

REPORTER

NOVEMBER 2, 2001 • WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM

THE PICTURE STORY

ry-guy • the lower falls
the virtue of humility • stonehurst regatta



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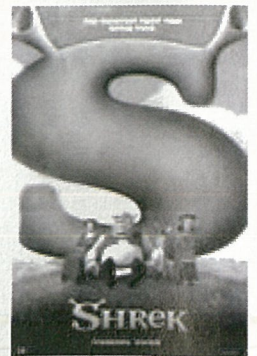
Fri. Nov. 9 & Sat. Nov. 10

Shrek

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@ 7 & 9 pm

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Editorial

Deep down, we are all visual people.

From the earliest moments of our lives, we were shown pictures to help us understand a story. We're drawn to bright colors and the contrast between light and dark. Professors accompany their lectures with slides to get us to pay attention. When we open up a newspaper or a magazine our eyes go to the pictures first. The image helps our mind grasp the words on the page.

The "picture story" has all but disappeared from the pages of modern publication. Fifty years ago, you could open up an issue of LIFE magazine and be taken anywhere in the world. W. Eugene Smith taught us what it was like to be the only doctor for hundreds of miles of rugged Colorado terrain in "Country Doctor." Meanwhile, Alfred Eisenstaedt had us all wishing we were sailors with beautiful women to come home to.

Yet, budget cuts happen. It's more difficult than ever for magazines to send photographers all over the world to capture these stories. And today, it takes something extraordinary to warrant a photo essay.

After September 11th, magazines like Time and U.S. News released special issues that contained very little text and no advertising to help America comprehend the enormity of the situation. The images of smoke billowing from the twin towers were plastered all over every media outlet for days. A huge photo of people jumping from the windows made us afraid all over again. And the image of firefighters raising the American flag over the rubble made us proud.

This is the kind of power the image can hold.

The goal of putting together a photo essay issue is to help educate those among us who may not consider themselves "visual people." We have gotten lazy in our quest for knowledge. We want the lists and the infographics to be laid out in front of us. However, all the same information can be captured in a photograph—you just have to learn how to find it. Everyone will see something different in the pictures in this issue. That's fine. There is more to exercising your mind than memorizing textbooks and coloring inside the lines. Pictures are supposed to make you think.

I want to see more visual stimulation on this campus. I think it provides inspiration for all of us. This doesn't necessarily mean I need to see big glass buildings instead of bricks (though it might be nice). But more public art, more art in the classrooms, more art in the hallways—more art.

If a picture is really worth a thousand words, by my count you have 42,000 words ahead of you. So get your glasses and some hot chocolate, we're about to cuddle up and have some quality time together.

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REPORTER

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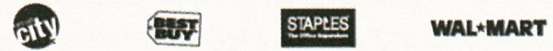
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Ry-Guy *Photos of a young man with tremendous courage*



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Ryan waits in the doctors office for his full length cast to be shortend to a more manageable size.

by Brian Ian Marcus

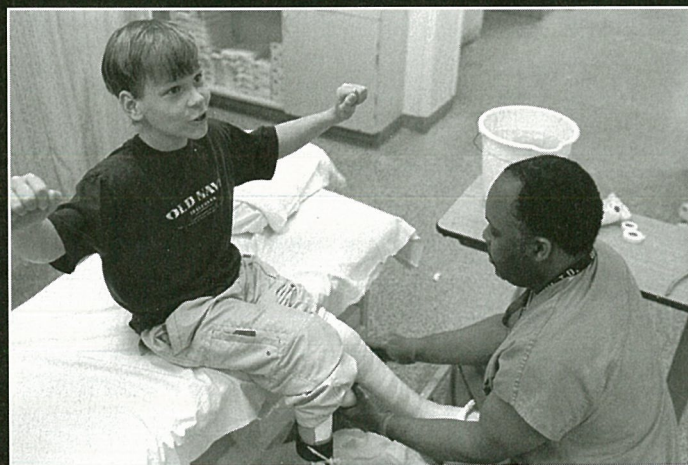
Ryan was born with spina bifida, a condition that affects the brain and spinal cord. Because Ryan's spinal cord was incomplete, he was born with hydrocephalus, which prevented fluid from draining properly and causing pressure to build up in his head. A shunt was inserted into Ryan's brain, which allows fluid to drain through a tube into Ryan's stomach. Ryan had over 20 surgeries, costing more than \$1 million, in his first year of life alone.

