

MIXED

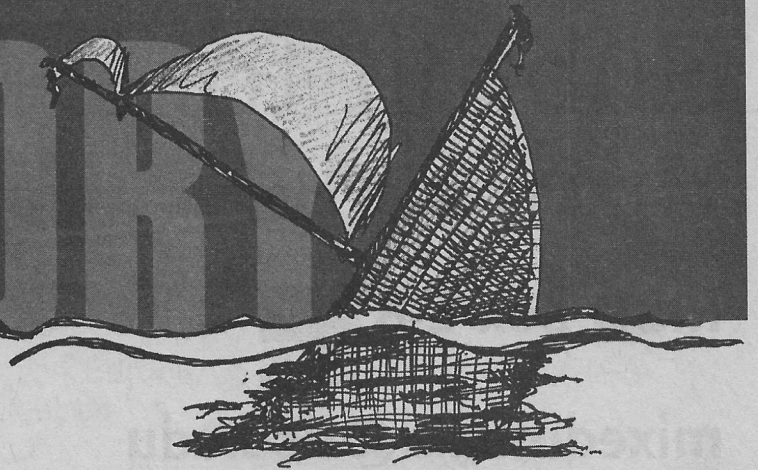
MEDIA

vol.3 issue.3

# IN THE HISTORY OF PAPERS

MOST PAPERS END UP BEING

# HISTORY



# A "DE-PRESSING" HISTORY OF THE

by: Dan Reynolds, '01

Three weeks ago, Art Spiegleman remarked at the beginning of his lecture here that "newsprint is like a slow burning fire." Little did he know just how quickly newsprint burns here at RISD. While the Rhode Island School of Design has consistently had a student newspaper during the last 72 years, no one newspaper has lasted more than 17 years. Most colleges and universities boast a more impressive record than this, for example, the Brown Herald, incorporated in 1866, has been published daily since 1891. The reasons for the lack of success in student journalism here are twofold. First, the RISD administration is imperfect. For over a decade, they actively discouraged students' right to free speech and free press. But the main responsibility for journalistic imperfections lie upon the student body. The RISD Student Body has never consistently supported anything! Especially a student press. However, I've started this article off on a morbid foot, please allow me to paint a more nostalgic facade for you...

**"The RISD Student Body has never consistently supported anything!"**

In the library, behind a recessed door, lies a dark hallway, lined with gray cages on either side. These are the RISD archives. The library staff has archived many things, including student newspapers. The RISD Paper archives only reach back to the 1920's, therefore it was impossible for me to find any evidence of print before this time. So for my research reporting purposes, the first student newspaper appeared in 1925.

*The Salamander* appeared on the school scene that year, and lasted through 1926. It was a small, monthly review of student affairs. Created on typewriters, it was cleverly illustrated with simple line drawings.

In 1929, *The Student Designer* was created. Lasting until 1932, it was laid out on 8.5 x 11 sheets of paper folded in half, creating a booklet. The newspaper had an illustrated cover; and for the design, the staff held contests among the student body for the most creative concept. *The Student Designer* reported on RISD issues, art news, sports, and had humor filled articles. Occasionally, it was printed on tabloid sized newsprint, making it our first "paper."

**"By allowing student opinion into its pages, it eventually came into conflict with the administration."**

Briefly in 1940, RISD students produced *The Broadsheet*. No physical records of this paper exist; however, it is often referred to in *The Designer*, its successor. *The Designer* was created in 1942, and lasted for a year. It contained no graphics, and was typewritten. It had feature stories on exhibitions at RISD and Brown, and like all other papers, depended on contributions from students. It is of interesting to note that this paper reported just how much the strain of the second world war was felt by the RISD Community. In preparation for the draft, and basic training, all male students were required to take physical education classes. We were the only art school in the east with a wartime preparation program; a program which is made apparent through the articles in *The Designer*.

*BlockPrint* made its debut in 1951, and was printed weekly until 1968.

This newspaper was always printed on tabloid sheets of paper, and included photographs and graphics, as well as student articles. By allowing student opinion into its pages, it eventually came into conflict with the administration. Disliking the spirit of protest and reform of the late 1960's, the

administration considered the paper too radical, and

canceled it. A few months later, in the spring of 1969, the *Designer's News* was created. It continued the spirit of the *BlockPrint*, but was short lived.



# RISD MEDIA

In the fall of 1969, RISD's second longest running paper was created. The paper was untitled in its first few issues. This weekly paper was student run, containing newsworthy articles. The undercurrents of international protest were still apparent in its pages. In the Spring of 1972, the paper took the name RISD RAG, but by November, it had again changed its name to *Montage*. In 1973, the staff finally settled on a name, calling their work the *RISD Press*. *The Press* was highly critical of the administration, coming down hard on its

policies. A series of authors wrote anonymously, taking the names Sagittarius I, II

***"They reviewed all community activities at RISD, and verbally trashed the majority. Obscenities ran rampant."***

and III. They reviewed all community activities at RISD, and verbally trashed the majority. Obscenities ran rampant. Apparently, the students weren't the only protectors at RISD. *The Press* reported frequently on faculty protests and strikes. The president of RISD at the time, Lee Hall, disbanded the paper in 1978.

