



REPORTER

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EDITOR'S NOTE

CONFRONTING GENDER

In our beautifully shifting, kaleidoscopic society, there are few things that stay still for long. Cultural values come and go like the leaves on the trees, but there are some things that remain the same no matter what season it is. Although the particulars have changed ever-so-slightly over the years, gender, it would seem, is one of those things.

Whether you realize it or not, from the moment you were born, you've been inundated with culturally charged ideals of how men and women should behave. Although your parents probably never sat you down and laid out the rules of gendered behavior for you, you were learning. The cues were much more subtle, but they were still there. Think about it. The clothes your parents laid out for you, the toys you were given to play with, the chores you were assigned to do — day after day, year after year, from the earliest stages of your life, these simple actions shaped your conceptions of how the world should work. Bombarded by gender, it has become ingrained in you. It's ingrained in all of us.

As we lay out our own clothing now, choose our own toys, and pick our own chores, we get much more of a say in how we will present ourselves to the world. Everything about us — from the way we deal with facial hair (see "Beard on the Street") to the way we behave in locker rooms (see "Male/Female Locker Room Codes") — is gendered. Whether we fall into traditional gender roles or not (see "Androgyny: The Best of Both Worlds?"), gender dictates many of our day to day actions. Beyond that, it plays a key role in structuring our reality and the way we perceive each other.

This special issue is an exploration of gender, it in all of its trite and fascinating politically incorrect and sublime and silly and interesting and boring and bothersome and wonderful and ridiculous glory. There's no ulterior motive behind this issue; we merely ask you to consider the topic.

Providing both a means of expression and a means of oppression, gender is a contradictory, powerful force.

Let's confront it.



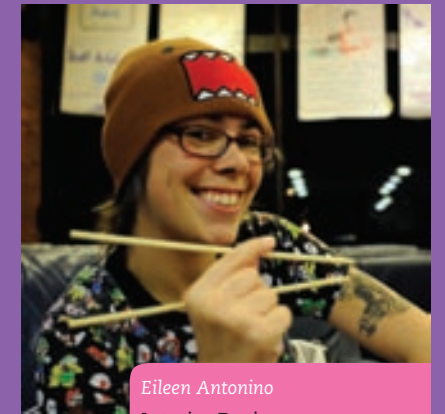
Laura Mandanas
EDITOR IN CHIEF

weirdest thing in your purse on the street

photography by Steve Pfof



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lovin' cup
Employee



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Interior Design
First Year



Jocelyn Cheng
Biomedical Photography
Third Year



Cynthia Chung
Ad Photography
Fourth Year



Maria Denisco
Graphic Design
First Year



Rachel Greenhalgh
Illustration
Fourth Year



Alyssa Lynoug
Environmental Management
First Year



Taylor Simpson
Undeclared
First Year

Cheating Your Period

by Madeleine Villavicencio

IF there's one topic that triggers uncomfortable responses, especially from the male population, it's the menstrual cycle. *Hormones. Tampons. PMS.* Pick any topic from 'that time of the month' and watch the boys cringe or leave the room. So when my roommate and I moved into a discussion about cheating periods, the men in our presence awkwardly glanced around the room as a natural reaction.

No, you can't "just hold it" but you don't have to wait until you "get old" (unlike a few of my male friends suggested). If you're already taking oral contraception or birth control pills, cheating your period can be as simple as switching up the rhythm of when you take which pills.

All birth control pills, with the exception of Progestin-Only Pills (POP), contain the synthetic hormones estrogen and progesterin. Depending on which type of pill you use, your pack will either have a

set of placebos or a set of pills with an extremely low hormone concentration. When you take these, your hormone levels drop, your uterus lining weakens, and you have 'withdrawal bleeding,' a simulated period. Armed with this knowledge, you now have what you need to take control of your 'monthly visitor.'

If you're using monophasic pills (the one that comes with a set of placebos), then you have two options: Take your placebos earlier to jump-start your period, or skip your placebos (and your period) to put them off for a later date. Now, what if you continued to skip your placebos for three months straight? What about a year? Or what if you never took them again? Having fewer periods does sound intriguing and it's definitely feasible.

On September 5, 2003, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Seasonale, a birth control pill that enables you to only have four periods a year. Employing a method similar to

the regular 30-day birth control packs, Seasonale comes in a 91-day birth control pack including 84 active pills and seven placebos. In fact, other than merely buying more 30-day packs, there isn't much difference between the two. However, science decided to take it one step further.

Up until 2007, the FDA did caution against using birth control pills to totally skip periods. However, on May 22, 2007, the FDA approved Lybrel, "the first low dose combination birth control pill you take 365 days a year, without periods is now a reality."

Nowadays, because of the rise of birth control pills that suppress the menstruation cycle, there has been much debate. The fact that bleeding while taking the pills occurs due to hormone withdrawal has caused modern scientists to question whether women should have regular periods at all. It is believed that when the pill was introduced in 1960, withdrawal bleeding was

included by its creators to make it seem 'more natural.' In their book, *Is Menstruation Obsolete?*, Drs. Elsimar Coutinho and Sheldon J. Segal argue that menstruation is, in fact, unnatural and unhealthy.

On the other hand, others believe that the increased exposure to estrogen and progesterin may cause medical complications. Dr. Susan Rako, author of *No More Periods? The Risk of Menstrual Suppression and Other Cutting-Edge Issues About Hormones and Women's Health*, stated, "Taking the birth control pill non-stop throws a monkey wrench in the workings of every organ and system in the body, not just reproduction." Of course, all medications have their side effects.

Skipping your period for the week of your dream Hawaiian vacation isn't that big a deal, but beyond that, it's really up your own discretion. Just be sure to have all the information before you make your decision. •

Don't Send a Man to Quaff a Woman's Drink



Cosmopolitan

1 oz. Cointreau
3 oz. Cranberry Juice
1 oz. Lemon Juice
1 1/2 oz. Vodka

Made popular through the TV show and movie *Sex and the City*, the Cosmopolitan is the drink of classy women everywhere. Clings of glasses can be heard 'round the world as girls' nights everywhere celebrate this immortal drink.



Blowjob

1/2 oz. Kahlua
Whipped Cream

A bachelorette party's all-time favorite, the fun of the Blowjob shot is not in its ingredients but in the way it's consumed: No hands allowed. One must lean down, grab the shot with her mouth, and tilt her head back to drink.



Dr. Destler

1 pt. Dr. Pepper
3 shots Bacardi Razz

An eclectic combination of different tastes in each sip is like a new flavor. Although some banjo-playing may be entertaining while drinking a Dr. Destler, scooter riding may have to wait. The Bacardi shots hit harder than you would think.

Sex on the Beach

1 oz. Vodka
3/4 oz. Peach Schnapps
1/2 fill Cranberry Juice
1/2 fill Grapefruit Juice

More enjoyable than the experience, Sex on the Beach is fruity with a kick. You can't have Sex on the Beach just anywhere, though: At Red Robin it's called "Sand in Your Shorts" to avoid using that dreaded 'S' word.



