

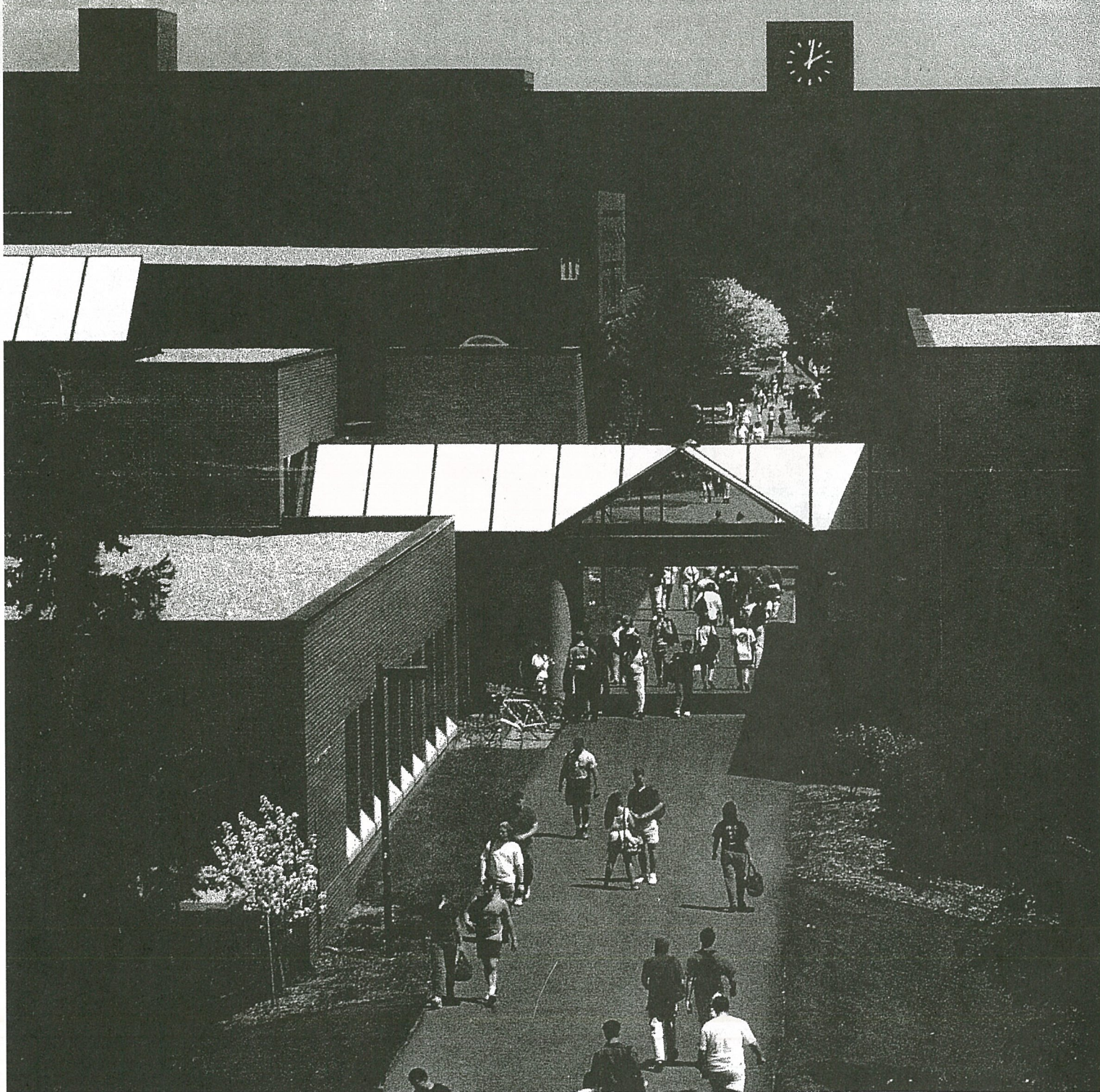
reporter

12.18.98



Cultural Cohesion

R·I·T



**A Pleasant Atmosphere
for Learning, Working, and Saving Energy**

Rochester Institute of Technology – Rochester, New York 14623

editorial

Thoughts

In the last few months I have worried about my father. He is a minister, and has always ministered in church, in our home with family and in his spare time. There are a number of people from the congregation he currently serves who are causing problems and attempting to force him to leave. At one point he was considering leaving the ministry entirely, a calling that has always brought him joy and fulfillment.

On Thanksgiving Eve, during communion, my father sat in front of the congregation with his eyes closed. The organ was playing softly in the background and he recognized the song and started to sing. His eyes were closed, with a large smile on his face as he sang. His mic was on, and while he is not the best singer, he made a joyful noise, oblivious to everyone. It was at that moment I stopped worrying about my father. He was where he should be, serving the Lord, and no one would be able to take that away from him.

Many people go through life not knowing who they are or what they should be doing. There seem to be moments when we grow as people and grow as individuals, maturing or changing direction. My father has his faith and my mother to lean on during the diffi-

cult time he is experiencing.

Over Thanksgiving break, one of my brothers and I started communicating again; distance and school had seemed to be interfering with our talking. I had complimented him on his maturity, his handling getting engaged, buying a house and changing jobs. His reply and return observations about the changes in my life helped coalesce many of my thoughts on this subject.

Two and a half years ago, I left a steady job to come back to school to pursue a career in photography. It was a big decision that came after I realized I communicated to people through photography and was growing dissatisfied with my job with the New York State Senate. It was better to make the attempt, rather than wonder if I could be a photographer. I decided to live my life so that I had no regrets. So, I turned my back on two degrees in political science and a fellowship, and jumped head first into life.

Even today, the growth process continues. In our 10/23 issue, in the article entitled "You Bet Your Life," we unfairly identified an individual in a direct quote. I signed off on the article without realizing the consequences of our mistake. This was my fault. A responsi-

ble news magazine should provide even-handed coverage, and in this situation we failed to find a balanced survey of students before we went to print. Since the article ran, a number of students have expressed their positive experiences with the Health Center. I cannot apologize enough for this error. The situation also hurt a friend of mine, who is more understanding than I could ever expect. I thank him for engaging in the learning process and applying this to his practice and our publication. We learn from experiences, but sometimes it isn't easy.

Recently I read that if we wait for seminal moments to be happy or start living life, then we will always be waiting. It is better to enjoy life now and not wait for tomorrow or next month. Growth takes time and it is occasionally painful, but that is not a reason not to experience and enjoy life. Take a chance, do something new, and take the time to talk to someone who looks interesting.

Michael Fagans
Editor in Chief

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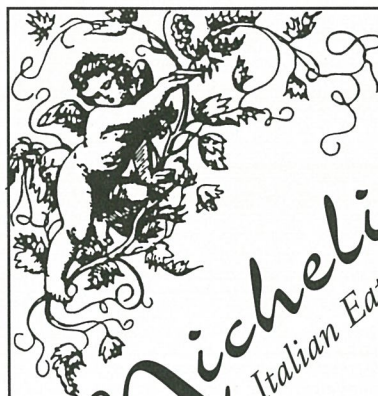


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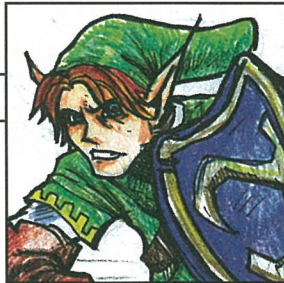
Not a Chain - Family Owned and Operated for 40 Years

