

MIXED MEDIA

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 5

# THINK WITH YOUR HEAD?

*sexual harassment at RISD...*

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

from andy dill- former editor of mixed media

Dear Cory, Mark, and whoever else makes the decisions out there,

I am writing for the paper again, or at least submitting the sort of stuff that made me most popular writer on campus.

I have a couple of requirements however.

- No text is altered in any way (i.e. making certain areas bold or a larger font, taking sentences out of context to grab people's attention). I write very specifically and don't want to see that altered.
- That there is nothing other than what I write on the page or pages that contain my article. No imagery, no other articles. If I want imagery I will supply it (as in the pictures for the Britney article).
- That if you put my name in the contributors section that you make it no different than everyone else's, and make no comments about either me or what I write in any way-the way you mocked Erich Lazar on the contributors section was un-called for and petty.
- That you don't fuck up my footnotes again.

-One other thing is that regardless of what the design is for the issue, the article called 'Ticking Time Bomb' must be in the typeface Franklin Gothic. (which coincidentally this entire letter is typed in) I am very serious about this. Font doesn't matter as much for the other two articles.

The first article I want to go in is the Going Down article, then Britney then (are there still three issues left?) ticking time bomb. I am writing other stuff too, so you know, you can jam two of those articles into one issue if you like :)

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I have a couple of other suggestions about the paper, which you can take or ignore-it's your paper now-it's your job to get it to be enjoyed.

-Separate the legitimate news (RISD events, non-made up things) from the made up crap like the fake news you guys keep putting in. It is confusing and irritating to try to decipher what the point of an article is (i.e. to inform or to entertain). A table of contents would help in this respect.

-Give the calendar and events their due. A good portion of RISD only looks at Mixed Media for the calendar and events. To cram all of them onto one small page is incredibly disrespectful, especially when the only way we can ever build a community is to be aware of what is happening. The calendar is the spine of Mixed Media.

-No more bullshit about who is hot and who is not. It is your job now to make taste decisions. Shit slinging back and forth is not deserving of the paper, and should not be pushed onto the RISD populace. It wastes space and starts a fake war-it is not Mixed Media's job to incite fights. Fighting does not make community, and no one likes to read things written by a bunch of people being childish.

-Do not respond in such a juvenile way to legitimate responses to the paper. Erich Lazar had a very valid point, and you only proved how moronic you were by responding in the way you did.

-Nobody gets nicknamed. No Tito Hoffman, no Paul. Call them Mark Hoffman and Paul Hayes. Treat everyone as equals, the staff people and the non-staff people. A lot of people see the paper as a clubhouse (Cory Mitchell and friends) now, and that sort of exclusive nature makes it just as hard for people to want to submit as anything I ever wrote.

As for other shit, there is a ton, but it can't really matter to me-of you continue to produce what I see as shit then the only people you are punishing are the people who have to read it next year. I am gone.

For the record, the reason I was (and still am) adamant about not changing the volume number is that because by changing the number when a new staff comes on you are saying that the staff is more important than the paper, and that is wrong. The volume number was a testament to the paper, not to the changing staffs. All of you serve the paper and RISD. It is your job to inform them, entertain them and to make them aware that they have a voice if they want it. It is not your job to drum up content by attempting to offend people, or by publishing people's juvenile attacks on one another.

And if for some reason you want to flatter me or earn my respect, you can publish this letter. I would have a tremendous amount of respect if you did that, and I am interested to see how you would respond to my comments.

-of course you can leave out my own personal requirements for my articles, because that shit is boring and does not pertain to anyone.

Good-bye for now.

-- andy Dill

My phone Number is 458-7687

My e-mail address is adill@risd.edu

# RESPONSE TO ANDY DILL'S LETTER by igor manasteriotti

Thank you for your letter, Andy. I wanted to write a response that you asked for, since I think you seem to have a personal problem with the running of Mixed Media. First, let me address your letter and some contradictions contained within. See, the problem is not with your suggestions, it is with the manner in which you are expressing them. Your papers sound very arrogant, you don't really suggest, you demand. People will always react negatively to such an approach. So please, in future, try to write with a little bit of tact and I promise you, you will be taken more seriously. You speak of maturity—then show some.

Now let's discuss some of your suggestions, but not in order:

Your demand to cut out the nicknames in the paper really puzzled me. Why do you care? See, people on the staff don't mind—in fact, they often choose them. So what makes you so upset about them that you will bring up questions of equality in the Mixed Media staff?! I will tell you something which might surprise you: Mixed Media follows a strict code of democracy—one unmatched anywhere in the world. We meet to discuss the possible topics, talk about which ones are better than others, but ultimately, everyone gets to write whatever their interest is. Sometimes they choose nicknames, just to be "cool".

Your comment about people that see the paper as a clubhouse (Cory Mitchell and friends) is really quite unfounded. If you come to the meetings you will see people interacting in a friendly manner—does that makes it a clubhouse? I think not. It makes the paper what it should be—a creative and friendly outlet for anyone that walks through its door. We began with a staff of about eight people, now there are around fifteen to twenty people that regularly commit to writing for the paper. How many people did you have on the staff, Andy? I can only think of one, maybe two people. Sounds exclusive, no? And as for the "Cory and the friends" part, that's just another jealous,

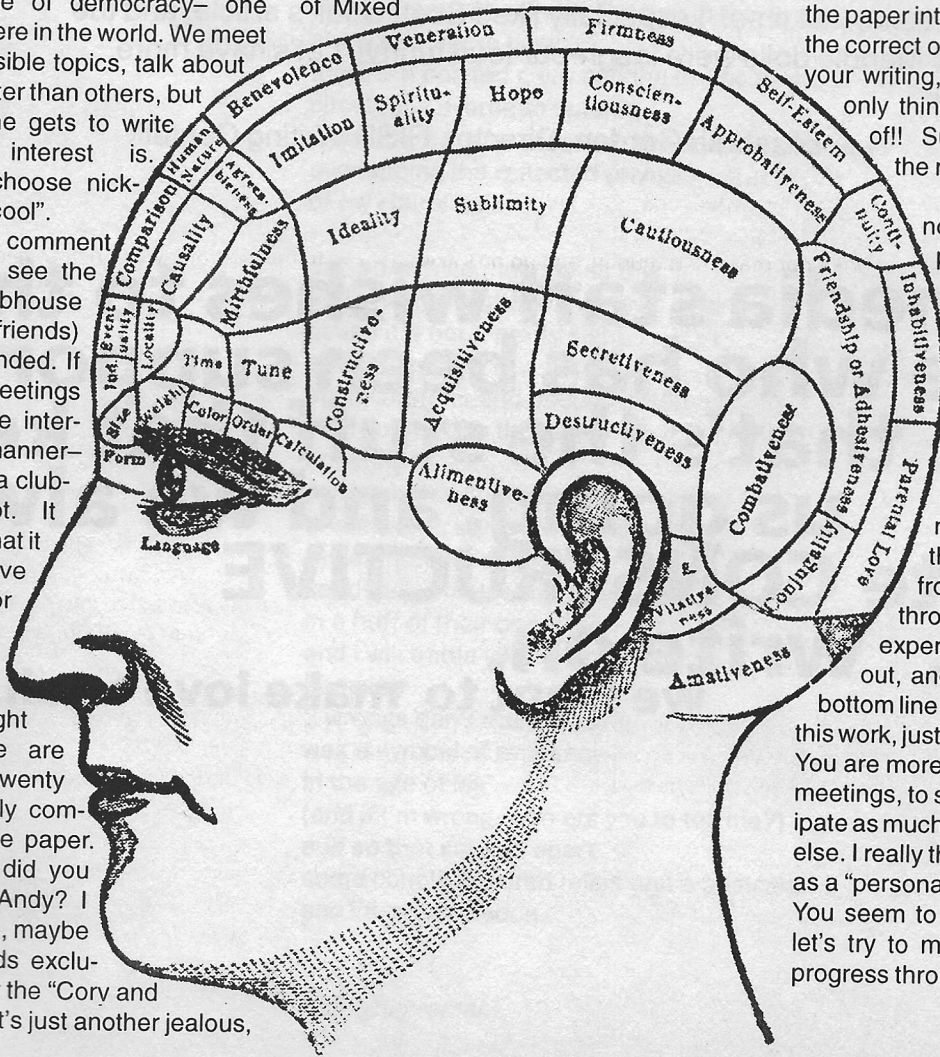
ignorant comment on the part of the people that make such assumptions. I knew Cory for a semester during my freshman year and really disliked him. I don't really like him now either, but he is doing a good job with the running the democratic process of the paper, and that's really all I care about. And if in the course of this journey we become friends, is that bad? What do you have against friendship?

I like your observation about the calendar. I agree with the fact we haven't paid as much attention to it as we should have and we are working on developing a clear, simple system that will express it better. The problem is that the calendar entries we get are numerous and it is really difficult to integrate it well in the paper. Table of contents will also be included in future issues, as I definitely agree it's useful and necessary.

Your next comments are about "fighting" and a so called juvenile, childish "war". The only war that I ever noticed was the war that you are waging against the staff of Mixed

Media. You continuously insult us, calling our work "shit", telling us we are punishing the people who read it, etc. The reason why we are not offended by that is because so far we have received nothing but encouragements from people about the improving quality of the paper and its direction, which you also happened to dislike (you wrote that in one of your past letters to us). Andy, if the majority of students and faculty tell us that we are worth shit, I will be the first one to resign from the Mixed Media staff. But I also know that you cannot please everybody, so if I cannot please you, I will live with that. However, I would really like to hear your reasoning for saying we're taking the paper in a wrong direction. You mentioned that repeatedly, but never stated why. I actually think we are taking the paper in the right direction: we are trying to make a newspaper that will raise questions in and out of RISD, that will be about RISD, and not. Maybe about some issues that don't concern us as RISD students, but concern us as human beings. Do you think that the direction you were taking the paper into while you were the editor was the correct one? Personally, I liked some of your writing, but that was pretty much the only thing that Mixed Media consisted of!! Surely you didn't think that was the right direction?

The bottom line is we are not perfect. There are many problems, many issues, and a lot of learning to be done on our part. This is the first time many of us tried something like this. After every issue, we talk about what was good and what could be improved upon. And we try again. Erica and I regularly spend at least two all-nighters per issue designing the Mixed Media practically from scratch. We are learning through it, so we want to keep it experimental. We want to try things out, and sometimes we fail. But the bottom line is— we love this paper, and love this work, just like everyone else on the staff. You are more than welcome to come to the meetings, to submit your writing, and participate as much as you want, just like anybody else. I really think you should not look at this as a "personal vendetta against Andy Dill". You seem to care about Mixed Media, so let's try to make it better, not impede its progress through insults and putdowns. ■



# WE'VE GOT LOVE MAIL

they ARE begging for MORE!

