

REPORTER

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john and mike's
major experiment

switching
majors

rit produces top-ranked
rock band

REPORTER

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EDITOR'S NOTE

TOUGH DECISIONS

For somewhere between four and six weeks at the end of first grade, I wanted to be the Yellow Power Ranger when I grew up. Shortly after that, I wanted to be a teacher, an actress, an Olympic figure skater, the voice of a Disney princess, a marine biologist, and President of the United States. I'll always have a fond place in my heart for the now all but abandoned aspirations of my younger self, but there's one particular aspiration that will be sticking with me much longer than any of the others, like it or not: Around the time I was applying for college, I wanted to be an industrial engineer.

Four years have passed since that time, and a lot has changed. Much of the initial appeal of industrial engineering has worn off – I actually know what they do now, and the process of becoming a certified Six Sigma Black Belt isn't as dangerous or romantic as the name might lead you to believe. I'm not at all thrilled by the amount of calculus I've had to cram into my head over the past few years (or by the small amount I still have left to go). Still, my major remains the same today as what I had displayed on my nametag the very first day of Orientation Week.

It's not that I haven't considered switching majors (see "John and Mike's Major Experiment," page 16). I've entertained the idea very seriously on several occasions, as a matter of fact, but I've always stopped short of going through with it (see "Actually Switching Majors," page 24). For one thing, I do like a lot of things about industrial engineering. It's not the dream job I may have envisioned while I was filling out applications for RIT, but there are enough redeeming qualities to the field that I can stick with it at least for a little while. It's not a perfect fit, but it's good enough.

For another thing, I've heard that switching majors at RIT can be a pretty hellish experience. Although the Institute is working to remedy this, it's sometimes easier to drop out and transfer into another university altogether rather than trying to transfer into another program at RIT. I don't want to deal with that.

Lastly (but most importantly), the particular field that I end up getting my degree in really isn't as important as some people might think. Poll any of the alumni walking around this weekend during Brick City Homecoming, and I think you'll find this to be true: After graduation, almost nobody does exactly what they studied to do in school. It helps to get that first job, sure – but from there? It's all up in the air. You can go any direction your heart desires.

The workforce we're entering upon graduation is a very different workforce from the one that our parents and grandparents entered. We're not going to have one job from graduation to retirement; more than likely, we will have several jobs. As far as I'm concerned, that's a really good thing.

If things have played out exactly the way your first grade self pictured they would, well, good for you. (In my case, I'm glad they didn't... although I'm sure those Power Daggers could have come in pretty handy as Editor in Chief.) If, however, you're like me and still debating what it is that you *actually* want to do when you grow up, take comfort.

There's still plenty of time to decide that.

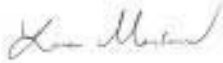

Laura Mandanas
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR REPORTER,
As a Dungeon Master (DM) for close to ten years now I feel that I am uniquely qualified to respond to the article “The Secret Society of Pen and Paper Geekdom.” My first response is of course to this word “secret.” Now I am sure that *Reporter* has excellent writers and journalists on staff, and yet none of you could discover the club here on the RIT campus that supports all of the players of *Dungeons and Dragons* at RIT. The Rochester Wargamers Association and Guild is one of the three largest clubs on campus, and one of the most active. We have weekly meetings every Tuesday night, and often met on Saturdays as well for various special activities. We offer tutorial games for people who have never played, as well as numerous games for those experienced players. It is a great social experience, and I have met many friends at RWAG with whom I can socialize without a twenty sided dice.

Second I would like to refute this idea that D&D is some kind of mainstream geek game similar to *World of Warcraft*. When was the last time you wished life was a bit simpler? That the good guys and the bad guys would be easy to tell apart, and that when the bad guys did something you could do battle and the winner would get their way. When was the last time you wished you could be the hero and get the girl in the end? That is the core of the role-playing game. It is being someone else for a few hours, acting out all those emotions and desires that are simply incompatible with the real world in a harmless way. Even more it is the ultimate outlet for creativity. You get to create form the ground up a completely different identity. Do you want to be the small shy guy who always seems to pull a miracle out of his hat, or the tall stunning warrior who's very presence makes members of the opposite sex swoon. It's all there, and with a good DM you can explore an imaginary world with this alternate personality, and enjoy doing it. There really is no similarity at all between D&D and WoW. In *World of Warcraft* you create a profile, an avatar with certain looks and a set of numbers and abilities corresponding to that avatar. In *Dungeons and Dragons* you create a person, and then make up a set of numbers to represent that person in the game.

The “mechanics” or dice rolling is used only to allow for failure, and to simulate reality. While WoW is a quest for standings, power, and a fun way to blow off steam, *Dungeons and Dragons* is a quest for a concept, a history, and a story. *Dungeons and Dragons* is a game that can only truly be played by those creative enough to step outside of themselves for a time and see what they could become without the rules and constraints of the real world.

There are many people who play D&D who have been called geeks, nerds, dorks, etc. by those stupid enough to judge an activity without actually trying it first. And even worse there are many people within the D&D community who treat the game as a collection of rules to manipulate in order to achieve the same goals as those sought in WoW. But what most people don't understand is that this unilateral search for more and more power is simply not what D&D is really about. At its heart is is a game that can be used both as an outlet for the stresses of the world, a social gathering, and a creative outlet. It is not limited to “geeks,” and should you give it a try you would be amazed at how open the D&D community really is. We are not a group of dirty, annoying, overweight, caffeine pumped nerds. We are a group of normal looking, average people who have chosen to go outside stereotypes and unleash our creativity.

Finally I would like to comment on the idea that D&D is limited to Pen and Paper. This is entirely untrue, thanks to advances in technology a larger and larger percentage of *Dungeons and Dragons* games are going online. Chat programs like AIM, webcams and microphones, and even the massive forums used often for blogging or chatting have been used to create surprisingly large and robust communities. The best known and, in my opinion, the most successful of these online communities is known as DNDOnlineGames.com. Commonly called DND OG, it is a massive roleplaying site that offers space for any Roleplaying Game you could wish to play, from D&D to *Gurps* to *World of Darkness*, all in a text format. Called Play by Post these games take place everyday with players leaving posts similar to a Facebook wall, that tell what their characters are doing, and include any dice rolls electronically. The site is a hotbed of creativity, and the site staff

is without a doubt the most dedicated group of people you could ask for. And best of all, the service is free. Anyone can sign up with a ten second registration process, and begin playing immediately. The site even offers games with guaranteed admission for anyone who has never played *Dungeons and Dragons* before, or who have never played online before.

So to all those who are fine with being close minded, with just being yourself everyday, for those of you who have no desire to be the hero and would rather watch James Bond “almost” lose yet again, continue on with your lives and forget about this offering. But for those of you who consider yourselves open minded, who don't mind the rest of society snubbing their noses because you can tell the difference between an orc and a goblin, stop by the SAU cafeteria some Tuesday night. Take a seat at some table, and prepare to have the experience of a lifetime. Have fun using your mind, a pencil, and a couple dice. It will be an experience you will never forget.

A man who creates Worlds,
Benjamin Jilson
Industrial and Systems Engineering, Second year

TO SEND LETTERS
Email reportermag@rit.edu
Reporter will not print anonymous letters.

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

CORRECTIONS
October 3rd
In “The League of Extraordinary Gamers,” the “maim cabinet” mentioned is actually the “Multiple Arcade Machine Emulator (MAME) cabinet.” Also, “Andrew Durgin” should have been spelled “Andrew Durgin.”

News Media Transformed: But Who's the Audience?

Traci Bauer,
Managing Editor for Multimedia & Innovation,
Democrat & Chronicle

Peter Iglinski,
Executive Producer of Public Affairs,
WXXI

Stephen Dawe,
News Director,
13WHAM-TV ABC

Andrew Lucyszyn,
Director of Digital Media,
13WHAM-TV ABC

Laura Mandanas,
Editor-in-Chief,
RIT Reporter Magazine

October 21 • 10 a.m.
Webb Auditorium
Bldg 7A (room 1350)

Interpreting services will be provided.

Paul & Louise Miller
LECTURE SERIES

Currently under construction at RIT is the Innovation Center, set to open in May 2009. At 10,000 square feet, the building will have a circular, largely glass design to intentionally contrast with the typical RIT brick building.

But its design as a place of multidisciplinary cooperation is what will really set the center apart from the rest of campus.

The center will be divided into several areas. The first will be a lounge area that will “recognize and celebrate successful entrepreneurs coming out of RIT,” said Dr. James H. Watters, Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration. There will also be rooms for formal faculty meetings. Some rooms will contain conference tables and have access to programs like Power Point so that students who need to present projects can have a place to practice.

