

# What's NEWS

@ Rhode  
Island  
College

Vol. 2, No. 15 December 14, 1981

## No tuition increase next semester



Dr. David E. Sweet.

Rhode Island College will have to cut its current fiscal year operating budget by nearly three-quarters-of-a-million dollars, but will not have to increase tuition in the second semester.

At least that's how things stand now in the wake of the Board of Governors for Higher Education decision on Dec. 3 to cut \$2.45 million from the budgets of the three state colleges.

The action was approved by the governor at a Dec. 8 meeting as had been anticipated by Albert E. Carlotti, board chairman. The higher education cuts were part of a \$10.2 million slash in the current state budget.

The board had been asked to cut \$3.7 million from the budgets of the three colleges, or 5 percent, to help the state solve its financial problems.

The \$2.45 million is \$1.2 million less than

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RAPT ATTENTION is given the president as he discusses cuts in the college budget.

(What's New(s) Photos by Peter P. Tobia)

## Yule customs: From New England to Venezuela

By Arline Aissis Fleming

Christmas customs vary from country to country, state to state — even family to family.

On the RIC campus, each student, faculty and staff member will go home to traditions, some universal, others very personal.

Some will travel home to Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York. Others will leave the campus after final exams and drive only a few streets away to enjoy the familiar aromas and sites of Christmas at home.

A small part of the RIC population will fly south of the border into cultures where a white Christmas is found only on Christmas cards.

Others will be traveling back to the places where many of our own Christmas traditions originated, a holiday heritage that is deep and historical.

Several of RIC's international students will be going home for the first time in many months. Although their language sounds different and their foods are unfamiliar, many of them will be spending Christmas in much the same fashion as their classmates will here.

They'll eat turkey, trim a Christmas tree, go to midnight Mass and open brightly wrapped presents.

Many of our customs stem from theirs, so perhaps that is why their traditions seem so familiar.

While most of us yearn for a white Christmas, some of the RIC population will be singing "Sleigh bells ring . . ." under sunny, 70-degree skies.

One such student is Juan Fiallos of El Salvador. On Dec. 24, Juan will fly out of Boston to his hometown of San Salvador, arriving there just in time for dinner — or just in time for a late afternoon swim, as

the case may be.

Juan says he lives about 35 minutes from several beaches and he plans on spending his month-long Christmas holiday in the sun getting a tan.

"It's like springtime there," he said. "We live in the mountains. At night, we listen to the pine trees — it's windy. But there's no snow," the young man added.

The middle child of three sons, Juan will be going home for the first time in almost a year. There he'll see his parents and meet up again with his brother, who also lives

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## Victims praise helpful students

By George LaTour

The RIC community, and particularly some of its students, was quick to respond to a robbery in the Student Union a week ago Friday.

The students' alertness and eagerness to help not only led to the apprehension of one suspect and retrieval of some of the stolen goods, but, perhaps, prevented physical harm to the parties involved.

About 10:30 a.m. three male youths approached the vendor's table outside the bookstore where Mr. and Mrs. Stan Glazer of Chestnut Hill, Mass., had set up their "Creative Rings 'n Things" display.

The youths grabbed three trays of gold chains and bracelets and ran out into the Student Union parking lot.

The bold act brought a scream from Mrs. Glazer which alerted Linda Ryan and Michelle Wineberg, on duty at the nearby

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PERFORMING RIC'S THIRD ANNUAL HOLIDAY Gift Concert at the Ocean State Performing Arts Center last Monday are the Rhode Island College Symphony and Chorus conducted by Edward Markward. They received a standing ovation by an enthusiastic audience which had braved the aftermaths of a surprise snowstorm to attend.

(What's New(s) Photo by Peter P. Tobia)

# From New England to Venezuela: Christmas

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here in Providence, (he's a student at RISD). A third brother is in France and won't make it home for the holidays this year.

But when the family finally gathers together, they'll trim a pine tree with much of the same decorations as would be found in any American home, wrap their gifts for underneath and hang "the boot" to be filled with candy.

Juan says that Christmas trees weren't a custom in his country until about 30 years ago. The central decoration in his home is the "Nacimientos," a set of figures much like our nativity scenes, but much more extensive.

Their scene is about as large as a desk and includes miniature buildings, churches, trees, animals and many, many figures. They all face inward toward the manger where the Christ Child is placed in the stable at midnight on Christmas Eve.

