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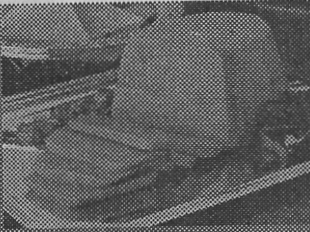
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# officer friendly.

About a two weeks ago a part-time RISD student was brutalized on Thayer Street by a Providence Police Officer.

Dennis Quinlan went up to Thayer Street with a friend, and met up with some more friends on the steps of Esta's Too. After a bit Dennis got up and urinated in nearby bushes off of Euclid Street. Officer Rickey Fernandes (badge # 691) came up behind Dennis, grabbed his left arm and cuffed him. He then pushes Dennis into the (1 inch long) thorn bushes. Dennis turned around (handcuffed) and Officer Rickey Fernandes then proceeded to mace him in the eyes. Dennis is now blinded and trying hard to breath and screaming "Ow! Ow! Don't do this to me! My eyes! They're burning!"

Next Officer Fernandes dropped Dennis to his knees and slammed his face into the concrete, breaking his nose and lacerating his forehead. Dennis was knocked out from the impact. Witnesses (of which there were somewhere between 10 and 15) said Officer Fernandes kicked Dennis and lifted him to his knees with his right hand while punching him with his left.

Dennis' roommate Claudio was yelling "Stop beating on my friend!" and Officer Fernandes did and began to walk across Thayer Street towards Claudio when four other Police Cruisers arrive. Officer Fernandes told the arriving officers to arrest Claudio which they did. There are many witnesses to this. Officer Fernandes later reported that Claudio had crossed the street over to where Dennis was being beaten and put himself between Dennis and Officer Fernandes.

Dennis was taken to Roger Williams Hospital, but refuses treatment so that he can go down to the Police Station and get everything taken care of. At the police station Dennis was refused water to drink and even a cloth to wipe the blood off his face. Witness describe the scene when Dennis was dragged to the Police Car by saying that there was blood streaming down his face.

Dennis was charged with disturbing the peace and public drinking, and Officer Fernandes put on what are called "cover charges" of resisting arrest and assaulting an officer. Cover charges are used by officers after they brutalize victims so that the officer has something to bargain with.

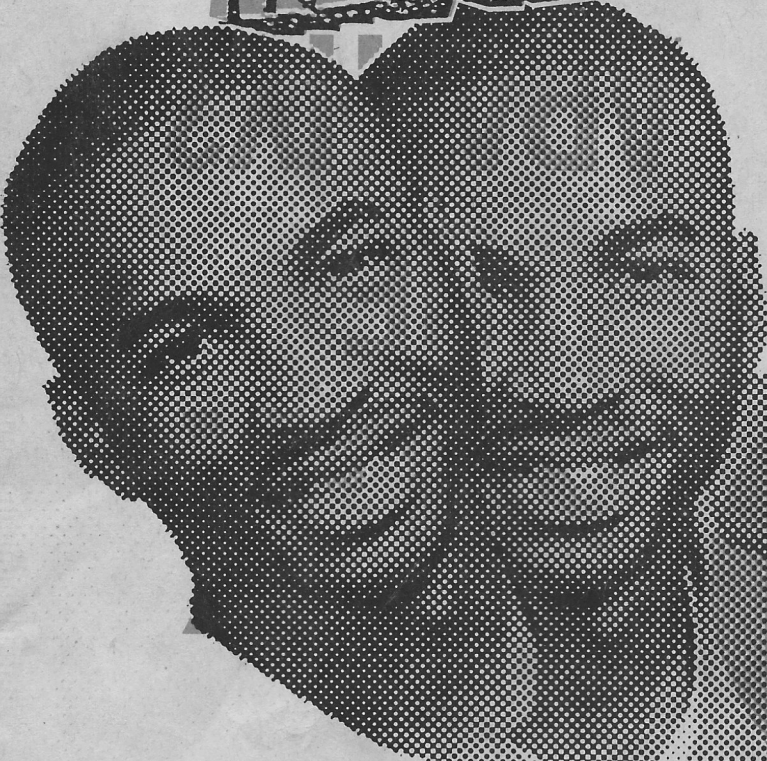
As of a week ago Claudio was still in jail. Dennis is out, but has two swollen black eyes, lacerated areas of his face, an area where he was hit very hard with an object and his nose is completely broken. He is having memory problems—remembering numbers and faces, and trouble doing logical tasks.

The day Mixed Media was informed of this, Officer Fernandes maced a possibly homeless man in front of Store 24 with multiple people witnessing it. more on that in the next issue.

Officer Ricky Fernandes of the Providence Police Department works a beat that includes RISD and Brown.

# MIXED MEDIA

v4.6



SICK  
OF  
APATHY?

•Queer

The word itself is unstable. There are still negative connotations lingering from a time when gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and the transgendered could not be understood as anything more than freaks . . . a time not so long ago. Even the last four terms seem to be slipping out of easy definition. These descriptions are inclusive and exclusive. Perhaps there is something inherently elusive about sexuality.

A number of us have come together to create a presence at RISD. What do we call ourselves? Three years ago the LGBA had to add a "T" with the inclusion of a single person who has since graduated. Do we now drop the "transgenderd"? How many more letters, how many more identities are added before the LGBTTA starts sounding like a golf tournament? So the QSU, the Queer Student Union, takes shape as an organization, a forum, an encounter of people who have an urge to communicate.

The chalking, a few weeks ago, was to provoke questions: Why should a population give itself identity, visibility? Is RISD really as cool as it would have itself be? Commentary trickled it's way back: "Why are you pushing it on us?" "What's your point?" Some people felt the statements chalked on the walls and sidewalks were degrading and self deprecating. "Does this mean I have to start the 'Heterosexual Student Union'?" While many straight friends wanted to argue the content of what was written, I found it simply fascinating that a group of queer people got together and gave themselves visibility. What's wrong with making ourselves known?

"Fine, your gay, queer, whatever, that's great, but you don't have to scream out about it, I just don't care."

Are we mistaking acceptance for apathy? Are we so P.C. smug, so O.K. we do not need to examine ourselves, our sexuality? The chalking was not an affront to anyone, it was an invitation to everyone to keep the questions of sexuality burning. It there is any one agenda that has brought people together under the auspices of the QSU it is a shared understanding of the intense isolation sexuality can cause. We chalked to let people know that there is a resource. Even this publication, mixed media can be a space for discourse; write back. We are not at the same place we were a few years ago when people openly shouted "Queer!" with contempt, or "Faggot!" with disgust. (Or are we? Do you know who Matthew Sheppard is?) You get social change going by outraging people, but you end it by delighting people. Can we be delighted to use the word "queer"?

Graham Entwistle & Todd Paolillo

•Try Hi-T an informal study break for the RISD QSU and Brown LGBTTA Wednesday, Nov. 4th at the Tap Room, Wednesday, Nov. 11th at Brown's memorial meeting room, Wednesday, Nov. 18th at the Tap Room, Wednesday . . . see the pattern? (see this edition's calendar for up to date meeting location & time). For more information Contact QSU president Jesse M. Ragan, RISD box# 1375, email: jragan@risd.edu.