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Happy Holidays

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EDITORIAL

Get in the Game

In one of my favorite episodes of *Sports Night* (an amazing show written by a pre-*West Wing* Aaron Sorkin that ABC cancelled several years ago), Dan (one of two sports anchors) is conflicted as to what organization or cause he should donate part of his disposable income to. He goes to Natalie, one of his coworkers, for advice, lamenting that there are so many good causes, so many people who could use the extra help that he doesn't know where to start. Natalie replies, "There's really no end to what we can do. You know what the trick is? Get in the game."

This week, *Reporter Features* Editor Ben Foster sat down with USAF Col. Lance Dickinson (see pg. 20), who, like the thousands and thousands of men and women who serve our country in the Armed Forces, did just that—got in the game and sacrificed a great deal in order to help bring a little peace to an area in turmoil. As I write this, upwards of 138,000 American soldiers are in Iraq, with more headed to the region to prepare for January's democratic elections. And that's only Iraq, to say nothing of Afghanistan, Israel, or any number of posts all over the world. This, of course, is an incredible sacrifice for both the soldiers and the families they leave behind (see page 22) and I can't even begin to quantify or qualify it, so I won't. I'll just say a very sincere, heartfelt, "Thank you. Please come home safely."

I think we could all use a little more peace in our own lives. And while fighting for it on the other side of the world isn't the right way to go about it for most of us, that doesn't mean that we're unable to do small things here and there to make a difference. The trick is, of course, getting in the game in your own way, however small.

As follows is my grown up Christmas list, what I'm asking each and every person I know to do this holiday season to spread a little more peace here and there:

Give at least five dollars to your charity of choice. None of us really has a ton of money to spare, what with worrying about taking care of the whole food and shelter thing, but so many have so much less. Just think of what would be possible if every single one of RIT's approximately 12,000 undergraduates gave \$5 to a charity—that would equate to \$60,000 in charitable donations. Imagine the possibilities if everyone gave a little bit. If passing over your cash is truly something that you can't manage to do this holiday season, give the gift of your time instead. You'll be surprised at what a few hours of helping out at a soup kitchen, the Boys and Girls Club, the Salvation Army, etc. can do.

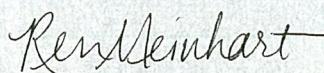
End an argument with an estranged friend or family member. The holidays are no time to be at odds or out of touch with the people that you care about. Be the one to reach out and offer to make any current arguments, differences, or damaged prides a thing of the past. Be less stubborn, more giving and open. Sometimes making the first move makes all the difference.

Write a letter speaking your mind. Tell your incumbent Senator, President, Congressperson what you'd like to see from them in the coming year. Tell the head of a major corporation why you don't like their effect on the environment or their propensity for child labor. Tell the *New York Times* or the *Wall Street Journal* what you think of their editorial coverage. We all have opinions and all have a responsibility to the public discourse—say your piece and then make your peace.

Say Thank You. Thank your bank teller, grocery store cashier, flight attendant, deli owner, dentist, neighbor who holds the apartment building door open for you, movie ticket taker, bursar's office window person, dormitory cleaning lady, toll booth operator, etc. If this individual is wearing a name tag, by all means, add his or her name after it. Too few people take the time to do this and often these individuals run in to so many rude people that your two seconds of kind sentiment will make all the difference in their work shift/day.

Slow down a little. Sometimes, and especially during the holiday season, we get so overcome with rushing from point A to point B that we fail to notice the people that we cut off in the parking lot, that we fail to hold the door open for, or cut in front of in line. From time to time we don't even notice the people that we shortchange in our own lives. So, drive a little slower (and safer), be a little more patient in the stores, and make a little more time for the people in your life.

Finally, the staff of *Reporter* would like to wish you and your family a very happy holiday season and a safe winter break.



Ren Meinhart
Editor in Chief

cover illustration by Bill Robinson

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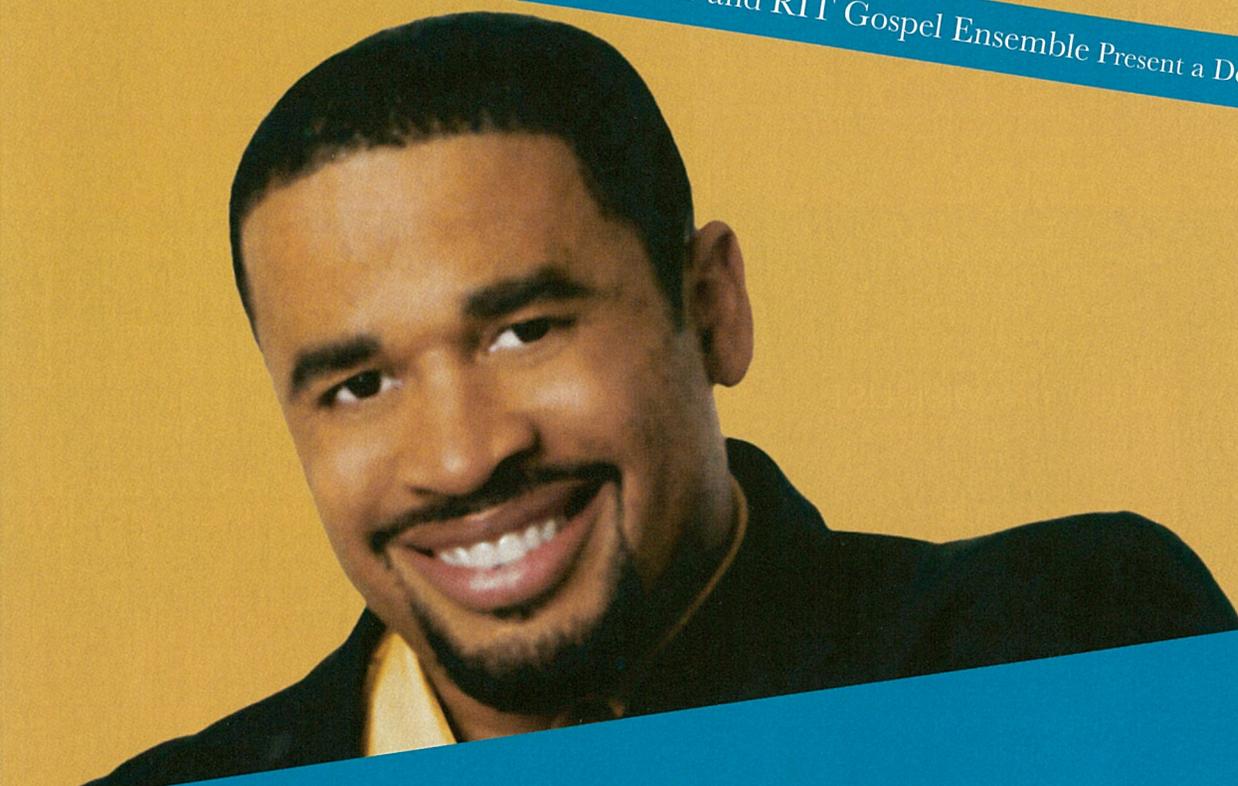
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A student walks past the liberal arts building on Saturday, December 4, 2004. Eric Sucar/REPORTER Magazine

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The Center for Campus Life, North Star Center and RIT Gospel Ensemble Present a December Holiday Concert



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in concert

December 11, 2004

8:00 PM

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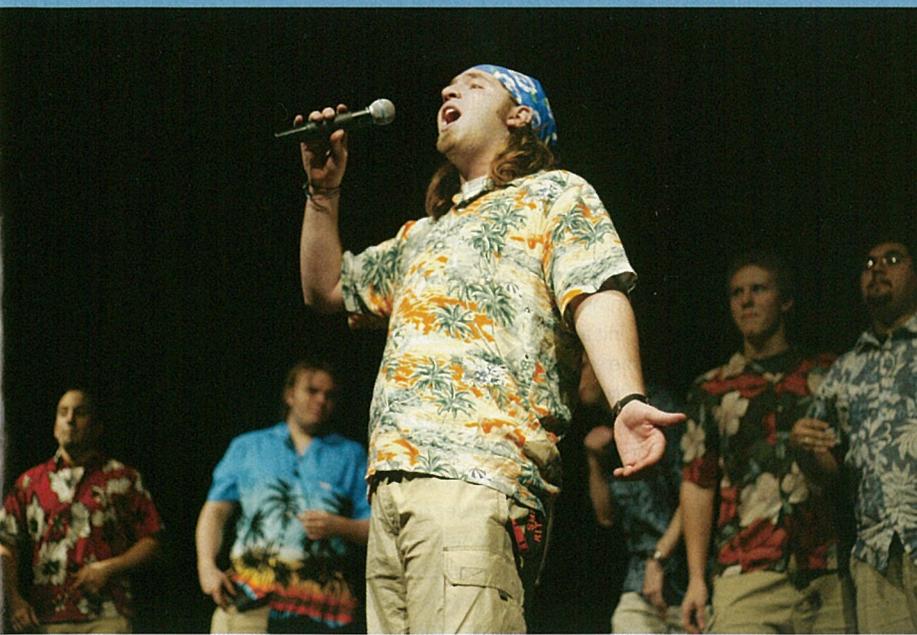
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Nicholas Hardenburg, member of the Brick City Singers, sings a solo as an opener of the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella.

No Music, No Problem

RIT Brick City Singers Host A Cappella Competition

by **Brenna Cammeron**
photograph by **Kim Weiselberg**

The unique sound of a cappella—music performed with no accompaniment other than the harmonization and percussion of the singers themselves—filled the Ingle Auditorium on Friday night, December 4. RIT was a host for the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA), for one of five preliminary competitions in the midatlantic region. This competition, which will eventually culminate in a final round at the famous Lincoln Center in New York City, is held every year at various college venues across the nation, and features some of the best a cappella talent in the world. RIT performed in an ICCA competition last year, but this year it was the Institute's privilege to host this exciting event, as opposed to competing.

Friday night's 7:00 p.m. competition featured performances from six different groups. The performance order of the groups was randomly chosen and was announced that evening from the stage. Each group had only 12 minutes to perform their chosen program. RIT's own Brick City Singers started the night off with a spirited performance of *Dr. Worm*, originally performed by They Might Be Giants.

It was soon time for the competitors to take the stage. Ithaca College's Ithacappella, a 19-member all-male chorus that has been in existence since 1996, served up one of the night's highlights with an amazingly well choreographed medley of Michael Jackson hits, including "Thriller," "Billy Jean" and "Beat It". This group's commitment to pleasing the crowd was evident in its sense of humor. One of the chorus members prefaced the Michael Jackson number by saying, "This is a tribute to a great man...before he went crazy."

Cornell University's Class Notes performed next. This 11-member co-ed group featured a mix of classic and modern a cappella numbers, including Counting Crow's "Accidentally in Love" and "Gloria in Excelsis Deo."

Next, the University of Rochester's Midnight Ramblers shook things up with their renditions of "Stuck in the Middle With You" and "I Believe in a Thing Called Love." This group of 14 males was founded in 1998, yet they have already recorded four full albums and expect the release of their fifth album later this year.

After a brief intermission, the a cappella madness continued. Cornell's Key Elements, a small co-ed

group that was founded in 1989, performed crowd pleasers such as Aerosmith's "Pink" and a particularly heartfelt rendition of the Beatles' "Come Together."

Lafayette College's Cadence, the evening's only all-female group, seemed a popular favorite with their performances of Maroon 5's "Harder to Breathe" and the Weather Girl's "It's Raining Men." This group, which has been in existence since 1990, is in the process of recording its second CD.

