

reporter

11.15.96



TO HELL AND BACK

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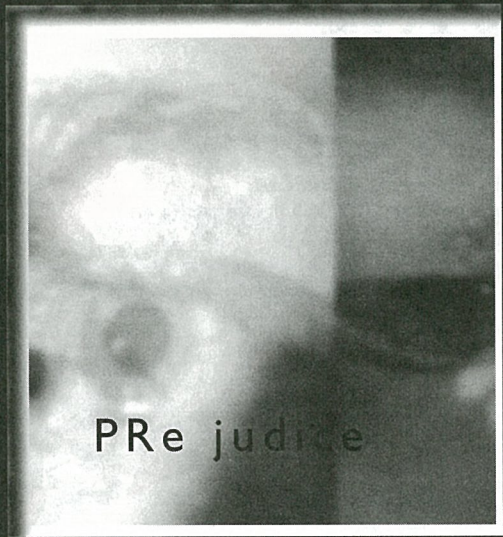
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ARch DeluxE

Well now that the Presidential election is over we can get back to our regularly scheduled tv commercials. The political ads that I saw during this campaign were more than useless in coming to a decision about who to vote for. Most of the ads that I saw for the Presidential candidates were well produced and visually stimulating, but lacked a very important part, good information. It used to be that a candidate had to tell you what they were going to do and how they would do it, but today it is a two minute sound byte with pictures of families and patriotic music in the background. Presidential ads are really just the same old hamburger ads in disguise, all designed to appeal to a mindless audience. The mindless audience, which subscribes to visual and emotional stimulation, doesn't care about the information, where a candidate stands on an issue or how McDonald's "new" Arch Deluxe is different from the same old burger we have been eating for years. What is the Arch Deluxe, but a hamburger on a roll with lettuce, tomato and that special secret sauce? The same is true with the presidential candidates. Is President Clinton a different man than he was four years ago? Is Senator Dole a different man than he was when he served as majority leader? Or is it that tv has found a way to market the same old sauce as the man who can lead a nation into the twenty first century? Its a shame that we put the same amount of confidence into the man we call president as we do hamburgers.

Jason Curtis

3

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HUNGER'S HOPE



Margaret's

House



photo: Michael Dudnick

currently enrolled there. "I have a tight enough budget as it is; this price increase is really going to hurt."

The administration wants to convey to its customers that the center cannot run on

Having a child is a tremendous responsibility for anyone to take on, especially a college student. The average cost of living for a student is minimal compared to the costs of baby food, diapers, doctor's bills, and the necessity of daycare.

The RIT community is currently battling over the price increases at Margaret's House daycare center, which is the number one daycare center used by RIT students. Margaret's House is a new facility built last year for the sole purpose of aiding students, faculty, and staff in their quest for proper child care. It is a state-of-the-art facility with the capacity to hold up to 100 kids per day.

It is agreed that Margaret's House is an essential part of the institute. However, its primary users are not only unhappy with the price increase, but, more importantly, are finding it difficult to come up with the money necessary to have their child enrolled there. Ann Hoenig, a representative from Margaret's House, stated, "We all feel it is very important for RIT to offer daycare, but we cannot provide it for free."

Margaret's House opened up this summer and prices were set based on information from other agencies and assessments on how the budget would run best. "It was a brand-new venture that we had to plan," commented Frank Lamas assistant vice president for Student Affairs. "Due to the fact that we had no past track record to go on, Hoenig and I had to make many predictions."

The daycare center recently announced that in order for the facility to survive past the first year, prices must be raised. The original cost of having a child in the center for five days a week was \$1,200, which is \$100 per week. The price has now been raised to \$1,500, which is \$130 per week. This price hike has caused anger and frustration among many of the daycare users, especially the students. "Thirty dollars may not seem like a big deal, but it really does add up," stated one student who has a child

the current revenue it's receiving. "Margaret's House is an auxiliary organization, meaning that they are expected to support the entire operation through parents' fees alone," explained Hoenig. "RIT is not providing us with any funding. Therefore, we, like any other business, must acquire enough income to pay for all our expenses."

The main problem lies in the poor predictions made in respect to the body of prospective customers. Basically, many more students than faculty, staff, and the outside community enrolled their children, and students pay a lower rate. Therefore, the center is receiving less money than they had originally planned. "I am very pleased to see all the students that are taking advantage of the center," stated Lamas. "I have a family myself and understand the importance of daycare. Unfortunately though, in order to provide this service for the students, we simply need more money."

Lamas is currently working with the RIT development office in the hopes of offering more scholarships to students with children to help ease the burden. "We are doing all we can to help reduce cost for the students, and we feel we are doing a good job so far," he added. "If you compare our facility to others in the area, you will not find one with such high quality and such low rates."

For all those currently enrolled in Margaret's House or those who will need to in the future, there is a way to receive more funding. Hoenig wants all students to understand how important it is to provide financial aid with the information necessary to provide funding for child care, and she stresses that when filling out financial aid forms, they should be sure to make a note concerning their personal situation.

By: Julie Sterling

VISION:

The college will educate students for the changing conditions in the career fields of visual arts & sciences by utilizing our unique combination of creative, technical, management, and communication programs that stress ethics and integrity and professionalism.

MISSION:

-To engage with our students in a meaningful, ethical, and aesthetic exploration of the visual arts and sciences:

-To empower faculty to respond to changing needs with appropriate technological support and with the support of the administration

-To bring theory and practice together;

-To bring internationally recognized, distinctive programs of quality with high standards of excellence in the visual arts and sciences, encouraging critical thinking, problem solving skills and intellectual inquiry.

These are the Mission and Vision statements that came out of the last Crossroads meeting, back on October 11. This meeting was only open to full-time faculty within the College of Imaging Arts & Sciences (CIAS). Out of a possible 120 faculty, approximately 72 were in attendance. Crossroads is a group comprised of faculty and administration within CIAS to institute a more specific version of Academic Program Review that takes into account the more personalized needs of the faculty and students in those schools as compared to the rest of the schools on campus (and campus-wide Academic Program Review). The four schools that currently form CIAS are: the School for American Crafts (SAC), the School of Art & Design (SAD), the School of Printing Management (SPM), and the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences (SPAS). These statements (concept statements about where CIAS is going to be in the future) shall provide the direction for upcoming changes made within CIAS to form programs that fit in with RIT's self-renewal process. Other programs have been updated and revised as technology progresses, but CIAS has remained fairly static over the past four years, which explains the current state of affairs.

Some important decisions were reached at this meeting, enabling the group to clarify some issues and concerns about the immediate future of CIAS. A topic that has been up for debate for some time is whether or not CIAS should remain the masthead for all of the schools currently under its title, or whether the schools should split and stand alone within RIT. A vote was held and the majority of those present voted to remain unified (52 in favor of a single college, 8 opposed, 2 abstained). The decision to remain unified will aid in an attempt to break down barriers between the schools to promote a more diversified education base allowing for 'crosstraining' between the schools.

Another important change is that Steve Loar has stepped down from his position as the head of the SAC/SAD committee of Crossroads in order to more adequately fulfill his primary duties as Director of SAC/SAD. Into his place steps Tom Lightfoot. The other schools' heads are Nancy Stuart in SPAS and

Fuel for the Fires of Change

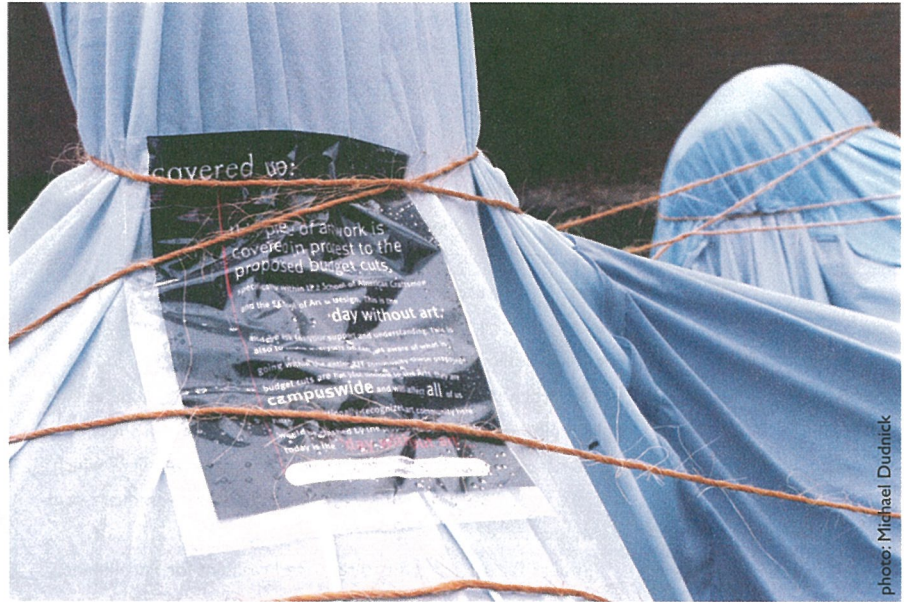


photo: Michael Dudnick

Frank Coft in SPMs. Steve Loar, who is a staunch supporter of the efforts within CIAS and the CIAS Roundtable (a student group working along with faculty and administration to come up with alternate viable solutions for the future of CIAS), needed to focus his attentions back to running SAC/SAD and the internal problems and administrative duties there. Most of the administration and faculty have been working double-duty since Program Review started, tending to their official duties and staying involved with Crossroads to help reshape their programs.

There was some commotion in the colleges over a four-page insert that is to be put in the Democrat & Chronicle advertising RIT's continuing-education programs and engineering & technical programs but only one brief mention of CIAS. The purpose of this advertising insert is to promote these programs due to their declining enrollment. It was Steve Loar's decision not to write a piece for the ad to promote the programs of CIAS, because it wasn't geared towards the audience that would be interested in CIAS. Looking back, he says that the decision not to include CIAS in this insert was a mistake, because people are looking at it now and wondering why CIAS wasn't included.

Crossroads has been compiling data from CIAS in the areas of Centrality, Marketability, Quality, and Financial Viability; which basically means enrollment, quality of the programs and equipment used, how much money each school takes in or makes from outside sources as compared to the money spent on facilities & equipment & faculty, how each school interacts with the other schools within CIAS and RIT, and how its programs rate in comparison with other schools in the same fields. Crossroads has set a deadline of December 18 to finish compiling data for possible curriculum revisions, and move on from there deciding what needs to be changed and modified in each department to move CIAS closer to its future vision and RIT's vision. Time is of the essence.

