

REPORTER

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Tigerz Football undefeated since 1977

Testing HIV in search of answers

Word On The Street what flavor of ice cream would you be?

REPORTER

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EDITOR'S NOTE

A DOSE OF HONESTY

Crossing your fingers and hoping that you're healthy is not a good strategy – I think we can all agree on that. When it comes to your health, ignorance is most certainly not bliss; it's dangerous, and it's stupid. Although getting tested (see "Testing for HIV," page 10) may mean that you have to hear something you don't want to hear, *knowing* is infinitely better than *not knowing*.

Similarly (although admittedly, much less life-threateningly), when it comes to the "health" of a campus, *knowing* your status is much, much better than *not knowing*. When was the last time RIT went in for a checkup? The administration's not saying, but udging by some of their recent actions, they're about due for another.

In the 2007 U.S. News & World Report, the percentage of alumni giving back to RIT had yet to climb out of the single digits. There's a reason for this, RIT: Unhappy students become unhappy alumni. Although you do appear recognize the symptoms of an ailing student body, you all too frequently go about administering your treatments directly to those symptoms rather than addressing their causes. The way you handle the pathetic lack of alumni participation is a prime example of this; your naïvely ineffective attempts to raise school spirit are another.

So here's a list of some of your three biggest ailments right now, RIT. I hope you're paying close attention. This may sting a bit, but a dose of honesty may be just the thing to cure you.

Ailment #1: You are in the middle of a housing crisis, and seem completely unwilling to admit it. Cramming five people into a room is not a mere "reclassification" of the space; it's a travesty. Is a five-person room really a place that you expect students to thrive in?

Prescription: Take Student Government up on their housing challenge (see "SG Update," page five). Once one of your own experiences how it feels to be one of the guinea pigs living in forced quints, perhaps you'll recognize the direness of the situation, and come up with some creative solutions to address it. Solutions that don't involve piling more bodies into rooms like cattle.

Ailment #2: The major changes in parking and transportation policies this year is infuriating a lot of students, especially those living at Park Point and in the on-campus apartments. They're confused as to why you've made these changes, and you're not doing a very good job of explaining it.

Prescription: I realize that we're built on a swamp and that makes construction of parking garages difficult... but you should probably reconsider this option. And work on putting some more information out there to tell students why you're doing what you're doing.

Ailment #3: As a general rule, your communications with the student body leave much to be desired. The hugely negative reactions to both situations above could have been somewhat deflected if students had had some prior warning and an explanation.

Prescription: Make use of the media outlets on campus to introduce some more transparency into your decision-making processes. Making yourself more available to do interviews with *Reporter* would be a great place to start.

So there you have it. Please don't call me in the morning. (A Letter to the Editor would be fine, though.)



Laura Mandanas
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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reporterads@rit.edu

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FREE NOTEBOOKS ON THE QUARTER MILE

by Madeleine Villavicencio

Starting during Orientation, notebooks have been given away on the Quarter Mile and in the SAU as part of an initiative spearheaded by Director of Orientation Shawna Lusk. Instead of using their budget to purchase other (perhaps less useful) items, the Department of Student Affairs purchased a total of 10,000 notebooks from a company called All By Students (ABS).

ABS was founded in late 2006 by Avi Steinberg and Alejandro Bremer, two students from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. According to Daniel Martz, CEO of ABS, after noticing all of the impractical promotional items — such as cups and lanyards — that schools distribute, the founders of ABS thought, “There has to be a better way of [spending the money] that might have been wasted on items that would just become clutter.” The pair decided to give the students a product that they could actually use while retaining the school’s branding. “We then realized: Everyone carries around a notebook.”

The notebooks are designed to reflect the brand of the school purchasing them - usually by adopting their colors and logo. The first eight pages are reserved for college-specific information such as campus maps, important telephone numbers, and academic calendars. The RIT notebooks contain pictures of and messages from various student leaders on campus, including Student Government President Ed Wolf and *Reporter’s* Editor in Chiefw Laura Mandanas. “We are putting the information which is usually printed on flyers or found on a website at the students’ fingertips,” explained Martz.

The notebooks also contain student-friendly advertisements, used as dividers between each section. “We, as a grassroots student initiative, are careful to [choose] and filter the sponsors,” stated Martz. Past advertisers include AT&T, General Mills, Rock the Vote, and the NBA. ABS also attempts to include sponsors that will offer coupons and discounts to students.

ABS has come a long way since their very first distribution of their “Shadow Notebooks” at Northwestern in early 2007. They changed their product’s name to “ABS Notebooks” and started serving many other schools including the University of Maryland, Columbia, and MIT. Now, about 1.1 million students on 110 different campuses across the United States use their notebooks.

At the time of writing, Student Government still had several dozen notebooks to give out for free in their office, located in the SAU RITreat. •

CROCS NEXT STEP CAMPUS TOUR COMES TO RIT

by Andy Rees

In an effort to promote bone marrow transplants, the Love Hope Strength Foundation (LHS) is sponsoring a concert tour to 15 college campuses. Crocs Next Step Campus Tour will be arriving at RIT on Saturday, September 20, featuring headliners Yung Joc and Cartel.

A bone marrow transplant is a vital process used to treat leukemia and other diseases. It requires living donors to complete the procedure. According to an LHS press release, the tour provides a medium for Pat Predraja, a 12-year-old volunteer and leukemia patient, to attempt to set a world record for the most marrow donor registrations at a musical event.

According to his blog, Predraja was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in 2006 and became the poster child for a national campaign to add 10,000 new donors to the National Marrow Registry. The campaign, called Driving for Donors, cited that in order to be added to the registry, tissue typing must be done at a cost of \$52.

RIT marks the twelfth stop of the tour. The concert will take place in Clark Gymnasium at 8 p.m., with tickets starting at \$10 for students. Driving for Donors will have a booth at the concert where interested students can sign up to be marrow donors. •



Photograph by Eric Drummond Local cover band Uncle Plum performs on the Greek Lawn on September 5th, at the conclusion of the first week of classes. (Left to right; Elvio Fernandes, Mike Gladstone, Panc Akers.)



from left:
Jacob Ruppal,
Adam Burke, Alex Getty,
Josh Smith, Conner Finlay, David Pisano

SPARSA **LOSES** CLUB SPACE

by Andy Rees | photograph by Maegan Gindi

In a world filled with fear and conflict, security practices and research are of the utmost importance, or so one would think. The Security Practices and Research Student Association (SPARSA), a Student Government (SG) recognized club, has found itself without a home once again. According to Alex Getty, a fourth year Applied Networking and System Administration student and President of SPARSA, the club has struggled to maintain a permanent location on campus.

The club, which started in 2001 shortly after the events of September 11, was formed in response to the growing importance of security in the modern era. Per Getty, “There was no student academic organization that focused on security... It started with four or five guys who were writing papers on security.”

SPARSA’s first “office” was a small closet on the second floor of the Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences (GCCIS), stated Getty. “The area was fairly small, but it did what we wanted it to do.” However, after about eight months, they were asked to

vacate the closet, forcing the group to pack up their equipment and relocate it to Getty’s apartment. “My living room was full of computers. It stayed that way for two months,” recalled Getty.

After following the chain of command, he eventually found himself e-mailing President William Destler, who was just starting his term. “He responded to my e-mail within 15 minutes [and] personally put someone on our case... and she had us an office within two days... It was amazing.”

“As of two weeks into this summer... with the Golisano Institute of Sustainability coming in, they needed that space, which is an office with an adjoining larger space... they were going to use that space for a new department,” said Getty, who once again had to begin the arduous process of finding office space. “Part of this is that we’re all real students, and we all

have real jobs... it seems like I’m always getting hammered with requests to move,” says Getty.

SPARSA is currently looking to SG for help in obtaining club space. Unlike many clubs, SPARSA requires a permanent place to store and provide power and network access to different research projects. SG guidelines, however, do not provide clubs with permanent meeting spaces.

While the new SAU renovations will provide more club space, they will be shared among approximately 180 student organizations that SG currently recognizes. Clubs that require permanent areas, such as the Mini-Baja Club and the Micro-Air Vehicle Club, are provided with such areas through specific colleges.

