

# REPORT



10 31 08 | [reportermag.com](http://reportermag.com)

zombies,  
werewolves,  
& vampires

terrifying  
creatures

something  
wicca  
this  
way  
comes

# REPORTER

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

## A GOOD SCARE

As finals week creeps closer and closer, there's a certain desperation that starts to kick in for many students right around this time. While a lonely few of you have managed to stay on top of everything for the past eight weeks, not everyone at RIT is going to be looking at straight A's when they pull up their Fall 2008-2009 grade report on SIS. Although we'd certainly all prefer to that perfect 4.0 GPA, that isn't necessarily what will be driving us as we approach finals week. For many of us, there's one reason and one reason alone that we will be working ourselves into a zombie-like state over the next couple weeks: fear.

From fear of failure and bad grades to fear of creepy, crawly insects (see "Terrifying Creatures," page 10), fear can be a very powerful motivator. Indeed, very little else compares.

Every day, fear motivates our behaviors. Why do we back away from the edges of cliffs and shirk from snarling animals? Why is it that we avoid of dark alleyways and shy away from sketchy looking strangers? Rational security concerns, yes, but first and foremost, fear. It's everywhere.

Every time I write an article for *Reporter*, there's a part of me that's, well, terrified. What if it's stupid? 6000 copies will be floating around campus — and worse, it's going to be available online every time someone Googles my name. Scary.

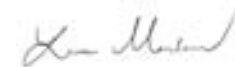
Even when it comes to politics, fear plays an important role. Whether people vote or not (see "The Uselessness of Voting," page 30, and "Go Out and Vote," page 31), their support for a particular candidate is not determined solely by their confidence in that person's abilities. People are also motivated by their fear of the other candidate. Why do you think negative campaigning is so prevalent?

And as if we didn't have enough to fear in real life, people across the globe have been working overtime for centuries to dream up *other* things for us to be afraid of. We now get to add fear of zombies, vampires, and werewolves, and other creatures (see "The Medical Mysteries of Dr. William M Moran," page 16) to the mix.

Fear may not always be a pleasant (or positive) force, but it's certainly a motivating one. Sometimes — especially around this time of year — it's even kind of fun.

I hope you all get at least one good scare in this weekend.

Happy Halloween.



Laura Mandanas  
**EDITOR IN CHIEF**

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*Cover photograph and photograph to*

*the right by Thomas Liggett*



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## TO SEND LETTERS

Email [reporter@rit.edu](mailto:reporter@rit.edu).

Reporter will not print anonymous letters.

for more letters, go to [reportermag.com](http://reportermag.com)

### DEAR REPORTER,

I have an issue with the article titled “Tiger Den” for the issue dated October 10, 2008. You’ve left out several details that fail to recognize key individuals involved with the home match that took place on October 1, 2008. I have no issue with the writing regarding Tiger Den. The Tiger Den is great and using the Tiger Den to get people to home contests has proven to be an invaluable asset to all teams.

To clarify further, “Dig Pink” was brought to RIT by the Women’s Head Volleyball Coach Roger Worsley. The Side-Out Foundation provides tools and suggestions for event management and donor collection. Dig Pink is their signature event used across the nation to unite all volleyball teams in their effort to raise money for breast cancer awareness. Coach Worsley was presented with the opportunity to host a community event and recognized the importance of service through sport immediately.

I have hosted similar events at previous coaching posts and was charged with organizing the event and securing donations/ sponsorships. I enlisted the help of junior Vic Petko to get Tiger Den and SAAC involved. I believe it was at this time Women’s Lacrosse became involved with the event. I just want to emphasize that this was a collaborative effort spearheaded by the Women’s Volleyball team. Vic did a great job decorating and getting the student groups involved. We used our event on the 1st (of October) to help kick off Breast Cancer Awareness Month in hopes to support the efforts of other groups on campus by bringing awareness to the forefront.

In addition to raising money for the Side-Out Foundation, we signed a jersey and presented it to Anna McKinney. Her father Jeff is a longtime volleyball official and well known in volleyball circles. Even though Anna doesn’t have breast cancer her story is special because of their proximity to RIT volleyball both literally and figuratively. Jeff is the Athletic Director at Greece Athena. The volleyball team at Athena was present in full force at the match dressed in pink. Some had the opportunity to work the match as ball/towel girls. Jeff has officiated numerous matches at RIT as a college official and a USA Volleyball juniors official. His daughter Anna was diagnosed this summer with leukemia and has been in and out of the hospital for a better part of the year. It was our way of supporting Anna, Jeff, and their family.

On a closing note it seems petty to point out the details of an event that is weeks old, but the people involved worked very hard to make sure the event ran smoothly and I wanted to make sure the proper credit was given to those involved. “Real Tigers Dig Pink” is the slogan we (Women’s Volleyball) chose to represent our effort to raise money for breast cancer awareness and research. There are portions of the article which leads readers to conclude that a player from Women’s Lacrosse started and organized a Women’s Volleyball event. Not to detract from the efforts of Women’s Lacrosse or SAAC’s involvement, but that just doesn’t make any sense.

I hope you can see where my disappointment in the *Reporter* is coming from and that in the future all writers for the *Reporter*

will exercise due diligence in the gathering of facts and information from all the parties involved.

Regards,  
*Bouaketh Chanthavisouk*  
Assistant Women’s  
Volleyball Coach

### DEAR REPORTER,

I was disappointed when I read the article “Intolerance” in the October 17 issue. I certainly shouldn’t hope that a staff editorial on a college campus would try to find some middle ground through an exchange of ideas over highly debatable and certainly controversial topics such as abortion and the role of religion in lawmaking. However, in place of that we were given an essay on reasons why the Democratic National Party’s platform is more palatable in government than religious fundamentalism.

I certainly would never argue against the idea of gay rights or the right of a woman to choose, but “Intolerance” boiled these issues down to an overly simple and alarmingly strict guideline: “It’s not government’s job to regulate morality,” and that therefore nobody should use religion as a reason for creating any particular law. Outside of the inherent hypocrisy of declaring that someone else should follow your particular set of beliefs – in this case, ironically, the lack of religious beliefs, but I digress – in lawmaking (I get the mental image of a mother smacking her young son and yelling “We do NOT hit!”), this is, to me, a dumbed-down vision of what legislature should be.

It’s easy to say our society cannot be dictated by the moral beliefs of a fraction of that society, but surely Mr. Tosswill would have

something to say on the topics of torture or the death penalty, the abolition of which would be based on the strong morals of our lawmakers, perhaps guided by their personal religious beliefs on the sanctity of human life and rights. It is simply my wish to see less soapbox preaching in the *Reporter* and more thought-provoking debate and insight, especially when it comes to controversial discussions that we could be having instead of some writer on a college campus telling us how we should be thinking and why.

Also, please don’t hit anybody. We don’t hit.

*Andrew Gibson*, Fifth year  
Computer Science

### DEAR REPORTER,

When I first saw the “Intolerance” article, I was more than anxious by what I thought was going to be another Conservative bashing party. Mr. Tosswill put together a very informative and well-written piece, and it is obvious this is a very important issue to him. However, I am worried by the aggressive tone with which he approached religion and one statement in particular, “It’s not government’s job to regulate morality.”

First, it’s okay to be intolerant. The word “intolerant” has become hijacked by our culture, and now only has negative connotations. There are instances of positive intolerance. My teachers are intolerant of late homework, my roommates are intolerant of waking up early, and I am intolerant of unclean restrooms.

It is the government’s duty is to ensure the morality of the populace. In fact, a government that is totally tolerant is an

## 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.

institution without purpose. The government is made to be intolerant of theft, rape, murder, etc. Many of these “intolerances” come straight from the Old Testament, Torah, Qur’an, etc., so it is quite fair to say that religious views are present in almost all law books throughout the United States. “But wait,” some might say, “aren’t all humans moral agents, and holy books have just incorporated existing moral values into a system of belief?” If this is true, then it simply means that by the transitive property, moral agents are intolerant. Since all serving members of the United States government are human, I suppose that religion-enforced moral codes will remain a part of US law indefinitely.

Second, I felt as if the article

was attacking Christianity in particular (probably due to the words “church,” “New Testament,” “Old Testament,” and the big picture of Jesus preceding the article), despite the fact that there are a variety of other religions that oppose abortion (Hinduism, Traditional Buddhism), and homosexuality (Islam, Judaism). Unlike many, I do not believe that abortion or homosexuality negatively affects me. But they do strongly affect the individuals who engage in them. Frankly, whether abortion or homosexuality is morally acceptable or not, these are issues that do not need to be addressed in *Reporter*. I feel they can only inspire inflammatory and unconstructive responses.

I appreciate Mr. Tosswill’s opinions on intolerance, and

I hope to read more articles written by him in the future.

