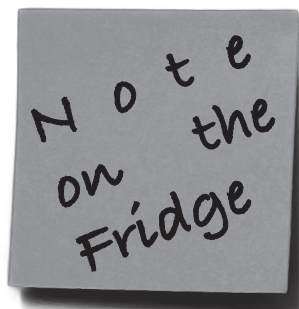




Gracies Dinnertime Theatre



The less you know, the better. This is their promise to you. With everything. AI, mass media, podcasts, the administration. The less you know, the safer you are, the happier you can be. Joy in ignorance. Wouldn't that be nice? Pure bliss from nothing, of nothing, leading you to nothing. You'll never have to worry about anything anymore, because worry is such a negative emotion. The last thing you want to feel is a negative emotion, right?

Today is **Student Press Freedom Day**. Thanks, SPLC! And a thank you to the nearest librarian would be nice, because they worked with us to get *GDT* into the library. You can find us in the zine section,^[1] with collections of past Volumes to be negotiated further (maybe *those* can go into the periodical section...) and, as always, an issue a week gets lovingly donated to the RIT Archives. You can find copies of every (yes, every!) past issue. We even found an issue we didn't know existed, and it's in the Archives!

More than a thank you must be returned to you, avid readers of *Gracies Dinnertime Theatre*. Why? Because you love us, and we love *The News*,^[2] and you trust us as a valuable resource for cutting-edge, factually accurate reporting. We stand on the shoulders of giants: fonts of front-page news that *The Onion* and *Reductress* would be proud of.^[3] Without readers like yourself, we wouldn't be here. Literally—so many of you have come to write for us!^[4] We will be there for you, through thick and thin, no matter what the Trump admin throws RIT's way.^[5] This Student Press Freedom Day, our theme is putting *theoria* into *praxis*. Allow me to be cocky and say that, of all things, this is what *GDT* does best: *press praxis*. We are weekly. No matter what. Our content will always have some element of satire, and be topical, relevant. When we publish articles encouraging you to slash ICE car tires or send hate mail to Kristi Noem (or some other Terrible 22^[6] of your choice), those are satire because in no way would we ever expect

1 Note: we're not a zine. We took what we could get.

2 Hot and fresh!

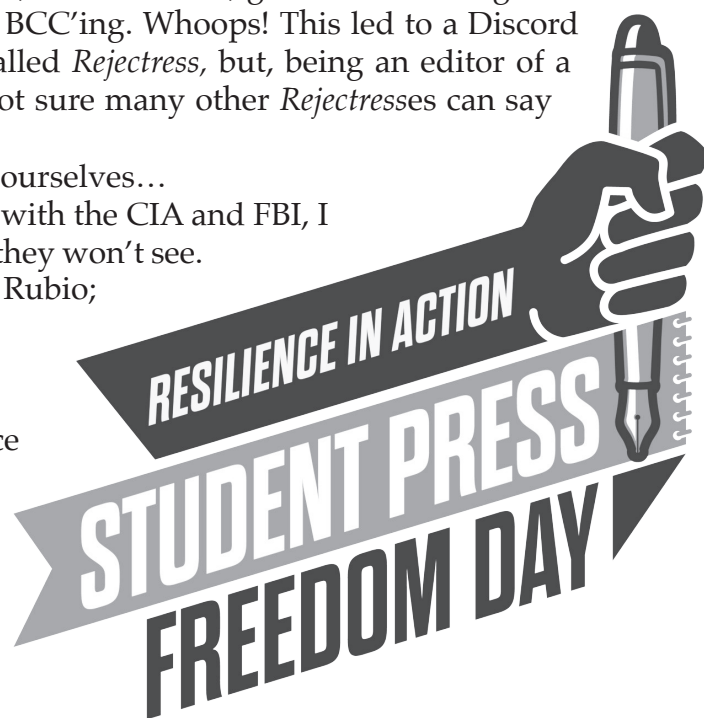
3 I once applied to be a contributor for *The Reductress*, and of course, got denied...along with 480+ other people in an email they CC'd instead of BCC'ing. Whoops! This led to a Discord group to potentially start an off-brand *Reductress* called *Rejectress*, but, being an editor of a satire publication already, I took it like a champ—not sure many other *Rejectresses* can say they helped restart a dead publication.

4 Sometimes I wonder if we're just writing stuff for ourselves...

5 Considering that RIT likely (possibly) still has ties with the CIA and FBI, I doubt they'll try to shut RIT down for our little stint they won't see.

6 In no particular order: Secretary of State, Marco Rubio;

Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth; Attorney General Pam Bondi; Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy; Secretary of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem; Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard; White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles; Secretary of the Treasury, Scott Bessent; Secretary of the Interior, Doug Burgum; Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins; Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnik; Secretary of Labor, Lori Chavez-DeRemer; Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Scott Turner;





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Contact GDT directly at:
graciesdinnertimetheatre@gmail.com

IMAGINUM AUCTORES

Page 1: Student Press Law Center. "Official Logo of SPFD." 2026. Check out studentpressfreedom.org!