SG has requested more information about the situation the club is facing, said Matt Danna, a third year Information Technology student and Acting President of SG, but has yet to receive return correspondence on the matter. Given more details, SG would be happy to meet with SPARSA and GCCIS, according to Danna. •

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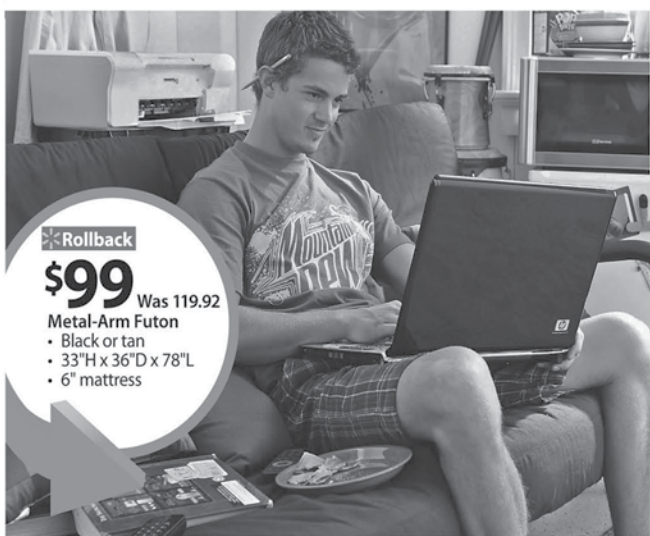
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Event Dates: Monday, August 18 – Saturday, September 20, 2008. Prices and items available only in the USA (may vary in Alaska, Hawaii, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, or online at Walmart.comSM). For the store location nearest you, please call 1-800-881-9180 or check online at Walmart.com.
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+TESTING FOR HIV+

by John Howard | illustrations by Joanna Eberts



When bored, one tends to turn their attention to potentially entertaining subjects like drugs and alcohol, maybe even some video games along the way. On this particular day, I decided to get an HIV test. As there are more than 30 million infected, locating the virus seemed quite probable, so I decided to start searching.

The voyage began the way most modern day excursions would: By printing out directions from a website. The ink dried as I scanned down the short list of about eight instructions. Not too demanding from the looks of it, but one must take into consideration the harsh fact that, once applied to reality, this single sheet of commands could prove to be quite disobedient in translation. And so it did.

Tensions were high. Our vehicle was a rental, as a result of a motorcycle kamikaze upon my station wagon a few days back. We were not used to the odd features of this new vessel. Making matters worse, the vessel was a truck, not suitable for such metropolitan journeys like the one we were about to encounter. My trusted co-pilot, making sure to set priorities straight, also brought up the fact that we “looked like rednecks.”

Other than concern about the mode of transportation, there were no significant problems upon departing on our quest for the virus, a search from which I very much hoped to return home empty-handed.

All was going well, until we came upon the first highway entrance. A list of triple-digit roads leered above us on green signs that pointed us this way and that. Traffic crept in from all around me at a red light. Everyone driving an automobile that caught an eye line with me that day seemed to be in a bad mood, which they had, for some reason, attributed to my existence. “Do I take 390, or 590?” I asked. 390 or 590, the light was about to change.



In the heat of desperation, I decided to split the difference and go with 490 East. It was a decision I immediately regretted. My anxious mind was somehow able to justify the fact that roadway layouts worked much similar to that of elementary school algebra. However, now that I was headed in the wrong direction on entirely the wrong road, it did not make much sense at all. Luckily, with the power of a handy cell phone and a per-day fee equivalent to that of an extreme burrito at the RITz, we were able to navigate the remainder of the way via technology.

We pulled into a parking lot downtown that was newly sealed and painted. The sign upon the building to which the lot belonged gave the impression of a nightclub rather than a health clinic. There was a group that appeared to be tailgating on the far side of the lot underneath a large shading tree. The group, made up of what looked like librarians and the cast of *Orange County Choppers*, was indulging in wine and beer. We pulled into a space in the middle of the lot. It was not too close to feel the need to engage in conversation, yet not far away enough to prompt insult.

Stepping down from what felt like a ten-foot high ledge for my station wagon-accustomed legs, we headed toward the entrance. To our relief, the ‘Librarian Motorcyclists of America Club’ paid us little attention as we walked up the steps. The door was shut and it was dark inside. The building looked closed, but the door opened so we entered. What we found was what appeared to be a normal health clinic. After a breezeway came a waiting room, with waiting room type chairs, a coffee table, and artwork. Pamphlets of everything non-HIV related — from quitting smoking to birth control to gun violence — lined the right side wall.

I wasn’t sure if we had found the right place until a, “Here for tests?” came from behind a receptionist’s window. “Yes,” was all I could think of at the time. And then came the paperwork.

She handed us two clipboards with forms attached. The salmon one was to fill out and the white ones were to for us to keep. The pale pink forms were pretty straightforward until I came across the sex category. The abbreviations “M” and “F” seemed logical, but next to them displayed the symbols “MtF” and “FtM,” which I found baffling. “If you don’t know what it means, then it isn’t you,” a man behind the receptionist’s desk replied as he proceeded to explain that these categories were for post-op transgendered people. “MtF” stands for “male to female” and “FtM” stands for “female to male.”

“If you saw a list of languages that you couldn’t read then you wouldn’t pick any of those,” he explained, going on the idea that if you’re unsure if something pertains to you then you should probably skip it. I couldn’t help but consider that if someone lived by this philosophy, the whole concept of getting an HIV test would be unnecessary. I held my tongue, however, hoping that I’d never see this man again. Unfortunately, he would be the one administering my test.

He took me into a room of four walls and little more, explaining the test to me: Merely a swab in the gums. That I could handle. And I did; I administered the test myself, and then placed the swab in a test tube to brew for the next twenty minutes until we would get an accurate reading. We had twenty minutes to kill and this man, whose uneven, bleached haircut I can remember but not his name, would spend it scaring the living shit out of me.

This stranger asked me about all my darkest secrets, secrets I would feel uncomfortable telling the closest of friends. Yet, for some reason, the air about him made me want to tell him everything. We talked about condoms and all the places you can go while remaining in the strict definition of “sex” as well as the risks that come with it. Apparently there are a lot. To list a few: Contact through blood, semen, breast milk, and other bodily fluids can transmit HIV; having a previously transmitted STD can increase the chances of acquiring the virus; and only 30 percent of those infected experience symptoms. The effects of the virus can take as much as 15 years to materialize. Looking back, the sweat upon my palms seemed quite understandable by the time I was ready to read my results.



The beeper sounded and he slid the test tube over in front of me. The swab bobbed within. It stared up at me with its thick handle in the air, a faint single stripe lining the shaft. I waited for the diagnosis. My skin sucked white in fear, the color of the CD4 cells of an HIV feast that could be brewing within. It didn’t come. The man with the silly-shaped haircut wrote on his clipboard. He savored the anticipation that was oozing from my pores into the stale doctor’s office-reeking air. He finished writing and asked me what I saw. I told him the line was pink and there was only one.

Driving home, we stopped at another light. A girl of Asian decent was smoking a cigarette through a partially-cracked window next to what I assumed to be her boyfriend in a green mustang. I wondered what she had done with her afternoon and if she had learned anything about herself. •

Free HIV tests are offered every Monday and Thursday night from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Aids Rochester, located at 1350 University Avenue, as well as at the Health Outreach Project, located at 416 Central Ave. from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Check out www.aidsrochester.org for more information.

FACTS ABOUT HIV



In the U.S., there are around 1,185,000 people with HIV, around 25% of which are likely unaware of their infection (according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention).



HIV attacks and destroys a type of white blood cell called a CD4 cell, whose main function is to defend the immune system.



HIV is part of a group of viruses called the lentiviruses. *Lenti* is a Latin root meaning “slow,” which here refers to the long period between the start of an infection and the onset of the actual disease.



There are two types of HIV viruses: HIV-1 and HIV-2. Both can cause AIDS, but HIV-1 is much more virulent and easy to pass from person to person. Some testing sites do not test for HIV-2; you may have to ask for a separate test.



AIDS is the final stage of infection, when there are very few defensive CD4 cells. A person’s ability to fight infection is then lost.



Perhaps no organism or virus has evolved resistance as fast as HIV has. Shortly after HIV drug cocktails were hailed as the “temporary cure” for AIDS in the 1990s, HIV mutated and rendered the cocktails ineffective. When that occurs nowadays, the dosage and composition of the cocktail must be changed in order to be effective.



There are around 42,000 new cases of HIV per year.



