

Gracies Dinnertime Theatre

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NCAA @ RIT

By R.J. Wilco

I love hockey. I love the game, the atmosphere, the speed and intensity of it all. I've been to all but one of the men's hockey games hosted at RIT. Now don't get me wrong, I love the women too. Their games have been excellent, but just a bit too slow for me to have gone to all of them. I feel like I'm watching the game on a variable-speed setting. Needless to say I was thrilled when I learned that the RIT would be hosting the Quarterfinals. Then the Tigers won the rights to host the Frozen Four (which for the uninitiated is the ice hockey equivalent of the Final Four in basketball) and I cried happy tears.

It was quite the popular event of the weekend. "Tickets for the 2001 NCAA Division III Frozen Four at RIT [had] sold out, as of 10:00 am [last] Wednesday morning. All 4200 seats for the two-day tournament sold in just over 24 hours."¹ That's just under 3 tickets sold per minute.

I had the opportunity to attend all four games on a pass. RIT lost in the final round (2-6) to a bunch of pricks from Plattsburg. And yes, for those of you who were there, that goal at the buzzer should have counted. Regardless of the outcome, it was excellent hockey all around.

But my real commentary here is about the NCAA. The NCAA would lead you to believe that they "[strive] to maintain intercollegiate athletics as an integral part of the educational program and the athlete as an integral part of the student body."² I would argue that they're a pain in the ass, and cool for minor reasons (of a personal fetish-type nature).

WHY THE NCAA SUCKS

About a week before all the games, there was a conference call from the NCAA. I would imagine that much of the event staff for RIT was listening in, taking notes. These conference calls happen before every NCAA event. The end result is this: If you want to host an NCAA-sponsored event, you must conform to their guidelines.

Unfortunately for us, the NCAA guidelines ... well, they suck.

The Corner Crew, a much loved tradition at RIT, was stripped of their banner. The banner's display, reading "RIT Corner Crew—Caution: We're loud and obnoxious at hockey games." would be an unfair advantage to our players.

The music man, who usually provides musical snippets between the plays, was told to shut down during RIT's first game Friday night. The reason? He hadn't played the music during the game that afternoon, and

¹ RIT Athletics. <http://www.rit.edu/~934www/aotw/mhocinfo.htm>

² NCAA Online. <http://www.ncaa.org/about/>

hence he couldn't play it for the remaining games.

The air-raid siren and flashing red lights, usually mounted in the crowd's nest (and on the Zamboni), and used after RIT goals throughout the season: removed as a violation of NCAA policy.

In addition, warnings were repeating over the PA dozens of times throughout the day, banning artificial noisemakers, horns, amplified devices, or air horns. Furthermore, there would be no profane, racial, or otherwise slanderous remarks made toward the players, coaches, assistants or officials. The warnings implied that fans would be ejected from the game for their participation in such actions. I know most of the ice rink staff and the event staff on duty that night, and I doubt any one of them would do so.

So when the Corner Crew chants "Oh shit!" at a missed shot on goal, they'll all get kicked out? Or the numerous "You suck" chants? No, not enough? How about "The refs sleep with sheep", "circle jerk", or any of the other cheers that we've been chanting all year round?

The NCAA prohibits the fans from being fans. Ice hockey attracts a rowdy crowd. A non-profane hockey fan isn't legitimate. Many of us—myself included—release our frustrations on the other team vocally. RIT's players get to do so by slamming some poor sap into the boards. Both releases are equally important for sports in general. In the NCAA's quest to make the game an educational tool, they've stripped many fans of their methods of spirit.

WHY THE NCAA RULES

Not everything about the NCAA is bad, though. There is one cool thing about the organization, it requires that badges be handed out to important people, and worn throughout the weekend. Now I'm a sucker for backstage passes, badges, as well as most shiny things. You'd be surprised what you can find in the dumpsters after major events. Thanks to the custodial staff, here's a brief outline of the badges.

