

REND LAKE COLLEGE TIMES

November 1997

By the students, for the students.

Mandatory Orientation Class in The Works

Designed to Improve College Survival Skills

Gina McClerren
Staff Writer

A course designed to improve RLC student's college survival skills has been proposed. If approved, the course should be offered by the summer semester of 1998. If not changed, the course will require mandatory attendance for all sixteen contact hours, and will be worth one credit hour. All incoming freshmen will be required to take the course.

The course will touch on such topics as the use of the LRC and the internet, what financial aid is available to students and the function of several different departments

on campus.

Salah Shakir, interim dean of student services, formalized the idea for the orientation class and has now given the course outline to faculty for revisions and recommendations.

On October 21, a faculty forum was held for the purpose of gathering the opinion of each individual on the orientation course. There was a vocal concern made at the forum concerning the content of the course outline, Academic Counsel President Steve Kennett said.

A committee from the Academic Council has been appointed to make further

recommendations and revisions. The committee is examining the orientation programs of area colleges in hopes of creating the best program for RLC.

In order for the course to be approved for use at RLC, it must pass through many hands, the first of which is the Academic Council and its committee. From there it will go to the RLC college board, and final approval must come from the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB).

When asked how they felt about the proposed orientation course, several RLC faculty see **Orientation** page 3

Students Voice Opinions

Kara Tinsley
Staff Writer

There has been some talk around RLC about a mandatory freshman orientation class in the future.

After taking a survey from various RLC students about their thoughts on the possibility of such a class, the response was unbelievably one-sided.

The survey consisted of traditional and non-traditional students. There wasn't a large variance between the thoughts of these students.

Many students expressed their concern that RLC is a small campus and doesn't need an orientation class to learn everything there is to

know about it. "College students are at college for one reason", said Wade Scrivner, 19, of Belle Rive, "and it's mainly to insure a job for their future, not to waste time on "fill-in" classes that the Administration forces us to take. There are enough of those already." Sara Copple, 20, of Walnut Hill, expressed similar feelings. "That's ridiculous", said Copple, "that insults my intelligence".

"It would be nice to possibly have a one day orientation class," said Janice Sims, 41, of Mt. Vernon, "but an entire semester is pushing it a little bit far. I might see the need at a university, but let's all keep in mind that this is just a little junior college."

Foundation Scholarship Recipients Honor Donors at Dinner

Travis Donoho
staff writer

Foundation scholarship recipients had an opportunity to honor their scholarship donors at the RLC Foundation Annual Scholarship Dinner on November 6.

Nearly 200 people gathered into the RLC Student Center for the banquet and testimonials. The event began with RLC President Mark S. Kern welcoming the guests and introducing the RLC District 121 Board of Trustees and the RLC Foundation Board of Directors. The dinner and picture taking then commenced.

Several former RLC students reflected on how their scholarships aided in

their pursuit of a college education. Current students and students-to-be thanked the foundation for their scholarships.

Gina Todd (Thompsonville) thanked Central Bank for her scholarship and the RLC administration and faculty for her wonderful experience at RLC.

Jim Muir (Benton) attended RLC in the mining department, then later came back and worked with the newspaper. He received an Associate's Degree in the Arts.

Don Smith (Benton) and his family have created the Ruth O. Smith Scholarship in memorial to Mr. Smith's mother. Since Smith's entire

family has or will attend Benton Consolidated High School, the recipient of the award must be a Benton Consolidated High School student.

This year the student to receive the scholarship was Ashley Stewart (Benton). In addition to giving thanks for the Ruth O. Smith Scholarship, she also thanked the donor of her Howard L. Payne Endowed Scholarship.

Shirley Bradley (Sesser) sponsored the Andrea Bradley Scholarship in honor of her daughter.

Pat Mitchell, Director Institutional Advancement, closed the ceremony.

Nearly 200 in Attendance



"Just give me a chance" is what Jim Muir asked of the RLC Times advisor several years ago. Muir went on to become editor of the Times and is now a writer for the Benton Evening News. Muir, a former journalism scholarship recipient, spoke at the Foundation Dinner to show appreciation for the foundation's efforts.

