

MIXED MEDIA

VOLUME 6/ISSUE 1

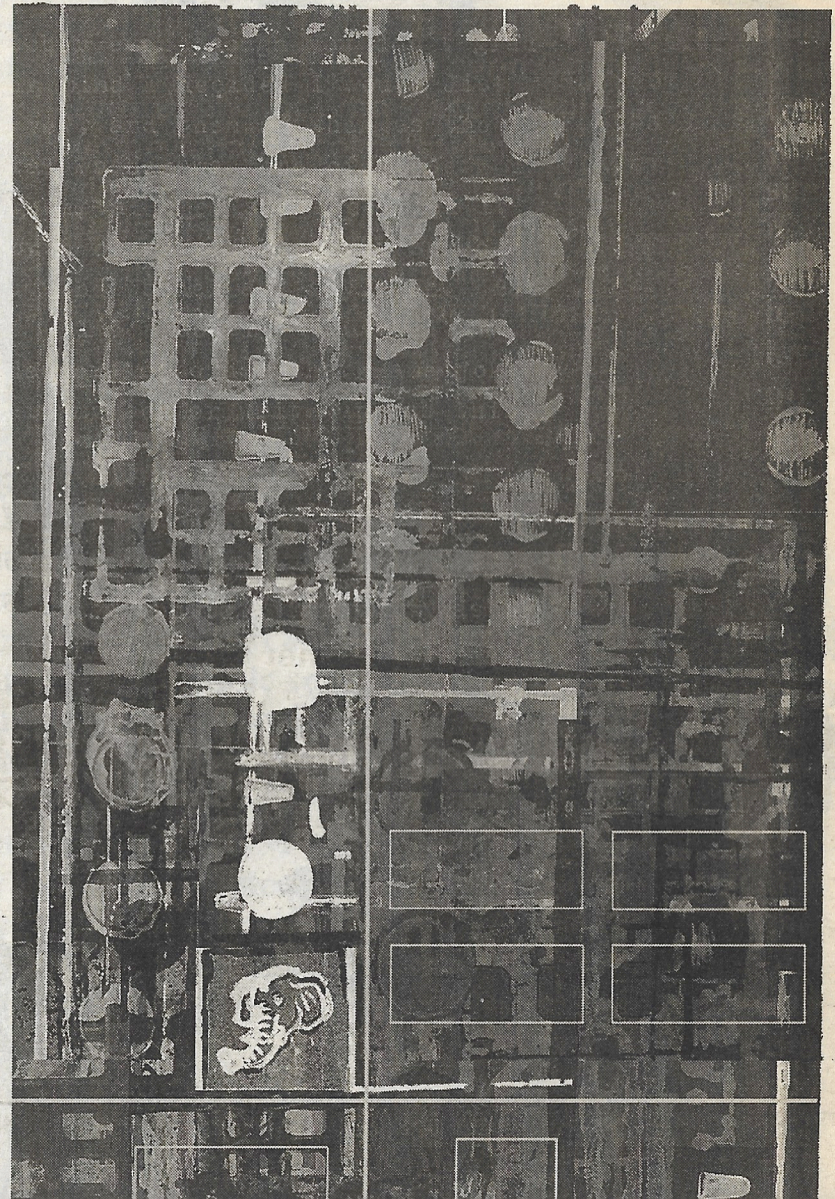
entertaining
short
attention
spans since
1877