SUNY Potsdam's Pointercounts, another all-male group, serenaded the audience with crowd pleasers such as The Calling's "Wherever You Will Go." The Pointercounts, who were founded in 1993, closed the night's competition.

Despite the obvious talent of all six groups, it finally came time for the judges to pick the winners of the night's competition. While they deliberated, it was time for RIT's tremendous a cappella talent to once again take the stage. Tom Guzewich, a third year baritone who emceed the competition, joined the Brick City Singers in singing favorites such as Phil Collins' "In the Air Tonight" and Nickelback's "Hero."

Eight Beat Measure, RIT's small a cappella group with a big sound, provided one of the most entertaining performances of the night with a spirited rendition of "What Shall We Do With a Drunken Sailor?" by Parker and Shaw.

Tension hung in the air as the judges came back from deliberation. The award for Best Vocal Percussion went to Marc Hoffman of SUNY Potsdam's Pointercounts, and Toni Ahrens of Lafayette College's Cadence won Best Soloist for her heartfelt performance of the 50s classic, "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You." Third runner-up was given to Cornell's Class Notes, and Lafayette College's Cadence won second runner-up. Ithaca College's Ithacappella won first runner-up. The University of Rochester's Midnight Ramblers took the coveted first prize—and the opportunity to move up in competition and eventually compete in New York City.

The smiles on the faces of everyone—winners and losers alike—left little doubt in anyone's mind that the night was a huge success. Although the University of Rochester's Midnight Ramblers are the only group that will advance in the competition, everyone involved seemed genuinely glad to have participated in the night's activities. Meanwhile, the Brick City Singers and Eight Beat Measure had the opportunity to impress the audience with their impressive a cappella skills without the anxiety of being judged in the competition.

All in all, the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella was a huge success for RIT. There's no doubt that the event helped to raise awareness of RIT's a cappella talent, as well as the a cappella talent from so many other colleges in our area. •

Starring RIT

by Casey Dehlinger

Many students and faculty members at RIT are probably unaware that they are walking all over a star. Featured in the documentary *RIT 175: Rochester and its Institute*, the Rochester Institute of Technology hit the small screen last Wednesday, December 1 on WXXI, PBS channel 21 (11 on cable). Those walking upon the star of this documentary are probably equally unaware of many facets of the Institute's history, the many occasions when RIT came tragically close to ceasing to exist, and the many competitive services and majors offered by the Institute's eight colleges today. This film hit the big screen in Ingle Auditorium twice on Friday November 12th and both audiences, each a mixed group faculty, guests, and students, gave an enthusiastic response to the 52 minute feature.

The film was produced by Malcolm Spaul, a professor of the School of Film and Animation, and David Cronister, who is the director of the Educational Technology Center. The initiative began a little over a year ago, when Cronister approached longtime coworker and friend, Spaul, with the general idea for the film. Spaul, in turn, agreed to direct the film and began writing a concept paper, which was presented to a committee dedicated to the preparation and execution of RIT's 175th anniversary activities. However, this proposal was barely the beginning of preproduction. A treatment and budget were drawn up and presented. Whereas the proposed film was expected to run for 26 minutes, the final cut comes in at about 52 minutes. The budget for the film ran at an estimated \$2000 per

minute of film, but this was for the initially planned half hour documentary. By the end, approximately \$80,000 was spent by the Institute, while the rest of the related costs came from contributions of those generous enough to provide help, either on the set or by providing equipment. One major contributor of the latter was WXXI, the station airing the television premier of the film. According to Malcolm Spaul, WXXI was partnered up with the production from the very start and was an incredible help to the making of the documentary, in addition to being an obvious key to the final requirement of any production: its presentation to its audience.

The film itself has a rather energetic pacing for a semi-historical documentary, structured in a way that prevents the viewer from being bored by long segments of history. The history is split into three sections; each narrated by a different member of RIT, including the provost, Stan McKenzie. These narrators tell the candid tale of RIT's rises and near-falls, leading up to its current thriving state. Although the history is actually rather fascinating, the rhythm of the film provides for several other segments, four of which are dedicated to RIT's current endeavors, such as the Institute's art departments (which are quite astounding given the fact that RIT is a technical institute), the relationship between RIT and local industry, and RIT's recent progress in globalization.

The other insert segments are student-produced; created by students of Spaul's who took Real World Production class in the Spring Quarter of 2004. Besides helping on

the film, the students had to make short films for the class, several of which made the final cut. As an added bonus, the filmmakers whose segments were worthy of the documentary were paid for their contributions. Of the class of about a dozen students, a little less than half had this honor, and their presence in the film is seamless; of an equal caliber of professionalism as the rest of the film. Most of them are the personal stories of students here at RIT, explaining how the Institute made them realize their dreams or merely taught them how to pursue these dreams. They are a memorable highlight of the movie, not only because of their quality, but also because they are commemorations of RIT's prestigious film program, yet another cross section of the contributions of the Institute to the entire world.

As mentioned by Malcolm Spaul, "every film has a voice," and with that voice comes intent. The goal of the film, according to Spaul, was to "[make the audience] appreciate how a small vocational school that essentially functioned at the level of a high school managed to grow into a large institution." The film, as was decided by the board of trustees, is dedicated to the faculty and staff of RIT, as the film does concentrate on those employed by RIT. However, Malcolm Spaul and David Cronister felt that it was important to remember the students of RIT as well, and they are included in the final cut's dedication.

According to Spaul, it is "difficult to make a film about a place where so many people are so involved," but in the end, his main concern, despite noting that one cannot make everyone happy all the time, is to leave as much of his audience with the feeling that the film is an accurate representation of the place they have dedicated so much time to. According to the positive feedback that he and David Cronister have received, it appears that they have succeeded in accomplishing their goal. •



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BrickBeat

by Patrick Rice

School of Print Media Awarded Alcoa Grant

The Alcoa Foundation recently announced that RIT will be the recipient of a \$9,500 grant from Southern Graphics Systems, an Alcoa subsidiary. The grant money will be used to purchase equipment to be included in a new laboratory for Materials and Processes classes. By obtaining new equipment, students will be able to learn through a hands-on approach, as opposed to the current lecture format used in teaching Material and Processes.

The Materials and Processes classes teach the fundamentals of the printing industry to students enrolled in New Media Publishing, Graphic Media, and Print Media. The School of Print Media was brought to RIT in 1937 and is world renowned as being the premier school for graphic arts education. For more information on the School of Print Media visit www.rit.edu/~spms/index.html.

Letters to Eleanor

Retired Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Paul Bernstein, recently released the book *Letters to Eleanor: Voices of the Great Depression*, a chronicle of the personal letters the former first lady received while her husband (Franklin D. Roosevelt) was president. The deeply personal letters tell of the hardships many Americans faced during the turbulent times of the 1930's, and how they confided in the outspoken first lady for not only words of hope and encouragement, but also for jobs, food and clothing. Perhaps the most intriguing part of the story is the fact that Roosevelt and her three personal secretaries spent each day answering roughly fifty letters. In all, Bernstein had over 14,000 letters for reference.

Bernstein served as College of Liberal Arts Dean from 1966 to 1976. He then became Dean of Graduate Studies, and served the Institute in that role until 1992.

The book is being published by AuthorHouse and is available locally at Campus Connections Bookstore in the Student Alumni Union. Hardcover copies of the book are \$19.95 while paperback copies are available for \$12.95. For more information, or to order the book online, visit www.letterstoelleanor.com.

CrimeWatch

Compiled by Andrew Bigelow

November 29

Criminal Mischief – RIT Inn

A first floor men's bathroom was defaced by having its air freshener and paper towel dispensers torn from the wall. Maintenance was notified and they repaired the items.

Auto Stripping – Perkins

A student reported his vehicle's right side was scratched while it was parked in the Perkins lot. The investigation is closed pending new leads.

Grand Larceny – Grace Watson Hall

A staff member lost her flex card, which was then used to obtain a beverage from an Eastman building vending machine. The investigation is closed pending new leads.

November 30

Burglary – Fish Hall

A student reported that an X-Box console and game left in Fish lounge for other students' use was stolen. The lounge, which was left locked around midnight on the previous night, was found to be missing the X-Box the following morning. The area was canvassed and flyers were distributed; the investigation continues.

Suspicious Condition – Fish Hall

It was reported that a large amount of marijuana was in a Fish Hall room. The residents denied the claim. A search of the room found 1.7 grams of marijuana hidden in a canister stashed on the closet floor. Monroe County Sheriffs disposed of the marijuana. The case has been referred to Judicial Affairs.

December 1

Criminal Possession of a Weapon – Fish Hall

Campus Safety was contacted about a room allegedly containing marijuana. The residents of that room were interviewed and agreed to a search of their room, which did not uncover any marijuana. However, a set of brass knuckles, an empty beer can, and a funnel were found. The case was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

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Want approximately 6,000 people to know about your club, event, or service? Easy. Just place an advertisement in REPORTER. Call our advertising department at 475-2213 for information on special RIT club and organization rates.

GALLERY **r**

ICY COOL

photograph by Ren Meinhart

On the evening of Thursday, December 2, Park Avenue was all lit up with holiday spirit as local vendors, restaurants, and galleries welcomed in the holiday season with the 11th Annual Park Avenue Holiday Open House. Rochesterians wandered up and down the five blocks that make up the commercial end of Park Avenue sampling hot apple cider and roasted chestnuts, hopping on horse drawn carriages, and listening to carolers.

Gallery r, RIT's metro showcase for contemporary art (located at 775 Park Avenue), participated in true artistic fashion, as students, faculty, and alumni of RIT's School of Art put on an impressive ice sculpting demonstration. This page, sculpture student Tom Peters, uses an electric saw to cut large chunks away from his piece before using smaller tools to add detail.

Gallery r, run by Zerbe Sodervick and a dedicated student staff, is open from 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday through Sunday and can be found on the web at www.rit.edu/~galleryr. •



Tiger Woods PGA Tour 2005

by Nathan Liebold

Every sport under the sun seems to have a wealth of game series based on it. The result is an endless string of yearly new editions that populate the used game bins, with one rehash piled upon another. The game of golf should be no exception, having undergone no major rule changes, and having added no more new pros to the game than you could count on one hand. There *is* an exception to the rule, however, thanks to this year's *Tiger Woods Pro 2005*. *Tiger Woods PGA Tour 2005* brings back the classic PGA Tour mode, packing a new Legends mode along with it. This is host to the Legends Tour and Legend Scenario mode, both welcome additions. In the Legends Tour, players go against an assortment of wacky fictional characters and real PGA pros, as the competitors become more and more challenging. This paves the way for later matches in which players test their skill against golfing legends like Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, and eventually the man of the hour himself, Tiger Woods.

Several game modes are offered, making for an extremely replayable game. Eight traditional game modes can be played with friends, including Battle Golf, a Match Play game where clubs are removed from a losing opponent's bag until all of the holes are won. Special golfing events are open for play on specific dates, determined by a system's calendar settings, adding an incentive to play often. In Skillzone, players who excel on difficult courses earn cash to use toward golfing gear.

A new feature to the game is Tiger Proofing, a sort of level editor that allows players to modify the courses. It doesn't go very deep in its modification, but allows for the creation of fun courses that are even challenging for seasoned pros.

Also new to the Tiger Woods series is Tiger Vision, a sort of sixth sense to putting that comes in handy when players are just getting their feet wet. When activated, a state of golf Zen seems to be achieved, and players see the exact path needed to send the ball home. Tiger Vision gives players a great advantage in the most difficult part of the sport, but it's only usable a limited number of times in each round.

