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Hawks' Herald - May 3, 2004

Roger Williams University

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HAWK'S HERALD

Volume 14, Issue 22

Roger Williams University

Monday, May 3, 2004

An East Coast *Western* kind of thing

Study used as tool for financial betterment

By Jason Turcotte
Co-Editor

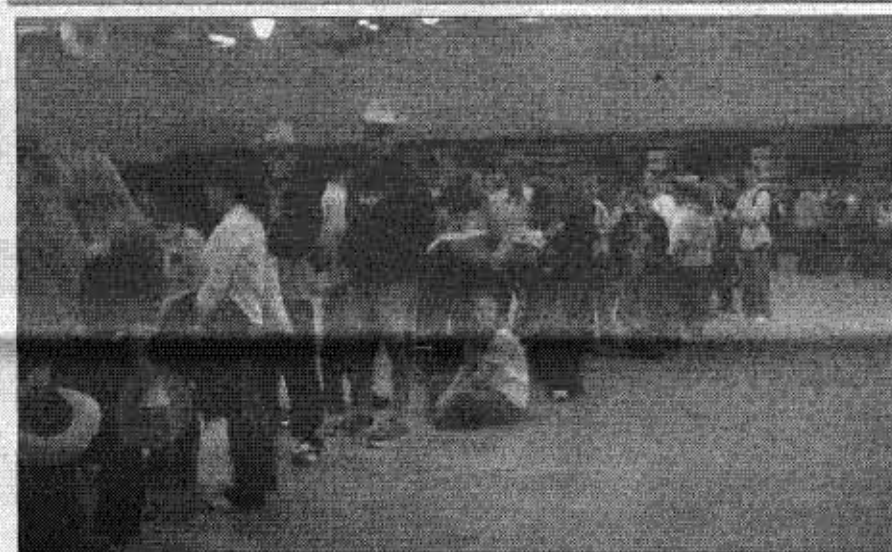
A recent administrative-level study indicates that Roger Williams University is riddled with substantial debt, a financial burden that administrators seek to dissolve. With future plans for expansion on the horizon, RWU is not where it wants to be economically says James Noonan, chief financial officer.

"It will take a little bit of time. But again, the financial strength of the university is very good," said Noonan.

Noonan spearheaded the study, which benchmarked the institution, drawing comparisons with 15 other colleges; some comparable to RWU and others which are of local interest. The benchmarked institutions include Marist, Stonehill, Susquehanna, Wheaton, and Salve Regina - among others. According to President Roy J. Nirschel, the economic comparisons will help the administration work towards its strategic plan, which aims at improving the physical assets of the campus, along with raising the quality of education.

"It's a culture change," said Noonan, who explained that prior administrations were hesitant in publicizing the university's financial status. Noonan's study was the

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Graduation speaker has led Hollywood life

By Sarah
Elizabeth Bergeron
Contributing Writer

The commencement speaker for the 2004 graduation ceremony has his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Since 1966, he has been the head chairman and C.E.O. of the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), a position he has held for nearly four decades.

Jack Valenti, 82, will be giving the keynote address and will receive a Doctor of Fine Arts, Honoris Causa. Valenti is generally regarded as one of the most influ-

ential pro-copyright lobbyists in the world, but his most notable work is what he did in the film industry. In 1968, Valenti used his leadership qualities and instituted the movie rating system (the system that forced you to sneak into 'R' rated movies until you were 17) based on a movie's content.

The MPAA represents the seven major film studios: Paramount Pictures Corp., Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc., Warner Bros., Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc., Universal Studios Inc., Walt Disney Co. and 20th

Century Fox Film Corp. It's a job where he reportedly makes an annual salary of \$1.35 million, making him the seventh-highest-paid Washington trade industry head, according to a February survey done by the National Journal.

In 1993 Valenti was honored with the ShowEast Award for Lifetime Achievement. In addition, he was a wartime bomber pilot, an advertising agency founder, and special assistant to President Lyndon B. Johnson. More recently, Valenti has been an advocate in the film industry's

fight against piracy, even though he has just announced his decision to retire.

"In any job, you want to leave before people ask you to leave," Valenti said in a Washington Post story in March at the ShoWest convention in Las Vegas.

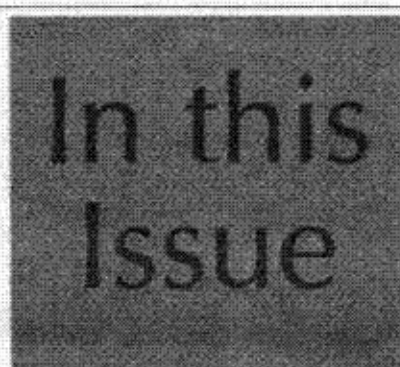
Valenti's commencement speech will surely inspire and encourage those who are graduating, and assure them that life is what each individual makes of it. Even as he plans to retire, Valenti tells reporters, "I've been blessed with some genetic energy, so I'm not going to fade away."



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Ultimate frisbee
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OPINION

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Roger Williams University

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Police Beat

Arrests

4/23 at 11:30 p.m. Lindsay Russo, 18, of 268 Allen Hill Road, Brooklyn, Conn., was arrested at Roger Williams University by Bristol Police on a charge of disorderly conduct.

4/24 at 11:21 a.m. David Desimone, 19, of 57 Leonard St. Woburn, Mass., was arrested on a bench warrant. Desimone turned himself into Bristol Police.

Summonses

4/22 at 6:15 p.m. Erin Carolan, 19, of 22 Horseshoe Ridge Road, Sandy Hook, Conn., was issued a summons by Bristol Police during a motor vehicle stop on a charge of possession of beverage by an underage person.

4/22 at 11:56 p.m. Regina Lyons, 20, of 304 Overbrook Drive, Glassboro, N.J., was issued a summons at Gillary's by Bristol Police on a charge of possession of beverage by an underage person.

Here today, gone tomorrow

4/22 at 3:37 p.m. A male subject reported a larceny on Lower Ferry Road.

Not CEN fireworks this time

4/24 at 2:31 a.m. Bristol fire crews responded to a fire in a trash bin on the third floor of Willow Hall, building 4. The fire was put out and is currently under investigation.

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We are all too familiar with the College Republicans' Whites Only Scholarship (WOS) offered in February. Some have called it nothing more than a racist statement, an absurd publicity stunt. Apparently, a couple of guys thought a "Rhode Island's 'Hot's Only' Scholarship" (HOS) would be a good way to make a sexist statement and an absurd publicity stunt of their own. The two boys offering the scholarship are Justin McGovern, one of Roger William's very own, and Blake Rogers, a student at CCRI.

The feeling around campus seems to be generally supportive of this new initiative. As reported by the Providence Journal, "McGovern called it 'a serious joke,' and said many students were dismayed by the white's only scholarship controversy, but have chuckled at the idea of a hot woman scholarship." After all of the disgust with the "blatant racism" of the WOS, it seems that women aren't being granted the same respect. Where are the cries of injustice now? Why isn't this seen for the sexist ploy that it is? This wouldn't be surprising if it weren't for all of the outrage expressed at the WOS, which was deemed exclusive and racist. How can you object to the WOS on those grounds, but not be appalled by the objectification of women and the discrimination against men and the ugly? This new initiative replaces the so-called racism of the College Republicans with what could be labeled as sexism by two chauvinistic male pigs. Their motives are questionable to say the least. What the sponsors of the HOS claim on their Web site and what they are saying to the press doesn't match up. On their Web site for the scholarship they state, "...we're not trying to create a backlash against anyone.... It is an obvious lampoon on minority scholarships in general.... Please remember this IS poking fun AT minority scholarships." These statements are troubling as they appear to be contradictory to what they has been purported to the press. In the press they are playing this as a response to the WOS. "The pair who host a radio program at Roger Williams University say they started the scholarship fund to mock a "whites-only" scholarship fund set up by the College Republicans at Roger Williams," Eyewitness News 12 reported. Bringing the College Republicans into this is a transparent attempt to grab the attention of the media.

