

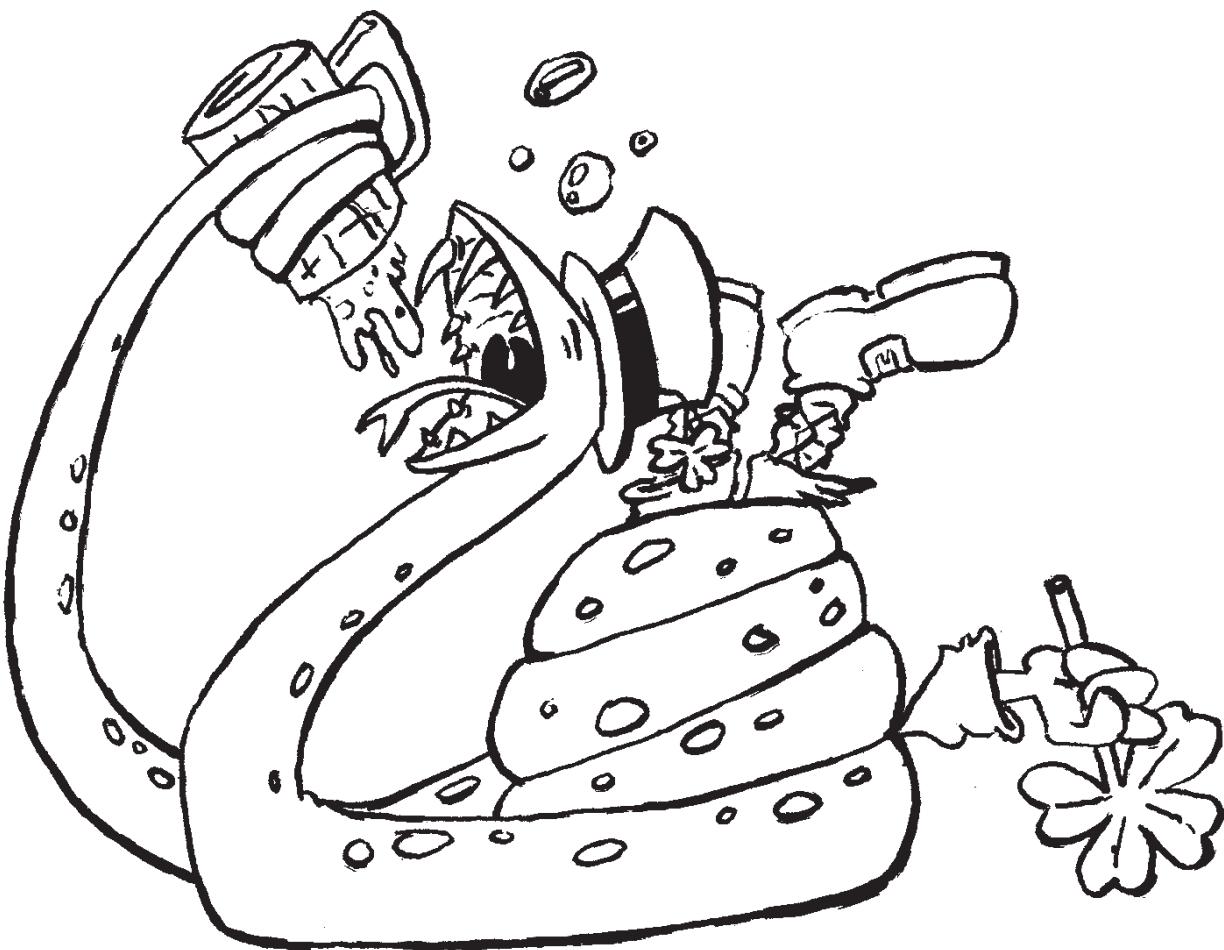


Gracies Dinnertime Theatre

Volume 28, Issue 2, WorkItOut
www.hellskitchen.org/gdt



Download this issue at <http://www.hellskitchen.org/gdt/pdf/Volume28/02.WorkItOut.pdf>



SMOY

I'll admit I'm too out of touch with GDT. I read the issues usually, but not immediately. Except for the last one, luckily. Therein I found yet another exceedingly interesting message from Big Gay Al¹, or at least an excerpt of one.

Those of us who know Al² might be a tad surprised by what he's saying in there. "Huh? Actually wanting to keep students? What's this?" Isn't he the one who said "You're a customer . . . and if you don't like it you can vote with your feet"?

