

NEWS

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Interviews 17-year-old Finn: RIC Writer 'Charmed'

By George LaTour

What happens to a middle age man who has the opportunity to sit and chat with a tall, striking, strawberry blonde Finnish girl of 17 years?

Well, for one thing, he gets very enjoyably captivated!

For another, he starts to wish that he could roll back the years.

His own teenage daughters, it seems, have rather sneaked up on him in years. He still tends to think of them as his "little girls."

But when confronted with an "outsider" of the same age in a rather lengthy and friendly chat, well, comes the dawn!

"When DID those gray hairs appear, anyway?"

Nancy Aikkola is the young lass in question and she graciously agreed to talk with a member of Rhode Island College's News and Information Services this August as she undertook summer studies at the college.

Yes. She's from Finland, Vaasa, to be exact which is located on the Gulf of Bothnia dividing Finland from Sweden.

Sweden being only a four hour ferry boat ride away, she and most of her countrymen from that area speak fluent Swedish.

Nancy holds citizenship both in Finland and the United States, her mother, the former Margaret Wallbridge of Cape Cod, being a U.S. citizen who married Pentti Aikkola, an engineer from Finland.

Mrs. Aikkola, who now teaches linguistics in Finland, wrote to Dr. William A. Small, director of RIC's summer session, asking if Nancy might attend "to judge college (level) work" and "of course, to see the United States," as Nancy puts it.

Dr. Small had met Nancy's dad last September on business and at that time had encouraged him to send Nancy to RIC.

The high school senior attended the eight week summer session only until August 8, however (seven weeks), as she had to head back to Finland for the start of her regular school classes on August 15.

When asked what she thinks of the

(Continued on p. 3)



THE HON. JACK LYNCH (What's News photo by Peter Tobia.)

Irish Statesman Guest of RIC

The Hon. Jack Lynch, former prime minister of the Republic of Ireland, was the guest of Rhode Island College last week, and as such represented the "highest ranking national official ever to visit the campus."

Lynch, leader of Fianna Fail (pron. Fina Foil) Irish political party, "has been the moral and ethical leader of the Irish people and spokesman and figurehead representing Ireland to the world," read in part the official citation noting his visit.

The Irish statesman was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree in

ceremonies Thursday evening in conjunction with his address in Amos Auditorium, "Modern Ireland: A Quarter Century of Change."

An official raising of the Irish flag on Tuesday initiated the visit. This was followed by a press conference and a busy week of speaking engagements at RIC and other sites around the state.

Dr. Raymond W. Houghton, professor of philosophy and foundations of education and a former visiting fellow at Trinity College, Ireland, was instrumental in arranging the visit.

Controller Cautions: Student Employment Costs Run Ahead

With 25 percent of the fiscal year completed, the college has expended 21 percent of the funds allocated for student employment. John W. Speer, controller and treasurer, says that this could present a "very significant problem" for the institution.

Comparing the rate at which student employment funds are being spent this year with the same period in 1979-80 Speer has determined that the college is five percent ahead of where it was a year ago when 16 percent of the budget had been paid out.

College-wide expenditures for the period covered in Speer's initial report this year show that \$106,000 has been used. The budget for the year is \$503,920. At the same time last year \$58,000 had been spent, and the total budget was \$587,000.

"There has been a reduction in available funds which is in itself a serious problem," Speer noted.

"If we overlay expenditures for the previous two years and project the figures for this year we project overspending the budget funds by \$159,000."

Speer said that the analysis suggests people are spending money at a higher rate than usual. He said it suggests that perhaps departments and units are spending their student help funds with the hope that the allocated amount will be increased. "That's not a good strategy," he observed.

The student help budget is part of the institution's personal services budget Speer explained. He said "it is very, very difficult to move money from other sources into the personal services budget."

If there is an exception that a shortfall will be made up from other funds, the fund will have to be found elsewhere in the personal services budget, not from capital or operating funds, he said.

Speer said he surmises that some units have modified their plans for student help and are spending more money sooner in the semester. He said he thought perhaps the intention was to cut back expenditures during the semester break, but he has no way of knowing this.

(Continued on p. 2)

Anthropologists Continue Study: Fluehr-Lobbans Back From Sudan

Drs. Richard and Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, both associate professors of anthropology at RIC, have returned from their sabbatical leaves this fall after spending eight months in the Sudan where they continued their anthropological studies which began a decade ago.

The couple joined the staff at RIC in 1972 after they had completed their first major field research in the Sudan between 1970 and 1972. This research formed the basis for their Ph.D. dissertations. Both were awarded their doctorates from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. in 1973.

The Sudan is Africa's largest nation, a million square miles, with an estimated population of 16 million. Its terrain ranges from desert in the north to savanna in the country's mid-section to heavily forested regions in the south. Seventy percent of the population is Muslim, concentrated in the northern desert areas.

The two Niles wind their courses through the country, covering their greatest distance in the Sudan. The Fluehr-Lobbans have conducted their work in Khartoum, the capital city at the confluence of the Blue and White Niles. North of Khartoum the mighty Nile completes its course through the Nubian desert, past the High Dam at Aswan and on to Cairo.