Page 2: Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd. "Postwomen with their mail bags and bundles of mail." 1943. commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:StateLibQld_1_187107_Postwomen_with_their_mail_bags_and_bundles_of_mail,_Brisbane_February_1943.jpg

Page 9: OpenIcons. "Human Warning Symbol Sign." 2013. [commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hazard_to_Human_Health_\(e.g._Poisonous\)_Symbol.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hazard_to_Human_Health_(e.g._Poisonous)_Symbol.svg)

Page 10: McKendrick, John Gray. "Figure 18." *Life in Motion*. 1892. commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Life_in_Motion_Fig_18.png

Page 10: XKCD. "Bridge Types." 2025. This comic is published under a CC-NC-2.5 license. See the original at xkcd.com/3097.

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you to reasonably take our advice when we've also recommended filling Lake Ontario with (let's be real, Sam, *destined to die*) axolotls and published fan fiction about the Monkees.

Free press is important *because* we are the outlet, whether you're writing for us, drawing for us, or doing layout for us. Press is a collection of people who care about giving you information, and a free press is only what guarantees that. Not because of our individual rights, but because if we were not free, we would be biased against reporting the truth. Sometimes, the truth is unfavorable to the appearances and standings of powerful people in society. The press is here to tell that truth. For us, with a twinge of irony.

We like to think of free press as a right, something codified into text; an artefact of Law. It is not. Free press exists outside of Law, and Law can either recognize its existence or not. In this country, we think the Law protects the free press. It regulates the federal government's treatment of the free press,^[7] and our government seems to have no intention of following those regulations. It is the Student Press Law Center's goal to create laws protecting student journalism, but New York has none. That means that the protection of the free press falls upon the People: *us*. Your readership means the world, because it forces our press into recognition. The unleashed opinions and gripes can be heard in the space you make for them to exist. However, it means you must do your part and patronize the free press. Show us that you love us,^[8] because we sure as hell love you.

From the bottom of our cold, shriveled hearts at *Gracies Dinnertime Theatre*, thank you for continuing to read us. We'll be here for you. 🏠

-P.K.S. "Goose Waffles," Editor-in-Exile



Secretary of Transportation, Sean Duffy; Secretary of Energy, Chris Wright; Secretary of Education, Linda McMahon; Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Doug Collins; Administrator of Environmental Protection Agency Lee Zeldin; Director of the Office of Management and Budget Russell Vought; Trade Representative David Greer; Administrator of the Small Business Association, Kelly Loeffler.

7 It might be tempting to think the Bill of Rights is a document outlining what we as citizens are allowed to do. It's more of a "the government *can't* do these things to you" than anything else, and, frankly, if protecting natural rights only happens once their existence has been codified into Law, how *natural* are these rights anyway?

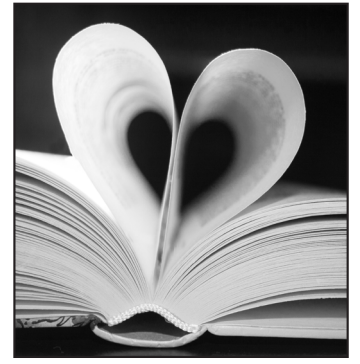
8 Show *Reporter* that you love them too! Their magazine stands are often atrociously full. Take the damn issues!

Letters to the Editor Re: V36, I3

GDT reserves the right *not* to edit letters for spelling, grammar, or coherence.

To the Editors:

I am not a fan of the exclamation point. I would even go so far as to say that I am largely opposed to its use. This puts me, in the year-of-our-lord 80AT, in the distinct minority...or does it? I suspect that, due to whatever cultural shift has happened in the beginning decades of the 21st century, few people have consciously considered how monumentally jarring the exclamation point is.



I say this because in Volume 36, issue 3 of *Gracies Dinnertime Theatre*, the article on how to write hate mail had...a lot of exclamation points. A lot. A lot a lot. I counted. There were a total of 43 sentences in the piece, 11 of which ended with exclamation points.^[1] That's 25% of the total sentences ending with an exclamation point.

It hasn't always been this way. In the not too far distant past exclamation points were uncouth. As Sir Terry Pratchett once noted, "Multiple exclamation marks are a sure sign of a diseased mind." Authors from Twain (complaining—as only he could—about the publishing styles in Europe) to Fitzgerald (reported to have advised "Cut out all these exclamation points. An exclamation point is like laughing at your own joke."), authors have shunned the exclamation point. I fear my distaste for the exclamation point might be conflated with disliking the piece by Rock Goblin; that's not the case at all. I enjoyed the piece.

Except for all the exclamation points.

