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Happy Holidays to all of RWU!

Blithewold possibility for President's new house
Kim Thornhill, Staff Writer

President Santoro is considering Blithewold Mansion as an option for his next presidential residence, sources say. The 15,000 square foot mansion is located a short distance from campus on Rte. 114.

"We are meeting with Mr. Santoro and Ralph Papinto on Friday, (December 18, 1998), to discuss the proposal further," said Executive Director at American Trust, Nick Brown.

After the meeting on Friday Brown hopes to further review all of the proposals. Blithewold has received. But, Brown pointed RWU as, "a valued interlocking of programs, such as, historic preservation and marine biology that could benefit Blithewold."

When Santoro was asked about the possible move, (Debbie Ort, Santoro's secretary relayed his response), "I have no comment until I have had the opportunity to meet with the board of Blithewold."

Chairman of the Board at Blithewold, Ed Bennett, did not want to comment on his personal opinion; however, he said, "At this juncture Blithewold is considering a number of alternatives, which will solve a problem that has grown over many years."

Bennett hopes to make a decision quickly, however he said, "the board has a lot of research and options to review before making any decisions."

A source which wished to remain unnamed has said the University has offered approximately $150,000 a year for the lease of the mansion, including restrictions which the University, as well as Blithewold, will have to agree on. A possible restriction may require the University to keep the mansion accessible to the public.

Three months have passed and RWU students have heard bulldozers and seen contractors roaming around campus, but they are not the bulldozers that President Santoro or Ralph Papinto were talking about in October. This past October RWU planned on building a presidential residence on campus. A location was designated and 50% of the costs were raised, but now Santoro is considering other options.

In October, Papinto said, "We need a good and well-designed house on campus for the president to live in."

Blithewold Mansion built in 1918 sits upon 33 acres of historic landscape. The mansion consists of 45 rooms, which covers 15,000 square feet.

Large numbers force change of locale for Catholic Liturgy
Father Gamache moves mass to Other Place
Joseph Logan
Consulting Writer

Due to a growing number of participants in the weekly Masses, the Roman Catholic Chapel on campus, Fr. Barry Gamache, was forced to move the location of the Sunday night liturgies. For almost a year and a half Catholic Mass has been held at 8 pm in the lobby of the Center for Student Development. This Fall semester has seen a sharp rise in attendance of the Sunday Masses. The overflow students gathered on the stairs which served almost as bleachers overlooking the ground floor. Sometimes beginning in October of this year, even these extra spaces became too few for the large numbers. With the help of Mary Ann Quinn and Gordon Wood of Student Activities, Fr. Barry arranged to have Mass in The Other Place of the Student Union beginning in mid November.

Another change associated with the Campus Ministries office this year has been the establishment of the Catholic Student Association which, for the first time, has acquired recognition as an official student organization. Under advisement of newly-hired Campus Minister, Joseph Lagan of the Diocese of Providence, the CSA has been reaching out in several areas. The group, which meets weekly on Monday nights for prayer and discussion, provided a number of students for a fundraiser held in October to benefit the East Bay Coalition for the Homeless. Also in October, the CSA sent 6 students to an intercollegiate retreat held at the University of Rhode Island.

The Catholic Student Association, along with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and the Hillel student group, was instrumental in programming the annual Dinner of Thanks held just prior to Thanksgiving break on Thursday, November 19th in the Bay Room. Billied as a time to reflect on and give thanks for the many blessings that surround all of us, the dinner was attended by approximately 65 students, staff and faculty. More than a couple attentive of the dinner noted how rare and welcome the opportunity was to reflect in a large group of very mixed religious background on their common spiritual heritage.

Gambling, road to American dream or straight line to addiction?
Kim Thornhill
Staff Writer

Monday night football has made its way after the weekend and five college friends: Victor, Todd, Kevin, Mark, and Sean, gather in front of a 10-inch television. The opening kickoff between the New England Patriots and Miami Dolphins has brought with it bets ranging from $25-$500. While some crunch on nachos and jump up and down, others begin to slouch down on the torn couch, knowing that they don't have the money to cover their bets if the Patriots don't pull through.

