

REPORTER

10 03 08 | reportermag.com

flights of fancy

get out your twenty-sided die

word on the street

where does your lap go when you stand up?

new CIO

improved wireless is on the way!



BRICK CITY
HOMECOMING 2008

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 11TH**

JIMMY FALLON

GORDON FIELD HOUSE

8PM/DOORS @ 7PM

STUDENTS: 15

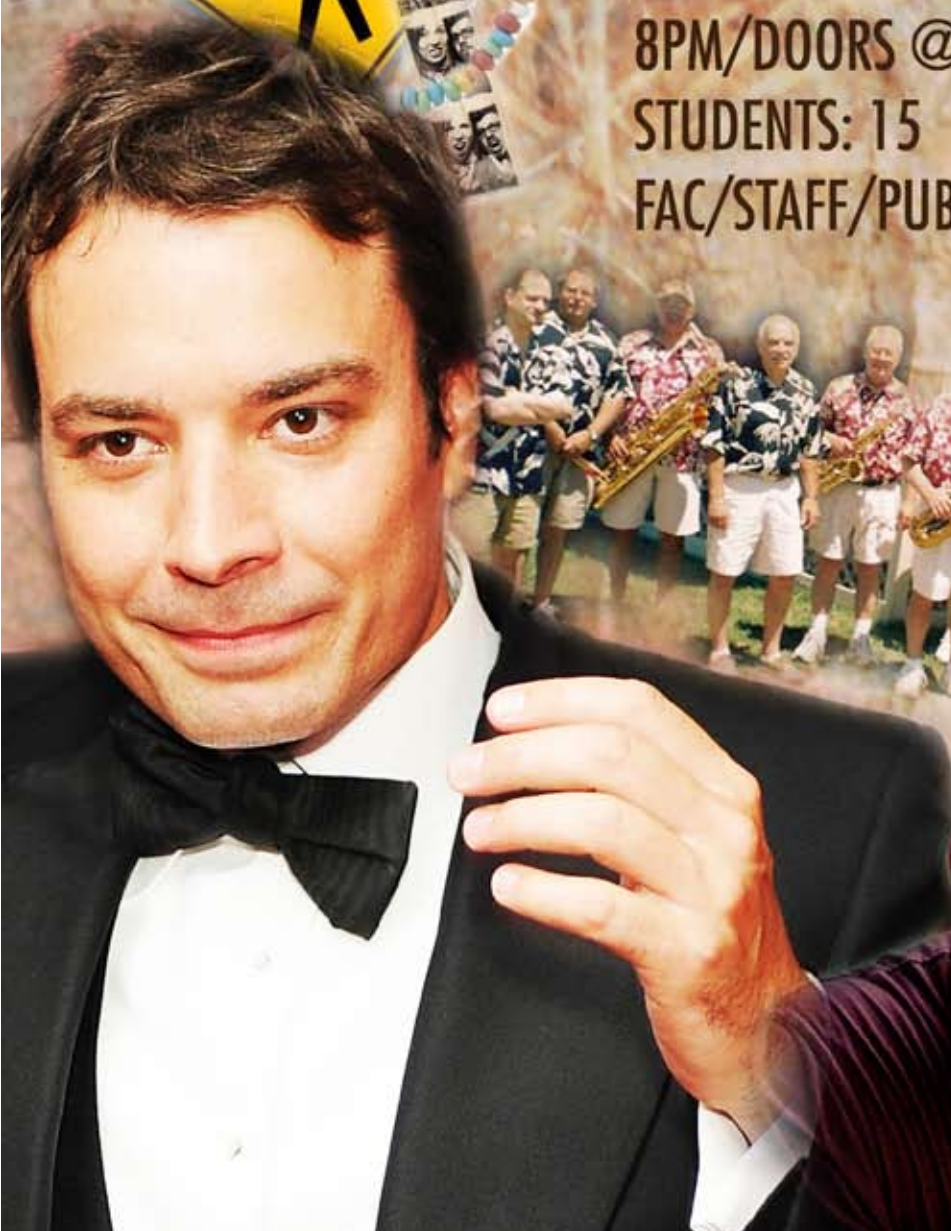
FAC/STAFF/PUBLIC: 30

SATURDAY NIGHT
SHOWCASE

STUDENT ALUMNI UNION
comedian jamie lissow, jazz
tribute, karaoke jam session,
novelty acts & more!

CLARK GYMNASIUM
the return: beatles cover band

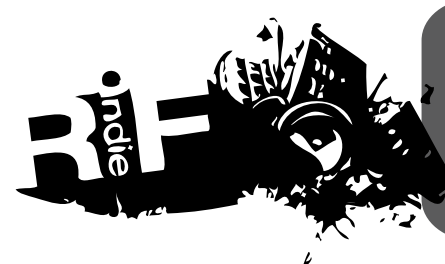
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**THE
RETURN**
beatles cover band

CAB.RIT.EDU

C·Q·B



SATURDAY
10.04.08

ROCHESTER INDIEFEST

WATER STREET MUSIC HALL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH
WWW.ROCHESTERINDIEFEST.COM

- 7PM **GREGORY PAUL**
- 8PM **MINT JAM**
- 9PM **JODI SHAW**
- 10PM **JULIA NUNES**
- 11PM **VELUXE**
- 12AM **THE WICKED FELINAS**

**STREET PERFORMANCE FROM
PUSH PHYSICAL THEATRE!**

**FOOD FROM
STICKY LIPS PIT BBQ!!**

NEED A RIDE?
STUDENT GOVERNMENT IS SPONSORING A
BUS! IT WILL BE LOOPING TO THE FESTIVAL ALL
NIGHT FROM THE BUS STOP BEHIND THE
LIBRARY TO WATER STREET MUSIC HALL.
BUS TIMES: 6:00PM-1:00AM
FREE WITH RIT ID



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EDITOR'S NOTE

KICKING IT OLD SCHOOL

There's a certain simplistic charm in tossing a twenty-sided die to determine how the future will play out; when that element of chance is handed over to a computerized random number generator, something is undeniably lost. Many Dungeons and Dragons players take pride in their old school pen and paper methods, and it's easy to understand why (see "The Secret Order of Pen and Paper Geekdom," page 16). At its core, D&D is a social game – the face to face interaction is an important basic element. Piling technology on top of that does not improve gameplay. If anything, it only gets in the way.

With RIT's heavy emphasis on applied science and technical training, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that not *everything* improves with the addition of new technology. Yeah, it would be cool if I could pay for my Peanut M&M's with nothing but my fingerprint (see "Biometrics," page 30), but is that really necessary? Would I really want tuition to go up another 6% next year to fund such a frivolous project? Do I really want RIT keeping my fingerprint on file? Not so much.

Just because you *can* do something doesn't mean that you *should*. Sometimes, technology is not the best answer. Sometimes, you need to leave well enough alone. Sometimes, the best thing you can do is to shut down your laptop and bust out the pen, paper, and twenty-sided die.

Laura Mandanas
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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September 26th

Women's volleyball photographs by

Kelsey Evans.

PASSPORT DRIVE & STUDY ABROAD FAIR

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2008 | 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. | CLARK GYM
INTERPRETERS AVAILABLE FROM 10 A.M - 1 P.M

BE SURE TO BRING YOUR:

- BIRTH CERTIFICATE (ORIGINAL OR CERTIFIED COPY) OR EXPIRED PASSPORT
- PHOTO ID
- TWO 2"x2" RECENT PHOTOS ON A LIGHT BACKGROUND (OR \$7)
- PARENT IF UNDER 18 YEARS OLD

WHAT IT WILL COST:

- \$75 TO THE U.S. GOVT.
- \$25 TO MONROE COUNTY
- \$7 FOR PASSPORT PHOTOS
- TOTAL: \$107



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RETAILER: You are authorized to act as our agent to redeem this coupon in accordance with The Clorox Sales Company coupon redemption policy (available upon request). We will reimburse you for face value plus \$.08 handling. Send coupons to P.O. Box 880409, El Paso, TX 88588-0409.



76245 1 (8100) 0 76245 5 60258 11074

CAR CRIME SPREE HITS CAMPUS

by Margaret Barlow

Within the past few weeks, several cars in parking lots around campus have been broken into, resulting in damages and stolen property in most cases and outright auto theft in one case. No arrests have been made in response to these crimes.

According to a media crime report, the first incident occurred on September 12, sometime between 7:30 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. The car was parked at the University Commons and suffered some damage as a result.

Four other cases occurred on September 15, according to the media crime report. The first was believed to have occurred between 9:45 a.m. and 11:22 a.m. in J Lot. The car was broken into and had some property stolen. The next car involved was parked in S Lot and was broken into sometime between 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. later that evening. Property was also stolen from this car. Two other vehicles were victimized at Colony

Manor. The first theft occurred sometime between 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 a.m. The second car didn't have anything stolen from it, but a window was smashed between 11:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. the next morning.

The stolen property included a wallet, a stereo, and a radar detector, according to Director of Public Safety Chris Denninger.

On September 18, a car belonging to RIT student Blake Deberto was actually stolen. "I just went outside to go to my car to go to the store, and I was just walking down the sidewalk, and it wasn't there," said Deberto. His initial reaction was "disbelief... Maybe I just parked in a different spot, maybe I'm just not looking at it right," but after searching for ten minutes in the Southeast Perkins lot, Deberto realized that his car was gone.

