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Homecoming Celebration

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Madness

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Keeping Your Whine on Ice

If you haven't figured it out that it's winter yet, well, nobody can help you now. And as surely as it comes every year, there are some people who just don't understand the concept. It's called "winter," especially here in the great wind-blasted northeast, because right about now the earth's axis tilts the northern hemisphere away from the sun. It gets cold. And it snows. A lot. Yes, most of all, winter is supposed to be snowy. Very snowy.

Back home in Albany, NY we were blanketed with four feet of good old American Northeast Crystalline Ice Precipitation (ANCIP), courtesy two mammoth snowstorms we sat through a little after Christmas. My county was declared a disaster area, and nobody was allowed in except for emergency vehicles. It took my family two days to dig out to the road after the first big storm. After we got the driveway cleared it took me an hour and a half to dig out my car with a snow shovel and a broom. The snowplows were getting stuck out on the roads. Now that's a winter snowstorm. Rochester, you notice, didn't do too badly either.

So we have this situation. People are fighting their way back to the surface of the planet through the snowdrifts. Then, they open their mouths.

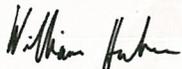
Here's what annoys me—not the snow, not the digging out; those don't bother me at all. No, it's the people who whine—on the news, no less—about how long it takes them to have their roads cleared and how it's just "unbelievable" that it takes the county or the city plows some x-number of days to get everybody unburied from these tons of snow. Never mind that these people may live on secondary roads, never mind that they may live in the middle of nowhere, never mind that we're creeping inexorably toward the pure middle of the northeast's winter season. The plows' efforts are just not good enough for them. Not only was it a great blight upon them that it took the powers that be so long to dig them out, they didn't like it that it snowed on them in the first place. Boo-hoo.

Let me make something clear. This is winter in the northeast. It snows. If it didn't, the sky would get too heavy and collapse on us, crushing one and all. If you don't like that, move somewhere where it doesn't get cold and snowy. I suggest somewhere south of the 33rd parallel. Go there. Stay there. Forever.

Let me clarify something else for you. When there is so much snow that the plows have trouble negotiating the roads, people have to face the fact that triage has been implemented. Somebody has to come up on the short end of the snow shovel every now and again. Be patient.

Speaking of patience, the one real good laugh I always get every year is when people are too impatient to let the plows entirely clear the roads. These people get so worked up about having to get out and pick up some Pabst Blue Ribbon in the dead of a snowstorm that they head out in their rusted-out '66 Dodge Dart with three bald tires and one flat one and find themselves stuck in an 18-inch snowdrift. That makes me laugh as I drive by. I laugh harder if somebody finds a way to stick an SUV in a snow bank that a low-slung kindergartener could jump over. It's happened.

Happy New Year! Remember, we only have the rest of January and all of February to go! You think it's cold and snowy now? Wait a month, suckers.



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On behalf of RIT, the Campus Safety Department is pleased to launch "It's all about Respect" program focusing on safety awareness at RIT. Campus Safety Officer Phil Goodwin will be present at several campus eateries with "freebies" and information on the RESPECT program.

Monday, January 20, 2003	10:00am-3:00pm	Student-Alumni Union
Tuesday, January 21, 2003	10:00am-3:00pm	Grace Watson Lobby
Wednesday, January 22, 2003	10:00am-3:00pm	The Commons
Thursday, January 23, 2003	10:00am-12:00pm	JAVA Wally's Soapbox
Thursday, January 23, 2003	1:00pm-3:00pm	Ritskeller
Friday, January 24, 2003	10:00am-3:00pm	Crossroads Café

If you would like more information regarding the "It's all about RESPECT" program, please contact Officer Goodwin at 5-7848 or pcgcss@rit.edu.

See you soon, and remember, It's All About RESPECT.





The RIT women's basketball team gathers for a motivational meeting during a timeout at the University of Rochester.
Matthew Apgar/REPORTER MAGAZINE

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COVER: PHOTOGRAPH
BY ANDREW SCHAFFER

BrickBEAT

compiled by Becky Ruby

Materialism Awareness Week

InterVarsity wishes to serve the RIT community by sponsoring a Materialism Awareness Week from January 20-26. The group is concerned about the way credit card companies target college students and the fact that many students leave college with substantial credit card debt. One of their goals is to teach RIT students about how to handle their finances. In addition, InterVarsity will address the long-term effects of filling one's life with possessions rather than relationships and meaningful activities. The group believes that this issue of materialism versus communication is a pertinent issue at RIT, a place where developing community can be a challenge at times.

The events of the week are as follows:

Monday, January 20

Discussion on the PBS documentary *Affluenza* at 8:00 p.m. at the following locations:
SAU Cafeteria
NRH classroom (first floor)
(Check website for updates at [www.rit.edu/~ivcf/\\$/](http://www.rit.edu/~ivcf/$/))

Wednesday, January 22

"Buy Nothing Day" - This day is intended to raise awareness about why and how students spend their money. InterVarsity will encourage students to resist spending any money on this day. The group aims to resemble *Adbusters'* annual "Buy Nothing Day," which occurs nationally the day after Thanksgiving. InterVarsity plans to advertise widely on campus and set up a table in the SAU encouraging students to cut up their unnecessary credit cards.

Friday, January 24

InterVarsity's large group meeting on "Materialism and Meaning" - Matt Geherin, a Cornell graduate and financial planner, will speak to the group after another viewing of *Affluenza*. He will address the Christian perspective to materialism and meaning.

Saturday, January 25

Financial Planning Seminar - A presentation of basic financial concepts such as budgeting, investing, saving and retirement by Mike Hernberg, MBA graduate in finance from the University of Rochester. The seminar will be from 2:00-5:00 p.m. in the Skalny room in the Interfaith center.

Biotech Education Center Launches with \$8 Million in State Support courtesy of University News

RIT is receiving \$8 million from New York State in support of the Center for Biotechnology Education and Training (CBET). The state funding will allow RIT to begin the design process for a 46,000-square-foot facility to house CBET.

The state funding includes \$4 million from the state Senate's Gen*NY*sis fund, announced in September by Senator James Alesi, and \$4 million from the Assembly, announced in October by Assemblyman Joseph Morelle and Assemblymember Susan John.

CBET will train professionals in the biotech industry and educate the community about biotech issues in the news, such as bioterrorism and its environmental effects. "This funding provides us with the additional resources needed to move forward on this important program," said President Albert Simone. "Because of CBET, it is possible for Rochester and RIT to offer an extraordinary advantage to this industry—that is, access to the highly specialized talent that this facility will provide."

Conceived as a national model for comprehensive academic and career training programs in biotechnology, the center will increase New York State's competitive position in attracting biotechnology and biomanufacturing companies. RIT has been offering the bachelor's degree in biotechnology since 1983. "This new Center will take RIT to the next level as an educational leader in this rapidly growing field," said Simone. •

CrimeWatch

compiled by Justin Mayer

January 3

Violation of Computer Policy - Riverknoll

ITS informed a student that a complaint was lodged against him because a copywritten MP3 music file was found on his computer. The student was given a short period of time to remove the file. Campus Safety followed up after winter break.

Harassment - Campus Safety Office

A student reported recently moving out of an apartment off campus and that there may be an issue about additional rent she owes the landlord. She has received several e-mails threatening to ruin her status at RIT and restrict her funding. The person claims to be an adjunct faculty member in the art department named "Kevin." The student does not know the person's last name. Follow up continues.

January 8

Agency Assist - Wallace Library

An RIT credit card issued to an ETC employee was used to make unauthorized online purchases valued at \$1,412 during winter break. The card, which is still in the employee's possession, was canceled by RIT accounting. Monroe County Sheriff's office responded.

Petit Larceny - Campus Safety Office

A student stated that she had her iPaq computer stolen while she was in class in Building 8. The computer is valued at \$700. Follow up to continue with the professor of the class and students. •

BLT Club: The Next Special Interest Floor?

And we're not talking about the sandwich

by Becky Ruby

The business school is ready to be heard and four students have stepped up to give it a voice in the residence halls. Last year, after witnessing the disconnectedness felt among College of Business (COB) students, the group came up with an idea: The Business Leaders of Tomorrow Club (BLT). In an effort to unify those students with a common interest in business, the group braved the long road ahead towards the creation of a new Special Interest House.

"After becoming a member of Art House, I figured why not start [a house] myself?" said Audrey Lallier, a second-year Marketing student and forerunner in the BLT House project.

However, the process is not so easy. The progression entails two years comprised of meeting a variety of criteria. In addition, many campus departments and organizations such as the Residence Hall Association (RHA), the Special Interest Housing Association (SIHA), Residence Life, and Housing Operations must be involved in the process.

The group that is campaigning for the new house consists of four ambitious students: Lallier, Rob Beucler, a second-year Marketing student, Eric Albrecht, a second-year Management Information Systems student,

and Christian Davies, a second-year Finance student. (Davies and Lallier now serve as co-presidents, and Albrecht and Beucler serve as co-vice presidents.) After distributing formal proposals to the appropriate directors and collecting enough student signatures to show adequate interest, the group was finally eligible to push for the newest member of SIHA: the BLT House. Having met the requirements and receiving official approval, the BLT Club's next step is to run a trial floor next year. Following that, the floor could become an official House: Business House.

Plans for the BLT House include some physical amenities that are still in the brainstorming phase. Currently, club members are raising funds for them. "We have a long way to go in raising the money," said Lallier. "We have goals and we will work hard to get to them." House perks may include a conference room set up with SMART classroom features for meetings and presentations, a copier and fax machine, and possibly a computer with a printer.

The group seemed to be more concerned with the social and academic opportunities for the projected members of a BLT House than the material goods. "We want the students to be able to learn networking and information and take them to surpass those without [those benefits]," explained Beucler.

