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Hawks' Eye -- February 11, 2002

Roger Williams University

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Administration breaks ground, unveils plan for Rec Center renovations

By Sarah Holway

Contributing Writer

By Sarah Holway

Students, faculty, staff and guests packed the lobby of the Paolino Recreation Center for the groundbreaking ceremony of the new 80,000 square foot recreation center.

The recreation center will include a commuter lounge, a large fitness center, space for clubs such as the radio station, newspaper, and dance club, an eight-lane swimming pool and more. Richard Stegman, Dean of Student Affairs, began the ceremony by introducing our new university President, Roy J. Nirschel, Ph.D.

President Nirschel began by saying, "I promised I'd put a shovel in the ground by the time this semester was over and I'm keeping my promise."

He then said that having a groundbreaking ceremony honored a commitment that he made at the beginning of the semester.

"This is important," he said.

The next speaker was junior Neil McKiernan, President of Student Senate. McKiernan said a few words about the lack of space in the recre-

ational center now and that he was excited for the new center to be built. After McKiernan spoke, Matt White, Executive Director of Facilities talked about the process of helping to design the new center.

White said, "It's been a very long design process we've been working on for two years." He also talked about the virtual tour video that was shown at the end of the ceremony. The video took the viewers through the center, giving an idea of what the inside will look like and how the center will look in relation to existing campus structures.

The last speaker, new Director of Athletics George Kolb, said that the new recreation center will have a major impact on this campus community.

Kolb said, "This will be a place that will enhance and enrich our lives."

Once the speakers were finished, everyone proceeded outside to watch the first shovels break ground for the new center. Dean Stegman, President Nirschel, White, Kolb, and McKiernan each wore a hard hat to turn over the ground. The rainy weather kept the outdoor part of the ceremony to a few minutes.

The new recreation center is expected to be completed in May of 2003. Construction will begin in March.



BREAKING NEW GROUND are Student Senate President Neil McKiernan, new Athletic Director George Kolb, President Roy J. Nirschel, Ph.D., Dean of Student Affairs Richard Stegman, and Director of Facilities Management Matthew White. The outdoor part of the ceremony was a bit rainy, but that didn't dampen the spirit of the occasion.

(Photo by Sara Clark)

One university, three championship teams

By Allison Belanger

Contributing Writer

Three teams were honored during a special ceremony held at halftime of the men's varsity basketball game on Saturday, January 26. The men's and women's cross country teams and the men's soccer team had the chance to unveil their championship banners, which will be hung in the gymnasium. Individual athletes' outstanding achievements were also recognized. The teams' captains presented special mementos to President Roy J. Nirschel, Ph.D. and Dean of Students Richard Stegman.

"It is great to recognize athletes, and draw positive attention to our facility," athletic Director George Kolb said.

The women's cross country team, coached by Todd Deely, captured their second straight Commonwealth Coast Conference Championship, becoming the first women's team in school history to win two conference of league titles. The team captains are Andrea Boudrow, Heather Kuli and Diane Leith. Allison Belanger was named CCC Runner of the Year, and became the first runner in school history to earn All-New England honors. Freshman Megan Melaragi was named CCC Rookie Runner of the Year, and was named to the All-Conference Team. Sophomores Diane Leith and Dawn Miller also received All-Conference recognition.

The men's cross country team, also coached by Deely, captured their first Commonwealth Coast Conference title in school history. Freshman Eric Van Tassel had a dominating season, earning CCC Runner of the Year, Rookie Runner of the Year, and All-Conference honors. J.J. Pruner also earned All-Conference recognition.

Deely said, "It's great to see teams being honored that have never before received public honors."

Continued on page 5...

RWU student attends Superbowl, festivities with victorious Patriots

By Blaine Moffa

Contributing Writer

While most students at Roger Williams were watching Super Bowl XXXVI from behind a decent-sized television screen, one RWU student was watching it from behind the 40-yard line.

Lisa Scarnecchia, a junior who lives in Tiverton, just happens to be the daughter of Dante Scarnecchia, Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Line Coach of the New England Patriots. With her father as a Pats coach for 19 years, Lisa has seen her share of football games, but nothing compared to flying to New Orleans to watch the team beat the St. Louis Rams at the buzzer that Sunday night.

Scarnecchia flew down Thursday, January 31, complete with police escorts and a personal drive-through service right into the airport. She described the scene at the Louisiana Superdome as nothing less than amazing.

"There were a gazillion people in there, [it was] an insane Mardi Gras."

So what was the moment that stood out for her? Like most Patriot fans would tell you - "Definitely Vinatieri's field goal!" Scarnecchia remembers the chaos of the Superdome and considers

the night "absolutely amazing."

Scarnecchia flew back with her father, the rest of the coaches, and the entire team Monday night, February 5. She said they got into the airport in time for five o'clock rush hour, and were greeted by Pats fans.

"There were so many people there, it was unbelievable," she said.

It doesn't feel different to be the daughter of one of the Pat's head coaches, just lucky. "It's so much fun. This was my third Super Bowl and we were all just happy [for the team]."

She has gotten to know the players over the years, and feels the Patriots differ from other pro teams because they consider themselves a family.

"No one wants to be singled out for anything. They stick together," she explained.

Of course, no one can disagree that going to as many games as possible and having a father with access to Pats merchandise is considered a perk. Scarnecchia's part-time employer, Judge Roy Bean Saloon in Bristol, held a raffle on Super Bowl Sunday - the winner received a football signed by both Tom Brady and Drew Bledsoe.

However, all good things must come to an end, and Scarnecchia returned to campus and resumed classes on Tuesday. And even if future years bring her to more Super Bowls for the Patriots, there is little doubt she will forget this one.

In This Issue

Religious
equality
Page 4

Important info
for juniors
Page 5

Spotlight on
George Kolb
Page 7

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.