You can get HIV from sharing a needle or having unprotected sex with an infected person.



You *cannot* get HIV from touching or hugging someone who has HIV/AIDS, public bathrooms or swimming pools, sharing drinks, or bug bites.



Lesions caused by chlamydia, genital warts, and gonorrhea encourage the transmission of HIV-contaminated blood during sexual intercourse.

> If you were an ice cream flavor, what would you be?



**“Carmel Swirl.
It has a good cross
taste. It’s good.”**

John Washco
Software Engineering
Second Year



**“Vanilla.
It’s a pure ice cream.
It’s the base of most
of the other flavors.”**

Karla Arosemena
MS Information Technology
Second Year



**“Bacon. It exists! I
haven’t had it yet, but
that’s what I’d be.”**

Bobby Fielding
Physics
First Year



**“Pistachio because
it’s awkward but
still fantastic.”**

Tony Yeng
Mechanical Engineering Technology
Fifth year



**“Chocolate.
It makes you happy!”**

Hester Tsang
Applied Mathematics
Fourth Year



**“Strawberry sorbet—
I’m lactose intolerant.”**

Matt Sansone
New Media Publishing
Fourth Year

SPILL IT

by e.

Dear e,

Dear e,

I’m a Communications major buying a new laptop. What do you think: Mac or PC?

-Computer Clueless

“...MAC OR PC?”

Dear Clueless,

When I’m asked this I always say that it’s a personal preference. What do you do on your computer? Both Macs and PCs can handle writing, art, music, and games. I don’t feel there is a “right” computer for a major (I know engineers with Macs, and art students with PCs). Being in communications, you’ll probably be doing a lot of typing, so go somewhere that you can test computers, like Best Buy, to get a feel for typing on it.

Next, look at features and ease of use. Macs have the advantage of not having many viruses they can “catch”; the same can’t be said of PCs. So, if you don’t want to deal with infected computers, a Mac may be for you. Most PCs run the same operating system (Windows) but each will be slightly different in speed, graphics, and even keyboards. Compare a PC you like to a Mac. Look at how much can you afford to spend. PCs usually run cheaper than Macs.

There is a lot to consider in getting a computer that works well for you and your lifestyle. If you don’t really care about specifications, you can always go with what makes you feel cool.

-e.

Dear e,

A while ago, I was driving around campus with my friends when we saw something in the middle of the road. It was a turtle with an injured leg, so I took it home with me. I know we aren’t allowed to have pets in the dorms, so I’ve been keeping him in an aquarium on the nature trail. I want to nurse Henderson the Turtle back to health as best I can. Is there a rule against this? Does RIT ever patrol the nature trail?

-Testudinally Tender

**“...I WANT TO NURSE
HENDERSON THE
TURTLE BACK TO
HEALTH...”**

When I moved into my dorm, my roommate seemed to be exactly my kind of person. We had the same sense of humor, similar hobbies, and got along really well. There is one hobby we don’t have in common: She’s a bit too “open” for my taste. Her new nickname is “floor whore” and I’ve had to wait outside several times while she’s bumping uglies with a random guy. On top of that, every time I do get a chance to enter my room, it smells like sex. She tries to cover it up with Febreze, but it only winds up smelling like musty sex juice and flowers. Any help?

-Sprayed Out

**“...SMELLING LIKE
MUSTY SEX JUICE
AND FLOWERS...”**

Dear Sprayed,

First, look on the bright side: she could have been totally inconsiderate and not bothered to buy a bottle of Febreze at all.

You can always request a room change through Housing, but keep in mind that means you’ll probably end up on a different floor and maybe even in a different building or the RIT Inn. Seeing your current floor friends might not be as easy as walking across the hall. Perhaps you have two “floor whores” you can convince to live together.

On a deeper level, she could be having sex with so many guys because it makes her feel needed and boosts her self-esteem. Does she have other friends she goes out with? It might not hurt to try to hang out. Have a girls’ night with some other friends so she will have people to chill with besides the guys looking to bang her.

I do recommend setting up a time to talk about this as you don’t want to be trying to ask her to hang out through the door (and over the screams).

-e.

Dear Tender,

I spoke via e-mail with Director of Public Safety Chris Denninger about this issue. Public Safety does indeed patrol the nature trails on their Segway PTs. However, this doesn’t mean that either yourself or Henderson is in trouble. RIT doesn’t have any specific rules against having Henderson in a box in the woods or against feeding him. I was told, though, that some species are protected by New York State, so if you are unsure of the legality of the animal, Denninger and I suggest checking out the following website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov>.

If ever you find another injured or distressed animal on campus, you can contact Public Safety at 585-475-2853 and they will deal with the matter appropriately.

-e.

To submit a question, e-mail spillit@reportermag.com

REVIEWS



BANGKOK DANGEROUS

by John Howard

Whoa, did some graphics arts guy splice a Nicolas Cage profile onto a The Fast and the Furious poster? No, it's a new movie called *Bangkok Dangerous*, filled with gunfights, explosions, and everything else Nicolas Cage likes to do when he's not being *The Weather Man*.

Not knowing anything about it going in, one would expect nothing more than a film filled with macho gun-slinging scenes that the all-too-done-before poster depicts. And, rest assured, you will not be disappointed in the levels of machismo. However, underneath all the noise

and shrapnel lays a little bit of heart – a story, of a man Joe (Nicolas Cage) who aspires to escape a long life of being an invisible assassin. Now, with four final hits to do in Bangkok, he has his chance. He'll take the money from the hits and disappear from his infamous movie character career (e.g. the assassins of *Kill Bill*, *The Bourne Trilogy*, *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*, *Road to Perdition*, *Collateral*, and so on).

Of course, something goes wrong, because otherwise we wouldn't have a story. Joe meets that something in the form of a love interest. Her name is Fon (Charlie Yeungat), an employee of a local Bangkok pharmacy who helps Joe tend his latest wound. To Joe's surprise, Fon is deaf and unable to speak. This temporary barrier draws him closer to her as the two outsiders' lives collide. As Joe falls more in love, his attention to his work fades and he starts getting sloppy.

Is it worth checking out? Well, if you have free movie passes that expire this week, then sure... *Bangkok Dangerous* offers a few things worth seeing. There's the whole generation hand-off theme as Joe teaches his young assistant Kong (Shahkrit Yamnarm) his complex killing trade, and the film does explore some interesting views with the camera (though, if you like the color red, skip this film, because it doesn't appear throughout the entire 99 minute running time; it's a very blue movie).

IMDb gives it a "6.2," but that's just being polite; anything over a five would be too generous. But, for a modern day action movie, it definitely could've been worse. Sylvester Stallone could have starred in it and it could have been called *Rambo: Bangkok*. •



THE HIVES

The Black and White Album

by Evan McNamara

You might remember The Hives from a while ago from when they released their single, "Hate to Say I Told You So" and could be seen spazzing out on MTV in black suits, shiny shoes, and skinny white ties. Well, The Hives are still alive and kicking.

With a sound best described as Blur meets The Ramones (on a caffeine rush), it is impossible to deny that The Hives are just one hell of a fun band to listen to. *The Black and White Album* continues to deliver upbeat rock, but at a speed that's noticeably throttled back from their last album, *Tyrannosaurus Hives*.

Also new on this album is the use of electronics, which, to be honest, adds little interest to the simple and catchy tunes that wasn't already there. The electronic-tinged songs like "Giddy

Up" and "A Stroll Through Hive Manor Corridors" sound flat and forced, and there is a subtle nod to '70s disco that can be heard in songs like "Hey Little World" and "Bigger Hole to Fill." But, at the end of the day, The Hives manage to stick to what they do best for the majority of the album and deliver a loud, fast, simple, and catchy record that is, most importantly, a blast to listen to. •



MOGWAI

The Hawk Is Howling

by Evan McNamara

If you had never heard Mogwai before and were judging their sound based solely on this album cover, you might think that they were some sort of Lee Greenwood country tribute band. Fortunately, this is still the same Mogwai who pioneered and pushed instrumental music in many different directions for over a decade.