TWO LETTERS WE RECEIVED RECENTLY:

## "A little note to Mixed Media..."

...I just want to thank you guys for the excellent job you've been doing on MM... I was quite impressed by both the issue on Kosovo and the issue on the racial climate...

Thanks  
Jesse M Ragan"



## "Hi Mixed Media,

Great issue last time. I especially liked Scott Cook's article, and the Roger Mandle dolls were laugh-out-loud funny! Let's have more, please?

Elizabeth Gordon, Director, RISD Writing Center"

**mixed media staff wishes to thank everyone who has been supporting us so far. that's the stuff that keeps us going. and we always appreciate CONSTRUCTIVE criticism. write on.**

**we want to make love to all of you**

# sexual HARASSMENT

**On Friday the 16th** Mixed Media was informed through an anonymous source that there was an alleged incident, of sexual harassment, that allegedly occurred between two RISD employees. Over the next week and a half we investigated these allegations in order to bring any relevant news to the RISD community. As stated in Roger Mandle's letter to the RISD community a confidentiality agreement has been signed by the two parties involved making discussions of the specifics of the alleged incident impossible. However, now we would like to use this alleged incident as a spring-board to start a discussion in the RISD community concerning school policies on sexual harassment, student views and experiences involving sexual harassment, and the possibility that a double standard exists between treatment of student behavior and faculty behavior.

**Throughout our week** of investigation many faculty members expressed concern that Roger Mandle did not know that the alleged incident had occurred. When we contacted Roger Mandle's office on this issue we were referred to the RISD Public Relations office. There we were told that Roger was informed of the alleged incident approximately one month after its alleged occurrence. We remind our readers that Roger Mandle stated that the alleged incident occurred "some time ago." Another question that had been raised throughout our investigation is that of the quality of the school policies of sexual harassment and the faculty ethics. On page twelve you will find the school's policy on sexual harassment as listed in the 1998-1999 Rhode Island School of Design Student Handbook and the Rhode Island School of Design Code of Faculty Ethics regarding faculty sexual relations with students (*Adopted by the faculty in 1992-1993*).

**Many members of** the RISD community, including students and faculty members have expressed concern about the wording, effectiveness, and availability of these documents. Should the policy on sexual harassment list other sources an alleged victim could turn to other than Human Resources and Student Development especially at a time when people are questioning Human Resources handling of sexual harassment issues? Should the school's policy on harassment be brought to students in other ways other than the student handbook?

**The Code of Faculty Ethics** is also being questioned by many members of the community. We found more than one faculty member that felt that the code should be more clear that a sexual relationship, consensual or not, between a student and an instructor is unacceptable. Various faculty members felt that the phrase "shall avoid" was the faculty's way of protecting themselves. What if all school policies were to use such weak and ambiguous language.



# EVENT?

**The second issue** that is extremely important to this topic of sexual harassment is the student opinions on sexual harassment here at RISD. Obviously, since students make up a majority of the population here, their opinions are vital to the issue of sexual harassment. Whether it be on the topic of student/teacher relationships or any sort of relationship between members of the RISD community students here should be able to freely voice their concerns.

**In the process of** talking to the RISD student body we came across two female students that were willing to give us anonymous quotes on their experiences with sexual harassment here at RISD. Again we are not here to air anyone's dirty laundry, so all names and details will remain out of the picture. The following is what they had to say on the topic at hand:

**"I would feel** uncomfortable approaching him because one just knew that he [a RISD instructor] would look at you in an inappropriate and uncomfortable manner."

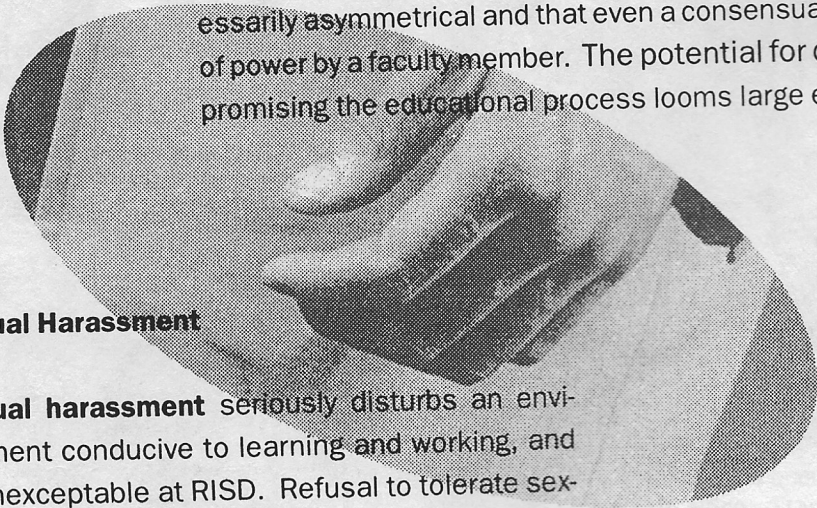
-Anonymous Female Student #1

**"It was very** obvious to us that he [a RISD instructor] was more attentive, possibly even flirtatious, to certain females in the class."

-Anonymous Female Student #2

**Rhode Island School of Design  
adopted by the faculty 1992/93  
Code of Faculty Ethics**

**#7. The Faculty shall avoid** any sexual relationship with a student if he/she is, or expects to be, supervising the student's academic work even when the student consents to or initiates such a relationship. We recognize that a faculty-student relationship is necessarily asymmetrical and that even a consensual sexual relationship may involve the abuse of power by a faculty member. The potential for creating a conflict of interest and for compromising the educational process looms large even in such a consensual relationship.



**Sexual Harassment**

**Sexual harassment** seriously disturbs an environment conducive to learning and working, and is unexceptionable at RISD. Refusal to tolerate sexual harassment is our collective duty.

**Sexual harassment** can be described as unwanted sexual behavior, such as physical contact, verbal comments, or suggestions that adversely affect the working and learning abilities of individuals. Contrary to common opinion, **sexual harassment** is not merely a problem of inappropriate sexual attention; instead, it is often an abuse of responsibility and authority.

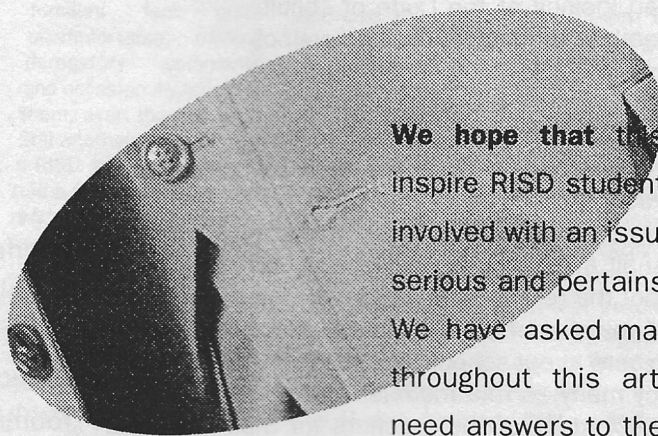
RISD has both formal complaint procedures and a support group to assist in dealing with case of **sexual harassment**. You can expect confidential help and support from either of these sources.

If you have concerns or question about **sexual harassment**, contact a member of the **Sexual Harassment Support Group**; a listing of member names is available at the Student Development (x6637) or Human Resources (x6427) offices. All inquiries are strictly confidential and callers need not give their names.

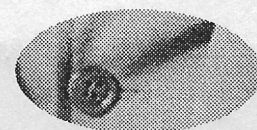
*(From page 78 of the 1998-99 RISD Student Handbook)*

**These accounts prove** that the alleged incident mentioned in Roger's letter is not an isolated incident. Sexual harassment is present at RISD in many forms. This being known, what are students rights on issues of sexual harassment. Roger Mandle describes the people involved in the alleged incident as "RISD employees." This means that the alleged sexual harasser could be a teacher. Do you, the RISD community, feel that you should be alerted of this persons identity? Do you feel comfortable on the RISD campus knowing that your instructor, the person who serves you in the met, or any RISD employee you encounter throughout your day could be the alleged party mentioned in Roger's letter? Many of us know of instructors who have reputations for being too involved with students. If students repeatedly complain about one faculty member should the student population be informed? This leads us nicely into our next point.

**Does a double standard** exist between the treatment of student behavior and faculty behavior? If a similar incident occurred between two students, would it have been handled in the same manner? We recall an incident that occurred during our Freshman year. A situation involving an alleged sexual assault between two students resulted in a statement to the RISD community it included vague details of the incident and an update on the students situation including the fact that there were no longer allowed to be in the same class and not permitted to sit near each other during Art History lecture. Are similar incidents involving faculty members treated in the same way? If not. Why?



**We hope that** this article will inspire RISD students to become involved with an issue that is very serious and pertains to all of us. We have asked many questions throughout this article and we need answers to them. The only people that can answer them are YOU. Responses can come in the form of answers, opinions, or your own stories and experiences related to this issue. So many times in the past we have asked for student responses to issues and have come up empty handed. Don't disappoint us on this one. If you do nothing this problem will continue to grow.





**WE** would like to take the time to write to the RISD community not as the editors of Mixed Media, but as students that partake in this environment daily. Obviously in the previous piece we remained as objective as possible and asked questions to the RISD community. Now we would like to, in our opinion, give our answers to the questions raised.

The first topic we would like to discuss is the Rhode Island School of Design Code of Faculty Ethics. When looking at the Code of Faculty Ethics one realizes that in their loose terminology, as in the case of "faculty shall avoid any sexual relationship with a student...", there is no line drawn that strictly states that it is inappropriate and will not be accepted at RISD. What if all RISD policies were worded in this manner? "Faculty shall avoid sexually harassing students." "Students shall avoid vandalizing Boston subway stops." Whether or not the relationship is consensual it is an obvious abuse of power, no matter how one looks at it, and must be forbidden here at our school. The teachers here at RISD are viewed by many as role models for the students. We grow to respect many of the teachers for their work and insights into the art world. Even though some students may disagree, we feel that it is the teacher's responsibility, as our elders and role models, to make it known that it is not an option for teachers and students to be involved in a sexual relationship. This is not being accomplished with the wording of the current Code of Faculty Ethics.

