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## Hawks' Herald - April 19, 2004

Roger Williams University

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# HAWK'S HERALD

Volume 14, Issue 20

Roger Williams University

Monday, April 19, 2004

## SW '04: The Wild, Wild West

Spring Weekend 2004 starts Wednesday, and this year CEN has gone above and beyond what is the norm.

And we're talking mechanical bulls, jousting and Spike's hotdogs.

You know, just like in the ol' Western movies.

This year, the theme is Wild, Wild West and activities kick off Wednesday in the Student Union between 11 and 2.

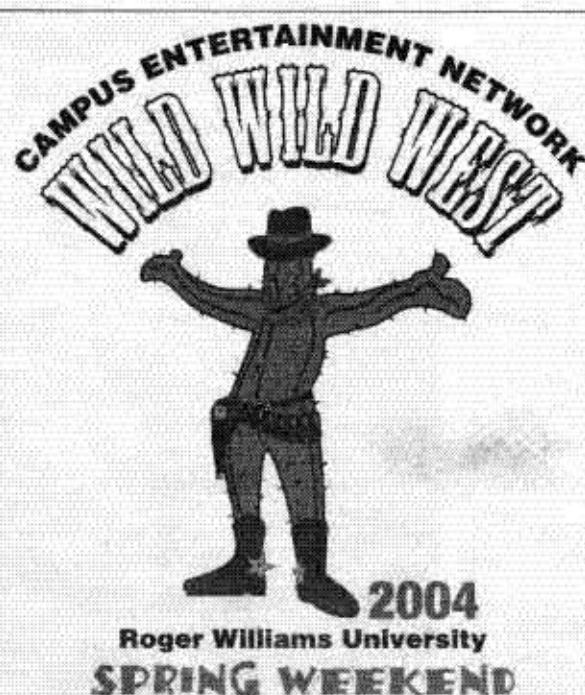
This is one spring weekend you won't want to miss.

### The Showdown:

**Wednesday:**  
11-2 Carnival photos

**Thursday:**  
Maroon 5 concert, 7 p.m.

**Friday:**  
Quad Fest - bigger and better!  
Featuring: rock and roll jousting, mechanical bull, Extreme combo (rockwall climb-



ing and bungee jumping), antique photos and caricatures.

**Chameleon Club 10 p.m.**  
With special DJ: LOUIE DeVITO and club dancers Joah

**Saturday:**  
Block Party  
Featuring: amusement park rides,

obstacle courses, plenty of food (including Del's Lemonade and Spike's hotdogs), local band performances and an all-campus dinner from 4-6. At night, fireworks behind the Union, followed by the movie "Along Came Polly."

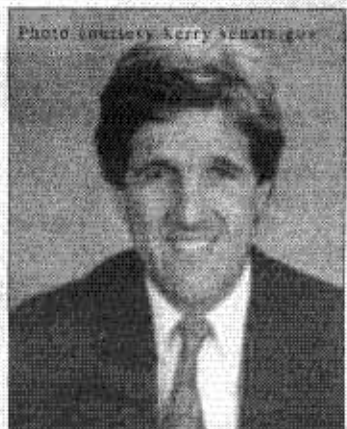
All weekend long there will be tons of free giveaways. Please remember that your student ID is required for ALL Spring Weekend events.

Saddle up and join the fun in the Wild, Wild West!

## Student discussion shows the hippest party is political

By Mark Walerysiak  
Staff Writer

A group of roughly 15 RWU students gathered in the lounge for an evening



session of kicking back and talking politics. Stonewall One housed the "Round Table Series" an open discussion of the 2004 presidential candidates moderated by Student Senate presidential candidate Elysia Rodriguez. Voices were heard on candidate's theo-

ries and policies were criticized, most constructively and some not so. The relaxed environment of off-green walls, and plain lounge chairs was accompanied by perhaps the only things that were not verbally opposed—pizza and drinks.

Mark Ryan, a sophomore, was seemingly the only Bush supporter of the group. He carried the discussion very well despite being outnumbered, as he was the only one defending Republicans. He said, "Society shouldn't be represented by a nitwit getting blow jobs in the oval office." Ryan, of course is referencing former President Clinton after the discussion began with the allegations that John Kerry cheated on his wife, the Heinz Ketchup fortune keeper.

A student raised the point that polls suggested



that 60-70 percent of Americans said they did not care about personal acts. Senior Morgan Hutchinson said, "I'd rather have a president that lied about sex than lied about reasons for going to war."

Argument shifted to Ryan's concessions that he doesn't believe Bush is perfect. "He's too conservative about religion, gay marriage, and war. He screwed himself over with that one (war). When it comes to morals, he is the best."

Jim Dugan, a first-year architecture major, argued that according to Michael

Continued on page 4

## Noska elected Senate President

By Allisyn Deyo  
News Editor

Adam Noska has been elected the new student senate president. A legal studies and communications double major, Noska has big plans for next year's senate.

"There are a few main things that I want to bring to the table," he said. "I am looking to form a number of different relationships with clubs, from being involved with senate to helping each other out."

In addition to having several pieces of controversial legislation brought to the table, the senate lost members as the year progressed. Between the debate over the College Republicans, and the issue now of the new disclaimer dictated by the Administration, the



senate has proven to be a strong voice on campus.

Noska states, "I am going to make senate a more approachable group. It has been indicated to me that senate sometimes comes across as cold and elitist, and that is something that I will work to correct. I really believe that one of the goals that everyone should be conscious of is to portray the university in a positive light locally as well as regionally and nationally."

The university has had image problems since the College Republicans instituted a "whites-only" scholarship, which Noska won. However, after considering the award, Noska decided to donate the \$250, along with \$750 he is raising, to the victims of the Station Nightclub Fire.