Student Senate Plan Projects for Christmas

Amanda Pillers
Staff Writer

The Student Senate is finishing off the semester with the needy in mind. The members are currently coordinating a food drive as well as planning to sponsor two families from the family gift trees in Mt. Vernon and Benton.

The Student Senate will be having a food drive from now until the week before finals. All those interested in donating food should be on the look out for collection boxes on campus. The collected food will be donated to needy students from RLC. If you know of any such person or family please feel free to contact any one of the Student Senate members.

The group also plans to participate in the Family Gift Tree this holiday season. The

Family Gift Tree is a book of needy families in the area containing a short list of what the children in the families want for Christmas. The senate plans to chose two families, one from Mt. Vernon, and one from Benton. They have set a budget of \$100 per family, using some of the money earned from this Halloween's haunted house. After purchasing the gifts the senate plans to hand deliver them to the two families in order to witness the children's surprise.

Planning for the annual Homecoming Dance is already in progress. The Student Senate is preparing to make this year's festivities one's to remember. The dance is tentatively scheduled for the end of January and is to be held in the Student Center. The senate is shooting for a much bigger event than

previous years. They plan to have a DJ, food, and much more. As always, there will be the choosing of the Homecoming Queen. But this year things may be done a little bit differently. The Homecoming committee is debating on holding an open election to elect the '98' Homecoming Queen. Previously, candidates have been nominated from the various RLC clubs. However, the decision on the method of election has not yet been made.

If you have any ideas or questions, the Student Senate holds open meetings every Monday at 4:00 p.m. in the Executive Board in the Student Center. Students are welcome to attend and voice their opinion or just listen in. If the meeting time is inconvenient feel free to contact any of the Student Senate members.

Founding President Dies

FYI

Dr. James M. Snyder, the founding president of Rend Lake College from 1967-1975, died Monday, October 20, in his retirement home in Tempe, AZ.

According to the obituary in the Phoenix-based *Arizona Republic*, Dr. Snyder was born in Brookville, Ohio, and was a World War II Navy veteran. He was also a member of the Rotary Phoenix 100.

Dr. Snyder, 83, was deeply involved in the grass-roots movement of community colleges throughout an illustrious career in education. He was selected as the first RLC President in May, 1967, and assumed those duties on

July 1.

"He was the ideal president for that time of the college. He probably was the most instrumental person in terms of the physical establishment of the campus, including the selection of the architects, and the campus design and location. That was his specialty," said current RLC President, Mark Kern.

In February, 1975, Snyder announced his plans to retire in mid-August. He then penned the following message in his Annual Report to the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and district residents...

"I have developed a philosophy over the years which can be summarized by a few words: 'Anything worth doing is worth doing well.'"

Profile on Bob Kelley

RLC's Director of Marketing and Public Information

Amanda Lindsey
Associate Editor

Bob Kelley is an important yet largely unknown presence to the student body. In an attempt to rectify this, I decided to interview him.

What exactly do you do?

Basically my title is Director of Marketing and Public Information. I consider every employee on campus as marketing the college. Education is our business, and we have to work to get students, we have to work to keep students, and we have to work to have a good reputation among the communities. The public information aspect of it is what I was hired for to begin with. I serve as the primary liaison between the college and the outer community. I send out news releases, handle the advertising, and take any incoming calls of inquiry.

As Director of Marketing, what do you think about the size of RLC?

I've always thought that we have to realize what our size is. Hopefully we will continue to grow, and receive more funding, but we do need

to recognize our niche, that our growth potential is more limited. We are a rural community college, and have a limited access to potential students.

What kind of background with Rend Lake College do you have?

I myself am a Rend Lake College graduate, and my mother was an employee here at Rend Lake when it first got started. I have had a close connection with RLC all of my life.

What made you decide to take a job at Rend Lake College?

I was in the newspaper business, and was away for nine years, and then the opportunity arose to take this job here at the college. I've been here for eighteen and a half years in this capacity. I am very happy with it, and due to computers my job has changed tremendously.

How have computers changed your job?

Fax and e-mail are other ways of relating to the media, and they keep my job challenging. The basic issues are still the same, we still try to sell a quality education, low-cost, close to home, small classes with one on one instruction. The one thing we

always try to express is the quality of the programs RLC offers.