Then the family will attend the "Misa de Gallo," or the Mass of the rooster.

After Mass, dinner is served at home, he said.

The 21-year old freshman remembers that another custom in his family is to set off firecrackers, much like we do on the Fourth of July. Only they light them on Christmas Eve.

"Without that, there is no Christmas," he smiled.

Christmas dinner usually consists of turkey with all the trimmings, and "tamales" stuffed with various things, such as chicken and seafood.

The family gathers after dinner to open presents and "the little children are sleeping so that Santa Claus will come," he said.

The next day is more subdued, he added. Juan first came to America to attend private school in Wellesley in 1979 and it was then that he first saw snow. He likes it, he says, but he's also looking forward to going to the beach.

The climate and the customs that Juan will return to are much like those awaiting Carmen Farriga of Caracas, Venezuela. The RIC sophomore also will fly out on Dec. 24 and will arrive home about 9:30 p.m. This will be her first Christmas at home in two years and her sister, who lives in Texas, will arrive home as well.

The climate there, which she says is warm the year round, will be sunny and in the 70s on Christmas Day.

Like Juan, she will join her family on Christmas Eve to set off firecrackers.

While they don't hang stockings from the fireplace in her country, they do wait for presents to arrive, from the Christ Child with the assistance of Santa Claus.

While Christmas is a time in Venezuela to gather for ham and fruitcake and tamales stuffed with vegetables, pork, chicken and beef, Carmen says that New Year's is a big holiday there.

"It's very important to be with the family on New Year's," she said.

Susan Horvath is here at RIC majoring in public relations at present, but by week's end, she'll be back in Zurich with her parents preparing for the Christmas holidays.

One of the holidays celebrated in Switzerland has already passed.

On Dec. 6, in her country, Santa Claus arrives.

"The night before, the kids put their shoes outside the door waiting for Santa to put in chocolate, nuts and oranges," she said.

Susan's mother sent her gifts by mail, so that, coupled with the weekend snow, helped bring the holiday here for her.

Americans might think that Christmas in Switzerland has to be white, but Susan says that is not always true. While it snows there often, snow isn't always on the ground by December in Zurich, where her family lives.

Susan is Hungarian by heritage and so some of those customs mix with her Swiss upbringing, especially the food. For example, in her home it's a tradition to have duck on Dec. 25.

Susan says she was surprised to find Christmas trees up and decorated in American living rooms so early in December because in Switzerland, "the Christmas tree is set up on the afternoon of the 24th or the morning of the 25th.

It has to be put away on January 6th," she said, the feast of the Three Kings. A special cake is prepared with a little king hidden inside.

"The one who gets the king is the king for the day," she smiled.

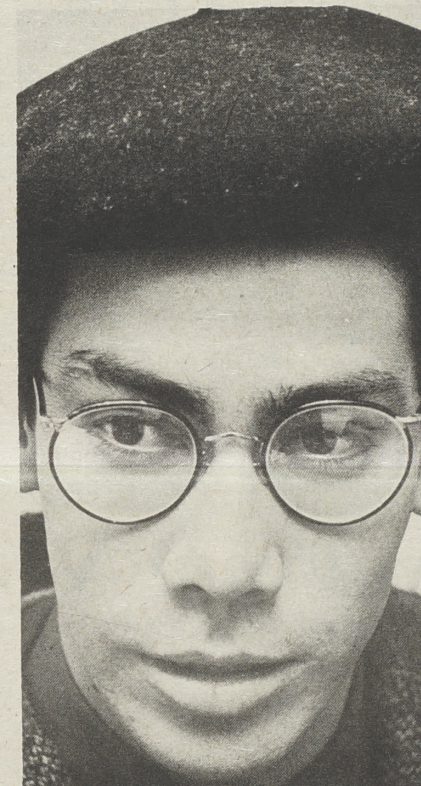
That Jan. 6 holiday is similar to the way the holidays are celebrated in Cuba, says Raquel Hernandez, who moved here at the age of 11.

Now 20, and a sophomore at RIC, Raquel says that in her home, presents are brought on Jan. 6 by the Three Kings. While there's a great deal of celebrating with the family on Dec. 24 and 25, gift-giving is delayed until Jan. 6.

Whatever the language, wherever the place, Christmas is always Christmas.



**SUSAN HORVATH** will spend Christmas in Switzerland with her family.



**JUAN FIALLOS** from El Salvador will fly home for his Christmas holiday on Dec. 24.

## ★ Praise

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student information booth, that there was trouble.

