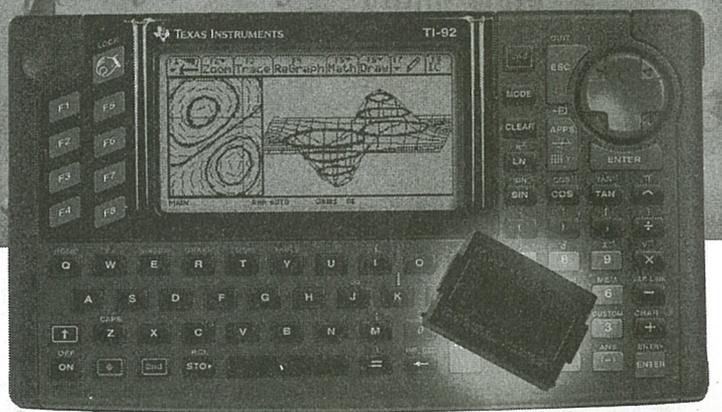
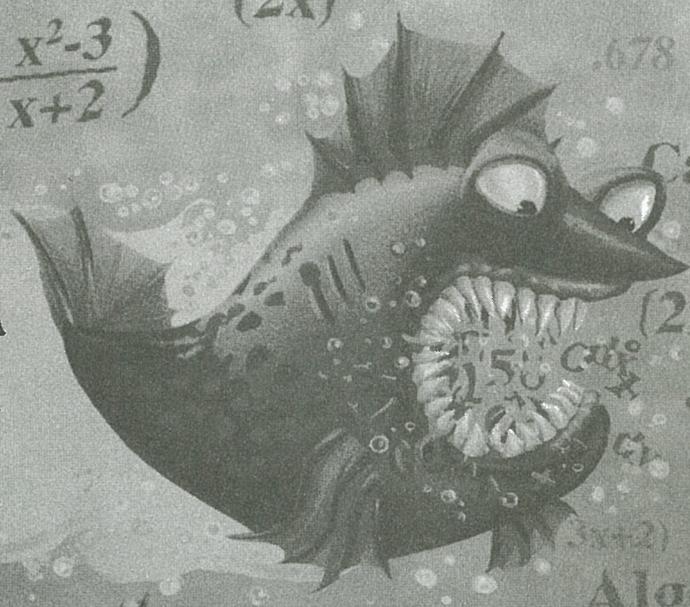


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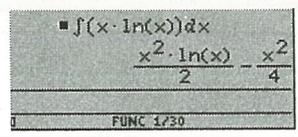
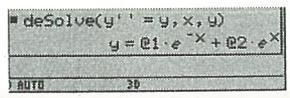


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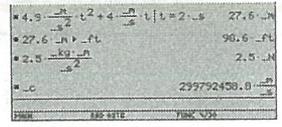
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INFO -

A subtle change is emerging in how news organizations, both TV and print, handle entertainment, journalism, and news. The best and scariest example is the story that appeared on the *TIME* magazine cover the week after a U.S. Embassy was bombed: *The Truman Show*. What is the big deal, you might ask? Well, here is my thought.

TAINMENT

It is one thing for *Entertainment Weekly* to have movies or stars on its cover; people expect that. However, *TIME* and *Newsweek* have also dedicated numerous covers to movies, most notably *Independence Day* and *The Truman Show*. I have no problem with these magazines covering movies, but I do object when news stories like bombings are pre-empted.

I wonder about the priorities these magazines have when stories that effect our country and foreign policy drift off the front page. In one sense this was the direct opposite of *Wag the Dog*, and I hesitate to even use that movie as an example because of its premise. By focusing the cover on a feel-good subject and keeping the bombing "low key," the tragedy and impact of this event was diminished.

I worry that the lines between news and entertainment are becoming blurred. If people become accustomed to not knowing when large and momentous events occur and it becomes difficult to tell a news story from a press release, then I fear our country is in trouble.

As the Roman Empire began to collapse, a great deal of money and time was put into circuses and gladiator fights to entertain the masses and keep their minds off of all the problems. I perceive the possibility of an Orwellian future in which people are so entranced by Bob Barker the III and the *Price is Right* that they don't notice they are unemployed, that the infrastructure is collapsing, and that they are hungry.

That is a mighty big step from where we are today, you might say. I would argue that as the separation between news and entertainment diminishes it will become harder to tell one from the other. It is not difficult to believe that "infotainment" will slowly become accepted. "And now with today's news, here is anchorwoman Pamela Lee...."

MICHAEL FAGANS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Note 1: Letters to the Editor may be submitted electronically, but I request that they be kept short. Letters should be directed to MJF2744@rit.edu. Longer letters can and should be submitted on disk.

Note 2: A brief apology to Muhammad Ali, whose name I misspelled last week. This was not meant as a slight to the man. To say that I am embarrassed is an understatement.

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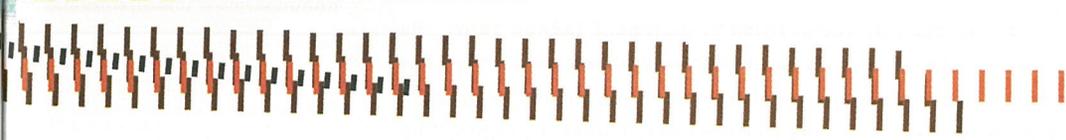
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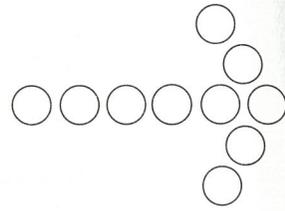
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WORLD NEWS:

• A remake of the ill-fated Communication Decency Act, dubbed the Child Online Protection Act, was passed by the House Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and is expected to go before the Commerce Committee this week. HR 3783, it is claimed, is legally stronger than its predecessor, which was struck down by the Supreme Court in 1996. The ACLU, EFF, and the Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility all state that the bill has "the effect of criminalizing protected speech among adults," according to a joint statement issued by the three groups. (IDG)

• Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, was thrashed by Hurricane Georges on the 22nd of September. Georges was classified as a Category 3 storm, with 120 mph winds. Earlier, the storm walloped Puerto Rico and the northeast Caribbean. Georges claimed many lives and left thousands homeless. Over 80 percent of Puerto Rico lost power, and 70 percent had no water. On St. Kitts, more than 70 percent of the houses were destroyed. The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, the FBI, the National Guard, and the Red Cross have all been dispatched to assist with relief efforts. (CNN)



RIT SNUFFS OUT SMOKING IN CAMPUS EATERIES:

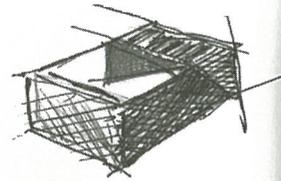


Take a look around the next time you're enjoying a meal at an on-campus restaurant at RIT. As of August 31, 1998, the subtle divisions are gone; the wall of green planters has fallen. The new RIT dining area smoking policy has made all campus dining areas 100% smoke-free. A new Monroe County law has created the most stringent smoking statutes ever, citing significant health risks attributable to tobacco smoke. This law states that all seating (except for that in specifically designed and isolated smoking rooms) must be smoke-free as of January 1, 1999. Because the beginning of the academic year is a more logical time for the administration to institute new policies, RIT has chosen to comply early.

In the beginning of 1998, RIT's restaurants were forced to reduce smoking capacity to 15% of available seating. The push to implement this law on campus early came from the Food Service Business Administrator James Bingham. "The change went through very easily," Bingham says. He states that a large number of complaints the office had received in the past were from non-smokers who were annoyed with the air quality in the restaurants due to smoking sections. He points out that crowded rush hours contributed to the problem, as well as the unavoidable proximity of the smoking sections to the smoke-free areas. This, Bingham believes, is the reason he has not had any complaints or met with opposition about the new policy. Even Gracie's, which has had a noticeable population of smokers in past years, has accepted the change without difficulty.

Bingham does admit that the policy is entirely the result of the county law; the administration had no other plans to enact such a policy. He believes that the public community should first accept such a policy as it did in this case. "It's not a big deal," says first year student and smoker Ron Cavagnaro. As he explains it, "You're going to smoke when you're done eating." He feels the rights of non-smokers must be respected.

Second year non-smoker Cory Card agrees with the decision to implement the law early: "No one is used to smoking in there, so they don't really care." He sees the law as positive, but more so for non-smokers, adding, "It's limiting personal freedom if you choose to smoke." Mark Bixler, first year non-smoker, agrees. "I do see how it affects [smokers'] rights," he says. "They have the right to smoke." He supports the policy, though, saying that if he smoked he "wouldn't make other people suffer."



This new policy serves to strengthen a growing anti-smoking policy on the RIT campus. Recent years have seen the banning of smoking in all offices and public areas on campus, as well as a more strictly defined residence hall smoking policy. The sale of cigarettes does, however, continue on campus at the Candy Counter and the Corner Store.

The first smoking regulation in Monroe County was instituted in 1987, which restricted smoking areas in restaurants to a maximum 30% of the dining area. Last year the percentage fell to a maximum of 15% before being reduced to none on August 31, 1998. RIT first announced its decision to implement the law early in its April 2, 1998 publication of *RIT News & Events*.

by Chris Grocki

• In 35 cities in France, the use of cars was banned from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on September 22 in an effort to give pedestrians fresh air and quell the dominance of cars. In Paris, 1,000 bicycles were available for rent from City Hall. Paris police operated roadblocks, allowing only local residents, buses, taxis, motor-bikes, emergency services, and vehicles powered by electricity or liquid gas to pass through. (Reuters)

• Ahmet Krasniqi, a leading member of the Albanian government of Kosovo, was assassinated in Tirana on September 21. This was the second political murder in two weeks, after the assassination of Azem Hajdari of the Democratic Party. The violence in Kosovo has been escalating in the past 18 months, since pyramid savings schemes collapsed, dissolving the life savings of most Albanians. (Reuters)

• In the city of Maseru, Lesotho, 10 people were killed and more than 60 were wounded when South African troops crossed the border to quell an army mutiny. The attack killed three South African soldiers and wounded about 10, according to the South African military. Before South African intervention, five people were killed in seven weeks of anti-government protests which had effectively brought the government to a halt. (Reuters)

by Pete Lukow

ENVIRONMENT AND CITIZENSHIP:

The focus of RIT's 1998-99 Gannett lecture series is the relationship between the environment and citizenship. The speakers will include George Gerbner, Robert Bullard, James Buchanan, and David Maybury-Lewis.

