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**EDITORIAL**

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## E-MAIL, SNAIL MAIL AND THE ELECTRONIC SOCIETY

There is an interesting trend on this campus, and in the world in general, of communicating through e-mail. Neil Postman in his book *Technopoly: the Surrender of Culture to Technology*, highlights how people embrace technology without considering its impact. While many of us use e-mail to keep in touch with our parents or friends, it is slowly killing the art of letter writing and eliminating the joy of picking up a letter out of our mailbox (to highlight the obvious downside).

While I am in support of e-mail, I can't understand why communication that works around a table, face to face, is being slowly replaced by electronic data exchanges. I wonder if e-mail is becoming an excuse for not listening to other people. Also, when time is critical, I am not sure e-mail is the best choice. I realize that, in one sense, e-mail is forcing people to become better written communicators, but as I am sure everyone has noticed, writing skills are not what they once were.

We are all busy at RIT and e-mail provides for a means of communication during a hectic schedule. While e-mail allows for near instantaneous transmission of information, there are a few problems. If someone only checks e-mail once or twice a day, constant updates are not that effective. Another problem with e-mail is the difficulty in determining tone without the visual and verbal cues that we use every day without thinking. Trying to convey nuance or receive feedback via e-mail fails more often than it succeeds. I am concerned that verbal communication skills will start to diminish through lack of use as e-mail becomes more prevalent.

Using e-mail without contemplating its impact means we may lose parts of our culture that we would like to keep in the long run. While trying to convey information faster, the message may become harder to understand or evaluate. E-mail fosters contact, however, it is not the social interaction that we as humans seem to need. So, next time you choose to use e-mail over sending a letter or calling someone, think about what you might be missing.

Michael Fagans  
Editor in Chief



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3::editorial

5::here

6::news

8::leisure

16::y2k

18::internet privacy

20::net commerce

22::project breakthrough

24::time spent on the web

26::filler

28::sports

30::aimless boy

31::tab ads/classifieds

32::last look





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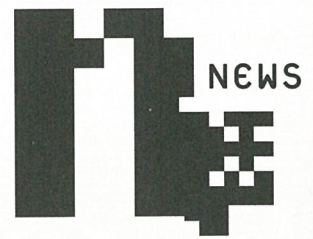
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## WORLD NEWS

• South Korea was devastated by tropical storm Yanni last week, leaving at least 27 people dead and more than 28 missing. Over 662,000 acres of rice paddies were flooded. With the rice harvest only two weeks away, the storm's timing does not bode well for the 44 million inhabitants of South Korea. According to the government, a total of 1,326 homes were flooded. Approximately 20 inches of rain fell in less than six hours. Floods in August left 270 dead, and forced 16,000 to evacuate their homes. (CNN)

• Seroxat, the first drug to combat social phobias, has made its debut in England. About two percent of the public is afflicted with social phobias, which can range from an inability to eat in public to virtual immobilization. Seroxat increases the level of serotonin in the brain, which leads to a feeling of well-being. The drug's manufacturer, SmithKline, stresses that social phobias are not what would be considered normal shyness. Social phobias are often accompanied by agoraphobia, panic, or obsessive compulsive disorders. (BBC)

• Last week, U.S. officials became aware of reports from Iraqi defectors stating that Iraq has built three or four "implosion devices" which lack only fissile uranium. The devices, complete with uranium, would create several 20-kiloton nuclear weapons. The International Atomic Energy Agency, responsible for enforcing the ban on Iraq's nuclear weapons program, has destroyed all the uranium in Iraq. A senior U.S. official has stated that it would be very difficult for Iraq to obtain any more fissile material. (Reuters)

• Deep Space One, a new probe from NASA, will be launched in late October. The most important feature of the new craft is its ion-propulsion engine. Xenon is bombarded by electricity, and the resulting ions, which travel at five miles per second, are used as propellant. When the engine burns nonstop for several weeks, it can reach speeds of over 10,000 miles per hour. The probe also features a computer navigation system which makes it nearly autonomous. The vessel will be taking pictures of its surroundings and will have a rendezvous with an asteroid and a comet in 2001. (CNN)

• Terry Jones, of Monty Python fame, found two 45-minute tapes of "lost" Monty Python episodes in his cellar. The episodes were filmed in Munich in 1971 for a show titled *Fliegender Zirkus*, a German version of the popular Flying Circus. The tapes went on sale in England last week. (BBC)

• In Grenoble, France, a lock of King Louis XVI's hair was recently purchased anonymously for 31,000 French francs (about \$5,636) at an auction. The lock was removed soon after he was executed in 1793. (Reuters)

• Kenyan teachers went on strike and clashed with riot police last week. The Kenyan National Union of Teachers has been on strike three times this year following the government's failure to provide contractual pay raises. University students have threatened to join the strike if the situation remains unresolved. (BBC)

by Pete Lukow



## "LITTLE JOURNEYS" IN WALLACE LIBRARY

RIT's Cary Collection is once again making it easy to see an impressive graphic art display without stepping off campus. The Collection will offer the display "Little Journeys to the Books of the Roycroft Printery," a feature of historic books and memorabilia. Donated by Rochester native Jerry Durand, it will show until October 31 on the second floor of the Wallace Library.

This collection showcases the work of the Roycroft Printing Shop. This shop is famed for its contribution to the printed document in the early twentieth century, uniting design elements such as ink, typeface, ornaments, and illustration. Founded by Elbert Hubbard, the company printed its first book, *The Song of Songs*, in 1896. It went on to publish many famous works by authors such as Shakespeare, Stevenson, and Emerson. Roycroft became well known for its magazine *The Philistine*, and, particularly, for an essay titled "A Message to Garcia."

The collection arrived late last summer, and was catalogued by Melissa Kaup, a Publishing Arts graduate student. She serves as guest curator for the display. "I really think this collection shows the progress of the Roycroft press," says Kaup.

Although it will be on display only through the end of the month, the collection will remain at RIT. Between 300-400 items comprise the Roycroft inventory, while the Cary Collection as a whole contains more than 30,000 volumes of rare books.

"It's one of our more popular exhibits," explains David Pankow, the Cary Graphic Arts Collection Curator. He believes RIT was a great choice for the collection due to its policies for making material available to students.

Pankow explains that, from time to time, students (usually those working on theses papers) will focus on one printer or photographer by arranging such an exhibition. He also says it helps to make people aware of the Cary Collection's extensive collection. As he puts it, "This is the tip of the iceberg."

Upcoming Cary Collection exhibits include a display of Japanese paper-making and a feature about typographer John Fass.

## CHASE MANHATTAN COLLECTION ON DISPLAY

## CHASE MANHATTAN COLLECTION ON DISPLAY

The Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film has joined forces with Chase Manhattan Bank to display the highlights of the last 30 years of photography. Photoplay: Works from the Chase Manhattan Collection will be open for viewing from October 24 through January 31.

The 66 pieces in the collection have been collected by Chase Manhattan since 1959 as part of its role in the history of visual arts. In total, the Chase collection boasts over 13,000 works which are displayed in over 400 branches and valued at well over \$20 million.

Andy Warhol's Mythological Folk Heroes — silk-screen prints of such cultural icons as Uncle Sam, Howdy Doody, and the Wicked Witch of the West — will be on display, as well as the work of David Hockney, Sarah Charlesworth, Robert Maplethorpe, William Wegman, and Frank Majore.

Chase Executive Vice President Fredrick Hill said that the Photocell

project is unique because "never before has Chase ... [shared] works in our collection with such a diverse audience."

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$6.50 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens and students, \$2.50 for children, and free for children under 4.

by Pete Lukow



## COMIX CAFE SERVES UP REAL HUMOR

Located at 3450 Winton Place, the Comix Cafe is one of only a few comedy clubs in the Rochester area. The dimly lit bar, whose walls are plastered with photos of past performers, hides the large banquet area in the back. Pool tables, dart boards and a friendly bartender are free to entertain anxious customers as they await passage into the banquet room.

The stage area is small, but the room is large and usually filled to capacity. Waiters scurry from table to table taking food and drink orders while the lights fade and the club's own Tiny Glover arrives on stage with a few jokes before the night's featured performers. He is quick with his punch lines and quite skilled in drawing the audience into the show. Tiny returns between acts and at the show's conclusion to hand out free passes for future shows.

The Comix Cafe is not a light-weight club. Some of the best comics in the world have ventured to its stage. One night in late September, Curtis Jay Fortier was the lead-in for John Rathbone, who has appeared on A&E and MTV, as well as many college campuses. Fortier was a bit of a bore, but Rathbone delivered with clever stories and an innate sense of the crowd. He repeatedly initiated hilarious dialogues with audience members. When someone spoke out of turn, his quick retort that he "actually had a planned routine" brought roars from the crowd, and kept the focus on himself.

