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# Hawks' Herald -- December 8, 2011

Roger Williams University

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CONFESSIONS  
OF  
SHOPAHOLICS  
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GOOD FOR  
YOUR HEART  
& SOUL  
PAGE B3

# THE HAWKS' HERALD

The student newspaper of Roger Williams University

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FREE

## Delay of game

Senate proposes committee to bring football to campus

AMANDA NEWMAN | Managing Editor

The Roger Williams University Student Senate is looking to get students' heads in the game with a recent proposal to create a committee that will arc out a plan to bring a club football team to campus.

Earlier in the semester, the Student Affairs Committee put out a survey asking students whether they'd be interested in seeing a football team established at RWU. Of those polled, 96 percent of the students said yes.

"Football tends to bring school spirit, and there seems to be a passion for it here," said Bronson Martin, Student Affairs Chair. "The main process we're going through right now is to get a committee together to think past what has already been through, put things on paper, and make things happen." "We are taking baby steps,"

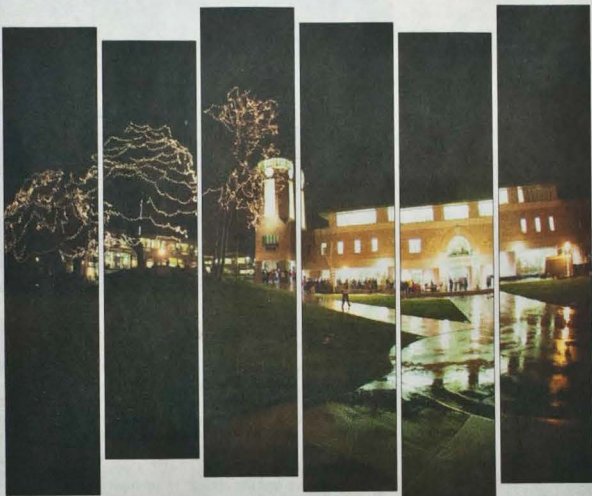
“We're hoping that a committee can start looking into the logistics, transportation, and projected funding for football.”

said Nick Tsimortos, Student Body President. "We're hoping that a committee will be established and running next semester, so that it can start looking into the logistics, transportation, and projected funding for football."

Martin said that there is no concrete plan yet for what type of football team the club team would be. He said that the committee will look for competitions that RWU could compete in against other schools so that competitiveness would extend beyond the campus level. "It might be a just-helmets league, or, at the minimum, a flag football league," Martin said. "It depends on the types of competitions the committee can find that we could participate in."

Students certainly seem to be on board to bring the pigskin to campus.

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## merry & bright

Holiday tradition lights up night, spirits

CLARA MOSES | Herald Reporter

Last night, the inside of the library at Roger Williams University was packed with students preparing for finals, but the outside was crowded with those attending this year's Winter Illumination celebration.

People of all ages braved the rain to see part of the university light up for this ninth annual celebration of the holiday season. Although this event has

become a tradition, it is also continually evolving.

"For Winter Illumination this year, I decided to change things up a bit and move it to the quad area, which included the ever-famous Roger statue," Lilly Naqvi, the chair of the event, said.

Every year, the amount and placement of lights must be decided upon. The trend has been to slowly make the event more and more of a seasonal holiday

celebration, one that is also environmentally friendly.

"We really try to make it non-denominational," Shannon Fahy, a committee member from the group of Student Senate students who helped plan the event, said. "It's really just a celebration of lights."

"Instead of decorating a Christmas-type tree, we've decorated the three regular trees," Scott Yonan, the Assistant to Vice President of Student Af-

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## Zipcars to come cruising to campus

SAMANTHA EDSON | Asst. News Editor

For Roger Williams University students who do not have a car on campus, traveling off campus is an ordeal. They have to take the RIPTA, find another student on campus who has a car and would be willing to give them a ride, get a cab, or find another mode of transportation to get them to their desired destination. Now, RWU is trying to simplify this problem for those students who find themselves in these situations with a new initiative to bring Zipcars to campus.

Zipcars have been used at numerous college campuses around the country and, early next semester, RWU will join the ranks as one of those campuses. Zipcar is a car sharing program where members can sign up and reserve a car by the hour or by the day.

"The University is very excited about the opportunity to partner with Zipcar and provide convenient and economical car sharing options for our students, faculty and staff on campus," said John King, Vice President of Student Affairs. According to King, the Student Senate was a strong supporter of the Zipcar idea, and he feels the support will be echoed by the students, as well. "We look forward to student cooperation and utilization as we move forward," King said.

The program works by having members reserve a Zipcar. When reserved, the member can drive the vehicle wherever they like. They must return it to the location where they picked

See CAR, page A2

## Facade facelift Upperclassmen apartments set to be spruced up

CLARA MOSES | Herald Reporter

Roger Williams University's upperclassman residence Bayside Court will be transformed over the course of the next three summers. The exterior of the buildings will be renovated one section at a time.

This is because the materials used for the outside of the residence hall were not necessarily chosen with the idea that they would last forever. Now, the time has come for change, and the university is responding.

"They're not materials that can withstand the weather that we deal with for a long period of time," said John King, Vice President of Student Affairs.

It is true that Bayside sits very close to the ocean shore in rainy Bristol, and therefore deals with the elements quite often. However, while the exterior of the buildings are going to be improved to deal with these conditions, there are no plans as of yet to renovate the inside of the buildings.

"I think that the outside's a great start because what happens on the outside affects the inside, and not so much vice-versa," said Megan Kopf, Bayside Resident Assistant (RA).

This is Kopf's third year as an RA, but this is her first year in Bayside. The senior enjoys living there, but says that it's

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ELLEN BURKE

Bayside Court will soon be undergoing renovations to its exterior over the course of the next three summers.



## Grappling with it

RWU wrestling team takes down the competition

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# WINTER: Crowd braves storm for ceremony

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fairs and Director of Special Projects, said of the fact that the lights are on the trees outside the library this year instead of a pine in the quad.

RWU has a reputation for being an environmentally friendly school, and Winter Illumination did not always support this.

At one point early on in its history, this event saw the illumination of the usual pine tree, the east side of the architecture building, the west side of the Commons, part of the library, and the administration building. In addition to that the fact that the tree used seem to be very tied to Christmas, which made those who do not celebrate that holiday feel excluded, the other lights created an extreme use of electricity.

"[The buildings] were lit up like crazy," Yonan said of past years. "It was beautiful, but we're trying to be a green campus. We want to be as green as possible, and still have an illumination."

"It doesn't make sense to be using all that electricity, not to mention it was very expensive," Yonan said.

However, the move also had to do with aesthetics.

"We moved the location because we felt that the quad just

did not give the same effect that we were looking for," Fahey said. "We're just trying to make it bigger this year."

"We originally wanted to get a huge tree to put in the quad, but it was tough to find one in Rhode Island at the size we needed," Naqvi said.

This year, a bake sale was held to raise money for the Women's Resource Center of Bristol & Newport Counties, who receives the proceeds from the Winter Illumination annually. This fundraiser was much more successful than those from previous years.

"We added some new fundraising ideas, like decorating your own ornament and raffling off a Samsung tablet, which seemed to be a hit," Naqvi said.

Everything turned out well despite the rain. People ate gingerbread men and women and drank hot chocolate while the a cappella group Special Delivery sang holiday music. A check was presented to the Women's Resource Center of Bristol & Newport Counties. Then President Donald Farish said a few words, and conducted the countdown before the illumination.

"We're fighting back against the night by illuminating the skies," Farish said.



MARK FUSCO

President Donald Farish led the RWU community in the countdown to the Illumination.

Putting tradition aside, President Farish handed off the job of plugging in the lights to someone else.

"As we know, rain and electricity don't mix," Farish said.

The lights turned on without a hitch, however, and the crowd was pleased.

"We started to set up the lights a week in advance, and people started to plug in the lights around the library pillars just because they looked nice!" Naqvi said.

"I always enjoy Winter Illuminations," Fahey said. "I think it's an exciting event. Everyone's

always in a really good mood."

The day before the event, Yonan said, "It looks like no matter what, we're probably going to be out there doing a countdown."

He was right.

# CARS: Service to aid students

Continued from page A1

it up, however. To become a member of the Zipcar program through RWU, one must be at least 18 years old. People can sign up at the company's website, [www.zipcar.com](http://www.zipcar.com), for a fee of \$25. When one becomes a member, they receive a \$35 driving credit,

which they have to use within the first month of gaining their membership. The rates at which members can use the vehicles begin at \$8 per hour depending upon the car that has been reserved. These rates also include gas and insurance.

While the university is still in the process of working out the details for the program, it has been confirmed that RWU will have two smart-way certified Zipcars. These are vehicles certified by the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) for polluting less and getting higher gas mileage than the average car.

The cars will be located near the Fine Arts building. The uni-

versity is planning on creating two new parking spots for the vehicles, in an effort to avoid reducing the number of parking spaces available for students and faculty members' cars.

"[Zipcars are] meant to be another service for students, faculty, and staff, another convenience for them, another means of getting around. In many cases, it is a green way of doing things," said Scott Yonan, Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs and Director of Special Projects. If the program is successful, there is a possibility that more Zipcars will be brought to campus in the future.

Students seem to be receptive to the idea of Zipcars and excited for their arrival at RWU. "I think because the RPTA service is only eligible for freshmen, [Zipcars] is a good alternative for all the upperclassmen to receive transportation off of this campus. Because of that fact that only people who are freshmen get 300 free rides, and for all the upperclassmen who still don't have cars, that is a good idea," said sophomore Dan Moran.

Sophomore Katie Kyranos said that she thought the program was "really convenient."