The first speaker was James Buchanan, who spoke on Thursday, September 24 about "Values and Sustainability." He is currently the Caroline Werner Gannett professor in RIT's College of Liberal Arts.

George Gerbner will speak at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 1. Holding the position of Dean of the Annenberg School for Communications at the University of Pennsylvania for 30 years, Gerbner is a leading researcher on the social effects of television. "Media and Democracy in the 21st century" is the title of his lecture.

Robert Bullard is scheduled to speak on Thursday, October 8, about "Environmental Justice: Strategies for Building Healthy and Sustainable Communities." He is the author of *Dumping Dixie* (1990) and *Unequal Protection* (1993). He is known as a pioneer and world expert in environmental justice and racism.

David Maybury-Lewis is the last speaker for the Autumn Series, and he is scheduled to lecture on October 15. He will be speaking on the topic of "Cultural Survival in the Next Millennium." He is the founder and director of Cultural Survival, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1972 to defend the human rights and cultural autonomy of indigenous peoples and oppressed ethnic minorities.

All the lectures are located in the WEBB auditorium in the Booth Building. All lectures are open to students, faculty, and the general public and all those interested are encouraged to attend. There will be interpreters and refreshments will be served after each lecture.

It took determination and perseverance to put a monumental lecture like this together, and much credit should go to James Buchanan and the other departments at RIT who have participated as cosponsors for this event. As Buchanan remarked, these lectures are "the best in the country . . . you won't find lectures like these at Yale, Harvard, or Princeton."

by William Bookman



GREG BENENATI



ALEXANDRA DALEY



ABC hands out last year's surprising hit, *Dharma and Greg*, the all new *Two Guys, a Girl, and a Pizza Place*, the hilarious *The Drew Carey Show*, and another male bonding sitcom, *The Secret Lives of Men*. This looks like a pretty solid lineup.

FOX has a contender for the Wednesday night fight, though. *Party of Five* starts at 9:00 and, man, angst never felt so good. Bailey and Sarah got their own apartment, Claudia's in college, and Julia needs a boyfriend who'll do right by her. Will Charlie get to adopt his unborn kid away from that bitchy ex-girlfriend? Man, I can't wait.

CBS, well, they've got *Maggie Winters* at 8:30. The only reason I mention it is because it stars Faith Ford, trying desperately to hold onto her career in the post Murphy Brown meltdown.

Thursdays: The most expensive evening in television viewing history. *Must See Tee-Vee!* No *Seinfeld!* Will all hell break loose? The *Friends* finale left us wondering. Ross, Rachel, and Emily are in an incredible mess. Chandler and Monica: Way to go! Christina Applegate returns to television in *Jesse* (8:30) as a single mom who's horny but feeling guilty about it. This show has potential. Intelligent comedy returns at 9:00 with *Frasier* getting depressed because he lost his job. It happens. Very funny. The pathetic *Veronica's Closet* airs at 9:30 and is once again aided by the shows before and after. It still stinks. NBC paid 13 million clams to keep *ER* — per episode! The 20 million dollar or more contracts for Anthony Edwards and Noah Wyle weren't cheap, either. With George Clooney leaving and other dramas capturing critical attention, it will be interesting to see who's making out in this deal.

Fridays: Blah

NBC, 9:00, *Trinity*: A working class Irish-Catholic family made of brothers and sisters try to make life work in the Hell's Kitchen area of New York. Looks pretty sappy.

At ABC, TGIF strikes again. We'll go right down the line: First is *Two of a Kind*, starring none other than Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen. What would I rather do: Watch this show or have a bus run over my head? Teen angst goes to the next level in *Boy Meets World*. Boring. *Sabrina* is vaguely interesting. *Brother's Keeper* is ABC's best Friday night shot. An anal-retentive office-type lets his jock brother move in and help raise his son. Looks good.

Saturday: Why are you watching TV on Saturday?

Face it, Saturday night TV has usually been such a stinker for every channel that any improvement is an incredible accomplishment. Here we go: NBC's got *The Pretender* at 9:00, one of the best shows on all week. Unfortunately, the premiere has been postponed until either October 17 or November 1, whenever the producers get off their butts. ABC has two hopefuls in the running on Saturdays. 9:00 gives us *Fantasy Island*. Malcolm McDowell stars as the infamous Mr. Rourke in this story's revival. Guests come to the Island to find their dreams. Mr. Rourke gives them everything they want — or does he? This might actually be a hit; it looks very interesting. After that comes *Cupid*. Jeremy Piven stars as the title character who is kicked off Mount Olympus until he hooks up 100 couples in an attempt by "the powers that be" to save true love. CBS finally chimes in with something worth watching: *Martial Law* stars one of Jackie Chan's old buddies as a Singapore cop who joins the LAPD. Lots of action and violence. Score!

Well, there you go. One week of pure, unadulterated mind rot. Isn't television a wonderful thing?

by William Huber



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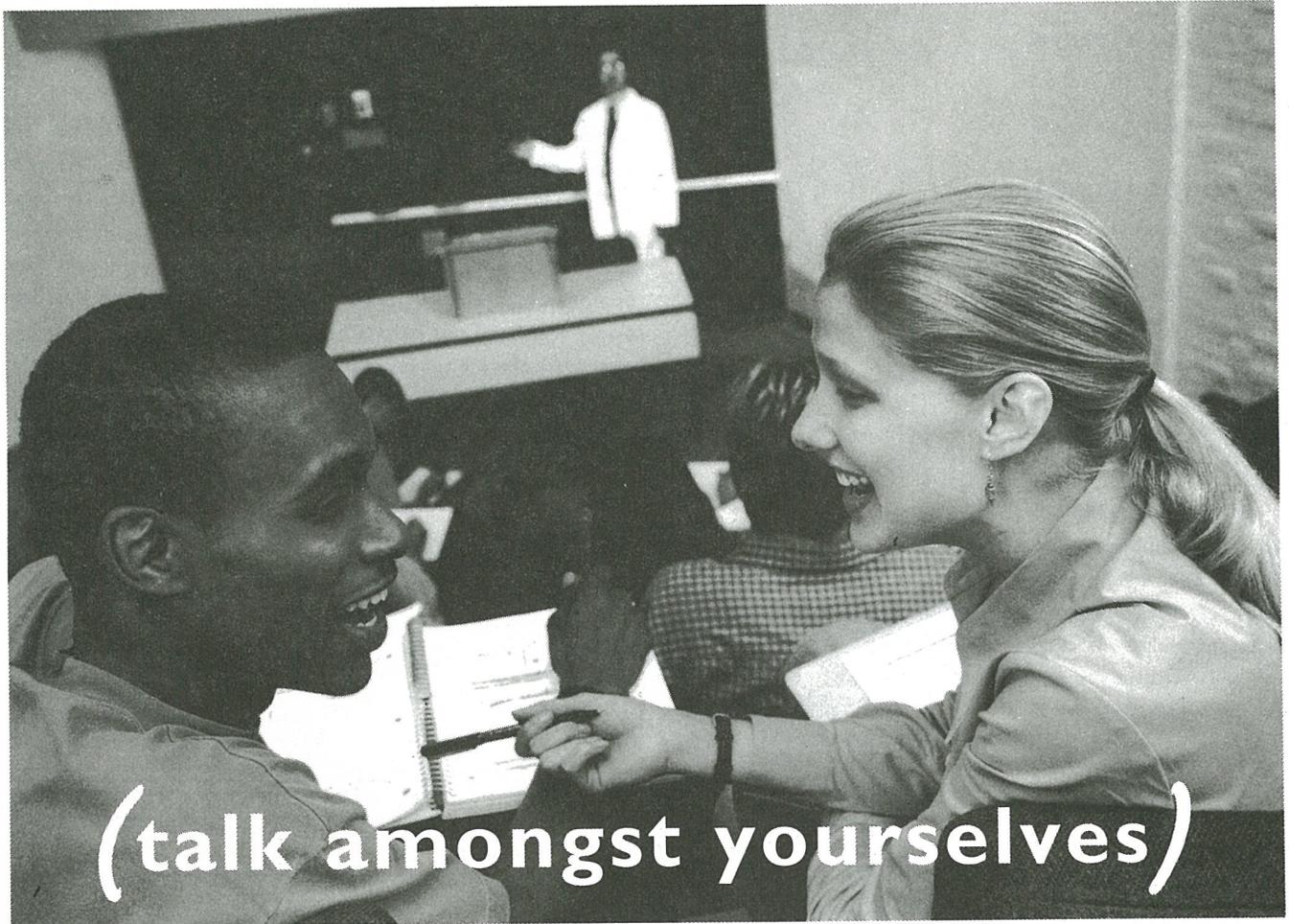
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JAZZ IS BROUGHT UP TO DATE:

Anyone who has flipped through the radio stations in the last six months could probably tell you that the once celebrated era of swing and jazz is returning to popularity. Whether it's blaring through your stereo or featured in a Gap khaki's commercial, jazz and swing are at the forefront of the fickle music industry. To celebrate, or perhaps accentuate, the revival of a forgotten era, many of this generation's prominent pop artists have taken it upon themselves to welcome back the old school sounds.

