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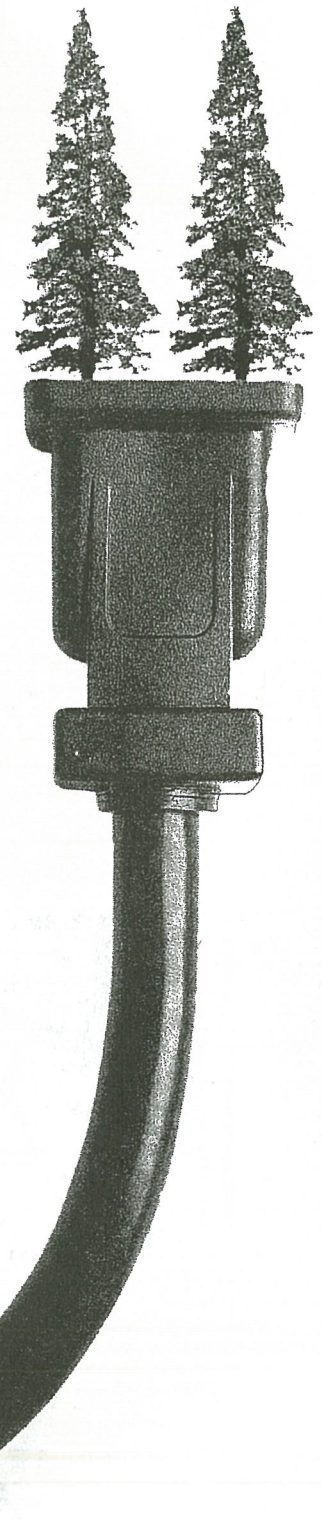
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editorial

Movies, Questions, and Dialogue.

As the movie *The Siege* was in production, and now as it comes to the screen, it has spawned a debate that has reached newspapers and magazines. The Arab and Muslim communities in the U.S. are arguing that the film promotes the stereotype of Arabs and Muslim people as terrorists. The producer, Edward Zwick, defends his movie as entertainment, and argues that the movie explores what happens when stereotypes are acted upon.

The Arab and Muslim communities are rightly concerned that a number of movies have portrayed Arab characters as terrorists. However, I would like to respectfully point out the number of films that have had Irish terrorists (more on this point later). Zwick claims that his film illustrates how humanity has acted in the past, as when the U.S. interred a segment of the Japanese-American population during WWII. I can understand the concern that Arabs and Muslims are becoming the silver screen bogeymen, but the trend of terrorism in films should be explored as well.

I would caution the Arab-American and Muslim groups to consider why terrorists in general are currently the “bad guys” in movies. If nothing else, movies tend to reflect the fears and loves of our

culture. *Birth of a Nation*, while profoundly racist, was produced while feelings about racism were very strong. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, our nation and, subsequently, our film industry have been seeking a new “bad guy” to focus on. You guessed it: the terrorists got picked.

So why are terrorists the new cultural bogeymen? I think that anyone from a country that regularly experiences terrorism could easily answer that question. The U.S., except for a few incidents and a civil war, has fortunately never seen war or terrorism on its own land. Therefore, I believe there is an underlying fear in our national psyche about terrorism, particularly as embassies and federal buildings become targeted.

So where does this leave us? I am not sure. If Zwick had written a political treatise on interring Arab and Muslim Americans, then I think this would be a different matter. But this debate does open up the question of what role we have assigned movies or what influence films have on our culture. Does Zwick’s argument about stereotypes defend or implicate his movie? Does Hollywood reflect cultural norms and values or does it influence them? This also brings up the

question of the role of art in our society. I think that it is healthy that this debate has started in our country, and I hope that all of the implications of this conversation are explored.

Michael Fagans
Editor in Chief

Therefore, I present the following question to start the dialogue on campus:

What are your opinions or reactions to this editorial, to the movie, and regarding the debate?

Letters to the Editor to be published may be sent to the *Reporter* office or submitted electronically to MJF2744@rit.edu. I would prefer longer letters to be submitted on disk or printed. Please include full name and telephone number for confirmation.

Note: To read this debate first hand, the November 10 issue of *The New York Times* has both Ibrahim Hooper’s “Again, Islam Is An Easy Villain” and Edward Zwick’s “In the Hurt Game, Honesty Loses” articles on the Op-Ed page.

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Model Railroad Club Holiday Open House



Americans seem to hold a romantic connection between trains and the holidays. Maybe you picked up grandma from the station to visit for the holidays. You may have had trains set up around your Christmas tree, or maybe you were one of the lucky kids who woke up to find one there as a gift. Whatever your exposure, here is a chance to see what happens when you liberate those trains from the dusty floor to the tabletop.

The RIT Model Railroad Club (RITMRC) will be hosting its Holiday Open House to show off its work of the past two years. Working in the basement of the Student Alumni Union, the RITMRC crew has been

busy putting the finishing touches on its latest projects.

The model railroad system that they are working on is still in its early stages, but continues to evolve daily. Members are busy working on all aspects of the system, from installing the wooden underframe, to laying track, to designing electrical circuits and creating scenery. Visitors will be able to see practical applications of many aspects of RIT's programs embodied in the model railroad.

The RITMRC crew has representatives from nearly every college at RIT. "Many of our members like to come down and apply what they are learning in the classroom to

the railroad," explains President Tom Rohatsch. "Others come down and want to do the polar opposite as a way to relax." Many come into the club as beginners who simply want to know more about the hobby.

The RITMRC Holiday Open House will be held on Friday, December 11, from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Admission is free, and there will be members on hand to run the trains and answer questions. RITMRC is located in room A-420 in the Student Union (across from the Reporter office). Call x2227 for more information or visit <http://www.rit.edu/~mrcwww/> on the web.

by Otto Vondrak

World News

- Recent federal analysis by the U.S. Geological Survey revealed that American water consumption dropped by nine percent from 1980 to 1995, even as the population grew by 16 percent. The fall is attributed to a more efficient use of current water supplies. Whether the declining trend will continue is unclear. (New York Times)

- The creator of Batman, Bob Kane, died last week at the age of 83. Batman was the world's first human superhero, created a year after Superman. Kane's family said that he died of natural causes. DC Comics has said that along with Wonder Woman and Superman, Batman is the only comic book character to remain in continuous publication since its conception. (Reuters)

- The head of the Colombian Air Force resigned after over 1,200 pounds of cocaine were found in a military trans-

port plane. The discovery coincides with renewed effort by the Colombian government to stop illegal drug exports. (BBC)

- Cellasene, a new herbal remedy which destroys cellulite, has caused stampedes in Australia. Italian manufacturer Medesteia Interna hopes to release the drug in the UK by March. There is no word regarding the drug's release in the U.S. (BBC)

- In Frankfurt, Germany, two robbers attached a chain to an ATM machine which, in turn, was attached to a truck, and drove away with the machine in tow. The cash dispenser, which contained tens of thousands of marks, was not found. The police recovered both the truck and the chain. (Reuters)

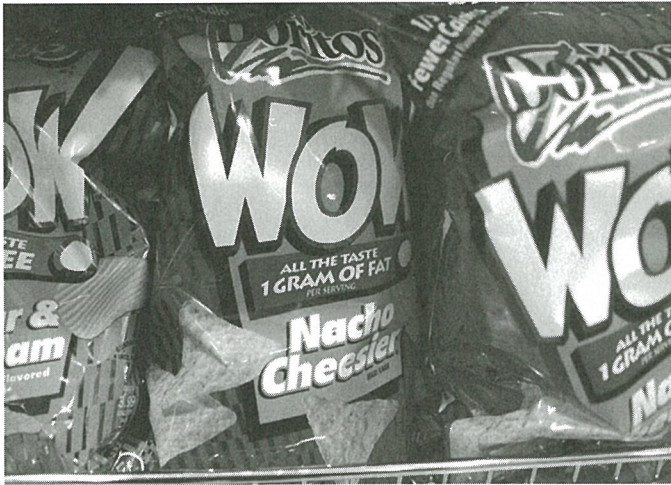
- Police in Nepal have reported that Maoist rebels were killed in a skirmish with Dang security forces. The police

said they recovered homemade weapons and Maoist propaganda from the rebels. Over 300 rebels have died since 1996, when a revolt to overthrow the constitutional monarchy began. (BBC)

