

11-17-2003

Hawks' Herald - November 17, 2003

Roger Williams University

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HAWK'S HERALD

Volume 14, Issue 7

Roger Williams University

Monday, November 17, 2003

Radical lesbian speaks out against 'militant homosexuals'

By Beth Kleiman
Staff Writer

Packed to its full capacity at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday Nov. 5, School of Engineering room 124 was filled with an audience anxiously awaiting the latest speaker sponsored by RWU's College Republicans. Students and nearby residents alike gathered to hear the voice of Tammy Bruce, an openly gay woman who believes that 'militant homosexuals are ruining this country.'

Tammy Bruce has been involved in the gay and political community for years now; she is open about her sexuality because she says it is relative to her politics. She even cracked jokes periodically and assured the audience that she does not go out and buy Melissa Etheridge albums.

Bruce started her lecture by making clear that she would be saying things that some would disagree with. She stated, "Even if you disagree with someone or someone irritates you...the sky is not going to fall."

Bruce's strong beliefs started years ago, when outbreaks of a new disease called AIDS began popping up throughout the gay community. She repeated several times that she was tired of watching her friends die, frequently citing personal experiences.

"We could stop the epidemic overnight...if certain men kept their pants on!" Bruce believes that AIDS is romanticized in today's world, to the point where people called "bug catchers" actually try to get the disease from others called "gift givers." There was a belief among some gay

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Photo by Natasha Sotomayor
Athletic controversy over Senior Day game as Hawks end another stellar season.

For more information, turn to sports.

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Protest gains momentum, leads to Veteran's Day ceremony

By Garry Dow
Science Editor

On November 6, 2003, with his head held high and a swagger in his step, Nick Zackrison circled D'Angelo Common. In his hand, a haphazard sign read: Remember Veteran's Day.

"I'm not asking for a parade," Zackrison shouted, as he strutted around the Quad, dog tags dangling from his neck. "I'm not even asking for the day off. All I want is for this school to recognize those men and women who risked their lives, who died for us, to protect our freedom."

A day later, on November 7, 2003, Zackrison met with Provost Edward Kavanagh to discuss what Zackrison believed, was the school's

non-recognition of Veteran's Day.

Ken Osborne—a Vietnam veteran and Dean of the Metropolitan Campus—was also present at the meeting, which took place in the Student Union.

As a result, Kavanagh authorized a Veteran's Day ceremony in recognition of those who have served, and those who are currently serving, in the United States Armed Forces.

The ceremony was held on Tuesday, November 11th at 11:30 a.m. in D'Angelo Quad. The guest speaker was Lt. Col. Paul Krajewski, of the United States Army. A special tribute was paid to Roger Williams' alumnus Major Kenneth B. Goff, who remains missing in action from the Vietnam War.

The event was co-sponsored by Roger Williams

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Hawk's Right Eye suffers a black eye

By Mark Walcrysiak
Staff Writer

The hotly publicized matter between the RWU administration and the RWU College Republicans over content in the *Hawk's Right Eye* has prompted a new strengthening of protocols for any club or organization that wishes to publish using the university's name.

Now any group that wants to publish must first have its adviser review the material. If the adviser finds something objectionable, then the pre-published work will be turned over

and judged by a "review committee to determine the propriety of the item in question," as stated in an Oct. 22 letter from Dean of Student Affairs, Richard Stegman, that was addressed to the presidents

allowed to be fully exercised.

The review committee consists of a number of RWU administrators including Stegman, Provost Dr. Edward Kavanagh; Vice President of Human Resources and General Counsel, Bob Avery; Associate Dean of Students, Maria Wah-Fitta and Executive Director of Public Affairs, Rick Goff. Stegman

the content of one's publication."

Chairman of the RWU College Republicans, and editor of the *Hawk's Right Eye*, Jason Mattera, sees it differently.

"They have formed what I like to call a censorship committee. Basically what they're saying is, 'We value freedom of expression, but we don't value freedom of expression.' If you did, then why would you want to filter it?" said Mattera.

This year, the *Hawk's Right Eye* seems to be the only paper thought of as being controversial on RWU's campus, perhaps indicating that the more stringent policy could be aimed specifically at the *Right Eye*, or at the very

least enacted as a result of the paper's content.

The new policy gives advisers authority to deal with questionable content. Adviser to the College Republicans, political-science professor Dr. June Speakman, said that after the release of the *Hawk's Right Eye* the administration had questioned her effectiveness as an adviser. "There were no guidelines or expectations regarding the position. I didn't know what I was expected to do."

Kavanagh used the *Hawk's Right Eye* as an example of what will currently be expected of advisers if content becomes a concern. "She [Speakman] is going to advise them [College Republicans] how

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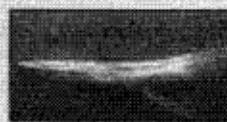
The photo above, is a picture of the controversial issue of The Hawks Right Eye

and advisers of student clubs and organizations. Some question whether free speech is being

says in his letter, "Let me be clear that it is not the intention of this university to limit diverse viewpoints or

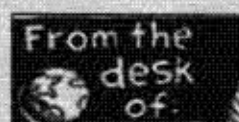


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EDITORIAL

Volume 14, Issue 7

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Haunted House both hair-raising and fundraising

By Samantha Brownstein

Staff Writer

It was an evening of fright, as students at Roger Williams University organized a Haunted House for the Bristol community and fellow students on Friday, Oct 31 in the Performing Arts Building.

