

REPORTER

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EDITORIAL

Dude, you got a 2400 on your SAT? Damn.

The first draft of this editorial...was crap. The first draft of last week's editorial was even worse. When I sit down to write something, I should really expect nothing but ideas hidden amongst heaps of verbose garbage. The ideas ARE there, though. They just need to be coaxed out through the process of revision. It's all about the editing skillz. So when I hear that I only have 25 minutes to execute a well-organized essay around a specific topic, I cringe.

This year, high school students with eyes for college are cringing in a similar manner because 25 minutes is all they have to complete the new essay portion of the SAT. That's only 1500 seconds in which to read the question, decide on a position, come up with the support for that position, and coherently express all of it in longhand. Piece of cake. Oh yeah...and maybe English isn't your native language. "Crap." Crap is what will be on the page for the average test-taker.

Mister Admissions Man would have to be crazy to think that this accurately portrays how a person will succeed in college. But the College Board has already been taking flak for years about inherent biases against test takers from minority and/or public school backgrounds. Students from these "underprivileged" groups are in classes where teachers have overloaded schedules. These teachers are barred from even thinking about giving out a good dose of writing assignments or giving one-on-one attention to students who need help with their writing skills. As Bruce J. Poch, Dean of Admissions at Pomona College, puts it, "writing is an acquired skill." Students need to have the opportunity to acquire it. For many budding scholars, that opportunity is college. That is why courses such as Writing and Literature I and II exist. However, they need to get to college first. The new SAT doesn't seem to be helping that.

The new format isn't totally condemning, though. One thing that has disappeared from the test this year is those annoying analogies—Indefatigable colon Tireless colon colon Hypnogogic colon Soporific. Those seemingly arbitrary and ridiculous exercises in vocabulary often honored rote memorization of definitions, leaving students lacking such skills or exposure screwed. I mean, just because I can't use "soporific" in a sentence does not mean I will fair poorly in college; it just means that now you won't find that in my essay. This could be considered a positive change, considering the inability of funky analogies to properly assess college success.

But overall, it is a zero sum gain. In an effort to curtail criticism for a few years, the College Board has just swapped out one archaic evil (the analogies) for a new shiny one (the essay). The end result is a longer, crazier, and more expensive standardized test. I remember the sweaty palms and raw tailbone from test day—now students will probably require physical therapy after the monstrous FOUR hours are over. Plus, parents will be gouged, even before tuition payments, with a 41 percent fee increase to offset the grading requirements for the new exam. At least now a couple of elite, well-prepped kids can boast that they got a kickass-sounding 2400 on their SAT.

I really don't know who is benefiting from the changes. As of now, the only group sitting prettier seems to be the College Board.



Erhardt Graeff
Editor in Chief

REPORTER

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Erhardt Graeff

ART DIRECTOR

Joseph Guzman

SENIOR EDITORS

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PHOTO EDITOR

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FEATURES EDITOR

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Mike Eppolito

ONLINE EDITOR

Sean Hannan

WRITERS

Andrew Bigelow, Andrew Brooks, Frances Cabrera, Casey Dehlinger, Monica Donovan, Brian Garrison, Jodi Goldenberg, Erhardt Graeff, Sean Hannan, Nathan Liebold, José Plaza, Govind Ramabadrán, Josh Van Hook

STAFF DESIGNERS

Tricia Chin, Jonathan Rivera, Lauren Dellaquila

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jacob Hannah, Eric Suvar, Thomas Starkweather, Kim Weiselberg

STAFF ILLUSTRATOR

William Robinson

CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATORS

Rachel Gottesman, Michael Norton

ADVISOR

Rudy Pugliese

PRINTING

Printing Applications Lab

DISTRIBUTION

Justin Harsch, Joseph Guzman

CONTACT

MAIN 585.475.2212

reporter@rit.edu

ADVERTISING 585.475.2213

reporterads@mail.rit.edu

DESIGN 585.475.2212

rdesign@rit.edu



Brian Andrew prepares for his video installation titled, "Supermarket Diaries" in the Web Press Room in Building 7 on February 19. Thomas Starkweather/REPORTER Magazine

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Cover photograph by Thomas Starkweather

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FYE for Credit?

First Year Enrichment Now An Accredited Class

by Josh Van Hook

The First Year Enrichment program has been a part of RIT since 2000. It was first created in response to a series of student suicides as a way to prevent further tragedy. The design of the course has been changed greatly, now focusing on retention and success rates. The twenty-week course is required for all entering freshman. This hour long class covers issues like time management, money management, and overall wellness. Students must also meet personally with their instructor at least once per quarter for "coaching appointments." The class also seeks to help curb RIT's rate of attrition, as a personal connection with a member of the RIT staff/faculty is believed to be one of the largest factors that gets a student to stick around for graduation.

While FYE takes up one hour per week, it is currently a zero credit course. Like other wellness courses, it is pass/fail and failure can impede graduation. For a couple years, the idea of turning FYE into a credited course has been put forth by Dr. Mary-Beth Cooper, Vice-President of Student Affairs and Dr. Katherine Mayberry, Vice-President of Academic Affairs. The issue went before Student Government's Senate as well as the Academic Senate and was passed by the Academic Senate by a vote of six to four back on February 3. This led to the March 9 proposal to the Intercollege Curriculum Committee, where it was also passed. Then, on March 10, Dr. Cooper gave a presentation about the issue in front of the Academic Senate, which was followed by a vote that finalized the decision and accredited FYE.

The accreditation of FYE changes the program slightly. However, the meeting time will still be the same: one hour per week for two quarters. After these quarters, two credits will be awarded. Since all first-year students are required to take FYE, the credit assigned will only be institute credit, meaning it would not affect the students' specific graduation requirements. The lessons and assignments will be more integrated with each college. The individual colleges will also have a liaison with the FYE department that will help structure the curriculum to students in that area. The primary goal of the accreditation of the program is to bring gravity to the FYE program. The staff feels that the material is important, and they want the program to be considered important.

FYE operates similarly to traditional classes. Students are assigned homework just like other classes, there is work to be done, and it looks and sounds like a

credited class, so people like Dr. Cooper agree that it should be one. Also, the workload and time commitment is similar to that of any one credit per quarter course. Plain and simple, as Dr. Cooper said, "It's a course." Many students feel it should be accredited as well. They feel they deserve the credit for the work and time they invest in FYE. The course will also be monitored in order to evaluate its effectiveness, content, and workload.

While there are some clear benefits to giving the course credit, some members of the RIT community are still leery of the proposed changes. Dr. Bowman, head of the Electrical Engineering department said that faculty members are "Always supportive of programs that help the students at RIT," but there are still some questions about the recent accreditation. Concerns mainly focus on the comparison to regular courses, timing, resource allocation, and evidence are floating around. One of the main issues with this proposal deals with how FYE would compare to regular classes. Does meeting for one hour per week for two quarters really warrant half of the credit as a regular four-hour per week class? Secondly, some colleges around campus are lowering their number of required classes. Adding two credits to the overall workload seems to go against motivations of individual programs. Other questions are raised about resource allocation. Potential shifts in budget always raise an issue with new programs. If a liaison were to be appointed to help out with the curriculum, would that take time away from faculties' work in their college? Finally, the lack of evidence that the credits ascribed to FYE will actually do anything presents a problem. The goal of the accreditation of the program is "credibility" as Dr. Bowman put it. To determine the actual outcome of this change, faculty and staff will have to wait for the fall sections of the course to begin. •

Early Morning Gunfire at UC

by Erhardt Graeff

A single gunshot rang out in the early hours of Sunday, March 13 near University Commons apartments 7 and 8. An unidentified person pulled a pistol from their pants, shot into the air, and then re-secured the weapon. The perpetrator then fled the scene. No one was hurt.

When Monroe County Sheriff's deputies arrived, they questioned four students and instructed them to remove their hands from their pockets. One student refused to comply and was arrested for Obstructing Governmental Administration. No weapon was found on the individual.

According to New York Penal Code: "A person is guilty of obstructing governmental administration when he intentionally obstructs, impairs or perverts the administration of law or other governmental function or prevents or attempts to prevent a public servant from performing an official function..." It is a class A misdemeanor.

At the time of publication, RIT Campus Safety and Monroe County Sheriff's Office are still investigating the incident. •

Members of the French Club, Julien Hass (left), Suzannah Ferraioli, Ramadji Doumnande and Miguel Gonzalez, sit around a table at Java Wally's to talk things out in French. The club meets every Tuesday from 6:30–8:00 p.m. at Java's. Jacob Hannah/REPORTER Magazine



Conversation Hours:

French Speakers Say “Ce qui?”
While the **Spanish** Say “¿Que?”

by Andrew Brooks

French Conversation Hour draws students to Java Wally's every Tuesday not merely to talk, but to do so in another language. With a casual, coffee-scented atmosphere, Java Wally's is the spot where French speakers sand off some of the rusty spots in their minds where foreign language skills in both vocabulary and pronunciation have started to atrophy. The club's founder, Ramadji Doumnande, is a native of the French-speaking nation of Chad, and earned the Fulbright award to further his education in America. He started his scholastic journey at Indiana University so that he could become proficient in English. Missing his native African country where little to no English was spoken, Ramadji felt that such a step was necessary to start a successful learning experience in the United States.

Ramadji missed using his native language and wanted to meet with others to continue speaking while at the same time giving others the opportunity to learn to speak French, so he began the French Conversation Hour at Indiana University. The turnout was encouraging, making him glad that he had started the club. He finished his studies of English at IU and became worried that his club might not hold together after he left. However, after arriving at RIT in 2002 for his graduate studies he learned from his friends that the club continued and even grew larger. This inspired Ramadji to start a club here at RIT, with the philosophy that, “knowing language is the key to today's world for communication among each

others' cultures.” Ramadji's true goal was to start, “building bridges of understanding.” Starting French Conversation Hour is not the only way he helps spread cultural understanding; he has also started two websites that are intended to help spread information about what is going on in Africa, since he feels that it isn't represented enough in the American media.