The overall difficulty of the matches is moderate, but enough to give newcomers a good challenge. When getting started, the control scheme can seem intimidating to new players, with buttons like the left thumbstick on the Xbox controller being used to swing a club. Also, at least on the Xbox, one button controls the spin of a ball once it's in the air and another adds power to the swing. Both actions prove to be extremely useful, but the two buttons are tiny and very close to each other, occasionally causing them to get mixed up. Otherwise, the controls are quick to get used to and players will feel comfortable with them after a few rounds.

Tiger Woods PGA Tour 2005 features a highly customized character creation system called Game Face II, which has improved greatly since the previous year's edition. With an amazing level of control - down to the wrinkles on a forehead or the curve of a smile - players are able to create characters that look strikingly similar to themselves. Golf swings and celebratory dances are even customizable, and yes, the 'Harlem Shake' is an option. A lot is added to the game when you can see yourself play, so much that you can overlook the effects reality would have had on the perfect 300 yard drive "you" just hit.

Tiger Woods PGA Tour 2005 is a fun, challenging golf game that fans of any gaming genre can enjoy. This game brings back favorite features that fans will appreciate, while only adding those that make a great game better. This game is worth a try for players who have never picked up golf games before, and for those who own every one in the series. The game makers have packed in several extra modes and features alongside the solid single-player PGA Tour mode, making the game something to enjoy far past just the first few holes. •

★★★★ (out of 4 stars)

Note: *Tiger Woods PGA Tour 2005* is available for Nintendo GameCube, Nintendo DS, PC, PlayStation 2, Xbox, and (coming soon) PlayStation Portable game systems.

Holiday WishList:

Electronics Paradise

{Things that are worth you being nice to your parents for a month}

by Lisa Hawver
illustration by Michael Norton



Apple iPod

The iPod has come a long way since the original 20 GB version. Just in time for the holidays is a new U2 Special Edition that comes in jet black, complete with the band's signatures engraved on the back, a poster, and a \$50.00 coupon for "The Complete U2" collection on iTunes. The less aesthetic, but still worthy, 20 GB and 40 GB models are still available and are just as useful, not to mention cheaper. Also new for the season are the 40 GB and 60 GB photo iPods. Each model can hold just as many songs as the regular iPods, plus thousands of photos on top of that. The color screen makes this version unique with the 65,536 colors its resume boasts about.

Available at: All major electronics retailers, the RIT Bookstore, and <http://www.apple.com>

Prices: \$300–\$600

Xbox

This video game system has been out on the shelves for a couple of years, but has yet to be declared "outdated," especially with the *Halo 2* craze that began last month. With a special feature called Xbox Live, this system is sure to bring hours of entertainment online, or just playing with friends in your room.

Available at: All major electronics retailers

Price: around \$150

XM Satellite Radio – Delphi XM MyFi

New for this holiday season is the first ever "on the go" satellite radio receiver. Not only can you use the Delphi XM MyFi radio with a car adapter or home adapter; you can also take it on the go with you—simply plug in headphones to listen to your live XM radio selections. There is a minimal monthly fee to subscribe to XM service, but the non-stop, commercial-less music is worth it.

Available at: All major electronics retailers and <http://www.xmradio.com>

Price: \$350 for the Delphi XM MyFi receiver, \$10/month for the subscription

On the cheaper side for us broke college kids:

Napoleon Dynamite DVD

Admit it—you know you love *Napoleon Dynamite*. You'll have to wait until December 21 to buy a copy, but it's worth waiting for. So what are you gonna do about it? Whatever you wanna do, GOSH! Maybe, instead of the DVD, you can buy a liger. "It's pretty much my favorite animal. It's like a lion and a tiger mixed...bred for its skills in magic."

Available at: Most major electronics retailers on Dec 21. Ligers sold separately.

Price: \$17–\$20

Halo 2 Xbox Game

Ah, *Halo 2*. If you don't have it already, you are probably considered a loser in the world of video games, so I suggest buying it for the holidays. Treat yourself, or a good friend, to the world of *Halo 2*—guaranteed to make you skip class at least once. If you successfully manipulate your parents into buying you an Xbox this year, *Halo 2* is the perfect game to go with

it. The game is complete with realistic action scenes and the ability to (virtually) shoot your best friends in competition. So, you can harmlessly let out all of that built-up resentment from the last game you lost.

Available at: Most major electronics and games stores

Price: \$50

Jump Drive/Flash Drive

No matter what brand you chose, a jump drive is an ideal gift for any college student. Depending on how much money you are willing to spend, a jump drive can hold anywhere between 64MB to 1GB of files. Jump drives are small and can usually be stored on your key ring for easy access. All you have to do is plug the jump drive into any computer's USB port, and you can access files you previously stored on the drive. No software is necessary in most cases.

Available at: Most computer stores and some electronics stores

Price: \$30–\$140 •

Searching for the Cheapest in Gifts? Know Your Way Around eBay

by Elliot Jenner

eBay is a great place to shop—you can find great deals and maybe make a little money on your old stuff. As you may know, it is also easy to be tricked or swindled on eBay. Here are some tips on how to make sure you get what you pay for:

Rule 1: Be very, very careful if it seems too good to be true.

Just because eBay is cheaper doesn't mean it's okay to buy at unrealistic prices. If you see an item that is selling for a lot less than it is worth, be really sure that the seller is reliable. Items from Power Sellers (sellers who have sustained a consistent high volume of monthly sales and a high level of total feedback with 98% positive or better) are about the only time you should take a deal like this. Otherwise, you could get hosed.

Rule 2: Use PayPal.

PayPal is your friend. It is an eBay company, which enables users to easily and quickly send and receive payments online. Always be a little suspicious of someone who insists on not using PayPal.

Rule 3: Look for **accredited** sellers.

The more positive feedback a person has, the better. Power Sellers are the best—nearly 100% reliable, even at unrealistic prices. Not to say you shouldn't buy from first-timers, but be wary.

Rule 4: Always get shipping insurance.

It doesn't matter how accredited a person is; sometimes things happen. Don't let your money go to waste because the Fed-Ex guy dropped the package. Most sellers will add insurance, even if they say they don't offer it, if you ask. Also, in order to sell bad merchandise, cheaters can use the excuse of not offering insurance (it just "happened" to break in transit, "oh well.").

Rule 5: Don't ever take a deal where someone offers you a better price off eBay.

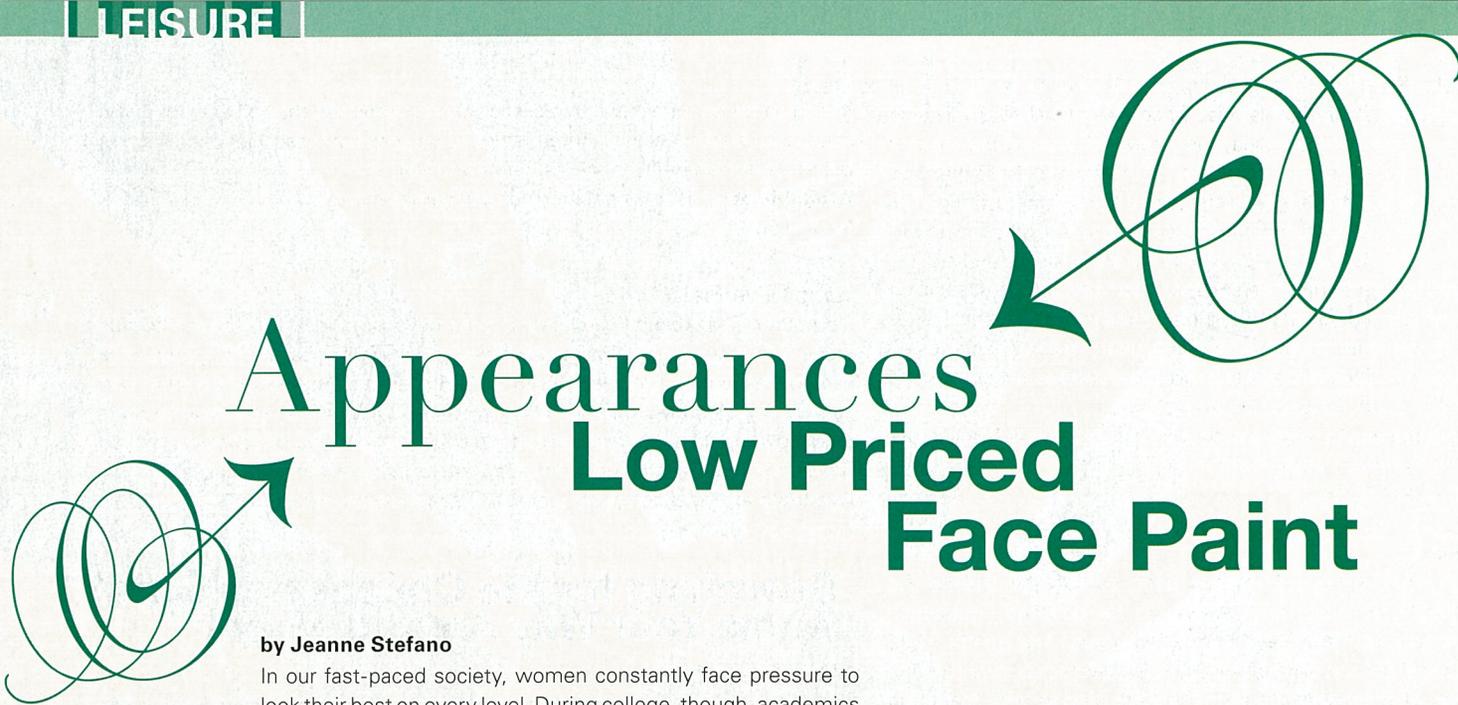
This is a sure sign they are trying to get around the system to rip you off.

Rule 6: Watch out for fake e-mails claiming to be from eBay.

If the mail includes a link to a webpage, look at the address bar. Real eBay sites ALWAYS have "ebay.com" in the name, as do PayPal sites. Any e-mail that asks you to submit your login info is false. eBay will never ask you to submit info by e-mail. If you aren't sure if a message is genuine, you can check by forwarding it, unaltered, to the anti-fraud department at www.spoof@ebay.com. •

Here are some good places to check out the items listed above (and more) for your holiday shopping:

Best Buy <http://www.bestbuy.com> | **Circuit City** <http://www.circuitcity.com> | **Target** <http://www.target.com> | **Wal-Mart** <http://www.walmart.com>



Appearances Low Priced Face Paint

by Jeanne Stefano

In our fast-paced society, women constantly face pressure to look their best on every level. During college, though, academics become the top priority and appearance often slides onto the back burner. However, for some of you, the commitment to maintaining your appearance is just as important as maintaining your academic achievements. Besides finding the time to improve your appearance, an even greater challenge is finding the funds. Looking good these days can get pricey, so here is a complete “face” of makeup on a \$40 budget.

When budgeting your makeup products, only splurge on the two products—foundation and concealer—that get applied directly to the delicate skin of your face. Here are some products that might answer your uneven skin woes. For around \$11, Cover Girl’s Aquasmooth make-up offers a smooth application for even coverage. One problem noticed is the range of skin tones that it fails to cover, so if you have an uncommon skin tone, try Maybelline’s Dream Matte Mousse for around \$8.99. Perfect skin-to-make-up matches are next to impossible, so the light weight and easy blending nature of this product make harmonizing flesh tones simpler. It should be noted, though, that many users of the mousse, who contributed their opinions to makeupalley.com (a forum for product reviews), noticed an increase in the occurrence of blemishes. If you have oily skin, this might not be the selection for you. Try instead a foundation product with a water base versus an oil base. This also allows the skin to breathe, leading to healthier skin.