Comedy is not the only thing on the cafe's platter. There is a complete bar offering beer and tropical drinks to anyone of age. The \$8 all you can drink beer and \$6 all you can drink soda are two of the best bargains in

Rochester. The menu also includes an array of snack foods and dinners, including some tasty award-winning wings. There is an average table minimum of \$4 per person for food or beverage to help keep great names on stage.

The Comix Cafe aims at being both accommodating and affordable. There is a \$6 8:00 p.m. show on Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday, and two shows (8:00 and 10:45 p.m.) for only \$9 on Friday and Saturday. Anyone presenting a student ID at a Sunday performance or at the 10:45 Friday show gets a \$5 discounted ticket. If you'd like to avoid the hazy atmosphere, the early shows on Friday and Saturday are both smoke-free. In all cases, be sure to call ahead for reservations or you may be left out in the cold.

They say that laughter is the best medicine. If that is the case, the Comix Cafe will make you feel like a million bucks. The great food and atmosphere combined with hilarious performers provide a fun night out. Be sure to catch The Ricky Kalmon Hypnosis Show (10/21-10/25), Tommy Chong of Cheech and Chong (11/13-11/14), or another upcoming act. It's a great alternative to the usual movie ticket.

by Nick Spittal

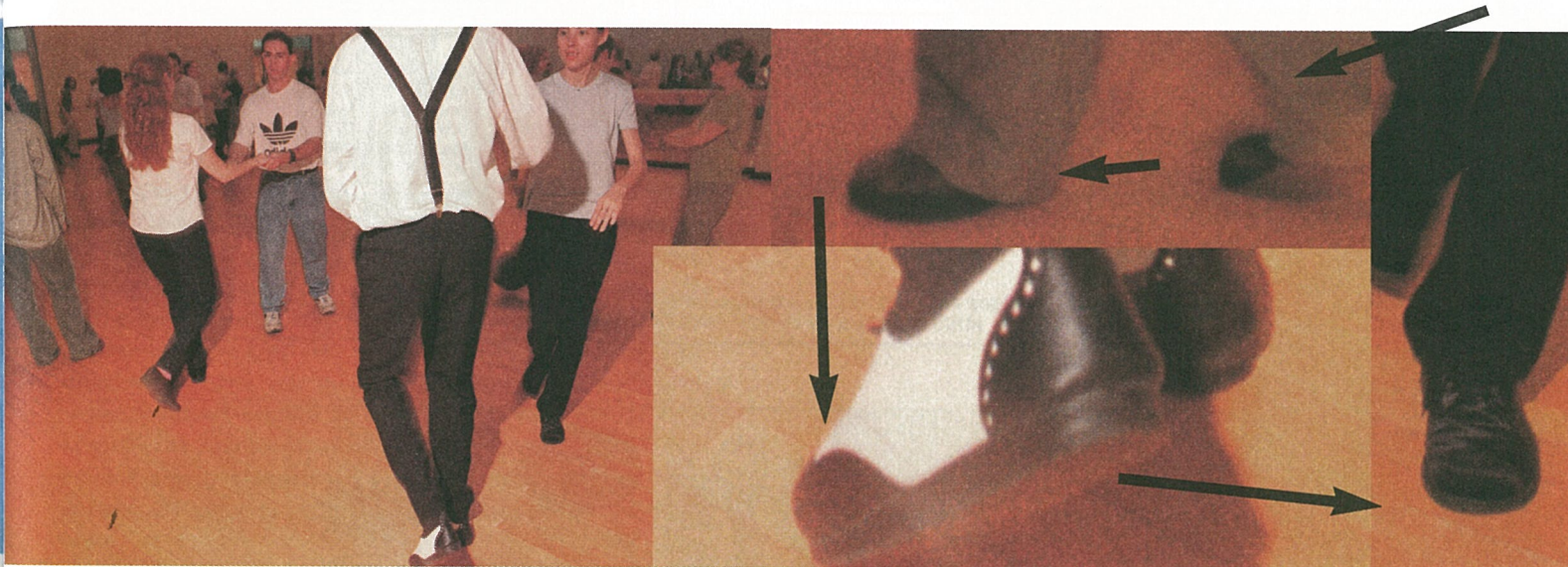




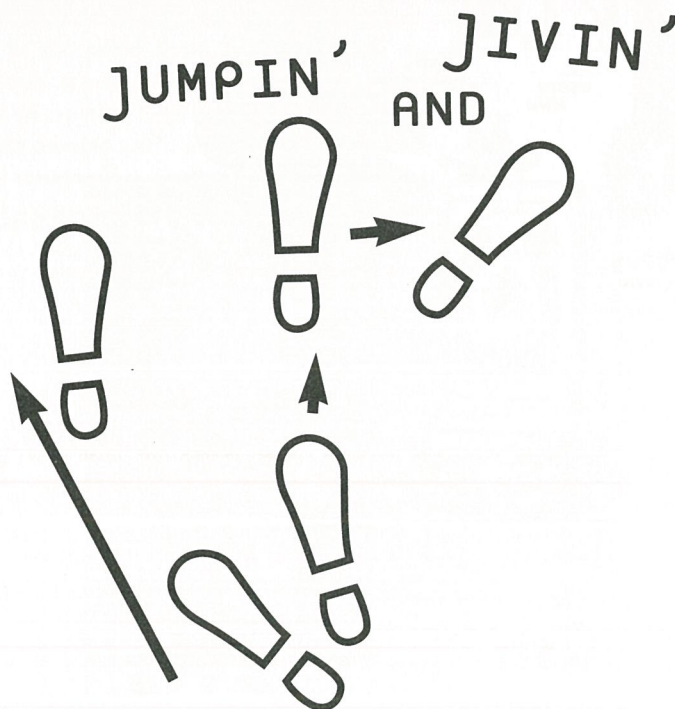
**ON CAMPUS:** Swing is in, and lessons are offered all around the world — even here in Brick City! So why not go down and check out some dance lessons at the Student Life Center?

I know what you're thinking: "Dance lessons? Come on." But if you walk by the SLC on Wednesday nights, you will see smiling faces on people with a wide range of skills. It doesn't matter if you have two left feet, or if you don't know the first thing about swing dance. The point is to have a great time while you are there. Don't think that this style of dance is outdated; you can find the right beat for the steps in a lot of popular songs if you look for it.

RIT's Swing Dance Club has organized lessons every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. that typically run two to three and a half hours. According to Swing Dance Club Vice President Alex Burr: "In the first two hours we usually teach the basic steps of the 'East Coast Swing' style, a newer and easier to learn (and teach) style than the classic dance style of 'Lindy Hop.' We also teach some leader and follower turns and spins, and a couple of holds. In the second hour and half we teach more of the same, some more turns, and kicks and things like that. Plus, we often teach the steps to a line dance called the 'Shim Sham.'"



PHOTOS BY GREG BENENATI



The class is a great way to get out of your regular routine and meet new people. There are club members walking around ready to help anyone on a one-to-one basis, in case you fall a little behind. If you ask to go over a step again, the instructor is great about repeating the lesson.

So meet new people, get out of the daily routine, and shake it down on the dance floor on Wednesday nights at the SLC. It is the most fun you can have on — or off — two feet!

by Rebecca Pittman



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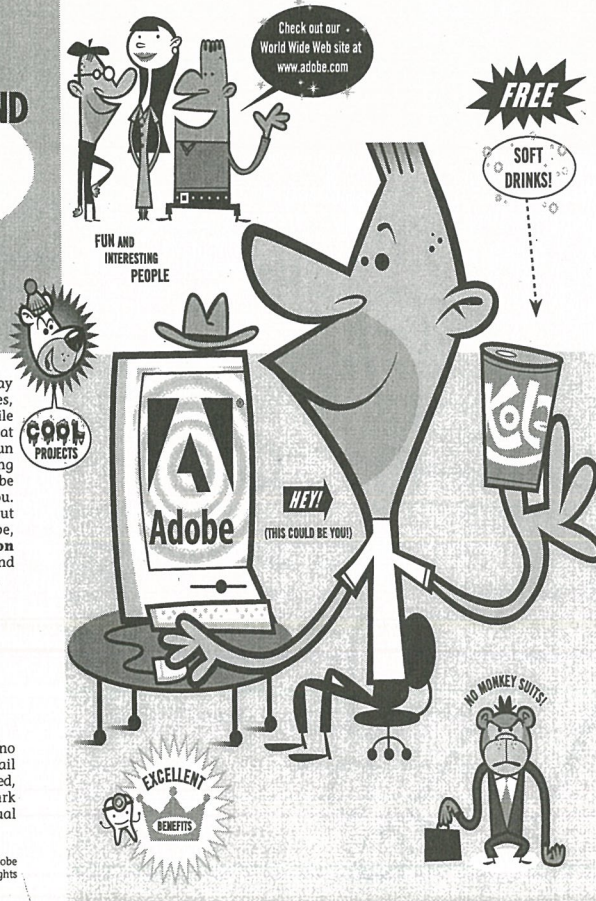
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Building 1, Room 3335

#### ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWS

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Co-op Education and Career Services

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## GRIM FANDANGO

"Grim Fandango" is the latest and undoubtedly one of the greatest (visually) 3D games to come out of LucasArts. In the tradition of "The Curse of Monkey Island," the player has to pick up items and solve puzzles in order to advance in a fantastic world of villains and alliances.

