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What's News @ Rhode Island College

Rhode Island College

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Student aid down $2-billion nationally

Little effect seen at RIC

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CPS)--Financial aid for college students has plummeted 21 percent--over $2 billion--since the Reagan administration took office in 1980, according to a just--released study by the College Board.

From a high of $18 billion in 1981-82, the amount of financial aid available for students has dropped to a low of just over $16 billion for the current academic year.

At Rhode Island College the programs the college administers--including federal--have seen "some decline," says Governor C. Wm. L. Hathaway. He cites the National Direct Student Loans have increased, according to William H. Hurry Jr., director of financial aid and student employment.

One is off-setting the other, says Hurry, while the work-study funds have been constant.

Hurry notes a "slight increase" overall in annual funding at RIC but said it is "clearly not keeping up with the cost of living."

"In terms of the total amounts of financial aid to students compared to the increased costs, the resources are lagging behind," Hurry says. And the resources are now more loan resources rather than grant resources.

While this is true, the $2 billion decrease nationally, he points out, means students haven't been able to come to the college," reports Hurry.

Referring to the $2 billion decrease nationally, Ian H. Gams, College Board spokesman, reports that the decline "is even greater when inflation is taken into account."

"After the $2 billion decrease nationally, loans and grants each account for 47 percent of student aid, and college work-study the remaining four percent."

At a time when college financial aid experts are growing increasingly concerned about the level of long--term debt college students are incurring, the decline in the amount of available grant money promises to have far-reaching implications.

Great Decision groups offer candor, humor, common sense

by George LaTour

The topic was Southeast Asia. The comments were wide-ranging, often well-thought out and always given with enthusiasm and with insight not expected from a group of "ordinary" businesswomen and homemakers.

As they sat around a conference table at a well-known realtors office in Barrington, coffee cups and, in some instances, cigarettes, at their fingertips, they presented a picture of well-informed and highly motivated individuals engaged in a serious conversation that was often punctuated with welcome humor and always a sense of give-and-take.

The uninitiated Visitor might well wonder: Who are these people and what are they doing?

The answer is, they are very interested Americans and they are discussing one of the vital issues facing the world today.

They are participants in the GREAT DECISIONS program, coordinated in Rhode Island through Rhode Island College, which seeks to bring together ordinary citizens so that they may discuss such topics and then register their opinions via a ballot and ship them off to Washington to the GREAT DECISIONS organization and by so doing have an impact on the United State Congress, the national media and, hence, the world at-large.

This Barrington group is one of a dozen or more in Rhode Island organized each year since 1980 by John E. Browning, assistant professor of history at RIC.

This year some 14 groups in 11 communities have been formed with the sole purpose of allowing interested citizens the chance to meet, read up on suggested topics for discussion and then present their considered views.

At the meeting of the Barrington group last March, Nancy Roth had brought in a magazine write-up on the group's topic of Southeast Asia.

She pointed out what the article had said concerning the alliances the United States had with the Philippines and Thailand.

"Thailand had really trusted us, but when we pulled out, they backed off," she said.

At the same time, "the early 1980s have seen a major change in the relationship of costs, income and aid for college," the report says. Adjusted for inflation, costs have increased, but income and financial aid per full-time equivalent student have not.

"Thus," the study concludes, "in contrast to what can be said generally about the past two decades (when income and financial aid awards actually stayed ahead of college costs), college has become relatively more difficult for families in all states to afford in the 1980s."

But the results of "Trends in Student Aid: 1963-1983" should also "be put in the context of how much financial aid has really grown over the past years," Gams suggests.

The federal role in financial aid has indeed swelled in the last two decades, from 40 percent to 80 percent of all aid assistance.