By: Angela Jernejcic

Most people in the RIT community are well aware of recent revisions to the academic programs at this university. However, not as many are aware of the corrections taking place at the administrative level. Both Academic and Administrative Program Review have been called forth as a part of RIT's Strategic Plan.

The process was initiated in March 1995, when President Simone appointed a committee to conduct a full review of all administrative departments at the institute. The APR Committee presently consists of fourteen people, including representatives from each department as well as three trustees. As a first step, the committee set up criteria and a process for evaluation. Then, during the fall and winter quarters of 1995-96, each department conducted a self-evaluation, recommending what it felt deserved enhancing and what should be cut from its own department. The self-evaluations were conducted according to the criteria set forth by the committee. The opinions of faculty, staff, and students were considered during this phase.

The recommendations were then handed up to the committee by each department's vice president. The committee's next task was to re-evaluate each report with a more objective, broader view. It came to a compromise concerning the interests of everyone at the institute and eliminate overlaps among the reports. These revised recommendations were at last sent to the President's office for final decisions.

The process of review is an ongoing one, and much has yet to be completed. RIT's Strategic Plan is long-term, and will affect most of the decade. It was determined that administrative offices which operate under the deans of RIT's colleges or that of graduate studies will not be reviewed just yet.

Robert French, assistant to the Vice President for Enrollment Services and chairperson of the APR Committee, has called the review a "bottom-up" process. He also says that the main focus of Administrative Program Review was to "eliminate repetition" and "cut waste" among the departments. It was determined from the start that reducing costs was not to be the focus; there was no target amount to be cut. The idea was that through reorganization of RIT's administrative offices, resources would undoubtedly be maximized and expenses would be cut.

Although the original recommendations from each department cannot be revealed, some final decisions have been made and are already being initiated. For example, the Vice President of Communications suggested that the entire division be eliminated. The result of this was the creation of a University Relations Division, which combines the work of both the Communications and Development departments. Through this, a Vice President position was cut. Some recommendations for enhancement that have become reality include the plan to hire nine more Campus Safety officers and to create a new Chief Information Officer position.

French points out that RIT will be renewing its accreditation soon, and Administrative Program Review helps in that process. It helps raise the status of the Institution, and coincides with RIT's standard of quality. The Middle States Association of Colleges and Universities is responsible for accreditation.

By: Jeremy Perkins

world NEWS

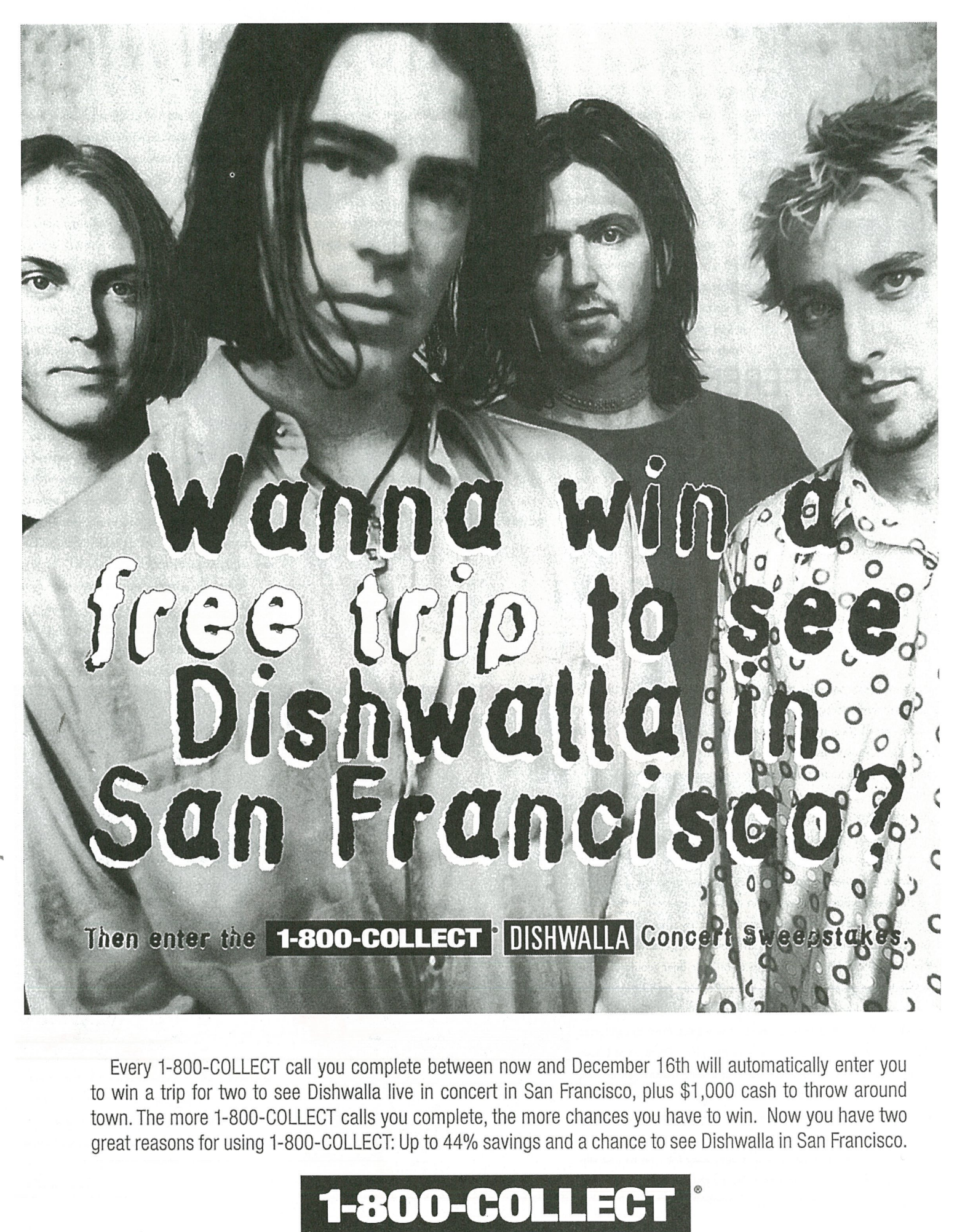
* On Election Day, November 5, President William Jefferson Clinton became the first Democrat to win back-to-back terms in the White House since F.D.R. Clinton's victory was declared well before polls closed in the West and the Mountain States. National totals showed 49% of the vote went to Clinton, 41% to Dole, and 8% to Perot. The President received 377 electoral votes; 145 went to Dole, and 0 to Perot. Turnout declined in some states, and exit polls indicated that less than half the American electorate voted. Voter News Service projected that 49 percent of the voting-age population cast ballots, which would be the lowest turnout since 1924.

* The breweries that made Milwaukee famous - Schlitz, Pabst, and Miller - were a source of good jobs and civic pride for generations and became much a part of the city's image. In the glory days, Detroit made cars; Milwaukee made beer. But those days are almost completely dead. Schlitz closed in 1982, and now Pabst, the granddaddy of the city's once-mighty breweries and one of the oldest businesses in Wisconsin, is shutting down its Milwaukee operations by the end of the year, leaving 250 people without jobs. Miller is now the last survivor of the major Milwaukee beer makers, the last direct survivor of a way of life that began in the 1840's when German immigrants first began brewing there.

* A dispute between the groups working to bring the French abortion pill to American women is threatening to create further delays in making the drug, Mifepristone, available. The Population Council, the nonprofit family-planning group that holds the United States rights to Mifepristone, and Advances in Health Technology, another nonprofit group set up to educate doctors about the drug, filed suit against Joseph D. Pike, who was chosen by the council to raise money to manufacture and distribute Mifepristone. The lawsuit, in New York State Supreme Court, charges Pike with fraud and seeks to have his interest in the drug transferred to a receiver, who would then sell it.

* Pressing a new case for the equal treatment of same-sex couples, San Francisco is moving to become the first major city in the country to require the companies with which it does business to offer health and other benefits to the unmarried partners of their employees. The city's Board of Supervisors passed legislation by a 10-to-0 vote on Monday, November 4, to prohibit the city government from contracting with companies that do not make the same benefits available to employees' domestic partners that they do to the married spouses of their workers. The measure will now go to the Mayor, Willie L. Brown Jr., who has said he supports it in principle.

By: Erica Muse

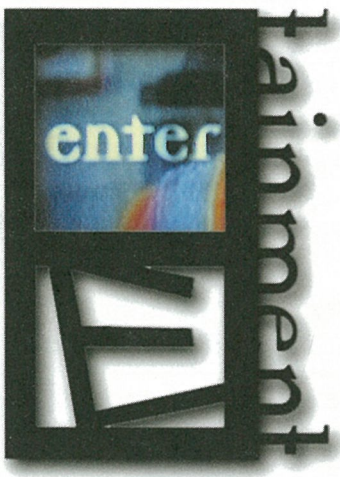


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IT'S DIFFERENT

IT'S WEIRD

IT'S THE BUG JAR

Located just on the edge of Downtown, in the heart of Rochester's entertainment section, the Bug Jar seems to stand out from the many other bars and clubs of this city. It could be due to its quirky name, or the wild psychedelic colors that adorn its interior and exterior. It could also be the two giant bugs that seem to chase each other continuously around the bar, or the dance floor which has its ceiling fully furnished with all the comforts of a Partridge Family home. It could be any and all of these things that contribute to the Bug Jar's popularity and atmosphere. There are many other places in town where you can listen to everything from old funk to the Beastie Boys, to disco all in one, but somehow it only feels right to be grooving to these sounds under the strobe lights of the Bug Jar's dance floor. Not only is the cover charge fairly cheap, but the usual prices for a good majority of their beer would be considered specials at most other clubs. The Bug Jar also supports many of the local Artists by showcasing (meaning plastering the walls) a different artists work every few weeks. Most art galleries don't even give out as much space as this place. From what I have seen the Bug Jar's atmosphere attracts a very mature lax crowd. Now when I say mature and lax I mean people whose idea of a good time is not starting a fight with every person on the dance floor who accidental brushes past them, or looks funny at them. Due to this lack of immaturity it is very easy for one to just slip back, relax grab a drink, and be lulled by the funky sounds of the night, and the two huge bugs circling the bar.



photo: Michael Dudnick

ON A MISSION

Have you ever tried to find really good fresh food for a fair price? If your bank account looks like mine, price is important. I was on a mission to find fresh food, cheap. I found food to fit the bill (figuratively and literally) at the Mission Cafe.