You start out as Manny, a travel agent of sorts, selling travel plans to the souls of the dead on their four-year trip to the 9th Level of the Underworld. Manny himself is dead as well, and appears as a skeleton in a business suit. He's actually serving time in the 8th Level until he meets his sales quota, but what he doesn't realize is that there's a soul embezzling ring that's stealing his clients. He steals a prime client from Domino — The Big Guy With A Scythe — and sets into motion a huge chain of events that threatens his very existence. This is where the user (you) drops into the story. You have to solve the puzzles to find out who's stealing your clients and what you're going to do about it, while avoiding Domino's henchmen.

The story borrows heavily from such noir films as Casablanca, Chinatown, and the biggest noir film out there, The Big Sleep. An interesting twist is the fact that the story takes place in the mythical lore of ancient Mexico, so everybody talks like the Taco Bell Chihuahua. The buildings combine the architectural styles of the ancient Aztecs, Mayans, and the more current Art Deco. The characters themselves look like they came straight out of The Nightmare Before Christmas, except they're rendered in traditional Mexican folk art. They aren't cartoons, like in "Monkey Island," but are actually 3D skeletons and demons made to be as lifelike as possible. Some of the coolest aspects of this game are the grossly exaggerated automobiles that you see in the streets: wild hot rods with chrome and muscle rendered superbly in 3D.

The whole effect is stunning, from the atmosphere and the Mexican music to the smoky back rooms and seedy characters. This game is truly a monumental accomplishment. Thankfully, even though there are many keys involved, the game controls are simple and fairly easy to get a grip on. There's no worry about forgetting key combinations to take away from the finely tuned

**GRIM FANDANGO** atmosphere that the game creates. You can fully immerse yourself in this incredible world.

The free demo comes in two versions: the full demo (which I HIGHLY recommend) and the base demo. You can get either version from [www.hotgames.com](http://www.hotgames.com), but the full version is 56 MB and takes a while to download. The base demo, which doesn't include the music or the cinematic scenes, is only 21.5 MB. You can also get the demo from [www.lucasarts.com](http://www.lucasarts.com), along with the music in MP3 format, character bios, and the 34 MB trailer for the game, a full-screen .mov file. If you like the game as much as I do, look for the full version in stores on October 28.

I recommend this unreservedly for anyone who is a fan of puzzle games or anyone who loves fantastic 3D art (note: No special 3D card is needed to run this game!). This is truly a great achievement from LucasArts.

by William Huber

0011

website of the week

[HTTP://APRILFOOLS.INFOSPACE.COM/](http://APRILFOOLS.INFOSPACE.COM/)

By now, I'm sure you've all learned that one of those silly virtual cards is perfect for that last minute birthday surprise (because you, being the wonderful caring person you are, somehow forgot your Very Best Friend's special day). You just go to one of the many sites that offers the e-Hallmark, click on the picture of the monkey in a loin cloth showing off his bright white teeth, enter a silly message completely disregarding the fact that you forgot his birthday, and click the send button. The friendship is saved. This method is fine, but two things are missing:

1. The e-card concept can cheer someone up, but it's not very good for spoiling your adversary's day.
2. There's still something exciting about getting a real piece of mail. You know, from one of those postal guys in the blue-gray suits with the snarling beagle firmly attached to his ankle.

This week's website solves both of these problems.

At AprilFools.com, you can create an authentic looking news story involving a friend and a certain White House intern (or other celebrity) and post it on the Internet for all to see. It is also possible to create an entire web page devoted to annoying your pal. You may, for instance, "Brighten a friend's day with an 'official' auto-recall notice, golf-etiquette violation or pet-paternity lawsuit." The company will actually send this notice anonymously through the United States Mail, so you never have to own up to anything. All this and other pranks are available for a very small fee. As someone who has been both an initiator and recipient (aren't siblings great?), I highly recommend the site.

by Nick Spittal

I know at least a few of you people out there are reading this column, because my friend Kenny's site (which was featured two weeks ago) has doubled in the number of hits, and all his friends have already visited the site. You can't honestly tell me that on a campus littered with computer geniuses, no one out there can outdo his webpage. E-mail me ([nrs6247@rit.edu](mailto:nrs6247@rit.edu)) with your URL and find it featured above!



As the 1998-99 school year continues and we become inundated with classroom papers and homework, one thing remains on everyone's minds: "So what are we going to do tonight?" Well, of course there's always the ever-popular movie, or perhaps a visit to the local nightclub for the older crowd. On the other hand, a whole new concert season has begun in Rochester, and there happens to be a large enough mix of styles and talent to keep anybody satisfied.

The Rochester Philharmonic continues its 1998 Fall Season with two concerts on Friday, October 16, and Saturday, October 17 (both 8:00, Eastman Theatre). Al Jarreau, considered one of the premiere jazz vocalists of the late 20th century, is featured with Jeff Tyzik conducting. On November 6 and 7, the POPS concert includes Tony Award-winning vocalist Barbara Cook along with Tyzik for a night of Broadway and Cabaret hits. On December 18-20, the orchestra presents the Gala Holiday Pops, a collection of traditional and classical holiday themes (December 18 & 19 at 8:00 p.m., December 20 at 2:00 p.m.). RPO plays at several other times during the year, so contact the Eastman Theatre for dates and times.

On Saturday, October 17, Mickey Hart's Planet Drum will reverberate through the Water Street Music Hall. Hart, who drummed for the Grateful Dead from 1967 to 1970, brings together a compilation of the world's best percussionists in one of the loudest and most rhythmic shows on tour. Unique drums of all sizes, rattles, and anything else that goes "bang" or "boom" is featured in the exhibition.

Also on October 17, the Harro Street Music Hall (400 Andrews Street) hosts the NYC quartet, Soul Coughing. With a new album, *El Oso*, and popular hits like "Super Bon Bon," their hip-hop beats are sure to entertain. This show is for all ages, but there will be no refunds.

Beavis and Butthead favorite, GWAR, takes center stage at the Water Street Music Hall on Friday, October 23 (8:00 p.m.). The band will be playing tracks from all three of the explicit albums they've released this year: *Scumdogs of the Universe*, *Road Behind*, and *America Must be Destroyed*. Misfits with Skarhead open.

On October 24, pop-punk group Less Than Jake makes an appearance at The Water Street Music Hall. Less Than Jake has a punk/ska style that is similar to groups such as The Mighty Mighty Bosstones or Operation Ivy, but with enough differences to set them apart as being original. Beginning as a small group in Gainesville, Florida, LTJ (which actually means "not up to par") has continually impressed numerous crowds with their creativity and talent.

At 7 p.m. on the following Wednesday, October 28, Spyro Gyra comes to Greece Olympia High School Auditorium, bringing with them their unique style of jazz. Originating in Buffalo, Spyro Gyra have honed their style, incorporating sounds such as R & B, Caribbean, and Latin into their music. It is that combination which makes the group such a rare phenomenon; their sound has yet to be imitated by any other.

One of our generation's favorite bands of the 1980s will rock the Rochester Auditorium. On Wednesday, November 4, Motley Crew's Greatest Hits Tour is coming to town. With classics such as "Jail House Rock," and "Girls Girls Girls," the commemorative show is certain to bring back some memories.

The uncommon style and music of Moxy Fruvous will turn a few heads when they make a stop at the Harro East Ballroom on Thursday, November 5. The group, known for their vocalizations and lack of major instruments (they use a wide range of strange instruments, instead, to vary their sound), is very skilled in improvisation and surprise. This multi-talented quartet is sure to entertain and delight.

Country superstar Reba McEntire brings her national tour to the newly renovated Blue Cross Arena on Thursday, November 12. Along with Brooks & Dunn, McEntire promises to bring her classic energy and charisma to an always ecstatic audience. Still going strong after years, this woman doesn't show any signs of slowing down. The show is said to be quite entertaining, even for non-country fans.