In December, 1978, the students created a new paper, *The Incorporated Press, Inc.* This paper was sold, for a cost of 25 cents, and did not rely on school funding. Unfortunately, papers were now not supported by the student body. Without enough contributions, the paper only lasted a year. Events was created a year later. Lasting until May, 1981, this paper was typewritten and photocopied, not printed professionally. It reported, surprisingly, on student events.

The newspaper format returned to campus in September 1981 with the *RISD Voice*. This paper, printed professionally, lasted until 1990. Flipping through issues of *The Voice*, I could clearly see the computerization of graphic design and desktop publishing. In 1981, typewriters, scissors and glue were advanced technology in page layout. By its demise, *The Voice* was laid out on computers and contained scanned, edited images.

After *The Voice*, no newspaper existed for six years, the longest drought since the Depression and WWII. However, an activities bulletin, *Juice*, was published and photocopied from 1993-1996. At the beginning of 1996, a few students created *Your Name Here*, which after a few issue became our very own *Mixed Media*. Now in its third academic year, *Mixed Media* is published biweekly, and depends solely upon student contributions. Without your material, *Mixed Media* will become just another ghost in the library archives, and we'll have no one to blame aside from ourselves! Before the *Inc. Press, Inc.* died, its editor wrote these immortal word to the RISD Community: "The newspaper, and then again life in general, is not meant to be created FOR you, it's meant to be created BY you!"

RISD veteran and English Professor, Mike Fink, was quoted years ago, while stressing editorial patience, as saying "I don't care how badly you fuck up, IT'S A STUDENT NEWSPAPER, let it be!" We can not produce the *New York Times* every week, nor are we expected to. *Mixed Media* exists as a paper for the students, and by the students. With RISD students, there would be no *Mixed Media*, however, without more support from more students, we can not

***"I don't care how badly you fuck up, IT'S A STUDENT NEWSPAPER, let it be!"***

continue to have a paper. Everyone has an opinion, and we wish to hear it, even if it does not agree with our own. Submit to *Mixed Media*. Express your First Amendment Rights. This is a forum for your views. You are RISD students, as am I. We exist as a community of artists with the same goals in mind, we just have different means of reaching them.

1969-1978  
(untitled) RISD RAG MONTAGE THE RSD PRESS

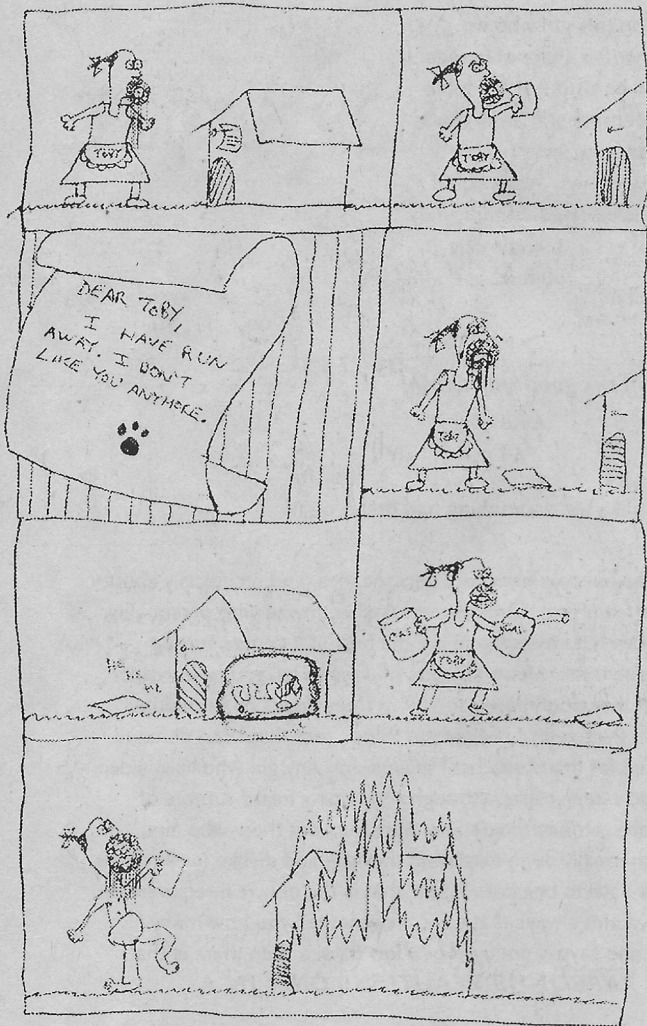
1978-1981  
(THE INCORPORATED PRESS)

1981-1990  
(THE VOICE)

1993-1996  
(YOUR NAME HERE)

1996-present  
(YOUR NAME HERE)





# Dear Editors, I just wanted to write in to let you know that I really appreciate

all of the effort that you are putting into keeping Mixed Media running. I know how energy consuming it can be to get anything done around here. As you said in your last issue, Mixed Media is probably the single most important resource that RISD has. I think that the apathy and general lack of concern on the part of most students

## really SUCKS.

I am totally offended by the fact that so many students here at RISD, a school which is noted for being the most outstanding art school in the country, have neglected their responsibilities as members of this community. As artists, we should not only be aware of present issues of importance, but be involved in the shaping of our culture. If we as artists do not challenge ourselves

## As a new student at RISD,

I was concerned after reading your editorial notes in last week's issue of Mixed Media. I for one definitely think your efforts to keep up the paper are very much worth it and I thank you for your time, energy and commitment to try to keep it alive. My first impressions are that while the curriculum/courses at RISD are interesting and worthwhile, the workload borders on ridiculous (no news to you guys returning I'm sure). As a result, the social environment and sense of community around here

## really suck!!

Don't worry, guys, you

## don't suck.

Mixed Media's a good thing. You're right, it just needs more submissions, but the year just started and some people haven't figured it out yet. As long as there are things at RISD like the Met and Baruch Kirschenbaum, you'll be in business. Suggestion? Maybe some space for reviews of stuff both upcoming and in the past.

