

3-3-2006

## Hawks' Herald -- March 3, 2006

Roger Williams University

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### Recommended Citation

Roger Williams University, "Hawks' Herald -- March 3, 2006" (2006). *Hawk's Herald*. Paper 46.  
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## Blue and Golden RWU celebrates 50th anniversary

Sarah Cournoyer  
News Editor

Recognizing our Past, Celebrating our Present, Building our Future is the slogan for the 50<sup>th</sup> year of Roger Williams University.

On Thursday, February 23, the anniversary of RWU, friends of the university, students, faculty, alumni, staff and politicians celebrated the event. According to university estimates, over 600 people were in attendance.

President Roy Nirschel opened his speech with these words, "50 years ago today, our founding fathers decided that this state needed a junior college."

"I remember when RWU began at the YMCA, and now it has moved to one of the most beautiful locations," said Governor Donald Carcieri. "[RWU] is one of the most rapidly growing universities in the nation."

The chairman of the Board, Ralph R. Palpito attended the event and concentrated his speech on the major changes he has seen over the past 35 years.

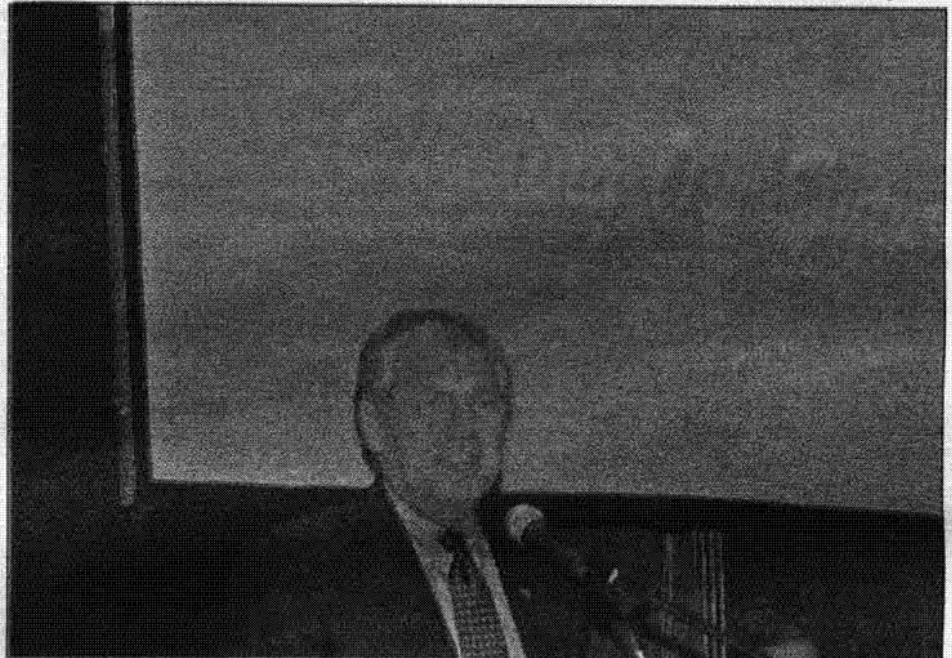
"[In the past 35 years], I have seen the school grow from a small struggling school to a private thriving school," said Palpito. "We've accomplished a lot in the last decade."

Expanding on the idea of improvement, Nirschel discussed the core value of learning to bridge the world.

"We have students from 40 states and from every continent except Antarctica," said Nirschel. "Our programs reach out to places from Providence to Vietnam and from Bristol to Hong Kong. At RWU, we take learning to bridge the world very seriously."

According to Palpito other aspects of RWU have also improved.

"Faculty is better and more dedicated than ever, which is the reason why students come to study and stay," said Palpito. "Ninety percent of the faculty have PhDs.



Christopher Parish

Above: Governor Donald Carcieri speaks at the 50th Anniversary kickoff event at the Biltmore Hotel on Thursday, February 23. Left: The clock tower displays the new 50th logo. Below: Students, faculty, friends of the university and alumni enjoyed hors d'oeuvres at the event.

I would get great satisfaction if 100 percent and if all programs were accredited as highly as they could be."

Many of the speakers also spoke about the addition of the first law school in Rhode Island to the RWU community and its accreditation.

Congressman Patrick Kennedy agreed.

"I am grateful to the Nirschels' leadership," said Kennedy. "The law school is such an asset to the state, and it has been an honor to work with Senator Jack Reid to help provide resources."

Alumni Jason Pettacomb (class of 2004) was asked to speak. He was given the honor of Fulbright scholar, the first from RWU.

"RWU has been my nurturing mother," said Pettacomb. "Professors and faculty have nurtured my learning and that experience at RWU has stayed with me."

Governor Carcieri concluded his speech, by reading a proclamation written by the Governor's office. "Now, therefore, I Governor Donald Carcieri, of the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations do hereby proclaim, February 24, 2006 as Roger Williams University Day."

Kennedy and Lieutenant Governor Charles J. Fogarty recognized the memorable occasion with their own proclamations and plaques expressing hope for the future and to recognizing the commitment RWU has to educational excellence.

Politicians recognized February 23 as RWU day in Providence because that was the evening of the kickoff event at the Biltmore, but in the state of Rhode Island, they proclaimed February 24 as RWU day in the state of Rhode Island.

"We knew a couple of the proclama-

tions but not all, so it was a nice surprise," said commission co-chair Allison Chase-Padula. "To invite important people like we did is kind of catch and go. All of them were able to make it though, so that was really nice."

Displays were set up throughout the ballroom with pictures of construction of Cedar and Stonewall and pictures of past classes and events. A display cases with academic and athletic awards were also around the room. Coordinators were also able to get the original charter for the school.

To view the displays from the kickoff event at the Biltmore, and the proclamations read, visit the foyer of the University Library.

In addition to speeches made by politicians, administration and alumni, university faculty and staff unveiled the new website, Little Roger, an anniversary video and the 50<sup>th</sup> logo.

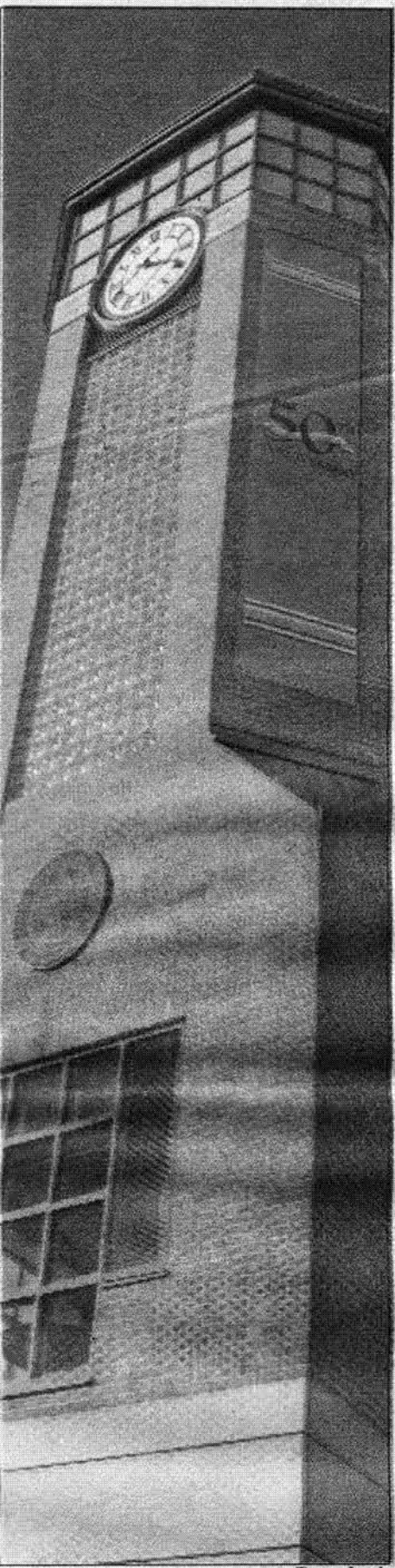
On the website, one can find information on upcoming events and view pictures from the past fifty years. The website can be viewed at [www.50th.rwu.edu](http://www.50th.rwu.edu).

"Josh Cliff did a phenomenal job [on the website]," said 50<sup>th</sup> Commission Co-chair Allison Chase Padula. "It looks so different than what we've done before. It has a creative look."

According to the commission, the website will be continually updated with quotes, photos and other submissions.

"Everytime you go, there will be something new," said 50<sup>th</sup> Commission Co-chair John Lindsay. "The website helps connect those far away such as Alumni who couldn't be there or those students

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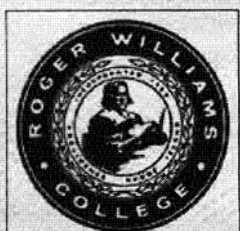


Tracey Lemle

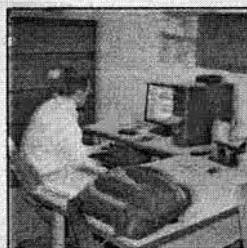


Christopher Parish

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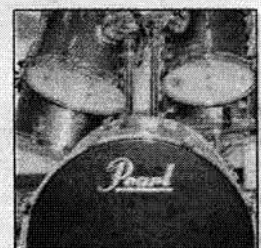
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# “From Bayside, with Love”

## “The Perfect Excuse”



Chris Villano  
Herald Staff

Do you ever wake up in the morning and begin to rehash all the events of the previous night and realize that some incidents are unjustifiable? You close your eyes and sigh, “that didn’t really happen” you think to yourself as you lie in bed with your socks still on. Somehow “well, I was really drunk last night” just doesn’t cut it as a reasonable excuse. However, it’s taken me awhile to realize this but; your friend’s birthday is the perfect excuse for anything.

No matter what you did the night before, “it was so&so’s birthday last night so” is like a get out of jail free card. When I was a kid, the best thing about a friend’s birthday was probably bringing home the goody bags provided by super-moms across the country. Now, the same principal still exists, actually no, the only comparison I can draw is something to do with goody bags but I’m just not going to go there.

Your friend’s birthday (on campus) is also a perfect excuse for a visit from one or more of their friends from “home.” Last year I described the experience of visiting a friend at their college or university as “a weekend long freak show where you sleep on floors and drink entire bottles of 99 apples while disrespecting everyone you see, because you’ll never see them again.” So for those people visiting, it’s the perfect excuse to go crazy.

This creates somewhat of “a perfect storm of the perfect excuse,” everyone participating in the festivities is operating within the perfect excuse principal and the only possible outcome is a maelstrom of mayhem.

Your friend’s birthday is the perfect excuse for openly admitting to a same sex friend (in a non-gay way) that “I love you man, no no seriously, I love you man we’ve been through so much (burp) shit together it’s just like, dude... seriously (end with hug).” This is fine, as long as you don’t cross the line into a Clam phone conversation, “no, you hang up first, no you, no I love you more, no, no (giggle) you hang up first, no I do!” You know what I’m talking about.

Your friend’s birthday is the perfect excuse to buy a 50 dollar bottle of Patron Tequila and chase it with a 17 cent can of

Genny Light (that stuff is foul, I don’t care what it costs).

Your friend’s birthday is the perfect excuse to skip class and go to the Newport Storm brewery 20 minutes down the road and get drunk for free. Side note: if you’ve never done this before I highly HIGHLY recommend it, a small man or an average size girl can get drunk on good beer for free before 7:30 on a Friday. Speaking of skipping class, I’m going to start giving the slow clap to any freshman I see walking from willow to north campus in this absurdly cold weather, especially in the morning. My roommate randomly said to me the other night “if we still lived in Willow I would never go to class in North Campus.” I have to agree, you kids are my heroes and you inspire me to keep livin’ the dream.