Table of Contents

3. Editorial

6. News

8. Leisure

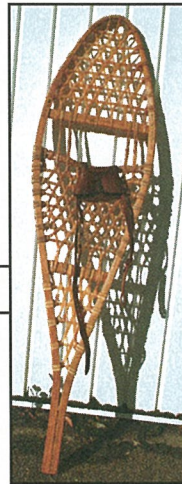


14. Opinion



16. Ethnicity

20. Outdoor Activities



22. Word on the Street



24. Sports

27. Aimless Boy

30. Classifieds/Tab Ads

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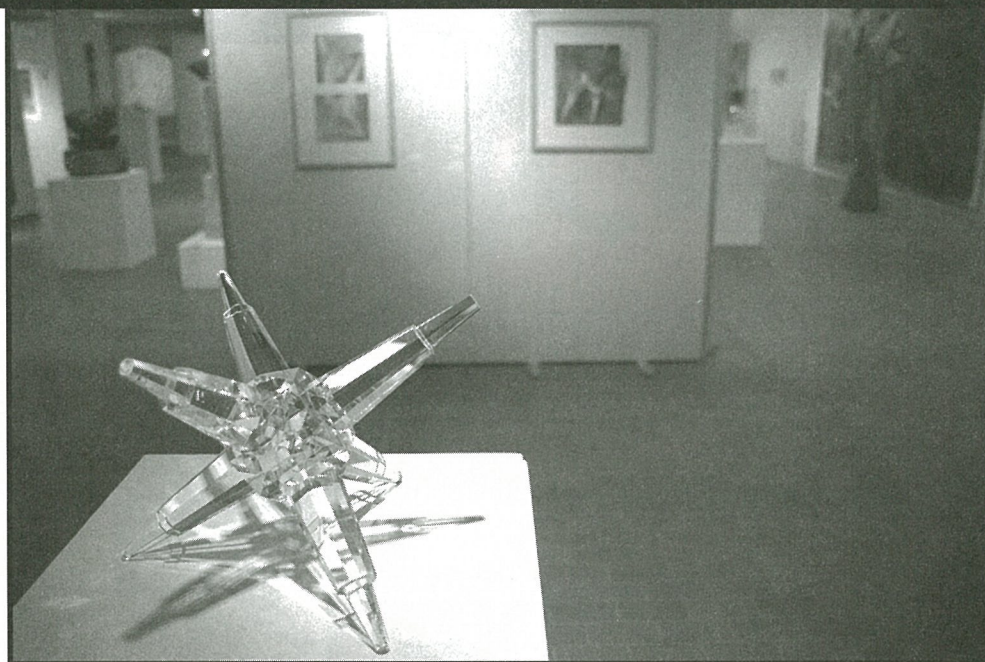
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Record [re- to recall + cor- heart]: An Observation of Society



Searching for a change from a grueling course load and a harsh winter? The current exhibit at the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences Photo Gallery might put a little more warmth in your life. Until December 17, the SPAS Photo Gallery will be showcasing the work of Elaine O'Neil and Judy Gelles. These artists used photography as a means of documenting their relationships with their children over the course of time.

Elaine O'Neil, a professor at RIT, archived her relationship with her daughter Julia throughout the stages of Julia's adolescence. O'Neil's work is a revealing portrayal of the mother/daughter relationship. The photos, she states, "form a series in which the subtle differences between the images is equal [in] importance to the representation of any specific moment. Thus I present the work in two ways, an entire year of photographs arranged in a 5x8 foot grid containing 320 photographs and sets of 24x30 inch prints of individual negatives in which Julia and I appear life size."

Judy Gelles is an artist from Philadelphia. She has a collection of books showcasing her work, used by professors in teaching the photography courses here at RIT. Describing the photo-journal "When We Were Ten," she says, "[It] uses autobiographical stories to display the subtly significant and the significantly subtle ways we are taught to be male and female in our culture." The collection started out as a photo and text journal recording, and later developed into a close investigation of the truthfulness of depiction in the areas of gender, aging, growth, and change.

"Record" is free and open to the public. The SPAS Photo Gallery is on the 3rd floor of Building 7a, and is open Monday through Friday from 9-5.

*by Jenn Taylor
photo by Ed Pfueller*

The Gift of Volunteering

The word community service at RIT is often associated with that all-time favorite required class - Senior Seminar. Many students do not wish to choose the community service option because they feel it will require more of their time and that it is not worth it. While I did not have those initial feelings, I was not interested in doing any more work in a 2 credit hour course, but I later found out that by choosing the community service option, I did not have to take the midterm or final - which meant a guaranteed 200 points. Not a bad option. So, I began exploring some web sites and that is how I discovered Camp Good Days and Special Times. According to their brochure, it is "a cancer camp for kids and a whole lot more," and after volunteering at a Holiday Party at Strong Hospital, I can confirm that it is indeed a "whole lot more."

I helped set up the food and decorations. Then the real challenge was presented - meeting the children. Many of the children who were capable of getting out of bed did attend the array of entertainment, including Santa Claus and Rudolph. Entering the room with their IV's, they left the room with candy, a stuffed animal and hopefully a brighter Christmas. The rest of the volunteers and myself continued to walk through the wings on the pediatric floor, singing and kazoo-ing Christmas carols and delivering toys to the

many children. The night ended with many happier children and satisfied volunteers.

Camp Good Days will celebrate its 20th anniversary in January. Gary Murris started the organization after his daughter was diagnosed with brain cancer in 1979. He wanted a place for his daughter to socialize with other children fighting this disease. Because no groups existed at this time, he began a week-long summer camp in the Adirondacks, which began with 85 children. After subsequent summers, the amount of campers increased, as well as the length of the camp. With no government subsidy and only 25 paid positions, this camp runs on hard working and dedicated volunteers.

Camp Good Days has one major event every month for the children and has done numerous activities including ice skating, going to a Billy Joel concert, hockey games and rock-climbing. The families also fly to the Disney Theme Parks in Orlando based on the generous donation of Mr. Wayne Meisenzahl, a local Rochestarian. Camp Good Days survives from donations, fund-raisers and volunteers and this means YOU!!!! If you'd like more information, please contact Jen Speno at (716) 624-5555.

by Kelley Harsch

World News

In Sarajevo, a mass grave was found which contained the remains of over 150 people, believed to be Muslims killed by Bosnian Serbs in 1992. The site is located approximately 90 miles northwest of the city, where the Omarska detention camp was situated. Human rights investigators believe Bosnian Serbs detained and executed hundreds of Muslims at Omarska early in the war, which lasted from 1992-1995. About 200,000 people were killed in the war. Twenty-thousand are still missing and presumed dead. (CNN)

Australia has officially rebuffed the idea of becoming a nuclear waste dump for the rest of the world. U.S. Special Envoy Robert Gallucci stated that Australia's stable geography and stable political climate make the country ideal for such a repository. However, a spokesperson for Australia's Industry and Resources Minister said, "Government policy is not to accept waste from other countries and there is no intention to change that." (BBC)

The rap group Public Enemy was recently threatened with a lawsuit by their own record company, Def Jam Records. The group was ordered to remove MP3 (a file type containing compressed audio) versions of several unreleased songs from their website. The songs are from a forthcoming remix album named *Bring the Noise 2000*. Public Enemy had planned on releasing all of the album's tracks online over time. Chuck D, the group's leader, said that the Internet release of the tracks was an effort to protest the "bureaucracy" of the music industry. The group released a strongly worded statement on the website, and subsequently removed the MP3 files. (NY Times)

Japanese researchers claimed last week that they had cloned eight calves from cells taken from an adult cow. The researchers also claimed that they have increased the success rate of cloning attempts from 12 percent to 49 percent. Since Japan imports a great deal of its beef, its agricultural researchers are looking towards cloning to improve native milk and beef production. (AP)

The heads of four hostages were recently discovered on the side of a road in Grozny, Chechnya. The victims, Britons Peter Kennedy, Darren Hickey, and Rudolf Petschi, and New Zealander Stanley Shaw, were engineers working for a British telephony company. The Chechen President, Aslan Maskhadov, blamed "outside forces" for the slayings. He also sent condolences to the governments of Britain and New Zealand. (CNN)

Today's children are eating less cholesterol than those of the 1960s, according to a recent government study. The drop, however, was only 4 percent, and only one in six children eats a healthy diet. In addition, more and more children are overweight, and only about half exercise regularly. The study concludes by stating that parents are responsible for instilling proper eating habits in their children. (AP)

by Pete Lukow

A New Link in the Zelda Chain

O

ne of Nintendo's classic heroes is going to be the villain of every parent this holiday season. The new game *The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time* is quickly proving to be THE present for children of all ages this holiday season. Based upon the original classics, *The Legend of Zelda* and its sequels, *Ocarina of Time* is destined to follow the path of its predecessors. This HUGE game is already flying off the shelves and most definitely will continue to have mammoth sales. (Much like *Final Fantasy VII* for the Playstation last year, many people have purchased Nintendo 64 consoles just to play this game!)

