



# The Anchor

AN  
INDEPENDENT  
STUDENT  
VOICE

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Summer Issue



## RIC Awards 680 Degrees

Stepping off to the strains of Fanfare 125, a composition written especially for the college's 125th anniversary by Professor George Mack and The Crowning Glory by Alfred Reen, the Rhode Island College faculty led by Richard O. Duguay, alumni marshal, crossed the RIC campus in a formal academic procession beginning the 124th undergraduate commencement ceremonies for the 680 undergraduates received degrees on May 26 at 10:00 a.m. The rites took place on the esplanade in front of Walsh Gymnasium.

Bachelor of science, bachelor of arts and bachelor of general studies degrees were awarded to the undergraduates at the ceremonies by Dr. David E. Sweet, RIC president. The invocation was delivered by Reverend Joseph D. Creedon, Catholic Chaplain at RIC. In addition, 215 students who completed degree requirements in August 1978 and January 1979 will participate.

A separate commencement for 231 advanced degree recipients was held on Friday evening, May 25 at 6:00 p.m. This also took place on the esplanade in front of Walsh Gymnasium.

Principal speaker for the undergraduate exercises was Cathy Guisewite, creator of the "new wave" comic strip CATHY. Guisewite received the honorary degree of doctor of humane letters.

Five other honorary degrees were awarded at the undergraduate commencement. Ernest C. Allison, professor emeritus of English at RIC, received the doctor of humane letters. Dorothy Whipple Burgess, publisher of Observer

Publications, civic leader, preservationist and environmentalist, was awarded the doctor of public service degree, as did Michael S. VanLeesten, executive director of Opportunities Industrialization Center of Rhode Island, a civic and civil rights leader. Charles B. Willard, fifth president of RIC, was awarded the doctor of humane letters award.

Julian Jaynes, author of *The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind*, a nominee for the National Book Award in 1978, was the speaker for the graduate commencement exercises on Friday, May 25. He was awarded the honorary doctor of humane letters. Also, at the graduate commencement, Ralph E. Miller, Jr., chairman of the Department of Industrial Arts at East Providence High School, was awarded the honorary doctor of pedagogy degree.

In addition to Guisewite, other speakers at the undergraduate exercises were Governor J. Joseph Garrahy, Albert E. Carlotti, chairman of the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Education, president Sweet and Ralph A. Detri of 93 Fiume Street, Pawtucket, president of the class of 1979.

At the graduate division rites, the Reverend Glendon E. Heath, protestant chaplain at RIC, delivered the invocation. Speakers in addition to Jaynes were Lt. Governor Thomas R. DiLuglio, president Sweet, Mr. Carlotti and Robert Kirk of 114 Eleventh Street, Providence speaking for the graduate students. Music for the ceremonies was provided by the Rhode Island College Symphonic Band under the direction of Dr. Francis M. Marciniak, associate professor of Music.

## Campus Drinking Problem

A recent NIAAA bulletin printed a report on a survey of New England college students drinking patterns and resulting negative consequences.

The survey of over 7,000 students showed that among the men who drank, alcohol had caused about 20 percent to become involved in a fight, about 10 percent to have an auto accident, 10 percent to be involved in an injury producing accident of a different type, and about 25 percent to get into trouble with the authority.

Women were reporting such difficulties less than 1/4 as frequently as men.

For the "problem drinker" the rate of negative consequences of drinking were two-five times greater for males and nearly eight percent for females. "Problem drinkers" were defined in the study as those who stated that they got drunk at least one a week. About eight percent of the men in the sample and two percent of the women reported getting drunk at least once a week.

Drinking patterns appeared to be established before college. For the most part, those who drank frequently in high school and those who abstained also did so in college.

A strong correlation was found between drinking and illicit use of drugs. About 20-30 percent of the male "problem drinkers" reported illicit use of amphetamines, depressants, cocaine, and/or hallucinogens, compared to 13 percent or less of the other male drinkers. Abstainers from alcohol also abstained from "illicit" drug use.

The growing amount of research being done in the area of alcohol consumption is staggering. Scientists are looking into the effect of alcohol on intellectual function and are finding out that organic brain damage may occur in relatively early stages of alcohol dependency.

Sex therapists are just starting to look at the effect of alcohol on relationships, sex drives and the problems of sexual response in male and females.

Studies done on college students in the 40's and 50's showed that most students matured out of alcohol problems when surveyed again 25 years later. However, the researchers cautioned about generalizing to today's populations. The 70's college student started his drinking at a much younger age and alcohol consumption across all populations has risen considerably in the past 15 years. Rhode Island has the second highest rate of alcoholism in the nation. There is no reason to doubt that the Rhode Island College community does not reflect the state problem. Many of the "good time" parties during our college career started in high school and will stay with us throughout our adult life. If you are abusing alcohol regularly or in trouble because of alcohol now, there is increasing evidence that you may continue in this pattern of behavior later. Perhaps it is time for all of us to reassess our priorities and look at a problem that could be having a devastating effect on the college's productivity.