12 years and countless surgeries later, Ryan (or Ry - Guy as his mother calls him) is leading as normal a life as possible. He competes actively in as many sports as he can. He races for the Rochester Rookies, a wheelchair racing team, and plays for the Rochester Rockets, a basketball team for kids with physical handicaps. And like every other 12-year old boy, Ryan gets hurt.

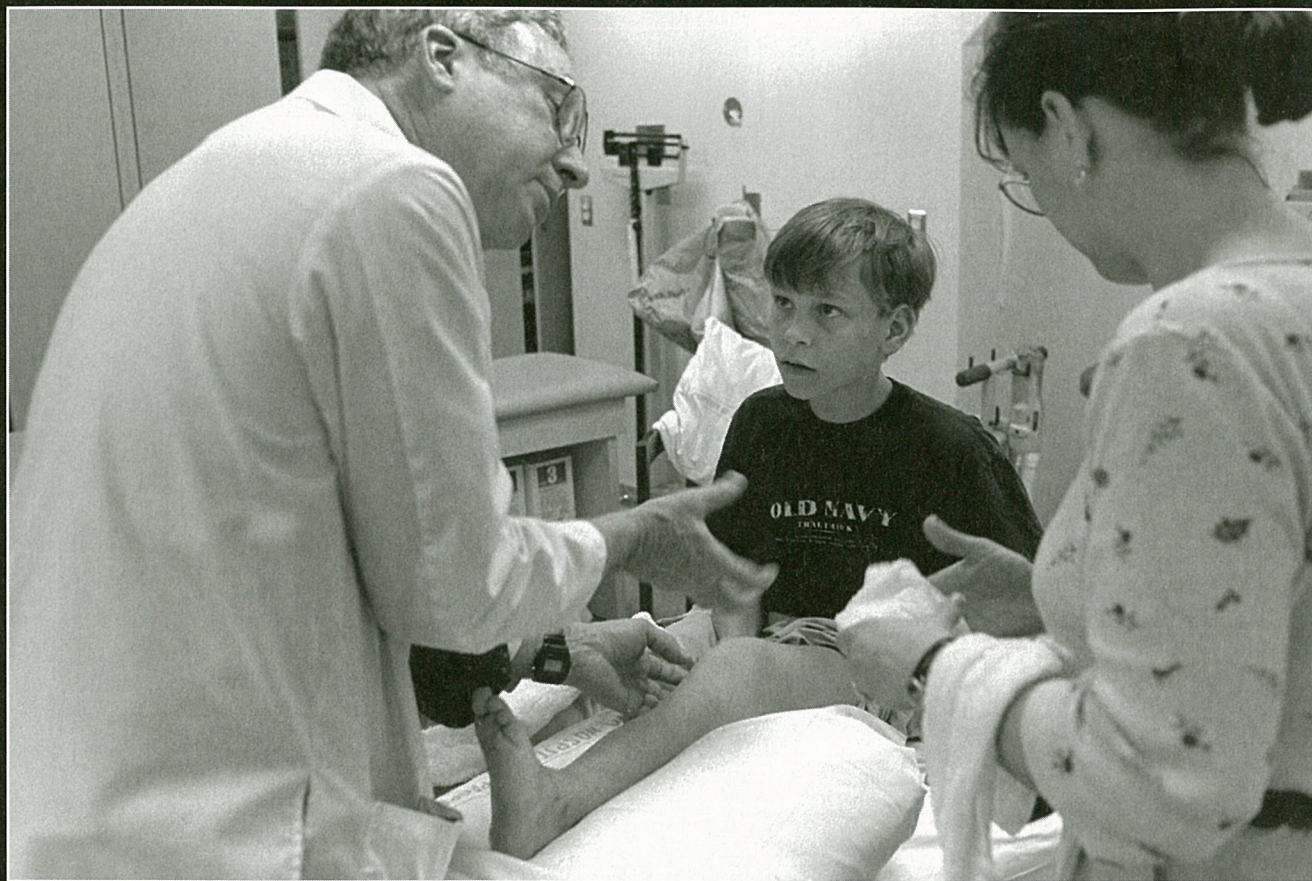
Last March, Ryan fell out of his chair and broke his leg while skiing. When he was getting his full-length cast shortened to a more manageable size, he insisted on a pink cast so his little sister would think it was "cool." Ryan's mom quickly intervened, arguing that Ryan already had "enough problems." They compromised on a purple one.

During the time I spent documenting Ryan, I was overwhelmed at how much strength and determination he possesses. When he grows up, Ryan told me he wants to be a professional basketball player.

I'm sure he's got what it takes.