"I would never tell the guys that I'm broke this week, I just hope my team wins", said one of the five friends.

An age-old nemesis of American society has crept into the college scene in recent years at an unprecedented level. The opportunity of easy money, when most college students are struggling to pay for rent and tuition, is gaining more acceptance and popularity among college campuses all across the country.

In the past 20 years, sports gambling has overcome all other forms of gambling in the United States. A study by The Council on Compulsive Gambling located in New Jersey showed that of the $120 billion Americans spent on illegal gambling, about $80 billion was wagered on sports.

With the onslaught of televised sports in the past 20 years, many of today's college students grew up watching sports on television. In many cases, this can give the potential gambler a false sense of knowledge. College bookmakers, or bookies, feed off this false sense of knowledge and occasionally lure many college-aged students into betting away the scarce amount of money that they have acquired through part-time jobs.

Gambling, page 3
Letter to the Editor:

While reading your last issue, I noticed some writing was past. I am referring to the article that was a list of fashion do's and don'ts on this campus. It upset me to see space in our paper being wasted on a ridiculous and insulting article when there are much more space-worthy stories to be written and published.

It wasn't just the fact that the article took up valuable space that upset me. I was also upset by the fact that it could be written and then published at all. It is unreal to think that one woman on this campus can be so perfect as to be able to tell everyone else what's in and what's out. I realize the article had a disclaimer stating it wasn't meant to offend anyone, but simply the fact that a disclaimer was included shows that the article was offensive to people, and that the writer knew it would be.

I understand the urge to want to know what the latest styles are. There is a big demand for knowledge of fashion, and that is why there are magazines that have six or seven page spreads about it. I also understand the urge to print an article on fashion for the people who want to know. However, the article should be written about fashion from the point of view of someone who works in that field and knows about fashion, not from the point of view on one "fit" student on campus.

Personally, I think it is sickening to even see an article like this. It seems to me, we need to stop emphasizing what is "in" by other people's opinions, and stop being like everyone else, and start putting the IN back into INDIVIDUAL. People who are brave enough and bold enough to stress what is "in" by other people's opinions, and stop being like everyone else, and maybe it is the self-conscious people who are too insecure to be themselves on this campus and feel they must not only follow the crowds, but also try and dictate what other people look like, who are the ones who are "out".

If it means I will be dubbed "out" in the fashion world because I don't dress like every other person on this campus, I choose to wear a RWU hat or sweatshirt, or wear sneakers instead of 1.2" heeled shoes that clunk-clop like a horse with every step I take, then I will quickly and willingly go to the "Land of Fashions No-No's". And I should hope, I won't be the only one.

Fashionably Original Yours, Becki Emmenegger

Kelly A. Scafariello

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Articles and opinions expressed in The Hawk's Eye are the responsibility of the writers and editors and do not reflect the opinions or policies of the university.

Want to become part of the staff at The Hawk's Eye?

Do you like to write? Do you enjoy taking photos? Are you creative? Do you like to have fun? If so, The Hawk's Eye is looking for you!

The Hawk's Eye is a major source of information for the RWU community. The Hawk's Eye will continue to grow over the year. We would love for you to grow with us.

There will be weekly open meetings on Tuesdays in the Student Senate Chambers in the back of the Student Union starting next semester. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly or Donna Z. at extension 3229.
Gambling, road to American dream

Continued from front page

Gambling is like anything else. If it isn't controlled, it can lead to problems," said Victor Macagran. "But it seems to go hand in hand with success. It is more of an entertainment outlet rather than an uncontrollable habit.

"Usually, when I bet on games, it is to add more excitement to the game or to prove a friend wrong about a team," said senior Todd Norton.

In studies of gambling, it has been shown that most of American society feels the same way. Like most people, disregard for the $5 p.m. speed limit, people also seem to disregard illegal gambling by thinking it's not hurting anybody when it's okay.

In a survey done on campus of 100 random students, the calculations have confirmed these findings to be true. Out of the 101 individuals surveyed, 96 admitted to gambling once or more and 69 knew of someone who has or does gamble.