-Liz Buddington

I feel like I'm on a treadmill rather than in college. When I get the paper I at least feel some sense of community. I don't get this feeling when I check out the Independent, the so-called Brown/RISD paper which doesn't speak to me at all. I thank you because I barely had time to write this note nevermind sacrifice hours meeting the print deadline. Rest assured that, like radio broadcasters, you may rarely hear/know that your audience is out there because such a small percentage of them ever get in touch or give you the feedback you scream for, but they're out there and they do give a shit.

-Thanks



and the world around us, who will? Some executive on the four-millionth floor of some office building, sitting in a big leather chair and sipping martinis? I kinda doubt it,

Well, I don't know about everyone else, but I don't want to leave ANYTHING that might concern me up to anyone like that. This is my life and my family's hard-earned dollars that I'm spending on this education.

For example, if you were here last year, you may (or more likely may NOT) have noticed that there was an amazing lecture series called the Queer Arts Festival, which brought interesting and diverse artists/speakers to our campus. Or that the LGBTA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender alliance) is being re-activated this fall after an entire year of non-existence. Or that almost every full-time faculty member at this school is a straight white male over the age of fifty. Or that last spring, when two minority faculty members were almost not re-hired (for no apparent reason), there were only about fifteen people who cared enough to voice themselves against the injustice. Or that one of these faculty members, Jennifer Gonzales, who was the only RISD professor teaching courses in contemporary art history, will NOT be returning this year. Could this have anything to do with the fact that she just happens to be Latina?

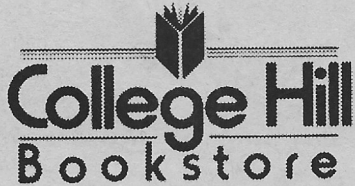
Even if you are not a member of a minority group, it won't kill you to find out a little more about what's going on in the world outside of the studio walls. It is important for everyone to be aware that minority students exist, and that the LGBTA in particular is a growing presence on campus.

You also may or may not know that some of your tuition money goes into an OSL account designated for student-organized events. It is our responsibility as students to utilize these funds in whatever way we think is most important. Why sit back and let someone else decide how to spend your tuition? Why rip yourself off?

In any case, I want to extend tremendous gratitude to the editors of this publication for giving so much of your energies. I know it's a lot of work and I admire you for your efforts.