Once your skin tone is even, there may be a few problem spots that still need correction, such as under the eyes and occasional blemishes. To mend these dark, attention-drawing areas, apply a well-matched concealer. I recommend the NYC Cover Stick, available for \$1.99. At this reasonable price, keep two around. One should remain with your main products, and the second should be kept with you at all times for quick and easy touchups. Now that your skin is a fresh canvas to work on, and around \$15 of the budget is used, the remaining \$25 can be spent on products to improve cheeks, eyes, and lips.

After an all-nighter of studying or writing, a splash of color on the cheeks can add life to a tired face. Because product quality and price can range a great deal with blush, purchase a product with a smooth and even appearance when applied. A product with awesome staying power would be L’Oreal’s Translucide Gel Blush. It has great endurance because the gel adheres to the surface of your skin rather than a powder blush that may brush or wipe off, and its effect is natural and subtle. The price is a little steep at around \$9.25, but it also has a dual purpose as a lip stain. The high quality and durability make it worth the price. If your preference happens to be powder blush, an excellent option would be Avon’s True Color blush. The shades are vibrant and the application is smooth and even. As Avon is not sold in any local stores, the only way to buy it is through an Avon representative or online. Either way, it is a good investment of time and money at \$6–\$8.

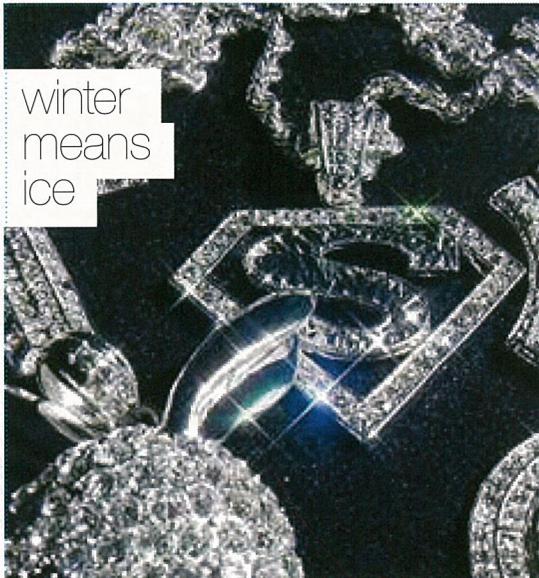
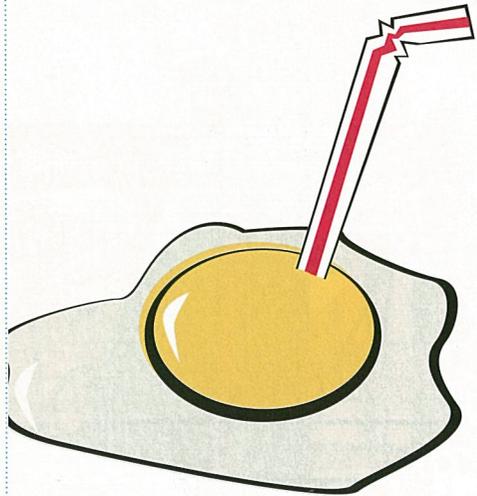
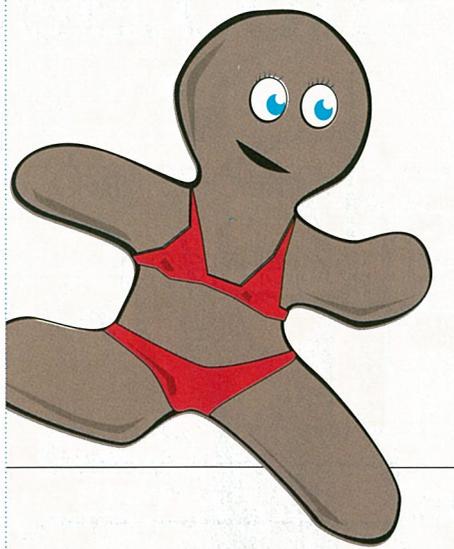
With about \$15 left in your budget, invest some money in a few eye make-up products. A convenient way for a college student to overcome the challenge of eye make-up is to try Avon’s Quick Pen Modern Crème Eye Color for \$3.99. This eye crème blends easily and lightly onto the eyelid without much fuss. To complete the eye look for under \$5, try NYC eyeliner in varying shades for \$0.99 at your local Wal-Mart. For a finishing touch on the eye, mascara is a must. I recommend Wet’n’Wild’s Curling Mascara for an affordable and eye-opening look at \$2.99.

To complete the inexpensive but quality look under budget, finish off with an excellent lip product like Neutrogena’s Moisture Shine Gloss at \$5.99. Its texture is shiny without looking drippy, and it is a great investment for the price.

If you find yourself in a time crunch before you head out to class, just swipe on some mascara and a dash of cheek color on the apples of your cheeks. This will give your appearance a quick refresher, and might even make you feel more awake. For some, a full face of make-up is not a daily routine, but at least it is possible to have all the right ingredients with some money left in the bank. •

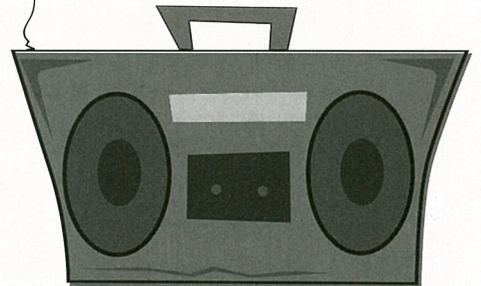
Holiday Greetings

Where else can you find six of the finest holiday greeting cards around, free of charge? *Reporter.* We've got you covered. Now you won't have to spend your money on some cheesy store-bought card that won't have half the personality of these six-thousand, mass produced greeting cards. Now you can spend your money on the important things—like real gifts for your loved ones. And a plane ticket home. Away from Rochester.



winter means ice

can't wrap?



eggnog.

to: _____
from: _____

everyone looks good
in gingerbread.

to: _____
from: _____

beatbox.

to: _____
from: _____

bling
bling.

to: _____
from: _____

slayer.

to: _____
from: _____

you light my night.

to: _____
from: _____

Happy
Holidays
from
Reporter

Surprise.com

She's going to
dump you
if you get her
a card full
of money



by Sean Hannan | illustration by Brittney Lee

In this time of gift-giving, finding the perfect present can turn into a seasonal nightmare. Overcrowded shopping centers and long lines forming to the left seem to put a damper on this joyous conclusion to the year. Of course, you could always be an ineffectual Scrooge and just get everyone gift cards, but those don't often work out either. (What am I going to do with a gift card to Home Depot? Buy some PVC pipe, a drill bit, and some aquarium sealant? I mean, *come on grandma...*)

Thanks to that space-age technology known as the internet, and in particular the web site surprise.com, holiday shopping is a cinch. Presented in a pleasant selection of tans and blues, the site is *the* premiere source for gift ideas. You needn't go elsewhere. For serious.

What truly makes the site a useful resource is its categorization of the gifts. Rather than the typical "toys 6-9" breakdown that only a statistician could love, surprise.com breaks it down by personality quirks. They have listings for people who are fidgeters, who want to win Jeopardy like Ken Jennings, or who are conspiracy theorists. By doing things this particular way, the site allows for far better gift recommendations than amazon.com's crappy "other people also bought such and such" system.

Another part of what makes this site so fantastic is that no matter what the category, the gifts are always slightly left of center. Who knew that you could get custom rubber duckies that are either dead or have devil horns? Same goes for an impressive array of drag queen dolls. Who makes these things? There are, of course, more conventional-yet-strange gifts, such as the Pop Up Hot Dog Cooker. This handy little appliance cooks two hot dogs and warms two buns in a toaster-like mechanism—an ideal present for those who refuse to learn how to cook. It may seem that this site is an online version of a Spencer's Gifts store—what with its "Luv Ewe" inflatable sheep "party" doll—but the site is so varied that you can be sure to find a gift that won't give granny a stroke upon opening.

Surprise.com could use better oversight of its content, though. For the most part it's spot-on, but when you are browsing the Dating Services listing and all that comes up are pool tables, you begin to question what exactly they meant by "dating services."

Another handy-dandy feature of the site is its ability to filter gift suggestions by price range. Let's say you have an uncle who is a Krispy Kreme maniac, but last year all he got you were tube socks. Thanks to surprise.com, you can select the "under \$30" range and simply get him a pair of Krispy Kreme boxers for \$6.95. Perfect. It's just enough to keep you in the will and at the same time convey your bottled-up disappointment.

Before you head out on a credit-card fueled gift-giving rampage, keep in mind that surprise.com does not actually have the items in question. When you find the perfect gift, the site links you to the online store that will actually sell the item and ship it to your doorstep. So in a sense, surprise.com acts as a holiday gift idea facilitator. Thankfully, the affiliated sites tend to be interesting niche retailers rather than homogenized Wal-Mart-esque corporate conglomerates. •

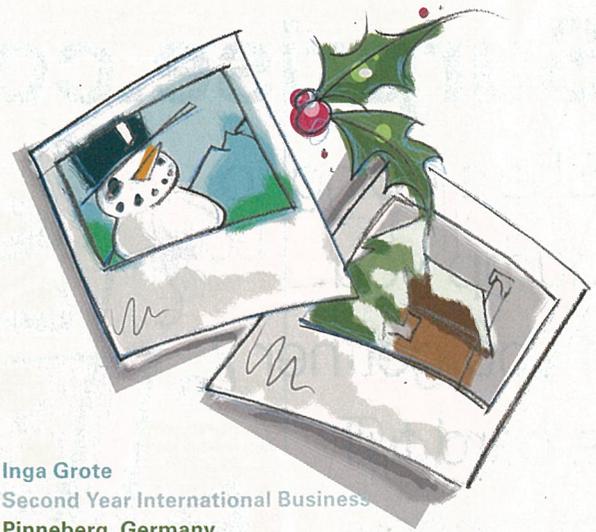
Design ★★★☆ The site is intuitive for the most part, but eager shopping can get you lost without a way to return to where you once were.

Content ★★★☆ Excellent suggestions and an innovative categorization make this site stand out, but it needs more human intervention in its picks.

Safe For Work ★★★ Comically oversized condoms are as raunchy as the gift ideas get.

Not a Fad ★★★★★ Unless this winter turns out to be a nuclear one, I doubt that the season of giving will die off.

Once Upon A Holiday



by Reporter Staff | illustrations by Brittney Lee

Everyone has a favorite holiday memory. For some of us, it's a special family tradition we take part in every year. For others, it's that one special moment that stands out among the rest. In anticipation of the upcoming holiday season, we present you with a smorgasbord of holiday memories from *Reporter* staffers and friends. Some of them, like grandma's apple pie, are the kind of experiences one looks forward to reliving every holiday season. Other memories, like week old fruitcake, simply refuse to go away quietly.

Juan Obes

Second Year Computer Engineering

Montevideo, Uruguay

transcribed by Lauren Dellaquila

This past Christmas, my family just did our regular thing. For us, that's just going over to a family member's house. We started around 7 pm eating tons of food. We usually just barbecue outside, because it's warm. Actually, it's insanely hot. So, we just eat and eat and eat barbecue and other food outside, always outside, in the pool or at the beach—whatever is closer.

This one Christmas my cousins, all of my female cousins, just decided that they would be the ones who organize the whole Christmas celebration. I have 24 female cousins. Some of them are very little, around 5 years old. They decided they were going to prepare the food.

It was pretty funny because they managed to burn the whole place down. Not the house exactly, because it was summer, so food was prepared outside. In Uruguay every house has a separate place for cooking, especially for barbecuing. What they burned down is more like a fireplace, but built specially for cooking and raised off of the ground.

