



REPORTER

the crowdsourcing issue

Friday Feb. 6, 2009
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REPORTER

explanation

One sluggish nightly meeting last year, the *Reporter* editorial board was brainstorming ideas for upcoming special issues. Adam Botzenhart, the former Managing Editor, suggested an issue on the topic of crowdsourcing. Eerily enough, at almost exactly the same time, several people asked: Why not do a crowdsourced issue? Why not let anyone on the internet create their own *Reporter*, from art to articles?

This year, the idea took form. In December 2008, we opened a UserVoice account for anyone to suggest article ideas as well as vote on which ones should make it into the magazine. In the end, we chose the top 20 and opened up a wiki. One month later, anyone was able to start making both articles and accompanying art. The submission lines were open.

It should be noted that this issue is an experiment. To our knowledge, there has been no other weekly college magazine to experiment with crowdsourcing in this manner. It's also a learning experience for us, which is why we have included discussion tabs at the end of every article — not only to emulate the wiki environment that the articles were constructed in, but to give our side of the crowdsourcing experiment, whether in terms of setbacks or pride.

This issue was created in three stages:

STAGE 1 Brainstorming and Voting for Article Topics

A UserVoice page was set up, allowing interested parties to submit article ideas and vote on which should appear in the magazine. Forty article ideas were submitted, and over a thousand votes were cast. The top 20 article ideas were accepted into the wiki.

STAGE 2 Public Writing, Editing, and Art Submission

Using MediaWiki (the software package originally written for Wikipedia), a publicly editable wiki was set up. 148 users and IPs made 1082 edits, resulting in 15 articles written and edited by the crowd.

STAGE 3 Final Editing, Design, and Printing

The Managing Editor, Copy Editor, and Editor in Chief reviewed all

articles and made edits to adapt the submissions for print. This included screening for libel and abusive language, as well as cutting minor pieces of articles in order to meet the word count. The issue was then designed by *Reporter's* staff designers, and sent off to be printed.

Simply put, this is your issue. Whether you merely suggested an idea, voted, wrote, photographed, illustrated, or watched your contributions lose out to the whim of the crowd, this is what resulted from leaving the keys to the magazine on the table and turning a blind eye for a week.

We were pleasantly pleased (and astonished, frankly) to find it back in its parking spot with the gas tank topped off and a fresh new car wash shine. That's not to say that there weren't a few dings in the paint job, but nothing worth calling the insurance company (read: lawyers) about. Continue on to see the recap of your own joy ride.♦

To see the progression of articles and see more on each stage of the process, visit <http://reportermag.com>.

REPORTER

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EDITOR'S NOTE

CROWDSOURCING

You would probably never trust this magazine again if I told you we were joining the ranks of Wikipedia, Threadless, Cafe Press, YouTube, Digg, and communism. But for this week and this week only we present a crowdsourced issue. We upgraded our readers' permissions from "read" to "read/write/edit" and this issue is what we have to show for it. Through the use of social media we were able to produce something with many strengths. Benefiting from the collaboration made possible through social media, this issue has a very unique quality to it. Articles were drawn from the knowledge banks of multiple people, combining each of their individual insights into a greater, collaborative effort.

Still, we won't be adopting a weekly crowdsourced issue anytime soon. For all its faults, there are a lot of good things that come with old media journalism. Solid fact checking, distinctive author voices, cohesive narratives, accountability on the part of the writers – all of these things were sorely lacking in this issue. Considering that these are some of the fundamentals of good reporting, abandoning our mode of production would seem very foolish.

As some of our editors pointed out during a discussion on how involved the staff should be in the creation of the issue, the reality of crowdsourcing is that not every member of the crowd will contribute equally. There are always a small number of power users or contributors who contribute the vast majority of the content; the rest of the crowd typically serves only to refine that content. In organizing this issue, we deliberately placed the Reporter staff in the latter group. As anticipated, it had a profound impact on the articles.

Flip through the issue. Even a cursory glance reveals the wide-ranging disparities in quality present throughout the issue. Some articles came out fine; others came out pretty awful. There are a multitude of reasons why weekly print publications are not put together in this way – and in the process of putting this issue together, it felt as though we ran up against every single one of them. In my mind, this is part of the beauty of the experiment.

Some might assume that our crowdsource contributors would be the ones learning from the successes and failures of this issue, but our own Reporter staff were often the ones receiving the schooling from our collaborators. We have begun the review process on the pages that follow, but the really interesting results are yet to come.

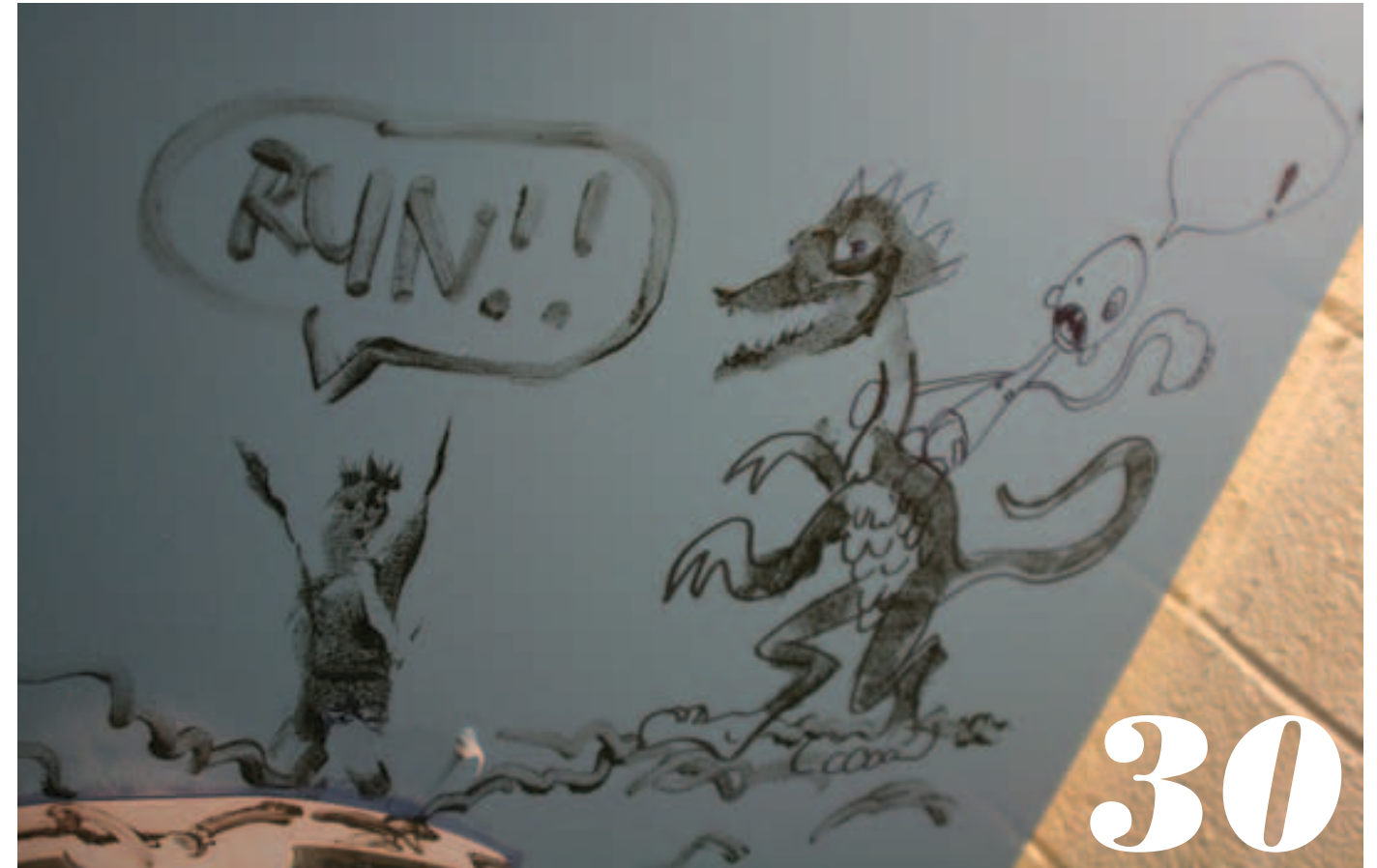
The truth of the matter is that even the stodgiest of print media must look to the crowd from time to time. This experiment was not a binary shift from no reader participation to full reader participation, but rather a short slide down the spectrum. Just as the Reporter staff has taken the time to add discussion tabs to every article to give you feedback on what you wrote for us, we are always open to feedback online, in our Letters to the Editor, in RIT Rings, and even at our office Fridays at 5 p.m. (the pizza is on us). Reporter will always be a collaboration between our staff and our readers thanks to a cycle of feedback.

As fun as it was trading roles for a week, I think we'll take the reigns from here on out.

Laura Mandanas
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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CROWDSOURCING



This graph shows user contributions to the wiki from start to finish of the public editing period. Each color corresponds to one user/IP address.

Crowdsourcing: Every student, bored worker, and internet-wandering teen's best friend. Crowdsourcing is the massively collaborative creation and distribution of knowledge facilitated by the internet. It's possible to burn hours upon hours clicking links from Batman > Secret Identity > Zorro > Anthony Hopkins > Greenpeace, gaining trivia from a loosely held strand whose beginning is hard to recall.

In the 15th century, mass distribution of knowledge was enabled by the early printing press. The first pages and books off the press were referred to as "incunabula" (in swaddling clothes) as they were artifacts of a new, under-developed technology. Yet, the mass distribution of knowledge enabled by the press (and copied by radio and television) inspired radical transformations — the Protestant reformation being one of the first examples. Today, the internet is in a similar incunabula-state, yet it will have just as much of an effect on our culture.

THE LONG TAIL was a phrase first coined by Chris Anderson in a 2004 *Wired* magazine article to describe the niche strategy of businesses, such as Amazon or Netflix, that sell massive numbers of unique items in relatively small quantities.

In the past, most products were made to fit "the average person." The concept of a normal distribution came from suit tailors in the early 1900s who wanted to mass produce dress shirts. They created a distribution of shirt sizes and made the sizes that fit the most people.

Using the long tail, products can now reach the outer edges of the distribution. Much of the mass customization we see takes advantage of this; for example, the NikeiD

website allows users to pick custom colors for their Nikes. If they were to use the most popular user-created designs for their new model, they would be benefiting from the power of crowdsourcing. That is the beauty of crowdsourcing: It gives access to the long tail, allowing ideas to be drawn from every person, not just the vocal majority.

MASS AMATEURIZATION Marketing directors love the long

tail, but the concept is useful for everyone. If you wanted to get 20 good pictures of the Grand Canyon, would you go online or would you fly someone out to Nevada to take them for you? That's the power of crowdsourcing. Crowdsourcing allows for mass amateurization. By uploading pictures and comments and stories, we are contributing to the wealth of knowledge that is available to anyone. We are the first source, and, as a result, our work as amateurs has become much more important.

