Class cancellation/absence line – 280-3145
All faculty and staff in the Academic Affairs unit are asked to call the RCTC Class Cancellation/Absence line (280-3145) to report absences due to illness or other unanticipated reasons. This dedicated voice-mail line is checked by 7:00 a.m. and on a regular basis throughout the day for messages related to class cancellations. Please do NOT leave class cancellation messages on personal voice mail as they may not be retrieved in a timely manner. Whenever possible, absences should be called in before 7:00 a.m. to allow for early notification to the appropriate faculty secretaries, division coordinators/program leaders and deans so that classrooms are posted for faculty absences and backup coverage for other staff can be arranged in a timely fashion. Classes are also posted to the web. It is important for faculty and staff calling this line to indicate the date(s) of the absence and the reason for the absence, and faculty should indicate in their message, the title, number and section of the class(es), what time their classes meet, and the rooms their classes meet in. The class cancellation/absence line is located in the human resources office. Any questions should be directed there (285-7125 or 280-5007).

Phi Theta Kappa recruiting new members
RCTC’s international honor society, Phi Theta Kappa, is recruiting new members for fall semester. All students are eligible for membership if they (1) have a 3.5 GPA after completing 12 semester credits at RCTC; or (2) have a 3.4 GPA after completing 16 semester credits at RCTC.

The deadline for fall membership is September 14, 2001. See Barb Mollberg in Plaza Hall 424 for membership applications or call 285-7111 for additional information.

The Induction Ceremony honoring new members of Phi Theta Kappa is scheduled for Tuesday, September 25th at 7:00 pm in the UCR South Room. Join us in recognizing and celebrating academic achievement!

Picket line crossing
In the event of a public employee strike, all vehicles crossing a picket line are required by law to come to a complete stop before proceeding through it. This will apply to all vehicles entering or leaving the RCTC grounds. For everyone’s safety if a strike does take place, please comply with this requirement.

– Mike O’Dea
Weekly funny…

“Dressing up as an athlete is the only way I can keep his attention on me.”

TeachNet Training Seminars
The following are TeachNet training seminars for the month of September. Please pre-register by replying to this message or calling 529-2785. Sign up sheets are also available in our offices (CF 102):

WebCT Intro: Thursday, 9/6/01. 2-4pm, SH 206
WebCT is used to build and manage course sites for use in classroom or distance education. We will cover syllabus creation and gradebook utilities.

Intermediate PowerPoint: Thursday, 9/13/01. 2-4pm, SH 206
This will cover animation and transitions, as well as multimedia content.

Intermediate Excel: Thursday, 9/20/01. 2-4pm, SH 206
We will explore charting, exporting and importing data and utilities.

GroupWise 6: Thursday, 9/27/01. 2-4pm, SH 206.
This training will introduce the latest version of our email software, tools, techniques and features.

If you have any questions, please contact TeachNet at 529-2785.

Scholarship opportunities
Please inform students that the Rochester Rotary II Club is offering a $500 scholarship to a student in a technical training area. The award will be given at their October 31st meeting. The recipient will be asked to attend the meeting for the award presentation. Criteria and application schedule are listed below: Criteria: The award is available to a student in the second year of any two-year vocational/technical training area at Rochester Community and Technical College. Selection criteria should include financial need, good academic standing, demonstrated leadership, community involvement, and high ethical standards. Preference would be given to a “non-traditional” student. Application Process/Deadline: A short application is available for students to pick up in the Foundation Office, Heintz Center - C120 or at the Counseling Office on the UCR campus SS 133. Completed applications can be returned to the same locations by October 15, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. Applications received after the deadline will NOT be considered. This is a great opportunity with an easy application process. Please encourage students to apply. Questions can be directed to Judy Bird or Marilyn Etbauer in the RCTC Foundation Office X7770 or X7771. Attached is a list of all scholarships that are available for fall semester.
Supalla’s Scribblings
Some cyber gremlins got in to last week’s paragraph regarding Chancellor McCormick’s newly formed Citizens’ Advisory Commission and changed many of the proper nouns. Because the Commission is such an important part of the Chancellor’s work plan, I’ve elected to reprint the paragraph again this week…