The Hawk is Howling is a natural extension of *Mr. Beast* in that it spares much of the electronic embellishments of the band's earlier work in favor of orchestral ornamentation. The album starts out with the gliding epic "I'm Jim Morrison – I'm Dead," a song that uses swells of strings and clean guitars to craft captivating melodies. In the second track, "Batcat," Mogwai flexes their muscle with a heavy yet simple style. Unfortunately, it is a tad predictable. But just when this record would start to go stale, the third track, "Daphne and the Brain," pulls you back in, and hard. Delicately crafted themes weave their way in and out of the song, while the bass and drums push forward. The song is five minutes long, but could've been extended to double that without much objection. Save for the predictability of "Batcat," *The Hawk is Howling* delivers a well-written album that feels tight and close, as if the band simply hit record one day before they practiced their set. If the cover scares you off, tough luck. It's your loss. •

09.12.08 AT YOUR LEISURE

by John Howard

STREAM OF FACTS

The **FERRIS** wheel was introduced to the world by an RPI graduate named George Washington Gale Ferris. Inspired by the design of the merry-go-round, Ferris constructed the first wheel in order to rival the recent construction of the Eiffel Tower in France. It stood at a remarkable 264 feet with a circumference of 825 feet at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Illinois. The cost? \$380,000 from hand drawing on a dinner napkin to first spin.

John Cusack, Jim Carrey, Johnny Depp, Tom Cruise, Robert Downey, Jr. and Michael J. Fox were all considered for the role of **FERRIS** Bueller in *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. In the end, Matthew Broderick was chosen to roam the hallways of the Chicago high school with a **BULLDOG** for a mascot. Along with the list of choice actors that never were is Emilio Estevez, who played the role of Cameron in the film.

According to The Guinness World Records, the most tennis balls ever held in the mouth at one time by a dog is five. The holder of this "achievement" is a golden retriever named Augie from Dallas, Texas. The record was set on July 6, 2003. What kind of sick mind teaches a dog such tricks? No real answer on that, but you've got to imagine the **BULLDOG'S** frustration with his small mouth. He is probably still blowing off some steam after that one.

Steam-blowing abilities are yet to be proven within the bulldog breed.

REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Buying a Super Soaker. It's totally a good investment. Any college student would be foolish to be without one. If Chuck Norris were a gun, he'd be a Super Soaker. Fellas, the ladies will not be able to keep their hands off of you when you're holding one of these bad boys. The sheer manliness emanating from you while holding one will be simply irresistible to the female population. A Super Soaker automatically equals at least a two point boost on the cool scale. Not only can you use it to soak the antagonists of your life, you can do it on a level that is accurately described as "super." Your RAs will love you for it, as many of them do encourage use of any sort of portable water-spraying apparatus especially when the target of said apparatus is within a close proximity of electrical devices. And, if you have yet to catch onto my sarcasm, it's probably too late for you anyway.

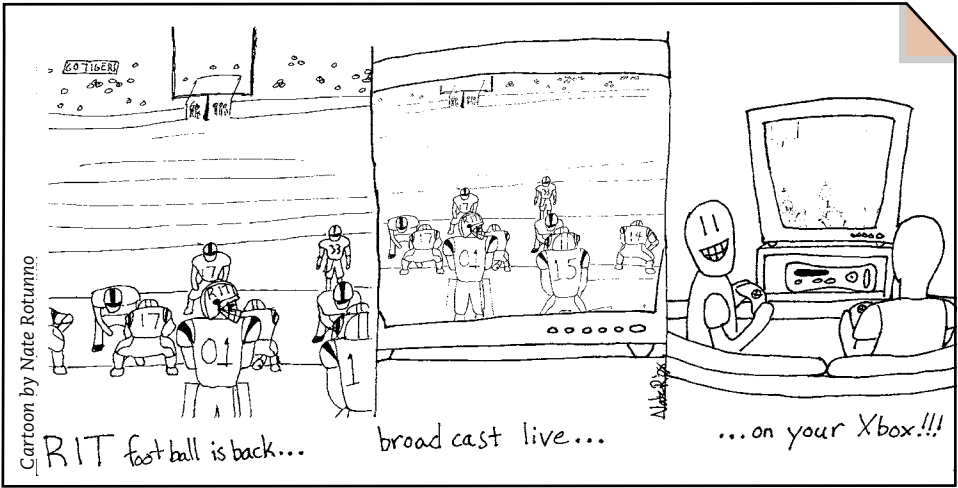
OVERSEEN AND OVERHEARD AT RIT

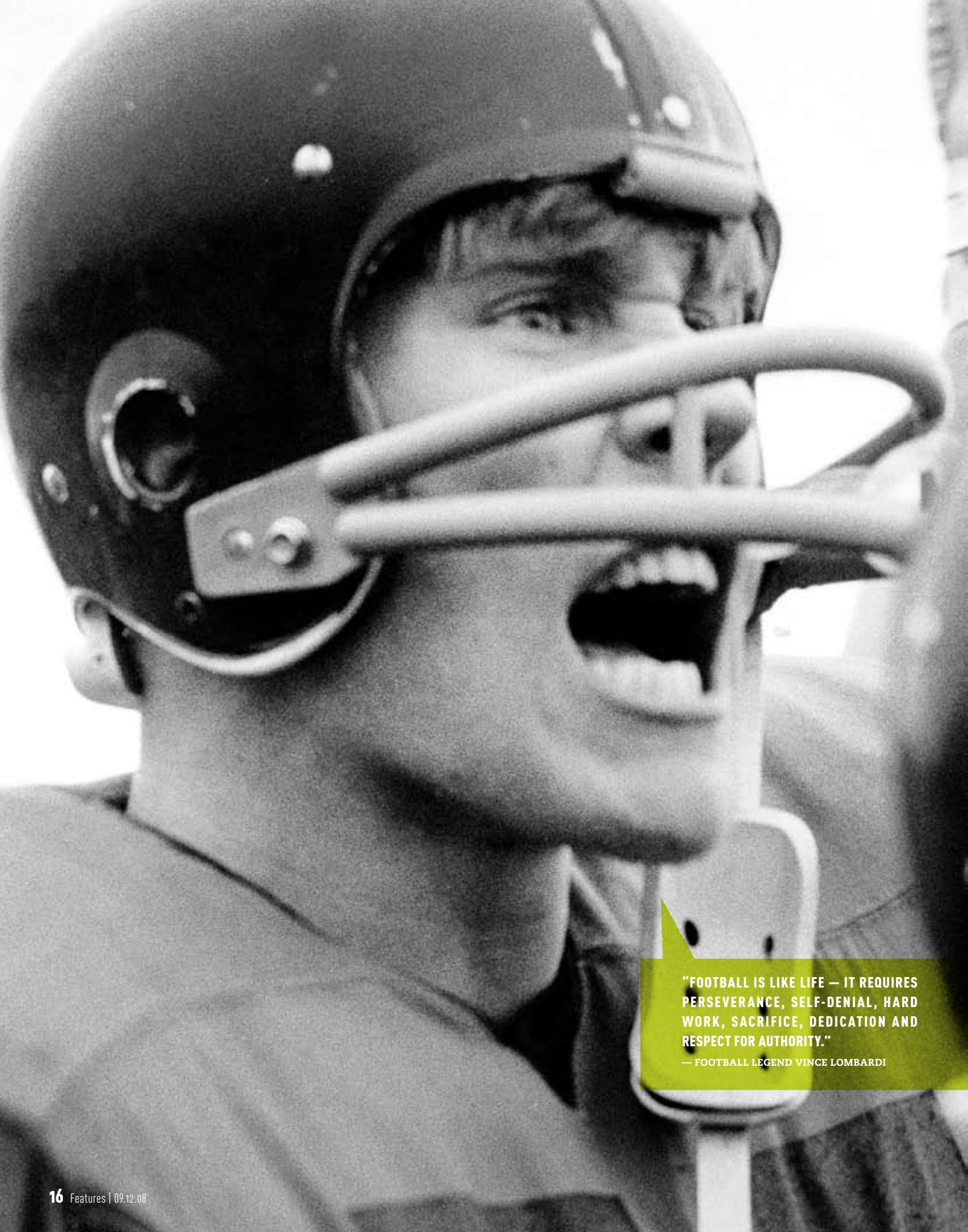
"What's with all this math? The only reason I became a photo major was so that I wouldn't have to do any more math and, so far, it is all I've done."
-Photo student, in reference to his Materials and Processes class

"No meat?"
-SAU Sandwich Artist inquiring about a sub's contents, just after spreading chicken salad on top of it.

