# The Anchor



## Commencement 1998

Rhode Island College • May 23, 1998

#### A commencement message from President Nazarian

Dear Graduating Seniors:

Commencements are noted for many things, not the least of which is the generous amount of advice given to the graduates. Audiences, in a celebratory mood, generally indulge such counsel with good cheer. Every now and then, however, a speaker's message can be so powerful that it serves as a lasting inspiration to those who hear it. On the rarest of occasions such a speech becomes truly timeless.

Such was the 1859 Commencement Address at Antioch College delivered by its President, Horace Mann. This was the same Horace Mann whose name is memorialized by the building on this campus that houses the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development. It is also the same Horace Mann whose pioneering work in establishing a quality system of free public education gave rise to the need for professionally educated teachers — hence the founding of the Rhode Island State Normal School. which later evolved into the present-day Rhode Island College.

Mann's reformist and humanitarian works were based in the belief that every person was capable of making a positive difference in the world and that every person was obligated to do so. Born in Franklin. Massachusetts, largely self-taught, a member of the Class of 1819 at Brown University, a practicing attorney and state legislator, Mann was selected

as the first Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education, where he championed such then-radical causes as equal educational opportunities for women, an end to child labor, the education of children with disabilities, an end to the use of corporal punishment in schools, and the establishment and funding of public normal schools for the professional development of teachers.

Mann was subsequently elected to the Congressional seat left vacant by the death of John Quincy Adams; while in Congress he became known as a leading opponent of slavery. In 1854 — the same year that Rhode Island College was established — he was named as the first President of Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

Mann's message to the graduating Class of 1859 was to be one for the ages. He challenged the graduates to "Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity." It was Mann's own personal credo and reflected his unyielding confidence in the potential of the individual. Unfortunately, his address to the graduates that year was to be his last. He passed away later that summer at the age of 63.

I share this message with you today because in many ways, you are a personification of the spirit of Horace Mann. Your journey has not been an easy one. Students at Rhode Island College often face many obstacles in their quest for a college degree. Yet, you have accepted these challenges in the effort to gain the knowledge and understanding that a college degree represents.

These are exciting times to be graduating from college. On the threshold of a new century, with perhaps the best prospect for peace among nations in many generations, the emergence of a promising global economic climate, and the anticipation of new technologies that may remedy some of the oldest afflictions of civilization — no doubt Horace Mann would be astounded by the extraordinary changes brought about as a result of universal public education in America and elsewhere.

Nonetheless, his injunction of 1859 is as relevant today as ever — perhaps even more so. May your own journey, from this place and time, serve to fulfill Mann's belief that each of us is obliged to dedicate our energies and abilities toward winning "... some victory for humanity."

Congratulations, good luck, and Godspeed!

Sincerely,

President



#### I've come this far, so what could go wrong now?

by Michael Grilli

my name Michael A. Grilli embla-RIC. I was excited by the "newness" of the experience. The college comward to the challenge of the school

a reality. I am still not quite sure if I temptuously and say "Your not book.

College President John Nazarian to Gilcrest and you sir, are not she." As I am about to receive that won- shake my hand on the commencezoned upon it, I cannot help but remi- ing class, and that all my cognates nisce. I remember my first day at are incognizant. I expect Adams liunreturned books, a reference catawork and the pleasures of college log and sixty feet of microfiche. I ment was a dream, as far off as an me ineligible to enter Rhode Island Michael. Don't worry Michael... ethereal promise on the wing of an College as a second-year junior. I am

have all the requirements. I expect Michaela. I personally know Miss

I hope none of these nightmares derful Baccalaureate Degree, with ment stage and tell me that I haven't transpires. I need continual comfort. completed my Core 5 Critical Think- I need someone to repeat to me, "Don't worry Michael." I need consolation. I need a hug. I need mental brary to hold my grades because of a meds to ease this anxiety. I need computer malfunction which de- peace of mind. If this all actually munity seemed large. I looked for- clared me to be in possession of two occurs without a hitch, glitch or unexpected tragedy, I will have that peace of mind. I can then look forlife. Ooh boy, was I naive. The work expect the Bursars office to accuse ward to the challenge of graduate never ended, the pleasures became me of not paying a bill for the work and the pleasures of campus life routine. Friends arrived, friends de- Aquatic Reading Class and Rugby at Emerson College in Boston withparted. Assignments were given out, Activity Fee. I expect the records de- out ever facing this monstrous anxisleeplessness became ritual. Semes- partment to lose my records in a ety again. "Don't worry Michael. ters seemed endless. Commence- maze of disinformation and declare Don't worry Michael. Don't worry

