Radical lesbian speaks out against 'militant homosexuals'

By Beth Kleiman
Staff Writer

Packed to its full capacity at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday Nov. 8, School of Engineering room 124 was filled with an audience anxiously awaiting the latest speaker sponsored by RWU's College Republicans. Students and nearby residents alike gathered to hear the voice of Tammy Bruce, an openly gay woman who believes that 'militant homosexuals are ruining this country.'

Tammy Bruce has been involved in the gay and political community for years now: she is open about her sexuality because she says it is relative to her politics. She even cracked jokes periodically and assured the audience that she does not go out and buy Melissa Etheridge albums.

Bruce started her lecture by making clear that she would be saying things that some would disagree with. She stated, "Even if you disagree with someone or someone irritates you... the sky is not going to fall."

Bruce's strong beliefs started years ago, when outbreaks of a new disease called AIDS began popping up throughout the gay community. She repeated several times that she was tired of watching her friends die, frequently citing personal experiences.

"We could stop the epidemic overnight... if certain men kept their pants on!" Bruce believes that AIDS is romanticized in today's world, to the point where people called "bug catcher's actually try to get the disease from others calling "gift givers." There was a belief, among some gayContinued on Page 4

Protest gains momentum, leads to Veteran's Day ceremony

By Gary Dow
Science Editor

On November 6, 2003, with his head held high and a swagger in his step, Nick Zackrison circled D'Angelo Common. In his hand, a haphazard sign read: Remember Veteran's Day.

"I'm not asking for a parade," Zackrison shouted, as he strutted around the Quad, dog tags dangling from his neck. "I'm not even asking for the day off. All I want is for this school to recognize those men and women who risked their lives, who died for us, to protect our freedom."

A day later, on November 7, 2003, Zackrison met with Provost Edward Kavanagh to discuss, what Zackrison believed, was the school's non-recognition of Veteran's Day.

Ken Osborne—a Vietnam veteran and Dean of the Metropolitan Campus—was also present at the meeting, which took place in the Student Union.

As a result, Kavanagh authorized a Veteran's Day ceremony in recognition of those who have served, and those who are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces.

The ceremony was held Tuesday, November 11th at 10 a.m. in D'Angelo Quad. The guest speaker was Lt. Col. Paul Krajeski, of the United States Army. A special tribute was paid to Roger Williams's alumnus Major Kenneth B. Goff, who remains missing in action from the Vietnam War.

The event was co-sponsored by Roger Williams

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Hawk's Right Eye suffers a black eye

By Mark Waldyski
Staff Writer

The hotly publicized matter between the RWU administration and the RWU College Republicans over content in the Hawk's Right Eye has prompted a new strengthening of protocols for any club or organization that wishes to publish using the university's name.

Now any group that wants to publish must first have its adviser review the material. If the adviser finds something objectionable, then the pre-published work will be turned over and judged by a "review committee to determine the propriety of the item in question," as stated in an Oct. 22 letter from Dean of Student Affairs, Richard Stegman, that was addressed to the presidents and advisers of student clubs and organizations. Some question whether free speech is being allowed to be fully exercised.

The review committee consists of a number of RWU administrators including Stegman, Provost Dr. Edward Kavanagh, Vice President of Human Resources and General Counsel, Bob Avery, Associate Dean of Students, Maria Wald-flts and Executive Director of Public Affairs, Rick Goff. Stegman says in his letter, "Let me be clear that it is not the intention of this university to limit diverse viewpoints or the content of one's publication."

Chairman of the RWU College Republicans, and editor of the Hawk's Right Eye, Jason Mattera, sees it differently.

"They have formed what I like to call a censorship committee. Basically what they're saying is, 'We value freedom of expression, but we don't value freedom of expression. If you did, then why would you want to filter it?'" said Mattera.

This year, the Hawk's Right Eye plans to be the only printed thought of as being controversial on RWU's campus, perhaps indicating that the more stringent policy could be aimed specifically at the Right Eye, or at the very least enacted as a result of the paper's content.

