

Gracies Dinnertime Theatre

Volume 19, Issue 1, Springtime
www.hellskitchen.org/gdt



Member of
Hell's Kitchen
www.hellskitchen.org

“Opinions are like assholes. Everybody’s got one.”

I’ll Title This Article Whatever I Damn Well Want!

By Andrew Gill.

The whine. It’s part of the American Tradition, an integral part of our First Amendment right “to basically bitch at the Idiots that don’t do what you want.” When we first thought of an all-whine issue, we realised that it would be a great opportunity for our staff to talk back—to say what they had been unable to say for the past quarter. You’ve had your chance. Now it’s OUR TURN!

As a gesture of goodwill, *GDT* informed the *Reporter* of its intentions, and suggested that they might want to scale back their distribution, since this week’s *Gracies Dinnertime Theatre* would simply overshadow anything that the *Reporter* did.

Our operatives have uncovered information that leads us to believe that the *Reporter* is planning some sort of “All Opinion” issue in retaliation. Oh, well. We’d just like to go on record as saying, “We thought of it first. Beable beable beable.”

Anyway, this issue is all for YOU. It’s a look into the private lives of those who make the Theatre (or at least what bugs us). Unlike Luke Skywalker, we’ve actually been to Toschi Station, and know that their power converters are crap. Just like the power in California. Why can’t they keep their earthquakes to themselves, instead of sending `em to Washington? And why can’t Washington keep its coffee out of New York, for that matter?

Speaking of coffee, why does every bookstore have to have a coffee bar? Books and coffee don’t mix, unless you want them to ruin the books. Which would force you to buy them. Hmmm. It’s a conspiracy! Just like dolphin lobbyists who would want to cover up the fact that most dolphins are really infanti-

cidal maniacs. They do it so that they can fuck the females (the dolphins, not the lobbyists). Of course, Norman Mailer would probably be forced to say ‘fug,’ even though the *Oxford English Dictionary* says it means something else.

I still don’t know how an insane man could have written the entire *Oxford English Dictionary*. After all, the train of thought would be so incoherent that it wouldn’t make any more sense than feelings, which is why I can never get a date.

The present date system is a byproduct of the rantings of Colonel Powell. I know this because his love child, Saddam Hussein, told me via proteus. The el Powellites are planning a mass uprising in Colombia, forcing the US citizens there into slavery through the use of cocaine.

Once they get a foothold there, they will pave the rainforests for a landing pad for the Dog-men of Sirius Seven. Unless you’ve been living under a rock, you know that the Dog-men have conquered Pluto and are farming out its vast supplies of urea. They need a purer supply of urea, though, so they are planning an attack on Earth. Men will be forced into urinary slavery, while the women will be ground into a paste used for cloud seeding.

The only way to stop this is to eliminate our dependence on foreign woman-paste. If we do this, we can destroy the woman-paste factories and make the venture so unprofitable that the Dog-men will have to move outside the Oort cloud.

On the other hand, life can be an endless parade of TRANSEXUAL QUILTING BEES aboard a cruise ship to DISNEYWORLD if only we let it!!

— (M-x yow) in EMACS

Cows

By Andrew Gill

Unless you've been living under a rock for the last quarter, you know that vegetarians have been publishing their own unique type of propaganda all across campus. I must admit—a lot of it is pretty good. I can't really respond to most of their arguments about pigs and chickens. About the best thing that I can say is that chickens are really ugly and deserve to be killed.

With cows, however, there's not much that vegetarians can say to defend the food. Cows are probably the first genetically-engineered animals. The first cows were probably oxen that were domesticated and fattened up for food. They certainly weren't bred for their brains, and it shows.

Today's cows are basically acephalous. The only reason that they exist is because they are good meat factories. Higher-order functions are not required, and in fact are probably not a good idea (some bovine agitators might try to make a run for it). Cows basically only need to understand two orders—"over there" and "stop." The fact that they've been bred to do only that is blatantly obvious.

Now, let's assume that we set the cows free. Chances are, most of them would die. Perhaps they'd all eventually collapse under their own weight or from over-exertion from long walks, or perhaps they would be unable to find enough grassland to graze, without munching on someone's lawn. Of course, a sizable portion of them would just be picked off by wild animals, cow tippers, and Mack trucks. Those that didn't die would continue polluting our environment with dangerous levels of methane.

