

# reporter

4.9.99





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## Stop and Smell the Roses

He was a typical twenty-something year old; outside on a sunny day, shooting hoops with friends. Suddenly, he became light-headed. Escorted off the court, he found himself in the comfort of a friend's room. Abruptly, it hit him. He collapsed as his heart seized. Moments later, darkness - it was over.

He was in the prime of life; a normal, healthy, active young man, preparing for his future. He is gone: No warning, no reason, no known cause...nothing.

This is a true story; a sad tale about my good friend's roommate at another school. Although I only heard it in passing, it really made me think. At any moment, regardless of our physical health, our level of talent, our abilities, or our desire, our world could end. It is a sad and grim thought, but all too true.

We take our lives for granted; everyone does from time to time. We can't help the fact that we're always caught-up in the hustle and bustle of academia. A test to take, a project to complete, a job to fulfill—everyday, we focus our attention on the things that “have to” be completed by deadline.

“You take life too seriously.” I hear it all the time. “You work too much.”

I know my friends are right, but what I hear applies to others too. We all need to take some time to loosen-up and realize that life is more than schoolwork, projects or a job. Life is about living happily and living for the day. Life is a not earned, but freely given. We should learn to appreciate and respect this gift, because it could be gone at any moment. The grade you get on next week's calculus exam may be important, but is it worth shutting off your world for it?

“If I die tomorrow, will I be happy with my life?” “How will I be remembered?” These are the questions we need to ask ourselves. Seek out the answers and think about them—really think about what they mean. If you don't like the conclusions, do something about it. Stop and smell the roses; Don't let life pass you by.



Nicholas R. Spittal  
 Editor in Chief

*Note: We have received a tremendous response from the campus regarding the CODOH ad in the March 19 issue of Reporter. On the following pages, you will find the reactions of your classmates, faculty, staff, and alumni to this and other issues. I'd like to thank all who gave input to this matter. It is indeed an important issue that the RIT community feels strongly about. I'd also like to direct your attention to page 16 for our feature on hate groups.*



Bradley R. Smith is one of America's leading deniers. Since the early 1990's, he has used collegiate newspapers as his target. He uses an ingenious and creative formula for free and controversial dissemination.... Mr. Smith is willing to do anything to make his claims seem legitimate.

...Holocaust denial is nothing more than good old fashioned anti-Semitism. It dismisses half the victims (the deaf, Christian leaders, Gypsies, etc.) by focusing on the other half (the Jewish people). Jewish history has seen this kind of hat speech before: Hamman's political ambitions, Nurneburg laws, and now, Jerry Falwell's statements that the Antichrist will be Jewish. For other people, this may be new, but hate is hate. I encourage people to take the time to read and ask questions.

*Kip Lombardo, Hillel Program Director & RIT Jewish Chaplain*

The CODOH should not be called a "Revisionist" group, rather a "Holocaust Denier" group.... There is no debate among historians about the actuality of the Holocaust—there can be no doubt that the Nazi state systematically put to death millions of Jews, Gypsies, political radicals and other people.

Although I was born long after the events of the Holocaust occurred, I have spent a lot of time in Eastern Europe doing research in archives, photographing, and documenting the Holocaust and some of the more remote sites of mass murder. Not only were people killed in camps, but many were killed in their own towns and villages by their neighbors. Survivors have a gruesome story to tell, but they will not be able to bear witness forever. Yet the more that I learn, the less I seem to understand.

*Bruce E. Kahn, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor Imaging and Photographic Technology*

Fear not, Reporter! I was not offended with the recent publishing of the advertisement for CODOH. In fact, it made me laugh. The sheer ignorance of these people amuses me. It boggles the mind to know that there is a group of people out there who actually think anyone would take them seriously. The simple act of advertising in a college publication for such an evil cause demonstrates their lack of intelligence.

*Jay Kaplowitz*

Over the past few months especially, I have taken note of a commendable endeavor by this year's staff to publish an array of original, thought-provoking material from an intelligent yet dynamic point of view.... What shocks and saddens me is that in your haste to be politically correct, you trampled all over the fabric of my freedom and rights.... You have committed a cowardly act in denying this group of its rights by attempting to filter information from your readers.... How dare you attempt to cover my eyes and ears; I am not a child. I have a mind and I will decide what is fact; what is fiction,

*a concerned student*

I do not excuse that this has happened; however, let's be realistic and understand the possibility that this may be the first time such a thing has occurred at Reporter. New people learning new jobs make mistakes. Let's applaud the Reporter's integrity in owning up to the mistake and help them put adequate safeguards in place, not just castigate them for the error and wail, "HOW COULD THEY?" College is supposed to be a place of learning and growth while still having a safety net for those riskier trial and errors.

*Kristine Greenizen  
Prepress Specialist, T&E Center*

If there is student support for CODOH, it is minimal. Soon after publication, the Reporter issued a memorandum to all students apologizing for publishing this advertisement and promising us that this would never happen again. The message was loud and clear: The students were lucky this time, but in the future, the Reporter will use its power as the only campus news publication to limit the students' right to free speech, and the resulting right to openly debate controversial issues. From this point forward, anything coming out of the Reporter, once a bastion of First amendment rights, defender of the free press, and member of the American Civil Liberties Union, will be sanitized for our protection, and filtered for politically incorrect, potentially offensive dissension.

May the spirit of intellectual debate rest in peace.

*David P. Kleinschmidt*

What really frightens me is that, in my three years at RIT, I have heard three, maybe four young people state that they believe the Holocaust never happened. They were not advocating hate in any direction; they were simply repeating comments they had heard in dorms, at parties, etc.

Within another generation, it will be possible that no survivors of the Holocaust period will be around to testify to the falsity of claims spread by groups like CODOH. We must all be aware of the existence and subtlety of some of these hate groups. My uncle, Holocaust survivor, tells his children and I tell mine that, "We must never forget." Who will tell future generations if not ourselves and our children?

*Karen Dykstra*

continued on pg. 4 —→



## Letters to the Editor

The main purpose of Reporter is to educate the students working on it. When they make these mistakes, they learn something and so does the entire campus. I don't think many would argue that this has brought more attention to the issue than nearly anything else that could have happened. There are a lot more people who are now aware that there are groups out there in society who are trying to sweep the holocaust under the rug. Had Reporter not accepted the paid advertisement, nothing would have happened, and no one would have known about it.

*Stephen Schultz*  
*former Reporter Editor in Chief*

Last week I read about the RIT construction fiasco involving illegal immigrants. With current corruption scandals in the Olympic Committee and the European Union Administration, why do we have one here? How can an American citizen decide to hire illegal immigrants instead of hardworking American citizens? That is almost as stupid as trying to revise history and say the Holocaust never happened.

*Amotz Zakai*

**Rock Ventures**  
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# We're running out of words.

we need writers

## reporter

**Attention Writers:**  
**The Reporter is looking for new Talent.**  
**Please contact Janeen Baynes at**  
**'jlb9608' or call the office at 475-2212.**  
**Samples will be requested.**



## COVER STORY



### **16. Hate: A Special Report**

Coming soon to a town near you...



### **20. For Sale: Ethics, hardly used. Make offer.**

Labor on campus subject of debate



### **24. The End of an Era**

RIT's Men's Hockey coach Eric Hoffberg Resigns

## Departments

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## **14. Opinion**

RIT's Ultimate Bachelor's Club

## **20. SSDP Update**

"Providing education on harm caused by the War on Drugs"

## **22. RIT Latino Groups Reach Out to Community**

Outreach program prepares high school students for college

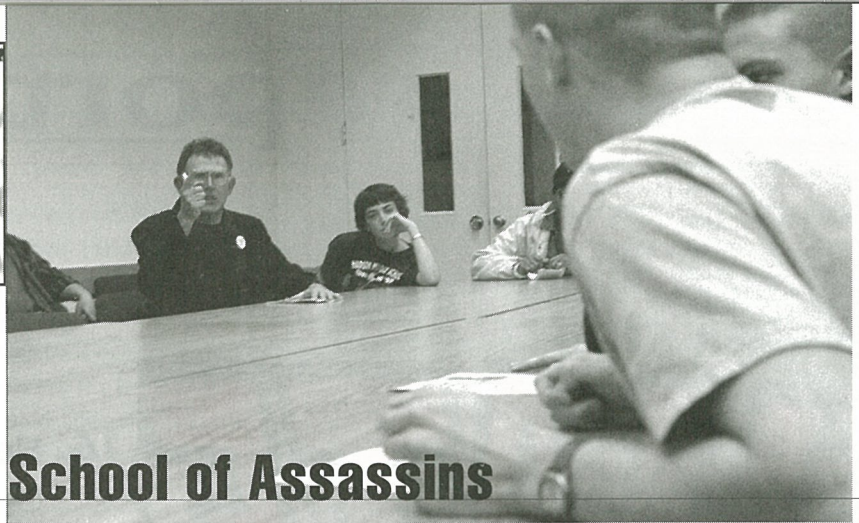
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## School of the Americas: School of Assassins

The School of the Americas, located at Fort Benning, Georgia, is a U.S. government funded military training school for Latin America. Latin American governments and militaries send their soldiers to the School of the Americas to be trained in the same military techniques U.S. soldiers learn. These soldiers are sent back to their native countries with best training the U.S. can offer. They are trained for war of all types. There is a growing contingent who wants nothing more than the complete shutdown of the School of the Americas.

On March 18, Sarah Brownell, of the protest group SOA Watch, led an information session here at RIT. She is an active member who has visited Ft. Benning to participate in a protest against the School of the Americas—dubbed the School of Assassins by a Panamanian newspaper. She started session with a video of general information about the graduates of the SOA. The video was a non-stop testimony of the various atrocities committed by graduates of the SOA. One such incident was a massacre of several thousand Latin Americans involving 49 graduates of the SOA. During the 1980 civil war in El Salvador, graduates of the school assassinated the Archbishop the day following an antiwar speech he gave. The list continues for several pages. Course manuals that were released recently detail torture, interrogation techniques, terrorism, and many other such classes. A bill to cut the

government funding to the school has been proposed three times, each time with growing support.