Am a hypocrite? Yes! There is a long and voluminous^[2] evidentiary chain showing my premeditated and repeated violence against English: footnotes off of footnotes, an unnatural love of semicolons, my deep belief that the dollar sign (\$) should go after the number, not before, and my inclination to create novel compound words.^[3] I have strong opinions about Oxford commas, and why isn't there punctuation that combines a colon and a question mark? I need that. I think an ellipsis^[4] should have a terminal full stop when appearing at the end of a sentence. I think we should be using musical notation in prose to make it clear how a sentence should be read aloud; where are things drawn out, where are there stops that don't fit the grammatical rules of commas. I'm even heretical enough to think that it's time that we just all agree that "it's" can be both "it is" and also serve as a possessive state of whatever it is.

And yet....

In 1956 the German philosopher Theodor Adorno published "Punctuation Marks" in which he argued that punctuation wasn't merely mechanical. A well punctuated sentence can genuinely change how the reader processes the information. Punctuation, as symbolic hieroglyphically important frameworks that help stabilize and strengthen the words they adorn. The earliest writing systems we have examples of lacked punctuation, making them devilishly hard to read, but also devoid of nuance. In that yearning for greater control over the ideas we fight into submission and commit to the page (or the screen), punctuation is necessary. Critical. Needed.

1 Funnily enough (to me), the example hate mail letter didn't have a single exclamation point.

2 Not drapes. The other one.

3 Why should Shakespeare be the only person allowed to make up a bunch of words?

4 Editor's note: speaking of ellipses, there are four in this letter. Everyone has their punctuation vices.

Even Adorno reserved a special disdain for the exclamation point, though, saying “Exclamation points, however, have degenerated into usurpers of authority, assertions of importance.” While he is explicitly discussing their use after the German Expressionism movement, his observation captures part of what I feel: “a desperate written gesture that yearns in vain to transcend language.”

So when I receive a professional email wishing me a “good morning!” the sender and I are diminished by that exclamation point. Does the sender genuinely feel that excited about my morning? Are they enthusiastic about theirs? I know neither is the case. That exclamation point becomes a lie between us, and the entirety of the message is now suspect. A lie is an attempt to claim that the world is different than it is. To usurp authority over reality itself...just as that exclamation point in my email tries to convince me the sender cares, really cares, about whatever is being saddled with that graphical bang on the page.

I recognize this might be a losing battle, my windmill to tilt at. Perhaps exclamation points are the price of doing business; the typographical equivalent of vocal fry: something that drives older generations mad while younger writers don't even notice it's there. Maybe I'm just aging out of relevance, shaking my fist at ink blots. Or, maybe I am from an age that is best forgotten, where emotional distance was preferred to the over-the-top performance and attention seeking that the exclamation point represents. It says “look here. This is important. Highly esteemed deeds were done here. This is valued.”

Enough words. Love you, *GDT*. Genuinely liked your article, Rock Goblin. Did I follow the hate mail instructions correctly?

Yours,

Sean T. Hammond

RIT alumnus, co-founder of GDT.

P.S. Seriously, I want punctuation that combines a colon and a question mark. ❏ ?

Dear Sean T. Hammond, co-founder of *GDT*:

Sincerely, I hate you.^[1] Really. Your so-called hate mail left me feeling peeved, which is the sort of anger you get when someone has woken you up early to go to the airport, or remembering that you left your door unlocked after having parked at work. I feel this way because your mention of Adorno in your hate mail has dragged me from the dark burrow of depression and guilt^[2] and prompted me to break the creative writer's block that had been weighing on me greatly.

In the works is a short story from the perspective of a young girl whose best friend's father grooms her and has a child with her at 20. It definitely has no relation at all to my life, or the people in it; in fact, the truth is, that crazy of a story, as true as it is for me, is true for others, too, and in my story there will be dissonances to the real lives of others. In this way, there is no possible way this story is about me, because what it is about is my mother. See? This is sarcasm, or the beloved *irony* for which Adorno derides the quotation mark as an appropriate punctuation mark for: “... they

1 Lolz. Like I would. You know, Adorno didn't say anything about footnotes, did he? Not a peep. Considering that they're not actually punctuation, but an additional means of providing information for the reader that is not necessarily a part of the narrative, it makes sense that *GDT* uses them extensively and Adorno used them sometimes. I figured I might as well break the footnote ice this way and acknowledge that I read “Punctuation Marks,” trans. Shierry Weber Nicholson, *The Antioch Review*, 48 no.3 (1990): 300-305, accessed Feb. 11. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4612221>.