In a new album, *Red Hot Rhapsody*, subtitled "The Gershwin Groove," pop performers such as Lucious Jackson, Natalie Merchant, Sinéad O'Connor, David Bowie, Clark Terry, and others sing the standards.

MUSIC REVIEWS



FAMILY VALUES POPS CHERRY ON BLUE CROSS ARENA:

The Family Values tour hit the new Blue Cross Arena like a bomb! The building was shaken through its foundation with hard-core metal and heavy hip-hop beats on September 22. The throbbing music sounded great through the new sound system, and the bass was so powerful that you could feel it vibrate in the membranes of your lungs.

The opening act, Orgy, sounding more like a pop band, shouldn't even have been in the same state as Korn, let alone the same stage. Thankfully, their set concluded in about a half hour, leaving DeeJay Punk-Roc for the intermission between Orgy and Limp Bizkit. The treble in his mixes was emphasized so strongly that it was actually painful to listen to. We were in for a real treat to realize that he would be blaring through every intermission!

Limp Bizkit's excellent set took place on a stage that was made up to look like a UFO crash sight. The first recognizable song they played was "Pollution," followed by their most successful release, "Counterfeit." After that came "Nobody Loves Me," "Stuck," and a cover of George Michael's "Faith." During their show, some break-dancers with surprisingly flashy moves joined in. The only flaw in the entire set was the unfortunate close, a butchered rendition of House of Pain's "Jump Around."

Ice Cube then took center stage with a few classics, like "Natural Born Killas" and, from his NWA days, "Straight outta Compton" and "F--- da Police." He also plugged his new album several times. "Cube" threw in some melodramatics when he walked off stage, only to return to the "F--- You, Ice Cube" call of a friend. Unfortunately, the audience was primarily there for hard-core rock, leaving much of Ice Cube's work unappreciated.

After another annoying intermission, The German metal/industrial band Rammstein took the crowd by storm with an awesome set that lasted over an hour. They played "Der Meister," "Asche zu Asche," "Wollt ihr das Bett in Flammen Sehen," and "Du Reichst so Gut" from their first album, and "Herzeleid," "Bestrafe Mich," "Du Hast," and the title track from their newer album, "Sehnsucht." The lead singer, Till Lindemann, put on a huge stage show. For their first song, "Rammstein," he wore a flaming coat made of razor blades. Every now and then an explosion went off, lasers shot through the air in the arena, and Lindemann shot a huge flame-thrower over the audience a few times! The most bizarre moment came during the song "Buch Dich," when Lindemann performed a grotesque mock-sex-act involving the keyboardist, the blood-covered bass player, and much of the moshing crowd.

The roots of our American heritage are reflected in renditions of the classics "Summertime," "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off," "A Foggy Day," and "I've Got A Crush on You." Look no further than this album to bring pure music to your ears.

The artists do a wonderful job at slightly modifying the originals while still leaving enough of New Orleans in to satisfy jazz buffs. It is an excellent way to teach today's youth a bit about history and where all our great American music originated. The CD is worth buying, even if it is only to hear your favorite pop artists try their hand at a slightly different genre. As an added bonus, this recording benefits AIDS research and relief.

by Jenn Tipton

Finally, after three and a half patient hours, Korn took to the stage. They started hard with "Got the Life," followed by a good mix of tunes like "Twist," "Clown," "A.D.I.D.A.S.," "Dead Bodies Everywhere," "Blind," "It's On!," "B.B.K.," "Faget," and "Justin." While guitarist Head Welch sang through a hard-core version of "Lowrider," Davis played backup on the bagpipes. Fieldy (bass) called Ice Cube back out to tear through the first half of "Children of the Korn," before concluding with a duet on "Wicked." The band left for about five minutes before one of the coolest (yet slightly predictable) things happened. The stage rotated 90 degrees revealing Korn on one side and Limp Bizkit on the other! The two bands launched into "All in the Family" from Korn's new album. The great thing was that the bands actually traded the song back and forth, with each band backing up their singer as they fought verse-by-verse.

It was a great night for hard-core metal fans. After being thrown around in the spontaneous mosh pits that formed everywhere, it felt like it lasted a lot longer than just five hours. The new arena opened to a smash-hit.

by William Huber



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK:

WWW.RIT.EDU/~KAV3351

It finally happened! An RIT student (software engineering major, Ken Vanderveer) website has been selected as Website of the Week! Okay, okay, so it came from a friend, but, before you cry out, "FAVORITISM!" check out the website for yourself.

The thing that strikes first is the incredible Flash opening inspired by the blockbuster *Deep Impact*. (If you don't have Shockwave installed, the site will automatically download it for you.) You might want to hook up your stereo speakers to get the full effect. Once on the site, there is the usual personal website information which, unless you're friends with Ken, too, you probably won't care about. The best part of the site, however, is located behind the link "Sleaze Test." There you will find a short questionnaire that, using a sophisticated mathematical formula, will calculate your level of sleaziness. Once you complete the short exam, you can post your name and score on the site so you and your friends can compete for the crown.

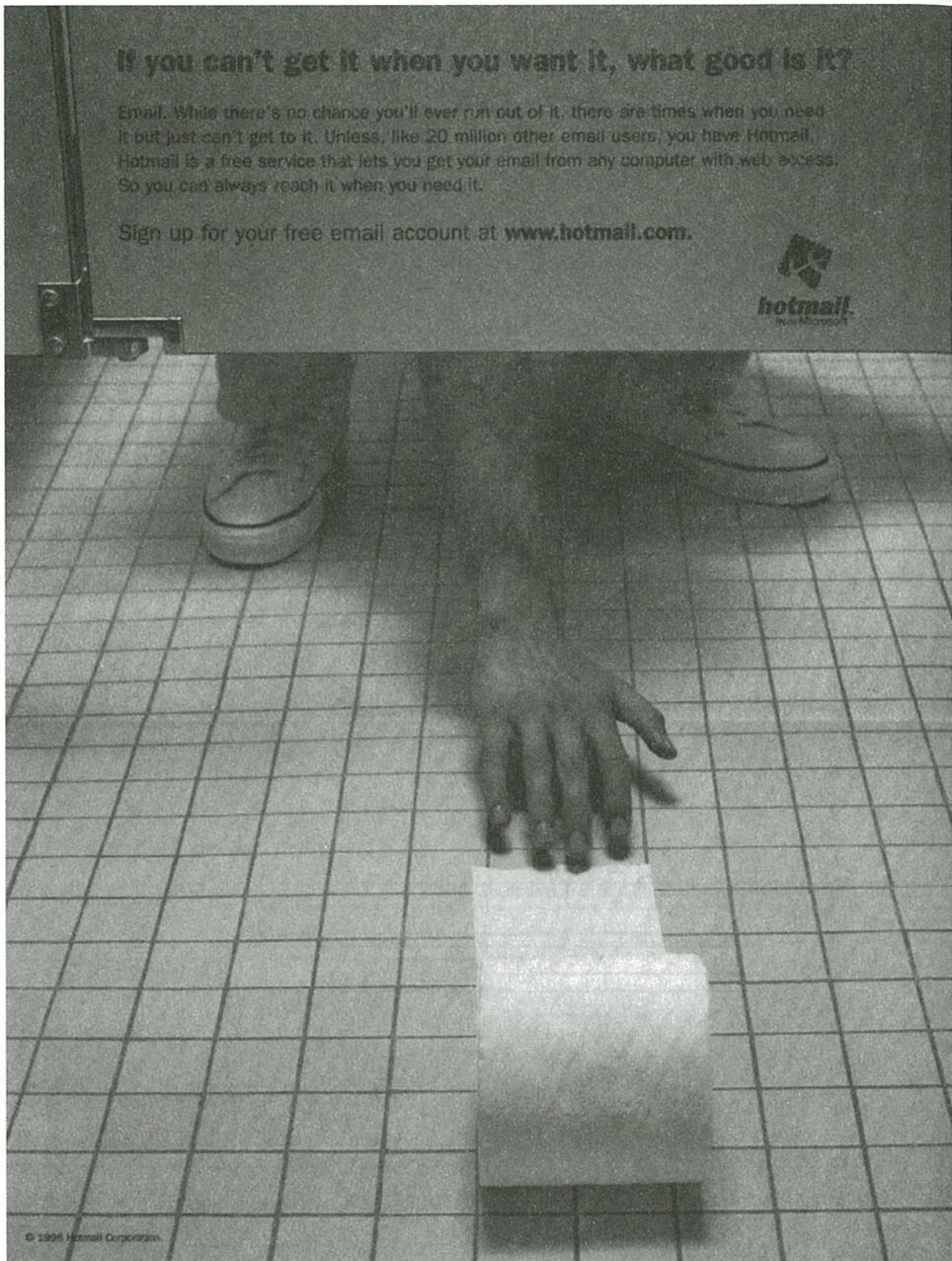
by Nick Spittal

Ed. Note: This is the first RIT student site to qualify for Website of the Week. Now that you've seen it, is yours better? E-mail me (nrs6247@rit.edu) — we want to see what our students have been up to in their free time.

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A CAMPUS AT CROSSROADS: EXAMINING RIT'S ALCOHOL POLICY:



Is it possible to change the environment and drinking habits of the entire population of a suburban college campus? This school is certainly going to try.

In a recent forum sponsored by Student Government, students came forward and discussed some of the issues that have stemmed from the new alcohol policy. Many say that RIT's administration is out of touch and does not fully understand the scope of the problem. Others commend President Simone for taking such bold measures in anticipation of calamity. Some feel that the alcohol policy does not affect them. The truth is, however, that it affects everyone attending RIT in one way or another.

