

BEN MCCLELLAND

RIC Prof:

Ben McClelland edits book on writing

by Laurence J. Sasso, Jr.

Rhode Island College English Department's Ben McClelland is co-editor of a newly published book on research and scholarship in the area of composition.

Titled *Perspectives*, the book is put out by the Modern Language Association of America (MLA). It became available in mid-December 1985.

Perspectives is the third book McClelland has been involved in creating.

A member of the RIC faculty since 1973, he previously wrote a text book on writing for college freshmen entitled *Writing Practice, A Rhetoric of the Writing Process*,

and he co-edited *Eight Approaches to Teaching English*.

The current book was done with Timothy Donovan, an associate professor of English at Northeastern University.

McClelland, a full professor of English at RIC, has long been concerned with the process of writing and the development of strategies for teaching composition to new students.

He was founding director of the college's Writing Center and is a former chairman of the English Department.

"(*Perspectives* is) primarily a book for

graduate courses in the teaching of composition and also for use in professional development seminars for composition instructors including part-time teachers in many schools," McClelland explains.

The 266 page book contains a dozen essays by teachers and scholars from various sections of the country. One contributor is an eighth grade teacher. Another is a Lt. Col. in the U.S. Air Force who works on artificial-intelligence research.

The book came about during a 1982 national conference. McClelland met with

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What's

NEWS



Rhode
Island
College

Vol. 6, No. 19 February 10, 1986



ACADEMICALLY TALENTED students accepted to the freshman class at RIC for 1986 are (left) Kelly Laurie, of Bay View Academy, and (right) Alison Goldberg, of Cranston West. David Cooper, RIC Gold Key, greets them at reception Feb. 2, at the president's house for talented students and their parents.

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Harlem's Claudia Widdiss is 'making it'

by George LaTour



CLAUDIA WIDDISS

"Half the people I grew up with are dead...one way or another," says Claudia Widdiss, an older Rhode Island College bachelor of fine arts (BFA) student who grew up in New York City's Harlem in the turbulent '60s.

For a black girl growing up in a black ghetto in a period which saw the development of the drug culture, the "anti-establishment" movement by Hippies and other youth which culminated in protest marches and sporadic rioting, the above statement comes pretty close to being fact.

Many of those she grew up with HAVE died: physically or emotionally/spiritually.

(continued on page 6)

RIC Theatre Co. to stage:

'Hot I Baltimore'

Rhode Island College's theatre company will stage Lanford Wilson's *Hot I Baltimore* Feb. 13-16 at Roberts Hall auditorium.

Called a "raucous comedy," the play was winner of the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, an Obie Award and the Outer Critics Circle Award.

Set in a deteriorating flop house peopled with a variety of social outcasts, the play deals with recovering the past for the sake of the present.

A young call girl is dismayed that no-one will fight to save the old hotel. A youthful stranger gives up too easily in the search for his grandfather.

New York Times critic Clive Barnes wrote of *Hot I Baltimore* author Lansford Wilson, "(he) is both funny and sad about today, and the combination is an unbeatable winner."

Another critic, Walter Bode, has written that Wilson's "deepest concerns are not the problems of contemporary life, but rather how the fabric of society is woven and

cared for over generations.

At RIC the play will be produced under the direction of David Burr, an associate professor of theatre.

Appearing in the play will be Emilietta Theroux and Stephen P. Burns of Warwick; Marcia Ann Murphy, Becky Anderson, and Susan Ockerse, all of Providence and Donna Lee Doiron of Cranston.

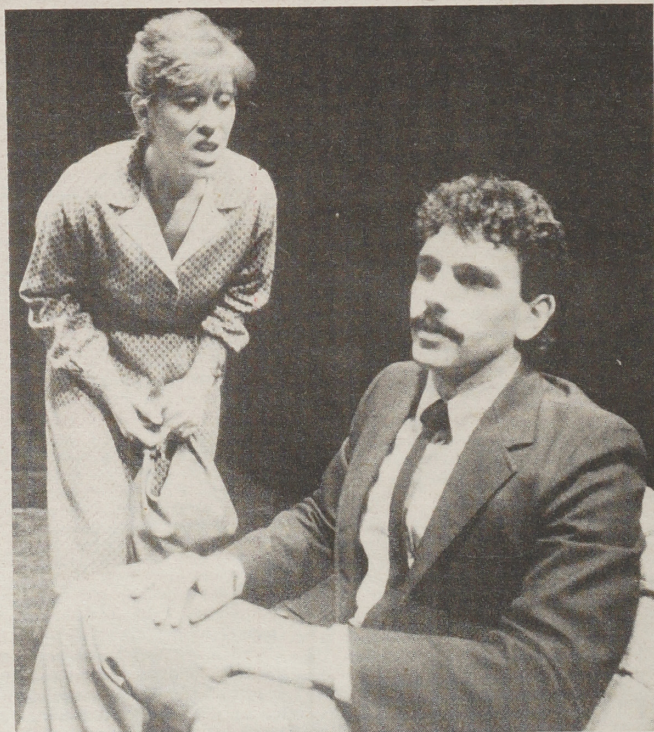
Also in the cast are John Ring and Anthony Thomas Cinelli of Greenville and Donna Theresa Dufresne of Woonsocket.

Others performing in *Hot I Baltimore* will be Scot J. Pacheco and Mark Alan Moretini of East Providence, Paul R. Pacheco of Pawtucket and Viola Davis of Central Falls.

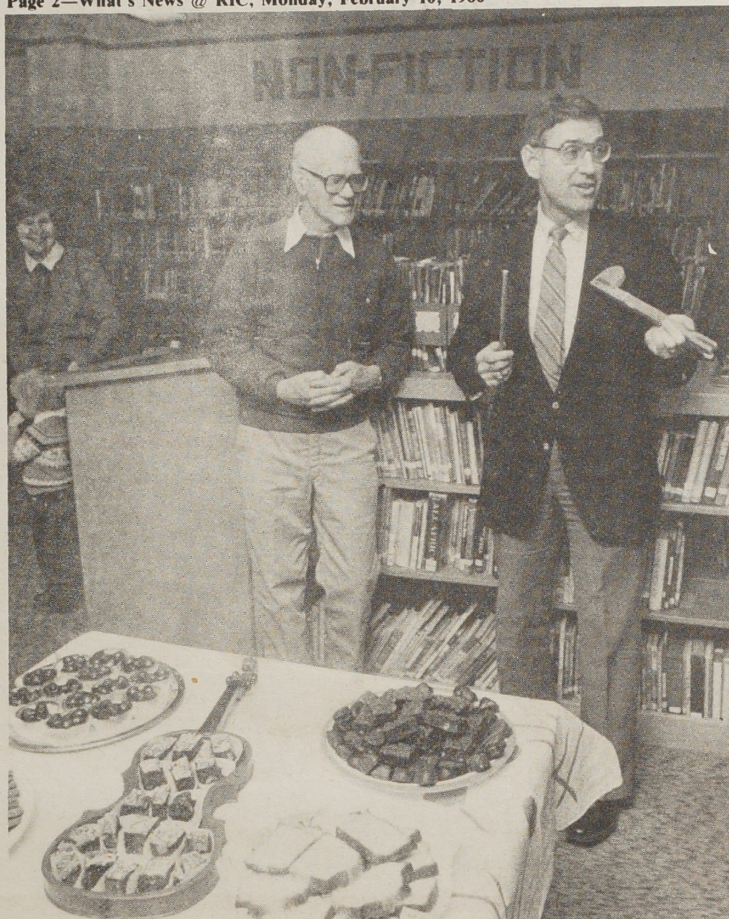
Curtain time for the show is 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Sunday matinee is at 3 p.m.