The main body will serve as a workspace

for students. These areas will have movable workstations and furnishings. This design will

INNOVATION CENTER UPDATE
by Margaret Barlow

allow groups of students to set up their work area in any way they need to for their project. There will also be grid structures overhead so that portable lighting and projectors can be set up where necessary.

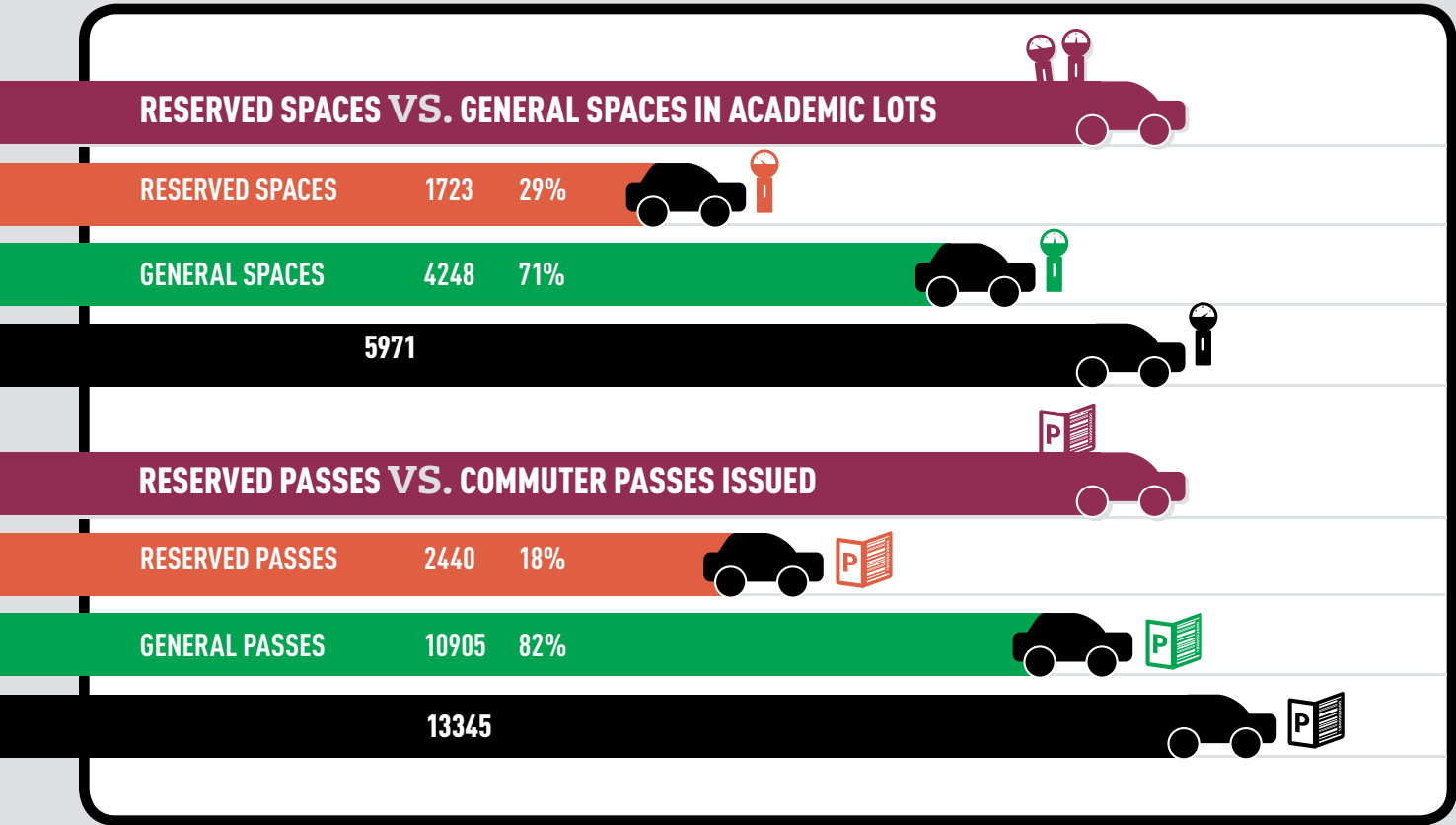
The total number of students all of these spaces can accommodate and the total duration students can occupy these spaces are issues that are currently being worked on. Security for student projects is also being discussed.

There will also be areas for light manufacturing and assembly. These places will be specifically for students to build prototypes and other similar projects.

“We’re not trying to replicate the more intense labs,” said Watters, adding that this is an important distinction. “This space is meant to complement what’s on campus, not replicate what’s already there.”

Watters noted that the Innovation Center will serve as a starting ground for students who might wish to set up their own business. “RIT will actually help [the students] take [their business] from that concept to prototype to actually building a business,” said Watters. He stated that “it’s possible that the university will provide the seed funds” for those businesses.

The Innovation Center will be a place for students. According to Watters, it will be where like-minded students can meet and work together. Once there, they can either work on class assignments, or take their own ideas and run with them.



by Andy Rees | photograph by Eric Drummond

ALONG the top of the window, the drywall was speckled with dots of assorted colors. These dots, third year Industrial Design student Jennifer Cummings found out, were the visible signs of mold growth in her Racquet Club (RC) apartment. Cummings, who has since been relocated, first noticed the spots when she moved into RC at the beginning of the year. The mold, said Cummings, has caused her to experience symptoms similar to the common cold, as well as giving her asthma.

Mold, a type of microscopic fungi, is known to cause a variety of health problems. According to the Center for Disease Control, household mold commonly causes allergic reactions in people exposed.

“I have other allergies... I know I have a weak immune system, but I didn’t know I was allergic [to mold]... until I found out this way,” said Cummings, noting that exposure to mold may cause “runny nose, sore throat, coughing, wheezing, fatigue, and dizziness”

Cumming’s father first spotted the mold above the window when she was moving

into the apartment. However, because she was already experiencing allergy symptoms, she did not consider the mold a problem. “The third week I had been there, I had to go to the doctor because I couldn’t breathe. My throat was starting to close up when I was sleeping one night,” she said. The doctor then informed her that she had developed asthma and the symptoms pointed to mold exposure.

After notifying RIT Housing Operations about the problem, Cummings was moved to Colony Manor. But, she said, “It’s been a huge financial burden... In two or three weeks, I’ve spent 700 dollars...missed six classes, [and] was sleeping on a futon... because I couldn’t be in my bedroom.”

Recently, Cummings met with Mary Niedermaier, a Senior Associate Director at Housing Operations in an effort to remedy the situation. Representatives from Environmental Health and Safety also attended. At the meeting, Cummings was informed that an inspection had been made of the area. “They saw that there was a leak in the roof...There was a

little strip of caulking that was loose...It just happened to be above my room,” she stated. “This is a single incident in one apartment,” said Adam Bosen, a fifth year Computer Engineering major and Community Advocate (CA) for RC. “It’s not a widespread thing.” Bosen, who has worked for two years with Residence Life, just began his first year as CA of the apartment complex. Most of the complaints about RC, he said, deal with bugs in the apartments and this is the first he has heard of a mold problem. “I really want [Housing Operations] to notify people about this problem,” said Cummings. “I don’t want people getting asthma, like me.” Housing Operations, which could not be reached for comment, is aware of the problem, said Cummings. “If you have any mold, or if it smells musty, or if you’re feeling really sick, call Housing and go to the doctor.” •

Pictured above: Jennifer Cummings takes a puff from her inhaler in her Colony apartment, where she recently moved.

RIT FORECAST

compiled by Alecia Crawford

SAT•11

HORTON DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER: BILL NYE
Gordon Field House. 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Bill Nye the Science Guy speaks. Presented by Student Government. Cost: \$5 student, \$10 other.
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Check www.rit.edu/brickcity for the complete roster.

SUN•12

VERIZON WIRELESS CAMPUS INVASION TOUR WITH BOYS LIKE GIRLS, CUTE IS WHAT WE AIM FOR, AND LIGHTS
Gordon Field House. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Rock out to some alt-power-punk-pop tunes. Students: \$20. Others: \$25.

MON•13

DRAG BINGO
SAU Cafeteria. 6:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Bingo with performances from Rochester-legendary drag queens Dee Dee DuBois and Samantha Vega. How could you possibly not go? Kick-off to Res Life's Ally Week. Cost: Free.

