

REPORTER

APRIL 22, 2005 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM





Ream Kidane chants anti Daniel Pipes slogans to a crowd of about 50 outside building 7A before Pipes' Lecture.
Kim Weiselberg/REPORTER Magazine

■ NEWS

06 Pipes Lecture and Protest

I say racist, you say courageous.
You say racist, I say courageous.

07 Gallery R Benefit

It's like the deli counter only the
meat is art.

08 SG Presidential Candidates

J.M. with C.H. versus
K.G. with E.A.

09 Crime Watch

Find your friends.

09 RIT Forecast

This week's events.

■ LEISURE

10 Photo: RITGA Drag Show

Emcee Ambrosia Salad.
'Nuff Said.

11 Muslim Poetry Slam

Lyrical Culture is love.

12 Web Review

Polishposters.com: visceral
as vomit.

13 At Your Leisure

People, Stuff, and Things.

■ FEATURES

16 Shakespeare at RIT

Happy Birthday Bard!

20 Rochester Theatre

There is a cabaret but its
about acting, really.

22 Word on the Street

What is your favorite play
and why?

■ SPORTS

24 SportsDESK

Baseball, Crew, Lacrosse,
Softball, Tennis, Track.

26 Hustle for Habitat

Just go 5k that way and help
the Tsunami victims.

Cover photograph by Kim Weiselberg

Reporter Magazine is published weekly during the academic year by a staff comprised of students at Rochester Institute of Technology. Business, Editorial, and Design facilities are located in Room A-426, in the lower level of the Student Alumni Union. Our voice/TTY line is 585.475.2212. The Advertising Department can be reached at 585.475.2213. The opinions expressed in Reporter do not necessarily reflect those of the Institute. Did you see the protest was a Party on Thefacebook? Letters to the Editor may also be sent to reporter@rit.edu. Reporter is not responsible for materials presented in advertising areas. No letters will be printed unless signed. All letters received become the property of Reporter. Reporter takes pride in its membership in the Associated Collegiate Press and American Civil Liberties Union. Copyright 2005 Reporter Magazine. All rights reserved. No portion of this Magazine may be reproduced without prior written permission.



Daniel Pipes speaks to a full audience in Webb Auditorium Thursday April 14. Kim Weiselberg/REPORTER Magazine.

Daniel Pipes: Racist or Courageous?

by Austin McChord

"Arabs and Muslims deserve their rights! We say no to Daniel Pipes!" shouted protesters on their way to the Kodak quad where they assembled. Students were out in full force to protest Daniel Pipes and his Campus Watch organization. "We want to show that there is vocal opposition to racism on campus," explained Ream Kidane, one of the protest organizers. There were approximately ninety people there, along with many curious onlookers. "It's not everyday that there are protests at RIT... The fact we got this many people to show up is amazing," said one protester.

At the heart of the claims made at the protest was the statement that Pipes is a racist that encourages discrimination against Muslims. As the crowd grew the protesters began to march. Wielding a megaphone and standing atop a table, RIT Anti-war president Josh Karpoff announced, "Today at RIT we have a big problem on our hands; we have a racist bigot being paid cash money to come pitch racist crap." The protest speakers, which included RIT Anti-War Advisor Jean Douthwright, went on to condemn Pipes and Campus Watch for what they described as McCarthyist tactics and restrictions on free speech. According to the website (campuswatch.org), Campus Watch was created to, "Review and critique Middle East studies in North America with the aim to improve them.

The supporters of Pipes were much less conspicuous than his opposition. While they were not outside demonstrating, their applause was definitely heard during his lecture. Some had driven from as far away as Buffalo and Utica to see him speak. "He is a courageous man with a courageous message," explained one supporter. Both sides did seem to agree on one thing and that was Pipes' right to speak.

Webb Auditorium, which was under relatively heavy security, was only able to seat about 300 people—over 900 people turned up to hear Pipes, causing an overflow into three different buildings. When Pipes took the stage he spoke in a slow and academic manner—not what you would normally be expecting from someone who causes protests. In his lecture, "Militant Islam and the War on Terror," Pipes raised several controversial ideas. He spoke of his belief that 10% to 15% of all Muslims are radical Muslims, or Islamists, and that this group needed to be identified and stopped.

