that's very feasible. Right now, that land is rented to a farmer, and I don't know how long she or he will be farming."

The revenue from the farmer's rent could hardly be significant to RIT's total budget. If that natural area could be contributed to the conservation easement (which is a legally binding contract that the land will be left undeveloped), RIT would really be helping in conservation and restoring the land to a functional ecosystem. •

## Ornithology Courses at RIT

**Does Avifauna seem interesting? Two ornithology courses, considered part of the institute electives, are offered at RIT, and accomplished ornithologists present to both classes.**

### *Adventures in Ornithology: 1005-359*

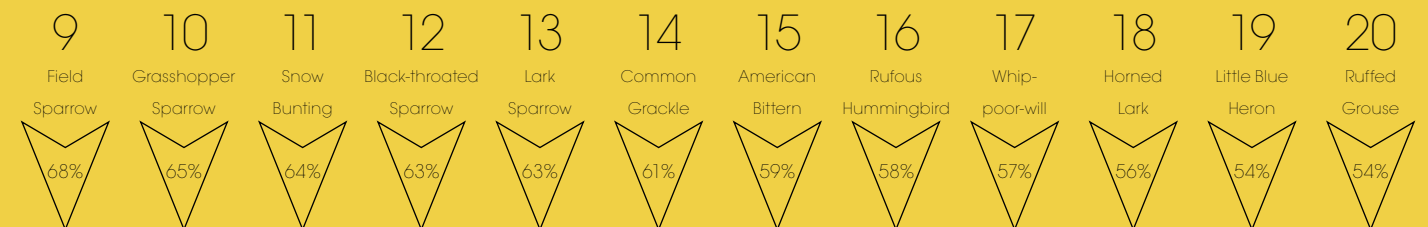
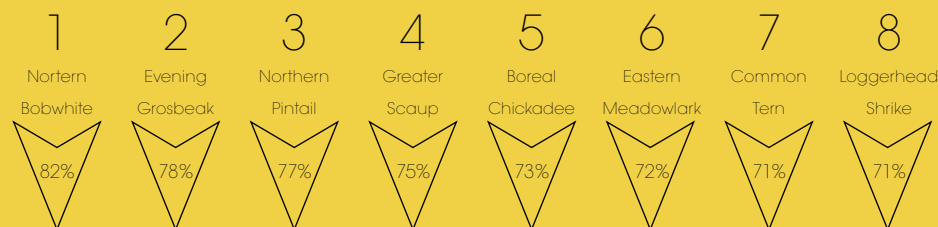
A 4-credit Honors course offered in spring quarter, it is nevertheless open to all interested, able students. In the two years this course has run, it has been fully subscribed. Only 10 seats were offered in its first year, and 12 this year. A debate on the evolutionary origins of birds kicks off the course. Groups of students then teach one another various aspects of bird structure and function. Individual student presentations are on bird behaviors. There are two major exams of the short/medium-length answer variety and simple quizzes on bird topography. Each student must also complete 15 hours in the field however they choose: at RITBO, on the class trip to Point Pelee in Canada, at the globally-renowned Cornell Lab of Ornithology, at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, or even on morning bird watching trips organized by Dr. Waud on campus.

### *Bird Banding: 1005-305*

Offered in fall quarter, this 2-credit course counts as a lab science and is a variant of the North American Banding Council's course adapted for RIT's quarter system. Instructed by experienced and distinguished bander Betsy Brooks of BBBO, it is given two afternoons a week (Thursdays and Fridays) for five weeks. There are ten days of instruction, in which students learn the intricacies of nets, net hours, net checks, banding ethics and principles, extraction of birds from nets, banding, identification, aging, sexing, weighing, measuring of birds and also scribing and data collection. There are two major exams to be passed in the format of short answers, and instructors supervise and evaluate banding skills and bird handling.

## 20 bird species you thought were common:

From the Audubon National Society. The following are the 20 common North American birds with the greatest population declines since 1967.





# SURVIVAL

SIX THINGS THAT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

by Andy Rees | illustration by Greg Caggiano

You're driving down a stretch of an old state highway which Google Maps recommended, when all of a sudden, a deer darts across the road. You swerve to avoid it and lose control of the vehicle, helplessly pumping the brakes as the car smashes through the guardrail. It slides down a steep embankment and comes to a stop in a stream. Disoriented but unhurt, you get out of the car and assess the situation. Your car is totaled, the embankment is too steep to climb, and all you have is a plastic water bottle, a light jacket, a lighter, and a cell phone without any service. Thankfully, you have read an informative article in *Reporter*.