Margarita

1 1/2 oz Tequila
1/2 oz. Triple sec
3 oz. Sour Mix

Wasting away in Margaritaville is a sweet experience with this fruity temptation. Often served with fruit garnishes and even a little umbrella, one need not search for their lost shaker of salt.



by Rachel Hart | photography by Tom Liggett

Announcing:

Extended hours for the Center for Campus Life!

The Center for Campus Life will now be open Tuesday and Wednesday 4:30-7 PM in our central office.

Fall Quarter extended hours end Wednesday, November 5th
Winter Quarter extended hours begin Thursday, December 2nd

We are located in the Student Alumni Union (SAU) above the RITreat, Student Government and OCASA.

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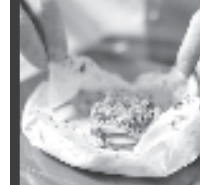
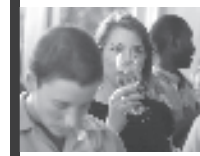
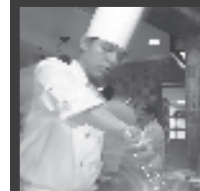
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Platonic Blowjobs Prostitution on Craigslist

by Ilsa Shaw | illustration by Matt Mancuso

It was a Hump Day Hyjynx that caught my attention. Cruising the erotic services listings of Rochester's Craigslist, I found her: smokin420chick4u, otherwise known as Raven the prostitute. Raven's listing was mottled with reassurances that she would not "rush" or "be cold" like all of the other call girls. The one thing that made Raven stand out from the rest of these girls? She wasn't nude.

About 45% of the listings display illegible alphanumeric text with a picture of a buxom young lady snatched straight off of a porno site. This isn't to say that Craigslist won't meet your needs: Middle-aged men and women, furies, midgets, and dominatrices all have their shot at internet recognition. Serious relationships and platonic blowjobs alike all roam this online jungle of listings that is Craigslist. Regardless of your search, though, it truly is

difficult to avoid a glimpse of the naked body of someone you would have preferred to see clothed.

Some listings even offer discounts for their services that are tied to horrible sexual puns; Raven, for instance, offers a special on Wednesdays in the spirit of Hump Day. A small amount of others carry a suspicious element: The mention of video cameras. Why would anyone want to be filmed with a prostitute? In a certain sense, protection — for both prostitutes and clients alike.

If you're filming yourself during sex, there is a likely chance that it falls under the zone of pornography instead of prostitution. New York Penal Law defines a prostitute as anyone "who engages or agrees or offers to engage in sexual conduct with another person in return for a fee." If you're able to make money off of a pornographic movie, however, your "clients" (the viewers) are

not involved in the sexual activity itself. Therefore, it can be chalked up to clean, legal filmmaking; both yourself and your Craigslist prostitute leave unharmed.

While newspapers generate revenue from their (admittedly not as seedy) listings on a per-advertisement basis, Craigslist can get away with hosting the erotic services page because no money is gained on their part. To ensure this, no ads are permitted on any erotic services page. The rest of the website's subsections, however, can contain as many as five different ads, all of which generate legal revenue for Craigslist.

There are currently 21 categories on the erotic services page, each varying based on basic sexual requirements. Say that Bethany, a woman, is in need of a studly duo of men one night: Her section of choice would be "w4mm," where "w" stands for woman (Bethany), and "mm" stands for two men (Bethany's erotic

request). Transsexuals are also included and are denoted by a "t." No more than two people can make the request, nor can more than two people be requested at a time for services. Yet, given the variety of listings, there is likely room for more people.

According to Craigslist, their erotic services page developed due to user input. Tired of the various dating advertisements, many users requested there be a separate place for the ads. Enter the erotic services page, a new home for prostitution listings.

Today, Craigslist allows a certain level of user screening for these ads by allowing users to flag listings as "inappropriate." Granted, if you are viewing the erotic services website, your judgment of what is traditionally inappropriate may be slightly different from that of the norm. •

Female Locker Room Codes



Cleanliness

It is fair to say that one shower a day may keep your teammates away. Even if you shower in the morning, showering after a practice or work out is recommended. You may also be looked upon with disgust if you don't take your smelly clothes home with you, leaving them to fumigate in a locker.

Females can be a little gross. So, on behalf of all of those who don't fall into that category: For our sake, *please flush!* We don't want to see the presents you left behind when you put tape over the sensor.

Leaving hair in the shower is a 'no no' as well. If you work up the courage to shower in public, you might as well make it pleasant for others. It is appreciated when there are no hair monsters making swimming pools out of the shower room. People don't often enjoy walking through slimy shower water.

Believe it or not, some women also hate bugs. Eating in the locker room invites the ants and, when those ants go marching in, we go screaming out.

Nudity

There are many differing opinions on this subject, depending on what you are used to, but among our generation of locker room users, nudity is commonly an uncomfortable issue.

Showering as a team in the nude is hard for some people, yet easy for others. However, nudity in a general sense is deemed unnecessary: We don't need to see what you have. Talking to many women, I have found that nudity is extremely awkward. If you feel comfortable being naked in public, good for you, but the rest of us would rather not change in the middle of the room. Stripping down all at once with no inhibitions should be reserved for your own personal time.

Personal Space

Being territorial is a natural instinct that is not easy to keep in check. When you've had a locker for three years in the same spot, it is hard to break your routine. For sports teams, our wonderful coaches devise a pecking order for a reason. Seniors, the oldest and most stuck in their ways (myself included), get to choose their lockers first. The juniors next, and so on down the line. This will ensure harmony. After all, it is nice to return to "your" locker every season.

Even if you aren't on a team, humans are creatures of habit. Once you plop your stuff down in a locker that feels just right, chances are you'll return to the same place the next time around. When there are a lot of women in the locker room, it is common courtesy to leave at least a locker between you and them so as to not invade their personal space. When there are only four or five people present, an aisle between is preferred.

Communication

Generally, girls aren't afraid of talking. We are usually considered very talkative, a stereotype which carries over to the locker room. Mostly, it is between friends, but not strangers. After practice, a team of girls talk, either a lot or a little bit less than a lot, depending on how practice went. It is usually considered appropriate to talk as long as you aren't stark naked.

While changing, however, conversation is slightly interrupted but not stopped: It becomes a pause. As a general rule, talking is okay as long as you have clothes on. It is even common for you to hear girls talking both stall-to-stall and in the shower. Obviously, this only goes to show that we have a lot of important things to say. •

by Rachel Lorenz

illustration by Jaime Douglas



Just by counting heads on the Quarter Mile, it's easy to see the gender breakdown at RIT. It has become a fact of life: Men outnumber women on campus by about seven to three. Change, however, is on the horizon.

In accordance with a goal set by RIT President William Destler, a commission was formed to increase the ratio of undergraduate women. The Commission on Women, cochaired by Mary-Beth Cooper, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Margaret Bailey, Associate Professor in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering, is charged with developing a plan for creating a "cultural and academic transformation."

According to Bailey, "[Destler] set a five-year goal to increase the percentage of women from around 30% to 40%... for RIT that's a significant increase."

