

11-20-1958

Blockprint November 20, 1958

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Recommended Citation

Students of RISD and Archives, RISD, "Blockprint November 20, 1958" (1958). *All Student Newspapers*. 244.

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Machine Design Dept. Discontinued

Pres. Reports On Progress To Trustees, Dev. Fund Com.

Following the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees, President John R. Frazier and H. Stanford McLeod, Chairman of the Development Fund Campaign, addressed a combined meeting of the Trustees and the Development Fund Committee in the Student Lounge Tuesday afternoon.

"The first year of the Development Fund Campaign is nearly at a close," Mr. McLeod told the gathering. "As you all know, we hope to raise five million dollars in ten years, and already before the end of the first year we have one-tenth of this."

FUNDS RECEIVED TO DATE

He then gave a breakdown of funds received as follows: from students \$9,603; faculty and staff \$14,377; trustees and initial gifts \$327,353; parents and alumni \$49,189; Special Gifts \$16,450; and Corporations \$83,340. In all, \$500,312 has been given or pledged in the ten months of the campaign date. **Both the student and the faculty and staff divisions nearly doubled the goals originally set for them.**

After expressing appreciation to the Development Fund Committee and the hundreds of people who have worked long and hard to make the campaign a success, Mr. McLeod introduced President Frazier.

With the comment that "Change can be found in the record of activity in any year at Rhode Island School of Design, but seldom has the rate equalled that of 1957-58," President Frazier went on as follows:

PURPOSE OF FUNDS

"The widest departure from previous recent practice in this institution followed the decision of the Board of Trustees to campaign actively for funds," the president said. The initial amount of \$750,000 was to be used for three purposes: \$600,000 for the current building program, and the balance to raise faculty and staff salaries and increase scholarship aid. **"To date, in terms of time," he summarized, "we have reached one-tenth of our total financial goal in less than one-tenth of the ten-year period."**

Continuing, President Frazier pointed out that the most spectacular development of the past year was the building of the new dormitories and dining hall. "This expansion of the college's physical facilities materially helped to create in the minds of people in the community an image of Rhode Island School of Design that is far clearer and truer than the one, if any, that was formerly held," he said.

IMPRESSIVE STRUCTURES

"Few institutions in the country, and none that I know of dedicated to education in the field of the visual arts, have so successfully woven into material form the philosophy for which they stand. **These are truly impressive structures," he said. "When the whole complex is completed and occupied, the resulting changes in our students' living can be expected to be far-reaching not only in health and comfort, but in the substantial educational benefits that accrue to the individual through group living."**

Then he turned to the reports of each of the six sub-committees of the Development Fund Committee and the action taken by the college.

FACULTY AND STAFF SALARIES

This sub-committee made two particular recommendations: a short-range proposal that salaries be increased immediately, and a long-range plan for the revision of the whole scale of faculty salaries, raising the maximum and minimum for all four teaching ranks. The Committee recommended increasing tuition as a means toward effecting the first recommendation, and using part of the funds to augment the Scholarship Fund to aid students who could not afford the increased cost.

Action taken, the President reported, was to raise tuition \$100, part of the funds being applied to the Scholarship Fund, and the balance being used to put a floor under salaries in the lower faculty ranks. **The long-range revision of the scale of faculty salaries has been estimated to require the income from \$1 million in endowment funds in addition to present resources.** "This million dollars is part of the total 5 million dollars we are planning to raise in the Development Fund Program," he said.

President Frazier stated that if

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No Mech. Engineering Degree Few Students Prompt Action

Curriculum Not To Be Ended Until Class of '62 Graduate

President Frazier and Mr. Alcott apparently threw a bombshell into the Machine Design Department with an announcement on Tuesday that the Department's curriculum would be terminated in 1962 after graduation of the last of the presently enrolled students. No new Freshmen will be accepted in the Department.

While this announcement seems to have come as a complete surprise to students, it results from a well-known problem which has concerned the college administration for a number of years. *Since the last war, with the exception of three years at the height of the post-war influx, the department has only once drawn more than half its quota of 30 entering students.* Such a situation obviously called for a continuing, searching investigation.

Although the Machine Design Department has received the same amount of publicity and promotion as each of the other departments in the college, it differs in two fundamentals from the others. *It is the one department which is not primarily concerned with aesthetics.* And it is also *the only department whose appeal has remained almost strictly local,* while all of the other departments have been extending their drawing power to all parts of the nation.