Khartoum, Khartoum North and Omdurman, the "Three Towns" comprise the metropolitan region known as Khartoum. Its population has grown in the last decade from a half-million to a million-plus as migrants from the rural areas and refugees from neighboring countries seek the opportunities of the capital city.

Khartoum is the world's hottest capital city with temperatures climbing to 120 degrees or more in the summer, and winter temperatures not falling much below 80 degrees in the daytime.

(Continued on p. 3)

AFT Concerned About Security: Sweet Reacts To Letter

A letter expressing "concerns about maintaining and improving the security conditions on campus" has prompted a response from President David E. Sweet. The letter sent by Dr. Donald C. Averill, president of RIC/AFT local 1819, suggested that there may be a need for more lighting on campus, "increased surveillance and greater accessibility of emergency services." It also discussed the availability of public transportation for students with evening classes and the probable need for "student patrols" to accompany students from classrooms to parking areas.

The letter, dated October 2, was sent by Averill to Sweet at the request of the assembly of departmental representatives and the executive committee of local 1819 of RIC/AFT.

In responding to the letter, Sweet pointed out several actions taken by the college administration toward the improvement of safety and security at RIC.

"Several months ago we ordered additional lighting for many areas of the campus which were inadequately lit," Sweet said. "That lighting has been installed in the parking lot behind the residence halls - one of the major areas of concern."

"Unfortunately," he continued, "the remaining lighting is not yet in place because of the delays in the state purchasing process. We hope, however, to have that additional lighting in place in the very near future."

Sweet said that for several months RIC has been attempting to persuade the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority to improve its service to campus.

"At present, there is bus service after the last class lets out, but all of us recognize it is hardly adequate bus service for the institution," Sweet observed.

Sweet also explained that several steps have been undertaken to increase surveillance and improve the accessibility

(Continued on p. 2)

Run Ahead

(Continued from p. 1)

William H. Hurry, Jr., director of financial aid and career services, was asked whether the increased rate of spending might be related to the college's decrease in available work study funds. Hurry had not yet had an opportunity to confer with Speer. However, he said, "I'm not surprised (at the increase). It is a situation we should be concerned about."

According to Hurry, work study funds are being paid out at a faster rate than last year as well. He said that for July and August of this year 22.8 percent of available work study monies had been expended. For the same period in 1979-80 19.4 percent had been expended.

Citing a rise in the minimum wage which took place last January, Hurry observed that "one way to interpret these figures is that we are spending at last year's rate with this year's budget."

Speer voiced the same concern, saying that a tighter budget, together with factors such as past practice, higher minimum wage, and expectations of a "bail out" could be involved in the increased outflow of student employment funds.

Both officers stressed the need to keep a close watch over expenditures for student help as the fiscal year progresses.

Musicians Invited

High school musicians from the 11th and 12th grades in 65 area schools have been invited to attend Rhode Island College's second annual Music Preview on November 19.

Billed as "A Day of Musical Encounters with College Faculty and Students," the open house is designed to acquaint prospective music students with the typical activities of college music majors.

Participants will be encouraged to observe and participate in music theory classes, master classes on their major instruments (such classes to be given by the music faculty), tour the campus and attend a presentation on careers in music.

They will be guests at a concert hour presented by RIC music majors.

Last year over 350 high school students attended the RIC Music Department sponsored event.

Anyone interested in registering may contact the RIC Music Department at 456-8244. There is no cost to participants.



**WHAT'S
NEW(s)
at
RIC**

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Fellowship, Research, Program Support Deadlines

The Bureau of Grants and Sponsored Projects has announced the following deadlines:

A NOVEMBER 25 deadline has been announced for the *Metric Education Program* which awards grants to institutions of higher education and other agencies for the following kinds of activities: in-service training of educational personnel, curriculum development, and dissemination of effective educational strategies. Approximately 46-50 new programs will be funded with an average award of \$33,000.

Research Initiation Grants in the Applied Social and Behavioral Sciences will be awarded by the NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION to full-time faculty who have had no substantial research support. Proposals must be submitted by DECEMBER 15, 1980.

Teacher Exchange Program sponsored by the DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION offers opportunities for teaching positions abroad and seminars abroad. Elementary and secondary school teachers, college/university instructors, and assistant professors are eligible to apply; associate and full professors may be considered for an interchange of positions in the federal Republic of Germany and United Kingdom. Associate and full professors are not eligible to participate in the Seminars Abroad Program. Applications must be made by NOVEMBER 1, 1980.

Ethnic Heritage Studies Program has announced a DECEMBER 22 deadline for receipt of proposals. Applicants may propose curriculum development projects, the dissemination of the

materials, or the training of persons in the use of such materials. Particularly encouraged are those applicants that plan for the implement state-wide and school district-wide ethnic heritage studies projects that focus on teacher training and the dissemination of existing materials.