FYI (For Your Information) is a news release that you do every week. Is this just an offset of your job or is it a main part of your responsibilities?

FYI started seven or eight years ago, and it's not actually that much different from what I do on a day-to-day basis. Many of the stories are not written just for FYI, just news releases that went out to the media throughout the week. It brings everything together and lets everyone know what's going on.

Is there a message that you would like to relate to the students?

Yes, I'd like everybody to know that hopefully I am very accessible. There's many things that RLC does right, but mistakes are made, too, especially in the Marketing and Public Information aspect of Rend Lake. Hopefully faculty and staff know my door is open, and I am always ready for ideas and suggestions, and I'd like the students to know the same. I'd like to know the student's opinions of our college and how to promote Rend Lake College.

Security Notes

Amanda Pillers
Staff Writer

ALERT, ALERT!!! The last issue of the RLC Times requested help on the recovery of several items. These items include a VCR, camcorder, etc. At this time the Chief of Security, Jerry Bate, would like to offer a cash reward for information on the whereabouts and recovery of aforementioned items. All information will remain confidential. "Remember, the person(s) who took these items took them from you, the student," said Bate.

Construction is in progress once again on campus. So please be patient. Drive carefully and walk carefully around areas that are under construction.

New County Line Road has recently been the scene of

several mishaps, such as vehicles running off the road, accidents, etc. This road runs between the campus and Rend Lake Resort. For your own safety please acknowledge and obey the speed limit because the severity of the curves in the road are sometimes hard to judge and can be very deceiving.

Deer season has come around once again. Deer will be crossing the roads so be cautious. If you do hit a deer report the incident even if there is minimal or no damage to your vehicle.

Thank you!! There has been a marked improvement in driving and parking habits since last issue. Now let's try and maintain this trend.

Next issue: Holiday Safety Notes.

Blood Drive A Success

Amanda Lindsey
Associate Editor

Rend Lake College and the Red Cross held their annual fall Blood Drive on October 28th and 29th. Although Jerry Bate, Chief of Security, hoped for 150 pints of blood between the

two days, he was very pleased with the outcome, which equaled 111 pints. Bate sends his thanks to all of the students and faculty members who donated blood, time, or both, and is sure that the recipients also give thanks for the life-saving gift.

Haunted House Goes Well

Travis Donoho
staff writer

The RLC Student Senate, Psi Beta/Psych club, the RLC Travel Club and others teamed to produce the RLC haunted house. The haunted house was open October 29, 30 and 31. Around 35 people helped out each night. The preparation took about 3 weeks from the leveling of the tech building warehouse floor to the setting up of the maze walls to the scaring of the last patron.

"I was surprised by the number of hours it took to pull this off and the number of hours everyone was willing to put into it," said Dr. Sue Tomlin, sociology professor. Tomlin represents the Travel Club.

Jeniffer Clark (Mt. Vernon), of Psi Beta/Psych worked on October 30 and 31, and thinks that the haunted house did well.

"We had a big turn-out as compared to what we expected," she said.

"We had a lot of volunteers and clubs that sponsored it. We also had a lot from the community and we appreciate that."

The organizations thank the Old Franklin County Jail, a Benton haunted house tradition, for helping the RLC haunted house to be a success. Several Benton

students also helped.

"There were many people from Benton who volunteered their time to help out. We really appreciate that," said Clark.

Carolyn Stewart, associate psychology professor represents Psi Beta/Psych and the Travel Club. She was also pleased with the turn-out.

"Lines were steady all three nights," she said. "It was a great haunted house, but we didn't know if people would come all the way out here to see it. But they did."

Tomlin agrees, "I knew from working on it that it would be a quality haunted house."

Greg Hollman (Mt. Vernon) of the Student Senate said, "it was a great way to start out. The Student Senate was really trying to build up and let people know we're here. It was a great way to build foundation."

Around \$1600 were raised from at least 800 patrons. The money goes to the Student Senate, Psi Beta/Psych, and the Travel Club.

Psi Beta/Psych will use its share to help the members attend a conference and the travel club is preparing for a trip to England.