The College Republicans made the same claim; they were supposedly offering their scholarship in protest of minority based scholarships. As CNN reported, "Jason Mattera, 20, who is president of the College Republicans, said the group is parodying minority scholarships." They were trying to argue that scholarships should be based on merit instead, but at the least here should be some equity. Yet somehow this point mystified the community, for some reason they just couldn't understand. The article in the Providence Journal went on to report, "The College Republicans' scholarship was meant more to incite anger than make a point," Rogers said. "We figured [our scholarship] is something comical, it's basically a joke on people who take life too seriously." Are these two boys psychology majors? They seem to think that they are inside the heads of the College Republicans, claiming to know their intent. Did a College Republican tell them that the WOS was offered more to incite anger than make a point? The CRs were actually trying to make the same point that they supposedly are, in the same humorous fashion. I don't know whether it's just plain ignorance or stupidity that continues to blind people to this fact. And as our small community at RWU remains inconsistent with their feelings towards these scholarships, the kids offering it remain inconsistent with their reasoning. Is it to make a point about minority based scholarships? Is it to mock the College Republicans' parody of minority based scholarships? Is it just to make a joke? Or, as is most likely the case, is it a publicity stunt (as is evidenced by their effort to draw the CRs into this)?

I applaud these boys' efforts to respond, even though it lacks any originality. As stated on the scholarship web site, "A photo must be submitted to prove applicants 'hotness.'" That's a bit reminiscent of the infamous request of a picture to "confirm whiteness." And I'm left wondering, how does a sexist scholarship make any point about race based scholarships? I guess they just copied the CRs on that part too. In actuality I fully support this scholarship. I think that it's just as hilarious as the Whites Only was. I am struck by the hypocrisy of a campus that was so infuriated by the supposed hypocrisy of College Republican president, Jason Mattera. This campus, which was enraged by racism, doesn't even attempt to fake concern for what could quite possibly be labeled sexism. Are the parallels not that obvious?

Realistically, this exemplifies the disdain felt for the CRs. If they had offered this same scholarship they would instantly be labeled sexist and every feminist on campus would be crying foul. But as I'm sure most of us can agree that this latest initiative isn't a sexist statement made by male chauvinistic pigs, maybe we can also agree that the Whites Only Scholarship wasn't a racist statement made by a group with aspirations to join the KKK.

Monique Stuart

NEWS

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Roger Williams University

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Debt

cont. from front

first time in the brief history of RWU where the administration benchmarked the university financially. The administration's findings were also revealed to faculty last month.

Noonan told the Herald that RWU earned a Standard & Poor's rating of a -BBB, classified as a medium-level investment. Standard & Poor's is a world renowned provider of financial research. Noonan seeks a rating upgrade to BBB, once 2004 figures are available, an upgrade that he stressed could be a substantial money saver for RWU.

For comparison, he continued in saying, the -BBB rating is the same as Hasbro toy company. Hasbro's net revenues fell three consecutive years before seeing an increase from \$2.8 million in 2002 to \$3.2 million in 2003. At the conclusion of its last fiscal year, the company posted \$3.2 million in total assets and \$1.8 million in total liability.

Students frequently respond to campus frustrations by asking, 'Where does my tuition go?' According to Noonan, 51.2

percent of tuition revenue is spent on academic support, ranking RWU sixth among those benchmarked. Academic support includes classroom instruction and faculty, and this figure, says Nirschel, may be RWU's strongest. In addition, 25.2 percent or approximately \$22 million of the university's \$87.3 million in tuition revenue is spent on student financial aid.

Nirschel is also satisfied with the university ranking as one of the lowest in percentage of revenue spent on the administration. "Our administrative costs are quite low compared to everybody else," he said, adding that management costs are kept at a minimum. Of those benchmarked, RWU spent the third lowest amount on administrative costs, meaning more funds could be spent on student services such as financial aid or academic services.

Noonan said that just 13.3 percent of university revenue is used for administrative costs, adding, "We have a budget that questions every position."

Still, like any other young institution, RWU, which was incorporated in 1956, has amassed a sizeable debt or university liability, ranking in the bottom few of those benchmarked.

David Melchar, professor of business management, says that when one starts a company, they have three options: sharing ownership, selling stock or borrowing funds. Since RWU is a non-profit institution, explained Melchar, debt is the only avenue for expansion. Rather than having corporate ownership, RWU is "made up of individuals who help to oversee it."

As of 2003, RWU's debt stood at \$123.5 million, and the university's total assets are estimated at \$180.3 million. Melchar defined assets as an organization's total ownership, which includes facilities, equipment, vehicles - anything and everything with value. Assets also include possessions that might not be paid for fully.

If RWU opted to pay off its debt with total assets, it would leave the university with \$56.8 million in equity. Since RWU is a non-profit institution, its equity is considered surplus rather than profit. During Nirschel's tenure, the school has seen improvements in liability, bond debt, net assets and endowment.

An institution's endowment is money invested to collect interest and cannot be budgeted for spending, but the administration does utilize interest collected on

the endowment. The more financial support donated from alumni, faculty and corporations, the larger the university's endowment becomes.

When Nirschel arrived at the University in 2001, endowment stood at \$41.8 million, reached \$48.4 by 2003 and is expected to climb close to \$60 million by the end of 2004. While RWU cannot compete with an Ivy League endowment, such as Harvard University's \$19 billion accumulation, the institution is less than 50 years old, compared to centuries of establishment at Harvard. As Melchar points out, RWU has a smaller pool of alumni to seek support from than most institutions of higher learning.

Endowment at RWU needs improvement says Nirschel, who has made strides in developing this financial aspect of the institution. He calls the faculty giving-rate "average" and the 12 percent alumni giving-rate "poor." Eventually, Nirschel hopes to see the endowment swell to \$100 million, which would give the administration roughly \$5 million in interest to fund what he calls "ambitious goals."

These goals include the construction of a new stu-

dent union (while the old one is renovated as an academic building), restored waterfront property and new athletic fields, designating increased funds towards merit and need-based scholarships, updating technology, and increasing funds for faculty research. "I'll spend the money just as quickly as we raise it," remarked Nirschel expansively.

Nirschel also assigned Ben Carr, marketing professor, as a liaison to the Gabelli School of Business alumni in an effort to reconnect graduates and increase financial gifts. In 2006, RWU will invite alumni to a half-century celebration of the institution. Nirschel hopes to recruit liaisons within the other schools as well, in an effort to improve the financial reputation of a still raw university.

"We started to look at institutions that had attributes like us," said Nirschel, who points out that it is in the university's best interest to be aware of institution norms. He stressed that RWU is behind schools like Bucknell and Wheaton, while Stonehill is considered the top benchmark in the northeast region. "We hope to use it [the study] as a tool in the future."