This game is one of the best made so far for Nintendo's newest system,



leisure

the company's other titles in graphics, game play, content, and storyline. These elements easily combine to make a highly addictive adventure. The best part is that there are hours of very familiar (and great) game play packed into this release.

The game is extremely fun, challenging, and very nostalgic. At first, it may be hard to adjust to the new style of view (unlike **Ocarina**, the classic Zelda games mainly used an overhead view). Because of N64's enhanced 3D graphics, the perspective has taken on a *Tomb Raider*-style angle. The graphics hold up surprisingly well and eventually the view grows on you. There is a vast world to explore with many indoor temples in need of conquering.

The number of complaints about this game are few. The control can sometimes be very difficult, especially due to the amount of buttons Nintendo decided to put on their controllers.

Also, the cinematic scenes are not well developed because N64 does not have the video capabilities to make scenes with higher detail than the game's graphics themselves. Lastly, this game is very challenging, even for some advanced players. There are strategy guides available, but that means "cheating." Many young kids will be getting this game in the next few weeks and will have a hard time without a cheat guide or an older brother or sister to give them hints.

Overall, the game is excellent. For RPG/adventure fans or those who love previous Zelda titles, it's a must have game. Be warned...you will become addicted and lose yourself for hours, but those games are the best kind. See you all at a future Zeldaholics anonymous meeting....

by Jon Costantini

website of the week

<http://mendax.org/starshield/>

"Greetings Sentient! ... welcome to Starshield!"

Attention all Sci-Fi and fantasy aficionados: "Have you ever watched an episode of Star Trek and thought you could do better? Ever wanted to create your own world, with its own unique history, races, and background? Do you like to roleplay? If you've answered 'yes' to any of these questions, then Starshield may be of interest to you," or so says the website.

I'm not going to pretend to understand all that makes up Starshield, but the project, created by Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman (both NYT best sellers and creators of the game *Dragonlance*), is an opportunity for writers, artists, gamers, and other creative minds to join in the formation and operation of a fictional universe. Participants can actually create an entire empire of their own, including its government, inhabitants and

entire history. Eventually (estimates on the site indicate in about a year), the empires can interact in a form of online role-playing.

This specific site, one of many with Starshield information was selected for two reasons. The first is that it is run by a second-year RIT computer science student, Frank Torkel. Second, this page, which is sharp-looking and frequently updated, is one of the web's most complete sources of information on Starshield. Frank's site, entitled K.I.D. (Kalikari Informational Database), is devoted to compiling information on the Kalikari Dominion and neighboring empires. If the idea of ruling your own galaxy sounds interesting, visit the site, where you may also contact Frank.

by Nick Spittal

One More Shining

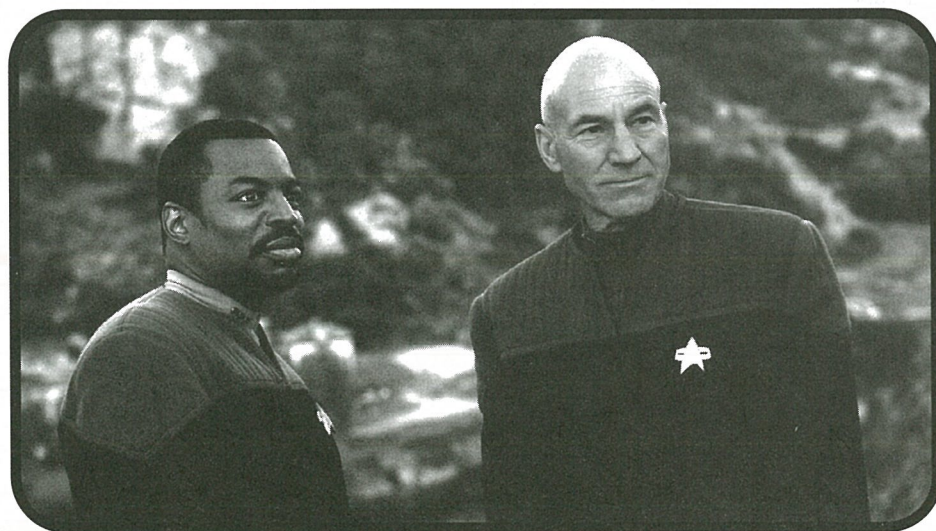
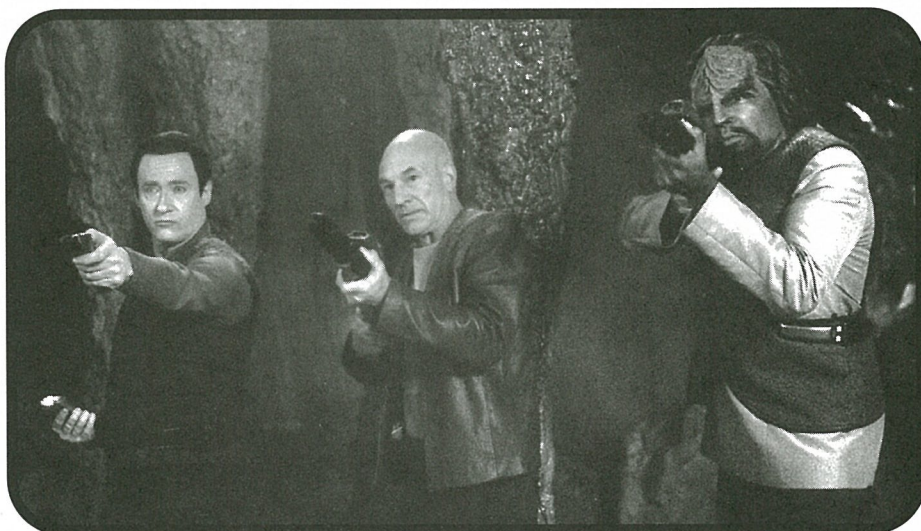
There are those who say the Star Trek franchise is dead. With four series spanning 500 episodes, hundreds of novels and books, and nine feature films (with more of each to come), the saga has been around for 33 years and still has plenty of life. The newest installment to the Trek universe, *Star Trek: Insurrection*, proves that the crew is far from dead.

For anyone who has not seen any Star Trek movie, no two are quite the same. For example, *Star Trek II: the Wrath of Khan* deals with the issues of revenge and hate; *Star Trek IV: the Voyage Home* was a time-travel adventure filled with humor and character moments; and *Star Trek: First Contact* was a full-blown action flick pitting the Enterprise crew against their deadliest of enemies, the Borg. In the same way, *Insurrection* takes its own path and goes where no other Star Trek film has gone before.

First, the movie goes back to basics. When Gene Roddenberry created *Star Trek* back in the 1960s, he intended it to address moral issues and allude to social problems of the time, cleverly disguised as a science fiction show. In addition, unlike many sci-

ence fiction stories, the main focus wasn't on evil aliens and huge space battles — it was on character, drama, and the exploration of humanity. *Insurrection*, though it has its fair share of action and adventure, centers more on character interaction, and its main theme is the extremes people are willing to go to achieve their goals.

Within Federation space, there exists a planet that, due to special properties in its outer rings, regenerates the genetic structure of the inhabitants (yes, the infamous Star Trek technobabble is certainly alive and well in this movie), giving eternal, youthful life. A race of aliens known as the Son'a wish to use that power to benefit their own people, and they ally themselves with the Federation, who plan to use it to advance medical technology. When Captain Picard (Patrick Stewart) and company investigate a minor incident, they discover that the Son'a leader, Ru'afo (F. Murray Abraham), and Starfleet Admiral Dougherty (Anthony Zerbe) plan to relocate the planet's inhabitants, the Ba'ku, to another world to steal the "fountain of



'Star' in the Sky

youth." With a mere 600 inhabitants, great debate arises as to whether the planet should benefit either 600 or millions elsewhere. Conflict results when Picard questions Dougherty, "How many people does it take before it becomes wrong?" Disobeying orders, the Enterprise crews fight to protect the Ba'ku, hence the title.