We would also like to address the concern that this alleged incident that Roger Mandle wrote of in his letter is not the only alleged occurrence here at RISD. Obviously things have happened in the past and continue to happen today, as shown in the two quotes from the anonymous female students. What we would like to result from this knowledge is for the administration to realize the seriousness of these alleged occurrences. And with this acknowledgement of these alleged incidents take the necessary steps to insure that all policies are effective. By this we mean an in depth

look into if policies are followed, if they should be changed, and if all offices involved in the execution of these policies are operating within them. Accusations have been made by both students and faculty that reporting offenses to certain offices only leads to a black hole where the alleged incidents never are dealt with again.

**FINALLY** we would like to talk about what the RISD community can do for itself at this critical time. As we mentioned in the previous article, we at Mixed Media know how apathetic the RISD community can be at times. But let us reiterate that this is not the time for apathy. One act of aggressive sexual harassment should be all it takes to infuriate you. What is happening behind closed doors at this school is wrong and shall not be tolerated. Don't be afraid to speak up and say that. Say it to Mixed media. Say it to Roger Mandle. Say it to your roommate. Especially say it to the teacher you've seen hit on your classmates or yourself. We don't care whom you say it to. But, if you agree with what we are saying, then stand up and be counted. If you see these things going on don't laugh about it and forget it. Show some compassion for your fellow classmates and for yourself and take action. When you draw that line in the sand and start caring for others and ourselves in this manner only then we will truly be making RISD a progressive institution where everyone will know that sexual harassment **WILL NOT** be tolerated.

**Written by Cory Mitchell and Mark Hoffmann**

*nothing new*

The following article was originally published in the March 31, 1997 edition of *Mixed Media*. I thought that it might give you an even better understanding of the sexual harassment problem at RISD, and the fact that it is nothing new.

*sexual*  
**HARASSMENT?**

## POPPING THE RISD BUBBLE: SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS HERE, AND RISD DOESN'T HAVE THE RESOURCES TO STOP IT.

'A sophomore drawing teacher in the painting department came up to me on the second day of class and said, 'Where have I seen you before?' I replied, 'I'm in your class.' We then said, 'No, it was in a Polaroid.' I said, 'Oh the ones in the painting office?' and he replied, 'No, you were on a beach in Bermuda...you weren't wearing any top...chuckle, chuckle, chuckle.'"

This response is typical of the scores of responses I received in my survey of 200 random RISD students. The survey asked students if they, or someone they knew, had experienced sexual harassment in a RISD classroom or workplace, and, if so, to explain the circumstances.

The results were unsettling, if not shocking: 45% of students responded affirmatively. Over 80% of this group was female. Perhaps most interesting was that almost all of the explanations described an interaction between a teacher and a student. The survey was deliberately ambiguous as to what position the harasser held. This finding supports the "power play" theory of sexual harassment: the harasser is usually in a position of greater standing, and harassment is used as a tool to reinforce this position.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Guidelines on Discrimination Because of Sex define sexual harassment as follows: Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when:

1. submission to or rejection of such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or academic standing, or
2. such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working/academic environment.

The first condition is known as the "quid pro quo" case, where sexual favors are intended to be traded for academic achievement. Fortunately, only one of the respondents to my survey described a situation fitting this

condition, and it was hearsay.

With very few exceptions, however, respondents' explanations described actions by teachers which would result in a hostile workplace. One student described a professor "who would touch himself (his penis) during class and then touch female students, saying 'you've got a friend.'" Another student explained that "a particular drawing teacher makes a point of making many of the females feel quite uncomfortable, making derogatory comments and occasionally touching them, even the models." Still another example was a RISD staff member who told a female that the long reeds by the workplace were "primarily for S&M

whipping."

It is clear that these types of comments result in a working and academic environment that makes students uncomfortable and unable to work efficiently. The fact that sexual harassment exists at RISD should no longer be in dispute; however, one might ask what resources RISD has in place to end it. RISD's lack of infrastructure to prevent and report sexual harassment is shocking. Sexual harassment is the most frequent charge of discrimination in the work place and on campuses today. The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals (July 1996) ruled that businesses and schools are "...required to implement a comprehensive policy against discrimination and a complaint procedure that can easily be used by any complainant." So how well does RISD fulfill this requirement? Let's take a look.

RISD does have a policy in regards to sexual harassment. But no student will ever see it. It is written in a newsletter that only goes to the faculty. Unlike many schools, the policy can't even be found on RISD's web site. It is sadly ironic that with the "power play" ethic of sexual harassment, students are left out of the informational loop.

To learn some of the options for prevention of sexual harassment, I spoke with Paul Timmons from RISD Security (now Public Safety). Timmons was very friendly and helpful, and acknowledged that security only dealt with cases of sexual harassment that involved immediate danger. He did, however, provide two current options: a personal alarm available at the RISD store for \$9.99, and various phone trace options.

The personal alarm, which admits an extraordinarily loud noise when activated, seems more appropriate for sexual assault prevention, not for sexual harassment. It is amus-

ing, however, to picture a student setting one off in class when a teacher makes a sexual comment.

the telephone options were "call trace," "last-number call back," and "caller ID." all three, for charges from \$.50 to \$13 a month, can either call someone back, or provide his or her phone number. Once again, however, these phone options don't seem to address the prevailing problem of sexual harassment in the classroom or workplace. And, Mr. Timmons later admitted, none of these options is available on RISD campus phones. "We're working on it," he said. "Its one of our top priorities."

I next talked to Roberta McMann, the psychologist at the Student Development Office. She was also very friendly and helpful, and recognized the need for more resources to help victims of sexual harassment. For example, a confidential support group for such victims used to exist on campus. Inexplicably, it is gone.

The Human Resource Office handles specific cases of sexual harassment. However, the availability of this option is not common knowledge; only two people have brought sexual harassment cases to HRO in twelve years.

McMann suggested some possible avenues of action. She recommended either writing a letter to the harasser (and keeping a copy) or confronting him or her face-to-face. If these options seem intimidating, she advised perhaps talking to a friend or faculty member who can be trusted. Talking to McMann herself is always an option, she mentioned, but a problem remains. Since sessions with her are confidential, talking to McMann will not help other students who might have the same harassing professor in the future. Ms. McMann can be reached at x6639.

The indisputable presence of sexual harassment at RISD is compounded by the school's lack of resources to confront it. To solve this problem, a number of steps must be taken. RISD's sexual harassment policy should be presented in the student handbook, and stated on the web site. The sexual harassment support group should be reinstated. Informative posters should be made visible and brochures available at Public Safety and other offices. And sexual harassment workshops should be held, both for the students and faculty, so that this unacceptable behavior can be stopped before it starts. Before it can be stopped.

**BY JASMINE WINKLER**

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

TWO COLLEGE STREET PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903-2784 TELEPHONE 401-434-6402 FAX 401-434-6406

April 27, 1999

To the RISD Community:

Last month, at a town meeting, members of the RISD community came together to speak their minds. Sparked by a dynamic debate across campus, the foundation of this discussion focused on the civility of discourse. Integral to this dialogue is the belief that we, at RISD, have the responsibility to nurture an environment of respect and tolerance for diverse backgrounds and opinions.

It has recently come to the attention of some members of the RISD community, that an alleged incident of sexual harassment occurred some time ago between two RISD employees. The two parties involved in the situation decided, after being informed of their options by both the College and their attorneys, to settle their dispute privately.

In this case, the parties mutually agreed that their confidence be respected. Within the parameters of confidentiality, the college cannot discuss the specifics. We can however, take this opportunity to challenge ourselves--to discern perception versus reality and to make certain that the rights of all parties are protected. RISD is reviewing its involvement in order to be satisfied that an appropriate review was conducted.

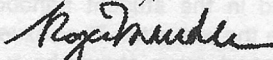
I want to be clear that harassment in any form will not be tolerated in our community; but, we cannot expect to be immune from conflicts that may arise. In these cases, it is imperative that there are channels of communication in which an individual can make a concern known. It is the responsibility of the College to act upon the situation appropriately--not only in compliance with the policies and regulations of the institution-- but with a higher level of consciousness and responsibility to our common values and respect for each other, as a community.

The College plans to engage in an independent review of its existing policies and procedures in all matters relating to human resources. In the ongoing effort to support faculty, staff and students, it is critical to ensure that these policies are fair, effective and accessible. During this review, we will also explore gender specific issues such as compensation, advancement and respect in the work environment. We will be asking for your input.

In my last letter, I said that I wished to foster a climate of greater understanding, communication and trust at RISD. Once again it comes back to civility--how we, as a community of diverse individuals, interact, engage and respect one another. This is an underlying value that we must not neglect, but allow ourselves to evolve to a greater awareness of these issues together.

RISD is known as a progressive institution, on the cutting edge of art and design. We exist within an educational environment, comprised of extremely creative and dynamic individuals. Let us be supportive of each other by also addressing these critical human relations issues.

Sincerely,



Roger Mandle  
President



*the following information has been compiled from*  
**THE RISD STAFF HANDBOOK, JULY 1997**

Respect within the Community...Respect for the rights, dignity and integrity of others is essential for the well-being of a community. Actions by any individual that do not reflect such respect for others are damaging to each member of the community and hence damaging to RISD. Each member of the community should be free from interference, intimidation, harassment, or disparagement in the workplace, the classroom and the social, recreational and residential environment.

Harassment...RISD does not condone harassment of any kind, against any group or individual, because of race, religion, ethnic identification, age, disability, gender or sexual orientation. Such harassment is in conflict with the interests of the College as an educational community and in many cases with provisions of the law.

Sexual Harassment...Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when: 1) submission to such conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, academic work, or participation in social or extra-curricular activities; 2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for decisions affecting the individual; or 3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance, or creating an intimidating, hostile or demeaning working, academic or social environment.

RISD deals with harassment by a number of means, including disciplinary action. Whether or not an employee decides to report harassment or file a complaint, it may be helpful to discuss your situation or seek advice or counsel from another member of the community who is familiar with the issues involved and who may be able to help find informal ways to resolve the situation.

There are several sources to contact for advice and counsel. You may consider talking to a member of the sexual harassment support committee, the Human Resources staff, the director of Student Counseling, or the Health Services director. All informal discussions concerning harassment are kept confidential.