Ticket prices are \$4.50 general admission; \$4 for RIC faculty, staff, alumni and senior citizens; \$3.50 for non-RIC students and children and \$2.50 for RIC students.

For more information call 456-8270.



DONNA DUFRESNE and John Ring in RIC's 'Hot I Baltimore'.



TEA FOR RETIREE: Prof. Robert Currier (left), of the RIC music department, who has taught Suzuki violin at Henry Barnard School for 13 years, listens with amusement as Dr. Richard Sevey, school principal, jokes about learning to play the instrument. The occasion was a tea held Feb. 4 in the school library to honor Currier upon his retirement after 20 years of teaching at RIC.

Reception for Galligan

A farewell reception for Ann Galligan, former communications instructor at Rhode Island College, is set for Wednesday, Feb. 12, at noon in Roberts Hall Alumni Lounge. Galligan left RIC last December.



**What's
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@
Rhode
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College**

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—DEADLINE—

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Tel. 456-8132

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Focus on the Faculty and Staff

KAREN ENRIGHT, M.S., R.N., RACHEL F. SCHIFFMAN, M.S., R.N., and PAULA A. VIAU, M.S., R.N., all of the nursing department, attended a workshop at St. Joseph's Hospital which explored issues related to curriculum development and the impact of the student's profile on program planning. The workshop, on Jan. 10 and 11, was sponsored by the school of anesthesia for nurses and was attended by faculty from throughout New England.

Panel to discuss 'Family Violence'

A panel discussion of "The Response of Government and Private Agencies to Family Violence in Rhode Island" will take place in Rhode Island College's Gage Hall auditorium on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 11 a.m.

The capstone of the lecture series "Family Violence: New Perspectives" which has been sponsored by the RIC Lectures Committee and the departments of psychology, sociology, political science, social work and the Women's Studies Program, the panel will be comprised of state Atty. Gen. Arlene Violet, state Sen. Victoria Lederberg, Andrew DeLong of Brother to Brother, Deborah Thompson of Dorcas Place, and Janis Fisher of the RIC Women's Center.

Moderator will be Dr. Joan H. Rollins, professor of psychology and coordinator of the Women's Studies Program.

The public is invited free of charge.

Credit is due

The photo of RIC President Carol J. Guardo and Martin Luther King III which ran on the second front page in last week's issue of *What's News at RIC* should have been credited to Laura Honse, who took it, and not the college photographer. The editors believe credit should be given where credit is due.

Also, in last week's paper the article on the RIC Foundation surpassing \$1 million in assets did not list the names of committee members Larry Albiniano, Edward Martin, Bernard Mondor and Robert Perry, which were supplied to the editors after the piece was published.

Bureau of Grants and Sponsored Projects:

Request for proposals

The Bureau of Grants and Sponsored Projects will be providing information about requests for proposals (RFPs) on a regular basis in this column. Anyone interested in obtaining further information or applications and guidelines need only circle the number of the RFP on the coupon below and send it to the Bureau in Roberts 312.

1. National Research Council/National Academy of Sciences: Panel on Pay Equity Research: Awards of approximately \$15,000 will be made to projects exploring two aspects of pay equity strategies—the wage determination process (particularly whether and how occupational wage rates are affected by gender) and the implementation and consequences of comparable worth strategies. Funded researchers will be expected to begin their projects in May, 1986, and complete them by August, 1987. DEADLINE: March 10, 1986.

2. Radcliffe Research Support Program: Supports post-doctoral research in the humanities and in the social and behavioral sciences. Eligible projects must draw upon resources of the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America or of the Henry A. Murray Research Center of Radcliffe College. Awards range from \$100 to \$2,000. Additional funds of up to \$2,500 may be budgeted for expenses such as computer time, transcribing, or research assistance. DEADLINES: March 15, May 15, and Oct. 15.

3. Radio shack: Equipment Grants: The Education Division of the Tandy Corporation provides grants of Radio Shack TRS-80 hardware, courseware/software, and accessories to non-profit educational institutions. The objective of the grant program is "to encourage and support the successful application of microcomputer technology in American educational institutions. DEADLINES: March 31 for proposals "applying word processing, spreadsheets, data base systems, and/or

communications systems in subject matter instruction;" June 30 for proposals "using microcomputers with special education students to assist in their transition to the 'World of Work'."

4. American Philosophical Society: Basic Research Grants in All Fields of Learning: These awards support basic research in all fields of learning by persons holding a doc-

toral degree or the equivalent. Grants are intended to help defray research costs such as travel and the collection and preparation of materials. The maximum award level for a full professor is \$2,500. Approximately 25 percent of applications are funded. DEADLINE: April 1.

5. The Economic History Association: Arthur H. Cole Grants-in-Aid: Provides supplemental support for research in economic history. Preference is given to recent recipients of the Ph.D. to assist them with publication of their dissertations or monographs. However, all levels of scholars may apply. Maximum award is \$1,200. DEADLINE: April 1.

6. National Endowment for the Humanities: Humanities Programs for Nontraditional Learners: Designed particularly for institutions whose efforts in recent years have emphasized widening access to education in the humanities to non-traditional learners, this program is intended to help those institutions by supporting projects which promise to increase the rigor of instruction or decrease the unit cost of instruction. DEADLINE: April 1.

7. National Endowment for the Humanities: Fostering Coherence Throughout an Institution: One of three types of awards in the Central Disciplines in Undergraduate Education category, these grants support institutional efforts to reinforce the place of the humanities in undergraduate education. This program expects applicants to have begun such efforts before application. Endowment contribution to the project will not exceed 50 percent of total costs. DEADLINE: April 1.

Please send me information on the following programs: (Circle programs of interest to you).

1. 2. 3. 4.
5. 6. 7.