The new policy leaves many with uneasy questions to deal with questionable content. Adviser to the College Republicans, political-science professor Dr. June Speelman, said that after the release of the Hawk's Right Eye the administration had questioned her effectiveness as an adviser.

"There were no guidelines or expectations regarding the situation. I didn't know what I was expected to do," Speelman said.

Kavanagh used the Hawk's Right Eye as an example of what will currently be expected of advisers if content becomes a concern. "She [Speelman] is going to advise them [College Republicans]..."
Haunted House
both hair-raising and fundraising

By Samantha Brownstein
Staff Writer

It was an evening of fright, as students at Roger Williams University organized a Haunted House for the Bristol community and fellow students on Friday, Oct 31 in the Performing Arts Building.

“Students who participated in the event were members of Stage Company, theater majors/minors, and friends of the groups. The Haunted House was opened to the Bristol community starting at 5:30 p.m. and then opened for student at 9:00 p.m. After talking to students who participated, they were initially skeptical of the ultimate turn out. However, many came to support the event in search of a few scares.

The event pooled in $386. Last year the haunted house made a total of $300, which earned it the title of best fundraiser. Talking to Amanda Christie, a Stage Company member who helped run the haunted house, said, “I spent 29 hours in just 3 days helping set up for the event. Work-study students helped as well. They did a lot of big stuff that I couldn’t do myself. In the end, it was worth all the hours and hard work to see it succeed in such a big way.”

When they unveiled the house to the Bristol community, few came. But when the haunted house opened its doors for students from 9:00-11:00 p.m., in just 2 hours, more than 100 students came to support their fellow students and experience some of their own. Halloween fright. RWU students played an important role in raising nearly $400 for the Stage Company.

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Police Beat

Arrests

11/6 at 4:02 p.m. Scott C. Woodbury, 22, of 8 Scotland Drive, Andover, Mass., was arrested by Bristol Police on a charge of disorderly conduct.

11/7 at 6:33 p.m. Joshua R. Dretchen, 18, of 8 Sisson Terrace, Valley Cottage, NY, was arrested by Bristol Police on a charge of possession of marijuana.

No verison on this student’s horizon

11/4 at 5:20 p.m. A complainant at RWU filed a report of their missing cell phone.

Vehicle Vandalism

11/5 at 4:04 p.m. An RWU student filed a report with Bristol Police concerning vandalism to her vehicle on Oliver Street.

11/5 at 4:40 p.m. An RWU student filed a report of vehicle vandalism with the Bristol Police.

Police Beat information courtesy of Bristol Police Department. Edited by Jason Turcotte.
President announces scholarship in memory of fallen Bristol soldier

**By Garry Dow**

Science Editor

On November 11, 2003, President Roy J. Nirschel announced the establishment of a scholarship in honor of Michael "Flea" Andrade, a Bristol native who died in Iraq this past September.

Andrade served in the National Guard as a member of the 115th Police Company. A graduate of Mount Hope High School, he was also a volunteer firefighter in Bristol.

Nirschel made the announcement on Veteran’s Day while speaking at the Bristol area veteran’s commemoration.

He described the scholarship as “An effort that embodies the spirit of Veteran’s Day and indicates the high degree of respect and recognition we place on those who have served our country.”

The scholarship will be available to one Mount Hope High School graduate who maintained at least a B average and received an SAT score of at least 1000.

The four year scholarship, valued at nearly $100,000, includes tuition and fees. A minimum of $500 is available to any qualified Mount Hope graduate, special consideration will be given to full-time undergraduate students interested in pursuing careers in construction management, engineering or architecture.

According to Rick Goff, Director of Public Relations, "The recipient will be required to commit a minimum of five hours per year in support of worthwhile organizations in Bristol or Warren.”

In addition to Nirschel, Ray Cordeiro, a Bristol Town Council member and Roger Williams Associate Athletic Director, attended the scholarship effort.

