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"Passion is in all great
searches and is necessary
to all creative endeavors."

-W. Eugene Smith

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EDITORIAL

PHOTOGRAPHY

I am a photographer because, out of anything else, these shoes fit the best. I would never trade my experiences with a camera for anything. I have traveled to Brazil and Mexico. I have photographed on the frontlines of presidential campaigns and met people I never would have without a camera in hand.

Now, I could give you the “camera is a window on the world” speech, or expound on how every frame a photographer takes brings us closer to social change, but I fear you have already heard it all. The power of photography is undeniable, and I have no need to repeat what everyone else has already said.

All I have to say is that photography has affected me. That is enough.

While it is easy to become frustrated with the issues that appear on a daily basis in the news, I do find comfort in some of the cliché statements about photography. I have had reassuring moments while photographing people who have dealt with struggles I can only imagine facing. Their words, and their faces in my photographs, give me hope.

I am moved by other’s photographs when they show me these same moments, moments captured by the variety of photographers on the *Reporter* staff this year. We have been able to cover some of the biggest events and challenges facing RIT.

I look back fondly at photos from Sports Desk’s MVP, Jacob Hannah, the imaginative Chris Felber, the curious eye of Young Jang, the creative and graphic Ralph Smith, and the driven Dave Londres. I will never forget some of the poignant and revealing portraits from Dave Wright. They all have made this year a high point in the photography at *Reporter*.

Carrying on the tradition of good photography, we have a great collection of photo essays from our staff—and a notable freelancer—in this special issue.



TOM STARKWEATHER

Photo Editor

For more photographs from the photographers featured in this issue:

CHRIS FELBER www.rit.edu/~cdf7640/361

YOUNG JANG www.anaphorism.com

MARVIN ORELLANA www.rit.edu/~mro8906/361

TOM STARKWEATHER www.tomstarkweather.com

DAVE WRIGHT www.dwph.com

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Cover photo illustration by Chris Felber.

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00

1190FD

photo essay by
Marvin Orellana

VERY FEW PEOPLE WOULD BE ABLE TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY located on 1190 Scottsville Rd. Fairly new to the Rochesterian landscape, construction started in September 1999. Full completion ended in 2001. The front is a congenial glass façade that covers the interior of a massive training camp for the Police and Fire Academy in Rochester.

For those who take the hike or run along the Genesee River, the view is that of an alien concrete landscape of fallen airplanes, isolated pumps, and other strange props. Once inside though, you realize that the purpose is one served with reason—Public Safety.

On September 12, 2005, the facility resumed their Fall Recruit Training Program for Firefighters. 20 men made their way into the building to start the 16-week program that would help prepare them in their future careers in the fire force. Side by side with their instructors, for the next 16 weeks they would learn the basics and essentials, from fighting the fire to defying gravity.

For the job, all that was required was a strong will and desire. Yet, for most of them, their acceptance into the academy had been one of the hardest, but most important, steps in launching their careers as Professional Firefighters. The process was one that sometimes took years, but, in the end, became a very rewarding one. From September to December, the team would end with 19, but it would be the final 19 that would hold together and help each other in making it work. They became a symbol of brotherhood—a measure of respect, strength, and collaboration.

On their graduation on December 15, 2005, it was evident that the men that once entered that building were ready to face the challenges of a dangerous and unpredictable career. Their responsibility was one that for generations before them, had been carried with honor and heroism. Now it was their turn to protect the rest of humanity with the best of humanity.



01

00 // Recruit Douglas Barber holds on to a ladder as he waits for one of his partners to come down from a second floor vacant on Brown Street. The fire department, you eventually notice, is especially efficient for their amazing team effort. As one of the captains repeatedly said to them throughout their training, "Everyone must be accounted for...No ones must be left behind." Their lives are dependent on each other, as much as the lives inside burning buildings are dependent on them. 01 // Recruit Craig Stull stares with concern as his partner, Recruit Michael Sudz makes his way down an engine ladder from a four-story building. Their effort to prove to anyone that they can do anything at any cost is an unmistakable trait of firemen. That day I remember asking Recruit Stull if he was afraid of heights at all, all he said was "I guess not today!" All of them know that if that was someone in need of help, the last thing they would need to fear would be fear itself. They are determined at any cost to make it to the end.