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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;

Writing as an active member of the Animal and Environmental Rights Club, I can hardly agree with [Laurie Schorr] more about our precious beach and its present state. I too am a Willow resident, yet I only heard of the original plan to clean up the beach from a friend, not from any signs or announcements. I sent an e-mail out to the club members as soon as I could, notifying them to attend if possible, but regretfully that was but a few hours before the activity in question. Those who did manage to show up were turned away due to the fact that there were not enough gloves for everyone; thus the plan was for us to meet at the same time the following week. This too I disseminated to the club, and a voicemail was sent out to all Willow Hall residents. I dutifully showed up the next week, only to find that there was nobody there; I walked down to the beach to check if they had gone ahead without me, but I could not find a person.

Laurie's words truly resonated in tune with my feelings regarding the end outcome of it all. I thank you and your friends deeply for your action; had I known of her presence later in the day I would have dutifully joined you.

Sincerely,
Paul Burke

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor;

Martin Luther King, Jr. advocated the necessity of equal treatment for Black Americans by promoting high moral character and a strong work ethic during the 1960s civil rights movement. According to Rev. Jesse Lee Peterson, a Black American speaking at the 30th annual CPAC conference, so-called proponents of minorities, most notably the "Rev." Jesse Jackson, have hampered minority development by deviating from Dr. King's original message of equality before the law to a message of victims created by law. Rev. Patterson claims that this type of tripe-spoken rhetoric has caused minorities to be dependent on the government rather than adopting the personal responsibility that is needed for self-reliance and self-dignity in family, church, and societal government. In particular, Rev. Peterson vehemently opposes government quotas and reparations for the slavery. As said by Rev. Patterson, government quotas are invective to the intelligent of minorities because it asserts that minorities are second-rate to majorities and therefore, must be treated on an inferiority basis. Now if this is not conspicuous, egregious racism then what is?

Personally, I am a Latino American and I do not need the government or any other alleged "champion of minorities" telling me that I cannot perform just as well as other ethnicities just because I was not as privileged to the same wealth or schooling. Furthermore, Patterson rejects the notion that Black Americans should be given reparations for past grievances, because by definition Black Americans are not directly affected by slavery, and the Whites who did own slaves are a different generation than of today. Why should a majority individual give money to someone who he did not affront and who in turn was never the affronted generation? This is not rocket science but common sense, which Jesse lacks familiarity with. Rev. Patterson makes it clear that he wants to return to Dr. King's original message, that all men created equal and will be successful according to "their" work ethic, accountability, and most importantly, integrity. During Black history month let us remember that many Americans died to uphold equity in a civil war, which must not be treaded upon by the tawdriness of bungling individuals like the "Rev." Jesse Jackson.

Sincerely,
Jason Mattera

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.

EDITORIALS/REVIEW

Commentary

On the state of America

By **Brendan Finn**

Contributing Writer

Americans are known for being resilient. We are known for our ability to stare adversity in the eye and send it retreating to far-off lands. What Americans don't seem to want to understand is that we are living in a strange new world; a world with no traditional borders and no common enemy. I think it's the holidays that make us forget about what evil minds are conjuring up in those mountainside caves. You see, the terrorists are being beaten, and the war will soon be over. That's the illusion that the media and its quick-and-tidy sound bites help to create. Christmas washes our minds of those scary words such as anthrax and Al Qaeda. But do we still see the fallen, the forever wounded of the day New York stood still?

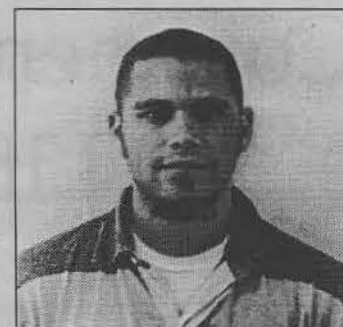
Two months ago you couldn't get away from them. The flags, that is. It was instinctual to do so in the aftermath of the only attack on America's homeland since Pearl Harbor. Fly a flag. The flag that represents a beacon of an ideal, a way of life that Americans seem to guard so fiercely. Or maybe that flag was just a way for a common people to stand together fearing an uncommon foe. But where are all the flags now? Why does it seem that we are slipping back into the normal existence. An existence where the biggest concern is the price of gas. Forecasts of the next biggest recession are in no short supply. For those first few weeks it was tough to laugh, tough to even try to have fun. But now the faithful flock to the all-holy mall, and spend money on the material things that drive this nation's economy. Experts say our economy is on the up again and the recession is over. So much for a long, hard-fought war on top of the world's most harsh terrain. So much for the sluggish economy that could see no

light at the end of the tunnel. Al Qaeda, bin Ladin, Muslim extremists, these words are but distant memories. Right? Wrong.

These "extremists," as they are coined in our media, how did they become the way they are? A way of life that includes killing oneself in order to kill others. Does it breed itself from the quiet desperation of the Arab world? Some say the Muslim faith has always been spread by the sword, others say it is a peaceful religion aimed at spreading the creed of faith and hope. There are extremists of every sort in religion, and no matter how much they claim, religion has little to do with their motives. For them religion is an institution that they can cloak themselves in.

As much as we would like to believe, they are not confined to those dark mysterious caves somewhere between the Afghani/Pakistani border. There are more of them and they will try again. Our sense of tranquility has been shattered periodically when another falls to anthrax. We tend to forget about that scenario playing out, until it hits close to home. In my case it did hit close to home. The old woman in Derby, Connecticut was just 20 minutes from my home. Sometimes we are painfully made aware of the threats that face us on a daily basis. Living in a constant state of fear and paranoia is no way to live through this. These emotions don't help the situation. Our government says the way you can help is by going back to your everyday life and fly to our nation's destinations. The heart of the storm has passed but we have much to weather. I heard President Bush say, "They have awakened a powerful Giant." His words ensured us that we, the leader of the free world, would triumph over evil. That evil is almost out of Afghanistan, but it still resides in other dark rooms with other men making new plans. The great American giant is awake now, but he grows more tired every day.

The fact of the matter is...