Compulsive gambling is a real problem that can lead to the destruction of oneself and possibly one's family. In a recent incident, the local Police Chief of Central Falls, Thomas Moffatt, reportedly may have committed suicide because of an addiction to gambling and a debt that he could not pay. Moffatt was found shot dead in his cruiser November 25th in an apparent suicide, wrote the Providence Journal (Decem­ber 1, 1998). Central Falls officials are investigating whether Moffatt borrowed money from subordinates to pay off a gambling debt. Such borrowing would violate the state Ethics Code.

"Gambling is, if not a drug, a drug-like activity," said senior Beth Lebowitz. "Some people can't stop once they start.

Gambling's benefits are touted by a gambling industry and politicians advocating legalization. Allowing casino gambling in Bristol County, is among the thousands of bills filed on Beacon Hill for the next legislative session. According to the Providence Journal (December 4, 1998), a bill filed by Senator James Jajuga, Democrat in Middletown, and more than ten of his colleagues, would legalize casino gambling in Hampstead, Bristol and Essex counties. Their studies show gambling as a source of jobs and tax revenue, and the activity is seen as entertainment for the public. Currently Nevada is the only state where gambling has been legalized outright.

"Why has gambling earned the disapproval of society? A partial answer lies in our values. For years we as a society have been taught that "happiness lies in riding the consumer merry-go-round, hoping to catch the brass ring of consumption." Accepted goals were to be realistic and attainable—-a spouse, children, and a home in the suburbs. So soon developed the "American Dream." People who do not achieve the "American Dream" are viewed as either not trying hard enough or as somehow incapable of success. Those who find adjustment too difficult occasionally rely on pills to speed them up or slow them down to fit the pace required for success.

Some students believe that cause does not corrant compulsive gambling much more than soap causes compulsive washing or food causes compulsive overeating.

"How can anyone blame casinos for making people gamble?" asks Angela McNamara. "That's the cause of the problem, not the solution.

The behavior of the compulsive gambler has been described as pathological; he or she "bucks the odds" and finds excitement in doing so. The gambler is frequently willing to forsake secure monetary practices for a chance at the big take.

"I'm not an avid gambler. I don't gamble much, but I do know many people who have bet their last dollar and lost," said Macagran.
Grandparents' Rights

When a son strips his parental responsibility, does his mother have the right to custody?

Donna Plason, Features Editor

By the seventeenth week of pregnancy, a child is already a boy or a girl, it sucks its thumb and opens its eyes, its heartounds out 25 gallons of blood a day; and some believe it can already hear and feel the outside world. If that's true, Michelle Kennedy's unborn boy or girl is feeling a lot of tension. The seventeen-week-old is already in the middle of an emotional family dispute. But this fighting is not about which elementary school he'll go to, or which car seat is the safest for him; instead it's about who has the right to be a part of the baby's family once it arrives.

Kennedy is a 19-year-old sophomore at Roger Williams University, with a double major in biology and psychology. She dated her ex-boyfriend for a year, "on and off." Kennedy describes the 21-year-old as her soul-mate. "I couldn't imagine him not being in my life, in some capacity." Nevertheless, like so many couples, their struggles to stay together failed and they broke up, but not until after a quoteminent "one last time together."

Well, once is enough and the two, even though they were separated, now had a third, or they would in a more traditional world.

But these are the '90s, more specifically 1999, the ypu of the YTK. For the time the baby is born, sometime in May, and Kennedy is faced with not only her father but the whole world and all her parents.

"He gave me an ultimatum, he would support me if I gave up or had an abortion." But if she keeps the child, Kennedy was told in no uncertain terms that he, her soul-mate, wanted nothing to do with her or the child.

"He told me he knew he would be a bad father, and decided to just not be involved from the start, than to leave me with years down the road."

So Kennedy braced herself for a life as a single parent, difficult, demanding, constant and usually thankless, but she was determined. "I have no reason to give it up, and every reason to keep it."

The end? Not quite. Enter paternal grandmother. She not only wants visitation of the unborn child her son has refused to own, but is threatening to file for custody.

