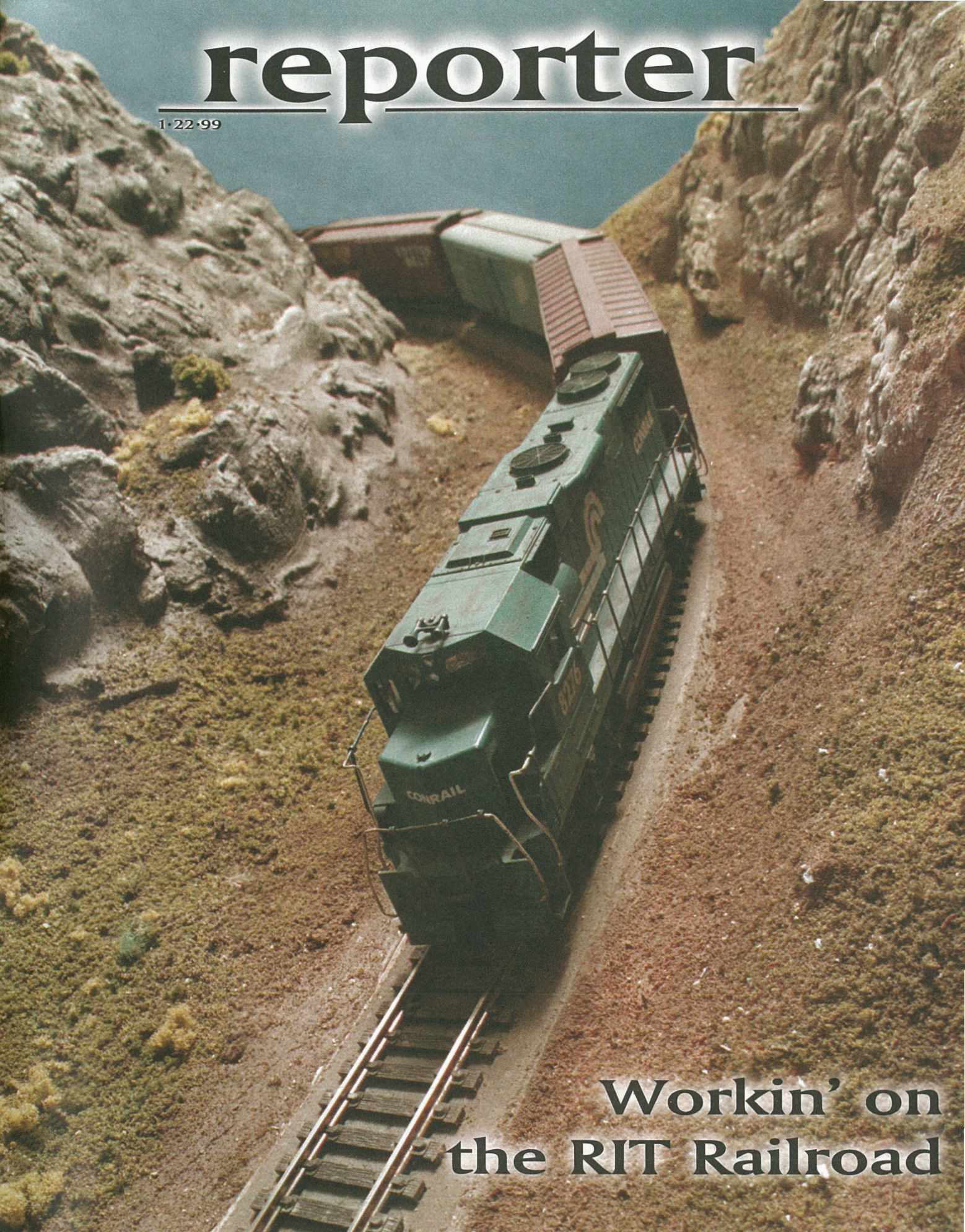


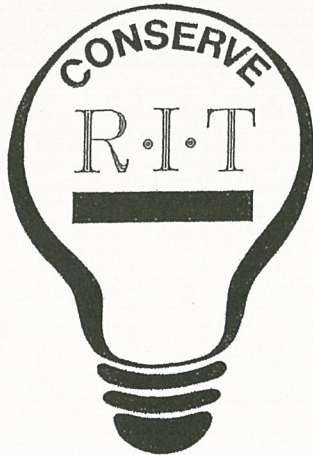
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A Challenge

Last week the *NY Times* published a three part series on the funding of high school sports in New York city. To say the conclusions of the articles were depressing is an understatement. If anything, the articles highlight the disparity between inner city, suburban and rural education. While I am not a big advocate of sports being a “way out” of the inner city or societal problems, I am a firm believer that sports provide motivation, pride and the realization that rewards do come from hard work.

Originally, I was going to advocate that RIT or organizations on campus should consider raising money for uniforms or support for these needy programs in New York City. The more I thought about this idea I remembered the saying “think globally, act locally.” So, my modified challenge to the RIT community is to contact local inner city schools and determine what help might be appreciated. Instead of sending money to New York City schools, we could better utilize our time and talents, and have a greater impact in our own adopted city, Rochester. Our efforts could be anything from athletes speaking to students, giving clinics on technique or raising money for uniforms or programs.

As part of the editing process, this editorial is

reviewed by the Managing Editor. Two of her comments in response to this editorial are that we should not assume what Rochester and New York City schools need and that we should be active in our support. I could not agree more.

There are many theories on why inner city schools have the problems they do and I really don't want to touch on that debate. I do; however, believe that people can make a difference. By showing high school students that the RIT community cares, our actions could go a long way toward demonstrating that education and the rewards of sports are important.

I hope that someone takes me up on this challenge. I will also be more than willing to help or participate in whatever way that I can.

Michael Fagans
Editor in Chief

Note: The articles can be read either at our library stacks or at the *NY Times* website:
www.nytimes.com/sports

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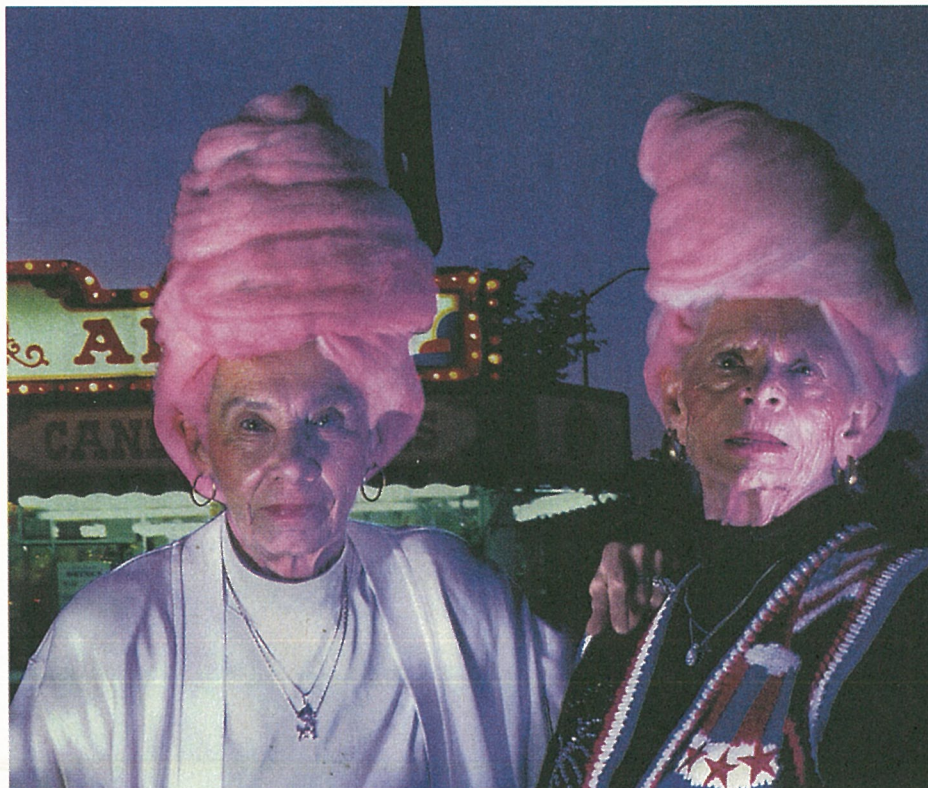
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Writers: William Huber, Zane Kaylani, Jenn Tipton, Alex Long, Pete Lukow, Chris Grocki, Brett Fleming, Jon Costantini, Jeff Prystajko

Ad Designer: Davin Kuntze
Freelance Photo: Andrew Gombert
Illustrators: John Golden, Adam Rackoff,
Andrew Baker

Advisor: Rudy Pugliese

Printing applications lab prepress: Kristine Greenizen, Crystal Lane, Kevin Wake

Printing: Richard Gillespie, Brian Waltz, Shawn Kendig, Eric Wiley, Chris Curran, Dave Hazelwood, Bret Hesler

Distribution: Alexandra Daley, Jeff Prystajko

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Alcohol Policy Enforcement Produces Sobering Statistics

Since the introduction of the strict campus alcohol policy last year, the Reporter has carried several stories about campus drinking and its ramifications. We talked about the new policy and what we thought it would mean to students, but there was no way of knowing exactly what the outcome would be. After fall quarter, the Student Affairs Office compiled a list of statistics involving alcohol policy violations and gave the Reporter the hard facts. The figures in this story correspond to the time period from August 30, 1998 to December 1, 1998.

Number of students who went through the judicial process solely for violating the alcohol policy.

Number of students processed through the judicial process for behavior where alcohol contributed to the policy violation. Twenty-two percent of all RIT policies violated during this time involved alcohol.

Number of students suspended from RIT due to violations of the RIT alcohol policy.

Number of students on deferred suspension due to violations of the alcohol policy.

Number of students assigned community service because of alcohol policy violations.

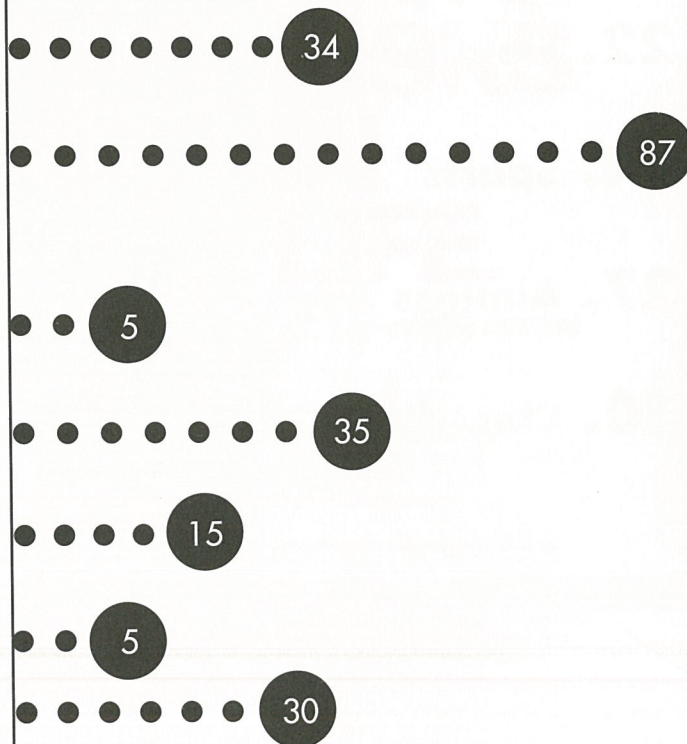
Number of students referred for an alcohol counseling appointment.

