

REPORTER

FLAVOR TRIPPING
CAMPUS FOOD PRICES
OUR SHRINKING ENDOWMENT

MUSIC RECYCLING 101



Featuring Rod Blumenau

(piano and instruction)

Jeff Campbell (bass), Brad Paxton (drums), Gabe Condon (guitar, violin, vocals)

Professor Blumenau and his able assistants will show how you can't escape the classics!

Rochester Institute of Technology, Ingle Auditorium

Friday, January 9, 2009 at 8pm

Unreserved seating: \$6 Students; \$15 Faculty/Staff/Alumni; \$20 General Public. Tickets may be purchased at the SAU Candy Counter or at the door on performance night, if available.

For VISA/MC, call the field house box office at (585) 475-4121.



Performing Artists Concert Series

Presented by The Center for Campus Life

For more information: www.davidigital.com/concert

Imagine *First-Year* Enrichment



What if...we started FYE from scratch?
How might FYE reflect what students want and need?
How might FYE best support the vision of RIT?

Tell us what you think....

Open Student Sessions:

Monday, December 8th	5:00 - 6:30 pm	Gordon Field House Reception Room
Friday, December 12th	2:00 - 3:30 pm	2000 Eastman
Tuesday, December 16th	5:00 - 6:30 P	NRH 1250
Wednesday, January 7th	4:00 - 5:30 pm	Xerox Auditorium
Wednesday, January 14th	4:00 - 5:30 pm	Xerox Auditorium

Open Faculty/Staff Sessions:

Wednesday, December 10th	4:00 - 5:30 pm	Xerox Auditorium
Friday, January 9th	1:30 - 3:00 pm	2000 Eastman
Wednesday, January 14th	4:00 - 5:30 pm	Xerox Auditorium

CAN'T ATTEND OUR OPEN SESSIONS....YOU CAN POST YOUR SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS ON OUR ONLINE FORUM:
[HTTP://AAUP.RIT.EDU/FORUM/VIEWTOPIC.PHP?PID=680#0680](http://AAUP.RIT.EDU/FORUM/VIEWTOPIC.PHP?PID=680#0680)

INTERPRETER/CPRINT AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST AT:
MYACCESS.RIT.EDU



check it out at
niagara.edu/advance

Master of Education

Openings still available for Spring 2009

Teacher Education:

- Teacher Certification
- Special Education
- Literacy Instruction

Counseling & Educational Leadership:

- School Psychology
- Mental Health Counseling
- School Counseling
- Educational Leadership

Call **1.800.462.2111** or visit niagara.edu/advance today.



Education That Makes a Difference

College of Education
Academic Complex
Niagara University, NY 14109
716.286.8336

NCATE Accredited since 1984



REPORTER

EDITOR IN CHIEF Laura Mandanas

MANAGING EDITOR Ilsa Shaw

COPY EDITOR David Spiecker

NEWS EDITOR Andy Rees

LEISURE EDITOR John Howard

FEATURES EDITOR Madeleine Villavicencio

SPORTS/VIEWS EDITOR Jack Reickel

WRITERS James Cottage, Alecia Crawford, Neil DeMoney, Rachel Hart, John Howard, Stephen Leljedal, Thomas Mittner, Bob Modzelowski, Emily Mohlmann, Andy Rees

ART

ART DIRECTOR Susie Sobota

STAFF DESIGNERS Evan Anthony, Ryan Moore, Kelvin Patterson

AD DESIGNER Lisa Barnes

PHOTO EDITOR Eric Drummond

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS David Chow, Matt Kelley, Jake Hamm, Georgi Unkouski, Evan Witik

STAFF ILLUSTRATORS Katie Anderson, Jamie Douglas, Joanna Eberts

CARTOONIST Ben Rubin

PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION MANAGER Kelvin Patterson

PRINTING Printing Applications Lab

BUSINESS

PUBLICITY MANAGER Lindsay Block

AD MANAGER Kyle O'Neill

BUSINESS MANAGER Danielle Gotschall

ONLINE

ONLINE PRODUCTION MANAGER Chris Zubak-Skees

ONLINE EDITOR Adimabua Ofunne

ADVISOR

Rudy Pugliese

CONTACT

MAIN 1.800.970.5406 ext. 9

EMAIL reporter@rit.edu

ADVERTISING 1.800.970.5406 ext. 0

EMAIL reporterads@mail.rit.edu

reportermag
.com

EDITOR'S NOTE

To be sung to the tune of the “Do You Hear What I Hear”.

In tribute to Gary Prokop (see page 10), with apologies to Noel Regney.

HAVE YOU READ WHAT I'VE READ

Said the freshmen to dorm-dwelling peers,
“Do you see what I see?
Whopping prices, disheartened cashiers
When we buy our groceries.
Pop-Tarts, milk, eggs, Oreos, ice cream
High prices; no coupons to redeem
Sky-high prices; check out page sixteen.”

Said the senators last week in SG,
“Do you hear what I hear?
New proposals to the calendar, dear me.
Do you hear what I hear?
A change, a change; school could end at a later time
No air conditioning and lots of hot sunshine,
No air conditioning; for more, see page nine.”

Said RIT to its financial stakeholders,
“Do you know what I know?
The stockmarket’s rotten, decomposing, it moulders.
Where did all our money go?
Our endowment, we fear, is crumbling like bricks;
Millions lost; we’re in a downward helix.
Millions lost; to learn more, go to page six.”

Said Reporter to students on winter break,
“Don’t worry, just listen to what we say:
See your friends, drink eggnog, eat fruitcake.
Have a happy holiday!
This break, this break, sleep all through your nights
Hope your winter’s full of delights.
(Visit reportermag.com for more such insights.)”



Laura Mandanas
EDITOR IN CHIEF

TABLE OF CONTENTS

12 19 08 | VOL. 58, ISSUE 14



news pg. 06

AS ROME FALLS

RIT’s endowment just lost \$544 million.

FORECAST

Quack, quack, quack, Mr. Ducksworth!

SG UPDATES

Total wireless coverage is on the way.

CHANGING THE INSTITUTE CALENDAR

Three proposals for 2010.

leisure pg. 10

GARY PROKOP

Energy consumption poetry.

CHOCOLATE LASAGNA

Impress your grandma.

AN ATHEIST CHRISTMAS

Celebrating Christmas without being Christian.

CD REVIEWS

XO for the Holidays. Universal Mind Control.

features pg. 16

RIT FOOD FRENZY

Why are prices so high?

SHORT-CIRCUITING YOUR TASTE BUDS

Flavor tripping.

sports pg. 26

MEN’S AND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

We’re in for a good season.

views pg. 28

ANTI-CLAUS

Bob Modzelowski says “enough” to Santa Claus.

WORD ON THE STREET

How do you survive Rochester’s winters?

RIT RINGS

If you see a Yeti, call 585-672-4840.

Cover photograph and above photograph
by David Chow

Retouching by Brandon Kornprobst

Correction / The December 12 issue’s SG
Update was written by Alecia Crawford,
not Geoffrey H. Bliss.



AS ROME FALLS

by Andy Rees | photograph by Georgi Unkovski

AS news of the U.S. recession is repetitiously announced by major news sources around the country, it is not surprising that the reality is hitting close to home. According to a June 30 report from President William Destler, RIT's endowment stood at \$671.5 million. The endowment, Destler wrote, was, at the time, "nowhere near the appropriate ratio for a university of our size and global scope." As of December 11, less than six months later, RIT's endowment has suffered a 19 percent loss in wealth, placing the endowment's worth around \$544 million, according to Dr. James Watters, senior vice president for Finance and Administration.

"We seem to have weathered the storm," said Watters. RIT's endowment has performed better than both the Standard & Poor 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average, which lost 32 percent and 25 percent respectively since June. However, the endowment loss of 19 percent still represents approximately \$128 million.

