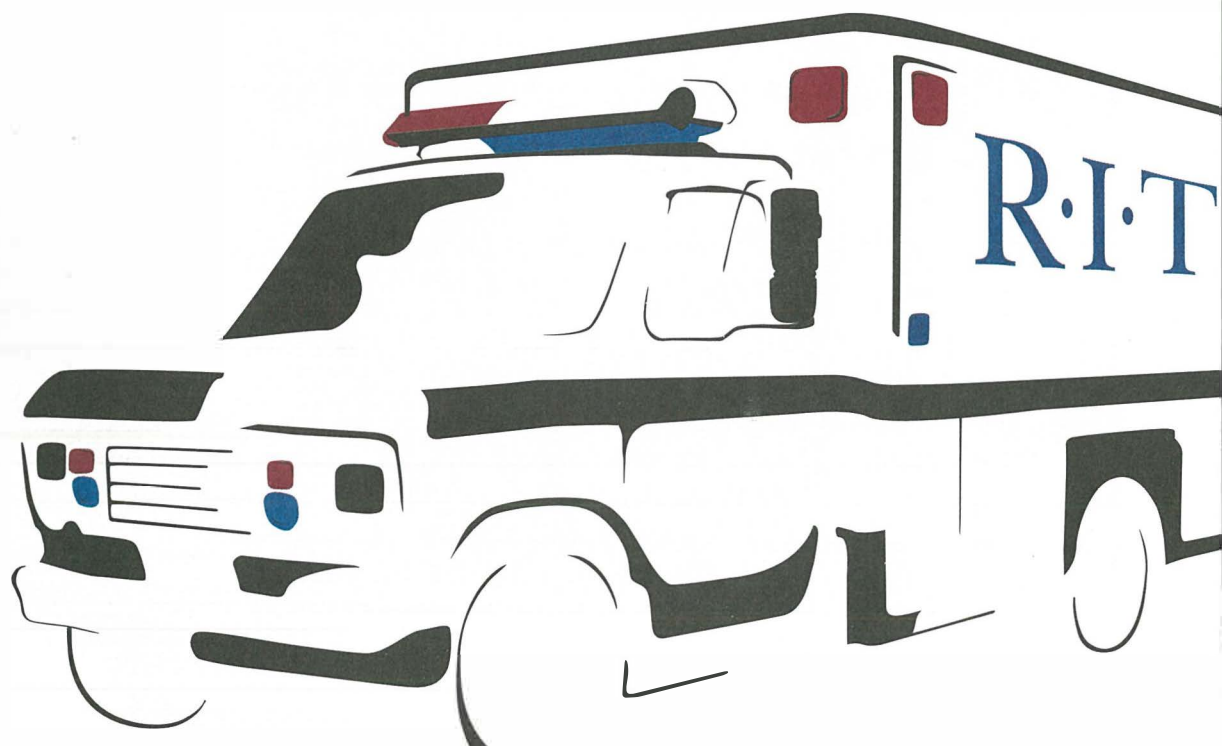
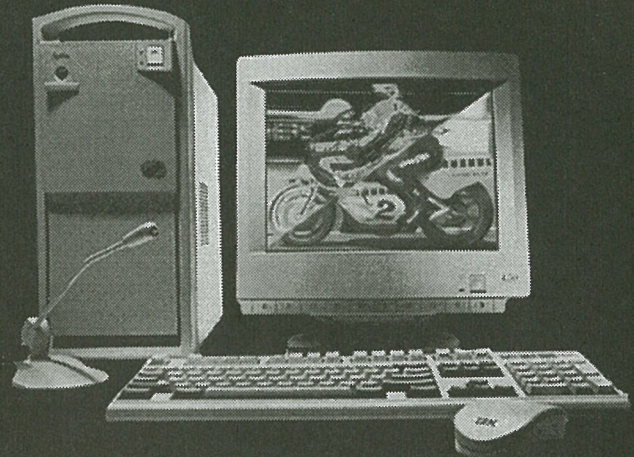
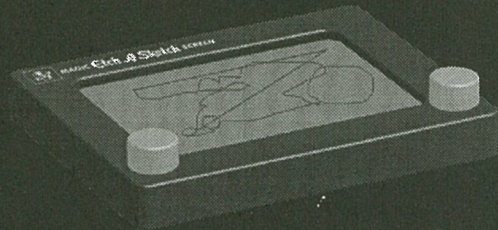


# reporter

10·23·98





# INFORMATION DAY/NIGHT

## BS/MS/Ph.D GRADUATES

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**DATE:** Tuesday, October 27, 1998

**TIME:** 9am-5pm

**LOCATION:** Student Union

**DRESS:** Casual

**TIME:** 6pm-8pm

**LOCATION:** Skainy Room, Interfaith Chapel

**DRESS:** Casual

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# Editorial

## Hate and Fear

---

Recent events around our country have caused the media, politicians, and the general public to examine the societal fabric of our culture. Many well-intentioned people are calling for the establishment of so-called "hate crime" laws. I find myself hesitating in endorsing such legal remedies without considering the implications.

A columnist in the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* noted that the people charged with the ghastly murder in Wyoming will face a number of charges, including murder and kidnapping. All of these crimes are currently defined and the punishments outlined in our laws. The addition of increased penalties for "hate crime" opens up a Pandora's box of thought that might be better left closed.

Before people start writing vitriolic letters to the editor, let me clarify my position. I find this crime horrific; it would be if it were done to anyone regardless of race, creed or sexual orientation. I do think that a percentage of crimes are aimed at sections of our population because of race, sex, or sexual preference.

The central problem that I perceive is that we as a society have decided to protect free speech and expression and that the proposed "hate laws" begin to infringe on this right as defined in our constitution. I personally find the Center for Reclaiming America a spiteful and hurtful organization that has a dangerous agenda. But I also find myself protecting their rights to be idiots. The free speech laws that protect me also protect the bigoted, the uneducated, and the rude.

The turning point, as with all legalities, is when your right to free speech is restricted, as in preventing you from yelling "fire" in a movie theater. That is not free speech; that is causing potential danger to other citizens. The same analysis should be brought to the proposed "hate crime" laws. Would the benefits of these laws prevent further crimes or would they erode some of the basic tenants of our country? I would be the first to admit I don't know.

I also do not want to be misunderstood for arguing that these crimes are an expression of speech — they are not. They are criminal. The problem is, I wonder if it is fair to place a higher

punishment on crimes committed against different segments of our population. Part of our legal tradition is that everyone is charged and prosecuted under the same laws. (I am very aware that some people are able to afford better defenses than others, but this is a topic for another day)

So, I do not know what direction our country should go. I am not sure that legislation or legal changes will be a successful deterrent. I believe that education, enforcement of laws, and rejection of the status quo are far more effective ways to combat people who fear the unknown, hate with no reason, and force our society to painfully examine itself.

Michael Fagans  
Editor in Chief

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# News

## ASF Remembers Matthew Shepard

The Alternative Student Fellowship of RIT joined the nation's gay and lesbian advocates on the night of Wednesday, October 14, in holding a candlelight vigil for murder victim Matthew Shepard. Shepard, a homosexual student at the University of Wyoming, died October 12 as a result of being severely beaten five days earlier. Four suspects have been charged in the killing, two with first-degree murder, and two with being accessories after the fact. The incident has since been deemed a hate crime. The RIT service, which took place in front of the Student Alumni Union, was intended to honor Shepard's memory as well as raise awareness in the community about such attacks on the gay and lesbian population.