Number of students removed from housing or placed on a deferred removal from housing status.

Glacier National Park Seeks Students

RIT students who want a summer job in a scenic locale are in luck this year. Glacier National Park, long considered one of the most spectacular parks in the United States, is looking for 900 college students to work there during the summer. Students will have the opportunity to work in the hotel and hospitality areas of the Kalispell, Montana park. Jobs include front desk clerks, room attendants, cooks, waiters and tour guides/drivers. Students can also work in the entertainment department as actors, choreographers or set designers. Dates of employment run from early June to late September. Glacier Park, Inc. is especially interested in students majoring in hotel management, culinary arts, accounting, music and theatre. The company also stresses that student employees will have time to enjoy the park, described as "one of the nation's last examples of pristine wilderness."

Interested parties should contact Glacier Park, Inc. at 1850 N. Central, Phoenix, AZ, 85077-0924 Tel: (602) 207-2620 or email them at www.gpihr.com



Snow storms force rare Institute closing

Everyone has been inconvenienced by the recent snow storms that have plagued western New York state for the past week-and-a-half. With an average of 6-8 inches covering the county every day, snow plow crews had their work cut out for them. Temperatures that hovered around the freezing mark did not help matters, as the snow continued to fall day after day. Highways suffered from congestion as three-lane highways were reduced to one, and plows fought an on-again, off-again battle with Nature.

Rochesterians continued each day to commute to and from work, with increasing degrees of difficulty. On Thursday, January 14, another approaching storm convinced Institute officials to close the school, cancel all events and close all labs and other facilities. The next day, officials made an early decision to close the school for the entire day, giving many a three-day weekend they had not expected. This is rare, as winters have not been severe enough in the past to close the school. The last such incident occurred in the winter of 1995-6.

When students learned that they had the Thursday afternoon free, with the possibility of having Friday off as well, many headed out to the stores to stock up on various libations. Many impromptu parties occurred that night, giving the student body a chance to blow off some steam amid the sub-zero temperatures. The scene at the local Wegman's was hectic, as everyone seemed to get the same idea at the same time. "This is great," one excited student commented, "I have absolutely no responsibilities through the weekend!"

While writing this, more snow was predicted for the region, with little chance for clean-up. Perhaps some students will use this opportunity to catch up on schoolwork and try to get ahead. Looking at past experiences, however, that is not very likely.

by Otto Vondrak

World News

Joe Firmage, the founder of web consulting firm USWeb has resigned due to a recent uproar over his beliefs regarding UFOs. Firmage maintains that the famed Roswell, New Mexico UFO crash was the genesis of the undergoing computer revolution, and that we owe many technological innovations to extraterrestrials. A San Francisco newspaper has characterized him as the "Fox Mulder of Silicon Valley." Firmage is currently planning to further spread his views. (ZDNN)

Astronomers have found two more extra-solar planets. The large, gassy planets were discovered in a cluster of 88 sun-sized stars located in or around Pisces using the three-meter Lick Observatory telescope. One of the planets is 3.5 times the mass of Jupiter, and the other is 1.3 times as large. The current tally of extra-solar planets that have been discovered is 17 since 1995. None of them, however, are close to Earth-like in size or proximity to their star. (Reuters)

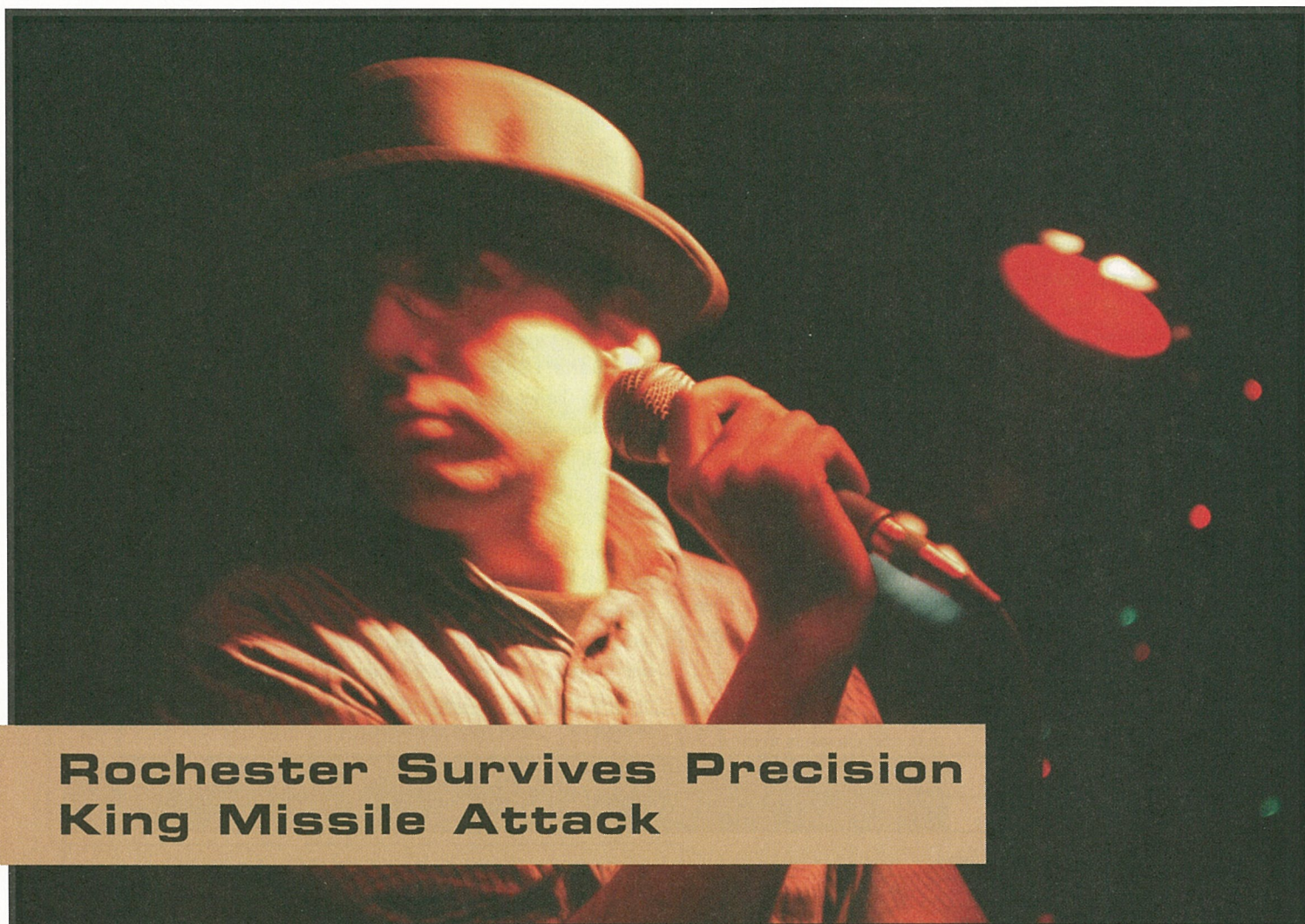
Xiao Huaiyuan, the Chinese government's head of propaganda, launched an atheism campaign in Tibet last week. Xiao said strengthened propaganda would make it easier to battle Tibetan separatists. China officially opposes religious freedom, and the communist party considers religion a hindrance to the growth of their economy. (BBC)

An anti-abortion website, which lists the names, addresses, phone numbers, license plates, spouses and children of abortion doctors is currently at the center of a free-speech lawsuit. The doctors contend that having their personal information under the heading "Baby Butchers" is an indirect threat to their well being. The pro-life activists feel that they are merely disseminating information without advocating violence. The trial to decide the fate of the website is currently underway. (NYT)

The National Security Agency (NSA) has recently banned the Furby from its Fort Meade premises in Maryland. The rationale is that since the Furbys "learn" to speak English, they are considered personally owned recording devices, and are not allowed inside the NSA's grounds for security reasons. (CNN)

A Banana Republic employee was charged with grand larceny and criminal possession of property for allegedly stealing more than \$400,000 in merchandise from the upscale emporium. Carolyn Peters, 47, was also charged with falsifying business records. She apparently credited accounts to the value of \$400,000, and had her accomplice remove the merchandise for her. (Reuters)

by Pete Lukow



Rochester Survives Precision King Missile Attack

...There is this group called King Missile and they came to play a show at Milestones and there were many people there to see this guy named John S. Hall get up on stage and do his thing which really didn't include much music at first but the crowd didn't care because John S. Hall did some spoken-word pieces without the rest of the "band" to warm up the crowd because it was cold outside and snowing like it always does in Rochester in the middle of January even though the people don't like it very much but they live there anyway and got to see King Missile play a show at Milestones with this other guy named Bradford Reed who was playing the Pencilina which is a very beautiful instrument to look at that makes all sorts of wonderful sounds when it is plucked, struck, drawn and beaten into a musical fury by its creator, the wonderful Bradford Reed who invented the Pencilina, so named because it was first played with pencils that he might have had on hand, or he might have

purchased at Staples nearby to where John S. Hall lives in lower Manhattan, probably near Sasha Forte who plays backup bass guitar and electric violin for the King Missile group that came to play at Milestones in Rochester on a night where it was very cold for the people who live in Rochester who risked their lives to travel through the treacherous weather to see the show playing at Milestones back on January 8 downtown because there were many types of people there who were from Rochester that looked like they were having a very good time listening to John S. Hall and having fun talking to John S. Hall and watching John S. Hall spill water on the stage and buying CD's and books from John S. Hall who is very interested in cannibalism....

"My testicles are bleeding with joy," John S. Hall told the crowd at Milestones that night. So began another unique King Missile experience. You have to understand that they are so much more than the popular radio song "Detachable Penis."