Overall, Pipes attempted to explain that, "Terrorism is

a symptom [of Islamism] and that Islamists are a form of governance that America and democracy are required to defeat. He spoke of how fascism was brought to an end through "Blood and Iron" and how communism crumbled under its own weight in the early nineties. "I believe we, the civilized world, meaning the United States, the West, and indeed the Muslim states, need to make the defeat of Radical Islam our goal. It's not defeating terrorism; it's defeating Radical Islam," Pipes concluded, "I am confident we will win this war, but I'm not confident that we'll do it expeditiously and with a minimum number of casualties.

When it came time for question and answer, Pipes essentially steamrolled most questioners with such responses as, "That's nonsense; please stick to the facts," and, "I would appreciate you keeping your corrections to things that you DO know about. At one point during the Q&A a questioner pitched a lengthy criticism of Pipes, drawing shouts and warring

applause from the audience. Pipes responded, "I am delighted to have a counter lecture along with my lecture. I'm delighted to learn that wild-eyed Anti-Americanism is alive and well at Rochester Institute of Technology." And he moved on, just ignoring the question. At that point one member of the audience exclaimed, "This guy is a hack! He won't answer the question, anyways!" and stormed out. The final question of the Q&A session was a request to return for a debate and more discussion on his ideas, but Pipes concluded the lecture before giving a response.

When asked about their thoughts afterwards, students seemed to see what they were looking for in the lecture. Those who supported Pipes felt that he gave a strong lecture and stood up to his criticism well, while those who opposed him felt that he avoided most of the pressing questions. Either way, most students who attended the lecture agreed that Pipes brought a timely and important debate to campus. •

A video and transcript of the lecture and Q&A session are available online for download at <http://www.rit.edu/~gannett/Archived.html>.

GALLERY R

Gallery R Benefit: A Lottery Where Everyone Wins

by Andrew Brooks

The clock strikes 7 p.m. and on the dot somebody's hand reaches into a large bowl with scraps of paper. One of these scraps is your rather inexpensive 80 dollar ticket, your ticket to your latest favorite piece of art, labeled "W." The virtual drum roll of tension starts in your head as they unfold the paper and read aloud, "Number 23." Looking down at your part of the ticket, it reads, "22." The drum roll becomes higher in that Number 23 might choose the work of art labeled "W." They choose "C" and a big sigh of relief rushes through you until the next ticket is drawn. This is how the Gallery R benefit event worked on the patron.

The Gallery R benefit event was started six years ago as a way to increase its operating funds. It was modeled after hearing about a very effective fund raising event in Vancouver. Gallery R hit a lack of sales and wanted to have enough money in order to cover students' projects, exhibitions, and art fairs. While the specifics of the benefit have changed year to year they have mainly worked off of a similar idea.

Artists are asked via phone, mail, and meeting to donate art. This is a very important part of the benefit because every ticket ensures the buyer a work of art. "It has become somewhat of an anticipated thing, too," said Zerbe Sodervick, Director of the Extended Studies Office and Coordinator for Gallery R. Artists like donating their work to such a cause because they love the gallery. Artists can also use this benefit to start

a reputation in the artistic community. "We are not devaluing art work," said Sodervick. Gallery R attempts to value individual's tastes.

RIT undergrad students, graduate students, alumni, and friends in the Rochester community submit sculptures, paintings, drawings, jewelry, ceramics, blown glass, film cells, and photographs. By doing so they all are placed on an even playing field and the competition that arises between them is not one of money or auctioning but one of taste. It is the hope of everyone to get their favorite artwork in the collection; this theoretically could be the case. "Last year, a friend of mine had the very last ticket drawn, and had eight to ten pieces to choose from, most of which were still at the top of his list," said Sodervick.

A location must also be reserved for the event; this year it was arranged to be at Rooney's, an intimate, upscale restaurant on Field Street. The doors opened at 3 p.m. so that people could come in while it is quiet and observe the art. Sometimes, patrons can buy extra tickets if they see something they really like. Each patron is armed with a brochure to explain each piece of art and a golf pencil to aid in the decision making process.

With hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and tons of great art pieces to choose from, it was a great night for the artists, the patrons, and Gallery R but also for Sodervick's students who help run and take charge of the whole event. "I wanted to provide an educational experience for the students who work with the gallery and for the event management students," explained Sodervick. Sodervick teaches an undergraduate and graduate section of Art Gallery Management wanted to provide these students with the experience a benefit that will aid in the continuation of Gallery R. •