Weekly column by Features/Editorials Editor Steve Saleeba

Hopefully this will be the last time this semester I am forced to point out the shortcomings of the administration at RWU. I am excited to start writing about my "Italian experience."

I have been learning a lot about the former Italian dictator, Mussolini, who, like President Nirschel, promised to take his institution to the top. Mussolini meant well to the Italian people. He set up programs that would create jobs, he attempted to stimulate a depressed economy and he attempted to build an Italian empire.

Unfortunately for Mussolini, his plans were not well thought out. The economy went from bad to worse because the prices of products increased faster than wages. Mussolini fought alongside Hitler in World War II. He thought that he would be doing his country a favor by acquiring land for a new Roman empire, but he was obviously mistaken.

President Nirschel, much like Mussolini, may not realize that he is walking the same path. The decision by the Nirschels to award a scholarship to an Afghani woman, worth around \$120,000, although they meant well, was a move in the wrong direction. At first glance, I thought that the scholarship was a great idea. It would do wonders for the school's already well-run public relations campaign. Our school could become the creators of something considerable. The local news and newspapers gave this idea quite a bit of positive exposure. Unfortunately, consequences were not considered.

Being from an Arab-American fami-

ly, I know that most Arabs hate each other, but most of all, they share a common hatred of Americans and Jews. I recall a video of the Palestinians dancing in the streets on September 11 that confirms this. Arabs are not loyal to America, they are loyal to their Arabic heritage. I write from personal experience, and point out that I am not speaking to certain elder members of my family or their friends, who actually found a way to justify September 11.

The pilots who crashed the planes were trained at American flight schools. Everyone keeps screaming that Afghanistan is not the enemy. Yet, each day, I wake up, turn on the news, (note that it is in Italian) and listen to Dan Rather tell me how the Afghani tribes let more Taliban and Al Qaeda senior officials escape or walk away with immunity. This does not sound like a country that is trying to help us. If we give an Afghani woman a full scholarship to RWU, and encourage hundreds of other schools to do the same, we only continue to fuel the anger of these people by giving them more knowledge of our ways.

Finally, I would like to ask, what about our women? Would it not make sense to take care of our own first, and then worry about helping our enemies? There are enough women in the US who have the same need for an education and cannot afford it.

Instead of focusing on the current appearance of the school, let us look to the future of not only the school, but the future of the United States.

Coffee Corner strikes a chord

150 students attend first concert of spring semester

By **Garry F. Dow**

Contributing Writer

More than 150 people turned out for the first-ever RWU Coffee Corner in the basement of the RWU Student Union on the evening of Saturday, February 2.

Acoustic singer/songwriter Jason Levassaur mesmerized the crowd for over an hour, performing lesser-known originals as well as old cover-tune favorites before leaving the stage to chat with listeners and sign autographs.

A small army of tuxedoed waitresses kept the enthusiastic and attentive crowd comfortable, offering complimentary coffee and mugs sporting the ABFN Coffee Corner logo.

Erin Hughes, chair of ABFN and the

woman responsible for bringing in Levassaur to RWU, commented that "the coffee corner was a bigger success than we originally planned. I was worried that not that many people would show up since Jason is not well known as of yet, so the turnout was much more than we expected...we ran out of coffee within the first 20 minutes so I would say it was a huge success!"

Levassaur, whose style can be described as "James Taylor meets the Barenaked Ladies," has opened for the likes of Dave Matthews Band, Bryan Adams, Ben Folds 5, and the Allman Brothers. His music has been featured in movies such as "Just Write" and "Brutal Truth," as well as on the Dawson's Creek Website, where one of his songs was chosen to be part of the "top ten list" of a fictitious character named Rachel that producers created for the site.

Levassaur joked with audience members that he was humbled by the fact that his music "was appreciated by a made up character." In reality, the North Carolina resident has far more to be proud of than he lets on to. His music has made its way across the globe to Australia where one of his songs serves as the theme to a popular TV sitcom. In addition to being a prolific singer/songwriter, Levassaur is also a versatile drummer who has played with bands such as Vertical Horizon, Edwin McCain and the Pat McGee Band.

Levassaur's set list included his own material as well as two cover songs, "A Murder of One" by the Counting Crows, "Time After Time" by Cyndi Lauper. Several other medleys covered a wide array of musical tastes that included everything from Britney Spears to Sir Mix A Lot to The Beatles.

Between songs Levassaur, who has

just released his first debut album as a solo artist entitled "Watching the Girls Go Bye," took frequent breaks from playing to engage the crowd with questions about campus life. He also took time out of his set to tell humorous anecdotes about himself and some of the inspirations for his songs. He ended the night to a thunderous applause after finishing an original and apparent CEN staff favorite (members cheered when he announced the song) called, "The Steps of St. Patrick's."

In addition to Levassaur, there were four other musical guests that performed, all of whom attend RWU. Garry Dow and Tim Bestor opened the show with a 30 minute set that included Eric Clapton's "Wonderful Tonight" and Joe Pollack and Jacob Mushlan closed the night with some technically proficient acoustic guitar work that capped the evening.

EDITORIAL/NEWS

Commentary on Life



Weekly column by Entertainment Editor Beth Martinson

It's a pretty crazy thing, living in another country. Every minute of every day is new and exciting and at times intimidating. With every challenge and every adventure you learn more about yourself and your ability to grow and change and adapt.

Recently I was at the grocery store in Florence picking up some water and foccacia bread. I couldn't read any of the labels, didn't know how to make small talk with the woman behind me in line, and noticed that people were staring at the American with sneakers and jeans on.

As I was waiting, I realized that the line wasn't getting any shorter and people were getting aggravated. There was a man at the head of the line holding everyone up. He made the cashier wait while he went down the aisle to pick up some more booze. He passed by me reeking of alcohol and just about knocked me onto the floor. He stopped, looked me over and started speaking English to me. "Where are you from?" he asked with a thick accent I didn't recognize. When I replied that I was American, he immediately became interested in making

conversation.