Closing dates for applications under the *Program of Research Grants on Desegregation Studies* from the NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION have been announced. Awards will be made for research to increase or synthesize knowledge about desegregation in elementary and secondary education, and to study issues in the desegregation of higher education. Applications for small grants and pre-applications for major grants are due on NOVEMBER 25. Small grants are limited to a 12-month period and \$15,000 in costs.

Sweet Reacts

(Continued from p. 1)

of emergency services since Richard Comerford became director of the department of security and safety.

Sweet said that the college continues to make changes in these areas, including the upgrading of the training that the personnel receive. He believes that members of the RIC/AFT would find it fruitful to meet with Comerford and discuss their concerns, ask questions and provide recommendations for additional changes. He said that he would be happy to participate in such a meeting.

In his reply, Sweet confided a personal experience. He said "I realize that recent incidents have heightened everyone's

awareness of security." Then he revealed that on October 9 the President's House was broken into, the third such occurrence since he and his wife have occupied the Fruit Hill Avenue home.

Sweet's letter closed with a reiteration of the need for the college to do all that it can. He also said, "it is imperative that individuals accept an appropriate measure of responsibility for their own safety and security. There is no conceivable system of lighting, patrol, etc., which can guarantee that there will be no bad incidents—particularly in areas adjacent to, rather than on the campus.

"Moreover, the College is not alone in

experiencing these types of situations. Our sister institutions in Providence are also experiencing them, as are institutions across the country. I very much appreciate, therefore, the concern and support expressed in your letter. It is a measure of the sense of responsibility with which the RIC/AFT pursues its activities on campus that you have once again spoken out as you have on such an issue. Working together, I am confident we can achieve improvements in security and safety, particularly if we work together to insure that individual members of the College community act in as responsible a way as possible."

Guides To Personal Safety

Earlier this month a RIC coed was assaulted sexually while walking from campus. This was the third such incident in recent months. Last week "What's News" ran the first of a two-part series on measures women should take to prevent similar occurrences. The second part of recommended guides to personal safety follows. The Editor.

In making the following suggestions, Richard M. Comerford, director of campus Security and Safety, stresses that they are not made "to scare students, faculty or staff members into staying home or in resident hall rooms."

These suggestions are being made "to keep our students, faculty and staff members informed of the problems" and should be followed not only on campus, "but in your community and while visiting other areas," said Comerford.

CAR TRAVEL

Many people have a false sense of security while inside and driving a car in an area of which they have very little knowledge. The following recommendations are being made to assist you in protecting yourself from physical attack and other criminal acts:

- Keep all doors locked during the day and nighttime hours while operating the vehicle and when you park the vehicle. This will deter a subject from entering your car while at a stop sign, traffic light or in a line of traffic.

- If you park your vehicle during the daylight hours and do not plan to return to it until after dark, be sure that you park in an area or lot that will be well-lighted upon your return.

- When you leave your car, make sure that all doors are locked and that any valuables in the car are locked in the trunk. If you do not lock your car, there is a chance that someone may get into it and conceal himself along the floor in the back seat area and attack you when you reach a quiet or dark area during your travel. Check the rear seat area before entering your vehicle.

- Never leave your car keys in the ignition or your car running while you are out of it. If someone stole your car, he would have your registration with your

home address on it and would probably have your keys to your home or apartment. This is an invitation to burglarize your home while you are away or sleeping, or even make a sexual attack upon you while you are sleeping.

- Never pick up a hitchhiker or stranger. This only invites a crime against your person.

- Residence hall parking areas or home driveways: when returning home or to your residence hall at night, park in a well-lighted area close to your residence. Walk in a lighted area, avoiding woods or large shrubbery that could conceal an attacker. Go directly to your destination. Before you leave your car, have your house or residence hall key in your hand so that you do not have to fumble with your purse to get out your keys and thus delay entering your house or dorm. More time spent outside increases the chances of an attack.

- While attending classes, instructing, or working late at night, have a fellow student, faculty member or employee car pool with you to campus and back, or make arrangements to meet them at a certain time and location so that you will have someone to walk with to and from your destination at night.

- Escort service: the Security and safety Department and WRIC radio station have an escort service for your safety. This service should be taken advantage of if and when you feel that you need it.

COMMUTING BY BUS

Many students, faculty and staff members commute to and from RIC by bus. If you are traveling on a bus alone at night and fear you are being followed, then you should take the following procedures:

- Notify the bus driver of your suspicions.

- Have the bus driver stop in front of an open place of business even if it is not your intended destination.

- Go inside the place of business and inform the person inside of the problem and let them call the police for assistance. The police will be glad to escort you home under these circumstances, and investigate the complaint.

- Always select a well-lighted area to

get off the bus.

RESIDENCE HALL AREAS

- When entering the exterior doors of your residence hall, make sure that non-invited visitors do not follow you in.

- Have visitors wait outside until they are admitted by their hosts or hostesses.