This is the latest addition to a number of community-based scholarships, which include: The Foster Foundation Scholarship, the Bristol Memorial Grant, the Town Employee Scholarship, and tuition remission for Bristol residents.
Tammy Bruce

continued from front page

The Associated Press

There is a "refusal to come to judgment about actions," the actions of homosexuals. She explained that within the gay community there are common viewpoints about everything, and if someone had a different opinion, that person would be treated as an outcast. She said: "America thinks that if we come to judgment about what we do, it is bad." Bruce referred to the "radical fringe" of gay community leadership, of whom she was tired of being represented by. She believes that this small group tells individuals within the gay community not to question majority opinion, and punishes those who do challenge them: "We have got to be a bit dissenting and not be at risk."

Bruce disagrees with the idea that gay rights are/support to include every part of the gay community. "It's not sexy to have cuts and bruises." She made it clear that she does not agree with SSM and Masochism. "I'll have no part of that, as a feminist, and I'll argue that as well." Being a woman is more than what is between your legs," said Bruce, who criticized transsexuals, referring to their desire to cover up who they are with surgery, instead of confronting their sexual identity. "If you're worried about getting feelings hurt or not getting offended, you're in the wrong place." Bruce said that we "condemn our own" instead of addressing why they want to disappear.

Bruce had her own ideas about what can be done about what the gay community can do to address the way of physical support, he did gain a petition with more than 850 signatures. According to June Speakman, a political science professor, the school does not recognize Veteran's Day by taking the day off because it conflicts with the number of class hours mandated by the federal administration, which controls financial aid for many students on campus. "We need to meet for 45 class hours each semester. In the teacher's union administration negotiations, we decided not to go back before Labor Day, and we already run pretty close to the holidays at the end of the semester as it is."

"We were forced to choose between the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and Veteran's Day. We didn't want kids on the road Wednesday night with all the traffic, so we decided to take it off. It was a safety issue." Despite the fact that RWU was open for business as usual on Veteran's Day, Zackrison was happy with the result. "Veteran's Day is now recognized by the school as more than just a footnote," he said. "Although I am still disappointed that no one else really made flyers, banners, or marched with me, I think they will all remember."
The blue whale, a modern-day sea monster

By Garry Dow

Science Editor

A couple of weeks ago I saw a show called "Modern Day Sea Monsters," which took animals living today and matched them up with accounts of sea monsters from years past. It attempted to show that really, sea monsters were no more than exaggerated descriptions of actual animals living in the sea at that time.

And while it seems apparent that most descriptions were somewhat of a fish tale, I found it interesting that the "sea monster description" of one particular animal was almost identical to the one you would find in any modern day textbook.

The blue whale (Balaenoptera musculus) needed no exaggeration, no added details to be scary. It even beats the blue whale for being blue.

It is the largest creature to have ever lived, far bigger than even the largest dinosaur. Its tongue alone weighs as much as an elephant. Its heart is the size of a Volkswagen. Some of its blood vessels are so wide, you could swim through them.

Students research an invasive species found in Mt. Hope Bay

By Heather Kordula

Staff Writer

Nearly half of the plants and animals on the United States Endangered Species List are at risk due to invasive species. A local invasive species under concern is Grateloupia turuturu. Marcie Marston and Martine Villalard-Bohnack of Roger Williams University, Marilyn Harlin of the University of Rhode Island, and students Erin Cote, Anthony Fuda, Franci Piercley, and James Torbett from RWU are currently conducting research on the impact of the invasive red algae.

Marston relayed current information on Grateloupia in a lecture titled "The spread and ecological impact of an invasive red alga, Grateloupia turuturu along the coast of southern New England" on Wednesday Nov. 5. The lecture is part of the RI Natural History 2003-2004 Mark D. Gould Memorial Lecture Series on R.I.'s Fauna, Flora, Geology and Ecosystems.