"I live in Massachusetts, so I'm not really sure what instance I would use it in, but for other people who don't have that as readily available to them, I can definitely see the benefits," Kyranos said.



SAMANTHA EDSON

Students will be able to use these cards to swipe into the car when they want to borrow the car, after registration.

# Think your professors can dance?

SAMANTHA EDSON | Asst. News Editor

In the newest event to hit Roger Williams University, nine faculty and staff members will be in the limelight as they dance to some of today's most popular songs in the "So You Think Your Professor Can Dance?" competition.

The Foundation of International Medical Relief for Children (FIMRC) and the Dance Team have teamed up and are sponsoring this new competition, which will be held this Sunday, December 11 at 8 p.m. in the Field House. Tickets for students and children will

be three dollars, and tickets for adults will be sold for five dollars.

Through the efforts of the FIMRC officers and the cooperative efforts of the Dance Team, the two groups approached numerous faculty and staff members to see if they would be willing to participate in the event. After seventeen faculty and staff agreed to participate in the competition, a voting process was held. The student body was then able to donate money and vote to see their favorite faculty and staff member dance. Once the voting process had concluded,

the field had been narrowed down to ten members, but due to an injury, one professor had to drop out of the competition, leaving nine finalists, who will be performing on Sunday.

The show will include boast different musical genres ranging from Broadway to current rap and pop hits. The numbers also include a variety of different styles of dance, which range from salsa and tango to hip-hop. Members of the Dance Team were divided into pairs, who then choreographed each of the numbers, based upon the style of dance and music the con-

stant selected. Two members of the Dance Team will accompany each of the contestants on stage and dance alongside them during their number. FIMRC Secretary Delia Clifford described the faculty and staff members participating in the event. "I don't think we could have gotten a better group of people for the first year out," Clifford said.

One of the nine who will be showing off their dancing skills at the competition is Alice Pascal, who works at The Commons. Pascal, who has been working at RWU for 11 years, is no stranger to participating

in campus events. "I am always willing to help. I like helping the kids out," Pascal said. She confessed she has been practicing the steps for her number at home because she is nervous for the competition.

Along with Pascal, professors Smith, McKenzie, Swanson, Donnell, Webb, Platania, O'Shea, and McCormack will all be performing. Each competitor will dance one number of their own, and they will all come together for a group dance.



ELLEN BURKE

## BAYSIDE: Dorm exterior slated for renovation

Continued from page A1

looked exactly the same since her freshman year.

"It definitely could use a sprucing-up," Kopf said.

As an RA, she hears this comment occasionally from students, and even their parents, during move-in.

"It's just what time does to buildings," Kopf said of the hall's flaws.

Kopf said that there are always improvements that can be made to older buildings, including others on campus, but that the exterior of Bayside does seem like a good place to start.

"I'm very excited that they're going to start renovating Bayside," Kopf said. "I think it's going to make Bayside look a little more like the rest of campus."

King explained why renovat-

ing the exterior of Bayside is the project that is going to be taking place first.

"The university did a deferred maintenance study of all university facilities, and Bayside, because of the material we used for the exterior, ended up becoming a high priority for replacement," King said.

Kopf also understands why the inside of Bayside is not being renovated yet, and thinks it probably has something to do with how expensive the project must be.

"I think that focusing in on certain things will only benefit the school," Kopf said.

Kopf is also the president of the Inter-Residence Hall Association (IRHA). This organization actually helped with the

new plans for the building.

Tony Montefusco, Director of Housing, helped start IRHA, and still comes to the organization with plans or statistics at least once a semester. This time, he came to them with three sets of proposed colors for the exterior of Bayside and allowed the IRHA members to vote on their favorites.

"I was very excited when [Montefusco] came," Kopf said. "The members were really excited that they got to help out."

She believes that these improvements will help the students in many ways because they will be changing the landscape and adding more seating so students can enjoy the outdoors.

## FOOTBALL: Student interest spurs Senate to consider club team

Continued from page A1

"Bringing football to campus could really create something special here at RWU," said sophomore Chris Ferreira. "If football came, it could act as a one big gathering place for the RWU community, and really enhance the college experience as a whole."

Freshman Jesse DeFrancesco also expressed his enthusiasm for the sport.

"I'd want to play football [on campus] because it's my favorite sport, and I played throughout high school. It would be fun to watch the games and increase school spirit," DeFrancesco said.

Despite the obvious support of the students, there are some potential roadblocks that could cause Senate to have to delay the game. One such issue that has been raised is cost: football teams are extremely expensive, because of the cost of gear and transportation. Another issue is

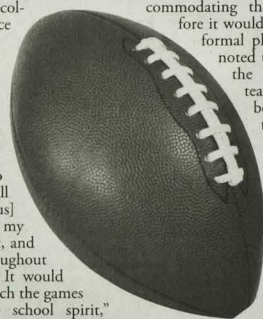
space: currently, RWU does not have the facilities to devote a locker room to a football team.

Martin said that the committee would work to address all of these issues, and come up with effective methods for accommodating the team before it would present any formal plan. He also noted that, though the cost of the team would

be expensive, that doesn't mean a football team is out of the picture completely.

"The club hockey team was initially thought to

be too expensive for the school," Martin said. "But kids were willing to pay. There are a lot of kids who played high school football who would be more than willing to pay for equipment to play on the team, and I think that's fantastic."





The

# GAVEL

Your source for Student Senate News

### Know Your Body - Allie Conn



Secretary, Allie Conn

From holding the title of Secretary on Student Senate to being the Sophomore Class President, it seems like Allie Conn can do it all.

Organization is key when it comes to keeping Conn's life in order. The sophomore from Holden, Massachusetts says that she "doesn't have too much on her plate," the fact that she is involved with ICC and Student Senate is actually, "beneficial to me because they are both similar and tend to play off of each other."

Conn believes that she is a good fit for the position of secretary. "The responsibilities that I'm in charge of are all things that I think I'm good at," Conn said, but she also knew that, "someone had to step up to the plate and take the position."

Joining Senate is something that this involved sophomore has not regretted for a minute. "I really just want to help make this campus more enjoyable for everyone," Conn stated. And that is exactly what she is going to try and do for the remainder of her time on Student Senate. "I really enjoy being able to see all of the ideas we have actually happen, it makes me feel good knowing that I was able to make this campus more enjoyable for my classmates."

Although Conn is currently undecided when it comes to her major, she is hoping to get accepted into the Graphic Design program, and then double minor in Marine Biology and Marketing. Conn has every intention on staying just as involved at Roger Williams University until she graduates, as long as her schedule allows it.

## Senate creates council to establish Greek life on campus

### Plans for proposal slated to begin next semester

RONALD SCOFIELD | Herald Reporter

Though Roger Williams University offers a wide variety of student activities, there are one conspicuous omission when compared to other universities: RWU lacks Greek life - that is, sororities and fraternities. The absence has prompted members of the RWU Student Senate to begin looking into bringing said lifestyle to RWU.

According to Bronson Martin, Senate's Student Affairs Chair, Senate is in the planning stages of this process. On Monday, junior Matt Diplacido and freshman Matt Mariano were named the co-chairs of the council that will plan the Greek life initiative, said Student Body President Nick Tsimortos.

"We're looking at this from a broad standpoint; we didn't want to jump right into [proposing it to the administration]," Martin said. The reason for this reserved approach is that Greek life brings with it stigmas of hard partying. Martin and his fellow Senate committee members are looking for ways to "get rid of bad connota-

tions" and present Greek life as being less like the film *Animal House*, and to focus on the positive aspects of it, such as: the potential for increased amounts of community service, experience in leadership, and the benefit of having membership of a good fraternity or sorority on students' resumes.

"[Greek life houses] are not just party houses; they are a group of students with common interests looking to help their community," Martin said. He likens Greek life houses to those of the campus's Living Learning Communities (LLCs) for majors like architecture and marine biology.

There have been attempts to bring Greek life to campus in the past that ultimately did not come to fruition. Some current students, however, have shown strong support for the idea of having Greek life at RWU.

"A friend of mine in Florida is in Greek life and loves it, so if it was offered [at RWU], I would definitely love to join a sorority!" said freshman Allyson Bussey.

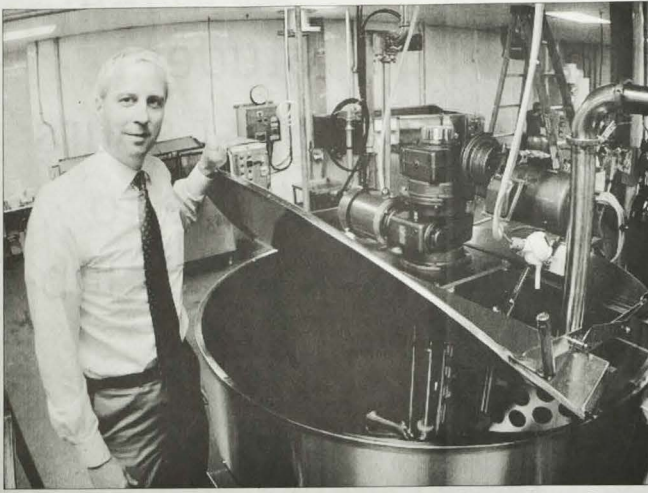
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LOCAL NEWS



BRISTOL PHOENIX

Todd Blount folded his family business's shucking operation to save the ailing company.

Blount charts bold new course

The steam-driven clam shucking machines are quiet, the enormous walk-in freezer, larger than many homes, all but empty. The workers, who at one time numbered more than 120, now total about a dozen.

