



## The World.

*"Pave the planet. One world. One people. One slab of asphalt."*

GDT has had delusions of grandeur since its ineption<sup>∅</sup> — there's no new information there — but it wasn't until recently that we've really begun to exercise our aggressive tendencies. Not only have we been given access to a computer and scanner that we can use (We will hug him and pet him and call him George...)<sup>†</sup> for as long as we exist, RIT's Computer Science House and the Glorious Commune of Acheron have given Hell's Kitchen office space, allowing GDT to have a permanent base. Of course, since we now have a home and are no longer forced to wander the deserts,<sup>‡</sup> all of the equipment and literature we've acquired over the last three years can be put to good use.

Military intelligence and weapons training manuals, TVs, VCRs, oscilloscopes, games of Twister, Sea Monkeys.... Once we got everything into one place, we realized what we simply had to have: a war room. But what war room is complete without a globe? To that end, we set about to get one the old fashioned way: we'd steal it.

Rule number one in creating and making a subversive and officially unsupported publication work is to act like you know what you're doing. Thanks to western civilization's attitude of "mind your own business" this works in just about any situation; walk into a room and look like you shouldn't be there and you'll have security on you in no time. Act like you own the place and you do.<sup>√</sup>

Using this simple technique the staff members of GDT and Hell's Kitchen have gained access to rooms and equipment that we really shouldn't have access to. Take for example the various Neibliums.

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<sup>∅</sup> Not a type-o.

<sup>†</sup> Thank you, Mr. Diablo. We promise to be good to everything!

<sup>‡</sup> Cast out of our birthplace—the dinning commons named Gracies on RIT—and subject to periodic obstacles placed in our path by RIT's Center for Campus Life, we feel like we've stumbled onto our very own Promised Land.

<sup>√</sup> The best example of this came from a teacher I had in high school. According to her, she and some friends managed to get some traffic cones, uniforms, and equipment while in college. They then proceeded to set up their equipment in the middle of a busy intersection and tear the crap out of the road. In only a short time the police arrived...to divert traffic! Come lunch time they decided they were really pushing their luck, so they just never returned from their break. In another teacher's words "fake it till you make it." Good advice, guys.



## DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

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First mentioned during Religious Marathon week where we related our discussions with Thor on the nature of belief while lost in the netherworlds under some of RIT's academic buildings, we have bravely ventured there several times in the past.<sup>π</sup> Of course the Wagner (pronounced Vaaaagner) operas sung off-key by the dwarfs really push us to the edge of sanity, but it can really be quite useful.

OK, that's not entirely true. The most interesting thing I ever emerged from the underworld with was a spool of copper wire, and I had to barter with some slimy green icky thing that kept calling my high school ring "our precious." I was more than happy to give it to him for the copper, but the weird thing was that when he put it on he just disappeared. Weird. But I'm REALLY off topic here. Sorry. I just thought you might appreciate this not being a footnote.

Anyway, when we needed a globe, of course our first stop in shopping was the underworld. It's easy to get to. Climb into an elevator (Like I'd tell you which one. I'm not going to be responsible when some poor frat guy thinks he's cool, goes to Middle Earth and goes insane from all the operas), take it to the top floor, hit all the buttons, and while it's going down, jump up and down. If it doesn't get stuck between the 1st and 2nd

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<sup>π</sup> And I have reason to believe that Steve Antonson, former writer for the *Melancholy Predator* spent an entire quarter or more there. His journal, "Notes from the Underground," published in the *Predator* prior to it's metamorphosis into the *Melancholy Homewrecker*, is an indispensable guide for any brave souls wishing to tackle this bizarre land.

floor, repeat this whole procedure. If it does get stuck, ring the bell twice and the car should start up again. Eventually the car will stop again. When the doors open, welcome to the hidden world below. To your left you'll see a red-headed physicist in a wheelchair. He is the person who uses the winch to move the elevator. Give him a drink of water and he'll help ya out.

Of course, you don't always end up in the same place. I've tried to draw a map of the various places I've gotten to from the same starting location, but it ended up looking like a hyper cube, and since the Doctor says such things can't be done I think I did something wrong.

This particular time I ended up in what looked like the storage area in the basement of a dilapidated, industrial kinda building. After giving the elevator operator a glass of Fountainhead™ bottled water<sup>μ</sup> (In a voice that'd come from a repressed worker from the 1800's: "You're always so nice. You give me drinks of water."), I started snooping around. There were a bunch of doors and all were locked save one which opened into a passageway that led farther into the structure of the facility.

There I discovered stacks of various sized sea monkeys (yummy), marble (cool), some turn-of-the-century brass chandeliers (sayy) and an airlift gurney (huh?). I took the gurney, some sea monkeys and the cool three inch diameter spherical bulb covers from the chande-

liers. I can think of a million uses for them. My own snow-globes, for instance (Rosebud!). I can have a box of 'em when I'm feeling especially melancholy and lamenting my lost childhood.

Anyway, I popped the other storage doors and found me a wee bookcase, some unassembled, pre-fab office furniture that I didn't want, and the globe. Ahhhh, the globe. The dusty acrylic orb had a 32 inch diameter and was set in a massive brass ring, adding another three inches to its girth. We're talking a really big globe here. I could see both Liechtenstein and Tuva clearly marked on it's surface.

The brass ring sits and can roll in the base, thus providing the X-Y rotation. I immediately knew that this was THE GLOBE that we needed, but I was torn. The globe definitely wouldn't fit into my Beetle, so I asked a one eyed dwarf who happened by singing *Wozzeck*, by Alban Berg, for advice.

It so happened that he had a blazer and using my stunning personality and innate people skills I convinced him to let me borrow it. Luckily it fit into the elevator and I popped back into the normal world, ears ringing from that night's atonal aural assault.

Being three in the afternoon I had little trouble getting it to the blazer parked in a spot marked "ETC Vehicles only"...after all, I acted like I was supposed to be pushing a three foot globe in an oak frame and fitted with brass across

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<sup>μ</sup> "When Objectivist thirst is just too much, satisfy yourself with Fountainhead"

one of RIT's parking lots. Why would I have any problems? Sure, there was the Campus Security guy perched up on top of the Imaging Science building who saw me, but I just nodded my head to him and he went back to watching the parking lot to make sure no one's car was broken into.

After using the little guy's scraper to get all the tickets off the windows, I moved the seat back, took off the extenders on the peddles, and loaded it up and zoomed it off to our super secret war-room in waiting.

It will be a glorious sight. We've already got most of the equipment we'll need. Of course, if just anyone walked in it would look like a normal room, but hit the secret button and BLAM-O! Quick-o, change-o, the war room appears. Couches flip over and wing backed chairs with the Chief of Staff strapped in appear and a huge mahogany table lowers from the ceiling.

From the closet emerges Charleston Heston. His job is just to walk around and say anything he wants...to add to the atmosphere.

On the desk that folds out from the wall is our Red Phone. It is connected directly to Dorothy Brown's (the person in charge of RIT's calendar of event's,

CalendaRIT) super secret line...the one she answers when she's "on the other line" or "out of the office."

Unfortunately it's under a bell jar and sealed with a vacuum, so we really can't use it. Just as well, really. She hasn't been a help to us in the past.

The Def Con indicator is our master stroke. Controlled by another computer named Joshua, it has five levels: 5 indicates we're in a state of porn, but this has never happened. We even don't know if there is a bulb in there. Level four indicates Mario Cart, at which point huge monitors are lowered from the ceiling so we can play N64. Level three indicates Mamma's Family is on the air and that we're headed for trouble. This might seem obscure, but if you think back to your cartoon filled Saturdays, you'll remember that when Mamma's Family came on, you knew that all the car-



toons were done for the day and that the world just became that much darker.

Level two is Golden Eye, and Level 1 is, of course, Global Thermal Nuclear War. The only glitch with the Def Con system is that the computer, Joshua, always says, "Hello Dr. Falcon. I don't want to do this anymore," and shuts down. This means we have to change the bulbs in the indicator by hand, but we still think

it's a good system and are dedicated to making it work.

But the globe would finish the room. How else can we plot our expansion? Sure, it's fun to use golf clubs to push little pieces around on a Risk board, but a globe is so much more impressive. Even if it did nothing but sit in the corner taking up space and collecting dust, people would walk into the room, ignore the table, Chiefs of Staff seat belted to their chairs, and Charleston Heston, and they'd say, "God DAMN! What a kick ass war room! Where's the firing switch and why are there sea monkeys in the water cooler?"

After a bit of fidgeting with the globe I fit it into the elevator and started to take it up. The problems started once I tried to actually get it into the room. I took the base off and it wouldn't fit through the frame. OK. It had little casters that were set in, so I took them off and, huzzah! it fit with room to spare. The globe, however posed a more serious problem. It wouldn't fit. As it wasn't fit with casters and remained a sphere no matter which way I turned it I was beginning to get frustrated. Imagine a room filled with type A personalities, held down in their chairs, all yelling at you on how you should go about getting it in the door.

