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Hawks' Herald - February 17, 2004

Roger Williams University

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HAWK'S HERALD

Volume 14, Issue 13

Roger Williams University

Tuesday February 17, 2004

Several clubs and organizations reinstated; students oppose Senate appeals process

By Jason Turcotte

Co-Editor

An estimated 50 students representing six clubs and organizations, piled into Senate chambers last Monday to oppose Senate's appeal process once their club's funding was revoked for failure to adequately submit a Constitution, Contract and Officer Contact form to the Clubs and Organizations Committee, initially due on Wednesday, Jan. 21.

Senate declared approximately 15-20 clubs 'defunct' last week. "A lot of them are clubs that haven't been active, but are still on record," said Senator Casey Powers, also chair of the clubs and organizations committee.

After two unrelenting hours of debate on both parties, Senator Morgan Hutchinson adhered to the student's request, issuing a bill that enabled the clubs present to appeal their status that evening. The Newman Club, Students Against Destructive

Decisions, Psychology Club, Multi-cultural Student Union and Dance Club were reinstated to full club status later that evening, as SAFE was advised to return to the appeals process with the Clubs and Organizations Committee the following day when a club officer could represent them.

Students of the 'defunct' clubs protested the appeals process, placed blame on Senate citing lack of communication and even questioned the board's leadership, specifically Senate President Erin Bedell.

"We're not following rules that you [Senate] don't follow," charged Senior Class President Jason Pedicone. According to Pedicone, Senate failed to notify club presidents and advisors when they were placed on probation one week before officially becoming 'defunct.' Pedicone said this act was more than a lack of communication, but a blatant disregard for Senate bylaws.

Senate, however, dis-

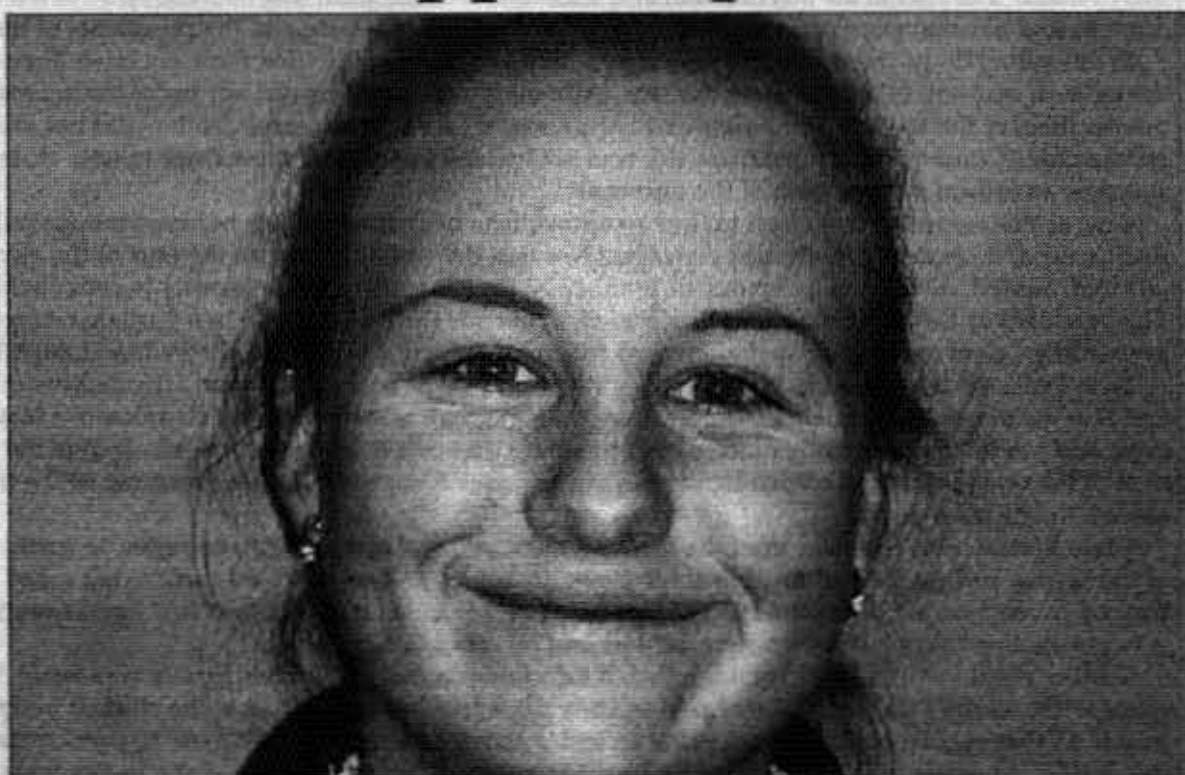


Photo courtesy of www.clubs.rwu.edu/stusenate

Senate President Erin Bedell was pitted against an emotional crowd of students protesting the appeals process for 'defunct' clubs and organizations.

agreed. According to Senator Dan Boyea, bylaws have changed since the Senate Web site was last updated, as Pedicone attributed his presented information to this outdated site. Pedicone also argued that probationary status was supposed to be a month long term rather

than week long. But Bedell said, "Without contracts signed you technically shouldn't be acting as a club."