While it is unlikely that you'll end up in such a dire situation, it is better to be safe than sorry. In any emergency situation, whether it is in the middle of the Canadian wilderness or on the mean streets of Rochester, the most important thing is to keep a cool head. If you can make rational, informed decisions, your chance of survival will be greater. That being said, there are a number of different factors that must be taken into account while attempting to survive in the wilderness.

## SHELTER

Chances are, if you are stranded with no way of getting help, you will need a place to sleep. You must stay dry at all costs, and therefore, sleeping under the stars is out of the question.

You could sleep in the car. Unfortunately, unless it is the middle of the summer, that would probably be a bad idea. Cars are not built to stay warm. While they provide a nice roof, they are not well insulated.

In a wooded area, it is very easy to build a simple lean-to shelter out of materials lying in the ground. Find a sturdy log, about 10 feet long, and lean one end against a tree or a rock, making sure that it will not fall over. Get smaller branches and lean them against the log, forming walls on both sides. Make sure to leave an entrance opening near the rock or tree. Pile leaves on top of the branches and the floor, ensuring that there is a sizeable layer covering the entire structure. The design is very basic, but it provides a near waterproof cover and a good amount of heat retention.



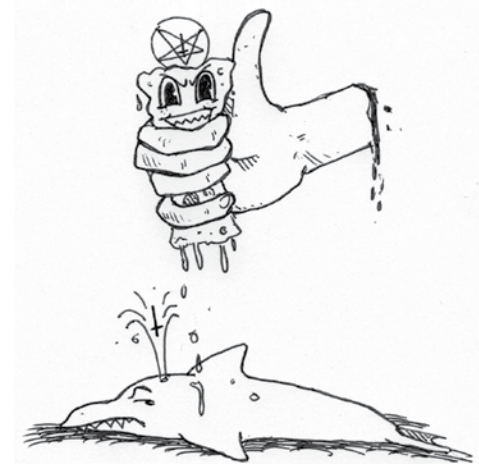
## WARMTH

As mentioned before, staying warm and dry is important. Hypothermia, when the body's core temperature decreases and cannot be maintained, should be avoided at all cost. Contrary to popular belief, hypothermia can develop in any season, provided the conditions are right. First, if needed, leaves can be placed between a shirt and a jacket to add an extra layer of insulation.

A fire is another good way to keep warm, but starting one is not as easy as rubbing two sticks together. If you have a working lighter or a set of matches, then you are all set. However, there are other ways to start a fire.

For example, quartz, a common milky white or grey mineral, will throw sparks when hit with a piece of iron (such as a tire iron). If you can obtain an easily combustible material, (like gasoline) then you have found your source of ignition.

Once you have ignition, you need to apply it to fuel. Gasoline burns fast, so you will need to gather dry wood to keep the fire going. A good fire is built. This means burning small stuff first and adding larger pieces of wood later. If you do manage to get a fire started, make sure it is at a distance from your shelter or anything else flammable.



## HYDRATION

Staying hydrated should be the number one priority in the wild. A human can go weeks without adequate food, but only days without water. Thankfully, water in the Northeast is relatively abundant. Therefore, finding a source of water will be pretty easy.

However, regardless of how clear the water may look, there are bound to be bacteria and other microorganisms living in it. Those microbes may result in nasty cases of gastroenteritis (diarrhea and vomiting), causing you to lose more water than you would gain from drinking it.

If you have no other means of sanitizing the water, such as iodine tablets or a fancy portable filter, boiling the water is your best bet. Rain water is another option, but there may be pollutants due to acid rain.



## NUTRITION

Depending on how long you are stuck in the wild, you may need to find something to eat. This can be a dangerous undertaking, if you do not know what you are looking for. Many wild edible plants have close cousins that could make you sick. If you can, avoid eating wild plants or fungi. The same goes for meat and fish, unless you have a means of properly cleaning and cooking it.

## SIGNALING

Another top priority in a survival situation is being rescued. Making your presence known is important, especially if no one knows you are missing. Smoke, particularly black smoke, is an easy way to get attention.