Benchmark & Aspirant Institutions

Bucknell
Wheaton
Susquehanna
Stonehill
Drake
Bryant
Providence College
Elon
Johnson & Wales
Salve Regina
Marist
Western New England
Utica



Photo by Jared Lindh

By the end of 2004, President Nirschel expects RWU's endowment to reach close to \$60 million. Nirschel has exerted much energy on developing the university financially to support what he calls "ambitious plans" outlined in the administration's strategic plan.

ROGER WILLIAMS

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Roger Williams University

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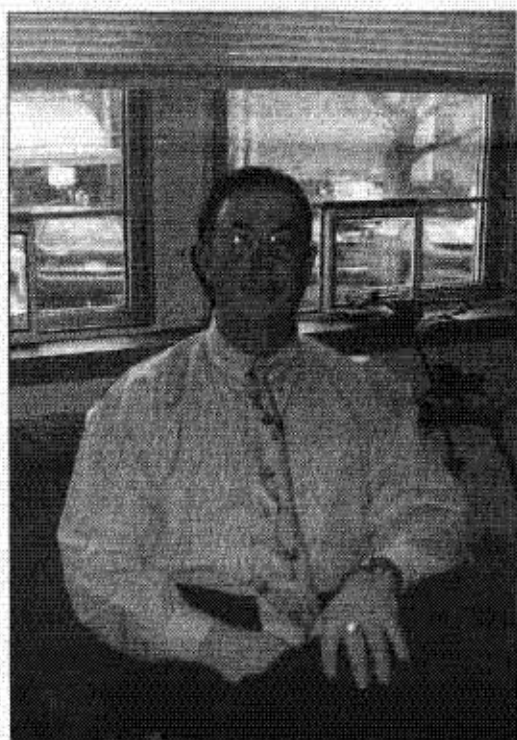
It's been quite the year for Roger Dodge Daycare. From The Year of the Republicans to chemical spills, the University has seen its share of the good and the bad. The following spread provides a Year in Review for the 2003-2004 academic year.



Above, students voiced concern over the health of beloved science professor Skip Pomeroy, wishing him a quick recovery.



Above, designs were released blueprinting renovations to be made in the main library thanks to a monetary gift made by Mary "Happy" Tefft White.



Above, Dean of Student Affairs announced he will be leaving RWU after the Spring 2004 semester, moving closer to family in Ohio.

Below, newly-named Student Senate President Adam Noska answers a flurry of questions after declared the recipient of the College Republican's White Scholarship.

As I approach the end of my third year as president it is a pleasure to reflect, in summary form, on an incredible year in the life of Roger Williams University.

The best retention of students ever, the opening of the great new Recreation Center, the First Fed Trading Room in the School of Business and great plans for the future.

This past year we hired a record number of faculty, doubled the number of study abroad locations, created new degrees and programs and improved the quality of food and coffee on campus (or so I am told).

Sometimes the media focuses on the glamorous, the controversial, or the news of the weird. That's why there is always subject matter for shows like Jerry Springer.

Instead of those things that are transitory and unimportant I like to think of those that are most important and most gratifying – the accomplishments of our students.

This past year students went on alternative spring break to build homes for the homeless in South Carolina.

The athletic teams – in some cases under extraordinary adversity and human tragedy – performed at the highest level, on and off the field, as student athletes.

Students in construction management and architecture won – for the first time ever – the national design-build competition involving hundreds of schools of engineering around the country.

One student announced his candidacy for state representative. Over 400 of you turned out for a town meeting on civil discourse – leading to a Commission on the topic, plans for a journal and heightened student activism.

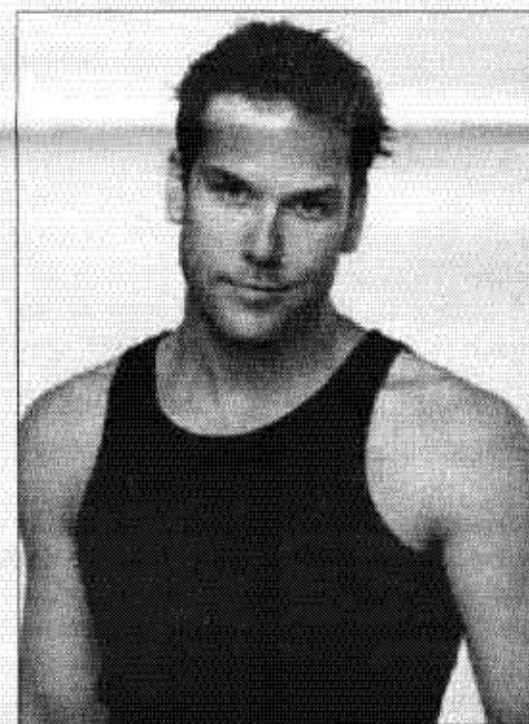
We made it – for the first time ever – into Princeton's guide to the best schools in the Northeast.

One student won – again, for the first time in RWU history – a Fulbright – the most prestigious academic student award in the United States.

We are in this together and I thank everyone who contributed to an extraordinary year – some say the best ever – in the life of Roger Williams University.

It was a very good year and I look forward to awarding degrees in a few days to the graduating class and hope that all of you continue your growth going forward and contribute to a "work in progress" – creating a premier liberal arts university.

President Nirschel



Above, Dane Cook choked up a sold-out crowd with laughter at the Field House, in arguably CEN's best event of the year.

Below, After a dismal campaign last season the men's basketball squad made a strong run in the CCC playoffs, silencing their critics while building fanfare.



YEAR IN REVIEW

Volume 14, Issue 22

Roger Williams University

Monday, May 3, 2004

Top 10 Headlines:

The most talked-about news stories of the year

10. *Leaps and bounds: X-country teams show heart in light of tragedies*
9. *Dean's final semester at RWU; search underway for new position*
8. *New recreation center breathes life to campus community*
7. *Performance of RWU professors exposed in Web site*
6. *Dedicated professor absent from MNS building; students left concerned*
5. *MNS evacuated after chemical spill*
4. *Dane Delivered: Kool-Aid comedian scores laughs and reveals some personal insights in post Q & A session*
3. *RWU student faces drunk driving charges*
2. *Tale of Two Cities: Bronx vs. Beantown*
1. *Highly publicized and controversial scholarship awarded to student Senator Adam Noska*

Whether you love them or hate them, could any other news story justifiably top the Herald's list? The answer is a simple no. We can at least credit the College Republicans with sparking political debate on campus and raising ire among students and faculty alike, resulting in the Herald mailbox becoming inundated with letters- some insightful, some angry and others incoherent, but all representing diverse political views.



Above, the 2003 MLB season proved disheartening yet again for Red Sox fans as they fell short to their rivaled Yankees. The 2004 season, underway, already has students pumped with adrenaline.

Below, some accused the use of collegehumor.com photos as promoting alcoholism on campus. However, the Herald contends that students do that job well on their own.



The Herald announces its first ever Picture of the Year. (photo credit to Allisyn Deyo)

Subtitled:
Scandalous!

Left, College Republican President Jason Mattera and Dean of Students Richard Stegman share a private conversation during Reggie Jones' speech.

Note: The photo of the year is, for all intents and purposes, considered by the Herald staff as a joke. It was a last dying wish by co-editor Jason Turcotte, and the staff will miss him. Good Luck Jay!