DIFFICULTY RATING: HARD

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



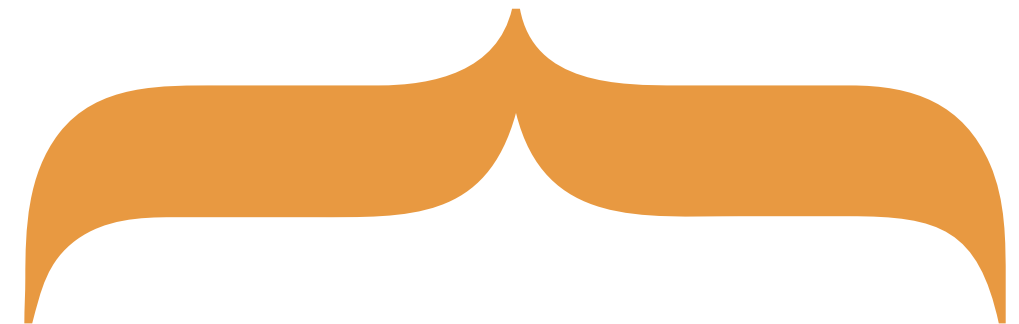


"FOOTBALL IS LIKE LIFE — IT REQUIRES PERSEVERANCE, SELF-DENIAL, HARD WORK, SACRIFICE, DEDICATION AND RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY."

— FOOTBALL LEGEND VINCE LOMBARDI

Undefeated Since 1977

by Rachel Hart



Forty seconds left, the room was packed, the air electric. Eli Manning, quarterback of the New York Giants, stepped back from the pocket and released the football into the air. The fate of the Super Bowl traveled with it. Wide receiver Plaxico Burress made the catch. The Giants won the Super Bowl. ¶ Meanwhile, in the Radisson hotel on Jefferson, the conference erupted in chaos. Forty former members of the RIT football program gathered to watch one of their own: Tom Coughlin, Head Coach of the New York Giants. More than 30 years ago, Coughlin coached RIT's football team and made an unforgettable impact. ¶ When asked about the reunion, Coughlin commented, "I was deeply moved by the outpour of support." He continued with thoughts about the football program during his time as coach, stating "Those guys played the game in its purest form." ¶ With such a strong show of support and camaraderie from a team that played over 30 years ago, it raises the question: Where did RIT football go? ¶ Today's students don T-shirts saying "RIT Football, Undefeated since 1977," and countless freshmen each year are disappointed to discover that they are attending a school that has no football team whatsoever. Little do they know that football at RIT has a diverse and interesting past.





“I’m shocked and heartbroken. The worst part about the whole issue is losing the family-like relationship between a football coach and his players.”



photographs from RIT archive compiled by Ben Liddle, more @reportermag.com

Cast of Characters

Lou Alexander, Athletic

Director

Bill Carey, Athletic Director
at RIT

Tom Coughlin, Head Coach
of the New York Giants

Dr. Paul Miller, President
of RIT

Louis Spiotti, Coach of
Tigers football team,
present Director of
Intercollegiate Athletics

The First RIT Football Program

About 86 years ago, when RIT was know as Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute, RIT had its first varsity football team. Its demise in 1922 was most likely due to poor funding. Two world wars and other obstacles, such as the campus move from downtown Rochester to its current location, prevented its return.

Football was finally brought back in 1968. Bill Carey, the former Athletic Director at RIT, described the movement to bring football back as “driven by students.” Ken Davis, from Jefferson High School, coached the team and the men practiced and competed at the club level.

The Coughlin Years

Just two years later, the program was starting to grow and Coughlin arrived on the RIT scene, bringing with him values of discipline and hard work. With his arrival also came the decision by the Board of Trustees to make football a varsity sport once more. In Carey’s words, Lou Alexander, Athletic Director at the time, was looking for “someone who could really drive it and get it going.” RIT played teams like St. Lawrence, Rensselaer, Hobart, and even Ithaca College, which was then (and still is) a national power.

When asked what his players thought of the Coughlin years, ex-linebacker and co-captain Mark McCabe said, “He wasn’t just interested in you working as a team and the sport. He was interested in your life, and that’s how exceptional that unit — Coughlin and his coaches — were.” Coughlin left RIT in 1974 for an opportunity to coach Division I football at his alma mater, Syracuse University.

Spiotti Takes Over

From here, RIT had a coaching crisis: New hire Dick Wheaton left suddenly, citing his homesickness for Cortland as a reason.

The Tigers needed a new coach and fast. They found Louis Spiotti, a 27-year-old defensive backfield coach and Navy veteran from the University of Rochester. Alexander said of his choice, “We are extremely pleased to get a man of Lou’s caliber... I am confident he will do an outstanding job and continue the steady growth of RIT football.”

While the coaching situation was being sorted out, Alexander met Dr. Fred Smith, Vice President of Student Affairs, about the state of the program. It was decided that the program would be re-evaluated in three years, and if RIT were not competitive enough in the league, football would be discontinued.

Under Spiotti, team building continued and the team racked up wins and losses. A player from the original program in the 1920s, Art Blanchette, attended practices and showed his support for the team as early proof of an undying bond forged by the members of the program.

During this time, RIT played St. John Fischer, a local college that was just picking up a varsity program. In Spiotti’s words, “the school stuck with it,” and Fischer is now a powerhouse for Division III football. The Buffalo Bills even hold their training camp at their facilities. At that time, RIT and Fischer were comparable programs.

The End of RIT Football

One snowy November afternoon, 31 years ago, RIT’s football team entered their locker room for the last time of the season. They were defeated and frustrated; they had just lost to Canisius in a 16-9 decision. The whole season the Tigers had been close to wins, even entering half time with a 10-0 lead over St. Lawrence earlier in the season. But once the clock ran down and the last play was made, RIT had lost. The Tigers had been overscheduled and had played teams that were obviously beyond their level. They had no idea that this disappointing end to a season would also be the end of their RIT football careers.

One month later, RIT’s varsity football program came to an end. The verdict came after a harsh season with a record of 0-8-1, the final loss to Canisius on that snowy afternoon. Dr. Smith made the official announcement that “Rochester Institute of Technology is discontinuing varsity football effective immediately.” The statement cited the long-

term financial commitment as the reason for the discontinuation. Smith also emphasized that a discontinuation of football was in no way a sign of a decreasing support for the athletic program.

The announcement came as a shock for players and coaches alike. One football player was quoted saying, “It’s like a death in the family.” This talk of family continued with Coach Spiotti’s interview with a local TV station, “I’m shocked and heartbroken. The worst part about the whole issue is losing the family-like relationship between a football coach and his players.” And when asked if he would stay in Rochester, Spiotti replied that he had to consult with his wife and children on his next move.

The Reaction

Within hours of the announcement, the campus was in an uproar with petitions already circulating. The movement was lead by former Assistant Coach Bob Peters and other alumni of the RIT football program. With such undeniable discontent, Dr. Smith decided to hold an open forum to, in his own words, “clear up some of the misunderstandings that surrounded the decision.” The meeting brought up many important points, such as the fact that the decision seemed to have been made solely by Dr. Paul Miller, President of RIT.

Craig Schwabach, President of the Student Association at the time, added that if he had been aware of the situation of football’s possible demise, he and other campus leaders would have come together to fundraise and create awareness.

President Miller was not in attendance due to a previously scheduled business trip in China. Dr. Smith spoke in his defense saying, “Dr. Miller himself had to bite the bullet and make the decision.”

Dave Evans, a second year photography student who was in attendance at the forum, brought up another important point: The Institute would not be saving money without football, due to the promise made to put the funds right back into the athletic program.

The meeting finally came to an end with Tom Caruso, one of the organizers of the movement to bring football back, who stood up and said “Dr. Smith, on behalf of the RIT football team, we appreciate your honesty and sincere concern for the players who have been affected by the decision to drop football. We want you to know that we are not attacking you or the Institute on a personal basis but feel there is a strong motive for Dr. Miller to reconsider his decision with the possibility of reinstating the program.”

Ultimately, Dr. Miller did not reconsider the situation and in fall of 1978, RIT’s football team did not take the field.

Coming Together Again

February of this year, former players, cheerleaders, coaching staff, and supporters flew from all over the country and united to watch one of their own in Superbowl XLII. Even after decades, the opportunity to relive those old days at RIT proved irresistible.

When asked about the reunion, Coughlin commented, “I was deeply moved by the outpour of support!” He continued with thoughts on the football program during his time as coach, “Those guys played the game in its purest form.”