Financial aid from all sources--federal, state and institutions--has skyrocketed from only $546 million in 1963-64 to $4.5 billion in 1970-71 to a

continued on page 6
Two recent articles in The Providence Journal have drawn media attention to the college's people and programs. NLE-TV, Channel 6 broadcast an update on the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) in Rhode Island with a lead-in based on the What's News front-page story in the Jan. 23 issue entitled "RIC has fulfilled ROTC program." The segment, with interviews with RIC ROTC Cadet Mark Boates and students at Brown University and the ROTC colored in Providence, was aired on the 6 p.m. news on Saturday, Jan. 28.

The Observer newspaper also carried the RIC ROTC story and photo of two cadets looking over the list of second semester courses in its Jan. 26 edition. The story quoted Maj. William Allen, ROTC director here. The photo showed Cadets Mark Halterman and Robert England.

The three-minute lifeline will focus on useful devices designed for the aged and handicapped by students in Kavanagh's industrial technology (design analysis) class, which George LaTour, associate editor, wrote about in the Jan. 23 issue of What's News.

Computer user 'Almost a fad'

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CPS) - Many of the computer programs used in the nation's schools amount to no more than expensive, "electronic page-turners," devices, according to U.S. Education Department Secretary Terrel Bell.

In an informal office meeting with vice campus tax experts, Bell also revealed plans to finance research to find more constructive ways of using computers that can help students learn math and writing skills.

Computer use in schools and colleges is "almost a fad," Bell says, and the availability of educational programs "leave a great deal to be desired" in terms of connecting with the minds of the students.

The education department plans to target research funding to develop programs for pre-algebra and algebra courses in which students "bring into play the learning tool as opposed to just having the learning tool sitting there." The meeting was held Tuesday.

Correction

Due to a typographical error the dates given for last week's article on What's News for the California trip made by members of the College Advancement and Support Division were incorrect. The trip took place Jan. 5 - 12.

Also, in the same story in last week's What's News entitled "Jobless Students Invited to Play the 'Match Game,'" we failed to mention that Fernando Botelho of East Providence, who designed the attractive poster appearing on campus (a reprinted version of which is reproduced on page 1) "Excuse me...do you need a job?" is an art student who works drawing graphics for audio-visual department.

Appointed assistant bursar

Charlene L. Szczepanek of Rehoboth, Mass., has been appointed assistant bursar at Rhode Island College, replacing Mrs. Audrey C. Herrema who retired.

A graduate of North Smithfield High School, Mrs. Szczepanek graduated from RIC in 1977 with a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education and psychology.

Previously to her Dec. 19 appointment at RIC, she was employed as assistant manager of the Old Colony Bank in Rumford.

Wife of Stanley R. Szczepanek, she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles LaFontaine of South Smithfield.

Business contributions to colleges hit record high

NEW YORK, NY (CPS) - Thanks largely to a change in tax laws, some new savvy by campus fund raisers, and perhaps even shrewd marketing by computer companies, corporate gifts to colleges amounted to a record high of $1.3 billion in 1982, the Council for Financial Aid to Education (CFAE) has found.

While CFAE President John Harratt attributes the increase - which amounts to $220 million more than what was given in 1981 - to corporate funding, "we do have a great deal to be concerned about the increase in corporate giving," Kammerman adds, as it "all goes to pay a job being a better job selling themselves to corporations. Most colleges in the country now have promotion departments.

"Another reason for the increase in corporate giving," Kammerman adds, is that "colleges are doing a better job selling themselves to corporations. Most colleges in the country now have promotion departments."

Moreover, many smaller schools are participating in the corporate sweepstakes for the first time, forced in to the race by severe budget cuts over the last few years.

Whatever the specific reasons, the 20 percent jump in corporate giving was the biggest single-year leap since 1975-76.

Haste was especially pleased the jump came during a year of declining corporate profits.

RIC Facts

Of the 346 faculty on the Rhode Island College campus, 218 or 62 percent were awarded doctorate, according to the 1983 Rhode Island College Fact Book.

The telecast will be either Tuesday, Thursday or Friday at noon. The broadcast will be repeated at 11 p.m. and the repeats will be broadcast on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday at noon.