CAMPUS LIFE

Volume 14, Issue 22

Roger Williams University

Monday, May 3, 2004

Sorry kids, some teachers won't go away that easily

By Mark Walerysiak
Staff Writer

Some beloved faculty will not be retiring in the near future, and that includes the longest tenured ones. Most have not even thought about it.

Theatre Professor Dr. William Grandgeorge comes to work and leaves everyday much like all professors. The same humdrum existence? He arrives in the mornings excited for what the new day will hold, and what lives he can touch. His excitement while talking about his workplace is greater than many college students whom may be seen lethargically dragging their feet across campus. And Grandgeorge is 70 years old, defying the "prime" of someone's life being in the teens and 20's.

Most people can recall around what time they last had a sick day, but Grandgeorge cannot. Not because of his advanced age. Grandgeorge says it is because, "I never missed a sick day. I keep moving. I suppose if I stopped, I'd die."

Grandgeorge began his career at RWU in Providence in 1968, which marks this year his 36th. "I've never thought about [retirement] either," he says. "I certainly never had any plans to. I will teach until I'm no good at it or can't physically move."

History Professor Dr. Joshua Stein counts on his fingers. "34 years I have been here - since 1969."

It is hard to fathom Stein being at RWU so long, considering he does not appear old. "Well, I started here as a very precocious 1-year-old. I never considered retiring. Every once in a while I have a bad class. I'll come in and say, 'Aren't you old enough to retire?' Then I'll come in the next day and it'll be ok."

Stein reiterates if his health and intellectual vigor keep up, then he plans on sticking around. However, if he falls behind current thought he would consider stepping aside.

"[Students] are interested in things that weren't around when I was in college. I've never watched a reality T.V. show, or an episode of *Friends*. They play video games; I think people in my generation are more inclined to read books. Despite the diversity of interest, I haven't reached the point where I can't communicate."

Philosophy professor Bob Blackburn is the longest tenured RWU faculty member, beating Grandgeorge by a mere two weeks. Blackburn says, "I'm not going to retire. Well, maybe in four or five years. Actually, I had kind of a penciled-in preliminary retirement date of 5/05. But I have since erased that pencil when the stock market faltered. You can't retire with peace of mind without financial investments and security."

Most faculty try to take advantage of the University's retirement benefit plan. Blackburn explains, "If I put in \$1,000 to the plan, [the University] puts in \$2,000, so it will be \$3,000." Only up to 5% of the salary can be put forth each year. Blackburn says, "You'd be crazy not to use that."

"One consideration for me and everyone else is how well the market does. But it'll still be hard for me to retire. I'm 58 and started teaching here at 22. It's the only full time job I've ever had. It'll be really weird to not have a syllabus to prepare."

Professor of English Dr. James Tackach seconds Blackburn's comments on the market. "I'm not retiring anytime soon. No specific time frame, [maybe] 5 to 15 years. When the numbers add up - age a

certain amount of money. If the stock market goes high enough and my investments go high enough, maybe. If I had money to retire next Tuesday, I probably would. If I won the lottery for \$40 million I might go into semi-retirement. But there are other factors - I like my job."

Writing professor Dr. Mel Topf is the third longest tenured. Toft, 62, also came to RWU in 1969, the year the campus was being built.

"I like the profession in general," Topf says. "I haven't thought about [retirement]. I'm too hyper to stay in one area." Toft jokes about golf and Florida being in his future. Professor Richard Potter has been at RWU for 30 years. He says he does not know when he will retire either. "I haven't done the calculation."

Writing Professor Dr. Katherine Hall is younger than the longest-tenured faculty at 39 years old. She says, "I just never think about [retirement] because you have to think about getting old. And there is so much work in the day to day existence that I don't really think about it."

Creative Writing Professor Shari Alvanas spends most of her time thinking about securing herself a position since she is visiting faculty.

Several faculty members agreed that the reason professors retire later in life is because of strong student and faculty comradery.

Alvanas agrees: "For me, it's the students. There's nothing like watching a student's writing grow. Sometimes I'm lucky enough to have students in Intro and then our paths cross a semester or two later and I'm able to see how much his/her writing has grown. Other times I'm able to experience it

See Retirement, page 7

Constitution Day

RWU students and faculty will be featured in a day-long event in Bristol highlighting the U.S. Constitution. The Bristol Statehouse Foundation will sponsor "We The People: Celebrating the U.S. Constitution," on Saturday, May 8 at the Bristol Statehouse. The events run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Each is free and open to the public.

Students from Roger Williams University will debate: "How Democratic is the Constitution? How Democratic Do We Want It To Be?" The debate, at 11 a.m., will feature Honors Program students Scott Carlson, Eric Fournier, Derek Harnsberger, and TK. At 1 p.m., faculty members Joshua Stein and Michael Swanson of the history department will explore the fascinating question: "Was the Constitution Necessary?"

At 2 p.m., there will be a discussion on The Patriot Act and the Bill of Rights with panelists: Edward Achorn, *The Providence Journal*; Deborah Barchi, Barrington Public Library; Jerry Elmer, Providence attorney; Jerry Landay, writer and retired network journalist; and Robert McKenna, former mayor of Newport, R.I.

At 9 a.m., students from Bristol and Warren schools present choral readings, the playlet "Sh! They're Writing the Constitution," and explore how the Bill of Rights affects everyday life. The program will culminate at 4:30 with *Ben Franklin Alive*, with Emmy Award winner Bill Meikle as the American statesman interacting with members of the audience. The program is supported in part by the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, the School of Law, and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dear Editor,

As a contributor to the Macro project collaboration, I was intrigued by the recent article in the past issue (volume 14 issue 21) of the Hawk's Herald. Intrigued - because as a piece of journalism it seemed to be more of a plug for the newly formed Center than that of actual reporting. There also were numerous errors within the piece that leads one to question how facts were obtained. These errors begin with the title - "Center for Macro Development and Diplomacy focuses on the West Bank." This title would be appropriate if the West Bank was the primary focus. In reality, the main topic of discussion throughout the conference was the Gaza Strip. Both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are shrouded in controversy between the Israelis and the Palestinians; however, the major topic of this conference was how the establishment of a free economical trade zone could help revitalize the poor economical situation of the Palestinians. Thus islands could only be placed off the coast. That means "land-locked" West Bank could not possibly be the focus. "Land for Peace" - was the original title of the project. It may have been the utopian goal of the conference, but in reality, there were motions within the conference to rename it when it became apparent that the new land created would do little to bring about peace. In reality, the conference turned more into a how can we create an economic hub for major industries to invest money into.

Do not take this wrong; the reasoning for this economic hub had the possibility to help bring the two sides closer to peace. In concept, the prevailing idea is that the Palestinians are more hostile due to their economic conditions. By creating this economic hub, it would establish new jobs. New jobs would then lead to an increase in the Palestinian economic status. The new islands would also reduce Palestine's dependence on Israel's controlled resources - just one of the numerous problems between the two sides. The conference was just a starting point, and the goal was definitely loftier in principle. Reporting should be facts though, not lofty expectations. Perhaps the article should have been an editorial. There was enough opinion from some single third party source as if it was somehow directing the articulation of the article.

As a contributor as well as someone who participated within the conference, I find it offensive that a project of this magnitude that brought the many disciplines of Roger Williams together was not covered more thoroughly. Instead, it received a brief summary that could have been lifted from one of the numerous publicity campaigns by the school (I am not saying you did this). I just think that if this Macro Development was as great as you are claiming, the article should have contained greater detail to make front page instead of being buried on page 7.