## Tuition Increase Hits Hard on Out-of-Staters

by Jill Spiegler  
Staff Writer

The Board of Regents voted 4-3 June 19 to pass the seven per cent tuition increase instead of the original nine per cent increase recommended by President Sweet. In-state tuition is going from \$358.75 to \$384.75 (including insurance), and out-of-state tuition is going from \$885.25 to \$1036.85 (including insurance). Needless to say out-of-towners are getting hit the hardest. The out-of-state tuition increased by \$151.60 as compared to the in-state increase of \$26.00. But that's not bad enough. Last September, gas prices were approximately 62.5 cents per

gallon. This September, service station owners are predicting gasoline to cost at least \$1.00 per gallon (regular).

There's good news, though. If you recall, President Sweet originally requested a 12 per cent tuition increase; however, he received bad feedback, he eventually proposed a nine per cent tuition hike. Our luck doesn't end here. In fear of students choosing other colleges because of the tuition hike, the Regents advocated a seven instead of a nine per cent increase on tuition. With the lower increase, RIC in-state students save \$49.00, and out-of-state students save \$288.

If all that doesn't cheer you up, this might. Even though the cost of living is going up, tuition increases aren't. At this time last year, RIC tuition was hiked 7.5 per cent as opposed to this year's seven per cent, so cheer-up RIC, things may get even better.

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## Encounter '79

by Donna Barishian  
Anchor Staff Writer

This year's theme for Encounter '79 is "involvement" according to Dolores Passarelli, Director of New Student Programs. This Encounter will inform incoming freshmen on the activities of Rhode Island College and how to become part of them. The ten sponsors will have more responsibility this year by making the new students comfortable with the college. Encounter '79 will also consist of set workshops that would help incoming freshmen about college life.

To encourage active participation among new students, there will be a follow up on the

Encounter program with a student activities fair on the first Wednesday of school from 2-4 in the mall area. At the rally each booth will have representatives from their activity.

The agenda for the Encounter '79 program: refreshments, a talk by the President of Rhode Island College, Dr. David Sweet, the Vice-Presidents of the college will answer questions and by 12 noon, a tour of the campus will be conducted if desired. Entertainment by R.I.C.'s own Cabaret Theatre will be followed by pizza and soda back at the dorms.

Each of the seven cycles will have a total of 130 freshmen who will be rooming in Thorp Hall.



# Editorial Page

## "The Quest for Excellence"

Two years ago at this time, the college was full of expectation after hearing the bold battle cry of newly selected president David Sweet. Dr. Sweet had proclaimed with all the intensity of a visionary, that Rhode Island College was entering a new era — an era of excellence.

Now that a year has passed to reflect on this idealistic statement, many students are still looking for this era of excellence to descend upon the college. For all Sweet's rhetoric, very little seems to be happening to the college that could be termed a major improvement.

Contrary to the ivory towered idealism of Sweet's opening remarks, the past academic year was spotted with scandal (the lumber scandal, poisoning of campus dogs, the termination of Annd Ward, and the exclusion of student representatives from a committee established to design future curriculum).

Perhaps, in all fairness, two years is too soon to begin to judge the effectiveness of a leader like Dr. Sweet. It is obvious that Sweet cannot be held accountable for the actions of everyone on this campus and what scandalous acts they may commit. As a college president, Sweet's power is largely that of persuasion. How well he can inspire and speak with the college population will have a very real effect on how well he can lead.

So therein lies Sweet's greatest challenge. Sweet tends to rely too heavily on a small group of associates for advice and interaction. Therefore, when he speaks to students it gives the impression, at least, that he is speaking at them instead of with them. While being a recluse may be fine for monks and the filthy rich, it can only be a detriment for a college president to isolate or insulate himself.

There is growing suspicion and worry among the student population that Sweet is trying to "manipulate" students, to burden them with such an excessive amount of course work (through the proposed curriculum change) that they will have little time to worry about the political and non-academic goings on about campus. Such an impression among the student body, even if it is wholly false, proves devious and does not lend to the atmosphere of trust and good will which would be so necessary to pave the way for an era of excellence.

It will be interesting to watch the next year and see if more comes of the quest for excellence than mere tokenism and "going through the motions." Will Sweet again pick up the battle cry for an era of excellence and really follow through? Or will he cast the thought aside like the bright red covering that conceals a rotten apple?