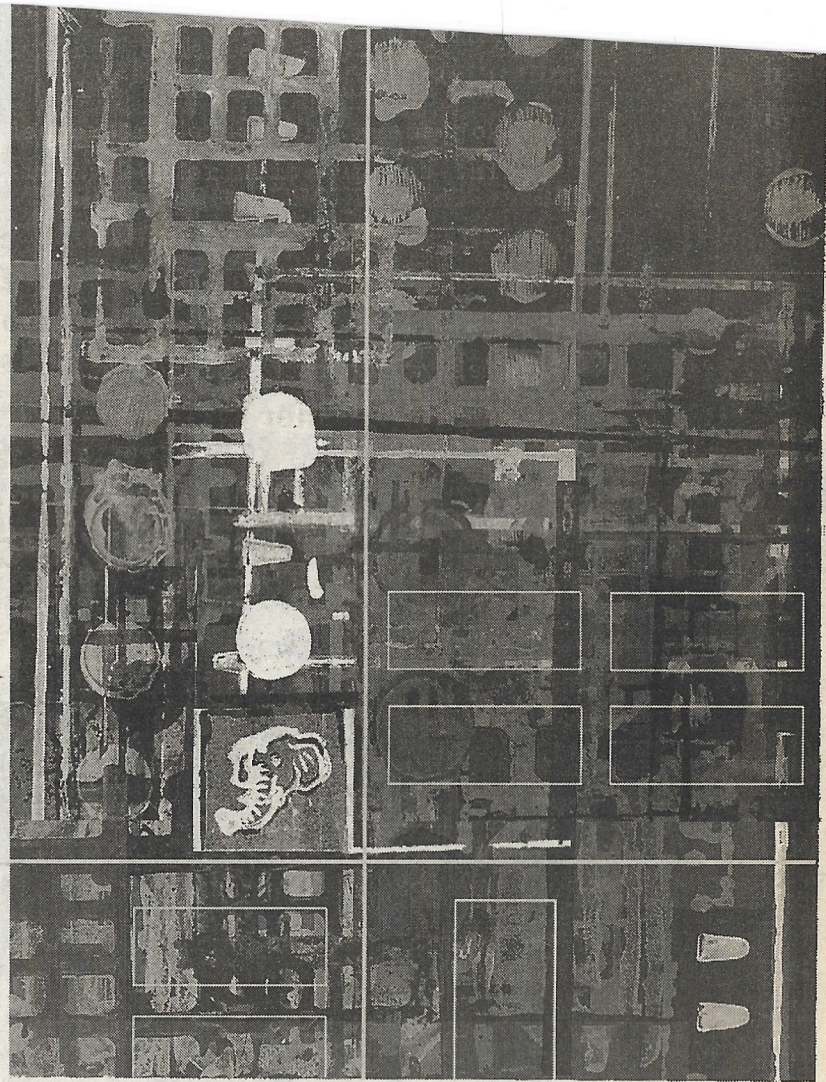
ARE YOUR NEEDS BEING MET?

submitted anonymously.

Have we all stopped thinking, caring, listening—wondering—do we realise our power to make our own realities—The ability to tell them all what to expect, maybe even what to think and what is now acceptable—A whole school of artists who are silent—turn a blind eye to the t.v. news—flick on MTV—watch sitcoms, missing jokes, laughing anyway—follow the laugh track—Sound familiar?—Sound like you—sit at home—go to party—drink a little—drink too much—forgot home work—watched too much t.v.—I came expecting to be blown away, was it shock when i was let down.—Do you agree that we, or most of us have no true ideals, or thoughts— or when we do are scared or just don't do a damn thing about it—do you feel let down too?—the way that i do?short attention span? yes— do you think of these things—surface adornment is the meaning of art, composition is the meaning of art, color, line, negative space. There is no meaning in art. Have you accepted this tradition all ready? we are too young to have no ideals—Is it just me?— does my voice cry alone, in vain?—alone—in vain—is it just that i don't belong here? Am i not meant to be here? Is it just that



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here?—Am i not a part. Is it just that
my needs aren't filled in daily life so
i find other means?—Are your needs
filled in daily life? Am i the only
one? What are your ideals? is
everything just fine with you? i
realise that the chances of people
actually reading through this are
slim to none. after all we have a
short attention span. no one really
has the time or energy anyway ...



art by isaac.

STATEMENT:

We the undersigned authorize our names to be printed in the Providence Journal, along with the following **PETITION** regarding the proposed eviction of the Safari Lounge:

The Safari Lounge, which has been in business for 12 years, is being threatened with eviction. The Safari's landlord, Stanley Weiss, wants the Safari off his property by the end of the month, although the Safari's lease is good until at least the end of the year 2000. The whole story can be found in the Providence Journal, Jan. 7, 2000 (piece by Bob Kerr) and the Providence Phoenix, January 14, 2000 p. 5 (by David Hirshman). Please send email to safari@as220.org to receive information about the effort to save the Safari.