-Robert Larson

CAMPUS LIFE

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Retirement cont. from page 6

right in the classroom while in the middle of explaining something. I can almost see the scales fall from a student's eyes when he/she "gets it." There is nothing so cool as that!"

After coming here in the fall of 1969 English Professor Dr. Philip Szenher is retiring at the conclusion of the school year but had never paid it mind until he was 55. "The University has until recently a program to encourage long time faculty to consider early retirement, Szenher says. The main reason for this program derived from the fact that so many faculty were hired in the early 1970's and that a disproportionate number of faculty was "graying." The administration thought that by encouraging older faculty to retire before, say 65, they could hire younger faculty to replace them and avoid the danger of seeing too many faculty turn 65 at the same time."

Szenher says his decision to retire was based on his desire to cultivate other aspects of his academic and artistic interests.

Since retirement is on Szenher's immediate horizon he notes he would try to travel and explore places like Alaska and Scotland. Will he become the stereotypical Floridian golfer?

"Well, if I could hit a ball straight enough, I'd probably join them, but frankly, I'm not much of a duffer." Szenher does not rule out a part time return.

Grandgeorge reminisces about his many years at RWU, including much of the campus being built over wooded areas and farmlands, and anti-Vietnam protests which on one occasion led to a cancelled class.

Grandgeorge says that perhaps in three years he will retire. "When your 70 anything can go wrong. I feel perfectly fine today, how do I know something won't collapse tomorrow? I'm a pretty active guy. I'm

senior warden of Saint Michaels Church in Bristol. My three grandsons keep me busy, and I love my students."

Stein says, "I don't feel old. Every once in a while I look at my drivers license and 'son of a gun, I'm old!' Stein jokes, "The fall of the stock market didn't alter my plans."

Stein says he sees no need to start thinking about retirement and he has "at least 10 years."

"If younger faculty start saying, 'Stein it's ready for you to go, you're taking up valuable office space,' then maybe."

Ten years left would put Stein at the University for 46 years. Stein jokes, "Absolutely, get rid of that Grandgeorge and Blackburn. I'll be number one (tenured)!"

During the summers Stein writes, sails, reads, and travels with his wife. Stein says, "I have a bad leg and don't play golf, or tennis. I would love to do these things. I did want to pitch, but I can't do that. I'm not going to be running the Boston Marathon. It's a liberating job. I have no idea what I would do if I was retired."

The longest tenured faculty members appear to be sticking around at least a little longer. Perhaps it is the addictive atmosphere of intellectual stimulation and friendship among students and faculty some cited. Or maybe there really is no specific age at which people should be retiring. These iron men and women could go as long as they desire. While many are nowhere near ready to retire or deliver a retirement message everyone will do so at one point in their life. This is Dr. Szenher's salute.

"Teaching at RWU has been a key component in the fulfillment of my personal goals. Thanks to family, my teachers, RWU faculty and administration colleagues, and the 3000 or so RWU students enrolled in my classes over the years who supported me for doing what I love."

Seniors graduate with creative honors

By Blaine Moffa
Co-Editor

Two senior thesis readings were held last Wednesday and Sunday to give Creative Writing majors an opportunity to read pieces they have been working on all semester.

The students all shared poems and fiction that had been examined by numerous revision tools including peer groups, faculty edits and constant workshops.

The three creative writing thesis faculty members have been working with the majority of these seniors for four years, and the students' progress shown was worth the effort.

"The most fulfilling thing is to have these students in beginning [creative writing] and then watch them here," Alvanas said after Wednesday's reading.

Former RWU creative writing professor Martha Christina attended the readings too, and saw major improvements from students she taught two years ago.

"It is so diverse, there is a lot of range," she praised.

The thesis readings give students a chance to recognize their individual voice and style. With such a diverse group of writers, the abilities of each student are always a satisfactory

surprise.

Pieces read during the thesis included a fictional tale of surviving in Manhattan by Maryl Diamond, a mimic of Rick

book. "So I did what we all do, I took shots at an author that has been dead for a hundred years." Several workshops later he finalized "That Bastard



Photo by Blaine Moffa

Above, Steve Martinez reads his own fiction piece entitled "Pops" during senior thesis.

Moody's story "Boys" by Steve Martinez (where the reiteration of one phrase in each sentence for several pages is a skill in itself), and a sarcastic twist in poetry by Greg Abazorius. He said that during finals week the last thing he felt like doing was reading a

Faulkner."

The thesis readings are held every spring for senior majors, and it is a great opportunity for minors, core concentrators or interested students to come hear the students read the work they have spent most their four years fine-tuning.

QRI leaves semester with notable improvements

By Bill Monighetti
Contributing Writer

The upcoming week will see the end of what has been a very productive Year for 88.3 WQRI. Within the past year, Matt Butler along with his fellow board members have made great strides to further the progress of WQRI.

During the beginning of the year, QRI was broadcast out of a small, very hot room, isolated behind the Other Place. About half way through the first

semester, the booth was relocated to a more practical location: the second floor of the Rec Center, overlooking Fresh Bytes. The club's growing CD collection has gone from virtually nonexistent at the beginning of the year to their now several hundred CDs, from Andrew WK to Zwan.

This year has also seen the rise of a music club, which will be run by Peter Bartash next year. The club has made strides to purchase a drum kit, pa, and practice space since its creation last

semester.

WQRI has encouraged several specialty shows over the course of the year, which are shows that can either focus on a style of music that hasn't received enough attention, or used to preview a newly released CD (a la MTV's "The Leak"). Although regular programming will stop, specialty shows will continue until the end of this academic year through finals week.

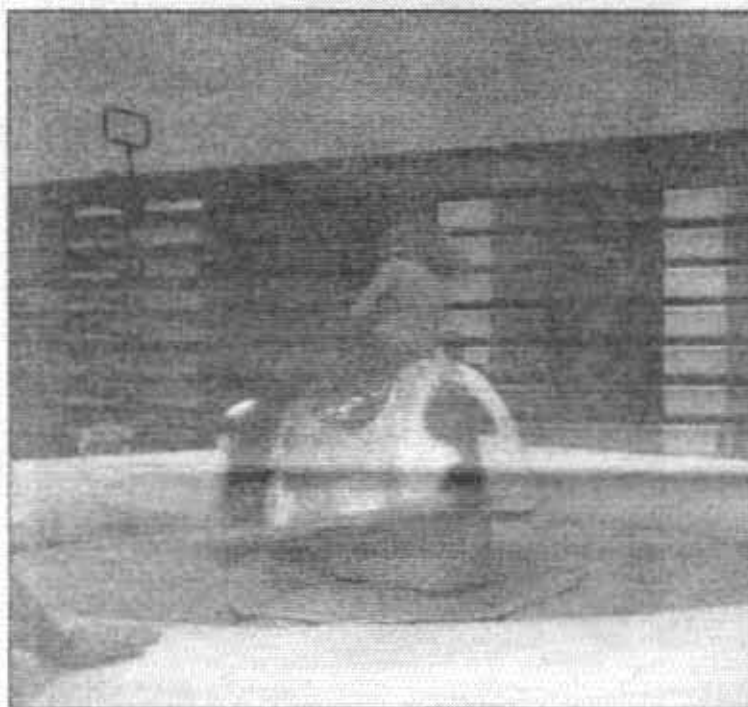
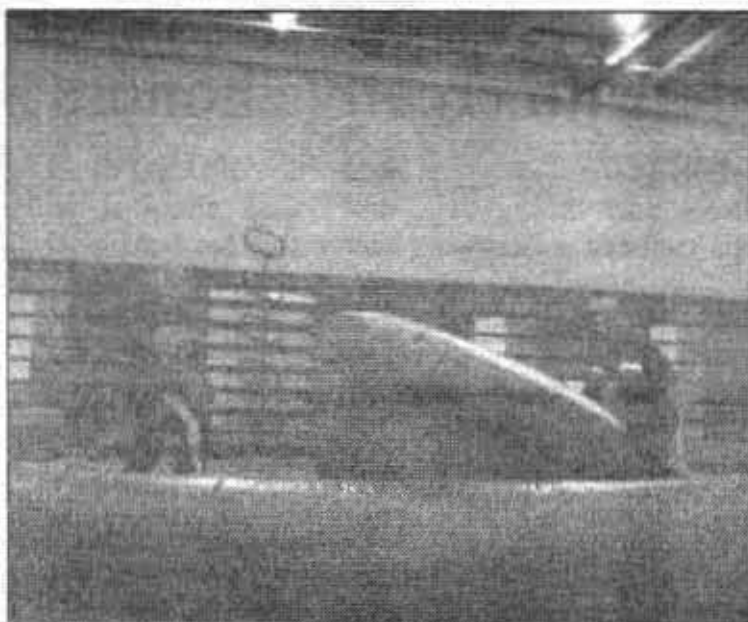
88.3 WQRI has accomplished its goal of improving the club in virtually every aspect. Now it is up to you, the potential listener, to support your college radio station.