Pedicone also argued the contracts in question should have been distributed in September rather than Dec. 8, 2004. But Pedicone's pleas would be

short lived as Bedell requested that Public Safety remove him and student Ethan Maron in an attempt to restore order to the emotionally charged debate.

Other students such as, Dance Club Co-President

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Photo by: Jason Turcotte

Students feel library went from study block to block party

By K. Joseph Dougherty

Staff Writer

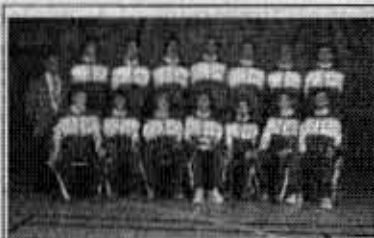
At the beginning of last semester the Roger Williams University library went through some changes. Change is nothing new for RWU students who have experienced the increase of in-coming students, the new Recreation Center and Stone Wall

Terrace, erected just a few years ago. However, sometimes this growth can lead to administrators 'cutting corners' to save money and space. As of fall 2003 library study rooms, previously used for individual or group study, were converted into faculty and staff offices.

There has been some concern expressed by students on account of these offices

not only because of the loss of study space but the increased noise level on these floors. These offices and their residents especially bother Jonathan LaRochelle, a senior who majors in Classics. "I have been doing my schoolwork in the library since sophomore year. The second and third floors were

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OPINION

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Roger Williams University

Tuesday, February 17, 2004

To the editor:

As a member of the Roger Williams University Dance Club, I learned a few days ago that there would be a gathering at the student senate meeting on the evening of Monday, Feb. 9, 2004 in order to protest the declaration of "defunct" that was imposed on twenty of the campus's organizations, the Dance Club being one of them. The reason for this decision and subsequent declaration was because some of the clubs had not completed certain paperwork in a timely fashion. I came to find out that poor communication between the student senate and the presidents of the clubs was to blame.

As our ruling body, the senate has the responsibility of making sure that there are open lines of communication regarding their constitution, certain changes in the bylaws, and any other pertinent matters. Apparently the senators did not make the necessary effort to get in touch with all of the clubs' leaders in order to inform them of the specific alterations and requirements. As a result, many leaders did not know of or receive the paperwork that needed to be completed by a certain date. Consequently, the paperwork was not handed in on time. Now these twenty clubs are forced to go through an appeals process to regain their active status as an official organization of the university.

Now, at this meeting, I expected to find an atmosphere of mutual respect between the elected representatives and their constituents. Instead I was shocked to find an air of authority, conceit, and disrespect towards the student body on the part of the elected so-called "student" Senate. These elected representatives are just that, elected. Elected in a democratic manner by the students of the university in order to have 18 of their peers advocate for them and provide them a voice. The president of the student Senate, Erin Bedell, spoke for the entire group in a parliamentary fashion and made it perfectly clear that no statement against the proceedings, their decision or their disregard for communication would be allowed, no matter how relevant or how true the comment may have been.

Jason Pedicone attempted to be the voice of the hundred or so students who attended the meeting. Jason, the author of the grievance, holder of the petition, and also the person most qualified among the group to speak was consistently shot down. He was told that he would no longer be recognized or allowed to comment and when he respectfully objected public safety was called to escort him out, despite the protests of the students present. This occurred because the president of the senate didn't like what he was saying or how he was saying it. Is a meeting of the representatives and the represented not one where opinions can be voiced and facts be heard?

Adam Maust, who resigned from the Senate a mere two weeks ago, also attempted to speak. As former senator, he obviously participated in the proceedings of the Senate and yet he had no idea about these decisions. When he stated this, Bedell asked him not to refer to his time on the panel. Why should he not be banned from speaking of his time as a representative? He knew from his own first hand experiences with the rest of the Senate, but because what he had to say was threatening to the Senate's stance, he was told he could not refer back.

Another point I would like to make is Bedell's declaration that the student Senate was being "generous" with the clubs' money. It is not their money to be generous with. While I understand that part of their job is to allocate funds, it is the student body's money collectively, \$230 worth per student, coming out of our tuition so that we can help fund the extracurricular activities in which we choose to participate. The Senate's alleged "ownership" of the funds is incorrect and out of line. To freeze \$25,000 worth of funding for twenty of the university's clubs and organizations is setting a precedent of total control by the Senate and the Student Activities Committee.

If all leaders were adequately notified of the deadline, there would have been no argument. However, because of the lack of communication between our elected representatives and the club leaders and due to the refusal of the Senate to take responsibility for its' part in the communication errors, I believe that taking this out on the clubs and the students who participate in the activities is extremely rash and irresponsible.

In closing, I would like to offer a piece of advice to the student Senate. All 18 of you were elected to represent the students of RWU. I suggest you begin doing so in a respectful and democratic manner. The way the Senate portrayed itself to the students on Monday evening, whether they realized it or not, was similar to tyrannical despotism, government by a singular authority, whether it be by one individual or a tightly knit group, which rules with absolute power.