Michaela Gilcrest, um, Michael afraid my name will be mispro- Grilli is a Communications and Film The irony of wearing a cap and nounced as Michaela Gilcrest and Studies major, and served as Editorgown now is that it never seemed like Dr. Nazarian will glare at me con- in-Chief of this year's Exodus Year-

#### The Anchor

1998 Commencement Magazine

Photo credits: Cover: Ingrid Franco and Debbie Kennedy; Page 2: Ingrid Franco; Pages 4: Courtesy of News and Publications; Back cover: Ingrid Franco.

#### The Anchor

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On the cover: Sandra Novak, Elementary Education, Michaela Dwyer, Elementary Education, Elizabeth Shea, Elementary Education, Jen Hastings, Elementary Education, Alissa Floria, Biology and Michael Rockwell, Biology at Cap and Gown Day, May 6, 1998.

## 1,300 to receive degrees

#### Acclaimed monologist Spalding Gray to deliver commencement address

including undergraduates, their ing with a rare vision problem; Monfriends and families, and faculty, staff and friends of the college.

Native Rhode Islander Spalding Gray, will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters and deliver the address at the undergraduate commencement. Gray embodies the tradition of combining the performing arts and education, as he finds wisdom and lessons to be learned through the experiences of everyday

Gray's theatrical monologues, in which he shares his frequently anguished, often humorous, and always profound musings, combine elements of storytelling, autobiography, stand-up comedy, therapy, and a trained actor's improvisations.

"I do not write any of my monologues in the formal sense. I begin all of them with a simple outline of events collected from my life. Then, ster in a Box, a tale of Gray's atguided by my outline, I tell you my the images of an internal film. My monologues are never rehearsed or spoken before I tell them to you. The process is a kind of oral composition or quite simply, storytelling," Gray

formed 14 monologues. His most recent is entitled It's a Slippery Slope, which is ostensibly the autobio-

More than 1,300 Rhode Island graphical tale of a man who learns College undergraduate and graduate to ski late in life, but in reality is a students will receive their diplomas metaphor for a man in the grip of a during today's commencement exer- mid-life crisis. Three of his best cises. This year's undergraduate fes- known works have been filmed, intivities are expected to draw a gath- cluding Gray's Anatomy, an account ering of 10,000 or more attendees of his trials and tribulations in deal-



Spalding Gray

tempts to come to terms with his story. It's as though I am describing mother's suicide, his attempts to pull his overdue novel together (finally published in 1992 as Impossible Vacation), and a visit to war-torn Nicaragua; and the Obie Award-winning Swimming to Cambodia, inspired by Gray's experience acting in the Acad-Gray has composed and per- emy Award-winning film, The Kill-

given to another well-known Rhode Island.

Islander, Armand M. LaMontagne. LaMontagne will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts Degree.

Working from his studio in North Scituate, LaMontagne is one of the state's most celebrated living artists. He has received international acclaim as a virtuoso in the medium of wood sculpture. His talent is so great and his eye for detail so exact that once, as a young sculptor, he constructed a fake Great Brewster Chair that passed muster with leading antique experts just to prove a point.

LaMontagne is best known for his portrait sculptures of sports and historical figures. Some of his more notable subjects have included General George Patton, Eleanor Roosevelt, President Gerald Ford, and sports legends Larry Bird, Carl Yastrzemski, and Bobby Orr. His sculptures of Ted Williams and Babe Ruth, which stand inside the entrance to the Baseball Hall of Fame, are the most photographed items in Cooperstown.

Close to 360 graduate students heard remarks Thursday night from Paul Binder, founder and artistic director of the Big Apple Circus, a nonprofit traveling performing arts troupe dedicated to keeping alive the old-time circus tradition as an expression of American folk art. Binder received an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts Degree.