Ryan's short cast will allow him to play wheelchair basketball again, however he still will not be able to fit into his racing chair. Regardless, it was an exciting day for Ryan because he knows the shorter cast will allow him to do a lot more than before.



Ryan and his mother Linda listen as his doctor explains the procedure for getting his cast reduced to a shorter one.



Ryan throws shotput and discus, and wheelchair races for the Rookies, the wheelchair track and field team based in Western New York.



One of Ryan's favorite sports is basketball. He plays for the Rochester Rockets, a wheelchair basketball team for kids with physical handicaps.



Ryan has numerous wheelchairs for different uses, including one for racing and one for downhill skiing.



Since the Rookies do not have a track to practice on, they are forced to practice in the halls of a local school and community center.



Although just learning to walk, Ryan's sister Emily has no problem pushing him during a family outing at the zoo. Using the bar as support, she loves to wheel Ryan around.



Ryan acts like a typical 12 year old and loves to have fun with his cousins.



Ryan and his dad spend some quality time together.



Ryan refuses to let his condition get in the way of his goals. Although he has faced many tough times, and is aware that there are going to be more in store, he continues to look ahead towards his future and is ready to conquer life head on.



The Lower Falls

Rochester, New York

I arrive at the falls around 10:00 a.m. in order to once again photograph the annual mayhem about to resume. Every fall, salmon and trout migrate up the Genesee River to spawn and die, hence perpetuating an ancient cycle. They get stuck here, at the bottom of Lower Falls.

The descent into the ravine is rather treacherous, and all I can picture is a smashed camera and broken bones. Fortunately, I make it down without event. I break through the treeline and a familiar sight greets my half-open eyes: eager fishermen line the banks, struggling to hook just one of the thousands of immense fish making their way upstream. By the time I get to the middle of this chaos, new faces intrigue me.

While climbing over the rocky shore, a middle-aged woman notices my camera and politely questions my intentions. I reply, as I do to all that question my voyeuristic behavior, by telling her I'm a student of photojournalism. Hearing this delights her, for she is a journalist herself, and we immediately strike up a conversation.

She has a thick Russian accent. As we converse, she introduces me to the group of men she is with, all of whom are also Russian immigrants. They are all from NYC and are here on vacation.

Vacationing in Rochester? The question flashes through my head, but I do not even bother to ask the obvious.

Either way, they seem to be enjoying themselves; I soon find out what was helping them.



Half a green pepper is thrust before me. One of the companions fills it with a dark, brownish liquid and instructs me to drink. I thank him, but also inquire as to what I was about to ingest. He smiles sheepishly and says a few words in Russian, which, loosely translated by the English speaker, mean "drink it." With all of them watching, I succumb to peer pressure and throw back the drink.

It was not necessarily that bad; I'm just not accustomed to drinking hard liquor at 10:30 in the morning.

Curious as to the reason they were all drinking out of half of a pepper, I ask them if it was custom or tradition.

"No. We just didn't have any cups."

by Ryan Collerd



This father/son team had amassed their fair share of fish for the day and are seen here taking a break. Soon afterwards they began to slice their fish open from head to tail. This action makes the fish lighter for transport and is also necessary to retrieve the eggs inside, which they sell for a dollar a pound at a local bait shop.



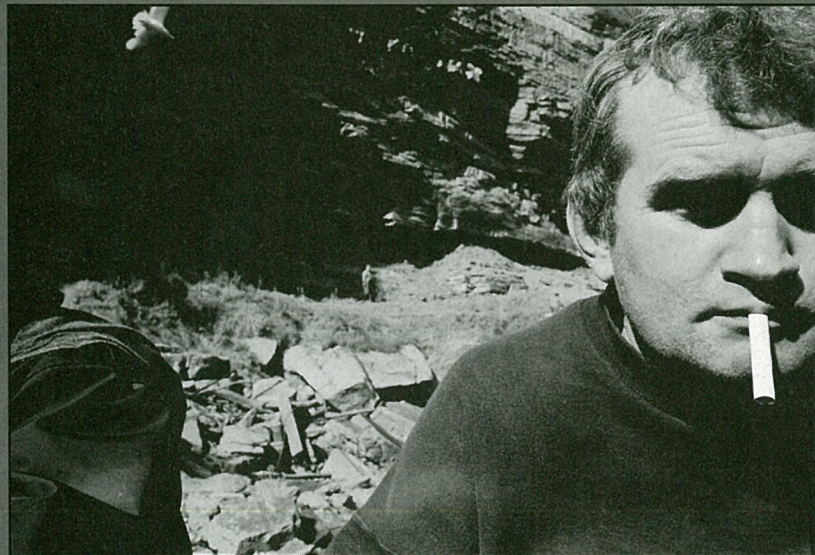
Some take this annual event seriously while others find it a time to socialize. This socialization more often than not entails stories of the last year's triumphs and failures.