Why is it then that he's surprised, or even worried, about RIT's 60% retention rate? Students are obviously expendable – hell, my seat in the CS department was no doubt gladly filled about 3 days after I left. I never once thought I was stickin' it to the man by leaving, since there were throngs of people lines up to replace me.

Or is that the problem? Has the throng dried up? Has word-of-mouth spread 'round as to how we're viewed there? I'm not talking about that "total experience in attending RIT" bullshit. I'm talking "In my opinion the 18-22 year old age group is not qualified

¹ Stolen shamelessly from Gary Hoffmann, who may have stolen it from someone else but it doesn't matter since Gary rules. Why else would he be in Joe Cornea?

² Not that I've ever met him, actually, but I know his style (yo). You can learn all sorts of fun stuff reading the "RIT" section of GDT's Big Red Book, found online at <http://www.hellskitchen.org/gdt/pdf/BigRedBook/02.RIT.pdf>

in making decisions." You know, the insulting shit that they'd prefer you not ever hear about.

Maybe Al needs to rethink things. Droning on about increasing the attention you give to students is worthless unless you actually care what they think. Not to beat a dead horse, but personally I think that having a creative written outlet for students is important. Whether The Reporter is a decent publication or not is irrelevant; it's not meant to be creative. You have your news and you have your leisure and they can both be done well or poorly but they aren't the same thing.

The funny part about that paper he wrote was the euphemism that could have been worded so as not to work against him. According to Al, "You have to 'decide to go.'"

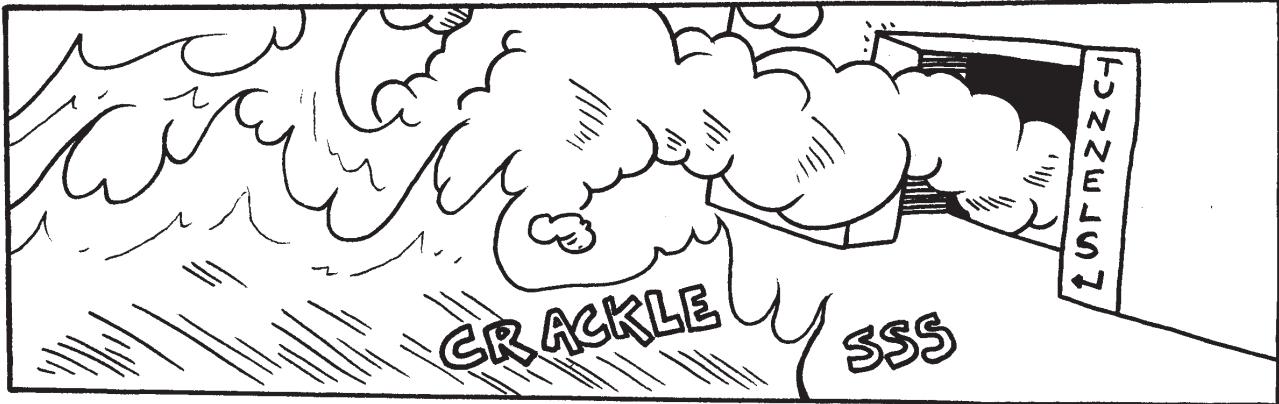
Decide to go? I did. Now what is he complaining about?

Sincerely,

A happy Buffalo State College student

Haibane Renmei
Charcoal Feather Federation
next week





LETTERS

NOTE: Letters are not edited for length, spelling, vulgarity, or grammar.

Date: Thu, 11 Mar 2004 21:58:57 -0500 (EST)
From: Rob Stryker rjs3356@osfmail.isc.rit.edu
To: gdt@hellskitchen.org
Subject: Reply to Letter in Latest GDT

The following is a response to a recent reader reply in GDT, a paper circulated around RIT. The author of the letter was commenting on how "Marriage is being destroyed by a society that does not view marriage as a lifetime devotion to another person, requiring sacrifice, forgiveness, mercy, unconditional love, and a lot of work. As a society, we don't want anything that involves sacrifice, forgiveness, mercy, unconditional love, or work." The rest of his letter mentioned how gay marriage is also helping to destroy marriage. I'd like to comment.

I agree with the author of the letter. The social values that are changing certainly ARE helping to ruin marriage. However, I see social values as things that, as an entire culture, we need to push. It's fine and dandy to push these values in family life, but if the rest of our lives aren't immersed in these values as well, the average person will not get the message.

