

METRO DIGEST

RIC Senior Show on display this week

PROVIDENCE — The annual Senior Show, a juried exhibition highlighting the work of seniors graduating from Rhode Island College's bachelor of arts and bachelor of fine arts programs, will be held through the end of this week in the college's Bannister Gallery.

The exhibit is free and open to the public.

The show features works from all Department of Art studios, including ceramics, design, drawing, fibers, metals, painting, photography, print-making and sculpture.

Hours for the gallery, located in the college's Art Center, are today through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and today and Thursday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

For more information, call Dennis

DARE: City releases remaining police complain ties **B-1** ■ **BATAAN:** Rhode Islanders retrace WWII Death March

METRO EDITION

SERVING PROVIDENCE AND EAST PROVIDENCE

'Stench' from school site distresses m

■ Reports seem to conflict regarding the nature of the odor from the Hartford Avenue site, where a landfill lies dormant.

By **RICHARD C. DUJARDIN**

Journal Staff Writer

PROVIDENCE — A retired high school teacher who lives next to the site where construction workers are now erecting two new public schools near the Johnston line, says there was such a "terrible stench" coming from the site last week that she had to take her sister to the hos-

pital.

PROVIDENCE

Ethel Friedman, who lives at 9 Woodfall St., adjacent to the 10-acre site off Hartford Avenue, said she and neighbors believe the foul-smelling odor comes from an underground landfill that has been lying dormant there for the last 30 years, undisturbed until the construction workers began excavations.

She said her sister, Nora Friedman, who also lives at the Woodfall Street address, had to be taken to

the hospital on Wednesday after complaining that she could not breathe. Friedman said the odor was so bad that she herself became nauseated and had to throw up.

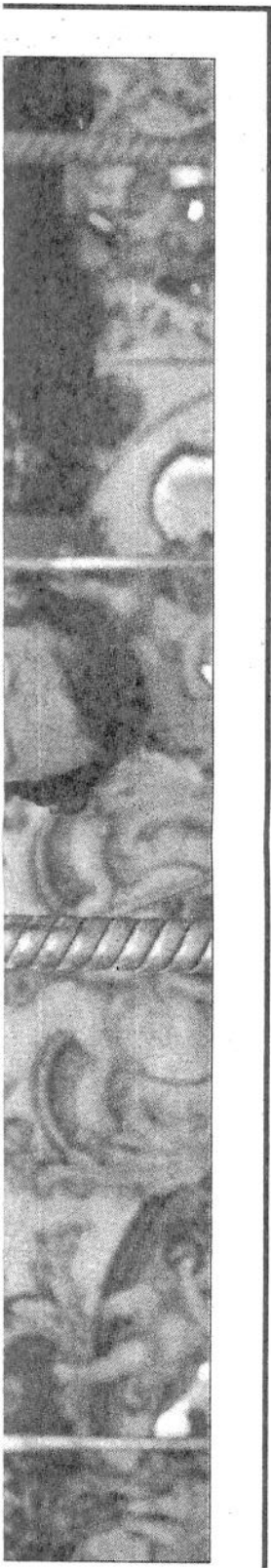
At the hospital, the sisters were told by an emergency room physician that an allergic reaction to whatever was in the air most likely was the cause of Nora Friedman's breathing problems.

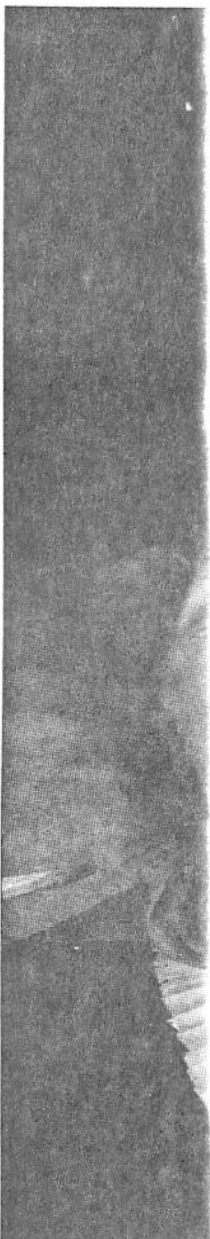
Ethel Friedman says other area residents complained about the foul-smelling air, including "one man who has emphysema and another neighbor who has only one lung."

When it comes to know about the site's history, there is no better expert than Friedman retired history and economics teacher at Mount Pleasant High School led the fight to get the city to dumping there, when Mayor Joseph A. Doorley Jr. and public works rector Lawrence McGarry were in office.

The dumping event stopped in 1973, when the city most other cities and towns by taking their garbage to the Central Landfill in Johnston.

Yesterday, there seemed to





Journal photos/KRIS CRAIG

MY BLUE ALIEN: Melissa D'Amico portrays a blue alien with a message in the Perishable Theatre production of *The Invasion of the Homogenoids* for sixth and seventh graders in Woonsocket.

Play

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tolerance and the wonder that can be gained by appreciating the differences in others.

Almost one-third of the students at the middle school are either black, Hispanic or Asian/Pacific Islander, according to the Rhode Island Department of Education's Information Works Project.