They managed to burn the whole building down. So, the firemen came, and you can imagine what happened. We had to turn everything off, and then go to a supermarket. We searched for two hours for an open supermarket on the night of the 24th to get more food. We ended up eating hot dogs. It was cool though. We had fun. We danced while the house was burning down.

Inga Grote

Second Year International Business

Pinneberg, Germany

transcribed by Lauren Dellaquila

When I was four years old, my mom decided it was time for me to get rid of my pacifier. So she told me Jesus' parents were poor and they couldn't afford a pacifier for Jesus. My mom made me wrap my pacifier in some lollipops and wrapping paper, with a nice bow, I remember it looked pretty. She said "We will put it underneath the tree and Santa Claus will take the pacifier to Jesus." I was so excited! I thought "I'm grown up now and I don't need a pacifier anymore." Well, come Christmas Eve, we received our presents. We unwrapped everything and I was ready to go to bed.

It was not pretty. I was devastated. I was crying. I was screaming. I wouldn't go to sleep. I wanted my pacifier; I didn't care if Jesus had it or whoever had it. It was pretty much then when I realized that there could not be Santa Claus, and I highly doubted that Jesus did exist. I came to this realization because my mom always said "God doesn't want you to cry," and "God wants you happy." I thought, "If God loves me so much, he would not let me cry, he would just give me a new pacifier." That was when the illusion of Santa Claus went away for me. That was my traumatic experience with Jesus, Santa Claus and my pacifier.

Casey Dehlinger

First Year Film

Tonawanda, NY

One freezing night last holiday season I was stalking around the back of my house, waddling about in an oversized Santa suit, stuffed with a large pillow in an attempt to hide the fact that I weigh a modest 135 pounds, nowhere near Santa's alleged obesity. The lie was about to begin, and I was terrified.

This wasn't like the last time I had to impersonate St. Nick; that other time had been for a charity holiday party, and I didn't know the kids. That made the tragedy and idiocy of the event much less painful. On the other hand, that day, when I asked a little girl what she wanted for Christmas, she replied "I want my cousin Johnny back." I had no immediate response, unaware of whether Johnny moved to better weather or was pushing up daisies in the graveyard a few blocks from my house; which, by her understanding, would be the North Pole. To the sad looking little girl sitting on my lap, I eventually botched a response convincing enough to make her leave with a smile and a cheap



coloring book, but it reminded me too much of the Grinch sending Cindy Lou-Who off with her glass of water.

That was a week earlier, though, and on that second, freezing night I was dressed in red and white for my nephews, aged two and three. I was nervous because I knew it only takes one bad Santa to ruin the fantasy. The signal came, a knock on the back window, and I trudged to the front door to start the show. However, as I climbed the stairs to the front porch, my pillow-gut slipped out from under the belt that kept it affixed where it belonged and my feather-stuffed belly fell into the oversized pants.

Now, instead of a jolly fat belly, Santa had a jolly fat crotch. Before I could fix it, I was rushed inside and forced to play the part as if nothing were wrong. The younger of my two nephews was bawling already, so I quickly went to sit in my designated chair. However, this complicated things, as the lower two corners of my pillow stomach then fell into the legs of the pants. As I sat down, the placement of the pillow caused my Santa pants to form a foot-long crotch-level crease. The younger of the two cousins continued to bawl as the older stared on in a peculiar state of half-amazement, half-skepticism. I was terrified as well, hoping that he was questioning the gaping ravine between my legs instead of my legitimacy as Father Noel. The rest is just a blur in my mind, but all went well. Once again, coloring books saved the day, distracting my nephews from the eternal red abyss on my crotch. Frosty the Snowman was put on the tape player, and I was dismissed, allowed to sprint back around the house, strip out of my humiliation, and return from the party that had prevented Uncle Casey from seeing Santa and his misplaced belly.

Jodi Goldenberg
Third Year Photography
Plattsburgh, NY
transcribed by Ben Foster

Every year since I was born we have had this Latkes contest at my temple. It's really, really intense and competitive. Latkes, if you don't know, are potato pancakes. They are possibly the unhealthiest thing in the entire universe. Latkes are just shredded potatoes and onions put into a deep frying pan.

Making them is a big Chanukah tradition because of the oil, which has a great deal of significance. In our contest, all the parents are involved and they all make their own little recipe. There are all these Chanukah books that have all these secret recipes for Latkes.

So last year my dad won this "Iron Chef" hat and shirt. The contest ends with this huge judging. Every person judges them based on three different elements of cooking and you have to give each recipe a one to five rating. Last year, my Dad's beat out everyone else's.

[by] Ben Foster
3rd Year Computational Math
Ellison Bay, Wisconsin

Christmas for me is not steeped in the same dogmatic commercialism that seems to be the modern holiday spirit. This is not because I despise presents or mall-Santas. Certainly not! But when your father is a pastor you remember the more archaic meaning of Christmas very clearly. Rather than being a day off, Christmas is about the busiest day of the year for my family.

Last Christmas was typical of the average year. The whole family was together for about the only time we were able to manage it all year. This was not the Christmas where my brother and his girlfriend renounced their faith, that was two years ago. This was far tamer.

Christmas really begins for me at about 4pm on Christmas Eve. We all load into cars and head up to Church. Well, now all of us go except my brother. I must confess I feel a little jealousy when I leave him and his girlfriend reading peacefully on the couch.

Each year, the early Christmas Eve service begins at 5:30 and I am there to film it. My father likes statistics and is fond of telling me that about one fifth of his parishioners go to the average service, but that he will see 90% of them on Christmas Eve. A huge tree, lit top to bottom with tasteful white Christmas lights, red bows, and a large silver star sits in the church. The Choir generally turns out in record numbers and the music can be honestly breath-taking. All of the pageantry is, of course, what brings the people in and swells our church to the limits of its capacity. I take my spot, as I have for several years, in the back behind the camcorder and its tripod to record the event. An hour and a half later we pile back into cars and drive back home for a rushed dinner – nothing fancy. There isn't time because the late service starts at 10. I rehash my role as camera-man until we ring in Christmas around midnight.

I remember being exhausted most years after that second service. My parents and sisters certainly are. I guess a couple years of college has toughened me up a lot. I sit around and





shoot the breeze with my brother for an hour or so before rolling into bed.

When we were little, we would get up at the crack of dawn to unwrap oversized stockings. Our age has since postponed that tradition till later in the day, much to my parents' relief, I am sure. Nowadays, we all roll out of bed around nine, one more little task left—Christmas morning service. Almost no one goes, but my father likes to remind us that some people can't make Christmas Eve. After that our Christmas takes on a much more normal tone of food, presents, and family. Well, family plus a couple of people with nowhere to go, who are invited to Christmas dinner at their pastor's house. Our real vacation begins after Christmas. Christmas is a lot of work, a lot of giving. Which, honestly, was the idea behind Christmas at some point.

I don't really mind being on the spot. I don't mind making small talk with all the older church members who can remember when I was "this tall." I'm a pastor's kid, and that's just part of a family Christmas.

Jonathan Bove

Fifth Year Professional and Technical Communications

Rutland, VT

Transcribed by Erhardt Graeff

I remember when my sister was two years old; my father bought us a Christmas tree. Usually, my grandfather would cut down some trees from his hunting camp and give them to everyone. Dad decided to get us our own. When we brought it home though, it was too big to fit under the ceiling. So with quick decision, Dad cut off the top foot of the tree. This resulted in my family decorating a Christmas bush that year in lieu of a tree. Soon after it was up, my sister, motoring around the house in her baby-walker, chased the dog into the tree. About an hour later we began asking, "Hey, where is Bri?" Lo and behold, she had wedged herself in the tree—the walker was hung up on a branch, in such a way that her feet couldn't touch the floor.

Another Christmas, we had just moved into a new house. We had to build our own road. It ended up with a 30-40 degree grade due to the mountainside our house sat upon—which is not too steep on a triangle but really steep for a road. It was Christmas Eve and the family was packing into cars to go to mass. The snow had just begun to fall. Near the bottom of our road is an s-curve that winds through a pine stand.

When my mom reached the pines, her Jeep Cherokee slipped into a ditch as its tires lost grip on the icy road surface. My mother, sister, and grandmother were now stuck in a ditch on the side of the road.

Dad was driving the truck, and I was riding shotgun. As I recall, we had taken two vehicles so that, on the return trip from church, Santa, that is to say, my mother, could stop at my Grandfather's house to pick up our presents.

My Dad turned the truck around and attempted to take the 4-wheel drive vehicle back to the house with everyone in it. Unfortunately, he failed to get any traction on the ice and just spun around. Luckily, our next-door neighbors were able to help us out. My sister and I settled in with their kids and watched *Godzilla*, which was for some reason playing, in lieu of, say, *Rudolph*. After some classic Japanese fire, Dad finally realized that the cars would not be ascending the hill before sunrise. So we, the family, began walking up the hill to our house, holding hands to guide one another over the ice. This safety precaution was unfortunately not enough.

Grandma slipped and broke her nose on the ice, then proceeded to slide 30 feet down the hill. Like a cheesy action movie, everyone followed along and shouted "No, Grandma, no!" There was blood all over the road. It was not a pretty sight. The next day her face was mostly black and blue. It was a touchy subject, and no one wanted to bring it up, but it was hard to avoid as the bruise shone brightly against her pale face. We never did go to church that year. Dad said, "God would cut us a break." And Grandma hasn't spent the winters with us since that Christmas Eve, opting instead to stay with relatives in flatter areas of the city. •

WORLD on the street

compiled and photographed by Jodi Goldenberg



Q: What is the best gift you have ever given or received for the holidays?

1 "A box of 128 Crayola Crayons from my Grandma."

Aeryn Daboin
First Year
Ceramics

2 "Going to the soup kitchen each year for the holidays, actually devoting my time, not just a material thing."

Amy Christian
Third Year
Packaging Science

3 "As a surprise I redid my parents wedding album, fixing up all the photos that were deteriorating."

Daniel Gomes
Third Year
Graphic Media

4 "I painted a box for one of my friends that I made for her tarot cards, which are supposed to be placed in a special box."

Francheska Snyder
First Year
Biochemistry

5 "I gave my best friend a toothbrush and a whole bunch of stuff because she pretty much lives at my apartment."

Jessica Moy
Fourth Year
Marketing

6 "By receiving this gift of the RIT SPIRIT bracelet, I am also giving the gift of school pride and it is benefiting the Golisano Children's Hospital."

Matt Swain
Fourth Year
Photographic Technology

7 "I [made] a series of presents for my girlfriend; starting with film canisters where I wrote traits I liked about her, then caterpillar and pink elephant stuffed animals, followed by a surprise party where I gave her a silver pendent I made."

Tim Gasbarro
Second Year
Metals

8 "This watch where the flames move; from my girlfriend."

Zac Cracknell
Fifth Year
Civil Engineering Technology

"A Barbie dream house that I got when I was six, it was such a cool gift!"

Elaine Aiken
Third Year
Mechanical Engineering

"I received a trip to Korea for the World Cup from my dad."

Greg Buzulencia
Fifth Year
Computer Engineering

"When I was really young I was so excited when I got the Kirsten American Girl Doll; I definitely still know all the girl's names."

Amanda Loguidice
Fourth Year
Biotechnology

"I made a journal out of an old Winnie the Pooh book with photos for my big sorority sister."

Latoye Adams
Third Year
Film & Animation

"I got airplane flying lessons from my parents."

Andrew Ruestow
Fourth Year
Mechanical Engineering

"A Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Techno Dome; Shredder's Place. I was the only one who had it."

Matt Porter
First Year
New Media

"I always wanted a puppy, but I never got one."