My fellow journalist enjoys the rare Rochester sun and an animated conversation with one of her travel companions.

It has been a year since my last visit to the falls and I'm eager to return. The people I encounter there, such as the Russians, never cease to amaze and entertain me. Some invite me back to their homes to sample their catch, while others believe me to be in affiliation with the department of fish and game. Those tend to be the ones without a license.

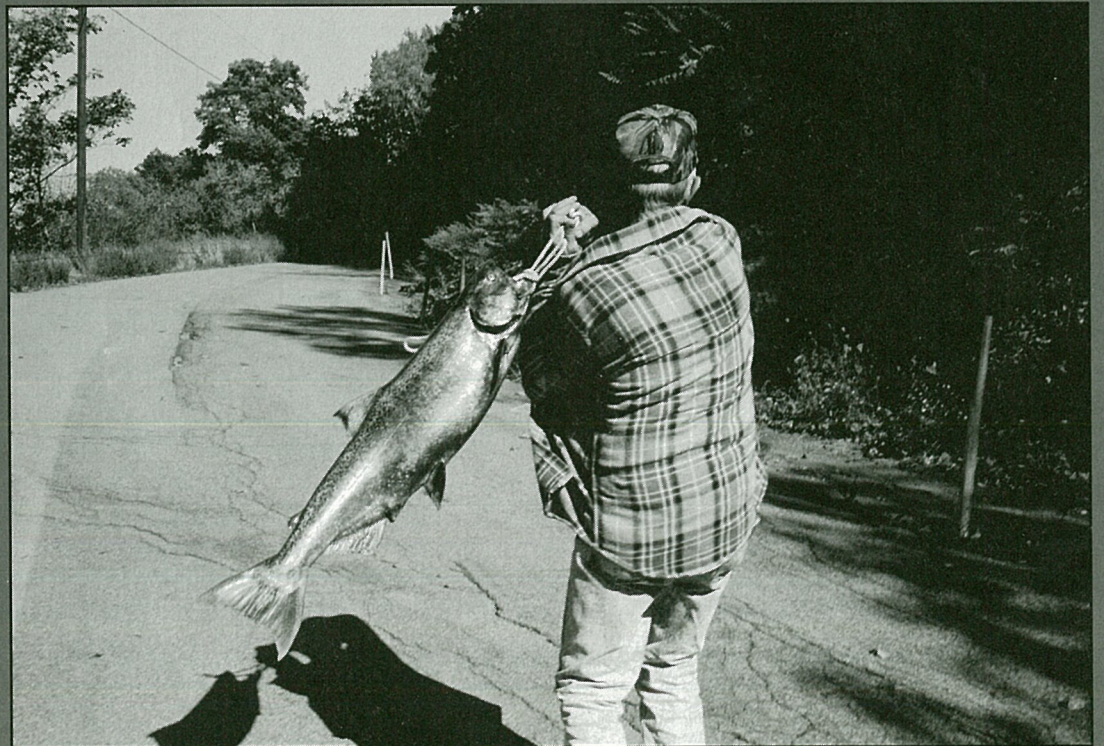
Then there are the children who explain to me that they receive five dollars a fish from a local market owner who then butchers the fish and sells them in New York City. They find the most joy in fighting over the fish that some offer them, for they themselves are not skilled enough to catch them on their own.



One of my newfound Russian friends enjoys a cigarette of the same origin on the riverbank. He insists that they are of the finest quality.



A long day of reeling in fish and possibly too much of a good thing has led to a sleep state for my drinking partner.



A long haul awaits all the fishermen at the end of the day. At this point, a successful outing becomes a mixed blessing.



Brother Joseph relaxes in a pool after being thrown in by another friar. Even in the water, the friars are forbidden to remove their robes.

The Virtue of Humility

Photographs of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

by Edmund Fountain

The Franciscan Order of Friars was born around the year 1209, by St. Francis of Assisi, and proved enormously popular. The Order filled a desperate need in the Catholic church. Unlike most groups of clergymen, who could not interact with the outside world, the Franciscans were free to be involved with the community around them.