Absolute power corrupts absolutely. This attitude cannot be tolerated. If you treat others with the respect they deserve, you will receive a mutual respect in return. Otherwise, we will take matters into our own hands and elect a new panel of representatives who truly have the best interests of the students at heart.

Kristin Ferency '04

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To the editor:

In response to a letter sent by Ethan Maron in Issue 12 of the Hawk's Herald, I am writing to defend the College Republicans. As many students on campus know, my personal politics lean noticeably left, and on more than one occasion I have expressed my distaste for RWUCR and their programs and publications. However, with regard to the "White Scholarship," I am going to ignore my liberal knee-jerk opposition and examine the matter without bias.

First of all, in my opinion, any money being offered for the purposes of educational enrichment is a good thing, regardless of who is offering it and to whom it is being offered to. Regardless of anyone's personal opinions about College Republicans, we should commend them for donating money from their club treasury for the purposes of scholarly endeavors. To my knowledge, they are the only club on campus to do so.

As for the matter of the racial criteria required for eligibility for this scholarship, I hardly feel Mr. Mattera is being hypocritical, because I do not feel he is protesting racially-based opportunities, merely advocating their relative equality across the ethnic spectrum. Based on information from the U.S. Census we know that minorities possess a smaller portion of the nation's wealth than their Caucasian counterparts. Most people (especially liberals like myself) tend to believe that because of this, minorities should receive a greater portion of monetary assistance when attending college and I do not disagree. What we all need to remember however, is that the information conveyed to us about wealth distribution among the races by the Census and other legitimate sources is demographical; meaning it accurately represents a population, not individuals. Believe it or not, there are many people of non-white ethnicity who are very wealthy, and conversely there are more than a few Caucasian people who are living in poverty, so why is it so terrible that there is a special interest looking out for students of the latter mentioned group? Not all members of a group adhere to that group's stereotypically generalized characteristics, if they did, I, a full pay student of Anglican background, would likely be the President of RWU College Republicans and Jason Mattera would probably be the passionate liberal upset by CR's latest agitation.

I sincerely believe that anyone who claims to advocate equality of opportunity should not protest this latest action by the College Republicans, because it seems to that if they did, they would be guilty of hypocrisy and supporting discrimination.

Sincerely,

Scott R. Hagerman '04

NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 13

Roger Williams University

Tuesday, February 17, 2004

Students dispute over definition of a 'race-based' scholarship

By Allisyn Deyo

Staff Writer

The Hawk's Herald received a letter last week in response to a new scholarship being offered by the College Republicans. The "First Annual Roger Williams University College Republicans White Scholarship Award" gives a student of Caucasian descent a chance to win \$500.

The letter, sent by Ethan Maron, was printed in last week's Herald. It asserts the irony that Jason Mattera, the president of the College Republicans, received a "First in My Family" scholarship, which is race-based toward Hispanics. Maron writes that the College Republicans are "in the midst of an anti-affirmative action drive," which he accepts as "their right." However, Maron's real problem is the hypocrisy of Mattera.

At the Student Senate meeting on Feb. 2, Mattera requested senate funding for the new scholarship. Upon hearing the name of the scholarship, President Bedell requested a separate meeting with Mattera, cit-

ing "legal issues" and the possible violation of the Student Senate's Commitment to Equality Act.

Mattera said, "We are trying to represent our white brothers and sisters on campus. We are fulfilling a need; we are trying to convince the university to take the initiative... white students should be proud of their heritage, just like black students."

The College Republicans Web site argues that, "this exercise should create an active political discussion about minority advantages, affirmative action, and other race-related issues." In order to be eligible for this scholarship, a student must be white and must write a 100-word essay on why they are proud to be Caucasian. The recipient of the scholarship will be announced at the Reginald Jones speech, an event sponsored by the College Republicans.

At this time Bedell told the Herald that Senate has yet to adopt a position on the matter. Maron stated that Mattera "owes the school an explanation."

Letter to the Editor:

In his letter to the editor, Ethan Maron prattles on about how I am the recipient of a "race-based" scholarship. I'm confused. Since when have Hispanics been considered a race? What color is a Hispanic? There are white Hispanics, black Hispanics, Asian Hispanics, and Indian Hispanics. Furthermore, Hispanics can be from Cuba, Uruguay, Argentina, the Dominican Republic, or Spain, to name just a handful of countries. How can anyone possibly lump all these backgrounds into a single race? In fact, the term "Hispanic" pertains only to the language, culture, and geographical placement of oneself or one's ancestors; it has nothing to do with skin color. Next time, Mr. Maron should get his basic premise right before accusing me and other College Republicans of hypocrisy. A public apology is in order.

Maron also claims that I have received "special treatment," as if the scholarship awards in question were given out freely to all who applied. On the contrary, I have earned every penny that was ever awarded to me. In addition to a cumulative grade point average of 3.9, I have a record of publications in nationally known periodicals, appearances on multiple radio shows broadcast nationwide, national recognition and awards for political activism, summer internships for which people compete nationwide, and achievements in athletics that have led to additional scholarship opportunities.