Students who participated in the event were members of Stage Company, theater majors/minors, and friends of the groups. The Haunted House was opened to the Bristol community starting at 5:30 p.m. and then opened for students at 9:00 p.m. After talking to students who participated, they were initially skeptical of the ultimate turn out. However, many came to support the event in search of a few scares.

The event pooled in \$386. Last year the haunted

house made a total of \$300, which earned it the title of best fundraiser. Talking to Amanda Christie, a Stage Company member who helped run the haunted house, said, "I spent 29 hours in just 3 days helping set up for the event. Work-study students helped as well. They did a lot of big stuff that I couldn't do myself. In the end, it was worth all the hours and hard work to see it succeed in such a big way."

When they unveiled the house to the Bristol community, few came. But when the haunted house opened its doors for students from 9:00-11:00 p.m., in just 2 hours, more than 100 students came to support their fellow students and experience some of their own Halloween fright. RWU students played an important role in raising nearly \$400 for the Stage Company.

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Police Beat

Arrests

11/6 at 4:02 p.m. Scott C. Woodbury, 22, of 8 Scotland Drive, Andover, Mass., was arrested by Bristol Police on a charge of disorderly conduct.

11/7 at 6:33 p.m. Joshua R. Dretchen, 18, of 8 Sasson Terrace, Valley Cottage, NY, was arrested by Bristol Police on a charge of possession of marijuana.

No verizon on this student's horizon

11/4 at 5:20 p.m. A complainant at RWU filed a report of their missing cell phone.

Vehicle Vandalism

11/5 at 4:04 p.m. An RWU student filed a report with Bristol Police concerning vandalism to her vehicle on Oliver Street.

11/5 at 4:40 p.m. An RWU student filed a report of vehicle vandalism with the Bristol Police.

Police Beat information courtesy of Bristol Police Department. Edited by Jason Turcotte.

NEWS

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Right Eye

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to most effectively promote their point of view within the bounds of probity, or the highest ethical standards."

Mattera responded by saying, "When you suppress or curtail an idea, that's called censorship. It's hypocritical. It's this political correctness committee that's a wolf wrapped up in a sheep's clothing. A bunch of liberals are gonna sit on a committee and say what conservatives should write."

The closing of Stegman's letter reads: "It needs to be fully recognized that our university has both the right and obligation to determine appropriate decorum for its school and we will work to insure that a hateful environment will not be tolerated from or against any group of students, faculty or staff."

Kavanagh explained that the university is not trying to repress any viewpoints. He said, for example, that the College Republicans brought political speaker

Reporters should also allow those "affected by the story to respond." Finally, the story must not engage in "legally actionable, hostile, hateful, or unethical

a publication because it is a private institution, but in his opinion, not the moral right. Szenher says, "In America we have a wonderful constitutional system of free speech. Why

need to support an organization that is controversial. In the instance of the *Hawk's Right Eye*, Szenher says, "Get support from a donor, a republican, or organization for funding which would allow you to be far more politically powerful."

While Speakman believes that the majority of the faculty and

administration are Democrats, she says that she has seen no evidence that liberal views are pushed on campus.

On the other hand, Mattera contends that during his three years of attending RWU, the school has never brought in a conservative speaker. Mattera says, "We have doused this campus with conservatism, they haven't. That shows you something. That shows you where their biases are."



Tammy Bruce to the school and the administration certainly didn't object.

The committee's duty would be to check for things such as "inaccuracies, careless, incomplete reporting, or distortion of fact." It can prohibit unreasonable invasion of one's privacy, or damage to "a person's or the university's reputation."

Also, reporters must "avoid basing stories on anonymous sources," except if the source absolutely must remain undisclosed.

behavior."

Critics of the policy question whether members on the review committee are qualified in the practices of journalism, and more importantly unbiased. They also are dubious about what constitutes fair and proper judgment, and what defines the bounds of ethical standards.

Professor of English and former adviser to the *Hawk's Herald*, Dr. Philip Szenher, says the review committee has the legal right to change material in

should any 'controversial' student, club or organization be dependant almost like a 'welfare client' on the university's approval of their actions?" In other words, Szenher suggests that a group perceived as controversial or producing objectionable material should get out from under the university umbrella so they could say what they wish without the worries and consequences of displeasing the administration. Likewise, the administration should not feel the

RWU Theatre Department presents "Hot L Baltimore"

The theatre department at RWU will present "Hot L Baltimore," by Lanford Wilson, as the fall semester's Main Season Series play.

Performances will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 20, 21 and 22 in the university Performing Arts Center on the Bristol campus at One Old Ferry Road. All shows will begin at 8:00 p.m.

Barry Press, an adjunct faculty member, will direct "Hot L Baltimore," for the Roger Williams stage. The play centers around the fascinating group of residents of a hot (e)l that has seen better days. Over the course of the Memorial Day weekend, we share their humorous, poignant and angry reactions, to the imminent destruction of their special haven.

Come see the new Mr. RWU crowned

When: Saturday, November 22

Where: Recreation Center

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Who are the contestants?

Joe Kaye, Chris Poles, Zach Gregus, Tony Capriccio, Jeff Thibeau, Peter Baird, Christian Hanson, Chad Roberge, and Justin Riley.

Cost: \$3

Proceeds benefit the Children's Miracle Network

In partnership with RWU's Institute for Teaching and Learning, the Fleet Educational Summit is sponsoring Alfie Kohn as a guest speaker. The topic being discussed:

The Deadly Effects of Tougher Standards
Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2003, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Campus Recreation Center Field House. \$25 fee for non-RWU students, faculty, and staff. A reception will follow. Alfie Kohn is the author of eight books on education and human behavior.