After alerting Public Safety, Deberto's case was deferred to the Monroe County Sheriff's Department. As of yet, his car has not been returned.

There is one possible suspect to the cases. According to Denninger, one individual was apprehended by the Monroe County Sheriff's

Department for theft at Park Point two weeks ago. "We feel pretty confident that that person was involved," said Denninger, "but we have no solid evidence." The suspect has not confessed to any of the incidents at RIT, but after this person was apprehended, Denninger noted, the auto break-ins stopped.

However, if more auto break-ins do occur, Denninger said that Public Safety will "size up the data" they receive from reports, looking for possible patterns. "If a pattern occurs during these times and days [the incidents happen], we bolster security during those times," said Denninger.

Denninger also offered some advice. "If people have things like a GPS, stereo, or radar, keep it out of sight." He added that if thieves don't spot valuable objects through a window, they tend to move on. Denninger asked that if any suspicious activity is seen in parking lots, such as someone walking around inspecting cars, or a car repeatedly driving around empty spaces, to inform Public Safety. Public Safety's Emergency Line can be reached at (585)-475-3333 (v/tty). "If someone takes note of suspicious behavior, we'll go over and check it out," said Denninger. •

▶ rit hires new chief information officer

After nearly 18 months without a formal head of technology on campus, a new face will take the lead. On September 2, Jeanne Casares, the new Chief Information Officer (CIO), started her first day of work at RIT.

After being chosen from a long list of candidates from around the country, Casares is the first person to hold the position in a year and a half, said Dr. James Watters, Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration. Prior to accepting her post at RIT, Casares was the Director of Information Technology at Paychex, a Rochester-based national payroll company.

"I am responsible for overseeing the [Information and Technology Services] department," Casares said of her job. "Which primarily supports the academic technology needs, deploying enterprise wide systems, applications, telecommunications, and any of the infrastructure necessary to support the academic affairs of the university."

One of the projects Casares will be overseeing includes "wireless for the academic side of the campus."

"The dollars have been appropriated for that," she said, "and we are in the beginning part of that project, where we are looking at vendors and making a selection of the appropriate technology for wireless deployment."

Also on the horizon, according to Casares: "There is an analysis project on the next Student Information System, how to better manage information on the academic side of the house."

The requirements for the position were quite stringent. According to Watters, the search committee was looking for "somebody who may have had experience dealing with informa-



by Andy Rees | photograph by Thomas Liggitt

tion technology centers in a network arrangement, in a sense that we have multiple campuses... Someone who has an appreciation of the challenge running global centers... Somebody who had the ability... to take complex problems and analyze them and come up with demonstrated examples of satisfactory solutions."

"There was a national search firm involved in generating candidates from across the country," stated Watters. "They conducted reviews with a number of these folks. There were several top candidates brought to campus. Those top candidates met with the leadership from around the university. So it was a very vetted process." Casares emerged from the process as the premier choice after her visit to campus.

"I think Jeanne demonstrated to the search committee that she had an exemplary record of attainment," noted Watters. "Just the sheer size of [Paychex], the fact that they're international in scope now, the fact that they run multiple data centers... They have an extreme amount of highly sensitive data that they are the stewards of and are required to protect."

Casares described her first month as an adjustment and learning period, inviting suggestions or advice. •



RIT FORECAST

compiled by Andy Rees

SG UPDATES

compiled by Geoffrey H. Bliss

SAT•4

ORANGE AND WHITE GAME

Ritter Arena. 6 p.m. Cheer on the men's Hockey Team as they hit the ice for some Tiger action. Cost: \$5.

ROCHESTER INDIE FEST

Water Street Music Hall, 204 N. Water Street. 7 p.m. Featuring Mint Jam, Jodi Shaw, Veluxe, The Wicked Felinas, and more. Cost: \$10.

MON•6

VOTER REGISTRATION

SAU Lobby and Grace Watson Hall. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Join the rest of America's youth in exercising their franchise. If you don't, P. Diddy will be pissed. Presented by the Community Service Center. Cost: Free.

TUE•7

WOMEN'S SOCCER VS. WILLIAM SMITH

RIT Field. 4 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Watch the women take Smith to the turf. Cost: Free.

WED•8

BRICK CITY HOMECOMING

All over RIT. All Day. Join friends, family, and alumni as they kick off a weekend of visiting their old haunts. Cost: Free.

THU•9

THE INCREDIBLES

Ingle Auditorium. 10 p.m. An animated tale about the nuclear family. Free ice cream sandwiches after the movie. Hosted by CAB. Cost: Free.

FRI•10

DEEP ECONOMY BROWN BAG DISCUSSION

Wallace Library. 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Bring your own thoughts to share in a group discussion lead by Barbara MacCameron. Cost: Free.

IMPROVEMENTS TO CAMPUS TECHNOLOGY

In an email from Gerry Brunelle, Student Government (SG) Director of Services, current technology issues were elaborated on. Brunelle said that he had a meeting with Jeanne Casares, the new Chief Information Officer (CIO), in which he ran the "SG Committee on Institute Technology that was created last year to help address some of the technology issues that students are facing on campus."

Brunelle explained that there are three major goals he wishes to accomplish. The first is to work with Information Technology Services (ITS) to improve student email issues and come up with a solution for them. The second is to investigate adding and improving wireless in both dorms and apartments, and the third is to begin remaking the Infocenter (Student Information System).

"This will be a multi-year project," said Brunelle, one with which Casares will assist as a member of Brunelle's committee. "She will be joining us...to aid us in developing and driving these improvements," he said. "In the meeting with Jeanne she also mentioned that she is looking into creating an Institute-wide technology committee that would have representation from all the different groups around campus including students, faculty, and staff. I hope to help her in forming this group and to have SG work as a key member of this committee to help improve the technology around campus."

THE CENTER FOR CAMPUS LIFE

"The [Center for Campus Life] has many roles," Director of the Center for Campus Life Mike D'Arcangelo said, "We oversee many cultural and service events around campus and one of the things we do is... give healthy advising. Our job responsibility is to make you more proficient in yours."

"Since RIT is known as an innovation university, the first thing we do is help students be innovative on a daily basis. Still, bringing creativity into reality can be a difficult process," added D'Arcangelo.

Last year, RIT reached a total of 176 clubs on campus. "We also registered over 1500 events and a large increase in late night events," said D'Arcangelo. There was also a discussion of Greek life on campus: "Right now, there is a consideration of adding six more fraternities to campus who have interest in having chapters here. There has also been a rise in the number of students who have joined these organizations." For more information about the center, visit campuslife.rit.edu.

CREATING A NEW RSO/MO

Cory Gregory, GLBT Senator, spoke about his decision to make the RIT Gay Alliance (RITGA) into a "GLBT RSO" (Representative Student Organization). "The future representation to Student Government will come from the president of this new position. A senator position will no longer be necessary," Gregory stated. "This new organization will involve many of the events from RITGA and the GLBT center. Membership will be more in the form of weekly e-board meetings and signing up for e-board positions." The date of this happening is still undetermined. For updates, see campuslife.rit.edu/GLBT.

R·I·T



Ask Dr. Destler

at Studio C WITR

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

October 29, 2008

December 17, 2008

February 11, 2009

April 29, 2009

WITR 89.7 FM



FARMERS MARKET

Better Me Brings Healthy Produce to RIT

by Alecia Crawford | photographs by Mathew Woyak

“Nice produce, nice people” is how one student describes the Farmers’ Market at RIT. This program, brought to you by the Better Me wellness program and Foodlink, brings fresh fruits, veggies, and homemade goodies to faculty, staff, and students every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The market takes place on the east side of the Gordon Field House.

At the market, there are six vendors and a Better Me booth. Better Me is a program that encourages the employees at RIT to live healthy lifestyles and recognize their diverse background. Their booth offers pamphlets of recipes for the fresh produce available, and information about their wellness program. Along with this information is a nice selection of fruits and vegetables, baked goods, and honey at the other booths.

Yellowjackets swarmed the sweets of Rochester’s very own Newbury Park Pastries, which is run by RIT alumna Kate Schlenker. Newbury Park Pastries sells baked goods such as bread, cookies, and pies. The soft chocolate chip cookies and delectable chocolate frosted brownies are a spot-hitter for any sweet tooth.

Another vendor present was Freshwise Farms, from Penfield, New York, all of whose produce is either hydroponic or grown in a greenhouse. The vegetables are pesticide-free but not organic (organic is how the soil is treated, not the plants), using natural methods such as nutrient water

delivered to the roots of the plants. David Cherelin of Freshwise Farms gave me a sample of two types of greens: pat soi (which tasted pretty good) and mizuna. The pat soi can be eaten fresh, stir fried, or used as a garnish. The mizuna was a bit stronger in taste than the pat soi, and it seemed to be in the same family as cilantro and basil, taste-wise.

Second year Advertising and Public Relations major Crystal Hermawan thinks that the Farmers Market at RIT is beneficial for the students that don’t have cars here to get off campus. Second year Civil Engineering Technology major Byron Williams supported this opinion, adding, “[It’s] good to support local small business as well.”

However, there are some downsides to Farmers Market. The fact that it’s the same day and the same time every week doesn’t translate well for students with packed schedules on Thursdays. And, even with the fresh food available on campus, students who live in the dorms aren’t able to cook veggies unless they’re masters of the microwave or have all the materials necessary for it. The prices are also more expensive when compared to the vendors right outside of campus grounds.