Maron's critique requires a few corrections. (1) The Sallie Mae Fund does not give out scholarships only to those of Hispanic descent; they have scholarships available if you are physically disabled and economically disadvantaged. If you had a spouse die or were physically injured in the 9-11 attacks you would be eligible as well. The Sallie Mae Fund also gives money to insolvent state schools to keep tuition prices from rising and being a burden on all students. (2) On February 18 Reginald Jones will talk on "How the Civil Rights Movement Destroyed the Black Community," not on affirmative action per se. (3) The "Students of Non-Color" scholarship is not a campaign; it's a single initiative to demonstrate how black students and white students are not treated equally. Special scholarships are offered to women from Afghanistan and to "students of color," but none is geared specifically toward white students, so this award opportunity is simply filling a need. Finally, (4) Maron used the word "veracity" incorrectly. In English, we speak of the veracity of statements, not of ourselves. How can people be true or false? Only statements can be one or the other.

A closing thought: who spends the time, or even has the time, to run Internet searches on fellow students? That's a pretty shady activity. It's 2004, not 1984, Big Brother — you're 20 years too late.

Cheers,
Jason Mattera

Senate

cont. from front page

Sue Hoxie asked why other modes of communication were not utilized to bring attention to the required documents. Powers explained that communication became an issue when Campus Programs failed to produce a handbook, which was expected to be available to clubs and organizations by the start of the school year.

When senior Mattea Heller asked where the rescinded \$25,000 would go if clubs were denied their appeals, Bedell explained the funds would be primarily disbursed in Finance and Campus Programs.

"I was a senator and I

didn't even know this process was going on," claimed former senator Adam Maust (who resigned three weeks ago) of the required club documents. Bedell, agitated by Maust's reference to his time as a senator, later went on to say, "I think the Senate will admit to some fault in the matter." However, Senate also indicated that many clubs have taken little interest in becoming informed, as attendance at this year's club presidents meetings have been low.

Dance Club Co-President Lauren Riker was satisfied with the outcome of the Senate meeting, but still voiced frustration with the process. "The lack of communication was what real-



Senator Hutchinson introduced a bill allowing clubs to appeal status

ly upset the clubs," said Riker, who wants improved cooperation between clubs and Senate.

Pedicone agreed. While pleased with the Senate's final decision Pedicone told the Herald, "I don't see how the Senate can impose such an innavigable web of red tape, unnec-

essary rules and impossible deadlines on clubs and orgs. when the Senate itself doesn't even follow their own constitution and bylaws."

Pedicone remains convinced that the deeming of certain clubs 'defunct' was a hasty and unfair move on Senate's part. He points out that issuing notice of these documents on Dec. 8, just before finals week and after a time when many clubs stop meeting for the semester, simply isn't conducive to establishing effective notice.

While the meeting's tumult loomed over the issue at hand, Senate kept its composure and Bedell was relatively satisfied with the conduct. "I was pleased that most parties

were able to communicate effectively in the high-charged atmosphere."

Bedell also told the Herald, "I was pleased with the way the Senate conducted itself. It is not very easy to listen to people question your actions and leadership capabilities."

During the meeting, Senate explained that to remedy the rampant miscommunication on both parties, the Campus Program's handbook will be available next year and that in the future, senators will explore new methods of communication, as well as looking into computerizing club information that have always been susceptible to being lost or misplaced.

SCIENCE

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Tuesday, February 17, 2004

Tropical Ecology, Belize: The river classroom

By Garry Dow
Science Editor

We had survived Cockscomb Basin— one night buried deep in the jungle without electricity or running water. A flimsy wooden building was all that had separated us from the jungle.

Still, we endured. And when the sun rose up over Mount Victoria the next morning, it brought with it the promise that this day was going to be a good day. We were living large in Belize, Central America.

Day 3. It is January 10, 2004. It is 1 p.m.

We broke camp shortly after lunch. Our destination was a jungle resort called Chaa Creek, but along the way we made several stops.

Our first stop was Blue Hole Cenote. Blue Hole is a magnificent, blue lagoon, which is fed by a hidden underground river system buried in the jungle. After a refreshing swim, we returned to the bus and continued on our journey.

At our second stop, we stumbled out of the bus and onto a narrow trail. Just as it was beginning to rain, the trail disappeared into the mouth of a giant cave, which opened up into a cavern unlike anything I have ever seen. It is a work of enormous proportion, like the David or the Sistine Chapel. The size just blows you away.

And if the magnanimity of the thing wasn't enough, the darkness surely was. No torches lighting the

way here. Those of us who had flashlights turned them on; and those of us who did not made sure to stick damn close to someone who did.

Gingerly we stepped into the crushing black oblivion. For a few moments sunlight filtered down through the cave opening, and then, absolute darkness. My pitiful Mag Light was ill-equipped for the overwhelming blackness, and soon I found my self tripping over the uneven terrain.

Ahead I could see the others, but only as tiny points of light bouncing around like fireflies across a night sky. I could hear the river below but could not see it. The cave was thick with moisture and it had a musty smell that reminded me of a damp cellar.

Massive stalactites hung suspended from the roof. It is an impressive work that had taken nature thousands of years to create. In total, our hike took less than an hour. Still, an hour is a long time when you're walking in the dark.

