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Hawks' Eye -- December 17, 2001

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President's Forum successful, insightful

By Sara Clark

Editor-In-Chief

Students packed the seats, aisles, doorways and standing space of the big lecture hall in the College of Arts and Sciences for their first Presidential Forum ever with new university President Roy J. Nirschel, Ph.D. Despite the uncomfortably warm temperature of the room and the cramped space, students sat out the two-and-a-half hour forum, raising on-campus issues that they found important and asking questions of administration.

The forum, co-hosted by the RWU Student Senate and Delta Sigma Pi, the RWU business fraternity, was held on Thursday, December 6 at 8 p.m. The goal of the event was for students to get their questions about the university answered and their voices heard. For some students, it was a chance to meet President Nirschel and hear him speak in depth about on-campus issues for the first time.

Newly elected Senate Vice President and forum organizer Jen Abatiello welcomed the students and introduced President Nirschel and explained how the question-and-answer portion of the evening would work.

President Nirschel then set the tone for the night by admitting that, while our university is growing in prestige in the academic community, he recognizes that the university still has plenty of room for improvement.

"We are not yet an excellent university," he said. "We are a very good university, and the idea is to make us excellent. That is a constant pursuit. We have problems, we have challenges."

President Nirschel went on to say that we have "growing pains" as a university, and that some of the issues that would be brought up later in the night were a result of that growth. He then mentioned that one goal of the strategic planning process is to help ease some of the university's growing pains.

President Nirschel introduced his cabinet, who were seated at the front of the room at a long, black-flanked table equipped with three microphones. The cabinet, which was on hand to answer questions in more specific topic areas, consisted of Vice President for Academic Affairs Loretta Shelton, Director of Facilities Management Matthew White, Director of Public Safety Bruce Bowie, Associate Vice President of Business and Finance Pete Wilbur, Dean of Enrollment Management Lynn Fawthrop, Vice

President for Business and Finance Tom Oates, and Dean of Student Affairs Richard Stegman.

Several topics were off-limits for the discussion at the forum, including legal questions, personal or family questions, and any questions about an administrator's or the president's contracts with the university, Nirschel. He also asked

students to be respectful at all times.

"We want to make this a conversation," he said.

Students were invited to step up to the microphones, and instantly there were lines running up both aisles, almost to the back of the room.

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Senior commuter student Dana Wilkens speaks out at the Presidential Forum about the problem of communication between the university and commuter students. -photo by Sara Clark

Computer virus strikes Roger Williams computers

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a Beate's
death page 11

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By Allyson Siegel

Contributing Writer

A virus called W32.Goner discovered on December 4 worked its way into the RWU computer system, freezing both academic and personal computers, tying up internet access.

The characteristic of the virus, which invaded the web mail address books of numerous staff, faculty and students, is that it attempts to send itself to all the addresses saved through Microsoft Outlook. Its main purpose is to delete security software.

"We track all calls into the I.T. Help desk that report receiving the virus," said Shawn Platt, an I.T. worker. "At this time, no more than 25 computers were affected by the virus. We were able to minimize those affected by notifying the university community as soon as we became aware of it."

Computers contract this W32 virus by receiving an e-mail message. It is sent to e-mail accounts with the subject "Hi." The body reads; "How are you? When I saw this screen saver, I immediately thought about you. I am in a hurry, I promise you will love it!" The supposed screen saver attachment, sent with the infected e-mail, is called GONE.SCR.

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Judge sides with RWU in negligence case

By Jason Tourcotte

Staff Writer

New developments brought temporary relief to RWU after U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert W. Lovegreen recommended a dismissal of the \$75,000 wrongful death lawsuit filed by the parents of a student who vanished from campus nearly five years ago.

First year student Bryan Nisenfeld was last seen on February 6, 1997 after an English Literature class. Dr. Deborah Robinson, an English professor at RWU, was the last faculty member who saw Bryan alive. Robinson described his behavior that day as unresponsive. After failing to participate in class, Robinson requested to speak with him, but Nisenfeld continued to leave the class,

showing no acknowledgement of his professor's request. That would be the last known connection between Nisenfeld and the university.

Nisenfeld's parents, Steve Nisenfeld and Marianne Brown of Audubon, New Jersey, were notified of his disappearance six days later. Months after Nisenfeld vanished, his boot-encased foot, was found washed up on Hog's Island in the Narragansett Bay. Police declared it to be suicide, suspecting Nisenfeld jumped into the bay from the Mt. Hope Bridge. However, the Nisenfelds believed RWU officials were uncooperative and sued the university, former Chancellor Anthony Santoro, administrators, and a faculty member,

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LETTERS

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Want to be part of the staff at *The Hawk's Eye*?

The Hawk's Eye is looking for enthusiastic, motivated people to write, edit, and take photographs. Strong writing skills are a plus, but no prior newspaper experience is necessary.

The Hawk's Eye is currently restructuring, and we would appreciate new ideas and new writers.

There are weekly, open meetings, Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Student Senate Chambers.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara at x7944 or e-mail Marc at mstroum@hotmail.com.

Published by the students of Roger Williams University

Articles and opinions expressed in *The Hawk's Eye* are the responsibility of the writers and editors and do not reflect the opinions or policies of the university.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor;

Because of my desire to limit my remarks at the Sunday, December 2 performance of "Many Moods of Christmas" – so that people could get to the tree lighting – I neglected to extend my most sincere thanks to the Roger Williams University Student Senate.

For the first few years this traditional concert was held on Sunday afternoon only. As the audience grew, a second performance was necessary. The Student Senate of RWU presented us with a grant, making it possible to hire the orchestra for Saturday evening. They have continued to do so and, in addition, act as ushers and help in numerous ways. We are most grateful.

The news spreads very quickly when a student gets out of line. I would like everyone to know what fine young people these are (and of course that includes the chorus!) and how willing they are to help. We are very much in their debt.

Joan Doyle Roth,
Director, RWU Chorus

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor;

In regards to last issue's column by Steve Saleeba responding to the controversy over his recent article about the change in GPA, I would like to make a few comments. It seems that Steve quantifies the occupationally related worth of a person based upon their college GPA. Stop me if this is not a fallacy, buddy. How can you justify the existence of someone, or the intelligence of someone based upon a mere number? How can you say that students with low GPAs will end up "working at McDonald's, or at some other low-waged, dead-end job (sic)...?"

Now, the GPA system is far from a mere number, this I realize. However, it allows for only the measure of intellect in classes undertaken in a four (or more if your GPA is really low) year period of life. It far from reveals to anyone how well that person runs, swims, fights a fire, rides a horse, or creates a film; all of these being valuable career skills or just stuff that is plain cool, creating a well-rounded individual.

It is probably true, Steve, that with today's job market "slumping," employers will look at GPAs. However, with the current rate of change in employment amongst Americans, it won't matter what the heck your grades were back in college by the time you reach your third or fourth career path. Instead of telling students what occupations they can and cannot have, try telling them to be prepared for an interview armed with more than a strong GPA, or else it's a battle they're gonna lose, Taliban style.

Dan Sheehan

Hawk's Eye Letter Policy

The Hawk's Eye welcomes Letters to the Editor. Letters can be dropped off in *The Hawk's Eye* mailbox in the Campus Programs office in the lower Student Union at any time, and will be printed in the following issue. *The Hawk's Eye* staff reserves the right to edit any letters for content and/or grammar and punctuation.

Letters must be typed and spell-checked. All letters must be signed by the writer. Anonymous letters will not be printed.

The writer should also include his/her phone number with the letter for contact purposes only. The number will NOT be printed.

LETTERS

Letter to the Editor Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor;

I, Michael Reardon, was very intrigued by your article "The fact of the matter is..." in the November 19 issue of *The Hawk's Eye*. Mr. Saleeba, your article has stimulated much thought and debate among many students here at Roger Williams University. One conclusion that I have come up with about Mr. Saleeba is that, "The fact of the matter is..." you have obviously not done your homework.

Mr. Saleeba, I wonder if you have given much thought to what you have written or what you were attempting to prove by your article. Mr. Saleeba, are you aware of the fact that the only way to obtain higher university status across the globe is by accepting more students into all university programs. I may be wrong, but I do believe that it is the goal of everyone at this university, faculty and students alike, to obtain a higher university status. Furthermore, maybe it slipped your mind in writing your article, but are you aware that Roger Williams University is the only school for higher education in Rhode Island that has a school of law? Mr. Saleeba, I may be incorrect, but does not the aforementioned fact put us (RWU) one step ahead of Brown University, or perhaps you prefer Providence College, for educational opportunity.

I would like to expand upon my view about educational opportunity. Mr. Saleeba, it is obvious that you believe that a high GPA is all that one needs to make it in the "real world." Well, Mr. Saleeba, mark a big "I" on your report card because it appears that your views are "incompetent." A high GPA may get you places, but it is the experience that one has within a certain job field that strikes the eye of a potential employer. If you go into an interview with only a 4.0 GPA on your resume and the next candidate walks in with that 2.0 GPA and a year's worth of internship experience in that job field, well then you can assume who will be getting that job offering. Mr. Saleeba, I challenge you to get the most out of your college experience and embark on an internship.

Speaking of challenges, Mr. Saleeba, I personally challenge you to sit in on any upper-level science or architecture course and then write in your next article about how the education at RWU is an easy one. Better yet, at 9 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, come sit next to me in CAS 129 during one of my organic chemistry lectures, and then tell me that, "We don't go to a very challenging school." If you are wondering where I sit, I sit four rows back in the center of the room to the left hand side, the second seat in, right next to one of your rugby teammates.

Mr. Saleeba, it is the experience that one has in college that matters to the employers. Also, how can you lay back and trash the educational value that RWU has while you too attend RWU. May I ask what you are still doing here? Mr. Saleeba, I urge you to do some more background information before you attempt to write another slandering article, because the only thing your article did was make yourself look like the "fool."

Sincerely,
Michael Reardon

Dear Editor;

On behalf of the university administration and myself I write to thank the Student Senate and Delta Sigma Pi for hosting a lively and informative presidential forum on December 6. I also thank the several hundred students who took time out of their busy schedules (on a night when a new Friends episode was airing) to be with us and ask questions.

As the still very new president of Roger Williams University, I continue to learn about the challenges and opportunities facing our university. The vast majority of student questions the night of the forum dealt with important academic programs and living issues affecting students on a day-to-day basis. Over the past several years, Roger Williams University has grown significantly in both stature and size. Inherent in such growth, are problems relating to housing, parking, academic programs and a host of other issues.

Through a dynamic participatory strategic planning process, which I initiated in September, the university has assembled task forces designed to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees and me on issues ranging from enrollment and retention to technology, campus planning, and academic programs. In the spring semester, focus groups of students, alumni and others will be encouraged to voice their thoughts on how we can address some of these issues in a thoughtful and strategic manner and build an even better Roger Williams University.

I thank not only the students who attended the forum and the hosts, but also WQRI and *The Hawk's Eye* which have provided my colleagues and me many opportunities to respond to legitimate student concerns and articulate the values of the University.

Sincerely,
Roy J. Nirschel, Ph.D.

The Hawk's Eye would like to thank all of our readers and everyone who wrote letters this year. We appreciate your readership and your input, and we both value and welcome your views. We are proud to have created a forum for debate through the newspaper, and we are committed to both continuing this debate and to continually improving the quality of our product.

Happy Holidays!

NEWS

Police Blotter

Wednesday, Nov. 7

Police reported that just after 3 a.m. a smoking pipe and small glass container of what was suspected to be marijuana was seized from cedar 426 to be tested.

Just after 2 p.m., a smoking pipe was seized said police.

Just before 4 p.m., police responded to the larceny of a bicycle, said police.

Friday, Nov. 9

At 1:43 a.m., police responded to a medical emergency. The subject was transported to Newport Hospital because of reported facial injuries. The subject, Jonathan R Millville of 25 Valley Forge Circle, West Boylston, Mass. was later arrested for disorderly conduct.

The police report the vandalism of five vehicles. All had hood damage and one vehicle's tire was slashed.

Sunday, Nov. 11

Another vehicle with hood damage was reported, said police.

Monday, Nov. 12

Police and Fire responded to an electrical fire in a manhole in front of the school of business.

Police reported the roof of a vehicle had been damaged in yet, another case of vandalism.