If you would like to find out more about the Farmers Market at RIT you can go to rit.edu/betterme or check it out the next one on Thursday, October 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. •

SPILL IT

by e.

Dear e,

I’m a third year girl who recently re-entered the dating pool. I’ve never dated an RIT guy before and it’s very weird. I’ve never had another guy be so nice and go so out of the way for me. The problem is, he’s too nice! I’d like him to be rougher with me, especially in (or out of) bed. I’ve already mentioned it to him but I feel too shy to ask again more directly. Is there anything I can do to get my point across?

Mistress Payne

Dear Mistress,

Sure, grab him by the ear and slap him around a bit.

Okay, let’s be real. You say you don’t want to “ask again more directly.” Does that mean you didn’t ask very directly the first time? If so, that’s probably your problem right there. There are guys that just don’t get it, and all of those “I’m trying to be flirtatious, cute, and subtle” hints fly right out the window.

Take charge. If telling him what you want doesn’t work, then just show him. The “auditory learning versus visual learning” concept is at work here. Some learn best by listening, others by watching; this fact of life applies in and out of bed as well. Also, some guys are pretty shy. It might take a little extra persuasion, or a few games of show and tell for him to understand what you really want.

If you’re going to talk about it, though, it might be a good idea to do it when you aren’t actually engaged in the activity. A quiet moment when nothing’s going on could make him feel less embarrassed, and he likely won’t feel ambushed by you. You’ll want to take into consideration that no matter how hard you try, or how nicely you ask, some people will never change.

Be thankful you found a nice boyfriend and that he’s not a total jerk. Unless, of course, that’s what you really want.

e.

Dear e,

I’m going through a pretty emotional break up right now, which wasn’t the way I was planning to start the year. She was with me for about two years, so the split was pretty unexpected. It’s starting to affect that way I talk with people, and even the way I’m performing in classes and at work. Do you have any suggestions for beating the blues? Any ideas how to meet new people (not necessarily a girlfriend)?

Not Really Happy in NRH

Dear NRH,

It’s good you recognize how this is affecting you, because you can pull yourself out before it’s too late. Here are a couple of steps to follow:

STEP ONE / RELEASE

Give yourself a day or two to get everything out. Whether it’s going to the gym and letting off steam through a good workout or writing things down in a journal, you should try to get rid of your frustration, anger, and sadness. You don’t say if you two are still speaking, but if you’re both willing, and can act like mature adults (that’s key), it might help to try to talk it through. At the very least, you both can leave that discussion with closure on why this happened.

STEP TWO / GET BUSY

RIT’s fast moving quarter system will help with this one. You need to occupy yourself; Keeping your mind and body busy won’t leave you to sit and think things over and over again. So go to class and work, grab meals with friends, and look for on-campus events. Brick City Homecoming is coming up fast: October 10 - 12. Get yourself a ticket to Bill Nye or Jimmy Fallon. Look on CAB’s website (cab.rit.edu) for other events where you can keep your mind occupied and maybe even meet new people, which brings me to the next step...

STEP THREE / NEW PEOPLE

Meeting new people is always possible. An easy way would be to sit next to someone different in one of your classes and strike up a conversation. There are always new and interesting people to meet at parties, so, if you are into that kind of thing, I would definitely recommend it. Just try to avoid the get-wasted-and-rebound-with-that-ugly-chick thing.

In short, get involved! Clubs and sports are always good ways to meet new people.

STEP FOUR / MOVE ON

You may be thinking right now that you can never move on from this, but you will. It takes time. Once you occupy your mind with other things, you’ll realize that you have moved on quicker than you thought you could. And by no means does moving on involve finding someone new; you’ll just be starting a new chapter of single life until the right girl does come along.

e.

CHEAP THRILLS

ROCHESTER FOR UNDER

by Carolyn Dunne | illustration by Robert Modzelewski

Most students at RIT know how it feels to be a poor college student. With an annual bill prior to financial aid of approximately \$28,000 for commuters and \$37,500 for residents, few undergraduates will graduate without generating some sort of debt from their experience at RIT. So what does a poor college student do when faced with the desire to go out? There's more to do in Rochester on a budget than you think, and Reporter's got your back with some great date ideas.

\$15



CLUBHOUSE FUN CENTER, 70 JAY SCUTTI BOULEVARD

Conveniently located behind the Wendy's on Jefferson, the Clubhouse Fun Center has mini-golf, a game room, a go-kart track, and Snack Shack. It's fairly close to campus, so you could walk or bike there if you are courageous enough to brave the Jefferson traffic, but the five-minute car ride is definitely suggested.

Be warned. This is a child-friendly establishment, so if you don't like the idea of finding yourself in a game room waist-deep in screaming 8-year-olds, this might not be the place for you. Despite this, however, the mini-golf and go-kart areas provide for fun and age-appropriate college atmosphere for any Friday night.

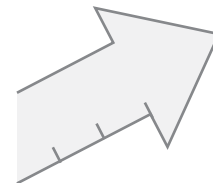
A regular price for a game of mini-golf is \$6, or you can get two rounds at once for \$8. What's nice is that your second game doesn't expire and you can use it at a later date (so it's only \$4 a game). Go Karting is \$6 by yourself in a cart or \$7 for two people. The track is a pretty good one with a lot of turns and twists, so if you end up in the passenger seat, make sure your driver

is capable. If they're going too fast or don't turn well you will hit the wall. Arcade tokens are four for \$1, but you can win two free tokens if you bring your scorecard from mini-golfing to the booth where you got your clubs and they decide somehow that you won (the person I was with won, and we have no idea how they determined that).

Every day of the week has a special that might save you even more. For instance, on Token Tuesday you get 100 tokens for \$10 (this is also done on Sundays during the Winter quarter). Or, take advantage of Thrifty Thursday, where for \$24 you get four games of mini-golf, four Go Kart rides, and twenty arcade tokens.

\$8.00	Two games of mini-golf
\$6.00	Single Go Kart ride
\$1.00	Four tokens in the arcade and two free tokens
\$15.00	Total

To get directions or download coupons from their website to save even more, go to www.clubhousefuncenter.com.



GEVA THEATRE, 75 WOODBURY BOULEVARD

Geva Theatre has a high standard of excellence so that they can give playgoers the best experience possible. The actors are talented, the sets are always beautifully done, the ushers are courteous, and every other aspect of production is meticulous in its execution and design. Of every small theater I have been to, from Toronto to Boston to New York City, Geva definitely prevails as the best and is a stepping stone for many great actors looking to star on Broadway one day.

A stone's throw away from the Strong National Museum of Play, Geva Theatre is one of the most well-known professional theatres in the Rochester area. With two stages (called the Mainstage and the Nextstage) as well as a café, Geva is a classy night out (which means no jeans and t-shirts, or you will get some disgusted looks from the season ticket holders that are dressed in their Sunday best).

STARRY NITES CAFÉ, 696 UNIVERSITY AVENUE

"The café decor was inspired by Vincent Van Gogh's *Night Café* (1888) painting" according to their website. Featured in the café is a wall sized mural of Van Gogh's *Starry Night* in the dining area, framed reproductions of his work, and work from local artists on exhibit throughout. There are free evening attractions on the weekends, with live musical performances Thursdays through Saturdays.

Starry Nites Café remains my favorite café in the Rochester area – downtown or otherwise. Upon bringing my friends on their first visits to the café, they can never believe that they have never been there before! Every item off their menu is fantastic and I have never spent more than \$15. It can even be said that Starry Nites is preferable to Java's downtown, if only because of its relative anonymity in comparison.

Located down the street from the Memorial Art Gallery, Starry Nites Café is a nice place to go with a friend or significant other when you want to relax and enjoy a meal for a decent price. No food item is more than \$7.95, and drinks tend to be between \$3 and \$5. Some of the most popular choices for drinks include Jamaican Me Crazy coffee, chai tea, and chai lattes, while the white chicken chili and the Tuscan sandwich are popular food choices.

The Mainstage has a program for students called Student Rush. Show up 30 minutes before the show begins with your RIT ID and you can buy your ticket for only \$8 if there are any seats left. Considering that the cheapest seat in the house is a minimum of \$23, it's a great deal provided that there are seats available and your group doesn't mind being split up for the performance.

\$8.00	Ticket for any show on the Mainstage
\$1.50	Cookie during intermission
\$9.50	Total

The Nextstage has some great (and low cost) productions this season as well. *ROOMS: a rock romance* is currently enjoying its world premiere at The Nextstage, with regular tickets costing \$17.50 if you are under the age of 30. Furthermore, on October 16, Geva Theatre is participating in the Theatre Communications Group's Free Night of the 2008 program. Other popular free events include script readings accompanied by discussions with the playwrights and performances of works in progress. Reservations are required for these free events and are available by calling (585) 232-GEVA, or 232-4382.

For showtimes, season information, or to learn more about the history of Geva Theatre, go to www.gevatheatrecenter.org.

\$10.80

\$3.95	Bowl of White Chicken Chili
\$3.85	Large Chai Latte
\$3.00	Tip and tax
\$10.80	Total

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REVIEWS



PURE

by Chukuma Morah

When I heard Disney was publishing a trick-based ATV racing game, an image of mud-covered Disney princesses catching air on four-wheelers flashed across my mind. I was bummed to find that PURE does not feature Jasmine, Ariel, and the rest of the gang. Despite this, the game does not fail to please.

