



OCTOBER 5, 1979 VOL. 3 NO. 3

# What's New(s) at RIC

## Theatre Department Opens Season With WONDERFUL TOWN



Rehearsing a scene from *Wonderful Town* are (from left to right) Denise Nolin-Pavelka, Brian Howe and Tricia DiSpirito.

-Photo by Peter P. Tobia

Two sisters who leave Columbus, Ohio and come to live and work in Greenwich Village—one aspiring to act, the other to write—are the focus of *Wonderful Town*, the first play of the season offered by the RIC Theatre Company. The production, directed by William Hutchinson, professor of theatre, will open in the Roberts Hall Theatre on Thursday, October 11 and run through October 14. Performances will begin at 8 p.m.

Set in the New York of 1955, the show is a musical version of

the play *My Sister Eileen*. It is a story of fun and adventures as the sisters encounter the Big Apple and learn the adjustments they must make to survive.

Working with Hutchinson on the production are William Jones, assistant professor of music, musical director; Barbara Matheson, costume designer; John Custer, professor of theatre, set and lighting designer; and Gary Delp, assistant professor of theatre, technical designer.

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Home  
coming 79

Saturday, October 6 is the day for celebrating! It's Homecoming '79 at RIC, and everyone in the college community and their families are invited to come and take part in the festivities. Field events, a float parade contest, a varsity soccer and a cross country race, an outdoor concert by the RIC band, a puppet show for children and a performance by a children's theatre company are among the events planned to offer something of interest for all age groups to enjoy. Homecoming activities will take place on the campus mall and athletic fields from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

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To research the environment for the play, Hutchinson has traveled to New York and several local locations where motion picture film and slides have been made which will be incorporated into the production. Several interior scenes have also been shot at the Biltmore Plaza Hotel.

Sharon Jenkins, a Rhode Island choreographer who has designed dances for Trinity Square Repertory Theatre Company, will choreograph the show.

On October 11, President Sweet and his wife will invite the faculty and staff to attend that evening's performance of *Wonderful Town* as their guests. They will host a dessert reception in the lobby of Roberts Hall prior to the play.

Tricia DiSpirito, a junior, will play Eileen. Denise Nolin-Pavelka, also a junior, has the role of Ruth.

## Grant Establishes Adult Reading Academy

With grant funding from the Right to Read Program of the U.S. Office of Education, the college has established a reading academy for adults. It will operate in conjunction with the Learning Center. Barbara Goldstein, coordinator at the Learning Center, and Marilyn Eanet, assistant professor of elementary education, are co-directors of the project. The grant will provide \$70,942 to operate the academy which is designed to meet the needs of functionally illiterate adults and out-of-school youths in Rhode Island.

The functionally illiterate are people who lack the reading skills necessary to function in a complex society. Although they have potential for learning, their current reading levels are some-

where around 0 through 4th grade. In many cases they have tried and failed in traditional adult basic education courses. They require sensitive, personalized and highly individualized instruction, according to the project directors.

Participants must be at least 16 years of age, but there is no upper age limit. Most will be out-of-school, but individuals of appropriate age and competency level attending a school which does not offer suitable reading services may be eligible. No fees will be charged for consultation, testing, or instruction. Intake into the program will be by confidential interview. Instructors will be volunteer tutors trained, supervised, and supported by Reading Academy personnel.

The Reading Academy may be reached at Extension 8287. Volunteer tutors are welcome.

## Learning to Play Made Easier With New Instruments



Professor Robert Currier instructs Michael Ersevim, a sixth grade student at the Henry Barnard School, in the playing of the "cellin."

-Photo by Peter P. Tobia

The Suzuki method of string instrument teaching revolutionized music education worldwide, and many consider it the product of genius. Here at RIC, Robert Currier, professor of music, may be doing a bit of

the same with his inventions the "monolin" and "cellin".

Currier invented the monolin in 1973 to create a simpler version of the violin. It is now used by music educators nationwide, and Currier's new adaptation to the cello, the cellin, is following the same path. Both were designed to teach young children the basics of string instrument playing without its usual confusion, and both are particularly suited to the Suzuki teaching method.

The mastery of the basics is always the most difficult part of any study, but Currier's instruments are making the learning of string instruments child's play.

## Focus on the Faculty and Staff

Recent publications by **MINER K. BROTHERTON**, assistant professor of physical sciences, include three articles in *New England Offshore*: "High Water Low Water: An Introduction to the Understanding of New England's Semi-Diurnal Tides" (June), "High Water Low Water: Miner Brotherton Looks at New England's Tidal Currents" (July) and "Toward a Better Understanding of Waves" (August). In addition, two of Professor Brotherton's review articles appear in the September issue of *Crusing World*.