The Commission on Women (made up of "men and women

from across the university") drafted a list of proposals to meet this new goal, according to Bailey. "Together, we crafted a document that includes a number of different strategies... ranging from investigating new program development... [to] supporting college and admission recruitment programs for women."

The document called for an "Institutional Transformation," involving an assessment of the "marketability of RIT to women." Remarketed Bailey, "One of the recommendations was to look at the way RIT addresses... undecided type students" "It may help us attract more women." While women are not more likely to be undecided, she said, undecided applicants represent a large demographic to which RIT doesn't currently cater. The main difficulty lies in overcoming the status quo. "We have held steady at 30%...

for at least two decades. So in order to achieve that goal... [it] would take a significant effort," said Bailey.

In some cases, those efforts have already begun. According to Marian Nicoletti, a Senior Associate Director of Admissions and member of the Commission on Women, recruitment is starting at a much earlier age. Different women's groups around campus are actively reaching out "to encourage women as far back as middle school." Their goal is to make female students more aware of their options in math and science.

"A lot of schools will allow engineering students to come in and do workshops with the young students," said Nicoletti. "Years before you were really limited to, 'Do you want to be a math teacher or do you want to be a nurse?'" "We've been doing separate recruitment for females," stated Nicoletti. "We invite

them to campus, we do special mailings to them... if they do decide to come... we try to let them know that there are support services... that there are women faculty in these programs."

Beginning this year, noted Bailey, Destler has retooled the Commission on Women towards increasing the number of female faculty at RIT. The aim is to provide a more comfortable environment for female students.

That environment is important, Nicoletti said. The women groups aim "to provide a community once women get here."

Small changes have already begun in admissions rates. "Overall, we brought in over 115 more women this fall than the fall before," said Nicoletti. This represents about a 10% increase from last year. By 2012, if all goes according to Destler's five-year plan, the numbers should be even higher. •

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Stream of Facts

In the United States, the average life expectancy for women is just over 80; for men, it is just over 75. One explanation for this could be that the relative iron deficiency caused by menstruation helps the average **woman** age more slowly, notably delaying in the onset of cardiovascular disease.

Named "America's most powerful **woman**" by *Life* magazine at the end of the 20th century, **Oprah** Winfrey is currently estimated to have a net worth of greater than \$2.5 billion, according to *Forbes*.

According to **Oprah**, 85% of women are wearing the wrong size **bra**. Most commonly, women buy bras too large in bandwidth and too small in the cup.

In 1910, Mary Phelps Jacob, a 19-year-old socialite, is believed to have created the modern **bra** as a result of not wanting her whalebone corset to show through her gown. Instead, she and her maid fashioned a new undergarment out of two silk handkerchiefs, some **pink** ribbon, and some cord.

Pink roses are a symbol of gentility, grace, and femininity. Yellow roses are a symbol of friendship and red roses are a symbol of romantic love.

Another symbol of **femininity** is ♀, the astronomical symbol of **Venus**. The symbol was not used in this manner until 1751, when Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus used it to denote the gender of plants.

In 2007, tennis player **Venus** Williams became the first woman to break the glass ceiling of prize money at Wimbledon. Despite years of protest, Wimbledon had previously refused to pay women's and men's players equally through all rounds. The turning point came in the form of a 2006 essay in *The Times*, in which Williams accused the tournament of being "on the wrong side of history."

Quote

"In my heart, I think a woman has two choices: Either she's a feminist or a masochist." Gloria Steinem

Androgynous Names

Robin
 Meaning: Famous, bright fame
 Origin: Old English
 Famous Name Holders: R&B singer Robin Thicke, Star Trek actress Robin Curtis, Nine Inch Nails and Guns N' Roses guitarist Robin Finck, literary character Robin Hood

Rory
 Meaning: The red king
 Origin: Gaelic
 Famous Name Holders: actor Rory Culkin (brother of Macaulay and Keiran), Gilmore Girls character Rory Gilmore, Vancouver Canucks hockey player Rory Fitzpatrick

Taylor
 Meaning: A tailor, cutter of cloth
 Origin: English, Old French
 Famous Name Holders: country singer Taylor Swift, musician Taylor Hanson

Ashley
 Meaning: Ash tree clearing
 Origin: Old English
 Famous Name Holders: O-Town member and pop singer Ashley Parker Angel, actress Ashley Olsen

Reporter Recommends

<http://www.mikeonads.com/2008/07/13/using-your-browser-url-history-estimate-gender>. This is a neat application that uses your browser URL history to estimate your gender. It looks at the sites you've visited, plugs in the male/female visitor ratio for each of those sites, and comes out with a likelihood percentage of your gender. No guarantees on accuracy, obviously, but it's amusing either way. For an extra kick, wait until your boss isn't looking, and see what your results are on your work computer vs. your home computer. For some reason, my likelihood of being female at work was 86%; at home, it was reduced to just 24%. Go figure.

Cartoon by Michael Dennerly



With a Bachelor's degree in Business and Marketing from the University of Brockport, Margo Clements has been at RIT with the Ritter Ice Rink since August 2007. Her past experience includes working at an ice arena in downtown Rochester where she partook in skating lessons, hockey camps, and accounting for the arena.

What is your official title?

I'm the Ice Rink Activities Assistant. I work on the budget for men's and women's hockey as well as the budget for the ice arena. I also coordinate the Learn to Skate Program and the schedule for the ice rink.

How much time per week do you devote to RIT sports?

I put in about 35 hours per week, more during the hockey season when I'm going to the games as a spectator.

What sports do you prefer?

I definitely prefer men's hockey at RIT.

Why do you feel passionate about sports?

Well, my husband [Scott Clements] was captain of a DIII hockey team when we were dating in college. I really have more of a connection to hockey because of that, and I really enjoy watching RIT hockey.

What is your favorite RIT moment in sports?

When that fight broke out with Canisius... it brought back some memories. Hockey was much more physical when I watched in college.

Is there anything about RIT sports that you would change?

I personally just go to RIT hockey games and I'm not completely sure about what other sports attendance is... they've been wanting to boost attendance at events, including women's hockey. Boost school spirit.

What sports have you played?

I didn't play competitively in high school or college sports; I did gymnastics, played softball, and was a diver for a town team when I was a kid.



Kelly Wohlhagen, a junior in Diagnostic Medical Imaging, is a returning SportsZone team member. She shared her thoughts on RIT athletics and its role in her collegiate experience.

What sports have you played?

I've played basketball, soccer, and swam when I was younger. In high school I played softball and volleyball for both my school and for a travel team, and I was on the RIT Varsity Volleyball team until injury kept me from playing this year.

What is your official title?

I'm considered SportsZone Talent. There's about six or seven of us. I cover the games and interview players. We don't have specific sports to cover... aside from the live hockey games, but we get to request to be assigned to a specific sports coverage.

What sports do you cover for SportsZone?

I got the chance to cover a volleyball game this year, which was nice since I know the [team] and the coach.

How much time per week do you devote to RIT sports?