"A project like this takes a whole school to come together," said Hollman.

"It went great."

RLC Musical is a Go!

Annon Dorton
staff writer

Rend Lake College has taken another step in the field of the arts. This year Rend Lake College is putting on its first musical. The show is *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and is directed by Tracy Brouillette, a part time instructor here at RLC. The auditions were held in the first part of October and were open to anyone who wanted to try out. Even though it was such short notice, there was a good turn out. Still, people from all over southern Illinois came and auditioned.

At first people were skeptical that a show of this magnitude could be done as the first musical put on by the RLC theater. This show requires twenty-eight actors and singers plus many more for the crew. It seems that there are enough people from RLC and the community to do this project. Brouillette and the members of her production team were pleased

with the turn out and are thankful to the cast for the time they are putting in this production.

This show falls heavily on the two leads in the show: Allyson Heitmeyer (Mt. Vernon) who plays Milly and Ben Cox (Benton) who plays Adam Pontipee. But the show would not be complete with out the rest of the cast. The cast also includes: Chris Donoho, Brooke Borgelt, Mariel Reynolds, Sara Scott, Robin George, Duane Culli, and Tony Jenkins from Mt. Vernon; Ben Shively and Shayna Staggs from Wayne City; Travis Dixon, Steve Eldridge, Ashley Stewart, Tony Darnell, Riley Blair, Ryan House, Joshua West (stage manager), Bethany Clyatt, and Amanda Dixon from Benton; Adam Kee from Johnson City; William Zettler, Cody and Trevor Gerten from Sesser; Lacey Vercellino from Christopher; and Annon Dorton (set designer) from Whittington.

After a slow start the show

is taking shape, and should be enjoyed by all who comes and see it. *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* opens on Thursday January 29, 1998 and runs through Sunday February 1, 1998. Everyone from the cast and the crew hopes to see you.

from Orientation

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members had mixed emotions or did not care to comment. However, one staff member chose to make his views known.

"If the course is not required and full time staff members are allowed to teach it," Mike Mullen, an RLC instructor said, "the course could be effective."

The controversy over the exact outline of the orientation course continues, but a decision should be reached sometime next spring.

Letter to the Editor

I would like to take this opportunity to let students, staff, and faculty know of the outstanding achievements of a former Rend Lake College art student, Linda Lane.

Linda is garnishing more accolades for her artistic and academic endeavors. During the Fourth Annual Artists of Southern Illinois Fine Arts and Crafts Exhibition during the 1997 Herrin Festa Italiana, she was awarded the Taffie & E.J. Helleny Award for her copper and brass bracelet. This continuing excellence in her art has opened the doors for her to the prestigious art program at Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. She received notification that the faculty of the department of art selected her to be a member of the entering class in art, beginning in the fall of 1997.

Linda's artistic achievements were just the beginning of her artistic career at Webster University. As we all know, a college education does not come inexpensively. An academic year at Webster costs approximately \$10,000. Even with the help of traditional grants, it is difficult for most students to struggle through his or her academic pursuits. To help lighten the financial load, Linda has received three highly competitive scholarships from Webster University. The first is the Webster University Leadership Scholarship for outstanding scholastic and leadership credentials. The second and third is a Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship and a Webster Grant.

Never one to remain idle or to be a follower, Linda has also been asked to be a

participant in the 1997-98 Webster University Student Ambassador program. To quote a small section of the acceptance letter that she received, "We are very excited about this year's ambassador program. We had many high quality students express interest in the program, so the selection process was very difficult. You should be proud to be among the best of the best!" The duties of the Student Ambassador are guiding daily tours for prospective students, attend college fairs with admission counselor and special functions hosted by the academic departments, the Board of Trustees, and the President, Dr. Meyers, as well as assisting in open houses and special events held on campus. She has also asked me to help her implement on Webster's campus an art auction to benefit their art students, much like the one we have here at RLC. Linda is doing all of this and carrying a full load of classes. But, all of us who know Linda realize that she is up to the task, as her performance as a former student and artist at Rend Lake proves.