It was a conversation that would make most Americans shudder. He explained that he, as a Somalian, hated America. He praised Osama bin Laden and his efforts and cursed our president's name.

I became very nervous and started to look for the nearest exit, which he was blocking. For some reason the Somalian man turned to the rest of the market and started speaking in Italian about America. The littlest lady I have ever seen, with white hair and glasses that fell below her nose, shouted at the man. She spoke fiercely in my defense, and in my country's defense.

When I tell family and friends that story, they say I should just say I am from Canada or Sweden. They want me to lie about my identity. They want me to protect myself from renegades with a vendetta against the United States. They are afraid that I will be used to set an example.

It's a sad time that we live in when we have to hide our identities and our pride as Americans. But for every man or woman tearing down our flag, there is another raising it.

RWU searches for religious equality

By Beth Martinson

Entertainment Editor

It was her freshman year. She was getting used to a new school, a new atmosphere and a new life. At home, her life consisted of school, social life and religion. Unfortunately, Michelle Mostovy-Eisenberg wasn't able to incorporate her religion into her new life at Roger Williams without some difficulty and aggravation. In one class she wasn't allowed to leave early to go home and celebrate Yom Kippur, an important holiday in the Jewish faith, until she had explained to her class what the holiday was all about. Her professor insisted that she stand before the class, which was filled with unknown faces, and explain herself, her values, and her religion. She was the only observant Jewish student in a class of more than 25 of her peers.

Americans have the right to believe in anything they want to believe, as long as it doesn't infringe upon another's rights. Roger Williams has allotted students, faculty and staff time to celebrate their religions based on the administration's opinion of universal

belief systems. According to the academic calendar, only Christian holidays are observed.

The academic calendar that now dictates university policy on holidays has become somewhat dated. We are "rooted in a history that does not reflect the present," explained Loretta Shelton, Vice President of Academic Affairs. It was a different age. The world was a different place when Roger Williams College first opened its doors. Now the world is outraged when religious beliefs are obstructed. Every American feels he or she has the right to faith. But, as our ancestors discovered when they separated church from state, it's impossible for every religion of the world to be represented fairly.

"We are not a Catholic Institution. We are not a Jewish institution. That's not who we are. To acknowledge that and not diminish respect for individual choice is what this is all about," explained Shelton, who has been working on revamping the calendar. It seems to be an impossible task to implement a program in which all religions are celebrated.

President Nirschel explained that,

Continued on page 5...

New CFO invests in a better RWU

By Laurie Schorr

Staff Writer

The arrival of the spring semester brought the arrival of several new members to the Roger Williams faculty and administration. On January 14, James Noonan replaced Thomas Oates as the new Vice President of Finance and joined a changing administration under President Roy J. Nirschel, P.h.D.

Like many of the students here, Noonan was initially impressed by the beauty of the Roger Williams campus and the vitality of the student body.

"When you meet people such as the students and faculty here, and ask yourself whether or not you'd like to surround yourself and work with these people, the likelihood is extremely positive," Noonan says.

Currently Noonan is surrounding himself with the students and administration. He works in a "constant state of training and cross-training" with other members of finance, Human Resources, the Registrar, and the Bursar. The Administration "team" interacts with each other and works to represent one of the major "core values" of the university: learning for its own intrinsic good.

Noonan, who has not held a position at a university before, brings plenty of teamwork experience to Roger Williams. The Rhode Island native has worked in the field of public accounting for 30 years. He spent 20 of those years with a manufacturing and distributing company, the Colibri Group of Rhode Island, where he was the Chief Financial Officer and held a significant role in the company's 50 percent growth rate and overall improvement. The University of Rhode Island graduate hopes to bring that same success to Roger Williams. He wishes to provide financial leadership to the administration and faculty as well as open up lines of communication between Roger Williams and other national colleges and universities.

"There will always be competition between universities and colleges across the country, but we are all looking to the same goal: to better education," Noonan says.

He has begun to develop relation-

ships with financial officers at other universities through nationally recognized organizations such as NACUBO, the National Association of College and University Business Officers, and EACUBO, which is the Eastern division. These associations provide a forum for open discussion of different university practices and procedures.

"Roger Williams University has grown over the years, and it is time to regroup, look at past practices and set in place systems which are in line with the current size of the school," Noonan explains.

The systems which Noonan hopes to improve are not only limited to those in the administration building; he plans to "make it easier for the student" in several different aspects of attending the university. Noonan will be working closely with the student payroll department and has consulted with a local bank to consider a new, more effective debit plan for work-study students that will "make life as seamless as possible." Noonan has also opened up lines of communication with dining services and the athletics department. He will be working with the food committee to create a more cost-effective and acceptable food preparation and cafeteria plan; he and Richard Stegman, the Dean of Student Affairs, will be attending food committee meetings to inform themselves of and consider students' complaints and suggestions. Later in the week, Noonan and Dean Stegman will also be conferencing with the new Athletic Director Geroge Kolb to analyze the equipment and program needs for the new Recreation Center, scheduled for completion in May of 2003. Other events in Noonan's schedule include a meeting with the development staff to discuss fundraising ideas as well as another meeting regarding parking problems at the Providence campus.

Through providing financial leadership to the administration and faculty of Roger Williams, developing relationships with both the student body and the administration, and opening up lines of communication between our university and others across the country, Noonan plans to improve campus life in a variety of ways.

"The student is a customer," he says, "and our goals become focused on making the University a better place to be."

Important info for Class of 2003 members

For juniors who plan to graduate in May of 2003, there is some important information that you need to know. In order to receive your correct diploma on Commencement Day, you need to fill out a Degree Application. You can pick up this two-page form on the counter in the Registrar's Office during regular hours. All applications are due on

Monday, February 25, 2002. Students may want to fill out the Degree Application with their advisor, as an application that is filled out incorrectly will have to be redone. Call the Registrar's Office or ask your advisor or the Dean of your college for more information.