Also, at the graduate commencement, a Honorary Doctorate of Public Service Degree was presented posthumously to Bessie Jae Smith Clanton. Known to all as B. Jae, she dedicated her life to empowering and giving voice to minorities, the poor, and the disenfranchised. Clanton passed away on March 31 of this year. Clanton served as Executive Di-An honorary degree will also be rector of the Urban League of Rhode

### To those who have missed our day?

by Christine T. Hands

silently falling outside my study win- Mom used to make). I will have these dow. The breeze is swaying the memories forever. spring leaves, casting a moving image within my room. This afternoon out my little red car, my very first is the wake of my brother Thomas, car. I knew it was worth the money someone whom I love and was hop- and above all safe after Tommy ing to share my graduation news okayed it. Tommy knew his cars and with.

Why should I be so down? As a be-checked it out. It was a family thing. liever in a Supreme Being I know my My husband knows cars too. I guess brother is with my mother and father he'll do it alone from now on. I trust and many other relatives and friends him just as I trusted Tommy. in a peaceful tranquil environment.

other classmates that have lost their when I asked him for it. It was loved ones prior to this big day. Talk shipped to his company in error. He about me slapping myself in the face found homes for all the rejects or to wake up! I'm not standing here unwanted things. Tommy hated to alone. Sure I will miss my brother throw good stuff away. He said he'd being around. He was one of the didn't know if it was what I was lookkindest most caring people I knew, ing for, but he knew I'd find some and I loved him very much, more kind of use for it. Thing was it was than he ever knew.

I've received overwhelming sup- scheme and all. port from my spouse and other famcall it mourning. Well, it just better fathers and aunt. stop. I'm sick of it. I'm sure he wouldn't want me to dwell on him that my Supreme Being allows our the way I have the past two days or loved ones to look down upon us on to dread this afternoon as I do.

make a mess of my grades at this point of my education. It's been so hard to work on my class work. And two of my projects are due tomorrow. I just haven't been able to concentrate on them.

will look for free materials for my special projects, who will eat my Today is a gray day and the rain is fudge (from a recipe that's just like

Tommy and my husband checking his approval meant the world to me. At first I felt selfish of my feelings. I felt safe and secure if Tommy

I plan to drape my basement soon I also started thinking of the many with the material Tommy found just what I was looking for, color

And last but not least, even though ily members, friends and co-work- I know my remaining brothers are ers. I feel quite guilty about my fre- not supposed to eat fudge because of quent outburst of tears. They say it their health, I know that my nieces is OK and that I should let it out. But, and nephews will devour it, they I cry in sadness for myself and not in won't be able to compare it, but celebration for my brother. Some- they'll know that their grandmother thing is wrong with this picture. They must have made great fudge for their

Yes, life does go on. But, I also feel special occasions, and that our gradu-He definitely wouldn't want me to ation day is one of those special

(I can almost hear Tommy say, "Yeah, that's good." He just may be now to the journey that he has saying it to my Mom or Dad or even my Grandmother who never had the opportunity to hold me.) Tommy was Him. Amen. I've asked myself, who will check a man of few simple words, usually out any new cars I want to buy, who beginning with yeah, nah, yap, or loved ones as I know I will.

R is for the roads we each will travel as we choose our journeys from here H is for the hours of book work and classes that at times was quite a fear O is for the overtime that we worked to make our finances reach to fill our desire D is for the degree that we find the need to

E is for the education that we all have

I is for the independence that we found in

S is for the silence that we required when concentrating

L is for the laughs we cherish from the jokes and other scams

A is for the academics that kept on floating

into our plans N is for the nights that we devoted to books

till the wee of the morn D is for the dreams that we wish true in the coming dawn

C is for the capabilities that we each had to

O is for the opportunities that lay ahead upon our move

L is for the love that we leave as we go on L is for the luck that we give to those upon E is for energy that we build from our increased confidence

G is for gratitude that we leave to all who

E is for the everything that you mean to us.

sure. He talked in a low soft voice except when he was excited. Then you never know what to have expected to come out of his mouth or

I feel loved right now and I feel the warmth of my Supreme Being's closeness. I thank Him for giving me the peace of knowing Tommy and my other loved ones are with Him and that I too will meet Him one day.