Despite bad weather conditions that evening, several student supporters came to the 6 o'clock vigil to carry a candle and join together in singing "We Shall Overcome" and other songs made popular during the civil rights movement. The service lasted approximately one half hour, during which several local news crews came to the SAU to interview various participants. A moment of silence was observed to honor Shepard and others who have suffered because of their sexual orientation.

One of the participants was third-year criminal justice major Carly Smith. A member of the ASF, she speaks gravely about the impact of crimes such as this. "This type of thing isn't isolated," she states. "It can happen to anyone, anywhere." She adds that the group was content with the turnout, regardless of the bad weather and relative spontaneity of the event. The ASF had planned

several other activities for that week, as the crime coincided with Gay Awareness Week, an annual event during which homosexuals and bisexuals nationwide are encouraged to proclaim their sexuality without shame. The previous Sunday, ASF members spent time chalking the walkways in front of the SAU with positive messages for gays and lesbians. That same Wednesday, a bingo night was held to benefit AIDS Rochester; an ASF movie night was planned for the following Friday.

The Alternative Student Fellowship is an active, student government recognized club on campus at RIT, now with over 100 members. It is open to homosexual, bisexual, and transgender students, as well as their supporters and friends.

*by Chris Grocki*

## New Mag at RIT

A new magazine is going to be appear-

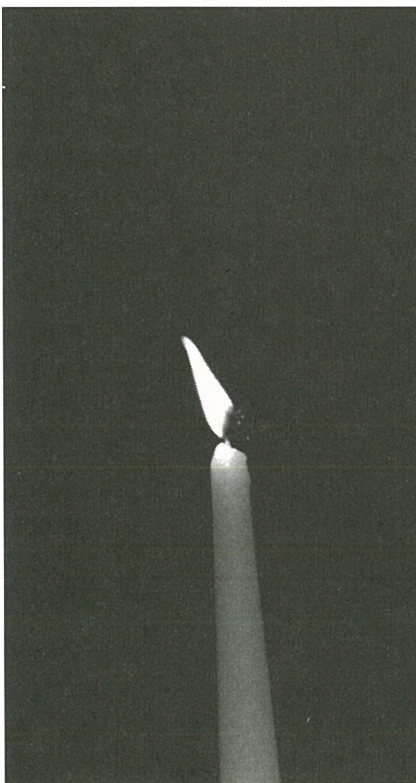


photo by

ing at RIT. Dubbed "Spoiled Milk," it proclaims to be a biweekly "venue for radical expression." The release date for the first issue has been set at November 30. The magazine is looking for staffers to help with production and with submissions of artwork, poetry, controversial political news, and short fiction. The magazine's content will focus on radical political and social ideas, in an effort to provoke the thinking process in its readers.

For more information regarding staffing or submissions, please contact wolfsings@hotmail.com, undergroundrail@hotmail.com, or call 716-328-9491.

*by Pete Lukow*

## World News

- Last week the Vatican pharmacy declared that it will not sell Viagra, the impotence drug. Last Wednesday, the drug went on sale in Italy. Due to an incredible advertising campaign, demand for the pill is expected to be astronomical. The pharmacy, one of the world's largest, has not given a reason for its refusal to sell the drug. (Reuters)

- In a forceful anti-union act, police in Bogota, Colombia, turned water cannons on striking state employees. The strike has disrupted the jobs of some 650,000 workers. The unions are protesting the government's plans to reduce their pay raises to an average of 14 percent this year. The unions insist that the pay raises must at least coincide with the 18 percent inflation rate in Colombia. Union sources say that 15 people were injured in the incident. (AP)

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- In Pul-I-Charki, Afghanistan, 75 men were recently imprisoned for having illegally trimmed beards. According to the Qu'ran, adult men must grow beards and cannot trim them at any time. The fundamentalist Taliban has recently become strict on enforcing the laws regarding personal grooming. The punishment for an illegally trimmed beard is ten days of religious training. (Pul-I-Charki Journal)

- Over 10,000 people were forced to flee their homes in Nigeria after the gates of the country's largest dam were opened, destroying over 70 villages. The workers at the Kainji dam opened all four of the gates without alerting the villagers living along the river. The flood has received little attention from both the Nigerian government and the international community. (BBC)
- Motorola has recently unveiled a new pager that uses 66 low-orbiting satellites to receive messages from anywhere in the world. The pager has built-in support for 20 different languages, and will cost about \$700. (CNN)

- According to an Australian study, those with blue eyes and those who smoke are more likely to go blind. The study of 3,600 people from an area around the University of Sydney found that smokers were four times as likely to have vision problems later in life than nonsmokers. There is also a two-fold increase of degenerating vision for people with blue eyes. (Reuters)

- Lincoln Mettler of Eatonville, Washington, won first place in the Half Moon Bay Great Pumpkin Weigh-Off with a 974 pound pumpkin. Mettler said he is going to put his \$4,870 worth of winnings back into his six pumpkin patches.

by Pete Lukow

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# Punks Spotted At RIT

---

"We love you American freaks!" screamed Jason, the lead singer of Frenzal Rhomb, decked out with his blue dreadlocks two Friday nights ago in the Clark gymnasium. With a blaring, Green Day-impersonating sound, the Aussie quartet sang a few tunes of their own, as well as some Slayer and a Starship cover. The band seemed most amused by the guy who vomited over the front barricade before they entered into what they called the "F— Trilogy" (three songs with "f—" in the title). Unfortunately, antics of Dave (Santa), the interpreter at stage left, were the most entertaining part of Frenzal Rhomb's show. He kept his hands flying, even when the majority of the audience had no idea what was being sung. Frenzal Rhomb, however, was only there to set the stage for the next band. Spring Heeled Jacks USA and their seven piece ska-rock sound stole the show. They had a few

thousand fans and newcomers moshing and dancing to their music, old and new. The three-piece horn line blared as Mike Pellegrino, the lead singer, sang about peace and heartbreak with his other guitar-strumming vocalists.

After the Aussies and the New Englanders had revved everyone up, Reel Big Fish took the stage. Singing their famous tunes "Everything Sucks," "Beer," and "Sellout," as well as some new cuts, Reel Big Fish had everyone shouting along as they lived up to their bad-boy image. Their constant inquiry about where the frat parties were going to be following the show and the announcement, "Hey — boobies," as one female concert-goer engaged in some topless crowd-surfing, added to their colorful stage presence. Freebies were hurled off the stage, and everyone kept onjumping for



Illustration by Jon Golden



Photo by Alexandra Daley

the duration of the three and a half-hour show. The security guards did an outstanding job of keeping the concert fun and enjoyable for all. The concert was loud and the crowd was wacky as they sang and danced and the sign language interpreters tried to keep up with the vocalist's tendencies of not enunciating. The night wore on until everyone rushed toward the door for the fresh air that was lacking inside and a relief from the ringing in their ear drums. Reel Big Fish and Spring Heeled Jack USA both bid a fond farewell to Frenzal Rhomb, as it was their last night on the tour. With their new album being released on October 20, Reel Big Fish will continue to tour.

by Jenn Tipton

# Nealon strikes

## Comedic Gold

Anyone who said that this year's Brick City Festival had "nothing to offer" definitely did not attend the October 10 performance by Saturday Night Live-veteran Kevin Nealon. Filling in for anticipated headliner Kathy Griffin (who canceled due to an unfortunate case of pneumonia), Nealon had the entire crowd in constant hysterics.