The success of French Conversation Hour has inspired Luke Stodola to create Spanish Conversation Hour, which is starting up on Thursday nights at Java Wally's. Wanting to share cultural experiences with those from Spanish speaking countries, Luke is equally willing to teach newcomers, including Ramadji, who has helped the club gain some momentum. New members are always welcome, though. “People can come if they don't have much experience or haven't done it in a while,” says Luke. He is a member of both clubs and, like Ramadji, wanted to get more usage out of a language he has not recently had the opportunity to speak.

Both clubs are members of the Society of European Affairs and meet weekly from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. •

An Age-Old Conflict Arises Once Again

controversy over gannett lecture

by **Monica Donovan**

Few political and social issues in the past decade have been argued as intensely as the Israeli-Arab conflict. Recently, though, a series of events sparked a heated debate from several student organizations on campus. RIT has invited two highly controversial figures to speak on their respective platforms for the Gannett Lecture Series. The first, lecturing next week on March 24 at Webb Auditorium from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., is Ali A. Mazrui, director of the Institute of Global Cultural Studies at Binghamton University and a board member of the Association of Muslim Social Services. The second, coming on April 14, same time, same place, is Daniel Pipes, a pro-Israel Middle East expert on the board of the United States Institute of Peace and director of the Middle East Forum.

The announcement of Pipes' upcoming lecture caused an immediate uproar from campus groups such as RIT Anti-War and the Muslim Students Association (MSA). RIT Anti-War put up posters on campus protesting Pipes' speech and challenged the faculty's lecturer choices on "Ask Al Simone," an area of the Office of the President website where students are encouraged to bring complaints and questions. An anonymous student wrote on December 21, "Daniel Pipes is an individual who makes broad stereotypical generalizations about people of the Muslim faith, such as '15% of Muslims are terrorists,' as well as supporting the concept that the only road to Middle East peace is 'Total Israeli victory'... How can the Gannett Lecture Series purport to be promoting the academic principles of debate and discussion when it allows his ideas to go without criticism by his peers?"

For an answer to this question, Simone turned to Professor Paul Grebinger, a Gannett Lecturer and Coordinator of Senior Seminar. "It is often valuable to hear from individuals whose ideas we may oppose and whom we may not even like," responded Grebinger. "I expect that Pipes will draw representatives from the Islamic community here on campus and from Rochester. They will no doubt be asking very pointed questions."

"My major purpose in going to universities like RIT is to offer a different point of view from what students usually hear. I dislike the idea of balance because it cuts into my time and it implies that my views need to be wrapped and controlled," said Pipes in the January 21 issue of *WorldNetDaily*, responding to requests for an opposing speaker.

To determine the reason for RIT Anti-War's agitation, longtime member Josh Karpoff was contacted. Animated and highly talkative, he wore a black RIT cap and a small red pin bearing the symbol of the International Socialists Organization. "Pipes has an agenda," said Karpoff, "he's pretty much part of building the ideology behind what the Bush administration does." However, when confronted with Mazrui's controversial past and the question of RIT Antiwar's lack of response to it, Karpoff skirted the issue, deferring instead to the fact that Pipes blatantly refused to speak on the same platform with Mazrui.

Grebinger had also addressed this issue on the "Ask Dr. Simone" site. "Pipes is willing to answer questions from the audience, which I believe will generate fruitful discussion," he said. He pointed out that the traditional basis of the series was to bring in one individual to lecture and take questions from the audience.

Andrew (A.J.) Siegel is the President of RIT Hillel, a organization of Jewish students. "I think it's interesting to hear two different sides and what's going on," he said. "Mazrui is also speaking on his own... The purpose of the Gannett Lecture Series isn't a discussion between two speakers; it's a discussion between speaker and audience."

Ammar Abbas Naqvi, President of the MSA, counters, "They're talking about different topics... We don't see how that balances the two viewpoints." Naqvi is planning an informative session about Pipes on the evening of March 23, which happens to be the day before Mazrui's lecture.

Karpoff and Siegel do agree on just one thing: the lack of enthusiasm from the rest of the campus.

Mazrui has, in the past, been a subject of fierce controversy himself. In addition to his other positions, he has a joint professorship at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Binghamton and Cornell University. A March 23 Cornell *Daily Sun* article from last year cites that Mazrui was invited to guest-lecture in fellow Professor Robert Ostergard's "Terrorism and War" class of nearly 500. The lecture, entitled "Islam between Zionism and Pax Americana," was ill received by many students, who raised complaints that its content was too extreme and bordered on anti-Semitism. One student even called it a "45-minute diatribe against Israel" and had Ostergard and Mazrui placed on the Campus Watch website list of politically extreme professors. Campus Watch, according to the site, is "a project of the Middle East Forum [that] reviews and critiques Middle East studies in North America with an aim to improving them." Interestingly enough, Campus Watch was founded by none other than David Pipes.

WorldNetDaily also included in the same article a comment by David Horowitz, author and editor-in-chief of *FrontPage Magazine*, that the groups protesting Pipes and similar groups at universities throughout the country are left-wing groups in the Socialist tradition who feel sympathy for terrorists and want the United States to lose the war on terror. Karpoff responded to this statement, saying that only some are socialist and that situations such as the illegal invasion of Iraq "would lead people to attack the United States." Karpoff, while far from supporting acts of terrorism, believes that the United States is doing nothing to help the situation. "All acts of terrorism are horrible, but before we go and start lashing out we need to look

at what caused this what brought us to this point and stop and think and look at it," he said.

Siegel spoke of how closely ISO and RIT Anti-War work together on issues such as these. "I feel like this campus is PCU (a Politically Correct University) and RIT Anti-War and ISO are the 'cause heads.' Every week there's a new cause," said Siegel. Another interesting dynamic between campus groups is the one between the MSA and Hillel. Naqvi claims that the MSA has cosponsored events with Hillel, while being more politically allied with RIT Anti-War. Hillel leader Siegel, however, says that he has frequently attempted to start collaboration efforts with the MSA only to be met with an unwelcoming response each time.

Karpoff and Siegel do agree on just one thing: the lack of enthusiasm from the rest of the campus. "By and large both active sides in this debate [on campus] are minority groups," said Karpoff. "There's a vast middle ground of people on the fence who are apathetic and would rather just sit in front of their computers." Siegel has the same idea stating, "If you go up to someone at Ben and Jerry's or on the Quarter Mile and ask them about the Gannett issue, most of them will have no idea what you are talking about." •



Doilies?

Reporter wants your Opinions in an upcoming OPINION issue. 500-700 words. Signed with Major and Year. Email them to reporter@rit.edu by March 24 at Midnight.

You: I hate doilies!
Different You: Hey poopface. I like doilies!

BrickBeat

by Govind Ramabadran

Original Plain-Paper Copier Subject of Lecture

Horace Becker, former Vice President of Engineering at Xerox Corporation, discussed "The Birth of the Xerox 914" on Thursday, March 10 from 1 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. in the Xerox Auditorium. The lecture, which was free and open to the public, described how Mr. Becker led the team who developed the Xerox 914 under intense scrutiny, as the 914 was described as "a product nobody wanted, built with money Haloid Co. [Xerox's predecessor] did not have, and using technology that was a laboratory novelty," according to Fortune magazine. Despite the difficulties, the Xerox 914 was one of the most profitable machines ever produced in its time. This is part of the Kate Gleason College of Engineering's Distinguished Speaker Series, which will feature two more talks later in the quarter. For more information, contact Michael Saffran at 585-475-5697 or e-mail him at mjsuns@rit.edu.

New Executive Director for High Technology Incubator

George Stadler, a former president and CEO of the Vanderbilt University Technology Company has been appointed the new executive director of RIT's High Technology Incubator, the non-profit subsidiary that opened in 2001. The purpose of the incubator is to provide entrepreneurship opportunities to the RIT community. In addition to his new position at RIT, Mr. Stadler will continue as senior managing partner of Seges Capital, a start-up venture capital fund. Before his involvement with Vanderbilt and Seges, Mr. Stadler was founder, chairman, CEO, and president of Competitive Technologies, Inc., a public company he founded in 1991 while attending Lehigh University. He was involved in creating and financing more than 60 university-affiliated companies and negotiated over 750 licenses and/or joint venture agreements during his career.

Chief Art Critic From New York Times Lectures

Michael Kimmelman, chief art critic at the New York Times and author of *Portraits: Talking with Artists in the Met, the Modern, the Louvre and Elsewhere*, will be sharing his experiences from the book at RIT on Thursday, March 31, at 1:30 p.m. in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science auditorium. He will be discussing his experiences with world famous artists, taking questions from the audience, and holding an informal discussion with Associate Professor of Art Alan Singer about the critic's work in the community. Mr. Kimmelman has been chief art critic at the *Times* since 1990 and is a frequent contributor to *The New York Review of Books* and other magazines. He has another book, *The Accidental Masterpiece: On the Art of Life and Vice Versa*, which will be released this spring. For more information, contact Kelly Downs at 585-475-5094 or e-mail her at kaduns@rit.edu.

Free SPAS Workshop

The School of Photographic Arts & Sciences will host their annual Basic Photography and Imaging Workshop for Educators from March 18 to 20. The seminar, open to high school and junior college instructors, will focus on technical as well as practical photographic techniques such as studio photography and lighting, photomicrography, color management, digital photography, and publishing. Fellowships, valued at \$595, were awarded to instructors who qualified. For more information, contact Kelly Downs at 585-475-5094 or e-mail her at kaduns@rit.edu.

CrimeWatch

compiled by Andrew Bigelow

February 16

Criminal Possession of Marijuana – Student Housing

A student was growing marijuana plants in his residence hall room. He was arrested by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and the case was also referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Auto Stripping – U Lot

A student reported that his car, while parked in U Lot, was entered through a smashed passenger window. Thereafter, the thief lifted an Alpine stereo from the vehicle. Crime alerts were posted in the area, but the case is closed pending new information.