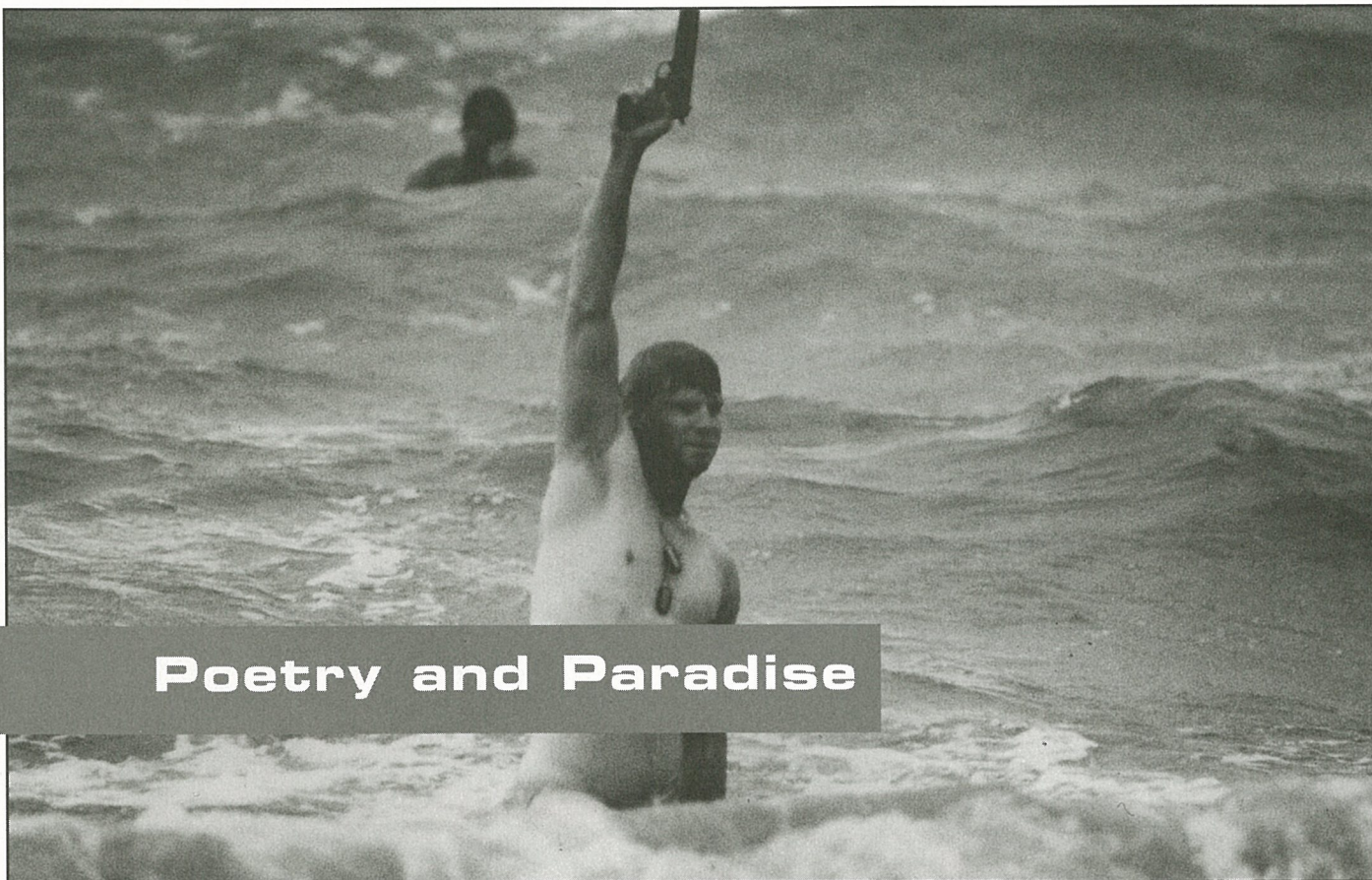
Anyone who listens to WBER 90.5 has heard a sampling of their repertoire, including "Gay/Not Gay," "Cheesecake," as well as "Sensitive Artist."

Bradford Reed's "pencilina" might possibly be described as a deranged type of electric sitar. From the liner notes of their most recent album *Failure*: "The Pencilina is an instrument designed and built by Reed. It has two necks, one with six strings, and one with four. It is pitched by moving sticks that are wedged in the strings." Completing Reed's setup is a mounted bell, some cymbals, as well as some standard bass and kicker drums. He kept the flow going for the excited crowd with some cool beats and a little spoken-word of his own.

These guys are not jumping all over the stage shouting about exploding penises - in another time, they might be called 'beat' writers. More suitable to a Village coffeehouse rather than a snow-bound bar in Rochester. This writer was awestruck by

their performance. The best part of the show was how the performers spoke to the audience and encouraged participation. Those of us up front got the opportunity to trade thoughts with Hall, who really likes what he does and is absolutely puzzled by his group's popularity in Rochester. "Can I ask you guys a question?" He pauses and asks us in a bewildered voice, "Like, why do you like us so much?"

by Otto Vondrak
photos by Alexandra Daley



Poetry and Paradise

War is hell. History proves it. Look at the Two World Wars, Vietnam, Korea, Desert Strike, and many others prior to the 20th century. We look back and see heroes fighting valiantly against all odds to achieve a great victory. Soldiers doing great deeds and sacrificing themselves for their countries, that is what war is.

At least that's what I thought. Along with most of my generation, I've never been faced with battle up close. War to me always had its positives and negatives; people died, but for a greater cause. I never realized what a huge misconception that was until I saw *A Thin Red Line*.

Taking place during World War II at the Battle of Guadalcanal, the film shows us the lives and the efforts of the people fighting in the conflict. Americans make a concerted effort to overtake a Japanese bunker, and there are numerous raids on other Japanese holds. Lots of explosions, gunfire, blood, and violence, but surprisingly enough, the movie has virtually nothing to do with World War II. The country, its inhabitants, and the events serve only as a canvas onto which the story is painted. The real meaning behind this film delves into the emotions of war — how it affects people, and ultimately, whether it is worth the fighting.

A quick warning: this film is neither for the impatient nor those looking for an evening escape. It takes a while before the

movie begins to gain momentum; for the first 60 minutes I felt as if I was being handed a jumbled mix of jigsaw pieces. I looked at my watch, saw an hour had passed, and wondered if I was going to survive the entirety. Sure enough, the pieces began falling together and when the credits rolled, nearly three hours had passed.

I place a heavy emphasis on plot in most reviews. Along with so many other things, this film breaks that rule as well. The best way for me to describe this, however, is with an analogy, a poem. You can find poems that have a tremendous quantity of content, characters, events, and so forth. But in the end, they mean nothing. There are no layers, no underlying significance; it's just a bunch of words scrawled on a page. Then there are poems with only one or two lines containing a wealth of meaning, emotion, and interpretation. In essence, what the reader gets out of an outstanding poem is whatever one makes of it.

That is the power behind *A Thin Red Line*. There really is not much of a story in the traditional sense. It provides you with the dialogue, the sounds, and the images, but in the end it challenges you to find your own ideas and truths.

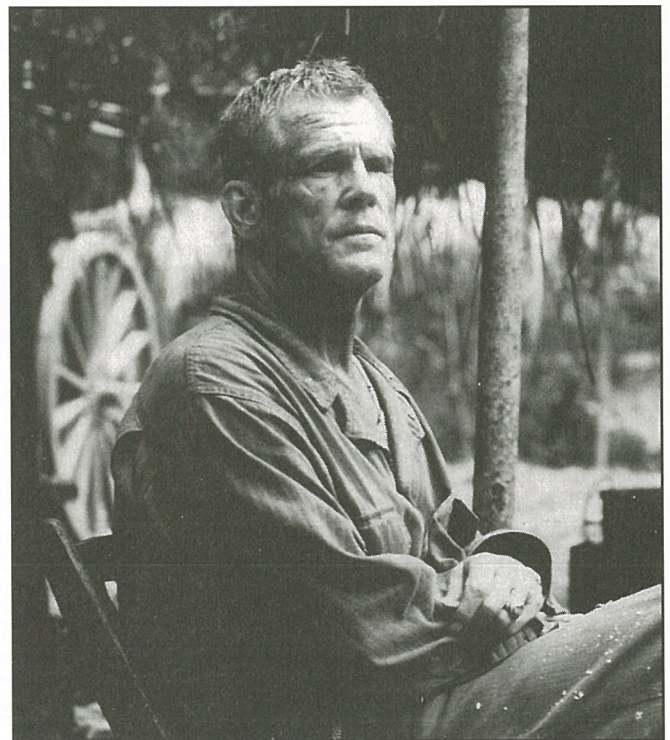
There is a wonderful cast that includes Nick Nolte, Sean Penn, Woody Harrelson, Jim Caviezel, and Elias Koteas. Sadly though, they all seem to be supporting actors; there is no main

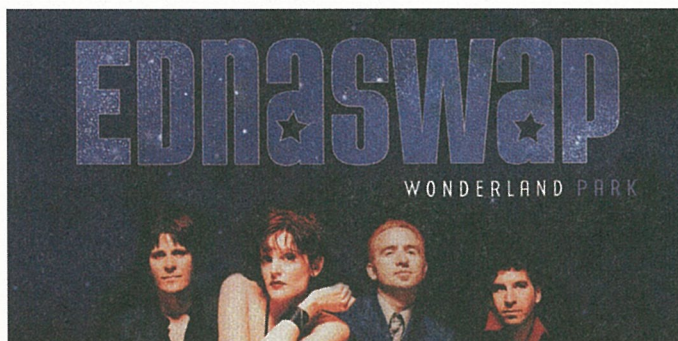


character per se. On the other hand, they do their jobs with resounding success: all their feelings, thoughts, dreams and nightmares are conveyed to us. Backing up the cast is a haunting score by Hans Zimmer, and imagery that is sometimes sensual, sometimes savage.

One final note: *A Thin Red Line* is not *Saving Private Ryan*. Though both movies occur during World War II, *Ryan* takes a more concrete approach, giving us a definite storyline and action (and of course, the opening sequence *is* the film; who can forget that?). *Line* is much more abstract and forces you to try to find answers to questions that, in a perfect world, should never be asked. Who is the real enemy? At what point does violence become senseless? When you take a person's life, are you taking part of your own? And if we're all human beings, it comes down to just one question: Why?

by Jeff Prystajko





A Wonderland of Melody



The album *Wonderland*, by Ednaswap, is a hip and spunky album that mixes pop/rock songs with harder modern rock and lighter acoustic driven tunes. Led by the strong voice of Anne Preven, and backed by the guitars of Rusty Anderson and Scott Cutler, Ednaswap may have a silly name, but not a silly album.

With songs like "Safety Net," "Back on the Sun," and "Liquid Soul," the album starts off with energetic tracks that prove elec-

tric-driven pop music still sounds good. The album mixes heavier, faster songs such as "Without Within" and "Supernatural" with the softer music of "74 Willow" and "A Conversation," both of which seem to borrow from the country-rock tone. The tenth track, "747," mixes acoustic and a funky electric guitar creating the sound of the seventies.

