

WHAT'S NEWS

AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Vol. 16 Issue 12

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SCHOLARS: Renata Dillis (left) and Briana Lopes, kindergarten pupils at Henry Barnard School, are recipients of the 1995-1996 Rose Merenda Early Childhood Scholarship. Rose Merenda was a kindergarten teacher at Barnard for 32 years. Upon her retirement in 1992 she established a \$10,000 endowment which annual awards two \$300 scholarships. (What's News photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

RIC alumna named president of Trinity College

A 1964 graduate of Rhode Island College has been named Trinity College's 10th president and the first lay person to head the 780-student body school in Burlington, Vt.

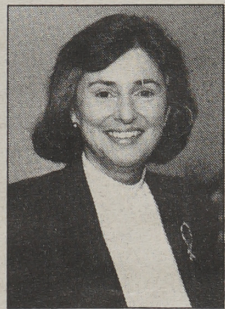
Lorna Duphiney Edmundson, senior vice president and dean of faculty at Colby-Sawyer College in New Hampshire since 1993, will officially begin her duties July 1, succeeding Sister Janice Ryan, who has led the Catholic college for 17 years.

"I am deeply moved and drawn by the college's mission and by the extraordinary group of faculty, students, staff, alumni and trustees," Edmundson told the *Burlington Free Press*. "Trinity is an extremely purposeful and dynamic organization."

The appointment came after an exhaustive national search which drew applicants from around the country, reported Christopher Weinheimer, chairman of the Trinity College board of trustees.

"When we made our final selection, the enthusiasm for Lorna was palpable," Weinheimer said, emphasizing her experience with the

finances of higher education and her scholarly publications. "She understands the financial issues that are facing not only Trinity, but also higher education as a whole."



LORNA DUPHINEY EDMUNDSON

major in elementary education and English.

She received her master's degree from Boston College in 1969 and her doctorate in education from Columbia University Teachers College. She is also a 1993 graduate of Columbia University's executive program in accounting and finance.

Prior to her current position at

Continued on page 2

Named Thorp Professor —

Barnard's Fennessey cited for excellence in teaching

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Characterized as an educator who is an "inspiration to all of us," Henry Barnard School's Sharon M. Fennessey of North Kingstown has been named the 1996 Thorp Professor for Excellence in Teaching in the Schools of Education/Human Development and Social Work at Rhode Island College.

Joining the faculty of RIC's laboratory school in 1989, the fifth grade teacher has distinguished herself through her professional work which shares the common theme of literacy and drama in education.

An advocate for an arts-integrated curriculum, Fennessey, an active member of The American Alliance for Theatre and Education, believes that the arts promote self-confidence and personal discipline. They foster the expression of divergent viewpoints and the appreciation for the diversity among cultures.

Her publications in professional magazines have reflected this theme, for example "Living History Through Drama and Literature" and her own annual historical plays, written for enactment by her classes, such as the story of Harriet Tubman, a black woman's odyssey from slavery to freedom as a nurse for the Union Army.

That play recently was the focus of a *Providence Journal-Evening*

Bulletin feature article which was headed "Play Brings History and Heroism to Life for Fifth Graders."

As winner of the Thorp award, Fennessey will give the annual Thorp Lecture in the Schools of Education/Human Development and Social Work on Tuesday, April 23, at 4:15 p.m. in Gage Hall auditorium. A reception follows.



SHARON M. FENNESSEY

Her topic will be "Encounters with the Arts in Education." It is free and open to the public.

As Thorp Professor, Fennessey will receive an engraved plaque and a cash honorarium of \$750 and have her teaching load reduced by one course. The money for the award comes from the Mary Tucker Thorp Fund in the RIC Foundation, created by a bequest in her will.

Nominees for the Thorp Professorship were evaluated by a committee composed of faculty from the combined School of Education and Human Development and the School of Social Work. The professorship honors the contributions of Thorp, whose illustrious career at the College spanned 41 years from 1926 to 1967.

Continued on page 2

Summer Study Abroad Program on French Riviera offered again

Rhode Island College modern language department is offering for the fourth time its Summer Study Abroad Program for high school students, undergraduate and graduate students, teachers "or anyone who is eager to brush up on his or her French at all levels."

This year's program, which runs from July 14 to August 3, will be in Antibes on the French Riviera through Trefle International.

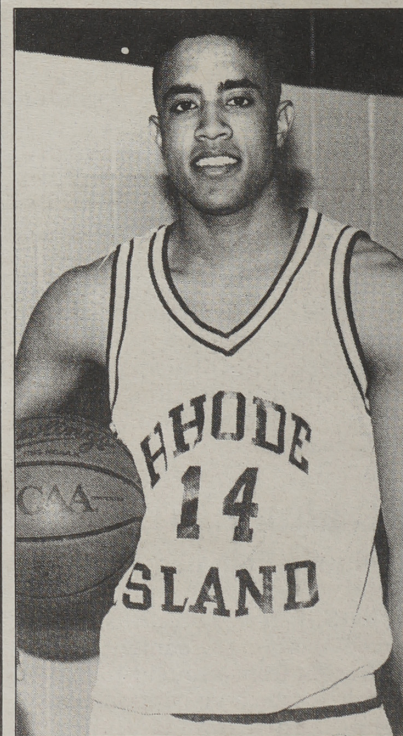
Students take a placement test upon arrival to assess their language abilities and enroll in one intensive French course for which they may earn up to four college credits.

Instruction takes place in small classes from 8 to noon Monday through Friday.

Emphasis is on oral expression and hearing comprehension and includes the study of grammar and

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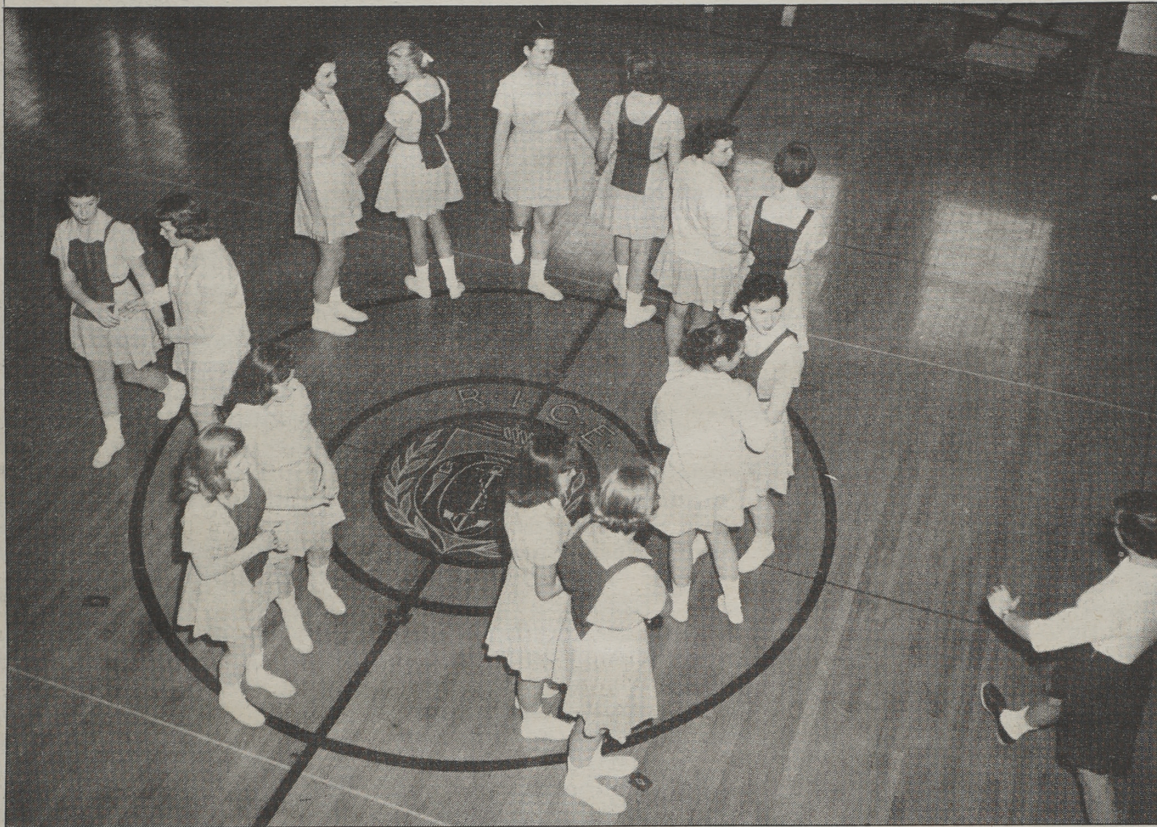
Alex Butler - Little East Conference Player of the Year



See pages 6 and 7 for story/photos.

The Way We Were...

This year in *What's News* you'll be able to revisit your alma mater with a selection of photos from the past — the College's past, whether the current era (Rhode Island College) or past eras (Rhode Island College of Education or Rhode Island State Normal School). We invite your contribution of old photos, along with sufficient information about each such as who's in the photo and what they are doing, the year it was taken and place (if possible). In the meantime, we'll continue searching our files for interesting pictures of past College life.



We have little information about this picture from the College's photo files, except to say that it is a women's physical education class taught by Professor Billie Burill, who can be seen in the lower right. It is perhaps square dance instruction, with the "male" partners wearing "pinnies" (or pinafores). It dates from 1957, when we were still Rhode Island College of Education (note the initials on the gym floor), but ground had already been broken for the building of the Mt. Pleasant campus of "Rhode Island College."

Sharon Fennessey – Thorp Professor

Continued from page 1

Fennessey holds a bachelor of science in education degree from RIC with a minor in theatre, and a master of arts degree in theatre education from Columbia University Teachers College.

At RIC she holds the academic rank of associate professor.

Prior to coming to the Barnard School, Fennessey was a language arts specialist in grades K through seven at the Anglo-American School in Mougins, France. While there, she organized a Young Authors' Festival in Paris for European International Schools, presented writing workshops, and taught drama and dance.

As a teacher, she has had experience in most grades from kindergarten through college.

In Massachusetts, she was a fourth and fifth grade instructor and student teacher supervisor at the Horace Mann Laboratory School, Salem State College. At Professional Children's School, New York City, she worked as a classroom teacher in grades two through five.

Fennessey was also an artist-in-residence for drama and dance in magnet schools in Lynn and Marblehead, Mass.

At the college level, she has taught courses in communication skills and drama education at Salem State, Bank Street College of Education and Fordham University.

She has presented professional papers and workshops at many national and local conventions, consulted with school districts, and published articles since coming to Barnard.

Last year, she was named Teacher of the Year by the Association for Childhood Education.

Fennessey holds membership in a half dozen professional associations including the American Council for the Arts.

"Without a doubt," notes her citation, "Ms. Fennessey is a creative teacher who continues to have a profound effect on elementary and college students."