TUE•14

VOLLEYBALL VS. SUNY BROCKPORT
Clark Gym. 7:00 p.m. – Come support the Tigers against Brockport. Cost: Free.

WED•15

CAROLINE WERNER GANNETT LECTURE SERIES
Ingle Auditorium. 7:00 p.m. – Poetry readings and jazz performances. Bring your favorite beret and turtleneck combination. Cost: Free.

THU•16

NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY
SAU Cafeteria. 9:30 p.m. Will Ferrell and Chris Kattan star as club-hopping brothers from their SNL skit. Complimentary Gushers after the movie. Presented by CAB. Cost: Free.
THE LAST QUESTION AND OTHER ASIMOV TALES
Ingle Auditorium. 8 p.m. – 10 p.m. Four classic short stories adapted for the stage. Performed by the RIT Players. Cost: Free.

FRI•17

GUITAR HERO COMPETITION
The RITz. 9:30 p.m. Watch students compete to see who's the top Guitar Hero. Hosted by CAB. Cost: \$1.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The following article was originally published in Reporter on October 2, 1998.

RIT SNUFFS OUT SMOKING IN CAMPUS EATERIES

by Chris Grocki

Take a look around the next time you're enjoying a meal at an on-campus restaurant at RIT. As of August 31, 1998, the subtle divisions are gone; the wall of green planters has fallen. The new RIT dining area smoking policy has made all campus dining areas 100% smoke-free. A new Monroe County law has created the most stringent smoking statutes ever, citing significant health risks attributable to tobacco smoke. This law states that all seating (except for that in specifically designed and isolated smoking rooms) must be smoke-free as of January 1, 1999. Because the beginning of the academic year is a more logical time for the administration to institute new policies, RIT has chosen to comply early.

In the beginning of 1998, RIT's restaurants were forced to reduce smoking capacity to 15% of available seating. The push to implement this law on campus early came from the Food Service Business Administrator James Bingham. "The change went through very easily," Bingham says. He states that a large number of complaints the office had received in the past were from non-smokers who were annoyed with the air quality in the restaurants due to smoking sections. He points out that crowded rush hours contributed to the problem, as well as the unavoidable proximity of of the smoking sections to the smoke-free areas. This, Bingham believes, is the reason he has not had any complaints or met with opposition about the new policy. Even Gracie's, which has had a noticeable population of smokers in past years, has accepted the change without difficulty.

Bingham does admit that the policy is entirely the result of the county law; the administration had no other plans to enact such a policy. He believes that the public community should first accept such a policy as it did in this case. "It's not a big deal," says first year student and smoker Ron Cavagnaro. As he explains it, "You're going to smoke when you're done eating." He feels the rights of non-smokers must be respected.

Second year non-smoker Cory Card agrees with the decision to implement the law early: "No one is used to smoking in there, so they don't really care." He sees the law as positive, but more so for non-smokers, adding, "it's limiting personal freedom if you choose to smoke." Mark Bixler, first year non-smoker, agrees. "I do see how it affects [smokers'] rights," he says. "They have the right to smoke." He supports the policy, though, saying that if he smoked he "wouldn't make other people suffer." •

To read the full article, visit reportermag.com.

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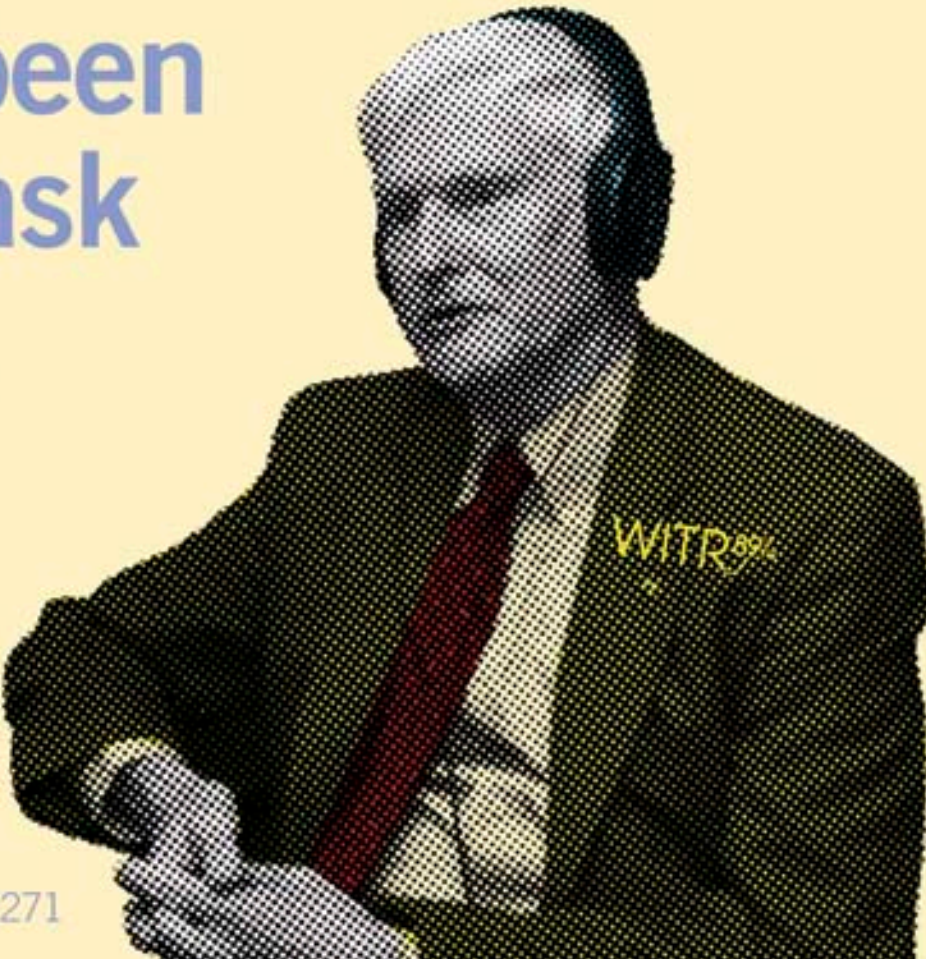
Have you been itching to ask this man a question?

Ask Dr. Destler!

Wednesday, October 29

5–6 pm, WITR 89.7 FM

witr.rit.edu, request line at 585-475-2271



RIT PRODUCES TOP-RANKED ROCK BAND

by Chukwuma Morah and Alecia Crawford | photograph by Michelle Christiance



Lauren Mcdonald and Brandon Chez. Singer and Drummer of virtual rock band.

There are two types of people at RIT: Those who have fun playing a video game with plastic instruments and those who wonder why the first type is toying around with those silly, plastic instruments. Being a member of the first group I’ve always wanted to share a story that could justify the pile of fake guitars in my living room. Sadly, I don’t have one, but RIT Students Andrew Prelusky (New Media Information Technology, Class of 2008), Brandon Chez (Computer Science, Class of 2009), JP Lambiase (Mechanical Engineering Technology, Class of 2008), and Lauren McDonald (Multidisciplinary Studies, Class of 2009) sure do. Together they form Earth, Wind & Centaur (EWC), one of the top-ranked virtual bands on Xbox Live today. The four recently took an all-expense paid trip to New York City, stayed in a \$1200-a-night hotel room, and made an appearance on cable TV. There, EWC, along with two other top-ranked bands, got a chance to play *Rock Band 2* before its much-anticipated release date over at MTV’s Time Square studio and perform live on Spike TV.

Reporter recently got a chance to speak with two of the fearsome foursome about their ascent to rock band stardom.

Reporter How did the four of you guys meet?
Lauren McDonald Brandon [drummer], Andrew [guitarist/bassist], and I [vocals] met a couple years ago playing other music games like *Dance Dance Revolution*. Then Brandon and Andrew met JP [guitar] at Guitar Hero tournaments and when Brandon’s roommate wasn’t cutting it, we replaced him with JP! [laughs]
Brandon Chez We were all really good friends way before the release of *Rock Band*.

R What made you guys come up with the name Earth, Wind, & Centaur?
BC [Laughs] This is a pretty funny story. As mentioned earlier we all met through our similar interest in *Dance Dance Revolution*. So, there is a really horrible song in the game called “Centaur.” We obsessed for weeks about how bad the song was and eventually we used it in our band name. The “Earth, Wind” part comes from our attempt to use a real band name in conjunction with Centaur. 50 Centaur, Centaurica, and Blue Centaur Cult were the other names that we were considering.