A long, narrow restaurant, black and white checkered floor, religious Mexican decorations fill the walls, the tablecloths are all hand painted, you can smell all sorts of spices in the smoke free air. Those were my first impressions of the Mission Cafe.

As I poured over the menu, I began to get frustrated I wanted to try everything. Items like the Mission Burrito, Enchilada Plate, Mission Eggs, Tofu Burger, Temphe and steamed veggies over brown rice, Barbecued Temphe sandwich, chili, rice and beans, aagh too many choices. I decided to try the Tofu burger, it came with a huge green salad upon which I requested the maple walnut dressing. I've always had this belief that if you know how to cook tofu right you can cook anything. The tofu burger was excellent. It came on a fresh whole wheat roll with tomato, lettuce, and topped with a really nice mustard sauce. The tofu was well cooked, it didn't fall apart when you bit into it, and it was well marinated. The accompanying salad was huge, fresh lettuce, tomatoes, sprouts, big chunks of carrots, and that tangy maple walnut dressing. I asked about the vegetables, I was wondering if they were organically grown. I found out they buy as much organic produce as they can afford, and that they compost all their waste and bring it to the community garden, and in turn they use many of the vegetables from that garden. So their waste goes back into their food (indirectly). It is nice to see a restaurant with a social conscious.

Sitting in the Mission Cafe is as delicious as their food. Because of its location on Monroe Ave. (on that hip block near Wild Side and Godiva's) there is a constant stream of people walking in and walking by. Aside from the physical motion of the people, the interior is at the other continuum being calm and peaceful. The music changes depending on the time of day, but is never overbearing. The place is well lit with natural light, but has a lot of interesting light fixtures to compliment the decor. You can let your eyes wander around to the candles, the pictures on the wall, the mismatched furniture, the unique tablecloths. I sat at a table and had my food resting upon a crucified Jesus, whose proportions were off by a little (that wasn't suppose to be social commentary).

Dessert! Great coffee. Fresh and organically grown. They had some interesting sugar. It was sugar cane that was dehydrated instead of processed. This method of making sugar leaves the natural nutritional content in the sugar, where as the processing and bleaching of sugar strips it of any nutritional value. I thought that was pretty interesting. I also had a cookie. This was a different kind of cookie, it was dark chocolate with white chocolate chunks, and had hot jalapeno peppers in it. My taste buds were very surprised by this. My brain told me to dislike the cookie because cookies don't have hot pepper in them, but I found myself really enjoying it. I'd say try one, these cookies have some zip to them. I can also tell you the apple crisp is excellent.

The Mission Cafe is wonderful if you are a vegetarian, they have quite a few vegan dishes too, even with all this herbivore fare, omnivores who don't need a hunk of flesh with every meal will enjoy the food. The Mission Cafe has some of the freshest and tastiest food in the city, and it is also less expensive than a lot of the other cafes in town. However, I will say the drinks are a bit pricy. In all, the Mission Cafe is a great experience. An essential part of the Rochester flavor, the Mission Cafe offers something for everyone. I know I'll keep going back until I try everything on the menu. Mission Cafe rates a 8 1/2



WILCO

I must have been sleeping during the brief period in which Uncle Tupelo reigned. But after the band split to form both Son Volt and Wilco, I woke up. Since then, my music collection has expanded to include nearly everything which the members of these bands have been involved in creating. Still, it hasn't seemed that I had enough of a collection. I've been wearing out my copy of Wilco's CD, A.M., ever since its issue, so I was pretty happy to see that the band's latest release, Being There, was a double CD.

Goodly, more and more of that unpretentious, country-tinged rock and roll with which I've become absorbed.

When I first put Being There into my CD player, I was a teensy bit amazed. "Misunderstood" might have been an Alex Chilton creation. This song is nearly an anomaly within the context of the band's work, but it really isn't that big a departure for a Minneapolis band which grew out of the direct influence of the Replacements. Rather than move closer to straight country roots as Son Volt has done, Jeff Tweedy and Wilco seem to be exploring more of their rock influences. "Sunken Treasure" moves gracefully between a guitar riff that might have fallen out of Sonic Youth's catalog and the acoustic guitar and piano which is a mainstay of the Wilco sound. The lyric "I was named by rock and roll, I was tamed by rock and roll" reminds us that Wilco has not been formed from just a country tradition.

Being There, however, retains much of the sophisticated country-rock blend with which fans are already familiar. The mix of instruments includes steel guitars, mandolin, banjo, harmonica, violin and dobro. Used within a rock and roll context, these instru-

ments create a depth which is too often missing in the work of their contemporaries. Check out "Someday Soon," "Outtasite (Outta Mind)," and "Monday."

Jeff Tweedy continues to write songs which seem to emerge straight out of the same bar-scene attitude which brought us the Replacements and, much earlier, the Rolling Stones. The lyrics express both a sense of reverence toward rock and roll and its environment, as well as a jaded attitude. In addition, there are several ballads which explore the difficulties within modern relationships and love (One of these prompted My Neighbor Matt to dismiss Tweedy's writing as "maudlin." However, since we almost always disagree on things musical, I forgave him.). Jeff Tweedy's tightly constructed lyrics present us with a look at modern life and its trials without the overwhelming angst and self-pity often found in current alternative music. Instead, Tweedy's word twists often add levity to songs which concern the mistakes many of us find we have made. It's not unusual to discover that some of his songs are just plain good-natured and cheerful. (But you don't have to listen to Neighbor Matt or myself—just listen to Wilco).

-Julia Carr

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For more information contact Jennifer at
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to hell and back

Whether you are over or under the legal drinking age, you cannot avoid making decisions about drinking - at parties, on dates, in your room. The consequences of making poor decisions about drinking can increase your risk of flunking courses, getting a sexually transmitted disease, and being involved in fights and accidents. They can also increase your risk of developing a long-term drinking problem." Although there is a "safe" level of alcohol consumption, most people do not adhere to that standard. Studies show 7% of Americans drink 50% of all the alcohol sold, while 32% do not drink at all and 61% drink moderately.

There are several consequences and long-term risks associated with drinking. Some short-term outcomes include hangovers - the short term toxic effects of alcohol (nausea, vomiting, impaired balance, judgment, coordination). As for the long-term effects, there is a possibility of becoming a victim of rape, becoming pregnant, or acquiring sexually transmitted diseases, circulatory problems, various forms of cancer, brain damage, liver & heart disease, and ulcers. Finally, severe binge drinking can result in a life-long battle of alcoholism, respiratory arrest, and even death.

Do you or anyone else you know have a drinking problem? Do you think drinking is a severe problem on the RIT campus? Well, indeed it is. Of the 271 student behaviors related to alcohol use, 52 of the people were referred to IMPACT/SAISD. The students referred to these programs must attend a class on alcohol and substance abuse as well as inappropriate behaviors classes. According to Dawn Meza-Soufleris, head of Judicial Affairs, "the new alcohol class begins in the winter and is already booked solid."

On a personal level, I know several people and friends that fit the category of having a drinking problem. One of my close friends is a member of a fraternity and is battling borderline alcoholism. His name is Geoff Silkey, or to many of our fellow friends, "Drunk Geoff." His high school days were average. After breaking his back in a Lacrosse practice in the 8th grade, Geoff missed his whole freshman year and had a tutor to compensate. After coming back to school, he did not lack academically, but he lacked in social skills. He gained 60-70 pounds in less than a year. "I was pretty much a social outcast until my junior year. I lost the 10 inches and decided who I wanted to be." He put his heart and soul into lacrosse and had no time for drinking. "As an athlete, I felt that my body and

sports were more important and valuable than anything I could get out of drinking. In one season I went from the bottom ten statistic to the top ten for goalies and the second team all-league award." As for his

academic side, "Studying was never a problem; everything always came easy to me," as he graduated with an 86% average.

When I first met Geoff his freshman year, he was often seen carrying some alcoholic beverage and acting drunk. Most college students go through the "freedom" stage, but this was different. His charming personality and good looks couldn't mask his stupidity when he was drunk. So, what happened to this exceptional overachiever during his transition into the college scene?

"The first time I got drunk was on a recruiting visit to Geneseo for lacrosse. I got wasted at the first party and ended up hooking with some chick with a black jacket and pink letters. She started kissing me and the rest is history. I was kind of proud; I was the hotshot jock hooking up with the hot sorority babe." The biggest advantage to college drinking is the availability of alcohol. According to Geoff, "There was always someone drinking or talking about drinking. I had no problem getting alcohol whenever I wanted to. After I earned my nickname and had another one-night stand, I calmed down a bit. The alcohol made it easier for the 'new me' to come out. I started to make a lot of new friends and meet people, especially women. It was great; I was having a great time and meeting a lot of girls. Not too long after that second one-night stand I met a girl that I would end up dating for around six months."

"Living the way I was - always drunk and hamming it up with the women - it seemed like I really fit in with the Greek community I wanted to be as cool as those upper-class pricks who were always stealing the freshman women from me all the time. When it came time I interviewed for a bid at TKE. I was a cocky little freshman and a little overconfident. On bid night I was purposely the last bid given out because they wanted to make me sweat a little. Pledging TKE was one of the best things I've ever done for myself. My father hated the idea and my mother was mildly supportive. They were worried about me having time for school, lacrosse, and pledging. Well, the long-repressed social side of me won out and I chose pledging over lacrosse. It wasn't that I didn't still want to play, it was that I needed to make up some of that lost social experience."

"It was at about this time that I began to realize that I was not prepared for college academically. I did go to a prep school, but I never had to do any work. I found that I had no clue as to how to really get by academically in college. I had to learn how to study and take notes effectively and that I actually needed to go to class to learn anything. Wow, what a wake-up call. It took me winter and spring quarters to learn to study and do work in college, but in the meantime I got a 1.93 GPA for the year. I have a really good advisor who has been a great resource from the beginning. She was always there when I needed anything. From a phone number to a withdrawal form to a shoulder to cry on. Thanks, Eileen."