Anyone wishing to contact Linda about Webster University, or merely wishing to chat, can do so through email at: lanelin@auden.websteruniv.edu

Again, we all congratulate Linda on her outstanding accomplishments, and wish her continuing success in her academic career at Webster University. On a personal note: My little Linda, I am extremely proud of you!

td howard

Art Party is a Success

Travis Donoho
staff writer

"It was fun. I had a good time. They should do it every year, said Rob Bray (Mt. Vernon).

"It was because of this party that I didn't do drugs. It kept me off the streets."

The October 29 halloween art party was a great success. An estimated 250 people "meandered in and out" according to Associate Art Professor Therese Howard.

Events of the evening included a costume contest, lipsynch contest, and a dance. English teacher Rebecca Biggs won the costume contest dressed as She-Devil and performed in the lip synch contest. The lipsynch contest featured several staff and students who all competed and were all dubbed winners.

"We had a lot of wonderful

students who put a lot of energy into it. It was hard work putting it on, but there were a lot of students who helped. Eric, McLain (West Frankfort), Brandon Page (Mt. Vernon), Mileena (Howard, Whittington) helped...all the helpers were instrumental in fighting the clock to get ready."

The dance and lipsynch contest music was provided by Midwest Sound and Light from Mt. Vernon. Melissa Capps (Belle Rive) and Nichelle Hutchison (Bluford) convince several Mt. Vernon fast food restaurants to donate food.

"I think it was a rousing success," said Howard.

"The only suggestion given to me was to make it last 4 hours instead of just three."

"I had a great time and I plan on having the party every year for the students as long as there's an interest."

Men's Basketball Wins First Home Game

Amanda Pillers
Staff Writer

The men's basketball team has been racking up the points during their first few games of the season. The Warriors emerged victorious over Lincoln Land in their first home game of the season. Sophomore, John Copple (Dix) led the team with a total of 24 points.

The team dropped two games at the John A. Logan Classic the previous weekend. RLC lost to Illinois Central College Saturday 94-82 and fell 5 points short of claiming Lincoln College on Sunday with a score of 85-80.

Meramec Community College came away with a 5 point victory over the Warriors on Saturday, November 8.

Overall, Copple has been the leading man on the court. Other high scorers for the team include: sophomores Dexter Clay (Alton), Bart Bigham (Oakland City, IN), Marcus Parker (Hopkinsville, KY), Andrew Dagner (Pinckneyville); freshmen Jason Piercy (Woodlawn), Dirk Dimberger (Cape Girardeau, MO), Jeff Morrison (Sparta), Mike Burnham (Metropolis), Ryan Maurer (Mt. Vernon), and Eric Bierman (Effingham).

By Ken Clifford

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Weed out the horned figures in your life and the halos will turn golden. Friendly advice will come from an unlikely source. People will see you in a new light after a few hard days. Pisces and Gemini involved. Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Your nonchalant manner will get you in trouble(?). Expect peanut butter to be an important substance in your romantic situations (comedies?) for the next few weeks. Leo involved.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

You have found true love. Old friends may be seen with new holes in their heads. Rocky times and roads may be eaten or cast aside depending upon how you choose to live your life. Stay focused and life will be sweet. Virgo involved.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Confidence is the key. Say to yourself... "I will get by!" and pay homage to Jerry. In the end, you will have found a greater happiness. Look for clues in Sagittarius. Leo involved.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

You will soon fall from your Black Horse. You will

be defaced by friends. You need to change your attitude before you lose your last friend. Eventually you will see your wrongdoing and say goodbye to your disgusting habits. I see turtles in your future. Look to Gemini for assistance.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

Intelligence is on attack. You need to learn to control your anger and then you will succeed with true wisdom. Better to be thought a fool than to speak and prove them right. Speed reading (literal and spiritual) will prove some assistance.

Taurus - (Apr 20 - May 20)

Your strength will be admired by existing friends and new friends will find you completely amazing. You are being admired from afar. I see love and romance in your future but don't get too cocky and you will get a head. The number 12 is very bad for you.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)

You have a sharp tail. A friend with pointy ears will betray you, but in return, a fishy person will befriend you and prove to be more interested than you originally thought.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)

Immunity and sickness will be of high importance this winter season...rest up!

