

MIXEDMEDIA

VOLUMESIX

Editor s note

The students at RISD are the voice of this school. They are the reason for its existence. They have the power to change this school because they hold the majority and the money. Still they feel they can't make a difference. At this moment this school is going through a sort of musical chairs and many students say they wished they had a say in the decisions being made. Don't just ask our approval. Ask for our participation in the whole process. We are the reason you are making these changes, right? Then why is it that we feel no involvement?

But how do we make a unified noise? How do we get all the students informed, interested, and active in their school, in their community? I have heard a lot of students complain and ask questions of who's making the decisions, when and where do we get a say? There has to be a better way to get students informed at this school. Flyers don't work. Posters don't work. Mixed Media doesn't come out enough. Word of mouth doesn't work because our departments are so segregated. So how does a school as fractured as this one come together to play a more successful role in the changes?

One start would be more participation in your student government. The solution is in the Taproom on every other Wednesday afternoon where there are open forums for students to do just that. Students can voice their opinions, problems, and solutions to a group of kids who speak directly to Mandel. But nobody knows about it, goes to the meetings, or even knows who's in charge. These groups of kids want to make a difference in this school and they need your help as much as you need theirs. If you feel that something is inadequate at

this school then email your concern, opinion, suggestion, or support to alliance@risd.edu.

Once we get into our departments we are less likely to talk to people in other departments. As such a sense of segregation has formed between departments. The majority of students live off campus. These kids though involved in the city of Providence are less likely to be involved in RISD. There needs to be more incentives for students to live on campus. Housing is expensive in comparison to apartments off campus. There isn't enough housing to go around so students are forced to live off campus and thus separate from each other. One is more likely to be involved and enact change if one lives on campus. One is more likely to get to know more students in other departments and end the segregation if one lives on campus. This problem is especially particular to Architecture and Industrial Design. So a possible solution would be to have housing further down Benefit Street so as to facilitate those students and mix in a little of the rest to the campus into their lives.

We have the power to influence the administration. We have the power to make this school what we want it to be. We are all members of an Artist community. But this lack of communication is denying the possibility of bettering our four years here. I know that as artists we place priority on our personal work, but every little bit helps. Just write an email to your Student Alliance or Mixed Media. If we start talking to the people who are willing to make the changes, then those changes will get done.

Any questions and comments can be received at mmedia@risd.edu or box # E-8 in our lovely mailroom.

Political Officer s note

Swing a dead cat around your head counter clockwise 12 times and Satan will appear...

Swing your portfolio around your head 12 times counter clockwise and become a business executive...

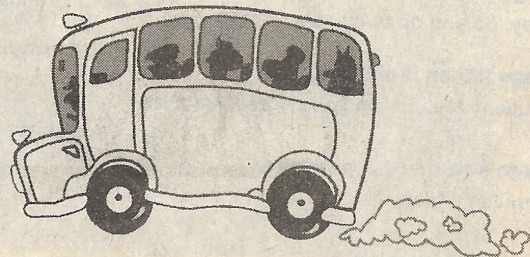
Run around Roger Mandel's house counter clockwise 12 times and you will see Roger Mandel...



Most likely to look at the camera and most likely not to look at the camera.



Most likely to succeed.



Fact and Fiction

RiSD's students are lied to or only told part of the story every day. Using Mixed Media's network of spies, agents, and silent observers, the following section will confirm or deny all our rumors. If you hear a rumor you want checked out, drop an e-mail in mmedia@risd.edu or a piece of paper in our E-8 mail-room box. All information is anonymous, but remember kitties: be very very careful. The Evil Eye is everywhere...

Mixed Media's Agents have recently recieved a copy of the letter sent by the campus' newly unionized Public Safety Officers to RiSD Human Resources.

The moral in the department of Public Safety has never been lower. Officers are urged to spy on each other and document frivolous deviations. The turnover in personnel is a disgrace, an embarrassment and puts officers on undermanned shifts at great personal risk.

It is common knowledge that the amount of salary earned by the new Director Ms Dunlop is \$85,000 plus \$7,000 for commuting expenses, and is unfair to other directors who oversee larger departments and staff, and indeed her salary far exceeds some high-ranking faculty.

The exorbitant amount of "time off" Ms Dunlop takes, is a common topic of conversation and annoyance to other directors around campus. Almost every Friday off, and with seminars and vacation she racks up 60 days off annually on top of the huge salary she intimidated and blackmailed RiSD into coughing up.

The matter of greater concern is the 45% discrepancy between Ms Dunlop's resume and a detailed background investigation recently conducted privately. Questions arise from her bragging to have worked for the:

Washington D.C. Police Department & Capital Police.

The FBI.

The CIA.

Security Chaperone to Foreign Dignitaries

Chaperone to Middle East Royalty

Investigated & tracked down a \$20 million embezzlement

Other accounts, and too many to mention lies.

Not to be outdone by any achievement of others.

Exhibits classic example of pathological liar.

The result of a detailed background check for less than \$1000 would have revealed a red flag to the search committee (if there ever was a committee) and would not have put the School in the present dilemma.

Most officers are unwilling to remain at RiSD not because of money but because of administrative hounding. Quietly, a majority of the staff have signed a petition and are in discussion with a representative from a local union. It will surely happen this time, and RiSD can thank the recent actions and attitude of the Director and Assistant Director toward selected minority officers, students, campus staff & faculty including their inappropriate remarks regarding the "dummies in Prov Wash running the school".