The endowment, a fund established through donations to the school, provides for scholarships and faculty positions, among other things. This is done through investment. The original fund remains intact and only the earnings from the investments are spent.

"We're looking at 2009 very conservatively," said Watters. RIT will continue with most of its strategic plan, but smaller projects may have to be postponed.

The institute still plans on constructing Global Village in time for the fall of 2010, he said. Additionally, the renovations to the Student Alumni Union, the new wing for the School of American Craft, and the Vignelli Design Center are also slated to be completed. "It's a good time to bid for construction projects," noted Watters, who explained that the cost of building materials and labor were low.

Watters credits a diverse investment strategy with the relative success of the institute. Some small schools, he said,

had most of their investments managed by Wachovia. Wachovia, which was part of the financial collapse earlier this year, froze the funds of over 1,000 schools, according to a report by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. While RIT did have some working capital invested with Wachovia, said Watters, it was not a significant amount.

Watters stressed that financial aid was his top concern. While the institute has seen a 9 percent increase in delayed repayment of student tuition, he noted, there has not been a significant drop in retention rates. Many other universities, which use the semester system, look at RIT as a litmus test to see how many students will be coming back to school.

As the financial quarter comes to a close and investment reports are filed, the true extent of the damage will be known. But it seems that for now, the panic is over.

"Other people at RIT are paid to be optimistic," Watters smiled, "I am paid to worry." •

RIT FORECAST

compiled by Alecia Crawford

SAT. 3

RIT MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. ELMIRA

Clark Gym. 6 p.m. Back with nothing to do? Go support the RIT men's basketball team. Cost: Free.

SUN. 4

RIT MEN'S LACROSSE FUNDRAISER

Gordon Field House. 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. Support the Men's Lacrosse team by coming out and watching a few games played by intense high schoolers. Cost: TBA.

MON. 5

TRIVIA NIGHT @ LOVIN' CUP

300 Park Point Drive. 9 p.m. — midnight. Test your knowledge on important subjects, such as naming the cast of *The Half-blood Prince*. Cost: Free.

TUE. 6

LOVIN' CUP OPEN MIC NIGHT

300 Park Point Drive. 9 p.m. – midnight. Use that guitar you received over the holidays to premiere your hidden talent. Cost: Free.

WED. 7

ALL YOU CAN EAT SUSHI NIGHT @ CALIFORNIA ROLLIN'

274 North Goodman Street. 5 – 10 p.m. All the maki rolls and miso soup you want. Chef's choice. Cost: \$20.

THU. 8

CAB PRESENTS: THE MIGHTY DUCKS

Ingle Auditorium. 10 p.m. Enjoy some hot chocolate, Emilio Estevez and the movie that made us love hockey. Cost: Free.

FRI. 9

MEN'S CLUB HOCKEY GAME VS. CONNECTICUT

Frank Ritter Ice Arena. 7:00 p.m. After watching *The Mighty Ducks*, why not watch a game live? Cost: \$5 for students, \$8 for faculty/staff, \$10 general.

SG UPDATES

by Alecia Crawford

BATTERIES IN VENDING MACHINES

Since the bookstore moved out of the Student Alumni Union, students have been complaining of a lack of places on campus to buy AA and AAA batteries. College of Imaging Arts and Sciences Senator Adam Richlin reported that he has been working with Facilities Management Services to make them available in the vending machines.

VISITING STUDENTS FROM CROATIA

"We are a delegation of three people to see the structure of your Student Government and other things related to students," said the President of the Croatian national Student Council. The students were able to ask questions, including those about Student Government's relationship with Academic Senate. The three guests and their guide each received a bag full of gifts, courtesy of Student Government (SG).

TOTAL WIRELESS COVERAGE

Gerry Brunelle, SG director of services, reported that the academic side of campus is in the process of getting total wireless coverage. A vendor has also been selected and work is underway.

ZETA ALLOWANCE APPROVED

ZETA sorority asked for \$5,500 to bring a speaker to campus. Any amount over \$5,000 needs to be approved by the senate. After a quick vote, ZETA's amount was approved.

BETTER SURVEY FOR STUDENTS

Dr. Mary-Beth Cooper, vice president for Student Affairs presented her current project of formulating a survey to get a better picture of the student experience at RIT and to determine what it is that causes students in their later years to become so disenfranchised and disengaged. A team of students, including Women's Senator Emily Hughes and staff, will contribute to the creation of this survey. Some of the factors being considered are what incentives would be most successful in motivating students to take the survey and what questions would be the most effective in assessing the current experience. After a draft is complete, the survey will be critiqued by various organizations around campus, including Student Government, and then distributed to every student at RIT.

CALENDAR CHANGE

Cooper also presented three calendar options that are being considered for 2010. Student Government voted unanimously to keep the calendar under the current system. For more information, see "Changing the Academic Calendar," page 8.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

♥ REPORTER



CHANGING THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR

by Alecia Crawford

The calendar committee presented their proposal for the 2010-2011 institute academic calendar to Student Government. In addition to explaining the calendar options, they sought feedback about the proposed changes. Three calendar options were presented for the senate to choose from, two of which aimed to eliminate the split schedule of winter quarter. Currently, a semester calendar is not on the table, said Dr. Mary-Beth Cooper, vice president for Student Affairs.

PROPOSAL #1

This calendar represents the current system. Fall classes start on Labor Day, September 6, 2010. There would be one week for fall break and two weeks for winter break. Spring quarter would start on March 7, 2011. Commencement ceremonies would be around the same time as well, on May 20 and 21.

PROPOSAL #2

Also known as “early start,” classes would begin on Tuesday, September 7, 2010. Fall break would be from November 24 to January 2. Spring quarter wouldn’t start until March 28 and commencement ceremonies would be on June 10 and 11.

PROPOSAL #3

Also known as “late start,” classes would begin September 22, 2010 with a break for Thanksgiving on November 24 through 26. Winter break would be from December 12 to January 2. The rest of the calendar is the same as Proposal #2 from winter quarter on.

Cabinet members, senators and representatives were in agreement regarding having a one week break for Thanksgiving and a three week break for the holidays. There was a negative reaction to the second and third proposals. Senators pointed out that these wouldn’t work with students trying to co-op.

Residence Hall Association representative Phillip Amsler took issue with the late start date and the lack of air conditioning in some of the dorms. “In May, I am sweating,” he said, “I don’t even want to think about going to school in June.”

Student Athlete Advisory Committee representative Jose Guzman acknowledged, “By [September 22] I think most of the fall season is half way through.”

“I’m just going to throw this out there. My preference is for the first calendar.” said SG President Ed Wolf before the senate took a vote on the issue. The senate voted unanimously against changing the current academic calendar. Both the Academic Senate and Staff Council had a split vote between the first and third proposal.

After receiving feedback from these governance groups, the calendar committee will meet again and propose one of the calendars to the institute council. The final decision, however, rests with Provost Jeremy Haefner and President William Destler.

PROPOSAL #1	PROPOSAL #2	PROPOSAL #3	
			September
Fall 9/6 to 11/20	Fall 9/7 to 11/23	Fall 9/22 to 12/11	October
			November
1 week			December
2 weeks	6.5 weeks	3 week	January
Winter 11/29 to 2/26	Winter 1/3 to 3/19	Winter 1/3 to 3/19	February
1 week			March
Spring 3/7 to 5/20	1 week	1 week	April
	Spring 3/28 to 6/10	Spring 3/28 to 6/10	May
2 weeks			June
Summer 6/6 to 8/20	1 week	1 week	July
	Summer 6/20 to 9/3	Summer 6/20 to 9/3	August
1 week			

*"We know you're just thinking of leaving"
But there's a goal that we're planning on achieving
Make sure the thermostat's turned down low
Before you go, before you go, before you go"
-To the tune of "Let it Snow"*

That's just one of the examples of writing by Gary Prokop, an RIT staffer with a flair for music. Prokop uses energy consumption poetry to prophesy a much-needed sermon of efficiency to the RIT community.