PURE (which actually isn't an acronym) brings ATV racing back on the video game map in a big way. The game gives you humongous, visually impressive racetracks with death-defying jumps, while it kindly asks you to perform the most

insane tricks you'll ever see. Think SSX Tricky but on four wheels.

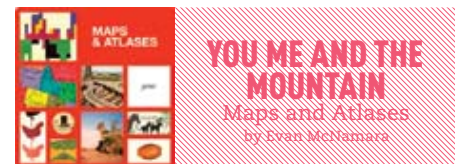
The game offers a fairly decent number of modes. The single player is divided into three modes — Race, Sprint, and Freestyle — and you pretty much rinse and repeat them in different locations across the globe. If you do get bored, there is an online mode (and good luck finding people who aren't playing *Call of Duty 4*), but sadly no split-screen multiplayer.

One of the really appealing features in PURE is the risk/reward system between speed boosts and tricks. The sicker the trick, the more boost you get; the more boost you use, the less complex your tricks become. When you start a race, you're only able to perform basic tricks with the A button. After landing a few basic

tricks, your boost meter begins to fill, allowing you to bust intermediate tricks (B button + left stick) and, finally, advanced tricks (Y button + left stick). So the game forces you to master the balance of the two, which hasn't really been done in an arcade racer before.

Overall, though, if you're big arcade racing fan, then you can't go wrong with PURE. My only real problem with the game is that the single player mode falls somewhere between "8 a.m. Chemistry lecture" and "David Blaine's latest stunt" on my "I'm really getting bored" spectrum.

PURE (X360, PS3)
Developer: Black Rock Studios
Publisher: Disney Interactive Studios
Price: \$60



YOU ME AND THE MOUNTAIN

Maps and Atlases

by Evan McNamara

You got your peanut butter in my chocolate! You got your math in my rock and roll! The latter exclamation would be a great slogan for Maps and Atlases. The band plays a strange combination of sixty percent Flaming Lips-influenced indie rock and forty percent Deerhoof-influenced math rock.

Their newest EP, *You Me and the Mountain*, is a brief look into the band, serving as a good introduction for those who are not yet familiar with Maps and Atlases or their sound. The songs are driven by clean guitars with up-tempo drums and percussion accompaniment. The bass is often hard to hear because it is utilized like an extra guitar, playing in a higher register. Finger-tapped melodies tend to take center stage and bring to mind Algernon Cadwallader, while the band's atypical song structure is in the same vein as *Make Believe*.

The songs are all a good listen when consumed individually, but, when taken in from start to finish, *You Me and the Mountain* begins to repeat itself. The jerky, start-stop style of most songs grows tiring by the third track, and there really are no sections that reach out and grab your attention. There are, however, many interesting details layered within Maps and Atlases' songs. The bottom line is that the band provides an interesting combination of musical styles, but fails to create songs which would make you want to listen to them a second time around. They just seem to fly under the radar, only noticeable after multiple listens.



ART OF MOTION

Andy McKee

by Evan McNamara

To properly preface this review, you should go to YouTube and search for "Andy McKee - Drifting." What you will see is a man who not only plays his acoustic guitar, but has his way with it.

Andy McKee's *Art of Motion* is an album that allows the listener to observe the sounds and melodies of the acoustic guitar in its purest form. There are no drums, no bass, no vocals, and no effects — save for the natural reverberation of the recording studio. Andy's compositions center on intricate southern-styled fingerpicking, but sound about as far away from southern bluegrass guitar as possible.

With an exceptional ear for melody, Andy McKee crafts interesting songs ranging from ballads like "For My Father" to the percussive "Drifting," to the spacey, harmonically-driven "Samus Stardrive." No technique is unused by McKee, who is clearly a virtuoso. Alternate and exotic tunings are employed; world class fingerpicking, finger-tapped melodies, harmonics, and utilizing the body of the guitar as a makeshift bongo drum are only a small sampling of the methods employed on *Art of Motion*.

This is the perfect album for anyone who enjoys the sound of the acoustic guitar. And for those who don't, I am sure Andy McKee will change your mind by the closing chords of the album.

10.03.08 AT YOUR LEISURE

by John Howard

IN THIS MONTH...

Things you may or may not need to know about the month at hand.

HOLIDAYS

Punkies (last Thursday of the month): "Punkies," short for pumpkins, were traditionally used in the South of England to accompany caroling after the pumpkins were carved into Jack 'O Lanterns. Today, in a town of Hinton St. George of Somerset, England, children still go door to door with their "punkies" looking for trick-or-treat-style handouts of pennies.

Halloween (October 31): The Eve of All Hallows is approaching yet again. Start thinking of costume ideas so you are prepared to observe this holiday that the Roman Catholics stole from the Celts.

FAMOUS DATES

1st – (1908) Henry Ford introduced the first Model T Ford to the public. It sold at a purchase price of \$850 that would later drop to \$475 in 1912.

3rd – (1990) East and West Germany are officially reunited as one nation, nearly a year after the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989.

4th – (1905) Orwin Wright remained airborne for 33 minutes in an airplane model known as the Flyer III. This model is noted as being the first practical aircraft.

14th – (1884) Photographic film was patented by photography revolutionist George Eastman. By the year of 1888 the first Kodak camera was available to the public accompanied by the slogan, "You press the button — we do the rest."

18th – (1931) The great inventor and businessman, Thomas A. Edison, died in West Orange, New Jersey. Contrary to what the portrayal in *The Simpsons* episode, "The Wizard of Evergreen Terrace," his brain remains unpreserved, in the head of his body, buried at the Edison National Historic Site.

OVERSEEN AND OVERHEARD AT RIT

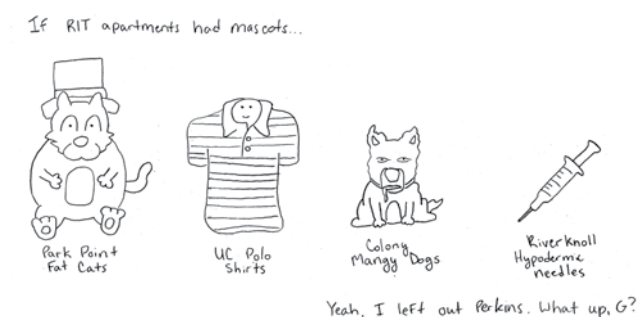
"No student leaves my classroom half baked."
Professor to another faculty member in hallway of 7A

REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Dressing for success. It is the perfect technique for working your way up any administration. Look at George W. Bush — He certainly didn't get elected based on knowledge, so it had to be based on his devilishly fine looks. People don't care about what you have to say anymore. It's all about how you look, so cater to their needs. Rather than staying up all night and cramming for a test tomorrow, dress like you stayed up all night and crammed. And what better way to really stand out in an interview than to dress like every other person that went in for the same interview? It's not creativity we're going for here, it's success. And, as long as you dress for it, the worst that can happen is that you'll succeed in looking like everyone else.

CARTOON

by Michael Dennery



DIFFICULTY RATING: HARD

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

QUOTE

"BEFORE I GOT IN THIS BUSINESS I WAS IN THE CHICKEN BUSINESS."

— Chubby Checker
(in reference to his music career)

"I am not a robot!"
Student proclamation during an in-class discussion



The Secret Order of Pen and Paper Geekdom

by Owen O'Connell
illustration by Jamie Douglas

If you've never played a pen and paper role-playing game like *Dungeons & Dragons* (D&D), you might envision their players as isolated nerds huddled in their mother's basement, clutching bagfuls of dice and declaring, "I cast my magic missile at the darkness." And you'd be partly right.

Michael Goldfarb, John McCain's official campaign blogger, may have had this in mind when he said: "It may be typical of the pro-Obama *Dungeons & Dragons* crowd to disparage a fellow countryman's memory of war from the comfort of mom's basement, but most Americans have the humility and gratitude to respect and learn from the memories of men who suffered on behalf of others."

Irrespective of this particular political volley, this was not the first time Goldfarb had leveled the accusation that playing D&D is a diversion enjoyed only by overweight deadbeats too cowardly to enlist. Observers mired in the '80s stereotype of the Mountain Dew-swilling geek might be surprised to learn that many soldiers are D&D enthusiasts. In their rebuttal, Hasbro stated, "For fans, the game is essentially about heroism and therefore it is not surprising to us that thousands of military personnel play and enjoy the game."

In fact, Wizards of the Coasts, makers of D&D, has sent countless care packages containing free gaming supplies to troops stationed overseas as a motion to help relieve stress. "McCain's people should really check their facts before they spout off. Does John McCain have no idea how many GIs play D&D?" commented a soldier in a Wizards of the Coast press release.

However, the Army isn't the only place to find players who might defy the stereotype. Given the increased popularity of once-marginalized tropes like the epic *Lord of the Rings* films and online fantasy games like *Age of Conan*, some of the more impenetrable concepts from pen and paper role-playing games (RPGs) are no longer considered strange.

Barring deployment, why would anyone actually spend their time rolling dice, making up stories, and filling out sheets of paper that too closely resemble a 1040EZ tax form? Unlike a weekly raid in *World of Warcraft*, a session of D&D is essentially a social function. You're face-to-face with people you know, telling highly creative (if amateur) stories of your own devising. Like a board game during a blackout, the unexpected turns of chance make things interesting. Like a trip to Vegas, you risk everything on the toss of a die. Fortunately, the money and accomplishments at risk aren't real, but they do last for months, or even years — as long as you care to invest.