SPRING WEEKEND

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Roger Williams University

Monday, May 3, 2004



Photos courtesy of Jason Turcotte and Rhaine Moffa



A "Wild Wild Western" Spring Weekend

Aubrey Joyce

The theme of this year's spring weekend was "Wild Wild West". Spring weekend sprung off with a daytime event in the Student Union from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21. The union was decorated with Wild Wild West paraphernalia and free Polaroids were being offered for anyone who wanted to get in tune with their inside cowboy. On Thursday, CEN sponsored a concert featuring Maroon 5. On Friday, the Quad Fest and Daytime Program was held in the D'Angelo Common from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Friday night, students got their groove on at the Chameleon Club dance from 10:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. Saturday was a full day of spring events with the MSU Basketball Jam at the Cedar Hall basketball courts, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Then the annual spring weekend Block Party was held from 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Fireworks, followed by an outdoor movie behind the Student Union, marked the end of spring weekend.

If students look a little more worn-out this week, it might not be final examinations; it might be because of this year's jam-packed Wild spring weekend.



CAMPUS LIFE

Volume 14, Issue 22

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Monday, May 3, 2004

Lending a helping hand to the four-legged and homeless

By Nicole Da Silva Johrden
Contributing Writer

The walls are a baby pink and trimmed with a "kittens-in-spring-time" border. Work-study students hand painted butterflies and playful mice. The 10-by-13 square-foot room is traced with cat condominiums, scratch posts and just about every toy imagined, a kitty's paradise.

Along with the fact that an animal is never turned away, or put out to pasture due to lack of interest, the Healthy Cat Room is one of several differences that sets the Bristol Animal Care and Control Center apart from other animal shelters.

Diane Gibree, an employee of the shelter for more than 22 years, recalls the building when it was just a simple wooden shell with chicken wire for a kennel. "As a child I would always come and cut the wire, letting my dog out of the kennel." Along with the seven to eight work-study students from Roger Williams who can work at any given time, Jen Federico, a Roger Williams graduate, Gibree and Jim Maderos work as full time employees.

Its 2:30 on a Monday afternoon. All the remaining dogs were adopted; out of the 10 cats present last week, 4 remain. The friendly wonderer, Dot, a black and white short hair, comes over to purr a hello in the Healthy Cat Room. The more anti-social Elvira, Cali and Phoebe look on and relax high in their kitty condominiums. Subsequent to some after-

noon playtime, the cats are left to relax as the chinchilla has its cage cleaned. Animal other than cats and dogs are often donated for educating purposes when employees go to schools or hold in-house presentations in order to teach children about proper animal treatment.

Afternoons can be a bit slow on occasion. That's usually when work-study students and volunteers organize food donations, add finishing touches to animal murals and make sure that nothing needs to be cleaned in the out-dog kennel.

Through the process of

place of rest behind the kennel, surrounded by pansies and marked with a loving head stone.

While there is no rule that says cats must always be contained in the eight cages available, following a recent inspection, authorities are trying to limit the shelter's in-take and close down the Healthy Cat Room. They say they believe there's a possibility of the cats being endangered through the open socialization with other cats.

The shelter encourages a safe family environment. Work-study Jennifer Gardner makes the point

to remove any curtains or scratching posts made of wood and carpet just doesn't make any sense. It's the same environment a house would have. If a cat is trained properly you don't have it in a cage all day, you let it roam around your house. Here we have the cat room as the place for them to roam around and call their own."

All cat towers and condominiums in the shelter were built and donated, due to the fact that new rules may be passed, the shelter is looking for architecture students to volunteer their time in renovating the cat room. The design would call for materials such as PVC piping rather than wood and textiles other than carpet. Everything costs money,

while attending Roger Williams University and a few years after graduation has come to work full-time. "We are one of the few shelters with a healthy cat play room; we have a successful adoption rate and are always willing to take in more. Due to our high adoption rate, we may have had a full house at times but we never have gotten to the point where we have had to turn animals away. If that point came, we would find accommodations at another shelter as soon as possible." The shelter is often visited by returning customers, and keeps in touch with donors and adopted families. Supporters come to visit and leave their "two cents" through out the day, on their way home from work or on a lunch break, as some students do.

At the close of the day talks of driving to a Fall River, Mass. shelter are underway. With the kennel empty and a surplus in dog food, accommodations are more than comforting for dogs used to overcrowded large-city shelters. Floors are wiped down one last time, the garbage is emptied and animals are checked before humans leave for the night. A little extra time is given to the two new cats that were left on the front step this morning. All the cages are cleaned one last time, left with ample food and water, along with a few toys to give amusement during the night.

"It will all happen again tomorrow," Federico says.

"There might be some new animals but the process will be the same. They will be cared for and safe while looking for homes."

"We are one of the few shelters with a healthy cat play room; we have a successful adoption rate and are always willing to take in more. Due to our high adoption rate we may have had a full house at times but we never have gotten to the point where we have had to turn animals

the day, a doghouse is donated; a frightened baby squirrel is brought in and evaluated, and the business ends of faxes and phone calls are dealt with. Two cats left on the shelter property are quarantined and cared for until they have the proper medical attention and their personalities are evaluated. The process usually lasts a few weeks, with individual playtime for healthy cats. Healthy cats are then posted on Petfinder.com, where potential families can search for the perfect pet.

The duration of an animal visits at the shelter can be days, weeks or years. Recently, Kasha died of heart disease after being at the shelter for 14 years. The Doberman mix acted as a guard dog and has her own

that no animals have ever been hurt while playing in the cat room. "Cats need to be able to socialize with other animals, and not be confined to a cage for the majority of the day, if they are they just won't know how to adapt when they are adopted," she says.