In Rhode Island, and many other states, Grandparents and even siblings, have rights to visitation of a biological child, regardless of marriage, death, or separation. The statute states. "The family court upon a parent's petition for visitation rights with the petitioners granted visitation, and upon notice to the child and notice to the child, and after hearing thereon, may grant reasonable rights of visitation of grandparent to petitioners."

Also, grandparents filing for custody, though there were no current cases in Rhode Island, seemed to be a trend throughout the U.S.

The paternal grandmother to Kennedy's baby, even though the father is unwilling to take responsibility can demand to see and be involved in the life of a child her son has abandoned.

In another law article, by the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, the abstract states that "Influenced by lobbying groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union, virtually all states have passed "grandparents' rights" laws allowing visitation when seeking the best interest of the child."

Why all the filings of petitions and seeking visitation or custody, why all the court cases, because it's a fact, sad or not true, depending on your opinions, that the "nuclear family" is a dinosaur. That leaves non-families struggling to realize their boundaries. Often these strangers, in many cases, are unable to make the decision of who should be involved on their own, thus family court is picked with single, unwed, divorced or remarried parents, and less of distinguished, well-meaning, blue ties.

The other side of the coin

Should single mothers who were abandoned by the father of their children be forced to have contact with relative strangers, people they may never have seen, know nothing about them should a child be forced to visit these people who other than a bloodline have no social connection to them?

Kennedy said the grandmother was threatening to file for custody or at least visitation because she felt Kennedy was unfit, a young, single, mother, who because she did not make the "right" decision to give the child up, is selfish and unstable.

President of the The Legal Clinic in Cranston, Christopher M. Lefebvre, said, "I hear that a hundred times a day. It's a pipe dream."

In Georgia, in an article by June D. Bell, published by The Daily Reporter, an on-line law resource, Fulton Superior Court Judge Bemmonn Tipton Lane rejected a so called third party custody statute unconstitutionally vague. It's "best interest of the child" standard is overwhelmingly tinged in favor of the parents, and in favor of the grandparents, who often have more time, money, attention and experience to devote to rearing a child, eight-page order said.

Judge Lane also rejected the "best interest" statute by saying that it is "so loose and fluid that it conversely permits a finding that this is the best interest of most mothers to be in the custody of the grandchildren, rather than in the custody of young parents whose rearing experience is limited to in the job training."

In Rhode Island the petition for grandparent's visitation must have been denied access for up to six months. In Kennedy's case the child is not yet born which gives this unexpected, accidental family time to work something out. Kennedy says she receives berating e-mails from the grand- mother that verge on harassment.

"I am very angry because she doesn't know me, before this incident we had never even had a conversation. She has no right to attack me and the type of person I'll be is I want to go for my family see the child but now, after everything, I hate her.

Swing!

Continued from page 3

Swingers, who are more experienced with the dance aspect of the swing culture, The Call has been offering a more seasoned swing night for over five years. Kramer and "The Call" has another event in place on Thursdays, for these 21 years of age and up, starting at 6:30 p.m. and ending early at 10:30 p.m.

"After the craze they will still be here," Kramer speculates about the future of Swing. "A lot of these people, (in the seasoned crowd) can really dance." They are there for the feeling and the music, to unwind to an upbeat tempo after the drudgery of a day. To dance, they have a few drinks, and be home by nine.

The age difference seems to be minute. This is definitely a cross-generational movement. However, there are subtle differences between the age groups. When Kramer sends out his scouts, which all smart entrepreneurs and army generals know, it's essential to keep an eye on your rivals. He noticed a divergence in the musical taste of the two age groups. According to Kramer, the younger crowd is more into the swing, meets rockabilly-punk, very up-tempo, while the seasoned crowd goes for a Captain twist to swing with a more moderate beat.

Some of the most popular bands in the neo-swing scene are geared to the younger generation, post-grunge youths looking for a new stimulus. Swing has attracted them to a literally more upbeat and less introspective landscape.

Scotty Mccreest, front man for Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, told Pulse on-line-updated in a September, interview: "The crowd used to range from 21 to 50, and it seemed like it would change every night. But after this new album came out [Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, on Capitol], it's now a kind of 15 to 25 thing going on. We always saw the punk kids and the rockabilly kids out there, and now I'm seeing less of that and more kids coming in with Nirvana shirts."