It varies from week to week. We have biweekly meetings [at SportsZone to determine] whether or not I'm covering a story that weekend. I also like to keep up with how the teams are doing.

Why do you feel passionate about sports?

My whole family is pretty athletic. [My siblings and I] were all encouraged to try a bunch of different sports. My dad was a gymnast for 21 years.

What is your favorite RIT moment in sports?

When I was playing softball for a travel team, I had the game-winning hit.

Is there anything about RIT sports that you would change?

When I went to the volleyball team's Senior Night, there weren't very many people there to support them. And I remember being in the stands and someone asked their friend why there was no one at the game and they said "Well, no one knew about it." So I think that putting more signs up around campus instead of right outside [of Clark Gym] would get more people interested, because not everyone goes by the gym every day... Mr. Spiotti [the Athletic Director at RIT] is always going to the games. He really sets a great example for both the staff and students to make that extra effort to get out to games and really support athletes.

Loving Sports Like a Girl

Androgyny

The Best of Both Worlds?

From the minute we're born until the day we die, gender is everywhere. Birth certificates, baby clothes colors, first names, grade school playtime, bathrooms, relationships, credit cards, weekend hobbies, death certificates, and the ubiquitous pronoun all hinge on our gender. We don't often ask the question "Is that a guy or a girl?" because the answer appears to coat our persons like graffiti in an abandoned urban sector. We carry our gender everywhere with us in our wallets. It's stitched into our clothing and coded into our movements.

¶ Most people don't seem to notice the omnipresence of gender. When the bartender delivers that *Cosmopolitan* to a female patron and calls her 'miss,' no one looks up from his glass. Society takes for granted that people are strictly masculine or feminine, but what happens when gender ceases to be binary, when that 'miss' suddenly becomes a suit-wearing and aggressive-acting yet purse-touting businesswoman named Kyle? People look up.

¶ We don't often ask the question "Is that a guy or girl," but sometimes, circumstances dictate that we do. On those occasions, the answers can be downright fascinating in their depth.

by Jen Loomis | photograph by Maegan Gindi

GENDER IS DIFFERENT FROM SEX

Before we can talk about gender, we need to talk about sex, as they are two separate and distinct concepts. A person's sex is defined solely by their anatomy. Men have Adam's apples and women have ovaries (and Intersexed folks have a bit of each).

Gender is different from sex in that it is not at all associated with a person's physical parts. Women can be masculine (e.g., Hillary Clinton) and men can be feminine (e.g., David Bowie). Behavior and psychology drive an individual's gender. Gender is identity — it's how you walk, talk, dress, feel, and think.

Culture defines what is deemed masculine and what is labeled feminine. In America, masculinity tends to be closely linked to the stereotypical alpha male. As a result, independence, power suits, and a slight obsession with football are masculine.

On the flip side, emotional warmth, skirts, and a slight obsession with bubble gum are feminine.

ANDROGYNY: NEITHER BLACK NOR WHITE

Androgyny is a more or less 'perfect' mixture of masculine and feminine traits. Though commonly associated exclusively with the gay community, many people display androgynous tendencies regardless of their sexual preference. Some lipstick-wearing, Gucci-buying ladies love watching football. Some beer-drinking, deer-hunting men enjoy getting pedicures. Androgyny isn't about being gay; it's about displaying some (but not all) opposite sex-typed tendencies. These days, the term crops up often in pop culture.

David Bowie and Jodi Foster are famous examples of

androgens, people who display characteristics of both genders. Dani Campbell from the first season of *A Shot at Love with Tila Tequila* is another example; in that show, she was often labeled as being "the best of both worlds" — a good balance of both male- and female-typed beauty.

SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH...

Psychologists have been studying androgyny since the 1970s. Sandra Bem, a notable researcher in the field of gender, crafted a highly influential scale for measuring androgyny called the Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI). This scale was developed by categorizing 200 adjectives as being masculine, feminine, or neither. These categorizations were based on reactions from her testing base. So, if a word like 'aggression' was voted by a majority to be masculine, it was labeled masculine.

Bem posed her original model of gender as a straight line with masculinity at one end and femininity at the other end. The underlying assumption of such a model is that masculinity and femininity are two opposite and opposing forces; people who are masculine are automatically less feminine.

Janet Spence, another psychologist studying gender, posited a richer theory with a group of her associates. Spence's model is often referred to as the additive model, as traits from both genders combine instead of compete to form a whole person. Her research argues that masculinity and femininity are orthogonal forces. Individuals can be high or low in feminine traits and either high or low in masculine traits, making four quadrants of characterization. Those possessing high quantities of both masculine and feminine traits were labeled as androgynous, and seemed to be on the whole happier, healthier, and more successful individuals.

In the additive model, as well as Bem's original model, androgynous subjects are hypothesized to be superhuman in their abilities. Their combination of masculine and feminine traits makes them more adaptable to a wider range of situations, and thus better prepares them to face the world. Per this theory, the androgynous woman will be more aggressive than her strictly feminine counterparts and thus could stand a better chance at making CEO. The androgynous male will be more empathetic and thus stands a better chance at finding his soul mate.

While often praised as an asset, some research indicates that androgyny could have a harmful effect on some people. A study conducted by Warren Jones, et al. argues that happiness and success hinge not on a combination of traits but solely on the masculine axis, as those abilities are typically more valued in nature and in Western society. Androgynous women, according to this study, are the only ones with a provable edge.

...OR ITCHING INFERIORITY?

Much of the work surrounding androgyny tends to make gender-bending look strangely compelling and oddly attractive. Very little if any consideration is given to the negative social effects of being androgynous, of displaying some characteristics of the opposite sex. From the ivory towers of psychological research, androgyny looks by and large appealing. To the troops on the ground, the view is rather different.

Bathrooms contain the worst of it. My understanding is such that ordinary people seem to merely march on to the closest restroom as needed. For a lot of physically androgynous people, going to the bathroom is a process. Some people literally plan their day around when they'll need to use a restroom, or else face the ugly prospect of being mistaken for the opposite gender and thrown out on their ears. They'll watch traffic patterns, know which facilities are underused at what times, and which facilities are always occupied.

Being a butch lesbian, I have some experience in the trenches. When I purchase anything with my credit card, there's about a 50% likelihood that the cashier will tell me that I'm not Jennifer Loomis, that the card I've handed them does not belong to me. Sometimes, they threaten to call security before I've had time to produce a photo ID. The simple act of buying a bag of groceries, then, makes me look criminal.

Perhaps androgyny is like anything else in life: A mixed bag. If androgynous people are truly better equipped to face the world, then perhaps the extra challenges associated with their gender-bending balance the equation. Some days, androgyny may feel like a suit of armor, protective and refreshingly cool to the touch. On others, perhaps it's a poorly knit wool sweater, uncomfortable and unbearably itchy. But, most of all, androgyny, like all gender expressions, is identity — it's how people walk, talk, dress, feel, and think. ♀

Are there Innate Differences Between the Sexes?

by Neil DeMoney
photography by Tom Liggett



Today, it is widely accepted idea that men and women are equals in their intellectual capacities. Any thoughts otherwise are suspect, highly criticized, and are almost always inappropriate. In recent years, however, some voices of dissent have suggested that innate differences may exist. Is there any truth to the claim that there are intellectual inequalities between the sexes?