There will be a BOOK SIGNING following the event, so if students would like to purchase a copy of one of his books they may do so in the bookstore before hand. He has his own website www.alfiekohn.org FTOA (Future Teachers of America) is helping to promote this lecture.

President announces scholarship in memory of fallen Bristol soldier

By Garry Dow

Science Editor

On November 11, 2003, President Roy J. Nirschel announced the establishment of a scholarship in honor of Michael "Flea" Andrade, a Bristol native who died in Iraq this past September.

Andrade served in the National Guard as a member of the 115th Police Company. A graduate of Mount Hope High School, he was also a volunteer firefighter in Bristol.

Nirschel made the announcement on Veteran's Day while speaking at the Bristol area veteran's commemoration.

He described the scholarship as "An effort that embodies the spirit of Veteran's Day and indicates the high degree of respect and recognition we place on those who have served our country."

The scholarship will be available to one Mount Hope High School graduate who maintained at least

a B average and received an SAT score of at least 1000. The four year scholarship, valued at nearly \$100,000, includes tuition and fees.

Although the scholarship is available to any qualified Mount Hope graduate, special consideration will be given to full-time undergraduate students interested in pursuing careers in construction management, engineering or architecture.

According to Rick Goff, Director of Public Relations, "The recipient will be required to commit a minimum of five hours per year in support of worthwhile organizations in Bristol or Warren."

In addition to Nirschel, Ray Cordeiro, a Bristol Town Council member and Roger Williams Associate Athletic Director, assisted with the scholarship effort.

This is the latest addition to a number of community-based scholarships, which include: the Payson Scholarship, the Bristol Memorial Grant, the Town Employee Scholarship, and tuition remission for Bristol residents.

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NEWS

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Tammy Bruce

continued from front page

men that if everyone has the disease, you were not alone and there was no reason to wear condoms anymore, Bruce argues.

Bruce believes that in America there is a "refusal to come to judgment about actions;" the actions of homosexuals. She explained that within the gay community there are common viewpoints about everything, and if someone had a different opinion, that person would be treated as an outcast. She said "America thinks that if we come to judgment about what we do, it is bad."

Bruce referred to the "radical fringe" of gay community leadership of whom she was tired of being represented by. She believes that this small group tells individuals within the gay community not to question majority opinion, and punishes those who do challenge them; "We have got to be able to dissent and not be at risk."

Bruce disagrees with the idea that gay rights are supposed to include every part of the gay community. "It's not sexy to have cuts and

bruises." She made it clear that she does not agree with S&M (Sadism and Masochism). "I'll have no part of that, as a feminist, and I'll argue that as well."

"Being a woman is more than what is between your legs," said Bruce, who criticized transsexuals, referring to their desire to cover up who they are with surgery, instead of confronting their sexual identity with therapy.

Bruce said that we "condemn our own to surgery instead of addressing why they want to disappear."

Bruce had her own ideas about what can be done about what the gay community can do to address

its problems. She believes that there should be an end to relationships between alcohol companies and gay bars and clubs (Absolute is the primary sponsor of many gay bars in the L.A.

alcoholism is a huge part of the gay community.

Bruce encouraged people to condemn the lifestyle where casual sex, drinking and pregnancy are accepted as okay. Bruce also wanted everyone to know that therapy is a good thing.

Although Bruce was confronted with hostility from some audience members during a question and answer period following the lecture, she handled herself with the

Photo by Beth Kleiman

"If you're worried about getting feelings hurt or not getting offended, you're in the wrong place."

area). She suggested that gay organizations attempt to open dialogues between groups with conflicting opinions. Alcohol programs should be started since, according to Bruce,

same composure that she had exhibited throughout the night, stating, "If you're worried about getting feelings hurt or not getting offended, you're in the wrong place."

Protest

continued from front page

University, the Roger Williams University R.O.T.C. program and the Students for the Recognition of Veterans Day

Students who witnessed Zackrison's protest responded in different ways. Some students commented that Zackrison "had a lot of guts". Others dismissed the demonstration as "a stupid publicity stunt."

In addition to sparking the Veteran's Day ceremony, the protest prompted Senior Class President Jason Pedicone to send an e-mail to the senior class. The e-mail provided the contact information of several administrators, includ-

ing Provost Kavanagh and Richard Stegman, the Dean of Student Affairs.

"I agree with him [Zackrison] 100 percent," responded Pedicone, when asked about the protest.

"Soldiers suffer through some of the most horrible conditions imaginable because they believe they are securing our freedom

the way of physical support, he did gain a petition with more than 850 signatures.

According to June Speakman, a political science professor, the school does not recognize Veteran's Day by taking the day off because it conflicts with the number of class hours mandated by the fed-

the semester as it is.

"We were forced to choose between the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and Veteran's Day. We didn't want kids on the road Wednesday night with all the traffic, so we decided to take it off. It was a safety issue."

Despite the fact that RWU was open for business as usual on Veteran's Day, Zackrison was happy with the

"Soldiers suffer through some of the most horrible conditions imaginable because they believe they are securing our freedom and our liberty. Whether you are pro-war or anti-war, you have to respect that. Roger Williams should recognize the holiday more visibly than it does right now."

and our liberty. Whether you are pro-war or anti-war, you have to respect that. Roger Williams should recognize the holiday more visibly than it does right now."

Zackrison also went door-to-door urging students to help him. Although he gained little in

eral government, which controls financial aid for many students on campus.

"We need to meet for 45 class hours each semester. In the teacher's union-administration negotiations, we decided not to go back before Labor Day; and we already run pretty close to the holidays at the end of

result.