What do I mean? I mean it seems a bit hypocritical to tell people they're doing wrong when they divorce, when at the same time businesses 'divorce' their workers. It seems hypocritical to praise 'forgiveness and mercy' in the home, but then push 'tough love' in the workplace. It seems a little unusual to push "unconditional love" at home, but praise the corporate profits IBM and McDonalds get from high turnover rates and never having to pay benefits.

There was a time in history when these values were all throughout America. They were in the home, and they were in the workplace. Businesses stayed put and had a responsibility to the communities that served them. It was a working relationship, and it worked for both sides. Some called it the Capital / Labor Accord. Workers would give their all, because they knew their employers were doing the same.

How can a worker give his all to his employer, when he's not certain his employee will stay around if Mexico looks more profitable? Likewise, someone always worrying about their job, and about the loyalty of their employer, could easily extend that fear to his family. What if his life were to run off like the factory? What if his wife stops giving it his all? And then just like a worker who starts looking for a new job before he's even been fired, because he worries about being fired eventually, a husband may start looking around for the better deal.

The bigger better deal is something we in America have been looking for, and continue to look for. We go to walmart, because it's cheaper. We price-compare on teh internet, and look for the best bang for our buck. When was the last time we bought something because we agreed with the values of the company?

I find this to be a paradox in conservatism, or at least most conservatism. They push family values in the home, and push individual responsibility in the workplace. They neglect to realize that at one time, we had these core values in both places, and we had a thriving middle class because of it. Today we're stuck with this problem. If you vote Democrat, you get people who want to further unions and bring about a new Capital / Labor Accord. If you vote Republican, you get those who want to push family values, but ignore the responsibility of an employer father figure to his children (employees).

Corporations didn't always exist FOR profit. They existed to serve a purpose, and profit was merely a reward for that. Companies like that which creates veggie tales (bigidea.com) push religious and family values, but also recognize that people are people and not cogs in a machine. Were more companies like bigidea, perhaps America wouldn't be so divided.

So yes, as a society we don't want anything that requires that much work. Or maybe we do *want* it, just none of us are willing to take the first step. And that includes businesses.



Tom Oldani

<http://www.psychodogstudios.net/newguys/>

GDT Survey

Alright, I thought that this survey would get all of you GDT fans and avid readers to voice your opinions, to let your voices be heard, at least to send us a little e-mail. I was hopeful. I was optimistic. What'd we get for all my optimism? One reply. Yep, you read correctly; one reply.

Come on people! These are important issues! So next time you're at your computer[£], take a minute out of your busy schedule[¤] and send us an e-mail! The address is gdt@hellskitchen.org and after you hit that little "Send" button, check out the archives at <http://www.hellskitchen.org/gdt/pdf>. That's nine years of GDT that we'll let you look at just for answering a few questions. There, now don't you feel special?

The questions again (and hopefully for the last week) are:

- Would you rather eliminate the requirement of co-ops at RIT or have a more active co-op placement program?
- Would you rather be decapitated with a plastic butter knife or receive paper cuts on both eyeballs?

[£] Which will likely be soon, if not now.

[¤] We won't even argue that your porn watching doesn't really constitute a busy schedule

Poetry!

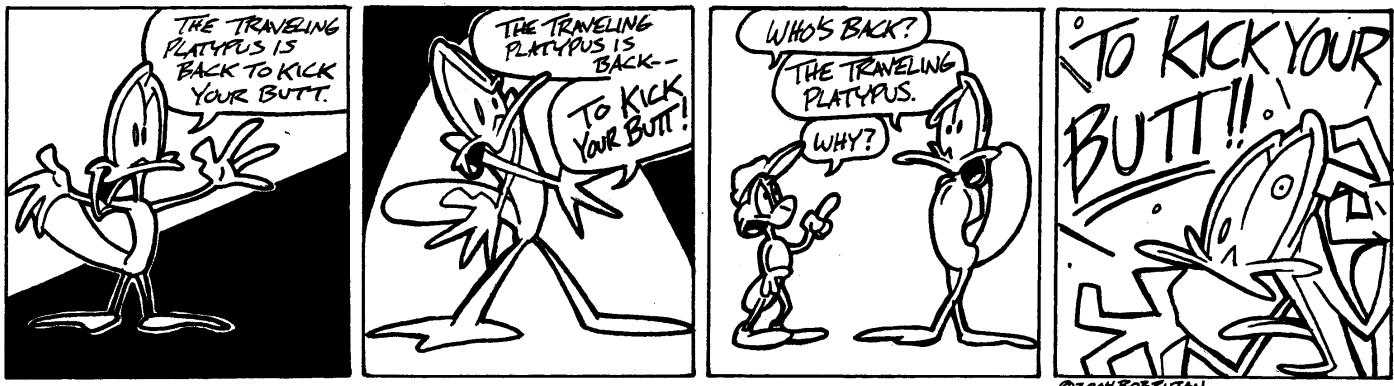
gdt@hellskitchen.org!