The opening act came from comic Brian Tucker, once a writer for David Letterman, who now travels to colleges around the country. He started off weak, but quickly gained strength with a little Amish humor: "When Amish women go to cocktail parties, what do they think when they see their best friend wearing the same dress?" A nice warm up.

Even when Tucker was at his best he couldn't come close to matching the sheer energy and hilarity of Nealon's entrance. Running onto the stage, Nealon engaged the audience immediately with his best Arnold Schwarzenegger voice. "You people up front, you're so full of pumpitude — except you there, you're going to cause a flabalanche." One lucky person (or maybe not) received the honor of going on stage, only to have Nealon rename him "Hans" and point out his incredible "Buttocks Muscles."

He said some people blame film and television for today's violence; he blames "alarm clocks." Another one: "Did you know there are books on suicide? Yes, you can actually get a book that will tell you how to kill yourself. Of course, you'll have to buy it from a bookstore, nobody ever returns it to the library."

In addition, anyone who has ever seen SNL's "Weekend Update with Kevin Nealon" will recall his "subliminal message" routine. "You have some very nice people here in Rochester (white trash) and I met your president earlier today (well hung)," and so forth. The best part, though, was that he utilized the audience to a high degree. At one point he went into the crowd and began telling a story with the public "remembering" all the details for him.

One great thing about watching comedy shows in Rochester is that there usually happens to be an interpreter there. In a lot of cases they happen to be funnier than the jokes actually being told. Watch them whenever the comic is telling a 'dirty' joke. Trust me.

All in all, Kevin Nealon was the perfect choice for the Brick City Festival. At the conclusion of his performance, he graciously signed autographs to all who waited in line. Nealon himself said it best: "I was very funny." Indeed he was.

by Jeff Prystajko

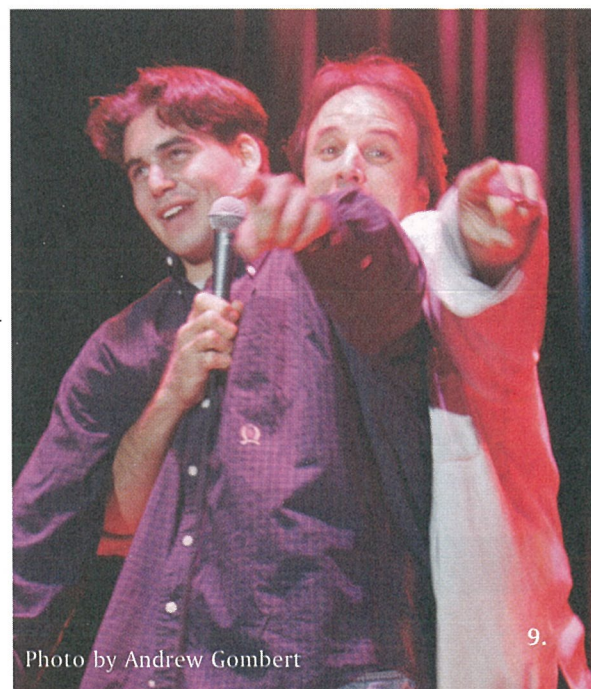


Photo by Andrew Gombert

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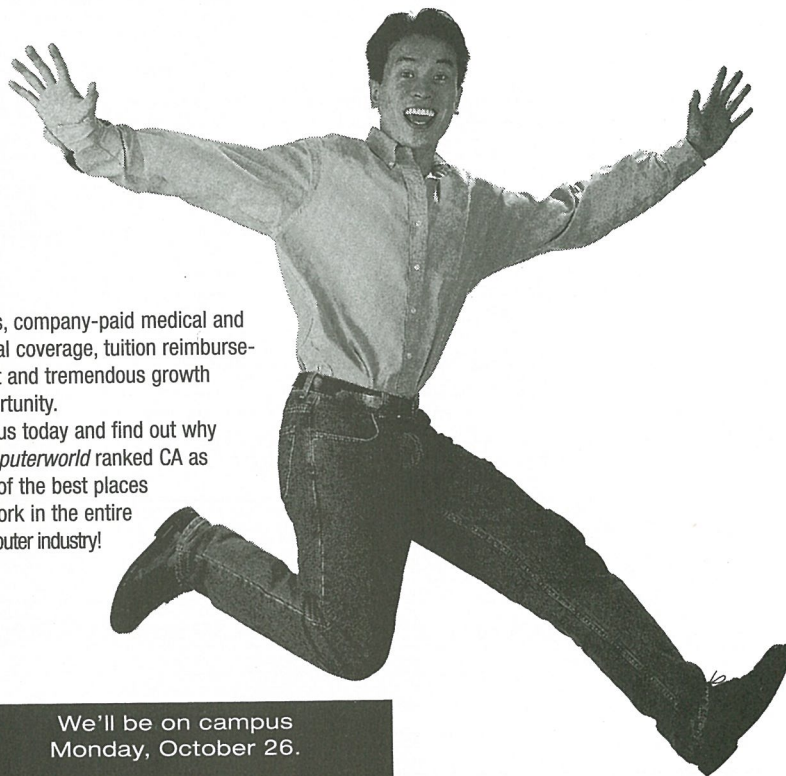
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county fair — please don't!)

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sending in a CPU scanner off a  
cereal box.

Gold/Silver Necklaces with name  
plate (It's for your own safety.)

Grunge

Neon Nail Polish

Big K (No offense Rosie or  
Laverne.)

Long Hair (Sorry Marilyn  
Manson fans.)

Stilettos (Ouch!!!)

Caked on Makeup (Again, sorry  
Marilyn Manson fans.)

The Mini (Sorry guys!)

Taxi Cab Yellow (You'll thank  
me.)

Demi Moore

Vinyl

Cloning your friends

by Jill Reynolds

Photo by Ed Pfueller

# Practical Magic Casts a Weak Spell

There is nothing more terrible in movies today than when a film has a lack of focus. I can't stand it when a movie tries to be more than one thing or, worse yet, many things. This is the downfall of *Practical Magic*. It can't decide what to be: a dark comedy, a coming of age story, a love story, a horror film, or a drama. The only thing this movie ends up being is, simply, bad.

From the first minute of this film, I could not swallow what actor-turned-director Griffen Dunne was dishing out. The opening sequence is a lame and ineffective flashback that explains the main conflict of the story. Unfortunately for two sisters, love seems to be something that could never be realized. Their family, strong in witchcraft, has traditionally been cursed. Any man that gets close to an Owens girl is doomed to death. This is the conflict that drives much of the plot, as sisters Sally (Sandra Bullock) and Gillian (Nicole Kidman) search futilely for romance.

Sally tries to find normal life (without the use of witchcraft) and is successful for a while. With a bad-girl attitude, Gillian uses her witchcraft to her advantage when she gets involved with an abusive boyfriend. The two live in very different worlds, until tragedy brings the two sisters back together. Sally's husband falls prey to an overly predictable fate and Gillian looks to get out of the relationship that her boyfriend controls. Sally comes to Gillian's rescue, and of course the evil boyfriend pops up as a threat. Witchcraft becomes a necessity for them both when they have a dead body on their hands.