Each cage costs approximately \$800 and often is paid for through donations. As the shelter stands now there are eight regulation cat cages and 14 dog cages with two used for quarantine purposes. The cat playroom allows for the socializing atmosphere cats need. Garner states, "The cat room is never overcrowded with cats, and the environment is similar to if they were living in a home. Houses contain curtains, carpet and wood. To ask us

however, and if the shelter is told the cat room is no longer allowed they will most likely have to close down due to lack of funds and space.

Visitors and volunteers are encouraged to add their "two cents" to the wall of testimonial to the competence of the shelter, located near the front desk. A large cork board is covered with the colored post-it notes containing encouragement, support and yes two cents. In addition, a fish large fish bowl filled the majority of the way with pennies sits on a wooden file cabinet next to a petition containing hundreds of signatures.

Jennifer Federico has spent four years at the shelter working part time

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Photo by Blaine Moffa

"Show 'em Up!"

CAMPUS LIFE

Volume 14, Issue 22

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Monday, May 3, 2004

Another one of those block-rockin' beats

By Blaine Moffa
Co-Editor

The ever-popular dance show had the Field House packed last Tuesday night as the RWU dance club put on their yearly spring performance. Dozens of parents and students filled the gym to watch performances by the club that once had minimal participants, and now has grown to 250 members.

The RWU Color Guard opened the show and performed once again before intermission. A surprisingly silent and coordinated routine kept the gym in anticipation before the small group launched into a second sequence to a Jock Jams number. The girls displayed an

appreciation for the audience.

Twenty-five members choreographed the eighteen numbers, and credit goes out to all of them. The dance show this spring was the most skillful, most diverse and most entertaining as it has been in at least three years. Hoxie, Riker, Marak and Mosher are unquestionably skilled and impressive dancers; but the team as a whole generated enough talent and energy on stage that it was a shame the show couldn't have been held in an arena. Four male dancers made appearances, and gave the audience an extra chance to cheer with approval. Aaron Hampton, Jeff Thibeau and Michael Perry participated in numbers, and Billy Leaver gave a cameo to the beginning of "I Love Rock and Roll" to

for Donna Summer's "Last Dance" and a techno dance mix filled the Field House with an explosive finish to a two hour show, the beginning section was at most striking. About half a dozen girls started with a chair-routine for Def Leppard's "Pour Some Sugar on Me," and only three words truly capture the moment: Black Light Responsive!

4. "It's Alright" (choreographed by Dakota Allstadt): Who knew old ladies could be so seductive and sultry? Credit Allstadt for a fun-ride through a song complete with girdles, walkers and fur coats.

3. "The Epic" (choreographed by Sarah Bousquet): In an emotional tribute to her father, Captain Gerald Bousquet, this number was complete with respectful silence as eight girls used ballet and Evanescence's "My Immortal" to display passionate art at it's best.

2. "Show 'em Up" (choreographed by Nellie Ferreira, Maria Ahmed and Aaron Hampton): Undoubtedly a crowd favorite, this hip hop mixed with a little urban street dancing made the RWU students in the bleachers go wild. Not to mention Hampton's help in choreographing or participation.

1. "Rahzel's Girls" (choreographed by Heather Gantkin and Kim Tamaro): With a quintet on stage, these girls brought back tap in a flashy way. Started by a small rhythm-making skit, they lit up the stage with innovative routines to some old school beat-boxing.

5. "Striperella" (choreographed by Susan Hoxie): While the group performances



A quartet shuffles the stage as old women during their performance of "It's Alright."

energetic stage performance to launch the show.

There was a touching tribute to dance senior co-captains Susan Hoxie and Lauren Riker, as well as credit to the teams secretary and treasurer, Stephanie Marak and Stefanie Mosher. The team also gave a personalized sweatshirt to Gordon Wood, for which he shook his groove thing in

help Courtney Scherer as she skillfully sang a verse and chorus of the Joan Jett song.

The run-down of performances were so impressive it is unfortunate length does not permit enough of a review for each individually. But a top five is necessary.

5. "Striperella" (choreographed by Susan Hoxie): While the group performances



All photos credit to Blaine Moffa

The club works toward a last pose during their final number, "Striperella."

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As the semester draws to a close, so too has the Words To Live By Quote Nomination Event. Many of you probably noticed the florescent green box prominently located near the library's main entrance, and many of you entered your favorite quotes. All entries were appreciated, but as promised, only three could be chosen at random to receive a \$25 gift certificate to the library book store. These three winners are: Dianne Comiskey, Ashley Gingerella, and John Schlinke. So congratulations to those who won, but to those of you who didn't, don't despair! The Words To Live By project will be started again in the beginning of next semester, where the RWU campus and Bristol community will again come together in a celebration of books and knowledge. If anyone is interested in working on the project, more volunteers will be needed. On that note, many thanks are in order for helping to successfully complete this service project, especially Peter Deekle, Debbie Mulligan, Dianne Comiskey, Linda Cambra, and Kate Mele. Once again thank you, and I look forward to continuing this project into the fall.

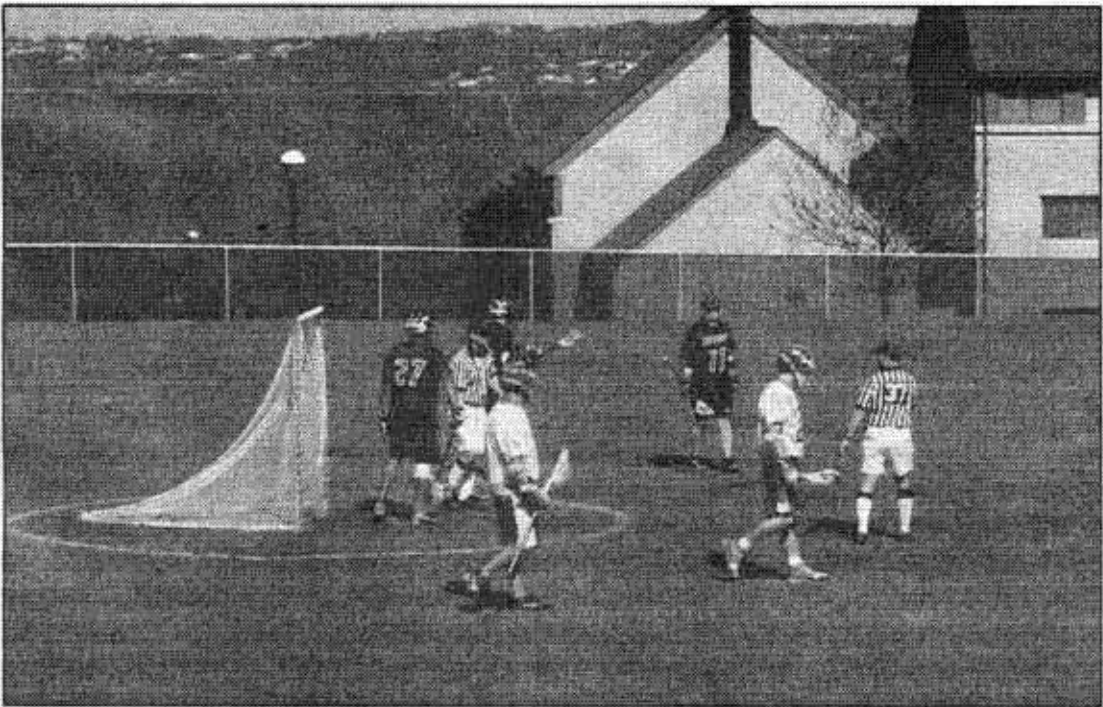
Audra Medeiros

SPORTS

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Roger Williams University

Monday, May 3, 2004



Rugby team suffers loss in Beast of the East

By Richard Trueblood
Contributing Writer

After two hard-fought matches against Providence College and Bentley College, the Hawks rugby squad was knocked out of the "Beast of the East" tournament.