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Extension _____

Campus Address _____

2/4/86

FRANKLY SPEAKING

... phil frank



Great enrollment drops stalled this year

by Susan Calhoun-
WASHINGTON, D.C. (CPS)— The great enrollment drop of the eighties stalled somewhat this year, new head counts of the American student body indicate.

Despite continued shrinkage in the number of 18-to 24-year-olds -- who, of course traditionally have made up the bulk of college enrollments -- enrollment on the nation's campuses managed to hold fairly steady last fall, though not without significant shifts of students from two-year and private colleges to four-year public schools.

Last week, an association of college registrars released a survey showing more than a third of the nation's campuses suffered population declines this year.

It was the latest in a series of contradictory overviews of a tumultuous year that has schools in some regions prospering, while other colleges close dorms and plan dramatic tuition hikes to cope with big enrollment drops.

In November, the National Center for Education Statistics predicted enrollment this year effectively would be the same as last year's.

And in December, the American Council on Education reported the student population decreased one percent this year.

But the drop was minimal only because of small increases in the number of freshmen, which helped offset a worrisome 4.2 percent enrollment drop at junior and community colleges, the ACE found.

Administrators, moreover, speculate the small nationwide drop is just a temporary reprieve from a long-term enrollment decline extending into the next decade.

It began with a 3.3 percent decrease in 1982 and a 2.5 percent drop a year later, they say.

Overall, 36 percent of the nation's college's lost at least five percent of their full-time freshmen, reports the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRO).

But thanks to five percent or more increases in freshmen classes at 28 percent of all colleges, enrollment nationwide has managed to remain steady, the AACRO's Dr. Bert Ackerman explains.

As the numbers suggest, previously insignificant demographic shifts can make campus populations bump up and down wildly these days.

An unforeseen influx of part-time students at public two-year institutions last year helped push enrollment nationwide up one percent, the College Board found, but the influx hasn't happened this year.

In Tennessee, for example, a whopping 34 percent drop in freshmen at the state's community colleges contributed to a 16 percent overall decrease in freshmen enrollment at state colleges and universities for 1985-86.

Mississippi's Division of Junior Colleges reports full-time equivalent students dropped four percent last fall, says spokesman Bill Bunch.

Junior and community college enrollment nationwide is, indeed, "at a screeching halt," Ackerman observes.

Economic prosperity, ironically enough,

seems to be the culprit.

"We went through a period when a lot of students said there was no point in four years of school, especially if they just wanted to get a technical degree and then work," he says.

In Tennessee, officials also blame an exodus from community colleges on boom times.

"The increased availability of jobs is playing a big role here," says Matte Campbell of the state's Higher Education Commission. "It's easier to get a job now, so a lot of people are choosing immediate work over technical schooling."

Freshmen enrollment at Tennessee's four technical colleges dropped 25 percent last fall, but Campbell hopes a slow increase at four-year schools will make up for the decrease.

California's new tuition charges at community colleges deter some prospective students there, state officials say.

University of Montana officials also blame tuition for pushing students away.

The school closed two of its 11 dorms this fall, when 2.4 percent fewer students enrolled after out-of-state tuition went up to \$2,913 from \$2,715.

West Georgia College also may soon close near empty dorms as enrollment continues to decline.

At Southern California, a tuition increase spurred an enrollment drop that, in turn, unexpectedly created a large deficit.

"The revenues were underrun substantially, and the expenses were not cut back fast enough," says Ross Clayton, dean of the School of Public Administration. The dean will solve it with "recruiting and fundraising."

Some schools, however, figure the only way to make up for losing students because of tuition hikes is to raise tuition once again.

Nebraska, Tennessee and Cal State regents are among those who have announced plans that may include raising tuition rates to recoup money lost because of enrollment drops.

West Virginia University regents recently warned state and tuition revenue shortages may provoke across-the-board program slashes.

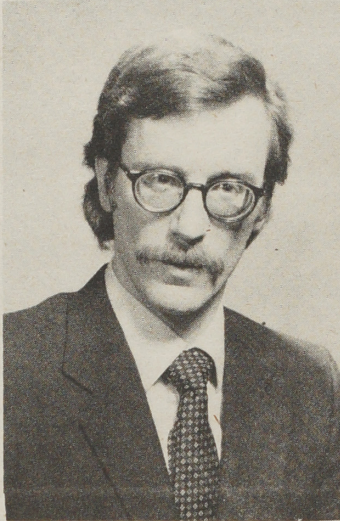
But as enrollment declines drastically in various parts of the country, other institutions are still doing well.

Sunbelt states, including New Mexico and Arizona, report rising enrollments, while the University of Nevada system says its head count has increased 9.9 percent in the last nine years.

The West's good fortune may continue with its population growth. The Census Bureau reports California's population grew another 11.4 percent last year, while Arizona's 17.2 percent growth is helping feed its school systems.

But in shrinking Middle Atlantic, Northeast, and some Midwest states, administrators agree they need to recruit "nontraditional" — or older — students aggressively to keep their campuses well-enough populated to survive.

Kinnie named acting director of T.V. center



JAMES KINNIE

Rhode Island College has announced the appointment of James F. Kinnie of Providence as acting director of the college television center. The appointment is a temporary six-month placement. Kinnie began his new duties on Feb. 3.

Kinnie was director of community programming for Times-Mirror Cable Television in West Warwick, and has been an adjunct instructor at RIC in the communications and theatre department since the Fall of 1985.

Kinnie has a master's degree in instructional technology, which he earned at RIC in 1981, and holds a bachelor's degree in English from Providence College.

Prior to joining Times-Mirror, where he was also production manager, Kinnie worked at WSBE-TV, Channel 36, in Providence, where he was a producer/director and production technician.

Among the several awards Kinnie has received are the Rhode Island Community Film and Video Competition, and the regional Associated Press News Feature Award. He is an active member of the National Federation of Local Cable Programmers and the Rhode Island News Photographers Association.

'RIC Review' revived

The *RIC Review*, a publication of students' artwork, short stories and poetry, is being revived and is to be out shortly after March 1.

The aim of the *RIC Review* is to display the talent of Rhode Island College students.

"It's important that this publication comes out yearly to reflect the creative side of the student body at RIC," quotes Beth Thomas, one of the coordinators of the magazine.

She feels that student apathy is an issue at the college and that this may be one of the ways to get students involved and recognized.

Interested students are encouraged to submit work to the English Club mailbox located in the English department in Craig Lee. All work must include a name, address and telephone number.

All manuscripts must be typed and negatives must accompany all photos. Each entry will be edited. The deadline is set for March 1.

For further information contact Beth Thomas, Lisa Lepizzera, Jane Stanley, or Roberta Riccio in the Writing Center, Craig Lee 225, Ext. 8141.