February 17

Possession of Stolen Property – Campus Connections

A female non-member approached a male student and talked him into returning her "used" books for her, which turned out to be stolen from the bookstore. The non-member was arrested by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and banned from campus.

February 18

Petit Larceny – Perkins

Housing Operations noticed a missing 2' x 8' countertop from the laundry room. Nothing else was noted missing or damaged in the facility. The case is closed pending new information.

February 20

Criminal Mischief – University Commons

A person reported that damage to a sign on their UC building caused by an unknown person or people. The case is closed pending new information.

February 21

Harassment – Gannett Building

A faculty member found a harassing note in her mail folder. The investigation is now closed pending new information.

Harassment – Residence Halls

The reporting student stated that a person entered his room while he was asleep and shaved off part of his eyebrow. The suspect was identified and admitted to his involvement. The case has been referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

February 22

Possession of Stolen Property – Campus Connections

A commuter student sold about \$250 worth of books at the bookstore buyback window and left the area. A staff member later noticed that the books had been stolen from inventory prior to their return. The case has been referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

February 23

Petit Larceny – Campus Connections

A student admitted to trying to steal books from the bookstore. The case has been referred to the Office of Student Conduct.



Matthew Mosesohn, a pledge for Alpha Phi Omega, sits in front of Shanty Town. Shanty Town is an annual Alpha Phi Omega fundraiser to benefit the Salvation Army. The members live in cardboard boxes in front of Clark Gym for three days and two nights.
Kim Weiselberg/REPORTER Magazine

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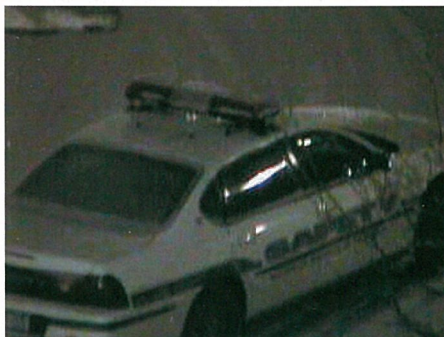
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I Spy *with My Web-cam Little (very small)



by Brian Garrison

Web-cams have proven themselves quite useful in today's world. Much like a wristwatch that can tell you your current elevation above sea level and is also equipped with a grappling hook, you may not think a web-cam is necessary, but it sure is neat, and if that isn't justification enough then you're just not a good enough consumer, dang it! All around the world, live web-cams are set up so that anywhere there is an internet connection, you can see exactly what is going on at that very moment. For example, you can see that the sun does, in fact, shine in China when it's dark here in New York. If you want to check up on Mt. St. Helens and its continued indigestion problem, just look at the web-cam. Many people seem to find them useful for chatting—after all, how else are you going to verify if the babe you've been chatting online with all day really deserves the name HottestGurlEVER82?

RIT has had its own web-cams for some time, allowing people from all over the world to watch in awe as you walk past Ben and Jerry's. In order to keep up with cutting-edge technology, RIT has taken the cameras to the next level. No, there's not streaming of video and audio from the classrooms. However, you can now control the two outside cameras located on the West and East side of Building 1 (the Eastman Building).

You may not think of this as much, but I like to think of it as a *Choose Your Own Adventure* reality show. What do you want to watch today? Are you going to see how many people slip and fall in the icy parking lot, or maybe catch somebody making out on the roof of the library? Do you want to watch the lacrosse game, but you don't like putting up with the

gentle March breeze that Rochester provides? Now your wishes can come true, as Cam 1 has a decent view of the turf field (if you don't mind a few trees and whatever falling snow might be blocking your view).

So how does this here thingy work? First, go to myRIT and sign in. Change your password to something different than asdf1, because who knows how long you will have to live if some evil hacker logs in as you. Look at the box with the weather and realize that you never knew that 29 degrees felt so warm. Answer the RIT Poll and find that you are part of the small group that actually responded. Finally, click on the picture from the RIT Cam and a new window will open up. Click on "Control this camera!" (notice the exclamation point, that's because this is really exciting) to open another window with a button labeled "Start Control." You now have 60 seconds (or longer if nobody else is waiting to use it) to test the limits of the scroll bars and zoom feature. Take a snapshot of the kid studying on the third story of the library by pushing the button with a little picture of a camera, and treasure the moment forever.

By now you may be asking, "How is this useful?" Let's assume you want to know what time it is, but all you have is a computer hooked up to the internet. Also assume that the clock isn't set to the right time, and all the websites like www.humanclock.com are down. Well, all you have to do is get control of Cam 2, swing the view over to the giant clock on Gleason Hall, and you now know the current time. Or, you could check to see what the weather's doing outside. It's even easier than getting out of your chair and going all the way over to your window.

Okay, so that's not so useful, but think about this. There you are, standing at the base of the Sentinel, ready to climb to the top. If you want somebody to keep a look out for Campus Safety, think of the view they could have using the cameras. Just remember that you're only guaranteed use for one minute at a time. Maybe you're looking to play a little bit of detective instead, so you zoom in for a close-up shot of whoever it was that just punched the person handing out the *Socialist* newspaper.

Okay, so the cameras might be limited in their usefulness even in these examples. But hey, it gives you something to do in your copious amount of spare time that is normally spent telling yourself that you're going to do schoolwork. •

*The Water Coolers It's like Office Space, (the Musical)

by Erhardt Graeff and Sean Hannan

Hey kids. We went to go see *The Water Coolers* at Downstairs Cabaret a while back, and now we're going to tell you about it.

→ Okay here we go.

Erhardt: Let's talk about Downstairs Cabaret.

Sean: More like Groundfloor Cabaret. It's not like you have to go *down* stairs or anything. It's very handicapable.

Erhardt: Right. Well it's a cozy little dinner theater on Winston Street with various tables and chairs and thrift-store couches for the audience. The stage is so close you could spit on it.

Sean: At times I wanted to.

Erhardt: Anyway, let's talk about the play a bit.

Sean: It's not a play; it's a "musical revue." That very phrase incites images of high school theatre freaks dancing their hearts out for the elderly at hourly shows in half-rate theme parks. Yep, when I read that phrase I knew it was time to check out the Cabaret bar. Good thing they had Corona. Sweet, exotic Corona.

Erhardt: It seemed like the rest of the WASPy upper-class clientele was getting pretty inebriated before the show as well. Remember that guy and his car?

Sean: Refresh me.

Erhardt: One of the attendants was walking around, asking people if they drove a red Honda Protégé, which was about to get towed. The guy in front of us just couldn't simply say "No, sorry." He scoffed and then responded. "We drive a Lexus."

Sean: What a douche.

Erhardt: Completely. Okay, so the "musical revue" has started; describe what's going on.



Sean: Okay, the cast comes out and sings hilariously witty parodies of popular songs with rewritten lyrics that center around the hilarity of office culture!

Erhardt: Stop mocking it. You liked it. Remember?

Sean: Oh yeah, I loved it. It's just that idea of "musical revue" again... Anyway, they sung about chat rooms, meetings, climbing the corporate ladder, canned hams, sexual harassment, the office IT guy...

Erhardt: Being IT majors definitely plugged us into a bunch of the allusions masqueraded through that song.

Sean: I hate you.

Erhardt: You hate... You have to admit that taking Zager and Evans's "In the Year 2525" and turning it into "Windows 2525" was divinely inspired. Oh, and then there was the thing about internet porn.

Sean: That was the best part. Watching that actor just break up at the mere mention of pornography was fucking hilarious. Then for the next twenty minutes he couldn't look anyone else in the eye otherwise he'd just start laughing again. This, kids is why you go to live theater. The flubs are the best part!

Erhardt: Absolutely. And then the rest of the cast had to ad-lib around his little laughing fits. So overall, what'd you think of the acting?

Sean: The acting was damn good; these kids are going to go places.

Erhardt: So, what do you think we should rate this? Four stars?

Sean: Hells yes. ★★★★★

Gather
'Round

Children, it's Story Time

The Decemberists: *Picaresque*



by Sean Hannan

There was one of those Time Life music collection infomercials running this summer. This one in particular was set on pitching a selection of the greatest "Story Songs" ever released. When my friends and I first caught this particular ad while lounging in someone's basement, we all boisterously remarked on the idiocy of the premise. After all, don't all songs tell a story?

Well, not quite. Not anymore, at least. Songs with clear protagonists and a narrative structure were rather popular in the 70s. You've got your "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" and your "The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia", but really nothing like it since. Well, I'm sure that Linkin Park is probably scream-rapping some sort of story at me, but who gives a shit?

The Decemberists, indie popsters hailing from sunny Portland, Oregon, are leading the literate masses in a revolt against lyrical banality. Head Decemberist and chief songwriter Colin Meloy flexes his creative writing degree in each song on their new album, *Picaresque*. Judging by the title alone (which is defined as tales of rogues and adventurers), The Decemberists spin varied tales with a vernacular that is both high-minded and romantic.

Take the first track, "The Infanta." Blasts from a shofar and a stampede of drums introduce a lyrical picture of the arrival of a Spanish empress. A parade of elephants, camels, foreign dignitaries, and luxury all take part in the heraldry. You've got

to really hand it to Meloy for managing to include in the song the SAT-worthy words "palanquin", "parapet", "phalanx", "falderal", and "chaparral" in a way that empowers the listener. You read it here first: Listening to The Decemberists will make you smarter.

What follows next is "We Both Go Down Together," a story about socioeconomic star-crossed lovers ("You come from parents wanton/A childhood rough and rotten/I come from wealth and beauty/Untouched by work or duty"), who after losing their virginity plunge to their deaths from the White Cliffs of Dover. Sure, the premise sounds bleak, but with an infectious string arrangement and hip-swaying drums, it's downright inspirational.