#### **Sexual Harassment Support Committee**

Scott Cook, Associate Professor, Liberal Arts @ extension 6270  
James Hall, Director of Campus Design & Exhibitions @ extension 6140  
Susan Kieronski, Associate Director of Admissions @ extension 6308  
Randa Newland, Associate Professor of Printmaking @ extension 6224  
Denise Geoffrey, Human Resources @ 6429  
Marcy Hudson, Class of 1999 @ Box 1349

#### **Human Resource Staff**

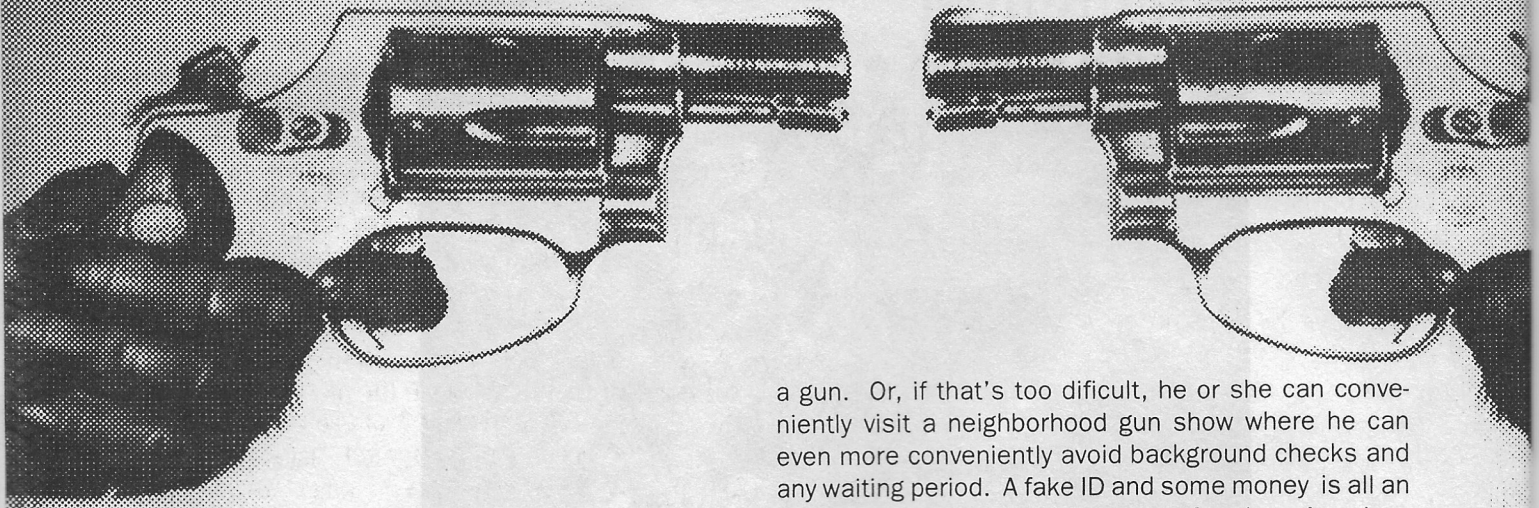
Kathleen Alvino, Associate Vice President @ extension 6426  
Cara Dennis, Human Resources Administrator @ extension 6428  
Denise Geoffrey, Compensation Specialist @ extension 6429  
Rae-Ann Yamzon, Human Resources Assistant @ extension 6427

#### **Student Counseling**

Roberta McMahon, Director of Student Development & Counseling  
@ extension 6639

#### **Health Services**

Karen O'Brien, Director @ extension 6629



**“GUNS** don't kill people,  
people kill **people.**”

***But people with guns kill more often.***

**America is a land of paradoxes. Here, you can drive when you're sixteen. You are an adult when you're eighteen. But you cannot drink until you're twenty one. Or rent a car until you're about 23. Still, you can buy a gun when you're eighteen. So basically an eighteen year old is trusted with a weapon designed specifically for taking a life, yet is not trusted with renting a vehicle he's been operating since sixteen. How interesting.**

So when two teenagers come into a high school and take thirteen lives, Americans don't blame their paradoxical laws, they place it all on the "deprived" lives of the murderers. Here's the news: there will always be depressed, deranged, crazy, under/overprivileged, spoiled brats with incredibly sick ideas of revenge. But you don't have to give them easy and legal access to murderous weapons. You will not eradicate that with education or talking. When questions of gun control arises, blood of many Americans boils. They talk about their freedom, the precious fourth amendment, written during the distant times filled with numerous armed conflicts between the British, the French, and the Indians. That's pretty much where America is going. Back. If we had absolute freedom, we would live in an anarchy. America, do you think you're ready for anarchy? I don't think so. I don't think people's responsibility and self-control is nearly at a level high enough to be trusted with firearms. I simply do not trust people's temper. So it irritates me when they talk to me about freedom, because I also want to be free from the danger that some sick kid can walk into a gun store, and buy

a gun. Or, if that's too difficult, he or she can conveniently visit a neighborhood gun show where he can even more conveniently avoid background checks and any waiting period. A fake ID and some money is all an angry teenager needs... Enjoy your freedom, America.

Just because you have a gun, does not mean you can defend yourself, either. If someone sticks you up on the street with a gun, what are you going to do? Draw? Good luck, you'll need it. If someone breaks into your house, regardless of whether they are armed, do you think you will be confident enough, calm enough to get your gun (no panic), and properly defend yourself? You always have a choice. You can always choose to hand over the money, or you can risk a bullet in your head. The problem is, you cannot replace your life. So the next time you think of your precious gun, think about whether it only gives you a false sense of security. Whether it will make you more confident or just give you an illusion of confidence, one that may eventually take your life. ■

**igor manasteriotti**

# GUN UNCO NTRO

# THEORIES ON VIOLENCE

When I speak of violence and gun control it is obvious I am writing in response to what happened in Littleton, CO, recently. But rather than focus on the details of that situation which nearly made me sick to my stomach I would rather discuss what I believe creates these terrible occurrences. There are a lot of theories out there putting the blame of so many deaths today on the entertainment industry; namely television and video games. However I feel that to accuse this industry, which I admit has become more violent in the past few decades, is in some sense pointing the finger at one troublesome child while a handful of others are left alone. By this I mean that



could actually aim accurately being used. When you compare this with the weapons of today that are made to fire rapidly and spray the targeted area with bullets that can go through bullet proof vests. Guns are also being produced that will not show fingerprints of the users. Now I don't know anyone out there who can say truthfully that these weapons are bought for the hunting or home protection. Even hunting is out of hand. Maybe in the day when a person had to track and chase the animal was hunting somewhat acceptable, but now hunting is a "sport" which allows the hunter to hide hundreds of feet away from the helpless animal and shoot it with out even a chase. I feel that it's the governments' job to stop the sales of firearms. However, I don't see it happening soon with all of the power the National Rifle Association has over our Congress.

The final factor that I feel plays probably the biggest role in breeding violence is the lack of family in today's world. By family I mean anyone who might play an influential part in a young persons life. Everyone from parents to neighbors should step up their role as guardians, nurturers, and role models for the world of tomorrow. So many of the incidents that occur today are derived from a lack of involvement and communication between children and adults. I question how much, you the reader, talk to you parents or children regularly. I personally don't talk regu-

larly with my family however I feel that no matter how bad of a situation I am in I could freely talk with my parents, brother or anyone that I feel to be influential in my life. My family was extremely quiet and uptight about talking with each other, but some personal issues that arose from the sheltered lives we had led to us being more open and caring for one another.

If we hope to make a difference in the world and slow the violence that goes on around us everyday we first have to open the lines of communication between everyone. Even if there is no violence in our media or guns on the streets there will still be violence and only through trying to open communication will we ever be able to stop it. ■

by mark hoffmann

there is a variety of factors that have to be acknowledged as to their part in the increase in violence.

I realize that not everyone is going to agree with me on this but I feel that a majority of the blame is to be put on the individuals who perform these acts and the environment they grow up in. I hear over and over again that children are going to do what they see on television. However, when one thinks about it everyone of us grew up with violence in our media. I remember watching Movies like Rambo and Terminator when I was extremely young. And yet I haven't even been involved in any sort of violent act. There are and will always be people who just cannot make judgement calls on what is right and wrong when it comes to violence. But to point a heavy finger at the entertainment industry is too quick of a judgement.

I also feel very strongly about gun control. When the bill of rights was first written the issue of "the rights to bare arms" meant something completely different from today. Obviously we are not still hunting for food in the wilderness to survive nor are we using Muskets nowadays. If someone shot at you with a musket in those days it would be very likely that they would miss you completely and reloading the gun would take at least another minute. Not until the Civil War were rifles that



## (MORE THEORIES...)

**F**ifteen killed in Colorado. I believe that statement can be understood by the bulk of the RISD population, although the reasons for the deaths are significantly less cut and dry. I've been thinking on many different aspects of this tragedy from the time I first learned of it. Primarily, it frightens the hell out of me. It also makes me curious, on perhaps a morbid level, to know those students. It would be easy to label them "sickos," and maybe that's not entirely wrong. However, I think that is a naive and harmful way to consider them. In fact, I think that the

labelling and the "waving away," so to speak, was a large part of what led up to this. I find myself trying to understand their response. How long had they

decided that killing others would be not only acceptable, not only a "cool" idea, but something worth planning out, and eventually sacrificing their own lives for?

I have always been concerned by that turnover of the mind. I think most of us can remember a time when our perceptions have distorted enough that our actions became irrational and maybe even dangerous. (Not to say that any of you are planning massacres, but on lesser levels, we've all been there.) During those times, though, the logic of our viewpoint was perfectly clear. Why does the mind narrow like that, and begin to make such distorted conclusions? What forces are strong enough to cause that to happen? Obviously the power of words on the psyche is a formidable weapon. People can act so unthinkingly, when we all know how much words can cut and fester in the brain. This story reads like a bad movie, for crying out loud, but it really happened. People really do terrifying things, and yet it

always seems unfathomable when we experience it.

But truthfully, my larger concern is for the people who were made victims by all of this. I can see the tragedy of both sides, but the only tears came to my eyes when I read about the families forced to wait in recovery stations to see if their children had survived. They had to wait, because we all can create violence within our own minds, and yet can still be so ignorant of it.

On a side note, I was sickened not only by the issue itself, but by how it was presented by the

newspaper I read it in. Is anyone else as disgusted with USA Today's handling of serious

news stories as I am? The graphic language and sensationalist attitude of the reporter was entirely inappropriate and did not add to the power of the article in any way, but instead made the issue seem like the premise of a movie of the week. Added to that were photographs that seemed to attempt raw or biting honesty, but only achieved poor taste. Media is such a powerful tool, and I am sad to see this publication waste its chance to provide clarity to the public. ■

-randi\*

**= 15**

over the headlines.”

Becomes:

“We...are...machines...here...to...take...over...”

It became evident that this problem was bigger even bigger than I thought. I approached the Foot-Locker Manager a.k.a the head robot worker drone and asked a few questions. Do you work for a human or some sort of super-computer? What connection is there between Foot-Locker and the United States Post Office What are your plans for the humans? Is the Burger King in the food-court still hiring? Or are they already taken over by cyborgs, too? “Hey, John we got a nutcase here you want me to call security?” said the employee.

