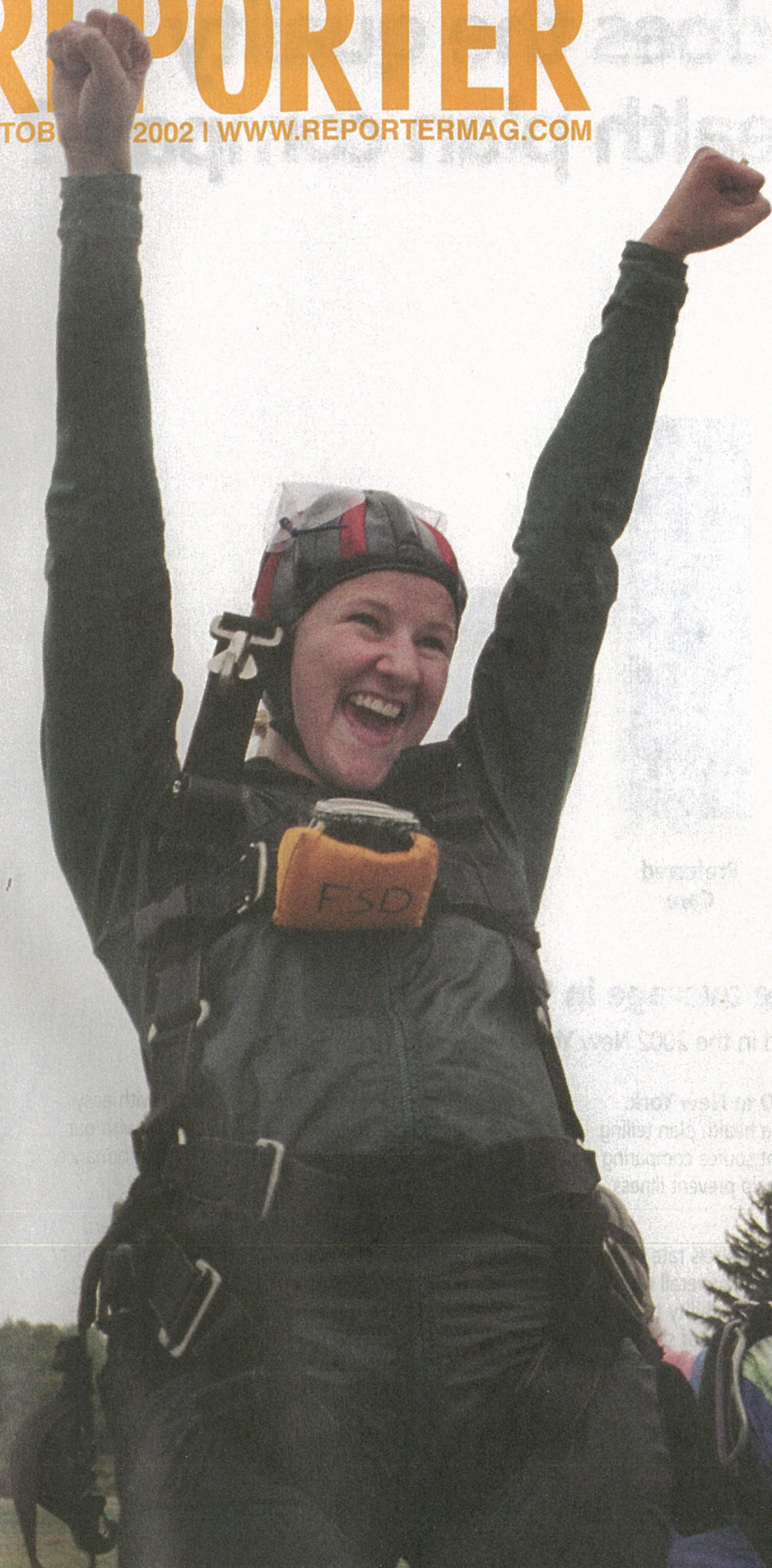
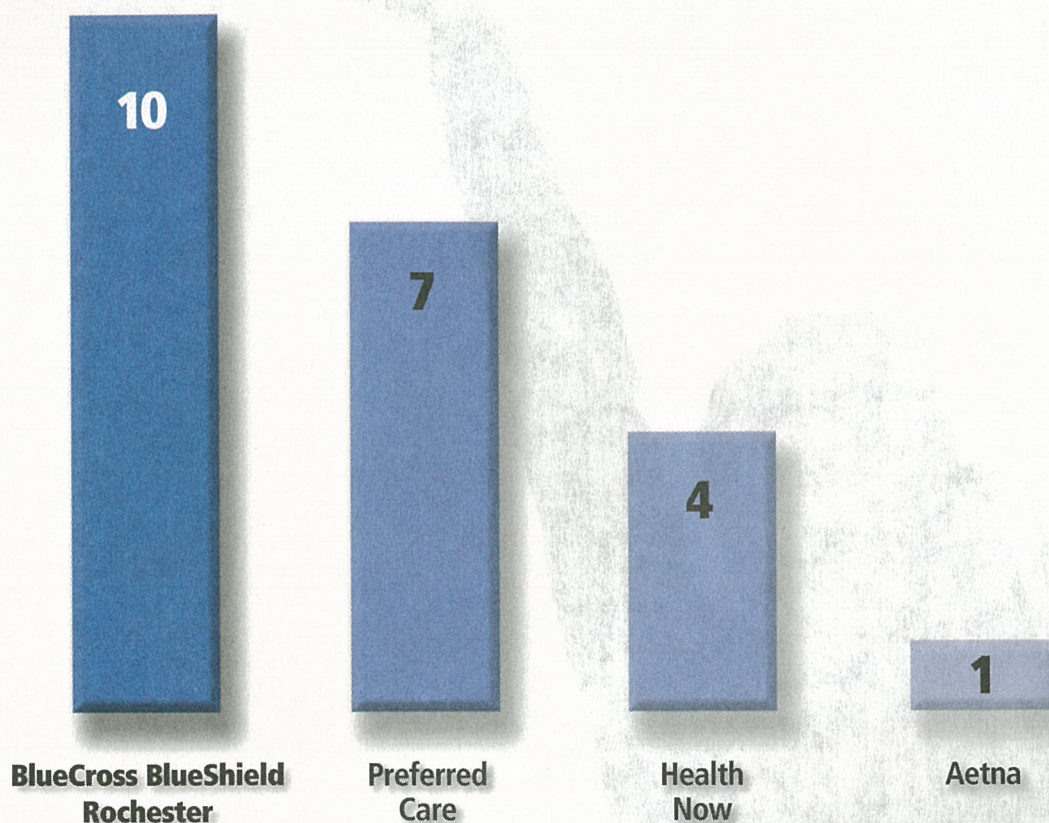


REPORTER

OCTOBER 2002 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM



How does the quality of your health plan compare?



We score **above average** in 10 of 12 health measures

As reported in the 2002 New York State HMO Report Card

That's better than any other HMO in New York.

Why is this a big deal? Because it isn't a health plan telling you about its quality. It's an independent source comparing how well 24 HMOs in New York State help prevent illness and care for people when they're sick.

The Report Card also shows how HMO members rate their own health plan. Our members gave us a high overall rating. They also gave us **above average** scores for ability to get needed care, get care quickly, and satisfaction of service.

Our mission is to provide the entire community with easy access to quality care. To that end, we're pleased with our score and we're working to further improve our performance.

Find out more about the health care you're signing up for. To review the 2002 HMO Report Card in its entirety, visit the New York State Health Accountability Foundation's Web site: www.aboutthehealthquality.org. BlueCross BlueShield of the Rochester Area is listed in the report as "Excellus Rochester."



Count on us.™

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Easy as Falling Off a Log (With Wings)

Flight. Every human has dreamt of it at one point or another—to seek that magnificent feeling of freedom that soaks and saturates us as we shed these binding cords of gravity and soar off into dreams that cannot come true. Unfortunately, humans do not now nor will we ever have the power of flight. Instead, we rely on airplanes, gliders, and any other winged and/or bladed contraption we can think of to get us off the ground.

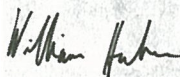
I said that humans do not have the power of flight; however, that same sensation can be achieved, at least for a short time, through the act of skydiving. That leap out of what appeared to be a perfectly stable aircraft into the bright blue oblivion is what some seek to gain that freedom from gravity—by throwing themselves straight into its face. The air is pushed out of the lungs and for one second there is real fear because you can't get yourself pushed around the way you want to fall. The plane you just jumped out of grows tiny so quickly.

Some see this as nothing more than a chemical rush. They seek to leap out of planes merely to stimulate their fear and self-preservation centers and trick them into releasing valuable endorphins and adrenaline that leave copper tastes in the mouth. This is fine. The effect can also be achieved by driving automobiles blindfolded and by teasing large dogs with pointy sticks.

There are others, though, who see skydiving as a release, temporarily, from the earth they stand on every day and regard with a sense of wary captivity. These people value each second that they are in the air—those tense moments in the airplane while it achieves jumping height, where the anticipation practically spills out of the mouth and eyes. Finally they are up and out and then heading down, down very fast. For these few seconds that they escape that feeling of mortal weight, they are free. The world is right with them and everything is in its right place. Then the parachute and sometimes not-so-gentle landing and they are again part of the earth.

For them, the feeling is of becoming part of something larger. The earth is there for them every day and night and ever second of every moment. The sky is above them and each day they look up and it's a new sky, brighter and clearer than the one yesterday. They go up in the plane and come down through the air and hopefully find something of themselves as they are one and part of the sky and the wind and the rushing noise, falling faster than half again the top speed of my car.

This week we explore the new unofficial skydiving club here on campus. Matthew Doak takes us into the beginning stages of skydiving, and answers questions such as cost, time commitment, and the gear involved. Certainly, by the time this issue hits the stands, the weather will be getting to be a tad too cool for jumps, but I doubt that will keep the die-hard skydivers from jumping anyway. For me, the cost is too prohibitive, but whoever else wants to throw themselves out of a plane, be my guest.



William Huber
Editor in Chief

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Note: Letters to the editor may be edited for clarity, punctuation, grammar, and, if necessary, space.

Note to Jake: RIT Has Hot Girls

I have to take exception to one of the cartoons printed in the magazine of September 20, 2002, in which the two guys talk about how there are no hot girls on campus. Wow! Obviously, the person who drew the cartoon [Jakob Lodwick] has never stepped out of his room or working area. This claim is further refuted by your own magazine in a particular photograph of Alethia Jimenez, whom I have met more than once and offers one of the best contradictions of your claims.

