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Roger Williams University

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Graduation speaker has led Hollywood life

By Sarah Elizabeth Bergeron
Contributing Writer

The commencement speaker for the 2004 graduation ceremony has his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Since 1996, he has been the head chairman and C.E.O. of the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), a position he has held for nearly four decades.

Jack Valenti, 82, will be giving the keynote address and will receive a Doctor of Fine Arts, Honoris Causa. Valenti is generally regarded as one of the most influential pro-copyright lobbyists in the world, but his most notable work is what he did in the film industry. In 1968, Valenti used his leadership qualities and instituted the movie rating system (the system that forced you to sneak into 'R' rated movies until you were 17) based on a movie's content.

The MPAA represents the seven major film studios: Paramount Pictures Corp., Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc., Warner Bros., Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc., Universal Studios Inc., Walt Disney Co. and 20th Century Fox Film Corp. It's a job where he reportedly makes an annual salary of $1.35 million, making him the seventh-highest-paid Washington trade industry head, according to a February survey done by the National Journal.

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

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

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

Arrests
4/23 at 11:30 p.m. Lindsay Russo, 18, of 268 Allen Hill Road, Brooklyn, Conn., was arrested at Roger Williams University by Bristol Police on a charge of disorderly conduct.
4/24 at 11:21 a.m. David Desimone, 19, of 57 Leonard St., Woburn, Mass., was arrested on a bench warrant. Desimone turned himself into Bristol Police.

Summons
4/22 at 6:15 p.m. Erin Carolan, 19, of 22 Horseshoe Ridge Road, Sandy Hook, Conn., was issued a summons by Bristol Police during a motor vehicle stop on a charge of possession of beer by an underage person.
4/22 at 11:56 p.m. Regina Lyons, 20, of 304 Overbrook Drive, Glassboro, N.J., was issued a summons at Gillyard's by Bristol Police on a charge of possession of beer by an underage person.

Here today, gone tomorrow
4/22 at 3:37 p.m. A male subject reported a larceny on Lower Ferry Road.
Not CEN fireworks this time
4/24 at 2:31 a.m. Bristol fire crews responded to a fire in a trash bin on the third floor of Willow Hall, building 4. The fire was put out and is currently under investigation.

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

The feeling around campus seems to be generally supportive of this new initiative. As reported by the Providence Journal, "McGovern called it 'a serious joke,' and said many students were dismayed by the white's only scholarship controversy, but have chuckled at the idea of a hot woman scholarship." After all of this is said, there is no denying the obvious racism of the WOS; it seems that women aren't being granted the same respect. Where are the cries of injustice now? Why isn't this seen for the racist plot that it is? This wouldn't be surprising if it weren't for all of the outrage expressed at the WOS, which was deemed exclusive and racist. How can you object to the WOS on those grounds, but not be appalled by the objectification of women and the discrimination against men and the ugly? This new initiative replaces the so-called racism of the College Republicans with what could be labeled as sexism by two chauvinistic male pigs. Their motives are questionable to say the least. What the sponsors of the HOS claim on their site and what they are saying to the press doesn't match up. On their Web site for the scholarship they state, "we're not trying to create a backlash against anyone... it's an obvious lampoon on minority scholarships in general... Please remember this ISoking fun AT minority scholarships." These statements are troubling as they appear to be contradictory to what they have been purported to the press. In the press they are playing this as a response to the WOS. "The pair who host a radio program at Roger Williams University say they started the scholarship fund to mock a "whites-only" scholarship fund set up by the College Republicans at Roger Williams." Eyewitness News 12 reported, bringing the College Republicans into this is a transparent attempt to grab the attention of the media.

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

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

Realistically, this exemplifies the disdain felt for the CRs. If they had offered this same scholarship they would instantly be labeled sexist and every feminist on campus would be crying foul. But as I'm sure most of us can agree that this latest racist statement made by college Republicans is恰 like any other so the question arises, why is it okay for the White Only Scholarship wasn't a racist statement made by a group with aspirations to join the KKK.

Monique Stuart
enews

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Debt
cont. from front

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

Noonan told the Herald that RWU earned a Standard & Poor’s rating of a -BBB, classified as a medium-level investment. Standard & Poor’s is a world renowned provider of financial research. Noonan seeks a rating upgrade to BBB, once 2004 figures are available, an upgrade that he stressed could be a substantial money saver for RWU. For comparison, he continued in saying, the -BBB rating is the same as Hasbro’s, toy company. Hasbro’s net revenues fell three consecutive years before seeing an increase from $2.8 million in 2002 to $3.2 million in 2003. At the conclusion of its last fiscal year, the company posted $3.2 million in total assets and $1.8 million in total liability.

Students frequently respond to campus frustrations by asking, “Where does my tuition go?” According to Noonan, 51.2 percent of tuition revenue is spent on academic support, ranking RWU sixth among those benchmarked. Academic support includes classroom instruction and faculty, and this figure, says Noonan, may be RWU’s strongest. In addition, 28.2 percent or approximately $22 million of the university’s $87.3 million in tuition revenue is spent on student financial aid.

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

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

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

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

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

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

An institution’s endowment is money invested to collect interest and cannot be budgeted for spending. But the administration does utilize interest collected on the endowment. The more financial support donated from alumni, faculty and corporations, the larger the university’s endowment becomes.