The film has its share of high and low points. On the good side, the acting is outstanding: the usual *Star Trek: The Next Generation* cast know their characters flawlessly, and the supporting cast shines (particularly Donna Murphy as the Ba'ku leader, Anij). The cinematography is gorgeous — much of the movie takes place outdoors — and the locations rival some of the scenes from other beautiful movies, such as *What Dreams May Come*. The score for the movie is wonderful in parts, especially the opening theme; however, in many segments of the movie, the music seriously interferes. Of course, no Trek film would be complete without a substantial number of visual effects, though the results vary throughout the film. The

Enterprise, along with all the other space shots, has been completely computer-generated for the first time; some work, others do not.

The only major problem I had with the film is that, in order to try to recreate some of the humor and energy from *Star Trek IV*, the script calls for the characters to act strange and downright goofy at times. It not only hurts their roles, but also interferes with the overall flow of the movie.

Unlike the other two Next Generation films, we finally get to see the crew act the way they used to be in the television series — almost like a big family, having fun and interacting. *Star Trek: Insurrection* is not the biggest action movie ever, nor is it the most comical one. It is a sometimes light, though sometimes very serious movie filled with drama and character. It is a welcome addition to the world that is Star Trek.

by Jeff Prystajko



Guide: "Secrets Every Smart Traveler Should Know"



Left to Right: Cast Members Victor Hawks, Kathleen Hogan, Jay Falzone, and Jessica Coker

For just about the same price as a movie and a small popcorn, you could be enjoying a night at the theater. If you're thinking, "a boring night at the Eastman with your parents," think again. *Secrets Every Smart Traveler Should Know* is nearly an R-rated look at the trials and tribulations of world travel. This small revue is showing at the 99-seat Downstairs Cabaret Theatre, and is a guaranteed riot. Although the idea of a musical based on a best-selling travel guide may sound strange, if you've ever been abroad you must know that travel can be frustrating, infuriating and downright hilarious. If you haven't been (un)fortunate enough to have taken a time-zone spanning trip, you will still be able to relate to the frustrations of airlines' touch-tone telephone flight infor-

mation lines, the fight in the buffet line, or the fear of flying.

Even if you've never found humor in diarrhea before, *Secrets* will make you laugh at that and more. They even manage to incorporate a few well-deserved below the belt jabs at our Commander in Chief, and if you're lucky, a scant bit of nudity. The unexpected humor and fast pace are what keeps *Secrets* going and the audience guessing.

At The Downstairs Cabaret Theatre, they manage to put you in the mood by staying true to the travel theme. Upon entering, you are handed your boarding pass before being led to your seat. Prior to the show's "take-off," you are asked to refrain from smoking, and return your flight attendant to her upright position. There is scarcely a moment you stop

laughing, from the take-off to the bumpy landing. Luckily though, you don't have to worry about your baggage ending up in Topeka.

Tickets are only \$9-\$12 for full-time students, and \$18-\$24 for almost everyone else. Discounts apply for seniors. The Downstairs Cabaret Theatre is found right across Main Street, on Windsor, and parking is free in the East End Garage. Other productions are also running simultaneously, including *The News In Revue*. Call 325-4370 for all show times. *Secrets* runs through January, and if you have a chance to stop by, there's a buffet after the show you will appreciate like never before.

by Alexandra C. Daley

Honor in Brotherhood

Fraternities. A group designed to foster and promote brotherhood and fellowship; or an excuse used to encourage social gatherings and alcohol nights? The fraternity literature will most definitely support the first statement. However, as many students and members will tell you, the latter is unfortunately one of the prominent reasons for their popularity. If this is the case, where then are the ideals of brotherhood, community, and service?

A few students asked themselves that question and found it difficult to come up with a straight answer. Instead, they took it upon themselves to provide one. After months of researching the Internet and other colleges, Jonah Goodman, Mark Huebeler, and Tom Schaller found a solution: Phi Sigma Pi, the National Honor Fraternity. What makes this fraternity so unique? For one, it wasn't a Greek fraternity, even though it carries Greek letters (to separate itself according to its beliefs). Second, the group isn't gender-specific; although the term "brotherhood" is commonly used, men and women alike are both welcome. Lastly, even though it isn't a true Greek fraternity, the group is well recognized and respected nationally. RIT's Delta Alpha

chapter is one of 85, all of which combine to a total of 4,300 active members and 18,000 alumni.

Having only been official for two months, the fraternity is a newcomer to the campus. "The organization is set up like a tripod," said Goodman, President of Phi Sigma Pi. "It is divided into one-third service, one-third socialization, and one-third academics. Each section is equally important and the basis for the group's identity." The activities the organization performs speak volumes — doing five service events each quarter, gathering at events such as bowling and banquets, and getting guest speakers to promote leadership and scholarship. Interested members must have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA and be matriculated for at least two full semesters.

One issue that the fraternity faces, and will continually be challenged with, is the debate about alcohol consumption. As everyone knows, Greek Row is supporting the position that since many of its members are of legal drinking age, alcohol should be allowed in their basements. While Phi Sigma Pi doesn't have a house, a few of their members are over 21, and thus the dilemma. Although the

group has yet to come to a collective opinion on the matter, the present understanding is that RIT's alcohol policy will be strictly enforced and all alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited at Phi Sigma Pi events.

Phi Sigma Pi has much to offer. According to Goodman, the benefits of joining are: "Each member here has made 38 new friendships, will enjoy a great social life, will have support classes and tutoring to help keep up their GPA, and will have the assistance of thousands of alumni, so that no matter where they go, there will always be someone there to help them out." Having attended one of their meetings, an hour-and-a-half ordeal topped off by a demonstration of the official Phi Sigma Pi line dance, the impression presented was that the group will be a strong and energetic addition to the RIT community. For more information, visit their web site at www.rit.edu/~pspdawww/ or the national site at www.phisigmapi.org/index.html.

by Jeff Prystajko

photo by Greg Benenati

Top left to right:
Thomas Schaller
Erin Sharkey
Mellisa Vagilev
Alison Kronenwetter

Bottom left to right:
Donna Thibault
Kristin Schrader
Jonah Goodman
Jillian Haber



Opinion

During my never-ending search for fodder to be placed in the latest World News, I happened upon a review of Gus Van Sant's remake of *Psycho*, Hitchcock's classic film. What caught me about the review was not the lack in originality of the remake — Van Sant uses all of the same camera angles, same script, and the same shooting schedule. What surprised me was the ending comments.

Paul Tatara, the author, ended his review of the movie with a small rant about why films, and art in a general sense, matter. "Post-modernism has infiltrated our culture to the point that there's hardly any culture left, or any people who want to nurture the creation of new and exciting works of art." He continues, asserting that we are "a society of chickens" afraid of self-expression.

A few weeks ago, I finally got around to seeing *Armageddon*. Sure, the film looked pretty, but the acting made me wish that the asteroid did obliterate the planet. (I'm fairly certain that there is an unwritten law regarding the proportionality of disasters to box-office profits.) That's not to say, however, that I did not enjoy the film. There is a place for mindless drivel and entertainment. The problem is when all that we are offered to view is mindless drivel and entertainment. Other than the entertainment genre - action, adventure, comedy - what else is there? Well, there are foreign, drama, and art house films which, for the sake of simplicity, I'll lump into one huge category.

Because people tend to avoid art films, most movie theaters do not show them because of the lack of profit associated with them. But why? What is it about these films that frightens us into not viewing them?

Mr. Tatara says that we are afraid of self-expression, and extending that idea, we therefore avoid self-expression at all costs. It is quite a sad state of affairs that we are afraid of our own longings, fears, and joys to the degree that we can allow the most beautiful - and necessary - aspects of our current culture to disintegrate.

"Ah, yes, that may be so," the Intrepid Reader will comment, "but, art is not accessible to the average person. It's above us; we cannot understand it. We're not intellectuals." So goes an old argument, art films are art, and as such cannot be understood by normal people, but only by artists and their ilk. The point of art, however, is to send a message to an audience. The art itself does not withhold secrets from an average person any more than it does for one of those mythical intellectuals. One needs only to perceive the message, which, despite what you may have been led to believe, is not difficult.