If country isn't your thing, you may enjoy the grandiose musical style presented by the one and only Tori Amos. Her music is dynamic, yet filled with incredible soul and emotion. She has a remarkable range of talent, from her extraordinary singing to her connection with the piano. Amos will leave her audience wanting more on November 12 at the Eastman Theatre.

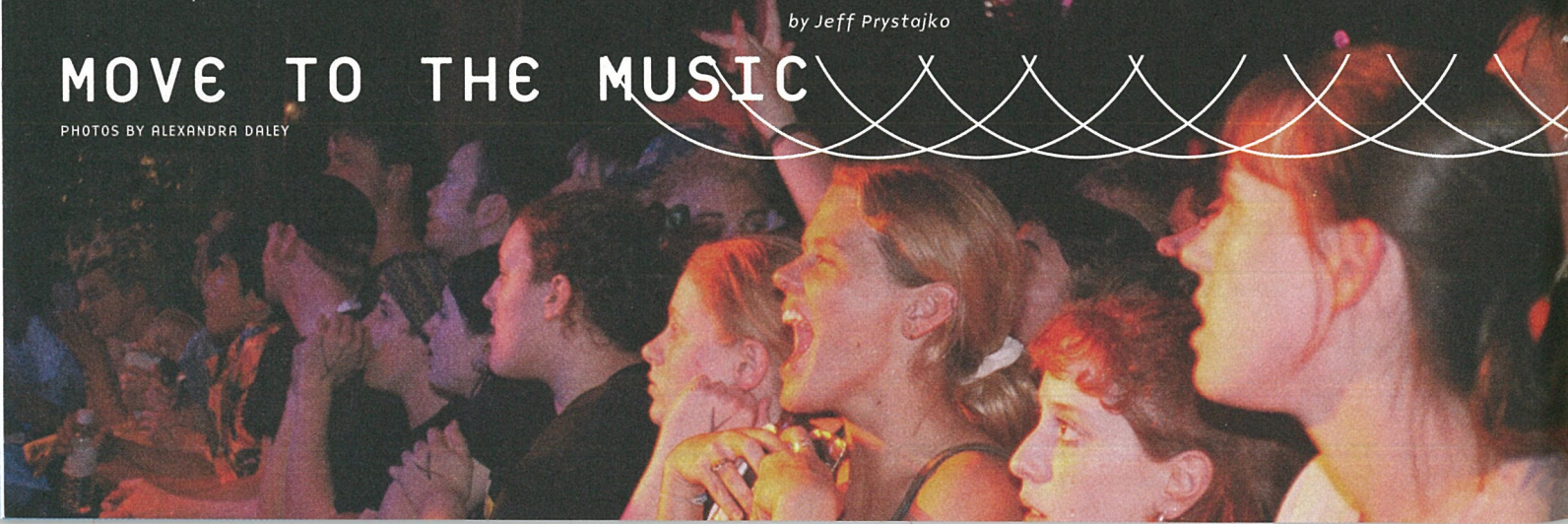
Last on the list of big names coming to Rochester is Anne Murray. The country singer, who has recorded over 30 albums in three decades (selling over 30 million to date), brings her international popularity and status to the Eastman Theatre on December 6 (3:00 p.m.).

This list, while including most of the major acts, does not nearly begin to mention the actual number of concerts and groups playing throughout the rest of 1998. There will be many local bands playing at various locations, and there will always be staples such as the Eastman Philharmonia providing concerts. The time is right to discover what the world of music around Rochester has for you.

by Jeff Prystajko

## MOVE TO THE MUSIC

PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRA DALEY





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# Y2K@RIT

Information technology specialists, computer scientists, software engineers, and system administrators are anxiously marking off days on their calendars. Bankers, stockbrokers, financial officers, and government officials exchange nervous glances. New Year's Day 2000 is less than 500 days away, yet few seem to be celebrating. After all, it is quite possible that our system of commerce and record-keeping will come to a grinding halt due to programming shorthand developed twenty years ago. We are talking about the Year 2000 Problem, often referred to as "Y2K."

Most people are aware that computer systems all over the world are facing an imminent natural disaster. Systems that

use a two-digit method for recording the date will be faced with a new millennium to record. Our society has grown accustomed to writing down the last two digits of a given year on the assumption that everyone knew which millennium we were talking about. But how do you teach a computer to do this? Because there is no standard for recording dates, the problem is not an easy one to fix.

When the earliest commercial computer software developers were working in the 1970's, the savings of two bits of memory (the first two digits of "1975" for example) meant a savings of millions of dollars in expensive storage media. When cheaper storage media came into use and programs became more complex, two digits were still used

to record the date (in the MM-DD-YY format). The two-digit programmer's shortcut carried on well into the eighties and nineties. Few believed that the programs they were writing then would be in use twenty or thirty years in the future.

While humans will understand that "01-01-00" means "January 1, 2000," computers will interpret it to be "January 1, 1900." Computers were never taught that years have four digits. The root of the problem is that computers understand that 99 comes after 98, but they think zero comes after 99 — in effect, their whole system starts over again at the beginning.

How does the computer know what time it is anyway? Once the

correct time and date are set into your computer, the machine continues to tick off the minutes and seconds and update the clock accordingly. When you turn off your computer, a small battery powers the chip (the "clock") that keeps track of time. These batteries last from four to five years. You know it is time to change the battery when your machine cannot display the proper time or date.

So what's the problem? If we can accept that "00" is 2000, why can't we just live with the anomaly? Many financial organizations and other record-keeping groups depend on their computers keeping track of the date to keep their businesses running. Are your hotel reservations safe? What about your

ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREW BAKER





uncle's pension check? Grandma's social security? Dad's VA benefits? What about your family's life savings? Maybe accounts payable sees all accounts as overdue because the computer says no customers have paid in 99 years. Perhaps your parent's mortgage payment is miscalculated. Maybe the interest rate on your car loan is incorrect. Maybe your bank will fail. Maybe banks all around the world will fail.

As if the two-digit problem weren't enough, the year 2000

is a leap year. According to a recent Microsoft report, "Unfortunately, there are systems and applications that do not recognize the year 2000 as a leap year. This will cause all dates following February 29, 2000 to be offset incorrectly by one day." The rules for leap year calculations read like a sort of riddle: A year is a leap year if it is divisible by four, but if it is divisible by 100 it is NOT a leap year, but if it is divisible by 400 it IS a leap year. Thus, the Year 2000 is a special case leap

year that happens once every 400 years. So some systems that can handle the year 2000 may be caught by the leap year factor.

Is anyone safe from the Y2K problem? You're in luck! Your Commodore 64 and Tandy machines are safe, since they don't have internal clocks. This goes for your Apple IIe, as well. Your Apple IIGS, however, is equipped with an internal clock and needs to be running GS System 6.0 or later to cope. In fact, the entire Macintosh line produced since introduction in

1984 is "Y2K Safe." The first Macs were able to handle any date from January 1, 1904, until February 6, 2040. Since then a new 64-bit logarithm has been developed so that the Mac can handle any date from 30,081 B.C. to 29,940 A.D. According to a recent press release from Apple Computer, "Mac users can party like it's 1999." You can test it yourself: set your Date & Time control panel to December 31, 1999, 11:59 pm. You can watch the display change a minute later,

correct four-digit date included at no extra charge. Just remember to change the date and time back to the original settings to avoid any problems with your machine's directory.

On the flip side, Microsoft is working hard to cope with Y2K and is upgrading their existing technologies. According to a recent report, "If a [Microsoft] product is stated to be non-compliant, Microsoft will provide information as to how an organization could bring that product into compliance." Microsoft will be working with developers and information technology professionals on ways to bring products to compliance.

Most of us are worried about our personal consumer products from Apple or Microsoft, but what about the large mainframe computers that run the school? "Like most other organizations, RIT is impacted by the Y2K problem," explains Diane Barbour, Chief Information Officer. "Fortunately for us, we are implementing new Financial Systems (Oracle Financials) which will make our business systems Y2K compli-

ant." In addition to those systems, ISC has in place a plan to fully test any "legacy systems" to make sure they are also Y2K compliant. A "legacy system" is one that was developed many years ago and is not based on current technology. "We plan to have these changes and testing done by mid-1999."

It is not enough, though, for RIT to take care of the internal systems that ISC maintains and controls. Barbour continues, "We must also be concerned about software that we purchase from vendors and RIT's trading partners: banks, insurance companies, and others." Even if RIT's internal systems are compliant, there is concern that noncompliant external systems might infect the school. "For example, a bank or an insurance company whose systems are not Y2K compliant could send us bad data that we would then feed into our internal systems." For that reason, RIT is requiring banks, insurance companies, and third party vendors to provide confirmation that their systems are also Y2K compliant.