While many tracks have an upbeat sound, they tend to run out of lyrics one or two minutes before the end of a song, becoming repetitive. This is the case in "Back on the Sun" and

"Trivial;" however, some songs do not suffer this, and manage to maintain the interest of the listener. Also, in some places in the album, the lyrics do not match the music. In "Supernatural," one of the most introspective phrases — "thinking about my place in this waste of a universe" — is sung too loud with hard music, so the meaning of the line is lost in the beat. There are several songs of intelligent lyrics like "Flower:" "that little lie-colored white."

Wonderland is a very enjoyable album. The energetic pop tunes keep the pace and the strong voice of Preven delivers the lyrics with skill. The album is for anybody who enjoys good rock, but is tired of melodramatic love songs.

by Jason Pacchiarotti

website of the week

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

A few months ago (10/9), we ran an article entitled "The Future Revealed: Death of the Audio CD" about the growing popularity of mp3 music. (For those of you who do not know, mp3 is a computer filetype that allows near-CD quality music to be compressed into a very small audio file.) This week's website is just further proof that mp3 is here and growing.

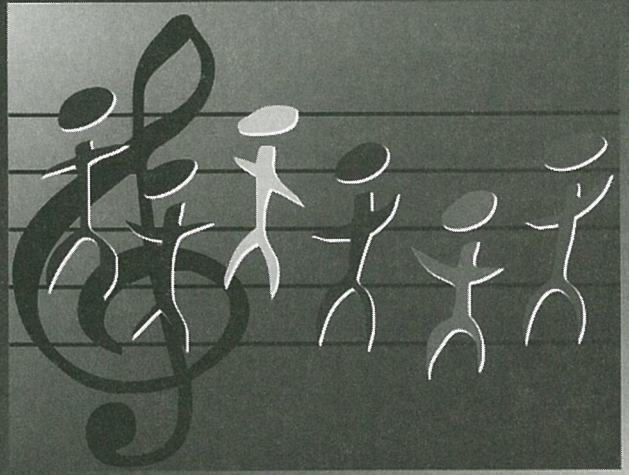
According to mp3.com, "SHOUTcast makes it possible for the masses to broadcast audio with the minimum amount of hardware and knowledge." SHOUTcast is a streaming audio system that allows just about anyone to create or listen to a "live" broadcast of music from mp3 or other audio files, or even deejay their own live radio show. Nullsoft's Justin Frankel, the creator of the new system, had this to say when asked what he envisioned for the use of SHOUTcast: "Personally I think it is just fun

as all hell to DJ. Tom and I, while alpha testing the server, ran our little 'Winamp Loveline' where people could ask us questions and we could be overall just really weird. SHOUTcast is just like any other streaming system, only a little more flexible and a whole lot more accessible."

For anyone who has Winamp (available at www.winamp.com), this site is truly worth a visit. Several SHOUTcast channels can be downloaded from a variety of genres, including all forms of music, talk radio, and comedy. If you like the idea, you may even want to consider sending out your own content to a SHOUTcast server for others to enjoy. Visit the site for more information.

by Nick Spittal

ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS



VOICES FROM THE HEART

Sowing the Seeds of Harmony Though the Universal Language of Music.

In 1982, five men discovered that had a common interest: music. Nick Williams, the current director, had been involved with The Gay Alliance choral group and suggested that they start a group of their own. That group is today, The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus. Sixteen years later, what started as five men has grown to over 70, both signing and non-signing members. RGMC's mission statement proclaims, "The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, by nurturing pride in and acceptance of the diversity of our communities, creates social change through excellence in the choral arts."

The RGMC have several goals for their group. Bob Parsons, a member, says, "Attendance is most important right now. Currently, we have families, friends and gay/lesbian community members that come out to support us. We want to encourage everyone to come out and see us, regardless of sexual orientation." They are also want more exposure. Dave Pellow, RGMC's producer emphasizes, "We really need to put together a press package, so people are aware of who we are."

The group holds three big concerts annually: a winter holiday concert, a spring concert and a summer concert. The winter concert this year was packed with family and friends in support of the chorus members as well as the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. The program consisted of traditional holiday songs, hilarious choreographed numbers that had men dressed as women and monks, and modern songs remade with a RGMC twist. Especially moving was their rendition of Tori Amos' "Winter." In between songs, various members narrated special holiday stories that have affected their lives. These stories were poignant, sweet,

and humorous, but unfortunately some were sad. The concert ended with the audience singing along with the chorus to the more popular holiday songs like "Silent Night," "Let it Snow" and "O Come All Ye Faithful." Overall the concert was musically superior. The songs were rearranged to take advantage of the overwhelming talent of the group.

RGMC also has a CD entitled *Voices From the Heart*. It includes a collection of their most well-received songs. The song, "In Our Lifetime" (probably their *most* popular) strikes a chord in the heart and can be listened to over and over. Overall, the CD is soothing and the perfect way to unwind after a hard day.

What are RGMC's plans for the rest of the year? Well, Nick Williams, who normally directs the chorus, has taken a leave of absence. Bob Parson and Alan Van Camp will be directing and choreographing the spring concert this year. The spring concert, entitled "The Fabulous 50's," is on March 26 and 27. And their summer concert, "Gay Pride" is on June 19 and 20. Both concerts will be performed at The School of the Arts on University Ave. Tickets are normally ten dollars (for the farthest seats) and eight dollars for students. Prices increase depending on how close the seat is to the stage.

There are many Gay Men's Choruses all over the country. Most major cities including San Francisco and Washington D.C. have choruses and CDs. If you are interested in joining, wanted to find out more information about the group or interested in buying the CD, check out their web page at www.frontiernet.net/~Kern/RGMC.html.

Opinion

Fight- for your right...

I just came back from a party... you probably won't remember it, it was a few months ago. But it was weird. The effects are still with me at 2:30 am as I hang on to my Performa's keyboard for dear life.

In my first years at RIT, I was never much of a party person. I generally ignored the party scene, and actually didn't start drinking until my sophomore year. Totally got it out of my system. But even when I did go to parties, it was with my group of freinds, and I usually didn't stay very long.

So now, here I am, a potential graduate, walking out to Colony on one of the coldest days of November, in search of Lord-knows-what. I guess now, I am trying to make up for my lack social life in years past... I have no particular plan, I just want a chance to get out—gather some new experiences. Crossing John Street, I use my freshman instincts to lead me towards the libations and loud music. My feet are pointing towards an apartment beckoning with gentle, soothing bass beats akin to a Greenwich Village dance club. Scene: INT Colony townhouse NIGHT.

Steam escapes from the door as I enter the apartment. People are huddled

dled in tight groups, talking, dancing, spacing out, whatever. I feel weird, because I know no one here, but I don't think anyone is sober enough to care, let alone notice me. I head for the kitchen to get myself a drink. On my way, I run into a fellow *Reporter* staff member. "Hey, you made it!" he says, and we exchange small talk. I go to get my beer, and rejoin the party, already in progress.

I need to get a feeling for the room. I take up a position on the wall. I don't particularly care for the music, but I pretend that I can tolerate it by bopping my head. Realizing how stupid my head-bopping must look, I attempt to bring the rest of my body into the action. Now I know how the Tin Man felt. I quit altogether and resign myself to observe the party for awhile. There are a bunch of girls dancing by themselves in one areas. Accordingly, various boys are coming up behind them and pretending to dance with them. No one really seems to care about one or the other. A step up from that are the people who look like they are having sex standing up with their clothes on. Your more passive people include the "fringe" dancers- the ones who think that they can dance with a chick four feet away through some sort of covalent bond. Then you have

your wall flowers- those who are waiting for something to happen to them. Much like the guy to my right...

Soon enough, something does. A girl comes up to him and asks him to dance. They go out to the floor and go into wild spasmodic gyrations that only vaguely resemble dancing. They break off after a while, in search of other companions. I get another beer.

A flash goes off. Someone is taking pictures from the stairs. That makes me slightly nervous- I'm not sure I want my picture ending up as part of some guy's shooting assignment. I look around at the groups of guys surveying the scene, determining who they are going to try to dance with. As is the case with most RIT parties, the female population is lacking. I get another beer.

A new pack of girls arrive. Returning to the wall, I look around the room. A few beers later, I see the same guy attempt to ask one of these girls to dance. They start dancing and she wraps her arms around his neck. They embrace, then break away. No one seems phased.

A girl on my left starts talking to me. "You're tall!" she exclaims. She is

only a little shorter than me, with light brown, shoulder-length hair, and is dressed neatly - a denim shirt and khaki pants. Nice. "Do you go here?" she asks. She is from Nazareth. Some small talk about our majors, then the inevitable: "Do you want to dance?"

Her arms reach up for my shoulders, and we try to dance to the funky techno-remix blasting from the speaking just over my shoulder. Occasionally she looks up at me, expectantly. So you have me, clueless, and numbed from beer, clueless. I am only assuming now that she wanted me to kiss her. A few minutes later, the song ends, and she tells me she's going to get another beer. I don't see her for the rest of the night.

More flashes from the omnipresent camera. Who is that guy? Then a buzz runs through the crowd that strikes fear in the hearts of the young: "Campus Safety's outside!"

I panic for a second, trying to remember what I did when I was a freshman and heard those words. I head for the back door of the apartment, which several people have already taken advantage of.

I stand on the threshold for a moment and contemplate the long walk back to my apartment. It's cold, and it's only 12:30. I turn around and return to the party to discover that Campus Safety has since departed and that they are almost out of beer. I get another beer.

The girl I have been watching from across the room for more than a half-hour is exchanging glances with me. Am I weird? Is there something on my teeth? I head for the bathroom line. I bump into another friend of mine who is so inebriated he has introduced me to his friend four times. Someone thinks he recognizes me, but says he must be thinking of someone else. I am told that this party is a [sports team] party. I was athletic once: I was on the Track team in high school.

I emerge from the bathroom to discover that there is indeed no beer. I head home, more confused, and a little disappointed that I hadn't unlocked any new secrets about life. I often wonder to myself what experiences other people will carry away with them once they leave RIT. After this pages-long ramble I ask myself:

Is my mom going to read this?

by Otto Vondrak

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Workin' on the RIT Railroad:

RIT students work to create a replica of Rochester railroading in miniature

So, you think "playing with trains" is kid's stuff, huh? It may be true that many model railroad enthusiasts got their start during childhood, but this unique hobby is anything but "kid's stuff." Just ask the members of the RIT Model Railroad Club. The Model Railroad Club (RITMRC) was founded in May of 1996, and in October 1996 was formally recognized by Student Government. RITMRC is currently building its model railroad empire in room A-420 of the SAU, located across from the Reporter offices.