The SOA was originally established 52 years ago in Panama to train Latin American soldiers how to fight alongside American soldiers in the United State's fight against Communism in the region. It was also supposed to help improve diplomatic and economical relations in the area and help keep uprisings and civil unrest to a minimum. In 1984, however, it was moved to Ft. Benning because Jorge Illueca, the president of Panama at the time, saw it as "the biggest base for destabilization in Latin America."

After all the information had been digested at the session, an open debate ensued on whether the school really ought to be shut down, and whom is to blame. Several military cadets vehemently defended the Army and the school in these respects, showing great pride in the Army's tradition. Very few argued against the Army itself, but most everyone agreed the school was not an institution that should be on American soil, nor one to be funded by U.S. dollars. It is a continuing argument, with the SOA Watch on one side, and the U.S. government supporters on the other. For more information about the school and the SOA Watch, visit their web site at "[www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org)".

*by Matt A Buchanan*

*photo by Greg Benenati*



Almeta Whitis presented her one-woman show, "I'll Give You the Dawn," Wednesday night in Ingle Auditorium. Miss Whitis is an actor, singer, dancer, storyteller, and ordained minister who concentrates on buliding hope for the future from an African American woman's perspective. This program was part of the celebration of the reopening of the Women's Resource Center.

*photo by Alexandra Daley*



# Let's Celebrate

With nearly 15,000 students, 2,500 faculty and staff, and numerous ethnic backgrounds, religions, and interests, it is very difficult to find unity between everyone at RIT. It would seem as if there is no common thread, but there is community. We all belong to a community here at RIT, and the 4th annual Celebration of Community purpose was to demonstrate this fact.

Held on Monday, March 29 in Ingle Auditorium, the program consisted of three speakers—one faculty member, one staff member, and one student-commenting—on what they believe “community” is.

The first speaker, Satish Kandlikar, a professor of Mechanical Engineering, mentioned that the college years are the best years in one's life. On behalf of the teachers, he said “Your success is the reason for our pride.”

Vicki Hurwitz, coordinator of student development for NTID, recited her recipe for “community cornbread,” which included such ingredients as time, patience, determination, organization, money, laughter and smiles.

Nicolas Rubio, president of the RIT Global Union, gave the last speech. He asked everyone to close their eyes for 45 seconds and picture what they think RIT should be like. He challenged the audience to make those thoughts reality.

In addition, the format of Celebration of Community changed slightly this year, with the addition of a community service project. On Saturday, March 20, 151 walkers from RIT participated in the American Heart Walk, raising \$2,061 for charity.

Finally, as many have noticed, several trees along the quarter mile have been decorated in honor of the occasion. A contest was given to award the group that adorned the best tree, the winner being Margaret's House. The ceremony concluded with a reception in the Fireside Lounge and the lighting of the trees.

*Jeff Prystajko*

## World News

Dolly, the cloned Scottish sheep, gave birth to three lambs. Dolly was the first mammal to be cloned, and her lambs—two males and one female—arrived without any complications. Dr. Harry Griffen, the assistant director for the Roslin Institute, where Dolly was cloned, said “we are delighted.” There are no plans to name the new lambs. (AP)

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the TV Dinner. Originally conceived by Swanson's Gerry Thomas, frozen foods are now a \$4 billion industry. Thomas was recently honored in Hollywood for his contribution to television. Swanson is also planning to overhaul its frozen foods. The company will begin to use the term “TV Dinner” once more, and will offer a related sweepstakes. (Reuters, AP)

In Norway, there were dismal results from a millenium baby hotel special. The Norlandia Hotel in Oslo rented rooms to twenty couples who wished to conceive the millennium baby, but only four showed up. The special deal was part of a program to repopulate the area, which has suffered a population decline for the past twenty years. Other measures enacted were the showing of erotic movies in the local cinemas, and kindergarten teachers holding children overnight to give parents time alone. (Reuters)

About 1.2 million square miles of northern Canadian territory has been converted into a new province. Called Nunavut, which means “our land,” in Inuit, it is about the size of western Europe. The province is self-governing and will be run according to Inuit traditions. The population of the new province is approximately 85 percent Inuit. It will have no political parties, and will be governed by a parliament of nineteen members. (BBC)

A group of Nigerian prostitutes is threatening to perform nude protests at the World Youth Cup soccer games. The irate prostitutes were banned from hotels by the organizers of the tournament. A local newspaper reported that a spokeswoman for the Association of Practicing Prostitutes as saying that hundred of naked women would march through the streets if their demands were not met. (Reuters)

Super-stud Fabio, born Fabio Lanzoni, was hit in the face with a bird as he inaugurated a roller coaster in Virginia. Surrounded by women in tunics, Fabio was promoting the new “Apollo's Chariot” roller coaster in Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Virginia. Fabio collided with the bird at some point during the ride. He was subsequently taken to a local hospital, where, after receiving treatment for small cuts, he was released. The condition of the bird is unknown. (Reuters)

A strange brain ailment is killing birds in southeastern United States. Birds afflicted with avian vacuolar myelinopathy usually fly erratically or cannot fly at all. When on land, they appear intoxicated, and quite often fall over. The birds, however, are still alert and can bite. Despite testing by the United States Geological Survey, the cause and method of transmission of the disease is still unknown. The disease was previously thought to be confined to bald eagles and American coots, but specimens of two species of ducks were recently found. The disease degrades the myelin covering of nervous tissue, inhibiting its ability to convey messages successfully. (ENN, CNN)

*by Pete Lukow*



# A Tale of Two Comedians

Friday, May 26, 1999 was like any other day here at RIT, except for the fact that two hilarious comedians graced the stage in the Clark Gym. Darryl Hammond of Saturday Night Live was the main attraction—however his opening act TJ McCormick was just as funny and amusing. Combined, the two entertained the crowd using different techniques and personas. The show started a few minutes after 8:00 P.M. and lasted just past 10:00 P.M. thanks to Darryl Hammond running over his allotted time.

From the beginning, McCormick was energetic, flamboyant and got the crowd excited. The first 20 minutes or so of his set was basically self-deriding humor—I usually go for this in small

doses. Overall, I thought he spent a little too much time making fun of his family and himself. In the beginning, he made fun of his intelligence, stating how stupid he was compared to the college students in attendance. This turned out to be a good move because it made the audience and performer feel on the same level. There was of course the usual RIT humor, such as asking the interpreter to spell out P-E-N-I-S and comparing the architecture of the academic buildings to a prison. He also made good use of the knowledge that college kids enjoy drinking, and having sex. He urged all in attendance to have “Wild, crazy, raunchy, (safe, consensual), sex.” Even though most of his jokes seemed rehearsed, his funniest moments came when he ad-libbed to fit the situation.

After forty-five minutes, Darryl Hammond came out. A regular on Saturday Night Live for the past four seasons, he performed some wonderful impressions from the popular television show. Where McCormick was energetic, moving around the stage a lot, Hammond was much calmer with his sly southern accent. For the most part, he stayed in one place, holding onto the microphone stand, quietly delivering his humor. Contrasting McCormick’s ethnic stereotypes and personal stories, Hammond used a good deal of intelligent, political humor. This was probably not the wisest decision—this is a college campus, not a Democratic fund-raiser. Many of the jokes were humorous, but not laugh-out-loud funny. After he realized the jokes about Congressmen weren’t working, he adapted his routine to some personal humor, including making fun of his marriage and his father. The best segment of Hammond’s show was his impressions. He does a great Phil Donahue in English, Spanish, and German. The impression he is most famous for, however, is that of Bill Clinton. His use of the “Clinton thumb” and facial expressions were hilarious. Also, his impression of Jesse Jackson was funny, yet appropriate—considering Jackson was just here in February. He was able to perfectly duplicate the Reverend’s cadences and manner of speech. Darryl Hammond and TJ McCormick; the two may have different styles, but they have one thing in common—they were both incredibly funny.

*by Jason Pacchiarotti*

*photo by Andrew Gombert*



**There was of course the  
usual RIT humor...**



# "13" is Blur's Lucky Number

I was reading through my *Sound & Vision* magazine the other day and I came across a cartoon crying out for justice for all those "experimental" albums recorded by respected artists: *Mutations* from Beck, *Passengers* from U2, and the list goes on....

Blur's new album, *13* could easily fit into the experimental category: there are such a wide variety of songs on this disc, it's obvious the guys were in the mood to mess around.

Producer William Orbit's electronica-drenched styling has changed the direction of many artists, including Madonna, The Cure, Prince, and Blur. The electronic bleeps and bleeps and echoes that dribble all over this album are pure Orbit and add a little spice to an already unusual record.

*13* kicks off with a seven-minute orchestral/choral piece called "Tender." This is a softcore love song, with the lyrics "Tender is the touch/of someone that you love too much..." and so on. It's quite a touching song, and it's echoed later in "No Distance Left to Run," a slow tune of goodbye directed at lead singer Damon Albarn's ex-girlfriend; *Elastica's* Justine Frischmann.

This album yields other hits: "B.L.U.R.E.M.I.," about the band's relationship to their publisher. It's a "Song 2"-ish headbanger, with an impressive bit of computer voice adjustment in the chorus.

Other catchy songs include the smooth, monotone "Trailerpark," and my personal favorite, the eight-minute "Battle"—a gorgeously hypnotic drone of a song, heavily electronica-influenced and one of the best songs on the album.

Of course, with hits come misses and this album is no exception. "1992," "Trimm Trabb," and "Mellow Song" are just horrible; there is no other way to describe them. Also, the eight-minute "Caramel" is notable only if you skip through the first seven minutes and catch the surprisingly infectious outro tune the band uses to cap off the song.

This album, their sixth, completely breaks down every album they put out in the past. There's more emotion and the band takes chances. It's either brave or stupid, and unfortunately the only way most people will differentiate between the two is by counting how many copies it sells.

I suggest that the more adventurous listener pick this up. There's no way to tell what will be a hit and what'll flop, so you might as well see the whole picture and take it for what it is—a grand experiment.

by William Huber

For more information on Blur, go to their official web page: <http://www.blur.co.uk/>  
For more info on William Orbit, go to: <http://www.williamorbit.com/orbit.html>

**Overall, this album signifies a huge change of pace for Blur**

## Leisure Briefs

- This year's Academy Awards ceremony certainly left many of us movie fans in one of two states: complete and utter shock or complete and utter happiness. Put me in the latter. "Shakespeare in Love" came away with seven golden statuettes—the most of any film nominated this year—including the one for Best Picture. "Saving Private Ryan," thought to be the clear winner, only received a handful of technical awards and the Oscar for Best Director (Spielberg). But then again, I do recall saying I thought "Shakespeare" was the best film of 1998 (see January 15 issue). Maybe I should consider betting next time....