After a brief downpour, we returned to our seats on the bus and continued our journey toward Chaa Creek. We arrived long after sundown, and, for the second time that day, found ourselves hiking toward a place we could not see.

As we rounded the final bend in the trail—a route that connected the dirt parking area to our temporary abode (a walk that took about 5 minutes)—oil burning torches leaped up to greet us. We had arrived.

Unlike Cockscomb Basin, Chaa Creek is a resort. It was built in 1977 on a 140-acre parcel by a British couple, Mick and Lucy Fleming, who loved Belize so much upon visiting the place that they decided to stay.

It didn't take us long to realize our accommodations had been upgraded—and in a big way. Yesterday it was the basement of the Holiday Inn Express. Today it is the penthouse suite of the Park Plaza.

Chaa Creek has all the basic amenities of home. Sinks, flush toilets, hot showers (heated with propane), etc. The water comes from the river and we warned early on not to drink it. Of course, by this point in the game, any water—river or not—was a blessing.

The epicenter of the camp is the dining room, which has a handful of single-roomed cabins huddled around it. The dining "room" itself is little more than a thatched roof surrounded by four waist-high walls. Everything is lit by oil lamp.

The cabins were comfortable. Drinks were fairly cheap. The staff was relaxed. The food was good. It was just rustic enough to be charming; and I think, overall, everyone was very happy to be there.

Day 4. It is January 11, 2004. It is 7 a.m.

The next morning we ate breakfast while a pair of brightly colored toucans watched idly from a nearby bush. Today we would row. Well, not me. I was lucky enough to score the middle spot on the canoe, so while the others rowed diligently, I kicked back and watched the scenery slide by.

The plan was to leave from Chaa Creek and make our way down the Macal River, which would take us straight into the town of San Ignacio. There, we



Blue Morpho butterfly

Photos by Garry Dow

were told, someone would be waiting for us.

After a fairly brief hike along the river, we found seven canoes waiting for us. We broke into seven groups of three and headed out onto the river. A gentle current picked us up and ushered us forward while giant lizards five feet in length lounged lazily on tree branches along the banks. At one point we passed so close to one I was tempted to pull his tale.

Soon we stumbled upon a rope swing, which most everyone tried, while a curious Howler monkey watched from high above in the tree tops. We arrived in San Ignacio about 90 minutes later to find a boy waiting for us at the dock—as promised—to collect the canoes.

After disembarking, we took a short walk through

town to a restaurant called Hoad's. There we ordered drinks (Margaritas and White Russians were especially popular) and ate lunch.

Some of us even managed to catch a glimpse of the score from the Patriots game on the TV at the bar.

We returned to Chaa Creek that evening tired and hungry. We ate dinner and then spent the remainder of the evening learning songs from our guide, Edmund Siego. One song, which he gregariously demanded everyone memorize, went like this: "Se bofe, rofe, umfe, se, umfe, fe le fe." In English, it means: you are so beautiful I almost forgot to cry.

By the end of the night we were all exhausted. Night closed in around us. Soon we were fast asleep.

African dust pollution may play role in American illnesses

By Heather Kordula
Staff Writer

Humans have lived with pollution for only the past several hundred years, but we have lived with mineral dust throughout our entire history.

Our atmosphere is a host to a multitude of particles; many are smaller than 2.5 micrometers and easy to inhale. Most of us have seen these particles, also known as aerosols, in heavy clouds of pollution. However, not all aerosols are created by human activity.

Trade winds can pick up

fine mineral particles from soils and carry those particles around the planet. On February 26, 2000, NASA's SeaWiFS sensor captured a huge dust storm as it transpired from the coast of the Western Sahara and expanded over the Canary Islands.

Dust storms are a common event in North Africa, rendering it the strongest dust source in the world. Dust flows from Africa, across the Middle East and Arabian Sea, north over the Mediterranean to Europe, and west across the Atlantic Ocean to the

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CAMPUS LIFE

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LaCross and Bernardi study Codes of Ethics among U.S. firms

By Aubrey Joyce

Staff Writer

In the recent years, companies such as World Com and Enron created insecurity among investors everywhere. The Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 was implemented as a response and correction to the widespread financial ills of

recent time. The Sarbanes-Oxley Act put financial matters of a corporation in the hands of the auditing committee and board of directors, rather than in the hands of management. Foremost, Sarbanes Oxley set out to revolutionize the very nature of the financial industry.

On Feb. 4, 2004, Catherine LaCross, a senior honors student and

Richard Bernardi, professor of accounting, discussed the transparency of codes of ethics both before and after Sarbanes Oxley. Section 406 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act states companies must "(i) disclose whether or not the company has adopted a code of ethics applicable to its CEO and its principal accounting and financial officers and (ii) either include the code of ethics in the filing as an exhibit, post it on the company's Web site, or commit to provide it free of charge to those who request it."