-Dhruv Dayal Gupta

[I, the author of that comic, do not actually believe that there aren't any attractive girls on this campus, as there are several. The point of the cartoon (which was entitled "RIT: 2099") was to see if I could draw someone made entirely out of the digits in our counting system. -JL]

Reporter : Friend of the Oppressed Worker

Thank you for publishing my letter about my difficulty finding work as a part-time student [see the 9/20/02 issue-WH]. The Associate Director for the Student Employment Office e-mailed me because of an exception that most people are unaware of. Part-time students are allowed to work on campus if they are finishing up their final classes. Thanks to her and Reporter Magazine, I am now working again on campus.

-Reid Kimball

Fourth Year

Information Technology

Campus Lookin' Good

I just wanted to thank Facilities Management (or whoever did the work) for the improvements made to the Ritz and around the Infinity Loop. The brick walkways and the new landscaping look great. Hooray for the extra benches and tables as well.

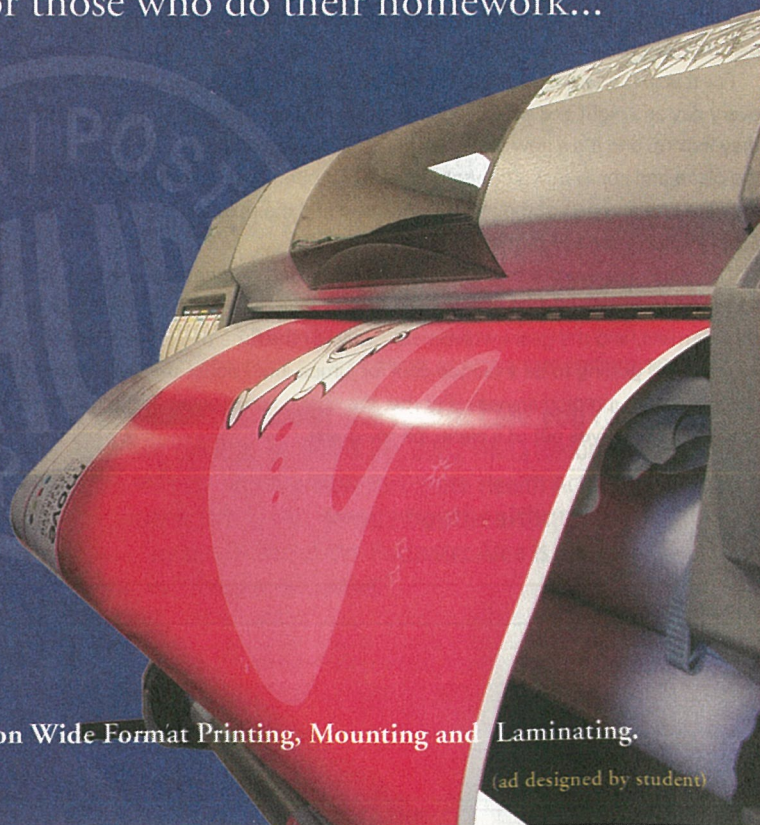
-Tina Balch

THINK BIG !!!

...We do the extraordinary for those who do their homework...



CROSSROADS



Bring in this ad to receive a 15% discount on Wide Format Printing, Mounting and Laminating.

Expires 10/30/2002

(ad designed by student)



Kara Eowlin (Left) and John Caseman (Right) plug their nose in order to pop their ears after completing their first skydive.

STEVE BRAHMS FOR REPORTER MAGAZINE

NEWS

06 Field House Groundbreaking Ceremony
Check out the plans for RIT's \$25 million dollar playground.

07 Public Arts Committee Decorates Quarter Mile Tunnel
Another solid attempt to beautify the campus.

08 Brick City Festival Preview 2002
A weekend of fun, food, and music. And don't forget to clean your room to impress your mom.

09 Crime Watch
We love creative criminals. We hate mean ones.

09 Did You Know?
Shhh... there's a place in Wallace Library to talk as loud as you want.

LEISURE

10 Star Wars and Religion
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RIT Tiger Athletics kick ass. And so does their new website.

22 Skydiving
You'll get butterflies just reading about these gutsy daredevils.

27 Women's Cross Country Team
The girls get a new coach and a new outlook on their sport.

30 The Lost Page
Note to self: Don't take this page seriously.

COVER: Kara Eowlin celebrates after completing her first skydive.



RIT Breaks for Ground Field House

by Brian M. Casterline

Kathryn Nix/Reporter Magazine

Michelle Lipchick, Donor Lucius R. Gordon, President Al Simone, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs Frank Lamas, Jeffrey Dank, and Vice President for Student Affairs Mary-Beth Cooper break ground for the new field house behind the Student Life Center on Wednesday, September 24, 2002.

In a groundbreaking ceremony September 25th, RIT officially welcomed its newest addition—the \$25 million dollar Lucius R. Gordon Field House and Activities Center. Mr. Gordon, a 1937 alumnus from the original Mechanic's Institute, is currently on the RIT board of trustees, and is the retired CEO of MIXCO, a Rochester chemical process engineering firm.

Funding and development began almost five years ago, when the project was conceived. Private sponsors largely donated funds for the project, and according to Dr. Albert Simone, \$11 million dollars of institute funds were used.

As part of the campus-wide expansion project, the Gordon Field House will help support what Frank Lamas, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, calls, "[An] active and growing RIT community."

RIT is active and growing indeed, with enrollment expanding by over a third within the last six years. The new Field House is sure to provide graduates with something more than a tent with their diploma.

The new facility will seat 8,000—four times the seating occupancy of Clark Gym. Overall, the new field house will cover more than 160,000 square feet. There are plans for a 60,000 square foot indoor athletic field, a 27,000 square foot aquatics center with a stretch 25 meter competition pool and a 3,500 square foot recreational pool, and an 18,000 square foot fitness center with a full range of free weights, fixed-weight machines and cardiovascular equipment. The new building's footprint wraps around the north and west sides of the Student Life Center.

With the expansion, the Gordon Center

developers hope to attract the attention of new events to the RIT campus—The Empire State Games, The Special Olympics, and the USA Deaf Sports Federation's annual Deaflympics. "We hope the center will benefit both RIT and the Rochester community," said Vice President for Student Affairs, Mary-Beth Cooper.

The facility has a projected completion date of spring 2004.

"The campus was truly incomplete without a field house," said President Simone. "The time is now."





MATTHEW APGAR / REPORTER MAGAZINE

Lee Hyun Jung, an American Crafts grad student, along with other members of the Korean Club, paints a mural in the temporary construction tunnel.

Public Arts Committee Decorates Quarter Mile Tunnel

by Becky Ruby

The Public Arts Committee began decorating the quarter mile construction tunnel on Friday, September 27, in an attempt to broaden the amount of student artwork on campus. Fifth-year Film major Paul Grimes, CIAS Student Government senator and Chair of the Public Arts Committee, organized the project.

After seeing the tunnel upon his arrival back to RIT, Grimes felt it was the perfect opportunity to promote student artwork on campus. In conjunction with Marty Becker, director of Facilities Management, the committee took charge of the tunnel and the images that would cover the interior. The paintings have been set to cover all of the blank space, not including the windows.

As expected, many campus organizations desired to take part. Though fully welcomed, the groups were instructed not to include any advertisements or titles. "I want to promote the artwork, not the organization," said Grimes. "This will be an ad-free zone—just art." Some of the groups represented are the Korean Students Association, RIT Anime Club, Alpha Sigma Alpha, Black Awareness Coordinating Committee (BACC), and Lambda Alpha Upsilon.

The various groups all have different themes for their artwork. The RIT Anime Club set out

to paint character designs from some popular anime cartoons. BACC began its decoration of its organization's logo. Lambda Alpha Upsilon chose its "fraternal guardian"—an Andean condor perched at the peak of a mountain that symbolizes the struggle to reach personal goals. An example of individual art was that of Matt Labarbs, a second-year art student. He chose to participate because "it's open space, a canvas."

As CIAS senator, Grimes put the tunnel project into action as part of a series of events to promote student artwork at RIT throughout the year. As one example of this initiative, a group of first-year art students volunteered their time with children at Margaret's House. They created red, white, and blue finger paintings to commemorate September 11.

The tunnel will stay intact for two years, and the paintings will be unveiled on Thursday, October 10, just in time for the Brick City Festival.

Though many individuals and organizations have come forward to take part, Paul Grimes said that there is much space available and anyone is eligible to participate. He can be reached at pmg0870@rit.edu.



Brick City Festival

2002 Preview

by Johanna Miller

This year's annual Brick City Festival, scheduled to take place from October 11-13, has something for everyone. Also serving as the second-annual RIT Alumni Reunion, the Brick City Festival provides an opportunity for students and parents to experience everything RIT has to offer.

The major goal of this year's festival is to celebrate the RIT community with educational and entertaining events to be shared by students, parents, faculty, staff, and alumni. "This is the fifth anniversary of the Brick City Festival and it's looking to be quite successful," said Cindee Gray, head of RIT's Government and Community Relations department. Last year, nearly 500 alumni and guests attended the festival.

One major highlight of the weekend is the CAB concert featuring Hoobastank, scheduled to take place in Clark Gym on Friday, October 11 at 8:00 p.m. Another major entertainment event is the only upstate New York appearance by Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood, from the hit television show *Who's Line is it Anyway?*, taking place on Saturday evening from 8:00 p.m.

The entire weekend is packed with events ranging from a lecture by Earvin "Magic" Johnson to a chance to skate with your favorite player of the RIT Tigers men's hockey team. Many events are complementary; however, tickets may be needed for certain events.

The annual Stonehurst Capital Invitational Regatta will be held Sunday, October 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The RIT men's and women's crew teams will compete against more than 30 colleges from the U.S. and Canada. RIT's jazz and vocal musical performers will provide entertainment for the spectators.

This year's festival has programs specifically designed for parents as well as children. Some of the events include individual college receptions with deans and faculty and a clinic with the RIT baseball team for children. Faculty presentations will be held throughout the weekend, covering topics such as 3-D Ultrasound and Cellular/PCS technology. A complimentary continental breakfast with Dr. Mary-Beth Cooper, vice president for Student Affairs, is also scheduled.

The Brick City Festival is a major highlight of the school year at RIT that is definitely worth checking out. For a complete schedule of events, or to find out more about the 2002 Brick City Festival, visit the website at www.rit.edu/brickcity.

CRIME WATCH

compiled by Everett Religioso

September 17

Unlawful Possession Of Marijuana - University Commons

Campus Safety observed two individuals parked at University Commons. The students were smoking marijuana in the vehicle with a glass pipe. Case referred to Student Conduct.

Criminal Mischief - Greek Row

Facilities Management reported finding red spray paint on a bench located on the Quarter Mile near Greek Row. Further inspection determined the bench screws were pulled out.

Burglary - Gibson Hall

Two students reported six compact discs valued at \$90 and a key missing from their dorm room.

Theft Auto Parts - Riverknoll

A student reported a CD player and a CD were removed from his or her vehicle parked in Riverknoll.

Harassment - Campus Safety Office

A staff member reported a student who exhibited inappropriate behavior in a classroom.

