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Hawks' Herald - April 5, 2004

Roger Williams University

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HAWK'S HERALD

Volume 14, Issue 19

Roger Williams University

Monday, April 5, 2004

Cruising over Curry



Photo by Blaine Moffa

Above, the men's lacrosse team support their teammate for a 9-3 victory over Curry College last Tuesday. The win helped their record advance to 3-5 overall, 2-1 in the CCC.

Speaking Her Mind: Profiling a woman of many hats

By Mark Walerysiak
Staff Writer

In terms of popularity, few professors can rival Political Science Professor Dr. June Speakman. The always affable, and certain to never-turn-you-away Speakman has a community candy jar that may be growing as loved as she. If one spent as little as ten minutes in Speakman's office the session may likely be interrupted by students and faculty, most of whom are treated as friends.

Speakman's colorful personality is contagious, and a slight departure from the perceptions of the notori-

ously cutthroat arena of politics.

Speakman serves on the Barrington Town Council, and recently received unrelenting publicity in the role of the College Republican's adviser (one of many groups she advises). People tend to get caught up in the controversies and forget that Speakman is not a whipping post for those venting their political frustrations; she is rather a breath of fresh air.

Speakman grew up in Boston, Mass. until she was 18 and then relocated to Cape Cod. In the 1960s, Speakman, like the rest of the nation, could not help

but notice politics, but never really cared for it. Speakman says, "I was pretty much a nerd. Never went to an antiwar rally or anything like that."

She attended UMass Amherst, majoring in economics "because there was no room at the Hotel Management School. Then I got an M.A. in economics at the New School for Social Research in Manhattan, followed by a Ph.D. in Political Science at City University of New York."

She met her husband when she was 14. "I worked at the A&P as a

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Civil rights attorney encourages RWU campus to step out of its "comfort zone"

By Jason Turcotte
Co-Editor

"Whose America is this and whose version of America is going to prevail?" asked civil rights attorney Morris Dees to a receptive audience at Roger Williams University last week, as the first speaker of President Roy Nirschel's Civil Discourse Lecture Series. The lecture filled the RWU Law School's appellate courtroom while other eager listeners peered in from outside the room.

The lecture, held on March 29, marked the fiftieth anniversary of the landmark case of *Brown v. Board of Ed.* Dees stressed that America is changing and that those who relish in the majority today will be tomorrow's minority.

While the US has made much progress in equality, today, says Dees, "The back of the economic bus is those of color." He claims everyone in our society is guilty of bias and prejudices. And issues of affirmative action and racism are not "immune" to RWU.

According to Dees, the U.S. harbors more than 750 hate groups. In addition, approximately 50,000 hate crimes occur in the U.S.

each year and there are 450 known hate Web sites on the Internet.

Dees believes at the heart of racism lies in fear. He said the nation's privileged are afraid of losing their stature and material wealth. Dees called the economic gap the country's biggest divide.

"And when we bridge these divides, they'll be bridged with friendship, compassion and love," said Dees.



During his speech, Dees encouraged the campus community to step from their comfort zones by surrounding themselves with unlike people. As he explained, the

Southern Poverty Law Center sponsors "Mix It Up Day" in schools nationwide. Its goal is to create a culture of acceptance and tolerance by forcing students to sit at a different lunch room table and interact with new peers. This November 30,000 schools are expected to partake in the weeklong program.

Before opening his speech to questioning, Dees concluded with an optimistic view of America's future. "I predict the future of this nation will be great,"

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OPINION

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To the Editor:

I was disappointed and offended while reading the most recent issue of the Hawk's Herald. I came across the section on page seven about "Upcoming Events" and read about all the sports teams that have games here at the school.

Then I realized that for some reason the RWU Men's

Lacrosse team was not listed in the section. Even though they had a Home Game Tuesday, March 30 against Curry College. The game was played about 30 feet from the men's baseball game, and men's baseball was listed in upcoming events. I hope this was just an editing mistake and men's lacrosse was not left out on purpose.

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To the Editor:

The Career Center would like to thank the Hawk's Herald for the complimentary article on the office in the March 22 edition. We are very grateful for the assistance of the Hawk's Herald to get the word out to students that we are here to help. We want the community to know that we are not only here to help graduating seniors. First and second year students can utilize the Center to confirm for them that they are in the right major or help them declare a major by exploring their interests, skills and values. The Center also is home to the Cooperative Education program. Many majors require a student to have an "experiential education" experience via a Co-op or internship. The Center can provide leads in almost all industries as well as prepare a student for this experience. Graduating seniors will want to participate in all of the recruiting programs: the On-Campus Interviews, the Resume Drops and the Resume Matching Program. These are all explained in detail on our website at www.rwu.edu/career.html. Our service does not end once you cross the commencement stage. As alumni of the university, you are welcome to contact the Career Center for almost all of our services. In fact, everyone from first year students looking for summer jobs, to those looking for internships, to those seniors and alumni looking for full-time work - should plan on attending the 8th Annual RWU Career Fair next Wednesday, April 7 from 1-4 p.m.