"Veteran's Day is now recognized by the school as more than just a footnote," he said. "Although I'm still disheartened that no one else really made flyers, banners, or marched with me, I think they will all remember."

Around the globe in five minutes...

New Palestinian government approved
The Palestinian Legislative Council approved a new 24-minister government presented by Prime Minister Ahmed Qorei

Tear gas fired in Manila protest
Philippine police used tear gas and water cannon to disperse thousands of supporters of ousted president Joseph Estrada last week after they demanded President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo step down.

France's biggest fraud trial ends
A Paris court has sentenced Loik Le Floch-Prigent to five years in prison for his part in embezzling about \$350 million from the oil giant's funds during the late 1980s and early 1990s to pay for luxury apartments, political kickbacks and bribes.

At least 300 sick in hepatitis outbreak
The number of people sickened by a hepatitis A outbreak at a Mexican restaurant in Pittsburg, PA continues to climb, with state health officials confirming at least 300 cases.

Girl Scouts trap beavers; anger activists
About 10 members of Girl Scout troop 34 in Alaska participated in helping to catch beavers using snare and lethal traps. Animal activist group PETA is outraged and says killing animals when they cause a problem is a bad message. Representatives for the Scouts say trapping beavers is a heritage in the Alaskan state.

Police Discover Drug Lab In Kids' Home
Police said they found a dangerous methamphetamine drug lab in a Boston home Tuesday, and two children living at the home are now in the custody of the state Department of Social Services.

Source: CNN.com

SCIENCE

Volume 14, Issue 7

Monday, November 17, 2003

The blue whale, a modern-day sea monster

By Garry Dow

Science Editor

A couple of weeks ago I saw a show called "Modern Day Sea Monsters," which took animals living today and matched them up with accounts of sea monsters from years past.

It attempted to show that really, sea monsters were little more than exaggerated descriptions of actual animals living in the sea at that time.

And while it seems apparent that most descriptions were somewhat of a fish tale, I found it interesting that the "sea monster description" of one particular animal was almost identical to the one you would find in any modern day text book.

The blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) needed no exaggeration, no added details to be scary. If ever sea monsters existed, the blue whale was one of them.

It is the largest creature to have ever lived, far bigger than even the largest dinosaur. Its tongue alone weighs as much as an elephant. Its heart is the size of a Volkswagen. Some of its blood vessels are so wide, you could swim through them.

Over the course of its lifetime, an impressive 110 years, a blue whale can grow up to 100 feet in length and 150 tons (300,000 pounds) in weight.

Named for its color, the blue whale is present in all of the world's oceans.

Surprisingly, this leviathan feeds almost exclusively on crustaceans called krill—tiny pelagic organisms that average about 2 cm in length.

While blue whales tend to travel alone or in pairs, krill congregate in massive swarms near areas of high productivity, mainly coastal upwelling zones.

Here they number in the millions, creating a virtual smorgasbord of opportunity for these gigantic filter feeders. On an average day, a blue whale filters 40 million krill between its massive baleen plates—an astounding four tons of food each day.

Despite their size, these whales are among the most endangered animals in the world, the result of intense whaling for more than half a century.

A single 90-foot blue whale could yield 120 barrels of oil, but because of their enormous size and speed, blues were safe from early whalers.

In 1868, a Norwegian



Photo courtesy of earthwindow.com

named Sven Foyn revolutionized the whaling industry when he introduced exploding harpoon guns. Foyn also introduced steam and diesel powered ships, and perfected a technique aimed at pumping dead whales with air to keep them from sinking after they were harpooned.

In the early part of the twentieth century, whalers turned the full force of their attention to hunting blues.

In 1996, after more than 350,000 whales had been killed, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) finally banned the hunting of blue whales.

Still, recovery has been extremely slow. Only in the last few years has there been any sign of a general

population rebound. Even more distressing, most scientists believe some populations may never recover.

Before the advent of whaling, estimates put the blue whale population at a healthy 200,000. Today that number has decreased by almost 90 percent.

For centuries the blue whale patrolled the seas, like a king in his castle. Confident. Infallible. Unfortunately, no king's reign can last forever. And no sea creature, even a monster, is safe from the sharp sting of a harpoon.

For more information: *Blue Whales*, written by John Calambokidis and Gretchen Steiger. Printed by Voyageur Press.

Upcoming Events

Science Math
Seminar Series

Wednesday Nov. 19th
(4:30-5:30 p.m.)
MNS 200

Dr. Nathalia Glickman
(NYU School of Medicine,
Skirball Institute of
Biomolecular Medicine)
*Transgenic analysis of
zebrafish heart development*

BIO 310 Tropical Ecology
Winter Intercession in
Belize January 8th-17th
Travel to ancient ruins,
rainforests, and
tropical reefs.

Contact Skip Pomeroy at
hpomeroy@rwu.edu for
more information.

Students research an invasive species found in Mt. Hope Bay

By Heather Kordula

Staff Writer

Nearly half of the plants and animals on the United States Endangered Species List are at risk due to invasive species. A local invasive species under concern is *Grateloupia turuturu*. Marcie Marston and Martine Villalard-Bohnsack of Roger Williams University, Marilyn Harlin of the University of Rhode Island, and students Erin Cote, Anthony Fuda, Francis Pierciey, and James Torbett from RWU are currently conducting research on the impacts of the invasive red algae.