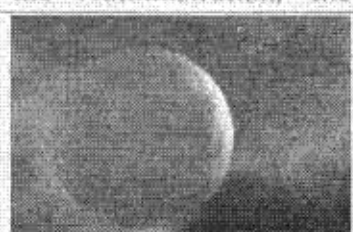


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# OPINION

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I was disappointed in the article concerning "Rate My Professor.Com." Rating professors, especially on a scale from 1-5, is not an accurate representation of their teaching skills. Teachers who did receive a low score could have received that score from an angry student who was upset for receiving a low grade. This also goes for teachers who received a good score. Maybe they let their class out early all the time and that is why they scored so highly.

In my time at Roger Williams, I have only experienced one poor professor, who is no longer teaching at this University. I think the reason we fill out those teacher evaluation forms every semester is because this University really cares about the techniques and teaching abilities of their faculty.

Lastly, I would like to add, that Dr. James Tackach is one of the most incredible teachers I've had at this school. He is strict, challenging and is a hard grader. I don't see this as a reason to rate him at a 2.9. I think often students misunderstand what a good teacher is. A good teacher is someone who challenges you and makes you think outside the box, not someone who gives the easy "A."

Dr. Tackach has made me a better writer; he always puts thoughtful comments on my papers suggesting ways to improve and where I did well. He has made me excited about American Literature and more aware of literary illusions. Dr. Tackach also facilitates thoughtful discussion and is always available for extra help. He is approachable, humorous and intelligent. To me, that's a good teacher. A good teacher goes above and beyond for their students, cares about their education, and doesn't constantly send their students home early.

Respectfully,  
Emily E. Quintin, Class of '05

## Students of RWU

During the whole controversy involving the White Scholarship, students debated the issues all over campus. Political awareness probably hit its peak out of the four years I've been here. It seemed as if the vast majority of the students were awakened from a political slumber and I couldn't have been happier. Students crowding the senate chambers; fierce opinion letters written to the Hawk's Herald; these are all good things. And love them or hate them, the sudden explosion of intellectual discourse can be credited to the College Republicans.

But just when I thought we could drop the whole "Roger Dodger Day Care" nickname, I took a look at the list of students running for class office. In two of the three presidential positions, there was only one candidate. Come on people! I thought you were angry! And for the senate positions, a whopping twenty students signed up to fill the fourteen available positions.

I guess my point is: Where are the Multi-Cultural Student Union students who were so infuriated with Jason Mattera? Where are the dance club members who stormed the senate chambers when their club was declared defunct? By running for a position, you could have helped shape the campus more toward your vision. You no longer have a reason to gripe. Complaint works best as a catalyst for change. Otherwise, it's just noise.

For the students elected into officer and senate positions, I say congratulations. Look for what you see wrong with this campus and do your best to invoke change. And as for Jason Mattera and the CR squad, whether I agree with your views or not, your recent scholarship event has made me think hard on the issue, study discourse both liberal and conservative that I would not have read otherwise, and got me seriously interested in politics, which was not the case prior. So for that, I'll thank you.

P.S. There are two words in this letter, which I have used out of context deliberately. Jay Mattera, if you can find them and learn me in their correct usage, as you seem to have a knack for it, I will buy you a banana split sundae. All the toppings you want, my treat.

Sincerely,

Eric Mancini  
Senior Class Vice President

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## Police Beat

### Arrests

4/2 at 8:47 p.m. Alexander Pascali, 19, of 584 Echo Glen Ave., River Vale, N.J., was arrested at Viola's Liquors by Bristol police on a charge of possession of beverage by an underage person.

### Summonses

4/3 at 4:57 p.m. Hastings Lane, 18, of 350 Fernhill Road, Bristol, Conn., was issued a summons at Bristol Wine and Liquors by Bristol Police on a charge of possession of beverage by an underage person.

4/3 at 5:14 p.m. Lance Bisordi, 19, of 48 Gurley Road, Stamford, Conn., was issued a summons at Bristol Wine and Liquors by Bristol Police on a charge of possession of beverage by an underage person.

4/3 at 7:08 p.m. Blake Silva, 19, of 279 Bidwell St., Manchester, Conn., was issued a summons at Bristol Wine and Liquors by Bristol Police on a charge of possession of beverage by an underage person.

4/3 at 7:40 p.m. Robert Deserio, 19, of P.O. Box 483, Golden Bridge, N.Y., was issued a summons at Mt. Hope Liquors by Bristol Police on a charge of possession of beverage by an underage person.

4/3 at 9:41 p.m. Jamie Zwilling, 18, of 26 Greenway Drive, Allendale, N.J., was issued a summons at Bristol Wine and Liquors by Bristol Police on a charge of possession of beverage by an underage person.

### More than wind in the willow

4/2 at 12:12 a.m. Vandalism reported at Willow Hall 41.

### Learning to bridge the world

4/2 at 5:39 p.m. Suspicious activity reported on the Mt. Hope bridge. The subject in question told police he had run out of gas and was waiting for AAA.

4/4 at 4:58 a.m. Suspicious activity reported on the Mt. Hope bridge. A young male subject jumped from the bridge railing.

4/5 at 5:39 a.m. Suspicious afoot yet again on the Mt. Hope bridge. The male subject discovered walking on the bridge was arrested by Bristol Police on charges of reckless driving, drag racing and eluding police.

### A wasted withdrawal

4/8 at 11:25 a.m. A male student reported a larceny at one of the campus ATMs.

### Hit me with your best shot

4/2 at 9:37 p.m. An allegedly intoxicated female was being combative to RWU Public Safety. Bristol Police brought the subject in for detox.

### Wandering wallets

4/9 at 12:04 p.m. A male student reported the larceny of his wallet from Willow Hall 51.