On "The Sporting Life," Meloy jubilantly sings against a backdrop of big-band drumming and heralding brass about a soccer player who is just isn't good enough. "On the Bus Mall" is the most romantic song about a pair of gay prostitutes ever written. It simultaneously celebrates youth ("We're kings among runaways") while discussing occupational hazards ("In bathrooms and barrooms/On dumpsters and heirlooms/We bit our tongues/Sucked our lips into our lungs/'Cause we were falling/Such was our calling").

The album climaxes with the eight-minute-forty-six-second "The Mariner's Revenge Song." This klezmery little sea chantey relates the tale of how a young sailor avenges the death of his single mother by killing her lover whilst the two men are trapped inside a whale. How very Pinocchio. Though it may seem silly, the lyrics give backgrounds to each of the featured players in this sordid little spectacle. Even in the narration, there is a sick little desperation in the protagonist's descriptions: "Don't know how I survived/The crew was all chewed alive/I must have slipped between its teeth/But oh, what providence/What divine intelligence/That you should survive as well as me." In recent interviews, Meloy talks glowingly of this ditty, indicating that he would like to venture further in this direction. To him I say, venture on, brother!

Though the band has been testing out the new songs on tour since last summer, astute and internet-savvy fans got a bit of an early stocking-stuffer when *Picaresque* was leaked mid-December. Instead of freaking out and suing their fans, Meloy simply posted a note on their website's message board (on which the band is surprisingly active) requesting that the album not be shared until its proper release. The proper release, I must say, is well worth the purchase price. Amazingly detailed liner notes accompany beautifully hand-lettered lyrics. A selection of these lyrics are accompanied by photos of the band members acting out various scenes in a community theater-style production. These little touches build on the literary flourishes in the songs and make it a truly great *album*. ★★★★★

Hollywood Butterflies: *

EXTREME

physical transformations

by Nathan Liebold | Illustration by Rachel Gottesman

Throughout man's existence he has told stories. Be they through paintings on cave walls, dances around fires, or stage performances in the guise of another person, storytellers bring life to characters. In the most popular stories told today, in films, aid comes from layers of expertly crafted make-up, applied to vilify a face just as often as it is to beautify. Computer-generated sidekicks or enemies lend a hand as well. Even those uniquely shining lines help, the catchphrases that emanate from a screenwriter's hand to make each character unique, only to die slowly from overuse on cheaply printed t-shirts and in the mouths of impressionable 11-year olds.

If done well, all of these things can help a film to become a little more. What's still needed is an actor who gets into character, slipping on another persona and make an audience believe it. A good actor goes above and beyond; a dedicated one goes even further. Huge physical transformations, though nowhere near healthy, are becoming increasingly prevalent and can make for life-changing roles. One of the toughest tests of an actor's body came in 1980 with *Raging Bull*. Robert de Niro gained 60 pounds for the role of Jake La Motta, a boxer whose violent nature both allowed for greatness and led to failure. In 1995, Tom Hanks befriended a volleyball in *Castaway*, losing not only his mind but 50 pounds for the role. Several women also have partaken in drastic bodily changes for roles. Renee Zellweger piled on the pounds for Bridget Jones's Diary with a hearty 4700-calorie-a-day donut diet, and found a place in moviegoers' hearts as a lovable Brit. Hillary Swank gained 19 pounds of muscle for *Million Dollar Baby*, a movie which very recently won her an Oscar.

Christian Bale, star of *The Machinist*, has recently joined these ranks. Bale plays the role of Trevor Reznik, an overworked factory employee whose life holds dark secrets that have rendered him unable to sleep for over a year. To play Reznik, the 6'2" Bale dropped a third of his body weight, losing over 60 pounds—instead of the 20 or so that were originally called for—by intaking little more than coffee and an apple a day. Those familiar with his work know a well-toned, muscular body reminiscent of the Employee of the Month at Chippendale's. In this film, however, both strangers and fans alike will wince at the thinness that his body reached, shuddering at skin stretched tightly over an empty ribcage and painted an unhealthy yellow. "With Trevor's decrease, it was like complete self-destruction of everything, and something which I felt was essential for the part," said Bale in an IGN.com interview.



In Bale's next role, he is pursuing the exact opposite of what he did in *The Machinist*. Bale is portraying the newest incarnation of the Dark Knight himself in Christopher Nolan's *Batman: Beginning*. One might first think, "This same six-foot-two, 121-pound Christian Bale, as Batman? Shouldn't he eat a few pizzas or hit the gym first?" Oh, he's done both, and then some, but bulking up was no easy task. "I managed to put on a certain amount of weight just to convince them for the screen test that I wasn't a complete shrimp, but when it actually came to building muscle, I was useless...I couldn't do one push-up the first day," said Bale.

The next time the \$7.50 or more spent on a movie ticket leaves you queasier than the mega-sized tub of popcorn swimming in the sea of your Coke-product-filled stomach, stop for a moment and think. Actors tame their bodies for our entertainment, and proof of this lies in every frame of their films. It used to be that the greats worked towards looking the same from role to role, burning a trademark visage into our memories. Today a new class of actor is emerging from the cocoon of traditional looks and appearances. These actors subject their bodies to a world of weight loss and gain, their bodies just as important as their lines in creating characters. "It's also nice just because there's often such an obsession with actors having to look good, and it's a very fucking dull point of view," said Bale. New roles bring new demands, with actors' bodies dying and being reborn as each new character passes away into memory. As you sit in that dark theatre, forget the actor or actress you've seen a thousand or more times, in past films or tabloids or awards shows. Instead, remember the identity that they have become. • ign.com/interview

Quote "When a person can no longer laugh at himself, it is time for others to laugh at him."
-Thomas Szasz

Some Facts

A Stream of Facts: March 18

On **March 18**, 1940, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini met at **Brenner Pass** in the Alps and agreed to form an alliance against France and the United Kingdom.

The **Brenner Pass** is a mountain pass that creates a link through the Tyrolean Alps, along the current border between Austria and Italy. It is the **lowest** (4495 ft.) and easiest of the Alpine passes.

The **lowest** land elevation in Europe, the **Caspian** Sea shore (-92 feet), borders the world's largest inland body of water, with a surface area of 371,000 km.

Prince Caspian is a novel for children, first published in 1951. It was the second of the *Chronicles of Narnia* and fourth in C.S. **Lewis's** overall chronological sequence.

Lewis was a prolific writer and a member of a literary discussion society called the **Inklings**, along with his close friends J. R. R. Tolkien, Charles Williams, and Owen Barfield.

The **Inklings** is also the name of the RIT Writing Club, which meets certain Fridays in **Java** Wally's.

The term "**java**" is sometimes used to mean coffee in general, particularly high quality coffee. This premium coffee is stocked by the chain Starbucks, originally launched in **Seattle**, Washington.

Seattle's most recent industry boom has revolved around internet and telecommunications companies such as Amazon.com, RealNetworks, and **Microsoft**.

Microsoft first shipped Windows 3.1, codenamed Janus, on March 18, 1992.

Twenty-first birthday parties. It's a big milestone in your life. You are now finally an adult. You can rent cars, reserve hotel rooms, and oh yeah, purchase and consume alcohol (except before noon on a Sunday in the state of New York, as one of our staffers discovered last week). Celebrate this day—it won't happen again, and it turns out people will give you nice presents if you throw a big party.

Fine movies coming out of the early 1980s about the late 1950s may seem impossible but *Porky's*, from 1982, is a notable exception. This is a classic high school movie along the lines of *Dazed and Confused* or *The Breakfast Club*, except that *Porky's* is nearly all about sexual repression in the 1950s. Highlights of the movie include a female gym instructor demanding to inspect the men's basketball team's privates, and a house full of naked men being chased through a swamp. *Porky's* is a fun romp through high school in the 50s. The movie also handles some of the difficult issues of the day such as racism and police injustice, though. These issues are handled in a fairly light way, but they do lead to one or two serious moments that lend weight to a comedy otherwise ripe with penis jokes.

> Reporter Recommends

A Haiku

by Brian Garrison

Where have you gone now
That once made me so happy
Come back sweet nineties

Random REVIEW

The Best of the Zoo:

Gorillaz—Clint Eastwood

Bear vs. Shark—Campfire

Le Tigre—Well Well Well

White Lion—Little Fighter

The Monkees—Last Train to Clarksville

Slayer—Raining Blood

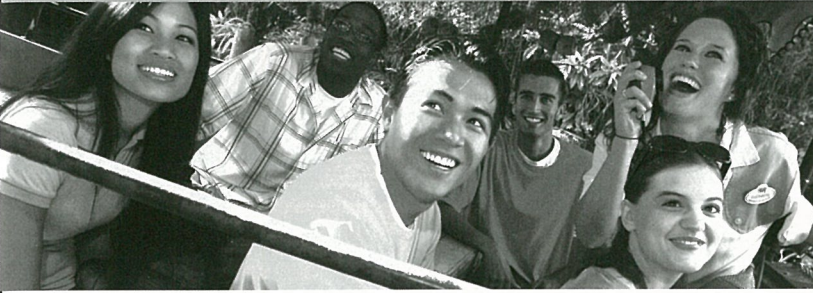
The Sound of Animals Fighting—Chasing Suns

The Hippos—Pollution

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GOOD NEWS

THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE!

by Brenna Cammeron and Frances Cabrera

And so began the news that relieved some and outraged others. The email stated that students who had received merit scholarships from RIT now need to keep a 2.8 GPA instead of a 3.0 in order to renew those scholarships. This lowering of the renewal requirement meant for some the lowering of standards and the tarnishing of "merit." However, according to the Office of Financial Aid, the change had little to do with merit and more to do with giving some students room to breathe.