The diverse followers of neo-swing are certainly not struggling for a place to be "hep," which they might have been six years ago, before the movie Swingsters featured Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, before The Gap commercial and before the East Coast caught up to the West Coast's musical lead. These days in the zenith of swing, there are venues for the wildly oscillating disciples in every club, joint and community center within jumping distance.

In the Oct. 30 Arts section of the Providence Phoenix there were 10 ads for bands and/or swing dancing to attend. Swingers, for example, is an ongoing section in the dance classes where platform dance club with different rooms or floors for different styles of music. Others include large predominately live clubs like Lupo's Heartbreak Hotel, which housed the Cherry Peppin' Daddies on Nov. 7.

A more benign and technical outlet is the paid instructional dance. The Phoenix lists three places to learn to swing on a Tuesday night:

- Swing Dance Workshop: at the Newport Congregational Church, 730 Fish St., starting at 7 p.m. for beginners, and 8 p.m. for intermediate, $10 a class.
- Beginning Swing Dance Classes: at the Newport Congregational Church, 730 Fish St., starting at 7 p.m. for beginners, and 8 p.m. for $10 a class.

The Next Level, at 9. The cost is a bit more expensive at $12 a class.

Highly recommended are the places to learn to swing at the Brian Warren Adult Learning Center, where Denise Hamilton, the RWU student, pays $25 for five classes. Many more are listed every week in the Arts sections of The Providence and Bonus Phoenix. Newper It This Week and just about every local daily in surrounding communities.

Brian Setzer, leader of the Brian Setzer Orchestra and formerly of the Strait Cats, theories on the neo-swing movement in a July issue of the Bonus Phoenix.

"I think this stuff is all of us -- you might have heard swing as a kid on a Rice Krispies commercial. So it's in our psyche." The premise that swing might be part of our archetypical psyche can be place to be "by the origin of the dance itself. During World War II, European and American kids held on to swing like a declaration of independence, defiant, loud, and absolutely American. It's just part of our culture," says Setzer, and he's right, you just have to listen to swing once, to know it's an archaic call to youth and independence. Maybe that's the true and lasting link between old and young in neo-swing -- we all want to jump, jive, and walk for as long as we can.
Super Stars
Bronwen Lapidus, Staff Writer

Often, universities around the country try to find activities that will bring their students together. Such an event at Roger Williams University is called Super Stars. It is sponsored by the Department of Student Life here on campus. Super Stars has been a part of this campus since September, 1996, and has just finished its third year. According to the RWU Super Star Guide Book, "Super Stars is a series of programs... with the intent to promote a community within the living areas... and this is achieved through your residents playing, cheering and watching other residents participate in activities. There will be a variety of events to touch upon everyone's talents. The team will create an identity, team name and a team emblem."

Super Stars has nine major activities and various events. Super Stars stars around September 20 and ends the weekend before Thanksgiving. All students are encouraged to participate or watch an event at anytime. Points are awarded for each event or activity. There is a minimum of 500 points for the main activities, either by watching or participating. For the minor events, the number of people that attend each particular competition earn points. The more people that show up for their team, the more points the teams receive.

The nine main activities this year are, the Scavenger Hunt, the Basketball Tournament, Favorite Recipe Contest, College Bowl, Banner Contest, Flag Football, Lip Singing, Athletic Tournament, and Dance Olympics. Some of the smaller events are going to play at The Barn, Expression Sessions At The Other Place, attending the Game Show in the Student Union, going to see the creators of Pop Up Video, and watching sports events.

Dormitories can be represented in various ways. Maple is divided up in teams of two units. Floors divide Cedar up, while Willow is divided up in areas. Basketball life plays an important role in Super Stars. When Super Stars first started here on campus, she was an assistant to Terri Ward the previous director of Student Life, and the main event she assisted with was the College Bowl. When Ward left Stanley was more than happy to take over the Super Stars.

Stanley recalls the reason Ward and Richard Sierman, current Director of Student Life, developed Super Stars here at RWU; to help build up relationships between students who live in different resident halls. To explain why the events were chosen Stanley said, "This school tries to offer a balance between sports and intellectual activities so it can then allow more people to get interested and participate."