The acting in this film is good — meaning that the actors delivered the best performances they could with such a weak script. Sandra Bullock plays her typecast role of sweet, good-hearted Sally with ease. Nicole Kidman seems at home as the more wild of the two Owens. As a free spirit, her character is the more interest-

ing and entertaining of the sisters. Aidan Quinn's funny character was a late-bloomer, coming in midway through the story. He delivers as a Phoenix detective and yet another love interest for Sally. Goran Visnjic played the very typical tough-guy boyfriend, not really invoking any suspense or originality to his tired character-type. Stockard Channing and Dianne Wiest are mildly amusing as two elderly witches who have mastered their craft.

Unfortunately, there isn't enough explana-

tion of any of the witchcraft in their scenes for us to care about the craft that they rely on so strongly. With little or no focus, this film spreads itself way too thin and does not accomplish much. The incorporation of several new songs by popular artists should result in some big soundtrack sales, but not many other kudos.

by Jon Constantini

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# http://www.iqtest.com/welcometest.html

## Website of the Week

<http://www.iqtest.com/welcometest.html>

For any of you who rely on Altavista as your daily search engine, you undoubtedly noticed that it has added numerous new features in the past several months. One "helpful" new searching technique is to simply ask a question and, if Altavista knows the answer, it will show you the way (as if Altavista is some Supreme Being or something). As you do your normal everyday searching without questioning, Altavista poses potential question ideas such as, "When will the apocalypse come?" and "Who, in the history of man, has eaten the most chocolate covered crickets?" I personally thought of this as a rather frivolous feature, at least for an experienced web searcher, but last week, after sifting through nearly 400 links for a biochem paper, the question, "What is my IQ?" popped up. Being the modest type, I just had to ask. The answer led me to the above URL.

Called "the Internet's most popular and entertaining IQ test," the 38-question quiz found on the site will "accurately measure your IQ score." I have my qualms about how close to the truth the test results actually are, but considering I tested well into the genius level, I'm not complaining. It must at least be proximal to reality. The site offers plenty of information describing what your "intelligence quotient" is and how it won't bring you eternal bliss, as well as some history about this IQ test, like how it started as a 900-number money making gimmick. It only takes 13 minutes to complete (or less if you're a brainiac), so give it a try and wow all your friends!

*by Nick Spittal*

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# you bet your life

A cut, a bruise. Maybe you sprain your ankle. Or break your leg. Or maybe even worse. Many students assume that the health care available at RIT is of the highest caliber. While there are many fine employees on campus who are carefully trained and well-practiced, there are some who are not.

RIT students have several options, based on what type of care they need. Should you feel sick, you could pay a visit to the infirmary in the Student Health Center (located on the Quarter Mile between the Residence Halls and the Student Union). Should you be involved in an accident while in the Student Life Center (say twisting your ankle on the basketball court), the workers there will probably apply some first aid. If you find yourself in a more serious condition, the volunteers from the RIT Ambulance corps may pay you a visit.

According to their literature, the RIT Ambulance started out as the RIT Emergency Medical Unit (EMU), as a part of Campus Safety. Over time, the EMU developed into an EMS (Emergency Medical Services) unit, and became a

New York State certified ambulance in 1981. The ambulance provides New York State Certified Basic Life Support services, transport to area emergency rooms, and EMS stand-bys for special events.

RIT has its own volunteer ambulance corps to deal with the many emergencies that arise on our campus. The RIT Ambulance (RITA) is currently celebrating its fifteenth year on campus. "We're very proud of that," says Curt Sterling, the Communications Director for RITA. "Before [RITA], there was nothing. Calls were answered by the closest service, usually Henrietta." Sterling is a second-year computer science major, and is also a Residence Advisor. RITA operates under the auspices of the Student Health Center, which provides some funding. The responsibility for running the organization is split between the Operations Staff and the Executive Staff. The day-to-day operations and maintenance of the Command Post is the duty of the Operations Staff. The Executive Staff takes care of paperwork and other administrative tasks, as well as the train-

ing of new members.

RITA is a student-run organization. The staff is comprised of students and alumni members, as well as a few faculty members. With membership currently totaling 45, they are always looking for more. Simply put: If there is no staff for a given night, there is no RIT Ambulance. Like any student organization, they have an advisor. Chris Camote, a volunteer paramedic, is one of their advisors.

There are different levels of certification. "All members must have CPR and First Aid training," Sterling explained. "Then we suggest they go through the EMT course." EMT stands for Emergency Medical Technician. EMT's are re-certified every three years, and members must be re-certified for CPR and First Aid every year. EMT's are Basic Life Support providers. There are also subclasses of certification: EMT-D (defibrillation support), EMT-CC ("critical care," or Advanced Life Support providers), and EMT-I ("intermediate," or allowed to "intubate," which means

they can stick a tube down your throat). Most of the RITA staff is certified EMT-D. They've successfully dealt with many heart-related emergencies.

Don't confuse an EMT with a paramedic. A paramedic is an Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider, which means that he can start an IV drip, intubate, and administer drugs. "If we need ALS support, we will call in the Henrietta corps or Rural-Metro," said Sterling. The only difference between the outside services is cost: Henrietta is a volunteer organization and is free, while Rural-Metro charges money for their services.

A typical call will generally go like this: A call for help is placed with Campus Safety (the x3333 line). If the Command Post is staffed, Campus Safety will then dispatch the ambulance to the incident. If the Command Post is not staffed, RITA's certified drivers and medics carry pagers, and will be paged into a call. "Our response time varies anywhere from two to six minutes, depending on how far away the call is from the base," explained Sterling. The base is located in the basement of the Student Health Center. RITA is responsible for the entire campus, including the apartments. "Sometimes RITA will respond to Henrietta calls if they are out on another call," Sterling continued. This is referred to as "mutual aid." "These calls are dispatched by the 911 system." A driver and up to two medics will respond to a given call. If there is room, sometimes a trainee will tag along. "The fire department gets called in for things like car accidents where we need special tools to remove victims from the wreckage." As soon as the victim is stabilized, he is transported to Strong Memorial Hospital, if need be. "Strong Hospital has a better trauma center for dealing with emergencies," Sterling said. The RITA corps comes under the jurisdiction of certain Monroe-Livingston County protocols. "These are certain ways that the county health directors say 'This is how you respond to this

type of call,'" Sterling explained. "Every county has their own protocols." The New York Department of Health certifies the EMT's, the paramedics, and the ambulance service itself. While researching this article, several phone calls were placed to the Health Department regarding RITA. The state employees were most helpful with information like, "RITA has its own ambulance corps?" and "I didn't know we certified ambulances!" Perhaps it was an off day.

Like any ambulance crew, RITA sees the most action on Friday and Saturday nights. Since people are more likely to be out and about, they are more prone to accidents. "We really see the range," said Sterling, "from possible sprained ankles to ETOH — ethyl alcohol intoxication," what we might know as alcohol poisoning. "Sometimes the ETOH cases can get very intense."

Many students and faculty use the facilities at the Student Life Center (SLC) for gym classes, physical training, and recreation. Because of the nature of the activities at the SLC, the staff is expected to respond to certain emergency situations, from simple bruises to broken bones.

Brenda Bracy is the Building Supervisor at the SLC. "I make sure the facilities are secured, the patrons are safe and happy, and that maintenance is done where needed," she explained. Part of keeping the patrons safe and happy is her training. "I am certified in First Aid, as well as CPR for adults, children, and infants." Staff are trained by Greg Moss, the Associate Director of the SLC, as well as other veteran supervisors, including John Buckholtz for First Aid and CPR.

