

# REPORT

ARMY

09 19 08 | [reportermag.com](http://reportermag.com)

## life as a cadet

ROTC at RIT

## tigers tear up the field

men and women's soccer vs. hamilton

## rally at park point

students seek parking solutions

# Legends of Jazz Trumpet



## Herb Smith

with Jon Kruger (trumpet), Rod Blumenau (piano),  
Quin Lawrence (clarinet/sax), Brad Paxton (drums),  
Jeff Campbell (bass), Cindy Miller (vocal)  
Michael Lasser (narration)

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

## POWER IN NUMBERS

The room was silent. Out of the 70 or so students in the auditorium, none of us had an answer. A note of disbelief crept into the professor's voice as he posed the question for a second time: "How many of you feel empowered by democracy?"

Although several people eventually responded with reasons why they couldn't comfortably put themselves in that category, *nobody* spoke up to say that they did, indeed, feel empowered by democracy. A rather dismaying sign of the times, if I do say so myself.

Why this feeling of disempowerment? Some might blame our faltering economy. Others, perhaps, would chalk it up to recent stifling of free speech (see "Convicted of Patriotism"), or some sort of bias in the media. Still others would point the finger directly at George W. Bush – need anyone say more? Yet while I absolutely do agree that none of these elements are the least bit empowering, my major source of discouragement does not lie in any of these areas. No, what's most discouraging for me are the people who are not informed enough about what's going on in the world today to answer that question. (Not that I imagine for a minute that that's why nobody answered in class last Wednesday. I'm just saying.)

When it comes to discussions of politics (from national politics right on down to local RIT politics), a lot of us are uninformed – or worse, misinformed. And even more troublingly, there are a large number of us who don't care either way.

Week after week, such a large percentage of politics is pretense and posturing and bullshit, getting to the bottom of things can feel near impossible. In the face of all this, the idea that we are capable of making any sort of impact on the system sounds almost foolish. A large portion of us have become jaded – and why not? Its so very easy not to care. Treacherously easy.

But apathy is not the answer, and here's why: While it's probably true that we can't accomplish a whole lot as individuals, when enough of us get pissed off and group together to try and improve the situation, we can make things happen. National politics might out of our reach, but it's fairly easy to see how we can make a difference here on campus, at least. Need some evidence? Flip through some past issues of *Reporter*. Every week since I've been here, there have been students making major differences in the way things are run around here. As we move forward, I only expect that there will be more.

This past Tuesday, for example, over 100 students rallied at Park Point to discuss their issues with the newly introduced parking regulations (see "Students Rally at Park Point"). That Friday, everyone paid rapt attention as Heather Martin calmly presented their concerns at the Student Government meeting (see "SG Updates"). While I doubt that Parking and Transportation Services will be doing a complete reversal of policy in the upcoming weeks, they were certainly listening to the student representatives' concerns very, very closely – there's a power in numbers that simply can't be ignored. While it remains to be seen how this turns out, my point is, they banded together and set things in motion. And that's a very powerful thing. You can call me on it if I'm wrong, but with more student voices chiming in all the time, I can't help but feel that some sort of major improvement is just around the corner.

Pretty empowering stuff.

Laura Mandanas

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**



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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## DEAR REPORTER,

Thanks for highlighting this year's common book, *Deep Economy*, in your opening issue. In addition to providing some excellent (and controversial) discussion points, you helped to highlight some of RIT's greening activities of the past year. For those of us involved in these efforts, communication has been the greatest barrier to progress. So here are some additional items linked to *Deep Economy* that are available to the RIT community.

1. Bill McKibben's visit to RIT on November 6, 2008. Bill will meet with students for a Q&A from 3-4 in the Golisano Auditorium, followed by a talk in the Gordon Field House at 8:00. Free and open to the public, so spread the word!

2. A panel of RIT Faculty and Local Experts discuss *Deep Economy* links to RIT and the Rochester area from 2-4 on October 22, 2008 (Golisano Auditorium).

3. The 08/09 Summer Reading Program website (<http://library.rit.edu/deepeconomy>), which currently includes a reading guide, several exercises for faculty, and links to additional books based on chapter topics. Got an idea you want

to share? Contributions are always welcome (especially from interested students!) And coming soon will be a list of field trips to local sites with links to topics from the book.

4. A Brown Bag lunch series (12-1) at the Idea Factory, set up to bring together faculty and students to discuss topics from the book. The first discussion is scheduled for Sept. 12, led by Paulette Swartfager (CLA) who will overview a Low Carbon Diet competition, followed by Jeffery Wagoner (CLA) on October 17, discussing environmental economics. Additional speakers will be scheduled throughout the year, so keep checking back!

On behalf of the RIT Summer Reading Implementation Team, thanks again for helping RIT become a greener campus and promoting environmental literacy.

Dr. Karl Korfmacher  
Associate Professor  
Environmental Science Program Director

Margaret B. Bartlett  
Manager of Information & Education Services  
RIT Libraries

## DEAR REPORTER,

Your report on the new parking regs around here suggests that they're unpopular among resident students. I think it's a pretty good idea, myself. It needs a bit of work, but it's a good start. I can't see why any able-bodied individual would take issue with the general idea. Commuters need those spaces more than you do. I once tried driving to class from my Perkins apartment, and by the time I drove over, found a place to park, and walked from H lot to Engineering, I probably had used up as much time as I would have just walking. I definitely used three times the time it takes me to ride my bike to class.

So suck it up people, go outside and walk for a change. You'll save some gas, and maybe lose a few pounds in the process. You might get more sympathy from me when it starts snowing in October, but I'll still be out there, braving the "out of doors." There may be some issues for those with large projects to haul around, but surely that can be addressed with temporary exceptions?

Alan Olson  
4th year  
Electrical Engineering student

## CORRECTIONS

In the September 12, 2008 issue, Thomas Liggett took the photos featured on pages 26 and 27 for "Fall Sports Preview."

In the same issue's "At Your Leisure" page, Emilio Estevez was quoted as playing Cameron in the movie, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*; in actuality, the role was played by Alan Ruck. •

# RIT FORECAST

compiled by Jamie Douglas

## SAT•20

### CROCS NEXT STEP TOUR WITH YUNG JOG CARTEL, AND MC LARS

Gordon Field House. 7 p.m. CAB's first concert of the year, sponsored by that company with those weird rubber shoes. Students: \$10. Faculty/Staff: \$12. Other: \$15.

## SUN•21

### MINDLESS SELF INDULGENCE AT WATER STREET

Water Street Music Hall, 204 N. Water Street. 7 p.m. Electropunk. Cost: \$18-22.

## MON•22

### THE FAB TRIO WITH BILLY BANG, JOE FONDA, & BARRY ALTSCHUL

German House Theatre, 315 Gregory Street. 8 p.m. Jazz concert. These cats can really blow. Cost: \$22-25.

## TUE•23

### MY LIFE WITH THE THRILL KILL KULT AT WATER STREET

Water Street Music Hall, 204 N. Water Street. 8 p.m. Electronic industrial. Ages 18 and over with ID. Cost: \$10-15.

## WED•24

### JOHN WIESE AT THE BUG JAR

Bug Jar, 219 Monroe Avenue. 8 p.m. Noise and experimental. Ages 18 and over with ID. Cost: \$5-7.

## THU•25

### PULP FICTION

Ingle Auditorium. 10 p.m. Quentin Tarantino's darkly outrageous tale of interwoven fates. Plus, free French fries with mayonnaise after the show. What a deal! Cost: Free.

## FRI•26

### FREESTYLE FRIDAY

The Ritz. 10 p.m. – 12:30 a.m. Get up and test your ill-nasty rhymes against Rochester's finest freestyle artists. Or just show up and jeer. "If you had one opportunity, one chance, to seize everything you ever wanted, would you capture it? Or just let it slip?" Cost: \$1.

# SG UPDATES

compiled by Geoffrey H. Bliss

## PARKING & TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS CONTINUE

During the opening session of Speak to the Senate, where students are given the opportunity to voice their opinions to Student Government (SG), three students who live at Park Point (including third year Advertising Photography student Heather Martin; see page 9) spoke about parking issues. The following discussion continued and expanded upon the issues brought up last week. Director of Global Risk Management Services Business Operations Jon Maurer and Associate Director of Parking and Transportation Services Paula Benway were there to address the Senate regarding an issue which has become known as "the parking challenge."