- Paul McCartney, Billy Joel, and Bruce Springsteen are at the top of a list of ten artists who were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame last week. McCartney, also inducted for his work with the Beatles, was again honored for his solo work. Artists are eligible for induction 25 years after their first recording. The Hall of Fame itself is located in Cleveland. (AP)

by Pete Lukow

The SKINNY on FAT

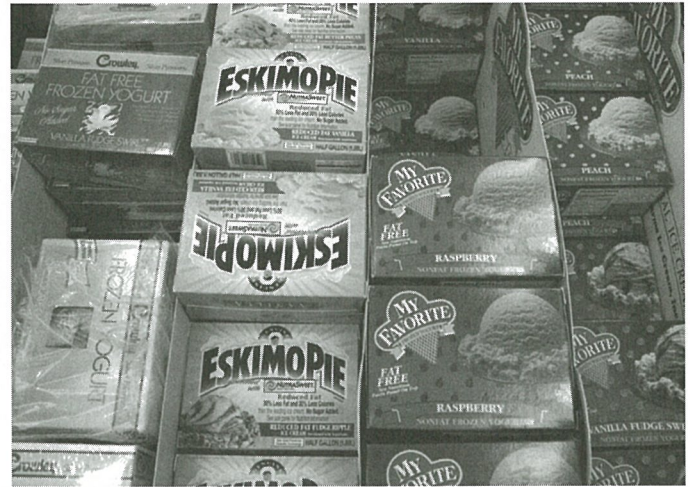


It's Friday night and all of a sudden the munchies hit. You run into the store to pick up a snack; but wait, you don't want this frivolous binge to cost your body the weeks you've spent working out at the gym. Turning over the item of your choice you scan the label. "Low Fat" — PERFECT! You promptly pay and leave feeling good about your choice.

Chances are this scenario is a little more dramatic than your typical shopping trip, but you can probably relate on some level. In our very "food toxic" environment, it is very easy to fall into the exact traps food manufacturers set for us. Over the past decade, the preparation of the foods we consume has changed to encourage our taste buds and leave our healthy eating behind. With many loopholes in FDA food labeling requirements, foods that may not truly be healthy can slip by, misleading consumers. The following nomenclature highlights the deceptive labeling of fat that companies practice.

"Light/Lite" foods derive less than 50 percent of calories from fat (or sodium). This can mean that, in a single serving of 150 calories, as many as 74 of them can be from fat. Buyers beware: "Light" can also be on the label if the product is light in color or texture, which totally defeats the meaning most of us are searching for.

Another misleading term is "fat-free." This usually means that the product contains less than 0.5 grams of fat in the given serving size, but not many of us have the time or motivation to weigh out each serving we consume. "Low-fat" contin-



ues to mislead with 3 grams or less of fat per serving size. Another common labeling of "reduced" can mean that it has a little less than its "original" version. This is a common favorite of the food industry because consumers think they're eating a lot better than when they were eating the regular cookies. The list goes on, and it is perfectly legal for companies to label as such. The important factor to understand is that you may not be able to identify what you are buying merely by the label alone.

Because of the tricky labeling, consumers are being fooled. Reduced fat foods do not correlate with fewer calories. People consume nearly as many (or even more) calories by eating these foods than by eating the regular foods. Consumers are baffled by their inability to lose weight, even though they are eating healthily.

There are 39 million overweight Americans in the United States today, many of whom are on "low-fat" diets. The theory of genetic determination of size is a common argument for being overweight, but doctors are rethinking this theory. Recently on *Frontline*, Dr. George Cowan said, "We all have a genetically determined [body frame] size, but the amount of obesity is not genetic. That is left up to us and our own decisions."

by Jenn Tipton
photos by Ed Pfueller

What is Fat?

There are different breakdowns of fat classification: saturated fat, cholesterol, and unsaturated fat. Along with fat come the calories — nine calories per gram to be exact (as opposed to about four for each gram of carbohydrates and proteins). Saturated fats clog arteries and cause heart disease; cholesterol is a type of saturated fat. Unsaturated fats

(or polyunsaturated) are the "good" fats, meaning your body requires them to function properly. Fat and all extra calories are stored as energy in our bodies. Excess weight on our frames is a result of consuming more calories than are actually burned through metabolic or physical activity. This is why exercise is crucial, especially if you have low metabolism.

leisure

Armenta Hummings Leaves RIT Audience "Speechless"



The doors of Ingle Auditorium were opened on the evening of Wednesday, November 4, as pianist Armenta Hummings of the Eastman School of Music performed several pieces of music at a piano recital. Her selections ranged from Beethoven to Joplin, pleasing an audience of RIT students and faculty, as well as members of the general public, for about two hours.

Hummings played with her shoes off due to unforeseeable but humorous circumstances. She began her performance with a somber rendition of "Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland" (Now Comes the Gentiles' Savior), by Bach and Busoni, setting the mood. "Nun Freuteuch, lieben Christen (Rejoice, beloved Christians)" was a fast paced, quick-witted piece, and "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring," by Bach and Hess, was a familiar, beautiful piece.

After a short intermission, Hummings returned and recounted to the crowd, "It was either the piano, the bench, or the shoes. So that's why I'm not wearing any shoes." She opened her second act with one of Beethoven's most famed works, "Moonlight Sonata." Playing the first movement at a rather quick pace, her

technical ability was impressive. By the second movement she had developed a definite feel for the piece, leading to a remarkable third movement, which she played with rhythmic vigor despite its difficult tempo and dynamics.

She followed with three pieces by Joplin: "The Entertainer," "Cascades," and "Maple Leaf Rag." These were cheery, up-tempo songs played very smoothly and with feeling. "Cascades" gave a more staccato feeling than "The Entertainer." The rag piece, however, gave Hummings a bit of trouble. Upon losing the song in the middle of playing it, she turned to her audience and said, "I'm too tired to play Joplin!" Fortunately for the crowd, she revisited "Maple Leaf" later in the act and corrected her errors to create a wonderful rendition of the piece.

Last on her list of selections was Prokofieff's "Tocatta Op. 11," a seemingly difficult arrangement played at an incredible tempo that seemed to offer no problem to the pianist. With emotion and movement, she concluded the piece and her set of choices to enthusiastic applause. According to Heather Banis, a

second year printing management major, "She left me speechless. I've played piano the majority of my life. Coming to see her I had no expectations. I did not even know her name. I just knew of her reputation as an acclaimed pianist. She definitely lived up to and exceeded that reputation in my eyes."

After the performance, the audience had an opportunity to meet Hummings and ask her some questions. When asked why she had continued to play the piano for so many years, Hummings responded that she wanted an activity that would allow her to communicate with others across cultural boundaries. "I could travel and meet people all over the world," she said. "In later years, I've discovered it's one of the best spiritual disciplines."

The "Performing Artists Series" is the brainchild of David Perlman, who is a professor of electrical engineering at RIT. He started the series two and a half years ago. In his words, it is "a hobby; a mission of love to put on these concerts."

by Jenn Taylor and Chris Grocki



Never Read

Neverwhere

Set in modern London, but not really, *Neverwhere* is a book that you really cannot put down — as long as you are trapped for several hours on a plane flight with nothing better to do.

Author Neil Gaiman (*Smoke and Mirrors*, *Angels and Visitations*, *Good Omens*) does a decent job of portraying the life of a man whose reality has been snatched from him. Unfortunately, the manner in which this man, Richard Mayhew, adjusts to his new role in life is less than believable. One day Mayhew is an engaged financial advisor at a major London firm; the next, he is without his fiancée, his apartment, his job, and without any of the trappings of his former reality. Somehow, after a couple days, this does not really bother him as it would most normally functioning human beings.