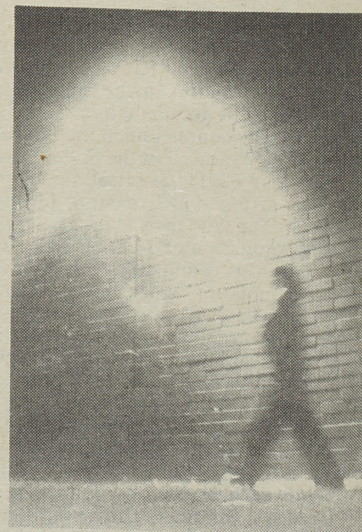
- Only invited guests should be allowed to enter the residence halls.

- If a suspicious person or uninvited person enters the residence hall, notify your dorm director and he/she will call Security, if necessary.

- When your residence hall room is not occupied, make sure the door is locked. This will not only protect your property, but will keep intruders out for your personal safety.

- Report all criminal acts and suspicious acting persons in the residence hall area to the Security and Safety Department immediately.

The more information you receive and the more security measures the Security and Safety Department recommends and adopts, the less inviting the campus of Rhode Island College will be to undesirable elements of society.



(What's News photo by Peter Tobia.)

'Charmed'

(Continued from p. 1)

United States, her Nordic blue eyes sparkled. Then she chuckled.

"They always ask me that!"

Recovering from the mild shock delivered at the thought that he does not suffer from an over-abundance of originality, our mid-life reporter tried again, hoping rather desperately that the next question would be incisive.

(He always found it difficult to impress 17-year-olds!)

"What do you think of the Russian situation?"

"Ur---aaaaaa-Russia IS near Finland, isn't it?"

"Yes," she replied with an amazingly warm (and tolerant) smile.

"It's just THERE, she emphasized. "Russia to us is like Canada to you - just across the border. We don't think about it one way or the other," she assured, adding, "but they (Russians) are very strict when you cross the border. They inspect everything."

Yes, Nancy has been to Russia, and England, Spain ("when I was very little") and Denmark.

Her visit this summer to the U.S. was actually her third, but her previous visits were when she was "only" a mere child of 13. "I was just a baby," she insists.

Remembering he never did get an answer to his first question, the intrepid reporter made another stab at it.

"Nancy - just what WERE your initial impressions of America?"

"People here are friendly - TOO friendly!" And she stared right at you-know-who.

"Yes, of course, I suppose they do appear that way - at times," he offered without conviction.

Another penetrating question: "How do you like American hamburgers?"

"We don't have any McDonald's yet, but they'll come, I'm sure.

A hearty laugh all around.

Nancy says the Finns do go big for hamburgers which they manage to get in "grills" or take-out type stands. She says there is no place where you can sit down just to buy and eat hamburgers.

We Americans ARE so advanced!

About movies: Yes. They do get to see most of the features we ship over but usually "one year later than when they are shown in America."

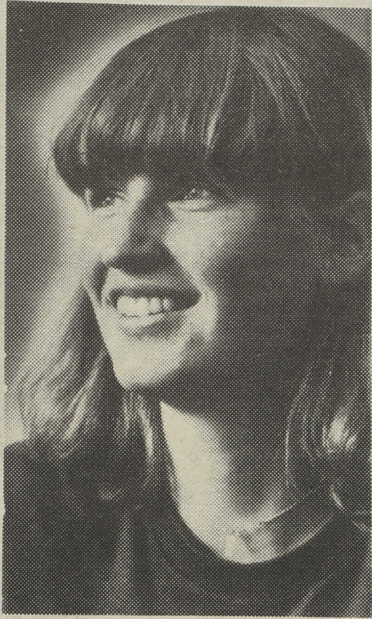
They have four television channels in the general area of Vaasa - "two in Finland and two in Sweden that we get."

Unlike American TV, the Finns don't get deluged with countless "soaps" and game shows all day long. Nancy said their television "doesn't start until 5 o'clock each night" but runs on after that "pretty late."

"There's nothing in the day (on TV) except once in a while there is something for the kids on Sunday."

The Sauna - a Finnish institution: "Everyone has the Sauna," she assures,

Talking about the Sauna which usually calls for a cold dip in some lake as part of the process, brought the subject of



NANCY AIKKOLA (What's News photo by Peter Tobia.)

conversation to swimming in general and the temperatures of their lakes in particular.

Nancy assured the "swimming water is like here. No colder, but is only open (free from ice) about four months a year. You can only go swimming a couple of months out of the year."

"I THOUGHT that water in Rhode Island's Narragansett Bay was chilly," mutters the RIC writer.

Director Small said that Nancy had "good grades" in her native school and did very well at a RIC under the tutelage of Dr. Carl E. Stenberg (studies in English) and Normand A. Gendreau who taught her French on a tutorial basis.

Dr. Small said that Nancy's being here was "informal" as opposed to a more formal "foreign exchange student" basis. The fact that she holds U.S. citizenship has some bearing on this.

He said that RIC's president, Dr. David E. Sweet, is interested in this type of informal study by students from other countries, and that the college "hopes to encourage" more of it.