"A lot of students who have a merit scholarship also demonstrate financial need according to the federal government. So if you are thinking of a student who is getting a 3.0 or close to it and are worried about losing that scholarship and losing that finance, [the student] is very concerned," said Verna Hazen, Director of the Financial Aid Programs and Services. However, those on the other side of this issue argue that RIT's merit scholarships should be based solely upon academic performance, and not take into account a student's financial situation. This debate—whether to focus on a student's financial need or academic expectations—is a battle that has been going on for several years at RIT and continues to be an issue among faculty and staff today.

Encourage Students to Enroll

Hazen said that the intent of the change was to "encourage students to enroll in the most academically challenging courses available," "help families plan for educational expenses," and encourage students to participate in extracurricular activities. "We are just acknowledging that RIT is rigorous," said Hazen. Of course, opponents of the new changes argue that lowering RIT's academic merit standards is making the Institute *less* rigorous. Regardless of how difficult RIT's classes may be, the fact that the merit scholarship has been lowered to what is effectively a B- average continues to enrage much of the campus community.

Despite the negative buzz heard by some students on the issue, many other students believe that the changes in the merit scholarship requirements are nothing but positive. "I think it was a good change," said Sheila Sarratore, President of Student Government. "I know it's kind of a large controversy among students with some really for it and some really against. But after talking to some students and the people involved in the decision, I think it is in the best interest of helping students. It didn't drop the requirements for getting the scholarship. It



S FROM

just helped those students with a 2.95 not to lose their scholarships." Of course, students and faculty alike would counter that students should be expected to do better, not worse as they become educated, and that the merit scholarship should reflect this.

Those requirements for getting the scholarship are what determine the merit of the scholarship, not the renewal requirements, since these awards are meant for incoming freshmen.

Not Lowering the Standards

"It's not lowering the standards in any way, shape, or form. The merit scholarships are awarded to students before they come based on their academic records," Hazen argues. "In fact, as RIT's profile of the entering class continues to rise, then actually the standard for receiving merit scholarships is going up. So if anything, the standards are higher than they were a few years ago, not lower." The standards to receive the award still stand at belonging to at least the top 20% of the class with an SAT of at least 1220 with a disclaimer that all who meet the criteria may not be selected. These are just initial review criteria. Presidential scholarships ranging from \$3,000 to \$10,000 will be given to 550 incoming freshmen this year, according to Hazen.

RIT Doesn't Remove the Total Merit Scholarship

In addition, the change is relatively a minor one. "In reality, RIT doesn't remove the total merit scholarship when a student doesn't have the minimum GPA," said Hazen. Before the change, Hazen said that if a student ended a year below the minimum GPA for renewal, the Office of Financial Aid would write the student a letter explaining that the student did not meet the requirements and that the scholarship would be renamed as an RIT Grant and renewed with a \$500 reduction. Therefore if a student had been awarded a \$6000 scholarship for their freshman year and finished the year with a 2.9, that student would still get \$5500 for their sophomore year. In addition, Hazen said that the Financial Aid Office is willing to reward improvement, so if the student during the second year improves his GPA to a 3.0, the merit scholarship would be completely reinstalled

for the third year. Those in opposition to the lowering of merit standards argue that this should not happen: if a student's scholarship is not going to be taken away, then the monies are misnamed and should only be considered an entrance scholarship in the first place.

As a result, the change only deals with the \$500 they would be giving those students with scholarships who end the year between a 2.8 and 2.9. Hazen said that the Financial Aid Office recognizes that \$500 can be a large sum for families planning their payment for college. "What we were trying to do was to encourage students to take advantage of the new curriculum flexibility, do some exploring, and challenge themselves with hard classes without worrying about, 'What happens if I get a 2.9? Can I afford to come back to RIT?'," said Hazen.

There Will Be Students Who Aren't Going to Be Affected

Hazen also knows that there will be students who aren't going to be affected by the change and shouldn't be affected. "It didn't really affect me one way or the other because I know I will always have a 3.0," said Alissa Cloen, a 4th year illustration major. "It seemed silly to lower it. I don't think that [the scholarship] is the main reason to get good grades." And even for those who did feel a relief with the change, they still didn't let the change give them a reason to slack off in classes. "I strongly agree with it because you can mess up once and completely ruin your GPA with just one class," said Christina Karas, a 1st year environmental management major and member of the volleyball team. "But the pressure is still on because you still want to do well."

Money isn't the only motivator. "Hopefully students are doing well in courses for research opportunities, graduate school, and for continuing student scholarships, for example the Nathaniel Rochester Society," said Hazen. The Nathaniel Rochester Society is a merit scholarship recognizing students already at RIT with a GPA of at least a 3.4 as minimum criteria. "So hopefully there are other things motivating students rather than us essentially eliminating a hassle factor and eliminating an uncertainty for students already worried about their GPA."

Much of the opposition to the lowering of merit scholarship standards come from those who believe that the school's population is essentially being "dumbed down" to increase the retention rate here at RIT. However, opponents of these changes point out that they *are* in favor of need-based scholarship, but that the line between merit and need-based scholarships are becoming blurred and need to be clearly defined once again. Historically, need-based scholarship has focused strictly on a student's financial situation, without regard for the student's academic standing. Meanwhile, academic scholarship is traditionally rooted in only a student's academic achievement, with no regard for whether the student is rich or poor.

The decision to change the renewal requirements wasn't made on whim but it is also not alone in the changes the Financial Aid Office is continually doing to better serve its students, according to Hazen. "As part of the strategic plan as we move forward, we are constantly looking at a variety of things...and say, 'what can we do to encourage students...and eliminate bureaucracy,'" Hazen said. "There are changes going along on a pretty regular basis."

For this change, the Office of Financial Aid, Admissions, and other RIT officials studied the issue in depth. "They looked at other merit scholarship programs and compared them across the board," said Sarratore. "There were some programs that the scholarship was awarded to incoming freshmen and no matter what the grade was at the end of the year, they kept it. They didn't want to lower the standards to that extent. They thought this was a good compromise." Hazen said the schools Sarratore refers to are RPI and Clarkson.

"More than 7,300 full-time undergraduate students at RIT will receive approximately \$150 million in financial aid to help with their college expenses this year," stated a financial aid pamphlet for 2005-2006 incoming freshmen. Hazen said that the intent of the renewal criteria change was simply to give that money to those students who needed it.

"Actually, we have heard from a couple of counselors who have heard from students that they were relieved," said Hazen. "That was the intent."

Hazen also wanted to emphasize that the staff at the Office of Financial Aid is there to help students with any questions they have. "The bottom line for us is that if a student is worried, every student has a financial aid counselor, and we would be delighted if a student would send us an email saying, 'hey, I'm concerned.' Anything we can do to make this part, the money part, of college logical so that students understand how the progress works and how to get their questions answered, we'll do it," said Hazen. "That's what we are here for." •



illustration by Michael Norton



Bang for the Buck: How RIT Stacks Up

If you're a freshman or even a sophomore here at RIT, you probably remember *The US News & World Report's* ubiquitous yearly rankings of various aspects of college life, ranging from "best cafeteria food" to "happiest students." Depending on the person you ask, the importance of these ratings can range from completely insignificant to incredibly insightful. Regardless of the validity of these rankings, RIT is best known for two that aren't particularly flattering: "Campus is tiny, unsightly, or both" (#10) and "Least happy students" (#19). Both of these ratings seem anything but encouraging to the prospective student.

However, RIT consistently receives high scores on one ranking that is arguably among the most important in the field. In 2005, RIT was ranked #8 in *The US News & World Report's* "Best Values: Northern Universities" in the Master's Degree Level. This ranking was determined by several factors. Among these were the percentage of students receiving need-based grants, the average cost of tuition after receiving need-based grants, and the average discount that a student receives from the total cost of the tuition.

There's no doubt that RIT takes serious pride in being considered one of the best values in the North. RIT consistently emphasizes the affordability of the Institute, as well as the Institute's emphasis on getting the best "bang for the buck."

The Top 10 "Best Value" master's-degree level colleges in the north, according to *The US News & World Report*, are:

- 1 Gallaudet University (DC)
- 2 Alfred University (NY)
- 3 LeMoyne College (MD)
- 4 Hood College (MD)
- 5 College of Notre Dame of Maryland
- 6 Villanova University (PA)
- 7 St. Michael's College (VT)
- 8 Rochester Institute of Technology (NY)
- 9 Lebanon Valley College (PA)
- 10 Ithaca College (NY)

Politicians Cutting Classes? New York Budget Threatens Financial Aid

by Casey Dehlinger | illustration by Michael Norton

Money: even when dealing with education, it is key. For many students, it can be the deciding factor that determines college enrollment. Also, more often than not, the number generated by the government that expresses a student's expected contribution towards their tuition is enough to cause ulcers. The financial pull exerted on students by their college is often tenacious and unyielding, causing students to flock to financial aid opportunities, some of the most helpful of which are provided by the government. When government funding falls out, however, students are often placed in a tight spot. To the dismay of college students and applicants in New York State, such an event is close at hand.