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Two members of the Physical Sciences Department have been elected officers in the Rhode Island section of the American Chemical Society for 1980. Professor **DAVID GREENE** was selected as vice-chairman and Professor **GEORGE DECKEY** will serve as secretary. Dr. Greene presently serves as treasurer of this organization, which has some 550 local industrial and academic chemists as members.

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**STEVE C. IMBER**, associate professor of special education, has co-authored an article on "Glasser's

Classroom Meeting: A Humanistic Approach to Behavior Change with Pre-adolescent, Inner-City Learning Disabled Children" which appeared in the June-July issue of the *Journal of Learning Disabilities*. The article was based on a study which originated from research conducted by a Providence special education teacher, Paula Marandola, a graduate of the college's special education master's program.

The paper was first presented at the Council for Exceptional Children's 58th International Convention held at Kansas City, Missouri. At the meeting Dr. Imber chaired a session on Humanistic-Behavioral Paradigms for Helping Children with Behavioral Disorders, or "Tell Me, Professor, Does That Approach Really Work?" The session included a slide presentation on the subject developed with Spencer Crooks of the college's Audiovisual Department.

Using behavioral evaluation techniques, Marandola and Imber demonstrated the effects of classroom meetings on reducing verbal and physical argumentative behavior with ten learning-disabled children.

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**PAMELA IRVING JACKSON**, associate professor of Sociology/Social Welfare, presented two papers in late August, both of which were co-authored with Leo Carroll of the University of Rhode Island. "Sociopolitical Determinants of Policing Expenditures in 90 U.S. Cities" was read at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in Boston, and "Race, Civil Disorder and Capital Expenditures for Police Protection" was read at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

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A research article by **BRUCE W. MIELKE**, associate professor of mathematics, was published in *Semigroup Forum* Vol. 17 (1979). The article is entitled "On the Lattice of Completely-Simple Congruences on a Croisot-Tessier Semigroup."

## **Jim Adams Named Basketball Coach**

James "Jimmy" Adams, assistant basketball coach at Providence College since 1972, has been named head basketball coach at Rhode Island College. His appointment is effective as of September 24.

Adams comes to RIC after seven years as assistant to Dave Gavitt at Providence College. At RIC Adams will coach the Division Three Anchormen and will work with RIC Athletic Director William "Bill" Baird in the coordination of various areas of the athletic program.

He assumes the reins at RIC following a year in which the Anchormen rolled up a record of 20 wins and only 7 losses and won the New England State College Athletic Conference championship. The RIC team also played in the Regional Championship Division 3 NCAA play-offs last year.

Commenting on the hiring of Adams, Baird said "I am particularly pleased with the appointment of Jim Adams as head basketball coach at Rhode Island College. In him we have an individual who is thoroughly familiar with the Rhode Island High School Basketball situation, plus he has many years of concentrated recruiting experience in the northeast area of the country. We have known Jim Adams and watched him throughout his entire career, and we are confident that he will develop the type of program that is right for Rhode Island College."

## **New Brochure Tells About CAGS Program**

"Advance your graduate study in a CAGS program at Rhode Island College" is the theme of the newest publication from the Division of Graduate Studies. This comprehen-

sive brochure describes each of the CAGS programs in light of their purpose, requirements and career opportunities.

Wide distribution of this brochure is the first step in promoting the range of opportunities in advanced graduate study available at RIC. Copies are available in the Graduate Office, Roberts Hall, Room 316.

## **Opportunities**

STUDY FELLOWSHIPS for young scholars in the humanities who wish to enlarge their range of knowledge by study in disciplines other than their present specialization are offered by the AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES. Social and natural scientists who wish to study a humanistic discipline are also invited to apply. Applicants should have completed two or three years of teaching since acquiring the doctorate. The maximum award is \$12,000. Inquiries and requests for application forms should be addressed to the Office of Fellowships and Grants, American Council of Learned Societies, 345 East 46th Street, New York, New York 10017. The deadline for applications is November 15, 1979.

## **What's Happening**

Rhode Island College will host the fall meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers (New England Section) on Saturday, October 13. Highlights of the meeting will include the following presentations: Max Dresden (Stony Brook) on "Black Holes," Don Kirwan and Jack Willis (URI) on "Energy and Exponential Growth," John Peterson (RIC) on "The Magic of Physics." An Open House at the RIC Physics Department is also planned. Dr. Peter Glantz of the Physical Sciences Department is the local chairman for this event.