

# REPORTER



02 06 09 | [reportermag.com](http://reportermag.com)

## ADHD

Living with a chemical imbalance

## SG DORM CHALLENGE

Administrators get a taste of dorm life

## LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Man-eating plants take over Ingle

# VDAY 2009

## THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

The Vagina Monologues  
**Friday Feb. 13 and Saturday Feb. 14**  
**8:00 PM**  
**Ingle Auditorium**

\$8.00 Students  
\$12.00 Faculty  
\$15.00 General Public

Buy your ticket at the Gordon Field House, SAU Candy Counter, or at the door on your night of choice

Interpreters provided upon request subject to availability. Please go to:  
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**VDAY** is a global movement to stop violence against-women. Each year the RIT Women's Center hosts a performance to promote awareness for **VDAY** and support the end of violence against women.



# Gospel Fest 2009

**Saturday, February 7th, 2009**  
**SAU Ingle Auditorium**  
**5:00 P.M.**

A free evening of song, dance and worship featuring:

The RIT Gospel Ensemble  
Mt. Olivet's Praise Team  
Heaven Bound  
Save Our Sisters Gospel Choir  
Church of Love Flag Ministry  
Mt. Olivet's Wings of Glory  
T'Disha Bryan

With reception to follow in the 1829 Room



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# EDITOR'S NOTE

## BRAINSTORMING

Following the release of last week's crowdsourcing issue, we had some very interesting conversations around the office. It was exciting, for a few weeks, to have such direct participation from our readers in the creation of our magazine. While I was relieved to have our regular staff back to work this week (writing and art quality went seriously downhill in the hands of the crowd), there were certain steps in our regular workflow that seemed to suffer in comparison.

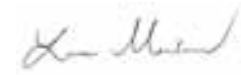
Coming back from such a collaborative project, I couldn't help but notice how closed our usual process is. I'm proud of the work that we do every week, but we frequently miss the mark — there's no denying that. We do our best to cover topics that are relevant and interesting to you guys, but it's a very tricky balance. Considering that the members of *Reporter's* eboard generate probably 70% of the article ideas that end up in print, it's not at all surprising that our magazine doesn't always match up with the opinions and interests of the larger RIT community.

Over the past year, *Reporter* has had a contact form on the website for readers to suggest story ideas. So far, it's mostly been used by publicity coordinators looking for self promotion. And while this kind of feedback is certainly valuable, it isn't the primary sort of feedback we're interested in. Promotional material will only get you so far.

They'll probably be annoyed with me for telling you this, but do you know how our editors come up with most of their story ideas? Daydreaming in class. Overhearing snippets of conversations at Javas. Procrastinating on doing their homework. Browsing weird stories on the internet. It's great brainstorming, but also limited. There are only 15 members on our eboard, after all.

If there are things you want to read about that we aren't covering, you need to get in touch with us. And if there are things that we're covering that you don't care about, we need to hear that as well. At the end of the day, we're nothing without your feedback. I know you've all got some great ideas; *Reporter's* staff members are not the only people at RIT daydreaming, eavesdropping, and wasting time. We need your help brainstorming.

On the masthead to the left, I've listed the email addresses of *Reporter's* eboard. Please take advantage of this.



Laura Mandanas

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**

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Above // Despite recent scheduling

difficulties, Nas gave RIT a show on

January 23. *Photograph by Eric Drummond.*

*Cover photograph by Georgi Unkouski.*

# ADMINISTRATORS TACKLE THE DORMS

by Caitlin Shapiro and Leanne Cushing  
photographs by Sungkyung Kwak

Fire alarms in the middle of the night? Sure, we can handle it. Going to sleep at 3 a.m., only to wake up for an 8 a.m. class? Yep, been there, done that. Falling asleep in the early morning shower? That's a new one, but not unheard of. For college students, these things have become a way of life. Yet, for 21 administrators, this may have been a system shock.

For three days, these administrators lived and ate in the dorms as part of Student Government's Dorm Challenge. One of the participants, Bob Finnerty, chief communications officer, explained that not much has really changed in the last 25 years since he was in college. The only thing that really struck him was the technology, since the invention of iPods cut down on the amount of potential noise.

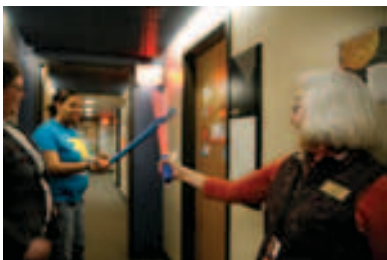
President Bill Destler described his experience as "tremendous." He was located on the seventh floor of the Sol Heumann building in room 7088. With him, he brought only a minimal amount of supplies, which included a pillow, blanket and suitcase. Destler set up on a top bunk in a quad with Finnerty, Oswaldo Urrutia, a first year New Media Design student, and Everett C. Carlisle, a first year Film, Video and Animation student. Destler's wife, Dr. Rebecca Johnson, also stayed in the dorms for the challenge, on the fifth floor of Gleason. Destler recounted having to navigate through the tunnels to visit his wife on off times — much like students who are in relationships and live in the dorms.

"It was a great opportunity to see students in work mode as well as play mode," added Destler. He partook in many run-of-the-mill student activities: going to dinner with his floor, visiting the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship with his roommate and being forced to eat at Gracie's for many meals. Although students advised Destler that the food had improved for the administrators, he was still impressed. He commented on how much better the selection was compared to the University of Maryland, where he worked before coming to RIT. Destler's only criticism of the event was, "If I had to do it all over again, I'd try to live the students' life only, not my normal life."

Dr. Howard Ward, assistant vice president of Housing Operations, resided on the freshmen floor of Fish. Due to a shortage of students who were willing to participate, Ward unfortunately had no roommates. He would have preferred one, but he sees how administrators, who are not usually connected with the residential side of campus, have benefited from time spent with students.

He was hesitant to participate in this challenge: "I was resistant, but in a fun sort of way, because I ultimately knew I was going to participate," Ward admitted. "I've seen and heard it all; I didn't need to live here to understand, but I also wanted to show my support for Matt [Danna, SG vice president]'s idea."

Ward feels that students need to accept the entire college experience, not just class work, as a learning experience. Important advice that he



wants students to understand is, "Gracie's is not going to be home cooking like [that of] your mom, it's not supposed to be. Your room is not going to look like your room at home. You come here for different challenges and experiences that will prepare you for life. If everything here looked like it did at home, you wouldn't be able to deal with life."

However, he is not completely opposed to change. Ward targeted the lounges as something that needs work. He said, "We should have bigger lounges so people could be more social — watch TV together comfortably while they're doing homework or playing cards — because I've noticed that kids spend an awful lot of time in their rooms."

He also would like to see more professors get involved just for the experience, but he realizes that the administrators are those who impact policy.

Students hoped that administrators would experience firsthand the wireless network issues, temperatures of the dorms, overcrowded rooms and the repetitive selection of food at Gracie's. These issues were all addressed at the Dorm Challenge Open Forum, the conclusion to the three-day, two-night stay of RIT administrators in various dorms.

When asked by an audience member about the overcrowded rooms, Destler responded, "Most of these problems are cured throughout the first quarter." He also went on to say, "One thing we need to do is restore the lounges. That should be the goal." Destler also reminded students about the future Global Village, which would bring another 800 beds to RIT. Additionally, Destler hopes that students will present their ideas to him on how to bring more variety to Gracie's in a cost-effective way.