R When exactly did you guys start playing *Rock Band* together?
LM November I think. Brandon and Andrew were playing, and I brought over some pumpkin cookies and I started singing with them and they were like ‘oh crap you can do expert we need a vocalist.’
BC After a month of individually toying around with the game, we finally decided to all play together for the first time as a band.

During that session, we set number one records on a few songs and realized that we had potential to be one of the top bands in the game. It was definitely an exciting time.

R How do you feel about your band’s high rank worldwide?
BC We feel ecstatic about it! This game has given us so many things: Cool prizes, fame, interviews, photo shoots, the opportunity to play test *Rock Band 2* and meet the game developers, all expenses paid trips to NYC and Boston... We’ve even been on TV because of this game.

R What is your current ranking on *Rock Band*? Are you currently third worldwide?
LM Yeah I think so, in *Rock Band 1*. We’re currently playing *Rock Band 2*. We stopped playing after Andrew and JP graduated but now we can play over Xbox Live on *Rock Band 2*. But the leaderboards and uploading mechanics for the game are pretty screwed up.

R So which do you prefer, RB1 or RB2?
LM I like RB2 a lot better just because of the greater song selection. There are a lot of problems with the Xbox Live stuff, but I hope they’ll get that fixed. Not too much really changed from 1 to 2, though.
BC *Rock Band 2* is so much better than the first. It has a bigger and better song list, new multiplayer modes (i.e. Battle of the Bands), improved gameplay features that make the notes easier to read, and most importantly for us, the ability to be ranked without having to play locally. As with any video game, there are a few bug fixes and minor improvements that need to be made, but I’m sure Harmonix is working on a patch for the near future. •

SPILL IT

by e.

DEAR E,
I am a first year student at RIT and I have been confronted with a slight problem of homesickness, only in my case, the problem is my parents’ and not mine. I am an only child and my parents have been dreading the whole event of me “moving out” since the start of my sophomore year in high school. They have visited me almost every other weekend and my mother calls me at least three times a day just to say hi (she has my schedule and knows when I’m not in class). It’s gotten to the point where I have to lie, telling them that “I am too busy and I don’t have time for you to visit this weekend.” They are concerned that I am not making friends, but how can I? I’m entertaining them all the time. Please help me! I like my parents; I just want some independence.

Needa Crowbar

DEAR E,
So I’m a part time student here, finishing my degree that got put on hold for personal reasons a while back. I’m 37 years old, and needless to say, the oldest student in class. I try to talk to people to ease the weirdness of being a guy that could be friends with their dad (I look old for my age on top of everything else), but with little success. Some days it bums me out, and others it just makes me laugh, but I was wondering if you had any suggestions on how I could be “cooler” so kids will feel comfortable treating me like a fellow student and not their principal. Maybe you guys can even do an installment of “Old Guys on Campus.” I’d totally be down for that. Do kids still say “down?”

Signed,
Old Guy with Wrinkles

DEAR WRINKLES,
It’s obviously tough to be an older student, but I commend you for coming back and finishing your degree.
I’m unclear on your intentions; do you want to make friends to hang with? Find some study partners? Or is it really all about this “weirdness” you feel?
As far as the other students in your class go, I really wouldn’t worry about them. The ones who don’t mind being friends with an older gentleman will probably gravitate to you, or when you try to talk to

DEAR NEEDA,
It sounds like your parents are probably suffering from empty nest syndrome (ENS). With ENS comes feelings of sadness and loneliness, as well as what you’re experiencing from your parents – the need to excessively keep in touch.
I know you said the problem is your parents’ and not yours, but you’re the key to their recovery. Encourage your parents to go out with friends or each other so they’re not spending all their free time driving you to various activities.
You shouldn’t deter your college life, or cater to them so that they can visit all the time either. You’re an adult and you’re at college to learn to be self-sufficient, and to get an education. If you’re out busy playing sports, involved in clubs, or just hanging out with new friends, your parents will eventually realize that you’re doing okay, and will, in theory, back off.

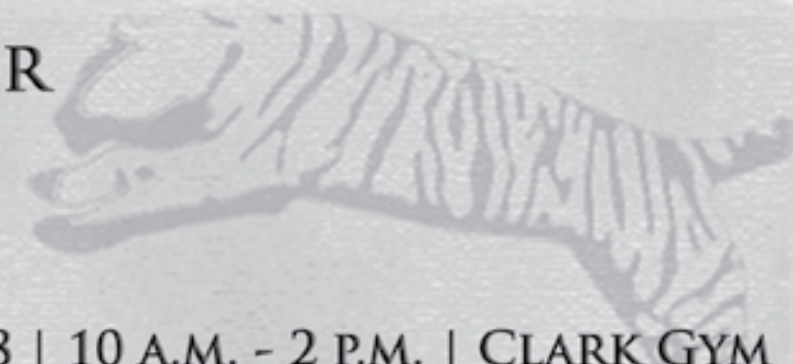
It may help to tell your parents a specific time that you will call them. Let them know that you blocked out a portion of your day to talk and if they call at a different time you won’t be able to answer. When talking to your parents, make sure to tell them about new people you have met, things you’re doing, and what you’ve become involved in. This will once again give them reassurance that you’re surviving on your own. On top of this you can send them random emails, telling them something interesting and asking them about what is going on back home. This will show that you are still thinking of them.
Lastly, remind them that RIT holds a parent weekend every year, Brick City, for parents to come and take part in their children’s college lives. Invite them to this explaining they can meet some of your friends’ parents, see what you’re up to, and partake in events tailored to families.
Otherwise, if they really insist on visiting, limit it, as you’ll already be going home once a quarter on break in November, December, and March.

e.

them some will reciprocate more than others.
Don’t let it get you down though. Most students are 16 to 19 years younger than you; they’re not in the same place in their lives as you are even though you’re attending college at the same time. More often than not they’re probably thinking they’ll have nothing in common with you. Prove them wrong.
Keep engaging others in conversation and eventually you’ll find someone to complain about classes with – maybe even someone who still says “down.”

e.

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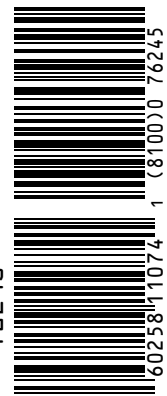
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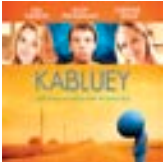
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The Ombuds Office



KABLUHEY DVD

by Chukwuma Morah

Recently hitting stores on DVD comes writer-director-star Scott Prendergast's production of the bluest comedy you'll ever see; partly because of the gloomy plot set up, but mainly due to the giant blue mascot running around throughout the film.

Leslie, played by Lisa Kudrow, most famous for her role as Phoebe in the television series *Friends*, is a distraught mother, raising two children while her husband is away at war. In desperate need to return to her work, Leslie calls upon her long lost screw up

brother-in-law Salman (Scott Prendergast) to help out with the kids while she goes into the office. Unfortunately for Salman, her kids are a reckless bunch of trouble, doing more damage to the house and Salman's emotional stability in one day than *Problem Child* could do in a week. However, Salman later finds amity with the children through a giant blue figured costume that he receives from a part time job called Kabluey.

Despite Prendergast's impeccable comedic timing and ability spark erratic bursts of laughter throughout, *Kabluey* has its fair share of problems. The film's long list of random, vastly unexplained characters creates a disjointed feel. The characters, including Leslie at times, fall flat, directing attention away from the inner conflict of loneliness that Leslie is facing and on

to more slapstick elements of the piece. The comedic dominance, though quite entertaining at times, leaves the viewer feeling robbed of what was set up to be a very moving film – similar to the tone of *Little Miss Sunshine* – and with it, avoids the important topic of the stress of overseas relationships that is all too real in our world today.

If drama were a cake, then comedy would be the frosting. When the two work together, they complement each other, giving the consumer a satisfying treat. But when the cake is bland and the frosting is carrying all of the flavor, you'll never want to go back for seconds. Unless you're really hungry, or feel like scraping off all the sweet stuff, you might want to leave this piece alone and try some pie instead.



JENNY LEWIS: Acid Tongue

by Alex Pagliaro

After the release of *Rabbit Fur Coat with the Watson Twins*, Jenny Lewis has produced this sophomore solo album, complete with adjustments from previous criticism and a more balanced twist on the old flavor. Even Lewis admits that this album definitely “rocks a little harder.”

Coming off of her work with Rilo Kiley on *Under The Blacklight*, it is no surprise that this album has that little-bit-extra balance that *Fur Coat* was missing. Despite the course correction, *Acid Tongue* maintains the Lewis-style, crossing gospel flavor with folk/indie-rock. The album features a wide range of guest support including Elvis Costello, Davey Faragher of The Imposters, Chris Robinson of The Black Crowes, Zooey Deschanel and M. Ward of She & Him, and, of course, trusty boyfriend singer/songwriter Johnathan Rice, amongst others.