- Attention adrenaline junkies: as I'm sure you're aware, amusement parks around the country have had to get more competitive to keep visitors coming back. That means high-profile rides: larger, faster, and taller roller coasters. Ever since Cedar Point in Ohio broke the 200-foot height record with the Magnum-XL 205 (thereby giving us a new definition: a "hyper coaster") other parks across America have designed and built bigger and better scream machines. However, for those of us in New York, we have longed for a similar type coaster.

The wait is over. New York State's premier theme park, Darien Lake (about 35 minutes west of Rochester) was recently added to the "Six Flags" collection—and with that comes the park's biggest investment ever. "Superman-Ride Of Steel" is a 208-foot tall, one-mile-plus long, non-looping coaster—guaranteed to delight thrill-seekers everywhere. Mark your calendars; the Grand Opening is May 14.

by Jeff Prystajko



View of "Superman: Ride of Steel," the new hyper coaster premiering this year at Six Flags: Darien Lake



# A Visual Buffet of Questions

## A Visual Buffet of Questions

### A Visual Buffet of Questions



#### **"What is The Matrix?"**

The ads have been asking that question for weeks now. My roommates have been foaming at the mouths waiting to buy tickets, spouting their theories on the answer. Truth is, until I went to the theater, I hadn't really given the question or the movie much thought. As far as I could tell, *The Matrix* looked like just another bleak, futuristic thriller. The first few minutes proved that writer/directors Andy and Larry Wachowski had something big in store for us.

It's difficult to discuss the plot without disclosing the film's big secrets, but here's the basic setup; Thomas Anderson (Keanu Reeves) is a pale, gaunt worker-ant in a corporate world, but he has a secret which is about to turn his life upside down. Anderson spends his free time hacking into the world's computer networks. What he hopes to discover is unclear, but it is evident that he has gotten close to finding it when men in dark suits and sunglasses begin showing up at his door. Before Anderson knows what is happening, he is on the run from an unknown enemy. Who are these men? Why are they after him? All these questions are asked, but it is not until Anderson is rescued by a mysterious stranger, a man named Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne), that the answers are revealed. Turns out that in these hustle and bustle times, Man doesn't just feel like a slave to the system—he is one. Morpheus spends a great deal of time teaching Anderson to question his grasp on reality, and the rest of the time training him on how to get it back. It's the struggle to regain control that makes up the greater part of the film.

"What is reality?"—that's what the movie is really asking. It's the age-old question. Is reality something tangible, like a spoon,

or is it in your head, meaning your thoughts and ideas? The film presents arguments for both sides, but in the end it offers up Descartes' statement, "I think, therefore I am," and plays out much of the action on a sort of mental battlefield where the rules of the mind outweigh the rules of the body. Such philosophical questions are what make the film more than just a genre cliché.

For most, the attraction will no doubt be the expectation of great the visual effects. They won't be disappointed. The Wachowskis have used every trick in the effects book, and have written and published two companion volumes to boot. There's not a frame in which some sort of visual trickery is not at work. *The Matrix* is packed with amazing, even groundbreaking sequences, the highlights of which include a cerebral martial arts fight, some incredible aerial acrobatics, and the most ingenious use of the freeze and spin "Gap Cam" that I have seen so far.

It's strange, but with so many great aspects, *The Matrix* still left me flat. For all its visual ingenuity and interesting questions, it lacked a certain emotional core to keep me interested. Fair to say, any Keanu Reeves vehicle is bound to lack some human qualities, but none of the film's actors are to blame for what is missing. Perhaps it's just the nature of the subject matter; it can't be easy to write a human drama set in the confines of a computer chip universe. All I know is that while mostly entertaining and highly original, it somehow missed the mark. It's like an all-you-can-eat buffet that can't quite fill you up.

by Mike Attebery

**What is reality?**





## website of the week

**www.snpp.com**

Watching "The Simpsons" is a religious experience for many people around the world. For some, this feeling is so strong they archive the show and events related to it during their personal time. One such archive is available to everyone at [www.snpp.com](http://www.snpp.com), which stands for the "Springfield Nuclear Power Plant." It is chock full of episode descriptions and other tidbits.

The site is basic, with no complicated shockwave, flash, or JAVA needed. It contains a good deal of textual information, though not many pictures. In addition, it also includes information on every speaking character that has ever appeared on the show. It even has lyrics to all the many songs sung by the characters, including my favorite, "I'm An Amendment;" a parody to School House Rock's "I'm Just a Bill" (episode 3F16).

This site remains under heavy reorganization and though a small amount of content has not been completed yet, it still contains a great deal of trivia. Who needs to know that Homer's pants are Pantone color 284? It's not very important in the grand scheme of things, but it makes for interesting small talk. If you like The Simpsons television show you'll love this site. It provides information on all the hidden gags and details that are usually missed by viewers every week.

*by Ashish Jaiswal*

If you have any suggestions for Website of the Week, please e-mail me at [webweek@hotmail.com](mailto:webweek@hotmail.com).





## Students for Sensible Drug Policy

*"Providing education on harm caused by the War on Drugs"*

"Last October, President Clinton signed into law a series of amendments to the Higher Education Act (HEA). The HEA was originally passed in 1965 as a way of providing college opportunities for young people. In 1998, a section was added which will deny or delay financial aid to college students convicted of drug-related offenses. The Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) believes, however, that this new provision will close doors for many students, particularly racial minorities and those of low to moderate incomes. It will do nothing to address the real problems associated with drug abuse, but will instead needlessly expand the scope of our nation's War on Drugs to include higher education."

— excerpt from "SSDP's Cover Letter," Christopher Maj and Davis Terrell, January 27, 1999.

The Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) were first introduced to the RIT community in the December 11, 1998, issue of *Reporter* after the expiration of the Rochester Cannabis Coalition (RCC). At that time, the SSDP was just beginning to set their organizations' priorities and its ultimate mission of education. The SSDP worked with Student Government to have them accept and sign a resolution pertaining to the Student Higher Education Act. They have also been working with students from schools across the nation in an effort to have them adopt a similar resolution. The members of the SSDP have been working to gain status as an officially recognized organization at RIT.

After a stillborn beginning in 1998, the SSDP is in full force in 1999. Quoting their literature, "The SSDP feels that the United States government, to the extent that it is involved in higher education, should make it easier and not more difficult for people to educate themselves." The preceding quotation seems to be the SSDP's mission statement for this part of 1999.

With assistance from U-Net and The Drug Reform Coordination (Washington DC), the resolution was created because "we don't think denying a person's education is the right way to deal with our nation's drug problem," explained Maj. The most astounding fact is "even though white people make up about 75 percent of New York State's population and consume about that percentage of all illegal drugs, only 5 percent of New Yorkers doing time for drug offenses are white." A recent article in the *Boston Globe* remarked, "Even though African-Americans and Latinos are about 25 percent of the state's population, they are 95 percent of the prisoners locked up for doing drug offenses." Maj further comments, "Unintentionally, or maybe intentionally, the Higher Education Act will deny financial aid to [minority] students." House Resolution 1053 was introduced to eliminate such restrictions. "[H.R. 1053] is going really well," says Maj. "There's been a response in Congress. The bill was introduced by Barney Frank, (D-Mass.) a few weeks ago [in the House of Representatives]."

RIT's Student Government was the first in the nation to pass the resolution. It has since been passed by five other schools. Why did RIT's Student Government decide to pass the resolution? "The SSDP was the most professional organization that Student Government has worked with this year," says Duane Shearer, Student Government vice president.

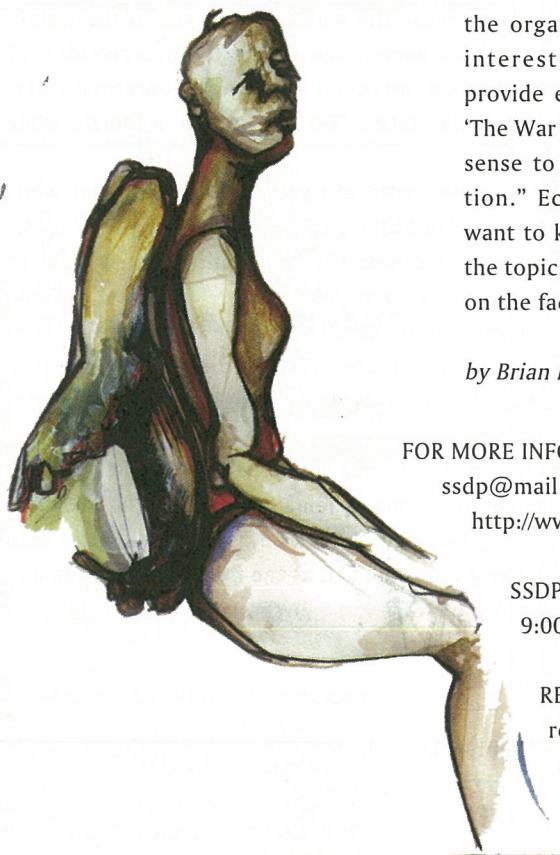
"As far as the resolution on the Higher Education Act, their views make sense, there is no need to deny education to offenders of this sort." Shearer



continued, "Education is a better solution than punishment. New York [State] spends more money on prisons than [on] education"

"We passed out a petition which raised awareness [of the resolution] on campus this year," says SSDP vice president Davis Terrell. "A lot of people were receptive to the ideas that we have and realized [denying financial aid] wasn't an effective way to reduce drug use,"

What about the SSDP's status as an "official" club at RIT? "We are still in the process [of being recognized as a club]," says Maj in a pessimistic tone. "We were approved to be an official club by the Student Review Board and denied by Linda Kuk, vice president of Student Affairs." Maj continued, "We are in the process of setting up meetings with her and the Ombudsman person." Maj explained how much they have been able to get done without being an official club. "We were able to do a voter registration drive and get a voter registration table [in the SAU] for Club day.



"Even though white people make up about 75 percent of New York State's population and consume about that percentage of all illegal drugs, only 5 percent of New Yorkers doing time for drug offenses are white."