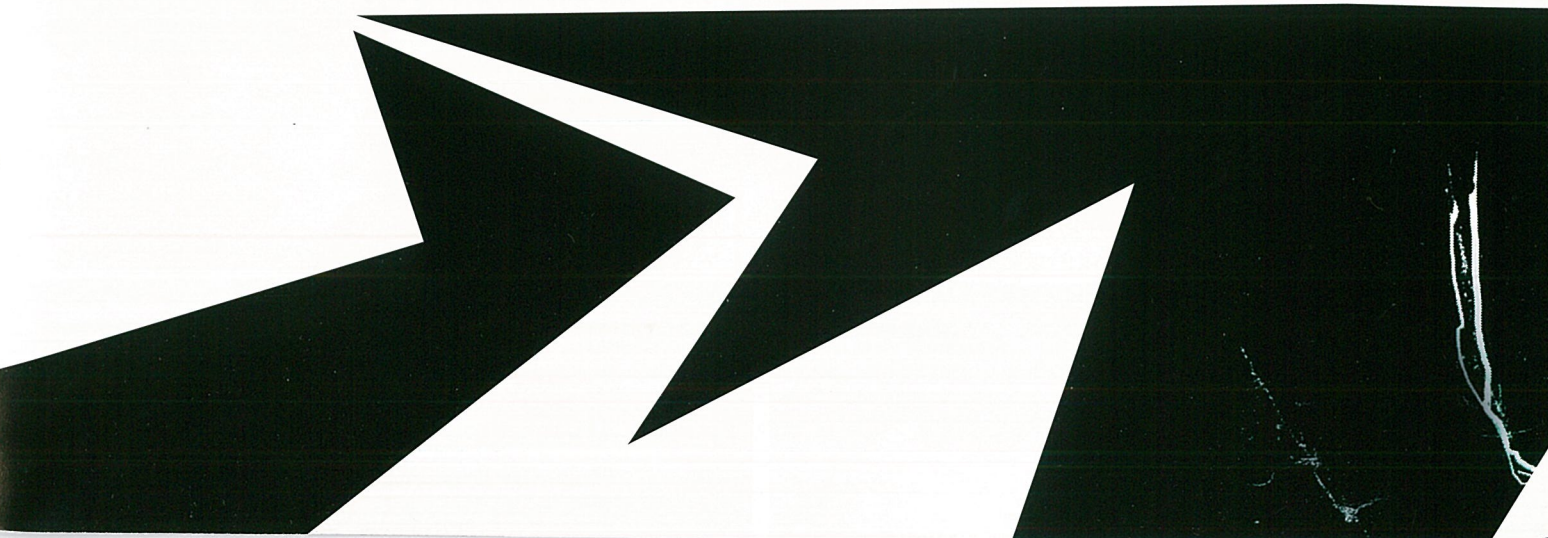
The Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), a New York State program that provides financial aid to college students based on financial need, as well as the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), a program that provides assistance to those with the greatest financial need, especially first generation college students, are both undergoing a drastic restructuring as they are being bounced back and forth in debate over the 2005-2006 State Budget. As phrased by Vice President for Government and Community Relations Deborah Stendaridi, "The Tuition Assistance Program and the Higher Education Opportunity Program are very important in enabling those students who are eligible to meet the cost of attending an independent or private college such as RIT." George Pataki, Governor of New York, is the man behind these proposals to change the manner and degree to which students will receive aid, in the case that they receive any aid at all. To begin, the TAP aid awarded to students will be immediately cut in half, leaving its recipients without their financial need. The other half of the TAP award should end up in the hands of the students, but not until they graduate. Upon completing college, the other half of the TAP aid would be given to the student in the form of a "performance award," as Pataki refers to it.

The situation is exceedingly urgent for those students aided by the HEOP, as their dire academic and financial need means that cuts in funding will be taking the greatest amount of money away from them. Also, HEOP serves as a sort of extension of the TAP program. Much financial aid provided by HEOP is considered to be a TAP award, while HEOP itself is mainly concerned with providing students who normally wouldn't be able to attend college with the academic resources to do so. Besides financial aid, HEOP provides benefits such as counseling and tutoring to its beneficiaries; however, many of these provisions will be downsized or terminated under the current budget.

Incoming freshmen are also considered to be at risk, as the entirety of their college career would be affected by these changes. As they are accepted to colleges, they will have to examine the price tags a little harder; and colleges are worried that this financial responsibility will turn many prospective students away from higher education. Many fear that in New York a college education will be merely for the rich.

Although, there is also some brighter sides to this proposed budget, at least for the constituents of RIT. A new program, the Higher Education Capital Facilities Program, will make RIT and other institutions eligible to receive grants from the state in order to help finance typical around-the-campus projects, such as all the construction and renovating going on. The purchase of some new equipment would also be supported under this program, as would be the case with many attempts to increase RIT's capital resources. This good news is tainted by the bad, however, as financially burdened students feel that the money being invested in improving campuses would be better spent aiding those who attend the college. On the other side of the spectrum, such grants given to campuses often aid the student not only by improving the facilities but also by keeping tuition costs down. Had the state not jumped in to help fund necessary campus construction and renovation, the students would be the ones to foot the bill with a rise in tuition. However, a rise in tuition is spread amongst many; including both those who are able to and those who are unable to afford it. Student aid would help those who need the most support and ask a little more of those who can afford the pricier costs of a college education.

With hundreds of New York State interest groups and lobbyists, most of which are suffering from similar budget cuts, there is a lot of pressure being exerted on the state politicians who will have a say in the budget changes, which are anticipated to occur in the near future after the expected action of the State Legislature. In these crucial times, the mailboxes, both physical and electronic, of state senators and assembly members are being inundated with the requests of many victims of budget cuts, and TAP and HEOP aided students are no exception. Supporting the movement to express concerns to local politicians, Deborah Stendaridi reminds, "Every voice and every message counts and is important." The Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities has gone so far as to set up a link on their website that allows students and other concerned parties to determine who in their area should be contacted to make a difference, and then provides a webpage allowing anyone to send an e-mail to all political authorities applicable for that individual's area. The fifteen or so names that any given person would contact range from Governor George Pataki himself to local senators and assembly members, all of which hold a say in the budget and are being influenced and pressured by several various groups of people with varying interests. The site offering this service is www.cicu.org and they encourage not only students but also the friends and families of college attending students and other concerned parties to contribute to the effort by contacting politicians, as strength comes in numbers, and numbers will be needed in order to make a difference concerning the numbers in this year's budget. •



WORD on the street

compiled and photographed by Jodi Goldenberg



Q: What do you think is the best or easiest thing about being the opposite sex?

[1] "Men don't have to wake up early to do their hair and makeup, time is not needed to primp."

Allison Ingals

Finance
First Year

[2] "It is easier for guys, they have no PMS or periods."

Derek Humes

Business Management
Third Year

[3] "All of the above, it is all easier for guys!"

Jen Rynda

Photojournalism
Third Year

[4] "Girls have their manipulative influences and subjugate powers!"

Jordan Fripp

New Media Design
Third Year

[5] "Girls have it easy, no wet dreams...or morning wood!"

Josh Poehlein, Paul Nelson, Matt Thomas

Photo
Second Year

[6] "Guys never have to be emotional, they are lucky."

Katrina Mcfadden

Mathematics
First Year

[7] "If I were a woman, I could get free drinks and no charge for admission at any bars! Men have to pay for that!"

Leon Lim Sheng

Interior Architectural Design
Fourth Year

[8] "Nothing is better about being a guy, chicks kick ass!"

Rachael Ridgeway

Criminal Justice
Second Year

"Women don't have to work, they can just stay at home!"

John Mehl

New Media Publishing
Third Year

"I could take advantage of the girl/guy ratio here at RIT if I were a girl!"

Kevin Klucher

Mechanical Engineering
First Year

"Guys have it much easier, they can pee standing up!"

Itzel Morales

New Media Publishing
Third Year

"The best thing about being a guy is that you could grow mutton chops!"

Tricia Kreick

Ceramics
First Year

"I can't think of anything because being a girl is probably much more difficult, and sucks!"

Doug Salati

Illustration
Second Year

"Girls get out of speeding tickets, and just about everything else!"

Brett Owen

Finance
First Year

"Women get to have men do anything and everything for them!"

Mark Palmer

Industrial Design
Third Year

"Guys never have to clean!"

Alexis Ames

New Media Design
Third Year

"The easiest thing about being a guy is that they get good food made for them and they never clean up afterwards!"

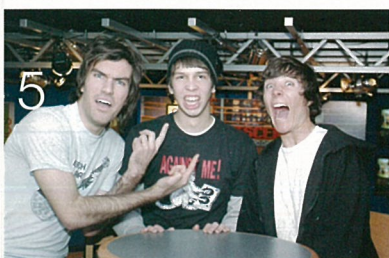
Jessica Loverso

Industrial Design
Second Year

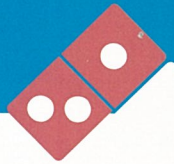
"Men have power and muscles right away, women have to work for it."

Meghan Wetzel

Communication
First Year



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Sports **DESK** by José Plaza

Baseball

March 3: In the final day of action in Florida for RIT's baseball team, York (PA) proved to be too skillful of an adversary. They swept the Tigers, taking the first game with a 9-0 shutout, and winning the final game by a score of 9 runs to 2.

First Game:

Final Score: 9-0
 Winning Pitcher: Day (7 IP, 4 H, 0 R, 0 BB, 2 SO)
 Losing Pitcher: Fox (3 IP, 7 H, 6 R, 0 BB, 1 SO)

Second Game:

Final Score: 9-2 (called after 5 innings due to rain)
Winning Pitcher: Gilroy (5 IP, 4 H, 2 R, 4 BB, 3 SO)
Losing Pitcher: Mahaney (3.1 IP, 4 H, 4 R, 1 BB, 0 SO)
Record Through 3/18/05: 3-3

Men's Lacrosse

March 5: In their 2005 season debut, the men's lacrosse team played against Eastern Connecticut State at Drew University. RIT rallied back from an 11-9 deficit late in the game to tie it up and force overtime. RIT was unable to finish off their opponents in the end and Eastern Connecticut State emerged victorious 12-11.

Record Through 3/11/05: 0-1

Men's Track and Field

March 4-5: The ECAC Championships were held during a two day span. The men's track and field team placed twenty-second in the indoor competitions, with a team score of 12. The College of New Jersey won the competition with an overall score of 115.

Women's Hockey

March 5: Two top-ranked teams faced off in the ECAC semifinals when number three ranked Lady Tigers went up against number two RPI. Though the Tigers trailed 3-0 halfway through the game, they began a strong comeback, cutting the lead to 3-2. RIT ran out of gas in the end, and RPI put the game away scoring two more goals for a final 5-2 win.