Main focuses include close ties and communication with COB and its faculty, keeping in touch with recent COB alumni, mentoring the newer business students, hosting guest speakers for seminars, and

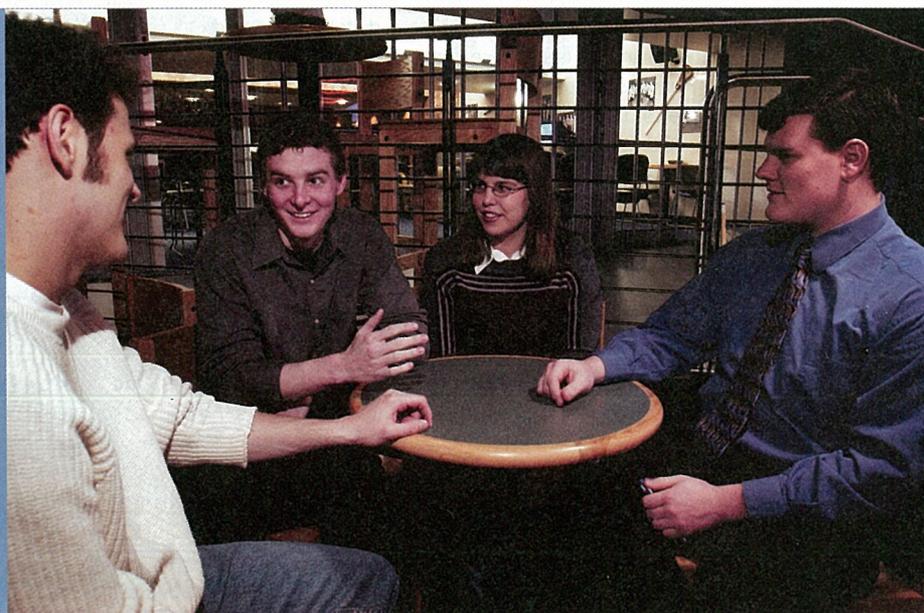
other career-oriented advantages. On the social level, as with other Specialty Interest Houses, students will participate in committees to maintain a strong community feel, take part in community service, and build relationships with other houses in SIHA. "The sky's the limit in what we have to offer," added Albrecht.

In order to spread the word about the BLT Club and its new floor, the four founders have already met with numerous COB clubs and FYE classes. They also plan to make appearances at open houses. In addition, Housing Operations has already added the BLT Club floor as a housing option for next year's housing selection. The selection process will make the floor available to all majors, but applicants must demonstrate a strong interest in business. All in all, including on and off-floor members, the BLT Club floor will have 60 members, 33 living on the actual floor in Colby A.

To get the ball rolling this year, the BLT Club has planned meetings to welcome new members. "Some people are highly interested now, and I know there are more people out there who may not be quite sure if they are or not," said Lallier. "However, I think everyone should come to the meeting to see what we are all about."

Meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, January 29 in Building 12-1205 at 6:00 p.m. and Wednesday, February 12 in Building 12-1115 at 6:00 p.m.

If you have any questions regarding the new Special Interest floor, contact the BLT via e-mail: RITBusinesshouse@hotmail.com. •



Dennis Rochetfort/REPORTER MAGAZINE

Founding members of the future Business House meet to discuss issues involving the Business Leaders of Tomorrow. From left to right, J. Christian Davies, the President of Residential Affairs, Eric Albrecht, the VP of Residential Affairs, Audrey Lallier, the President of Business Affairs and Development, and Robert Beucler, the VP of Business Affairs and Development.



A student walks to class in RIT's College of Business. Professors in this college have been encouraged to not give "A" grades to more than 15 percent of their class.

COB's New Grading Policy: What's All the Fuss?

by Alex Cheek
photo by Edmund Fountain

Did You Know?

by Ren Meinhart

If you're looking for a fun way to get in shape this winter or just a way to kill some time between classes, dust off that old pair of ice skates, sharpen those blades, and head on down to Frank Ritter Ice Arena for public skating.

If you thought nothing was free here at RIT, you thought wrong. RIT students, faculty, and staff skate for free Monday through Friday, from 12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m., as well as from 12:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons.

Rental skates in both hockey and figure skating styles are available at a measly \$2.50 a pair, for those of you who don't own skates. This offer is only open to the RIT community, so be sure to bring your ID card.

To check on public skating hours or other ice rink information, call 475-2223.

There has been quite a stir this year over the College of Business' (COB) decision to change their grading policy. The reform was voted on last May and enacted at the beginning of the 2002 academic year. As it turned out, no new policies were introduced out of left field. The College of Business has had a grading policy for many years, but had not revised it in nearly a decade. When students heard rumors of "bell curves" and "grading curves," opposition grew quickly. Though administrators tried to explain the misunderstanding, many people had already formed their opinions.

Students swarmed the message boards on the College of Business web site to voice their concerns. Morse found that although many of the concerns were legitimate, there were some misconceptions. He responded to the students in a December 23 letter that can be read on the forums link at the COB website (cob.rit.edu).

"There was a lot more noise than I had anticipated," said Morse. "And I think that some people were unnecessarily concerned, and then misinterpreted the policy as being directed to the students rather than being directed to the faculty."

The new grading policy was put into effect because of the worry was over grade inflation, a controversial topic since Harvard's report in 2001 that half of its undergraduates received grades of an "A" or "A-." Wayne Morse, Associate Dean of the College of Business, said, "there were concerns with significant variations [in grades] between individual instructors, and worse, variations between individual instructors teaching the same course." Dr. Morse, the administration, and the faculty wanted courses to be taught with higher rigor, but the answer, to them, certainly wasn't a bell curve policy.

In the 2002 revisions to the old policy, professors were encouraged not to grant more than 15 percent "A" grades, and no more than 55 percent "A" and "B" grades in an undergraduate course of 25 students or more. If an instructor granted an exorbitant amount of high grades, "the faculty member should revise and upgrade the quality of the course," explained Morse. "If a student legitimately assumes that they will get an 'A' because of their performance, and then are told that they won't get that grade because of the grading policy, that shouldn't happen."

The guidelines will not apply to specific course sections. If this were the case, grades would be distributed unfairly in some cases. Professors within the college are now encouraged to review their courses and make changes over a period of years. With a more equal distribution of marks, the college hopes also to enhance the integrity of its grades and reduce the variance among instructors. Faculty will also receive feedback on how their grading is compared to other instructors and courses similar to theirs.

Other ways of fighting grade inflation include posting mean class grades on transcripts, therefore adding or removing credibility to the marks. Although this method is now used by some schools, RIT chooses to use another common solution. Sharing grade distribution data within departments alerts department chairpersons as to whether or not faculty members have raised the standards of their classes. "That would generate more appropriate grade distribution," said Dr. Morse. •

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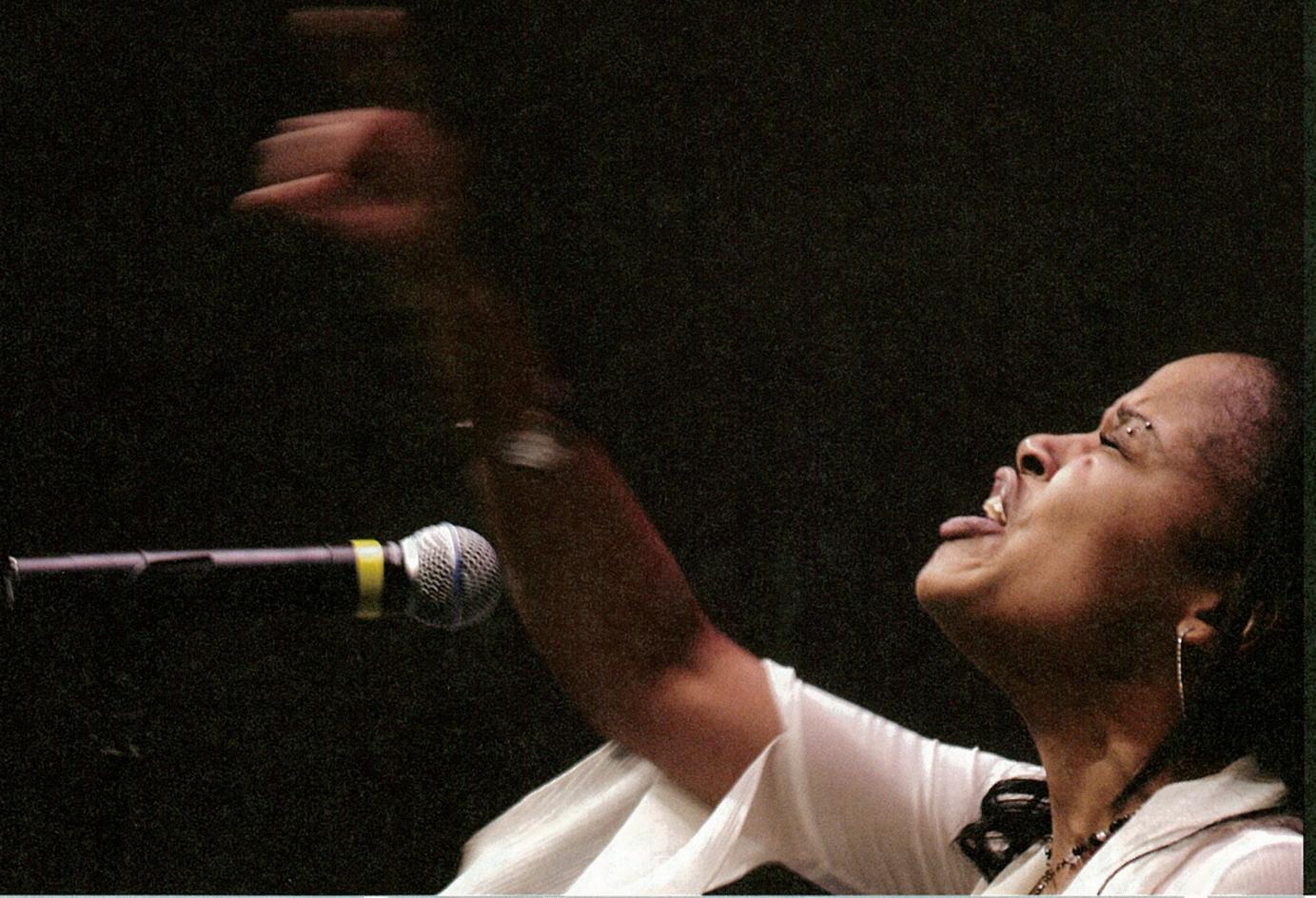
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Winter Otr ONLY

Shaunte Hill sings at the Tiger Idol competition on Wednesday, January 8, 2003 in Ingle Auditorium. Hill was declared the winner of the competition later that evening.



RIT Picks its Tiger Idol

The Talent Show

by Justin Mayer
photographs by Andrew Schafer

Last Wednesday, Ingle Auditorium saw more excitement than it does on most weekends. With a body in every seat and a lineup of more than 14 performers, the Tiger Idol finals brought the school together as a community, and all complaints that "there's nothing to do at RIT" were silenced.