I also thank Him for having given me the capabilities and talents that I needed to complete my degree. Without Him it would not have been possible. I await the detour from my path planned for me, just as each of us await. In His Holy Name I thank

May you share your day with your

## Saying farewell

by Steven J. Pechie

"Goodbye." It's never been a fond say when leaving someone. We figthe final farewell one says to another. The few times I've said "goodbye" in my life were to people I was close at all. However, we all inevitably say it at least once.

Someone once said that, "every ence is truly enriched. new beginning comes from some 1998. However, these beginnings come with the ending of our college careers. For most of us, it means re-

lenges that test our knowledge competence. After much reflection, I have learned that this new beginning word of mine. For most of us, wouldn't be, if it weren't for the chal-"goodbye" is the standard thing to lenges of the spirit we have also endured here at RIC. The rewards ure we'll see them later. However, gained and lost, the failures and the most of us don't realize that victories, the minds and hearts "goodbye" is a word invented to be opened or closed; these things most of us either ignore or cast aside in pursuit of our "destiny." A few of us though, embrace these things for to. Because of this, I try not to say it what they are and apply the lessons learned to future challenges along the

Perhaps, then, saying "goodbye" is other beginnings end." New begin- the wrong thing. A better word, pernings are here for us, the class of haps, would be "farewell." This word means that, though you will never see, feel, or experience the person, feeling, or experience again, you will lief from tests, papers, and other chal- keep the memories and lessons of

that relationship. My grandfather told me that, "So long as you hold someone or something in your heart, it will always be with you no matter how far away you go."

And so I say "farewell" to RIC and the people and experiences I have known here. My time in this place was short, but I will always remember the friends I've met and the experiences I've had. Of late nights in the library, sweating in Donovan, and relaxing in the CoffeeGround. Of friends I've laughed and cried with. Of small defeats that finally led to huge victories, and most especially the lesson that, while I can't change way. By doing this, our life experi- the whole world, I can change my part in it for the better.

> And so, I say goodbye to Rhode Island College. As this beginning draws to a close, a new beginning starts, and as far away as I go, I will always keep this place and these people close to my heart. Farewell, and thanks.

## Making dreams real

by Ella Yanko

I have been in the United States almost seven years, and I am still amazed and amused by the people who have come to me over the past few days to congratulate me, and share their warm words of support. The people of the Slightly Older Students have been particularly encouraging when they tell me that I am an inspiration to them! One woman even said, "I will put your picture on the wall, and every day it will remind me that if you could do it, I can do it also." As she said this to me, her smiling eyes were filled with tears.

All these people deeply touched me. I decided to write this letter to all of you who supported me through these difficult and challenging seven years. I also wish to thank my teach-

first English teacher at CCRI, Mr. Arthur Mossberg, who believed in me and predicted my success in learning English. Thank you.

I also want to thank the American government for the opportunity to come here, to learn, and to become a proud citizen of these great United States of America.

which supported me financially through all four semesters at RIC. I will never forget it.

go straight forward, and never stop learning! There is nothing that you more challenging than you think you co-students of RIC, have the ability can handle, because when you ers at CCRI and RIC, especially my achieve them your feelings will be

indescribable, believe me!

Also, do know who your ancestors are? Do you know about the first ones in your family who came here, about their culture, and their language? Do you know where their graves are? If you do, then go there, find them and say thank you. Thank them for being the first ones to take all the burden, hard work, and responsibilities to survive, and thereby gave you the opportunity to be born here in the USA. Use their gift I want to thank the Alumni Office, wisely, and never let the small things interfere with your goals. Always, always see the bigger picture!

You, my young co-students, can I want to say to all RIC students: make this great country even better, stronger, and richer. That way, everyone in the whole world can have cannot overcome! It is up to you hope that because of America, their where you will end up - on the top life will be better. Then, they will be of the mountain or the bottom of it. able to use the USA as a model for Let your goals always be a little bit their own countries. You, my young to make this dream come true!

Thank you all!

## We see the light!!!

by Christine Palmaccio

May 23, 1998. I am sure that as we look throughout the graduating class we will all see the class of 1998 and the happiness that fills the air. These glowing faces and gleaming smiles are only a few gestures that our body languages will exhibit to demonstrate the true meaning of celebration.

Our celebration should begin today, if it has not already begun and continue through and beyond this special occasion. This is a celebration for all! It begins with our parents, families, friends, educators and most importantly-us, the senior class of 1998.