4/12 at 9:12 a.m. A male student reported the larceny of a wallet on campus.

### Trespasser removed

4/9 at 10:31 p.m. RWU Public Safety requested that Bristol Police remove a trespasser from behind Bayside apartments. The suspect was served with a no trespass notice.

### Caddyshack

4/9 at 10:53 p.m. A caller advised that she saw two male subjects flee from a golf cart, leaving the cart on her lawn as the suspects ran around her house. Bristol Police returned the cart to RWU. No damage was reported to the law.



# OPINION

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## Public Safety's Swfit Hand: Ticket inconsistencies have some ticked

Commentary by  
Scott Hagerman

President Nirschel, as well as most other administrators, like to refer to RWU as a community, one where students, faculty, and staff come together to coexist and cohabitate. I used to believe in that notion; however, I believe there are a lot of things that undermine our community, perhaps the most irritating of which is the perception that RWU views its students as little more than a means to a financial end. Obviously, I do not believe this to be an accurate reflection of the administration's goals or attitudes, but there are a great deal of nuisances about campus life that can lead students to wholeheartedly accept the idea that RWU treats its students as second class

citizens.

A perfect example of this can be observed in the Department of Public Safety's blatantly inequitable enforcement of parking regulations. Most students can attest to the overly-aggressive manner in which Public Safety deals with illegally parked student vehicles; I for instance, was recently ticketed after a mere 21 minutes of being parked in an empty Seabreeze parking lot. Now I understand that, upon receiving my parking permit, I agreed to adhere to the rules and regulations created by DPS. However, I feel indescribable amounts of anger when on that same day (just like every other day), I walk through the parking lot inbetween the Student Union and Maple Hall and see six, seven, even *eight* illegally parked cars, all with staff permits,

that never have so much as a *warning* on their windshield, let alone a thirty dollar ticket.

What type of community is this if the rules are applied to some and not others? What message does this send to us as students when Public Safety pounces on any illegally parked student vehicle within minutes of the infraction, yet chooses to routinely turn a blind eye to the infractions being committed by RWU staff? If we are truly a community, we must all be held to the same standards, regardless of circumstance. It isn't enough that faculty and staff member enjoy the privilege of more convenient and *free* parking (in case anyone was wondering, they do not have to pay the \$35 permit fee that students do), but they also get to park wherever they



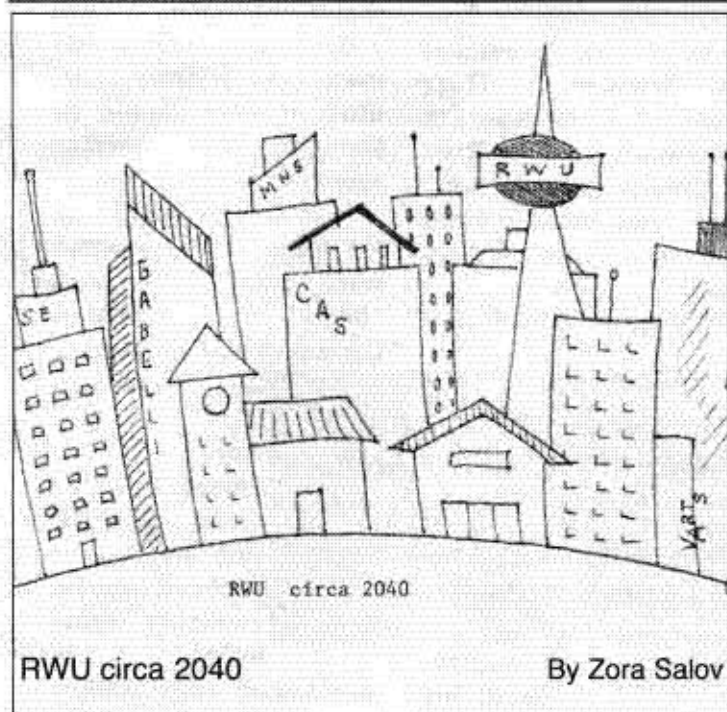
Photo by Jason Turcotte

*Several students' parking choices have been targeted by the infamous Badge #39.*

want when they can't find a convenient space?

This, among other things, has given myself and many, many others a jaded and bitter view of this institution over the past couple of years. Indeed, in my last semester at RWU, the semester typically reserved for pointless nostalgia and the over-glamorization of the past four years, I have become extremely cynical of this institution and its

dedication to its students. If RWU truly wants to grow into the premiere academic institution it envisions for itself, it will need the support of its students, and more specifically its alumni for financial support. As a current student and future alumnus, this university will be hard pressed to solicit a donation from me, or from most others for that matter, in the years to come.



RWU circa 2040

By Zora Salov

### Support your Hawks

**Thursday, April 22:**

men's tennis vs. Wentworth -- 4 p.m.

**Saturday, April 24:**

women's softball vs.

New England College -- 12 noon

women's lacrosse vs.

New England College -- 12 noon

men's lacrosse vs. New England College -- 2:30 p.m.

**Sunday, April 25:**

women's lacrosse vs. Emerson College -- 1:00 p.m.

To the Editor:

Audra Medeiros, in her letter to the editor, offered to give the College Republicans an award for "Most Disliked & Least Respected Group" on campus. Maybe we can put that award next to the "Rookie Club of the Year" we received in '02 and the "Best Club of the Year" we received in '03 presented by the Student Senate.

She says that our "ludicrous behavior" associates itself with all of RWU, a specious statement because our school has received record numbers of accepted students in the midst of our political discourse—6,000 applicants this year for an expected in-coming class of 1,100. Or maybe these prospective students and their parents also want to participate in our "ludicrous behavior"?