The finalists gather backstage in Ingle Auditorium before the show, listening to last minute instructions and giving personal information to the evening's host, Jakob Lodwick. "What's your favorite architectural style?" Jake asks one contestant. The random facts he receives from the performers will be part of his routine for the evening, introducing the contestants and filling time during sound checks.

Gilbert Hendry, a button-down guitarist, and Shaunté Hill, a diva-esque R&B singer, answer Jake's last minute questions as SG President Erick Littleford asks the performers to take their seats so the show can start. Gilbert peeks out at the crowd while Shaunté talks to Jake.

Tonight's crowd is a combination of those from the first three nights in December; mostly people returning to support their friends. The full house is intimidating to the inexperienced performer, but the contestants that made it this far and can handle the extra pressure.

Jake steps out on stage wearing a little league soccer t-shirt and a wool scarf. After introducing himself, he asks the crowd "Do you want me to take my scarf off?" They all shout yes, he rips it from his neck, and the show begins.

There are high points and low points; performers that the judges take note of and ones who are applauded for their effort. At the end of the night, five finalists will be determined by the panel of three judges, and the audience's applause will pick the winner.

Ryan Giglia, Mary-Beth Cooper, and CIAS Senator Paul Grimes, give their comments on each performance. Paul is playing the bad guy; his comments are targeted at the style of each contestant. "My couch called, it wants its upholstery back." Everything he says draws boos from the audience. He plays the part well.

Shaunté Hill receives applause during the Tiger Idol contest in Ingle Auditorium. The contest has proved to be one of the most successful events promoted by Student Government.



An hour into the show, Gilbert comes out on stage. "What's up judges?" he asks while he adjusts the microphone stand. His voice is clearer than when he performed with the flu in December. "I like Paul and Jake, you guys are funny."

He starts a rendition of Dashboard Confessional's "Sharpen your Tears," and the crowd quiets down for his precision guitar playing and soothing voice. In the front row Jack Zerby and his band, who would go on to the final round of judging, nod their heads with appreciation for Hendry.

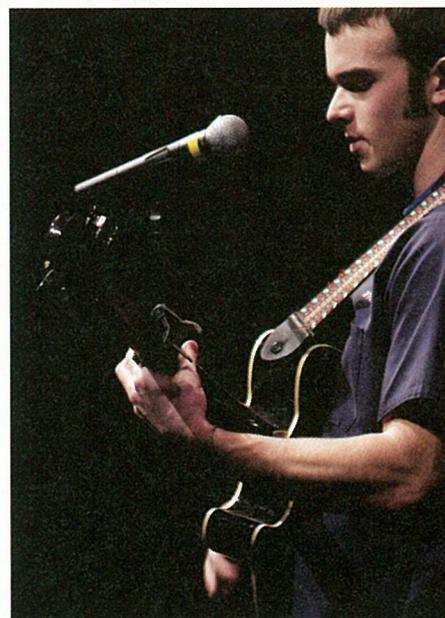
His song ends to strong applause and scattered shouts. The judges and audience like him, but he is up against tough competition tonight. He will not make it to the final round of judging, but he is among those who got the best applause.

The audience erupts again when Shaunté Hill steps out from behind the curtain. Her fans make her wait through their applause—they love her. Before she starts, she dedicates her song, "You put a move on my heart" by Tamia, to a special someone in the audience.

Her personal connection to the song drives her singing from the very first note. Her white blouse sways with the rhythm as she puts her body behind the song and pushes her voice into the crowd. Audience members stand and shout her name when she hits the high notes.

When her last note fades, the audience jumps to its feet and applauds for ten seconds straight. Jake tries to move the show on, but the audience will not let him.

"That is the type of performance that wins a competition," Ryan says when the crowd finally stops. Shaunté has turned her body to face the curtain; she wipes her eyes and smiles humbly.



Gilbert Hendry performs his rendition of the Dashboard Confessional song "Sharpen Your Tears."

"You make J. Lo look like a hostess at HoJo's," Paul says, the only of his comments to get a positive response from the audience. "I feel bad for anyone who has to follow that."

After Shaunté leaves the stage, the show starts to lose its uniformity. Members of SG start throwing Homecoming t-shirts into the crowd who has turned into a rock concert audience. The show becomes a pep rally; the crowd will not settle down for the rest of the night.

Jack Zerby and his band keep the crowd moving with a version of Rage Against the Machine's "Bulls on Parade," accompanied by two break dancers pulled from the audience.

After the final three performances, the finalists line up on stage to be judged by the audience. Shaunté stands next to Jack Zerby's band who give her encouragement and compliments. Shaunté tells them that they should win, but judging by the relentless applause followed by a standing ovation, it is obvious who will win tonight. The applause is greater than what she received after she performed. Jack Zerby's band congratulates Shaunté before the judging is finished.

She will take home the \$500 prize and the title of RIT's first Tiger Idol. She hugs the other finalists on stage and the audience is still calling her name.

Later Shaunté would say "When we talk about building spirit and getting the campus involved, it's things like Tiger Idol that we need." Although she would not want to do something like it again, Shaunté has received the encouragement and respect of the professional musician she has the power to become •

Maddox Thinks You All Suck!

Or so his website says...

by Chris Wiltz

Thank God for Instant Messaging. Without it, I'd probably spend every Wednesday night nestled comfortable in that little nook between watching the WB and passively skimming my required reading for class. All I ever need to do is turn on AIM and wait three seconds before my plethora of imaginary friends forward me links to whatever joke/issue of the week is thriving on the Internet.

One night, a friend sent me a link that was especially amusing. In the midst of a discussion of how much we despise children (two-thirds of them anyway), my friend forwarded me a link to the most simplistically-designed webpage I've seen in a long time: simple text on a black background with a mustard colored header that read "I am better than your kids." The page contained a series of pictures drawn by toddlers. To the right of each picture was a short statement about just how bad the pictures were, along with a big red F. At first, I thought to myself that even I don't hate kids this much but I soon realized that what I was reading was actually pretty funny. And there were two pages worth of it! Children really do suck.

So who the hell is this guy? I went back to the root page (<http://maddox.xmission.com>) and found out that this guy had rants on not only children's artwork but also practically everything else. Jocks, nerds, goths, vegans, David Lynch fans, people with Asian shirts/tattoos, video games, movies, and even Maxim magazine. Basically, no one is safe from Maddox, the website's creator, because as he puts it: "You all suck."

Maddox is a 24-year-old math major from the University of Utah. He works 50-60 hours a week as a programmer at a telemarketing company. That's right—he's just an average guy. An average guy with a webpage that rakes in 100,000 to 300,000 hits a day and generates about 1000 e-mails a day.

How does a page full of one guy's opinions get so many hits? "Word of mouth alone. I never promote my site, and I don't sell advertisements." Don't sell advertisements? Normally, I would have told Maddox he was full of it, but when I turned off my pop-up blocker, it turned out that he was right—not a single banner in sight.

"[The page] started out as a text file with a list of 50 things I hated, and it was popular with the programmers I talked with online, so I wrote a web version to piss off my close friends and family." Indeed, pissing people off is definitely Maddox's M.O. and why shouldn't it be? Look around and you'll see that society is ripe with people, places, and things that are just screaming for someone to make fun of them. It's a dirty job, but somebody has to do it.

<http://maddox.xmission.com>

And just what does Maddox think about all those Jocks, nerds, goths, David Lynch fans, etc.? The titles of his rants say it all; "People who like David Lynch movies are idiots," "Wearing a Japanese Shirt doesn't make you Japanese," "I hate Star Trek geeks," and of course, the one on jocks is appropriately entitled, "That's right asshole, bag my groceries!"

Maddox always has a good reason for feeling the way he does about whoever: "I can't help but snicker every time I see another bald, fat and impotent (you can tell just by looking at them) high school jock mopping the floors in a bathroom. They'll never better themselves because they're just too damn stupid. When given the choice of academics or athletics, they chose athletics. They have nobody to blame but themselves. It's never too late for these dumb asses to pick up the pieces and get going, but they won't. They

just don't have the ambition and they're too damn stupid. I can't emphasize this enough. Just too stupid."

You'd think that for someone to make comments like this would most likely advocate for nerds, but Maddox doesn't give them a break at all. Maddox hates Star Trek, Harry Potter, Signs, Lord of the Rings, and even Star Wars.

So who doesn't suck? "To date, there are only a handful of people who don't suck: me, Bruce Campbell, the guy who discovered Ninja Scroll (it was not invented so much as an evolution of movies waiting to be discovered), Bill Murray, Rambo, the fat guy from Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer, the comic book guy from Simpsons, Rambo, and Elizabeth Hurley." Seems fair enough. Keep in mind that I don't suck either for reasons I've already mentioned. Or do I suck because I think I don't suck? Or does having the scrutiny to realize that me thinking I don't suck probably makes me suck make me in fact not suck? My head hurts...

What about RIT? I didn't find anything on the page specifically about RIT, so I decided I'd ask Maddox myself. I asked him about the most annoying thing at RIT: The fraternities do this thing when they have a fundraiser. They stand in the middle of the quarter mile and beg for money. How's that sound? "It's a brilliant strategy. They may want to sue the bums in the city for using this strategy without permission if it has been patented by them."

Any final thoughts for his fellow college students? "If I would have known what I know now before I had 80 credit hours, I would have never gone to college. My advice to those who have already started is to keep going if you're close to finishing."

Now at this point, I guarantee that about a dozen people reading this probably think I'm depraved for laughing at a page that makes fun of everything from children to suicide. Some of you may even be writing self-righteous letters. Let me preempt you by letting you know that I won't read your letters or acknowledge them in any way. The simple fact is that humor at other people's expense is the best humor of all. Why do you think reality TV is so popular? It's all about people being cruel to each other for no reason and like it or not it's damned funny. Those of you who are offended should know that everyday me and over 100,000 other people are laughing at your expense •

The Eye

by Nick Urban

The Eye (Jian gui) is a collaborative effort between Danny and Oxide Pang, a pair of identical twin brothers who have brought films like *Who Is Running* and *Bangkok Dangerous* to the international movie marketplace. Hong Kong cinema tends to lean heavily on the joint-director system, which can create some serious creative conflicts that come across all-too-clearly when you view the finished product. *The Eye* is no exception to the “too many cooks in the kitchen” principle, and it suffers at times from what one could only call quibbling between a pair of otherwise well-adjusted siblings.