-Love, Kat

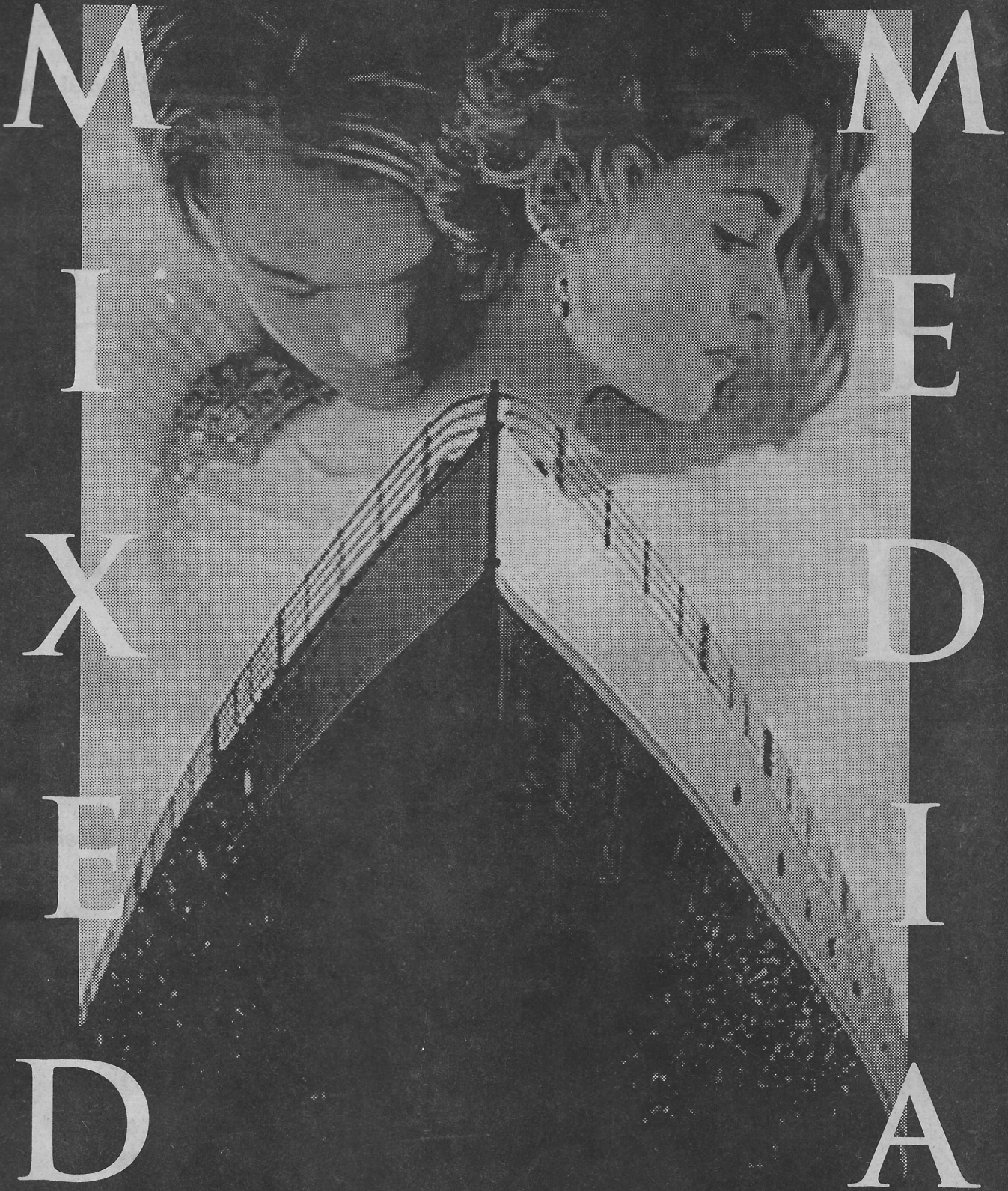


  
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February 23, 1998

Issue 10, Volume III

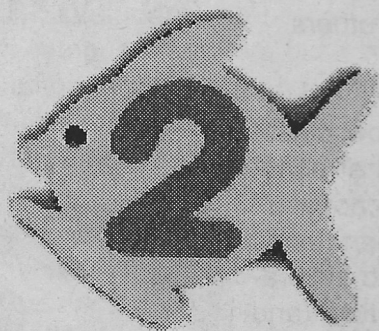


*THE FREE PRESS CANNOT  
BE BOUGHT OR SOLD*



**In regards to the person who wrote in the last issue about how RISD students are wasting our time trying to have lives instead of becoming involved in global issues...**

Okay, it's true. Nobody cares. Unless you haven't noticed, **apathy** is the most common trait of our generation.

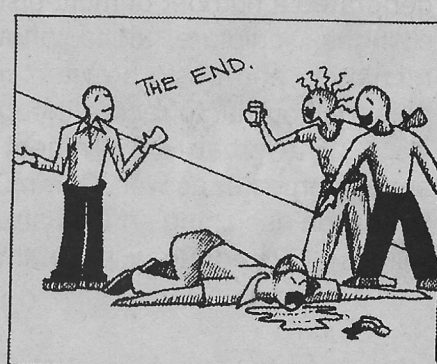
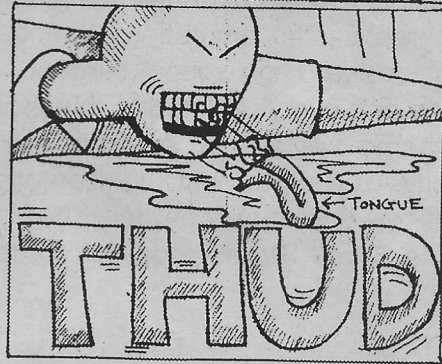
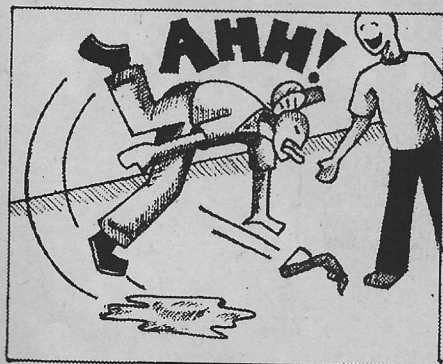
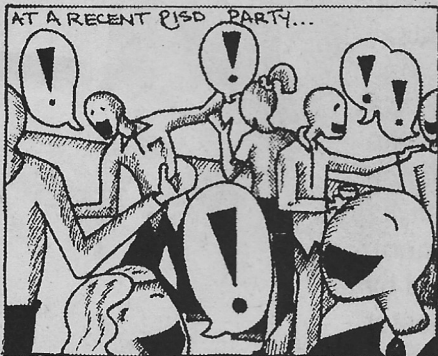


While I agree that RISD is lacking in the "college experience" area, I wouldn't expect us to change much. If the RISD population is going to wake up, someone is going to have to make an awful lot of NOISE. So far, I haven't met anyone with enough courage or conviction to start anything.

Look, it's not that we don't know what's going on in the world. I know many people who, like I do, watch CNN almost every day. We just have different priorities. Mixed Media is a reflection of what's going on in our heads, and if it's getting laid or who wore what to the Artist's Ball, so be it.

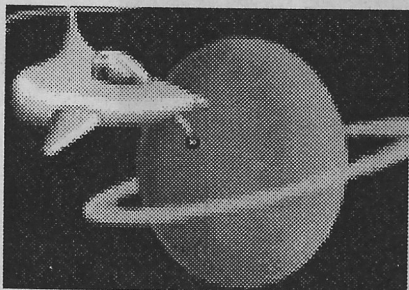
DAYDREAM

AT A RECENT RISD PARTY...



