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What's News @ Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Rhode Island College

Vol. 3, No. 21 February 14, 1983

What's News

Kris Hall’s first play staged at 23
Calls it ‘pretty incredible’

By Laurence J. Sasso, Jr.

"I think I’m a lot happier." This is how Kris Hall, 23 year old theatre major at Rhode Island College, describes himself when he reflects on his decision to get a second college degree.

Hall of 35 Adrian St., Warwick, earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Providence College in 1981, but before he even graduated he knew that theatre was what he really wanted to do with his life.

"I went into political science because that is what I was good at," he observes, "but I took a theatre course while I was at PC and found that it was a lot more fun."

Realizing this, the soft-spoken, but direct young man, decided to enroll at Rhode Island College and study theatre. From the first, though, he knew that if he were to "go anywhere in theatre, it would be writing."

Based on recent events it appears that he is already on his way in his career as a playwright. The RIC Theatre Company is producing his first play, Mindbender, Feb. 16 through 19, a fact Kris thinks is "pretty damn incredible."

The origins of the play, the first completed work by Hall, are "back in the mists of time" during his senior year at PC. It is a murder mystery, a genre the youthful writer says he loves.

"I think they can be done really well on stage," he says. "If you wanted to start listing all the great comedies we’d be here forever, but if you wanted to list the great murder mysteries, you could do it on one hand.

After reading a number of mysteries and seeing some produced he decided he could do better himself. The plot for his script gradually evolved. He has been working on it "off and on for two years, doing a lot of drafts."

Since the play went into rehearsal more extensive re-writing has taken place. Dr. William Hutchinson, professor of theatre, who is directing Mindbender, has made "hundreds of suggestions" according to Hall. "I agree with 99 percent of them. I’m not flattering ‘Doc’ (Hutchinson)."

Kris says he has realized that the veteran director knows more about what works on stage and what looks good in a script but is not effective when performed. At this point, in fact, Kris feels that he wants to keep on changing things and Hutchinson has told him that the final version for this production is done. If Hall wants to revise it later he can, but the actors have to learn their lines and the play has to be blocked for its opening night.

"Right now this play is my life," the unassuming Hall acknowledges. He says he does have what he calls more "stuff" on the "drawing board," but he has had no time for anything but Mindbender for the present time.

He is feeling what he characterized as a "vague nervousness" about the way the play will be received by audiences. "You always have it," he notes. "However, it has gotten this far and people are saying (continued on page 4)"
The bureau of grants and sponsored projects has offered a series of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (source: Federal Grants and Contracts Weekly, Vol. 7, No. 5, February 1, 1990). The 52-year-old W.K. Kellogg Foundation has established new grant-making priorities for the 1990s. The Michigan foundation, which awarded $37.2 million last year, will continue to support projects in the broad areas of agriculture, education, and health. The foundation will emphasize the following types of projects throughout the 1990s:

**Expanding Opportunities for Adult Continuing Education.** The foundation envisions the expansion of adult continuing education beyond the usual general and occupational skills. According to the initial report, new educational patches, including external degrees, must be developed. New delivery systems must be explored that use the full range of available tools, such as interactive computer programs, referral services and counseling centers.

**Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Programs.** The workable methods and demonstration programs which promote health and prevent human diseases are lagging far behind what is known about good health habits and the causes and prevention of illness," according to the foundation. A special emphasis has been placed on addressing the needs of adolescents and the elderly. A second objective is to encourage schools, colleges, hospitals and workers to adopt health promotion programs. Finally, according to the Annual Report, support will be provided for personnel preparation programs in health promotion.

**Coordinated, Cost-Effective Health Services Programs.** The foundation is encouraging the continued support of health care costs through coordinated community health services. Attention is being focused on developing area-wide programs in which hospitals provide the critical leadership. Projects to improve services to the public health personnel, with an emphasis on cost containment practices, are being developed. The foundation is demonstrating alternative institutions to new models of ambulatory primary medical care may also be supported.