As a former commissioner of higher education wrote to her, "It is obvious that you're a fine and dedicated teacher; the enthusiasm of the children's work shows that you've ignited in them a love for thinking, learning, and doing."

"Educators like you are inspirations to all of us."

Study Abroad in France

Continued from page 1

vocabulary as well as the contemporary culture.

The school prepares students to earn the DELF or DALF diploma which is recognized world-wide. It is granted by the French Ministry of Education.

Half-day afternoon excursions or visit to museums twice a week (i.e. the Picasso, Leger, Chagall, Matisse museums, visits to Nice and Cannes) and a weekly one-day excursion (i.e. Saint Tropez) are offered to introduce students to French life and culture.

In the evenings, participants may enjoy discos, cafes, jazz concerts (in Juan-les-Pins), classical music and the like.

Since Antibes is situated by the sea, participants may take leisure time at the beach or participate in sports activities such as wind surfing, skin diving, tennis, petanque or bicycling for additional fees.

Accommodations are provided at the TREFLE/CREPS center in fully equipped double rooms. Participants eat their three meals with other international students and their teachers, French people who are registered for sport training.

The price is \$1,800 (less for a group of seven) plus air fare which is estimated at \$600.

Those interested should contact the modern language department at 456-8029. The application deadline is April 15.

RIC Accounting student ties for top honors in "mock" C.I.A. exam

Patricia Rice of North Providence, an accounting student at Rhode Island College, received the highest score, along with two University of Rhode Island students, in this year's "mock" Certified Internal Auditor (C.I.A.) exam administered by the Institute of Internal Auditors (I.I.A.) Feb. 7.

The exam was taken by 38 students from Providence area colleges. The three students who tied for top honors each received an award and cash prize at the Feb. 28 meeting of the I.I.A. in Providence.

For four of the last six years, a RIC student has achieved the top score in this exam. The I.I.A. administers this exam as a means of exposing students to material covered on the "real" C.I.A. exam, and to stimulate interest in careers in the internal auditing profession. Much of the exam material is also relevant to students planning a career in public accounting as "external" auditors.

The next issue of *What's News* is Monday, April 8.

Deadline

for submission of copy, photos is Friday, March 29.

WHAT'S NEWS AT RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

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RIC alumni Trinity College president

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Colby-Sawyer, Edmundson had served as acting president of that institution from January to May in 1994. She was a visiting scholar in higher education at Columbia University Teachers College, 1992-93; vice president for academic affairs at Marymount College, 1990-

93. She was named to the 1992 RIC Alumni Honor Roll for her career achievements.

Married to Daniel C. Edmundson, an attorney, the couple has two daughters, Laurel and Katherine.

College Shorts

Thorp Arts and Sciences lecture

Thomas E. Malloy, associate professor of psychology, will give the Mary Tucker Thorp Arts and Sciences lecture Thursday, April 4 at 4 p.m. in Fogarty Life Science 050.

His lecture is titled "Interpersonal Perception: Conceptual, Research Design, and Analytic Issues."

Malloy holds a Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Connecticut and a doctorate from the University of North Colorado. Prior to joining the faculty at Rhode Island College in 1987, he was on the graduate faculty at New Mexico State University.

Malloy has been described as "one of the world's leading experts in the area of interpersonal perception" and has addressed basic theoretical questions in this area.

The lecture is free and open to the public. A reception follows in Alumni Lounge.

Ocean State Leadership Consortium

The Office of Student Activities is sponsoring students to take part in the 1996 Ocean State Leadership Consortium to be held Sunday, March 31 at Roger Williams University. Students are invited to participate in the consortium to enhance their leadership skills and network with other student leaders from across the state. For more information, call Kristen King at 456-8034.

Coordinators sought for student exchange program

International Education Forum (IE), a not-for-profit student exchange program, is seeking coordinators to find American host families for students arriving in August for the 1996-1997 school year. Students come from many countries throughout Europe, Asia and South America.

Paul DeCesare, Class of 1978, area coordinator for EF, says a special focus is on professors or teachers due to their work schedules, expertise and contacts. Those with experience in volunteering for various organizations are welcome to apply. Coordinators are compensated for placement and supervision through a variety of incentives and a stipend.

Appropriate candidates must be organized, motivated and people-oriented. Coordinators are able to work part-time from their homes. No foreign language skills are necessary. Students who come to stay with American families bring their own money and are fully insured by EF.

Please contact DeCesare at (508) 336-5544 for more information or to apply.

Costa organizes 'Good Brothers'

by Cynthia L. Sousa
What's News Writer

A new group directed at helping African American high school males is being formed on campus in the aftermath of the Million Man March held in Washington, D.C., last fall. The Good Brother organization, in the planning stages and coordinated by Joseph L. Costa, director of student support services, hopes to get African American male undergraduates from Rhode Island College involved in mentoring local high school male students.

Costa first heard of the Good Brother organization while at a conference four years ago at the predominantly black institution, Bowie State University. He was impressed with the group of young men there who were involved in mentoring and asked the members if he could borrow the organization's name for a program at RIC. They agreed.

Costa put the idea on the back burner. It resurfaced when two RIC students approached Costa after the publicity the Million Man March received. They thought that mentoring high school juniors and seniors in areas such as applying to college, getting a job or with personal problems was a much-needed service. "They felt that they wanted to give something back, to get involved and to help others," said Costa. The Good Brother organization had a home.

To date Costa has approximately a dozen males who have volunteered for the program.

Costa knows firsthand of the benefits of mentoring. He has been mentoring a senior male student from Hope High and a female from LaSalle Academy. "It's a great feeling to know you're helping. And the students really appreciate it," he said.

"I'm really excited about the Good Brother organization and so are the students," Costa said. He believes that this program will be the first of its kind in Rhode Island.

Costa, who received his undergraduate degree from RIC in 1971, has worked at RIC for the past 25 years in the Office of Student Support Services, one of 700 in the country. Prior to that he worked with adolescents and juvenile delinquents at the East Side YMCA.

Costa received his master's degree



GETTING THE ORGANIZATION OFF THE GROUND: Maxime Hyppolite (left), a senior computer information systems major talks with Joe Costa, director of student support services, about the 'Good Brothers' chapter which is being formed at Rhode Island College to mentor high school males. (What's News Photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

from Northeastern University and has been involved at the state and national level in supporting programs that increase the number of underprepared students that make it to college. He serves on the board of directors of Times 2, a math/science program for middle and high school students. Costa is also involved in Chapter One a program for pre-school inner city youth which is similar to the Head Start program. In addition, he is the state representative for the New England Association of Education Opportunities Programs (NEAEO).

A photo exhibit that has been displayed in RIC's Unity Center last month was part of a mini-grant Costa wrote with Becky Yount, associate dean of students at the Community College of Rhode Island and Norman Norris, part-time lecturer in the English Department from CCRI last June. Larry Sykes, former art professor, supervised a group of RIC students who guided fifth grade pupils from the Providence area in taking pictures of their communities, families, and

other significant parts of their lives. in an after-school program. The exhibit will travel to CCRI in April then move on to the University of Rhode Island.

Maxime Hyppolite, a senior computer information systems major came to RIC via the College's Preparatory Enrollment Program offered through Student Support Services. The program is designed for recent high school graduates who have the ability and potential to succeed in college, but who do not otherwise meet the criteria for regular admission due to underdeveloped academic skills and inadequate curricula in their high schools.

Hyppolite is one of the students volunteering for the Good Brother program. "I received so much help from Mr. Costa and his office in getting into college that I want to make a commitment to help others in a similar fashion," the young man said.

Students interested in participating in the program should call Costa at 456-8237.

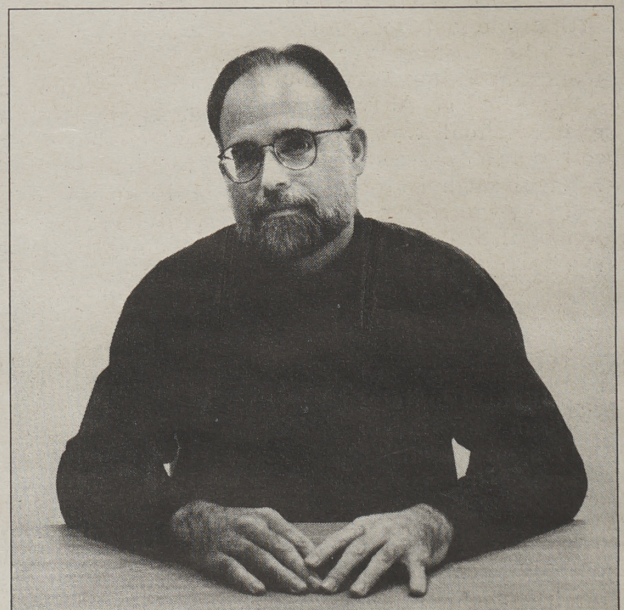
Short fiction award winner to read

David Jauss, winner of the Associated Writing Programs (AWP) Award for Short Fiction for 1995, will read from his works on Tuesday, March 26, at 8 p.m. in Roberts Hall Alumni Lounge. It is free and open to the public.

Jauss, director of creative writing at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock since 1980, wrote the AWP award-winning *Black Maps* and the 1984 *Crimes of Passion*, as well as a book of poetry, *Improvising Rivers*. His work has appeared in *The Nation*, *The Paris Review*, *The New England Review*, among others, and reprinted in *Best American Short Stories*.

Jauss is winner of the O'Henry and James A. Michener awards.

His reading is being sponsored by the RIC Reading Series, through *Shoreline* literary magazine, and the Performing and Fine Arts Commission.



DAVID JAUSS

All aboard for Foundation Caribbean Cruise!



COMMITTEE MEMBERS for the Rhode Island College Foundation gala to be held Saturday, April 13 in Donovan Dining Center are: (seated l to r) Mary Juskalian, Prof. Edward Scheff, and Patricia Nazarian; (standing l to r) Emily Smith, John Fitta, Marguerite M. Brown, director of development and executive director of the Foundation, George Babcock, Lynn Vinacco, Theresa Howe, and Elena Leonelli. This year's gala is being called a "Sail into Spring Caribbean Cruise" and begins at 6 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person. This year's honoree is John J. Fitta, assistant vice president for finance and College controller. Please call Lynn Vinacco at the Foundation office at 456-8105 before Monday, April 1 if you plan to attend.

Nat'l Geography Bee state finals will be at RIC March 29

Rhode Island finals of the 1996 National Geography Bee will be held Friday, March 29, at Rhode Island College from 1 to 6 p.m. when 100 students from schools throughout the state will compete for state-level honors and a chance to compete in the national finals.

Now in its eighth year, the National Geography Bee is designed to encourage the teaching of geography and to test students' knowledge of the subject.

Students in grades 4 through 8 are eligible for all three levels of competition — school, state and national.

State finalists were selected in January through school bees and a written examination.