Friday, Nov. 16

Police were dispatched to investigate a possible fraud/forgery. A student's parents may have forged financial documents. The case is under investigation by detectives and RWU.

Saturday, Nov. 17

Just after 3 a.m., security reported to police that a student was allegedly assaulted earlier in the evening.

At 3:25 p.m., a student reported that he was assaulted while walking on Old Ferry Road, said police.

Monday, Nov. 19

A student reported the larceny of a calculator from a book bag at the RWU library.

Tuesday, Nov. 20

William Keefe Sandler of 18 Meadow Lane, Nantucket, Mass was arrested for possession of marijuana (first offense). Police reported that they seized a small plastic bag of marijuana and a smoking pipe.

Monday, Nov. 26

Michael Ellis, of 134 Birch Hill Road, Weston CT was arrested on a warrant for possession of marijuana.

Friday, Nov. 30

Someone reported that a rock was thrown through his/her vehicle's window on Old Ferry Rd., said police.

Saturday, Dec. 1

A report of a stolen CD player and \$100 worth of CDs from a vehicle on Old Ferry Rd. was made, police said.

Sunday, Dec. 2

Someone reported that a vehicle had been vandalized. The vehicle's windshield was smashed, said police.

A lost or stolen license plate was reported to police.

Monday, Dec. 3

Someone reported the larceny of a registration plate, said police.

Correction

The Hawk's Eye staff would like to make note of the following corrections. Several errors appeared in the article "RWU unveils new masters program for education" in the last issue of *The Hawk's Eye*, as Dr. Susan Pasquarelli, Associate Professor of Literacy Education, pointed out to us. The corrections are as follows:

First, the Master of Arts in Literacy abbreviation was incorrect. There is no such degree as a MAL. The degree

is simply a M.A. Second, the two master's programs will be formally approved by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) in the 2002-2003 school year.

The article said that RIDE already accredited the programs. Accredited is an incorrect word for state approval and is only used in the case of national accreditation. RIDE usually will not approve new programs until they are up and running.

Bristol celebrates holidays

By Kaitlyn Jacques

Contributing Writer

Bells were ringing and the people of Bristol were cheering last Sunday evening as the Town of Bristol officially kicked off the Christmas Season with its annual Grand Illumination.

On Sunday, December 2 at 6 p.m., thousands of spectators assembled along Hope and Wood Streets in Bristol to count down to the illumination of approximately 120,000 Christmas lights.

Thanks to the Bristol Christmas Festival Committee, the Bristol Police Department, the Department of Public

Works and the Bristol Fire Department the whole evening went smoothly and was a great success.

Father and Mother Christmas, along with two local grade school children, threw the switch that turned the town aglow. The crowd clapped and cheered and filed into Hope street to proceed in a "People's Holiday Parade of Lights" to view the fireworks at Independence Park.

Among the many onlookers was RWU's own Ruth Koelle, Dean of The College of Arts and Sciences.

"The people are really pleasant and aware of the need for events like this," said Koelle.

RWU rebuilds ties with RIPTA

By Jason Tourcotte

Staff Writer

Dusk had long settled in, as herds of RWU students paced in excitement along the walkway of the RIPTA bus stop towards Providence, a Mecca for college students, especially those under the age of 21. On the nights of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, countless students gather for a night of dancing and drinking. During the first week of the fall semester, several allegedly inebriated RWU students pushed the envelope by acting extremely inappropriately on the Route #60 bus line, which sparked RIPTA to act upon the students' offensive behavior.

The extremities of the conduct included littering, urinating on the bus, and the harassment of both passengers and the driver. Those responsible were clearly identified as RWU students, as the driver took notice to where they exited the bus. Appalled by the nature of RWU students, RIPTA opted to take action by making a phone call to our Dean of Student Affairs, Richard Stegman. RIPTA threatened that if the outrageous behavior continued, further action would be necessary. RIPTA promised to pull over the bus and have individuals arrested and to possibly eliminate of the bus stop as a last resort. However, Lee Beliveau, Director of Marketing and Communications at RIPTA, said that the RWU location is a public stop and that serious consideration of withdrawing the stop never took place.

"The administration was very cooperative in addressing the issue," said Beliveau. After Stegman received the complaint, several tactics were executed in order to rectify the situation at hand. RAs were immediately notified of the problem, as memos and voice mail mes-

sages were communicated to students. In addition, the Department of Student Life staff and Public Safety met with the RIPTA driver to set agendas for the weekend following the misconduct. Stegman said that there have been a few issues arising within the community and that RWU does enforce a "Good Neighbor Policy."

This semester, alcohol policies on campus have been enforced on a more consistent basis. This enforcement is why Stegman believes so many minors are choosing to drink in Providence.

"Never have we experienced the numbers going into Providence, as we have this semester," Stegman said.

Alcohol based judicial sanctions are dealt with on a case-by-case basis with distribution to minors receiving the strictest of penalties; often a temporary or permanent removal from housing. Overall, Stegman feels that alcohol related incidents haven't been any more predominant than past years and also believes that having RWU become a 'dry campus' would do little to reduce alcohol substance abuse.

Beliveau was pleased to discover that there have been no complaints concerning RWU students since that initial week of school. Administration took measures to ensure that this type of behavior was no longer associated with our student population and RIPTA was thoroughly satisfied with the action taken by the university. Beliveau also mentioned that RIPTA might even consider a pass program that would enable students to ride at either discounted or free charges. As RWU mends its relationship with RIPTA, both RIPTA authorities and our administration are confident that these types of violations are isolated incidences and will not be reoccurring within the community.

Virus

...Continued from front page

Many students found their mail accounts paralyzed from the virus.

"I went home after classes and had received a phone call from I.T.," said Jeffery Pantaliano a sophomore criminal justice major. "They informed me that I have been sending a virus randomly through out campus. This news was shocking to me." Pantaliano also said that I.T. advised him not to use his computer until he got rid of the virus.

When this virus is downloaded, the attachment infects the local system. While downloading, the worm displays a message box titled "About." Then it copies itself into the individual's Windows System. The next message that appears is called "Error." The process is then terminated. All executable files in the directory are deleted, as well as all the files within any sub-

directories. If the initial attempt fails, the worm may create a file to delete these files upon restart.

One indication that your computer has come in contact with this virus is if you receive an e-mail from a friend (whose name is in your address book) advising you that you have sent them an e-mail with a virus, when you have not e-mailed your friend deliberately.

If you have contracted the virus W32 there is a way to remove this virus at home. You can find detailed instructions for all versions of windows at www.mcafee.com.

Although the W32 virus has been making its way rather quickly throughout the RWU computer system, RWU is trying its best to keep this problem under control. It is difficult to keep track of when and where a virus starts and stops, because viruses spread so quickly and randomly over the Internet. It is a problem that all computer users will have to deal with until there is a way to prevent viruses from starting. One way to protect yourself from downloading these types of viruses is to delete any e-mail messages you receive from unknown parties.

NEWS/EDITORIALS

Why Core courses?

By Kim Baker

Faculty Writing Specialist

When you first arrive at RWU, many of you are surprised at the CORE courses you must take in order to graduate. You may wonder why you must study subjects that have nothing directly to do with your chosen major fields of accounting, computer science, or engineering. And, of course, this is a reasonable query: Why *should* you study history, literature, philosophy, music, art, science, or human behavior? Why should you study any subject that does not help to train you for a job?

First, we need to remember that RWU is a "liberal arts" institution, so let's first consider the roots of the words "liberal arts." Art comes from the Indo-European root *ar-* meaning *put things together or join*, and the Latin *ars* meaning *skill*. *Liberal* derives from the Latin *liberalis*, *suitable for a freeman*. A rough translation (it has been an exponential number of years since I studied Latin) would be the skill of or joining of ideas together of those who cherish the freedom of mind and thought. Mr. Webster considers the liberal arts "the studies of lan-

guage, philosophy, history, literature, or abstract science in a college or university intended to provide chiefly general knowledge and to develop the general intellectual capacity."

Plato and Aristotle taught that the liberal arts were those subjects suitable for the development of intellectual and moral excellence, different from those that are of merely practical value. But don't all subjects of practical value have a basis in general knowledge? Can you really be a surgeon with excellent technical skills without an understanding of human behavior (bedside manner)? In fact, I'll leave you with this question: What do former President Reagan, TV journalist Lesley Stahl, musician Al Jarreau, actor Paul Newman, Senator John Glenn, and one-third of all CEOs have in common?

The answer will be in the next issue as I continue to explore the CORE by discussing the benefits of the Core Courses. (Unless you simply cannot wait until then, in which case you can come up to the Core Tutoring Center where the answer will be on the blackboard. But don't rush off. Stay awhile and sample the candy and converse with the talented Core Tutors who understand the value of a liberal arts education and are waiting to share their ideas with you.)

Sexual Assault Awareness Week

By Keryn O'Leary

Contributing Writer

One out of four women between the ages of 18 and 24 and 7 percent of men in the United States will be sexually assaulted within their lifetimes. Rape is the most prevalent form of sexual assault crimes committed on a college campus today.

The school recognized the week of November 5 as Sexual Assault Awareness Week, sponsored by the PEER program and the Women's Center. This week consisted of many programs and activities to educate the campus on prevention as well as what to do in the event that someone is sexually assaulted. The Counseling Center and the PEERs developed a workshop to present in the dorms throughout the week.

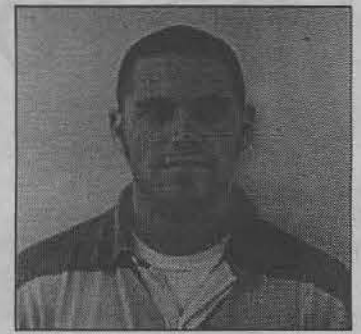
Tuesday night the first "Men Against Sexual Assault" discussion group took place. Chris Poles, a PEER, and Jim Azar, the Director of the Counseling Center, developed the program. The workshop gave men an opportunity to voice their opinion of sexual assault and to support the women in their lives. Another program was held for women that night as well. Heather Donahue, a RA, held a self-defense workshop, to give women some ways of protecting themselves in case of an attack.

Wednesday and Thursday the lobby of the Student Union was transformed into a box by using black curtains. This created a somber and private atmosphere in which the community could view personal survivor stories, poems, lyrics, and other literature. There was also a pledge to sign against sexual assault. The pledge had approximately 600 signatures from students, faculty and administration. Ribbons were given out to show support for the cause: a purple ribbon showed support for sexual assault prevention and a purple and teal ribbon showed that the wearer knew a sexual assault survivor.

Thursday night the PEERs led a vigil to support sexual assault survivors; it took place on the D'Angelo Common at 7 p.m. The walkway was lit with luminaries and a circle was formed in front of the library. The Women's Center supported the event by bringing some silent witnesses from the new program that they have just developed. The Silent Witnesses are lifelike silhouettes that have a name and facts about a woman or child on them. They represent a woman or child who has lost a life due to domestic violence. Approximately 50 people showed up to show their support for victims everywhere.

Overall, the week was a success, and students showed lots of support. This issue affects everyone and the only way to prevent it is to educate.

The fact of the matter is...



Weekly column by Features/Editorials Editor Steve Saleeba

Dan Yorke, the WPRO talk-show host who came to the campus last week, opened up a sore wound.

He poked fun at what was going on at the school by pointing out that a front-page story was "Fire sprinklers go off in Stonewall."

Everyone encourages us to get back to our normal lives. No one ever says to forget about what happened on September 11.

I have become nauseous at the thought of people forgetting those who lost their lives in the most devastating tragedy that our generation can recall.

Less than 90 days after the attack, I see only a few cars with American flags waving from them. Flags and banners that hung from dorm windows have disappeared and only a handful remain draped.

I want to know what happened to the support and shows of patriotism.

The media has accused this generation of being shallow and self-centered. As I watched CNN a few nights ago, the media even accused itself as being slanted, shallow, and too focused on scandal. When the United States was attacked, many people said that it would be the end of an era of selfishness, and

self-centered, apathetic people.

I was hopeful for a better America and a better breed of peers. I was wrong.

Many people have not changed. I see the same attitudes that prompted me to complain previous to the attack slowly leaking their way back into our society, specifically at RWU.

What happened to the American flag pins that everyone proudly wore for weeks after the attack?

Are we not at war? These troops are halfway around the world, missing the holidays, fighting for our freedom.

Whether or not you believe that is why we are fighting is not as important as whether or not you support these troops.