Concerning future plans, the shared experience will provide a common ground for administrators which will invariably benefit the students. "You're getting to know your colleagues on a very human level," explained Mary-Beth Cooper, vice president of Student Affairs. Cooper did demonstrate her frustration for the lacking wireless network in the dorms. She suggested that students should have access to their own ethernet cable.

Some administrators, too accustomed to their current lifestyles, admitted slight cheating, such as driving to work because the quarter-mile was just too cold, showering at the Student Life Center and using their designated parking spots.

This event was generally regarded as a success and could potentially turn into an RIT tradition. There were suggestions that, next year, administrators could spend a weekend or a full workweek with students. Administrators were thankful for the cooperation of students, but Finnerty was perhaps the most appreciative. He noted, "I was never officially sexiled." •

## REPORTER

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# THE INAUGURATION

by David Spiecker | photography by Steve Pfost



## Change: The most powerful message in Barack Obama's campaign.

Obama vowed to change politics, to change Washington, to change policy and so on. He even named the website for his presidential transition "http://change.gov." One might wonder if Obama's "change" is nothing more than a gimmick.

However, as the presidential inauguration approached, you could feel change in the air. You could see and hear people getting excited. I went to Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 16, hoping to bypass the large crowds expected to descend upon Washington. Obama-mania had already gripped the city. Walking through Union Station, you could see Obama merchandise everywhere, with droves of people buying them it up. You can't help but think about the significance of the day Obama becomes our 44th president.

On Monday, January 19, the day before inauguration, I decided to spend the day touring the National Mall. There were already an impressive number of people gathered there, scoping the scene out, seeing the sights

and just drinking in the atmosphere. That night, I started thinking about just what inauguration meant to me.

After it became official that Obama had won the election back in November, my grandmother said to me, "Guess it's the young people's turn to run the country now. The future is yours after all. Just make sure us old people are warm, fed and safe." In a similar vein, I had a conversation with David McCloskey, an interpreter at RIT, in which he said to me, "I was talking to my friend and he told me that he predicted that there would be world peace in the near future. I asked him why he thought that. He replied, 'It's when the young people grow up, they grow up in the internet age — they all communicate with each other across languages, across cultures through the internet. They have no idea if the person on the other end of the computer is white, black, Muslim, or Jewish. Once they meet, while the differences are as apparent, they become immaterial,' and I found myself thinking the same thing."

I got up at 2 a.m. on Tuesday, too excited to sleep. My friend, Mich Gerson, an RIT alum

who I was staying with, got ready to leave at 5:30 a.m., expecting to be just a little ahead of the crowds. I was stunned by just how many people were already at the National Mall. It wasn't too long until there was barely any personal space left. Not that anyone seemed to mind; People were incredibly courteous to each other, by saying "Excuse me," "Please" and "Thank you," as well as having random conversations here and there. Everyone just got along with each other, white, black, Muslim, Jewish, old, young, and everything in between. The buzz in the air was nothing short of incredible. Only the moment when Obama was finally sworn in as our 44th president did the excitement reach the full peak of its crescendo.

It wasn't until after the inauguration that I found out that the amount of people in attendance was near two million. With that many people packed in such a tight space, it was interesting that there was not one arrest made. When I first learned of that information, I could believe it, seeing how the crowd behaved during the day. Change had happened and everyone was overjoyed by it — that much could be seen during inauguration day. Looking at Obama's latest website, http://whitehouse.gov and in light of his recent actions, I believe that his message of change is more than just a gimmick. Change has come. •



## SG UPDATE

compiled by Alecia Crawford

### SG TRANSPARENCY QUESTIONED

Election committee member and former GCCIS senator Paul Solt took issue with senate transparency. No SG Minutes had been posted online since October. Web developer Gerry Brunelle promised to update the website as soon as possible.

### ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

The election committee made recommendations to change the language of the by-laws, the election software and the deadlines for various organizations. These changes are said to streamline the election process.

### Changes proposed:

- Candidates may not use campus computer labs, lounges or the library to solicit votes.
- Current members of SG may not use SG resources to further their candidacy for the next term.
- The schedule should be updated to allow for candidates to begin an unofficial campaign on the first day of spring quarter. Unofficial campaigning includes word of mouth, personal websites, Facebook groups, etc. However, it does not include the use of campus media, posters, etc.
- Applications will be due slightly earlier (midnight on Friday of week three) to allow for clerical efficiency.
- Once verified as a candidate, a person may begin their official campaign.

### SG will vote to approve the changes during the next meeting.

### WOLF WARNS ABOUT POSSIBLE BUDGET CUTS

Following the announcement of a 3.5 - 4 percent increase in tuition for the next academic year, SG President Ed Wolf advised clubs to prepare for budget cuts.

### RITCHIE COSTUME LOST

During the NCS representative report, the Ritchie costume was requested for an event. The request was denied as Ritchie is reported to have been misplaced. "We have to find Ritchie first, he's currently on 'vacation,'" said Adam Richlin, CIAS senator. Rumors have been circulating that FedEx misplaced the costume, which was being shipped for cleaning.

### CHANGES TO MEAL OPTIONS

Residence Hall Association representative Phillip Amsler reported that Dining Services is currently looking into allowing the use of multiple meal options during one meal period. Additionally, Amsler reported, RAs involved in the Dorm Challenge were promised 'incentives' for floors hosting RIT administrators. As of yet, they have not received those incentives. SG vice president Matt Danna dismissed the question by saying, "We'll talk about it later."

### BOBBY COLON, "DAY OF DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION"

Bobby Colon, from the office of legal affairs, presented the proposal for a records retention policy. The policy is meant to address the problem of the large volume of records generated by the institute. The new policy, called the Records Management Policy, defines a schedule for the retention of documents. The minimum retention lasts two years. Unless otherwise noted, documents may be destroyed after six years, which corresponds with the statute of limitations for a breach of contract case. "We've called for the creation of a document destruction day," said Colon. This is designed to encourage full compliance with the policy. Faculty will be required to destroy student grades and exams after two years.

### WOLF DEMANDS GOALS

As part of an executive branch shakeup of the senate, senators and representatives were called to create long-term tangible goals for themselves. •

## RIT FORECAST

compiled by Alecia Crawford

### SAT 07

#### INTERNATIONAL IDOL

Ingle Auditorium. 9 p.m. Experience the different cultures from the clubs under Global Union's international umbrella. Cost: \$2.

### SUN 08

#### WOMEN'S HOCKEY VS. MIDDLEBURY

Frank Ritter Ice Rink. 2 p.m. Men's hockey isn't the only hockey team pulling in wins. Our women's team is holding their own as well! Cost: Free.

### MON 09

#### MARAH WITH THE GIFTED CHILDREN AND THE 1904

Bug Jar, 219 Monroe Ave. 8 p.m. Discover new alternative rock artists like Marah, a band that actually sounds good on a YouTube video. 18+: \$10, 21+: \$8.

### TUE 10

#### MARGARET'S HOUSE BAKE SALE

SAU Lobby, Table 2. 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Ever see those adorable kids walking around campus, smiling and getting their daily exercise? Bring some cash on this day, because the money is for them. Cost: Varies.

### WED 11

#### GRADUATION FAIR

SAU Lobby. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Whether you're planning on graduating soon or would like to amend your 10 year plan, it's always smart to check out your options. Cost: Free.

### THU 12

#### RIT BASKETBALL VS. ST. JOHN FISHER

Clark Gym. 6 - 10 p.m. What better way to get pumped up on a Thursday night than watching RIT basketball? Cost: Free.

