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RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1972



Members of the Cast Prepare For Upcoming Opera

A musical version of the story of Noah and the Ark is being presented by the Rhode Island College Music Department when Benjamin Britten's opera "Noye's Fludde" is performed on April 13, 14, and 15 at 8 p.m. in the Little Theatre in Roberts Hall on the college campus.

"The opera," says RIC assistant professor of Music Jesse A. Coston, who will direct the work "is a relatively simple piece, composed by Britten for children. The libretto was adapted by Britten from a medieval religious work, the Chester Miracle Play." He added that the performance will be fully-staged, utilizing full-orchestra.

The cast, which was drawn from RIC choir members and music students, includes nearly 30 singing parts. In lead roles are: Noah, Brother

Roger J. Chingas, originally from Jamaica, N.Y., presently living at 95 Grove Avenue in East Providence; Mrs. Noah, Linda Gabmele of 46 Swift Street in Providence and as God, John J. Warrener of 1560 Fall River Avenue in Seekonk, Mass.

The set was designed by Mr. John M. Gavis, the technical director of the RIC Speech/Theatre department. Miss Lynn Dion of 200 High Service Avenue in North Providence, who sings the part of the Tiger in the production, also designs the costumes.

Mr. Coston, who has been with the RIC Music Faculty since September 1969, received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from the Westminster Choir College in 1965. In 1968, he received a Master of Music in Voice from the New England Conservatory.

Ethnic Heritage Conference Held

Senator Pell Tours RIC

A college-community dinner and conference of the Ethnic Heritage Studies Project was held at 6 p.m. on March 27 at the Faculty Center at Rhode Island College. The dinner was attended by President Joseph Kauffman and Professor George Kellner, Director of the Project, and other additional members of the College. Distinguished members of fifteen ethnic groups were invited to discuss the Project and share ideas.

"Public interest in white ethnic groups has increased," Professor Kellner said. "We recognize the cultural diversity in the community. We value them, their opinions, and take pride in their past achievements."

He stated that the knowledge of the traditions and achievements of these cultures should be made available to stimulate intellectual thought and create an understanding of the past. To accomplish this goal, materials of ethnic interest that lay "obscure in journals in libraries" must be collected before they are lost or destroyed. Students should be provided with opportunities for ethnic studies and relevant material should be published. An Ethnic Heritage Packet is in the process of being produced but it will be at least five years before it will be available for schools. Professor Kellner said that "the lag in the utilization of such materials need not occur" and called for community aid. He said that they were in the process of housing ethnic materials in Adams Library.

Professor Kellner announced a series of ethnic programs beginning on May 12 with a day-long conference. He urged community involvement and participation in making the conference a success.

The establishment of the Ethnic Heritage Studies Project at Rhode Island College was announced last February by President Kauffman. The Project seeks to further studies in cultural pluralism, disseminate materials and information to the schools and community, create an ethnic materials collection, and sponsor programs and conferences that would highlight the value of ethnicity and its contributions to the richness of the American heritage. Specifically, the Project aims to provide those benefits which might serve to break down barriers of misunderstanding while preserving the richness of our human diversity.

This diversity, according to Professor Kellner, is "a lasting value of the American heritage."

Senator Claiborne Pell toured the Rhode Island College campus on Monday, April 11th, taking time to lunch with students, hold a question-and-answer period and meet with the faculty.

Arriving here shortly after noontime, Senator Pell first toured the Student Union, stopping off to visit the Student Senate Chambers. Later in Donovan Dining Center, Pell had lunch with Senate president Ken Hokenson and past Senate president, Joe Lamarca.

His scheduled 12:30 rap session in the Student Union Ballroom was delayed for 15 minutes as the Senator took time to shake hands and meet students in the lower level of Donovan.

An estimated 40 students were present for the discussion session, which was being covered by a local TV station.

One of the first questions asked of the senator centered around the topic of school busing. As Chairman of the Education Subcommittee, Pell pointed out his relationship to this topic, as well as to all other educational priorities. He supports an integrated educational system, and therefore views moderate busing as an asset. Yet, he pointed out that long periods of busing can be detrimental to the physical and mental health of school children. Pell is quoted as saying he sees the need for "slowing it down, but for not halting it in its tracks."

Senator Pell reiterated his long-standing opposition to the Indochina war, and stressed his disgust at the constant number of Vietnamese casualties. He said that the reduction of our own losses cannot be fully appreciated until there is a drastic drop in the number of Asian dead. He also said that he cannot agree with those who claim that an air war is cleaner and more humane than ground combat. The senator pointed out the ease with which a Vietnam withdrawal bill, such as the Gravel Bill, would pass the Senate, although passage would be somewhat difficult in the House.

Senator Pell was then asked about his anticipated opponent in this year's senatorial

election, ex-governor of Rhode Island, John Chaffee. Pell compared himself to the conservative Chaffee and stressed Chaffee's "hawk" position on Vietnam. Pell predicts that this upcoming Senate race will depend on which man's philosophy is in accord with the majority. Here, Pell, speaking about majority appeal, mentioned President Nixon, who the senator said is a man "not inhibited by his principles."

Pell also sees the need for some form of economic control, to halt inflation and stabilize our faltering monetary state. Although he doesn't wish to advocate another bureaucratic structure, some kind of OPA (Office of Price Administration) would be beneficial.