In the meantime, students should not wait for an era of excellence to descend on them from the heavens. But rather do all they can to find and work for excellence in themselves.



## The Anchor

founded 1928

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### PHOTO EDITOR

Bruce Sumner

Staff Writers: Jill Spiegler, Peter Bottella, Bob Jackson, Barbara Slonina, Donna Barishian, Jim O'Donnell, Dave Jeffrey.

Staff Artists: Diane Galley, Cheron Casper, Ken Gober, Al Gomes, Andreana Canario.

Staff Photographers: George Gray, Joanne Neary

The Anchor is located on the third floor of the Student Union. Our mailing address is:

THE ANCHOR  
Rhode Island College  
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908  
Telephone, 456-8257

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All editorial decisions for The Anchor are made entirely by its student editorial board. No form of censorship will be imposed. However, material found unacceptable or unsuitable in their opinion will not be published. All unsolicited material, including Letters to the Editor, must include the name and address of the author. Names may be withheld upon request. Views appearing in The Anchor do not necessarily reflect those of the administration, faculty or staff of the college. Unsigned editorials reflect the views of The Anchor editorial board.

The Anchor is composed weekly during the school year. It is printed by photo-offset by Ware River News, 4 Church St., Ware, Mass.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor:

I noted that the last issue of the Anchor carried a change in a previous story on the new curriculum and the History Department's role in it. The Anchor's retraction was vigorous, accurate, and even better written

than the article to which it responded. I am pleased for the Anchor and for the constituency which it serves at this evidence of responsible journalism.

Norman W. Smith  
Professor of History  
and Chairman

## Writers Wanted

The Anchor offers RIC students the opportunity to work on a weekly newspaper, develop or improve writing skills and become involved in the second largest student activity on campus.

If you're interested in writing news, features, reviews, drawing, taking photographs or newspaper production, apply at The Anchor office, third floor, Student Union.



# This Learning World

by Richard Meisler

The function of grades is revealed by using a little imagination. Imagine that the grading system was abolished today. If you are a teacher, are you sure the students would come to class, laugh at your jokes and treat you with respect? If you are a student, would you do what your teachers want?

Recently talked about education with a group of college students. They felt that the pressures of term papers and examinations left them no time to really absorb their subjects or even to think about them. There was one exception. He was a young Vietnam veteran who had been badly injured in combat. He received a government disability pension. He lived frugally, and his pension met his foreseeable financial needs.

The veteran handled college very differently from the other students. He concentrated on the classes from which he learned and didn't worry about the others. He got low grades, but he didn't let them bother him. He went to school to learn, not to receive good grades.

The other students in the group wished that they could follow his example. None of them dared. They feared that low grades might damage their future employment possibilities. I have never seen a better illustration of the nature of grading, which has to do more with money and power, than with learning.

The grading system gives power to teachers over students. The main function of grades is to punish students for not doing what their teachers want them to do. Students and parents are terrorized by the way a teacher can harm a student's future prospects.

Grades teach people to rely on the judgements of others about their learning. Students do not learn to evaluate their own learning, a skill they will need in almost anything they do. Students are taught by the grading system to obey instead of learning to learn. Years later they find that they don't know where to begin the process of learning something new unless there is a teacher to tell them.

Teachers believe that grades are necessary to help students learn.

Grades tell students how well or poorly they are doing. If this is their function, why do they have to be recorded on permanent records where they can cause so much damage? Most students, however, will tell you that their grades really don't reflect their learning. Students receive good grades when they give teachers what they want, which means they usually learn less.

Learning needs to be evaluated in many settings and for many purposes. Graduate and professional schools need to assess a student's previous learning. Employers and licensing agencies need to do the same. Let them do it. It is not necessary that the lower-level schools and the teachers do it for them. Let somebody else do the judging. For when teachers judge instead of teach, a wedge of power is driven between the teacher and the student. They are no longer on the same side. That gap has been there for most of us for so long we don't even notice it. The pursuit of learning has been replaced by the pursuit of grades. The solution is simply to end grades.

(Dr. Richard Meisler has a Ph.D. from Columbia University. He was an assistant professor of philosophy and special assistant to the president of Antioch Ohio College, from 1963 to 1969. He also held several academic administration positions at the State University of New York at Buffalo from 1969 to 1977).

# Rat Poison Out Again

by David Ennis  
Anchor News Editor

Starting July 2nd, Rhode Island College will once again place rat poison on the grounds of the campus. In recent years it has become an annual event for the college to hire an exterminator to rid the college of its abundant supply of rodents. It wasn't until last December that there was any problem with this application, then four dogs that frequent the campus grounds suddenly died. It was later discovered that these dogs contracted the rat poison either from the infected rats or the holes where the poison was placed. Unlike last time when the public was not informed ahead of time

about the poison, Alan Perry, Physical Plant Director will "obviously take every damn precaution on campus" to ensure the safety of domestic animals and house pets. The public has been warned and should not allow their pets to run freely on the campus grounds.