September 18

Harassment - Campus Safety Office

A student reported being inappropriately touched at an off-campus apartment.

September 19

Theft Auto Parts - Perkins Green

A student reported property was removed from their vehicle parked in the S/E lot of Perkins Green. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office was notified.

Criminal Mischief - James E. Booth Building

An unknown person attempted to gain entry into a Fine Arts studio in the first floor of Building 7A. There are no suspects at this time.

Unlawful Possession Of Marijuana - Campus Safety Office

A student reported finding a bag of marijuana in her dorm room. Case referred to Student Conduct.

Petit Larceny - Perkins Green

A student reported property removed from their vehicle parked in the S/W parking lot of Perkins Green.

Petit Larceny - Gibson Hall

A student reported that a statue was taken from his or her dorm room in Gibson Hall. The area was canvassed with negative results.

September 20

Grand Larceny - Gibson Hall

A student reported that his or her bike was removed from a bike rack on the southwest corner

of Gibson Hall. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office responded and filed a report.

September 21

Criminal Mischief - Colony Manor

A student broke the front window and rear screen to an apartment at Colony Manor. Case referred to Student Conduct.

Harassment - Campus Safety Office

A student reported a non-member has been sending them annoying and threatening e-mails and instant messages. A suspect was identified. Referred to Monroe County Sheriff's Office.

September 22

Unlawful Dealing With A Child - Perkins Green

A student stated he became intoxicated at a party hosted in a Perkins Green apartment. Case referred to Student Conduct.

Assault - Campus Safety Office

A student was punched in the face by an unknown non-member and sustained a laceration under their right eye. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office responded and filed a non-prosecuting report.

Theft Auto Parts - University Commons

A vehicle parked in University Commons was damaged. Monroe County Sheriff's Office filed a report.

September 23

Criminal Mischief - Margaret's House

The Director of Margaret's House reported several empty beer cans/bottles in the children's play area. A picnic table bench and a children's slide were damaged.

Harassment - Campus Safety Office

A faculty member reported receiving a threatening e-mail and voicemail message from an unidentified person.

Rape - Campus Safety Office

A student reported nonconsensual sexual intercourse with another student. Case referred to Student Conduct Office and Monroe County Sheriff's Office.

September 24

Harassment - Campus Safety Office

A student reported receiving unsolicited sexual advances. Suspect was interviewed and case has been referred to Student Conduct.

Harassment - Campus Safety Office

A student reported unsolicited contact by a non-member. The non-member was issued an interim ban from campus.

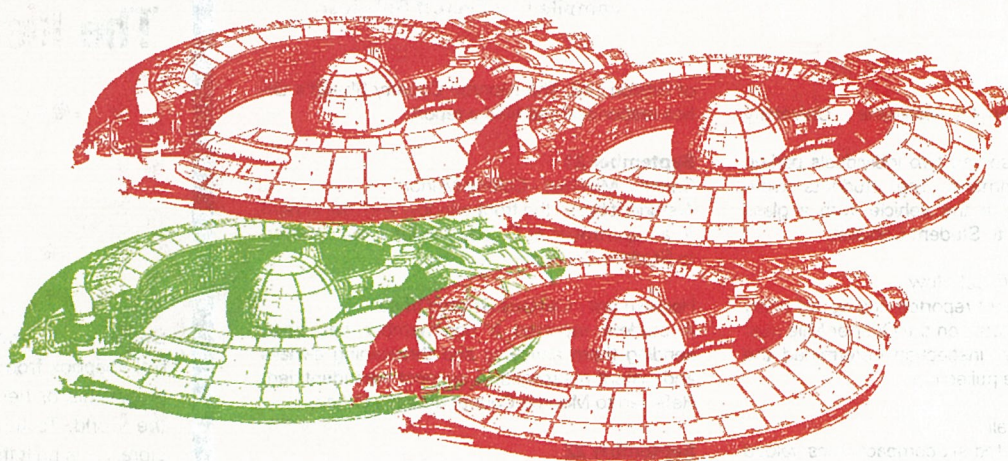
Did You Know? The Idea Factory

by Peter Gravelle

Everyone knows of the proverbial soapbox from which anyone can preach his or her personal truths to the world. To this end, the Wallace Library has built its own soapbox.

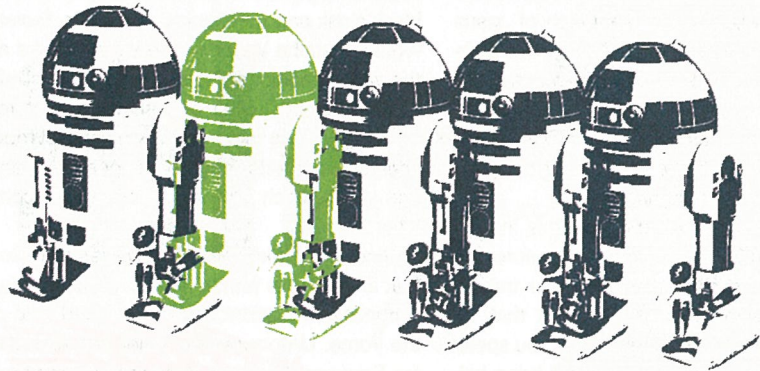
The appropriately named "Soap Box," is part of the library's Idea Factory initiative. The Box itself is simply a raised platform, a microphone and a speaker. The Box is open to anyone without restriction, provided they comply with the law and decency regulations.

The idea behind the Soap Box, and the rest of the Idea Factory, is to enhance the free exchange of ideas in the library. The Idea Factory includes several comfortable chairs and meeting areas, a fish tank currently devoid of fish, and several pieces of sculpture. The Soap Box and the Idea Factory can be found on the first floor of the library near the circulation desk.



STAR WARS AND RELIGION BY KATE BLOEMKER

The Star Wars Trilogy, to some of its fanatics, is almost a religion. The faithful devour the books, flock to the theaters, create web sites (over 50,000), and pay astronomical amounts for plastic Yoda action figures, all to be a little bit closer to the god that is Star Wars. What many viewers and readers do not understand is that the three movies in the Trilogy: Episode 4: A New Hope, Episode 5: The Empire Strikes Back, and Episode 6: Return of the Jedi, as well as their recently-released prequels, truly are religious. The Star Wars movies are not only the adventurous stories of heroes like Luke Skywalker and Qui-Gon Jinn, but also representations of spirituality and faith. Star Wars contains many elements of different world religions, eastern and western.



Rewind to 1977, the year the first Star Wars movie was released. Audiences were captivated by the special effects, the characters, and the story created by George Lucas, the movie's director. What they did not realize was that Lucas had consciously set out to create a story that would give a viewer a spiritual experience in addition to excitement. Supernatural powers, spiritual discovery, guidance, faith, temptation, and redemption are all integral parts of the Star Wars plots.

The series wasn't blatantly religious, though. "I don't see Star Wars as being profoundly religious," said Lucas. "I see it as taking all the issues that religion represents and trying to distill them down into a more modern constant." (Time, April 26 1999) That may be one of the reasons the movies were so popular: By the end of the seventies, traditional religion wasn't satisfying the craving for spiritual experience. Many traditional religions, hoping to attract worshippers, tried to identify themselves with the Star Wars narrative. The story itself was not about a particular religion, though; it simply pushed moviegoers to think individually about what they believed in.

The most important element of the Star Wars movies, and the most obviously spiritual element, is the Force. In Episode 4 (simply called Star Wars by the less nerdy portion of the population), Jedi Knight Obi-Wan Kenobi explains the Force to a young Luke Skywalker

like this: "Well, the Force is what gives the Jedi his power. It's an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us and penetrates us. It binds the galaxy together."

The Force is an omnipresent reservoir of energy that is the ground of all being. It has a good side and a dark side, which are designed around compassion and greed. It can be used for either good or evil. "I put the Force into the movies in order to awaken a certain kind of spirituality in young people," said Lucas. "More a belief in God than in any particular religious system." The omnipresent Force can be equated to the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim idea of an omnipresent, omniscient God to whom one looks for guidance, yet fears a little as well. The characters in Star Wars say, "May the Force be with you," in the same way that Christians, Jews, and Muslims say, "May God be with you."

The Force, however, is not one being. It has more in common with East Asian spirituality, Taoism in particular. Taoists believe that there is a force, called Tao, running through the natural world and controlling it. The Tao is composed of two opposite, complementary principles, yin (dark) and yang (light). The Force also closely resembles Native American beliefs about the Great Spirit, one great soul that runs throughout the earth and all people.

Throughout the Star Wars movies, Luke Skywalker continually learns how to better use

the Force. One of his guides in doing so is the spirit of Obi-Wan Kenobi, who is vanquished by Darth Vader in A New Hope. The "resurrection" of and guidance by Obi-Wan resembles the resurrection of Jesus and his guidance of the apostles in the days following Easter.

The life of a Jedi Knight, such as Luke Skywalker or Obi-Wan Kenobi, is simplistic. A Jedi owns little and spends his life using the good side of the Force for the benefit of others. Such a life requires great dedication, concentration, and faith in the Force. "A Jedi," says Master Yoda to Luke Skywalker in The Empire Strikes Back, "must have the deepest commitment, the most serious mind... Adventure. Heh! Excitement. Heh! A Jedi craves not these things."

One who knows about Buddhism would say that it is a very Buddhist existence. A devout Buddhist lives his or her life according to the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism, the basic philosophy of life, as given by the Buddha himself:

1. Suffering happens everywhere, all the time.
2. Suffering is caused by greed and selfishness.
3. Greed and selfishness can be stopped.
4. The way to stop selfishness is to follow the Middle Path (not indulging or depriving oneself) (Penney, Buddhism).

The Four Noble Truths can be compared to what Yoda tells young Anakin Skywalker about fear in Episode 1: The Phantom Menace: "Fear is the path to the Dark Side. Fear leads to anger.

Continued on page 12>>>

Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering. Suffering leads to the Dark Side."

Other biblical references abound in the Star Wars movies. The betrayal of Han Solo by his friend Lando Calrissian can be compared to the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot. Anakin Skywalker, the boy who was Darth Vader before he turned to evil, is a representation of Jesus Christ in more ways than one. Anakin was a virgin birth, as Jesus was. Anakin's gentle mother Shmi says this in *The Phantom Menace* when Jedi Qui-Gon Jinn asks who Anakin's father was: "There was no father. I carried him; I gave birth. I can't explain what happened."

Qui-Gon, sensing that the Force is incredibly strong with Anakin, takes him before the Jedi Council to see if Anakin can be trained as a Jedi. Qui-Gon tells the Council that he believes Anakin is the Chosen One. "You speak of the prophecy of the one who will bring balance to the Force. You believe it's this... boy?" replies Council member Mace Windu. The Jedi prophecy is very similar to the Jewish belief that one day the Chosen One, the Messiah, will come to the Earth to save mankind. It also echoes the Christian belief that Jesus was the Messiah.