Two years ago, Lucet Dunlop assumed Directors the Public Safety office. Since that time, 28 officers have PSO. Reportedly of those, 4 left on good terms, 11 were terminated, and 13 left on not-so-good terms. Regardless of situation, the PSO staff remains 8 personnel short, leaving only Officers and 1 Operator per shift to respond to situations on campus. It is suggested that this lack of unit strength lower PSO's ability to respond-- to the extreme that a single call tie up the entire PSO for over twenty minutes. Why have no officers not been enlisted? Only the Director of the PSO and RiSD Administration can say.

Presently, during summer school activities, RiSD deploys part-time security on the campus to compensate. This security is from the same company which runs the RiSD shuttle service (Pinkertin Security) and to the best of the Mixed Media Agent's understanding, these minimum wage Pinkertin security forces have received EMS training (which RiSD requires in its PSO's, at a cost of \$3,000 per officer) nor any background checks (also required for PSO footmen), nor does RiSD have any say in who does and who does not come in from Pinkertin (though, if we have trouble with individuals, we can have them removed after the fact). The Pinkertin forces also do not carry the load of equipment the PSO does.

This year, like any year, has had a number of assaults near Bowen, Benning and Prospect (known as portable 2 or the PSO's patrol grid). Due to the PSO's low body count, this grid-section remains unpatrolled and unguarded for 73% of the time. Around 18 months ago, the RiSD President's house (which is in this area) was broken into, but the intruder was scared away by a student living in the lower apartment. The Director of the PSO never ordered a change in the patrol patterns. No additional security to guard against a second attempt was added. It is reported that the Director told the PSO officers that this was not RiSD's problem (as it is not technically on RiSD's campus) even though 50% of this section's assaults were on RiSD students and personnel.

Two months ago, a new policy was issued from the Director. Officers are no longer allowed to drive students to the hospital, or assist students in non-critical condition. Unless an ambulance is

required, the officers are now required to ask students if a friend can be called to take them to the hospital. If no friend can be found, then and only then may a cab voucher be issued. The student will pay for the voucher in full, some time later in the semester.

But what is the issue here? What, aside from general dislike of Ms. Dunlop's unsavory personality, is being argued over here? What is the over all story?

Say, for example, you have a broken leg. You are on crutches, trying to get a bag of groceries into your dorm or apartment, but having a little trouble. PSO officers are not allowed to assist you. If they do, they will be fired for insubordination by their director. If they help you, they can not help anyone else, because the Director will not hire more officers.

In early april, the Director of the PSO asked to present her policies for public awareness. She has been out of the office, uncontactable, or requested personal contact, periodically instead of simply offering up the material. In her defense, MM has been informed that the policies are still in progress of implementation and debate. The paper would like to offer the PSO director the opportunity, at her leisure, to post all of her proposed policies to the Student body, either here, or in a public forum.



Most likely to joining the Kiss army.

Interview with Lucette Dunlop, Director of Public Safety, and Charles Furgal, Assistant Director

I, a former fellow staffer, had this interview with Public Safety a few eons ago or something. Unfortunately, fate intervened and prevented me from ever writing the article. Some people mentioned that they would like to see the it. Here, for better orfor worse, is the somewhat complete transcript of that interview.

JK: Can you just introduce yourselves and tell me a little bit about what your roles are here?

LD: I am the Director of Public Safety and I have been here since January of 2000. With us is Charles Furgal, the Assistant Director who has been with us since February of 2000. We run the public safety operation between the two of us. I am totally in charge of providing public safety to the campus; that includes the students, the faculty, the staff, the guests. That goes from protecting the students in the way of provocatives being on campus and fire safety. Chuck is primarily in charge of the officers.

CF: I guess you could say I am in charge of operations, which is payroll, scheduling, extra events, details. I guess you could call a lot of the hands-on. Reports, looking at reports...

JK: First, let me ask you if the numbers in the Campus Security Report are correct.

LD: They are.

JK: Just Checking, There are a couple of numbers in here that are pretty startling, like the number of burglaries from '99 to 2000 went from 12 to 92.

LD: Let me explain to you. These are the numbers for incidents on public property. Public Property are the stats that are furnished by the police department. In this case, Providence Police Department. So whatever we get from them is what you see here. We do check to see that there aren't repetitions:that our reports aren't the reports that they're putting in. We give to them exactly the locations we want; in other words "Waterman street between x and y; College street between x and y", and they then supply the numbers.Can we explain why? You would have to ask the police. We have asked them. One of the things is that they have a more precise and a newer system for recording.

CF: I was led to believe that because of their new system, nothing now slips through the cracks; everything goes in a certain category and is counted and compiled. I have to assume that due to that change in reporting, that's what caused those numbers to grow that amount. The way they classify crimes is a little different than the way we classify crimes. Our statistics are based on the UCR (University Crime Reporting) definitions of burglaries and larcenies. Providence does it a little differently.

JK: So these numbers are Providence Police numbers for crimes on campus?

CF: It's areas that are adjacent to properties we own. If you want to get a better idea of how that works, you can go on the department of education website and you can look at all the schools. You can look at J & W, Brown, PC....It looks like a big increase, but I think it's that we are starting to count better, and i think that's a big part of that.

Continued on page 9.

JK: You have not changed your counting system, right?

CF: No.

JK: OK, so there were 5 burglaries on campus last year and 12 this year. That's still, I think, a pretty large increase. Do you have any reason for why there is so much more crime?

LD: I think in some cases it was one person doing the same kind of crime. There was some similarity. Eventually I think he was caught. That's referred to as a one-man crime wave. That's what you see there.

CF: A lot of times, there will be a rash of burglaries, and what that is is that those people that are breaking in just got out of jail. That's exactly what occurs: someone gets out of jail, they hit the street, they commit crime, they get caught again, and they go back. Now they don't necessarily get caught by us. They break into a house here, East Providence arrests them and they go to jail. All of a sudden there's no more B & E s and you wonder what happened. Well, a PD caught the person. They can't tie him into all of these crimes, but they caught him.