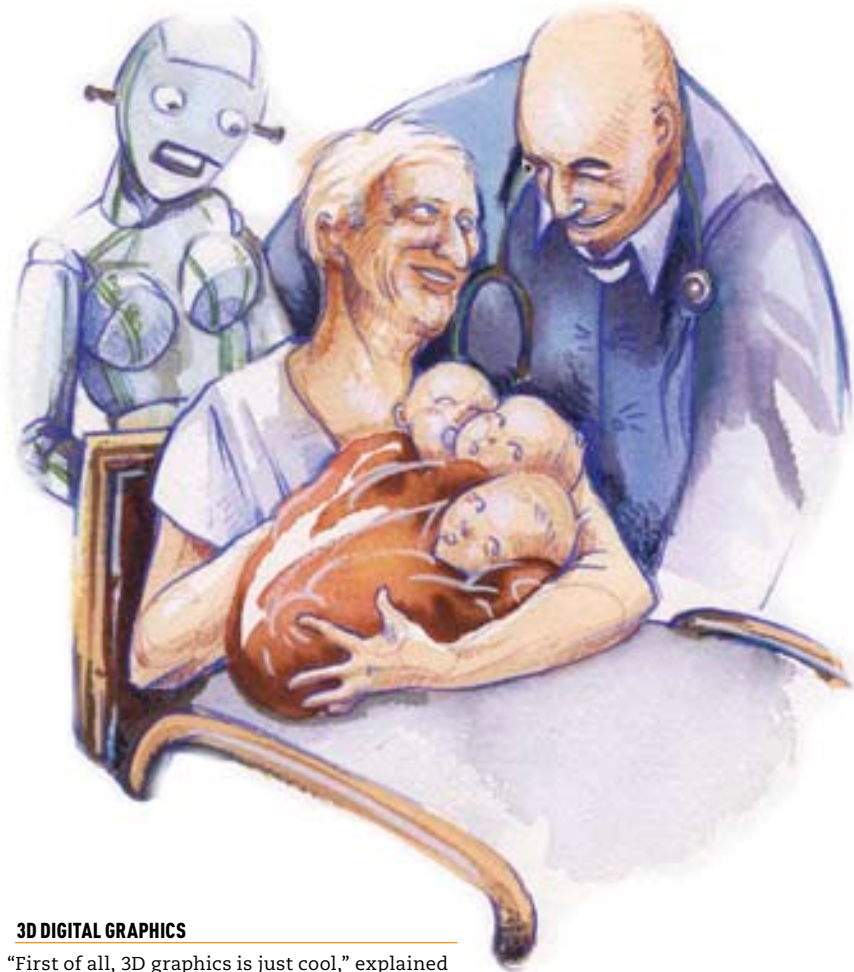
*Zachary Sproul*, Second Year  
Software Engineering

### DEAR REPORTER,

I just thought I’d clear something up with Chris Tosswill’s article, “Intolerance.” The abortion issue has nothing to do with religion, morality, or faith. It is actually one of individual liberty. While I do believe in God, I am a big time secularist. I favor the repeal of all laws prohibiting prostitution, gambling, drugs, marriage (gay or otherwise, because it’s simply none of the government’s business) and much more simply because I value the individual’s right to make his or her own choices above anything else. That said, I am indeed pro-life.

Why? Because as Chris pointed out, we cannot scientifically pin-point when human life begins. While a woman certainly has a right to do what she wishes with her own body, we cannot assume that she has a right to commit a violent act toward another being that may or may not be an individual (even from a secular perspective). If you could scientifically show me exactly when life begins, I would be more than willing to support state legislation that permits pregnancy terminations up to that point (but not Federal legislation, see Tenth Amendment). I don’t care what your position on the issue is or what you think of mine, but let it be known that my faith has nothing to do with it.

*James Gimbi*, Second year  
Information Security and Forensics



# NEW MAJORS AT RIT

by Maximiliano Herrera | illustration by Sarah Wick

## 3D DIGITAL GRAPHICS

“First of all, 3D graphics is just cool,” explained Professor Marla Schweppe, department chair for the 3D Digital Graphics Department.

“Secondly, before this major was introduced, the only way to get involved with 3D graphics from an arts perspective was through computer animation, but there is much more to 3D than just animation.”

Illustration, medical illustration, lighting, virtual worlds, and scientific visualization are some of the topics that are covered in this new program. The program is heavily weighted towards giving students a large set of skills for when they go out in the workforce.

“3D graphics is exceptionally practical in the job market,” said Schweppe.

“Video game companies, toy companies, scientific research facilities, law firms, and many websites all utilize 3D digital graphics, and many other companies hire graduates to build and design models for Second Life.”

Work in the field will be done on a team. The program aims to teach students about other aspects of a design/development team (such as programming), by including computer science courses in the curriculum.

## JOURNALISM

Technology has had a huge impact on several professions and journalism is no exception. This program is designed to allow students to have experience with several different forms of media.

According to the Journalism Department website, “Beyond simply writing and reporting, you will be able to prepare content for dissemination across a variety of media.” The program is meant to be flexible and allow students to explore their interests, as well as what type of journalist they want to be. Although the degree is built to be versatile, the journalism program still has a strong focus on the skills needed by all professional journalists.

This mix of traditional journalism with technological and professional skills, according to the site, is meant to give students “the skills and knowledge that sets [the student] apart from more traditionally trained journalists, [and to be] a valuable asset to any future employer specializing in reporting and storytelling.”

## PHILOSOPHY

*Editor’s Note: The author of this article is one of the first Philosophy majors.*

“The interesting thing about the philosophy program here, as opposed to that of other schools, is that we are trying to show philosophical reflections on non-philosophical careers,” said Professor Jack Sanders, department chair for the Philosophy Department.

The goal of the Philosophy major is to unite a technical knowledge with its philosophic and ethical implications. Each student in philosophy is required to complement his or her studies in philosophy with knowledge from a professional and technical discipline, which can include completing a double major. The major was designed for double majoring, so the philosophy curriculum is built to allow the student to specialize in an area of philosophy any way they may choose. One of the department’s suggested concentrations is the Philosophy of Science and Technology track, which explores how and why science works, and the implications of science and technology.

“Many students don’t look to RIT for philosophy, but after they come here, they may find that they fall in love with philosophy. It almost feels like a calling,” said Sanders. •

# RIT FORECAST

compiled by Alecia Crawford

## SAT 01

### EIGHT BEAT MEASURE’S 2ND ACAPPELLAWEEEN CONCERT

Ingle Auditorium. 7 p.m. Enjoy the sounds of RIT a cappella groups picking up where Halloween left off. Cost: \$2.



## SUN 02

### VOLLEYBALL VS. NAZARETH

Clark Gym. 3 p.m. Take a break from studying and support the Tigers. Cost: Free.



## MON 03

### SUSAN DEER CLOUD POETRY READING

Liberal Arts Faculty Commons. 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Come listen and join the ride through this Native American poet’s work and career. Cost: Free.



## TUE 04

### ELECTION DAY

Don’t forget to vote! *Editor’s Note: Or not! See page 30.*

### ASC PRESENTS:

### PREPARE AND CONQUER STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOP

Sol Heumann 47-1016. 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Finals are right around the corner, so learning how not to freak out during an exam couldn’t hurt. Cost: Free.



## WED 05

### DRIVE FOR DIVERSITY – MARROW DONOR DRIVE

Clark Gym. 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Learn about saving someone’s life by joining the National Marrow Donor Program Registry. Cost: Free.



## THR 06

### SALSA DANCE CLASS AND SOCIAL

Flat Iron Café, 561 State Street. 9:00 p.m. Learn how to Salsa and work what your mother gave you. Cost: Free.



## FRI 07

### GLOW IN THE DARK DANCE PARTY

SAU Cafeteria. 8:30 p.m. Come on, now! How often do you get a rave on campus? Cost: \$2.



# SG UPDATE

by Alecia Crawford

## TWO NEW CLUBS

Two new clubs were approved by Student Government (SG): the Bhai Association and Get RIT Environmental Education Now (GREEN). The Bhai Association is a type a support system for people of that religion. The Bhai club restarted after a period of inactivity. GREEN was formed by and mainly targeted towards NTID students, but received an endorsement from SEAL (Student Environmental Action League) as a way to get the green word around.

## INVESTIGATING ADDING +/- TO GRADING SYSTEM

A motion was made to form a committee that would investigate how adding pluses and minuses to RIT’s preexisting grading system would work and how it would affect the student body. The committee would investigate why pluses and minuses are not already incorporated. The committee would also explore the idea further for understanding (not advocating) such a system.

## ROCHESTER IDOL

This year Tiger Idol has been expanded to Rochester Idol. RIT will hold its yearly talent contest, but instead of declaring one winner, the top five from Tiger Idol will move on to Rochester Idol. This will require multiple parties to be involved. So far only the University of Rochester seems to be on board with the idea. Rochester Idol will be an effort to increase interaction with other campuses in the Rochester area.

## MORE VENDING MACHINES IN COLA

The placement of vending machines on the second floor of Building 6 has been approved. The machines will be placed next to the displays that already stick out in the hallways. At the moment, the only vending machines are in the basement of the building.