"The Comprehensive Parking and Transportation Strategy, which is composed of three governing groups, was introduced in 2008," said Maurer. "In late July, we made the decision to change parking on campus... Bear in mind that we only had the summer to take this into effect." The parking challenge on campus is that there are three parts of "structured parking" which must be considered. It must be "convenient, inexpensive, and have enough spaces. As of right now we will have the benefit of only two of these factors, that being inexpensive and convenient, but not enough," added Maurer.

Maurer continued, "We expected that we would have hundreds of extra parking spaces available. [However], we've seen over 1,000 additional parking permits on campus this year. If we had a major special event on campus now, we simply will not be able to accommodate everyone with parking. There isn't enough parking to support RIT's rapid growth. We're going to be providing more bike paths, carpooling, and increased bus and shuttle routes. We also need a strong student voice about this issue. It will get better but it's going to take time."

Paula Benway added, "We will have additional buses for the time being...We will react and make the right decision."

Acting President Matt Danna concluded saying, "I think that things weren't communicated very well on campus. People from Park Point came here to get answers. SG will make every effort to respond to this."

## HOUSING CHALLENGE UPDATE

Student Government's "Housing Challenge" was again discussed and revised. It is reported that RIT administrators are "very excited to participate." The amount of time required for their stay was discussed. Instead of one week, the time span will most likely be two to three days, likely on a weekend. "I don't think we should cut into their leisure time... Still, they should stay for enough time to eat at Gracie's, staying for a few days to get the whole experience," said Acting Vice President Emily Hughes.

## SAU RENOVATIONS TO START SOON

"The Student Alumni Union will begin its first phase of construction on the next few weeks," said SG Adviser Dr. Heath. "The unofficial word is that things are progressing very quickly." •

## NTID STOLEN LAPTOP

by Margaret Barlow | illustration by Robert Modzelewski

On August 25, a laptop was stolen from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID). This computer contained important information such as the names, dates of birth, and social security numbers of 12,700 NTID applicants, some of which dated back to 1968. An additional 1,100 other individuals have also been affected by the incident, according to University News. University News reports that the laptop was once used by an employee at NTID, and it was taken from one of the offices in the building.

This theft has resulted in an ongoing criminal investigation by Public Safety and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. According to Chief Communications Officer Bob Finnerty, they have not found any evidence to suggest that the information has been used for identity theft, or that the information has actually been accessed.

RIT has set up a hotline for any inquiries or possible leads on the matter. The line is toll-free and has so far received about 1,200 calls, said Finnerty. The number of calls has dropped since the line was first opened, but the hotline will be open through September 26. This deadline may be extended if necessary. Its hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays, and it can be reached at 1-866-624-8330 (with relay services available).

According to an RIT press release, in order to prevent a similar information security incident from happening again, the Institute will continuously look at the processes that are meant to protect sensitive data, such as the personal information stolen from the laptop. The controls and processes involved are also being examined in the investigation. •



## STUDENTS RALLY AT PARK POINT

by Andy Rees | photograph by Eric Drummond

"Let's storm the Parking Office!" shouted a voice from the crowd.

Over 100 residents gathered on Tuesday, September 9 in the courtyard of Park Point's shopping center to air grievances and brainstorm about how to deal with the new parking regulations on campus. The meeting began at 8 p.m. and was called together by third year Advertising Photography student Heather Martin, who lives and works at Park Point.

While the overwhelming complaint was the restriction from parking in academic lots, many students in the crowd were also upset that the parking regulations were announced in August, long after they had signed their leases.

Trying to focus on ideas to improve the situation, Martin noted that "Park Point didn't know that this would be an issue." She proposed that each apartment be issued a parking pass to be shared amongst the tenants.

Suggestions from the crowd included overloading the buses, starting a petition, and filing complaints en masse with Parking and Transportation Services (PATS).

Also in attendance were representatives from the Off Campus & Apartment Student Association (OCASA) and Student Government (SG).

The new restrictions, explained Matt Danna, Acting President of SG and third year Information Technology major, come as the result of a 1100 space parking deficit for the 2008-2009 academic year.

OCASA, a Major Student Organization that represents the needs of off campus students, told the gathered students that if complaints are lodged with them, advocacy could be provided.

After about 45 minutes, the brainstorming session had arrived at a plan of action. Martin would bring the complaints and suggestions of the Park Point residents to the next SG meeting, where she would petition for reform. If the presentation at SG produced no results, more drastic measures could be taken, such as a group demonstration at the PATS office. •

To read the results of Martin's presentation at SG, see "SG Updates" on page 7.



Third Year Advertising Photography student Heather Martin talks to a large crowd on September 9 about transportation problems she and other residents have been experiencing while living at Park Point.

# ALYSSA COCO AT RIT

Fresh from Hollywood and back in Rochester, Alyssa Coco was featured as the entertainment for CAB's Friday Night in the RITz on September 12. The Rochester native started playing piano at the age of five and has been pursuing music ever since. The singer and songwriter made it to Hollywood on Season 7 of *American Idol* with a "thumbs up" from Simon Cowell.

While a lot of students were at social gatherings or studying for that pop quiz on Week 3, the lucky ones at the RITz on Friday enjoyed a performance by this star in the making; Everyone was there for different reasons. Jessery Bengston, a third year Computer Science major, came to see Coco because he remembered her from *American Idol*, while Stevie Ward, a first year Film and Animation major, simply came for something interesting to do on a Friday night.

The RITz was set up kind of like a coffee shop for Coco's set. The rice crispy treats that were given away by CAB during the break were a nice addition to the laid back mood. Coco's semi-beaten Yamaha keyboard and personalized base drum conveyed her experience on stage. Even though her band has only been together since her post-*Idol* experience eight months ago, they gelled together in a seamless flow.

The piano songstress' sound is like a combination of Sarah Bareilles' lyrics and a more upbeat Norah Jones combined into one gifted 17-year-old artist. Her set consisted of mostly covers with a few original songs sprinkled into the mix. Coco's cover of Christina Aguilera's "Beautiful" (the song that

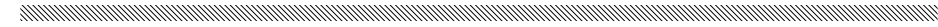
sent Coco to Hollywood on *Idol*) truly showcased her vocal range, while her cover of "Sweet Child of Mine" by Guns N' Roses showed her ability to get from behind her piano to "rock out."

With the newness of the school year and the fact that it was only week two of the quarter, the audience wasn't too large. Coco's true support was then made obvious; Her family and friends were all present for the show. After her set, fans were eager to meet her and get an autograph, but many people visited her memorabilia stand that consisted of black shirts, guitar pick necklaces, and matching earrings, all with an "Alyssa Coco" label, of course.

Coco said that *American Idol* was a great experience and a nice title under her belt. She gets her inspiration from artists like Colbie Caillat and Vanessa Carleton because "...they are just so pure." Her emulation of those artists is fitting, as her image is just that: Pure. She is a very sweet and down to earth girl who feels the endless Rochester winters just like the rest of us. She's very happy and blessed to be doing what she loves to do. •

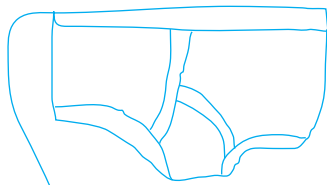
*If you would like to find out more about Alyssa Coco, read her blog, or hear some of her music, go to [www.alyssacomusic.com](http://www.alyssacomusic.com). To check out the schedule for upcoming Friday Night in the RITz performances, go to [cab.rit.edu](http://cab.rit.edu).*

| by Alecia Crawford |



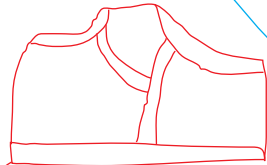
| photograph by Emma Tannanbaum |

> What color underwear are you wearing?