Focus on the Faculty and Staff

DR. VICTOR L. PROFUGHI, professor of political science, has contributed a chapter on Rhode Island politics to the recently published book, "New England Political Parties on".

It's not Dead - - Yet." The book was published by Schenck Press.

What's News at Rhode Island College

What's News is published weekly throughout the academic year to What's News at Rhode Island College News and Information Services.

Lured by the promise of products "Men at Work" sign, one of the numerous exhibits in the museum constructed to give children a "hands-on" experience.

The children and the director were pictured prominently in the winter museum's Cityslice exhibit and was accompanied with an article by David Bell.

Students in Kavanagh's industrial technology (design analysis) class, which George LaTour, associate editor, wrote about in the Jan. 23 issue of What's News.

FOR RENT: Apartment on Mount Pleasant Avenue, 1 bedroom, living room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, TV, fridge, washer/dryer, gas, $479.50. All maintenance records. Automatic. Call Tony Veloso 456-9739 or 456-9793. (available Jan. 1.)

FOR SALE: Intellivision video game, plus 4 cartridges. Rarely used in excellent condition. $275. per month. Please call 467-9158 after 5:30 p.m.

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Keeping Score

with Kathy Feldmann

Mid-Year Commencement

As the mid-year commencement begins Dr. John Nazarian, vice president for administration and finance, and honorary degree recipients Roman Vishniac and Galway Kinnell wait for the graduates to file into Roberts Hall auditorium (photo right). Gene Maeroff (left), the main speaker, tells audience "the whole idea is for teachers to be encouraged to grow as professionals." Karen Sedovski (below), an elementary education major, adjusts her mortarboard as she heads for the procession line up. With her is her sister Tricia.
Rites lend warmth to a cold, white January

It was with a heartening feeling of nostalgia and good wishes that January graduates at Rhode Island College heard commencement speaker Gene I. Maeroff speak at the ceremonies held in Roberts Hall Auditorium on Jan. 29. A former director of the RIC News Bureau, Maeroff, now an education writer for the New York Times, reminisced about his association with the college ‘exactly 20 years ago.’ He didn’t cast everything in a rosy glow—both his memories and his comments on the future had their somber side. He was at RIC when President Kennedy was assassinated, he recalled. Most of the students he addressed were less than one-year old then. But, he also had fond memories of his stay at RIC.

He told the new graduates that RIC had grown dramatically in the two decades since he had served as combined wrestling coach and the college’s first news director. He noted that the curriculum had become widely diversified. Almost all of the graduates would have been education majors 20 years ago. Today, only a fraction of RIC’s seniors receive education degrees.

Yet, Maeroff chose to speak mainly of the teaching profession. It is much in the national spotlight and he told the mid-year class that teachers’ working conditions must be improved if the best college graduates are to be attracted to the field. He suggested several ways in which he felt society could reorient its values to give the teaching profession the status it ought to have.

In addition to being the principal speaker, Maeroff was awarded the honorary doctor of pedagogy degree. Pulitzer prize-winning poet Galway Kinnell, a Rhode Island native, and Roman Vishniac, an internationally known scientist and artist were also honored. Each received the honorary doctor of humane letters at the ceremonies.

Approximately 250 undergraduates and 112 graduate students had degrees conferred upon them at the commencement. A reception followed the formal rite. It was held at the Donovan Dining Center.
to education in next year's state budget. He also stated that he was making the spending increase, to rekindle public confidence and usually strengthen education programs.

On the report from the Governor's Development Commission, known as "The Greenhouse Compact", and a report from the New England Board of Higher Education entitled "A Threat to Excellence", the governor said that both studies recommended stronger links between higher education and the economic community.

"Recognition of the symbiotic relationship which exists between a healthy economy and a healthy educational system is critical to the success of our society," Garrahy emphasized.

Financial education and the recession community have never been more important to the economic community, he said.

Garrahy said that Rhode Island has made significant strides in higher education. He noted that over the past 10 years, Rhode Island has increased spending in the last 20 years.