Of course, if the globe were accurate, it would be a little flattened at the poles and I could get it though, but no use complaining about centrifugal forces and the role they should play when making really big

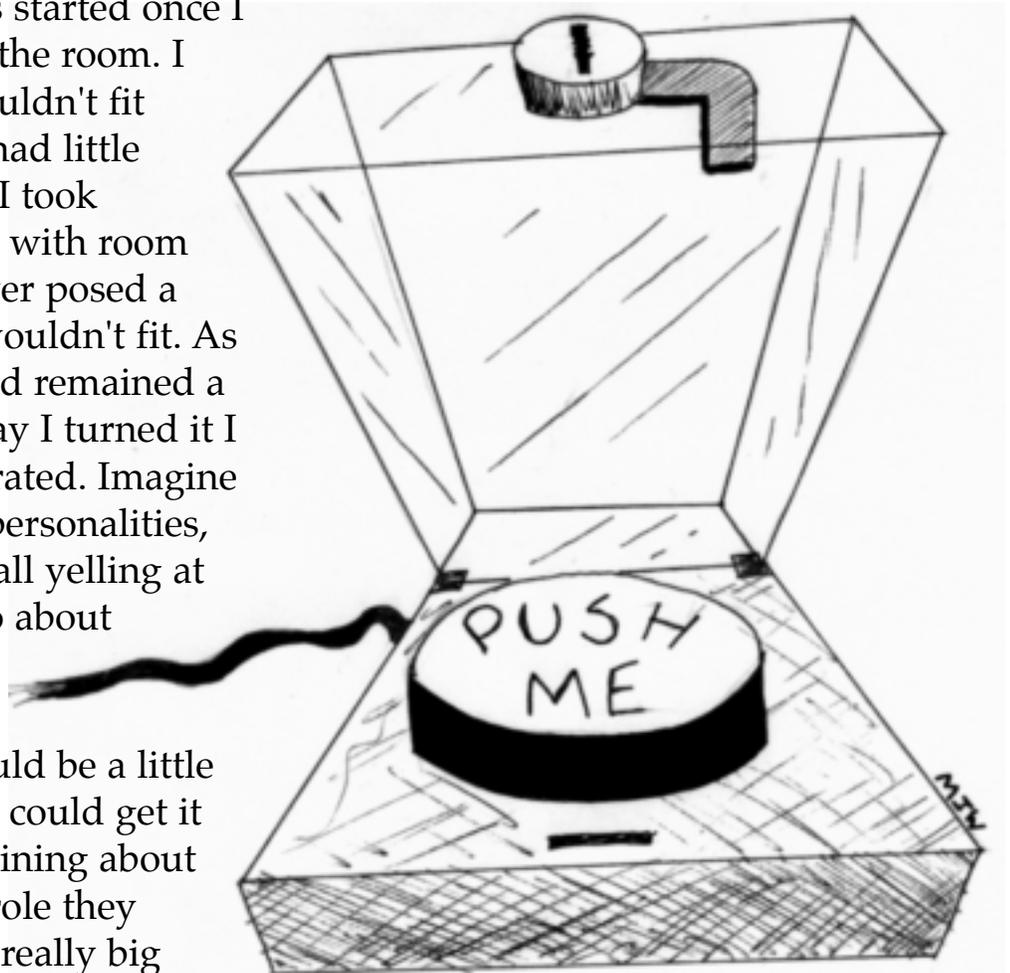
acrylic globes. I'd rather throw it out than bring it back to that horrid basement where I'm sure the dwarfs had moved onto something mind numbingly bad, like show tunes by Andrew Lloyd Weber. Uggggghhhh.

I took the pins off the hinges of doors and tried again. UHG. And now it's stuck. So if I push really hard, it seems springy enough...

CRACK!

There goes the mid western US. Oh, well. I never liked them anyway. It's in.

So the world is ours, and we only had to destroy the desert states, and a little bit of Mexico. Bru-ha-ha-ha. Watch for us as we start annexing land in an area near you!





## Tourist's Magazine Review

by Sean Stanley

THIS WEEK: REPORTER  
MAGAZINE

This week's movie review has been pre-empted. This is more of an editorial concerning recent trends in irresponsible journalism. On whose part, you may ask? Well, around here (RIT), when I want a good healthy dose of irresponsible, convoluted, misguided, biased and totally irrelevant tripe, I turn to *The Reporter*. They always deliver. And deliver they have over the past few weeks. Nothing is cooler than black text on a black background, wishy-washy commentary, and their unique take on many issues.

Take the Rochester Cannabis Coalition (a fine group of people who balance political action with a good amount of elements found in "Dazed and Confused") and the way the *Reporter* has handled their recent struggle with Fat Albert. In reading the various articles from the *Reporter*, one thing is clear. There is a SERIOUS drug problem among the staff members of that publication. Its obvious that they don't do enough drugs. They probably don't do any drugs! How do you expect to deliver objective and un-biased coverage of a major issue involving drugs if you don't do them yourself?

Their last issue concerning drug use on campus was painful to the eye, due to the number of glaring errors. LSD IS ACID, you morons!!! Come on! I'm sure that there are at least one or two people on the staff who have done SOME drugs (maybe not a socially acceptable amount, but enough to give *Reporter* a frame of reference). If there weren't, they should have found someone who has done enough drugs to get the job done, and hired them for a bit.

The article concerning Fat Albert's letter to the RCC might have been tolerable to read

if it was presented by a twisted drug freak. Perhaps the drug heroin would not have been spelled "heroine" in this week's issue ("In spell check we trust?" Is there an editor in the house?? Oh that's right, *Reporter* is in editor limbo. I am, however, glad to see that the head editor has stepped down, finally realizing that she's a meddling little trollop who's right-wing, born-again Christian, born-again-virgin, Gestapo views were not conducive to running a responsible news publication). What about the executive editor? Doesn't he look over the proofs before they go to the press? Guess not. How does he expect to get a job in imaging science for the CIA when he can't find typos in a college newspaper? Jesus Dan, you were worried that the CIA might find out about your affiliation with us (for all you CIA background checkers, Dan Newland was a contributor for GDT Volume 4-7, and we suspect that he has numerous ties to the underground communist movement in America today) and not give you a position? Well, looking at the mediocre job you're doing at *Reporter*, how could anything we say hurt your chances at all?

Oh well. Takes all kinds, I guess. It just saddens me to see all that tuition money going to waste on a slip-shod publication. If Hell's Kitchen had one-tenth of *Reporter's* budget, things would be different. You'd suddenly be eager to read the CHOICE campus publication. Not because you want to find the errors and mistakes, but because there'd be worthwhile content, instead of cheesy photo essays (deadlines are important, boys and girls). Who is going to care about the articles in a news publication if they present the reader with things they already know? Good journalism transports the reader, making whatever the event or issue stated come alive on paper. Simply list-

ing the facts and making dumb commentary that is similar to the comments Bob Saget makes on "America's Funniest Home Videos" is not the way to keep readership. You'd never see hundreds of Hells Kitchen's being tossed into the trash cans by enraged students after a "layout mistake", and "communication problems" caused severe amounts of anguish for members of the RIT community. You'd never see us justifying what we print for the community to save face in the eyes of administration. We are our own administration - we don't compromise. We don't apologize. We have something that *Reporter* once had, but over the years has lost - Journalistic Integrity. Maybe one of these days, Reporter will come out of it's malaise and return to being what it once was - effective poignant, and credible, with attention to quality, instead of internal politics...he..he....hehehe...HA HA HA! I almost believed the sincerity of that last sentence myself. DAMN, I'm good!

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# pluggéd

by Michael Grandner and Justine Grey.

## Djoliba: HOT

"This is African Music!" proclaimed Djoliba frontman Lansana Kouyate at a performance at the University of Rochester this past week (with a guest appearance made by Donna, The Buffalo's drummer). Yes, it is indeed.

The band consists of Lansana (vocals, guitar, djembe and other African percussion), Greg Newton (sax), David Tickell (bass), Dylan Savage (guitar), Ian Nelson (drums), Mike Toner (keys), and Steve Imburgia (congas, djembe, and other percussion).

Djoliba is a local, Rochester area band that has performed in numerous locations all over Rochester, including Water Street Music Hall, Milestones, etc.

Their sound comes primarily from very African influences, as Lansana hails from Guinea (not New Guinea) in West Africa, and can be found donning interesting traditional garb at performances. Adding to the African

feel, none of the lyrics are in English and range from being festive to very political.

Their music is extremely jam-heavy and energized, with plenty of exciting percussion and rhythm. Greg's soulful sax playing and near-goofy stage presence seem to be a Djoliba trademark but the band makes no secret that Lansana is the band's leader, as he is the main vocalist and the center of attention.

Together, the band integrates all the instruments well and cohesively, which is no small feat for such an outfit. Their collective sound is unique, exciting, and refreshing, yet not entirely new. So rarely does a quality group like Djoliba surface that combines African lyrics and a jam-band sound with Rusted Root-like percussion, especially in this area, their novelty more than makes up for it.

They have released a homemade tape, simply entitled "HOT." The tape does not contain their newest material and the production does not effectively capture the energy and edge of the live performances, but it is good for a local production and will be a worthy member of any collection.

In short, Djoliba is an exciting local band with a distinctive African flavor that

our area is very lucky to have. If you get a chance to see one of their shows, go and see for yourself what all the excitement is about. "This is African music!"

-Mike

## Fretblanket: Home Truths From Abroad

"Home Truths From Abroad" is Fretblanket's second effort after a three-year absence following "Junkfuel." Fretblanket are British, but will most likely find more popularity in the US (a la Bush). Their sound has more American influences, such as the Pixies, but they have learned a bit from Radiohead as well.

"Into The Ocean" is Fretblanket's single, which is a very catchy pop-rock song that makes one want to either play it really loud, jump up and down, or clap and sing along (it has a very straightforward chorus). It's a great song.

Fretblanket's second album has more variety than their first. Unfortunately, the only stand-out track is, at first listen, "Into

The Ocean." Eventually, with repeated listenings, more tracks start to differentiate, such as "Killer In A Former Life", "Why Can't I Sleep?", "Me And The Stars", "Accident En Route," "Abandon Ship," and "Black Tambourine."

Overall, this is a solid effort from Fretblanket. Hopefully, the world won't have to wait so long for their next. These are songs which should be played loud, and in your room. Perhaps their next effort will expand to further territory.