Wood and gasoline burn with a weak white smoke that is nearly invisible from a distance. However, burning rubber produces thick black smoke which can be easily seen. Adding a spare tire to your campfire will produce a billowing black tower of smoke that, with luck, will alert someone to your presence.

Rear-view mirrors can also be used to signal to low flying planes or helicopters on a sunny day. In any case, unless you know where you are going, stay put and keep attempting to signal.

## PREPARATION

Hopefully, you will never be in a desperate situation, but it does not hurt to be prepared. Having a working knowledge of outdoor survival skills such as building a fire, orienteering, and performing first aid can be the difference between life and death. Also, having an emergency supply kit in your car, replete with iodine tablets, matches, newspaper, and a first aid kit would be useful. Always inform someone of your itinerary, and watch out for deer. •

# TECH COMMENTARY

INTELLIGENTPEOPLE.COM: THE ELITIST SOCIAL NETWORK

by Elvis Montero

If you think Facebook and MySpace are crowded with brainless average Joes, then you should check out *IntelligentPeople.com*, a new social network with a self-described mission to “[offer] you the opportunity to meet and form relationships with people who, like you, have an IQ higher than the average person.” However, to become a member, you must pass the website’s IQ test. Despite its revolutionary appeal, I think the folks at *IntelligentPeople.com* are missing the mark on this one.

First of all, I like the *differentiation* concept. If you consider the existing state of affairs carefully, you will quickly realize that most social networks are packed with—for the lack of a better qualifier—*dull* people. How can you establish a meaningful conversation with a super-poking, install-every-application-and-invite-the-world maniac?

Although I do think there are nice, fairly interesting people using most social networks, they are a small, hardly noticeable minority. Because of this situation, there is a genuine necessity to move from a general, *let-everyone-in* community to a more specialized type of networking website, such as networks of people with similar characteristics and interests.

One excellent example is *LinkedIn.com*. This site targets individuals looking to expand their professional network while enabling them to post questions and retrieve answers from experts in particular fields.

Another exceptional example is *Ning.com*. The minds behind *Ning.com* decided to take things up a notch by letting users create their own fully customizable social network centering on *any* topic. In fact, the last time I checked, *HookahDomain* was one of the most popular networks at *Ning.com*.

However, the customization movement has taken a life of its own. Even cats have social networks nowadays, and I am not talking about *icanhascheezburger.com*. Yes. Cats! Check out *fuzzster.com*. Go. Do it. You never saw that coming, did you?

So why do I think *IntelligentPeople.com* is such a bad idea? The site’s attempt to differentiate itself from other social communities is not the problem. (Personally, I think that’s brilliant.) However, the issue resides in its implementation. The requirement for prospective users to take a test is bound to entice people to do the inevitable: *cheat*.

Yes, people may, and most likely will, cheat. Someone will find a way to bypass the website’s idiot-proof mechanism. Someone may even publish the answers online to prove that “they’re not that smart after all.” The result will be another swarm of half-witted users clogging the tubes.

What about the test itself? Will it be general enough to overcome cultural and educational biases? The site’s creators have assured that this will not be an issue; however, I have my reservations.

Regardless, I give kudos to the guys at *IntelligentPeople.com*. Even if their *modus operandi* may not be the best, it is definitely a step in the right direction. I wonder what they will think of next. Consider the options:

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Jokes are what we’re all about.

#### ANGRYPEOPLE.COM

Because life is a female dog and then you die.

#### WIILOVERS.COM

Because Wii can. •

# THAT GIRL

by Ilsa Shaw

photograph by Ben Liddle

#### NAME, MAJOR, YEAR?

Alex Brauer, third year Graphic Design major.

#### WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO DO GRAPHIC DESIGN?

I was always into art, and it was between Illustration and Graphic Design. I think I wanted to do something other than just illustrate.

#### HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A “THAT GIRL?”

Yeah, I’m such a dork. I don’t know. I think that I love being in the spotlight in any form—so dorky.

#### WHAT DO YOU THINK SETS YOU APART IN A CROWD?

I think that one of the reasons I applied for [MTV’s] *The Real World* is that I am very outgoing and creative. I tend to say whatever goes through my mind. It’s never mean, I just say my thought process out loud which people find funny. I love being spontaneous and doing things people would not usually think to do.