Today, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Spiotti looks back on the program and sees what it would have taken to develop the team further: “Developing a football program does not take three, four or five years; it takes ten, fifteen, twenty years.”

As for the future of football at RIT, the outlook is hazy. Spiotti says that for there to be a possibility of football, “there has to be more of an outcry” from the student body. “Football is a big investment, and when you make a big investment, you want to make sure it pays off.” The game has always had the potential to make an impact on RIT’s campus, but as Spiotti said, “If we don’t do it right, we shouldn’t do it at all.” If football is ever going to return to RIT’s campus, there will have to be a unified movement by the student body proving that it is, in fact, time to do football right. •

Schedule of Events

Week One

- Thursday 9/4 Thursday Night Cinema Series:
"Semi-Pro"
10 P.M. – Greek Lawn – Free
- Friday 9/5 Friday Night in the Ritz with Sigma Alpha Mu
Outdoor Pole Sit featuring Uncle Plum
5 P.M. – Greek Lawn – Free
- Saturday 9/6 **ThinkFast**
Gracie's – Grace Watson Hall
11 P.M. – \$5 for students.

Week Two

- Thursday 9/11 Thursday Night Cinema Series:
"The Kingdom"
10 P.M. – SAU Ingle Auditorium – Free
- Friday 9/12 Friday Night in the Ritz:
Alyssa Coco
10 P.M. – Ritz – Student Alumni Union – \$1
- Saturday 9/13 Saturday Night Stand-Up:
Hypnotist Kevin Hurley with Shawn Sullivan
11 P.M. – SAU Ingle Auditorium

Week Three

- Thursday 9/18 Thursday Night Cinema Series:
"Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay"
10 P.M. – SAU Ingle Auditorium – Free
- Friday 9/19 Friday Night in the Ritz with RITSMA
Open Mic Night
10 P.M. – Ritz – Student Alumni Union – \$1
- Saturday 9/20 **Crocs Next Step Tour**
Cartel, MC Lars, & Yung Joc
7 P.M. – Clark Gym
\$10 students, \$12 faculty/staff, \$15 public

Center
for
Campus **life**
Building **SPIRIT.**

Week Four

- Thursday 9/25 Thursday Night Cinema Series:
"Pulp Fiction"
10 P.M. – SAU Ingle Auditorium – Free
- Friday 9/26 Friday Night in the Ritz:
Freestyle Friday
10 P.M. – Ritz – Student Alumni Union – \$1
- Saturday 9/27 **Late Night Bingo**
Gracie's – Grace Watson Hall
11 P.M.

Week Five

- Thursday 10/2 Thursday Night Cinema Series:
"21"
10 P.M. – SAU Ingle Auditorium – Free
- Friday 10/3 Friday Night in the Ritz:
Another Option with Brookside
10 P.M. – Ritz – Student Alumni Union – \$1
- Saturday 10/4 RIT Men's Hockey
Orange and White Game
6 P.M. – Ritter Arena

Week Six

- Thursday 10/9 Thursday Night Cinema Series:
"The Incredibles"
10 P.M. – SAU Ingle Auditorium – Free
- Friday 10/10 Brick City Homecoming
Nas
8 P.M. – Gordon Field House
\$16 students, \$25 faculty/staff, \$25 public
- Saturday 10/11 Brick City Homecoming
Comedian Jimmy Fallon
8 P.M. – Gordon Field House
\$15 students, \$30 parents/faculty/staff

START COMMANDING ATTENTION.
START OUT ON TOP.

START RAISING THE BAR.

START HIGHER.

START ONE STEP AHEAD.

START MOVING UP.

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For details about Army ROTC, contact LTC Paul Hansen, (585) 475-5547 or email armyrotc@rit.edu

3 STARS GO PRO

by Madeleine Villavicencio and Michael Barbato | illustrations by Robert Modzelewski

RIT has taken much pride in its long list of successful alumni populated by many businessmen, artists, engineers, and technologists. From the makers of Digsby to the CEO of Eastman Kodak, RIT has produced an interesting array of *professionals*. Among these illustrious alumni are a handful of well-known and well-loved athletes.

STEVE TOLL

Steve Toll became determined to stake his claim in professional sports after winning a provincial field hockey title while attending Lakeport Secondary School in St. Catherines, Ontario.

Toll's speed and stamina were enhanced as he tore up the ice as an RIT Tiger, receiving the NCAA Division III player of the year award in 1997. After playing competitively for three seasons from 1994 to 1997, he joined the East Coast Hockey League, which served as his stepping-stone to the Central Hockey League. He played for five seasons for several teams: The Raleigh Icecaps, Fayetteville Force, and Indianapolis Ice. Real success, however, was waiting for him at the National Lacrosse League (NLL), which he joined in 1998.

Because of his career, Toll has had to move quite frequently. He has spent time in Canada and on both coasts of the US. However, one of the more stressful moments in his career was when he was picked up by the San Jose Stealths four years ago. "I wasn't happy when I went to San Jose.



Everything from family to everything else just really didn't set well," Toll explained. In 2005, Toll was traded to the Rochester Knighthawks, a move which sparked a positive change. "Coming here has really helped things over the past two and a half years," remarked Toll.

Having been in the business for 10 years, Toll is known for his speed, ability to snatch up loose balls, and for picking off passes. "He's a guy teams just can't pass the ball through," said Ed Comeau, Head Coach of the Rochester Knighthawks.

At the age of 34, Toll is one of only two franchise players for the Knighthawk's 2009 season. He plans on playing competitively for the next four or five years and then possibly retiring in Florida with his family.

STEVE PINIZZOTTO

Steve Pinizzotto's passion for hockey was ignited when he started playing competitively – at the incredibly young age of five. Ever since then, he knew exactly what he wanted to do. "Playing pro hockey has been my dream ever since I first learned the game... My parents used to tell me that I would never put my hockey stick down," said the Mississauga, Ontario native. Although Pinizzotto also participated in other sports such as baseball, he stuck with his first love.

In 2005, Pinizzotto decided to pursue a Packaging Science degree while playing for the RIT Tigers. "I knew I was getting put in [an] exceptional academic program and I also knew that RIT had an excellent reputation," explained Pinizzotto. Truthfully, there couldn't have been a better time for Pinizzotto to sign on; a year later, RIT jumped from Division III to Division I and joined the Atlantic Hockey Conference. The Tigers even won the Atlantic Hockey Conference title after being in the league for a mere two years. "That was not only a huge accomplishment for myself, but the whole athletic program," said Pinizzotto.



Unfortunately, Pinizzotto's stint with the Tigers lasted only two years. In 2007, he left RIT prior to graduation and traded in his orange-and-white jersey to sign on with the Washington Capitals. A few months later, Pinizzotto reported for training with the Hershey Bears, the Capitals' American Hockey League affiliate team, and the South Carolina Stingrays, the Capitals' East Coast Hockey League affiliate team. Although this does not promise Pinizzotto a spot with the Capitals, it does allow Pinizzotto to undergo similar training and improve his game.

Pinizzotto is hopeful for his hockey career and has yet to decide if he will finish his Packaging Science degree. If ever, RIT would still be one of his first choices. "If I was to go back to school, I would definitely like to return to RIT because of the program they offer," stated Pinizzotto.

MATT HAMILL

When Matt Hamill was about eight months old, his mother and stepfather discovered that he was born deaf. However, when the time came to send Hamill to school, his stepfather, Mike, refused to send him to a specialized school. Instead, Mike trained him to lipread, a skill which proved essential for Hamill to excel academically. Hamill landed a spot on his elementary school's wrestling team, where he soon discovered his innate fighting ability. It is these two factors combined that earned him a one-year scholarship at Purdue University.

Unfortunately, once at Purdue, Hamill couldn't keep up with his professors' quick mouths nor his interpreters' complicated signs. Eventually Hamill lost his scholarship, dropped out of college, and returned to Loveland. Mike, however, would not let his stepson give up. In the fall of 1996, Hamill started school at the National Technical Institute of the Deaf at RIT.

At RIT, Hamill joined the wrestling team and his grades began to improve. "Back in '97 to '99, I was a three-time national champ....RIT had a really good wrestling program and I [was] really happy to be here. And when I won that national championship, I [felt] that it was a special opportunity, a special time...that I would never forget," he said. Hammill attributes much of his success to RIT Wrestling Coach Ron Gross: "He made my skill and technique a lot better. Without Ron Gross I [wouldn't] be [as] successful."