2 Will the conference take my late paper? Only time will tell. (Time has told. The answer is yes).



exempt the writer from the spirit whose claim is inherent in irony, and they violate the irony, and they violate the very concept of irony by separating it from the matter at hand and presenting a predetermined judgment on the subject.”^[3] Adorno goes so far as to critique Marx and Engels for their excessive usage of the ironic quotation mark, as, in introducing into the text words that we are trained to understand as coming from another, ironically quoting the verbiage and lexicon of “totalitarian methods”^[4] will instill, on some level, totalitarian methods into the fabric of the theory. Perhaps an Adorno-inspired suggestion to the Communist fountainheads^[5] would be to not miss the forest for the trees and to describe what would have been quoted in a new way that follows their own framework, thus removing the unnecessary irony of Capitalism’s influence upon their Communist texts. In your hate mail, you used ironic quotations only once, but the quote they were used for could have with much more punch be re-written without

them: “Or, maybe I am from an age that is best forgotten, where emotional distance was preferred to the over-the-top performance and attention seeking that the exclamation point represents. It asks us to look here, claiming this is important, that highly esteemed deeds were done here, that this is valued.” What a wonderfully punchy and obviously ironic phrase (in the greater context of your hate mail). The question, of course, is if your ironic quotation mark also “arouses the suspicion that the very dialectic that constitutes the theory’s content has been brought to a standstill and the object assimilated to it from above, without negotiation”^[6]—that is, in critiquing exclamation marks, you make the same mistake but for ironic quotes.

The exclamation point gets a lot of unnecessary hate. I say this because in your hate mail, not once do you say that you hate *us* Editors. I took great personal offense, because clearly I have been slacking on my duties and only an article with some superfluous exclamation points can occur

3 Theodor W. Adorno, “Punctuation,” 303.

4 Ibid.

5 See, now, this is a really layered ironic joke that I don’t expect the casual reader to understand because why are any of you this deep into theory like I am? Well, get woke. This is an intentional allusion to Ayn Rand’s “Fountainhead,” in which her manly-man main character proves the point that individualism (and thus Capitalism) is totally better than communism; my irony, of course, is doubled when one realizes that both Marx and Engels routinely used the “slave” as a rhetorical device that furthered white supremacy while also benefiting from individualism themselves in life and death. I know, crazy, Marx and Engels furthering white supremacy? In my Communist Manifesto? Why, yes! By comparing the conditions of working-class people in poverty in industrialized European countries to the condition of enslaved Asians, Indigenous peoples, and Africans, particularly those of chattel slavery in the United States – often using the word “slave-like,” which, on its face, should clue you in that these conditions are not, in fact, the same conditions as an enslaved person – Marx and Hegel continued the narrative that slavery was a thing of the past, rather than the real function of their “world market” and thus an inherent and prominent part of their very own communist programme: “For example, soon after the deployment of the slave analogy, Engels, in ethnographic mode, notes the prevalence of peddlers on street corners selling ginger-beer or nettle-beer. ‘Two cooling effervescent drinks,’ Engels explains in a footnote, ‘the former made of water, *sugar* and some ginger’ (Engels, “Condition of the Working Class in England,” CW 4: 385 n*). And it is the factory workers of the *cotton* districts, who, for Engels, form the ‘nucleus of the labour movement’ (Engels CW 4: 528)...” While Engels identifies a labor movement, he mistakes *the manufacture of an object* for the *origins of the labor involved in producing the object*, and conveniently leaves out the impacts of the Triangle Trade. [Shilliam, Robbie, “Decolonizing the Communist Manifesto,” in T. Carver & J. Farr (eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to the Communist Manifesto* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015), pp.195-213]. An incredible parallel, seeing as Marx and Engels were very much *not* the fountainheads of communism; instead, they drew their inspiration from 18th-century French Age of Enlightenment thinkers, while elsewhere in the world certain groups of Indigenous peoples practiced what we could identify as a form of communism long before European colonization (of course, having existed before the term “communism,” they may not necessarily be the ideology depending on cultural, societal, and spiritual context). The idea of abolishing private property simply wasn’t new when the *Communist Manifesto* dropped, but of course, in the stream of history, this is forgotten in favor of labelling Marx and Engels as ideological fountainheads (see, I told you it made sense).

6 Adorno, “Punctuation,” 303.

when that happens. Your hate mail would perhaps have cut more deeply if it correctly identified why there were so many exclamation points in Rock Goblin's article. I have taken up the lack of hate directed towards the Editors that was in your letter upon myself, so don't worry, we're hated plenty enough.

All that being said, I now turn to my main point of critique of your hate mail: you did not more thoroughly explore the connections between context and reason for using punctuation, and leave out important context for your pulled quote. First, the important context. "Their proliferation [exclamation points] was both a protest against convention and a symptom of the inability to alter the structure of language from within; language was attacked from the outside instead. Exclamation points survive as *tokens of the disjunction between idea and realization* in that period, and their *impotent evocation* redeems them in memory..."^[7] Adorno here is in fact critiquing the German Expressionism movement specifically, situating your pulled quote in a very firm cultural and historical moment. Although still clearly viewing the exclamation mark with distaste—"Exclamation points, gestures of authority with which the writer tries to impose an emphasis external to the matter itself, have become intolerable... Exclamation points, however, have degenerated into usurpers of authority, assertions of importance"^[8]—Adorno is not critiquing the exclamation mark as "impotent", but the *deployment* of the question mark. Otherwise, Adorno finds that *all* punctuation is in fact necessary.^[9] They exist within the language, and thus, provide a very distinct meaning that cannot be replicated through other means. He likens them to music, such that the exclamation point is "like a silent cymbal clash"⁸ and draws the origins of the red stoplight to the exclamation point.⁹ Even if

Adorno does have his distaste for the exclamation mark, he is hardly suggesting that it does not have a place: "Hence is superfluous to omit them [punctuation marks] as being superfluous: then they simply hide." In asking to do away with exclamation marks, we ask ourselves to hide the parts of ourselves that are indeed dishonest, resistant to authority, or an assertion that the content matters.

