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Only one African-American professor, despite recenthirings

By Ashley Isaciello
Contributing Writer

The annual end-of-summer faculty meeting provides a chance for the entire faculty to meet, including people who had been hired over the summer. Everyone was introduced but there was no question and answer period. Ben Carr, the only African-American professor at Roger Williams University, saw that with all the new hires he still remained the only African-American professor. He was beyond upset and wanted to speak his mind. Carr rose from his seat and rushed toward the podium to say something that had been on his mind the entire meeting.

Carr explains, “Someone at the meeting said something about how this university seems so beautiful and perfect. I wanted everyone, especially all the new faculty, to know that things are not perfect at RWU. I saw that with all the new hires I still remained the only African-American professor at RWU.”

People may wonder why Roger Williams University only has one African-American professor. The answer is not simple enough to state in one sentence. There are many aspects to this issue; Loretta Shelton, Diane Comisky and Ben Carr are some of the people who are helping to diversify the University.

Loretta Shelton, the Vice-President of Academic Affairs said “the word problem’ puts the situation in a negative context. Obviously our file does not reflect American society. No one would argue otherwise. We are a very young university and a rural university. These facts make the ‘problem’ more difficult to solve.”

The search process is not as simple as people may think. “It is illegal to ask on an application if a person is black, handicapped or if they plan on getting pregnant. The law doesn’t allow us to do that,” explains Shelton. “I believe that we should be aggressively hiring African-Americans. We can’t force it though. However it is in our practice to ‘highlight’ the fact that we are seeking candidates who are minorities but not specifically African-American.”

“Roger Williams University is interested in diversity. In the past thirty years we have made progress as far as women are concerned,” says Shelton, “when I first came here there were not very many women at all. Now the faculty is almost pretty even. Since the university is so young, we are only in the beginning stages of diversifying the campus. Hiring African-Americans just hasn’t been a priority in the past. Another thing is the fact that there is a small number, of African-Americans who receive their Ph.D.’s. From that small number we have to compete with larger institutions to get them. By the time we have a chance to possibly hire someone, they are already taken. ‘Competition wise and contextually we are working towards a goal.’ Carr sees this issue as a problem that this university needs to solve. “I have been here for thirty-two years and I do not think that this university tries to hire African-Americans. The situation is just not being handled. If it was, then this wouldn’t be an issue. The President just isn’t addressing this issue.”

“I wanted everyone, especially the new faculty, to know that things are not perfect at RWU. I saw that with all the new hires I still remain the only African-American professor at RWU.”

-Ben Carr, professor

at all and he’s responsible for taking action. The body goes where the head goes, just like we go where the administrators go. When Santoro was president he could have changed this situation if he really wanted to.” Carr has also had to deal with some trials of his own. “The ACT committee was shut down this year. President Hagan said that it was just not needed anymore. Did you know that one of the issues we dealt with was the lack of African-Americans in this campus? By shutting us down they are telling us that the problem is solved.”

Dane Comisky, who is a professor at RWU and very knowledgeable about diversity on campus, said “This is certainly a deficit we have. We are all missing out on the worldviews of a very significant part of our American heritage. African-Americans helped to build this country.”

By Brian Rhodes
Layout Editor

Coming back from a volleyball match against Suffolk at about 9:00 on a Thursday night, members of the women’s team was stopped by a RWU Public Safety officer stationed beside Incalcatena, a member of the women’s volleyball team. Despite being in athletic gear and team uniforms, the officer asked the players to search the bags looking for alcohol she said. Incalcatena recalled the incident calling it ‘unnatural’ and saying “We didn’t think the search was necessary."

She said, “We were just walking back from the gym, walking down the hill to Bayside after the match. We were doing nothing to draw any attention to ourselves.”

According to Incalcatena, the officer asked one of the players to drop her bag on the ground. Despite telling the officer her cell phone was in the bag, the officer still requested the bag be dropped, stated Incalcatena.

Many students agree with the women’s volleyball team that public safety seems a lot tougher this year; bordering on what the students are considering harassment. In the past, the women’s team might have received a “good evening” from the officer, but heightened enforcement of underage drinking and campus party regulations have students inquiring about the new attitude or policies for the start of the semester.

One of the most noticeable differences described by students is the presence of Public Safety officers in the units of Bayside on the weekends. Matt Snow, a Bayside resident agrees with others by calling it a “prevention-like environment.”

Snow says, “These changes are driving me crazy, it’s like they don’t want us to have any fun.”

Despite what students say, Bruce Bowie, Director of Public Safety, says, “No changes in policy have been made.”

Bowie commented that officers patrolling in Bayside started at the end of last year. He also states, “It is in the best interest of the student body to preserve a positive environment, and avoid a negative one.”

Richard Stegman, Assistant Dean of Students/Director of Student Life, backs up Bowie’s comments that no policy changes have been made. He also says, “What’s the problem with extra security? If you are doing something illegal then there’s no problem, and it’s for your benefit.”

When asked about the random searches of backpacks, giving the example of the women’s volleyball team, Bowie said that random searches are not all right, but if a reasonable suspicion is present, the searching of a bag is part of the job.

Stegman added, that RA’s and security officers make judgement-see Security, page 4
Editor's Notes

I've never really had any regrets in my life, I felt I made some dumb choices, of course, but I never believed that I would have wanted to make them any differently should I have the chance to do it all again, because they all shape who I have become. I didn't have any regrets, that is, until now.

I'm not sure if anyone realizes, but the majority of local news reporters (whether they be from newspapers or local television) had contacted me in the week of Rebecca Kelton's death, perhaps believing that as the campus news source, I would have more knowledge of the situation then they. They were looking for answers to questions like “Who was she?” and “What kind of person was she?” and, regrettfully, all I could say was “I honestly don't know.” After hearing what a wonderful, amazing, funny, and caring person Rebecca was, I regret, more than anything, not taking the time to get to know her. I regret not allowing myself to be more visible, open, and approachable to people on campus, because I missed out on knowing someone as amazing as Rebecca.