One of the most powerful scenes in the four movies is the battle between Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader in *The Empire Strikes Back*. Vader attempts to bring out the anger, fear, and hatred in Luke in order to turn him to the Dark Side. Vader slices off Luke's right hand, then reveals to Luke that he is Luke's father. Then, menacingly, the Sith Lord tries to entice the anguished Luke to turn to the Dark Side. "Luke... It is your destiny. Join me, and together we can rule the galaxy as father and son. Come with me. It is the only way." Luke, trapped on a tiny platform, is able to overcome the evil influence of Darth Vader, and throws himself off into space rather than joining Vader.

Witnessing this, one can easily envision the scene in the Gospel of Luke in which Jesus is tempted by Satan:

Next, Satan took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him the nations of the world in all their glory. "I'll give it all to you," he said, "if you will only kneel and worship me."

"Leave me, Satan!" Jesus exclaimed (The Holy Bible, Luke 4: 6-8).

This scene and the one in *The Empire Strikes Back* parallel each other in that they both show a hero, one could say, rejecting sin and following a moral, just path.

Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader are without a doubt respective symbols of what is good and

what is evil. Neither man, however, is purely one or the other. Luke has an amount of the fear and hatred of the dark side in him. This helps him understand how his father could have been turned to the dark side. His father, the Sith Lord Darth Vader, also has the smallest bit of good hidden beneath his flowing black cloak and mechanical ventilator. Taoists would describe Vader as the yin and Luke as the yang. Traditional Taoist belief is that all yin contains a little yang and all yang contains a little yin. This is why the yin-yang symbol shows two interlocking swirls, one black and one white, each with a dot of the opposite color inside.

Since Luke Skywalker recognizes the good that is still in his father, it is his greatest wish to turn Darth Vader back to the good side of the Force. Unfortunately, Vader and his master, Emperor Palpatine, hope at the same time to force Luke to join them on the Dark Side. In *Return of the Jedi*, the Emperor repeatedly tells Vader that Luke must either be turned to the Dark Side or be killed. Luke knows this, and with the true wisdom of a Jedi Knight, says: "Search your feelings, Father. You can't do this. I feel the conflict within you. Let go of your hate." Vader does not let go of his hate until the Emperor tortures Luke in the throne room. When Darth Vader sees his son in such agony from the lightning bolts shooting from the fingers of the ruthless Emperor, he saves Luke's life and kills Emperor Palpatine by heaving the Emperor off a balcony into space.

After his ventilator mask was removed, the weak and dying Vader, transformed back to Anakin Skywalker, says to Luke, "Now go, my son. Leave me."

Luke replies, "No... I've got to save you."

"You already have, Luke," answers Anakin with certainty. "You were right. You were right about me."

The redemption of Anakin Skywalker is comparable to the Fundamental Christian idea of salvation by way of faith. Just as Christians are saved by their faith in Jesus Christ, Anakin Skywalker is saved by his faith in the good side of the Force. He is even honored by the Rebels after his death.

Action figures may not be God, and films from the 70s and 80s may not be sacred texts, but *Star Wars* is a reminder of what it is to have faith, and of how people are connected to each other by something other than simple existence.

And, of course, Yoda kicks ass.

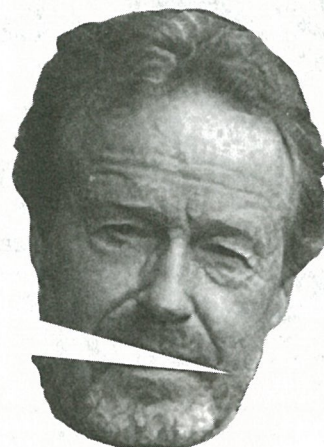




Me and

Ridley

BY NICK URBAN



Ridley Scott fans can be divided into two groups. The Nu-Skool (note hip spelling) favor the latter-day films like *Gladiator*, *Hannibal* and *Black Hawk Down*. The Old School prefer the vintage Scott of *Blade Runner* and *Thelma and Louise*, and would gladly invite members of the Nu-Skool camp to go attempt certain acts with dairy cows that are—according to my editor—not publishable in this particular magazine. I am an Old Schooler of the strictest variety.

The real reason for this Old School bitterness lies in Scott's deviation from his traditional storytelling towards something hip and altogether stale. To be certain, Scott is a control freak, and functions most capably in the studio. Nothing in Ridley Scott's later repertoire can rival the claustrophobia or absoluteness of *Blade Runner's* global ghetto. And while Scott focused upon environment so strictly, the characters who grew out of those environments were much more human for their struggle. Frankly, I don't give a damn about *Gladiator's* Maximus or *Black Hawk Down's* nameless, faceless rabble.

A little-known gem in Scott's 80s career is *Legend*. If you've never heard of it, shed no tears—it's no *Citizen Kane*. *Legend* is an 80s movie as typical as any other 80s movie. But with all the right touches in all the right places, it is an oddly transcendent film that just doesn't quite fit in with its peers. Unlike most fantasy films, *Legend* falls far short of epic. Unlike most 80s films, *Legend* is refreshingly undated and does not involve a modern-day youth being sucked into a fantastical land. As a study of the good versus evil archetype, *Legend* blurs the lines considerably, and in the end there is no final resolution, just the promise of temporary solace.

The story, as simple as it is, follows the trials of Jack and Lily as they completely screw up the world as they know it and then try to fix it. Jack, played by Tom Cruise in one hell of a weird role, is a forest-dwelling loner who has mastered the art of sewing together a wardrobe from foliage. He's a flightless Peter Pan with no friends. Lily (Mia Sara of *Ferris Bueller* fame) is a spoiled brat who enjoys antagonizing peasants and disrupting the order of the universe.

While Jack and Lily are appropriately one-dimensional, the entire supporting cast is as exciting as they come. The heroic little pixies have villainous streaks and the ambitious goblin minions are not all that they appear to be. The Gump, the creepy pixie ringleader, is a furious, lethal aberration. And Oona, the Gump's Tinkerbell-ish sidekick, is an anorexic shape-shifting nymphomaniac. There isn't a normal character among them.

In place of the typical Old British Actor Villain, *Legend* boasts the personification of Darkness. Tim Curry plays a brazenly sexual demon mired in confusion over Lily (who takes the damsel-in-distress device one step further by transforming into a corrupt Goth temptress). Like *Gladiator's* Commodus, *Legend's* Darkness is less pure evil and more misunderstood misfit. *Labyrinth* (minus David Bowie's package) and *The NeverEnding Story* are exemplary kids' fantasy flicks. *Legend* is most definitely not. The themes that run throughout are covertly sexual... not so strong that the little ones will notice (if they don't run screaming

in terror), but Mom and Dad will definitely pick up on the fact that the whole damn film is about screwing, and not just metaphorically. Jack wants to screw Lily, Lily wants to screw Jack, Darkness wants to screw Lily, Oona wants to screw Jack, and I don't even want to think about what the Gump is into.

Finding a quality copy of *Legend* is tough to do these days. The most definitive version out there is the televised one, but unless you recorded it yourself ten years ago, you'll never find it. The original theatrical release is good enough to get you by, though it lacks certain chunks found in the TV release that help to round out the characters. And the latest version, the overburdened director's cut (available on DVD), is so full of exposition that you feel like the director is regarding his audience as a group of kindergarteners.

Ultimately, whatever copy you get your hands on, you'll appreciate the fullness of Scott's world and the sheer depth of the environment. The dander-filled forests and the frightening architecture of Darkness's stronghold are all intact, and *Legend* is all about the details. Even if you're unimpressed by the plot and a little creeped out by the characters, there's plenty for you to love. Whether it's the creature design or the monumental sets or the coolest final confrontation scene to come out of a 1980s fantasy film, you'll find something. But, if that's not the case, I can always direct you to the nearest dairy farm.



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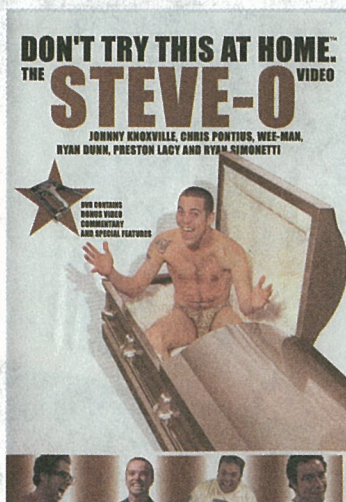
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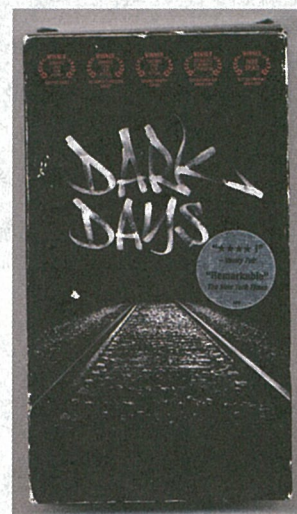
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A REVIEW BY JAKOB LODWICK

The average college student's movie collection is a three-tiered system. On top are the staples—*The Matrix* and *American Pie*—which, redundantly, everybody decides to buy. Just below are the individual favorites—*Requiem for a Dream*, *Platoon*, and the ever-popular *Private Parts*. This large category consists of films that you could always find within a few minutes' drive, and most people have at least heard of. Finally, there are the obscure releases. Usually, these are better classified as videos than as movies; the underground, the independent, the commercially nonviable. *Dark Days* and *Don't Try This At Home: The Steve-O Video* are two equally gripping, yet thematically disparate videos I think about every day since the day I watched them.

Dark Days is a documentary about a community living in the tunnels under and around Penn Station in Manhattan. "Homeless" isn't the right word to describe these people. That only conjures images of someone sleeping in whatever doorway or park is available that night. These people have single homes that they built and find shelter in every night. They work together, know each other, and trust each other. They've given up? Bah. You might say that after a passing glance or an anecdotal recounting, but not after watching them think, build, and survive in the only place that embraces them.

The Steve-O video is something entirely different. Its titular star is one of the favorites from MTV's *Jackass*; an alternative stuntman who, I'm convinced, would do absolutely anything you dared him to without exception. He takes pride in subjecting himself to, and detaching

himself from, incredible amounts of pain. He lets his friends use his bare ass as a dartboard. He staples his balls to his thighs. He shoots a bottle rocket out of his ass hole. He does a hundred other things that I'm really, really glad I didn't have to do to myself in order to see. This release is completely independent of MTV, and is full of stuff Steve-O shot with his friends, presumably just for the hell of it.