Before Adorno's time, the exclamation mark had a number of different uses. Even in its name is its very broad function: so many things are an "exclamation" that, in all senses, the the punctuation mark's function will always be to grab attention and call importance to the matter at hand; its origin, although apocryphal—so it seems—is the Latin exclamation *Io!*, "Joy!", from "Io Saturnalia!", having had the "o" migrate underneath the "I" over time, or perhaps by the Italian poet Iacopo Alpoleio da Urbisaglia who claimed to have invented it.^[10] Now that it is after Adorno's time, particularly with the invention of the Internet and email, it is important to do such punctual analysis in a modern context, with modern reason. If you were able to understand that Rock Goblin's article was ironic and satire, then these exclamation points have in fact succeeded in their mission in being resistant to authority and deceiving the reader as to the emotional status of the writer. I suggest that, in fact, this is Rock Goblin's point, and that without exclamation points at all—in fact, without *excessive* exclamation points—Rock Goblin's piece would fall flat. I do not disagree that it is easier to show hate through periods, but I disagree that Rock Goblin's intent was to easily show anger. A letter to Kristi Noem, puppy-killer and human trafficker extraordinaire, of course should not contain exclamation points—lest we lead her into believing our hate is insincere—but a letter to the audience becomes ironic and humorous when the text itself is disjunct from the subject matter.

7 Adorno, "Punctuation," 302. Emphasis added.

8 Adorno, "Punctuation," 301.

9 Adorno, "Punctuation," 300.

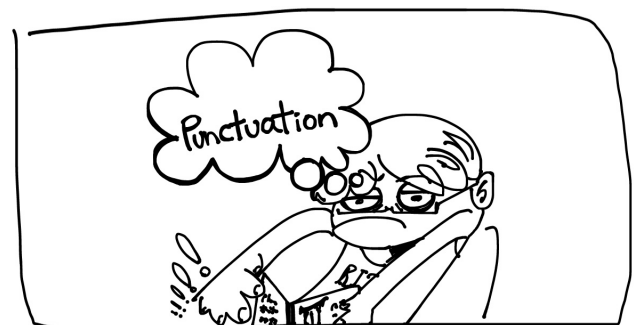
10 Alexander and Nicholas Humez, "On the Dot: The Speck That Changed The World," (Oxford University Press, 2008), 141.

Lacking mirth from hating someone terrible, I doubt it would be an ironic article. I support Rock Goblin's exclamation marks, and my only critique is for myself in that I didn't edit it more thoroughly.^[11]

To your point about emails: I think both you and Adorno are projecting dishonesty onto your (now virtual) interlocutor. *Your* morning may have sucked, but you have no way of knowing that *my* morning sucked unless I tell you directly. Your example of exclamation marks in emails is, frankly, a poor one; I say to people "Good morning!" or "Good afternoon!," and since it is speech there is no punctuation, but in translating it into text, we seek some way to correctly label its function as a greeting and, thus, exclamation. "Good morning" with no punctuation afterward is borderline unprofessional, and "Good morning." is dour and stern, closed off—there is no joy that the morning is good, it is a statement of fact—but once again, how do you know *my* morning is good? Your morning may be good, but mine may not—in fact, severing the emotional impact of the statement serves to cancel whatever truth it may contain. It falsely states that the morning is good. The exclamation mark leaves you room to doubt the truth of it for yourself, your own morning, while offering the olive branch to cheer you and make your morning good. What an irony, that a period should pose an even more dishonest statement than an exclamation mark!

Emails serve the function of a letter with the instantaneous function of directly speaking to someone: why are we to expect the same grammatical standards as a book or essay's prose? In fact, even in the telegram days, punctuation alone could communicate information and associated emotional impact while being succinct for monetary reasons. Famously, Victor Hugo sent a telegram to his publisher asking how sales of his books were going. The publisher responded that they were doing great—how was this communicated? One telegram

going "?," its response being "!".^[12] This immediacy leads, however, to a counter-productive sensation of insincerity, and for those in the workplace who may already be pre-judged by a fellow employee or boss before they even open the email—women; lack of European descent; queerness; disability; immigration status; social class; let us not forget that modern technology has a distinct tilt towards general adoption by Western and Westernized countries—the exclamation point emphasizes emotional sincerity. The sender hopes you have a good morning, or is genuinely thankful; we should expect that the ironic function of the exclamation point can be discerned from an analysis of their overall email and history.