READ-WRITE CULTURE Larry Lessig from Harvard University (formerly Stanford)

explains that the effect is a movement from a read-only to a read-write culture. That is to say, before the internet, the creation of knowledge was limited to a select few: Those who had access to tools for media creation and distribution. The mode of communication that ensued from this model is referred to as one-to-many, with one author and many readers. With the internet, the tools for creating and distributing knowledge are in many more hands. The mode of communication that ensues from this new model is referred to as many-to-many, with many authors, and many

readers. A significant outcome of many-to-many communication is that we have much tighter feedback loops compared to traditional, broadcast one-way media. These tighter loops enable masses of individuals to play and engage in a more rapid development of the co-creation of knowledge.

PITFALLS OF CROWDSOURCING There are a number of aspects

to crowdsourcing that need to be worked out before corporations will consider adopting them on a large scale, and they differ by industry. Let's look at the newspaper industry. If newspapers are crowdsourced, how will they make sure the participants aren't making false accusations (or libel) of public figures? If anyone can write about the president, how do they make sure writers from the crowd are not mixing opinions with facts?

Traditional forms of content-gathering and distribution may be threatened by crowdsourcing, but crowdsourcing is also threatened by the status quo. Consider what institutions have done in the past when something new threatens their existence, or threatens the existence of a whole industry: They lobby the government, an activity with which corporations have been relatively successful in the past.

Crowdsourcing asks a lot of the individual. This is unfortunate, because most individuals are lazy. We grow up in a world that asks little of us in terms of creation and demands our complicity in the gross consumption of mediocre media. While it's nice that some people have risen above that, these people stand very far apart and are generally idealistic and ineffectual. It should also be noted, not without a hint of irony, that

crowdsourcing is vulnerable to the chaos factor that some people find so entertaining. For instance, this author. I guess this is the part where I draw a penis or something like that as a hilarious juxtaposition to the heavy tone that precedes this unfunny, self-aware paragraph, but I'm going to have to draw your attention to that whole treatise on human laziness and just put a couple of curse words here: shit damn piss dick bitch ass tits fudge.

In addition to all these problems, when someone comes up with the next big invention, the practice of social production dictates that they share it with the world — not only the final product, but also instructions so that anyone can replicate it. This is done for the general advancement of society, so that those who can make improvements will be able to do so. But what about monetary gain from intellectual property?

Trade secrets do not easily mesh with the idea of social production and crowdsourcing. This is why patents were created — to allow inventors to profit from intellectual property. But social production is changing the paradigm. Social production works when people are willing to do things for the advancement of humankind for free or low

cost. The reward is a feeling. Yochai Benkler, Professor for Entrepreneurial Legal Studies at Harvard Law School, says that this is exemplified by people participating "for 5 minutes, just because it's interesting, just because it's fun, just because it gives [them] a certain sense of meaning, just because it gives [them] a certain set of social relations."

EXAMPLES OF USES Businesses and organizations on the internet are taking

to crowdsourcing in a big way. In fact, you have almost certainly been a part of some company's crowd. Logged on to Amazon lately? Amazon is America's largest online retailer, and for good reason; they have nearly \$15 billion in annual revenue. When you browse their products, make a purchase or post a review, you are helping them arrange their storefront. Amazon makes use of user contributions and actions to give future customers a better idea of the product, who likes it and what people thought of it.

Dell's Ideastorm (<http://ideastorm.com>) is a crowdsourcing application to determine what products are most wanted. Wikipedia is arguably a form of crowdsourcing, although founder Jimmy Wales disagrees: "This idea

that a good business model is to get the public to do your work for free — that's just crazy. It disrespects the people. It's like you're trying to trick them into doing work for free." Amazon, Cafepress, and Threadless could also be argued as forms of online crowdsourcing in the way users generate products, reviews and ratings.

Have you signed up for an account online and had to decipher the fuzzy letters and numbers in a box to prove you are a human? Many websites use this means of user verification called a CAPTCHA, or "Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart." A project called reCAPTCHA (<http://recaptcha.net>) has taken advantage of the crowds of users deciphering letters to help digitize old books. Scanned words that optical recognition software is not able to read are given to users to transcribe. This way, the power of the masses is put to good use by archiving historical literature.

Jeff Howe's *Crowdsourcing* is considered a definitive book on crowdsourcing. In the book, he talks about a crowdsourced journalism project he tried that failed miserably. Luckily, he also talks about why it failed miserably, so that people can learn from his experience. •

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We didn't receive nearly as much content for this article as we had wanted, perhaps because people weren't sure what to make of crowdsourcing. The work that did come in, however, was in true Wikipedia format — it was divided into specific sections and the author seemed to be interested in writing a few pieces of information. --*Ilsa Shaw, Managing Editor* 20:25, 25 January 2009 (EST)

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a week at RIT through PHONE CAMERAS

page discussion edit + history

Despite disagreement among members of the Reporter eboard as to whether the resolution of cell phone cameras would be enough for imagery, the concept was alluring enough to overlook resolution issues. This section was born. --David Spiecker, Copy Editor 21:19, 25 January 2009 (EST)

JAN 23

Students play poker.



JAN 18

President Destler moves into his dorm room on January 18, 2009. He, along with 19 other administrators, are participating in Student Government's "The Real RIT: Dorm Challenge" where they will eat, live and park like RIT students for three days.



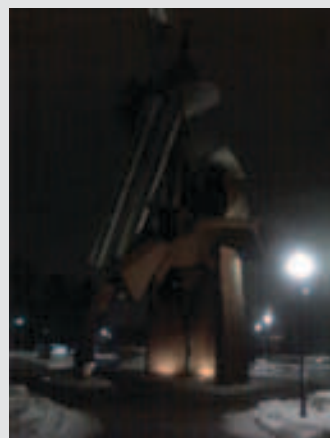
JAN 13

Members of the Reporter E-Board discuss this article on January 13, 2009. From left to right: Laura Mandanas, Editor in Chief; Ilsa Shaw, Managing Editor; David Spiecker, Copy Editor; John Howard, Leisure Editor; and Susie Sobota, Art Director.



JAN 22

Blue LED throwies on the Sentinel.



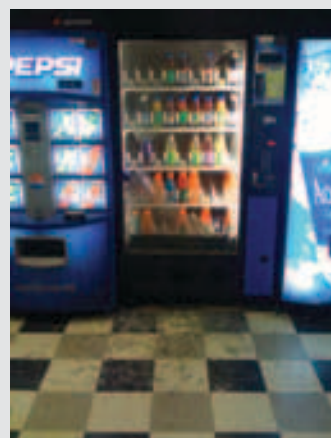
JAN 19

This photo was taken at the Corner Store after an entire shelf of glass, sparkling grape juice bottles fell to the floor, smashing at least a dozen of them. Photo by Amanda Azzi.



JAN 21

Students shatter vending machine under Gleason after drink gets jammed. Looks like someone really wanted their SoBe!



JAN 20

Administrators discuss their experiences living in the residence halls at the Dorm Challenge open panel discussion, January 20, in Panera theatre. Left to right: President Destler, Dr. Rebecca Johnson, Dr. Alan Hurwitz, Lee Tuymen, Jeanne Casares, Bob Finnerty, Stephanie Ferris, and Matt Danna at the podium.



bar camp rochester

What is a BarCamp? The quick answer: It's an unconference, an ad hoc gathering born from the desire of people to share and learn in an open environment. It is an intense event with discussions, demos and interaction from participants.

But what does that mean? Well, here's how we (the hosts) see BarCamp Rochester playing out: The day starts around 9 a.m. with check-in. All participants that have signed up in advance receive a free t-shirt and some swag from the sponsors. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are all

provided for free. We kick off the event by giving all participants the chance to introduce themselves, say what they're interested in presenting or demonstrating and what they hope to learn. Then, the fun starts. Everyone makes their way to the hallway where there's a whiteboard with empty time slots ready to be taken by presenters. Participants work together to determine the schedule for the day, gauging interest and swapping time slots based on what people want to see.

In downtime, when participants aren't at a presentation, the main room is used as a hangout with snacks, video games and the like. Time is blocked out for both lunch and dinner so that everyone gets a chance to eat. Normally, BarCamp features games such as HalfBaked — where teams are challenged to develop a business model and sell it to a panel of judges — for every session. This year, since we have a lot of giveaways from our sponsors, the winners will likely win a prize. Finally, the day ends with clean up and an unofficial gathering at a house party or bar.

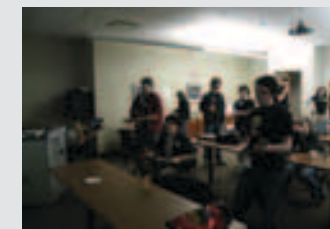
history of bar camp rochester

The first BarCamp was held in Palo Alto, California in August 2005 at the offices of SocialText. Since then, the event has spread to over 350 cities worldwide. Rochester's first BarCamp was held at RIT in July 2006, and was hosted by Justin Thorp, Zack Gilbert and Erica O'Grady with about 30 participants. The next one (held in May 2007), was hosted by Jason Morrison, Emily Yang and Pat Tribble, and doubled the number of participants to around 70. The third, held in April 2008, was hosted by Braden Allchin, David Brenner, Sela Davis and Michael Dumont. This event saw a slight increase in participation, to around 100 people. This year will mark Rochester's fourth BarCamp and will likely be the largest yet. The hosts for this year's event include Matt Behrens, David Brenner, Sela Davis, Michael Dumont, Bob Lawton and Dan Schneiderman.

how to get involved and what to expect

This year's event will be held in Building 70 on April 18, 2009. In order to attend, you first need to reserve your spot by signing up at <http://barcamprochester.org>. Then just wait patiently for the day to arrive.

The event is a lot of fun for everyone involved and is by no means just for technical people. Anyone motivated to learn and share in an open environment is encouraged to attend, and presentations can be on any topic whatsoever. We want all attendees to have a good time, so we follow the BarCamp rule: "No spectators, only participants!"



logo and t-shirt design contest

Because we have been using a slight modification of the same logo since the first BarCamp Rochester, we are holding a logo design contest. The winner will receive a free t-shirt with his or her design printed on it, a gift of their choice from our sponsors' giveaways, and a great deal of appreciation and publicity from everyone that attends this year's event. Details are available at the BarCamp Rochester website.



sponsors

BarCamp could never occur without the generous support from our sponsors. This year's sponsors currently include O'Reilly Media Inc., the RIT Department of Information Technology, OS Cubed Inc., the RIT Interactive Learning Grant, the RIT Department of Computer Science, RIT Computer Science House, and Microsoft Corporation. •

page discussion edit + history

This article remained relatively similar throughout the submission process, as the first draft was written by one of "the hosts" of BarCamp and was expanded upon from there. We would have liked to glean an alternative view of BarCamp, preferably by one of the many participants to

which the article refers, but nobody else contributed. As a result, there is an assumption that readers already know what BarCamp is. A different perspective would have helped immensely.