In 2005, Harvard President Lawrence Summers posited that one reason men have dominated high-level engineering and science careers might be that men are more innately gifted in those areas — a theory that wound up getting him fired. While he did not outright and clearly state that men were smarter than women, he seemed to insinuate that men could be more naturally

talented in those fields.

What if his proposal is correct? Is there a connection between male genetics and a greater aptitude in understanding complex quantitative material? How much evidence is there to back up Summers' claim? Apparently, not much.

Dr. Evelyn Brister, RIT Professor of Ethics and a specialist in feminist philosophy, has been interested in the intellectual differences between the sexes for quite some time. She has found that studies which explore the unique intellectual capabilities of both genders have very few variations, if any. "The studies that find differences in math abilities, for instance, usually don't take into account the extra instructional time that boys have had in math classrooms. Boys and girls are still educated differently," said Brister. Due to this observation, conscious efforts have been made to improve teaching methods so

as to not exclude the female population, efforts which have resulted in an almost equal number of men and women in chemistry, biology, and medicine.

Without any real evidence to support Summers' claims, it therefore seems that he was either exercising extreme carelessness in his wording, or, as Brister phrased it, "demonstrat[ing] that he was not as supportive of women as men." Regardless, it reveals common modes of thought that exist in some of our minds.

Another example that suggests an intellectual division between the sexes is the suggestion that men are better with directions (in terms of both distance estimation and compass direction), whereas women's strengths lie in identifying landmarks and determining what is right or left. Are these studies enough to prove that the sexes have unequal — or at least distinct — types of intelligence? When asked, Brister noted that "this is one of

the few intellectual differences between men and women that has some support to it."

The problem then lies in understanding how and why these differences exist. Brister believes that we have yet to decipher whether it is due to "cultural artifact or whether it has a biological basis." It is likely that it could exist because of the varied methods used in raising males and females. Each gender behaves uniquely and engages in a myriad of activities; therefore, it is more likely that these differences exist because of social factors rather than genetic influences.

Whether biological or social in nature, Dr. Brister has noted that curiosity has fueled much of the investigation into gender-specific intellectual types. Per Brister, "[It is difficult] to imagine that our social policies on the treatment of boys and girls or men and women will change, whatever we find. I hope that we can discover the cause [of the differences!]" •

10.24.08

At Your Leisure

by John Howard

STREAM OF FACTS

The title of "man's best friend" (given to dogs) originated from a speech by a lawyer named George Graham Vest during a Supreme Court case in 1870 over the murder of a dog named Old Drum. Vest's defendant, the owner of Old Drum, was awarded \$50 for the **damage** he and his dog suffered.

Before thermometers were invented, in order to avoid **damage** to a batch of beer, brewers would dip their thumb into the brew in order to test the temperature before adding yeast. If it was too hot, the yeast would die; too cold, and the yeast would not grow. This practice eventually **became** the saying "rule of thumb."

Lawn mower racing **became** a US sport on April Fool's day of 1992 through the sponsorship of the makers of STA-BIL fuel stabilizer, Gold Eagle Co. The US Lawn Mower Racing Association (USLMRA) was inspired by **England's** already established British Lawn Mower Association.

On May 4, 1999, **England's** John Evans balanced a 352 lb. Mini Cooper on his head for a whopping 33 seconds. The strength of his manly, 24-inch thick neck helped win him the esteemed and somewhat eccentric title of "Heaviest Car Balanced on the Head," one of his 25 records **held**.

Sylvester Stallone **held** the title of "Stud" with his first role in the softcore porno entitled *The Party at Kitty and Stud's* in 1970. Stallone earned \$200 dollars for the role in this film that was later re-released as *The Italian Stallion* after the success of the **history**-making film *Rocky* six years later.

The longest punt in the **history** of the National Football League occurred in a game between the New York Jets and the Denver Broncos in 1969. The 98-yard kick came off the foot of New York Jet Steve O'Neal.

ANDROGYNOUS NAMES

MORGAN

Meaning: Sea circle

Original: Welsh

Famous Name Holders: actor Morgan Freeman, actress Morgan Fairchild, Morgan le Fay (sister of the legendary King Arthur).

JORDAN

Meaning: Descend, flow down

Origin: Hebrew

Famous Name Holders: New Kids on the Block member Jordan Knight, singer Jordin Sparks, Scrubs character Jordan Sullivan.

BLAKE

Meaning: Of dark or pale skin

Origin: Old English

Famous Name Holders: actress Blake Lively, singer Blake Lewis, film director Blake Edwards.

CAMERON

Meaning: Crooked nose

Origin: Scottish, Gaelic

Famous Name Holders: actress Cameron Diaz, writer and film director Cameron Crowe.

REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Seeing that new horror movie before you take your date to it. It'll ruin the ending for you, sure, but a man must keep in mind his "projected manliness" when he is trying to impress that oh-so-impressionable date. "Projected manliness," though a complex subject, can be broken down simply in definition as the magnitude of manliness that one presents to those around him. This value will likely suffer if you're squeaking with fright every time Jigsaw pops out from around the corner. So, do yourself a favor and see every scary date movie beforehand so you can prepare yourself for all those jump-out-of-skin moments. Your projected manly points will sky rocket as your date cringes in your arms, terrified, while you remain rooted and unaffected, whispering in their ear, "That wasn't that scary."



CARTOON by Michael Demery

DIFFICULTY RATING: HARD

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

QUOTE

"ARE YOU GONNA PULL PISTOLS OR WHISTLE DIXIE?"

-Clint Eastwood
in *The Outlaw Josey Wales*

α guy's how-to:

getting girls



by Michael Barbato
photo illustration by Ben Liddle

The following will outline the basics that every guy should know when attracting the female sex. I will cover how to approach a girl, the persona to be used, and how to close the deal. I polled a number of guys on the most intimidating factors when asking a girl out and gathered some advice from a few spry young ladies about what sweeps them off their feet. Combined, I put together my own little *School for Scoundrels*.

making the first move

If you've ever wished the girl you like would do all the work and ask you out, chances are she won't. 85% of the girls I polled revealed they had never asked a guy out. Most girls won't make the first move out of fear of being too forward or depriving her would-be suitor of his 'manly' prowess. Although it does happen, it isn't very often, so it is vital to make that first move.

the approach

If you're still using generic pickup lines, I have some *magical love potions* I'd like to sell you. By the way, neither pickup lines nor love potions work! In fact, pickup lines will hurt your chances; according to the spry young ladies, pickup lines are the most irritating tactics a guy can employ.

Things to take to the table are a smile, a sense of humor, and some confidence. A smile is important because no one wants to get to know a grouch. It imparts a sense of warmth, especially during those flirtatious glances from across the room.

Humor was surveyed as the number one aspect that girls look for in a guy. He doesn't necessarily have to joke all the time, but, according to Elise Rameika, a third year Visual Media major, he should "be able to make fun of himself... There is something genuine and attractive in that."

