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Editorial: An Exchange of Information

I became a photographer because I wanted to share my pictures with as many people as possible. Photographs can show a viewer a sliver of another person's story, another culture or lifestyle, and even show someone a life they already know, but in a new and different way. By looking at photographs, we are learning. Photographers have the ability to go to the plains of Africa and share with you and teach or show you something about a place and people that you know nothing or very little about. They can also do the same with your next-door neighbor.

The photographers who contributed to this special issue are doing just that—sharing with you their world view, showing you pieces of someone else's life.

Sharing makes us better people. We share what we know, and through this transaction, others learn something new or are allowed to explore new concepts, ideas, and realms of experience. Everyone has something to offer, a life experience, that another can learn from.

Photographers are not the only people who share. Engineers share, parents share, scientists, designers, teachers, cooks, boyfriends, girlfriends, and the person who you order coffee from every morning all share. Sharing is learning—it takes place in the process of educating and educating. This exchange isn't always complex or grandiose—sometimes it happens in ways that go unnoticed, in small moments and fractional pieces of time. Every time someone writes something that someone else reads, every time art is created and enjoyed. Every time you have a conversation or meet someone new and tell them a little bit about yourself—every minute that you spend with someone you've known for years.

I feel fortunate that I belong to a great community like RIT, where sharing is a widespread epidemic that goes unnoticed, unrecognized. Because of Reporter, I've been able to share so many things with this community as well as have so many people share so many things with me every single week. I hope to continue doing so for the rest of my life.

Enjoy,

Kathryn C. Nix
Photo Editor

Table of Contents



04 The Fight to "Leave no Child Behind"



08 Down the Shore



12 Round One

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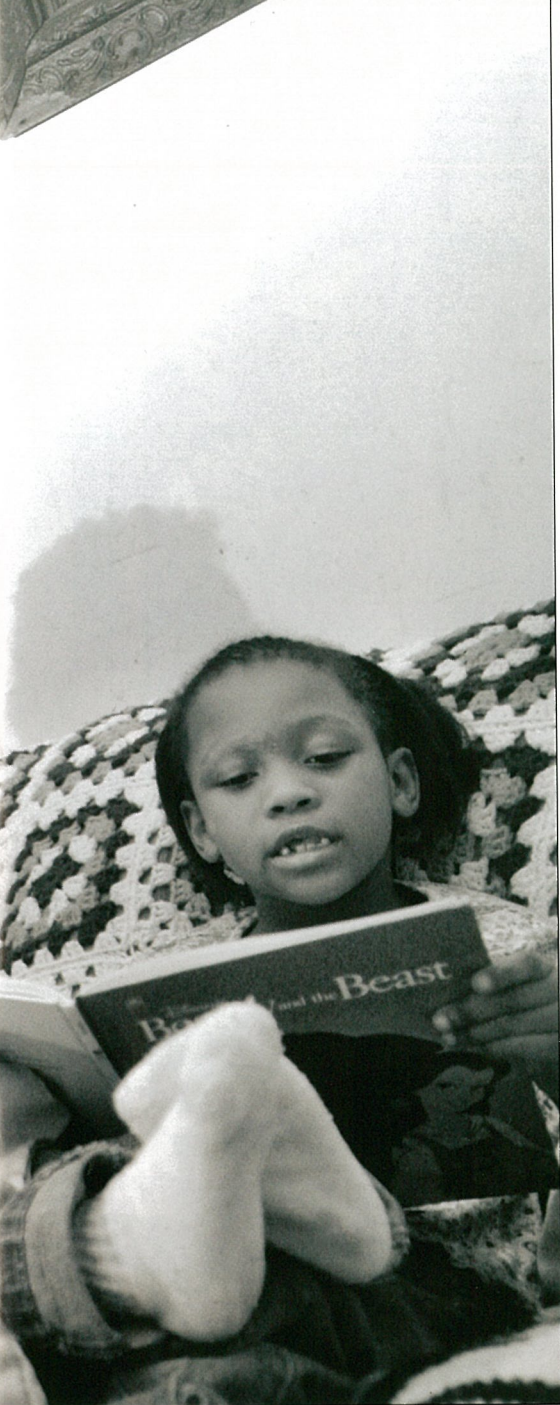
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The Fight to "Leave No Child