**"BORING BLUE TODAY. I WAS WEARING CAMOFLAUGE YESTERDAY!"**

Brian Lopipero  
Fourth year  
Packaging Science

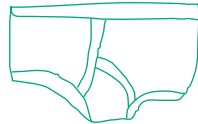


**"RED! WAIT — I WAS WRONG. GREEN!"**

Justin Monsees  
Fourth year  
New Media Publishing

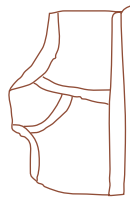
Ron White  
Third year  
New Media Design

**"BLUE AND GRAY STRIPED, I THINK"**



Emily Hughes  
Third year  
International Business

**"BROWN! THAT'S HORRIBLE. CAN I CHANGE IT?"**



**"RED AND WHITE STRIPED"**

Robert Luessen  
Third year  
Advertising Photography



# SPILL IT

by e.

Dear e,

I just transferred here and I know it's only about the second week of school, but it's kind of hard to meet people. I've talked to a lot of people, but that's it. I never really hang out with anyone and it seems like everyone has already made friends with everyone else (if that makes any sense). I don't know if I'm just socially retarded or what. Help me out and shed some light on my dilemma.

Lonely Body

Dear Lonely,

First off, I don't think you're socially retarded; I know what you're going through. I switched majors after my first year here and, even though I knew people in my new classes, cliques had already been formed and they were, and still are, impenetrable.

The best advice I can give you is not to wait for people to invite you out. Invite them out first. A lot of times people will wait for someone else to make the first move, and, unless you become that someone else, you could risk it not happening at all. It may take a few tries of asking but someone will say "yes" eventually, so don't be discouraged.

Make it something easy at first: "Where are you headed? Want to grab lunch?" Or, make it school-related: Do homework together, start a study group, or, if you can, work in a pair for a project.

Maybe even try joining a club or intramural sport. That way, you automatically know that you have something in common with everyone in the room.

Always say "Hello" outside of class and stop to talk if you can; It shows you're friendly and open. Add some classmates on Facebook (if you have one) and initiate contact that way. Just relax and be you. People will open up more as they get comfortable with their schedules and whatnot. Just give it time.

You don't mention a roommate, but if you have one, try going out with them. Also check out the RITreat area in the SAU, room 1100. It's behind the all glass wall across from the cafeteria; you can't miss it. OCASA (Off-Campus & Apartment Student Association) is holding a transfer student coffee break on September 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. where you can go and meet other transfer students who may very well be in the same situation as you.

Hope this helps!

e.

Dear e,

A couple of weeks ago, I met this girl during Orientation, and we really hit it off. Everything is going really well relationship-wise. The problem is that I'm living in a quintuplet, and she has the creepiest, most immature roommate. There's no way to get alone time in my room, obviously. And if we go to her room, the roommate is always looming over us, making snide comments and bringing weird people over. Which brings me to my question: Where else can we go on this campus for some privacy? All I want is to do is make out with this girl, and RIT seems to be thwarting me at every turn. Even if it's only for 15 minutes, that's better than the nothing I'm getting now. Got any tips?

In Need of a Special Place

Dear In Need,

If a special place is what you're looking for I've got a few ideas.

I've heard some rumors about the greenhouse that's attached to Building 8 on the A level. Apparently it's a good hook up spot. Another suggestion would be take her on a picnic. RIT has plenty of open green grass for you to pull out a blanket, have a romantic meal or snack, and of course that make out session you've been waiting for. I wouldn't get too frisky in the open, though. And, even though it's not very romantic, look in the tunnels for low traffic areas or a little nook of space to get some time alone for a few minutes.

If her roommate doesn't have a boyfriend, find her one! Even if you can't, pay one of your friends, with either gratitude or cash (though the latter isn't very morally sound) to take her out in order to buy you some time. They could end up hitting it off!

One last suggestion I have is to turn her bed (since she only has one roommate) into a hide away via a make-shift canopy with the extra railings that each dorm bunk bed comes with. If nothing else, you'll know for sure if her roommate is the "creepiest" when she peeks in to see what's going on!

Good luck!

e.

# REVIEWS



Taking a break from the western Texas desert landscape of *No Country for Old Men*, the Coen brothers have moved east to Washington, D.C. for their latest work: A comedy combining the worlds of the CIA and a fitness center called “Hardbodies.”

The story centers on a group of characters, including a recently demoted CIA agent with a drinking problem named Osborne Cox (John Malkovich), a couple of “Hardbodies” employees named Chad Feldheimer and Linda

Litzke (Brad Pitt and Frances McDormand), and treasury agent Harry Pfarrer (George Clooney). Everyone comes together through one disc, a CD containing Cox’s in-production memoir that Feldheimer and Litzke find and mistake as top-secret government data. Instead of returning it, Litzke convinces Feldheimer to blackmail Cox into paying a ransom so Litzke can get cosmetic surgery.

Despite its poor reviews on websites like CNN and *The New York Times*, where reviewers denounce the film for its style that they incorrectly titled as “predictability,” *Burn After Reading* is exactly what it set out to be: A good time. With faces like Tilda Swinton, J.K. Simmons, and Richard Jenkins, in addition to those of the main actors mentioned earlier, this all-star cast carries the film through its entangled character relationships with what appears to be little effort. Standing out from the list are Malkovich and Pitt, each playing each other’s opposite. Malkovich masters the

mind of an enraged time bomb ready to go off at the slightest irritation, while Pitt’s character is the carefree model, more concerned with hydrating than with the danger of breaking into a CIA agent’s home. Each will have you gripped tight from the moment of their introduction to discovering just how loud you’re comfortable laughing in public (unless you wait for the DVD, that is).

No, it may not measure up to the artistry of *No Country for Old Men*, but at the same time it doesn’t try to. It’s a hangout movie, equivalent in value to Quentin Tarantino’s *Jackie Brown*. A movie to go see with a friend, significant other, or by yourself for a good, relaxing time, a time where you don’t have to take notes in order to piece together plot structure. It won’t leave you with a message to contemplate weeks after seeing it, but it will give you a laugh, and that is sometimes all we really need. •



Apparently, frontman Rivers Cuomo has taken enough time out of his Harvard studies to get together with the rest of Weezer to write and release a new album. After all, one can only take so much Frisbee on the quad and lectures by Nobel Laureates until they itch to get back with ‘the guys’ and ‘jam.’ It should be no surprise then, that opening track “Troublemaker” sounds like a college garage band plugging away at a basic chord progression.

The simple structure of “Troublemaker,” the blandness of “Dreamin’,” and the Smashmouth-sounding “Everybody Get Dangerous” are without a doubt the low points of this album. What keeps these songs from being completely unlistenable are the creative lyrics which seem to be the trademark of *The Red Album*. Apart from the above-mentioned tracks, this is some of Weezer’s most clever material to date. “The Greatest Man That Ever Lived” takes the listener through at least a dozen different

musical styles, and gives you a glimpse of what Weezer might sound like if they were a cover band. The single “Pork and Beans” sounds like it was plucked from *The Blue Album*, right next to “In the Garage.” The highpoint of *The Red Album* is clearly “Heart Songs,” an acoustically-driven tune that chronicles the musical tastes of Rivers Cuomo from Gordon Lightfoot to Iron Maiden.

Despite Weezer’s roots in simple, catchy rock songs, *The Red Album* sounds as fresh as any other record released in recent memory. For a band that’s been around as long as Weezer, that’s an accomplishment. Not every song is a knockout, but it is certainly worth a listen. •



No, I’m not making this up. The title of the new Dragonforce album really is *Ultra Beatdown*. I can only assume it refers to the ultra beatdown your joints will be getting after trying to play any of the songs on this album on *Guitar Hero*. But have no fear! There will certainly be someone with enough time on his hands to perfect it.

Dragonforce is a power metal band fascinated by the sound of their own instruments. So much, in fact, that they feel it necessary to have a blisteringly fast guitar solo jump out and melt your face approximately every ten seconds. Drawing heavy influence from progressive metal bands such as Dream Theater and Symphony X, Dragonforce takes the self-indulgence factor and kicks it up a few (dozen) notches. What was fast by typical power metal standards feels like molasses compared to songs like “Reasons to Live.”