Marston relayed current information on the *Grateloupia* in a lecture titled "The spread and ecological impact of an invasive red alga, *Grateloupia turuturu* along the coast of southern New England" on Wednesday Nov. 5. The lecture was part of the R.I. Natural History 2003-2004 Mark D. Gould Memorial Lecture Series on R.I.'s Fauna, Flora, Geology and Ecosystems.

Invasive species are plants, animals or other organisms that have come into our region from other parts of the world. Invasive species are typically aggressive growers and lack the pests or diseases that con-

trol their numbers in their native home. This means that they are able to spread and take over natural areas in their newly adopted home. Invasive species may also cause local extinctions and lower biological diversity. Needless to say, the current spread of *Grateloupia turuturu* is one of local concern.

A student at URI discovered *Grateloupia turuturu* in 1996. By the year 2000 it had spread throughout Rhode Island including the Mount Hope Bay. According to Marston, "You can walk down to our dock and find lots of it."

Grateloupia turuturu can grow four to five feet tall as a single blade or branched. It is encountered in the lower intertidal to upper subtidal zone and is usual-

ly attached to rocks.

Part of the research Marston is conducting is to find where the *Grateloupia* is originally from. It is hypothesized that it came to Rhode Island on the hull of a ship or through ballast water. The species was tracked back to Europe where the original name, *Grateloupia doryphora* was found. However, it was an invasive species to Europe as well. It was then traced back to Japan, where it is an endemic species. However the Japanese name was *Grateloupia turuturu*, thus the name was changed.

Marston is currently using genetics to track where the individuals from Rhode Island are originally from. She can determine this by looking at the sequences of the genes in

the DNA of the algae. It seems these individuals are so far related to both the Japanese and European individuals and it was not yet been determined where the individuals have originated.

Why should we care about these invasive red algae? Marston says she is not yet sure of all the ecological and environmental impacts the algae has, however she is certain that, "Grateloupia has become established in Rhode Island." Marston believes the *Grateloupia* could have a direct effect on the native species, especially *Chondrus crispus*, common red algae found here in Rhode Island. Both Marston and her students are currently researching the effect of the *Grateloupia* on the *Chondrus*.

LIFESTYLES

Volume 14, Issue 7

Monday, November 17, 2003

Performance of RWU professors exposed in Web site

By Jason Turcotte
Co-Editor

It was just a few years ago that John Swapceinski recalls miserably sitting through a lecture at San Jose State with a professor he described as "terrible." Unlike other students, Swapceinski decided to do something about it, launching ratemyprofessors.com in 1999.

"I decided to start the website to allow students to warn others about terrible professors," Swapceinski told the *Hawk's Herald*. The site exists as an online forum for college students to educate and inform other students of the effectiveness or lack thereof of professors at colleges nationwide, including Roger Williams University.

Swapceinski rationalizes the site by characterizing students as consumers and professors as the product they are purchasing and says a student has the right to know how their teachers are performing. Today the site boasts 253,903 professor ratings hailing from 3,509 schools.

Students may browse the site to search their school and professors they have had and are able to rank them on three categories: easiness, helpfulness and clarity. The helpfulness and clarity categories are then averaged into an overall rating. Those delivering the ratings remain anonymous and are also afforded the opportunity to write additional comments concerning the respective professor.

All ratings are based on a 1-5 scale, with five being the highest. Other features include a red flag that can be sent to the site when a student reads a review that they feel is lacking factual merit. And though rarely used, students may also opt to label professors as "hot."

Their system, however, is by no means full proof. Even though users are asked to identify themselves according to the class they took with the professor that they are rating,

there is no guarantee that every rating comes from a student. Even the type of student may lead to unjust ratings. "These opinions should always be taken with a grain of salt because you don't know what kind of student wrote each rating. But the site gives students food for thought when planning their class schedules," said Swapceinski.

The top rated RWU professors according to ratemyprofessors.com

The following is a listing of the top ten overall ratings of professors who teach at RWU. The overall rating average does not include the 'easiness' category and the listing includes only professors who have had at least five site users rank them. Ratings do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the *Herald*.

1. Rebecca McLaughlin, writing professor received a perfect 5.0 rating in all three categories. Student comments included, "nice" and "great class."

2. David Melchar, economics professor, earned a 4.9 overall rating. One enterprise student had this to say, "Dave Melchar is an awesome professor, someone who truly cares about his students. I had him freshmen year and he has always made an effort to stay in touch and see how I'm doing. He won't give up on you."

3. Eric Roberts, biology professor, also has an overall rating of 4.9. A genetics student said, "I think this guy could teach my dog genetics—he is the man."

4. Will Ayton, music professor, earned a rating of 4.8 overall. Students described Ayton as fair and enthusiastic. "Extremely excited about teaching. Can be a father away from home," commented one Aesthetics student.

5. W. Brett McKenzie, CIS professor, also rated at 4.8 overall is described as a good teacher, even "the best CIS professor at RWU," by one student.

6. Tony Hollingsworth, foreign

language professor, boasts a 4.7 overall rating. "We definitely learn a lot and enjoy ourselves at the same time," said one Latin student. Another had this to say about Hollingsworth, "Tony has this brainwashing effect over his students. He teaches you to learn what he loves, and somehow you grow to love it too."

7. Bob Engvall, criminal justice professor, also earned a 4.7 overall rating. One Intro to CJ student remarked, "Awesome teacher! Actually makes it fun to learn."

8. Amy Tomas, marketing professor, scored a 4.7 overall rating. "Dr. Tomas is always cheery and helpful," said one enterprise student.

9. Stephen O'Shea, chemistry professor, posts a 4.6 overall score. "I hate science but he somehow makes things interesting," said one CORE student.