-Justine

**pluggéd is a weekly music column focusing on the newest releases, providing accurate, up-to-date, and relevant information, coupled with informative and informed opinions. Contact pluggéd at 716-274-3793 if you have any questions, comments, or want us to review a CD. Visit us on the web at:**

**[www.servtech.com/public/pinewood/pluggéd](http://www.servtech.com/public/pinewood/pluggéd)**

## Tribute

by Kelly Gunter

This past week I had the good fortune to attend "The Spirit and the Man: a tribute to Michael Thomas." I knew Michael Thomas briefly, I took a ballet class of his several years ago, it was all I could fit into my hectic schedule. I had heard that he had passed away last October, but I guess it never seemed real until I sat in that theatre and watched scores of dances choreographed by him in the days of his health.

Sitting in that theatre's darkness imersed in the sights and sounds of his trade, I finally realized his death. Just as teachers and classmates will gather around to fill up a card with good cheer to ailing friends in the hospital, I realized that my presence in that theatre was my signature on his farewell, just as everyone else there who had once known him was signing in their presence.

I never really knew him, but I knew that he

cared about his students and he cared about his art. As I knew him, he was encouraging and thoughtful. In years to come, when thoughts of him may drift through my waking hours, I will remember him fondly as I once considered him fondly in his life. The tribute was a perfect reminder of life's absences, and a perfect goodbye to a man held dear to many in the RIT community.

Thank you for your life Michael Thomas, you will be missed.

## And the Oscar Goes To...

by Brian Barrett

Somewhere three-thousand miles away, while I type this in a basement sitting in my underwear, hundreds of parties are raging. An industry is giving itself a pat on the back for a job well done. Caviar, Champaign, beautiful people, millions of fans — it's a tough job and they deserve to relax, get drunk and bloated and take tomorrow off, lest they immortalize their hangovers on celluloid.

And what an Oscar spectacular it was. I knew it was going to be a night of surprises when I heard *Scream I and II*'s Neve Campbell introduce the performance of best song nominee: Hercules "Go the Distance." In a blank, deadpan voice, she read from the TelePrompTer, "...which will be performed by the exciting Michael Bolton."

Wow, that was a phrase I never expected to hear in this, or any other lifetime! (If I had to give an acceptance speech after the performance of Michael Bolton, I would make sure to thank Percy Sledge, the writer of "Sitting on the Dock of the Bay," who was the only person in the world Bolton didn't thank when accepting his Grammy for ripping off that song.)

Even though I am "not in the business," the Oscars were not completely lost on me.

For instance, there was Ashley Judd's dress, or, to be more specific, the slit along the leg in Ashley Judd's dress. As this actress from "Kiss the Girls" walked across the stage to present the award for... I forget what now... she flashed hundreds of millions of home viewers her black velvety kitten with each alternate step. (It could've been black panties, but fashion conscience actresses know it's uncouth to show panty lines under a tight dress, and I didn't see any

lines.)

And for the first time I got to see what Anne Dudley looks like when she received the award for the music of *The Full Monty*. "Who's Anne Dudley," you ask? Ever hear of a little band in the eighties called Art of Noise? She has been a member of that particular band which innovated noise sampling for musical intentions since its inception. I have all their albums and been a fan of them for ten years, but images of the band are scarce, if not completely non-existent.<sup>†</sup> I imagined her being as avant-garde in her appearance as she was with her music. "What does Anne Dudley look like, anyway," you might ask? She looks like an average English housewife in her late forties.

The night also was a big one for Philip Glass, who didn't win, but was at least nominated for his downright quirky use of arpeggios in the barely viewed visual epic masterpiece, *Kundun*.

The biggest Oscar night story, however, has to be about someone who decided not to go...Leonardo DiCaprio.

Ignored by the Academy in that he failed to be nominated, he publicly announced his plans for non-attendance and went on to declare a year sabbatical with the less than subtle tone of, "We'll just see if Hollywood can manage to make another blockbuster without me."

Sorry to burst your bubble, boy-boy, but *Titanic* was going to be big, with or without you. That is, after all, the definition of the word "titanic" — big.

Leonardo wasn't a lead actor in this movie; he was just a walking, talking YM pinup with the most lines in the biggest

<sup>†</sup> One member of Art Of Noise, Trevor Horn, went on to sing "Video Killed the Radio Star." More than a hit song, it was their *Modus Operandi*.

movie of all time. Jonathan Taylor Thomas of Home Improvement could have been as convincing.

Just because Leo's agent managed to get him points (I believe it was 2.5% of the profits) doesn't mean he's worth \$20 million dollars a film. Was he worth that much when he was in *The Quick and the Dead*? What about *Critters 3*? Oh, and let's not forget the soon to be forgotten Man in the Iron Mask, which will be on airplanes and network TV before *Das Boat* sinks from its number one box office position.

Who's nomination spot does he think he deserves? Dustin Hoffman's? Peter Fonda's? Robert Duvall's? Freakin' Jack Nicholson's? I don't think so.

Two words: *Matt Damon*. This nobody! Out of nowhere! He comes along with his similarly boyish good looks and steals Leo's thunder. What does Matt have that Leo doesn't? Let's see... could it be... talent? (And lots of it. Who above the age of 17 would disagree that Matt Damon would have been better in *Titanic's* lead role?)

I'd respect him if he said: "No, I'm not going because I value every second of my fleeting youth, the ceremony's too long (it did run 42 minutes over). And in the time it takes Jack Nicholson to get from his front row seat to the podium I can meet and bo four barely legal fashion models."<sup>¥</sup>

He didn't give that reason, leaving all of the Hollywood community thinking he wasn't man enough to accept that he still needs to learn an important lesson... how to

act; both on and off the stage.

I wholeheartedly support this impudent nothing-but-a-pretty-boy's year off. If you see him, offer him some crack or heroin. Even if you don't use any, find out how to get some and offer them to him. He might not take them, but who knows? A year can do a lot to destroy your career. River Phoenix took a year off. Chris Farley was about to take a year off and didn't make it past the first weekend! This would bring me great joy, but I would be happy if his vacation is only enough to make him the next Todd Bridges<sup>Ω</sup> or

Robert Downey, Jr.

I took a year off. Nobody noticed except my closest friends, and my next door neighbor, who's trying to figure out what I'm doing in the basement, two o'clock in the morning, in my underwear.

<sup>¥</sup> The author's birthday is the same as Leo's, (November 11) and he feels a Zodiological psychic link to the Scorpio "actor."

<sup>Ω</sup> Whacha Talkin' 'bout Willis?!?



*Jonathan Taylor Thomas hams it up with Kate Winslet in this rare test screen still.*

## Want to be a writer for *Gracies Dinnertime Theatre*?

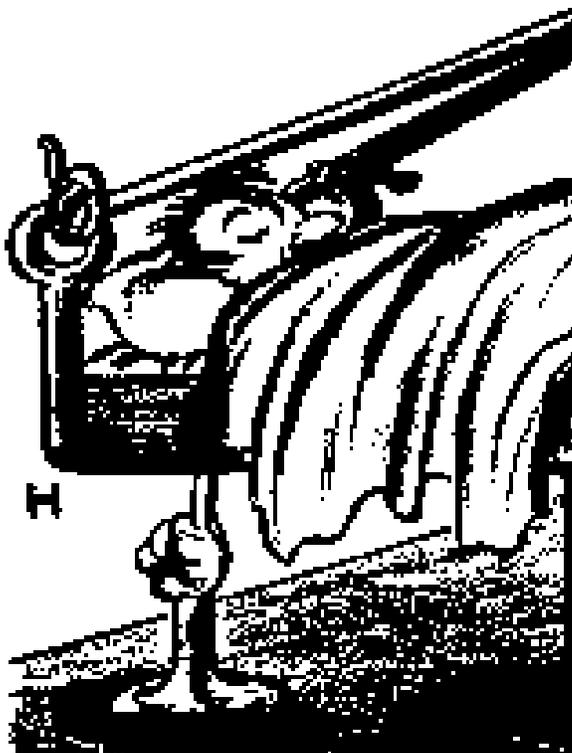
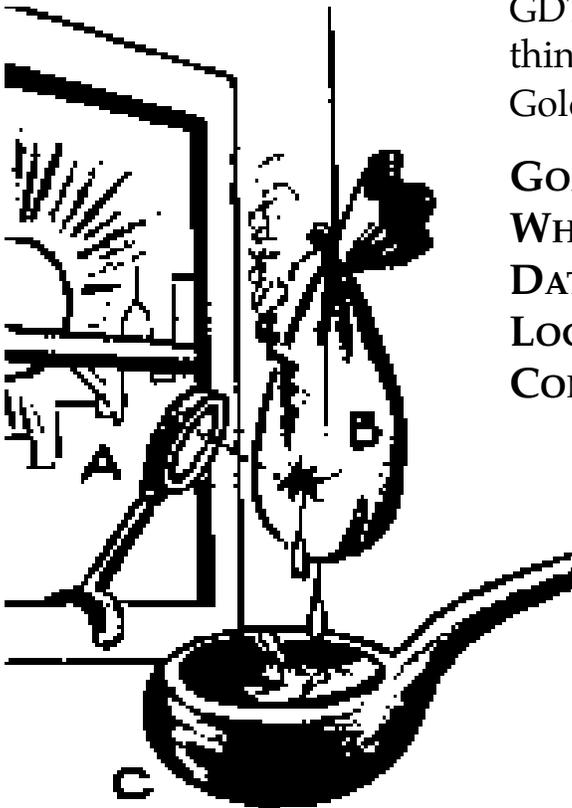
We know there are people out there who have thought about helping, but have performance anxiety. Overcome your self doubt. Come and play!

Contact us at [gdt@iname.com](mailto:gdt@iname.com)

# "Stop the Noise!"

## Rube Goldberg Contest

W i n \$ 2 0 0 +



GDT's third, but probably last, contest. In honor of all things crafty & wacky, GDT is sponsoring a Rube Goldberg Contest.