JK: What do you do to help keep students safe?

LD: Well, first of all we have our officers that are on duty. They patrol in a variety of ways. They patrol on cruiser, they patrol on foot, they sometimes patrol by bike. They go through the buildings, they check on the people that are there, they look up the buildings, turn on and turn off lights. We provide escorts to students after the shuttle is finished at 2 am.

JK: How do those escorts work? Are they only to and from those specific shuttle locations?

LD: No, no. I'll give you an example. There are numerous calls when a student wants to be transported from the BEB to her home location. If it falls within a certain range, we will do so.

Almost all of our officers are EMTs, we provide that as well. We provide accident and incident investigations. Special events, directions, information. We have someone here 24 hrs a day. Plus down at the Museum, lower level. That's something that the students should know about. That's there 24 hours.

CF: We provide a lot of crime prevention information. We do some freshman orientation relating to fire safety and crime when the freshmen come in. We're involved in the RA training when the RAs come in. WE do some basic crime prevention with them.

LD: We issue keys, monitor safety hazards. We run the shuttle. We monitor 911. If anyone makes a 911 call from anywhere on campus, we automatically know about it so that we can respond and also the police and fire can respond.

JK: I've been talking to a lot of students about their concerns. Now this could just be a campus rumor but I have heard that there were several rapes on campus last year that went unreported.

LD: I don't know of any rape last year. We did have a series of grabbing incidents on Benefit street, mainly when female students were traveling alone....[more crap on the grabber...] I have no knowledge of any rapes.

CF: If a sexual assault occurs on campus and we are not notified directly, say health services knows about it or the dean of students...they are mandated by law to let us know that a student has reported to them that a sexual assault has occurred. We don't have to have the details, but we would know that and that would be counted as a crime stat. The only problem with that kind of reporting is that it's hard to substantiate a crime if it's never investigated. To my knowledge, none have occurred on public property adjacent to campus or on campus.

JK: Another concern I've heard is that a lot of students don't feel safe on campus, especially walking from studios at night. Do you have any response to that?

LD: Only that we have a shuttle. They should take advantage of it. We are working with the Student Alliance to see if we should change the route. We are also looking at the possibility of having a second shuttle. We are looking into a run to Federal Hill. Plus, after the shuttle we do the escort. Now, will we take them to East Providence? I'm sorry, but we can't do that.

It's the city. You have to recognize that. My biggest fear is that because RISD is so beautiful, that we will be lulled into a sense that there is no crime. But there is. Providence is not immune from crime. You have to be alert.

JK: Another concern I've heard is that a lot of students feel that the public safety officers are often not as helpful as perhaps they should be; they can be a little rude, you know?

LD: No, I don't know because one of the things...First of all, since Chuck and I have been here we have worked on improving the quality of the officers that we have here. Upgrading, giving more training, giving more stringent requirements for the officers. We have done a lot of very selective picking of the officers.

JK: Could you tell me more about the process of selection and training of the officers?

LD: First of all, we changed the description of the officers to some extent. One of the things that we emphasized was that we wanted all of the officers to be trained as EMTs within their first year of being here; it used to be three years. Then, instead of taking the first person that walked through the door, we took the time to cull through an enormous number of resumes that came through our door to make sure that the persons that we were interviewing were the quality that we wanted. First, three sergeants would interview the person, then Chuck would interview the person, and then I would interview the person. They had to show substantial credentials, and a certain customer-service orientation. Now, obviously if someone is impolite to us, they are not going to be met with a big smile on our face. We try to extend as much as we can to the students.

Continued on page 13.

Interview with Director of Public Safety and Assistant Director continued...

JK: What kind of backgrounds do your officers come from?

CF: We are looking for someone that has public safety, security, or law enforcement experience. That could be an MP in the military. It could be security at a private company. Obviously, it's nice to find someone that has college law enforcement experience; someone that understand the philosophy of an educational institution. Sometimes it's hard to teach someone that so if you can find a candidate that has campus law enforcement experience, that's very helpful because you don't have to teach him how to interact with students. If they have any of those components, we'll look at a candidate like that. We put them through a rigorous questioning. We've designed questions to find out what their feelings are on dealing with various situations that are unique to a college environment.

LD: We give them scenarios, and it's interesting to see how they react; to see what they would do.

JK: And do you provide any sort of additional training to officers?

LD: Once they get here, they are in field training for 3 weeks to 12 months. We then give them training, if they haven't had it at their previous institution, in pepper spray and baton and handcuffs...Let me just address one other thing that you mentioned. You said that some of the students don't view us as customer-service. I think, Jen, one thing you have to realize, is that we are the ones that have to enforce policy and sometimes that policy is not popular. It's not policy that we've formulated. I'll give you a perfect example: building hours. We don't care if we close the building at 3 am, midnight, or 6 am, but we've been told by Academic Affairs that it's to be closed at this time and there are to be no students there...So that sometimes does not make us popular and it's unfortunate and we regret that.

JK: How many officers do you have?

LD: There are five uniformed officers per shift, and three shifts.

CF: We have 15 uniformed officers, including three sergeants. And a lieutenant in addition to that.

LD: In your lingo a sergeant is the shift supervisor.

CF: Then we have dispatcher, parking attendants...we have 35 employees right now.

JK: Is there anything you are doing to improve safety on campus?

LD: We are working on some initiatives. Two have been completed. One is the 911: being able to monitor that and that's really very important.

JK: When was that initiated?