--Ilsa Shaw, Managing Editor 15:47, 25 January 2009 (EST)

NETIQUETTE GUIDE:

How to not Suck at Social Media

Introduction

Let's face it: most people suck. They suck at the internet, they suck at communication, and — pet peeve — they suck at social media.

Our lives are filled with social media and we often forget how to utilize them correctly and efficiently. You need to understand your intended audience when you send a message, how they will receive your message, and how they intend to respond to you.

How not to suck at Twitter

Twitter is a short-term channel, regarding tiny snippets of information regarding the user's day, what they find interesting, or what they feel other people will find interesting. Messages sent to people here should be directly linked to current events in the user's life (that have been reported via Twitter). Do not send important information here, especially not publicly, as this channel receives much less attention (in many cases) than the other media.

- Don't complain about your life.
- Before you post a tweet, think, "Would anyone find this interesting?"
- Don't tweet just to tweet, but tweet consistently.
- More tweets does not make you a better tweeter.
- Use picture tweets sparingly.
- Use key terms in your profile description if you aim to network with people that share your interests (e.g. "marketing," "student," "RIT," and "career").
- Do not follow people for the sole purpose of having more "friends," only connect to people you are genuinely interested in.

Facebook is typically informal or important, and so the most effective messages sent through this channel are informal or casual discussion.

- Don't add people without knowing them, unless you message them first and introduce yourself.
- If you're posting photos, videos or messages about illegal activities, make your profile private so that employers can't see it.
- Don't make a public event for a BYOB party in your dorm.
- Make your status updates somewhat mysterious. The emotional details of your latest breakup should not appear on everyone's news feeds.
- No private parts.
- If you're one of those people who still invites others to add crazy applications, please stop.
- Don't post pictures of yourself or others doing something illegal (e.g. underage drinking). This is a stupid way of getting caught.



How not to suck at Facebook

Facebook is a medium-term channel. It is used to connect people through groups and events and casual one-on-one conversation. It is medium-term because, although it receives almost immediate attention, none of the messages sent here should be intended to be remembered or referred to at a much later date. Facebook can be used to communicate with one or many people regarding upcoming events or even private discussions. Information shared on

How not to suck at LinkedIn

LinkedIn is a social networking site for professionals. It is a medium-term channel.

- The more contacts, the better, but you can only add people you know.
- Ask for a recommendation from a past employer to display on your profile.
- Connect with potential employers and recruiters.
- Before applying for a job, try finding someone who works there. You may have a mutual

contact that can introduce you two, and it might help you get into the company.

- Add your Wordpress blog and keep it professional with information about class, work and other projects.
- Add the Amazon reading list, but only add one book at a time so that you don't clutter the updates.
- Answer questions and earn expert points for your profile.
- Add a nice picture where you are wearing a suit.

How not to suck at Email

Email is a long-term channel, useful when you want your receiver to remember the message, or be able to refer back to it at a later date. As email is often the most important channel through which students receive messages, this is where you want to send messages of great importance. The CC function is also the best medium through which to start a conversation that multiple people can participate in.

- When you email your entire class, list the course name as your subject. People can't help you if they don't know what assignment you're talking about.
- Learn what the "Reply to All" button does and know when to use it.
- Archive all of your emails; you never know when you'll have to refer back to one of them.
- Do not put a background on your email.
- Keep text in one color.
- Signatures
 - Keep it professional. Listing your website and contact points are okay, but don't overdo it.
 - Do not include biblical or "inspirational" quotes in your signature.
 - Do not include an image signature.

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Although some of the advice has merit, the article's primary fault is that it takes itself seriously. Does anybody really need to be told how to network on LinkedIn? Yes, there are "those people," but they have yet to learn this lesson: Not everybody wants to be an electronic vampire, whether via Facebook invite or not. --*Ilsa Shaw, Managing Editor* 15:35, 25 January 2009 (EST)

Student Entrepreneurs

Corey Mack

College / Program / Year:

COE / Mechanical Engineering / '10

Notable Accomplishments:

Created <http://thecollegedriver.com>, a car news and reviews site geared towards college students, in the RIT Student Business Lab.

Co-Creators:

Zeid Nasser: CAST / MET / '12, Dan Cirillo: COB / Graphic Media Marketing / '10, Nick Quaranto: GCCIS / Software Engineering / '10, Adam Richlin: CIAS / Film / '09

<http://thecollegedriver.com> features a news blog which is updated on a daily basis by students at various colleges. If you want to write, all you have to do is email corey@thecollegedriver.com; he tends to give anyone who asks the privilege of posting their own story. The reviews section is still under development and is rumored to launch at the end of the month. What makes the reviews section different from that of other car sites is that anyone can edit the content of a review, though the site recommends that you only write about the car that you currently own. You will also notice the site tends to focus on cars that are currently under \$25,000, so you will hardly ever see any news about an expensive car. The site also has a little known social network called "Dashboard," that gives users the opportunity to search for friends. Instead of only having a profile picture, you also can upload a picture of your favorite car. In Dashboard, you don't communicate via notes and messages; instead, you issue other drivers "tickets."

Breana Snizek, Christopher Geiss, Marc Baumbach

College / Program / Year:

Breana Snizek: CAST / Hospitality & Service Management;

'08 & COB / MBA / '09, Christopher Geiss: COE / Computer Engineering / '08, Marc Baumbach: GCCIS / Software Engineering / '08

Notable Accomplishments:

<http://hotelproxy.com> is an exclusive online community for hotels to share rate and availability information on a daily basis. The system alleviates the need to both make and receive a large number of phone calls to gather this data. By simply decreasing unnecessary interruptions, customer service and employee satisfaction benefit. Hotel Proxy has been successfully running with hotels from the Rochester area for over a year.

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One thing that has been made abundantly clear through this experiment: Crowds do not stick to word count. To read about the other entrepreneurs that were submitted for this article, check out <http://reportermag.com> --*Laura Mandanas, Editor in Chief* 23:57, 25 January 2009 (EST)

THE COLLEGE DRIVER

Dan Leveille

College / Program / Year:

GCCIS / New Media Interactive Development / '10

Notable Accomplishments:

<http://bookmaid.com> is a free textbook trading site exclusive to RIT students that was launched in December of 2006. It was originally named RITBook.com, but Leveille was forced to change its domain name due to trademark infringement claims by RIT. When President Destler was named president, he granted Leveille the right to use the trade name "RIT" to advertise the site and the domain change for the 2007-2008 academic year.

The service allows RIT students to negotiate book purchases. Prices are competitive and convenience is unmatched. The system is quite efficient since many students at RIT have a need for the same books year after year. Since BookMaid.com has no shipping or listing fees and there is no middleman to deal with, it makes it much easier and quicker than ordering from Amazon or any textbook trading website.

Dan also created <http://rit.edu/go/eat> which is an iPhone application that lists facility hours on campus, such as food places, services, and Park Point restaurants.

Andrew Williams, Mike Thomas, Dominic Holt, Joseph Plourde, Paul Solt, Ben Solt, Andrew Ray

College / Program / Year:

Andrew Williams: GCCIS / Information Technology / '08, Mike Thomas: GCCIS / Computer Science / '10, Dominic Holt: GCCIS / Software Engineering / '09, Joesph Plourde: GCCIS / Software Engineering / '09, Paul Solt: GCCIS / Computer Science / '10, Ben Solt: Art Institute of Philadelphia, Andrew Ray: GCCIS / Information Technology / '08

Notable Accomplishments:

<http://impulse-game.com> and PAX 10 Finalist (10 Ten Independent Game) at the Penny Arcade Expo 2008 in Seattle, WA. Impulse is a student-created action and puzzle game with an emphasis on magnetic and explosive forces. The player takes command of a ball and uses direct and indirect means of control to navigate around the environments. Throughout the levels, the player will encounter explosions, black holes and magnetic platforms that have been combined to create an entertaining experience. Release date is expected in 2009.

Campus Rumors

Editor's Note: Fact checking has been performed by the crowd. Although minor editing has been done, the Reporter staff has not independently verified the status of these rumors.

1

RUMOR #1: SAU GLORY HOLE

RUMOR: There is a "glory hole" in one of the the men's bathrooms by the RITZ. A glory hole is a hole between stall walls used for anonymous sexual encounters.

STATUS: True.

But inactive. A student explains: "It exists. I've seen it. One time I sat in that stall, looked to my left, and there it was! The glory hole had a diameter of about a foot, for reasons unknown to me. I promptly left the stall for fear of any person that might sit in the stall across from mine, went upstairs, and used a bathroom that didn't smell of old diapers and incorrectly flushed toilets." The glory hole is currently covered up with a metal plate.

Pictured: The Glory Hole



2

RUMOR #2: 4TH FLOOR LIBRARY SHENANIGANS

RUMOR: Students use the 4th floor of the library to engage in shenanigans.

STATUS: True.

For proof, see Craigslist "casual encounter" listings.

5

RUMOR #5: THE COLONY MANOR RIOT

RUMOR: There was a riot that happened in Colony Manor.

STATUS: True.

On May 8, 2004, there was a party called "Colonypalooza" with over 500 people. The Monroe County Sheriff's Department was asked to help contain the party. Some number of intoxicated students were yelling and harassing the police. The incident was apparently escalated when one student threw a bottle which hit a police officer. Police responded by firing pepper spray (capsicum) bullets. This was new equipment recently acquired under a Homeland Security grant, used by Monroe County Sheriffs for the first time at RIT.

3

RUMOR #3: RIT CAMPUS WIND TUNNELS

RUMOR: RIT's campus design is based on a design for schools in the southwest. The "wind tunnels" in between buildings were created on purpose.

STATUS: Unknown.

Campus design was a combination of architects' plans, made for RIT when RIT moved from downtown. Per an interview for a Public Speaking class, Kevin Roche was in charge of the design for the central portion (Eastman, SAU, Student Life Center and the Ritter Ice Arena) and has said that the design is original to RIT and was not taken off the shelf. He explained that the buildings were placed close together because of the uneven grade and because of the weather. A shorter distance to walk meant less time in the cold. Roche also said that most campuses have wind problems due to the preference of open space over trees that can diffuse the wind.

4

RUMOR #4: THE SHOOTING AT CROSSROADS

RUMOR: There was a shooting at crossroads.

STATUS: True.

On October 4, 2004, around 6 a.m., three men entered Crossroads and demanded money. One of the men shot two employees.

6

RUMOR #6: SECRET TUNNELS CONNECT ACADEMIC SIDE TO DORMS

RUMOR: There are secret tunnels that connected the academic side to the residential side.

STATUS: False.

The swamp that RIT is built on does not allow tunnels from the dorms to campus. There are no tunnels that lead from one end of campus to the other. There are underground utility "pipes" with electricity, water, and other utility lines, but they probably aren't even big enough for a rat to get through. However, there is a tunnel that connects the library and buildings six, eight, and nine, which is really useful in winter. There is a small telecommunications "tunnel" between the two sides of campus. It carries some fiber and cable.