Blount Fine Foods' sprawling seafood processing plant, a fixture along Water Street for generations, is as quiet these days as it's ever been. But big, bold new things that could reinvent the company, and Warren, are in the works.

In August, president Todd Blount shut down the company's clam shucking operations, which had once been a mainstay and staple of the business since his great, great, great grandfather started harvesting and dealing in oysters in the 1880s.

Oysters and later, quahogs, built Blount into what it is today. But faced with shrinking margins, a change in consumer habits, and a slow but steady decline in the shucking operation's profitability, Mr. Blount made the tough decision over the past 18 months to sell off the company's shucking operation and re-invent the plant as a producer of clam chowder and other seafood-related products.

"While I didn't want to be the generation to end Blount's clam business, someone had to do it," Mr. Blount noted this week. "I could either be remembered as the leader who tanked the business, drove it into the ground, or made the critical tough choice to position the company for the next generation."

One of the pieces of his puzzle fell into place in August, when the company bought out Neko, a Florida-based chowder producer. Another major piece came through last week, when Blount acquired the Marion, Mass.-based Cape Cod Chowder Company and started moving into the sprawling Water Street plant. Mr. Blount and his plant manager, Mike Backus, hope to ramp up production in the coming weeks. The ultimate goal? Turn the Warren plant into a major producer complete with a museum, plant tours, shop and other amenities. His vision for Warren is to turn it into the "World Headquarters of Chowder."

NATIONAL NEWS

Supercommittee achieves little

IAN KIEFFER | Herald Reporter

Formed to reach a bipartisan deal to reduce the deficit, the congressional supercommittee admitted defeat last week, in turn triggering an automatic \$1.2 trillion in cuts to defense and entitlement spending next year. The supercommittee, consisting of six Republicans and six Democrats, in fact, did not even come close to a deal that both parties could agree upon.

While Republicans refused to go beyond their proposal to raise \$300 billion in additional revenues in conjunction with cutting the top tax rate, Democrats refused to make major cuts to entitlement programs without at least \$1 trillion in new taxes.

Senator John Kerry, a Democrat from Massachusetts, said Republicans insisted they could not violate the pledge against raising taxes authored by conservative activist Grover Norquist.

"Grover Norquist has been the 13th member of the supercommittee without being there," Kerry told to CNN. On the other hand, Senator Jon Kyl, a republican from Arizona, said Democrats were only interested in raising taxes, and failed to provide a plan for cutting Medicare and Social Security spending. "Our Democratic friends were never willing to do the entitlement reforms," Kyl told NBC's "Meet the Press."

The supercommittee's failure to reach a deal triggered automatic 10-year sequestration cuts to the federal budget, including \$454 billion from defense and \$123 billion from Medicare. However, congressional defense hawks are already exploring ways of undoing the Pentagon cuts before they begin on Jan. 1, 2013. President

Obama said he would veto any attempt to alter or undo them. "The only way these spending cuts will not take place is if Congress gets back to work and agrees on a balanced plan," he said. "They've still got a year to figure it out."

According to Andrew Rosenthal in NYTimes.com, the GOP never had any intention of compromising. That's why they proposed a "series of even-smaller cuts to the deficit," as well as a plan to cut tax rates for the rich. Their goal was to sabotage any deal, and "keep the economy as weak as possible until Election Day 2012."

Republicans may regret this calculated gamble though, said Ezra Klein in The Washington Post. Obama now holds the trump card - a \$1.2 trillion in sequestration cuts and the expiration of the Bush-era tax cuts, both due in January 2013. Unless Republicans can get Democrats to sign on to a deficit-reduction deal over the next year, the triggers will cut the deficit by more than \$7 trillion over the next decade, with a 3:1 ratio of tax increases to spending cuts.

Although spectators may believe that the supercommittee's inability to forge a deal is the result of an incompetent President and further signals the need for an election, The Washington Post writes that an election will not solve anything. An election may give us a new president and a reshuffled congress, but it is unlikely to produce "a clear mandate for either party's vision debt reduction." Regardless of who wins the election, our political system requires that the losers compromise with the victors. There will be no deal until our political parties can relinquish their "ideological rigidity."

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## Blowing up my news feed makes me boil over

SAM EDSON | Asst. News Editor

Facebook and Twitter are two of the numerous social media sites that are multiplying to allow more and more people to stay connected. These sites are a great way to keep in touch with those friends and family members that you cannot see all the time. Nowadays most people have an account on at least one social media website, where they can post photos, update their statuses, or send messages to their friends. I think these websites are great and allow people with similar interests to keep in touch. Social media allows loved ones who are separated by great distances to stay connected.

Since entering college I have noticed that I check Facebook and Twitter more often. However, since I have started frequenting these sites more often there has been something that has started to get on my nerves.

People who constantly update their Facebook statuses and write non-stop on Twitter annoy me to no end.

This might sound harsh, but honestly there are some people

who take Facebook's question of "what's on your mind?" a bit too seriously. I am not referring to those individuals who write something once or twice a day. I am talking about the people who post their entire lives on these sites once or twice an hour, several hours in a row.

Everyone has at least one of those Facebook friends or follows these people on Twitter who constantly updates everyone about their life. It even gets to the point where by the fourth status update or tweet in a two-hour period, that says almost word for word the exact same thing, all I want to do is say, "Stop blowing up my news feed!"

Do not get me wrong: I am not saying that I do not want to hear what is going on with people's lives because if I did not want to then, I would delete my own accounts. But, when I am procrastinating from actually doing something productive and I am visiting Facebook, I really do not want to hear about how someone else is having trouble starting a paper they have to do. Then reading how they still have not

made any progress on the paper in the past half an hour. With another post later saying how they feel like they have a good intro for their paper. Then yet another update on their progress, and finally hearing on how they have finished their paper and feel so productive. And by finally, I mean it is their last update on the subject of the paper, but they continue to post on some other random topic they think will amuse others. Does any of this sound familiar?

When interesting things happen in people's lives I can understand updating statuses. I can also understand a daily update on what is going on in one's life, or the need to convey a sentiment or message via these social networking sites. However, I think a lot of people feel the need to post something, anything really just for the sake of posting. A person, who feels like they need to post something, even if it means saying nothing, is a person who could be classified as an obsessive status updater.

Status updaters are those individuals that everyone knows who are constantly posting and

dominating news feeds. They are also the people who post on the same subject matter without ever saying anything new about the topic in question. There are also those offenders who let everyone know what they are doing every minute of the day. Personally, I do not believe all the people who you are Facebook friends with or the people who follow you on Twitter need to know your schedule for the day, up to the minute.

I may be alone in this matter, but I feel that if people stop to think about it then they will realize they probably know an obsessive status updater, or they may in fact be one themselves. For those who know the status updaters I know it can be frustrating constantly seeing the same person writing about the same thing, and not really caring after the sixth post that that person has to say. Instead of letting those people and their continuous updates annoy you until you have reached your breaking point remember the nifty option to hide posts, instead of being at the point where you are ready to unfriend them completely.

To the people who themselves are the status updaters, please keep in mind that when you see people who have not seen in a while and you want to catch up, they are not going to need to ask you anything because your statuses have kept them more than adequately up to date. Do not have constant Facebook and Twitter statuses be the reason for people to not want to listen to what you have to say, because they feel like they have heard everything. I think the saying "less is more" is something to keep in mind when feeling the need to post about something for the second or third time that day. Leave friends wanting to hear from you more rather than less, is something to strive for in this digital age when people are always connected and constantly being bombarded by updates and information. Keeping actual conversations alive and full of rich details rather than having continuous status updates suck the life out of them is something this generation needs to remember how to do.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Hawk's Herald, specifically the author of the "Dubstep" article,

Let me preface this by saying that, I'm not even a fan of dubstep, but several ridiculously dubious points were made in "Dubstep ruins what good music should be." [from the Dec. 1 issue of The Hawk's Herald] that couldn't be ignored. Your shallow views of music and art rot out the parts of my brain that are used to comprehend logic. The views expressed show very little understanding about what "art" is and how the music industry actually works.

First off, the "music industry," that you hold so much reverence for, is dead. This should be no news to anyone; it's gone underground, independent labels, self-production and self-promotion have been thriving, especially with the advent of the Internet and its use in the past ten years. The "music industry" you speak of is only a few corporate figureheads at the heads of major labels creating marketing ploys for gullible youth. Which brings me to my first point, your problem with "free music." It is my personal belief, being someone who is distributor of music and a musical artist myself, that free music is a wonderful invention. Who said that music had to be in the hands of the wealthy? The lack of monetary value on

music is an effective way to spread culture, and enhance the recognition of the careers of musical artists. If money is what you are worried about, there are plenty of things (vinyl, t-shirts, patches, gig money) that earn artists money from their supportive fans.

Secondly, your issue with the taking of clips from other works and inserting them into new ones, otherwise known as "sampling." Although you may not like this practice, you are messing with one of the inherent fundamentals of what culture and art are here. Culture, by definition, borrows things from the old, and uses them in new ways. This is evident in styles of dress, food, rituals, religion, politics, everything. The process of taking things that are old and using them in new ways is the basic principle of creation, and how we as humans move forward. There is practically nothing that hasn't been done before, but where the creation lies is in its combination with something else that's already been done. Roman gods from Greek gods, rock and roll from blues, hip hop from poetry and jazz, theatre from the enactment of life itself, the list is endless. I'm sorry if you think the reuse of older material in music offends the bizarre sanctity you place on an unchanged piece. Music is meant to grow.