## EARLIER RETURN FROM WINTER BREAK

The return date from winter break has been moved up a day, from Sunday, January 4 at noon to Saturday, January 3 at 2 p.m. This will give students more time to get back to campus before classes resume on Monday, January 5.

more fart

fart

## BELL HALL RENAMED

by Margaret Barlow

Alexander Graham Bell Hall, one of the NTID residence halls, has recently been renamed. The hall was first named in honor of the famous inventor due to his efforts to teach deaf children how to speak. However, many people, including NTID President Alan Hurwitz, felt that this actually created division in the Deaf community. “There was a growing consensus that Bell advocated an exclusive approach to communication that did not support a sense of community of Deaf people who use a variety of communication approaches, including American Sign Language,” said Hurwitz. Due to the controversy that this issue created, Hurwitz set up an open forum of students, faculty, and staff last spring to discuss the matter. “Those who did not have a strong position felt that the unity of our community was threatened,

which saddened and upset them, and me as well,” said Hurwitz. As a result, it was decided that the name would be changed. As of now, the hall is simply being called NTID Residence Hall 50C. There have been no discussions or plans to pick a new name yet. In regard to a possible new name, Hurwitz said, “RIT policy states that a new name for a building must be connected with a significant contribution to the college and must be tied with RIT’s mission.” So, while anyone is free to suggest names, they must follow this policy and ultimately get approval by the RIT Board of Trustees, who approve the naming of RIT’s buildings. Bell’s contribution to the Deaf community will continue to be taught in classes about Deaf history. He is even noted in books written by NTID authors Edward Scouten, Harry Lang, and Karen Conner. •



photograph by Eric Drummond

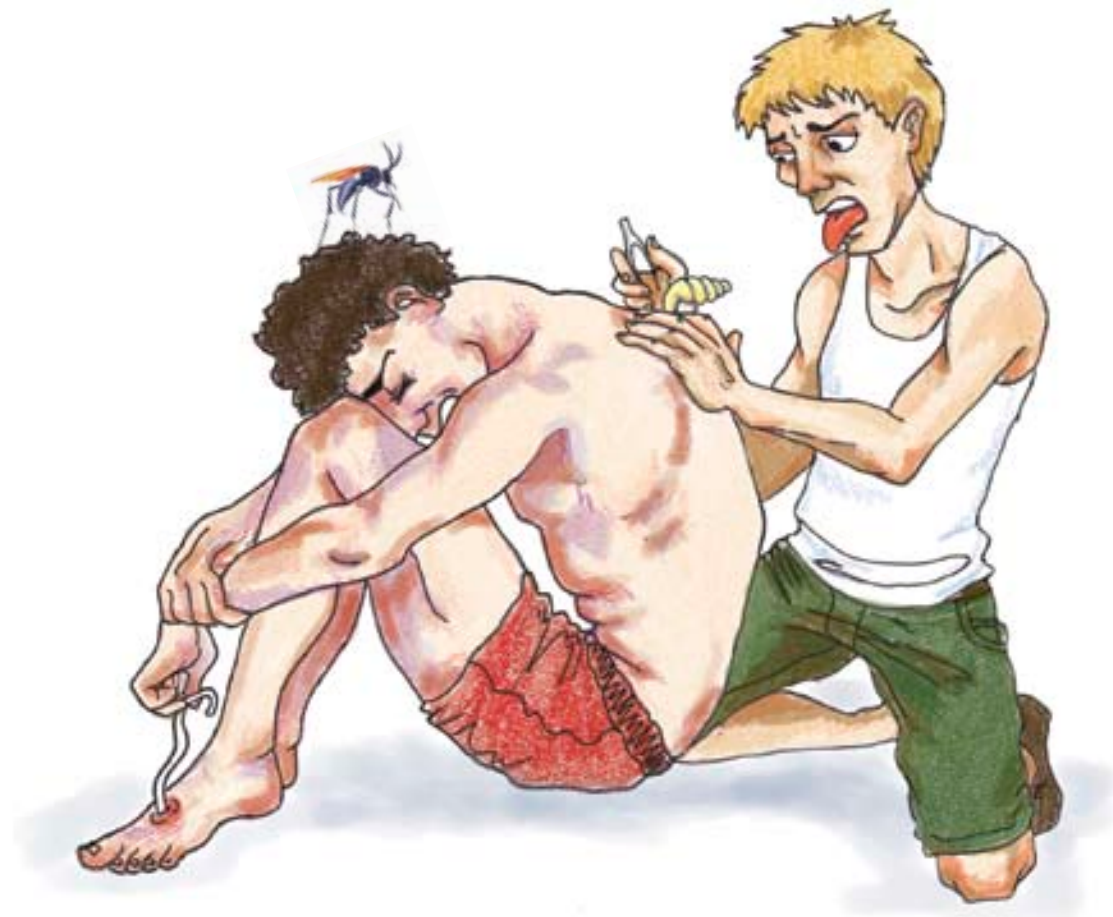
## BOARD HOLDS WEST COAST MEETING

by Danielle Gotschall

RIT’s Board of Trustees hosted the “West Coast Board Meeting” in Palo Alto, California this summer from July 9 to July 11. Approximately 60 trustees, administrators, and deans met with 22 companies located in the Silicon Valley, Los Angeles, and Seattle. According to the Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Lisa Cauda, one of the purposes of the meeting was to learn about “current and future technological trends that are important to RIT.” As a result, RIT leadership now has a better grasp on the technologies with which current students will work and aid in developing after graduation. No less important was the meeting’s strengthening effect on RIT’s relationships with the companies present, granting current students increased access to these companies for cooperative education and work after graduation.

“We visited companies that RIT has — or could have — partnerships with to discuss how we can better prepare our students for the work force,” said Student Government President Ed Wolf, who was present at the meetings. Nearly 4000 RIT alumni live and work in California, which could provide students with additional networking opportunities. Cauda was instrumental in coordinating the meetings with the array of corporations and organizations. They included software giants such as Oracle, Adobe, Apple, and Microsoft. The list also featured companies like Boeing and Avery Dennison, and research facilities like the NASA Climate Change Lab and Xerox’s Palo Alto Research Center. Wolf summarized the board meeting by saying, “As a result of this trip, RIT will be making significant changes to the university in the years to come.” •





# TERRIFYING CREATURES

Several years ago, a graduate student named Gerard returned to his laboratory after two week's worth of field work in Belize. He had accumulated several insect bites, which is not unusual given the time of year and the mosquito breeding ground of a swamp where he was stationed. After three weeks, one of the bites on his head began to swell and itch much more than any others he had seen.

He began to experience sharp, shooting pains from the area of the bite and eventually asked a fellow graduate student, Regina, to take a look at it. What Regina saw was a massive boil oozing with blood and pus. In the center of the wound was a small, white dot; she remarked that "it look[ed] like an eye."

After probing the pustule for several minutes, a wrinkly white stump emerged. As if on cue, the stump began to pull itself back into the oozing wound. Gerard winced and Regina brought out the tweezers.

by Ilsa Shaw | illustrations by Joanna Ebert

## HUMAN BOT FLIES *Dermatobia hominis*

This stump was none other than a bot fly larva, a plump, parasitic maggot with tiny spines encircling its body segments and a mouth hook used to dig farther into human skin. It found its way to Gerard's skin via mosquito.

Typically, female bot flies will capture a blood-feeding insect (such as a mosquito) in mid-air and force anywhere from 10 to 50 eggs onto the insect's abdomen. Once the insect lands on and punctures flesh, the eggs drop onto the human body and hatch within five minutes. They then squirm to the nearest bite wound, abrasion, or hair follicle. If no openings are to be found, the five-minute-old maggots can also rip through intact skin.

The larvae have a breathing tube (known as a posterior respiratory spiracle) which must remain in constant contact with air if the creature is to breathe. Therefore, the wound of a bot fly larva will neither heal nor cease to ooze as long as the larva is embedded in the skin. The wound is often excruciatingly itchy and intense shooting pains occur almost every time the maggot shifts around or grows.

After less than 10 weeks, the maggot is done with the human body. Its rings of spines loosen their grip and it pops out of the skin, onto the ground, where it will then burrow and pupate for four to eleven weeks. Then, it will emerge as a fully-grown bot fly, ready to plant eggs and perpetuate the species.

Human bot flies are found only in the Americas, and are particularly common in Mexico and Belize. Rare cases have been known to occur in or near the eye sockets. Immediate surgery is required to prevent any damage to this sensitive area, often performed without anesthetic due to either allergies or financial limitations. The patient is then forced to stay awake and completely alert as a massive maggot is painfully dredged from their skin in plain view.

## MEDINA WORM *Dracunculus medinensis*

Otherwise known as "the fiery serpent," this worm is parasite even to fleas. The larvae start their lives out in fresh water, where they are first swallowed by a water flea. The larvae continue to grow and develop within the water flea, which is eventually consumed by an unsuspecting animal (such as a human). The medina worm larvae immediately latch on to the intestines and feed.

Whereas the water flea is quickly dissolved by stomach acid, the worm remains undetected; not even the immune system recognizes its presence, although the worm stays in the intestines for an entire year. The most recognizable early symptom this creature causes is the occasional high fever.

Once a digested worm reaches the adult stage, it mates along the intestinal wall, and the male dies. The female then migrates to the surface of the body — well into your subcutaneous tissue — and will grow to be around three feet long. Along with any other adult female worms, she will eventually move to your lower extremities (such as the ankles) and will begin to push herself out of your skin.

A blister begins to form, and eventually it is visible through the skin as an inflamed worm-shaped protrusion. When the infected person comes in contact with water, the worm releases a milky, white liquid containing millions of immature larvae that start their own life cycle.

Eventually, the worm erupts through this blister. As its head continues to emerge, more of the same milky white residue spews from the wound.

## TARANTULA HAWK *Pepsis and Hemipepsis genera*

We've all heard of tarantulas. Whether from a cheesy horror film or a terrarium, the majority of us fear them. Now, imagine a wasp more than half their size that feasts on their intestines. Enter the tarantula hawk.

Female tarantula hawks are the true hunters of the genus. They will generally seek out a tarantula, capture it, and inject it with venom from their thick 1/3-inch-long stinger. This dose is powerful enough to completely paralyze the spider within seconds of the sting.

After having dragged the spider into a deserted burrow, the wasp lays a single egg on its abdomen and then covers the entrance with dirt. The larva hatches fairly soon and begins to suck the juices from the still-living spider. Once it is strong enough, the larva forces itself into the spider's body and feasts, yet avoids the vital organs so as to keep the spider alive and fresh for as long as possible. Eventually, the spider dies, and its body is left to decay in the very same burrow. By that time, a healthy adult tarantula hawk is ready for flight and out on the hunt for more.