He pointed out that "only half of the high school students (in Finland) will find a place in college."

One thing's certain: if Nancy Aikkola wants to go to college and chooses RIC, there's a member of RIC's News and Information Services Office who'll approve.

Another certainty: all good things come to an end.

When our interviewer regretably ran out of questions, his statuesque subject hesitatingly stood, shyly extended a hand and - in deference to age, one supposes - gave a little curtsy and what seemed an understanding and sympathetic smile.

And so, as the sun sank in the west and the interview ended, our charmed reporter sank into sweet reverie.

Sudan

(Continued from p. 1)

"The heat is not something you attempt to combat, you just accept it and pretty soon it stops bothering you," the Fluehr-Lobbans explained. Activity begins early in the morning and all work stops by 2 p.m. when the main meal of the day is consumed, usually at home. This is followed by an afternoon rest and in the evening, after sunset, the shops and some of the offices open again.

Carolyn's work in the Sudan has included a national study of homicide (1972), studies of the status of women, and the women's movement for social change (1975). Most recently, her research has encompassed a general study of Islamic law and the courts in the Sudan. Her articles have been published in anthropological and African studies journals and in edited volumes.

This year she is working on a book which will seek to explain the principles of Islamic law to an American audience, and in the process, deal with the many myths which surround the law and Islam itself, especially with reference to the status of women. While in Khartoum this last year she studied for several months with the highest Islamic legal authority in the Sudan who is also president of the *Shari'a* (Islamic) Supreme Court.

She also worked on a translation of the law as applied in the Sudan which has recently been completed with assistance from a RIC faculty research grant. This translation will be distributed to legal professionals in the Sudan Judiciary and in the Faculties of Law and Social Science in the University of Khartoum.

During the latter part of her stay in the Sudan, Dr. Fluehr-Lobban spent her time visiting the Islamic courts where she observed legal proceedings from the lowest courts to the appeals courts to the Supreme Court. Islamic Law in the Sudan deals with the personal and family law of Sudanese Muslims and the cases which are typically heard involve questions of marriage, divorce, child custody, inheritance and maintenance and support.

"It is very inexpensive to litigate,"

observed Dr. Fluehr-Lobban. The cost of opening a case and having it heard (usually in the same day) is about fifty cents. A case can go all the way to the Supreme Court for not much more than \$10.00.

Some of the myths regarding Arab and Islamic women which Prof. Fluehr-Lobban hopes to explore in her book are the widely held beliefs that such women are not able to divorce except if their husbands divorce them and the lack of social and economic autonomy. She points out that in fact, women can apply in courts for divorce on a number of grounds including mental cruelty or non-support. Also, women independently control sums of money which they have inherited or which are part of dower payments to them.

Richard's sabbatical work has focused on the process of urbanization in the Sudan. He has chiefly studied two urban communities, one, Burrial Mahas, is adjacent to the city of Khartoum and the other, Tuti Island, is at a confluence of the White and Blue Niles and is reachable only by ferry boat. The communities are made up mostly of Nubian people who migrated to the central Sudan three or four centuries ago and who were instrumental in the urbanization and Islamization of the Sudan. Amidst the stresses and strains of urban life, Richard's research has focused particularly on changes in social organization, marriage and family life. Over the 10 years that he has been doing field work in the Sudan, he said he had seen a steady decline in the extended family as the nuclear family becomes more common. The practice of polygyny (having more than one wife) was only followed by a minority, but this too seems to be declining in the urban areas.

Marriage customs are quite different from those in America. In the U.S. for example, it would be frowned upon to marry your first cousin. In the Sudanese kinship system with strong patrilineal descent and lineage structures, it is very much preferred to marry one of your

(Continued on p. 4)

Anthropology/Geography Faculty:

In Series

Five members of the Rhode Island College anthropology/geography department will take part in the Cranston Leisure Learning Series this year.

Now in its 19th semester, the program began October 14 and runs through November 18. Members of the RIC anthropology/geography department have participated in the series for three semesters.