Taken on a track-by-track level the album hits a few road bumps. There is no denying that as a lyricist, Lews hits the nail on the head almost every time, sharing a story and conveying emotion with the simplest words while still producing a very profound

result. The title track, “Acid Tongue,” is proof in that regard. At the same time, with tracks like opener “Black Sand” and “Jack Killed Mom,” she falls into a trap, boxing herself in with a limited sound and style that prevents her truly unique vocal and lyrical talent from shining through.

Acid Tongue accomplishes one of the most difficult objectives: Timelessness. The ideas that she carries in her silky smooth – but always wholesome – voice are as classic as Shakespeare.

She may have her critics but there is no denying that this gem is just the latest great step in Jenny Lewis' musical growth.



KINGS OF LEON: Only By The Night

by Evan McNamara

It is not uncommon for an album to produce both fans and critics alike. It is strange, however, to have a large fanbase be so completely divided on single a work. That is the case for the latest release by Kings of Leon, *Only By The Night*, with popular ratings ranging from 2/10 to 9/10.

Interestingly enough, the response in the UK and Australia is opposite of the US

reaction. While most of the former felt it had potential for album of the year, the majority of the latter ripped it to shreds. Some have hailed Kings of Leon as the next U2, others have exclaimed that this is nothing but hype that only fuels the band's deluded dreams.

Be that as it may, the only way to make up your mind about this album is to give it a listen. The band's distinct sound can be recognized on this album by any Kings of Leon fan almost immediately. Sometimes, though, this recognition tends to feel as though it has more to do to with the result of repeated song structure. Case in point: The album's single “Sex on Fire” harks back to an earlier tune, “Pistol of Fire.”

The Kings have always explained that their limited exposure to music in their childhood has resulted in a very rapid and constant development of style over the past few years. We as an audience didn't realize that meant taking the Strokes and Nickelback, throwing in a southern twist and calling it the future of indie rock.

Being fair, some tunes on this album are nice enough to listen to; namely opening with “Closer” and mid-way on with “Use Somebody.” Overall, though, this is one to stream off their MySpace or download through Ruckus and give a good listen before you commit to anything more. •

by John Howard

STREAM OF FACTS

The old wives' tale that ‘sitting too close to the television set will damage your eyesight’ began in the 1950s when television was first invented and radiation was emitted while viewing. Modern day **TELEVISION** sets are built with the suitable shielding in order to prevent this retinal damage.

The 1960s and '70s children's series **TELEVISION** star, Gumby, was created by Art Clokey. An old photograph of Clokey's father sporting a massive cowlick on the side of his head inspired the hairdo of this seven-inch tall **CLAY** hero.

N. J. Conte successfully produced the first pencil with a mixture of graphite and **CLAY** pressed into sticks. This method, although modified slightly, is still used by pencil manufacturers today. In a **STANDARD** pencil there is enough graphite to draw a line nearly 35 miles long.

The 336 dimples on a **STANDARD** golf ball are used to reduce the air drag on the ball. The dimples on golf balls are generally circles, but rectangles and even hexagons have been experimented with on this favorite accessory of **TIGER** Wood's.

A **TIGER** has over 100 stripes on its body. Each tiger has a unique pattern of stripes that extends to their skin. Tiger stripes can be brown, gray, or black, unless you're looking at a golden tiger*, also know as a **STRAWBERRY** tiger, which carry light orange stripes.

In medieval times the **STRAWBERRY** held great importance. It was given to newlyweds on their wedding day, considered to be an aphrodisiac. Strawberries were also served at other important gatherings to bring about peace and prosperity.

*Check out the Buffalo Zoo to see one of these rare creatures.

OVERSEEN AND OVERHEARD AT RIT

- “Men aren't supposed to have feelings.”
- Book scanner in library
- “I got some serious sleep last night!”
- Excited student at Java's

- “So would you eat those leaves then?”
- Student pointing to leaves outside Crossroad window

REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Swallowing your food whole. Stop using those jaw muscles for all that laborious chewing. Why not make eating a more enjoyable experience by sitting back and allowing your tongue, pharynx, and esophagus to do all the work. No one wants to see that mangled Crossroads cheeseburger or mashed stuffed shell when you forget to close your mouth. At the very least, chew with your lips sealed. It's polite and others will be able to concentrate more without the sound of your chewing orchestra invading their personal space. Art is for display on walls, not in your mouth, so save all those intelligent things you have to say until *after* you swallow. And use a napkin while you're at it, drippy.

CARTOON by Michael Dennerly



DIFFICULTY RATING: HARD

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

QUOTE

“ONE IS ALWAYS CONSIDERED MAD WHEN ONE PERFECTS SOMETHING THAT OTHERS CANNOT GRASP.”

-Edward D. Wood Jr.



by John Howard



and by Michael Barbato



RIT is an establishment of two great forces that not only complement each other but repel as opposites. When juxtaposed, it becomes difficult to overlook the macroscopic differences staring us in the face. Scientists walk amongst animators while painters spot a sea of engineers. The two species, left and right-brained thinkers, each struggle to grasp the other's motives and purpose as our day-to-day lives play out. We are truly a campus divided.

With that division comes many preconceptions — thoughts without substance due to questions unanswered. We theorize about the other side and what exists beyond that thin, murky line separating us. What are the lives, workload, intelligence, and skill of those we pun and stereotype? These questions remain because of insufficient analysis. There has been no evaluation carried out and no data collected from an outsider's perspective. Nothing until now.

We present to you a revolution, a truly innovative and creative attempt to understand what lies behind the burgundy, brick-studded walls of these two RIT breeds. This is an insider's firsthand account, from an outsider's perspective. Here, you will see a switch between Michael Barbato, a third year Biotechnology – Bioinformatics Option major and John Howard, a third year Film major. They will experience the other's life and report back all observations and findings.

from behind the camera lens

abstract Before getting into this experiment, the only thing I knew was that it sounded like fun. For one thing, I'd get to try out another major without the cost of credit hours and the troubles registering. The whole concept of free classes couldn't help but spark my interest as a possibility for bragging rights to all of my engineer and scientist acquaintances hung on the line.

The week's lineup was pretty straightforward. To get the general "gist" of being a bio major, I'd be starting off with an Introduction to Biology lecture and lab, then capping off the experience by shadowing an upper-class research student.

Upon accepting the challenge, I made a list of what I knew about the major. It included: "wears gloves," "likes the environment," "works in labs with black sinks," "dissects things," and "has crazy mad scientist hair cuts." Clearly my understanding needed some polishing.

I hadn't had any experience with biology since my freshman year of high school and even those memories seem vague and unclear. The jar I felt upon embarking on this journey was no surprise.

results *Introduction to Biology – Lecture* The first part of my experience took place in the largest classroom I have ever sat in at RIT; it looked like it was designed for four billion students. When the skinny hand hit 12, the professor, Dr. Harvey Pough, began in a raised tone to triumph over student conversations. His pace launched instantly, starting off from wherever the class must have left off the previous week.

The lecture was on carbohydrates and glycosides. Beyond that, with the saturation of terms (ranging from Hydroxyls to Polysaccharides), drawings, and symbols of the specific compounds, I found it nearly impossible to decipher a translation.

The hour concluded with a brief, survey-style quiz on the day's lesson. I answered all but one (by sheer luck) incorrectly. Dr. Pough ended by simply stating, "If that all makes sense to you, you're in really good shape." Needless to say, I was sunk.

Introduction to Biology – Lab Determined to make up for my poor performance in the lecture, I embarked to Dr. Dina Newman's lab section. Upon entering, my brown plaid shirt and jeans made me the pink elephant in a room full of white lab coats.

There I worked closely with a group of three students whose area of study ranged from Environmental Science to Bioinformatics to Biotechnology - Bioinformatics Option. The group, which I unexpectedly intruded upon, had been working on a project designing dog food containing 30% carbohydrates.

We sat at the table quietly grinding beans and corn in our mortars and pestles for 20 minutes. I was an outsider in their world; the table was our stagecoach and I played the part of the Ringo Kid. John Wayne's words, "you can't break out of prison and into society in the same week," rang through my ears. Regardless, our silence slowly faded the more comfortable we became with each other.