Musically, the band borrows some classically influenced chord progressions and melodies, and coats them in distortion. Lead guitarist Herman Le also throws in a bunch of video game sound effects to keep the Xbox junkies happy while they are away from the controller. The down-tempo power ballad, “A Flame for Freedom,” is beyond cheesy, with the priceless chorus of, “One dream in all of us still shining, one star, the everlasting light.” The odd thing about Dragonforce is that, despite how cliché or overdone their style of music is, they do it well. Despite all of the excess that surrounds their genre of music, this may be what makes them enjoyable to listen to. Either that, or a lot of people are venturing to make it to one million points on *Guitar Hero* — one of the two. •

# 09.12.08 AT YOUR LEISURE

by John Howard

## STREAM OF FACTS

John Bond, a physicist of the University of Leicester (UK), **RECENTLY** developed a way for forensic scientists to detect fingerprints from a bullet thanks to the corrosion that sweat causes to the metal casing. This new development has already helped open three cold cases as of September 7, 2008.

Only **RECENTLY** acknowledged as its own subspecies of the grey wolf in the year 1999, the Apennine Wolf, or Italian Wolf, was given its name due to its geographic location of the Apennine Mountains in **ITALY**. These nocturnal hunters typically feast on medium-sized animals such as deer and wild boars.

Located in the northern part of **ITALY**, Bologna, the capitol city of Emilia-Romagna, is nicknamed *Bologna la grassa*, which translates to “Bologna the fat one” for its culinary mastery and background. With the addition of a jingle and some FDA regulations **OSCAR** Mayer’s yellow and red packaged meat bares a strong resemblance to mortadella, a fat chunk-filled sausage which originated in this city.

The first **OSCAR** award was handed out in front of an audience of 270 at the Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood on May 16, 1929. A film called *Wings*, directed by William A. Wellman, received two of these **KNIGHT**-depicting statuettes that evening, including one for best film on a production level. Tickets for the evening’s ceremony were available at the price of \$5.

Heath Ledger’s last completed role as the Joker in *The Dark KNIGHT* helped rake in over \$500,000,000 in domestic box-office sales for Warner Bros. distributors. Ledger’s final role as Tony in *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus* was able to be completed through a joint effort of Jude Law, Colin Farrell, and Johnny Depp\*, and is set to be released in the year 2009.

\*Rumors have recently been circulating about a casting decision placing Johnny Depp as The Riddler in the sequel to Ledger’s *The Dark Knight*, the third installment of Christopher Nolan’s Batman series.

## REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Pickup trucks. It’s the perfect way to accommodate all those things that you care enough about to bring with you wherever you go, yet not enough to shield them from the elements of Rochester weather. Sure, you would probably have just as much trunk space in a similarly-priced SUV (along with the option of extra seating and the ability to lock things up), but then you run the risk of people not seeing all your cool stuff through those pesky tinted windows. As long as all your bare necessities manage to wedge into a four-by-four bed space, it’s definitely a route to explore. And, if they don’t, you can always buy another truck to house the excess. Gas prices are high and it’ll cost you an arm and a leg, but, with the tiny cabin space, you probably won’t have room for limbs.

## OVERSEEN AND OVERHEARD AT RIT

“Please, don’t get AIDS.”

—Student in after dinner conversation at Commons

“That’s a really small rooster.”

—Pencil graffiti in Wallace Library

“You’re fine with chugging water, that’s okay. Just don’t chug melted ice. It’s not the same thing.”

—Student at a party in Perkins

## WONDERING WHERE THE COMIC IS THIS WEEK ?

We are hiring a new cartoonist. Interested in applying? Email us your funniest work at reporter@rit.edu.

## DIFFICULTY RATING: HARD

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

## QUOTE

“OF COURSE, I DON’T LIKE MAKE-UP. I’M TOO PRETTY!”

— Adam West





^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

# THE BLUE TIGERS AND TIGER BATTALION

by Madeleine Villavicencio

My experience with the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), or even the military, for that matter, was limited at best. While attending high school in the Philippines, I was excused from the otherwise required Citizen's Army Training because I was an American citizen. When my father left at 6 a.m. every day dressed in camouflage, part of me thought he was going to play paintball; I never noticed the insignia on his collar.

I was unaware that my dad was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Philippine Air Force until a man called our home asking for Lieutenant Colonel Villavicencio. Much to my dad's amusement, I told them that they had the wrong number and hung up on them. Up until last week, the only thing I knew about ROTC or the military was that they got to play with weapons, followed strict rules, and were physically fit.

RIT is the host of two Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs: Army and Air Force. Our Air Force ROTC Detachment 538 Blue Tigers and Army ROTC Tiger Battalion also serves

several schools in the greater Rochester area including the University of Rochester, St. John Fischer, SUNY Brockport, and Monroe Community College.

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## The ROTC Basics

In 1862, the US government passed the Morrill Act, which started the creation of land-grant colleges that allowed members of the industrial classes to pursue an education in various subjects. As part of the act, all land-granted colleges were required to include military tactics in their curriculum. After some improvement, this idea became known as the ROTC.

"Large campuses such as Penn State actually became military training grounds or officer corps because we needed experienced leaders," said Cadet Giovanni Sorrentino, a fifth year Mechanical Engineering major at RIT and this quarter's Air Force Wing Commander. This came in handy when World War II rolled in and there occurred an officer shortage in the Armed Forces.

"We needed people who would be able to step up and were trained to lead combat operations," continues Sorrentino. However, nowadays ROTC "is essentially a four-year leadership development program," defined Second Lieutenant David Sanoguera, a graduate of the Army ROTC program who now works as a leader in the RIT Tiger Battalion.

Today, there are three options or services: Air Force, Army, and Navy; The Navy also recruits for the Marine Corps and the Army also recruits for the National Guard. Unfortunately, RIT only offers Army and Air Force ROTC (AFROTC) on campus. Those interested in joining Navy ROTC may cross-register at the University of Rochester.

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## Enlisting vs. Enrolling in ROTC

When you enlist in any service, whether it be straight out of high school or before you hit the maximum age of your target service group, you start from the very bottom of the ladder and work your way up to become a non-commissioned officer (NCO). "If you were to enlist in the Air Force, you'd go in as an Airman Basic, go to boot camp, [complete] your technical training, and then you go into your field," explained Cadet Stephen DiFulvio, a Criminal Justice major at SUNY Brockport and this quarter's AFROTC Recruiting and Retention Officer. Similarly, if you were to enlist in the

Army, you would start out as a Private and work your way up. On the other hand, when you enroll and graduate from an ROTC program, you start as a Second Lieutenant once you commission.

To explain this further, let's say you know both a Second Lieutenant who just graduated from ROTC and a NCO who has been with the Army for 15 to 18 years. The NCO now ranks as a Master Sergeant. "The Second Lieutenant outranks that Master Sergeant, but there's a huge amount of respect there... While he'll salute us outside and call us, 'Sir', we have to respect him or her and what he or she has to say because they [have] more experience. There's a good chance that they know more about the actual subject," explained Sanoguera.

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## Becoming and Remaining a Part of ROTC

Applying to Army ROTC or AFROTC is easy. "We take anybody... Basically just come down to our detachment which is located in Building 10 and speak with Captain Arsenault," said Sorrentino. Similarly, one can just walk into the Army ROTC office and ask about joining. However, in order to be considered for the program and its benefits, you must meet a strict set of requirements.

For all ROTC programs, each of the applicants must be a US citizen no younger than 17 years old and no older than the service's maximum age. The applicant must also meet the service's physical standards and be of good moral standing.

In addition, while the Army and Navy check SAT or ACT scores, the Air Force requires you to pass the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test (AFOQT), which is a test of similar nature. According to Arsenault, "Unless you're a pilot or a navigator, we're really only concentrating on the verbal, quantitative, and academic aptitude."

Another important factor is your GPA. "[Maintaining your] GPA is essential to being a cadet... They want educated and intelligent individuals [and your] GPA says a lot about you. You need at least a 2.5 just to apply to ROTC" said Sanoguera. Dropping below the 2.0 mark will merit academic probation or suspension.