Faculty members from RIC, teachers and administrators from various Rhode Island school systems and the state Department of Education will serve as moderators for the preliminary rounds, which will be conducted at several sites on the campus, and as judges for all three rounds. The final round and awards ceremony will be held in Gaige Hall auditorium.

The final round, moderated by Tony Petrarca, meteorologist for WPRI TV, Channel 12, will determine the first, second and third-place winners.

The first-place winner will receive \$100 and other prizes. Both the winner and a teacher escort will win an all-expense-paid trip to the national finals at the National Geographic Society Headquarters in Washington, D. C., May 28-29.

The national bee is sponsored by National Geographic World and the Chrysler Corporation. The state finals are being administered by the Rhode Island Social Studies Association and coordinated by Patricia M. Jarvis of the Bernon Heights Elementary School, and Roger P. Gagnon of Woonsocket Middle School.

Timothy Hill, a researcher for the geographic society, will be a special guest at the Rhode Island bee.

The Rhode Island College Foundation TAKE A SEAT!!!

The Rhode Island College Foundation is raising funds to replace seating in Gaige Hall auditorium. This facility is used extensively for concerts and many college activities.

We are inviting you to "Take A Seat"! Your tax deductible donation of \$250 will entitle you to a personalized recognition plate on one of the chairs to be installed in Gaige Auditorium.

The donation of a chair with its recognition plate would be a perfect way to honor an alumnus(a), or to perpetuate the memory of a friend or family member. It would be great as a birthday or class gift!

Please help us to reach our goal!

If you have any questions or would like more information regarding this special event, call the Development Office at 456-8105. Thank you for your support.

*** Recognition Form ***

Please indicate how you would like your recognition plate(s) inscribed. Limit is two lines.

Name _____

No. of Seats @ \$250 _____

Total Due _____

Please make checks payable to the Rhode Island College Foundation and mail to
The Development Office, Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908.

Critic/editor Ted Solotaroff to talk

Ted Solotaroff, founding editor of *The New American Review*, will give a talk entitled "Writing in the Cold"

on Tuesday, April 2, at 4 p.m. in the Rhode Island College Faculty Center. It is free and open to the public.



TED SOLOTAROFF

His talk centers on the current state of American fiction and the roles of the writer and the creative writing program.

Solotaroff's essays and reviews have appeared in *The Nation*, *The New York Times Book Review*, the *Atlantic Monthly* and the *London Times Literary Supplement* and *Commentary*, among others.

The talk is being sponsored by the English department with funding from the RIC Lectures Committee, *Shoreline* literary magazine, the Performing and Fine Arts Commission and the English Club.

For more information, call Thomas Cobb, associate professor of English, at 456-8115.

Biology prof Jerry Melaragno is true Renaissance man

by Cynthia L. Sousa
What's News Writer

Has anyone ever told you "you're one in a million"?

Reaction to this cliché from students in Rhode Island College biology professor Jerry Melaragno's classes goes from snickers to outright laughter. But for this veteran scientist, there is a more serious side to the statement.

Being called "one in a million" is actually a gross understatement, he said. Individuals are so unique, that they are more like *one in seven billion!*

"Genetic diversity is one of the most important lessons in biology," said this soft-spoken chair of the biology department. "The science relates to every aspect of life. Most people don't make the connection."

Melaragno wants to make sure that his students know how really distinct and special they are. He believes that each one of them, because of their unique genetic makeup, has the potential to make a contribution that no one else can make. "Recognizing people's differences is something to be proud of and to celebrate. That we each have a special place on this earth, is important," said Melaragno.

Melaragno has been working with and teaching biology students at RIC since 1975 helping them find their strengths and weaknesses. The College, he feels is the perfect place for this type of growth and development. The classes he has been teaching over the years have typically been very small. It's in this type of atmosphere that he feels students, with some effort, can take advantage of the individual attention available from the professor.

Botany, the branch of biology that deals with plants, their life, structure, growth and classification, is Melaragno's interest. Several years ago he developed a course called The Plant Kingdom which he still teaches during alternate falls. Pictures of each of these classes over the years adorn his office walls. "I like to remember the students," said this unpretentious man.

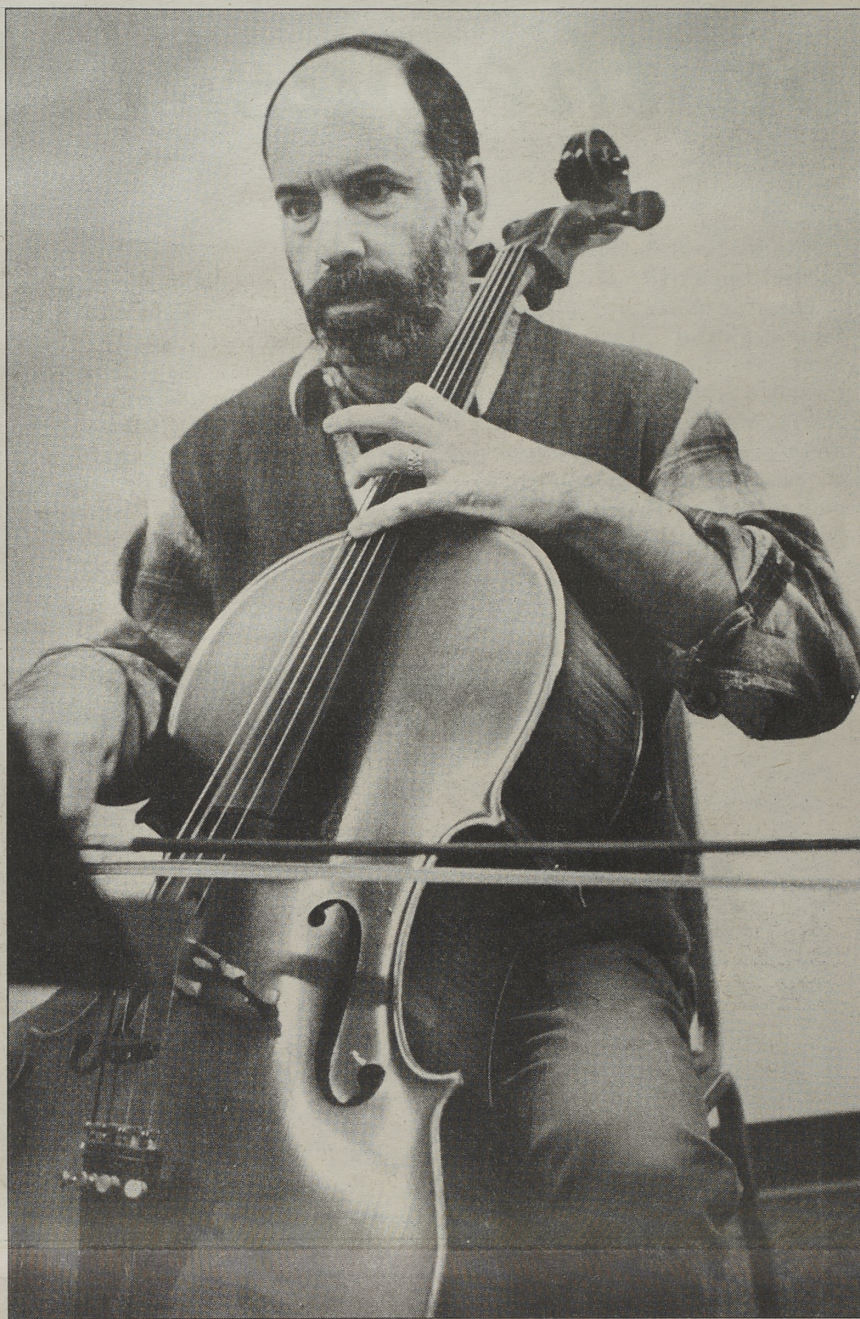
Melaragno, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1974, admits he likes putting things together systematically. Since he was a child, one of his hobbies has been doing jigsaw puzzles. His latest skill and ingenuity in this area is displayed in his office. It's a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle about two-feet high replicating the Eiffel Tower.

About six or seven years ago Melaragno found himself wanting to branch out into different areas. He now refers to this period in his life as his "expansion phase." With a little more free time on his hands than usual Melaragno was looking to try new and different things.

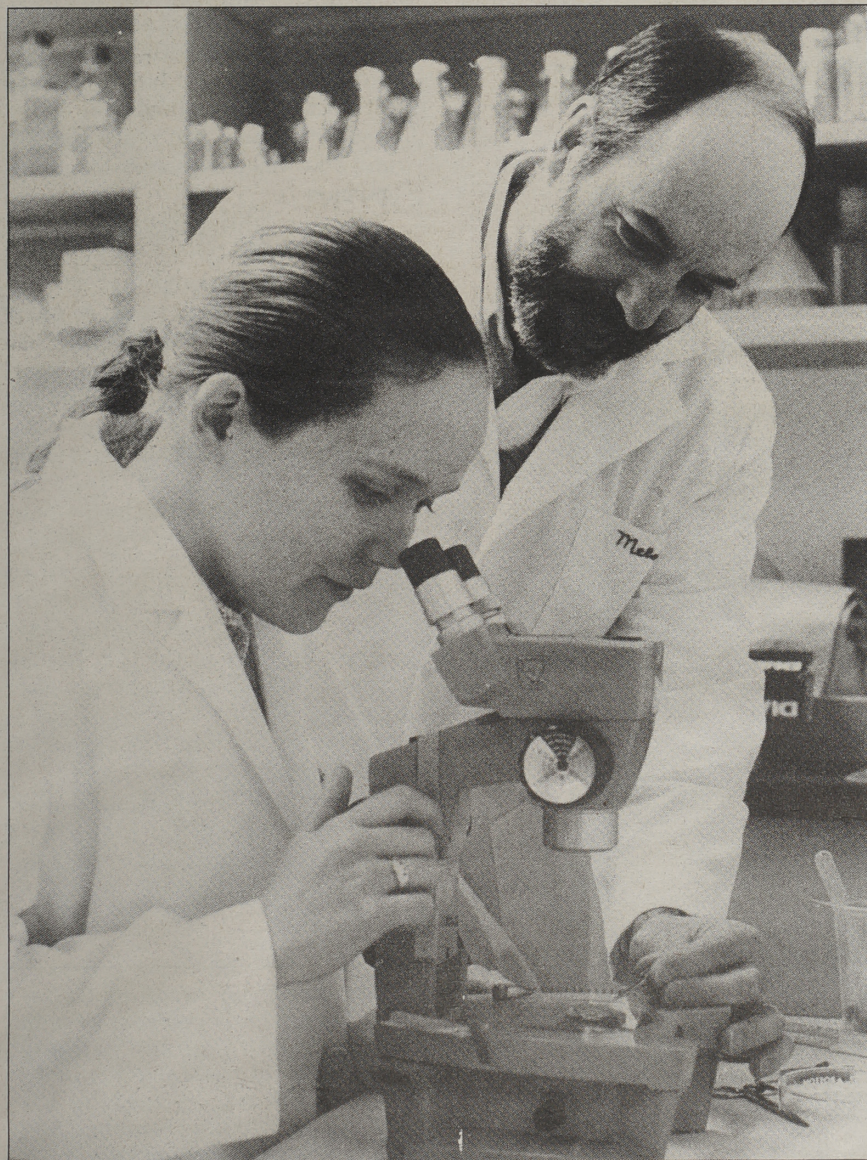
He remembered that as a child growing up in Cleveland, Ohio, he and his sister had taken piano lessons. In school, they were required to either join the school chorus or play a musical instrument. Melaragno's sister chose the clarinet. He remembers going to the encyclopedia and looking up musical instruments. From a page of pictures of different types of instruments, Melaragno chose the cello and began taking lessons in school. He played it for about six years.