Drawing from her puddle of information, Audra says we "impersonate" a political party because our views are too extreme, such as the stances that reject gay marriage and affirmative action. The Republican Party—although politically cowardly at times—is perspicuously against gay marriage and affirmative action. Or how about the American public? Are they just as "right-wing" as we are? Pick your pollster and you'll see that the majority of Americans object to gay marriage and are just as testy on the subject of affirmative action.

According to a Pew Research Poll, 59 percent of the American public oppose gay marriage, in contrast to only 32 percent who favor it. Furthermore, 55 percent of Americans believe that homosexuality is a sin. And in California—no friend to conservatism—racial preferences have been proscribed.

Audra also accused the College Republicans of being likely to spit in a detractor's face if he or she supported gay marriage. Let's hold off on the lack of evidence provided for this serious accusation and instead focus on what has actually happened to College Republicans. In the spirit of tolerance, someone decided to write "College Republicans are lil' Nazis. P\*\*\* you. What happened to tolerance?" on my door. I've received many death threats; food has been launched at my door. Other College Republicans have been kicked out of parties and some physically threatened. These examples are not given to generate sympathy, but to show that vitriol has been directed our way—not vice versa.

In addition to Audra's emotional rant, she makes the silly allegation that the College Republicans do not "believe what they preach." Some proof would be nice, sweetheart.

The indictments of "ignorance" either from Audra or any other person always give me a chuckle, especially when I add another political book to my packed bookcase in my room and the five I have back in Brooklyn.

Even more amusing was her comparison to George Orwell's "Animal Farm"; her basic premise uses a false analogy. Orwell's book is a critique of the implausibility of egalitarianism, not an expository on gay marriage. Snowball and Napoleon from "Animal Farm" would agree that her bad analogy has a simple explanation: "some animals are just more stupid than others."

Jason Mattera '05



# NEWS

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## Justification of race and discrimination recently examined at Socrates Cafe lecture hosted by FCAS Dean Kurt Torell

By Nicole Da Silva Johrden  
Contributing Writer

Prompted by the College Republican's recent whites only scholarship, Assistant Dean of Art & Humanities Kurt Torell felt the need for students to debate the use of race, discrimination and, if any, their justifiability. In a Socrates Café entitled *Is it justifiable to discriminate based on race?* Torell was looking to encourage students and faculty to find the contrary side to the common issue of race discrimination.

"While the topic of race discrimination may seem to cause obvious reactions, this theme is meant to

cause debate with the less than obvious reaction. For instance while it may be wrong, it still happens, why?" Torell stated.

With Socrates Cafés often averaging 60 to 70 people, a larger percentage than usual of faculty attended the debate. Dean Torell finds it "fruitful for students and faculty to create a dialog about matters people don't normally think about." Professors ranged from the philosophical Jim Tackach

to Communication's Roxanne O'Connell to Political Science's June Speakman.

Guest speaker Michael J. Yelnosky, Assistant Dean of the Law School, opened the floor to debate after speak-

ing of auspicious times and hypothetical causes of discrimination, including states that pass statutes taxing black incomes more than white. While Yelnosky stated race to be an immutable characteristic, he made several examples of "understandable" discrimination, such as a white man restricting his partner search to his own race. The fact that a partner search is personal opinion rather than government sponsored allows for a certain element of understanding rather than enforced discrimination.

After Yelnosky posed questions of private universities offering preferences to minorities in the

application process, leaving less room for whites, and why society uses race as a proxy, the debate of racism was underway. Main points revolved around the necessity for affirmative action and the enforcement of Title 7.

Affirmative action was established to help in the eliminating of past & present discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Title 7 however prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, origin etc. in the work place. After the clarification between the two, the remainder of the debate revolved around personal examples for the necessity of one or the other.

Several found a need for affirmative action but an updated version to keep with the changing times of society. Law School student Michael Moore stated, "Employers are looking for quality, through affirmative action they are forced to look harder... very often minorities don't have the quality employers need due to lack of ability and/or education. Instead of concentrating on Affirmative Action we should concentrate on why don't these minorities have the education necessary."

It is important to remember that affirmative action is not only applicable to blacks but any minority

See Cafe, page 6

### Discussion

cont. from front

Moore's book 13 of 19 terrorists involved in the plane attacks on 9/11 were from Saudi Arabia, but President Bush did not attack that country, but rather Afghanistan and then Iraq. Dugan claims Bush did not attack Saudi Arabia because it would directly have had negative effects on the U.S. oil interest in the Middle East.

The next focus turned to the Iraqi war and democracy. One student opposed the United

States "imposing" democratic ideals. "Democracy's the best? It's not [necessarily]."

Ryan rebutted, "Democracy is free. It is proven. We are like a grand empire, not like taking people over. There are countries out there that don't have what we have. We can give them aid and freedom."

The question arises whether freedom is the best way. Ryan says that it is the best way despite

whether they (Iraq) like it or not. He cited Japan becoming a democratic, capitalist society after the U.S. dropped the atom bombs on them, and now they are a powerful developed country. "Got another idea?" Ryan asks.

Another student says, "That's all Bush cares about—overseas issues. Kerry is more for the people."

The debate then circled to the economy. Junior

The next seated topic at the round table concerned the environment. Ryan says, "If you're going to have a successful country your inevitably going to have pollution problems."

Hutchinson rebuts, "We're the highest emissions in the world."

Ryan answers, "Yeah, that's because we have the most cars and pollution makers in the world."

Hutchinson responds, "Environmental isn't that

for ourselves."

Ryan answers, "Yeah, but if Japan gets attacked, we have to help them because if they go down, then our market plummets."

The discussion reaches gay marriage. There appears to be no objection. Sophomore Katie Fitzgerald says, "I don't think they should block someone's pursuit of happiness."