It was obvious that I wasn't going to get any information out of the cyborgs themselves. So I decided to change my tactics. I first started by writing to my local congressman Rep. Sam Westorhill. (D) to find out what in fact he knows of this take over. But the only response I got was a letter obviously written by his secretary that suggested that I seek mental therapy. Unmistakable Scientific Fact #4: Rep. Sam Westorhill (D) is a lazy congressman. But I wasn't going to fall for his trap. I read about how mental therapy is code for assimilation. First you enter the office and are put under hypnosis. That's when they replace your brain with a microchip so that the super-computers can control your every thought.

I was able to get in contact with Dr. Wesley Pullum, professor of robotic and artificial intelligence at M.I.T.. I spoke to him over the phone and was able to ask him the questions that could mean life or death for the humans. Do the cyborgs work for humans or for the super-computer trying to control my brain? Do you think we stand a fighting chance against the robots of today? Do you think I could hide in my basement and be safe from the robots when they attack?

“I don't know where you get your information kid but our cyborgs are not even working properly yet. In fact we have been slowly teaching the robots here, through cybernetics, how to walk. As far as them taking over the world I highly doubt anything of that sort would happen. I would probably guess that your basement would be enough protection though, if they were to attack but that again is unlikely.”

After thanking Dr. Wesley Pullum for his helpful hints on hiding from the cyborg armies I analyzed what he said. He readily admits that he is building cyborgs. He also never said that Cyborgs wouldn't attack humans therefore the possibility is real. Unmistakable Scientific Fact #5: M.I.T. is breeding Cyborg baby-killers.

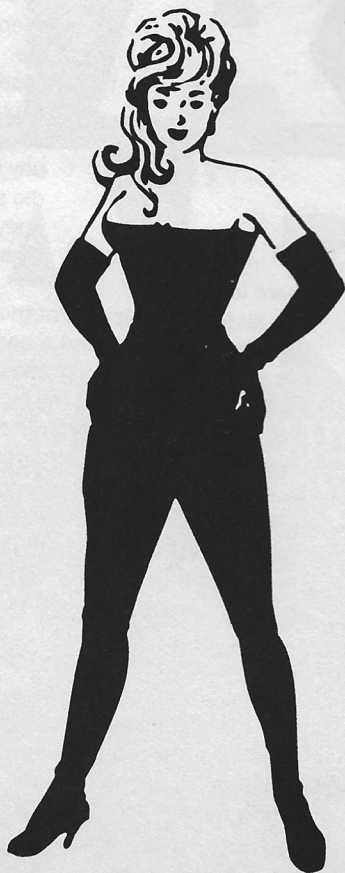
You may be asking yourself is there anything we can do to stop this threat? Well it looks like as of right now there is little we can do. I do however suggest that you avoid all contact with machinery (ie. phones, televisions, and worst of all electric razors). You might also want to find safe hiding ground where you can start building up survival supplies to last you through the Cyborg terror. And one last word of advice. Don't shoot them it only makes them more angry. ■

Next Week: Cashews. Friend or Foe?

Dear Mixed Media,

I'm responding to the “Three Graces”, the “Three Muses”, and the RISD student body. What are the lists in the past issues of “Mixed Media” about? Namely, what was the intent of producing a list? For so long, all I've been hearing about is the lack of sleaze and libido at RISD. Thus were born the “Three Graces”, and shortly thereafter, the “Three Muses”. The “Three Graces” claim that their intent was to “bring the sleaze back to ‘Mixed Media’”, as well as themselves and the rest of the student body. So they composed a list of guys who they stated are guys that “float our boats”. They also believed that their list would give guys “out there a little confidence”. The list contained 13 nicknames of guys they liked. Next came the “Three Muses”. On this aspect, the two groups agreed, that “sleaze and gossip” in ‘Mixed Media’ was needed. No objection here. But couldn't they come up with something a little more creative than a list of names? The “Three Muses” then proceeded to create a “Top Ten” list, if you will, “straight-up” citing that the girls on their list are the “most pleasing girls at RISD”. And how exactly would the “Three Muses” define “pleasing”?

I feel as if the issue of the lack of libido at RISD is in the way that we interact with each other. If you're tired and frustrated about the lack of libido that exists on RISD campus, change it. Not by composing lists of the “most pleasing” or of the people that “float your boats”, but by interacting with them on a personal level. Talk to people, let that “special somebody(ies)” know who you are. Why must we reduce ourselves and judge each other and our own self worth by the names of people on a list? Why do people feel compelled to compare themselves with names on a list? Are you aroused yet? ■

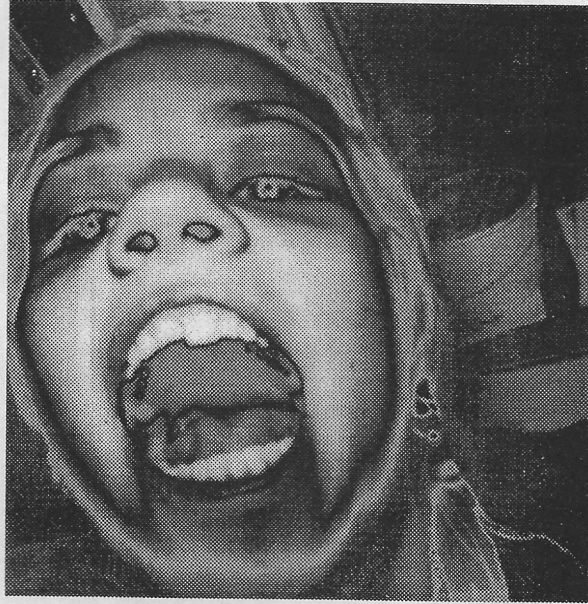






*mixed media*

**“mixed media”  
volume /issue**



it's summer time...

**5/6**

... get the fuck out of here!

## STATE OF THE MEDIA

To the RISD Community and the Mixed Media staff

Long ago in the barren wasteland I now call first semester my life wasn't going too hot. I had a lot of personal problems and my artwork wasn't exactly flowing out of me. I was really at the end of my rope. There were times when I was seriously considering dropping out of RISD. In order to keep myself sane, and take my mind off my problems I became involved with the Illustration Alliance that was being formed by Christy Cullen. My involvement there eventually led me to become a member of the Student Alliance. By the end of Wintersession I was the new editor of Mixed Media. 6 issues and 12 weeks later the troubles of first semester seem years away. I am very thankful that those events led me and Mixed Media to where it is now.

I hope that you, the RISD community, have been satisfied with the job we've been doing. After all it is your money that pays for the printing and other supplies we use up. It's been said in the past that if Mixed Media sucks it's your fault. Well, I think that's bullshit. I'm not going to pass the buck anymore. The buck stops here. If Mixed Media sucks it's our fault. If no one is writing anything for the paper then we are doing something wrong. We should be putting out a bi-monthly paper that makes people want to contribute. If no one is contributing then we're doing that.

I think that we've done a pretty good job. We've had our good issues and our bad ones. I was extremely happy with the Kosovo issue, but I think that the third issue (the one with the medicine on the cover) lacked a vision and direction that was present in the other issues. But overall, I think that we've stayed pretty true to what we set out to do. To provide the RISD community a vehicle to talk to itself, to inform you of what's going on outside of RISD, and if we can entertain you and make you laugh once and a while that's good too.

While striving for these things I think we've tackled some pretty serious issues. Racism, Censorship, Genocide, Sexual Harassment, and Gun Control to name a few. I thank all the staff members whose names were written on those very difficult issues. This is the first time in Mixed Media's history that such serious issues have been regularly addressed and I'm very proud of how well they were handled.

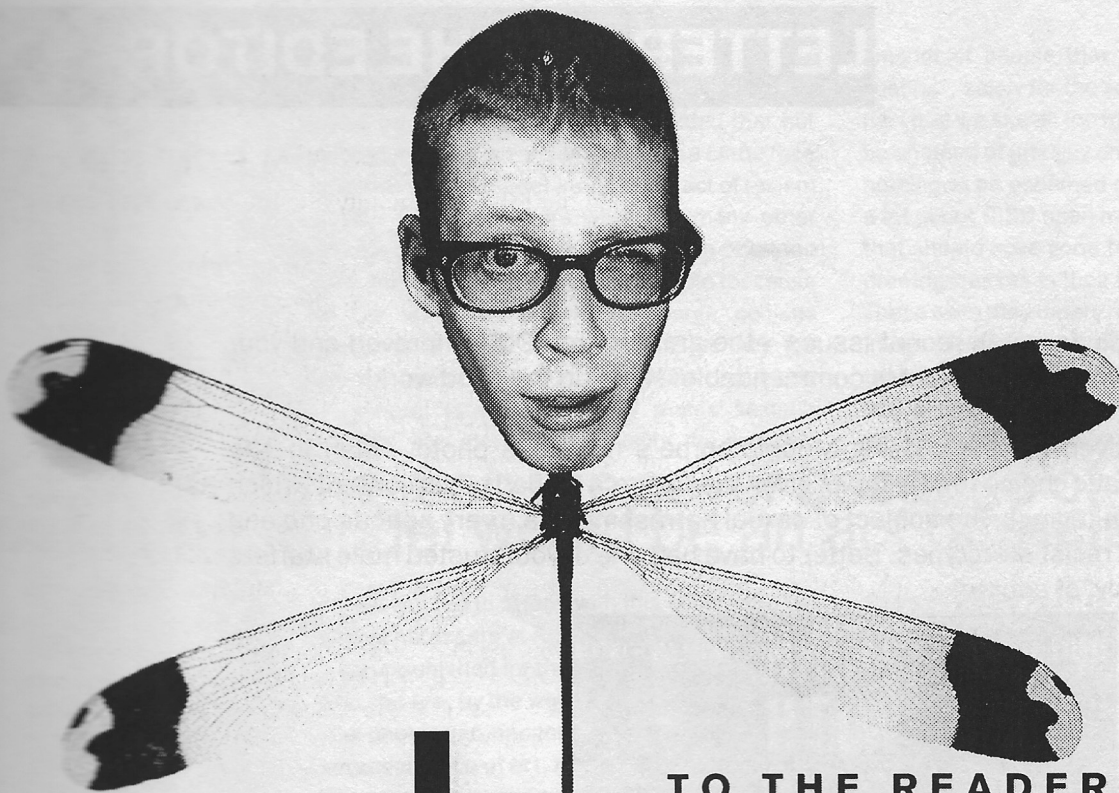
I find the future of Mixed Media to be very promising. I also find it ironic that at the beginning of the year the Student Alliance was considering closing down Mixed Media, and now we are preparing to distribute two to three summer issues. Barring any unfortunate (or in some people's minds fortunate) disaster Hoffmann and I will remain the editor of Mixed Media next Wintersession. At that time a new editor or editors will be chosen. Prior to that time Hoffmann and I and the entire Mixed Media staff will work to fulfill the goals and objectives I have mentioned.