Computer graphics on space shuttle is topic here

"Computer Graphics on the Space Shuttle," a multi-media presentation by the mathematics/computer science department, the Mathematics/Computer Science Club and the College Lectures Committee, has been scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 2 p.m. in Horace Mann Hall, room 193.

Joan Wyzkoski of the department of mathematics and computer science at Fairfield University in Connecticut is the speaker.

An application of computer graphics as an additional visual cue for the operator of the remote manipulator system; i.e. the robot arm, on the space shuttle will be discussed.

This was developed by the speaker while she was at the Johnson Space Center during the summers of 1983 and 1984.

With this graphics aid, the operator of the robot arm is able to view a computer graphics display of the top, front, and side views of the payload with respect to the cargo bay, along with the position and at-

titude data of the payload.

This graphics display updates as the payload is moving and, hence, assists the operator to secure payloads into the cargo bay of the space shuttle.

The mathematical model and transformations used to display three-dimensional objects on a two-dimensional computer graphics screen will be included in the presentation.

Wyzkoski began working with computer graphics in 1977 while doing mathematical research for her doctorate at Idaho State University.

Since 1979, when she began teaching, first at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., and then at Fairfield, she has used graphics in a number of mathematics courses and has several times taught an upper-level undergraduate course in the mathematical techniques of computer graphics.

During the summer of 1985 while at the David Taylor Naval Ship Research and Development Center in Bethesda, Md., she researched the geometric modeling of ships.



PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT: Dr. Carol J. Guardo, president of Rhode Island College, and Dr. Edward Eddy, president of the University of Rhode Island, share a light-hearted moment at Jan. 29 annual meeting of the State Board of Governors for Higher Education and the state legislature. It was Guardo's first such meeting since becoming president. During the meeting she gave a talk on 'Rhode Island College in the Year 2000.'

Roche to speak at colloquium

Feb. 12 in Craig Lee Hall

Dr. A. John Roche, associate professor of English at Rhode Island College, will speak in the department's colloquium series on Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. in Craig-Lee Hall, room 255.

Roche's topic will be "Engagements: Teaching and Learning."

Roche, a member of the RIC faculty since 1975, is a former director of the college's Writing Center.

He holds a Ph.D. degree from Duke University. He earned his BA degree at

Marquette University and his master of arts at Fordham.

He was a national teaching fellow from 1969 to 1971. He has published on Edgar Allen Poe and has been consultant to various high schools in the area for help in establishing writing programs.

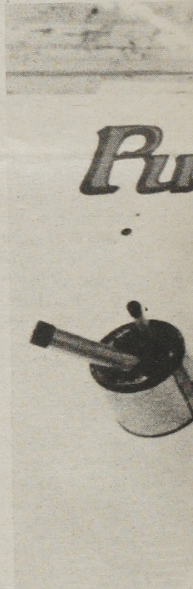
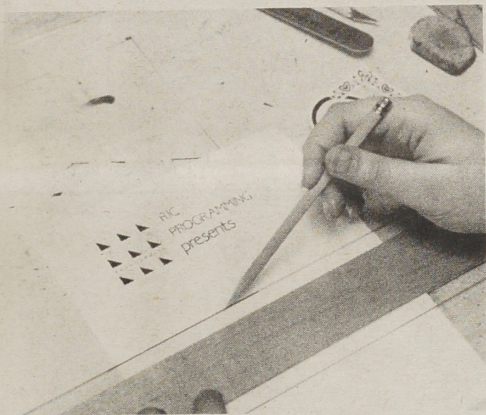
His talk at RIC will be from an autobiographical essay concerning literature and composition.

Refreshments will be served. The colloquium is open to anyone interested in hearing Roche speak.

In the graphics studio at the Student Union during an active week (clockwise) Tom Cornicelli is at work on a poster for a Thursday night mixer; Michelle Gauvin concentrates on the creation of a showcase sign; Kathy Regan, seen from above, is making a banner promoting the *RIC Review*; Dorian DeSimone shows off a sample of the work the studio produces while holding "Bessie, the Graphics Cow"; and Becky Burns makes certain her rule is straight as she does a layout.



Bar



er activity in student union

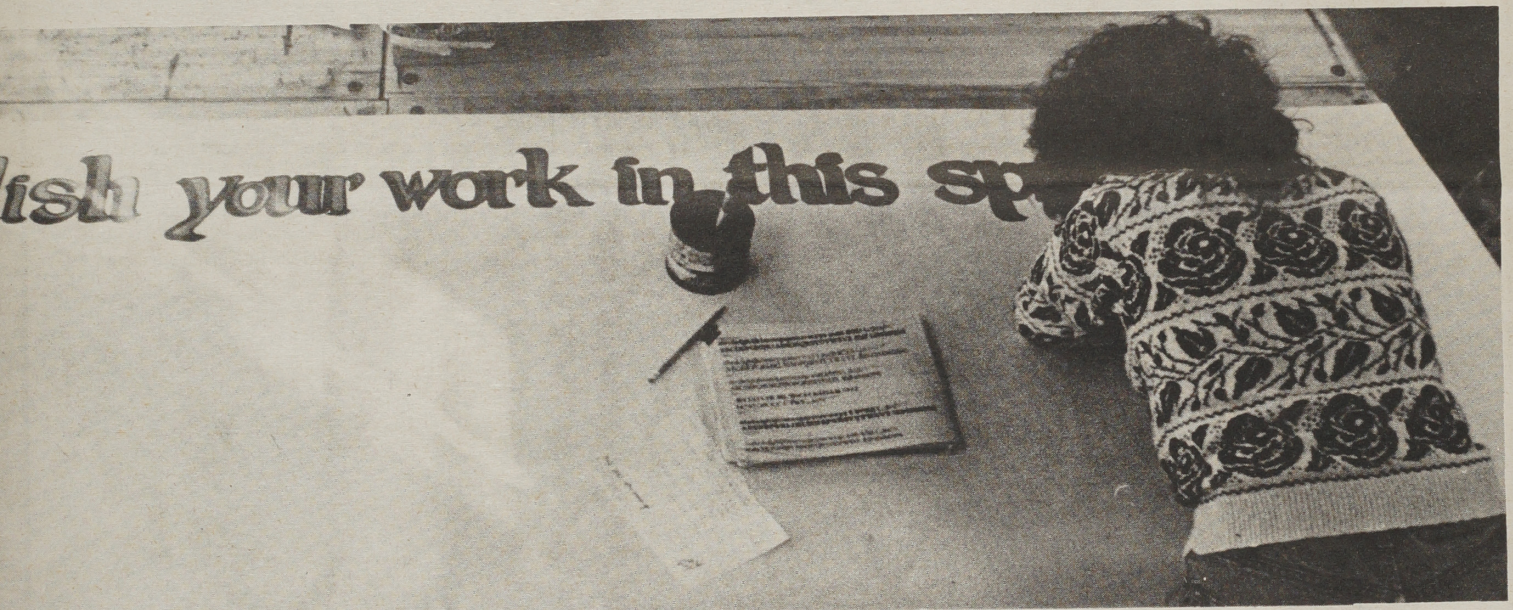


Everyone has seen the attention getting banners and posters in Donovan Dining Center, but perhaps not many people on campus know where they come from.