Ryan agrees in theory. "I

sitter" but if the election were today she says she would "probably vote for Kerry, but I'm not sure. I do support the war and that we are in Iraq. It's just social issues, such as gay marriage. I don't really think religion should be brought into politics either."

Ryan says he would vote for Bush if the election were today. He says, "Bush promotes Capitalism and democracy

**Katie Fitzgerald was raised in a Republican household but social issues have pushed her toward the Democrat's side. She may be considered a "fence sitter" but if the election were today she says she would "probably vote for Kerry, but I'm not sure. I do support the war and that we are in Iraq. It's just social issues, such as gay marriage. I don't really think religion should be brought into politics either."**

Michael Karwin, contended, "The European Union is going to be the dominant power in 15 to 20 years."

But Ryan asserts, "I guarantee the European Union won't be (the dominant power). Business can't flourish under such circumstances, and that is where Europe is heading (Socialism). We have to keep encouraging capitalism because that's the only way we could survive [with the freedoms we are used to]."

much more expensive, they are being lazy, and nobodies making them do anything. Environmental laws are efficient for the long run."

An issue raised by a Kerry supporter questioned, "Why not spend more on education than war?"

Ryan says, "You have to worry about what directly affects us."

Another student chimes in, "We should stop going overseas, and watch out

think the whole country isn't ready to do it, but some states are."

Dugan says, "I don't think the debate conservatives have about homosexuals is credible because there have been studies done on chimps and about one out of ten animals are gay."

Katie Fitzgerald was raised in a Republican household but social issues have pushed her toward the Democrat's side. She may be considered a "fence

in a progressively socialist world. His flawed views on social progression are counter balanced with his enduring belief in American freedom and our responsibility to bring that freedom to the world."

Dugan, a self-proclaimed liberal, would vote for Kerry. Dugan cites a disappointing job market and Bush's belief in the "trickle down effect" as main reason to disapprove a second term. "I think he will improve the job situation. Also because our current leader had not done a proper job in international and domestic affairs."



# CAMPUS LIFE

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## Planet's definition out of orbit

By Garry Dow  
Science Editor

Let's pretend Roger Williams offers a class in Astronomy, which it doesn't, and — just for fun — let's pretend you are taking it, though we both know you're not. Now let's skip ahead.

Imagine you're sitting there on the last day of class waiting for the professor — we'll say his name is Richard Heavers — to hand out the final exam, which accounts for approximately 100 percent of your grade in the course. Careful not to give away too much, Heavers has previously told you that the exam will consist of only one question.

You're a strong writer and you reason that since the test is only one question, it will undoubtedly be an essay. Moreover, you reason that he'll likely ask you to comment on some or all of the major theories discussed over the course of the past semester.

Using strong supporting evidence where appropriate, you plan to transform these threads of information into a brilliant tapestry of astronomical intelligence. If things go well—as you think they might—your essay will almost certainly culminate in some sort of supernova-type epiphany.

No problem. This will be cake.

Then Heavers hands out the exam. Just as you had expected, there is only one question, though it reads a little differently than you had anticipated: How many planets are there in our solar system?

The answer, of course, is nine—Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Saturn, Jupiter, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. Or is it?

The International Astronomical Union (IAU), prompted by a recent controversy surrounding the status of Sedna (a newly announced planet-like rock circling the sun), is convening a group of top astronomers to create

parameters that will determine which rocks orbiting the sun should be considered planets and which should be considered plain old rocks.

Some astronomers say Sedna is clearly a planet. They base their opinion on a simple definition: Its own gravity has pulled it into a spherical orbit. But others say it can't be considered a planet because it is too small and has an orbit very different from those of the existing planets.

Here the astute reader will notice that this debate is very much akin to the age-old Australia-as-an-island vs. Australia-as-a-continent debate. Australia, by the way, is both. But I digress.

To further complicate matters—given that you still don't have an adequate answer for that essay question of yours—several respected astronomers have publicly stated that Pluto will not pass many of the suggested criteria. Pluto, which



became a planet in 1930, may not be a planet after all.

One proposed definition defines a planet as "any large object whose own shape is rounded by gravity." According to this rule, the solar system is already home to at least 50 planets. But other definitions draw the line differently.

According to another proposal, "a 'planet' must be more massive than the total mass of all the other bodies in a similar orbit." Not only does this rule disqualify Pluto, but it completely rules out Sedna, leaving an eight-planet solar system in place of the nine-planet sys-

tem we have all come to know and love.

When all is said and done, however, the question is largely one of semantics. It all depends on your definition and all definitions are somewhat arbitrary.

Of course that won't help you on the test. I think your best shot might be answering it in a cryptic, quasi-Cheshire Cat fashion, something similar to this: Though all answers may have questions, not all questions necessarily have answers.

And if that doesn't work, just say there are nine—everybody else will.

## Model UN walks from Princeton competition with six awards

By Allisyn Deyo  
News Editor

The RWU Model UN garnered six awards from the Model UN Crisis Conference they attended at Princeton in February. In addition to winning for Best Delegation, five club members received individual awards. Alyssa Schwartz, Julia Jakobeit, and Adam Brillon won for Best Delegate, and Joe Santoro and Rachael Hawes won Honorable Mentions for Best Delegate.

The Model UN club competes in two competitions every year, one in the fall, and one in the spring. The spring competitions are "Crisis Simulations,"

where students assume roles relating to national security. Students from 7 colleges were divided into ten committees, with titles ranging from the UN Task Force to the IMU, an Islamic terrorist group from Uzbekistan.

Alyssa Schwartz, who heads the club at RWU, was assigned a position with the IMU. To simulate an attack on the US Embassy in Uzbekistan, the IMU sent a woman with a perfume bottle full of hydrofluoric acid (which corrodes the lungs) and broke it on the floor of the embassy, killing everyone.