They taught me in ways I could comprehend, explaining to me that the little sucker thing was actually a micropipette and that a centrifuge separates a solution into layers. When asked how they had learned everything

so quickly, they explained that they practiced using water. According to David Vizcarra, a first year Biotechnology - Bioinformatics Option major, "Basically all our labs are the same [in procedure]." Still, I doubt I could survive on my own next time around.

Shadowing As if I wasn't in far enough over my head, I decided to shadow Amanda Souza, a fourth year Biology major who was currently working in a research lab also headed by Dr. Newman. The lab consists of a three-part study on age-related hearing loss. It specifically looks at the relationship between hearing loss and connexins, a gap junction protein that bridges the space between cells.

In order to exponentially increase the number of DNA copies within her samples, Souza performed a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). Afterwards, she began a process called a sequencing reaction. The results would be shipped to the University of Rochester in order to identify the specimen's base sequences. These results would then be read, recorded, and utilized as controls for future experiments.

Next, Souza moved to a glass box-like chamber that immediately struck something in my memory. "Like CSI," I said. She replied, "Yeah, kind of." There she performed a Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP) which involved combining an enzyme with the PCR product and adding the result to an agarose gel. Hooking the chamber to a power supply, she performed *electrophoresis*, which allowed her to separate DNA molecules using the charge carried through the agarose gel. Later, the gel was removed, photographed, and examined; the photograph allowed her to locate where the added enzyme HincII cut the DNA.

For those who have forgotten their high

school biology, DNA is made up of a large series of base pairs. These base pairs are composed of four building blocks: adenine (A), thymine (T), guanine (G), and cytosine (C). Biologists will look for specific sequences of these four substances when studying genomes.

It seemed like an extensive process for a picture, but Souza reassured me, stating, "I can then look at the people's gel bands to see if they have a CA or a CC or an AA." The key is to look at where the enzyme cut the DNA band. Each band is composed of 365 base pairs before it's cut. Once the enzyme has done its job, the varying lengths of the fragments will identify the particular sequencing. The DNA samples are then divided into one of those three groups (CA, CC, or AA) and data from a hearing test within each group is examined. The goal is to find a correlation between certain genetic types and hearing loss.

When we moved to a new room to photograph the gel, trays of half-dissected squids from a Developmental Biology class lined the tables mocking my preconceived notions of this vastly complex major.

conclusion What was gained from all this? For one thing, I certainly picked up some new vocabulary. Another thing I came across, as expected, is that the Biology field is much more complicated than I ever could have guessed. With seven degrees making up the undergraduate program, it's easy to become lost while attempting to lean back for the big picture. This experiment barely even scuffed the surface. On a smaller scale, similarities were exposed between the lives of bio and film students; our majors and careers are structured similarly. As Souza explained to me,

the challenge of working your way up to running a research lab and receiving grants, I couldn't help but see the parallel to selling scripts to a studio or "making it" as a director. When reduced to the basics, we're all trying to pursue our interests and make them into a career.

Overall, the experiment was a gratifying experience. Though, and almost to my disappointment, not a single one of them I met had a mad-scientist hairdo upon them.

from under the microscope

abstract Upon seeing a film major shooting a mock battle scene on the Greek lawn as their final project, a science major walking down the Quarter Mile to their Organic Chemistry final might say the film student has it easy. However, both majors have banes to every benefit.

For example, there is a lack of individual creativity in the daily tasks of a Biotechnology career such as plating E. coli while, for a film major, each production can be made unique and exciting. However, in biotechnology, the mass marketability of goods such as medication and its appeal to others regardless of personal conviction is an advantage. In the film industry, a production's success is based on pleasing many individual tastes.

At first glance, film seemed to be all about some crazy person with a megaphone yelling, "Let's run that again. And this time with feeling!" This, along with Owen Wilson and Ben Stiller break dancing during outtakes, is what I picture when I think about what transpires behind the scenes.



results It was 10:30 a.m. and I was optimistic about working with a group of mostly third year film majors on the set of Dan Sullivan's first comedy. After John Howard introduced me to the crew, his lips pinched into an unsettling grin as he abandoned me at the set. Feeling somewhat like an 18-year-old kicked out of the house, I was out of my element and didn't know what to expect.

For my first task as a new crew member, I was sent to "steal" a desk from the Liberal Arts building and take it back to the film site in Building Seven. So John Theroux, Lindsey Berkebile, and I "found" a desk. Between the Liberal Arts building and the set, the three of us were forced to share an intimate moment in an elevator. I won't go into detail, but trust me: We bonded.

Once back at the set, I was given a crash course in film terminology. I learned that a "stinger" is an extension cord, an "apple box" is an all-purpose step stool, and a "boom pole" is a long stick with a microphone at the end. Erik Kandefer, the gaffer and lone fourth year, then gave me the rundown of three-point lighting, which uses a key light, a fill light, and a back light. The key light is used as the main light source. The fill light is used to balance the key light, and the back light adds flare.

Once I had learned the basics, I was put to work as a boom man. As I shouted, "frame-

line!" to Aurora Gordon, the camerawoman, she was in the process of helping the gaffer position the correct lighting. Once perfect, she confided in me that she was "an illumination ninja." Looking embarrassed about her last comment, she proceeded to talk me through keeping the boom out of the shot.

The job didn't sound too difficult at first, but imagine holding your arms above your head and remaining completely steady while holding a several-pound, long object, monitoring the frame-line, and being silent for indeterminable stretches of time. It gets tiring. "Crafts" or snacks are another stark difference between the two majors. "[They're like] sex in the mouth" said Brendan Nagle, and they're a critical element on a film set. General hostility or discontent forms among the other crew members if proper crafts aren't provided. In contrast, if someone were to bring crafts to a bio lab, they would not be met with affection.

Around 3:30 p.m., I felt that my booming talent had reached its peak and I was done. At this point I learned that the crew had actually started pretty late that day. Not only did they work all day the day before, but they were also booked all day the next day. On that note, I inhaled a complimentary sub, provided by my megaphone-less yet gracious director and fled the scene to reflect on my experience.

conclusion Admittedly, I thought film students had it easier. Although, after working with some of them, I see the untold effort put into writing a script, filming, and editing the footage. From what I encountered, unlike bio majors, film majors definitely put in more time outside of class and labs than I do. Usually, I can put aside projects until the next time I work on them. Film students seem to have to continuously tweak their projects until they get them right.

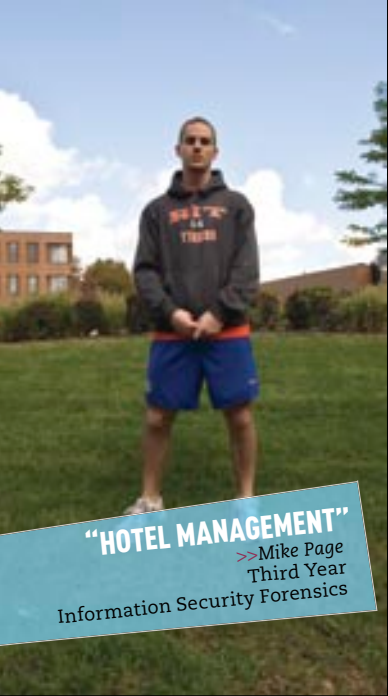
The question of whether certain majors are "easier" than others really depends on the type of person you are. Although I had fun, I won't be switching majors any time soon. I love photography but I don't have the patience to edit all my photos. Film students are usually very creative. Therefore, one may really enjoy biology but be unable to get his mind around some of the hard-coded and detailed facts necessary to succeed in that degree.

Overall, I would say that a Biotechnology – Bioinformatics Option major is easier than film – or at least, it is for me. It's really something I enjoy doing on a daily basis, and I don't mind the hard work of memorizing facts and terms. Still, I would imagine a film major would say something similar based on the same principle. •

word on the street

photographs by Ben Liddle

what's the easiest major at RIT?





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ACTUALLY SWITCHING MAJORS



by Andy Rees | illustration by Robert Modzelewski

From the time I learned to speak, I was always asked, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” As I got older, my answers change from “Spaceman” and “Ice Cream Taster” to more realistic (yet less awesome) jobs such as “Computer Scientist” or “History Teacher.”

At RIT, the focus is on developing a student’s skills and preparing them to become productive members of the workforce. This philosophy, however, requires a commitment from the first day of classes. Students apply for a specific program and are put on a schedule of courses. But what happens if Computer Science (CS) suddenly loses its appeal ???

THE FIRST SWITCH ■→●

Unsurprisingly for me, it did. My interests changed, myths were debunked, and classes got boring. I wasn’t happy with what I was doing. Since I planned on staying at RIT, switching majors was the only option. After shopping around, I decided that Electrical Engineering (EE) was where I wanted to be. Thankfully, the transition was smooth.