The Roger Williams University Career Center is committed to preparing our students and alumni for life after college by helping individuals understand their personal and professional values and interests and acquire the skills necessary to obtain professional employment or admission into graduate school. We provide on-going educational opportunities for students and alumni to learn to manage their careers. Career Center professionals are dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, advising and role modeling.

The Career Center provides students and alumni a life-long connection to the University and to our local, national and global communities. We strive to initiate, encourage, facilitate and maintain relationships throughout the University and working world to ensure the best possible outcome for all parties involved. In this way, the Career Center naturally bridges the University and our students - past, present and future - to the world.

Robbin Beauchamp - Director, The Career Center

Police Beat

Arrests

3/27 at 8:35 p.m. Bretton Gardner, 20, of 1 Old Ferry Road, Bristol, R.I., was arrested by Bristol Police at Bristol Wine and Liquors on a charge of possession of beverage by an underage person.

3/28 at 9:16 p.m. Daniel Chung, 19, of 16 Ravens Bluff, Andover, Mass., was arrested at RWU's Maple Hall by Bristol Police on a charge of possession of marijuana.

3/28 at 9:16 p.m. Alyssa Rosenblatt, 19, of 4 Rutgers Road, Andover, Mass., was arrested at RWU's Maple Hall by Bristol Police on a charge of possession of marijuana.

It's gettin hot in herre

3/23 at 1:20 p.m. Bristol Fire crews responded to a small mulch fire outside of Seabreeze apartment 120.

Window of opportunity

3/26 at 1:07 a.m. Bristol Police notified RWU of damage done to a window at Gillary's on Thames Street. The vehicle believed to be involved has Connecticut plates and police suspect the vandal could be a student.

Larceny

3/29 at 10:17 p.m. A female student in Cedar Hall reported a larceny to Bristol Police.

FEATURE SPOTLIGHT

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Speakman

cont. from front

meat wrapper; he worked next door serving Vanilla Cokes at the drug store. I was a straight arrow; he was an antiwar, antiestablishment hippie type. He and I started going out when we were both grad students in New York City (he was at Columbia). We got married in 1984."

Ironically her husband, professor Jay Speakman, turned Republican while June became a liberal Democrat. "He puts up with my predicable stuck-in-the-60's liberalism, and I avoid certain topics."

Jay Speakman says, "We don't always coexist peacefully." Two Peas in a pod?

"Two Scorpions in a jar," he says with a laugh. Jay Speakman jokes that he is the only one June could ever be mad at.

"There are countless nights you walk into the kitchen and she is cooking

dinner for 12 because of our son's friends. She does not hesitate to feed people," Jay says.

The Speakman sons, Jason and Adam, had to cut off their friends at times because they were constantly being fed.

People tend to wonder if Speakman was ever a hippie.

"Everyone was a hippie one way or another. I'm still kind of a flake, don't you think? In terms of experience, no. I'm boring in that regard. Before the kids, Jay and I have done a bit of traveling—three times to Europe, a bunch of trips to various parts of the U.S., lots of hiking - but nothing transcendental or

Along the way she taught (for six years) in Southern California and helped run a public policy program.

For those who do not know her, Dr. Speakman dresses in professional pant and jacket attire but sports long blonde curly hair.

"The students love the hair! Who knew? Here's the thing: When I was a teenager all the popular girls in the neighborhood had long, straight blonde hair. And I had this. I went through a variety of contortions — ironing, chemicals, wrapping it around a coffee can to make it straight — but nothing worked. But then I got too busy to worry



Photo by Allisyn Deyo

June Speakman is a beloved professor and political leader at RWU.

"June is good for all of us. I always love to watch June leave class. Most of her students leave with her continuing the conversation across campus to her office."

In a world where the pot is occasionally stirred up and people take offense, those like the lighthearted June Speakman are wholly appreciated.

Jay Speakman says, "June is supporting, nurturing, selfless, and she's like that

with family, friends and strangers."

It may sound like Jay is saying all the right things but June admits her greatest accomplishment is to raise her children into good men.

If everyone was as giving as Speakman is with her time and chocolates, the world just might be a better place.

"Hey, how do you think I got the teacher of the year award?" Speakman asks.

"It's the candy bowl."

"Have you ever noticed, though, that high-powered corporate types don't have hair like this? Nor do conservatives. Maybe hair is destiny."

hallucinogenic."

After graduate school Speakman landed a job at Brooklyn College and has been teaching ever since.

about it and let it go. Speakman's good friend, professor of Education, Susan Pasquarelli, says,

Dees

cont. from front

he said, hoping that one day perhaps one student will write a book about their generation; "America's greatest generation."

Dees is a graduate of the University of Alabama, where he also attended law school. Dees has spent the last 20 years striving to solve civil injustices and has been the attorney for several civil cases including, a suit against the Alabama State Police, who were comprised of 650 troopers—all white. Dees also co-founded the SPLC, a civil rights center renowned for its protection of minorities and tracking of hate groups.