#### ARE THEY STILL JUDGING *Real World* CONTESTANTS?

Yup! I’m, like, on the fourth round, I think. It’s been crazy.

#### HOW CRAZY?

Well, first I sent in an audition tape; basically just me being me. They sent me an application which was intense, like 70 deep issue questions. And at the bottom there was a “rate these on a scale of 1 to 10” section: sex, sleep, drinking, etc. Then I interviewed with a casting director, and [now] I am getting e-mails about waiting for the next step.



#### DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU WOULD BE GOING ON, IF YOU GET IT?

Very soon, if I get accepted! I really want to get out of Rochester and do something I have never done before. You’re only young once!

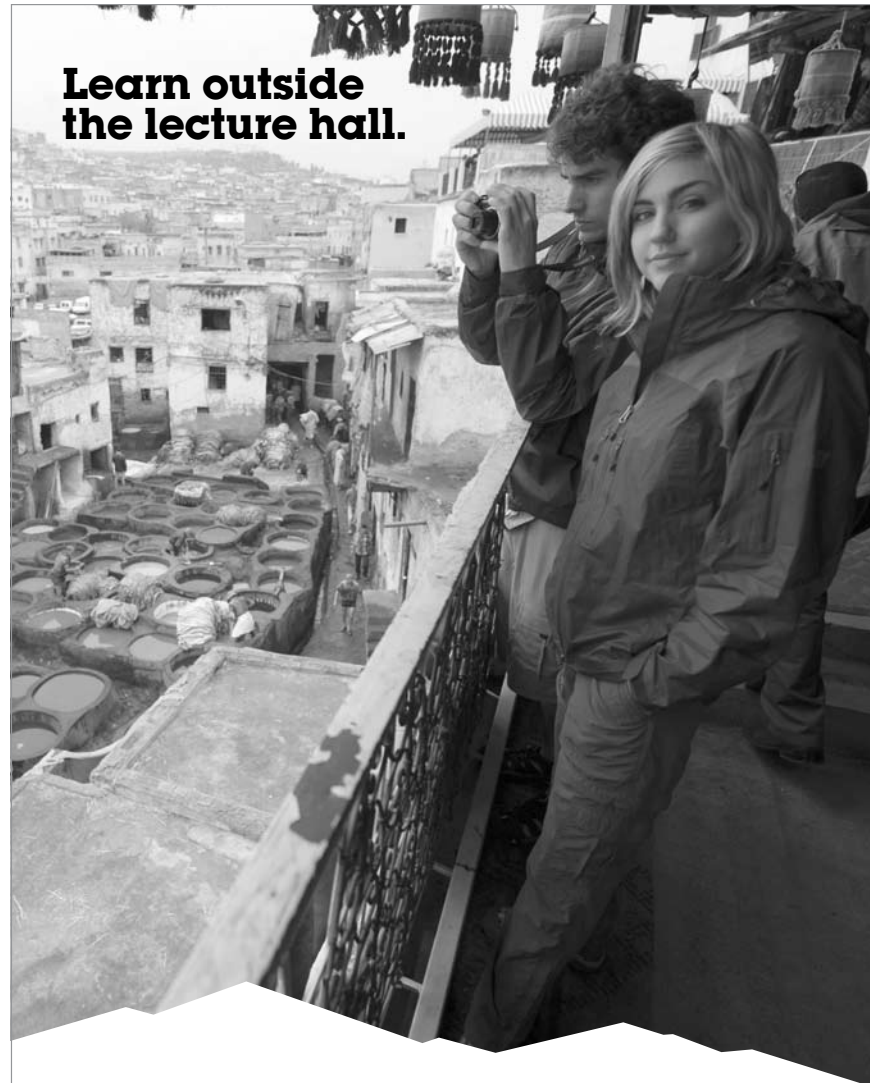
#### HAVE YOU EVER APPLIED TO ANY OTHER SHOWS BEFORE *Real World*?

I work on TV as an interviewer for *SportsZone*. And, I don’t know, I have a habit of just somehow ending up in the spotlight. I have had so many crazy car accidents! They’re like urban legends now. For some reason, people always ask me about them.