If a recipient takes a professional email less seriously because it contains exclamation points, how can the sending interlocutor, knowing this, expect that you will read their

11 "Copy editor"'s note: they didn't edit it at all, actually.

12 Stuart Jeffries, "The joy of exclamation marks!," *The Guardian*, April 28, 2008, <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2009/apr/29/exclamation-mark-punctuation>.

email at all? Grammar is the faulting point, and not the message. Suggesting that a missive is more serious without the exclamation points only shows fault in the interpretation and understanding of the message. If the email is unserious, more than exclamation marks will make it evident.

Shortly, I will talk about the excessive usage of exclamation points on social media. Again, the social aspect is highlighted and the usage of exclamation marks has varying meanings, though all of them exclamatory. In an open forum, everything is dialogue represented textually, *not* prose; with the rise of memetic warfare, we can see the trickle-down effects into general social media culture. The concentration and nigh-self parody of excessive exclamation marks remains an insincere way to express fake joy at terrible subjects that would otherwise elicit negative exclamations. It leads to normalization, and fits nicely into Adorno's critique of the time and manner in which to use exclamation marks. Here is where I think your critique fits in best; however, I don't think that a total absence is any better. A balance, due to the truth that it is a dialogue in textual format, is necessary, although currently absent.

So, fuck you, Sean, because dragging me out of my self-imposed exile has left me ranting at length about punctuation. I hope we can find for ourselves some nice mix of analysis on the current usage of punctuation of all sorts; I think your position can fit in nicely with my framework of a situationally-based and context-dependent meaning of exclamation marks. Either way, it seems clear that Rock Goblin's article is a favorite of both of ours with wonderful impact. May we send mail jubilantly with emphatic hate towards our enemies, with and without exclamation.

Sincerely,

Phèdre "Goose Waffles" K. Schlagenhauff, editor in exile

P.S. is a very funny thing to add to a letter when your initials, sans middle initial, are "P.S."

P.P.S. is even funnier to send. Haha. Penis joke. 

To Sean T. Hammond and Phèdre "Goose Waffles" K. Schlagenhauff,

Thank you both so much for this exemplary example of the use of hate mail! Furthermore, the abject insanity around the use of exclamation points has been deeply entertaining!

I wanted to impose an interlude to this argument, and clarify the reasoning behind my use and disuse of the simple exclamation point. Simply put, there is a limited number of exclamation points I will be able to type before I die, due to the ephemeral nature of time and the passing winds of life, making it so that each exclamation point I use will be the most important exclamation point I will ever use! It is with that in mind that my abuse of the poor exclamation point becomes less of a diminishment of the universe, and instead an ode to the joy of loving the reader!

Kristi Noem, on the other hand, I despise.

There is no hell on earth that could sufficiently dole punishment fitting to her crimes, and the pain she has wrought on innocent people is truly unforgivable. It is my most deepest and most since hope that she is subjected to every single torture that she has cause someone else to endure. Kristi Noem does not deserve my exclamation points.

Again, thank you for the etude,

Rock Goblin!

P.S. If someone could invent a question mark-exclamation point, that would also be nice! 

**? NOTE FROM THE LAYOUT EDITOR: WAS NORMAL PUNCTUATION TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR?
COME COMPLAIN! GRACIESDINNERTIMETHEATRE@GMAIL.COM**

A Gracie's Food Review

-by *Dedusmuln*

Gracie's—the dining hall that *Gracies Dinnertime Theatre* performs dinnertime theatre at,^[1] the dining hall that is known and feared by students and toilets alike, and the dining hall that I was going to do a food review of, but have made the executive decision not to. This decision was made in regards to my own health and safety, because as of January 16th, 2026, Grace Watson dining hall has nine health code violations!^{[2][3]} These violations are including but not limited to: potentially hazardous foods not being refrigerated, preparation surfaces not being washed, food not being protected from contamination, insects, and rodents!^[2]

I have personally asked Grace Watson^[4] herself to explain why she is putting students in harm's way with her poor practices, and she has come up with some interesting answers that should put students at ease.

Students often overlook healthy eating, deciding to forego proper protein intake for carbs and sweets. The insects and rodents aren't just pests that have made their way into the kitchen for a stay—they're the ingredients!^[2] By sneaking flies and mice into your brownies or pasta,^[5] Gracie's is acting in your best interest by giving you some much needed protein!^[2] They've also replaced all of their all-purpose flour^[6] with cricket flour, even grinding up the crickets in-house!^[2]



The lack of proper refrigeration is much more concerning, considering deadly bacteria could make students sick, and even kill those with weak immune systems, but Grace Watson has provided an interesting perspective on the matter. Have we ever thought about how those deadly bacteria feel? There are likely billions of bacteria on just one piece of beef, and by refrigerating that beef, we are killing all of those living, squirming creatures. We would be pinning bacterial genocide on our hands. This also extends to the cooking of meat, so from now on, Gracie's will only be serving room-temperature raw meat in all of their dishes. To be fair, is that really much worse than the grey hamburger patties stored in a tub of water? As an enjoyer of rare steak, I welcome this change.