"We were in charge of wreaking havoc," she said. "We caused a war, assassi-

nated an important leader, and blew up the mourners at his funeral."

Ethan Maron, who has attended two Model UN conferences, said, "We won, obviously, because we kick ass and take names. Many of us came to the conference with strong ideas about policies they'd be pushing for. Also, our people were very dedicated—one might say 'obsessed' with achieving their goals."

The group, advised by Professor Mark Sawoski, has around twenty members. The Model UN is for students "from all majors who are interested in international law," said Schwartz.



Photo by Blaine Moffa

O'Nan signs a copy of *Night Country* for Amanda Burns.

## Writer visits, promotes novel

By Bill Monighetti  
Contributing Writer

Author Stewart O'Nan visited Roger Williams University in promotion of his book "The Night Country" on April 6.

O'Nan immediately won the crowd over when he began his talk by asking if anyone knew who won the Red Sox/Orioles game earlier in the day. He kept the RWU students interested throughout the book talk with his witty humor.

"The Night Country," a story about a group of teenagers who get into a car accident, is O'Nan's most recent novel, although he is currently working on a documentary of the Boston Red Sox's 2004 baseball season with notorious horror writer Stephen King. O'Nan joked that part of his job is now to watch as many Red Sox games as he can.

Who said jobs are supposed to suck?



# CAMPUS LIFE

Volume 14, Issue 20

Roger Williams University

Monday, April 19, 2004

## Socrates Cafe

cont. from page 4

including women. Michael Moore is black and the first blind student to attend the Roger Williams Law School. "I have gotten extra treatment but just try to be blind for a day, if we could do that with race we would be better for it... but trying to be blind would be a start."

Various opinions expressed the government does not trust employers to hire people who do not look the ideal role in that individual's opinion. While no one appears to want to take anything away from some one else, a possible medium was discussed. English philosopher Professor James Tackach said, "Personally if I were running a university I wouldn't ask race to be given; instead, economic help would be based on need... a white kid from the rural south would obviously need more help than Michael Jordan's daughter."

Paula Nirshel, President Roy Nirshel's wife, reminisced about growing up as a minority in Hartford, Conn. which was a predominantly Hispanic and Black area, stating: "Race is a social concept... and since we are visual people we need affirmative action in order to maintain a successful society." However, some individuals such as political science Professor Ernest Greco see affirmative action as encouraging stereotypes.

Despite the possibility of encouraging stereotypes, certain instances have students convinced there is a necessity for affirmative action. Freshman Courtney Robinson walked out of his RWU dorm one morning to find the letters "n-i-g-g-e-r" written across several cars in front of his dorm. "Whether it was meant for me or not I was offended being black myself. I may have become cynical over the past year but I feel the reason that all races are obviously not always treated equal, there is a reason for affirmative action."

RWU, being of white majority and although encouraging diversity, has several students that are ignorant to other cultures. Robinson stated: "Ignorance is acceptable sometimes but is often used as a shield. It is just common courtesy not to reference to someone's race or make jokes especially if you don't know the person."

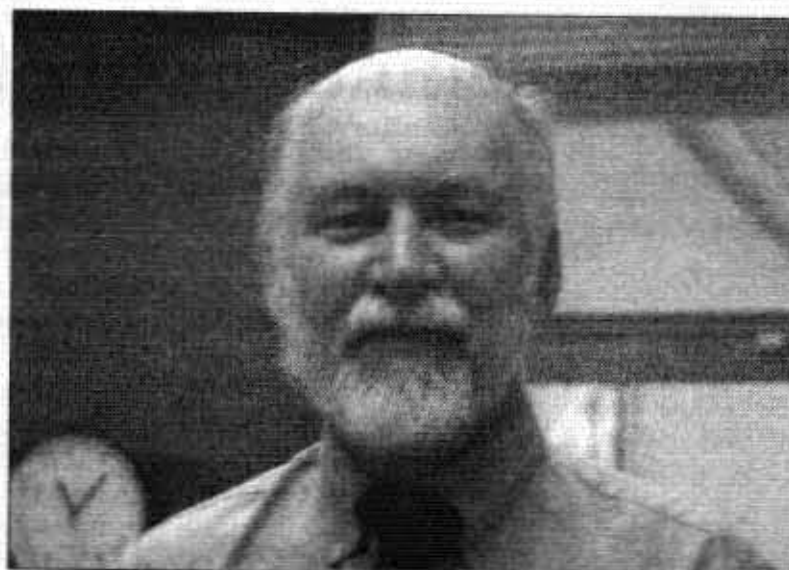
This is not only a "black and white" issue. Affirmative action and the discrimination of minorities also apply to women as well. An APA study at RWU showed that the average of assistant professors is 50-50 where as there are only five full professors are female. Communications Assistant Professor Roxanne O'Connell stated: "Before I went to college I worked in several banks, at that time the only position for a woman was as bank tellers... there just simply were no women in higher management banking at the time. Thank to affirmative action that is no longer the case. If it can happen with gender then I think there is hope for race."

While there is an obvious need for the regulating of discrimination, and old ways seem to not be as effective as they once were, several studies have been performed exhibiting discriminations and offering alternatives to proxy hiring for equal opportunities. For instance, a symphony orchestra study was performed where applicants either played behind or in front of a screen. More women were hired when they played behind a screen.

With talk of minority discrimination dominated the Socrates Café debate junior Diane Lapseritis made the point "it is often just as hard for a majority as it is for a minority. As a majority there is a concern to live up to certain expectations." At the close of the Socrates Café Lapseritis agreed with the overall audience view. "If discrimination is really a concern for someone despite minority or majority, you will go far to fix it."

Photo by Allisyn Deyo

Left, RWU Physics Professor Richard Heavers has hundreds of stories to tell faculty and students alike about his life in the true country.