Tarantula hawks are an extremely adaptable species that seems to be just about everywhere tarantulas are found: If there's a spider to hunt, they will be there. They have been found in the U.S. as far north as Oregon, but typically stay within desert areas. Although not typically violent towards humans, they have one of the most intensely painful stings of any wasp in the world; the Schmidt Sting Pain Index rated them as a 4.0, second only to the bite of a Bullet Ant.



At this point in time, the only way to remove it is by twisting its body around a matchstick and slowly reeling it out. It's no wonder that this painful, time-consuming process is why the parasite is more commonly known as "the fiery serpent."

The worms have been found in Egyptian mummies, the corpses of emperors, and the pages of ancient Greek medical books. This worm is so world-renowned that it's thought to have been the symbol for the traditional medical logo: a snake coiled around a staff, otherwise known as the Rod of Asclepius. Although modern day medical process is to reel the worm out with a matchstick, the procedure is still essentially the same.

Video footage and more creepy creatures available at [reportermag.com](http://reportermag.com). •

# SPILL IT

by e.

Got problems? Put your issues in ours! Send questions about anything you want answers for to [spillit@reportermag.com](mailto:spillit@reportermag.com). To preserve your anonymity, submit a question to e through our contacts form at [reportermag.com](http://reportermag.com). e will answer all your questions, from relationships, to good eateries, to bizarre facts, to goats. You wonder it, e can answer it.

## DEAR E,

I recently won a new iPod nano in a raffle at a school event. But I already have the last generation's 60 GB iPod classic, so naturally I didn't want to downgrade to a new iPod with less memory. The problem is, I can't get rid of the nano. I try selling it on Craigslist and get offers for like \$20. It's like, come on! It's a \$150, brand new iPod — not even opened. I mean I want to get rid of it, but not for that cheap. Do you have any suggestions on ways to sell it where I could make some money off it? I'd like to get at least \$100 for it.... Help!

iStress

## DEAR ISTRESS,

You must take into account we're in an economic decline and it's getting harder to sell items. My experience with Craigslist is that people feel it's okay to give offers, even if you say your price is firm. With more expensive items I think you'll have more luck with a different sales venue.

I'd try eBay first. Yes you have to deal with the listing fees, closing fees and shipping the item, but in the end you'll probably end up getting more cash for your product. You can set a price if you do the Buy It

## DEAR E,

I know this one annoying guy who seems to speak solely in internet or pop-culture catchphrases completely out of context, like some sort of human embodiment of *Meet The Spartans*. What's the most tactful way to tell him that he's being irritating without coming across like some sort of uptight asshole? Keep in mind most of my classmates seem to think he's the pinnacle of hilarity.

Cheers, love the new hairstyle,  
Rory R. O'Rourke

## DEAR RORY,

Idk, myjaaua? (I don't know, maybe you just are an uptight asshole?)

But really, let's get this question laser targeted (couldn't resist). There is no nice way to let someone know they're annoying. You're welcome to try but if you do succeed in a nice let down, they'll probably still be oblivious to the fact that they're irritating.

There are two extreme approaches available for use here: You can go with the approach of just never laughing, as well as never speaking to him and throwing some evil glances in his direction while the rest of the class rolls on the floor, or you can be painfully blunt and go right up to him and say, "You're not funny."

If either of those suggestions aren't quite your style you can try the old joke trick. Sarcastically yell, "FAIL" with a little laugh after one of his irritating comments.

This way, he can't quite tell if you're joking or not. It will at least get him worrying whether or not you were speaking the truth. As much as you'll wince, saying that will be worth it. It's his native tongue, so he should actually comprehend it (unless he's more of an idiot than you portrayed in your letter).

If you know this guy more personally, you can just talk to him. He may not realize what he's doing or that it's irritating. Maybe he does, but would rather have the attention of the laughs from fellow classmates than their tolerance. Ask him nicely why he talks like that in the same way that you might ask a person where they shop when they are wearing a cool shirt.

Lastly, you can always just become the pinnacle of hilarity yourself and steal his thunder.

8% of the initial \$50 (or \$4) + 4.5% of the remaining \$50 (or \$2.25). Your total will be \$6.60.

Either way, you'll end up with a profit of just shy of \$94.

If you don't want to do eBay, you can try Facebook Marketplace. The listings are free like Craigslist, and you'll have a more targeted audience (RIT students). If you find a buyer there, you'll most likely be able to walk the iPod to its buyer. The downside, of course, is that college students aren't exactly known for the extra cash they're throwing around.

Lastly, you could try a website

like Gazelle (<http://www.gazelle.com/sell-mp3-players>) or Podswap (<http://www.podswap.com/catalog>). They both offer iPod trade in programs, and they'll give you store credit or cash for your iPod. At Gazelle, an essentially new iPod Nano with all accessories will fetch you \$84. At Podswap, you can get \$82 for a trade of \$79 for cash — less than the \$100 you're after, but you don't have to deal with the hassle of finding a buyer.

e.



# THIS IS HALLOWEEN

## THINGS TO DO ON THE PUMPKIN KING'S NIGHT

by Carolyn Dunne

illustration by Katie Anderson

**HALLOWEEN** can be a joyless holiday if

a) you intensely dislike handing out free candy to children, b) you aren't one of the children receiving said candy, or c) you're a college student and trick-or-treating garners weird looks from adults.

So instead of dressing up like Rick Astley and practicing your live Rick Rolling for weeks beforehand (just to suffer the disappointment of getting beaten in the candy gathering masquerade by a five-year-old wearing a homemade Kung Fu Panda costume), consider these other events happening on campus and around Rochester. It could save you from crushing embarrassment.

### MT. HOPE CEMETERY TOUR

**When** > Any time you want to go to the Mt. Hope Cemetery at 1133 Mt. Hope Avenue.

**The Lowdown** > This is a self-guided audio tour that lets you go through the cemetery where Frederick Douglass is interred. Call 585-419-9758 and you can get a tour of all of the popular people, or "stops" as the description puts it, at the cemetery. It costs \$3.95 per phone call, so make sure only

one person in your group calls in to keep costs at a minimum. You can go to [geopointsystems.com/tours.php](http://geopointsystems.com/tours.php) and download a copy of the map that will keep you on the path of the tour, or go to the Distillery across the street (at 1142 Mt. Hope Avenue) and pick up a copy there.

**Reasons To Go** > You can make a night of it if you go to dinner at the Distillery beforehand. If you're of drinking age, the Distillery makes their own signature brew, which could help you enjoy your cemetery visit even more thoroughly.

### ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

**When** > Friday, October 31 and Saturday, November 1 at the Webb Auditorium at RIT. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. and the performance begins at 9 p.m. each night

**The Lowdown** > Tickets cost \$4 and they go fast. These Halloween shows are the last dates that RIT gave the Ancient Spirits of Evil troupe permission to perform. This looks to be the farewell tour for on-campus RHPS fun, so get your tickets early.

**Reasons To Go** > You can dress up in the most ridiculous RHPS

costume. Even so, there will possibly still be someone dressed more outrageously than you!

### GLOBAL UNION'S HALLOWEEN DANCE

**When** > October 31 in the Student Alumni Union from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.

**The Lowdown** > DJ Key-Yo will be spinning, and there will be a costume contest for several fabulous prizes. Last year, the winners received a pretty hefty gift certificate. They are also providing food, which is really awesome since it's a free event and is open to anyone who wants to show up.

**Reasons To Go** > Halloween dances are the least awkward dance you can have. What girl would turn down a dance from James Bond or V unless she's already hanging out with Zorro? If you have a good costume and a mask, you can take it all in stride without worrying about much future embarrassment.

### ZACK AND MIRI MAKE A PORN

**When** > Opening Night is October 31

**The Lowdown** > Clerks director Kevin Smith's story about a

platonic couple that share an intimate moment on film in order to score some cash. For a full review of the film, go to [reportermag.com](http://reportermag.com).

**Reasons To Go** > I must say that this is definitely something that most college students would thoroughly enjoy. I give it a resounding two thumbs up.

### ACAPPELLAWEEN

**When** > November 1 in Ingle Auditorium at 7 p.m.

**The Lowdown** > Eight Beat Measure, one of RIT's three male a capella groups, will be performing Halloween-themed gems such as "Monster Mash" and "Zombie Jamboree" in addition to other selections (like Goldplay's "Viva La Vida"). The group will perform alongside other singing groups including Serendipity of SUNY Albany and Touch Tones of Cornell University. Cost of the evening's performance is \$2.

**Reasons To Go** > Who doesn't like songs about zombies? Eight Beat Measure know their strengths as a group when they perform, so this concert promises to be a solid one. •

# REVIEWS



## OF MONTREAL Skeletal Lamping

by Alex Bogala

It seems that with each passing Of Montreal album, two things are inevitable: Frontman Kevin Barnes' fashion sense will evolve even more bizarrely, and the band will become even more experimental. *Skeletal Lamping*, the eagerly anticipated follow-up to their critically acclaimed 2007 release (*Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer?*) continues this tradition, being one of the stranger albums of the year.

It's not that *Skeletal Lamping* does anything particularly new musically; rather, it's how the music is presented to the listener. Although there are 15 physical songs, the

album is more like a patchwork, with many small snippets segued together into songs, ignoring traditional pop structures.