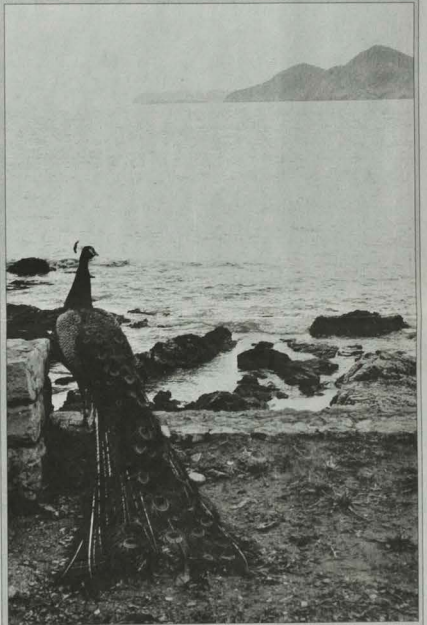
Your failure to comprehend that, logically leads to your narrow views of art. There is no such thing as destructive art. Art is the manifestation of any human expression, it can be absolutely anything. Take for example, the hypothetical situation you used to illustrate your point involving the Mona Lisa being drawn on. You can draw whatever you want on the Mona Lisa and it's still art, a mustache, a phallic symbol, a picture of your girlfriend ... it's all expression so it's all still art, in fact I encourage you to go try it. While the Mona Lisa is a landmark in human achievement in art, the fundamental principle of drawing graffiti on it would only count as desecration in the sense that you wouldn't like it looking any other way that it is now. The original Mona Lisa is gone, it's been coated with varnish, its primary paint layers faded, no closer to the original than it would be if you drew a uni-brow on it.

So here's to hoping that nobody with such little understanding of the subjects they're writing about get their "dirty, filthy hands" on access to publications that could potentially have influence on readers.

— Ryan Treppedi

PS. — Working on the dubstep cover of Beethoven's Fifth

## RWU Photo Club's weekly photo contest



Each week, the RWU Photo Club assigns a topic to photograph, collects student submissions, then votes on the best one. The winner gets printed in THE HAWK'S HERALD!

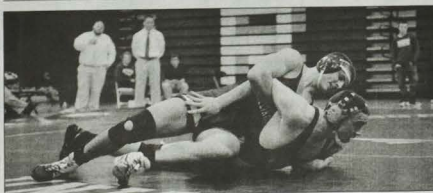
Last week's assignment was animals and pets.

The winning photograph was taken by **Hillary Nadworny**.

check us out next semester for more great RWU Photo Club shots!

Send submissions to  
[photoclub@g.rwu.edu](mailto:photoclub@g.rwu.edu).

Come Join Photo Club!  
Meetings held: Tuesdays at 9 p.m. in GHH-G05



## Shane brings the pain

Shane Parcel, junior wrestler, works for a submission during a match Wednesday night.

## THE HAWKS' HERALD

The student newspaper of Roger Williams University

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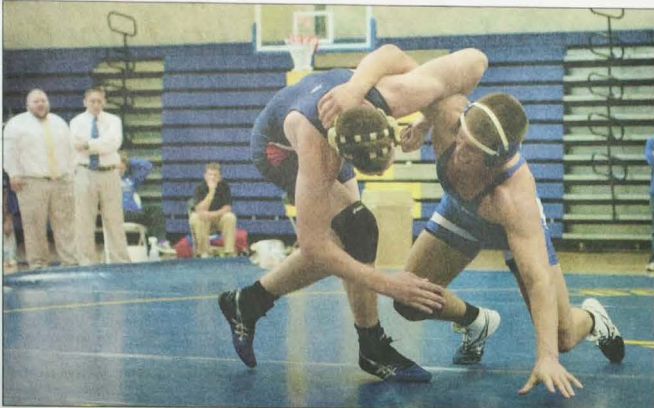
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BEN WHITMORE

Junior wrestler Shane Parcel (right) takes down his Coast Guard opponent as his coaches look on.

## RWU Wrestling takes down Coast Guard Academy

JOSH WEINREB | Sports Editor

The Roger Williams University wrestling team claimed their first Pilgrim Conference victory of the season as they defeated Coast Guard Academy by a decisive 37-6 on Dec. 7 at the Campus Recreation Center.

"It was great," said first-year head coach Jon Egan. "You know, we're ranked 5th in New England, they're ranked 6th in New England, so it's good to finally set the tone of where we belong."

To Egan, getting off to a strong start was extremely important.

"I told the guys before: I don't want a close match, I want to shut them out and be where we should be at 5th in New England, and our guys did that. They showed up today, showed up ready to win."

Last year Coast Guard ended up beating us at the end of the season in the New England duals tournament," Egan said. "And we've always kind of had a chip on our shoulder from then. We thought we thought

we were a better team then, and today I told them we need to get back on track, we need to shut these kids out best we can. We don't want them thinking they have any glimpse of hope up against us when we come to the New England duals again in January. So it was kind of nice to set the tone early in the year."

RWU got a great outing all around, sweeping eight of the nine weight classes. The Hawks got a great match from junior captain Phil Ernst who won his match with a pin. To Ernst, going into a match with a clear head is the most important thing.

"It's different with every match," Ernst said. "You always go in there with a clear head you don't want to be caught up with who they are, what they are, or what they've done. It doesn't matter. Nothing matters; you just got to get it done."

The Hawks also got a great match from junior Shane Parcel, who defeated Coast Guard's Nolan Salyer 8-1.

To coach Egan, Parcel and Ernst have been the biggest reasons for the team's early success.

"Phil and Shane are just at another level," Egan said. "You know, anyone could come into the practice room and pick out two guys that are just working harder than anybody else and doing all the extra little things to become better wrestlers and those are the two guys that are doing it. They're non-stop asking me to work out extra, anything those guys can do to make themselves better, they're doing it, and it's paying off."

To Ernst, it's his coach Egan whose efforts seem to be paying off.

"He's been excellent," Ernst said. "He's been a really big part of our team. Keeping the guys motivated he's doing really well this year. I'm really proud of him."

The Hawks next matchup is Saturday, Dec. 10th as they take on Norwich University Cadets in a non-conference match. The match starts at 1 p.m.

## Profile of a Hawk: Jess McGuire

GEORDY BOVEROUX | Asst. Sports Editor

Water has always surrounded sophomore Jess McGuire, and not just because she is a regular competing member for the Roger Williams University swim team.

"I didn't grow up near the beach, but my family and I always went to the beach every Sunday," McGuire said. "So I always grew up around the water."

Those childhood beach trips were not the only way her family got her around the water as much as possible; at age three her parents enrolled her in swimming lessons. She stuck with those lessons up until she was nine, when one of her instructors started to see some real talent in her. "One of my teachers suggested to my parents I be put on a team, and I've been swimming [competitively] ever since," she said.

Now one of the top distance swimmers for the Hawks competing in the 500m and 1000m

events, McGuire has found success despite the fact she's not the fastest swimmer in the pool. "I can't sprint really fast," McGuire



RWUHAWS.COM

Sophomore Jess McGuire

said. "I'm good at pacing myself. When you swim distance you need to be really good at pacing your times."

One of McGuire's best accolades is winning her club team's Barracuda Award twice, for most team spirited player as well being named captain of her high school squad.

For a girl that grew up around the water and always has swum competitively, McGuire also wants to graduate with a Marine Biology degree and have a career around the water.




"I'm big on marine mammals," McGuire said. "I want to get an internship at the Mystic Aquarium [in Mystic, Conn.]."

As a decorated swimmer in high school, with more experience than your average sophomore, McGuire should still be able to continually grow. While the swim team is one of her top priorities now, the water will always be a top priority for her in life.

## End of Semester Report Card

The Herald plays professor in grading the success - or lack thereof - in pro sports

JOSH WEINREB | Sports Editor  
 GEORDY BOVEROUX | Asst. Sports Editor

Name	Grade	Comments
 Green Bay Packers	A <sup>+</sup>	Undeclared, and it's hard to see them losing anytime soon. If Aaron Rodgers isn't the MVP then the AP isn't sane.
 Boston Bruins	A	The slow start was scary, but 14-0-1 in their last 15 can't be overstated.
 The Entire NBA	A <sup>+</sup>	With a fair deal and a season in place, everyone wins.
 New York Yankees	C <sup>+</sup>	They needed to keep C.C. Sabathia, but they haven't tried to upgrade the rest of their pitching. Can they really rely on their young arms?
 Philadelphia Flyers	B <sup>+</sup>	Who knew the Flyers would be this good after completely retooling their roster? Maybe Paul Holmgren actually does know what he's doing.
 Baltimore Orioles	F	The Orioles front office is like the stoner kid in class—no one wants to work with. They hired Dan Duquette who's been out of baseball since 2002.
 Miami Marlins	A <sup>+</sup>	With a new look, stadium, manager and the addition of Jose Reyes, they just may attract Prince Fielder, along with an actual fan base.
 Indianapolis Colts	F	Well, they get an A in the "Suck for Luck" sweepstakes.
 New Jersey Devils	C	Too much talent to be this sub-par, even if it is without Travis Zajac.
 New York Jets	D <sup>+</sup>	So much for Rex Ryan's Super Bowl guarantee...again.
 New York Giants	C	The only thing more surprising than the win over New England is the following four straight losses.
 Columbus Blue Jackets	D	Just like the Colts are sucking for Luck, Columbus is sucking for Nail Yakupov. Jeff Carter was right to complain about being traded there.
 New England Patriots	B <sup>+</sup>	Still in the argument for top team in the AFC, but have looked very vulnerable at times.
 New York Mets	F	They're going to get a third-round pick as compensation for Jose Reyes and refuse to trade David Wright when they need to rebuild.
 Boston Red Sox	F	Late season collapse aside; Bobby Valentine is not an upgrade over Terry Francona.
 Washington Capitals	D <sup>+</sup>	After firing their coach, the Capitals have continued to fall in the standings. Maybe Ovechkin is on steroids??
 Denver Broncos	A	Tim Tebow is being hailed as a prophet in Denver. His presence is bringing a winning mentality to an otherwise mediocre team.
 Detroit Lions	B	While they've made strides, Detroit still plays like undisciplined losers. Ndamukong Suh is the perfect face of the franchise.