#### WHAT HAPPENED?

Which one? Okay, I hit a cop car, a tree, an RIT shuttle bus, my dad’s car twice. But I mean, at the time, it sucked. But what can you do? It happened. At least they make good stories now. And what makes it better is that I drive a minivan. It’s red and we call it Rodge the Dodge....I had a white one. I ran it into the ground....That was my dad’s car, but now I have a red one, because my old *Intrepid* died. Okay, it’s Halloween and I’m dressed up, and it breaks down in Rochester, and so I’m standing outside my car crying in an Eskimo outfit, and people keep pulling over. I’m not sure if they thought I was crazy. •

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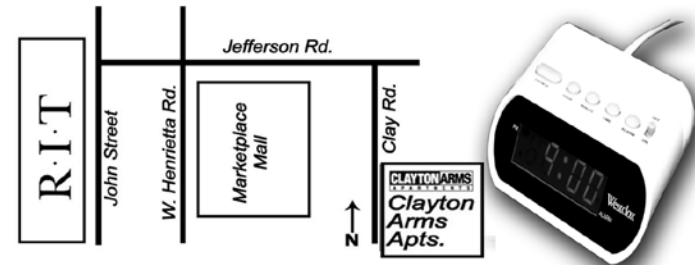


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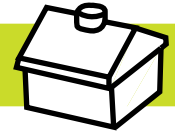


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# SPRING SEASON RE-CAP

by Jen Loomis

Here's a quick look at what our teams have been up to this quarter. There's no possible way to boil down an entire season into a table, but here's the absolute bare-bones lowdown on the 2007-2008 spring sports schedule. Go Tigers!

SPORT	RECORD (AS OF 5/1)	NOTEWORTHY MOMENTS
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SOFTBALL
16-20
<p><b>4/17</b> - The Lady Tigers beat D'Youville 13-7 and 4-0 in a two game series, bringing them above .500 for the first time in 2008.</p> <p>This win gave them their longest winning streak this year, 6-0.</p> <p><b>4/21</b> - Sophomore Emily McPherson is named Empire 8 Player of the Week.</p>

BASEBALL
18-12
<p><b>4/20</b> - Two huge wins against Utica. The Tigers scored a whopping 36 runs in this two-game series.</p> <p><b>4/21</b> - Sophomore pitcher/outfielder Geoff Dornes named Empire 8 Player of the Week. A week later, he was also named pitcher of the week.</p> <p><b>4/29</b> - Two blowout games against Keuka, and second baseman Matt George scores big.</p>

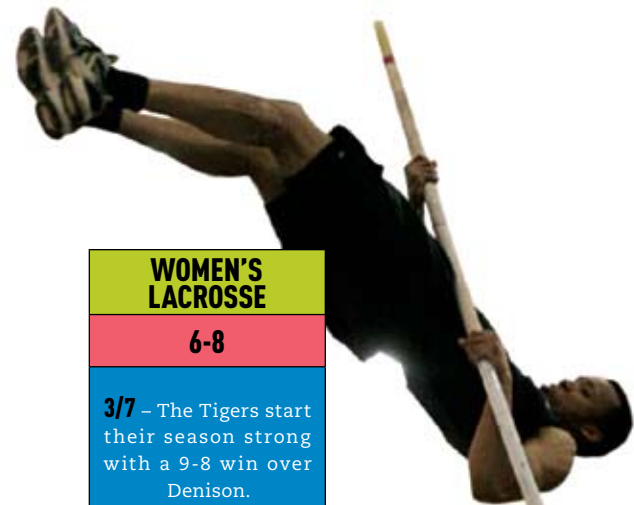
MEN'S TENNIS
8-5
<p><b>4/11</b> - The Tigers blank Suny Oswego 9-0. This is their first major victory of the season.</p> <p><b>4/21</b> - Sophomore John Traver is named Empire 8 Tennis Player of the Week.</p> <p><b>4/30</b> - Four RIT Tennis players earn All-Empire 8 Honors.</p>

MEN'S LACROSSE
10-7
<p><b>3/29</b> - The Tigers come from behind in overtime to win against a previously undefeated Ithaca team.</p> <p><b>3/31</b> - Senior midfielder Dan Rago is named Empire 8 Lacrosse Player of the Week.</p> <p><b>4/21</b> - Senior Brad Conlon is named Empire 8 Goalie of the Week. Rago earns his second Empire 8 Player of the Week shout-out for the season.</p> <p><b>4/25</b> - The Tigers beat back Stevens 9-6 in the semi-finals.</p>