There are several levels of badges required for access to various locations and events, all checked by human staff. The NCAA isn't cool enough to have photographic or biometric forms of ID access. Badges allow the owner to travel less obstructed than regular fans. They are listed in order of coolness and are color coded for easy identification. If you had a badge, you were allowed into the rink without fees being charged.

Volunteer (Grey). I don't understand why these

were printed. The cheerleaders from Wisconsin State University got them. Probably to avoid getting charged at the door, and possibly given more leniency as far as behavior?

Media (Purple). News and press folks. Access to the press room.

Photo. (Light Blue). Photographers only. Access to the press room, and to ice level passageways. Like directly next to the glass.

Participant (Blue). For the players and managers, allowing access to locker-room facilities, ice-level and lobby.

Event Staff/Management (Pink). Access to the ice level passageways, lobby and press room. Given to coordinators, ushers, food service, tech crew, ice arena and security staff. With the exception of the rink employees, food service and tech crew, most of the folks that I saw with pink passes merely stood around with their thumbs up their asses, probably on the RIT time clock. Also, I would imagine that those employees of the ice rink would be allowed access everywhere due to technical/operational reasons.

VIP (Green). Friends of important folks, generally without a clue in the world. Lots of suits and nice shoes. Alas, they are allowed access everywhere, including the VIP lounge. The VIP lounge was in the Ice Rink Conference Room, and was catered by the Ritz. Lots of good cookies, subs and beverages were served up there.

Official Party (Yellow). Usually given to coaches and upper management from RIT. More suits and nicer shoes. They get to walk pretty much anywhere they like, without question.

All Access (Beige). NCAA staff only, generally with expensive-looking suits. These are the folks that RIT would be attempting to impress. Access everywhere, with a "yes, sir" attached.

Badgeless Persons. Badgeless people are tricky. They are usually one of two types of people. Shifty folks in the wrong place, that should be kicked out, who usually are looking around constantly for the nearest security officer. Or, folks that by sheer recognition don't require badges or passes. Dr. Simone, for example, who attended the game with his children. None of them had passes, and pity the poor Security staff who might attempt to boot them for not having them. :)

In short, I love those shiny passes. I won't even say which one I had the opportunity to wear.

The Magic Wondershow Cookbook

PRESENTS

Tourist's Slow Cooked Chunky Marinera

I believe that people are granted three special skills within their own lifetime. The trick is to identify them early and employ them to assure success in any arena of life (because most likely one of your skills will suit your situation). My skills at this juncture seem to be Writing, Cooking, and of course, The Boudoir Sports. An adequate demonstration of the two latter skills is rather difficult within the constraints of printed media, so you'll have to settle for the fruits of the pen, and the recipes that flow from its nimble quill. Anyway, here we go with the first in what I hope to be a series of culinary offerings submitted for your approval or disdain:

Ah, The Sauce...

1 medium sized sweet onion
 3 peppers (red, green, yellow)
 6 cloves of garlic, finely minced (I refer to those as the "Three Wise Men" of cooking. I use them in differing proportion in most of what I cook.)
 2-3 pounds of plum tomatoes, diced
 1 can of tomato paste
 1 cup chicken broth
 The juice of 1 lemon
 1 tablespoon fresh basil
 1 tablespoon oregano
 1/2 teaspoon red pepper
 1/2 teaspoon baking POWDER!
 2 tablespoons sugar
 Salt
 Pepper
 Olive oil
 1/2-1 lb. Andouille Sausage

SUPER SECRET INGREDIENTS:

Tawny Port
 Old Bay (TM) seafood seasoning
 12oz dry ground psilocybin mushrooms(optional)

This sauce can be prepared in a large saucepan or crock-pot. It can be made as a fresh panee or as a

slow cooked marinera without too much adjustment of the recipe.

Simmer onions and peppers in 3 tablespoons of olive oil over low heat until slightly caramelized.