Switching majors is a lot like re-applying to college. I had to speak with the EE department head, have my grades and SAT scores looked at, and explain why I thought EE was the right choice. It took about a week to get everything sorted out. After all that was taken care of, I spoke with my advisor in the CS department and told her my situation, she signed some forms, and it was done. I was on my way to being an Electrical Engineer.

I had missed the first year of the program and wanted catch up. This meant simultaneously taking freshman and sophomore level EE courses, as well as continuing on the calculus track. Within two quarters it caught up with me.

Since I finished the University Physics course requirement in high school, even my then-passable understanding of how electricity worked had all but been forgotten. Struggling with the basic concepts of a profession pointed at the larger problem. I saw D’s and F’s on my report card for the first time since middle school. It was time for another change.

THE SECOND SWITCH ●→▲

Due to the wide range of classes I’d taken over the years, I looked into RIT’s Center for Multidisciplinary Studies

(CMS). The CMS program is designed for students with a diverse academic background; it allows for multiple concentrations rather than a single major.

The CMS program requires that students have between two and four professional concentrations. These concentrations, taken from existing majors, allow students to diversify their education. The program also requires, like other programs, liberal arts core classes and a concentration, math and science courses, as well as general education courses. A student in the CMS program will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Arts and Science.

I wanted to separate myself from my previous majors and explore something in the liberal arts. Working with a CMS advisor, I designed a curriculum which allowed me to use almost all of my existing credits and work on Journalism and Technical Communications.

After creating the plan, my advisor presented it to the review board for revision and approval.

THE INSTITUTE ADVISING OFFICE ▲→●

Eventually, I was accepted into the CMS program. However, this story is not necessarily typical of switching majors. Many students go through the Institute Advising Office (IAO), a branch of the Division of Academic Affairs. The office acts as a sounding board for students looking to change majors and is generally regarded as the first step in the overall process.

About 200 students come through the office per year, said Lynne Mazadoorian,

director of the IAO. “Not every student we meet with wants to change majors. A lot of students want to meet with us to find out what it means to change majors.”

The IAO also attempts to allow students to make an informed decision before switching majors. “A student will come and say, ‘Oh yeah, I want to transfer into Graphic Design,’” said Mazadoorian. “We’ll talk about the portfolio requirements and they’ll say ‘I didn’t know about the portfolio.’”

A meeting with one of the IAO team members is usually by appointment only. According to Mazadoorian, “Sometimes [the meeting] will really energize a student... or sometimes they’ll say ‘oh, I didn’t really know what that major meant.’...We look at the requirements for the major, and make sure the students are aware of the requirements.”

For majors like engineering, courses and grades are very important. If a student isn’t doing well in one program, it might affect their acceptance into another program.

“It will vary by department chair,” said Mazadoorian. “Obviously, departments want students who are in good standing.”

Beyond program requirements and prerequisites, other factors may come into play, said Mazadoorian. “Some programs are sequenced, meaning they start in the fall. So for a couple of programs students can only really transfer in the fall term... Film and Animation is one of them.”

ONE FORM ●→●

In the end, it all boils down to one document, the Change of Program Form. The form is fairly simple, but carries with it a lot of weight. It must be signed by the head of the department the student is transferring out of, as well as the head of the department he or she is transferring to. Once that piece of paper is signed, submitted and processed, it’s a done deal.

CONCLUSION ●→●

Whether the program change is due to poor grades or a change in interests, it’s a big move. Not only does the subject matter change, but so do the people and the professors. It’s not something to be taken lightly. Still, it’s important to remember that college is not just about preparing for the workforce; it’s about preparing for life. Sometimes that involves being a professional Ice Cream Taster. •

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PARK  POINT
AT RIT

TIGER DEN

by Kayla Kimball | photographs by Emma Tannenbaum

According to co-founder David Burke the Tiger Den is not a place, it is “a way to increase RIT spirit on campus through athletics and other community activities like fundraisers.” Tiger Den is a movement to get students out of their dorms and into the bleachers to support RIT’s athletes.

The idea originated in Boston at an NCAA leadership convention last year with two RIT student athletes, David Burke and Jenna Mausolf, and the Men’s Lacrosse coach Gene Peluso. Burke is a player on the lacrosse team and a third year Civil Engineering technology major and Mausolf is captain of the softball team and a fourth year Environmental Management and Technology major.

The Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) started the Tiger Den movement, which works closely with other groups, such as sports teams, clubs, and fraternities. On October 1, the volleyball team, lacrosse team, and the Tiger Den hosted the “Dig Pink Volleyball Game” to raise money to support a cure for breast cancer and cheer on the volleyball team who played Cortland. RIT lost but the event was a success, attracting many supporters. Free admission, barbecue, and t-shirts accompanied the

fundraising items: Pink hair extensions, pink t-shirts, and a raffle. This is how, as SAAC advisor Christine Worsley puts it, a “Tiger Den is created at every event.”

The idea for the “Dig Pink Volleyball Game” originated with women’s lacrosse team member Larissa Harasymiak. In support of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, she and her teammates decided to group together to get pink hair extensions, raising money for the Side-Out Foundation which supports breast cancer research. Hoping to get more people involved, Harasymiak brought the idea before SAAC to see if this was something all the female athletes at RIT could do. From there, the “Real Tigers Dig Pink” fundraiser was born, and the “Dig Pink Volleyball Game” was organized.

Said Harasymiak of the Tiger Den events, “Having more people at the game and cheering the game helps [the athletes]...it gets the players pumped to know people actually care about their performance.” Tiger Den hopes to hold as many events as possible during the rest of the year, with a likely max of four events per quarter. “Hockey games are a huge part of school spirit,” said Harasymiak, adding that if Tiger Den succeeds in getting

larger crowds at other games, they expect school spirit to increase even more.

The first event that the Tiger Den held was in January 2008, with President Destler’s Orange Hair Challenge. Due to its success, the Tiger Den plans on hosting the event again in the upcoming season.

During Orientation, the Tiger Den Kick-off gave the freshmen an opportunity to join the school spirit. There were inflatables, cotton candy, music from WITR, and T-shirts, all free.

Wearing the official T-shirt is a simple way to show support for Tiger Den. On October 18, Tiger Den is sending fan busses to the Blue Cross Arena for the mens’ hockey game. The team will play St. Lawrence for their fourth game. •



Nichole Boxler, (left) 8, Heidi Little, (center) 9, and Dani Liesman, (right) 4, all jump for the ball during the October 1 game of RIT vs. SUNY Cortland.

Kimberly Trumpore, a freshman Graphic Media Marketing major, gets pink hair extensions put into her hair during the game. The hair extensions were part of the “Real Tigers Dig Pink” fundraiser that went towards the Side-Out Foundation, which supports breast cancer research.



coming soon...