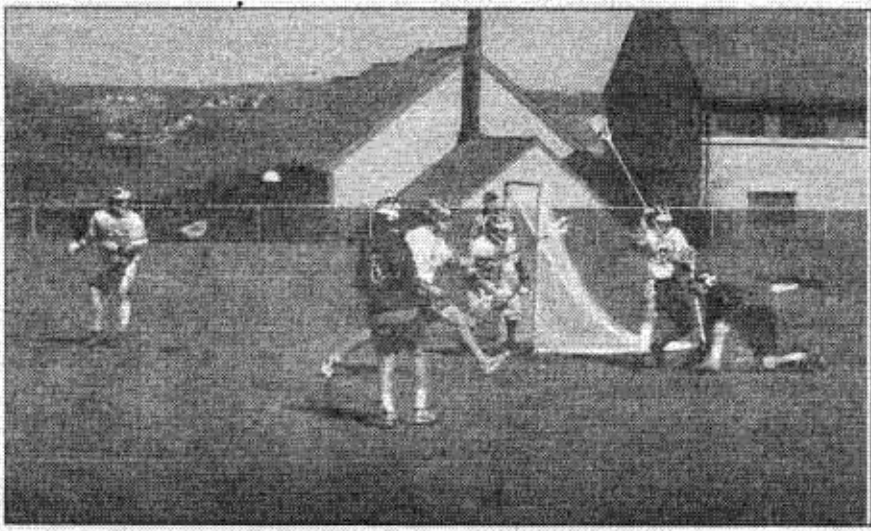
The Hawks came out strong against PC, keeping the lead for most of the match, but fell short in the end, losing due to a tri late in the last minutes. In their match against Bentley, the Hawks could not maintain their composure and drew costly penalties.

Despite the losses, the team was not discouraged.

Senior Paul Zekus gave a positive outlook. "[The game against Providence College] was the most technically sound rugby that I've ever seen us play... It gives the guys something to build off of for next year."

Head Coach Mike Cox shared similar feelings, and is already planning the fall season. The team also plans on participating in local rugby tournaments throughout the summer.

The Beast of the East is the largest collegiate rugby tournament in the world, with 75 teams competing this year, in both men's and women's rugby.



The men's and women's lacrosse teams, as well as the Lady Hawks softball team, played several impressive games over spring weekend, giving fans and parents a chance to support RWU athletics.

photos by Jason
Trotter

SPORTS

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Ultimate sport

By Tim Mannion
Contributing Writer

The meeting lasted for a little over forty-five minutes. Several of the players were not in attendance, half having prior arrangements in the library or slacking off in their dorm rooms. The team had enough meetings during the year to know that not everyone would make it to the architecture building at 10 p.m. Most had donned their Roger Williams hoodies, one was in rollerblades and others just came as they would to any other campus club meeting. Everything was in shambles after five minutes. Side conversations arose: the weekend's events, cleats, chocolate bread and sleeping arrangements for their trip on Friday.

This is not an ordinary sports team at RWU. This is the Ultimate Frisbee team. Everyone has seen them at one time or another practicing in the field in front of the school or creating drama in the cafeteria. They wouldn't call it

drama if you asked them, though. They call it life.

The team was founded three years ago by senior Jason Pedicone and ten other students who wanted to get together during their free time and play pick-up games. That all changed last year when a group of freshman decided to turn Ultimate into a full-time sport with everyday practice. The leaders of the now sophomore unit include Jake Cormier and Ted Browar-Jaris, who are two of the five core players voted by the team.

The team is built upon youth now, including fifteen sophomores and two freshmen, but still has veteran leadership with three juniors and two seniors. This mixture is pretty easy to stir. They play in co-ed open league tournaments.

The RWU team has two girls who play, one who says she is the best player on the team. This theory has been challenged, but none dare to take the risk of openly admitting it because of the possible beating that would ensue. One thing that is unchal-



lenged about the team: the arrival of the sophomores has created terrific play and a new-found attitude.

Last year RWU walked into the Princeton tournament with the help of team leader Ted Browar-Jaris.

"Ted knew the people to call to get us into the tournament," says Jake Cormier. Getting in wasn't enough for this team though. They finished fifth last year and were thrown back into the mix when Princeton came calling again. The Hawks dominated the tournament 7-0 this year and came out

with a world ranking of #133.

"We had only one year of hardcore Frisbee experience before this year. The success we've seen in the past year has been phenomenal; we're on our way up," said Cormier.

With all that, the team still hasn't found time to really look back and appreciate what they have done to raise the standards of Frisbee here at RWU.

They have upcoming tournaments through the rest of this year and are making strides at boosting

their world ranking, but their main goal over the next two years is to help people get interested in the sport.

"Our number one priority is to recruit as many as we can before we graduate. The worst thing we can do is settle for what we have now," Cormier added.

Joining the team is the easy part. Just look for the students who carry their Frisbees around everywhere they go. Some would call it dedication - they call it life.

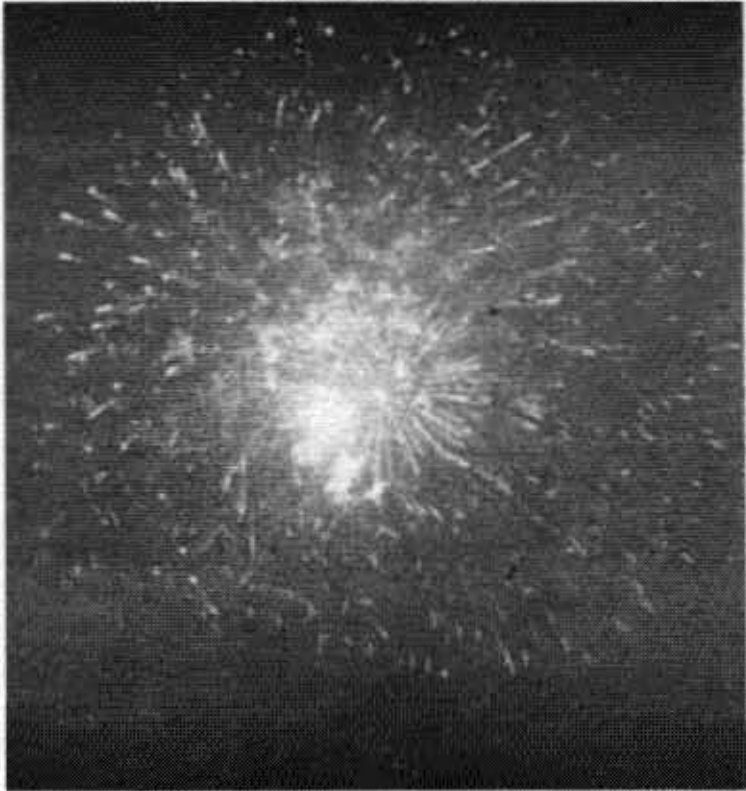


Photo by Zora Salov
RWU ends year with a bang and a boom as CEN delivers spectacular fireworks over the bay.