Linda Sarris
Third Year
New Media Publishing

"A free trip to California for a friend and I, for 2 weeks!"

Breanna Johnson
First Year
Photojournalism

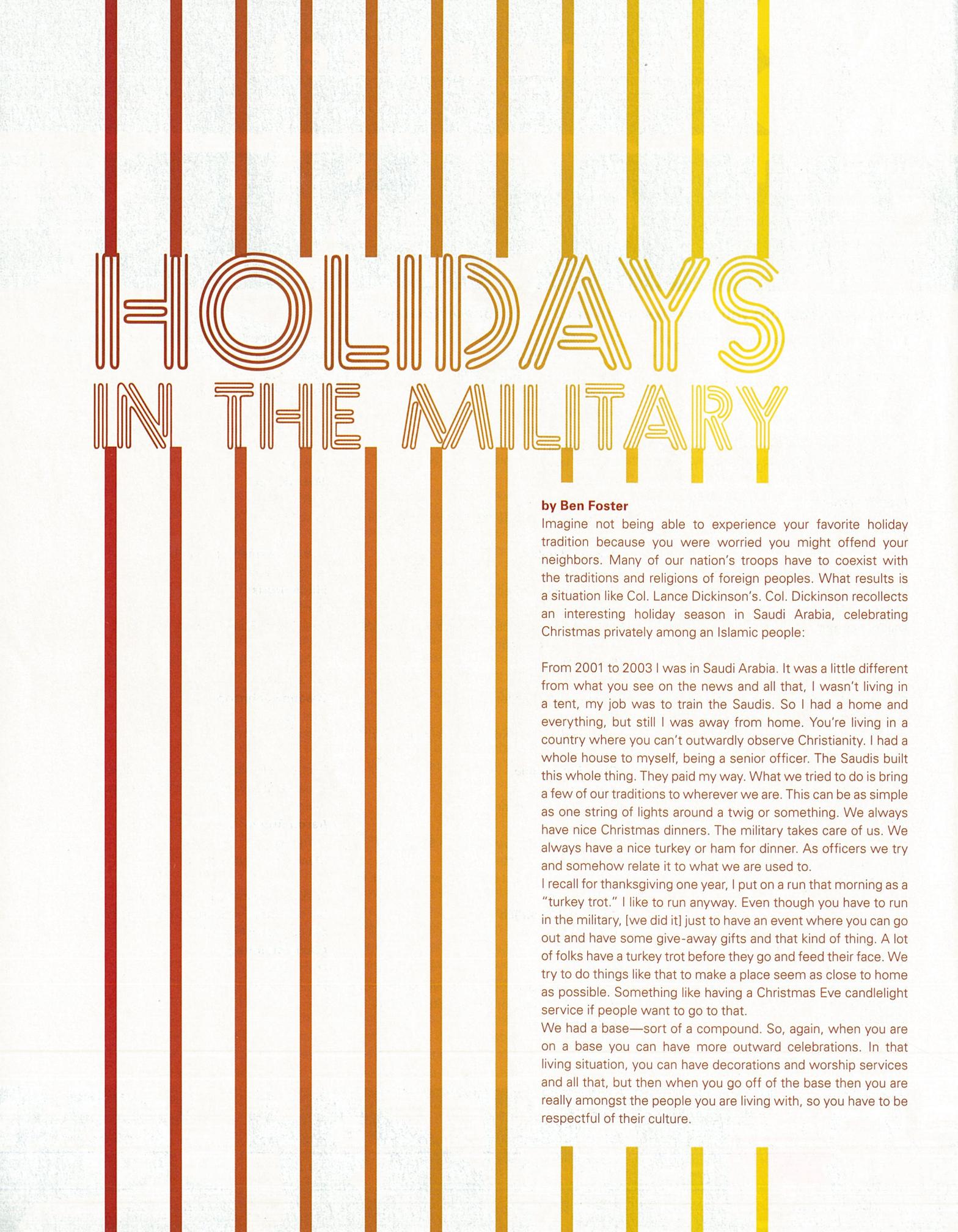
"I got a cookbook from my roommates because they were hoping I would cook more."

Aaron Brown
Third Year
Mechanical Engineering

"I asked my parents for a kitten and a mouse, but they were wrapped in the same box; so all I got was a kitten."

Alexis Blondrage
Third Year
Environmental Economics





HOLIDAYS IN THE MILITARY

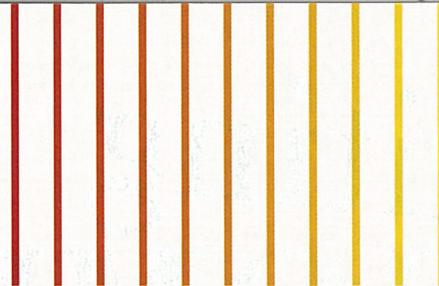
by Ben Foster

Imagine not being able to experience your favorite holiday tradition because you were worried you might offend your neighbors. Many of our nation's troops have to coexist with the traditions and religions of foreign peoples. What results is a situation like Col. Lance Dickinson's. Col. Dickinson recollects an interesting holiday season in Saudi Arabia, celebrating Christmas privately among an Islamic people:

From 2001 to 2003 I was in Saudi Arabia. It was a little different from what you see on the news and all that, I wasn't living in a tent, my job was to train the Saudis. So I had a home and everything, but still I was away from home. You're living in a country where you can't outwardly observe Christianity. I had a whole house to myself, being a senior officer. The Saudis built this whole thing. They paid my way. What we tried to do is bring a few of our traditions to wherever we are. This can be as simple as one string of lights around a twig or something. We always have nice Christmas dinners. The military takes care of us. We always have a nice turkey or ham for dinner. As officers we try and somehow relate it to what we are used to.

I recall for thanksgiving one year, I put on a run that morning as a "turkey trot." I like to run anyway. Even though you have to run in the military, [we did it] just to have an event where you can go out and have some give-away gifts and that kind of thing. A lot of folks have a turkey trot before they go and feed their face. We try to do things like that to make a place seem as close to home as possible. Something like having a Christmas Eve candlelight service if people want to go to that.

We had a base—sort of a compound. So, again, when you are on a base you can have more outward celebrations. In that living situation, you can have decorations and worship services and all that, but then when you go off of the base then you are really amongst the people you are living with, so you have to be respectful of their culture.



The Mood:

I think a lot of it depends on how long you've been in the military. As [we become] more senior we tend to think to ourselves that this is our family that we are with right now, so we are taking care of our family. If you've only been serving for one year and this is your first time away, it's going to be a lot different.

I had been in over 20 years, I was more worried about making sure the younger people could get past that period, because as in all society, that can be a tough time of celebration and of separation. It can be difficult; being away from family for the first time. So we try to get the newer people to not think about that side of it, and to still celebrate that we are here, but that we are here for a reason.

Military Duties:

Duties don't let up, but we try to let it up if we can. Now if you were watching the news today in Iraq, you'd realize we can't let up, but we might not have as many patrols as we would on a normal day to give maybe a little bit more down time to our soldiers, if that is possible. Again my job was to go and work with the Saudis. They were working that day, since it was just a normal day for them, but we told them "hey it's Christmas day." We worked Christmas Eve and we worked the day after Christmas. You lose the 2 week vacation period in there, so your job goes on. We tried to say, "We won't be coming down to your headquarters to work with you on this specific day."

That year Ramadan happened to fall two weeks before Christmas and then the Saudis sort of shut down. They won't admit it, but that's sort of like their Christmas. Yes, they fast for that 30 day period, but when that is over they have a celebration. Id-al-Fitr is what they call it. To us, it looked a lot like a Christmas celebration. They give gifts and they string lights up.

We had a lot to learn, so we brought people in to explain to us a little bit about Ramadan, about the Islam faith, and about what they were celebrating. We also used that time to learn what other religions and people worship. For example, one of the things you have to be careful about during Ramadan is your own eating. When the Saudis fast during the day, well they still work during that period. You

have to be careful not to drink your coffee or bring your lunch in. It would be disrespectful to their culture. That's kind of tough when you are used to drinking coffee all day long.

So it happened that year that the two were pretty close together. Ramadan is timed on the lunar calendar so it moves throughout the year, and that year it was between Thanksgiving and Christmas

Christmas Cautions:

I was fortunate that year, in that I got approval to have my daughter come over and stay. We were in was a training role. I felt comfortable, even though it was risky in that they were monitoring our movements. I guess the best example I can give is that, even though I felt very safe in the job I was doing, every day when we left work, we would have to inspect our cars to make sure that someone didn't plant something.

That's something you don't ever think of—when you get in your car at night and turn that key. There were days when you would say, "Is anything going to happen when I turn that key? It had been sitting out in the parking lot all day."

There was that risk. There were shootings of westerners at stop signs that were starting to go on at that point. While I was there, a compound was blown up.

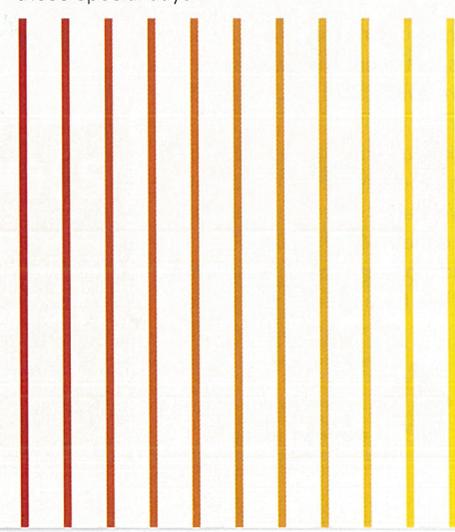
Making It Work:

Still, I tried to bring my Christmas over there. I had a Christmas tree in my house. [Westerners] didn't have to cover from head to toe. Instead, they had to wear a sort of choir robe. Like I said, it's a bit different. You're still separated from your family, but it's not like being in Iraq and fighting a war, and being separated in that sense.

Sometimes it's nice to keep working to keep your mind off the holiday portion. We also try and give more time for people to call back home on those days. We make sure that we do have open phone lines. It's a lot easier then it was 20 years ago. Back then, we didn't have computers or Satellite telephones. Now, even though we are away, we can call home on those special days. •



WRITE ON (Writers wanted)



A Family Waiting at HOME

by Ren Meinhart

Dwayne Shaw, a fourth year Information Technology major from Brooklyn, N.Y., knows what its like to have a lot of family around for the holidays—he grew up with five siblings (four brothers and a sister). His mother, a native of Kingstown Jamaica, raised the six of them to value the importance of a close-knit family and during no time of the year was that more apparent than during the holidays. Holidays were fun in the Shaw household with six children running around—there was always plenty of laughter and plenty of love to go around.

This year, however, the holiday season is different for the Shaw family. Dwayne's older sister Natasha, whom he is especially close to, is currently off fighting the war in Iraq. Her Army unit has been deployed for about eight months at this point, with no word of when they'll be coming home for certain. Natasha's two sons Kayronne (age 4) and Kamil (age 3) are living with the Shaw family until their mother returns.

Having a family member at war is a trying experience for the family back home, and the Shaws are no exception. "It's been especially hard on my mother because she's had to take care of all of my siblings, her children, and my sister's two boys, and also balancing out her life and her job and just dealing with my sister being away and seeing on the news that another soldier just got shot in Iraq and wondering if its my sister. The only mode of communication that we have with her right now are phone calls or sporadic emails that she sends to me or my brothers or my cousins."

If Thanksgiving is any indication of what's to come, Christmas will be challenging without Natasha, whose strength and outgoing personality normally help bring the family together in a big way. With her gone, nothing really felt the same.