"We can expect to continue to see a steady growth in higher education in Rhode Island. We have to continue to make the spending and the commitment to education," Garrahy said.

Developing microcomputer software under grant

Dr. P. Moore, associate professor of economics and management and director of the Center for Economic Education at Rhode Island College, is developing microcomputer software under a grant from the Joint Council on Economic Education (JCEE) to serve as a supplement to "Give & Take", a 12-week program that provides an introduction to economics for high school students. The program is designed to help students understand how the economy operates.

The following recent legislative action in the Rhode Island General Assembly is of interest to the college community:

**HOUSE**

H 7009 Requires Department of Education to prepare instructional materials and program and make necessary appropria-

tions. By Dorey and others. Referred to Committee on Finance. HJ011 Joint resolution requesting commitment to the people.

**SENATE**

S 002 Secretary of state to send one copy of the text of referendum to the ballot box to each household rather than use of ballot box, imposition of new tax. By Farsum and others. Referred to Committee on Corporations.

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Great Decision groups offer candor, humor, common sense

She noted about Kuala Lampur that her husband had had the chance to work there "but when I read about the diseases and jungle rot and having two kids, I said 'no'."

Talking about foreign aid to countries in Southeast Asia, Gertrude Steinhardt observed "even if we do help with money, the corruption (there) would prevent it from getting into the hands of the people."

Other members of the group voiced their agreement.

Roth mentioned friends of hers who are working in Southeast Asia and their observations about the way of everyday life. She noted that some of her friends "told her that stealing was 'just a way of life'."

"The people don't think anything of it."

She noted that the U.S. has had the Peace Corps, "in all these countries" and wondered out loud "whether it's been of any help leading to the concept of democracy."

Someone interrupted and said, "It did in the Philippines."

At that point Ilse Rothchild gave her version of the "raspberry" to the observation.

Everyone laughed.

The conversation jumped from subject to subject — the number of Japanese laborers versus American laborers in auto plants and the difference in wages; government helping big business and ignoring the small businessman; the foreign debt; industry re-tooling; the "domino theory;" the drug problem in Southeast Asia; life in a small steel town, etc.

"Did you ever think that our system may be falling apart?" asked Monica Cummings.

Someone asked with apparent agitation: "Whose (system?)"

"All of them," replied Cummings.

Conversation drifted to former President Carter. "He was a dreamer," said one, adding, "He wished everything would fall into place."

"Who do we wish were there?" asked a pro-Carter group member.

"We never get the truth. Are we supporting these governments or not?" interjected Steinhardt in an apparent effort to return the discussion to Southeast Asia.

"What can we do? We need so much help in this country," said Cummings. "I don't know if U.S. (financial) support would help anyone," observed Mary Ann Hagie.

In the ebb and flow of debate one group member after another had her say. Opinions came fast and furious, sometimes with two or three members talking at once.

A reporter in attendance found it difficult to take legible notes and almost impossible to jot down complete quotes.

Others in the group attending the morning session that day were Lee Glantz, Annie Hillman, Mary Ann Bixfield and Rosemary Cournoyer.

Their knowledge of world affairs came from personal experience — in some cases — but mostly from rather normal exposure to the nightly news via newspapers, radio and television.

These women were speaking in familiar surroundings in an atmosphere conducive to candor. No one was criticized for her views on anything. After all, there were mature women who respected one another's opinions as friends, usually do.

Their observations were pragmatic. Their recommendations realistic rather than idealistic.

None appeared particularly expert on the topic of Southeast Asia. All were using their own moral judgments, their intuition, a good dose of the American sense of fair play, and above all, common sense.

It was a golden opportunity for anyone who cared to take the pulse of America at that meeting.

Now in its fourth year of its affiliation with RIC, the GREAT DECISIONS program was initiated 30 years ago by the Foreign Policy Association (FPA) out of Washington, D.C., a non-national, non-partisan, non-governmental association which works to help Americans increase their understanding of significant U.S. policy issues and to stimulate constructive citizen participation in world affairs.