What can users at RIT do to protect their own systems? You can read the ITS Newsletter and watch the RIT Web Page for further information about the dilemma. An RIT-wide task force has been assembled to track the progress of the RIT Y2K problem. ISC is also preparing a Y2K inventory and checklist of all ISC assets (hardware, software, network components etc.) that have the potential to fail. Plus, ISC will provide guidelines and information to individual faculty and staff to help them check their desktop systems and local systems that they use and maintain.

The best way to protect yourself is to learn more about the problem and how it could affect you. Many of the problems will not surface until well after New Year's Day. Until then we can only wait together in anticipation of what will come next.

by omv6369@rit.edu (Otto Vondrak)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

RIT is currently developing a site with information about the Y2K problem and what you can do about it. Until that site is up, check out these other information sources.

### Microsoft Information

<http://www.microsoft.com/year2000>

### Apple Computer, Inc.

<http://www.apple.com/macros/info/2000.html>

### University of California-Davis Year 2000 Page

<http://y2k.ucdavis.edu>

### The Mother of All Year 2000 Link Centers

<http://pw2.netcom.com/~helliott/00.htm>

### Millennium Journal

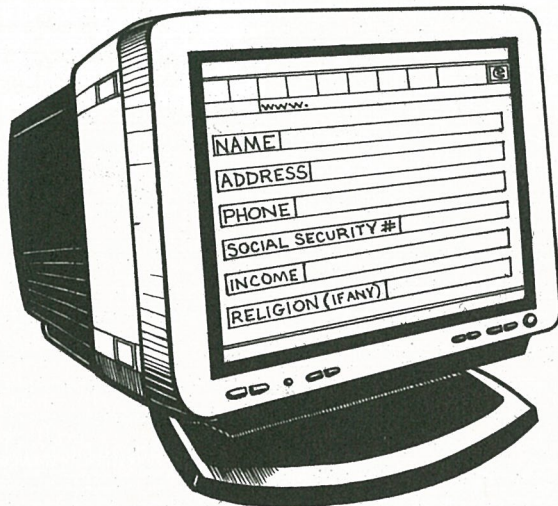
<http://www.data-dimensions.com/html/miljnlvw.htm>

For Catholics who feel there are spiritual issues with their computers and the year 2000...

<http://www.catholic2000.com/>



# WORLD WIDE WEB YOU'RE NOT ALONE: privacy on the internet



ADAM  
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10/98

The age of information is a double-edged sword when it comes to civil liberties. On one hand, the Internet has a wealth of information on any topic imaginable, gives people the opportunity to relate, chat, and debate with individuals from all over the globe, and allows businesses to make transactions with consumers around the world. On the other hand, the same technology that promotes the First Amendment values of free speech, association, and access to information also poses a serious threat to another fundamental constitutional value: the right to privacy.

Technology today has brought with it a whole new level of privacy concerns. How many people were forwarded that private message you sent about your latest crisis? Who knows who could be hiding in a chatroom reading everything you write? How many annoying companies who picked your e-mail address from some list are going to start bombarding you with hundreds of advertisements? How exactly does the Internet get away with all this, and is there any way to stop it?

It can be reasonably assumed that some level of information gathering and tracking will be done when you log on to the Internet and navigate your way through the Web. The information can be collected in a variety of ways: directly by information you provide voluntarily (e.g. registering at the site or signing in a "guest book"), and indirectly either through your browser when you connect to a website or through a "cookie" file (see below). Most information obtained online is "usage data," or data about where you go and how much time you spend on an individual site.

Some websites track your activity with a "cookie," a block of text the site places in a file on your computer's hard drive. While a code in the cookie file enables the site to label you as a particular user, it does not identify you by name or address unless you have provided the site



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with such information or set up preferences in your browser to do so automatically. Newer versions of browser software let you decide whether you want to receive cookie files, and some programs notify you when a website is about to deposit a cookie onto your hard drive.

The Electronic Privacy Information Center (E.P.I.C.) feels that "current cookie usage violates the norms. Existing regulations, targeted at protecting personal information, limit the use and application of cookies. Content providers continuing to use cookies that violate these regulations and browser producers unwilling or incapable of bringing their products into accordance with these laws both risk legal liability."

Often the key to large amounts of personal information, including tax information, credit information, school records, and medical records, is linked to your Social Security number. Because this data is often sensitive, you should keep it private ... or maybe the government will do that for you. On April 10, 1997, House Representative Bob Franks (R-NJ), introduced the Social Security On-Line Protection Act, which is designed to regulate the use by interactive computer services of Social Security account numbers and related personally identifiable information. This bill would hopefully secure the Internet against the use of distributing Social Security numbers and therefore protecting people's privacy.

Privacy on the Internet is a serious issue that should be handled with great care. There are many conferences and forums brought together throughout the year that are dedicated to finding solutions for this problem. One of the most recent occurred in February, and was chaired by Michelle d'Auray, the Executive Director of the Electronic Commerce Task Force of Industry in Canada. This workshop on "Privacy Protection in a Global Networked Society" brought together representatives of governments, the private sector, the user and consumer communities, and data

protection authorities to consider the issues linked to the protection of privacy and trans-border flows of personal data in the developing global networked society. At the end of the workshop, participants recognized that the growth of electronic commerce requires increased consumer confidence in privacy protection. They affirmed the commitment to protect individual privacy in the increasingly networked environment, both to uphold human rights and to prevent interruptions in transborder data flows.

The Internet still remains a "dangerous" place in that you may be watched, harassed, or facilitated at any time by anyone. Our privacy on the Internet is still far from guaranteed, but hopefully new laws and conferences will help solve the problem. Justice Louis Brandis did his best to define what privacy should be in the Olmstead vs. U.S. trial of 1928: "The right to be left alone — the most comprehensive of all rights, and the right most valued by free people."

by Katie Masaryk





## MONEY ON THE NET

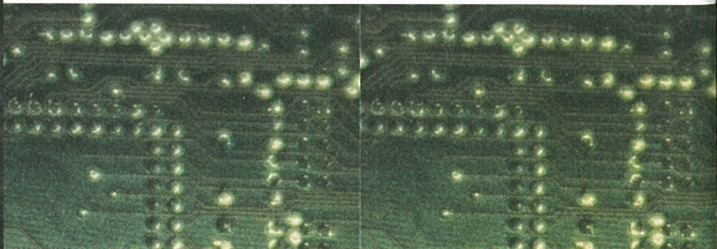
Humankind's recent discovery of the Internet's seemingly infinite potential has bred a myriad of possibilities that can be humbling for even the deepest thinkers to sort through. One earth-shattering possibility, though still mired in developmental stages, is global commerce's role on the web. In layman's terms: economic dealings of any sort, done completely through networked computers.

Unsure of what is at hand? That's all right; you're not alone. Lots of people remain impervious to financial proceedings on the Net. Slow-reacting bystanders are only now realizing that you can buy everything from computer software to Saturns with simple Internet access and a credit card. Little do they know how obscure underdog companies are salivating at the notion of an instant world economy: collaborations made in milliseconds, and once impenetrable broad markets suddenly reachable. At current estimates, about five percent of global financial proceedings run through the Internet. When you consider the big picture, this is already a tremendous figure. Expect that number to climb tenfold and more as we move further into the new millennium.

It is no secret that businesses of all types and sizes are beginning to recognize tremendous potential in marketing products over the Internet. An interesting aspect is unprecedented low advertising costs. HomeFair's (Homefair.com) crisp, informative page on commercial capacity on the Internet includes a thesis that was written by Arnold Kling and presented to the 2nd International WWW conference in Chicago in October 1994. In it, King pits newspaper advertising against Internet exposure. On average it would cost a company around \$60,000 to reach a million subscribers with a full-page ad for one day. With a website, an equal number of would-be consumers are reached at a typical cost of an amazing \$2.50 per day. He goes on to emphasize that computer networks are unique among media in that they combine interactivity with low marginal cost of making the information accessible to an additional user. This is the first time in history that a single medium has possessed this capability. Indeed, it is truly groundbreaking when advertising and transactions are done in the same medium.

FIVE PERCENT OF GLOBAL FINANCIAL  
PROCEEDINGS RUN THROUGH THE INTERNET. . .