As far as media coverage goes, do not expect any news on Rebecca's death in this issue of the Hawk's Eye. I have made the decision, with help of some of her friends, to just run a memorial. No one on my staff was allowed to write any news-associated articles on this issue, nor were they allowed to bother friends and family. I realize that professionally this may be a poor Editorial decision, but no one ever said I was going to be any good at this Editor-In-Chief thing. I feel that because we are such a small campus, and because I think everyone is aware of what happened (at least those who it affects), there is no need for me to bring it up again. There is no need for me to remind people of the tragedy, because Rebecca's life was not a tragedy. And I'd much rather celebrate her life, and who she was, and how she's affected people positively.

There is a song by the band K's Choice that says "I don't want to live forever but as long as I do I'd love to live for real." Rebecca lived for real, and will live on forever in the thoughts and hearts of those who knew what a truly amazing person she was, and for those of us who wish we had.

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New policy allows school to monitor computer use

By Jessica Latimer
News Editor

Sitting at his desk, lounging back in his chair on September 7, Professor of Communications, Philip Szenher waited for his computer to boot up. Relaxed in his office, a disconcerting statement appeared on his computer screen stating that Roger Williams University now has the right to monitor his use of the computer and, if he wrongfully uses it, reserves the right to take action. Upon reading the prompt, Professor Szenher left his office to discuss it with his fellow colleagues, Professors: Melvin Topf, Joel Silverberg, and Robert Ristino.

"The prompt is out of the norm if you look at most other university computer sights. I am appalled by the thought that someone could be watching and why he or she should come here," said Szenher.

This scenario has been quite commonplace lately. With Roger Williams University recently passing a new Electronic Communications Policy, the prompt appears on faculty computers, student employee computers, and computers located within the labs. Students that are not employees of the school are also affected "if they use the university's e-mail, voice mail, etc," said Veronica Maher, President of the Roger Williams University Faculty Association.

The policy, which has been created to ensure proper use of school-owned computer resources, came about partly because of threatening e-mails that were sent to a professor within the Ralph R. Peck School of Law last year. However, the policy does not only encompass monitoring of school webmail, but also websites, networks, and Internet access. According to Michael Schipper, Vice President of Human Resources, the policy is only enacted if someone files a complaint, if the university's resources are used excessively, or if an inappropriate image is seen on a computer screen. The policy has spurred many debates among faculty and students about issues such as violation of academic freedom, guaranteed by the faculty contract, and violation of first amendment rights.

The first amendment states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." Although the first amendment ensures freedom of speech, it is a "relative right, not absolute," said Schipper, meaning that there are exceptions to every rule. Professor of Communications, Melvin Topf, explained that Roger Williams University is a "private, not a government, institution it has a good deal of discretion over the use of such things as computers and phones."

Faculty members are concerned that the new policy goes against their privilege of academic freedom, as guaranteed by their faculty contract. According to the policy, the Ralph R. Peck School of Law reserves the right to take action for the protection of the rights of the teacher in teaching and of the student to freedom in learning. Although this policy allows for freedom in research, the policy basically infringes upon those rights. The policy prohibits "use or transmission of sexually explicit images, messages, or cartoons, or use of electronic communications that contain ethnic slurs, racial epithets, or anything that may be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, or religion."

Imagine that you are a professor, doing research on a religion, or political topics in the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

What many employees find even more shocking is that the policy states that "by using the university e-mail, voice mail, web site, network, or internet systems, the employee knowingly and voluntarily consents to being monitored and acknowledges the employer's right to conduct such monitoring."

Although Roger Williams University has more leeway when creating policies than a private school, when compared to other schools the policy is stricter than most.

At its best, the policy states that "the university's electronic communications facilities provide a free and open forum for expression of ideas. The employees of the university are entitled to privacy in their use of the university's electronic communications facilities . . . without the employee's permission, users are prohibited from obtaining the other user's password; from monitoring the other user's voice or data communications; and from reading, copying, changing, or deleting the other user's computer files or software."

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Laundry is a dirty issue here at RWU

By All Englefield
Staff Writer

Everyone needs clean clothes. Anyone is capable of doing laundry, but it is not that easy when you are resident in any of the living areas on campus. There are many tribulations having to deal with the laundry rooms here at RWU. It is a major hassle just to get to the laundry rooms. In Cedar Hall, there are two rooms: one that’s always full, and another that is difficult to get to. Due to the fact that there is an alarmed door on the first level, the only level where laundry rooms are found, students have to walk outside just to do their laundry. Again in Maple Hall, there is one level for laundry, and for students living in the upper units, it is difficult to get there. Unlike Cedar, Maple does not even have the convenience of an elevator. No matter which building students are in, it is a hassle to carry a heavy laundry bag down the stairs, or to the elevator, knowing that the machines will most likely be full.

In Cedar, there are eight washing machines and eight dryers for over 300 residents. Alexis Valdes, a freshman Cedar resident, says, “I feel that the eight washers and dryers in this building are really ridiculous, because eight washers and dryers don’t cut it for the 300 kids who are in this building.” Students complain the laundry rooms, always seem to be full, and if they are not, they are extremely hot from prior use. The atmosphere is sticky and humid, and in some cases, there have been leaks in the washing machines, causing the floor to become one big puddle that you have to wade through to get to the machines.

“When I do my laundry here, it’s awful. I have to wait forever to get a machine. Then, I get a wash done and go to put it in the dryer, but all of the dryers are taken,” says freshman, Frank Holland. “So, my clothes just sit there and get moldy, and I’m not too happy about that.” Like Holland, this happens to many students.

Another issue with the machine has been the Uni-Card problem. Most of the time, Uni-Cards have not been accepted in the laundry rooms. Uni-Cards are not accepted in the Maple laundry room for the entire month of September; leaving Maple residents to fend for themselves to find quarters, which are scarce on college campuses.

Many students have also complained about the quality of the dryers. Sophomore Bayside resident, Kevin Moriarty says, “The machines never work. They either burn your clothes to a crisp or leave them so wet that you have to do them all over.”