From the very start, this new approach is evident. The opener, "Nonpareil of Favor," begins like a typical Of Montreal song: Barnes shouts lyrics about "paradigm kisses" and secret languages over top of a synth-laden electropop backing. Within a minute, however, this transforms into an almost country shuffle before finally exploding into a barrage of distorted guitars.

Most of the other songs on *Skeletal Lamping* share this spastic approach. The usual batch of drum machines, guitars, and retro synths is complimented by the expanded use of instruments such as electric piano and autoharp, creating strong elements to the snippets of music. And lyrically, the songs are much darker than previous Of Montreal

material, which may surprise some fans.

Perhaps the highlight of the album is "An Eluardian Instance," an upbeat track about Kevin Barnes meeting his wife in Sweden. Pop horns swirl around glistening bell noise and frantic electronic drums while Barnes sings a surprisingly restrained narrative that contrasts with the remainder of the album. Other standout tracks include the risqué "Beware our Nubile Miscreants" and the heavily funk-laden "Wicked Wisdom."

Overall, *Skeletal Lamping* does have some flaws, but its redeeming characteristics tend to outweigh the negatives. Of Montreal seems to have realized the value of musical exploration, and it certainly pays off in a very fun way, even if it takes a few listens to grasp. •



## ON/OFF Mike Attebery

by Laura Mandanas

*On/Off*, a horror novel by RIT alumnus Mike Attebery, tells the tale of Jamie Pepper, a freshman photography student facing early onset Parkinson's Disease. After undergoing a risky experimental procedure, Jamie's debilitating symptoms lessen, and he begins the return to normalcy — or so he thinks.

The novel takes place at RIT, but aside from some awkward name dropping and a few unflattering descriptions of Computer Engineering majors and Deaf people, the setting is utterly alien. For example: The first Friday of the quarter, our protagonist has no classes. As advised by one of his art professors ("If you've got some pot, smoke it. If you've got the means, get drunk this weekend."), Jamie dutifully follows his RA to a frat party in Perkins. After several drinks, a Courtney Cox look-alike known as the "samurai of blowjobs" pushes Jamie

into the bathroom, takes off her shirt, and... yeah.

Now, I'm not saying that this *couldn't* happen at RIT. But come on. Even leaving a wide berth for dramatic license, most of the party situations described in the book just don't ring true. Nor, for that matter, do any of the female characters. Though there are some halfhearted attempts at developing the relationship between Jamie and Kelli (the love interest), it's clearly not a priority. Readers are usually far better informed on the state of Kelli's nipples than her state of mind — unless, of course, she's thinking about sex.

Although Attebery paints an exquisite portrait of psychological desire, it is almost entirely undone by the frequent and tiresome descriptions of physical acts. *On/Off* borders on pornography, and not at all in a good way.

A larger problem, though, is the story. After an interminable 210 pages of gratuitous

bodice-ripping, the trajectory of the plot abruptly veers into horror, and gets lost there for the next hundred pages. Although the story gains some momentum in the final 55 pages, the resolution is incredibly unsatisfying. It's at a complete disconnect with what had happened prior to that point, and, quite frankly, doesn't make a whole lot of sense.

Attebery writes with passion, but a good novel requires more than just that. Bottom line: Storywise, *On/Off* is way, way off. •

*On/Off* by Mike Attebery  
Publisher: Cryptic Bindings  
Release date: November 11  
Print price: \$19.95  
Download price: \$9.99

# 10.31.08 AT YOUR LEISURE

by John Howard

## STREAM OF FACTS

The third season of *The Office* featured an episode entitled "The Reason" where Pam and Jim hide Andy Bernard's cell phone in the ceiling to get revenge for Bernard's obnoxious singing of The Cranberries' hit song, "Zombie." Other than Bernard's version, "**Zombie**" has been covered by nine different bands since 1995.

Rob **Zombie's** remake of John Carpenter's *Halloween* has grossed over 10 million more than the 1978 original, which, at the time, was the highest grossing independent film to date. Neither film was shot in the fall, though, making the prospect of acquiring **pumpkins** difficult for the crew.

**Pumpkins** are a member of the Cucurbita genus, which includes zucchini, squash, and cucumbers. They were once thought to bring about a cure for freckles and a remedy for snakebites. Today, many people believe that pumpkin seeds can be used as a **prevention** for prostate cancer in men.

The use of garlic as vampire **prevention** was inspired by an ancient belief that the vegetable had purification and healing powers. Ancient societies would pass garlic around church ceremonies to ensure no evil spirits were attending. They claimed that anyone with a distaste or allergy to it was under the workings of spirits that were precursors to the **vampire**.

It is believed that the man responsible for the modern day image of the **vampire** Count Dracula, Bela Lugosi, turned down the role of the monster in James Whale's *Frankenstein* (1931), claiming that the role was not sexy enough for him. There were twenty minutes of test footage with Lugosi as the monster was **shot** on video under the supervision of the original slated director, Robert Florey.

New ways of life on Mars are being **shot** on camera and studied by scientists via a process developed by the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). This "point and shoot" process allows for less contamination of Martian specimens as it further develops the study of **alien** life that is astrobiology.

In 2007, an advertisement campaign in New Mexico featured a television commercial of outer space **alien** creatures at an office dressed in business attire, talking about all the great attractions the state has to offer. However, rather than attracting tourists to the "best place in the universe," the ad merely enraged New Mexican locals, claiming it was bringing their standards down.

## OVERSEEN AND OVERHEARD AT RIT

"Flush twice, it's a long way to Gracie's."  
SAU bathroom graffiti

"Giving directions? Oh God!"  
Student with guitar at Java Wally's

"Hands off my koozie!"  
Frat guy at party

## REPORTER RECOMMENDS

*A Nightmare on Elm Street* (1984), *The Exorcist* (1973), *The Fog* (1980), *The Mist* (2007), *The Shining* (1980), *The Ring* (2002), *Ringu* (1998), *An American Haunting* (2005), *The Amityville Horror* (2005), *Halloween* (1978), *The Exorcism of Emily Rose* (2005), *Frankenstein* (1931), *Frankenstein* (1994), *Beetle Juice* (1988), *Sleepy Hollow* (1999), *The Hills Have Eyes* (1977), *Dracula* (1931), *Texas Chain Saw Massacre* (both 1974 and 2003 versions), *Secret Window* (2004), *Bug* (2006), *The Thing* (1982), *The Sixth Sense* (1999), *Misery* (1990), *The Descent* (2006), *The Strangers* (2008), *The Mothman Prophecies* (2002), *Poltergeist* (1982), *Tenebre* (1982), *Hostel* (2005), *Hostel: Part II* (2007), *Ju-on: The Grudge* (2003), "Carrie" (1976), *When A Stranger Calls* (1979), *Pyscho* (1960), and *The Hitcher* (1986), not necessarily in that order.

## CARTOON by Michael Denmery



## DIFFICULTY RATING: EASY

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

## QUOTE

"ALWAYS  
MAKE THE  
AUDIENCE  
SUFFER AS  
MUCH AS  
POSSIBLE."

Alfred Hitchcock



# THE MEDICAL MYSTERIES OF DR. WILLIAM M. MORAN

by John Howard  
photography by Thomas Liggett  
styling by Joanna Buglione



The following is an account based on factual evidence in the medical field. The conditions and symptoms in the story are real. The events and characters are fictionalized.

On October 17, 2008, an undisclosed medical institute in western New York caught flame and burned to ground. All of the patients and staff of the institute were believed to have escaped the flames, but upon searching the premises in the aftermath, firefighters came across the remains of three patients and the body of a Dr. William M. Moran in a concealed area in the basement of the complex. All three patients had many unusual characteristics.

As the investigation continues, all information regarding the victims remains confidential and classified. However, firefighters did find Dr. Moran's medical journal, which lead to speculations that he was part of a top-secret project involved with observing and identifying these bizarre patients. Included are excerpts preserved from this journal.

## OCT. 8, 2008 PATIENT I — ZOMBIISM

The first subject came to us abruptly and rather unexpected. A man in his late 40s who was returning from a business trip in Japan had been found lifeless with untraceable breathing and pulse. Later that day, the man was pronounced dead and funeral arrangements were set. However, when a mortician noticed the body breathing two days afterwards, the man was rushed to our facilities for further testing.

As we attempted to diagnose the unusual circumstances that led to his short-lived demise, one of the first details uncovered was an unusual substance discovered in his stomach contents: A raw fish by the name of Fugu, more commonly known as puffer fish, which is a local delicacy of Osaka, Japan, the city he was visiting. Further testing revealed he had consumed the fish just over an hour before his plane's departure. I immediately attributed this discovery as the cause of his zombie-like state.

Fugu is an extremely poisonous fish that requires precise preparation. Chefs must complete an involved certification process in order to legally prepare it in licensed restaurants. The ovaries, liver, eyes, and the brain of the fish contain a neurotoxin called tetrodotoxin (TTX). If accidentally ingested, TTX works to block the sodium channels that allow nerve and heart cells to send electrical

pulses about the body. The result is this zombie-like condition that often proves fatal for its victims. Smaller exposures to the toxins result in a numb, tingling feeling in the mouth and lips, which the meal is famous for.

Further research illuminated other uses of TTX, including that of Vodun, a popular religion of Haiti. In this religion, a powder called *coupe poudre* containing the neurotoxin is given to a victim mixed with another powder containing hallucinogen-generating compounds taken from datura plants, also known as "zombie cucumbers." The combination is used to create a lasting zombie effect — a will-less state of deliriousness thought to be worse than death and used as punishment against the victim for serious crimes.