PHOTOS BY ED PFUELLER





No tantalizing new concept, however, comes without its drawbacks, and this is no exception. Customization is still a work in progress. Different consumers need different information. In addition, there is the "water everywhere but nary a drop to drink" dilemma. As this new age is rapidly proving, there is such a thing as too much information. According to Kling, an important issue for the Web will be what it will cost the consumer in terms of time to find information. It's easy to imagine using a search tool to look for a softball glove and instantly being slammed with hundreds of thousands of possibilities. Do you really think anyone has the patience to sort it all out? In such a case, perhaps a quick ride to the local sporting goods store would be more beneficial, not to mention convenient.

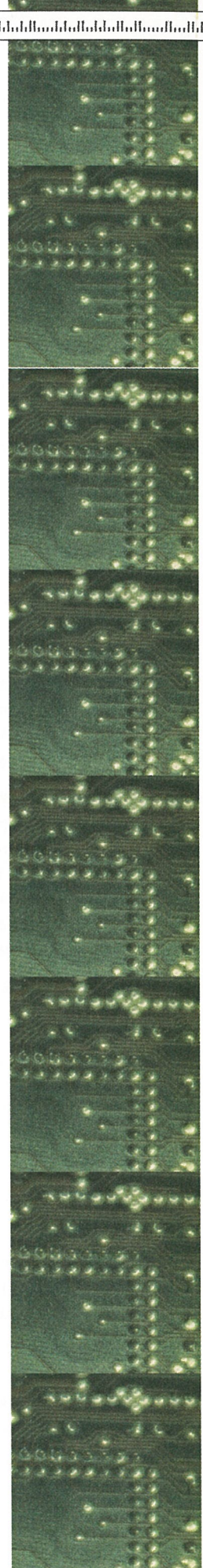
Continuing from a consumer's point of view, there's a tremendous implication of e-commerce advancement being suggested by web professionals: elimination of certain service industries. Fatalistic predictions abound regarding the future of these middlemen. In fact, here's a new buzzword for you: "disintermediation." It means that anyone between the buyer and seller is in big trouble. Prime examples include travel agents, stockbrokers, insurance agents, entertainment ticket distributors, and so on.

A great plausibility derived from e-commerce is instant viability for small companies without recognized household names. Basic economic concepts say that, if a company has better quality and lower costs with proper mainstream access, it will sell its products/services at a brisk pace. Getting word out, however, has been 99 percent of the challenge in the past. Hypothetically, as the number of Internet users continues to explode, so could fresh businesses with a homemade edge. Certain drawbacks do lurk, though. Could the public develop an incorrigible dependency on info sorters such as Yahoo, Lycos, and others? If so, then perhaps the giants will use their sheer size and resources to stay high on those lists. And all the while a whole new breed of middlemen is generated.

These prognostications only begin to scratch the surface. Currency could be affected in a big way. Towns and cities may develop their very own form of money to keep the cash at home. Major economic shifts may occur between historical pushovers and present world powers. An immeasurable impact on society as we know it may result. Whole occupational fields may disappear. Newly created fields may be understaffed and desperate for role-players. At this point, in 1998, it's all really intellectual, speculative rhetoric. Make no mistake about it, however, e-commerce is here to stay. Its impact will be felt, on personal and professional levels of all kinds.

Someday in the not-so-distant future, while your children clamor in front of the computer screen, excitedly typing their technology-filled lists for Santa, you may find yourself wistful for a time when the simplest things were the most priceless. A day when home was home and the commercial world stayed outside, available only at comforting distance.

by Alex Long





## PROJECT BREAKTHROUGH

Beginning this year and scheduled for completion by July, 1999, Project Breakthrough is underway and geared to revamp RIT's computer information systems. School record databases ranging from the payroll to human resources departments have been kept on the same computer systems for the past 25 years. In an effort to keep in step with the times, RIT is ceremoniously dismissing those old systems and bringing in new software.

Oracle Corporation, a leading dealer of database software world-wide, was selected after a ten month search to provide materials for the upgrade. RIT has licensed over 30 Oracle products to accommodate the four sections of financial application, human resources/payroll, application tools, and technical progress. Oracle software, proponents say, will provide standardized and uniform tools for record-keeping, update RIT's offices with more sophisticated technology, and solve various computer glitches such as the upcoming world-wide problem of computers unable to deal with dates in the year 2000. This, incidentally, is of especially urgent concern for a university that relies on dates to calculate due payments, tenure for faculty, and various other matters.

Project Breakthrough consists of 15 RIT staff members working with five Oracle consultants to install the proper appli-

cations. At the top of the undertaking are Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Stan McKenzie and Vice President for Finance and Administration James Watters, followed by Project Manager Jim Fisher, who wrote most of the information regarding Project Breakthrough posted on RIT's web page.

"It's going remarkably well," Fisher says, reporting that the applications came on October 1 and that the functional systems are already up. "When totally completed, Project Breakthrough will result in major savings in effort on the part of users." Fisher invites anyone to survey the material posted on the news section of RIT's web page, which includes the departments planned for renovation and the volume of products purchased from Oracle, as well as the organization of personnel involved in the project and exhaustive details about this complicated undertaking.

A key advantage to the Oracle software is uniformity. The new information systems



will be software from the same company and will occupy the same level of technical sophistication. "In the past we used information associates systems and built on them over the years," Fisher notes, "so we were lacking in base software." Fisher also adds that the widely publicized computer dilemma regarding the new century turn-over was "a main reason" for the decision to revamp the current systems. "We're fairly pleased with the Oracle software," states Fisher, "though we had minor problems with the desktop." To facilitate the software conversion in terms of staff being able to use the new systems, RIT has reserved a training facility in the Research Corporation building on John Street to train employees who must use the equipment on a day to day basis. An outside firm called D.G. Associates, which has also worked with Kodak and Bausch & Lomb, has been enlisted to help with the training.

Questions or comments regarding Project Breakthrough may be sent via the "Feedback" section of its web page. Most of the recent

questions and answers now posted on-line are of a technical nature, but the project's architects insist that the new software is just a tool. "Nothing in Project Breakthrough guarantees that 'better' decision-making will occur," McKenzie wrote in Project Breakthrough's summer newsletter in an article entitled *The Human Proposition*. "It's people who must still make appropriate use of available data."

Project Breakthrough accompanies many other changes to the RIT scene in recent years. Housing renovations, the addition to the science building, and revamped campus apartments have all changed RIT's landscape. Project Breakthrough, in keeping with the tradition of change, will improve the unseen systems of data-keeping and communication which keep the Institute's physical aspects in shape.

by Zane Kaylani



## INTERNET USE AT RIT

If you walk into one of RIT's computer labs, you will see a variety of computer use. A quick visual survey will allow you to discover that about half of these computer users are on the Internet.

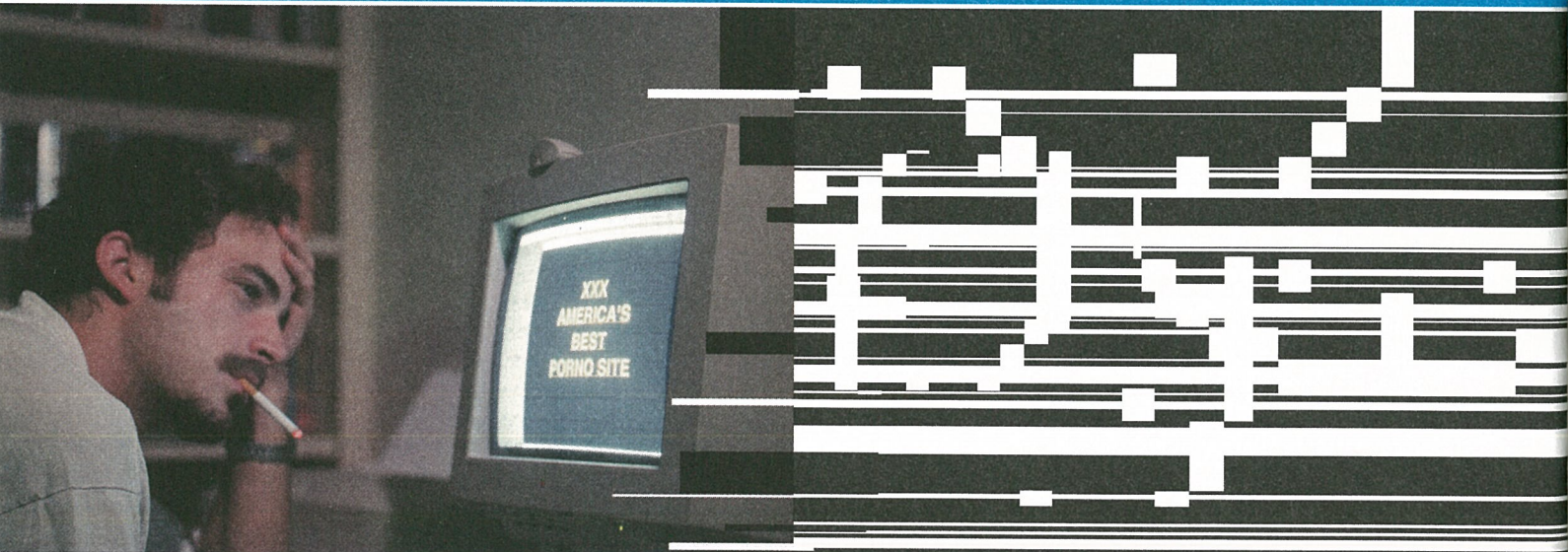
There are 2,088 students currently registered with ISC. This number does not reflect the amount of students who casually stroll into the library or one of the other computer labs on campus and hook up to the Internet through RIT's ethernet system.