Since the alcohol policy went into effect in March 1998, there has been much confusion involving both students and administration. Campus Safety is treading new ground as they must strictly enforce new regulations without over-stepping the bounds of personal freedom. The students must make sure they are not in violation, or risk (in extreme cases) being thrown out of school. The administration must try to keep the delicate balance from boiling over into a massive student revolt.

President Simone attended the student forum, as did Dr. Linda Kuk, Vice President of Student Affairs. Members of the student body came forward to voice their concerns on issues stemming from the alcohol policy. "There were four issues that came out of Tuesday's discussion," Dr. Kuk explained. First, the Greek

community is concerned about their status in the Residence Halls. There are occupancy quotas that must be met, and many upperclass brothers are leaving the houses due to the restrictive policy. Second, the Greek community is looking to re-open their basements as "designated" areas where alcohol could be served without violating the policy. Third, there has been a request to provide support or subsidy for transit to clubs, bars, and other entertainment sites outside of campus. Finally, since the effectiveness of the new policy has not yet been determined, the administration is looking at methods of measuring its success.

To varying degrees, the alcohol policy affects all RIT students right now. There is a total alcohol ban in effect in the residence halls. There are limitations based on occupancy levels in the RIT apartments. Further, students are not allowed to drink in public, which means that if you host a party in your apartment, your guests cannot overflow out into the street while consuming alcohol. Institute functions hosted on campus that serve alcohol are bound by the same laws and regulations that exist outside of campus.

There have been vague reports that the administration is looking to hyper-extend the alcohol policy to include not only the Residence Halls but the entire RIT campus, including RIT-owned apartments. "This is false," Dr. Kuk said with absolute certainty. Aside from the issues currently under debate, "we are not looking to make any new additions or revisions." However, "If things get violent or out of hand, we may take another look. The policy we have is doable. All we need is the students' cooperation."

Many have argued that the policy has actually forced an increase in alcohol-related incidents. "Over time the number of incidents has gone down. I give the Greek community a lot of credit — they have been working hard to make things better for everyone," commented Kuk. Overall, is the number of reported incidents really relevant here? "When you step up patrols, the opportunity for people to be dealt with is going to be greater," Kuk explained. The number of incidents reported is not really a good indication of success. Since the policy is stricter and more tightly enforced than in past years, the "chances of encounter are greater." In general, Kuk is pleased that "we're having fewer students having to come up [to discuss violations]."

Administration involvement in the alcohol policy did not end when it was passed in March. Right now, the focus is on long-term solutions. "[The alcohol policy] alone will not solve this problem [of binge drinking]. We must work to change the campus environment. We need to convince the students that you don't need alcohol to have a good time." Kuk is very concerned about the phenomenon of "binge drinking," which can lead to alcohol abuse. People who binge drink more than two or three times a week may have a problem with addiction, as well. "We estimate that about 22% of the campus are binge drinkers," Kuk remarked. Alcohol education is a key component of new programs being developed in conjunction with the PIERS group. The reasoning there is that students tend to listen more to other students rather than an authority figure.

If you look at who lives in the dorms, the policy is only affecting those who are too young to drink anyway, right? Not always true. While in the minority, there are students of legal age who reside in the dorms. It is a frustrating experience for some. "I agree with the policy in principle, that first-year students and those underage should not be drinking. They are the ones who can create the problems," explains student Joe Wolff, a 23 year-old electrical engineering technology major who lives in the dormitory

halls. He likes the idea of banning alcohol access to first-year students. Is too much freedom a bad thing? "[The first-year students] will go off and party in Perkins or Colony, come back totally wasted, then go and wreck the floor. This is how you get couches thrown out of windows, toilet bowls cracked, and trash thrown around everywhere." Wolff speaks as a witness to the destruction. His account is not unique. But while he likes that the policy targets underage drinking, he is frustrated by the fact that he cannot have alcohol in his own dorm room. Thinking responsibly, he says, "I'm not going to supply anyone [underage]. I don't think that's right." The administration, however, is not about to allow any exceptions that could possibly taint their new policy.

"You can break down the reasoning for the new alcohol policy into three parts," Kuk explained. "First, we are enforcing already existing laws. Second, we are trying to change the culture of the incoming students and educate them that they don't need alcohol in this environment to have fun. Third, we want to deal with the problem of binge drinking on campus." All are noble goals.

EXAMINING RIT'S ALCOHOL POLICY: (CON'T)

In the middle of all this we have an outlet right in the middle of campus that sells alcohol. No, you can't buy a fifth at Campus Connections, but try going down to the basement. The Ritzskeller operates a bar that sells alcohol to those who can present a valid ID. Does RIT plan on doing away with this part of the campus? "The bar in the Ritzskeller has been there all along, and we don't plan on changing that at all," Kuk commented. Apparently the administration does not see this establishment as a threat to the integrity of the alcohol policy.

Billy Applebaum, a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi and Greek Council President, went into more detail about the arguments that were presented to the administration on behalf of the Greek organizations. "Our argument was that as far as fraternities and sororities are concerned, as a group of organizations on campus, we depend a lot on our upperclassmen members. We run the House based on the knowledge and traditions of the older brothers." Applebaum also explained that the older members help the groups meet the occupancy quotas. "However, the older brothers want to leave

because they aren't allowed to drink in the House. They feel their rights are being infringed upon. Since the loss of members also threatens our occupancy quota, we feel that the houses are destined to move off-campus." It is a major underlying concern that the administration is going to force the houses to move away from campus.

RIT tried to compromise by allowing Greeks to have parties on the other side of campus using third-party vendors. "But who wants to go all the way to the other side of campus for a party?" Applebaum asked. In a counter-offer, "we suggested that we could open the basements again, and make them designated areas to serve." Then they could have social events without fear of being in violation of the policy.

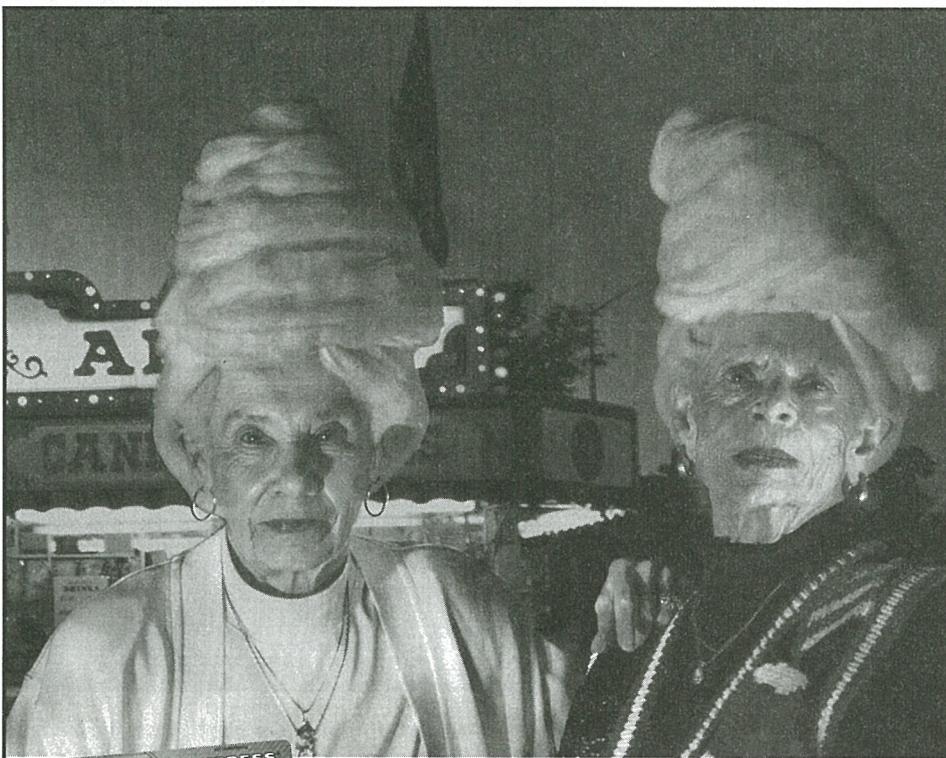
Applebaum takes the matter very seriously. "In my personal opinion, I feel that if you restrict the drinking any further, you will only make people want to do it more. Based on personal experience, I have found that if you take the

mystique out of [drinking], there is less chance of abuse later." And while he does "not, under any circumstances, condone underage drinking," he has noticed and is upset about the rising tide of drinking incidents and many more episodes of DWI. "It's scary, because I care about people dying. I don't want one of my friends, or anyone else, to have to die because they had to drive off-campus."