It had been a long time since he played the instrument. He dusted it off and enrolled in a class at RIC taught by George Mack.

Since then Melaragno has been practicing and improving. In 1989, with a little prodding by Mack, Melaragno joined the RIC Symphony



Professor Jerry Melaragno on the cello



Professor Jerry Melaragno works with biology major Florence Shaw.

Orchestra. The group, conducted by Edward Markward, will be in concert Monday, March 25.

During the same time, Melaragno became a visiting associate professor of cell biology at Brown University. There he further cultivated his research interests in studies involving the development of plant cells.

Melaragno also enjoyed staying physically active. He had played racquetball at the top competitive level for awhile a few years earlier. But, during this growth stage, decided to take up bicycling. Now, for Melaragno, an average ride is 25 to 30 miles. He enjoys being outside and when the weather prohibits him from being outside, he rides inside on a "spinner."

Melaragno, who lives in Johnston with his wife "Dee," Class of 1978, often rides into the Scituate Reservoir area and Burrillville and takes part in Sunday rides sponsored by the Narragansett Bay Wheelmen. This group also sponsors a Century Ride (100 miles) every September which this physically fit gentleman rides in. He does a 150-mile ride for Muscular Dystrophy Association every June. "Cycling is a sport that everyone can do at their own pace. And it doesn't wear down the body like other sports," said Melaragno. "I really enjoy it."

In 1993 Melaragno became chair of the biology department. The following year he was promoted to the rank of professor. He's seen the department grow over the last few years. Five years ago there were less than 100 student majors. There are approximately 300 students majoring in biology at present. The department employs 14 other full-time professors

and several part-timers. "It's a talented group."

Melaragno points out that at RIC faculty members, not teaching assistants, teach lab groups of no larger than 24 students. "It's a manageable number," he said. "Students can still get the personal attention they need."

Students can major or minor in biology as undergraduates and go on to receive a master of arts or a master of arts in teaching in the discipline. An honors program is also offered to qualified undergraduates.

Melaragno will begin his second three-year term as chairperson in July. With budget restraints, Melaragno said the department is trying to find ways to do a better job "at the things we normally do."

Melaragno has written several journal articles, lab manuals and other teaching materials and has given several paper and poster presentations. He is a member of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, the Botanical Society of America, the National Association of Biology Teachers, the Rhode Island Science Teachers Association, the Rhode Island Biology Teachers Association and is president-elect, 1995-96 of Sigma Xi.

He and his wife, a legal assistant at a Providence law firm, will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary this year with a trip to Spain. Although they have been to Europe a few times, they have never visited Spain. "We're looking forward to it," Melaragno said.

Between biology, music, athletics and culture, Melaragno can truly be called a Renaissance man.

RIC's Alex Butler is a whiz on the basketball court

Rhode Island College's Alex Butler is on a roll.

The star basketball player, a 6-foot-4 junior guard from East Providence, already has scored nearly 2,000 points for the Anchormen, led his team to an 18-and-9 season this year — "probably the best RIC has done in awhile" — and, consequently, helped it earn an Eastern Collegiate Athletic

Conference (ECAC) Tournament bid.

Additionally, he has been named this year's Little East Conference Player of the Year,

By all accounts, he is a legitimate All-American candidate and the subject of conjecture by sports writers and others knowledgeable in the sport as to just why this basketball whiz is playing for a Division III school.

"...there's no doubt Butler is in the wrong league. Everyone says so. Opposing coaches. His own coach Jimmy Adams, who says Butler unquestionably could play a lot of places," observed *Providence Journal-Bulletin* sports columnist Bill Reynolds.

Why, indeed, didn't the Providence College Friars or the Syracuse Orangemen offer the tal-

ented Rhode Islander a basketball scholarship?

RIC, being a Division III school, is unable to do so, according to Division III regulations.

At East Providence High School Butler played basketball and volleyball and was All-State in both sports, taking the teams to their respective state championships.

Nevertheless, he says, "I didn't have a really big senior season in high school." And the year before he'd missed half the season with an ankle injury.

"If you don't put up big numbers in your senior year," he points out, "then big colleges don't come and look at you."

"And," he believes, "Rhode Island hasn't put out a lot of big athletes, being a small state" so recruiters don't flock to its high schools.

Add to this the fact that Butler did not come of age playing in the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) circuit, the new breeding ground for college scholarships.

"And," noted the *Journal's* Reynolds, "some of it is that some people were just plain wrong. One more example that recruiting is an inexact science."

But the higher divisions' loss is RIC's gain.

Butler came here with the idea of proving the recruiters who overlooked him wrong and making playing basketball at RIC a positive experience for himself.

He wasted no time in doing both.

He scored 24 points in his first game and made Rookie of the Year his first season. He has made the Little East All-Conference First Team for the past two years and has won two consecutive scoring championships.

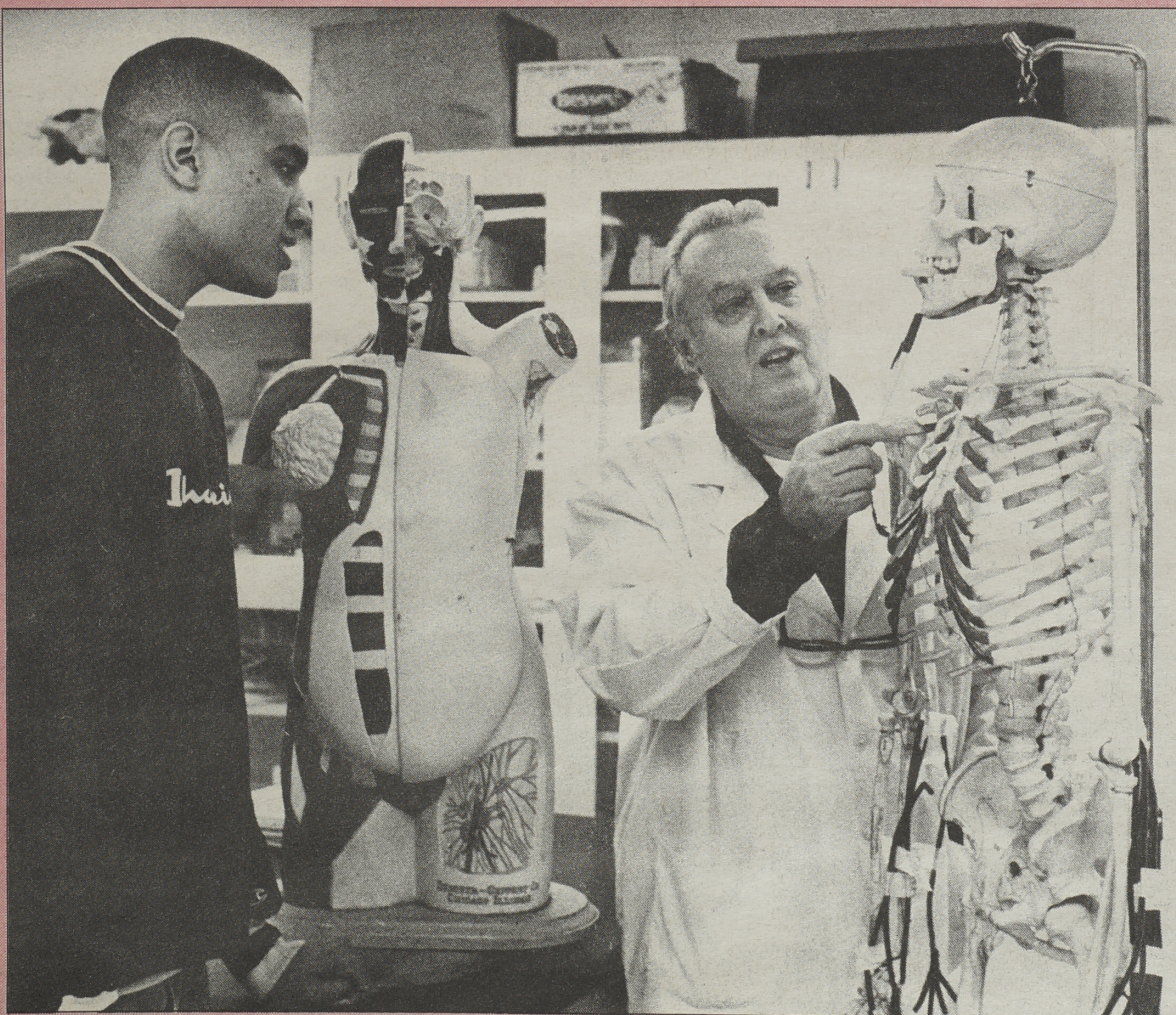
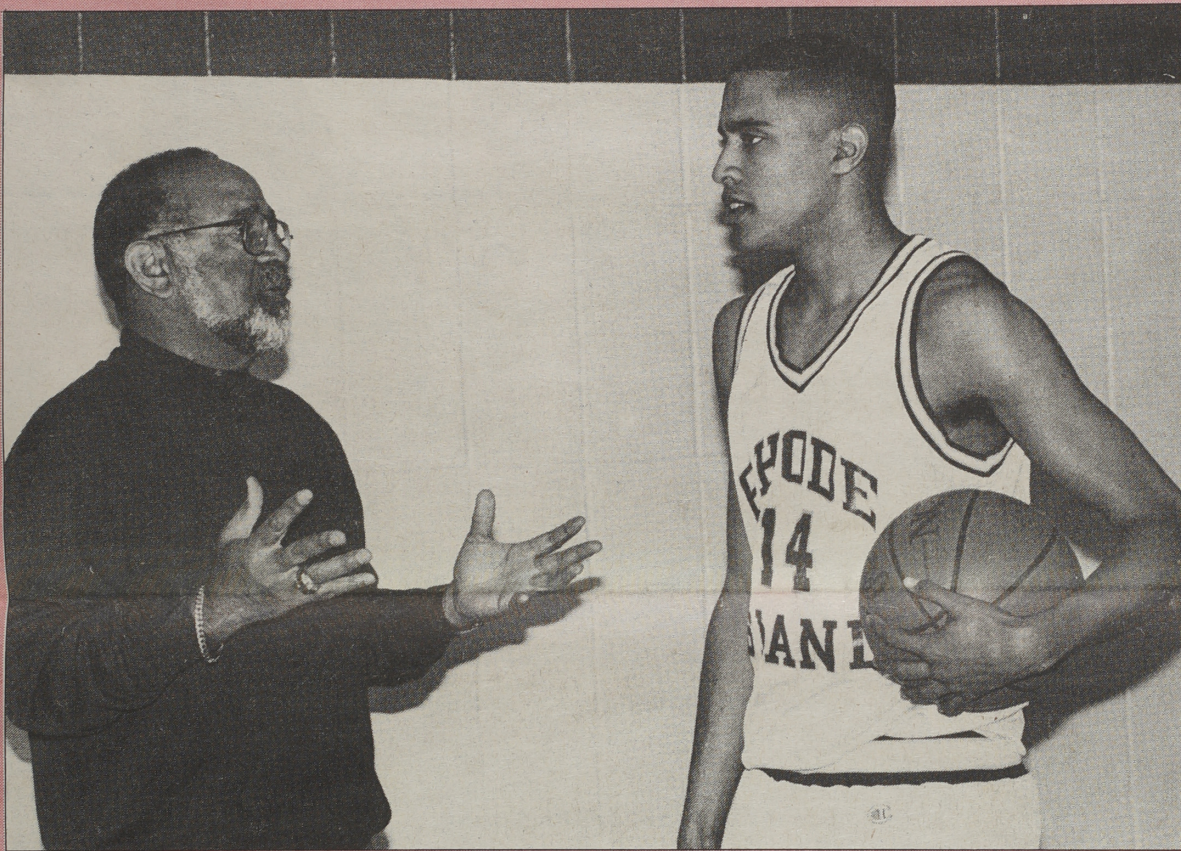
Butler, a realist, seems a happy man.