# *Community Art Program offers Three Credit Off-Campus Experience*

*by Robin Tagliaferri (BFA '86, MA '99)*



## ***We remember...***

*10% of what we hear*

*15% of what we see*

*20% of what we both see and hear*

*40% of what we discuss*

*80% of what we experience directly or practice doing*

*90% of what we teach to others*

Next time you are in studio, look around at your fellow classmates. Imagine that a number of them will become teachers at some time in their career while pursuing an art discipline. And so, why not you? It is a great way to support yourself, either permanently or when things are tight. Inadvertently, the experience provides resources and inspiration for your own work, while contributing to arts appreciation (and awareness on many levels, but that's a topic for another day) for others. Often times, it places the artist in circles that assist his/her career, offering opportunities for exhibition and residency.

So, with all of these great benefits just waiting for you, why not learn how to be an art teacher while still at RISD?

Community Art Program is a three credit studio elective offered by the Art Education Department, open to sophomores through graduate students. The course provides the artist-teacher with an introduction to theories and practices in the field of art education, including practical information on designing lesson plans, forming teaching strategies, and assessing student performance. The artist-teacher becomes part of a group of teachers that venture out to Providence High Schools. At the site, each artist-teacher manages his/her own project with the guidance of the public school art teacher and the Community Art Program instructor. The theme for spring semester is a focus on the visual environment, eg... issues surrounding those spaces inhabited, designed or defined by humans. An insightful inquiry into the urban environment last semester generated a number of multi-disciplinary works of art including paintings, collages, sculpture, logos, photographs, film animation, videos, documentaries and basic architectural design. High school students kept a personal journal to record thoughts and events related to this project.

The urban environment theme will remain a "core" theme for spring semester as well. Community Art Program will focus, among other things, on designing and constructing a community garden. The Program will also collaborate with Southside Broad Street, a design competition



to revitalize a "Main Street" in Providence. Investigating a school environment and proposing design changes could also be a possible challenge for the artist-teacher. Course work includes readings, writing assignments, lesson preparation and direct teaching. Journals and process portfolios are also required.

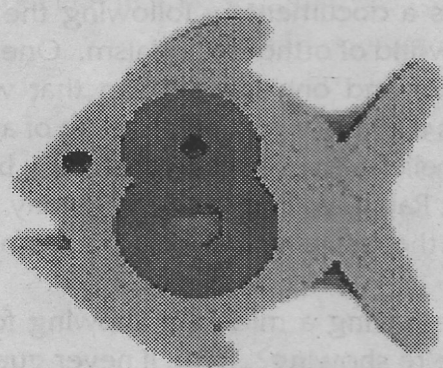
In its ninth year, the Community Art Program was created by John Chamberlain, Assistant Department Head of Art Education. The program's mission has been a dual one; to offer the RISD student an off-campus teaching opportunity, and to give of our institution's vast resources to communities in Providence via experience and instruction in art. Many RISD students do not get the chance to venture off campus that often, but if they did, they would find a city rich in ethnic and racial diversity. Among the African American and Native American communities, there are recently established groups that call Providence home. They are Dominicans, Puerto Ricans, Peruvians, Haitians, Liberians, Nigerians, Cape Verdians, Cambodians, Hmongs, Laotians, Thai, Russians and Armenians. It is also appropriate to mention the numbers of European Americans who



## INSECT HORROR FILM FESTIVAL

still reside in the capital city, and are the descendants of previous waves of immigration. Community Art Program offers the RISD student the opportunity to work in schools with cultural diversity, challenging them to see the natural and constructed environment from a point of view different from their own.

The course will meet on Thursdays, from 12:30 PM to 5:30 PM. The earlier than usual start time is required for travel to the high schools, and transportation to and from RISD will be provided where necessary. The course number is ARTE 403.



**Virtual Cow Tipping**

EGADI NOI

Step Right Up and Tip a Cybercow!

# ***Second Annual Queer Arts Festival at RISD***

*by: Kat Lampert*

One of the primary goals of the Queer Student Union at RISD is to increase queer issues awareness on our campus. The QSU is an organization consisting of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer, and straight allied individuals with a common goal in mind; the strengthening of diversity within the student body.

The 1996-97 school year brought about an increase in LGBT pride on our campus. In celebration of our growing community, the first ever Queer Arts Festival at RISD was organized by Burns Maxey, now an alumnus. The festival brought some wonderful artists and speakers to RISD. I am pleased to announce that there will be a second Annual Queer Arts Festival at RISD in 1998. This year's speakers are as follows:

This year's events are sponsored by the Office of Student Life, the Student Alliance, the Lecture Series Committee, FAV, the Illustration Department, and the Queer Student Union.

I would also like to thank the members of the Queer Arts Festival Advisory Committee for all of their time and effort. I think that the Queer Arts Festival could and should become a tradition at RISD. I will not be coordinating the event next year, so if you are interested in taking over, please leave a note in box 773.