Asked about the Communist world movement, Pell spoke of his experience behind the Iron Curtain, and especially of the three occasions when he was arrested. Pell urges more contact with communism, which increases our chances of eroding it. Informing those in Communist countries of the benefits and freedoms in a democratic society, will create discontent and the impetus for upheaval in Red domains. According to Pell, we must appeal to basic human freedoms through increased contacts, trades and exchanges. The senator mentioned the differences between the easy Red take-over of Czechoslovakia in 1948, and the more difficult Communist reinstatement in 1968, after 20 years of exposure to other world cultures.

Concerning the upcoming presidential election, Pell stated his favor for Muskie, and disagreed strongly with a student who termed Muskie's campaign washed up after the Wisconsin primary. Asked if he would support George Wallace, in light of the Alabama governor receiving the nomination and the subsequent party loyalty oath, Pell remarked that that is a decision he "hopes he wouldn't have to make."

Following these rounds of questions from the students, Senator Pell met with faculty and administration in the Faculty Center.

"A Visit To 1 Afghanistan"

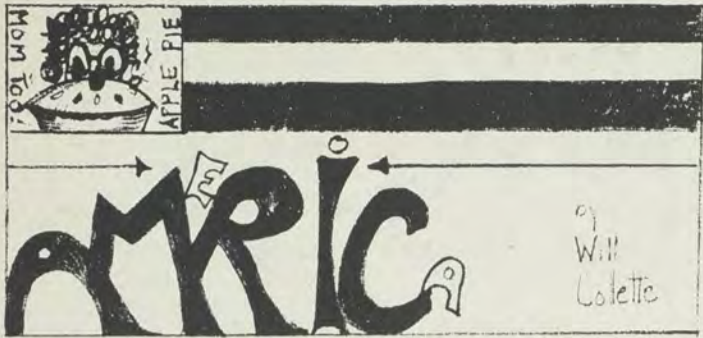
A colloquium entitled "A Medical Anthropologist in Afghanistan" by Michael E. Scala, Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at Rhode Island College, will be presented on Tuesday, April 18 at 2 p.m. in the Gage Hall Auditorium on the college campus.

Dr. Scala, a physician specializing in orthopedic surgery, will discuss his visit to Afghanistan during the summer of 1970 with a CARE/MEDICO medical team. The objective of the team's visit was to extend the range of treatable diseases in the country.

Student Senate Ends Parking Violation Payment Policy

The Student Senate has announced that due to the change in the parking policy of the College, it will no longer provide payment for student

parking violations as a result of parking in faculty lots. This policy is effective as of 31 March 1972.



My Most Unforgettable Character

by W. Collette

I'll never forget the day or the circumstances that led to that fateful rendezvous. I was lugging a \$10.99 lamp and a quart of Wesson oil (a hell of a bargain at 59¢) and who should I run into but Ruby Vine, famous entrepreneur and fire truck-chaser of Railroad Salvage.

I happened to be in the Railroad Salvage store because I, like millions of other Americans, love the idea of a bargain. Needless to say, I was willing to ignore the 100 mile round-trip, which, by Internal Revenue standards of 10¢ per mile, costs \$10, in order to save a few bucks on name-brand junk.

Also, having been raised in a heritage rich in voyeurism, I was curious to see if the disasters so vividly depicted in the Railroad Salvage ads marred the saleability of their fine merchandise. I am pleased to report that Ruby, intrepid businessman that he is, passed over the blood-stained, the macabre and the grim, when he delivers it to you at "savings of 40 to 80 per cent."

Seeing Ruby was a tear-evoking experience, like the embodiment of childhood dreams, suddenly packaged and animated and placed magically within your reach. I didn't reach out to clutch at his sleeve, though, God knows, I wanted to. I was afraid that if I were to do so, Ruby would pull a magic disappearing act, like the one I've seen Choo-Choo do so many times on Channel Six.

Instead, I stood there, drinking in the whole scene, seeing the legendary Mr. Ruby Vine discuss a leak in the roof

with another man. So resplendent he was, with gaily colored apache tie flapping in the breeze of the air-conditioner. My wife whispered urgently, "Do you know who that is?" Yet, all I could answer with was a smile and a thought of "Hush," in my mind, "Does one ask 'who is that?' in Church, or does one just quietly understand what is going on."

Only my wife and I seemed to be aware of his presence, there in the foyer behind the check-out counters, the milling Sunday afternoon crowd pressing in about us, as if we alone were experiencing our own private revelation. A Fatima off Route 95 at the Groton exit. How the others could be so blind and yet, how amazing it was that we could be so lucky.

We left the store quickly, afraid to be overwhelmed and left inert and senseless by what could have been an overpowering sensation. Should Choo-Choo have appeared on the scene, wagging her pixy gloved finger, I would have dropped my cookies and fallen to the floor. Some things can be just too much.

Analyzing the experience afterwards, some insight into what had occurred was gained. The one really important thing that was gained was another point in completing the American Life Game of Cultural Completion; we had successfully stood near a well-known TV commercial personality. We now move on to the next stage: holding a five-second or more meaningful dialogue with somebody famous.

A Deeper Problem?

The following rather obnoxious memo was sent to members of the Senate before the meeting of March 29th:

TO: All Senators
FROM: Kenneth J. Hokenson, President
SUBJ: Senatorial Responsibility

"It has become apparent that many of us who grace these hallowed chamber halls are not doing our jobs. Needless to say this is nothing new. But it has of late disturbed me by the fact it has become excessive. Since many of you have either forgotten or are ignoring your responsibilities as Senators, I feel justified in saying 'shit or get off the pot.'"