Led by advisor Professor Jim Schudder, P.E., the chairperson for the Electrical/Mechanical Engineering Technology department, the RITMRC is planned and run by a wide variety of

students. Members venture in to the organization from all walks - there are business majors, engineering majors, art majors, science majors and many more. This club has the unique ability to take the knowledge that students learn in the classroom and apply it directly to something they enjoy. As Brenda Bracy, a fourth-year business management student acting as club secretary said, "It's a learning experience that you can't get anywhere else."

So how does all this get started? Well, building a model railroad requires much planning, especially when you have so many talented individuals working together. You have to establish a common goal, then find what people's interests are, then fit those interests

with the job that is best suited to that person. According to vice-president Otto Vondrak, "The game is to try to operate the layout like a real railroad. Everyone has to work together in order to make it work. You try to operate as efficiently as possible." It's a good way to learn how to think on your feet. The railroad is operated so that everyone has a job to do. The Dispatcher coordinates all the trains, the Engineers run the trains, and the Conductors plan switching moves. When they are not operating the railroad the construction responsibilities are split up accordingly: there is a crew for Construction, Trackwork, Scenery, Electrical, and Equipment Maintenance.

Right away the members of the Model Railroad Club decided that they

wanted to learn more about Rochester's railroads, and to somehow apply that to the layout. They also wanted to make strong connections between the Club and the school. So they developed a unique identity for the model railroad, the Rochester & Irondequoit Terminal (R&IT), using the school's initials. The school's color scheme of orange and black was also adopted for their locomotives and equipment.

Once the club decided to develop a working model of Rochester's railroads, extensive research had to be done. In order to make convincing models, one have to know something about railroad-ing. The hobby of model railroading is unique, as it is the only one where you are modeling an industry in miniature. In essence you are simulating the delivery of freight and passengers from point A to point B. Not only are the trains important, but so are the surroundings that they travel in. So where does the club get the resources to find out about railroads and their surroundings? From other model railroad hobbyists! "A big part of this hobby is sharing information," explained Vondrak.

While many get their start in the hobby with simple toy trains, most quickly move on to the challenge of scale models. These are more exact replicas that have more detail and are



photo by Joe Maccanelli

more "correct" than their toy counterparts. "Some people get great satisfaction out of creating a model that is accurate to the last nut-and-bolt," states Vondrak. Some people create models of trains that do not exist anymore. According to Vondrak, "That's where research comes in. There are many resources you can use - the hobby magazines, various railroad historical societies, other hobbyists - its a very informed hobby." Just take a look at the Club's library - there are volumes of magazines kept on hand for easy and quick references with titles like *Model Railroader*, *Trains*, *Railroad Model*

Craftsman, *Railfan & Railroad*, *Railpace*, *Rail News*, and many more.

Complementing these are various books, many donated by alumni, ranging from the history of the Rochester Subway to the more modern Conrail system. These books and magazines offer valuable reference information to the members of RITMRC.

Another way of retrieving information is through various local railroading businesses and services. The club has established many contacts with the local railroads, such as the Ontario Central; the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville; and the Kodak Park Railroad. These companies have been gracious enough to allow RITMRC to tour their facilities and learn how they operate. The members of the club can then take this knowledge and apply it to their own model railroad.

The matter of constructing a model railroad the size of the R&IT is not small task. How is such a large-scale undertaking going to run smoothly? With the help of a "Chief Engineer" and motivation, anything is possible. Fourth-year Computer-Integrated Manufacturing Engineering Technology major E. J. Ryder III rounds up people to do work and keeps things going. Ryder said he "has always been interested in trains. When I was approached about the club, I



jumped in with both feet." Through his and the organization's planning, a large bulletin board—similar to what is used in real railroad operations—was developed to keep track of all on-going and developing projects and help put a damper on any confusion that could result without it. Once the planning and basic construction for the system is put down, the fun begins. Members wrestle with different aspects of the design at the same time to produce a unique cumulative project.

There are many different parts to this hobby. One large part of it is photography. The railroad industry is constantly changing - what you see one day may not be there the next. In the quest for a shot of that brand-new locomotive, or rare old-timer, the photographer is up to the challenge. Legions of so-called "railfans" can be seen trackside every weekend wielding three or four cameras, a radio scanner, and railroad timetable. Some of the more "enthusiastic" railfans tend to be very protective of their "territory," but most are very helpful to the "amateur" railfan.

While the idea of a model railroad club may sound strange to some, RIT is not unique in having one. Other technology schools like Purdue, Carnegie Mellon, MSOE, Penn State, and WPI also have clubs. Vondrak stated, "We followed in the tradition of other tech schools- MIT's club is fifty years old, as is the club at RPI. Both get published fairly often in the hobby press, and provide good public relations for the schools. We hope to be able to provide that same type of coverage soon. In fact we've been written up several times in *Model Railroader*, one of the larger-circulation magazines. We've also been approached by *Railroad Model Craftsman* to provide an article about our recent progress."

This widespread hobby has been around for a long time - evidenced by the popularity of collectible antique toy trains. Model railroading has its roots in the toy trains of the early part of this



century. The famous Lionel electric toy trains made their debut in 1900. Other popular names of the time were American Flyer and Ives. The early trains were large and made of metal. As living spaces became smaller, so did the trains. "O" gauge (1:48) became the standard for Lionel after 1930. American Flyer trains adopted "S" gauge (1:64) as their standard. By World War II, "HO" scale (1:87) trains appeared on the market. HO, which stands for "Half-O Gauge" became popular as more people were living in apartments and smaller houses. Now scale model railroading was taking off. In 1963, "N" gauge was introduced (1:160). It ranks a close second to HO in popularity. In 1972, the German toy train manufacturer Marklin introduced the smallest scale, "Z" (1:220). Most people still view the expensive tiny trains only as a novelty.

So if the hobby is fun, popular, and historic, but takes an overwhelmingly large amount of time, why do people do it? A recently joined freshman Civil Engineering Technology major, Mike Sadovnick, said that his reason for joining was that, "My Dad bought me a model railroad set for Chanukah one year and the rest is history." Many people grew up with or around trains and the curiosity that developed as a young person has carried on throughout their lives. What if someone thinks he may be

interested, but is not quite too sure? RITMRC holds Open House events three times a year, to show off what they have done. Every time, they have a little more of the railroad complete, and are a little bit closer to their goal of a fully scenicked and operational railroad.

When will they be done? They will be able to get the model railroad complete to a point where it will look finished, but there is always stuff to do. According to Vondrak, "You have to maintain the railroad equipment, keep the electrical system humming - there is always something to tweak or refine. We also have plans to integrate computer control into the railroad. Using a PLC and a specially-written program, we will be able to monitor and control the model railroad from the PC." Model railroading is an everlasting challenge, with many aspects that are sure to appeal to many.

by Katie Masaryk
photos by Greg Benenati

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

If you are interested in joining the Model Railroad Club or attending an upcoming Open House, you can visit their website at <http://www.rit.edu/~mrcwww>, go to a meeting which is held on Tuesdays from 7:00 - 10:00 PM, or call 475-2227.

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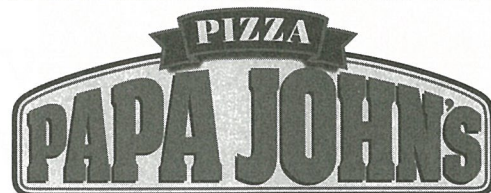
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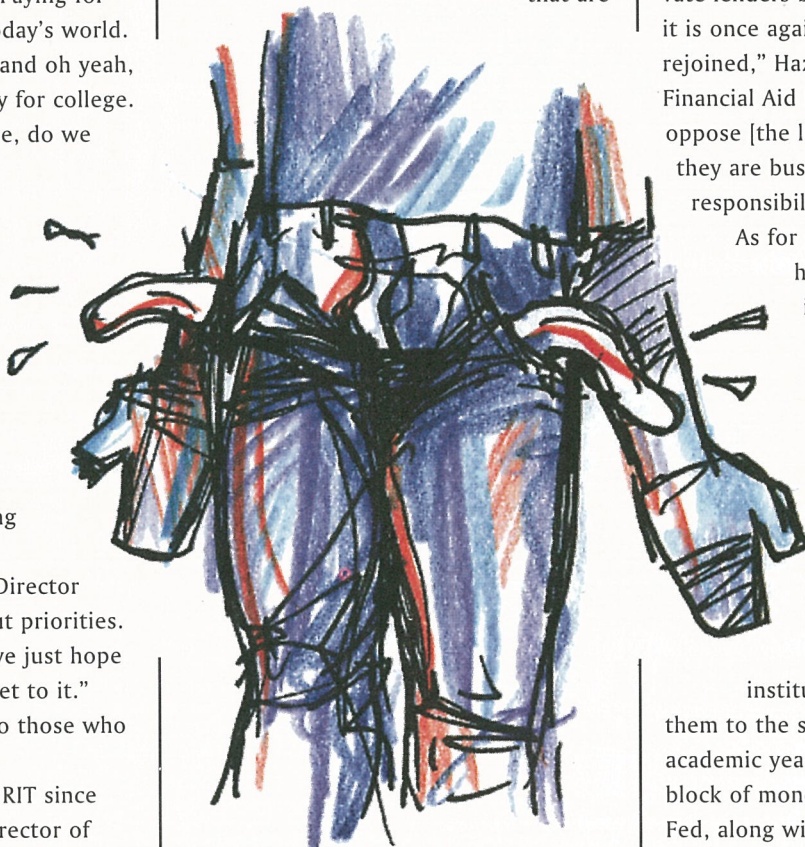
A look at student financial aid and debt management

Were your parents apprehensive about paying for your college education as the time drew near? Did your father make faces when you received your awards letter in the mail? Does your mom remind you every time you call her that you have to find a good job to pay off your ever-increasing debts? Paying for college is no small feat in today's world. Loans, grants, scholarships, and oh yeah, jobs; all are used to help pay for college. But when all is said and done, do we actually know what we can count on to pay off these debts? Not all of us students do. However, there are many sources of assistance.

Many students depend on financial assistance of one type or another to get them through college. How can students avoid a crushing debt when they graduate? According to Verna Hazen, Director of Financial Aid, it's all about priorities. "The information is there, we just hope the students feel they can get to it." Extensive help is available to those who look for it.

Hazen, who has been at RIT since 1991, was previously the Director of Financial Aid at CalTech. "Anything I can do in financial aid to help students get comfortable with the different processes that they must complete throughout their academic careers at RIT, I will do." She, along with counselors in the financial aid office, practice that philosophy by going out - each on their own time - to area high schools and giving educational seminars about various student aid-related subjects such as loan consolidation, federal aid, and repayment

plans. "Yeah, it's a bunch of numbers," she added. "but we want to help them feel as comfortable as possible." The goal of the office where RIT students are concerned is to "connect students and families with aid and make sure they know of all the programs and services that are



available. We also help them wade through government regulations," she says.