After two months of fundraising competition between the resident halls, prizes are awarded to the winners. The winners of each event will receive a pizza party and a certificate for their team. The Super Stars champion team members receive a T-shirt that says they are the overall winners of Super Stars, trophies, and a Bayroom Dinner. The team's name is put on a "continuous" trophy that is located in the Department of Student Life. Super Stars is a healthy competition that involves many students and was designed to help connect students together in the dorms. Not only do students recognize Super Stars as a great program, but so does the National Association of Student Personal Administration, or NASPA. According to Jen Stanley, NASPA chose Super Stars here at RWU, as 1998's "outstanding program of the region." After our school was presented with this honorary award, Stanley now visits other schools to promote Super Stars.

Super Stars was not invented here at RWU, but it has certainly made an impact with the students and NASPA. Super Stars has united students and helped other students get involved. Many hope that Super Stars will remain here on campus for a long time to come. This year was the first year evaluations were given to the students. Stanley hopes the students will respond positively and make suggestions for new activities they want as part of Super Stars. The results will be shown in next year's Super Stars.

*This year the winner is team "Lounge Lizards" from units one and unit 14 in Maple Hall.
*In second place is "Area 51" from Willow unit 51
*In third place is "Troublesome 45" from Cedar Hall fourth floor south.

News around campus... News around campus... News around campus

Mele presents workshop
On March 19, 1999 Kate Mele, assistant professor of composition, Feinstein College of Arts and Sciences, will present a workshop at the Massachusetts Council of Teachers of English (MCTE) spring conference. The purpose of her workshop, titled Academic Persuasions: From Academic to Civic Literacy, is to raise awareness among secondary teachers about the types of persuasive writing students will be expected to produce at the college level.

RWU Earns Recognition at Conference
Jennifer Stanley, assistant director of Student Life, was awarded the Outstanding New Professional Award for the state of Rhode Island at the National Association of Student Personal Administrators (NASPA) Region one conference held in Hartford, Conn. Also, the Office of Student Life was awarded Outstanding Program for the Superstars program that runs during the fall season.

News around campus... News around campus... News around campus... News around campus

Congrats to Proud students

SADD thanks businesses
A special thank you to SADD to the following students for bringing money to their donations that helped support the SADDurday Night Spectacular:

- Photo Works
- Brower Books
- Metacom Chiropractic Center
- Mouha Foods
- Bristol House of Pizza
- Downtown Video
- State Confectionery
- Tree of Life Wellness Center
- Inc.
- Tweets
- The Riviers
- The Toy Shop

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Hawk wrestlers overcome injuries and illness

Mike Lynch, Staff Writer

The Roger Williams wrestling team has been forced to deal with a great deal of hardship in the early going this season. Injuries to key wrestlers, as well as bouts with illnesses, have left the Hawks with dwindled numbers.

Through December 8th, however, the Hawks have wrestled well. They are 2-0 in Pilgrim League matches and 5-3 overall. The Hawks placed 2nd in the Roger Williams Invitational Tournament and 6th in the Doug Parker Invitational at Springfield College.

The Hawks have survived numerous injuries to get off to their quick start. Two-time All-New England wrestler Keith Medeiros has wrestled in only three matches this season due to a pinched nerve in his neck. His return is on a week-to-week basis. Junior Pete Doucet had his knee operated on last week and is expected back in January.

Two-time All-New England wrestler Jeff Palmer returned to action last week after having ear problems.

Illness has also hit the Hawks hard. Senior Angelo Diaz and freshman J.D. Midlak have been sick with the flu. Freshman Brian Bagdon has battled a bout of mononucleosis through the season.

Senior Joe Curran and freshmen Kevin Logue and Jared English have also missed action due to illness.

Coach Dave Kenney is bewildered. "I've been coaching for 18 years and I have never seen this amount of illness and injury on a team. We have been without four to five starters every match."