The imposing art work is created right in the RIC Student Union at a studio run by Dorian DeSimone.

A staff of 12 student employees works under her direction to make the banners. They also produce a variety of other promotional items such as T-shirts, flyers, buttons, newspaper ads, mugs and logo designs.

Customers of the graphics studio include fraternities, clubs, class organizations and other student groups and individuals. A reasonable fee is charged, according to DeSimone. She feels that the opportunity the studio offers students to gain experience in the field of advertising and graphics is most valuable.



What's News Photos
by
Gordon E. Rowley

Prof. Ben McClelland edits book on writing

(continued from page 1)

someone at a reception who jokingly told him that composition studies had changed so much in the two years since *Eight Approaches to Teaching English* had come out that perhaps it was time to publish a book called *Eight More Approaches*.

The jest turned to serious discussion. McClelland and his co-editor began surveying the English teaching professionals at the conference and came to the conclusion that while *Eight Approaches* had shed light on the changing pedagogy regarding composition, a new book was needed in the area of research and scholarship related to composition.

The resulting publication, according to McClelland, is "useful for graduate students in rhetoric and writing theory in that it sets forth for them the major research done in specific fields (of composition and writing)."

He points out that it "presents questions and situations which scholars and researchers need to address today."

A first printing of three hundred copies in cloth and 550 in paperback has been issued. The hardcover copies, intended mostly for library collections, sell for \$25. paperback cost is \$14.50.

Two years in the making, *Perspectives* was produced on floppy disks, a technological innovation which McClelland feels shortened the time from conception to completion to a considerable degree.

True to the method of its conception, the book incorporates new pedagogies which are related to high technology. It deals with composing on a word processor and it treats the subject of collaborative learning.

The essay on the latter topic was contributed by Dr. John Trimbur, a former director of the RIC Writing Center.

Two aspects of *Perspectives* will make it especially useful to scholars, McClelland believes.

It has an extensive (24 page) composite bibliography and it consists of original commissioned essays, not articles which

were previously published in journals and gathered together under a title to make a collection.

"All of these authors are second generation scholars who have developed their own expertise in the field after having studied with major theorists in their area," he says.

None of this book could have been written five years ago, he says.

"Almost all the material in the bibliography has been developed in the last 10 years," he reports, adding, "it's the place to go for someone who wants to become current on scholarship in the area of composition."

McClelland notes that the contributors come from different parts of the country. Much of the book was completed with the assistance of long distance telephone hookups, but once or twice a year while it was in production the entire group got together. McClelland feels that this aided in the creation of a well-organized and logically arranged text.

"It gave the book more coherence than collections of essays sometimes have," he says.

Copies of each essay were circulated among the entire group of contributors so that each would be able to take into account the statements of his or her peers.

It made for a balanced and interconnected series of essays McClelland says. With the creation of *Perspectives* over with, McClelland is already at work on book number four.

He is writing an advanced composition textbook for St. Martins Press.

It will be designed to help students learn to write "academic discourse," the kind of writing which students in their junior and senior years must learn to do in their major fields of study and which they will be expected to have mastered when they move into their careers.

No doubt it will be a well written volume. Its author, it seems, is fast becoming a national authority on the subject.

Harlem's Claudia Widdiss is 'making it'

(continued from page 1)

"I believe the arts saved me," says the senior, whom RIC's Dr. Janet Mancini-Billson terms "a major artist."

Widdiss, with a large dose of encouragement and moral support from what was her "extended family"—those living in the same six-story brownstone on 148th St. and neighbors on her block—overcame the negative elements in her environment and developed into an artist of some distinction.

The curator of the Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists termed her "an artist of exceptional creative ability, highly emotional and extremely energetic."

Widdiss exhibited a one-woman show of her prints and sculpture last November-December in the museum's Boston Gallery, quite a feat for a college undergraduate at any age.

This was only the most recent in a string of accomplishments for the young artist who now makes her home in Providence.

Widdiss had witnessed much of the seamier side of life growing up in the New York City ghetto but, thanks to her extended family, escaped harm.

"Just coming home from school could be traumatic," she explains, adding, "if someone was following me, I would go into a neighborhood bar. The street people would protect me."

"On the street," she says, "people that watched me—from hustlers to church-going ladies—were aware I wanted to be an artist and encouraged me. They gave me 'gifts' of one sort or another. It's like if I made it, I made it for all of them."

Widdiss recalls the "tremendous amount of energy" coming out of the young people in her environment. "They had to create their own goals based on what was around them," she says, noting that without proper channels for that energy, many pursued negative goals.

Already having developed an interest in painting from having watched a "much older" sister paint (Claudia often tried to draw in her sister's sketch book), she credits the Harlem Youth Act for supplying her with the first image of a successful black professional.

"It didn't seem like I could accomplish anything (in this life) until I saw a black professor in the community teaching in the Arts and Culture Program (which was provided through the youth act)," she confides.

It was while attending New York City's High School of Art and Design that she was exposed to this program and "that was the big push for me," she attests. She describes her high school as having been "highly specialized which kids (predominantly white) from the city and state could attend if they had met the requirements."

There, she says, "I didn't feel I could get wholeheartedly into art."

A two-year stint followed in the Art Students League, an art school, in New York City during which time she completed high school. At about the same time she won a scholarship to the National Academy of Fine Arts, also in New York City.

"People wanted me to go to college, but I was too interested into getting into doing art," she says, explaining that studies other than art were viewed by her then as just a delay to her career in art.

In 1969 Widdiss applied for and won the Chaloner Prize Foundation Grant of \$8,000 which she used for study in England. She became an apprentice to sculptor Denis Mitchell in Cornwall.

"This was the first time I went to Europe or did any extensive traveling," she says. For the 19-year-old, it was the first time she had lived outside of Harlem.

"It was cultural shock," she exclaims.

"I was the only black in (the port of) Penzance (as in 'The Pirates of Penzance'). I was a little nervous at first, but I found people are the same everywhere. I made a lot of friends and had no problems."

After about a year studying sculpture in England, she, still using the funds from the Chaloner grant, went to Italy for independent study in Carrara, where Michelangelo got his start.

"Italy was fantastic!" she assures.

Working with a group of artisans who were busy carving marble grave stones, Widdiss, two other Americans and some European artists worked on marble sculpture 12 hours a day, six days a week.

"It was strenuous work, but we had some good wine breaks in between," she relates.