According to the 2000 U.S. census, New York State is home to 143,014 grandparents who are responsible for raising their grandchildren. Included in that number is Mildred, a grandparent caregiver who resides in Rochester, NY. Mildred is single, African American, female, and lives below the poverty line. Mildred is also sixty-five years old and raising five grand or great-grandchildren who vary in ages from seventeen to two years old. Mildred provides the primary care for these children, which includes cooking, changing diapers and helping with homework—without any financial support from the government. In addition to raising these children, Mildred finds comfort at weekly grandparent support meetings participates in pushing legislature for better grand-raiser support.

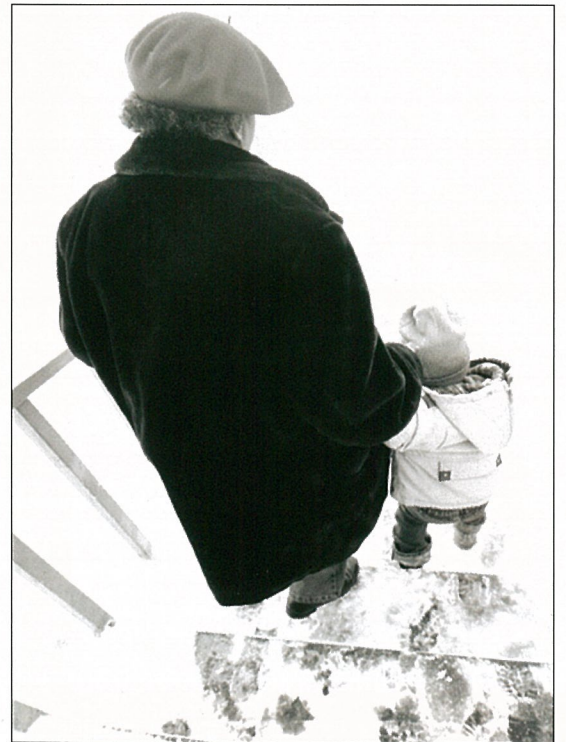


d Behind"

photographs by Kim Weiselberg

Upper Left: Mildred sits with her great grandchildren Precious, 2, and Sade, 6, while Sade practices reading her book.

Above: Mildred supervises while the children play in her living room.



Upper Left: Sade shows off her Barbie in Mildred's home.

Upper Right: Mildred helps Sade with her homework and watches Precious and Eleishh, 4, while Chastity, mother of Sade and Precious, walks out the door.

Left: Mildred attends a weekly support meeting lead by Skip Generation for grandparents raising grandchildren. The meetings, held at the Southwest Family Center in Rochester, NY, provide a place for grandparents to find emotional support, as well as financial and political education about their current situations.

