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What's News @ Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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

His own teenage daughters, it seems, have been the same person for 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 joy.

“When DID those gray hairs appear, anyway?”

Nancy Aikkola is the young lady in question and she graciously agreed to talk with members of Rhode Island College’s News and Information Services August 15 at the underfoot 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 compatriots 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 sessions, asking if Nancy might attend “to judge college level work” and “of course, to see the United States,” as Nancy put it.

Dr. Small had met Nancy’s dad last September when he addressed a seminar August 8, however, seven weeks, as she had to head back to Finland for the start of school in the next few days, on August 15.

When asked what she thinks of the

Anthropologists Continue Study:
Fleuher-Lobhans Back From Sudan

Dr. Richard and Carolyn Fleuher-Lobhan, 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.

They join the staff at RIC in 1972 after they had completed the major portion of their research in 1971 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 its greatest distance in the Sudan. The Fleuher-Lobhans have conducted their work in Khartoum, the capital city at the confluence of the Blue and White Niles. North of Khartoum they have worked in 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.

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 Fail) Irish political party, “has been the moral and ethical leader of the Irish people and figurehead representing Ireland to the world,” read in part the official citation issued by Dr. Richard A. Averill to Sweet at the request of the executive committee of local 1819.

A letter expressing “concerns about conditions on campus” has prompted a “dramatic” increase in surveillance and greater accessibility of emergency services, according to President David E. Sweet.

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In responding to the letter, Sweet pointed out several actions taken by the college in an attempt to improve the safety of students on campus.

The student help budget is part of the institutional’s personal services budget.

“Making an exception is a shortfall will be made up from other funds, the fund will have to be elsewhere in the personal services budget, not from capital or operating funds,” said Sweet.

The college’s budget for 1980-81 expenditures for the previous two years and project the figures for the coming year as representing the budget funds by $150,000, Spier said that the analysis suggests people are spending money at a rate than usual. He said it suggests that perhaps departments are not spending their student help funds with the hope that the allocated amount will be increased.

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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 decreasing endowment. Hurry had not yet had an opportunity to consider the effect of the increasing outflow of student employment funds. However, 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 1978-79, 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 least last year's rate with this year's budget." Hurry said that the situation does not appear to be a "critical concern," but that it is a concern in the same sense, saying that a tighter budget may have factors with past practice, higher minimum wage, and expectations of a "hold out" could be involved in the increased outflow of student employment funds.

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

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 Education Commission on Teacher effectiveness, which awards grants to institutions of higher education and other agencies for the following kinds of activities: in-service training of educators, curriculum development, and dissemination of effective educational strategies. Approximately 45-50 proposals 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 may be submitted by DECEMBER 15, 1980.

Sweet Reachts

(Continued from p. 1)

of emergency services since Richard Coker was named director of the department of safety and security.

Sweet said that the college continues to make improvements in some areas, including the upgrading of the training that the R.C.I.F. performs. He believes that the members of the R.C.I.F. would find it helpful if classes could be held on the campus to discuss their concerns, ask questions and provide suggestions for additional changes. He said that he would be happy to participate in such a meeting.

Earlier this month a RIC coed was assaulted sexually. while walking from classes to her residence hall. She said that she was not made to feel scared, but that the campus is not a safe place at night and that some areas, including the tree-lined sidewalks along the campus and the areas near campus dormitories are not as safe at night as they are during daylight hours.

"Moreover, the College is not alone in experiencing these types of situations. Our sister institutions in Providence are also experiencing problems. In fact, there are institutions across the country, which have not experienced these kinds of occurrences. The second part of recommendations women should take to prevent being assaulted sexually. while walking from such situations. The more information you receive and the more secure they are, the less inviting the campus of Rhode Island College will be to undesirable elements of society."

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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 swim about six or seven months of the year this year.

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

Director Small said that Nancy had "good grades" in her native school and did very well at a university in other parts of America. "I believe she has made the most of her opportunities," he emphasized.

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

"Yes, of course, I suppose they do appeal to me. I always have them."

He offered without conviction.

Another question: "What do you think of the Russian citizen?"

"I think of the Russian citizen as having some bearing on the way he lives."

Another question: "What do you think of the Russian Churches?"

"Yes, of course, I suppose they do appeal to me."