Fortunately, most services offer mentorship programs where younger students are paired up with older, more experienced students. "We do our best to link up mentors of the same or similar major... who's maybe had that same professor, had that

class, or has been there and done that — who can help walk him or her through and help get their grades up,” explained Second Lieutenant Michael Culler, a graduate of the ROTC program, 2008 RIT alumnus in Criminal Justice, and current leader in RIT’s Tiger Battalion.

Additionally, all cadets are expected to maintain physical fitness standards, which can vary from service to service. This is the reason why all ROTC programs require Physical Training (PT). At the beginning of Fall quarter and the end of Spring quarter, cadets must pass the required physical fitness exam which involves sit-ups, push-ups, and a 1.5 mile run. “You can enroll in the program and participate, but to be contracted with the Army, you have to pass the Department of Defense physical because the Army will ask us to do things sometimes that you need to be very healthy to do,” said Culler. The same applies to AFROTC.



### Scholarships and Benefits

ROTC cadets receive a nontaxable monthly stipend of \$300 in their first year. An additional \$50 will be added for each consecutive year, but the amount will be capped at \$500. In addition, they will be eligible for a scholarship to apply towards their tuition and \$900 (for Air Force) or \$1200 (for Army) in book money every year.

If you enroll into Army ROTC straight out of high school and are accepted into the program, you will receive a full four-year scholar-

ship. “The Army pays for the tuition side and RIT [covers] the incentive room and board,” explained Sanoguera. For those who decide to join later, two-year and three-year scholarships are also available.

If you are a freshman or sophomore who either did not receive a scholarship coming out of high school or enrolled in the program late, you can apply for the In-College Scholarship Program where there are two phases of selection — one ends in January while the other ends in June. “For Phase One, [winners] will receive \$15,000 per year for tuition [while for] Phase Two, the scholarship is a little less at \$9,000 per year,” explained Captain Timothy Arsenault, Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies for RIT’s Detachment 538.

AFROTC also has an Express Scholarship Program where aid is capped at \$15,000 and is offered to students enrolled in specific majors and fields who are graduating in specific years. “All scholarships are competition-based except for the Express Scholarships for special programs like Nursing, some of the engineering career fields...There is no competing against others so as long as you’re qualified, we’ll take you,” explained Arsenault.



### Special Training and Opportunities

The benefits of being a part of ROTC exceed financial aid. Top cadets are given special opportunities to train like the real US Army or

Air Force. As an added bonus, sometimes these programs (at least the longer and more in-depth ones) even count towards co-op credit.

The Army ROTC receives slots for different specialty schools including the US Army Airborne School in Fort Benning, Georgia; the different Air Assault schools, the Mountain Warfare school in Jericho, Vermont; and the Northern Warfare school in Fort Greely, Alaska. “These are all optional and [cadets] don’t have to go, but it’s considered a great honor,” said Culler.

The slots are only offered to those who make it to the top of the detachment’s order merit list. “Airborne school is traditionally an airborne operations course where you jump from a fixed-wing airplane with a parachute and a full load. Air Assault is basically learning how to rappel from a helicopter,” explained Culler.

The AFROTC also offers optional but interesting summer programs including base visits, aircraft orientation rides, foreign language immersions, and even a trip to England under the Royal Air Force’s British Exchange Program.

“We had one cadet go to the Czech Republic for three weeks where he lived there with other cadets and just toured around and experienced the culture,” cited Lieutenant Colonel David Easley, Commander of RIT’s Detachment 538. Whichever you choose, the Air Force will provide for your transportation, meals, lodging, and a daily allowance.

An RIT favorite is the five-week long Cyber Warrior Boot Camp in Rome Labs. “[The Air Force picks] cadets who are electrical engineers and computer engineers and they are taught by Semantec — and other experts in that field — about hacking computers,” explained Easley, all the while undergoing other types of military training and learning about historical battlefield decisions.



### The Curriculum

The Army ROTC requires a completion of an additional 34 credits, PT, and field training. In your first two years with the program, you will also complete the Army ROTC Basic Course, which gives an introduction to Army leadership, customs, and traditions and then later delves into the role and responsibilities of an officer.

The summer before your third year, you must complete a four-week Leader’s Training Course where cadets are expected to overcome the simulated tactical situations and obstacles with which they are faced.

In your final two years, you will complete the Army ROTC Advanced Course. Upon entering and continuing with this course, you make the commitment to serve as an Officer in the US Army after graduation. In the summer between your third and fourth year, you may complete a four-week Leader Development and Assessment Course.

The Air Force ROTC requires a completion of four sets of classes: AS100s, AS200s, AS300s, and AS400s. In addition, cadets must participate in Leadership Laboratories and PT, both of which are mandatory but count for no credit. The AS100s and 200s, which you take in your first two years, count as a General Military course.

“A lot of it is just teaching you the customs and courtesies of the air force, how to wear the uniform properly. It gives you an overview on the jobs, like what you want your career to be,” said DiFulvio describing the AS100 course. The AS200 course is History of Airpower and goes into the history of Air Force.

The summer before your third year, you must attend Field Training where cadets undergo physical conditioning, weapons training, and survival training. The program may run between four and six weeks.

Once you return to school in your third year, you enter the Professional Officer Course (POC). Upon beginning this course, you must sign a contract and make the commitment to becoming an officer for the US Air Force. The POC is comprised of the AS300 and AS400 classes.

The AS300 course is Leadership Studies and goes into detail on how to be a leader. The AS400 class, which also counts as an international relations class, is otherwise known as National Security Studies and Preparation for Active Duty. “We study different regions of the world and what’s going on with their culture, their social practices and beliefs, and how they compare and contrast to our society. Also, we talk about national security...and logistics,” added Sorrentino.

For some of these Army ROTC and AFROTC classes, they may count as free electives or general education electives depending on your depart-



Fifth year Criminal Justice major Andrew Harris demonstrates to new cadets how to march during an ROTC airforce training session.

ment. PT counts as Wellness courses and the AS200 history class may count towards a history or social studies credit. However, it is really up to your department. The summer Field Training may also be counted towards a co-op.



### Future Careers in the Military

It is important to keep note that once you either accept a scholarship or begin the Army ROTC Advanced Course or AFROTC’s POC, you make a commitment to commission in the Army or Air Force. You have the choice of becoming an officer as a career or coming into your service as an officer, staying for four years (six to ten if you become an Air Force pilot or navigator), and then staying in the country’s on-call list for a few years before retiring.

As an Army ROTC cadet, you must make a list of the jobs you would like to do once active. Then, the Army takes them into account and assigns to you what they can. There are a wide variety of choices available: You can join the Field Artillery, Air Defense Artillery or Infantry; as part of the Armor division, you can work with and drive tanks; you can learn to fly choppers and planes with the Aviation division; the Chemical Corps enables you to learn about chemical, nuclear, biological, and other dangerous weapons and how to protect oneself from them. And that’s just the tip of the iceberg.

The Air Force works in the same way and there are also a wide variety of jobs available. You have the choice of being one of a dozen types of pilots or a navigators You may also have the option of becoming an astronaut, part of Intelligence, or a member of the Munitions and Missile Maintenance division. There are also a number of options for people trained in medical fields. •

## WHO’S WHO

<b>LIEUTENANT COLONEL</b> ++++++	David Easley, Commander of RIT’s AFROTC Detachment 538 Blue Tigers
<b>CAPTAIN</b> ++++++	Timothy Arsenault, Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies
<b>SECOND LIEUTENANT</b> ++++++	Michael Culler
<b>SECOND LIEUTENANT</b> ++++++	David Sanoguerra
<b>CADET</b> ++++++	Giovanni Sorrentino, current Wing Commander of RIT’s AFROTC Detachment 538 Blue Tigers
<b>CADET</b> ++++++	Stephen DiFulvio, current Recruiting and Retention Officer of RIT’s AFROTC Detachment 538 Blue Tigers

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# Daddy Dolls

## REMEMBERING OUR DEPLOYED LOVED ONES

by Michael Barbato | illustration by Jamie Douglas

Daddy Dolls make it possible to be in two places at once. Imagine giving a hug to someone you dearly miss, who is across an ocean hundreds of miles away. These stuffed-with-fluff friends lend a helping hug and familiar face to youngsters coping with the stress of missing a deployed or absent parent.