**GOAL: STOPPING THE NOISE OF AN ALARM CLOCK.**

**WHO CAN ENTER: ANYONE!**

**DATE: APRIL 18TH, 52AT (1998)**

**LOCATION: 3RD FLOOR NRH, FISH LOUNGE, RIT**

**CONTACT: GDT@INAME.COM OR (716) 235-7666**

### **RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

- The dimensions of the machine shall not exceed 6x6x6 feet.
- Each team must submit three copies of a step-by-step description of its machine by 10:30am on the day of the contest. The description must be legible and concise.
- Each team is responsible for the security of their machine and for removing their machine and related debris immediately following the contest.
- During the run, each team may assist their machine once without penalty. Any further assistance required will entail a penalty for each occurrence.
- Only two people from each team will be allowed to interact with the machine once activated.
- Machines must not use combustible fluids, explosives, open flames, or overtly hazardous materials. Safety issues will be decided by the judges. The decision of the judges is final.
- Machines must not incorporate live animals.
- A minimum of eight separate steps must be made to complete the task, four of which must be non-electrical. Each step beyond the required eight will represent additional points.
- There will be a upper time limit of ten minutes for the completion of machine's run. Judging will cease at this time. A run includes activation to completion of the the task.
- Two separate attempts will be allowed to attain the objective.
- Supply your own damn alarm clock.

## Long-haired Freaky People

by Matt Zimmerman and Adam Fletcher

*“Hey, Hey, Ho, Ho.*

*Al Simone Has Got to Go”*

“See that drug rally? If you napalm that thing, you’ll solve the drug problem at RIT.”

This was reportedly one observer’s opinion on the quarter mile on Friday, March 27th, as members and supporters of the Rochester Cannabis Coalition, and the curious marched toward RIT’s academic buildings. Carrying signs with messages such as “This is our school” and “Who will they censor next?”, these students were protesting RIT President Al Simone’s decision to deny student organization status to the RCC. The rally began in the Sol Heuman quad around 1:30pm, where RCC Treasurer Kris Lotlikar addressed a small gathering of supporters and observers. According to Mr. Lotlikar, the RCC had been approved by the student activities board to form an official student organization on campus several weeks ago, but the board’s decision had been overturned by President Simone due to the organization’s subject matter—specifically, the legalization of marijuana.

*I went down to the demonstration*

*To get my fair share of abuse. . .*

*- The Rolling Stones*

We followed the RCC and its supporters in their march, attended one of their meetings, and interviewed a group of representatives. The RIT administration claims that allowing the RCC to form an official club would encourage drug use and related crimes on campus. The RCC contends that approximately 25 other universities<sup>Ø</sup>, many highly accredited, have similar student organizations without such problems. When the RCC learned of President Simone’s decision, members collected over 1000 signatures for a petition to oppose this

action. This rally was evidence of growing support for the RCC on campus, and a new high water mark in the continuing student opposition of Simone’s policies. From the Save Our Schools campaign of 1995-96 school year, to RIT’s new alcohol policy, to this latest confrontation with the RCC, there has been no shortage of criticism from the student population.

The group of approximately 200 stopped near the end of Lomb Memorial Drive, blocking the “wind tunnel” between the Eastman Building and the Student Alumni Union. Shea Gunther, president of the RCC, stood atop a trash can and addressed the crowd using a hastily constructed PA system. Speaking to the enthusiastic crowd regarding Simone’s policies and the need for RIT students to unite behind the cause of reform, he also encouraged attendance at the RCC meeting later that afternoon.

To learn more about the RCC’s goals, and to meet some of its members, we attended the RCC meeting in the Booth building the afternoon of the rally. At the start of the meeting, RCC President Shea Gunther discussed the nature of the RCC and its goals and other members read reports of news involving marijuana issues, and attempted to gauge reactions to the rally. There seemed to be a consensus that the rally had been very well received. We learned that RCC membership includes — for a \$10 fee — several benefits, such as access to the RCC library, membership in NORML (the National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws<sup>†</sup>), and the RCC’s legal advice. Shea Gunther predicted that the college cannabis movement will be the largest and most powerful college movement within five years. Approximately 20 people attended the meeting.

<sup>Ø</sup> Universities cited were Penn State, Columbia University, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute

<sup>†</sup> <http://www.norml.org/>

Following the meeting, we conducted an interview with three officers of the RCC.  
 .....

**GDT:** *What are your names and positions within the RCC?*

**RCC (Gunther):** Shea Gunther, President

**RCC (Lotlikar):** Kris Lotlikar, Treasurer

**RCC (Terrell):** Davis Terrell, Webmaster

**GDT:** *What is the official procedure for forming a student organization at RIT? What was your experience, specifically?*

**RCC (Gunther):** We had to fill out a 4 page application, stating the purpose of the club, provide with a membership list, and we passed that in to the head of University Organizations. The board meets about every two weeks to review new club applications.

**GDT:** *Who is on the board?*

**RCC (Gunther):** It's all students; I'm not sure exactly how you get on the board.

**GDT:** *What is the name of the board?*

**RCC (Gunther):** Not sure, Club review? They sat down, and I talked to one of the people who was on the board, and the point was brought up how women couldn't vote, however long ago, but they still had the right to say what they felt. They came up with a decision that they couldn't deny us just because they didn't like what we had to say. They made the right decision.

**GDT:** *How did you get the RCC started?*

**RCC (Gunther):** I hung up posters, kids started coming. I started holding weekly meetings. Attendance fluctuated, but we got some good people.

**GDT:** *When was the decision made to accept you?*

**RCC (Gunther):** It was 6 weeks ago last Monday [February 9th, 1998]

**GDT:** *When did President Simone get*

*involved with the decision?*

**RCC (Gunther):** As soon as we got approved, Al Simone pulled us up for administrative review, and it took five weeks for them to get back to us.

**GDT:** *Who handles administrative reviews?*

**RCC (Gunther):** I think it went to Dr. Linda Kuk and she passed it on to Simone. Dr. Simone decided to reject it. We talked to the Ombudsman, Dr. Laura Tubbs.

**GDT:** *When did the word come through from Simone?*

**RCC (Gunther):** Me and Kris met with him last Monday. He talked with Kris and I and he gave us a letter which outlined his thoughts and also told us that he disbanded the club.<sup>Ω</sup>

**GDT:** *So Al just said no?*

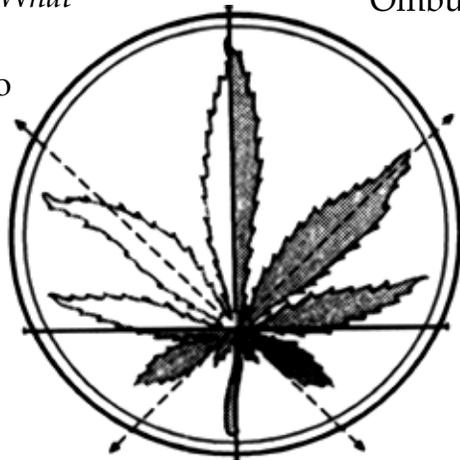
**RCC (Gunther):** His reasoning is that it would make RIT appear to condone drug use and that he is afraid that criminals from Rochester will come to RIT to sell their drugs because [the criminals] heard that we have such a club. If you look at the other clubs like ours that have been around, none of that proves true.

**GDT:** *What reactions have you gotten from students, both to what went on before, and to the rally itself?*

**RCC (Gunther):** I think the student reaction has been pretty good.

**RCC (Lotlikar):** We have a lot of apathy at RIT, a lot of people don't care either way. They just say well, whatever, but there are kids that do care. A lot of people think that we just want the school's money so that we can buy pot. But we are not about drug use; we are about education. That's what this is supposed to be about.

**RCC (Gunther):** One day, we went to the  
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<sup>Ω</sup> See "Further Reading" for text of Simone's letter.



SAU and filled about 4 pages of signatures for the petition, and had maybe five kids tell me that they wouldn't sign it. A lot of people who signed it said that they may not agree with our cause, but they think that Al made the wrong decision.

**GDT:** *So the rally went well?*

**RCC (Gunther):** Oh yeah, the rally went way better than I was expecting.

**GDT:** *A lot of people joined the march and stood on the side voicing their support. We made rough estimates of 160 or more when the group left frat row, and by the time the march was at the SLC [RIT's Student Life Center] there could have been as many as 200, perhaps more.*

**RCC (Lotlikar):** We had someone counting about 300 by the SAU. Yes, the rally went very well.

**GDT:** *You seemed to do well; you seemed to get many people signing the petition, and I didn't see many people opposing the rally. Do you feel that there is a strong opposition, barring the administration (Al Simone specifically)?*

**RCC (Gunther):** Um, there are always going to be kids that have been so brainwashed. . .

**RCC (Lotlikar):** Yeah, straight-edge. Kids who are straight-edge think that 'cause they don't smoke pot. . . . It's like people who don't have AIDS bashing down on an AIDS rally.

**GDT:** *Have you heard any other reactions from the administration, apart from Simone?*

**RCC (Gunther):** I've had indications that

a lot of the administrators think that Simone should have just accepted us. If we were approved two weeks ago, we might just have made the five- or six-o'clock news and then everyone would have forgotten about us.

**RCC (Lotlikar):** If he had just approved us, there would have been no reason for the news to get involved.

**RCC (Gunther):** Well, they would have reported us, but then they would have forgotten. It's bad public relations—he says he doesn't want bad press, but he called a news conference the morning after he denied us, a 10:30 press conference. I found out about it at 10 o'clock and managed to talk to some reporters, on the side of the road, across from his house (because they kicked me off the grounds). At the president's house—the house that we built.

**GDT:** *Any reactions from the administration about the rally?*

**RCC (Gunther):** Dr. Linda Kuk complimented us, and said that it was a good rally.

**RCC (Loklikar):** There is no way [Simone] is

going to talk to a mass number of students because he's not a very good public speaker, especially on the fly if he hasn't written what he is going to say. He might meet with a few of us one on one, but he will never meet with a lot.

It really would just be such a bad idea for him to come out and meet with us. You don't go with a hostile audience toward you and try to discuss something. No matter what he said.