LD: Oh, about six months ago. The other is that we have brand-new radios. This may have happened maybe about months ago. But most importantly what we've done now is we've persuaded the providence PD to let some of our officers talk to their dispatcher directly. For instance, Chuck can talk to them directly. I can, and the three sergeants. Not only that, we can also talk to a number of different institutions downtown as well. It's about to be announced. It will be announced next Thursday by Mayor Cianci because it's such an innovation. That's two of the initiatives. The third and fourth ones are ones that are lengthy processes, but one of them is finally coming to fruition. That's code blue; those are the emergency phones. We currently have emergency phones out but they are not the quality or the reliability that I would like to see. So what we are doing is a proposal for the installation of twelve new phones is out to the vendors. They are bidding on it right now, and then the installation will begin. We are really thrilled about this.

JK: How many phones are there right now?

LD: Probably about 12. We are replacing some old ones and we are installing some brand-new locations. So that is coming to fruition. The other one is the access control project. This is a huge project. We've been working with the committee on this for probably about 6 months. What it's going to be is access control for the whole campus. The proposal just came through. It's not going to happen overnight because it's a huge project.

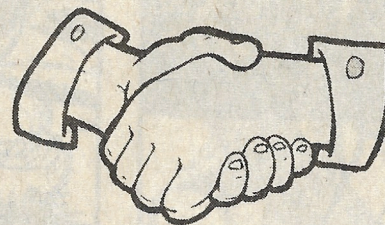
JK: What's the timeframe during which that's going to be implemented?

LD: Our hope is that by next fall we'll have phase one in place. But there are a lot of variables here. This new system will be very very flexible. For example, you could have access to the BEB all night or you could not.

CF: If you lose your card, we can program your card out of the system so it's useless whereas if you lose a key that can be a real liability.

So that was pretty much it.

Jenni Katajamaki



Student Alliance Updates

The Student Alliance has been busy this year. Here s a run-down of the recent issues:

Faculty Advising One of the hottest topics this year has been the efficiency of the advising program at RISD. The Alliance has expressed concern over the fact that it is often not in effect at all, as many students graduate never having meet with their advisor their designated faculty member whose job outline requires that they aid advisees with meeting credit requirements, defining career objectives, and more. The trustees and administration responded with unanimous support for system restructuring. The Alliance devised and mailed a survey about the advising program to all full time faculty, and is currently evaluating the data to determine what specific improvements can be made.

Public Safety The Alliance has been working with Public Safety on improving campus security. Twelve new blue lights will be up running by the end of this year.

Also, many have expressed the need for a second shuttle, as we currently have only one to escort students to and from studio after-hours. While Public Safety has proposed purchasing a second van, the Alliance has been talking with RIPTA about the possibility of hiring their transportation services exclusively, as many other Rhode Island Colleges have already done. The services would only be a cost of about \$20 a year per student, as those that ride would subsidize those that don t. By connecting with the RIPTA system, RISD students would be able to ride RIPTA buses nearly anywhere in Rhode Island simply by using their ID card. Sixteen-passenger vans would function as our shuttle service, with as many vans needed to accommodate rider-ship.

CNS The Alliance is working with CNS to aid solutions. Soon to come on the agenda: Can *you* afford to purchase a laptop? And should you have to?

Are you being advised ?

Concerned about upcoming renovations?

Feel safe on campus?

How is CNS working for you?

www.alliance@risd.edu

What s Happening to Carr Haus?

With the renovations of RISD over the coming years, th are going to be changing; hopefully, the fact that we ha student run coffee shop won t.

With the renovations, both the Pit and Carr Ha will get pushed out. What s left? One space in the new of Student Life, in the bottom floor of the Design Center the canal where the RISD store is now. And both Camp Dining Services that currently run the Met, the Pit, and snack shop in Prov Wash and Carr House, the only st run food service, have been battling for it.

While Campus Dining would like its Pit services restored, the Student Alliance feels it essential to have alternative option. Exactly that argument, presented in t Carr Haus Manifesto, was presented to the RISD Trust Board. The trustees responded with positive support. Th manifesto was recently presented a second time at the meeting. It was accepted by unanimous vote. Now, the step is planning the new space and evaluating how to improve student run dining!

Meeting Schedule for End of 2001/2002

May 1 General Alliance (Tap Room)
Public Safety
Trustee Agenda Presentation
Don Condrey, RISD Store

May 2 4 Trustee Weekend

May 8 Last General Alliance (Tap Room)
Develop Fall 2002 Agenda

Have a voice in these and other issues every other week at Wednesday Meetings. Yes, students have a say. No excuses; don t bitch, a

Carr Haus Mission Statement

Carr Haus provides students, faculty and staff with an alternative eating venue, gallery, and community space. Upon the cafe's move to the RISD store, it is essential that these functions, which are integral to the Carr Haus/RISD environment, remain the same.

Carr House cafe is an essential facet of student life on RISD's campus. The coffee chop provides students with an invaluable and unique space. Because of intense academic requirements, students rarely "drop by" other departments for the sake of visiting. Carr Haus provides this venue. Merging all of RISD's departments, the cafe is a casual and comfortable atmosphere for every student to socialize.

Carr Haus runs a diverse calendar of programming. Gallery openings, an open mic night, lecture series and meeting space for student organizations, demonstrate a sample of the events, which are motivated and facilitated by students for students. Supported by the Office of Student Life, these events provide a necessary rapport with the student body and help to nurture co-curricular activities by interfacing academic departments with students' interests. One of the latest developments in Carr Haus' programming is the successful functioning of a student-run gallery, the only of its kind on the RISD campus. Carr Haus allows every student to exhibit their work in a multi-disciplinary setting where it is accessible to all. Consequently, students are able to engage in public dialogue through their work.