Your friend’s birthday is the perfect excuse to throw every empty beer bottle into the wall, just to watch them smash. Smashing glass really makes you feel like a man, especially if you’ve been drinking.

Your friend’s birthday is the perfect excuse to put on a sparring helmet and slide head first down a flight of stairs on your closet door (with or without a partner).

Your friend’s birthday is the perfect excuse to be a guy dancing on a table in a room full of guys... actually, no, that’s never ok (Pat).

Hey, this reminds me, didn’t Roger Williams University turn 50 this past weekend? (See photo)

I’d also like to make reference to last issue’s censorship of my column. I honestly didn’t mind it at all, I just felt bad for all the people who submitted facts and were told by me they were going to get printed in the top 15 list. But overall, I think we should feel accomplished. On the same day the President of the University held a forum on the concept of “Free Speech,” the University censored its students. And by “we” I mean, Greg Walsh, Bumpy Cain, Just Call me Cho, A Willow 42ite, Anonymous F, Kist of Death, Chilli, P-dough and Willow 53, myself, and of course A Red headed Step Child. Take a bow.

**Editor’s Note:** The views in Chris Villano’s column are not condoned by the editorial staff.



ASK MEG & ASH

Dear Meg and Ash,

I’m going away on Spring Break with a bunch of my friends. My boyfriend is coming with us too, but he’s not friends with any of the same people. I’m kind of nervous that personalities might clash. What can I do to ensure a good SB?

-Scared Spring Breaker

Dear Scared,

This is a very common worry and we’re sure a lot of people are facing this same problem. What about getting everyone together before you guys leave? The best way to help the situation is to make sure everyone meets before the vacation. Have a pizza party or something social. You don’t want any unexpected surprises. Talk to your friends and your boyfriend about any concerns that they have with each other. This may not be that bad of a situation ... they could instantly bond and become close and then there are no worries! Just make sure that everyone show each other respect and there shouldn’t be a problem. Have fun!

MEG & ASH

Dear Meg and Ash,

I’ve been going to the gym for about 2 months to get in shape for Spring Break and I still haven’t seen the results that I really want. I’m going away with a lot of people and I feel like I’m going to be embarrassed and ashamed when I have to get into a bathing suit in front of everyone! HELP!

-Self Conscious About Spring Break

Dear Self-Conscious,

Ok ... first of all, EVERYONE else is feeling like this! Not one person is loving the way their body looks right now. Don’t try and kill yourself to get some unattainable body to impress people. If these people are really your friends then this shouldn’t be an issue at all. Don’t ruin your spring break thinking about how you look! We know how hard it is, but try to enjoy the sun and relaxation. If you’re really feeling bad then pick a bathing suit that works with your body type. Ask an employee at the store to help you pick something that fits your body. Don’t try and become stick thin ... just try and be healthy. Eat right, exercise and take good care of yourself. That above all should really make you feel good about yourself. Good luck and try and fight the pressure!

MEG & ASH

Meg and Ash are RWU’s own personal advice gurus. These experienced advice columnists have contributed to the Hawks Herald for over a year and are ready to take on more of your emotional challenges. Write to Meg and Ash at [askmeg\\_ash@hotmail.com](mailto:askmeg_ash@hotmail.com).



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# Is it ok to say the "N" word?

Charlie Schipani  
Herald Staff

The multicultural center was packed Tuesday night, as eager students filed into a small room to discuss a term, widely regarded as offensive and demeaning.

The word 'nigger' has been used for centuries by all types of people all over the world, but ultimately does it hold the same meaning? Is it offensive to call another person a nigger, and if one African American calls another a nigger is it tolerable? All of these questions came to the table, as students offered their thoughts, questions, concerns and queries.

Many people showed up to this meeting (over one-fourth of the people that attended were African American) and all of them brought their thoughts about the usage of the word. "It is a painful and ignorant term" one black woman remarked. One Caucasian student asked "is the word ok for black people to use?" The idea today is that among African Americans, black people as a whole are allowed to use the word, holding a double standard for white people.

A term that dates back beyond the times of slavery seems to be the word to use in this day, while many hear it wherever they go, ranging from bars, streets and even when they turn on the TV. One black student explained his moral beliefs

towards the word as, "The more diverse the easier it is to take." The student went on to say that some blacks who have spanned the world, encountering new people and cultures have an easier time taking in the word, when called a 'nigger.'

For many black people, the word is taken offensively every time they hear it. Depending upon the temperament of a kid; whereas calling one black kid the

said. "I don't see it as a variation." Interestingly, the attendance of black people during this meeting split down the middle in terms of their ideals towards the word. Half find it offensive and don't want to hear it, while the other 50 percent tolerate it. As a sign of companionship some black people here at RWU don't mind the terminology.

"The level of comfort and friendship is needed to use this term," one Asian-

As the debate continues in finding middle ground to this hotly contested issue, here at Roger Williams there is clearly a divide. Some African Americans feel that it is ok for the word 'nigger' to be used as long as it is in a tasteful and inoffensive manner.

Others who oppose the idea for the slang term to be used feel very strongly that 'nigger' should never be used, and it is not even appropriate for black people to use, which is always the common argument. One way or another, this topic seems to have no end in sight, devoid of any logical solution as to whether it is to be tolerated or not.

*The word 'nigger' has been used for centuries by all types of people all over the world, but ultimately does it hold the same meaning?*

derogatory word will get you a high-five, calling another black by this term will get you a slap on the face.

"The word has come full circle," said one African American girl, as she explained her theory about the word. The term 'nigger' has made it from the plantation fields, to the MTV shows we see today. People begin to endure the word because it becomes repetitive in their everyday life. There's a more likely chance today, to hear the word being used in music and commercial businesses than ever before. So should the word 'nigger' be held at a standard? Feelings vary.

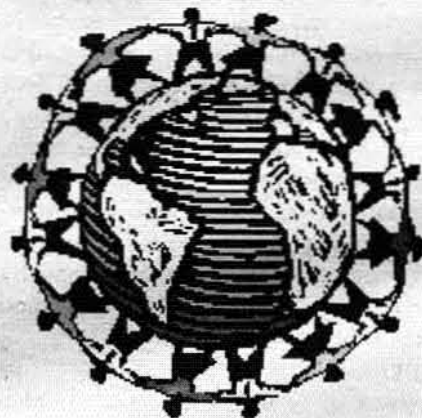
"My Grandma uses nigger as a dumb black person" one African American boy

American stated, as she told her side, observing others using the word. While some blacks accept the word as a colloquial greeting, many Caucasians were curious as to how African Americans felt about them using the word.

For the most part the black students who were present at the discussion felt uncomfortable with white people using the word let alone blacks.

"If I'm a friend with the kid, and he knows me, I might actually laugh if he called me that word," expressed one black male.

Another had a different viewpoint, "I don't tolerate it, and I don't think anybody should be using the word."



# The land before Roger Williams

Phil Devitt  
Herald Staff

Thousands of people call RWU their home away from home. It's a beautiful, bustling seaside campus where students work hard and play hard, earn degrees, forge friendships and make memories. But long before the school existed, this part of the coastline was home to others who ate, prayed, slept, worked and at times, struggled to survive.

The recorded history of what now is the RWU campus reaches into the late fifteenth century; around the time Bristol was founded by British settlers who were eager to start lives in America.

"Bristol wasn't established as a town until 1680," said Ray Battcher, curator librarian for the Bristol Historical and Preservation Society. "The settlers decided the name of the town should be Bristol in the hopes that it would be as prosperous a seaport as Bristol, England."

The Historical and Preservation Society, located at 48 Court Street, originally served as the county jail. It houses an extensive library of historical texts and town records open to the public by appointment. It also contains numerous artifacts from Bristol's past including photos and maps.

Samuel Woodberry, the first town surveyor, circa 1690, drew one of the earliest maps of Bristol. It shows that acres of farmland existed where part of the north campus stands today.

A man named John Smith owned 26 acres along the coast. Today, what was once his property is now the approximate location of Bayside Courts. Men listed as N. Oliver and N. Williams owned farms further inland, extending roughly from what today is Griswold Avenue, south to the present-day Recreation Center and School of Law. J. Davenport and Jos. Jacobs owned farms in the area, too. Theirs were located in the vicinity of the new athletic field across from the North Campus Classroom building.

People lived and worked on these

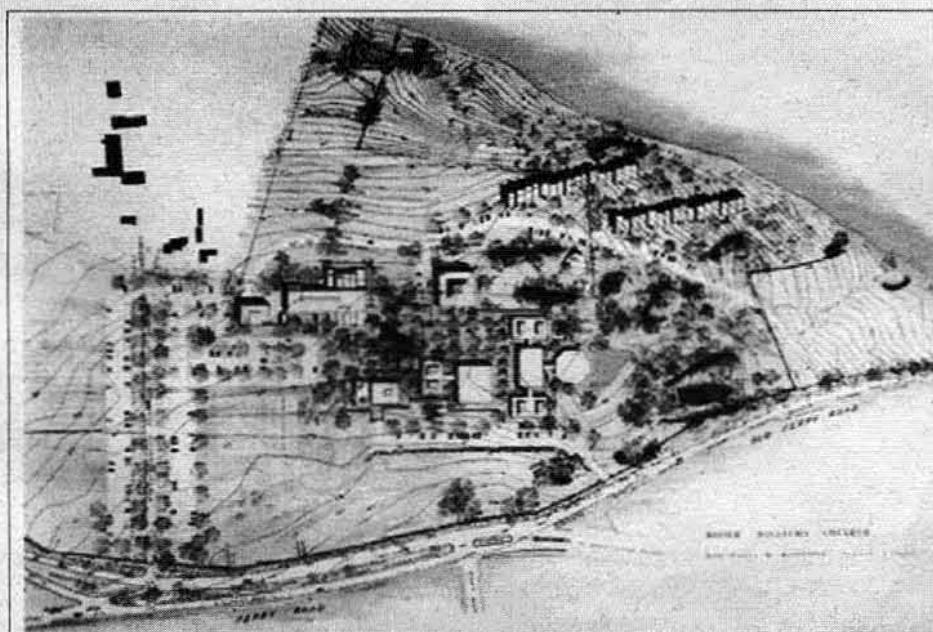
farms for most of the year, but moved north to the center of town when the climate grew cold.

"You lived on the farm during the spring, summer, and fall and around the end of August when the crops were harvested, you moved back to town for winter," said Battcher. "Things were really bad back then with the dirt roads, if there were roads at all. Winters were really grueling and people didn't have the kinds of heating we have now so it made sense to conjugate in town. If you screamed for help there,

back road."

Metacomet was killed at Mount Hope in 1676 after the English surrounded him. Mount Hope is another name that has endured over the centuries in the Bristol area. However, the exact origin is vague.

"There is a lot of debate when it comes to Mount Hope," said Kevin Jordan, former RWU Historic Preservation Director. "Montaup was a Native American word, and a lot of people used to think that Mount Hope was Montaup, and it got corrupted. That's probably the most



www.50th.rwu.edu

somebody might hear you. We have this romanticized vision of the past and we think of John Alden and Priscilla Mullins holding hands as they go to church on Sunday, and it wasn't like that."

Despite the centuries that have passed since Bristol was settled, references to the town's history remain rooted in various ways. Metacom Avenue, which runs the length of the campus, was named after the war chief of the Wampanoag Indians.

"The road is named for Metacomet, which was King Philip's original Native American name," said Battcher. "In the original settling of the town, that road is referred to as the road to Boston, or the

likely story."

References to Mount Hope are spread throughout Bristol and they abound on the RWU campus, which neighbors the Mount Hope Bridge and overlooks Mount Hope Bay. One notable person who had a view of the Bay in the nineteenth century was Ambrose Burnside, a Civil War general who served as Rhode Island governor in the late 1860s and owned a rifle factory in Bristol.