Mayhew finds himself caught up in London Below, a dark fairy tale land of magic and intrigue. According to details occasionally found strewn amongst the less than meaningful plot line, London Below is one of many “undercities” that exist around the globe. These cities are tied to large metropolitan areas — London, New York City, Bangkok, and numerous other major urban sprawls around the globe. The residents of these undercities are those who have “fallen through the cracks.” These people are an odd conglomeration of history book figures, mythical beasts, fairy tales, and other strange folk.



If you are looking merely for something with entertainment value, *Neverwhere* is ... well, still not for you. It might entertain someone enrolled in junior high, but it lacks the depth, detail and suspense required to hold the attention of a mature mind.

Rating: 3 out of 5

by Andrew Badera

website of the week

<http://www.rit.edu/~mdk2844>

Listen up PC users! One of your classmates has issued a challenge — one that involves competing with Macs, so it must be good! This site, owned by junior Michael Kern, who's studying imaging and photographic technology, includes a “PC gui junky” (that's goo-ey for those of you not in touch with your computer lingo) page which includes screenshots of some souped-up desktops. The challenge is to show Mac users that we PC-folk can produce graphically stimulating images too. After capturing a still frame of your desktop as described, submit it to the site to be posted for all to see. Several links are available on Kern's page that will help you improve the appearance of your desktop. For all you unfortunate Mac users out there, there is also a link for the original “gui junky” website.

Entitled The Fourth Dimension, this sharp looking homepage is the home of a webpage and graphic design upstart company run by Kern and David Clark. The business portion of the site includes information about the company, as well as some beautiful photography by Kern. There is also a “spycam” which would ideally allow you to see the entrepreneurs at work, but it is currently not operational. For anyone interested, Michael and David offer free site evaluations with the best sites appearing on their monthly top ten list. The entire site is well constructed, easy to move around in, and quite attractive.

by Nick Spittal



Very Bad Things: Very Good Movie

If Quentin Tarantino ever created a true comedy, *Very Bad Things* could be it. I have never left a movie with such a feeling of shock and distress; I actually had a headache and nauseating knots in my stomach. *Very Bad Things*, however, is not the product of a Hollywood mastermind like Tarantino, but rather the debut of rookie director Peter Berg (formerly of CBS's *Chicago Hope*). Nonetheless, it is masterfully conducted, and perhaps one of the most well-done movies of the year. This dark comedy, if it can be called a comedy at all, is perhaps the most deranged movie of our generation. We're not talking disgusting or gruesome (although it has both), but rather a frightening, but laughable, look at the extremes that people will go to, even regarding friends and family.

Though the movie is touted as the newest from Hollywood's new leading lady of comedy, Cameron Diaz, she plays only a minor role, and thankfully so. Her character is complaining, controlling, untrusting, self-serving, and downright annoying, but Diaz plays the part to a tee. She is especially unaccepting of the upcoming Las Vegas bachelor party of her husband-to-be and his four closest lifelong friends.

These friends are not good men. Besides the usual bachelor party traditions, a vast quantity of cocaine is consumed, and the stripper doubles as a prostitute. When her slain corpse winds

up on the bathroom floor surrounded by puddles of blood and stained hotel towels, all hell breaks loose. Rather than a sensible 9-1-1 call, the doped-up, manipulative Boyle (Christian Slater) takes control of the situation. The results are a gruesome second death and a startling cleanup routine. The five men return home to prepare for the wedding as planned, only to realize that coping with the past is not as simple as "forgive and forget." The days immediately following the grizzly Las Vegas party become a trying time for each man's conscience, especially when Laury Garrety (Diaz) joins in Boyle's derangement.

Besides the disturbing writing and surprisingly impressive direction (both by Berg), *Very Bad Things* is exceptionally acted. Except for the presence of the pitiful Slater, whose whiny high-pitched voice and feigned genuineness (actually, Tarantino would be the perfect person for the role) sabotage the film's excellence, the casting is near perfect. Daniel

Stern convincingly plays an overly uptight Jewish family man named Adam Berkow, whose emotions get the best of him at all possible occasions, while Jeremy Piven (*Ellen*, *Cupid*) stars as his immature and callous younger brother, Michael. The sensitive, but misguided, groom-to-be played by Jon Favreau has a way of calming his irrational fiancée, as well as others. Auto-mechanic Charles Moore, whose shy demeanor is overshadowed by his vivid facial expressions and body language, is acted superbly by Leland Orsen.

Do not go into this movie expecting to see the peppy, happy Cameron Diaz from *There's Something About Mary* or *My Best Friend's Wedding*. Although there are some hilarious moments, do not expect to be rolling on the floor laughing. Do expect to be shocked and appalled, but at the same time, viewing a near-brilliant movie.

by Nick Spittal

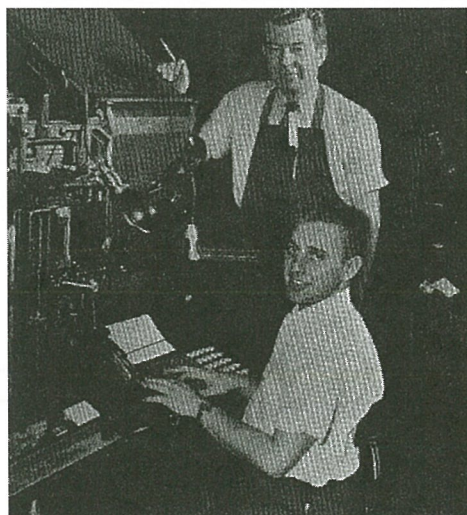
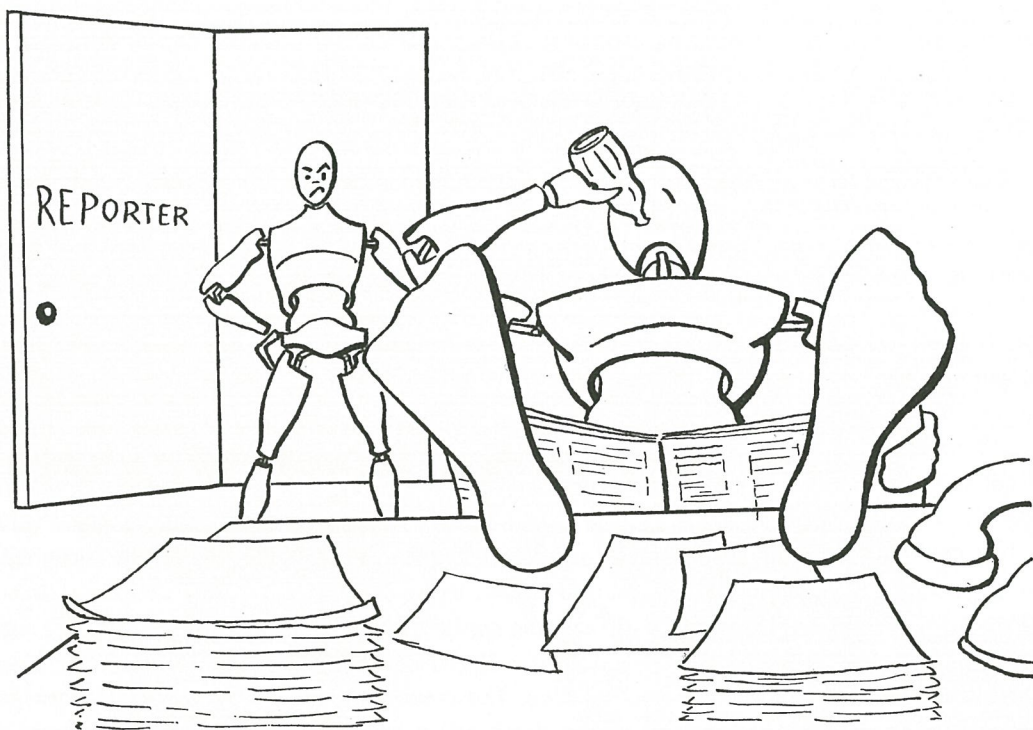


40's 50's 60's 70's

Blast From The Past

Excerpts from the 1952 Techmila (former RIT student yearbook)