Carr Haus is student run, providing students with important skills and collective responsibilities. There are approximately 30 student workers and two student managers. The cafe's gallery program additionally employs student gallery and assistant gallery coordinators. Students learn valuable skills such as personnel training, supervision, leadership, budget maintenance, purchasing, inventory review, sales, and curation.

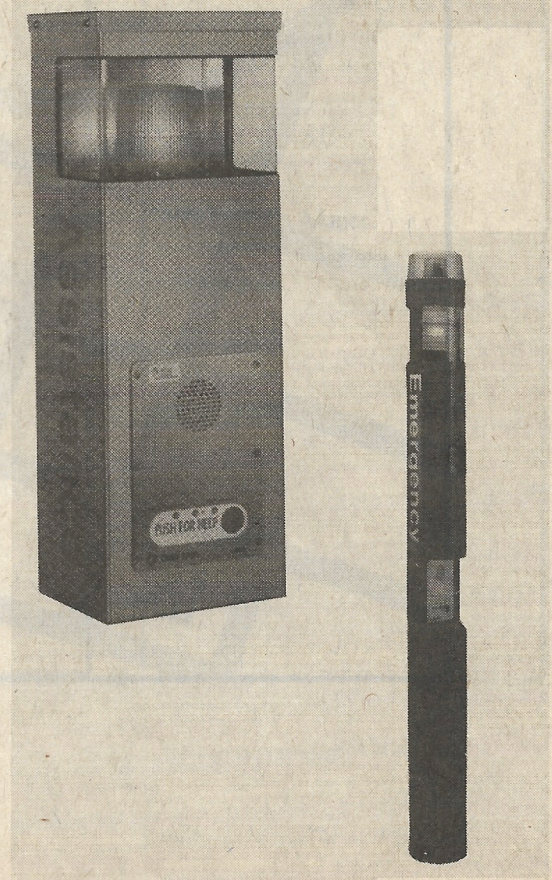
The mission of the Office of Student Life strives to support and enrich student life. On many levels, Carr Haus fulfills this mission by providing creative opportunities, work-related empowerment for the student, a strong sense of community, and an alternative and healthy dining experience. The students look forward to preserving Carr Haus' traditions as seen by generations of RISD alumni upon its relocation to the RISD Store.

Blue Light Special

Yay for Public Safety: the long demanded Emergency Blue Light System is finally receiving major additions twelve, to be exact a major increase to the current four. Or rather count that as twelve to start: the current lights that sparse our campus, Public Safety admits, are unsatisfactory to the task. Manufacturer Code Blue's pedestal and steel box units (installed onto campus buildings) will now be employed.

The *new* lights are nearly indestructible. Both vandal and weather proof, as according to the manufacturer, the pedestals provide 360 degree visibility and a high powered strobe upon activation. And activation, Public Safety has assured, will always be regarded seriously and result in immediate dispatch of Public Safety officers. They're serious about student safety, but are also glad to provide the blue light response service to any member of the surrounding community that may be in need of aid.

Blue light sites have been closely chosen throughout the campus, sans downtown as a 24/7 officer will hopefully soon be employed at Fletcher. Installment is already well under way: construction will be complete before the end of the semester to start next year out right. So more lights, less action? Lets hope those nasty criminals get the idea that RISD's getting increasingly serious on safety.



RiSD Faculty meetings

It may come as a surprise, but the monthly RiSD Faculty meetings are open to the public. Last month, MM took the opportunity to send in one of its Agents, and see what really goes on behind the administrative doors. For two hours, the full time faculty (who are required to attend) put on something worse than a comedy. Perhaps it is intentionally scheduled at the same time as the Student Council meetings (Weds, 4:30) but perhaps not.

The issues debated: TOFL standards, Summer Language Program, RiSD Crime, The Public Safety Union, and the RiSD extreme drug problem.

TOFL standards, in short, were raised slightly to avoid the ever present RiSD problem of foreign students, who speak no English, forming cultural bubbles, and ostracizing themselves from the rest of the campus. This will, to the Agent's best understanding, not effect graduate level Students. The standard was passed by a majority vote.

The Summer Language Program debate wandered all over the place. Traditionally, the program was for students who's TOFL score was high enough to enter RiSD, but too low to be acceptable in conversing with English speaking students. It has never been clear if this required course gave the entering student the standard RiSD 3 credits in liberal arts, or not. It has also never been clear whether passing the course had any effect on whether or not the student could continue at RiSD. The Debate circled between faculty who created the program, faculty who now opposed the program, and faculty who thought arguing over semantics was stupid and a waste of time. Ultimately, it was decided to scrap the Language program all together (this summer will be the last), as the raised TOFL standards would, hopefully, improve RiSD's laughable english literacy/communication's level. The bill itself has enough commas in it to give a high school english teacher a nose bleed. Blessed be the RiSD English department, this debate took nearly 3/4 of the 2 hour meeting's time.

RiSD crime was noted by various professors who have no idea what it feels like to be raped or mugged. There were grunts of agreement to the growing problem, but no action, nor useful debate was had.

Roger Mandel, always at the head of the paranoia wagon, brought up the Public Safety Union but gave no details nor explanations. We are sad that some individuals feel it must come to this, were round about his exact words. RiSD's Teacher's Union voiced its support of the move.

Again at the head, Mandel brought up RiSD's apparently growing drug problem. He cited the foolish RiSD students who were caught growing a few kilos of pot and let the paranoia hang in the dry college building air. To MM's knowledge, there is no drug problem at RiSD-- no more than at any other university, and far less a problem than at most. Everybody knows, there is a 7.5% sales tax on all narcotics in Providence, which makes the market not only unpractically

expensive for buyers, but too scarce for distributors.