If you've played video games at all in the last decade, chances are you've played something called an RPG (Role Playing Game), and the allure of the "experience point" is not unknown — even if the computer was secretly rolling the dice for you. To avoid confusion, the "old school" RPGers have appended the prefix "pen and paper" to their game, meaning they still like to do things by hand.

There isn't that much difference between taking the role of an elf-slaying monster on your computer for \$15 a month and portraying an elf amongst friends over a few beers for free — less the price of the beers. Soldiers, police officers, and restaurateurs roll twenty-sided dice. You wouldn't know at first glance, but all it takes is that oblique comment about a "missed saving throw" or "roll-

Take a lesson from McCain's blogger: Don't insult the geeks. You never know who you might be talking to.

ing a 20." Then you know their secret: They are card-carrying members of this secret order of pen and paper geekdom.

The creative element is an enduring appeal that these games offer over their digital counterparts. In a computer game, one's choice of persona is limited to the game's production values. The quests you undertake are limited by the game developer's staff writers. You only exist in a world where you compete with thousands of other nameless heroes and leave no lasting mark. In a good pen and paper RPG, the players are able to fashion a story where they are front and center; they determine the course that matters to them.

You don't have to go to Barnes and Noble at Park Point and pick up the new player's manual, but if you were harboring notions that pen and paper gamers were subhumans of a sort, you might revise your stereotypes and recognize the creativity that this hobby requires, as well as the immense diversity of its players. Take a lesson from McCain's blogger: Don't insult the geeks. You never know who you might be talking to.

In response to Hasbro's strongly worded letter to the McCain campaign, Michael Goldfarb wisely recanted his gaffe against the unrecognized gamer demographic, saying: "If my comments caused any harm or hurt to the hard-working Americans who play *Dungeons & Dragons*, I apologize. This campaign is committed to increasing the strength, constitution, dexterity, intelligence, wisdom, and charisma scores of every American."



Escaping the Everyday: COS play

by Rachel Hart
illustration by Jamie Douglas

COS play

is a portmanteau of costume and play. Unlike Halloween, participants don't just dress up — they become their character, projecting

various traits and acting out various scenes in which their chosen character participates. Even the most minute details are pivotal.

In a sense, cosplay is much like a Renaissance Festival in which paid actors and patrons alike dress up in renaissance costumes and act as if they are back in the medieval times while entire story lines are acted out between the various characters. This total submergence into the psyche of a character is classified as cosplay.

Costumes can be purchased from various distributors, or they can be handmade. The complexity of the costume depends largely on the character that the costume is based upon, as well as the amount of detail. Those who are especially meticulous focus on everything from the fabric choice right down to the stitching. Beyond the main costumes, some cosplayers choose to carry props, oftentimes constructed from cardboard, molding foam, or other crafting materials. Props could include but are not limited to swords, costume detailing, and jewelry. Due to the often-strange color and style of the cosplay subjects' hair, many players even choose to wear wigs they style themselves.

Choosing a character for cosplay is a very personal process. Ian Lee, a fourth year Industrial Design major, said that it is based on "your interests, who you like." It also can depend on what is popular at the time or even just "whoever they feel is the easiest."

In the world of roleplaying with costumes, there are many terms to be understood. The first is LARPing, which stands for Live Action Role-Playing. Cosplayers are LARPers who wear costumes. A furry is someone who wears a full-body fur costume, often complete with a mascot head. Gijinka, an anime term, refers to wearing a costume that represents non-human characters, yet still isn't classified as furry. For instance, if one wanted to resemble a Pokémon creature but did not want to be a furry, they could create a stylized and flattering outfit that represented the Pokémon.

Some cosplayers entirely immerse themselves in the character, even going so far as to change their life habits. For instance, one cosplayer on a forum talked about losing 40 pounds to more closely resemble his chosen character. Other players limit their involvement to the times they are actually wearing the costumes.

A common misconception about cosplay is that it is limited to anime. It also includes people who dress up as characters from *Star Wars*, *Harry Potter*, and other pop culture icons.

Cosplay is an opportunity to show off one's hard work and craftsmanship. It's also a chance to "dress up and be someone completely different."

If one is interested in cosplay, the first step is to choose a character and genre of role-playing in which you would like to be involved. Once this is decided, various clubs exist on campus that participate in certain categories of cosplay; this campus, too, has its own subculture.

People participate in cosplay for a variety of reasons. Lee describes it as a "chance to show off skills," since costume making is a very time-consuming and sometimes talent-intensive process. Cosplay is an opportunity to show off one's hard work and craftsmanship. It's also a chance to "dress up and be someone completely different," as Lee describes, a fun escape from the average day. Lastly, cosplay is a way to show support for a favorite character; imitation, of course, is the highest form of flattery. •

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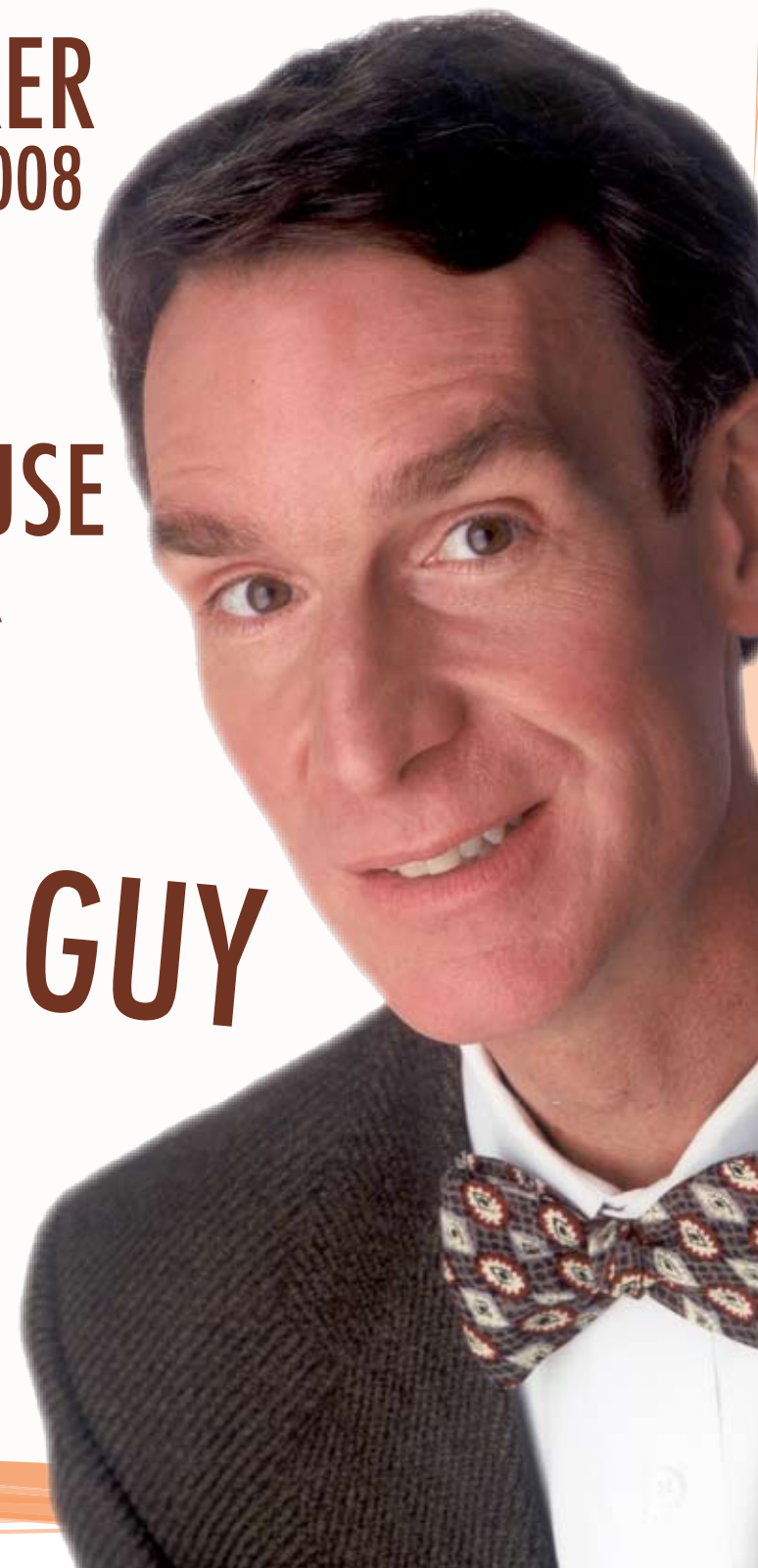
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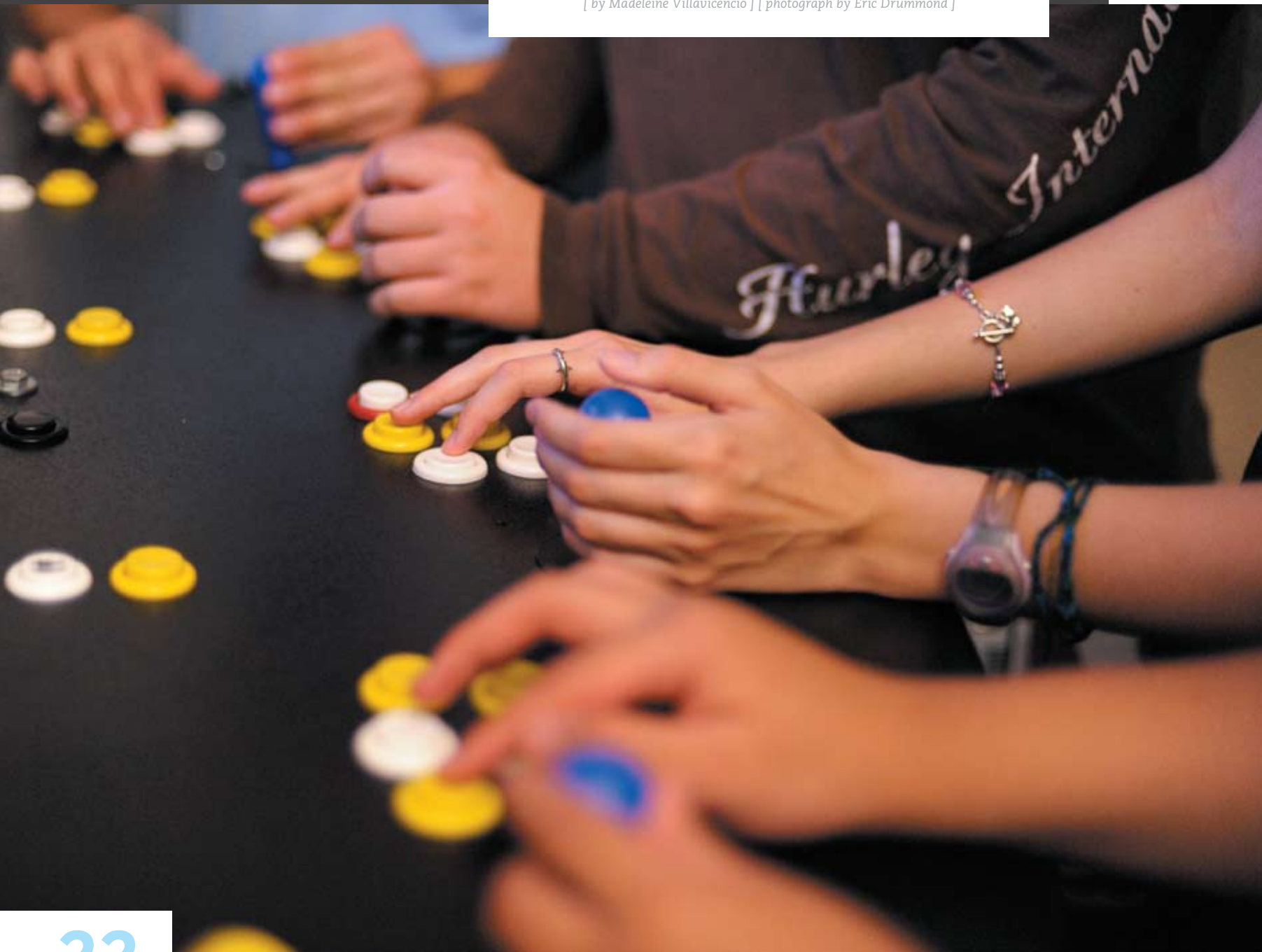
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the league of extraordinary ...gamers?