The only other options are to kill the cows off directly, or to selectively breed an ubervieh, some sort of Nietzschean OverCow. All of these ways are tantamount to genocide. There is another option: cattle welfare.

While we have genetically altered other animals to give us more food, with cows, we have effected an entire species. We have to stop pretending that cows can self-actualize, and realize that we created them and now we have to care for them.

Since we screwed up, we should try to be as humane as we can possibly be. We can keep cows as



“Cook ground beef, red meats and poultry products until they are no longer red in the middle. Make sure the juices run clear.”

<http://www.exnet.iastate.edu/Pages/families/fs/steps/step5.html>

our servants, providing us with milk for many years, rather than throwing them to the wolves. When they've had a long life, and are beginning to deteriorate, we can save them from what little pain they are able to perceive by slaughtering them, and allowing them to become the thing that they were bred for: tasty food.

Remember—cows are dumb when they're alive. They're only capable of eating grass, giving milk and producing more cows. But when they're dead—and disemboweled and cooked in their own gravy, they become tasty. This is an improvement on the prior condition, and certainly much better than the alternatives of euthanizing cows or letting them fend for themselves in the wild.

So the next time that your vegetarian friends are over, offer them a cowburger. Explain that it keeps cow eugenics at bay, and that it's the best thing for the dumb beasts. They'll be sure to join you in your celebration of all things cow. Remember—it hurts you as much as it hurts the cows (i.e. not at all), but it's for the good of bovinity.

**KEEP THE SAT TO PROMOTE FAIRNESS,
OBJECTIVITY AND INDIVIDUALISM**

**The SAT Is the Fairest Way to Measure How Well
an Individual Student Will Do in College.**

By Edwin A. Locke
via The Ayn Rand Institute

University of California president Richard C. Atkinson wants to scrap the SAT and replace it with a “holistic” approach to the selection of college applicants. No doubt he hopes that this will become a nationwide trend. Dr. Atkinson’s proposal has been described as a “bold action.” It is not; it is a destructive and short-sighted action that will promote racism and severely undermine the integrity of the university admissions process.

Consider some well-established facts:

The SAT is the single best predictor of college grades, of how well someone will do in college. Although Dr. Atkinson prefers the use of achievement tests that show knowledge of particular content areas such as history or biology, achievement tests are not as useful for admission decisions as the SAT, because they are heavily influenced by how much course work you have had on a given subject, whereas the SAT measures aptitude for learning across many different types of subject matter.

The SAT is a better predictor than high school grades (although these grades do add useful additional information), because different high schools have different grading standards (work that earns an A at one school might only earn a C at another). The SAT is more objective because every person takes the same test and every test is scored the same way.

The SAT is not biased against minorities; it predicts college performance equally well for all groups (male, female, white, black, Mexican-American, etc.). (In fact, the SAT slightly overpredicts performance for minorities, giving them a small advantage in selection.) Given this, one would assume that Dr. Atkinson would want to retain the SAT as a core selection device, no matter what additional factors might be used to assess UC applicants. But Dr. Atkinson wants to eliminate it. Why?

Allegedly, it is to eliminate racism. It is true that even though the SAT predicts college performance

equally well for all groups, all groups, on the average, do not score equally well on the SAT. The average SAT score for Asians is higher than the average score for whites, which is higher than the average score for non-Asian minorities. (We do not know the root causes of these differences; nor can we eliminate them by denying they exist.) This means that the college population does not necessarily mirror the exact percentage of each group in society at large. But this is not evidence of racism.

There are dozens of reasons why any given group can be “over-” or “underrepresented” in college populations. Nor is proportionality to be found elsewhere. For example, blacks are grossly “overrepresented” in the NBA. Does this mean that NBA general managers and coaches are anti-white racists—or is it just that they want the best players, many of whom happen to be black?

Selecting students—or basketball players—based on aptitude and proven ability does not represent racism but individualism. The SAT, for example, places no weight whatever on what the student’s race, gender or ethnic group is. It only asks the question: what can you do? It is race-blind, gender-blind, age-blind, sexual orientation-blind, religion-blind, politics-blind, and country of national origin-blind. Scoring of the SAT is not a matter of whether or not your teacher likes you but because it is strictly objective.

The real reason Dr. Atkinson wants to eliminate the SAT is because it is not racist. He wants to use subjective—including racial—criteria in student selection. This is the real meaning of the term “holistic.” The root cause of racism is collectivism. Collectivism means viewing people as interchangeable units of a group. For the collectivist the individual is not really “real,” but only an insignificant and interchangeable part of a superorganism (the gender, the race, the party, the nation). For the collectivist only group statistics count, because what any given individual does is not important.