Poll roves Ineffectiveness of Department

In an effort to find the real reason for this last anomaly, a questionnaire was mailed last winter to all of the 149 graduates of the Machine Design Department of the past eleven years (1947 through 1957). Eighty-one of the questionnaires were completed and returned.

Of the graduates replying 63% stated in emphatic terms that their chances of promotion or advance in salary were seriously impaired because they did not have a degree in mechanical engineering. They recommended in no uncertain terms that such a degree be offered in place of the Machine De-

sign degree. The possibility of offering such an engineering course has been thoroughly canvassed.

Two Reasons Against Engineering at RISD

Two factors mitigate against transforming Machine Design into a mechanical engineering department. In the first place, *it would isolate the department even further from the rest of the college*—for design, and not engineering, is the basic purpose of this School.

In the second place, *establishment of an accredited engineering department would involve an enormous initial expenditure, greatly increased annual expenses, and the allotment of a very substantial*

amount of presently unavailable additional space to house laboratory facilities for such courses as strength of materials, thermo-dynamics, metallurgy, lubrication, electricity, etc.

Yet in the end, the allocation of such precious space and the expenditure of such sums would only duplicate the facilities of over a dozen accredited mechanical engineering schools within easy reach of Providence. Within a fifty-mile radius are located the M.I.T., Northeastern, Tufts, Worcester Polytechnic, Brown, U.R.I. and University of Connecticut mechanical engineering departments. Yale, Rensselaer, and the Universities of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Norwich (Vt.) are also within the region.

Purpose of RISD is Design

The devotion of so much of our limited space, and the expenditure of great sums of money to duplicate already existing mechanical engineering facilities does not appear to be justifiable. It appears even less justifiable if we recall that *the purpose of the School is design, not engineering.* Hence the regretful but unanimous vote of the Trustees on Tuesday to discontinue the admission of new Freshmen to the College department, and to phase out the activities of the College curriculum with the graduation of the last of the current Machine Design students in the spring of 1962.

Industry Requires More

In reading this decision the Trustees recognized the increasingly obvious fact that technological changes and changes in industrial needs and methods appear to have altered the conditions under which graduates of the College Machine Design Department work. *When many of the graduates in this field reported this spring that their training only qualified them for positions as draughtsmen and nearly two-thirds reported that their degree disqualified them from advancement in position or salary, then the College had to consider whether it should continue to train students who would be so handicapped, or establish an engineering department, or dis-*

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College Bldg. Mem. Hall, Bank Bldg. Office's Broken Into Over Weekend

by JANE LEWIS

Sunday between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. a person or persons walked into the College Building through the Benefit Street door which was conveniently open and started on a tour of the building.

Mrs. Whetherald's office was apparently the first stop. A glass panel was smashed in the office door to gain entry, but nothing else was destroyed. A bunch of keys to

various places in the College building was taken along with a letter opener and a pair of scissors. The visitor(s) then stopped at the Library where they took a good look around and helped themselves to \$4.96 in petty cash. The offices of the Registrar and the Business Department were not disturbed which might mean that the job was not done by professionals who almost certainly would have gone after the larger safes.

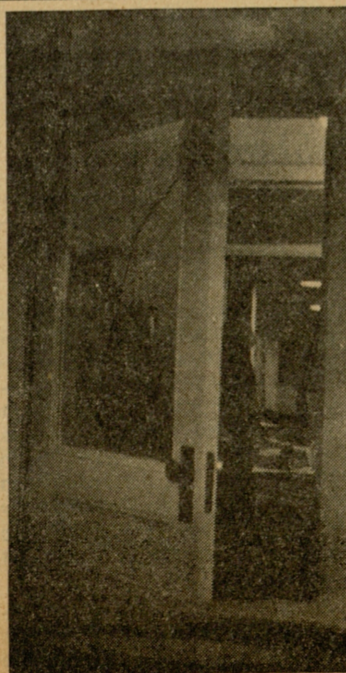
The person(s) also made a stop at Memorial Hall although it is not presently known how they gained admittance to that building. Once inside they broke glass to gain entry into the various offices in the Industrial and Machine Design Departments. Mr. Stafford's Office was pulled apart and \$12 was taken from the secretary's desk. Mr. Young's desk was also ransacked, but nothing was taken. There were quite a few hand power tools which were stored in the workshop downstairs, but none of

them were disturbed. The school store was broken into through the panel which slides down over the counter, but no one is willing to say just how much damage was done there. The transom over the door to Mr. Rodgers' office was the means of entrance there.