The staff at the SLC have seen their fair share of small cuts, bruises, and sprains. "Severe injuries happen in very rare instances," said Bracy. "I have only seen maybe two or three of what I consider severe injuries during my time here," such as head gashes, broken bones,

extreme bleeding, and severe allergic reactions which induced seizures. Primary causes of injuries are simple accidents from contact sports and improper stretching before a workout. Some injuries stem from the insanely unhealthy practice of starvation before a workout.

Sometimes offering assistance is not as easy as it sounds. "Once I had to deal with a faculty member that broke her ankle playing volleyball," recalled Bracy. "She insisted that I fix it right there on the spot." It had to be explained to her several times that the SLC staff is not authorized to construct immobilizing casts. "I have also had someone that had such a bad concussion that they couldn't remember anything including their name, where they were, and other basic information." Because of this, his friends kept telling him the same joke over and over again.

Many times, the staff of the SLC will be working in coordination with other health care providers and public safety officers. Sometimes, as Bracy explained, not all flows as smoothly as it should. "Sometimes we have a problem with people coming into a situation and not identifying themselves — a major protocol for an emergency care provider. I have been pushed out of the way and told that I was stupid."

When you lived at home, it was your parents who took care of you when you were sick. Sometimes they were even able to prevent you from getting sick in the first place. Now that you are living on your own, what do you do? Many students take advantage of the care available at the Student Health Center, sometimes as a last resort.

The Health Center is staffed with physicians, nurse practitioners,

registered nurses, psychiatrists and psychologists, as well as an interpreting staff. According to their brochure, the Health Center provides "General medical diagnosis and treatment, allergy injections and immunizations," as well as referrals for various laboratory services. They also deal with mental health, prescriptions, lifestyle counseling, and referrals for second opinion. This service is paid for through a Health Fee that is billed quarterly by the Bursar's Office.

"The health fee is separate from the insurance fee and does not cover special laboratory tests, x-rays, prescriptions, or referrals to outside specialists," according to the brochure.

Their literature tries to explain many of the questions that people have about visiting the SHC. According to their "Pause for Health" newsletter, "You may be seen by a doctor, a nurse practitioner, and/or a nurse ... clinical staff, referred to as medical 'providers' as licensed by the State of New York for the practice of their professional discipline." Many students claim there is an excessive waiting period when they try to get help. The only answer the SHC has is, "The earlier, the better." You have a better chance of seeing someone before lunch, as there are more providers available to see patients. Unfortunately, illnesses generally don't occur when it's convenient for the doctor to see you. The fact that the average RIT schedule is an 18-hour intensive workfest doesn't help matters, either.

It shouldn't surprise anyone that there are horror stories that come out of the Student Health Center. Complaints of incorrect diagnoses, ignorance, and plain rudeness are common. One student in particular that we spoke with was not at all happy with the level of care she received.

A female student who spoke on the condition of anonymity told Reporter about the way she was treated at the Student Health Center with great trepidation.

"My work makes me prone to illness, so I have visited the SHC about ten times over the course of my career here at RIT." Right off, this student made it clear how she feels about most of the staff: "When I go in there, they are very condescending and they talk down to you. They tell you that there is nothing wrong with you." It also seems that their cure for everything is a cough drop and some aspirin. More about that later.

"I find myself prone to bronchitis fairly often, so I am pretty familiar with the symptoms. I am willing to pay for a throat culture to prove it, but you really have to fight tooth and nail to get anything done there." Throat cultures and lab work are not covered by your insurance and must be paid for by the student. "Coming from a family with medical background, I think that I can tell when something is wrong with me." This student feels that the staff seems bothered by patients. "I'm sure that there are plenty of people who go in there with a cough or something and will totally waste the doctor's time. But if you go in there with real symptoms, they don't seem to believe you. I will take the time and expense to go home to my family doctor for a second opinion." The student claims to have gone to the SHC coughing up blood due to bronchitis, "and they don't seem to believe me."

"I don't even want to go anymore," she continued. "I don't like the atmosphere. I don't know if I can trust them. When I seek the second opinion of a doctor outside of RIT, they will tell me the opposite of what I was told at the SHC." In one severe case, the student came close to the risk of acquiring walking pneumonia. The student sought treatment from the trusted family doctor.

"I don't want to blast the whole staff at the SHC, however," she said. "The one male doctor there is very sarcastic and condescending. The woman gynecologist there is really nice — she is attentive

and listens to you. Most of the women are nice, but there are some which are not. The nurse practitioners seem to always talk down to you ... they tell you to take a hot shower, but if you feel faint, don't. Take some Advil, and try not to infect your roommates. Because what you have might be infectious, or it might not be ... then they give you a generic list of things to do." The staff seems quick to hand out generic aspirin and Cepecol (cough suppressant) pills as quick relief — "Probably the cheapest solution," says the student. "It seems that I'm a waste of their time." Obvious physical conditions seem to be the only cases that warrant further treatment. "If it's not a broken leg, if you're not going into seizures, it's not their problem." The staff at the Health Center can prescribe and administer antibiotics if the situation warrants. "Strep and flu seem to run rampant on this campus because it is not caught early enough." College campuses are notorious for being incubators of disease. Some universities in the east have had to deal with recent measles or flu epidemics.

"I will go to my family doctor back home for a second opinion. [The SHC staff] will try to placate you and tell you it's all in your head. So then you are sick and you can't do anything but lay in bed. You must be well to do your school work." The student went on to say how hard it is to stay healthy at RIT. "You would think they would have a better system here to keep the students healthy." Ever try to complete your project while battling the flu, or something worse? Those who have dragged themselves to class (potentially infecting all with whom they come in contact) with 105 degree fevers and three boxes of tissues know what I mean.

In response to these complaints,

Cassandra Jordan, the Director of the Student Health Center, spoke on behalf of her staff. Jordan, a 16-year veteran at RIT had this to say about the specific complaints: "I am very concerned about any student who has a problem with the treatment they received at the Health Center. Since I cannot comment on the specific case without interviewing the student, the providers, and reviewing the notes on the case, there is not a lot I can say." When we brought up the point that many students are dissatisfied or feel that they are getting the wrong diagnosis, Jordan seemed to get a little defensive. "Many illnesses develop over time through stages," she said. "What one provider sees at one stage and what a second or third sees later may determine their diagnosis." Often times, a student may take a doctor's initial diagnosis and then get a second opinion from a doctor outside of RIT. Many times this second diagnosis will be a complete about face from what was learned earlier. "I don't want people to think that misdiagnoses do not happen," Jordan said. She went on to explain that students should express any concerns or questions they have with the doctor. If they are still not satisfied, they should bring their problems to Jordan. "We can investigate any problems a student may have," Jordan continued. "When another doctor comes away with a different diagnosis later on, that is not saying that our staff acted inappropriately."

The RIT Student Health Center has recently received a national accreditation shared only with five other walk-in clinics of the same type. "We wouldn't get the accreditation if we weren't qualified."

Many students seem to expect an

instant cure when they visit the Health Center. "It's a matter of not understanding the procedure," Jordan explained. She stressed again that if a student does not understand why something is happening, he or she should ask questions.