Add sausage, basil, lemon juice, and garlic. Continue to simmer, making sure you're not burning your garlic. That makes it taste shitty. The idea is to impart the flavor of the sausage and garlic to the oil.

Add tomatoes, chicken broth, oregano, pepper, and Old Bay.

Add tomato paste and bring to a simmer and cover. Use the whole can for a thick sauce, half for a more chunky primavera style.

After about ten minutes, add sugar and baking powder. This cuts back a bit on the acidic nature of the tomatoes. Adjust this to taste. Some prefer a sharp, biting sauce; others prefer a more mild to sweet sauce.

Salt and Pepper to taste, remembering that Old Bay is mostly celery salt, so it may be all you need.

And the final ingredient: 1 cup Tawny Port (Vintage Port for all you high rollers). Pour this in after the sauce has simmered down a bit. If you plan on serving immediately, you might want to add it earlier in the recipe. If you plan on taking the glorious crock pot route, I find it best to pour it in about 45 minutes to an hour before it is to be served, in order to retain more of the port flavor.

And there you have it, sweethearts. I find that with the slow cooked variety, the sausage almost melts in your mouth, good with long pasta. Serve with bread and wine, ALWAYS WITH WINE! Cabernet or Merlot. I'm interested in feedback, so if you're bored one day and you give it a try, let me know if you find it suitable or not.

Bon appetit!

Emily Post Stoner Courtesy Reminder: It is proper etiquette to inform your dinner guests if the sauce is to be of the "electric" variety."

Date: Thu, 15 Mar 2001 19:22:23
From: Jamie Marie Marranca
To: gdt@hellskitchen.org

A few responses and a tiny dose of reality:

First off, I'd like to say...juicy burgers, BBQ ribs, 12oz luscious medium rare sirloin, and a large, cold, refreshing glass of milk...cows are yummy!

Secondly, SAT's are not racial, but promote inequality. Just because they are scored the same way doesn't mean anything. Not every school district is required to teach the same material. SAT questions cover all possible material learned in high school. Some of the poorer districts (which, if we took any sociology classes here, we would realize that any neighborhood that isn't upper-middle class or rich won't get the same educational opportunities) that tend to be made up of non-Asians or non-whites can't afford to cover some of the material that is covered on the SAT. So...yes, the SAT's need to go, or every district in the country should be required to cover the same information. That will only happen when our government decides to stop sending military over to countries we've never heard of before (or don't care about) and put that money into education. And I'm sure we all know THAT's gonna happen any time soon. The person who wrote this article must have come from a fairly wealthy school district which never threatened (or maybe never had) to close down the musical, after-school activity, and sports departments down. If anyone is going to write an article from this point on, GET THE FACTS.

Given we live in a technological era and given we go to a institute of technology, one would think that RIT wouldn't need to print those endless papers your department gives you in your mail folder. Why can't they send an email? Everyone would get it, and MILLIONS of trees would be saved. It's not spam, so there is no reason why departments can't send out emails. Whether anyone reads those papers or not, they always end up in the garbage and some-

times even the recycling bin. The science building is BEYOND GUILTY of this crime (how ironic is that?).

I LOVE NAPSTER, I LOVE MP3s, I LOVE FREE STUFF! This is yet another example of how a rich few tries to control the majority. I find it hard to believe that musicians or record companies lose any money from the trading of MP3s. They make all their money off concerts anyway. And if I didn't have some MP3s, I'd never hear some of my favorite songs. To all the fat ass rich morons who criticize Napster, find something real to bitch about.