Art isn't merely paint on a canvas, or a few neat camera angles. It's a transaction between the artist and the audience. So, in effect, those who are viewing a piece of art, be it a film, a sculpture or a painting, are expressing themselves in however they interpret the art. However, since we are "so terribly embarrassed by self-expression," we, as

a whole, find it exceedingly difficult to react to things like art, because that entails introspection and thought, and finally, an expression of that thought. Both introspection and thought require creativity and subsequently action on the part of the audience. It seems, sadly, that we would prefer to be entertained by mindless drivel all of the time.

What is so important about art? It's like intellectual discussion and thinking for one's self, in that it is necessary for a healthy society. Without art, we wouldn't have movies— even ones like *Armageddon*. Art is what defines us as a culture because it is so profoundly human. I'm going to go out on a limb, and say that art is the soul of a culture. We are letting that soul wither away, simply by not exercising our ability to comprehend it.

I suppose that it is part of my ongoing crusade to either stimulate the proverbial masses' intellectual thought, whether it be a little or a lot. Either one will work, so long as in the end there is thought.

What to do? Watch these:

Il Postino

Ponette

The Piano

Red Firecracker, Green Firecracker

by Pete Lukow

RA/HM Selection Process

1999/2000
Center for Residence Life

Information Sessions:

- Tuesday, December 8, 7pm
Gleason 7 Lounge
- Tuesday, December 8, 8pm
Valentine Lounge
- Thursday, December 10, 7pm
Panara Theatre (LBJ)
- Monday, December 14, 7pm
Colony Cabana
- Tuesday, December 15, 4pm
Tower A Lounge
- Tuesday, December 15, 4pm
Baker B South Lounge
- Tuesday, December 15, 7pm
Zeta Tau Alpha Lounge (bldg. 32)
- Wednesday, December 16, 7pm
RC Clubhouse (437 Racquet Club)
- Wednesday, December 16, 9pm
Gibson A Lounge
- Wednesday, January 6, noon
Fireside Lounge (SAU 1829)
- Thursday, January 7, 6pm
Tower A Lounge
- Thursday, January 7, 7pm
Alpha Xi Delta Lounge (bldg. 32)
- Thursday, January 7, 7pm
Levy Lounge
- Monday, January 11, 7pm
Ingle Auditorium
- Wednesday, January 13, 7pm
Riverknoll Laundry Room
- Wednesday, January 13, 8pm
Valentine Lounge

Interpreters requested for all sessions.

Reach for the Stars



Applications available at Information Sessions, Area Offices, and the Center for Residence Life.

Applications are due by Friday, January 15, 1999 in the EPB Area Office, Ellingson Hall 1030.

For more information visit us on the web at www.rlit.edu/SA/RL

Cultural Cohesion



In a cozy corner of upstate New York, it's early in the afternoon on a typical weekday in our academic world. With a bird's eye view of the computer lobby on the first floor in Wally, you gaze around the room, taking witness to the quiet bustle of communications taking place. Something sticks out. A Latino student, chest emblazoned with Lambda Alpha Upsilon's logo, playfully

banters with an attractive, Arabic-looking young lady who smiles broadly at his apparent humor. A few degrees to the side, several Asian students huddle around a single unit, eyebrows perched, perhaps working together to solve technology's latest riddle. Immediately to your right is an understandably homesick Japanese exchange student. She is poring over a web site filled with her beautiful domestic language of symbols. Perhaps worn down from a long, arduous practice in computer research, a continuation of the never-ending blur of work and people, this fleeting moment of introspective observation makes one think; to consider what this campus represents to every student.

Over the past decade, steady progress has been made on the intimidating path to racial and ethnic equality at RIT. As any minority will tell you, however, contentment is not an option, just hard-earned advancement. Not so long ago, ethnic visi-

bility on campus was minimal, but today, to its credit, RIT has an impressive array of organizations and clubs that strive daily to reach the common goals of ethnic harmony and recognition. Under the direction of the Global Union, which serves as a type of headquarters to the cause, just about every ethnic group is represented. Ethnic organizations, such as the Caribbean Student

Association, the Korean Christian Fellowship, Latin America Unida (LAU), and the Organization for the Alliance of students from the Indian

"How easy it is for minorities, from African-Americans to the deaf, to become burdened with an undesired label because of isolated occurrences."

Subcontinent (OASIS), reveal and demonstrate RIT's diverse student body.

The list goes on and on, symbolizing a buffet table of cultures. Diversity issues remain in the forefront of campus discussions, thanks to factions such as the United Nations Association of Rochester and Tossed Salad, committees of various



The Burinquean Dance Theater.

ethnic backgrounds, that work to educate the majority and minorities alike on how to interact with unfamiliar masses. Those lessons serve everyone for the rest of their lives, especially with the globe-minimizing 21st century lurking around the corner. Never before has the ability to associate one's self with a myriad of cultures been so vital. The buzzword of our generation, one could confidently declare, is "global." Is it enough, though? Does our school truly represent the different cultures? Does the daily routine include their needs? Most minorities did not think so, and saw a need for more.

December 9 was "Unification '98," a Global Union-sponsored event that took place in the Student Alumni Union during the afternoon, then in Ingle Auditorium later that evening. *Reporter* magazine witnessed the events and spoke with participants about their feel-

ings on RIT's ethnic representation and cohesion, or lack of it. Invariably, everyone was warm to the topic, offering their views. An interesting observation, despite their ethnic differences, was that many of the answers revealed the same feelings. Minorities saw the same progress, the same problems. "I feel that minority representation is weak on the RIT campus. However, the lack of representation does not limit them from

showing and sharing their culture," said Antonio Guerra, an electrical engineering major seated at the Lambda Alpha Upsilon table during the afternoon event. He went on to applaud Global Union's role in "maintaining a bond among different cultures."

At the BACC table (Black Awareness Coordinating Committee), Kanika Wright - an Industrial Engineering student - also

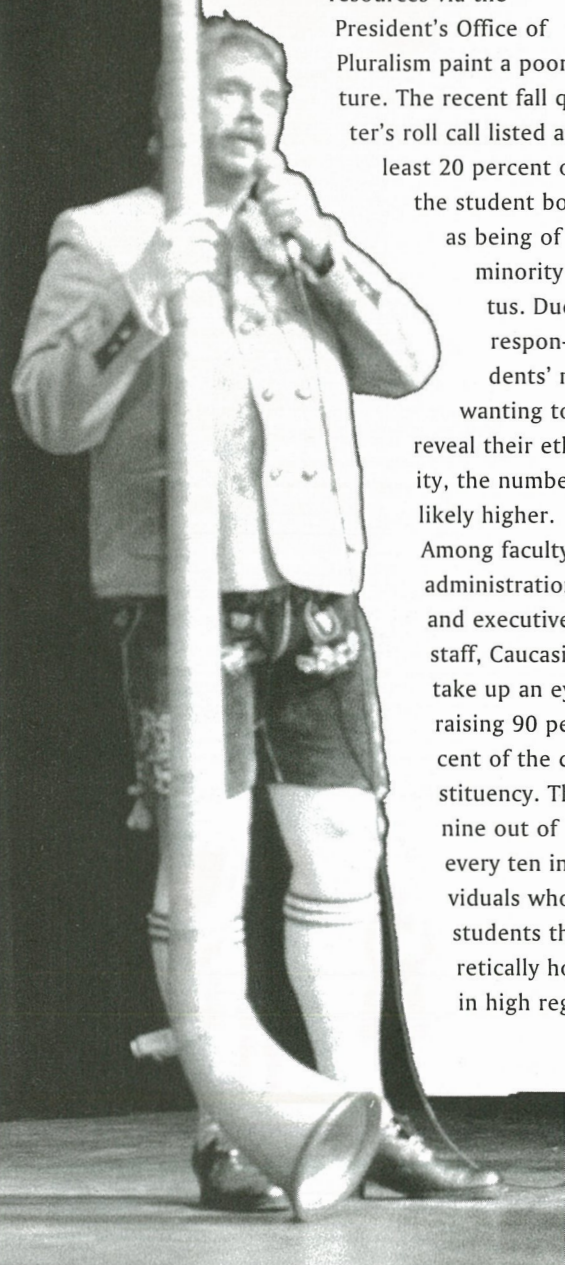
continued on page 18



Andy Myer dancing, of The Bayern Verein Alpengruen.

felt what exists now is not enough: "I feel that RIT lacks diversity among its faculty and staff." She reiterated the need for professional role models on campus for minorities. Wright noticed an increase in diversity among students since her freshman year, but not necessarily in the faculty, a disconcerting issue for her. "...It is through these individuals of higher academia that the students may find role models," she said.