LaCross and Bernardi studied 97 United States firms, specifically how readily accessible their codes of ethics were on their company Web sites. LaCross and Bernardi defined "readily accessible" as within two "clicks" from the company's home page. LaCross and Bernardi hypothesized



Photos by: Aubrey Joyce

Business major Cate LaCross explains Codes of Ethics

that, following Sarbanes Oxley, codes of ethics would be more readily available to investors.

Their findings were surprising, as companies audited by Arthur Andersen, the auditing firm also responsible for auditing Enron, showed only a 13 percent increase in the transparency of their codes of ethics on March 31, 2003. Further, Ernst and Young LLP showed only a 16 percent increase in their code of ethics accessibility. On the contrary, KPMG LLP, Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP, and Deloitte and Touche LLP demonstrated slightly more significant increases, with KPMG

at a 45 percent increase and Pricewaterhouse at a 38 percent increase.

Many would admit it is most important that a company act ethically and responsibly, especially when the interest of investors is at hand. Whether or not a transparent and easily accessible code of ethics is necessary for a company to act ethically is debatable. However, when this consideration was posed to LaCross, she stated, "The United States is the most litigious society on Earth. Everything we pay attention to must be spelled out in rules. That is the purpose of Sarbanes Oxley."



University seeks rapid expansion as new graduate programs in the works

By Mark Walerysiak

Staff Writer

Two more graduate studies programs will be added to the Roger Williams University academic curriculum. Political Science begins in fall of 2004, and Psychology is anticipated to start in 2005. The two new programs will join the existing Education, Architecture, and Justice Studies programs. The expansion into graduate programs is something the administration is studying carefully and believes is the wave of the future. Some have been critical of the administration because they initiated these programs, rather than the faculty, as some also question

if RWU has jumped too quickly into the graduate school business being that only a few years ago RWU was strictly an undergraduate University.

Professor of Political Science June Speakman says, "Teaching undergraduates and graduates are two very different things." Speakman expressed her views that people who teach graduate students should be "intimately familiar with the most sophisticated literature in the field." Speakman says she is so committed to the quality of undergraduate studies that she is concerned that on top of all the responsibilities she has that being actively involved in a graduate program would spread her too thin. Her

fear is not being able to bring the graduate students the best, because she just does not have the time between her many commitments.

President Roy J. Nirschel disagreed with the Political Science professor's concern and says the administration plans to hire 2-3 more faculty for the Political Science Department to teach the Public Administration graduate program and to alleviate the load for current faculty. In an interview, Nirschel said, "The jobs are posted now, and we hope by late spring to have made the hires." Nirschel also pointed to the fact that the three existing graduate programs have flourished since he came to RWU. "When I got here there were

69 grad students and now there are 210." Nirschel attributes the growth to strengthened recognition of the programs, and the fact there is a great potential market.

One of the three existing graduate programs thriving is the Education program. Professor of Education, Susan Pasquarelli, wrote and co-wrote proposals to pitch for a graduate program. Under the previous RWU regime, Pasquarelli says, "We wanted masters programs, and bugged them. They finally said go for it, we'll support it." Pasquarelli noted that it was always a plan of the Education department to have a graduate program. She says she feels the pro-

gram has been a success in large part because it ended up in the hands of the faculty that truly wanted it. As to the administration starting programs that faculty may not want, Pasquarelli says, "My opinion is that program initiatives should be

faculty driven." Speakman claims that President Nirschel thinks the program is a good thing, but she is not happy that the graduate studies program will concentrate on Public Administration. "The emphasis is on public administration which is different from what the political department had been planning and concen-

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CAMPUS LIFE

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Grad Program

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trating on, which was international studies," Speakman said.

Critics have questioned whether RWU has jumped too quickly into the field of graduate programs. President Nirschel responded that the University must expand as education expands. "If you had a bachelors degree years ago you were considered educated or 100 years ago high school was educated and now a masters is becoming common," Nirschel said. He also added, "The University is doing things slowly. We are planning, marketing and strategizing properly. If we are not going to attract good students we don't want to do it. We're not starting ten grad programs; we're bringing in two." President Nirschel says the plans all go into improving the University.

The longest running graduate program at RWU is the Masters of Science in

Criminal Justice. The program was established in 1998 and was initiated by former President and Chancellor Anthony Santoro and Thomas Hickey. At the time the administration initiated the program because research indicated that there was a market and demand for it.

directly to the great faculty we have. I think we have a quality program."

The other graduate program that is in the works is Forensic Psychology. Professor of Psychology, Charles Trimbach said, "The impetus came from the administration, but a number of faculty are

graduate and undergraduates. Trimbach also noted that in departmental meetings it was talked about that the presence of graduate students would enhance the undergraduate experience.

It is not yet known how many graduate students the program will take on, but the suspected number is

tion that asked the faculty to develop proposals for the programs. In 1997 there were proposals for a graduate program in psychology, but it was tabled. Forensic Psychology came from the original proposal in 1997 and was resurrected at the request of the administration. The program was suggested to be ready in 2004, but the department said that would not be possible to propose and implement that fast. When asked if the administration was moving too quickly into the area of graduate studies Trimbach replied, "I don't know if they are going too quickly-I don't know."