WOMEN'S LACROSSE
6-8
<p><b>3/7</b> - The Tigers start their season strong with a 9-8 win over Denison.</p> <p><b>3/18</b> - Junior Kelsey Evans is named Empire 8 Goalkeeper of the Week.</p> <p><b>4/13</b> - The Lady Tigers emerge from a five game losing streak to best Elmira 12-10.</p>

MEN'S TRACK
N/A
<p><b>3/3</b> - Junior Mike Hardbarger is named Empire 8 Track and Field Athlete of the Week for the third straight week.</p> <p><b>4/19</b> - Men's team places second out of five teams at the Empire 8 Outdoor Track and Field Championships.</p>

WOMEN'S TRACK
N/A
<p><b>4/13</b> - Senior Adrienne Gagnier breaks the school 1500-meter record with a time of 4:43.08.</p> <p><b>4/19</b> - Women's team places second out of 14 teams at the Empire 8 Outdoor Track and Field Championships.</p> <p><b>4/19</b> - Sophomore Jamie Morey was named Empire 8 Athlete of the Week.</p>



# GEORGE BREAKS THREE RECORDS AS TIGERS CRUSH KEUKA

by Jen Loomis

Matt George, fourth year Applied Statistics major and second baseman for RIT's baseball team, broke three records at a double header against Keuka, Tuesday, April 29. The Tigers performed well as a team in this series, besting Keuka 13-1 in the first game and 14-3 in the second.

In particular, George stood out at this match-up. He stole his 43rd career base in the second game, breaking a school record of 42 stolen bases set by Troy McBride in 1994. George stole a total of three bases during the double-header against Keuka, which brings his total for this season up to 22, a new personal record. George also scored five runs in the series, which brings his season total up to 41 runs. This also broke a previous school record.

The instant one looks at the stats, George's uncanny ability to steal bases is apparent. Again, George has a total of 22 for the season; the rest of his team combined, by comparison, has 33. On how he prepares for base stealing, George said, "The hardest part about stealing a base is getting a good jump and having a quick first step. I practice a lot on having a quick reaction to the pitcher, so as soon as he lifts his leg, I'm making my first step. I guess I've always been one of the faster guys on the team, but a big part of being able to steal bases is instinct."

When asked how he felt about his accomplishment, George remarked, "It's hard to describe. I had the goal of breaking each of those records at the beginning of the year, but never expected it all to happen at the same time. It's just a great experience that I'll never forget." •

# RIT'S MATT SMITH AND SIMONE LAMBERT GO PRO

by Rachel Hart | file photos by Josh Lehrer

Two of RIT's own, senior forwards Matt Smith and Simone Lambert, have signed contracts to play hockey professionally.

Smith signed with the South Carolina Stingrays, part of the East Coast Hockey League, back in March. He made his first appearance in a professional game on March 2, 2008. He has two shots on goal. Smith's career at RIT was a strong one with 62 goals and 51 assists. Even further, Smith's 44 power-play goals are tied with the most in the history of the men's hockey program at RIT. "I was having too much fun playing at RIT, I just couldn't give it up," remarked Smith about continuing his career. "I am still fairly young and figure I don't want to have any regrets." "We are excited for Matt," said men's Hockey Coach Wayne Wilson, "He will represent RIT well in the pros."

Lambert also signed with the East Coast Hockey league. He will now play for the Victoria Salmon Kings. On March 25, Lambert scored his first professional goal. Lambert's career at RIT was very successful as well with 63 goals and 89 assists. He is now RIT's all-time leading Division I scorer, and feels that the change from Division III to



Simone Lambert



Matt Smith

Division I was very helpful in getting him the professional contract. Regarding the switch of divisions, Lambert said, "The mentality changed a little bit, which is a lot more like professional hockey. I also learned a lot from the coaches, and I will always be grateful of what they did for me."

Smith and Lambert follow in the footsteps of alum hockey players Steve Pinizzotto and Jocelyn Guimond who signed with professional teams after the 2006-07 seasons. Pinizzotto now plays for the Hershey Bears, the farm team of the Washington Capitals. According to Smith, Pinizzotto is "developing into a legitimate pro player."

