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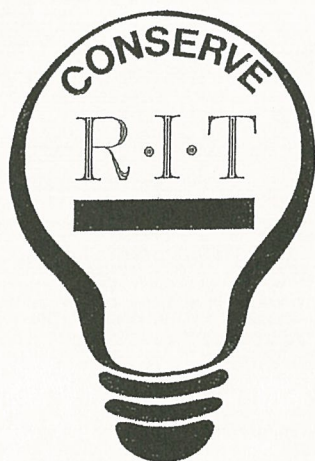
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JOHN GOLDEN  
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## Truth, Justice and the American Way

The best presentation I have ever heard on diversity was delivered by Keith Woods. He gave a presentation at the Associated Collegiate Press/College Media Advisors Convention held last year in Kansas City. Mr. Woods, an Associate in Ethics at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, presented his "Superman" argument in favor of diversity in the newsroom and businesses. His thought was divided into three parts: truth, justice and the American way.

Mr. Woods argued that Superman stood for these three values, and that each aspect supported diversification. His keynote address bypassed the emotional baggage many of us carry in regard to the subject of diversity. By focusing on an icon almost everyone knows, admires and likes, he transcended the typical methods used to address diversity.

His argument about diversity began with his statement that there is no way for a publication or news organization to present the "truth" unless their coverage includes everyone. Without a diverse approach in the newsroom, stories will be missed because of a lack of sensitivity to non-mainstream angles. Certain new issues may be neglected entirely and coverage will be unable to encompass the entire community.

Mr. Woods continued by stating that there can never be justice unless everyone is included in the system. The recent victories of black farmers in the US illustrate this aspect better than anything I can write. It has recently been found that the Federal Government did not provide the same loans to black farmers that they gave to white farmers. This case clearly demonstrates obvious discrimination. By not providing these farmers access to loans, justice was denied. This proves Mr. Woods' point that our society cannot be just or deliver justice without including everyone in the system. Everyone needs equal representation, both in the judicial system and in the news.

The third segment of Mr. Woods' thesis was the American way. He argued that it is appropriately American to target new markets. Inclusion of minority groups creates potential new readers and buy-

ers. It is in a business's economic interest to pursue diversity, not doing so would result in a decline of potential profits. My Photo I professor put it best when he posed a question: when Kodak talks about accurate skin color rendition, what color skin are they talking about? Imagine if Kodak took the time to accurately render the color of everyone's skin; they would sell more film. Makes sense to me.

So, the next time you look around a room, I hope you wonder about the stories you are not hearing, who is not receiving justice and what that means to you. I am pleased that the *Reporter* newsroom has some diversity, but we always need more. Remember, diversity provides all of us with truth, justice and a way to find the American Dream.

Michael Fagans  
Editor in Chief

*Note: A big thanks to Mr. Keith Woods and his accessible message.*

### Corrections:

The *Reporter* would like to make two corrections to the January 8th issue. In an article about Global Union, we mistakenly named Nicolas Rubio as Vice President. He is, in fact, the President of the organization.

Also, we would like to correct the phone number of RIT Players' ticket information line. The correct number is 716-234-3547. We apologize for any inconvenience.





# Scholarships Available

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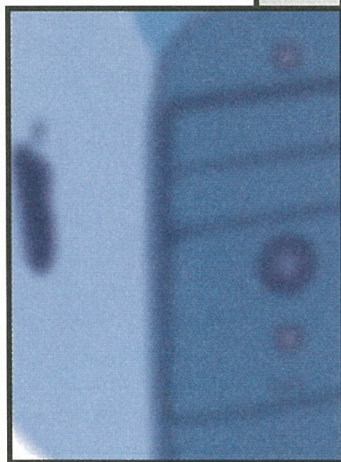
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REPORTER Magazine is published weekly during the academic year by a staff comprised of students at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Business, Editorial and Production facilities are located in Room A-426, in the lower level of the Student Alumni Union. Our voice/tty line is (716) 475-2212. Subscription rate is \$7.00 per quarter. The opinions expressed in REPORTER do not necessarily reflect those of the Institute. RIT does not review or approve the contents

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## Two Students Suspended in Campus Arson Case

In the early morning hours of January 6, 1999, several hundred students were forced out of Sol Heumann Hall due to a fire in one of the building's lounges. Investigation found the cause of the fire was the lounge microwave, deliberately set to operate for an extended period of time. A Campus Safety investigation found two RIT students to be responsible, who were later arrested by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and suspended from RIT.

At approximately 2:30 am, Sol Heumann Hall's fire alarm was activated by the smoke created in the dormitory's third floor lounge. The microwave, which had been filled with a bag of microwave popcorn and other small items, including condoms, caught fire after its contents had been burnt by the microwave that was set at full power for several minutes. The building's residents were forced to find alternate shelter for nearly two hours as the fire was neutralized. Campus Safety and the Monroe County Sheriff arrived immediately after the incident to attempt to ascertain the cause of the fire.

The building suffered no structural damage from the incident, but the fire was potent enough to destroy the third-floor microwave and char the

wall where it was mounted. Once the smoke was clear and the danger averted, residents were permitted into the building.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office assigned a fire investigator to help determine exactly what caused the fire. It was determined that the fire was most likely set deliberately, so Campus Safety launched an investigation.

This incident was not the only one of its kind to happen in Sol Heumann in the past month; a similar situation involving popcorn in the same microwave triggered an alarm on the morning of December 18, 1998. Christopher Denninger of Campus Safety explains that the first incident was deemed a "false fire alarm," caused by a bag of burnt popcorn. He states that, "We typically look for information from nearby residents on any fire alarm," but since no information was found to the contrary, it was deemed an accident.

Curt Sterling, the third-floor Resident Advisor, agreed that it did not seem suspicious, saying, "It appeared to be an honest mistake, and not much was thought about it."

Denninger said that the second incident, more obviously an act of mischief, got the full attention of Campus

Safety. He explains that an officer was moved from his normal duties to investigate this case. He canvassed the building, and questioned several residents on the second and third floors attempting to find the perpetrators.

Sterling stated that Residence Life did what they could to assist the investigation. Also, he himself did what he could and found out what his floors' residents knew about the fire.

The crime was solved within 24 hours of the January 6 incident. With the help of witnesses from Sol Heumann Hall, two suspects, reportedly residents of Nathaniel Rochester Hall, were confronted and questioned. They admitted their involvement in the crime, were arrested by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, and were charged with criminal mischief. After an interim meeting on campus, both students were suspended from the Institute. Further action against the alleged criminals is pending.

*by Chris Grocki*



## Student Leader Conference



Last Friday was the 1st Annual Student Action Retreat held in the SAU. Students and faculty addressed issues such as advising/mentoring, diversity, and retention.

*photo by Ed Pfueller*

## World News

Geoff Smith of England recently broke a world record. He remained buried underground for 142 days, living in a subterranean fashion. The box Smith stayed in was seven feet long and 2.5 feet wide. The box contained books, a cellular phone, a television, and photos of his family. He communicated with the outside world by means of a ventilation tube, through which food and water were passed. (Reuters)

The pope will visit Mexico City and St. Louis over January 22-27. Pope John Paul will speak out in Mexico about the uprisings in Chipas, where guerrilla leaders have rebelled against the oppression of poor Indians. Pope John Paul will also discuss human rights, justice, peace, and attention to indigenous peoples of the Americas. Nearly 1 million people are expected to attend the public events, with millions more lining the streets to see the pope mobile, and subsequently watch the events, which will be televised on giant-screen televisions around Mexico. (AP)

Thousands of Belgian couples have suddenly found themselves not married. More than 50,000 weddings performed after 1990 were declared invalid because they had not been conducted by an certified municipal official. A spokeswoman from the Justice Ministry states that a document to legalize the null marriages is being prepared. (Reuters)

In India, demonstrators of the ultra-national Shiv Sena political party ransacked the offices of the Board of Cricket Control

of India (BCCI). The Hindu party strongly objects to Pakistan's cricket tour of India. Computers, trophies, windows, and office furniture were all destroyed. Reports say that at least 50 protesters ran into the offices last Monday afternoon. The controversy is allegedly annoying a great many fans of the popular sport. (BBC)

Thirty-nine years after Karen Golz sent a letter to Elvis Presley, she received a reply. She wrote, asking for an autograph for her 11th birthday, when Elvis was serving with other GIs in West Germany. The letter, signed "Your friend, Elvis," was apparently mislaid by the landlady of his army accommodation. Golz said that she will never part with the letter, which is only one of five such personal correspondences remaining. (Reuters)

American scientists who managed to "freeze" the AIDS virus in the midst of infecting a cell believe that it could lead to a vaccine against a wide array of strains. The team, from the University of Montana, and New York Medical Center, used the method by which the virus contorts itself to gain access to a healthy cell to create a prototype vaccine that works on 23 of the 24 strains of the HIV virus. Dr. Dan Littman, of the team, stressed that more work must be done on monkeys before human trials can begin. (Br. Telegraph)

*by Pete Lukow*



# The King of Terror



**"I recognize terror as the finest emotion and so I will try to terrorize the reader. But if I find that I cannot terrify, I will try to horrify, and if I find that I cannot horrify, I'll go for the gross-out."**

*-Stephen King (from Danse Macabre)*

I realize that as you go about your day-to-day activities as a college student, you might not have time for leisure reading. However, if you do find yourself some spare time and just cannot wait to get your hands on a good solid chunk of literature, then you cannot beat the master of horror. Here are a few personal recommendations from a die-hard King fan:

1) *It*. Perhaps the best-known King novel, *It* runs just under 1100 pages. The story details the battle between a horrific monster and a ragtag group of Losers, both during childhood, and 25 years later, when "It" returns. The gruesome intro to the book details "It" ripping off a kid's arm and killing him. It is by far my favorite book, because of the painstaking attention to detail King pays in his effort to make the story seem as real as possible.

2) *The Stand*. A plague destroys 99.4% of the world's population, leaving the mentally exhausted survivors to battle a true demon. There are two editions available, the abridged and the unabridged. With the unabridged running at just under 1200 pages, make sure you free up some vacation time if you want to finish this before the

millennium. A lot of people consider this to be King's greatest achievement because of its epic scale.

3) *The Dark Tower* (series). The only ongoing story in the King catalog, currently totaling four books (about 2000 pages). There's no way I can summarize this story adequately within these space restrictions, but it centers on Roland, The Last Gunslinger and his attempts to reach his destiny, The Dark Tower. The whole series is based on a narrative poem by Robert Browning, entitled "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came." King has not finished the story yet, and with at least four more Dark Tower-specific books slated into the year 2003, readers can bank on the fact that he's not ready to reveal all the secrets of Middle Earth right away.