One of Burnside's more peculiar contributions to the world is the term 'sideburn', an adjustment of his last name that was invented to describe facial hair that extends past the ears. This was a look that

Burnside famously sported.

"Burnside had a summer home in Bristol, in the area where the campus is located today," Battcher said. "If there was farmland on the property, I don't think he actually planted any turnips or radishes. He hired people to do that for him."

Over the years, farming was an enduring custom on the peninsula where the university now sits. Ferrycliffe Farm named for a ferry landing next to Mount Hope Bay, contained carriage and hay barns, a machine shop, a greenhouse, a stable and a farmhouse. It dominated the landscape from its inception in the 1870s until part of it was sold to the US for the Project Nike Missile Defense System in 1956. Nike Hall, which served as an army barracks during the project, is now a dormitory.

"Behind the barracks there were some smaller buildings— low buildings with high land built around them," said Jordan. "Explosives used to be kept in there so that if they exploded, the blast would go up instead of sideways and destroy anything else. You can still see that there, though not as easily."

The long agricultural history of the property came to an end in 1967, when the southern 63 acres of Ferrycliffe, famous for its prized Jersey cows, was sold to RWU— then Roger Williams College.

"The person who owned the farm at the time, Dr. Marshall Fulton, was on the board of Roger Williams College when it was in Providence, when an offer was made for the land," said Jordan. "This was at a time when a lot of schools seemed to be moving out of the cities into more rural areas."

Since the move nearly four decades ago, the university has made its own mark on the historical property. The school has flourished into the place students know today, on the same neck of land that people called home more than three centuries ago. And although barns, fields and fences have long since been replaced by classrooms, libraries and dorms, this part of town will always carry a past as rich as the soil on which it was founded.



# Cartoon Complaints

Younna Deiri  
Herald Staff

The RWU Muslim Students Association members (MSA) said last week that they were saddened and concerned about the controversial cartoons showing Prophet Muhammad as a terrorist, published by Jylland-Posten a Danish newspaper early September 2005.

The cartoons triggered a worldwide controversy over whether certain kinds of speech that offend people's beliefs and sensibilities and violate standards of taste and good judgment should be published.

In an interview, board members of MSA expressed their views regarding the cartoons publication.

Muhammad Imran MSA treasurer from India and a junior in Marketing said "there are plenty of similar examples right here in the U.S. Take for example, PETA's campaign "Holocaust on your Plate" against KFC, the fast-food chicken chain. The campaign, in which the slaughter of chickens for KFC restaurants was compared to the Holocaust, drew a great deal of controversy. The Jewish community protested the comparison as a trivialization of the terrible loss of human life."

"For Muslims, depictions of Mohammad as a hate monger are also repugnant," said Vice President of MSA, Nadima Sahar.

MSA members understand that many students on campus might wonder why Muslims around the world are particularly sensitive about any depiction of their Prophet, Mohammad. Who is he in the first place? Why did these particular cartoons generate this wave of anger among Muslims?

In the Islamic religion Prophet Muhammad is believed to be God's prophet and a messenger from Him. He is also believed to be the descendant of Abraham, the patriarch of the Jews.

Senior business-management major Arezo Kohistani, MSA secretary and an

international student from Afghanistan, explained that the Islamic scripture offers dozens of examples in which Prophet Mohammed was a living example of love, peace and tolerance.

"In specific instances in his life, he was attacked, ridiculed and mocked, but he responded with restraint, not hatred. In one incident the Prophet sought to introduce Islam to Al-Tyef residents (a village close to Mecca). He was mocked and stoned until he bled. He responded by praying to God to help these people find the right path," said Kohistani.

Islamic practice also prohibits the use of images in art, especially any depictions of Prophet Mohammed or of God Himself. Thus the drawing of Mohammed not only violated Islam's ban on images, but, more importantly, was seen as defaming the Prophet and his teachings and a representation of Muslims as adhering to a philosophy of hatred and violence.

"Taking into consideration these facts, it is only natural that Muslims seek to set the record straight and combat the cartoon's misleading image of Islam," said MSA members.

MSA members agreed that despite the very offensive nature of the cartoons, MSA categorically rejects all violent demonstrations against them because Islam prohibits such anger.

Mahbooba Babrakzai, the MSA president said "nonviolent protest is ultimately a more effective course of action. For example, Saudi Arabia imposed a boycott on all Danish products in the wake of the cartoon's publication, and that has cost Danish companies almost two million dollars a day. By nonviolent means of protest followers of Islam can voice their concerns and demonstrate their commitment to civil society as well as adhering to their religious tenets and earning the respect they and their religious traditions deserve among other nations"



# RWU's Model UN

Younna Deiri  
Herald Staff

RWU's Model United Nations (MUN) Club participated at the Harvard National MUN conferences that ran from February 16-19. The 20 members were among a total of 3,000 students who attended, representing more than 123 colleges and 183 countries.

The MUN members gathered for the four-day experience, in hopes of learning to bridge the world through demonstrating global competency and practicing cross-cultural communications with students coming from all over the United States and the globe.

Six of the 20 students of the RWU delegation are part of the Plus program (Partnership for Learning Undergraduate Studies) for exchange students.

Through their participation all the MUN members developed a deep sense of responsibility towards solving world problems and promoting good public policy.

At Harvard, MUN students from RWU met students from schools from around the world; conference participants hailed from Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Venezuela and Japan to name a few.

Dr. Mark Sawoski, Political Science Professor and MUN Club Advisor, described the conference by saying, "I was very delighted to see such a diverse body of national and international students

all with the same passion put into one room working to build consensus and solve world problems to make an interdependent world."

Matthew Gullo, president of the club and an International Affairs major said, "All the RWU participating members did a great job. We are truly committed to carrying out our school motto which is 'learning to bridge the world.' I'm so happy that we are competing with some of the best schools around the world, and want to thank the entire RWU staff especially Dr. Sawoski, Dr. Hans Schattle, Dr. Rebecca Leuchak, Dean Ruth Koelle and President Nirschel for their time, and commitment to this program"

At the conference Gullo contributed to writing the first proposed resolution at the Harvard conference and had 84 signatories sign his article. The framework of that article was later passed by the General Assembly.

Fatima Ghailan, a plus student from Morocco majoring in communications, reflected on her experience at Harvard National MUN conference; "The MUN is a very interesting experience. You get to meet students from all over the world, and as a result you will become more world-centric. Also, it helps you become more critical of world problems. It was a good experience where you can get a close feel for how politics works in the real world. It is really exceptional."

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# 50th: Happy Birthday Roger Williams

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who are abroad."

On the website, one can also find the anniversary video that was presented after the speeches were made. According to vice president for public affairs, Susan Rivers, the idea of the video was to find stories that the university can brag about and then share those stories with the world.

The idea of the Little Roger Photo Contest was also developed in mind to help Alumni and students abroad feel connected to what is happening for the 50th on campus. The designers of the photo contest want students to be inventive while reinforcing the core values. (See sidebar for more information on contest rules and ways to enter.)

"We are using the RWU statue to get those around the world involved," said art director, Raymond Talamo. "Mail him to Malaysia or tuck him in your coat pocket and carry him to the top of Kilimanjaro."

All students abroad were mailed a Little Roger of their own, and each faculty and staff member was also given one.

"People are already calling to find out how they can get one [a Little Roger], and they seem to be embracing the spirit of the 50th," said Chase-Padula.

According to co-chairs Chase-Padula and Lindsay, overall the kickoff event exceeded their expectations. The third co-chair is Professor Michael Swanson who was away at press time and not available for comment.

"You work on things in theory and then at the event, everything really comes to life," said Lindsay. "Everyone seemed to have a great time."

Students agreed. "I felt that the Biltmore was amazing. It was so classy and so great to see students, the governor, the mayor and alumni there," said student commission member Bobbi-Lynn Anderson.

One speaker pointed out that it was ironic to celebrate the kickoff event only miles from where RWU began.

At the student kickoff event, Rockin' Roger's Diner, Lindsay also felt the excitement for the events.

"I heard students say 'I heard things were going to be big but I did not realize this big,'" said Lindsay.

According to the chairs, there is something for everyone over the next year. There are programs from formal events such as the 50th Anniversary Gala at Marble House Mansion in Newport this fall to the Water Fire event in September or the Pawsox Game over the summer.

Chase-Padula also shared that Commencement this year will have some extra special events surrounding it as a part of the celebration of the anniversary.

A new program of events with additions will be put out over the summer.

"We already have a new event in the works that I think the students will be really excited about," said Chase Padula. "The main thing is for everyone to get involved and participate and to really just have a great year."

While the 50th anniversary commission has a lot planned for the year, the slogan and speakers recognize that RWU will continue to change and grow.

Palpito said, "I promise you the RWU story is just beginning."



Scott Yonan

Above: Rockin' Roger's Diner student kickoff event occurred Friday, February 24 in the Recreation Center. Bottom left: The proclamation, declaring February 24 RWU day in Rhode Island, made by Governor Carcieri can be viewed in the university library.

## Little Roger Photo Contest



### To Enter the Contest

Little Roger will be appearing all over campus. Be on the lookout.

You can get your own Little Roger from faculty, staff and other students.

### Get a Little Roger for a Friend

Take your Little Roger to his Embassy, the Department of Student Programs and Leadership (the Campus Recreation Center). There, your Little Roger will be stamped with the official 50th Anniversary logo and you will receive another Little Roger to hand out.

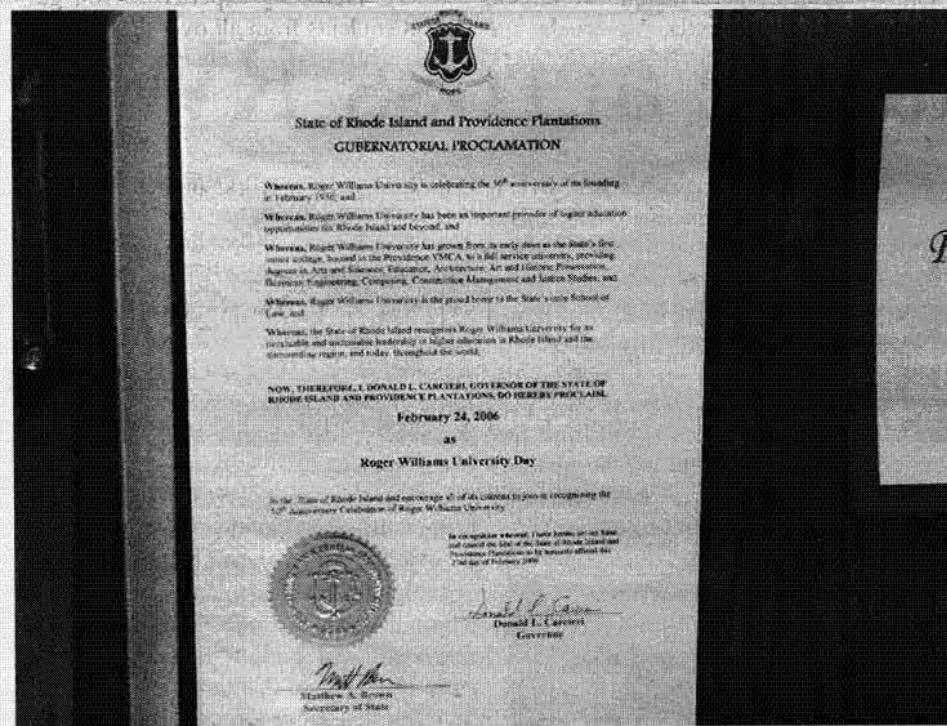
### Categories for Judging

- Hitting the Books (Love of learning as an intrinsic value)
- On the Job (Preparation for careers and future study)
- Lab Partner (Collaboration of students and faculty in research)
- Helping Out (Commitment to community service)
- Where in the World? (Appreciation of global perspectives)

RWU Spirit/Hawk Pride

Famous Faces

\*For a full list of rules and ways to enter, visit [www.50th.rwu.edu](http://www.50th.rwu.edu).