From Italy she came back to the U.S. to Georgia where she taught youngsters in a black community's recreation center while continuing her own art work, exhibiting and selling. Her art was primarily confined to sculpture at that point.

"I found the sculpture block—whether marble or wood—very limiting, so

I branched out to steel," she says. It was then (1975) she enrolled in the Atlanta Technical School for welding, a six-month course.

She performed some work for the Georgia Council for the Arts and Humanities, going to schools and teaching casting and clay sculpture and "doing all kinds of things" in her own art.

She also taught plaster and slate carving and direct plaster work to inmates at the Alto Correctional Institute... "all 'lifers' from age 17 to 30."

"The guards were very negative about the things I was doing," relates Widdiss, adding, "they would send a guard with me and normally checked out my tools, but after awhile they stopped that. The inmates became very protective of me."

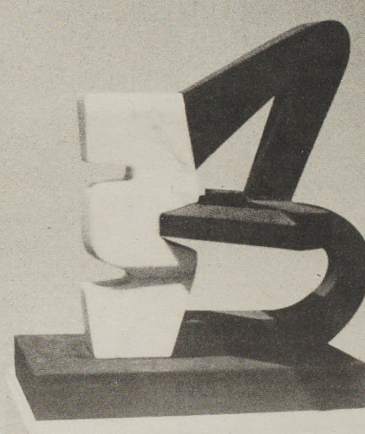
Then in Athens, Ga., she worked a series of survival jobs such as waitress, employee in a fiberglass factory, and even welded trains for awhile. In 1978 she received a commission from the Atlanta Transit Authority to do a sculpture for a planned subway, but federal funds dried up and the project abandoned.

"It was a good commission and I was paid the \$5,000 anyway," she says.

In 1981 she moved to Boston for a brief period and then to Providence. After some six months designing jewelry in a local factory, she read an article about some group or other that was "not considered professional" because its members did not have college degrees.

"I was impressed—that after all the work I'd done—to not be considered a professional (because of having no degree) was a killer," admits Widdiss.

She decided to get that degree and enrolled in RIC's Performance Based Admissions (PBA) program.



LOCK OF AGES: steel and marble sculpture by Claudia Widdiss.

(Photo by Lynn Rosario)

"I was scared. It had been a long time since my school days, but everyone was so friendly. I met a lot of women in the same boat and that was encouraging," she confirms.

After one year in the PBA program she was admitted into the BFA program where she began her studies leading to a degree in the fine arts with a concentration in sculpture.

Is Claudia Widdiss "making it?" You decide.

Come next December she will graduate from RIC with that degree; then it's on to graduate school "somewhere in New England" for further studies in sculpture. Eventually, she would like to teach art on the college level while continuing with her own art work—creating, exhibiting, selling.

In addition to what has already been noted, Widdiss has to her credit other grants, awards and shows, including a one-woman show at the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, as well as having been selected as one of 500 black American artists to travel to Nigeria in West Africa where she participated in the International Black Festival of Arts.

Next May she will exhibit her works in the Rhode Island Black Artists Association show at the Rhode Island School of Design.

It seems she's not only "making it," but is intent upon helping others do the same.

"I want to somehow do something for the black community and the arts because I believe the arts saved me."



Keeping Score

with Dave Kemmy

Anchormen take two

The men's basketball squad finally had some things go their way last week as the squad captured two out of three contests.

On Jan. 28 the Anchormen blasted Roger Williams 69-56. Dana Smith had 27 points and 15 rebounds and Ken Sperry added 20 points to lead the attack.

In their next contest, Jan. 30, the squad pulled out to a 52-36 halftime lead enroute to a 78-66 drubbing of Plymouth State College. Smith had another outstanding game with 29 points and seven rebounds. Rett Mancinelli added 14 points and Leo Cruz, Greg Lucas and Stan Phillip each added 12.

The Anchormen returned to their unlucky ways against Southeastern Massachusetts Feb. 1 when they dropped a 77-76 overtime decision to the Corsairs. Smith tied the game with eight seconds left in regulation time, but the Anchormen had the ball and a one-point lead with 23 seconds left in overtime when Tom Campbell missed the front end of a one-and-one and the Corsairs had the ball and the victory. Smith continued his torrid play with 20 points and 13 rebounds; Sperry added 16 points, and Mancinelli, 15.

The loss dropped the squad to 6-10 on the season. They play a home contest against Eastern Nazarene on Monday, Feb. 10, at 8 p.m. in Walsh Gym.

The Anchorwomen basketball team also won two out of three and improved their record to 10-8 on the season.

On Jan. 28 the squad defeated a pesky Roger Williams club 57-53. JoJo D'Alessandro had a big game with 19 points and seven assists. Traci Raniello also played well, scoring 16 points and pulling down six rebounds. On Jan. 30 the Anchorwomen blasted Westfield State 70-49. D'Alessandro had another big game with 23 points and Cathy Lanni added 17 points and nine rebounds.

In their next contest the squad dropped a 99-83 decision to SMU. D'Alessandro and Lanni were the stars again with 32 and 27 points respectively. Seven Anchorwomen fouled out in the game, recording a remarkable 39 personal fouls. The squad came back from that defeat and posted a 77-62 victory over Eastern Nazarene Feb. 3. Lanani had 23 points and JoJo added 22 to improve the squad's record to 11-8.

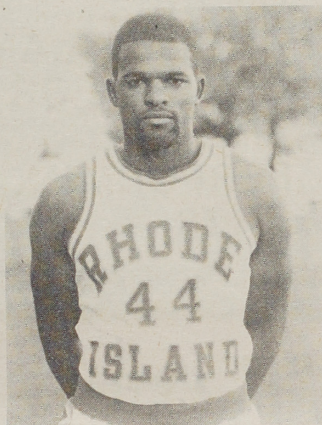
The Anchorwomen were ranked eighth in the latest New England Division III poll. Their final home game of the season is Wednesday, Feb. 19, against Worcester State at 7 p.m.

The wrestling squad continued to excel capturing a tri-meet from Amherst and Boston College. The Anchormen downed Amherst 36-14, receiving wins from Tom Cimino, Carmine DiPietro, Eric Schneiderhan, Wayne Griffin and George Macary. The squad defeated Boston College 38-9 with John Palumbo, Bob Lepre, Jeff Kirwan and George Macary all winning. The Anchormen also received four forfeits.

Feb. 1 the squad travelled to Durham, N.H., where they faced Division I power UNH and perennial Division III power, Western New England. The Anchormen pulled out a tie with UNH. Earning victories were Kevin Higgins, Palumbo, Cimino and Paul Laprocine. DiPietro and Lepre both tied.

Against Western New England the squad wrestled well, but wound up on the losing end of a 21-17 decision. Scott Martin, Tim O'Hara, and Griffin all won. Cimino tied his opponent.