10. Bob Ristino, public relations professor, also earned a 4.6 overall rating. "Good teacher. He is a rarity because he actually has his own practice in public relations along with teaching it," informed one student. Foreign language professor Richard Schieber was also placed with a 4.6 overall rating.

RWU professor who are failing so to speak, according to ratemyprofessors.com

1. Joel Silverberg, mathematics professor, earned the lowest overall rating of a 1.1. "He just gets angry when you do not understand the material and doesn't care to help," said one discreet math student.

2. Jeff Silverthorne, visual arts professor, is rated a 1.2 overall. Silverthorne was described by students as "unclear" and "confusing." One aesthetics student said, "You'll wanna poke your eyes out."

3. Carolyn Kendrow, chemistry

professor, fell at a 1.3 overall rating. Some labeled Kendrow as "boring."

4. Richard Heavers, physics professor, is rated a 1.9 overall. "I think he hates to see people do well in his class," said one physics student.

5. Peter Alfieri, foreign language professor, students gave a 2.0 overall rating to. One Spanish student said, "You can learn a lot more Spanish watching Sesame Street than going to his class," and another commented, "Alfieri starts talking in Spanish, but ends up telling stories about Italy in English."

6. Nancy Nester, writing professor, has an overall rating of 2.3.

"She grades tough and her revisions of papers are unclear," said one student enrolled in senior seminar. Others

called her criticism "unconstructive."

7. Josh Stein, history professor, ranked slightly better at a 2.4 overall rating. "Sometimes his lectures can be as dry as the wastelands of Iraq," said one student.

8. Bruce Burdick, mathematics professor, also earned a 2.4 overall rating, but scored just a 2.1 in the 'helpfulness' category.

9. Tucker Wright, legal studies professor, came in with a 2.5 overall rating. One student comments, "Unfortunately, freshmen or sophomores are not mature enough to understand his style."

10. Jennifer Campbell, writing professor, finishes the bottom ten with a 2.6 overall rating. "She treats her students like children, not adults," said a Lit/Phil student.

Again, the level of ease rating does not calculate into these figures of overall rating, thus the *Herald* shares the site's 'easiest' teachers of whom had at least five users rate them.

At RWU, writing professor Rebecca McLaughlin, psychology professor Charles Trimbach, mathematics professor Barbara Leasher, history professor Mike Swanson and marketing professor Lana Brackett rounded out the 'easiest' professors according to input provided by students at ratemyprofessors.com.

The five most difficult professors at RWU according to the site are currently, mathematics professor Joel Silverberg, mathematics professor Earl Gladue, foreign language professor Tony Hollingsworth, chemistry professor Dan Von Riesen, English professor Deb Robinson and accounting professor Richard Bernardi.

In total, 186 RWU professors have been ranked on the site thus far. Of those, 116, or 62 percent were ranked favorably as effective professors, 22 percent as ineffective and 16 percent as average. Another point made by Swapceinski, site founder, is that the forum typically draws students who have an extreme view of a professor, either a strong liking or disliking.

Typical of most schools, RWU students scour course schedules each semester in search of a professor who suits their needs. But some underclassmen are not familiar with all faculty members and what each course entails.

Ratemyprofessor.com serves as a medium to those who are less knowledgeable to the academic options available when registering for their course load, which for underclassmen at RWU begins Nov. 17.

When asked about professor's reactions to the site, Swapceinski says that reaction in part depends on the rating in which the professor received, adding, "We get threatened with legal action from angry professors on pretty much a weekly basis. Fortunately, the First Amendment is on our side."



CAMPUS LIFE

Volume 14, Issue 7

Monday, November 17, 2003

RWU student senate beat and Senator profiles

By Allisyn Deyo

Staff Writer

October 27: A bill appointing William Leaver IV to the Public Relations committee passed unanimously. In addition, President Nirschel expressed his appreciation, via President Bedell, of a bill passed last week, entitled "Reaffirming the Nature of the Relationship between the Administration and Student Organizations." Vice President Lonergan had submitted the bill after President Nirschel temporarily froze the funding of the Hawk's Right Eye.

November 3: In a surprise move Monday evening, Student Senate President Erin Bedell announced she had requested the resignation of Senator Jason Mattera from the Student Senate. Mattera, editor of the Hawk's Right Eye and President of RWU's College Republicans, was asked to resign because of conduct deemed "unbecoming of a student senator." An appeal was made via a bill submitted by Senators Mona Hatoum and KJ Kelly, but following a vote of 10 to 5, President Bedell's decision was upheld.

A bill to censure the College Republicans and rescind funding for its newsletter, the Hawk's Right Eye was untabled and summarily withdrawn by Senator Lavier.

Every month, the Student Senate chooses a senator of the month and a student leader of the month, recognizing them for their leadership and aid. The October Student Senator of the month is Adam Noska, and the October Student Leader of the Month is Kristine Macagba.

November 10: President Nirschel attended the Student Senate meeting and gave the senators a preview of his "presidential forum" presentation. The president also announced a full scholarship in memory of Spec. Michael Andrade, a National Guardsman from Warren who died in September. In addition, Nirschel remarked, "Democracy is messy," and noted the Student Senate's recent thrust into the spotlight and thanked them for the hard work.

The senate congratulated Megan Sage of the Campus Entertainment Network for winning the Excellence in Programming Award at a recent conference.

A bill, submitted by Vice President Lonergan, entitled

"A Resolution Affirming the Observance of Veteran's Day and the Appropriate Memorial by Roger Williams University" came before the senate. The bill was proposed after Nicholas Zackrisson, a business major who is involved with the ROTC regiment on campus, mounted a movement to have Veteran's Day memorialized on campus. His one-man protest, complete with a petition signed by over 800 faculty and staff, prompted the unanimous passage of the bill.