02



03



04



05

02 // Part of the training requires the recruits to run evolutions—repeated exercises that test their agility to breathe and maintain efficiency. Recruit Joseph Backer makes his way through one of the windows on the fourth floor of a training building. On average, their oxygen tanks allow them a breathing time of about 20 minutes. Recruit Backer lasted about 30 minutes, an astounding record time. **03 //** While their main purpose is to save the life of others, firefighters must learn to care and look after themselves in every possible way—after all, it's others lives they depend on. Annually, national statistics show a number of deaths in the line of duty as consequence of being trapped in a burning building or exhaustion. Fire fighters must learn to find ways to escape when they know they can no longer keep going. Recruit Thomas Eichas makes his way out of a window and into a ladder using a self-rescue technique—head first out the window, turn around onto the ladder, and then slide down to safety.

04 // A recruit makes his way up a burning building located on Rush Henrietta, another training ground designed to give the recruits a closer, more realistic approach to an actual fire scenario. **05 //** Two days out of the entire program are spent under the night sky, a scenario much more different than one during the day. Recruit Martin Finewood makes a run to put out a transformer prop fire. While the temperature that night went well below the freezing point, the fire from the transformer sent a swarming heat wave that made the night feel like a summer day. **06 //** No Caption. **07 //** No Caption. **08 //** The 2005 Recruits: Front: Howard Villegas. Second Row: Kevin Rauber, James Church, Thomas Benedetto, Richard Seaman, Joseph Backer, Martin Finewood. Third Row: Thomas Eichas, David Sidorenko, Aaron Smith. Fourth Row: Brian Speranza-McCrossen, Craig Stull. Last Row: Brent Wasson, Tramell Parson, Douglas Barber, and Joseph Backer. (missing recruits: Jason Ashton and David Sleight).



06



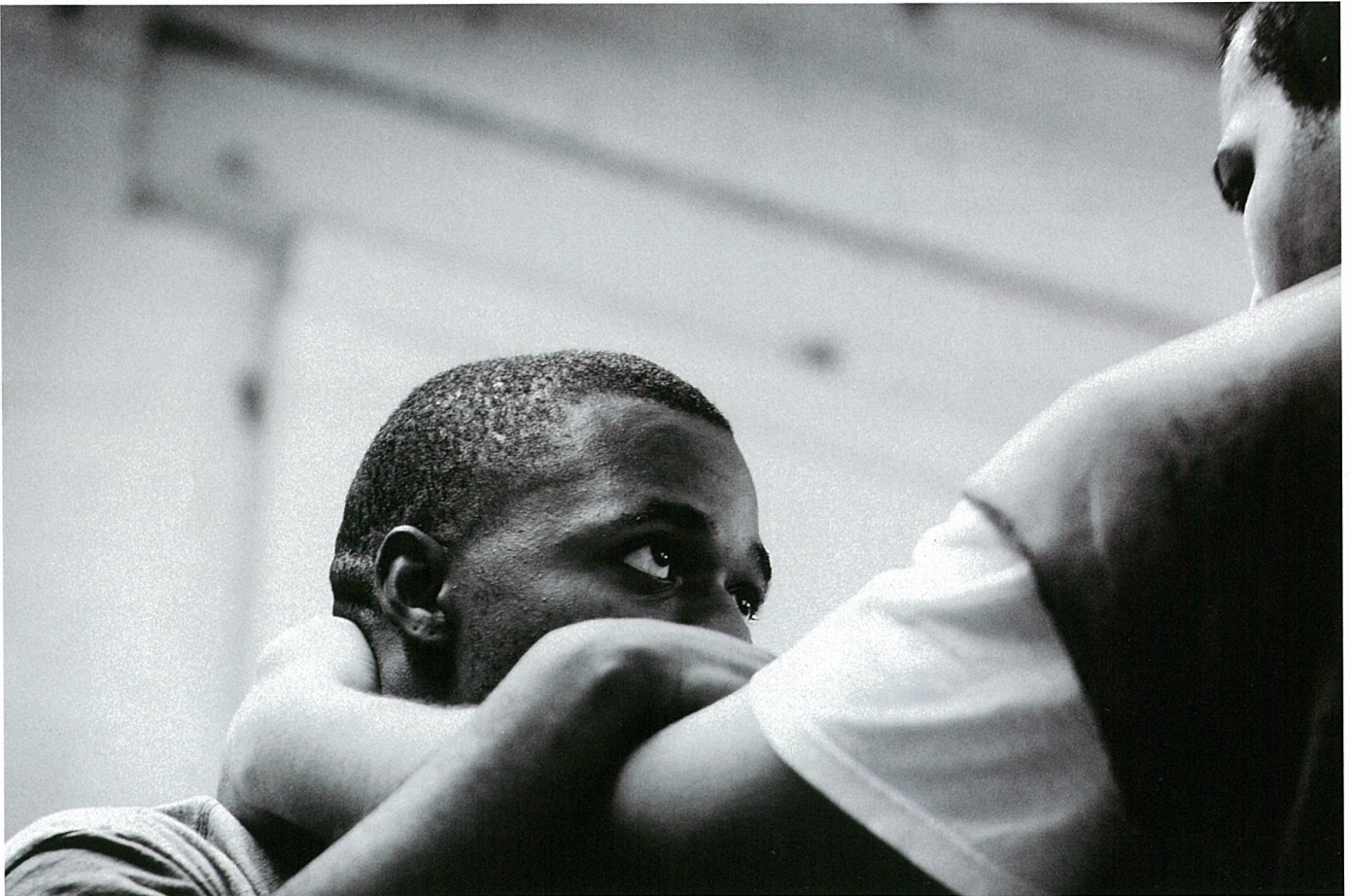
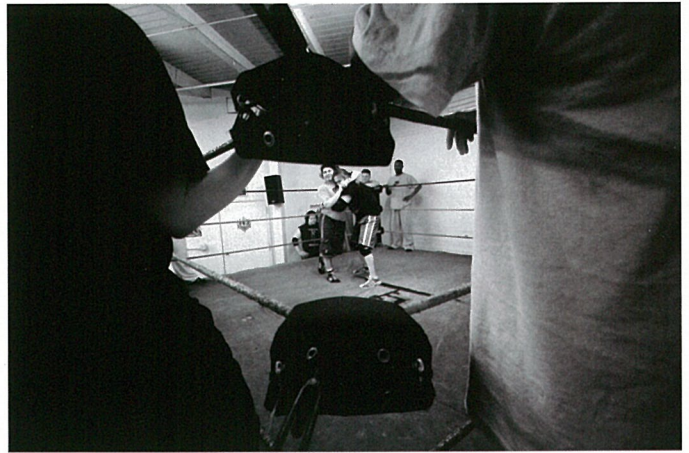
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OFF THE Ropes