They immediately notified the campus Security and Safety Department.

In the meantime, Mr. Glazer ran after the youths and chased them across the Student Union lot through the patch of woods separating Lot J and Lot I.

Mr. Glazer fell several times during the chase and scraped his legs.

It was at this time that Lucien Tessier, a student marshal assisting Security and Safety on routine surveillance of the parking areas, spotted the chase and also took up after the youths.

The youths split up in the wooded section.

Tessier, who was now joined by another student, continued to chase two of the youths across Lot I toward Fruit Hill Avenue.

When the youths reached Fruit Hill Avenue, they split again. Tessier and the other RIC student continued after one of them.

They nabbed the youth, a 17-year-old, by the apartment complex across from the college. The youth reportedly fell to the ground in exhaustion. A tray of jewelry was recovered at the scene.

Tessier then radioed Security and Safety to report he and the other RIC student had captured one of the suspects.

Lt. Harold Ramsay of campus security responded and took the youth into custody.

He was later turned over to the North Providence Police.

The Glazers could not immediately estimate the value of the stolen jewelry. They said they had no insurance on the valuables.

John S. Foley, executive director of College Advancement and Support, who had responded to the scene, assured the Glazers of the college's concern and willingness to help.

Mrs. Glazer said she and her husband have been "coming to RIC for years" with their stand and had never had a bad experience before.

The Glazers acknowledged the quick thinking and response of the students and said they thought "all the kids here are terrific."

"I've got nothing but praise for RIC people," said Glazer.

## Sue's having an affair

Student Union Events is having a holiday "affair" on Dec. 15, 17 and 18 on campus.

Vendors will be selling arts and crafts on the second floor of the Student Union.

Prizes, carolers and refreshments will be on tap.

Anyone wishing to take part or attend, can call Ext. 8034.

## ★ Budget

Continued from Page 1

the 5 percent originally requested by the governor. A tuition increase in the second semester had been considered to make up the difference.

Actual cuts now amount to 3.1 percent, as calculated by Peter J. Miniati, a higher education budget specialist.

This breaks down to 2.9 percent (or \$1.25 million) for the University of Rhode Island; 3.7 percent (or \$744,859) for RIC; and 3 percent (or \$456,000) for the Community College of Rhode Island.

The cuts enacted are the first of many that will be made to reduce what is shaping up to be a \$23 million deficit for the state this fiscal year.

The cuts at RIC will mean reductions in virtually every area of spending, but will not affect faculty or staff jobs.

"There is no time when an institution feels good at losing three-quarters-of-a-million dollars," President David E. Sweet told a gathering of all college deans, department chairs and directors after the board's decision.

"This is a serious and difficult time in the history of this institution," Sweet said, adding, "we will do everything we can to keep cuts to a minimum and apply them to where they'll cause the least harm."

He assured funds will be restored when possible.

"This is an incident in the life of the institution, not its destiny," Sweet said.

He said he concurred with the governor's statement that higher education had shared in the good times when money was more available and now must share in the bad times.

The college plans to meet its share of the cuts by cutting personnel expenditures by \$233,000, reducing its operating expenses by \$315,000 and its capital outlays by \$196,000.

Sweet said the personnel cuts would be achieved entirely by leaving vacant positions unfilled.

"No one will lose his or her job because of these cuts," he assured.

Other areas to feel the scissors include travel expenses: "Travel expenses will simply not occur, other than travel for scholarly purposes by the faculty," Sweet told the deans, chairs and directors.

Printing, telephone and postage costs would be cut as well as maintenance and repairs, student aid and student help, and capital purchases for the library.

The president urged faculty and staff administrators at the B.O.G. conference room meeting to make use of *What's New(s) at RIC* and the BRIEFS for communications in efforts to hold down printing costs.

Sweet pointed out that cuts could not now be made from certain areas such as the summer session because the money already has been spent for this fiscal year.

He said he hoped that incorrect assumptions would not be made; that is, that you should spend your money at the beginning of the year.

He emphasized that only because the college has been prudent in its spending, it now doesn't face stiffer cuts and tuition hikes.

Sweet also pointed out to the faculty and staff administrators that the college's auxiliary enterprises such as the residence halls, the bookstore, the dining hall and the Student Union, will not be affected by the cuts.

He said this was so because they are not supported by state appropriations but by the income they generate.