"I'll be back for my last season and, hopefully, we'll go on to get a Little East championship. Our whole team is returning," says Butler, who assures that he and his teammates will get together in the off-season to practice and keep sharp.

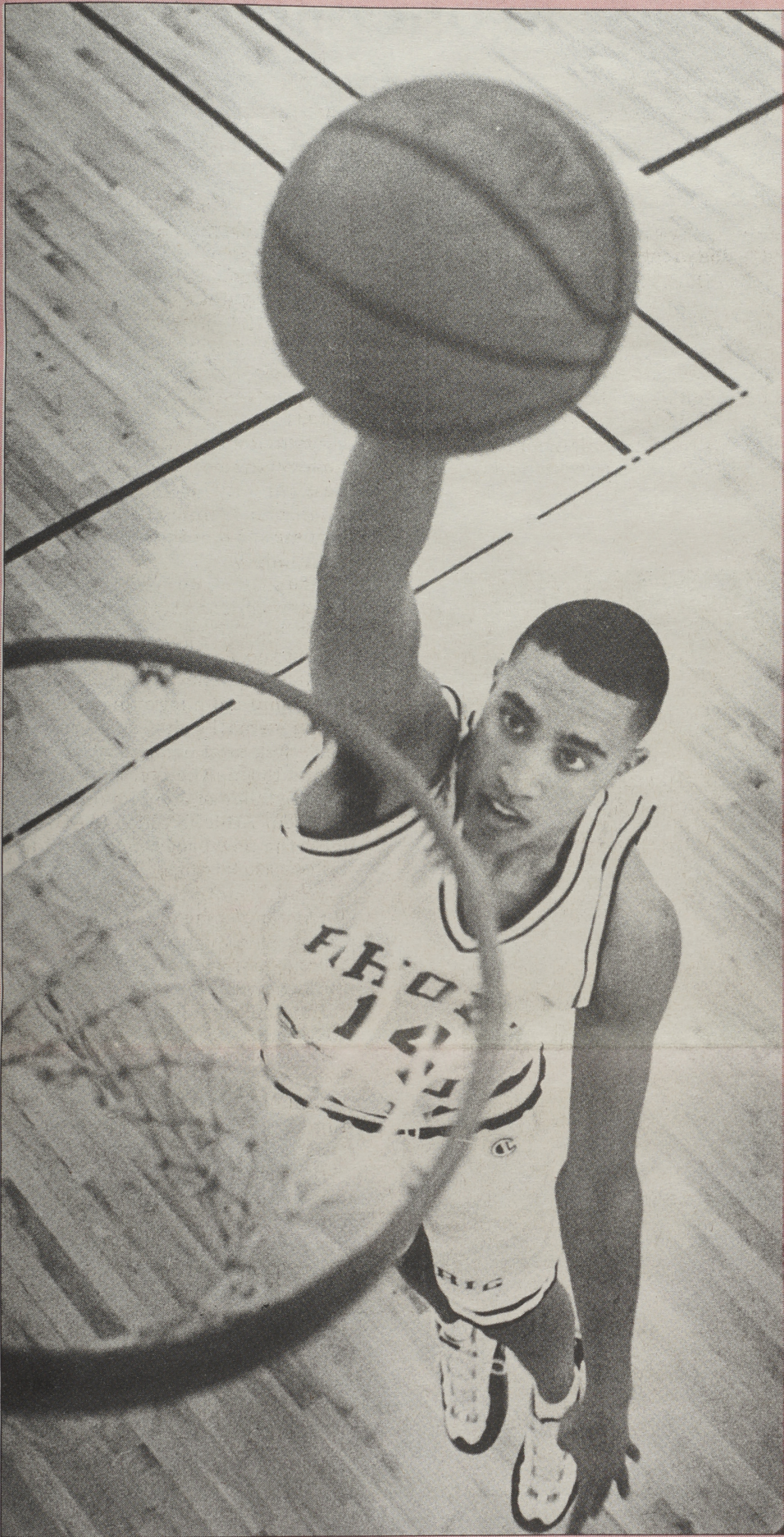
In the meantime, Butler is looking to get invited to the 22 year-old-and-under "world championship basketball team" — USA Basketball — and join other outstanding players from throughout the U.S. to play teams from other countries this August in Brazil.

"I'll try out for that," he says matter-of-factly.

After his RIC graduation, Butler, a physical education major and Dean's List student, plans to teach and coach.

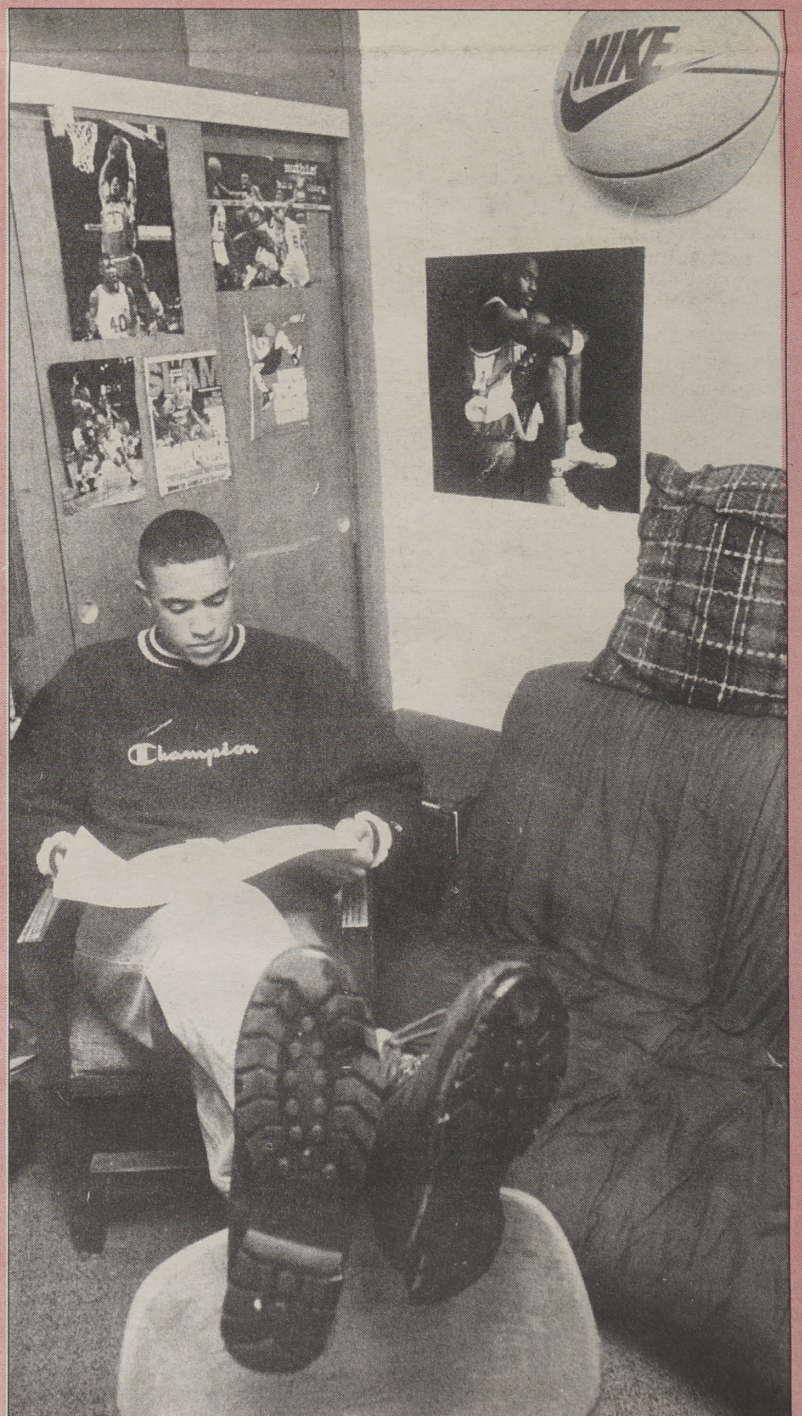
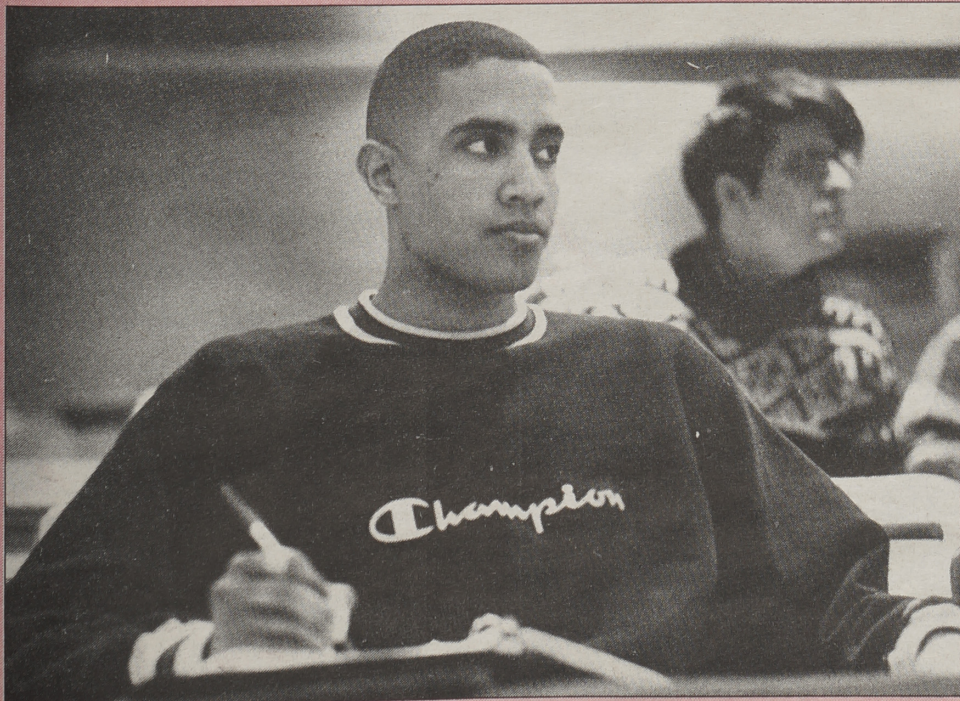


Clockwise from left: Alex Butler with his anatomy professor Frank Dolyak; with coach Jimmy Adams; demonstrating how to get two points; squeezing his 6'4" frame into his residence hall room; and (at right) in class.