Best route to get to the academic side: Through the tunnels to Gracie's, then on the quarter mile to the SLC, then through the tunnels under the library to building nine, then to the second floor of building nine across the bridge to GCCIS.



7

RUMOR #7: CALLING DORM ELEVATORS

RUMOR: There's a phone number to call the elevators in the dorms.

STATUS: True.

Was done in 2006-2007 school year to NRH elevators by C.R. who played music over the line; number is printed on inside of doors. "True," claims an RIT student, "My roommate has the number for the NRH elevators too. Good luck getting it though, it's like his prized possession." "True," claims another student, "I've got the number to the left Gleason elevator, and give it out to anyone who promises to drunk dial it. I like to call it pretending I'm God."

Another student who lived in Gleason last year says, "There have been several games of 'Cash Elevator' played in both Gleason elevators. I've played in these games and also have the number for both elevators myself."

8

RUMOR #8: ORIGINAL RIT BUILDING PLANS

RUMORS: The clock tower on Kate Gleason residence hall is supposed to be visible from the Infinity Quad on the quarter mile. However, one of the walls of the SAU was built a few feet away from its designated target spot, therefore blocking this potentially amazing view from occurring. OOPS.

STATUS: False.

Per an interview for a Public Speaking class, Kevin Roche was in charge of the design for the central portion of campus. The SAU was designed to jut out into the quarter mile so it would be a visual divider for academic and residential side of campus. Roche noted that the SAU also has that peculiar angle so visitors would intuitively be drawn into it since it served as a welcome and information center. To decide the kind and color of bricks to use, small walls were built and faculty voted on their favorites. For a while, the winning bricks were a black and white checkerboard pattern (and you thought the bricks were bad now).

9

RUMOR #9: WEATHER CONTROL DEVICE

RUMOR: The president of RIT has a weather control device, and this device is housed in the Sentinel.

STATUS: Unknown.

This may be the real reason RIT paid such a ridiculous amount for this piece of "art." The weather control device is primarily used to create sunny days during prospective student tours, thus suckering them into thinking Rochester has favorable weather. Under Dr. Al Simone, the weather machine was used nearly flawlessly, as tour days always meant good weather, and the day after always rained. However, with the change of presidency, there have been some shaky tour days that rained a lot, implying that Dr. Bill Destler has not quite gotten used to controlling the weather. Either that, or he refuses to use such underhanded tactics to manipulate prospective students.

10

RUMOR #10: SECRET SUBLEVEL OF COLA

RUMOR: The College of Liberal Arts has a secret basement level B. Who knows what the psychologists and economists do down there, and what nefarious experiments they conduct.

STATUS: Both the elevator and one of the stairways have access to sublevel B. The COLA level B hardly counts as a floor. Building eight, however, has a sub-basement that spans the entire building, mostly full of mechanical equipment. At the west end there's a hallway with one wall covered with chalk anatomical drawings done by a class. Floor plans for all buildings (including spooky B-levels) can be viewed on the FMS website. •

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This article ran up against one of the biggest problems crowdsourced journalism faces: The problem of verification. Though I initially tried to keep up with every rumor that was submitted, it didn't end up working out. Rather than spend the rest of my life trying to get in touch with the guy with the numberto the left Gleason elevator, I put a disclaimer at the top of the page. Under normal circumstances, it's really isn't something I would feel comfortable doing. --Laura Mandanas, Editor in Chief 23:55, 25 January 2009 (EST)

COVER challenge

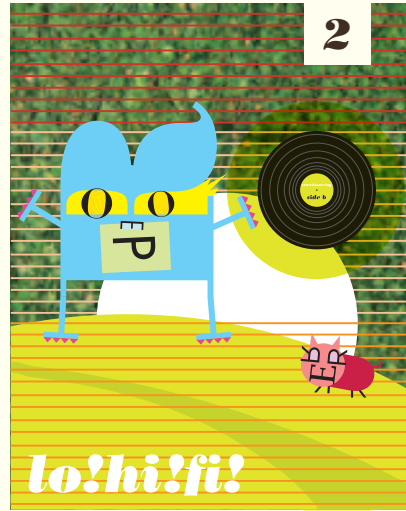
Just like the rest of the issue, the design of this week's cover was a collaborative effort. This process consisted of passing a production file from designer to designer until completion. With the instructions to build on the work done before them, each artist had approximately eight hours to produce their own unique design.

Although the deadline for print passed before everyone who signed up was able to contribute, the challenge continued on for several days afterward so that more people could participate. The covers that were finished after the print deadline and larger versions of these covers are available online at <http://reportermag.com>.



1

Susie Sobota



Garret Voorhees

2

lo!hi!fi!



8

Kelvin Patterson



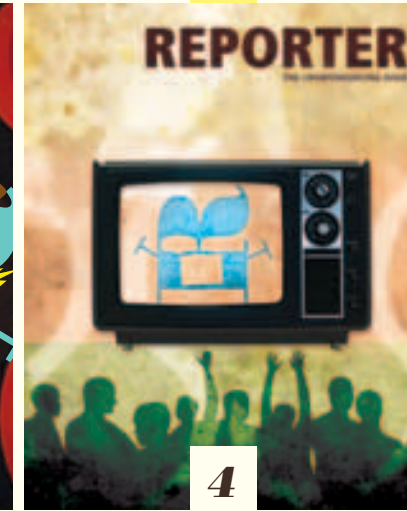
7

David Conetta



3

Megan Clegg



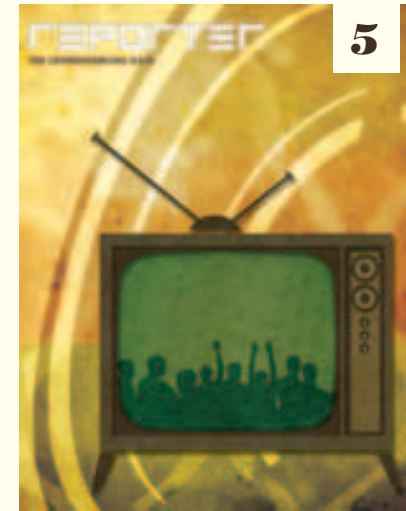
4

Sumit Paul



6

Tatyana Orlovich



5

Linzi Bergmann



9

Sam Brenner



10

Natalie Mroczka



11

Kyle Cole



12

Victoria Julius



17

Nick Gebo



18

Teo Acosta



19

Barret Furton



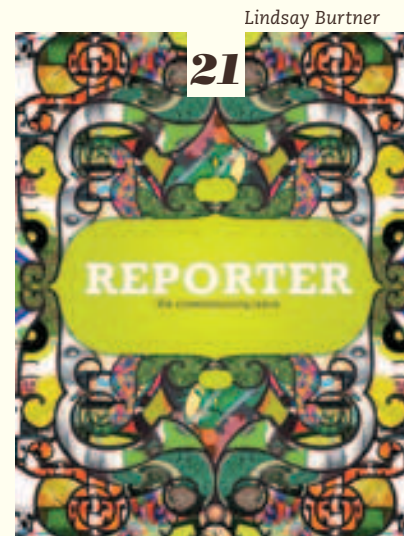
14

Andrew Lakata



13

Sumit Paul



21

Lindsay Burtner



20

Laura Frastaci



15

Claire Eckstrom



16

Ayaka Ito

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The concept behind the cover challenge was thought up only a week and a half before things needed to be finalized for print, which did not allow us enough time for planning. Thinking that participation would be a problem, we encouraged designers to sign up multiple times. Once the word got out, we had *too many* designers. This led to the list having to be cut nearly in half for the print deadline.

The most controversial issue with the challenge, however, was deciding on what the design of the actual cover would be. Some of the staff wanted us to pick the best cover out of the bunch, while others wanted to use the final cover that was submitted by

the deadline for print. Not wanting this to be seen as a competition, I had difficulty siding with either of those positions. I did not want to favor any designs or have designers waiting to sign up in final spots. A compromise was reached by overlaying each of the completed 21 covers on top of each other in the order they were submitted for the final product. This shows the progression of all the designs and emphasizes the challenge as a community effort rather than a competition.

--Susie Sobota, Art Director 14:34, 25 January 2009 (EST)

“When I first got to RIT, I was nervous about having to start all over and make new friends,” said Kevin Jacobson, a freshman member of Computer Science House (CSH). “During orientation week, I decided to visit CSH and was greeted immediately by some of the upperclassmen. That evening, I was invited to go with them to get ice cream at Friendly’s, and it was at that moment that I knew I had found my place at RIT.”

Jacobson’s experience is common among those who encounter Special Interest Housing for the first time. Most students don’t know much about Special Interest Houses (SIHs), and those who have never visited an SIH can’t understand the difference between living on an SIH and living on a normal floor or in an apartment. Most students don’t realize the strong community within each SIH, and how members forge relationships and share in experiences that last them a lifetime.

Special Interest Housing

For those who don’t know, Special Interest Houses are living environments in the residence halls designed for students who share a common interest. They are not, as commonly believed, related to a student’s major. While each SIH’s area of interest is different, the common theme that each SIH shares is a sense of community among its members. While some dorm floors are dark and depressing — few people come out of their rooms or even open their doors — something is always happening on the floor of an SIH. Students form strong friendships amidst the social atmosphere, and find others with whom to study and take classes. SIHs hold events all the time, whether it is as small as watching a movie in the lounge or going out to dinner with a large group of friends, or something larger such as organizing rides for a skiing trip or assembling an intramural hockey team.

Each SIH is related to a specific area of interest (although some overlap) and has its own histories, traditions and unique “special rooms” that other dorm floors don’t have, like public lounges. There are currently eight SIHs on campus, situated in either Nathaniel Rochester Hall or Colby.

Art House, located on the second floor of Colby D, is a place where those who have a vested interest in art, regardless of academic major, can live and work together. As the oldest SIH, it is filled with rich histories and traditions, such as its annual House trip to Toronto. Its facilities consist of a studio that includes work tables, a cutting station, an enclosed gallery and a fully ventilated industrial spray booth where members can work on assignments, plus a screen-printing lab.

Business Leaders of Tomorrow (BLT), RIT’s newest SIH, is a House conducive to a strong business environment for people of all majors.

Found on the first floor of Colby A, BLT contains a boardroom that is used by its members for group meetings and for speakers who come to talk about different business techniques.

The members of **Computer Science House** (CSH), located on the third floor of NRH, form not only a large social community, but also a group of people who work together on innovative and exciting projects. You don’t have to be a computer science major to become a member — anyone with a common interest in technology is welcome, including engineers, mathematicians, scientists and even liberal arts majors. Members are encouraged to work on projects, ranging from building a vending machine connected to the internet, to wiring and programming intelligent robots, to constructing a motorized shopping cart (and anything else imaginable). Members have access to CSH’s special facilities to help them with their work, such as a fully-

stocked woodshop, a computer lab and a server room that hosts CSH’s personal network.