Steve-O's video is nice and colorful, a fierce contrast to *Dark Days*' soft monochrome. Shooting on video, as opposed to film, enhances DTTAH with sixty frames of crispness each second. Loads of shots seem to be taken with inexperienced hands; by spectators or friends who happened to be standing around. That only makes it all more realistic, knocking you windless and de-emphasizing whatever "crazy shit" you and your friends purport to engage in. DTTAH hits you relentlessly and viscerally, captivating and seizing your body with some of the most genuine, uncontrollable laughter you're apt to feel. Unfortunately, it's not exactly "comedy," and it's not that much fun to talk about afterwards. It's a ride, and when it ends, all you can do is look back at how excited you were at the time.

Dark Days, which is shot on film, has a much more dreamlike aesthetic. It approaches a nightmare, but its subdued hopelessness possesses a delicacy that's rarely experienced in one. Perhaps its most upsetting element is the depth to which crack cocaine and its effects are depicted. Though little actual crack smoking is shown, many of the subjects confess that their lives have been ruined almost primarily by the drug. One man's speech illustrates the despair

of trying to recapture "that first high" with an honest brilliance that could never be matched by a D.A.R.E. officer.

Plenty of people balked at my high school's drug education program, where recovered addicts spoke to us in small groups and explained the harrowing effects of drug abuse. But is a policeman—a guy whose job is to arrest these people—going to acknowledge the incredible upsides to drug use? The Heaven's-inside-me euphoria that heroin users are so accustomed to? The mind-scrambling, refreshingly colorful worldview that comes with a mushroom trip? Of course not. Nor could he convey the desperation that forces an addict to use a needle he knows is dirty, simply because he fears it could take up to a half an hour to find a clean one.

Even if the idea of exposing students to actual addicts sounds unorthodox, it's the closest thing to reaching an understanding of the drugs that doesn't include actually doing them. It gives people a fear of the drugs, but also a real understanding of why this fear is so healthy. Scare tactics certainly instill their own fear, but it's a fear of the law, not of the drugs. It's a fear that disappears when the kids grow up and move into their own houses with curtains on the windows and locks on the doors, where a love for privacy replaces a fear of authority. Showing *Dark Days* to tenth graders could instill them with dear understanding of crack's wrath, complemented by a deeper appreciation for their own lives and privilege. On another note, showing them *Don't Try This At Home* might inspire them to jump off a building.



FACES of RIT MICHAEL RICHMOND

BY MONICA DONOVAN

In recent years, RIT's astronomy program has undergone its own big bang, expanding far beyond its original conception. The physics department now offers a minor in astronomy, and student interest in the field has increased as well. One product of this expansion is Professor Michael Richmond, an Assistant Professor of Physics here at RIT.

Richmond came to RIT in the fall of 1997 and has been teaching physics and astronomy courses here ever since, in addition to being involved in a number of outside astronomy projects and experiments. "I've learned a lot teaching kids here. I enjoy working with [them], because there's a lot of curious students with energy," he said. Only a few years ago, Richmond was one of these kids himself. He grew up near Boston, and during college, he bounced back and forth between the east and the west coast. He

attended Princeton for his undergraduate studies, went to Berkeley for graduate school, and finally received his Ph.D. in astronomy from Princeton in 1992. Richmond could not find words to express exactly why the field draws him. "Astronomy just really interests me," he said, "the way journalism interests reporters." Richmond also pointed out the frustrations in having a Ph.D. and trying to find a job. "The only institutions who really care are universities, so almost all of us go to get jobs as professors. And there are more people who get Ph.D.'s in astronomy every year than there are astronomy professors who retire or die," he said humorously. Between receiving his Ph.D. and beginning work at RIT, Richmond worked in several post-doctorate positions. He called those five years "the period where you're still trying to prove yourself and make your résumé look good." Richmond frequently uses the observatory,

which is located near the intersection of Bailey Road and John Street. His most recent experiment in August entailed use of the observatory. Working with a team of astronomers at a U.S. Naval base in Maryland, Richmond took pictures of an asteroid at the exact same moment as the Maryland team. Measuring the distance between the observatory and the difference in their pictures, the two teams were able to determine the asteroid's distance and, after several more pictures, its speed. He also uses the observatory while teaching various classes, many of which are recent additions to the physics department.

While not every astronomy experiment is a national phenomenon straight out of the movie *Contact*, Richmond very much enjoys what he does. "I hope to gain more experience and work with more institutions in the coming years."

THE OBSERVATORY

**PLACES OF RIT:
WHERE ALL
THE FAMOUS
STARS
HANG
OUT**



Gazing at the stars has become a long-lost Rochester pastime. The overwhelming glow from buildings and city streetlights diminishes the clarity of the nighttime sky. Sheltered from this light pollution, though, is an RIT stargazer's sanctuary—a state-of-the-art observatory located on campus at 645 John Street. It's available for use by astronomy students, imaging science students, or just about anyone with an interest in scanning the heavens.

The observatory has an interesting history, dating back to the early 1990s. "A proposal was submitted to the National Science Foundation in order to obtain funding for the building of the observatory," said Dr. Roger Easton, an associate professor in the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences. "We were first rejected and eventually got approved the second time around."

The observatory was built in the vicinity of where the University Commons apartment complexes are currently located, on the southwest corner of campus. The first telescope the observatory received was a 16-inch robotic telescope used for viewing planets, made by AutoScope, a company based in Arizona. As the years went by, observatory administrators weren't satisfied with the telescope's operation, and made the decision to purchase a new and improved one.

At this time, RIT planned to build new apartments on campus to accommodate the increasing student population. Because the

observatory was "in the way," a crane was used to lift the telescope and the surrounding dome over to John Street, where it has remained since May of 1998. The construction supervisor and current director of the observatory, Dr. James R. Kern, also oversaw the purchase of a new 10-inch Meade LX 200. "This is a computer-controllable telescope that is capable of carrying out just about any command," said Dr. Easton. "All you have to do is ask it to go to Orion, and it will go to Orion!"

Afterwards, the old 16-inch telescope was dismantled. The observatory now has a dome housing the 10-inch telescope, and a roll-off roof building (the roof rolls off when the telescope is needed to view astronomical objects) for a new 16-inch telescope, which is currently in the process of being installed. In addition, the observatory houses a concrete pad with electric outlets for plugging in portable telescopes.

The last structure of the observatory is the house located on its premises. "The house is actually the house for the Vice President for the Croatia campus," said Dr. Joel Kastner, associate professor in the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences. "It is used by him when he's in town, but otherwise, computers are set up in it so professors can conduct night classes and have access to computers."

Although mainly used by the physics and imaging science students, the observatory serves as the classroom for several classes—

including Introduction to Astronomy (the College of Science has just announced its newest minor in Astronomy). "It is the teaching tool for introductory astronomy for students who want to understand how astronomy works," said Dr. Kastner.

Every month, the observatory has "Open Sessions" where interested students are allowed to use the telescopes to view the night sky. "In addition to the telescopes present, several smaller telescopes are brought in by members of the Rochester Academy of Science, and the event attracts over 200 people," said Dr. Easton.

The open house will be held on October 11 and will feature the guest lecturer and world-famous astro-photographer, David Malin. "There will also be an exhibition titled 'Images From Science,' organized by the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences that will display a great variety of photos," said physics professor Michael Richmond. "In fact, one of the photos on display is a shot of the moon taken from the RIT observatory."

The exhibition and lecture are open to everyone.

For more information about the exhibition, go to <http://www.rit.edu/~photo/iis.html>.

For information about the RIT observatory, go to <http://www.rit.edu/~ritobs/index.html>.



WORD ON THE STREET

IF YOU COULD BE MORE FOCUSED ON ONE ASPECT OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED
BY JOHANNA MILLER



Nick Fanok

Third Year
Physicians Assistant
"School work, because I need to get good grades. I have too much work in all of my classes and I can't divide my time."



Andy Simon

Second Year
Glass
"I need to focus on getting to know Al Simone. Al, I really want to have lunch with you."



Anna Rivas

Third Year
Physicians Assistant
"I would be more focused on spending more time doing nothing. I do way too much work and have no time to just sit back and breathe."



Mike Radakovich

Fourth Year
Photography
"Myself. That's all there is."



Ann Zakaluk

Fourth Year
Illustration
"I would probably like to be more organized with schoolwork."



Andrea Setta

First Year
New Media
"I need to focus more on religion. When I was home, I went to church when my parents told me to. Now that I am at school, no one is telling me to go so I don't."



Chris Porzio

Third Year
Photography
"Organizational skills. If you're organized, you can milk the day for all it is worth. Fail to plan, plan to fail."

Brenda Trinidad

FYE Instructor
"Just learning. I am taking classes now and the feeling of learning something new is great."

Itzel Morales

First Year
New Media
"I want to focus more of my time on my boyfriend because he lives too far away and I don't have time to write him."

Peter Roman

Second Year
Packaging Science
"Not being a tool."



Spencer Stonier

Fourth Year
Bio-Technology
"I would focus more on maintaining friendships I have built over the years. I tend to lose track of time too quickly."



Z Iniguez

Second Year
New Media
"Not spending money and getting in touch with my inner child."

IRONS

BY SCOTT URBAN

*News You Can't Use
...but probably might*

Slowly the steam rises upward, only to dissipate into the expanses of the room. Water condenses on the ceiling into droplets too small to see from all but a few vantage points. Down below, water is evaporating and being channeled into jets of steam that will soon join the stream upward. These jets caress the layers of fabric under heated metal, massaging them into perfect form. The metal plate, with its plastic upper section, continues along the winding, twisting path for a few moments before being raised. A pair of pants is carefully lifted off the ironing board. Where there once were dreadfully unattractive wrinkles, now exist only smoothly fashionable planes of comfort. The iron has done well.

Yes, the iron, a common household item many of us take for granted. Of course, there are many other, more important things in life to be thankful for each day, but the iron deserves to be mentioned at least once in a while in a college magazine or something. The iron should especially be appreciated by all those poor college kids who long for the comforting high-quality irons back home.

The history of the iron goes back a long way, far beyond most middle school students' half-assed attempts at making a family tree. The earliest western ironing devices were known as smoothing stones and were mushroom-shaped objects (not always made of stone) that were heated and pressed in a rubbing manner on clothing. Crude metal objects called goffering irons were used to straighten those ridiculously poofy collars, as well as shoes, worn by pale rich people in the 12th century onward. Yes, shoemakers used irons too.

It seems the Dutch people have a rich history of irons, and have documented this on the Internet. However, shoddy Internet translators have kept the citizens of the United States largely in the dark. We do know early irons were made out of cast iron (name origin, perhaps?) and were known as sad irons because of their weight, not their emotional disposition. Plain sad irons, which were heated by placing the metal surface on a heat source, make up most antique iron collections.

Irons heated by liquid fuel were also in the market as well. Henry W. Seely invented the electric iron in 1882. His irons began to appear in most homes around the turn of the century, much to the despair of housewives everywhere (they must have missed pressing clothes with the old, heavy, messy, extremely dangerous irons). Actually, the exact amount of rejoicing or despairing is not well documented. However, it may be safe to assume that, as with any new invention, the initial benefit did not equal the contribution of future models.