### FRI 13

#### STUDENT BLOOD DRIVE

Clark Gym. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Get free sweets and save up to three lives at the same time. Cost: A pint of blood.



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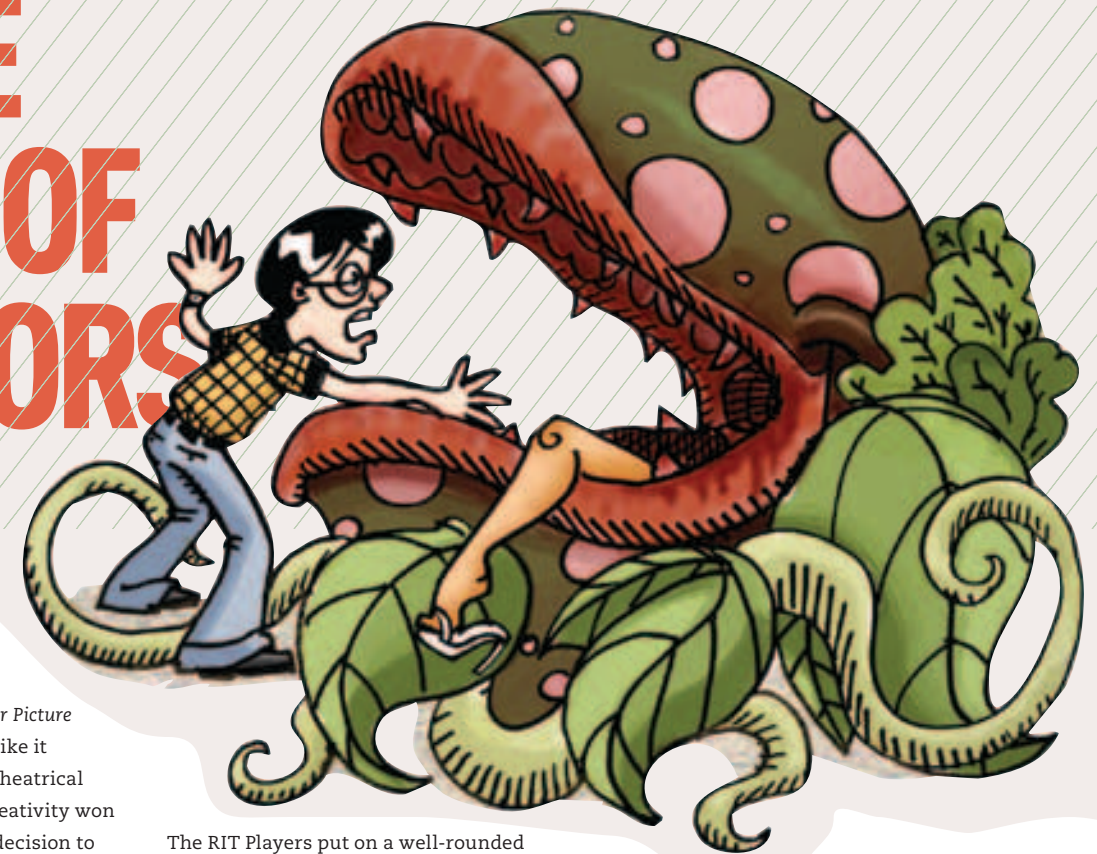
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# LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

by Stephen Lejeda!  
illustration by Joanna Eberts



After the recent mini-crisis concerning RIT's decision to ban future showings of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* every Halloween, it seemed like it was the end of relatively obscure theatrical showings on campus. However, creativity won out with the school's subsequent decision to approve the founding of a club made for the sole purpose of showing the movie yearly. Had things been worse in this predicament, we probably wouldn't have gotten a play as off-kilter as *Little Shop of Horrors* from the RIT Players.

*Little Shop of Horrors*, a show that has its roots off Broadway, follows the saga of Seymour, a geeky plant enthusiast, who works with Audrey, a girl who he secretly loves, and his boss, Mr. Mushnik, owner of an unsuccessful plant shop in the absolutely worst part of town. Mushnik is on the verge of closing for good when Seymour decides to display a mysterious plant that he found after an eclipse in the store's window.

The sheer uniqueness of the plant (lovingly called Audrey II) starts to reel in some actual customers, until Seymour discovers that it will die unless fed human blood. He feeds it some of his own, causing it to grow to massive proportions and be able to speak. Audrey II then brokers a deal: As long as Seymour brings him fresh human cadavers to feed on regularly, the plant will deliver massive success and wealth his way. Seymour, fueled by the desire for a secure future with Audrey, naively obliges, and Audrey II gets bigger and bigger, eventually consuming Seymour himself and spreading seeds to create man-eating plants all over the world.

The RIT Players put on a well-rounded rendition. Anyone who has seen the Ingle Auditorium stage knows how small it seems — more so when a large backdrop screen populates the stage for around half of the performance — but the show's scenery was set up to efficiently fit all essential elements on the stage at once. The pit crew was nestled behind the building cutout used to represent Mushnik's flower shop. A dentist office, only used for a wonderfully murderous five minutes, consisted of only a dentist's chair nestled to the very left of the stage. It was simple, but it was efficient and it worked.

Speaking of props, some obvious credit has to go to the Audrey II puppet that "grows" as Seymour feeds it flesh. The plant is animated easily enough at the beginning, using just one hand, but eventually it swells into requiring an entire person to be inside the costume, all the while lip-synching to his offstage voice actor. All in all, the plant puppet had vivid movements, thanks to some good puppetry and a wicked laugh to boot.

No matter how clever the stage setup is, or how smoothly a puppet is handled, it is always the actors who bring a show together and the cast on hand here certainly had no trouble with that. I simply can't write this up without mentioning leading man Matt Liptak, a second year Fine Art Photography major and his delightfully dorky rendition of Seymour.

With the fashion sense of Clark Kent and the voice and reflexes of Neil Goldman (from *Family Guy*), Liptak truly portrayed Seymour as the epic geek that he was. Another cast member that stood out was Rick Thomas, a fourth year Software Engineering major, as Audrey's dentist-biker-boyfriend, Orin Scrivello (D.D.S.), acting deliciously sadistic in the role. However, the most memorable would have to be Andrea Juback, a third year Marketing major, as Audrey, who put just the right amount of peppiness into her voice to make the character consistently likable throughout.

The few flaws were mostly technical snags; most glaringly, the microphones on some characters sounded broken or even shot completely. There was also a situation where the background screen got stuck while being lowered, but that was fixed quickly. Lastly, the plot only seemed to build up some real steam in the second act, but once it got going the audience was hooked and it didn't matter what had come before.

In closing, the RIT Players version of *Little Shop of Horrors* was well-acted, nicely staged, and pretty memorable in many ways, especially when it comes to the plot and songs. Overall, it was a nice experience that could leave a positive impression on anyone, theater aficionado or not. •



## BALDERDASH

by Michael Barbato

**RATING:**  
DIG IT

### Your word is "snoogar."

- a A snoogar is a belt hook for an English boot.
- b To snoogar is to glare at someone.
- c A snoogar is a move in the game of marbles.
- d The spines on plant burrs are called snoogars.

If Cranium and Apples to Apples had a less silly and more strategic love child, it would be Balderdash.

The gameplay is straight forward, but, like Apples to Apples, it can get a little wacky. There are player tokens and a simple game board of 27 linear spaces. The objective is to get your piece to the end the fastest.