Prokop, a purchasing analyst of construction and utilities for RIT's Facilities Management Services (FMS), as well as an avid fan of both Ronald Reagan and Frank Sinatra, first culled his musical abilities while rewriting the most popular songs of the day alongside his high school friends in order to "turn them into dirty songs."

He continued to do so when managing the college radio station at St. John Fisher College.

Prokop's collection of works, while limited in number, reword popular songs — mostly holiday themed — to carry an RIT-centric concern to remind students to conserve as much energy as possible while on break. "People read it and they

start humming it in their head and when they think of the song, they're thinking of saving some energy," Prokop explains.

Prokop began distributing his poetry to RIT students in 2004. His main source of inspiration as well as his reason for writing is his job. His work at RIT has him tracking exactly how much the institute spends on all forms of energy on a daily basis.

During his career here, Prokop grew concerned based on the numbers that he was seeing. In 2005, RIT spent \$12.6 million per year just to buy the needed utilities to run the college. He gathered that most of the energy waste came during winter break, when all the dorms are closed and almost everybody was off campus for the holidays. Students would leave appliances plugged in and heating systems cranked up.

As winter break approaches every year, Prokop sends a copy of his latest song to everyone on campus via e-mail, insuring that, willing or not, the recipients will get a quaint reminder to unplug electrical devices and lower thermostats, thereby lightening the load on the school's wallet. "In the end, all of those costs are costs that have to be rolled into the

tuition. So anytime we can save the money, we'll be able to keep the tuition from going up as much as it would normally," notes Prokop.

For Prokop, it's a way to make his job a little more fun. As long as the need arises for RIT to save money on the power bill, he'll keep writing songs and sending them out. According to him, "A few years ago we estimated that we saved about \$40,000 in electricity over the course of 10 days," thanks to his project's efforts to spread the word on energy. He would even consider publishing his songs in some sort of book form, if it ever got big enough. He believes that any method that can be used to get these little conservation reminders out and spread the word would not only be helping himself, but, more importantly, the RIT community as a whole. To Prokop, the campus, just like everyone else, needs all the help it can get during these tough times. •

For the RIT Digital Media Library page containing all of Gary Prokop's work, including his newest song, "Save Energy Rock", visit <https://ritdml.rit.edu/dspace/handle/1850/5711>.

Gary Prokop

by Stephen Lejedal
photograph by Matt Kelley



CHOCOLATE LASAGNA

by Emily Mohlmann

So you're finally able to sit at the adult table this year, but the catch is you have to contribute a dish to your holiday gathering. Rather than the same old dishes at grandma's house, why not try something new?

INGREDIENTS:

1 (8 ounces) package "no boil" lasagna noodles
2 pounds ricotta cheese
1 cup powdered sugar
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
2 large eggs
1 1/2 cups mini chocolate chips
1 orange, zested
1/2 cup roasted pistachios
4 ounces white chocolate, coarsely grated

DIRECTIONS

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

Noodles:

Boil noodles for 1 minute. Drain and place in ice water to stop the cooking. Drain again and lay on paper towels to dry.

Layers:

Mix the ricotta, sugar, cocoa powder, eggs, chocolate chips and orange zest. Spread 1/4 of the mixture onto the bottom of an 8 x 8 inch baking pan. Sprinkle some pistachios on top and then layer on the noodles. Repeat. Layer on the rest of the ricotta mixture and pistachios. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes. Sprinkle the white chocolate over the top while hot. Let it cool and then serve.

Recipe courtesy of www.foodnetwork.com.

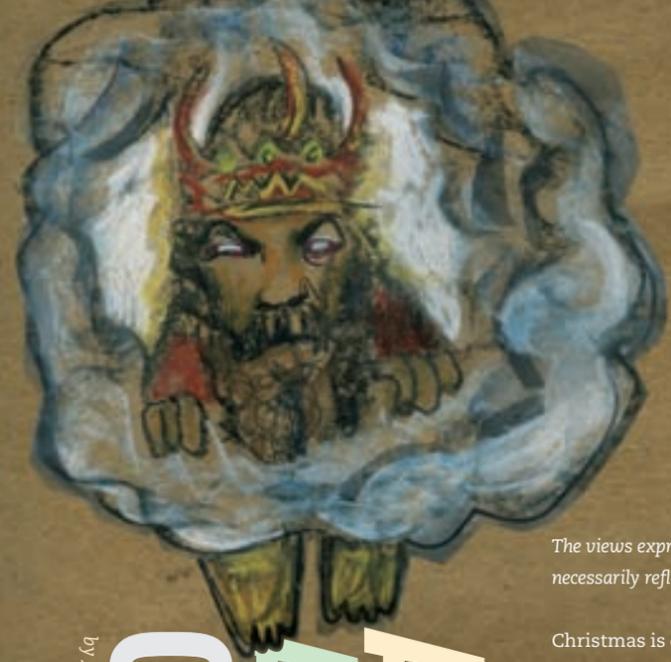
The recipe comes without a preparation time estimate, but, excluding a noodle disaster, it should take about an hour. Don't assume the "no boil" noodles will make your life easy: The recipe still calls for you to boil them and they tend to stick together (even after being prepared like normal noodles).

After the sticky noodle issue is resolved, the lasagna creation can commence — layers of chocolate, pistachios and noodles. Be warned, though, because your problems are just beginning. The white chocolate shavings that will be spread atop the dish tend to fall flat, causing melted white chocolate drizzle all over your creation. This may or may not be an advantage, depending on your desired design.

Once cooled, it's time for a taste test. This particular chef's reaction? "Oh, this is weird." The flavor was there, chocolaty but not overpowering. What was surprising was the strong burst of orange, although the texture killed any sort of positive response from me. The ricotta cheese made it grainy, and even though the pistachios added a crunch, it wasn't quite enough.

Still, while this recipe may be dead, the idea is definitely worth saving. Experiment! You might be able to try cream cheese instead, so it's more cheesecake-like. If you're not into pistachios, any nut will do. The noodles can also be replaced with layers of cake or graham cracker, much like a cheesecake crust.

If you love lasagna and ricotta, this recipe (or some permutation of it) is definitely worth a try. Just don't expect it to impress grandma. •



The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of REPORTER.

Christmas is coming up and we all know what that means: Christmas carols on the radio, ads with Christmas jingles on the TV, presents, nativity scenes and arguments. The “War on Christmas” media frenzy wasn’t so long ago and the religious often wonder why non-believers can’t just leave their holiday alone and “keep Christ in Christmas.” Just as often the questions are asked, “Why do atheists even celebrate Christmas? What’s an atheist’s reason and/or excuse for celebrating Christmas, given the holiday’s Christian origin?”

SO I ASKED AROUND.

Dave Turner, a fifth year Computer Science major, explained his reason was for celebrating the Christian holiday: “My family used to have the pressure of my grandmother, who was a very devout Roman Catholic,” he explained, “It’s more of a tradition than anything now.”

To explain how he, an atheist, justified celebrating the holiday, he said, “For my family, it’s turned back into a celebration of the winter solstice on the 25th and the only things Jesus-related are a few wooden figures that we place above the fireplace in honor of my grandmother.”

The family theme was more strongly espoused by atheist Matthew Roberts, a fifth year Illustration major. “I celebrate Christmas as a day to get together with my family,” he explained passionately. “It doesn’t need to be anything more than that. There doesn’t need to be any mythology involved. There is no Santa, there is no Jesus, there is no God!”

