

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Erhardt Graeff

ART DIRECTOR

Jonathan Rivera

SENIOR EDITORS

Mike Eppolito, J. S. Ost

PHOTO EDITOR

Tom Starkweather

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Adam Peck

AD MANAGER

Bryan Hammer

BUSINESS MANAGER

Gregory Smith

NEWS EDITOR

Casey Dehlinger

LEISURE EDITOR

Benjamin Foster

FEATURES EDITOR

Monica Donovan

SPORTS EDITOR

Frances Cabrera

ONLINE EDITOR

Patrick Kelley

WRITERS

Thomas Cookson, Casey Dehlinger,
Erhardt Graeff, Richard Hain, Lauren Howard,
Elliot Jenner, Jennifer Loomis, Renee Keiser,
José Plaza, Govind Ramabadran

STAFF DESIGNERS

Lauren Dellaquila, Josh Gomby,
Adam Rossiter

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jacob Hannah, Young Jang,
Ralph Smith, David Wright

CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATORS

Brittney Lee, Mike Norton

ADVISOR

Rudy Pugliese

PRINTING

Printing Applications Lab

DISTRIBUTION

Mike Eppolito, Peter Frandina

CONTACT INFO

MAIN: 585.475.2212

reporter@rit.edu

ADVERTISING: 585.475.2213

reporterads@mail.rit.edu

EDITORIAL

Halloween and Thanks Giving

Scariest things from the past year: earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes. After going through several haunted houses this October, not once did I encounter anything remotely close to the terror of a natural disaster. The water-squirting, despoiled toilet and the pneumatically possessed elevator can't really compare. And scary as they were and are, you won't find anything resembling a Katrina costume for sale this season. However, this Halloween, you can definitely grab a pair of scissors, a sheet, and a healthy helping of thanksgiving.

I realize that the holiday featuring the gobbling bird is still a month away. But the Christians are still remembering Jesus' death even though it's not Good Friday, thus we can all remember to be thankful even though it's not Thanksgiving.

Obviously, Halloween is not a work or school holiday—not that you can really get off school for holidays here, anyway. However, Hallowe'en is as good a holiday as any at RIT. Most are ignored, except for Christmas/New Year's, but consider how appropriate it is when you factor in the orange and (in the case of athletics) black dominating our color scheme. Thus, I would strongly encourage everyone at RIT to celebrate Halloween regardless of your background. It's the only holiday left in Fall Quarter—go nuts!

Because a holiday can be whatever you make of it. Think: balloons. My hope, though, would be that holidays give some pause for reflection considering their anomalously special place on the calendar. And in light of recent catastrophes in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Gulf Coast, it seems natural to give thanks for what stability and comforts you enjoy in life. Such thanksgivings are truly universal—transcending: religion, race, sexuality, everything.

And of course, RIT is a private, secular university. We are not Wesleyan and we are, certainly, not Bob Jones University. Halloween is not and does not have to be indelibly linked to evil or taboo. I was raised in what would be considered a "Christian home." This, however, did not stop us from giving out the big candy bars every year on the township-sanctioned night for trick-or-treating. That's right—king size Hershey bars. And our religious background did not conflict with our observing the be-something-your-not secular night that is Halloween.

And I realize that not all brands of Christianity hold the same beliefs. But for us it worked—because Halloween isn't only about kids dressed up like Power Rangers and Zombies lugging overstuffed sacks of processed sugar. It's also about community spirit—the neighborhood coming together on a special occasion. We aren't sacrificing humans, tigers, or goats. We are just congregating. *It's not Thanksgiving.* But just because we exchange sweets for turkey and ghosts for pilgrims, doesn't mean we are bunch of heretical pagans out to corrupt America's youths.

If you think Halloween is detrimental to society—fine. You don't want your kids becoming literate on Harry Potter—fine. However, you have a choice to do something good with this particular holiday. It comes down to looking at the event not so much as a manifestation of evil, but as an opportunity for spreading love (religious or otherwise). Dissenting parents: costume your kids as mild-mannered mini suburbanites and send them out on Halloween with UNICEF boxes. Give thanks for what you have and help out those less fortunate. Whether you are a Wiccan, a Christian, an Atheist, or the average RIT student, you at least *have* the option of trick-or-treating this year, unlike the kids from in and around New Orleans.



Erhardt Graeff

Editor in Chief