What's News @ Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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No tuition increase next semester

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.

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Yule customs: From New England to Venezuela

By Arline Alsis 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.

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
From New England to Venezuela: Christmas

SUSAN HORSVATH will spend Christmas in Switzerland with her family.

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Like Juan, she will join her family on Christmas Eve to set firecrackers off. While they don't hang stockings from the fireplace in their country, they do hang 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 females to bake copal, 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 orange," she said.

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

American might think that Christmas in Switzerland has to be white, but Susan says that it is not always true. While it snows more 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 in with her family's upbringings, especially the food. For example, in her home it's a tradition to have duck on Dec. 25.

Susan 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 evening 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, said Raquel Hernandez, who moved here at the age of 15.

In Cuba, a special cake is baked for a little king hidden inside.

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

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

The Glazers acknowledged the quick thinking of the college's security personnel and said they thought "all the kids here are terrific" and "not a problem at all.

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

WHAT'S NEW(s) at RIC

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

Sweat 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 these cuts.

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

Conversely, he said one should be upset if he or she heard about a position being filled by the college's auxiliary enterprises in a question-and-answer period following Sweat's report. the president was asked if they will not be affected by the cuts.

"Are other areas to feel the scissors include travel expenses: Travel expenses will simply not occur, only that travel for scholarly purposes by the faculty," Sweat 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 miscellaneous purchases for the library.

He emphasized that only because the college has been prudent in its spending, it now doesn't face sitter cuts and tuition hikes.
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.
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 News? Photo by Peter F. 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 19
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 Arz Zobian 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. Zobian is a RIC graduate student.