Confidence is essential. If you go up to a girl and give a vibe signifying that you're uncomfortable or that you don't know what you're doing, she'll pick up on that and it won't work out for you. Elizabeth Quilter, a fourth year Interior Design major, offered, "If he comes up to me and thinks he's the man, I'll think he's the man."

Moreover, girls want to feel special when a guy asks them out, so be charming. Do something intriguing, albeit cliché. "Boys playing guitars," for instance, sweep Tiffany Backhus, a fourth year Interior Design major, off her feet.

In addition, knowing something about her interests can provide you with a good icebreaker and help her become more active in the conversation. "If a guy wanted to ask me out because I do photography," said Ysanya Perez, a third year Advertising Photography major, "it would get my attention if he asked me about my work."

Try to keep the conversation easy for her. Talk about the usuals: Major, where you're from, what you're doing here, and so on.

Also, an old trick — girls, quit reading here — is to use her name in conversation. Generally, people respond most aptly to their names. This will grab her attention back into the conversation. Find a happy medium with this tactic, because using her name too often comes off as pretentious.

where to approach

Watch out for girls in a hurry or busy. Don't approach a girl when she's on her way to class or if she's waitressing at a crowded restaurant. Bars and clubs are well fielded and usually not the best environment to start. Be spontaneous. Approach her in an unexpected place. Go up to her at the library and notice her reading the book you just read or want to read and go from there.

If the girl you want to talk to is in a group, be cautious; it's really easy to make things awkward, so casually approach the whole group. Making sure not to disrupt their flow of conversation, offer some of your personal experience on the subject matter or something otherwise pertinent. For example, if they are talking about a professor you know, say something like, "Yeah, when I had that professor — don't worry about it — there was a really huge curve at the end." This can break the ice.

Keep yourself involved in the conversation but remember it is *their* discussion. If you keep it light and interesting, the awkwardness will soon dissipate. After you've chatted for

a bit, you should be able to get her contact information. If nothing else, it will make interacting with her and her group easier in the future. This is a difficult task, considering that most of the girls I polled preferred to at least be acquaintances with their pursuer.

It's even easier to merge as a group, your friends with hers; however, execution is critical. Be confident and let them know you have something to offer in conversation. Once in, you may sit proximate to the girl, but address all group members. In general, girls are more receptive if you talk to their friends as well.

the dismount

Know when to quit. "Guys repeatedly asking me out or ...pestering [me] are big turnoffs," said Backhus. "If I say no, but I'm still interested, I'll say 'I'm free at this time.' Other than that, the guy needs to back off."

Otherwise, be attentive during the initial conversation and listen for something she likes to do. Ask her out right then or at least get her number. Even if you're worried about rejection, ask anyway because it's flattering. They won't hate you for it if you do it in a unique way. If she tells you "no" at first because she's dating someone, respond with something like, "Do you only meet new people when you're single?" If nothing else, it will keep her talking a little longer. If she still says no, don't press it; we learned earlier that girls hate that.

Finally, leave with confidence, shake each person's hand in the group and recognize them by name. Be funny and let the way you say "bye" to her stand out from everyone else.

α final thought

Your best chance for success is to be confident, assertive, and direct. Don't be afraid to be rejected every now and again — it happens to the best of us. Make sure you have a smile; smirking like you know something they don't seems to work best. Learn where to ask and when it's just not going to happen. If you can master the approach, closing the deal will become second nature. •

Prostitution: Who is Screwing Whom?

by Danielle Gotschall | illustration by Joanna Eberts



Sitting on the curb at an intersection downtown, the woman I called “Candy Lips” started talking. She wore a nondescript grey t-shirt and black shorts. Although she wasn’t scantily dressed, we could still feel the wind through our clothes. She was fascinating to watch, with her black curls bouncing and her red lacquered nails flashing in the small amount of sunlight as she spoke. She wore blue contacts to bring out her dark skin; it was fitting as her story was that of contrasts.

She wouldn’t tell me where she grew up, what her major was, her real name, or even what her customers call her. She wouldn’t tell me her age, what year she graduated high school, or which city she currently calls home. But she did tell me a lot of other things.

Her real name was not Candy Lips, nor was it her street name. She attended RIT until a cocaine addiction that led to other addictions forced her out of school and onto the streets. She hasn’t spoken to her affluent family since. She didn’t think they’d approve of her new occupation: Prostitution.

Candy did not choose to become a prostitute. She wanted to be the CEO of a major corporation, but when she blew her parents’ money up her nose, so too did she blow up her dreams. She couldn’t call her parents to tell them that she couldn’t afford tuition because she spent all of their money on drugs. She did what she thought she had to do: She moved on.

Candy tried her hand at waitressing, bartending, even working at a convenience store, but none provided enough money to pay both rent and her dealer. She danced at a stripclub for a few months but, soon, even that wasn’t enough. So when one gentleman offered her money to sleep with him, she went for it. To her surprise, it was easier than she thought. Thus, a prostitute was born.

Prostitution seemed the simplest solution to solve her growing addiction problem, but after one John got too rough and put her in the hospital, she needed a change.

“I didn’t think I could go any lower when I left school, but I did,” she said. “I spent three weeks in a hospital bed, thinking about where I went wrong. But then I realized: They have been taking advantage of me, and I could just as easily take advantage of them... and their bank accounts.”