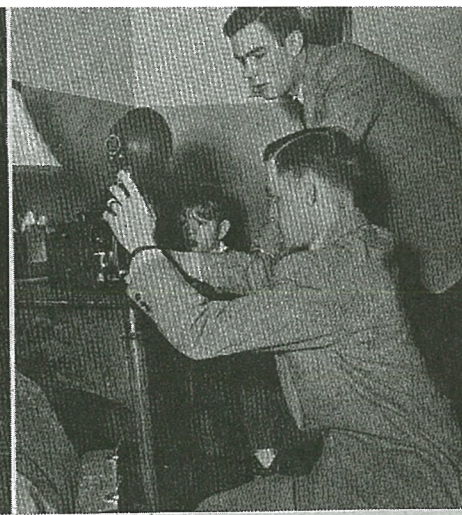
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12. **30's 40's 50's 60's 70's 80's**

RHA Encourages Involvement



For all you students who have ever lived in a dorm room over the course of your college careers, the experience may have seemed confusing and unusual at first. Living on your own, having freedom to do whatever you want, whenever you want — it's great. Occasionally, however, you need a helping hand to push you in the right direction. Of course, your parents are miles and miles away and your

friends may not always have the right answers. To whom do you turn?

Enter the Residence Hall Association, or RHA for short. Its purpose? "Increase the sense of community and campus service, and also help to make the transition to college easier," says Ana Gonzalez, vice president of the organization. "We're here to help you grow as a person mentally, physically, and emotionally."

How do they accomplish this?

Throughout the course of the year, RHA holds several activities geared to get the entire student body, especially residence hall students, involved. RHA President Jaime Keiffer notes, "Some of our major focuses include or have included Pizza Wars (fall); Beat the Winter Blues and Vegas Night (winter); and Celebration of Community (spring)." In addition to large activities, many smaller projects are planned. There are roommate appreciation days, exam kit distributions, and the publication of the freshman record.

So what do students do when they have problems or concerns about their home away from home? One of the five councils that comprise RHA is known as the Issues Council. It consists of five senators whose duties are to address the concerns and ideas raised by the resident population. They can then take those concerns to the people on campus who are best suited to deal with them, and finally deliver a reply to the person who originally asked for help.

Even with its many strengths, RHA still occasionally struggles to get noticed on campus. Since the majority of residence hall students are freshmen, every year the organization has to renew efforts to introduce itself to the new group. Over the past half-decade things have definitely gotten better. "Five years ago there wasn't even a constitution, and the group brought virtually nothing to the students. Now we're a very energetic group, and we get things done at a very high level of quality," explains Keiffer.

"We encourage students to get involved and active," says Gonzalez, "because your educational experience will become much better and enriched." With its new office located in the tunnels below Baker Hall and a variety of methods to get in contact through the members, RHA is a valuable resource available to students who may just need that tiny bit of assistance or excitement in their college lives.

by Jeff Prystajko

illustration by Andrew Baker

Opinion

One would think that the guy/girl ratio at a technological school would attract girls, but this is not the case. RIT still remains the school of "all bricks and no chicks." In fact, the lopsided ratio can be intimidating. During my first week of school, I felt out of place in my engineering classes. I wanted to blend in as just another student, but it did not happen. The guys were overly eager to introduce themselves, open doors for me, sit next to me in class, and try to impress me with conversations about computers. Sure, this was flattering, but only for the first 10 minutes. I attend my classes to learn, not to pick up guys.

Society labels women as math and science illiterate. Sorry, but this is not the case. Females are just as capable in math and science as guys. It is true that the majority of men receive higher standardized test scores than women, but they are also better prepared. In general, guys take more math and science courses in high school. Girls are pushed into taking easier courses. At my high school, the counselors tried to convince me to take "Chem Concepts" instead of honors chemistry, and "Conceptual Physics" instead of regular physics. They also told me that I did not need to take any math

classes beyond Algebra II. I am thankful that my older siblings recommended and convinced me to enroll in the hardest math and science classes. I noticed that even though girls were scarce in physics and calculus, the highest test scores were usually achieved by girls.

Men also feel invaded when women enter their professions. Men like to think they are superior and intelligent; they resent competition from women. Sure, they enjoy having attractive co-

Women in Science

workers to gawk at, but they prefer assigning women to no-brainer tasks. My sister, an automotive engineer, has had several degrading incidents involving men. Once at a job interview, the guy told her in a puppy dog tone, "You know, you might get a little dirty in the factory." At my sister's first co-op, they gave her hardly any work to do because they didn't think she could handle it. They paid her to just sit on her butt looking pretty as she changed her screen

savers and played computer games all

day. Said one female computer scientist at RIT (who asked to remain nameless), "I'm much more complimented for my dress, my hair, or my accent than for the content of what I say and do. So I just turn the compliments around and tell the men how pretty their ties are, or how the cut of their jackets brings out their broad shoulders. They squirm under such scrutiny just as much as we do."

Most of my teachers spend more time explaining things to the women in the class, but that is because we generally ask more questions. We have no false bravado keeping us from raising our hands. I would rather admit that I do not understand a concept than pretend that I do. I do not think asking more questions during class is a sign that women need to be led by the hand through a subject. As students, we are responsible for how much information we obtain from our studies. Without queries from students, professors and instructors may teach only what is in their lesson plan, or what the department requires.

"Women in engineering and science" is a mantra spreading throughout the technological world, but this statement is a paradox. The men want more women in their professional fields, but they do not want to actually work side by side with them. One graduate student commented, "Men are tired of only seeing men. They want to see women in dresses, not women who look like men."

by Lisa Camp

Faces of RIT:

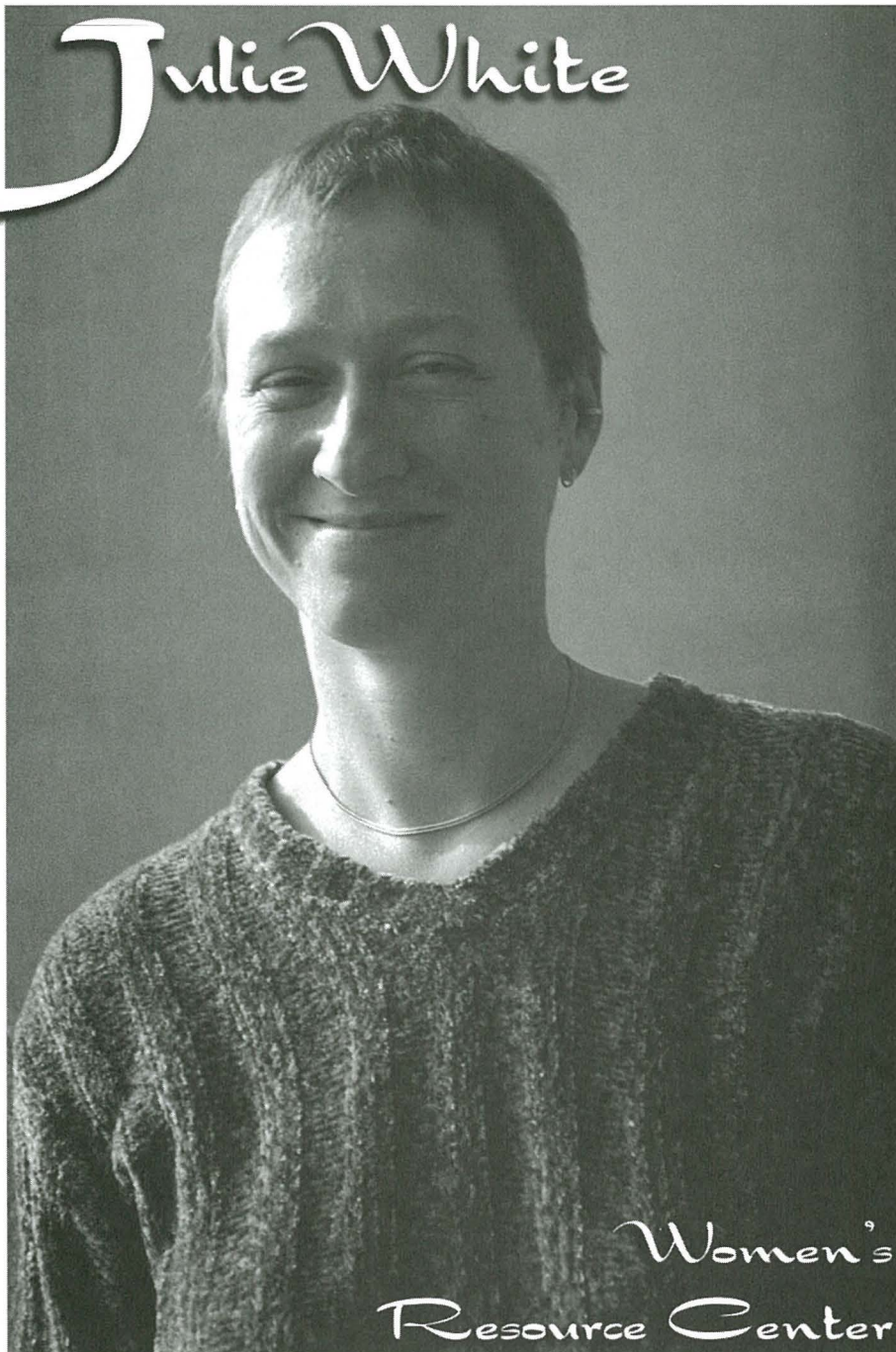


Julie White

Last October, during Julie White's fifth year as a health educator at SUNY Geneseo, she was invited by Leigh Anne Francis, who was then the Student Coordinator of the Women's Resource Center, to speak about women and body image. "I had a great time," Julie said, smiling sincerely. "I just stayed for two or three hours and talked to people." Julie and Leigh Anne stayed in touch for the rest of the year, and when Leigh Anne remarked that the Women's Resource Center had been given the go-ahead to hire a full-time coordinator, Julie said that she was interested in the position. "I wasn't looking for a new job," she explained, but this was something that she decided she wanted to do.

Julie has already made the Women's Resource Center an open, friendly environment. The Center has moved to a new two-room office in the basement of the SAU, and Julie leaves the doors open, inviting visitors. "People might want to just come in and flip through books and look at information," she suggested. She hasn't determined exactly what kinds of literature she will provide because she isn't yet familiar with the needs of the RIT community, but already there are intriguing, eye-catching books on the table, like one called *Wild Words from Wild Women*. Her desk is adorned with yellow flowers and framed photographs of her two children, Brianne, 7, and T.J., 9. "They've been really cute about my job transition. I told them there was a gameroom and a pool and an ice rink."

The Women's Resource Center certainly sounds like it would be dedicated solely to women but, while Julie's job as coordinator is to "provide services ... particular to women," she stresses that men are welcome and encouraged to take advantage of the Center and participate in the programming. "I'm thinking of an article I saw ... called *I'm a Feminist, But...*,"



Julie said when asked whether she calls herself a feminist. The term, she says, carries some "negative connotations. . . I don't want those negative connotations associated with me." Instead, Julie classifies herself as somebody who recognizes that some groups have certain obstacles. "I'm a feminist as much as I'm a person who is working for all of [those groups]."

Assisted by Leah Brown, a graduate student in RIT's psychology program,

Julie is "looking to plan a really high-visibility program for winter quarter." Her vision for the Center is a noble one: "[I want it to be] not a physical entity, but a set of programs and services that reach beyond this office." With her undeniable enthusiasm, it is certain that Julie will bring the Women's Resource Center into the open at RIT.

by Elisabeth Horrell
photo by Alexandra Daley

Amen, brother: Americans are discovering religion again.



Religion is seen by many as one of those fundamental institutions into which you are born, and therefore obligated to uphold. Others, intimidated by the idea of allegiance to any one organized religion, fly in the face of their family's beliefs and either do not practice or shun those who do. Some are raised with little religious training, while others consider their spirituality to be an enriching part of life.

Now, more than ever, the baby boomer generation is returning to religion in droves. Feeling that they are missing something from their childhood, they return to the place of worship as a comfort in their lives. Let's consider college students, many of whom have busy schedules that may not allow for things like attending religious services. Others manage to go about their daily lives, somehow incorporating a spiritual influence into their routines.

RIT students from all walks of life have many options for religious practice on campus. The Center for Campus Ministry affords students of many faiths "a wide variety of religious and cultural opportunities," according to its literature. Students are encouraged to seek out the spiritual leaders at the Center for Campus Ministry, located in the Interfaith Center. The Center houses the ministers' offices, chapels, and meeting rooms. The folks there are always happy to speak with students, and will always take time from their busy schedules to do so.

Reporter spoke with a few spiritual leaders about emerging trends in religion. Kip Lombardo, the Jewish chaplain and Hillel House Chapter Director, offered the Jewish point of view. Father Joe Cantanise, one of the Catholic co-chaplains, is celebrating his fourth year at RIT. June Campbell, the Baptist campus minister, is a seven-year veteran of the Campus Ministry. The questions posed were left vague in the hopes that the conversation would find its own path and lead to other topics; we were not disappointed.



On the subject of religion in America today: "Extremes are developing today that you did not see ten or fifteen years ago," offered Lombardo. "It seems that mainstream religion is losing out to the fundamentalist groups that are growing by leaps and bounds." Lombardo said that he knew of no more than fifty fundamentalist churches that had sprung up in suburban Greece. "When I say fundamentalist, I mean churches that are evangelical, that follow a literal interpretation of the Bible." These groups seem to be falling into favor not only in Rochester, but across the nation. At the same time we have also seen the rise in frequency of such incidents as have occurred at Corpus Christi, a Rochester church whose

head and liberal leanings were recently removed from the diocese.

"There seems to be a lot of searching for spirituality that is detached from God as it is traditionally understood," said Campbell. Many Americans today want the benefits of spirituality without having to stand by any one code of ethics. "This is why we see the shift from any denominational ties. They rather find where they fall into the spectrum – either liberal, moderate, or fundamentalist." The meaning of denomination falls off as people seek out the "new spirituality."

An emerging trend with students is that they were raised with no affiliation. "I'll have students come up to me and say, 'I'm supposed to be Catholic,' or

whatever, and they have this great interest in learning about their religious heritage," said Father Joe. Many times, this is a result of the student finding him or herself away from the influence of parents for the first time. "They have this great interest in learning because, maybe for the first time, it gives them something solid to hold on to."

What about the sudden media attention to religion? "Hollywood has always preached about the arrival of demons," commented Lombardo, "be it demons from other planets, demons from the Earth, or apocalyptic upheaval at the turn of the century." Recent Fox shows like the *X-Files*, *Millennium*, and



Brimstone all come to mind. Also, shows like Dan Akroyd's *Soul Man* and others have taken more light-hearted views of religion. Lombardo commented that while the ever-popular *"Seinfeld"* show spoke to Jews on many levels, others

'outside the loop' may not have understood." He also remarked that many episodes seemed downright anti-Semitic.

"The people who are least religious — news people and Hollywood types — they are trying to capitalize on the 'new

faith,'" said Father Joe. "Only problem is that they don't do it well." Father Joe is disappointed in the way religion and religious subjects are portrayed in the media today, "but at least the attempt is there to show that there is a God."

Touched by an Angel cashes in on the recent angel-craze. A positive, upbeat show that continually reminds characters in distress that "God loves you," it continually makes a killing in the ratings. Viewers can't seem to get enough of it. Is it affecting people's views of religion?

"The Judeo-Christian tradition understands angels to be messengers of God," explained Campbell. Many people put their faith in angels alone. "People think that they can pray to angels, and that the angels will help them." Rarely is there any mention of God. "It's 'safe' for people in that they don't have to make a commitment." Americans don't want restrictions or limits, especially when it comes to spiritual matters.

"Many times, people will come up to me and say, 'Tell me the right answer.'" People are busy seeking out the simple black-and-white answers. "They are looking for the quick solution."