The reader, who functions much like the judge in Apples, selects a single category from a card. The choices may read: "Complete the sentence for this odd unknown law," "What does this abbreviation stand for?" "Tell me what the movie is about that belongs to this given title," "What is the definition of this seldom heard word?" or "Why is this person famous?" Each player submits his or her answer to the reader. The best answers are the ones that would be the most believable to your playmates. The reader also writes down the correct answer or definition and reads it along with the players' responses.

After hearing all of the responses, players vote on which answer each thinks is the correct one. Points are given out based on the votes.

There are a few variations in the game to accommodate for fast or slow play. The only pitfall is when one person consistently gets most of the votes and ends the game too rapidly. The great thing is there can be as many players as you want, and there is no limit to the creativity a player can put into their answer; the responses are always new. And, just for the record, snoogar is actually "c."

**Maker:** Mattel Games

**Production Year:** 2004

**Retail:** \$34

## CHOPPED

by Janis Connor

**RATING:**  
SKIP IT

What do you get when you combine Ted Allen, four up-and-coming chefs and what seems to be a knock off of *Top Chef*? Food Network's new television series, *Chopped*.

The series, which premiered on January 13, challenges these four chefs to turn a selection of everyday ingredients into an extraordinary three-course meal. After each course, a contestant gets "chopped" until the last man or

woman left standing claims victory. Each week, a rotating panel of culinary elite judges (including Alex Guarnaschelli, Aaron Sanchez and Geoffrey Zakarian) decide whose dishes shine the brightest and award the winner \$10,000.

It is hosted by Ted Allen (*Food Detectives*, *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*), and seems to be just another typical food competition. The contestants were generally amateurish: take Katie Rosenhouse, a 21 year old pastry chef, Summer Kriegshauser, a vegan and vegetarian private chef, Sandy Davis, a chef at the Union Theological Seminary, and Perry Pollaci, a line cook from Bar Blanc — who was totally robbed of the win.

The show doesn't attempt to add a twist to differentiate itself from any other cooking competition. Allen claimed in an article entitled "Eat Me Daily," that the show "has actually been percolating at Food Network for a few years."

He claimed that "just because there are already 37 cooking competition shows on TV doesn't mean there are enough of them on Tuesday," but later on dropped some criticism on Bravo and *Top Chef*.

Despite the predictability of the show and the redundant synopsis, there is credit to be given. There is no product placement, so you never see passionate lovers of good food being forced to use packaged convenience junk thanks to Kraft or Altria or even Exxon's sponsorship.

If you're bored on a Tuesday night and have no desire to study or do homework, stay clear of the Food Network. This show will most likely have no effect on you whatsoever, except perhaps make you hungry and in need of finding a fourth meal. And as a side note to Allen: Own up to it, host the show, cash your paycheck and move on. •

## STREAM OF FACTS

In 1699, British bookseller Jacob Tonson founded a political group known as the Kit-Kat Club, bent on the forwarding of Whig objectives. The group would carry out their meetings in the same restaurant at which Sherlock Holmes dined in Arthur Conan Doyle's stories. The location, now the spot of a restaurant known as **SIMPSON'S**-in-the-Strand, also housed such patrons as Charles Dickens and William Gladstone.

To celebrate The **SIMPSONS** Movie DVD release in Australia, Donut King, Australia's version of Dunkin' Donuts, crafted a giant size version of the tasty pastry that Homer is munching down on in the poster. The six meter wide doughnut took 40 workers over nine hours and 90,000 doughnuts (all of which were donated to charity) to construct, and ended up having a weight equivalent to two **RHINOCEROSSES**.

Despite their intimidating look, **RHINOCER-**

**OSSES** are quite easy to hunt because of their lack of any natural predators. Prized for their unique horn that is used in traditional Asian medicine and ornamental carvings, the animals can easily be ambushed on their routine trips to water holes. To prevent extinction in the early '90s, many were translocated to a **CRASH**, or group of rhinos, that live in protected, fenced sanctuaries.

The '80s rock band **CRASH**, which took its name from the 1973 novel of the same name, is one example of how new wave science fiction author J.G. Ballard has influenced popular British music. His story "The Sound-Sweep" was the inspiration for the hit song "VIDEO Killed the Radio Star."

The **VIDEO** content of a commercial advertisement for PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) was deemed too inappropriate to run during last week's airing of the Super Bowl.

With the slogan "Vegetarians have better sex," the commercial was determined that sex sells and features a number of models getting unusually friendly with their produce. It is a follow-up to their "I'd rather go naked than wear **FUR**" campaign.

The 2006 film, **FUR: An Imaginary Portrait of Diane Arbus** featured a scene where unorthodox photographer Arbus (Nicole Kidman) shaved a fur-covered Lionel Sweeney (Robert Downey, Jr.). Though the script was based loosely on the events of Arbus' life, many of the people involved in the production were strongly connected to the characters in the story. Downey, Jr.'s father made a film, *Greaser's Palace*, starring Arbus' ex-husband Allan, and director Steven Shainberg's uncle was a close friend of Arbus herself.

## REPORTER RECOMMENDS

"The House in Hydesville." Currently playing at the Geva Theatre, it's a play based on a famous story about the Fox sisters, who have come to be known as celebrities of the Spiritualist movement due to mysterious rapping in the

walls of their home in Hydesville, New York. This is the last weekend Geva will be running the world premiere of this show. \$5 discounts are available to full-time students in certain seating arrangements on Friday and Saturday

performances as well as all day on Sunday. Check it out, have a taste of the area's history, and get your spook on.

## OVERSEEN AND OVERHEARD AT RIT

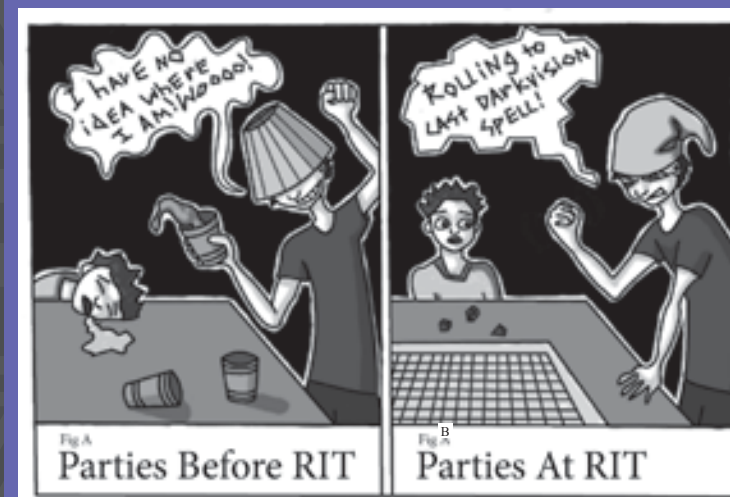
Slow-paced cross-country skier getting lapped by walking students on the Quarter Mile

## QUOTE

"GOVERNMENT IS LIKE A BABY. AN ALIMENTARY CANAL WITH A BIG APPETITE AT ONE END AND NO SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AT THE OTHER."

Ronald Reagan

## CARTOON by Michael Gasson and Katherine Lawter



## SUDOKU Difficulty Rating: Hard

								4
7					3			8
1	4	9	7	6				
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# Shy or Socially Anxious?

by Caitlin Shapiro | photograph by Eric Drummond

*Many can identify with having social anxieties, such as with public speaking or talking to that certain someone. For some, however, those apprehensions are intensified to the point where just hanging out with a roommate or chatting with an acquaintance before class can be a monumental task.*

Meet a fourth year Mechanical Engineering Technology major who suffers from Social Anxiety Disorder (SAD). His name is John White.\* For White, these social anxieties have infected multiple aspects of his life, including friends, family, school and, of course, women.

