



Gracies Dinnertime Theatre

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Thanks Bunches, Kiddies By The Editors

Last week, we the Editors of the *Gracies Dinnertime Theatre*, in order to form a more weekly magazine of satire, art, fiction and opinion, ran a Fundraiser On The Quarter Mile. It was an obnoxious spectacle, and for that we apologize to the RIT community. We recognized the immense earning power of the mythically named “Breezeway,” and felt that, for the bettering of *GDT*, and by extension, RIT, any inconvenience was worth it.

But let us remember that *GDT* is a publication of and for RIT. RIT students (and a few alumni) produce this publication. RIT students and alumni list *GDT* as one of their favorite experiences at the Institute. If *you* read, whether you love it or hate it, thank you. If you placed your money in the bucket last week, thank you. If you didn't place your money in the bucket, but you stopped and talked with the staff who out making asses of themselves, thank you. If you were out helping Alpha Xi Delta hand out Halloween candy to passers-by, thank you. And regardless of whether you like or dislike *GDT*, **SUBMIT.**

We would also like to take this opportunity to apologize for our negative comments in the letters section of last week.¹ As it turned out, we received our invitation to the “Sex and the Brick City” discussion after we went to press. One of the editors (Peter C. Gravelle) went to the talks and says he found it, “surprisingly positive,” although he doubts that he, “changed any minds.” Jon Byrd, one of our staff also attended the discussion, and his impressions are contained within this issue.

As usual, we hope you enjoy *your* issue.



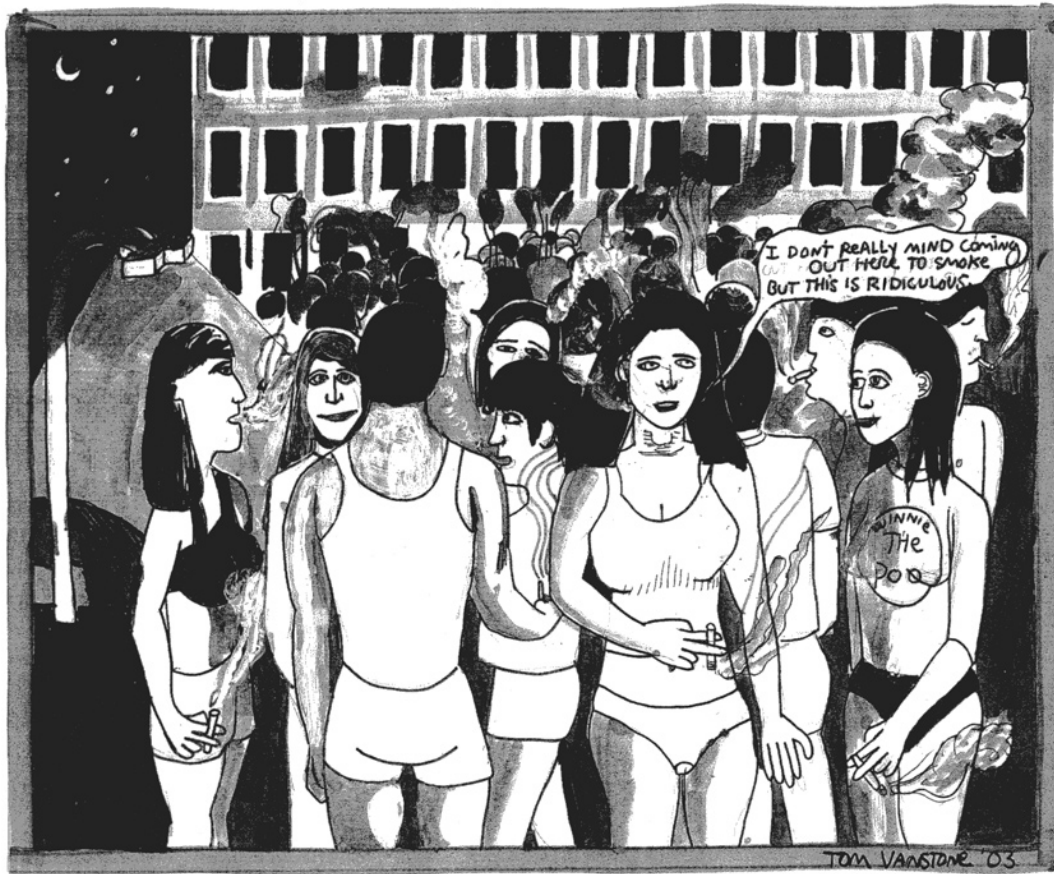
1. <http://www.hellskitchen.org/gdt/pdf/Volume26/08.Dumplings.pdf>