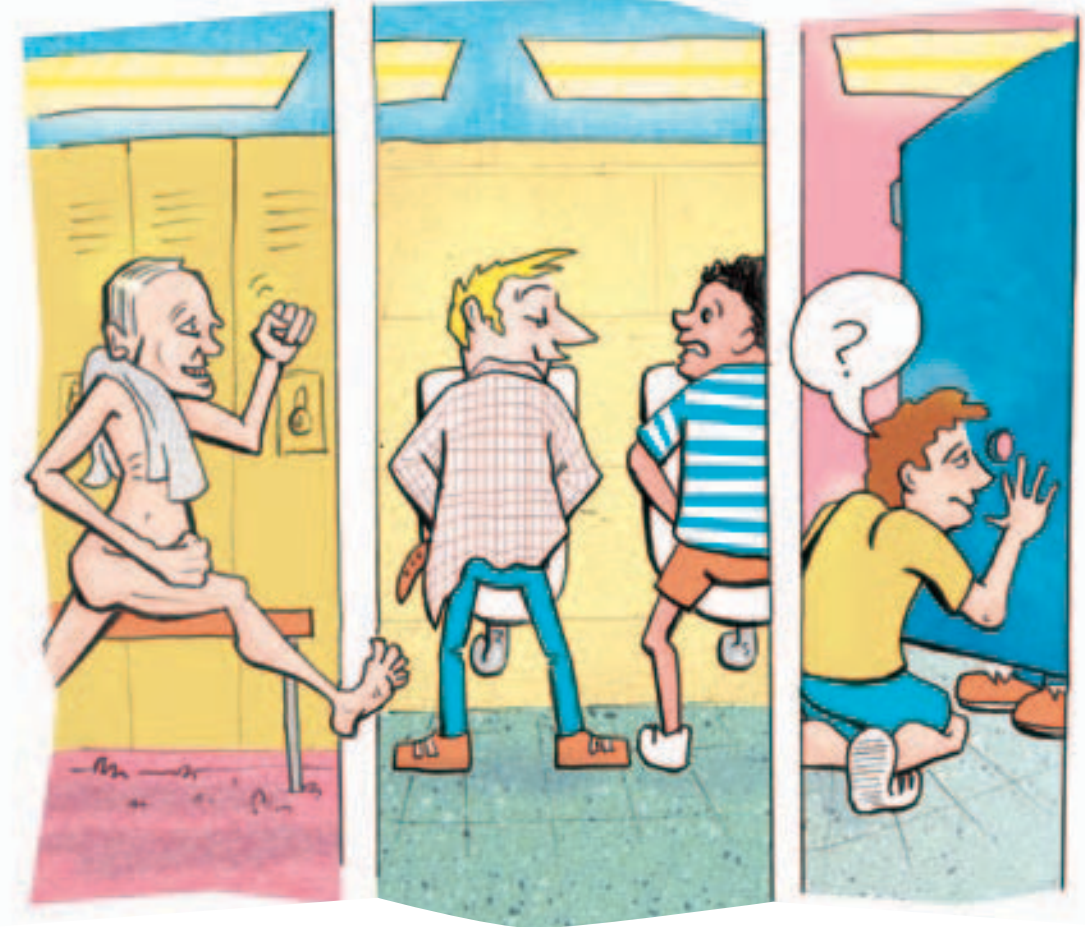
Now Candy is drug free. She’s still turning tricks, but at a higher price and with much more tact. She said, “I didn’t appreciate what I was worth in the beginning. I was just a junkie and I needed my fix.” Years have passed since those days, though how many, she wouldn’t say.

So if she doesn’t need prostitution to support her drug addiction, one wonders why she is still in the business. Candy replied, “Pay back. I used to let men walk all over me... Now, I turn them away if I want, and who wants to be turned away by a hooker? And the ones I don’t, well, I charge them exactly what I am worth.” And does she charge. Candy said she services guys’ nights and bachelor parties for no less than five grand at each event.

She doesn’t have moral qualms about what she does either. “I consider myself an actress. I can be whoever they want me to be: Southern, French, rude, not. They have needs and I provide a service to satisfy them.” So if it’s morally understandable, should prostitution be legal? “Hell no! Then I couldn’t charge these pigs as much as I do! Where would be the fun in that?”

What used to be considered a profession of men and women being exploited by their clients leads to a new and interesting perspective. If there is more than one prostitute approaching his or her job in a similar way as Candy, then a word of caution to those soliciting their services: You may be paying to screw, but they may end up screwing you. •

Male Locker Room Codes



Cleanliness

Locker rooms aren’t the cleanest place on Earth, but at least they’re bearable — and this is coming from someone whose worst fears are dirty bathrooms and heights.

It’s all about respect. Respect for the fact that other guys don’t want to step in your bodily excrement. Occasionally, someone has terrible aim and tends to completely miss the urinal or the toilet seat altogether. These things happen, but it is never fun to step barefoot in regurgitated mac and cheese. If we all practice our aim, clean up after ourselves, flush regularly, and wear shoes (or slippers), then everyone should get along just fine.

Oh, and no masturbating in the showers. Ever.

by Chukwuma Morah
illustration by Jamie Douglas

Nudity

Male locker room nudity and the *Sex and the City* movie have a lot in common: Guys hope to get through the day without seeing either of them. I understand that some guys are comfortable letting their junk air dry, but I think I speak for the greater good when I say, “Wear an effing towel.” We’ve all accepted RIT as being a sausage fest, but no one said we had to actually see the meat locker.

If you’re trying to avoid subjecting yourself to the blinding truth that roams the aisles of the male locker room, I suggest not going to the gym around mid-day. Otherwise you might get an eyeful of something frightful. Picture John McCain naked and you’ll get the idea.

Personal Space

It’s all about proxemics, really: “Personal bubbles.”

The general size of one’s personal bubble varies from culture to culture, but in American society people feel comfortable when others keep about an arm’s length away. That’s how things work at the Gordon Field House locker rooms. I’d assume the same would apply to the Varsity locker rooms, though you might have to factor in the occasional bromance after the team wins a big game.

Bathrooms are a bit different. When using the urinals, the “1-3-5 rule” should be applied whenever possible; there should be at least one urinal space between you and the other guy at all times. Same thing goes for bathroom stalls; it’s part of the unspoken social contract subconsciously agreed upon by all men.

Communication

There’s nothing wrong with good old locker room talk. In fact, some of the funniest conversations you’ll hear all day happen at the lockers. It’s a great place to talk about how there were only three girls at that UC party last weekend, or how you forgot your girlfriend’s birthday because you had a 20-kill streak in *Call of Duty 4*.

Chatter in the restroom area, however, should be kept to a minimum; it defeats the efficiency of the male restroom system. Unlike the female bathroom process, ours is quick and basic: Go in, do your business, wash your hands (sometimes), and go out. No time for chitchat or eye contact. •

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Are you man enough?



Martini

2 1/2 oz. Gin
1 1/2 tsp. Dry Vermouth
1 Olive

There is nothing teeny tiny about the Martini. This drink is straight alcohol with just enough vermouth to impart some added flavor. Not only is this the manliest of the men's drinks, but also the classiest. James Bond is classy, gets a plethora of ladies, beats up on degenerate bad guys, and also drinks the martini. Hmm.

The Original Sazerac

1 tsp. Sugar
1-1/2 oz. Rye whiskey
1 Dash Herbsaint, Pernod or Absinthe (to coat the glass)
2 dashes Peychaud bitters
2 dashes Angostura bitters
1 Lemon peel twist

Straight from Bourbon Street in New Orleans, The Original Sazerac is no big easy. Made of rye whiskey and a liquor comparable to psychedelic cough syrup, only the bravest of people dare to sip on a Sazerac.



Irish Car Bomb

3/4 pint Guinness stout
1/2 shot Bailey's Irish cream
1/2 shot Jameson Irish whiskey

The Irish are surely bringing it to the table here. Almost a pint of thick Guinness stout as well as a shot of whiskey and Bailey's? Hell yes. This one needs to be buried down the hatch fast, though; otherwise, you'll be chugging chunks of curdled cream.

Manhattan

3/4 oz. Sweet Vermouth
2 1/2 oz. Rye whiskey
1 dash Angostura bitters
1 Maraschino cherry

I know what you're thinking: "It has a cherry, so it's a pansy drink," and you couldn't be further from the truth. Chew on this: The Manhattan is the favored drink of the Italian mafia, so before you call the guy in the suit a cherry-drinking cream puff, make sure he hasn't just fitted someone with cement shoes.



Rusty Nail

1 1/2 oz. Scotch
1/2 oz. Drambuie

The Rusty Nail is a drink sure to put hair on your chest and a swagger in your step. The only way to kick this drink up another notch is to use Johnny Walker Black, which just might make it a shiny new nail.