The racial collectivist ignores the self-made qualities of a person (character, ambition, knowledge, skill) and considers only genetic factors to be important. To quote Ayn Rand: “Racism is the lowest, most crudely primitive form of collectivism. It is the notion

of ascribing moral, social or political significance to a man's genetic lineage... Which means, in practice, that a man is to be judged not by his own character and actions, but by characteristics and actions of a collective of ancestors."

If we really want to eliminate racism in this country, we must replace it with individualism. In the realm of college admissions, this means judging the ability and potential of each individual student for college work and admitting the best qualified, regardless of what racial group he or she might belong to. The SAT is a valuable tool for this purpose and, rather than being eliminated, should be retained at all costs.

Edwin A. Locke, a professor of management at the University of Maryland at College Park, is a senior writer for the Ayn Rand Institute in Marina del Rey, Calif. The Institute promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of *Atlas Shrugged* and *The Fountainhead*. Send comments to reaction@aynrand.org.

Lonely?

Want to meet
interesting mammals?

Try a GDT personal ad!

Send ads to gdt@hellskitchen.org, and in 50 words or less, describe yourself (be sure to include gender and preference) and who/what you are seeking. We'll print it and mail you any replies we get for your ad.
No pictures, please. Unless there is money included with them.
No people with barefoot fetishes, please. Unless there is money included with them.

GDT Puzzle Update

During the contest, status reports are flung across the internet. Here are excerpts from last week:

"Jeff [Prystajko] has attempted the thing 26 times. After 26 attempts, he's gotten the correct answers, however, he has yet to send me a properly formatted and PGP certified message. It's still up for grabs."

Much to the dismay of several contestants, Jeff Prystajko is again the winner of the Puzzle contest.

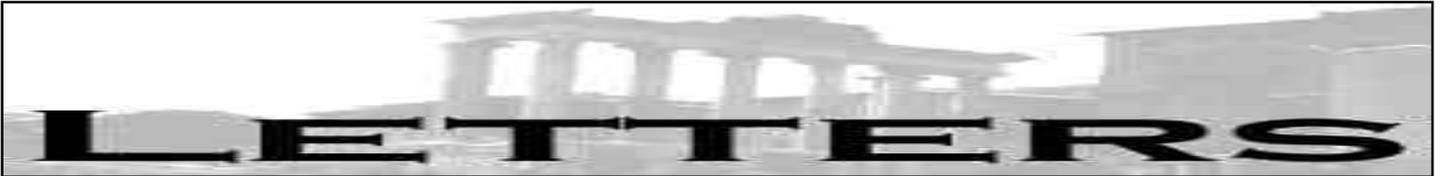
But tragedy struck. He surprised us all when he got a 12-pack of Iced Tea instead of Pepsi. So surprised that one of the Editors spilled a cup of coffee on the digital camera -- hence no photograph of the winner. The whole incident left us all a little pissed, and hence there's no contest this week.

FILL ME

This space for free.

Got an idea? Want to write?

Send your work to gdt@hellskitchen.org and see your name in glorious black and white!



Gracies Dinnertime Theatre,

For the past three weeks, I've picked up *Gracies Dinnertime Theatre* and seen there was a puzzle to be solved. I'm a puzzle fanatic. I do crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles in multiple dimensions. I play *Mah Jongg*, Go and Chess because they put my addiction on hold. The point is that I was REALLY excited that I could put my abilities to use and actually WIN something.

Now there's a problem. Every damned time I enter my answers, I see that there has already been one winner. Every damned time I'm informed that "don't worry, the first contestant might be ineligible". And every damned time I pick up the lat-

Disappointed in New York:

Perhaps you should try to talk to your husband, and see if he is willing to share TV time. Maybe you two could set up a schedule, so that you know whose "turn" it is to watch TV. Then, you both could see your favorite shows. Also, have you tried looking at a TV Guide lately? There's sure to be shows you and your hubby could enjoy together! Think of the fun that could be had if you both watched that steamy HBO Original Series *Sex In the City!*

—Ed.

est copy of *Gracies Dinnertime Theatre* from the rack next to the drink machines outside Grace Watson, there's some bodily appendage on the cover belonging to Jeff Prystajko. Jeff Prystajko, Editor of *The Reporter*?