In 1910, Sunbeam entered the market with a bold idea: it was heat, not weight, that smoothed out those nasty wrinkles. Consequently, the demand for iron ore dropped ever so slightly, causing an assistant at a major iron producer to utter a single obscenity, but that's about it on the negative side. Irons were sleeker and lighter, which made deft ironing maneuvers somewhat easier on the hands. In 1931, the first automatic iron was introduced. It didn't iron the clothes for you, but it was an improvement. Around mid-century, a great change was afoot in the iron industry: steam was put in the palm of people's hands. Well, sort of. Steam or "Dry Irons" were introduced, first with water containers attached to the ironing board, and later with a self-contained water unit. New soleplate designs, thumb-tip controls, and "spray mist" functions in later years took everybody's mind off the Cold War and focused it on more down-to-earth, personal things, like pants. Well, maybe.

Today, the basic design hasn't changed much, but there are improvements. The bottom soleplate is still heated by electricity, and steam is still shot through holes in the bottom. Teflon soleplates, low temperature steaming, variable steam, self cleaning functions, motion sensor auto-off functions, sleek designs and much more make today's irons a wonder to behold.

And, if you buy the reflecting ironing board seen on TV, your ironing gets done in half the time! Talk about ironing improvements. There are even infomercials about iron substitutes such as the "Wonder Steamer" and "Steam Quick," as well as wrinkle-removing sprays which attempt to knock the iron off of its lofty throne—but we all know the iron cannot be beaten.

So, next time you go to iron something, or you see an iron on the shelf at Big K-Mart, don't just think of it as some crappy appliance. Think of it as something that needs to be respected for all it does. Think of its history, its pride, and its cool translucent water tank. Think of it as your friend.

SPORTS DESK



by Tim Johnson
photographed by Denis Rochefort

*RIT Tiger Rick Anthony goes for the ball as
Utica Pioneer Brandon Englert takes a spill
behind him on September 21, 2002 at RIT.*

Women's Soccer

The women's soccer team defeated Clarkson 2-0 on September 20 for their fifth straight win. After a scoreless first half, senior midfielder **Trisha Schepler** scored with a shot right over the head of the Clarkson goalkeeper. To insure the win, **Ashley Hall** scored on a pass from **Melanie Lowe**.

The team lost to the University of Rochester 2-0 on September 24, ending a five-game winning streak. RIT is now 6-2-0 for the season. Goalie **Carrie Yehle** and the RIT defense kept U of R from taking long-range shots. Yehle made nine saves in the first half, keeping the game scoreless.

U of R didn't score until the 78-minute mark with a penalty shot. Three minutes later, U of R scored again on a header off of a corner kick.

U of R had 28 shots on the game, while the Tigers had only two. RIT will play on October 5 at home against Hilbert at 12:00 p.m.

Men's Cross Country

The men's cross country team finished fifth out of ten teams at the Purple Valley Classic on September 21. RIT was able to beat RPI and Union College, but could not catch nationally-ranked St. Lawrence University, Geneseo State and host Williams College.

There was a change of pace for the Tigers this week, with senior **Tom Batey** leading the way and finishing in 18th place. Freshman **Jesse Williamson** finished next for RIT, coming in 21st. Sophomore **Ryan Pancoast** finished in 25th place.

The team is currently ranked seventh in the NCAA Atlantic Region, and will be participating in the Notre Dame Invitational next week.

Women's Cross Country

The women's cross country team finished 11th at the Purple Valley Classic on September 21. The Tigers were able to edge out Union College, Castleton, and Bay Path.

Men's Soccer

The men's soccer team ended their three-game losing streak on September 21 with a 2-0 victory against Empire Eight rival, Utica College. Freshman forward **Nuno Montiero** scored seven minutes into the second half. His goal was the only goal that won the game for the Tigers. Midfielder **Abe Zwirn** contributed to the goal with a perfect cross pass. Forward **Blake Harrison** sealed the deal by scoring off another perfect pass from forward **Rick Anthony**.

The Tigers dominated on both sides of the game, taking 28 shots and allowing only six. Goalkeeper **Brian Lenzo** made four saves and earned his first shutout of the year.

On September 25, the Tigers beat Buffalo State 4-1. Anthony scored a pair of goals and **Frank Cutaia** added a goal and an assist to improve the Tiger record to 2-1-4 on the season.

RIT looks to keep the winning streak going and will play their next home game on October 12 against Elmira at 12:00 p.m.

Women's Volleyball

The women's volleyball team was upset by Cortland State in first round action of the 13th annual RIT Tournament.

The Tigers opened their home season with a 3-0 win over SUNY Potsdam in the first match of the day.

Katie Sander was back from injury and racked 21 kills.

The Cortland Red Dragons jumped on the Tigers, gaining an early 2-0 advantage. Nonetheless, RIT was able to fight back in the third game with a dramatic 35-33 win. Co-captain **Amy Baxter** earned 21 kills and freshman **Bonnie Harriman** contributed 18.

Unfortunately, the team couldn't stop Cortland from taking the fourth game.

RIT finished 2-2 for the weekend after beating Brockport and then losing to Geneseo on the second day of the tournament. Their overall record is now 11-5. All-Tournament honors were awarded to Tigers **Katie Sander** and **Sarah Ballard**.

Women's Tennis

The women's tennis team improved to an impressive 7-1 record after wins over Oswego, Wells, Brockport, and St. John Fisher. The team beat St. John Fisher 6-3 on September 19, Brockport 7-2 on September 21, Wells 9-0 on September 22, and finished it out with a 9-0 shutout against SUNY Oswego on September 24.

RIT won every match against SUNY Oswego, including all singles matches: **Carlie Schubert**, **Sara Kula**, **Shannon Grande**, **Amanda Ashline**, **Alysia Schmaltz** and **Michelle Nicholson**.

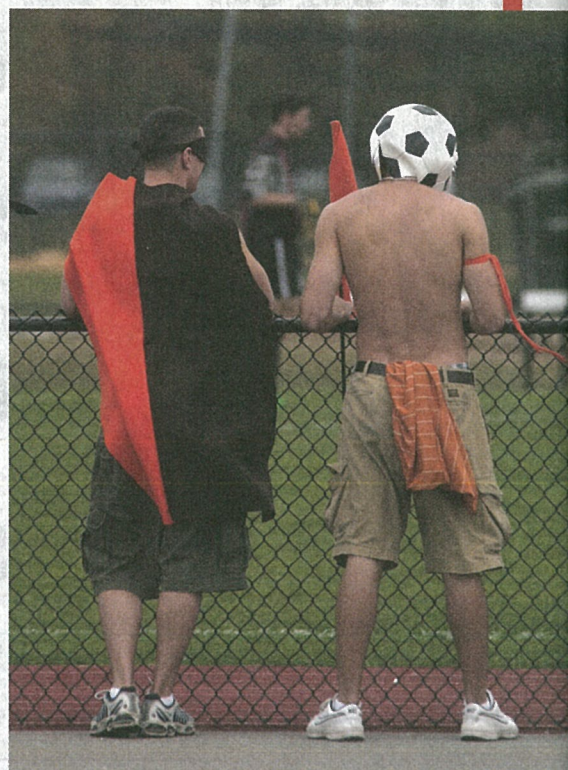
Athletes of the Week

RIT men's soccer team player **Nuno Montiero** earned Athlete of the Week honors with his game-winning goal against Utica. Montiero also had a goal in the 3-2 loss against Hobart College.

Carrie Yehle is the Athlete of the Week for her outstanding job of goalkeeping in the past week. In the last two victories, Yehle earned a shutout and racked up 17 saves.

RIT Athletics.com

The new web site with all of the information you'll ever need concerning RIT athletics is www.ritatletics.com. The site has been revamped with eye-catching graphics and easier navigation tools. The site contains information on all of the intercollegiate sports teams at RIT, as well as general information, polls and various other RIT-related links.



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RIT GETS HIGH

Unofficial skydiving club tests the limits
by Matthew Doak

Joe Eberhardt, an instructor at Frontier Skydivers, watches a tandem descend to the ground at Frontier Field on September 21.

Before You Jump

Making a first jump is not quite as simple as strapping on a parachute and jumping out of a plane. Between paperwork, training, waiting to jump, gearing up, and actually flying, a half-day or more is usually necessary.

If a jumper isn't nervous during the ride to the drop zone, the paperwork might change his mind. A lengthy waiver, with some brutally frightening language, is required before paying and jumping. "The paperwork was the only thing that scared me," said Sean Cuddy, a second-year Information Technology major. Then again, true thrill seekers say that this is to weed out the weaklings before it's time to take their money.

Training on the ground for the flight takes about 30 minutes. This session includes an overview of the equipment used in a tandem rig—the main parachute, backup parachute, altimeter, and jump suit. The instructor also goes over the hand signals used during the flight and how the student should pull the ripcord and flare the parachute for landing. Lastly, proper exit procedures are demonstrated by using a mock-up of an airplane door.

Gearing up takes place 15 minutes before the plane leaves the ground. Each student is provided with a jump suit, hat, goggles, and the rig to which the instructor will attach himself once on the plane. The parachutes are carried on the back of the instructor.

The plane takes about 15 minutes to reach altitude. At Frontier Skydivers, the drop zone used by the unofficial RIT skydiving club, it is possible to see Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and even Toronto on a clear day. During the ride, the instructor will tighten all connections and review the procedures with the student. This is also a great time to show your emotions on video if you decided to purchase one.

After the plane reaches an altitude of 13,500 feet, it is time to make the leap.

Novice jumpers will probably begin with the most common first jump, called a tandem. During this type of jump, the student is physically attached at four points to a licensed tandem instructor—a skydiver who has a minimum of 500 jumps and has passed numerous other tests.

Finally, the engine throttles down, the door opens, and the cold air rushes in. A dozen experienced jumpers fly out the door in the blink of an eye.

A peaceful 80-degree day on the ground quickly becomes a nervous and chilly waddle to the door of a Norwegian ex-military plane. The remaining tandems waiting behind ensure that hesitation is not an option. With arms crossed across the chest, three words from the instructor attached to the student's back signal the beginning.





"Ready! Set! Arch!"

Out the door you fly, arching at the hips, kicking your feet up, and bending your arms out at a 90-degree angle. Gravity sucks your body down, accelerating you to a terminal velocity of 120 mph within seconds. Sensory overload kicks in with the loudness of the wind in your ears, the feeling of the cold air rushing against your face, and the sight of the earth so far below.

Your instructor gives you a thumb up, indicating that everything is going well. The next 50 seconds of freefall are pure bliss for any thrill seeker.