Unfortunately, no cure has been developed. I have initiated the infusion of fluids to accommodate his high blood pressure, but feel it is far past the point of stomach decontamination. Overall, the patient should be considered lucky and, based on his current state and the fact that he is

still alive, I do not believe that he will remain a zombie nor suffer any permanent damage.

## OCT. 1, 2008 PATIENT II — FRANKENSTEIN

A 72-year-old man came to us of his own accord claiming that during a recent doctor's trip to a local hospital, "strange and inhumane" procedures were performed on him while he remained unconscious. He had been rushed to the emergency room because of a stroke, losing consciousness en route to the hospital. Ever since, the patient has been unable to control his left hand, as it moves involuntarily. The patient claimed it was the doctor's doing and wanted "whatever they put in him" taken out. I assured the patient that we would get to the bottom of it.

The first step was to monitor the patient's brain activity. I scanned his brain for any signs of irregularity with functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). All actions involving the unaffected limbs appeared normal based

on the results. The reactions in his brain corresponded with most voluntary and involuntary movements. However, there was



movement. This indicated that a more intense level of control and preparation was required during the “uncontrolled” movements. The results were similar to a study led by Frédéric Assal in 2007 at the University Hospital in Geneva, Switzerland.

It was not until all this information was presented to the patient that he was willing to accept that is was not an external force causing his movements, but an internal one. I diagnosed the patient with a neurological disorder called Alien Hand Syndrome (AHS) which usually appears after a brain surgery (such as corpus callosotomy, where the connection between the two hemispheres of the brain is separated), a stroke, or an infection. Victims of this condition will feel sensation in their hands but be unable to control their movement, and sometimes do not even notice movement.

I am holding him as an inpatient for continual examination until further notice.

## OCT. 1, 2008 PATIENT III — VAMPIRE

A young teenage boy arrived with his mother after we asked them to stop by for a brief inspection. He arrived wrapped in a thick black cloak covering his entire body. I followed the mother’s instruction to cover all the windows to seal all sunlight from leaking into the ward. The patient was allegedly allergic to sunlight.

The mother unwrapped the child. He was covered in cuts and blisters, many of which were open and many scabbed over. His hands were the worst of it; many of his knucklebones protruded through his skin which was lined with discoloration and scarring. He was missing two fingers on his left hand.

The patient’s mother told me that it had been this way since he was young and it had only gotten worse, forcing them to move his bedroom to the basement of their house.

Fortunately, I was almost certain of the diagnosis right away. It was a form of porphyria, a family of diseases that eats away at the skin and nervous system because of a build up of the natural chemicals called porphyrins. I had never seen it this bad before. The patient remained in the ward overnight. A Porphobilinogen Urine Test was performed and I phoned the mother the next day with the results which, as suspected, showed a high level of porphyria.

Judging by the test and the severity of the patient’s condition, I believed the boy’s specific condition to be Congenital Erythropoietic Porphyria, also known as Gunther’s disease, which is a very rare version of porphyria. It involves a deficient enzyme called Uroporphyrinogen III Cosynthase.

I recommended that the patient visit a porphyria specialist for further action. The only minor solution to this disease are blood transfusions and removal of the spleen in

order to lessen the amount of porphyrins in his system that builds up in bone marrow, red blood cells, plasma, urine, and feces.

## THE PATIENT WAS RELEASED THE NEXT DAY

### OCTOBER 13, 2008 PATIENT IV — AND VO THE CHIMERA GIRLS

The day was spent examining two young sisters: Patient IV, older than Patient V by two years. Both girls were born of the same mother and both provided with the same genes by their same father. However, each of these girls carried completely different genes than their mother, as discovered during a simple blood test procedure. In order to grasp the situation entirely I decided to examine each patient independently.

After a thorough physical examination of Patient IV, it would appear that she was a completely healthy 12-year-old girl. Her heartbeat was steady, her blood pressure at 124 over 84 mmHg, and she maintained a healthy weight. The only aspect of the patient’s figure that struck me as unusual was her eyes. It appeared her left eye was a light shade of hazel and her right a dark brown.

A physical examination of Patient V led to the discovery of no major physical abnormalities. However, unlike her sister, she did not possess opposing eye colors. Next, I extracted DNA samples from different areas on the patients body and, when comparing the samples from the skin to the hair, it appeared that the two sets of DNA taken from the same subject did not match. This confirmed my suspicion each patient was the result of a separate biological process known as Tetragametic Chimerism.

Tetragemic Chimerism is the result when four parent cells, such as the eggs of two

dizygotic, or fraternal twins fuse together early in the embryonic stage. The result of this union is one zygote with two sets of DNA that will then be distributed throughout the development of the child. Therefore, different organs within a subject’s body could be composed of two different genetic make-ups. Other than the observable abnormalities such as two different eye colors or, in some cases with animals, varying textures or tones of fur, natural cases of Chimerism often go unnoticed because there are no indications of the condition’s presence. The two patients were diagnosed and released the same day, appearing to offer no threat to themselves or to society.

### OCT. 15, 2008 PATIENT VI — WEREWOLF

Today a patient was in tears when I came to examine her — obviously upset with her physical appearance. She was a 51-year-old woman experiencing excessive hair growth throughout her abdominal, pubic and chest area. She claims to have noticed early stages of this development during her birthday a few years back, a night that she corresponded with a full moon.

Initially, upon a brief physical inspection, I had attributed the hair growth to hypertrichosis, a condition also known as Werewolf Syndrome. With this condition, victims experience an unwanted and above average amount of bodily hair growth. This often-hereditary abnormality, though embarrassing to the victim, is not harmful or contagious.

Two factors struck me as odd with this particular case. First, the patient claimed that she had never experienced any problems with hair growth before. First, it seemed to have developed overnight with no apparent cause (other than the full moon). Second, after taking samples of the patient’s hair I found traces of lanugo, a type of hair that sheds

before birth and is only present on humans during gestation. The presence of lanugo hair on a human is often associated with malnutrition. This indicated that something was seriously wrong with the patient.

I inquired about the patient’s life, trying to locate a possible cause of the hair growth. She appeared quite healthy. She informed me that she was a vegetarian, exercised regularly, and had no traces of forms of hypertrichosis in her family. However, when the patient was asked if she had experienced any other irregularities in her life other than the hair growth, she cited stomach cramps, which her normal physician had attributed to menstruation. In addition, recently she had noticed blood in her stool. When asked when the last time was that the patient had a colonoscopy performed, she replied with “never” for personal reasons.

After convincing the patient that a colonoscopy was absolutely necessary, the test was performed and a tumor was

located. The diagnosis of colorectal cancer confirmed the suspicions of hypertrichosis involvement. The patient was most likely suffering from an acquired form of the disorder called Acquired Hypertrichosis Lanuginosa (AHL) as a result of the tumor.

Though not yet proven, the connection between adenocarcinoma cancers, such as that of colorectal, and AHL has been noted in the medical field. It is theorized that secretion involved in tumor development is responsible for the stimulation of lanugo growth. Nothing has been proven but observed cases of patients with AHL and malignant tumors usually cause excessive hair growth in the many of the areas similar to the patient’s.

I immediately ordered for a biopsy to determine the stage of the patient’s tumor and explained to the patient that once treated properly, the lanugo hairs should recede.

### OCT. 16, 2008 PATIENT VII — UNKNOWN

I ran into a slight inconvenience while trying to speak with the patient today. He suffers from a sort of fire-breathing condition. Unfortunately, other than that, little is known of his physiology.

The patient is being held in a high security cell for safety precautions.

Upon entering the room, I found he had escaped although the lock and chain was still intact. It was then attacked. I managed to regain control of the patient and escape with only minor burns. I will tend to my wounds and try again tomorrow, but I fear that the project’s lack of knowledge in this final patient is risky, even for a study of this magnitude.

This was the last passage added to the journal. All other data and analysis was lost in the fire. Patient VII was never recovered, but theories have been made to explain this inconsistency, including denouncing the credibility of Dr. Moran to create the possibility of planned sabotage of the project as well as Patient VII’s escape through the hospital’s sewage system. •





# SOMETHING WICCA THIS WAY COMES

by Rachel Hart | photographs by Eric Drummond



Leigh McGinley of Syracuse, and Linda Carpenter of Rochester share a moment during the “Best Witch Costume” judging.

Contestants poke fun at the stereotype in the “Most Witchy” category of the costume contest at the Northeast Council Wiccan Halloween Ball, October 25.

**M**y palms were sweaty as I fidgeted in my chair, my discomfort obvious.

*What am I supposed to ask? Do I ask anything? What if they give me bad news?* Thoughts raced through my head as a serious man sat across from me holding a deck of cards that would, presumably, predict my future. The psychic carefully turned down each card and studied them with pursed lips and emotionless eyes. I analyzed his many earrings and piercing blue eyes, searching for clues as to what was coming next.

He finally spoke. “You have experienced a heartbreak recently.” I imagine the shock on my face was obvious as I had just gone through a break-up the week before. He laid more cards down, asking questions about me. Some of his assumptions were wrong, some

right. Yet overall, his advice was solid: Stay focused on your goals, and remind the people you love how much you care about them.

According to Charlene Hacker, Wiccan and proprietor of Psychic’s Thyme (the New Age shop on Monroe Avenue where the man performed my reading), there is a “cosmic consciousness” that links humans together through their souls and minds. Although psychic abilities can occur in witches, they are not guaranteed. “Not every witch is a psychic.” Regarding her own psychic abilities, Hacker said, “I have always been a medium. In other words, I have always seen dead people.”