Coming to this commencement brings a sense of security to many of us. We figure if we have our cap and gown in hand and we've walked across the stage: who could possibly take this feeling out of our reach.

We entered Rhode Island College of a class full of hopes and dreams and will leave today as graduates Rhode Island College has to offer. of advice. As many seniors have demonstrated, academics, athletics and other extra curricular activities are and will always be the most memorable expeneed. They make us laugh, they make ally like to thank both the Elemen- is difficult, stand up for us whenever tary Education and Special Education Departments for all of their guidance and willingness to help.

voice!" Thanks to Dr. McCormick for life's happiness. and also the hours of jokes that Dr.

many times have we heard: "You are world, here I come! At the end of this We did it! Commencement Day: or more times? Yes, we are the fu-17 or more years being educated to meet the demands of the 21st century: better known as "the future." Many, if not all of us will make multiple career choices. Although we will not follow the same yellow brick road to get to these careers, we will at a later time. always have two things in common with each other. The first is being a lieve we made it! Peace and good member of Rhode Island College's Class of 1998 and the second is having friendships. If it hadn't been for some of my friends, I'm not so sure that I would have made it to 8:00 a.m. classes.

As the late Superintendent Mary Chirico, long time educator, would say: Through these years we have developed friendships. These friendships may be the most important relationships that we may ever have. There are several pieces of advice that we have received from others over time. Some include: Reach for who have built upon or reached these the stars! Go for the gold! Never give hopes and dreams. Many people up! Try something different! And so overlook the opportunities that on. These are all significant pieces

But more importantly than reaching your goal is how you get there. True friends stick by you in time of necessary, sometimes know us better than we know ourselves, understand us, forgive us, steady us and I hope to touch the lives of many balance us, hack us and give us adstudents as I begin my career as a vice, love and respect us. Through teacher, as many have done for me. thick and thin, till death do us part: I'll never forget, "Say it in your BIG Friendships are the only guarantee you.

We have had friends all of our Imber incorporated into the curricu- lives. Think back to your senior year of high school and how excited you Over the past several years how were. Many of us felt: Look out the Class of 1998!

the future of tomorrow"- 3, 4, 5, 6, senior year of high school many of us said good-byes to friends. We all ture of tomorrow. We have used our knew that these people would be around over the summer, even if they were going away to college in the fall-but we still said good-bye. Some of us said these words face to face and others may have written their feelings down to be read in privacy

> Many may have said, "I can't beluck!" Others may have sounded more like this, "Thank you for always being there, you have cheered me up and have never let me down. We will always have good times to remember. You are a true friend to me and I appreciate all that you have done. I hope our friendship only grows over time. Keep in touch. Best friends forever." These messages may have been said or written years ago, but they will never change. We may have lost touch over time but the bond has not been broken with that touch.

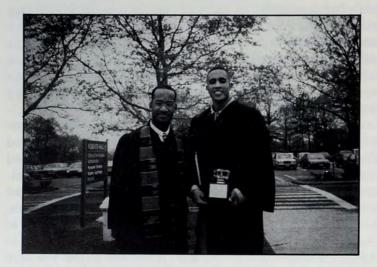
> These friendships have developed here at Rhode Island College as well. Take that special person who is a true friend and has touched you with their caring compassion and pass it on to another. This will only build more true friendships in the world.

I would like to thank the all of my riences in our lives. I would person- us cry, they tell us the truth when it friends for all of the memories that we have shared. A special thanks to my closest friend, my mother. She has truly touched my life with her caring compassion. Her guidance and love has brought me to this special point in my life. Thanks Mom, I love you! I couldn't have done it without

> In closing, I wish you all a lifetime of friendship and happiness.

Thank you and congratulations to

## Cap and Gown Convocation



Michael Browner, Jr., Secondary Education, History & Social Studies and Alex Butler, Physical Education

Sandra Novak, Elementary Education, Michael Dwyer, Elementary Education and Elizabeth Shea, Elementary Education.





Janice Sims, Secondary Education & English, Maria Vican, Secondary Education & English

## · May 6, 1998 ·

Tom Shaw, Business Management, Steve Drowne, Human Relations Management and Jen Hastings, Elementary Education.