Invasive species are plants, animals or other organisms that have come into our region from other parts of the world. Invasive species are typically aggressive growers and lack the pests or diseases that control their numbers in their native home. This means that they are able to spread and take over natural areas in their newly adopted home. Invasive species may also cause local extinctions and lower biological diversity. Needless to say, the current spread of Grateloupia turuturu is one of local concern.

A student at URI discovered Grateloupia turuturu in 1996. By the year 2000 it had spread throughout Rhode Island including the Mount Hope Bay. According to Marston, "You can walk down to our dock and find lots of it." Grateloupia turuturu can grow fast to five feet long as a single blade or branched. It is encountered in the lower intertidal to upper subtidal zone and is usually attached to rocks.

Part of the research Marston is conducting is to find where the Grateloupia turuturu is originally from. It is hypothesized that it came to Rhode Island on the hull of a ship or through ballast water. The species was tracked back to Europe where the original name, Grateloupia doryphora was found. However, it was an invasive species to Europe as well. It was then traced back to Japan, where it is an endemic species. However the Japanese name was Grateloupia turuturu, thus the name was changed.

Marston is currently using genetics to track where the individuals from Rhode Island are originally from. She can determine this by looking at the sequences of the genes in the DNA of the algae. It seems these individuals are so far related to both the Japanese and European individuals and it was not yet been determined where the individuals have originated.

Why should we care about these invasive red algae? Marston says she is not yet sure of all the ecological and environmental impacts the algae has, however she is certain that, "Grateloupia has become established in Rhode Island." Marston believes the Grateloupia could have a direct effect on the native species, especially Chondrus crispus, common red algae found here in Rhode Island. Both Marston and her students are currently researching the effect of the Grateloupia on the Chondrus.
Performance of RWU professors exposed in Web site

By Jason Turcotte
Co-Editor

It was just a few years ago that John Swapeckinski recalls miserably sitting through a lecture at San Jose State with a professor he described as "terrible." Unlike other students, Swapeckinski decided to do something about it, launching ratemyprofessors.com in 1999.

"I decided to start the website to allow students to warn others about terrible professors," Swapeckinski told the Hawk's Herald. The site exists as an online forum for college students to educate and inform other students of the effectiveness or lack of, of professors at colleges nationwide, including Roger Williams University.

Swapeckinski rationalizes the site by characterizing students as consumers and professors as the product through which they say a student has the right to know how their teachers are performing. Today the site boasts 253,903 professors rating over 3,509 schools.

Students may browse the site to search their school and professors they have had and are able to rank them on three categories: easiness, helpfulness and clarity. The helpfulness and clarity categories are then averaged into an overall rating. Those delivering the ratings remain anonymous and are also afforded the opportunity to write additional comments concerning the respective professor. All ratings are based on a 1-5 scale, with five being the highest. Other features include a red flag that can be set to the site when a student reads a review that they feel is lacking factual merit. And though rarely used, students may also opt to label professors as "hot."

They system, however, is by no means fool proof. Even though users are asked to identify themselves according to the class they took with the professor that are rating, there is no guarantee that every rating comes from a student. Even the type of student leaving the rating is untraceable. "These opinions should always be taken with a grain of salt because you don't know what kind of student wrote each rating. But the site gives students food for thought when planning their class schedules," said Swapeckinski.

The top rated RWU professors according to ratemyprofessors.com is a language professor, boasts a 4.7 overall rating. "We definitely learn a lot and you genuinely enjoy the professor at the same time," said one Latin student. Another had this to say about Hollingsworth, "Tony has this brainwashing effect over his students. He teaches you what he likes and loves and you somehow grow to love it too."

Bob Engvalg, criminal justice professor, also earned a 4.7 overall rating. One Intro to CJ student remarked, "Awesome teacher! Actually makes it fun to learn."

Amy Toman, marketing professor, scored a 4.7 overall rating. "Dr. Toman is always cheery and helpful," one student said.

Dr. Rebecca McLaughlin, writing professor, received a perfect 5.0 rating in all three categories. Student comments included, "nice" and "great class."