### WHAT ARE DADDY DOLLS?

Military moms Tricia Dyal and Nikki Darnell, each with young children and a Marine for a husband, got creative in dealing with the sorrow left by their deployed husbands. “We wanted to find some way to make the separation easier for our sons and daughters while keeping their fathers close to their hearts and in their prayers. With our determination to bridge the gap and [a friend’s] creativity, Daddy Dolls were born,” Dyal exclaims. With this said, Dyal and Darnell gave their children Daddy Dolls to make *daddy* tangible in his absence. The idea went over so well with their own children that the two moms decided to make the service available to others.

The dolls range from a small 12 inches to a larger 17 inches in height, both of which can come in a slew of colors, backgrounds, faces (based on daddy’s photo), and pockets. Typically, they cost \$21 for a small single-sided, fabric-backed doll figure to \$38 for a larger, more realistic double-sided dad; it gets pricier depending on the product.

Daddy Dolls are not limited to fathers or even to dolls for that matter. Deployed fathers, aunts, uncles, moms, and anyone can be depicted on pillows, blankets, and pretty much anything soft, as well as on the traditional dolls.

### THE AFFECTED

Many factors can lead to stress in the household of a deployed parent. An often-overlooked aspect of having a military spouse is single parenting while their partner is away. “There

are numerous psychology studies ongoing about the effects of military deployment on children, and the current understanding is that it’s very stressful — not only because the parent is absent from the child’s daily life, but also because the parent is often in harm’s way. The remaining parent is stressed out (and single-parenting), and the child is expected to *be brave* like the deployed parent,” offered Dr. Kirsten Condry, an RIT Psychology professor specializing in child development, on the emotions surrounding Daddy Dolls. This evidence suggests how imperative it is to be sensitive to the children caught in the military and how important it is for families to show ingenuity when coping with the stress.

“Approximately 1.2 million children belong to families with active duty military personnel; 40 percent are under the age of five. The stress of separation can have a serious impact on a young child,” reported ABC news correspondent Anne Pleshette Murphy in her June 2008 article titled ‘Daddy Dolls’ Comfort Military Kids. With all this overwhelming stress bouncing around, the “good is that [Daddy Dolls] focus attention on the stress children of deployed parents are under,” added Dr. Condry. Daddy Dolls are designed to address and alleviate this strain.

### ARE THEY EFFECTIVE?

Is a Daddy Doll a legitimate coping tool? This question has several implications in its answer. There are social aspects as well as individual personalities of the children to consider in determining the merit of such a product.

“I expect that Daddy Dolls are great with some children, while others spare no attachment to them at all. Children differ greatly in terms of how they cope with stress. The support they get from their family is probably their most important crutch during the process,” said Dr. Condry. It is easy to see how the dolls would be invaluable to some and meaningless to

another. “It is not a replacement and they do not fix all the problems associated with the child missing their loved one, but they do provide a lot of comfort and endless hugs,” said Lisa Berg, a representative from Daddy Dolls, Inc. It really depends on who the child is as an individual.

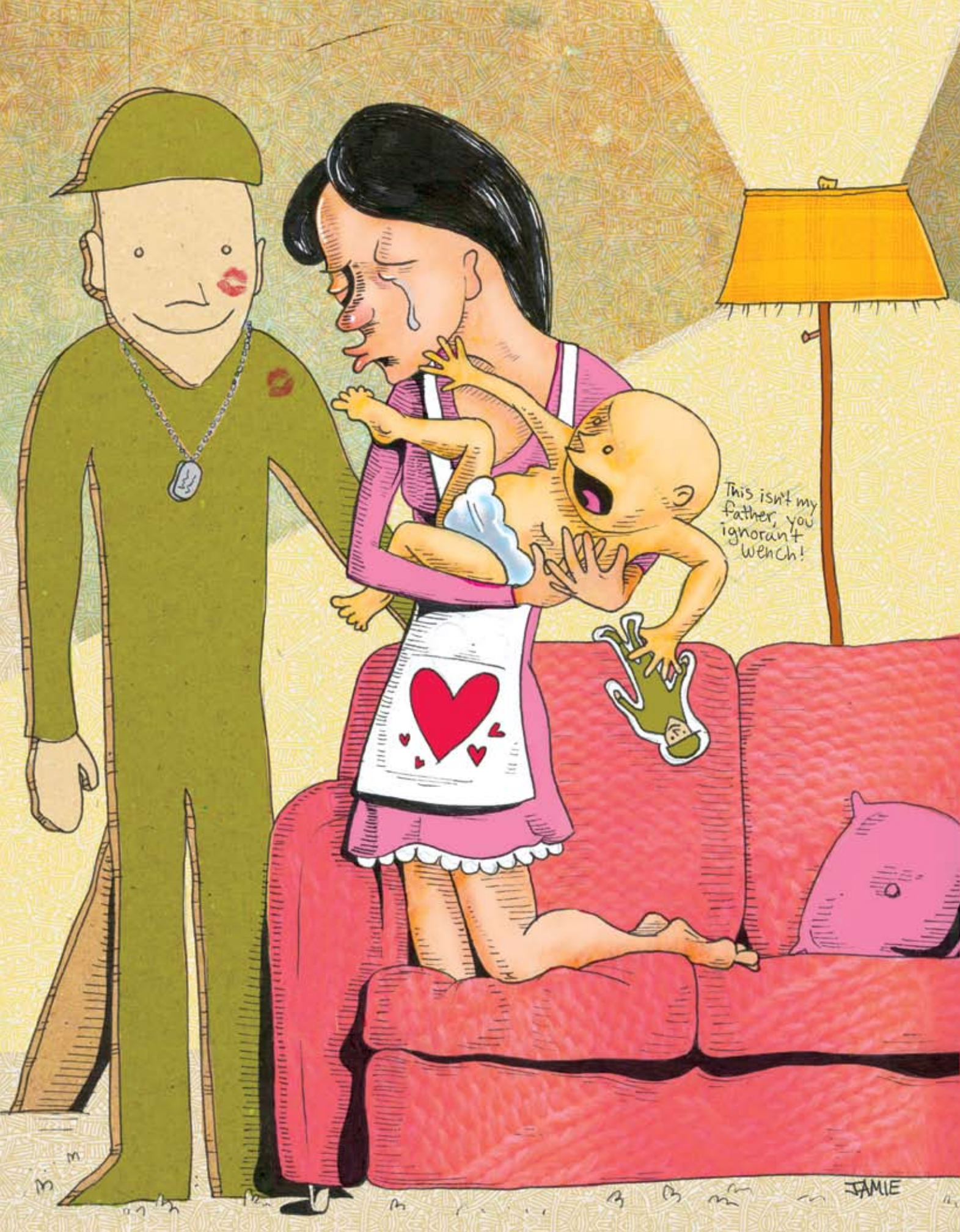
### THE COPING CHILD’S EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Is it healthy to foster the relationship between doll and child? This question involves the attachment confusion that may ensue once the missing parent returns. “It’s unlikely that a child who liked and used her Daddy Doll would be confused by the return of her real daddy, or would feel that she prefers the doll to the real person,” said Dr. Condry, “It is possible that a child might continue to rely on the doll as a source of comfort merely because the child uses the doll as a coping mechanism to deal with stress.” Overall, it seems, there really is nothing to lose and a lot to gain by fostering the child-doll relationship. Signs point to Daddy Dolls as being a valuable stress-reliever and tangible, huggable tool to lessen the pain caused by an absent loved one.

### PRESENTLY AT HUG-A-HERO

Currently, Daddy Dolls have branched out to provide a number of services. At this time, over 1,000 Daddy Dolls have been sold as well as numerous teddy bears, pillows, and other products. Daddy Dolls, Inc. has ties to related charities such as “Handing Out Heroes,” a non-profit organization to help families in need. They also offer discounts to companies and organizations placing large orders as gifts for affected families, known as “Operation Hug-A-Hero.”