In closing I would like to thank Mark Hoffmann for keeping the paper going at the times when I was too crazy to do it, Erica and Igor the two hardest working graphic designers I know, Blair De St. Croix for all the support, advice, and encouragement, and the whole Mixed Media staff and all our contributors without whom there would be no reason for me to write this letter. I thank you all and look forward to next year.

Sincerely

Cory B. Mitchell  
Co-Editor of Mixed Media





## TO THE READERS:

I would like to take the time to discuss with you the future of Mixed Media. It's the end of the school year and we are already planning a few things for summer, as well as next fall.

Over the summer we will be producing a few summer editions of Mixed Media for those of you who stick around. We hope to make a few for the pre-college kids as well. If any of you would like to help with Mixed Media on the hot humid summer nights you're always welcome. We hope to have a lot of fun with it.

As far our plans for next year the only thing we're set on so far is still trying to improve the paper and its readership. Therefore if any of you out there have any ideas that you would like to share with us or would like to be part of Mixed Media staff we would love to have you. The more the merrier.

I would also like to take the time to congratulate everyone that has helped with Mixed Media this year. I would like to thank more specifically Cory, Igor, and Erica who have put an unbelievable amount of time effort into this paper. Oh yea, I didn't forget you Blair De St. Croix. You're the coolest.

Anyways, that's it for now. And for those of you leaving for the summer we will be back in the fall.

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

May, 1999

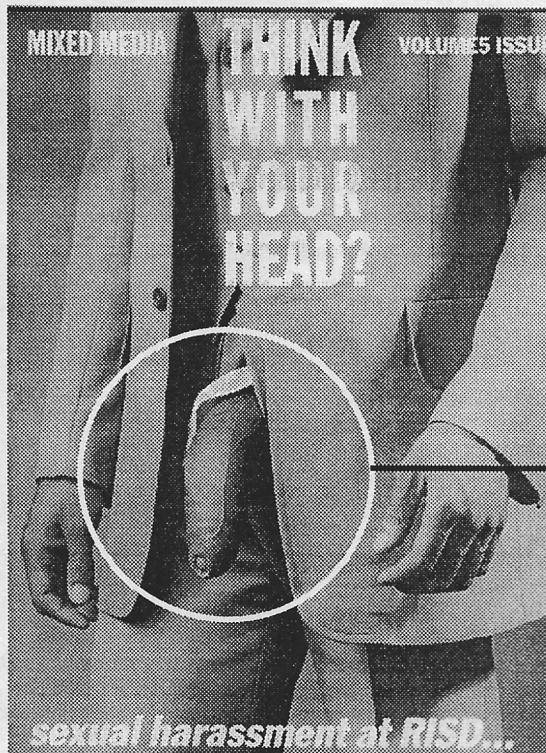
TO: Mixed Media  
Box E8

Dear MM:

Many thanks for creating a lively forum in recent issues – the graphix are 100% improved and your feistiness and bias toward substansive content is commendable. Keep up the good work!

One comment re. your last cover, however. Using Mapplethorpe's notorious photo, "Man In The Polyester Suit," was a problematic choice for the topic, given the image's loaded racial content (which Mapplethorpe was knowingly engaging). The subject of sexual harrassment is a very serious one and you don't want it conflated with racist stereotypes. Better to have had one of your trusted male staffers pose for the shot – anonymously, of course!

Deborah Bright  
Faculty, Photo & Art History



problems: color of penis  
suggesting racial stereo

## RESPONSES BY THE DESIGNERS

**T**hanks for your comment and compliments. I would like to explain our reasons for choosing the image by Mapplethorpe for the cover. By no means was the photo supposed to offend any racial group. Mixed Media's staff is increasingly multi-cultural and multi-ethnic, and the only group that we hate are racists, particularly Nazi oriented skinheads and Ku Klux

Klan members.

The requirements for the cover image were the following:

-it had to be pertinent to the issue of sexual harassment within the intellectual population of RISD, meaning we didn't want a porn photo of a redneck trucker in a trailer.

-it had to be a powerful image, in order to make the person interested in reading the

article inside.

We found the mapplethorp's photograph of a man in a polyester suit to be appropriate because it was showing a formally dressed, intellectual male, which symbolized a respected professor. Penis was an important part because this is where the cover made a point about primary male professors that are not thinking about what they're doing with sexual harassment- to put it clearly, think

brains.

We actually considered the fact that the cover could be misrepresented, but decided that not putting it on the cover solely because of the race or gender of the model would be an act of racism itself. Besides, there were too many other groups of people that could have been offended by it, for example the business people (because of the suit), the people with large penises (because it could be perceived that they are most frequent harassers), the male population in general (stating that only males sexually harass), etc, etc. But in actuality, the only peo-

amount of people that found the image "disgusting", solely for the reason of a natural body part that we see all too frequently, and shouldn't be ashamed of (the guy on the cover certainly has nothing to be ashamed of). That certainly says a lot about RISD open-mindedness, and people that should have gone through the nude model drawing classes in their foundation year.

These were the primary reasons for choosing the image. It wasn't supposed to be a cute picture that would raise no questions and no debate. So in that manner, it seems like it succeeded.

We value your comments about the cover and

"...not putting it on the cover because of the race or gender of the model would be an act of **racism** itself."

ple we wanted to offend with this cover were the sexual harassers at RISD, the people that largely go unpunished for their wrongdoing. We know who you are, by the way.

The photo also happened to be a famous and beautiful piece of art, made by the famous photographer, which we thought only strengthened the impact and the message of the cover, since the issue we were addressing was happening at an art school. It struck me as interesting the

thank you once again for addressing it in your letter to Mixed Media.

Igor Manasteriotti

Visual communicator, Mixed Media

**W**hen the topic of sexual harrassment came to the attention of Mixed Media we debated how to approach this issue maturely - both in text and image. The staff discussed cutesy and demeaning imagery involving our staff as an option but we dismissed it as childish. As one of the staff closely involved with the article and as one half of the design team, I am in a position to decide what is appropriate. I feel very strongly about the issue of sexual harrassment and our need to address it. I don't feel that the photo is problematic: it was intended to catch people's attention. I did not expect people in this school, especially the students, to be upset by the choice of

imagery, but many were seen trying to flip it over, bury it, or even turning it inside out. If we, as an institution, have something to be uncomfortable of or embarrassed about it should be our policies. I am sorry if people have been offended but sexual harrassment is a problem at RISD and we lack the rules to deal with it.

A note to the administration: everyone has seen how good you are at writing Mission Statements, 10 yr plans, 5yr plans, 1yr plans, but now we need you to say something.

Erica Saladino

Visual communicator, Mixed Media

## RESPONSE BY THE READER

In response to Deborah Bright's comments on the cover of the penis issue (v.5 i.5) I say, try to look at it in context. I appreciate the serious nature of sexual harassment, but you've got to make eyeballs on the cover into turning pages, so to speak. Bring the issue to the people.

From Ms. Bright's privileged P.O.V. as a photo historian, having an informed relationship with Mapplethorpe's photograph, she is aware of its accepted meaning in the mainstream art world. It is safe to say that she knows more about that picture than the vast majority of Mixed Media's readers. In the context of an art school paper (as opposed to a gallery or NEA review board) this picture speaks to the issue of sexual harassment. Judging by the disgusted reaction of some sensitive readers, I think this is proven. In its use on the cover, the image does not have do with a racial stereotype, but a behavioral stereotype. Mapplethorpe's image functions as intended in the paper. -Dave Rudolph

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## “please someone help!!!!!!”

Dear Editor;

I found your article [about sexual harassment] raising many questions amongst myself and my friends. I have a few questions. First, let me say this is all hearsay, but you know a lot of us have heard these stories around campus and there must be some truth to them. I will not say my name in the concern of my future here at RISD, but I feel STRONGLY someone has to stand and ask these questions. I am inviting anyone to respond to this to resolve or explain these situation!

I have heard from a teacher on campus that a student was allegedly sexually harassed by a health services employee. When this student went to the Dean of Students, Neil Severance, he said something to the effect of, “That can’t be true this person is a friend of mine.” My question to all of the RISD community is: What can one do when this is the response you have from a dean who is supposed to aid you in such a situation!

Is it true that former provost Hardu Keck was released on a timely sabbatical to hush up some relations he has had with student/s? I don’t want to believe this has any merit, but I do know a few alumni that I’ve met who had graduated up to 20 years ago remember him, “hitting it off with the female students quite often.” Possibly one could understand the flattery and attention at such an overwhelming environment as RISD. No! I don’t believe so. Is such an encounter appropriate for someone in his position or any position? I myself have seen him sitting at Steeple Street restaurant having a drink and dinner with a woman student after hours. Is this expected and OK with the RISD community? I hope not! I have heard first hand from students around me that they simply do not care if such things go on. However, for those of us who do care, PLEASE, lets gather together or find each other and go against such actions! Roger’s letter to the students last week was greatly appreciated. But who forgot to tell him of the incident until a month later?

I remember last year there was a RISD teacher and a student who met in a class and seemed to give off that “vibe.” When many asked if anything was going on they denied all charges. This couple was seen in New York City and Boston, but NEVER hanging out socially in Providence. I commend them for being discrete and respecting the boundaries of teacher/student relationships here at RISD community. I felt this couple handled it with a mature and practical manner. To be spotted in other cities we cannot be bothered, but in Providence in the midst of school, I have a hard time accepting such behavior of others who have less tact.

I am not writing this letter to hunt, but only to name and acknowledge those situations that constantly go on. To challenge us to take action as you see the fear in some students. If these stories or something close to it are true; or if not, why is it common knowledge around campus? What about the teachers that have TA’s for more than a teaching assistant? What about those times when a teacher blatantly takes notice of a 20 year old pair of breasts. Hello? Can someone be the authority figure here. Please. I encourage all of you to write the TRUTH in your semester evaluations! It may be damn scary, but if it is recorded and read by another it may begin the process of elimination. Plus, you don’t have to sign your name, as I don’t in writing this article.

One more question. Why don’t we evaluate administrators and deans of departments? I feel alot could be gained if students had a way of officially communicating their voice to someone somewhere. Oh, right, that’s the Academic Affairs Office. PLEASE SOMEONE HELP!!!!!!