Everywhere I looked I saw pentacles, the modern symbol of Wicca and one of the most misunderstood symbols in history. Although Christians often associate it with evil and the workings of the devil, to Wiccans, the pentagram is a symbol of universal harmony. “Wicca is an earth-based

religion; we worship a duality of god which [has both] a male and a female aspect,” said Hacker. Scott Cunningham, author of *The Truth about Witchcraft Today*, accurately described Wicca as a series of events “which celebrate and strengthen our relationships with the Goddess, the God and the Earth.”

Nearby, I spotted a calendar with such holidays as Esbats and Sabbats. Esbats are rituals that take place during the full moon of each month. They are a time for initiation ceremonies or even for healing magic to be done. This time may also be used for business discussions in the coven to reflect on its workings and examine its success. Wiccans base time on the Wheel of the Year. The annual cycle of the seasons is made up of eight intervals of events called Sabbats. Four of these celebrations are lesser Sabbats and are more commonly known as the solstices and equinoxes.

The most sacred Sabbat is Samhain, better

known as Halloween. It means “end of summer” and commences the dark winter half of the year. Usually celebrated on October 31 and sometimes November 1, Samhain is a time when the thin veil between the world of the living and the world of the dead is lifted. This makes communication with loved ones who have died easier.

Beyond the seriousness, Samhain is also a time of celebration. On October 26, Wiccans and Pagans came from hours away to celebrate Samhain at a Costume Ball at the Dutch Mill restaurant in Rochester. The most popular category in the costume contest: Witchyest. The attendees look on the stereotype as something entertaining, dancing to “Monster Mash” and “I Put a Spell On You.”

However, that is only one piece of the Wicca puzzle. Another aspect of Wicca is spell-casting, which has roots in the most ancient forms of religion. In modern times, it is comparable to meditation and

prayer — a channeling of positive energy to help achieve one’s goals. Whereas a Christian might pray for an ill relative to get better, a Wiccan might cast a healing spell in hopes of the relative recovering.

Some Wiccans follow a code of conduct for spells. The code states that spells should not be used to control, manipulate, or dominate another person; they should always have free will. Some also choose to follow the three-fold law, which states: “All good that a person does to another returns three-fold in this life; harm is also returned three-fold.”

One particular spell to attract a lover seems especially interesting. It requires that one must first prick holes in a red apple with a needle while reciting the name of their anticipated lover throughout the process. This should be done near the time of the new moon. For on that night, the caster must place the apple under his or her pillow. The following morning, the apple must be

cored, mashed and made into a pie which must then be delivered to the intended lover. Even those who do not believe in magic may find such a spell interesting. Who doesn’t like pie? Leaving out the detail about sleeping on the apple is suggested.

As I finished my visit, I felt as if I had only scratched the surface. There was still so much to see and understand. I noticed a green bracelet with tiny bird charms. I felt an inexplicable urge to purchase it for my roommate who was having a rough week. It looked like nothing she owned, yet, for some reason, I knew she would like it.

I presented it to her that night and she loved it; she asked me how I knew she liked hummingbirds. She had grown up admiring the various glass hummingbirds her grandmother hung in the family cabin. In truth, I had no idea that they were hummingbirds. I guess we all have a little psychic in us. •

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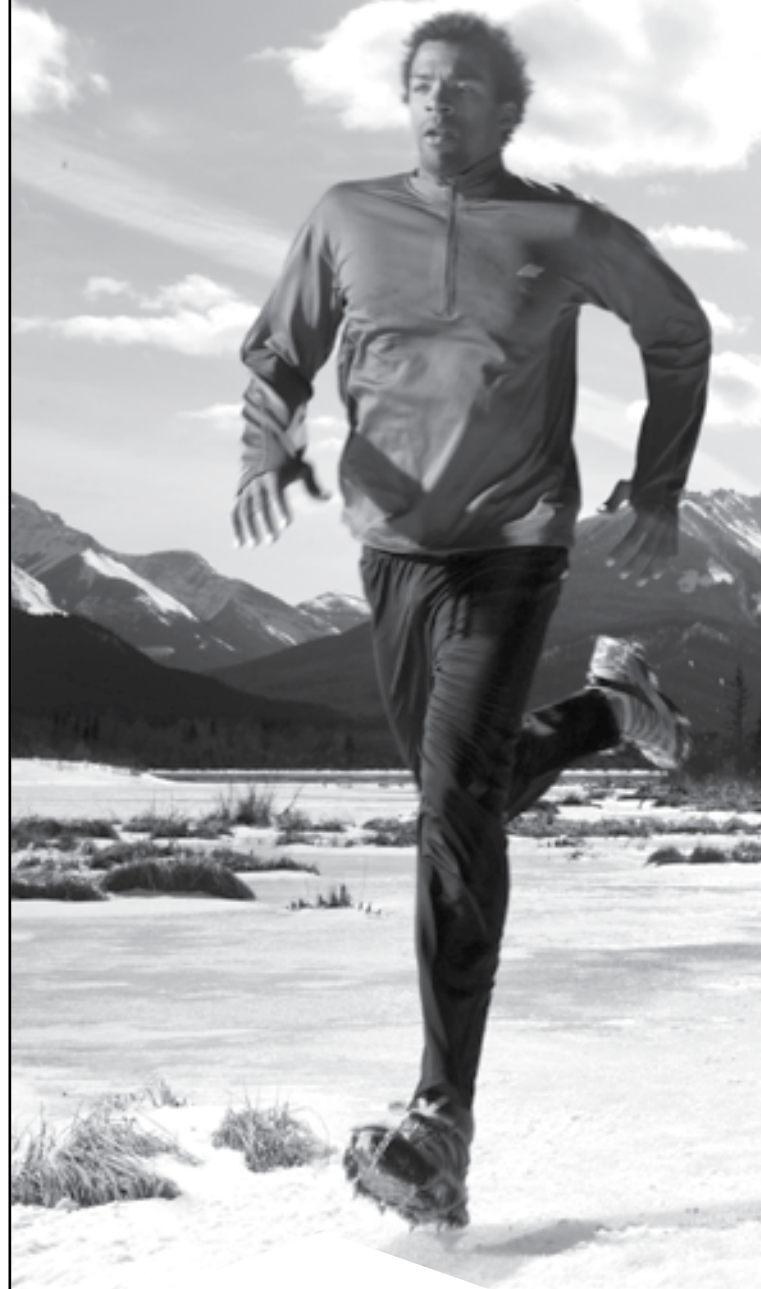
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# DANSE MACABRE

YoungJo Fontaine, a fourth year Medical Engineering Major, tosses a frisbee downfield while playing against the RIT ultimate frisbee alumni team.

Dan Justa, a third year Imaging and Photographic Technology major, covers an opponent from the RIT alumni team at the Ultimate Frisbee Tournament this past weekend.

by Andy Rees | photographs by Steve Pfost

Under grey skies and cold rain, the Spudheds, RIT's Ultimate Frisbee team, squared off against the RIT Alumni team. Dressed as the University of Rochester track team for Halloween, the Spuds put up a good fight on the wet fields. But despite having a youthful advantage, they were no match for the Alumni team. Made up of Spudhed graduates, the Alumni defeated the current team in a 15-4 decision in the "signature game" of the Danse Macabre tournament. However, the game didn't end there. In keeping with Ultimate's founding principle, "the spirit of the game," the two teams played a few more points before coming out of the rain. "We could have played better," said Thom Seigwarth, a fourth year Electrical Engineering major and team treasurer. "By the end of it, when we knew we were losing, we just started playing around and having fun."

The Spuds placed second in their pool. But, due to the weather, many of the fields for the championship rounds were taken away. This forced the brackets to be shortened to three rounds, leaving the Spuds out of the championship games. The RIT Alumni team did make it into the championship, only to lose to the University of Rochester Alumni team in the finals. Danse Macabre, meaning "dance of the dead," is RIT's annual Halloween-themed Ultimate Frisbee tournament. Players are asked to compete in costumes, which ranged from graduation gowns to three-piece suits. With over 35 teams competing on 18 fields, Danse is one of the largest competitions in the area. The RIT Ultimate Frisbee club has been hosting the weekend long tournament for the past 11 years. While competitive spirit is important, it doesn't seem to permeate the tournament. For example, games are officiated by the

players on the field. Instead of renting hotel rooms, many of the out-of-town teams are also housed by the Spuds and their friends during the tournament. This creates a unique camaraderie between teams that can be felt on and off the field. The club, which was formed 16 years ago, borrows its name and logo from Mr. Potato Head. "One of the players had this book and they opened it up and pointed to a word," said team captain Charlie Fuehrer, a third year Criminal Justice Major. "The first word that they pointed to was what our name was... We just adopted Mr. Potato Head as our mascot." The Spuds plan on starting a winter tournament this year using the Gordon Field House, explained Fuehrer. "Teams that have large gyms and many courts do an indoor tournament, so we're going to try to host one this year for the first time." •

## 2008 Faculty and Staff Winter



Thursday, December 4th, 2008  
Student Alumni Union Lobby  
10am - 4pm



Wearing number 241, Angela DeSanctis strolls out onto the course atop "Nightcap" before the jumping competition at Lehman Farms.

**RIT EQUESTRIAN, OCTOBER 25** *photographs by Steve Pfost*

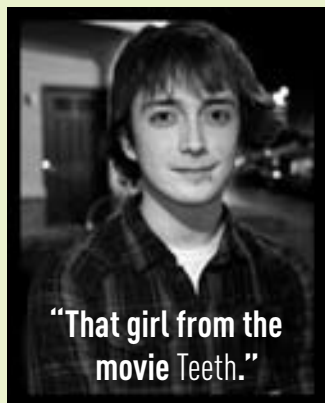


Erin McNally, a second year Mechanical Engineering major, barrels around the jumping course atop "Drizzle."