It's very difficult to commit oneself to a clear opinion of *The Eye*, simply because it is so

instead of being transported into a beautiful world of color and light, Mun starts to see things... weird, scary things. The Pang Brothers do an excellent job of delivering the goods, and they don't depend on shocking plot twists (*The Sixth Sense*, anyone?) or horrific special effects to get the job done.

Unfortunately, whatever accolades this particular film may merit are almost stomped to smithereens by the cumbersome, confusing and slapdash final act. At the one-hour mark you feel very happy with the film, content almost. But, the story plods on, and proceeds to answer questions that no one was really asking to begin with. The film begins in Hong Kong and climaxes in Thailand, and dividing the

way around the world of seeing like a child, delighting in the simplest things.

The rest of the film's charm lies in the remaining cast, sparse as it may be. Lawrence Chou plays the role of Mun's psychologist with such an innate cuteness that even I wanted to jump his adorable little bones. *The Eye* even provides us with a child actor that I actually do not want to crucify, which is an impressive-enough feat in and of itself: Yut Lai So, in a wonderfully sage first-time role, plays Yingying, Mun's bedside companion. Even though Yingying is more of an abstraction than she is a character, Yut's performance makes her extremely endearing, instead of excruciatingly sweet.

When you take the time to dissect *The*



coarsely divided between being a great film and a stock Hollywood flick. The great film hidden inside of *The Eye* follows the story of Mun (Lee Sin-je), a blind woman who has been given the gift of sight. The stock Hollywood flick pokes its head in from time to time, though it remains comfortably subdued until the film's last act when everything unravels. It feels as if the studio finished the project while the directors were on a lunch break.

The story is straightforward. Mun receives a cornea transplant from an unfortunate donor, but

two locales is a big bump that the audience can feel. We go from a well-crafted, beautiful character study into a muddy and dissonant mystery movie that we really didn't want to pursue. When the film moves beyond Mun and into ghost hunting territory, it loses all of its momentum... and much of its charm. Lee puts so much into her portrayal of Mun that you never want to leave her side, and that's where all that charm is coming from. She is all at once wise and naïve, and it is absolutely thrilling to watch her learn her

Eye, you get one of those rare films that you really wish was better. The Pang Brothers demonstrate some serious skill and innovation, with one of the finest title sequences of the past year and some stellar editing. If the same amount of delicacy that had been poured into this movie's first half had been put into the second, then it would be one hell of a movie. As it stands, it is exactly one half of one hell of a movie, which is good enough for me. •

Fashion Finds: The perfect button-down shirt

by Evan Sands
illustrations by Cary

For many guys and girls, finding the perfect button-down shirt is almost as painful as a ten-hour root canal without anesthesia. So before you buy a button-down and later discover that the collar is too tight that it makes your face turn blue, here are some easy tips to make shopping for a button-down shirt easy every time.

Dress shirts can be broken down into three key parts: the collar, cuff, and cut.

The Collar

The collar is the key to picking out a dress shirt. There are a total of six basic collar designs; button-down, tab collar, varsity spread, English spread, traditional straight, and the European straight collars. Button-down collars have buttons at the tip of the "wing" which hold the "wing" to the shirt. The tab collar has two tabs that connect under the tie and draw the points in towards the tie. The varsity spread is not much different from the English spread except that the varsity collar's inside edge curves away from the tie. The English spread comes straight out, and both the varsity and English spreads have extremely wide gaps between the tips of the "wings". The traditional straight and the European straight collars are also very similar except for the collar's length. The straight collar tends to have short distance between the "wing" tips, and the European straight collar tends to be a bit longer than the traditional straight collar. Picking a collar is totally dependent on your facial type, setting, and look.

The general rule to remember when picking a collar is DO NOT pick a collar that is the same shape as your face. Pick the opposite. For example: if you have a long, narrow face, pick a spread collar. If your face is round, pick a straight collar.

Setting is the easiest thing to figure out when picking a collar. The button-down is the collar is for casual (informal; everyday) settings.



The final concept to keep in mind when picking a collar is your look. Conservative people tend to wear the English spread, traditional straight, and tab collars. For a more contemporary look, try the varsity spread or European straight collar. Notice how there is a spread and straight collar for both conservative and contemporary—remember to pick the collar opposite of your facial type.

The Cuff

The second major part of a dress shirt is the cuff. There are three traditional cuffs and a whole variety of "novelty" cuffs. The traditional cuffs are the single-button barrel cuff, the two-button barrel cuff, and the French cuff. The barrel cuff has the greatest number of "novelty" cuffs; often designers will add buttons (up to four total) for a bit of a style change and designer touch. Also keep in mind the French cuff requires a pair of cuff links, and the design should match the shirt color, suit color, and setting. The color of the metal should match the color of your belt buckle and jewelry, which is usually either gold or silver.

The Cut

The final part to consider when picking out a dress shirt is the cut. The cut is simply the body width, and arm/body length. Have a tailor or a store expert measure your neck, arm length, and body width to ensure the perfect fit. There is nothing worse than trying

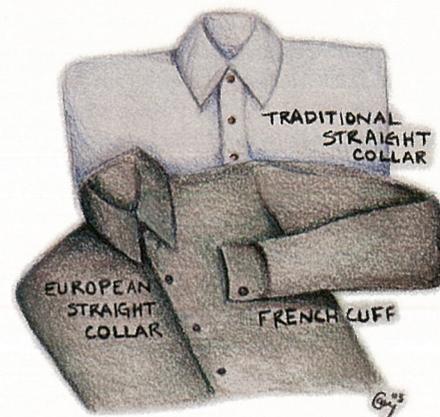
to guess your neck size and arm length and failing. When choosing a shirt, a general rule to remember is the bigger the neck size, the bigger the body width. Often, thin people have problems finding a proper fit in the body, and bustier women also tend to have a harder time finding the correct fitting shirt body. Some designers offer traditional full cut, regular, or slim fit in the body to help solve those problems. Keep in mind that European designed shirts also tend to be much smaller in the body unlike shirts designed in the United States, which tend to be roomier.

Finally, a shirt's arm length and body length will depend on the neck size, but you can pick a short, average, or long arm length depending on your needs. Arm length is very important when wearing a dress shirt with a suit or sport coat. Keep in mind that the cuff should stick out no more than a quarter inch from the end of the jacket. Seeing a bit of material means you have the proper fit. If the shirt is completely hidden, check to make sure that the shirt length is right and/or make sure your suit's arm length isn't too long for you.

Dressing up doesn't have to be a chore and you don't have to be a millionaire or a genius to get an excellent fitting dress shirt. For the greatest variety of dress shirts, try a major department store. If you want a little more variety or a specialty designer, smaller stores tend to carry a wider range of seasonal colors, cuts and patterns.

And, remember that style is about individuality, personality, creativity, and freedom. Stick to what is comfortable to you. Fads will change, but the basics will always remain the same.

For additional advice on dress shirts, designers, or any other style questions you might have you can e-mail me at esands@terminalgraphics.com.



WINTER Snow Ball Dance

Semi - Formal

January 25, 2003

8 pm - 12 am

Tickets \$8 @ SAU or \$10 @ door

Hosted by Habitat for Humanity

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YOU ARE ELIGIBLE IF:

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- You have a minimum 3.4 cumulative GPA (021 cum)
- You have been an active member for one full year in an Institute activity, organization, or committee and demonstrated leadership.
 - The quality of leadership shall be determined by holding a high elected or appointed office for the total term of that particular office (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairperson, Director, Captain (Co-Captain), in a club or activity.
 - Both paid and voluntary activities will be considered.
 - Citizenship and service to the Institute community will also be considered in the selection process.

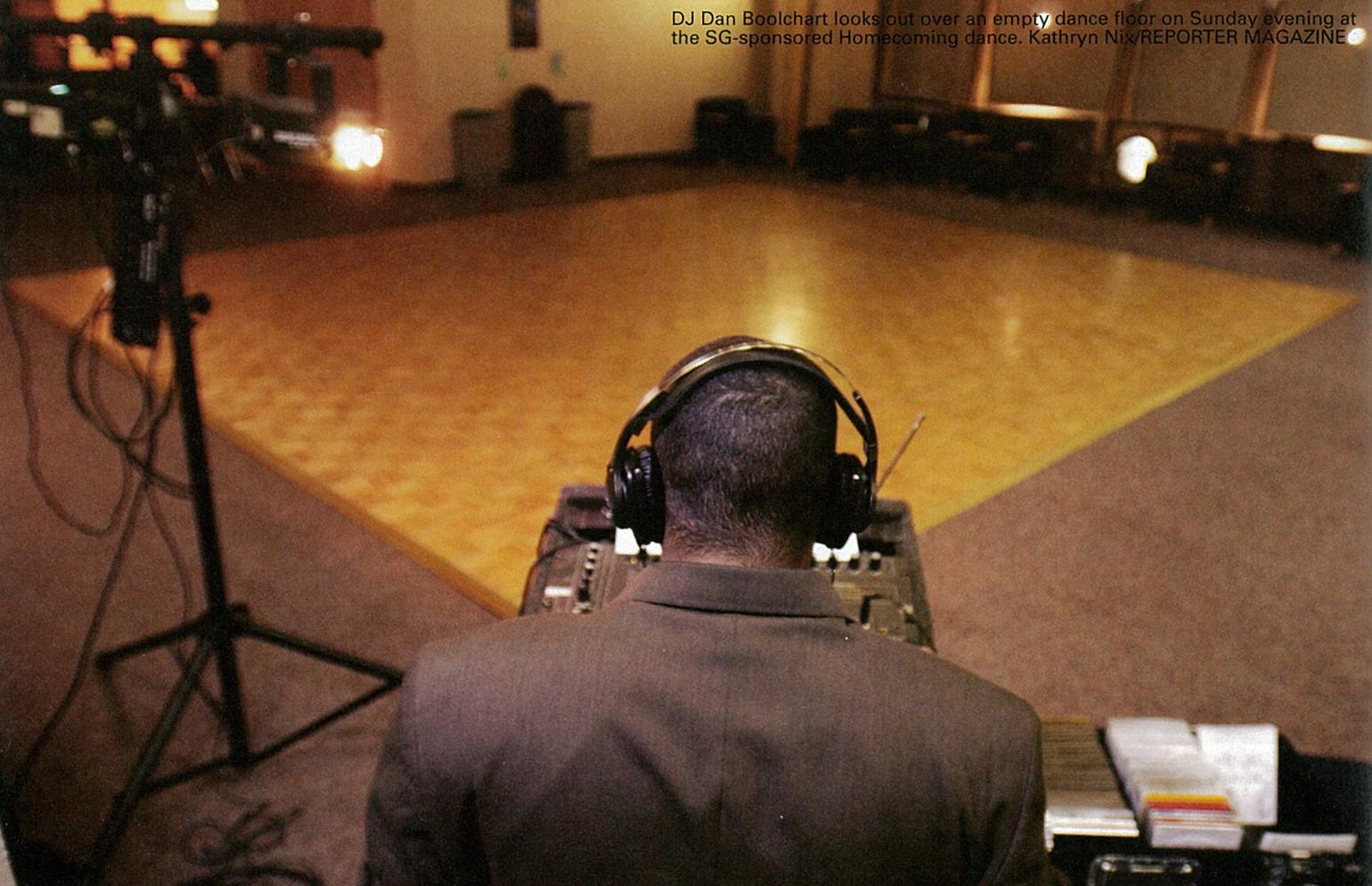
Additional information is available on the application.