Final Score: L 2-5
RIT Goals: Kasie Strong (1), Stacey McConnell (1)
Shots: RIT (21), RPI (33)
Power Plays: RIT (1/5), RPI (0/4)
RIT Record: (18-8-1)

Women's Track and Field

March 4-5: The women's track and field team also competed in the ECAC Championships, where they posted a thirteenth place finish out of thirty-six teams. Allison Griggs had second place finishes in both the Shot Put and Weight Throw events, and the RIT "A" squad composed of Trisha Sliker, Adrienne Gagnier, Katie Palermo, and Danielle Simmons placed second in the 4 x 800 meter relay.



{start here}
 A look back
 at RIT's
winter season

by Frances Cabrera

Record breaking defined this winter season. With the men's hockey team going D1, Alysia Park becoming the all-time women's hockey scorer, the men's basketball team missing the NCAAs by just one game, the women's indoor track reaching the NCAAs, and the swimmers and track and field athletes breaking a couple dozen RIT records, winter was a time of great achievement.



Jacob Hannah/REPORTER Magazine

Men's Hockey

For the twelfth consecutive season, the men's hockey team made it to the ECAC West Playoffs. Lasting until the Final Four play-off, the team was defeated by Manhattanville College 6-2. "I feel we fell short of our goals of winning our league championship," said Coach Wayne Wilson. "We had our opportunities at the end of the season to win, but weren't able to finish the job. We all are disappointed with our season." The team ended the season with a 15-11-1 record and as the third place team in the league.

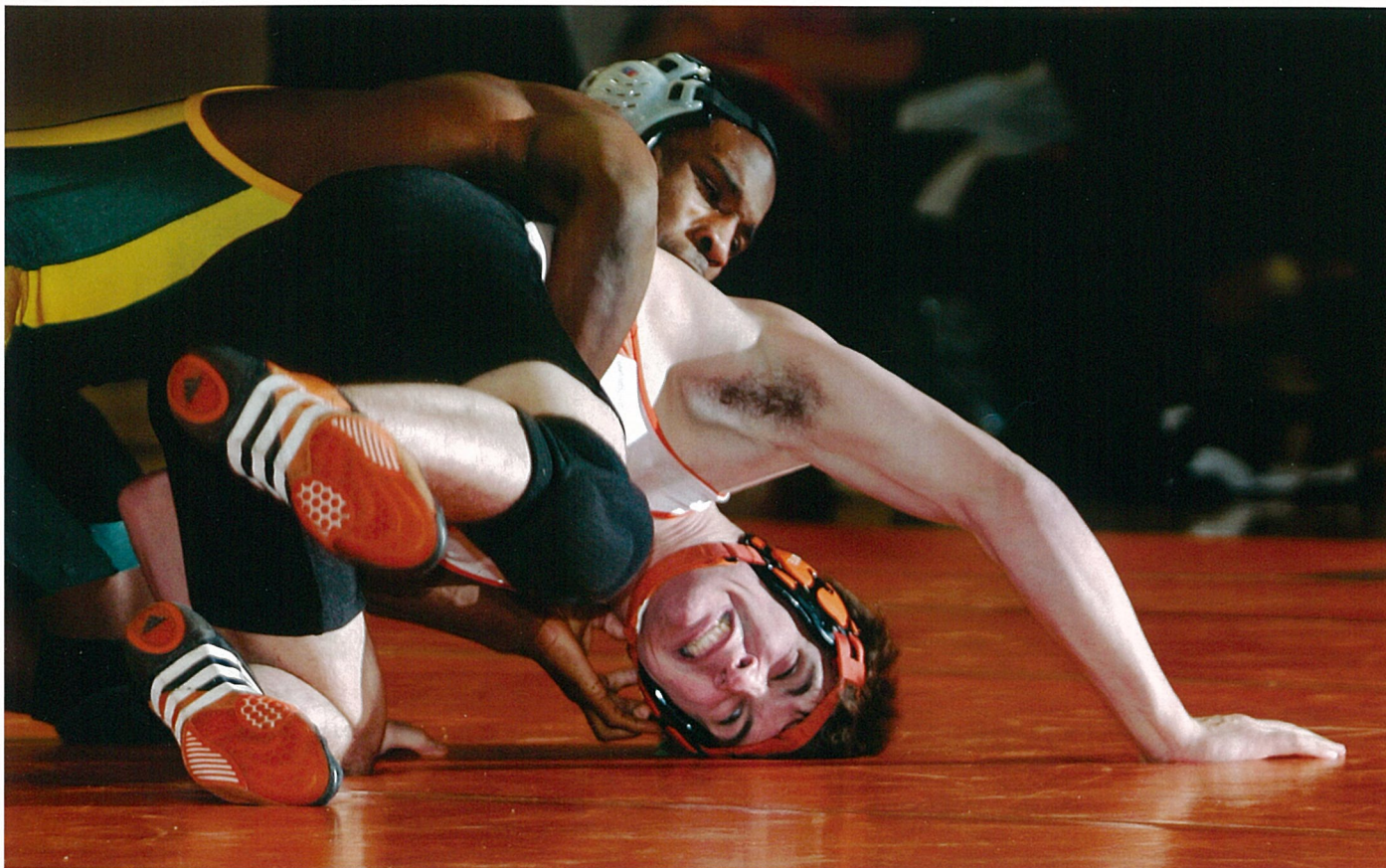
Marc Hyman, Jason Chafe, and Simon Lambert were recognized by the league with All-ECAC West Honors. Hyman was named to the first team and Chafe to the second team. Chafe finished his hockey career with 68 assists, placing him among the nation's best in assists, and with 95 points in 85 games. Lambert earned All-Rookie Team accolades. Lambert had already been named ECAC West Rookie of the Week for three consecutive weeks in January for his scoring skills. He scored more points than any other first-year ECAC West player this season.

Men's Basketball

The seniors hit the basketball court as if it were their last year on the team (and it was). Coach Bob McVean said that Sean Murphy, Jesse Foote, Reggie Shore, and Kyle Goff all had their best years this season. The team was one game away from making it to the NCAAs, but lost to St. John Fisher, the only team they ever lost to in the conference. The team ended its season with a 19-9 record and with some impressive wins and record-making players.

Murphy broke the record for the number of 3-point shots made in a season during the last game of his career versus Brockport, with a total of 81. Murphy is also one of 19 RIT players who have scored 1000 points. Foote ended his career with a career record and Chase Tournament record in number of blocked shots. It was during this tournament that the team made an impressive win over top ranked team University of Rochester.

Murphy and Goff earned spots on the Empire 8 All-Conference team, with Murphy on the first team and Goff on the second team. Goff ended his career with the most rebounds on the team and as sixth in the league for steals.



Jacob Hannah/REPORTER Magazine

Men's Swimming and Diving

With a larger team this season, the men's swimming and diving teams put up a strong showing at the Empire 8 Men's Swimming and Diving Championship and at the Upper New York State Collegiate Swimming Association Championship (UNYSCSA). Erik Zebacher earned the title of Athlete of the Meet at the Empire 8 Championships for his three wins, two record breaking swims, and two second place wins on the relay team. During the meet, Zebacher won the 50 yard Freestyle, 100 yard Butterfly, and 100 yard Freestyle, breaking meet records for both of the 100 yard races with times of 50.25 and 45.82 seconds, respectively. He was also a member of the 200 and 400 yard Freestyle Relay teams, which took second place, along with Tyler Morrison, Mike Flannery, and Pete Kaemmerlen, who also won the 200 and 400 Medley.

The diving team had an impressive meet, with Quinn Donahoe receiving the honor of Rookie of the Meet for the Empire 8 Championship, and Diver of the Meet and Freshman Athlete of the Year for the UNYSCSA. He set the Empire 8 Championship record for number of points earned in the three-meter diving event with 455.90 points. Ryan Schaefer earned first in the one-meter diving event. The UNYSCSA also named Steve Ritter the Diving Coach of the Year.

Men's Indoor Track and Field

Record breaking feet pounded the new field house floor this season as the men's indoor track team outran the competition. Six records were broken, with one broken twice in the same season. Freshman Jimmy Sorel broke the 55 meter hurdles time twice, finishing in 7.86 seconds. Another freshman, Matt Bango, set the RIT record for the 200 and 500 meter dashes with times of 22.93 and 66.3 seconds. Quincy Scott broke the 55 meter dash in 6.64 seconds, and Dave Falcinelli broke the 22-year-old pole vaulting record with a vault of 4.45 meters.

The team finished in sixth place at the NYSCTC Indoor Championships and twenty-second at the ECAC Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Wrestling

Defeating Wilkes University and King's College this season, the wrestling team flexed their skills as well as their muscles. The team went to the Case Western Quad in Cleveland, Ohio and defeated all three of their opponents. Mike Pietrowski, Zach Greenberg, Trevor Hiffa, Julian Nicholas, and Gus Mancini won at least two of their matches during the quad. The team also placed ninth at the New York State Championships, with Hiffa taking third place for his weight class. The team finished in sixth place at the Empire Collegiate Wrestling Championships. Pietrowski, Greenberg, and Hiffa won third place for each of their weight classes.

Women's Basketball

Both coach and players received honors on the women's basketball team. Karli Coachman was selected to play in the New York State Exceptional Senior All-Star Game, and Deb Buff was selected to coach the team. Coachman finishes her career as the fifth all-time scorer with 821 points, and as the second all time blocker with 60 blocks. In the three seasons she has been at RIT, Coach Buff has had twenty-five wins, making her the winningest women's basketball coach.

Another exceptional recognition went to Ramata Diallo, who earned a spot on the Empire 8 All-Conference Second Team. Coachman and Margot Sandy also earned Empire 8 Honorable Mentions. Sandy had already earned the title of Empire 8 Sports person of the Week in February. The team ended with an 8-17 record and 4-10 Empire 8 record.