***Wednesday, March 4, 8pm in the Auditorium: Makal Hawley, graphic designer and transgender activist from the International Foundation for Gender Education.***

***Thursday, March 5, 8pm in the Auditorium: Todd Verow, RISD FAV Alumnus***

***Friday, March 6, 8pm in the Auditorium: Diane DiMassa, author/illustrator of the comic book Hothead Paisan; Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist.***

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## **Animation.....**



*The Animation Committee of the RISD Film Society is currently planning Wednesday Animation Nights for the Spring Semester. Each month, a guest animator will present his work.*



## ***Artistic Expressions of the Human Spirit:***

*Selections from the Nancy Sayles Day  
Collection of Modern Latin American Art*

Through Sunday, April 26. One of the Museum's star attractions, this collection is among the finest in the United States. Works by such luminaries as Wilfredo Lam, Fernando Botero, and Claudia Bravo spans a 70-year period from the 1920's to 1990's and 13 Latin American countries. This show was organized by guest curator Ben Ortiz of the Discovery Museum in Bridgeport, Connecticut, in constitution with an advisory group from RI's Hispanic Community.

## ***Utagawa Kuniyoshi***

Through Sunday, March 8, 1998. This exhibition celebrates Kuniyoshi's wide-ranging interests and fine draftsmanship with offerings from one of his sketchbooks and from his woodblock prints on these and other themes.

## ***Working the Stone:***

*Process of Lithography*

Through April 5, 1998. The printmaking process of lithography (literally, writing on stone) was invented and developed by the Bavarian Alois Senefelder two hundred years ago. Drawn almost exclusively from the museum's permanent collection, this show celebrates the anniversary of lithography's birth through exploration of the physical process and the history of its use from early experimental European prints to the mid-20th-century renaissance in America.

# **RISD Museum**

## ***Geoffrey Beene***

Through Sunday, April 19. Beene's innovative clothing has made him one of the most influential designers in the world today. This show, drawn from the designer's personal archive, features 35 garments from the 1970's to the 1990's.

## ***One Voice, Many Visions***

*Works by African American Artists.*

Friday, February 20-Sunday, June 14. The works in this exhibition range from Bannister's painterly 19th-century landscapes to photographs by James Van Der Zee, mural studies by Aaron Douglas, and art by Jacob Lawrence, Roy Caava, and Vincent Smith. The most recent works in the show include prints by Lorna Simpson, Kara Walker, Alison Saar, and Nanette Carter.

## ***The Dyed Image***

Through Sunday, March 8, 1998. This second of three shows exploring textiles focuses on dyeing. The exhibition features textile of India, where the fifth and 17th Century brought advanced techniques of printing cotton that were exported throughout Asia and the Western World