## "He blinded me with science!" Farm life influences Physics professor

By Mark Walerysiak  
Staff Writer

Editor's Note:  
This is a two-part feature on  
physics professor Richard Heavers.  
Look for the conclusion  
in the April 26 issue.

Psychology Professor Dr. Charles Trimbach remembers a trip he took with one of Roger Williams' most unique characters, Physics Professor Dr. Richard Heavers.

"I don't know anyone like him. We had some funny times. We were in a study group together called the Faculty Development Center (FDC). We went to Las Vegas to do a paper at a convention of the American Association of Behavioral and Social. Dr. Heavers, when he first arrived, spent the night in Death Valley sleeping among the coyotes. He never liked Vegas, thought it was a waste."

Students know Heavers for his sometimes off-the-wall personality that can be misconstrued for weirdness, and faculty know him for his nature loving, free-spirited character. Those who do not know him might have seen him strolling through campus with a brown paper lunch bag wearing a short-sleeved shirt in cold enough weather that would be intolerable to the average being.

No matter what the pic-

ture of the jovial gray bearded Richard Heavers is in your mind, he is a breed of person slowly becoming extinct.

Heavers was raised in upstate Troy, N.Y., a place he suggests would "now be called the ghetto." Heavers grew up in a tenement without hot water. "It was pretty limited, I slept in the dining room," says Heavers. "I used to spend time on the family farm and that's where I learned to love nature."

The farm was eight miles away from Troy and owned by his uncle. Heavers' grandfather had lived there and rented the property for 60 years. When his grandfather decided to leave the property, Heavers' uncle put money down to purchase it.

Heavers shrugs. "Farms run in the family. Maybe it's hatred of cities."

Heavers, of course, has owned a farm of his own for the past 32 years. "I can't ever picture living in a little city, a big city, or even the suburbs."

Professor of English Dr. James Tackach has known Heavers for 20 years. Tackach says, "[Heavers] is a throwback to an earlier way of life. He tries to preserve some of the elements of an earlier era."

Tackach has been to Heavers' property. "It would not be where I would choose to live—too much work, like waking up

at five a.m. to feed the animals." Tackach describes the floor in Heavers' house not as the furnished wooden floor boards popular today, but as "plain pine boards."

Most colleagues and students have noticed Heavers' resilience in cold weather. Tackach says, "He doesn't seem to feel cold like the rest of us do." Tackach described a time when they carpooled together. "It was February, cold weather, and Richard is wearing a t-shirt, has the windows all the way down, and it didn't seem to be affecting him like it was affecting me."

Heavers' lifestyle is certainly unorthodox. "I haven't bought heat since 1973," Heavers says. "I built a Demonstration Masonry Wood Burning Stove." The government paid for the stove because of certain laws in effect at the time pertaining to the conservation of energy.

Not only does Heavers not bother with heating bills, he also has never had a television set. When asked what MTV or CNN initials stood for Heavers replied with a smile, "I don't know what any of it is, and don't really care." Heavers does have a radio and keeps up with the news by listening to the CBS Evening News but says, "That's garbage." He

See Heavers, page 8



# CLASSIFIEDS

Volume 14, Issue 20

Roger Williams University

Monday, April 19, 2004

**Without everyone, the picture isn't complete.  
Can you help us find your friends?**

## Class of 2000

Samuel Adams  
Noel Amand  
Melissa Babcock  
Joy Bernstein  
Robert Blunt  
Scott Bulger  
Javier Carrillo  
Gretchen Catalan  
Genama Celda  
Emily Ciri  
Bryan Cook  
Matthew Cooneader  
Robert Corry  
Christopher Cote  
Leonid Cruz  
Cheryl Daly  
Lynn Decker  
Christopher DeFior  
Jaime Deforest  
Tiago Dinis  
Holly Eason  
Hazim Enani  
Amanda Faist  
Cristian Farach  
Anna Fern  
Christopher Folino  
Marie Francois  
Anna Frye  
Lisa Godin  
Elizabeth Gouveia  
Scott Gregory  
Lisa Guimont  
Kevin Haight  
Devin Herlihy  
Lisa Hickey  
Carlos Holguin  
Stacey Hopkins  
Williams Hull  
Wendy Inondi

Julie Kann  
David Kennedy  
Wataru Kondo  
Kent Kovacs  
Justin Lema  
Kerri Levasseur  
Maria Lovegreen  
John Malloy  
Lucas Marks  
Paul Massicotte  
Junya Mikami  
Robert Miller  
Andrew Milloviitch  
Christopher Moran  
Daniel Murphy  
Tracy Nelson  
Jacqueline Nolan  
Ashley Nowell  
Marianne O'Hanley  
Claudine Osko  
William O'Sullivan  
Dierde Pina  
Justin Powell  
Barry Ramer  
Augustus Rietheimer  
Gerald Romano  
Michael Sacco  
Karen Savage  
Colette Savaria  
John Sirois  
Nalin Solichanophon  
Brendan Sullivan  
Stephen Talamo  
Ginger Terrault  
Janelle Thompson  
Khanfeung  
Thounsavath  
Joel Turner  
Stacy Wais  
Shawn Waldron

Christopher Walling  
Tat Mun Wan  
James Waters  
Anthony Wood

## Class of 2001

Yasser Alinza  
Tiffany Best  
Megan Bogle  
Jason Bourdeau  
Kevin Cabral  
Erinn Cereza  
Victor Chermov  
Peter Doucet  
Jennifer Dusek  
Gage Fay  
Kate Gentile  
Anthony Heller  
Brian Hughes  
Amy Hunt  
Margaret Jones  
Kristin Karkott  
Naser Kherzabi  
Robert Laplume  
Jose Maldonado  
Brent Mado  
Wayne Moore  
Mai Murase  
Kelly Neal  
James Owens  
Naoengchai Pawitayakorn  
Matthew Pezullo  
Ian Quimones  
Brian Rusticcia  
Timothy Smith  
Erik Smith  
Surawat Surawatsathian  
Stephen Taylor  
Sage Vogel  
Stefan Zukowski