Consequently, he said, no one should be upset if he or she hears about a position being filled by the auxiliary enterprises.

In a question-and-answer period following Sweet's report, the president was asked if the planned cuts would affect employee's fringe benefits.

He said they would not.

"If it ever comes to that, it will be a statewide move — not a RIC move," Sweet said.

The president said he was grateful that there will be no tuition increase in the second semester, nor the need for retrenchment.

He pointed out that the current cuts are part of "an on-going encounter."

"There are many battles to be fought between now and the end of the fiscal year and legislative session," he said.

He concluded by saying he feels other things besides money make RIC "a great college."

"I hope this incident will bring out the best in all of us at RIC," he said.



**What's  
New(s)  
at  
RIC**

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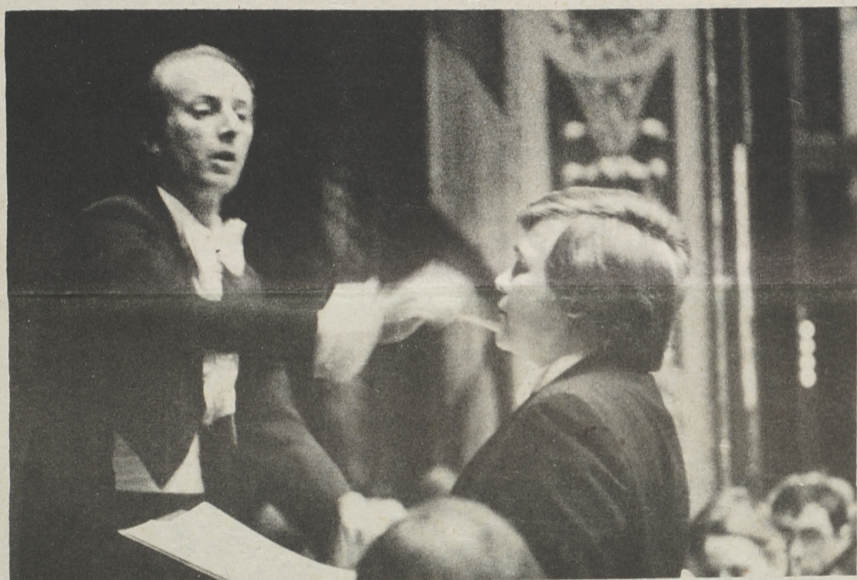
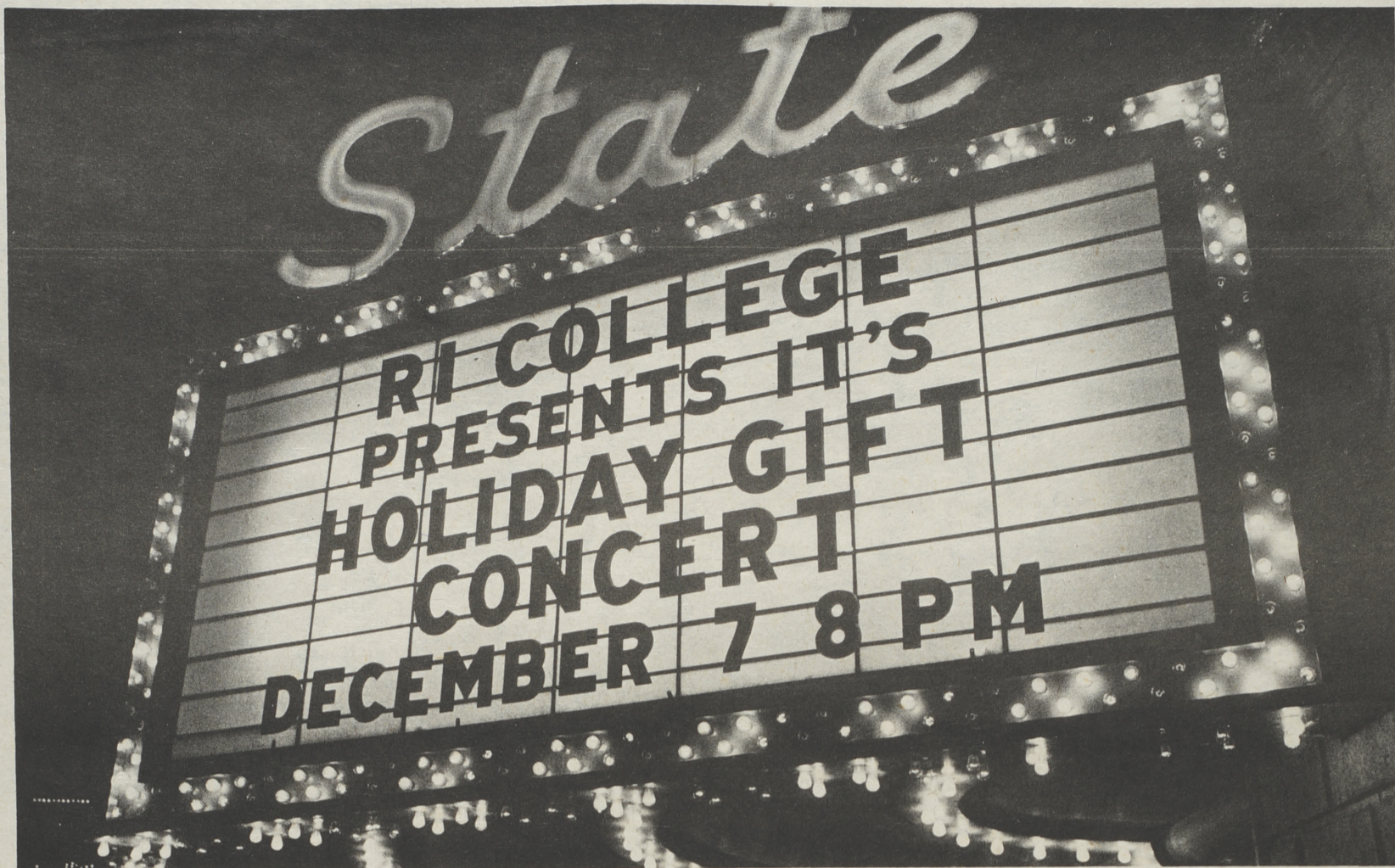
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### DEADLINE