Overall, Lambert and Smith have their work cut out for them. Smith remarked, "The players are stronger and faster at the next level." However, Smith believes RIT hockey has prepared him. "Playing teams like Minnesota and Boston College [in the National Championships] this year is pretty similar to the skill level. Playing those teams was a great experience, especially beating them in their own building." •



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# R·I·T

# 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.

SUNDAY, 12:59 A.M.

Did you happen to find a dictionary lying outside in the parking lot anywhere? I've been looking for it.

MONDAY, 1:09 P.M.

Yo Rings, I just wanted to say that RIT is about 10,000 times better than Gallaudet. Gallaudet [is inferior]. It feels so good to be back in Tiger country. Go Tigers!

WEDNESDAY, 1:05 P.M.

Rings, what the [olfaction]? These trees on the Quarter Mile, they stink. I feel like I'm going to vomit on my way to class. Get rid of them, please, for the love of God.

FRIDAY, 10:33 A.M.

I don't mind the open houses or the large crowds that come with the campus tours, but what really ticks me off is that Gracie's can produce decent food for the tour kids but not for us. It's trickery!

SUNDAY, 3:42 A.M.

For all the people who call campus security every time they see someone drunk: stop being a [feline] hall monitor, and grow a [Cheney].

WEDNESDAY, 1:13 A.M.

Hey, I don't know who this [famous] Josh kid is, but he needs to get a [secular] life, because God doesn't exist, the Bible is bull[poo], and all religion is an organized cult. So [peace be with] you, Josh.

THURSDAY, 11:45 A.M.

Would somebody please forcibly remove those stupid orientation kids who aren't quite ready to cut the [horrible] umbilical cord? If somebody doesn't do it, I will.

THURSDAY, 10:51 P.M.

We followed the Wiccan cult into the woods, and we don't see anything, but if we don't make it back, tell the world our story. And since I didn't give you my name, make up a story.

FRIDAY, 3:07 A.M.

Hi, Rings. Your swastika jokes are kinda not funny, especially considering that it's Passover this week, and you have a full-page spread on [no surprise here] Josh. That's really, really racist and really offensive, and I don't find that funny at all. It's actually really [unfortunate].

THURSDAY, 10:54 P.M.

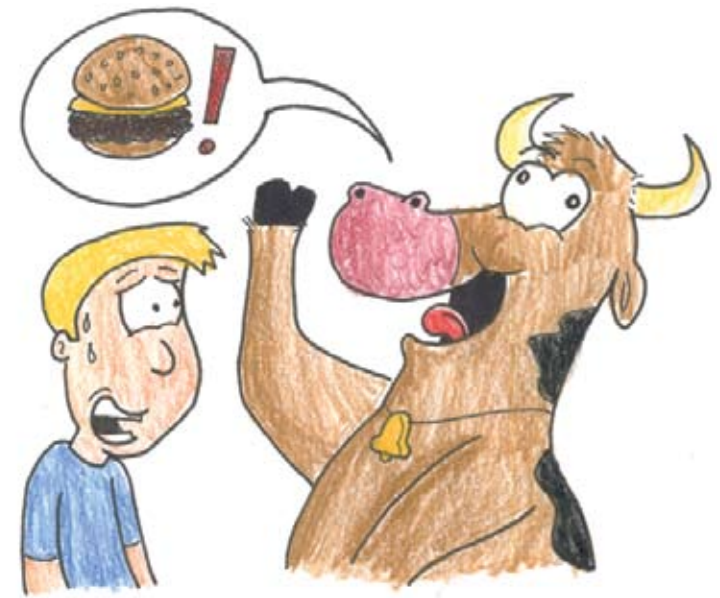
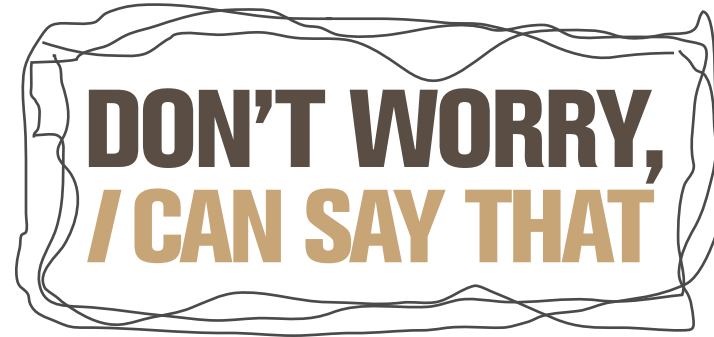
I just wanted to let you know that Blow Pops are amazing. Amazing!