David McKee, economics professor, earned a 4.9 overall rating. One enterprisestudent had this to say, "Dave McKee is an awesome professor, someone who truly cares about his students. I had him freshmen year and he has always made an effort to stay in touch and see how I'm doing. He won't give up on you."

Eric Roberts, biology professor, also has an overall rating of 4.9. A genetics student said, "I think this guy could teach my dog genetics-he's the man."

Will Ayton, music professor, earned a rating of 4.8 overall. Students described Ayton as "fascinating," "extremely excited about teaching. Can be a father away from home," one commented a one Aesthetics student.

W. Brett McKenzie, CIS professor, also rated at 4.8 overall. Students described him as a "true good teacher," even the "best CIS professor at RWU," by one student.

Tony Hollingsworth, foreign language professor, fell at a 1.3 overall rating. Some labeled Kendrow as "boring."

Richard Heavers, physics professor, is rated a 1.9 overall. "I think he hates to see people do well in his class," said one physics student.

Peter Alfierti, foreign language professor, students gave a 2.0 overall rating to. One Spanish student said, "You can learn a lot more Spanish watching Sesame Street than going to his class," and another commented, "Alfierti starts talking in Spanish, but ends up telling stories about Italy in English."

Nancy Nester, writing professor, has an overall rating of 2.3. "She grades tough and her reviewing papers are unclear," said one student who reported he was enrolled in senior seminar.

Others called her criticism "unconstructive."

Bob Ristino, relations professor, also earned a 2.4 overall rating. "Sometimes his lectures can be as dry as the wastelands of Iraq," said one student.

Bruce Burdick, mathematics professor, also earned a 2.4 overall rating, but scored just a 2.1 in the "helpfulness" category.

Tucker Wright, legal studies professor, came in with a 2.5 overall rating. One student comments, "Unfortunately, freshmen or sophomores are not mature enough to understand his style."

Jennifer Campbell, writing professor, finishes the bottom ten with a 2.6 overall rating. "She treats her students like children, not adults," said a Lit/Phyl student.

Again, the level of ease rating does not calculate into these figures of overall rating, thus the Herald shares the site's "easiest" teachers of whom had at least five users rate them.

At RWU, writing professor Rebecca McLaughlin, psychology professor Charles Nardelli, and preengineering professor Barbara Leashor, history professor Mike Swanson and marketing professor Lana Braddock rounded out the "easiest" professors according to input provided by students at ratemyprofessors.com.

The five most difficult professors at RWU according to the site are currently, mathematics professor Joel Silverberg, mathematics professor Earl Gladue, foreign language professor Tony Hollingsworth, chemistry professor Dan Von Riesen, English professor Deb Robinson and accounting professor Richard Bernard.

In total, 186 RWU professors have been ranked on the site thus far. Of those, 184 professors rated favorably as effective professors, 22 percent as ineffective and 16 percent as average. Another point made by Swapeckinski, site founder, is that the forum typically draws students who have an active view of a professor, either a strong liking or disliking.

Typical of most schools, RWU students scour course schedules each semester in search of a professor who suits their needs. But some underclassmen, are not familiar with all faculty members and what each course entails. ratemyprofessors.com serves as a medium to those who are less knowledgeable to the academic options available when registering for their course load, which for underclassmen at RWU begins Nov. 17.

When asked about professor's reactions to the site, Swapeckinski says that reaction in part depends on the rating in which the professor received, adding, "We get threatened with legal action from angry professors on pretty much a weekly basis. Fortunately, the First Amendment is on our side."
A ditzy kind of duo

By Michelle Moore

Lacking energy from the start, it was hard to tell what the crowd was thinking as comedian Leigh Forrest walked onto stage Friday night in the Student Union Snack Bar. Of course, she began her skit, it was obvious her high-pitched voice and energetic personality were something a little different from the comedians RWU students were used to.