"I had this thing for a girl back in high school, but she was way out of my league," recalls White. "One time, in chemistry class, she asked me if I would go to her junior prom with her and suddenly I got really awkward, laughed in her face, and said, 'No.'" White has never spoken with the girl again, but admits that he still kicks himself for it.

These uncomfortable social feelings have been around ever since White could remember. "I was unaware of a lot of the cultural things that went into being a kid." Due to having to deal with family issues during his childhood, White turned inward for answers and found different hobbies at a young age because television wasn't allowed at home. "I took apart everything I could get my hands on," remembers White.

White described himself as an angry kid. "My brothers weren't old enough to be sympathetic and they did what any kid does: Made fun of things they didn't understand." Although his relationships with his brothers have improved as they've grown older, he thinks socializing with his family is sometimes harder than socializing with strangers. "I have a relatively awkward relationship with my mother and a pleasant but not necessarily honest relationship with my dad."

White recalls his parents taking him to psychologists, but the experience was never a success. "I saw a lot of shrinks when I was younger, but they didn't help because I felt as awkward around them as anyone else." The only person White recalls being influential in his social growth was his father. "He forced me to call and order the pizza. If I wanted

something like video games, I had to ask where they were located in the store, or I had to stand in the checkout line to buy them. If I wanted a straw when we went out to dinner, I needed to ask the waitress."

There are currently an estimated 19.2 million Americans with SAD. Jennifer Petro, a staff psychologist at the RIT Counseling Center, explains that a combination of therapy and medication is what most students usually rely on. However, there is a percentage of people who are against medicating themselves for valid reasons or may even be against speaking with someone. Petro informed that medication can help relieve the initial agitation so the root of the problem may be examined. She said, "Some don't go for help because it's still talking to a stranger."

Although Petro believes that self-help workbooks contain suggestions and exercises that will help, White does not agree. "When I think of an anxiety book, I think of the stereotype — the weak neurotic individual that clings to the idea that books will save them from themselves — and it generally makes me unwilling to read them."

Petro explains, "Sometimes when I describe some of the symptoms of social anxiety — like cold sweats, panic attacks and shaking — a lot of people who are suffering with this are like, 'Oh yeah! That's me.'" Another interfering side effect is "anticipatory" anxiety — the fear of a situation before it even happens — for days or weeks before the event. The person is aware of its irrationality, but cannot stop feeling anxious.

White confessed to one particularly embarrassing physical symptom that occurs during presentations: "Yep — I'm a nervous farter. I would get so nervous when I was younger that I would get gassy and fart, which was even worse than the actual situation." Although he's grown out of that, physical symptoms still taunt him. "Now I feel like I'm

going to vomit when I get up in front of a group of people."

SAD affects White most when it comes to group work. "I have difficulty getting in with groups that are more ambitious and confident, so I frequently end up with people who would rather not be in class or here [at RIT]. It sucks because I'm into the work but I don't seem like it just because of how I act."

Petro explained that a big misconception of social anxiety is that people seem to want to be left alone. "If you're always saying, 'No,' people misinterpret it as, 'That person doesn't like me,'" she explained. Fortunately, White was cut some slack when it came to his roommate situation. "My first roommate was as socially awkward as me; it was an enlightening experience," he laughed.

White didn't have many friends growing up until he joined his high school football team. When he arrived at RIT, he wasn't eager to join a club because the meetings were what he feared. He did, however, find one that he really wanted to join and he started to go out of his way to talk to people who were already involved in the club. "It was the first time I met people who were knowledgeable or more knowledgeable than me about things I liked." Both instances helped him become more confident. Although he used to feel that people went out of their way just because they felt sorry for him, he stuck with it and now feels that they include him because they want to.

When learning to cope with social anxiety, White believes that no one can really hold your hand throughout the process. "It's something you deal with. You don't say you can't control it or it does control you." He left with a piece of advice for those who may be suffering from social anxiety. "You're never going to be less alone unless you face your fears. You should find things that you don't want to do but that you know you should ... If you're scared of heights, climb a ladder. People gain confidence by facing fears, but you can't start with your biggest fear first."

Social anxiety can be very detrimental to someone's everyday life, and the disorder doesn't discriminate. Anyone can grow into the anxiety or grow out of it, but, no matter what, everyone has real potential to rise above it. "Give the strange guy or girl who sits in the corner a chance," says White. "They might be really interesting people."

*"The alias John White has been given to the interviewee to protect his privacy. •*



# Taking Perfectionism to the Next Level

by Chukwuma Morah | photograph by Steve Pfost

I believe my first encounter with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) was while watching *Desperate Housewives*. No, it wasn't that I couldn't leave my room without watching an episode; it was the behavior of the character Bree Van Der Kamp. In an attempt to rescue her marriage, she surprises her hubby with a little bedroom sadomasochism, which he happened to have a thing for. All goes according to plan until Bree insists on cleaning a burrito stain on the carpet during a certain climactic moment. This ruins the moment and, unfortunately, the marriage. But was that really OCD at work, or just Bree being a perfectionist?

## *Crying Over Spilt Crayons*

Upon first impression, Cruchelle Jordan is a relaxed, outgoing, first year Hospitality and Service Management major. Relaxed, that is, until you knock over a box of crayons in her presence. "My family was moving in between houses and my dad accidentally spilled crayons all over the place. I freaked out," she said. "I had to organize them by color. I've memorized exactly where all the crayons go and I won't let anyone else use them because I know they won't put them back in order."

Witnessing a messy room leaves her feeling dirty and obligated to clean it up, even when it's not her own. If she doesn't take care of the mess, the horrific image of rumpled clothes lying on the floor haunts her. Fortunately, Jordan has learned to live with her compulsive tendencies and they don't severely interfere with her life at RIT. Yet she has her own personal theory: "I feel that everyone has a little OCD in them, though. If they pay attention to exactly what they do during the day, they'll notice."

## *Big Mistake*

Heeding her words, I started to pay attention to my daily routine and noticed some oddities. Why must I always check if my bathroom door is locked twice instead of once? Why are my Firefox tabs always in the same exact order and why does it anger me when my roommates' aren't organized the same way? Why do I spend thirty minutes in iTunes making sure the artists "Jay-Z" and "Jay Z" don't simultaneously appear on my iPod? The more I thought about it, the more concerned I became.

Giana Gengo, a second year Civil Engineering Technology major, shares the same fear. Although she hasn't been diagnosed with OCD, she seems to have certain symptoms. "When I set my alarm clock at night, I have to check it five or six times because I'm so worried I won't wake up on time," she said. "It gets really annoying after a while and I keep asking myself 'Why am I doing this?'" Before leaving her apartment, she has to make sure her lights are off, her hairdryer is unplugged and that any potential threat to her computer is removed from her desk. Not performing any of these tasks puts her in an anxious state. On the plus side, she feels these symptoms keep her life rather organized. So then what sets Gengo and I apart from Jordan?

## *Let Your Conscience Be Your Guide*

OCD itself is believed to be related to low serotonin levels. When the proper flow of serotonin is blocked, a cascade of alarming messages are sent and the system as a whole overreacts. Instead of filtering out these thoughts and "danger messages," the brain is unable to distract itself from them. This traps people into incessant cycles of thoughts and routine behaviors.