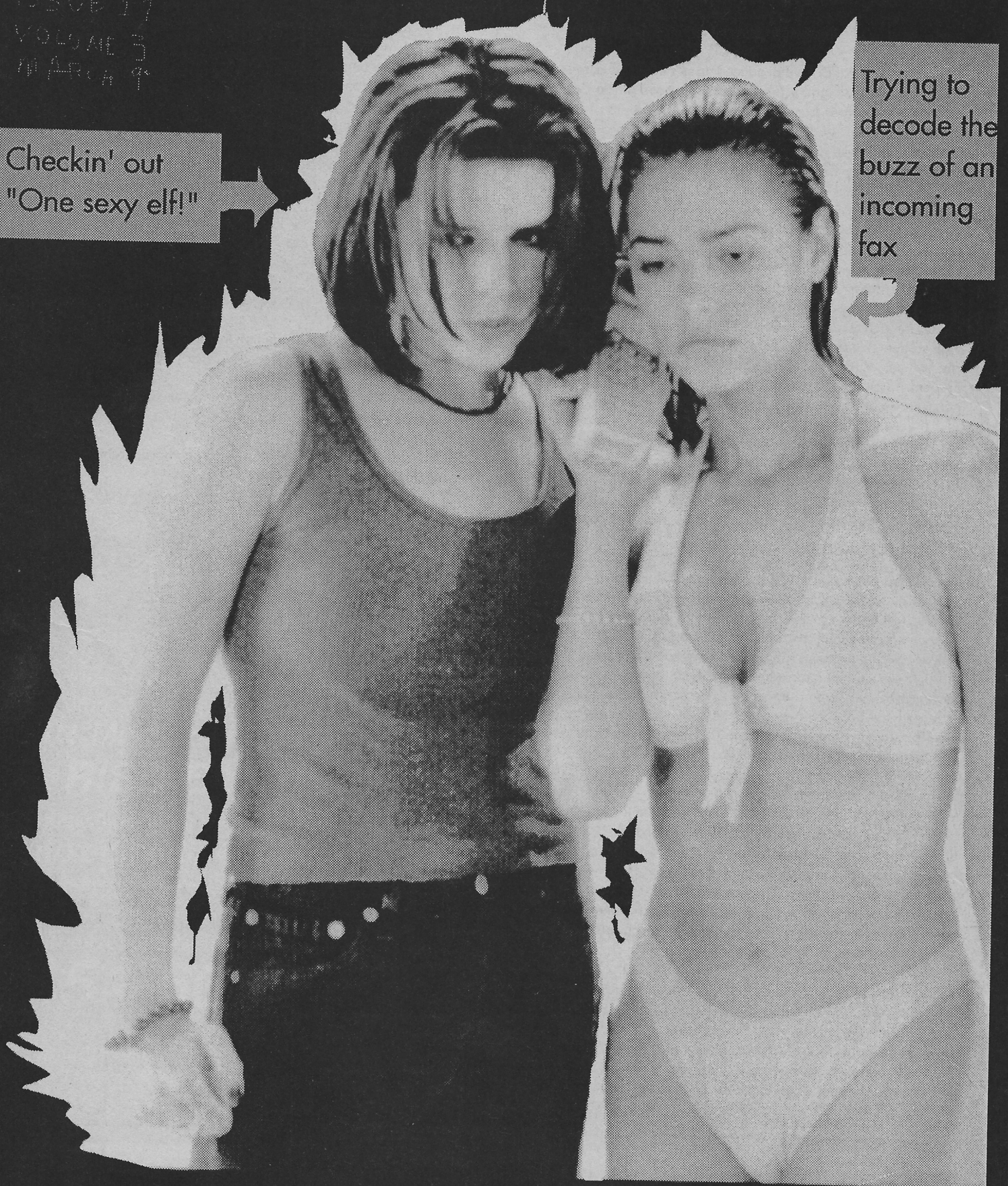


# Mixed Media!

ISSUE 17  
VOLUME 3  
MARCH '97

Checkin' out  
"One sexy elf!"

Trying to  
decode the  
buzz of an  
incoming  
fax





# Faculty Yack Back

by Amanda Berry, Assistant Professor, English

For the last 3 years I have heard repeatedly about student apathy at RISD. Even my own students have levelled this critique at the student body, and even (!) at themselves. I do not think that apathy is the most accurate descriptive term. I have known too many students here passionate beyond expectation about their work, about an idea, about a complicated impossible-seeming project. I have witnessed RISD students overcome all imaginable obstacles—political, financial, and social—to make water flow, or to re-design an enormous public space, or to produce enough of those gaulling chess pieces.

In my opinion, you are not apathetic. I do not level that critique at the RISD student body. But I do feel like you allow yourselves to become very single-minded while you are at RISD. Notice the phrase: allow yourselves to become. I mean to recognize both the very intense pressures put upon you as students as well as the degree to which you succumb to those pressures by checking out on the larger life of the RISD community, not to mention the city, state, and etc. Philosophically speaking, and in my opinion, college should be a lot more than a mono-maniacal journey towards a career. Spoken just like a liberal arts professor, eh?...

I would like to begin a column designed to create dialogue between students and faculty at RISD. The name "Faculty Yack Back" is my own hokey invention. But I do want to help promote yack around here because most everyone I have spoken to among both faculty and students wish that the different parts of the RISD community (students, trustees, staff, administrators, and faculty members) would talk more often and more openly with one another. This column hopes to provide a beginning for open dialogue between RISD students and RISD faculty.

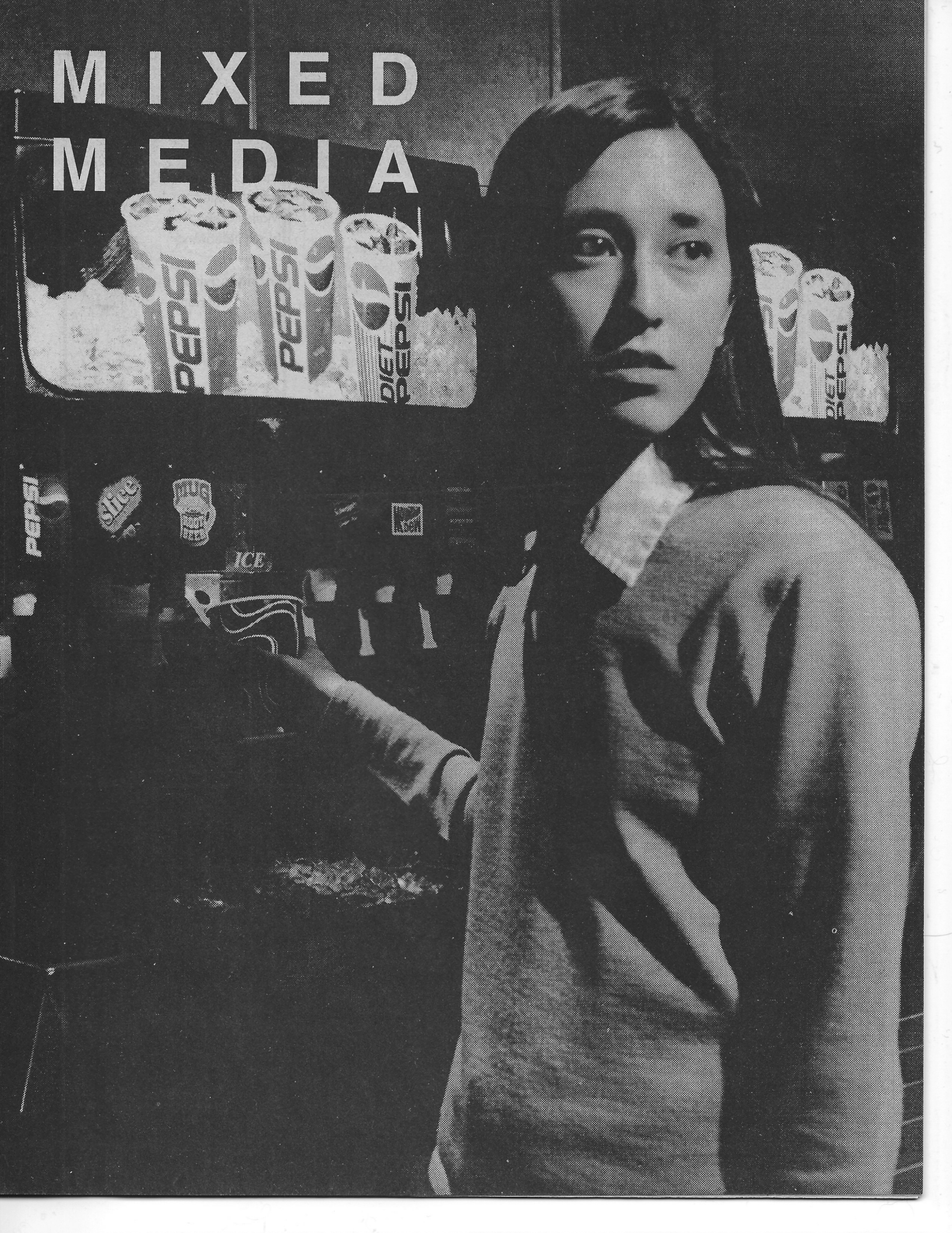
Ideally, the format of this column will be structured by questions from students. Students' questions can be submitted to this column in care of Mixed Media (Box E-8 or [mixedmedia@risd.edu](mailto:mixedmedia@risd.edu)). Questions should be primarily aimed to The Faculty at RISD. By questions, I mean questions about community issues, or events, or concerns. I can imagine that a RISD student might wonder how The Faculty feels about a particular question or issue in the RISD community.