The Community of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal was begun in April 1987 by a group of Friars desiring to work for personal and communal renewal and the reform of the Church. The Friars of this community must live in material poverty, perform manual labor, completely renounce ownership of personal property, make a vow of chastity, and live among and engage in hands-on work with the materially poor and destitute.

Throughout modern history we have seen people who have given their life to a religion be described as "ignorant," "overzealous," and sometimes "arrogant." Upon being introduced to the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, I was immediately struck by the fact that they were neither ignorant or "zealots."

What I found was a group of people who were undeniably devoted to God and Catholicism, as one must be in order to live this lifestyle, but beyond that I found a group of people who, by their own choice, had given up material wealth, material possessions, sex, and the values of our culture. These are things that most people today hold too dearly to give up, even temporarily.

Despite all of this, I discovered that the Friars do lead somewhat normal lives. They have emotions like anyone else, they laugh, they cry, they have friends, and they do things that one might consider "odd" for a friar, such as going to an amusement park, or skateboarding. In these images, one can see that despite the stereotypes that they are

sometimes subjected to, they are incredible people who lead wonderful lives, and do many things that we consider normal, but things we would not imagine someone who lives this lifestyle doing.

My work with the Friars began in June of 2000. I drove a friend who was considering joining them to Bronx, New York, so that he could visit them at their house a few blocks away from Yankee Stadium. I photographed them on several occasions after that, but never for more than a few days at a time. While I was satisfied with the pictures that I made, I felt I could do more. I wanted to immerse myself in their lifestyle; I wanted to understand why they lived as they did, how they lived with so little, and why they were so content to exist in the manner that they do.

These questions danced in my head constantly. I arranged to stay with them for several weeks at their home in the South Bronx during July of 2001. While I was there, I began to find answers to the questions I had asked before. I also began to ask the same questions to myself: How can I live as I do?

I was able to rethink many aspects of my own life by watching them live their lives. The title of this project, "The Virtue of Humility," comes from a conversation I had with one of the friars about a teenager whom they knew in their neighborhood. I asked why he acted a certain way sometimes, and the brother responded with "He has not yet learned the virtue of humility."

The line stuck with me throughout my stay, and in thinking about that phrase, I realized that the friars have all truly learned what humility is. They let it shine through in all that they do, whether it is the little things that they sometimes do for themselves, or the countless number of tasks that they take on to help their community.

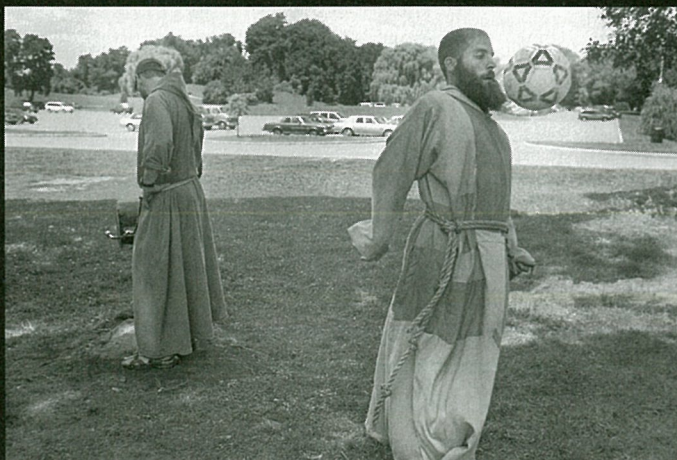


As a sign of reverence, the friars kneel and kiss the floor of their chapel whenever they enter it.



Brother Thomas withdraws money from an ATM machine. While the brothers are forbidden to have personal belongings, including wealth, the friars do have a fund provided by donations which they use to help maintain their home.

While Brother Sean grills hamburgers, Brother Juniper plays with a soccer ball.