## Boston Celtics: Season dependent on resigning talent

NICK SCHWALBERT | Herald Contributor

The outlook of the NBA upcoming season, now set to kick-off on Christmas day, is looking good for the Boston Celtics. Many of last year's player contracts were up and the team was not entirely sure who was going to remain and who was going to depart.

One of the largest contracts ending, however, was Head Coach Doc Rivers's contract. The coach has made a tremendous impact with the Celtics as he has taken the team to the playoffs a few times and brought home a championship in 2008. The roster of players that won the title just a few years ago has changed up a bit, with a few departures and a few additions.

So, what is outlook for this upcoming season? As long as the team remains the way it is, they are looking pretty strong. Unfortunately, it is still too

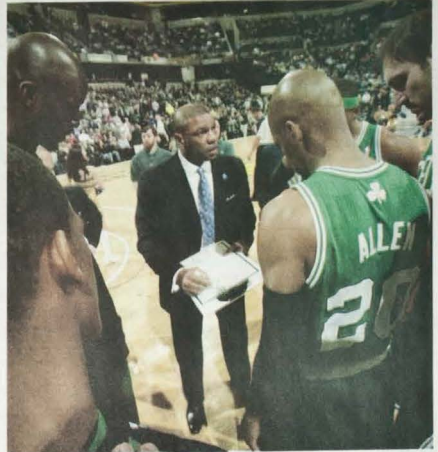
early to tell if key players with ending contracts will remain playing for the team.

So far, only two of the starters for the Celtics have expired contracts. Those players being Ray Allen, who has the current record for most three pointers, and Shaquille O'Neal. Though his contract happened to be up, O'Neal had announced his retirement and now the Celtics are in need of another big man. Some of the key bench players' contracts are also expired, including those of Glen Davis, Delonte West, and Nenad Krstic. Even though these three players aren't season threatening if not resigned, they have certainly provided excellent relief for the starters and can hold their own while on the court.

Aside from figuring out final rosters, the Boston Celtics must figure what to do about their struggling offense. They have some big name players on the team, however those play-

ers are pretty much confined to their starters. Last season, the starters would start off the game hot and knocked down basket after basket. Then, when the bench came in, it all went down hill. There are two or three decent players that are good enough to keep the team at the pace that the starters set, however the relievers were an overall disappointment. The Celtics need to work more with their second team players so they can head into the game without worrying their fans about the outcome of the starters taking a breather.

When it comes down to it, I believe that the Celtics will be able to pull out a decent season and make the playoffs. However, I do not think that they will make it very far considering their weakness in the second team players. Last years bench players just are not performing like the bench players just a few years ago.



CELTICSLIFE.COM

The Boston Celtics are running out of time with their big three.

# What's on your list?


The shopping list | RWU shoppers reported what the most popular holiday gifts were on their shopping lists this year.



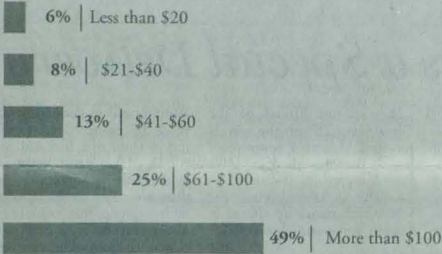
Time and Money | How will shoppers spend their time and money?

  
 The average RWU student will spend 5 hours shopping for holiday presents this holiday season.

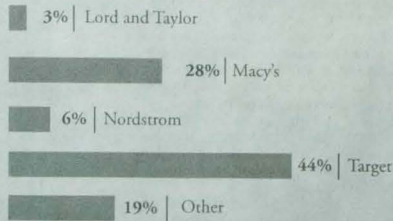
  
 47% of RWU students collectively reported that they have not started shopping for the holiday yet.

  
 The average RWU student will spend 1 1/2 hours wrapping holiday gifts this holiday season.

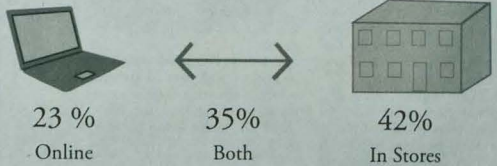
RWU shoppers reported much money they plan to spend.



Where it all happens | RWU shoppers share their favorite department stores.



RWU shoppers reported whether they shop online, in stores or both.



**Did you go shopping on Black Friday?**  
 Yes ..... 36%  
 No ..... 64%

*The statistics cited were gathered by an anonymous survey distributed to Roger Williams University students on Facebook.*

*Illustrations and design by Olivia Lyons.*

## Onsite to online: An unyielding compulsion to shop

KINSEY JANKE & MICHELLE LEE | Herald Reporters

*Two self-professed shopaholic Roger Williams University students have learned how to keep a handle on their shopping habits ... and their credit card bills.*

When the word shopaholic is thrown into conversation, people immediately think of two things: some members of the female population and Isla Fisher's character in 2009's *Confessions of a Shopaholic*. Her addiction to beautiful garments and 100-percent cashmere get her in trouble, making the red-haired protagonist land in both hot water with her best friend and a prominent position at the wrong job. But real life, as is usually the case in Hollywood-produced films, does not always imitate fiction on the silver screen. Two Roger Williams University juniors mirror the same compulsive obsession to shop as Fisher's character, Rebecca Bloomwood, but neither has let the allure of a little black dress or pair of Tory Burch patent flats cause a bigger problem than a simple wardrobe malfunction.

"Thankfully my parents have always been financially secure so my shopping has never gotten us into debt," said Katie Wilson, a graphic design major. "My mom definitely got super mad at me when I first bought my gold sequin sweater though. It was \$140 from Anthropologie and she swore I'd never wear it and I thought she was right."

At the time, Wilson admits that her self-diagnosed sequin obsession had not yet blossomed, so her mother's wrath was expected and even accepted. But since then, Wilson has come into her own, realizing and capitalizing on the fact that she loves nothing more than to dress up.

"I realized, more so this year than in the past, that it doesn't really matter what I wear," she said. "I love dressing up. Very rarely will you ever see me in just a plain t-shirt and jeans. It's just not me."

During her junior year of high school, Wilson was introduced to J. Crew by one of her close friends, and to

American Eagle by another friend. In contrast with her original shopping havens of Hot Topic and Hollister, Wilson says that it was all downhill from there. While at school, the Hopkinton, Mass. native says that while it is a bit harder to be a true shopaholic, it is the pull and easy access of online shopping and the proximity to the Wrentham Outlets that keeps her going.

"I definitely look at online stores every day. That's probably the real issue I have," she said. "At the mall, I tend to spend less because I tend not to spend full price on an item unless it's something I will really get a lot of uses out of. So maybe \$100 at the mall. Wrentham Outlets are an entirely different story. Depending on if I find clothes [or] whatever at a good price, I could spend up to \$200 but I generally don't go over that."

When Wilson was younger, she would try to hide her purchases from her parents for fear of being reprimanded. But she says that the fear has evaporated over the years, and that now both her parents love to see what she picks up at the mall and that both now have a much more active role in not only shopping for Wilson, but also in shopping for themselves. Her mom will now go with her to the mall, and point and pick out clothes

that she thinks would look cute on Wilson, and her dad, a golf aficionado, will come to his daughter asking for advice on what to wear on the green that day.

Her boyfriend, Petie, thinks her addiction is a bit over the top, but Wilson said that her urges to buy, though hard to control, are often kept in check.

"I tend not to listen to my impulses because I tend to not wear those pieces more often," she said. "I do have a pretty fair process of buying clothes, though. I absolutely downright refuse to even consider a piece without thinking about what shirt, sweater, pants, or shoes I can wear it with. This probably sounds absolutely crazy, but try it. It really helps to keep the useless pieces out of your closet."

Despite her clever impulse control system, Wilson's closet often would make it seem like she did not have her addiction in check. She houses 12 pairs of jeans, three pairs of Tory Burch flats, three pairs of Jack Rogers Navajo sandals, and a plethora of Kate Spade and J. Crew clothing and accessories. She did say that she does not like to splurge all the time, and that she has more fun simply just mixing her inexpensive clothing with their more expensive counterparts. But when it comes down to it, Wilson will always choose to buy rather than window shop.

"If you look good, you feel good," she said. "How can you put a price on that?"

### Elementary Addiction

As a young girl, Kitty McTeague looked forward to going to school every day so she could show off her outfits. At a time before she really appreciated fashion, McTeague would pick out and line her outfits up for each day of the week.

"A lot of people think that shopping is materialistic, but fashion is a passion for many people so there

See SHOPAHOLIC, page B2



'Tis better to give than to receive...

Gift ideas for the lady in your life. Get her something she really wants this holiday season.

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## SHOPAHOLIC: Compulsive shopping isn't about the addiction, it's about the reward

Continued from page B1

should be no judgment," McTeague said. "Everyone wants to feel good about themselves and shopping is something that can fulfill this, so why not?"

McTeague's shopping addiction first began in elementary school when she loved buying clothes from stores such as Limited Too. In middle school and high school, her clothing store repertoire expanded to Hollister and American Eagle, as well as Charlotte Rouse and Forever 21. Now in her junior year at Roger Williams University, McTeague owes her wardrobe to stores like American Apparel, Urban Outfitters, Guess, and Bebe.