Sometime along the way, our guest(s) walked into the SAO office through an unlocked window and made off with \$180.00 and keys to various nooks and crannies in the Bank Building.

Since the largest loss was the funds taken from the SAO which is or was student property, and since we suffer indirectly from its loss, it is important for everyone to be fully aware of as many facts as the administration is willing to divulge. Why was such an occurrence able to happen—are we poorly protected? What is being done to prevent the same thing from happening again perhaps

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BLOCKPRINT

BLOCKPRINT, NOVEMBER 20 1958

Published weekly on Mondays except holiday and examination periods while the College is in session by BLOCKPRINT, Rhode Island School of Design, 2 College Street, Providence 3, Rhode Island.

Subscription rates: \$1.50 per year (\$0.05 per copy—28 issues). Printed by PRINTERS' SERVICE AND SUPPLY, INC., 357 Weybosset Street, Providence, Rhode Island.

Second-class postage paid at Providence, R. I.

Pres. Reports On Progress

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the revised scale is effected, "Salaries at Rhode Island School of Design will be nearer to the national norm for college teachers.

SCHOLARSHIP AID

An increase in scholarship aid to include grants, when needed, in amounts greater than full tuition, and increased use of the Revolving Loan Fund were the two recommendations of the Scholarship Aid Sub-committee.

No action could be taken on the first suggestion because it would have required nearly \$16,000 more than the funds available to carry out the recommendation. The second suggestion was put into action, however. This year for the first time all seniors who applied for scholarship aid were required to take part of the needed aid in the form of a loan.

In addition, President Frazier reported, the college is studying the provisions of the National Defense Educational Act. Title II concerns "Loans to students in institutions of higher education."

SPECIAL PURPOSES AND FOUNDATIONS

The recommendations of this sub-committee included a proposal that a Development Office be established where all the fund-raising activities of the college would be coordinated, and that the college be more aggressive in applying for industrial and foundation grants.

Immediate action was taken on the first proposal. In July a Development Office was set up and a director appointed. President Frazier assured the Committee that he, too, hoped the School would be more aggressive in seeking foundation support, and added: "Grants in aid from charitable foundations usually flow to those institutions whose educational leaders are eager to undertake research or other work of a pioneering nature. More often than not, but not always, such leaders are founders of graduate programs... The programs that are most certain to interest Foundation agents are those that develop new ideas.

"It follows," he continued, "that the college must become a hatchery for new ideas and the faculty imbued with the doctrine that of the three basic functions of a college, the pursuit of new knowledge is the highest and the most rewarding. We can assure the committee that there are in the college people of creative ability and Division Chairmen and Department Heads that are alert to their responsibilities to organize programs that will utilize this power."

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

The Building and Construction sub-committee endorsed the plan to complete as rapidly as possible the dormitory complex, and recommended that the college make a study which would result in a master building plan. Particular reference was made to the Textile Building and the Memorial Hall site.

President Frazier pointed out that the college is forced by constantly shifting student increases and decreases in the twelve areas of instruction to make continuing studies of the use of space. As an example, he cited the Division of Architecture, which had been snugly housed in the Market Building for many years. This year it needed more space for new growth and foreseen future expansion.

"Our solution," the president

pointed out, "was to prepare during summer 6,000 square feet of floor space that had been freed by the phasing out of the Textile Engineering program. With Architecture moving in, the building is once more becoming one of the lively areas of the college."

EDUCATIONAL DIRECTIONS

The first recommendation of this sub-committee was that the structure of the Machine Design Department and its place in the college curriculum be subjected to a critical examination.

A thorough examination of the Department and analysis of a questionnaire sent to all its graduates within the past decade, led the study committee to conclude that if the department were to be continued, its curricula would have to be expanded to meet the requirements of a mechanical engineering degree. However, such a development is not, in the main stream of the college's purpose—the teaching of design. Furthermore, there appears to be no useful purpose in duplicating the existing facilities of the twelve accredited mechanical engineering departments already located within the New England region.