Lastly, I agree somewhat with what Mike Williams had to say. Working in the accounting office at RIT, I've realized what kind of money comes in and out of this place. RIT dishes out hundreds of thousands of dollars a week to keep this place running. Do you have any idea how much it costs to pay the electrical bills here? Or how much it costs to buy licenses for the software installed on the lab computers? I can tell you that the money RIT gets from the students doesn't cover what it costs to run this place. You could be paying more! There are a few problems I do have. Why does it cost \$.70 to get a candy bar here, and \$1.25 to get a bottle of pop? Why does a burger at the Crossroads cost almost \$4? We are being ripped off when it comes to food. Did you know the roof of Crossroads leaks? I'm sure everyone can find something to complain about here, but make sure it's worth it. Once again, find out all the facts first.

Well, there was an overdose on reality for anyone who cares to read this. You are all supposed to be smart here, maybe you should all start acting that way. Don't bitch unless you plan, seriously, to do something about it. And don't bitch until you know the facts. Heaven forbid anyone should take the time to find out what's really going on here. Just because you graduate from this place doesn't mean you won't get fired down the line for stupidity and laziness.

JM Marranca

Date: Mon, 19 Mar 2001 12:40:01
 From: STANLEY
 To: Gracies Dinnertime Theatre
 Subject: re: Why I hate RIT

My Sweetest Michael,

I recently read your letter in the Whine issue of *GDT* where you mentioned your dismay at the lack of serious scholastic intent within the student body, as well as a "lack of pride, willingness to contribute..." and so forth.

You are an idiot.

The problem, distilled to its base core is that RIT, by definition is an institution. Institutions in general are bad. Why? Look at this touching epithet delivered by the VAX general announcement daemon:

"We were shocked and saddened to learn that Jerome Countryman (099-66-6346), a 5th year Mechanical Engineering student drowned on March 6 while on vacation in Acapulco, Mexico. Calling hours will be on Tuesday, March 13 from..."

Notice the importance of including the RIT unit number, AKA the SSN, included before the details of the incident were even disclosed? Please take a moment to explore the ramifications of this. If you are an astute observer (judging from the focus of your letter, it doesn't seem that you've been afflicted by the curse of wit), you'll come to the conclusion that I did—that the announcement was, in a word, fucking sick. This is not an ant colony, and yet the administration feels the need to inform the worker units that a fellow worker unit, 099-66-6346, has gone offline (rumors that UNIT THX-1138 may be involved in this incident have yet to be confirmed). Granted, your aim was to admonish those who complain to no end while residing comfortably in apathetic wastelands. It was an honest try and *GDT* does thank you for it. I, however, do not.

If you were to take the time to investigate the matter in greater detail, you'd find that RIT is a bastion of conservative Republican politics, under the auspices of a non-profit institution (yet again the word institution rears its ugly

face). Our student body might be considered liberal against the student body of say, Oral Roberts, but compare us to other schools and we fall short. Why? Just ask the SSDP, or the Alternative Student Federation, two organizations that have garnered unnecessary hellfire from administration and student body alike, due to their liberal views on drugs and sexuality.

The subtle presence of the US military in various areas of campus (not that this is unique to RIT, however I find it ironic that they are quartered in the same hall as many of the liberal arts professors) simply adds to this Right-Wing cloud. Whether or not the students align themselves with these values, those holding the purse strings do. Seemingly minor like the lack of adequate parking are combated by **increasing** the number of reserved parking spaces in U-Lot. Huh? New restaurants, conveniently located within walking distance, are constructed where the administration can continue to gouge us with over-inflated prices and farcical claims of "authentic" cuisine.

High-profile problems such as those found at Kent State during the 1960's do not plague RIT, and would lead someone to say something naive like "...the majority of problems and issues at RIT are perceived, not realized." Take the gestalt effect of many little problems (parking, racism, sexism, anti-alcohol enrollment campaigns, the CIA, the student-death center, USA Today) combined with an architectural style known as American Brutalism, and one cannot blame a person for having little pride in their school.

You are correct in that the majority of matriculating RIT students are little more than solipsistic idiots, however it is foolish to think that the problems are perceived.

Administration + Thumbs up their asses = RIT.

.02,

-Sean J. Stanley-

SUBMIT.

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DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

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