If the city of Providence allows the Safari to be forced out of operation with less than a month's notice, then the city is blind to its own best interest. The Safari Lounge is a business which is trying to change with the times and is doing it successfully. It began as a blue-collar bar, and without losing or expelling its old clientele, it developed a symbiotic relationship with a new clientele of artists, primarily musicians who are learning and experimenting with new styles which are not yet in demand at more commercial venues.

Safari provides a non-competitive space where local musicians and performing artists can play to a friendly audience, primarily consisting of other artists. Bert Crenca described the Safari as an 'incubator' for emerging talents. Since other venues in downtown Providence cater primarily to national and international acts, the city needs the Safari to keep its music scene alive. The fact that local artists can find a venue like the Safari makes Providence more attractive to artists from other parts of the country who might want to move here.

In short, the Safari is a rare and almost miraculous embodiment of the publicly-stated goals of the so-called "Renaissance" of downtown Providence. We can't help but see the fate of the Safari as a test of those goals. Is the Renaissance really giving an opportunity to artists, and more importantly, to local businesses? Or is it wiping away businesses that grew up independently in Providence, to replace them with a planned economy that many not even be viable?

We are not opposed to the economic revitalization of downtown Providence, as long as it really is a revitalization, and not just a replacement of one dead economy with another. A hasty redevelopment which goes for cash at the expense of culture, is sure to end in failure. If the

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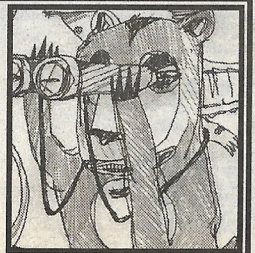
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We are not opposed to the economic revitalization of downtown Providence, as long as it really is a revitalization, and not just a replacement of one dead economy with another. A hasty redevelopment which goes for cash at the expense of culture, is sure to end in failure. If the Renaissance of downtown Providence is going to work, it has to reward and incorporate local businesses like the Safari Lounge which provide a home for young artists. If young artists don't have this sort of space to develop and express themselves, they will leave **PROVIDENCE.**

People are supposed to come to Rhode Island and spend money on art. But whose art will they be buying if the Renaissance entails pushing out businesses that foster and support artists?

SIGN HERE AND RETURN TO mixed media box e8:

X _____
PAU (Providence Artists United)