We are too soon to forget that the faces we see every day may have brothers or sisters, or fathers or mothers, or loved ones fighting in Afghanistan, or who were lost in the attack.

They are the ones who need the support. Let them know that we care, and like their loved ones who are fighting, let them know that we are not the same self-centered, selfish, and apathetic generation that existed before September 11.

Life as a Baypoint transfer student

By Katherine Consorte

Contributing Writer

That same strange feeling comes throughout your body. You're thinking, *here we go again*. Wondering if your going to fit in or whether or not you will like your roommate this year is extremely nerve-wracking. However, being a transfer student and having been through the process already, you pretty much know how everything works.

This year, there were an enormous amount of students who survived the task of transferring. Some of these students found it quite easy to transfer and only had a few problems.

"Transferring was easier than I expected. I met all the deadlines and the application was self explanatory," said Erin Bowen, who recently graduated from the University of Southern Maine.

Perhaps you were a student who did

not make all the deadlines. The application process then would not be quite as easy. Phone calls would have to go back and forth and the classes that you wanted would eventually fill up. A few students did not receive scholarships and grants because they procrastinated. In February, the list of all awards for the 2002-2003 year could be picked up in the financial aid office for any student interested.

Why do students transfer? The majority of students enter a new school because they come right out of a two-year college. These students have already completed a degree and are furthering their education. Others may have not liked their original school, and some students switch their major and want a better college or university for their curriculum. Fortunately, RWU is a diverse school with many opportunities in different areas of study.

"I personally chose Roger Williams

Continued on page 7...

NEWS

The role of RWU's First Lady

By Josh O'Connor

Staff Writer

On the 20th day of October, Roy J. Nirschel, Ph.D. was inaugurated as RWU's eighth president. During the Inauguration, President Nirschel referred to his wife, Paula Nirschel, as the First Lady of Roger Williams. Ralph Papitto, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, carefully corrected Nirschel, informing him in a joking way that he could not pass out titles as he pleased. However, Papitto himself then deemed Ms. Nirschel the First Lady of Roger Williams University.

Once Mrs. Nirschel was RWU's First Lady, many in the university community wondered what her responsibilities, obligations and commitments would be.

"I am the goodwill ambassador for Roger Williams University," Mrs. Nirschel said, "And I look at all (the Roger Williams Student Body) as my teenagers. I make people feel comfortable and just be a cheerleader for the University." Mrs. Nirschel also said that the job of the First Lady is not really a job to her, but just who she is and how she sees a person in her position should be.

Mrs. Nirschel graduated from Southern Connecticut State University, in New Haven Connecticut, with President Nirschel. She then went on to receive her masters in social work at the University of Pittsburgh. Mrs. Nirschel met President Nirschel while walking her golden retriever.

"He was running for a state representative job in New Haven Connecticut," she said. "I never met anyone interest-

ed in politics."

However, they spoke and President Nirschel invited Mrs. Nirschel to a debate.

"Ever since that day, I met my match and we have been together ever since," she said.

Dr. Nirschel eventually became the president at Newbury College in Newton, Mass. At Newbury College, Mrs. Nirschel experienced, for the first time, the role of the First Lady of a college. Newbury College did not have a job description of what a First Lady's duties included. She read many books of what the role might include. However, Mrs. Nirschel finally found her passion, which included entertaining.

She said, "I love to entertain and love to talk to people, nurture them, and make people happy and make them feel comfortable."

Mrs. Nirschel added that "several parties (at Newbury College) were the talk of the town." On top of the entertainment, Mrs. Nirschel was also placed onto committees by her husband.

"I would lead the committees he (President Nirschel) put me on because he knew that I would do the job well," said Mrs. Nirschel.

However, the role of the First Lady at Roger William University is much different than at Newbury College. Being a newly named position at RWU, there are no written rules of what a First Lady must do.

Mrs. Nirschel commented, "Roger Williams is four times the size of Newbury College, which means more entertainment, more goodwill ambassadorship, and more committees to be a part of."

Mrs. Nirschel was in charge of her

husband's inauguration and is now planning the Employee Holiday Party. While her position is not an administrative job, it requires her to give orders and to be responsible for the outcome. Mrs. Nirschel explains that the entertainment is a reflection on her and her family; however, Mrs. Nirschel says she is "fiscally sensitive and very detail-oriented."

On top of this, Mrs. Nirschel has also started a women's group on campus.

"The women's group includes prominent RWU-associated women and women from the community," she said. "I began the women's group because RWU does not have one."

She works a minimum of 25 hours a week and on weekends. Mrs. Nirschel does not get paid for her position as the First Lady. However, she does believe that she gets compensated;

"This is an amazing position. My father was a baker in Hartford, Connecticut; I love my life. What is my bonus? Perk? I am in Heaven, more than I ever thought," she said.

Mrs. Nirschel also joked that another perk is that she does not have to clean her house anymore because someone helps with the housework.

Mrs. Pauline Santoro, former RWU president Anthony Santoro's wife, knows well the roles and rewards of a First Lady at the university.

"It never felt I had a job, it was an honor," said Mrs. Santoro. "It's a fun job. We met many people from many walks of life...and we were treated like royalty with the support staff, with wonderful people to work with and (we) could not have done anything without them," she continued lightheartedly, "all I had to do is dress up and look

good."

Like Mrs. Nirschel, Mrs. Santoro was very involved with her own children. She was very active in the RWU campus and as well in the community. Mrs. Santoro was a volunteer at Blithewold and "Friends of the Library," traveled with her husband, and visited Alumni Chapters across the country.

Both said that the only difficult aspect of being the First Lady is the lack of privacy.

Mrs. Santoro believes that she has fulfilled all of her intended goals while at RWU. Her biggest thrill was to see the students graduate and then see them at the Alumni Chapters years later.

"They are all my babies," she joked.

Mrs. Nirschel's activities for the university, while more defined, are very optimistic.

"I want to make RWU well-known around Rhode Island, the country, and world; to get RWU out of its comfort zone and get RWU on the map," she said.

The increase of diversity is also a goal of Mrs. Nirschel's and will be done through speakers and by getting RWU's name out there. Mrs. Nirschel also believes that by holding the role of the First Lady, she serves as a role model. Even though Mrs. Nirschel's number-one priority is her family, she understands that she is a role model to the students, employees and the community that surrounds RWU.

"I don't worry about how I conduct myself because I am comfortable," said Mrs. Nirschel. "I never change myself around others - I would treat (a student) today the same way I would treat the mayor tomorrow. I just hope everyone is happy with what they got and I know that I cannot please everyone."

Negligence

Continued from front page

claiming negligence.

After receiving a letter from the New Jersey Federal Court, Robinson remembered feeling a bit unnerved and immediately sought the advice of Santoro and a Union lawyer. Robinson is a seasoned professor with a strong reputation for teaching and continuous involvement with her students, as evident from her annual Victorian dinner for students and faculty. Although she wrestled with her actions, she concluded that there was nothing more that could have been done without infringing upon the student's right to privacy.

At the beginning of the Fall 2001 semester, claims against

Robinson were dropped with prejudice.

"I remember breathing a huge sigh of relief," recalled Robinson. She continued by saying that RWU suffered a 'black eye' from the lawsuit and that it taints the university's reputation. While Robinson expressed a tremendous amount of sympathy for the Nisenfeld family, she adds, "We have become a litigious society."

On November 29, Lovegreen encouraged a dismissal to Judge Mary M. Lisi. An Associated Press article quoted Lovegreen as saying, "If a university was made liable for whatever occurred to its students while on campus, then

the university would need absolute control over the student's activities, which is a result that defies reality and logic."

While the Nisenfelds do have some time to request a reversal of the recommendation, Santoro (now a professor of law at RWU) finds it unlikely. Santoro and other administrators were content with Lovegreen's findings.

"This was a tragic event that I wished never happened, but it does underscore the difficulty universities have in monitoring the comings and goings of a population of adults that have certain privacy rights," said Santoro. Santoro continues to maintain the integrity of the university in say-

ing that officials acted responsibly to the situation.

Mr. Nisenfeld was aware of Lovegreen's decision but opted not to comment on the Judge's findings. Like Santoro, RWU is pleased to learn of Lovegreen's recommendation. However, Robinson believes it will be much longer before the university can completely mend its image, saying, "Many will remember, and a few may even believe it."

For now, RWU can only look forward to Judge Lisi's official ruling, as the university eagerly waits to put this controversial event behind it.

NEWS

Students and parents have mixed feelings about study abroad, administrators say program is safe

By Althea Sculley

Contributing Writer

On September 10, Erin McNamara, a student at RWU, "never expected all this to happen." Like other students enrolled in the study abroad program for next spring, Erin looked forward to spending a semester discovering all that Europe has to offer. Now, with America at war against terrorism and anthrax cases leading the daily news, the idea of venturing through Europe has become far less appealing to her.

"If I don't feel safe traveling in America, how am I suppose to feel safe in another country?" she said. "I don't want to get to Rome and find out I can't even go anywhere because it is not safe."

According to McNamara, she is not the only one who has concerns about going; three other students have already withdrawn from spring semester and changed their date to fall of 2002.

"I am too nervous to go next semester," said McNamara.

Since September 11, things have changed for RWU students studying abroad. Students are now required to fill out travel forms, and asked to carry cell phones when they travel outside of Florence or Rome. Unfortunately, no one can say whether these adjustments can compensate for the impact the war may have on students who plan to venture through Europe.

Faye Pitts, a RWU junior who plans to head to Florence, Italy in January said, "I trust the school has made the right decision to send us. I just hope when we get over there we're not stuck in our rooms. I want to be able to go at night and see everything. I mean, come on, how many times am I really going to get to go live in Italy. I want to live it up!"

According to Gina Lopardo, the coordinator of the study abroad program at RWU, students planning to travel during their stay in Italy will be required to have travel forms approved by the directors at the Institutes prior to taking trips outside of Florence or Rome. The forms will provide the Institute with information about where students are going, how they plan to get there, the

times of their transportation, where they will be staying, and the phone number to the place they are staying.

"That is a change," said Loretta Shelton, the Vice President for Academic Affairs at RWU.

Last spring, students traveling outside of Italy were not required to get forms signed by the Institute directors prior to independent travel.

"It's good protocol no matter what," said Shelton. "It is true you're adults, it's true you are able to make up your own minds, but you are over there in the context of a program. You are not over there independently. So independent travel should be viewed as relatively independent travel."

The initial appeal of spending a semester in Italy, for many, was to take advantage of the opportunity to travel through Europe. Students who still plan to study abroad do not want traveling to become impossible while they are in Italy.

"What happens if I have an easy couple of days and I just want to pick up and go?" asked Lindsay Sinclair, a junior at RWU who is planning to study in Florence during the spring. "I don't know where I want to go—just the most beautiful place I find—but because of the war I can't do that. That was the one thing I was looking forward to the most. If I want to go camping, what am I suppose to tell the school? I'll be sleeping over by the tree on the left on top of the hill," she continued sarcastically.

Travel forms may cramp some students' dreams of exploring Europe; however, if the university feels the need for travel forms, then students must comply in order to go ahead with their trip.

"It makes contact easier in a worse case scenario," said Lopardo.

Jordan Forster, a RWU junior who is planning to study in Florence in the spring, does not view the travel forms as inhibiting his freedom to travel; he simply sees them as an added precautionary measure because of the war.

"It's for your own protection," he said. "Is it really that big a deal to have to take extra steps so that the school can know where you are? It would be stupid to go blindly into another country anyway."

"So if my daughter fills out a form, she can go anywhere she wants?" asked Lindsay's mother, Gail Sinclair. "I am certainly not comfortable with that."

Mrs. Sinclair is concerned that travel forms may not be the solution she hoped for to comfort her apprehensions about her daughter traveling through Europe.

"If the school is going to let these kids travel, they should be sure where they are going is safe," she said. "I don't want my daughter in some country where Americans are hated."

Via e-mail, the Institute directors and RWU receive constant updates of countries Americans are advised not to travel to. According to Lopardo, if an advisory against Americans traveling in a certain country was issued, the Institute would prohibit its students from traveling to that area.

"Roger Williams is a little drop in a big bucket," said Shelton. RWU is directly involved in a series of communications with the U.S. State Department, the Consulate in Florence, the Embassy in Rome, and the Directors at the Institutes in both Florence and Rome.