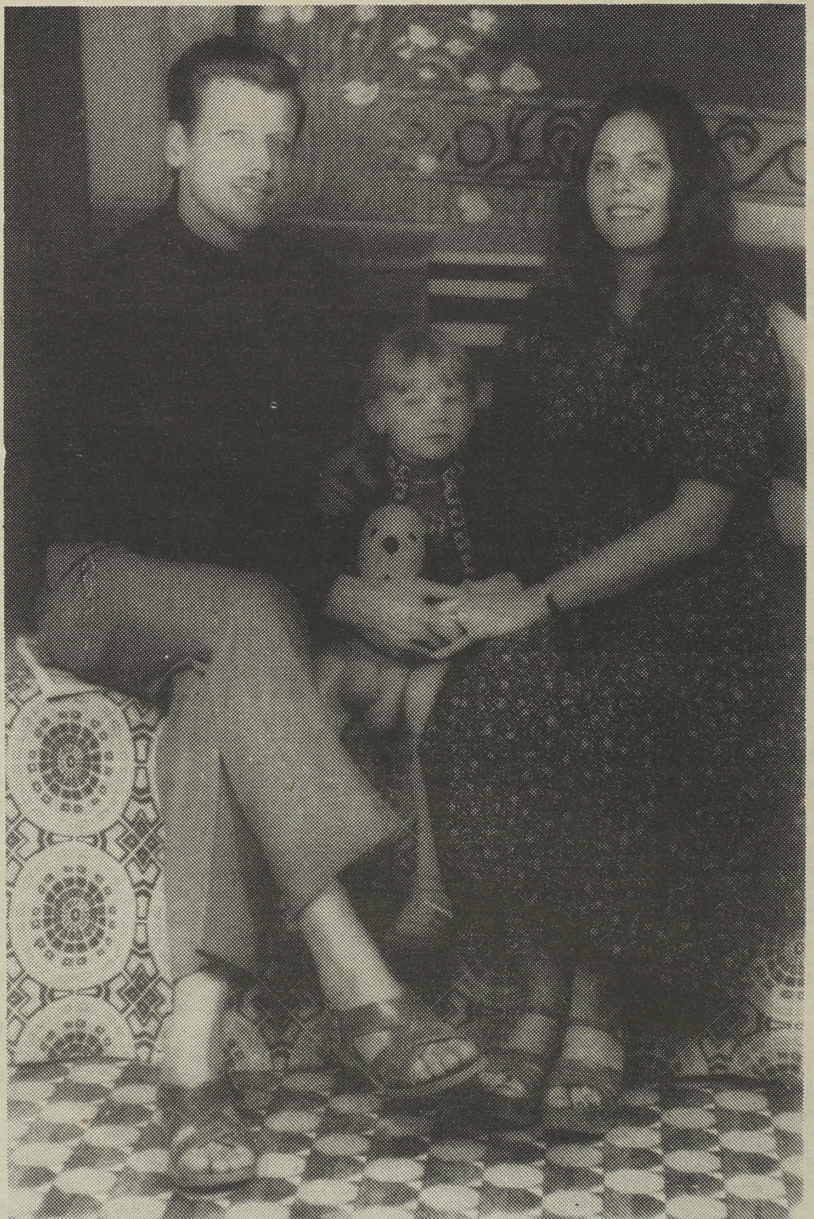
"Rhode Island: Variations on a Theme: Four Geographic Views" will be the inclusive title of the sessions held on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. at Woodridge Congregational Church.

On October 14 Professor Marion Wright spoke on "Rhode Island and the Sea: Ever New Horizons". Robert Sullivan, assistant professor in the department, will speak on October 21.

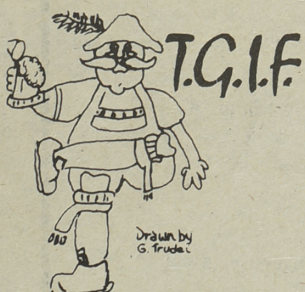
His topic will be "The Rhythmn of Coastal Change". On October 28 Dr. Stanford Demars, associate professor, will talk about "The Rhode Island Few Remember."

Professor Chester Smolski will speak on November 12. His topic will be "A City Changes: Providence Since World War II." Professor Wright will conclude the Tuesday series on November 18 with a discussion of "Rhode Island Heritage in Landscape Names."

Also scheduled to speak on October 21 is Dr. Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban, associate professor in the department. She will talk on "The Good in Islam." Dr. Fluehr-Lobban recently returned from a year in the Sudan where she studied Islamic Law as it affects women. (See article in this issue).



PICTURED IN SUDAN are Drs. Richard and Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban with their daughter, Josina. They are now back at RIC after their sabbatical leaves.



'The Elements'

The Elements, a folk-oriented musical group, will perform October 24 at the Rathskellar from 2-5 p.m. Pitches of draft beer will be \$2.25.

Teacher Certificate Offered:**Teaching 'Gifted' Definitely Not 'Howdy Doody Time!'**

By George LaTour

(Despite perceptions to the contrary (as evidenced in a recent editorial in a major area newspaper), RIC is addressing the subject of education for gifted children. The following article was written and distributed by the college Office of News and Information Services to the media in July and was widely published. At that time, the same newspaper which has now criticized RIC for having "no training program that concentrates on teaching the gifted child" devoted nearly a full page to Dr. Sid Rollins' workshop for teachers of the gifted. The Editor)

"Hey kids --- what time is it!?"
"Well, sir, not to be precocious, it is definitely not 'Howdy Doody Time!'"

And with that, a class of 20 gifted children at Rhode Island College could be expected to whip out their pocket calculators and slide rules and give you the precise time and tides this side of Kuala Lumpur.

And, as you might suspect, Dr. Sidney P. Rollins, professor of administration and curriculum at RIC, in no way compares with Robert Smith of "Buffalo Bob" fame in the early days of television when kids across the land were greeted every weeknight with the them most leading of questions.