The War on Women Part 1: A Timeline to the End

By Matthew Denker

- 2015:** Women's rights, long a centerpiece of modern society, are quickly overrun by the far right. Abortions and contraceptives are banned. In three years, women would also be banned from both drinking and smoking.
- 2020:** Women's rights to vote and bear arms are suspended by the 29th amendment to the constitution. The stern wording of the amendment puts off some more moderate men, but in the end, the mass hysteria caused by women protesting the amendment convinces the men that with emotions so strong, the women need this sort of protection from themselves.
- 2040:** Women are declared immoral after two years of debating by the world's leading academics. Their bodies are deemed immoral weapons used against all mankind.
- 2047:** Congress Passes a series of laws soon to be known as the Barefoot Acts. Women are no longer allowed outside of the house without male escort. Public places are deemed too dangerous for women alone and women too dangerous to be together in groups.
- 2053:** Six years after the first Barefoot Acts were passed, Congress outlaws women from wearing shoes or leaving the house at all.
- 2055:** A breakthrough in cloning technology allows men to reproduce without women. Movements begin to remove women from society altogether.
- 2057:** All women who are not between the ages of 15 and 19 are deported to labor camps in the South Pacific. The teenagers are kept as servants to raise the growing number of clones.
- 2072:** Cloning has stopped yielding women. In the last 5 years, only 20 women have been born in 3 million clones.
- 2075:** While scientists struggle to find the problem with cloning, a raging virus sweeps through the floundering society of women in the South Pacific. Only a handful of women survive. They soon die too; unable to support themselves and left for dead by the men still trying to clone women again.
- 2083:** The men, unable to clone women and losing the ability to clone altogether due to deformities, decide to try and find the women they still believe to be alive.
- 2095:** In 12 years, the men have found no women. The last man born on Earth has reached the age of 20.
- 2115:** The youngest man alive is now middle aged. Millions of men have committed suicide rather than see the end of humanity. Very little industry is still operation. The world's population has dwindled to only a few million men.
- 2135:** The last few men on earth pray furiously for a savior. Long ago, plans had been made to leave the planet, and a rocket was built, but never launched. The remaining men decided that it was now or never. A half dozen men stayed to launch, and the last hundred or so men boarded the rocket. The launch began smoothly, but 35 seconds in the rocket's hull was affected by a strong harmonic, and was literally shaken apart. The remaining four men could only weep: they knew they had just witnessed the sunset of humanity. To think it took only a few thousand years to come together, and a few hundred more to unravel.
- 2143:** *The End.*

This week's campus view, by Tom Vanstone



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The Morning After: A Tough Pill to Swallow

By Jon Byrd

Yee-haw! I'm sure I'm going to be pissing off a few people here, but that's okay -- I don't aim to please, rather to inform. First off, a little background information is necessary: An article was written two weeks ago for *Gracies Dinnertime Theatre*¹ in which two posters were compared and contrasted on their similar uses of sex for advertising purposes.²

That being said, the group backing one of the posters, the Women's Center, organized a discussion on the use of sex in advertising. Where is it appropriate? When is it inappropriate? Where do we "draw the line"?

All humor aside, it was a very good idea, and it had a rather large turnout for being organized in such a short amount of time, something that lends evidence to the fact that this is a topic that students care about here at RIT. The advocates for the Women's Center poster did bring to light some very valid and logical points, and I found myself agreeing with several of the points made.

On a side note, I personally thought that several of the things said by the *GDT* staff were in bad taste. I felt myself disagreeing many times with the people who were supposed to be there on "my side" of the argument. Some of the things I did agree with, but some of the comments were blatantly stupid, and I felt were not worth saying. Overall, *GDT* came off worse in this clash. The Women's Center made more valid points than we³ did during the discussion and some of the things we said were outright idiotic.

My hat goes off to Julie White, the organizer of this discussion, as she attempted to keep an objective standpoint, and merely allowed the students to speak instead of voicing her own opinions. Kudos to you.

Again, please note that I did find good things about this discussion, and as I will be discussing the problems I had with the meeting further on down, please keep in mind that I am not solely bashing this

attempt at an open forum.

As I said before, this open discussion was a very good idea, however in practice it turned out to be more mudslinging than discussion on either the aforementioned *GDT* article or the posters. The discussion opened where all were invited to introduce themselves (if so inclined), and where the first topic for discussion was brought up: A footnote in the article.⁴

I tried to nip this in the bud, by stating in my introduction that I meant the footnote as a joke, and that if I had offended anyone by putting in that little jab⁵ I apologize. This explanation seemed to be good enough to me. However it appeared that for the rest of the group this was not good enough, as we proceeded to discuss that particular footnote for the better part of a half hour.

