

INSIDE LOOK

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He's that big orange fur ball that we all can't help but love, but how did Otto become what we know him as today? We checked out the history behind our favorite mascot.

BY TIFFANY R. LABELLA

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Want to make your Thanksgiving meal stand out above all the others going on this November? Here are some of the best places in Syracuse to buy unique foods to fully make your feast the best ever.

BY ERIN CURRAN

Live / Page 8

Late-night snacks are an integral component in the college student's food group. But the amount of calories you're consuming could shock you. Take a look at our chart before you order that pizza at 2 a.m.

BY KATE FAGUT

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College students live a paradoxical existence when it comes to fashion: We really want to look good, but we can't afford to buy anything. Luckily, Syracuse is home to a wide array of fantastic thrift stores.

BY TINE PETROZZO

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They stalk the night, searching for their next target to sustain them. These animals are known as "freshman-predators," older boys who go after the first-year girls. They are sly, they are without morals and they are the subject of this week's section.

BY CELINA R. TOUSIGNANT

**MIDDLE SCHOOL MOJO**
SEVENTH GRADE DATING TIPS

So the school year is three months old and we're sure that your girlfriend is probably starting to realize that you're not exactly a dynamo when it comes to planning dates.

Because really, how many times can you go to a frat party, get drunk and then go to Jimmy John's? (Answer, if boy: 1,000-10,000 times. Answer, if girl: two and a half.) You need to woo her, surprise her, prove to her that dumping her two-year boyfriend for you was the right move.

But even though you're in college, you don't have to act mature all the time (and we're willing to bet that you don't). So we're here with an idea that will turn back the clock: a date, seventh-grade style.

Idea: Go to a movie. Now, you may be saying, "Hey, wait a second! Going to a movie is not a seventh-grade date. It's totally acceptable!" Right you are, Romeo, but we doubt you still do it like you used to. Instead of just going to see that 11 p.m. showing after downing a couple of shots, do it old school.

Here are the rules.

First, ask your Dad for money. You're taking a lady out, he'll understand. Second, arrange for someone to drive you. Could you drive a car in middle school? No, so you're sitting in the backseat. Next, no R-rated movies ... PG-13 and lower only. (Bonus points if you can find something with Freddie Prinze Jr. in it.)

Now listen carefully because we're only going to say this once. When you first sit down, keep your hands to yourself. Then, at exactly the 55-minute mark of the movie, put your hand on the armrest next to her. Just let her soak it in, don't be too forward. Ten minutes later, grab her hand. You're in, baby! You may be thinking that this is moving a bit too slow, but remember, you have to step in the batter's box before you can get to first base, Babe Ruth.

End the night by dropping her off and telling her that you love her. Then, run all the way back home and tell your friends about what it's like to interlock fingers with a real woman. Trust us, they will be very impressed.

Bonus Move: Put her name in your AIM profile along with the date of the night you went out. Make sure to note that you heart her. Then, break up with her a week later and dance with someone else to "I'll Make Love to You."

It might not be what you're used to, but the freedom of your college lifestyle is overrated anyway, right?

Either way, it'll be a small departure from frat parties and drunkenness. And you can go back to Jimmy John's next weekend. Just because you do something a lot doesn't mean it's not awesome.

—Mark Zito / Photo Illustration by Katie Schuering

STRANGER STRANGER BY JAMIE GROENEVELD