When asked for comment on the Public Administration graduate program, professors of Political Science, Mark Sawoski, and head of the task force investigating the graduate program, Dave Moskowitz, declined to comment.

President Nirschel said, "There might be bumps in the road, but the grad programs are something we are fully committed to."

"The University is doing things slowly. We are planning, marketing and strategizing properly. If we are not going to attract good students we don't want to do it. We're not starting ten grad programs; we're bringing in two."

When the program started there were about 90 students, considered high for a graduate program, before it leveled off at approximately 65 full and part-time. Dean of Criminal Justice, Dr. Pesare says, "I don't think the University is rushing too fast into the graduate program business at all. We're properly planning, and it's (graduate programs) a perfect direction for the University." Pesare credits the Criminal Justice faculty for the graduate program's success. Pesare says, "The success of the program is related

enthusiastic about it. Some in the department are well versed in the topic and for others it's far from their interest." Trimbach says that two more hires will be made, and they will teach both graduate and undergraduate studies. Trimbach says that he will not be teaching in the graduate program but will be sitting on thesis committees, as will probably be the case with two other faculty members.

Trimbach said that the focus is beginning to shift from undergraduate studies to a split focus between

around 30 and four of the current faculty will be teaching in graduate classes. When asked whether the faculty that are teaching both graduate and undergraduate studies will be spread too thin Trimbach answered, "We've talked about it, and people in the department seem to think it's going to be okay because of new faculty, and we'll probably ask for even more faculty down the road."

Like the Public Administration program, Forensic Psychology was initiated by the administra-

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always a place where I could go by myself, grab a table and get my work done," said LaRoche, who goes on to say, "the environment has changed this year. I can't even hear myself think in the library anymore. The teachers have phone conversations or meetings in their offices with the doors open, or they just come out to the tables and have meetings. I have to find a private study corral in the corner of the library to study, and even there I can hear them talking."

Sara Nivens, a senior who studies Business Management, misses the private study space and resents the use of it for faculty and staff. "Two teachers were in (one of the new offices) talking about their children. They were being so loud that I had to walk

up and shut the door."

The volume of the noise on the first floor has only increased with the new computers, which were recently added, but this hubbub has been accepted since students could always resort to the second and third floors for quiet study. Now some argue this space has been compromised. The Center for Academic Development and the School of Education have found their respective homes in the library on the second and third floors for years now, and have caused little to no problems to library users thus far.

Peter Deekle, dean of the university library, is aware of the situation and has heard complaints from students about the new faculty offices. "The University is a dynamic organization... it's growing and changing. This change necessarily impacts everyone. The growth in university programs has resulted in a con-

version of group study rooms...to faculty, or staff offices. This is a necessity for the moment and everybody recognizes that it is not supposed to be for long term," said Deekle, who also stated that he intends to make the library a more tranquil place in which students can study.

"I will take due action with my colleagues in the library whether or not they are part of the library organization to make sure everybody respects the quiet, comfort and use of the building... and they will be cooperative," added Deekle.

Jeffery Martin, the interim associate provost, stated that the School of Education and other departments have been moved to "accommodate the growth of the school." He informed me that not only has the library been used for faculty space, but also North Campus and the central offices building,

located behind the library, have been utilized this past fall. Martin said, "in the last ten years the size of the school has doubled. The facilities have grown, but they have not doubled."

Martin went on to say that the senior administrators have plans to expand the school in several areas, notably the Architecture building, the Student Union and the College of Arts and Sciences. He informed the Herald that these plans are long-term goals for the university, because the funding simply is not yet there. He posed the problem in a question that has certainly plagued the school administration throughout the expansion process, "How do we grow and still remain financially viable without raising tuition any more than we have to?"

When asked about the issue of the noise in the library, Martin told the Herald that one of the plans

is to eventually have more social spaces outside of the library where group study can take place. He also said that the aforementioned faculty offices in the library will not be faculty offices forever. When the space on campus is more abundant, maybe in two or three years, Deekle will allocate the space according to the library's needs. Martin said that the date is not certain, as "the timetable is always elastic" on account of the money required to fund new space.

There are plans to remedy the 'space problem' in the short term. Deekle has been working on making some more changes to the library studying national trends and listening to the student body. "More students want to study in groups and there is a declining preference for private study corrals... You will find more group study

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CAMPUS LIFE

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Roger Williams University

Tuesday, February 17, 2004



Photo by: K. Joseph Dougherty

The RWU Men's volleyball team looks to improve from a mediocre home tournament held Feb. 7.

Men's volleyball team takes one of three in opening Invitational

By K. Joseph Dougherty
Staff Writer

The Roger Williams men's volleyball team had a rough outing last Saturday when they won one game and lost two others in their own invitational. The first game against Johnson and Wales was mostly a cake-walk. The Hawks won the first two games 30-12 and 30-16. JWU showed signs of life in the third game hanging on to win a close match that ended 31-29. However they could not hold back the Hawks' onslaught in the fourth game, losing 30-19. Captain Steve Terplak said, "We expected (JWU) to be a breeze. We knew that the next two games would be tougher. Unfortunately we just didn't show up to play."