When we mentioned that the anonymous student who went to the Center coughing up blood (due to bronchitis) was sent home with aspirin and a cough drop, Jordan emphatically denied the dispensing of aspirin. "We don't dispense aspirin, period," she said. She explained that they are concerned about reactions to aspirin in young people, and that they generally do not dispense aspirin. Then she corrected herself and said, "We don't dispense aspirin often." She explained that the cough drop helps liquefy the mucus so it can be coughed up without further irritating the bronchioles (source of the bleeding). Again, she explained how she really can't comment on the case without speaking to the student and reviewing the case with her. "I would be very upset if [a staff member] was withholding information [from a student]."

We then asked her why antibiotics were not administered to the student on the spot. "There are many times a student will come in with an upper-respiratory infection and expect or demand antibiotics." Based on what the medical provider sees, they determine whether or not the infection warrants antibiotics.

How many times have you visited the Health Center only to be faced with a potential two-hour wait? What if you are the only person there? "An hour wait is not all that unusual," Jordan admitted. She added, however, that "Our times are average when compared to the norm."

Just this year, the SHC started offering appointments in addition to the existing walk-in system. The only problem is the low number of staff available to deal with appointments. "The reality is that students don't want to get up early just to see the doctor. Students seem to prefer the walk-in system." What about waiting in the reception area for hours all by yourself? "Sometimes all the available exam rooms are occupied, meaning that all the practitioners are busy. If this is the case, yes, you could be the only one in the waiting room waiting to see the doctor."

While RIT has the potential to develop a solid health care system for its students, it seems that there are weak spots. What seems to be a communication problem between the health care providers and the patients could possibly be putting some at risk. Those who have complaints should bring them up with the appropriate officials.

On the whole, however, RITA and the SHC have delivered a decent level of health service to the students of RIT. There is definite room for improvement, of course, and we as students should be concerned and expect the most for our tuition dollars.

*by Otto Vondrak*



Illustration by Andrew Baker

## Opinion: Got Vote?

Winston Churchill, with poignant wit, once remarked that democracy is the worst form of government except for all the others that have been tried. This oft-repeated phrase usually induces a chuckle and a sigh; yet it's memorable because it confronts us with nagging problems that arise whenever American polls open for business. The vote in this country isn't just a means of political expression, it's a justification. If you have a problem with some aspect of society, what is the response from those on high? "You have the vote." As long as nobody prevents you from working for change, you have no reason to be bitter about the way we run things. So, you think inner cities are economically neglected? You think our elected officials are sleazier and more corrupt than ever? You think we're starving millions of Iraqis out of spite? Do something about it. Stop complaining. Go out and vote.

The vote is a justification and a weapon.

It's a charge that's flung violently at any political system unrelated to the Greek polis. The colossal American economy makes every country in the world want to nestle in our arms. But in order to become friends with us, foreign regimes must face the inevitable question: Got vote? It's like those "Got Milk?" commercials that suggest that if you lack an ample supply of cow-juice you might as well forego the cookies. The vote is also a rite of passage. Those societies that have the vote, in our eyes, have reached a proper height of civilization. They're our kind of people: enlightened, freedom-loving, peaceful, humane, with a rich history of struggle against oppression. Those that lack the vote are sinister, backward, corrupt, bereft of values. We think something must be wrong with their history, that they failed somewhere along the line.

Considering the importance Americans place on the concept of the vote, believing it a means of expression, a justification of policy, a standard to measure our-

selves against others, and a symbol of freedom and high civilization, one would think that we would cherish such a privilege and obligation. One would think that people who stock up on guns to protect their freedom would grasp every opportunity to enter that booth.

But not only do many Americans not vote, there's also an odd mentality toward voting in this country. As a freshman in high school during the presidential campaigns of 1992, I was in a social studies class listening to a discussion about the election. One student professed a desire to vote for an independent candidate, to which our teacher responded: "That's throwing your vote away." Similarly, during the 1996 election, I spoke with many people who were disgruntled with both Clinton and Dole and wanted better choices. When I suggested that they vote Independent, they would shift uncomfortably and say "Well, that's stupid, they're never going to win."

This attitude is both prevalent and disturbing. Why is voting for the candidate of your choice throwing your vote away? Why the reluctance to support a candidate just because it's unlikely that they'll win? Voting for a candidate because they're the probable winner isn't exercising choice. And this mentality seems to have a significant impact on people's voting behavior. It's apparent in day-to-day discussion. Not just the electoral process, but voting itself has become institutionalized. Voters go along with the crowd as if they just don't want to feel out of sync with polls or the media-created political and social atmosphere. And candidates who make empty promises, who rattle off racist comments over the airwaves, who engage in raunchy sexual behavior of the most juvenile kind, get elected and reelected.

If Americans want to improve their political situation, and in the wake of the Clinton scandal and the death of campaign finance reform and the patients bill of rights, many do, they must reevaluate their attitudes toward voting. Votes should be viewed as many voices that are heard from within a body of individuals. And the voter must mentally separate his concept of the vote from the political system, untying his voice from the sound of the chorus. Only if voting is done honestly and confidently can the decision of a majority be legitimate.

We've got the vote, but are we using it well? As we approach the new century, our economy is seemingly strong but wobbling on the marbles of globalization. Whole communities live in desperate conditions. Our foreign policy has become so irregular that our international prestige is eroded year after year. Americans stumble through election after election unable to alleviate the perception that something isn't working. It's all because of how people vote. Finally, we become increasingly disgruntled with our political system while insisting on the natural superiority of that same system over all others.

Only in the last few decades has the American ideal of true universal suffrage been realized. Instead of resting on democracy as the highest standard of political excellence that we've already reached, and in that rest growing lazy and slipping into a decline, we must reaffirm our dedication to using democracy to follow our most honest and purest intentions. It's time we reconciled what the vote means to us as an ideal with what it does for us in political practice.

*by Zane Kaylani*



## Food Service

The capacity to assume certain liberties is one of the greatest assets that the people of our country have. Deep in the heart of both our political and economic systems is one of those liberties: freedom of choice. So it stands to reason that when we find ourselves unable to exercise that freedom, we feel it like a note out of tune with the social harmony. Sometimes that note is loud and people react strongly, as we've seen with RIT's alcohol policy. Other times, only some of us hear it, as with the requirement that residential students purchase an RIT meal plan. Is this less important? I think that any time freedom of choice isn't the norm, it deserves attention.

The meal plan requirement is a long-standing rule and, as with most rules of such a nature, it has its reasons. Carla DiLella, an administrator of Residence Life, explains a large part of the reasoning: "[The residence halls] don't have facilities for cooking." She says the meal plan is designed to help alleviate this concern, and that the requirement is an "institute policy."

What if it's more convenient to eat off campus? She says arrangements can be made with Food Service to address this concern. As your average Tiger knows, this policy isn't exactly shouted from Gleason's clock tower. It also raises the question as to what would happen if every dorm resident with access to a car argued that it was more convenient to dine in this manner.

Fellow freshmen, perhaps you're wondering why you don't have the option of an all-debit meal plan. Not many upper-classmen live in the dorms, so why not give us the freedom to at least choose where we want to eat on campus? Food Service Administrator Jim Bingham fielded this question by saying, "We can't accommodate the total flexibility of all-debit." The Ritskeller and Hettie

Shumway Commons have an "on-the-street restaurant feel," he admits, but says they lack the capacity to deal with a myriad of hungry freshman in the way Gracie's does.

The nature of the freshman meal plan makes Gracie's a restaurant guaranteed to stay in business. This, it seems, makes quality a nonessential. "That's more of a perception," Bingham adds. I agree; Gracie's really isn't too much to complain about. The fact that we must go there, however, puts a bad taste in my mouth before I even touch that piece of cheesy pizza.