Needless to say, this type of communication does not engender people's good will, and certainly not the good will

of lazy or unmotivated senators. It might be mentioned that at the meeting of March 29th, there was insufficient attendance for a quorum. It is therefore evident that memos such as these tend to alienate rather than motivate. Some may say that people could not attend the meeting for "legitimate (?) " reasons, but if sufficiently motivated, I think attendance would be better regardless of circumstances. People only do what they are motivated to. Perhaps the members of the Senate get more satisfaction out of some rinky-dink part time job, television, homework, girlfriends and boyfriends or other things, than they do attending a Senate meeting. I don't find it hard to believe that they would get more satisfaction out of the

above activities because they are freed of listening to President Hokenson's personal, sarcastic, and often insulting comments he makes to and about people, things, and ethnic groups while presiding over the meeting. Perhaps they are sick and tired of allocating \$100 to this club, \$200 to that, and debating rather inane and superfluous matters. I really don't blame them.

Since President Hokenson took office, the Senate has gone from a full membership (24) to 14 or so. Several had to quit for academic reasons, but several were automatically excluded on grounds of poor attendance, and others resigned outright. It seems to me there was in these cases, a lack of motivation, perhaps a feeling of alienation or boredom that caused these people to quit. Nothing very exciting is discussed at Senate meetings. I attribute this to many factors, but mostly a failure of the leadership of the body to choose items for the agenda which could properly be called student governance as I suggested several weeks ago, not to mention the acceptance and submission to the paternalistic tactics of the college administration, and the lack of motivation Senate leaders might have due to a feeling of powerlessness given to them primarily by the student body as a whole. When I refer to alienation, I am pointing out that I think the human relations methods (or, better, lack of them) employed by Mr. Hokenson have had an alienatory effect on the Senators. The memo reprinted here is only one example. The Senate lost a valuable person in Larry Di Rocco. Mr. Di Rocco told me that Mr. Hokenson had treated him very poorly, which according to Mr. Di Rocco, made him quite unmotivated to perform his duties properly. I believe Mr. Di Rocco's account, because from my personal observation, not only did he relate poorly to Larry, but also to many other people as well. It is my impression that he has used his office of president for a pedestal for the theory and practice of dictatorship, domination, and manipulation. It is also my opinion that he has used his office of President for personal gain. I believe that it is highly probable that his decision to run for office was motivated by the fact that being president looks good on his record for employment when he graduates. I also believe, that the way he executes his duties are indicative of a primary concern for his personal future. This is evidenced by what I see as bowing and scraping and licking the asses of college administrators as opposed to standing up for the people he represents. It might be pointed out that Mr. Hokenson applied for a graduate assistantship here for next year, and in the preceding months, it looked to me like he was quite meticulous in seeing that nothing he might do in the capacity of president would jeopardize this. This I see as a betrayal of trust.

If nothing else is obvious, Mr. Hokenson believes in Respect for Authority as his guiding credo. He expects people to respect his in the Senate, and he respects that of the college administration. I think he is a good represen-

Retort To DJL

by Normana Bouley

When first informed of the intention of D.J. Lynch to express himself in the Anchor on my appointment to the Constitutional Revision Commission by the Student Senate, I had absolutely no intention of responding in these gleamings. However, I felt that the imputations of an imp require, though they don't deserve, a retort.

1.) Lynch alleges that I am a personal friend of Senate President, Kenneth J. Hokenson. To this heinous charge I plead guilty. As I am a kind-hearted soul who befriends all kinds of persons, I felt it my prerogative to give my friendship to Ken if I wished. NOTE: I do not consider Lynch a personal friend of mine.

2.) Lynch alleged that I am a non-student. We are all students of something or other. I am a graduate of Rhode Island College; a former chairman of the Political Science student advisory committee, of the dean of arts and sciences' advisory committee, of the College Curriculum Committee and of the General Studies Committee — hardly a non-student.

3.) Lynch alleges that I am receiving funds to which I am not entitled for a service which I am not entitled to provide. I am providing the student body a service as consultant to and

member of the Constitutional Revision Commission of the Student Senate to liquidate and replace the government of the student body as it presently exists - an unusually large task for a simple \$100.00 reimbursement.

I am appointed to this position by a 6-5-0 VOTE of the Rhode Island College student Senate upon the RECOMMENDATION of President Hokenson. Lynch contended and stated that Hokenson was being irresponsible. The Senate made the appointment not Hokenson. Lynch does not want to offer his criticism of Senate's actions, God knows, but this is an error he deliberately made to blow up the affair.

For 4-1/2 years I paid my student activity fees (a total of \$180.00) none of which I have ever gotten back. I have spent more hours in the service of this College than \$180.00 could even make a dent in.

All in all, I simply ask the members of the Rhode Island College to reject the irresponsibility of Lynch and bear witness to the document which the Constitutional Revision Commission will present shortly for their consideration. This in itself will bear testimony to the wisdom or lack of it of the Senate's appointment of the Constitutional Revision Commission.

The Price Closes Trinity Season

Arthur Miller's *The Price*, the final production of the Trinity Square Repertory Company season, opens Tuesday, April 11, at Trinity Square Playhouse in Providence for a five-week run through May 13.

Billed as a "modern American classic," *The Price* concerns two brothers in conflict over self worth and the familial ties-that-bind. Trinity stalwarts William Cain, Barbara Orson and George Martin will be joined by guest actor Michael Gorrin — who will portray an aged antique dealer, catalyst for the dramatic action.