"What is required," said Shelton. "Is a level of vigilance. We are both vigilant and have access to ongoing updates. Information that, to the best of my knowledge, we have had access to hours before it was televised."

As an additional precautionary measure, students in Italy are being asked to carry cell phones when they travel outside of Florence or Rome so that the Institutes directors can contact them in a worst-case scenario.

"What would happen if anti-American riots broke out?" asked Erich Koehler, a RWU student who has withdrawn from the study abroad program because of his concerns about safety.

"If you were in a situation like that, you may be advised not to leave," said Lopardo. "You may be advised to stay in your apartment. That's why it is a really good idea to have a cell phone or at least a shared cell phone, so that someone from the Institute can reach you and give you instructions. You may get specific instructions to all gather in the school, or all stay in your apartments. It really is going to depend on a

particular situation and looking at that situation."

McNamara remains uncomfortable by RWU's response to her concerns about what may happen in a worse case scenario.

"I'm not there and you're not there," she said. "You're not George Bush. If I don't feel safe, what are you going to do to make me feel safe? If something happens, what are you going to do to protect me if I am in another country?"

If Americans were endangered in a particular situation, and there was a necessity to evacuate, the U.S. government would step in and help get Americans abroad, says Lopardo.

"Because there are so many scenarios, I don't want to come across and say this is the only way we are going to handle it," she said. "Each scenario could dictate a different method."

For RWU to cancel its study abroad program in Italy would require "very significant and dramatic events," says Shelton, who would be responsible for making the final decision to cancel the program. "Deep unrest within Europe itself, to the degree where Italy was subject to immediate impact—that's a scenario that's almost non-existent. Lord knows we've all learned that the impossible can happen, but Italy is not a prime site for the kind of thing that could occur as a result of the ongoing war. The mentality that something could break out in all of Europe is a mentality that is driven by World War II. I've not read a single document; I've not heard a single person—military defense department or otherwise—suggest at all that the scenario for this war is like the scenario for any other war."

For McNamara, she has decided she will not be going abroad next semester. "I can wait until the fall. I think it will be safer."

Although McNamara came to that decision on her own, her parents were relieved by her choice.

"My parents said they would wait until the day I boarded the plane to decide whether it was safe for me to go or not," she said. "It's not the Dean's decision, or the school's decision. It's my decision and I am not comfortable with going."

Transfers

Continued from page 5

because of a combination of things. The criminal justice program that I wanted to enter into is known as considerably strong here. The location was also good for me," says Amy Thurber, who recently graduated from Dean College.

Many students are content with RWU and love that it is on the water. Bristol is also extremely close to Newport, Providence, and Boston. Over 1,000 new students entered RWU this year, the largest number yet in its

history. Many of them live on campus and 66 (all transfer students) live across the Mt. Hope Bridge at the Roger Williams University Residence and Conference center.

Baypoint, as it is commonly called, was once known as the Best Western and then the Ramada Inn. It was bought by RWU for extra living space for students. This school is one of the many schools which have had to purchase a hotel to create additional housing. Some Baypoint residents feel that

they are at a disadvantage due to the fact that they are off campus. Students living on campus could easily stroll out of bed and walk to their classes, whereas students from Baypoint have to ride the shuttle or take their cars and try to find a parking spot. However, despite this Baypoint has other advantages.

Bowen said, "I was a little skeptical at first because Baypoint is located off campus, but the people living here and the environment are extremely nice."

"I like having my own bathroom and larger beds," said Katherine Hischel, a transfer from Syracuse University. "However, being off campus is an inconvenience, especially if you have to go back to campus each night to do work in the studio."

Many transfer students, now that they have experienced a part of RWU, compare their old school. Overall, many of the recent transfers like the dorm life, other residents, the location and the education.

NEWS/EDITORIAL

Commentary

Hopes of beach clean up go out with the trash

By Laurie Schorr

Staff Writer

We pulled on our sweatshirts and laced up our sneakers, and with our Roger Williams key chains hanging out of our back pockets, we headed down to the beach.

To our only beach.

To the beach at the foot of the Mt. Hope Bridge.

To clean up the mess of other sweatshirt-wearing, sneaker-footed Roger Williams University students.

The weather was perfect, we had gloves and giant garbage bags in our hands, and we were the only kids on the beach. The only ones. Just me and my buddy Alex, and we were quite surprised.

Alex and I are Willow residents, and we received a message that there would be a "Willow Hall Beach clean up" coordinated by the Willow Hall Council. The first beach-clean-up was

cancelled, and a second one was scheduled for Saturday, November 17. It was supposed to be a community event, there would have been groups of good-hearted, environmentally-concerned students spread like the sea stars across the beach, picking up the scattered beer bottles, soda cans, and other discarded trash from months, perhaps even years, before. I even brought my camera.

But Alex and I were the only two people on the beach.

We thought maybe we had missed the clean up, and we felt awfully guilty that the event had been scheduled to begin at one and we had not gotten to the beach until two. But there was so much garbage still on the beach that we wondered if anyone else had been there at all.

We worked for an hour, walking along the rocks and snails, talking about our Friday nights and our anticipation of Thanksgiving dinner, and we soon forgot about the hideous stench of stale beer and old urine and dead fish; it

became almost addictive to clean up as much of the garbage as possible, to see how many beer cans and empty vodka bottles we could dig out of the brush without getting stuck with thorns. We took breaks to get new plastic gloves and more garbage bags, and then on one of our breaks, we went back into our Willow unit to look for "recruits" to help us out.

We found two other people, our fellow Willow residents Derek and Aaron, who were more than happy to join us on the beach. The four of us worked for another hour until it became bitter cold and very windy. Still nobody else showed up. We filled eight, maybe ten, giant trash bags with cans, bottles, diapers, forgotten clothing, missing shoes, styrofoam cups, paper plates, ripped napkins, tangled fishing line, aluminum foil, homemade bong, a broken lawn chair, and plenty of other unidentifiable objects. The sun began to set and the smell of the tide blended with the odor of old, rotting trash, and so we wrapped

up our clean-up act with the last few bottle caps and fish hooks along the rocks.

While collecting the bottles and cans and searching through the brush for more, Alex and I wondered why anyone would ever want to take such a tiny, sad-looking beach, and make it even more sad with trash, and yet even sadder by not wandering down to help clean it up. We only have one beach, and even though the sand is hard to find, the beauty is not. The bridge seems to soar over the undulating tide and sea-salted rocks; sailboats and speedboats share the rare ripples with hard-working tugboats and great lazy barges; the sun rises each morning over the far island, and it sets every night as the moon takes its place as a gem in the sky and a silver stream in the bay. Does anyone else see this?

All the bottles and cans suggest that plenty of others use the beach, but does anyone else see *this*?

Phone-a-thon rings with success

By Jessica Latimer

News Editor

The Phone-a-thon is a group of Roger Williams University students under the direction of Geri Manning, Director of Annual Giving, that calls alumni and parents of current students to raise money for scholarships, library acquisitions, lab equipment, etc.

This year the group had a special challenge. Allen Shawn Feinstein committed to donating a quarter for every dollar the Phone-a-thon raised, up to one million dollars of fundraising on the group's part and 250,000 dollars donation on Feinstein's part.

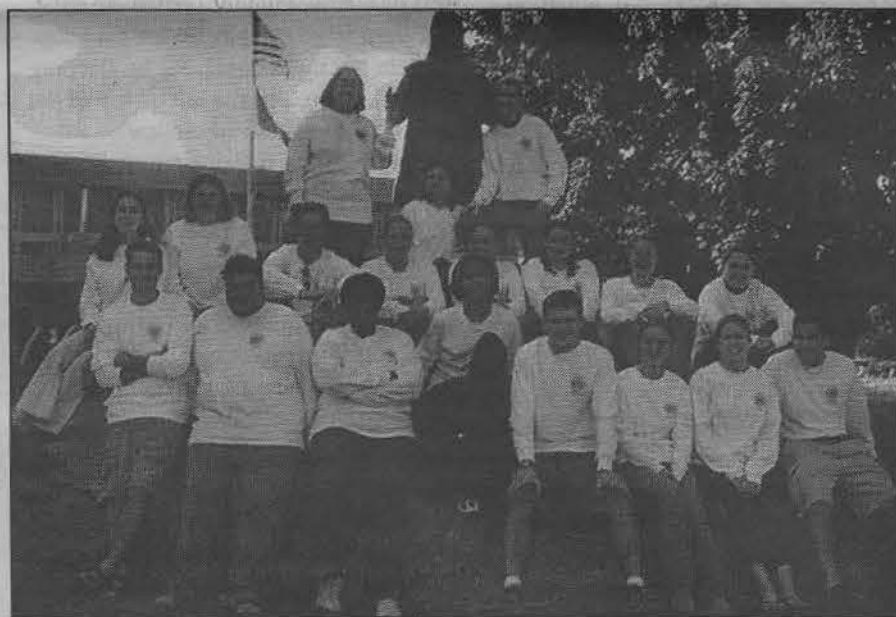
After the horrific acts of September 11, the goal was set lower - at \$60,000 - than it has been in the past, and the

total donor quantity was set at \$1,300.

"I think that the events of September 11 affected everyone in this country," said Geri Manning. "Overall I think we have weathered the affects positively."

As of today, after a \$5,000 night, the Phone-a-thon has raised \$67,665 in actual pledges and has reached and surpassed its donor quantity goal. The Feinstein Challenge is a one-year commitment with a deadline of May 1, 2002, but it may be renewed for next year. This scholarship, based on need, will be available one year after it is endowed.

"I am very happy with the fall Phone-a-thon. This team of students are hard working, eager to meet the challenges and a pleasure to be with. The managers and assistant managers have taken charge and have done as outstanding job," said Manning.



The dedicated callers from the 2001 Phone-a-thon pose with Roger Williams. -photo by Geri Manning

Students enjoy meteor shower

By Trisha Spillane

Staff Writer

The sky is falling? No, the sky is not falling; however something out of the ordinary was going on up there. Leonid meteors lit up the early morning sky on Sunday, November 18. The sky exploded with light every few seconds as sharp bursts of light blasted through the sky.

It was a beautiful night for a meteor shower. There were no clouds in sight and the darkness of the sky only enhanced the show. Many RWU students came out for the display of mete-

ors. Students gathered on the soccer field, down by the Mount Hope Bay, and on Old Ferry Road to view what was happening in the sky. They set up blankets, and watched the sky above them to view the natural fireworks display.

The best meteors were viewed between 4 a.m. and 5 a.m. on early Sunday morning.

The cold weather did not keep people from observing the sky that night. Sophomore class president Kate Reis said, "I had heard of the meteor shower early in the week, so my friends and I had planned to sit under the stars to view the spectacular sight. Saturday

night we braved the cold at several points to see the meteor shower. They certainly met the standards we were told we would see. It certainly was an amazing sight!"

The shower occurs when the earth and the debris cross paths, and the bits of comet ranging in size from dust to marbles enter the atmosphere at 155,000 miles per hour and burn up causing streaks of light.

RWU professor Dr. Kerri Warren was one onlooker who enjoyed the show. According to Warren, she had never seen such large skipping meteors that were visible on Sunday.

"The skipping streaks are formed

only when large [marble sized vs. sand size] particles of comet tail dust hit our atmosphere," said Warren. "We were also lucky to pass through the Tempel-Tuttle dust trails during a moon phase that allowed us to view the dark night sky. I heard that earth's next pass through the trails will occur during a full moon—making the shower virtually invisible!"

Warren was not the only one impressed. Freshman Emily Noor said, "I had never seen anything like that. It was raining meteors!"

The next meteor shower will be in December, and it will be a Geminid shower out of the constellation Gemini.

NEWS

Even with more lines, T-Reg causes students problems

By Mark Flynn

Contributing Writer

Brian Bagdon, a senior business management major, got to experience RWU's updated registration system this semester as he tried to register for spring classes. Bagdon started calling at 10 a.m. and then continued to call, missing two classes, until 1 p.m.

"I would have been done at 11:30, but it hung up on me after I got 2 classes," said Bagdon. "As a senior, I didn't want to miss getting my classes, so I skipped two classes, which I got interogated for the following Thursday."

At 1 p.m., Bagdon got three of his five classes. He then had to go to the Registrar and register in person for the remaining two.