Maple resident, says, “I feel that the eight washers and dryers in this building are really ridiculous, because eight washers and dryers don’t cut it for the 300 kids who are in this building.” Students complain the laundry rooms, always seem to be full, and if they are not, they are extremely hot from prior use. The atmosphere is sticky and humid, and in some cases, there have been leaks in the washing machines, causing the floor to become one big puddle that you have to wade through to get to the machines.

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Alcohol poisoning a big problem at RWU, larger at other colleges

By Sara Clark  
Staff Writer

Students may have noticed an abundance of ambulance transports on campus this semester. So far this year, five of these transports have been students with alcohol poisoning. This is not, however, reflective of a rise in drinking on campus. The rise in transports, according to Donna Darmody, Director of Health Education, is happening nationally, and RWU has one of the lowest numbers of transports regionally.

In 1997, an MIT student who was pledging at a campus fraternity died of alcohol poisoning. In September of this year, his family sued the university. When MIT settled out of court, two weeks ago, other universities in the United States began to worry about lawsuits on their own campuses.

Darmody explained that the definition of alcohol poisoning is when the percentage of alcohol in the blood has reached a level where it can affect the consciousness and cause the person to pass out. If the person's blood-alcohol content continues to rise, vital functions are affected (alcohol induced coma) and the person may die. But, she commented anyone who is drunk and vomiting is experiencing the body's way of counteracting alcohol poisoning.

Drinking games are a major factor in alcohol poisoning, Darmody said. Students playing drinking games may feel compelled to finish a game, or finish a drink when they lose a game, and may not realize how quickly they are consuming alcohol. That said, surveys completed by Roger Williams students actually show a decline of binge drinking last year. In 1992, sixty-six percent of Roger Williams students admitted to binge drinking (consuming five or more drinks in one sitting), compared to fifty-one percent of students surveyed last year, who engaged in binge drinking.

"What has caused this increase in transports, I think, is not a change in alcohol use. I think we're just erring on the side of caution. We don't want any liability. We don't want a death here. And the EMTs make the call. We just call the EMTs," said Darmody. She commented, however, that she was not sure if RWU's administrators were aware of the situation at MIT, and that everyone was acting on the side of caution, even the EMTs.

"My concern is that by talking about it [transports of students with alcohol poisoning] increasing, it gives people a false idea that we have a major problem at RWU," Damody continued, "This is not abnormal.

"It is not abnormal because universities and colleges all over the country are also calling for transports, to be safe rather than sorry. Sixty percent of student transports nationally last year were classified as 'unnecessary'."

Any time a student is hospitalized for alcohol poisoning, they are referred to Darmody within forty-eight hours of the incident. Darmody explained that, before AIR (Alcohol Incident Referral), the program now in place in the substance abuse center, students had to pay a fine of $100 for their first offense, and $200 for the second offense. Six years ago, alcohol offenders would all meet one night a week for counseling. Under AIR, which has now been in place for four years, students meet one-on-one with Darmody, and fill out an ARA (Alcohol Risk Appraisal) form to find out if they might be at risk for alcoholism. Parents are also notified by the Office of Student Life, in any alcohol-related instance, especially alcohol poisoning.

So far, no RWU policies for alcohol abuse that are already in place will be changed. The increase in alcohol poisonings may seem alarming, but one must take into account the liability scare caused by incidents at other colleges, and the growing number of students at Roger Williams.

If You Think Someone Has Alcohol Poisoning:

- Roll them over on their side or stomach.
- Give them a pinch test. If they don't react, call for emergency assistance.
- Monitor their breathing. They should be taking 10 breaths per minute.
- Keep the person still, comfortable, and low to the floor.
- Do not keep the person awake or allow them to drive.
- Stay with any person who is drunk or vomiting.
- Do not give them anything to eat or drink.
- If, at any point, the person is not breathing, call emergency services.
News

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*Some restrictions apply. See warrenmiller.com or call (800) 523-7117 for details.
I HAVE thousands of memories about Rebecca. How do I try to explain a person who brought everyone up when they were feeling down, or made heads turn?

Those of you who knew her know that it's impossible to tell a story without smiling or laughing when it comes to one about Rebecca. That is what was so special about her, the memories she has given to us, no matter if she is here, sitting with us in the cafeteria telling jokes and sparkling conversation, or watching over us now. I remember the first time Rebecca made me laugh. It was during RA training and I was playing hangman with her because we wanted to pass the time. She was in charge of guessing the letters and for the longest time she could not guess that I was writing, "Rebecca is a Crazy Girl." Finally she threw up her hands and pronounced that she knew what my riddle was, she screamed, "Rebecca is a Crazy Bird!" Ever since that day the name stuck and she has been my Birdie. Since then, we were attached at the hip, best buds!

We had so much fun together. We would go to this Nature Center in Newport, right on the water, and just walk around, talking about daily things. We called them our "Oprah Moments." It was so beautiful, no matter what kind of day we went on.

Top Gun was our favorite movie. She was "Goose" and I was "Maverick," we would always say to each other when we were having a bad day, "Hey you can be my wing woman any day." Another favorite was The Blair Witch Project which we watched one night down at Cedar. Rebecca was so happy because this guy who she had a major crush on was there, and no matter how scary the movie was, we had to go! So we went and got so freaked out that we actually debated whether or not to walk back to Maple. We darted back in about fifteen seconds, holding hands the whole way. We went back to my room and got rid of some rocks we had collected that day from the Nature Center place. We held each other the whole night, although we didn't sleep at all, we mostly laughed.

We saved up our money for Spring Break, when we decided to go to Mexico and Key West on a Cruise ship. She had the time of her life and told me that I was making her dreams come true. She finally got her first kiss on that boat. We stayed in room B17, where we shared so many laughs, memories and secrets. The trip couldn't have been any better.