The production is being directed by Larry Arrick with scenic and costume design by Robert D. Soule. Lighting has been designed by Roger Morgan while Sandra Nathanson has handled properties.

insistent on change. No college, or very few colleges, ever started change or innovations because students complied with the system. Rather, administrators discovered that there is a certain undesirable aspect to burned buildings, demonstrations, etc., and decided to listen. It was a shame that the tactics of physical confrontation had to be used, but it always seemed to me that the campuses who progressed the farthest the last decade were those where a certain element

tative of the people he represents, for in talking to many students here, I get the same impression. I suspect this is true of America as a whole, for I believe we live in an authoritarian, mass-conformist culture, much too so for my tastes. I believe it is a sad commentary on the human situation. In elementary school, at home, and sadly, in high school, respect for authority seems to be the dominant value. This view is reinforced by various institutions of organized religion. The aim of this indoctrination is to make people manipulable and manageable in the name of avoiding chaos. Our natures are beaten, some times literally, into submission to more powerful people and institutions. The personal free will, independence, intelligence, integrity, and even the dignity of the individual is minimized.

It is only, it seems, during times of chaos we make any social progress. It seems that we improve our world by rebellion against an existing structure rather than submitting to it. It can be pointed out that in the '50's when everything was very quiet and young people rather docile, there was very little accomplished. But, look at the past decade. With the rebellion against the establishment by the poor and the black, the young people, etc., look what we have accomplished... we have civil rights for blacks and others on paper, at least, the right to vote, the age of majority, not to mention the many changes in colleges and high schools. These changes occurred not because young people submitted to the establishment or became a part of it, but rather because they became rebellious and

Community Service Column



by Rick Mitz

Purple Power

Some of my favorite browns have turned out to be green. Some of my favorite blues have turned out to be purple. And some of my favorite yellows have turned out to be red. Which just goes to show that you can't trust anyone under 20-20 vision.

I am color blind. My pants don't match my shirts, my sweaters don't match my ties, my scarves don't match my coats, my pajamas don't match my bed linen, and my socks are the product of a broken home.

I am a member of a forgotten silent minority group, discriminated against because we pledge allegiance to a flag that is yellow, white and purple; because as children we followed the orange brick road; and because to us Red China is just another pretty shade of gold.

Recently, Irving, a color-blind friend of mine, and I, tried to drive down to the state capitol to lobby for legislative charges for our myopic minority group. Irving carried a beige placard (pink) that read "Black and White is Beautiful." We got in my little yellow car (red), and drove on until we approached a flashing light over a sign that read: "Proceed carefully on flashing amber, stop on flashing red."

"What's amber?" Irving asked as we drove toward the light. "Sort of a cross between green and blue — like your sweater," I said, pointing to his mauve sweater. "My sweater's not amber," he said. "It's coral — like your jacket."

"My jacket just happens to be aqua-marine," I said.

"Look," Irving said, "Are we gonna stop at this light or aren't we?"

"Let's go through it. It's a definite amber."

"No — a definite green. Let's go through it. And we won't bother proceeding with caution. We'll show 'em."

"The sign doesn't say anything about green — just red and amber."

"They're trying to mess us up, to test whether or not we're color blind," he said with just the slightest hint of paranoia. So we went dashing through the flashing light until a police car with a flashing orange light (red) stopped us. I turned azure (green) and Irving turned beet avocado (red) and the policeman turned us in for indecent exposure. It seems that we were stopping traffic because our clothes were clashing. We never made it down to the legislature.

But there are other handicaps. I've had to drop out of school three times now because I couldn't tell which part of the triplicate forms to turn in or keep. My apartment clashes with the others in the building and the tenants' union is trying to get me either evicted or married to an interior decorator. I thought the

TV I picked up at the Goodwill for \$22 was color until I invited twenty people over to watch the Wizard of Oz. When we got to Oz it was just like Kansas and everyone walked out. According to a sign on the stadium gate, I am not welcome at football games because I always root for the Purples and Yellows (the Blues and the Greens) rather than our team, the Reds and the Browns (the Oranges and the Greens).

But, as they say, the grass is always browner ... there are some advantages to being color blind. The army refused to accept me because, once in combat, they claimed I couldn't tell the enemy from our own men (although I'm told that hasn't stopped many of our boys over there with normal vision). And I am constantly being praised by friends and family for my acceptance of people with different skin color. But, as I always tell them, "You can thank my parents that I know no color barriers. I was always brought up to think that people with purple skin have as many rights as we chartreuses."

And then there's Mazie, the lovely girl who comes over to sort my socks once a week.

"You know, Mitz," she said, sorting. "I've never met anyone with so many socks — hundreds of them. You got bad feet or something?"

"No, Mazie," I said looking into her big purple eyes. "It's just that I've got a real thing for orange-haired girls."

Power to the purple.

It has come to our attention that most of the volunteers in Students for Community Service are Big Brothers or Big Sisters. There is nothing wrong with this; however, there are many other interesting programs that are in need of volunteers. Following is a list of these various programs:

1. Alcoholic and Drug Counselling
 - Alcoholics Anonymous
 - Marathon House and Rubicon
2. Consumer Programs
 - Consumer Protection Agency
 - Rhode Island Public Interest Research Group
3. Adult Education
 - Adult Learning Center
 - RIC College Student Tutorial Program
4. Group Work
 - Mi Casa Youth Center — Woonsocket
 - Federal Hill House
 - Nickerson House
 - Person to Person - Chad Brown
 - Cranston Drop-In Center
 - 4-H Clubs
5. Social Work
 - Jewish Family and Child Services
 - Nutrition Aide Program
 - Young Parents' Service Unit
 - People In Trouble - Warwick
 - National Welfare Rights Organization
 - Catholic Inner-City Center
6. Correctional Programs
 - Adult Correctional Institution
 - Girls' Training School
7. Day Care and PreSchool Programs
 - Carter Day Nursery
 - Cranston Day Care Center
 - Mt. Hope Day Care Center

- Tri-Town Day Care Center
- Headstart
- 8. Work with Aged
 - Blackstone Valley Community Action Program - Pawtucket
 - Senior Citizens
 - Senior Citizens Action Group - SECAP
 - Jewish Home for the Aged

- 9. Tutoring
 - South Providence Tutorial Program
 - STEP (Student Tutorial Education Program) Pawtucket
 - SPAC (Social Progress Action Corps) - Woonsocket
- For further information on these or other programs come to the Community Service Office: Student Union 304.