During winter quarter, Geoff cooled down and spent a lot of time with his girlfriend. He still drank quite a bit, but his pot smoking increased. On average, he smoked 4-5 days a week. When I asked him why the constant "daze and confusion," he responded - "It was the thing to do and I was making money out of it." However, Geoff's life again changed after coming back from Spring Break, with the awful news of his friend's tragic death that sent him spinning into the depths of Jim Beam, Southern Comfort, Molson Ice and other grain alcohol. "Between not wanting to cope with Anita's death and my ex-girlfriends' evil ploys, I didn't want to deal with it, so I drowned myself in alcohol. About a week after the funeral, I woke up with a trash can next to my bed with blood all down the side of it and an empty bottle of Jim Beam on my desk."



After scaring the shit out of himself, Geoff sobered up for a mere four days. "I wanted to drink but I knew it wasn't good for me. I knew I had an alcohol problem." Although he knew he had this problem, depression overcame him and he relapsed. "I consistently drank six days and nights a week till the end of the quarter." A brother of his house informed him that he was blacking out and puking blood more than occasionally. On TKE's spring weekend, Geoff got in a fight with an ex-girlfriend, after drinking for two solid days. "That evening I got into an altercation with one of my brothers. Apparently he said something I didn't like and I picked him up by the neck and pushed him against the wall. It took four of my brothers to get me off of him." Needless to say, he was sorry and apologized a couple days later, but the drinking continued. The night of May 23, 1996 Geoff and his roommate finished a bottle of SoCo to wrap up the year. "The next day around noon, I went into withdrawal. I had serious shakes, cold sweats, nausea, and mood swings, and decided to go see Karen Pelc, an alcohol and substance abuse counselor at the Health Center."

So, the rough recovery began for "Sober Geoff." After spending three weeks at home in Syracuse, "I told my parents everything in detail. I had been talking to my mom gradually, but I ended up telling my dad everything. My parents were completely supportive; they don't want me to have a problem. Of course they were upset, but anything I needed they were there. It literally took me three weeks

to get my body straightened out and functioning correctly." After spending the summer becoming "Sober Geoff," he returned to RIT with a vengeance to "rock the world," as he stated. His agenda included staying sober and getting good grades. He became the philanthropic chairman for TKE and had a lot of good ideas and started a series of community awareness programs. The most recent event included a "Rubber-ware" party focusing on SAFER sex, sponsored by the brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon and PIERS (Piers Informing and Educating RIT Students). He was just elected the Vice President of his organization and has been sober for 168 days and counting. "I love being sober. I have so much fun when I am at parties, I scare the drunk people away. I am a much happier person and I have gotten A's and B's in all my courses."

"HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE A PROBLEM?"

According to "Alcohol: Decisions on Tap," by the American College Health Association, the following test can be used to see if you have a problem.

1. Are you able to stop drinking after a certain number of drinks?
2. Do you need a drink to get motivated?
3. Do you often forget what happened while you were "partying" (blackouts)?

to hell and back

14

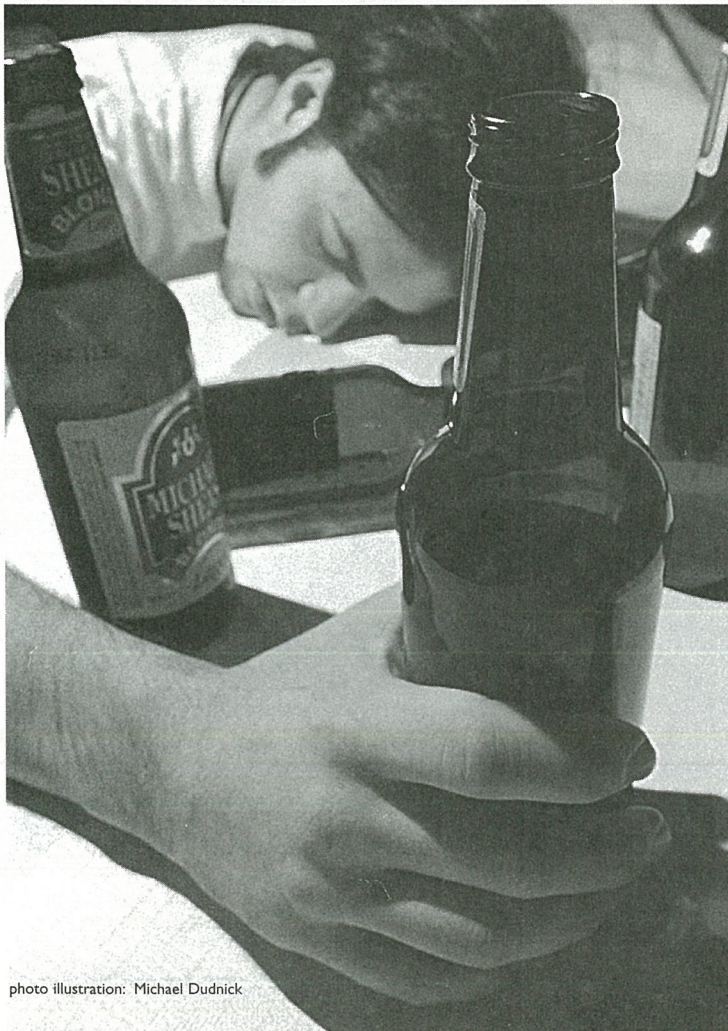


photo illustration: Michael Dudnick

4. Do you drink or "party" alone?
5. Have others annoyed you by criticizing your alcohol use?
6. Have you been involved in fights with your friends or family while you have been drunk?
7. Have you done or said anything while drinking that you later regret?
8. Have you destroyed or damaged property while drinking?
9. Do you drive while drunk?
10. Have you been physically hurt while drinking?
11. Have you been in trouble with the school authorities or the campus police because of your drinking?
12. Have you dropped or chosen friends based on their drinking habits?
13. Do you think you are a normal drinker despite friends' comments that you drink too much?
14. Have you ever missed classes because you were too hungover to get up on time?
15. Have you ever done poorly on an exam or assignment because of drinking?
16. Do you think you drink a lot?
17. Do you feel guilty or self-conscious about your drinking?

* If you answer "Yes" to three or more of these questions, you may be using alcohol in a harmful way. If you would like to contact someone to help you, check out PIERS, located in Kate Gleason, first floor or an AA program near you, or contact Student Health Center for counseling. After interviewing Geoff for this article, it made me seriously step back and evaluate my use of alcohol, as well as my friends and family. It also made me realize that going out and getting bombed isn't always as fun as everyone makes it out to be.

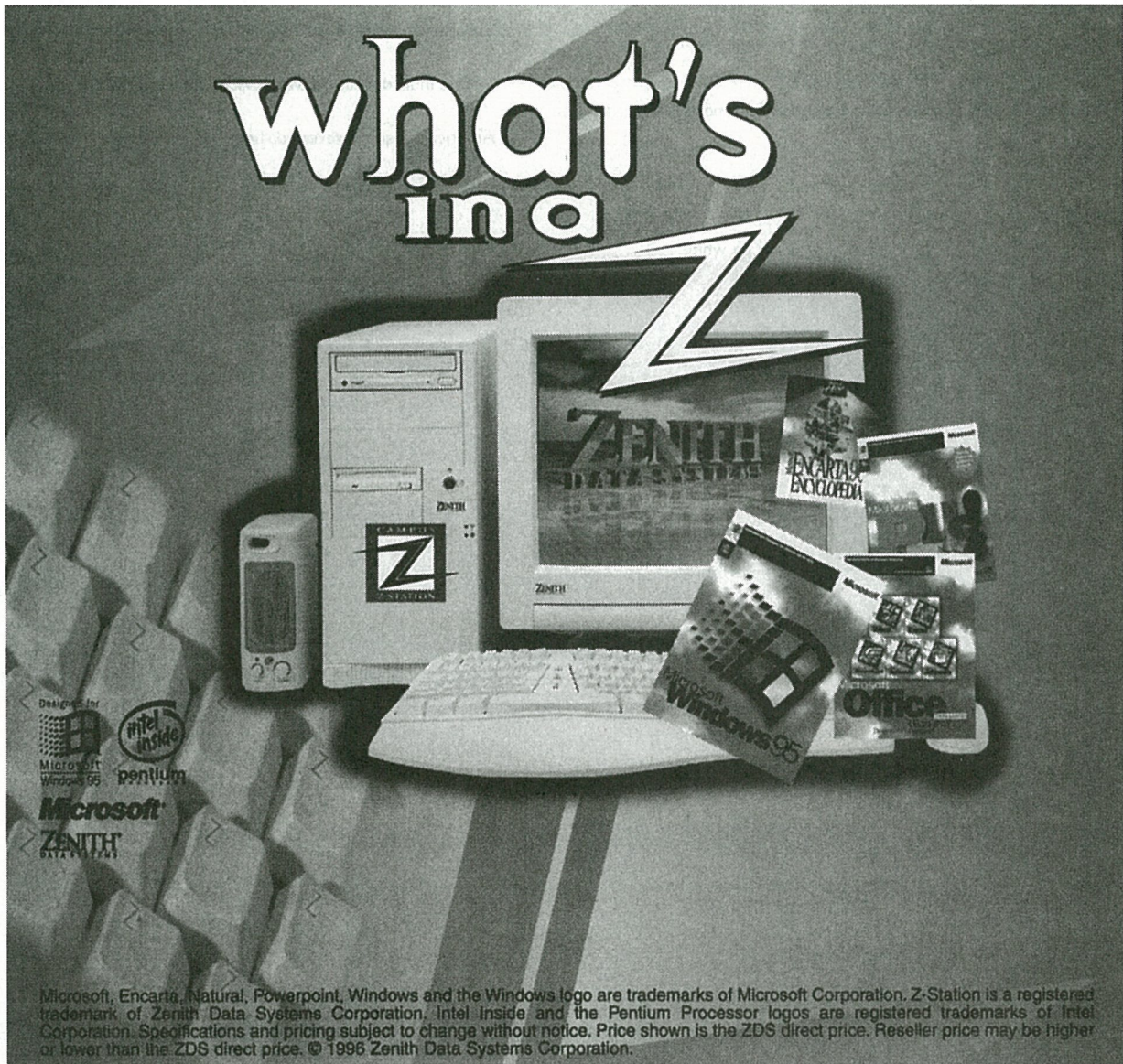
Written By: Kelley Harsch

Materials used:

"Alcohol: Decisions on Tap," the American College Health Association.

"Alcohol: How much is too much?" sponsored by NYS Council on Alcoholism.

what's in a



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I was born in India on December 25, 1973. My parents moved the United States when I was two months old, so I basically grew up here. Until recently, I thought that racism was essentially a black and white issue. All that changed when I watched a video on race relations which forced me to examine the meaning of my own place in this society. This article expresses the feelings that the video and other discussions have brought up in me.