The reason we are able to do that is because we are a very professional organization and a lot of people here think what we are doing is a good idea." Why the need for club recognition? SSDP member, Michael Eck explains, "There are a lot of benefits to having club status: easier access to resources at RIT, a budget from Student Government, and [being] entitled to fund-raisers on campus."

In the beginning, SSDP was founded on the idea that students are for a sensible drug policy. What direction is the organization moving? "Our main interest [as an organization] is to provide education on harm caused by 'The War on Drugs.' It just doesn't make sense to take people's college education." Eck concludes by saying, "We want to keep encouraging dialogue on the topic, and getting valid information on the facts of what is going on."

by Brian Moon

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

ssdp@mail.rit.edu

http://www.ssdp.org

SSDP meetings - Tuesdays at  
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RECONSIDER: Policy on drug  
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reporter



## RIT's ULTIMATE BACHELOR'S CLUB (FROM A MALE'S PERSPECTIVE)

**A** lot of my friends are always wondering where the foxy women are on this campus. Would you like to know where the women of RIT hang out? Where you have a better chance of meeting Miss Right? If you answered yes to the preceding questions, then read on my friend...

Believe me, after two and a half years at RIT, the one place I can guarantee you are not going to meet your soulmate is at a "party." After a dozen parties on this campus, many of you know that each one is an ideal location for a new Vienna factory. I believe the best opportunity you have in meeting "the cute girl in your class" on this campus is at the Student Life Center. Many of you probably know this already and are "regulars" at the SLC. This 165 pound writer just recently realized the many vantage points of visiting the SLC, besides the obvious pluses, such as slimming down your "all-you-can-eat winter quarter buffet" body, working on your jump shot, and attempting to spike a volleyball. The SLC allows you to really improve your "game." Allow me to explain in detail.

The women are everywhere! Unlike a dance club, as a student, you do not have to pay directly out of your pocket to enter the SLC. The fees necessary to use the SLC's equipment and facilities are included in your tuition, so why not take advantage of the ultimate bachelor's club? The only "dress code" is you must wear appropriate clothing (no jeans, or sandals) in the weight room, so even if you are a "low maintenance" person, you're good to go! That is one of the beauties of the SLC, you do not have to wear your finest Fruit of the Loom T-shirt to fit in. But do not go into the gym looking as if you are going to a wedding because women can see your true motive from a mile away.

As you enter the gym, notice that there is already one lovely lady waiting for you at the turnstile. After sliding your card through, she *wants* to see your picture and name. BAM! Less than three minutes in the SLC and you have already made contact with a female. After heading down the stairs, notice that there are more women in the "SLC Cage." Hmm...women in cages? You have to like that. Take note of the table located across from the 'The Cage.' The table houses' pencils and paper used to rent out equipment, but if your visit to the SLC is successful, use the pencil and the back side of the paper to jot down a lucky lady's digits.

The two main areas of this "bachelor's club" are the indoor track (a.k.a. The Observation Deck) and the weight room (a.k.a. Heaven). Although, the indoor track is a good place to get in shape, it is well known that it is the perfect spot to locate that certain someone. The indoor track allows you to practice the long distance relationship scenario. Think about it, technically you are 30 feet away from her, which in fact is a long distance. Then, when you have made (eye) contact with the female below, you only have to see her every 43 seconds (more or less depending on how much you miss her and how fast you can run). It also allows you to be the person in command of the "relationship" because you can stop running (the relationship) at any time—no commitment.

Now it is time to canvass the weight room. I call the weight room 'Heaven' because of all the angels. Besides meeting celebrities such as the RIT men's volleyball team and buffing up, the weight room is a perfect place for casual conversation and practicing your pick-up lines. The women employed in the weight room wear 'Victoria's Secret' red shirts. Hmm...coincidence? Angels and Victoria's Secret? I think not! (Personal note: Rule #33 in my book states, "Do not 'hit on' a female while she is on the job.")

Where else in Henrietta can you see women sweat while dressed in tights, without having to flash dollar bills? Here is one pick-up line I overheard near the treadmill machines from an obvious single male to an occupied female: "You know, I would walk a mile for you." Don't be afraid to use those pick-up lines you have been dying to use. Worry not about sounding "dumb" because the music is loud enough to cover-up those unsuccessful attempts.

If all else fails, and you come out of the SLC without a female's phone number or some kind of female interaction, at least you tried and hopefully had a good work out. "You never know until you try." You may go into the SLC as the frog you think you are, but can come out the TIGER you know you are...

*by Brian Moon*

\*\*\*Writer's note: Please do not assume that all the women in the SLC are single and approachable. The writer assumes no responsibility for brawls between the readers of this article and the boyfriend's of the women in the SLC.



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JOHN GOLDEN 4-2-99

## Coming soon to a town near you...

**A** recent controversial advertisement that ran in this magazine has led to an ongoing discussion about the existence of the so-called "hate groups" operating in America today. Most people dismiss the notion of such discriminatory groups as a "Jewish problem" or a "Black problem." Truth is, it affects all of us in some way, whether we realize it or not. Many members of the RIT community were not aware of the existence or operation of these groups until they received notice through a campus-wide e-mail. "So enough already, what's the big deal?" you may be asking. The "big deal" is the fact that these groups are a threat no matter your background. Ignoring the problem will not make it go away. These messages are now available on the Internet, for anyone to see. Not only that, but groups are now targeting our children. The effects of hate groups are indeed far reaching.

A hate group is any group of individuals that choose to deride a certain trait of other individuals; and whose ultimate goal is to incite violence against those people. While these groups will claim otherwise, their simple motive is to spread a message of hate. There are various movements throughout the country that seek certain agendas against one group or another. No longer are Jews and Blacks the unique targets of these groups. The hatred has spread to Latinos, Asians, immigrants, and homosexuals; as well as other minorities.

The most infamous group has to be the Ku Klux Klan. Having its roots in the Ante-bellum Southern states, the white-hooded Klan has seen an underground resurgence in the past fifty years advocating a platform of white supremacy as a preservation of the "White European Culture." The original KKK was founded in 1877 in the backwoods of Tennessee. Today's Klan includes a political wing, the Knights of The Ku Klux Klan, which was founded in



Louisiana in 1956. The Knights have close ties with David Duke, the first National Director. Mind you, these aren't the same buck-toothed yokels with funny Southern drawls and cold steel eyes that one used to see paraded in front of talk show cameras. A visit to their new website will reveal a Klan more focused to spreading their message to the masses. Carefully-worded passages and explanations of the Klan's "true intentions" are sure to appeal to those desperate souls looking for the "answers." As the Klan continues to preach its message of "Equal rights for all, special privileges for none," there are those who are even more extreme and less careful with their language in their efforts to recruit new members.

New, frightening crops of people are emerging on the Internet touting an "Aryan Nation" that will take back America "for the decent white folk." These organizations use threatening motifs recalling Nazi propaganda and imagery. White crosses are proudly displayed with proclamations asking people to stand up for themselves against the "threat" of multiculturalism. "Nationalist" sites proclaim the need for a separate "White State" in order to preserve and protect our "Western culture and way of life." Even more frightening is that these sites are now targeting young children. More and more hate groups are creating sites that are geared towards young people that include video games, puzzles, stories, and most importantly, other kids. One such site is claimed to be authored by a ten-year-old.

The interesting thing is how careful each group is to specifically outline what their goals are. We wouldn't want to confuse one brand of hatred with another, now would we? It just wouldn't be fair. One White Nationalist group explains the difference between them, White Separatists, and White Supremacists. White Nationalists seek to create a new White State inside American territory; Separatists mean only to remove themselves from an integrated society; Supremacists seek to subjugate the other races by force. Though the difference may be clear to them; it certainly is not clear to this writer.

Gays have suffered violent persecution in the last half of the twentieth century. In recent years, it has become acceptable for a person to "come out of the closet" and choose to be openly gay. It should be no surprise that there are groups out there opposed to the idea of homosexuality and the struggle for "gay rights." It should also be no shock that many of these gay-bashing groups claim to have religious roots in some congregation. One particular group, claiming to be affiliated with a certain "Baptist" congregation, maintains a site that "memorializes" the gay student recently slain at the hands of his peers. The page outlines how many days the deceased student has spent in the fires of Hell since his death. The entire website is dedicated to eradicating the homosexual element from America. Bible passages and selected audio clips from the pastor are available for downloading. Let it be known that this group is not affiliated with any of the legitimate Baptist congregations.

Another group involved with disseminating a message of hatred to the masses would be the infamous Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust. CODOH is a group that maintains that history must be re-examined for "revisions" that might expose