Matthew Vimislik, a fourth year Illustration major, also commented on the lack of need for celebrating a holiday for its mythology. He drew the parallel, “I don’t believe that spirits come out on All Hallows Eve and that I have to disguise myself to avoid them ... but I still celebrate Halloween.”

RIT Alumni Michael Caution, also an atheist, surprisingly said that Christmas is actually his favorite holiday. “It has a little to do with the fact that winter is also my favorite season,” Caution explained, “It’s the one time of the year where my extended family will get together and enjoy the holiday. Christmas songs are also good. Sometimes I’ll catch myself singing Christmas songs and it will be mid-April.” To Caution, the value of Christmas songs is in their nostalgic feel. “It’s more of a familiarity thing, and they are by themselves — without the religious lyrics and meaning — quite good songs.”



Though the holiday might bring about Christian connections, for Caution, the true meaning is something more. “Christmas is about bringing together people you care about, or getting back in touch, buying a special present for a loved one, even something as simple as wishing another person, ‘Merry Christmas,’” Caution stated, “It’s life that Christmas celebrates, not self-sacrifice resignation. Christmas is literally a celebration of life, values, reason and production.”

When I asked Caution his excuse for celebrating this holiday as an atheist, he was the first person to have none. “I can’t offer you any excuse as to why I celebrate Christmas because there simply is no excuse to be made. It should be asked of the Christians why they still insist on celebrating Christmas for a god who doesn’t exist, wasn’t born on the 25th and most of all is completely antithetical to the spirit of Christmas itself. I reject the premise of a Christian origin.”

Indeed, the holiday’s origin is a dubious one. Looking back, we’ll find that the festival known today as Christmas had origins in pagan tradition and was even banned by the Puritans, until the Church assimilated the holiday for the sake of new converts. Interestingly enough, Jeremiah 10:2-5 has been interpreted as frowning upon the celebration and specifically the use of what we call the Christmas tree:

“ Thus says the Lord,
Do not learn the way of the nations,
And do not be terrified by the
signs of the heavens
Although the nations are terrified by them;
For the customs of the peoples are delusion;
Because it is wood cut from the forest,
The work of the hands of a
craftsman with a cutting tool.
“They decorate it with silver and with gold;
They fasten it with nails and with hammers
So that it will not totter.
“Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field are they,
And they cannot speak;
They must be carried,
Because they cannot walk!
Do not fear them,
For they can do no harm,
Nor can they do any good.”

There are plenty of reasons to celebrate Christmas without being Christian. While traditions and superstitions surrounding the celebration have so drastically changed throughout time, the secular reasons for celebrating the holiday have remained generally the same. •



AN
ATHEIST
CHRISTMAS

by James P. Cotage | illustration by Jamie Douglas and Ben Rubin

CD REVIEWS



XO FOR THE HOLIDAYS

by Alecia Crawford

XO Publicity put together a compilation package of the artists they represent for the holiday season. The idea is a clever move from the public relations firm to get their artists' names out, but not every song will get you into the holiday spirit.

The album features songs that would be played in either Java Wally's or as background music for MTV's *The Real World* with their original sound. Some of the album's highlights include "That's How We Do Christmas" by the BACKsliders, which has a late '90s punk band feel and screaming vocalist. "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)" by Blue Skies For Black Hearts is reminiscent of a

cooler version of "Jingle Bell Rock" with a predominant sax. "Ragtime Manifesto" by The Winter Sounds features relaxed vocals over upbeat percussion.

If you're big on the holiday covers, "Happy Christmas War Is Over" by Play ought to float your boat. Though, even with this song, I couldn't picture myself decorating a holiday tree or helping my mom in the kitchen with the holiday meal. Rather, images of drinking coffee with black shades on and bongos playing "Oh Holy Night" come to mind.

This album is definitely for the unconventional holiday people, the innovators and the pessimists. I wouldn't

buy it for the simple fact that it's not too difficult to see right through the firm's attempt to get the names of their clients out. Although the concept is original, the album should be like a flyer — given out for free at one of their artist shows. There aren't enough songs that I liked to pay the \$12, so save your money and spend it on candy canes instead. •

To listen to the album for free, go to <http://xopublicity.com/xofortheholdiys.html>.



UNIVERSAL MIND CONTROL *COMMON*

by Alecia Crawford

Common (formerly known as Common Sense), one of the most poetic and real lyricists, released his long-awaited project for fans. Hip-hop and music enthusiasts welcomed the release based on promises to "take you to the tip-top, baby."

The album features songs like "Announcement" and "Gladiator" (both featuring Pharrell) that stay true to his head-nodding flow, but listeners will find more upbeat tracks on the album with songs like "Universal Mind Control" and "What a

World." The Neptunes produced most of the tracks on this album, contributing to the toe-tapping, danceable factor. *Universal Mind Control* (UMC) also features some joint efforts by Kanye West, Cee-Lo, Muhsinah and Martina Topley-Bird and includes a live version of "Break My Heart" from Common's last album *Finding Forever*.

Common has been in the game since 1992, famous for throwing out fast rhymes with a fiery flair. In recent years, he has slowed down and grown up, working with

the likes of John Mayer, Lauryn Hill and Erykah Badu to produce a more mature sound. The rapper made his acting debut in January 2007 alongside Jeremy Piven and Ben Affleck in *Smoking Aces* and has since been seen in films like *American Gangster* and *Wanted*. His life experience and wisdom definitely shine through in UMC. Hate it or love it, Common isn't leaving hip-hop anytime soon. •

12.19.08

AT YOUR LEISURE

by John Howard

STREAM OF FACTS

On 706 Union Avenue in Memphis, Tennessee, stands a building known as the Sun Studio. Once a radiator shop, the place became a music studio in 1950 called The Memphis Recording Service. The building is said to be the birthplace of the now-booming industry of **ROCK 'N' ROLL**.

On December 4, 1956, legends of **ROCK 'N' ROLL** past Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Johnny Cash all happened upon the Sun Studio and recorded a jam session that was not released until the 1980s. Many of the tracks released were under the name given in a local newspaper that referred to them as "The **MILLION** Dollar Quartet."

Two and a half **MILLION** Superman-related items sit inside a museum dedicated to Superman in Metropolis, Illinois called The Super Museum. In the year 1972, DC Comics and the Illinois state legislature got together to declare Metropolis the "Hometown of Superman." Along with the museum, the city features a 15-foot, two-ton statue of Superman that once replaced a vandalism-prone **SEVEN**-foot model.

The 1955 film **SEVEN** Year Itch starred Marilyn Monroe and featured the famous scene shot outside Trans Lux Theater in New York City where Monroe's dress gets blown up by a current from a subway grate. Joe DiMaggio, Monroe's husband at the time, is said to have been irritated by the way director Billy Wilder portrayed Monroe in the film. The **END** of the couple's marriage took place during shooting.

By the **END** of day, an adult elephant will have excreted about 80 pounds of waste. This is good news for animals that feed off the stuff. Dogs, for instance, eat feces because of its high protein. Some herbivores, however, such as rodents and rabbits, eat their own feces because of their weak digestive system. A second pass through is needed to get everything out of the **FOOD** they initially consumed.*

Boston cream pies are a **FOOD** that dates back to the 1800s. Originally, the dessert was titled "Parker House Chocolate Cream Pie," named after Boston's Parker House Hotel at which it was served. French chef M. Sanzian created the delicacy in 1856 and, in 1996, the Boston cream pie was made the official dessert of Massachusetts.

*Check out <http://smellypoop.com> for all your poop facts.