What does it mean to be American? What does it mean to be white, black, Hispanic or Asian in this country? Many proponents of the "melting pot" theory would have one believe that all races and religions that come to this country are of equal status and are "American" in every sense. All races and religions have presented to them the same opportunities that everyone else has. But exactly *who* are the people that believe in such an idea of true equal opportunity for all? Are they the ones who have already attained the status of being accomplished, established, and respected? Perhaps they are the ones that are already in power. If so, then it would be of little importance for this group to advocate such a position. If this group could make it, why can't everyone else? But perhaps they do not realize that they have had an advantage that people outside their group lack.

In order to write this article, I collected a group of ethnically diverse men to view an educational video entitled *The Color of Fear*, by Lee Mun Wah (1994). The video claimed that the advantage experienced by people in power is that they are white (of European descent). According to M.E. Ayewoh in a 1990 RIT symposium on racism, the notion of the "melting pot" theory is antiquated, idealized, and non-implemental because it is non-inclusive to ethnic diversity. It assumes the superiority of one race or culture (or lack of culture) over another and "perpetuates a mono-cultural view." The race in question would be whoever was in power when the idea of America was developed. This is not an attack on the white race, but on white racism, and racism in general. This, along with other observations, are expressed in the powerful video showing a roundtable

discussion between men of different races and backgrounds. I tried to emulate this with my group of RIT students, and we examined our experiences and paralleled them with the men in the video.

One individual in the video, Victor, of mixed African and Native American descent, revealed the feelings of many non-whites in America. He explains that white people have become too comfortable with where they are and do not deal with other races' problems simply because they don't have to. The black man, Latino, or Asian must deal with the situation everyday, and the white man's inattention to the problem is perpetuating it. To Victor, when a white person says, "Why can't we all just be human beings?," he believes it means, "why can't we just all pretend to be white people? . . . Don't be yourself. Be like me. Keep me comfortable. Be ready to connect when I'm ready to connect."

A Chicano man in the video revealed that he believes that "America is not the United States: [it] is the entire continent . . . I have a claim to being American in ways that [white people] don't... and I feel that my people have sort of been robbed of that term, that we are not Americans, even though we are."

These men's varying attitudes and communications with one another is very interesting. One white man, David, who appeared not to understand the hostility and grief expressed by the others, always analyzed everything rationally from his perspective. He continually bounced back the other's problems as something internalized and fixable by that individual. According to Ayewoh, this is an attitude that many white people have: that the problems faced by minorities are their own fault by making an issue out of it (the "why can't we all just get along" syndrome). according to Ayewoh, what David apparently didn't realize is that "various ethnic/racial groups . . . refuse to melt because they have sacrificed, and continue to fight for, their identity."

Research conducted by K.L. Fitch in 1994, in *A Cross Cultural Study of Directive Sequences and Some Implications for Compliance and Gaining Research*, found that communication explorations with a cultural fac

tor neglected symbolic belief systems permeating the culture.

Symbolic belief systems are the complex sets of attitudes that communication is based upon. Fitch investigated verbal expressions as perceived through opposing belief systems in the United States through studies based in Boulder, Colorado and Bogota, Columbia. The data from this experiment demonstrated the differences between communication in one culture as opposed to another, and where prejudice and exclusion can develop.

According to the study, the residents of Boulder did not appreciate being given oral instruction, especially in the workplace. They instead relied heavily on written messages, seemingly in order to avoid a face-to-face confrontation. Notes would be posted by employers to inform workers of the duties to attend to. In Bogota, however, the frequency of written notes was low, but balanced by prominent usage of an intermediate person to convey messages. The intermediate was someone who held more trust, more confidence, with the target of the message. This aspect punctuated the Columbian arena of attitude and communication, and is essentially the exact opposite of the notes in Boulder.

The makers of the video believe there is an unstated, assumed-to-be-understood, "silent consciousness" of equating white and American. The video described it as the most insidious and pernicious kind of racism because the perpetrators are commonly

unaware of the damage being done. This is referred to as "institutional racism" by John E. Farley in his book Majority-Minority Relations. One example given, high college tuition rates that exclude disadvantaged minority groups, is unquestioned because that is the way it has always been. According to W. Dudley in Racism in America, "The result, if not the intent . . . is to prevent a disproportionate number of minorities from obtaining a college degree and improving their social status."

MELTING POT ?

The following are excerpts from my discussion group:

Scott-(white male, 22): When I would tell you that I thought of you as basically being white, I didn't realize that I was stripping you of your identity.

Sankar-(Indian male, 22 – and author to this article): I guess you did that because I never really asserted myself as being Indian. And it wasn't because I assumed you knew that I was Indian, it was because I never thought of myself as one. I had been so brainwashed by movies, TV and friends into thinking that I was white, it never occurred to me that I may be something more. I would even look at other Indian people that I didn't know and see them, not through my eyes as an Indian, but through the eyes of a white person. They seemed alien to me.

Scott: I now know that to identify you as white was completely asinine on my part.

Sankar: *I never really even identified with Indians in high school. I identified with Italians. I dressed like Italians did, I hung out with them, because that was what was "cool."*

Shanny-(Latino male: half black, half Native American from Dominican Republic, 24): White people usually think I'm black, but most black people can immediately see that I'm mixed. Others usually say, "hey, you have an accent and a white nose; what are you?" That really pisses me off.

Sankar: *Minh, don't you feel any of this? You haven't said anything yet.*

Minh-(Asian male: Chinese, 18): Well, I really didn't see the reason for their [the men in the video] anger ... I've never experienced racism like that.

Sankar: *Never? What about your parents?*

Minh: It never really came up. We didn't talk about it.

Scott: I find this extremely hard to believe.

Sankar: *Do you think it's because you've never asserted yourself as being Chinese?*

Minh: ... I remember playing basketball with some of my friends in high school and acting like we were black. Then one of them said, 'You're not black, you're white.'

Sankar: *So it was never an issue because you thought you were white?*

Minh: I guess so.

Brian-(white male, 23): But you're not.

In my opinion, I felt that we had really found something here with Minh's attitudes. In the video, the Chinese director expressed his belief that his race has been used by the white people in power as a tool of hatred towards blacks and other Asians. Minh and I share some things in common, one of them being a birthday and another being born in a different country. But Minh, unlike myself, appeared to me to be oblivious to the nature of his existence.

Scott: You have a luxury that I don't have. You have a rich culture, but you're denying it. All I have is hamburgers and hotdogs.

Minh: (no response).

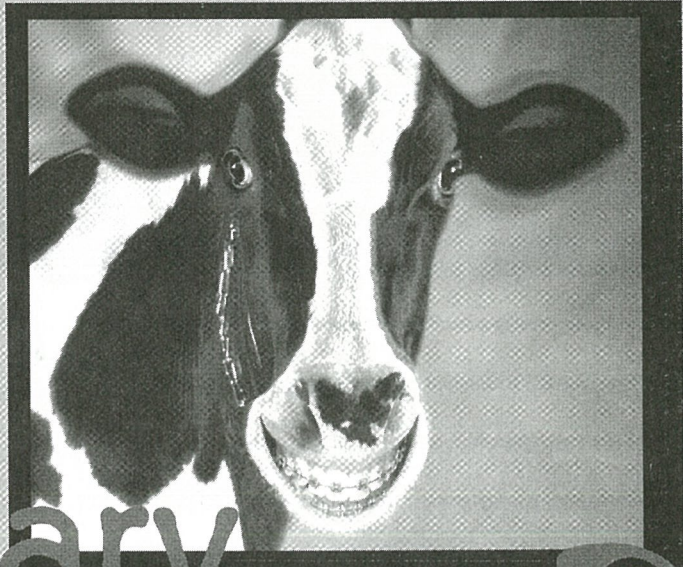
Sankar: *I remember telling you [Scott] about the prejudice and torments I endured as a child, and your equating that with being picked on by others for being the "new kid in town." But what you didn't realize is that identity wears off in time. One day, you're no longer the new kid. But that can never happen to me. I'm always an Indian. My appearance will always make that known.*

Brian: I remember being with Sam (an African-American) in Cleveland, and two blacks making fun of us (because of a white person and a black person hanging out together). That made me so angry, and Sam said he was embarrassed by it.

I felt that Brian's comment surfaced the reality of inter-ethnic racism, which is discussed in the video as well. A point is made that inter-ethnic racism and white racism are not the same. The difference that distinguishes them is that both types undermine the minority groups while elevating, and perhaps distancing, the majority group from those others. It is a question of power, which I alluded to earlier in the article. This is in no way condoning any sort of racism or prejudice. I think that no matter who does the bigotry, the group in power is

continued on page 31

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about your major in



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“Lock-off on the left hold, be careful not to barn-door, reach for the undercling, match hands, dyno to the jug, cross-over and mantle.”

Directions for the new dance move at your local club? Depending where you are from and how long you have been climbing, those few words may provide the information or “beta” to do a climb at the Red Barn on the RIT campus. They could also describe part of a climb in the Adirondacks, the Shawangunks or the local indoor gym in Rochester.

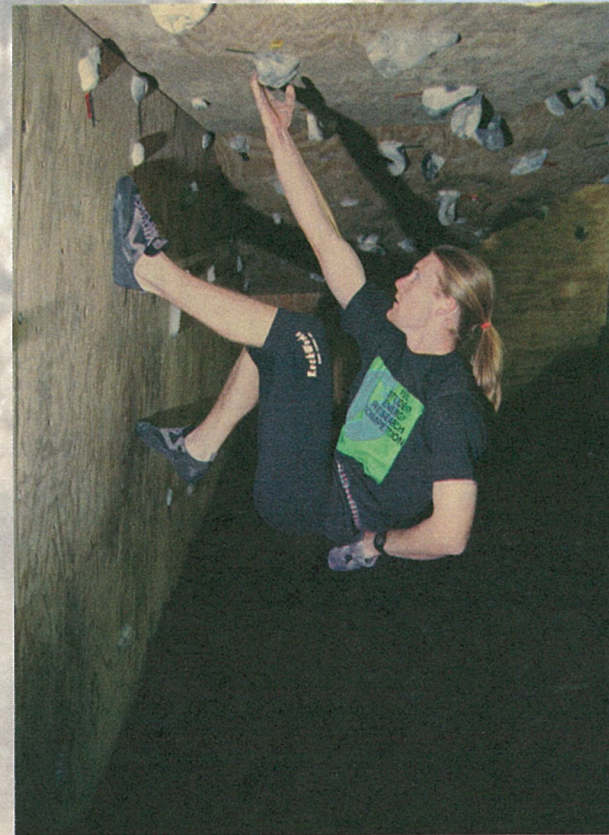
Indoor rock climbing has metamorphosed and gained popularity across the country. Once a way to train for outdoor climbing, indoor or sport-climbing has become a recognized pursuit in and of itself. Just as rock climbing, once perceived as a way to train for mountaineering, became a recognized pursuit, indoor climbing is gaining increased recognition.