Soon, though, the audience members adjusted, understanding her "ditzy" humor and became a bit more involved. Forrest made jokes based on her new experiences with motherhood, a stage of her life that began just six months ago. Tokingingly she referred to her daughter as "You," saying that her and her husband thought it might be perfect since the "Birthday Song" would then already be dedicated to her. She topped off her performance with a skit about sewing and even showed us a couple "Sewilas" she had been working on.

The show wasn't over when Forrest walked off the stage though, in fact, it had only just begun. The next comedian, Moira Quirk, is known by many as the petite, English referee from the Nickelodeon's "GUTS," amongst others. It was very interesting seeing the voices she portrays in various cartoons such as "The Wild Thornberry's."

Quick jump kicked her skit off by acting other people's impressions of her English accent and proceeded with more jokes involving other accents. Just as one would expect with any comedian from England, her humor was crude but well-presented.

Overall, both comedians put on a fine show of comical material during the CEN sponsored event. They did a great job of keeping the stand-up comedy routine, but they certainly made people laugh.

A musb buy CD

By Ellen Cassidy

John Mayer's second CD, released on Sept. 9 by Columbia Records is a must buy. "Heavier Things," an album that encourages you to listen to every track. This CD provides a complex lyric and creative guitar solos.

John Mayer's first CD was targeted at the 15-25 age group, his newest CD reaches to a more diverse group of listeners.

Heavier Things experiments with Jazz, with the help from Roy Hargrove with the saxophone. Like his first album, Heavier Things is filled with catchy lines, and Mayer's raspy but soulful voice flawlessly best with his guitar.

Many artists suffer the loss of their popularity among their original fans, upon creation of a second album. But, Mayer made a bold career move by creating a new sound, different from his first CD. Mayer changes his song writing style, adapting to more difficult issues. His fans will appreciate his new CD is a must buy and a great stress reliever from the grind of typical college life.
Fishing for an answer: soccer player snubbed during Senior Day

By Chris Villano
Staff Writer

“The team won yesterday and perhaps that is all that matters,” states Phyllis Fish, mother of Brian Fish, senior goalkeeper of the RWU men’s soccer team. Mrs. Fish addressed the entire team and many of their family members in a heart felt e-mail which echoed the seldom heard, somber emotions of players of all sports who have seen games won and lost from sidelines.

It’s a respected devotion that many players love the game so much that they are willing to spend the majority of their time viewing it from behind the white lines. It’s a fact that some college athletes barely see the field except for those few games when the team is winning big, or on special occasions like Senior Day. At least they have those, or do they?

Senior Day, Saturday Nov. 1 during the first round of the Commonwealth Coast Conference playoffs, the RWU men’s soccer team won their game against The University of New England 4-1, advancing to the second round of the playoffs. However, there was little action for freshman Kevin Deegan, who in his 90 minutes of play was tested with just one shot on net, a shot that eluded his grasp.

The goal keeper situation for the RWU hawks has been problematic over the years as it has seen a number of starting and back-up keepers come and go, including last year’s starter Justin Hughes and back up Dave Altho. The only keeper who has toughed it out for all four years has been Brian Fish. However, this Senior Day, the only senior, who failed to log minutes was Fish.

“What damage could it have possibly caused to honor his dedication to this school and this program by giving him a few minutes on the field on a day that is traditionally reserved for seniors?” asks Mrs. Fish in her letter, who isn’t demanding playing time, but rather that her son is treated fairly and with respect.

This type of situation asks an important question of priority, which is more significant, winning or fighting the battle with a total team effort? And have sports at this level become more political then anything else? But the more the team wins, the better the recognition for RWU. Private universities and colleges are not only institutions for higher educations, but at their core, they are businesses. And having a successful winning soccer team, they attract more valued customers.

But the treatment of Brian Fish, a long-term member of the RWU community, may not be the message that a winning program wants to send to its potential customers. Coach Jim Cook had this to say about Senior Day,

“An issue of a player starting, or playing is a team issue between the coach and his players, Brian and I have talked and this situation is well behind us. This is a non-issue.” Players have described Cook’s coaching philosophy as being the type who best prove their abilities are afforded the most minutes on the field.