That is not to say Professor Rollins or his exceptionally bright students from various school systems around the state lack enthusiasm. Far from it.

If one were to measure their enthusiasm, he might find it in direct proportion to their I.Q.'s which are no small step up from the pie-in-the-face mentality.

The average I.Q. of the group is 146, and as such, smacks of smart (the word "genius" turns people off, maintains the professor.)

These accomplished elementary school age children report to RIC's Henry Barnard School four days each week for the five week program which began June 23, and there are the subjects of study and keen interest by 20 teachers who are attending a workshop to learn strategies for teaching such academically gifted students.

The course has been offered before, but last year was the first time the gifted students were on hand so the teachers had the opportunity to deal directly with them.

A new and much needed development this year, says Professor Rollins, is that RIC offers a certificate program for the teachers. This means that after each teacher completes six hours of course study and six hours of internship (workshop), he or she will earn an Educator of Gifted Children Certificate.

Granting of the certificate has been approved by the college curriculum committee and the college president, Dr.

David E. Sweet.

"With over 20 approved programs for the gifted child in the state and an appropriation of over \$300,000 by the state legislature, we need a lot of teachers," says Professor Rollins.

RIC has the only such certificate award program for teachers, he affirmed.

The children were chosen by their respective schools upon invitation of Professor Rollins, and come from both public and private schools in different communities.

How does a bright youngster get picked to attend the workshop, you ask.

Well, their school records are reviewed against several criteria. Minimum qualifications for nomination include a verified I.Q. score of 130 or higher, reading and mathematics achievement levels of at least two grades beyond the grade in which they are enrolled or percentile scores of 97 or higher in reading or mathematics.

The teachers taking the workshop - each with his or her own gifted child to study - come from 12 Rhode Island communities and two from nearby Massachusetts.

Besides exposing the teachers in the course to an actual group of academically gifted children, Professor Rollins also is utilizing the workshop for research into the most effective methods of instruction for pupils who fit the description.

"We have used a number of different approaches," he points out.

"We have worked with the kids individually with each teacher assigned to a student one-on-one. We have worked in groups and we have worked as one large group. We have tried different materials of instruction and we have had guest speakers and demonstrations. We are doing a research study to see what is most effective," he says.

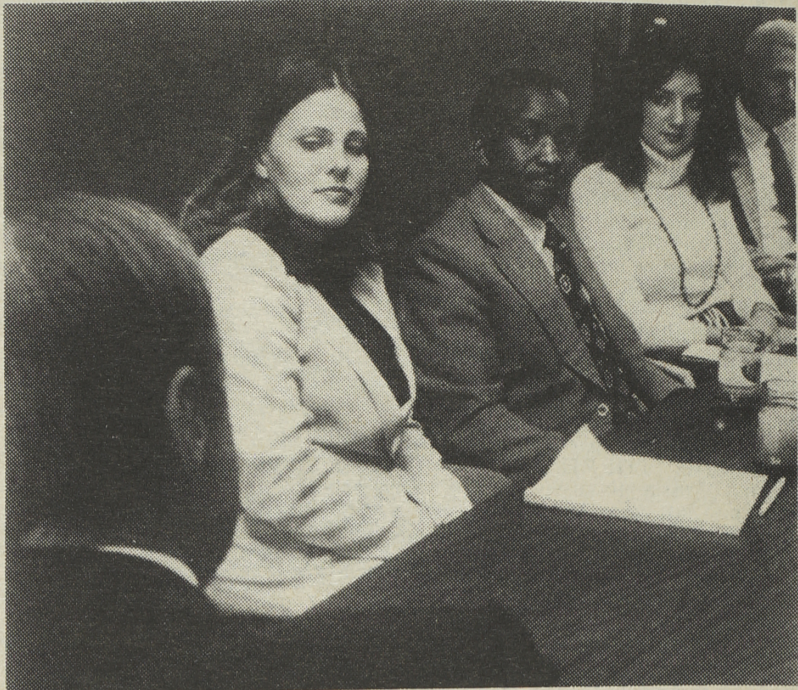
The main focus has been on "acceleration of instruction," helping the gifted children to learn new things as quickly as they can assimilate them. Less attention is being directed to in-depth learning.

The professor feels that acceleration is important in maintaining the gifted students' interest and participation in his or her studies.

Tests were administered before the workshop and will be given at the conclusion "to get some idea of the effectiveness of the teaching."

Reports are to be sent to the school each child attends describing the areas the child studied along with some suggestions to the child's teacher regarding materials and methodology which has been effective in teaching him or her.

Participation in the workshop is free for the children. Not so for the teachers who represent all levels of elementary to high school.



OPERATION CROSS ROADS: Njiru Eliphelet (center) of the Ministry of Education in Kenya, meets with President David E. Sweet and other members of the college administration and faculty. Njiru was on campus October 10 with three other African educational leaders to discuss exchange programs with American institutions. Looking on is Dr. Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban of the department of anthropology/geography. She and her husband, Dr. Richard Lobban were hosts for the visitors who came to RIC under the auspices of Operation Crossroads.