10 May 19...

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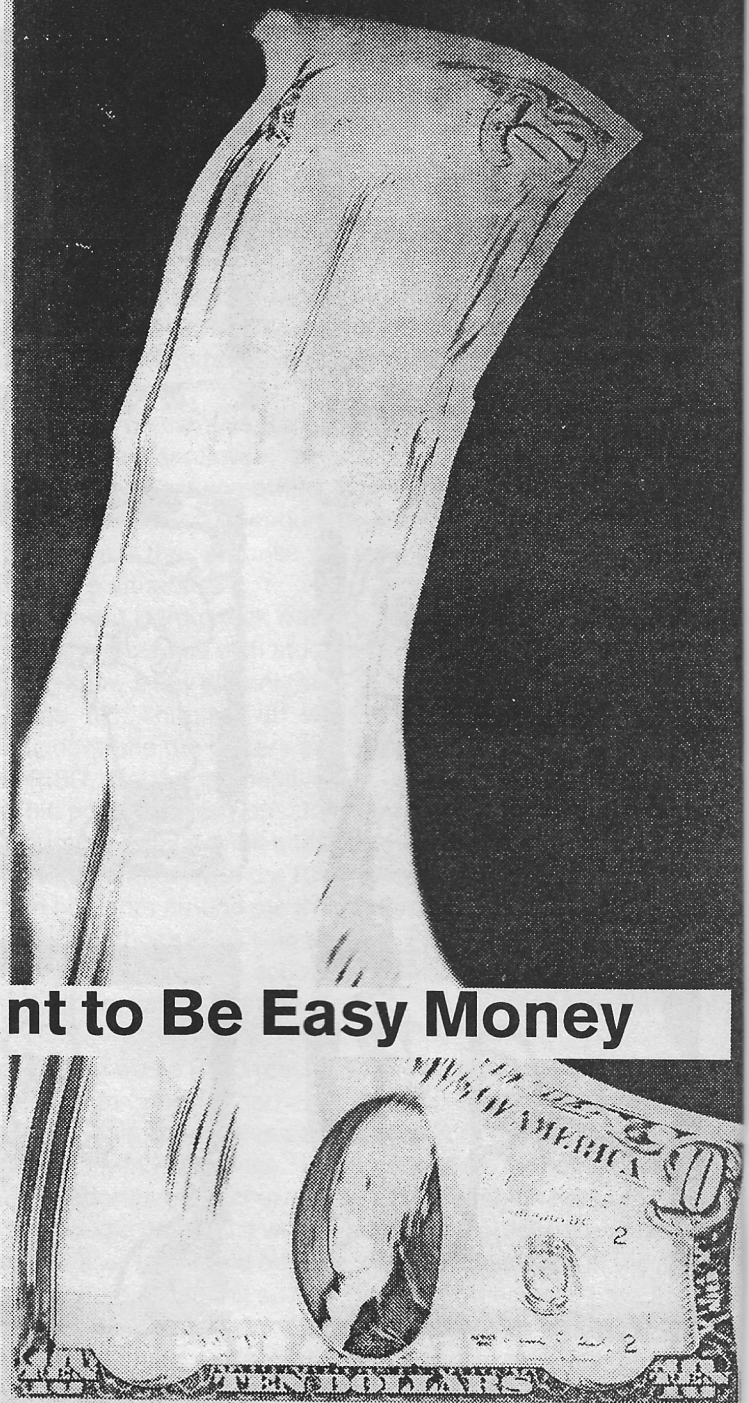
dear editor,

**A**merican universities are considered some of the most outstanding universities in the world, and many foreign students wish to study in America. I have studied in America almost for a year, and I have to admit that I love its excellent teachers and well-planned curricula. I am also fond of studying with American students who have passion and creativity in various fields. However, most private American universities require extremely high tuition, and RISD is not an exception. We have to pay over twenty thousand dollars a year just for tuition. We need at least a hundred thousand dollars to finish a four year undergraduate course, and I don't know how many students can afford that amount of money without financial aid.

## We Don't Want to Be Easy Money

Currently, nearly three hundred international students from fifty countries are attending RISD. The RISD catalog tells us that "...their presence (international students) here adds vibrant texture and global dimension to all aspects of campus life." It also says that "RISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, creed, disability, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, ancestry, or age." Therefore, it seems strange that RISD does not offer any financial aid for international students. I have asked some people why, but nobody has given me a clear answer.

I know that actually many international students at RISD don't have to worry about money. However, some of their families are having a hard time supporting them. I know some students who are considering returning to their countries because of financial trouble.





One of my friends even asked me: "Do you know why RISD accepts international students?" I said that I didn't. He told me that RISD love international students simply because they are easy money. In other words, the school doesn't need to give us any scholarships or student loans. I didn't want to believe this, but it sounded somewhat true. It would be hard for RISD to offer student loans for international students because most of them will go back to their countries after graduation. However, I think the school can offer, at least, school scholarship to international students based on students' academic merit and economic situations.

Most of all, having some financial aid for international students is not just for the students who are attending RISD now. I think it is more about the great future of RISD. I know some students who wanted to study at RISD but couldn't simply because their families are not rich enough. I can't even imagine how many talented international students in various countries had to give up the prospective of coming here just because of money. I still remember that, at the orientation, the president of RISD told us he really believed that our presence is what gives a great variety to RISD, and it is so vital for students studying arts. I agree that it is beneficial to have a variety of students at RISD, as the world's foremost arts school, but does this school really have a diversity of students? No. We don't have any poor international students. If RISD gave the opportunities to some international students who are not rich but have great talent, it would give the school a genuine variety. How many great artist made their master pieces when they were rich? Great art has often been created as a result of a struggle, so we need students who know how to struggle.

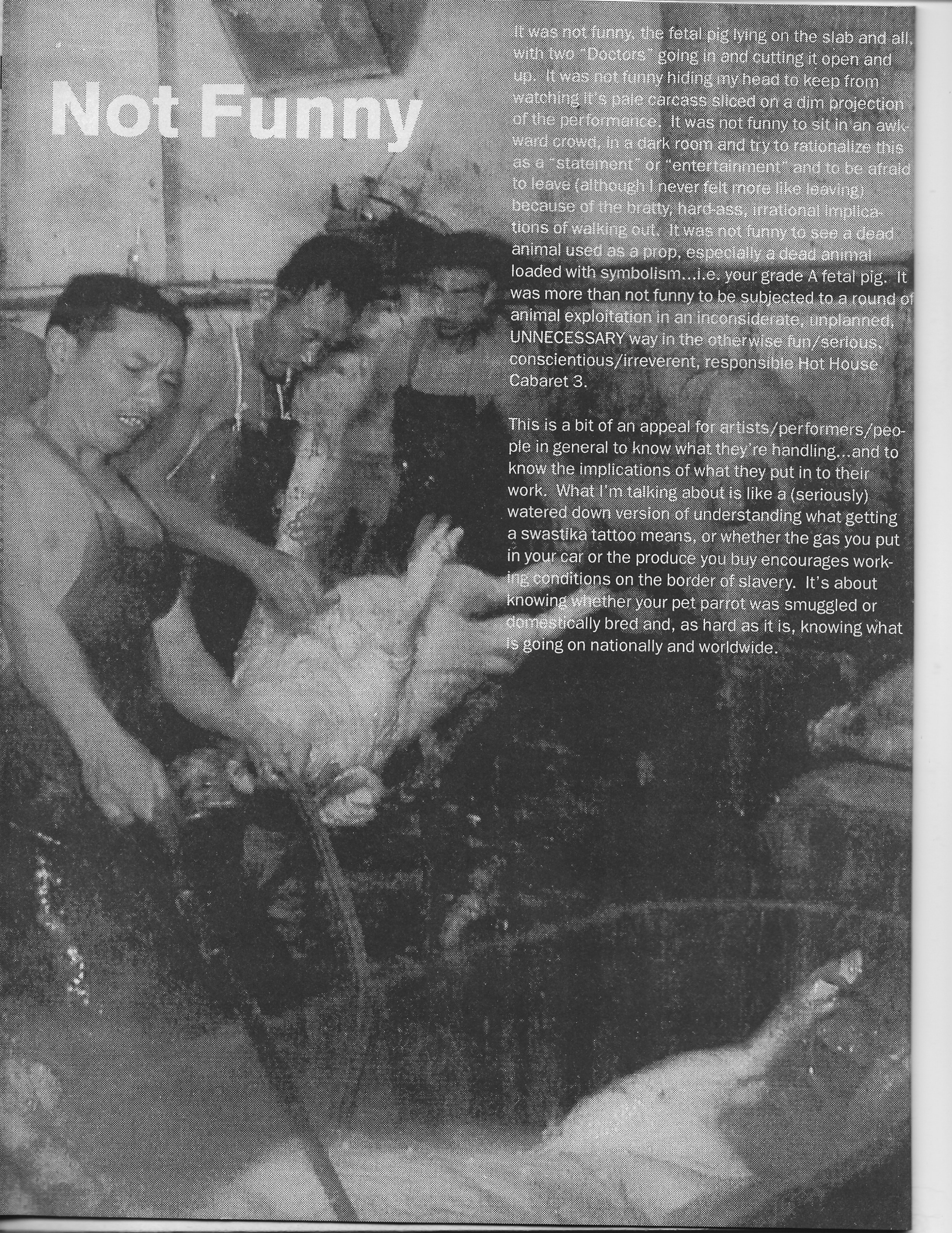
I think it is unfair and unreasonable that international students can not receive any financial aid from their school. International students don't want to feel that they're accepted here because they are easy money for the school. We want to think us as precious students for the school. We also believe that world best art school should be for all the foreign students who have passion and talent in the arts, not only for rich foreign students.

# rich

# Not Funny

It was not funny, the fetal pig lying on the slab and all, with two "Doctors" going in and cutting it open and up. It was not funny hiding my head to keep from watching it's pale carcass sliced on a dim projection of the performance. It was not funny to sit in an awkward crowd, in a dark room and try to rationalize this as a "statement" or "entertainment" and to be afraid to leave (although I never felt more like leaving) because of the bratty, hard-ass, irrational implications of walking out. It was not funny to see a dead animal used as a prop, especially a dead animal loaded with symbolism...i.e. your grade A fetal pig. It was more than not funny to be subjected to a round of animal exploitation in an inconsiderate, unplanned, UNNECESSARY way in the otherwise fun/serious, conscientious/irreverent, responsible Hot House Cabaret 3.