In 1997, 1 in 50 adults had OCD. Just eight years later, it was the fourth most common mental disorder in the United States. With such boastful statistics, one might get to thinking they are a victim of the disorder, as well. Mark Miles, Director of Clinical Services at the RIT Counseling Center, believes many confuse having OCD with simply being conscientious.

"Conscientious people check things frequently, want to be on time, like being organized, and want to feel structured and in control," said Miles. "With OCD it's about binding anxiety." He suggested a few ways to differentiate between the two states of mind. Once the distinction is made, you'll be able to separate the real OCD victims from the paranoid.

## *Product Placement*

People suffering from OCD often need to have objects placed in a specific manner to feel comfortable. "When I was working in Memphis, we had an individual who would come in and straighten a picture in the office. One day, while we were talking, I went over to

the painting and made it cock-eyed. She could not contain herself; she had to get herself up and fix it. The conscientious person might let it go, but the person with OCD just can't," cited Miles.

Although I enjoy keeping things organized, my ever-growing laziness seems to have disrupted that paradigm. I've always alphabetized my video game collection but, unfortunately, my friends never shared my passion for having *Perfect Dark 64* to the left of *Power Rangers: The Video Game*. Over the years, I got tired of reorganizing them. Before I knew it, *Rock Band* and *Call of Duty* both lay scattered across my apartment in no particular order.

## *Once Just Isn't Enough*

Another difference is the mental pain associated with the disorder. "For someone with OCD, it can be excruciating. They recognize that they lose time having to go through meaningless rituals and that it interferes with them having productive exchanges. It gets time-consuming and draining," Miles added.

Finally, conscientious people are generally careful and check things often so they don't make mistakes. The conscientious person might check once or twice but the person with OCD will check or perform a ritual several times. "When you do the check, is there a sense of relief?" Miles asked. For me, yes. When I know my bathroom door is locked, I'm relieved since someone won't awkwardly walk in on me. "You see, checking provides a sense of relief for a conscientious person. The person with OCD doesn't feel that sense of relief. They know the ritual is silly but they still can't stop. It's almost as if the information feedback loop isn't working," explained Miles.

I may have escaped the fate of the constant inspections and unfulfilled relief, but others may not be as lucky. The greatest challenge of OCD is that its direct cause, whether biological or environmental, is still unknown. Patients have been known to respond to anxiety medications like Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors, but other treatment methods such as psychotherapy and psychosurgery are still being researched. •



# LIVING WITH ADHD

by Danielle Gotschall | photograph by Jeffrey Porter

**I**n our society, it's easier by far to admit you're an alcoholic than to admit you have a psychological disorder. You can remain anonymous in a support group or pull a Lohan and garner more attention than Bush's decision to send over 21,000 more troops into Iraq. You can say, "I have a drinking problem," and have some confidence that you won't be ostracized from society.

Try admitting you have a brain problem and see what happens. If your experience is anything like my own, your parents won't believe you, your friends will assume you lied your way to free pills, and your significant other will say, "Good. I like 'em crazy." Their reactions may seem harsh, but Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (or ADHD) can be misunderstood, if not humorous in a slapstick way.

Think of a bird attracted to and distracted by shiny objects. It's not far from the mark in describing the disorder. A more appropriate analogy would be to say the bird is attracted to shiny things within houses, and, if it's not careful, it's going to fly into a window. As it turns out, I'm not the brightest bird in the aviary; it took me 21 years of flying into windows before I had a stroke of genius and thought to ask someone to open them for me.

ADHD isn't something you contract. You can't "catch" it like you can the common cold. It is a chemical imbalance in a person's brain. My brain was chemically imbalanced my entire life and no one suspected a thing. My high grades and standardized test scores obfuscated my symptoms, the most infamous of which lead to the faulty assumption that those with ADHD have poor academic performance. This assumption is logical since hyperactivity, impulsivity and inability to focus can result in poor attentiveness in the classroom, but that isn't the only way those symptoms can manifest themselves.

Hyperactivity can be both mental and physical. When I was a child, I would often speak so quickly that my words were unintelligible from each other, earning me the nickname "Motor Mouth." As I grew older, I learned to control my speech, what I now know is a coping mechanism, and the hyperactivity translated itself into perpetually racing thoughts and constant motion — drumming my fingers, tapping my feet, writing reminders. Without constant motion, inattentiveness would take control and I would fall asleep.

Adderall is also used to treat narcolepsy (think *Deuce Bigalow*) and there may be a link between the two. If I watched a movie in a darkened room, I would fall asleep by the end of the opening credits. Inability to focus meant I would focus on key words in sentences (nouns) and ignore the rest (adjectives and the like). When I was a Finance major, I would hear or read "compute the value," but tried to discern whether that meant the present or the amortized value. The question would either be right through luck, wrong through inattentiveness, or I would simply have to waste time rereading the question.

The worst part was being impulsive; it was the point where the bird sees the shiny object and redirects its flight — right into a window. The bird makes an impulsive decision and acts accordingly without first considering the consequences. What kind of windows did I hit? To name just a few, I decided to attend Mount Holyoke College, an all-women's college, without visiting it first or considering that I prefer hanging out with guys to girls.

I switched my major from French to Italian to Anthropology to American Studies before transferring to RIT (a school chosen at random) because I wanted to study Civil Engineering. RIT, however, only offers Civil Engineering Technology, so I picked finance instead. When my advisor listed all the possible careers I could have in the field and I responded "No" to each one, he asked, "Why are you majoring in Finance?" He didn't find "Why not?" nearly as funny as I did.

Then I switched to Professional and Technical Communication until the Journalism program opened. Once I took a newswriting class, I realized that I hated it. To top it all off, my classes actually required studying, unlike those of high school. My straight A record was rapidly degenerating into Bs and a few Cs. I was at a loss as to what to do.

After twenty years of flying into windows, the epiphany that would lead to my eventual diagnosis still hadn't struck. Instead, another not so brilliant idea occurred to me: Why don't I just take some Adderall to help me with homework? I know I'm not alone in that decision. Dr. William Frankenger, a psychology professor, surveyed students at an unnamed midwestern university in 2004 and found that 14 percent admitted to taking Adderall or another ADHD medication as a performance-enhancing drug.

Taking Adderall did indeed enhance my performance; it elevated it to the realms of normality. I felt jipped at first. Wasn't I supposed to get superhuman powers and be able to write an 8-page research paper in just a couple of hours? Instead, it took me all night, but for once I didn't rush through it and hope it didn't reek of BS; I was actually able to put in some effort and make relevant points. I was actually proud of the result.

It wasn't until a year later, when I took Adderall before class, that it all clicked. Whereas I would normally doodle or whisper to a friend or take notes on everything — all in an effort to stay awake through the boredom — I was able to pay attention, and, more than that, I was able to learn. I was able to contribute to class discussion without blurting out the first thing that came to mind. I was able to ask relevant questions about the lecture, not my regular asinine ones. These were things I wanted to do in class every day, but couldn't. There was always a window, something I couldn't quite see but clearly in my way, preventing me from accomplishment. For years, I thought that was normal and that I just wasn't trying hard enough.

After that rather illuminating day in class, I still wasn't convinced that my problems just weren't some form of inherent laziness on my part, but I was finally ready to admit I had a problem. I went to the Counseling Center and, after telling my story to a psychologist, she only said "Wow, and no one ever diagnosed you?"