Note that this had nothing to do with sex in advertising; this was about people disagreeing with a minor point that was written in the article. A topic that, while may have been on people's minds, was not an issue that was to be discussed. If the article had been discussed in general, reflecting on the points made, that would have been fine. But people chose instead to focus on one little line that promoted a stereotype⁶, namely the stereotype that anyone interested in the feminist movement is either a woman or gay. And the topic was not on feminism or the feminist movement, the topic was *supposed* to be about the use of sex in advertising.

Regardless, once the topic of the footnote had finally run its course, the topic of conversation then turned to the poster by the unnamed *a cappella* group. It did not turn to a comparison between the two posters so much as it turned into a discussion of why the *a cappella* poster was bad.

One point I did kind of agree with is that it uses the picture of Christina Aguilera as a sex object. This is true, the poster did use the provocative pose of Ms. Aguilera to attract people's attention -- this much I

¹ By a very talented (and very sexy) writer I might add.

² <http://www.hellskitchen.org/gdt/pdf/Volume26/07.Apples.pdf>

³ I say "we" because I do happen to be part of the *GDT* staff even if I don't agree with some of the things they said.

⁴ See footnote #5 in "Hypocrisy at its Finest: A Look at the Women's Center".

⁵ Just to clarify: the student was a heterosexual male, and was offended by the footnote. I can understand this, so I apologized for the lack of tact on my part.

⁶ And stereotypes are **BAD**, **BAD** things.

agree with. However, another point was made that this picture was taken out of context, and that we⁷ were using it to sell our group while Christina was using this photo for artistic purposes. This is bullshit.

First of all, I think that Ms. Aguilera knew that a picture of her like that would sell a lot more CD's than a picture of her in a jumpsuit. Second of all, we could've used a different picture of a female musician; the joke would've still worked. So why did we use the Aguilera picture, you ask? Because we know the same thing she knows⁸: sex sells. It may not be fair to women, as that type of advertising does objectify women, but hey, there is plenty of advertising out there where men are presented as sex objects as well, and I don't get all huffy about that⁹.

They claimed that their poster was more justifiable because it talked about sex in a generalized manner, something that can apply to anyone, while we use sex to appeal to a heterosexual male audience. All I have to say to that is "Well, duh." Of course when you advertise, it works better if you target a specific demographic. Hey, we're an **all male a cappella** group. I'm taking a wild guess and assuming that the majority of males on campus are heterosexual, so we specifically targeted the largest audience that we could.

Oh, sure, if we wanted to be Politically Correct we could put a picture of a naked man on the poster as well and alter the message to say, "Did you know that musicians get all the chicks/guys?!". But this isn't funny anymore because it's PC. The only place Political Correctness fits into humorous material is at the business end of a punch line.

People needed to see the poster for what it was meant to be: humor. We knew it might offend certain people¹⁰, but we knew that other people might find it amusing, and might check out our group whereas if they saw only bland promotional material (we had those hanging up too), they would've just moved on. Personally, had I seen the *a cappella* poster as an

incoming freshman, I would've been interested to find out more about the group. *Finally, a singing group with some personality. It's like a dream come true.* This is the main reason I personally gave the poster the thumbs up.

One female in the discussion didn't find it offensive at all, nor did she find it degrading to women. Why? Because she saw that it was meant to be humorous. I know that a lot of people disagreed with one statement that was made during the discussion -- that it is up to the viewer of the poster to decide that it is offensive -- but it is true. Not everyone found this poster offensive, then again, not everyone found it inoffensive either. Everyone, when they see the poster for the first time, brings to it their own personal bias, and based on that bias they judge it. We can't please everyone.

Now here is where the discussion turns really stupid. After a few valid points were made, people started nitpicking. People actually asked, "If the poster is for *a cappella* music, why is she holding a guitar when *a cappella* music doesn't use instruments?" This was an actual point brought up, and discussed for several minutes. It was like as if she didn't have the guitar, the poster would be okay, but since she had the guitar it just makes it blatantly offensive. Give me a break. That particular ad was about musicians, not about *a cappella* singing. Sure our group does sing only *a cappella*, but that's music too.¹¹

At this point I attempted to steer the topic of conversation back to advertising tactics, how our poster worked to advertise, how I perceived the Women's Center poster advertised, why I thought them similar. I knew there were a few fundamental differences, but not enough to warrant such immense hatred towards the *a cappella* poster while the Women's Center poster was just hunky-dory.