Engineering House (EH), found on the eighth floor of NRH, offers both a social atmosphere and assistance with the demanding studies that first year engineering students are likely to encounter at RIT. Consisting of only freshmen and sophomores, older members are encouraged to help younger members with their studies, such as math, physics and engineering. EH also holds a variety of social events, such as their annual SIH Broomball Invitational. Their special rooms include a study lounge, a room with a pool table and a lounge equipped with a large entertainment system and woodworking materials.

Located on the second floor of Colby B, **House of General Science** is for students who share diverse interests in science, including the traditional sciences, medical sciences, mathematics, imaging science and more. Members get a better understanding of other fields of science through the House’s community and events with the College of Science.

International House was founded to facilitate diversity and to encourage social interaction and friendship among people from all cultures. Found on the first floor of Colby C, I-House strives both within itself and around campus to promote relations between students from different cultures, and works with Global Union to educate RIT students on international matters. I-House members have access to a fully-stocked kitchen and participate in an annual potluck where each member cooks a dish, usually representative of their own culture.

Photo House, located on the fourth floor of NRH, is an ideal place for students with a passion for photography, film, and industrial

design, and contains many members who aren’t even photography majors. Its facilities include two dark rooms, a print finishing room, a studio and a gallery so members can develop their photos without leaving the dorms and show them off as well. Photo House is also planning educational lectures given by working photographers at the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences for the benefit of all RIT students.

Unity House is for those interested in the culture of American minorities and the promotion of diversity and awareness of cultural issues. Found on the third floor of Colby E, U-House focuses on the academic, cultural, personal and social needs of its members.

Special Interest Housing is not for everyone, but, like trying a new food for the first time, you’ll never know if you like it unless you come and see for yourself. Living on an SIH is unlike living on any other floor or even in an apartment, due to the social community that is vital to the college experience. “Some people say that the dorms are expensive, but I feel it’s like taking a tour of Europe: While expensive, you still do it for the experience of being there,” said Thomas Schellenberg, another SIH member. “While academics are important, social interaction is as well, and you just don’t get that when you live on another floor or in an apartment.”

So if you are interested in a Special Interest House, there’s good news for you: SIHs are always recruiting new members, and open rooms on SIHs open up throughout the year as members leave for co-op and other reasons. Just visit the floor on which the SIH is located and ask someone how you can become a member. With such a wide range of interests, any student can find a House whose members share their interests and begin the experience of a lifetime. •

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This article saw some of the most collaboration of all the articles on the wiki. It started as an uneven bulleted list, and was turned into an actual article by one contributor. Because the writing was by one person, the writing was of a slightly better quality --[Laura Mandanas](#), *Editor in Chief*, 18:17, 25 January 2009 (EST)

Off Campus Housing

BRIAR MANOR TOWNHOUSES

PRICE: \$1,005 per month
LOCATION: 131 Greystone Lane in Brighton
A portion of Farash Corporation's housing in south Brighton, these townhouses offer large living spaces for comparable prices to other housing in Rochester. Located right off exit 1 on I-590 and about six miles from campus, it is about a 15-minute drive from campus. You can ride your bike on trails all the way to RIT in good weather. Most students will require a cosigner in order to rent one of these townhouses. Rent is \$1,005 a month for a standard unit. Units vary in layout and rent. Most units contain one master bedroom, two bedrooms, one full bath and a half bath, plus a full basement and two floors.

QUICK SUMMARY:

- * Rent is \$1,005 a month, but a cosigner is probably needed
- * Utilities around \$180 a month
- * Two floors and a full basement, plenty of room for four people or more
- * Some say that every townhouse comes with a mythical troll that lives in your mind
Website: <http://www.farash.com/index.asp>

ERIE STATION VILLAGE

PRICE: \$765-\$1785 per month
LOCATION: A 5.5 mile drive from campus, just past the RIT Inn on West Henrietta Road.

QUICK SUMMARY:

- * Studio from \$765, one bedroom from \$895, two bedroom townhomes from \$1,130, three bedroom apartment for \$1,365, three bedroom townhouses from \$1,730 to \$1,785
- * Maximum of 2 people per bedroom
- * There is a mandatory \$15 dollar cable fee that is added to your rent every month, which gets you basic cable plus some HD channels (the major networks: ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX, plus CNN and a few others).

PROS:

- * Good location (you can walk to the RIT Inn and take the shuttle if you don't want to drive).
- * Built entirely in the last few years, the newest section was completed one year ago
- * Really nice gym and outdoor pool
- * Good floor plans. One student adds, "Nice kitchens, big closets for storing corpses of all species and size."

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For this article, two points from the crowdsourcing article (p. 6) are made an example of. The first is mass amateurization. Here, people from those locations can contribute their experiences to show a better picture of the options available. However, as the second point mentioned in the pitfalls section states, the veracity is difficult to confirm. --*David Spiecker* 20:45, 25 January 2009 (EST)

- * Great maintenance team. According to another student, "They plow multiple times a day when it is snowing, shovel from the street to your front and back door, follow you around awkwardly as you run errands, scream sexually explicit love poems at your bedroom window, pick you up in the air randomly and without you asking them to, and respond to anything within 24 hours, in my experience. Maintenance will also replace and/or put in their mouth almost anything, including light bulbs."

CONS:

- * Expensive (though if you shove two people into each bedroom you can cut it down to around \$300 a month each).
- * Utilities not included
- * Far from downtown Rochester
Website: <http://eriestation.net>

CLAYTON ARMS

PRICE: Studio from \$600 per month
LOCATION: 3.5 miles from campus, across the street from the warm glow of the Henrietta Wal-Mart.

PROS:

- * Responsive maintenance staff
- * Pool open to residents during the season
- * Convenient commute to RIT
- * Near the bus line

CONS:

- * Almost too easy to wander over to the 24-hour Wal-Mart across the street for whatever you happen to need — which, in one student's case, means a box of Applejacks, lube, and a copy of *Along Came Polly*
- * Staff has a bad habit of entering your apartment without prior notice
- * Laundry machines work roughly 50% of the time and cost \$1.25 a load
Website: <http://www.eastwoodmanagement.com/clayton>

CRITTENDEN WAY APARTMENTS

PRICE: \$715 to \$725 per month.
LOCATION: Approximately 4.5 miles from campus, right behind Movies 10 on Crittenden Way.

They offer nine- or 12-month leases for two bedroom apartments (and one bedroom apartments may be available). Costs \$715 to \$725 per month for a 12-month lease. Heat and hot water are included.

PROS:

- * Close to campus
- * Lots of space
- * Heat and hot water included
- * Administration is forgiving (they have rules they don't enforce and they seem pretty lax about pets)

CONS:

- * You're not allowed to double-up in rooms
- * Laundry facilities suck. There is only one washer and one dryer, and both can only be used during the middle of the day. It does not fit the college student's schedule, but if you have friends living on-campus, this may not be a problem.

RENTING A HOUSE

LOCATION: All over the place
Thanks to the lackluster Rochester housing market and the 12% vacancy rate, finding an affordable house is relatively easy. Prices vary, but a nice four bedroom one bath house in the Upper Mt. Hope neighborhood could run you about \$1,250 a month. Houses on East River Road, just behind UC, are generally smaller, but tend to run from \$600-1,000 per month.

PROS:

- * Variety of options
- * Relative privacy and less concern about neighbors
- * Lots of space
- * Can usually have pets, barbecues, parties and garage bands

CONS:

- * Older houses may mean higher heating bills
- * Most landlords are looking for a 12 month lease from their tenants
- * Might be far from campus
- * House maintenance (e.g. lawn mowing, snow shoveling and pool cleaning)
- * If you live in the 19th ward, you'll probably have your house or car broken into and your laptop stolen •

RECYCLEMANIA

major contributions by: Ian Mikutel & Dan Lampie, creators of Greenly.tv

This Sunday, February 1, campuses across the United States will begin a 10-week-long recycling competition called RecycleMania. Last year RIT placed 13th overall and was ranked #1 in all the categories except waste minimization for New York state. The initiative has been a valuable tool for Facilities Management Services (FMS) to better evaluate RIT's resource use and disposal. Most importantly, although RIT has an excellent recycling program, the university needs to generate less waste overall.

HOW RECYCLEMANIA WORKS

Over a 10-week period, schools across the nation report recycling and trash data, ranked in the following ways:

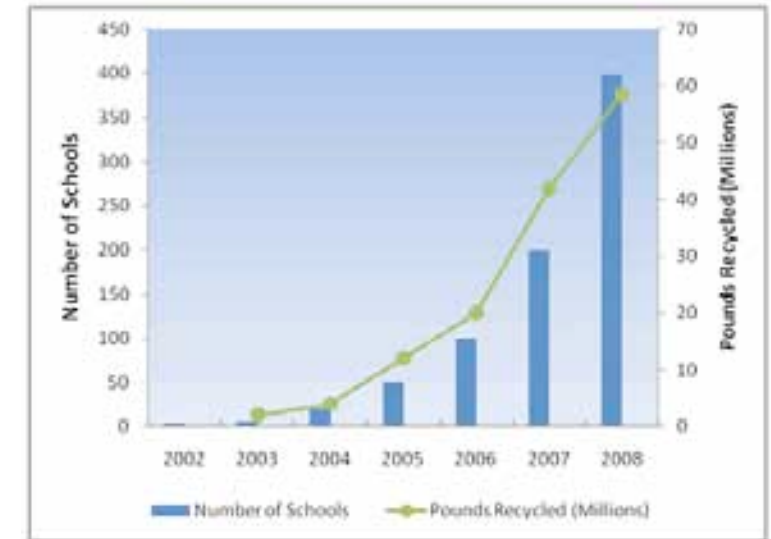
- * Largest amount of recyclables per capita
- * Largest amount of total recyclables
- * Least amount of trash per capita
- * Highest recycling rate

Participating schools then watch how their results rank against other schools as each week's numbers are reported. The hope is that such competition motivates campus communities to reduce trash and recycle more.

RECYCLEMANIA SEES RAPID GROWTH

RecycleMania began in February 2001, when recycling coordinators Ed Newman of Ohio University and Stacy Edmonds Wheeler of Miami University in Ohio saw that, despite award-winning and nationally recognized recycling efforts, residence halls were producing 70 percent of campus trash. Waste audits showed that half of such trash could be recycled, and current recycling rates were a disappointing 5 percent to 12 percent.

After trying many initiatives — such as orientation programs, move-in promotionals and the placement of recycling bins in



Since 2001, RecycleMania has seen exponential growth, effectively doubling school participation annually.

dorms — it was quickly realized that motivating students to recycle was going to take something more. Noticing the sports rivalry between the two schools, the idea of a recycling rivalry was conceived and RecycleMania was born.