Since the passage of the new policy, there have been debates on all sides over its effectiveness and the disruptions it has caused within the social lives of many. While it seems that the administration is willing to hear complaints, and may offer some stop-gap compromises, the new alcohol policy appears to be here to stay. Are there compromises in the works? Will the policy have to become stronger in the future? Can it ever be relaxed? Only time will tell in this debate.

by Otto Vondrak





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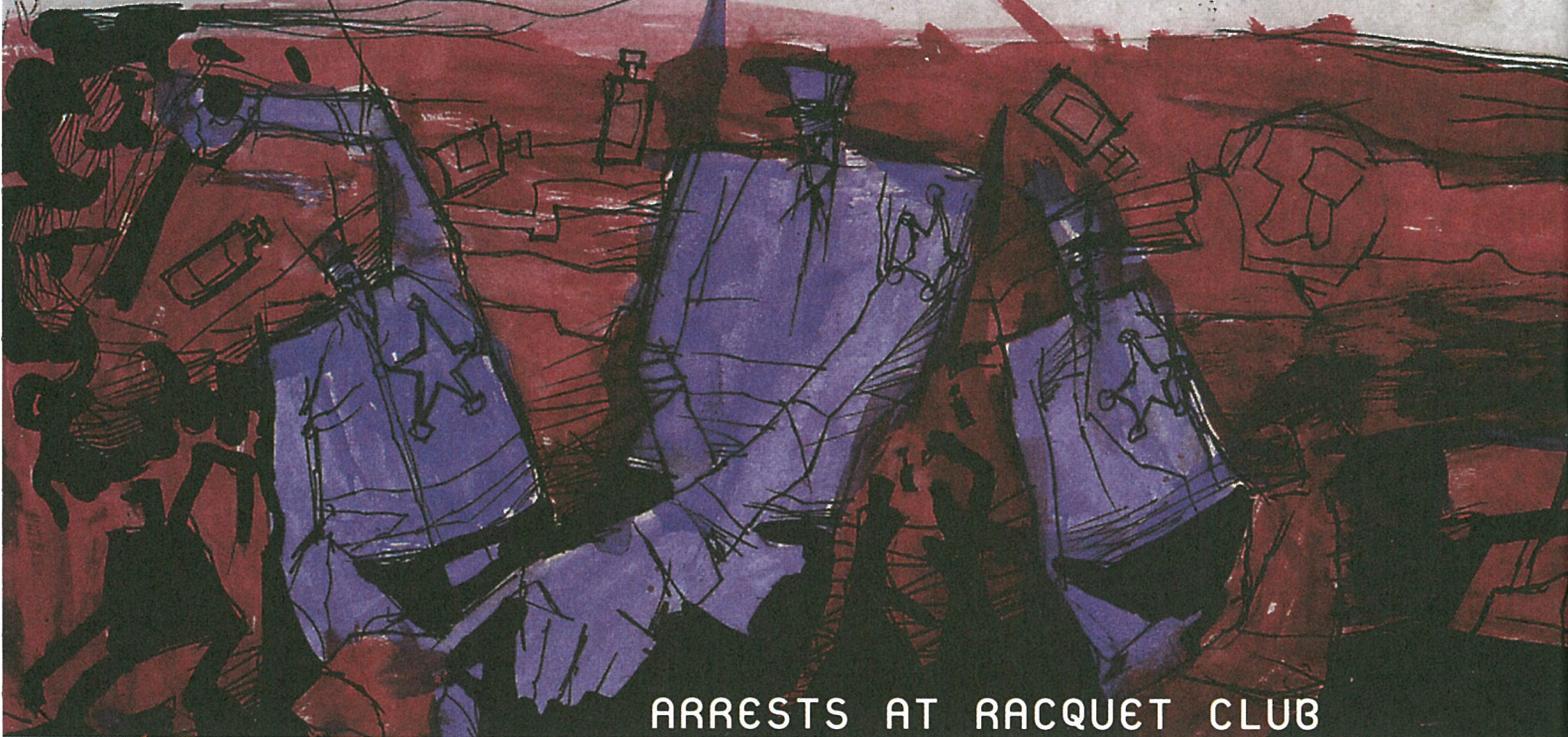
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ARRESTS AT RACQUET CLUB

SEAN MCCRAUSLAN

It looked ominous. At nearly 2:00 a.m. police cars haunted everything the eye could see. Officers guarded the gate and required identification from anyone requesting entrance.

"Did something happen here?" this reporter inquired.

"Yes," came the reply from a large cop directing the traffic behind me.

"What?" I persisted.

"You don't want to know; just keep moving."

As it turned out there was nothing as serious as murder, rape, or kidnapping. Not even a hint of terrorism or mass hallucination. What happened was RIT's version of end-of-the-year clashes between students and police on campuses across the country.

In what shocked Campus Safety officers saw as a riot of drunken torch-wavers and what many students saw as a harmless night of partying, 10 people, nine of them students, were arrested on the grounds of the Racquet Club apartments last May.

On the night of May 16, 1998, during Racquet Club's end of the year bash, students lit a bonfire and ran through surrounding buildings with torches in their hands. When Campus Safety tried to assume control of the situation, several students threw beer bottles at them. Police were called in. The incident resulted in the suspension of two students (still on appeal) and considerable polarization of opinion between students and staff.

Local newspapers reported the incident, and, the next morning, somebody circulated a photocopy of one of the articles around the SAU Cafeteria with his/her interpretation of the article's errors clearly marked. The flyer condemned Campus

Safety and police for using excessive force and played down the bonfire and inappropriate conduct among students.

The facts are elusive. According to Student Affairs Judicial Officer Dawn Soufleris, students and authorities have been largely divided on the issue since day one. "We've brought students in to talk to witnesses," she says, "but you end up hearing two different versions." According to Campus Safety there were a couple hundred students altogether. It was when beer bottles were thrown at the authorities that the arrests took place. A two-and-a-half hour videotape showing some of the proceedings, shot that night by a student bystander, has been seen by participants in the judicial process. It could certainly shed light on the events in question but it is not available for public viewing because of its status as evidence. The Buckley amendment prohibits making public most of the specifics in this case, including the names of the students involved, their statements to authorities, and official records held by judicial affairs.

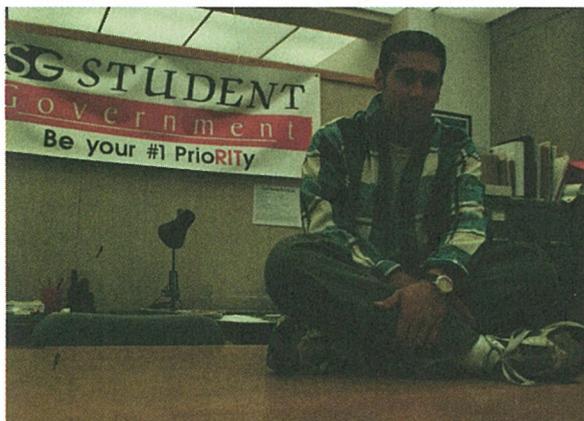
"I think this is a very serious thing," Soufleris sums up. "A lot of people were put at risk and certain students were disrespectful to Campus Safety and the police. There were riots at colleges around the country toward the end of last year and we don't want that happening at RIT. Chris Denninger from Campus Safety reaffirms this position and denies that RIT's alcohol policy put Campus Safety on edge. "We were just monitoring," he says. "When the situation got out of hand we called the sheriff." All the arrests that night were conducted by police, not RIT authorities, which is partly why the incident caused the amount of interest in the local press that it did. None of the students involved were found for comment, and their testimony remains under lock and key with other evidence like the videotape and statements from police officers, who, according to Soufleris, also reported having bottles thrown at them.

Even after several months, the repercussions of that evening are still noticeable. "I'd just like to put this matter behind us," Denninger sighs. Most of the students taken under arrest are going through the courts, and opinions will be divided even after the legal systems of RIT and beyond reach a verdict.

by Zane Kaylani

With fresh faces and new ideas, Student Government pledges to improve campus spirit, student focus, and communication this year. Those are the three major goals outlined in their booklet presentation to the Board of Trustees Student Life Committee. Whether this year's government will deliver remains unforeseen, but, according to top officials in President Jamie Greco's administration, any failure could never be blamed on lack of idealism among the elected.

"We believe this government will be the strongest in five years," boasts Vice President Duane Shearer. "Our biggest priority is assuring that students get involved." Indeed, most of Student Government's plans are aimed at working for a more tightly-knit campus and increasing involvement. Objectives include everything from improving the Student Government web page to increasing committee membership to modifying the VAX system. Even the goal of increasing student focus centers on relaying information to the student body by increasing awareness about search committees, professional clubs, and institute committees, and reworking freshman orientation to emphasize school community.



ED PFUELLER

Shearer realizes the challenges Student Government faces in making RIT a more interactive place. "The main reason people come here," he points out, "is to get a job or make more money. So obviously they spend more time doing work. Engineering and computer science aren't as conducive to social cohesiveness as liberal arts schools. But I've been encouraged by this year," he goes on. "It seems like the freshman are more involved." Shearer's colleagues concur. Shaun Hunt, who is currently serving his second year as a representative, claims the atmosphere in the government is better this year than last. "Communication is at an all time high," he notes. "Things are going just as we thought they would, and we're meeting with President Simone for breakfast once a month."

Government meetings take place in the SAU's 1829 room every Friday from one to two in the afternoon. Any student may attend the meetings, and Shearer says he hopes students will stop by and observe the proceedings. "I wish we could put more students on more committees," he notes. "Usually a student may only have one seat in one