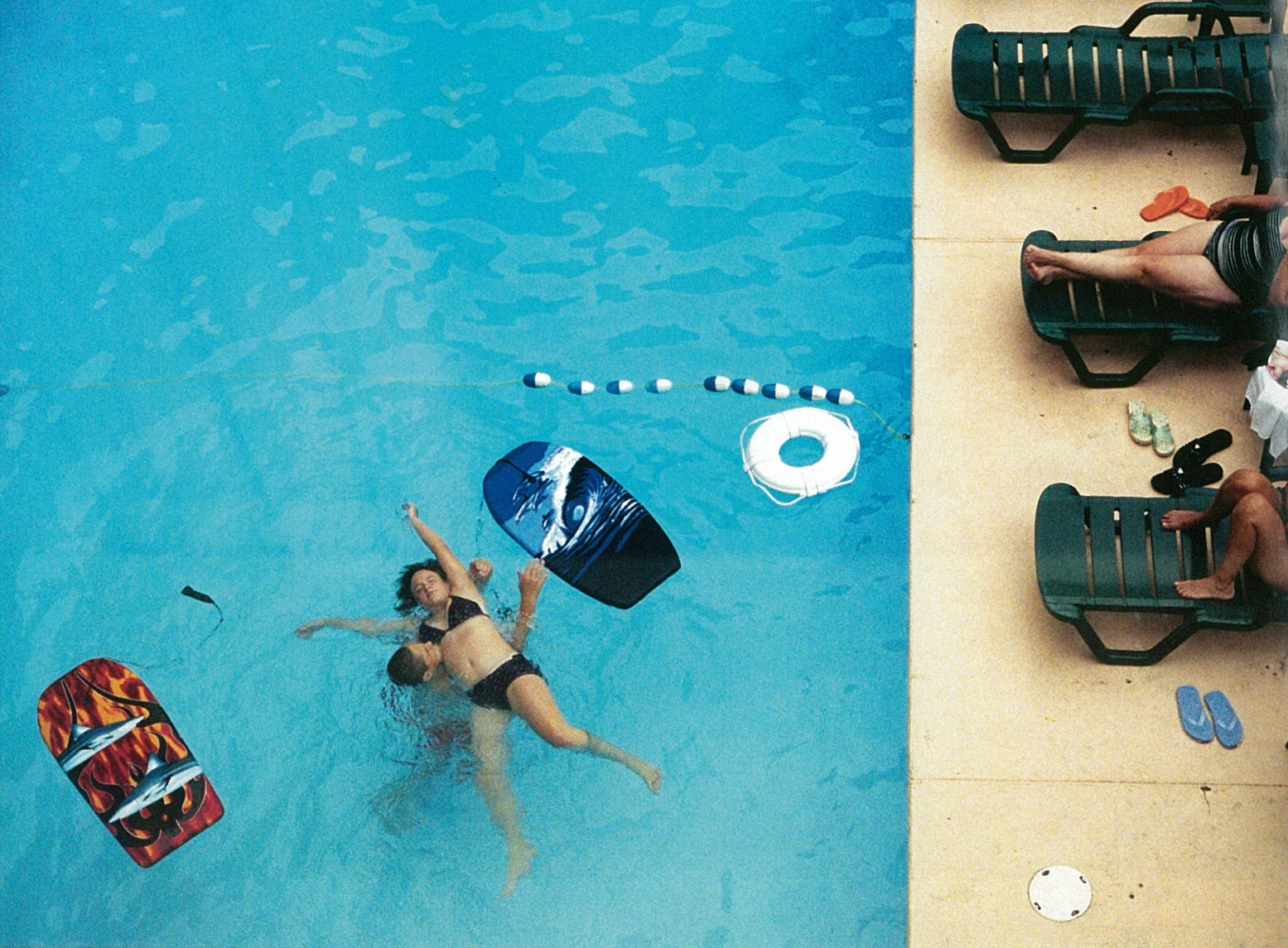
Above: Mildred and Precious leave home to pick Eleishh up from school.



We live in a society where it is “every man for himself.” The success of capitalism gave birth to an uncaring and unkind society consumed with self-absorption. As the gap between rich and poor expands, we are beginning to see just how many people are left behind. More and more individuals are born into the lower class system that is increasingly entrenched and unsupported. Unfortunate byproducts have spawned in the form of drug abuse, teen pregnancy, and increased violence. These byproducts will continue to manifest until people decide to stop seeing only themselves and start investing in all of society. Until then, we can only hope that the supply of willing caregivers won’t run out and the motivation to keep the family together won’t degrade.

Above: On Wednesday, October 15 2003, Mildred sits on a bus with twenty other grandparents who were traveling down to the Grandrally To Leave No Child Behind in Washington D.C. Mildred is reading a newspaper with an article about the grandparents who traveled down for the rally.

Left: Steven J. Perrotta, Legislative Assistant to Amo Houghton, listens to the grandparents bid for better legislation to help benefit grandparents raising grandchildren. Perrotta refutes their pleas with the simple fact that, “there isn’t money for things like that right now...we are in the middle of a war.”



Down the Shore

photographs by Eli Landesberg



Down the shore. That's what everybody seems to call it. Put the kids in the car and go down the shore for the weekend. It's a nice, easy drive from Philadelphia to the New Jersey Shore. Just cross the bridge into Camden and don't stop until you see ocean. Going across the bridge, the wind threatened to blow off my cheap, clip on sunglasses (My air conditioner had died of despair so I drove with all my windows down.) I hung my elbow out the window and listened to Leonard Cohen croak "Waiting for the Miracle" from my tape deck. They used the song in the movie Natural Born Killers and since seeing that, I've always associated the song with road trips. This was my first road trip—the first time I'd had a car that didn't seem like it would fall apart on the open road, the first vacation I'd had in four years. I earned this.