Sudan

(Continued from p. 3)

first cousins, especially your father's brother's daughter if she is available, Richard explained.

Life in a village in the Nile valley has many aspects of tradition clearly preserved while new values and attitudes are also playing their role, he said. The fathers of most of the Tuti Island residents were farmers while their sons are now clerks, professional workers, students or wage workers. This represents a big change in the economy and outlook of the village community. Happily, the dignity and pride which have made the Sudanese famous in the Middle East remains entrenched in modern society and their generosity, Richard says, is still hard to match.

Summarizing his work, he noted that when he first started his research, people would always "spend the night" with his extended family. As long as you came in sincere friendship you would be welcome. Today, the openness continues but you might be offered a chair instead of a bed as people have less space, less time, less money.

Inflation and housing shortages are making life more challenging and difficult.

The Fluehr-Lobbans had their three year old daughter, Josina, with them on their research trip to the Sudan. Her reactions to Sudanese life were so interesting that Carolyn has written an article entitled "Josina's Observations of Sudanese Culture" in which she describes the daughter's initial rejection of certain aspects of Sudanese life, then with education and exposure, her gradual acceptance of Sudanese norms.

"One area of particular difficulty for her was the Sudanese practice of sexual segregation," they reported. "Josina wouldn't know whether to go and sit with her mother in the women's section of the house or with her father in the

men's area. She would keep running back and forth between the two until she learned the custom and then she became a rigid enforcer of the newly learned practice ordering male visitors to one side of the living room and female guests to the other."

Josina apparently resented the fact that her parents were speaking Arabic much of the time. In defense she invented her own "jibberish" language which she used to speak to her dolls and stuffed animals, the couple noted. She did learn to understand quite a bit of Arabic and to speak many of the important phrases but she would hesitate to use Arabic with Sudanese and would switch from English to Arabic with her parents when she wanted something very badly.

Carolyn reports that the first time this happened she was in another room when Josina was asking for something. She did not respond and Josina called out in perfect Arabic, "Mama, iddini" ("Mom, give it to me"). This pattern continued, they say, and Josina still uses Arabic commands to get her parents' attention. The strategy never fails!

Josina also learned some Sudanese values, such as generosity where things are willingly shared without thought of return. Even now when Josina buys some candy or chewing gum at the store, she frequently attempts to give some of it away to the person who sold her the item.

Despite bouts of malaria and some other health problems, the family feels the experience was extremely positive from research and social standpoints. "We are happy to be back", the Fluehr-Lobbans note, "but a day doesn't go by that we do not think of the desert sands, the Niles at Khartoum and the warmth of human social relations which we experienced in the Sudan."

Calendar Of Events

OCTOBER 20 - OCTOBER 27, 1980

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

8:15 p.m. Piano Concert. Michael Boriskin, who has won the acclaim of press and audiences alike in London, New York and Berlin, will give a solo performance at the Rhode Island College Symphony Orchestra's first concert. Program consists of Wagner's *Prelude to Die Meistersinger*, Grieg's *Piano Concerto*, and Respighi's *The Pines of Rome*. Dr. Edward Markward will conduct. Roberts Auditorium.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

12 noon-1 p.m. History Department Lunchtime Colloquium. "Decision By The House: The Election of 1824". Professor Norman Smith will review the election of 1824 when the constitutional provisions for settling the presidency moved from the Electoral College to the House of Representatives. Gaige Hall, Room 211.

1 p.m. Rhode Island Philharmonic Conductor Forum. Alvaro Cassuto. Roberts Hall, Room 138.

3 p.m. Women's Tennis. RIC vs. University of New Haven. Away.

3:30 p.m. Women's Soccer. RIC vs. Wheaton. Away.

6:30 p.m. Volleyball. RIC vs. Southeastern Massachusetts with Western New England. Away.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

TBA. Volleyball. RIC vs. Holy Cross with Clark. Away.

2 p.m. Biology Department Colloquium. "The Role of Microtubules in Cell Structure and Cell Division". Dr. Roger D. Sloboda, Department of Biological Sciences at Dartmouth College will be the speaker. Fogarty Life Sciences Building, Room 050.

3 p.m. Women's Tennis. RIC vs. University of Bridgeport. Home.

3:30 p.m. Soccer. RIC vs. Connecticut. Home.

8 p.m. RIC Performing Arts Series Presents: Woody Herman and The Young Thundering Herd, the master of Big Band Jazz. Roberts Hall Auditorium.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

1-3 p.m. Educational Studies Division Department Chairpersons and Center Directors Meeting. Horace Mann Hall, Room 064.

3:30 p.m. Women's Soccer. RIC vs. University of Rhode Island. Away.

7 p.m. Volleyball. RIC vs. Brown. Home.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

1 p.m. Women's Tennis. RIC vs. Stonehill. Away.

1 p.m. Soccer. RIC vs. Southeastern Massachusetts University. Away.

1 p.m. Men's Cross Country. Easterns at Franklin Park.