NEWS

Three teams

Continued from front page

The men's soccer team, coached by Jim Cook and assistants Dave Noyes and Craig O'Rourke, won their third straight Commonwealth Coast Conference title. The soccer team became the first team in school history to reach the round of 32 in the NCAA Tournament.

When asked about the season, Cook said, "Everyone thought that because we lost many key seniors we wouldn't be as good, but I think we were better this year."

Andrew Combra was named conference Player of the Year, and was named to the All-Conference First team and to the All-New England Second Team. David Hatch and Colin Whalen were named to the All-Conference Second Team. Neal Rosenthal was named to the Jewish Sports Review Division II and III All-American Team. Joshua Rosen was named to the Jewish Sports Review Division II and III All-American Team and to the NSCAA/Adidas Scholar-Athlete All-Region team.

Kolb said it was a great way to celebrate champions and acknowledge all of their hard work. The success of these three teams is very exciting. Saturday's ceremony was a chance to honor fall sports teams for their outstanding achievements.

"I think it is a wonderful way for athletes to show their appreciation to administration," said Kolb.

Senate passes "Blue Light Resolution"

By Kathy Lopes

Advertising Manager

Batman responded to the Bat Signal in Gotham's night sky, and now RWU's public safety officers will respond to a blue light in Bristol's sky. Roger Williams is planning to install a blue-light security system in designated areas throughout campus.

"The blue light phones will serve as 20 additional means of contacting public safety," said Bruce Bowie, Director of Public Safety. Students have always been able to reach security by dialing HELP (extension 4357) from any campus phone, but a blue light system is a faster, more convenient way to reach security.

The purpose of the blue-light phone — as stated in a student senate resolution passed on October 22, 2001 — is for individuals to contact security in cases of emergencies such as: a crime, suspicious persons, lost or stolen property, medical situations, fire, or car trouble. Students are also encouraged to call for a public safety escort when walking alone at night.

The cost of this project is not yet known because the exact model of phones has not been chosen and negotiations are still in progress. In general, to activate a blue-light phone, a student would simply press a button located on the face of the phone. The connection to security is accomplished through an auto-dial system and the exact location of the call will be known immediately. Also, a blue strobe light on top of the pole is activated as an additional indicator that someone is using the security phone.

There will be a total of 14 blue light phones dispersed throughout strategic

locations on campus and some of the parking lots. Suggested locations are the dock area, the bridge behind the Student Union, the shuttle stop, the gazebo, Almeida, and the Bayside, North Campus, and Old Ferry Road parking lots.

"These general areas were chosen because they were out of the way," said Bowie, "yet the specific locations have not been chosen."

A lot of thought goes into deciding the exact placement of the phones because there is wiring involved. In addition to the blue light phones, six house-security phones will be attached to the outside buildings, such as the Paolino Recreation Center, library, east side of Nike, and each quad in Bayside. These will be similar to the house phones that are already installed outside of Cedar and Willow, the difference is that the house-security phones will solely be used to call security.

It was announced at the President's Forum that these phones should be operational within four to six months. Discussions of the blue light phones have been going since before Bowie's appointment as Director of Public Safety in May of 2000. Only recently was action taken on the part of administration and the Student Senate to pass the resolution.

The 2000 Annual Security Report posted on the RWU website reported that last year there were four forcible sexual offenses, nine burglaries, and three cases of arson. These numbers demonstrate that no campus is without incidents and RWU is taking measures to make campus more secure as the university continues to grow.

"Overall we have a safe campus, but the blue-light phones will be there just in case," said Bowie.

know of no school that celebrates or observes multiple religions through class cancellation."

The new calendar for 2002-2003 has no reference to any particular religious holidays.

"It is a holiday, not a holy day," says Shelton, who believes that "the academic calendar should be free of specific allusions to specific religions." Although the date won't be named, the dates will still be taken off from classes.

In a memo to faculty, Shelton sent out a list of Jewish holidays and their dates and asked that faculty keep certain dates in mind. The memo stated, "Hillel requested that we avoid scheduling

Continued on page 6...

Health Advocate and P.E.E.R. positions available for 2002-2003

The Team CARE Health Advocate and P.E.E.R. programs are recruiting for new members for the 2002-03 academic year. If you like working with people and want to make a difference, the two programs offer an excellent opportunity to get involved. Administered from the Health Education office, the Health Advocates promote a healthy lifestyle through modeling wellness, awareness programs, workshops and counseling. P.E.E.R.s, (Peer Educators with Expertise in Referrals) promote healthy psychological functioning, are trained by the Center for Counseling and Student Development and provide support, workshops, awareness programs and confidential referrals. Both programs offer excellent intra- and interpersonal skill development, program

development and public speaking experiences. There is a \$2,000.00 tuition credit for the year and early housing lottery into pre-assigned living areas.

If you are interested and would like to know more, come to any of the informational meetings on February 11, 12 and 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the CSD lobby, or check out our table in the Student Union lobby during lunch on February 21 and 22, or ask your P.E.E.R.s and Health Advocates.

Applications will be available at the Counseling Center and the Health Education office and are due by Monday, March 18. For more information you may also contact Donna Darmody at ext. 3413 or Nancy Hood at extension 3124.

The benefits of a liberal arts education

By Kim Baker

Core Tutoring Coordinator

So, you have been on pins and needles, waiting with baited breath for the answer to last issue's question: *What do former President Reagan, TV journalist Lesley Stahl, musician Al Jarreau, actor Paul Newman, Senator John Glenn, and 1/3 of all CEOs have in common?* They all studied liberal arts in college!

If you think that learning ends in the classroom, consider the benefits of studying liberal arts.

First, a liberal arts education teaches you *how to think*, helping you develop strength of mind and an ordered intellect, think for yourself, and plain ole understand the world better (e.g. the events of September 11). Whether you work the mind muscle exploring math, literature, computer technology, biology, or Plato, you will strengthen it for all learning in all areas. For instance, the habits of organized thinking increase and develop the ability to follow arguments (I yell because I care), distinguish important concepts from trivial ones (the theory of relativity vs. the theory of relatives who still call you "baby"), and synthesize ideas (if I take Core science in the same semester that I take Core human behavior, I can design a chocolate cake that tastes fabulous but does not add to my guilt of eating too many calories). Remember that politicians and advertisers count on your being half-educated or educated solely in your specialty because you will be easier to deceive.