She sent me over to the University of Rochester. A psychiatrist and a psychologist there were doing a double-blind study on people that had ADHD. They gave me a full psychological battery of tests, including an IQ test and a series of electrical impulse tests, over a period of a few days that totaled more than twelve hours. Not until the very end did they give me a diagnosis: "Without a doubt, you have ADHD, Combined Type." In the world of ADHD, the disorder manifests itself into three types: Predominantly Inattentive Type, Predominantly Hyperactive-Impulsive Type, and Combined Type. Combined Type is a combination of both the former two types, meaning I am not just inattentive or just hyperactive and impulsive, I am inattentive, hyperactive *and* impulsive.

Diagnosis in hand, I went back to RIT and met with the Student Health Center's resident psychiatrist, Dr. Philip Lavine. I explained my trepidation regarding medication to him,

most of which concerned my own lack of faith in the medical community and the nature of Adderall itself. Adderall is an amphetamine and acts much like cocaine. For those without ADHD, it can lead to addiction, hallucinations, paranoia and amphetamine psychosis, which can show as OCD, schizophrenia or even delusional parasitosis, where a person believes oneself to be infested with parasites and picks at one's skin to the point of tearing it off. If my diagnosis was faulty, taking Adderall regularly could result in any of these things.

Dr. Lavine explained that my diagnosis was very intense, as I was given a full psychological evaluation that was extremely unlikely to be false. Furthermore, he said, people without ADHD become tolerant to the effects of the amphetamine and will need increasingly higher dosages to feel the effects of the stimulant. For people with ADHD, once the right type and dosage of medication is found, they very rarely need a dosage increase. So, by the off-chance that I had a false diagnosis, my need for increased dosages would be a tip-off.

I met with Dr. Lavine bi-weekly until we reached the correct diagnosis so he could monitor any side effects. At this point, I was nervous and spooked, but the potential to be "normal" was so appealing that I agreed. I began taking the lowest dosage of Vyvanse, a close cousin of Adderall, and witnessed immediate improvement. After the initial two weeks, we increased my dosage by 10 milligrams, and haven't needed to increase it in the five months since.

Taking medication doesn't mean my life is easy now. I still have no study skills since I have never studied before in my life and it takes a serious amount of time and effort to do so, but the point is that I *can* do so. I can choose which decisions I will make, versus rashly making them and hoping they were the right decisions. I can see the window in my path and, with some effort, open it myself.

For someone that does not have ADHD, I can understand why there is a temptation to say that some people use it as an excuse. It must seem like I, and many others, just aren't trying hard enough, because I'm

sure there are days when anyone has difficulty paying attention to lecture, but you can manage to do so with a little effort. I can't expect you to understand something that is neurologically outside of your reach. I can, however, ask you to recognize the dangers that abusing amphetamines like Adderall pose to both your physical and mental health and I can ask you to exercise caution if you continue to take these drugs.

For those of you that suspect you may have ADHD and it is not something you feel you can cope with on your own, seek help. The Counseling Center is fully equipped to deal with cases such as ours and they will direct you to the proper resources. Ignore the stigma that society may think you're crazy, because you aren't; your brain simply does not produce adequate levels of dopamine. That isn't crazy. Crazy would be those in society that assume that, just because they cannot experience something, it must not be true. I have a better term for it: Willful ignorance. •



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MEDICINE of THE HIGHEST ORDER

# DOMINATION



RIT's Matt Crowell (top), wins the puck over Canisius's Scott Moser (bottom), while on a breakaway on January 25's game at Buffalo State Ice Arena. RIT won the game 4-3.

**AN OVERSIZED** "special braille edition" of the Hockey Rule Book is one of the many signs the Corner Crew brings to ice hockey games. Some signs are used to make the referees feel inferior, while others are for degrading the other team, but the most important ones are encouraging for our team. Tiger fans play an important role in the success of the men's and women's ice hockey teams.

RIT hockey is taking the ice by storm, both with winning records and long unbeaten streaks in their seasons. With excellent success at home for both teams, fans have shared in the exceptional talent of the Tigers. The women's team is young (full of second year leaders), while the men's team has a little more experience, with fourth years filling up an important part of the roster.

**12**  
GAME WINING STREAK  
WOMEN'S HOCKEY

**THE WOMEN'S** 12-game streak ended with their first loss at home to number one seed in the Eastern College Athletic Conference, West SUNY Plattsburgh, making their overall record 13-2-2. The night before had resulted in a dramatic win for the women when they beat Plattsburgh 2-1 in overtime. Fourth year Psychology major Keltie Jones took a slap shot from the point to make the winning goal three minutes into overtime. The 1,133 fans — a record attendance for women's hockey games at home — surely played a huge role in supporting their team.

Women's ice hockey action returns to the Ritter Ice Rink on February 7 at 2 p.m. for the only time they have faced Amherst College. Amherst lost to Plattsburgh 3-1 in January, so the competition should be tight, but if RIT comes out flying, then they should be able to leave with a win.

**AFTER A** rough start to the season, the RIT men's hockey team has found their niche groove and is currently skating on an 11-game streak. Their overall record is 16-9-1, taking advantage of their home ice and fans with a record of 9-3.

The men's team ended January's regular season undefeated with a comeback win in Buffalo against Canisius College. Over 400 RIT fans supported their team as the Tigers were still

**11+**  
GAME WINING STREAK  
MEN'S HOCKEY

The men face off tonight, February 6, at 7:05 p.m. against Sacred Heart in the Ritter Ice Rink. The last time the teams competed was in October in Connecticut, where RIT lost one and tied one. Now, go out to the ice rink and cheer on your Tigers as they skate to tournament play in the last month of regular season play! •

BY  
KAYLA KIMBALL

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
EVAN WITEK

REPORTER

now getting 1  
8 page  
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### It's another Rochester winter:

Time to move back indoors and stick to playing basketball, badminton and racquetball in the warm gym. It's also time to meander about the tunnels of campus and avoid as much outside activity as possible. So, unless you're a *World of Warcraft* android, you may want to venture into the outdoors and hit the slopes with the RIT Alpine Ski and Snowboarding Club. Greg Longabucco, a third year Packaging Science major and president of the skiing division of the club, tells us more.

# RIT ALPINE SKI AND SNOWBOARDING CLUB

**REPORTER:** We were hoping you could let the RIT community know what your club is like. We know it's a skiing and snowboarding club, but could you please give us more insight?  
**GREG LONGABUCCO:** The ski team and snowboard team generally work separately. The ski team goes to Swain [Ski Resort] to ski and snowboard on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. The race team trains slalom [SL] and giant slalom [GS], while the club just enjoys the slopes. We all have a good time and find fun things to do, whether it's watching someone fall hard and eat it or just cracking jokes on the lift. It's a good time.

**R:** Does the team compete or is it a "just for fun" thing?  
**GL:** Both. As I said, there is a team within the club that competes. The team is part of the United States Collegiate Ski Association (USCSA). The race team meets on the weekend for our races. We spend the nights in Cortland at the "Castle" (a.k.a. Econo Lodge). Saturday mornings consist of racing at one of the six ski slopes we compete at including Bristol, Swain, Labrador, Toggenburg, Song and Greek Peak. The races end around 2 p.m. and we have the rest of the day off to do homework back at the hotel ... or just crash on the beds and watch TV. Then we race again on Sunday and head for home. So, even though we compete and want to win, we know how to have fun doing it.