"I am the epitome of a shopaholic," McTeague can honestly say. "I love fashion, and the feeling of having new clothes is an irreplaceable rush."

Her addiction has only gotten worse since she started watching the show Project Runway. McTeague said that she never has any money on her. In one shopping trip, she has spent about \$800 and exclaims that spending that much is not an uncommon occurrence.

This past summer, McTeague said she spent more than she wanted to but didn't want to go into detail just how much this was. Her mother understands her shopping addiction because she also shares a love for shopping.

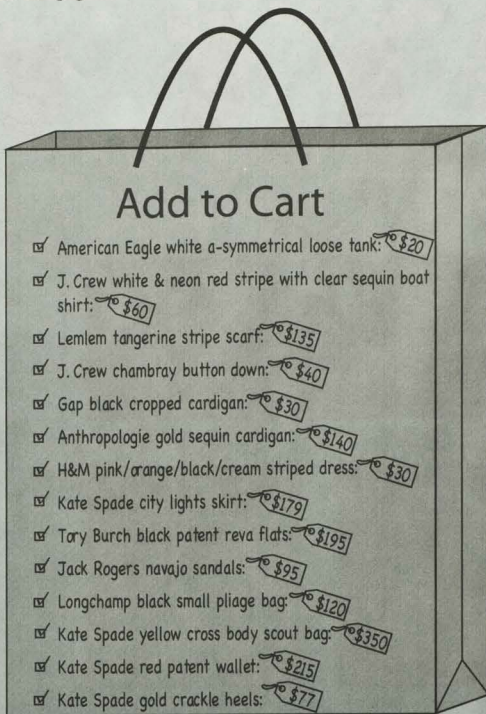
"I discovered this summer that we both replace eating with shopping," McTeague said about her and her mother. "We both love food more than a normal human should and shopping is one of few things that can take our minds off of eating the whole house."

As online shopping is becoming more and more popular McTeague said that even though it is very convenient, it can also be very dangerous to her bank account. She has a better sense of what looks good on her now and said online shopping has become second nature.

With the holiday shopping season in full swing, how does a shopaholic deal with being forced to shop, and now, for others?

McTeague admits that she usually ends up sending more on her self, "but I do love the feeling of giving to others," she said. She hasn't started her holiday shopping yet because she has been busy finishing the semester, but she said she plans to soon.

"You just realize that it makes you happy and your happiness is more important than worrying or anything else," she said. "It is all about living in the now."



## Winter Illumination receives a Special Delivery

NOOR ALAWAYAT | Herald Reporter

Where could all the noise be coming from at 8 p.m. on a Thursday night? President of the a capella club, Kristina Soprano, surely knows. While in jeans and a grey cardigan, she sits in the center of the room across from a grand black piano. She plays it while she waits for all of the members of one of Roger William University's a capella groups, Special Delivery, to arrive.

With a few members of the club already waiting for rehearsal to start in the North Campus classroom where the meeting is taking place, members of the group chatter with one another reminiscing on how their days went.

One by one more members

of this vocal club start to walk into the room. The tall brunette Soprano puts her pitch pipe to her mouth in attempt to set the tune of the tone that is needed for Special Delivery to match up to. With a "One, two, One, two, three, and," Special Delivery starts to sing.

Soprano reminds everyone that Special Delivery has several performances coming up. As she beckons the group members' attention, Soprano goes over mandatory items on the laundry list she has devised in her head. These things include what time the group needs to be at the Winter Illu-

minations performance. "You all have to be there by 4," Soprano says. Reassuring them how if there are any academic obligations that will come in the way of meeting this deadline, they are pardoned. Otherwise, "you all have to be there by four," she

There's a run through of "the Christmas stuff" on the agenda for tonight and a promise of letting the club members leave early if everything is superb.

As the practice begins, the whole club stands up almost in unison for warm ups consisting of the "boom-boom" melodies. Half way through, Soprano tells the

group that she hears something she's not supposed to where the members of the club all listen and there is an air of perfection in tune and melody.

Perfecting the tunes is one of the most important things when it comes to Special Delivery.

With a need of perfecting one's voice in preparation of singing in front of a live audience, it only makes sense, however it eventually is something that does not come easily, especially with a group that contains an uneven ratio of men to women, which is clearly demonstrated when it comes time to sing.

Yet, the Special Delivery singers make it work.

After several rounds of Christmas tunes in the air, Soprano keeps her promise. Special Delivery is allowed to leave early only to be reunited on Wednesday: the night of Winter Illuminations. It is here that the group sings the perfected versions of the select Christmas songs they have been rehearsing in practice. Only now is when they do it in front of an audience.

*There's a run through of "the Christmas stuff" on the agenda for tonight and a promise of letting the club members leave early if everything is superb.*

states yet again.

One particular section of the a capella club nods its heads in agreement with Soprano's statement, while the other side of the room continues to ignore Soprano's pleas of the importance on being silent.

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NEWSPAPERS

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?

# RWU makes it a brighter day in the neighborhood

GRIFFIN LABBANCE | Herald Reporter

As many students think about the conclusion of exams and the start of a plentiful holiday season at home, a few Roger Williams University students are taking time out of their day to make the Bristol community better, one canned good at a time.

According to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank in a recently updated statistics page, more than 60,000 Rhode Islanders seek food assistance each month and a non-profit organization right here in Bristol is helping to make this possible for the community members. Bristol Good Neighbors, a non-profit service organization aimed at providing meals, food, clothing and other services to the Bristol community, has "grown in all ways as an organization over the past few years," said KC Ferrara, Director of the Feinstein Center for Service Learning and Community Engagement.

As a recent addition to the board of directors, Ferrara, who coordinates student volunteers and some of the operations at Bristol Good Neighbors works very closely with the organization; she has seen them grow, as the demand for services increases.

"What used to be simply a place that served meals and provided food has turned into a place that serves two hot meals a day, breakfast and lunch, while also running a pantry program once a month to anyone in the Easy Bay area," Ferrara said. She added that more recently, they have added services that provide haircuts and laundry privileges. Started in 1990, Bristol Good Neighbors has been serving anyone in the Bristol community who requests help with their needs.

"They never ask for proof of need from community members who come in," Ferrara said.

With the rate of poverty and the need for food assistance at a high in Rhode Island, Bristol Good Neighbors has seen the numbers of people coming through the door triple within just a year.

"We are seeing people who use to be donors now coming in for assistance," Ferrara added.

Along with community volunteers, many students, such as junior Kelley Nobriga, here on campus have been taking time out of their day to help out the greater Bristol community. Coming from never really participating in community service projects in high school, Nobriga said that a lot of her influence to help out came from family encouragement.

"My grandmother is very involved with the Salvation Army and is always talking about how much help is needed all over, so I decided to help out while I was at school," Nobriga said.

Nobriga, along with a handful of other students here on campus, take time out of their days to volunteer at the kitchen. The students help with various types of tasks ranging from serving meals, prepping food, stocking shelves or organizing the center. RWU has had a positive relationship with Bristol Good Neighbors ever since they began as an organization.

"They have been around for a long time, so we always put in the effort to work with them and help out their services," Ferrara said. She added that, "We started out by just donating cans and then soon after we began to send students down to help. We now have students such as Kelley who work in the office there."

What began as a judicial sanction, a place to send students to fulfill community service hours, has turned into a connection where students seek out Bristol Good Neighbors in order to simply help.



BRISTOLGOODNEIGHBORS.ORG

Students in the kitchen pitch in during the preparation a recent Bristol Good Neighbors meal.

For students such as Nobriga, the kitchen has been a positive place to learn from while helping the community, but she feels that some stereotypes may inhibit some from helping out.

"I think students might think that Bristol Good Neighbors is a depressing place to go volunteer because they are dealing with such a disturbing reality check of extreme hunger in the community," Nobriga said.

To help turn this stereotype around, Nobriga has been working with the organization to create flyers and handouts

describing upcoming events. Many see the surface of hunger issues in our community, which shapes their views on the issue. Currently 41 percent of client households are in a financial situation where they must choose between paying for food or paying for rent, while 43 percent must choose between food and paying for utilities. These are two statistics that Bristol Good Neighbors are trying to decrease everyday.

Nobriga, Ferrara, and all of the other volunteers and workers at Bristol Good Neighbors

are currently involved in a community where money may be short but with the assistance from everyone, spirits and energy stay high. Nobriga finished by commenting on the positive impact that clients at Bristol Good Neighbors have on each other. "I can honestly say that most of the time when I am there, the clients are in great spirits, extremely friendly and love to help out the workers in anyway," she said. "It is truly great to volunteer at a great place, with great people."

## ATTENTION: College Freshmen



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## FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE:

### Reflection on the first semester

KAITLYN FERACO | Herald Reporter

There is not enough room on this paper to tell you about all the wonderful, crazy things I've experienced during my first semester of college. I've met some of the greatest people ever, worked to improve myself as both a successful student and journalist, got involved in clubs and organizations, and grew in ways I'm not even sure how to explain. Perhaps maturity has begun to catch up with me? Everyone always told me it would happen someday, but I'm starting to realize how correct people really were. College does, in fact, change you.

College has visibly changed me and will continue to change me for the next four years. I can see my face beginning to look older in pictures and everything. In the first semester alone, my eating habits were all thrown off, I was transported for alcohol poisoning, I barely got the opportunity to sleep, coffee became my best friend, the library became a safe-haven, Cedar became a home, and classes became too much to handle.

You know what the strangest part is about all of this may be? In such a short period of time, there has been so much drama between people that have only known each other for four months. How do you even have time for that to happen? How does anyone have time for anything anymore? It seriously blows my mind.