To many people, indoor climbing is just a new fad, part of the outdoor image that retailers and hard goods companies want the weekend warriors and Yuppies to buy into. To the serious climber, indoor or out, climbing is more than a sport.

Why would someone want to endure the monotony of discovering new ways to use their body, re-learn old skills and accept the potential for pain and injury pulling plastic? The words of Doug Robinson, life-long climber and philosopher, describe what climbing truly is:

“Pulling Plastic at RIT”

“One of the great things about climbing is that it’s not just physical. Mind is drawn in, charting moves, watching safety. And emotion. Precise gymnastics on such a wild, vertical dance floor is a dialogue with fear, the deepest of all





emotions. Climbing can integrate body, mind and emotion. That makes powerful meditation. A physical meditation...climbing adds an emotional charge. Adrenaline surges through you. It sharpens our senses, nudging climbers into heightened awareness. Drink it in. Savor the new perspective."

Most everyone knows the old line about why a mountaineer climbs a mountain, "because it is there." Doug Robinson explains the internal growth that can occur if a person pursues climbing, focusing not only on the gymnastic and physical aspects of the sport, but also the intellectual side.

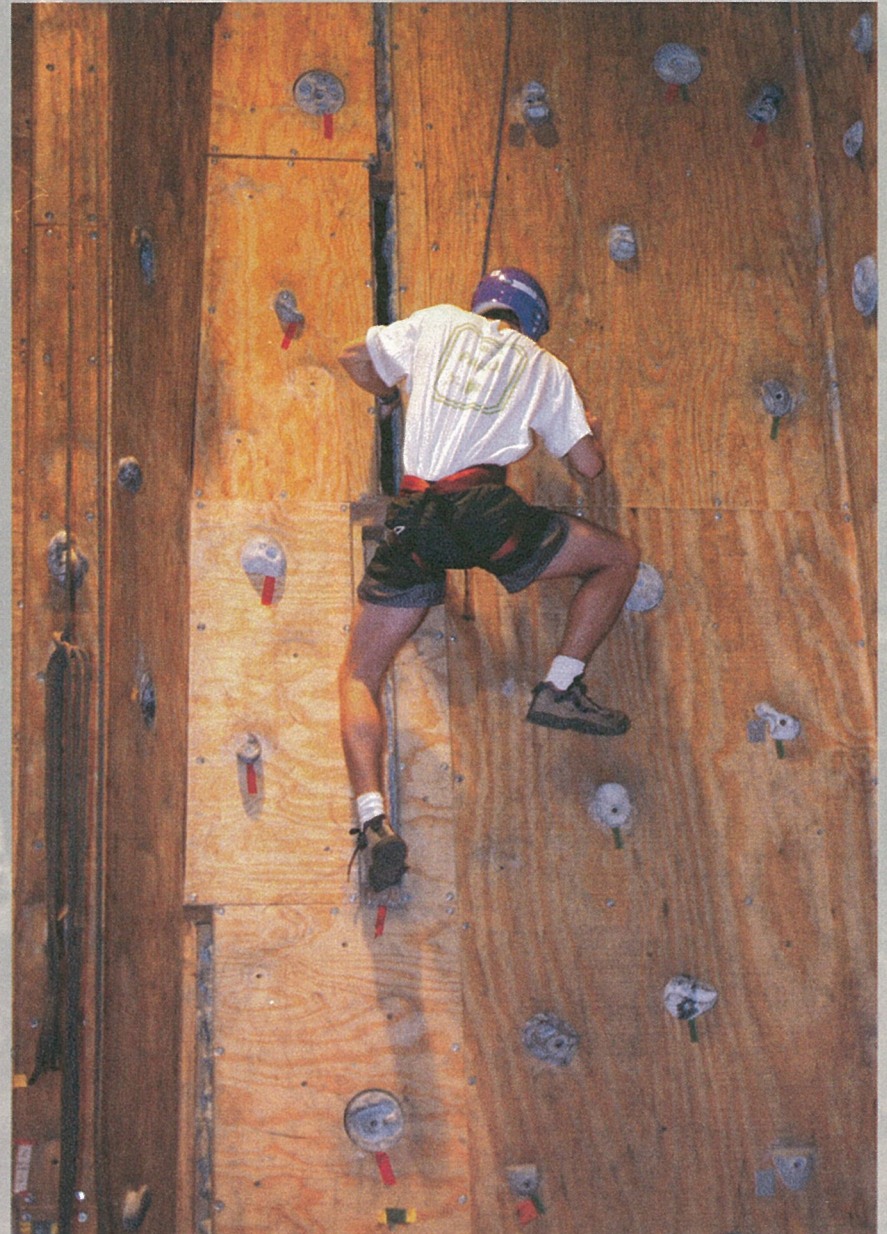
To many people, there is nothing like the "sharp end" of the rope. The "sharp end" carries the exhilaration of the climb, however, it is balanced by the assumed risk. Climbers should acknowledge the responsibility of their actions and accept the danger that is part of the sport.

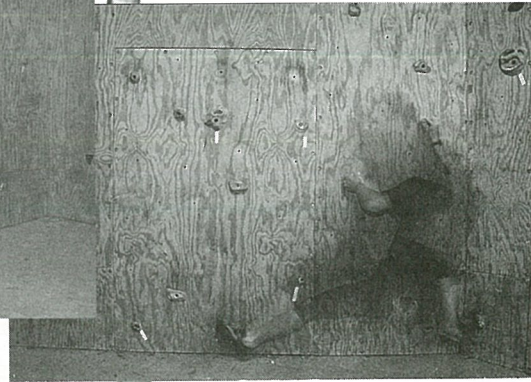
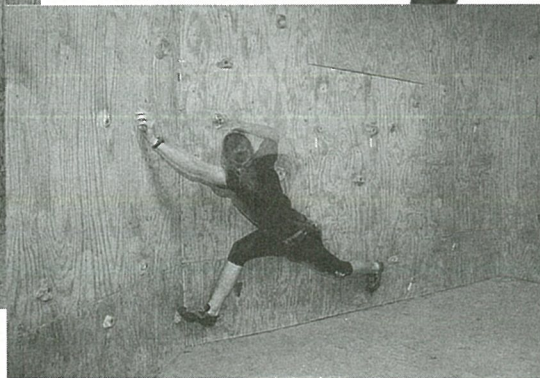
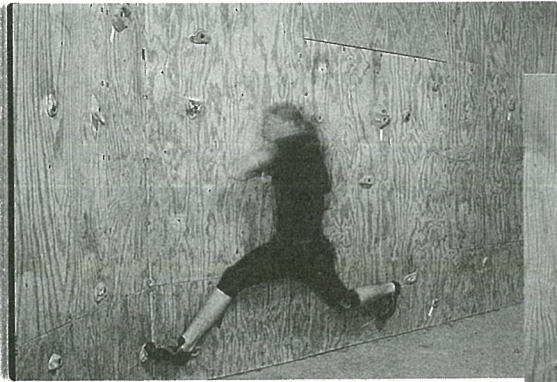
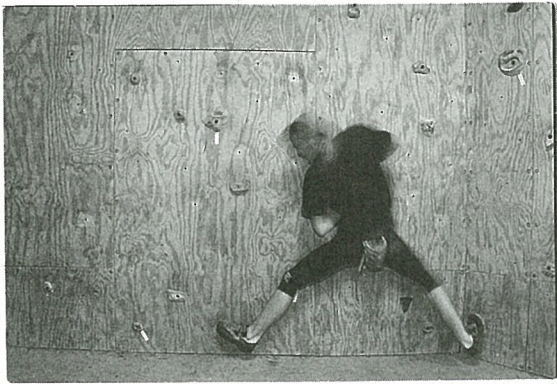
Whether lead climbing, top-roping or bouldering, climbing focuses a person on the NOW. To move on the vertical world is to close out all distractions, to push yourself mentally and physically, to overcome fear and disappointment and gain a new understanding of yourself. It is also just plain fun.

I climb to know that I am alive, for only by introducing danger into my life can I fully appreciate living.

text and photos by Mike Fagans

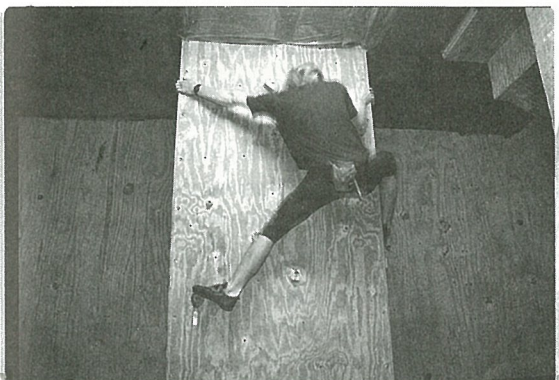
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December 16

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Sol North Lounge

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January 10

12:00-1:00 pm

SAU, Clark B

January 13

7:00-8:00pm

Kate Gleason Lounge

January 15

5:30-6:30 pm

****Kate Gleason Lounge*

****Interpreters will be present*

**If you have any questions,
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Men's Hockey off to a Strong Start

Upcoming Home Sporting Events:

Sunday 11/24:

Women's Hockey vs. Wesleyan 11:30 am

Saturday 11/30:

Men's Basketball vs. Brockport 2:00 pm

The RIT men's hockey team is off to an unbelievable start this year with a 3-0 record. They seem to be well on their way to continuing the success of last year's season, where their 25-6-1 record brought them the ECAC championship, and second place at the national tournament. "The experience of being a national runner-up is definitely going to help the team," said coach Eric Hoffberg. "The guys know what it takes to go to the highest level of play and are willing to work as hard as possible to get there." The Tigers began their winning streak on October 19, against York University, where they won 11-6. The first period of play was very close, ending in a 2-2 tie, with goals by Art Thomas and Matt Thomas. In the second period, the Tigers came out strong, possessing most of the play and outscoring York with six goals. Cheyenne Lazar scored three goals, while Luke Murphy, Matt Thomas and Steve Toll each added one. The Tigers continued to dominate York and added three more goals in the third period. The scoring included one more by Lazar, who totaled 4 goals, and two more by Toll, who totaled three goals in the game. "I was very pleased with the way the guys played," commented coach Eric Hoffberg. "They were real excited for the season opener, so once things started coming together, the play could not have been better. The veterans are taking on the role as leaders and the new players are fitting right in to our style of play."