*Photos by
Gordon E. Rowley*

*Text by
George LaTour*



Workshop in Community-Based Folk Art —

The Loeff Carousel has much to offer in the way of education

Using "A Living Museum: The Loeff Carousel" project as an example of community-based folk art, Rhode Island College's Office of Continuing Education will offer a professional development institute in art education: a workshop in community-based folk art over a five-week period starting April 11.

The one-credit graduate level course, coordinated by Suzanne Pines, coordinator of art education at RIC, will examine how teachers and students can develop their own community-based projects, employing the combined methods of folklore, history, oral history and photographic documentation.

It will include step-by-step instructions for carrying out a classroom collecting project, including choosing a topic, devising a collecting strategy, doing the actual collecting, analyzing and interpreting the results and presenting the findings.

The workshop — in the College's Forman Center — will consist of five sessions of three hours each on Thursdays, April 11, 18 and May 2 (6-9 p.m.) and Saturday, May 11 (double session from 8-11 a.m. and noon to 3 p.m.).

The workshop seeks to capture the excitement where the world of imagination and history join.

The workshop seeks to capture the excitement where the world of imagination and history join as did Alex Caserta and Michael E. Bell with the Loeff Carousel project, which was mounted a year ago to help celebrate the carousel's 100th anniversary.

The Loeff Carousel project sought to give the public access to the pictorial, historical, cultural and social record of the carousel, "still functioning on its original site at Crescent Park in East Providence 100 years after its construction."

Caserta, who earned a CAGS in educational administration from RIC, a master's in art education from the Rhode Island School of



LOEFF CAROUSEL CLOSEUP shows dragons in this photo detail of some of the Loeff Carousel carvings. Photo is by Alex Caserta of Cranston, who mounted a photo exhibit of carousel art on the Loeff's 100th anniversary last year.

Design and bachelor of fine arts from the University of Rhode Island, is director of the "A Living Museum: The Loeff Carousel" project. He and Bell, a Ph.D. folklorist and senior

writer for the Loeff project, will conduct the workshop.

"We'll use the Loeff project as an example, but we will be talking about all sorts of things," says

Caserta, "and teachers (taking the class) will have to come up with their own ideas. Teachers will have to put a project from the community together and decide with their students what to do. We'll walk them through and put a community-based project together in the workshop."

Caserta had notified school superintendents of the availability of his project, which was funded by the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities and the Rhode Island Foundation.

The educational component of the project includes a lecture series illustrated with color slides, presented to both the general public and school children, and a boxed set that contains 10 laminated photographs from the project's photographic exhibition and copies of a teachers' guide to community-based projects.

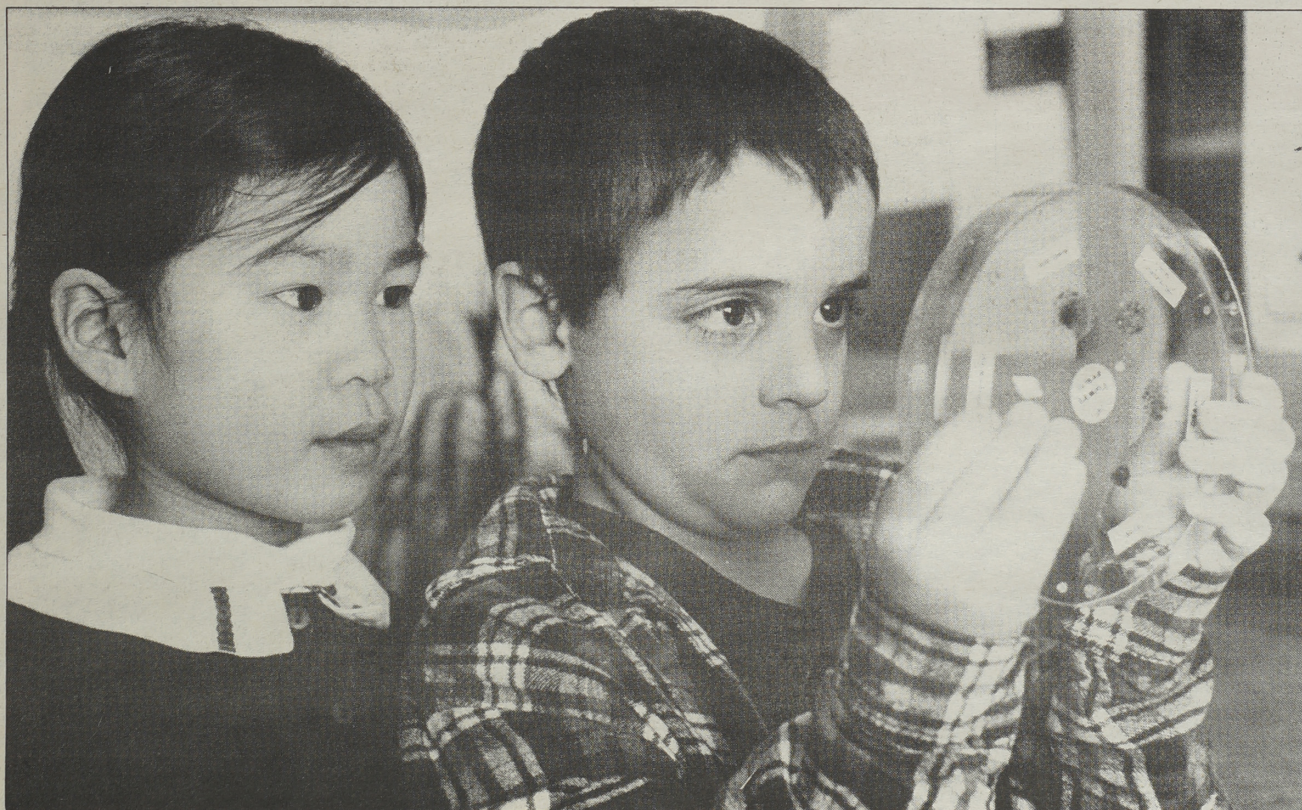
The material is suitable for incorporation into the curricula of grades 5 through 10, but can be adapted for other grades, says Caserta.

As Caserta describes his project, "We believe that an inter-disciplinary approach — joining three disciplines: folklore, history and photographic documentation — is an effective way to communicate the meanings of a visit to the carousel in family and community life; to highlight the customs, rituals and beliefs associated with the carousel, and to express the pleasures and excitement of riding on 'the fastest carousel around,' where a world of imagination and wonder, filled with gargoyles, dragons and wild horses is joined with the chance of grabbing the brass ring for another ride."

The workshop developers feel that by combining these different approaches to the study of a single example of community-based art allows individuals to understand better themselves and their community.

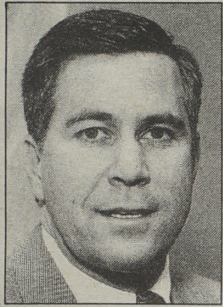
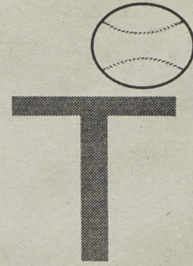
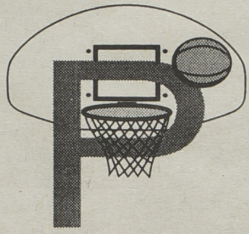
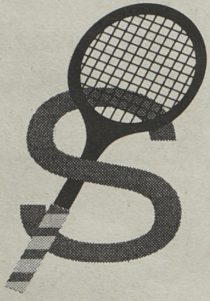
Cost of the workshop is \$160. A check payable to Rhode Island College should be received by the Office of Continuing Education and Summer Sessions, The Forman Center, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908 by April 5.

Teachers who cannot attend this workshop but who are interested in the Loeff Carousel project may contact Caserta at 943-5228.



LOOKING AT THE MOON: Henry Barnard School first-graders Stephanie Leung and Dan Janik look at moon rocks imbedded in lucite. The rocks were on loan to the school from NASA on March 8 and each child who saw them was given a certificate verifying that he or she had held part of the moon. (What's News photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