STUDENT GOVERNMENT'S NEW YEAR OPTIMISM

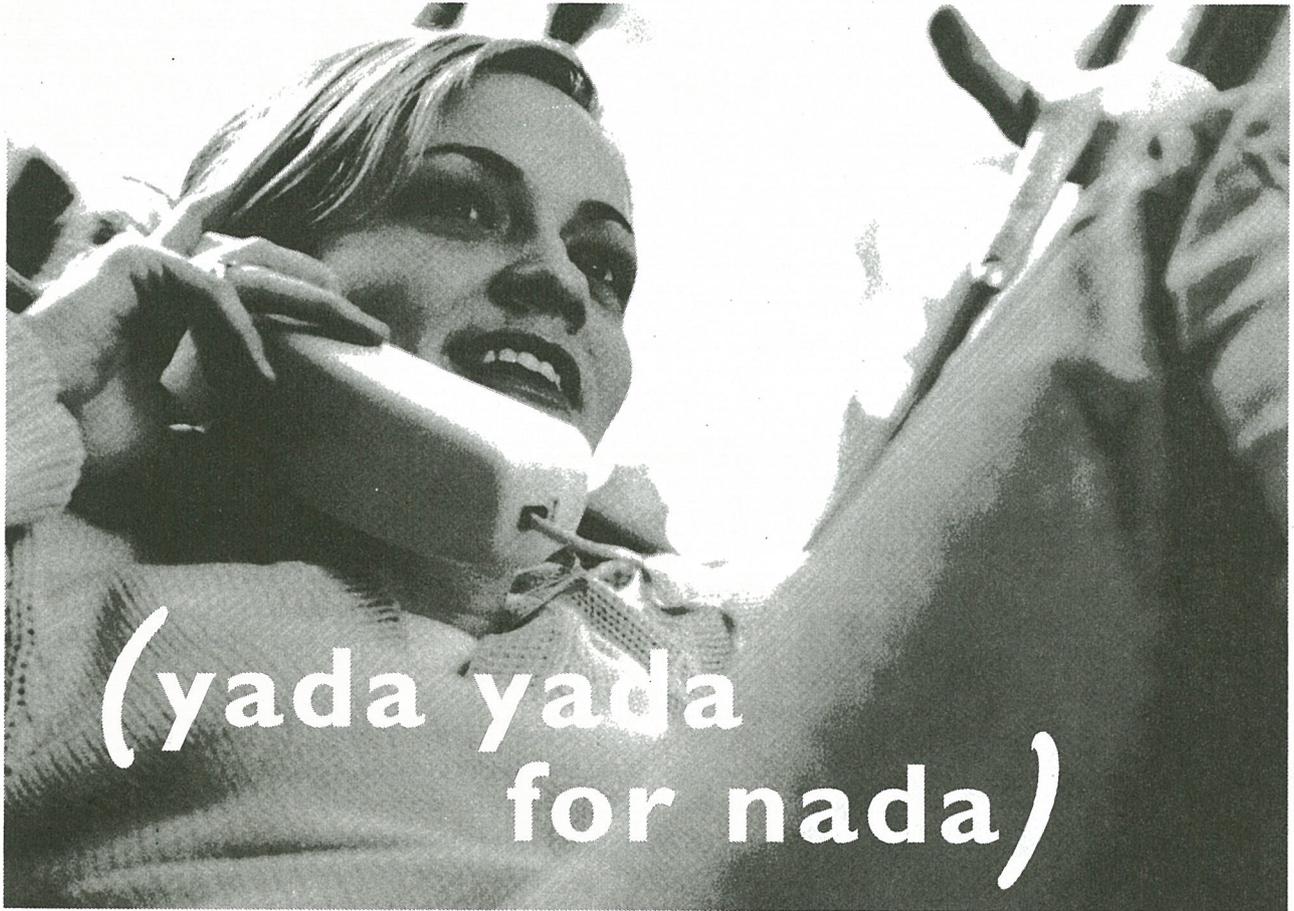
committee. They don't get a chance to offer much and we don't get much input." But students are looking into the prospect anyway. Already, several have asked to participate in Student Government outside of the Senate. Attention will also focus this year on increasing attendance at major events like the United Booty Foundation show that took place during the second weekend of school, at which more than 500 people were present.

Patrick Bavaro-Phelan, Student Government's programming officer, is also excited and planning events such as Brick City Blast, the October guest speaker series. He hopes to continue RIT's tradition of bringing prominent figures to campus, like former Polish President Lech Walesa last year and the Buchanan-Ferraro debate two years ago. He also wants to receive feedback from the RIT community regarding the best choice of speakers. "As opposed to simply picking someone and praying they actually show up," Bavaro-Phelan explains, "we hope to get students' opinions of who they want to see." Bavaro-Phelan developed a survey with choices ranging from President Clinton's former campaign manager James Carville to 1996 Republican vice-presidential nominee Jack Kemp to ABC correspondent Sam Donaldson to baseball's Joe Torre. This is Bavaro-Phelan's first year in student government. "It's fun," he says. "Jamie and Duane are taking us in a good direction."

Shearer also admits that carrying out this year's plans will require some improvement over last year's Student Government. While reluctant to criticize the previous administration, he does proclaim that the decision to support President Simone's dry-campus policy was a mistake. "We've consecrated ourselves to the belief that our job is to represent the students regardless of how that makes us look in the eyes of the administration," he adds. "Simone isn't a bad guy, but he's sometimes misinformed. I genuinely feel that the majority of the administration wants to help us, but bureaucracy and misinformation are problems we must constantly work at."

With plans to establish a way to mass e-mail all students and appointing more students to special committees, Student Government will try to achieve its goals of spirit, focus, and communication. "While it's true that Student Government is not as visible as it should be," Shearer admits, "students should know that any one of them can come and serve on a committee, so we're urging involvement." Members of Student Government believe that this kind of involvement would increase their influence with decision makers in RIT's bureaucracy. They say involvement would do double-duty by making RIT a better community. "School spirit has always been our goal," Shearer observes. "We will always strive to find out students' feelings and represent them effectively."

by Zane Kaylani



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A SYMPHONY ON WATER

ALEXANDRA DALEY

When people hear about crew, they usually either have absolutely no idea what you are talking about or just know it has to do with boats racing or something like that. In reality, there is more to this sport than what we see every four years at the Olympics.

"Crew is like a symphony, where the oarsmen or women are the instruments that come together to make music or the motion," says head coach Jim Bodenstedt. Bodenstedt, who has been coaching both the women's and men's crew teams at RIT since 1993, also compares the sport to "poetry of motion." He feels that "when a boat moves well through the water, it is like a line of beautiful poetry."

Putting all comparisons aside, crew is a sport in which everyone is part of the team and there are no superstars. The sport has two seasons, one in the fall and one in the spring. The one in spring is the one that most people can identify with. This is when the boats sprint for 2000 meters in a straight away course. The one in the fall, though, is a little different. The "head" season, as it is called, has the boats going down a river for three and a half miles of twists and turns. Another difference is that the boats do not all start at the same time. Instead, new boats leave the starting point in 10-second intervals. "It's a race against the clock, not your opponents," comments Bodenstedt. After this is done, the boats are paired off with the fastest boat going against the second fastest and so on. These boats then go against each other in a sprint race of 1500 meters. The two times of each are then combined to configure a final score for each boat.

RIT crew has a rich history, with both men's and women's teams placing well in the New York State championships and the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC). Last year the men's team placed 2nd in NYS and 3rd at the ECAC. This success can be attributed to only one thing: practice.

The team goes through a very rigorous training program. Both the varsity men's and women's teams practice Monday through Friday at 5:15 in the morning and 6:30 on Saturdays. "We give them a break on Saturday," jokes Bodenstedt. But all kidding aside, practice is crucial for a crew team. "Good practices lead to good races," says Bodenstedt. "I can't emphasize it enough how crucial they are." The team's practices consist of technique work in the boat, interval training, weight lifting, and running.

Besides its varsity members, which will be led this year by Brian Marcais and Ira Platt on the men's and Teresa Bufano and Sasha Strickland on the women's, RIT also has over 100 novices. Novices are first year rowers. They practice at 4:30 each afternoon and with the varsity squads on Thursdays. "I like the Thursday practices," says Bodenstedt. "I call this Novice Lovefest Days. It gives the varsity squads a chance to teach and show the younger kids how much fun rowing can be."

The team opens competition on October 3 at Rexford, NY. The school's first home regatta is the Stonehurst Invitational on October 11 at Genesee Valley Park. This event is special because it is the only strictly collegiate fall regatta. It will bring schools from all over the Northeast and Midwest.

by Brett Fleming

On Wednesday, September 23, the RIT Tigers took on the University of Rochester Yellow Jackets in men's soccer action. The last time the teams had met was last season when U of R won 1-0 in a hard-fought match, and this anticipated rematch between the cross-town rivals was a grueling back and forth battle.

RIT orchestrated offensive drives early in the first half and controlled the ball well thanks to excellent passing by forwards Eric Seider, Grant Macey, and Andrew Ranieri. But despite the Tigers' early domination, U of R came alive midway through the first half and created an offensive attack of their own. By the end of the first, the score was 0-0 and neither team could capitalize.

Through the second half, the Yellow Jackets and Tigers played to a stalemate, with only one real scoring opportunity coming when U of R hit the RIT goal post with eight minutes left. Going into overtime, the score remained 0-0. Midway through the overtime, though, RIT found the back of the net, clinching the match for the Tigers.

The Tigers improved their record to 4-1-1 and the Yellow Jackets dropped to 0-4-0.

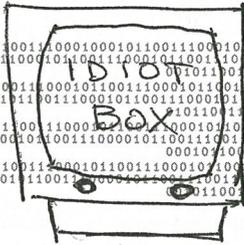
by Jon-Claude Caton



ED PFUELLER

AN OVERTIME WIN FOR MEN'S SOCCER

THE MEDIA *opinion* TODAY



Call me crazy, but even in my stressful work-filled college life, I feel the need to stay in touch with what's going on in the world. Many of my friends couldn't tell me what day it is, let alone what event is headlining the national news, but I try not to fall into that trap.

Monday, September 21, 1998, was like any other day for me. I went to class. I went to work. I ate dinner. I performed all my normal biological functions. I broke for a few to sit back and watch the evening news. Truthfully, CNN or Headline News is almost always on in my apartment, so I already knew much of what had happened during the day ... or did I? In reality, all I knew, up to that point, was that Clinton's testimony had been released to the public, but by the time 6:30 p.m. rolled around, I had probably seen all of the footage — twice.

It wasn't an ordinary day for Tom Brokaw. NBC decided to run the Nightly News for twice its usual half-hour. Unsurprisingly, Clinton's testimony was the lead-in. Airing the tapes. Analyzing their content. Reporting from different areas of the country about Clinton's testimony. Reviewing sections of the videos. Asking questions. Possible implications. Recommendations. In the final ten minutes of the news, Brokaw was able to give a brief overview of two or three other stories, but by that time I had tuned out. Maybe my friends are right to ignore the news.