## Class of 2002

Ragnhildur Agustsdottir  
Cheryl Armstrong  
Joseph Bambara  
Melissa Benjamin  
Evangeline Brennan  
Colleen Brito  
Christopher Burke  
Crystal Camber  
Rebecca Carroll  
Hou-chen Chiang  
Judith Cobden  
Emily Craig  
Matthew Davis  
Stacey Desaulniers  
Jose Deschamps  
Bradley Fries  
Elizabeth Gatonska  
Jarrod Goldstein  
Matthew Griew  
Jennifer Haggood  
Andrea Hill  
Emily Jamba  
Young-Sun Jho  
Khemkhong Khengpharnkar  
Amanda Kuber  
Richard Lescault  
Linda Logan  
Kristen Lopes  
Rose Lytle  
Jennifer Mathias  
Timothy O'Keefe  
Candis Pitts  
Cynthia Powell  
Donald Quinn  
Michael Rogers  
Phil Schappert  
John Scott  
Emily Smith  
Nicholas Stebenze  
Roger Struempfer

A. Tachout  
Matthew Tupper  
Brian Valentine  
Stephanie Wiencis  
Karen Wilkey  
Shiho Yamaguchi  
Shuhei Yamamoto  
Kerry Zernani

## Class of 2003

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Peter Awn  
Richard Barbato  
Tracy Bernardo  
Holly Byford-Brown  
Timothy Cavarza  
Janet Cowley  
Matthew Cohen  
Joseph De Amato  
Rogerio Desousa  
Lobsang Dongtsang  
Jennifer Feeley  
Eric Funk  
Michael Gagnon  
Christopher Garcia  
Kristy Jackson  
Melissa Killion  
Linda Lambert  
Eddie Nakao  
Christopher Parsons  
Faye Pitts  
Sean Reardon  
Ashley Rego  
Kyle Robinson  
Krista Sedlers  
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Danielle Wendell  
Emily Whitson  
Scott Williamson

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# SPORTS

Volume 14, Issue 20

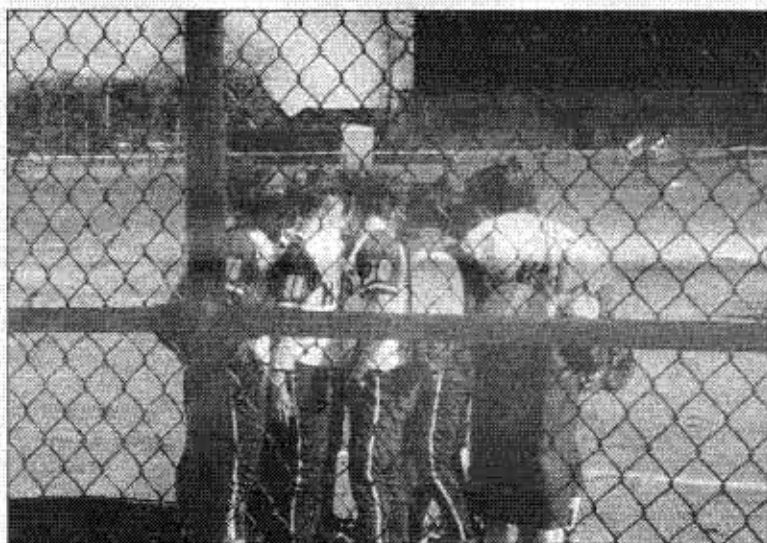
Roger Williams University

Monday, April 19, 2004

Photos by Blaine Moffa

Left, Lady Hawks pitcher Krissy Crisafi winds up against Johnson & Whales University on Tuesday, April 6.

Below, the Ladies huddle between innings to show team spirit and motivate themselves. Their next home game is Wednesday at 3 p.m. against Anna Maria College.



Photos by Blaine Moffa

The Hawks run the field to fight rival Salve Regina on Tuesday, April 6. The men demolished SRU 13-3 and brought their record to 4-1 in the CCC. After a victory over Maritime, they advanced 6-5 overall.

The next home game for the men is Saturday, April 24 against New England College at 2:30 p.m.



## Heavers

cont. from page 6

mostly listens in his vehicle and enjoys WHUS, the station from the University of Connecticut, and reads the weekly magazine *The Economist*.

Heavers takes an apple from his famed brown bag and whips out a Swiss army knife and cuts it up. "The purpose of the farm is to insulate me from all the baloney."

One may ask his or herself how one could survive without media or pop culture. Wouldn't his kids die if they did not have it? The answer is no, actually. Heavers has a wife, two sons, and a daughter. All of his children have graduated from Princeton University.

Heavers' daughter is a high school biology teacher, his oldest son is a horticultural manager for the 57-acre grounds of the National Cathedral in

Washington D.C., and his youngest son is an economist. Heavers nonchalantly adds that he and his sons have climbed "48 of the over 4,000-footers in New Hampshire."

Tackach recalls discussing television with Heavers. "I said to him, 'By your kids growing up without T.V. they missed out on popular culture.' But he told me, 'but they can walk through the forest and name all the trees.'"

Professor of Creative Writing Dianne Comiskey is impressed with Heavers as well. She adds, "He is a thinker who isn't concerned about whether his theories are in vogue or not. He still pursues life on his own terms."

Heavers certainly knows what his passion is today, but he was not always so sure. Heavers tells a story which he named "How my mother sent me to college." He says, "All of my stories have titles."

## What is your next step?

[Have you thought about graduate school in Boston?]



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