R I C S P O R T S S C E N E



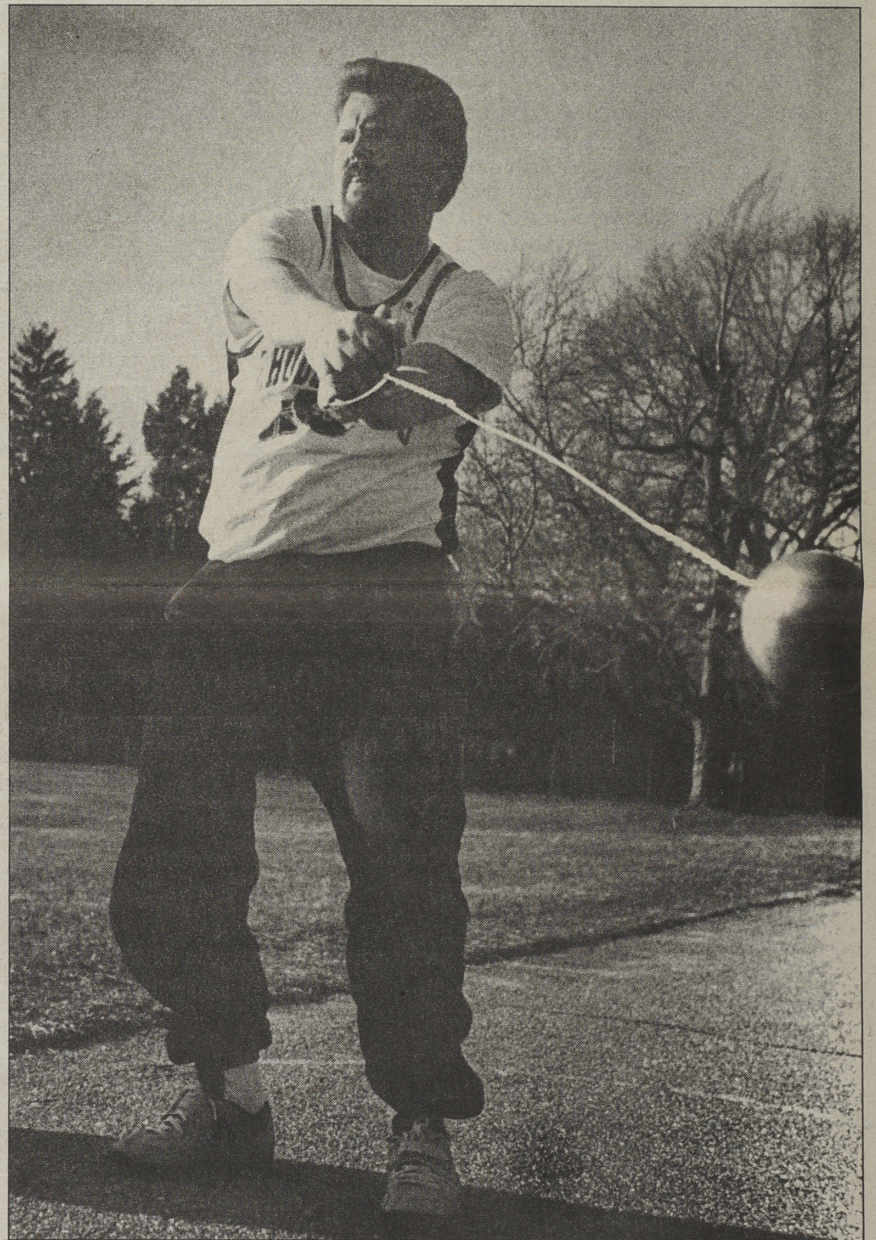
DONALD E. TENCHER

director of intercollegiate athletics, intramurals and recreation
456-8007

Send a youngster to camp... RIC Sports Camps!

I bet you've been searching for the right camp to send that special youngster in your life to this summer. The search is over because RIC SPORTS CAMPS will be in full swing for the summer of 1996. The camps will be starting during the first week of July and extend through the waning days of Summer. The staff will be comprised of Rhode Island College's outstanding coaching staff and student athletes. In addition, the RIC staff will be complimented by some of the area's finest interscholastic coaches. There will be guest appearances by other college coaches as well some professional coaches and players. Activity days will be filled with instruction, competition and of course loads of fun. All activities will take place in one of the finest collegiate facilities the Northeast has to offer. The camps will operate from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. Cost is just \$99.00. Space is limited, so call now for your free brochure, (401) 456-8007.

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| 7/1-5 | Softball |
| 7/8-12 | Baseball |
| 7/8-12 | Tennis |
| 7/15-19 | Track & Field/Speed
Running |
| 7/15-19 | Basketball |
| 7/15-19 | Basketball |
| 7/29-8/2 | Soccer |
| 8/5-9 | Gymnastics |
| 8/5-9 | Football Skills |
| 8/12-16 | Soccer |
| 8/12-16 | Cheerleading |
| 8/19-23 | Volleyball |



SURE SIGN OF SPRING (SPORTS): Chris Skurka practicing with the hammer. (What's News photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

SPORTS RESULTS

3/10	RIC Men's Baseball vs. Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute	L	11-14
3/11	RIC Men's Baseball vs. Framingham State College	L	8-14
	RIC Women's Softball vs. Jersey City State College	W	6-4
3/12	RIC Women's Softball vs. Delaware Valley College	L	4-9
3/13	RIC Women's Softball vs. Jersey City State College	W	4-1
3/14	RIC Men's Baseball vs. Salve Regina University	W	10-5
	RIC Women's Softball vs. Gordon College	W	8-7
	RIC Women's Softball vs. Jersey City State College	W	9-1
3/15	RIC Men's Baseball vs. Defiance College	W	5-4
3/15	RIC Men's Baseball vs. Salem State College	L	6-11
	RIC Women's Softball vs. Delaware Valley College	W	6-0

RIC gymnasts place 7th in nation at NCGA championships

Head coach Richard Stapleton receives NCGA 'Coach of the Year' award

The Rhode Island College women's gymnastics team placed seventh in the nation at the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association (NCGA) Division III Championships Saturday, March 2 at Ithaca College in New York. In the vault event, Sue Paul of Coventry captured the championship titles along with All-American status. Her two-day total was 18.850 from two vaults. Paul also finished with All-American status in the All-Around category with an eighth place posting of

35.200. In the floor exercises event Jenna Daum of Little Compton garnered All-American status with a two-day total of 18.600 placing her third in that event. Daum placed fourth in the All-Around category. Head coach Richard Stapleton was awarded the NCGA "Coach of the Year" award for his efforts with his team which qualified to this event for only the second time in the history of RIC gymnastics.

New trio, the Triple Helix, to perform in chamber series

A new trio from Boston, the Triple Helix, organized by violinist Bayla Keyes, who is well-known to audiences as a founding member of the internationally famous Muir String Quartet, will perform in the Rhode Island College Chamber Music Series Wednesday, March 27, at 1 p.m. in Roberts Hall 138 (recital chamber).

On the program are two works: Trio in C Major, Hoboken XV: 27 by Joseph Haydn, and Piano Trio in d minor, Opus 63, by Robert Schumann.

Other members of the trio are Rhonda Rider, a cellist, who is also a



BAYLA KEYES



RHONDA RIDER



LOIS SHAPIRO

member of the Lydian String Quartet and a winner of the New York Concert Artists' Guild Award, and Lois Shapiro, a pianist, who has performed as a soloist and chamber musician

throughout the United States as well as in the former Soviet Union, Belgium, Switzerland, Hungary and Canada.

In her 16 years with the Muir, Keyes played more than 1,000 concerts

in North America, Europe and Australia.

The recital is free and open to the public.

For more information, call John Pellegrino, series coordinator, at 456-8244.



Retired biology professor turns to poetry

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

To be a poet is a condition rather than a profession — Robert Graves

"I'm a guy who writes poetry — not a poet," declares Rhode Island College biology professor emeritus Philip R. Pearson Jr. of Scituate.

Hesitant to take credit for his achievements as a writer of poems, Pearson merely shrugs and says that "when you get published it's an ego trip."

Having started writing poems about 1989 — "up 'till then, I didn't have much to do with poetry" — he composed "a few poems expressing things from childhood on up" and in the process discovered he "seemed to have some talent for it."

"My poems aren't long," he says, and the labor he applies to them "varies considerably."

"I jot down my first impression than I have to polish it," says Pearson.

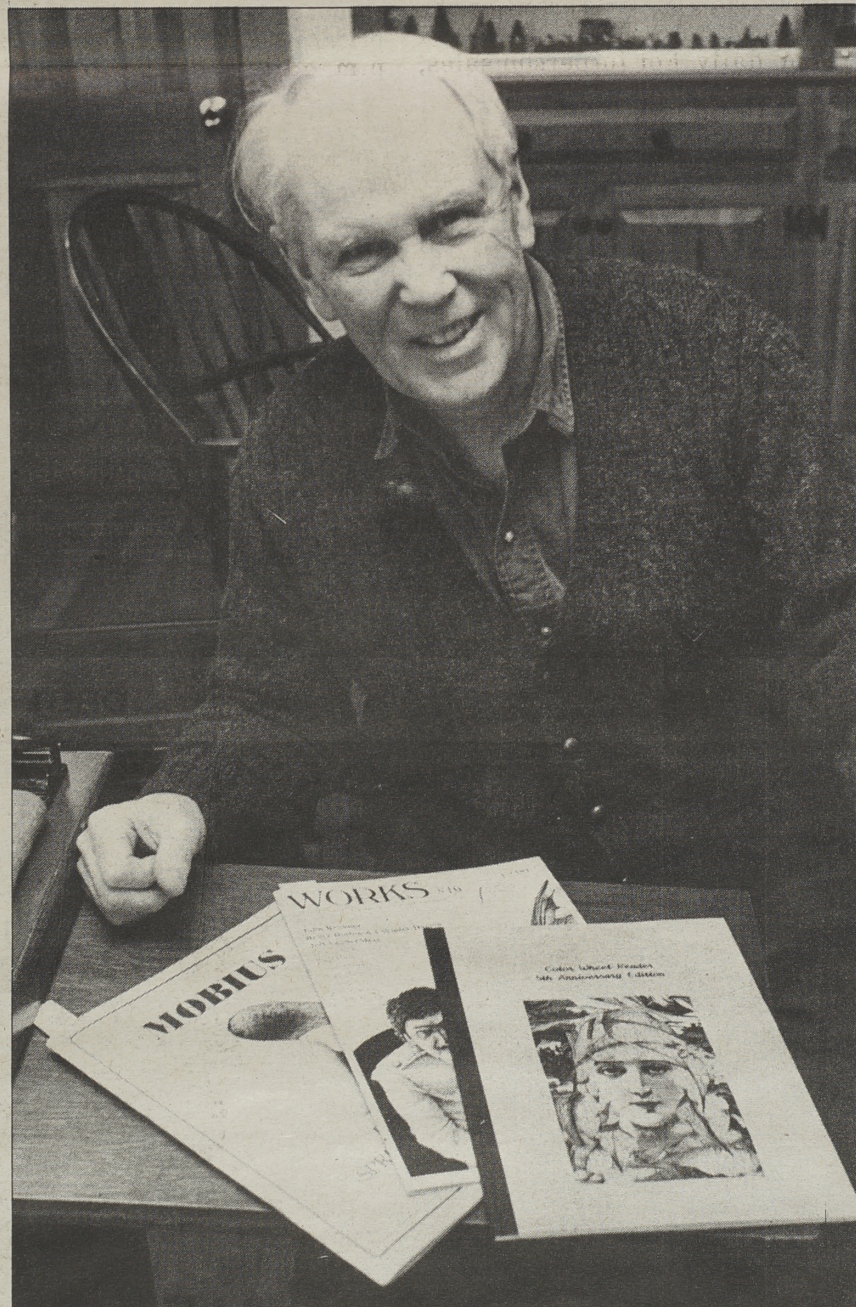
Explaining that he "just does simple stuff," he, nevertheless, has had one of his poems printed with two more in the process of publication.

Finding publishers from a poetry market book who are interested in publishing poetry, Pearson bent to the task.

"I had a lot of rejects," he admits, but as most free-lance writers have discovered, a rejection doesn't necessarily mean your work is not good. Oftentimes, it just doesn't fit in with the publisher's current plans.