RIT SEAL INVOLVEMENT

Student Environmental Action League (SEAL) will again be running and compiling all the data for RecycleMania. SEAL will be in the SAU all next week with interesting displays and information about recycling. Last year's results showed that a huge amount of recyclable goods were carelessly thrown in the trash. This year, SEAL is hoping to improve on last year's success — but needs everyone around campus to do their part by recycling as much as they can.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Track RIT's progress as results begin to come in at <http://recyclemania.org>. Remember to only take out food when absolutely necessary, since the extra packaging waste is unneeded.

Get your hands on a classy metal cup for drinking water, coffee or tea instead of using a disposable one. Recycle everything you can from paper and cardboard to plastic, aluminum, glass, light bulbs and batteries. Most importantly, tell all your friends about RecycleMania, since many colleges in New York are trying to bump RIT from the top.

This magazine can even be recycled in any of the blue paper bins on campus when you're done with it. Better yet, read *Reporter* online at ReporterMag.com. Use less and recycle more! •

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One problem we encountered in the crowdsourcing process was obtaining correctly formatted images. To print correctly in a magazine, a rasterized image needs to be 300 DPI. This graphic is fuzzy because it's only 72 DPI. --*Susie Sobota, Art Director* 18:17, 25 January 2009 (EST)



10% off
all purchases
with student ID

Valid only at 2820 W. Henrietta Rd. | Valid through 1/31

\$1 OFF OR **\$2 OFF**
any regular sub or flatbread Chopped Salad OR any large sub with combo

Not valid on Deli Favorite subs, side salads or delivery orders. This original coupon must be surrendered when ordering. Limit one coupon per person per visit. May not be combined with any other offer or coupon. Taxes not included. No cash value (unless prohibited by law, then cash value is \$.005). Value of promotional item(s) varies by location. No substitutions. Void if copied or transferred and where prohibited.



Valid only at 2820 W. Henrietta Rd. | Valid through 1/31

FREE CHIPS & REGULAR SIZE FOUNTAIN DRINK
with purchase of any Regular or Large Sub, flatbread Chopped Salad or Toasted Gourmet Bread Bowl

Not valid on side salads, delivery orders or cup of soup. This original coupon must be surrendered when ordering. Limit one coupon per person per visit. May not be combined with any other offer or coupon. Taxes not included. No cash value (unless prohibited by law, then cash value is \$.005). Value of promotional item(s) varies by location. No substitutions. Void if copied or transferred and where prohibited.



Valid only at 2820 W. Henrietta Rd. | Valid through 1/31

GRADUATION FAIR
ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



SAU Lobby 11am - 3pm
Wednesday, February 11, 2009

There will be raffles and give-aways!
FREE chair massages
(provided by Wellness For Life)
Live acoustic performance by Lake Effect
12pm-1:30pm
and more...

CONGRATULATIONS GRADS!



WOMEN, POP MUSIC & PORNOGRAPHY

A multimedia presentation explaining why images of women in popular music are hyper-sexualized

MEREDITH LEVANDE

8 pm, Ingle Auditorium, SAU

If you require interpreting services, please request them online at:
<https://www.ntid.rit.edu/AccessServices/index.cfm>

Sponsored by the Women's Center, the Division of Student Affairs, and the Bader Task Force

Toronto

// Explore the Metropolis

Getting in

You need to prove both identity and citizenship. A passport does both. A state-issued photo ID and a birth certificate together would work as well.

Don't bring guns, bombs or large amounts of drugs (if you're not looking to have fun — if you are, bring all three). [Editor's Note: Just kidding...]

What to do

Hockey Hall of Fame

// Location: 30 Yonge Street
// Touch the Stanley Cup!

Bata Shoe Museum

// Location: 327 Bloor Street West
// Sounds crazy, but it's a giant shoebox that holds over 1,000 shoes from all kinds of times and places
// For \$5 Canadian (around \$4 USD) per student, why not? They have shoes made of gold!
// <http://batashoemuseum.ca>

Kensington Market

// Location: On Spadina Avenue
// Funky old houses, painted in all kinds of colors and patterns that are put to use by trendy young people
// Cool little shops and restaurants
// Lots of secondhand and vintage shops
// Ethnic and specialty food
// Bookstores and record stores
// Best to walk it as it's very pedestrian-friendly and fun

Barack to the Future Comedy Show @ Second City

The Reservoir Lounge

// Location: 44 Wellington Street East
// A modern-day speakeasy with live swing music
// Very funky with a cool atmosphere
// Try their signature drink, the Reservoir Red, a chocolate raspberry martini

CN Tower

// Location: 301 Front Street West
// The CN tower used to be the tallest freestanding structure in the world until 2007 when the Burj Dubai was built. It's still taller than Chicago's Sears tower though, making it the tallest in the Western hemisphere.
// On a really clear day you can see Niagara Falls. If you go up, you can stand on clear plexiglas with nothing below you. It's pretty sweet, but really expensive.

PATH

// 17 miles of pedestrian towers underneath downtown Toronto
// Holds the Guinness World Record for largest underground shopping complex in the world
// It's huge and the shopping is so good!

Where to Stay

Clarence Castle Hostel: \$30 Canadian (about \$24 USD) for a bed in a shared room. Free local calls, breakfast and snacks, plus a nice living room with a TV. A decent location in the south of Chinatown, near the streetcar and Light Rail lines.

Try Priceline 3 1/2 star: You can pay \$40 USD for a sweet room that should sleep at least two, maybe four.

Where to Eat

El Gordo Empanadas - 41 types, \$3 Canadian a piece. Try the Beef and Salsa. Delicious!

Salad King - Bizarre name, good cheap Thai food. Popular with the local college kids, the whole restaurant has five or six giant metal benches. The waitstaff just shove you in where there is room. Try a Singha beer with a really hot curry; it's delicious. Entrees are \$5-8 Canadian.

Richtree Market Restaurants - Used to be called Mövenpick Marche. It's a great place for breakfast.

Where (and What) to Drink

Before you head off with your friends to the Great White North, there are a few things you need to know about drinking in Toronto. First off, you need to be 19 years old to drink. There's less of a social stigma about drinking in Canada, so you're less likely to be carded, but don't expect to get in everywhere.

Secondly, the province of Ontario operates with what's known as the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO). You won't be able to head to the gas station or a package store to buy your Labatt's, because only LCBO stores sell liquor. There are a few LCBO locations scattered around Toronto, so be sure to look them up before your trip.

Thirdly, draft beer is sold in imperial pints in pubs. Now, this might seem like a trivial fact, but over the course of an evening it can make quite a difference. A standard American pint is 16 ounces (though you're likely to get 14 ounces from a draft beer), whereas an imperial pint is 20 ounces. This means that having three pints (60 ounces) in Canada is like having four pints (64 ounces) in America. To put it in terms of 12 ounces cans, it's closer to five beers.

The Imperial Pub & Library is an interesting pub across the street from the Bond Place Hotel. The first floor is a pretty lackluster bar, usually catering to an older crowd. However, the second floor (called "The Library") is a relaxed lounge lined with bookshelves and college students. •

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There were few contributions to this article, despite our plea of several city residents to contribute. Perhaps there's so much to do in Toronto that there's no time to mention it. --[Ilsa Shaw](#), *Managing Editor* 16:40, 25 January 2009 (EST)

Toronto is cool and all, yeah. But take a good look at the fine works of art beautifully arranged on the page to the left. I'm pretty sure they go unnoticed most weeks. I'd like to see our readers go buy their stuff and/or go to their events. --[Kyle O'Neill](#), *Advertising Manager* 19:41, 25 January 2009 (EST)

Worker Rights Consortium

major contributions by Leah Andrews | illustration by Kayla Carpitella

On January 6, I handed the manager of the Barnes & Noble (B&N) a proposal to have RIT affiliate with the Worker Rights Consortium (WRC), the only independent labor rights monitoring organization, with which almost 200 universities are already affiliated.

Upon affiliation with the WRC, the factories where RIT apparel is made would be inspected for adherence to a code of conduct that we put forward. The WRC establishes a strong relationship with the workers in the factories utilized by its affiliates' licensees, and these connections ensure that rights are being fully respected.

The issue has been raised that B&N Collegiate is already a pending member of the Fair Labor Association (FLA), This is commendable, but a closer look at the FLA reveals that the six seats in its board of directors are held by industry representatives, some from companies that have been linked to sweatshops. Even overlooking this obvious conflict of interest, the FLA doesn't fully disclose factory locations, or allow for the same involvement by its members offered by the WRC. Lastly, its Code of Conduct fails to adequately address womens' rights and a living wage.

Additionally, B&N Collegiate pledges to terminate relationships with factories found by the FLA or the WRC to fall below a fair code of conduct. The Designated Suppliers Program, implemented by the WRC, aims to avoid risk of closure and to ease the process of supply chain reform, rather than simply avoiding factories reputed to be sweatshops. Forcing factories to

raise their standards is risky, since the cost of production increases, making it less likely that those factories will get the contracts they need to stay in business. Factories can become designated suppliers by demonstrating adherence to a code of conduct at least as strong as that of the WRC, and are in turn guaranteed long-term contracts with licensees, who are required to pay fair prices. Over a period of years, licensees must phase to the use of designated suppliers.

The anti-sweatshop sentiment that was a growing part of the consumer conscience in the '90s has ebbed, but sweatshops have far from disappeared, even within the United States. Sweatshops, that is, factories where workers' rights are violated, are the standard in the garment industry. The pressure on companies to produce goods as quickly and as cheaply as possible doesn't leave a lot of room for workers to have a safe and healthy workplace, job security, the right

to unionize or worst of all, a decent enough wage to live on.

The most important part of a successful policy change in a situation like this is student involvement. Show your support by emailing RIT administrators, telling other people why it is important to uphold our reputation as a community by accepting nothing less than social justice, and do something radical, like refuse to buy RIT apparel until we can be absolutely sure it was made fairly. •

To learn more and sign a petition, visit <http://people.rit.edu/lwa7740>.



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Although the writing and editing took place on a wiki, I wouldn't call this a "crowdsourced" article. It was written by a single author, with only minor edits made by me after the initial draft. The construction was fairly traditional and did not involve much collaboration, which is why this article came out much more cohesive than the others. --*Laura Mandanas, Editor in Chief* 05:03, 26 January 2009 (EST)

4chan

>>4chan History

Created in 2003, 4chan was primarily a discussion board for people interested in anime and manga. Now, 4chan has grown into something much more. The ability for anyone to post anonymously without repercussions has turned it into a cesspool of ridiculousness. Spawned by moot (a former poster at SomethingAwful), 4chan offers a more insane way of communication. There are very few rules on 4chan and fewer people to enforce them. Those who do are not allowed to reveal this fact. If they do they are b& (banned).

>>4chan in the News

4chan has been mentioned in the news for:

/b/tard Story #1

Hacking Macrumors.