Deadline for applications is Friday, February 21, 2003

Applications are available from:

The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, SAU, Rm. 2410,
or on the web at

<http://www.rit.edu/~230www/asl/>



Homecoming Week Smells like team SpiRIT

by Kayla Zerby

Who ever said RIT lacked school spirit? Certainly not those who attended at least one event of Student Government's annual Homecoming celebration last week.

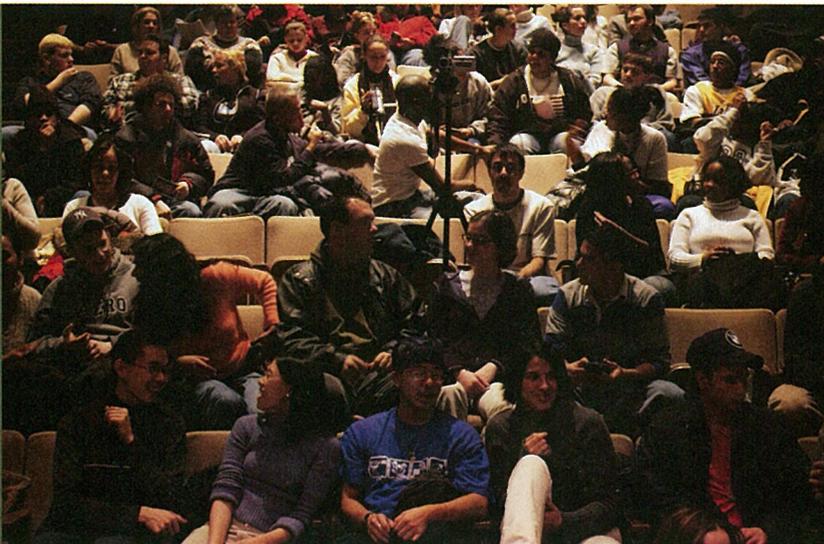
From January 6-11, students were greeted with a variety of spirit-boosting events following their return from winter break.

The week's festivities kicked off on Monday, January 6 with a day-long party in the SAU featuring student caricature artists and other student vendors. Students were then encouraged to cheer on the women's basketball team as they took on University of Rochester on Tuesday night.

The climax of this year's Homecoming celebration was no doubt Tiger Idol, SG's twist of the hit TV show American Idol. The contest hosted 16 semi-finalists who came to strut their stuff in Ingle Auditorium for an auditorium full of students, staff, faculty, and even a local news station. Host Jakob Lodwick kept the energy of the large crowd alive, and judges Mary-Beth Cooper, Ryan Giglia, and Paul Grimes made for an interesting panel. The night featured some of RIT's bravest and most talented students. From the rap trio Tri Force rapping about their bowel movements due to Gracie's food, a show-stopping performance by Jack Zerby and his band, and a breathtaking singing performance by Shaunté Hill, the audience was entertained until the very end. Based on the claps and screams of the audience, the talented Ms. Hill captured the Tiger Idol title as well as a \$500 dollar prize.

The following night kept the spirit alive at a pep rally called Thursday Night Madness in Clark Gym. Student Government teamed up with the College Activities Board (CAB) and the athletic department to host a night of celebration for winter sports. Comedian Mike Glosek co-hosted the event with SG President

Audience members converse with one another while waiting for a performance to begin at the Tiger Idol competition in Webb Auditorium on January 8, 2003. Andrew Schafer/REPORTER MAGAZINE



Erick Littleford. Students enjoyed free pizza and drinks as they cheered for performances by the RIT cheerleaders, two drag queens, RITep, and the punk/ska band from Buffalo called Dinkus 9. Each member

Saturday's Homecoming festivities included hockey, basketball, and of course, drag queens. The RITGA's annual Drag Show had a great turnout and both the performers and the crowd had a great

Homecoming Dance complete with a catered meal and a night of dancing attended mostly by Reporter staff members. Sadly, there was no Homecoming King or Queen this year due to lack of attendance at the final

Sadly, there was no Homecoming King or Queen this year...

of the winter sports teams was then recognized as the crowd formed a spirit line the length of Clark Gym.

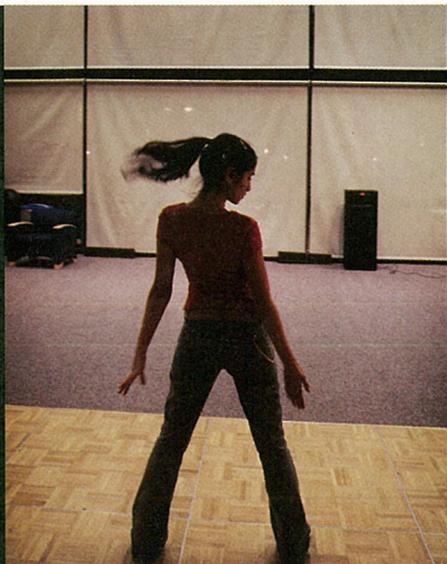
Friday night was the tailgate party in the Ritskeller featuring free food from Dinosaur Barbeque, giveaways, and raffles to cheer on the women and men's basketball team as well as the men's hockey team before their games. This event, like all events with free food, was well attended and well-received.

time. Host Dee Dee Dubois, a local drag queen, shocked the crowd with his outrageous one-liners and energetic stage presence. This event was a huge success for the RIT GLBT community.

The weekend closed with events like a college flag football tournament that pitted college against college, a student vs. faculty flag football tournament, CAB's Battle of the Bands contest, and finally, the

event. After a week of well-attended events, it was ironic that the final dinner/dance had such a poor turnout.

"Overall, the whole week was a tremendous success," said SG President Erick Littleford. "I would like to commend Rachel Robinson, the Homecoming committee, the executive cabinet, and the SG senate, and more importantly, the students for all of their support." •



Kathryn Nix/REPORTER MAGAZINE



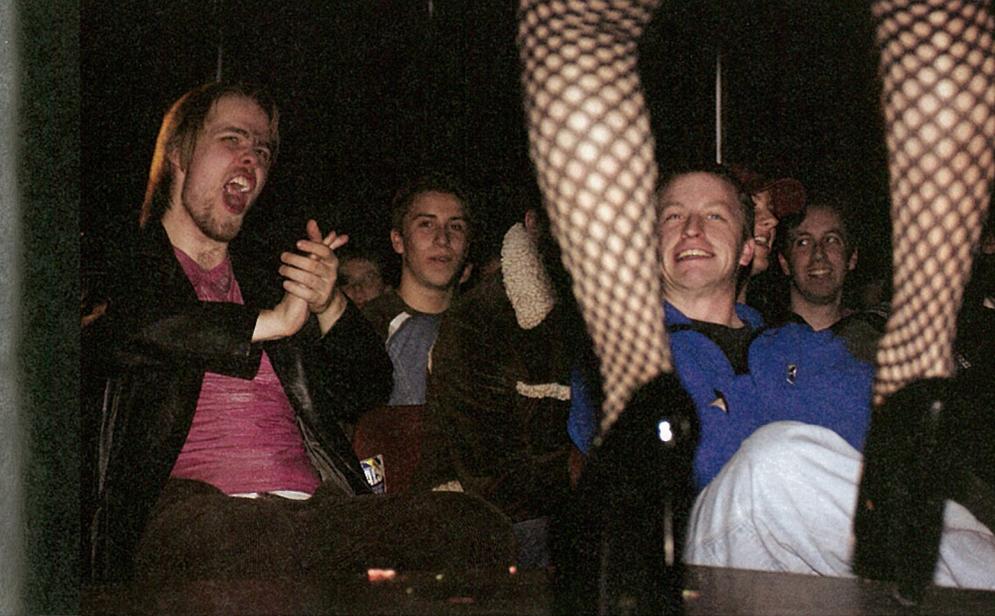
Denis Rochefort/REPORTER MAGAZINE

(Left) Ayesha Habib dances to George Michael's "Faith" at the Homecoming dance on Sunday night. Habib was one of only a handful of people who attended the event. (Right) Student Government President Erick Littleford gets tackled during the Students vs. Administration football game on Sunday, January 12.

Dude
Looks
Like a
Lady



Bryan Berger, an Environmental Sciences major, claps for one of the many drag queens performing in the RIT SAU cafeteria on January 10 for the annual RITGA drag show.



RITGA hosts eighth-annual Drag Show

by Brian M. Casterline
photography by Matthew Apgar

The SAU cafeteria proudly provided RIT students with a quiet, well-lit dining atmosphere for chatting with friends, studying, and on Friday, January 10, a venue for Rochester's most fabulous drag queens.

Hosted by club Tilt's veteran hostess, Dee Dee Dubois, the eighth-annual RIT Gay Alliance (RITGA) Drag Show again brought good clean gender-bending fun to a standing-room only crowd. "This was our best year by far," said GLBT senator Jared Campbell.

Half strip show, half Milli-Vanilli with a catwalk, the show blended two hours of musical theater with a lot of eyeliner. Lip-synch acts ranged from Missy Elliot's "Work It" to a rendition of Adam Sandler's

"Medium Pace" complete with props, and, of course, marvelous outfits.

"I've definitely never seen anything like it before!" said one audience member.

"Rochester is known for drag, honey," said host Dee Dee Dubois, "We have so many different styles—we have real girls, and then me, a boy in a big wig." The crowd was very responsive—many stepped up to the runway to put dollar bills... well... you can probably guess where...

Half-way through the show, eight male members of the audience were selected to compete in a strip show—the person who removed the most clothing won. The bravest received a scooter.