This however was shot down by various people by saying that the Women's Center poster was for educational purposes, while ours was not only un-

⁷ I say "we" here because hey, I'm a member of this group too. I'm a regular jack of all trades.

⁸ And the same thing the Women's Center knows. They may not like it, but it's true.

⁹ And if you think that I *should* be getting all huffy about that, I think that you need to get bent.

¹⁰ And when I say "certain people" I don't just mean women and gay men. We knew it might offend heterosexual men as well. However it was my opinion that if someone interested in auditioning found this offensive, chances are he wouldn't have worked out well with the group (personality-wise) anyway.

¹¹ Something I wasn't sure people were grasping. I won't quote it but I think someone mentioned that *a cappella* singers aren't musicians, something that I find offensive.

educational; the sexist material was not relevant to the topic of a *cappella* singing.

First of all, I don't care if it's for educational purposes or not, using sex in advertising is using sex in advertising, I see no distinction. Second of all, the questionable material in our poster had everything to do with what we were promoting. Not only did it promote music, but it also presented our sense of humor, our particular brand of goofiness. It was something to make us stand out from the crowd¹².

Towards the end of the discussion someone equated our poster to posting racist remarks because our campus is predominantly white, or posting anti-semantic remarks because our campus is predominantly non-Jewish. I was taken aback by this one. Our campus is predominantly male, yes, but we weren't being offensive to women because we had the mindset that; "Hey, there aren't a lot of women on campus, so who cares if we offend them?" In fact, we weren't trying to be offensive at all, I think that it was a very vocal minority that got offended by this poster while a quiet majority has no clue that this debate is even going on.

I've kind of used this article to defend the *a cappella* poster because after that the discussion was primarily about bashing said poster, and I felt it should be defended. I've used this article not only to let students know what's going on, but also as an outlet to say what I wanted to say during the meeting but couldn't because I was not selected to speak very often.

Julie tried to do the fair thing; she took comments as she saw hands. But there were so many people there who objected to this poster compared to the people who didn't, that the deck was stacked against us from the beginning. Not that we made the best use of the time we were given, but I would have preferred more of a comment and rebuttal type system instead of a constant barrage of one opinion while a minority view tries to make itself heard amongst the clamor.¹³

It was not a total loss however; my view of the Women's Center has changed considerably after this

meeting. For one thing I learned that very few members of the people at the Women's Center were, for lack of a better term, "feminazis." It was a rather small, yet vocal, minority of the Women's Center who held true to the previous stigma I had envisioned of the Women's Center. I know that my previous belief wasn't fair to the Women's Center, but due to the extremely opinionated¹⁴ contributions by the aforementioned people, I felt that the Women's Center consisted mostly of those types of people.

There were several people at the meeting that I could physically see reject any statement that was proposed by our side of the debate before it even left our lips. It showed untold amounts of disrespect to show a blatant look of disgust whenever one of us got up to say something. I always try to keep an open mind and when I see others not giving me the same courtesy it gets under my skin.

Thankfully, these people were in the minority at the discussion. Again, I was thoroughly impressed with the director, Julie White. She maintained an objective standpoint and let the students "discuss." She listened rather than spoke, and attempted to foster a friendly environment where everyone's opinion was welcome. I feel that she would be an excellent person to talk to about almost anything anyone has a problem with.¹⁵

So all-in-all, what can I say? I don't think my opinion on the posters changed at all because of the meeting, I could see some of the points some of the other people were making, but I still don't agree with them. I don't think anyone who went into that meeting had any doubt as to which side they were on, and as to which side they would be on when it was all said and done. If this meeting was to promote awareness of differing opinions, then in that it succeeded. However, it still doesn't change the fact that my opinion is, and always will be: "Some people just need to remove the self-righteous stick from their ass, and lighten the fuck up."

¹² Did you know there are three other *a cappella* groups on campus? Wow. Not something you expect from a tech school.

¹³ And if you think it's ironic that I'm mentioning being a minority voice beaten down by the masses, you need to look past that and at the point I'm trying to make.

¹⁴ Read: "Loud-mouthed"

¹⁵ I'm not kissing ass or anything here; those who know me well enough know that I would never say such a thing unless I meant it.

JOE CORNEA!