Hamill's success did not end there. "I went to the Deaflympics in '97 in Denmark and won two gold medals. Then, in 2001, I went to Rome, Italy," he cited. Hamill emerged with gold medals in both Greco-Roman and Freestyle wrestling. Four years later, Hamill won silver in Greco-Roman wrestling and gold in Freestyle wrestling. In 2004, he was inducted into the Division III wrestling Hall of Fame. In 2007, he was inducted into the RIT Athletics Hall of Fame.

However, it wasn't until 2006 that his career skyrocketed. Hamill became an instant star as a member of Team Ortiz, also known as Team Punishment, on the Ultimate Fighter 3. Matt "The Hammer" Hammill stands with a Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) record of 6-1-0. His single loss to Brit-

ish fighter, Michael Bisping, in UFC 75 became a huge controversy. "A lot of people came to my gym telling me... I got robbed," said Hamill.

Hamill's most recent fight was against Rich Franklin, whose current record is 25-3-0. UFC 88 aired on September 6 at 10 p.m. (EST). At the writing of this article, the results from that match were unknown. •

“I WENT TO THE DEAFLYMPICS IN ’97 IN DENMARK AND WON TWO GOLD MEDALS. THEN, IN 2001, I WENT TO ROME, ITALY.”



STEVE TOLL STATS					
2008:	goals 0,	assists 4,	games played 25,	points per game 0.1600	(Hershey Bears, AHL)
2007:	goals 0,	assists 0,	games played 5,	points per game 0.000	(Hershey Bears, AHL)
	goals 13,	assists 31,	games played 34,	points per game 1.2941	(RIT, NCAA)
2006:	goals 7,	assists 6,	games played 20,	points per game 0.6500	(RIT, NCAA)

STEVE PINIZZOTTO STATS					
2008:	goals 7,	assists 25,	powerplay goals 0,	game winning goals 0	(Rochester)
2007:	goals 16,	assists 27,	powerplay goals 1,	game winning goals 3	(Rochester), NLL Transition Player of the Year
2006:	goals 18,	assists 20,	powerplay goals 0,	game winning goals 0	(Rochester)
2005:	goals 7,	assists 10,	powerplay goals 1,	game winning goals 0	(Rochester),
	goals 4,	assists 8,	powerplay goals 0,	gamewinning goals 0	(San Jose)

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FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

by Carolyn Dunne

It's a nice, sunny fall afternoon in October. You know that you don't want to stay inside, but you don't know what to do outside. It's too early for a haunted hay ride, going apple picking is too much hard work, and RIT's powerhouse football season hasn't quite started up yet. Why not throw on your (free) Tiger Den T-shirt and orange fro and bring all the school spirit you can muster to support one of the varsity fall sports?



1

WOMEN'S TENNIS

In a preseason poll, the Empire 8 chose RIT to finish third in the conference behind Ithaca and Stevens Institute of Technology. The season opener, however, showed how polls don't translate into an actual season when RIT won 5-4 in their face-off with Stevens on RIT's courts. Sophomore Photojournalism major Amanda Berg was named the Empire 8 Women's Tennis Player of the Week in her first season since her transfer from the College of New Jersey. Coach Krystina Bachner has a great deal of talent to work with as a majority of the team returns from last season and seeks to compete into the postseason. RIT will be playing Ithaca College at 1 p.m. at the RIT tennis courts on September 13.

2

CROSS COUNTRY

Both the men and women of RIT's cross country team are gearing up for their first invitational on September 13, with high performance expectations in mind. With many of the athletes on both teams having previous collegiate experience, Head Coach Dave Warth has a committed team, ready to put the work in to excel in their conference and at the sport.



3


WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Coming off of last year's postseason at the NCAA tournament, RIT's volleyball team was chosen second in the Empire 8 conference in the preseason poll. A somewhat frustrating early season of no wins and four losses, however, has tested the athletes' resolve to earn a repeat berth in the NCAA postseason. The volleyball team will most likely fight their way back with teamwork, dedication, and the leadership of upperclassmen and Head Coach Roger Worsley. Both 2007 American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-New York Region team picks Jessica Schaffer (a Senior Chemical Engineer) and Nicole Boxler (a Senior International Business student) have returned this year. Schaffer, unfortunately, had a wrist injury early on, and will likely be sitting out the season. Despite that, the RIT Invitational in Clark Gym on September 12-13 will certainly be a great opportunity to cheer on the Tigers.

4

WOMEN'S SOCCER

With several new athletes joining the team, the women's soccer team has great potential for an eighth consecutive year of postseason play, provided they continue to work together. Civil Engineering Senior Emily Traversi comes off of a strong season last year, with such recognitions as being named to the 2007 All-New York State Women's Collegiate Athletic Association (NYSWCAA) Team and earning 2007 COSIDA ESPN The Magazine Academic All-Region 1 third team honors. Traversi is the first RIT student to ever earn this honor. Returning with 2007 All-Empire 8 honors is Traversi and fellow Seniors Danielle LaFrance, an Electrical Engineering Technology student, and Erica Main, an Interior Design student. Come cheer for the team as they take on St. John Fisher at the RIT Field at 4 p.m. on September 17.



5

MEN'S SOCCER

The team continues to play with great teamwork and grit as they begin their climb towards the Empire 8 conference title behind head coach Bill Garno. At the time of writing this article, the team had a record of one win and one loss; considering that the loss was against a nationally-ranked team and the win was a 7-0 shutout, it looks like they've got a strong season ahead of them. In addition to a good balance of experienced veteran and talented rookie players, Coach Garno has two returning 2007 All-Empire 8 selections in Electrical Engineering Senior Chris Somers and New Media Junior Jeff Diaz, who will both provide leadership on the field. They will continue their season against Skidmore at 3 p.m. at the RIT soccer field in front of the Gordon Field House on September 20.



SAFEGUARDING YOUR REPUTATION

by Elvis Montero



On my way to Upstate New York from the Dominican Republic, I found myself lingering at JFK for over three hours. As I sat in the waiting area and hastily devoured my RSS feeds, I overheard a red-haired young lady sharing her plight with a friend. Her vindictive ex-boyfriend had uploaded some questionable pictures to Facebook: “My family and most of my friends have already seen the pictures! I kept untagging them and he kept tagging them back!”

Nowadays, if you want to keep a sound reputation, you have to work harder than ever. You can thank technology like digital cameras, cellphones, and laptops for this mishandling of your personal information online. Today, the notion of a long-lasting good name could well be oxymoron.

One may think we are all bound to live in a world in which everyone’s reputation could be tarnished due to a debauched picture on MySpace. However, that’s not necessarily the case. I’m not going to tell you how (or how not) to party. Instead, I am going to share with you a few straightforward measures that could help you diminish the chances of an unpleasant surprise in the future – the kind of surprise that augurs badly for your professional life.

LIMIT YOUR FRIENDS IN SOCIAL NETWORKS

Are you sure every single one of those 500 people you’ve approved on Facebook is truly your friend? More contacts on a given social network provide a wider audience for that embarrassing photo. Consequently, only close friends should have access to all the colorful personal data shared in today’s social networks.

TREAT OTHERS WELL

Try following Google’s motto: “Don’t be evil.” Grudges held against you can come back and bite you in the bum really fast. Perhaps our friend at the airport wouldn’t have had so many problems if she had handled the situation differently. Granted, we don’t know the circumstances that led to her dilemma; but treating people with respect and tact will almost always yield positive results.

PRODUCE CONTENT

It doesn’t matter how or where, but you must produce content on a regular basis. The internet and other forms of media provide you with all the tools you need. You can blog, write a book, or draw a comic. The reason is simple: Marketing.

If you want any type of reputation, marketing and public relations will play a fundamental role. What better way to boost your image than to create a venue to showcase your ideas and charismatic persona? If you want others to remember your name and attach some meaning to it, you’ll undoubtedly have to create content of some sort first.

GUARD YOUR IMAGE

Be careful with the content you are putting online. Try to be clear about your intentions and politely clarify whenever there is the need to. Your words may easily be misconstrued on a blog or on any other form of written communication such as e-mails or IMs. On the internet, ambiguity is your enemy.