Personal development and self-actualization is important and love and romance will result as a reward of these accomplishments. Don't let your appetite control your emotions. Will-power is good!

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)

Courage will falter and your character will dwindle. Look for help from Taurus in building up your self-esteem. I see grape or strawberry? Your reading is cloudy but I see a wall that you have built up around you to keep anyone from getting close, but that wall is also preventing you from succeeding in life...call in demolition fast! Christmas will be good this year, I see snow for you.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sept 22)

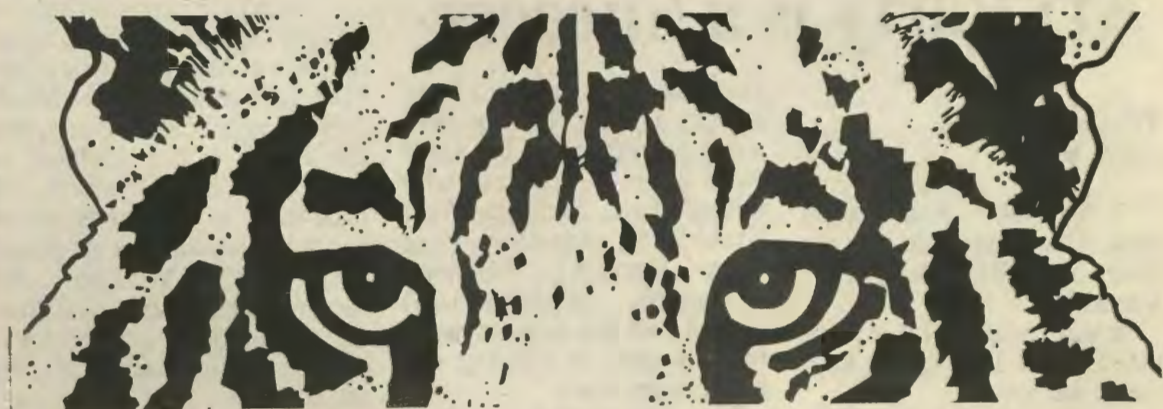
You have an innocent soul and seem to know what you want. You are assertive and somewhat stubborn. Jealousy is your weakness. You have found your soulmate and will have a successful family. Capricorn and unicorn will rule your life. You will like it and be happy.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)

You read into things too much. Calm down and let the future unfold for you. Be cautious. I see shrimps and salads in your love life. Sagittarius will long for friendship

Men's Basketball Schedule

Fri. Nov. 21	Rend Lake College Classic	H	
	Shawnee vs. Lewis & Clark		5:30
	Rend Lake vs. Spoon River		7:30
Sat. Nov. 22	Shawnee vs. Spoon River		1:00
	Rend Lake vs. Lewis & Clark		3:00
Tue. Dec. 2	Kaskaskia College	H	7:30
Fri. Dec. 5	ICC/Lincoln	T	4:00
Sat. Dec. 6	ICC/Illinois Central	T	8:00
Sat. Dec. 13	Bellville Area College	T	7:30
Sat. Dec. 20	Danville Area Comm. College	T	4:00
Mon. Jan. 5	Parkland College	T	7:00
Thur. Jan. 8	John A. Logan College	T	7:30
Sat. Jan. 10	Southeastern Illinois College	H	3:00
Wed. Jan. 14	Lincoln Trail College	T	7:30
Sat. Jan. 17	Olney Central College	H	3:00
Wed. Jan. 21	Wabash Valley College	T	7:30
Sat. Jan. 24	Kaskaskia College	T	3:00
Mon. Jan. 26	Belleville Area College	H	7:30
Thur. Jan. 29	John A. Logan College	H	7:30
Mon. Feb. 2	Southeastern Illinois College	T	7:30
Sat. Feb. 7	Lincoln Trail College	H	7:30
Sun. Feb. 8	John Wood Comm. College	H	3:00
Thur. Feb. 12	Olney Central College	T	7:30
Sat. Feb. 14	Shawnee College	H	3:00
Mon. Feb. 16	Wabash Valley College	H	7:30
Wed. Feb. 18	Lewis & Clark College	T	7:30
Mon. Feb. 23	Shawnee College	T	7:30



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