**Improving Human Well Being Through Productive Activity.** The foundation notes that wherever food shortages exist, in the United States and around the world, good nutrition and good health are dependent on improvements in agricultural productivity. In the 1980s, "special emphasis" will be placed on the extension of research information to deal with production problems, and the application of research in producing food. Increased use of computers and telecommunications is encouraged in the development of guidelines for health education and dissemination of technical information for educational purposes and applied problem solving.

**Fostering Leadership Capacity.** The foundation encourages the preparation of leaders who are willing to take the lead in confronting the social issues that have no easy solutions. To accomplish this objective, the foundation supports a fellowship program that is to include professionals from both the public and private sectors, including business, the professions public life and academia. A second focus for the program is the development of well informed, youth-serving, and health organizations and institutions.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE:** To initiate the grant process, applicants should send a proposal letter briefly describing the basic problem and how the proposed project would solve it. These letters should include information on objectives, operational procedures, time schedule, and available personnel. Finally, a series of three conference calls, or a single telephone panel, will be held to discuss the major steps of the application. Proposals will be submitted at any time.

**RESTRICTIONS:** Grants will not be made for 1) operation phases of established programs; 2) capital facilities, equipment, conferences, publications, films, or broadcast programs (unless they are an integral part of a larger endeavor being funded); 3) projects that are local in scope; 4) endeavors of developmental campaigns, state political campaigns, and direct awards to individuals, except for fellowships.

**APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY:** Non-profit organizations and institutions are eligible for grants.

For further information call John C. O'Neil at the Bureau of Grants and Sponsored Projects as Ext. 8228.

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**Notes from Bernadette**

We are happy to inform you that Jim Laprey, motor vehicle operator of land camps and grounds, will resume work on campus in a couple of weeks. Jim underwent breast surgery in November and is doing well.

He asked that I convey his deep appreciation to all of you for your thoughts during his illness. He is especially grateful to all who gave blood, and appreciates also the many notes, cards and flowers. Jim is looking forward to his return to work.

Best wishes, Jim, it will be good to have you back.

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**What's News**

**DEADLINE**

Tuesday 4:30 p.m.

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**Bureau profiles:**

**W.K. Kellogg Foundation**

By Bernadette V. Small

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**History colloquia to discuss arms race**

History Department Luncheon Colloquium will offer a series of five talks for the spring semester. The colloquium will explore the vital issues of nuclear disarmament and the arms race.

The first, on Feb. 16, will feature the Rev. Richard Dannenfelser, former Brown University rabbinical student. Dannenfelser will outline the psychological dimensions of nuclear warfare, especially the dynamics of stress and anxiety that are increasingly present among individuals because of the prospects of nuclear war.

On Feb. 23, Jerry Elmer of the Rhode Island Bureau of the Arts and Culture will discuss his recent study: The Arts and the Social Order. Elmer will address the role of the arts in the society.

On March 2, March 9, and March 16, the college will present a series of talks on the Arms Race. Each talk will be followed by a question period.

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**CRIME PREVENTION**

The RIC Security and Safety Department recommends the following steps to prevent theft or personal property:

1) Never leave your wallet or pocketbook out of your sight. If you must leave it in your desk or filing cabinet, purges and wallets can be locked in the trunk of your auto during class hours.
2) Never place your purse or pocketbook on or near your desk or in your pocket while you are attending class.
3) Never carry more money than you need. If you have to carry a large sum of money, put it in a wallet or purse and pin it to your clothing or inside pocket.
4) Carry your wallet only with the minimum necessary. A wallet or billfold can be placed in a back pocket or pocket. If a purse is used, keep it on your hip and hang it down and forget it is there.
5) Keep your credit cards and their numbers, who to call in the event they are lost or stolen, and store the list in your records book.<ref>Report the loss of credit cards immediately to the Security and Safety Department.</ref>

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

- John C. O'Neil, Manager
- Mary E. Petrella, Calendar
- Mark Hitchcock, Photo Asst.

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**What's News at Rhode Island College**

What's News at Rhode Island College (USPS 681-650) is published weekly throughout the academic year except during semester breaks by Rhode Island College News and Information Services, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908.