A liberal arts education also teaches you *how to learn*. Knowledge builds upon knowledge. When you learn

something (what time to arrive at the cafeteria before the ice cream runs out), your brain remembers how you learned it (got stuck eating lime Jell-O two weeks in a row) and sets up new pathways to make future learning faster. Once you have a solid base of general knowledge, you understand how to apply that to more specialized areas (the mastery of the word problems in algebra make you a whiz at the whirlwind of words and numbers thrown at you when filling out financial forms).

Once you know *how to think and how to learn*, you can see things as a whole, not just in terms of your major. This more expansive vision is one of the most important benefits of a liberal arts education. A well-rounded education gives you a map of the universe form which to navigate the complex world we live in. How I wish right now that I knew more about the history of the Middle East and the Muslim religion. This knowledge won't change the sadness I have experienced since the September 11 bombings, but it would at least create a context for the many layers of happenings in the world right now.

"Don't worry, be happy" could be the motto of a liberal arts education. Knowledge makes you better educated and being educated can make you happier. Educated people have, statistically, happier relationships, less loneliness, and a higher reported degree of satisfaction with life. They also understand the delights of the arts: music (except for my singing), poetry, painting, sculpture, and theater (especially at RWU).

Now, I come back to my original question: "Why Core courses?" Core courses are designed to teach you how to think. So, in the next issue, I will explore the nature of critical thinking, what it is, and why it is crucial to negotiating life.

Religion

"you can not list every single feast day of every single religion that there is because there are hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of religions." But, "it's reasonable that the major religious holidays of major religions be recognized on the calendar," said Nirschel.

Currently the academic calendar only makes reference to Christian holidays, including Passover and Good Friday.

"The academic calendar is not a religious calendar," explained Shelton. "I

NEWS/FEATURES

Religion

Continued from page 5

major obligations on the days noted below so that students are able to pursue their beliefs and make up their academic commitments at a time agreed upon between themselves and their professors."

President Nirschel said that there should be "sensitivity in scheduling exams and things such as that." But, professors are often Christian-biased without realizing it. Mostovoy-Eisenberg, who is a member of Hillel, finds that despite their requests, she still feels that "individual professors sometimes ignore this because Jewish students are not the majority here at RWU."

Not every college handles this dilemma in the same way. Bates College in Maine does things a lot differently than RWU. All incoming students are invited to register, voluntarily, their religious preferences with the school. Then a multi-faith calendar is made in which all major holidays are represented. This multifaith "Holy Days and Holy Season" calendar is then distributed around campus. Despite this religious celebration, students who want to miss class for religious holidays have to fill out a formal Dean's excuse for doing so. Most colleges have their own opinions on how religion in school

should be handled.

"I don't believe that the calendar acknowledges all religions due to the amount of diversity that is represented in the United States," said Stephen Gresham, a junior at Bates. "By representing all religions in the calendar and, moreover, acknowledging those religions, it demonstrates that not one religion is superior or more American than the next."

Gresham understands the dilemma universities face.

"I think we should have those days off if they are the religion with which we identify, but if we acknowledged all religions and had all their days off, we would never be working or in school," he said.

Tracey Bernardo is a Rhode Island native. Christianity is the norm for her community, but she agrees that things aren't quite right. "I just don't think it's fair," she said while walking to class, "if one religion gets a holiday off, everyone should get that holiday off. Why do Jewish students have to miss class and get behind in their work just so they can celebrate their religion?"

Most Jewish students would have to agree with Bernardo's observations. "I think that RWU should put the Jewish Holidays on the calendar and I'm surprised that they aren't," said Rachel Margolin, who is Jewish. "The school should have more opportunities for other religions. There isn't equal opportunity for non-Christian religions."

One of the reasons more holidays aren't taken off is because there are such scheduling conflicts. Tom Oates, former Vice president of Finance, explained (in

an interview held before he left RWU) that there is "virtually no time." He said we "need so much class time for accreditation." The time that is taken to observe is reserved for Christian holidays.

Professor Anjali Ram of the communications department finds that "mainstream America views a lot of other religions as cults." But, she explained, "Americans are experimentalists." In a country that studies a wide range of religions, it's hard to believe that many people are still very closed-minded.

"Unfortunately the majority dictates and the majority is Christian," said Ram.

Lindsey Yon, who strongly believes in freedom of expression and spirituality, is part of that majority.

"As a Catholic, I know how important my beliefs are and I think it's very unfair that other students on campus who practice other religions aren't given the same opportunities as I am given," she said.

Ikki Hyoshi is an international student from Japan. He's been lucky enough to travel around the world and has been witness to many different religious beliefs. He questions why RWU doesn't have a more broad view of world cultures and religions.

"How come we only celebrate Christian religions?" he wondered. Ikki studies Buddhism and he shared his dorm room with a Muslim roommate last semester.

"This country is an emigrant country," he said. In Japan you can believe in anything, but here, not as many religions are represented."

College is preparation for future careers and life goals. It is also supposed to be a place where diversity is appreciated and students are encouraged to become cultured.

"The world at large does not grant time off for religious observance," explained Shelton. After all, days that the university allows off are not for religious reasons.

College is also supposed to teach students about worldviews. Religion dominates world opinion. Each country has had heated debates on religion. Many universities have classes that teach their students about world religions, beliefs and cultures.

"I think more education should be made available, not just a memo and not just for Jewish people, but for all religions to make others aware of other cultures and their beliefs instead of the ignorance we usually get," said Mostovoy-Eisenberg.

Professor Ram agrees that education is key. "It would be good for students to be exposed to that diversity," said Ram, who is originally from India.