Megan Booth and Vice President Chang of the Student Council (yes, we do have one) were given about 90 seconds to voice their concerns for the loss of Carr House. The few faculty who were still in the room, were either asleep, or trying to escape. Another sign that we should all be happy as cows that tuition is going up almost \$1,500 next year.

The meeting was called to a close and the faculty runs home. All in all, a grand waste of time.

The RiSD Museum

Many people ask what purpose it serves. Many also ask why we all pay so much for it -- in tuition directly, and indirectly when we give up space to museum functions in our new buildings. Simply answered, the RiSD Museum is an artistic/specialized resource for the students. Still, as we are not even allowed to bring *PENS* into its halls to sketch with, and the student body doesn't have any direct control over what in the museum's collection is placed on display nor when (to this Agent's understanding). Is it really fulfilling its supposed goal?

Sure, the museum sends us those expensive pieces of mixed paper trash, which keep the mail room receptacles full every day of the week. And advertises their showings ahead of time to students in more than just the pretty card hand outs. They post their showings in the back of our course booklet, where the information is invariably thrown out after courses are selected. But how much effort has the museum put into contacting the students and getting their feedback on the museum's set up? How many students even know who works in the museum? What hours it is open to the public,

RiSD Student Council

For a school that produces a dozen posters a week, for every kind of event, you'd think the Student Council would find a more effective and noticeable way to get the student body's attention. Time and time again, MM is approached by students who do not even know we have a Student Council (or a newspaper). Many students do not know who is on the Council, or how those persons were elected. If they ever want to be more than a joke, the Council (known as the Student Alliance) is going to have to actually talk to the students, and not wait for the students to find them. Its time they actually hold their meetings where people can see them, tell RA's to let all their halls and houses know when and where the meetings are, set up visible and vocal forums to hear RiSD's students concerns, and not just what the Council's puppeteers in OSL feed them. It is time for RiSD's students to actually have a real student government.

READ THIS! TRUST ME!

Dear Roger Mandel,

There are a few issues that I have noticed and wish to address with you. I do love much that goes on at RISD, and my fondness for those things is why I wish to bring up several things that I feel aren't quite right. RISD is a place that I feel extremely comfortable, largely because I have the freedom to do what I love. However, when that freedom is restricted, people tend to get frustrated, and a school can not ride on reputation forever. RISD does have quite a few bragging rights, but when some is-sues are examined, those rights begin to diminish. I have spend quite a while talking with students, and I find that many of then have the same questions I do, so we compiled a list of questions that many, probably most, people agree are issues that need to be addressed. Some address only the film department (of which I am a undergraduate, and as such, wish to see strive, not struggle), some questions address issues on a general basis, and some are merely personal. You do not have to answer any of them, but please take the time to consider all of them. Also, I cannot challenge everything RISD does, so we ll take this one step at a time. I am in FAV, so most of the questions (while they do represent the whole school) will pertain largely to the FAV department.

Why do sophomore video students, and the entire animation department, use computers that are horribly out of date? All other labs are on a two-year cycle, but FAV is using computers that are five years old and are not even manufactured anymore.

Does administration realize that one student s tuition could buy 14 outstanding computers? You may say that FAV student s tuition does not go to the FAV department, but why not?

If money is an issue, why has the handling of RISD s endowment been so questionable? All major schools put tuition into an account and use the interest they receive (often upwards of forty million dollars interest) to pay the bills and whatnot, but RISD s endowment is about fifty million dollars TOTAL.

Why is there an outstanding LCD display, DVD/Video setup on the second floor of the Met, and there are only three mediocre TV s in the entire FAV studios?

Why doesn t money go to buying students the full programs, forcing them to use the limited version of programs such as After Effects and Pro Tools, and Media 100, yet there is enough mon-ey to buy the faculty of the Market House there own set of ext-remely expensive faculty printers?

Why did administration allow all applying sophomores into the Film program, and simply tell the professors to deal with it?

With the current number of video students (12), that makes four people per editing computer, which is already an extremely difficult task, considering the fact that there are two classes, and, on average, five hours of editing each. With even with an increase of three students per class, how much more inconvenient will that be?

Why was the number of FAV students allowed to increase, but FAV was not compensated with additional studio space, supplies, equipment or classes? I know money and space are tight, but RISD owns most of the waterfront, and there is enough money for a student center.

Why do I pay upwards of 24,000 dollars a year, but when I go to my Character Animation there aren t enough light tables for every-one, and I have to use a flood lamp and piece of plastic.

Does anyone in administration know what it means to be a student at RISD? That is, do they walk around and get a feel for what the students are doing, what they have and don t have, what space they are working in, there relation with the professors, their overall contentment with RISD?

I do not know of a single major that does not need more studio space, so why are the next slated projects for the library, museum additions, and a student center; which I have not heard a single student approve of? I know that the student center will have studio space, but I also know that it is not nearly enough.

Why aren t RISD students provided with a universal public drive (i.e. to send projects to the lab, or send papers to class), and why can t students get their grades online? My high school of about six hundred students gets their grades online, and I know all other major colleges do.

Why doesn t RISD provide housing for anyone but freshman? (Outer housing does not count by any means) Is that not another source of profit? (Other than raising our tuition).

As a result of the lack of housing, RISD knows that some students will be forced to find other apartments. Yet classes end on the thirty- first, and students are required to be out by noon on the second, giving then only ONE day to completely move to their new apartment. Everyone knows that the current tenant will not be out-completely by the first of the month, and everyone knows that it s hard for all parents to get there on time and with a car, yet RISD assumes that people only need one day to complete this task. Why?!