DEADLINE

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**What's News at Rhode Island College**

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**Printer:** The Beacon Press

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Drs. Fluehr-Lobban in Egypt

(Drs. Richard and Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban are spending the year in Cairo with their two daughters. Richard, on leave from the anthropology/geography department, is heading up the Urban Development unit of the Social Research Center at the American University in Cairo while Carolyn is a Fellow of the American Research Center in Egypt. Josina, 6, is in the first grade at the Cairo American College, and Nichola, 1½, is experimenting with her first words in Arabic and English. The Fluehr-Lobban's will return to Rhode Island next summer. However, Richard will return to Cairo until the end of the year.)

We have settled in a flat in Maadi, about a half hour by train from downtown Cairo. From the roof of our apartment building we can see the top of the Pyramid of Chephren in Giza. The flat is situated just next to an Egyptian's boys school where we can see and hear school sessions from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. The schools are so crowded that three sessions are necessary to accommodate the number of neighborhood students.

I'm busy with research on aspects of marriage and divorce in Islamic law in Egypt while Richard actively pursues foundation support for urban research under the auspices of Social Research Center.

A typical day involves the commute from Maadi in the suburbs to downtown Cairo via train which, even though it runs quite frequently, is invariably very crowded. Cairo and environs today is a city of approximately 11 million people, so every aspect of living from housing to education and transportation involves some degree of crowding. There is a variety of cultural adaptations to the congestion of this Middle Eastern city. These make life less fearful and more humane than in American cities of similar size such as New York or Chicago.

For instance, even though people will push and shove their way on to the crowded buses and trains, once aboard, they are very polite and considerate. Young children and older citizens are almost invariably given seats, and those who are seated will offer to hold the parcels of the less fortunate standing travelers.

The streets of Cairo, although filled with people jostling one another, are nevertheless perfectly safe at all times of the day and night. Cairo is a city virtually without street crime, including muggings. Driving a car, although it may seem a nightmare to many foreigners trying to navigate the clogged thoroughfares, is governed by a set of informal rules involving abundant use of the car's horn and a complicated system of hand and eye gestures.

There is a variety of cultural adaptations to the congestion of this Middle Eastern city. These make life less fearful and more humane than in American cities of similar size such as New York or Chicago.

One thing is for sure: it is never dull.

As anthropologists, this is all quite thrilling to us. We found fascinating also the recent discoveries of the first signs of agriculture in Egypt—some 17,000 years in the past (the earliest known date in the world)—and the satellite-discovered river systems in the Egyptian parts of the Sahara. These finds brought anthropologists scurrying to the region.

Beyond the adjustments of daily life and the marvels of history, there are the intricacies of Middle Eastern politics. The United States now gives its largest economic aid package to any country. It is ominous to note that the only missions which were as large previously were in Saigon and Tehran.

Recent articles in an influential magazine have raised a number of important issues about American influence in ruling circles. These have given rise to poignant queries about the independence of Egypt and whether it has benefited sufficiently from the Camp David accords which brought peace between Israel and Egypt. As anthropologists, this is all quite thrilling to us. We found fascinating also the recent discoveries of the first signs of agriculture in Egypt—some 17,000 years in the past (the earliest known date in the world)—and the satellite-discovered river systems in the Egyptian parts of the Sahara. These finds brought anthropologists scurrying to the region.

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Mr. George LaTour
New Bureau
Rhode Island College
Provence Rhode Island
USA 02908

جامعة أمريكا في القاهرة ـ 113، شارع كاسر الينى، القاهرة، مصر

Drs. Richard and Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban
Kris Hall:

Main character is a woman psychiatrist. Minds of both the characters and the audience, hence the title.

Whether having his first finished play accepted for production will lead to the career he hopes for isn't a question which he needs to consider. He is driven by the stereotypical consuming nature of his character, but he isn't having any problems with it. When asked what it means to be named an alternate winner, he shrugs and says it means you get your name and displays an impressive looking certificate which he waves back and forth between two fingers. While he may not have much time for working on anything other than Mindbender at the present, he does not lack ideas for future projects.