continued on pg. 18 →



# HATE A SPECIAL REPORT

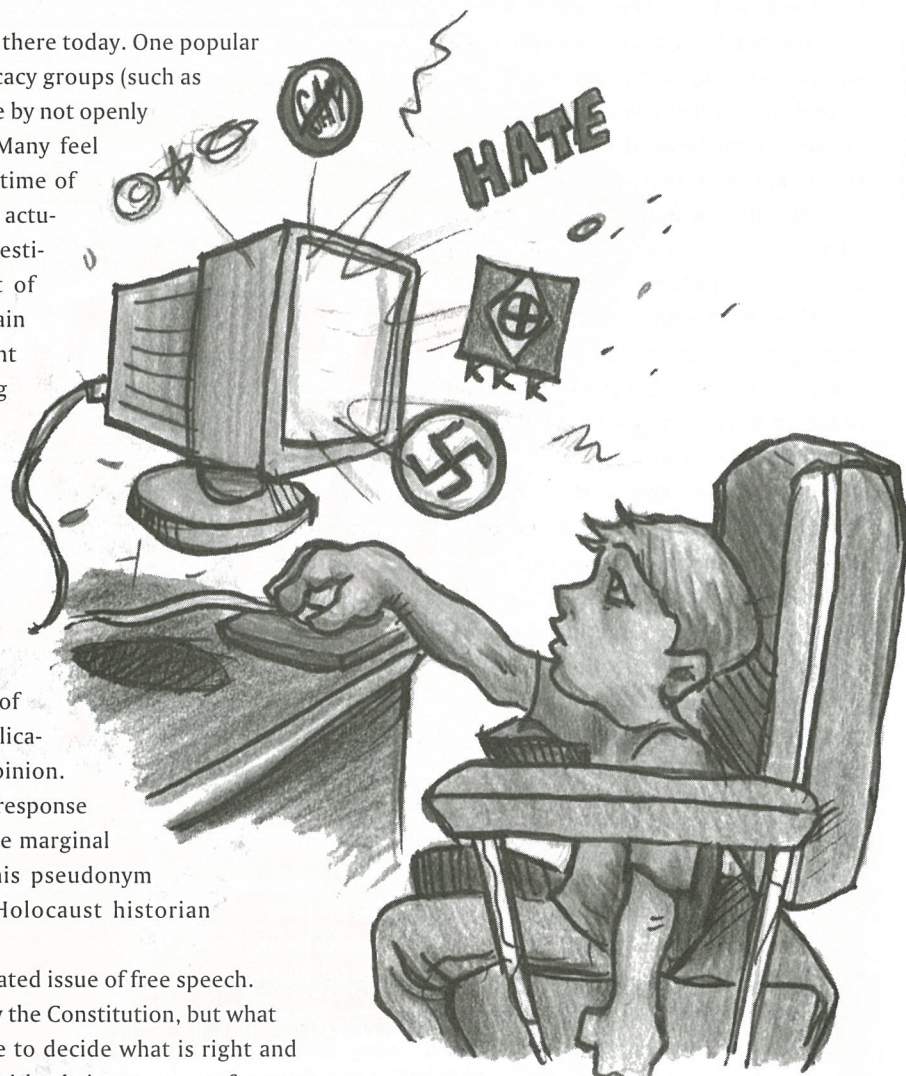
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untruths. There are many "revisionist scholars" out there today. One popular subject of debate is the claim that the Jewish advocacy groups (such as the Anti-Defamation League) have something to hide by not openly debating the existence of the Holocaust event. Many feel that it is absurd to even give groups like this the time of day, let alone "debate" or prove that the Holocaust actually happened. They bring up phony accounts and testimonials, and dissect legitimate information out of context. CODOH, and other groups like it, maintain that they are only exercising their First Amendment right to free speech. It seems as if they are inviting any taker to come forward to prove them wrong. No one seems to want to step forward to accept the "challenge." Their leader advises colleges around the country "not be to afraid to address controversy." In turn, CODOH has lashed out against certain Jewish advocacy groups such as B'nai Brith, the ADL, and others as examples of hate and tyranny against non-Jews. Their leader, who goes by the name of Bradley R. Smith, has realized the power of controversy. Smith generally targets college publications, for he understands the power of public opinion. Should the ad be printed, the overwhelming public response and ensuing publicity is worth much more than the marginal cost of the advertisement itself. Besides that, his pseudonym could easily be confused with the legitimate Holocaust historian Bradley F. Smith.

At the center of the controversy is the complicated issue of free speech. Free speech is an absolute right guaranteed to us by the Constitution, but what if the message is a hateful or harmful one? Are we to decide what is right and what is wrong? While the answer may seem to be fairly obvious to most, for some it is a bone of contention. What gives one group the right to block out another's opinion because it is offensive? Who is to determine what is offensive? When people exercise their freedom of speech, are they abusing it by spreading messages of violence and hate? Is it our responsibility to "protect" people from questionable materials, making moral decisions for them. Some people might argue that the majority of Americans out there can make rational decisions by themselves. Some argue that the small minority that agrees with the message could be more dangerous. It is a debate that most do not want to approach.

There are many different organizations out there with warped agendas ranging from political domination to the eradication of a detested element. The information explosion that has occurred in the past five years has made free access to these hateful materials available to anyone. As a nation of free peoples, we must safeguard ourselves against contamination from those who sprout hatred as a solution to domestic problems. As we move into a new era of tolerance and ethnicity, the hate groups will be the ultimate test of our moral fiber.

by Otto Vondrak





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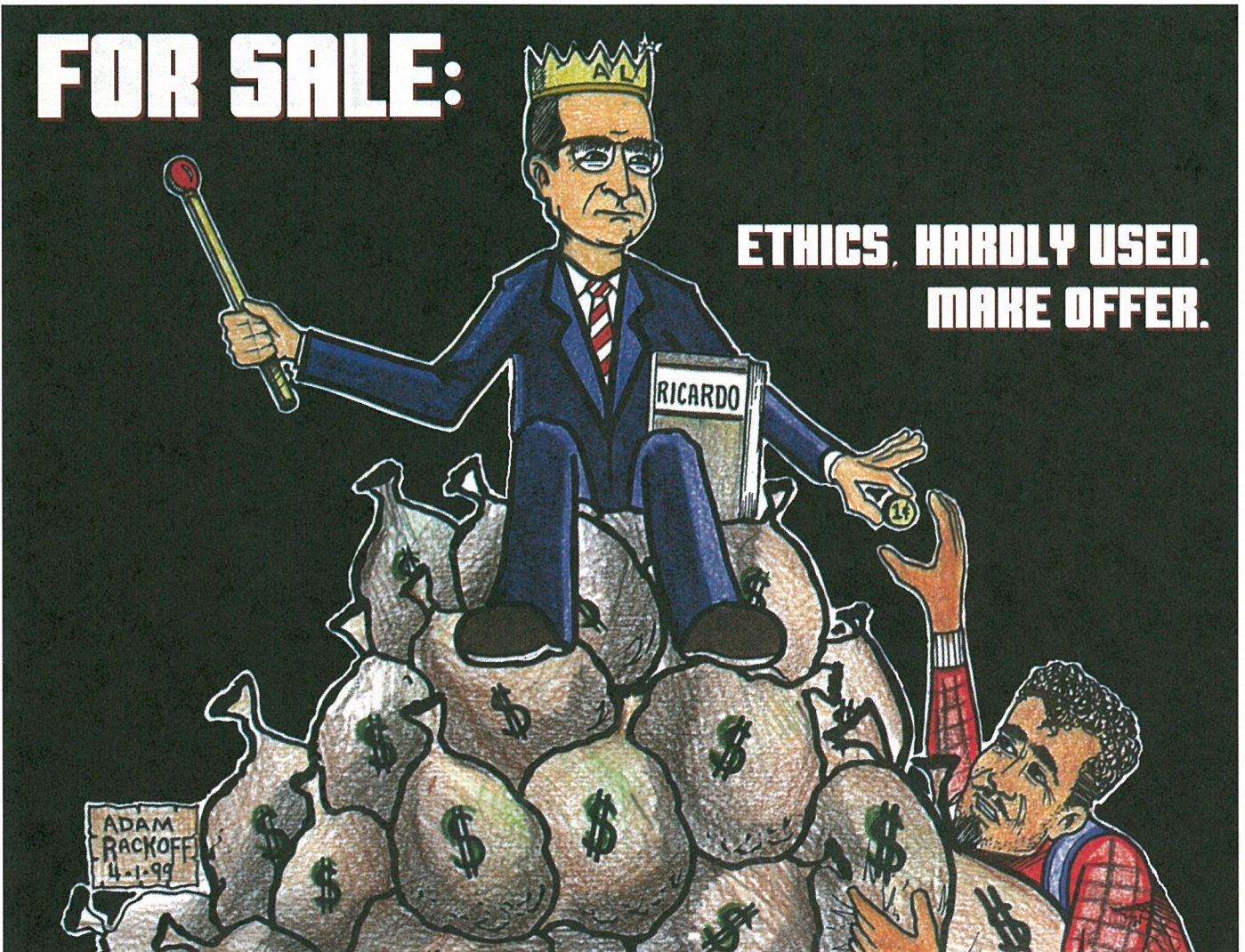
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# FOR SALE:

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Twenty-nine illegal alien laborers, who were in the employ of a contractor carrying out construction work for RIT housing, were recently rounded up by the local Immigration and Naturalization Services unit.

While RIT was not directly responsible for the employment of these men, their plight has helped draw attention to other issues that might show an equal lack of ethics on the school's part when it comes to hiring practices.

Much noise has been made as of late in the local media about the County of Monroe Industrial Development Association (COMIDA). What should concern RIT students most is school-related use of COMIDA funding. In spirit, this funding is intended to help area businesses and non-profit institutions build or expand; while at the same time create more local jobs. A recent series in *City* magazine reports that RIT chose to lease the land that the University Commons apartments are

being built on to Collegiate Housing Foundation, Inc. (CHFI), in an attempt to "get out of the housing business." CHFI applied to COMIDA for the funding mentioned above, and with it subcontracted the work to Capstone Construction. Capstone in turn subcontracted the project to Wilmorite, Inc.

At this point it's worthwhile to pause and note that the president of Wilmorite is RIT Board of Trustees member Thomas C. Wilmot. His company shares an office address with Somerset Builders, Inc., the company that Wilmorite subcontracted the housing project to. If anyone is still wondering why these projects are expensive, wonder no more. Simply count the levels of



subcontracting. It does not even end with Somerset, but rather with the company that Somerset hired—D&D Construction of Atlanta, Georgia. D&D is the employer of the illegal immigrant laborers.