The FPA annually publishes a GREAT DECISIONS booklet, listing the topics — usually eight — for discussion in a given year.

Through a system of local sponsors and area coordinators local discussion groups are formed and meet for eight consecutive weeks to discuss the various topics.

Sponsors include affiliates of national organizations, community organizations, colleges, universities, military bases, senior citizens centers, churches, synagogues, libraries and schools.

Professor Browning is the coordinator for the program.

The only cost to participate in a discussion group is that of the discussion booklet: $5.

The booklet, in addition to providing topics, gives an impartial review of the Administration's policy with pros and cons for alternative choices available to U.S. policymakers; suggested readings; questions for discussion; illustrations (photographs, maps, charts and graphs); and the opinion ballots.

Group discussion participants may record their own views of each subject on these ballots which are sent to the FPA. The ballots are tabulated by public opinion experts at Columbia University and presented to members of Congress, the executive branch and the national media.

Last year more than 70,000 ballots were received by FPA from Maine to Alaska.

Browning reports that last year the program in Rhode Island had 13 discussion groups with nearly 300 persons involved. In addition, four or five high school classes participated in their own discussion groups.

Every year a national media campaign supplements the articles in the booklet and extends the outreach of foreign policy discussion to millions of Americans.

Starting Jan. 30 this year the Christian Science Monitor will print a series of articles on the 1984 topics. In addition, said Browning, Station WQBH-FM (89.7 on the dial) will broadcast a special series on the topics at 6 a.m. Saturdays.


Rhode Islanders are welcomed and encouraged to join an already-established discussion group or to form one of their own by calling Browning at RIC at 456-8091 or at his home 335-1030.

In communities (listed below) where groups are already organized interested persons may contact the group leader.

Discussion groups already organized by community, meeting times and contact persons are:

BARRINGTON: DeFelice Realty Office, 1365 Wampanoag Trail, 7-11 a.m., starting Feb. 7, call Mrs. Lois Butterfield at 245-6992.

CRANSTON: Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 365 Pontiac Ave., Thursdays, 9:30 - 11 a.m., starting Jan. 19, call Mrs. Doris Stapleton at 461-0173 or the church office at 467-3300.

EAST GREENWICH: Westminster Unitarian Church, Kenyon and First Avenues, Sundays, either before or after the church service, starting Jan. 29, call Mrs. Joyce Perretta at 322-6771.

EAST PROVIDENCE: Methodist Retirement Center, 41 Irving Ave., Thursdays, 3:45 p.m., in the Winslow Lounge, starting Feb. 2, call the center's office at 438-4456.

KINGSTON: Peace Dale: Starting in early February, day and time not yet determined, call Mrs. Margaret Thurston at 783-9232 or John Grifalani at 809-1233 for further information.

LITTLE COMPTON: Brownell House, building of the Village Improvement Society on the village green, Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., starting Jan. 10, call Robert Hill at 635-2096.

NARRAGANSETT: Starting in early February, day and time not yet determined, call Frank Weiner at 738-2852.

NEWPORT: Home of Mr. and Mrs. James Lee, 43 Everett St., Sundays, 7 p.m., starting Feb. 19, call the Lee at 847-8277.

NORTH PROVIDENCE: Methodist Center, 40 Irving Ave., a weekday evening, 7 p.m., starting in early February, call O'Rourke at 355-4760 or 351-4306.

PROVIDENCE: Hamilton House, Senior Citizens' Advisory Center, 276 Angel St., Wednesdays, 10-12 noon, starting Jan. 18, call Hamilton House at 331-8090.

PROVIDENCE: International House of Rhode Island, 8 Stimson Ave., Sundays, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., starting Jan. 29, call International House at 421-7181.

PROVIDENCE: Rhode Island College, History Commons Room, Goode Hall, 207, Tuesdays, noon, starting Feb. 9, call Browning at 456-8091 or 353-0381.