This is a bit of an appeal for artists/performers/people in general to know what they're handling...and to know the implications of what they put in to their work. What I'm talking about is like a (seriously) watered down version of understanding what getting a swastika tattoo means, or whether the gas you put in your car or the produce you buy encourages working conditions on the border of slavery. It's about knowing whether your pet parrot was smuggled or domestically bred and, as hard as it is, knowing what is going on nationally and worldwide.



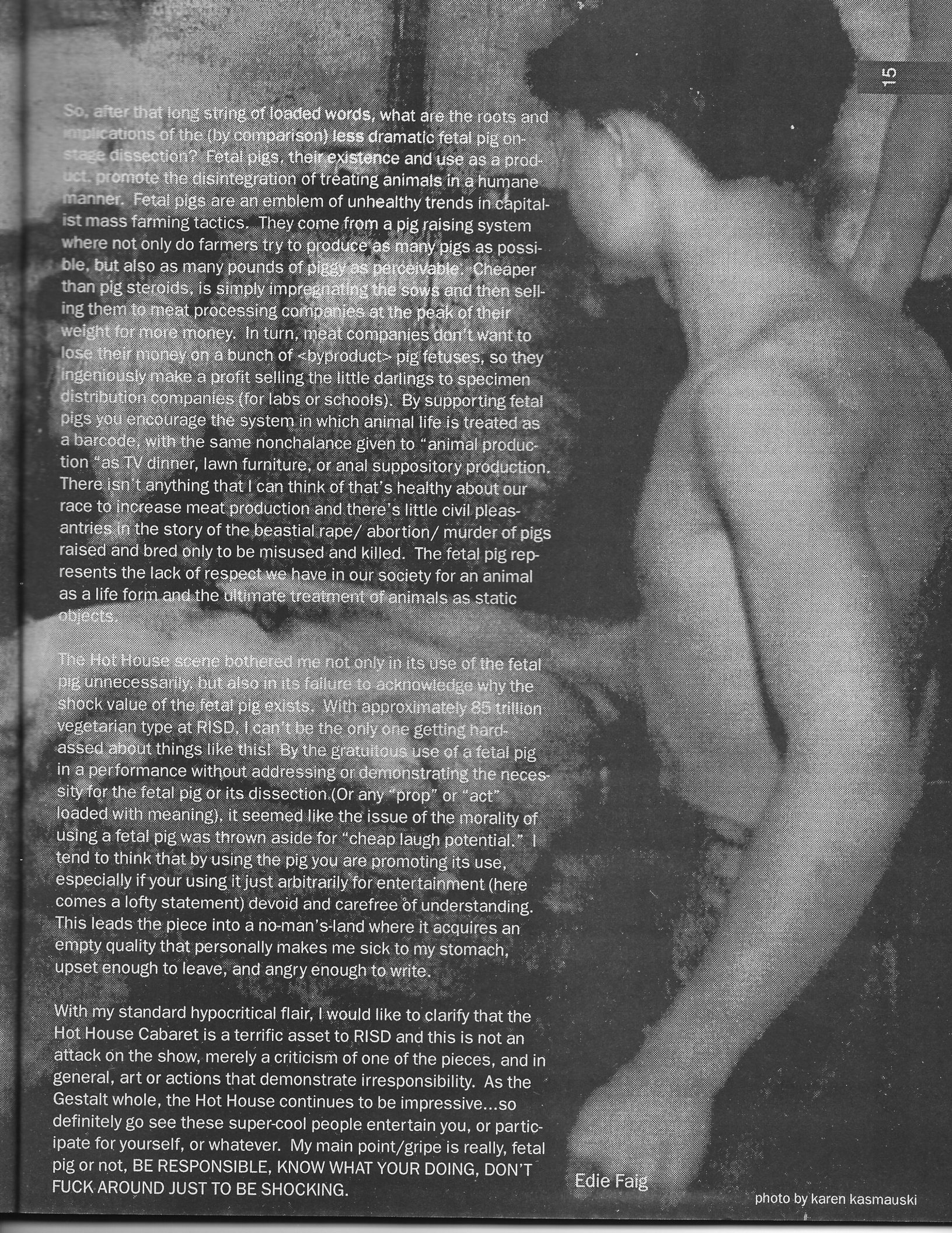
So, after that long string of loaded words, what are the roots and implications of the (by comparison) less dramatic fetal pig on-stage dissection? Fetal pigs, their existence and use as a product, promote the disintegration of treating animals in a humane manner. Fetal pigs are an emblem of unhealthy trends in capitalist mass farming tactics. They come from a pig raising system where not only do farmers try to produce as many pigs as possible, but also as many pounds of piggy as perceivable. Cheaper than pig steroids, is simply impregnating the sows and then selling them to meat processing companies at the peak of their weight for more money. In turn, meat companies don't want to lose their money on a bunch of <byproduct> pig fetuses, so they ingeniously make a profit selling the little darlings to specimen distribution companies (for labs or schools). By supporting fetal pigs you encourage the system in which animal life is treated as a barcode, with the same nonchalance given to "animal production" as TV dinner, lawn furniture, or anal suppository production. There isn't anything that I can think of that's healthy about our race to increase meat production and there's little civil pleasures in the story of the bestial rape/ abortion/ murder of pigs raised and bred only to be misused and killed. The fetal pig represents the lack of respect we have in our society for an animal as a life form and the ultimate treatment of animals as static objects.

The Hot House scene bothered me not only in its use of the fetal pig unnecessarily, but also in its failure to acknowledge why the shock value of the fetal pig exists. With approximately 85 trillion vegetarian type at RISD, I can't be the only one getting hard-assed about things like this! By the gratuitous use of a fetal pig in a performance without addressing or demonstrating the necessity for the fetal pig or its dissection (Or any "prop" or "act" loaded with meaning), it seemed like the issue of the morality of using a fetal pig was thrown aside for "cheap laugh potential." I tend to think that by using the pig you are promoting its use, especially if your using it just arbitrarily for entertainment (here comes a lofty statement) devoid and carefree of understanding. This leads the piece into a no-man's-land where it acquires an empty quality that personally makes me sick to my stomach, upset enough to leave, and angry enough to write.

With my standard hypocritical flair, I would like to clarify that the Hot House Cabaret is a terrific asset to RISD and this is not an attack on the show, merely a criticism of one of the pieces, and in general, art or actions that demonstrate irresponsibility. As the Gestalt whole, the Hot House continues to be impressive...so definitely go see these super-cool people entertain you, or participate for yourself, or whatever. My main point/gripe is really, fetal pig or not, BE RESPONSIBLE, KNOW WHAT YOUR DOING, DON'T FUCK AROUND JUST TO BE SHOCKING.

Edie Faig

photo by karen kasmauski



I confess and apologize. I take full responsibility for writing two articles under the pseudonym "Three Muses" and would like to apologize to all the women mentioned by name in those articles. In addition, I apologize to every women in the RISD community and anyone else affected by the content of those articles. I am truly sorry for any physical or emotional harm I may have caused. Leave it at that, or allow me a moment to explain.

The two articles are part of a larger process that also included a third article published as William Mangold. In writing the articles, it has been my aim to present two sides of a many-sided issue concerning gender relations in the hope of stretching our consciousness. The "Three Muses" represent the reality of what men are and how we think. Vulgar, but honest. The second point of view represents a perfect world of acceptance without judgment. Ideal, but impossible. It seems we must search for something more than the vulgar reality, but settle for something less than the ideal perfection.

I confess and apologize. I take full responsibility. I confess and apologize. I take full responsibility. I confess and apologize. I take full responsibility.

In listening to many conversations in the last weeks and speaking to a number of very thoughtful individuals, a few things have come up and slowly I have begun to conceive. There are those who would condemn women on the lists for inflated egos and women off the lists for pitiful self esteem. There are those that would condemn me for treading roughly on delicate ground or just plain overstepping my bounds. There are those that find it intriguing and others manipulative.

One suggested I take an ultra-feminist point of view, blame men for the place women are in and demand that men take responsibility for equalizing the roles by stepping out of positions they hold. Another pointed out that men have already lost much, including the ability to hold our families and country together and perhaps men need to step back into the forefront of our society.

Someone said I should publish a list of strong women in our society to emphasize character over beauty. Someone said I should publish a list of all our mothers. *continued, page*

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I offer this from Proverbs:

A wife of noble character who can find?  
She is worth far more than rubies.

Her husband has full confidence in her  
and lacks nothing of value.

She brings him good, not harm,  
all the days of her life.

She selects wool and flax  
and works with eager hands.

She is like the merchant ships,  
bringing her food from afar.

She gets up while it is still dark;  
she provides food for her family  
and portions for her servant girls.

She considers a field and buys it;  
out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.

She sets about her work vigorously;  
her arms are strong for her tasks.

She sees that her trading is profitable,  
and her lamp does not go out at night.

In her hand she holds the distaff  
and grasps the spindle with her fingers.

I confess and apologize. I take full responsibility.  
I confess and apologize. I take full responsibility.

She opens her arms to the poor  
and extends her hands to the needy.

When it snows, she has no fear for her household  
for all of them are clothed in scarlet.

She makes coverings for her bed;  
she is clothed in fine linen and purple.

Her husband is respected at the city gate,  
where he takes his seat among the elders of the city.

She makes linen garments and sells them,  
and supplies the merchants with sashes.

She is clothed with strength and dignity;  
she can laugh at the days to come.

She speaks with wisdom,  
and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

She watches over the affairs of her household  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children arise and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her:  
"Many women do noble things,  
but you surpass them all."

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;  
but a woman who fears the lord is to be praised.  
Give her the reward she has earned,  
and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

**Two**-thirds of the THREE GRACES back at ya!

Well it's that time of year again, everyone is working hard trying to get everything done. We only wrote three articles for "Mixed Media" this past semester, and we certainly didn't expect to get so much written

about it. The last editor, **Andy** Dill, thought our first list

(which was received **with so much uproar**) was "childish."

And maybe our attempt at sleaze wasn't quite up to par. We've been thinking about it lately, and we don't think we're really capable of true sleaze. In fact we're not sure we know exactly what it is. Does

"Cosmo" count? **We** suppose we could continue being "childish." The

two of us still have guys we're interested in, and in some respects are too chicken to do anything about. (Yes, some of you were right about how we can't do anything more than write.) So should we make more lists? We think that option has been exhausted. So what now? We guess we just have to wait for next fall. Maybe the summer will inspire us.

Maybe it will inspire you too. Or maybe we'll grow up enough that we don't have to write about it. (The last third of the Three Graces, who hasn't written anything since the first list, says and we quote

**Fuck** you, and loosen up.") So, this is

the Three Graces signing off

**until the fall.**