"What they don't understand," said Lombardo, "is that there is a complicated theology out there. People only want to hear, 'This is right and this is wrong.'"

"It's a complicated life. Why would there be any easy answers?" asked Father Joe.

As far as concrete solutions go today, people are searching out guarantees to spirituality. "It's not enough that if you are a good person, you will be blessed," Lombardo explained. "Now it's, 'Send [the ministry] money, and you will be blessed.'" Many fundamentalist organizations guarantee salvation in

exchange for monetary donations. Many people will buy into the idea of “insured” salvation if it means a chance at real security in a hectic modern lifestyle.

“It seems that whenever there is real cultural upheaval, people look for security,” Campbell offered. “If that means 10% of your income, most people will gladly do that.”

Some people are convinced that the turn of the century will bring great social upheaval. Many seek consolation in their faith in times of turmoil. “If you look at some of the writings from 1000 AD, you see many of the same trends that you see now,” explained Lombardo. “Jews don’t believe that the turn of the millennium will be apocalyptic.” According to the Jewish lunar calendar, it is the year 5758.

Another interesting aspect of the Jewish religion is the increased attention on Kabbala, or “Jewish Mysticism.” Originally a branch of Jewish philosophy, many have picked it up as an occult religious practice. Most do not fully understand what it is all about. “Kabbala takes the words of the Torah and makes connections to the natural world,” said Lombardo. The letters of the Hebrew alphabet also have numeric values. Those who study Kabbala have made some startling derivations from the words of the Talmud concerning historic dates. “There is no real ‘magic’ involved.”

And what about practices of magic in the Church? “We do not believe in any occult practices in the Catholic church,” Father Joe said. In fact, consulting a psychic is considered to be a sin, “since you are putting your faith in another, rather than in God.”

While many continue to seek spiritual fulfillment, it is clear that there is no one correct answer to any of life’s issues. No matter what you practice, it all comes down to a matter of faith, and finding



where you fit in. While some Americans may be trying to take a simplified view on religious values, the trend cannot be denied. Are people heading for solutions in magic for quick answers and needed security? Are we moving towards a McGod society where you have the

church made “your way?” Or are Americans truly finding a new spirituality and faith? Only time will tell.

*by Otto Vondrak
photos by Greg Benenati*

The Reslife Shuffle

It is said the only constant in life is change. Such a statement could not be truer when applied to RIT Residence Life this year. Since the beginning of the academic year, ResLife has seen a marked turnover of administration and staff members, ranging from the Director of the Center to the student members of the staff. Although a change in staff is not uncommon from year to year at ResLife, the changes this year were more noticeable than they have been in the recent past.

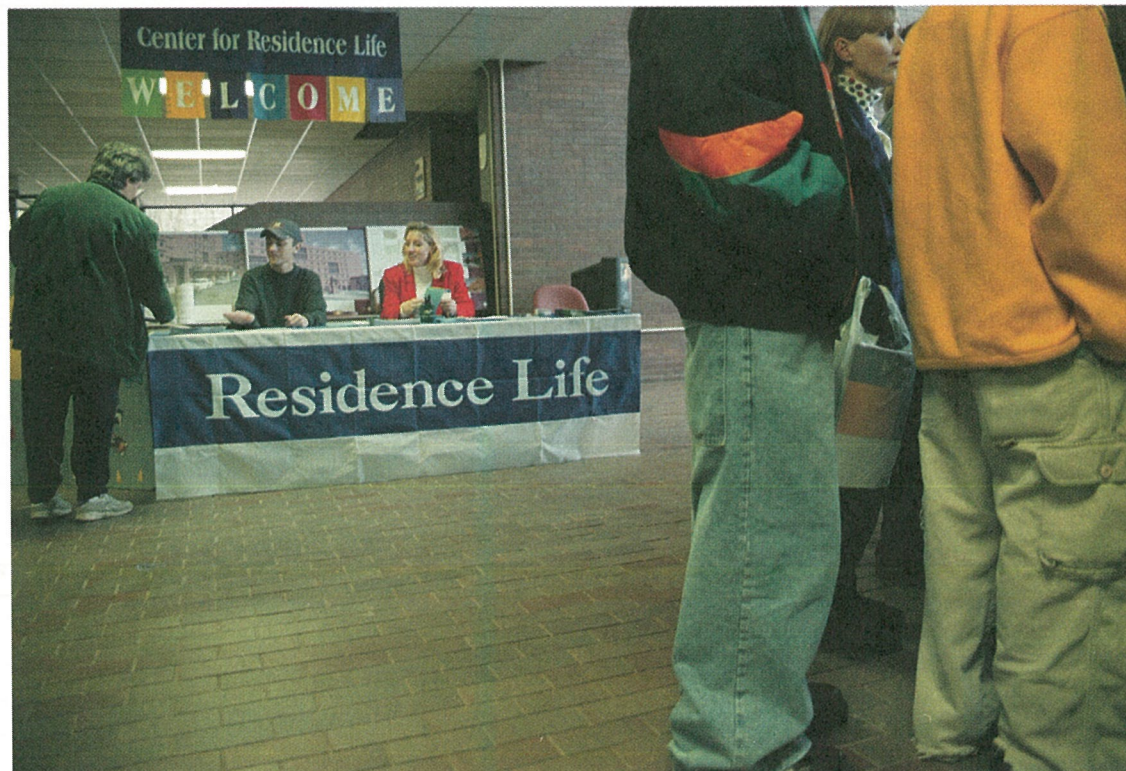
Residence Life is composed of a large staff of professionals, including residence and apartment complex directors as well as the administrators, combined with dozens of student workers who serve as resident advisors or staff members at the Center for Residence Life. The large number of workers employed means that a large change in personnel is not in itself unusual. Residence directors, who coordinate the activities and affairs of one specific area of housing, are each contracted for one year, and therefore may come and go at the end of the academic year. Changes in the ResLife hierarchy at the level above them, the area coordinators who work in a similar capacity over a larger area, mean residence directors may be promoted or area coordinators may be shifted as needed.

The most striking changes come with the appointment of a new Director and Associate Director for Student Development. Dr. Linda Kuk, Vice President of Student Affairs, describes how the change of two major administrative members occurred at once. "Interestingly, [both] changes weren't really planned," she says. She explains that John Weas, the Director of ResLife during the 1997-98 academic year, had planned in the long term to move on to a new post. When the position of Director for the Student Transition and Support Services became available he decided to resign his post in the ResLife offices to take on this new responsibility.

A search was then begun to find a suitable candidate for the position, and

Kuk explains that this search produced no one to fill the job. Meanwhile, in April of this year when Weas was getting ready to resign his position as director, Rene Canalingo, then Associate Director for Student Development, announced her impending resignation as well. Kuk explains the coincidence of the resignations caused a bit of a problem, and in order to alleviate the impending administrative shortage, "We wanted to hire a director first."

But a director could not be found, although in the meantime a candidate was selected to fill in the associate director position. Tara Loomis, who began work at ResLife at the opening of the fall quarter, comes from the State University of New York at Geneseo. She has been employed by the resident life departments of Syracuse University and Tulane University. Loomis has earned a Master's degree in higher education and student affairs from Ohio State University.



As the year began, Frank Lamas, now serving as the Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, was placed in charge at ResLife to serve as interim director until the position could be permanently filled. A second search was launched, this time returning four candidates who interviewed for the office.

Hiring of administration is done through selection committees which evaluate the resumes and credentials of the potential choices. In this case, they returned their findings in the form of a recommendation to Dr. Kuk, who, based on those findings, submitted her choice for hiring. Finally, it was decided to hire the Director of Housing and Food Services from California State University at Monterey Bay, Jeanais Brodie.

Brodie is a native of New York City with a BA in philosophy and theory of education and an MA in adult education. She has worked in the field of housing and residence life for approximately twenty years, with her employment ranging from small private schools to state universities. Because of the late hiring, Brodie started her job as director here at RIT on October 21. Although enthusiastic about being at RIT, "to make that kind of transition takes time," she says. "It's a big change for me."