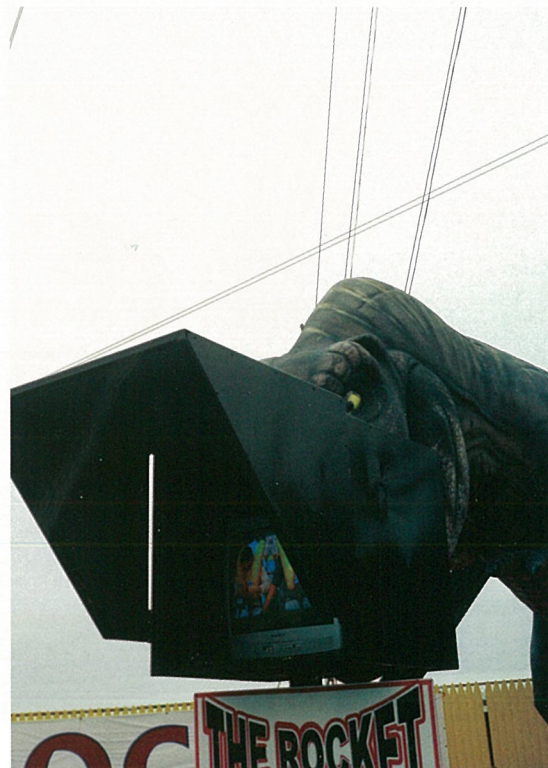
I was expecting clear blue skies, calm waves and maybe a shark sighting or two, and I was very disappointed. As I got closer to the shore, the clouds just got thicker and thicker. And lower. Pretty soon I was driving in them. I had to strain to see the casino billboards that line the highway into Atlantic City. When I got there, the ocean water was unusually cold, and the air was really humid—I couldn't see the bus full of geriatric gamblers 100 yards in front of me.

The first thing I did after I checked into my motel was hit the boardwalk. I don't know how many miles I walked over the course of the trip, but it

more than made up for the time stuck in the car. I love cheap, tacky tourist traps. My ambition is to one day take a cross-country road trip and stop at every seedy souvenir stand I can find. Being at the Jersey Shore with its arcades, carnival type amusement piers and more T-Shirt stores per square mile than anywhere—well, I was pretty happy.

And, with good reason. Whatever anyone says about wanting blue skies in their photographs—forget it. I'll take a good fogbank ten times outta ten. I just loved the fog. It was like walking through a dream. People would just show up from nowhere and vanish just as quickly. Everyone was doing something, watching something. There were guys staring dumbfounded at a trapeze act, a woman canon-balling off of a water-slide, men singing songs from their youth to a small crowd that was too young to know the words. A carry supervisor chewing out the kid who ran the kiddie version of the strong-man game. (You know, the one where you hit the thing with the mallet and see if you can ring the bell.) And, in one of the weirdest spectacles I've ever seen, a woman getting her caricature drawn as a choir from the Boardwalk Baptist Church of Wildwood NJ sang just a few feet away. It can't be easy to run a church in a place where a lot of the people walking around you don't really care too much for modesty.

For me, all of it was all just spectacular.



e







photographs by Eric Sucar

Round



Boxing is defined as a sport of fighting with fists—also called pugilism and prizefighting.

Since World War II, boxing has existed amid corruption and, at times, chaos. Rising admission prices, restriction of title fights to closed-circuit television, the proliferation of organizations claiming to sanction fights and proclaim champions, financial scandals, ring injuries and deaths, monopolistic practices by promoters, and claims of exploitation of lower-class fighters have threatened its appeal. However, the sport continues to attract huge audiences and investment.

The following story illustrates the training of twenty-one year old Teddy Oyphanith for his first amateur boxing match in November of 2003. Trainer Anthony Romano was recommended to Teddy with a reputation of having unique teaching methods and success with other young boxers. The training lasted a little over a year.