"I went home for Thanksgiving and my mother told me that [my sister] sent two huge packages for [Kayronne and Kamil] for Christmas and it was boxes of toys for them. It was kind of sad for me because I was hoping that she'll be home for Christmas and that they could see her. When I went home, they just asked me, "where's my mother, where's my mother," and you know, I can't really can't say too much that they'll understand."

While Kayronne and Kamil obviously aren't the only ones who miss Natasha, the fact that she isn't there to watch them grow up is something Dwayne finds particularly saddening. "We definitely miss her presence in the household and when she comes back it's going to be a good thing so she can take over where we left off, raising her kids and being around when it really counts and to see her children grow up right before her eyes, rather than through the pictures that we take of every little thing."

Kamil started school in September of this year, an event Dwayne was sad Natasha had to miss out on. "Its those little events that count and pictures can't capture everything. Emails can't, obviously, capture everything. You have to be there to see your children grow up into young men."

Dwayne went on to recount how his family talked about Natasha the entire time he was home over Thanksgiving. "Just talking about my sister and how she wasn't there and how it's probably harder on her. We stayed glued to the news to see if there were updates or if they're going to send the troops home."

He added that he wished that the Army expressed more sympathy towards the family structure, particularly during the holidays. "We have to fight this war on

terrorism, and we put that on a higher pedestal than family and what really counts in America right now and what really builds the backbone of the country, and that's the family structure."

Natasha entered the Army in 1997, after a year at LaGuardia Community College showed her that college really wasn't right for her. She never really thought she'd continue to re-enlist every several years and none of the family really anticipated her deployment.

Dwayne, who doesn't believe in the reasons that we're at war in Iraq, spoke of the dichotomy of being incredibly supportive of his sister regardless of politics and personal opinion. "I'm proud of her. I'm proud of the fact that instead of her not continuing with college and just staying around, just sitting there like so many people in the city do, just sitting around and waiting for something to fall into their lap, she decided to take another route... at least she's serving her country. Its sad to see that its come to this point where she has to sacrifice her time with her family just to be over in Iraq, fighting a war that she doesn't really want to fight and we don't really want to see her over there fighting. We want her home."

In the meantime, however, the Shaw family is doing what they do best—sticking together, trying to pick each other up and raise Kayronne and Kamil until Natasha can come home. "Right now, we're trying to remain in good spirits and hope that she comes home sometime in January. I want her to come to my graduation in May. Hopefully, God willing, she'll be here to celebrate with me." •



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SPORTSDESK

by José Plaza

Men's Hockey

November 27: Jason Chafe and Brad Harris, along with the rest of the men's hockey team, dominated New England College. RIT's full-blown assault resulted in a 5-2 win for the Tigers, who are ranked 10th in the nation.

Final Score: W 5-2

RIT Goals: Michael Tucciarone (1), Tristan Fairbarn (1), Brad Harris (1), Jason Chafe (1), Tony Bifulco (1)

Shots on Goal: RIT 44, N.E. 29

Power Plays: RIT 0-8, N.E. 1-9

November 28: After the convincing win against New England, RIT went on to face off against Williams College. Once again, Jason Chafe earned his team leadership role with 2 goals and an assist. This victory on Sunday afternoon was overshadowed by RIT being out-shot by Williams 42-29.

Final Score: W 5-3

RIT Goals: Michael Tucciarone (1), Brad Harris (1), Jason Chafe (2), Tony Bifulco (1)

Shots on Goal: RIT 28, Williams 42

Power Plays: RIT 0/8, Williams 1/9

December 3: Michael Tucciarone played a key role in the team's nail-biting 2-2 overtime tie against Hobart by scoring both of the RIT goals. George Eliopoulos also had an impressive game, tallying 40 saves.

Final Score: T 2-2

RIT Goals: Michael Tucciarone (2)

Shots on Goal: RIT 36, Hobart 42

Power Plays: RIT 2-11, Hobart 2-13

Record through 12/03/04: 5-2-1 Overall, 2-1-1 ECAC West

RIT Senior Forward Alisia Park shoots unsuccessfully on the goal against RPI on Friday, December 3. RIT lost the game 4-1. Jacob Hannah/REPORTER Magazine.

Women's Hockey

December 3: RIT lost their second game in a row, losing 3-1 to RPI in the Ritter Arena. On December 4, they will get another shot at Rensselaer, which has a record of 9-1-0.

Final Score: L 1-3

RIT Goals: Nicole Gedney (1)

Shots on Goal: RIT 23, RPI 21

Power Plays: RIT 0-7, RPI 1-6

Record through 12/03/04: 2-2-1 Overall, 2-1-0 ECAC East

Men's Basketball

November 28: In dramatic fashion, RIT defeated Humber College in triple overtime in a preseason exhibition game with a score of 104-100. After such a great victory, the Tigers will enter their regular season opener against Hobart with a positive vibe.

Final Score: W 104-100 Double OT

Rebounds: RIT 60, Humber 49

FG Percentage: RIT 39.8%, Humber 43.9%

3-Pt FG Percentage: RIT 29%, Humber 36.7%

November 30: The Tigers opened their regular season against Hobart College Tuesday night. RIT did not win in front of the home crowd, however, as they lost the game 73-70.

Final Score: L 73-70

Rebounds: RIT 37, Hobart 36

FG Percentage: RIT 37.9%, Hobart 45.8%

3-Pt FG Percentage: RIT 29.4%, Hobart 46.7%

December 3: RIT was able to bring home their first win of the regular season as they trounced Montclair 70-56 at the Salisbury Optimist Classic. The Tigers look very promising for the rest of this year's basketball season.

Final Score: W 70-56

Rebounds: RIT 36, Montclair 38

FG Percentage: RIT 45.5%, Montclair 34.5%

3-Pt FG Percentage: RIT 38.1%, Montclair 25.9%

Record through 12/3/04: 1-1

Women's Basketball

November 30: The Lady Tigers did not disappoint in their season opener. They went up against Hilbert College at the Hafner Recreation Center, where they crushed the opposition 66-37. This serves as a boost of confidence as the women look forward to the rest of the season, in particular their upcoming match against SUNY Potsdam.

Final Score: W 66-37

Rebounds: RIT 45, Hilbert 45

FG Percentage: RIT 43.5%, Hilbert 24.2%

3-Pt FG Percentage: RIT 25%, Hilbert 20%

Record through 12/03/04: 0-1

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How Not To Get Cabin Fever



by Lauren Dellaquila | illustration by Michael Norton

It goes without saying that the snow will fall and we will have to deal with ice and wind until at least the month of March. Instead of grumbling and complaining inside your dorm or apartment, go out and embrace the winter weather with full force! Here are a few of the many winter activities in and around the Rochester area that will allow you to exercise something other than your remote control thumb:

Manhattan Square Park

This skating rink lays claim to being one of the best rinks in Rochester, complete with music for your entertainment and changing rooms for your convenience. The outdoor atmosphere allows for the enjoyment of fresh air without leaving the comfort of downtown Rochester.

Drive time: About 17 minutes

Hours: Monday–Friday (Open Skate 12–1:30, Adult Skate 1:45–3:15, Free Skate 3:30–4:45, Open Skate 5–6:30), Sunday (Open Skate 12–4:45)

Cost: \$1.50 for under 18, \$2.50 for adults, \$2.50 for skate rental

More Information:

www.kidsoutandabout.com/manhattanspskating.html

Hafner Park

The park has a skating pond, which is kept shoveled and maintained at a thickness of about 12 inches. The benches in the park pavilion allow you to put on your skates, or simply take a breather to enjoy the scenery. Drawback: Expect to be ‘roughing it’ when nature calls, for all you will find is a port-a-potty.

Drive time: 35 minutes

Hours: Monday–Thursday 6 a.m.–8 p.m., Friday 6 a.m.–9 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.–9 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

More Information:

www.clarksonny.org/Recreation/recreation.html

Black Creek Park

This 1505-acre park provides hiking and cross-country skiing trails, among other amenities. There are also designated sledding hills for those with a need for speed, and a four-star shelter for those who just want to hang out.

Drive time: About 20 minutes

Hours: 7 a.m.–11 p.m.

More Information:

www.monroecounty.gov

(Black Creek Park, under “parks”)

Durand-Eastman Park

This 965-acre park is great for cross-country skiers during the winter months. Kidsoutandabout.com recommends “extreme weather” as the best condition in which to cross-country ski in Durand-Eastman. They also suggest either the east side or the northeast side as the best entrance to the park.

Drive time: 20 minutes

Hours: 7 a.m.–11 p.m.

More Information:

www.monroecounty.gov

(Durand-Eastman Park under “parks”)

Bristol Mountain Winter Resort

When you ask Rochester locals where to ski in Rochester, more often than not they answer, “Bristol Mountain.”

Celebrating its 40th anniversary, Bristol Mountain has a 1200 foot vertical rise and a 2200 foot summit elevation, with the longest run set at two miles. Of the 32 slopes and trails on site (which have an average base of 15–40 inches), 95% are lit. They offer a student season pass with the presentation of a valid school ID.

Drive time: 35 minutes

Hours: Nov 25–Dec 9 (Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Saturday–Sunday 8 a.m.–4 p.m.), Dec 10–March 13 (Monday–Friday 9 a.m.–10 p.m., Saturday–Sunday 8 a.m.–10 p.m.)

More Information:

www.bristolmt.com

Brantling Ski Slopes

Family owned and operated, Brantling boasts significantly lower fees than a bigger skiing facility such as Bristol Mountain. With the lower fee comes certain trade offs, such as fewer slopes and trails than other large facilities. In spite of that, Brantling is an ideal place for beginning skiers and snowboarders alike.

Drive time: about 1 hour

Hours: Monday–Thursday 4 p.m.–9 p.m., Friday 4 p.m.–10 p.m., Saturday and holidays 9 a.m.–10 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

More Information:

www.brantling.com

Swain

Swain offers skiing and snowboarding activities, but more importantly, they also have Gunny’s Gorge: 750 feet of tubing trails. If dragging a sled up a hill the old-fashioned way doesn’t appeal to you, then tubing is for you. Just sit back, and they’ll bring you to the top of the hill without any effort on your part.

Drive time: 1 hour and 28 minutes

Hours: Friday 4 p.m.–9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.–7 p.m., holidays 10 a.m.–9 p.m.

More Information: www.swain.com/tube.html

Wolcott Farms

If you are looking for a milder winter experience, Wolcott Farms offers sledding and tubing at Letchworth State Park. There is also a convenient lodge with a fireplace and snack bar close to the hillside. If you have had your fill of hurling yourself down a hill for the day, sleigh rides through Letchworth are offered during the month of December. The ride lasts around 45 minutes and reservations are required. If there is not enough snow on the ground, a wagon may be substituted for a sleigh, but odds are that in the middle of December there will be plenty of snow.

Drive time: 1 hour and 10 minutes

Hours: Generally 11 a.m.–6 p.m. on weekdays, Saturday 9 a.m.–12 p.m., Sunday 12 p.m.–4 p.m. (All hours vary slightly depending on the date. Reservations are sometimes required.)

Cost: Tubing is free, but there is a \$6 per car park admission. Sleigh rides are generally \$100 per group.

More Information:

<http://www.wolcottfarms.com/contactus.htm>

Irondequoit Bay Park East

This park is best served as a place for hiking and snowshoeing in wintertime. The park sprawls out over 182 acres, allowing your hikes to take as little as 15 minutes or as long as an entire day; it’s up to you. There are streams and waterfalls to admire, and paths throughout the woods, some with mild slopes and others with steeper hills.

Drive time: 20 minutes

Hours: 7 a.m.–11 p.m.