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**RCC (Gunther):** He can't really justify his decision because his reasons don't hold up to reality.

*GDT: How do you think this compares to the "Save Our Schools" rally of three years ago? I think it's along a similar vein in removing the rights of the students without first consulting them, but where that was a scholastic issue, this is basically just a student activities issue (which might not get as much attention).*

**RCC (Gunther):** I don't know a whole lot about what went on, but that if you look at that, what he's done with the alcohol policy, and what he's done with us, I think it just indicates that—I don't think President Simone has been a very good thing for the RIT campus.

*GDT: Do you think that the timing of your decision to become a club and the strengthening of the RIT drug and alcohol policy was poor? Do you think it affected his decision?*

**RCC (Gunther):** I think it did. Just because he's under this pressure to look tough on drugs and to look tough on alcohol. But the problem is his policies aren't designed, his alcohol policy isn't designed to limit the harm of alcohol, it's designed to look strong, and the same thing with us. His policy is not designed in the best interests of the students, it's designed to look tough.

*GDT: Simone once said that 18-22 year olds have no voice and if they want to vote, they can vote with their feet.<sup>ø</sup> What is your reaction to this?*

**RCC (Lotlikar):** If you don't think that people 18-21, or whatever his ages were, aren't competent enough to make decisions, then you shouldn't be president of a college, because those are the kind of people. . .

**RCC (Gunther):** That is the wrong kind of attitude to have. It just shows his complete lack of respect for us. It's our school: he should be leading us; he should not be making statements like that, and his attitude is 100% that. He doesn't think that students can make competent decisions.

*GDT: I think your timing was excellent regarding holding the rally on an open house day.*

**RCC (Gunther):** Yeah, that was unintentional, but it worked out really well.

*GDT: Did you notice any of the parents' reactions?*

**RCC (Gunther):** I didn't personally, but I've been told that a lot of parents—

**Dave Bort [observer]:** When we were in Sol Heuman quad, a lot of parents were asking people what this was all about. I told one guy what it was all about and he basically said "What is this, a police state?"

*GDT: I noticed both, walking with you guys, I saw reactions of both disgust and support from parents.*

**RCC (Gunther):** When you are dealing with marijuana, you are always going to get that, because some people are just so fervent and adamant and they don't really know the issues. You're going to get people like that everywhere.

**RCC (Lotlikar):** When they look at legalization, they look at it as an excuse for us to smoke more pot. And we are not saying legalize so we can smoke more pot—I can smoke as much pot as I want now. That's not the issue. The issue is that the laws are hurting our country—

**RCC (Gunther):** —the policies are bad.

**RCC (Lotlikar):** I think it would do a lot more to cut down on marijuana abuse, get it to an acceptable level, where we could handle it, when it's legalized. It's easier for high school kids to get a 10 bag than a beer.

**RCC (Gunther):** The Dutch have effectively legalized it, and allowed it to be sold in cafes, and they have just about the same per-

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<sup>ø</sup> "In my opinion, the 18-22 year-old age group is not qualified in making decisions. You're a customer. . . and if you don't like it, you can vote with your feet." (Simone's speech at the "Save our Schools" rally, RIT 1995-96 school year)

centage rate of adult use [as the US], but they have a much much lower rate of use among children.

**RCC (Lotlikar):** 18% as compared to 60%.

*GDT: The same thing holds true for [the Dutch's] more liberal alcohol policy. Do you feel that there is a significant population of marijuana users among RIT students?*

**RCC (Gunther):** I'm not too sure. I do know that kids, I mean, anywhere you go, people are going to be smoking. Marijuana is the most-used illicit recreational drug. As far as numbers or comparisons, I'm not too sure.

**RCC (Lotlikar):** But there is a good amount of kids that smoke. Even still, in the dorms, with alcohol compared to marijuana, if they catch you holding a beer, they warn you. Sometimes if the campus safety officer is a dick, they throw them in, but if they smell something, they want to go through your room, they want to check you out. A lot of kids are like—we're not doing anything, we're just studying, but if you have the wrong kind of sticker outside your door, you'll get knocks—"We smell something in the hall." Just since the alcohol policy, anti-drug policy, and our thing has been going on, they really... the day he denied us I know a bunch of kids got busted.

**RCC (Gunther):** Prohibition has never ever been shown to work. It's counter-productive; it's a harmful policy that doesn't minimize the harm of drug use.

*GDT: Do you have anything to say about or in response to your opposition's views? What do they have to say, and what do you think their reasons are?*

**RCC (Gunther):** I think that people should look into the issues, they should do the research, they should do the reading, because if you do the reading, do the research and you take a look at some of the studies and some of the things that the government uses to oppose all of these things, you'll see that the things

that they are using as backup are just poor science, hysteria and rhetoric.

**RCC (Lotlikar):** A lot of the comments we get are "It's illegal. You don't understand that it is illegal." I do understand that it is illegal. We are not about using an illegal substance; we are about changing the laws so we don't have to do something that it is illegal.

**RCC (Gunther):** I have a big problem with, one of things is about Dr. Simone, is that they use every reason, every cause of prohibition that we want to change as a reason not to allow us to do it. "Well it's illegal, well criminals are involved." All those things will not be if our group is successful in it's goals.

*GDT: If your petition is unsuccessful will you keep fighting? How dedicated are you?*

**RCC (Gunther):** Oh yeah, we will fight and we will bug and we will make sure no one forgets about this until we get recognition. We're here to stay and we will fight until we are recognized. I'm here for another four years, so at least another four years. [laughs] Once we are 81 we can stop.

*GDT: How strong is New York's marijuana legislation; how pro-marijuana is New York State?*

**RCC (Gunther):** It is decriminalized under an ounce. You get a ticket, you don't get put in jail, but New York is still a fairly conservative state.

**RCC (Lotlikar):** Right now, in the state assembly, there is one guy, there are a few people that are for medical legalization, but can't find a co-sponsor in the senate. So, with only having a uni-house bill, there is no chance of it getting passed. But he can propose it just to make it symbolic, like get people talking about medical marijuana. If you go to a state like California, a lot of people are starting to see the advantages of medical marijuana. People who have been using it for medicine who have just gotten ragged on. I mean, you read DRC net and you see.

**RCC (Gunther):** Polls of Americans on

the question of medical marijuana issue—over 85% of Americans support legalizing marijuana for medicinal use.

**RCC (Lotlikar):** We need to make sure that politicians know that it is not that politically unfit a move. Right now, it's a big issue, and hopefully it gets taken care of.

**RCC (Gunther):** The politicians are way behind the opinions of the people as far as the issue of medical marijuana is concerned. The federal government can admit that it is wrong, it's been harassed in California—the four mayors in San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Cruz and another city have all asked President Clinton to leave the buyers club alone.

*GDT: Marijuana is still a Schedule 1 drug.<sup>Δ</sup>*

**RCC (Lotlikar):** Right, which is ridiculous. There are bills, Marijuana Prevention Act, and Marijuana Deterrence Act,<sup>≈</sup> in front of Congress now, under which any doctor who would prescribe medical marijuana would lose their license to prescribe medicine, even if [marijuana] was legal in that state. The doctors are scared, [politicians] are using scare tactics.

**RCC (Gunther):** The thing is, now, they can get as extreme as they want. The more extreme that the drug warriors get, the easier it is going to be to overturn this silly policy. Newt Gingrich is calling for the death penalty for people bringing two ounces or more of marijuana into the United States.<sup>Σ</sup>

*GDT: Where did you hear that?*

**RCC (Gunther):** Well, you know, it's around. He's trying to get this bill passed. Let

<sup>Δ</sup> Schedule 1 indicates that a drug has no medicinal uses. Schedule 1 drugs include LSD, cocaine and heroin.

<sup>≈</sup> See the section on "Further Reading" for additional information

<sup>Σ</sup> GDT was unable to verify this information at the time of printing.

them get as crazy as they want, because it's only going to make them look more extreme. Newt, he criticizes Clinton's drug plan, and Barry McCaffrey, the drug czar, is a ten year plan, and Newt Gingrich says that's too long. He wants to rid the country of illicit drugs by 2001, which is ridiculous.

**RCC (Lotlikar):** The government just spent \$200 million to get drugs out of the prisons in the U.S. If the government can't keep drugs out of prison, which has barbed wires, brick walls, and guards with guns (which is nothing like our borders), how do they think they can keep it out of the country?

*GDT: Regarding, just for our clarity, what sources are you looking at for your information? You noted [www.marijuananeews.com](http://www.marijuananeews.com), DRC net [sites mentioned during the RCC meeting]. . .*

**RCC (Gunther):** The NORML page has good information. The problem with the mainstream media is that they don't report anything that is pro-drug. The media, right now, is in cahoots, is the lapdog of the drug warriors. Every now and then, you get an exception to that, but for the most part, to get the news of things that are going on in the movement, you have to go to other sources.

**RCC (Lotlikar):** If you look at the coverage we have gotten, we have been called the pot club. They do cuts to intentionally make us look bad. All except FOX [who covered the rally].

**RCC (Gunther):** You look, for instance, [CNN's web site] allows you do personal news, and I happen to do a search on Marijuana all the time, and the only news they ever do on marijuana is people getting busted.

**RCC (Lotlikar):** If you want books, Marijuana Reconsidered has been out for a long, the first comprehensive study of marijuana, a very good book. *Marijuana: Myth and Fact*, that's the newest one, it's gotten so much publicity, it's such a good book, they really outline it well, and it's by two doctors and a

professor. Anything by Ed Rosenthal, he has a bunch of books, William F. Buckley, Jr., he's so far to the right, it's amazing.