4) The Bachman Books. Richard Bachman was King's pseudonym, before he made it big with *Carrie*. These books are from way back in the King catalog; as a matter of fact, these are the first four King novels ever published, compacted into one large-ish compilation (the fifth and final Bachman book, *Thinner*, received enough attention that it was released separately). *Rage* is the story of a troubled youth who goes berserk one day (he calls it "Getting It On") and takes a high school class hostage. *The Long Walk* is about an alternate present where the biggest sporting event is a marathon walk: 100 young men participate, but if they stumble or slow down, snipers mounted on half-tracks pick them off. There's no defined finish line: the race ends when there's one man left. *Running Man* is about a futuristic game show where contestants pay with their life, and *Roadwork* details a man's barbaric fight to keep his house when the City tries to tear it down.

If you've gone through the entire Stephen King library and you're still hungry, then these authors might slake your thirst for gore: Clive Barker (*Weaveworld*), Shane Stevens (*By Reason of Insanity*), Peter Straub (*Ghost Story*), and John Metcalf (*The Feasting Dead*). Also, be sure to catch King's *Storm of the Century* on ABC on February 14. For more Stephen King information, visit [www.stephenking.com](http://www.stephenking.com)

*by William Huber*

*illustration by Adam Rackoff*



## Faces of RIT: J. David McCloskey (A Deeper Santa)

One of the greater mysteries in life, what does Santa Claus do during his off-season? When December has flown by and every child's elation long succumbed to time, what is left to do? There is a good nine months before work starts again; no hard-working individual can go that long without doing anything. As far-fetched as it may sound, the answer lies right on RIT's humble campus. Under the alias of J. David McCloskey, Mr. Kringle spends his down time interpreting for the deaf and hustling across campus for any of his different voluntary roles.

"Santa," as most students know him, has been on campus since 1992. His official title is Associate Interpreter, but his diverse work transcends that. Hardly anyone can testify they have spent long periods of time on campus and have not noticed Santa (who also bears a strong resemblance to the late Jerry Garcia). He labors odd hours; staying on-duty all night, Tuesday through Saturday (interpreting services has associates on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week while campus is open). Yet, he's often on campus during the day. He serves as Parliamentarian for the Staff Council. He moderates the discussion and insures no time is being wasted. And that is not all, he works on the Committee for Promoting Pluralism as well.

His interest in Diversity issues roots back to his childhood in Pennsylvania. He remembers a remarkably diverse hometown, one consisting of every recognizable representation in the land. "There was every type of person there. Blacks, whites, Hispanics, Asians. It was just a natural thing to me."

He spent a large chunk of his adult years as a businessman in Ohio, at one point running his own operation. He met a deaf man during one of his travels and gradually picked up sign language. Growing disenchanted with the business world, Dave decided interpreting was the endeavor he wanted to pursue. In Utica, New York, (a few hours east of Rochester) he began an interpreting service. As life often does, one thing led to another and RIT came calling.

As for his main role here, he says his primary function is to not be noticed. As difficult as it may be for him, not being noticed while connecting two languages is a true sign of his interpreting effectiveness. It's like a baseball umpire: if the game's ended and nary a word has been mentioned of him, he's done his job. When asked what the most difficult aspect of interpreting is, a simple answer came: "The amount of focus and concentration required. After such intent concentration, you can become quite taxed."

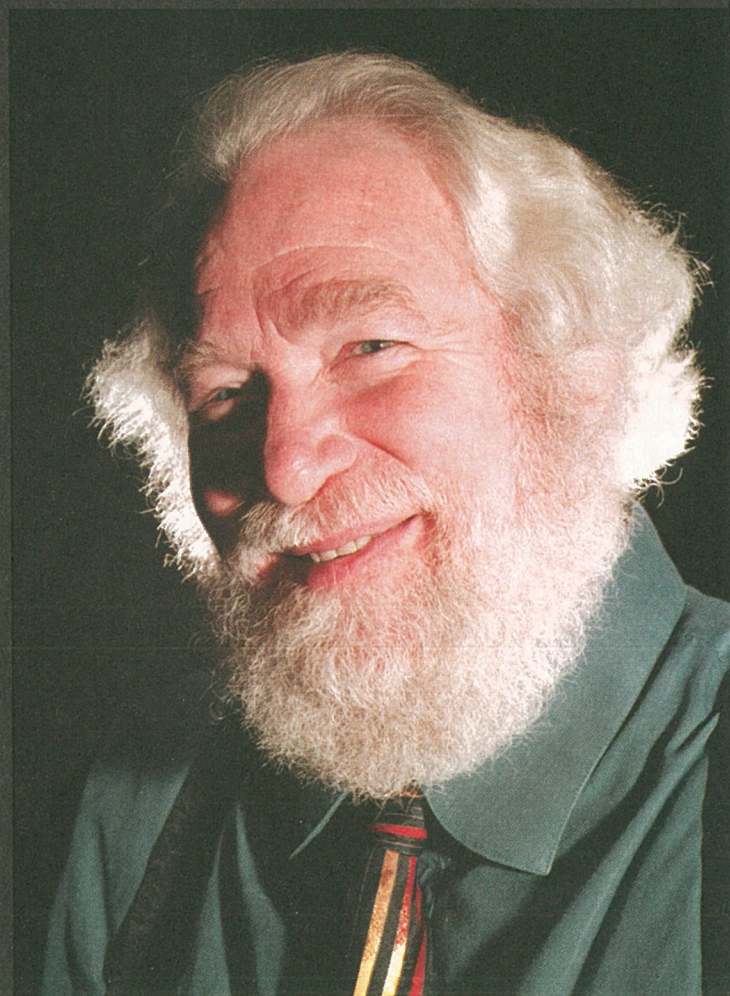
Obviously that applies to his concert work. He spoke fondly of working with Garcia and his Grateful Dead while serving a group of deaf deadheads who followed the group one particular summer. "I've probably worked with hundreds of musicians. All kinds of famous names." Nat Cole and Garth Brooks are just a few of those

names. He mentioned one of the lighter moments of last October's BrickFest celebration. A metal band on stage was indecipherable, but that did not stop David from comically attempting to continue his interpretation. A fascinating story he told was of a time in Washington, DC when he translated a performance by the Marine Corps band. There were no vocals. There he stood, no words to pass along, just crescendos, solos, and high notes. Did his enthusiasm damper? Hardly.

All of this changes with Thanksgiving and the start of the Christmas season. The most important role J. David McCloskey will serve in his lifetime beckons. On comes the red suit, to the back of the closet goes the dress clothes. Kids everywhere sit on his lap and tell him how he can make their Christmas great. "It's a separate entity," he says. "We do a lot of communication with each other. He's [the other half] a really interesting guy."

*by Alex Long*

*photo by Greg Benenati*





# ON CAMPUS

## Winter Events

Here we are in the midst of another long Winter Quarter. While the snow and the winter blues fall upon us, RIT has put together a line-up of interesting and exciting winter quarter events. From movies, to festivals, to important speakers, there is an array of great things to do during the remainder of the second quarter. Here is a run-down of what's going down ON CAMPUS....

This week, Talisman has the movie *North by Northwest* playing in Webb on January 29 and 30 in Ingle at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Leave your wallets at home because this one is free. Then, on February 6 at 8 p.m., Talisman is presenting the classic Spielberg film *Jaws*. A great white shark is feeding off the coast of New England and only Roy Schneider and Richard Dreyfuss can stop it. Do not be afraid to get in the water when this movie presentation takes place at the pool (pool toys provided).

Not only is the presentation of *Jaws* a Talisman movie, it is also part of RIT's annual Winter Festival. Held every year, this collection of events takes place on Saturday, February 6. The comedy troupe Uninvited Guests will perform two shows at 7 and 10:30 p.m. At the Ritz, the Greek Council will be putting on a Gong Show from 6-7 p.m. Starting at 8, an opening act and God Street Wine will also be performing at the Ritz. While all this is going on, RIT has two all-night events scheduled. First, there is miniature golf in the Fireside Lounge from 7 p.m. to midnight, and vendors will be in the SAU lobby from 6 p.m. until midnight. February 6 will be filled with laughs, scares, and music, so do not miss out. Take part in a cherished annual event - the Winter Festival.

In the next month, an internationally famous and outstanding speaker will grace our campus. On February 10, Reverend Jesse Jackson will be in the Clark Gym. Come see the man who walked with Martin Luther King, Jr. and ran for President of the United States. It will be only \$4 for RIT students, \$8 for faculty and \$12 for the general public.

The Grind will feature several acts in the upcoming weeks. On February 4, from 8-10 p.m., K.J. James will perform a collection of rhythm and blues songs. A week later, the Grind will feature Jack Edward Smith on classical guitar from 8-10 p.m. On February 18, the Grind will have a Coffeehouse Theater starting at 8 p.m. This will

feature a collection of monologues and short scenes performed by the RIT Players. All three of these great events are free to the public.

Speaking of the RIT Players, the spring presentation is rapidly approaching. This year, the Players are putting on William Shakespeare's classic comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This rendition, directed by Gretchen Gast, plays on February 7 at noon and February 11 and 12 at 8 p.m. in Ingle. For anyone who cannot make the three on-campus showings, there will be other performances at the RAPA Performing Arts Center in downtown Rochester at 8 p.m. on February 4-6.

There are several other events taking place in the coming weeks. On January 29, beginning at 7 p.m., there will be a Date Auction and After Party with a DJ. The cost will be \$5 for both and will be held in Clark A, B and C in the SAU. On January 30, the Community Service Clubhouse will sponsor the Snowball from 8 p.m. to midnight. Held in the SAU cafeteria, the dance costs \$8 per ticket. Ladysmith Black Mambazo, with opening act Sankofa, will perform in Ingle Auditorium on February 13 at 7 and 10 p.m.

Do you drive to class in the morning? Do you hate when your parking space is farther away from classes than your apartment? Well, if you want to skip the long, cold walk from your car to your classes, park in President Al Simone's parking space. The newest honor fraternity on campus, Phi Sigma Pi, is raffling off the President's parking space. If you win, from March 9 - 11, your car will be parked in the President's spot directly next to the George Eastman Building. Tickets will be sold in the SAU on February 1-4 and Wallace Library on February 8-11 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and are just \$1 each, or 10 for \$5. Twenty percent of all proceeds will go to charity.

With the diversity of events occurring on campus in January and February each student should be able to find something he or she likes. If you hear of an event in which you are interested, tell your friends, go and have a good time.

by Jason Pacchiarotti



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# The XOXO Files

Riddle me this: What is Love?

Is it a lifelong bond that connects two people? Or is it a quick, brief connection that comes and goes? I'm not sure, and neither are the characters in the new dramedy *Playing by Heart*. In this movie we find a myriad of souls either searching for, or attempting to hold onto, that indescribable feeling. While there happens to be plenty of bumps along the road to true love, everything seems to turn out perfect at the end; but who really wants to live in reality anyway?