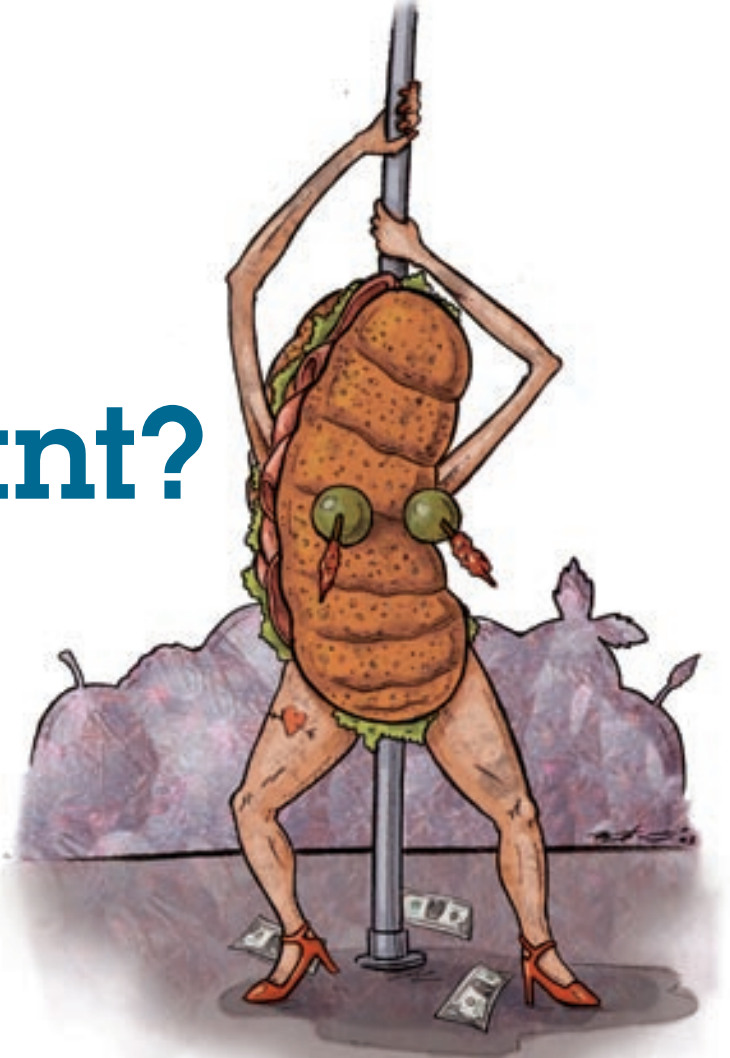
by Thomas Mittner | photography by Tom Liggett

strip club or restaurant?

by John Howard | illustration by Robert Modzelewski

For all those times you have driven by that one sketchy building with the blacked-out windows, pondering about what lies behind the doors of this curiously-titled establishment; those moments when the question has ignited in your mind, burning for an answer. Ladies and gentlemen, it is time. We at Reporter ask you, for the first documented time in the history of RIT, to come to terms and confront this uncertainty by asking yourself the question: "Is that a strip club or a restaurant?"

Show your knowledge of the smuttier side of Rochester's entertainment scene. Circle which category you feel each title falls under. Circle "S" for strip club or "R" for restaurant. •



Edibles	S	R	Foxy's	S	R	Club 1100	S	R
Mirage Palace	S	R	Charlie Brown's	S	R	Louie's Cordial Lounge	S	R
Barrel of Dolls	S	R	Hogans Hideaway	S	R	Duchess	S	R
Sal's Birdland	S	R	Cheerleaders USA	S	R	House of Poon	S	R
Jack's Place	S	R	Lampighter	S	R	Baxter's	S	R
Klassy Cat	S	R	Shadow Lake Clubhouse	S	R	Rick's Tallyho	S	R

ANSWERS | Strip Clubs | Klassy Cat, Rick's Tallyho, Louie's Cordial Lounge, Foxy's, Mirage Palace, Barrel of Dolls, Club 1100
Restaurants | Charlie Brown's, Edibles, Sal's Birdland, Jack's Place, Cheerleaders USA, Lampighter, Shadow Lake Clubhouse, Duchess, House of Poon, Baxter's, Hogans Hideaway

beard on the street

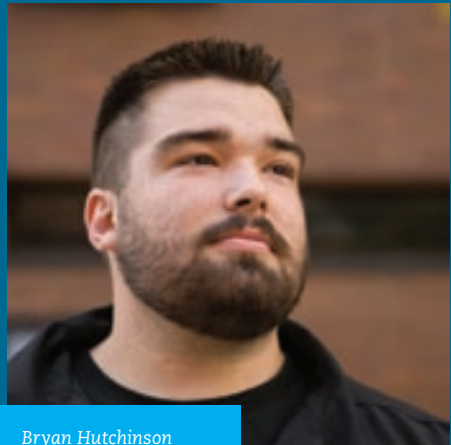
photographs by Steve Pfof
and Emma Tannenbaum



Igor Babushkin
Mechanical Engineering
Third Year



Ted Connors
Professional Tech Communications
Fourth Year



Bryan Hutchinson
Accounting
First Year



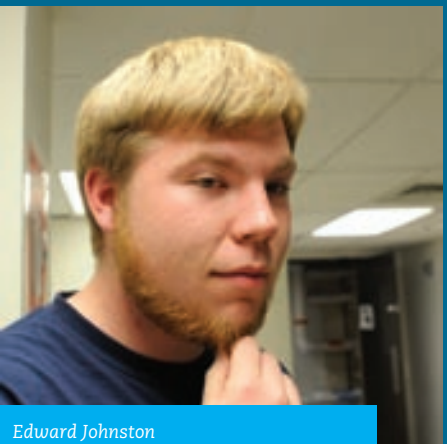
Mohamed Mandeel
Mechanical Engineering
Second Year



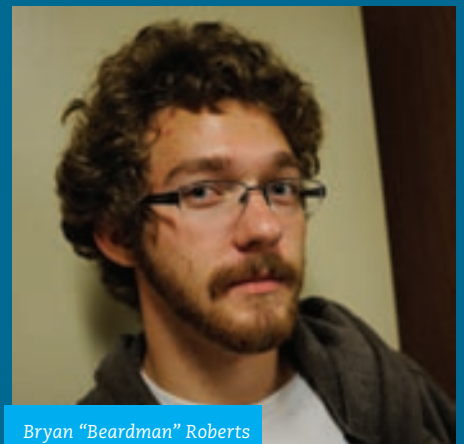
Charles D. Sturdevant
Microelectronics
Fifth Year



Ben Mielenhausen
Mechanical Engineering Technology
Fifth Year



Edward Johnston
Mechanical Engineering Technology
First Year



Bryan "Beardman" Roberts
Digital Cinema
Second Year

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DJ Key-YO

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October 31st
SAU Cafeteria
8 pm → 12am

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Cover photograph by Maegan Gindi.

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