CARTOON

by Ben Rubin



DIFFICULTY > VERY HARD

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

QUOTE

"PAIN IS A BEAUTIFUL THING. WHEN YOU FEEL PAIN, YOU KNOW YOU'RE ALIVE."

Criss Angel

REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Ace of Cakes. If you haven't heard of this show, you've been missing out on the only reason why reality television *should* exist. The show takes place in Baltimore, Maryland where a team of cake experts create masterpiece cakes that sell for thousands of dollars and have been featured anywhere from Hollywood film premiers to major corporation birthdays. Duff, a former pastry chef gone hard rocker, stars in the show as the head of the shop where he manages some of the best personalities on television. This show is interesting and entertaining and could definitely take on *America's Next Top Model* in a fight to the death. They have knives, after all.

OVERSEEN AND OVERHEARD AT RIT

"Fonts don't exercise."

Professor during a lecture.

"Sex with dinosaurs

Always a little scaly

Always illegal!"

Student at RIT Honors Program



RIT

Food

Frenzy

by Rachel Hart | photographs by David Chow



My freshmen year was littered with lazy Saturday mornings following crazy Friday nights. After waking up around noon, I would always crave a tall glass of water and a big breakfast. Unfortunately, dorm living was not conducive to this activity. One time I even reached into my mini fridge and pulled out an expired carton of milk — which, of course, I did not realize until the sour smell invaded my nostrils and I spat out chunky bits into my garbage can.

My food situation was out of control. Once my milk started to resemble cottage cheese, I knew I had to start shopping for groceries on a regular basis. In the end, I knew that my diet of Student Alumni Union omelets and pasta tosses from the Dining Commons was not going

to keep me alive much longer.

Although most people don't think about it, food is a huge part of life at RIT, or any college.

LOST... on RIT Island

In some ways, living on campus can be like living on an island. When living in the dorms, it usually seems silly to leave campus. Why go to Wegmans when The Corner Store is right below? Why go to a movie when we could watch a bootlegged version right from the comfort of our own dorm? Despite this penchant for life in the RIT bubble, RIT is not a castaway TV show where a bunch of strange people have crash-landed and each week seems to be more attractive yet less likable.

Now that I have moved off campus, a trip

to Wegmans and even Target is no longer any kind of big deal. It has become just another errand in the day. With so much on campus, I always questioned, "Why bother leaving?" The answers are endless.

First, prices. Of course, when you are required to have a meal plan and you are on All Debit, it seems like a waste to spend "real" money on anything. You can buy anything from movies to condoms on debit. But really, when you finally get off debit, the world has so much to offer.

My Trip to Wegmans

To prove my point about buying food outside of RIT's campus while still living in the dorms, I decided to take a trip

to Wegmans to record my findings. Grocery shopping at Wegmans was not something I did often in my two years of dorm life.

I began my journey to Wegmans in C-Lot, a pretty common parking lot on the residential side. At 6:05 p.m. I departed, cash in hand, ready to leave the island and travel to faraway lands. I headed to the Wegmans on Hylan drive because of its proximity to the campus.

I arrived at Wegmans and quickly found a parking spot. The shopping began. I looked for each of the items on my list, some of which were on sale with the use of my free Wegmans Shopper's Club card. As I strolled through the aisles, I observed that the Wegmans brand was cheaper and good enough for some of my purchases. My total for a box of Poptarts, Campbell's Soup at Hand, Oreos, Pringles, Kraft Mac and Cheese, and one gallon of milk at Wegman's came to \$11.90 including tax. At The Corner Store, the total for the same products would have been \$19.87 with the same 8 percent sales tax.

I checked out and headed back to my car, satisfied with my shopping trip. The odometer on my car indicated that I had used seven miles of gas for the round trip to Wegmans. With gas currently at about \$2.00 a gallon and my car getting about 21.6 miles per gallon, this meant I spent about 65 cents in gas. I arrived back at about 6:35 p.m., making the total time of my visit about half an hour long.

Why are Prices so High?

It's all about perception and comparison. Compared to a large scale grocery store like Wegmans or Wal-Mart, The Corner Store prices are quite high and even doubled for some items. However, if The Corner Store prices are compared to a 7-Eleven — for instance, the one on West Henrietta road — they are actually quite competitive. "We do not have the buying power," explained Jennifer Buckley, manager of residential stores for RIT Dining Services.

Unlike these grocery giants, RIT does not purchase enough products in bulk to buy directly from companies. RIT must make its supply purchases from a small grocery co-op. All in all, considering the volume of product that actually is purchased, Buckley believes that "costs are relatively good compared to other places."

Another key to understanding food prices

is that RIT does not subsidize dining services. This means that RIT Dining Services must make enough money to cover rent, electric bills, payroll and the food itself. This also means that your tuition money is not used to cover food services.

If The Corner Store, Sol's, or any other on-campus eatery makes a profit after covering all operation costs, the extra becomes "money to turn back to the institute." Buckley went on to say that the institute often puts this money into financial aid for students.

One might also notice the price difference between The Corner Store and Crossroads. There are two possible reasons for this. The first is that, at Crossroads, certain products are considered restaurant items, which means it is assumed that the buyer will consume the product while sitting in the dining room. To pay for the operation costs of the dining room, however, these products must cost more than those available at The Corner Store.

For other products not expected to be consumed in the dining room, their prices

may be affected by a delay in price checking. While The Corner Store checks its prices daily, Crossroads does not due to its dual nature as both an eatery and grocery store. Therefore, if The Corner Store receives a shipment of products for less than the last shipment, they adjust for this right away.

What's the Deal With Debit?

The 360 Youth College Explorer Study recently completed a survey that came to the conclusion that the average college student spends at least \$13,000 a year. Yet with rising costs due to the economy, how are we paying for it all? Debit, or "fake money" as some have come to call it, is one of the most misused forms of currency on campus. Totaling \$1,320 per quarter, debit buys food for you, your opportunistic upperclassmen, and the various charities for which fraternities and sororities outside of The Corner Store collect.

With so much on campus, I always questioned, "Why bother leaving?" The answers are endless.



To really use debit to its full potential, one has to understand the system behind it. First of all, the amount mentioned above is applied directly into your account at the start of each academic quarter after a payment to Student Financial Services is received. Basically, this means if you live in the dorms and have second year status (or have come up with a clever out, such as claiming certain dietary restrictions), you have debit and you have a lot of it.

Money can be added to debit accounts if needed, though it is rarely heard of anyone needing to add money. Yet, debit is not as useless as it seems. In fact, even for those living off-campus, it might be worth investing in a certain amount of debit if you eat on campus at all. The advantage to this form of currency comes when purchasing prepared food on campus; when using debit, one does not have to pay sales tax.

Any unused debit “disappears” at the end of the quarter. What this disappearing act really means is that your remaining debits funds are put in the RIT coffer and are reallocated in various ways. As a form of resistance, many students participate in end-of-the-quarter shopping sprees using debit.

One of my favorite stories is about my friend who did his Christmas shopping using only debit. His presents included: A five-gallon jug of water (because dehydration would hardly be fun on Christmas), an issue of *Penthouse* and ice scrapers (which he claimed was always a good way to chat with cute girls behind the counter). His Christmas spirit continued with a donation of \$80 in canned goods to one of those aforementioned fraternities or sororities.

Since those early days of expired milk, I have learned how to shop for myself. Now, food is not so much an issue anymore; I buy my milk and cottage cheese separately and do not try to make my own.

Easy Dorm Recipes:

Pudding Pie

- 1 Mini pie crust
- 2 Pudding Snack packs
- Some whipped cream

Pour the pudding (flavor of your choice) from the snack packs into the mini piecrust. Then place whipped cream on the top and enjoy!