FRIDAY, 3:10 A.M.

Yo Rings, this week, I saw all these kids wearing green shirts with today's date on it. They're going to try something bizarre and I'm not going to sleep tonight.

SUNDAY, 2:15 P.M.

Rings, I got super smashed last night and drunked out the wrong girlfriend. Now I have an extremely complicated matter on my hands and don't know what to do.



by Alex Salsberg, Reporter Cartoonist

Recently, I was asked to meet some administrators to explain the cartoon that depicted swastika graffiti. Other issues aside, one thing was clear: it was easier for me to get away with the cartoon because I am Jewish. We live in a culture where political correctness is at odds with a growing amount of racial humor and discussion. In the middle of it is the question of who can say what.

Look at recent television. Dave Chappelle's show was always jam-packed with race jokes, including a skit about a 1950s white sitcom family named "The Niggars." It involved the family's name in every historical variation of the racial slur, worked in as innocent remarks about the family itself. *Curb Your Enthusiasm* recently took on Holocaust humor. Larry David's rabbi tells him he is bringing a "survivor" to his dinner party. David invites his father's friend, a Holocaust survivor, only to find out that the rabbi's friend is a former cast member of the CBS's show *Survivor*. An uncomfortably heated argument breaks out between the two characters about who is a true survivor.

I, and many others, found these TV moments funny. But could Dave Chappelle get away with his skit if he wasn't black? Could *Curb Your Enthusiasm* get away with the Holocaust discussion if Larry David wasn't Jewish? And should they get away with these jokes at all?

It is legitimate that groups can play with their own stereotypes and histories. Some black people address each other with the N-word, or use it in music. While doing so doesn't have the magical ability to destroy the word's foundation that some claim it does, it can be empowering, or at the very least, bonding. Similarly, my Jewish friends and I often throw around the word "Jew" (in the "bad" way). It is natural for members of a group to embrace the words that could hurt them in other contexts.

It is not always accepted. Recently, there has been debate over a proposed N-word ban. Some want to ban it because they are personally offended, whether it is in conversation or a Kanye song. Others complain that they themselves are confused about when it can be used. To those

who are personally offended by the word, you can't expect everyone to stop saying it, and you certainly can't enforce it. You can explain how it makes you feel, or simply avoid it. No one is making you listen to rap. And to those who are confused, I would suggest that you are overreacting. While nobody is perfect, I don't think it's difficult to figure out that singing along to "Thong Song" in your car is okay, and spewing the N-word at a Laugh Factory audience member is not.

Of course, there is still going to be confusion in the middle. Two years ago, I was at a party, attempting to throw a ping-pong ball into a cup. Upon missing, I made a joke about my peoples' athletic ability, playing off the old stereotype. Moments later, an acquaintance of mine jokingly told me to "concentrate...like concentration camps." At first, I was wildly offended, and had I more athletic ability, I might have punched him. Then I realized that I was the one who started the Jewish jokes. If you set the precedent that you are okay with certain words or jokes, you can't expect everyone to know which ones are silly and which are hurtful. It is unfair to give yourself a pass to say anything and then completely close the door to others, even if their jokes are tasteless.

I also think that nobody, regardless of their background, should feel that they can say everything. I have never been comfortable with Holocaust "oven jokes," and I think even someone playing the "I'm Jewish" card should refrain from ever telling one of those.

Members of groups will always use "their" words, and that's okay. Those who do it need to be aware that just because they are entirely forgiven for saying certain things, it doesn't mean others who say the same things don't deserve some level of forgiveness. If someone makes a *faux pas*, don't overreact. Overreacting to a bad joke only makes it mean less when you have to react to actual hate speech. I pulled that concentration-camp kid aside for a moment and calmly told him, "That's not right." Then we went back to partying. If we could all stop getting so hung up on who's offended by what, we could all party together more often. •

The opinions expressed in the Views section are solely those of the author.



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