Ram called RWU's academic calendar standard. "It may not be fair, but I think it's the best we're going to do."

Ram said she thinks the calendar should at least mark other religious holidays because "it affirms that the institution recognizes them. They're not invisible."

Students also agree with professors on the importance of culture in education.

"I want to be cultured," said Bernardo. "The world has a lot of diversity and I want to be part of it."



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SPORTS

Spotlight on George Kolb: new Athletic Director

By Michael Vining

Contributing Writer

George Kolb, is the newest member of the RWU team. He is the new athletic director here at Roger Williams. Although he is a rookie here, he is a veteran at understanding what it takes to run a successful athletic program.

Kolb, a native of Pennsylvania, enjoyed playing basketball and soccer while attending high school. He knew that he could play basketball at a Division III school, but instead choose to go on to a better school for his education. He attended Villanova and majored in business administration. After that he went on to Temple to receive his masters in education. Before coming to RWU, Kolb worked eight years at Brown University in Providence. While at Brown, Kolb was first introduced to RWU. He was very aware of the wonderful education and the great location of this campus, as well as its competitiveness in the Commonwealth Coastal Conference.

All together Kolb worked 12 years for different Division I schools. When he was interviewed for the job here at RWU he was very excited to learn of the

potential of this university. The thing that excited him the most was the way he thought he could improve the relationship between the athletic program and the university community. He feels that no matter what, every student and faculty member should enjoy a rich education and a chance to be involved in some type of athletics. Kolb feels that our new, President Dr. J. Roy Nirschel, shares his vision. Kolb is very excited about our new president and is very excited that President Nirschel seems to want athletics for everyone. Kolb is very enthused about being a part of this university's "fresh start."

When asked about his thoughts on the building of a new recreation center, Kolb smiled and admitted that was a big part of his decision of coming here. He feels that this new building can be a focal point of our campus.

"We'll have something to offer everyone here. Whether it be our athletic teams, intramurals, clubs, or simply just recreation."

Kolb says that this new building will be a building for the entire campus community to use. He knows that RWU administration wants athletics to be a part of every student's education. He hopes that this new building will be able

to make that vision a reality.

Kolb has three major goals that he would like to accomplish while at RWU. One is to have yearly success from all our intercollegiate teams. He wants all of RWU's teams to raise their level of play and be successful year in and year out. Kolb also wants to make the athletic department an intricate part of campus life. He wants every student to at least be aware of every type of athletic opportunity that they can be a part of. He says that it's important to involve some type of athletics into an education. The last of his three big goals is for the new athletics facility. He wants to be sure that this building will reach out to everyone.

"It will be a focal point of the campus, a meeting place for students, athletes, and staff. A place where people can learn something about themselves and about our school."

When asked about the behavior of some of our athletic teams over the past couple of years. Kolb said that he has spoken with all of the coaches and teams and told them that they not only represent themselves, but also RWU. He knows that athletes are an important part of the campus. He also knows that most athletes are put on a pedestal and

need to realize that they will be looked upon for the proper behavior. Kolb would like to be able to bring in some speakers to talk to the teams and the entire university about behavior and other athletic-related topics. He wants to make sure that not only the athletic teams, but also the entire university realizes that they are all responsible for their own actions.

"I feel that I need to be the first one that spreads school spirit," Kolb said, when talking about how athletics are viewed at this university. "I feel that we need to do a better job at getting our events publicized. I want to work with [Campus Programs] and get the word out about our events and our own activities. The competition at this university is great. I think people will really enjoy watching our teams play. Especially to go and see their peers."

Kolb said that students really owe it to themselves and to our athletes to come out and see a few games.

When asked about what he most wants to be remembered for after he is done working at RWU, Kolb replied, "I want people to be able to look back at this time and say that it was a real turning point for our school. I want people to really take part in this school, and be proud of it."

Lacrosse season looks promising

By Niki Fitzmeyer

Sports Editor

With spring quickly approaching, the men's lacrosse team is looking forward to another great season. A few weeks ago the Roger Williams athletic department welcomed new coach Marty Kelly to the staff. Kelly was brought into replace last years lacrosse coach, AJ Stevens, after he was asked to resign last fall.

New coach Marty Kelly, a former New Yorker, relocated here from California, leaving his wife and two daughters behind, to take over the head coach position. When Kelly was asked why he took the position here at RWU he replied, "I had been interested in getting back into coaching for a number of years. I also used to visit Rhode Island a lot and have always thought about living there, so when the position came up it was the perfect scenario."

Although Kelly may have not played for a few years, it is obvious that he posses a great talent on the field. He was named Division Three Attackman Player of the Year when he played on the Nazareth College team.

With only a few early morning practices under their belts, Coach Kelly can already tell he has a group of talented players. From what he hears he "has enough talent to win the Conference Championship."

According to senior Dave LeBlanc, "Coach Kelly is already making great progress, I have already noticed positive attitude changes from everyone on the team."

As of right now there are over 30 men going out for the team. Kelly has a group of strong players from the past years returning, as well as a good handful of freshman hopefuls.



Senior captain Dave LeBlanc is pictured here in one of last year's games. All signs point to an excellent season for the Hawks.

(Photo by Niki Fitzmeyer)

This year's team will be lead by a group of talented young men. Senior attackman Dave LeBlanc is one of the team's leading scorers in points and will return as captain for his second year. Another returning second-year captain is senior long stick middle Seth Funt.

Stepping up for their first year in the quad captain positions are defensive men, junior Sean Kelley and Senior Cory MacEachen. Coach Kelly said, "he couldn't ask for anymore from them, they are all real leaders!"

The Hawks will open their season down south again, and their first home game is scheduled for March 30, although it may be subject to change.

As of now Coach Kelly is "very excited to be here, and happy about such a great opportunity. So far so good."