MACHINE DESIGN VOTED OUT

"Accordingly," President Frazier announced, "the Board of Trustees today voted to phase out the operations of the college Department of Machine Design without in any way disturbing the Evening Extension School curricula."

The second recommendation of the Educational Directions Sub-committee was that an Assistant to the President be appointed to help gather needed data relevant to the aims and philosophy of the college, and to problems characteristic of a design school. This proposal was carried out.

CONCLUSION

"The theme of this report was change," commented the President. "We have inventoried the results of a year's activity, devoted to planning, cultivating, and finding nourishment for change. The report points to a record of specific accomplishments which, we can confidently predict, will lead to further growth and development, provided, of course, that we continue to find the nourishment."

"Through your help," he told the members of the Development Committee, "Rhode Island School of Design has been able to respond appropriately and forcefully to the urgent appeal of our national leaders to raise sights and standards to assure that the nation may continue to be free."

Robbery

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with much more serious losses? Do we have round-the-clock protection? This is costly, but the possible losses would seem to compensate for salaries for additional watchmen. "An ounce of prevention," etc. Apparently, our check-up system is not as efficient as it could be, because it was noted that there was an easily accessible open window in the Textile Building in the wee small hours of Tuesday morning—luckily it invited no visitors, but they might turn up at another time.

I have been told that "It is impossible to see that every door and window in every building be

Board of Trustees Hears Reports On College At Annual Meeting

Houghton P. Metcalf, Jr. and Zenas R. Bliss, Provost of Brown University, were elected to the Board of Trustees at the annual meeting of the trustees Tuesday.

REELECTED TO BOARD

Reelected to six year terms on the Board were Murray S. Danforth, Jr., Treasurer of RISD, Arthur W. Heintzelman '10, Keeper of Prints at Boston Public Library, Constance W. Smith '47, Landscape Architect of Groton, Mass., and Richmond Viall, President and Treasurer of Marshall & Williams Corporation, Providence.

All of the members of the Executive Committee and all of the administration were reelected to one year terms of office, and 100 candidates for membership in the Corporation of the Rhode Island School of Design were elected to membership. (Members of the Corporation of the Rhode Island School of Design is a high-sounding name which really means the same as "Friend of the Museum"). Members of the Corporation now total 880, an increase of 205, or more than 30% in the past two years.

Five reports concerning the activities of the college were submitted to the Board, as follows:

ENROLLMENT OF 850

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees reported a total enrollment of 850 students as Rhode Island School of Design opened its 81st year. Of these, 803 are candidates for the baccalaureate degrees, and the balance are candidates for the Master's degree, special students, or part-time students from Brown University and Pembroke College.

Construction progress on the building project was said to be progressing satisfactorily and it is expected that the first of the two dormitories, which will house 257 women students, and the Dining Hall will be available for use late in December. The second dormitory will be completed in July, 1959, it was said.

Acquisition of the former College of Pharmacy Building and purchase of the land and apartment house at 47 Waterman Street were reported. In addition, the opening of the Florence P. Grant house at 297 Wayland Avenue as a house for college guests was announced.

ADMIT ONE OUT OF THREE

Despite a substantial increase in applications for admission, a decrease of fourteen students enrolled in the college was noted by the Education Committee. Approximately two out of every three applicants were denied admission to the freshman class. 81% of the new students come from beyond the borders of Rhode Island.

The Committee reported that a substantial increase in the number of students majoring in Architecture was made possible as a result of the availability of one entire

locked up at night." That is one of the sillier statements this reporter has heard.

It is a little unnerving to walk by our buildings at times when they are supposed to be completely locked up, and find a spoon or a piece of cardboard holding open the door for anyone who cares to enter.

The robbery which took place is the first major break since Mr. Farnsworth has been in charge of Buildings and Grounds. It possibly could have been avoided. Why was that door open? Why were keys left around? What will be done to prevent a recurrence? Thank goodness the losses suffered this time were not serious—here's hoping there is no follow-up.

floor in the Textile Building, into which the department expanded.

"As one of only four accredited schools of architecture in New England," the committee pointed out, "it is likely that controlled expansion of this division of the college may be anticipated." The committee went on to say that a careful study of available space and the use to which it is being put is underway in an effort to alleviate crowded conditions noted in many departments.