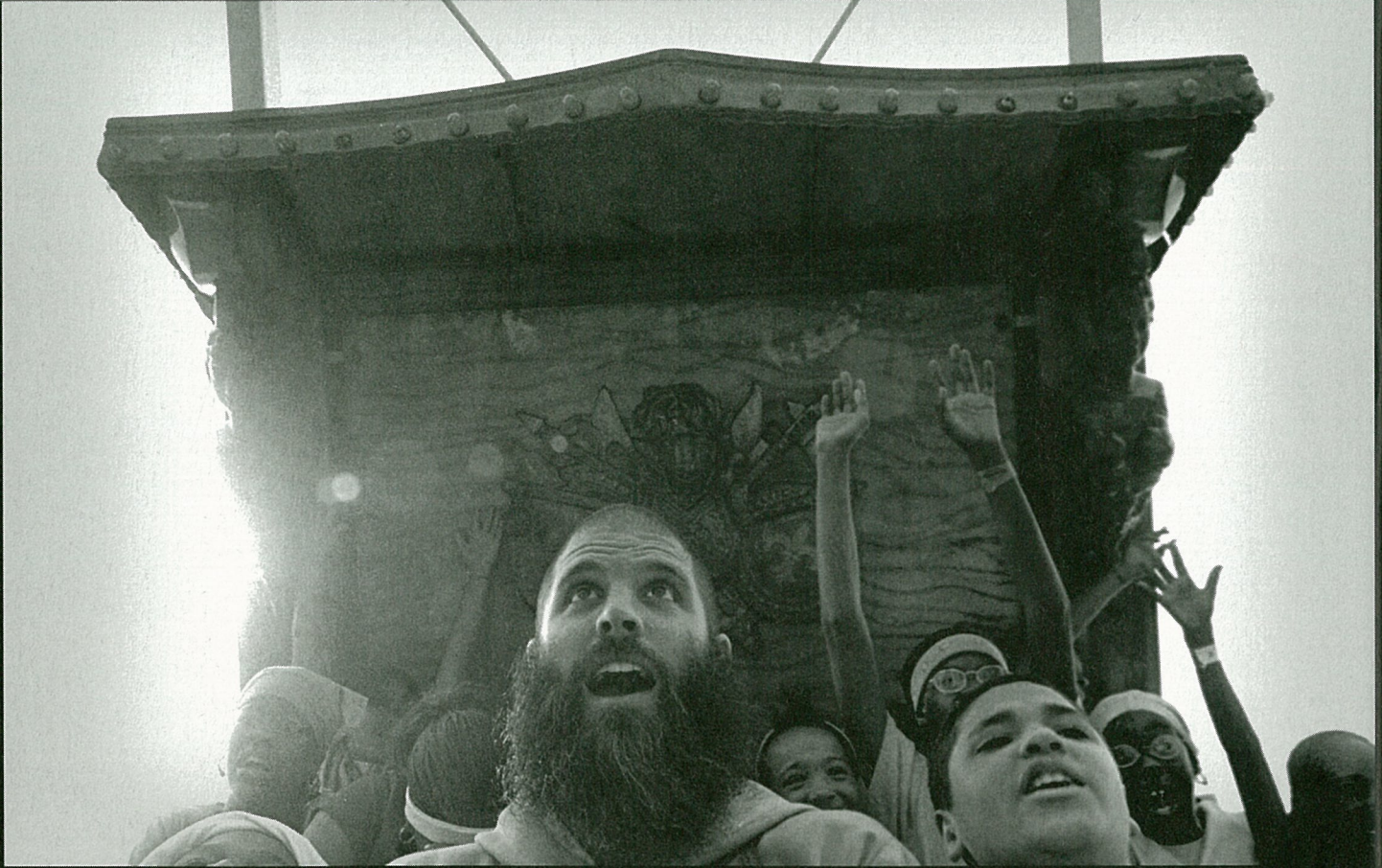
After being reminded, Brother Augustino realizes that he has forgotten to do something and clasps his hands to his forehead. The friars each have specific daily duties that they are supposed to perform.



Br. Martin gives a blessing to a homeless man living in Central Park. The Friars often seek out the homeless to provide them with food and clothing.



In a moment of brotherly love, Br. Marie-Antoin and Br. Isaac embrace one another.