The next game for the Tigers came on November 1, when the Tigers hosted their annual tournament. First up for the Tigers was Villanova University, which was expected to be a very good Division I team. The Tigers once again played with confidence and skill as they destroyed Villanova 20-3. The scoring was pretty much evenly dispersed throughout the team, with each member chipping in with a

goal, an assist, or just an overall great effort. Top scorers were Toll and Lazar, who each had three goals. The next night, the Tigers took on Niagara College and once again came out and decisively defeated them 9-4. The Tigers were actually down at the end of the first period 3-2, but this only made the Tigers come out stronger in the second period. They outscored their opponent 5-0 in that period, and 2-1 in the third period. The leading scorer of that game was once again Toll with three goals. "We are definitely excited about our great start this year," said coach Hoffberg. "I am constantly telling the guys to respect the opportunity to play, respect your opponents, and respect the game of hockey. I am confident that with this philosophy in mind, the team's overall great attitude, and their work ethic, our success should definitely continue."

By: Julie Sterling

photo: mike Fagans



Basketball Bounces Back into Action

Basketball season is around the corner and both the men's and women's teams have already started to prepare. Although their games don't begin until the start of winter quarter, rigorous preseason training has begun.

The women's team has much to look forward to with brand new coach Laura Hungerford, and a slew of new players. Only Christie Bielmeier, Kimberly Jamison, and Sarah Short are returning this season; therefore, Hungerford has a great deal of restructuring to do with sixteen newcomers. "This is a new opportunity for everyone, both the players and the coaching staff," said Hungerford. "I'm concentrating on developing enthusiasm, motivation, and commitment from the players. It's important that I work on building a good foundation this year, so we can build on it in the years to come."

Hungerford has a great deal of experience to bring to the women's team. Prior to being given the position here at RIT, she was the assistant basketball coach and head softball coach for the University of Chicago for five years, and before that, she was head coach for both basketball and softball at the University of Maine-Farmington for six years. With this team, Hungerford plans to start with the basics and assess what they can do to make them most successful. She looks forward to her commitment as a coach, and to developing a foundation of players who are equally committed to the program.

RIT's men's basketball team is back in action this year, as ten players return and nine transfers and freshman join the squad. The strength of this year's team may have the ability to produce a record that is even better than last year's impressive 22-4 season.

"With the newcomers and transfers coming in this year, we should have a shot at winning the whole thing," said senior and two time All-American, Craig Jones. Coach Bob McVean is extremely excited about the upcoming year. He explained that their team goals and expectations are to take what they've done in the past and improve on it. "The experience that we have back this year should be a positive influence on meeting those goals," said McVean. "To advance to the post season tournament is obviously something we're all looking to do, but it's important that before we look ahead, we are prepared for each and every game along the way."

McVean commented on all the veterans and their importance on the team. He noted that Craig Jones will be the mainstay, and that they are looking to him to have another very successful season. Of the newcomers, McVean is also very enthusiastic. He expects they will all excel in their upcoming roles on the team.

"If we work hard together, as a team, we should attain all our goals of winning the championship," said senior Sean Dale. With the strength and depth the team has, the championship appears to be very much in their reach.



Male Athlete of the Week

Steve Toll has been named Male Athlete of the Week for his performance on the men's hockey team. Toll's outstanding play in the RIT Tournament on November 1-2 enabled him to break a few of the tournament's past records. He first broke the individual game point record against Villanova, where he had 8 points (3 goals and 5 assists). He also broke the tournament total points record, with 12 points (6 goals and 6 assists). Due to Steve's record-breaking offense and unbelievable overall play, he was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. "When it comes to Steve Toll, he can simply be described as a great kid, with unrelenting enthusiasm to play," said coach Eric Hoffberg. "Steve is a very talented player, but I think his greatest gift is his attitude. He is a natural born competitor who is constantly working on his game. He is going to be one of the top team leaders this year."

By: Julie Sterling

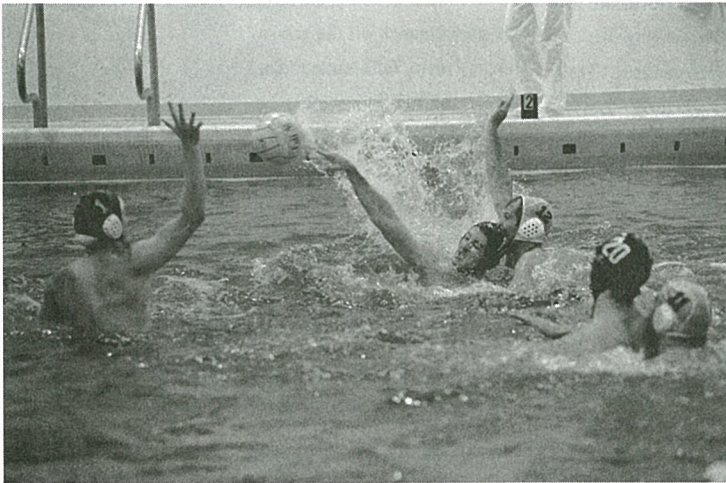


Female Athlete of the Week

Krissy Caton has been named RIT's Female Athlete of the Week for her performance on the women's volleyball team. Caton earned this award because of her tenacious play at a tournament held at Allegany College. She totaled 18 kills and 26 digs as the Tigers won against their first opponent, Gettysburg. In their second match against Allegany, Caton came out strong and tallied 12 kills and 12 digs. For the whole tournament, Caton compiled an amazing total of 30 kills and 38 digs. "Krissy really pulled through for us," said coach Tim Cowie. "With Tracy Wilt being out, Krissy had to take on more responsibility. Despite the injuries Krissy has had herself, she has been the team leader for the last two or three weeks."

By: Julie Sterling

Fall Wrap-up



Left: Tenth ranked men's water polo hosted a two day tournament in October. Above: The men's rugby team played rain or shine, usually rain.



Women's rugby played to win this fall, but a loss to Geneseo knocked them out of the state finals.

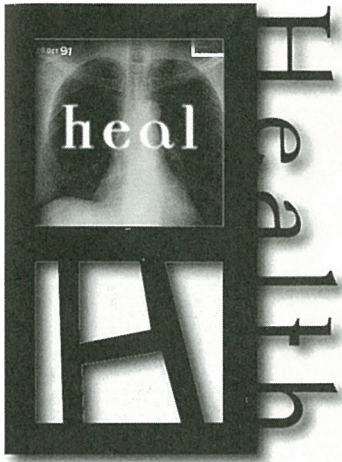
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S T R E S S S

How many times have you told yourself that you were not going to put it off until the last minute? You know, that paper or project or even those ten small assignments. Now the end of the quarter is here and every minute of your time is budgeted down right to when you are going to catch a little shut-eye. Well, take it easy, because you could be running yourself into the ground. It is only "a little" stress. Final exam time can be one of the most stressful times in a person's life. Remember, stress is internal, not external. You have the ability to control it. You knew this mind-boggling week or two was coming and you put

yourself in the predicament like the majority of your peers. So, now how are you going to handle it?

The first step in coping with stress is recognition. Be aware of your body's symptoms. Do not let them scare you, because this may only cause additional stress. Learn and utilize relaxation breathing. Take a deep breath! Learn to relax and give yourself those breaks in the day that you desire so badly. Just do not get too sidetracked. Eat right. Give your body the proper energy that it needs to keep you going and make your defenses stronger. When in a stressful situation, the immune system becomes impaired, possibly overworked. Exercise. It can help you blow off a little steam and actually increase your energy. Talk to a friend and vent a little. On the other hand, let a friend vent to you.

A stressed-out person will typically feel anxious, scared, irritable and moody. People usually have a lower self esteem and a fear of failure. Stress causes the inability to concentrate. People will tend to worry about the future and not pay attention to the present. They tend to be preoccupied with thoughts and tasks. They are often forgetful. Only those "important issues" are important at the time.

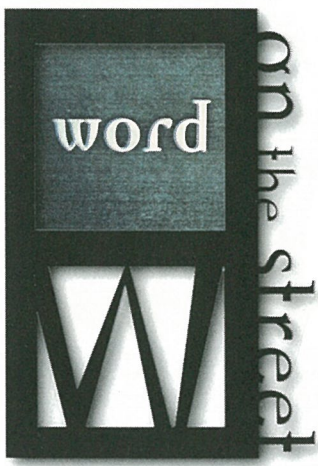
Abnormal behaviors tend to appear in tense situations. Some stutter and show other speech difficulties. Many break down and cry just to release a little tension. People tend to act impulsively, startle easily or are accident prone. This can be caused by their pre-occupations. Other behaviors include teeth grinding and an increase in smoking, drug or alcohol use. Depending on the individual there may be a loss of appetite or overeating as well. Physiological symptoms include perspiration or sweaty hands, increased heart beat, trembling, dryness of throat and mouth, lack of energy, and headaches.

To get through the next few days, make a plan. Take a few minutes and write down everything that you need to accomplish. Next, break it down into the available times and days. Stick with your plan and do not forget to schedule some time for yourself to regenerate. Focus on one task at a time and you will get through it. Remember, you are in control. Just think, in a more days you will be able to kick back and relax for a while.

Racheal Emerson

27





"No, they usually don't go for the Welsh people."
Jeremiah Parry-Hill - 1st year Computer Science

Jason Curtis and Sankar Sury ask

Have you ever experienced racism or bigotry here at RIT?