[by Madeleine Villavicencio] [photograph by Eric Drummond]



“h

onestly, what we do here is play games,” explained Max Brancaccio, a sixth year Information Technology major and president of the Electronic Gaming Society (EGS). You can’t get a simpler description than that. Every Wednesday night, at the stroke of 8 p.m., gamers from all over campus gather together in the SAU cafeteria to hang out and play games. “We try to make it a very relaxed, social, and informal environment,” said Brancaccio.

The tradition began about eight years ago. Before EGS even existed, a group of friends used to meet at the Anime Club, and every so often they held video game tournaments. “The same few three or four people would always win and the people at the Anime Club got a little annoyed... and asked them to leave. So they formed their own club: EGS,” said Brancaccio.

Today, EGS stands stronger than ever. With approximately 140 paid members, EGS has one goal. “We’re here to break the stereotype of the gamer alone in his room because it’s not necessarily true [even though] it’s an easy thing to make fun of...[But it’s] really, really inaccurate,” said James Dewitt, a fourth year Information Technology major and webmaster of EGS.

HOW THEY SERVE YOU

Anyone can participate in their events and show up to their weekly meetings, but paying the \$10 membership fee can get you some pretty sweet benefits. You get discounted entry to events hosted and produced by EGS and a 10% discount on video game purchases at the Digital Den (the electronics store on the second floor of the SAU) — and you can order games if they don’t have them. In addition, you become eligible to win biweekly tournament prizes.

Biweekly tournament prizes can range from “really stupid stuff” to actual games. This year’s first biweekly tournament was for *Boom Blox*, a Wii puzzle game that closely resembles Jenga. “The prize we really wanted to give away was a Donkey Kong edition of Jenga. Unfortunately, Amazon was out of stock so we had to settle for something less creative,” explained Brancaccio.

With a Wii, an Xbox 360, a PS3, a PS2, two GameCubes, and at least two to four games per system, EGS has enough variety to keep members entertained. However, they would love to increase the number of titles in their video game library. With the money they receive from membership fees, EGS plans to purchase another Wii and another copy of *Super Smash Bros.*, among many other titles. “We’re also planning on getting the club a pair of projectors and a little bit of new networking gear for our LAN party events because they’ve gotten so huge that we need professional-level enterprise gear to support all the people,” explained DeWitt.

In addition, EGS hosts a game server for *Team Fortress 2* on RIT’s network. “We may only have LAN parties three times a year, but we want to keep our PC gamers connected,” said DeWitt. The server runs 24/7, has never crashed, and “runs ridiculously fast.” It has the capacity to hold 24 players and is full every single night, 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. “Once everyone from on-campus joins in, everyone from off campus sees that and they try to join in, and it snowballs,” explained Brancaccio.

If classic arcade games are more of your thing, then EGS has just the thing for you. “About four or five years ago, Andrew Dirgen, [one of the e-board members at the time], had this idea to build a custom video game arcade cabinet that could run any game,” described Brancaccio. From *Pac Man* to *Space Invaders*, history is literally at your fingertips as you stand in front of this aluminum frame with its computer equipment exposed in all its glory. “*Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* is a favorite, as is the old *Simpsons* game,” continued Brancaccio. They call this Frankenstein of sorts the Maim Cabinet.

MAJOR EVENTS

At least once a quarter, EGS tries to hold one major event of each type: PC and console. Last September, they held Fall Frag Fest, a LAN party that took place in the SAU cafeteria. EGS has already commenced planning for their next LAN party: LAN of the Frost, which will take place on January 24. However, the week after Brick City Weekend, they will be holding an Xbox 360 event in the Game Design and Development labs in the Golisano College. The event will probably be sponsored by Microsoft.

These events would most likely not take place without the help of EGS’s sponsors, who help pay for expenses and provide prizes for the tournaments. They include, but are not limited to, Microsoft, Bawls Guarana, NVIDIA, and Electronic Arts. “At our final LAN Party last year, we gave away about \$13 000 in prizes,” said DeWitt.

Hosting a LAN party is no joke. Between advertising, soliciting sponsors, and “doing all the RIT bureaucracy,” things can get really hectic. One of the more difficult tasks is setting up a large and powerful enough network, but EGS has got that covered. “We’ve got the capacity to host 150 people in an event. We’ve got dedicated servers that have the capacity to run professional level tournaments and hosts networks that are entirely faster than any internet connection you’ll ever experience,” explained DeWitt. In fact, EGS boasts about their negative ping time.

So if you’ve ever got that itch to just stay in your room and play video games all night, the Electronic Gaming Society may be an alternative worth investigating. •



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BEYOND VARSITY

FIGHT OR FLIGHT?

by Madeleine Villavicencio | photograph by Matthew Woyak

Imagine being chased by a group of big mob goons because you owe their boss money. You'd do anything to get away: Jump over fences, slide down railings, and maybe even leap off a building. If you were trained in parkour, your chance of getting away would have grown exponentially. Fortunately, RIT has its own group of individuals who have dedicated their time to educate interested students in the art that is parkour.

"[It's] all about moving from one point to another as quickly and efficiently as possible, and efficient can be defined as very fast or very safe depending upon the specifics of the situation," explained Zachary Cohn, a third year Multidisciplinary Studies major with a concentration in Business Management and Computer Management and founding member of RIT's unofficial Parkour Club. One can run, jump, vault, or even crawl in order to overcome a certain obstacle. The club won't be leaping off buildings anytime soon, however. The RIT's Parkour Club emphasizes safety. "The very first day, if someone's new, we practice how to jump and land, not off of a picnic table, big step, or a wall, but from the ground," said Cohn.

This issue of safety was brought up when the club was first denied recognition. "[When] I met with the Senate, they pulled a bunch of YouTube videos [showcasing] dumb people jumping off tall buildings, and that's not what parkour is about. Unfortunately, they label it parkour, so we're constantly trying to address [that]," said Cohn.

Although the Parkour Club has been denied acknowledgment by Student Government time and time again, Cohn has decided to continue to fight and has restarted the process to appeal the decision. "If we end up getting denied, we'll keep training and it's not that big of a deal. But I really hope we can get acknowledged because I feel like we can spread parkour much more effectively with RIT's support and help," added Cohn.

In the meantime, Cohn and his colleagues will continue to meet every Thursday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. in the playground behind RIT's Margaret's House as the only parkour club in the upstate New York area. In addition, they will be teaching parkour to children between the ages of eight and fifteen at Zenith Gymnastics.