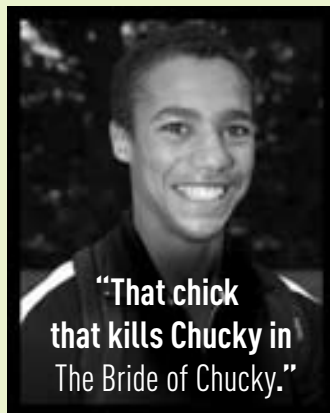
Erica Standish, a third year Hotel Management major, riding "Pete," gallops over a jump.

# word on the street



"That girl from the movie Teeth."

Eric Albanese  
Industrial Engineering  
Fourth Year



"That chick that kills Chucky in The Bride of Chucky."

Matt Knight  
Mechanical Engineering  
First Year



"Dennis Hopper from Blue Velvet, dreamboat."

Nikki Graziano  
Fine Art Photography  
Third Year



"Carrie — the original chick."

Jim McDade  
Photo Tech  
Second Year



"Jigsaw — the doll from Saw."

Natalie Ferrari  
Mechanical Engineering  
Second Year



"The alien from Species."

Nick Buckallew  
Information Security  
Third Year



"The chainsaw guy."

Kate Varandas  
Bio Tech  
Third Year

what horror villian would you hook up with?

photographs by Jake Hamm

# 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.

WEDNESDAY 6:44 A.M.

Holy [cow chips], Rings. It should not take me 50 minutes to sign up for my [gosh darn] classes, when I have an 8 a.m. class. I want to go to bed. Ugh...

MONDAY, 1:48 P.M.

I think RIT is actually having a genocide of fallen leaves. As soon as I see one hit the ground, [truckin'] FMS is there with a truck and four guys with leaf blowers. It's just ridiculous.

MONDAY, 6:19 P.M.

I JUST ATE M&M'S OUT OF MY GIRLFRIEND'S [PORCUPINE]. WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY?

SATURDAY, 7:49 P.M.

I'm driving on that bend between Gracies and the business school and I see campo with their lights off. I want to pull them over for being [very harsh expletive] retarded.

THURSDAY 6:14 P.M.

Since when does the RITz Sports zone start playing Michael Bubl  in the middle of the [harsh expletive] day when I'm trying to watch Sports Zone?



MONDAY 6:40 A.M.

I would really just like to express my dislike for the RIT Infocenter. I'm finding very little in the way of info and it is certainly not bringing me center. Why are you not all up on this, Rings? Fix this now.

MONDAY, 6:13 A.M.

Right now I'm trying to log onto this [mother truckin'] Infocenter to register for my classes. And you know what Infocenter is? A real [derri re aperture]. So um... maybe at this [Zeus darn] technological school we could do something about that.

WEDNESDAY, 4:28 P.M.

Hi Rings, I just wondered something. It's cold, but do you ever get cold? I know that you're cold and impersonal because you never return calls. But do you ever get cold? It's just something I've been wondering.

MONDAY 10:57 A.M.

I love you and we're sitting here being awesome. It's girl's night and we just thought we'd call you because we love you. Everybody say, "Hi." Hello... Yeah, they say, "Hi," but they're being shy. Bye.

SATURDAY 1:58 A.M.

I just wanted to let you know that everything is really close to you when you're drunk and that's courtesy of my friend [Duncan]. Thanks, bye.

SATURDAY, 1:28 A.M.

Who the hell is that [inappropriate to say about someone, cleaning method] kid that keeps [effin'] parking in handicap in S Lot? Every other day it's this pimped out Audi. It's [horse chips].



THE USELESSNESS OF VOTING:  
**DON'T VOTE**



*"I'd vote, but my mouth is full of potatoes!"*

**PEOPLE** of democratic nations often hold the belief that if someone can vote, then they should do so. This argument is unsatisfying: Why should I vote? Having the ability to do an action is not enough reason to do it. Why is voting put on a pedestal? The way we vote only allows for the two party candidates to have a chance of gaining an office position, and this is apparently true for the presidency. Neither Barack Obama nor John McCain hold platforms that I can support. While both candidates can fill my ears with buzzwords, slogans, and sweet talk, this is not enough reason for me to vote for one of them.

I would not vote because the outcome of the election is rigged. I do not mean that a victor is decided upon before the election is started, or that someone is tampering with

the votes (although foul play is abundant). The election is rigged in the sense that we know that McCain or Obama will win. We are not going to see Bob Barr (Libertarian) or Cynthia McKinney (Green) come up from behind and surprise us. We didn't even see them in a single debate, nor did we hear about them in any major news outlet. The Republicans and Democrats decide all the rules for the televised debates, and they decide all of the campaign laws. We are stuck in a two party system, and any third party is bound to fail because it does not have the billions of dollars that are available to the Democrats and Republicans.

This problem was created in part by the armies of ignorant voters created by "Rock the Vote," "Vote or Die," and other mainstream

- Writer**  
 Maximiliano Herrera  
**Illustrator**  
 Jamie Douglas

media groups formed each year. Voters drawn in by these organizations are not voting for legitimate reasons, but instead listening to unqualified personalities like P. Diddy and Bill O'Reilly. The two party system isn't created by a scheming group that controls the world, but by these people who do not evaluate their decisions and instead, choose simply to vote with "their" party. Due to this, there is no longer a system that benefits the common good; those two parties no longer need to benefit the common good to get the votes they need.

Even if I were to cast a third party vote in protest (with the hope that I would influence the Republican or Democratic parties to incorporate ideas that I believe in to their platform), would either party be willing to give up the power they have and be more willing to introduce third parties? I don't believe so. Would the organizations that hold influence over the voters be willing to give up their power? Through laziness, fancy campaign slogans, and straight-up propaganda we have trapped ourselves in a system that is not only broken, but malevolent towards we, the people.

Casting a vote of any kind, protest or not, would only endorse this broken system. So why would I legitimize this system by casting a vote? This is a system that I cannot take part in. That does not mean that one should ignore politics. In fact, one should do the opposite: Pay more attention and counter the influence of those illegitimate authorities. There are several better ways to express political views without having to waste your time with a vote. You can change the policies through civil protest. Assemble, write an article, or do something radical, like Martin Luther King, Jr. It would be wise to remember that the system will not change as long as we believe that the system is working in our favor. •

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

GO OUT AND  
**VOTE**



*"No, my wife told me I couldn't vote. She found me looking at pictures of Sarah Palin on the internet."*

I paid ten dollars just to vote. No, the cause wasn't some arcane poll tax, or anything quite so outrageous. I simply received my absentee ballot two weeks before Election Day and discovered I had no stamps. So, with my jacket flapping and my hands clutched firmly in my pockets, I made my way across a darkened campus to purchase an overpriced packet of twenty first class stamps at the Crossroads HUB. To me, it was worth the time and the effort, because I voted.

For many people, especially those my age, that has not been true. In the last presidential election just 47% of us eighteen-to-twenty-year-olds pulled a lever or marked a ballot. You've heard the arguments against voting, and some even seem to ring true: Arguments such as, "Your vote won't matter," or,

"They're all the same anyway," or even, "It won't affect me." No matter what you feel about President George W. Bush, his two terms in office have torn these arguments to shreds.

The presidency that has dominated my generation's first political steps began in 2000. That election was decided by less than a few thousand votes cast in Florida. In 2004, it was decided by a few hundred thousand votes cast in Ohio. In 2008, we may yet see the election hinge on Missouri, North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania, or some combination of the four. This is to say nothing of house or municipal elections, where the margins of victory are often lower. You and several thousand other empowered citizens collectively decide elections.

Even if it doesn't form the margin of victory,

- Writer**  
 Chris Zubak-Skees  
**Illustrator**  
 Jamie Douglas

your vote should still matter to you. It's a rare opportunity to make a personal statement about your part in a society, as well as the direction of your own future. A vote says that you matter, that everyone around you matters, and that your country matters. Countless self-help books, not to mention common sense, would advise asserting yourself and engaging in something bigger; there's no better way than voting for candidates you pick.

We know that an Al Gore presidency would have been drastically different from that of President Bush. This administration chose to discount the effects of greenhouse gases, to invade Iraq, and to further deregulate our financial markets. Right or wrong, these are issues where the two men could hardly have been farther apart, and it is precisely these decisions which have directed the course of our nation in the last eight years.

The reality is that the choices made in an election affect you, and me, and everyone else. This college would not be the same without the millions of dollars spent by the government on NTID appropriations, student loans, and research grants. The bridges you drive on could not (and someday might not) exist without the continual aid of government. We've seen the case for both a sound national defense and the need for competent disaster response illustrated by the striking television images of 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, now seared into our consciousness.

I'm not going to tell you, "It doesn't matter who you vote for, just so long as you vote." That would contradict my point. But I'm also not telling you who to vote for. Arranged on my ballot was a green party candidate, an independent, a libertarian, a democrat, and a republican. There was also a blank write-in line. These are all valid choices, and all, save for the blank line, have articulated ideas for our future.

To me it was worth ten dollars in stamps. For you, it might be a gallon of gas, a dollar for bus fare, or twenty minutes of your time. But whatever it's worth, please make it worth something. Declare that you matter. Declare that we matter. Vote. •