Demographics released by the department of human resources via the President's Office of Pluralism paint a poor picture. The recent fall quarter's roll call listed at least 20 percent of the student body as being of minority status. Due to respondents' not wanting to reveal their ethnicity, the number is likely higher. Among faculty, administration, and executive staff, Caucasians take up an eye-raising 90 percent of the constituency. That's nine out of every ten individuals whom students theoretically hold in high regard.



The Bayern Verein Alpengruen.

In fact the only category in which minority staff participation rises above 15 percent is in the "service/maintenance" category. Thirty percent (58) of those workers are African-American. There are 25 black faculty members altogether, meaning you are almost twice as likely to see an African-American cleaning the floors than in front of the class. Not exactly the representation Ms. Wright and her counterparts had in mind. For a college that prides itself in diversity encouragement, these numbers are discouraging.

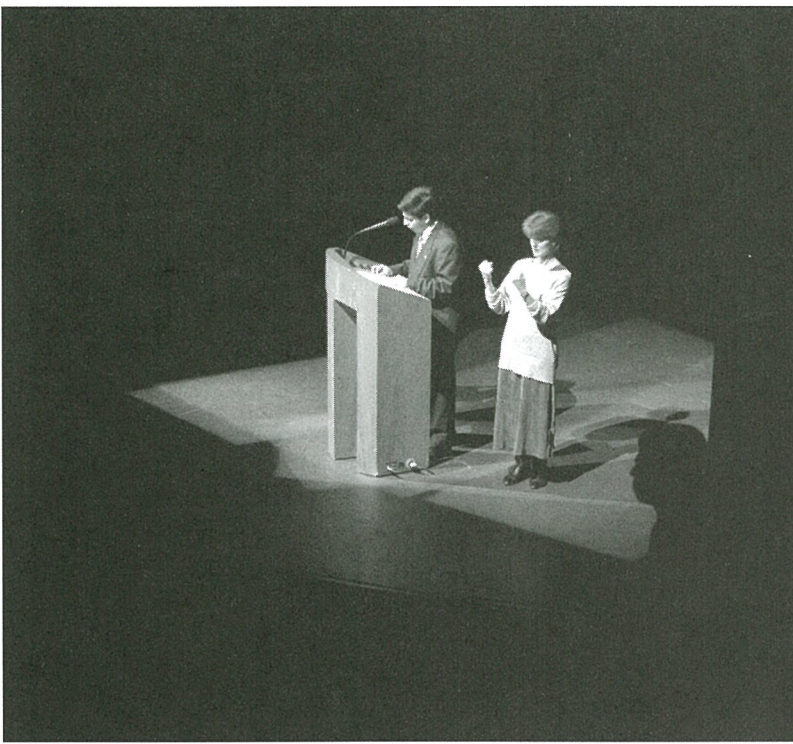
There are other poor showings in RIT's attempts at full ethnic representation. Fall quarter records show that at least 53 Native Americans were enrolled. Their role models? Try role model, one faculty member. When comparing the percentage of students and faculty, just one minority group had a higher percentage of faculty than students: Asians, barely. About 6 percent for faculty, 4.4 in the student body. Everyone else was under-represented.

The people calling the shots upstairs, the 'Executive/Managerial' category, list 15 minorities amongst a sea of 166 whites. There is just one minority leader among the seventh floor brass (the President's

Office): Alfreda Brooks, director of the aforementioned Plurality Committee. Objectively, there may be a variety of factors contributing to the scarcity of minority role models: lack of talent pool, applicants and so forth. In fairness, hiring more minorities remains high on the school's spoken agenda. The Global Union and everyone concerned hopes President Simone and Co. remembers actions speak louder than words.

Back in the SAU towards the end of the event, as everyone clears their tables, Victor Medina sits at the now-empty Deaf Hispanic Club table. The long-time film and video student first came to campus in 1992, thousands of miles away from his Mexican-American barrio in San Diego. In his opinion, some things have changed about RIT since his trial year. "Back then, there was nothing. A lot has improved, a lot of changes," he said. "I see a dramatic increase in leadership." In fact he sees a greater desire of those ethnic minority students to become involved when compared to white students in general. "Maybe it's because everything comes easier for them," he muses. "They sometimes just don't care, they want their

A Bayern Verein Alpengruen member holding a Swiss Horn.



Speaker Nicholas Rubio, Global Union President.

degree and to get out. We need to work harder to make sure the same paths are open." There is no bitterness in his tone. Perhaps that's the remedy needed to dispose of the much-maligned apathy on campus: more minorities. Similarly, Antonio Guerra, the Lambda Alpha Upsilon brother, also spoke of a need for minorities to take control of their own destiny, "we have the power; it should all start from the bottom up."

When asked what the most difficult thing about being a minority student on a largely white campus, Medina mentioned the lightning-quick stereotypes that arise from certain situations. "We make mistakes. When that happens, stereotypes are encouraged. Suppose I was to get into a fight and my friends back me. Others would be all too quick to label it a 'gang thing.' We're not gang-members, we raise money, we take leadership roles. But away from those duties, we do our own thing. Just like everybody else." This was just one hypothetical example. He aimed to

express how easy it is for minorities, from African-Americans to the deaf, to become burdened with an undeserved label because of isolated occurrences.

On that day in Wallace Library, you either marvel at or merely observe our campus diversity. If RIT wants to envision itself as avant-garde in the upcoming mesh of world cultures, the statistical numbers and observations of the constituency need to agree. An old quote from Martin Luther King, Jr. envisions the ultimate aspiration of our International community: "...until Justice rolls down like waters and Righteousness like a mighty stream." Until then actions speak louder than words.

*by Alex Long
photos by Greg Benenati*

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Winter Looms, Nature Blooms

It's beginning. Sweeping breezes, once invigorating, now draw a shudder. Birds fly in formation and green leaves are extinct. Students brace themselves as they enter the winding wind tunnels of RIT, silently cursing their school's award-winning architects, dreaming of southern climes and a world without quarter-miles. First to arrive is the snowless end-of-autumn interim period, when the ground is bare and everything is dead and cold. Then come blizzards, ices-torms, stuck tires, slippery pavement, salted roads, layer upon layer of clothing, mud-splashed pants, foggy glasses, boiling dorm rooms because the damn heater won't shut off, flu, viruses ... well, you get the idea. Ah yes, winter is coming, and isn't lake effect weather grand?

But we at RIT don't whine about the downsides of the coming season. Of course not. Awaiting us this winter, if we so desire to leave our computer screens and venture out onto the snow and ice, are plenty of outdoor activities. Some

students will ditch their roller-blades and pick up their ice-skates, some will reach for their skis and climb Bristol, and still others will content themselves with sleds and snowboards and convert local hills into personal amusement parks. Even ice fishing and snowmobiling are offered as gym courses this quarter for rugged souls uninterested in earning PE credit indoors.