As a consequence, students had keen interest in the four actors dressed in different costumes — an orange cockroach, a blue nymph, a purple ghoul with eyeballs on his hands and a puckish punk dressed in green — and how they would overcome their prejudices.

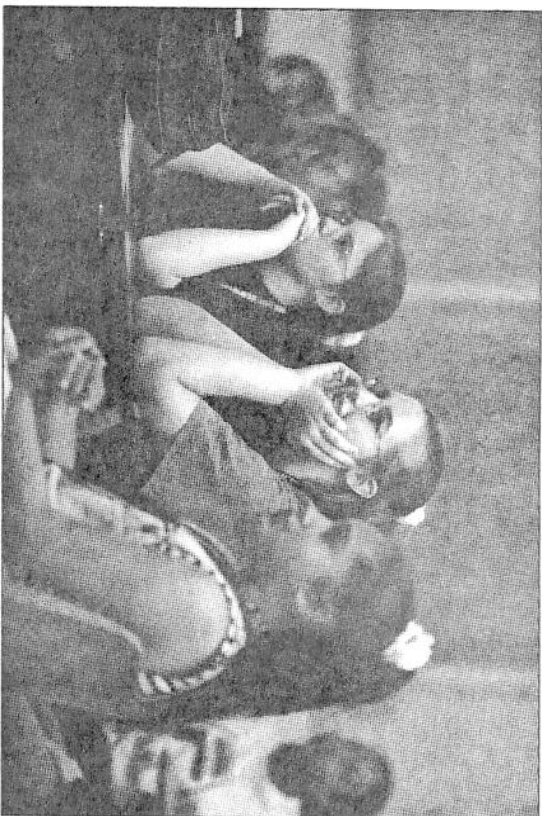
The story line of *Homogenoids* goes like this:

In a distant galaxy, ambassadors from four neighboring cultures learn to work together when their planet is threatened by an invasion of infamous Homogenoids.

They don't know whether the Homogenoids — actually two of the actors dressed in puppet costumes — really exist, whether they are good or bad, or what they want.

The characters only know what each of their cultures has heard about Homogenoids.

When the Homogenoids arrive, they place a covered object on a pedestal in a desert, and each of the four characters approaches it. The orange, purple and green characters try to embrace the object, but they are repelled by a force field that



ANOTHER VIEW: Desirae Lewis, Stefanie LaSalle and Maria Ortiz, from left, take in the science fiction musical about dealing with prejudice.

After a lot of accusations, incriminations and alienation — conveyed with a deft comic touch — the three other characters learn to appreciate each other's differences and to understand how, by joining the blue being, they can uncover the object, wherein they find a phonograph record that congratulates them for learning to get along.

The message in the performance wasn't lost on one 13-year-old boy, a seventh grader and one of the Hispanic students who make up 14 percent of the school's population.

As he walked out of the so-called Cold Lunch Room — the combination assembly hall and brown bag

So, how did his sister respond? "She took it personal, and she hit me," he said. "But I know I'm right."

Stephen Caron, 12, also a seventh grader, said that watching the different-colored characters overcome their preconceptions about each other was enlightening.

"It made me aware that there are all different kids and people, and not to expect certain things from them just by the way they look, that I have to appreciate them by themselves for who they are," Caron said.

Stephanie LaSalle, 13, and her best friend, Maria Ortiz, 12, both seventh graders, say they don't notice one another's differences, and

people here — circus people, movie stars, show people. One of my biggest thrills was spending the day with the Three Stooges. We had a stage behind the Shore Dining Hall, but it rained all day and they were unable to perform their act," Serowik said.

Serowik said City Manager Paul E. Lemont also worked at Crescent Park when as a young man.

"We had him in Kiddie Land,

alarm system," Serowik said.

Two merry-go-round hors were recently restored at the New England Carousel Museum in Mystic, Conn. Max Nowicki, who in his 70s, drives up from Milford Conn., to tune the carousel's original Ruth & Sohn organ.

"He has been working on us since the 1930s," Serowik said. Serowik worked his way up from ring boy to ride master, managing the merry-go-round

Smell

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However, Steve Tassinari, branch manager for ATC Inc., the environmental consulting firm that the city has hired for the project, said there was extensive testing of the soil before any work began, and "all the tests came out fine."

"In [only] one area of the site did any test show the presence of gas in the soil," Tassinari said, "and that was well below the definable limits."

Tassinari said he was confident that there are no problems with the soil on the school site. If there were, he said, representatives from the state Division of Solid Waste Management would not have given their approval last week to using the 40-foot high mound that sits about 50

feet from Friedman's house a cover for the state landfill.

The consultants speculated what people really smelled diesel emissions from the many dozens at the site, a notion Friedman dismisses as nonsense.

Glen Ahlborg, president of Ahlborg & Sons, the Cranston that is building the elementary middle schools, said he was not personally aware of complaints a fumes or odors from any of workers.

He said the important part was that work is proceeding schedule, and in September the "will have two new bear schools."

Neither interim School Superintendent Robert DeRobbio, nor Alan S the city's director of public pr ties, nor officials from DEM, available yesterday for comment

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