Sarah Cournoyer

# Student Ambassadors: The chosen few

Courtney Nugent  
Herald Staff

In coming to college, many students look for a niche or a special activity to call their own. On Roger Williams University's campus, many different programs and activities are offered in order for students to get involved and potentially partake in leadership opportunities. One of these groups, the Student Ambassadors, offers to the Roger Williams's student body a dynamic like no other.

The Student Ambassadors, a prestigious group of students, must be nominated by a faculty or staff member, have at least a 2.5 GPA and a clean judicial record. Overall, these individuals represent the students who stand out as leaders on campus.

The Ambassadors must also represent

the student body at many events held on campus.

"Among other things, we assist with accepted student days," said Student Ambassador Sara Wilson. "We run a pro-

*"We attempt to represent the student body as a whole. We are a group of students who stand out as leaders and individuals and we positively characterize Roger Williams's students."*

~Ellen Messali

gram called Student's Zone where accepted students can come without their parents and ask us questions they would not feel comfortable asking in front of their superiors or parents. We also work at prestigious events at the President's residence, convocation and commencement, and we meet with important guest speakers."

Ellen Messali, another Student Ambassador, believes this unique group of students adds a positive dynamic to the campus.

"We attempt to represent the student

body as a whole," said Messali. "We are a group of students who stand out as leaders and individuals, and we positively characterize Roger Williams's students."

As a newly chosen Student Ambassador, Nicole Lombardi looks forward to the opportunities this position will present to her.

"When I was notified that I was

nominated to apply for the position I was honored that someone thought I would be a good candidate for the position," said Lombardi. "I am looking forward to getting to know the professional staff and the president on a new level. Also, I see this as a great opportunity to meet new people and try new things while representing the University and getting others as excited about the University as I am."

Another objective the Student Ambassadors have is to connect the university with the community it surrounds to strengthen the community's perceptions of Roger Williams's student body.

"The ambassadors hope to bring the important figures of the campus and community together," said Wilson. "We hope to bring the student prospective to events and demonstrate that Roger Williams is molding great leaders."



# RWU's Food Critic:

## Pizza Wave: Perhaps the best in town

Kaitlin Curran  
Herald Staff

Watch out Classic, it looks like you just got hit by a wave!

Pizza Wave, located on 400 Metacom Ave in Bristol, recently opened its doors to the public. With a wide variety to choose from and reasonable prices, it looks as if Classic Pizza might get some major competition.

Pizza Wave reminds me of a Papa Ginos where you walk in, place your order, and sit. Instead of waiting for a number, Pizza Wave actually brings you the food, which I thought was nice.

The interior is designed to look like you just stepped out of the car onto a beach. The ceilings and booths are a dark blue and the walls a sandy yellow, really giving that ocean effect. Surfboards are

### Restaurant Ratings (1-5)

**Food: 4.5**  
**Service: 4**  
**Price: 3.5**

hung up, giving it a nice personal touch and there is plenty of seating. In fact, some of the booths look like they could fit about five people to a side; they're huge!

The menu ranges from pizza to seafood from Mexican to Italian. There's literally something for everybody and the prices are reasonable as well. The most expensive pizza at Pizza Wave is a large House Special (8 toppings) for \$13.69 or a large Veggie Delight (7 toppings) for \$13.69

The pizza was pretty good. The crust isn't as thick as some of the other pizza places around town and it's definitely not

as greasy. It lacks the "Why did I eat that, my stomach is really angry at me right now!" feeling you get from most fast food.

Aside from the pizza, I decided to try a specialty Wrap and of course, french fries. The chicken Fajita wrap was great. Grilled chicken, pepper and onion with lettuce, sour cream and shredded cheese, it was so big and stuffed to capacity that I had to take half of it home.

I'm also happy to report that the fries at Pizza Wave are fantastic. They were hot, fresh, and crispy – just the way I like them!

I also sampled their cheeseburger and was pleasantly surprised to find it enjoyable. My friends from home can vouch for me when I say I KNOW cheeseburgers. They're probably my favorite thing to eat and considering Pizza Wave doesn't specialize in them, and it wasn't the best burger I've ever had, I have to say they did a

good job.

The burger was big and juicy, topped with lettuce, tomato, and an onion with fries and a pickle spear on the side. I never thought I'd say this about a pickle, but it was fantastic. I'd order the burger just to get the pickle. Call me crazy, but I'm being serious. It beats eating a pickle from a jar any day!

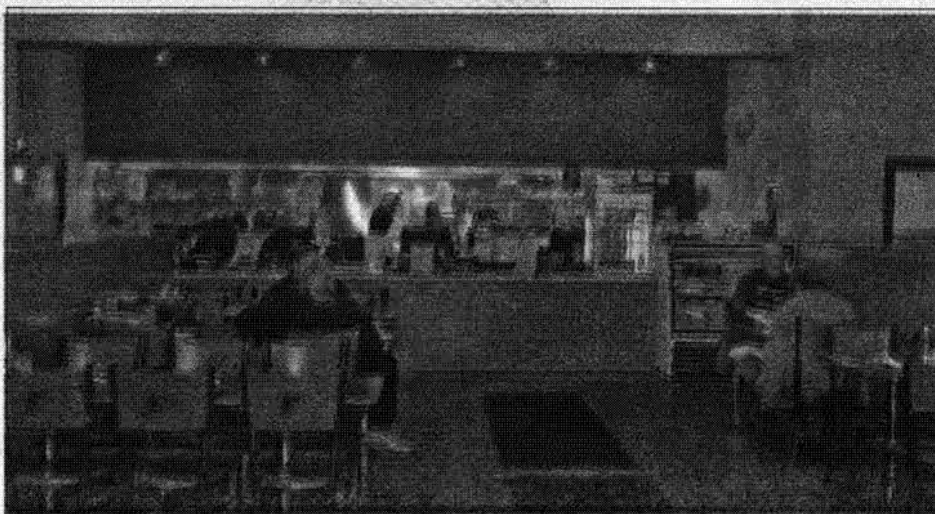
Overall, I 100% enjoyed my meal at Pizza Wave. For a place that just opened its doors, I'd say they're doing well and it's another great option added to the list of pizza places in Bristol. Definitely check it out, it's worth it.

Do you have a restaurant that we should review? Email your suggestions to...

[hawksherald@gmail.com](mailto:hawksherald@gmail.com)



Tracey Lemle



Timothy Mannion

# The Senate: governance across RWU

**Editors Note:** This is the second story of a three-part series.

Michael Hurley  
Herald Staff

They are freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. They eat with you in the dining hall. They sit next to you in class. They study in the library with you. Some live down the hall from you.

However, when you see your friend on campus, you probably would not call her "Ms. Senator."

Twenty two students make up the Student Senate, each of them serving a specific role.

Most of the senators ran for office for similar reasons.

"I wanted to run for Student Senate because, most importantly, I wanted to have a leadership role in my university," said freshman Alicia Merschen-Perez. "I wanted to be able to help other students get their concerns answered, and to help them in general."

After making the decision to become involved, each student then had to campaign.

"Election time is nerve wracking," said sophomore and Senate Treasurer Veronica Columb, "and you really have to try and get other students to know who you are."

"You need to plan your own election. It can be lots of fun!"

Some students had less stressful experiences than others, because some nominees faced no opposition.

"Once the deadline passed we were made aware it was an uncontested election, which definitely alleviates the pressure," Alumni Affairs Chair, Jane Shaughnessy

said.

Once they are elected, the students must make a number of influential decisions that have a serious impact on all students.

"Senate is difficult in a sense that it is a big responsibility," said sophomore Jacquelyn Boisclair. "The role of a Senator should not be taken lightly. The decisions that are made have an effect on many different people, therefore we must be diligent and professional with our



Timothy Mannion

choices."

While the Senate makes important decisions, its power does have limits.

When it comes to problems regarding administration, President Michael Witek said "We can't say 'you have to do this,' but we can offer suggestions."

Witek also was quick to mention how helpful the administration has been.

"I found last year and this year our administration has been really good with working with us," said Witek. "They always have the student in mind."

"It's not 'us versus them.' There is no butting heads."

Being in a position of great influence

is not always easy, says Merschen-Perez.

"It takes a lot of time and thinking to end up making a huge difference," she said. "It's difficult when other students come to you with an issue and you really can't do much about it immediately or, sometimes, at all."

Freshman Shashwat Baxi agrees.

"As a freshman, it is hard for me to vote or speak on behalf of all the upper-classmen. We try to represent all types of students that we have attending our univer-

they do stress the importance of the Senate to the average student.

"The typical student should definitely care about their Student Senate because we can help make things happen," Columb said. "We can be their liaison to the administration. Any concerns they have can be brought to us, whether they stop in the office, send us an e-mail, or call our extension (3312)."

Shaughnessy believes the Senate can make a difference to help students.

"Right now there is a bill being brought up asking professors to list required text books prior to the start of the semester," she said. "How much more convenient would that be?"

The Senate's popularity is on the rise, according to Witek.

"I was pleasantly surprised that many people ran [in the last election]," he said. "In the past we've had uncontested elections, and this past election was really nice."

In terms of the future, the Senate is optimistic. With six freshmen and 11 sophomores, the Senate will have experienced leaders over the next few years.

"I hope the Senate will become much more familiar with students and faculty alike, so we are known more around campus," Merschen-Perez said.

Baxi had similar hopes: "I want the students to be able to look at the Student Senate and really come to us if they ever have any concerns. We have an 'open door' policy which I would like to see more students take advantage of."

Baxi added, "We do a lot on campus, which may not be as visible as one would hope, but we are always striving to make this a better college experience for all students."

sity, and I hope that we are doing a good job of that."

The hard work, however, does pay off for the senators. Shaughnessy said the most rewarding part for her and her fellow senators is "being able to say that campus-wide changes happened because of us."

"We got students back more parking. We changed the dining hall hours. You had concerns and we did something with them."

Merschen-Perez added, "We helped make the meal hours better for students and it was really rewarding when students were happy about it."

While each senator feels rewarded,



# Award given to outstanding student leader

Sarah Cournoyer  
News Editor

Recently, members of the organization Campus Entertainment Network (CEN) attended the National Association of Campus Activities (NACA) in Marlborough Massachusetts. Junior Bobbi-Lynn Anderson received an award naming her "Student Leader of the Year."

Mainly for her work as co-chair of the CEN on the Roger Williams University campus, John Lindsay, an advisor to CEN, sent a letter of reference to the NACA recommending Anderson for the award.

"Because she gives so much to the university, I thought she deserved to be recognized," said Lindsay. "She devotes her life mostly to student leadership, so I couldn't think of a person who deserves it more."

However, Anderson didn't know that Lindsay was nominating her. "It was a complete surprise. I didn't even know I was up for the award," said Anderson.

According to Lindsay, Anderson was also nominated for her work both in CEN and in the campus community. Over her three years on campus, Anderson has held many leadership roles. She was her freshman vice president and the representative from interclass council for CEN.

"I was able to be a representative and

basically, I was able to see capacity in which CEN impacts the campus community," said Anderson.

The NACA conference included states in the New England region such as Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Only five students were awarded the title Student Leader of the Year.



Courtesy of Bobbi-Lynn Anderson

Students of CEN enjoying the NACA conference in Boston.

According to Anderson, she has been heavily involved on campus since her freshman year. The plethora of activities she has been involved with include everything from CEN, to alternative spring break to class government to the women's center.

"I was recently recognized as a Vagina

Warrior [for the Vagina Monologues] for a speech I made at the March to End Silence in the fall," said Anderson.