**R:** Are there any noteworthy skiers or snowboarders who are or were ever nationally ranked in competition?  
**GL:** The team has a diverse group of racers. Half have raced in USSA [United States Ski and Snowboard Association] and high school, and others have only just started. The men's team last year went to regionals, competing against the top teams on the east coast ... [third year Mechanical Engineering major] William Dwyer of the snowboarding division of the club was ranked first in the nation last year and finished fourth at nationals for boarder cross. There were also three other riders who went to nationals this past year.

**R:** Where do you ski or board?  
**GL:** [At Swain mountain], we train gates in SL and GS with the Swain coaches. The recreational skiers and snowboarders tear it up around the mountain or go big in the park. Some are taking private lessons with the instructors to improve their skills on the slopes. We choose Swain because the mountain is never packed, allowing us to take a lot of runs at night, and the cost is much cheaper.

**R:** How can someone join the club if they are interested?  
**GL:** We're approaching the final days of our season this year and, as such, there isn't really much opportunity for participation the remainder of this semester. After we return from break, the club will be partaking in the Year of the Club promotion on March 9 in the SAU. Please feel free to stop by our table for more information. Throughout the fall we have informational meetings and at the start of winter quarter anyone that wishes to join is more than welcome. The information sessions are posted on our website as well as our Facebook group.

**R:** When does the club go to the slopes?  
**GL:** The club travels to Swain Mountain every Tuesday and Wednesday night during the winter. The competition teams within the club race and compete at different mountains on the weekends.

**R:** How many members about does the club have?  
**GL:** We currently have 20 Skiers and 25 Snowboarders who participate in our activities.

**R:** Is there anything in particular that the people of RIT should know about the club?  
**GL:** The club is organized into three sections: the Ski Team, Snowboard [SB] Team and the recreational Ski/SB club. We are an RIT-recognized club sport and, as such, participation in any of our divisions grants a wellness credit. •

For more information on RIT's Alpine Ski and Snowboarding club, visit <http://rit.edu/alpine>.

BY  
THOMAS MITTNER

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
EVAN WITEK



RIT's Bradley Ling finishes the downhill giant slalom during the University of Rochester - Bristol Invitational on Saturday, January 31. Bradley placed 18th with a time of 1:00.67.

**FIND SOMETHING COOL?** Slide it under the door of the Reporter office, along with a note about where you found it. We're located in the basement of the SAU, room A-426.

# ARTIFACTS

Objects found in a dorm room. Photograph by David Chow.



## who needs school spirit?

by Evan Stark  
illustration by Robin Miskiewicz



If Student Government is the student body's brain, and our drive to succeed in our education is our heart, school spirit is our appendix. Underused by most, unappreciated by many more, it has been evolved out by years of apathy. Wikipedia's definition, "The emotional support for one's educational institution" is sparse description at best. However, this definition serves very well for RIT's situation, because what we lack is that: emotional support for the institution.

Like the vestigial appendix, we no longer need our spirit to accompany us in our academic career. At one point, our student body may have relied on it for cohesiveness within the community and for enjoying ourselves on a weekly basis. Now we're satisfied with being remote people, with a lack of a general community, with complaining about the dearth of activities on campus. We've clearly outgrown our school spirit.

When is the last time you've seen a physical manifestation of school spirit — maybe the '50s? We read about basketball teams playing home games with half-full gymnasiums, presidents passing through half-times unscathed by the orange hand of

an enthusiastic fan, and lacrosse sidelines being spottily attended. I don't take head counts on Brown Shirt Fridays, but I certainly have never seen any chocolate avalanches moving down the Quarter Mile. This past week was apparently Spirit Week, but I'm not even sure about that — I only heard about it from someone else and couldn't find it anywhere on the RIT domain. Did you know we hosted the Empire 8 Indoor Track Championships this past Sunday? Yeah, me either...

Honestly, school spirit just amounts to a bunch of work and a chunk of your time. Hockey games can get expensive after so many — never mind the away games. And you can't wear anything brown with those purple pumps in Friday's calculus class to impress that hottie who sits near you. You've had that Friday set aside for your movie night or a *World of Warcraft* raid or dinner date for two weeks now. There are only so many weekends in a quarter, so why should you spend them in drafty auditoriums and cold ice rinks? It's really their fault for planning their matches during your free time.

Wait, free time? I'm sorry, I misspoke. This is an academic institution of higher

learning. Taking place here is the most important task of education. We must keep our priorities straight. At the prices most of us pay, how can we afford to do anything else? Obviously all those bigger, more athletic schools must have easier curricula, less academically-minded student bodies, or students who are less interested in reaping the benefits of a proper, pristine education.

What good does school spirit do anyone anyways? It does you, the audience, no good but to take up your time. Sure, it helps the team to have a feeling of support and home field advantage. But who really sees the benefits of a functional team? Who looks better with a well-performing sports team supported by an active student body? The University. The Man. The establishment who's getting us down on a regular basis. The institution that created these teams in the first place just to garner more students and more press. And who would want to be seen openly supporting his or her university? Not very many here do. •

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

# RIT RINGS

## 585.672.4840

compiled by Neil DeMoney

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

SATURDAY, 12:15 A.M.

*I just tried a Pounce Caribbean Catch for cats. Don't eat it. They made me puke, but they are shaped like fish so that's cool.*

WEDNESDAY, 10:37 P.M.

*Just to let you know, we're going streaking Friday night. So we thought you might like to come along. It's going to be freakin' cold and freakin' awesome. Catch ya later.*

TUESDAY, 12:49 P.M.

Alright, I'm calling because I'm really pissed. *Reporter* really needs to get its head out of [their bum] saying that Mr. Shoes has the best plate in town. Steve T Hots and Potatoes obviously has the best plate. You guys really need to redo the article. I'm so pissed.

WEDNESDAY, 6:08 A.M.

It's 6:08 in the morning and I'm trying to register for my classes, but RIT is [potty mouth] retarded and decided to get rid of the phone system. Usually I'm done by 6:01, but now I have to sit here and wait because RIT is so [more potty mouth.]

MONDAY, 11:10 P.M.

**It's nice that you guys did an article on night clubs and everything, but I noticed at the end here you mentioned Club Liquid as an honorable mention. What the [ultimate act of love]? Have you even been to Club Liquid? It is only the best club in town. Apparently you haven't, or else you'd know what I'm talking about.**

WEDNESDAY, 7:11 A.M.

Hey Rings, Commons delivery guy. Just wanted to make a comment: When somebody is risking life and limb just to deliver you twelve dollars of food you should probably tip them. Because these ungrateful people are just mean.

WEDNESDAY, 4:31 P.M.

Ok Rings, for the last time — stop killing me on *World of Warcraft*. I know that you are that level 80 Orc Hunter that keeps following me and killing me. Stop it now.

SUNDAY, 9:03 P.M.

I have a problem. What the [sweet bejesus], once again there is no Sudoku. What the hell am I supposed to do in my 8 a.m. Organic class? Seriously, my teacher is as boring as [starfish]. The Sudoku is the only thing that helps me survive through the morning.

SUNDAY, 1:35 A.M.

**Hey Rings, it's [Tina] and I'm about to get kicked out for drinking and I'm drunk right now but I really don't want to go. Please, Rings, save me.**

SUNDAY, 1:36 A.M.

*Alright, RIT Rings, my friend is about to get kicked out of this school for drinking. I think that's [BS], because she is about the sweetest girl ever. Please help us help her stay. Thanks.*



## SCHOLARSHIPS



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