Many students fell victim to the "Consolidation Crisis." In a nut shell, the Consolidation Crisis was the Federal government shutting down consolidated loans, an option which students could choose to have all their loans combined into one bill. This was an opportunity for the government to catch up on

paperwork, yet making payment more difficult for students. When asked to expand on the effects of the Consolidation Crisis, Hazen replied, "It's kind of come and gone." Last year, the Federal government changed the calculations for debt consolidation. "Some private lenders backed out, but seeing that it is once again profitable, have rejoined," Hazen continued. "As a Financial Aid Director for a school, I oppose [the lender's decisions]. But, they are businesses, and they have a responsibility to make money."

As for student debt today, Hazen has this to say: "The upcoming issue that Washington started voting on is reauthorization." The yearly appropriations process allots different types of Federal aid- like the Perkins Loan, Federal Work-Study, and the Supplemental Educational

Opportunity Grant-to institutions. Then they can give them to the students for the following academic year. For example, RIT gets a block of money appropriated from the Fed, along with rules on how to spend it. In essence, RIT then matches the funds appropriated by the government. In an ideal situation, the students pay back their debts upon graduation, and that money goes to the Student Debt Management Office. After that, it is combined with whatever allotment of federal aid and given to new students. And so the process continues....

In the midst of all these different procedures, another factor weighing into student debt is that, every year, the



financial aid office gets audited by the Internal Revenue Service. "So," says Hazen, "we have not only the student's and family's needs and concerns to focus on, we also have to worry about auditors." While making service more easily accessible and simplifying the process for students, they also balance the books and make sure that they are keeping within Federal regulations. "Students see us as bureaucratic," she explains, "we're only trying to follow regulations."

We asked random students on campus different questions regarding financial aid, in general, and whether or not they know what they received, in particular. "Everything's covered in some way. My parents don't pay," remarked Amy Rudd, a fourth year Fine Art Photo student.

International students are entitled to various awards as well, and also have to worry about future debt. "Getting more financial aid attracts better international students," said Hajit Sharma, who is working towards earning his MS in Finance.

"[The Financial Aid] Services are fine," said Keith Brown, a second-year Social Work major. "Students should be more informed about paying loans. For

example, students with the correct qualifications can pay it off by doing community service or joining the Peace Corps." This idea is not totally unheard of. According to Verna Hazen, "Some of the possibilities include teaching children with disabilities, serving as a volunteer in Vista or the Peace Corps, serving as a full-time law enforcement or corrections officer, or teaching math or science in an area designated as a teacher shortage area. Students should check with the RIT Student Debt Management Office for specific information before doing any of those things to be sure the cancellation provisions apply to their loans."

In conclusion, it is apparent that there is a lot of information out there for those who need it. More importantly, it is the students' responsibility to keep on top of their own information, and keep their accounts updated. Make sure you know how much you will owe at the end, and work with an advisor to create a reasonable payoff schedule. While the subject of financial aid and debt payoff is unavoidable, with the right help, it is manageable.

by Jenn Taylor

illustrations by John Golden

photos by Ed Pfueller

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Financial Aid Office

Web site:

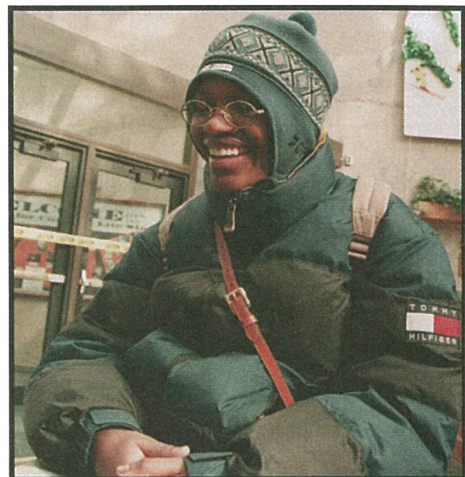
www.rit.edu/~954www/

Student Information Services

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General Information on Financial Aid
Verna Hazen
475-5520



Student thoughts on financial aid:

"I sign the sheets and hope I get money."

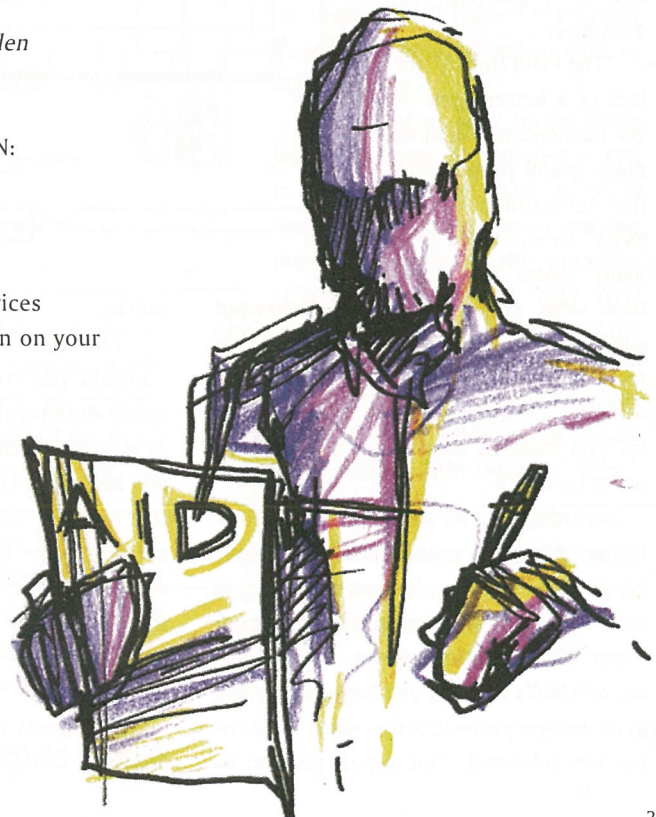
– Jerry McSorley, fourth year, Mechanical Engineering Technology

"Financial Aid is very helpful to me. The Bursar is also very helpful."

– Charesse Barrett, first year, Finance

"[I think that] Financial Aid is satisfactory."

– Aaron Solomon, fourth year, Mechanical Engineering Technology



They're Building a WHAT?

You may have heard about it from your friends, or maybe your professors mentioned it in class. For a year now the proposed Field House project has been a source of grist for the RIT rumor mill. It looks as though the project is going to take shape in the near future. But what is it? From the Brick Yard to the Brick City, the RIT community has been yearning for a new sports venue to host competitions that do not take place on the ice or on the hardwood. People who are tired of going to concerts in the concrete confines of the hockey rink, and those who watch outdoor field sports from the creaky bleachers at the track will now be most pleased. A new proposal on the table right now will provide the first steps towards creating a new gathering place with enough capacity to entertain RIT's growing student body.

"The Field House," for lack of a better name at the moment, would serve many useful purposes to the community. At the same time, there are many issues that stem from what seems to be a much-needed addition to the Spartan RIT campus. Do we really need a new complex for sports? Will other activities be hosted in this new facility? Will students have access to it? Where will it be built?

According to a recent report on the Field House proposal presented to RIT and President Al Simone, this project is part of an on-going program to update and reconstruct RIT's athletic facilities. "RIT's fields are of 1960's vintage, and have not undergone a major reconstruction since the campus was relocated." The report goes on to

state that the fields are "in sub-standard condition," and "potentially unsafe and present a potential liability concern." As talk swirls of promoting RIT's athletic programs in the NCAA divisions, there comes these concerns: "RIT fields currently do not meet the standards that are currently designed for *high school* use [emphasis ours]." Many times RIT is forced to cancel or forfeit certain competitions, "which reflects negatively on the Institute." It is true that sports do play a large role in representing RIT to the

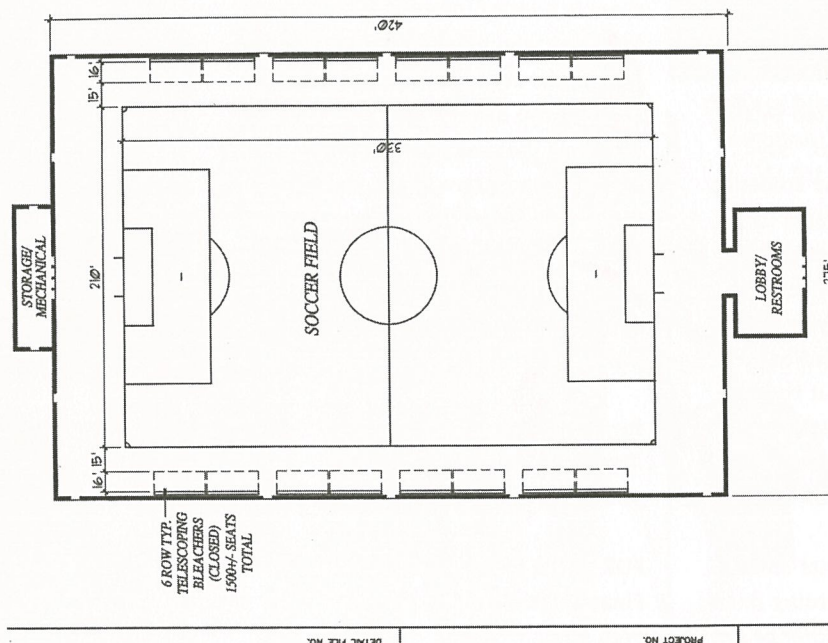
ranks above the national average in many areas. More than half of the RIT student population is involved in intramural sports. The number of varsity student athletes have increased by 25% over the past five years. "The intercollegiate athletic program at RIT is in desperate need for playable, safe fields for our student athletes," says the *Recreational, Intramural, Athletic and Campus Event Facility and Fields Proposal*.

Linda Kuk spoke to us in detail about the rationale behind the proposal. "We want to

give the entire RIT community a gathering place - not just for athletics, but intended for many uses." Kuk has been working with the President and other committee members to determine the best possible route to take. "We don't have a facility on campus right now that can serve the purposes of our increased population." RIT is experiencing growing pains. There are nearly twice as many people here than what was originally planned for back in 1968.

Many students have expressed frustration over the fact that big-name entertainers do not come to RIT. One of the reasons is that many groups do not want to play for small venues; the largest facility we have is the Ritter Memorial ice arena, which only seats 2,500. Kuk explains, "Our focus on quality and a well-rounded educational experience dictate the need for a facility that can host larger events."

Many of you are anticipating graduation in the spring. Some of you will be graduating in a large tent in U-Lot. Granted it's not entirely unpleasant if the weather is



public.

This report, compiled by Frank Lamas, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, neatly outlines the background need for a new athletic facility so that the entire campus benefits. RIT wants to create a facility that would be available for use by the entire community for sports, concerts, and other recreational activities. The main benefit of this new facility would be the fact that it could be used year-round, regardless of weather.