A number of freshmen wrestlers have stepped to the forefront to lead the Hawks in the early going. Freshmen J.D. Midlak, Ray Rask, Mike Prey, and Jeff Bernard have performed well in their rookie seasons. Midlak has a 10-2 record, recording four pins. Prey has won ten matches, seven by virtue of a pin. Frey has a record of 10-4 through December 8th. Bernard has won three matches for the Hawks.

The leadership of the veteran wrestlers has also been a key to the squad's success. Senior Angelo Diaz is 15-3 at 125 pounds, including three pins. Junior Tim Grady has a record of 10-2 at 285 pounds.

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The Hawk wrestlers hope to use the three-week Christmas break to regain their health. On January 8th, the squad returns to action in Hampton, Virginia at the prestigious Virginia Duals.

Coach Kenney hopes to be at full strength. "In order to compete in Virginia, we need everybody to be healthy for the tournament."

The Hawks also hope for success when they compete at the Swarthmore College Invitational on January 16 and in Pilgrim League action throughout the second semester.

Siskel & Ebert

movie reviews

THE RUGRATTS MOVIE. An underwhelming big-screen adaptation of the hit Nickelodeon cable TV series about the ground-level adventures of the toddlers in the Pickles family, and their friends. The big news is, Tommy Pickles gets a baby brother, and has to deal with all of the predictable issues involving no longer being the center of attention. The wit of the screenplay begins -- and ends -- with the naming of the infant, Dylan, nicknamed Dil. Get it? Dil Pickles? The little people have an adventure in the forest but all they meet are some monkeys and a wolf. G. 2 stars.

THE SEIGE. An exciting and thoughtful rumination on the tricky issue of urban terrorism and how to combat it. Co-writer and director Edward Zwick doesn't back away from portraying Muslim zealots as a legion-sized force that challenges three elements of the U.S. defense system represented, of course in conflict with each other, by FBI agent Denzel Washington, CIA operative Annette Bening and Army general Bruce Willis. The Siege deviates from the norm by raising the question of how many freedoms citizens might be forced to give up to be reasonably safe. R. 3-1/2 stars.

VERY BAD THINGS. A thoroughly depressing black comedy about a bachelor party gone wrong and the demented, violent cover-up that follows. Even though the bride (Cameron Diaz) warns her fiancé (Jon Favreau) not to participate, he does go to Vegas with four friends (Christian Slater, Daniel Stern, Jeremy Piven and Leland Orser) who ply him with booze, drugs and a prostitute who meets a violent death. And she isn't the only one. The five take a vow of silence that isn't kept, and the grisly way they deal with the bodies will have you wishing for the woodchipper in Fargo. Possibly writer-director Peter Berg's intention was to try to make murder absurd through overkill. But because his characters are so flat, we're simply overwhelmed and numbed by the graphic violence. R. 1 star.

THE WATERBOY. Adam Sandler, the annoying comic who seemingly manufactures a speech impediment, plays the water boy of a college football team and predictably gets razzed, hit in the head and verbally abused by team members. After being fired, he joins another team as the water boy and then becomes a player to surprising success. What is not surprising is that the film leads up to a Big Game in which Sandler plays a key role. Stupid is the word I'm looking for to describe this film. PG-13. 1 star.

Christian Slater
SPORTS
National Basketball Association... The foolishness of greed
Joshua Scott, Contributing Writer

In over 52 years of basketball, no games have been lost because of strikes. However, this season, something has gone terribly wrong: a simple argument over league policies has destroyed a tradition. Unlike baseball, hockey and football, which have all had strike shortened seasons, basketball had found a way to avoid a lost season. This year, the streak ended and a new era of this wonderful sport has begun.

As of July 1, 1998, the owners have installed a "lock out" which ended the collective bargaining between the players, the union, and the owners. A "lock out" means that the league will not allow the players to play any games of the season until the bargaining is settled. This stoppage of play hurts everyone: the players, who will lose part of their salary, the teams, who will lose money because of lost advertising and promotions; and the owners, who lose money brought in at gate.

A part of this "lock out" states that players are no longer allowed to play basketball anywhere. This means that the players are not allowed to earn legitimate salaries while this "lock out" goes on. Also, with this loss of salary comes the possible loss of jobs. If this "lock out" persists through the entire season, which seems likely, players with contracts ending this year could lose their jobs. If they do not lose their jobs, they may not be able to renegotiate their contracts, which can ruin their chances of fair salaries.