Although I have gotten answers to my questions, I still do not feel comfortable eating at Gracie's because I am allergic to mouse dander, so I am sad to say you will never get a food review out of me... unless someone pays me \$50.^[7] 🏠

1 *Gracies Dinnertime Theatre* is not an actual dinnertime theatre company, we are an RIT-based publication. But we could be a dinnertime theatre company!^[2] Send us your scripts at graciesdinnertimetheatre@gmail.com!^[2]

2 O great Sean T. Hammond, forgive me for my abuse of the most horrid of punctuation!

3 Editor's note: as of their reinspection on February 9th, Gracie's only had one non-critical violation. Although it was still for "insects, rodents present." See data.democratandchronicle.com/restaurant-inspections/monroe/rit-grace-watson-dining-hall/667508.

4 As every RIT student knows, Grace Watson is the Gracie's president, and Gracie's is a multinational corporation that is present in every college in the northern hemisphere.

5 Editor's note: Dear RIT Lawyers: this is satire

6 This is a partial lie, as it implies that there is actual flour inside of Gracie's instead of gallons of premade dough that isn't quite dough, but more of a bacterial sludge.

7 Join the discord and I'll send you my Venmo. I'm serious.^[1]

* Editor's note: don't. Donate it to GDT! Venmo/Cashapp @/\$graciesdt. Subject to change in the future.



Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch is still on vacation! Check back...uh....whenever our columnist gets back to America. He's being heckled by monkeys right now.

-G.S.

Do you have a story that the 'weekly' Neighborhood Watch column should inform RIT about? Email it to us at gdtneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com! All submissions will be kept anonymous. We value our whistleblowers!

Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger, Bridges

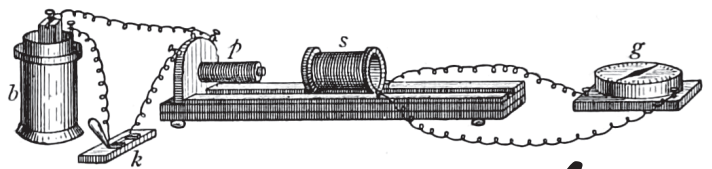
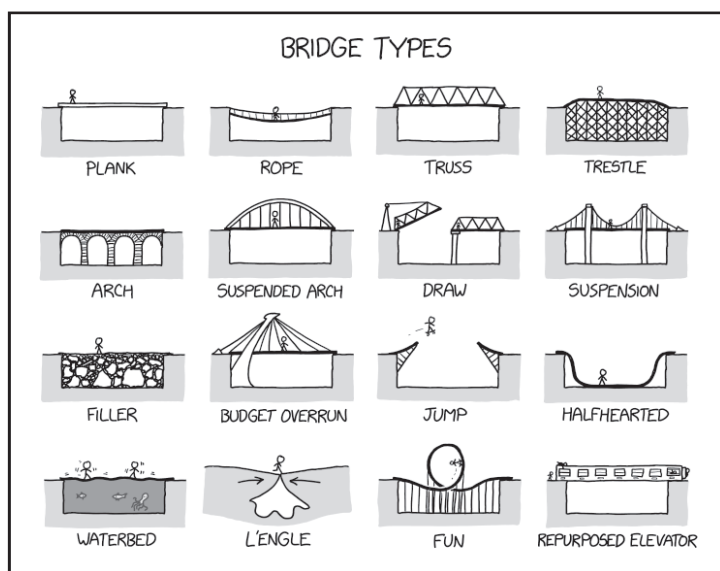
-by The Wizard

Have you ever felt, atop a bridge, the unwavering fear that it could just collapse at any moment? Have you ever imagined the damage, the injuries, and the ruined workdays of overworked and underpaid office workers who just wanted to get home? Then I come bearing good news. You no longer need to worry about such a thing! With our new Copper-Magnesium (CuM-g) alloy, perfect for bridge building, you can be certain that your best fears will come true!

Shitty companies will use crappy, resistant materials such as steel and concrete. Cheap companies will use Copper-Aluminum, Copper-Zinc, or even Copper-Lead alloys, claiming that “malleable is infallible.” But that’s not what we here at the Trump Bridge Company believe in. We hold ourselves true to our motto: “Make Arches Galvanic Again.”

We have two things that hold ourselves far above our competitors. By strategically placing metal nodes into the bridge alongside strategically placed layers of silicon between the different metals, we have a strategically-designed bridge that can power its own lights! Better yet, as time goes on, the bridge will become its own artwork—rapidly shifting through many different colors.