**RCC (Gunther):** It's still personal freedoms, that's what it's all about, he's an editor of National Review.

*GDT: It's been accused that marijuana smokers have lower GPA's; what's your reaction to this?*

**RCC (Gunther):** I like how Simone quoted these supposed statistical studies.

*GDT: I didn't see any sources in the Reporter<sup>f</sup> or either of its two recent drug related articles.*

**RCC (Gunther):** He also declined to name any universities with the gun shootings.

**RCC (Lotlikar):** He shoots from his hip, and just makes stuff up. I don't know anyone who has been shot here or at U of R who have been shot. Rochester just isn't that dangerous a city.

**RCC (Gunther):** As far as the academic thing, that just doesn't hold up.

**RCC (Lotlikar):** We have kids in the club that are 4.0 students.

**RCC (Gunther):** There have been studies done in Jamaica that show heavy users, where people who use are at the same level or even sometimes making more money or at a higher level in their career. I don't think anything's ever been done that shows that people who use marijuana have lower GPA's. Obviously people who abuse it may, but that's a different thing. That's the same for anyone

who abuses anything.

**RCC (Lotlikar):** Not to get down on art majors, but they always think that anybody in this building is from the art school. Like when I went up to his office to talk to [Simone], he said "Oh, you must be in the art school" because I have long hair—first words he said to me.

*GDT: What's your major?*

**RCC (Lotlikar):** MIS [Management Information Systems]. Our officers, Davis is Computer Science, Shea is Graphic Design, Mike is IT, Jared is Bio Tech. We're not just "fluff" majors.

All the universities that have the club are good universities, have free-thinking students. You don't see a huge community college backing the marijuana issue. We think for ourselves.

*GDT: That's it for the questions; is there anything you'd like to add?*

**RCC (Gunther):** If you look at this whole thing, one of the things that prohibitionists do, is they label anyone who does not agree with the drug policy as pro-drug and say "Oh, this person wants to use drugs." And this is a clear cut example of that—President Simone even says in his letter that we might not intend the effect of people thinking that RIT condones drug use but it is going to happen.<sup>‡</sup>

But, it just doesn't hold up. We are an educational group, and we're serious people with serious goals.

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<sup>f</sup> RIT's weekly news publication.

<sup>‡</sup> "In my judgment, the recognition of the Rochester Cannabis Club as an official RIT club will be interpreted by students and the general public as RIT officially condoning the use of drugs on this campus. Official club recognition will inevitably [sic] lead to on-campus and off-campus publicity implying that RIT approves of drugs and drug use by students. You and your fellow club members may not intent [sic] this effect, but there is ample evidence from previous experience in this and other campus communities that there will be widespread publicity of university recognition of a club which advocates legalization of marijuana use and that most, if not all, of the publicity will imply that the university condones drug use by its students. It is also clear that such publicity will encourage the dangerous criminal elements connected with drug consumption in our society to come on the RIT campus and make contacts with students with the intention of selling them illegal drugs." (Letter from Simone to Gunther) [errors are Simone's]

People have a lot of misconception, and hopefully we will clear them up.

**RCC (Lotlikar):** "The only people who can change the world are people crazy enough to think they can."

### Further Reading

- o Letter from RIT President, Dr. Simone, to Shea Gunther, President of the Rochester Cannabis Coalition, available from Shawn Porter's Cannabis Coalition Debate page:  
<http://www.rit.edu/~sjp6683/cc/>
- o The Lycaeum:  
<http://www.lycaeum.org/>
- o Paranoia's Drug Information Server:  
<http://www.paranoia.com/drugs/>

- o U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration:  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/>
- o Marijuana News:  
<http://www.marijuananeews.com/>
- o FedWorld:  
<http://www.fedworld.gov/>
- o Library of Congress, marijuana bills before 105th Congress:  
<http://thomas.loc.gov>
- o The Rochester Cannabis Coalition:  
[coalition@filament.net](mailto:coalition@filament.net)
- o *Marijuana Reconsidered*, Lester Grinspoon, ISBN#0932551130
- o *Marijuana Myths Marijuana Facts: A Review Of The Scientific Evidence*, Lynn Etta Zimmer, ISBN#0964156849



## He Would If He Could, So he Did, But Should He?

by Matthew D. Wilson

I only learned on Wednesday of President Simone's decision to override the Club Review Board's decision to recognize the Rochester Cannabis Coalition as an RIT club, and have become interested in the issues presented.

Emotions are running high on both sides of the issue, obviously. I think everyone needs to take a step back and take another look at the issues involved. First, we all have to recognize that Dr. Simone, as President of the Institute, does have the right to deny official recognition to student organizations. That is a fact, and there is no evidence you can offer to refute that. No matter that the Club Review Board (not entirely composed of students, by the way) is normally responsible for approving clubs for recognition, nor that the students pay an Activities

Fee to help support Student Government clubs (this is by no means SG's only source of funds).

Once we understand that Dr. Simone *can* do this, the question becomes *should* he do this? Obviously, this is stickier. As President, he has a responsibility to the entire RIT community to make RIT as successful an institute as possible. For reasons that he made clear in his letter to Shea Gunther, he feels that recognizing the Cannabis Coalition would cause more problems than it solves. His arguments (contrary to what [marijuananeews.com](http://marijuananeews.com) thinks) are not entirely without merit.

(As an aside, the aforementioned site's article about the letter is at least as full of inaccuracies as Dr. Simone's letter — they clearly misunderstood, at least partially, most of his points.)

Knowing the media of today, they certainly would make a big deal about the

Cannabis Coalition becoming recognized as an official RIT club. I can't say whether this would have a detrimental effect, but the possibility of negative publicity is certainly there, and President Simone is right to be wary of the possibility.

However, I do agree that recognizing the club probably (note that word) will not cause drug dealers to show up on campus in significantly increased numbers. That, I admit, does not make much sense, and President Simone did seem to be trying to find justification for his action in that.

Okay, so that's my view on President Simone. What about the club itself? I believe the Coalition's insistence that they are not just a bunch of "pot-heads" trying to get their favorite pastime legalized. However, I'm afraid I have to object to some of their methods. The various flyers around campus have a distinct attitude about them. The first ones I saw were very presumptuous, making broad claims about the government and other traditional views about marijuana without any support to back them up. Although I recognize that the flyers were most likely meant just to get people thinking, the only thing it got me thinking was, "I'm not impressed."

The other flyer I remember is one that complained about flyers getting torn down. Not only did it target the Chess Club (implying, probably not intentionally, that Chess fans are rather straight arrows and would be in opposition to a Cannabis Coalition), but it also failed to recognize that EVERY CLUB GETS POSTERS TORN DOWN. Again, a total failure to impress me, because neither of the clubs I'm in publicly complains about missing flyers.

Okay, now on to marijuana. I admit I'm not particularly well-versed in the specifics. I do know that there is a difference between hemp and the traditional marijuana plant

used for smoking, but I am not aware of the legal issues regarding these two cousins. As I understand it, both are illegal.

I have read that marijuana is not a chemically addictive substance. This may be (I certainly don't know from experience), but I have also read that it is extremely addictive psychologically. This is no less dangerous, in my opinion.

Unofficially, I have heard that marijuana does not "kill brain cells." Frankly, I've never heard anyone claim otherwise, so I have no reason not to believe this claim. However, there is evidence that marijuana affects users' states of mind (Well, duh, why else would they smoke it?). I feel that any such substance (the actual term would be drug) is potentially dangerous. Yes, including alcohol and caffeine. Does that mean they should be illegal? Maybe. Alcohol is a very ingrained part of American life, as is caffeine. Ideally, that shouldn't matter, but it does. Caffeine is different still, because, while it is addictive, its effects on the mind appears to be much less severe, and few incidents can be traced back to use of caffeine.

I think alcohol is much more dangerous than marijuana, taken on even ground. But they are not on even ground. Alcohol is currently legal, and used by a vast majority of Americans. Marijuana has a small user base (past users don't count), and is currently illegal. Alcohol is a factor in far too many vehicle accidents, while marijuana is not. This does not mean marijuana is less dangerous — fewer people use it, and those that do tend not to go out and put themselves in dangerous situations when they are "stoned," primarily because marijuana is illegal, but partially because it appears to reduce motivation.

So, I don't know where I stand on the legalization issue. I don't think marijuana should be legalized just because it has poten-

tial benefits. I also don't think these potential benefits should be ignored. The problem is allowing it to be used for medicinal and other purposes, without encouraging its abuse. That's where the real danger lies — in the potential for abuse. True, any object or substance has that potential, but marijuana has a higher potential than many of those things.

So to sum up. President Simone was well within his rights to protect the image of the Institute by refusing to recognize the Cannabis Coalition. However, he may have overestimated the club's potential effect on the image of the Institute.

The Cannabis Coalition's goals are admirable, but I feel they need to be less confrontational and more accessible.

The benefits and uses of marijuana (not the user base — “70 million Americans have tried it” is not a valid reason to legalize it) are well documented and have much merit, but there are many unresolved issues regarding its negative effects.

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## The Politics of High Tech Damnation

by A. S. Zaidi

“RIT should stand for 'really in touch' with the real world,” said Carl Kohrt, executive vice president of Kodak, in his keynote address during the Nov. 14, 1996 installation of the cornerstone for the 157,000 square foot Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies (CIMS). The building was financed at a cost of \$21 million, \$11.25 million of which was provided by the federal government and \$9.25 million by the state of New York.

The Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) has also earned the appreciation of the Central Intelligence Agency, which has designated the institution as a “strategic national resource worthy of explicit development and support.” In a 1985 Memorandum of Agreement between RIT and the CIA, the school agreed that its curriculum would be “responsive to certain defined specialties of the CIA.”

RIT's responsiveness to those specialties may well explain its recent attempt to cut art programs and the ensuing student unrest there. In late April '96, four weeks before the end of the final academic quarter, RIT professors leaked word to students that several art

programs, including painting, printmaking, glass, textiles, ceramics, art education, medical illustration and interior design, were about to be discontinued or placed on “probationary continuation.”