CLAIMER/DISCLAIMER: Since no individual faculty member could express The (whole) Faculty's opinion, I will not attempt to do that. Instead, I will canvass different full-time and part-time faculty colleagues for each column and then try to synthesize my findings. In no case will I claim to be perfectly accurate about the opinion of The Faculty. All members in the community are invited to respond to, or comment upon, any items in the column. I hope my role can function less as author and more as reporter. Still, I will be responsible for the content of the column.

The newspaper can be a connective tissue between all of us who live and work in the RISD community. One of my motivations for writing this column is simply to try to use Mixed Media, to push on the cultural form of the campus newspaper to see if it can not only foster, but also enact community here. I don't expect the dialogue fostered here will be perfect, but it might be a good experiment.



# MIXED MEDIA





# ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE?

Luke Dickson, '00

Did you ever stop for a minute and think about things outside the RISD environment? Did you ever think about the big picture? How do you as an individual understand your impact on society and the natural environment? Do your actions to help improve environmental and ecological conditions beyond the status quo? Do you know what constitutes ecological and environmental problems? Do you search for practices and through processes that actively regenerate human and ecosystem health? There have been recent efforts to organize school wide awareness that will put these questions into action. The idea is to get the entire school to focus its energies and resources so our "community" can benefit as a whole. Because *Mixed Media* is the only community RISD really has it is important to take advantage of this and make non-opinionated information known. Here are some basic facts that all of you should have in your memory banks:

1. The U.S. is home to only 5% of the world's population, but it releases 20% of the world's greenhouse gases—more than any other nation. (Macmillan Visual Almanac)
2. In 1960 Americans generated 2.7 pounds of garbage per person per day. In 1993 Americans generated 4.4 pounds of garbage per day. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
3. In 1960 the U.S. generated 87.8 million tons of waste. In 1990 the U.S. generated 195.7 million tons of waste. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
4. In 1950 there was 6 billion metric tons of global emissions of carbon dioxide from fossil fuel consumption and cement manufacture. In 1989 there was 22 billion metric tons. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
5. The U.S. has lost more than 50% of it's wetlands. It continues to loose almost 300,000 acres each year. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
6. In 1960 the U.S. consumed 61 billion gallons of water. In 1990 the U.S. consumed 94 billion gallons of water. (U.S. Bureau of Domestic Business)
7. If current trends continue, up to 20% of the world's plant and animal species could become extinct by the year 2000 (Wilderness Society)
8. Of all known endangered species of plants, 97% can be found in the U.S. (National Wildlife Federation)
9. The world has 807 endangered species. 262 of these are in the U.S. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Federation)
10. Enough wood and paper is thrown away each year in the U.S. to heat 1 billion houses for a year. (MOBY)
11. In 1989 the U.S. military used 200 billion barrels of oil. 200 billion barrels of oil could keep every U.S. public transit system running for 22 years. (MOBY)
12. Furniture and fixture industries are the eighth ranked industries in toxic waste creation. (U.S. Census Bureau)
13. Rhode Island has between 11-20 hazardous waste sites. (U.S. Department of the Interior)
14. In 1948 14 species of insects were resistant to pesticides. In 1989 504 insects are resistant. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
15. One pound of tomatoes produced uses 29 gallons of water. One pound of beef uses 2,464 gallons. (Water Education Foundation)
16. One acre of land can produce 20,000 pounds of potatoes. One acre of land can produce 165 pounds of beef. Livestock is the #1 cause of water pollution in the U.S. (Water Education Foundation)