My Valentine's Day By Peter C. Gravelle

Human steam-valves
Blasting the snow-covered
Landscape with their
Spirit
Focus
Power
And coming inside for
friends, food, and warmth in all ways

The Traveling Platypus

Bob Rutan



Electable?

What an odd word that is. More odd is how it is used; describing an intrinsic trait. The idea that someone can be labeled “electable” or “unelectable” disturbs me. I dislike things that are decided from the start; I like my life to progress on its own, not to a predetermined end.

But that's not the real reason I dislike such a word being used. Sticks-and-stones and whatnot, I realize that it is just a word no more (or less) powerful than any others, but when the electorate makes a decision based on how “electable” a candidate is, that worries me. A candidate is “electable” if you vote for them. Yes, one vote counts – and it is important to vote. I could go into history, and cite the few cases when it really was just one vote, or a small handful, but I'm sure you've read them all before, or you wouldn't care if I told you about them anyways. Please pardon my cynical side, it felt its views were not being expressed when I gave that hopeful statement about voting.

I am sure that you can guess what exactly brought on my hatred of the word “electable”, and from there, make a reasonable guess at my personal politics. I don't care if you tune me out right now because of that. What is most important in this, “The September 12th Era”, as the pundits are calling it, is that the power of the American democratic republic¹ is not measured in guns or warships², nor is it in some way-off (fictional?) god that supposedly trusts in us the more we trust in him, but rather, our power – and our greatness – comes from the power of each and every person over the age of 18, who is a registered voter and who votes regularly.

1 Note the lower-case characters on those. Very Important.

2 Although I must admit that we have more than enough of those to prove our might.

3 Of course, that's true for just about everyone, save one senator from Wisconsin

4 <http://www.2600.com/covers/wi031.gif> (Omigod, not only is he a hacker, he's a Democrat too!)

5 <http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us/bandt/html/veraz.htm> It would seem that the semi-governmental MTA of NYC have no qualms about violating the law.

By Peter C. Gravelle

Of course, it isn't just that easy. To be a good voter, you must be an informed voter. That means when no weapons of mass destruction are found, you should know that. When no links between Saddam Hussein and al-Qaida are found, you should know. You should know what your representatives do, at least on issues that are important to you. For instance, I know that my US Senators voted for the abomination of civil rights that is the USA PATRIOT act³. I will let them know this is not going to be forgotten by me, and they need to make damn sure that any successors to that act fail to make it through sub-committee.

And on an entirely personal note: I have noted a disturbing trend in this country. Fear consumes our every waking hour. We must take care to eat properly, make sure everything is disinfected, and most importantly, we must not ask questions, since that is what the terrorists do. Amateur photographers are getting routinely hassled, for the simple crime of taking pictures. I direct viewers to the cover of the Winter 2003-2004 issue of 2600⁴. It features two photographs of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge⁵, as well as a reproduction of a sign posted under the bridge. “No Photos. No Videos. Strictly Enforced.” It says. Photographers and videographers are artists, plain and simple. This is a clear-cut case of the government attempting to limit art. If you want to hear a delightful tale about further mistreatments of photographers, roll on over to <http://dallasobserver.com/issues/2004-03-11/schutze.html/1/index.html> which was sent to me by a good friend and a former correspondent of this fine magazine.

Stay well, and keep your wits about you.

SUBMIT

gdt@hellsKitchen.org

C'mon, Everyone is doing it

Submissions of all
art forms accepted.



Written pieces should be in Word, plain text or RTF format. Visual art should be submitted at the highest resolution and dpi possible.

Give your time!

GDT meets Wednesdays at 8pm at Crossroads. We are always looking for people to help us edit, write, fold, distribute, cheer, get off and other fun activites.

gdt @ hellskitchen.org



**Gracies
Dinnertime
Theatre™**

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