/b/tard Story #2

Arranging the capture of a pedophile.

/b/tard Story #3

One 4chan user, Jake Brahm, posted a bomb threat which was interpreted as a terrorist threat by the Department of Homeland Security.

/b/tard Story #4

A student who posted photographs of mock pipe bombs and said he would use them at 9:11 a.m. on September 11 to blow up Pflugerville High School in Pflugerville, Texas. 4chan used the image's EXIF file data and contacted the police who arrested him before school began on September 11. Epic fail.

>>/b/tards

Commonly known as /b/tards, these online bottom-feeders form the backbone of imageboard websites such as 4chan. Much like the majestic jackalope or the elusive Sasquatch, a verifiable photograph of a /b/tard has never been taken. Evidence suggests, however, that the /b/tard comes in two varieties: one being merely a silhouette, the other bearing a striking resemblance to Guy Fawkes.

/b/tards come from all walks of life and include people from such divergent demographics as: 13-year-old girls, 14-year-old boys, bigots of every flavor, homosexuals, homophobes, women, misogynists, furies, camwhores, and many other individuals who are calloused, disenchanted and generally depraved.

These are the men, women (in b4 no girls on the internet, tits or gtfo), and semi-aquatic lifeforms responsible for every irritating internet meme you've ever encountered. Or, at least, most of them. These viral in-jokes, black and sticky at birth, bubble up out of the cauldron that is the "no rules," random imageboard /b/.

What makes 4chan is the anonymity. /b/tards will post the most disgusting, vile, repulsive comments and phrases that they are afraid of even mentioning in their real lives. Articles like this will only bring moar newfags (a.k.a. the cancer that is killing /b/).

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Beginning with /b/tards, this article quickly evolved to match the insanity of 4chan. There were a number of references that would most certainly go over the heads of the non-4chan-savvy. The more it grew, the more the Reporter editorial board worried; the bulk of it was a chunk of disoriented bulleted lists straight from the heads of those who were in on the jokes. 4chan itself wasn't formally introduced until the day before submissions were due. --*Ilsa Shaw, Managing Editor* 15:25, 25 January 2009 (EST)

Fail. Riportur id not Internetz.

File: anon.tif (161.7mb, 8797x4800)



>>Anonymous and Scientology

Hint: Project Chanalogy. Look it up.

>>4chan: The Internet's Meme Factory

4chan circulates and sometimes creates internet memes. These are the jokes that EVERYONE knows on the internet. Listed here are some of the more notable ones:

Mudkips

So I herd you liek them?

Longcat

Originally a photo of a guy holding a cat, where the cat looked extremely long. Longcat is loooooooooooooooooooooooooooooong.

Rick Astley

"Rick rolling" started on 4chan, and moved into mainstream internet culture. Never gonna give you up. Never gonna let you down!

Pedobear

A pedophile bear that is linked in perpetual battle with Chris Hansen.

Win, Fail and Epic Fail An Hero

These memes are also commonly overused to the point where they are considered "unfunny" (a hilarious statement that assumes these memes were once funny) and those still using them may or may not be subject to a stern talking to. People need to learn to lurk moar.

IMMA CHARGIN MAH LAZER

An image showing Imperfect Cell from Dragonball Z, who is shooting a laser beam out of his mouth. Common shoop material.

DO NOT WANT

When you see something disgusting, you use the phrase "DO NOT WANT." Conversely, you may state "WANT" at something desirable.

LOLCats

I can haz cheezburger? That's right. It originated from 4chan. And don't forget Saturday, you fiends.

Tits or GTFO/no girls on the interwebs Boxxy is Queen of 4Chan

wiz

o hai wir
prufezial
bidnezmin

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California Proposition -

Elimination of Same Sex Marriage

Marriage

Marriage is a legal contract between two individuals which, in the eyes of the law, join the two together. Although marriage ceremonies often carry religious connotation, marriage itself is not dictated by religion, but rather by state marriage law. Marriage carries with it well over 1,000 legal benefits including inheritance rights, domestic violence protection, joint adoption, the ability to make medical decisions for your spouse, insurance benefits and hospital visitation rights.

Being that these rights are only available through marriage, and marriage is only granted to two people of the opposite sex, gays and lesbians are inherently excluded from partaking in these legal benefits with the person they choose to be with. In May of 2008, the California Supreme Court recognized that marriage is a fundamental right under the California Constitution and that by prohibiting same-sex marriage, gay and lesbian people were being denied this right.

In response to this ruling, activist groups sought to change the California Constitution through a ballot proposition, Proposition 8, which would redefine marriage as valid only between a man and a woman. Organizations including the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Eastern Orthodox Church, the American Family Association, and Focus on the Family lobbied hard for their side, raising \$35.8 million dollars for the advancement of their campaign.

Despite equally large amounts of money raised by those in opposition to the proposition, the measure passed on November 4, 2008 with a vote of 52.3 percent to 47.7 percent; nearly 60,000 more votes were cast for the bill than against it. The general belief is that the passing of Proposition 8 was due to the relatively large amount of religious African-American voters in California, drawn to the polls with the hope of a Barack Obama presidency. The assumption is that these voters tend to lean more conservative socially, and were thus opposed to same-sex marriage.

One wonders: If gay marriage is about equality, why are so many people passionately against it? Supporters of Prop 8 have many reasons, the most notable of those being that redefining marriage will result in the decline and devaluing of marriage, marriage will be

further redefined to include polygamy and that Christian beliefs will further be pushed out of public policy.

Members of the gay rights movement have responded that gay marriage in no way seeks to obliterate marriage, but rather is attempting to actively participate in the long term commitment that marriage brings. They note that divorce is an actual threat to marriage, not more marriage itself. In response to the idea that marriage would need to be extended to include polygamy is also incorrect; massive financial contributions made by the Mormon church to the Prop 8 effort are evidence to the contrary.

The latter arguments are somewhat more complex. It is the view of many religious individuals that homosexuality is inherently immoral, that it is a choice, and that by supporting gay people, our society is also becoming immoral and will be headed for disaster. In response to this, one RIT student writes, "To this, we must remember that our country is a melting pot of different cultures, ideas, and religions. When we set aside equal rights for all people in favor of the agenda of a particular group, we risk losing our country's unique diversity. Perhaps one of the more frightening aspects of Prop 8 is that it shows that any group with enough money can effectively sway the masses and significantly change public policy, even when the policy has been deemed to cause unfair discrimination."

The future of marriage in California

To push the measure forward, proponents argued that public schools would teach children that gay marriage is acceptable, citing an incident in the gay marriage-friendly state of Massachusetts, where a schoolteacher read *King & King*, a fairy tale about two gay princes, to her students. Another argument for "on the fence" voters was the publicizing of California's family code, section 297.5, which recognizes domestic partnerships for all couples. Accordingly, ProtectMarriage.com boasts a YouTube video stating, "Why is change for the definition of marriage such a big deal?"

The passing of Proposition 8 has brought forth a plethora of legal action against the

ruling. On November 19, 2008, the California Supreme Court officially granted a review of the constitutionality of Proposition 8. Numerous social activists have joined the gay and lesbian community in challenging Proposition 8, stating that Proposition 8 inappropriately calls for government discrimination of a minority group. Additionally, legal question has been raised as Proposition 8 is a revision to the California state constitution instead of an amendment, and thus should not be decided by a voting initiative, but a two-thirds vote of the state Legislature instead. The state's supreme court is on an expedited schedule to review the case and conduct oral argument by March 2009. The court also intends to decide what should happen to the same-sex marriages that were conducted prior to Proposition 8.

One piece of California legislation is key to the community of opponents: Senate Resolution 7. If passed, the Senate would support the repeal of Proposition 8, effectively "declaring that the initiative was an improper revision to the California Constitution," as Equality California asserts. Opponents have even decided to hold "marriage equality training camps" to help each other "organize in their communities to restore marriage equality for same-sex couples to California." As of now, they have friends in high places: California-based Google openly rejects the measure as it denies employees "basic rights", and President Obama deems it "unnecessary".

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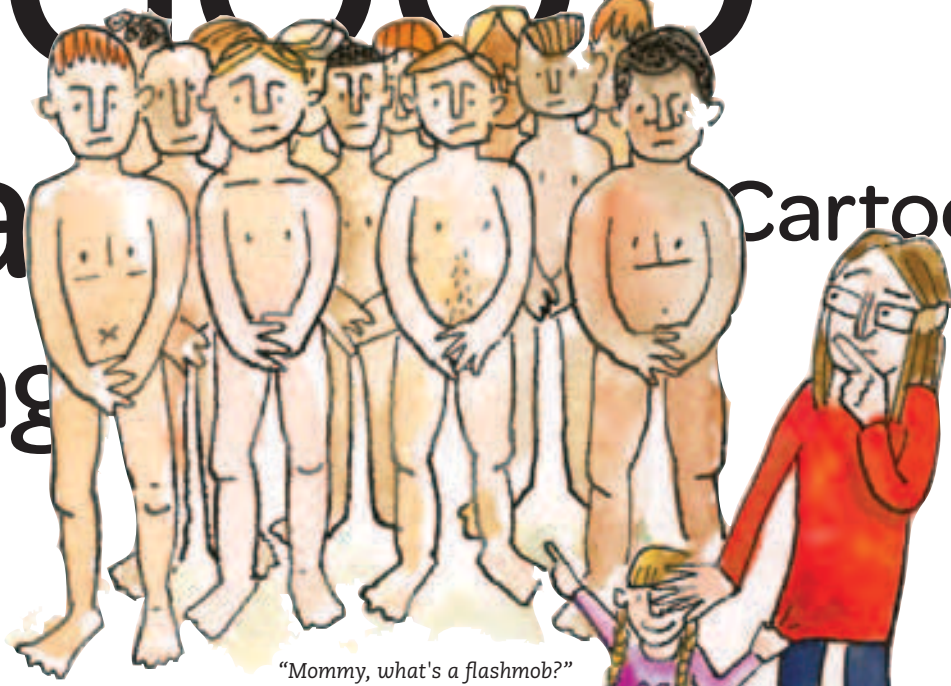
This was a particularly interesting piece to watch during the submission process. Due to the divisive nature of Proposition 8, we expected there to be bias and "wiki edit wars." Surely enough, there was. The initial submission presented one Catholic person's view of homosexuality as a "sinful urge," which inspired a rebuttal from another person that consisted mostly of a Keith Olbermann quote. Eventually, the Catholic view was deleted and the two sections seen above were added. --*Ilsa Shaw, Managing Editor* 15:01, 25 January 2009 (EST)

GOOD

a Cartoonist

Finding

illustration by Karli Tucker



"Mommy, what's a flashmob?"