Why does RISD use a completely outdated system for scheduling classes? Similarly, if there is an obviously popular/filled class, why isn t more of that same class offered? Why have I not once been able to get into a liberal arts class that would be useful to me?

Please do not think I am griping just griping sake, I wish to take an active involvement in what RISD is. Also, do not think I am just going to complain and then sit back and wait for the changes to happen, and I know some issues are probably already being looked at for next year. However, this is the first step of many, and only a few of the questions. Before the end of this school year, look for the organization of a town meeting for any student who cares about the future of RISD and their education. This will not just be a meeting where students sit around and talk, we will ask Deans, Provosts, and Administrators to sit in so we can ask our questions first hand. This needs to be an ongoing, collaborative effort. I also write this letter to all RISD students: I have posed my questions, but maybe you have more, or maybe you think I m way off base. Either way, we can t just ask these questions and then get back to work, and forget about it. Whether or not all the questions posed are good ones, there are a few that definitely need to be addressed. Please get active and email ReslStD@yahoo.com with any feedback.

Thank You,
RISD Students

Israel and Palestine: Gaining A More Personal Understanding

By: Allison Coley

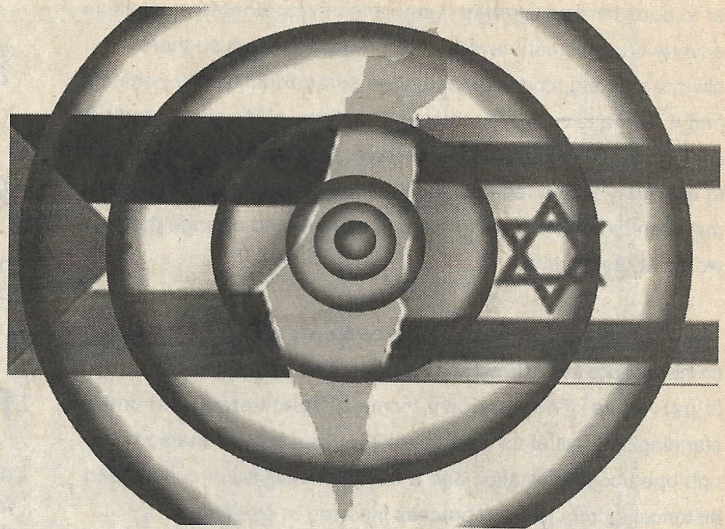
Mainstream media tends to convey a generalized, impersonal listing of current events. An understanding of the Israeli and Palestinian situation could be limited to a simplistic blip similar to this: The election of long time military leader Ariel Sharon to prime minister was popularly interpreted to reflect the increasingly militaristic Israeli reaction to Palestinian terrorist violence. Recent events such as the Israeli military incursion into the West Bank, razing of refugee camps like Jenin, and numerous Palestinian suicide bombings have shown escalation of violence on both sides. Powell's essentially ceremonial interchange with Sharon and Arafat served to reinforce the prevailing stances: Arafat won't attempt to stop terrorist attacks if Sharon won't withdraw Israeli forces, and vice versa.

What this overlooks, though, is that it's difficult to grasp the complexity and continually shifting nature of the situation.

As a reflection of the nature of mainstream media, some opinions tend to revolve around the provided reductions, such as historical factors, U.S. interventionism, and growing senses of desperation. Some RISD students' opinions understandably seemed to echo these mainstream media themes or potential distortions: In my opinion, I don't understand how the Palestinians can justify terrorism to further their cause. I mean what can Israel do to protect its people? It would be like the Native Americans' suicide bombing American cities... should Native Americans get their own state? What was the United States' solution to terrorism? Kill? This parallels the situation in the middle East in a way. That's just my opinion, what do I know?" (Philip Meick). Another student, Henry Boyle, partially attributed the conflict to a territorial theme and recognized its inherent cultural factors: Being a war over REAL ESTATE basically, the conflict is rooted in the very primal notions of territory. [*] I think the essential exercise for all parties immediately at stake is to distinguish their universal cultural motivations from the motivations unique to their respective societies. In understanding these differences, they might gain a starting point towards unraveling the argument(s).

Researching the Israeli-Palestinian conflict led me to numerous encounters with mainstream media, but it was the independent indigenous sources that presented me with impacting personal accounts. Mainstream media headlines began becoming useless to me; their multiple-translated, removed nature drove me further from the human elements of the situation and reduced my interpretations. Architecture major Lamia Al-Jallad's response spoke to this transition: I think that the U.S. media has been very unfair to the Americans in that it is barely [printing the stories]. A lot of massacres have been going on in the past month especially, and the media is almost completely disregarding the importance of crimes against humanity that are at stake. [*] I think American people, Arabs, Israelis, or not should all pressure the Bush government to do something. Because if not, the situation will just deteriorate and terrorism will increase in the whole world and not only in the Middle East.

Accounts from individual Palestinian perspectives have been in wide circulation on the internet in the last two years. Amr Shalakany, an Egyptian professor living in Ramallah, has kept a public diary



Dan Hertzberg

(which can be found at the Al-Ahram website) recounting what life is like under Israeli occupation. His description of the continual presence of Israeli tanks on the streets and the difficulties of living in Israeli occupied areas is a valuable one. Refugees of the northern West Bank camp of Jenin asserted their accounts of Israeli military actions there, describing razed homes, murder, and denial of medical assistance (www.electronicintifada.net).

In a personal context, then, I reinterpreted questions such as how much the Bush administration and the U.S. should be responsible for and involved with conflict, and considering the context of this article, how the arts would factor into the conflict.