And if RIT's choices are too narrow, students can turn to the Rochester area for their yearly outdoor winter-fix. Countless organizations, clubs, and educational centers offer opportunities to pursue any kind of winter interest imaginable. Bristol Mountain, for years a favorite ski resort among Rochestarians, is located on route 64 in Canandaigua, Ontario County and opens around Thanksgiving. It offers night skiing from December 11 - March 14 and doesn't close altogether until April. Bristol claims its 1,200 vertical feet to be the highest skiing rise in the region. It also offers 22 trails covering 150 acres. Bristol is popular with families because of its size, chil-

dren's center, and trails for all levels of skier. Green Peak is another resort situated in Virgil, Cortland County. It offers 29 trails, 6 chair lifts, and a vertical drop of 900 feet. Far more modest, certainly, but sitting right in our own back yard is Powder Mill Park which is offering snowboarding lessons for those interested in learning something new. Powder Mill is another popular family spot that offers "winter wonderland" scenery and easy cross-country skiing. Other ski resorts around the area are Brantling, Frost Ridge, Holiday Valley, Hunt Hollow, Kissing Bridge, North Hampton Park, Ski Valley, and Swain. In the outlying areas are other choices such as Osceola Tug Hill X-County Ski Center out in Osceola, Pechler's in Palmyra, Salmon Hills in Redfield, Winona Lodge in Locona, Allegany State Park near Salamanca close to the Pennsylvania border, Genesee County Park in East Bethany, and Letchworth in Castile. Cumming Nature Center north of Naples offers free skiing for members of the





Rochester Museum and Science Center, the city's dual planetarium/natural history museum. The trails there range from novice through expert.

Numerous parks abound in New York State and around Rochester in particular, and they're just as good (if not better) in winter as in summer. Not just ski resorts, parks are great for walking the trails, slicing through the snow, and enjoying the outdoors in winter. Perhaps the most prominent park in this area is Mendon Ponds, located in Honeoye Falls. It's a sprawling reservoir of trails, fields, hills, and small bodies of water. In winter, the eastern section of the park provides local schools with trails for cross-country skiing meets. Mendon Ponds is also a favorite location for school outdoor clubs, as its trails are varied and usually quite navigable. Even in winter, it is full of interesting animals. People walking the trails can hold out bird seed and birds will boldly fly to their hands. Thousand Acre Swamp, described as "an oasis of nature surrounded by suburbia" is located off Jackson Rd. in Penfield. It has an elevated bridge over the swamp that can be skied across given the right amount of snow. Webster Park, located

in the north along Lake Ontario has trails for horseback riders, who, in winter sometimes run into the skiers according to the folks at maxlent.com, the website that lists all these places. Don't worry too much, though, because the site goes on to say that "there are few of either using the park during extreme weather."

Cold weather won't keep all Rochestarians bundled up or restricted to playing in the snow, either. Running competitions and events will continue throughout the season. Coming one right after another are the Freezeroo runs of various lengths and locations. The fourth Freezeroo, in fact, will be held in Powder Mill on Jan. 23. Freezeroo's 1, 2, and 3 will occur on Dec. 13, Jan. 1, and Jan. 16 respectively. The second one will be at Mendon Ponds and will go for 7.5 miles.

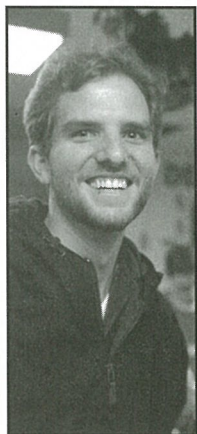
Ice-skating is more of an indoor activity, at least far more so than skiing which is always done outside. Students getting tired of RIT's rink can try some of the other places around town like Thomas Creek in Fairport and the Webster Recreation Center. Mendon High School usually makes an outdoor ice rink that people try out on the weekends. The Erie Canal, of course, freezes in some parts,

and people can sometimes be seen venturing on to the more solid parts in their skates when it's really cold. Whether or not this is a wise idea is another matter. Many of the schools also offer decent sledding places for those with a nostalgia for sailing down large hills, nearly crashing into the street below and under the wheels of a large truck. Pittsford Middle School, especially, has big hills and is (or at least was) a favorite spot among kids.

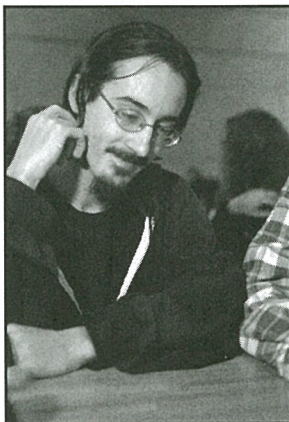
Well, to repeat, winter seems bad at first at RIT. It must be the wind tunnels - someday a prominent social scientist will write an interesting paper on the behavioral affects of living in the Northeast on a campus designed for the Southwest. But, as we've tried to show here, lots of things go on in Rochester during winter. So this year, as subzero Icelandic gusts rip the heat out of your body as you step outside your snugly building, just think of all the outdoor fun you could be having. You'll smile. Or you'll require psychotherapy. Either way, it'll be fun.

by Zane Kaylani

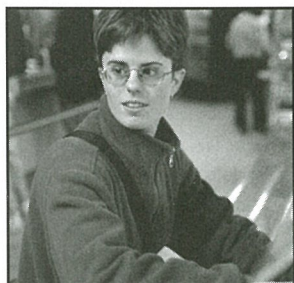
photos by Alexandra C. Daley



“I’ll be staying in Rochester to work on a photo story.”
Ben Garvin, fourth year, Photo.



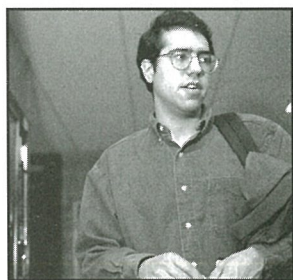
“I don’t know; shave a yak and ride down a ski slope.” Bill Downs, second year, Film/Video/Animation.



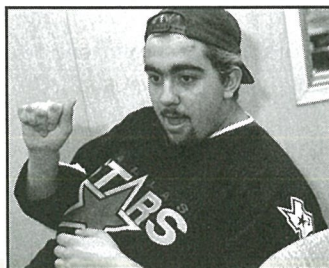
“I’m going back to Chicago, dance and get drunk.” Disam Bryer, Illustration.



“I plan on hanging with my friends and spending time with my family over the holiday break.”
Danielle Heitmuller, second year, Film/Video/Animation.



“Not too much - I’m staying here. I’m going to have friends over and have a party or something.” Gabe Atiya, Film/Video/Animation.



“During Christmas vacation I will be seeing both of my parents whom are divorced. I will see my father during Christmas Eve to celebrate with him. I will also be seeing my mother, stepfather, sister, and brother on Christmas day. Also I will be spending New Year’s with my good friends.” Nick Dendanto, first year, Business Management.

“I’m going with my band on tour for the holiday.” John Twenty-five, fourth year, Printing Technology.

“I live in Rochester. My family is coming to visit me.” Joseph B., Film/Video/Animation.

“I’m going to hang out with my friends and visit with my family.” Vanda Unquareanu, second year, accounting.

“I’m going to my parent’s home, relax, and do nothing.” Rick Parrinello, first year, Fine Art Photo.

“I’m going to New Orleans for New Years. I’m going with my fiancé and another couple.” Robyn Kazmark, fourth year, Nutrition Management.

“I’m going home and party with my friends.” Dave Clark, fourth year, Printing.

“I will be spending some time with my family, and hopefully having a party at my house for New Year’s. Although I would rather go to New York City, but I think those plans have fallen through.” Jaimie Lojzim, second year, Graphic Design/Interior Design.

“Hang out with my friends.” Avi Bhandary, second year, medical illustration.

“I’m gonna head to Texas, the Lone Star State, where I am going to hang out with a bunch of friends and spend the holiday spirit with my beloved family. On the other hand, I’m ready to cruise through downtown Houston and go clubbin’ with dudes and dudettes.” Luis Reyes, fourth year, Information Technology.

“I am going home and then to New York City for New Year’s Eve. I am going to Rockefeller Center - it’s always nice there. Nothing very special, just visiting my friends and family.” Andrea Zamloot, third year, Graphic Design.

“I am going home to see my mother, I don’t know, maybe go to Time Square. I live in New York City ... do all the cool stuff.” Paula Burrio, third year, International Business.

by Christine D’Amato
photos by Ed Pfueller

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WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM IS DEALT FIRST LOSS

After going 2-0-2 through their first four games of the season, the RIT women's hockey team suffered their first loss of the season to number one ranked Middlebury by a score of 7-2. The Tigers knew they were in for a tough time before the game had even begun. Middlebury is one of the best teams in women's hockey, and was on a 57 game winning streak going into the match against RIT.