This equal opportunity outlook proved successful for the Hawks, as they have been a winning team for many years now, with this year being no exception boasting a 16-3-2 record. But some feel as though winning is but a trifle token if the victory does not stem from a full team effort.

The Herald wants to know your opinion. Share your thoughts by submitting a letter to the editor at HawksHerald@yahoo.com.

Hawks fall short in bid for NCAA tournament

By Tim Mannion
Staff Writer

The battle for the Commonwealth Coast conference championship ended on Saturday in front of a huge crowd at Bayside field with the Gordon College Fighting Scots defeating Roger Williams 1-0 on a goal by CCC Player of the year Matt Smith. Gordon College in reward of the championship victory also received an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

These two teams have begun a heated rivalry in the last couple of contests, as one month ago they played to a 1-1 tie and last year they also knotted a 1-1 tie. This match lived up to the expectations of the rivalry, which has been brewing over the last several years.

The scoring started early with just a little over five minutes as Matt Smith of the Scots slipped a shot past CCC goalie of the year Kevin Deegan, the young freshman goalie for the Hawks. After the goal each team had significant chances to put points on the board but they all came up short.

The Hawks’ best scoring chances came in the second half when Hawks junior Brian Contra served up a shot from just outside the box that just cleared the crossbar. Repeated chances for headers on corner kicks came just short for the Hawks, who couldn’t put it past the site goalie keeper Senior co-captain Anthony Nokes had several shots on goal in the last ten minutes but none found the back of the net.

The loss ended the Hawks 2003 season, finishing another strong year with a record of 16-3-2.

RWU Mock Trial Makes It’s Mark

The Roger Williams Mock Trial Club made its mark the weekend of Nov 1 and 2, as they expressed first place in the second Annual Roger Williams University Mock Trial Invitational Tournament. The tournament was an incredible success, bringing 176 college students from as far as Weber State University in Utah together to compete in a competition more than twice the size of the year before. The tournament took place at the Licht Judicial Center Downtown Providence where tournament participants were able to compete in actual courtrooms.

The tournament was kicked off with Opening Ceremonies during which Roger Williams University President Roy Nirschel and Roger Williams School of Law Dean David Logan gave opening remarks. Rhode Island Supreme Court Associate Justice Maureen McKenna Goldberg also gave remarks at the keynote speaker.

Local judges, attorneys and law students supported Roger Williams and Brown Mock Trial by serving as judges to the competition. Without them the competition could not have been a success.

Teams that attended the tournament including those from Weber State, Lafayette and the College of the Holy Cross have congratulated Roger Williams and Brown Mock Trial for what they consider to be an unbeliveably well run tournament and intend to return again next year.

A total of 25 collegiate Mock Trial teams engaged in a competitive and exhausting four rounds of competition in just two short days. While the RWU teams did not place in the competition, they did bring home two individual awards. Jonathan Porter, a freshmam competing for the first time, received a best attorney award and Courtney Mostler, a junior and president of the club received a best witness award.

This year’s case is chock-full of Jerry Springer type drama. It revolves around a hockey player, Tony Sturmanus, who tragically dies on the ice. Mr. Sturmanus had suffered from a kidney disease, which could cause seizures and may have contributed to his death. Michael Harmon, the defendant in the case, stands accused of slugging a hike of a charge as murder for allegedly striking Tony Sturmanus in the head with his hockey stick. The confrontation took place between the two men during a hockey game on May 28 2003, to which there was an entire arena full of witnesses. The motive is the Jerry Springer drama comes in.

Michael Harmon’s ex-wife Victoria Harmon had been having a well-publicized affair with Tony Sturmanus and Tony Sturmanus had received a $30 million contract for which Michael Harmon had also been considered. This case will also be used at national tournaments, which help Mock Trial Club.

The Mock Trial Club always welcomes new members. For those that are interested, please email Mock Trial at mcauliffe@rwu.edu for more information.