This advice is by no means a comprehensive list, nor is it a quick fix; the effectiveness of my suggestions cannot be measured in the short run. You’ll likely have to wait a few months, or even years, before you see results. However, given time, people will start associating your name with the content you produce. Slowly but surely, your reputation will help you achieve your goals instead of damaging your chances at success.

I’M NO GUITAR HERO, BUT I CAN STILL SHRED A FEW NOTES



by Madeleine Villavicencio
illustration by Katie Anderson

Saying “Guitar Hero is like playing a real instrument” is like claiming to be the next Van Gogh just because you can paint by numbers.

I never thought I would need to make this argument until an experience I had in Blockbuster. A friend and I were in line to check out *American Gangster* when we noticed that there were video games for rent. As we waited, our conversation drifted to a discussion on how people (myself included) spend hours playing *Guitar Hero* and how it is nothing like playing a real guitar. Apparently, the store clerk was eavesdropping on our conversation and was insulted at my statement that playing a *real* instrument requires more skill than playing a game.

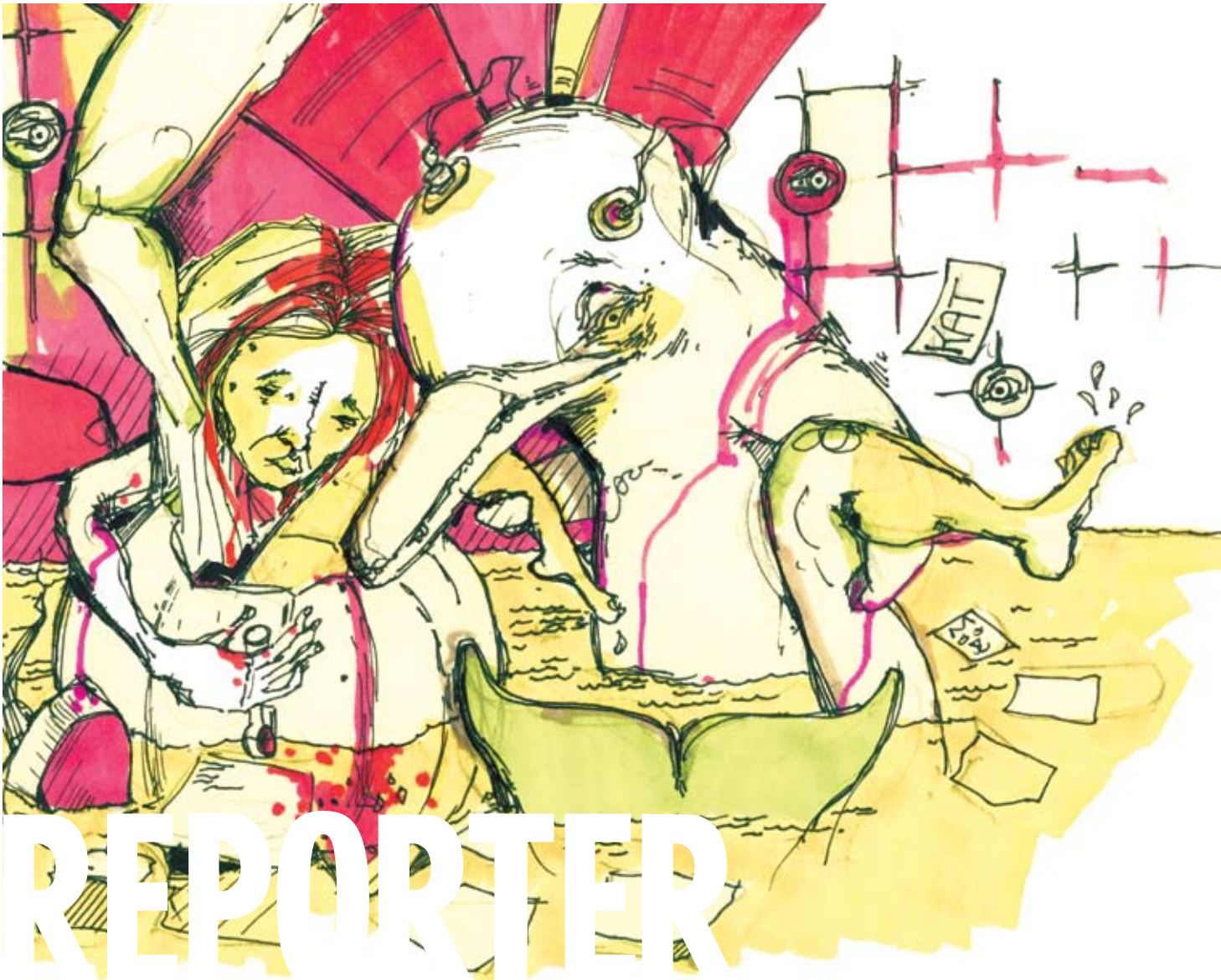
The store clerk decided to take offense and snootily asked whether I had ever played the game before. I simply answered yes, and although I won’t be winning any tournaments any time soon, I can hold my own at medium and some songs on hard. Still annoyed, he asked if I knew how to play *the real thing* and I said, yes, for a few years now. He finally shut up and rang up our movie. Personally, I know better than to get in the middle of a geek and his video game (I attend RIT, after all), but I did not like the attitude he was giving me. Once we exited Blockbuster, my friend and I laughed about how upset we had made him.

Don’t get me wrong. I think success at *Guitar Hero* on Expert Mode requires a great amount of skill and practice, but it only requires a *certain* group of related skills. Games like *Guitar Hero*, along with the guitar and drum aspects of *Rock Band*, fall under the “rhythm game” genre with other popular titles such as *Dance Dance Revolution* and the *Elite Beat Agents*. However, it

takes more than rhythm to play a real world instrument, and that’s why the skills do not transfer over as well. Among many other skills, a guitarist needs the dexterity to traverse all 21 (or 24, depending on the guitar) frets over 6 strings, the ear for tone and pitch, and the finger strength to resist string tension that could easily cut your skin if you’re not careful. It’s also worth mentioning that strumming a guitar involves the whole hand moving in up-and-down motions, not just using one’s thumb in repetitive downward motions. However, these are just the technical aspects.

Music is an art, and even those who sample other artists modify it to leave a mark that’s purely their own essence. To say that *Guitar Hero* players are participating in the same activity as real guitar players would be like finding the most gifted mathematician who could effortlessly and accurately perform operations on 11 digit numbers in their head, and likening him or her to your calculator. What differentiates musicians who only read sheet music or tablature from professional *Guitar Hero* players? The fact is, those musicians produce the sounds themselves and not through a computer that checks whether you’ve hit the correct combination of buttons in order to execute the single note or series of notes that it was programmed to play.

But that doesn’t mean I will be playing *Guitar Hero* any less. •



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Write 600 words or less based on an **interpretation** of the illustration above.

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Voting will be September 15th through the 19th.

Winning article will be published and will receive cash prize of

\$150

RIT RINGS 585.672.4840

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

MONDAY, 12:23 A.M.

Hi, RIT Rings. So it's going to be the first day tomorrow and me and my roommate are just sittin' here. She said hi. So we were just callin' to see if this thing was real and I guess it is. So I guess we'll call back later and leave more messages.

WEDNESDAY, 7:29 P.M.

Yeah, I'm calling to complain about the number of bikes on campus. It's a little ridiculous when every pole has a bike chained to it. Let's kill the environment and drive more. Don't bike... drive more!

SUNDAY, 11:40 P.M.

I'm giving a tour – unauthorized completely – of RIT to a group of freshmen and it's real late at night and, well, they have something to say. Yeah, Rings, find us a party.

SATURDAY, 5:15 P.M.

I was just watching the Obama DNC speech on YouTube and about ten minutes in I swear the crowd starts chanting, “Yankees suck, Yankees suck.”

THURSDAY, 11:19 A.M.

I don't understand why I can only take three pieces of fruit from Gracie's. If I was sitting in there taking my precious time, I could eat all the [forking] fruit I wanted. But when I have a tray I can only take three. Why is Gracie's such a fruit Nazi?

SATURDAY 11:10 P.M.

RIT Rings, I think I need therapy. I've been stalking this guy a long time now. Now I know where he lives. I stare at his door three times before class and three times before going to bed. I'm in love.

WEDNESDAY, 8:22 P.M.

I got my [fertilizing hose] stuck in a peanut butter jar. Please help. Thank you!



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