For more information, check out <http://www.rochesterparkour.com> or check out the Parkour - RIT Chapter Facebook group. •



Zachary Cohn, a third year multidisciplinary studies major, practices 'precisions' between rocks outside of the Field House.



RUNNING THE SOCIAL SCENE

by Kayla Kimball | photograph by Eric Drummond

"Running is awesome!" members of the RIT Running Club exclaimed as they stretched in preparation for an evening run.

Monday through Thursday at 6 p.m., the Running Club meets on the Quarter Mile by the Student Life Center to enjoy the trails around campus at swift speeds. Not only do they run during the week, they also plan longer weekend runs and other activities, such as ultimate frisbee games and rock climbing. Members participate in some events with the Triathlon Club, such as the swim clinic held last year.

RIT's Running Club began as an opportunity for women to run at RIT. When the varsity team was started, the Running Club became a venue for any student wanting to delve into the wonders of running without the commitment of a varsity sport. Member Adam Cornwell "ran sporadically," but when he joined the club three years ago he began to take running "more seriously" while enjoying the group atmosphere.

Club President Dave Howe joined the club two years ago since he was no longer participating in sports as much as he did in high school. Howe finds that running regularly not only keeps him in shape but also relaxes him. Fellow club members agree.

The club competes in about two community races each quarter. They do not officially compete against other schools; they just enjoy running in the community. Howe feels that the

Running Club provides an ideal opportunity to become active both physically and socially. The group consists of many skill levels, including former high school cross country runners, people training for track season, and newcomers, all looking for a group atmosphere in which they can run and train.

For more information, contact Club President Dave Howe via email at djh0240@rit.edu or to join their Facebook group, called the RIT Running Club. •

Members of the RIT Running Club cross Scottsville Road during their Tuesday evening run.

LOOKING FOR A GREAT RIDE?

by Tommy Mittner | photograph by Steve Pfost

"It's just like riding a bike." The members of RIT's Cycling Club can use this phrase to no end.

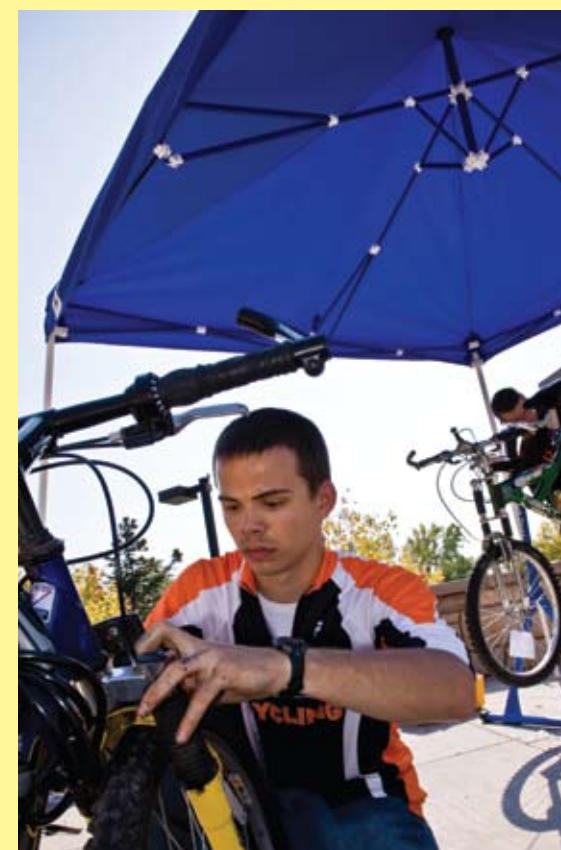
Peter Hagerty, Vice President of the Cycling Club gave little insight on what the club is all about, remarking that anyone who enjoys any form of biking is encouraged to come participate with the club. "There are causal rides for less experienced members or those who don't have time to devote to racing, and there are hard training rides. All members are invited to race because there are beginner level classes at the races, all the way up to high experience," said Hagerty.

Cyclocross, a form of racing that the club participates in, may be unfamiliar to some. It is a rigorous biking type, which is a cross between mountain biking and road biking. Hagerty explained, "It was created to help riders train during the winter. People ride modified road bikes that have tires for dirt and gravel as well as stronger brakes. The course for the race will be a mix of road, fields, hills, and barriers that people have to get off their bike and hurdle."

Cycling Club currently has 20 active members. Each weekend, they have at least four to ten racers compete against other collegiate athletes including those from Penn State, Princeton, and the University of Vermont. Those committed enough to the sport and those excelling in competition-level racing will have the chance to qualify and compete at Nationals this

upcoming December in Kansas City.

For more information on RIT Cycling Club, contact them through their general club email, jay4051@rit.edu, or check out www.ritcycling.com. •



Zach Browning ['08], left, and Forest Svingala ['10], right, perform maintenance on students bicycles at the Cycling Club's Bicycle Maintenance Fundraiser.

word on the street

photographs by Ben Liddle

where does your lap go when you stand up?



“Next to my clock.”

Antonio Aresco
Industrial Design
Third Year



“It disappears until I sit down.”

Anne Marie Sengillo
Psychology
Fourth Year



“Vertical.”

Benlin Alexander
Illustration
First Year



“Up in your bum.”

Amanda Souza
Biology
Fourth Year



“It falls.”

Allan Liburd
Computer Science
Second Year



“It disappears like a magical fairy.”

Tito Chavez-Nguyen
Psychology
Third Year



“It’s still there but waiting for a better time.”

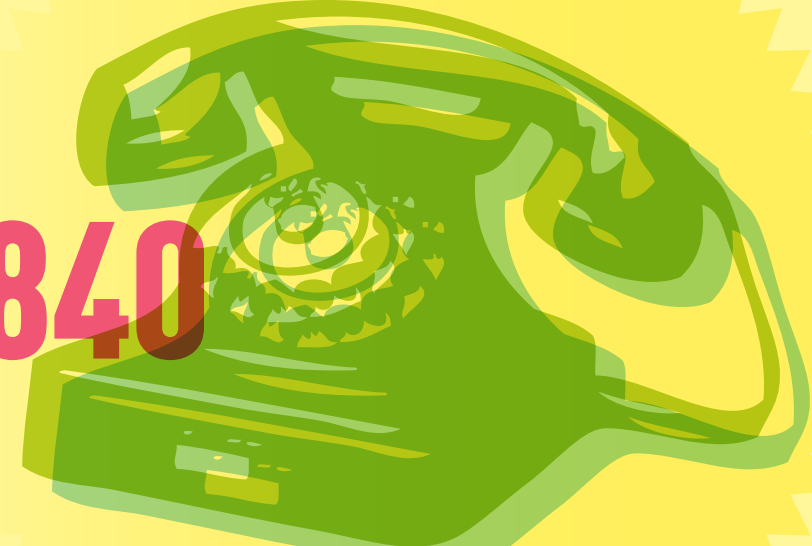
Kevin Casper
Electrical Engineering
Third Year



“It goes away.”

Cruchelle Jordan
Psychology
First Year

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.

SATURDAY, 9:59 P.M.

WOULD YOU DO A GIRL WITH SQUARE BOOBS?

FRIDAY, 3:17 P.M.

SO I'M PRETTY PISSED OFF. THE FIRE INSPECTOR SHOWED UP TODAY AND TOLD ME THAT I CAN'T HAVE HOLIDAY LIGHTS UP. SO APPARENTLY RIT IS A BUNCH OF [SUCKIN'] SCROOGES. WHY CAN'T THEY GET IN THE SPIRIT?

MONDAY, 9:55 P.M.

We're trying to do Statics [homework] right now and we don't know what force couples are. What are [truckin'] couples? Signed, six college students who are so confused.

WEDNESDAY 8:33 P.M.

I'm calling to let you know that there's a Public Safety car speeding very unsafely through B Lot and that makes me very mad. Thank you.

FRIDAY, 11:25 P.M.

I'm looking at a poster in Gracie's and I'm wondering who made the one that shows four keys on a trumpet. They're smart!

SUNDAY, 7:53 P.M.

HEY RINGS, JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT WHEN I PICKED UP LAST WEEK'S ISSUE OF REPORTER I, TOO, WAS WEARING MY ARMY SHIRT. WE MATCH, RINGS... WE MATCH.

SATURDAY, 1:43 A.M.

Hey Rings, I found a spring. I think that it goes to a car. But don't worry — I gave it to a Ford Focus so everything's all right.

TUESDAY, 6:17 P.M.

Yeah, so I'm in NRH and watching a ton of kids run around flashing us. One girl's doing it and she has her bra on... maybe she'll do it for real. There is a guy doing it, too. Not nice.

SATURDAY, 5:40 P.M.

I just wanted to comment on this Humans versus Zombies stuff. I think they should change it to Virgins versus People I Don't Want to Hang Out With.

BIO METRICS: IT'S ME, I SWEAR! JUST CHECK OUT MY FINGERPRINT...

by Elvis Montero | illustration by Joanna Eberts



It was 2 a.m. and the hours had extended indefinitely since I had started working on this assignment. I was exhausted and I needed sugar in my bloodstream, so I decided to assault the closest vending machine to grab a cup of caffeine. I walked to the end of the floor, where the vending machine and its assortment of refreshments resided, and reached inside my pocket. Nothing. I checked the other pocket. The same result. In my exhaustion-induced stupor, I had forgotten my student ID. Oh, how I wished that machine could scan my fingerprints, debit my student account, and finally dispense its much-coveted contents!