Are these things that every freshman had to deal with? No, technically, not all of them. But besides being transported,

to deal with for most people, myself included. But freshmen need to take this first semester as a huge learning experience and grow from there. We're young; we're supposed to make mistakes in order to learn from them. We're supposed to strive towards perfection until finally, we realize it doesn't exist. That is what college is supposed to be about.

Roger Williams University is a very credible institution, and along with a great education came a few great life lessons: make sure you shower with shoes on, keep your head up, and strive

to be the best person you can be. Hey kids, we can make a difference. Do you know that? Does that feel real to you yet? If not, that's alright. We still have a whole new semester to look forward to. Wait until you see what we're capable of.

"The greatest crime in the world is not developing your potential. When you do what you do best, you are helping not only yourself, but the world." – Roger Williams

*College has visibly changed me and will continue to change me for the next four years.*

freshmen are thrown into the same whirlwind of emotions (a.k.a. first semester) without any clue as to what will happen. College, in its many forms, as previously listed, is a huge step towards the unknown. Is that something people realize while they're in the midst of it all? Probably not. But over winter break, if you take the time to sit back and think about it, you will be amazed at how much has happened to you over these past four months.

Change is a very hard thing

## RACY STACY:

### Brake for Breaks: It could save your love



RACY STACY | Herald Contributor

There are two extreme emotions that I have heard come up in conversation since every-one came back from the long and very fattening weekend: (1) everyone is stressed because of upcoming finals and those end-of-the-semester projects, and (2) everyone is pumped to leave campus and not think about school work for exactly 35 days. However, just because your mind is taking a break from everything else that is on campus, it doesn't mean that you should completely check out of everything that has to do with life in Bristol ... or does it?

There are certain times of the year that provoke people to set unattainable goals for themselves. It seems that this usually happens when we clutter all of our thoughts and feelings about our actual selves and make unrealistic promises about how we are going to change overnight (literally) into our ideal selves. Chances are you are not going to only eat fruits and vegetables and work out for an hour everyday for the rest of the year after the clock strikes midnight on January 1st.

That is why I recommend you to start working up to it little-by-little, day-by-day, and use your free time during winter break to do it with what I am copyrighting as the "extended resolution." When you walk out of your last exam or pass that final thesis paper, start taking advantage of this wonderful gift from the holiday gods right then.

**The Extended Resolution** [the-ex-tend-ed-res-o-loo-shun] (n.): the conscious decision to use the break from academic obligations to set

realistic and attainable goals for various aspects of one's lives.

When it comes to your love life, I endorse breaks to be used to their full potential in the drama-filled world of relationship confusion. Just like animals that get caught in traps in the wild by hunters, you could find yourself trapped in a routine of repetitious boredom no matter what your relationship status is.

If you are single, then you might find yourself making vows to yourself about getting into the perfect relationship once school is back in session. You may start listing options for possible boyfriends that you could snatch up upon your return to campus. When you go out searching for a relationship instead of letting one occur naturally, desperation sets in and you end up in a relationship that you don't even want to be in. The single life is ideal for breaks because you have nothing to focus on besides bettering yourself and making yourself into the happiest person you can possibly be.

Do not fall into the tired trap

*I endorse breaks to be used to their full potential in the drama-filled world of relationship confusion.*

of sleeping away your entire break and mulling around your house with greasy hair watching Teen Mom for hours on end. When you are happy and being an active member of your own life, there is an inner light that shines out from your heart, which will naturally attract the right man into your life when the time is right.

If you are in a relationship, there are several break traps that you can fall into as well. If you and your beau both go to RWU, then you could get caught in the complaining, energy-sucking trap, where you both whine via text about how much you miss each other. Haven't you ever heard that distance makes the heart grow fonder? Test out this theory. Depending on how far away you live from one another, plan one or two trips to see each other and do things that you may not be able to do easily on campus, like going skiing for the weekend, or a quiet weekend with no party inter-

ruptions from roommates or unexpected guests.

If you consider yourself to be in a long-distance relationship while you are at school, then break means that you will hopefully get to see more of your boy toy. However, couples seeing too much of each other when they are not used to it can cause problems too because it makes your family and friends feel neglected. And who wants to be that annoying girl that sits around with her boyfriend all day with no life of her own? That is why it is important for you to incorporate things that you want to do by yourself in your winter break plans. A girl should never let a guy dim her inner light, no matter how much she loves him.

If you are "talking" or hooking up, you are at one of those awkward, nerve-racking, in-between stages, and breaks can make or break your relationship (literally). My philosophy is that it is always better to have the guy-in-question wondering what adventurous things you are doing than constantly

sending him pointless texts to check up on his activities. After New Year's, you and this potential suitor should have an unspoken system of how break is going to be. Whether that is texting with excessive amounts of smiley faces every night or spontaneously letting each other know when something makes you think of each other.

If you are not talking as much as you would like to be, do not fret about this over break. Simply revert to doing things that you love and when you come back to campus, everything else will fall into place with where the two of you stand. If you come back refreshed and more confident than ever, I have a pretty good feeling that he will want to make things official.

This winter, take time to enjoy the little things. After a long, stressful semester, slow down and figure out what you want out of life and love. The way I see it, we are all hunting to find love that we too passively let the media and our peers define, when we don't have to search much further than our own hearts to trap it.

## Football: A positive step for RWU

CHRISTINA BERLINGUET | Herald Reporter

I have learned many life lessons in college. One of the most important lessons that I have learned is that if I want something to happen, with enough willpower, I can make it happen. The journey may be tough, but the goal can always be achieved.

One of the biggest complaints I have about Roger Williams University is that the university does not have a football team. I frequently attended football games in high school so as I entered college, I found that fall was not the same without these weekly games.

Luckily, other students on campus feel the same way as I do. A group of students are actively proposing the idea

and socialize appropriately. A football team would help bring our school together, and would boost the amount of school spirit on campus.

Like any other organization, it may take a few years for the program to become successful, but in time I truly believe that a football team would be beneficial for RWU as a whole. More people may be interested in applying to the school, and the team could present lucrative opportunities for the college as a whole.

The transition from high school to college is rarely an easy one. Having a football team would help make college seem more like home. When asked how she felt about the subject, student Madeline Howard said, "I think recruit-

*Football games are not just about the sport itself; they are about bringing a school together.*

of having a football team on campus in the next few years. Although I will probably have graduated by the time that the team is formed, I think that this is an outstanding idea. People are always talking about how they wished that RWU had a football team, but they always just talk. Finally, people are doing something about this issue.

Football games are not just about the sport itself; they are about bringing a school together. These games constitute a safe social event that allows students to socialize and build relationships among other students. College is important academically, yet it is also important because it allows people to build relationships

ing would be tough and the program would be hard to take a few years to build into a successful team, but it would be really cool to have a team and to be able to go to the games ... kind of like what we all remember from high school."

Victoria Maroun, a fellow student, said, "I agree with Madeline. It won't get big until it gets known but I loved high school football games so it would be fun to have that again but in college."

All in all, I am proud of these boys for actively proposing a football team. I truly hope that this proposition goes through since it will benefit both the students of the college and the University as a whole.

## Hits and misses for your girl this holiday season

MARY CONCANNON | Herald Reporter

Sure, the holidays are about friends, family and generosity, but we all know the 'season to be jolly' can get ugly quick if the gift you give to that special lady in your life is a dud. Yes, it's the thought that counts, but why not step up your game this year and get her what she really wants? Avoid a few deadly missteps and stick to these guaranteed crowd-pleasers to make your relationship merry and bright and keep the Ebenezers at bay this year.

**Sure Hits:**  
1. Custom jewelry. It's a little cliché, but jewelry really is a fool-proof success if you know what to get. Change it up a little and show her you put some thought into your choice with custom designs from www.gemvara.com. Gemvara has options as gorgeous as those from Tiffany's, but Gemvara allows you to choose your own metals, gemstones, and custom engravings. With options in platinum with diamonds, rubies and sapphires, some of their prices might be a little steep for a college budget, but plenty of the gems are around \$100.

If you find it hard to weed through the choices, check out the "Lovers Knot" ring line – a sure crowd pleaser with some meaning.  
2. Spa treatments. The holidays lie conveniently after finals, so chances are your lovely lady will be in need of some serious TLC. Treating her to a day of luxury will definitely score you some points, and will be sure to calm any anxiety-induced anger towards you. Just don't tell her you got the idea from me. Alayne White Spa (www.alaynewhite.com) on Thames Street in Bristol is known for delivering diva-quality pampering and is right down the road from campus. Try the Spassage at \$120 or the

Muscle Meltdown for \$100.

3. A mini getaway. In the midst of late nights in the library, lazy afternoons with your roommates and early morning classes, it's hard to fit in any real alone-time at RWU. So get out of town for a night for a mini getaway with your girl and squeeze in some romance in a not-so-far away location. An overnight ski vacation might be just the thing, and hotels usually offer "Ski and Stay" packages at discounted rates, so the getaway doesn't have to break the bank. Not the skiing type? An overnight in Boston on your tab won't disappoint either. Check out hotels within walking distance of Faneuil Hall or in the Back Bay for close-by shopping, dining and entertainment.

**Definite Misses:**  
1. Clothing that's too big. No, it wasn't your intention to buy a dress four sizes too big, but by doing so, you sure give the impression that you think your girlfriend is larger than she is. Ask her friends or roommates or sneak a peek at the tags in her closet if you don't know her size. Trust me.  
2. Tickets to see YOUR favorite sports team, event or concert. Let's be serious. You bought those for yourself, not for her. Do I need to say more?  
3. Anything overly raunchy. Lingerie is a gift for yourself too and it should not be the only gift your girlfriend receives from you this year. Play it safe and stick with the sweet and meaningful gifts over anything in this genre if you want to avoid the Grinch.