After living in California for twenty years, Brodie notices differences



between the culture on the West Coast and the culture in Rochester. "Some people would say that the West Coast is further advanced ... in diversity issues," she admits, but praises RIT's stance on that particular topic and names it as a major reason she wanted to work here. "What impressed me ... in the literature and the rhetoric of RIT was a commitment to diversity."

She credits the open-mindedness of the students and staff she has met thus far with giving her an optimistic outlook. At ResLife, she adds, "The staff ... is very student-centered." She says the strong

educational and student development component provide a solid foundation for the services of ResLife here. She believes working with RIT's deaf population will be "exciting, personally and professionally."

Although she believes ResLife is already running smoothly, her long range plans include making the services offered more defined and well-known among students. She summarizes her stance by saying, "There are great things that we do that I think people should know more about." Her plans also include extending the faculty-in-residence program to help tighten student-faculty relationships.

The ResLife staff seems very accepting of the changes going on in the organization. Chris Murtaugh, a second-year student who serves as both an RA and a ResLife webmaster, says, "It's good to have change and see positive things happening in such a short time, from the way processes are run to the planning of events." Resident Advisor Curt Sterling adds that, despite the differences in personnel, "Since the first day it's been very exciting. We're all on the same team, and it shows."

by Chris Grocki

photos by Ed Pfueller





Winter 98-99



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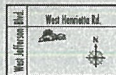
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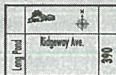
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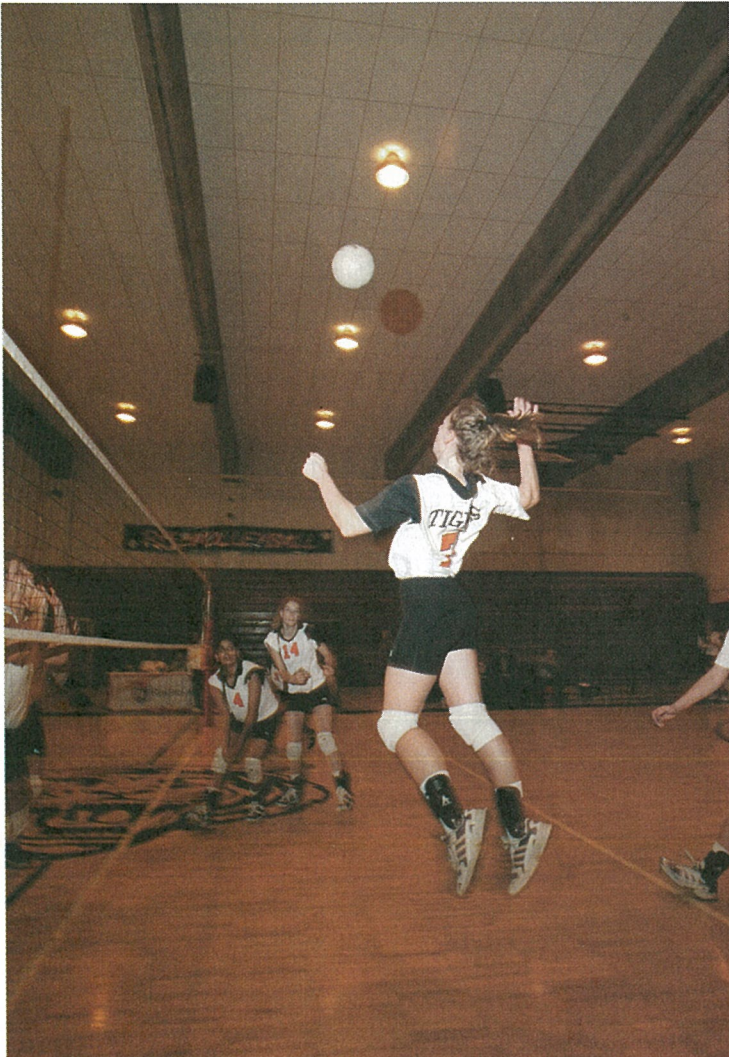
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RIT's Fall Sports Team of the Year: 1998

Women's Volleyball



It was an exciting season for RIT's fall sports teams. The men's soccer team performed well, and our crew program medaled at the Stonehurst Regatta. Yet the team that stood out the most, and rose above the rest, was the women's volleyball squad.

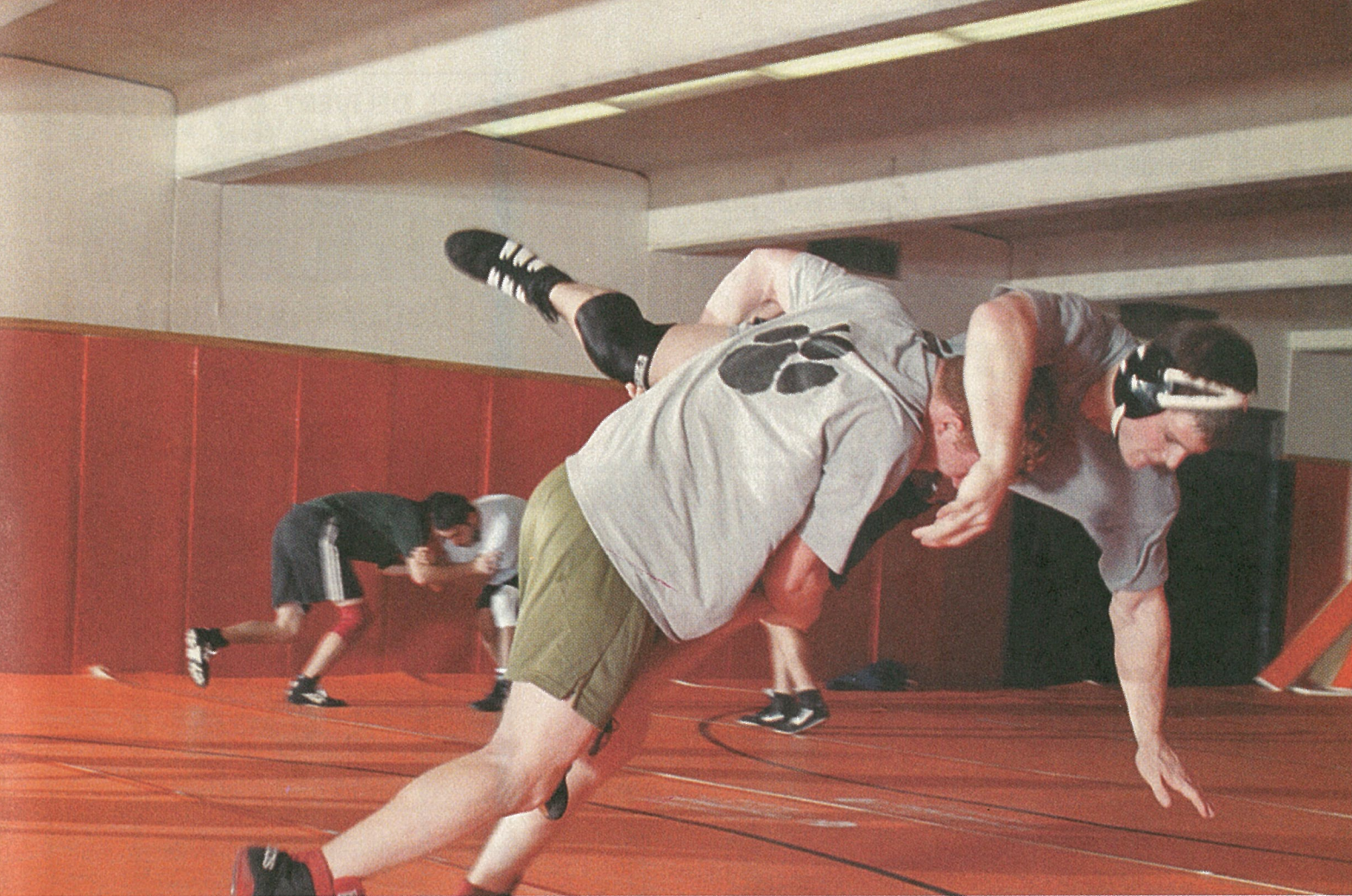
Prior to the play-offs, the volleyball team had accumulated a record of 33-9 and was ranked 17th in the nation. They also took the second seed in the regional play-offs. None of this is really surprising when you take into account the abundant successes the team accomplished throughout the season. They finished the regular season by winning the New York State Tournament, shutting out all of their opponents, and cruising to first place. The

team won several other tournaments, as well, including Springfield, Ithaca, Brockport, and their own RIT tournament.