Are sports really that popular at RIT? Statistics compiled show that RIT usually

nice, but the expense incurred for renting a large tent for such a short amount of time is something that RIT wants to avoid. "The President wants Commencement to be more of a community gathering - much like the Convocation on the evening before," Kuk explains.

Getting down to nuts-and-bolts, the proposal on the table now is for a 275' x 400' x 100' "multi-purpose all-weather field" with additional structures for seating, restrooms, and climate control. Also included in the proposal is the rehabilitation of the existing athletic fields, as well as the development of new ones. "Understand however," Kuk said, "that the rehabilitation of the fields, in conjunction with the field House project is part of a comprehensive plan." Some parts of the proposal have already been agreed to, and work is progressing in those areas. "You may have noticed work in the area by the track, to rehabilitate that area."

Natives of New York State may be familiar with the Bills' indoor-training facility in Orchard Park, or the Giants' facility at SUNY Purchase. While these facilities had different requirements (such as the ability to be able to punt a football), RIT is considering similar structures, although scaled down. Current suggestions show that the structure could have several different configurations - as a lacrosse field, as a soccer field, a baseball practice diamond, a Convocation hall, or as a concert hall. "We're envisioning a large, open structure, unobstructed by supporting pillars," said Kuk.

The selection committee has been considering many sites around campus.

Unfortunately RIT is restricted by Federal Wetlands mandates that cover most of the land owned by RIT in Henrietta. The preferred spot would be adjacent to U-Lot, behind the existing Student Life Center. "That way," Kuk explained, "we wouldn't have to build new locker room facilities or new parking." Kuk also expressed her

people's mind is, how are we going to pay for this new Field House? "There are several options we can pursue," Kuk continued, "We could use our own resources to pay for it, and then solicit contributions to get the money back." This would allow construction to proceed sooner. "Or, we could wait until we raise the additional money, and then go ahead..." Which means that construction could be delayed indefinitely. "Or, we could borrow the money at a low interest rate, and pay it back from a combination of operational revenue and donations."

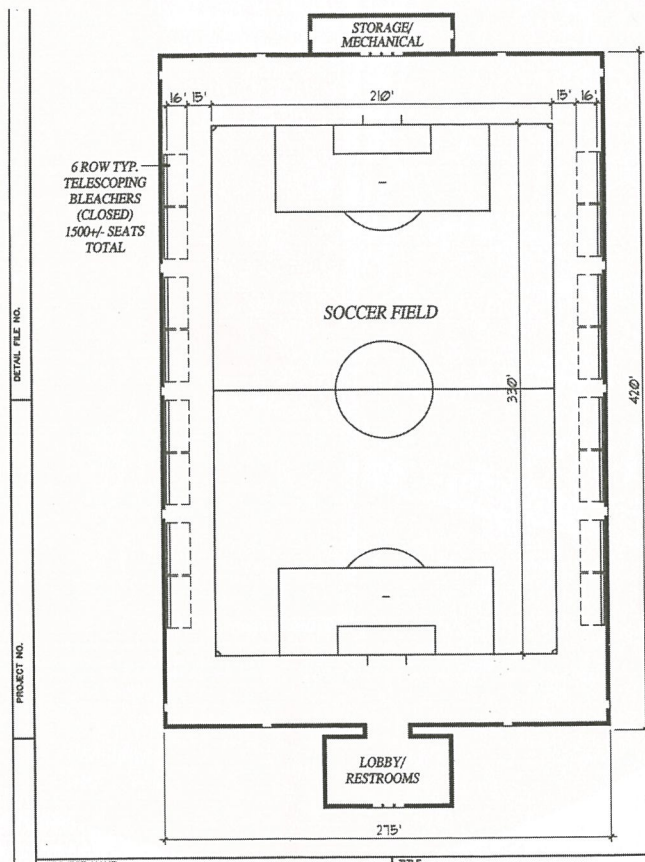
If you are still reading this, you may not be totally convinced that we need this new structure. "People will always say that there are more important academic issues to be met first," Kuk says, "but since we are a technology school, we will always have needs." In fact, many think that this project is essential to the development of the quality of life, as well as the nurturing of school pride at the Institute. "We hope that students understand the need and support us in this project."

Don't put on your soccer cleats just yet, though. This project is still in the development phase as RIT is working to get estimates on cost and preview designs for the proposed structure. Construction may start

within the next five years, or earlier if the school is able to finance the deal. In the meantime, students will be able to enjoy rehabilitated outdoor fields, and will have to make do with a short outdoor athletic season.

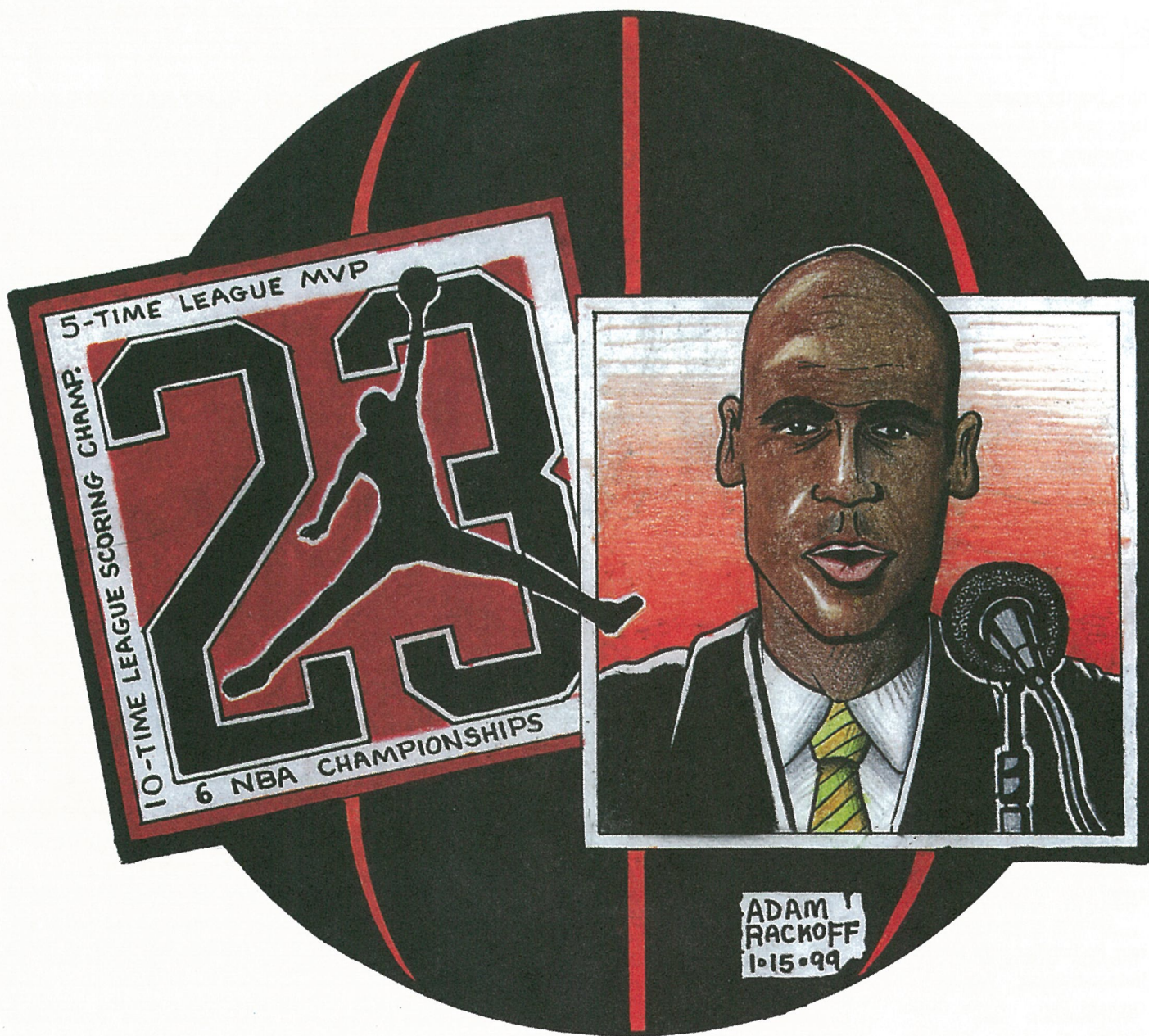
Maybe by the time they build this thing, they'll have a better name for it - how do you like the "SimoneDome?"

by Otto Vondrak



desire to keep the new facility accessible to the existing campus. Other options include locations on the perimeter of campus, "which would make the structure much more noticeable." You can't hide the fact that this will be a very large, distracting addition to the campus. "That's why we are not fond of the option of placing it on the Quarter Mile," more or less on the Greek Lawn. Such a structure would be an obnoxious addition, in some people's opinion, to a very visible area of campus.

The question which may be on some



MICHAEL JORDAN:

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Michael Jordan began his storied career with the Chicago Bulls in 1984, following a successful college campaign at the University of North Carolina. The lanky 6'6 guard, picked third overall in the NBA draft, proceeded to take the NBA by storm, and in time became a household name. His rookie season for the then hapless Bulls team was better than any rookie season ever recorded. He scored 2,313 points, and averaged 28.2 points per game. His great efforts earned him the distinction of being named the NBA's Rookie of the Year. The 22 year-old Jordan appeared destined for great things, but no one could have even begun to predict the magnitude of Jordan's impact on the world.

Michael's sophomore season was not so stellar as his first. He suffered a series of serious injuries, and missed almost the entire year, but as he would prove repeatedly, it takes a lot to restrain true greatness. In his third season, Jordan became the second man ever to score 3,000 points in an NBA season as he accumulated an astounding 3,041 points, while averaging 37.1 points per game. This 1986-87 season catapulted Michael to center stage in the league, but more importantly, it

prompted the Nike Corporation to offer Jordan an advertising deal that proved to be the element that defined his famous image forever. Within months, Jordan's silhouette was on the bottom of every teenagers' foot in America.

Over the next few years, Michael continued to dominate the NBA, leading the league in scoring every year. Yet Jordan's professional life was not complete. While his image continued to prosper, and kids in basketball courts all over the country continued to emulate him, Jordan still had not accomplished the one goal that was most important to him: the Bulls still had not won an NBA title.

In the 1991 NBA Championship series, the Bulls were poised to take their first league title. Jordan did not let his team, city, or fans down, as he led the Bulls to a six game victory over Magic Johnson and the LA Lakers. The title marked the first of six that the Chicago Bulls would capture in the 90's, a spectacular run that entertained fans and non-fans alike.