The cuts would have devastated RIT's prestigious School of Art and Design (SAD) and the School for American Crafts (SAC) and couple of days after learning about the cuts, students gathered at RIT's Bevier Art Gallery on a Monday to organize. When they heard that the college's trustees were meeting at that very moment on campus in Building 1, they moved to its lobby to get their attention.

Soon President Simone and Provost Stanley McKenzie came down from the trustee meeting to hear the concerns of the students. Simone might have calmed the students, right there and then, with some vague words of reassurance. Instead, one of his gaffes, caught on videotape by a film student, propelled the students into action.

When a student asked Simone where the art schools fit into his vision of RIT's future, Simone replied that while RIT was primarily known for its engineering and computer science, there was a danger that graduates could be too “narrowly focused.”

What the schools of American crafts, photography, interior and graphic design did for engineers, said Simone, was to provide them with "breadth of experience." "As they walk on campus they see, uh... somebody... there are not too many engineers with, uh... long hair, for example," he said, pointing to Kurt Perschke, a grad student in ceramics.

There was a moment of stupefied silence. Troy Liston, a writer for GDT at the time, described what followed:

I think I heard a cricket at this point. The silence in the room was actually tangible as everyone had to stop and take a mental step back. I know that I was whispering inside my skull, "Please dear lord, let this be a metaphor for something. Please don't let him mean what I know he's saying." Of course, he had to keep talking. I, and everyone else in the room who had been repeating that silent plea, could no longer block it out: he was indeed saying what we thought he was saying. In the wake of that aftershock, the room's ambient animosity level grew ten fold and threatened to precipitate out of solution. Simone eventually realized his folly and made a feeble attempt to save his floundering position by saying, "Well I guess there are a lot of people here with short hair." All was lost.

The next day, students rallied in a breezeway, packed tightly together. A new activist group, Save Our School (SOS), had been born of panic and anger.

"The art programs are world-renowned," said engineering student Jesse Lenney to the crowd. "Who runs this place? Who are they trying to please by booting the art students?"

Later, at a RIT community meeting, students expressed their concerns to Margaret Lucas, then dean of the College of Imaging

Arts and Sciences (CIAS). On Thursday, students formed committees for speakers, alumni and parent contacts, rally organizers, research, as well as media and community outreach.

At a mass rally at Webb auditorium attended by hundreds, students viewed the videotape in which Simone made his infamous hair remark. "That's what we're here for, to run around so the engineering students can have some diversity," said Kurt Perschke, unappeased by Simone's apology to him a couple of days earlier. "I want an apology for cutting my school. I don't give a damn about my hair."

That day, the faculty voted unanimously to support the efforts of the SOS students to save the art programs. Professors who had previously limited themselves to slipping information under the door of the new SOS office at night, now openly criticized the process that had led to the cuts.

As information came to light, it was made clear that RIT professors had been given an "Academic Program Review Criteria" form to numerically evaluate their programs according to their centrality, financial viability, marketability and quality. Administrators were to recommend programs for consolidation or discontinuance based on the raw data provided.

The professors did not appear to have understood the purpose of the evaluative "tools," which were meant to give the appearance of "scientific objectivity" to corporate downsizing. Not surprisingly, the programs that won out in the evaluative process were those dear to the corporate interests on the RIT trustee board, including accounting, business administration, management, finance, information systems and marketing.

In a memo to RIT administrators, written during the first week of student protests,

Thomas Lightfoot, an associate professor in CIAS, said:

“Numerous proposals have been put forth... which have not been seriously considered or even responded to. Is the faculty the driver of the curriculum or the administration? Is the faculty even a partner in the process? Or are we just employees, to do what were told, as the President has suggested?... I must add that the faculty, of at least the SAD/SAC component of the college, also pointed out its judgment that the review instrument was seriously flawed... It is also notable that the reasons for discontinuance keep changing. The President wanted to identify a pot of money that could be saved through this process. He was convinced that there was lot of waste and money being lost by our programs. When it was discovered that there was no money to be found, the reasons shifted to a resource reallocation rationale.”

That week, SOS obtained donations from parents, student groups and alumni. They passed out flyers to students and asked alumni to write to the trustees, some of whom professed to be unaware of the proposed cuts. They got coverage from local television stations.

The rallies were followed by image-oriented protests. With the permission of Albert Paley, an RIT artist in residence, SOS students symbolically shrouded his sculptures outside the Strong Museum and the Eastman School of Music. They also wrapped the Main Street Bridge railings that Paley had designed.

At the Memorial Art Gallery, ceramics grad students Molly Hamblin and Kurt Perschke used gauze and string to cover works by Paley and Richard Hirsch, an RIT ceramics professor who attended the event in support of the arts. “We intend to keep the

heat on,” said Perschke. “Today’s demonstrations are about showing the fundamental connection between the school and the art community.”

The media images of a Rochester without art succeeded in embarrassing the trustees, and the RIT administration quickly backed away from its intention to cut the arts. In under two weeks, SOS had proved that students, alumni, faculty and even much of the business community strongly supported the arts. Through efficacious aesthetic persuasion, the students had saved their programs, at least for the time being, while alerting the RIT community to the implications of the Strategic Plan.

It was impossible, however, to sustain this activism, which began to wane as finals drew near. “A lot of students have shown how dedicated they are, but their work suffers,” explained glass grad student Luis Crespo. “Come ‘crunch time,’ people will feel torn. In the end it boils down to the fact that they are students and have to get a grade.”

In a series of informational meetings, Simone tried to promote the Strategic Plan, but the authoritarian character of the plan made it a hard sell. In addition to downsizing programs, the plan called for outsourcing RIT’s physical plant services. Anthony Burda, an editor of the student weekly, *The Reporter*, was present at one meeting. He described Simone’s response to a woman who had asked him about the outsourcing:

“As an alternative to out-sourcing... we might move towards student help... like fifty percent, something like that...” He points to catering, where the student staff comprises about 90%. He also points to savings in pensions, health insurance, etc., by having student janitors. Not to mention the saving in flat pay, resulting from paying students only around \$5.25 an

hour. "By the time they're ready for a pay increase, they graduate." He starts laughing before he can finish his sentence.

Everyone laughs. Well, the professors laugh. The lady in the audience, and the janitorial staff of about thirty, sit in the back quietly. For some reason, it appears they really don't find getting replaced by student workers too funny.

At another meeting, an undergraduate asked Simone what role students played in the decision-making process at RIT.

Christopher Hewitt, writing for *The Reporter*, provided an example of Simone's sensitivity to students:

He responded by telling the student that "in my opinion, the 18-22 year-old age group is not qualified in making decisions. You're a customer...and if you don't like it, you can vote with your feet." When asked about Simone's comment, the student replied, "We can vote with our feet by stamping them down in protest. Why should we run away from a place that we belong to when we can stay and make it a place that others will come to, not run away from? I think that these old men who are making the decisions don't realize how qualified the 18-22 age group is in making change and solid, competent decisions."

Thus did Simone squander the trust and goodwill that had come to him as RIT's new president soon after the CIA controversy of 1991.

Cut to 1991. The collapse of the Soviet Union had threatened this country with a peace dividend, but now the U. S. was avoiding that danger as it edged towards Bush's reelection campaign and the Gulf War.

In this climate, Richard Rose, then president of RIT and a former Marine, announced that he was taking a four month sabbatical to work on national policy and procedures in

Washington. It occurred to someone to try to reach Rose at the CIA. When Rose answered the phone, the RIT-CIA scandal had begun.

Though most documents pertaining to CIA activities at RIT were shredded, a few were leaked to the press after a highly publicized theft from Rose's office. Many professors and administrators recalled their experiences with the CIA when the press and a fact-finding commission began to investigate the affair.

The "lead organization" in the CIA-RIT relationship, according to the 1985 Memorandum of Agreement, was the Center for Imaging Science. New courses were to be added in artificial intelligence, integrated electro optics and digital image processing. Rochester journalist J. B. Spula explained why the CIA helped build RIT's imaging science facilities: RIT offers the CIA, and the national security establishment in general, state-of-the-art support in things like aerial photography, image-analysis, and high-tech printing. These and related technologies are the building blocks of surveillance, spy satellites, and, at the end of the militarist's rainbow, "Star Wars" in all its imperial glory.

In 1985, Rose consulted with CIA agents over the choice of a new director for the imaging science center. One agent, Robert Kohler, became an RIT trustee in 1988. Another, Keith Hazard, later joined RIT's advisory board for imaging science.

In 1989, the administration tried to remove the center from the College of Graphic Arts and Photography and place it under the RIT Research Corporation (RITRC), which administers most of the CIA training, recruitment and research at RIT.

CIA influence extended to the rest of RIT as well. The Federal Programs Training Center was created at RIT in 1988 to give technological support to the CIA. There, stu-

dents were paid \$8-10 an hour to produce forged documents. The crafts were also put to CIA use. Woodworking majors designed furniture with secret drawers, and picture frames with cavities for listening devices. In one course, students identified only by their first names, designed wax molds for key-holes. The CIA even tried to place an interpreter at RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

Andrew Dougherty, Rose's executive assistant and a member of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers, supervised CIA activities at RIT. He authored the 1985 memorandum and consulting reports for the CIA, two of which caused a stir. The first, "Changemasters," resulted from discussions among six panelists, including Robert McFarlane (of Iran-Contra fame) and former vice presidents of Xerox and AT&T.

"Changemasters" advocated economic espionage against U.S. trading partners, the transfer of government-funded technology to the private sector, and the repeal of antitrust legislation. The second report, "Japan 2000," was an outgrowth of discussions with such experts on Japanese culture as McFarlane, Tim Stone, a former CIA agent and director of corporate intelligence for Motorola, and Frank Pipp, a retired Xerox executive. It warns our nation's decision-makers: "Mainstream Japanese, the vast majority of whom absolutely embrace the national vision, have strange precedents. They are creatures of an ageless, amoral, manipulative and controlling culture — not to be emulated — suited only to this race, in this place." The report concludes, "'Japan: 2000' should provide notice that 'the rising sun' is coming — the attack has begun."