OK, maybe I'm being a little too harsh. The film was quite enjoyable, comedic, and did not take itself too seriously. In the first few opening minutes, we're introduced to nearly a dozen different characters; some who are married, some who are having affairs, and others who are just plain lonely. There's the cold Meredith (Gillian Anderson) who finds herself attracted to semi-charming Trent (Jon Stewart). A television cooking show host, Hannah (Gena Rowlands) is still distraught over her husband Paul's (Sean Connery) affair 25 years ago. Joan (Angelina Jolie), a free spirit with a dim outlook on life, falls for Keenan (Ryan Phillippe), a man who seems to be incapable of love. Mark (Jay Mohr), a dying AIDS patient, is solely comforted by his mother, Mildred (Ellen Burstyn). There's Hugh (Dennis Quaid), the improv actor who goes around night after night pretending to be someone else. This becomes an escape from reality; since his wife, Gracie (Madeleine Stowe) has found new freedom with Roger (Anthony Edwards). (And yes, being an RIT student I shuddered every time the name 'Gracie' was uttered.)

For the majority of the film, we bounce continually between all these different scenarios; at first the title could have been "An

anthology of rather lame and unrelated short stories," but that would probably be too much for those people who put up the theatre marquees. Anyway, we eventually find out that the cast is all connected in one way or another. But do we care? Not really.

So what is good about *Playing by Heart*? For one, it does have quite a witty script; at one point, Meredith attempts to reach a magazine at the top of a shelf, but suddenly finds the bookcase is falling on top of her. When asked if she was okay, she replied, "Yeah, I landed on a copy of 'George'—there was quite a bit of padding." Also, there are plenty of plot twists near the conclusion, catching the audience completely off guard.

Conversely, there were a few notable problems I had with it (I am a critic, don't forget — it's my job to look for these things). Gillian Anderson and Jon Stewart? Puhh-lease. And if that were not bad enough, there were long, passionate kisses between them. I kept thinking: what would poor Mulder do if he saw this? And sadly, a number of characters were utterly predictable. That Keenan guy — totally closed off, largely unwilling to make contact with anybody, terrified of love — hmm, do we have some deep, dramatic secret hidden inside?

If you are looking for a movie that will leave you in a state of deep thought at the end, by all means avoid this film. But for two hours of entertainment, despite its problems, *Playing by Heart* is a nice escape for an evening.

by Jeff Prystajko

## website of the week

<http://209.249.142.147/peoples/register.phtml>

"The envelope please..."

We know about the Golden Globes, the Emmys, the Grammys, and the Tonies, but what about...the Webbies? The Webbies? What the heck is the Webbies?

Now in their third year, the Webbies, selected by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, is an award program devoted to the best websites on the Internet. There are also People's Voice Awards. Persons who have web access can vote. On March 18, the winners of both award programs will be announced at a ceremony in San Francisco, California.

Judges have already nominated 110 sites and categorized them into art, music, finance, sports, science, news and more. All you have to do is register at the above site and select your favorites. One lucky participant will even be "whisked to the Webbies" where they will receive "the red carpet treatment."

Last year, over 100,000 people voted for the People's Voice Awards. This year figures to be an even bigger success. Balloting ends on February 5, so get registered today.

by Nick Spittal



# Number Twelve and Counting

The twelfth solo album by Ani DiFranco, entitled *Up Up Up Up Up Up*, is the latest release from the twenty-eight year old. It is filled with a powerful soul that shines through in every track. From the first track, "Tis of Thee," to the final track, "Hat Shaped Hat" (which is nearly thirteen minutes long), Miss DiFranco has constructed a piece of art filled with meaning and emotion.

Racism, drug use, insanity, and the understanding that comes with age are just a few of the subjects of which she speaks in her songs. Possibly the most emotional song is "Angry Anymore," in which she forgives her parents for bringing her up in a broken home. In the song, she speaks to them and asks them to hear that she forgives them: "I just want you to understand/that I know what all the fighting was for/and I just want you to understand/that I'm not angry anymore."

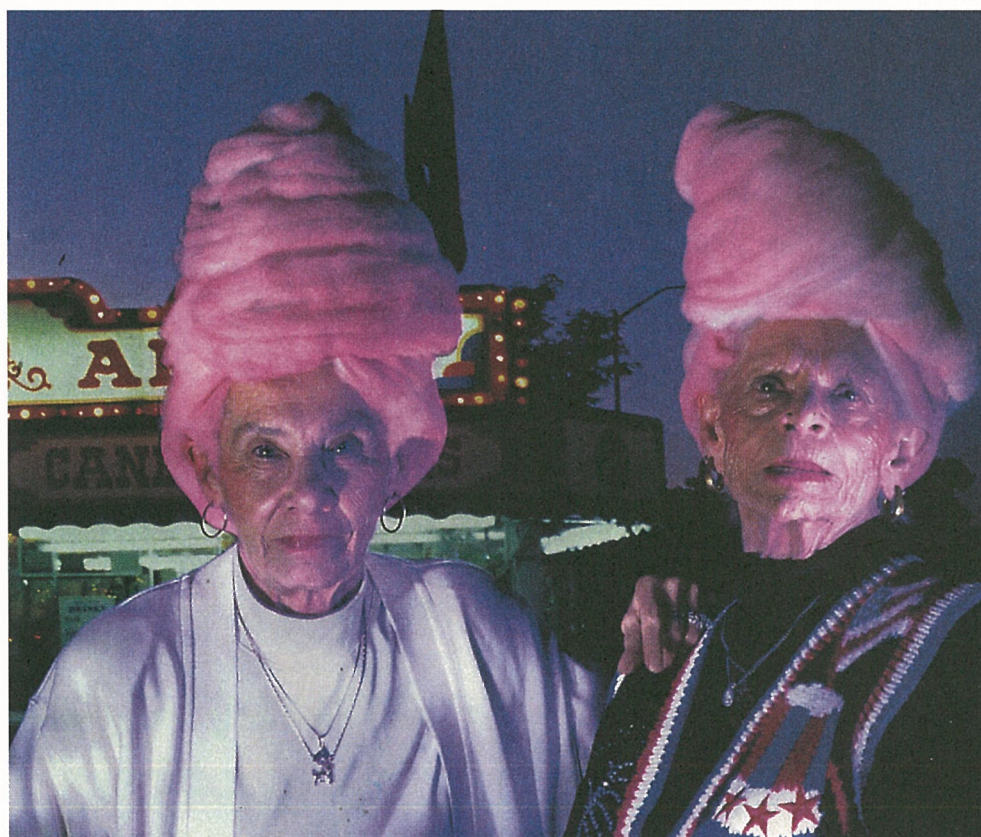
In the powerful song "Come Away From It" Ani pleads a friend to stop his hazardous drug use. Coming "away from it" is her way of

imploing her friend to walk away from the drugs. This song is over eight minutes long, but all that length is needed to show to the listener that this world may be bad, and things could not be left out: "Do you want to get off?/is this your stop?"

In her first song of the album, Ani tells of a black man taken off the streets so that white children can play. That image may be a little hard to think about, but it causes people to think about the reality that we live in.

This entire CD is not just music, but anthems for real life. The lack of a great deal of background music focuses the listener's attention on DiFranco's voice, rather than a melody that would only distract the listener from the meaning of the songs. This album may be her twelfth, but the songs are not merely a collection of tunes; rather each one shows evidence of Ani's personal style and emotion.

by Jason Pacchiarotti



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# word on the street

**What's steaming in the grand soup kitchen that is RIT? What opinions lurk in the working brain cells of students and staff? We victimized people passing their time on two floors of the SAU on Wednesday, Jan. 13, asking their opinions of Clinton's troubles and what should be done about them. Here's their thoughts on the great Senate trial of 1999.**

## Should the President be removed from office?



"He lied, and he should be removed just for that fact."  
- Brent Miller  
4th year Industrial Design

"I don't really know, I got kind of sick of it."  
- Kelly Stevens  
3rd year Biomedical Photography

"No, he's doing a decent job even though he lied to the country."

- Max Corbett  
1st year Industrial Design

"He should not be removed because he should only answer to his wife."

- Filipe Giraldo  
2nd year Mechanical Engineering

"No, his lying didn't undermine the country, taxes won't go up because he cheated."

- David Colon  
2nd year Telecommunications

"No, because the matter is between him and his family."

- Craig Jones  
1st year EE Tech

"The personal life of the President is not the country's business; Clinton's given us budget surplus."

- Stacy Scheiterly  
2nd year Biology

"It was a private situation, removal is a little steep, but how do you penalize the President?"

- Jamie Moore  
4th year Bio Tech

"His affair has nothing to do with his job, and they only found out about it through the Starr investigation."  
- Chris Green  
Hip-hop Music Director, WITR

"He shouldn't be removed for perjury or an extra-marital affair. People all around the country do these things and keep their jobs."  
- Genese Yearwood  
1st year Ultrasound

"I think he should be censured, but removal is harsh because his intention was to save himself from embarrassment, not to obstruct justice."  
- Geoffery Johnson  
Musician

## Is Perjury an Impeachable Offense?

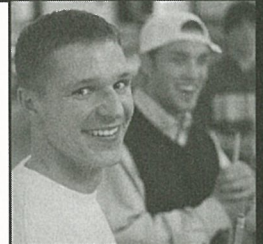
"Yeah, we want an honest president."  
- Tung Truong  
3rd year student at Geneseo



"Yes, but not in the case of a sex scandal."  
- Samantha Taylor  
1st year Film and Video



"Perjury is impeachable, but he should not be removed because it doesn't affect his work."  
- Brian Serafin  
3rd year MET



"Yes, if anyone can go to trial for this, why not the President?"

- Laura Schmidt  
3rd year Mechanical Engineering

"Yeah, shouldn't anything illegal be impeachable?"  
Marshall Savitt

"No, we shouldn't pry into his personal life."  
- Rich Whitmore  
3rd year MET

"Yeah, lying like that affects other people."  
- Brion Swanson

*by Zane Kaylani  
photos by Greg Benenati*



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# IT'S PERJURY, STUPID!

"I, William Jefferson Clinton ..."

**W**hat can we say about Bill Clinton? He receives oral sex in his office; his approval ratings go up. He lies about it on television; his approval ratings go up. Ken Starr's report reaches Congress; Clinton's party picks up five seats. He evades the 81 questions; Gingrich loses his job. He's impeached by the House; Livingston resigned in disgrace. True, the President's reputation is scarred, his administration is in a shambles, and his office is demeaned. Yet, by the grace of either God or the Devil, he remains in his place. Like Poe's raven, he still is sitting, still is sitting just above our chamber door. And he may not be going away any time soon. The great boomerang that is Slick Willie is more aerodynamic than ever, his career the kind of failure his peers can only dream of.

Furthermore our (reliable?) legislature is stuck in a quagmire. Passing unpopular articles of impeachment after steering through an unpopular trial; grumbling their dislike of the Commander in Briefs while ever-aware of the swirling political climate. Lawmakers grope around this political battlefield like officers with no intelligence, fearing that all this may lead to missed opportunities or a costly frontal assault. Some have already been caught in the line of fire. On the day of impeachment, just days after reports of his

marital infidelity reached airwaves and computers, a shaking House Speaker candidate Bob Livingston resigned his seat. His voice reached an aggravated crescendo as he challenged the President to follow him out. Earlier that week irate Republicans, bitterly disgusted with Clinton, denounced him for forcing the public to doubt his motives for putting American Persian Gulf personnel into action.