Bagdon's experience was hardly unique. Many students found themselves frustrated by the challenges of registering for classes. Those frustrations then led to the issue of whether or not updating our T-Reg system was a necessary step toward RWU's ultimate goal of online registration. Even a \$40,000 upgrade of this year's phone system did not satisfy student complaints, due to some software problems.

Administration is looking at three aspects of the registration situation; what prompted the change from our old

system, what in fact the upgrade means for students, and whether the upgrade was a step forward toward online registration.

The registration system that carried students through last year, and in years past was eight lines of the phone registration (T-Reg). Due to the growing number of students, this system needed to be modified, or upgraded to accommodate these students.

According to Peter Wilbur, Associate Vice President of Finance and Administration, "Our old system was so old the software was not upgradeable."

This meant that a decision had to be made as to what system RWU should incorporate into the school.

Vice President of Academic Affairs, Loretta Shelton, said "an online system is the goal for Roger Williams, but you can't go online by buying a package and hitting a button."

Wilbur further clarified this by stating, "There was not enough time to roll out a web registration. The web registration is a big commitment."

Something, however, had to be done to meet student needs, and the decision was made to upgrade the T-Reg system.

In upgrading the T-Reg system, RWU doubled the available lines from 8 to 16. According to Wilbur, the cost for the upgrade was \$40,000. Aside from a scripting error that shut down all but

five lines of the system in the first week of registration, the new version of the T-Reg system "should work smoothly for students when the students are given days alphabetically."

Brian Bagdon said, "Everyone I know on campus complains about registration; this new T-Reg system was just a temporary thing to shut up the complaining."

"The upgrade is not a quick fix," said Wilbur. "We will have further use for the system when it is not used for registration."

When asked about the usefulness of this system, Shelton said, "The university made a commitment and once fixed, we will have a better system than we ever had in the history of the university."

Even with the eight new lines, not all students are going to get all of their classes using the T-Reg. Problems are inevitable, administrators say. An in-person, human interaction is still going to have to be an option. Shelton used the example that "students who only get three classes need to finish the process at the registrar."

This brings up the next aspect of whether forward progress was made towards online registration by incorporating the new T-Reg system into the university. The fact remains that the T-Reg has no ready options for students

over the phone. If students do not get certain classes, a trip to the registrar is needed.

According to Shelton, "The T-Reg is the bridge between in-person registration and an online system. You could spend 45 minutes with the in-person registration and get your classes. You could spend 10 minutes with the T-Reg and you might leave with three classes, and you could spend 45 minutes online and still get all your classes. I don't know what students' expectations are, to get done in ten minutes or get a complete schedule."

Wilbur put it in different terms, stating that "the T-Reg is not a step forward in efficiency, but in convenience."

Brian Bagdon does not believe that it was a step forward at all, but rather "a side step. Efficiency is the most important thing. I don't care about making good time; I just care about getting my classes. I don't know why we wasted money on the T-Reg instead of going online."

According to Shelton, RWU will have an online system in the future. How long it will take is questionable, but Shelton stated that "it's not all that long term, but it's not like I need a new shirt, I'm going to buy a new shirt. It is a complex system. The T-Reg upgrade was a midcourse decision and online registration is our goal."

IRHA hosts successful conference at RWU

By Laurie Schorr

Staff Writer

From November 2 to November 4, the Roger Williams University Inter-Residence Hall Association had the honor of hosting the autumn NEACURH conference.

"NEACURH" stands for the North East Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls and is one of eight student-run affiliates of the National Association of College and University Residence Halls. NEACURH is made up of representatives from nearly sixty schools and focuses on the programming, leadership, recognition and communication of student life on campus. NEACURH conferences are held twice a year, in November and March, and are completely student-run. The confer-

ences serve two purposes: to lend students the opportunity to share their school's student programs and problem-solving techniques, as well as to give students the chance to observe and learn from the programs presented by other schools.

This past November, RWU was selected to host the NEACURH conference, and 33 different schools from the northeast sent representatives to attend it. The student representatives stayed in Middletown and then met at the Portsmouth campus for several of the programs and presentations. The programs ranged from lessons on time management to plans to incorporate on-campus diversity. Representatives were required to submit program proposals in order to present at the conference. Roger Williams University representatives were granted the opportunity to

speak twice.

Steve Indich, a RWU delegate, presented "This Program is Horrible" about the effects of advertising, and J.D. Crooks, another RWU delegate, discussed drug and alcohol awareness with "How Much College Students Spend Harming Themselves." For the most part, the delegates who attended the RWU presentations offered very positive evaluations.

Also receiving a very positive evaluation was Carol Sacchetti, the advisor for all of IRHA.

"IRHA is a program that represents each living area; the CORE, the Head Resident Advisors, the entire Team Care staff," Carol explained.

For Carol, being awarded and recognized for her outstanding leadership and advisement of the entire IRHA "felt great; it was definitely an experience."

Carol graduated from Bridgewater

State College with an undergraduate degree in public relations and advertising, and then went on to University of Hartford to receive a Masters degree in Business Communications. This is her second year at Roger Williams University as a CORE for Cedar Hall and the advisor of the IRHA.

Overall, hosting the NEACURH conference was a very positive experience for the IRHA and the Roger Williams University community. It was an opportunity to share the campus with representatives from other schools across the northeast, as well as to learn the techniques and solutions that other schools use to alleviate the many issues college students deal with.

Carol, who loves working with college students, said of the conference, "I learned just how hard students are willing to work to accomplish their goals."

Forum

Continued from front page

Marielena Tecce, a senior and the Dance Club Secretary, was the first student to address the forum. She claimed to be speaking on behalf of a constituency of students who did not wish to speak themselves, and she addressed the issue

of the Dance Club's lack of appropriate practice space. Tecce commented said she felt the university was looking to the future rather than focusing on the present.

"I think that our school needs to focus on what is actually here and improve what is here instead of trying to expand everything," she said.

Tecce cited instances of miscommunication between Student Senate and the Dance Club, and claimed that the

Dance Club, with membership currently 150 strong, deserves more respect from the RWU administration. She alleged that the Dance Club has to sign up for practice time in the gym, has been kicked out of the gym, and have had the lights turned off on them while they were practicing.

"I don't understand why you can't accommodate for us in any way," said Tecce to loud clapping and cheering in the audience.

President Nirschel, calling Tecce's argument "compelling," turned the question over to Dean Stegman,

"I think it's fair for us to say that there's a high recognition on campus for the value of the Dance Club," said Stegman. He then went on to describe how the renovation to the Paolino Recreation Center will include space for dance, aerobics and other recreational

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NEWS

In the interest of credit card debt, watch your step

By Brendan Finn

Contributing Writer

"Just put it on the card." That's what Melissa Gillian, a RWU student, said while she was having the time of her life on Spring Break in Daytona Beach. That little plastic card had the power to buy anything a freshman in paradise could possibly want (as long as it was not over \$1,000). Gillian had applied for her Visa online, answering basic questions; in four days, the card was hers, which was about the same time it took her to max out her credit line of \$1,000. Before she new it, Melissa, now a junior at Roger Williams University, was \$5,000 in debt, thanks to an interest rate of 29.9 percent. The safety rope of her parents had been cut before she even got the card, forcing Melissa to consolidate her credit with Ameridebt. She is financially stable now, but she wishes that getting a credit card was not so easy. A few clicks with her mouse and she had the illusion of \$1,000 to spend.

That illusion is a reality for many college students with credit cards. Credit card companies give credit to people with little or no income as normal practice. Credit cards are dangled in front of almost every college student. They can get them online, in the malls, through

the mail or even between parties while on spring break. Students are accepted for credit before they are even accepted into college. The fact is that credit cards are intentionally targeted to college students.

Last year, 78 percent of undergraduate students had a credit history and had credit cards, according to Bankrate.com, a credit-counseling organization. Of that 78 percent, 38 percent had four or more cards. Another 13 percent of these cardholders were in debt between \$3,000 and \$7,000. Nine percent had debt greater than \$7,000.

Melissa Gillian is a prime example of a college student becoming another statistic in the credit annals when she filed with Ameridebt. Many students get their cards in similar fashion. Young people are lured in by attractive packages that include free give-aways and low introductory rates.

Craig McBride, a financial analyst for Bankrate.com, said, "Credit is very easy to obtain, it isn't hard to get at all."

Credit-card issuers realize that parents usually bail out students who run up oversize balances or fall behind payments. Gillian learned the hard way about bad credit.

"It's ridiculous to let college kids have credit so easy; they need more background information beforehand," she said.

With so many stories similar to

Gillian's, why do credit card companies give credit to people in this income scale at all?

"Used correctly, credit cards can help a person establish a good credit history, for future transactions, such as mortgages and car loans," said McBride.

If students were to take the conservative approach and keep their credit history blank, they would find it very hard to get any credit when they entered the real world. One such story of positive credit is Ryan Peron, an RWU sophomore.

"Credit cards make my life a lot easier," Peron said. "I don't have to carry around cash wherever I go. I've never gotten into debt...you just have to know how to be responsible with them."

Education might save these people from getting into trouble in the first place, the experts say. Obtaining credit is not a difficult process and very little is done to educate consumers about credit.

"Credit card lenders need to do more work with the people they lend cards to," said Scott Strumello, an associate at Auriemma Consulting Firm. "Enough in the way of education isn't being done."

Strumello not only holds the credit card companies at fault for not educating consumers, but he also blames the

universities that let them solicit at their institutions.

He said, "Credit-card soliciting is a big revenue for colleges. Colleges need to be more responsible in who they let solicit, and not just accept the check."

Although finding a credit company that goes out of its way to educate their consumers is hard to find, there are some that do, such as Fleet Credit Company. Credit companies, feeling the pressure of a slacking economy and bad press, are starting to make education about credit a bigger priority.

Debra Pulver, director of communications for Fleet Credit Subsidiary in Providence, said, "Education is the key. Students need to understand how to use the card...we try to educate consumers the best we can."

According to Pulver, Fleet does not practice in mass solicitation or campus solicitation.

Credit cards are not given away, and students are still responsible for applying for them. As long as students fill out those applications the way they have been in recent years, the companies will continue to solicit to this age group, regardless of their overall financial status.

Strumello agreed.

"It's easier to acquire a customer who has no credit than to steal them from someone else," he said.

Playground on Bristol Common named Sondra's Castle, RWU's Ray Cordeiro involved

By Sara Clark

Editor-In-Chief

Over two dozen friends, family members, town council members, and supporters turned out for the dedication and naming ceremony of the new playground on the Bristol Town Common against a backdrop of laughing, oblivious children on Tuesday, October 23.

The ceremony was held at 5:15 p.m. by the Bristol Town Council members, who revealed a sign that officially named the playground "Sondra's Castle" after an enclosed section of the old wooden playground in which a Bristol girl who used to spend hours playing.

Sondra Garcia, who was stricken with viral meningitis 14 years ago, was only eight years old when she died. She was diagnosed on a Friday and died the following Monday. She loved playing on the old wooden playground, and, said Bristol Director of Parks and Recreation Walter Burke, was very involved in its construction even though she was so young. Only eight, Sondra convinced several of her peers to help with the playground's construction. She would not live to see its completion.

"She was a sweet little girl," remembered Marcia Garcia, Sondra's mother. "She loved school. She was always

kind, she was always sweet."

Burke welcomed everyone to the ceremony and spoke of Sondra's love of the old wooden playground and how the new playground came to be. He then introduced Town Council Chairman Richard Ruggiero, who mentioned that there had been some opposition to the construction of the new playground.

"I hope that everyone that was against the playground now sees how beautiful it is," he said.

Burke then removed the covering from the green and gold "Sondra's Castle" archway sign. Burke handed Garcia and her niece golden scissors, and they cut the gold ribbon encircling the sign, officially dedicating the playground.

Sondra's Castle, purchased from Miracle Recreation Equipment Co. in Connecticut, is the largest manufactured playground in Rhode Island. The company installed the playground because, according to Burke, it was so expensive (the materials alone cost \$81,500).

"Anything over \$45,00 they install for free," he said.

Construction of the playground began in August, and Cordeiro said that it took the company about nine days to complete it, working 16 to 20 hours per day.

"Walter wanted to make sure that it was up before school started," said

Cordeiro.

Burke, it appears, was the driving force behind the dedication of the playground. Cordeiro said that Burke saw the carving on the old playground made some inquiries as to who Sondra was. He met with her family, learned more about Sondra and proposed the naming of the playground in her memory.