Senate Profiles

Serving his second term on the Student Senate, Adam Noska, junior, is well known around campus - as an ordained minister. "Rev" Noska is a legal studies and public relations double major, with plans for graduate school. Noska is chairman of the Student Affairs committee, which hears parking ticket appeals and investigates concerns about the quality of life on campus, and a member of the Finance committee. Noska is pleased at how involved the students are becoming with the Student Senate, and acknowledges it as a "step in the right direction."

Derek Harnsberger, freshman, is happy to serve his

first year on the Student Senate. Double majoring in legal studies and history, Harnsberger is part of the 3/3 undergraduate/law-school program, and will be attending Ralph R. Papitto School of Law. Harnsberger is on the Public Relations committee, as well as the Student Affairs committee. "Thanks to all who voted for me," stated Senator Harnsberger, "even though you didn't know me yet."

This is the first year on Student Senate for Matt Taylor, junior. A political science and communications double major, Taylor plans to become a political analyst after graduate school. Taylor is a member of the Academic Affairs committee and the Clubs and Organizations committee. He encourages all students to get involved as he did, and states, "With my input, I thought I could make things better."

Mike Witek, freshman, is new to the Student Senate. Witek is an accounting major from Connecticut, and is a member of the Clubs and Organizations committee and the Student Affairs committee. Witek encourages all students to contact him with their concerns, stating, "I'm here for you guys, I will do my best to help."

Jackie Clum, junior, is serving her first year on the Student Senate. Double majoring in marketing and Spanish, Clum plans to go

into International Marketing after receiving her MBA. Clum is a member of the Public Relations committee and the Academic Affairs committee. The new senator is proud to be part of the Student Senate, and stated "I am trying to make a difference... to make the university better."

This will be the second year on Student Senate for Casey Powers, sophomore. A criminal justice major, Powers plans to be involved with environmental law enforcement after graduation. Powers is also a second term chairman of the Clubs and Organizations committee, which advocates for the clubs and organizations on campus, and a member of the Finance committee.

Junior Class President Adam Maust is serving his first year on the Student Senate. A political science major, Maust is the founder of CHASE (Creating Hope Among Student Everywhere) the Vote of Rhode Island. Maust sits on the Academic Affairs committee, the Public Relations committee, and the Student Affairs committee. With all of Maust's involvement on campus, he noted, "I can be one of the most effective and informed student leaders on campus, and nothing makes me more driven to succeed in life when so much is on my shoulders."

A ditzy kind of duo

By Michelle Moore

Staff Writer

Lacking energy from the start, it was hard to tell what the crowd was thinking as comedian Leigh Forrest walked onto stage Friday night in the Student Union Snack Bar on Nov. 7. As she began her skit, it was obvious her high-pitched voice and energetic personality were something a little different from the comedians RWU students were used to.

Soon, though, the audience members adjusted, understanding her "ditzy" humor and became a bit more involved. Forrest made jokes

based on her new experiences with motherhood, a stage of her life that began just six months ago. Jokingly she referred to her daughter as "You," saying that her and her husband thought it might be perfect since the "Birthday Song" would then already be dedicated to her. She topped off her performance with a skit about sewing and even showed us a couple "pillows" she had been working on.

The show wasn't over when Forrest walked off the stage though, in fact, it had only just begun. The next comedian, Moira Quirk, is known by many as the

petite, English referee from the Nickelodeon's "GUTS," among other things including the voices she portrays in various cartoons such as "The Wild Thornberry's."

Quirk jump kicked her skit off by acting other people's impressions of her English accent and proceeded with more jokes involving other accents. Just as one would expect with any comedian from England, her humor was crude but well-presented.

Overall, both comedians put on a fine show of comical material during the CEN sponsored event. They didn't perform the typical stand-up comedy routine, but they certainly made people laugh.

A must buy CD

By Ellen Cassidy

Staff Writer

John Mayer's second CD, released on Sept. 9 by Columbia Records is a must buy. *Heavier Things*, is an album that encourages you to listen to every track. This CD provides complex lyrics and creative guitar solos.

John Mayer's first CD *Room for Squares*, targeted the 18-25 age group, his newest CD reaches to a more diverse group of listeners.

Heavier Things experiments with jazz, with the help from Roy Hargrove with the song, "Clarity." Like his first album, *Heavier Things* is filled with catchy lines, and Mayer's raspy but soulful voice that meshes flawlessly with his guitar.

Many artists suffer the loss of their popularity among their original fans, upon creation of a second album.

But, Mayer made a bold career move by creating a new sound, different from his first CD.

Mayer changes his song writing style, adapting to more difficult issues. His fans will appreciate his new style of music. This CD is a must buy and a great stress reliever from the grind of typical college life.



SPORTS

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Monday, November 17, 2003

Fishing for an answer: soccer player snubbed during Senior Day

By Chris Villano
Staff Writer

"The team won yesterday, and perhaps that is all that matters," states Phyllis Fish, mother of Brian Fish, senior goalkeeper of the RWU men's soccer team. Mrs. Fish addressed the entire team and many of their family members in a heart felt e-mail which echoed the seldom heard, somber emotions of players of all sports who have seen games won and lost from sidelines.

It's a respected devotion that many players love the game so much that they are willing to spend the majority of their time viewing it from behind the white lines. It's a fact that some college athletes barely see the field except for those few games when the team is winning big, or on spe-

cial occasions like Senior Day. At least they have those, or do they?