One thing I know is that life is too short to waste trying to make yourself happy. Rebecca always put everyone in front of her... maybe that was what she was trying to teach us all. I know a lot of you didn't know her, but it's not hard to find her in others, or even yourself. When you feel like being that five-year-old kid, or laughing out of nowhere, that's her. When you feel like cracking a joke you might think no one will laugh at, say it anyway... I'm sure someone will laugh. Or when you feel like taking a walk with your bestfriend, reach out and grab their hand or give them a tap on the shoulder, let them know that you cherish those moments, because best friends don't ever change. Those of us whom she touched, keep her alive, keep laughing, smiling, being foolish, being sincere, being real. No matter if you knew her or not, she is in each and every one of us... Don't be afraid to let her out. Thanks for listening to a little piece of my best friend's life, I know she appreciates it.

Love,
Katherine Marcotte

The Memories of Rebecca Kelton

BEING INTRODUCED

To Rebecca Kelton my freshmen year at a Christian Fellowship meeting was the single most important event of my college life thus far. From then on, Rebecca and I became roommates, confidantes, and best friends. Together we shared the naive fun of living in Maple Unit One, where we stayed up until two every morning watching Space Ghost, playing Nintendo, and laughing in our nightly tooth brushing parties because water fights. We had no worries except for keeping up with our schoolwork, making sure our fish was fed, and learning the ins and outs of college. Rebecca and I grew together and gained each other through two years of college. Together we became RA’s and committed ourselves to our jobs and our residents. Finding time to spend together became rare. However, after a second semester of difficult events for the both of us, our friendship was strengthened as we counted on each other to lend an ear, hold a hand, or give a hug. I don’t believe that it was a coincidence that Rebecca and I experienced similar trials that semester. I believe that we were given to each other so that we could walk through life and experience it together. Rebecca said it best herself in a letter she wrote to me two months ago: “Well, as we head into another year, we both have no idea what the future will hold for us, but I know one thing that is certain, I will be there right beside you, and you will be there right beside me.” Although she is no longer physically here with me, I know that she will always be walking next to me, holding my hand.

Rebecca Kelton was the greatest gift I have ever been given. Her separations were to become a teacher and there is no doubt in my mind that that is what she has become. Through her and the friendship we shared, I have learned many important lessons.

There is no one word that can be used to describe Rebecca Kelton. All I can say, is that she was the most alive person I have ever met. She had such a bubbly nature and crazy spark, that you just had to go talk to her and she was the all about. I didn’t really know Becca for very long, but I am proud to say that I did know her at all. In many ways, she was a person I wish I could be... so crazy and outgoing, and able to laugh at anything. Her laugh was contagious, as was her energy. I remember lunches with the crowd of us at “our” table, where Becca would do the silliest, stupidest things. We would all laugh at her, and she would be laughing right along with us, not caring about how silly she may have been acting.

When I think of Becca, I think of her crazy bumble joke, and how proud she was that she thought of it on her own, and how she would tell anyone she saw and hope they fell for it. I actually used to get a little annoyed by the bumble joke, but now I would give anything to be able to hear it again. I had lunch with Becca maybe a week or so before her accident. Becca, Katherine and I were laughing hysterically, and I remember thinking that I hadn’t laughed so hard in ages. I’m happy that I had that last lunch with Becca, though I wish I had known it would be the last time I’d see her... There’s so much I would have said to her. I would have told her what a wonderful person she was, and how much I loved her sense of humor, and her smile, and her laugh. I would have told her how proud I was to know her, and thanked her for being a friend to me and being so caring. I’ll never get the chance to tell Becca those things, and I have told her while she was alive... I only hope she knew how I felt.

Becca, you were such a wonderful person, one who will never be forgotten. I miss you lots. And, just for you... Thery’re potato puffs.

Love,

[Ketty Stewart]

(Sara Dumas)
Never Say Goodbye

I feel it upon my back
The weight of your stare
I turn to see
But you are never there.

The wind surrounds me
I throw my arms wide
You are around me
And I feel you there.
There is no fear
You are hugging me.

The rain comes down upon my face
I laugh and smile
You are cleansing me
With your gentle touch.
Your love fills my heart so much
That I know you are still there.

As always
The wind dies and the rain stops
And I question
Were you ever really there.
So I stop and look up
At the beauty that surrounds me.
Realizing that you are all around me
And you are never really gone.
So I never need to say, "Goodbye!"

by Dorothy F. Borders
Lovingly dedicated to my Great Grandmother and Rebecca's friends. We never need to say goodbye, for we will see them again.

Embrace

A Hallowed name in the empty air
I turn to glance, but can't help my stare
A girl alone on the barren ground
Her soft broken cries, the only sound.

Angel, sweet, please don't cry
Sometimes we have to say goodbye
It's so dark now, but wait, you'll see
The sun will come embrace your grief.

I pulled her up, and watched her fly
But as she floated free, I could only sigh
For here I was, chained in despair
My own pain too great to bear.

But Angel, sweet, please don't cry
Sometimes we have to say goodbye
It's so dark now, but wait and see
The sun will come embrace your grief.

I couldn't breathe, I couldn't cry
The world is cold and full of lies
My heart was stone and hollow space
A shadow of loss concealed my face.

Now Angel, sweet, it's okay to cry
Sometimes we have to say goodbye
It's so dark now, but wait and see
The sun will come embrace your grief.

I ran far and fast into the sea
And felt the waves wash over me
A song of grace, within new light
I spread my wings in abandoned flight.

Angel, sweet, please don't cry
Sometimes we have to say goodbye
The day is new, now look and see
The sun has come to embrace your grief.

by Danielle Steele
Rebecca’s Infamous “Bumble Joke”:
One day at lunch, Frank said “bumble” instead of bundle.
Q. In football, when you get a point, it’s called...?
A. Fumble..... I mean touchdown!
**Becca’s “I got you” laugh**

*from Sara Dumas*
Young voters only counted if they vote

By Kate L. Sousa
Contributing Writer

The top five reasons college students do not vote
1. What Presidential election? 2. What's voting anyway? 3. Students don't lose enough in tax money to notice. 4. All the candidates do is take up valuable time, but students can watch the ALS Campaigns and Elections class netted around 400 students, the political studies professor says low voter turnout among college-age Americans is a problem nationwide.