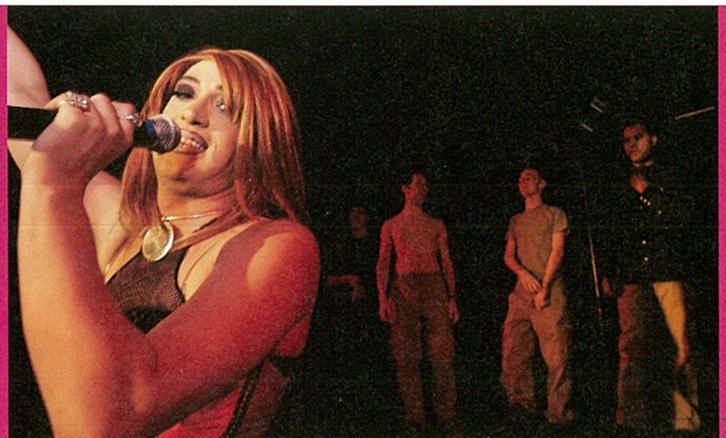
Performances were given by such local drag headliners as Chyna Vagina, Ambrosia Salad, Cooki Krisp, Asya Black, and RIT's own amateur

performer—Scarlet Fever. When asked about her performance, Scarlet responded by saying, "I kinda went blank on stage, it took a lot of balls!"

Aside from the makeup and sequins, the drag show had a greater purpose. "We want to broaden our membership," said RITGA Public Relations manager Pat Rickles. "We're first and foremost a support group. A lot of people didn't have the ability to express themselves the way they wanted to in high school. The first time you're away from home, you can be who you want to be."

RITGA meets every Wednesday night at 9:00 p.m. in the SAU. Anyone is welcome to participate in our organization regardless of sexual orientation.

To find out more about Rochester's Drag scene visit www.drag101.com.



(Facing page) Miss Ambrosia Salad, a drag queen from Mother's, came to co-host the RITGA drag show with Cookie Crisp on January 10 in the SAU cafeteria. (Right) After stripping RIT students in a scooter giveaway, Miss Cookie Crisp performs for the crowd.

Pep Rallies Don't Need Football Teams

by Johanna Miller

"They should have one every week," said Ayitegan Assiongbon, a first-year MIS student. A pep rally once a week might be a little much to ask from Student Government, but judging by the excitement in the Clark Gym on the night of January 9, it might not be a bad idea.

Any Homecoming celebration is incomplete without a campus-wide pep rally to cheer the football team to victory. What, then, is the purpose of a Homecoming pep rally when a school has no football team? The celebration of school spirit, plain and simple. The lack of a football team did not stop approximately 300 students from having a great time while showing enthusiasm for RIT.

Papa John's boxes were stacked high as the night kicked off at around 8:00 p.m. After everyone was filled to the brim with free pizza, buffalo wings, and sodas, the festivities began. The overfed crowd, now conjugated in the bleachers, was introduced to the evening's host, comedian Mike Glosek. Glosek has worked with celebrities such as Rosie O'Donnell and has appeared on Comedy Central.

Glosek entertained the crowd with numerous not-so-amazing tricks, such as juggling apples and freeing himself from a straight jacket. He managed to scrape up a few laughs from the audience and handed out complimentary admission tickets to the

Comix Café in Rochester, where he performs.

"This was the first time I've ever done a pep rally," said Glosek. "It took the kids a while to warm up, but they did."

After the audience was warmed up, RITep took the stage. As they stomped and clapped in perfect rhythm, the crowd moved to the pounding beat of their shoes on the hard gymnasium floor. A pep rally is not complete without cheerleaders, and RIT's very own squad made that clear. Through flips and cartwheels, they livened up the crowd and added spirit to the event.

Next came an appearance by Dinkus 9, a native Buffalo band, who got the students out of their seats and onto the floor. The loud, raw sound emitting from their amplifiers was enough to wake up the entire audience.

The seven members of Dinkus 9 gave RIT a taste of their unique sound with the performance of two original songs.

"This was not what we expected," said Tim Sade, the bassist of Dinkus 9. "I would definitely play a pep rally again." The focus of the pep rally was then shifted back to Glosek, who went on to announce the winter sports teams.

Besides being a spirit builder for the RIT community, the Homecoming pep rally aimed at promoting

the winter sports teams. Student Government President Erick Littleford made this clear when he prompted everyone in the stands to form two lines for the teams on the gym floor to run through. The names of the members of the men and women's hockey teams, men and women's basketball teams, and the cheerleading squad were all announced.

"The pep rally gives players recognition for their hard work and dedication to the sport," said Nicole Wisniewski, a member of the women's hockey team. "It also helps build unity throughout the teams."

After comedy, cheering, dancing, and music, what more could a pep rally ask for? Prizes. As the final event of the pep rally, a flat screen television was given away to a lucky raffle winner.

As the spirit-filled students started to filter out of the gymnasium, Dinkus 9 once again hit the stage. This time, however, it was not just for two songs, but for a full set of original and cover tracks. The 40 or so people who stuck around were lucky enough to hear songs like "Muscles" and a cover of Sublime's "Parasite".

At 11:00 p.m., when the band finally called it quits, the last of the students left the gymnasium. Although the word "Homecoming" is usually synonymous with the words "football team," RIT proved that its pep rally could do just fine without one. •



RITchie and Dee Dee Dubois "embrace" each other to liven up the crowd while Destiny Spice watches during the Pep Rally on Thursday, January 9. Denis Rochefort/REPORTER MAGAZINE

Word on the Street

How can RIT increase school spirit? compiled and photographed by Johanna Miller

1 “Free food would increase spirit. The Sopranos marathon was really good so maybe more events along the lines of that. Speakers are always a plus too.”

Matt Koch
First Year
Math

“Lower the cost of tuition.”

2 **Jason Kehoe**
Second Year
Wood

“Replace the tiger mascot with Jenna Jameson.”

3 **Joey Mac**
Second Year
Film/Animation

“They should put up more signs all over the place so more people will go to the events. I’ve never been to any events here because most of the time I don’t know that they are happening.”

4 **Lindsay Monroe**
Third Year
Information Technology

“A football team would really help school spirit. We need a sport that we are actually good at and that people like to watch.”

5 **Erin Reiser**
Third Year
International Business

“Communication between the students and RIT is key. Publicizing and getting the word out on what events are occurring will help unite the student body.”

David Lickstein
Third Year
Industrial Design

“I think that Student Government does a good job with campus events and it is up to the students to get involved. More publicity would probably help with the participation.”

Megan Lessard
Third Year
Photography

“Certain people do have school spirit, like people at hockey games, but outside of them, I don’t think that RIT or Student Government can do anything to improve it. Some people just don’t care and are never going to change.”

Katie Duran
Fifth Year
Interior Design

“RIT needs more exciting events. A rival school would help increase spirit at sporting events.”

Meng Jiang
Third Year
Computer Engineering

“RIT should make students want to be here because right now, most of them don’t. Students always have their nose to the grindstone and need a more social environment.”

Matt Weinstock
Second Year
Computer Engineering

“It would be good if Student Government took a survey to find out what kind of events students would like to go to rather than having events that no one is interested in going to.”

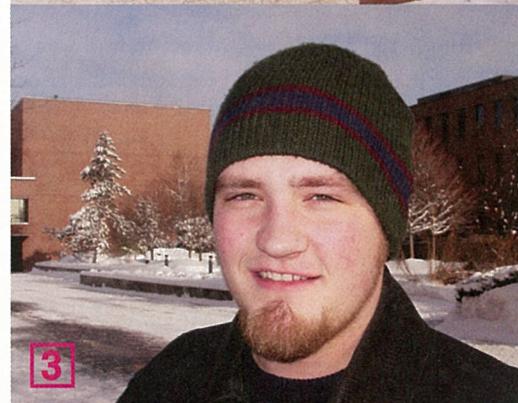
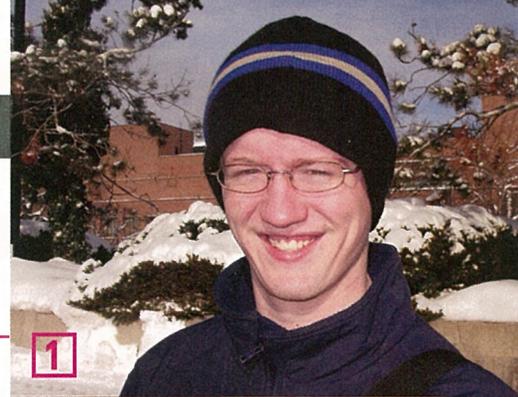
Lisa Rosenberger
First Year
MIS

“Find something engineers like to do.”

Quoc Khanh Ngo
Third Year
Industrial Engineering

“Most people don’t know about events that happen on campus. Maybe some banners or flyers around the residence halls would be helpful. Cheaper tickets to events, free food, and prizes would be great!”

Myong Choi
First Year
Undeclared Engineering
and
Bo Song
First Year
Industrial Engineering



SPORTS



Senior Daniel Cerro struggles to gain control of a rebound from St. John Fisher freshman Frank Stirpe on Friday, January 10, 2003. The Tigers defeated Fisher 65-55. Edmund Fountain/REPORTER MAGAZINE

Women's Hockey

RIT posted their first loss of the season on January 3, as Rensselaer held on to a 1-0 shutout. The Tigers out shot the Engineers 29-20, but it was not enough to get past RPI goalie Rosina Schiff.

In their second game of the two-game series, RIT was able to defeat RPI 3-2 with a winning goal by Kasie Strong. The first goal came when Jen Gorczynski took a shot off of the assist from Alysia Park.

The next score came from Jennie Nicholas off an assist from Gorczynski. At the end of the first period, RPI was able to shrink the lead back to one goal with a power play score.

After a scoreless second period, Strong scored on a one-on-one breakaway off of the cross pass from Merrick Jensen.

RPI was able to put another goal on the scoreboard, but did not have enough to get past the Tigers, currently 12-1-0 and ranked ninth in the country. The team will be on the road against Southern Maine January 18 and 19.