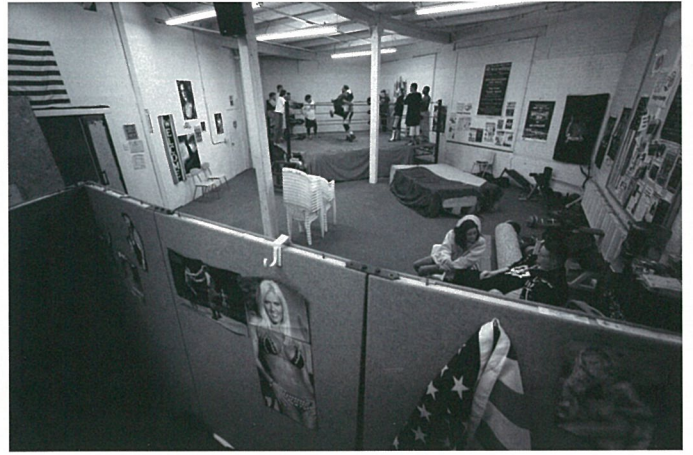
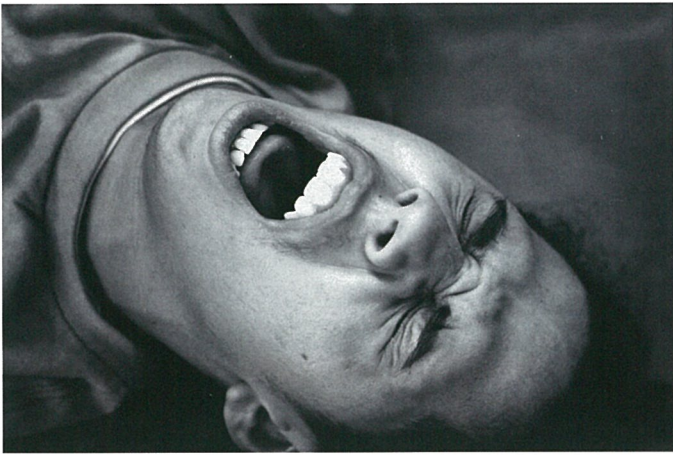
photo essay by
David Wright

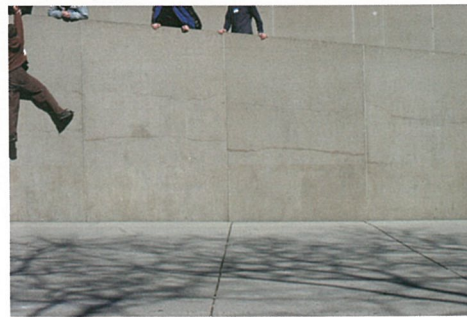


UPON FIRST SEEING THE DILAPIDATED BUILDING AT THE END OF Boxster Street, one would never know that Mike “Hell Cat” Rosario, owner and instructor of NWA Upstate, runs a training school for want-to-be wrestlers. Mike opens his wrestling arena four nights a week to anyone expressing the three essential traits needed to become a successful wrestler: dedication, determination, and the ability to act in and out of the ring.