Mini Pizzas

- 1 package of six English muffins
- 1 small jar pizza sauce
- 1 package (8 ounces) shredded Mozzarella cheese
- 48 slices pepperoni (or meat of your choice)

Pour sauce on top of muffins. Place four slices of pepperoni on each muffin. Top each muffin with a generous amount of cheese. Bake in the microwave for about two minutes or until cheese is melted.

Recipe courtesy of <http://123easyaspie.com/micro.html>.

Apple and Cheese Microwave Roll

- 4 large flour tortillas
- 4 cups thin apple slices
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Open tortillas and top with apple slices and cheese. Fold in half and microwave on HIGH for about 20 seconds, or until cheese melts. •

Recipe courtesy of <http://mealsforyou.com/cgi-bin/recipe?id.10243>.

Price Comparison

Food	The Corner Store	Crossroads	Wegmans	7-Eleven
1 Gallon of Milk	4.29	N/A	2.45	3.79
Banana	0.35	N/A	0.13	0.55
Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream 1 Pint	3.79	N/A	3.19	4.89
Box of Poptarts	3.19	3.19	1.99	2.99
Campbell's Soup at Hand	2.19	2.39	1.59	N/A
Can of Pringles	1.89	1.89	1.19	1.99
Caramello Bar	0.89	0.89	0.79	1.09
Eggs, 1 dozen	2.49	1.29	0.99	N/A
Hershey's King Size Bar	0.89	N/A	0.79	1.59
Jello, 1 Box	1.09	N/A	0.55	1.19
Large Rice Krispies Treat	5.49	5.49	2.99	N/A
Pack of Oreos	4.99	4.79	2.99	N/A
Perry's Classic Ice Cream, 1 pint	2.69	2.39	2.19	N/A
Ruffles, 11 oz bag	3.99	3.99	3.89	3.99
Tic Tacs, 1 container	0.89	0.96	0.79	0.99
Tostitos, 13 oz bag	3.99	3.99	3.69	3.99

Prices given, in dollars, are unit prices not including tax.

The Ombuds Office

Got Problems? ...we're here to help

Lee Twyman
RIT Ombudsperson
585.475.2876 / 585.475.7200
ombuds@rit.edu
www.rit.edu/~ombuds

Coming Soon: Check out Exclusive RIT Web Comics on Reporter Online



Short-circuiting Your Taste Buds

by Andy Rees
contributions by the Reporter Editorial Board

Cautiously, I tore apart the package, dividing up the individual dosages. Inside the tiny foil-sealed containers sat a small reddish brown speckled tablet. I passed them out, one by one, to the anxious onlookers gathered around the table.

“Just a disclaimer,” I said, “I’m not responsible for anything that happens to you. Sometimes people have bad trips.”

Nervous laughter followed. They looked around the room, waiting for someone to crack the foil and take the plunge. After a few moments of pregnant silence, they began to pop the tablets into their mouths. I placed mine on my tongue.

A citrusy and sour taste overcame my taste buds. Was this what miracle fruit was supposed to taste like? Rolling it over my tongue, I began to wonder whether I’d been sold the real thing or just children’s vitamins.

It was real. We had just consumed a condensed pill version of the miracle fruit. The miracle fruit plant, *Synsepalum Dulcificum*, a native of West Africa, produces a unique berry containing a protein known as miraculin. Miraculin, which gets its name from the plant, effectively inverts a portion of your palette, making sour things taste sweet. This inversion is known colloquially as “flavor tripping,” due to the surreal way it allows a person to experience familiar foods.

While this product is not generally available in stores, it can be purchased from a variety of online retailers. Miracle fruit is usually sold in two forms: berries (costing around \$3 each) and condensed tablets (costing about \$1 each). We bought a 10 pack of tablets for about \$12 at <http://miraclefruihut.com> and received the package within a week.

Using the Reporter editorial board as guinea pigs, we have compiled a few personal testimonies:

“I’m not fond of grapefruit. Never have been. Grapefruit for breakfast? Yech. Grapefruit juice? Extra sugar please. But once I sank my teeth into the grapefruit, there was no sensation of distaste. None whatsoever. All I could taste was the sweet, juicy flavor of the grapefruit, as if it was just like a sweeter version of orange juice. It was one of the best things I’ve ever tasted in my life.

“I’m one of those people that claim there is a taste difference between Coca Cola and Pepsi. I’m also one of those people who complain about the balance between the syrup to carbonate at restaurants. I like the taste of cola, carbonated or flat, period. However, drinking Pepsi was like drinking water. There just wasn’t any taste.”

-David Spiecker



“The most shocking part about the entire experience was probably ordinary white vinegar. After watching a few people take sips and recoil, I decided to have a small glass. As I swished it around in my mouth, it reminded me of cheap white wine, sweet but biting.

“We also had some soy sauce lying around the office, which I decided to try. Evidently, miracle fruit doesn’t do anything for really salty things. Even if you’re not flavor tripping, I wouldn’t recommend drinking straight soy sauce. It was kind of gross.”

-Andy Rees



“I guess my taste buds are pretty crafty. One pill wasn’t enough to trick them into liking vinegar. Two came close, but it still wasn’t quite enough. I considered taking three, but didn’t want to hog the magic.

“Two pills were enough to get me guzzling lime juice like it was Kool-Aid. It felt like I had died and gone to beverage heaven. And lemons were pretty amazing too. If Willy Wonka were to dedicate the rest of his fictional life to eradicating scurvy, I have a feeling this is pretty close to what he’d come up with.”

-Laura Mandanas



“I found the salsa to be very sweet — sweeter than I have ever remembered salsa tasting. The tangy nature was gone and so was the heat. The salsa was only hot when it came into contact with parts of my tongue that were not covered or affected by the flavor tripping. It was a great sensation because parts of my tongue were on fire while the rest was cool and tasted remarkably delicious.”

-Adim Ofunne

“The plain white corn Tostitos brand chips were the shining star of the taste experiment. They gained a taste very similar to Triscuits but kept their light, fluffy texture. The real jackpot though was when ... Eric Drummond [Reporter’s Photo Editor] thought to melt cheddar cheese into them. The cheese had no taste so it just added a warm, melty texture delight to the already delicious chips.”

-Jack Reickel

“I would have to say that nothing tastes more horrible than Sweet’N Low after consuming three miracle berry tablets. The only time I have every tasted anything that bitter and horrible was when my cousin dared me to taste the powder inside a vitamin capsule. On the other hand, the Hot Tamales candy tasted like sweet jelly beans but with a cool and refreshing sensation in the mouth.”

-Mady Villavicencio

“Delusional from the saccharine tastes of raw lemon and spicy salsa, it only seemed natural that white vinegar would taste like honey. That was not the case; vinegar, as it turns out, will always taste like vinegar. After downing the substance and considering vomiting to be a better alternative than a gastric ulcer, the effects of the conspicuous miracle berry pills seemed to wear off. It could have been the timing, but one thing remains certain: The white vinegar aimed to take something out of me, and it was nothing like honey.”

-Ilsa Shaw



Consider it the original terrain park.



College Students

Get 15% OFF full-price items.

Must show valid college ID. Restrictions apply; visit store for details.

Pittsford

Pittsford Plaza
585-383-1140



check it out at
niagara.edu/mba

Master of Business Administration

"Put your career on the fast track!" Check out Niagara University's AACSB accredited MBA program at niagara.edu/mba.

Experience the quality of a full time MBA with flexibility and convenience of Saturday and evening classes.

It's unbeatable – and you can finish your degree in as little as 16 months. So don't put your career on hold, apply now!



Education That Makes a Difference

Niagara University, NY 14109-2011

Apply today at niagara.edu/mba



From
\$1*
Plus 50¢ Booking Fee
* For Details Visit Our Website

Brought to you by Coach USA & Coach Canada

megabus.com

Low-cost, daily, express bus service

Rochester

to and from...