"It really struck a chord with him," said Cordeiro. "I said, 'that's a great idea.'"

The money for the new playground was appropriated from the Bristol town budget by the town council.

Burke explained that the old wooden playground, though historic, was unsafe for children because of the splinters, mold, nails, the poles rotting in the ground after time and letting off gasses, and because of the fact that the pressure-treated lumber it was constructed from was treated with arsenate, a derivative of arsenic.

After Sondra's death, members of the community carved her name into the planks of one section of the old playground. Garcia displayed the plaque at the ceremony.

"We gave Mary that board that we took off the old playground," said Burke.

The Bristol Town Council consists of



Members of the Bristol community perform the ribbon cutting ceremony at the dedication of the new playground on the Bristol Town Common, officially opening the park.

Continued on next page...

-photo by Sara Clark

NEWS

Censorship and RWU

By Steve Saleeba

Features/Editorials Editor

Rachel Margolin, a DJ for WQRI, has been there for three years. Sometimes a jokester, Margolin says she is tempted to poke fun at the administration or about school policies, or her listeners, while on the air. She keeps in the back of her mind, however, that one crack about the president's house or one overly enthusiastic complaint about the tighter alcohol policies on campus and she may face being fired.

WQRI's DJs are given a packet each year containing rules that they are obligated to follow in order to stay on the air. The obvious would already fall under FCC rules, such as the seven words that cannot be said on the radio. The station goes even further by saying, as Margolin puts it, "DJs aren't allowed to make fun of the school, administration, or teachers." Any student who is willing to challenge this policy may be fired from the station.

This rule, which appears in the WQRI Handbook, may appear to be a violation of students' First Amendment rights. What some students forget is that when they attend a private college, they might as well leave their rights at home, because private schools are not obligated to honor these rights, and in many cases, choose not to.

Schools such as Rice University in Texas, where administrators chose to shut down the student-controlled radio station because of an on-air protest by student DJs who disagreed with a new policy that required the station to broadcast athletic events, do not honor the students' freedom of expression. In protest, the students chose to play music instead of airing the second half of a women's basketball game.

In landmark court cases such as *Hazelwood School Dist. v. Kuhlmeier*, the courts ruled in favor of private schools, taking away the students' constitutional rights by allowing the administrations of private colleges to control college media through censorship.

Although teachers spend many hours in both grade school and college, teaching students about how they are protected as American citizens under the Bill of Rights, administrations continue to ignore them, possibly fearing that they will lose power and control of their institutions, which they seem to forget that students fund.

Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania pulled their student newspaper, which contained controversial material about the school, from its Website for public relations reasons.

June Speakman, Associate Professor

of Political Science at RWU, noted that a university might step in and censor a student publication for a number of reasons. One reason may be protection of students' privacy, whereas a more objectionable reason would be to protect the reputation of the university.

Speakman says she is "an advocate of a completely free press." She believes that colleges should allow student media to "follow the normal standard of media."

RWU, as a private institution, can legally censor *The Hawk's Eye* and WQRI, both school-funded media. Although this is legal, it is un-American.

The Student Press Law Center, a non-profit organization that helps protect students from censorship and other First Amendment violations, points out on its web page that, "Because the First

that the educational lesson would be lost." He said, however, "That would be a very difficult threshold to meet."

RWU President Roy J. Nirschel, Ph.D., who was involved in his school newspaper as a student at Southern Connecticut State University, views having a student newspaper as an important learning experience for students to have.

"Universities are about discussions," he said. "Students should not be shy about expressing themselves, even if it's not 'popular.'"

President Nirschel agreed that censorship is an issue.

"We have been in an era of political correctness," he said. "We are careful about offending."

He went on to say, "We ought to be able to express all points of view."

Commenting on the radio station

"If we censor, the issue becomes censorship, not the issue that we're debating."

-Dean Richard Stegman

Amendment says, 'Congress shall make no law...' courts hold that it prevents only the government and those acting on its behalf from denying a person their free speech rights. Private institutions, therefore, are not generally subject to limitations imposed by the First Amendment."

There are many underlying reasons that an administration would not invoke censorship. One reason is that censorship may halt a particular educational experience.

Richard Stegman, Dean of Students, like Speakman, opposes censorship in almost all circumstances.

"If we censor, we default on our educational mission," he said. Stegman pointed out that, "If something is offensive to someone or some group, it stirs discussion. The value of that discussion is what (colleges) are all about."

Stegman, a member of the RI Chapter of the ACLU, explains that these discussions bring forth insight into a particular problem. They also provoke students to think about the issues.

"Our mission is to be an educational institution," he said, "not to allow the debate to occur circumvents that process."

Stegman pointed out, "If we censor, the issue becomes censorship, not the issue that we're debating."

Stegman favors censorship "whenever we feel that it is a situation that is extremely harmful to the institution and

policy, however, Nirschel said that he feels it would be inappropriate for students to make fun of the administration. He said the radio station probably should not "bite the hand that feeds it."

President Nirschel also pointed out that students should have a sense of "pride" and "propriety" about their school. He went on to say that if the administration were criticized in a news format show, with the opportunity to respond, it would be appropriate and acceptable.

Thor Halvorsen, Executive Director of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, explained, "Students at a private institution have no Constitutional rights."

However, he commented that students do not lose common law rights, including protection from fraud. If the university promises academic freedom and free speech in its distributed literature, they are obligated to uphold these promises. If these promises are not upheld, the university is guilty of false advertising, or, as Halvorsen puts it, "bait and switch."

"The RWU administration cannot say that it supports freedom of expression, and then, after cashing the tuition checks, restrict or censor student voices," said Halvorsen. "That is called breach of contract."

Halvorsen went on to say, "There is a ferocious assault on freedom of speech on college campuses."

Halvorsen believes that school administrations around the country intentionally attempt to censor free speech for what they believe may be for the good of education, among other reasons, such as their fear of losing power and control. He opposes this practice saying, "A free and humane environment is infinitely more important than preventing criticism of the administration."

Sara Clark, the Editor-in-Chief of *The Hawk's Eye* said that *The Hawk's Eye* opposes any kind of censorship with the exceptions of libel, vulgarity, obscenity and other speech that is not protected by the First Amendment.

"We feel that as a student newspaper, we should represent not only the voices of students who dare not or cannot be heard, but also the voices of those with whom we do not necessarily agree," said Clark. "*The Hawk's Eye* has published opinions other than our own, and possibly in opposition to our own, because otherwise we would be guilty of censorship ourselves."

As a student newspaper, *The Hawk's Eye* prides itself on being a voice for the students, a valuable source of on-campus news, a watchdog of administration, and an educational experience for those students involved in the production of the newspaper assisting in the educational advancement of all the students at RWU.

Incidentally, freedoms of the press and of speech seem to be well-supported here at RWU.

Kurt Larson, a third-year architecture major, was quick to point out, however, that may not be the case.

Larson, speaking generally, said, "Those in power don't favor free speech, because they have the most to lose."

Those who do not favor free speech are not going to speak out against it. They fear, as Larson put it, "they will look anti-American."

Larson also said, "If they say that they oppose free speech, they'll look like a criminal."

The possibility of censorship will plague private school media as long as students attend private universities. According to rulings by the Supreme Court, private schools have the right to censor because they are private institutions.

As long as there are discrepancies between students and administrations at private colleges, the possibility of censorship will linger in students' minds.

As Dean Stegman put it, "Some schools will move quickly to limit free speech in their newspapers. At our school, we do not and will not take that stance."

Sondra's Castle

Continued from page 10

five members. Four members — Chairman Ruggiero, Vice Chairwoman Kathy Bozinet, David Barboza, and RWU's Assistant Director of Athletics Ray Cordeiro were present at the ceremony. The fifth councilman, Halsey

Herreshoff, was not in attendance.

Cordeiro remembered how the playground was in his youth. He said that there used to be a horseshoe pit and a merry-go-round.

"This is the playground that I played

at when I was a kid," said Cordeiro.

Cordeiro is the Bristol Town Council liaison to the parks and recreations department, but he said that his participation in the ceremony reflected not only his official duties as a council-

man, but also his commitment to his community and its members and his familiar childhood memories of the playground.

"Even though I'm considered a politician, I'm still a kid at heart," he said.

HEALTH/WELLNESS

RIBC makes first appearance since attack, calls for Bristol residents to join student donors

By Kathy Lopes

Advertising Editor

Has it been eight weeks already? Actually, it has been about 10 weeks since RWU's last blood drive. Since people can donate once every 56 days, the Bayside Association and Student Volunteer Association sponsored one last blood drive for this semester on December 3.

The blood drive was held in the Paolino Recreation Center from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There were 59 pints of blood collected, surpassing the drive's goal of 50 pints for the second time this year.

In comparison to the last, "this blood drive was much better equipped to handle the number of students who came to donate," said Kate Mulvaney, a senior marine biology major who helped coordinate the drive.

During September's blood drive, more than 50 donors arrived in the first half-hour and there was a three-hour waiting period. There was a sign-up sheet available in the Student Union on the Wednesday and Thursday before the drive this time, so students had the option to make an appointment.

"With this method the waiting time was cut down to 25 minutes for those with appointments and no longer than an hour and a half for those without," explained Mulvaney.

There were 60 appointments scheduled for this drive, and the coordinators plan to increase that number next time by advertising the dates for the sign-up

days better before the next drive because most people were not aware of the new system. Walk-in visitors were accepted, but students with appointments received first priority.

The blood drive was advertised on campus with signs posted in every academic building. The Rhode Island Blood Center also made phone calls to local Bristol residents informing them about a blood drive in their vicinity.

RIBC increased its pool of donors after the September 11 terrorist attacks and is actively trying to convert these sporadic people into steady, repeat donors.

"The amount of people who came out during that first week was extraordinary," stated one nurse.

Shortly after the attacks, RIBC put a limit to how much blood it could collect in one day, so it would not have an excess amount that would go to waste. This forced the Blood Center to ask many disappointed people to reschedule their appointments. Many of these people were first-time donors or had not donated in years. Despite being turned away at first, "gladly they've all been pretty much sticking with the commitment to come back," stated the same nurse.

Mulvaney added that there is to be two more drives next semester; one in early February and another in late April. She also observed that the people who donate continually do not do so because of a national tragedy, but because "they may know someone who has needed a transfusion and really witnessed the value of their donation."

Buy a pin, prevent child abuse in RI

Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island is raising money this holiday season by selling whimsical, hand-made, one-of-a-kind lapel pins. There are two kinds: Little People Pins, depicting children being children, and Book Pins, celebrating the joy of reading. These pins are designed and created by Designs by Lucinda and are available at a minimum donation of \$13.

Purchasing a pin shows your support for important child abuse prevention programs in Rhode Island. Pins can be purchased at the Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island office on 500 Prospect St. in Pawtucket, RI, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by calling (1-401-728-7920). Supporters can also purchase pins by visiting the website at www.preventchildabuse-ri.org.

Do you have the flu?

Influenza is the proper name for the 'flu.' Influenza is a highly contagious infection of the respiratory tract. It usually occurs in epidemics during the colder months. The RWU Health Services usually sees cases of the flu after the Thanksgiving holiday so here is some information to help you determine if you have the flu.

What causes the flu?

A virus causes influenza. You can catch it from breathing the droplet from an infected person or by indirect contact such as the use of a contaminated drinking glass. The influenza virus then goes into the nose and lungs and causes swelling and discharge. As with most viral illnesses there is no specific treatment and your immune system has to fight it off. Although you feel very sick, if you are healthy the flu is usually self-limiting and your symptoms should resolve within a week.

How will I know I have it?

Symptoms usually occur within 24 to 48 hours after exposure. Symptoms include a sudden onset of any or all of the following symptoms: chills, temperature, of 101 to 103 degrees Fahrenheit, headache, pain behind the eyes, fatigue, generalized body aches particularly in the back, arms, and legs, a dry cough, hoarseness of the throat, red eyes, and nasal congestion.

Symptoms usually last 3-7 days, but the cough and weakness may persist.

Fever that lasts longer than three to five days is serious. The most common complication is pneumonia, but there are many other problems that can be caused by the flu.

What should you do?