Through numerous training sessions, Mike teaches trainees the “ropes” of wrestling: everything from ring psychology, to speed and agility, to charisma and character.

Once Mike feels that a trainee has achieved these traits, he or she has the chance to receive a spot on a live NWA Upstate show in front of hundreds of enthusiastic, anxious fans. For more information, please visit <http://www.kayfabeldojo.com/> •





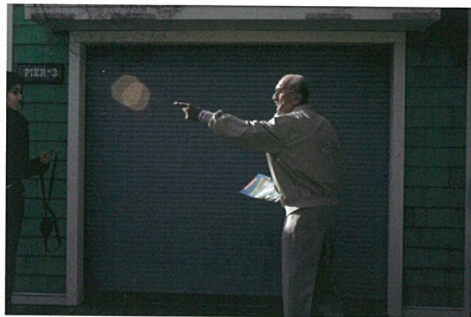
On Their Way

I WANT TO CAPTURE EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS
WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF ONE SPACE: MOMENTS,
ODDITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS.

Tom Starkweather

NIAGARA FALLS, CANADA • *Row One* // OAXACA, MEXICO • *Row Two*

OAXACA, MEXICO • *Row Three* // TORONTO, CANADA • *Row Four* // TORONTO, CANADA • *Row Five*





Jersey Shore

photo essay by
Chris Felber





STARE, PRY, LISTEN, EAVESDROP. DIE KNOWING SOMETHING. YOU ARE NOT HERE LONG.

Walker Evans



01

01 // Mike gets ready for the race at the Silversprings motocross track in Silversprings, NY on September 25, 2005. 02 // Mike takes off carefully from the start line. Muddy track is hard to race on, he said.



02

MAD MIKE

PHOTO ESSAY BY YOUNG JANG

MAD MIKE, NUMBER 48, IS MIKE MATTISON'S ALIAS.

Mike, six years of age, is a motocross aficionado.

He rides a 51cc Yamaha, and is far more serious in character and hotter in temper than Ryan, his brother, three years his senior. However, they both enjoy racing on any dirt track, whether for competition or solely for fun. Although being "little league" racers, the Mattison brothers take motorcycling quite seriously. Mike follows any advice given to him regarding racing; it matters not if these technical

suggestions come from coaches, parents, or senior motorcyclists that often mentor his racing. If a jump, fall, or injury is an issue, he knows how to handle himself. During a race, he has the support of the entire family, including their grandparents. "Go get 'em Mike, Keep going, you can catch 'em," are commonly heard commands when either of the boys are racing. Although young, Mad Mike is prepared to make racing a sport he will someday champion, and perhaps bring fame to his name. •



03



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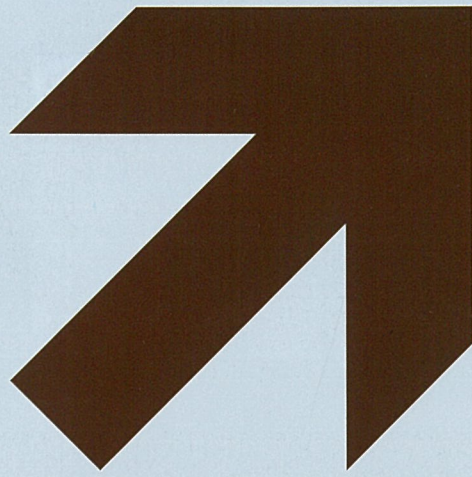


07



08

03 // "I can't do it Dad, I can't, It's too muddy." Mike quits and cries in the middle of racing. The track was wet from rain and a number of kids slid.
 04 // "Go get 'em Mike, Go!" Mike's mom cheers him up on the side of the track in Batavia, NY. Mike finished the race third out of fifteen kids.
 05 // Mike, in the middle, races at Area51 motorcross track in Batavia, NY on October 16, 2005. Kids often practice on a grass track before racing on a mud track. 06 // After the race on a mud track, Mike (right) and his friend play around. 07 // Mike jumps with his 51cc Yamaha bike on a dirt track in Batavia, NY.
 08 // Mike is awarded a prize for his numerous races. Mom takes a picture of her son's excellence.



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—Joyce A. Myers

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