Men's Basketball

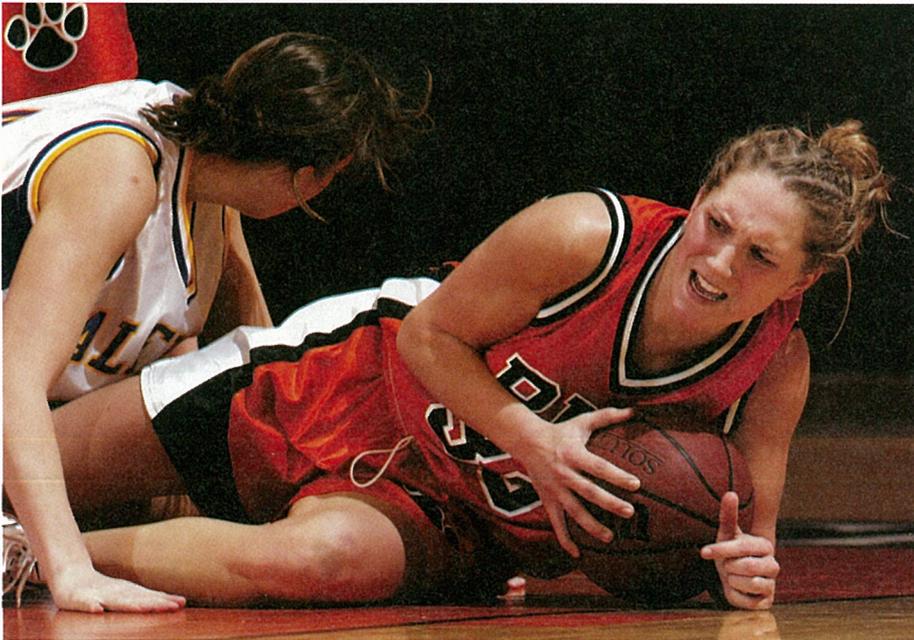
The Tigers opened the New Year with the Penn State Behrend Tournament. The team defeated D'Youville College 70-60 on January 3.

At halftime the Tigers trailed by three, but Sean Murphy put the team ahead hitting four of six three-point attempts, accumulating 22 points for the game. Mike Stanton earned a double-double with 13 points and 11 boards.

DESK



Team USA's Josh Sciba (#8) scores against RIT's Tyler Euverman during the second period of the exhibition game at Ritter Arena. Johanna Miller/REPORTER MAGAZINE



Tonya Campbell earns an RIT possession during their Saturday, January 11 victory over Alfred. Andrew Schafer/REPORTER MAGAZINE

BY TIM JOHNSON

In the championship game, RIT fell short to Penn State Behrend, despite a second-half rush. The Tigers trailed by five at the half, and were unable to close the gap in the final period of play.

All-Tournament team honors were given to John Johnson, as he scored 12 points and grabbed five boards in the championship.

The Tiger's conference play begins on January 10 when they host the St. John Fisher Cardinals. The JP Morgan Chase Tournament will take place January 15-18. The Tigers will be on the road to face Ithaca and Elmira on January 24 and 25.

Men's Hockey

The men's hockey team bounced back from their first loss of the season and started the New Year with a 5-1 victory over Amherst in a non-conference match on January 3.

The score was 1-0 in favor of Amherst until Michael Tucciarone scored his first of two goals for the game at the 13:37 mark of the first period.

Assists were given to Mike Tarantine and Jason Chafe. 39 seconds into the second period, Ryan Fairbairn scored the eventual game-winner. Adding to the lead were Sam Hill and J.R. Holmes each with a goal. Goalie Tyler Euverman racked up 27 saves including some crucial one-on-one stops.

On a roll, the Tigers sealed a 6-2 victory over Williams thanks to a hat-trick by Hill and 36 saves by Euverman on January 4.

Scoring first for the Tigers was Mike Bournazakis, who later became the eighth player in RIT history to earn 200 career points with an assist. Rounding out the first period offense was Roberto Orofiamma giving the Tigers a 3-0 lead.

The team is currently in an eight-game home stand, and will play Plattsburgh on January 18, Cortland on the 21st, and SUNY Oswego on the 24th. All games are at 7:00 p.m. in Clark Gym.

Wrestling

The wrestling team finished with a record of 1-2 at the Pennsylvania/New York Duals hosted by Kings College. The Tigers defeated Scranton in the first round by a score of 35-13, but then fell to Lycoming 34-11 and Kings 31-10.

Number one ranked 165-pounder Pat North remains undefeated for the season, holding a personal record of 13-0.

The next major tournament for the Tigers will be the New York State Tournament, which will take place in Buffalo on January 17 and 18.

Women's Basketball

In their first game for the New Year, the women's basketball team could not keep up with the University of Rochester, currently ranked 11th in the D3Hoops.com poll. The Tigers fell 68-41 on January 7.

RIT found it difficult to score against U of R and didn't score until Adria Lewnes made a shot 10 minutes into the game.

Lauren Long, who led RIT scorers, brought the score to 15-31 at the end of the first half.

The Tigers improved their shooting percentage in the second half, making 10 of 32 shots, but were unable to gain any ground on the Yellow Jackets.

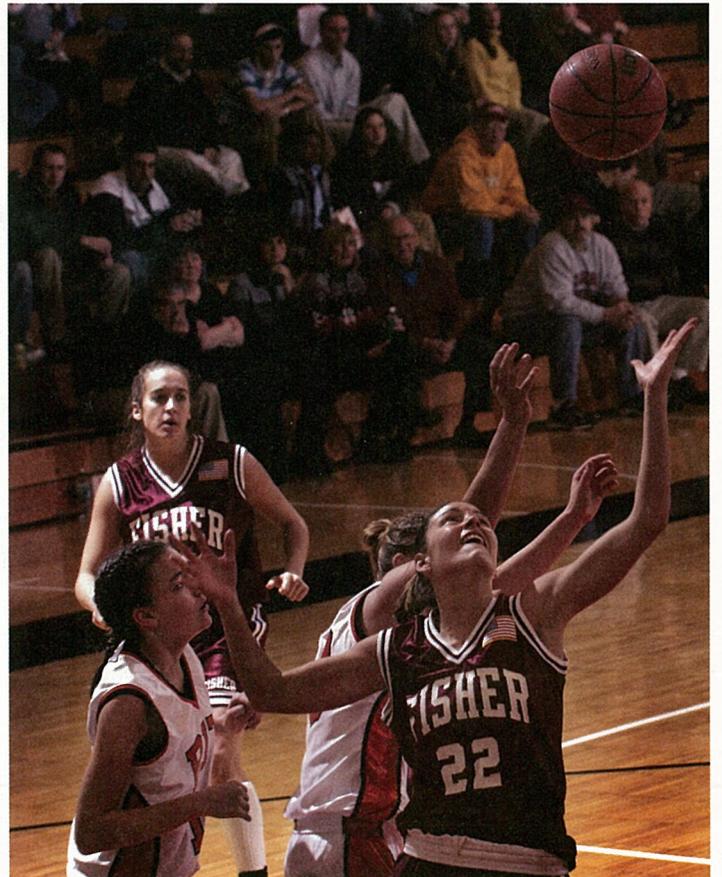
The team will also compete in the JP Morgan Chase Tournament, which will take place January 15-18. •



RIT's Jason Chafe (#10) skates in to assist Roberto Orofiamma (#16) battling Team USA's Bobby Selden. Team USA went on to beat the Tigers 5-2 on Friday, January 10, 2003. Johanna Miller/REPORTER MAGAZINE



Adria Lewnes shoots a layup for RIT against the University of Rochester in an away game at U of R. RIT was defeated 41-68. Matthew Apgar/REPORTER MAGAZINE



RIT's Katie Rothhaar watches as St. John Fisher's Vanessa Bentley (#22) goes for the rebound. Matthew Apgar/REPORTER MAGAZINE

St. John Fisher guard Mike McGee and RIT center Jesse Foote reach to gain control of the ball on Friday, September 10, 2003. RIT defeated St. John Fisher 65-55. Edmund Fountain/REPORTER MAGAZINE



RIT student Lauren Long shoots for the layup in an away game at the University of Rochester. Matthew Apgar/REPORTER MAGAZINE



A 'Long' Way to go for Women's Basketball Team

BY TIM JOHNSON

Lauren Long and her team strive for success

The past four years have been anything but smooth for the women's basketball team, with numerous coaching changes and some relatively disappointing records. This year however, things are finally starting to turn around with new head coach Debbie Buff. Senior co-captain Lauren Long couldn't be more pleased with the coaching situation. "Coach Buff is exactly what this program has always needed. She's got the drive and the experience—she's just awesome," said Long.

Having already doubled their number of wins from last season, Long is confident that the team will continue to improve throughout the season. Long said that the games have been very exciting this year, sometimes despite what the final score may reveal. "Every single game we've played so far this year we've been making improvements, and that is our most important team goal; to improve with every game," said Long.

Long went to high school in Cleveland, Ohio, where she played basketball for four years at a very competitive level. Although she wanted to keep basketball in her life throughout college, she didn't pick a school based on where she would be able to play.

She chose RIT for the photography program, and was able to get on the team after she had made her decision. Long also was a member of the crew team for two and a half years, and although she enjoyed the sport, she realized that it was simply taking up too much of her time.

So far, Long is having a great individual season this year. She leads the team in scoring, averaging 15.2 points per game, and in rebounding with 11.2 boards per game.

"Lauren is our most consistent player this year," said Buff. "She's been an outstanding vocal leader. Her leadership on and off the court has taken this team to a good level."

Although Coach Buff is pleased with the team's performance so far, she adds that she has very high expectations. "The fact is that we're actually competing this year as compared to prior years, but we're trying to get better every day; we're trying to learn something and move forward," she said.

Long noted that the team is coming together very nicely, largely due to the coaching. "This is the closest-knit team I've been with so far. Coach Buff has done a great job establishing roles with the idea that everyone can contribute to the team in their own way."

One difference between this year's team and past years is there are strong players at every position. The point guard position is strong with freshman Christina Ermie, and there is depth in the shooting guard position as well as the post positions. According to Long, the team chemistry that has developed this season is based on everyone having their own role and playing that role well.

Because this is Long's fourth year on the team, she's learned to manage her time in order to stay on top of her classes and basketball. This year more than ever before, Long has made basketball her top priority.

She is conscious of the fact that this year will be her last season at the collegiate level, and she's worked very hard to get to the point she is at now. "My goal for this

season is shared with the team, and that is to compete in every single game. Before we start the game, we decide that for the next 40 minutes, we're going to give our best effort on the floor. We want to play hard from start to finish, and we're doing that so far this year," said Long.