Buffalo

New York

Niagara Falls, ON

Syracuse

Toronto

COMING THIS SPRING PI KAPPA PHI

This March, Pi Kappa Phi will arrive on campus as RIT's newest men's fraternity. And with our arrival at RIT, we bring choice—the choice to build your own fraternity; the choice to discover your own opportunity; and the choice to leave your own legacy. To find out more about how you can be involved, contact us or visit choose.pikapp.org.



PI KAPPA PHI FRATERNITY

R · I · T
LEADERS BY CHOICE

WEB: CHOOSE.PIKAPP.ORG

E-MAIL: CHERZOG@PIKAPP.ORG

CURT HERZOG (704) 807-6509



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S by Thomas Mittner | photograph by Ashley Conti BASKETBALL



RIT's Randy Muldrow goes up for a layup Friday, December 12, 2008 against Houghton College. RIT won the match up 89-73 allowing them to advance to the finals of the 23rd annual Harold J. Brodie Tournament.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Youth is a word that best describes this year's RIT men's basketball team. As eight of the team's eighteen players are first year students, there are some uncertainties going into the early stages of the season. But, don't panic — Coach Bob McVean has coached his team through seventeen straight winning seasons; included within that streak is sixteen straight post-season appearances. The latest streak ended last season when the team failed to reach the playoffs, despite having a 14-11 overall record.

With the amount of youth on this year's team, it is important to maintain a stout leadership. This year's team is led by star forward Mark Carson, a fourth year Packaging Science major, and guard Adam Sweet, a third year New Media Interactive Development student, the team's two captains. But just because other players don't wear the letter "C" doesn't mean they can't help lead the team. Coach McVean expects everyone to take a part in the leadership role; it is a critical part to the overall meshing of the team.

Heading into the winter break, the team has a 2-0 conference record. Ultimately, the team's expectations are to qualify for the Division III NCAA tournament. A team from the Tigers' conference can have an auto qualification into the NCAA tournament by winning their conference championship tournament in which the top four teams play for the title of Conference Champion. Of Coach McVean's 26 years of coaching tenure here at RIT, one of his fondest memories is of doing just that, when in 1997 the team made it to the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA Basketball Tournament.

"We attract a very special student athlete here. What I mean by that is there are true student athletes here at RIT," said Coach McVean. The players on the team devote a lot of their time to the sport of basketball, but don't let that fool you into thinking that they don't devote as much time to their studies. The RIT men's basketball team has a 100 percent graduation rate of four-year players under Coach Bob McVean. This is truly remarkable for any institution, maybe even more so here at RIT.

Sweet weighed in, "This year's team is very close both on and off the court. The team is very devoted to getting better beyond the hours of regular practice. Even our freshmen find the extra time to get into the gym during their busy freshman schedules." All the hard work is paying off for the Tigers. Coach McVean says that the team is gelling well and that they are getting better, day by day, practice by practice.

Coach McVean described the team's biggest challenge this season as "taking a team of freshmen and having them perform at a high level together and being able to compete against teams with more experience." This year's team is full of youth, but with strong displays of leadership from veteran players and the team's two captains, the team looks to be in for a great season.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

This year's women's basketball team is small in numbers; there are nine girls on the active roster, five of which are first years. One such first year, forward and Physician Assistant student Sharon Dennis, has been a real bright spot for the Tigers this year. She has earned Empire 8 Rookie of the Week honors consecutively for the past three weeks, putting up strong performances in each game. Dennis has four double-doubles and 10 or more rebounds in each of the six games this season.

Not only are there new faces on the team but there are new faces in the coaching staff as well. This year the RIT women's basketball program has named Amy Reed their eighth head coach since their inaugural season in 1987. Reed is poised to become only the second coach in the team's history to compose a winning season, the last and only time being the 2006-2007 season. Over the past couple of years the program has taken a turn in the right direction; the past two seasons they have had a combined 27-25 overall record and the prior nineteen seasons accounted for a dismal 84 wins and 364 losses.

The team this year features three captains, senior guards Kelly Votolato, a fourth year Industrial and Systems Engineering student, and Rachel Bruno, a fourth year multi-disciplinary student, along with junior guard Danielle Furman, a third year New Media Design and Imaging student. Bruno stated, "Our team this year is young but talented. We focus on defense as a team because we only have nine players this year and we are small. It is important for us to hold teams to as few points as possible. I feel as though I bring experience and competitiveness to the team. As a captain, I feel as though I need to bring leadership to the table for our team because we struggle with that. The team, as a whole, is very talented." Since this year's team contains mostly younger players, it is a rebuilding process. With a new head coach and several new players, the team can look ahead and focus on the task at hand: Winning.

So far this season, the Tigers have a 2-4 record. The young team definitely doesn't lack talent (with an impressive 81-49 win at Hilbert College), but it does lack experience. "It's just when it comes down to close games where experience is needed; we lack it because we are so young. [However,] we have a lot of heart when we are out on the court," Bruno said. The veteran members of the squad strive to be better and make every effort to set forth a good example to the rookies by being focused and working hard day in and day out.

The women's Tigers basketball team is looking to get ahead in the conference with a string of five home games starting on December 13, which includes four conference games. The rookies will look for veteran guidance while the veterans will be looking for a youthful emergence. "The best and worst part of our team is the amount of us," says Dennis, and with a team as small as this year's, the girls will become a close-knit group who will ride the ups and downs of the season together. •

ANTI-CLAUS

by Bob Modzelewski
illustration by Katie Anderson



AS CHILDREN WORLD-ROUND EAGERLY WAIT and parents happily prepare, a small, but growing, number of determined individuals are readying in a different way. Hoisting banners and launching campaigns, they are joined in one mission: To get rid of Santa Claus.

It's a mission that needs an army. Santa, despite his pleasant plumpness and jovial grin, isn't the Christmas icon he used to be. Once known as Saint Nicholas, he was loved for his kindness to children and compassion towards the condemned. No longer. Now, instead of being a symbol of charity and sacrifice, Saint Nick represents big bucks, a way to get people into the stores and dollars out of their pockets. Before snow even begins to fall, we are bombarded with advertising from every direction. Some people have said, "Enough." Activists, such as Glasgow School of Art student Darren Cullen, have taken a decidedly proactive anti-Santa stance. Three years ago, Cullen posted his own anti-Santa banners in the city of Glasgow, UK. Featuring messages such as "Stop Lying To Your Children About Santa Claus" and "Santa Gives More To Rich Kids Than Poor Kids," they were an attention-drawing strike against Santa's commerciality. Cullen had hoped to spread his belief that Santa — and, more generally, the commerciality of Christmas — was "[teaching] kids that products make them happy." We could be wrong. After all, this could just be a sign of changing times. No tradition stays the same forever. Is all of this worry really warranted? I believe it is.

Consider the death of Jdimytai Damour, age 34, a temporary worker at Wal-Mart. One month ago, on Black Friday, his life ended in a stampede of bargain-hunting shoppers, blind to everything except the great discounts. Few people tried to help him. What's even scarier is that few appeared to care; some went as far as to complain about the interruption of their shopping as the body was carted off.

Is Santa to blame for this? Not fully. The quest for continuous acquisition, disregard of others, and the need for one-upmanship — they all are symptoms of a culture gone product-mad.

Santa's not the cause, but he is fueling the fire. Santa needs to go.

The city of Vienna seems to agree. Heeding the call of thousands of activists worried about the usurpation of Austria's Christmas traditions, the city government agreed to ban all images and items representing Santa Claus within the Christmas market. Since then, similar campaigns have also launched in Germany.

Banning images of Santa from public spaces would probably be overkill in the U.S. (not to mention unconstitutional), but that doesn't mean we're powerless against commercialization. Our strength lies not in blanket verdicts or interdictions, but in the creativity and generosity of each and every person.