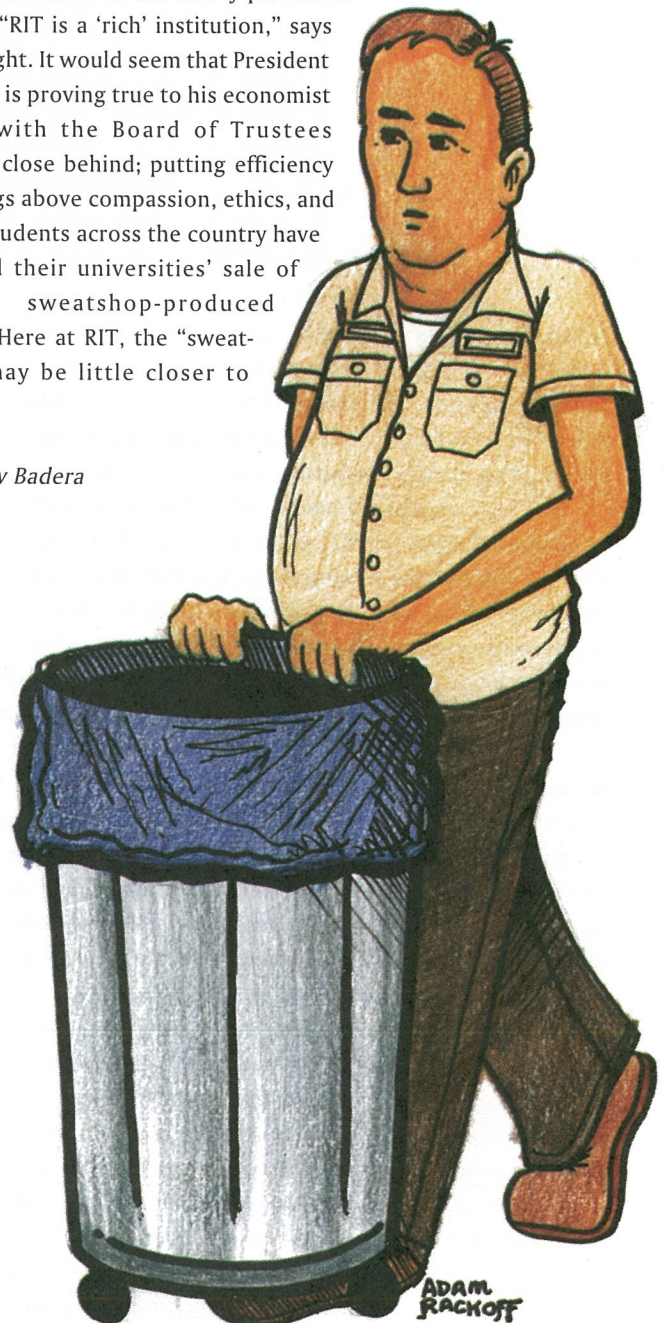
If one follows the extended flow of money, it becomes evident that Monroe County money is not ending up in the hands of Monroe County workers; but rather in the hands of out-of-state construction companies and out-of-country laborers. Furthermore, these laborers were being paid cash, being forced to work overtime without additional pay, were working without proper safety precautions or equipment, and received no health benefits. All of which only ends up costing local residents more because, as local taxpayers, they have to cover the costs. It seems that the only entities to benefit from this arrangement are RIT, CHFI, Wilmoreite, and the myriad of sub-contracted companies involved in the project.

Looking beyond the controversial housing project, there is another labor issue at stake here—right under our noses, in fact. We're talking about all the people who work so hard in keeping our campus clean and livable. The janitorial staff, among others, are hired only on a temporary basis. In what seems to be official policy, their weekly hours are restricted to exempt RIT from New York State law to pay benefits. Furthermore, some members of the staff are apparently "redlined." After many years of working here, they have reached the highest pay level RIT offers for their position, despite added accumulation of time on the job. Every year tuition is raised and this year our "meritorious" faculty are receiving a two percent merit. All the

while, our janitorial staffs are employed under a rather Ricardian methodology. Does it sit well with the student body to know that the money they pay RIT is being used to employ workers for minimal compensation?

Obviously RIT should be doing what it can to minimize unnecessary expenses in order to keep operating costs down. Yet why is it that this expense continues to rise while some members of staff are being paid at or below a substantive level? Why can't the school afford to do business with companies who keep respectable and honest subcontractors in their stead? As Professor Jean Douthwright explained, the faculty and RIT recently paid to have the Institute's financial situation analyzed. Douthwright says that the result of the survey put RIT in the pink. "RIT is a 'rich' institution," says Douthwright. It would seem that President Al Simone is proving true to his economist nature, with the Board of Trustees following close behind; putting efficiency and savings above compassion, ethics, and morals. Students across the country have protested their universities' sale of overseas sweatshop-produced clothing. Here at RIT, the "sweatshops" may be little closer to home.

*by Andrew Badera*





# RIT Latino Groups Reach Out to Community

A highly underrated aspect of college life is community service. There are those of us fortunate enough to have higher education and have an unspoken need to reach out. Some groups act out on this need and are rewarded with rich experiences that only come from helping others. On March 27, the Phi Iota Alpha fraternity, along with RIT's Hispanic Engineering Society, hosted an event to recruit minority

students into higher education. The High School Outreach Conference '99 was held in partnership with the Rochester City School District along with guidance from the campus Admissions office.

The fraternity describes its mission partially as, "economic and social mobilization of our communities globally." Identifying a need for minority leadership in the city, the members wanted to increase the low number of minority students obtaining higher education. The Outreach program established several goals—advising high school students to pursue higher education in their field of interest, educating students about financial aid and scholarships, discuss minority standing in general, and most importantly, to show them what life on campus is like. "We were honest to students about higher education," said Omar Rosa, program director. "They were also able to see what they would be doing in their chosen career of interest by coming to the college rep workshop."

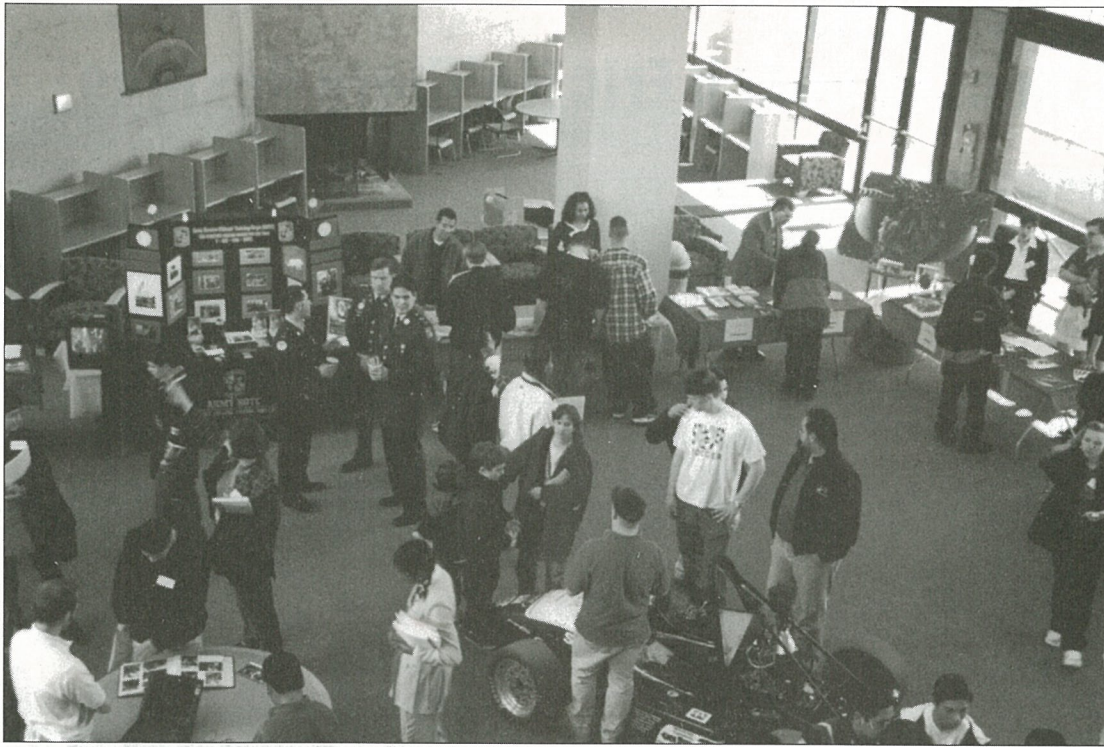
The kids were bused from the city very early in the morning and began an ambitious schedule. The students, who participated free of charge, began by first registering, then enjoying a continental breakfast. Once their energy levels were stocked, the blur began. Kimberly Jackson from Admissions facilitated the first of three workshops. She went in depth on the process of applying for colleges; walking through the paper trail we college students are so aquatinted with. She emphasized the importance of knowing what needs to be in and what students are eligible for.

Afterwards, the workshop titled, "What Career Might Interest Me?" dealt with finding a potential career that students might find appealing. The College Representative Committee—comprised of representatives from most colleges and support groups ran the show in the Fireside Lounge for awhile, giving pointers on the

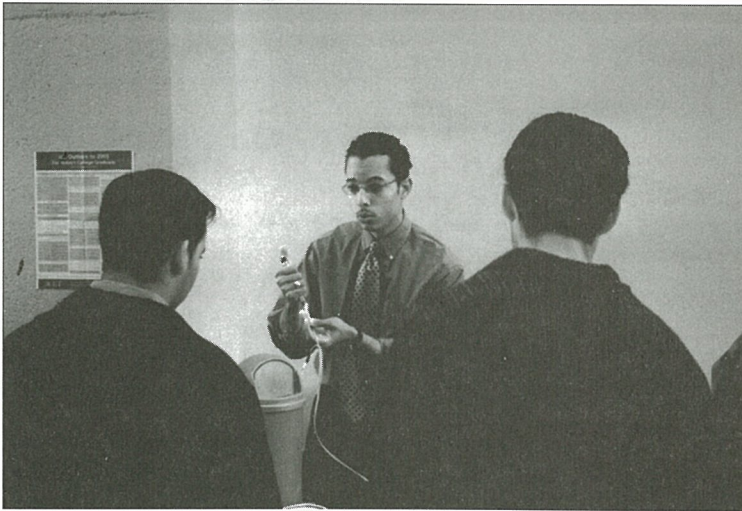


Manny Contomanolis, Director of Co-Op and career services and Phi Iota Alpha advisor gives the key address.





College and highschool students interact at the 'What career might interest me' workshop.



Sean Frank demonstrates to students the theory behind fiber optics.

subject. By this time, the kids were showing genuine enthusiasm for the event, also exhibiting a strong understanding of what was being explained. Several Phi Iota Alpha members later mused about the importance of young students finding their passions so that desire to go to college will be stronger upon high school graduation.

After lunch, RIT students ran the last of workshops. Dubbed, "The College Experience!" it worked directly with one of the stated program goals: to show the kids what college life is like. The panel members shared personal experiences of campus life. Finally, the long day came to an end with optional RIT tours. One high school student lamented, "I wish I was here longer."

Since this was the first of an event the society hopes to make an annual happenstance, the leadership was very pleased. "Thanks to all the participants for supporting Phi Iota Alpha.....with our conference for the youth," said Rosa. "This was one of FIA's first educational programs here on campus and the next one will be even better." He also mentioned that RIT hasn't given the fraternity recognition and foresaw a greater ratio of events like these once they are recognized, which they apparently anticipate. If this event was enough to inspire merely one youngster to beat the odds and make something of himself, then the whole effort was worth it. Regardless, reaching out to our surrounding community not only brings pride into our hearts, but also gives the chance to give something back to the community.