Brendan Larkin, Accounting

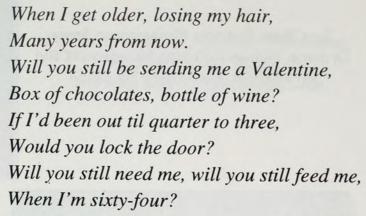
Mary Ann DiPalma, Elementary Education and Nicole Chamalian, Elementary Education and Special Education.



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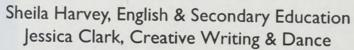
## We've come a long way, baby!





The Beatles











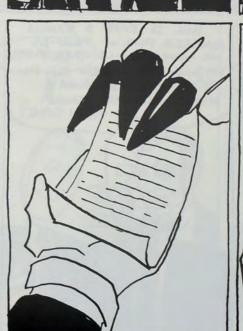


















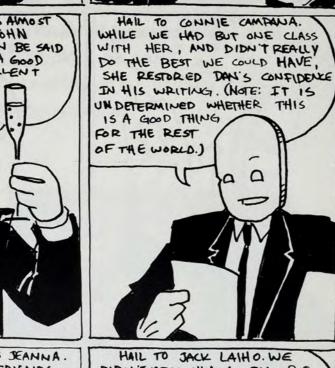
HAIL TO JERRY PERRING,

SECOND HERO OF THE ART DEPARTMENT. NOT

OF COMIC ART, BUT HE

ONLY DID JERRY HOT

ENCOURAGED IT.



HAIL TO JOSE BUSCAGLIA,

WHO, IN THE THREE WEEKS DAN ATTENDED HIS CLASS

BEFORE TOSE ... MOVED ON ...
THUGHT MORE ABOUT DRAWING

ANATOMY THAN 20 YEARS AS

A HUMAN

HAD TAUGHT





























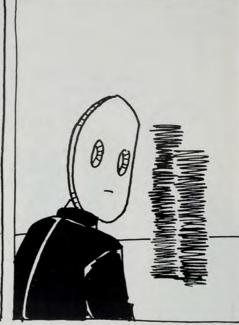




















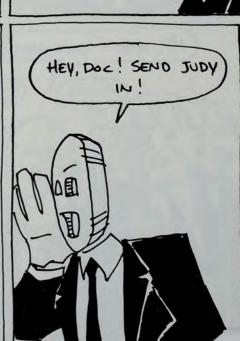






WE'VE GOT COMING: DDC,









ABOUT THIS?



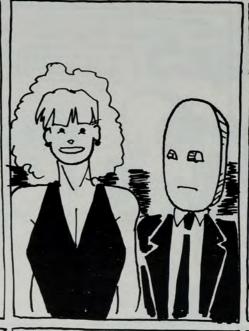


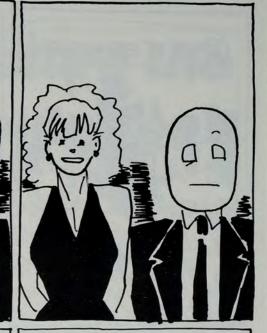
























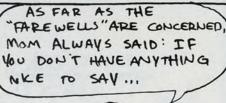




IN CONCLUSION, I'd like

TO THANK EVERYONE WHO











#### A few simple good-byes

by Carol Chapman

Rob- Thank you for your love, support, and patience, I love you! It will all be worth it.

Mom- Thank you a million times for your support and confidence but most of all for your love.

Maria- It's all over! Let's go to Disney World! Love you!

Lisa H.- Best of luck to a beautiful person and to the best and most effective teacher in the world. Gin and moon light- I love you!

Lisa F. - Best wishes and lots of luck in your nursing career!

Sal A.- God bless you. Thank you for the laughs. Wish you were here!

Last but certainly not least- John. There's not enough Disney dollars in the world to effectively thank you for all your help and guidance in Physics and Organic- thank you! I wish you the best of luck in your career as an optometrist.

We are outta here! I'll have a water with lemon...



Christine Palmaccio, Elementary Education & Special Education, Jennifer Pistacchio, Speech and Hearing, and Melinda Witt Elementary Education and Special Education.



Melanie Mioduszewski, Coral Roach, Christine Butler, and Rich Hollis (in rear.)

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