According to Speakman, "young people need to realize the power of their vote. They can, if mobilized, determine the outcome of an election."

According to Speakman, Associate Professor of Political Science at RWU, there are three main reasons people between the ages of 18 and 25 do not vote: apathy, unfamiliarity with the practice of voting, and that younger people tend to be a more mobile population.

The most important of these reasons is a strong feeling of apathy toward the whole idea of politics. Speakman says this is because students "lack exposure to politics and they don't see how government works." Therefore, he says, many young people do not yet see how the government affects them.

Monica Patton, Director of the Operation Democracy Compact in Providence, RI, a non-profit, non-partisan group formed to increase voter participation in Rhode Island adding that young people, mostly students, "do not see the impact of government on their daily lives." Patton pointed out that Pell Grants, which are government grants for financial aid for college students, are one reason why college students should vote.

Her colleagues, Matt Brown, also of the Democracy Compact, noted that if one were to take a group of 100 college students into a room and ask them where they got their financial aid, many would not know where the money came from. If they told him it was the government that supplied these grants, they would probably start thinking a little differently about the voting process. In fact, many of them would not be in that room if it were not for the grants.

Apathy, however, is not the only reason the 18-to-22 age group does not vote. According to Speakman, people in this age group are new to voting and just getting their feet wet, "hence the idea of going out and voting more frequently as they get older." Women had to learn this behavior once they gained the right to vote in 1920, the same as blacks did after the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Like many things in life, the act of becoming a regular voter is something a person must learn to do.

According to Patton, only 11 percent of the 1996 vote was made up of 18- and 19-year-olds. However, more than 85 percent of people over the age of 65 did vote.

The basic reason that people in the 18 to 25 age group do not want to vote is that they feel the candidates do not talk about them or address issues that apply to them. What people this age need to realize is that they will have a big impact if they voted more. Patton stated "young people put Jesse Ventura into office and demagogue President Clinton raised the percentage among voters in 1996, young voters still represent the smallest percentage of voters in the U.S. Young people need a candidate who can relate to them and to their needs."

According to the website www.reglection2000.org., has been a severe decline in the voting habit of 18-25 year olds since 1972. According to the Census Bureau in the 1972 general election 50 percent of this age group voted but in 1996 only 32 percent of them voted. A poll was taken among all voters to see if one of the offi- cials debated a youth debate would make a difference and the results were amazing. By almost 80 percent or almost a five-to-one margin, the people that participated in the survey said they "support making young people the focus of one of the presidential debates." Although the support was the highest in the 18 to 34-year-old age group it included all age groups. Almost 70 percent of people over the age of 65 also supported the need to learn to vote.

In another poll, voters of all ages said, "if the youth debate were to be held, voters of all ages say they would be more likely to vote because of participation in the campaign and vote." With a dwindling participation in politics and 2000 campaign interest at a low, the idea of a youth debate would make a big difference. Almost 70 percent of the people surveyed here felt that "making young adults the focus of one of the debates would increase the likelihood of paying attention and voting."

Young voters are more often disenchanted with politics because they are not taxpayers and most do not own homes or have children of their own. Speakman also suggested that they have a flat out "lack of trust in government."

This is to be expected, from the past presidents of our country to the current President Clinton to the current mayor of Rhode Island, Buddy Cianci, it seems that there is corruption everywhere one looks.

Speakman gave one final reason and that is that people between the ages of 18 and 25 are perhaps the most mobile population. Many are away from home and are out of their state. The reasons that they are away from home can range anywhere from being away at college to moving for a new job to traveling to "find oneself" after high school or college. If people at this age are not a permanent fixture in their own town or even their own state it is really not the easiest thing to vote.

Speakman says, the system needs to make voting easy. People have to be able to vote where they are and Speakman made it clear that although the technology is not yet in place to make it possible to vote anywhere, it will soon be.

Although getting everyone in the 18 to 25-year-old age group to vote is probably out of the question, students at RWU are trying to make a change. Speakman and students held registration for voting so that out-of-state students could vote on election day. Speakman and students got out and got about forty hundred to register. Also, together with Speakman, Patton and Brown, twenty-five democracy captains on campus will be holding a rally, tentatively scheduled for November 6 at noon on the quad, anyone who wishes to participate is welcome.

Speakman concluded saying, "The power of the youth has yet to be realized. If 18 to 25-year-olds get out and vote in large numbers on November 7, they will see the system respond. I urge all RWU students to test this claim. Vote on Tuesday!"

Fine arts building problems solved

By Sara Clark
Staff Writer

Recently students taking art classes were not able to get into the art building to work on their assigned projects because of what were apparently new hours and new regulations. Thanks to students who brought this problem to the attention of administrators, the problem has been solved.

Efforts to beef up the art program by purchasing new equipment and by making the fine arts building more accessible to students this year was hampered by miscommunication among professors, administrators, and public safety. Students for the building in the past few weeks who could call security at almost any time and be let into the building to work (as long as they had a pass issued by their professor), but in the past few weeks that same access was denied by public safety staff after 10 p.m.

The problem of students gaining access to the fine arts building began as an internal problem in the art and architecture program. The confusion can be attributed to the fact that the art program recently merged with the architecture program, and the new Dean of Art and Architecture, Steven White, last year's Dean of Architecture) was not aware of all aspects of how the art program operates. According to White and the Assistant Dean, Terry Gipps, they were unaware of both the past system and the availability of the building to students.

When the dean's office initiated the new policy of studio monitors and the new hours, according to White, they thought that they were helping students by extending their hours. "We tried to work around the problem," said White. "My understanding was that the building was open very much."

Although they had been unaware of its existence, White and Gipps liked the idea of the pass system and thought that the system would be revised to increase access to the building at other times by contacting security again.

Another miscommunication occurred during the open house on the weekend of the October 14 and 15. Students were told that the building would be closed that weekend in order to give tours. Gipps said that she had actually tried recruiting students who wanted to work that weekend so that the prospective students could see the fine art of RWU students make. "Somewhere or other, security is reading our efforts to monitor as efforts to limit," said Gipps. "I think they think they're doing what we want them to."