However, of her clubs and activities, Anderson has been most involved in CEN, as co-chair she helps all the chairs of the various committees and acts as a support system for them.

"It's a lot of fun, and I love it, so I will definitely be involved with CEN next year, and if I can, I would love to co-chair again," said Anderson.

As a junior, Anderson is already planning on attending graduate school where she hopes to get an assistanceship in campus activities. Currently, she is double majoring in communication and Italian with a minor in marketing. Eventually, she said she will probably end up involved in public relations or event planning.

In addition to the leadership award, CEN won a school swap award for the gimmicks they use. Their award was "Best Use of Theme: Passport to Programming."

CEN is an organization made up of 11 committees. There are chairs for each committee, representatives, a secretary and



Courtesy of Bobbi-Lynn Anderson

treasurer (who are work study students) and the two advisors who are John Lindsay and Marshall Guthrie. The concierge and stage crew make up the operations aspect of CEN.

According to Anderson, it's because of the entire team that they can win awards.

"Other schools don't have the team that we have," said Anderson. "We're so lucky to have such a dynamic board."

## Couple of the Moment: Dru Konesky and Krissy Shafer

Reporting by Elizabeth Liederman

### Interview With Dru:

**1. When and how did you first meet Krissy?**

"I was going out with a bunch of friends to a club in Providence. We went with like 15 people, and we started talking and ended up dancing together the whole night. After that we went back to the dorms with everyone and just hung out. We said goodnight and she went in for the kiss. After that we started talking and ended up being together a month later."

**2. After you "discovered" Krissy, was there an immediate attraction to her?**

"Well, to be honest, the first time I discovered her was at a party in Bayside. We didn't know each other but she was sitting in the corner and me and my roommate walked in the room. He looked at me and said, "You want to talk to that girl or should I?" I looked and went, "No, you can..." and I walked away...(hahaha). That doesn't go over too well now, but the first time we actually hung out at the club, yes, there was an immediate attraction because she knew how to dance and looked wicked good."

**4. What would you say is the cutest thing you've done for her thus far?**

"We're both really good at making the other feel appreciated and loved. The last thing I can think of is this Valentine's Day. I woke her up at 6 in the morning and brought her over to my room. I made her a candlelight breakfast with her favorite French toast and we watched the sunrise...I know I know, everyone probably thinks it's corny but hey, I love her. And I'm taking her to Italy when we graduate, so that might be one."

**5. Why might you think your friends would "nominate" you guys as the next couple of the moment?**

"All of our friends call us mom and dad around here. Krissy and I are always the ones to regulate when things get out of control, most of the time. We have also cooked Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for all our friends, so we definitely get viewed as the parental figures. I think people would nominate us because they like the way we are with one another, and even through the rough times, they have stressed wanting us to stay together."

**6. What (if any) fights have you had, and why were you fighting to begin with?**

"I don't believe we have ever fought about anything...I mean sometimes Krissy gets mad and can not control herself and just starts with me, but really I am an angel and never get mad, so I calm her down before a fight happens .... No, we have had our share of fights - who hasn't - but a lot of the fights we get in are usually just over something stupid, because I am being an idiot. She really is awesome. However, we're learning a lot more about one another as time goes on, and there are always going to be little bumps along the way."

**7. What unique qualities about Krissy keep you coming back for more?**

"The girl is the best person I have ever met. She genuinely cares about people, is awesome to talk to and will always be there to listen, whenever I need her. She is freaking hilarious and can make me laugh whenever. Everything about her is unique because she has so many qualities wrapped into one and most of all she is real, not fake. Oh and I think she is gorgeous."

### Interview With Krissy:

**1. How long have you and Dru been together?**

"Two years with a couple of breaks."

**2. When and how did you first meet him?**

"We met sophomore year... he went with his friends to the club Nessiance, and I, being best friends with one of their girlfriends, met up with them there. I spent the night trying to get him drunk, dancing with him as much as possible."

**...3. and what was your first impression of him at the time?**

"He was a cute metro sexual who was fun to flirt with."

**4. What's the cutest/most memorable thing he's ever done for you?**

"Well there is always the candle-lit sunrise breakfast, but I'd have to definitely say it was when we were in little Italy at Epcot in Disney, and he sat me down and gave me a letter explaining a real trip to Italy we will be taking in June!"

**5. Do you guys have any dorky (but cute) rituals together... and if yes, what are they??!!?**

"We love to cook for each other, we get waaay too excited about food! Also, watching Adam Corolla's house show or Bill Maherr."

**6. What do your friends say about you two as a couple?**

"Purple hearts, butterflies and pink bunny rabbits flying around our heads" haha... they don't feel right if we aren't together."

**7. How often do you guys spend time together, and what are some of the more amusing things you've done?**

"We spend time together each day... especially meal times obviously! We've had some crazy shaving cream and water fights, tough-wrestling matches and built some great forts in our day."

**8. How does it feel to be this weeks "couple of the moment"?**

"Makes me happy, being a senior, that I have the relationship in college I always dreamed I'd have by now. I realize how lucky I am."



Do you know a couple that should be the next Couple of the Moment?



Hawksherald@gmail.com



# Musicians Guild rocks RWU campus

Steve Annear  
Herald Staff

Down a dim lit hallway on the first floor of the Student Union, a group of young music enthusiasts cram themselves into a musty, damp, rectangular room, full of instruments and amplifiers. They meet there once a week, despite the uncomfortable circumstances. They are the dedicated members of the Musicians Guild.

The vibrant mix of students, from the casual dress to the punk rock gather around in a room half the size of a Cedar Quad and discuss how they will be able to pull off some important tasks for the semester. A blank sheet of paper is passed around the room, as members sign in and right down some suggestions for equipment they will need for the semester.

President of the Guild, junior, Peter Bartash reads the list aloud to his fellow band members hoping some ideas may generate a conversation. Amongst suggestions of new amplifiers, tuning the piano, and more decorations for the barren walls, Bartash reads off playful remarks that keep the crowd laughing.

It is an uplifting environment run by dedicated students who all share a common interest: Keeping the music alive.

But the meetings aren't always quaint social gatherings about what concerts are coming up, or what band is better than the other. When it comes down to it, the Musicians Guild means business. And recently they have been fighting "the man" to try and save what they have left of their

tight knit organization. With the new Dining Commons underway, the Guild has been proposing different options for where the Jam Room will be next year. When the current Student Union becomes the future Communications building, the Guild will have to pack up their equipment and hit the road.

"We were originally told we would have a Jam Room in the new Student Union," said Bartash, "but there wasn't money for it in the budget. It's disappointing, because this group is a big part of this campus, so I hope the school considers us when we have to move."

Before they are faced with relocating, the Guild plans to first conquer more important tasks, leaving their own prob-

lems aside, and concentrating more on the student body.

On April 2 the group is sponsoring a Cancer Benefit on campus in the Field House. The concert will feature various members of the Guilds' bands as well as any other students from RWU who have an interest in performing in the fundraiser. Bands will play for free during an all day concert where students and members of the community can come and enjoy the stylish sounds of fellow musicians.

"We hope to get a lot of good bands who want to have fun," said Public Relations Coordinator of the Guild, Valerie Walker. "This will be a great event and not only will it benefit the group, but it will benefit the community as a whole."

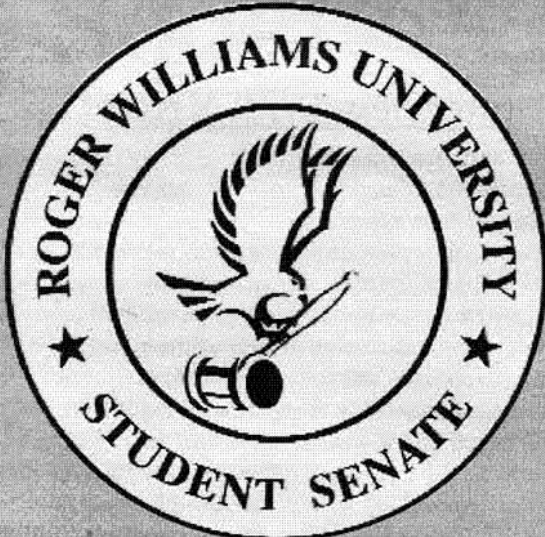
In an effort to generate money for donations towards the Cancer Benefit, the Guild has been putting together a compilation CD which features members of the organization playing the music they love. It is the second volume that the Musicians Guild has produced in the past year. The CDs were on sale last week, and can still be purchased from the Guild for \$5. Portions of the money raised will be donated to the Cancer Society while some will be used to try and find a home for the musicians in the coming years.

"I expect to raise as much money as we can," said Bartash of the concert. "It is for a great cause and hopefully students and faculty will come out and support it and make a small donation to the effort."



Michael Hurley

The jamroom, located on the first floor of the Student Union, has housed the Musicians Guild for several years.



## RWU Student Senate

### Meetings

Monday 6:30 pm  
Student Senate Chambers  
Upper Level, Rec Center

### Meetings Open To Everyone!

# Olympics Galore

William Grapentine  
Herald Staff

The 2006 Winter Olympics brought many things to the table including steroid setbacks, tourism for Italy and twenty-five various U.S. medals. But there was one thing the trek to Torino failed to bring to the table: ratings for NBC.

When closing ceremonies for the event only managed to rake in 8.5 household rating/13 shares, only the third best network for the evening, it was clear that the Olympics 2006 were a ratings disaster.

But the closing ceremonies were not the only Olympic-sized failure for NBC.

According to the *Hollywood Reporter*, NBC's primetime coverage of the Torino Winter Games averaged a 12.2 household rating/19 share, down 36% from the Salt Lake City Winter Games back in 2002.

Did the college demographic tune in to games of champions?

"Not really, no" said John Maintanis, a business major at RWU. "Although I glanced at them occasionally I didn't spend hours and hours of TV time dedicated to the Olympics."

Maintanis isn't the only student who tuned out of Torino.

"I didn't watch a thing," said Matt Smith, a Business management major at RWU.

So what could be causing this Olympic-sized rip in the ratings race?

"I think its because there are so many diverse sports, such as curling, that people don't follow or don't know that much

about them," said Maintanis.

But Shaun Russell, sports information intern for the RWU athletics department, disagreed. "Although the ratings didn't bring in as many viewers as hoped, I know a lot of people who turned in to Curling," Russell said.

Perhaps the biggest reason the Olympics lost viewers was because Americans didn't need to see the games to know the results.

"I knew the scores for all of the games even before they were on the air," says Smith. Russell agreed. "With things like the Internet and the ESPN news ticker, why watch the game when you can get results at the click of a button?"

Russell, who admits he didn't watch much of it himself, went on to say that information technology has made watching this once-every four-years event less exciting for viewers.

So what should NBC do to increase Olympics to ratings gold?

"Just stick to the basic sports like hockey, and not so much of the regional stuff," said Maintanis. But some think it doesn't take that much.

"By focusing more on the sport itself as opposed to the look of the athletes, they may have gotten more viewers."

But with every Olympic-sized cloud there is a golden, bronzed or silver lining.

"Since the next winter games will be in Vancouver," theorized Smith, "it will be like watching something in Pacific Time, and there won't be as much of a problem."





# Chronic illnesses, a chronic problem

Keri Tanzi  
Herald Staff

Mark, an RWU freshman, says, "I've had my share of problems to deal with. It feels like I am constantly sick. But I try to look at the bright side of things... living with diabetes makes me stronger and if I can deal with that, I can deal with just about anything."

When students enter college it is said to be one of the best times of their lives. Meeting new people, joining clubs, partaking in activities, going to parties and attending classes should be what a typical college student has to focus on. But some Roger Williams University students worry about something much more serious: their health.

Approximately 100 million Americans suffer from chronic illnesses. Many are limited in the activities they can perform each day.