The public acts bewildered. What's this dichotomy, people wonder. Why is Washington boiling, while the voters seem tepid? There have been no major demonstrations concerning these matters, no noticeable public outcry, not even much debate. And certainly no

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Has the outrage really disappeared, and if so, is that bad? RIT offers its perspective on the most crowded national spectacle that nobody's watching.

---

political backlash against the president or his party. Some call it the death of outrage, others a natural dismissal of a scandal pursued too far. Some are concerned about a cynical perception of the presidency, still others worry about a conspiracy to "get" this president.

Meanwhile, 55 Republicans and 45 Democrats face a historical decision. When the house passed articles of impeachment I and III last December--indicting Clinton in constitutional terms for perjury, lying under oath before a grand jury, obstruction of justice and manipulating at least one and perhaps more witnesses to perjure themselves in a civil suit--they indeed made a clear statement. They did not vote because







they cared about the President's private improper conduct or that principle outweighs politics where the sacred Constitution is concerned. Rather, they voted in favor of the notion that a president may be removed from office for the (so far still-alleged) crime of perjury. That's the only thing that can be said for sure, and that's the crux of every panel discussion on the network and cable news shows, however rarely identified it might be. "He lied under oath!" cries the one on the right. "But it was about sex in a civil case that's since been dismissed!" screams the other on the left. Both are correct, but they are talking about the same crime. More and more, the level-headed in this discourse are pointing out that it is this alleged crime that should be discussed, not Clinton himself or Lewinsky or Vernon Jordan or any of the characters that populate this saga of Hefnerian proportions.

Consider what happened the last time around. President Andrew Johnson was impeached in the Spring of 1868. He vio-

lated the Tenure of Office Act. The Act was passed by a Congress dominated by radical Republicans who were clashing with Johnson over his policy toward the defeated South. The act forbade the President from dismissing, without prior approval, any member of his administration that was subject to Senate confirmation. When Johnson tried to fire Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton (who had, incidentally, been appointed by his predecessor Abraham Lincoln after Lincoln had fired his previous war secretary), the House of Representatives passed articles of impeachment against Johnson. On voting day, May 16, 1868, two Republicans, both from Iowa, defected and voted not guilty: James W. Grimes who had suffered a stroke and had to be carried into the chamber, and freshman Edmund J. Ross.

Then, as now, much smoke swirled in front of the fire. Some thought the radical Republicans were staging a constitutional coup. Others claimed the legislative branch was reasserting the people's

freedom after Lincoln had brushed it aside during the war years. But through all the rhetoric and occasional violence strewn back and forth, the core question remained: can a president be removed for dismissing a member of his cabinet? Just as the core question today is, can a president be removed for committing perjury?

Impeachment, broadly defined, is the adoption of charges by a legislative body against a public official. The modern American concept of impeachment finds its origins in the early English parliamentary system as it began in the period following the Renaissance era. In the 15th century the London government's procedure dictated that the House of Commons brought the charges and passed them to the House of Lords for judgment. However, since prime ministers are far easier to remove than their counterpart presidents in federal systems, impeachment more or less fell into disuse in parliamentary countries. There has not been an

continued on pg. 18.



impeachment of anyone in England since that of Lord Melville in 1806. However, the American Founding Fathers devised the Constitution in the 1780's and procured impeachment as part of their system of checks and balances. They allowed the people's representatives to ensure that the president faithfully upholds the law by not breaking it himself. But Congress may only remove, not discipline. The Constitution says nothing about censuring the president. It says, the president may be removed from office for "high crimes and misdemeanors." But what constitutes those? In 1868 radical Republican leaders Charles Sumner and Thaddeus Stevens thought that violations of the Tenure of Office Act were prime examples. The Supreme Court has since ruled them wrong as has the general opinion of history. Yet had it not been for a fresh-faced Senator from Iowa, Johnson would have been sent packing.

Thus Congresspeople are invested with significant power and recent history offers no practical precedent to guide them in using it. Legislative officials cannot be impeached, and the only people who have faced the proceeding have been judges and lower government officials with none of the visibility or prestige of the presidency. Three articles of impeachment were passed against Richard Nixon in 1974 by the House Judiciary Committee, but Nixon resigned before they could be brought to a final House vote. Similarities between the Clinton and Nixon dilemmas include alleged lying, perjury, and obstruction of justice, all of which appear somewhere in both scandals. But because Nixon resigned, Congress was never faced with the decision to remove him or given a chance to vote on impeachment. Even today it is not entirely clear what would have happened if the articles had reached the senate for trial. People usually

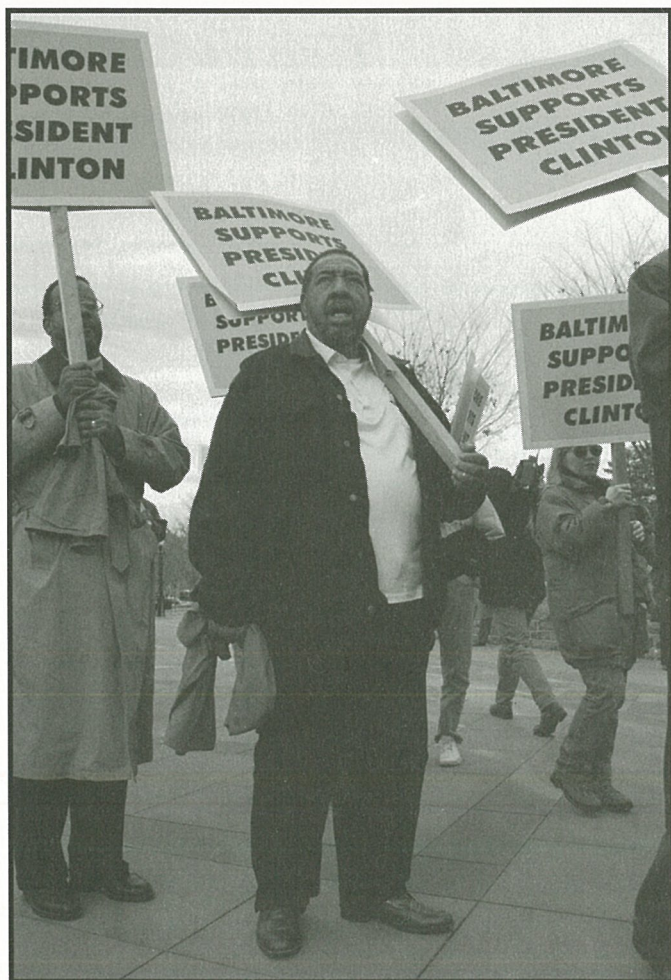
assume he would have been removed, but we cannot know for sure, and some argue Nixon might have won a trial in the Senate. As for Clinton, many critics believe he should follow Nixon's example, and Livingston's as well. Even back during the '96 election Ross Perot told supporters that Clinton "ought to resign today in shame!" Other Clinton opponents believe that resignation is the best way for the President to end his term with dignity.

On the other hand the public seems unwilling to hear it. Clinton's approval ratings have hit the roof and remained higher than Ronald Reagan's when "The Gipper" was at his peak. There is also the matter of whether Clinton did indeed commit perjury, a charge he's always denied. But his denial of the Lewinsky affair under oath during his deposition in the Paula Jones case and subsequent fessing up after his questioning by Starr and his staff have made it a virtual given in the minds of most that Clinton is a perjurer. There is also a distinct impatience with Clinton's inability to answer a direct question and his constant hairsplitting of simple words. (Greatest political spin ever: It depends what the meaning of the word *is* is!)

Simply put, people disassociate the crime of perjury from Clinton's specific actions. This is reflected in polls, in our own word-on-the-street sidebar, and in the general lack of interest in a case one would think might spur discussion about the happenings in Washington. As RIT Criminal Justice professor Klofas told *Reporter*, "there are different types of truths and lies and the idea that perjury is black and white is much too simplistic."

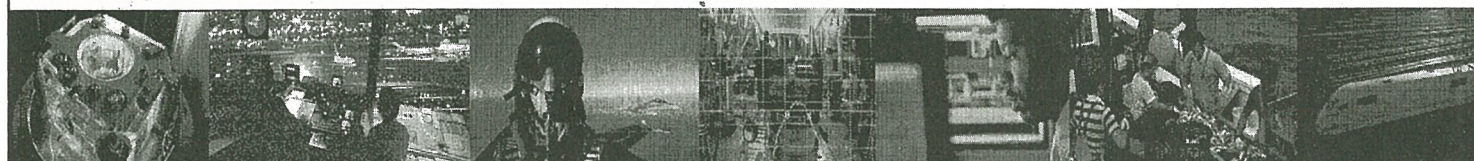
So it all comes back to perjury. Clinton has admitted to nearly everything except that, and of course obstruction of justice. Are there different types of perjury? Is one type excusable and another type not? Or are we dealing with perjury vs. "discretion?" Or is it like the crime of murder, wrong all the time regardless of the motives? That is what the public and the Senate must now decide. And like their counterparts of 1868, we can only hope they vote in accordance with their consciences.