*by Alexander J. Long*



# THE END OF AN ERA

## RIT's Men's Hockey coach Eric Hoffberg Resigns

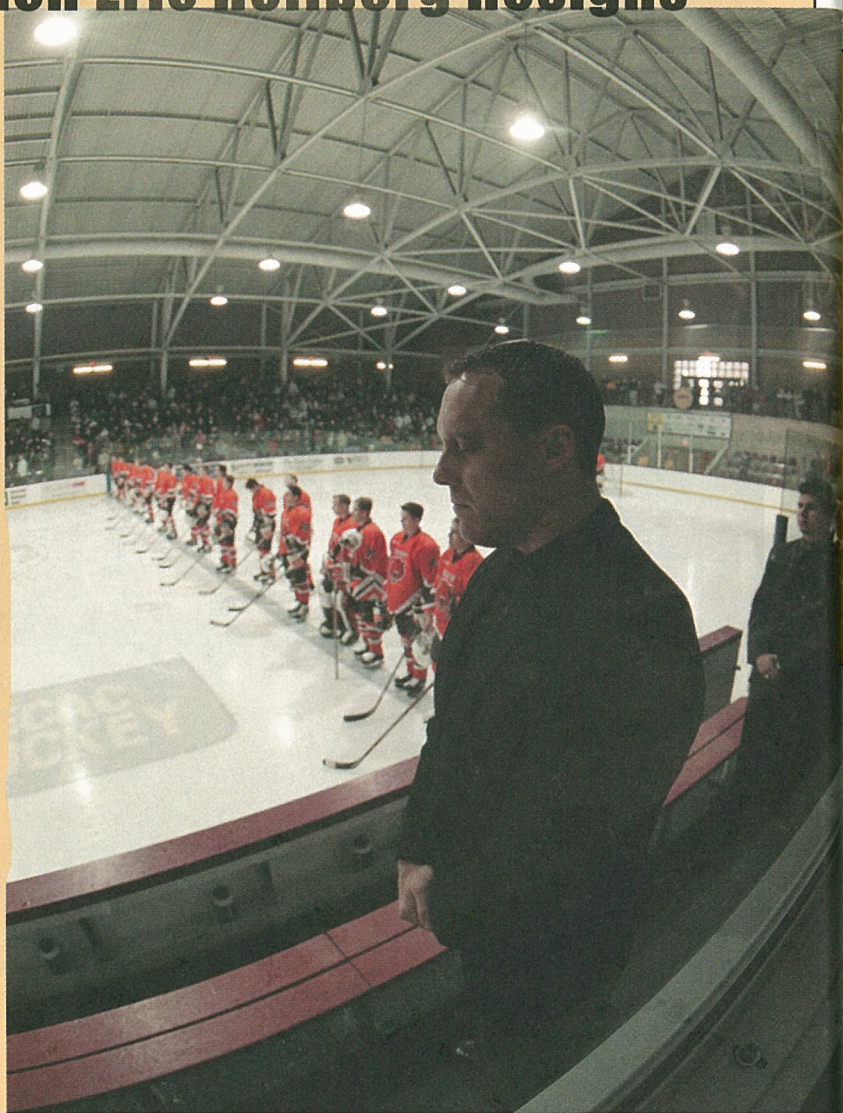
When the phone rang on March 25, the subject of the call was no surprise. In the conference room outside the Frank Ritter Memorial Ice Rink, RIT Men's Hockey Coach Eric Hoffberg announced his official resignation, ending a period of 10 seasons through which he had built a successful, and much storied career.

Coach Hoffberg came to RIT out of college, and served as an assistant coach for the Tigers. In 1989, Buddy Powers, who was the head coach at the time, left RIT opening up the head coach position. Hoffberg applied for the job, and was hired. His first season as head coach followed a successful 1989 campaign in which the Tigers went to the national championship game. The team posted a 19-8-2 record in 1989-90, marking the beginning of a new era in RIT hockey. Although he was known as a player's coach, Hoffberg always maintained a professional manner. "I have a tendency to put myself in the shoes of my players, to feel what they are feeling, to see it through their eyes." He went on, "people would see me walk with my little swagger, I don't think they really know how competitive I really am." By the end of this past season, the Tigers recorded their fifth 20 win season, going an incredible 27-3-2, and captured the third ECAC championship of Hoffberg's coaching career. With 188 wins, he is the winningest coach in the history of RIT hockey.

When asked what his most memorable moments as coach were, Hoffberg cited the 1994 ECAC championship, but mostly recalled his last season at RIT. "I really loved coaching this team", he said of this year's squad. "This was a very special year, I'll never forget walking off the ice after our last home game, and just looking around. The corner crew was chanting, and there was just an unbelievable atmosphere." He continued, "there was something exciting going on; there was a greater connection to the fans and to the campus."

Although his reasons for leaving remain shady, the overwhelming feeling is that it was simply time to move on. "It is always hard to leave something like this. You always feel like you're leaving a special team behind, but in the end, they are all special teams." As he looks to the future Hoffberg's ultimate goal is to coach at the Division I level. "I look at the things that are happening in college, like March Madness, and I want to be a part of that. If that had happened here it would have been great." In the end, Coach Hoffberg is comfortable with his decision. "I'm young. I'm 36 years old, and I feel like I can do anything."

The season did not end in quite the manner that Hoffberg would have liked. Perhaps it is difficult to dispel the images of those final games in Vermont. When the anguish of defeat was so apparent. In those waning moments, he appeared crestfallen, as if a season of blood and sweat was relinquished to tears. All that work for nothing. Nothing could not have been further from the truth. In contrast it may



have been the most defining moment of the man's career. A moment that defined exactly who Eric Hoffberg is, and what RIT hockey stands for. It takes a stronger man to face the music, to show his emotions.

No matter what Coach Hoffberg or his team may have thought, they let no one down, including themselves. Any person from RIT would have been proud of those guys, proud of their accomplishments, proud of everything that they had achieved, but most of all, in the twilight of their season, how the Tigers and their coach conducted themselves. How even with the final ticks of the clock the Tigers continued to play with fire, with ice, with the fundamental characteristics that encompass champions.

In what words do you sum up the career of a man who has brought so much not only to RIT hockey, but to the entire institute? How do you go about reflecting on a person that has had such an impact on his surroundings? His impact has left a legacy of winning, and an elevated atmosphere, that will not soon be forgotten.



Coach Hoffberg remarked "you can stand for solid principles in life, but they stand for much more when you win."

In a reflective voice coach Hoffberg concluded, "I hope when people remember me that they can say I was a player's coach, that I loved the game." As for the future, Coach Hoffberg was quoted after the Tigers loss to Middlebury saying, "We have to look to the future, towards our next challenges as men." As Hoffberg moves on towards what the future may hold, there will be a void at RIT, a void that can be compensated but never filled. A void left as a result of the spirit, and pride he has instilled in RIT's tradition. A tradition that he exemplified in every way.

*by Jon-Claude Caton*

*photos by Andrew Gombert*



Most people are unaware of numerous clubs, organizations, and athletic teams that exist at RIT. Perhaps the best kept secret on campus is that of the RIT Equestrian team. If you are asking yourself what exactly an Equestrian team is, you are probably not alone. Equestrian is the art of horse back riding, and RIT has one of the top teams in the area. In fact the entire sport itself is blossoming nationally, as the NCAA is currently looking into sanctioning it as a college sport.

The competition involved with Equestrian deals specifically with the evaluation of the rider's form. Fourth year student Emily Ryan commented, "It's incredible. It's you and an animal that you can't

## No Horsing Around

verbally communicate with, but still are able to cooperatively work with."

Horse back riding is divided into two styles of competition: Hunt seat and stock seat. Hunt seat is a proper style of riding in which the rider must don a black helmet, breeches, and tall boots. In contrast, western competition varies slightly from the traditional hunt seat standards. The western competition differs in the attire worn by the participant. The western decor consists of tighter fitting leg wear, and an "American" style cowboy hat. In both competitions, the riders are judged by their form. The judges look at the angles of the riders body with respect to the riders legs and hips.

The riders are split up into varying levels of competition ranging from The Walk Trot to The Open Equitation Over

Fences. In all there are eight levels of competition, each class is based on experience and skill level. When a rider is being judged, they are allocated points depending on their performance, and standing. Each class of equitation has an established number of points the rider needs to get before they can advance to the next class.

All of the classes have their own requirements that must be demonstrated by the riders at that level. For instance at the second class, known as the walk trot canter, a rider must be able to maintain their form while riding the horse. In the fourth class, or the novice class, the riders are required to demonstrate their form while

continued on pg. 28 →



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navigating a course through which the horse must make several jumps.

RIT has yielded many of the area's top talents in horse back riding. The team itself is ranked 10th out of 17 schools, and 4th out of 8 teams competing in the stock seat style. This season, Emily Ryan placed fourth in the intermediate western horsemanship, while Liz Bailly placed second in her competition, and qualified for zones.

The equestrian team continues to build a new tradition here at RIT. The elegance, grace and skill that the sport requires, proves it is worthy of athletic recognition.

*by Jon-Claude Caton*

## Rugby 4/2 Cockless Roaches Get Down and Dirty in the Mud



RIT's Women's Rugby Team, the Cockless Roaches, began their season at home on March 27 with a 38-5 loss to the University of Rochester (UR). The two teams met on the field Saturday morning and it was evident from the cheers and songs that both teams were psyched as the game began at 11 A.M.

During the first 40-minute half, the field was dominated by UR. They scored five tries, worth five points each. In rugby, when a team scores a try they kick for two extra points, much like football. UR gained those extra points on three of their five kicks. At the half, the score was 31-0 with UR in the lead.

Despite the tough first half the Cockless Roaches did not get discouraged; their morale remained high. Captain of the team, Erin "Red" Sharkey, who is beginning her sixth season as a Cockless Roach, said that RIT was, "...a mess the first half because there are a lot of new players." Red also went on to praise her team's determination and persistence: "We held our own in the second half, I was really proud."

When the two teams took the field in the second half, RIT seemed like a different team. It was apparent that the Cockless Roaches were going to put up a fight. Controlling the field for the second forty minutes, the Roaches allowed only one try and one kick by UR.