When the contents of "Japan 2000" were disclosed, Rose tried to distance himself from them by saying that the report was only a

working draft. Although he later released a revised version, the report still caused widespread indignation. RIT historian Richard Lunt observes, "It is the height of hypocrisy to solicit gifts from leading Japanese corporations to finance the imaging science building while at the same time preparing a confidential document for the CIA which claims the Japanese government and Japanese corporations are conspiring to attack and destroy the United States."

The graduation ceremonies in May '91 were marked by protests. Visitors to RIT found the outlines of bodies drawn in chalk on sidewalks and parking lots.

That June, the administration announced that a blue ribbon trustee committee would investigate CIA activities at RIT. Somehow, a committee containing the likes of Colby Chandler, then chairman of Kodak, and Kent Damon, a former vice president of Xerox, did little to reassure critics of RIT-CIA ties that its inquiry would be impartial. The administration later added two students, five professors and an alumnus, who happened to be a Kodak vice president, to the committee. It also brought in Monroe Freedman, a former law school dean at Hofstra University, to serve as its senior fact finder.

As the scandal unfolded, Rose and Dougherty hastened to reassure the RIT community that the CIA was not unduly influencing the curriculum or threatening academic freedom. Claiming that "morality is built into every fiber of my being," Dougherty said that the CIA would never do anything morally objectionable. "They are really gun-shy about doing anything improper with an academic institution," he maintained.

Monroe Freedman, the senior fact finder of the commission that investigated the RIT-CIA ties felt otherwise. In his report he wrote, Intimidation and fear are recurring themes in

comments about matters relating to the CIA at RIT and, specifically, about Mr. Dougherty. One Dean called him “authoritarian,” “harsh,” and a “threatening individual.” Another Dean said that Mr. Dougherty “had the power to make you or break you.”

“To clash with him meant that you were going to be fired,” the Dean said, giving the name of one person who, he alleged, was fired because he had said that Mr. Dougherty did not understand what a university is. One Vice President expressed resentment that he had been compelled to accept the appointment of an unwanted subordinate for an administrative position, noting that the subordinate also had responsibilities at the RITRC. “Things were done, said the same Vice President, and I had to go along.”

Some RIT faculty and administrators declined to cooperate with the intelligence agency. Edward McIrvine, dean of RIT's College of Graphic Arts and Photography, twice refused CIA security clearance requests. Nonetheless, the CIA conducted a check on McIrvine without his permission and asked to see his medical records when it found that he had seen a psychiatrist a few years earlier.

Malcolm Spaul, head of the Film and Video Department, was asked to train CIA agents in video surveillance. Spaul declined because he is a friend of the family of Charles Horman, the journalist who was kidnapped and murdered in Chile during the 1973 coup. Spaul said that there was “some evidence that the CIA knew he was in captivity and acquiesced in his execution.”

Another professor, John Ciampa, head of RIT's American Video Institute, refused to work for the CIA by pointing to a clause in his contract that says that the institute would only engage in life enhancing activities.

As the RIT scandal drew attention to CIA involvement at other universities,

Dougherty advised his CIA superiors that time was of the essence if the agency's activities at RIT were to be preserved. “Every day that the Federal Programs Training Center can be identified with RIT compounds our problem.”

Dougherty proposed replacing the RITRC with a non-profit university foundation that would include the University of Rochester. In June, Rose announced that he would sever all personal ties with the CIA, and Dougherty resigned as his assistant. Two months later, in September, Rose announced that he would step down as president the following year.

As a result of the CIA controversy, a committee was created to oversee research contracts at RIT. Recently, however, the committee informed Simone that it was not receiving the information that it needed to do its job. In fall '96, RIT trustees unanimously voted to designate President Rose as RIT President Emeritus.

RIT's current president, Albert Simone, took office in 1992. At first, the RIT community welcomed Simone's accessibility and his involvement in university affairs. He was quoted in the October 10, 1994 *Henrietta Post* as saying, “If you're not an open person, a sensitive person, a person who genuinely likes others, you can't be an effective decision-maker.”

Compared to his predecessor, Simone appeared forthright and in touch with students and faculty. In an early speech, he expressed his commitment to the liberal arts. “He's a breath of fresh air,” said philosophy professor Wade Robison.

About six months after his inauguration as president, Simone began to craft a ten year Strategic Plan for RIT, calling it “the most participatory plan in all of academia.” He then embarked the university on a path of

managed attrition, and began to make plans to expand partnerships with industry and to revamp the curriculum. Having slashed six million dollars from the annual budget, Simone announced his intention of cutting ten to twenty million dollars more, citing the need for “teamwork” if the RIT community was to benefit from the plan.

“If we have the sense of community I've talked about...I believe that we'll be able to find ways to — if we have to — downsize, restructure, reorient, re-prioritize, reallocate,” Simone said, adding reassuringly, “I think we're going to have to do all of those things, but that doesn't mean we have to do them and have a lot of hurt and bloodshed and despair and destruction.”

Had the RIT community been more familiar with Simone's tenure as president of the University of Hawaii (UH) from 1984 to 1992, it might have been wary of the changes in store for RIT. David Yount, who served as vice president under Simone at UH, says in *Who Runs the University?* that it was widely rumored that Simone had been brought in as a “hit man” and that approximately one-third of the twenty-four deans left office early in his administration.

According to Yount, Simone's brash personality did not endear him to the UH community: Many of his listeners echoed the sentiments of former Manoa Chancellor Marvin Anderson when he confided privately to his staff that Al Simone has no class. Especially embarrassing were the sexist comments and ethnic slurs that sporadically popped out — his golfing double entendre about the hooker or his careless pronunciation of local names... Although he was coached for years by female staffers who managed most of the time to put the right words in his mouth and the right thoughts in his head, the wrong words and thoughts continued to emerge. He habitually

said “woman” when he meant women, introduced professional couples as “Dr. and Mrs.,” instead of “Dr. and Dr.” and betrayed genuine surprise whenever the career of a married woman surpassed that of her husband.

Several student groups, including Students Against Discrimination and Hawaii Women of Color, held a mock trial of Simone. Their mentor, Haunani-Kay Trask, Professor of Hawaiian Studies, charged Simone with incompetence, racism, sexism and ignorance of Hawaiian history. The jury found him guilty on all counts, and the judge pronounced him “an embarrassment to the entire university community and to the human race.”

The origins of RIT's crisis in the arts do not lie, however, in the colorful personality of Albert Simone, but in the convergence of the interests of large corporations with those of the national security state. The development of Kodak and Xerox products depends in large part on the advances made in the imaging sciences. Simone, who is both RIT president and chair of the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, has built up the well-connected CIMS at the expense of the arts.

Speaking of connections, CIMS was built by the Pike Company, a construction firm which tops the list of a dozen Monroe County companies that last year exceeded the legal limit on corporate campaign contributions. Tom Judson, Pike Company president, claiming to be ignorant of the New York State statute that limits such contributions to \$5,000, said: “Maybe I can get some money back.”

Indeed. No corporation has ever been fined for violating the statute, which was enacted in 1974.

Thus are connections made. The first off campus RIT trustee meeting convened in Washington, D. C. in April '97. President

Simone explained, "We want Washington to know us better. We have had a lot of support from the federal government. We need more."

During their three day stay in Washington, the trustees met with members of Congress and federal officials to discuss such matters as technology transfer and research, and were briefed by a Department of Defense (DOD) undersecretary on U. S. technology policy. Anita Jones, the director of DOD's Defense Research and Engineering, observing that she didn't know of any other university board coming to Washington, said of the RIT trustees visit: "I thought it showed a lot of forward thinking."

In March '97, I interviewed Kurt Perschke and fellow ceramics student and SOS organizer Molly Hamblin. They related to me the history of the School of American Crafts, which owes its existence to Aileen Osborn Webb, founder of the American Craft Council. SAC opened at Dartmouth in 1944 and moved to RIT in 1950. As the first school in this country exclusively devoted to crafts, SAC was inspired by the Crafts Movement, which has been a counterweight to the values of the Industrial Revolution for over a century.

To hear Hamblin describe the material with which she works is to come to feel that it has a life of its own, giving new meaning to Keats' "strife between damnation and impassioned clay." Hamblin believes that RIT students are too engrossed in the information highway, too dazzled by the prospect of being able to purchase groceries by computer, to bother to express themselves. She describes to me the eeriness of RIT buildings that are full of people and silent except for the clicking of computer keyboards.

While Perschke and Hamblin are elated that the art schools have earned a reprieve,

they know that their existence remains precarious. Hamblin says that the art schools have been given a three to five year "umbrella," during which they have to successfully market their programs. While advertising has increased student enrollment in the art schools for next year, the RIT administration remains uncommitted to the art programs.

Hamblin notes that positions are being left unfulfilled as professors retire, and that the increased number of art students has not led to an increase in the space available to them or to improvements in their facilities while Perschke laments the absence of institutional memory at RIT, where students know little about the 1991 CIA controversy. Unless the disjunction between past and present is overcome, the arts and crafts may go the way of the dodo and the carrier-pigeon. SAC may be forced to eventually leave RIT and become independent again in order to survive, says Hamblin, who does not relish the idea of being in an institution where she is not wanted.

**FOR STUDENTS WHO WANT TO DISCOVER THEIR OWN "STRATEGIC NATIONAL RESOURCE WORTHY OF EXPLICIT DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT," HELL'S KITCHEN AND THE AUTHOR RECOMMEND INFUSION, THE QUARTERLY OF THE CENTER FOR CAMPUS ORGANIZING (BOX 748, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02142), WHICH IS AVAILABLE FOR \$25 A YEAR (\$15 FOR STUDENTS).**