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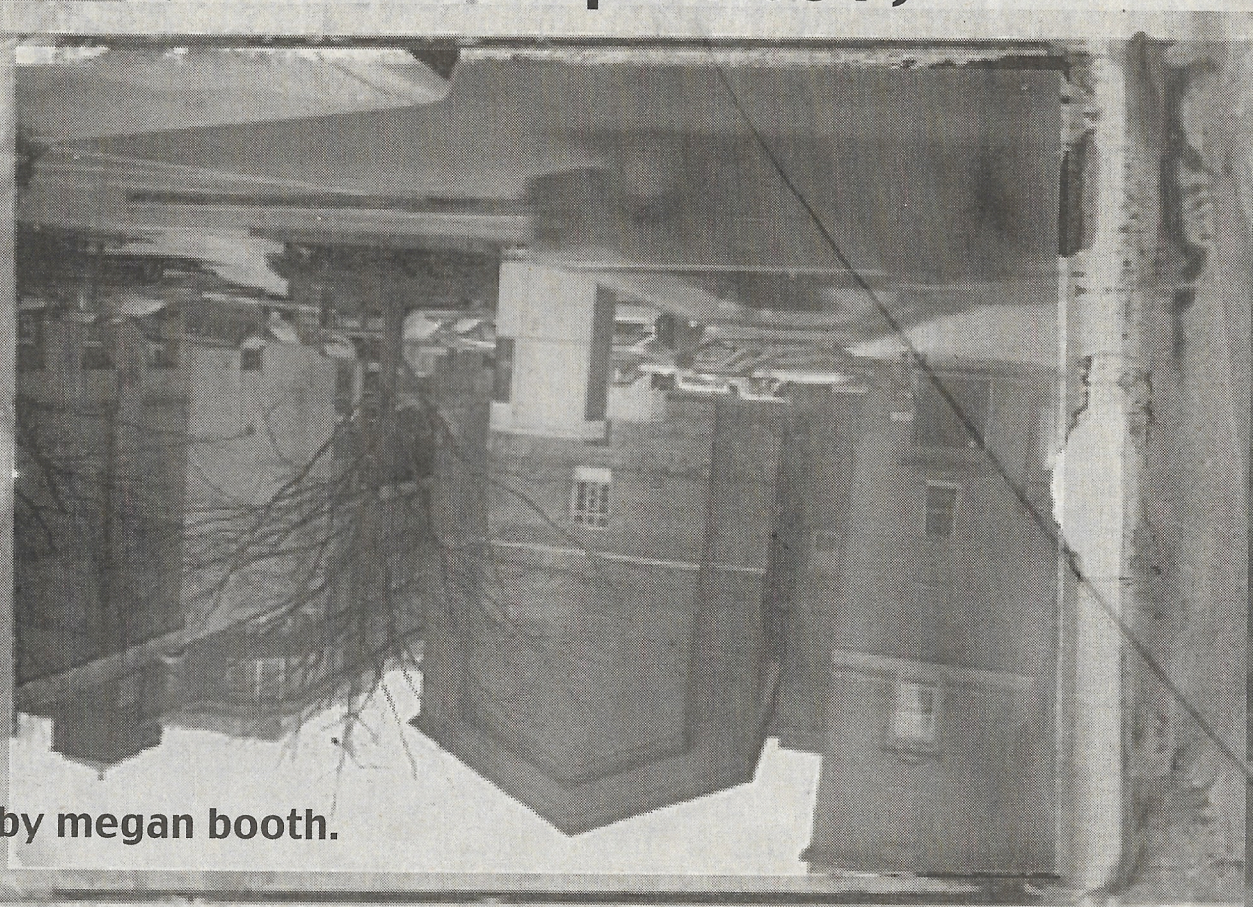
central

BLOCK
is coming...

(in four parts.)

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(in four parts.)



by megan booth.



What is the central block? It's currently the parking lot between the Metcalf and Bank buildings (across the street from the RISD store). People have been proposing various projects for development of the lot since the seventies, but none of them have ever come to fruition. Until now. At the beginning of Wintersession, Fran Gast, the associate Vice President of campus services got in touch with Blair De St. Croix, the director of the office of student life. He told a bunch of students about a central block meeting. It turned out that the school was interested in students' need concerning **a new building**, and was making an effort to get our input.



Wow. Before I knew it, a bunch of students and I were sitting with Fran and Andy Klemmer, a project coordinator that the school had hired. Basically we met to discuss what students needed in terms of a 'student center.' No restrictions have yet been placed on our ideas, and Andy took them all into account. His job is to take all of our ideas, figure out what's reasonable and what's not and to get the project in motion. It is now definite that sometime in the near future, there will be a building in the Metcalf parking lot that will function as a student center, and also as an information hub for members of the public visiting RISD.



What precisely this building will be is yet to be determined. There have been many, many good ideas from students. Food is a big priority; there will most likely be one if not two eating facilities for students and museum or RISD visitors. There will also most likely be a gallery space for everyone to utilize. We've gone so far as to suggest that a field on the roof for sports and large events would be handy too. Andy Klemmer's company is very media-oriented, and there have been multiple proposals involving the use of video and interactive information stations to make the new building a



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What we do know about the building is that the museum and possibly the library will definitely be using part of it, and will be connected to the building. Memorial Hall will also be renovated, and the mailroom may have to move. Students and staff alike have voiced the desire to have one building that will embody RISD, and hopefully, the central block will provide that space. Students interested in the project are encouraged to attend meetings. **Contact Fran Gast for more information.** The best way to do so is to drop her a note through inter-school mail. She works at Campus Services. Her phone number is 454-6421, but if she gets swamped with calls, she's going to come looking for me, so I suggest you write a note.