This problem of gaining access to the building, however, was solved quickly when students complained to their professors and White and Gipps. Now Public Safety has been extremely cooperative and students should now have no problem getting into and staying in the fine arts building.

Any students concerned about the art building hours or other issues about the art program can join the Art Society meetings held every other Wednesday (there is a meeting on November 15) at 5 p.m. in the art building.
Entertainment

Stage company’s “The Cotton Girls” a wonderful hit
by Nathan Kinsell
Staff Writer

The Barn (RWU’s Performing Arts Center) lit up with theatrical wonder on October 6 and 7, with the production of The Cotton Girls written by Scott Tobin. The show was produced by the Stage Company, starring Jill Petrocelli, Nicole Danielle, and Majorie Lundberg in the lead roles, directed by Senior theater major Gina D’Acciaro. Though the cast and crew were amateurs, the production was astounding and nothing less than professional.

The play takes place atop a broken Ferris-wheel at the end of the summer of 1959, when three high school seniors were about to depart for college. Caught on the carousel ride, the three girls discuss life, and their future.

The characters, which were portrayed with great dignity, and executed well by the actresses, display sharp contrasts. Colleen is the sassy, quick-witted, and wise woman of the world, convincingly played so by Jill Petrocelli. Berry is the psychotic, humorous, neurotic, anxious girl, portrayed stunningly by Nicole Danielle. Miss is the prim and proper, goody-two-shoes of the three, humorously and tremendously acted by Majorie Lundberg.

Overall, the performances were very good, and the lights, sound and technical aspects ran like clockwork. The actresses and the director took on the challenge of convincingly portraying and evolving characters from one stationary position, which is a very difficult task to execute as well as they did.

Interns come to life in this year’s freshman play
by Danielle Kimerer

This year’s freshman play put on by the Stage Company was called “The ‘I’ Word: Interns” by Michael Lewis Wells. It is about three interns and their boss, and what each is both politically and personally anxious about. Kylie (Andrea Webber) and George (Scott Kennedy) are anxious about the speech they have to polish for the President’s impending press conference. George is also apprehensive about Kylie’s perception of his relationship to Barrow (Lizz Turner) the “tell all” Intern who has been deemed a traitor to the office. Barrow, or beige girl as Kylie sometimes calls Barrow behind her back, is also insecure about her status with her colleagues whose trust she has betrayed, and Jan (Jill Bolstridge) the boss of the interns is anxious about whether the President’s ideals will stand up to the test of time. All four characters were played well in this production. Lizz Turner played the claimed innocent, Barrow, with a lot of maliability, but also expressed deeper genuine caring for her fellow interns. Andrea Webber portrayed Kylie with a bit of an edge, but whose heart was in the right place. And Scott Kennedy who played George, besides actually looking a bit like Stephanopolis, which was a running joke through most of the play, seemed to pull the other three characters together in a way that brought the play together. I feel that I should also praise the crew for a job well done, I was the most surprised when the printer on George’s desk actually printed out pages that were to be the President’s impending speech. Overall this was a well acted, directed and crewed play.

Birth Control Research Study

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New film Almost Famous is a rock-star

by J. Layne
Contributing Writer

It seemed as if the movie trailers lasted as long as a leg of a U.S. rock tour before arriving at the cinematic event of interest, Cameron Crowes' autobiographical, fractured tragi-comedy Almost Famous. But I, and the rest of the sub-cultural, potentially ever critical audience in New Brunswick, New Jersey (Rutgers University) were antsy to discover what Crowe would throw at us.

Crowe (Fast Times at Ridgemont High, Say Anything, Singles, Jerry Maguire) provides a forum that re-creates a true setting to the suffocating rock existence of 1972; two years after the birth of the "27 club" (the death of legends Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, and Jim Morrison) and the first plateau of a slackened, smoke-inhalated, jeans and tee-shirt decade that was entertained by what is known as sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll. But contrary to previews and anticipation, there's more than the mindless self-indulgence and promiscuity that sits on the surface.

The movie acts as a vehicle for Cameron Crowe, to offer his own experience through an ambitious and accelerated subject, William Miller (Patrick Fugit, Billy Crudup) and offers his shoulder for one of the most loathed professions in the business: the rock journalist.

A young William (Patrick Fugit) is expressly dehydrated by his self-righteous, post-modernist psych. professor mom (Frances McDormand, Fargo) and is "set free" by acquiring his sister's rock collection after escaping her mother's iron fist in a velvet glove. By the time he was in high school, he caught rock 'n' roll malaria.

His idol, a famous rock critic, played by Philip Seymour Hoffman (Boogie Nights, Magnolia, The Big Lebowski) becomes a suggestive journalist-conscioius and sends him to a show for "1000 words on Black Sabbath.

Instead, he ends up on the most cathartic ride of his life.

Instead of Sabbath, William meets and follows the fictitious band Stillwater (including Jason Lee, Dogma, Chasing Amy, Mallrats), a stereotypical problematic ego buffet of an ensemble, around on what could be said as a typical rock tour of the decade, much to the dismay of mother and his rock-er idol.

Along the way, William discovers what is pure and what is puke, falls in love with ambition, and becomes "deliberated" in a cutie, romper room way of type, but always keeps his dignity.

One of the film's cinematography highlights is a scene in which William's love interest, Penny Lane (Kate Hudson), is caught in an emotional net of ambiguity: the battle between her shell and soul. The mixed emotion has sorrow and joy cascaded by late afternoon after she is disheartened by one of the band members leaving the audience with one of the best physical emotions captured on film.

One slurred or unclear aspect of the movie is when one character approaches his potential 11th hour, he admits his homosexuality. Other characters made an unsettling reaction, suggesting that being gay was taboo or unfavourable. However, Crowe was simply being true to a confused era through which he had personally experienced.

Overall, the message in Almost Famous is somewhat unclear. It's a hybrid mix of Crowe's desire to share a story of his experience as a teen-aged journalist and to share the golden lesson of that story: the secret to tapping ambition and rebelling against innocence while maintaining integrity.