President Nirschel named a Commission of Civil Discourse at RWU and looks to invite other guest speakers to lead discussions on like-minded issues. In his introduction of Dees, Nirschel said the lecture series will seek to balance civil discourse with respect.

The pen is mightier than the sword; professor earns Golden Kite Honor Award

By Ellen Casady

Staff Writer

Many students at Roger Williams University consider the creative writing

classes easy "A's," which is hardly the case. This year, the department has seen many successes, such as professor Kelly Easton receiving the Golden Kite Honor Award, while changing the curriculum.



Photo by Allisyn Deyo

Above, creative writing professor Kelly Easton.

The creative writing department in the past years has been progressing toward a more well-rounded program. The department is in the process of developing a new curriculum, which will be in full effect by spring of 2005. The department has added new courses such as screenwriting, as well as more in-depth classes in fiction and poetry.

The new curriculum will allow students to pick a concentration in either poetry or fiction. By splitting the poetry and fiction into separate concentrations, students will be better focused and therefore receive a more in-depth study of either fiction or poetry. Another great advantage to the new program is that the thesis class will now be two semesters long instead of one.

Shari Alvanas, a visiting

Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, is excited about the "important addition to the rebirth of Literary Magazine." This is a course that was offered by retired Professor Martha Christina under a previous curriculum. "This course will offer students an opportunity to graduate with editorial experience: a benefit for those entering the work force, as well as those moving on to graduate school," she said.

A meeting was held for all students involved in the major on March 10, discussing the changes. At first, many students found the meeting to be confusing, as they were inundated with an overwhelming amount of information.

Sophomore Bill Fleming, a creative writing major said, "the meeting was really confusing, but once the

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CAMPUS LIFE

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3rd Annual Academic Showcase ceremony and winners!

The 3rd Annual Academic Showcase, co-sponsored by Alpha Chi and University Honors Program, was held March 26 - 29. A total of 62 people from six majors submitted 66 projects or performances. All the students dedicated enormous time and effort into showcasing their work. The following is a list of faculty who students wanted to recognize for being sponsors of their research or co-authors:

Kim Baker, Psychology, Richard Bernardi, Accounting, Sue Bosco, Management, Brad Bourque, Marine Lab Director, Rachel McCormack, Education, Lisa Newcity, Legal Studies, Joe Newschatz, Psychology, Susan Pasquarelli, Education, Eleftherios Pavlides, Architecture, Barbara Poole, Finance, Skip Pomeroy, Biology, Camille Rendal, Visual Studies, Scott Rutherford, Biology, Mark Sawoski, Political Science, Becky Spritz, Psychology, Charles Trimbach, Psychology

The following is a list of the Showcase winners and their prizes. Congratulations to RWU students on their hard work!

Dinner with the President:	Catherine LaCross Bethany Morgio
Dinner with the President, ECCM Award:	Kyle Loomis
Provost's Award (\$200):	Lauren Riker
AAHP \$100 book certificate:	Tracy Campbell Stephen Kervin Becky McWilliams
FCAS Dinner with the Dean: (& Faculty of Choice)	Lauren Lavoie Justin Lonergan Sal Tuzzo
ED Award (\$25 bookstore):	Katherine Canole Audrey Rochas
GSB Dinner with the Dean:	Eric Caisse Craig Giroux Lisa Pektor
GSB \$25 gift certificate:	Justin Batholomew Yaliza Caballero Tyler Costello Erin Keating Nathan Langelo Jeff Manuck David McCarthy David Mohan

CJ Dinner with the Dean:	Ashley D'Alessandro Richard deGroof Rachael Hawes
Honors Program \$25:	Serena Amoroso Angela Burke Ethan Maron Beth Maturo Shauna Sullivan Katie Vassil Kelly Yannetta
Library \$25 gift certificate:	Chris Bonamart Chris Ciatola Diana Etkind Alex Kirsak James Morgan Pete Bartash Matt Butler Mike Chandler Liam Harris Tony Hollums
Alpha Chi \$25 gift certificate:	Erika Hasle Elizabeth Lawrence Lauren Pandolfo Amy Reed Nadima Sahar Carolyn Waysack
Alpha Chi Award, \$100:	

Easton

cont. from pg. 3

students were allowed to ask questions the changes seemed to make sense. I'm really excited for the new classes offered, like screenwriting, which was never offered before."

A third genre will also be added to the curriculum. These "advanced breadth" classes will replace the old special topic classes. The third genre allows more classes and more diverse choices for students in the upper levels of study. Students can pick from two of the following classes: *Same Number and Title*,

Playwriting I, *Screenwriting I*, and *Literary Magazine*.

"I think the inclusion of a third genre is vital to the creative writing program. Playwriting is now included in our 101 courses and Screenwriting, Playwriting and Creative Non-Fiction are upper level course options" says Shari Alvanas.

Still in utter shock over her success, Easton, an adjunct Creative Writing Professor, received the prestigious Golden Kite Honor Award for her young-adult book, *The Life History of a Star*.

The Golden Kite Honor award is given by The Society of Children's Books

Writers and Illustrators. Easton was delighted, because "it is the only award that is voted on by other writers. It was nice to receive an award by my peers."