Am I to believe that in a world populated by five billion living breathing Homo Sapiens, only one man made news that day? It never seemed difficult to fill the normal half-hour with murders and bombings and natural disasters and political uprisings from all over the world. By the end of the news, did I know that two men had been charged for the August 7 bombing of the American Embassy in Kenya? Was it possible that Florence Griffith Joyner, the fastest and flashiest woman track star ever, had died? Was Hurricane Georges, potentially one of the deadliest storms in years, going to hit land? Did President Clinton do anything else that day, like perhaps give an address on terrorism at the United Nations? Of course, all these things actually did take place on Monday, September 21, 1998, but all I could recall was the stain on that blue dress and Big Bill's confusion over what was considered sexual in nature.

The next day's *New York Times* was not much better. Georges and Flo Jo got only a paragraph each on the front cover. I had to dig to page six to learn about the terrorists arrested in Tanzania, Kenya. I have yet to learn how Monday's stocks performed and have slim hopes that I will learn anything about this day's Bull Market. In fact, it is going to take a lot of effort for me to even turn on the news at all anymore.

As the adage goes, "enough is enough." For months now, we have been hearing report after report about Clinton's damn sex life. I don't care anymore. WE don't care anymore. The media conducts polls on these things. They publish these polls. Nearly every tally indicates that Monica Lewinsky and her beret are no longer (Were they ever?) on the public agenda. The media then goes on to print, publish, air, and report every bit and byte of information that these polls, which they conducted and released, indicate we don't care about. Thinking back to tenth grade, I cannot apply Modus Tollens, Disjunctive Inference, or the Chain Rule to see the logic here.

Often the subject of controversy, the media has once again overstepped its bounds. This time it is different, though, because it has compromised the good of the American people. Without over-reporting, Bill Clinton and his intern-loving lifestyle would never have become a topic of interest (not that it is now). Jack Kennedy did it. George Washington even had his fair share of mistresses. Did we ever hear "Impeachment!" with them? Of course not, because nobody knew at the time. The country seemed to survive and even prosper under their leadership because they were left alone to do their job.

Bill Clinton has not had the luxury of being able to do his job. Part of this is due to politics (a topic for another day) and part of it is due to media. It is time to let go. There are other things going on in the world that affect the people much more than who the president is sleeping with. Give the man some privacy, and GIVE US THE NEWS. Tuning out . . .

by Nick Spittal

OCTOBE

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and wrestling, tex.



WORD ON THE STREET

HAVE YOU EVER ATTENDED AN RIT SPORTING EVENT?

Billy Markert
3rd year
Information Technology

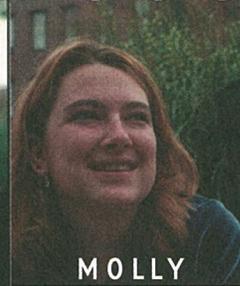
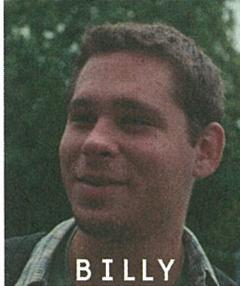
"Ummm . . . Yes."

Molly Jackson
2nd year
Social Work

"No. Just haven't."

001

003



BILLY

MARK

MOLLY

Mark Santaniello,
3rd year
computer science

"I haven't been to a sporting event. I don't like sports. I'm not good at them, and I don't enjoy watching them."

002

"[Expletive], no. Wait, wait, wait, no. I did, but I had to pay so I left."
Nikki Frenyea, third year illustration

"Yes. I've been to, like, one of the lacrosse games."
Nate Kinne, second year film and video production

"Just a few basketball games last year. And soccer games this year. I video tape them, it's my job."
Ella Jones, second year photo

"No. Don't have time."
Melissa Swiecki, second year bio tech

"No way. Oh wait, no, just kidding. I went to a wrestling match. But I only went because I promised my friend I'd go with him. It was really stupid."
Steph Hoare, third year graphics design

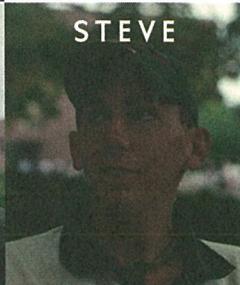
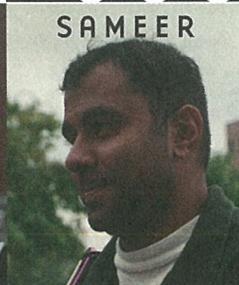
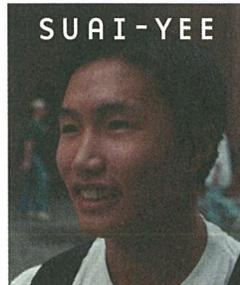
"Yes, hockey games. When I started as a freshman I went to the hockey games. They were a winning team then, but I don't know what's happening anymore. Since I moved off campus I don't attend on-campus events anymore."
Nikhil R., fifth year electrical engineering

by Andrew Badera
photos by Greg Benenati

Sameer Mathur
4th year
information technology

"Yes, I have. Hockey's always a good time. I love sitting with the Corner Crew and yelling obscenities at the opposing team's goalies."

005



SUAI-YEE

SAMEER

STEVE

Suai-yee Chen
1st year
mechanical engineering

Steve Hiller
2nd year
Electrical Engineering

"Uhhh no. Too busy."

"Yeah. I've been to men's soccer, women's soccer, men's and women's basketball, men's hockey . . ."

004

006


 F A C E S O F R I T

Melanie Lowe is beginning her college career with a bang. As a freshman here at RIT she has already been awarded the title of the Institute's number one tennis player. As she conversed with this writer courtside, Lowe continually readjusted her ponytail and looked a little shy in her new, highly public position. With a very easygoing and spontaneous personality, Lowe likes to be seen as just an average young college student — it seems quite possible that she has yet to come to a full understanding as to why photographers are often around trying to snap her picture.

Lowe has been playing tennis for seven years; she was introduced to the game shortly after her sister was. In almost no time at all she fell in love with the sport; to date she has yet to miss a practice, despite a full course load and a taste for soccer and whatever else might come her way. Born in England, Lowe moved with her family to Kingstown, Jamaica, at a young age, and now considers the island her home.

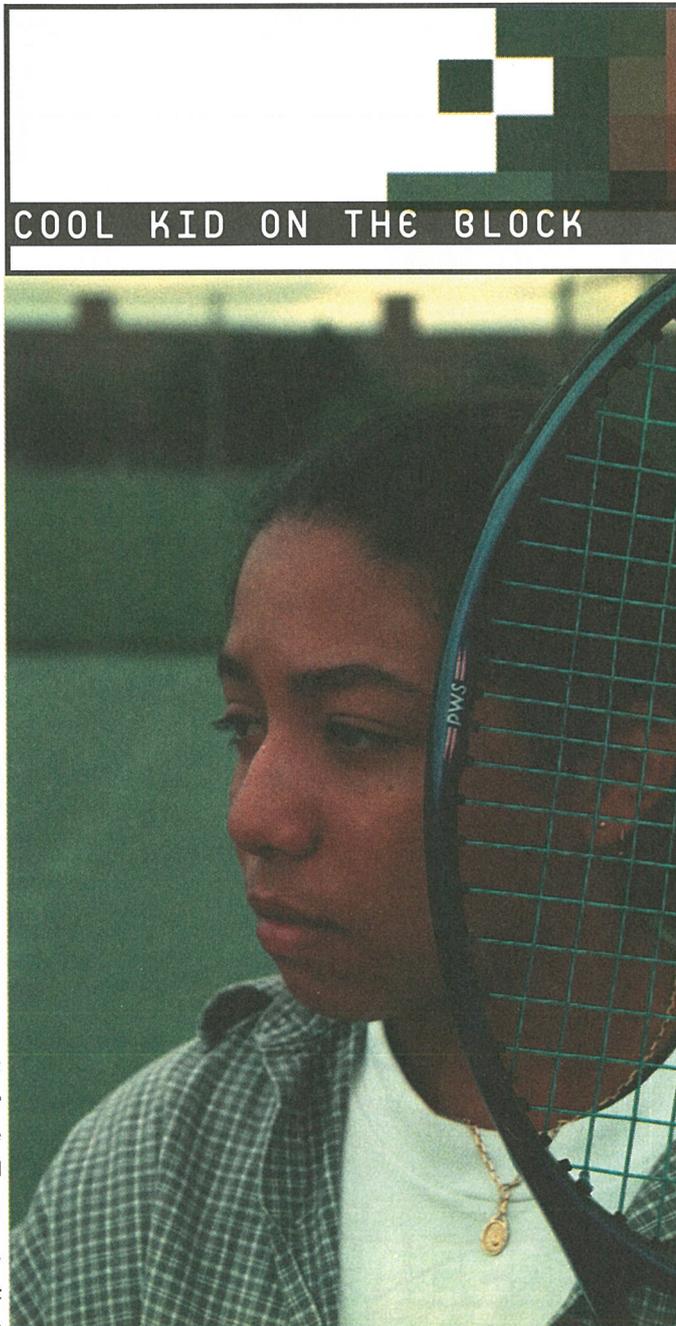
Living life in the present is Lowe's preference. When asked about her future goals and dreams she responded with a smile, "I like to be open for any opportunity that may come my way." Lowe likes to take one thing at a time and focus on her present interest, whatever it may be. At the moment tennis is her main squeeze. Although being the best seems to come naturally, Lowe is concerned that she may be too hard on herself at times. "I worry about beating myself down, you know?"

Lowe does not like to think too deeply about her beliefs or philosophy on life. Her motto is simple: "Be ready for anything." A primary figure in her life is her father; in describing him her face practically lit up. "He was always there right behind me telling me 'you can do it, you can do it.'" Her father gave her the encouragement and confidence to be the best naturally and to do so without a trace of vanity. When she first began playing tennis Lowe preferred that her father not come to her matches — he made her nervous, and if she missed she was unable to stop herself from breaking her concentration to look into the stands and notice the look on his face. Now, however, she feels that she has achieved a high enough level of proficiency to keep her eye on the court while Dad sits in the crowd.