On Senior Day, Saturday Nov. 1 during the first round of the Commonwealth Coast Conference playoffs, the RWU men's soccer team won their game against The University of New England 4-1, advancing to the second round of the playoffs. However, there was little action for freshman Kevin Deegan, who in his 90 minutes of play was tested with just one shot on net, a shot that eluded his grasp.

The goal keeper situation for the RWU hawks has been problematic over the years as it has seen a number of starting and back-up keepers come and go, including last year's starter Justin Hughes and back up Dave Atilho. The only keeper who has toughed it out for all four years has

been Brian Fish. However, this Senior Day, the only senior, who failed to log minutes, was Fish.

"What damage could it have possibly caused to honor his dedication to this school and this program by giving him a few minutes on the field on a day that is traditionally reserved for seniors" asks Mrs. Fish in her letter, who isn't demanding playing time, but rather that her son is treated fairly and with respect.

This type of situation asks an important question of priority, which is more significant, winning or fighting the battle with a total team effort? And have sports at this level become more political than anything else? But the more the team wins, the better the recognition for RWU.

Private universities and colleges are not only insti-

tutions for higher education, but at their core, they are businesses. And by having a successful, winning soccer team, they attract more valued customers.

But the treatment of Brian Fish, a long-term member of the RWU community, may not be the message that a winning program wants to send to its potential customers.

Coach Jim Cook had this to say about Senior Day, "The issue of a player starting, or playing is a team issue between the coach and his players. Brian and I have talked and this situation is well behind us. This is a non-issue." Players have described Cook's coaching philosophy as being the players who best prove their abilities are afforded the most minutes on the field.

This equal opportunity

outlook proved successful for the Hawks, as they have been a winning team for many years now, with this year being no exception boasting a 16-3-2 record. But some feel as though winning is but a trifle token if the victory does not stem from a full team effort.

The Herald wants to know your opinion. Share your thoughts by submitting a letter to the editor at HawksHerald@yahoo.com



Hawks fall short in bid for NCAA tournament

By Tim Mannion
Staff Writer

The battle for the Commonwealth Coast conference championship ended on Saturday in front of a huge crowd at Bayside field with the Gordon College Fighting Scots defeating Roger Williams 1-0 on a goal by CCC Player of the year Matt Smith. Gordon College in reward of the championship victory also received an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

These two teams have began a heated rivalry in the last couple of contests, as one month ago they played to a 1-1 tie and last year they also knotted a 1-1 tie. This match lived up to expectations of the rivalry, which has been brewing over the last several years.

The scoring started early with just a little over five minutes as Matt Smith of the Scots slipped a shot past CCC Rookie of the year Kevin Deegan, the young freshman goalie for the Hawks. After the goal each team had significant chances to put points on the board but they all came up short.

The Hawks best scoring chances came in the second half when Hawks junior Brian Combra served up a shot from just outside the box that just cleared the crossbar. Repeated chances for headers on corner kicks came just short for the Hawks, who couldn't put it past the Scots goalkeeper. Senior co-captain Anthony Nunes had several shots on goal in the last ten minutes but none found the back of the net.

The loss ended the Hawks 2003 season, finishing another strong year with a record to 16-3-2.



RWU Mock Trial Makes Its Mark

The Roger Williams Mock Trial Club made its mark the weekend of Nov. 1 and 2 as they co-hosted the second Annual Roger Williams and Brown University Mock Trial Invitational Tournament. The tournament was an incredible success, bringing 176 college students from as far as Weber State University in Utah together to compete in a competition more than twice the size of the year before. The tournament took place at the Licht Judicial Complex in Downtown Providence where tournament participants were able to compete in actual courtrooms.

The tournament was kicked off with Opening Ceremonies during which Roger Williams University President Roy Nirschel and Roger Williams School of Law Dean David Logan gave opening remarks. Rhode Island Supreme Court Associate Justice Maureen McKenna Goldberg also gave remarks as the keynote speaker. Local judges, attorneys and law students supported Roger Williams and Brown Mock Trial by serving as judges to the competition. Without them the competition could not have been a success.

Teams that attended the tournament including those from Weber State, Lafayette and the College of the Holy Cross have congratulated Roger Williams and Brown Mock Trial for what they consider to be an unbelievably well run tournament and intend to return again next year.

A total of 25 collegiate Mock Trial teams engaged in a competitive and exhausting four rounds of competition in just two short days. While the RWU teams did not place in the competition, they did bring home two individual awards. Jonathan Porter, a freshman competing for the first time, received a best attorney award and Courtney Montiero, a junior and president of the club received a best witness award.

This year's case is chock-full of Jerry Springer type drama. It revolves around a hockey player, Tony Sturmanis, who tragically dies on the ice. Mr. Sturmanis had suffered from a kidney disease, which could cause aneurysms and may have contributed to his death. Michael Harmon, the defendant in the case, stands accused of as high of a charge as murder for allegedly striking Tony Sturmanis in the head with his hockey stick. The confrontation took place between the two men during a hockey game on May 7 2003 to which there was an entire arena full of witnesses. The motive is where the Jerry Springer drama comes in. Michael Harmon's ex-wife Victoria Harmon had been having a well-publicized affair with Tony Sturmanis and Tony Sturmanis had received a \$30 million contract for which Michael Harmon had also been considered. This case will also be used at Regionals, which takes place in the spring.

The Mock Trial Club always welcomes new members. For those that are interested, please email Mock Trial at mocktrial@rwu.edu for more information.