Easton received an MFA in playwriting from U.C. San Diego. Her plays have been produced in regional theaters and off Broadway. Easton has published two other young-adult books, *Trouble at Betts Pets*, which was chosen for the Scholastic Book Club, and *Walking on Air*.

Walking on Air, published in April, evolved from a story that won the honorable mention in the Sojourner Fiction Contest. It is about a girl who walks

the tightrope in her father's traveling evangelical show during the Great Depression. Using the Bible, she tries to find the meaning of both God and family. The book's theme is religious tolerance.

Easton's Golden Kite Honor Award hasn't changed her life as a writer, but it has definitely changed her status. "I notice now, that when I contact a publisher they are quick to respond and are very enthusiastic about seeing my work. As a writer there are always road blocks, the hardships you generally face as a writer is making ends meet financially, now I'm being greeted with open

doors."

Easton gives two simple words of wisdom for aspiring writers. "One, keep your ego out of it and be very matter a fact about sending your work out to publishers. Also think in numbers; think the more I send out, the more chances I have. Second, never send anything out that isn't perfect, absolutely revised to its fullest capacity."

Easton will be reading her book, *Walking on Air*, at Barnes and Noble in Middletown, April 21, at 7:00 p.m. She will also host a book signing at the Reception for Authors at Rhode Island College on April 20, from 5-8 p.m.

NEWS

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Roger Williams University

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Attention Students: Start Earning Cash Now!

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Discourse on diversity delivers discord

Commentary By
Mike Swanson

I have read Professor Greco's letter "to the campus community" in the March 22, 2004 issue of the Hawk's Herald with great interest. Let me state at the outset that I am in disagreement with nearly all of it, yet I am at a loss quite how to reply. The letter really addresses three issues: diversity (whether intellectual or cultural), affirmative action as a policy for achieving diversity, and academic freedom, but it does so obliquely. The letter is rife with code words like "multiculturalism" which are never defined, with extraneous issues (how wide are the minds of Supreme Court Dissenters) and whether President Nirschel's "sentiments do not bode well for political or academic freedom at

RWU. I am sure President Nirschel can respond for himself if he so chooses.

I do want to address two of Professor Greco's issues, however. First, the issue of diversity, cultural and/or intellectual. I favor it, of course. But unlike Professor Greco, I don't think one can separate intellectual diversity based on disciplinary methodology from larger issues of cultural, ethnic, and racial diversity. And furthermore, I don't frame the issue in terms of the "price paid by those excluded." I frame it on the price I pay if the environment in which I work and learn and teach is uniform. I need diversity-me: for my intellectual growth, for the sharpening of my rhetoric, and for the deepening of my understanding. So do my students. And so, I believe,

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Students, get out your red pens: A ratemyprofessors.com update

The registration process is upon the student body yet again and we want to make the course selection a bit easier on you. Last semester the Herald covered a new tool available on the Internet that allows college students to rate their professors on several levels. The Web site is known as ratemyprofessors.com and unlike the professor evaluations administered by RWU, these ratings may be viewed by other students simply by logging onto the Web.

Before you register for Fall 2004 courses, you may want take into consideration what your peers have to say about the faculty. The following is a rankings update of RWU professors. Below we compiled a top and bottom ten list of RWU professors, according to the site. The overall ranking (out of a possible 5) includes only professors who have been rated at least ten times and do not reflect the opinion of the Hawk's Herald.

Most Effective Professors at RWU

1. Eric Roberts, biology- 4.9
"This man is amazing! He makes everything seem fun and interesting, which makes it easy to learn from him! Plus, he has a belt buckle with his name on it, so how could he not be cool, haha! One of the best professors I've ever had," says one genetics student.

2. Bob Engvall, criminal justice- 4.8
"Engvall is a great professor. He really does care about his students and his lectures may not always seem relevant, but in the end they always tie together and teach an important lesson," says one criminal justice student.

3. W. Brett McKenzie, CIS- 4.8
"Great guy, funny, very understandable-even with

the accent. Makes class fun," says a CIS student.

4. Shari Alvanas, creative writing- 4.7

"Shari has motivated me to learn in more aspects than just creative writing. She is a wonderful, understanding person, who is always very positive and helpful-if all our professors at RWU were like her the campus would be a better place," says a creative writing student.

5. Richard Schieber, foreign language- 4.6

6. Katherine Hall, writing- 4.5

"Katherine Hall is a remarkable teacher devoted to her students. She wants to see every student to do well and challenges her classes to think, which is a lot more than I can say for a lot of the professors around here," says a critical writing student.

7. Ted Delaney, communications- 4.4

"I think he is definately one of the brightest guys I know in this field, he doesn't miss a beat. Although his assignments can be difficult at times, he explains everything in detail and backs them up with great stories," says a communications student.

8. Rebecca McLaughlin, writing- 4.4

9. Anthony Hollingsworth, foreign language- 4.3; Jeffrey Meriwether, history-4.3; Bruce Marlowe, education- 4.3.

Professors who are failing-so to speak

1. Joel Silverberg, math- 1.3 (no silver lining here)
"Very vague, not helpful, he gets angry when people don't know the answer. He often makes a fool of you in front of the class," says a pre-calculus student.