ISC limits the amount of time a student is able to log on to the Internet to 40 hours per seven day period. In a quick poll of random students using the Internet in the Wallace Library second floor VAX/VIA area and the Booth computer lab, students responded on different ends of the spectrum when asked how many hours they spend using the

Internet each week. Most responded that their use was in the vicinity of one hour per week. They also said that the majority of this time is spent checking and writing e-mail, while a small amount of time is spent surfing the web for recreation. A few students said they may spend up to five hours a day hooked up to the Internet. When asked what they spend time doing on-line, they responded that the majority of time is spent participating in chat room discussions, followed by a smaller amount of time surfing the web for recreation. The smallest amount of time is spent checking and writing e-mail.

On ISC's web page you can access information about average T3 Internet usage on campus in 24 hour or seven day periods (<http://www.rit.edu/netview/>). At the busiest time in a 24 hour period, 33% of registered users are connected to the Internet. At the slowest time, only 7% of registered users are connected. October 6 was a busy day; there was never a moment when at least one student was not using the Internet.

According to ISC, all residence hall inhabitants have direct access to ethernet in their rooms. Students in many apartments and townhouses also have direct ethernet access. The one exception to



PHOTOS BY GREG BENENATI



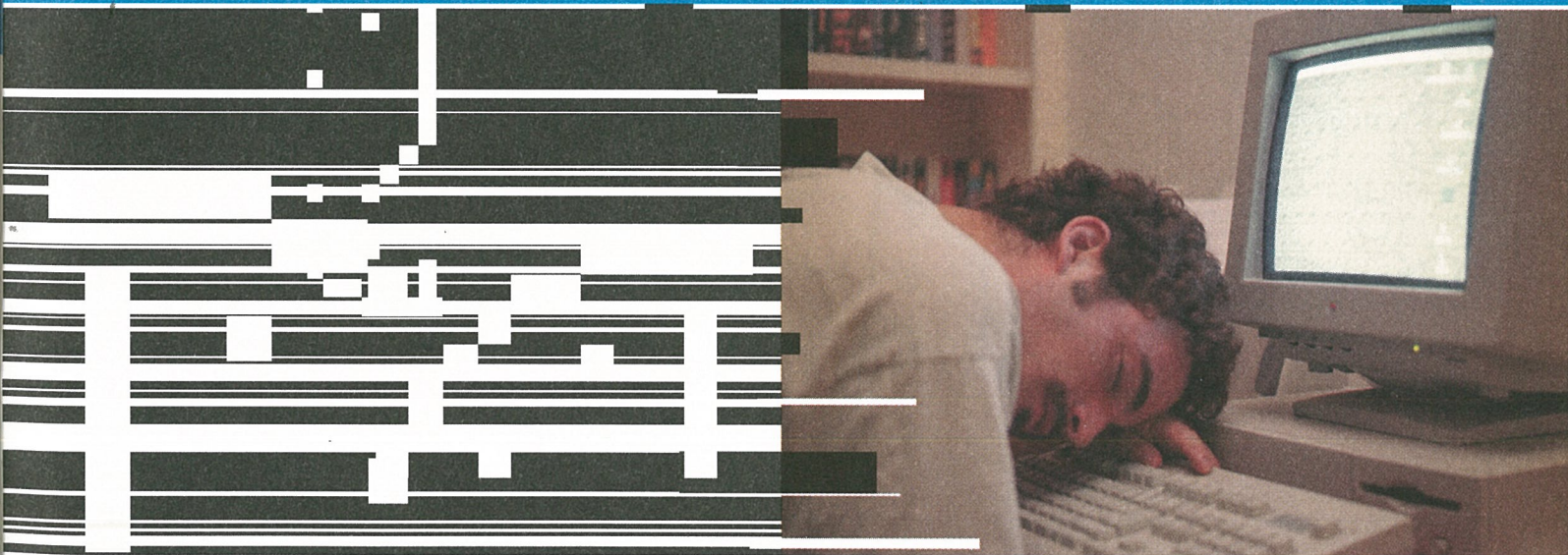
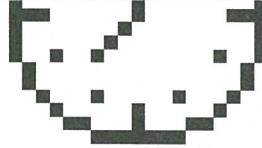
this is the Racquet Club townhouses where ethernet has not yet been installed. Still, each townhouse is provided with a second phone line that provides residents with dial-up access to the Internet. The process of allowing access to the Internet directly, using ethernet connections, is ongoing. Colony Manor apartments gained access as recently as October 6.

Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, recently completed a study that looked at 169 people in 73 households and found a direct connection between Internet use and depression. The more time people spend on-line, the more likely they are to feel lonely, isolated, and depressed. Researchers concluded that using the Internet provides more superficial relationships with others. The more time people spend creating these superficial relationships and isolating themselves from social activities, the less time they seem to spend developing and strengthening real-life relationships. The Internet cannot replace the need for face-to-face human interaction. Over the next year, one of the topics the research team plans to focus on is a link between what Internet services promote isolation and depression and what services have little affect on these psychological states.

Rampant Internet use at RIT is definitely a concern. The Internet was created as a service to aid researchers in the rapid exchange of information. Over the past two decades, however, it has evolved into a service providing a wide range of options. The Internet is now used for everything from researching a physics paper to looking at pornography. In addition, Internet accessibility is becoming more widespread. More and more people of varying walks of life are finding it possible to get on-line.

For the most part, RIT students seem to be using the appropriate amount of discretion in their Internet use. But to those who suffer withdrawal symptoms when they are away from a computer for too long: Beware.

by Joline Jozokos

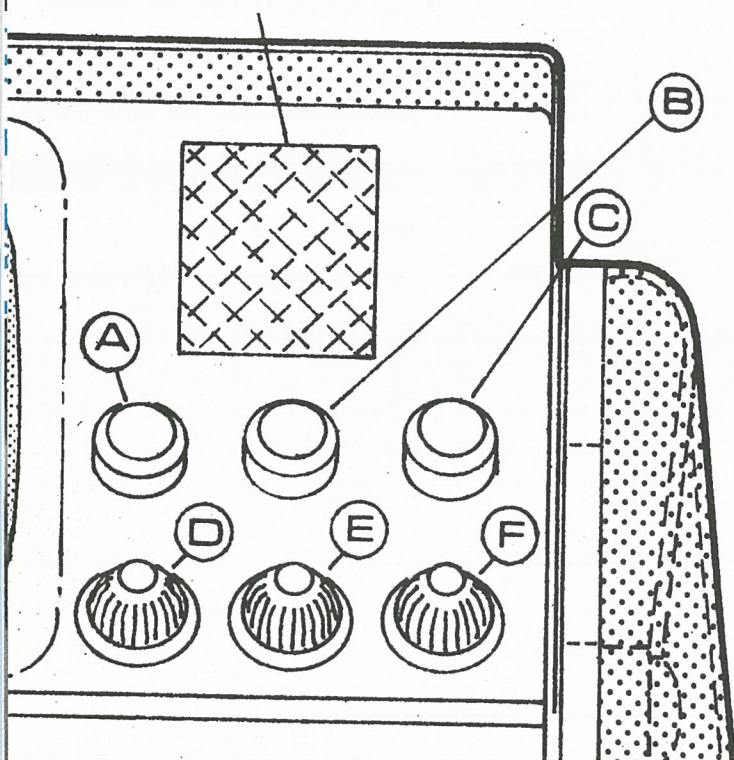


Some suggestions from Carnegie Mellon researchers on how to limit the feelings of depression if you are an avid Internet user:

- Make sure the time you spend on-line is "quality time".
- Pay attention to what services are beneficial to your intellectual and personal growth.
- As with television, monitor your usage and pay close attention to what services you take advantage of.