Almost Famous is about rebellion, corruption, and youthful ambition and shares the table with other rock movies such as This is Spinal Tap or Dazed and Confused. Almost Famous is almost flawless.

Plan, if you like the angry steak and potatoes, steel driven riffs of The Who or the gentle "sit on my knee and I'll tell you about life" emotion of Jimmy Page's finger picking tunes as a member of Led Zeppelin, the soundtrack alone will blow your bell-bottoms off.

By Acq uiring his sister's rock collection, he catches rock 'n' roll malaria.

Of the movie is when one character approaches his potential 11th hour, he admits his homosexuality. Other characters made an unsettling reaction, suggesting that being gay was taboo or unfavourable. However, Crowe was simply being true to a confused era through which he had personally experienced.

New Radiohead album seems less "optimistic" and more focused on their artistic impulse

by J. Layne
Contributing Writer

Three years could seem like an eternity for a Radiohead fanatic to wait for Kid-A, the follow up to the mellow-softened Kid-O-Connors (one being WBRU in Providence) and on such cult favorites as M2, and Canada's MuchMusic.

MTV's, M2 aired an F-minus presentation of the piece and ran into the camera behind a struggling record needle while a couple of pompous sub-cultural post-modernists looted in the background.

Kid-A got an abundance of media attention and was available to the public far before its subtle release this past week. It was showcased on a syndicate of radio stations (one being WBRU in Providence) and on such cult favorites as M2, and Canada's MuchMusic.

MTV's, M2 aired an F-minus presentation of the piece and ran into the ground by placing a clandestine security camera behind a struggling record needle while a couple of pompous sub-cultural post-modernists looted in the background.

Overall, the album is well equipped with a substantial effort and even though it not the pick of proverbial litter as far as past Radiohead albums are concerned, "Kid-A" is an oxymoronic gem. Thom, you sums it up best in "Optimistic" by stating that the "best you can is good enough" and it seems to have that effort behind it.

(Radiohead Kid-A, Capitol Records. ** * 1/2)
Women's soccer ends season on sour note

Michael Lynch
Sports Editor

The women's soccer team was bounced from the Commonwealth Coast Conference playoffs by defending champion Endicott College, 2-1 in overtime. The game was a rematch of last year's CCC championship game, a game the Power Gulls won in overtime, 1-0. The sixth-seeded Hawks gave Endicott all they could handle, before a freak overtime goal ended their title hopes. Freshman Kristin Freeman scored the Hawk goal. 

The Hawks struggled toward the end of their regular season, as they lost their final five games, including three last week in the conference play. The young squad dropped a 3-1 decision to Bridgewater State College on Monday, October 16. Gina Iacaboo scored the Hawk goal, as Carolyn Smith and Jacalyn Williams assisted on the play.

On Wednesday, October 18, they lost to CCC rival Nichols College, 2-1 in overtime. Smith scored the game's first goal, but Nichols came back to tie the game and scored with 30 seconds left in the overtime session to win the game.

The Hawks were defeated in their final regular season game at home to the University of New England, 3-1, on Saturday, October 21. Freeman scored the Hawks lone goal. The loss dropped the Hawks into sixth place in the conference, and assured them of their match-up with Endicott. The Hawks finished their season with a 7-10-1 record and were 6-5-1 in CCC play. The squad had a fine season. Seniors Alison Fry, Kathleen Isles, Toni Turner, and Meg Blake will be missed by the club, as the Hawks try to retool for another run at the CCC championship next season.

Women's Tennis falls in CCC semi-finals to end season

Michael Lynch
Sports Editor

The women's tennis team advanced to the Commonwealth Coast Conference semifinals before falling to Salve Regina University, 6-3, on Thursday, October 26. The Hawks are the three-time defending CCC champions, and eventually went on to defeat Colby-Sawyer College in the finals to win their fourth straight title.

In the quarterfinal round of the CCC tournament, the fourth-seeded Hawks edged Endicott College, 5-4, on Tuesday, October 24. The Hawks also competed in the New England Division III Championships at Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts on Friday and Saturday, October 20 and 21. Kristin Pappas went 1-1 in the first singles flight. Sara Coleman and Krista Fisk both went 1-1 and second and third flights, respectively, and teamed up to go 1-1 in the doubles flight. Caitlin Marshall and Julie Manuck went 1-1 in third doubles. Unfortunately, no Hawks placed in the event.

Overall, the Hawks finished the season with a 11-4 record, and finished 6-3 in conference play. The ladies look to build on this record-breaking season and do even more damage in next year's CCC tournament.

Women's spikers digging into conference playoffs

Two solid, four-year starters will be missed next season

By Brian Rhodes
Layout Editor

On Tuesday, October 31, the women's volleyball team defeated Endicott College at home in a quarterfinal match. The fourth-seeded Hawks will take on top seeded Gordon College Thursday, November 2, and if they win, will play in the championship match on Saturday, November 4.

The Hawks finished the regular season with two wins. On October 26 they traveled to the University of New England for a CCC match and returned home victors with a 3-0 win. The spikers beat a tough Rhode Island College squad on Tuesday for a non-conference victory. In the 3-1 win, LeeAnn Pires served four aces and tallied 18 kills and 21 digs. Toni Pratt had a solid performance with 12 kills, 20 assists, and 16 digs and Kelly Spang had 16 digs.

Two members leading the Hawks into the postseason will be missed next year. Toni Pratt and Kelly Spang have been solid, four-year starters for the Hawks.

Pratt has served as a captain the past two seasons. As a freshman she led the squad in service aces and was second in kills. In her second year she led the team in set assists and service aces. As a junior, Pratt led the team in set assists and services aces. Her assist total is fifth-highest in school history for a season. As a senior, Pratt led the team in hitting percentage, block assists, and blocking average. In her junior campaign, she led the spikers in block assists, and finished second in digs, block solos, and blocking average. In her final season, Spang leads the team in digging average. She was one of the tri-captains this season.
Winter sport season kicks off with electrifying “Madness”

Nicole Fitzmeyer  
Contributing Writer

This year’s Midnight Madness appeared to have one of the largest crowds in recent history. Fans of all ages flocked to the Paolino Rec. Center, to show their spirit for Roger Williams’ varsity winter sports teams this past Friday night. Midnight Madness is better known at bigger Division I campuses, however that didn’t stop the Hawks athletes from getting fired up for the winter athletic season.