PROVIDENCE: Washington Park United Methodist Church, Broad Street and Montgomery Avenue, Sundays, 7:30 p.m., starting Feb. 5, call the church at 941-2212 or Browning.

WYOMING: Starting in early or mid-February, specific day and time still open, call Mr. and Mrs. Peter Steenson at 527-2049.

ILSE ROTHSCHILD PONDS A POINT made by one of the other members in the Barrington Great Decisions discussion group. At left is Gertrude Steinhardt. Photo by Peter P. Tobia.
Other Places

A NEW DRAFT BY 1998

Administrator Donald Eberly believes that by 1990 all 18-year-olds will be subject to a draft, but will get to choose between serving in the military or in a community or nationwide non-military project.

Eberly suggested the Peace Corps or working in hospitals, day care centers and nursing homes might be among the alternatives.

He says the draft might be necessary to bring down high youth unemployment levels.

Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, meanwhile, vetoed a bill that would have denied state aid to students who hadn't registered for the draft.

*****

ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR ATHLETES

Before adjourning at the N.C.A.A. convention in Dallas last month, the delegates approved a last-minute measure to require students to maintain "satisfactory progress" toward a degree in order to be eligible to play on college teams.

The delegates earlier had defeated a measure that would have set minimum grade point averages for athletes.

Rhode Island College's President David E. Sweet, who attended the meeting with other college and university presidents and athletic directors from across the country, played a key role in the debate.

*****

LIVE WITH THEIR PARENTS

The New York Times says "millions" of students now return to live with their parents after graduation. It says the phenomenon, which "may portend a long-term shift in the way young Americans live," is economic.

Demographers say starting salaries are no longer sufficient to allow some single people to get their own housing.

*****

HBS 3rd graders get demonstration of calculators in solving math concepts

Demonstrating the Use of Calculators in Solving Math Concepts before a group of Henry Barnard School students is George Immerser of Lexington, Mass., a specialist in math education affiliated with the University of Northern Iowa. The occasion was "Professional Day" at HBS on Jan. 25. Photo by Peter P. Yoko.

Calendar of Events
February 6 - February 13

MONDAY, FEB. 6


Noon. Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Student Union, Room 304.

8 p.m. to midnight. "Sounds from the Basement." WRIC disc jockeys play live into Monday night. Admission is 50-cents.

MAYDAY TO THURSDAY, FEB. 6

TUESDAY, FEB. 7

Noon to 1 p.m. Women's Center. Monthly meeting. Women's Center.

Noon to 1 p.m. Al-A-Non Meeting. Counseling Center, Conference Room, Craig Lee, Room 127.

Noon to 2 p.m. Career Services. Interview workshop. Craig Lee, Room 054.

12:30 p.m. - Cross Country Ski Class. $5. includes instruction, rentals, use of trail at Trigg Golf Course, and refreshments. Whipple Gym.

7 p.m. - Women's Basketball. RIC vs. Emmanuel College. Home.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8

11 a.m. to Noon. Career Connections. Craig Lee, Room 054.

2 to 4 p.m. Career Services. Resume and Job Search workshop. Craig Lee, Room 054.


7:30 p.m. - Men's Wrestling. RIC vs. University of Hartford. Home.

THURSDAY, FEB. 9

9 to 10 a.m. - Career Services. Job Search Workshop. Craig Lee, Room 054.

7 p.m. - American Band to hold auditions for French horn, bassoon and saxophone. Roberts Hall.

8 p.m. - Men's Basketball. RIC vs. Salve Regina College. Home.

FRIDAY, FEB. 10
6 p.m. - Women's Fencing. RIC vs. Western Connecticut State University. Away.

SATURDAY, FEB. 11
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Games Room Tournament. Those interested in participating should register before Feb. 11. A $2. fee will be charged for registration. The events will include chess, backgammon, table tennis, and billiards. Trophies will be awarded to first and second place winners.

Student Union, Games Room.

1 p.m. - Men's Wrestling. RIC vs. Trinity College. Home.