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## TIGERS SQUEAK PAST KEUKA

Between the stellar goaltending of senior Stephanie LaSala and Wendy Wright's header in the first half, the RIT Tigers women's soccer team beat Keuka 1-0 on October 7. The goal was assisted by senior Linda Ramsey. Wright is now tied for second on the team with five points. Freshman phenom Janice Steinheider still leads the team with six.

The game, which was not played under the greatest of conditions, was an offensive struggle. Keuka only managed eight shots on goal throughout the entire game; RIT only managed five. The Tigers got one to count, though. This is LaSala's second shutout of the season, and she only gives up 2.67 goals per game and has a .750 save percentage.

The Tigers are now 4-7 and are on a roll, having won two of their last three games. They have upcoming games away at Hartwick on Oct. 17, at LeMoyne on Oct. 20, and their final regular season and home game on Oct. 22 against Nazareth.

*by Brett Fleming*



PHOTO BY ED PFUELLER



1998-

## 99 TIGER MEN'S HOCKEY: CARRYING THE TORCH

There is something in the way that the RIT Men's hockey team drills itself. There's a proud determination that is instilled in the team regardless of who's playing on it. This automatic pride comes with the territory of being one of RIT's most historically rich sports teams. The Tiger Men's hockey team has been, throughout history, one of Division III's most consistently successful squads. They have a tradition to uphold each and every season — especially this season.

In the pre-season national rankings, RIT placed third among all Division III colleges, which came as no surprise to anyone. This year's team has an abundance of talent and experience. For RIT hockey, talent is nothing new. Year in and year out, the Tigers produce teams that boast some of the most skillful players around, many of which are often selected for All American status. The compelling factor on this year's squad is the experience that the players will bring with them to each game. The team is returning about 17 players from last year, including two veteran goaltenders, five defensemen, and 10 full-time forwards.

Among those suiting up again for the Tigers is goalie Jaime Morris. Morris has started between the pipes for RIT since his freshman year, and last season he posted an excellent 2.67 goals against average. Tiger Coach Eric Hoffberg

even went so far as to call Morris "a pillar of strength for the team." On the offensive, the Tigers are returning some of the school's most impressive forwards ever. Center Luke Murphy set the team's single season assist record last year, and he undoubtedly is looking to top that this year. All American Pat Staerker will be joining Murphy on the Tiger front line this season as well.

Senior center Kyle Edwards' veteran leadership earned him the team's role of captain. And finally, Sophomore forward Peter Bournazakis will return after his incredible freshman campaign in 1997-98. As a freshman, Bournazakis led the Tigers in scoring with an unbelievable 61 points, which he looks to better in 1998-99.

The Tigers will also be adding players to their already loaded roster. Half a dozen freshmen will be joining RIT's veterans. The most exciting addition to the team, however, will be Matt Garver. Garver shocked the collegiate hockey world this past year when he left Division I's RPI to come play for RIT. At the Division I level, Garver totaled over 100 points, and was one of the league's marquee players. Coach

PHOTO BY GREG BENENATI

Hoffberg commented, "I'm not aware of any previous instances when a high caliber Division I player like Matt Garver has ever transferred to a Division III school." Still, Garver decided to return to his home town to finish out his collegiate career, and the Tigers will inevitably profit from his presence on the ice.

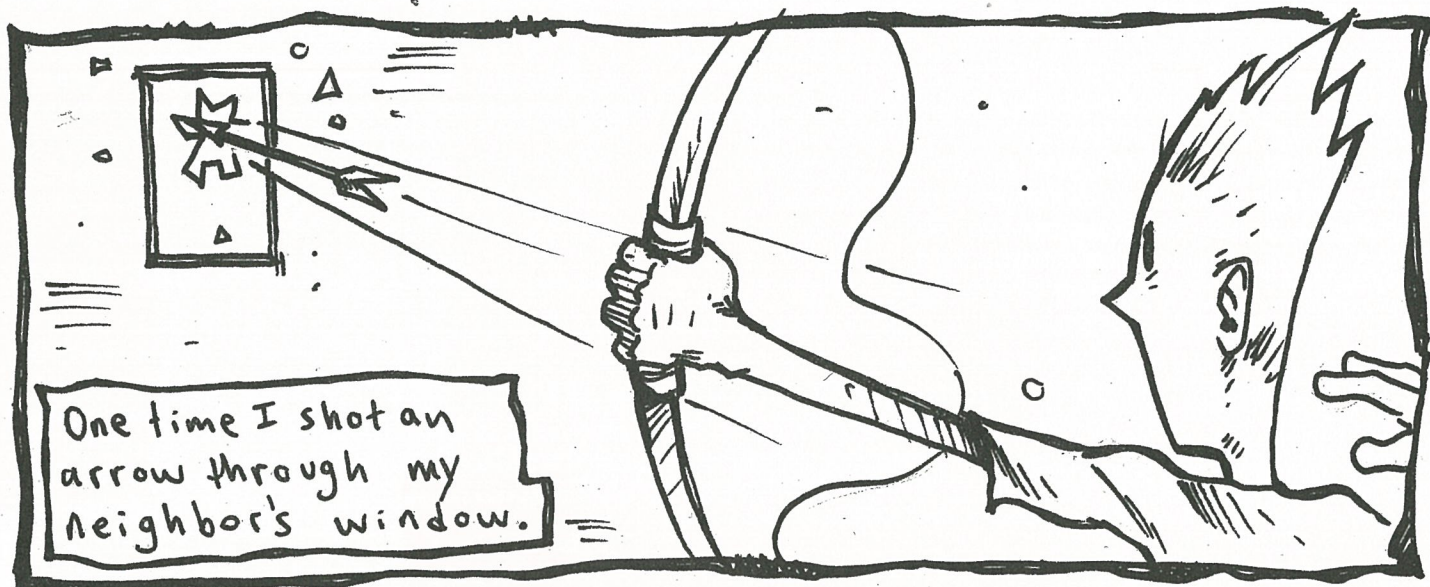
Overall, the outlook is extremely bright for the Tigers. According to Hoffberg, "You've got to set honest goals for yourself as a team. For these guys, anything less than a National Championship will be a disappointment." It might sound like lofty expectations, but standards have always been high for the Tigers, and this year is no different. Coach Hoffberg is confident that his team will uphold RIT's hockey tradition of excellence, both on and off the ice. "You want athletes that are people, too. People that have the capacity to carry on the torch." The way things look right now, that torch should burn bright in the hands of this team.

by Jon-Claude Caton





# the exploits of aimless boy.





## TAB ADS

I've always wanted to date a gymnast- they're just so darn flexible.

SWD-DM in search of 5'5", brown-haired girl without standards. Reply through TabAds (in Reporter office).

Wanted: Rockin Roll credentials  
-Lil Tuffie

I think you should all check out the Double Crossers, a great new garage-rock band. They rock like a magiquist.

Sometimes, when I am bored, I pretend I'm a fish and read.

Wheelbarrow glue. This page almost featured wheelbarrow glue. What a shame.

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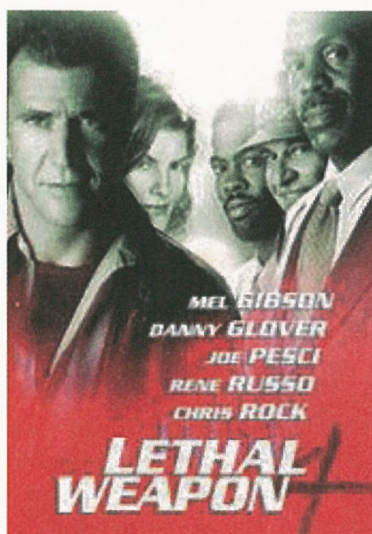


# CalendaRIT

OCTOBER 16 - OCTOBER 26

## Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>

7:00 & 9:00pm  
**Talisman: Lethal Weapon 4**  
*Ingle Auditorium*  
\$1



## Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>

7:00 & 9:00pm  
**Talisman: Lethal Weapon 4**  
*Ingle Auditorium*  
\$1

## Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>

8:00pm-game end  
**Monday Night Football**  
*SAU Gameroom*

## Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

8:00-10:00pm  
**WITR Night**  
*The Grind*  
Free

9:30-10:30  
**Swing Dance Lessons**  
*Fireside Lounge*  
\$1

## Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Rudicon Conference**  
*SAU*

## Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>

7:00 & 9:00pm  
**Talisman: Men In Black**  
*Ingle Auditorium*  
Free

**Sonnenburg Haunted Gardens**  
*Sonnenburg Gardens*  
\$3

## Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>

7:00 & 9:00pm  
**Talisman: Men In Black**  
*Ingle Auditorium*  
Free

## Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

8:00pm-game end  
**Monday Night Football**  
*SAU Gameroom*

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 my edit due to space limitations.

Events are subject to change