A Deeper Problem?

(from p. 2)

of physical pragmatism acted as a catalyst to change.

No one gains anything except security by submission. When one asserts oneself, there is an element of risk of putting oneself in a less secure state. No one ever progressed by remaining secure. It is only by assertion, or some split, tear or disturbance in the machine of an existing order that anything is done. History will prove this time and again. Look at the American Revolution.

Concluding, I feel that the failure of the Senate this year not to do anything is not only Ken Hokenson's fault, not only the senators' fault, but something indicative of a very large psychosocial problem which not only affects something as unimportant as the Rhode Island College Student Senate, but education, at all levels, politics, employment, and indeed the conduct of our lives in general. This condition is a failure of people to allow other people to be people for fear of being toppled from their secure

realms, making people forcefully submit, which induces a need for security in people rather than a need to be, which causes them to be submissive rather than active. Not only are we forced into this conformity by society's institutions, but by our socialization making us so dependent on other people for a satisfactory existence, we live our lives to please others in order to survive. The result is that we don't have human beings, but zombies.



? INTERESTED ?
There will be a HAYRIDE sponsored by the R.I.C. recreation dept. APRIL 21 at STEPPING STONE STABLES, Escoheag. FEE: \$1.50. Sign up at the information desk in the student union during the free periods — Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

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Movie Review:

“DOLLARS”

by Bob Mayoh

The last person (in fact, the only person) that I can ever recall ever getting away scot free as the expression goes, after pulling off a multi-million dollar heist was Steve McQueen in “The Thomas Crown Affair.” Crown, as you may recall if you happened to see this delightful piece of slick entertainment, was that bored Boston multi-millionaire who decides to pull off the perfect crime just to relieve the sense of overriding dullness that seems to attend his life as a Back Bay electronics mogul. He pulls off just such a crime, has some fun along the way with Faye Dunaway, and is last seen peering contemptuously out a Pan Am first class window on his way to an unhindered escape to Switzerland.

But there were several things wrong with “The Thomas Crown Affair” that diminished our empathy for the main character: in robbing banks in that movie people got hurt, the Boston police looked especially bad, and what about the idea of robbing honest people's money in the first place? — and just for kicks too! The ideal situation, it would seem, for a film of this kind is for no one to get hurt who doesn't deserve it (mark the distinction in that), for none of the right but all of wrong people to look bad, and for the stolen money to be not clean and honest savings ripped-off by common greed, but rather “dirty” money stolen by a party of good guys off another party of bad guys. With such a guiding scenario as that — as farfetched as it might seem — anything thereafter is possible.

Joe Collins (Warren Beatty) wants to rob a bank, but not any bank; just the one he works for in Hamburg, Germany. Bankers are accustomed to theft from all types, Joe explains at one point in the film, but not from their own employees; and to fit the description Joe is not merely just another employee of the bank, but its security expert. Joe has personally handled the entire security rearmament of the bank, and so he knows the only possible way to successfully rob it. But being an especially moral soul, Joe will not just rob the bank without regard to first knowing from whom he's taking; he will rob only from a select few — all of whom are corrupt and who deal strictly in “dirty” money. The three he chooses all have their safe deposit boxes in the same room together in the bank — one of the chosen is a flag-waving, chubby-cheeked American colonel (Scott Brady) who has grown rich and fat on bribes and kick-backs; another, who is working with the colonel at the time, deals dope for a Hamburg based syndicate; and the third is another American who regularly deposits huge sums of cash made from mob skimming operations in Las Vegas.

Joe decides to empty the safe deposit boxes of only these three; robbing thieves seems to have its definite advantages,

as he sees it; for how can they come after him — even if they could find out that it was he who robbed each of them — without first exposing themselves to the police in the process? His reasoning would appear sound enough save for one item he overlooks: exposure to the police would be less a gamble for the three than exposure to their own connections and individual superiors.

But to pull off the job he has planned painstakingly, Joe requires an accomplice; for someone with a safe deposit box in the same room as the three is needed, as is someone to call the bank on the appointed day of the robbery with the threat of a bomb scare that will close the bank and allow Joe to get into the safe deposit

room so that, armed with keys to fit other people's boxes, he might be able to switch the contents of the three chosen boxes to the one his accomplice owns. Enter therefore Goldie Hawn, and chalk up the one persistent detraction from this otherwise excellent film. Miss Hawn, aside from attempting to instill “Dollars” with a worthless measure of her “Laugh-In” brand of impish humor, functions as Joe's call-girl accomplice (conveniently having relations with each of the poor slobs Joe is about to rob). She's also Joe's girlfriend (in a strange relationship never really developed) and the film's one unrelenting fuddy-duddy.