The women's volleyball team was led by a strong nucleus of contributing players. Krissy Caton and Tracy Wilt were often named to All Tournament teams as a result of their dominating play. In addition, Ushi Patel became RIT's all-time assist leader with 5026 assists.

The team performed at a consistently high level of play the entire season. They placed the RIT program on a pedestal in the volleyball community, and proved exactly how great RIT's sports program really is. Great job on a truly unbelievable season.

*by Jon-Claude Caton
photos by Andrew Gombert*



Tiger Wrestling

Looks to Blend Youth with Experience

“I’ve never seen that before.”

That is all assistant coach Dave Ciocca could say when talking about Matt Hammill’s performance in last year’s NCAA Division III National Tournament. During the competition, the 190-pound Hammill pinned every opponent he faced as he captured his second straight national title.

Hammill was not the only Tiger to see success last year. As a whole, the wrestling team had five national qualifiers. In addition, Hammill and Tony Wallace (167 lbs.) were named All-Americans.

This year, the team looks to keep its winning tradition alive. With both Hammill and Wallace returning, RIT is looking for performances that mirror

those from last year. The team has some other solid returners, too, including heavyweight Mike Liess and Tom Massaro (150 lbs.). Fresh newcomers should also help the Tigers repeat or improve their 8th place showing in the Division III point standings.

“We are a very aggressive and motivated team,” said Ciocca. “We just need to be able to keep our focus throughout the year.”

The only problem he sees is that the young team may not have enough experience under their belts. Regarding this, Ciocca again mentioned the importance of focus. “These guys have a lot of raw talent. We just need them to focus on that talent.”

The team has time to work out its

flaws. Ciocca said, “The regular season matches and tournaments are only one-tenth of the season. What we are really working for is the national qualifying meet, which is not held until the first weekend of March.”

Ciocca also feels that his star, Hammill, is going to be a tremendous help.

“He is a very good teacher, and we are hoping he is able to pass on his knowledge to the younger guys.”

Upcoming Meets:
RIT Tournament, December 4 & 5
RIT @ Osw/Binghamton, December 12

*by Brett Fleming
photo by Andrew Gombert*

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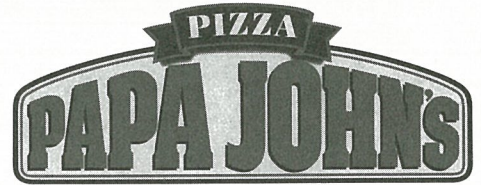
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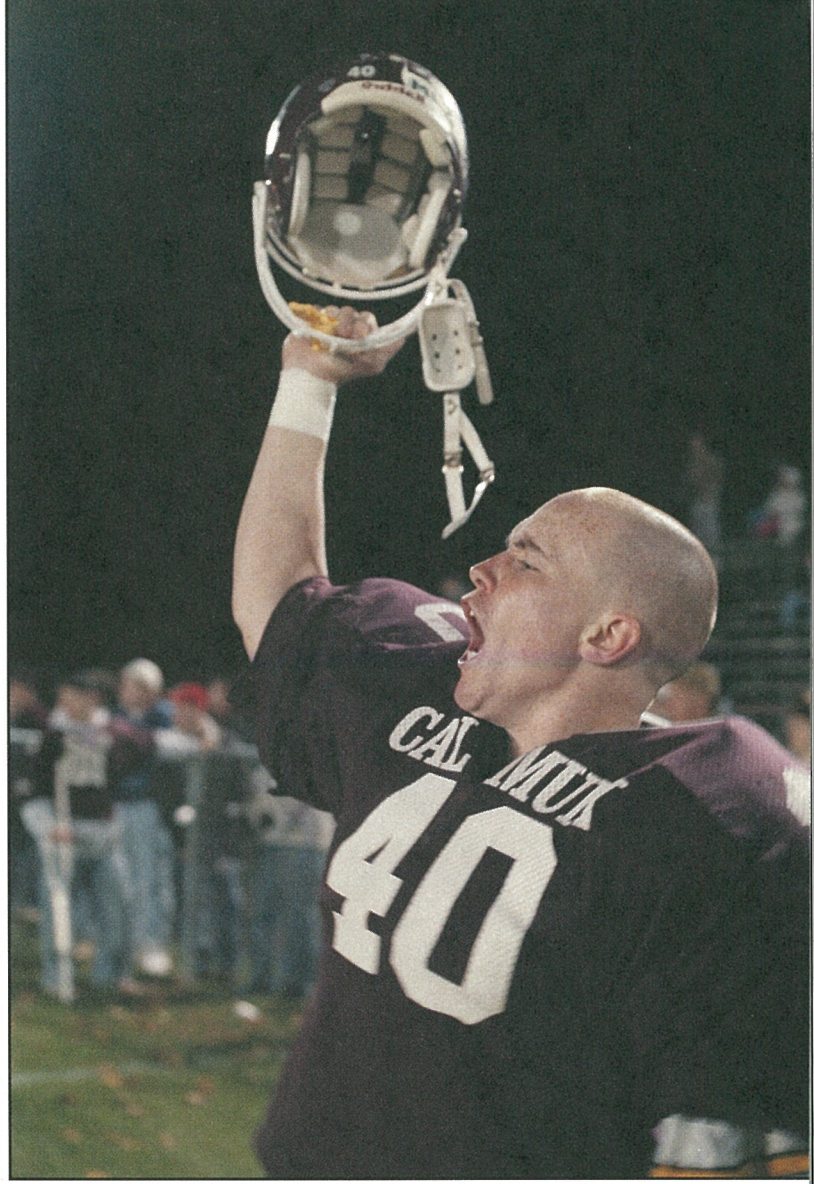


CAL-MUM HIGHSCHOOL FOOTBALL



This photo story follows the Cal-Mum Raiders into the season finals for state championship. This year, the Raiders had a strong team and a good chance to go all the way, but unfortunately, good chances don't always win football games. They were defeated by Leroy on a sunny Saturday in Hornell and sent to wait for the next year's season. This story goes beyond winning and losing; it goes to the game itself, and any football fan out there will see in these photographs the joy and excitement football has to offer both player and spectator.

words and photos by Greg Benenati



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Love in an elevator, livin' it up while she's going down.
-Pretty Boy

Tapes, its all about the tapes.
-Anthony

reporter

December 4, 1998

To President Simone and the RIT Community:

In the October 23 issue of *Reporter*, we ran a letter from President Simone to the RIT Community. I was initially pleased to see the president take that action, although I am now concerned.

On the day of the vigil, two of the students from the Alternative Student Fellowship Club spoke on local affiliate TV on the 10 and 11 o'clock news about receiving death threats in regard to their prominence in the RIT community. One student stated that some of the calls were from the dorms on campus. This activity should not be accepted or allowed to continue at RIT.

The fact that RIT students and the president observed and commemorated Matthew Shepard's senseless death is important. That we at RIT have not publicly addressed the social environment at our school concerns me. It is one thing to react to and speak about events across the county; it is another to take a stand at home.

President Simone wrote, "At RIT we do not tolerate attacks of any sort on individuals for their beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, or race. The RIT community is committed to a diverse and dynamic learning, working, and living environment." I agree with the president and I urge the RIT community to start living by and promoting these sentiments.

As I have stated before, *Reporter* is committed to informing the campus and providing a public forum for debate and opinions on this or any other subject.



Michael Fagans
Editor in Chief
Reporter