"I usually work on poetry when the mood strikes, no matter when that is," says Pearson from his comfortable home which he shares with his wife, the former Ellen Schmidt of Framingham, Mass.

Quite an accomplished photographer, Mrs. Pearson took extensive



PUBLISHED POET: Professor Emeritus Philip Pearson with some of magazines that have published the poetry he has written since retiring from the College. (What's News photo by Gordon E. Rowley)

photos of the couple's various trips through the years, including a recent seven-week visit to Australia through the Elderhostel program.

The photos now adorn the walls of their home.

The couple has two daughters, Johanna Hunt, and Karen Dunavant, and three grandchildren, all living in Maryland.

To date, Pearson has written 102 poems, some initially on paper and some on the personal computer he has in his den — "about 50-50."

He knows the exact figure because he keeps two logs of all his poems — one with his original attempts and their revisions and one with the finished products.

Would a scientist do less?

Pearson, with a bachelor's degree in botany from Dartmouth, a master's in agronomy from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a Ph.D. in botany from Rutgers, had a 30-year career teaching the science of biology (with a specialty in ecology), including the 22 years he spent at RIC.

He retired June 30, 1990, as a full professor and was given emeritus status.

A teacher who is ever ready to learn, he sought the advice of friends or acquaintances who were more than familiar with the demands of poetry.

These included Corelyn Senn, a former associate minister in his church; C. Annette Ducey, a professor emeritus of English, who retired from RIC last year; and Cathleen M. Calbert, an associate professor of English at RIC and widely published poet who enjoys national stature for her writing.

"All of them encouraged me to continue," says Pearson.

And, continue he has.

"I'm not compelled by it or devote my life to it," says Pearson, "I'm not a great poet. I just like to do it."

Pianist Stillman joins Muir String Quartet in its season finale

by George LaTour
What's News Associate Editor

Called "a poetess of the piano" by the *Long Island Press*, Rhode Island College's artist-in-residence Judith Lynn Stillman will perform with the internationally famous Muir String Quartet in its final appearance this season in the RIC Performing Arts Series Monday, April 1, at 8 p.m. in Gaiage Hall auditorium.

The program will consist of Mozart's Piano Quartet in E-flat Major, K. 493, Mendelssohn's D Major Quartet and Brahms' Piano Quintet, Opus 34 in f minor.

Stillman has played to critical and audience acclaim throughout the United States, Europe and Israel.

A much sought-after chamber musician as well as soloist, she has collaborated with artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Walter Trampler, Leslie Parnas, Cho-Liang Lin, Peter Oundjian of the Tokyo String Quartet and the Moscow String Quartet.

Stillman recently completed the CD "On the Twentieth Century" with Marsalis for SONY Classical, and has recorded five albums for North Star Records, including "Christmas Remembered" which has sold 100,000 copies to date.

The Marsalis-Stillman collaboration went to number seven on

the Billboard charts for Top Classical Albums and received rave reviews.

"Pianist Judith Lynn Stillman receives equal billing on the cover and deserves it. Her playing is crisp and confident," said the *New York Daily News*.

Stillman has been a featured artist at numerous festivals including Marlboro, where she was selected for "Music from Marlboro" broadcasts on National Public Radio. Other festivals have included those at Tanglewood, Aspen, the Grand Teton Music Festival and festivals in Israel, France and Switzerland.

Her solo appearances have included those with the Cincinnati Symphony, the Rhode Island Philharmonic, the Juilliard Orchestra and the Toulouse Symphony in France.

Stillman, who entered the Juilliard School of Music at age 10 on scholarship and became the youngest person ever admitted to its doctoral program, is the winner of 18 national and international competitions.

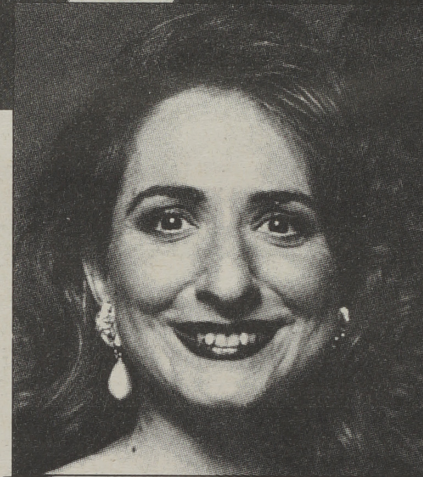
The Muir Strings continue to win critical and audience acclaim, playing to packed houses time and again at RIC in the Performing Arts Series. This is the third consecutive season the Muir has performed at RIC.

Reserved seat tickets are \$17 with discounts for senior citizens and students.

Tickets may be charged by telephone via VISA or MasterCard by calling 456-8194 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. For in-person sales,



MUIR STRING QUARTET



JUDITH LYNN STILLMAN

mance on the performance date.

The Performing Arts Series is funded in part by contributions from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, the RIC Performing and Fine Arts Commission, the New England Foundation for the Arts and Rhode Island Chamber Music Fund.

For more information, call 456-8194.

the Roberts Hall (not Gaiage Hall) box office opens approximately 10 days prior to the concert from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily and until time of perfor-

'A World in Flux' will showcase the work of painter Robert Birmelin at Bannister

The work of Robert Birmelin, known internationally for the compressed space, energy and psychological insight found in his images of contemporary urban life, will be on exhibit at Rhode Island College's Bannister Gallery April 4-27.

Entitled "A World in Flux," the exhibition, featuring paintings and drawings created from 1992 to 1996, will highlight the newest phase of the artist's work in which he has turned his attention away from the gritty streets of the metropolis and inward on the equally disjointed labyrinth of personal space and memory.

Related events — all in the gallery — will include a talk entitled "Turning the Corner" with Birmelin on Tuesday, April 9, from 7-9 p.m.; a panel discussion on "Art in Society" with Birmelin and members of the RIC faculty on April 10 from noon to 2 p.m., and a premier performance on April 11 from 7-9 p.m. of a musical piece by RIC student composer Scott Beauregard, reflecting on Birmelin's work with readings by student writers to follow.

The Birmelin exhibit is the focal point of the College's annual Spring Celebration of the Arts. The exhibit and related events are free and open to the public.

The exhibit is being organized by the art department's Gerry Perrino in conjunction with the Art Club.

Regular hours of Bannister Gallery, which is located in the RIC Art Center, are Tuesday through

Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 9.

For more information, call gallery director Dennis O'Malley at 456-9765 or 8054.



"LEAVING THE COURT — THE PHOTOGRAPHER" painting, acrylic on canvas, 72" X 108" by Robert Birmelin.

RIC CALENDAR

MARCH 25 - APRIL 8

Mondays and Wednesdays/Thursdays

Volunteer at a Soup Kitchen on the second Monday of each month: serve lunch at McAuley House from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; third Wednesday of each month: serve lunch at McAuley House 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; fourth Thursday of each month: serve dinner at St. Charles from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Please sign up the day prior to the event in the Chaplains' Office, SU 300, 456-8168.

Mondays and Wednesdays

Catholic Student Association meets in the Student Union 300 on the on the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 6 to 7:15 p.m. and on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. For further information, call the Chaplains' Office at 456-8168.

Tuesdays

11 a.m.—Biofeedback-Assisted Relaxation held on the first Tuesday of every month or by appointment, Craig Lee 130, Dr. Tom Lavin. Call the Counseling Center, 456-8094 for further information.

Noon—Bible Sharing in the Chaplains' Office, SU 300. Bring a bag lunch and join us for informal Bible study get together. Refreshments provided.

25 Monday

8:15 p.m.—Music: RIC Symphony Orchestra in Roberts Auditorium. An Evening of Copland, Brahms and Beethoven. Premiere Samuel and Esther Chester Performance Award Concert. Edward Markward, conductor, guest artist, Sergey Schepkin, piano.

27 Wednesday

1 p.m.—Music: The Triple Helix.. Part of the Chamber Music Series in Roberts 138. Free and open to the public.

1 Monday

8 p.m.—Music: Muir String Quartet with Judith Lynn Stillman, piano. Part of the Performing Arts Series in Gaige Auditorium. Reserved seating \$17, senior citizens and RIC faculty/staff \$15, non-RIC students \$13, RIC students \$5.

4 Thursday

4 p.m.—Thorp Lecture in Arts and Sciences presented by Thomas E. Malloy, associate professor of psychology. Fogarty Life Science 050. Reception follows in Alumni Lounge. All are welcome.

4-27

Art: Robert Birmelin, "A World in Flux" Exhibit opening April 4, 7 to 9 p.m. in Bannister Gallery.

Sports Events

25 Monday

3 p.m.—RIC Men's Baseball vs. Bridgewater State College. Home.

26 Tuesday

2:30 p.m.—RIC Men's Tennis at URI.

3:30 p.m.—RIC Men's Baseball at Fitchburg State College.

28 Thursday

3:30 p.m.—RIC Women's Softball at Clark University.

30 Saturday

11 a.m.—RIC Men's Track & Field at Tufts University Invitational.

Noon—RIC Men's Baseball vs. University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth. Home.

1 p.m.—RIC Men's Tennis vs. Johnson & Wales University. Home.

1 p.m.—RIC Women's Softball vs. Western Connecticut State University (DH).

1 Monday

3 p.m.—RIC Women's Softball vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

2 Tuesday

3 p.m.—RIC Men's Baseball vs. Worcester State College. Home.

3 Wednesday

3 p.m.—RIC Women's Softball vs. Worcester Polytechnical Institute.

4 Thursday

3 p.m.—RIC Men's Baseball at Westfield State College.

3 p.m.—RIC Men's Tennis vs. Salem State College. Home.

6 Saturday

11 a.m.—Men's Track & Field - RIC Invitational.

Noon—RIC Men's Baseball vs. University of Mass-Boston (DH).

1 p.m.—RIC Men's Tennis vs. U. Mass-Boston. Home.

1 p.m.—RIC Women's Softball vs. University of Mass-Dartmouth (DH). Home.

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE THEATRE

42nd Street

Broadway's 3rd longest running hit!!

Music by Harry Warren Lyrics by Al Dubin

Original Director and Dances by Gower Champinon

Originally produced on Broadway by David Merrick

April 18-20 at 8 p.m. April 20-21 at 2 p.m.

Roberts Auditorium

Reserved seats \$14 Senior Citizens \$12 RIC Students \$5

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Reasonable seating accommodations for the handicapped upon request.
Funded in part by the RIC Performing and Fine Arts Commission.



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Rhode Island College is committed to equal opportunity and affirmative action. No student, employee, or applicant will be denied admission, employment, or access to programs and activities because of race, sex, religion, age, color, national origin, handicap/disability status, sexual orientation/preference, or veteran status. This College policy is in concert with state and federal nondiscrimination laws. Inquiries concerning the College's administration of the nondiscrimination laws should be addressed to the College director of affirmative action. Reasonable accommodation upon request.