Women's Hockey

The women's hockey team made quite a presence on the ice this quarter. After a six-game winning streak, they were number three going into the ECAC East Semifinals, where their only loss was to number two team RPI. Coach Michael Grainsky led the team to a 19-8-1 record and was named the ECAC conference's co-Coach of the Year. "We did what every coach would like," said Coach Grainsky. "We exceeded last season's achievements." The team finished tenth in the country, an improvement from last year's fourteenth place.

Alysia Park and Stacey McConnel earned ECAC First Team honors. Park finishes her career as RIT's all-time leading women's scorer with 79 goals, breaking the old record during the game against SUNY Cortland in December. Kasie Strong earned an ECAC Honorable Mention and finished her career as the all-time leader in assists with 83. Jackie Fraser earned a spot on the All-Rookie Team.

Women's Swimming and Diving

Adding more wins this season than last year, the women's swimming and diving team finished with a 4-7 record. Their last normal season game was versus Nazareth College, where even though the team lost, members posted several individual wins. Tersesa Burr won the 50 yard Freestyle and 100 yard Backstroke. The 400 yard Freestyle team consisting of Burr, Jamie Garver, Sarah Keesler, and Stefanie Owczarczak also took first place. The team finished in twelfth place at the NYSWCAA Championships, where Sarah Keesler finished fourth in the 200 yard Breaststroke.

Women's Indoor Track and Field

Eleven broken records, three NCAA bids, and one each of coach and athlete of the year make the women's track and field team the athletic stars of this winter season. Danielle Simmons competed in the 800 meter run, and Allison Griggs in the weight throw and shot put at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships. This was after they led the team to a third place finish at the NYSCTC Indoor Championships. At this event alone, eight records were broken and Simmons and Griggs were recognized as the outstanding female track and field athletes. LaKeisha Perez earned the title Rookie of the Year.

Throughout the season, the players broke records 12 times. Simmons broke the 55 meter dash record with a time of 7.68 seconds, the 200 meter dash with a time of 26.41 seconds, the 500 meter dash with a time of 1:16.01, and the 800 meter run with 2:17.13. Perez broke the 55 meter hurdles record twice with a final time of 8.83 seconds. Griggs broke the weight throwing record with a distance of 15.97 meters, and Stephanie Matuszewski broke the pole vaulting record with a vault of 2.90 meters. The 4x200 meter, 4x400 meter, 4x800 meter, and the distance medley relay teams also ran record-setting times. •



Jacob Hannah/REPORTER Magazine

by José Plaza

■ We've all wished at one point or another, whether we'd like to admit it or not, that we were the "Karate Kid" during the last scene of the movie doing that crazy one-foot crane kick. Sure, we look back at it now and it seems ridiculous, but then again, it was effective. Well, for those who are interested in real-life Karate, Isshin Ryu Karate can be a good start.

The Isshin Ryu Karate style was founded in Okinawa, Japan, with a history dating back to 1906. Master Tatsuo Shimabuku, the founder of the art form, left behind a style of karate very unique to the world.

So what makes Isshin Ryu so unique? A main difference between Isshin Ryu and other karate styles is Isshin Ryu's utilization of the "vertical punch," rather than traditional twisting or "corkscrew" punching methods. Styles of blocking, as well as different kicking forms, are also learned in this karate style. Kicks such as the "snapping" kick, which is compared to the agility of a cobra when it strikes, emphasize quickness of attack, allowing the opportunity to strike again. This is also unique, since other Japanese Karate forms teach the more time-consuming thrusting kick.

Karate, for those who don't know, is two words put together: *kara*, meaning "empty," and *te*, meaning "hand," which indicates self-defense with no weapons. However, the art of weaponry—*kobu-do*—is important to Isshin Ryu because it symbolizes the farm tools with which Okinawa farmers defended themselves. Did you know that nun-chucks, (yes, the weapons Michelangelo used in *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*) were originally farm tools used to plow rice fields?

Shihan Kim Murray, an 8th degree black belt, teaches this style of Karate at RIT. Shihan Murray, who trained in Okinawa for some time, brings the rich history of Isshin Ryu to the class firsthand. His wife, daughter, and two sons all have black belt status—let's just say that his family is more than capable of watching their own backs. Shihan Murray's trainer was Joe Jennings, who also taught at RIT while Murray was pursuing his Master's degree. Together, they have collectively taught the class for 35 years, and have had training from the best. Sensei Jennings' master was tenth degree black belt Angi Uezu, the current Isshin Ryu "Grandmaster" and son-in-law to Master Tatsuo Shimabuku, the style's founder and first grandmaster.

So what can someone expect from the course taught here at RIT? First, Shihan Murray emphasizes, "there must be interest in learning." Once that is established, you can expect to get in better shape, become more flexible, and relieve the stress of your everyday life. With the concentration and intensity that goes into this style of Karate, a student will most importantly learn self-defense, which in turn develops confidence and self-esteem. Isshin Ryu Karate teaches people to defend themselves in an effective manner when needed, but Shihan Murray highly stresses to students taking his course that "Karate is only used as a last resort." The last thing he wants to see is people beating the crap out of each other with what they learn, for no justifiable reason. So, he believes that discipline is something people must develop.

The course is a highly recommended to those who are willing to patiently learn and eventually master the concepts of Karate. Besides learning Karate, one may also notice great self-improvement in "focus and discipline," as Mark Shavren, manager and head instructor of the Irondequoit Karate Center said. Ryan Munding, a senior at RIT, said that the course has "gotten me interested in the art." Munding highlighted a less obvious benefit of the class, which was the dramatic improvement of his balance after taking the class for only eight weeks. More information about the Karate course, as well as other classes taught by Murray's Martial Arts Center can be obtained at <http://www.kimmurraykarate.com>. •



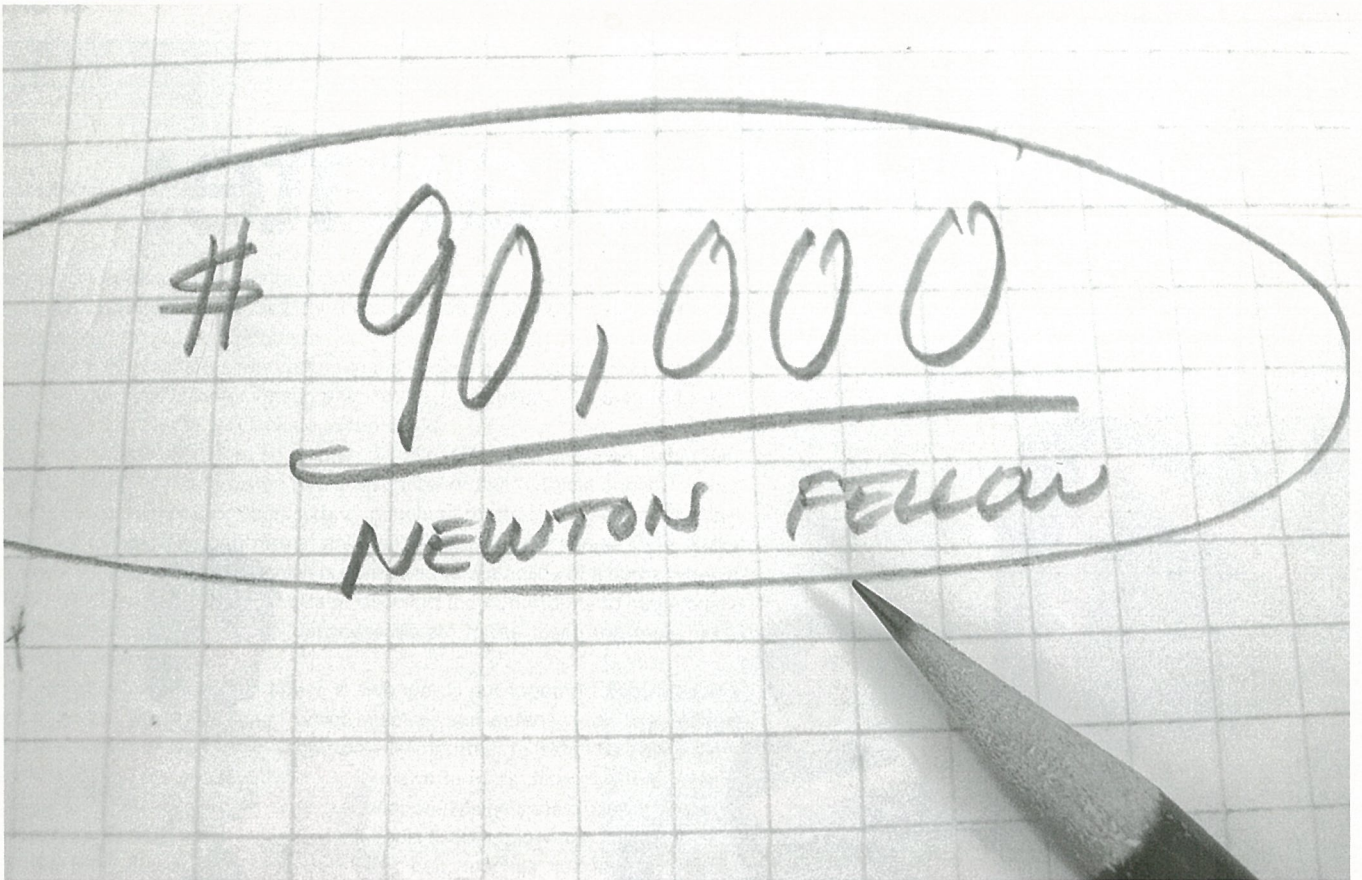
Sensei Mark Shavron instructs beginner

· Isshin Ryu Karate:

No Car Waxing Necessary



karate students on how to do a knee smash in the Student Life Center on February 4. Thomas Starkweather/REPORTER Magazine



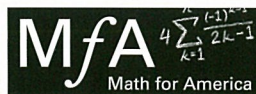
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