2. Carolyn Kendrow, chemistry- 1.4

"Might be time to think about turning in the chalk and slip into retirement," said one chemistry student.

3. Jeff Silverthorne, visual arts- 1.9

"Can't understand anything from this guy... looks like he just came out of a hurricane...don't even bother trying to understand what he says," says an aesthetics student.

4. Peter Alfieri, foreign language- 2.3

"He is a nice dude, never talks about Spanish and his lessons-wait I don't know if he ever taught a lesson," says a Spanish student.

5. Bruce Burdick, math- 2.5

6. Earl Gladue, math- 2.5 (yet another math professor, anyone noticing a trend?)

"I highly recommend putting off classes until he is not teaching it," said a discrete math student.

7. Josh Stein, history- 2.5

"Hardest class I have ever taken, all he talks about is how great and smart he is and how many books he has written," says a Core history student.

8. Pat Smith, writing- 2.8

"Needs to understand that not everyone has her same political views and she should grade them on their difference of opinion," said one expository student.

9. Richard Heavers, physics- 2.8

"He is the Man of the Mountain! At least his stories are amusing," says a physics student.

10. Ernest Greco, political science- 2.9; James Tackach, English- 2.9; Donald Whitworth, psychology- 2.9; Tucker Wright, criminal justice- 2.9.

CAMPUS LIFE

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A path of coincidence, chance: The life of Roxanne O'Connell

By Katherine Koch
Contributing Writer

As Tuesday's class comes to an end, the professor instructs her students to put the caps on their glue sticks and return all the scissors back to the crafts box. Colorful collages are stacked on the front table amidst piles of torn-up magazines and scraps of paper. This class, however, is not elementary arts and crafts.

The class is Visual Communications, a new course offered at Roger Williams University. The professor is Roxanne O'Connell and her teaching methods are a refreshing shift in traditional college-level education. O'Connell's unique style stems from her eclectic background in software consulting, training and education.

O'Connell's first teaching job came by default when a local quilting teacher from the Franklin Adult Education program in Franklin, Mass. became pregnant. O'Connell was asked to step in and take over. Although she was an avid quilter herself, O'Connell had never taught quilting, or anything else for that matter.

"Some of the ugliest fabric ended up making the most stunning quilts in the end," recounts O'Connell. "And it taught me something about not jumping to conclusions too quickly about the outcome, and that even in the person who looked the least creative, there's a way to tap into their creativity. They could just really blow you away."

O'Connell's aptitude for

teaching has always been prevalent in her life, even while working at Digital Equipment Corporation in Maynard, Mass. where she was responsible for designing several training guides for various software programs.

"I loved seeing the light bulb go on in people's faces," said O'Connell. "It didn't matter what I was teaching, I really enjoyed it."

When Digital, the second largest computer company in the world, started laying

also need a doctorate. With just a B.A. from Leslie University, she went about the necessary requirements to fulfill her dream. Now, with an M.A. under her belt, she is in the process of getting her Ph.D.

O'Connell has an RWU alumnus to thank for helping her find her niche. O'Connell was completing her master's degree at Bentley College, where she met Colin Hynes, a former communications student at RWU.

In 2002, RWU was looking to hire a professor to teach a visual communications course. Ted Delaney contacted Hynes, and Hynes introduced him to Bill Gribbons. It was Gribbons who recommended O'Connell for the position.

"Like I said, nothing in my life was ever planned or organized," O'Connell reiterates.

Everything she has learned in the business and marketing-science worlds she applies to her teaching. It was her firm grasp of the scientific aspect of visual communications that made her a perfect fit for the RWU position. More than that, it was her passion and determination that made her uniquely different and uniquely perfect.

"It's very odd to come to a place and feel that I wasn't playing a role. It's incredibly precious," she said. "It was probably the best move I ever made in my life. It took me 50 years, but here I am."



Photo by John Martin

RWU Student uses 'Bridge to Success' as a model for her future

By Eva Landau
Contributing Writer

Fifteen-year-old Melisa Carrasquillo plans to break new ground by being the first person in her family to go to college, and Roger Williams University's program Bridge to Success will help make her dream a reality.

"I'd have to depend on a computer for my college information without Bridge," Melisa confesses. She always knew she was going to attend college but didn't know how to get there; Bridge to Success filled in the missing pieces for her.

Bridge to Success will be taking all of their "mentees" at Rogers High School in Newport on college visits to the University of Rhode Island, Providence College, Rhode Island College and Brown University over the next

couple months to acquaint them with the college atmosphere and encourage them to attend a post-secondary school. An estimated 20-25 students are expected to attend these after school visits intending to demystify the collage experience.

"We just want them to develop a mindset that they can go," says senior math tutor Eddie Henderson.