Joe's plan to rob the bank he works for is necessarily ingenious (to successfully rob

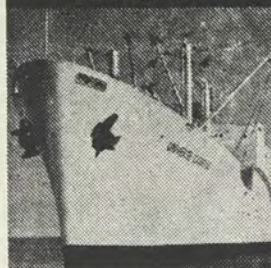
his bank one would have to have an ingenious plan); being necessarily ingenious it follows that such a plan is also necessarily complicated; and it is — too much so to even attempt an explanation. And besides, that would spoil all the fun anyway.

“Dollars” is at first terribly confusing (especially if you

happen to walk in late), but things become clear in time and those items that don't aren't all that important by the end of the film, anyway. The film is also incredibly suspenseful (it is not a comedy as such, by the way); with barely a moment's respite to be had from the time of the

(cont. on p. 6)

WORLD CAMPUS AFLOAT

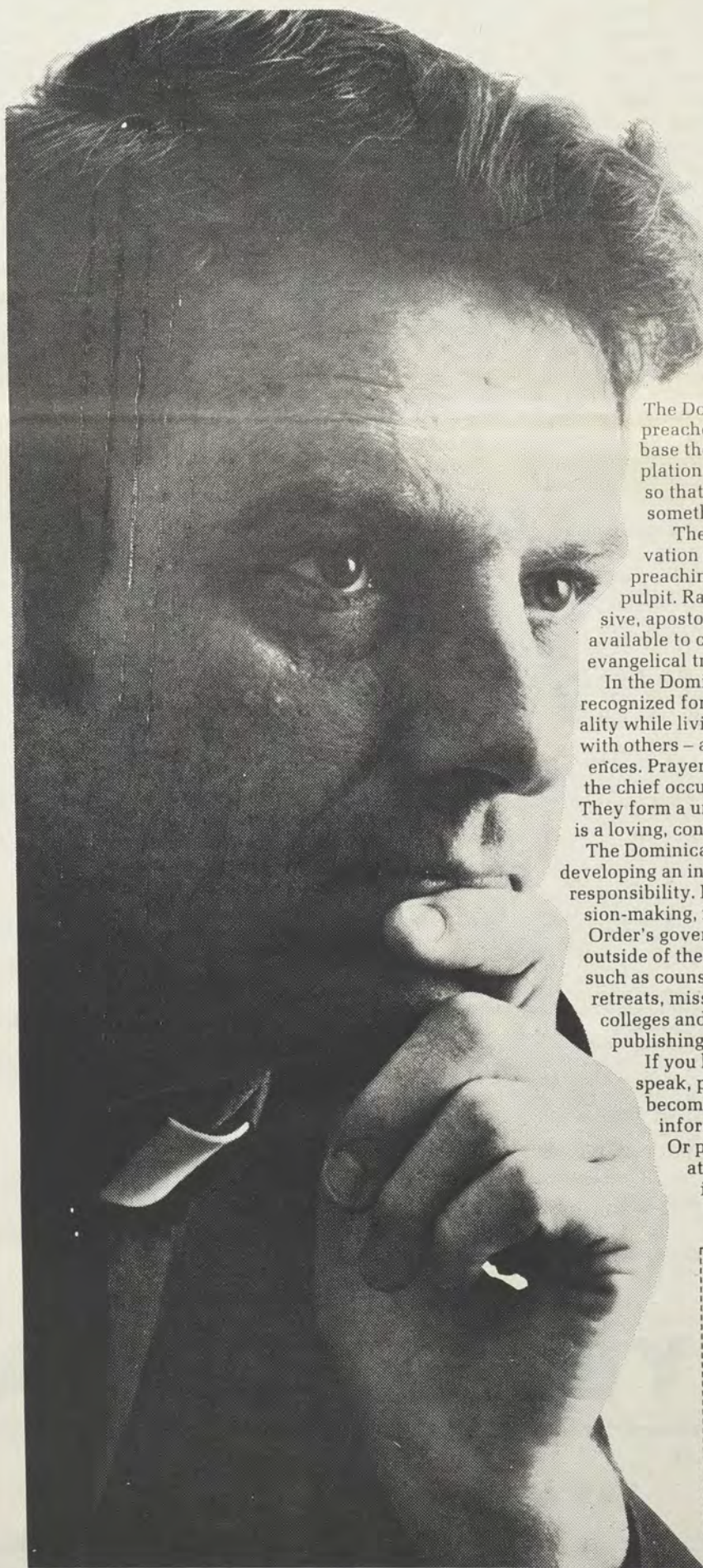


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The Activity Survey

(or, an Irreverent Exercise in Statistics Juggling) by Stephen LaRocque

If reports from offices up on the third floor of the Student Union are any indication, then the results of the Activity Survey, which were published two weeks ago in the Anchor, have produced the most furious wave of tabulating that the campus has seen for a long time. The temptation to measure the popularity of your favorite activity or organization seems to be an irresistible one.

Of course, the nice thing about this table of statistics is that you can draw almost any conclusion you'd like from the facts and figures, provided that you arrange the statistics to support your conclusion. For example, let's consider the conclusion arrived at by Vice President Hardy, whose office conducted the survey and compiled the statistics. Mr. Hardy states that the survey tells him "that our students prefer a broad range of activities to be available on the campus." OK, fair enough; that's one interpretation that fits, if you make certain assumptions. And the supporting evidence for his conclusion is impressive: from the most highly favored activity, Film Program (45% of the voters "strongly agree" that the program should be available), to lowest-ranked Fraternal Groups, ("Strongly Agree" and "Agree" — 790; "Disagree" and "Strongly Disagree" — 567; "Undecided" — 504), not one activity listed received an unfavorable total vote.