Why the hell does he keep winning? Why does *GDT* keep letting him win? Shouldn't there be some rule about multiple winners, or winners from competing publications? Does he get a sneak preview of the issue before it gets printed or something? Is there a leak somewhere on the supply line? Jesus Christy ALMIGHTY Jeff, give us all a chance.

Disappointed,

Brian

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Fashion-less have feelings too.

In this day and age, am I to be judged by my ability to match my socks? Is it fair that the social standards of this nation condemn those unable to find their companion orange sock? Unless you've been living under a rock, you've noticed sock lobby groups such as the Rochester Area Council For Barefoot Awareness, RACFBA, and the Upstate New York Consortium of Sockless Colleges, UNYCSC. Yet, this sort of nonsense contin-

ues to be printed.

It is time that the dating pool made room for those of us without fashion sense. Perhaps we missed that day in elementary school. Perhaps the dryer ate all our left socks. It doesn't matter. When dating, look inside one's heart. Please don't judge them by how they cover their feet.

To quote philosopher Steven Wright, "My socks do match. They're the same thickness!"

Sincerely,

Mookie Harrington

BULK EMAIL

By Alex Moundalexis

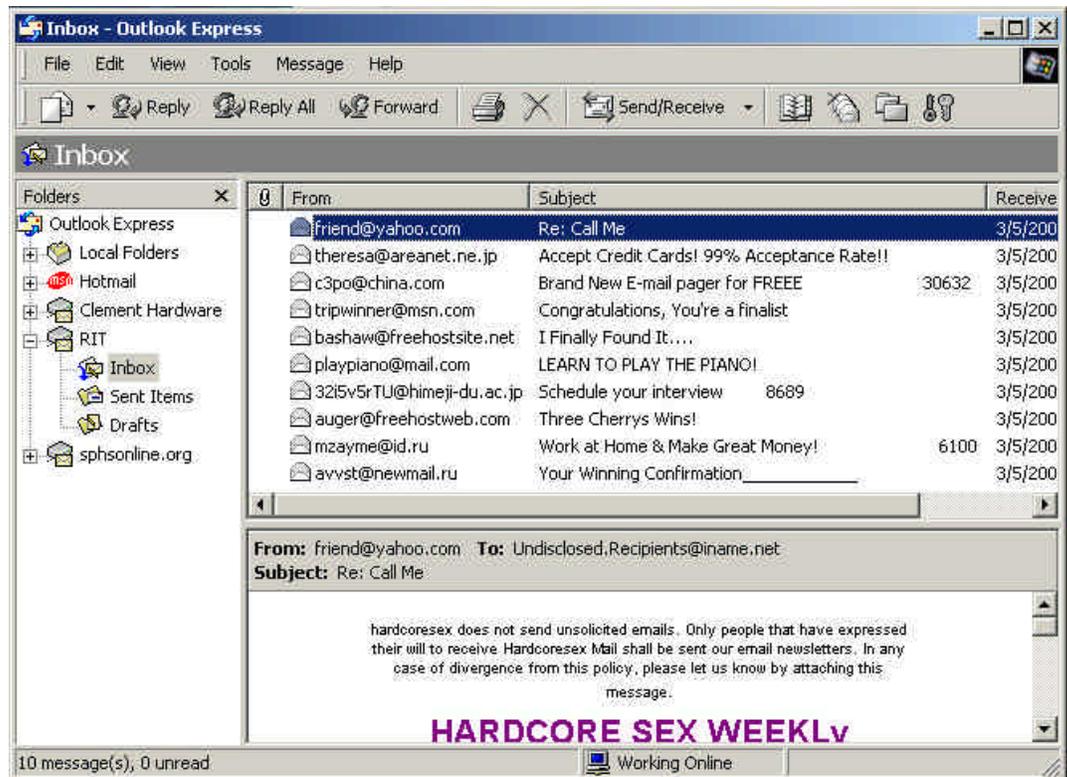
I use email all the time. I coordinate group assignments, write to my family at home, send off my resume, etc. So what happened to SPAM? Oh, it's not SPAM anymore, it's "Bulk Email." Keep that in mind. So long as I'm whining, here's all bulk email that I've received so far today:

An ad for Hardcore Sex weekly¹; a pre-approved merchant account so that I can accept credit cards; an offer for a free numeric and email pager; a notice that I'm a finalist for free Vacation

Package for two²; a very colorful weight loss information from Wendy Crawford; an ad to learn to play the piano³; a pyramid/get-rich-quick scheme of some sort that had an usual disclaimer⁴; an online casino ad with the URL encoded in hexadecimal format (not something I see that often); another get-rich-quick scheme, except that this one claims that it **isn't**; and finally another vacation getaway confirmation.