Bridge to Success is a mentor program where RWU students tutor and mentor minority students who attend Rogers High School. Fifty mentees are currently registered in Bridge with a peak involvement of 30 students on any given day. Juniors are trained and prepped for the SAT's, while seniors are drilled about their collage applications. The program's goal is to turn every Bridge to Success participant into a collage student.

Make like a tree... and Leave with it!



Photo by Natasha Sotomayer

CAMPUS LIFE

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Rude awakening: *Dawn of the Dead*

By Jason Felver-Gant
Contributing Writer

The first glimpse of this movie, directed by Zack Snyder, is a glimpse I'll never forget. It was 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon and instead of going to my history class, I turned on the TV and BAM! Tim Taylor from Home Improvement gets knocked on the head by a 2x4. I began to chuckle as the show went into an advertisement.

The laughter died instantly, however, when a preview for this new horror flick scared all hell out of me. It began with a population count that went from some really high number to seven. Then there were a bunch of random, bloody, zombie scenes that would give Adolph Hitler nightmares! I went from family-fun entertainment to pee-your-pants fear in the blink of an eye. Ironically enough, this is how the movie itself turned out to be.

Now, before I talk to you about this movie, let me go over what makes a zombie a real zombie. A zombie has to be dead first off, as there is no such thing as a living zombie. Also, a zombie must bite, or sometimes scratch any non-zombie in order to make another zombie. Zombies don't normally bite or scratch each other oddly enough, so here's a pointer in case this zombie situation ever happens to you in real life. If a case of the zombie starts spreading around you, try to inflict zombie on yourself, that way you won't have to be bitten and torn to pieces, and you'll still be a part of the group. It's a win-win situation!

The movie begins with the main character, played by Sarah Polley, coming home to her boyfriend for snuggling and a make-out session in the shower. However, when they wake up, get ready to cry like a little school girl. There are little zombie girls missing

half their faces, oozes of blood, zombies all over the place and not another single shower-make-out scene to be found!

Pretty soon, we're back to our main character, running for her life. She meets some friends along the way and they all take over a mall nearby and live like kings. Thief kings. On the roof, they have "S.O.S." painted in big letters, so I figured they were going to be saved eventually. If I were them, at that point, I would think that the world going zombie was the best thing that ever happened in my life!

It's around this time that the scary part of the film fizzles. In fact, there is enough humor spread throughout the film that zombies seem far from intimidating, let alone deadly. And out of left field, a sex scene pops up for a few seconds! And one scene, they play target practice with the zombies;

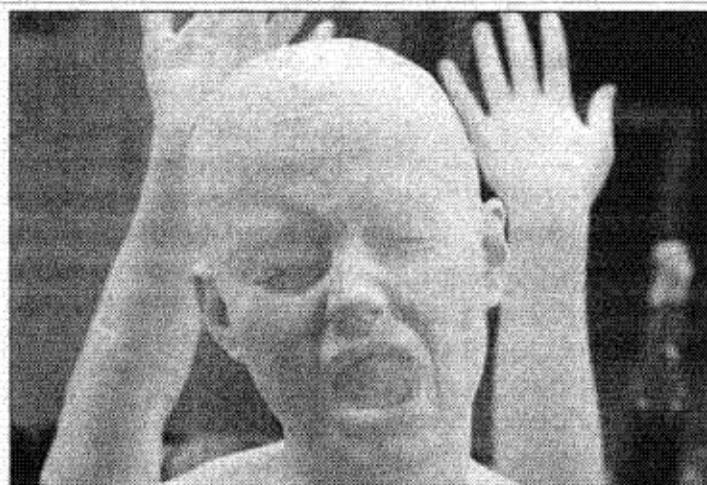


Photo courtesy of Yahoo! Movies

Dawn costume and makeup designed to give the audience a scream.

shooting zombies, for example, that look like celebrity Burt Reynolds. By this time, viewers feel pretty comfortable and throughout the rest of the film zombies seem like an afterthought.

It wasn't until after I saw this movie that I learned that it was actually a remake from an older version of "Dawn of the Dead" made in 1979. To make this an awesome review, it would be cool to draw parallels between the two movies, but I've never real-

ly seen that one. I guess that makes this a mediocre review. Oh well, from what I gather it was a doozy!

All in all, you'll get what you expect out of this film. It's not a lot more than good guys blowing up zombies. It does a good job at being scary, but doesn't come close to movies like "The Ring" or "Teletubbies on Ice." Although the movie is quite gory, it has a plot that's about as complicated as a porno. For those opposed to deep thought and originality- I recommend it!

Discord

cont. from page 5

does Professor Greco.

I came from an ethnically enclosed Swedish immigrant community. In my college graduating class there were 21 persons named Johnson. Two of them were David O. Johnsons. I had zero black teachers, and one black student colleague, a young man named Washington Odongo from Nigeria, here on a missionary scholarship, and miserably unhappy in a sea of whites who even with the best of intents patronized him.

This was in Chicago, Illinois, where the black population neared 1,000,000 at that time. I had one, ONE, Catholic professor in four years of school... a biology teacher, who couldn't get tenure because he was of the wrong faith. I had no Jewish professors. I learned, and I thought I learned well. How could I not think I learned well? I

was amongst the best of this group.