Deadline for submission of copy and photos is TUESDAY at 4:30 p.m.

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### *Giving a gift*

The after-effects of the surprise snowstorm that dumped up to two feet of snow on Rhode Island reduced the size of the audience at RIC's "Holiday Gift to the Community" but not its enthusiasm.

Nearly 1,400 hardy souls, dressed in everything from evening gowns and wraps to rubber boots, heavy coats, scarves and gloves, braved icy roads and cold winds to hear our symphony orchestra and chorus perform the "Magnificat in D Major" by Bach and "Hodie," a Christmas cantata, by Williams.

Ed Markward conducted the symphony

and chorus as well as The Barrington Boys' Choir which lent its young voices to the concert.

Many of those attending later went to the J. Joseph Garrahy Judicial Center — walking through slush and snow to Dorrance Street — where they were treated to gourmet snacks and a chance to purchase RIC's special holiday Christmas ornament.

A portion of the ticket cost for the reception went to the college's Fine and Performing Arts.

All in all, a night to remember.



**WHAT'S NEW(s) Photos**  
by  
**Peter P. Tobia**



H.B.S. SINGERS REHEARSE for a series of holiday performances they gave last week. Their director, Alice Pellegrino, conducts the 72-member chorus of fifth and sixth graders. (What's New(s) Photo by Peter P. Tobia).

## Calendar of events

### December 14 to December 20, 1981

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 14**

9 a.m.-3 p.m. *Senior Class Pictures.* Student Union, Room 310.  
 7:30-9:30 p.m. *Quit Smoking Clinic (Final Session).* "Let's Celebrate." Evaluation of program, graduation and celebration. Student Union, Lounge F.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15**

10 a.m.-6 p.m. *Christmas Fair.* Student Union Ballroom.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16**

9 a.m.-3 p.m. *Senior Class Pictures.* Student Union, Room 310.

4-10 p.m. *Christmas Fair.* Student Union Ballroom.

7-11 p.m. *Student Government Meeting.* Student Union Chambers.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17**

12-6 p.m. *Christmas Fair.* Student Union Ballroom.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18**

9 a.m.-3 p.m. *Senior Class Pictures.* Student Union, Room 310.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20**

10 a.m. *Sunday Mass.* Student Union Ballroom.

7 p.m. *Sunday Evening Mass.* Browne Hall, Upper Lounge.



'ARMENIAN SURVIVORS — 60 Years Later' is the name of a photographic exhibit by Berge Ara Zorian on display in the photo gallery of the RIC Art Center now through Dec. 18. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Zorian is a RIC graduate student.