Two of the Hawks’ women’s basketball players, Mirelee Fazio and Emily Winsor, said that “Midnight Madness helped the winter sports teams get ready for their upcoming seasons, and it was great to see the support of the fans. It was also a great way to start off parents weekend.”

The gym was packed by 10:30 p.m., with parents, family members, fellow students, athletes, and coaches all waiting for the clock to strike twelve. It is at midnight that all varsity sports teams, especially basketball, can begin practice with a coach present.

The night got off to a slow start with the starting time getting pushed back about an hour. Luckily the delay didn’t hurt the spirit of the crowd.

This year’s Midnight Madness helped the winter sports season with solid finish this past weekend at the CCC championships taking home a third place trophy. The men have had a November 4.

The golf team ended its season this fall.

Men’s cross-country looking into future with young squad

Marc Stroum  
Sports Editor

The men’s cross-country team had a solid finish this past weekend at the CCC championships taking home a third place trophy. The men have had a much improved year and are looking ahead to a solid performance at the ECAC Division III Championship held at Tufts University on Saturday November 4.

Co-ed golf ends great season with solid finish

Marc Stroum  
Sports Editor

The golf team ended its season this last weekend at the New England Intercollegiate Championships with one of its best finishes in school history. There were a total of 46 schools that competed over the weekend from all the NCAA Divisions. The Hawks took 31st place overall and finished 13th among Division III schools.

Four freshman finished with the top scores for RWU. Marcel Yacob shot an impressive two round total of 164, Mike Jedrzejczyk shot a 166, Justin Scanlon shot a 171 and Josh Green shot a 176 to help pace the Hawks.

The sailing team places third in Southern Series race

By Michael Lynch  
Sports Editor

The sailing team finished a solid third place at the Southern Series V Race on Saturday, October 21, at Yale University. The Hawks tallied 48 points, finishing only behind the host school and the United States Coast Guard Academy in the 12-school event. Kris Davis and Cary Siegler served as skippers of the A boat. Katie Frank served as crew for Davis, while Jean McCord served as crew for Siegler. Siegler and McCord earned a bullet, and Davis and Frank placed second.

In the B division, skipper Dan Woyke and crew Kelly Larson finished in fourth place. Their best finish was a second place.

Men’s CC has strong showings

By Michael Lynch  
Sports Editor

The men’s cross-country team had a very strong showing at the Connecticut College Invitational Saturday September 30, placing fifth with 139 points. The Hawks were led by sophomore Josh Shapiro’s 28th place finish, while freshman Jason Kozun finished 38th.

The men also finished seventh at the Pop Crowell Invitational at Gordon College on Saturday, September 23. The team was led by Shapiro’s 28th place finish, while freshman Jason Kozun finished 38th.

The men also finished seventh at the Pop Crowell Invitational at Gordon College on Saturday, September 23. The team was led by Shapiro’s 28th place finish, while freshman Jason Kozun finished 38th.
Men's soccer soars towards second CCC title in two years

Marc Stroum
Sports Editor

The Hawks began defense of their CCC title Tuesday, October 31, with a home playoff match against Nichols College. The Hawks came away with a decisive 6-0 victory. Nichols played the Hawks tough early in the season, however, but Stuart Hulke, the teams leading scorer, sat out because of a red card he had received the game before. This game was different story.

The first half was a difficult one for the Hawks as they were forced to play in the wind, which prevented them from getting opportunities to score. Keeper Greg Somerville along with the defense played a good half and were able to keep the Hawks out of the scoreboard. Coach Tim Cook was pleased with his defense when the Hawks were playing into the wind. Cook said, "Eric Rodgers and Chris Curren had very strong games for us in the back.

As the second half began everyone could tell it was just a matter of time before the Hawks would find the back of the net. They had the wind at their backs and began putting passes together and finally, about 15 minutes into the half Tony Nunes did find the back of the net for the first of a six goal second-half burst. Brent Malo had been bothered by a calf injury, so Nunes got the chance to step in and have an impact. "I could tell Brent was limping because of a calf injury, so I put Tony up top to give a different look," said Cook. Tony responded in a positive way as he began putting passes together and eventually scored two assists, as did Dave Regan. Coach Cook applauded the players who came off the bench this season. "This is the most depth we've ever had," said Cook. "Any of these players could start for any other team in this league.'"

The Hawks kept blazing away at the Bison's keeper who "Kept them (The Bison) in the game," said Cook and the Hawks were able to pull away. The Hawks pounded 23 shots in the second half as they dominated the game and kept the ball in the Bison's territory the whole time.

Shortly after Nunes goal, Hulke was able to beat the defense to make it 2-0. The Hawks coasted the rest of the way getting a lot of players involved. Malo, Colin Whalen, Dan Hatch and Nunes rounded out the scoring. Dan Hatch also notched two assists, as did Dave Regan.

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The Hawks concluded their regular season on October 28th with a 4-0 win over CCC opponent New England College. The team cruised into the playoffs this year going a perfect 11-0 in league play and 14-4 overall.

The team, which started off a little shaky with a few close games and non-league losses, really turned it on midway through the season and look to carry that intensity right into the NCAA's. Many players have stepped up their play adding to the success of the season. With a strong starting line up and a deep bench, the Hawks opportunity to reach the NCAA tournament looks brighter than ever. One setback that the Hawks will have to battle through is the loss of Seth Matheson. Seth had a strong season at his new position and did a great job of slowing his opponents down.

The Hawks continue their quest for a second consecutive title on Thursday November 2 when they will take on the winner of the Salve Regina/Colby Sawyer game. Come show your support!

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