by Zane Kaylani  
photos by Alexandra Daley



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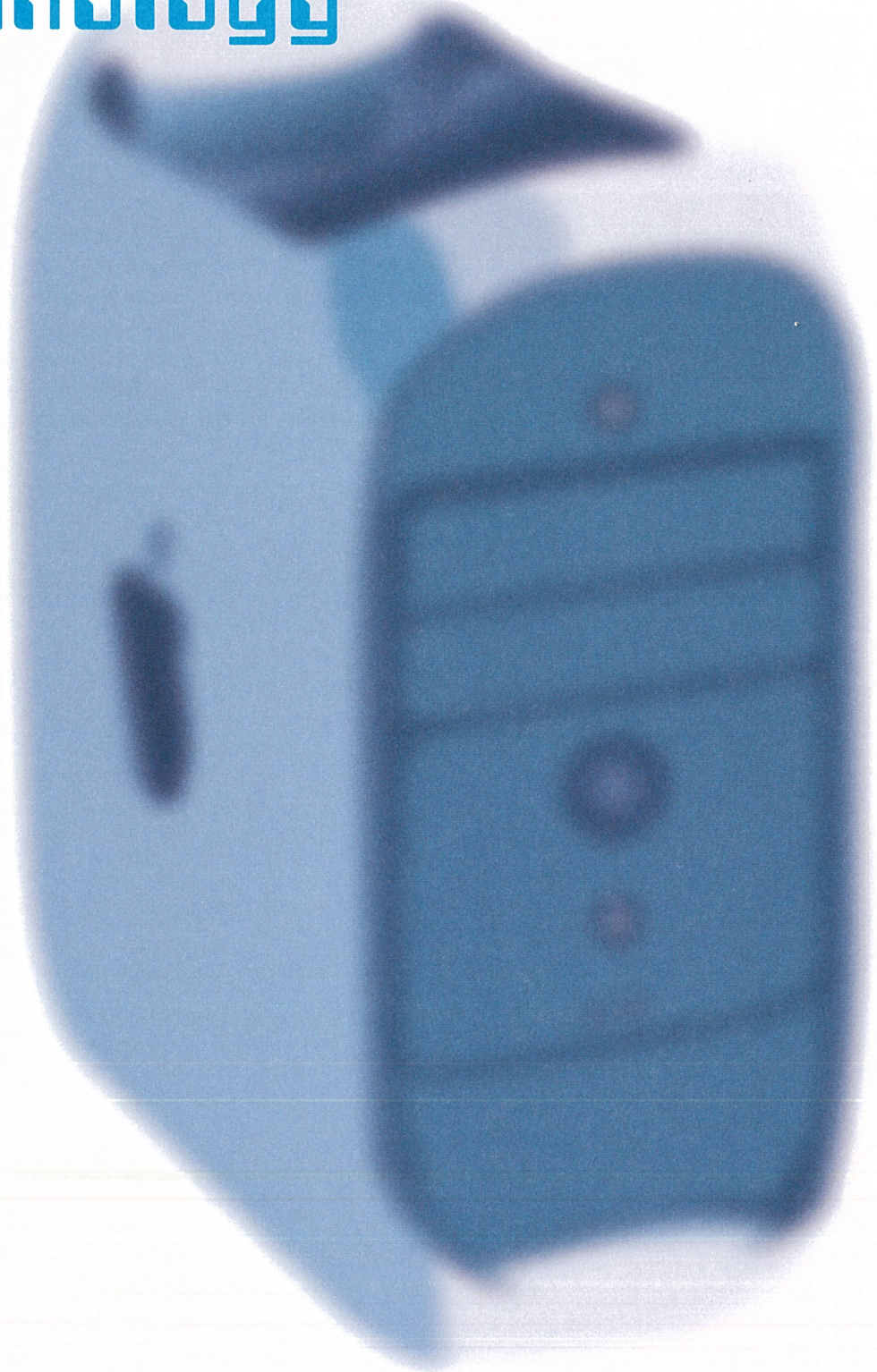
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# State-of-the-art: trends in computer technology







computers are constantly evolving machines that affect our lives in different ways. In 1979, the first personal computers came out from Apple and IBM. Growing up with computers, we twenty-somethings have been able to witness the development of computer-related technologies from a perspective not afforded to most others. However, the advance of computer technology has snowballed to the point where tomorrow's new technology was obsolete yesterday. This article will discuss some current technologies, as well as those on the horizon. Even if you are not a computer aficionado, I encourage you to read on anyway. Like it or not, computers are a part of most everything we do in work and play. Reading this article can only help familiarize you with some of the current trends in computing, no matter what your field may be.

From the confines of Microsoft comes the latest release of Windows 98. Computer experts are hailing Win98 as a "better and

up file retrieval and program boots. Users complain of fewer system crashes and greater control over their computers in general. Also, almost any application that worked under Win95 will continue to work under Win98, so there are few compatibility issues to worry about.

And what about Win98's high-powered, rock-solid cousin, Windows NT 5.0? Expected for release in "early 1999," it is supposed to be a great improvement over the current version, NT 4.0. Microsoft says that Win98 is the last system users will see that is based in DOS. This leads many to question the upgrade to Win98, and wonder if they should wait for the release of NT. Of course any upgrade to NT will probably require some hardware with more horsepower, and frankly will likely cost you more in the long run. Some advantages of keeping Win98 are that you can continue to run DOS programs and other 16-bit programs, including many games.

According to a recent PC World article, we can expect NT 5.0 to have better securi-

towers coming from Cupertino. These new towers follow the same translucent ice-and-blue color scheme, with the addition of molded-in handles for easy transport. In Apple's attempt to make computers more fun and attractive, you can now order the new iMacs in an assortment of jelly-bean-like colors ("blueberry, strawberry, tangerine, grape and lime," according to Apple). Gone are the days of platinum mist and the multi-colored "disco" logo (which this writer was particularly fond of!)

The dramatic change in looks put aside, next noticed is the increase in performance that comes with every new re-designed motherboard. A recent Macworld magazine test boasts that "hard drive performance is up 52%" and that the internal bus speed "is increased by one-third." As anyone will tell you, the faster the bus speed, the faster the computer appears to the user. Those who were confused by the initial set-up of their computers will be relieved to see that these new machines have the user in mind. All that is required now is a simple three-step

**WARNING:** reading this article may classify you as a "geek"... but read it anyway.

more stable operating system than Win95 overall." While initial beta versions left much to be desired, the commercial releases has been well-received by the market. Some of you may have heard horror stories from people who have had problems upgrading their systems. Experts recommend a total reformatting, then a clean install of Win98 and all your other applications. For best performance, it is recommended for mid level-Pentium systems with at least 32 MB of RAM.

Past the initial trauma of installing a new operating system, people have had very positive things to say about Win98. While not a revolutionary step forward, it does feature the new "integrated desktop" approach of integrating Internet Explorer into the operating system. Especially suited to us college students with free Ethernet connections, it allows greater accessibility to the Internet and related network services. Most visible to users is the decreased start-up and shut-down times. Automatic disk-defragmenting software helps speed-

ty features, as well as support for multiple processors and increased multitasking capabilities. Microsoft says that in the end, NT is a more robust system that is easier to support than Win98. Yeah, but does it come with Solitaire NT? Kidding aside, what about your investment in DOS programs? Right now Win98 can do many of the things that NT does, so please do not feel compelled to camp out at CompUSA until the next release comes out.

The best things to happen to Apple recently are their newest release of a 400 MHz G3-powered machine and System 8.5. The G3 chip is the newest member of the PowerPC clan, released in early 1998 as part of Steve Jobs' whirlwind media extravaganza explaining how Apple Computer was on the comeback trail. System 8.5 is another big step forward into the next generation of M a c i n t o s h operating systems.

Those who were pleasantly shocked by the new iMac released last year will be equally pleased with the latest round of

process: Plug in the monitor to the video port, attach the keyboard to the new USB port, and plug in the computer to the power.

Prices are another amazing feature. Suggested retail for a PowerMac G3/400 MHz, with 128 MB of RAM, a 9 GB hard drive, and a 24x CD-ROM/DVD drive is only \$2999. There is the option for an internal Zip drive from Iomega, as well as the usual RAM and motherboard upgrades. Expect these prices to continue to drop through the year as Apple gets ready to introduce its next round of processors.

Since 1984 Mac users have enjoyed a certain amount of continuity as far as the operating system goes. The interface with its system of icons and windows has pretty much been standard since its inception, with gradual changes along the way. System 7.6 was the last of the so-called "classic Mac" systems released just before the long-awaited System 8. The long-delayed System 8 was supposed to be the embodiment of



years of research (code-named "Copland") that would give Mac users this fantastic new PowerPC-native system incorporating technologies from Steve Jobs company. What it turned out to be was a major cosmetic renovation, with few improvements, and none of the promised bells and whistles of Copland. The release of 8.5 this past fall was a great step towards achieving Apple's goal of a streamlined, all native-PowerPC operating system.

Greater control over the look-and-feel of the interface was hinted at in System 8 with the addition of Desktop Pictures. In the latest release, there are now "themes" you can choose from, as well as a set of fun, unobtrusive noises to accompany your actions. Even greater customization is promised in the next release. Beyond cosmetics, the engineers at Apple have been working on things behind-the-scenes that you may not notice. This includes faster networking with Windows NT-based servers, and a new search engine.

If you work in any type of office environment with your Mac, you can expect that somehow you are connected to an NT-based file server. Networking with a foreign machine can be hell when you are trying to transfer huge files - not uncommon in the graphic arts field where you can have gargantuan piles of data. MacOS 8.5 helps bring these files across with alarming speed. Word from Apple is that the new networking software was designed to mesh perfectly with existing NT technology, making life in a hybrid computer environment a lot more efficient.

Another heralded feature of System 8.5 is the new Sherlock search engine. More powerful than the earlier "Find File" utility, it allows you to search your hard drive with greater accuracy. Not only that, but if you have an Internet connection, you can search websites without a browser. A complement of free Sherlock plug-ins available on-line expands the program's capabilities. You can try out System 8.5's capabilities for yourself in the Gannett Lab, located in building 7B.

Apple's latest system release is fun to use, and offers high-speed networking, and a powerful search engine. The next planned release, called MacOS X (or "Ten," we don't know what happened to "9") is supposed to be another great leap forward. The best

thing, as far as software developers are concerned, is the ease of porting existing applications to the next system. MacOS X takes advantage of new "system calls," which means that older applications not written for it will not work. Rewriting an application from the ground up can take months, years. With help from Apple, engineers from Adobe were able to port Photoshop to MacOS X in less than ten days. Since compatibility issues can spell doomsday for a new system, this is great news. Apple is already shipping versions of a product called "MacOS X Server." Judging from the screen shots, it looks like the MacOS draped over a UNIX-style work flow.

The technologies you have read about above only concern certain platforms - either Macs or PCs. The next emerging technology which you may have heard of is called the Universal Serial Bus, or USB for short. What USB hopes to accomplish is total compatibility between peripherals and computers. What this means is that anything you might attach to your computer - be it a Zip drive, a printer, a keyboard, a mouse - all use the same type of plug and the same type of port. Turn your PC tower around and look at the back - you see a maze of parallel ports, serial ports, COM ports, and the like. Hew! Turn around a Mac, and see a similar mess. Each type of peripheral has its own type of port: disk drives get plugged into SCSI ports (or parallel ports), modems get plugged into serial ports, etc. USB should bring an end to the confusion, and also help make computers less expensive.

Another advantage of USB is the number of devices that you can have connected. In a traditional SCSI chain, you are limited to seven devices. Two of those slots are usually already taken by your internal hard drive and CD-ROM, so in reality you're actually limited to five. USB allows you to theoretically connect up to 127 devices! While most people do not need this type of capacity, it is nice to know that the power of expandability is there if you ever need it.

Sounds great! Unless your computer was built after 1998, you probably will not see any USB ports in the back of your machine. If you have an iMac, you may be experiencing problems trying to get peripherals for your machine. Iomega is currently manufac-

turing a Zip made for USB, as are a few other major manufacturers.

If this technology is so great, why has not it been adopted as an industry standard? Like any new technology, it will take time for more manufacturers to jump on board. Apple is pushing the envelope by offering USB ports on all its new machines, starting with the iMac. Most PC's built in the last few months already come with them, too. Right now, there are just too few products being developed for USB to make the total switch feasible. However, expect computers to come equipped with them more and more in the next few years.