At 5,500 feet, the instructor signals that it is time to pull the parachute. Putting the left arm over your head and reaching with the right, you pull the ripcord. The chute deploys and within seconds, what was a high-speed thrill ride becomes a peaceful 20 mph coast to the earth.

During this time, the instructor teaches the student how to steer and flare the parachute to slow down for landing. He also points out visible landmarks below.

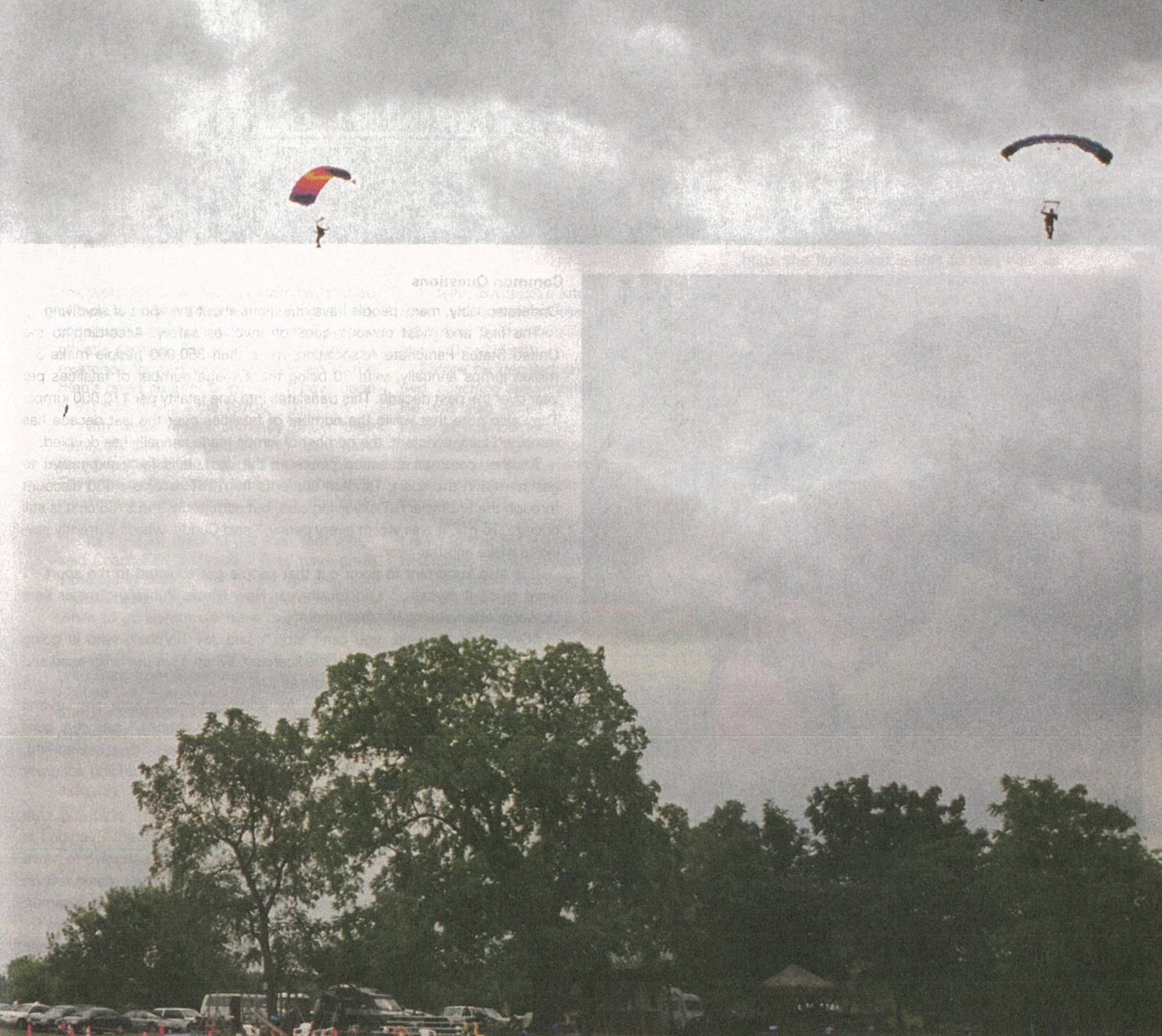
"I felt like I was floating like a feather," said Information Technology major Lisa Fisher as she described her ride under the 425 square foot canopy.

There are some differing opinions as to exactly what the freefall portion of skydiving feels like, but surprisingly, "falling" is not the only word used to describe the experience. Being so far away from the ground makes it seem more like flying than falling.

"Skydiving is like the middle of winter when you're coming down," said fifth-year Chemistry student John Kaseman.

Yes, it can be chilly, but it is probably unlike anything you have ever done before.

Continued on page 25>>>





Chris Meeker (left) and Brandy Temnyson (right) pack their parachutes after completing a skydive in the team competition on Saturday, September 21. The Completion is made up of four member teams that have five opportunities to assemble different formations during freefall.



Lisa Fisher hugs Joe Eberhardt after completing her first tandem skydive at Frontier Field. Joe was Lisa's instructor for her first skydive.

Common Questions

Understandably, many people have questions about the sport of skydiving.

The first and most obvious question involves safety. According to the United States Parachute Association, more than 350,000 people make 3.3 million jumps annually, with 30 being the average number of fatalities per year over the past decade. This translates into one fatality per 110,000 jumps. They also note that while the number of fatalities over the last decade has remained fairly constant, the number of jumps made annually has doubled.

Another common question concerns the cost. It is fairly expensive to get started in the sport. Tandem students from RIT receive a \$30 discount through the unofficial RIT skydiving club, but admittedly, the \$165 cost is still pricey. "To me, it was worth every penny," said Cuddy, who is currently saving to make another jump.

It is also important to point out that people get addicted to the sport. "I want to do it myself," said fourth-year New Media Publishing major Kara Dowling, after making her first tandem.

"Once you go once, you can't stop," said Jay Gambell, who is going through a coach program to become licensed. When a jumper is licensed and has his own gear, jumps cost as little as \$19.

Skydiving also has opportunities for advancement. "There are several different disciplines within the sport from which to choose," said club guru Jim Hildick. "For example, freefall disciplines include free flying, sky surfing, and flying wing suits. There are also canopy disciplines, including accuracy and swooping."

Founded recently by Jeff Prystajko, the unofficial RIT skydiving club accommodates anyone with any type of interest in the sport. Everyone is catered to, whether they are content to make just one jump or wish to move on and become an experienced jumper. There are still a few dates left on the fall schedule and dozens more to come during the spring and summer. Potential flyers should check out the club's website www.skydiverit.com for more information on what is sure to be one of the most unique experiences you will ever have!



**New Coach, New Team,
New Beginnings**

Women's Cross country team has high hopes

by Nicole Lighthouse

The women's cross country team has started off with a positive attitude and high goals, despite such a premature stage in their college athletic careers. The team has only been in existence for two years, as opposed to the men's cross country team, which have been in RIT history since the 1970s.

With three meets currently under their belts, it's clear the girls on this team have their heads and their hearts in the right place. They are well aware of their strengths, their weaknesses, and where to take the team from here.

"It's time for them to get their feet wet," said Coach Ken Switnicki. "They have great attitudes in seeing their future, yet they and myself remain realistic that there is still a while to go before we have caught up with the crowd."

Switnicki, a New York City native who graduated from Spencerport, has just begun his first year coaching at RIT. His outlook and attitude towards his team is carefree, but very dedicated. A runner of 25 years, as well as a high school women's cross country coach in Churchville for the past seven years, there's a degree of professionalism and wisdom that Switnicki is respected for. "I love cross country, I love running, and I sometimes loved it more than school when I was in college, but these girls and myself both know what's most important in this school—their education," Switnicki said in good humor.

Indeed, Switnicki's knowledge of how to coach and mentor a team was recognized right away by the men's cross country team coach, David Warth.

Before he decided on RIT, Switnicki had two coaching opportunities to choose from. He was also asked to coach the women's team at Spencerport High School. After applying for the high school position, Bill Quinlisky, last year's RIT women's cross country coach, offered Switnicki the coaching position here at RIT.

"After the Spencerport offer fell through, I realized that RIT was the right choice in the first place," Switnicki admitted.

"Throughout teaching high school, there was always the commonality of workouts between the men's and the women's cross country teams," he explained. "High school is not anywhere near as competitive as college, so when I came here, I discussed the men's workout routine with coach Warth, and from there, adapted it to the women's team—I made it more fair and less intense," he said.

For example, the women's beginning workout is a three-mile run as compared to the men's five-mile run. "I believe the girls appreciate this difference. It shows in their efforts and in their attitudes, and I appreciate Coach Warth allowing me this privilege," said Switnicki.

The team finished this past weekend at their last meet in Massachusetts. They placed tenth out of fourteen teams. At the

very first meet, they placed ninth out of eleven teams.

"I believe we are all satisfied with this progress based on their current skill level," Switnicki said.

The team has a strong foundation with ten runners, and usually has eight runners per meet. These numbers are pretty slim and could pose a problem for future meets, but at the moment, the team has handled themselves at a very professional level.

Of these ten girls, there are some obvious all stars in the midst of highly growing talent. Senior Heidi Spalholz has shown amazing progress in her cross country career. Spalholz has considered coming back to RIT for graduate school, as well as for the team.

"We are hoping that Heidi's schedule will work for next year," said Switnicki.

Molly Kearns and Jessica Vastola are two more leading ladies on the team. Although both plan to be on co-op next year, the team has high hopes for their return. Unfortunately, Vastola has been out of commission this year due to a knee problem. The team is hoping she will be back on track and ready to compete by mid-October. Her progress depends on her rehabilitation efforts, which have been nothing short of valiant.

Another senior who has left positive foot steps for the team is senior Randa Jabbour. "I've told her, by some leap of faith, that we hope she flunks and is able to stay with us another year," Switnicki said jokingly.

One of the team's biggest goals is to qualify for the district championship, which includes regional schools from all over. Switnicki is hoping for a top ten in the district, although they are a new division. He feels they have a shot at this championship, but maybe not Nationals.

On the other hand, Heidi may be able to qualify as an individual for Nationals. Both nationals and districts are strong goals.

Though Coach Warth coaches the men's team, he is very supportive to the girls on the women's team. "If I'm not at that finish line cheering them on or timing them, Coach Warth sure is," said Switnicki.

Switnicki had no complaints about the overall attitudes of the girls. Runners know that the team won't be top-notch, and that humbles them in practice. "They come to practice wanting the team to be the best it can be, keeping their own personal goals in check," said Switnicki. "I think it helps too that I mix up the workouts for them."

In general, there has been a very positive start and it looks to be a great future for RIT's women's cross country team. It's refreshing to see a coach with such an easygoing attitude—it's realistic, keeps the girls going, and keeps its fans wanting more.

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WHAT IS THE OFFICE OF THE STUDENT OMBUDS?