In place of Santa and his goodies, imagine a holiday focused upon the creation of unique, meaningful experiences. Do you have a skill, such as a penchant for composing and playing music? Well, use it! Try writing something special for your loved ones and playing it for them live. If you're the sentimental sort (and have a fondness for glue), try out a scrapbook of photos. Are none of those up your alley? Make gift-giving into a creativity contest. For instance, stick with only purple gifts this year or ones starting with the letter "H." Of course, if all else fails, set a spending limit. Life is too short to waste waiting in a checkout line.

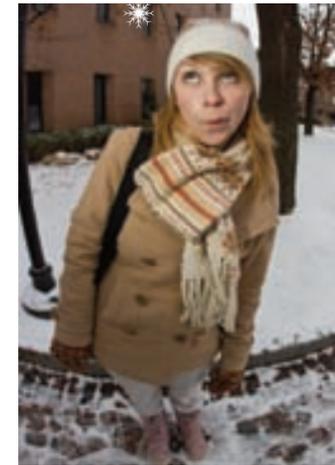
Saying "enough" to Santa and his trinket-wielding couture won't best the commercialization of Christmas in one fell swoop, but it is a start. The more stuff matters, the less we matter, each and every one of us. •



word on the street

photographs by Jake Hamm

How do you survive Rochester winters?



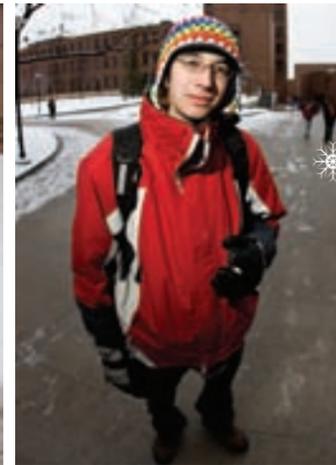
"Blowtorches and nice cozy warm fires."

Linzi Bergman
New Media Design
Fourth year



"Gloves, hot chocolate and warm boots."

Matt Teagarden
Civil Engineering
First year



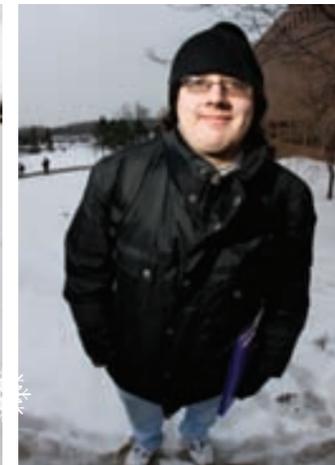
"Warm gloves, warm jacket and earmuffs."

Jeremy Rosenzweig
Telecommunications
Second year



"At the end of a hot shower in the morning I turn the temperature to cold ... this prepares me for the cold outdoors."

Erwins Milford
Computer Engineering
Third year



"Copious shivering gets me through the worst of it."

Ben Jilspson
ISC
Second Year



"I wore longjohns under my jeans... once..."

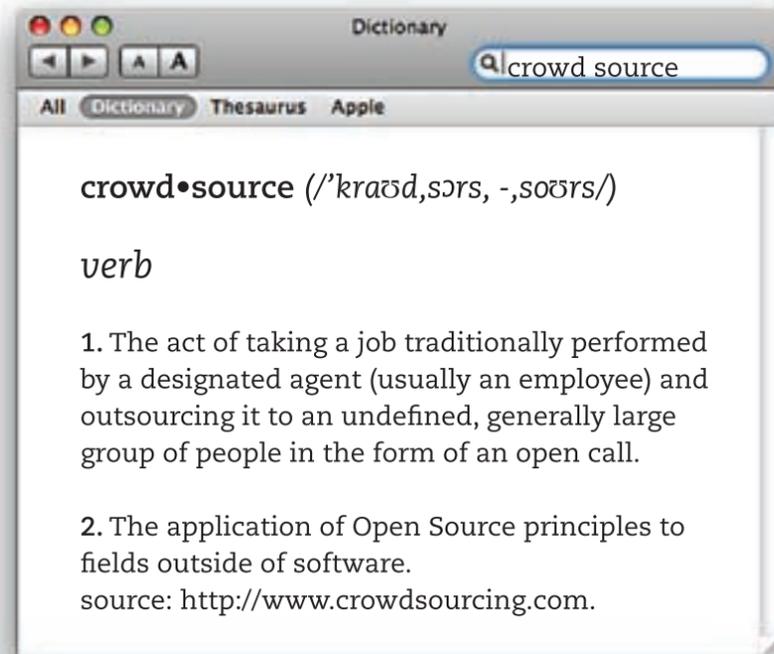
Tom Demayo
Computer Engineering
First year



"I'm from Buffalo! Enough said."

Sarah Kostuk
ISC
Second year

REPORTER



On January 30, Reporter is handing over the reins.

Want to drive? www.reportermag.com/crowdsourcing

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.

THURSDAY, 5:53 P.M.

Just flipping through the last issue of *Reporter* and I noticed that there were two advertisements for Niagara University. Strange because this is a RIT campus magazine. Not really supposed to think about that.

THURSDAY, 3:05 A.M.

You know like right before you go to sleep and the room starts spinning a little after you've been drinking and it just feels so good? That's my favorite part of drinking, the roller coaster. I'm doing it right now. I've been doing it a lot lately and it feels pretty [expletive] good.

THURSDAY, 12:08 A.M.

I just got a call from some chicks I don't know from Cornell, offering to have *Katamari Damacy* role-playing sex. What the heck? That's awesome, like a rainbow.

WEDNESDAY, 1:59 P.M.

Dear Men of RIT, you should really quit complaining about the quote unquote "lack of girls" on campus because in actuality it's really just as [crappy] for us. Love, the single and searching elsewhere girls on campus. Bye, [very harsh expletive].

WEDNESDAY, 12:19 P.M.

IT'S REALLY COOL THAT RIT PLOWS THE [EFFIN] PATHS AND EVERYTHING. WHY DON'T YOU PLOW THE [ANOTHER HARSH ONE] ROADS WHERE WE DRIVE?

SUNDAY, 12:19 P.M.

Hi Rings, you messed up the Sudoku again. I'm looking at the 12-5 issue and the bottom row is gone. Just in case you were wondering the answer is 9-4-1-5-3-7-6-2-8. Bye.

SATURDAY, 10:46 P.M.

Hey Rings, my friend just called, and I'm waiting here trying to get some ice skates, too. Anyways, um... [Darn it] I can't remember why I called. Oh wait, [duck] I don't have my camera. That's my problem. I'm a photo major and I don't have my camera.

SATURDAY, 11:22 P.M.

Hi Rings, I called you quite a while ago about the skate rental line and asked if you could make the line move faster. I'm still standing in line and swear to God that it's not ending anytime soon. So if you could get on that a little quicker. I understand you have a lot of calls, people with a lot of problems, but Rings, I really just want a pair of skates.

FRIDAY, 1:46 P.M.

I just finished reading this week's *Reporter* and was very disappointed to find that there have been no incest cases this year. Come on, RIT, get on that.

FRIDAY, 11:08 P.M.

I lost my shoes last night. I think the Yeti on my floor stole them. Could you tell him to give them back? Thank you.

WANTED: FRESHMAN SENATOR APPLY NOW!



Paid position!

Leadership opportunity!

Represent your class
and be a part of Student
Government!

Speak out on college-
wide issues and prepare
events for your
classmates!

Look for an SG representative talk-
ing to your FYE Class or come to
the SG office for more information

Applications are due on **January 7**

Visit sg.rit.edu for an
application or stop by the SG
office in the SAU RITreat