After winning three consecutive titles from 1990 through 1993, MJ delivered a shocking announcement: he was retiring. The announcement came in the wake of his father's brutal murder. Despite his sojourn from the game that had made him famous, Michael remained a visible figure. He appeared in series of commercials, including Nike's ad that aired during the Super Bowl. However, his biggest headlines came when he redirected his athletic career by joining the Chicago Whitesox baseball organization.

Although he did not display the dazzling brilliance that he had for basketball, Michael was still a huge draw. His baseball career was short, but illustrated the flexibility of Jordan as an athlete.

In 1995, after a year away from basketball, Jordan returned to the Chicago Bulls. Over the next three full seasons, MJ would lead the Bulls to three more titles, and secured his standing as perhaps the greatest athlete of the century.

Now, after all these years, Michael is stepping down from center stage. His memory will not be forgotten; it can't. Michael was more than a basketball player - he was an inspiration, a spokesman. He advocated for harmony among men. He crossed lines established for years. He challenged the world to look at him as nothing but a man. It may have all begun as a game, but that game served as a vehicle for Michael to teach us all something about ourselves. Few men possess the ability or the platform to touch the lives of others, to have an impact on so many people. Michael did, and he did it like he did everything else, with style, class, and grace.

There was once an add campaign with Michael and a group of children. The children sang that famous jingle "I want to be like Mike". May be if we were all a little more like Mike, the world would be a better place.

by Jon-Claude Caton

WELCOME!

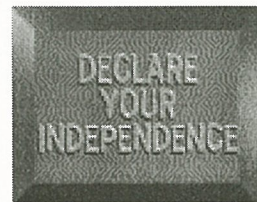
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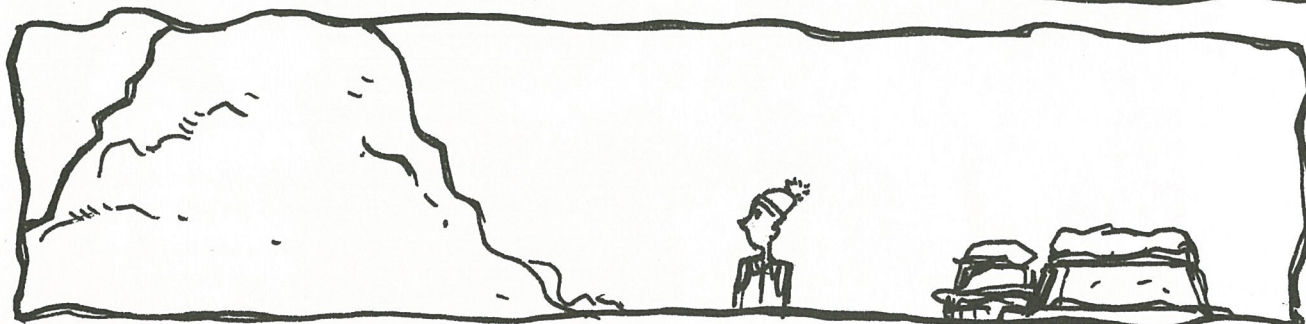
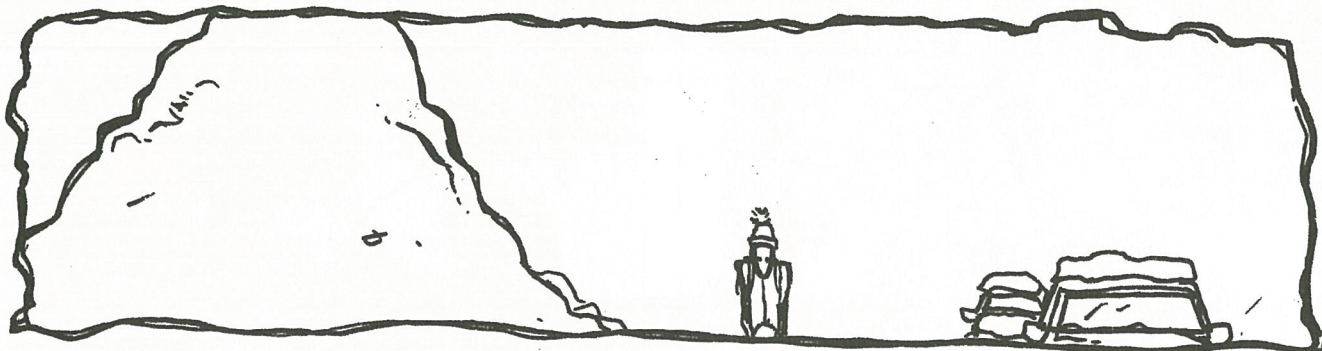
trators. 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. Sign up through the

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TO OUR WORLD.

the exploits of Aimless Boy...





photos by Andrew Gombert

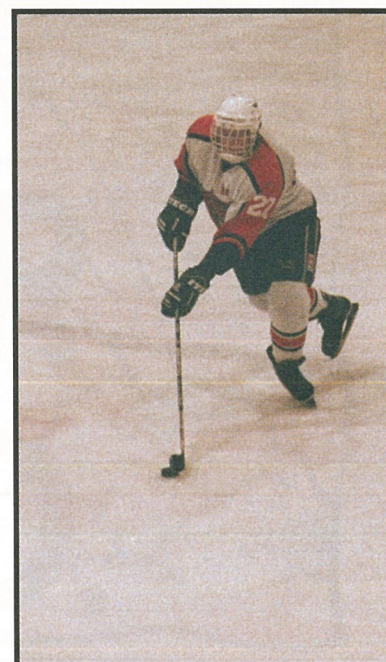
WOMEN TIE AGAIN

Tied scores are becoming a trend with the women's hockey team: RIT tied again against Hamilton on Jan. 9. With the 2-2 draw, the Tigers are now 3-1-3. RIT had also tied with Sacred Heart (1-1) and Vermont (2-2).

Rebecca Grandy, sophomore forward, scored both of RIT's goals. The two goals give Grandy a total of 9 for the year, leading the team. Her first goal came at the 9:44 mark of the opening period. It was

assisted by both forwards, Maria Lewis and Wendy Wright. Grandy, whose second goal put the Tigers up 2-1, is also tied for second on the team in points with 15. Wright, who also assisted on that goal, has 15 points as well.

The most outstanding parts of the game for both teams were the defense and goaltending. Melissa Norris, RIT's stellar goalie, saved 26, while Hamilton's Laura Gonzalez saved even more with 31.





So far this year Norris has a microscopic 2.05 GA avg. The junior's save percentage is 91%, allowing 13 goals in 146 attempts. She almost had a perfect performance against Hamilton. She only gave up one goal the first two-and-a-half periods of play. Then Stacy Tyksinski scored an unassisted goal with only 5:30 minutes to go in the game and tied it up.

The tie gives the team a 2-1-2 record at home. With two games remaining on the seven game home stand, the Tigers could easily end with a strong record. They have to be confident; for they will face nine of their next eleven opponents away from the friendly confines of Ritter Arena.

Upcoming Games

Fri. 1/22 at Bates at 7:30

Sat 1/23 at Bowdoin at 3:00



BACK ON TOP

After losing their first game of the season, RIT's men's hockey team is back in top form with a 10-0 victory over Potsdam. Leading the way for the Tigers was forward Pat Staerker, who tallied one goal and three assists for four points. Mike Gargiles also had a goal and three assists. Center Kyle Edwards contributed 3 assists, and goaltender Jaime Morris recorded his second shutout of the season. The win helped the Tigers regain their composure, and proceed towards their ultimate goal: to win the national championship.

The Tigers scored six of their goals in the first period, three in the second, and their final goal in the third period. The team also outshot Potsdam 46-21, and never allowed for any threatening scoring opportunities. The Tiger's next home game is Saturday the 23rd against Fredonia.

by Jon-Claude Caton

photo by Andrew Gombert

Classifieds

Dark Side of the Moon

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Tab Ads

My greatest fear is that one day I will wake up- and find myself exactly as I am.
-Otto

During the experiment the monster got part of you wonderful brain. But what did you ever get in return?
-Young Frankenstien

I hope society crumbles in the year 2000. Just think of all the good photographs that could be taken.
-The smoking man.

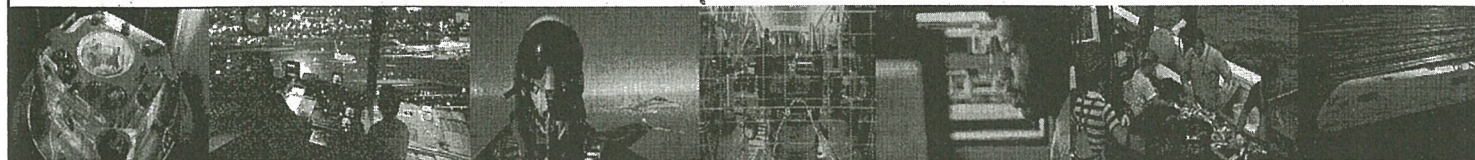
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Wendy, thanks for letting me wash my undies in your sink.
-J

Time is like a candy bar- milk chocolate on the outside, rich, creamy nougat on the inside! No, that's the snickers I had for lunch.

Josh, you crazy kid, just wishing you a Happy Birthday! Now that you're 21, does that mean you have to start acting like it?
-AV,SK,RB,IM,MI

My greatest fear is that our society becomes self-aware.
-dis(dis)turbed



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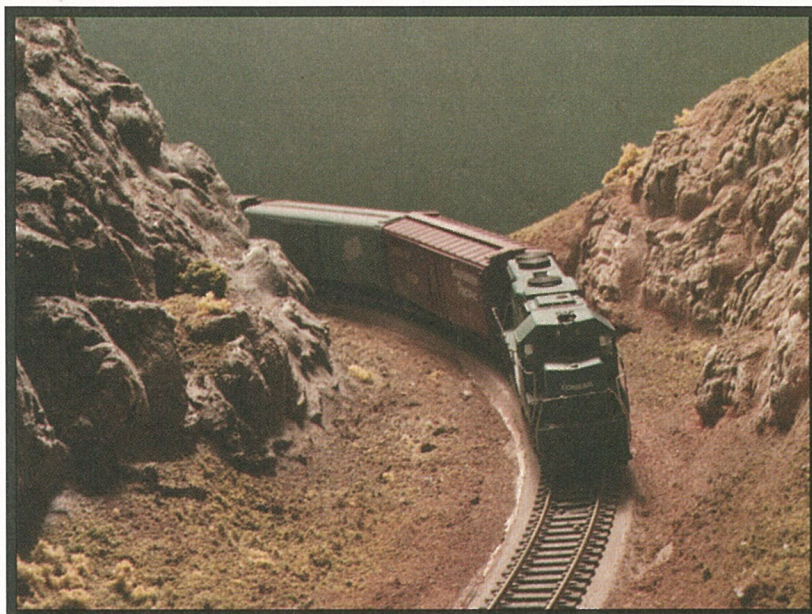
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