When I arrived for the interview with Lowe, I asked some of Lowe's teammates to point her out, as I had yet to meet her. They responded by telling me that I would know her when I saw her; she has a presence that sets her apart from the rest of us. Her smile charms all who have the fortune of meeting her. As her coach remarked, "She is the cool kid on the block."

This talented tennis player does not like to be the center of attention; she is confident, yet humble and a bit shy, and she finds the recent publicity surrounding her a bit strange. Such a combination of humility and sports prowess may perhaps destine Lowe for greatness.

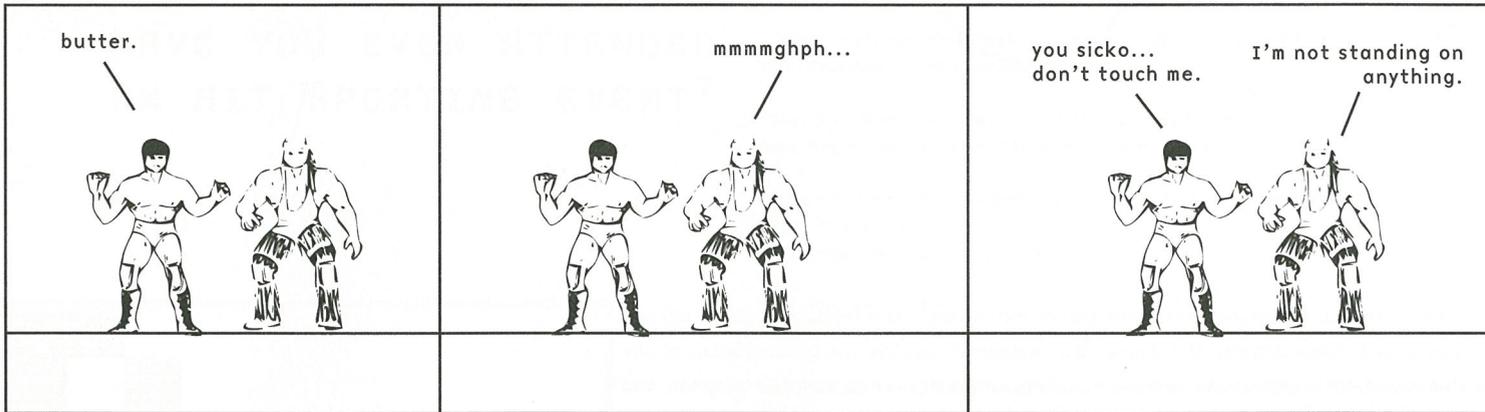
by Joline Jozokos



 COOL KID ON THE BLOCK

ANDREW GOMBERT

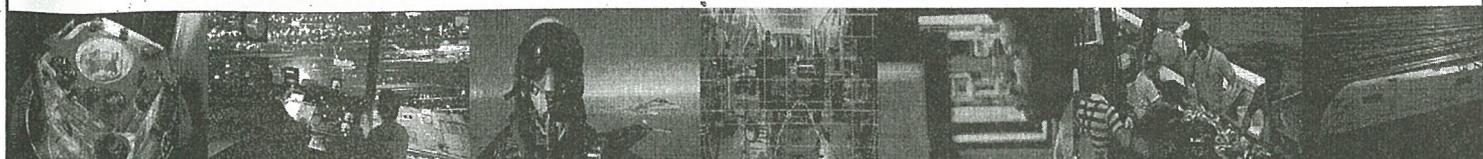
TIMMY AND MOBY
by timmy and moby



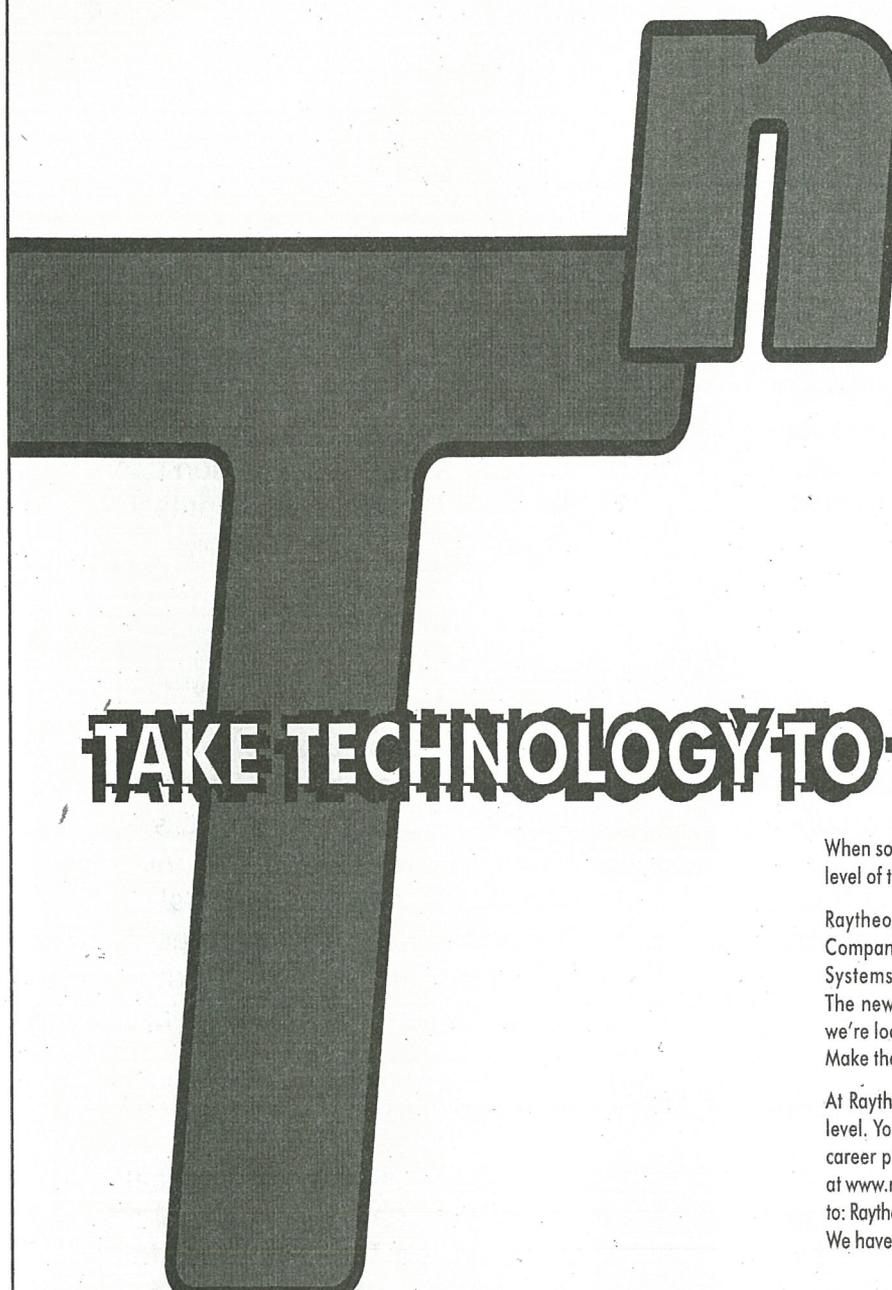
THE EXPLOITS of Aimless Boy

BY JOHN GOLDEN





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It's Your Pick

This year, Student Government wants to know who YOU, the student body, would like to see at RIT. The theme for this year's speaker series is politics. We will pursue speakers based on the feedback you give from this survey. Place a number next to each potential speaker indicating your enthusiasm for each. Then return all ballots to the SG office in the RITreat.

- 5 — I would definitely go see this speaker.
- 4 — I would most likely go see this speaker.
- 3 — I am not sure if I would see this speaker.
- 2 — I would most likely not see this speaker.
- 1 — I would not go see this speaker.

Mr. Steve Forbes



Steve Forbes was a presidential candidate in 1996. He aligns himself with the Republican Party, but has many "independent" stands on issues. He discusses his political perspective and views. Mr. Forbes is viewed as a presidential hopeful for 2000.

Rev. Jesse Jackson



Jesse Jackson was a presidential candidate in 1988 in the Democratic primaries. Rev. Jackson is a supporter of bridging the gap in race relations in the United States. Rev. Jackson speaks on diversity as well as other pressing issues that face our country.

Mr. Jack Kemp



Jack Kemp was a presidential candidate in 1988, as well as Bob Dole's running mate in 1996. Mr. Kemp is a conservative whose main focus is on the economic growth and potential of the United States. Mr. Kemp is viewed as a presidential hopeful for 2000.

Mr. Sam Donaldson



Sam Donaldson is a 30 year veteran of political journalism. Mr. Donaldson is currently the co-host of ABC's *PrimeTime Live* as well as *This Week with Sam Donaldson and Cokie Roberts*. Mr. Donaldson gives an objective analysis of the most current events taking place in Washington.

Mr. James Carville vs. Mr. John Sununu



Mr. James Carville directed President Clinton's campaign in 1992. He serves as a political analyst and is extremely animated in his defense of liberal ideas. Mr. John Sununu served as chief of staff under the Bush administration. He has been the co-host of the CNN show *Crossfire* since 1992. Mr. Sununu is conservative in his political ideologies. The two will debate the hottest issues in Washington today.



Mr. Joe Torre



Stepping away from the political arena, we have made New York Yankees' Manager Joe Torre an option for this year. Mr. Torre has managed the New York Yankees since 1996 and has won a World Championship while with the organization. Mr. Torre talks about the keys to success, including effective leadership and good teamwork.