I was presented with the opportunity to converse with someone personally involved with the situation. Jonah Bleicher, who's from Israel and is a sophomore in illustration, served the mandatory three years (for males; the period required of Israeli females is shorter) military service in the Israeli army. Serving in road block duty and in artillery units engaged in maintaining a security buffer zone against the Hizbollah guerrilla group, Jonah related the recent increasing violence to a growing sense of desperation. He described that ten years ago he sensed a more hopeful mentality for peace, with the Oslo accords and Barak's later military withdrawal from Lebanon, but now he feels a more chaotic desperation. He continued: I feel sometimes that people regard [Israel] as an illegitimate colony. I believe Israel needs to exist [*] there needs to be a homeland.*

The situation has deteriorated so much in the past year or so that we reached a point of no return. He believes that a change in both Israeli and Palestinian leadership is a necessary prerequisite for any step toward peace and mutual benefit. I wondered what role he thought the arts played in any sort of interchange between Palestinian and Israeli culture. He stated that there is almost no cultural interchange, and that culture and art spring from a stable economy, something not always a constant factor in Palestinian life.

But what cultural factors lead to the notion that art springs from economic stability? Is art a product of comfort and safety, or is it a fundamental expression of humanity, and a means of ultimately asserting one's cultural and psychological existence?

With the flood of opinions, accounts, and perspectives in the media and populace, it's extremely difficult to sift through everything. I felt like the more I researched, the more complicated things got, and the clos-

er to becoming pessimistic I grew. I think that whatever opinion anyone conveys can never be fully rebutted, because there's always a strong, complex, and often paradoxical history behind it, and it's always conveyed through the filter of the compound psychological idiosyncrasies we all have. Every student's response to the query was a result of their unique experiences, development, and intuition, leading them to choose and arrange their words at that instant.

So, in light of that, and the analogous complexity of any political situation (in this instance that of Israel and Palestine), I can suggest that relativity is pervasive. The shadowy forms of relative cultural understanding lie in all of us, and I think they can be illuminated through open communication and a complex analysis of cultural and historical factors, a main process involved in creating art.

Mohammed Sharif, in a recent lecture on Islam at RISD, stated that a tenet of Islam is its valuing of diversity. The Qu'ran was quoted: Verily we have created you from a single pair of a male and a female. Then we have divided you into nations and communities so that you may celebrate each other. Analyzing and being exposed to different cultural perspectives of the situation forced me to avoid a dualistic, simplifying interpretation.

I was surprised at the scarcity of responses from the RISD student body. But only surprised, not disappointed, because I had the opportunity to learn more about the situation from those involved in it, and the chance to share it with others. In writing this article, every time I've attempted to make any generalized statement (or formulate any sort of generalizing question), I've run into walls of cultural differences, social factors, media biases and lack of bias, and all the other factors which I'm even unaware of. Talking with Jonah left me with a confused sense of what could happen in Israel and Palestine, especially since he stated that he feels he can no longer really support any form of broad ideological approach, and possesses now a sense of factual knowledge. But even considering continual violence in the region, and despite the dearth of general RISD student reactions in this instance, there exists a real opportunity to continue learning from each other about the situation, and discovering the effects of acculturation in each of us. Jonah's opinions are partly a result of his cultural experience, as are mine and anyone else's. Despite the overwhelming complexity, analyzing these influences, discovering one's tendencies towards or away from acculturation, and incorporating all of this into the creative process of making art is where a real response to the situation lies.

Further reading:

www.zmag.org

www.btselem.org

www.haaretzdaily.com

www.electronicintifada.net

<http://www.ahram.org.eg/weekly/2002/580/index.htm>

Fact and Fiction Continued

RiSD Physical Plant

Anyone wonder why it takes them over 6 months to replace locks on doors? Or months to turn the heat on and months to turn it off? Just curious.

RiSD Computer Network Services

It's great to know that, for around \$505,000 the CNS department can not even keep RiSD's e-mail server operational for more than a day into spring break. It's also good to know that, when they are asked questions about groupwise, they tell you to upgrade your software... even if 'your software' happens to be the library computers. Do they even keep a list of what is where and on what machine? Do they have any intent on showing the campus community this great development which is Campus Cruiser? Is anyone else weirded out by the bleak Nazi-esque bunker design of their offices in the Prov/Wash building? Why is the campus not digitally up to date?? Why can we not get grades online, sign up for classes online, etc.? These are common enough practices at other major universities. There are too many questions without answers. The Administration should severely question what CNS is doing, or openly admit to be pulling RiSD down into a dark, backward, backwater.

On the positive side (see the next page), CNS is replacing Campus Cruiser with a full intra-net. When it becomes operational, it will allow students to sign up for classes, check grades, and search for campus information in area-specific ways.

Regardless, the status of Computer Networking Services is presently unacceptable. As of this Academic Year, CNS's budget stands at \$5,000 for Improvements and Alterations; \$120,000 for 'Computer Related'; \$254,500 for 'Projects over 50k', and \$126,261 for 'Recurring Capitol Items', all told: \$505,761. This is over ten times what RiSD spends on Environmental Health and Safety and over \$150,000 more than RiSD spends on Housing. So far, the Student body has lost access to e-mail, or off-campus dial up, or both many times (CNS failed to offer an exact number when approached) this past year. This blatant inefficiency is a slap in the face to both the student body who's tuition pays the CNS budget and salaries and to the greater institution, who's image is sullied by such incompetence and poor leadership. If the CNS Chair will not take initiative and bring order to his Department, by way of restructuring or reducing his staff, then he should be removed and replaced with something more dedicated, responsive, and competent.