

Memorials blossom

Continued from 16A

ful letters from people who have seen the site and told me how inspired they were by his story," said Ranallo. "I'm touched deeply that people take the time to read about him."

A page designed and placed on the Virtual Memorials site is free. Others charge from \$10 a year at Garden of Remembrance to \$995 for a complete multimedia package - photographs, audio, video, tributes - at Perpetual Memorials.

More than 240 memorials have been added to Virtual Memorials since Sharon Mnich started the site last September with pages

dedicated to her deceased grandparents and a close friend.

"It's really a celebration of life. Our lives are so much more than the little dash between two numbers on a tombstone," said Mnich of Woodstock, Ga., a 29-year-old former travel agent.

Mnich has spent about \$2,000, mostly on computer hardware, to maintain the site from her suburban Atlanta home. She gets about six requests a week.

"I get tears almost every single night doing it," said Mnich, sitting at her workstation with a box of tissue nearby. "But the rewards are so wonderful when people e-mail back and say this is

so precious to them, now they have somewhere to go and remember someone that's not a cemetery."

Similar sites are expected to proliferate as people look to technology as a means of immortalizing themselves, Delaney said.

"I think that everybody just about hopes for some level of immortality and everyone craves their 15 minutes of fame," Delaney said. "This is their way to get it."

The address for Virtual Memorials is <http://www.virtual-memorials.com>.

World Gardens' is <http://www.worldgardens.com>.

High cost of education

By Robert Greene
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - Increases of 5 percent this year for tuition and most room and board added hundreds of dollars to the cost of college, an expense that has steadily outgrown other consumer prices since 1980.

The increases pushed average tuition past \$3,100 and room and board to near \$4,400 at public four-year institutions, the College Board reported Wednesday. At private four-year colleges and universities, average tuition now nears \$13,670 and room and board, \$4,400.

That means parents and students are paying on average \$136 more for tuition this year and \$194 more for room and board at public colleges and universities. They're paying \$670 more for tuition and \$186 more for room and board at private schools.

The increases for 1997-1998 come amid growing pressure to curb tuition, which has nearly doubled since 1980. Family income has grown less than 10 percent.

A congressionally created panel is looking into the issue. Parents have organized the College Parents of America to seek more clout.

"It's horrifying," said Allison Foster of Newport News, Va. Daughter Meghan is a senior in high school; daughter Caitlyn is 14.

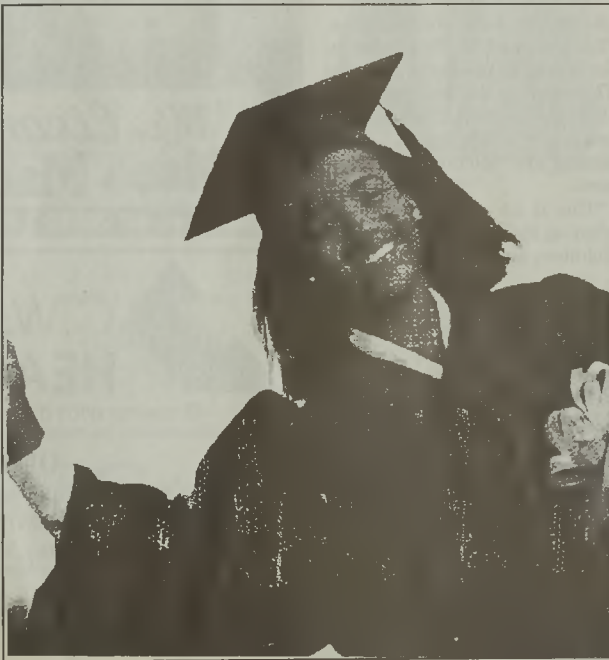
Virginia has frozen tuition at its state universities, but the family is still looking for better deals in North Carolina and South Carolina.

Although decrying a fall in state and federal support for higher education, a special panel of educators and others reported this year that colleges and universities must restructure and become more businesslike.

The University of Florida has done that, requiring teachers and colleges to measure their productivity and quality. Others, including Michigan State University, have pledged to hold tuition increases at or below inflation.

But colleges are also rushing to meet the demands of the digital generation for Internet access and other high technology, said Greg J. Baroni, managing partner for the higher education practice at KPMG Peat Marwick, the accounting and consulting company.

"A lot of them are racing against the technology time bomb," he said. Like the government, they



must reprogram or replace computers so they don't go haywire in 2000.

At the same time, few have overhauled their organizations to make them more efficient, he said. A report this year by the Commission on National Investment in Higher Education said organization and management have changed little since the 19th century.

The high-end tuition figures nonetheless distort the picture, said Donald M. Stewart, president of the College Board, an association of colleges, schools, universities and other organizations.

More than half the undergraduates at four-year institutions pay less than \$4,000 for tuition and fees.

"For most Americans, college is still accessible - especially in light of financial aid currently available," he said.

The board said a record \$55 billion in financial aid was available in 1996-1997, the most recent year for data. That's up from \$32 billion in inflation-adjusted dollars nearly a decade earlier.

But enrollments have increased and less of the money is available in grants that aid the neediest. Aid per student has grown at half the rate of tuition, the board estimates.

Congress is about to increase the maximum Pell grant from \$2,700 to \$3,000 - too little, critics say, to keep up with costs.

Congress also approved President Clinton's request for \$1,500 in yearly tuition tax credits.

"A MAMMO WHAT?"

A MAMMOGRAM. Although it sounds like a telegram from MOM, it's really just an X-RAY of your breasts. Now I know you're NOT CRAZY ABOUT DOCTORS. But even if you check your breasts every month for changes, a MAMMOGRAM IS THE ONE THING THAT CAN FIND A LUMP LONG BEFORE YOU CAN FEEL IT. SO ONCE YOU REACH FORTY, GET A MAMMOGRAM EVERY YEAR, BECAUSE TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS BEGINS WITH TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF.

GET A MAMMOGRAM.
TELL A FRIEND.



SAM'S WAREHOUSE CLOTHING OUTLET

☆ LIQUIDATION SALE ☆

NEWLY ARRIVED OVER 3000 GARMENTS
MUST BE SOLD TO THE BAREWALL BELOW FACTORY COST

ALSO NEW:

OSCAR DE LA RENTA
SPORT COATS

\$68

SUITS

Made in the USA Single & Double Breasted
VALUE TO \$296
\$38 - \$78

CASUAL PANTS

Including J. Paterman
VALUE TO \$48 \$5



OPEN DAILY TO THE PUBLIC
WHOLESALE WELCOME
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE

YEAR ROUND
SPORTCOATS

Wool blend, Linen and 100% Silk
VALUE \$150

\$10 - \$38

ARROW SHIRTS

\$5

OXFORD PINPOINT
SHIRTS

4 for \$34

OSCAR DE LA RENTA
SUITS

\$139

1127 South Boulevard
(near Scaleybank)
Open Daily 10-7 · Sun. 1-6

522-6111

Outlet Marketplace
Fort Mill, SC
Regular Mall Hours

800-548-5291

©1997 AT&T



Plan all sorts of engagements with AT&T Long Distance. Why wait? Give her a ring.

It's all within your reach.



Wholesale Computers, Inc.
New & Pre-owned Computers

FALL SAVINGS!

Large Selection Of New &
Pre-Owned Computers

- DESKTOP SYSTEMS
- NOTEBOOKS
- MULTI-MEDIA SYSTEMS
- FULL LINE OF ACCESSORIES

FULL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

A+ NEW HOURS
Authorized MON. - SAT.
Service Center 10AM - 6PM

3633 E. Independence Blvd. (Behind Pizza Hut)

704-567-6555