For many basketball players, recreation backyard games are preferred to the intense competition of regulation games. For Long, the actual games are much more meaningful. She feels that the game adds an element of competition that makes the game enjoyable and more rewarding. "I always try to put forth my best effort. It's all about how hard you work and how much you want it. This is my last chance to play college basketball, so I might as well just put it all out there," she said. •

HOME ICE ADVANTAGE

Corner Crew makes life miserable for Tiger opponents

BY MATTHEW DOAK



Cliff Cummings, Laurie Needer, and Jeremy Kuster cheer for the Tigers among the rest of the Corner Crew. Denis Rochefort/REPORTER MAGAZINE

The ref is out to lunch! The ref is out to lunch!" An RIT player has just been hauled down in front of the net with no call from the referee and the Corner Crew makes sure he knows he made a mistake.

Although many RIT sporting events struggle to draw fans, men's hockey is a large exception. Ritter Arena is regularly bursting at the seams with 1,800 screaming Tiger fans. The rowdiest of these fans sit in the northwest corner of the arena in a group that has become known as the Corner Crew.

Started in the mid- to late 1980s with the motto "We are Loud and Obnoxious During Hockey Games," the Corner Crew has

participated in some wild stunts over the years. During games against former rival Union College (which has since moved to Division I), Corner Crew members threw oranges on the ice after the first goal was scored.

Today, according to the RIT athletic department, Dave "Big Goon" Faas, an RIT food service manager, is the leader of the group and is in charge of keeping things under control.

Tom Naeger, an RIT student, rings the bell after RIT's goals, and has become another leader of the Corner Crew.

The primary mission of the Corner Crew is to fire up the hockey team during the games.

"Our secondary mission is to see if we can take the other team off their game by getting them to pay attention to us," said Corner Crew member Mark Komar. The group's primary prey is the opposing team's goalie.

The crew generally consists of a couple hundred members during home games and a smaller group of 20 or 30 members who regularly travel to road games.

"For the big rivalry game at Elmira, there are probably close to 100 members who will travel," said Komar. The largest road showing of the Corner Crew took place earlier this season at Geneseo, when nearly 200 members made the trip.

Komar believes the Corner Crew plays an important role in men's hockey games. "I think that we pump up the team during the games," he said.

When things aren't going well, the Corner Crew cheers and attempts to get the Tigers back into the game. "The team appreciates what we do by raising their sticks as a team after the game to salute us," said Komar.

Groups such as Duke's Cameron Crazies (basketball), Texas A&M's 12th man (football), and RIT's Corner Crew are part of what make intercollegiate sports so much fun. "It is something that is not really there at a professional level," said Komar. The Corner Crew has borrowed only a few chants from other groups and modified them for RIT.

Komar believes that fan interest in RIT hockey is great for several reasons. The first is that people like to follow a winner. RIT has had a powerhouse hockey team for the past several seasons and also in the late 80s.

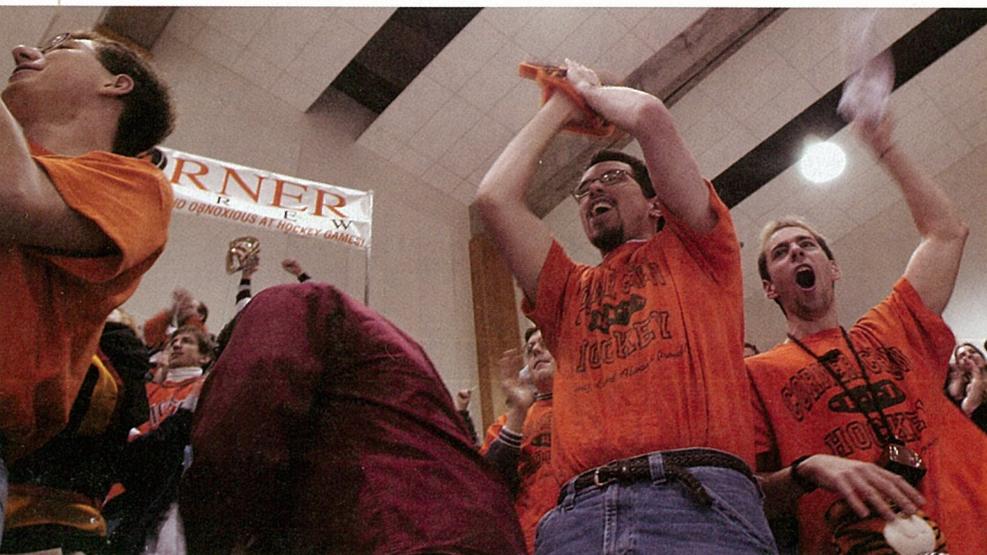
Another reason for such great support is the atmosphere of the game, part of which can be attributed to the Corner Crew and also to the entertaining sport of hockey.

He also believes the games being aired on the campus radio station plays a small part in the attendance since fans can follow Tiger hockey when the team takes to the road. This is something that can't be done with other sports on campus.

At the end of the season, the Corner Crew traditionally has a party, but other than that, there are no official meetings besides the games.

When a Tiger victory is well in hand, the sound of a car starting is played over the public address system and everyone in the Corner Crew takes out their keys and begins to jingle them. "Start the bus! Start the bus!"

You can catch the Tigers and the Corner Crew in action on Saturday, January 18 against Plattsburgh, Tuesday, January 21 against Cortland, and Friday, January 24 against Oswego.



Corner Crew members Nathan Gardner, center, and Cliff Cummings, right, cheer for the Tigers during a home game at Frank Ritter Memorial Arena. Denis Rochefort/REPORTER MAGAZINE

Downhill Dared devils

THE RIT ALPINE SKI TEAM



BY SARA STUMP

Many students on campus have an interest in skiing or snowboarding, but do not know about the RIT Alpine Ski Team. The ski team offers opportunities for skiers to compete in giant slalom and slalom style races, and offers free riding for snowboarders. A club sport at RIT, the team races against both club and varsity teams and competes in the United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association (USCSA).

The team practices on Wednesday and Thursday nights at Hunt Hollow, which is located just south of Rochester. The official coach, Pete Graffam, comes to practices and accompanies the team on the weekends to competitions. "Our coach isn't your typical ski coach," said second-year team captain Re Wikstrom. "He's more of a friend, but he keeps us in line and gives us things to work on."

Co-captain Jared Schulman has run out of years to race, but he has returned to help coach the team as well as be another leader. The team competitions always last for the whole weekend. They start their competition weekends with a drive down to Cortland, NY to ski on one of the nearby mountains. Saturday's races are the giant slalom runs, which are more of a speed event than slalom and uses longer skis.

The slalom races are held on Sundays. Slalom competitors use shorter skis and the race requires shorter turns than that of the giant slalom.

The team is allowed to take 10 varsity racers to each competition—five men and five women, and one or two junior varsity skiers.

Fourth-year Mechanical Engineering student, Walter Freitag, skis the slalom at Hunt's Hollow during a team practice on Wednesday, January 8. Denis Rochefort/REPORTER MAGAZINE

Competitors are allowed to inspect the course before their run. Each race day has two runs—one before and one after lunch.

In past seasons, the men's team has done consistently well, and has even made it to regional competitions. This year, they have the challenge of rebuilding the team after losing some of their top skiers.

The women's team has been consistent in earning fourth place in competitions. Each year, however, they get closer and closer to qualifying for regionals. Last year, the team finished only a half point away from qualifying. "The girls will really have to work together and support one another," said Wikstrom. "I just want the whole team to go out there, do their best, and have fun."

The ski team is very competitive, but they always try to have fun. There has been discussion about becoming a varsity team, but the members like the looser boundaries of being a club sport.

"If we became varsity, we would have more funding, access to facilities, and more training opportunities," said Wikstrom. "However, we feel we would lose our team dynamic. We enjoy that we are a club team that is not regimented but we can still compete."

The ski team also has snowboarders in the club. Currently, the snowboarders do not compete and just come to the practices for free-riding purposes.

Team member Ed Winters is trying to change this by starting a race team for snowboarding in the future. It is more difficult

for a snowboarding team to compete because it requires traveling further away, but hopefully there will be more interest and a team will come together in the future.

The team doesn't just practice and compete together; they have some additional events scheduled for the year.

Each year, two trips are planned for fun and cultural experiences. This year, the team will travel to Mt. Tremblant in Quebec, Canada for their pre-season trip.

In the post season on spring break, the team is planning a trip to Europe. This year's possible destinations are St. Anton, Austria, or Chamonix, France.

The team will be sponsoring a free skiing and snowboarding movie event that on February 17, 2003 called "Trans-World Undeclared Film Tour 2003."

In addition to the annual trips, the team is also thinking of going on a trip to Tuckerman's Ravine in New Hampshire for a three-hour hike to the top of a natural bowl to ski or board down.

For more information on the club, visit their website at <http://www.rit.edu/~skiwww/>.

The RIT ski team has a sense of adventure and a love for racing that allows them to have a great time while competing in a sport that they love. •

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February 2nd

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Martin Luther King Day

Monday, 27th

*Last Day To Sign-Up For
Soprano's Marathon
and Spaghetti Dinner*

Tuesday, 21st

Tuesday, 28th

The College Grind Series

CAB Event:
*Buf. Sabres vs. Pitt. Penguins
@ HSBC Arena in Buffalo*
6 pm
\$25

Men's Hockey
vs. Cortland 7 pm
Orange and White Night

The College Grind Series

Friday, 31st

Friday, 24th

CAB Event:
*"Spencer's Theater of
Illusion"*
8 pm /ngle \$5 Stu., \$10 Fac
/Staff, \$15 public

**Killington Ski Trip starts
sign-up by January 15th**



*Last day to withdraw from
classes w/ a grade of a "W"*

Men's Hockey
vs. Oswego 7 pm
Faculty and Staff Night

CAB Event:
*Soprano's Marathon
and Spaghetti Dinner*
Ritz
7 pm, Sign- Up by Dec. 27th
Free



RHA Vegas Night
SAU Caf. 7 pm
Tickets: \$3

Club Day
SAU Lobby
10-4 pm

Saturday, 1st

**Black History
Month begins**

Women's Basketball
vs. Utica 2 pm

CAB Event:
Soprano's Marathon Cont.
(No Dinner) Ritz

Men's Basketball
vs. Utica 4 pm

Wrestling
vs. Oneonta 6:30 pm

Saturday, 25th

Killington Ski Trip cont.

Sunday, 26th

Women's Hockey
vs. Sacred Heart 11:30 am

Killington Ski Trip ends

Sunday, 2nd

Groundhog Day

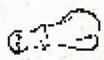
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