Rookie Contracts

The owners would like the contracts of rookies to be extended. They dislike paying such high salaries for these players only to lose them in 3 years.

None of the players in the union want to have a contract that is not guaranteed.

The first proposal is to extend the contracts from 3 to 6 years; however, the last years will not be guaranteed.

Due to a decreasing "middle class" players who produce but are not considered stars, the union wants a sliding salary scale. This will allow veteran players to attain a certain salary proportional to their years of playing.

These two issues are the major debates in the "lock out". In response to the salary cap issue, I feel that both sides have legitimate cases. However, I feel that the players deserve the right to have guarantees on their jobs.

As in any other profession, employers like to be sure that they will have a job for a specified period of time and not have to worry about a decreasing salary. A "hard cap" would only force players who are free agents to lose money after their contracts have ended. But, someone who has helped a corporation should not be docked money when negotiating a new contract.

Also, the idea of ignoring the "Larry Bird" rule would only allow the league to cut players' salaries. Further, it would harm the negotiating rights of rookie players in deciding where they wish to play.

In regards to the issue of rookie contracts, I feel that the league has no just cause for its proposal. All employers have the right to security in their jobs. This proposal made by the owners does not guarantee that the players will have jobs and thus their salaries. This allows for the league to take advantage of young players and forces them to be controlled by the owners.

Here are the main issues that must be dealt with before this "lock out" can end.

**Salary Cap**

**Owners**

"Hard Cap" - A salary cap that cannot be exceeded by any team.

Larry Bird Exception - This rule allows the teams to ignore the salary cap when resigning a veteran player. The owners want to remove this rule.

Examples:
- Salary cap of all teams is $26.9 million a year.

The league claims that because of the present salary cap, 15 of the 29 teams are losing money. They state that teams are spending roughly 57% of the teams' revenue on player salaries.

**Players**

"Soft Cap" - A salary cap that can be exceeded when a team re-signs their own veteran free agent.

The players feel that this rule allows the league to cut players that are not doing their best. This also allows teams to renegotiate with their first-round draft choice, allowing them to have more of "NBA finds wait for the start of the season"

Boston Celtics fans wait for the start of the season

NBA Authority

The NBA wants to maintain its power over the right to suspend and fine players. The owners do not disagree with this idea, only that the NBA and commissioner Stern define the disciplinary guidelines more clearly.

All I can say about the rest of these issues is "STOP WHINING." These issues are only being debated to see which side can get more control.

A drug policy should be put into effect for one logical reason: the law. Marijuana is an illegal substance and is therefore punishable by law.

If the players are too afraid of being arrested, maybe the police should check their homes, do what they feel is fair, and treat them like normal citizens.

This idea of power seems to be the only union way to cover up a drug problem in the league.

On the idea of free agency, the owners should find some way to accept this that will never happen again.

All this policy does is force players to stay with their respective teams. It does allow for players to decide what they want to do and where they want to play.

Players will be forced to do what they do not want to do, which in this country violates people's freedom of choice.

This issue not only is unattainable to free player choice, but is also unconstitutional.

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Other issues include:

**Drug Policy**

The owners feel that there is a need to implement random, mandatory marijuana and alcohol testing in the league. The players are afraid that this is only allowing the league to exercise its power, but are willing to negotiate.

**Free Agency**

The owners want to re-retain their right to have a restricted free agent policy. They would allow a player's current team to match other teams offers in order to keep their players.

The players disagree: they feel that is unfair to allow the teams to have total control over them, since they will no longer have a choice of where to play if their current team matches another offer.

**Revenue Resources**

Owners would like to narrow the field of basketball related income, which calculates the salary cap of a team. They feel that narrowing this income will lower player salaries and in turn lower ticket prices. The union feels that this is not right, and that this income should be broadened. For example, while arena sponsors are not considered basketball related, the union thinks they should be.

**Other issues include:**

- **Drug Policy**
- **Free Agency**
- **Revenue Resources**