The Daddy Dolls’ main page can be found at [www.HugaHero.com](http://www.HugaHero.com). You can check out the dolls, read up on the creators, and click on news links to articles and interviews about the company.



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## DESPITE INJURIES MEN'S TEAM COMES TOGETHER

by Carolyn Dunne  
photographs by Kelsey Evans

>> On a cool and drizzly Saturday afternoon, the RIT men's soccer team suited up to play the nationally-ranked Hamilton Continentals, a team that was the champion of the Liberty League and attended the NCAA national tournament in 2007. Despite the rain, the men were ready to play as a team from the first kick-off up until the last buzzer.

Neither team scored in the first half, though each team made some excellent saves. Freshman Computer Science major Todd Gaulocher scored with 39 minutes left in the second half off of a headed ball from teammate and freshman Criminal Justice major Bobby Bullard for the first point of the game. Five minutes later, Hamilton countered with an unassisted goal from Paul Moakler despite a great save on the first attempt from RIT goalkeeper and co-captain Alan Smith, a senior Electrical Engineering major. The score was now tied at 1-1. Despite several counter-attempts made by the RIT team, Hamilton broke

the tie game with 25:30 left on the clock and a goal by Frank Campagnano.

Though they may not have emerged victorious from the matchup, the RIT men's soccer team played the game with true sportsmanship, teamwork, and heart. Hamilton had 15 fouls as a team and earned 2 starting lineup players yellow cards. By contrast, RIT had only 11 team fouls and did not garner a single player warning.

Teamwork and respect are clearly the foundation of the team's dynamics. Sophomore Graphic Media Marketing major

Gonzi Ciurlizza put it best: "We have spirit both on and off the field. All the guys get along well." When asked which teammates that have stepped up thus far, Smith immediately selected co-captain Bret Dietz, a sophomore Civil Engineering major, as "a standout player because of his toughness" in addition to "his [willingness] to play any position." Junior New Media major Jeff Diaz was also said to be an effective leader on the field due to his incredible work ethic and ability to inspire his teammates to continually work harder, as was Sophomore Finance major David Vogt. "[They

are] always fearless leaders." Smith remarked, "[It's] great to practice with them every day." Many newcomers to the team have also risen to the occasion as the team has faced an unfortunate string of injuries in the past few weeks. "Bullard has definitely made a quick impact to our team," said Smith. "He works incredibly hard." Still on the mend from an injury himself, senior Mechanical Engineering major Bruno Coelho has noticed several freshmen, "such as Ryan [Giust, New Media Marketing Major]... and Todd [Gaulocher]," who have also stepped into major roles in game play and excelled. •

>> Action: RIT's Allen Nicholson, 15, and Hamilton College's Jonathan Sanford fight for possession.

## GOALIE STEPS OUT OF THE BOX

by Rachel Hart  
photographs by Kelsey Evans

>> The RIT women's soccer team dropped their season opener to the Hamilton Continentals in a 1-2 loss. "Hamilton, being the first of the season, was a big game," described senior goalkeeper and Photojournalism major Ashley Conti. For the first 45 minutes of the match, possession bounced between both teams and RIT had little opportunity for a goal.

With 12 seconds of the half, Hamilton forward Erica Dressler was alone in front of the net and made an attempt to break the scoreless tie. Conti was ready, though, and had the perfect angle to make a spectacular save.

By the time the tigers entered the locker room at halftime they were frustrated. Erica Main, a senior forward and Interior Design major, felt the pressure: "I knew I needed to find a way to get a goal and put my team on top." And she did; Main scored in the eightieth minute alone deflecting the ball off the Hamilton goalie Kate Fowler and right into the net. Kristen Denni-

ger, a senior midfielder and Biology major, has the assist in the form of a long pass from about midfield.

The celebration was short-lived, however. Just 42 seconds after Main's goal, Lauren Farver of the Continentals came up the left side and ripped a shot past Conti, breaking the tie and giving Hamilton the 2-1 lead. RIT had a few opportunities, but could not capitalize to get the tie.

With only seconds left, Conti made a bold decision. As she carried the ball up to the 18-yard line to punt, she did something quite surprising. Conti dropped the ball to her feet and took off dribbling down the

field. After she had gotten about 2/3 of the way down the field, Hamilton finally stopped her. Conti provided reasoning the move by saying, "It wasn't as much as being gutsy but knowing that I can get the ball up there to help the team. I wanted us to score one more goal, and I didn't care what it took to do that against Hamilton." If Conti had succeeded, she would have chipped the ball to Main in hopes of an assist to a goal. Main agreed with the bold move: "The game is all about chances."

RIT knew going in that Hamilton was a tough team, one known for aggression and tenacity. Main described their reputation as a

"school known for height and size." This is a trait that RIT does not share.

Conti reflected on the mistakes of the game: "You have to learn from it, fix the mistakes, and move on. If the team or I dwell on losses, missed opportunities, or goals, we would never win." Conti also commented that the team had a habit "bouncing back" from big losses. In a 2-1 victory over Buffalo State, both goals were scored in a time span of five minutes. "We are a team, we lose as a team, we tie as a team, and we win as a team. It was not one person's fault who lost against Hamilton, and one person wasn't the reason we won." •

>> Fighting for ball: RIT's Shireen Irani, 6, and Hamilton College's Kendra Wulczyn battle over the ball.



Delicious.

# 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.

TUESDAY, 6:17 P.M.

Hey Rings, this [ultimate act of love] construction is really bothering the [love] out of me. They better hurry the [more love] up.

SATURDAY, 3:40 A.M.

I WOULD LIKE TO REPORT KIND OF AN EMERGENCY. I FEEL IT'S PRETTY DIRE. YOUR CARTOONIST SUCKS MY [DERRIÈRE].

SATURDAY, 2:27 A.M.

I JUST PARTIED AND MADE OUT WITH A PROFESSOR, MS. [NAME REMOVED], AT A HOUSE PARTY. HOW AWESOME IS THAT? WHAT A GREAT START-OFF YEAR FOR ME.

TUESDAY, 12:24 P.M.

How about an article about Park Point? How they screwed over all their residents with one IP for all 900 residents or the fact that the homes aren't even finished yet, or how half my lights in my apartment still don't work? Or how about how RIT is trying to screw all of us with parking? Our friggin' parking... we're on campus but only when it suits RIT. Screw the bookstore, screw it all.

TUESDAY, 7:27 P.M.

Hi Rings, I know you own an amazing chicken farm. You want to know why? Because you're pretty [expletive] amazing at raising [male anatomy].

SATURDAY, 1:29 A.M.

I'm up sitting out here in the hallway with a bunch of other people and all of a sudden a chick comes up from another floor and she walks into the girls bathroom with a toothbrush and toothpaste and just stands in there brushing her teeth. It don't make no sense.

FRIDAY, 7:22 P.M.

I WAS GOING THROUGH **REPORTER** THIS WEEK AND WHERE THE HELL IS MY SIGN OF THE WEEK? I WANT TO KNOW HOW TO SIGN "SIT DOWN FEMALE DOG" AND SOME OTHER THINGS. SO YOU BETTER BE THERE NEXT WEEK!

SATURDAY, 1:37 A.M.

I'm taking my long [forking] drunken walk back to my apartment. And I see these people and they are obviously drunk as well, but they decided the best place to hang out for them would be the [forking] Sentinel. Who hangs out at the sentinel when they are intoxicated, especially when it's muggy and gross and the air conditioning is [forking] broken? I'm sorry I said [fork] so many times, but that's what you do when you're drunk: You call Rings.

# U R NOT GETIN IT: COMMUNICATION MEDIUMS AND VIDEO CONFERENCING

by Elvis Montero | illustration by Evan Anthony



“R u 4 real? i dun get it. port?” was what my former co-worker’s eighth text message said one unusually hot summer night. It was 10 p.m. and he was still at the office. I left around 7 p.m. and everything seemed under control. “Calling u,” I replied. We spent 20 minutes on the phone and, throughout our entire conversation, I found myself hurriedly trying to wrap everything up. My friends were coming to pick me up any moment. It was Friday and it had been a long, strenuous week.