More Information:

www.naturalhighs.net/waterfalls/falls/ironbayeast.htm

www.monroecounty.gov

(Irondequoit Bay Park East, under “parks”)

Crossing into Missouri on November 25, during Day 9 of the Coast-to-Coast run. photograph courtesy Matt Hartman



Cross Country Running: Not Just for Forrest Gump

by Frances Cabrera

The RIT cross country team has lived up to its name and has run across the country. Not only have 18 runners overcome heat, altitude, cold, sleep deprivation, and smelly RVs from coast to coast, but they have also trekked those 2730 miles in record-breaking time.

Starting November 17 in San Diego, the team ran for 12 days, 3 hours, and 48 minutes to reach Chesapeake Bay in Maryland on November 29. This shattered the record set by their 1979 (also RIT) counterparts, who crossed the country in 14 days, 4 hours, and 8 minutes. This opportunity to represent RIT across the nation in honor of the Institute's 175th anniversary came with much rigor, but with more rewards. "This is an experience I won't ever forget for the rest of my life, and [neither will] the rest of [the team]," said Chad "Sheik" Byler, the organizer of the Coast-to-Coast run, at the welcoming ceremony held December 3 by the Sentinel.

One aspect the team won't forget any time soon was what one of the drivers, Todd Spivak, referred to as the "funk" of the team. "They don't want to admit it, especially the girls, but they haven't taken a shower yet!" said President Al Simone at the welcoming ceremony. President Simone ran the last three miles towards RIT with the team. With runners completing about 12 miles a day, two miles at a time, with only three-and-a-half-hour rest periods, the time to take showers was limited. Also, the two RVs they were driving weren't so used to the daily grind of constant driving, and constantly broke down. "We noticed that when people took showers, the gray water was not being held in the tank...Hopefully it was just loose nuts,

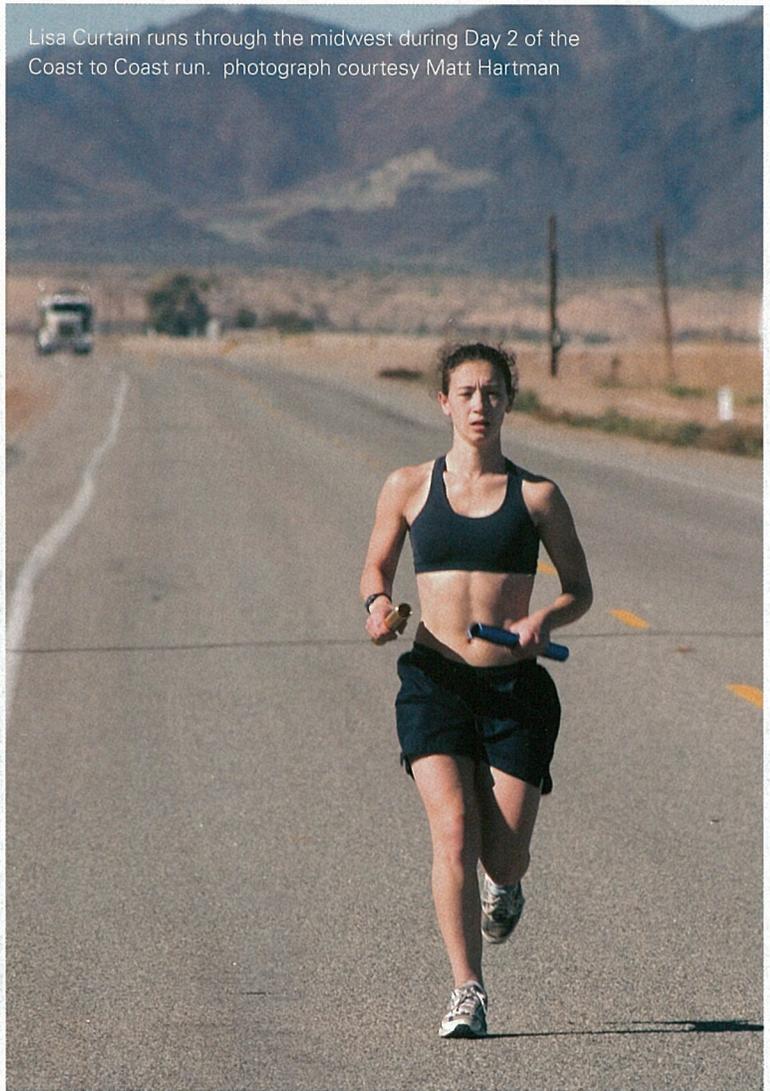
and not a bad gasket, or this RV is going to get even stinkier," wrote Todd Spivak on the team's online blog a few days into the run. The drivers became proactive and went on Febreze detail. "We kind of scout out problem pairs of shoes and other clothes and give them a spray semi-regularly," wrote Todd.

Mountainous landscapes, setting suns, and friendly cattle kept the runners' minds off the lack of showers and on the goal ahead of them. Nate "Flipper" Lowe wrote about his favorite run in Missouri: "There was just a little bit of snow on the ground, and the moon was full, so everything was lit up by an unearthly sort of glow...and then I ran past a horse pasture, and four of them came out to meet me, just watching me run by, looking like they kinda wished they could come with me. A very satisfying run."

Kevin "Lugie" Turko most enjoyed the scenery of California, Arizona, and New Mexico. However, he received the gold baton on the first night, meaning he was going out in the lead of the team. "Being the start of the rotation could sometimes leave you out in the dark, navigating the road by only the sound of your footsteps on the pavement," wrote Kevin. He dissipated his fear by banging the gold baton and his blue baton (which every runner has for balance) at any suspicious rustle in the bushes to scare any possible hidden creatures. "That's how I got a banged up baton," wrote Kevin.

These cross country runners ran through 13 states and the District of Columbia. Along their travels, they met well-wishers and supporters of all different types. In Arizona, an Apache tribe blessed the team and even offered them money. News

Lisa Curtain runs through the midwest during Day 2 of the Coast to Coast run. photograph courtesy Matt Hartman



coverage followed the team all throughout the nation. They were invited for free pie when they entered Pie Town, New Mexico, and a drunk welcome committee received them in St. Louis. The runners also came across RIT alumni in Phoenix, Arizona and Athens, Ohio. None of these followers were as devoted as "Guido" the dog, who followed the runners for six miles. "Finally the team had to divert the dog back toward home after the friendly creature would not stop running with the relay," wrote Todd.

The team also spent Thanksgiving on the road and managed to cook two turkeys in the RV ovens, complete with stuffing. Other difficulties the cross country team faced were the extreme altitude of the Rockies and the cold and snow of Kansas. The team stayed focused, though. "If we made it all the way across the country without coming through some crap, I would almost feel like we cheated. This isn't supposed to be easy," wrote Nate about the snowy, windy, below-freezing weather of Kansas. Nevertheless, the team made it to the Chesapeake Bay two days ahead of schedule, and was met and congratulated by the United States Naval Academy Men's Cross Country Team. Crossing the finish line on campus by the Sentinel with snow and confetti falling on them, the team officially finished their great feat. RIT is now looking towards the next 25 years.

"When you do something twice it becomes a tradition," said President Simone. So, another group of RIT cross country runners will brave the heat, altitude, cold, sleep deprivation, and smelly RVs in the Coast-to-Coast Run 2029. •



Members of the RIT coast to coast cross country team are greeted on Friday, December 3, 2004 by students and faculty members of the college. Michael Sperling/REPORTER Magazine



Students play football as the sun sets on Saturday December 4, 2004. Eric Sucar/REPORTER Magazine.



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A History of Whine

Cheese, Anyone?

by Kate Bloemker

When I was three, my mom gave me a Big Bird sweat suit. I loved that sweat suit (and the yellow feathered guy himself) so much that I went around asking everyone I knew to call me Big Bird. Of course, everybody laughed at what I thought was a very serious request, and everybody insisted on continuing to call me Kate. I was extremely irritated, in that tantrum sort of way that only three-year-olds and Mariah Carey can be. In fact, the incident is the first time I can remember being seriously annoyed by anything.

A lengthy history of annoyances soon followed. I decided that I hated lettuce and didn't like to touch flour. I wanted to smack everyone who thought I was a boy because of my haircut. I couldn't stand it when adult relatives kissed me on the lips, and I had a strange phobia of people with casts.

Soon it turned to hand-washing. In grade school, I would watch people in public restrooms, hearing them flush and seeing them exit the stall and head straight for the door. Weren't they embarrassed that I had seen them not wash their hands? Didn't it gross them out at lunch when they picked up their sandwiches with toilet-germ-covered fingers?

In high school, it was the entertainment world that brought on many of my irritations. The most memorable catalyst was the release of *Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace*. At age sixteen, geek that I was, I was able to go on for hours about what a sellout George Lucas was. I had many geeky friends to provide an audience for my rants on how no one in the original Trilogy would have said "Oops," and how a battle would never have been won because of defective wiring in an evil droid army. I made sure everyone knew that Jar Jar Binks was a racial stereotype, and that he had the stupidest name I had ever heard in my life.

I couldn't even escape from the radio. Whenever it rained, I would watch the windshield wipers go back and forth, bothered that their rhythm never quite matched up with the radio. In response, a guitarist boyfriend of mine once wrote a song for my birthday that was played to the exact timing of my windshield wipers.

Now that I have grown up, I like to think that my irritation has grown up too. It hasn't disappeared, no; rather, it has grown more refined. Now it is politics and hypocrisy that bother me. My recent issue is parents who drag their young children to protest rallies, giving them anti-abortion or anti-death penalty signs to hold, as if the kids are old enough to make the choice

to believe something like that or not. The day after the election this year, my cousin Katie, an elementary school teacher and a Democrat in a conservative neighborhood, had one of her schoolkids walk up to her and say, "My dad says to tell you that John Kerry wears a size 11 flip-flop." I *hate* stuff like that (although I unfortunately remember my mom teaching me to say "Vote for Dukakis" back in the day...Wow, I did all that for her and she *still* wouldn't call me Big Bird).

What about things that happen right here at RIT? Sure I get annoyed that so many of the men here are afraid to talk to women, and that for some reason I haven't seen a single unicycle all year, but there are bigger issues to worry about. For instance, President Al Simone, trying to protect RIT's image after the so-called Colony Riot last year, assured everyone that the controversial pepper-spray pellet guns used on students were completely safe and incapable of harming anyone. My irritation comes with this not being the case. Not too many RIT students have heard of Victoria Snelgrove, but her story is relevant to us. Snelgrove, a 21-year-old Emerson College student, was killed this past October in Boston when struck in the eye by a pepper-spray pellet. The pellet had come from the gun of a Boston police officer, who was firing into a crowd of rioters after the Red Sox beat the Yankees to advance to the World Series. After Snelgrove's death, police departments in Boston and Seattle suspended the use of pepper-spray guns, but the Rochester Police haven't. President Simone hasn't acknowledged the incident either, even when pressed for a response.

This angers me. It angers me more than when they changed the rules of *Jeopardy* so that Ken Jennings could continue to piss off Alex Trebek and bore us indefinitely. It irritates me more than Jar Jar Binks, and I would gladly eat lettuce and touch flour every day if only the Rochester Police, RIT Campus Safety, and President Simone could assure us that the pellet guns won't be used again.

It can't be changed that George Lucas made a really bad movie, or that no one took my preschool identity crisis seriously. Those were annoyances to be put up with. A student's death, however, is a serious issue that shouldn't just be ignored. Things *can* be changed. •



In commemoration of Rochester Institute of Technology's 175th Anniversary, a group of runners from the University ran a continuous relay across the country, covering 2,730 miles, thirteen states and the District of Columbia.



CONGRATULATIONS