Rest! Rest! Rest! The more rest you are able to get the quicker your symptoms will resolve. Also, students that push themselves to go to when sick are exposing others to the virus. So, get the favorite blanket and 'hit the sack!' Drink plenty of decaffeinated, hot liquids such as herbal teas with lemon juice and honey, and gargle with warm, salt water. Doing so will soothe the throat, relieve congestion, and replace body fluids. Take two Tylenol every four hours. Avoid aspirin. You can also take over-the-counter medications such as Robitussin DM for cough, Sudafed for daytime congestion, and Coricidin D for nighttime congestion.

Go to Health Services if: your fever is higher than 101 degrees Fahrenheit, you have a stiff neck, very sore throat, ear pain, swollen glands, chest pain, shortness of breath or wheezing, very bad headaches, sensitivity to light, feel faint, or if your symptoms last longer than a week.

How can you get the flu Vaccine?

The flu Vaccine is available to all students, by appointment. Call Health Services at extension 3156. The cost is \$10.

Help assist with suicide prevention

People who are depressed and/or suicidal frequently show their feelings in any of the following ways:

- Talking about, writing about, hinting and/or threatening suicide (these threats proceed four out of five deaths by suicide).
- Drug abuse.
- Drastic changes in personality.
- Losing interest in favorite activities.
- Sleeping too little or too much.
- No appetite or overeating.
- Previous suicide attempts (these people are at especially high risk).
- Giving away prized possessions.
- Fatigue, lethargy, or apathy.
- Doing poorly in school.
- Social withdrawal and isolation.
- Drastic changes in appearance.
- Feelings of hopelessness or helplessness.
- Conflicts with friends or family.

Facing the facts:

- Between 1960 and 1990, the suicide rate for young men, ages 15 to 24 tripled.
- For every teen suicide there is anywhere from 100-200 attempts.

-Young men kill themselves more than young women do; but women are still very much at risk.

-Young men attempt suicide three times more than young women.

-Ten to fifteen percent of adolescents have attempted suicide.

-Suicide rates are thought to have increased because of easy access to firearms and pills, increasingly demanding pressures of modern life, intense competition for good grades and college admission, and the violence that permeates our society.

What you can do:

Ask your friend to contact The Samaritans; a free, confidential hotline for suicide that is accessible at any time of the day or night. The Samaritans can be contacted at, (401)272-4044 or 1-800-365-4044.

Let him/her know that the calls are anonymous and can not be traced, so their friends and family won't find out.

Let him/her know that with the right help their feelings of depression and/or

Continued on page 13...

ENTERTAINMENT

The Rimers of Eldrich: two hours of talent

By Laurie Schorr

Staff Writer

Somewhere in America there is a washed-out little ghost town with two gossipy old women, a wrinkled, aging mother and her single, bitter daughter; a young, naïve schoolgirl and her quiet, brooding love-interest; an adamantly God-loving preacher; an innocently love-struck teenager and her uninterested, arrogant boyfriend; a selfish, attractive young woman and her troubled, unhappy parents, a lonely café owner and her young, vagrant lover boy; an old, mysterious shepherd with eyes that, despite the onset of blindness, will see everything...

Welcome to Eldrich.

In a play written by Lanford Wilson and directed by theater professor Peter Wright, 17 very talented RWU actors told the tale of *The Rimers of Eldrich*, a sadly honest portrayal of the evil in human nature. The play began with an eerie church procession led by a sullen, black-cloaked preacher. The procession, consisting of merely a handful of meek individuals, sang with an underlying aura of doom that foreshadowed the tragedy to come. Slowly the scenes

interacted and connected the unhappy characters to their shared finale.

"The urges of sin lead to death," the old watchful man explained several times, and with each new scene the audience saw how correct he was.

Each individual scene highlighted a single or a certain group of characters, and in nearly every scene, all the actors were present on the stage. During one scene, which took place in the forest, two characters interacted with each other while the remaining actors held their arms up as trees and the lights, filtered with wired screens, shed light through the shadows of leaves. A similar simple creativity and silent drama pervaded each surrounding scene to convey the sense of doom and evil that lurked behind the sullen eyes of the characters.

The play ran for two hours and was broken by a short intermission; the second scene opened with a less morbid version of the song-laden first, and it foreshadowed a sense of finality and perhaps a bit of good to come along with the ultimate evil. Greg Hoch, who played the old shepherd, presented an impressive soliloquy through which he told the audience of all the awful secrets he witnessed and the audience could only, until his assertion, assume had hap-

pened. In the end, the innocent witness had seen too much and was murdered by the very evil he laid eyes on. The last scene was a dramatic climax in which all the guilty hands of the gray-washed characters touched the rifle that took the old man's life. The young, red-headed, love struck teenager (Kristin Harris), however, did not touch the gun; she is the only member of Eldrich who was able to run out without becoming washed out by the town's wicked aura.

Rehearsal for the play began in mid-September and auditions were held for each of the 17 roles. The play's director, Peter Wright, assigned the students to their respective parts in the production. Once students were given their roles and scripts, Wright rehearsed the play scene-by-scene so that the actors could learn to memorize each of their parts and the blocking and lines of the stage for each individual scene and then finally piece the play together. Once a week there would be a rehearsal night scheduled when the actors would have to read "off book" and follow along without referring to their scripts.

Ian LaChance, who played the young, guilt-ridden Robert Conklin, calls Wright's directing ability during the course of the play "genius."

"I can't even describe it," Ian com-

mented with obvious admiration, "Peter is so brilliant. He has this vision, and he does whatever it takes to get his actors to give that vision to the audience once on stage."

Part of Wright's vision was the underlying morals and emotions of the play. These morals were translated and interpreted in several different ways.

"To be honest," LaChance said, "and to know that when you lie there are all kinds of repercussions you don't expect" were some of the themes of the production.

Stephanie Frank, a freshman who was thoroughly impressed by the production, felt that the themes "...reflected a lot of the qualities of human nature. It shows how boredom can get to people, how it can bring out the worst in people."

The last song, which left the audience in a state of silent consideration, represented "...how we are all trying to gain salvation," said LaChance.

Although contentment may have never reached the members of Eldrich, it certainly overwhelmed the members of the audience. The production was a two-hour demonstration of the impressive talent and touching creativity of a unique group of RWU students.

Sold out performance by Dance Theatre Company

By Kristyn Fontanella

Contributing Writer

Audience members filled the seats and lined the floor of the Performing Arts Center or "The Barn" to maximum capacity for four sold out performances of the Dance Theatre Company.

The performance, directed by dance department head Kelli Wicke Davis, ran from November 29 to December 1.

There was an eclectic group of performances. Some were choreographed by guest artists Peter Kalivas of New York and Claire Porter of Connecticut, along with students' original work choreographed by Gretchen Rowe, Brandon Glasgow, Bridgette Humphrey and Jacquelyn Keane.

One of Gretchen Rowe's pieces symbolized the tragedy of September 11. It was titled "848" and was accompanied

by the music of Philip Glass.

Starting rehearsals in the middle of September, all 38 members shined on stage.

"You spend so much time and effort all semester that it makes it all worth while when you hear the applause of family members and friends in the audience," said Kendra Parkin, a senior dance major.

Many performers hope to continue their on-stage performances after graduating from RWU.

"This semester's show was so much fun, it was a great time. I can't wait until the next one," says Andrea DiDio as she was greeted by family members and bouquets of flowers at the performance's end.

The next Dance Theatre performance is scheduled for the end of the spring semester 2002.

Prevention

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suicide are treatable. Let him/her know that you are willing to listen if they

need someone to talk to, and that you won't lecture or advise them. Don't try to offer solutions or try to make them feel better, just listen to what they have to say.

Make him/her feel safe with you, let him/her know that you can be trusted, and let him/her know that you care.

Review

In paradise with Max Creek

By Rachel Margolin

Contributing Writer

Recently at 'The Paradise,' a tiny nightclub in Boston, I was able to see a band that has been around relatively as long as The Grateful Dead, complete with 'Jam band' qualities and a pleasant mix of the blues. Although I've seen this group two other times in concert, it was nice to see such a great live group attract a small, yet enormously faithful, following. There was no pushing, or fighting through a crowd of sticky people, or getting liquid intoxication dripped on you. There was just laid back jammin' and groovin' from hippy chicks to granddaddy rockers.

Max Creek opened with "Yellow Moon," and as they played on, you could see more and more people crowd to the dance floor to move to their bluesy sound.

I particularly enjoyed "Wild Side," the third song played in their two sets. I

couldn't stop myself moving my feet and bobbing my head to the reggae-ish rhythm. Wild Side is one of their more upbeat songs and I got more pumped with the crowd as they continued performing the song for what seemed like 10 minutes.

Although this club might be stereotyped as a 'hole in the wall,' this group, if they really desired to, could sell out Madison Square Garden or the Fleet Center.

It seemed like this band could play the soul of rock and roll forever. Just seeing them all turn to each other and smile through each song - you could feel the connection between them and sense their passion for playing live music together.

Many bands have come and gone since the 70s and few people can recall who or how, but Max Creek has been around for a long time and based on what I've seen at their concerts, their fans and their popularity aren't going anywhere.

Thank you for reading
The Hawk's Eye and
have a safe, happy
and fun holiday break!

FEATURES

Dark Horse

A poem by J. Layne

You left us
Like the scent
of melted wax
from a musk candle.

We feel
as if you left
the window open.

You are finally with
"Your sweet lord,"
your anticipation
granted to us through
ballads that
flake
off
and fall into our ears
leaving you alive,
eternally.

George Harrison
1943 - 2001

George Harrison through elegy: A way to remember the 'Quiet Beatle'

By J. Layne

Layout Editor

I found it ironic that George Harrison's 2000 re-issued collection was entitled "All Things Must Pass." Some of its song titles were a comforting glare at death: "The Art of Dying," "All Things Must Pass," "Hear Me Lord and Waiting on You All." In the lyrics of those songs a declaration of fearlessness was lucid in death's concept. It was at a record store in Newport when I realized that George Harrison, more than any other deceased artist, transcended his life through his music and not through public-mania, publicity photographs and figurines.

I dug through my Beatles' records and my copy of the Concert for Bangladesh and began emulating him in my mind. I sat at a table with almost a dozen George Harrisons, all at different stages of his life: the dapper P.R. do you want to know a secret George Harrison, the mop-top stained glasses mod-versus-rocker George Harrison, the Sgt. Pepper George Harrison, the Hare Krishna George Harrison, the Christ-image

George Harrison, the zany-back-when-we-was-fab sports jacket George Harrison, the Traveling Wilbury George Harrison, the painfully wounded George Harrison and the 11th hour George Harrison. They all spoke in unison and urged me to make a mixed tape, to show me how at peace they were. I was out of blank tapes, so I became a George Harrison Think Tank. I paced around my 10-by-10-foot room in my tiny house on Thames St. in Newport.

His songs were lacquered in spirituality. It's easy to grasp the concept of being "spiritual" in the post-modern corkboard of the present. It's easy to write him off as flaky and hazy when we heard George sing, "I really want to see you, lord, but it takes so long, my lord." But the song sounds different when it is played somewhere other than a mono Musak speaker in an Ames department store, when it's played on a piece of dusty vinyl. George Harrison would have believed that when he passed; he would have been those particles that flawed it. He was almost curious about his death as he bellowed those lyrics.

So, I picked up my roommate's guitar capo and taught myself how to play "Here Comes the Sun" and "My Sweet Lord." I always appreciated the George songs on Beatles records and how there weren't quite Beatles' songs. Sitar and tablas resonated at the site of every one of his pictures. My parents would always skip "Love you to" on the Revolver record. I began to sing with a Liverpoolian accent, "Little dahlia, its bean a lahng cohd lonlay whintah...Little dahlia, its seems like yeas sinz it's bean hea." Wouldn't you know it? I began to tear and the sun rose at 2 a.m. I imagined the 11th hour George Harrison's smirk before he knew he would have left us in peace.

CNN dubbed him "not quite a legend." But, sometimes, the hands of mystery in dim light craft legends. Legends are, sometimes, to be sought out and discovered clandestinely.

George Harrison left us on November 30, 2001 in Los Angeles and exists now as a Dark Horse without a pale rider with echoes of his weeping guitar like gusts through window cracks.