Scoring the last try of the game, RIT finally made their mark on the scoreboard. After a long drive up the field through the mud to the RIT goalline, Red Sharkey fought her way over the line. Jamie Connelly tried for the extra points, but she had to approach from a tough

angle and the kick went wide of the goal posts. Both teams defended against any more scoring and the game ended with a score of 38-5.

Despite this initial loss, the season looks bright for the RIT Cockless Roaches. They look forward to facing both St. John Fisher's College and Syracuse University's Women's Rugby Teams, as well as the Rochester Renegades. The Renegades are the local rugby team in Rochester, not affiliated with any college, university, or school.

"We'll do pretty well against the other collegiate teams, but it will be a different story when we play the [professional] Rochester Renegades," commented Red Sharkey; "It'll be a learning experience [against the Renegades]."

The next home game for the Cockless Roaches will be Saturday, April 10 against St. John Fisher College.

*by Nicole Barker*

*photos by Ed Pfueller*

**\*\*For More Information:  
Erin "Red" Sharkey  
424-7946**



# Reporter Athlete of the Winter Quarter

## Matt Hamill: The Heart of a Champion

# Matt Hamill

Victory was the only thing on Matt Hamill's mind at the 1999 NCAA Division III Wrestling National Championship. Two championship titles fueled an intense desire for the third, but of even greater significance, this would be his last wrestling tournament of his collegiate career. He had only one goal in mind, a pin in the final match to capture his third national title. Once again Matt Hamill delivered a spectacular performance.

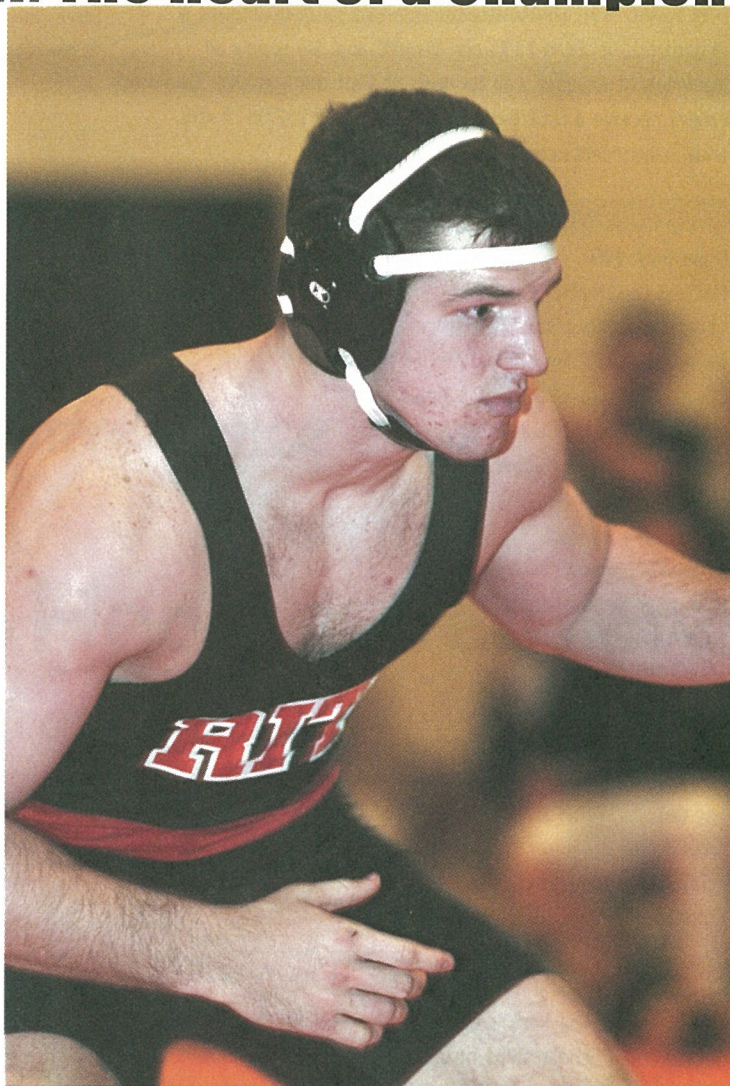
Yet another national title adorns the list of achievements, Hamill, now a three time NCAA All-American, has accumulated. Among his three NCAA Wrestling National Championship titles, his accomplishments include: 47 career pins, an 11-3 record against Division I opponents, a 62 match winning streak to end his career, and an 90-3 career record. According to teammate Tom Massaro, "[Hamill] is an animal. He is the best I have seen wrestle in any division."

Hamill, a Loveland Ohio native, who was born deaf, transferred after his freshman year from Division I Purdue University, where he posted an uncharacteristic 13-13 record. While at Purdue, Hamill faced obvious communication barriers. He would often be cut off from his teammates because his Chicago based interpreter found it difficult to travel under poor weather conditions. Additionally, there was a constant pull between what his professors wanted of him, and what his coaches demanded of him. "I liked Purdue, but I did not like the way things were going there," says Hamill.

RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf was ready to provide him with an environment in which he could interact with other deaf students, and teachers who were sensitive to his needs. As a sophomore at RIT, Hamill won his first National Title at 167 pounds. During that same year he became the first and only wrestler to win gold medals in both Greco-Roman and freestyle wrestling in the Deaf Olympics held in Denmark.

He enjoyed similar success in the coming year when he became the National Champion at 190-pounds, while finishing 10th in balloting by the US Olympic Committee for the SportsMan of the Year Award—Pete Sampras won the honor. In the same year he was named the American Athletic Association Deaf Athlete of the Year and the NCAA Division III Tournament's Outstanding Wrestler.

This year, in the 197-pound final, Hamill pinned Brockport's Eric Vaughn at 1:47 of the first period and secured his third national title and once again became the NCAA Division III Tournament's Outstanding Wrestler. Hamill finished the year with an impressive 25-0 record with 18 pins, and a 5-0 record against Division I athletes.



With such success, Hamill is now able to serve as a role model for others. In 1998 he testified before the US Senate's Labor and Human Resource Committee in support of the Education of the Deaf Act. In addition, Hamill's superior athleticism, unparalleled work ethic, and dedication to wrestling has set a standard for excellence for wrestlers everywhere, and especially at RIT.

Although his collegiate career has come to an end, Matt has showed no indications of leaving wrestling. According to coach Earl Fuller, former RIT wrestling coach for 46 years, "College was a preparation for his ultimate goal, the Olympics." He has overcome many obstacles to do what he loves, and his talent exceeds wrestlers both locally and nationally. Regardless of what his future holds, clearly his dominant presence at RIT will be missed.

*by Urvashi Patel*

*photo by Andrew Gombert*



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Sean-Hope to hear from you! Take care  
-Meg and Lucy

Beth is my hero. Janeen is my other hero. Otto is my OTHER hero. Andy  
is the Wind beneath my wings.  
-Liz

Liz is lame for making me type all her tab ads. -P

Thanks to Jim DeMarco for the monitor!  
-Reporter staff

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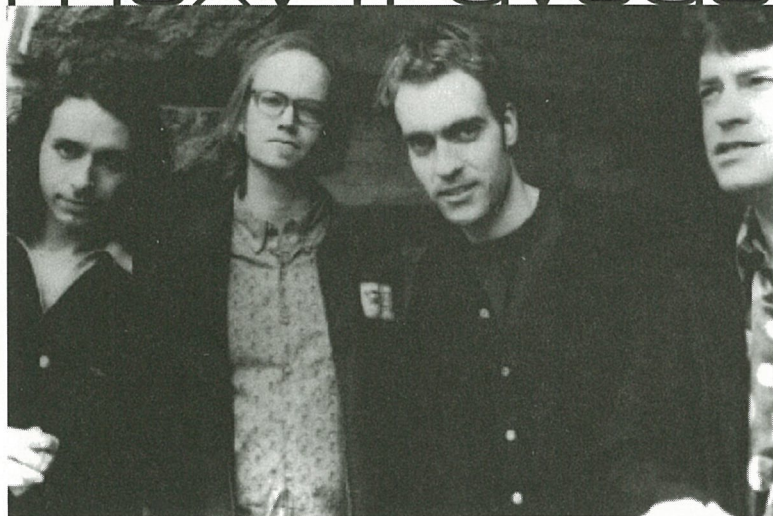


# Calendar

## APRIL 9 - APRIL 24 RIT

COLLEGE ACTIVITIES BOARD PRESENTS:

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students \$5

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(opener info on the tickets is incorrect)

major events

April 9 - 10

**Talisman:**

**The Deer Hunter**

7:00 pm and 10:15 pm

Ingle Aud., SAU

FREE

Captioned Fri. at 10 & Sat. at 7

April 9-10

**RIT/Galludet Weekend**

Info: 475-6230 v/tty

April 11-12

**Conference on Racism**

*Commission for Promoting Pluralism*

advanced registration required

Fri: Ms. Angela Oh, keynote speaker

Ingle Aud., 7pm

Sat: Panel Discussion, luncheon, work-

shop, 9:30am-8pm

call: x4993 for info.

April 12-16

**Greek Week**

Event include: pig roast, parade, &

Greek Olympics. Watch for more info.

April 15

Gannett Lecture Series:

**"Ecological Citizenship: Reflections on 4 Years of the Gannett Lecture Series"**

Webb Aud., 7:30pm

call x2929

April 17

**22nd Annual Juggle-In**

10 am-6 pm -- workshops

Clark Gym, FREE

Info: 475-2610

8 pm -- **Michael Menes, juggler**

Ingle Aud., SAU

Students, children under

12: \$2 Fac/Staff:\$3

Public:\$6

April 22-24

**Caribbean Students Assn. "Cariblast"**

4/22 - Taste of the Caribbean, 8pm

Clark A/B/C

4/23 - Culture Fest-7pm Ritz

4/24 - Bacchanal Blast-10pm

Fireside Lounge, admission

\$5, college ID required

### the grind



April 22, 8-10pm

**Poetry Night**

Eddie Swayze, Omanii Abdullah,

Hadassah Hill

April 29, 8-10pm

**Tony Pearl**

acoustic guitar

May 6, 8-10pm

**Poetry Night**

Robert Djed Snead, Rich Forster,

Robert Ricks

May 13, 8-10pm

**Mark Macri**

acoustic guitar