The loss dropped their record to 9-2-1 on the season. Their final home meet is Saturday, Feb. 15, against Bowdoin at 1 p.m.



DANA SMITH

The squad also dropped their next meet to M.I.T. 131-4-122-9. Dusza was unable to perform in the meet, but the rest of the squad picked up the slack and did a very good job without its top performer.

Pam Wholey was high all-arounder for RIC with a 27.1 score, followed by Lori Bessette with a 26.3 and Karen Charlwood with a 25.6. Wholey took top honors in vault with an 8.1 and was also third on the balance beam with a 6.9. Bessette was second on the balance beam with a 7.05.

The squad has all away matches remaining this season, but will host the ECAC Division III Championships on March 8 in Walsh Gym.

The women's gymnastics squad has also been hit by some hard luck this season. Their record dropped to 1-7 after recent action.

Jan. 28 the squad dropped a tri-meet to Brown and Connecticut College. Brown scored 156.7; Connecticut, 143.65; and RIC, 121.65. Cathy Dusza was RIC's top all-arounder with a 30.2. She was also the top RIC scorer in every event.

Two of 26 show trace: Chlordane test results received

Just as *What's News* was going to press it was reported by James Cornelison, assistant vice president for administration and finance, that the results of further testing for chlordane at the college had been received.

Twenty-six tests were administered, nine air sample tests and 17 swab tests. All air sample tests were reported to be negative. Fifteen swab tests were also negative.

One area in Donovan Dining Center which previously tested positive was now negative. The areas where the chemical has been found have been cleaned under procedures recommended by the Rhode Island Departments of Health and Environmental Management (DEM).

Two locations were found to show traces of chlordane, Thorp and Weber Residence Halls.

Both locations registered levels of the pesticide which are considered low.

"We have been assured by the DEM that the levels were low and did not pose a health hazard to the residents of the dormitories. We are continuing to take the steps which have been suggested and we will continue monitoring and testing," Cornelison reported.

A letter detailing the test results and the steps the college administration is taking is being sent to the campus community. A

separate cover letter will be attached to the letter which is sent to residence hall students addressing itself to the latest findings.

Cornelison assured that the college will continue testing and cleaning (where necessary).

'A Recital for Piano, Four Hands'

Winter must be the time for piano music at Rhode Island College. On Jan. 29 the music department's chamber recital series presented faculty members Judith Lynn Stillman and Stephen Martorella in a program of piano selections. Now the RIC series is preparing to offer "A Recital for Piano, Four Hands" by Russian immigrants Faina Bryanskaya and Diana Smirnov.

Set to appear on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 2 p.m. in the Roberts Hall recital hall (room 138), the mother and daughter duo will perform works by Czerny, Mozart, Debussy and Rachmaninoff.

A special facet of the presentation will be the premiere of four pieces from *Dance Suite* by Kremen.

The Czerny piece will be *Sonatina Op. 156 No. 1*. Two selections from Mozart are on the bill. They are *Andante with 5 variations K. 501* and *Sonata in D major K. 381*. The Debussy will be *Petite Suite*. Four pieces from Rachmaninoff's *Six Pieces Op. 11* complete the scheduled program for the recital.

Bryanskaya is a graduate of the Leningrad Conservatory. She holds both a master's and Ph.D. degree. From 1976 to 1982 she was a professor at the Leningrad Conservatory.

As a soloist Bryanskaya has performed in various cities throughout Russia and on Leningrad television. She has continued her career as a soloist since emigrating to the United States, making appearances in New York, Boston, Houston and Rhode Island.

Currently she is on the faculty of the Hebrew Art School in New York and serves as the artistic director and piano instructor at the School of Art in Brooklyn.

Smirnov, Bryanskaya's daughter, has been described as a child prodigy. She began playing the piano at age two.

Later she was invited to attend the Leningrad Conservatory where she studied with Nathan Perelman. She graduated from the conservatory in 1978 with a master's degree in performance and pedagogy.

When she came to the United States Smirnov continued her studies at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music under Victor Rosenbaum. She earned a second master's degree at the New England Conservatory in 1982.

Presently teaching at Wheaton College and Providence College, Smirnov has performed in the Soviet Union, Italy and the United States.

She won third prize in the Schubert Division of the Joanna Hodges Competition in Palm Desert, California.

The RIC recital series is free and open to the general public.

MUSIC
TO
YOUR
EARS
AT.....

RHODE
ISLAND
COLLEGE

STUDENTS

Financial Aid Forms Now Available

If you are interested in applying for financial aid for the 1986-87 academic year, you should pick up the appropriate forms at the college financial aid office in Craig Lee 050.

**Deadline for filing applications is
March 1st**

Media conference:

Boasts strong RIC ties

Ten Rhode Island College faculty and staff members will participate in the 13th Annual Conference sponsored by the Rhode Island Educational Media Association (RIEMA) at the Lincoln campus of the Community College of Rhode Island on March 11.

The conference, entitled "Why is the Role of the Library-Media Specialist Changing?" will consist of two sessions, the first at 8:30 a.m. and the second at 3 p.m. Registration will begin at 7:15 a.m.

RIEMA is dedicated to the promotion and development of excellence in teaching and learning in school library media programs. It will hold 25 different seminars, presentations and exhibits at this year's conference.

Among those making presentations from RIC are James E. Davis, associate professor of the education leadership, foundations and technology department, who will present "Adopting a Technology Policy for Local Schools and Districts."

Ellsworth A. Starring, associate professor of elementary education, will present "The Laser Disc as an Educational Tool."

Roger Lima, technical supervisor of audiovisual, will conduct a "Stop in with your Problem" session.

Charles Allsworth, technical supervisor in the audiovisual department, will present "How to make a low budget sound/slide presentation."

Rose C. Merenda, assistant professor at Henry Barnard School, will do a demonstration entitled, "Experience and Language."

Robert J. Sullivan, associate professor of anthropology and geography, will present, "Rhode Island in Maps."

David Wilson, supervisor at the RIC film center, will conduct the "Copyright Awareness Center."

Shirley Rhinehart, supervisor of the RIC film and video library, will present the "Film and Video Preview."

Victoria Lederberg, professor of psychology, will be one of the panel members to discuss and address the changing roles of libraries and the equally changing focus of education.

Roland Mergener, director of audiovisual services at RIC, is chairperson of the conference.

Legislative Alert

HOUSE

86-H-7223 (Caron) Labor. This act would increase the minimum wage to \$3.50 an hour on July 1, 1986; \$3.60 an hour on July 1, 1987; and to \$3.70 an hour on July 1, 1988.

86-H-7229 (Parella & Long) Finance. This act would reduce the sales tax to 5 percent.

SENATE

86-S-2193 (Badeau) Labor. This act would permit strikes by teachers and municipal employees.