Teddy went on to win his first amateur fight and recently won his first pro match. Today, Teddy trains for a possible fight in Puerto Rico in June of 2004.

The images emphasize his training, routine, and his relationship with his trainer in the three months prior to his first amateur fight.

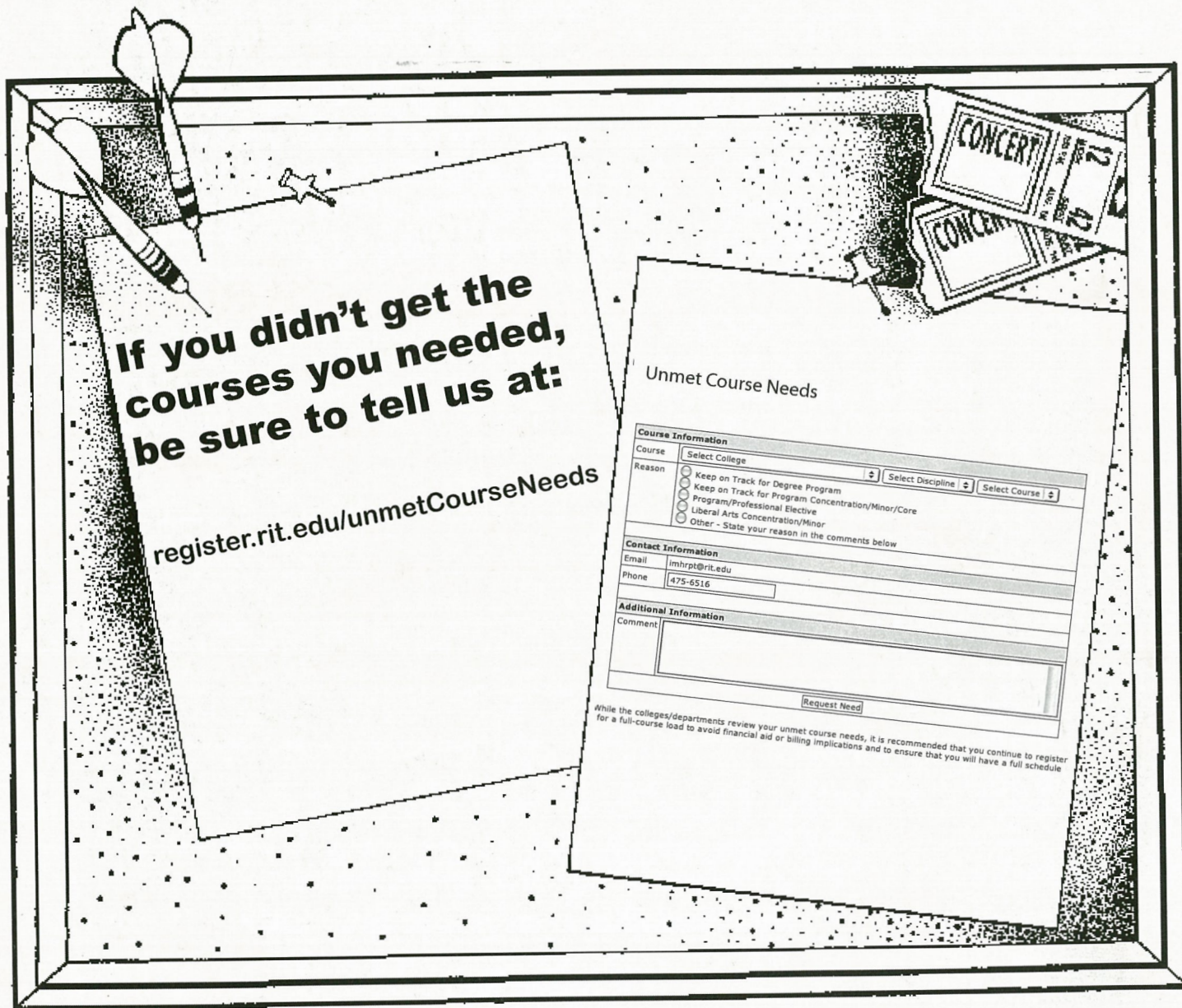
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