I'm sure you get the idea, since you probably have a bunch of them in your Inbox too. That's 10 messages today that I didn't solicit, many of which I receive on a daily basis.

The email is never addressed to me. Sure, my name ends up in the message source somewhere, but is the whole email actually addressed to ME? Never. Where do they get my name from? Wegmans Shoppers Club Card? The Bursar's Office? A business card that I



someone dropped in the trash can?

Most claim to be legal: "Under Bill s 1618 TITLE 111 passed by the 105th Congress this letter cannot be considered spam as long as the sender includes contact info and removal instructions." I don't know about the legal aspects, but it doesn't help me. The email is still obnoxious, legal or not. If I reply, I would bet that a dozen more emails would follow in a day or two.

I keep thinking about what I have done to deserve all of this, but none of them seem to have anything to do with each other. Perhaps it's because I don't go to church, or because I didn't give the homeless man a dollar, or that I cut off the Volvo yesterday on 15 North. If anyone has a clue, email me.

1 The pictures in the email didn't appear to be **that** hardcore, but then again, my perspective changed after Canada.

2 That "[I supposedly] signed up [for] in May." Whatever.

3 "We offer a patented device that sits on your piano keyboard and allows you to play the piano immediately." No lessons, nothing? Incredible!

4 "ALL REMOVE requests AUTOMATICALLY honored upon

receipt. stop006@excite.com?subject=re-move Please understand that any effort to disrupt, close or block this REMOVE account can only result in difficulties for others wanting to be removed from our mailing list as it will be impossible to take anyone off the list if the remove instruction is not received." Never mind that Excite, Hotmail and most other free e m a i l providers SPECIFICALLY prohibit using their equipment for SPAM.

RIAA VS. NAPSTER—A LOSING BATTLE

By R.J. Wilco

Music is the fuel that powers college kids, high school kids, the workplace, etc. Even when I'm on hold, I prefer listening to crappy music rather than the company's pre-recorded loop messages. Should something so important to so many people have a cost associated with it? Many people don't think so.

Just in case you've been living under a rock for the past year, Napster is a service that allows the transfer of MP3s¹. Much like Scour allowed the free trade of porn, music and other media², Napster made it possible for any idiot to go and download music, without having to torment themselves with the rigors of FTP, IRC and other methods. And boy did the people flock, but can you blame them?

The consumer is teased by MTV, VH1 and radio stations, who seem to play **your** song the second you step OUT of the house. So you crack down and buy the album, and it sucks. You only want the one song, which isn't offered as a single. You just want that song, to play whenever you like. So you download Napster and swipe the song.

So what's the problem? The RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America) is having a shitfit, that's what. According to RIAA's Mission Statement, "RIAA[®] members create, manufacture and/or distribute approximately 90% of all legitimate sound recordings produced and sold in the United States."³ Apparently trade groups are allowed to monopolize the discussion. The RIAA claims that millions of dollars is at stake.

Oh, but the poor musicians, they're not getting paid for their music! Bullshit. The musicians are doing just fine. They still get their paychecks—still overindulging themselves with beautiful people, booze and narcotics—so what if the record company loses a few dollars? They're all in the same business: fucking both the artist and consumer over. There's a reason why so many artists have their own labels, it's because they get fed up with all the large labels' rules and restrictive contracts.

So with everyone wanting the latest musical releases, it's just not possible to stop everyone. RIAA needs to give in, or at least acknowledge that Napster isn't the problem. Perhaps it's the quality of music, or the pricing of

albums, or that the industry isn't producing that many great hits anymore. Think about it, you think we'll be listening to N*Sync, Britney Spears or DMX 20 years from now? 5 years from now? Probably not, so why would you want to buy an album when you can snag the current trendy songs now (for free)?

There are two parts to Napster. The client program that you install on your computer, and the Napster server that collects all the information about the music you are sharing.