Men's volleyball anticipates success in upcoming matches

By Katherine Consorte

Staff Writer

Ranking ninth nationally in Division 3 men's volleyball, the Roger Williams Hawks anticipate a solid upcoming season. With returning players such as outside hitters Chris Jorge and Jake Reynolds, middle hitters Tony Wetterau and Matt McDonald, and setter Jack Delehanty, as well as many new players, the Hawks are already planning to accomplish their goal of winning the EIVA Odeneal Conference.

Despite their challenging schedule, which includes matches against such teams as MIT, SUNY New Paltz, Queens College and the University of New Haven, the Hawks have a positive outlook and attitude.

"I think our season is going really well so far," said co-captain Chris Jorge. "Our team consists of many

young players with only two seniors. I think were going to get a lot better as the season goes on. Right now we have to get used to playing with one another."

Head Coach Mike Holden, who has an extensive background in volleyball, has no doubt that his players will succeed in their mission.

"We play some very tough D1 and D2 schools on our schedule and do very well, either winning or playing them strong," he said. "Therefore, our success is based on the fact that we don't have any fear to play programs that have scholarship players or schools that are much larger than us."

Last year, Holden led the Hawks to the EIVA Odeneal division with a season ending record of 18-7. This was the Hawks fifth best record in RWU history. Currently standing 3-3, the Hawks eagerly await their next home game, which takes place on Friday, February 15 against SUNY New Paltz.

Wrestling Wraps Up Great Season

The men's wrestling team looks to be ending their season with a bang, winning their last five matches.

On Wednesday, January 30, the Hawks beat Bridgewater State College 32-12. Joe Fitzsimons earned a pin, while Jeff Bernard, Kevin O'Neil, Rich Bloom, and Gary Eikenberg all earned themselves victories.

On Saturday, February 2 the Hawks hosted their annual "Wrestling Alumni Day" where they managed to gain two wins under their belt. The Hawks opened their day by pounding out a victory over RIC, winning 25-13 and closing their day with yet another win over

the University of Southern Maine 42-12. The recorded winners were Eikenberg, Jon Egan (both matches), Camilo Gaviria, Fitzsimons (both matches), Bernard, and Kyle DeBias.

Not only did Fitzsimons manage two victories, but he also tied the school record for the number of take downs in a match with 13, and is also ranked fourth in the nation for winning percentages and eighth in the nation for number of wins.

Fitzsimons was named Pilgrim League "Wrestler of the Week" while Bloom was named Pilgrim league "Co

FEATURE

The (mis)adventures of Bob

By Sara Clark

Editor-In-Chief

He's had a lot of highway accidents, but he's never had a scratch – never a physical injury. His car was a different story. After the carousel hit it, it was drivable, but badly in need of repairs. This was without a doubt the weirdest accident Bob had ever been involved in.

Bob Ristino, an Assistant Professor of Communications in the Feinstein College of Arts and Sciences, was traveling South on Route 495 on Wednesday, September 5 toward campus to meet with his undeclared advisees. Bob was traveling along when he noticed a van pulling a trailer loaded with a carousel a couple hundred yards ahead of him.

Bob was startled to see that the flatbed began to swerve, and the driver of the van looked like he was having trouble controlling the swerving vehicle.

"I thought maybe he had blown one of his tires," said Bob. "He was in the middle lane, it was starting to rock back and forth...and then it stopped and it started rocking again."

"The driver in front of me pulled to the outside and I pulled behind that

driver, thinking that the best thing to do [was] to get around this person as fast as possible, but to make sure that they had gone to the inside lane before I did that," said Bob.

The driver of the van started to move into the breakdown lane, according to Bob, and the driver ahead of Bob successfully passed the van. Bob tried to follow, but that was when disaster struck.

"As he entered the breakdown lane the flatbed snapped off its hitch and it started to careen across the road," said Bob.

Heading for his 1999 Toyota Camry was a flatbed trailer loaded with 12-foot high carousel consisting of what Bob thought were yellow duck seats, and Bob had nowhere to go. To his left was the median and beyond that were two lanes of traffic rushing north. To his right could have been other southbound cars, but Bob, understandably, did not have time to turn and look. So Bob did the only thing he could: he tried to stop.

"So I just jammed on my brakes – I have ABS brakes – and the car stayed real straight," remembered Bob.

Bob's Camry collided with the carousel and it continued to move, flipping by his car, until it came to rest on the median between the north- and

southbound traffic lanes. Bob said that he was able to keep his car on the road and in his lane until the carousel had passed him, and then he, too, pulled over onto the median strip, waiting for the police to arrive on the scene.

"And the state police arrived about 10 minutes later, really quick, because somebody had stopped and they telephoned [them]," said Bob.

According to Bob, two state police officers responded to the accident, a male and a female officer. They determined that the van, flatbed and carousel belonged to an amusement company based in Leominster, Mass. Bob said that the two officers also determined that the van was not registered and that the driver had not used safety chains between the van and the trailer.

When Bob assessed the damage to his car, he found that his Camry's right front fender and the front bumper were completely smashed, the right headlight and signal light were completely destroyed. The total came to around \$2,400.

"But," said Bob, "being a Toyota Camry it was still...drove perfectly fine, but I didn't want to try to drive it all the way to school without a front headlight and without a blinker, and also the damaged portion was hanging down and

rubbing against the tire, so I turned around and I drove home."

In the end, Bob said that his insurance company determined the van and trailer's owner and operator to be at fault, and Bob received the money to fix his car and money for a rental car.

Luckily, neither Bob nor any other drivers were harmed in the accident. The van operator had already pulled into the breakdown lane when the trailer broke off.

"It was just a matter of a lot of plastic and metal and chrome being twisted and bent, but that can be replaced," said Bob.

"I've been involved in a lot of highway accidents," he continued, "what's miraculous is I've never had a scratch. I never had a scratch in that accident, either. I actually had a car destroyed on a highway one time, and I was fine."

Bob's had further misadventures in September when he was stranded in California on September 11. He and his wife had flown to San Diego for a conference, and they were scheduled to return that day when all flights were cancelled. Bob and his wife were "marooned," as he put it, in San Diego for a week before they could finally fly home to New England.

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