Although he once thought that he would work exclusively on mysteries, the other ideas he has are not for mysteries. When he wrote Mindbender he composed a play and then developed the characters to fit it. "It is not easy," he points out with emphasis, "to write in a way that will not pummel together."

In future works he would like "to start with quote real people and work from there." At age 23 he has already made an impressive beginning, and "working from there" seems something he does effectively.

Self-improvement courses

Rhode Island College’s Counseling Center is offering a seven-week “Shyness Clinic” this semester along with seven other programs of wide interest to those concerned with self-improvement. Among the other programs offered are “Jealousy Workshop,” “Behavioral Weight Control,” “Women’s Power,” “Career Services,” “Students Auto” and “Job search workshop.”

Programs should register at Craig Lee 130 or call 456-8094.

The career center is no charge for the programs but they are restricted to those affiliated with the college; i.e., faculty, staff, students.

Many of the programs begin this month, others in March or April and usually meet one day a week.

The programs offered, instructor, place, date and time are as follows:

**Kris Hall, 23, a RIC theatre student, clutches the script of 'Mindbender,' his first completed play, while several of the actors who will appear in the production rehearse a scene in the background. The show opens Feb. 16 in Roberts Hall Theatre at RIC.**

### RIC people in library series

“Can music change men’s hearts?” The Hutchinson Family Singers, a nineteenth century group from a large New Hampshire family, apparently thought so.

As part of the Providence Public Library’s Close Encounters series, several Rhode Island College faculty members and students will be recreating the Hutchinson Family Singers on Monday, Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Providence Public Library.

Dr. William Jones of the college’s music department will narrate the program. Dr. Russell Kehler, Paul Laprade, Dolen Nacro, and Nicolo Almond will sing. Jones will conclude and join in, Dr. Anastasia Hoffman of the RIC English department will moderate the program. Dr. William McLoughlin of the Brown University department of history will serve as scholar/humanist for the evening.

The Hutchinson Family Singers used their music to serve the cause of temperance, abolition and women’s rights. Their music was extremely popular and has come down to us as traditional folk songs. Among the tunes they made well-known were “The Blue and the Gray,” “‘Tenting on the Old Camp Ground,” and “Rally Round the Flag Boys,” which they sang to the troops during the Civil War. The Hutchinson Family Singers appeared in Providence and around Rhode Island many times, often at women’s rights and abolitionist meetings.

The History Lounge is “a perspective on past concerns and present issues,” is modeled upon the idea of a 19th century temperance meeting.

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**Calendar of Events**

**February 14 - February 21**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

Valentine’s Day

Recruitment for Seniors. Dean of Fall River Education. For all majors. Craig Lee, Room 054.


**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15**


Department of Nursing. Deadline for applications for admission to 1983 Fall semester.

Protestant Service. Student Union Room, 304.

**MONDAY TO THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14-17**

Noon

Music. Student Union Room, 304.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.


12:15 p.m.

Political Science Colloquium. Dr. Kenneth F. Lewalski will speak on “Solidarity in Poland: The Underground Phase.” Political Science department.

1:30 p.m.


6 p.m.


7 p.m.


**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

10 a.m.


Career Services. Interview workshop. Craig Lee, Room 054.

12:15 p.m.

History Department Luncheon Colloquium. Rev. Richard Duncan, pastor, peace activist will talk on “Learning to Live with Holocaust.” History Lounge, Gage 207.

1:30 p.m.


**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.


11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Career Services. Interview workshop. Craig Lee, Room 054.

7 p.m.

Women’s Basketball. RIC vs. Fitchburg State. Away.

7 p.m.

Protestant Service. Student Union Room, 304.

7-9 p.m.

Rhode Island College Art Department Faculty Show Opening. Various Media. Sponsored by Lafollette. Bannister Gallery at the Art Center.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

10 a.m.


**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

8 p.m.

TBA


**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

1 p.m.

Women’s Fencing. RIC vs. Fairleigh Dickinson University and Trinity. Home.

2 p.m.


7 p.m.

Women’s Basketball. RIC vs. Fitchburg State. Away.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22**


2 to 3 p.m.


7-8 p.m.