"No."
Herman Parson- 1st year Criminal Justice **1**

"Yes. In an International Film History class where we had to write journals expressing our feelings about racism in film, and some people wrote that they were afraid of the blacks in class because of the stereotypes they were exposed to."
Jason Young- 4th year Film

"Walking on the quarter mile, a guy said, '-talking like a nigger.' I confronted him about it, but he said he was talking to his friend."
Glen Gipson- 4th year Film **4**

"I got a low grade in a class when my white lab partner got full credit. I didn't really think about it, but I hope it wasn't because of my color."
Walter Dudley Jr.- 1st year Food Management

"Sad to say, but yes, not only because of race but because of gender. A coach didn't feel I could referee a softball game because I was female."
Hysha Robinson- 5th year Info-Tech **2**

"A guy across the hall my third year was totally racist. He said that all niggers should die. I almost got into a fight with him. He was drunk and started screaming in my face."
Quincy Joyc- 5th year Electrical Engineering Tech.

"When I complained about things in the dorms, no one took it seriously and I was told that it was my responsibility to take care of it. But that didn't happen when some Caucasians made the same complaints."
Peter Lau- 4th year Business

"During Parent's Weekend a guy punched the girl working the desk in the face and ran off with something. I know that they won't post a girl here anymore because of what happened."
John Connelly- 4th year Criminal Justice **3**

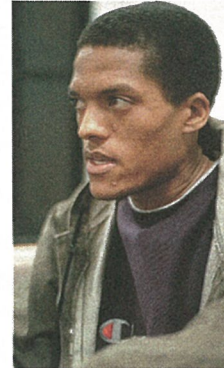
"I've feared for my own protection sometimes on campus."
Diana- 1st year Fine Art Photo

"I'm a transfer and I don't see the diversity that I did at Syracuse. I see more whites here."
Paulo Silvera- 4th year Painting **5**

"I was at a party where two guys got into a fight, and when a girl tried to intervene, one of them said, 'you're a typical RIT chick: lose 20 lbs., get a boob job, and then come talk to me. But otherwise, I haven't seen any.'
John Kroph- 4th year Business Management



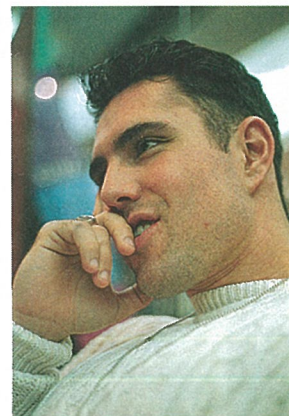
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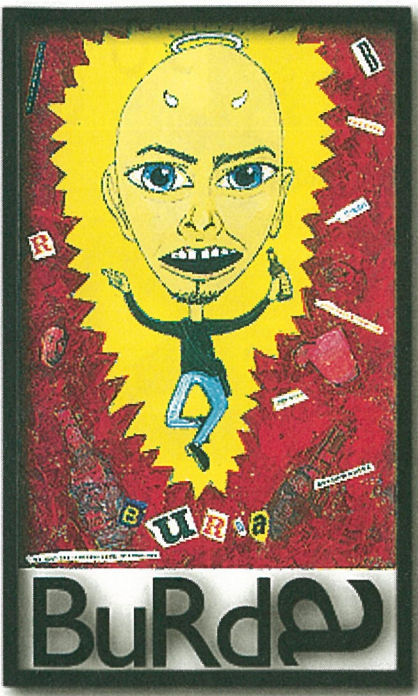


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5

THE NIGHT SHIFT



The Commodores croon about Jackie & Marvin. The song filters down from the speakers hanging off the grated ceiling.

The over 35 crowd had commandeered the jukebox. I was falling hard through the world of 70's light rock at Zebb's Deluxe Bar and Grill. "Deluxe" to set it apart from all those cut-rate bar and grills, I guess. You know, those dirty, low-end, common denominator bar and grills. And a name like "Zebb's?" Man, it just screams creme-de-la-creme, no?

"Can I get you anything to drink?" The waitress asks.
I order a coffee.

It's the 12th day of the fast. If one goes to an extreme, it's only logical to swing the other way. Even if it's only to counteract effects of the prior extreme. I'm needing that alcohol bullet to put me down more than my conscious could allow of late. Like most good Americans, I tend to deal with symptoms and repress the cause.

I didn't realize it, but I'd been ignoring the girl across from me.

She gives me a dirty look.

"What, were you raised in a zoo?"

"That's not nice," she says, the smoke from her camel paints a translucent wall across the table.

"You want nice? Date the Pope." I squeeze her hand softly and smile. I grab five "equal" packets. It looks like I'm pouring rat poison in my coffee. And all I could think was "Did Dick Swett take New Hampshire? And will there be film at 11?"

Clinton spanked Dole into retirement by 9pm last night. A sad end for a good senator. Bob Dole will go down

as one of the great statesmen of the 20th century. But he's no president, that's for god damned sure. Dole would have served his party better staying on the hill and letting the Republican money-men find some other patsy for Clinton to brain bang ("Ouch. Bob Dole doesn't like this one bit!").

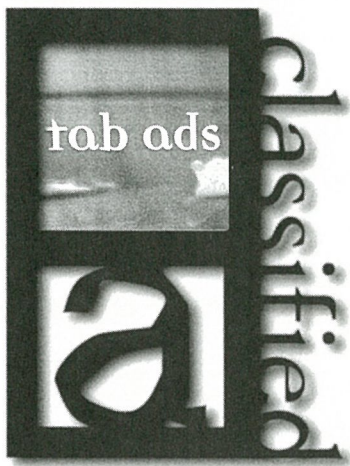
As for Ross, I feel no sympathy for the evil little dwarf from Texas. You can have mad-men run companies, but we're all better off not electing them to public office. He was a little red sore on the testicles of the American political system. Clinton was the penicillin.

Perot, Lamm and Nadir are nothing more than presidential footnotes now. Written in 7 point type at the bottom of a Civics textbook. They learned the one truism of our culture: failure is the only thing Americans can't forgive. It's the ugly side of the American dream. You can rise to any height, even the presidency. But fall, and you're just shit on the side of the road. You're \$10,000-a-Pop on the college lecture circuit and an occasional guest stint on Politically Incorrect. A bonus-point question on a history exam.

Everyone in the country has this sneaking suspicion that something is very wrong with our political system. Like a seismic quake, the pressure has been building steadily over the last thirty years. We watch the conventions, buy the papers, and sit on our asses while the other guy votes. We all know there is something wrong. I think most people are just resigned to the fact that we let things go too far a long time ago. Somewhere, somehow we lost our way. It's too late, we've picked our course. For heaven or hell, we've committed to the ride and there is no going back.

The election is over now. Another four years of Conservative-Liberal or Liberal-Conservatism or ... does anyone know what the hell they're calling this guy now?

And Dole? He's a tired old man. Right now, I feel about the same. Quarter's-end can wear a person down to the wheel. Thank god break is only a week away.



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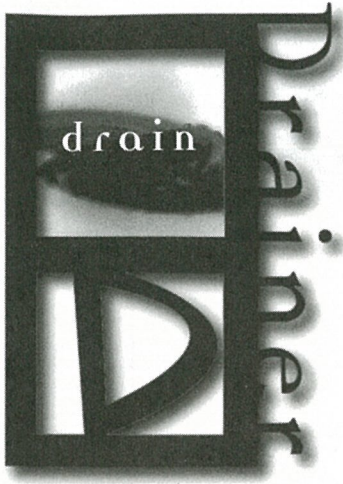


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the one that benefits. If Blacks or Hispanics were in power of all the companies and ran the country, then they would be the ones to profit from such racism. But that, in my opinion, is not the case. One thing that is certain: racism is wrong regardless of the perpetrator.

According to another study, within these growing pools of single-ethnic groups, people develop the very same premises and understandings that the white society take for granted. When an outsider, unaware of this complex belief system and possessing a different set of beliefs, interacts with the community, an occasional effect is that of conflict. This conflict, comprised of dueling systems of communication and understanding, is seen as aggressive behavior to established norms on the sides of both parties.

Only one who is aware of or has the ability to become alerted to these differences will be able to adjust established belief systems to accommodate the others'. This can be achieved by implementing a strategy of empathic understanding.

Other studies state that empathic dialogue is that of mutual disclosure of perspective, and resultant civil discussion of possible conflict and alternatives. Someone who does this can appreciate the position of others by a form of counter-attitudinal advocacy (putting oneself into another's shoes). The more positions one adopts for consideration, the more differentiated and better equipped for listening that person becomes. Only when one recognizes the individuality of the 'peppers, onions, and tomatoes and their respective tastes' can one allow the concept of a true American culture to evolve.

Malik, a 23-year-old Career and Human Resources graduate, viewed *The Color of Fear* with his African-American fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, and Phi Kappa Psi during a conference held a few months ago. The latter is a predominantly white fraternity. The video was nothing new for Malik, but he did see that the members of Phi Kappa Psi were "awakened to the experiences of another race," as was David near the end of the video. I believe it is this understanding of another's viewpoint that is the first step to bridging the barriers of racism.

In reading this article, one may be wondering where the female equation is. The video by Lee Mun Wah did not incorporate the female viewpoint, nor did my own group. A reason for this, perhaps, is a silent commentary by the director of the film that women are still not considered to be in possession of great power or influence in this society. Women may be just as discriminated against as any minority group.

However, it is not possible, in some circumstances, for all people to assume the responsibility of empathic understanding. Hence, conflicts develop from non-exposure to other psychological perspectives and belief systems. One remedy for this problem is the adoption of one universal belief system, but whose? The video and subsequent discussions suggest to me that the "white" idea isn't the one to be adopted. Since diversity is the dialectical opposite of community, a place where this one system can develop is improbable. Each community will form its individual system, such as the case of Boulder and Bogota, and the incidence of conflict will never cease as this country currently strives to stress diversity. Perhaps that is the way it should be, in order to force others into understanding. The symposium on racism conducted by R.I.T. in 1990, which I have referenced, proposes many solutions to the problems. Dr. Ayewoh, the author, disagrees with the notion of community and diversity being at odds. He writes, "Encourage all students, especially *non-Whites*, to integrate with the system and establish ownership for it. This ownership spirit *should not* be mis-interpreted to spell acculturation. To acculturate is to lose your own cultural identity and adopt the identity of the dominant culture . . . Think about it, within unity, there is ample room for diversity."

At the end of the discussion, my group determined that each ethnic group in the United States was American. The black ethnicity, the Hispanic, Asian, Native American, and Jewish cultures all represent what it means to be American. I believe it is this concept of the "salad," as opposed to the "melting pot," that needs to become the accepted and universally-understood premise of American society. Until this idea is embraced by all people in this country, advancement in race relations will be encumbered or stagnant.

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