Some mental gymnastics
But let's try out this idea: let's say that the total number of favorable vs. unfavorable votes doesn't mean anything in particular, but that the favorable ("Agree" and "Strongly Agree") and unfavorable ("Disagree" and "Strongly Disagree") votes taken separately, might mean something. There's a reason for this suggestion. As most students who have participated in RIC activities know, no extracurricular activity is sacred, and any one could be dropped at any time, by any one of several people or groups. What's more important is that, when an activity dies, there are few mourners; Rhode Island College students, by and large, have their activities created for them, and allow them to be dissolved, usually without their knowledge. So, as far as a guarantee of permanence, a favorable vote for a RIC activity may be as good as the promise of a fair-weather friend.

With that in mind, let's arrange the activities according to the number of favorable ("Strongly Agree" or "Agree") votes that each received:

Activity	Favorable Votes
1. Film Programs	1722
2. Theatre	1706
3. Concerts	1663
4. Student Newspaper	1587
5. Speakers	1582
6. Intramural Ath.	1567
7. Intercollegiate Ath.	1557
8. Fine Arts Series	1552
9. Draft Information	1525
10. Recreation Trips	1521
11. S.U. Activities	1514
12. Recreation—Whipple	1508
13. Student Organizations	1504

14. Students for Community Service	1459
15. Yearbook	1447
16. Coffee House	1381
17. Student Govt.	1374
18. Dance	1362
19. Debate	1014
20. Fraternal Groups	790

A quick summary

First, a few general (and relatively harmless) observations. The three most popular items are similar: all are entertainment items; all three are on-campus activities, the first two providing quite a saving over their commercial counterparts. Curiously enough, the third item, Concerts, have rarely been presented during the past few years; last year, for example, only two concerts (Tom Rush and Jethro Tull) took place, both of them early in the school year. Maybe the high tally for Concerts is an indication of some deep-seated, sincerely felt need to be entertained by a live group; on the other hand, perhaps it simply reflects the assumption that any self-respecting college should sponsor a healthy schedule of concerts.

The fourth most popular activity is the Anchor; I assume that that means the fourth most popular activity is reading the Anchor, because the paper sure as hell isn't very popular when staff members are needed. Fifth is "Speakers", which is a little vague. Does this category include those people who address the colloquia held by many departments, or does it simply refer to the blockbusters that come from time to time, under mixed auspices? If the latter is true, then the situation seems very much like that of Concerts: the only two speakers that I can remember from last year are Ralph Nader, and George Leonard and I doubt that the student body had much of a basis for judgment from just those two speakers.

After Speakers comes Intramural Athletics, a surprisingly high finisher. The popularity of Intramurals is due in large measure to the ingenuity of Mr. John Taylor, the program director who runs a consistent yet innovative schedule of events and who keeps up with publicity work — an important item for campus activities.

Next is Intercollegiate Athletics, the seventh place activity with 1557 favorable votes — a poor finish, which confirms a persistent impression that intercollegiate competition does not attract the average RIC student. Except for the basketball team, the intercollegiate program has had trouble keeping a consistently high level of participation and/or excellence. Witness the cross-country team that we could not field this year because we could not get five runners, or the baseball tryouts that produced only 18 candidates. Even the small teams that did win in past years (the 1971 wrestling and baseball teams, for example) did so before meager crowds.

The Fine Arts program was eighth in favorable voting, drawing 1552 votes. Although the program is not exclusively intended for RIC students, it

does afford those who manage to get Fine Arts tickets a chance to see excellent performances. Unlike some student activities, Fine Arts has produced consistently, and that must account for a large part of its appeal.

Three programs (Draft Information, Recreation Trips and Whipple Recreation Programs) fall into the category of things in which few people participate directly, but whose nature is so "worthwhile" that they win ready approval from non-participants; the eleventh-rated Student Union activities managed by the BOG, are inexpensive and fun.

The next category, Student Organizations, thoroughly baffled me when I voted. I have known of many student organizations, from the Math Honor Society to the SDS, during my two years on this campus, and I am not about to approve or disapprove of all of them in one fell swoop. I asked a gentleman at the voting desk during registration exactly what the term "Student Organizations" indicated; he produced an expression that indicated either pity at my ignorance or some sort of fellow-bafflement. At any rate, I made my decision definitely known by drawing a neat but very prominent question mark after Student Organizations. And I'm surprised that more people didn't do the same; only ninety indicated indecision on their ballots for this item. Now, to those 1504 people who agreed with the necessity for Student Organizations: what were you voting for? The right of students to organize? Well, I'll drink to that, and to apple pie and motherhood, too. But what good does it do us?

The next two activities, Students for Community Service and the yearbook, are like two people riding opposite escalators and meeting in the middle; the former is beginning to make itself known and respected in the RIC community, while the latter is riding the long road to oblivion, helped along by several over-funded issues. Next comes the Coffee House, largely social and relatively inexpensive in nature. And then — student government.

The also-rans

The Rhode Island College student government, which had been indirectly responsible for this poll (through its attempt to cut off a large portion

of the funds for intercollegiate athletics) and which had conducted a similar but smaller survey through its Budget Commission, was ranked seventeenth out of the twenty activities in terms of favorable votes. In spite of the Senate's often-repeated ineptness, it must appear ironic that Student Government was ranked low in a survey that was connected to one of the few honest attempts at effective student government in recent years.