The Office of the Student Ombudsperson is a neutral and confidential resource that exists to assist all RIT/NTID students with any questions, concerns, or issues they may experience as a student.

WHEN WOULD A STUDENT VISIT THE OMBUDS OFFICE?

If you are experiencing a situation in which you do not know what to do, where to go, or to whom to speak, then it may be time to contact the Ombuds Office. If you are unable to resolve a situation that impacts you as a student, then we are available to assist. In most cases, we would not resolve a situation for a student, but will provide the student with information, guidance, and support so that he or she may achieve resolution.

HOW DO I CONTACT THE OMBUDSPERSON?

The Office of the Student Ombuds is located in the RITREAT portion of the Student Alumni Union, in rooms 1110/1114.

Telephone: (716) 475-7200 TTY: (716) 475-7595

E-mail: ombask@rit.edu

The Ombudsperson is Dr. Laura Tubbs. The office hours are 8:30 – 4:00 Monday through Friday, or other times by appointment.

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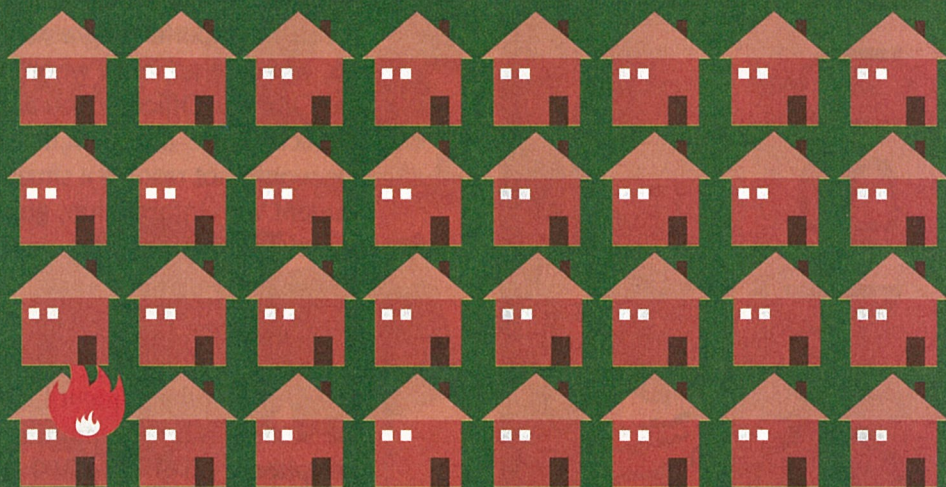
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The Lost Page Persuasion Corner: Why you should move to the suburbs

by Jakob Lodwick



A few weeks ago, we did something my roommates had been badgering about for what seemed like generations. We packed up and moved from Colony Manor to the city; specifically, near upper Monroe Avenue. I don't think I've ever made a bigger mistake in my life, not even when I tried to eat "safety" pins. This place can't compare to my old house! The city should be called The Sub-suburbs! Well, I'd better stop the introduction before I give away all the points I can't wait to hammer you with! Put on your listening ears, take a deep breath, and get ready to be persuaded!

When I graduate from RIT, I don't care where I move, as long as I can live in the suburbs; specifically, in a homogenous gated community. Hell, I don't even care if the gatedness is metaphorical! As long as non-residents feel chillingly uncomfortable riding down the half-mile to the bottom of my cul-de-sac, I'll be at home. And as long as my neighbors all share my profession, my income and melanin levels, and my middle-of-the-fence non-ideology, I won't have a damn thing to be afraid of or challenged by. A tacit air of complacency and social zombification will permeate the lungs and brains of my entire neighborhood like a mythological fart cloud, our perceptions and world views mutated and contorted and bowdlerized into a vortex of simultaneous smug self-approval and repressed, unaddressable self-hatred.

But the suburbs aren't just exciting, they're beautiful, too! My teachers' grandfathers always said "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"—and they're

all dead and correct. If one design for a house is good, then what do you get when you build a thousand of them in the same two-square mile radius? Aesthetic bliss, that's what! Like an army of fascist-dictated civilian soldiers adrift in a bay of mind-washery, the houses of my street will stand to attention with the order, discipline, and morbid gravity of bloodstained graph paper. A neighborhood committee will enforce our ostensibly democratic charter and abort zygotes of self-expression long before they reach the fetal stage.

You're probably thinking, "Ok, Jakob, slow down—how are you going to afford the suburbs? Are you forgetting the price of beauty?" Hello, ever heard of a career? I'm going to put my IT degree to good use, and even if it takes a little perseverance, I'll undoubtedly have a hefty little salary in no time. My boss will be a ten-years-senior reflection of myself who commands neither respect nor emotional connection, a wonderful trait that will rationalize the six hours a day I'll spend on aimlessly unsatisfying Internet dickaroundery. His domestic problems—boring children who are long-gone and a wife who never loved him—will be present only in an alter-ego who, after five o'clock, repossesses him—almost Hyde-like, demanding only the simple embrace of chain restaurant dinners and Jay Leno, reliable sources of soul-crippling comfort that normalize identity and soothe, opiate-like, beloved only for their familiarity, accessibility and ubiquity.

My office building might be twenty miles from my house in the middle of the ghetto—I

mean city—but why should it? My morning drive is my personal time, the part of the day that lets me celebrate my individuality alongside the 40,000,000 other commuters who pilot their war planes, this time fighting for, not against, a socialized national monotony. Like the noble pioneer mounting his powerful steed, I will command my Toyota Forrester, a metaphor for both my importance and my wiener. I will brave uncharted lanes and challenge those who lack the balls to buy an SUV. I will support the American economy by consuming more gasoline than the Netherlands, as well as the pancake modern-day hippies who think the world's problems can be solved by some fliers and hamburger abstinence. I will then stop my car, scrape their battered skulls from the fresh asphalt, and spit into what remains of their hemp-reinforced craniods. I will swiftly perform a series of post-mortem frontal lobotomies, then bungee-cord the lobes across the front of my utility vehicle's imposing grill. I am a king, a sovereign of strength and substance, a god.

So, do you feel persuaded yet? Ha ha! Who wouldn't? Move to the suburbs, where the grass is always greenest on every side!

October

CalendarIT

4th-12th

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Friday, 4th

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Saturday, 5th

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Clark Gym
Interpreters requested

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12n

Women's Tennis vs. Geneseo
1pm



Sunday, 6th

Women's Tennis vs. Elmira
4pm

Wednesday, 9th

Women's Soccer vs. Nazareth
4pm

Friday, 11th

Brick City Festival

CAB Major Concert:
Hoobastank

Clark Gym
8pm

Tickets:
\$10 students, \$15 fac/staff,
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Saturday, 12th

Brick City Festival

SG Horton Speaker Series Presents:
Earvin "Magic" Johnson

Clark Gym 1:30pm
Tickets: \$2 students,
\$8 fac/staff/parents,
\$10 General Admission



"Whose Line?" Comedians:
Brad Sherwood & Colin Mochrie

Clark Gym 8pm
Tickets: \$10 students,
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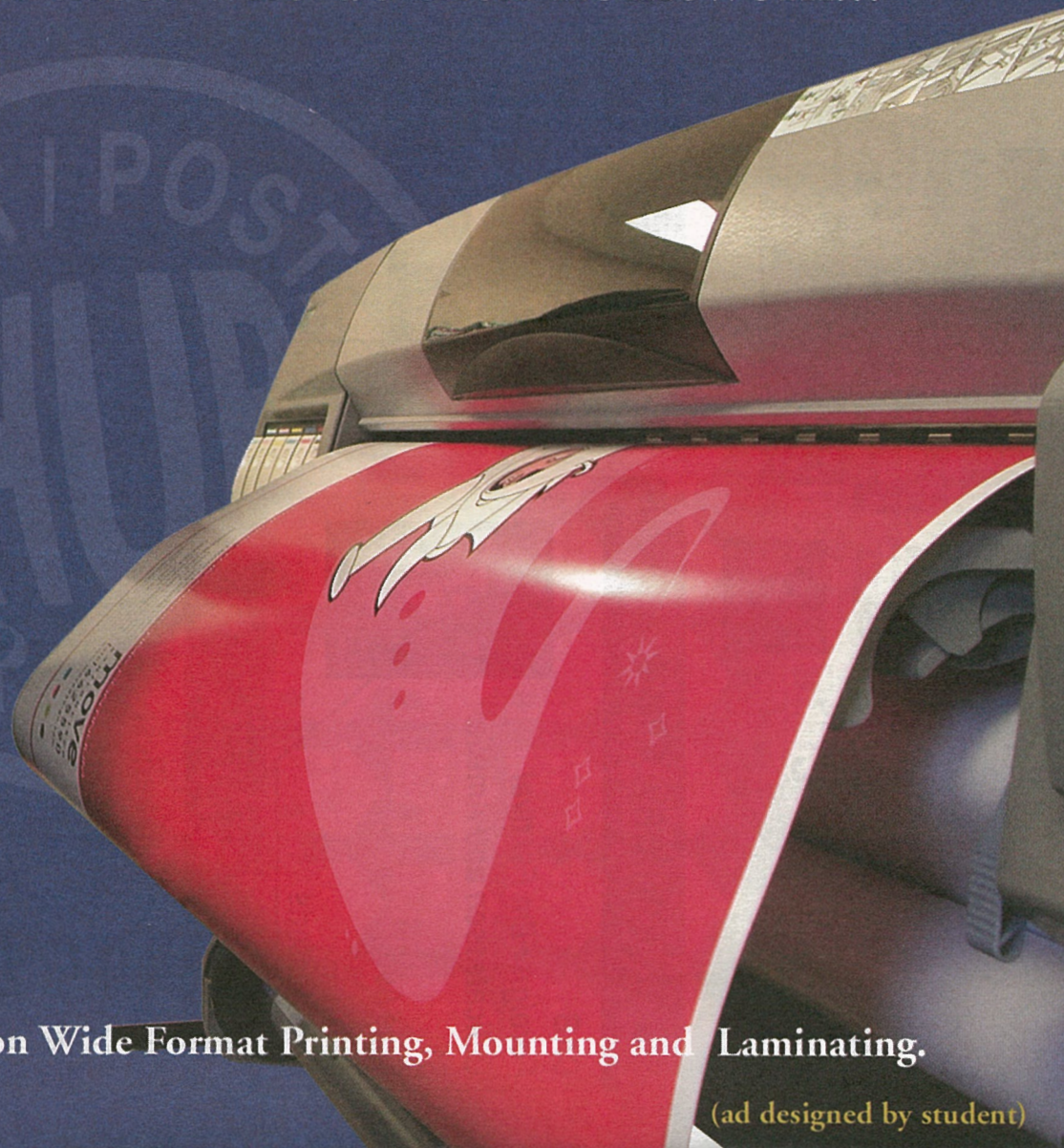
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