The students who suffer are strong individuals. They are fighting not to let their disability get them down. They want to be recognized as normal college students, and they do not want to be identified by their illness or disease.

Karen\*, a RWU junior, said, "You need to be strong when you live with a disease. Sometimes it gets you down, but it makes you a stronger person in the long run. Several people treat me differently because I am sick, but I wish they would not. I don't want to be identified by my

disease."

Amanda\* a 19-year-old sophomore at RWU, currently suffers from Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA). RA occurs when the body's immune system attacks joints and sometimes causes painful swelling and, in some cases, deformity. Amanda has been dealing with this devastating disease since she was 15 years old.

"It limits my ability to do work with my hands including writing," she said. "I normally have to schedule myself around how much I intend on writing in any given week because I can not do more than about three or four hours of note taking per week without enduring pain and stiffness for the following week."

Even though she suffers from a chronic illness, she did not let it stop her from attending college. She's taking five classes and is doing just as well or even better than some of her classmates.

According to these students, balancing college and an illness is not an easy task.

"As far as actual learning is concerned, I have not had a problem," Amanda explained. "I tend to remember information best when I write it and rewrite it, thus making studying

difficult for me. Finals are a particularly difficult time for me when I have to take long exams or in class essays. I dread them and the resulting pain."

Amanda encourages other students to

try to do as best they can when balancing college and an illness. "Don't give up," she continues. "Even if you have

to take your time and take fewer classes per semester it doesn't make you a weaker person."

Danielle, a recent college graduate, suffers from Crohn's disease. Crohn's disease is a chronic inflammatory disease that involves any part of the digestive tract, from the mouth to anus. The symptoms of Crohn's include abdominal pain, vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, weight loss and fatigue.

Danielle was diagnosed when she was 17, living with this disease for almost 11 years, right before she entered her freshman year of college.

According to Danielle, even though she graduated in four years with a bachelor's degree, she had a tough time. She constantly had to miss class. She would try to make arrangements with her professors to make up the work she missed on her own time, when she felt well. She also had a difficult time living in the dorms. Explaining Crohn's disease to a roommate can be very challenging, and sometimes her roommates were not very accepting of her because she suffered from a chronic illness.

Despite going through many ups and downs, she still has a positive outlook on life and says in some ways her debilitating disease has made her stronger.

"All I have to think is I've made it

through some of the toughest parts of my life and I won't let it stop me. I always think of how much worse off things could actually be," said Danielle.

College kids who endure a chronic illness prove to be strong willed and not let anything stand in their way. In fact, most illnesses are not physically noticeable. Joe\*, a college senior, suffers from sickle cell anemia.

"I get severe pain and end up in the hospitals quite often," he said. "Lots of times I will hear people say that I don't look sick, and that gets me upset. I've had professors, doctors and friends not believe that I'm in pain because I 'look healthy'. Most of the time, you can't even notice when people are suffering from a disease, but that doesn't mean they aren't. I wish people would just realize that."

People with chronic illnesses are otherwise typical, they may have to work a little harder to achieve their goals, but they are no different than the average individual.

"I have to take a lighter course load each semester, I only take four classes," says Kari\*, an RWU junior. "Sometimes I miss classes either because of being hospitalized or being too sick to go. I still manage to keep up my grades, and I made the Dean's List this past semester. I have to work harder than people who don't suffer from an illness, but it's worth it."

\*names have been changed by request

## Search & Seizure

### Baypoint receives surprise inspections

Florentine Lehar  
Herald Staff

Baypoint residents were confused and angered by recent unannounced health and safety inspections that took place and resulted in many items being confiscated from students' rooms.

On February 8, Baypoint Coordinator of Residence Education (CORE) Kyle Black, conducted health and safety inspections throughout the entire Baypoint residential complex. The students living in Baypoint were not made aware that room inspections were going to occur, and therefore were very surprised when the inspections took place.

"So I come off the shuttle at 2 p.m., my normal time when I come home from school, and I hear someone behind me talking about the room inspections but I thought it was a rumor," said Baypoint resident Patti Behen.

"Well, I came into my room and I see a room inspection sign and it said that I had failed for stuff that was in my room, and then I go walking down my hallway and I see the Core and some guy with this huge hotel luggage cart filled with microwaves, candles, empty liquor bottles, full liquor bottles, and everything you could imagine, stuffing it into a room at the end of the hallway."

Students felt that they should have the right to know when a room inspection is going to occur, because they feel they want their privacy in the room that they rent from the university. Students believe that it is an invasion of their privacy and an attack on their rights.

"I was sitting here watching Boy Meets World and there's a knock on the door and the Cores just kinda like pushed me and they're like, health and room inspections," Baypoint sophomore Aimee Scheppard recalled. "They didn't really

ask if they could come in, well they did, but after they were already in and looking around so I had to say yes, and then they took everything away."



Florentine Lehar

The truth is that unannounced health and safety inspections at RWU are allowed, if there is reason to do so. The health and safety inspections were authorized by the RWU Director of Housing, Tony Montefusco, who was made aware by students and Baypoint staff that there were a number of fire safety hazards in student rooms, such as microwaves, toasters, and candles.

In order to authorize unannounced health and safety inspections, Montefusco

first presented the cause for inspections to the Dean of Students, Kathleen McMahon, and the Vice President of Student Affairs, John King, and then received permission from both. Montefusco then gave Black permission to conduct the room inspections and confiscate prohibited items.

Although many students were angered at both not being notified and the invasion of privacy, Montefusco explained that students were notified in their housing contracts that health and safety inspections were normally announced, but could occur without notification if there is due cause.

"It's not their [the students'] room, it's a university building we have to be very concerned about," said Montefusco.

According to Montefusco, many students are unaware of the serious damage that dorm fires cause, which is why the housing department takes fire safety extremely seriously. RWU has had two dorm fires in the past, both of which were caused by unattended candles.

Montefusco explained his deep concern about future fires at RWU. "I hope and pray ever day there's not a fire in one of these buildings. I've seen what it does, and it's just scary."

Along with confiscating candles, microwaves, and other fire hazards, all prohibited items in sight, such as full or empty alcohol containers were also taken away.

Students believed that suspicion should be the cause of only a certain room being inspected, not an entire dorm. The administration, however, put a higher emphasis on safety than on privacy, because of the risks involved in not taking safety precautions.

Black undertook the health and safety inspections in Baypoint, but was unavailable for comments due to his recent resignation.



Matthew Noble  
Herald Staff

From March 11th to the 18th, the Habitat for Humanity club will embark upon their annual trip to Sumter, South Carolina for an alternative spring break.

Nineteen students and one orientation coordinator, Heather Cantwell will swap sandals for hardhats as they continue the home constructing process started by clubs from previous weeks. Prior to their hands-on experience of framing walls, sheathing and nailing on shingles and building floor systems, the Habitat for Humanity group has collected generous donations from various groups such as the RHA (residence hall association), the Student Senate and the Kelly Fund.

The group has also hosted events such as the Build a Brick fundraiser and the dining service meal giveaway, raising over 2,000 dollars towards food and supplies for the trip.

Habitat for Humanity Director Julie Patryon has been a member for four years now and claims, "this year has been the most committed group of kids I've seen so far."

The club's volunteers are part of the Collegiate Challenge program that promotes charity and helping communities. Newcomer Dominique Lombardi said, "the experience so far has been more rewarding than anything I have ever done. At first I was upset that I couldn't join my friends in Cancun, but if we can make a difference for a family could last decades, I think it's worth giving up a week on the beach."

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit group that is always eager to gain new members. Students that wish to better themselves on a personal level are encouraged to join and make a difference.

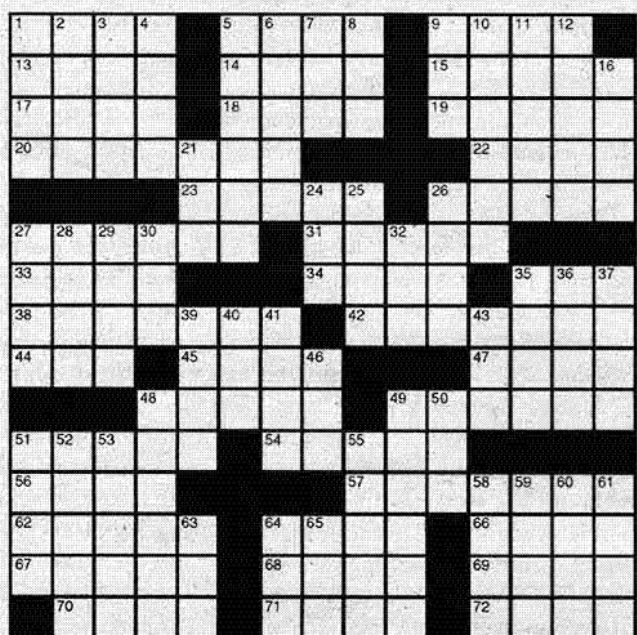


# TIM'S FUN CORNER

Last week's solutions:  
We understand it was a little difficult. Our bad.

Across

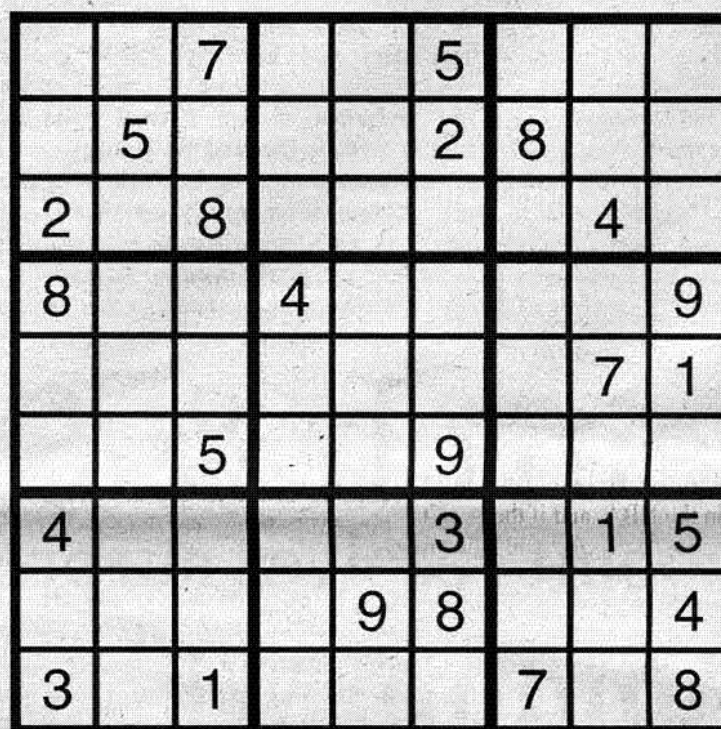
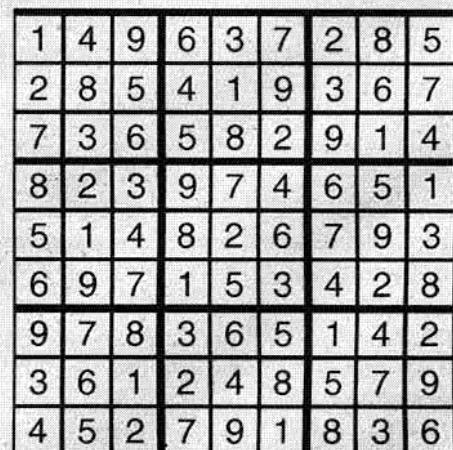
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## What Steve Perceives:

*The legend of the great white rapper*

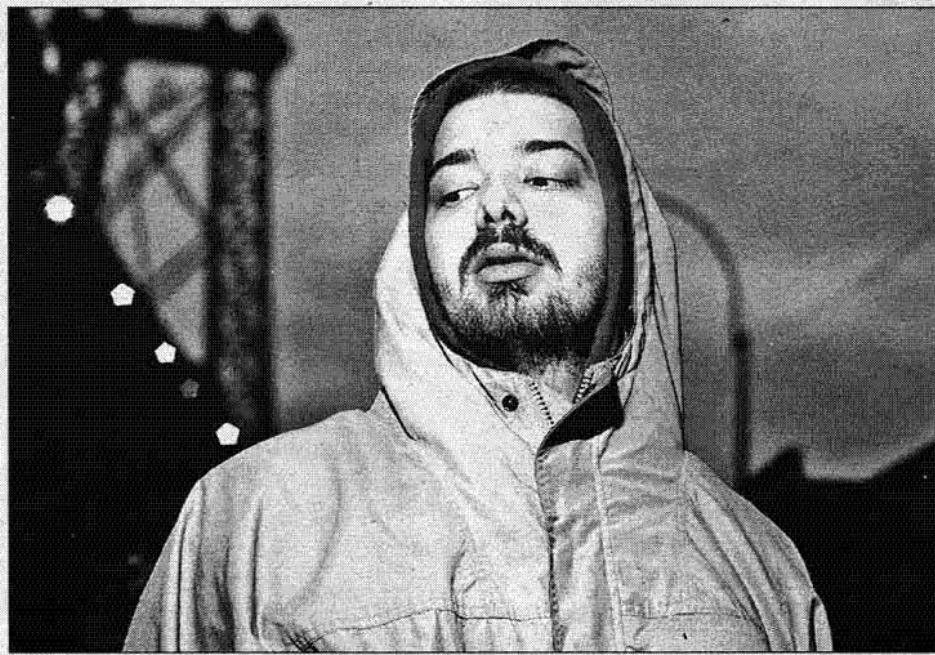
Steve Annear  
Herald Staff

For anyone who thought that white hip-hop artists started with the Beastie Boys and ended with the laughable Eminem, put on your hearing aids and prepare to get your eardrums smashed.

Aesop Rock has been part of the Underground Hip-Hop scene for quite sometime now, carrying a laundry list of records on his back. But it's his most recent album, "Fast Cars, Danger Fire and Knives," released this past summer, is putting his name on the billboards.

His eclectic ability to manipulate words with cut-throat precision will leave listeners rewinding their iPods, and backtracking their CD players. A mixture of hard-hitting beats combined with immense amounts of alliteration, Aesop delivers a sound so rare that it's no wonder MTVU has been broadcasting his video on a daily basis.

As a veteran of the "Definitive Jux" record label, Aesop has maintained a steady sound that rarely changes, and never fails to disappoint followers. Although it has taken him years to begin to break into the mainstream world of Hip-Hop and Rap, Aesop has been persistent



www.worlds-fair.net

enough on the scene that he is worth much recognition.

"Fast Cars, Danger, Fire and Knives" is a seven track EP that, although short in song numbers, gives listeners thirty minutes of verbal and instrumental bliss. The CD was originally released with an 88-page booklet containing every lyric from

every album Aesop has ever recorded. This was a rarity for most Emcees on the scene, and was a token of his personal appreciation for fans picking up the album.

With the words printed right there on the page, Aesop Rock hits his fan base with unapologetic and brutal honesty, as we finally get to find out exactly what he

was trying to say for all these years. The artistically appealing booklet, titled "The Living Human Curiosity Sideshow," is packed with an intricate assortment of multi-syllabic phrases that seem only to make sense coming out of the mouth of Aesop himself.

Most notably, in his song "Holy Smokes," an alternative personal view of today's religious upbringings, Aesop writes:

*"See by the time I was old enough to know what religion was/ I was Catholicism numb/ And truly didn't give a f\*\*\*/ '94 moved out the crib and haven't seen a steeple since/ while Kneivel evil seeps in the Christian leaders pitch/ 'Til Priest lap slapped with parental advisory warnings/ I'll be auditioning gods in my office on Monday morning."*

Aesop's approach at mind-boggling metaphors and hidden meanings is what has separated him from the mainstream culture.

For anyone who enjoys deciphering linguistics and contemplating unique outlooks toward societal ideals, this album should be your next investment. The lyrics, the music, the booklet, and the intense voice: they are everything that brings the mystery behind such a unique artist to life.



# NBA teams gearing for playoffs

## While the West Coast battles, the East fight for lottery picks

Jim Dugan  
Herald Staff

Now that the NBA All-Star Weekend has come and gone, and now that I'm starting to get over my anger of Andre Iguodala being ripped off in the dunk contest, it's time to start looking toward the play-off stretch.

As normal, there are many teams fighting to make the top eight in the West. And as is normal, there are many teams trying to get in better draft positions in the East, which is why I'm just going to skip them here.

Breaking down the West isn't easy as there are only two teams that I could confidently say have no chance of making the playoffs. Then there are only three teams (Dallas, San Antonio, Phoenix) that I can confidently say will make it. As for everyone not from Seattle or Portland, it will be

concerns nor any really big holes in the line-up. However, they are still the Clippers. Guaranteeing the Clippers will make the playoffs is like predicting the Cubs to win the World Series - you just can't believe in it. That being said, the trade for Sam Cassell during the off-season was one of the greatest moves of the year.

The Lakers and Timberwolves cannot be discounted either, for one and only one reason each. Those reasons: Kobe Bryant and Kevin Garnett. Kobe is the league's highest scorer and could very well keep his team in the playoffs single-handedly. K.G. could use a little bit of help from his teammates, but if he doesn't totally give up in frustration from the lack of help, he very well could lead them back to the playoffs again.

New Orleans and Memphis have surprised many people, but they currently have the advantage and already hold the

in the league at the end of last season, nearly pushing into the playoffs. If the team could catch fire again with some improved play from Baron Davis, they could threaten to make the playoffs again.

The two teams that could be the biggest threats to upsetting one of the top three teams in the west aren't even in the top eight playoffs spots yet. Those teams are Houston and Sacramento. Houston has shown that they couldn't beat a high school team when Tracy McGrady is not in the line-up, going 1-13 games without him. However, when he is there, he and Yao Ming combine into a great combo, which is why many experts thought they'd

be a top team before the season started.

What Sacramento has done has been rather amazing. They turned from a high powered offensive team lead by Peja Stojakovic, Chris Webber, and Mike Bibby. Now only Bibby remains on a team known more its defense than offense. With the addition of Ron Artest, the team is extremely dangerous.

As for my opinion, I think both Sacramento will make the playoffs because they are just too strong in all aspects of the game now. I don't think Kobe will be able to make up for how horrible the rest of his team is, and the Lakers will be out.

*"Guaranteeing the Clippers will make the playoffs is like predicting the Cubs to win the World Series - you just can't believe in it."*

a free for all for the last 5 spots. The remaining 10 teams all have questions surrounding them as to whether or not they can hold on or make the major push needed to make the playoffs.

The two team that are best off are the Denver Nuggets and the L.A. Clippers. Denver looks a little more secure now that they've picked up some big men at the trading deadline. However, Marcus Camby and Kenyon Martin have two of the most fragile bodies in the NBA, and if they can't remain healthy, the Nuggets could be in trouble.

The Clippers don't have the injury

six and seven spots respectively. Rookie point guard Chris Paul has been absolutely amazing and is clearly the rookie of the year. Combined with David West, New Orleans has been deadly. Memphis continues to use good team work and the leadership of Pau Gasol to hold onto their playoff hopes.

Utah and Golden State also can not be counted out. Utah has one of the greatest coaches in the league in Jerry Sloan, and he could always get the team to organize and become a playoff contender again. Golden State was one of the hottest teams



Will Pierce lead the Celtics to the playoffs? Doubtful, considering his cast of characters. But will he return next year in a Celtics uniform? That's a question worthy of debate.

# Roundup: Winter sports conclude, some tragically; spring sports around the corner

### Herald Staff Reports

The wrestling team capped a strong season with a third-place finish in the New England D-III Championships last weekend. The team scored a school record 107 points in the tournament, beating the previous record of 80 set in 2001. In all, eight out of 10 wrestlers earned All-New England honors - also a school record.

Zach Weinrich was named the New England champion in the 184-pound division and was named "Rookie of the Year." Anthony Nicolichia (125 pounds) and Andy Lacroix (141 pounds) were runners-up in their respective divisions.

Dan Rokas (149) and Mike Staples (197) were third in their weight class. Jared Czameski (165) and John Russo (285) were fourth and C.J. McCormack

(157) was sixth.

Weinrich and Lacroix will be traveling to the National D-III Wrestling Championships this weekend, hosted by The College of New Jersey.

In other news...

### FEBRUARY 27

The equestrian team recorded five first-place finishes at the Wesleyan University show in Hebron, Ct. on Saturday.

Senior Megan Wilkison earned first in the Open Flat. Carolyn Pickett won the Intermediate Flat division. Sophomore Jessica Miller won the Novice Flat. Jackie Urankar won the Beginner Walk-Trot-Canter division. Megan Shiel-Logvin won her Walk-Trot division as well.

The Hawks will compete this weekend at the University of Rhode Island Show at Clouds Hill Farm, starting at 9:00 a.m.

### FEBRUARY 22

The men's lacrosse team announced it has named its captains for the 2006 season.

Senior Ryan Baker of South Windsor, Ct. and junior Dave Plescia of Old Tappan, N.Y. will lead the Hawks into the season, which begins March 8 at UMass-Dartmouth. Last season the Hawks were 8-9 overall and 5-3 in the CCC.

### FEBRUARY 22

The baseball team has announced its captains for the 2006 season.

Seniors Kevin Thompson of Southington, Ct., Travis Cooney of East

Hartford, Ct., and Andrew Lippincott of Swanzey, Nh. will be tri-captains for the upcoming season. Thompson and Cooney were captains of last year's team.

The Hawks will start their season in Arizona with the Greater Phoenix Invitational on March 12.

### FEBRUARY 22

The softball team has announced its captains for the 2006 season.

Senior Kristen Cerreto of Syracuse, N.Y. and junior Gina-Marie Mariano of Worcester, Mass. will serve as captains for the upcoming season.

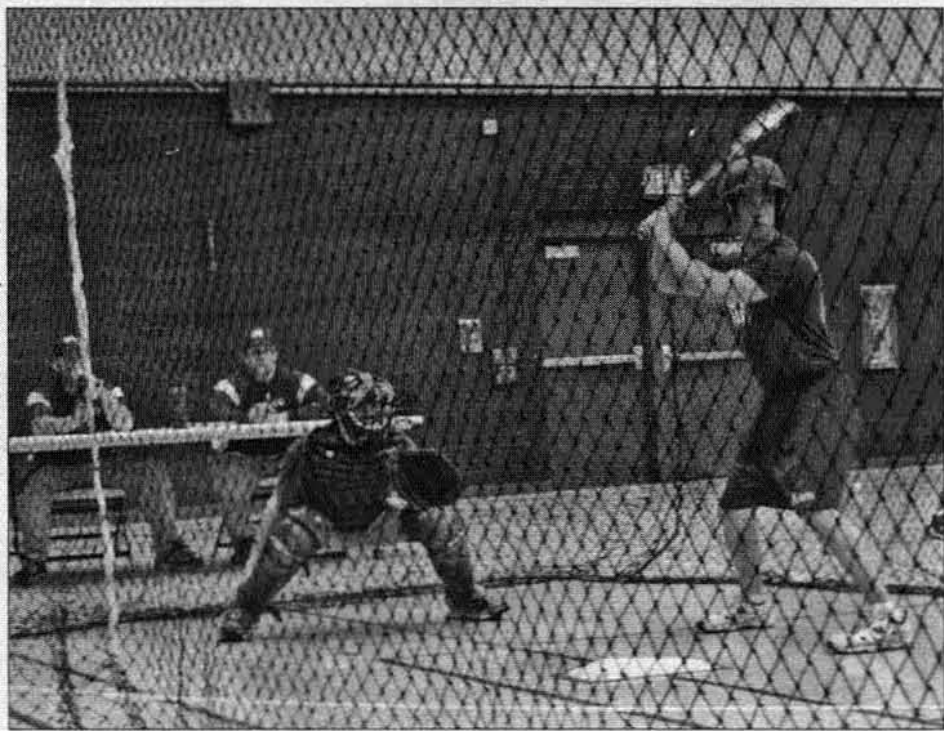
The Hawks begin their season in Ft. Myers, Fl. with a game against Medaille College on March 13.