Now, some of the more chemically and politically inclined may claim that our motto is inaccurate. They may decry our motto, saying “Make Arches Galvanic Cell Corrosion Again” would have more ad revenue opportunities. But these people are trying to misrepresent the qualities and standards that our company aims to bridge. Furthermore, some of the more mechanically inclined may argue that these bridges are short-lived and will require frequent, endless maintenance. To that we say: please send us a letter from your home address with your full name so we can check your credentials and respond appropriately to your potentially terroristic threat. 🏢



Make Arches Galvanic Again! (They never were.)

RIT Student Annoyed by Mandatory English Class

Only the Finest Local News

-by Sam W.

ROCHESTER, NY—In a breaking interview, it appears that some students are frustrated with the content in their First-Year Writing Seminar class. “Why do we have to learn about English?,” asked William Fortner, a first-year engineering student from Chicago who had responded to our interview inquiry with a string of emojis. “I came to this school to learn about microprocessors, not what nouns and verbs are! Just another example of RIT’s course bloat...” he commented, wondering why he would ever need to use that information. When asked to define an adjective, William simply stared at the interviewer with a blank expression. 🏢

Ask Susan



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Dear Susan,

During the Great Dining Blackout of 2026 I had an RIT Dining manager pluck the breakfast sandwich I wasn't willing to pay for out of my hand and toss it in the trash. Did I fumble by just walking away like nothing happened?

- Hung Gree

Dear Hung Gree,

Talk about some rudeness coming from RIT Dining! I think one can definitely see merit in diving into the wastebasket after your sandwich— a strong showing of resilience and defiance. What that manager did disrespected you completely, and letting it slide like nothing happened was not the greatest for your aura. Food waste in the dining industry is inevitable (thanks, health codes!), but it doesn't mean that management needs to be a dick about it. A little respect goes a long way, and when you're not given respect, try to return the favor. That doesn't mean you should get caught up over your past mistakes, but instead it means you should prepare for the future. Who knows the next time RIT Dining will try to slight you?

-Susan

Dear Susan,

The unnamed dining hall I work at is "possessed." It's haunted by us "ghostly" employees but recently nostalgia-baited students with a peek at their spectre-free past with free food on actual tables... which we thanklessly made. How do I convince them to end this lie? Us employees are only invisible because we're behind this wall. It's lonely back here.

- RIT Dining's Disembodied Voice

Dear Disembodied Voice,

Maybe you need to think about this differently: RIT Dining may stay silent, but you don't need to. There are plenty of students out there who would love to be your friend, if only they knew you existed. You have multiple means of communicating with the outside world—bags, receipts, and texts, to name a few. Stay safe out there...^[1] I can only imagine how scary it is behind that wall. 🏠

-Susan

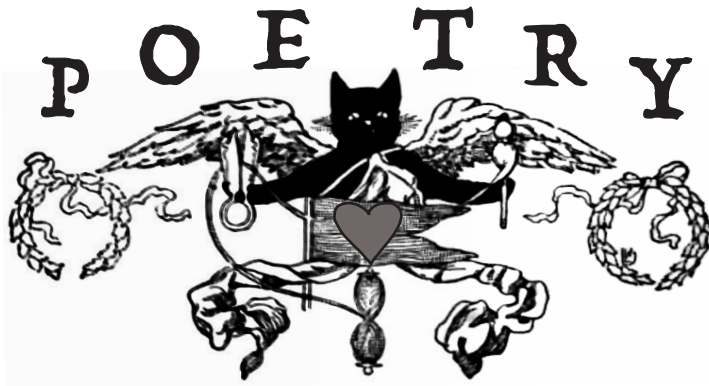
¹ In there?



Do you need advice? Have burning questions?
Susan is here — maybe to help!

Scan the QR code to ask! It's all anonymous. 🗣️

Want to write about the dining halls... or anything else? It doesn't have to be satirical, you know. Email us today!



On Sleep

To answer a prompt asked galore:

For eight hours a day, how do you snore?

There's one simple trick

To fix your sleep quick:

Just go to bed eight hours before!

-by Sam W.

To answer a prompt asked galore:

For eight hours a day, how do you snore?

Drugs. I take drugs.

-by Sean T. Hammond

Through curtains, snow falls

Comfort in a yellow room

Eyes still ice over

-by Rock Goblin

To sleep, perchance to mind wander

wander through the moments, minutes, hours of my day

but not rest, never rest.

In dreams I review the day, then why is this so much more exhausting?

-by Kelly Gunter



Tunnel Time

-by Franklin Scharf

Climb the stairway down down down,

Tunnels looping round and round,

Lined with lockers lined with glue,

Turn around and they turn too.

Try's you might, you can't make sense of

This here complicated mess of

Xylem? Paper? Rivers? Highways?

Nowhere left to go but sideways.

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Interested in helping with our art and design? Reach out to the layout editor for more information.

Join our Discord!