During the short — albeit fast-paced — walk to my room, I wondered: Why don't we have any biometric solutions on campus? There must be a very compelling reason. So, after retrieving my ID, along with a medley of high-calorie snacks, I conducted a little online research.

There are two categories of biometrics. The first is physical — a device will study your fingerprints, your eyes, your veins, etc., to make an identification. The second is behavioral, and could conduct an analysis of your signature or your speech patterns to verify your identity. Let's assume that a physical biometric solution is the cheaper (yet still effective) route for RIT to buy into.

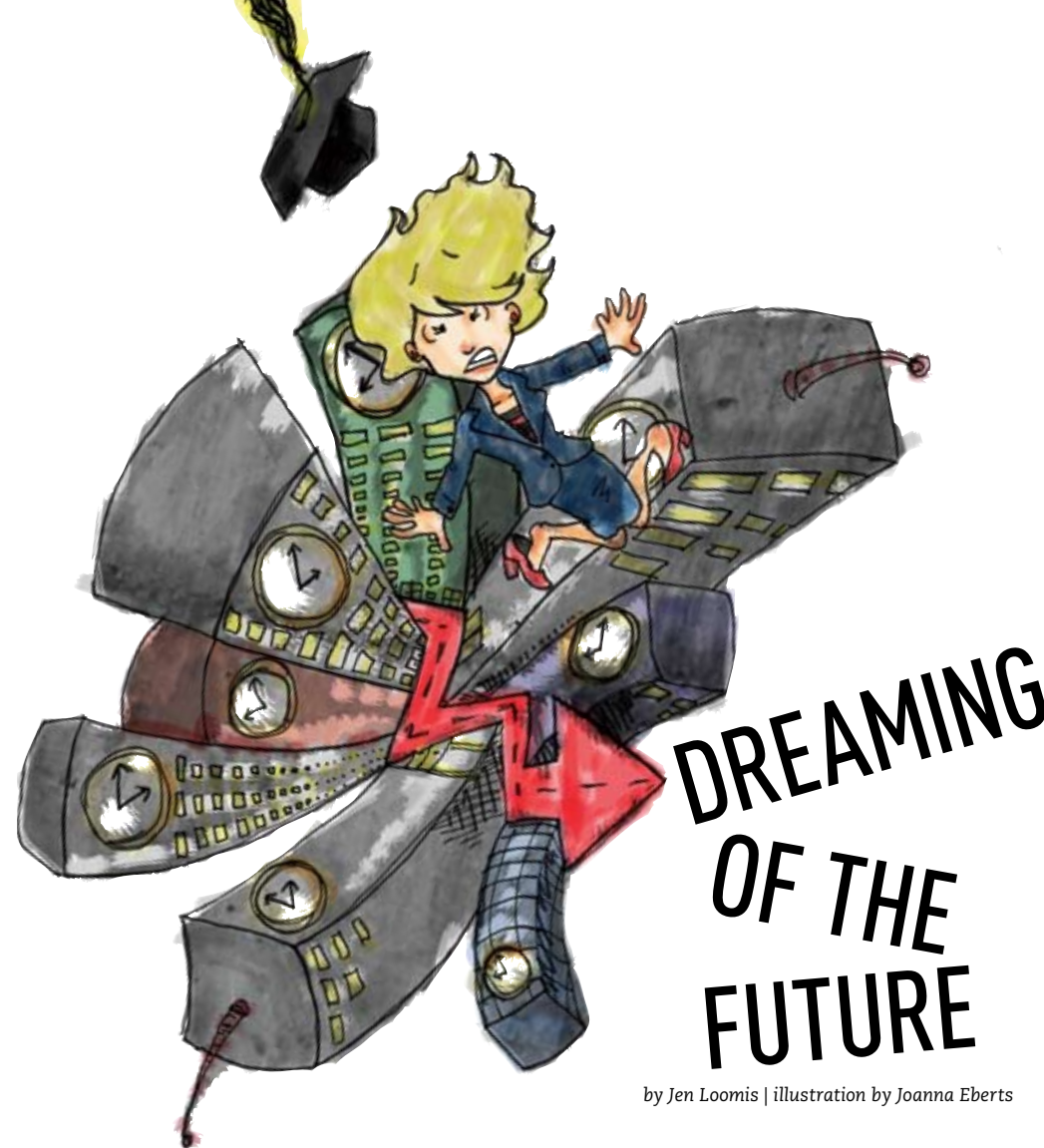
The two most widely known human physiological traits are one's fingerprints and irises. However, an eye scanner would be overkill for campus implementation and they are excruciatingly expensive. To put things in perspective, Panasonic's BM-ET200 Eye Scanner has a retail price of \$2,732, whereas the Silex USB Fingerprint Reader sells for \$167. Therefore, a fingerprint reader would be a better choice. If Walt Disney World can scan customers' fingerprints to verify whether that same customer has used a single ticket on consecutive days, why can't RIT implement the system for food purchases?

After verifying that a fingerprint solution could be cost-effective and practical, I decided to search for a vending machine with a pre-included fingerprint scanner. Surely, someone must have thought about this already. Indeed, that was the case. Vencoa, a California-based vending machine distributor, manufactures vending machines with fingerprint-reading capabilities. Even though a price was unavailable on their website, this proved my point: Biometric solutions could be used on college campuses.

In all fairness, RIT is not the only unwilling institution. High prices and the convenience of existing commercial solutions have prevented the mass adoption of biometrics for a long time. I have yet to see or read about the first university to use biometrics in any form or way in the United States. (If you know about any instance, shoot an email to reporter@rit.edu.)

Isn't the goal of technology to help us cope with the humdrum of life as efficiently as possible? Shouldn't we try to enhance current processes if there is an attainable option that would genuinely improve the way we do things?

Now, President Destler, could you please make our vending machines more user-friendly and convenient? Mickey Mouse is showing us the right path! How hard or expensive can it be? •



by Jen Loomis | illustration by Joanna Eberts

A couple of weeks ago, I woke up and realized that I've spent the last four years at RIT not thinking about the future. This realization is scary, because I'm graduating in two months, and now I'm behind schedule. Oh sure, I've been trying to make up for it. Hastily (yet thoughtfully) written resume? Check. Brand new interview suit? Check. Attendance at the Career Fair? Check.

Have I really started thinking about the future, though? No, I'm still stuck in the present. I postponed thinking about my post-college life for so long that it's almost here. The 'after RIT' era is nigh, and now I'm forced to think about it in the lightning-quick real-time instead of pondering it all in slow motion. I'm addressing questions like *Where will I be living in 2009?* and *What sort of company do I want to work for?* and *Do I really need quality health insurance at age 22?* When I dream about ten, five, or even two years down the line, everything gets hazier. The future doesn't terrify me in quite the same manner as death does, but it still constructs several mental barriers in my brain. It scares me, and I find I have trouble facing it.

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

How do futurists like Ray Kurzweil do it? That man isn't scared at all. He's excited. Hearing him rattle off his many inventions, both past and future, is like listening to an ADD-ridden boyscout at camp; he's got, 'like, a million!' merit badges and is so proud of all he's learned from each and every one. To inventors like him, the future is a playground. Creativity and innovation aren't just buzzwords. They're a lifestyle.

So how does he do it? Anyone who attended his lecture in September knows it well: Kurzweil makes a lot of graphs. Seriously. He must have dozens, if not hundreds, of graphs that he uses to predict the technological and scientific future of the human race. In the end, they all show the

same thing: A neat flow of human innovation, predicting not a linear but an exponential growth in human potential. Kurzweil thinks we can foresee the future in this manner, and claims to have already done so himself. He predicted the success of the Human Genome Project and the explosive power of the internet.

It's tempting to believe him without question. Creativity and innovation at RIT seem to focus so heavily on combining folks from different disciplines, as if scientists and engineers (like myself) can't have an original thought to save their lives. I hear that there's increased pressure on engineering programs around RIT these days to loosen up their curriculum in support of the new flagship slogan of the Institute, and yet here's proof that rigid disciplines don't always promote rigid thought. We can predict the future with graphical analysis of data trends. How incredibly cool.

It's a bit harder than that though, isn't it? For starters, you need to realize that those graphs can be sketched, or, more broadly, that the future is not only worthwhile to think about, but can also display all the grace and logic of the exponential curve. This is a concept that I struggle with, because there is no shortage of possible outcomes. Sitting down and pondering the possibilities, then, becomes a daunting and frightening task.

If you believe Kurzweil's graphs, it's only going to get harder. Human innovation will reach a near-asymptotic rate of growth, which means that we'll need to be creating and innovating while bearing in mind not the current state of affairs but the affairs of a laughably foreign tomorrow. Think of the difference between the muskets of the American Revolution and the M-16s of the Iraq War. Now picture that same differential occurring in a six-month time span. The mind boggles.

It's only going to get harder, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't try. After all, we won't be alone. The tools of tomorrow will help us predict tomorrow's tomorrow. All that's required of us is the foresight to create those tools. Human ingenuity will guide us with the rest. However scared it makes us, we merely need to take the time out to think.

And I'll spend that time, too. Just as soon as I land a job and graduate. I have to think about my future, after all. •



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A list of current graduate programs available at RIT is at www.rit.edu/grad.

Interpreters provided upon request subject to availability. Please call if you need the services of a sign language interpreter.

**& Pizza
Soda**
will be served!