Exercising Her Talents

By Kathy Lopes

Advertising Editor

Are you ready to be introduced to an extremely enthusiastic and motivated freshman from New York who wants to help RWU students become healthier and stronger individuals? Meet Laurie Schorr, who volunteers as a personal trainer on campus and helps students lose weight, get into shape, and build muscle strength. Laurie joined up with Martin Weathers, a fifth year architecture student, to start a personal training program run through the Paolino Recreation Center in order to benefit the students and help keep her training license active. The program provides both consultation and training sessions.

Laurie Schorr is from Rye, New York (a suburb of New York City). She is an 18-year-old journalism major, but aspires to double major in visual arts and minor in Italian studies. She also enjoys photography, the ocean, scuba diving, and cooking.

Laurie first became interested in exercise when she worked at the fitness

center in her local YMCA for a year and a half before she left for college. Laurie decided that she wanted to become a personal trainer and searched the Internet for the training certification program that met her needs. The program that satisfied this description was the American Council on Exercise (ACE), which provides online courses and training materials. Laurie studied at home for seven months with the use of textbooks and workbooks ordered from ACE. She learned not only about the different muscles and tendons, but also about the legal issues and how to work with people.

"There is a lot of science, but the psychology is just as important," said Laurie. It was mostly through the observation of her co-workers that Laurie learned how to motivate people.

Laurie took the three-and-a-half hour exam on May 6, at New York University in New York City, New York. She was the youngest of the 4,000 people there. After she passed, she started training immediately and took on two clients. The first was a mother of three who wanted to lose weight and tone up. The

second was a 77-year-old woman who had undergone surgery ten years earlier on a torn rotator cuff and needed to rebuild her strength.

"She was the most amazing client; watching her gain more and more movement and agility with each session was very rewarding," Laurie remembered.

Laurie did not want to give up being a personal trainer when she came to RWU, plus requirement for her license is to constantly apply her knowledge and help people, so she continued working as a trainer. Laurie works with two students on a regular basis. One approached Laurie to help him improve his strength and balance, which will allow him to become a better surfer. Another is a female working on toning up her body.

"Both of these students are extremely motivated and a pleasure to work with," said Laurie.

When a student first makes contact with Laurie, she sits them down and asks about their past exercise experiences. Together, they review the person's goals and develop a basic exercise

routine. Laurie also explains how to combine exercise with rest and a healthy diet. During the first few sessions, Laurie works very closely with her clients to ensure they are not hurting their joints or backs. She does not want anyone to be injured under her supervision because "an injury will affect how you work out in the future and even cause an aversion to exercise."

Laurie's schedule is very hectic. At first, she tried to meet her clients in the gym at a time that was convenient for both of them, but this became more and more difficult. Now, Laurie has fixed hours where she is available in the gym to work with students who want one-on-one sessions. However, she is more than happy to act as a consultant to other students whose schedules conflict with hers.

"The exercise field is constantly developing new trends and making new discoveries," said Laurie. "There is a specialized exercise program that is right for everyone."

Students interested in exercise consultation can contact Laurie at extension 8742 for more information.

NEWS/FEATURES

Forum

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activities.

When asked at the end of the forum if she was satisfied with administration's responses to her questions, Tecce said yes.

"I would definitely come again," she said, "but I'm a senior."

After some questions about why Octoberfest was cancelled, both President Nirschel and Dean Stegman dispelled rumors that administration wants to make RWU a dry campus.

"I am, number one, not a prohibitionist," said President Nirschel. He then talked about the law, the liability and the ethics that college administration face when dealing with the issue of drinking, and he urged students of age to drink responsibly.

"We're not going to be a dry campus," said Dean Stegman. "All the studies show that banning alcohol doesn't solve our problem."

President Nirschel expressed confusion as to why students thought that the alcohol policy change was staggering.

"The only new part of this policy affects one program put on by students," said Dean Stegman. "One program solely. That program was Octoberfest."

Dana Wilkens, a senior commuter student, stepped up to the microphone and addressed the issue of communication between the university and commuter students, and how she believes that the commuter students are left out of the university. Dean Stegman acknowledged that the university is "not attending the needs of the commuter students as well as [it] should be," and said that administration plans to create a center for commuter students in the future, and that mailboxes are currently being assigned to them.

Two Experimental Psychology students, Claire ????? and Melody White, stood up and argued for their lab fee back, because, as they claimed, they have not been able to use the program, SBSS, that they need to use to create databases. Wilbur told the students to have their professor call him so that they could remedy the problem. Both Wilbur and Shelton claimed ignorance of the problem.

"If that is the case..." said President

Nirschel, "we'll refund your lab fee, if it was represented that stuff's supposed to happen that didn't happen."

Questions then turned back to the university's growth. Senior Greg William stepped up to the microphone and asked President Nirschel where the university was headed academically and what would happen if students were left behind. He also asked the President to compare RWU to another university, but the President declined.

William also thanked Student Senate for passing the blue light resolution, which will enable call boxes to be installed around campus. He said that he feared someone would destroy the call boxes soon after they were installed, and urged the audience, "Tell your friends - don't kick down the call boxes. Don't throw the picnic tables in the pond when you're drunk. It's your university."

The final issues of the night included the average class size, on-line registration, a proposed Student Bill of Rights, the lack of the architecture students' input into the designs of new buildings on campus, and Sophomore Scott Hagerman brought up issues within Stonewall Terrace, especially the hasty construction, the tight security, and the lack of recycling.

On the hasty construction, Hagerman said, "On some level, that comforts me, and on another level that bothers me." As to the stopping of final improvements to Stonewall until Winter Intersession, Hagerman said, "It's close to becoming a decent place to live. Why stop now? Why wait 'till Intersession?"

At the closing of the forum, Senator Neil McKiernan introduced himself as the newly-elected Senate President and thanked everyone for attending. Jen Bell, President of Delta Sigma Pi also thanked students for their input.

When asked what his impressions of the forum were, he said, "I think it turned out better than anyone had hoped."

Abatiello, who put between 25 and 30 hours of planning and organization into the event, said, "This is the most impressive turnout I've ever seen. I hope it keeps up this way."

President Nirschel was also pleased with the attendance and the student responses.

"I thought the questions were thoughtful," he said, "interesting and thoughtful. I thought people were respectful. It was well-run by the student volunteers."

Commentary on Life



Weekly column by Entertainment Editor Beth Martinson

I was walking to class, minding my business and trying to pretend I wasn't falling asleep even as I was moving. Two girls were walking by me, neither dressed to thrill, basically conservative. Neither one of them had Seventeen magazine looks, more like The Mickey Mouse Club. They were cattily talking about people they knew. *This one's a slut, that one needs to cut her hair, that guy is rude, the other one is ugly, yadda yadda yadda.* Then another girl was walking by them. She had an outfit on that left little to the imagination. A black halter-top and an animal print skirt. The two girls glared at her, so I thought they held a grudge. They didn't even know the girl, whom they said "dresses like a slut. She must be one."

Why is it that we girls don't ever give each other credit for wearing something we like or something a little risky? We are always quick to criticize. This stereotype that girls are backstabbing, talk-behind-her-back, mean-spirited gossips needs to stop. There is constant competition. God forbid if you're wearing the same outfit or even the same color scheme as another female. Hairstyles have to be up-to-date, as do the latest fashion trends. You must have a tan perfect from the radiation booth. Your hair must have highlights, professionally done at the beauty salon. You have to have the right accessories, a purse with a cell phone pocket and both have to match your outfit. Your shoes have to be at least an inch high, or else you are too short.

There are many social conduct codes too. Don't even think about looking at another girl's boyfriend; that's instant death. Even if you need a lighter for your cigarette, you better start rubbing two sticks together. Don't ask a taken man. Even girls that have been friends for a while worry about leaving their boyfriends unattended around each other. It's sickening how much widespread insecurity there is in the fairer sex.

Women are a lot different than men think we are. We seem like we have it all together.

Women are great actresses. Unfortunately, we seem to lack proper skills for prioritizing our lives. We can't get past the emotions. We worry about

what other women will think of us. We compare ourselves to supermodels instead of intellectuals. Little girls want to be Britney Spears or Cindy Crawford, not Madeline Albright or Hillary Clinton.

Emotions are rampant and each week can bring another disaster. Young women are especially at high risk for depression and self-esteem issues. Some women feel defined only by a man. Some are independent for selfish reasons, some for reasons that are deep-rooted in distrust for the masculine gender. But women aren't as frail as prior stereotypes perceived us to be. We're stronger than most men could possibly comprehend. We adhere to cultural stereotypes. We give birth to newborns and lose our own identities in the process. We watch our mother's age in shame. We see them hide their wrinkles behind baked goods. We see the older men with their older wives turn their heads and admire the nearest 20-year-old vixen. We hear our friends talk about their lost youth and the self-esteem they never found. We wait for time to heal our wounds only to find new weapons.

We are strong, but we would be a whole lot stronger if we helped each other out sometimes. At times, women lack empathy for our fellow females. We feel that our relationship crisis is the center of the world, but we know it isn't. We all feel a little depressed sometimes and there are issues that we are all dealing with, but none of us seem to be able to talk about it. We are seen as more emotional, more in-tune with our inner child, than men, but we are just as afraid of emotions as our male counterparts. Like I said, we are strong, we have learned to deal with it on our own. All these girls have problems in common; lack of trust, low self-esteem, self-doubt, and depression, but none of them talk about it with each other. Instead, the caddy voices come through and the disrespect begins. It's easier to sum someone up as a "slut" than to find out that the real person is struggling just as hard as you are in trying to keep up with the image society demands of them, but also trying to keep a piece of themselves in the process.



President Nirschel and other members of administration look on as Dean Richard Stegman answers a question at the first Presidential Forum of the 2001-2002 academic year. Attendance was extremely good for the forum, which was held on December 6 in the large lecture hall of the College of Arts and Sciences. Congratulations to Student Senate and Delta Sigma Pi on a well-organized and conducted forum!
-photo by Sara Clark

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Holiday travel safety tips

Increased airport security measures due to the September 11 tragedy make holiday travel even more hectic than usual this year. If you are flying out of T.F. Green Airport in Providence this holiday break, here are some tips that might make your check-in easier and your trip less stressful. Tips are courtesy of Patti Goldstein, Director of Public Affairs at T. F. Green.

1. Take photo identification, specifically a driver's license. Other identification, such as a student ID is not needed, said Goldstein, but it is probably a good idea.
2. Only ticketed passengers are allowed beyond security checkpoints.
3. Do not carry sharp objects in any of your carryon bags.
4. Be prepared for random searches. If you are searched, be cooperative so you can get on your way as quickly as possible.
5. Travelers are limited to only one carryon bag and one personal bag, such as a laptop or purse.
6. When carrying a laptop on a flight, make sure that it is out of its case.
7. Wrapped gifts may be taken on flights as long as they are part checked baggage. The airport will make you unwrap gifts that are part of carryon luggage.
8. Plan to arrive at the airport at least two hours before your flight is scheduled to depart.
9. No unattended parked cars are allowed in the airport terminal.
10. If you are being picked up at the airport, advise the person to meet you at the airline's baggage claim rather than at the gate.
11. Check with your individual airline for additional regulations and safety tips.

Students flocked to Dance Club presentation of 'Student Works'

By Lindsey A. Yon

Contributing Writer

The line of people outside the Paolino Recreation Center stretched through the cluttered parking lot, reaching the stop sign before the Admissions building. Dances Club's final presentation of the semester was about to begin.

The bright lights surged through a foggy haze toward the stage of eager dancers. A deliberate transformation changed the bland gymnasium into a canvas of expression.

The audience waited in pitch-black silence, anticipating the awakening of their senses. An explosion of light and sound erupted as the first performers took the stage.

Dancers Kendra Parkin and Matt Cohen stepped on stage and created a dialogue of dance to Michael Jackson's "Park In My Future." Jackson's signa-

ture music allowed the two performers to engage in combative, high-energy dance moves. Eyes were fixated on the precise movements of the duo, whose steps were in perfect sync.

The original choreography of each dance displayed diversity and originality. One particular presentation, created by Brandon Glasgow, used modern technique mingled with fluid movement to create a sense of continuous motion.

The Dance Club's presentation started with a bang and ended in blissful accolades. The crowd clearly enjoyed every performance that these talented students created. It was evident that a great deal of time and energy goes into each piece.

"It took a collaboration of ideas, dedication and a fun-loving attitude for us to get it together. We all had a great time performing and the turn out was amazing," said Kate Buschemi, who choreographed a dance to the blend of funk and jazz music.

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