He offered without conviction.

Another question: "What do you think of the Russian Government?"

"I think of the Russian Government as being the most important of the three."

He offered without conviction.

Another question: "What do you think of the Russian Economy?"

"I think of the Russian Economy as being the most important of the three."

He offered without conviction.

Another question: "What do you think of the Russian Education?"

"I think of the Russian Education as being the most important of the three."

He offered without conviction.

Another question: "What do you think of the Russian Art?"

"I think of the Russian Art as being the most important of the three."

He offered without conviction.

Another question: "What do you think of the Russian Science?"

"I think of the Russian Science as being the most important of the three."

He offered without conviction.

Another question: "What do you think of the Russian Literature?"

"I think of the Russian Literature as being the most important of the three."

He offered without conviction.

Another question: "What do you think of the Russian Religion?"

"I think of the Russian Religion as being the most important of the three."

He offered without conviction.

Another question: "What do you think of the Russian History?"

"I think of the Russian History as being the most important of the three."

He offered without conviction.

Another question: "What do you think of the Russian Politics?"

"I think of the Russian Politics as being the most important of the three."

He offered without conviction.

Another question: "What do you think of the Russian Economics?"

"I think of the Russian Economics as being the most important of the three."

He offered without conviction.

Another question: "What do you think of the Russian Geography?"

"I think of the Russian Geography as being the most important of the three."

He offered without conviction.

Another question: "What do you think of the Russian Philosophy?"

"I think of the Russian Philosophy as being the most important of the three."

He offered without conviction.

Another question: "What do you think of the Russian Psychology?"

"I think of the Russian Psychology as being the most important of the three."

He offered without conviction.

Another question: "What do you think of the Russian Sociology?"

"I think of the Russian Sociology as being the most important of the three."

He offered without conviction.

Another question: "What do you think of the Russian Anthropology?"

"I think of the Russian Anthropology as being the most important of the three."

He offered without conviction.
**Teacher Certificate Offered:**

"Teaching 'Gifted' Definitely Not 'Howdy Doody Time'"

By George LaTour

(Despite perceptions to the contrary, as evidenced by a recent poll in a major urban newspaper, RIC is addressing the education question for gifted children through a written and distributed by the college Office of Educational Development, the media in July and was widely published around the state in a major newspaper which has now criticized RIC for having no training program that concentrates on teaching the gifted child."

The editors have chosen to reprint page 5 of Dr. Sid Rollins' workshop for the teachers of the gifted."

"Hey kids — what time it is!!!"

"Not, not, not 'Howdy Doody Time'!!!"

"And that, 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 fiddles this side of Knud Lampert."

"And, as you might suspect, Dr. Sidney Ellin, who teaches gifted children in the Math and curriculum at RIC, in no way resembles Bob Hope, 'Buffalo Bob' fame in the early days of television when kids across the land were greeted every weekday with the time they had most needed for learning of questions."

"That is not to say Professor Rollins or his wife, Dr. Deborah Rollins, who works with the gifted children, that they do not care for various school systems around the state, but he felt luky. Far from it."

"If one were to measure their enthusiasm, they must find in direct proportion to their IQ's, which are no small step up from the pie-in-the-face."

"The average IQ of the group is 146, and the class is described as a "genius" group people off, maintain the pressures."

"These accomplished elementary school aged children report to RIC from Barnard School for four days each week for the first week a program which began June 3, and there are the subjects of study and 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 very few of the first participants were students were on hand so the teachers had the opportunity to deal directly with them.

"A new and much needed development through a cooperative agreement between RIC and the Rhode Island College Symphony Orchestra's first concert. Program consists of Wagner's 'Piano Concerto,' Verdi's 'Requiem,' and Respighi's 'Pines of Rome.' Dr. Edward Markward will conduct."

**OPERATION CROSS ROADS: Njiru Elphelset (center) of the Ministry of Education in Kenya, meets with President David E. Swett 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 Fluhr-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)

"One area of particular difficulty for her was the Sudanese practice of sexual segregation,' they reported. 'Joanna 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 enforce of the newly learned practice."

"CaroLyn reports that the first time this happened she was in another room when Joanna was asking for something. She did not respond and Joanna called out in perfect Arabic, "Mama, iddu!" ('Mom, give it to me')."