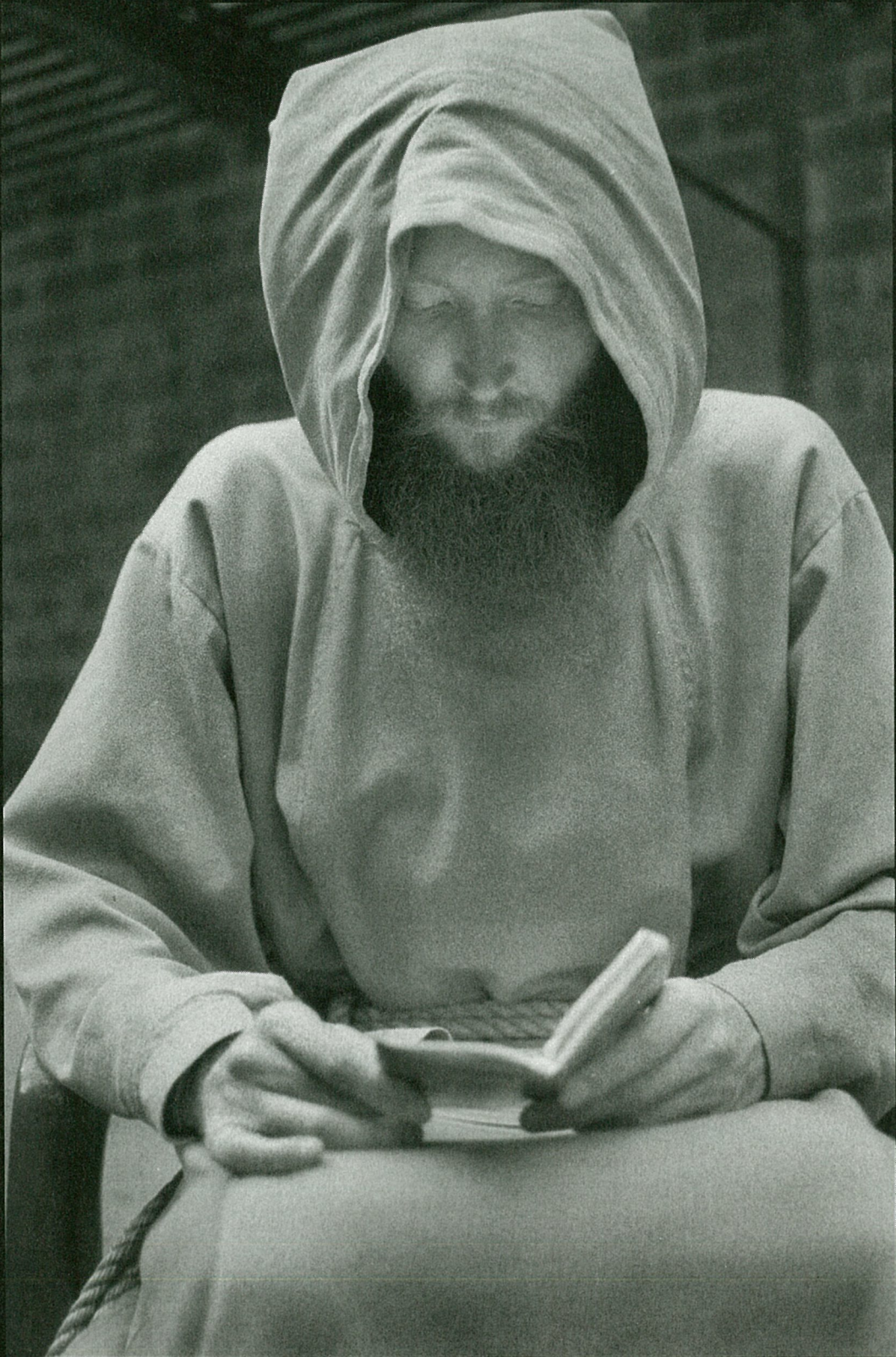
Br. Juniper screams with other riders on a giant swing at the Adventureland Amusement Park, Long Island, NY.



Br. Peter shops in a Home Depot in Bronx, NY in order to buy supplies to build a wall in the friar's home.



Brother Pio practices kickflips in the street in front of the friars home. Before becoming a friar, he made a living as a professional skateboarder.



Br. Peter reads scripture during the morning prayer hour. The friars spend about five hours of each day in prayer.



In a gesture of friendship, Father Robert kisses Br. Francis goodbye before departing from Yonkers, NY to go to London.

The rule and life of the lesser brothers is this:
To observe the holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
living in obedience without anything of our own, and in chastity.

-Rule of St. Francis, 1223

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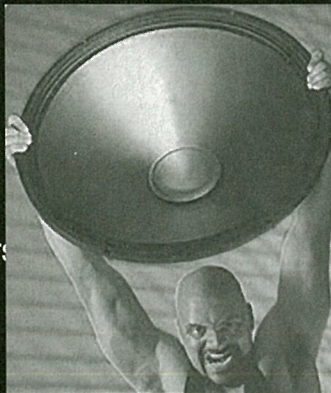
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Coxswain Sarah Seely's number tag during the pre race pep talk

2001

Stonehurst Capital Invitational Regatta

RIT Women's Crew attempts to defend their title

Since the very first week of the spring quarter, the RIT women's crew team had been gearing up for the 2001 Stonehurst Capital Invitational Regatta, which was sponsored by RIT and the University of Rochester. Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, the women started their day at about 4:30 a.m. in order to be at the RIT Boathouse for a 5:00 a.m. practice, not to mention a 7:00 a.m. practice on Saturday as well. They battled frigid temperatures, complete darkness, and most of the time utter exhaustion in order to maintain a spot in the varsity heavyweight eight boat. While most students never get to see a sunrise regularly, these ladies are done with practice before the sun even passes the horizon.