SG HORTON SPEAKER SATURDAY OCTOBER 11, 2008

2-3 PM

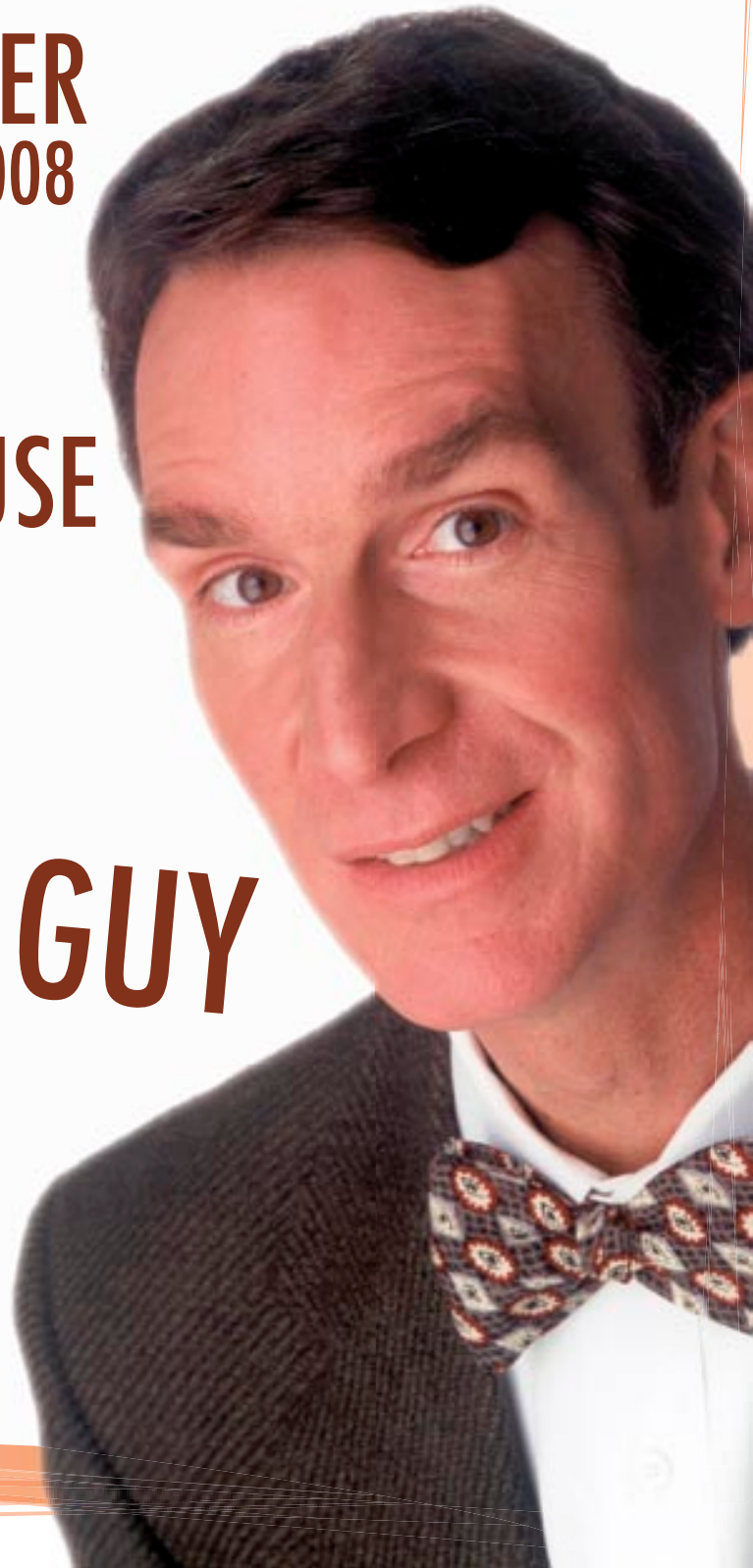
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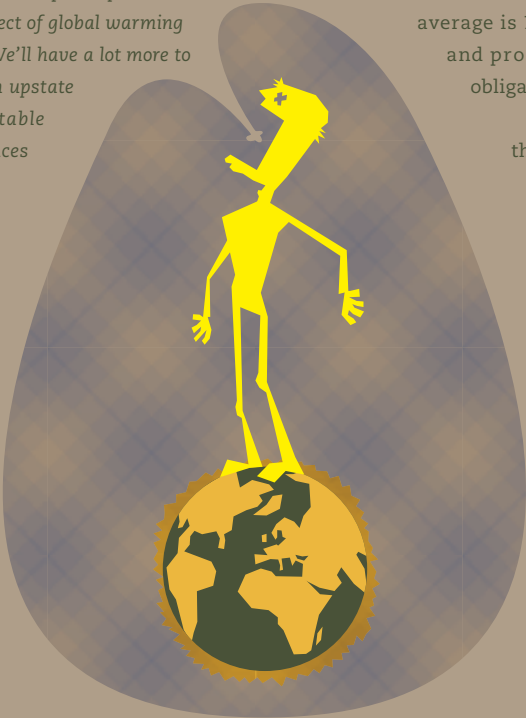


OCTOBER 10, 2030 - The air is particularly dry and thick today. The current temperature is 107 °F, and it's only 8:43 a.m. The air quality is rapidly deteriorating. God, it's so hard to breathe outside. Incredibly, this hazardous environment is not just typical of the tropics anymore. A special report was running on the Weather Channel this morning about a new kind of atmospheric pollutant that is being produced thanks to the synergistic effect of global warming and contamination. The prognosis was specific: We'll have a lot more to worry about than just ragweed and pollen here in upstate New York. Soon, we might end up adopting portable breathing devices outdoors, just as many places around the world have.

This short, gloomy journal entry, although entirely fictional, is no longer implausible. The Earth's weather patterns are changing at a voraciously fast rate. Global warming is undeniable. Temperatures around the world have risen dramatically in the last 30 years. In fact, according to NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), 2007 was the second hottest year measured since they started recording in 1880. The titleholder? 2005 is the champion, by a paltry 0.03 °C.

Since I feel morally compelled to do what I can to avoid the atrocious future we're destined for if we continue our dubious ways, I'm hereby sharing a few sites that will surely "green up" your life a little. These sites provide news and information about green technology, as well as information on everything a young environmentalist needs to know and do to take action for a better, healthier world.

Our first stop is the instructive *EcoGeek.org*, a blog for all the pragmatic eco-lovers out there. EcoGeek publishes several stories a day on green tech innovations around the world. As an example, one of the latest features on the site is the futuristic concept of buses traveling on train tracks. The system will be dubbed *BladeRunner*. Go check it out.



Another cool site is *ClimateCrisis.net*, the home of Al Gore's controversial documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*. This website has one of the most thorough carbon neutral how-to guides for us regular folks that I've ever seen. Curiously, thanks to the site's impact-on-the-world calculator, I discovered I'm producing 8.1 tons of carbon dioxide (the US average is 7.5). If you're serious about global warming and protecting the environment, this site is an obligatory visit.

Next is *EarthFirst.com*, another blog dedicated to the green movement but with a twist. EarthFirst covers technology news about renewable sources of energy and green buildings. Interestingly, the editors apparently have a vendetta against Senator John McCain. From the site's "about" page, "We also like to throw in a good mix of Bizarre, Jerkasses, Sexy People, and we LOVE to rip on John McCain." I know that may seem a little bit of a stretch for a pro-environment website, but I highly recommend you visit them first before jumping to conclusions.

Lastly, RIT's own green site (www.rit.edu/ritgreen) is worth mentioning. The portal has an outstanding breakdown of the Institute's commitment, strategy, and sustainability efforts. I'm confident you'll be fond of the "What you can do" section at the end of the energy and recycling entries. There are many simple, yet positive tips that have the potential to make our campus more eco-friendly.

My intention is not to frighten anyone here. Maybe I went a little bit too far with my fictitious introduction. However, I'm merely doing what any conscientious human being in my position would do. The reality is we've only got one Earth. It's about time we start taking good care of it. We already have the most important tool: Knowledge. Let the "greenness" begin! •

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

RIT RINGS

585.672.4840

compiled by Neil DeMoney

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

MONDAY, 9:22 P.M.

I was just reading last week's issue of the *Reporter* and I couldn't believe the review of Metallica's new album. "Death Magnetic" was [horse-do]. I mean that [reviewer] is a [expletive]. He's such a [funky] [swoosh].

SATURDAY, 4:43 P.M.

Just read your new Reporter and was looking at the new comic. I can't believe that you got rid of your old cartoonist for that piece of [droppings]. Enjoy your new [droppings]

FRIDAY 11:06 P.M.

DEAR RIT RINGS, I DO BELIEVE THAT IN ORDER TO WALK PAST THE HOCKEY PLAYERS IN COLONY ONE MUST HAVE A VACCINATION. AND I DARE SAY THAT THERE MAY OR MAY NOT BE A SIGN THAT SAYS THAT. HOWEVER, ALL RIT STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW THAT.

TUESDAY 10:12 P.M.

The other night, I had a lot to drink and I ended up going over to this guy's house and, well, we went all the way. The next morning I woke up and I was looking at him and he was staring at me and then he said that 'maybe I should go take a shower.' Why would he say that? Who says that?

SATURDAY, 12:17 P.M.

Dear RIT Rings, here I am again. I have a lot to say, I'm intelligent, and I make a lot of money. I've made a lot of bad choices, too. What am I? Keep it real!

MONDAY, 2:05 A.M.

I'm stuck in my lounge and these freshmen are obsessively talking about masturbation. I'll still be trapped in here by the time the next *Reporter* comes out. Could you please send for help? Please!

SATURDAY, 2:34 P.M.

I wanted to let you know I just finished a quart of milk in 15 minutes. Just thought you should know. That's probably not healthy. What do you think?

FRIDAY, 9:10 P.M.

There's a kid living on my floor who masturbates with ketchup. He says it burns. Is that true?

FRIDAY, 4:43 P.M.

My name is [Hoover] I have a [harsh expletive of a] roommate named [Henry] and he turned off my alarm this morning and I didn't get to go to class on time. He's a [pony], he's a [roadrunner], he's a piece of [horse chips].



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