The next two games he was talking about were against Rivier College and Stevens Institute of Technology. RWU, ranked #6 among the nation's division III schools, was surprised by the inspired play of Rivier, ranked #14.

The Hawks did not score more than 24 points against the Raiders and lost three games in a row; 30-24, 30-23, 30-24. The starting center for the Hawks, Captain Jack Delehanty, played well contributing 35 assists in the losing effort, as Terplak had 6 digs and 6 kills and Junior Matt Arnold added 14 kills and 4 digs.

"They're ranked fourth in the nation among division III teams, but I think that that's a little generous for them. I think we can beat them," said Terplak of Stevens. Stevens proved to be a competitive and rather eccentric team, as their pre-game warm-up consisted of break-dancing. But the Stevens squad proved they meant business on the court, playing very well against the Hawks. They set up some great plays and showed themselves worthy of their rank. They beat the Hawks in four games; 30-20, 30-26, 27-30, 30-22. Terplak contributed 9 kills and 5 digs while Arnold provided 15 kills and 3 digs. Captain Tony Wetterau and Junior Dave

Lyskowski had strong games putting in a combined 14 kills and 7 digs. Jack Delehanty added 1 kill and 50 assists.

Coach Mike Holden was disappointed in the outing by RWU and hopes that the team starts to play like he knows they can. "We played alright against Johnson and Wales, but failed to bring our A-game against Rivier, and before we knew it we lost those three games. That set up a bad tone for the following game against Stevens. That was the first time in six years that we weren't in the finals of our own invitational." Said Holden, who went on to say, "We had two really hard practices this week, because we will be playing against three teams in higher divisions, so the guys know that they really have to bring their best game." The three teams the Hawks will be playing are two road games at Harvard and Southampton College of Long Island University, and one home match against East Stroudsburg University.

Hidden pearl in Portsmouth; Oyster Bar a tasty treat without driving for miles

By Natasha Sotomayor
Staff Writer

After driving down route 138 on many occasions, how was it possible to completely miss one of Portsmouth's best-kept secrets? The Portsmouth Oyster Bar was only discovered after recommendations from a friend. The bar's exterior is comprised of an old rustic barn look that makes it easy to drive by. However, once inside, the restaurant is very inviting. The tables are nothing more than ordinary but have more than enough room to sit comfortably. For a more informal evening, there is also seating at the bar for both food and drinks.

The restaurant's patrons include people of all ages, although our party of three seemed to be the youngest. The restaurant had an atmosphere that made you feel "at home" and while the restaurant could accommodate a larger party, it seemed best suited for a nice evening out with

a friend or significant other. The waitress was pleasantly patient while we took our time chatting before ordering.

The menu consisted mainly of seafood however, for those who don't prefer seafood, the menu also offered pizza, chicken, steak and pasta dishes. The food was well prepared and deserves its 15 minutes of fame. The tuna dish comes with vegetables and the chicken marsala came over pasta. The specialty pizza is enough for one person with room to share a slice or two. For those over 21, there is a large wine list and drinks of choice. For those not as lucky, soft drinks are also available.

The prices are affordable but a bit more than a college student may want to dish out. The menu ranges \$7-22, with the typical dish costing about \$12. Overall, the food was excellent as well as the bar's ambiance. Located at 980 E. Main St., the Portsmouth Oyster Bar is an excellent way to spend a laid-back evening.

Dust

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North and South American continents.

China is the world's second greatest contributor of dust. In April 2001, SeaWiFS sensor picked up a huge dust cloud making its way from northeast China to the northern United States and Canada. The dust cloud caused a distinct increase in aerosol concentrations and created thick hazes in several parts of North America.

Scientists have discovered that African dust over the United States is profuse in fine particles when compared to locally generated dust. This is because the large particles settle out during their weeklong flight over the Atlantic.

Concern is mounting about the health effects these particles may cause when inhaled. African dust was found to contain other substances such as plant debris, microorganisms, and organic materials derived from animal and plant materials, all of which can be pathogenic to humans or to plants.

However, it is not yet known whether or not these pathogens, if they survive the trans-Atlantic trip, are the cause of any major health effects such as asthma.

Scientists must first obtain a better understanding of the physical, chemical and mineralogical properties of airborne soil particles.

Send all mail to:
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Library

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tables out than you did in the past in addition to the private study corrals," said Deekle, who also stated that there has been new space appropriated for seminars on the second floor and there will be an email survey released to all students at the end of the month covering the issues of space, resources and services.

This survey is used by Universities across the country and will help the library administration to understand what it is that students like about and take issue with as far as the library is concerned. Deekle strongly encourages "student feedback about these dimensions of library services."

Upcoming Events

Tues., Feb 17: Women's & Men's bball 6 p.m.

Wed., Feb 18: Karaoke Night; College Republicans
Speaker: Reginald Jones,
CAS 157 8 p.m.

Thurs., Feb 19: SAAHP/DCP/Athletic Lecture,
CAS 157 - 6 p.m.; Expression Session

Fri., Feb 20: Vagina Monologues, Rec Center;
Senior Pub Night, RCC

Sat., Feb 21: Comedian Dane Cook
8 p.m., Other Place