Life changed in graduate school, where I met a world of scholars of many more stripes and hues than I had at my undergraduate school. I learned some interesting things: I learned what garlic tasted like. I learned that blacks listening to Darius Milhaud would hardly describe his music as jazzy, and I learned that learning and teaching is a nuanced thing. Since that day I advocated diversity in the University.

In 1968 the American Historical Association passed a resolution stating that all things being equal, hiring preference should be given to women. I, unemployed, white, and male, voted for that resolution, and voted for it proudly.

It took me four years, over six hundred letters of application, six interviews, and a chance meeting on a park bench to get my first col-

lege teaching job. In all that time I never regretted voting for that resolution.

Roger Williams is more diverse now than it was when I came here in 1972. Am I happy about this? Yes. Does it need to become even more diverse? Yes.

The second point I wish to address concerns the plea for "maximum transparency" Professor Greco makes

Roger Williams is more diverse now than it was when I came here in 1972. Am I happy about this? Yes. Does it need to become even more diverse? Yes.

towards the end of his letter. Here, I agree with him. I have no problem with student participation in the making of decisions of the kind he suggests.

However, in the name of that transparency, the source of that *Academic Bill of Rights* should be made clear, as should the organization advocating it, *Students for Academic Freedom*. After reading it, please look at the home page of the sponsoring organization, Students for

Academic Freedom. The URL there is The organization itself is not very "transparent". The "about" link gives no information about officers, membership, or source of financing.

One can trace back, however, to the parent organization which is led by David Horowitz, who wrote the Academic Bill of Rights (and who spoke at RWU last year). Among its

other ventures, the Center for the Study of Popular Culture sponsors Front Page Magazine on the internet.

Front Page Magazine features Ann Coulter (she spoke at RWU) on its list of columnists. All of the columnists come from the political right, which makes one wonder how impartial the "Center" for the Study of Popular Culture can be, and, indeed, whether it is really devoted to "studying" anything at all.

While one can find information about the officers of that organization on the website, one cannot find information about its source of funding, or at least cannot find it easily. Caveat Emptor. Media Transparency is a liberal watchdog organization. But one can find the report on CSPC, learning that it received over \$12,000,000.00 in grants from three far right foundations between 1989 and 2002.

To its credit, the Students for Academic Freedom website does publish the American Association of University Professor's criticism of the Academic Bill of Rights. It also publishes David Horowitz's rebuttal. Read them all if you wish. There are many colleges and universities in the United States at which left of center thought is suppressed. Verify the impartiality of Students for Academic Freedom by locating these institutions on its website.

SPORTS

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Roger Williams University

Monday, April 5, 2004

A tale of March Sadness

By Tim Mannion
Contributing Writer

There comes a time once a year, when football is ending but before the baseball season rolls out, that college basketball owns the sports world for a mere six days in March. The NCAA tournament: 64 teams, buzzer-beaters, underdogs, mascots, and Gonzaga. It is the perfect way to welcome spring. Well, this year isn't any different. The teams have been narrowed to four and we shall see a national champion cutting down nets on April 5th in San Antonio. The teams vying for the title are Duke, UConn, Georgia Tech, and Oklahoma.

The classic Duke vs. UConn game will feature a rematch of the two schools who met in an epic battle back in 1999 when Jim Calhoun's Huskies "shocked the world" by beating the heavily favored Blue Devils 77-75. The game featured a Duke team chock-full of future NBA players: Elton Brand, Corey Maggette, Trajan Langdon, and William Avery (all four players went in top 14 picks of the 1999 NBA draft) and UConn's talkative point guard Khalid El-Amin and swingman Richard "Rip" Hamilton.

The critics were quick to point out that Duke was

much too powerful for UConn to contain but again the underdog was much too smart to listen. UConn won the game and Calhoun had his first taste of championship blood. Four years later and the stage is set for another bitter battle between the Cameron Crazies and Loyal Dogs. Not even the Alamo can prevent these two teams from going after each other's throats. The only difference about this game from four years ago is the teams' roster. It isn't coincidence that four years ago Duke was the loaded team filled with prospects and now the table has turned and UConn is noted as the deeper team. The coincidence in this match-up lies in the other semi-final game between Oklahoma State and Georgia Tech.

Scores to remember: 77-61 and 76-68. The first score was from a Georgia Tech-UConn game back in November. The second score was from a March 3 meeting between Georgia Tech and Duke. The coincidence between these two Georgia Tech won both of the games. The team's third seeding shouldn't fool anyone. This team can play the type of basketball that drives opponents crazy and April 3 was no different.

Oklahoma State, under legendary head coach Eddie Sutton, certainly will

have a plan of his own to contain the pestering Yellow Jackets. Both of these teams have come off tremendous overachieving years. Georgia Tech lost its best player since Stephon Marbury, Chris Bosh, to the NBA after last year but this did not deter them from winning. Oklahoma State got a huge boost from John Lucas III, the transfer, who landed in Coach Sutton's lap after the Baylor basketball tragedy. Lucas should do battle with the "Melo" tournament breakout player; Georgia Tech's point guard, Jarret Jack. This should be an interesting game, as both teams play the same defensive-oriented style. Look for this one to go down to the wire.