As last year's Stonehurst Kate Louise Cup women's heavyweight eight champions, they had much to live up to this year. The pressure soared even higher since it was the first major event of the season. The ladies devote 11 hours on race day, and weeks of training for a total of about 25 minutes of actual race time in two events at Stonehurst. Comprised of two seniors, three juniors, three sophomores, and the anchor of the boat—one senior coxswain, Sarah Seely—RIT's varsity team is more diverse in age, but unified in strength. Even though this year their attempts only brought them to an eighth place finish in the college division, the ladies were not at all distraught; they look back at their race and plan for the next.

Having spent only about 15 hours with the team, I began to feel the burden this sport would have on a college student, but these ladies felt unnerved by the situation. Each and every member understands her place on the team, and Crew is a true team sport; if even one member faults in any way, it affects the entire boat instantly. Teamwork, determination, and most importantly devotion to the sport make these girls the team that they are.

by Denis Rochefort



Saturday, October 13, 2001, 9:00 a.m.: The entire team receives uniforms and engages in a private, team only conference discussing strategy and what to expect on race day.



10:00 a.m.: After derigging the boat for transportation to the event, the final touch is added to complete the Kate Louise... a shiny new name up front.

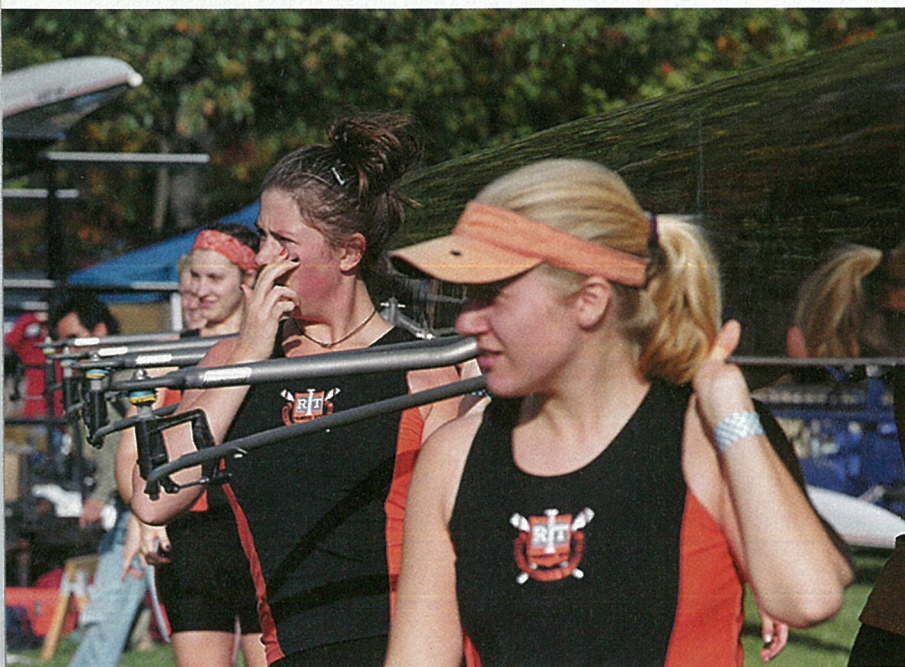




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One of the most important parts of the day is rigging the boat and readying it for launch. Here Emily Hansel and Erin Langworth and the team prep their own position.

Coach Suzette Lugo watches as Senior coxswain Sarah Seely guides the ladies before the race. Seely receives much respect from the team with her hard work with both the team and the boat itself. Coach Lugo watches over the entire team, but rarely has to interrupt the workings of Seely.



Becki Dimitri, Hannah Dawes, Emily Hansel, and the rest of the team await instructions from their coxswain Sarah Seely as they ready the boat for launch.

The Team heads downstream to the starting area of the morning head race as the pedestrian bridge anchors the American Flag. The race is a five kilometer endurance race up the Genesee River.



The team engages in a pre race cheer moments after the final pep talk of the day led by Coach Lugo.

Becki Dimitri and Sara Kalis embrace each other after finally completing the day. Though, not finishing as well as they would have liked, the team is none the less happy to be finished, and is ready to look towards the future.