So the RIAA is going after Napster, and eventually Napster's servers—now FILLED with illicit users trading information—will be purged of copyrighted materials. There are ways around it on Napster's servers. Indexes of music listed under other titles, much like the old days of hosting MP3s on Geocities. One upon a time Geocities didn't allow .MP3 files on their servers. But rename your musical files to .DOC and *BOOM* — everyone could download your music, so long as they remembered to change the filename after downloading.

Another alternative (and in my opinion, the better one), open-source/independant servers. There are thousands of Napster-like servers out there, running the OpenNap server software—with behavior and content identical to Napster's servers, just on a smaller and more dispersed model. New servers come online daily, and by nature of the Internet, there's no way RIAA can track down all of them.

Enter Napigator⁴. Napigator simply points your Napster software at a different server. A server not owned by Napster, and thus not directly under the RIAA's eyes. Napigator is compatible with the Napster Network, as well as the Opennap Network (an open-source version of Napster's file-sharing protocol). The integration is almost seamless, and you'll notice no difference as far as searching and downloading files.

And so as people WANT the latest music, it isn't going to matter if the RIAA-induced lawsuit ruling is against Napster, Scour or their followers. If people WANT to listen the music, they're going to find a way to get it, legal or illegal. The RIAA isn't winning people over with their tactics, if anything they're bringing people's options into the public eye.

1 And if you don't know what MP3s are at this point, go home.

2 Scour "voluntarily" disabled its file-sharing capabilities on or around November 14, 2000. In reality, Scour was under fire for copyright infringement by the MPAA, RIAA and the NMPA—and was

going broke as a result.

3 <http://www.riaa.com/About-Who.cfm>

4 <http://www.napigator.com>

Why I Hate RIT

By Mike Williams

WANTED: Non–apathetic students. Must have an overall optimistic personality, a sense of pride, and the willingness to contribute to the surrounding environment. Lethargic and chronic complainers need not apply.

Let me be blunt—I fucking hate the state of students on this campus. I don’t hate them, mind you, but I can only stand so much immaturity and indifference. To the many who bitch about having to pay \$20,000 a year only to encounter a relatively mild social scene and poor entertainment, perhaps I should enlighten you with a few small facts. That money is paying for one goddamn important sheet of paper that is 9.9 times out of 10 going to get you better, higher–paying jobs than if you hadn’t received a diploma. As such, with RIT’s reputation along with the skills learned here, it would probably only take three to five years to pay it off—perhaps even shorter for the many IT and engineering graduates.

Don’t care for the Institute’s policies? Don’t like the suits running it? Fine, you’re entitled to your own opinion. Now leave. People don’t study education or educational administration for the money, by far—they do it because they care about students. That might not seem obvious to the under–21 group who can’t understand why they can’t drink on campus. Then again, if a student’s only concern in life is getting as wasted as possible and often, why would I expect he or she to grasp the concept of genuinely caring for

another human being when he or she can’t even respect oneself?

If you don’t like how RIT is run, do something about it. Get off your ass, file away your incorrect assumption that the administrators are ruthless descendants of Hitler, and talk to them—because they listen. I’m sure this will almost certainly take away time you set aside to play Unreal or Diablo, but be optimistic for once and look at the possibilities—YOU might actually make a difference! YOU might actually qualify to possess some maturity which nobody knew you had! Otherwise, you might as well call yourself Simone’s bitch and take it as it comes. Don’t complain when shit happens, because YOU never bothered to do a damn thing about it.

And, if you’re still anal about not supporting the school, then please, run—don’t walk—to the registrar’s office and file for a transfer to a different college or drop out. I don’t give a fuck if the retention rate drops even further than it already is, this place will be for the better. In my eyes, you’re no better than a virus—consuming this campus’s resources without returning anything to it. Plus, no doubt you’re spreading your negativity to those around you, creating one huge domino effect of non–tranquility and pessimism.

The majority of problems and issues at RIT are perceived, not realized. Failure to distinguish as such only proves one thing—that YOU are the root of the problem.



DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

Publisher: C. Diablo

Editors:

Randall Good
Mike Fisher
Alex Moundalexis

Layout:

Adam Fletcher

Writers:

Alex Moundalexis
Andrew Gill
Mookie Harrington

Contributors:

RJ Wilco
Mike Williams

Printer Daemons:

Jennifer Martorana
Mike Confer
Jenn Kobialka

Feedback:

Send email to gdt@hellskitchen.org

© 2001 *Gracies Dinnertime Theatre*. Don’t reprint the contents of this publication without permission; that’s stealing. All the work remains copyright the Authors, bitch.