Finally come Dance and Debate, two activities that aren't highly visible but are probably quite durable then Fraternal Groups. The lowest of the activities in "favorable" balloting, the fraternal groups may be suffering from a widespread slack in enthusiasm, at many other campuses as well as at RIC, or they may be passing from the college scene entirely. Like many of the other activities, fraternal groups aren't highly visible; their important activities aren't seen by many people. What is seen is fraternal silliness: initiations, Hell Week, beanies and berets, the whole cliched bit. And the groups deserve better, for they're not dumb and irrelevant; I met many fraternity and sorority members while I was a photographer for the yearbook, and in many cases I was impressed by their sense of community, something which, the critics tell us, has been sorely lacking at this god-forsaken commuter campus. Perhaps the best thing the fraternal groups could get is a good PR job.

If you're in a pessimistic (or budget-cutting) train of thought, you might notice the precarious situation of those last two activities, Debate and Fraternal Groups.

Activity	Favorable Votes
17. Student Government	1374
18. Dance	1362
19. Debate	1014
20. Fraternal Groups	790

The gap in favorable votes between Debate (1014 votes) and the next highest activity (Dance, with 1362 votes) is greater than the gap in votes among the first fifteen activities! Between first-ranked Film Programs (1722 votes) and the fifteenth-ranked Student Union activities (1414 votes), there is a difference of just over 300 votes, while the gap from Dance to Debate is

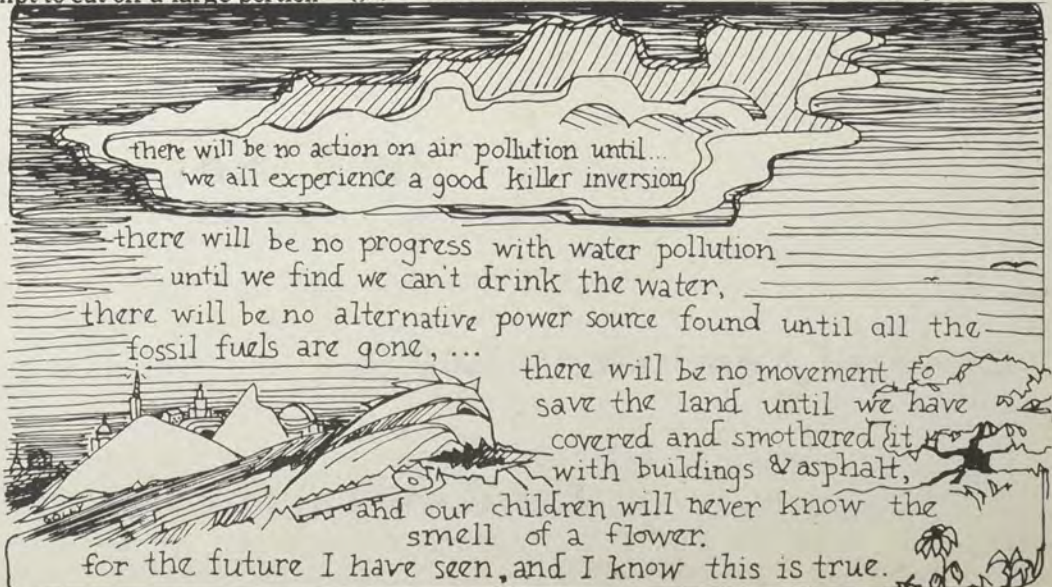
348; in addition, there is a difference of 224 votes between Debate and Fraternal Groups — a gap as large as that among the first twelve activities. If you're in the mood, you might say that these activities won't be with us long. Or, if you're inclined to be more optimistic, you'll say that they face some lean years for recruiting members. Or, again, we can say something quite different — but not until after we've shuffled the figures again:

Activity	"Undecided" Votes
1. Debate	555
2. Fraternal Groups	504
3. Dance	364
4. Student Government	341
5. Students for Community Service	334
6. Coffee House	276
7. Recreation—Whipple Programs	273
8. Recreation Trips	259
9. S.U. Activities	257
10. Student Organizations	252
11. Draft Information	230
12. Speakers	217
13. Intramurals	205
14. Yearbook	199
15. Student Newspaper	173
16. Intercol. Athletics	173
17. Fine Arts Series	163
18. Film Programs	119
19. Theatre	111
20. Concerts	91

What we have here is the number of "Undecided" votes, and it has a pretty straightforward meaning. When voters are undecided, it usually means that they don't have enough information for a choice; that's not to rule out other factors, like strong conflicts in judgment, but usually the activities polling high in the "Undecided" column are not well enough known to students. At least, that's my conclusion. If you don't agree with it, write a letter to the editor, and we'll fight it out on the editorial page.

The highest-rated activities in terms of indecision are Debate and Fraternal Groups, the two cellar-dwellers from the last table. Again, the two are not only at the extreme end of the list, but they are also widely separated from those activities that come next in vote totals. For example, the difference between Fraternal Groups (504 votes) and third-rated Dance (364 votes) is 140 votes, a gap as great as that among the bottom ten groups (about whom the least uncertainty was registered). Debate (555 votes) is 51 votes away from Fraternal Groups and 191 votes away from Dance. That difference (2 places) is equivalent to nearly fourteen places (from Concerts — 91 votes, to Coffee House — 276 votes) among the activities at the other end of the list.

Incidentally, we might check at this point to see whether we're talking about insignificant numbers; after all, 555 undecided votes might not be very many, after all. But it is. Debate received 1744 total (cont. on p. 7)



(reprinted from Feb. 4 Earl Bulletin)