*by Otto Vondrak*

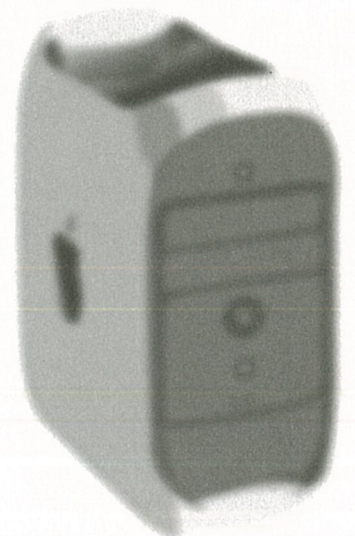
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# Talkin' Baseball...

## Joe Torre speaks to enthusiastic Rochester crowd

Far away from the high-priced NBA lock-out, far removed from the frosty post-season gridiron, emerges a champion. Joe Torre is not only a champion of the baseball diamond, but in strategy and leadership that makes him more human to all of us. Yankee fans from miles around filled the Clark Gymnasium on January 21 to hear the beloved Manager speak on his experiences.

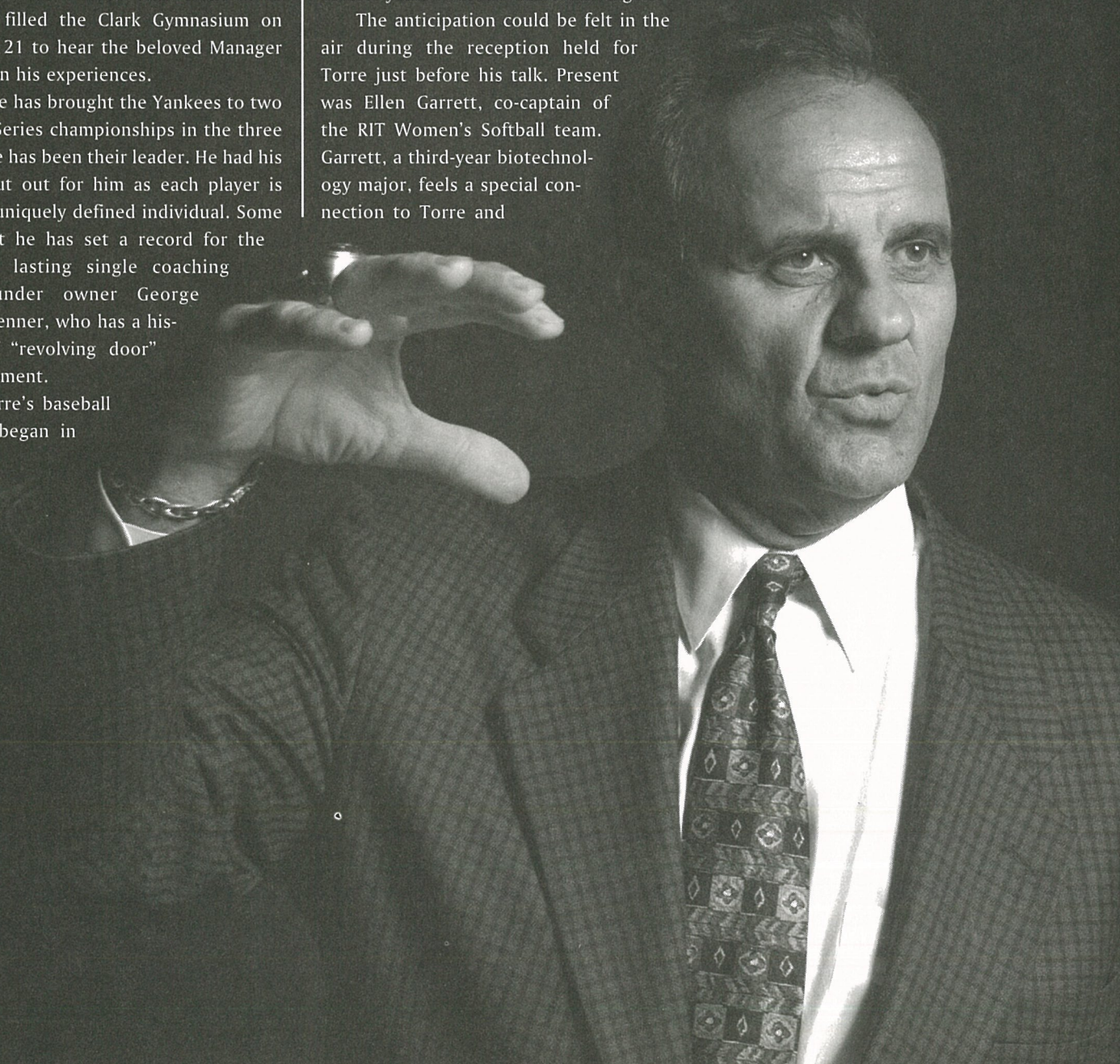
Torre has brought the Yankees to two World Series championships in the three years he has been their leader. He had his work cut out for him as each player is such a uniquely defined individual. Some say that he has set a record for the longest lasting single coaching staff under owner George Steinbrenner, who has a history of "revolving door" management.

Torre's baseball career began in

1960 with the then Milwaukee Braves. Eventually, he moved on to the Mets ("Any port in storm," he said), playing under manager Yogi Bera (a former Yankee slugger) in 1975. After leaving baseball, he became a broadcaster for several years with the California Angels.

The anticipation could be felt in the air during the reception held for Torre just before his talk. Present was Ellen Garrett, co-captain of the RIT Women's Softball team. Garrett, a third-year biotechnology major, feels a special connection to Torre and

the Yankee organization. She attended St. Francis Prep, the same high school that Torre attended. Garrett's father also works for the Yankees as an usher at Yankee Stadium. When asked how she felt, she said that "I'm very





excited - I've been a Yankee fan all my life!" Garrett was present with her co-captain Chenoa Kucera, and Jessica Gugimo, who is in her own opinion, "just a lowly second-baseman." Also present was the Assistant Coach, Jack Carpenter.

A brief introduction by Student Government was followed by a planned inside joke - five guys came out on stage, bare-chested, spelling out "ANKSY," mimicking a famous Nike ad. "What the hell is 'ANKSY'?" Torre asked, going along with the joke. This good-humored welcome was to set the tone for the rest of the evening. "We're going to have a lot of fun tonight," Torre assured the crowd.

Everyone was wondering about his most recent championship, precluded by an awesome 125-50 season. "In spring training, I sensed something special was going on." Special, indeed. The Yankees lineup reads like a cast of characters: Cone, Irabu, Wells, Jeter, O'Neil, and many more. "The Yankee Clubhouse is not easy to move around in - you have a translator for the Japanese pitcher, a translator for the Cuban pitcher who also doubles as the first base coach..." He joked how when he has to chew out one of the players through a translator, he has to sense when the swear word is approaching, and make the appropriate face. "Like this," he said, and made the appropriate scowl. The adoring crowd ate it up. "Basically, there was a lot of respect all around," he said, "Once we got to that point, that's when the winning started."

On leadership, Torre commented, "You can't make players do things that they don't want to do." He gave an example with Wells - he would come back to him several times. Wells likes to play Metallica at very high volumes in the clubhouse. This can be very disturbing when you're trying to get work done in your office. As a compromise, they agreed that he can only do that on the days he's pitching. "Being a manager, you have to be flexible," he continued, "You delegate responsibility to the players until they can't help it."

There were microphones at the front of the stage set up so that people could ask Torre about anything on their minds. Surprisingly, many young children took advantage of the opportunity. One little girl, who could not have been much older than 6, asked, "What do you think of women umpires?" Torre was receptive to the idea,

saying, "We have had several [women umpires] in our spring training." He qualified the statement by saying, "Whoever can do the job should have the opportunity."

Many people just wanted the inside scoop on the team. One young man asked, "Who will play left field?"

"Are you from the newspapers?" Torre joked. He answered hopefully by suggesting Daryll Strawberry. The Straw, the Yankees "comeback kid," has been undergoing treatment for cancer since the start of the post-season. "Straw is still on chemotherapy, but we expect to see him at spring training - and he feels GREAT." Straw will be signing a minor league contract just in case he can't handle the stress of the majors.

Another little boy asked, "How come we never see you smile in the dugout?"

"George has a rule about that," Torre joked, "No smiling! George can't see us having a good time!"

A young slugger asked, "How do you get the [baseball] scouts to look at you?"

"Play good," was Torre's simple advice.

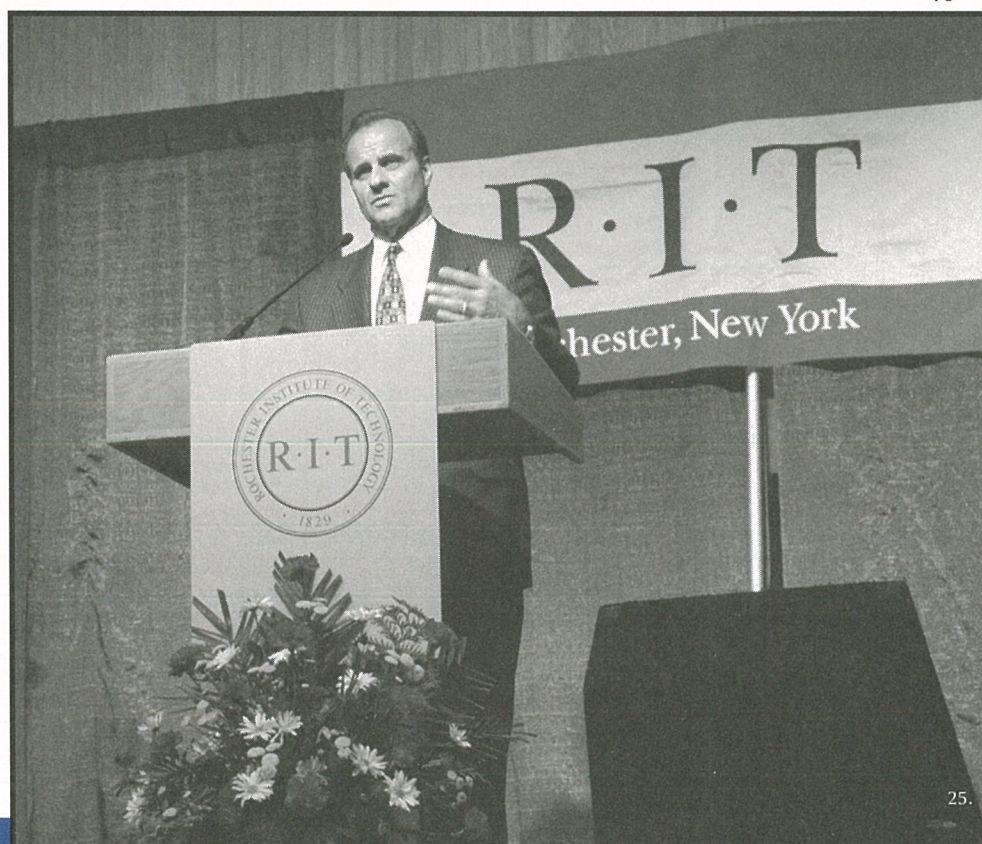
Everyone was impressed by the total cohesion of the 1998 Yankee team. Torre himself did not expect to keep his team together for so long. "I'm really pleased at all the players who had the option to leave, but decided to stay." For instance, pitcher David Cone, an important part of the Yankees pitching staff, will be staying for