86-S-2223 (Miller) Corporations. This act would reduce the maximum credit card finance charge from 21 percent to 18 percent if the periodic balance is \$500 or less, and 15 percent if the balance is over \$500, and eliminate the minimum finance charge.



SANDRA REAVES-PHILLIPS

'Late Great Ladies of Blues and Jazz' at RIC

Acclaimed jazz and blues singer/Broadway actress Sandra Reaves-Phillips has come a long way to stardom...from a flat-bed truck full of migrant workers in the South to the renowned theaters of the world.

Her impressive list of credentials ranges from appearances on Broadway to New York's hottest spots, from television to films, clubs and shows across the country and abroad.

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, she will bring 'The Late Great Ladies of Blues and Jazz' to Rhode Island College's Roberts Hall auditorium for a reservation-only performance.

Starting at 8 p.m., Miss Reaves-Phillips will present her interpretation of Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Ethel Waters, Josephine Baker, Billie Holiday, Dinah Washington and Mahalia Jackson in a 'classy revue' (according to David Hinck-

ly of New York's *Daily News*) that she created five years ago and has performed in such notable sites as New York's famed Cotton Club.

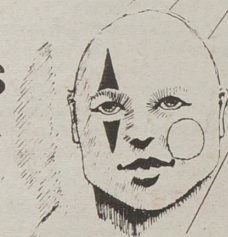
'Miss Reaves-Phillips does more than carry on a tradition; she's interpreting a whole genre of music and bringing it home to enthralled audiences who have little or no experience with the great days of the blues,' says Tim Murray, publicist for the RIC Performing Arts Series which is making this performance possible.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission; \$8, RIC faculty and staff; \$6, non-RIC students and senior citizens; \$3, RIC students.

They may be purchased in advance at the Roberts Hall box office which opens Feb. 10 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. weekdays and from 10 a.m. until curtain time the night of the performance.

For further information call 456-8194.

SPOTLIGHT ON RIC..... RHODE ISLAND'S CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



Calendar of Events Feb. 10 - Feb. 17

MONDAY, FEB. 10

- 9 to 10 a.m. *Job Search Workshop* to be offered by Career Services, Craig Lee, Room 054. Open to RIC students and alumni. Workshop is limited to 15. For more information call 456-8031.
- Noon to 1 p.m. *Alcoholics Anonymous* meeting. Student Union, Room 305.
- 8 p.m. *Men's Basketball*. RIC vs. Eastern Nazarene College. Home.

MONDAY-TUESDAY, FEB. 10-11

- Noon *Mass*. Student Union, Room 304.

TUESDAY, FEB. 11

- 7 p.m. *Women's Basketball*. RIC vs. Brown University. Away.
- 7 p.m. *Women's Gymnastics*. RIC vs. Smith College. Away.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12

- 11 a.m. *Panel discussion* on "The Response of Government and Private Agencies to Family Violence in Rhode Island." Gaige Auditorium. Free and open to all.
- Noon *Ash Wednesday Mass*. Student Union Ballroom.
- 1 to 2 p.m. *Christian Renew Group* to meet for prayer and discussion. Student Union, Room 304. Sponsored by the Chaplains' Office.
- 2 p.m. *AIESEC's weekly meeting*. AIESEC is the International Association of Students in Economics and Business Management. Craig Lee, Room 252.
- 2 p.m. *Ash Wednesday Ecumenical Service*. Student Union, Room 304.
- 2 p.m. *Chamber Recital Series*. Ed Sweeney, "the singer of obscure songs," to give a recital entitled "Songs of Social Consciousness." Roberts recital hall. Free and open to all.
- 2 p.m. *Deborah Horne to speak*. Horne is a newscaster at News Center 12. Weber Hall, lounge. This event is part of Black History Month Celebration. Sponsored by Harambee. Open to all.
- 2 p.m. *English Department Colloquium Series*. Dr. John Roche to speak on "Engagements: Teaching and Learning," an autobiographical essay concerning literature and composition. Craig Lee, Room 255. Refreshments will be served.
- 2 p.m. *Human Resource Management Club* to meet. Craig Lee, Room 201. New members are welcome.
- 2 p.m. *Joan Wykoski* to give a multi-media presentation on "Computer Graphics on the Space Shuttle." Horace Mann, Room 193.
- 2 to 3 p.m. *Al-Anon meeting*. Craig Lee, Room 127. Sponsored by the Office of Health Promotion.
- 2 to 3 p.m. *Anchor Christian Fellowship*. Weekly meeting. Student Union, Room 306.

2 to 4 p.m.

Interview Workshop to be offered by Career Services. Craig Lee, Room 054. Open to RIC students and alumni. Workshop is limited to 15. For more information call 456-8031.

5:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Mass. Student Union ballroom.

8 p.m.

Men's Basketball. RIC vs. Brandeis University. Home.

THURSDAY, FEB. 13

3 to 4 p.m. *Resume Writing Workshop* to be offered by Career Services. Craig Lee, Room 054. Open to RIC students and alumni. Workshop is limited to 15. For more information call 456-8031.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY, FEB. 13-15

8 p.m. *RIC Theatre to present 'Hot 1 Baltimore'*, a play by Lanford Wilson about itinerant eccentrics about to be evicted from their hotel home. There will be a matinee performance at 3 on Sunday, Feb. 16. Roberts Auditorium. Admission: \$4.50 general; \$4, RIC faculty/staff and senior citizens; \$3.50, non-RIC students; \$2.50, RIC students. For more information call 456-8144.

FRIDAY, FEB. 14

1 to 2:30 p.m. *Interview Workshop* to be offered by Career Services. Craig Lee, Room 054. Open to RIC students and alumni. Workshop is limited to 15. For more information call 456-8031.

SATURDAY, FEB. 15

- 11 a.m. *Women's Fencing*. RIC at Wellesley College. Away.
- 1 p.m. *Women's Gymnastics*. RIC vs. Salem State College. Away.
- 1 p.m. *Wrestling*. RIC vs. Bowdoin College. Home.
- 2 p.m. *Women's Basketball*. RIC vs. Franklin Pierce College. Away.

SUNDAY, FEB. 16

- 10 a.m. *Sunday Mass*. Student Union, Room 304.
- 7 p.m. *Sunday Evening Mass*. Browne Hall, upper lounge.

MONDAY, FEB. 17

10 to 11 a.m. *Resume Writing Workshop* to be offered by Career Services. Craig Lee, Room 054. Open to RIC students and alumni. Workshop is limited to 15. For more information call 456-8031.

Noon *Mass*. Student Union, Room 304.

Noon to 1 p.m. *Alcoholics Anonymous* meeting. Student Union, Room 305.

7 p.m. *Women's Basketball*. RIC vs. Sacred Heart University. Away.