Reporting on the School of Design's two extension divisions, the committee noted a decrease of nearly 15% in the Evening School enrollment, principally in the Machine Design area. On the other hand, an increase of 50 young people in the Saturday morning Junior School was achieved, bringing enrollment in this department to 480 as compared with 430 last year and 385 two years ago.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total income of \$1,378,531 for the year ended June 30, 1958, was reported by the Treasurer, an increase of \$48,744 over the previous year. The rise in the tuition rate accounted for part of the increase, and a further jump in endowment income for the balance.

Expenses for educational and general purposes during the year totalled \$1,006,136 and reached the million dollar mark for the first time in the School's 80-year history. The largest single increase was for higher faculty salaries, and the increased cost of faculty exceeded revenue from the increase in tuition.

Turning to the Balance Sheet, the treasurer pointed to four items of Construction in Progress: two new dormitories of house 257 women at a cost of \$1,500,000, a dining hall to seat 400 people at a cost of \$835,300, and a steam distribution system to heat the buildings which will cost \$120,000. Funds to finance the two dormitories are being borrowed from the Federal Government, while the Dining Hall will be paid for by proceeds from the Development Campaign and from unrestricted endowment funds. Endowment funds will also be used to cover the cost of the heating system.

The treasurer reported that scholarship and fellowship grants totalling nearly \$97,000 were made during the year. Earnings of all endowment funds amounted to \$461,862 as compared with \$436,363 in the prior year, and represented a return of 4.71% on book values.

LIBRARY USE INCREASING

The librarian's report called special attention to the growing use of the library by residents of Providence who are not students. Nearly 900 books circulated last year, compared with 543 in the preceding year, to alumni in the area, local architects, a member of the Providence City Planning Commission, and business concerns.

An increase of nearly 50% was reported in the number of books purchased to strengthen the collections in literature, sociology, education, and the dramatic arts, together with an increase of 60% in the number of slides purchased.

PRINCIPAL MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

Chief item in the report of the Director of the Museum, was comment on the two principal exhibitions held in the spring. "Living In Style," an exhibition of modern interior design, was termed "the most ambitious exhibit held since 1953."

The second exhibit, held on very short notice, was that of Sir Winston Churchill's paintings. "This," commented the director, "was the Museum's most successful show from the point of view of attend-

ance in almost a generation." He also remarked that visitors came from the entire region and added, "These people spent as much time examining the Museum's permanent collection as they did the Churchill paintings, a fact which justifies holding the exhibition."

An important new development taking place this fall is use of the Museum for the first time by the parochial schools of the state. The Museum's work, he predicted.

The Director also drew attention to the most important need of the Museum: a substantial increase in funds available for new purchases. "The Museum's purchase funds are now approximately only a third of the amount available in 1933," he said, and pointed out that in buying power, this amounts to only about one-sixth of the funds available only twenty-five years ago.

MACHINE DESIGN

The Executive Committee recommended and the trustees voted to approve the recommendation that the Machine Design course be eliminated from the college curriculum after graduation of the last of the present students enrolled in the course. Evening extension school courses will not be affected by this decision, which was based on the increasing requirement of industry that top employees have engineering rather than machine degrees.

Machine Des. Discontinued

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continue this phase of its curriculum.

Being a fully accredited college, R.I.S.D. could not merely change the title of its degree to include the word "Engineering." It was a question of establishing an accredited engineering department, or discontinuing the course. In the light of all the circumstances, the administration and the trustees believe that the action taken Tuesday was not only wise, but right.

...All of the college faculty will be retained until the conclusion of the course, and it is believed that most of them will be absorbed into other departments, such as Industrial Design and Architecture, which make extensive use of the Machine Design facilities. It is not expected that the Machine Design courses in the Evening Extension School will be affected by this action. These courses attract well over half of the Evening School registrants and will be continued.

Questions Answered

Students in the Department have raised some questions which deserve to be answered. They ask about going on and getting a graduate degree in mechanical engineering. The answer appears to be "no." They can go on and get a B.S.M.E., but one of the complaints of the Department's graduates is that the Machine Design degree does not qualify them for work at the graduate engineering level. This was one more reason for the decision to terminate the course.

As to the question of getting positions when the department is being discontinued: nothing in this situation detracts from an earned degree. Graduates have had the training, and the college granting the degree still exists and is recognized for the high quality of its graduates.

The College with its placement bureau will stand behind graduates all during their professional careers they will never become "orphans as the sign over their door indicates they fear they will.