Bingham adds that Food Service is "moving in the direction" of all-debit for freshman. I know I'll be a sophomore in little more than two quarters (most likely not in the dorms), but I argue that our options are already too limited, and even all-debit isn't enough.

Bingham was also willing to state the fact that the meal plan is financially good for RIT, and that it's supported by parents. He stresses that these are not the main reasons for the plan, but concedes that they do influence the policy.

I challenge RIT to give the power to its people. The vast majority of us are mature enough to make decisions about where and what to eat. To mandate such a policy seems a waste of our time, and, ultimately, of our money. I can safely say that if freedom of choice is good enough for capitalism and democracy, it's good enough for me.

*by Chris Grocki*

# Health Services: A Nightmare

## Health Services: A Nightmare

It was the third week of her freshman year, and Nicole was suffering from a sore throat, so she decided to pay a visit to the Student Health Center. After a half an hour wait she was escorted into an examining room where she waited another twenty minutes. Finally a nurse practitioner came in to examine her.

Nicole explained to the N.P. about her sore throat, especially how it hurt to swallow, and how she was having difficulty talking and eating. The N.P. peered down her throat and told Nicole that it was indeed quite red and that it even had some white spots on it. Eventually Nicole was given instructions to take cough drops and to come back in a few days if her throat did not feel any better.

Naturally, Nicole took the nurse practitioner's advice. After all, who was Nicole to question a professional paid to maintain her health? Unfortunately, over the next two days Nicole's throat got progressively worse. Her throat became so swollen that she could not talk; nor could she eat. Nicole began to sleep constantly. Her roommate would try to get her to eat and drink in order to stay hydrated, but she was not able to swallow at all. Finally Nicole's roommate dragged her down to the Student Health Center.

that she had some sort of abscess on her tonsils, and gave her directions to the hospital. She was taken to Highland Hospital to see an otolaryngologist.

The specialist informed her that she was suffering from a peritonsillar abscess — an uncommon growth on the tonsils, caused by unknown factors. The doctor then informed Nicole that her throat was only a few hours away from completely closing, which would, of course, have caused suffocation.

After Nicole was admitted to the hospital, numerous needles were stuck down her throat. ("They were huge by the way," states Nicole, matter-of-factly.) She was so dehydrated that the hospital staff was unable to find a vein into which they could insert the IV; attempts at finding a vein left her arms bruised "up and down." Nicole experienced a three day hospital stay while the doctors made sure that her throat passage had reopened and that she was rehydrated.

Nicole's tonsils were removed to prevent the abscess from growing back. Had she been given a proper screening at the Student Health Center, including a throat culture and a temperature reading, school medical staff could have prescribed an antibiotic, the abscess would never have grown, and Nicole would still have her tonsils.

*by Andrew Badera*

A doctor employed by RIT informed Nicole

# Stonehurst Regatta

## RIT Medals at



In what has almost become a habit, the University of Yale once again won the men's heavyweight eights division at this year's Stonehurst Capital Regatta. It is the sixth year in a row that they have won this event. They pulled in a time of 28:00.84, almost 25 seconds ahead of Harvard. Brown, Syracuse A, and Dartmouth rounded out the top five in the open class.

In the college class, the RIT A boat finished third and received a bronze medal. The team was ninth overall and

ended up with a time of 29:49.65. "I really felt we had a chance of medaling," said RIT crew coach Jim Bodenstedt. "After seeing the morning head race time, and that we were almost dead even with Purdue, I knew we had a shot."

The two teams had almost identical head race times, with RIT at 16:06.06 and Purdue at 16:06.08, the two boats were matched up for the afternoon sprint race. In that race, though, Purdue was able to make up ground and over-

take RIT. Winning the college class was McGill with a championship time of 28:34.34.

The Tigers B boat also made a strong showing, with a 12th place college finish and 18th overall. "I am very proud of them," remarked Bodenstedt. The team, which started with a 22 seed, was really able to overcome some difficult crews and make a strong finish. In the sprint race, they were able to win 4:43.80 to 4:48.74 against the Williams B team.

# sports

On the women's side, RIT finished sixth in the heavyweight fours, with a final time of 38:13.13. McGill finished first (36:36.55) and was followed by Northeastern A, University of Rochester A, John Carroll, and Williams to round out the top five.

Besides the college crews, the U.S. and Canadian national teams also competed in an expedition. The Canadians, who were not at full force, lost to the Yale team in the head race.

RIT students and their parents were out in full force to cheer for the Tigers. According to freshman Andy Hawthorne, "It was good to get off campus and be able to support RIT."

by Brett Fleming



Photos by Andrew Gombert

## Play-Off Outlook for RIT Women's Tennis

The Lady Tigers tennis team finished the season strong, defeating Buffalo State 8-1 on October 13. The team is looking good as they head into the play-offs. This is no surprise to the team, or to the coach.

One of the team's strongest newcomers is Melanie Lowe. Lowe hails from Jamaica, and has made an impact on this year's squad. She displays ample skills and a positive attitude that will greatly benefit the team in the play-offs. Lowe is number 1 singles. Behind her is Julia Krepostman, who is Lowe's partner on 1st doubles. Krepostman brings with her a basic enjoyment for the game and a desire to play. Leading the team as captain has been Becky Galinsky, who has spent time as 4th singles.

The team's coach, Ann Nealon, had emphasized precise control over the tempo of their matches this season. The team strived to balance their power with the need to avoid unforced errors. The Lady Tigers have made great strides in reaching for their goals all season. Their desire and character will help to propel this talented team to what will hopefully be a successful post-season campaign.

by Jon-Claude Caton

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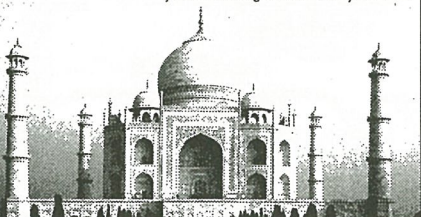
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for those who shape it.<sup>SM</sup>**

1. Based on \$236 billion in assets under management. 2. *Standard & Poor's Insurance Rating Analysis*, 1998; Lipper Analytical Services, Inc., *Lipper-Directors' Analytical Data* 1998 (Quarterly). 3. Of the 4,829 variable annuities tracked by Morningstar, the average fund had total fees combining annual expenses of 0.82% plus an insurance expense of 1.27%. Source: Morningstar, Inc., for periods ending 7/31/98.

4. Source: Morningstar Principia *Variable Annuities* 4/30/98.  
TIAA-CREF expenses are subject to change and are not guaranteed for the future. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. TIAA-CREF Individual and Institutional Services distributes CREF certificates and interests in the TIAA Real Estate Account. For more complete information, including charges and expenses, call 1 800 842-2776, extension 5509, for the prospectuses. Read them carefully before you invest or send money.