PUBLIC EYE!
by PETER J. LAZARSKI '03



Why I Didn't Give to GDT

By Barnaba Bienkowski

Walking through the wind tunnel¹ earlier last week I saw the mass of people asking for contributions to support Gracies Dinnertime Theatre. Having lived dorm-side for 3 years, I admit I've walked through there every day and I have never, not once, not even in bitter times, seen any group raising money for themselves through the bucket-donation method. This ineffective means of fundraising is usually left for fraternities who are raising money for charitable causes such as the Red Cross, Sloan Children's Hospital, cancer research, et cetera.

So you might ask yourself, did I donate to this charitable cause the way I do when I have cute sorority girls asking me to drop some change for breast cancer research? No! And why not? I assure you it's not because of the lack of sorority girls². Do I like the publication? Yes! I'm an avid reader of GDT, and a supporter of free speech. Do I think the administration is being fair in cutting funding? Hell No! Do I think that some people need to learn a lesson? YES! That entire Gamma Delta Tau issue that ran last year³ making fun of fraternities rubbed me the wrong way. The lesson being not to perpetuate childish stereotypes.

"What's wrong with stereotypes?", you might ask. Well, here, I'll list a few and if you're not offended by the time I'm done, then you can honestly say that stereotypes are okay. Example 1: All Jews are greedy backstabbers. Example 2: All Blacks are criminals in the 'hood, and white men are all crackers. Example 3: All Fraternity men are assholes. Example 4: All RIT

students are anti-social wankers who play Counter-Strike all day and never get laid because they smell. Got the point? Don't perpetuate stereotypes, and I guarantee that getting funding will not be an issue.

To continue my story, I then checked at the SLC office to see if the breezeway had, in fact, been registered for that day, and was surprised that the GDT fundraiser had most of its paperwork in.⁴ All of this had reminded me of a funny story that I desperately want to share with you today. Three years ago on a not-so-funny day (September 11th) some of my fraternity brothers put out the bucket on the quarter-mile to raise money for the Red Cross within minutes of hearing the news of the towers being hit. We overlooked registering it because we figured paperwork was inconsequential in comparison to terrorism. We got thrown out by Campus Safety a few hours later. Let me say this again in case the absurdity of this hasn't knocked your socks off yet: on September 11th 2001 we were forbidden from helping the Red Cross by RIT. But the damage had already been done; within those precious hours (plus the following day which we had registered by then) we had raised over \$2,000 dollars. And like all of the other fundraisers performed in the breezeway, not a dime of it went to our organization.

Like all people who pass by the bucket and don't donate, I felt guilty. That's why I'm contributing now. Contributing this article, that is.

Cheers!

1. What RIT refers to as the "breezeway" next to Clark Gym.

2. Don't get me wrong, I like sorority girls, I'm dating one.

3. Editors' Note: See <http://www.hellskitchen.org/gdt/pdf/Volume25/02.BMaster.pdf>

4. Yes, for anyone who wants to reserve facilities and register events on campus, there is a moat of paper you have to lay siege to.

Tru5t m3

SUBMIT

gdt@hellskitchen.org

But When?
By Tom Samstag

Laying in the middle of the field,
looking up,
raindrops striking my face,
staring at the menacing clouds.

I know the sun will emerge,
but when?
It seems like it has been raining
forever.

Anticipation of the sun's appearance
fills me with hope.
Its absence kills me.

A ray of light pokes
through the dark clouds,
lifting my body from the muddy ground.
Only to again retreat within
the overcast curtain,
casting a dagger through my heart.

Again and again the bright rays fill me
with false hope,
and again and again,
their disappearance rips through me.

It seems like it has been raining
forever.
I know the sun will emerge,
But When?

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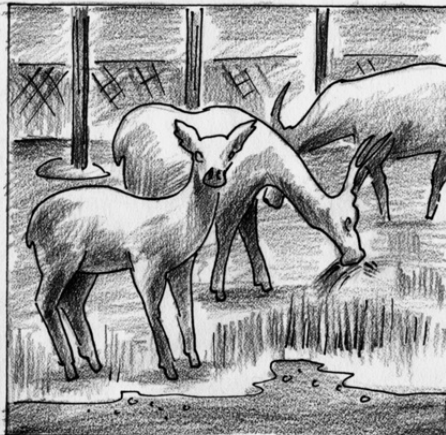
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This week's campus view, by Tatyana Strelnikova

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Rain
By Peter C. Gravelle

Isn't it supposed to cleanse
The world and rejuvenate flora and fauna?

Rather
it erases the chalky pros and cons
of our concerns
and lures the invertebrate farmers out
into fish-stink death
and goads brackish imitations on
the facades of women and men
and lubricates an already slippery slope
from now to then

And leaves the world green and lush and

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**Gracies
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Theatre™**

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