Minnesota business leaders Vance Opperman and Glen Taylor will head a new citizens’ advisory commission that will help guide a strategic plan for MnSCU. Mary Choate, new chairwoman of the MnSCU Board of Trustees, revealed that the two businessmen have agreed to lead the commission which is being established to advise Chancellor McCormick and the board. The commission’s creation is a key part of the chancellor’s first-year plan, which the board approved in July. If you haven’t reviewed a copy of the MnSCU work plan, I encourage you to access it from the MnSCU web site today at http://www.mnscu.edu (just click on MnSCU System and then the Chancellor’s Page). Sorry for providing the unintended reading challenge.

RCTC’s tenth day enrollment numbers are in and, like most years, they look even better than first day enrollments. Official headcount will be recorded at 5,011 students (an increase of 6.71% over last year) and you are serving 3,562 full-time equivalent students (up 6.87%). Thanks for your efforts in continuing to keep the enrollment trend line moving upward! We’ll share numbers from other MnSCU institutions as the information becomes available.

Winona State University will undergo a Special Emphases Accreditation Self Study visit September 23-26 by a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. As a UCR partner, it’s likely that some representatives of the on-site team might visit the Rochester campus. Please accommodate the team’s needs, respond to their questions and support our partner institution. The non-traditional visit will focus on WSU’s implementation of each of the Seven Principles for Good Practice. The Seven Principles are research based, introduced to WSU in 1989 by then newly appointed President Krueger and have been adopted by the Faculty Senate. These Seven Principles for Good Practice are appropriate for all higher education institutions and merit our consideration.

1. Good practice encourages STUDENT-FACULTY CONTACT. *Frequent student-faculty contact in and out of classes is the most important factor in student motivation and involvement.*

2. Good practice encourages COOPERATION AMONG STUDENTS. *Learning is enhanced when it is more like a team effort than a solo race.*

3. Good practice encourages ACTIVE LEARNING. *Learning is not a spectator sport.*

4. Good practice gives PROMPT FEEDBACK. *Knowing what you know and don’t know focuses learning.*

5. Good practice emphasizes TIME ON TASK. *Time plus energy equals learning.*

6. Good practice communicates HIGH EXPECTATIONS. *Expect more and you will get it.*

7. Good practice respects DIVERSE TALENTS AND WAYS OF LEARNING. *There are many roads to learning. People bring different talents and styles of learning to college.*

The Higher Learning Commission seeks innovative, enthusiastic proposals on a variety of topics for its 2002 Annual Meeting program. Approximately 2,700 faculty and administrators from a wide variety of higher education institutions located throughout the 19-state NCA region attend the conference. The 2002 meeting is scheduled for March 23-26 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. If you’re interested in submitting a presentation proposal, please contact Judy Kingsbury today for a copy of the Call for Proposals informational flier. Proposals are due at NCA by October 12.
I believe “A Simple Hello” by Katie Houston is appropriate for a beginning of the new year column. Enjoy!

I have always felt sympathy and compassion for the kids I see at school walking all alone, for the ones that sit in the back of the room while everyone snickers and makes fun of them. But I never did anything about it. I guess I figured that someone else would. I did not take the time to really think about the depth of their pain. Then one day I thought, what if I did take a moment out of my busy schedule to simply say hello to someone without a friend or stop and chat with someone eating by herself? And I did. It felt good to brighten up someone else’s life. How did I know I did? Because I remembered the day a simple kind hello changed my life forever.

Please take a few minutes to befriend a stranger, provide directions to a visitor, chat with a student or help a colleague. It’ll make their day and yours. Have a great week!

Don

Tamer Food Service hours
UCR Dining Room – Open M-F from 7:30am to 1:30pm
Heinz Center Snack Bar – Open M-F from 7:30am to 1:00pm

Please inform your students...
NEEDED: Students to design two 2’X3’ advertisements by October 1st in Adobe for local non-profit agency. To be displayed in the skyway advertising program (good exposure for your work!!!). Contact Lynn Guenette - 280-2928.