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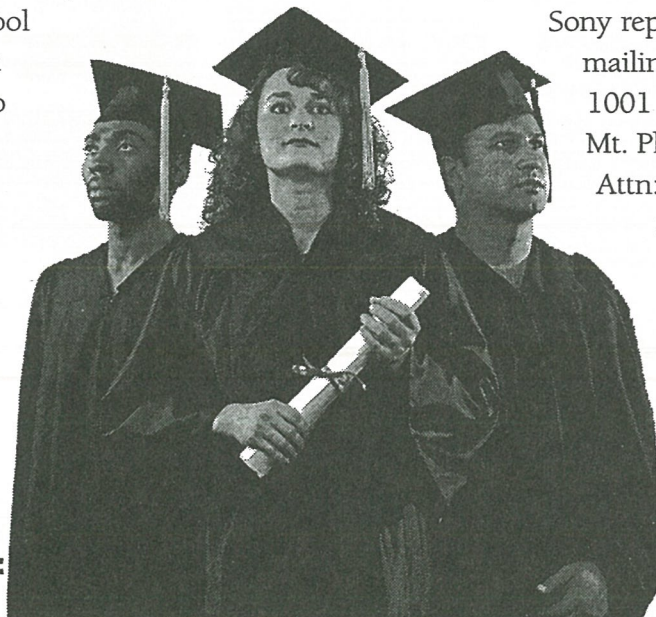
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# Word on the Street

## Word on the Street: Got Vote?

We've got the vote, but does the exalted RIT population use it? Reporter asked random people walking between the SAU and the College of Engineering if they planned to vote in the November elections. Here's what they had to say:

"I don't know yet, in November maybe." —Brian Hughes

"I'm not going to vote." —Sunil Thomas

"I don't know what the elections are about." —Sophia Stecyk

"No, I wasn't planning on it." —Dave Adam

"No, I'm new to the Rochester, NY area." —Scott Dunnington

"I've never missed a vote." —Vonnie Pullyblank

"Definitely yes - always." —Tonya Adams

"No, I don't plan to." —Stephanie Conradt

"What are we voting for?" —Jake Chilek

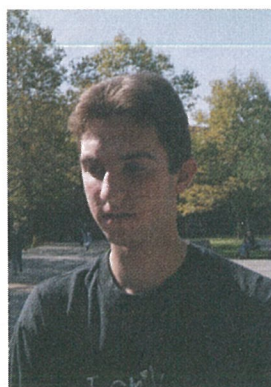
"No - I don't know who's running in Virginia." —James Farrelly

"Yes." —Charles Boyd

"Probably not, I don't really know what's going on." —Kate Whitney

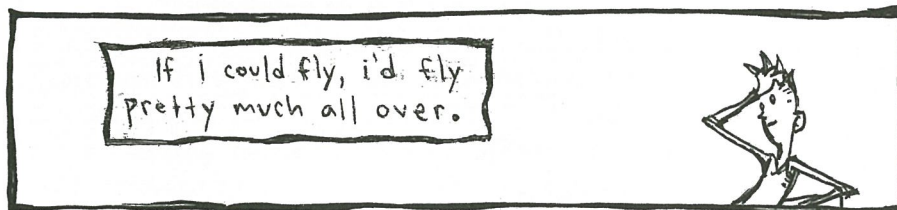
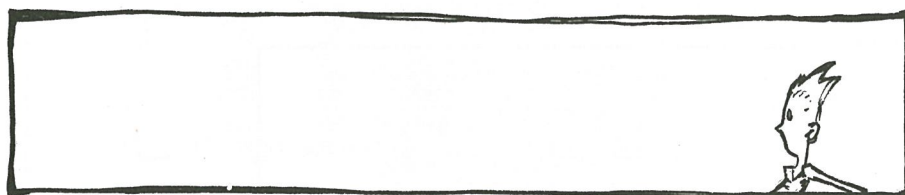
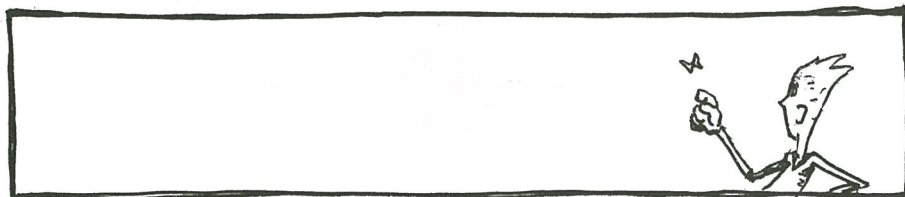
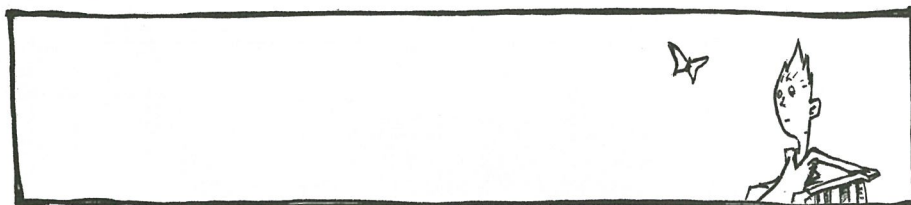
by Zane Kaylani

photos by Greg Benenati



Photos by Greg Benenati

# the exploits of aimless boy....



JOHNNY 5. 10-13-98

Tab Ads:

To Sleazemaster AB:

I'm 5'5", brunette, and I like to have a good time. Some of my favorite hobbies and passtimes include: dwarf tossing and critiquing the '80s film industry. Reply, of course, through TabAds.

Sincerely,

The One They Never Notice

ps - What are standards?

The Double Crossers will play anytime & anywhere. Please book us at your next Boxing Day Blowout Bash (reply through the Reporter). Claw show Friday the 23rd, 9 pm. Be there or be cool.

Hey Al: All violence is senseless.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### SPRINGBREAK

Cancun, Florida, Jamaica, South Padre, Bahamas, Etc.. Best Hotels, Parties, Prices. Book Early and Save!! Earn Money + Trips! Campus Reps/Organizations Wanted Call Inter-Campus Programs 1-800-327-6013 [www.icpt.com](http://www.icpt.com)

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Have fun and help others! JOIN SOS!!! Look for us at Gracie's Oct. 26 & 27 at dinner, and in SAU lobby on Oct. 28 from 10-5. SOS '99... it's where you want to be!!

Office of the President  
George Eastman Building  
2 Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, New York 14623-5604  
716-475-6795 Fax 716-475-5700

Oct. 14, 1998

To the RIT Community:

As an educator, as a father, as a university president—I am deeply saddened by the senseless murder of University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard.

I abhor violence against innocent individuals anywhere, whether it is on a college campus in Wyoming, the race-related attack in Texas this past summer or countless other crimes motivated by hate.

At RIT we do not tolerate attacks of any sort on individuals for their beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, or race. The RIT community is committed to a diverse and dynamic learning, working, and living environment.

My sincere condolences go out to the family and friends of Matthew Shepard and to all who are victims of senseless violence.



Dr. Albert J. Simone

RIT President

# Calendar

OCTOBER 23 - OCTOBER 31



## 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*

## Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>

8:00-11:00pm  
John Akers  
*The Grind*

9:30-10:30pm  
Swing Dance Lessons  
*SAU Cafeteria*  
\$1

## Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>

7:00 & 9:00pm (10/30 & 10/31)  
Cape Fear  
*Ingle Auditorium*  
FREE



10:00pm  
**Dem Brooklyn Bums**  
*Clark Gym*  
Stud. \$5, Fac/Staff \$6, Gen.Public \$7

## Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

2:00pm-close  
Halloween Party  
*SAU Gameroom*  
FREE

8:00pm-12:30am  
**Fright Fest '98, Battle of the Bands**  
*SAU Cafeteria*  
\$2 or FREE with Canned Good