### FEBRUARY 21

The men's basketball team fought hard against Wentworth College in the first round of the CCC playoffs but came up empty in a 68-67 loss that eliminated them from the postseason.

Chris Cormier hit a 3-pointer with

See ROUNDUP, p. 12



Christopher Parish

The men's baseball team practices in the field house in preparation for the upcoming season. The team's first game is March 12 in Phoenix, Az.

### Editor's Note:

The Hawk's Herald will not print next week as the printing date conflicts with the departure of many students for Spring Break. Our next publication is scheduled for March 24.

Have a safe and enjoyable Spring Break!



# Sports, My Way: Time to bolt from the CCC?

Christopher Parish  
Sports Editor

Chris Cormier did everything he could last Tuesday to vault his team to the semifinals. He hit 3-pointers at all the right times. He gave his teammates the spark they needed in the second half after trailing by eight at halftime.

With 11.4 seconds left, Cormier took the big shot with the Hawks down by one. And he hit it. It was a storybook ending for a great senior. Except it didn't end that way. Wentworth motored the length of the floor and drained a 3-pointer to end the game.

About 15 feet from where I was standing, Cormier sat at mid-court with his head in his hands. It was horrifying to watch — to see a good guy play his last game and have it be so heartbreaking. For the Hawks, the second seed in the Commonwealth Coast Conference, the loss was an upset. It was anything but what the Hawks needed. And as I stood, watching the events unfold as the crowd went from raucous to reserved almost instantly, I couldn't help but think the same thing over and over again.

It's time for RWU to move out of the CCC.

Last Tuesday's heartbreaking defeat proved, if nothing else, that RWU's teams can do nothing but meet expectations in their respective seasons. Upset losses to average athletic teams like Wentworth paint a negative connotation of the pride and strength of the RWU teams. Should the same loss, upset or otherwise, come at the hands of revered institutions like Coast Guard Academy, Connecticut College, Middlebury, Williams, Amherst or Bowdoin, the loss is easily justified.

But now, anything short of a championship berth is regarded as somewhat of a disappointing season. The conference is weak at best, and often the same teams vie for titles in every sport. The CCC might as well stand for the "Can't Compete Conference."

Most RWU sports fans know that the



Christopher Parish

*Sure, the trophies are nice, but RWU's most recent accolades seem somewhat diminished given the level of competition in the conference.*

Hawks square off against powerhouses like Gordon College, Endicott, Colby Sawyer and cross-island rival Salve Regina. Some may know that Wentworth, New England College and the University of New England reside within the CCC.

But others might not know that Curry College, Regis College, Anna Maria College, Eastern Nazarene College and Nichols College make up the rest of the field. Since the fall of 2002, these five schools have been finalists only seven times. Four of those were Nichols alone (twice consecutively, as the third seed, in men's tennis).

Not once have any of these teams actually won (although Regis came close in 2004, losing to Salve Regina 5-4 in the women's tennis final). Seven title games. The RWU men's and women's cross country teams alone have won more in the same span than those teams have even reached. In the fall of 2005 alone, the RWU teams won as many titles as Curry, Regis, Anna Maria and Eastern Nazarene appeared in over four years. These teams don't recruit, consist mostly of walk-ons, and pose virtually no threat to better teams in the conference.

I don't mean to suggest that these schools' athletic programs aren't worthwhile. Plenty of small schools would fit well with other smaller schools in New England. These teams fit well in a conference like the CCC. And while the conference served its purpose for RWU for a while, the university has outgrown the small-school, mid-major atmosphere of this conference.

As Roger Williams University celebrates its 50th anniversary, the school continues to focus on how far we've come and how far we have yet to go. RWU wasn't even a member of the NCAA until 1986. Now, as the university soars to new heights both academically and athletically, it's time for the school to raise the level of competition for its athletic teams.

In the fall, every team made at least the conference semifinals. In the winter, disappointing and heartbreaking seasons in basketball made for early playoff exits. But wrestling secured its place as one of the top 30 D-III teams in the country and the swim team has come out of the gates with enormous success for a first-year program. This spring, men's lacrosse and softball will contend for a title. The baseball

team has a good chance to return to glory after a disappointing 2005 season. And the women's lacrosse team is steadily improving. For our teams, anything short of a conference plaque or a title appearance, given the quality of the schools in our conference, is a disappointment.

Just for kicks, go to the conference website ([www.commonwealthcoastconference.com](http://www.commonwealthcoastconference.com)). Honestly, it's embarrassing to have our school's name on the site. Words are spelled incorrectly. The colors are ugly. The archives are limited and don't even include some of the championships. There is virtually no information available and the site has received only 178,000 hits in the history of the site (I alone probably account for half of those). Now visit the conference website for the elite D-III New England schools, [www.nescac.com](http://www.nescac.com). It is a well-designed, well-organized site full of good information about the schools and their athletic teams. In no way am I suggesting that we join the NESCAC (New England Small College Athletic Association); I doubt we'd be accepted if we wanted to. But this is the standard to which all teams should look. Another site, [www.newmaconline.com](http://www.newmaconline.com), is also well-designed and organized. The NEWMAC (New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference) is a conference more befitting of a university like RWU.

The advantages are limitless. The competition is better. The championships mean more. Our athletic teams would get more recruits, leading to more prestigious programs. Our school records would mean more. The school invested millions of dollars to upgrade our athletic facilities. Now it's time to upgrade our athletic competition.

Just one day after the frustrating last-second loss, Cormier and freshman Billy Barrett played pick-up basketball in the field house. For them, the season might be over but the game never ends. These are the breed of players RWU is developing.

They deserve to be playing in a conference that respects them as much as they respect the game.

## Roundup: Captains named for spring athletic teams

Continued from p.11

12.2 seconds remaining to give the Hawks a two-point lead, but Wentworth responded with a 3-pointer at the buzzer to clinch the victory. The Hawks trailed by eight at halftime but rallied with a 20-5 run to grab a seven-point lead midway through the second half.

Geoff Baranger scored 22 points to lead the Hawks. Cormier added 18. Freshman Billy Barrett had eight points and seven assists. Brandon Parrish had six points, five rebounds, five assists and four steals.

The Hawks end their season at 12-14.

### FEBRUARY 21

The women's basketball team trailed by only six before halftime but gave up a 17-5 run late in the first half and fell to top-seeded Colby-Sawyer College 64-47 in the opening round of the CCC playoffs.

Junior Sarah Dwyer was the only Hawk in double-figures with 13 points and

eight rebounds. Caitlyn Leone added five points and four rebounds.

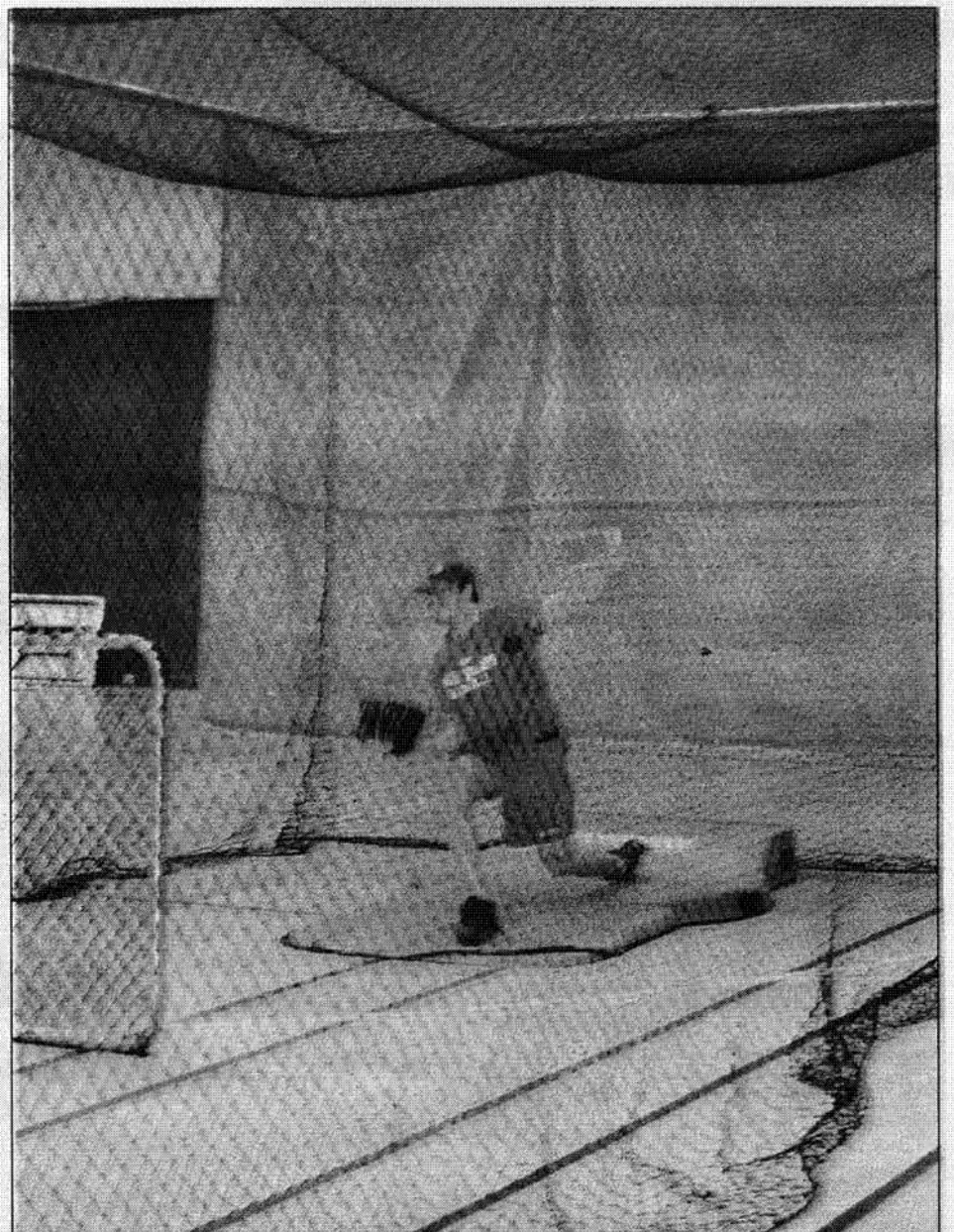
The Hawks end their season at 8-18.

### FEBRUARY 19

The swimming and diving teams, in only their first varsity season, finished the year with strong showings at the New England D-III Championships.

The men's team finished sixth out of 15 schools with 241 points. Doug Cameron placed eighth in the 1650-yard freestyle race. Jon Plummer was seventh in the 50-yard freestyle. Andy Hedden was eighth in the 200-yard butterfly. The RWU team of Cameron, Justin Leary, John Curtis and Plummer placed sixth in the 400-yard freestyle relay. Leary was also fourth in the 100-yard backstroke.

The women's team finished eighth out of 22 schools with 358 points. Jenny Dill was third in the 200-yard backstroke and fifth in the 200-yard breaststroke. Alexia Aron and Kaitlyn Friedrich were each fourth in the 1650-yard freestyle and the 200-yard butterfly, respectively.



Christopher Parish