What makes a good cartoon? "...I was flattered when I was asked to add to this Wiki-type thing. This is legitimately cool idea that I probably would have mocked in a cartoon." -- Alex Salsberg, Reporter Cartoonist Emeritus

As with any art form, there is no formal heuristic for "good". Sometimes a cartoon is good because it imitates life -- at other times, the best cartoons do things that no one in real life can do. Cartooning at its best captures the sincere intent of the cartoonist to communicate.

A cartoon is a slice of a story that is moving, yet still. It is a gestural discipline. A few lines can capture a complex, yet immediately recognizable, form. It is the same mechanism you use to recognize an old friend at a distance, just from the way they walk. see a human face in a few well-placed blobs.

"I always knew I'd made a good cartoon when I saw it taped up on campus." -- *ibid.*

Another de facto measure of merit is the extent to which a cartoon is shared.

The best cartoons about the workplace are hung on cubicle walls (De gustibus non est disputandum. -- collective Ed.) The best cartoons about Bush are hung on the doors of aging hippie professor's offices. The best Far Side cartoons are hung everywhere.

So, for whatever reason, a good cartoon doesn't just make people laugh, or make people think. It also makes people share.

What makes a bad cartoon? "MARMADUKE." -- Salsberg

Reporter cartoons, from what appears to be the result of tradition, are awful. They lack a few basic components necessary for proper execution of a cartoon, like coherence, passable art, punchlines and the certain degree of professionalism to make a comic that doesn't look like it was drunkenly scribbled on a bar napkin.

Starting with coherence, what is referred to as "monkey cheese" is the mark of a spectacularly underdeveloped sense of humor. This style is characterized by nonsense words and wacky situations, like dinosaur zombies from a country with a silly name. This is usually indicative

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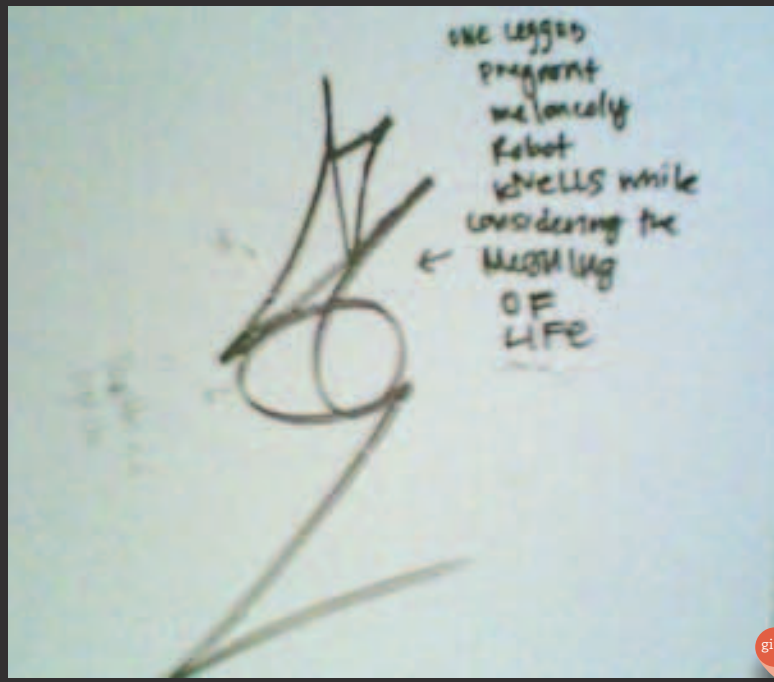
I started off this article with "A good cartoon should be funny." Somebody wrote that they liked dick jokes; another wrote that they like sadistic humor. I edited that into: "People have different definitions of funny. Maybe dick jokes make you laugh. Some prefer sadistic humor." The whole discussion was rendered moot when Alex Salsberg just wrote over the whole thing with his own non-deterministic view of what makes a cartoon good. Don't get me wrong, his stuff was way better written, but damn it Alex, at least try to play well with the other children. --*Chris Zubak-Skees, Online Production Manager* 15:01, 25 January 2009 (EST)

of the cartoonist's lack of imagination, a failing they attempt to cover up by cribbing inane phrases from much funnier people and things.

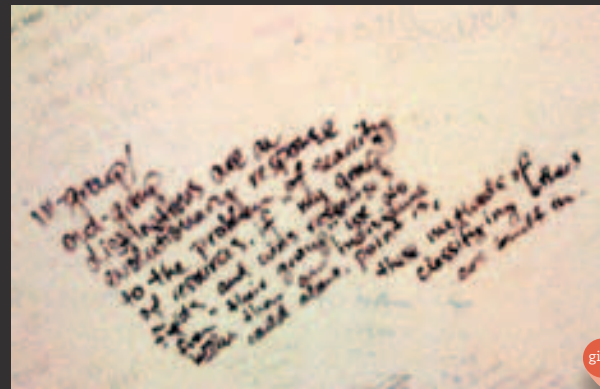
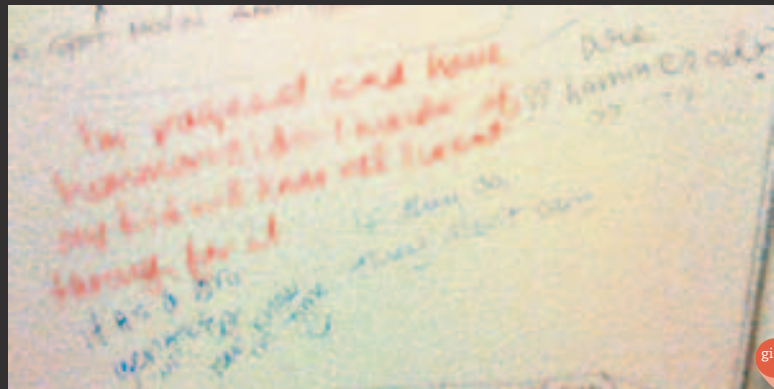
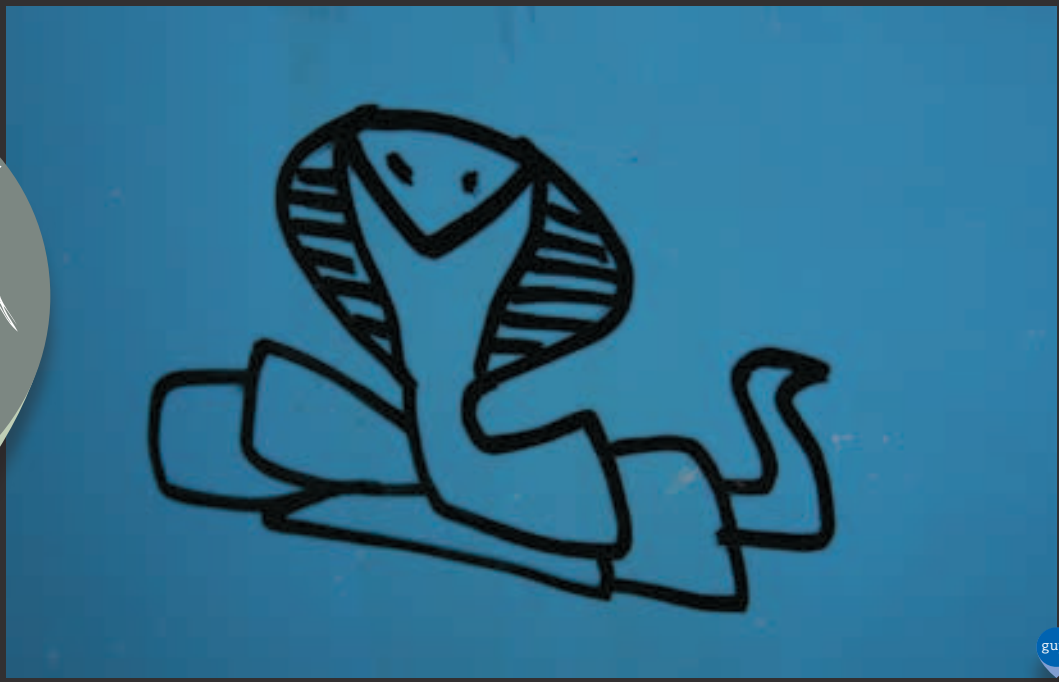
Passable art is self-explanatory. RIT has an art school, folks. It shouldn't look like the cartoon was drawn from a pencil in cartoonist's ass. It must be noted, though, that being able to draw doesn't make a cartoonist funny.

The punchline is the most important part of the joke. Like self-respect and talent, Reporter cartoonists consistently forget about it.

There's a manual on how not to draw comics. It's called *Reporter*. Feel free to pick it up. •



ROBOT BATHROOM GRAFFITI



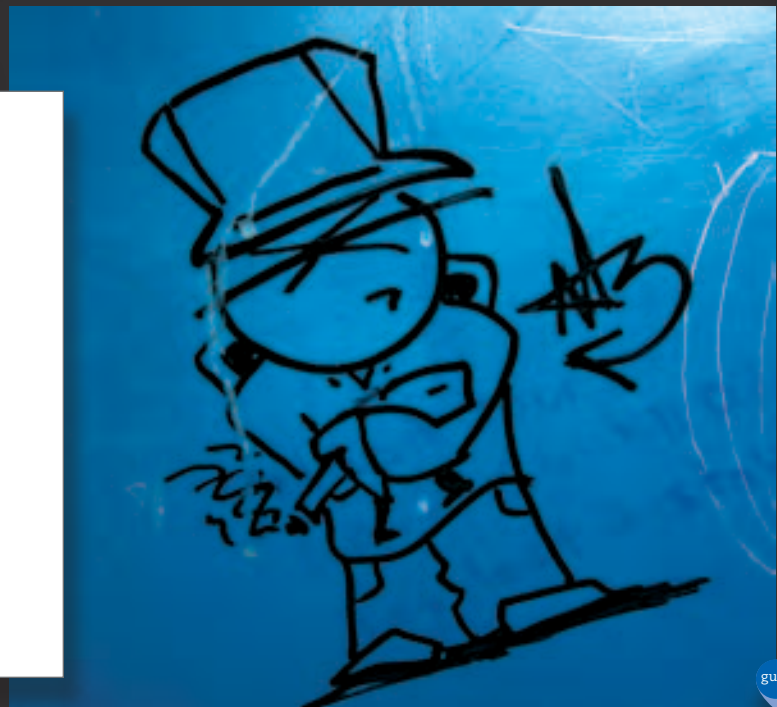
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The low down dirty.

It is so much easier producing a magazine that goes through a print and pre-press workflow first before being published on the web. Having to do this the other way around was challenging because no one knew what workflow to adopt. If we had run the final stages of the production like we do with regular issues then things would have been better as far as process is concerned.

An entire spread consisting bathroom graffiti? This should have just been one page or less. Better yet, if we had had time we could have done a map of campus showing where the images were taken. --Kelvin Patterson, Production Manager/Staff Designer

21:17:25 January 2009 (EST)



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Global Union*

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ACS, ADC, CSA, CSSA,
DSSA, I- House, MySA, PDPsi
Piazza Italiana, OAS, OASIS*