The rats which have always plagued the outside of the Donovan Dining Center, Gaige Hall, Dormitory area and Fruit Hill Avenue property have been missing for six to eight months since the college last used the poison. "That's a new record," according to Perry. Now that they are back, Perry feels that this 1080 poison "is the best thing for us to use."

## Grading System Change by '80-'81

President Sweet approved a new Rhode Island College grading system on June 20th this year which enables a teacher to give a student a grade of minus or plus. The new system which will take the place of the current one will start in the 1980-81 academic year. It will also institute a new grade of X to be entered for students who stop attending class before the two-week add period or for those who

appear on class roles through a registration error and who do not formally withdraw and for whom the instructor has no basis for evaluation. Another addition will be when a student retakes a course in which he or she has received a grade of F, the original grade of F and the second grade will be averaged into the student's cumulative grade index.

## H.E.W. Review At RIC

by David Ennis  
Anchor News Editor

It was reported a few months ago that Rhode Island College has been selected for a comprehensive compliance review by the Office of Civil Rights of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare Region I in Boston (H.E.W.). A team of four staff members will meet with advisors, staff and students during the week of July 16th. The emphasis of the review will be on quality of life issues, student housing, admission procedures, and special programs such as social welfare, graduate admission and women students.

Dr. William Lopes, assistant to the RIC President and coordinator of the H.E.W. investigation, states that the review is "not being conducted in reaction to any complaints." He said, "that is part of a normal on-going HEW activity." Dr. Lopes said that the review team will have times for "drop-ins" (students) who may have complaints, along with those who do have appointments. Lopes said to contact him if anyone wishes to make an appointment.

He added that the review team will also have time for "drop-ins" (students without applications) who may have complaints.

## Taft Seminar

Rhode Island College has been chosen as one of the thirty-eight sponsors nationwide to host the 1979 Taft Seminar For Teachers. The seminar will run from July 8th to the 20th, and will focus on "Political Dynamics: The State and Municipal Level." Thirty teachers, librarians and administrators will attend the seminars which are designed to broaden understanding and improve the teaching of the American system of government

and two-party politics by bringing together in a rigorous study course, elementary and secondary school teachers, and practicing politicians.

Director of the seminar will be Dr. Victor L. Profughi, professor of political science. Some of the officials who will be attending the seminar will be John B. Anderson, Congressman from Illinois, Mayor Cianci, Governor Garrahy, Dr. David Sweet and Edward Beard of the U. S. Congress.

## Summer Curriculum

Beginning July 9th the Rhode Island College Student Activities Office will sponsor Third Curriculum at R.I.C. This program is designed to provide enjoyment as well as opportunities for self-development which differs from the conventional academic college curriculum.

professional Astrological counselor will instruct you in Astrology.

Doug Gagnon will teach students the art of Body Building with an emphasis on diet, exercise and mental concentration.

Ms. Lynch, who has been an instructor for Third Curriculum since the program began in 1973 will instruct students in Yoga I and Yoga II.

Many other courses are being offered including Calligraphy, Racquetball, Music Theory, Television Awareness Training, Tennis and Time Management.

In-person registration is being held until Friday, July 6, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Student Union, Room 306.

Faculty members, qualified students and community members will instruct people who will take the courses for pleasure and enrichment, not because it is required, and students receive no credits.

If the summer student is interested in dancing there are courses in Ballroom, Line, Belly, Ballet and Disco dancing.

If you are a mystic and like to know the future, Jane LeBlanc a

## Poetry Selections

Played horseshoes

hung around at the park

down at Crissy's

cruised

partied

love was in the air

Just being friends

last summer

Manuel Amaral

Something in your words

Something you tried not to say  
But I read between the lines  
You didn't want me anyway

Maybe it wasn't meant to be  
A life of you and me  
In time I'll try to forget and try  
to find

My own peace of mind

Hope you find the happiness  
That you couldn't find with me  
Soar like an eagle; fly . . . . be  
free

Manuel Amaral

You're so young  
and loving me  
never seeing that  
It could never be

Giving me all the love in your  
heart  
trying to give it a start  
never seeing for a moment  
We're worlds apart

So don't set your heart so  
young  
Someday you'll find your  
someone  
Someone you'll love till eter-  
nity  
Who knows . . . . maybe me

Manuel Amaral



It ain't all traffic! Adrien Blanchette, a patrolman at Rhode Island College, enjoys a summer day. Photo by Peter Tobia.

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