# sportsportsportsports sports

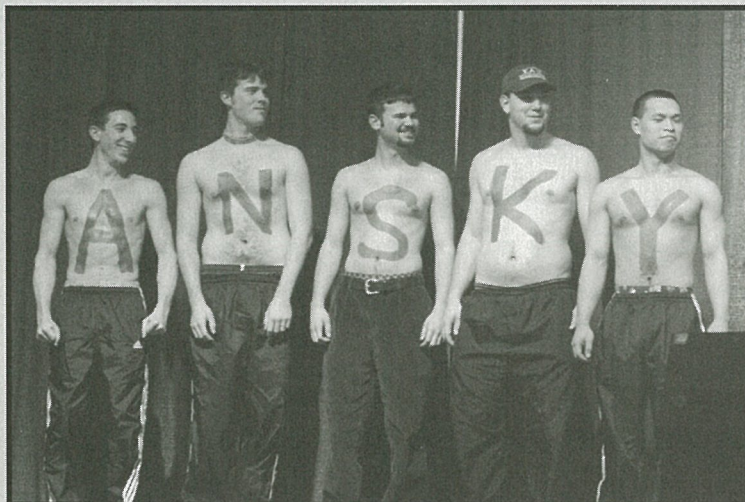
another year. Shortstop slugger Derek Jeter has three more years on his contract. Torre hinted that Bernie Williams may end up staying on, even after all his labor mediation. As far as permanence, Torre commented that his coaching staff has lasted the longest under the ownership of Steinbrenner. To the relief of all, the Miracle Manager told us that his contract offers him two more years after this season.

The talk swung back to Yankee traditions. Someone asked who the next Yankee Captain would be. "Probably Jeter - he definitely qualifies - but in a few more years." The naming of a Captain is something very important to the team, and reflects on the personalities of the individuals. As a team steeped in tradition, the naming of the Captain is akin to electing a new Pope (and it doesn't happen very often). The last Captain was star hitter Don Mattingly. Retiring just after the end of the 1995 post-season, he missed the Yankees championship the next year. Mattingly also

continued on pg. 26.







arrived in 1982, after the Yanks' last showing in the World Series. "We have invited Mattingly to spring training, to act on the coaching staff." He stressed that they were not pushing him. Mattingly had to make the decision. "We'd like to see him come down... hopefully along with Yogi." Since ending his years-long feud with Steinbrenner, Yogi has expressed interest in returning to the Yankee organization.

"Will the Yankees ever leave the Bronx?"

Torre stunned this writer by saying, "Yes." He went on to explain, "Eventually, they're gonna move. It may be ten years down the road, between all the political and financial wrangling." But what of the history created in the "House that Ruth built?" "There is a lot of history in the Bronx, you can't deny that - but there is much more

## WOMEN FINALLY WIN IN OVERTIME



Rebecca Grandy slaps a puck past a sliding defender.

All year, the RIT women's hockey team had been in three overtime games and every one has ended up in a tie. They finally broke this trend with a 4-3 overtime win against Southern Maine. This win improved the Tigers' record to 5-1-3 for the year.

Scoring the game-winning goal was sophomore forward Margaret Dumiak at the 4:24 mark. Assisting on the play were forwards Katie Obyc and Rochelle Bogart.

Dumiak, who is second on the team in scoring, also added a goal and an assist earlier in the game. She now has seven goals and 10 assists for the year. Overall she has been playing great with seven points over last four games.

Also scoring in the game were junior forward Jill Johnson and junior defensemen Andrea Talerico.

Obyc, who assisted on Talerico's goal as well, leads the team in scoring with 20 total points (3 goals 17 assists).

Even with all the scoring, the Tigers were up against a tough Maine team. They were able to hold them against an amazing 13 shots on goal. This can be attributed to the Tigers tough, and if need be, stifling defense. The Tigers were able to give their opponents so few shots because of their puck control. So far this year, RIT has out-shot their opponents 531 to 313 (344 to 313 SOG).

Whatever shots the opposing team has managed to get off, have been stopped by Melissa Norris. Norris has been strong in goal all year. Against Maine, however, she had a little trouble with only ten saves, allowing 3 goals. She overall has an unbelievable 2.14 GA; allowing only 18 goals in over 500 minutes of play.

With the way the Tigers have been playing it is clear that these ladies are serious and should not be taken lightly.

### Upcoming Games

Fri 1/29 at Niagara.....7:00

Sun 1/31 Clarkson.....11:30



history in a uniform."

"How come you never smile?" asked one little girl.

"Well," Torre said thoughtfully, "I've always had this face, and I can't do much with it." He then flashed the audience a big toothy grin, to prove that it can be done. Then, he added, "Only my three-year old daughter makes me smile."

When asked about the state of baseball in general, he said, "the game is in trouble. I feel that there are not enough teams out there that can compete." Money is definitely a factor - if you cannot spend the money to improve your team, then you cannot possibly compete. "The owners need to trust each other more, and work with the players' associations."

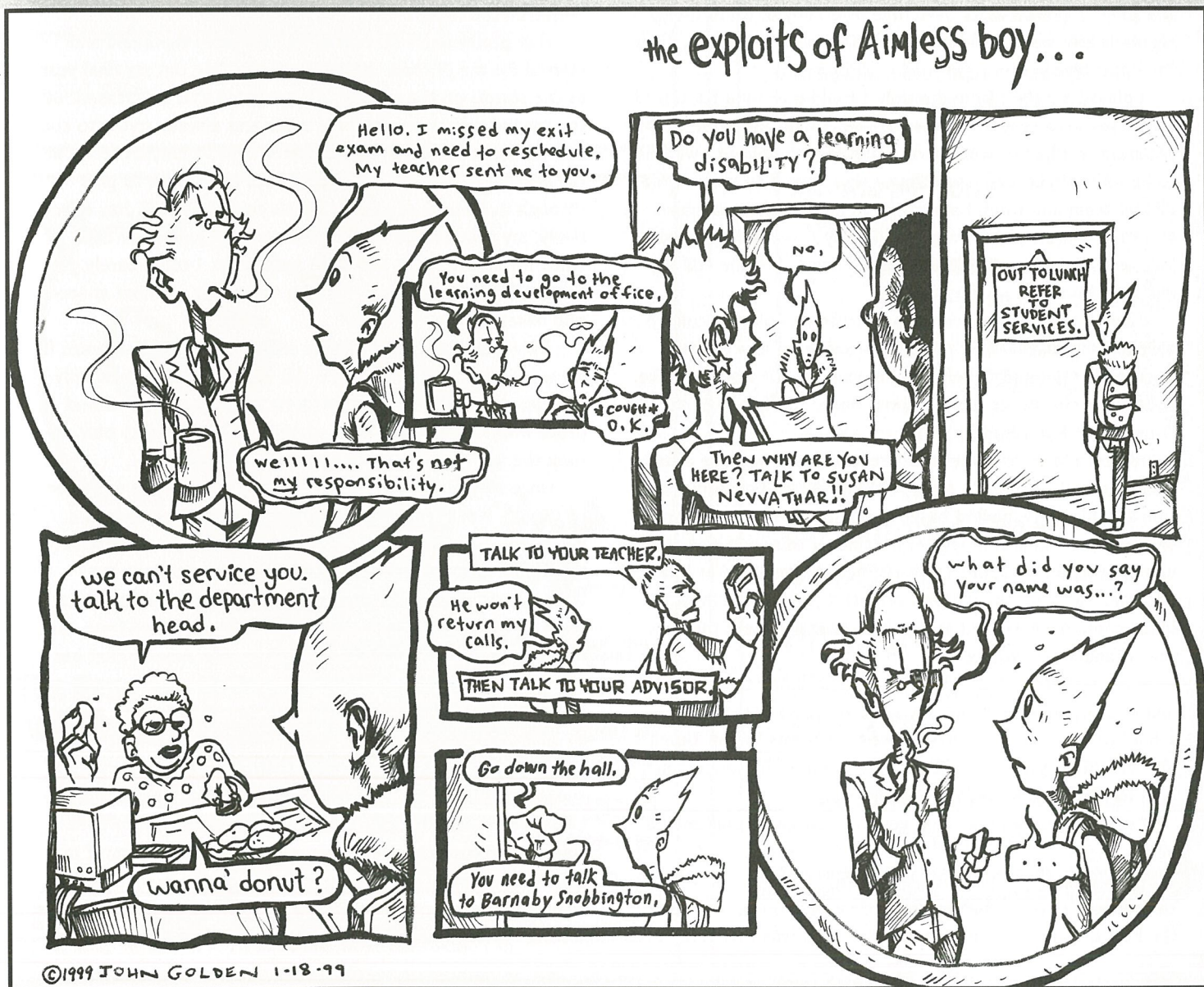
After his talk, President Simone came up on stage. "Here comes my degree," Torre joked. Simone presented Torre with an RIT baseball cap and an RIT sweatshirt. Fans then swarmed the stage asking for autographs. Do not ever say that Joe Torre is not a nice guy: he stayed behind to sign everyone's autographs, even though he had a plane to catch early the next morning. This was an unexpected bonus. As the fans filtered out of the stadium, er, gymnasium, they played Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York." A tradition at Yankee Stadium, this song is played at the end of every home victory.

Afterwards, we had the opportunity to toss a few one-liners to Torre during a publicity photo session held backstage. When we asked him what he thought of RIT, he said, "I really like it here, the enthusiasm is great!" We asked him if he would ever consider coming back. He would have been here tomorrow if he could: "I really did think about it a few times," but an early flight to Georgia took the decision out of his hands. Everyone was grateful that Torre would venture north to speak, and we asked him how he liked "the frozen north." "Rochester?" he thought for a second, laughed, "'Frozen north' is right!" Torre also told us that he prefers the New York *Daily News* to the *Post*, settling a bet between *Reporter* staff members.

It is doubted if anyone would complain if Torre returned to RIT for another speaking engagement. His warm, friendly demeanor, and love of the game of baseball is apparent, as is his interest in his fellow man. He is a fair, patient man, whose priorities are right on track. Rest assured that the Yankees are in good hands for years to come.

by Otto Vondrak

photos by Andrew Gombert





## It's Supposed to be Fun

I've wanted to write this piece for some time now, and after seeing a surprisingly good *Varsity Blues*, I finally decided to do it....

Growing up, I had only one passion--baseball. Sure, in high school I was extremely involved, drumming for band and drama performances and bowling on the school team, but baseball was what I loved. I don't have time to do any of these things regularly any more, and I honestly don't know if I would, given the opportunity.