So put on your thinking cap and hit the mall (or websites in this case). If these guidelines don't help you successfully woo your woman this winter, I don't know what will. Happy shopping!

# Political Three-Way: Should the U.S. be involved in Syria?

**Democrat:**  
**Yes!**

**CHRISTOPHER MUNSEY**  
Herald Contributor

Is the suffering of one person any less important than the next? Of course not. Even if this were true, there are countless incidents around the world where masses of people live each day in turmoil. The United States does not have the power or resources to physically solve all of these problems, but we do have a weapon that can be just as effective: persuasion. Since March, the Arab Spring has been bringing liberation to millions across the Middle East, and the U.S. has applauded the efforts these Arab citizens have made to gain a way of life that we may sometimes take for granted.

Syria, though, has had a different experience with this movement. Under the Assad administration, Syrians have been beaten and killed for speaking out against the government, but for some reason this violent revolution seems to be falling into the shadows of American news.

What are we able to do? We certainly don't and cannot become involved in another incident overseas right now, but as a global leader we can't ignore this. The President has called for Assad to step down, and aside from a few visits to the country by American diplomats, not much attention has been given to this uprising. This is where we must use what could possibly be a greater power than our military strength, the power we possess to influence the world. The U.S. must bring more attention to this situation, regardless of what else is on its plate.

The ramifications involved in putting political pressure and sanctions on Syria is absolutely nothing when weighed against physical involvement. So why do we not do this? We have to be able to stand up and say that something is wrong, and when the positions of the United States are far reaching, even the slightest push in one direction by our country could completely change the outcome of the revolution and save thousands of people who have been living in violence for almost ten months. The only thing that we have to do to help these people is to bring their problem into the light, and make sure that it becomes a global topic of conversation.

**Independent:**  
**No!**

**PATRICK CONNELLY**  
Herald Contributor

The Syrian government's bloody crackdown on protestors has reached a death toll of more than 4,000, and that number is assumed to be heavily underestimated. And what is the U.S. doing? Absolutely nothing – which is perfect.

The U.S. right now is sitting on the bench cheering on the rebels while denouncing the Syrian Government. It's a perfect strategy. The U.S. cannot get involved in this ordeal. Right now we are in the process of evacuating from Iraq, slowly ending the war in Afghanistan (hopefully), supporting Libya (to an extent), all while trying to keep Israel from fighting every kid on the block. We are also a democratic country from the west, were not exactly the Middle East's go-to problem solver.

We might have taken a little bit of a gamble with interfering in Libya, but I think we handled ourselves pretty well. All we did was drop a couple of bombs and that was really it, but with Syria it seems a lot more complex. The rebels have support from the Arab League; this changes the playing field for the U.S. dramatically from a foreign relations stand point, as the Arab League probably doesn't care what we think about this situation. One other factor that enables the U.S. to sit this one out is Turkey. Turkey, that funky Middle East-ish, yet Western-ish state that is torn between its Islamic and cultural beliefs and its yearning to become a member of the European Union, looks like it can play a major role in Syria with Western ideas.

For all you bleeding hearts out there, who want to march into Syria and establish democratic order, it's not going to happen, especially when President Barack Obama is up for election next year. One more thought to ponder: How did we do with establishing a democratic state in Iraq? Oh yeah that's right, over 4,000 US military deaths and over \$800 billion spend in eight years.

**Republican:**  
**No!**

**MATTHEW PAIGE**  
Herald Contributor

The United States seems to always be in conflict over whether to intervene during times of crises or not in foreign lands. When the U.S. does, it is met with criticism for interfering with a sovereign nation; when it does not, it is accused of being insensitive to oppressed people.

In the case of Syria, people are protesting against President Bashar Assad, and demanding his removal from office. The government has responded by cracking down on protestors with force, and destroying many rights that the U.S. believes are fundamental. Reaction from the Arab League came in the form of tough sanctions on Syria, and demands to allow 'observers' into the country to give an accurate report on what is happening. While Syria has not yet allowed observers in, they are attempting to negotiate an end to the sanctions, proving that they are having a detrimental affect on President Assad's grasp on power.

So what does the United States do? What is left to do? A series of diplomatic actions and calls to actions from both the UN and the Arab League have garnered support from around the region without much assistance from the U.S., so there is no need for U.S. involvement. In fact, should the U.S. intervene, it is not likely to have the positive effects for the country that it would expect. For example, after the U.S. gave military assistance to the rebels fighting in Libya, one would expect that the new government in Libya would be pro-American and relations between the countries would be strong. Instead, the "Muslim Brotherhood," a radical and violent group, which holds very strong anti-West views, has come to power.

American involvement in the region has a very limited upside. While the rights of humans need to be protected, the U.S. is not "world police." Stay out of the conflict and let the Arab League handle its own problems.

## FASHION COLUMN: Rain wear



**Name:** Jessi Himmelsbach  
**Major:** Spanish Language/Secondary Education  
**Year:** Senior  
**Favorite Store:** Saks Fifth Avenue/Consignment

**Style Icon:** Rachel Zoe  
**Style:** Bohemian Chic  
**Hat:** Saks Fifth Avenue

**Jacket:** From Spain  
**Tights:** Betsey Johnson  
**Boots:** Steve Madden

**SOFIA GIOVANNELLO** | Herald Reporter  
When I saw senior Jessi Himmelsbach walking over to the Global Café for her afternoon pick-me-up, I was inspired by her outfit from head to toe. I was doubtful that this day would be the day for outfit hunting, as the cold, drizzly Roger Williams University weather has graced us with its presence once again. But Jessi did not let the rainy weather stop her! Her stylish combination of floral tights, combat boots, and a beret made her appear to have stepped right out of the pages of a fashion magazine. Rainy weather can be difficult to deal with. I always know when it's raining because it's nearly impossible to get me out of bed, and all I want to do is wear my paja-

mas all day and watch "Gossip Girl." Rain can bring out the worst kind of campus fashion, but I am here to shed light on our alternative.

Like those Jessi sports, wearing combat or riding boots is always an option in the rain. They are cute and tend to be much more comfortable than rain boots, AND to a degree, they are water resistant. Pair the boots with a skinny jean or jegging (or if you are feeling daring, the always controversial legging is a good option). Jessi wears patterned Betsey Johnson tights with a black dress and grey peacoat. I love this because when fall arrives, I'm just not ready to put away all my summer dresses, so I keep the dresses with a darker color palette and layer them up! It's a great idea if you want to dress

a little sassy or you just aren't ready to let go of summer yet. Patterned tights may be intimidating to the eye, but are easy to mix and match with solids using the colors in the tights. Jessi's tights are black with pink flowers, so her outfit consisted of grey and black, but added a pop of pink with her beret. Hats are something that I think people underestimate too often. They protect our beautiful hair from the rain, without having to deal with a big umbrella turning inside out. They are adorable, fashion forward, and spice up any outfit!  
So next time you wake up to another rainy day at RWU (I'm sure you won't have to wait very long), remember that a little drizzle can't wash away your style.

## Living off campus forces responsibility

**EVAN VIOLA** | Herald Reporter

I feel I've come to terms with what I can expect at Roger Williams University. I've seen strengths, flaws, and how both have affected preparedness for life after enrollment. It's taken me the past four years to hone my ideas; as well as countless inquiries of self, necessity, freedom and desire to accept where I belong and the role I must play.

Apart from rooting inward, an essential part came with branching out – more literally, moving off campus. Since it's a popular route taken by many of RWU's students, the pros and cons may seem transparent. Still, the move can catch you in a familiar fix.

While indulging in downtime off campus, the reality of entering the job market the following year is close behind. It's a thought I doubt many are

ried that the underclassmen are bored out of their minds and unmotivated to attend events on campus, or even leave their rooms. It's never too early to ask, "Just how many times can we repeat, repeat, repeat?"

It would be foolish to say that making the move off campus finally gives you the chance to ask that question. However, it can shift your perspective on which "necessities" are true and those that aren't. It forces you to face an unmasked independence and a more direct responsibility. It turns you to get a job to pay for rent, groceries, laundry and any other little expenses you'll probably soon omit. These aren't bad things, they're vital steps toward reality. If you consider them cons, then the pros still come out on top every time.

You don't have to feel isolated on a campus, but rather a

*I do believe that living in an apartment forces you to face responsibility more directly.*

fond of, but if we're inclined to dismiss it from indifferent freshman to indifferent senior; three-and-a-half years tick by ... and then what?  
I'm not trying to ask the – what do you want to be when you grow up – question; I'm simply asking who do you want to be? Where will you go? An internship? A job? Graduate school? As a freshman, sophomore and even a junior, I was peeved by these questions. But now I can't stop kicking myself because I fended off the answers.

If you think about it, the majority of students living on campus are still, in some way dependent on the school. RWU is the legal guardian for many who live in student housing and have meal plans. Maybe your parents pay for it all, but it's the school's function to satisfy your needs. I'm wor-

citizen in quaint and beautiful Bristol, Warren, or Portsmouth. You don't have to sit in your room and complain about how there's nothing to do. Don't get me wrong – I think it's a sin to be ungrateful for the education that RWU can provide, but the scope of entertainment is showcased and highly attended by those who showcase it, and not many others.

Moving off campus is the best step you can take towards true independence, self-determination, and recognizing yourself as one of many. So again I'll ask: Where will you go? What will you do? Who do you want to be? If you ask these questions now, how can you avoid the answers?

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