In retrospect, we were having difficulties understanding each other via text messages. The phone call was an improvement, but it still took 20 minutes before we could resolve the situation. Irrespective of the highly technical nature of our discussion, I think we would have solved the situation faster had I been at the office with him because we would have been able to talk face-to-face. Throughout the years, I’ve discovered that it’s better to be geographically close when trying to prove a point.

This episode recently popped into my mind while I was having a heated discussion about communication mediums with my close friend Dave, who believed that although we have a bazillion different tools readily available we may not necessarily be communicating more efficiently. I have to agree.

Dave and I favor face-to-face communication because there are so many elements at one’s disposal to determine if the other person is on the same page — body language, eye contact, and facial expressions. However, Dave also thinks face-to-face interactions require people to be at the same physical location and require synchronous responses. Your attention must be devoted to the other person and this is not well-suited for multitasking. Would you ever be checking your e-mails and listening to some MP3s while having a tête-à-tête at your workplace?

In this regard, e-mails and IMs have a clear advantage. The text medium is inherently asynchronous and doesn’t have time constraints. You don’t need to pay constant attention to the other party. Heck, sometimes you don’t even know what the sender’s intention is until two or three text messages have been exchanged.

On the other hand, phone calls help immensely because you can perceive tone and determine the other person’s commitment level. Is this person interested in the conversation? Are there distractions around him/her?

When time and circumstances permit, video conferencing is my preferred communication choice. Skype (for both PC and Mac) is my most-liked videoconferencing tool. The newest version has high quality video built-in. I’ve also tried the latest version of iChat (Mac only) and, I must say, this lightweight application does a superb job as well.

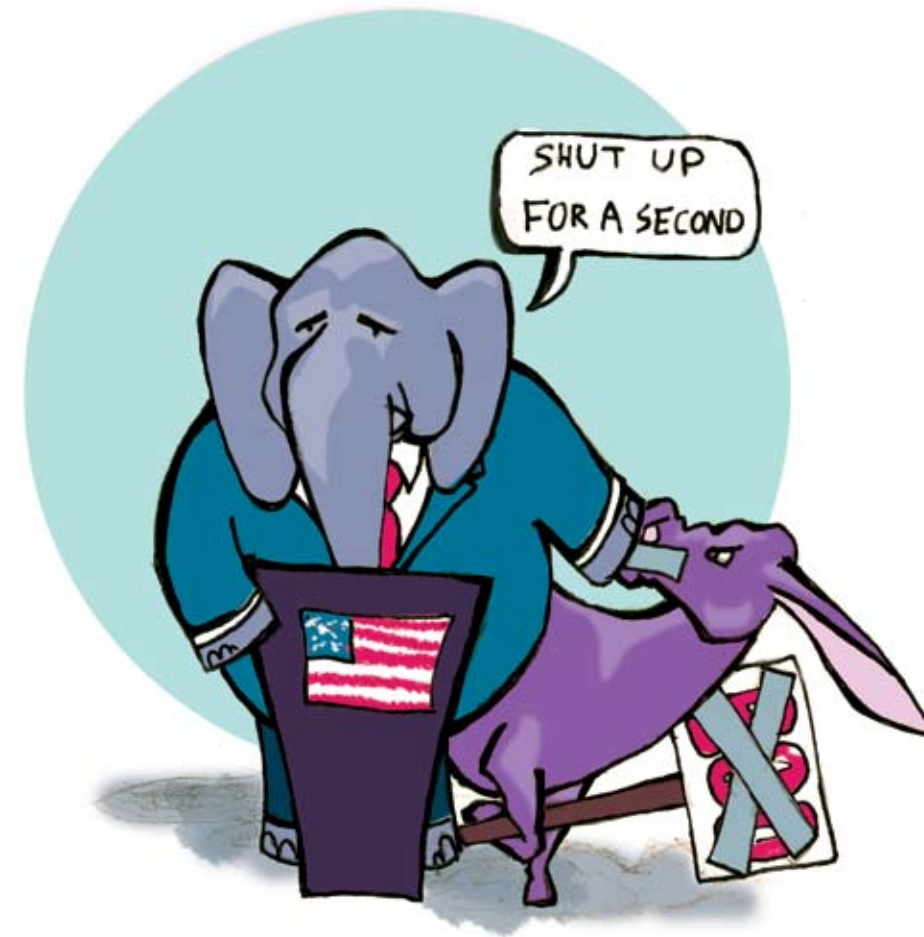
These are not the only options, of course. For all of you Windows acolytes, there appear to be several options. The best ones (according to fellow geeks out there) are VSee, SightSpeed, PalBee and Adobe Connect Now.

There you have it. Now you can enjoy your talks with all the nuances of facial expressions and body language regardless of distance. Oh, by the way, most of these tools are also available for Linux. What? Did you think I’d forget about you, my fellow techies?

Until the conversation with my co-worker on that hot summer night, I had been an impassioned advocate of IMs and text messages. After almost an hour of excruciating to and fro, I became a critic. Presently, if you want to reach me and discuss a very important topic, you better have Skype installed. You can also wait and set up a meeting the next day. Suit yourself. •

# CONVICTED OF PATRIOTISM

by Chris Tosswill | illustration by Katie Anderson



# W

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

we are a nation divided. Nothing makes this division more apparent than the upcoming Presidential election. Fiery rhetoric on both sides of the aisle polarizes the country over healthcare, abortion, war, and taxes. The founding principles of free speech, expression, and assembly allow for the exchange of such differing ideas. However, on the eve of the Republican National Convention (RNC), these fundamental rights were attacked.

Early morning raids executed 48 hours before the convention led to the arrest of eight RNC Welcoming Committee members, a group whose anti-establishment mission statement was to protest the RNC. The eight were officially charged with conspiracy to riot in furtherance of terrorism. These charges were filed under Minnesota’s version of the PATRIOT Act, passed in 2002. Notably, this arrest marked the first time anyone had been charged under this legislation.

Allegedly, the RNC Welcoming Committee planned to use fire bombs and other explosives to disrupt the convention, as well as kidnap persons of interest. These claims were all based on the testimony of a police informant who infiltrated the RNC Welcoming Committee. Warrants in hand, riot-gear police raided the homes and arrested the suspects. However, after the invasion, not a shred of evidence was found to support the claims. Sound familiar?

The eight were charged as terrorists with no physical evidence supporting a ‘terrorist attack,’ no previous history of violence, and no connection whatsoever to any terrorist organization. The only thing they were ‘guilty’ of was planning a protest. “These charges are an effort to equate publicly-stated plans to blockade traffic and disrupt the RNC as being the same as acts of terrorism. This both trivializes real violence and attempts to place the stated political views of the Defendants on trial,” said Bruce Nestor, President of the Minnesota Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

The house raids were not the only instance of “overzealous” police work in St. Paul. Amy Goodman, a syndicated columnist and broadcast journalist for Pacifica Radio’s Democracy Now!, was arrested along with her colleagues. They were reporting on the protests occurring outside of the RNC. Police ignored their press credentials and violently subdued them despite one exclaiming, “I am press, I am press!” as she was handcuffed. Videos of the arrest on YouTube are rather damning evidence to the police’s total disregard for freedom of the press.

How can this be America? There are citizens arrested for expressing their views and others arrested for reporting them. If we take a step back and look at the sum total of events that occurred at the RNC, we are presented with a nightmarish picture. Something that seems more likely to occur in one of the cruel dictatorships against which America normally stands. True, we don’t have secret police abducting people in the night or books being burned in town squares, but when does ‘overzealous’ police work become oppression?

Most terrifyingly, it seems that contempt for civil rights extends to all levels of government, not just the police in St. Paul, Minnesota. As part of her acceptance speech, Sarah Palin proclaimed, “Al-Qaeda terrorists still plot to inflict catastrophic harm on America and [Barack Obama] is worried that someone won’t read them their rights.”

We, as a nation, have become crazed by our crusade against terrorism. We are assured that search without warrant and arrest without charge is a necessity of the times. At the RNC, a terrorist was defined as a person with political views that differed from the majority. How will terrorism be defined tomorrow?

For more information, including police reports, visit [RNC8.org](http://RNC8.org). •



# coming soon...

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