I played baseball from the time I could pick up a bat until I graduated high school. It was not something that came entirely naturally--I had to work hard to become the player I wanted to be. In Little League, I was routinely selected to play on the all-star team and when I moved up to Babe Ruth, I was my team's first draft pick. I was one of only two middle school kids who played modified high school baseball while still in middle school.

Like all young ballplayers, I had dreams of playing college baseball and maybe even pro ball. Growing up as a devoted Yankees fan, I couldn't help but imagine what it would be like to stand in the sweet summer grass under the facade of the "House that Ruth Built."

All those dreams came to a screeching halt because of two events in high school. As a sophomore, I spent my spring vacation at a highly respected baseball school in Florida. I learned so many new skills and new ways of doing things; it was as if I was starting a new sport. I also learned that as good as I had become, I was not the nation's brightest prospect. I'm sure that I could have worked at it, but the second event the next year changed everything....

As a freshman I was selected as the modified team's MVP, and as a sophomore, I took my skills acquired at baseball school to the JV level where I shined equally as bright. Going into my junior year, I was sure that I would make varsity and be a major contributor to the team.

I did "make the team" that year, but my coach told me I'd be playing JV instead, because he couldn't fit me into the everyday lineup. My primary position was catcher--a position that few youngsters requested, but I loved. I was good, one of the best defensive catchers in the area who was excellent at

game-calling and understanding a pitcher. Nonetheless, I did not want to limit myself, so I learned every position and was better than adequate everywhere on the field except the pitcher's mound. Suddenly, I was not good enough to play anywhere? These were the same people I'd played with my entire life and I wasn't even given a chance to win a position anywhere on the field.

That pretty much killed baseball for me. I captained and starred for the JV team that year and finished out my final year as the starter on the varsity squad. I hated that last season. By the second day of practice, my coach was already trying to convert someone from a different position into a catcher. Early in the season, I developed tendonitis, but was forced to play through it. Instead of getting a little rest so I could play effectively, my coach made me feel like an ass. There were days when my arm hung so low in so much pain, I could barely get the ball back the pitcher, let alone throw out a runner at second base.

This man actually told us we sucked in the dugout once. If we were behind, everything we did was wrong. He knew only one type of motivation: negative. He embarrassed us all and drove away a lot of good players who truly wanted to play. He took the fun out of winning; out of playing at all.

Since then, I have seen the same coach humiliate a pitcher by leaving him in to give up a dozen runs in one inning in a game the team was winning. What could be the best infielder this coach will ever see has played for two seasons in the wrong position. On the football field, this same coach took a team that was the best in the league at the modified level, and turned them into a sub-.500 team on varsity. Anyone that has ever played under him, is disgusted with him.

I have witnessed many other questionable coaching moves at the same school. In the sectionals, a JV soccer coach went over the head of the varsity coach and benched a varsity starter because he liked a different girl better. This year, the basketball coach cut or benched nearly all players who have started for the team at every level in previous years, most of whom are seniors playing their final seasons. The team is now made up of young players who played in a summer league with the coach while the regular starters were working. The team



has yet to win. Everything described has happened at one school, so it's hard to imagine it doesn't occur at some level in many other places.

"It's not about winning. It's how you play the game. It's about having fun." My dad told me this when I was the young impressionable kid who dreamt of being on the Yankee's lineup card. He was wrong. Coaches today are all too often not about the players; they are about winning.

If you have not yet seen Varsity Blues, it is about a football coach who will do anything to win. He administers cortisone shots to severely injured players to keep them in the game. He threatens to change the transcript of his quarterback so that his college scholarship is revoked, unless the team wins. The players live in a town where football is taken so seriously. They are pressured by their fathers to win at any cost. This movie may be a little extreme to consider it standard practice, but I'm sure it happens.

Organized athletics should not be about egotistical coaches or pressuring fathers--sports at these levels are about the kids who play them. "Negative reinforcement" as it is called, is not enforcement to play, but rather to quit. Winning is fun, but isn't everything. When I'm a father, I'll tell my kids the same thing my dad told me. I just hope someday it is true.

by Nick Spittal



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- The one they never notice

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Sometimes when I'm bored, I'll look at another person and think "Wow, they aren't bored at all."

- Smart guy

Life is pain, anyone who says differently is selling something.

- The Dread Pirate Roberts

It feels like I am just killing time until the end of the world.

- An RIT student

Big News - Bill Cosby wears a RIT sweatshirt on network TV!  
- Nick

One time I built a snowman, but Evil Greg came over and kicked it. Too bad he didn't know about the fire hydrant.  
- Otto

Wanted: One attractive female with low value system and loose morals to help intern at the Reporter Photo desk. Bring resume and self portrait.  
- Bill Clinton

Make time for the things that count - after all is said and done, it's not how many toys you have, but the number of Nick's Plates you can eat without puking.  
- Ottoman

Happy Birthday Alison! Hope you enjoy your 21st birthday, and remember: igloos can be made out of irons.-



# C a l e n d a r I T

JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 6

## Friday, January 29th

7pm  
**Caribbean Student Association**  
**Date Auction &  
After Party (w/DJ)**  
*Clark A,B,C, SAU*  
\$5 for both

7&9:30pm  
**Talisman:**  
**North By Northwest**  
*Ingle Aud.*  
FREE

## Saturday, January 30th

7&9:30pm  
**Talisman:**  
**North By Northwest**  
*Ingle Aud.*  
FREE

8pm-midnight  
**Community Service**  
**Clubhouse Snowball**  
*SAU Cafeteria*  
\$8

## Thursday, February 4th

8-10pm  
**K.J.James**  
rhythm & blues  
*The Grind*  
FREE

8pm  
**RIT Players Production of**  
**Midsummer**  
**Night's Dream,**  
**by William Shakespeare**  
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General Public: \$4  
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## Friday, February 6th Frostbite Frenzy

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*Ingle Auditorium*

9pm  
**God Street Wine**  
*SAU Cafeteria*

6pm-midnight  
**Vendors in the SAU Lobby**

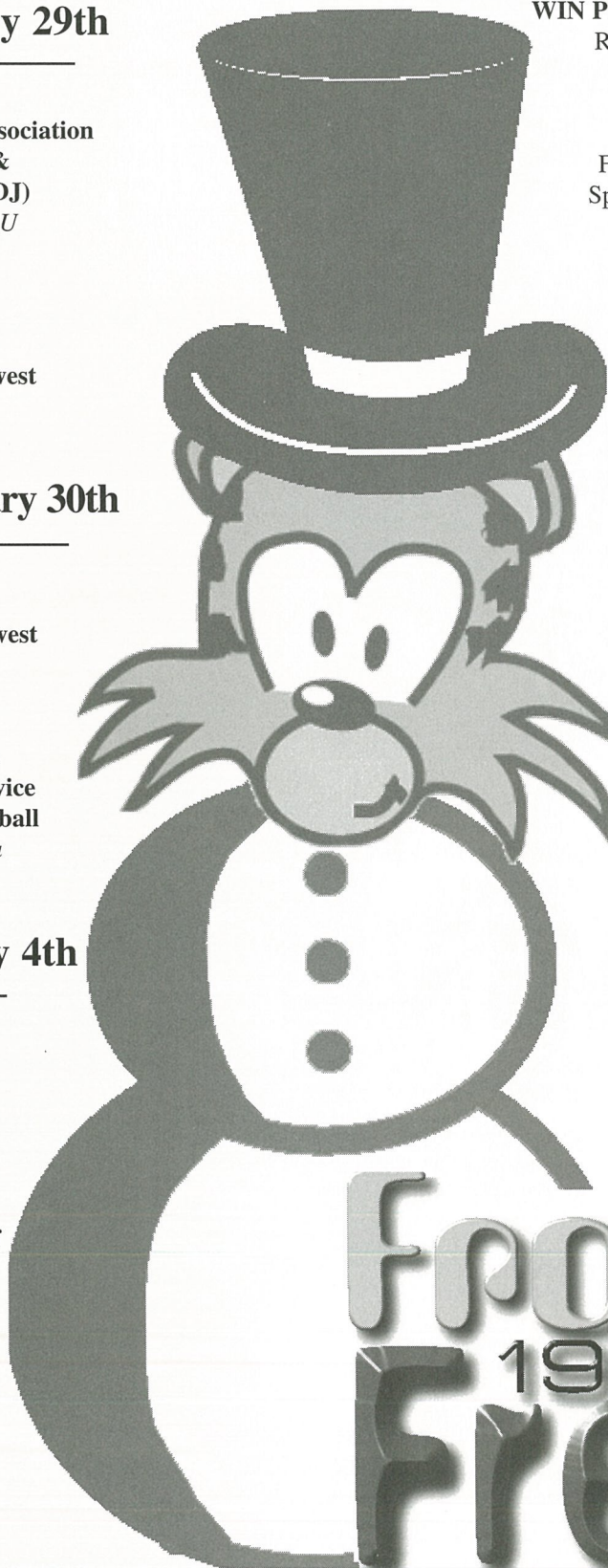
8pm  
**Talisman: Jaws**  
*Pool*  
Pool toys provided

7pm-midnight  
**Miniature Golf**  
*Fireside Lounge*

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**Fac/Staff: \$12**



# Frostbite 1999 Frenzy

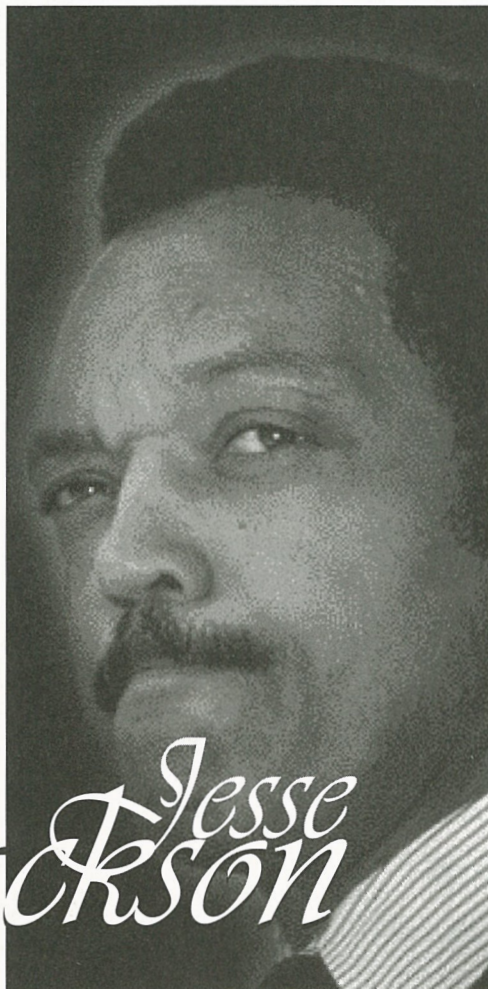


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