Bold prediction: UConn beats Duke while Oklahoma State prevails against Georgia Tech. The championship will be Sutton's first appearance in three tries in the final four in his career but it will not be enough to keep Calhoun and the Huskies from winning their second championship in five years.

How sweet the month of March was. But what will sports fans do now that college basketball is wrapping up? Don't be too sad. Major League Baseball opens its season in Japan on March 30 and it'll last until the great month of October.

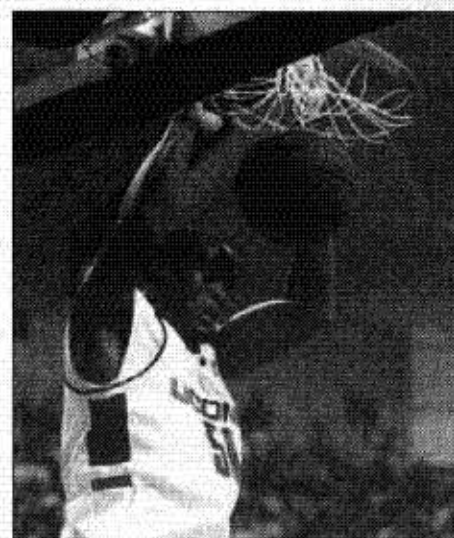


Photo courtesy of
Uconn.edu

Left, the
UConn men
are working
hard to take
the NCAA
title.

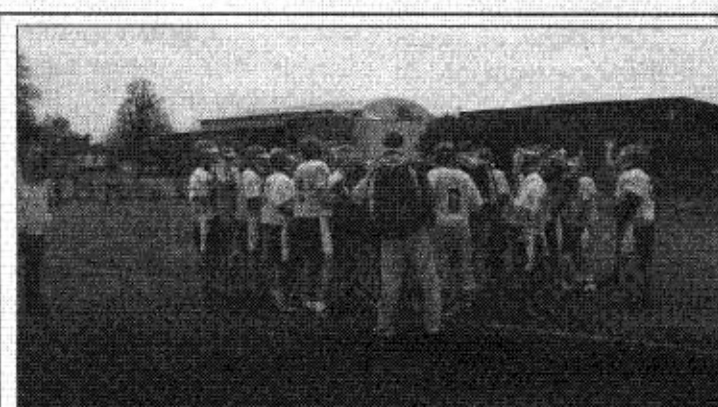


Photo by Blaine Moffa

Above, the men's lacrosse team huddles to strategize their win. The next home game is Tuesday, April 6 at 4 p.m. against Salve Regina.

Rugby team prepares to take on the spring season

By Chris Nirschel
Contributing Writer

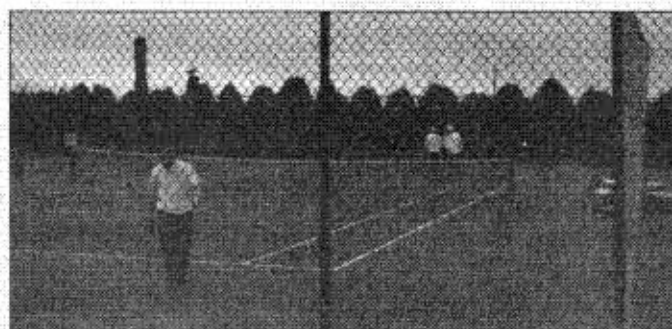
The Roger Williams University rugby team has a hard-working attitude and over 30 students ready to play some hard-nosed rugby this spring. The team's opening game was played with just one outdoor practice, but RWU 'rucked' and 'scrumped' their heart out but only to suffer a tough loss to Wentworth College on Saturday, March 27.

Senior Brendan Finn was disappointed but said, "This team is the most talented team I've seen in my four years here. This good group of underclassmen will carry our rugby tradition on. When our chemistry as a team comes together we should put on a good show this season and hopefully will dominate the Beast of the East."

The Beast of the East is the biggest collegiate rugby

tournament in the world. This year will be the twenty-first annual Beast of the East tournament, which is taking place on April 17 and 18 just ten minutes from campus on the beautiful fields at Glenn Farms in Portsmouth. As of now there are over 55 teams registered, and this is where the RWU rugby team hopes to make its mark.

As well as the tournament to look forward to RWU has a few home games coming up including one on April 10. These will be tough matches, especially the game against UMass-Dartmouth. Rugby moves at a rapid pace and is a hard-hitting sport that mixes football and soccer with ferocity and fitness. This year's squad promises an exciting season and encourages the campus to show their support by attending upcoming matches.



Photos by Blaine Moffa

Left, the men's tennis team defeats Curry College 5-2 on Tuesday, March 30. That moved their record to 3-5 overall.

Upcoming Matches:

Tues., 4/6 vs. Colby
Sawyer (away)

Thurs., 4/8 vs. J&W
at 4 p.m.