The score was even at 0-0 for the majority of the first period until Middlebury's

Michelle Labbe found the back of the net putting them up 1-0. The goal was the first of three straight unanswered goals for Middlebury, two of which would come from Labbe. Labbe ended the game with 3 goals.

Midway through the second period, the Tigers came alive when Kristine Pierce scored the team's first goal of the game. It was also the first time that anyone had scored on Middlebury this season. Despite the Tiger's efforts, Middlebury went on

another three-goal stint that left the score at 6-1. Maria Lewis scored the Tiger's final goal.

RIT's Melissa Norris played a tough game between the pipes for the Tigers, facing 37 shots, and saving 30 of them. Maria Lewis added a goal and an assist. The team's next game is Friday, January 8, at home against Union.

*by Jon-Claude Caton
photos by Greg Benenati*



RIT's Derek Hahn battles with Buffalo at Center Ice.

MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM CONTINUES TO ROLL

On December 10, the RIT Tigers men's hockey team heightened its record to 9-0 with a convincing win over Buffalo State at home. The team controlled the entire game defeating Buffalo State 11-1. The win helped erase any doubts about the Tigers' talent. It also maintained their hold as number one in the nation, a title that has yet to be seriously challenged at this juncture in the season.

Matt Garver scored three goals in the game, giving him a team-leading 12 goals on the season. Defenseman Jerry Galway added two goals and

an assist.

The Tigers have a countless number of contributors on the roster as they approach the winter break. Peter Bournazakis currently leads the team in scoring with 23 points. Other players totaling over 20 points include Luke Murphy (16 assists, and 22 points) and Pat Staerker (10 goals, and 22 points). After the break, the team travels to SUNY Plattsburg for the Plattsburg Tournament, and will return home Friday, January 8, to host Potsdam.

by Jon-Claude Caton

photos by Ed Pfueller



RIT's Derek Hahn and McAllister King plow over a Buffalo player in their 11-1 victory.



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announcement

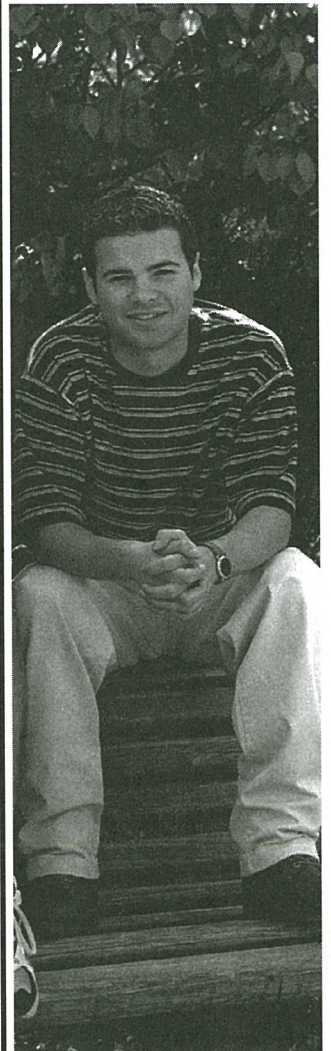
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WRESTLING TEAM FINISHES FOUR IN TOURNAMENT

With only two men placing first and no second place finishers, the RIT wrestling team ended up fourth in the 33rd Annual RIT Wrestling Invitational that took place on December 5.

This year's competition brought the likes of Springfield and John Carrol, who finished one-two respectively, and in-state rival Ithaca, who ended up third. All three of these teams were strong at almost every weight class and seemed very experienced. This made it hard for the young RIT squad who had some guys out there making their college debuts. Also competing were Plymouth State, Norwich, Oswego, and Mansfield.

Both Matt Hammill at 191lb and Tony Wallace at 174lb took first for RIT.

Hammill, who is a two-time defending national champion, was also named the tournament's outstanding wrestler. He pinned all four of his opponents, including Justin Kerr of

John Carrol in the title match.

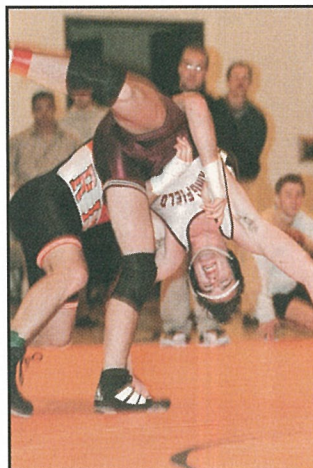
Wallace, too, showed why he is an All-American by pinning John Leiss of Ithaca in his first match. He then beat both the fourth seed Ben Baker of Plymouth State (10-8) and the two seed John Roden from Springfield (8-4) in the final match.

Also placing for the Tigers were Wayne Young at 125lb, both Eric Kunsman and Josh Torres (133), Ashley Grillo (141), Pat North (157), Mike King (184), and Mike Leiss (Heavyweight).

Overall, the Tigers had nine guys place: two firsts, one third, three fourths, one fifth, and two sixths.

The team will take a break from competition for about a month, and will start again with a home meet against Cortand on Jan. 8, followed by the Division III Duals at Lycoming Jan. 15 and 16.

*By Brett Fleming
photos by Andrew Gombert*





REPORTER ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

MATT HAMMILL: RIT'S HEAVY WEIGHT CHAMPION

The bright spot for the wrestling team in their recent home tournament was junior Matt Hammill. Hammill was the tournament's most valuable wrestler as he dominated his way to the top in his weight class. Hammill was an All American last year and has been exceeding his own personal achievements this year. He ended in first place after defeating wrestlers from John Carrol, Plymouth, and Oswego.

Last year, along with being named an All American, Hammill also won his second straight national championship. It is

no surprise that the Tiger's top wrestling talent is once again poised to be the national champion in the 190 pound weight class. Amidst all of his achievements, both past and present, Matt Hammill is RIT's heavyweight champion, and will continue to be as long as he maintains his personal standard of excellence.

*by Jon-Claude Caton
photo by Andrew Gombert*

Classifieds

Dark Side of the Moon

Check out the DSM website: Upcoming shows, info about the band,

Email the players, get on the mailing list.

www.citilynx.com/dsm

Booking info DSMHQ@aol.com or call Rob (716) 381-4006

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Tab Ads

I think she should have kept jumping. It was a very powerful scene in the movie.

-Bill Clinton

Once I had a glass of milk that had gone bad, but I was so thirsty I didn't notice till half of it was gone. At that point I figured-might as well finish it. Yummy.

-Greg

We are the music makers, and we are the dreamers of the dreams...

-Wonka

Going fishin', need a miricle...

CalendaRIT



THE MYSTICAL ARTS OF TIBET: Sacred Music Sacred Dance

by the Tibetan Monks from
Drepung Loseling

Friday, January 15, 8pm
Ingle Aud.

students: \$3

fac/staff: \$8

public: \$12

Leah Carla Cordene
January 14, 8-10pm
in The Grind **FREE**

TALISMAN: Dazed & Confused

Thursday &
Saturday January

14&16

Ingle Aud.

7&9pm

FREE



coming in January

Henry Padron January 7, 8-10pm
in The Grind **FREE**

Open AA Meeting
every Sunday at
11am in Clark
Meeting Room
2nd Floor SAU.
All Students,
Faculty, Staff their
families and guest,
are cordially invited.

Joe Salzano and the Blue Devils, Swing Dance

Saturday January 9,
8pm-midnight in
Fireside Lounge

SKI TRIP

Bristol Mountain

January 16, 9am

students: \$20

fac/staff: \$26

ski rental: \$10

snowboard: \$15

TALISMAN: Ronin Friday & Saturday January 8 & 9 in Ingle Aud. 7&9:30pm \$1



To publicize your event to the entire campus, send the name, date, location, time, contact person, phone number, and any other pertinent information to CalendaRIT, Center for Campus Life, SAU, Room 2130, by 4:30pm fourteen working days before the issue in which you would like it to be published. CalendaRIT may edit due to space limitations.

Events are subject to change