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

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

These goals include the construction of a new student union (while the old one is renovated as an academic building), a restored waterfront property and new athletic fields, designating increased funds towards merit and need-based scholarships, updating technology, and increasing funds for faculty research. “I’ll spend the money just as quickly as we raise it,” remarked Nirschel expansively.

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

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

Benchmark & Aspirant Institutions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

President Nirschl
YEAR IN REVIEW

Volume 14, Issue 22  Roger Williams University  Monday, May 3, 2004

Top 10 Headlines:
The most talked-about news stories of the year:

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

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

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

Subtitled: Scandalous!
Left, College Republican President Jason Mattera and Dean of Students Richard Stegman share a private conversation during Reggie Jones’ speech.

Note: The photo of the year is, for all intents and purposes, considered by the Herald staff as a joke. It was a last-ditch effort by co-editor Jason Torreto, and the staff will miss him. Good Luck, Jay!
Sorry kids, some teachers won't go away that easily

By Mark Walerysiak
Staff Writer

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

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

Most people can recall around what time last they had a sick day. But Grandgeorge cannot. Not because of his advanced age. Grandgeorge says it is because, "I never missed a sick day. I keep moving no matter if I stopped, I'd die."

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

History Professor Dr. Joshua Stein counts on his fingers, "34 years I have been teaching — since 1969. It is hard to fathom Stein being at RWU so long, considering he does not appear old. "Well, I started here as a very precarious 1-year-old. I never considered retiring. Every once in a while I have a bad class. I'll mull it over in my head and say, 'Aren't you old enough to retire?' Then I'll come in the next day and it will be okay."

Stein reiterates if his health and intellectual vigor keep up, then he plans on teaching. "If I have to, I'll keep teaching," he says. "But I've never looked at the money and not even thought about it."

Another example of a long tenured faculty member is Professor Richard Potter. Potter began his career at RWU in 1970. He says he does not plan on retiring in the near future although he does not want to have to think about it. "I don't really think about it simply because I don't have to think about it and there is so much work to do in the day to day existence that I don't really think about it," he says.

Several faculty members agreed that the reason professors retire later in life is because of strong student and faculty comradery. Alvaras agrees. "For me, it's the students. Theirs is a nothing like watching a stock market. Writing grow. Sometimes I'm lucky enough to have students in intro and then our paths cross a semester or two later and I'm able to see their writing, how they have grown. Other times I'm able to experience it in person."

Constitution Day

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

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

At 2 p.m., there will be a discussion on The Patriot Act and the Bill of Rights with professors Edward Ahlborn, The Providence Journal; Dr. Daniel Schwieterman, Public Library; Jerry Elmer, Providence attorney, Jerry Landel, writer and retired network journalist; and Robert McKenna, former mayor of Newport, R.I.

At 9 a.m., students from Bristol and Warren schools will team up on the slot machines, the players will have to work "The Voting Constitution," and explore how the Bill of Rights affects everyday life. The program will culminate at 4:30 with Ben Franklin Alive, with Emmy Award winner Bill Molde as the American statesman interacting with historical figures. The event will be reported in part by the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, the School of Law, and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dear Editor,

As a contributor to the Maco project collaboration, I was intrigued by the recent article in the last issue (volume 14 issue 22) of the Hawk's Herald. Injured — because as a piece of journalism it seemed to be mere of a place for the main purposes of reporting. There were also several errors in the piece that leads one to question if facts were obtained. These errors begin with the article "Why Black Lives Matter," which states that the Gaza Strip and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the major topic of discussion through the Department of History. Professor Aronson of the West Bank. This title would be appropriate if the West Bank was the primary focus. In reality, the main topic of discussion through the Department of History is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Gaza Strip are often mentioned. The article then states that the major topic of discussion was how the establishment of a free Palestinian state would end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This claim is false. The establishment of a free Palestinian state would lead to the end of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This claim is false. The establishment of a free Palestinian state would lead to the end of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This claim is false. The establishment of a free Palestinian state would lead to the end of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This claim is false.

Creative Writing Professor Shari Alvaras spends most of her time thinking about securing a position for herself since she is visiting faculty. Several faculty members agreed that the reason professors retire later in life is because of strong student and faculty comradery. Alvaras agrees. "For me, it's the students. There's nothing like watching a stock market. Writing grow. Sometimes I'm lucky enough to have students in intro and then our paths cross a semester or two later and I'm able to see their writing, how they have grown. Other times I'm able to experience it in person."

See Retirement, page 7

Robert Larson
Seniors graduate with creative honors

By Blaine Moffa
Co-Editor

Two senior thesis readings during the last Wednesday and Sunday to give Creative Writing majors an opportunity to read pieces they have been working on all semester. The students all shared poems and fiction that had been examined by numerous revision tools including peer groups, faculty edits, and constant workshops. The three creative writing thesis faculty members have been working with the majority of these seniors for four years, and the students’ progress shown was the students’ effort.

The most fulfilling thing is to have these students in the beginning [creative writing] and then watch them here,” Alvarnas said after Wednesday’s reading.

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

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

The thesis readings give students a chance to recognize their individual voice and style. With such a diverse group of writers, the abilities of each student are always a satisfactory Moody’s story “Boys” by Steve Martinez (where the title was a work of fiction and not a separate one since each sentence for several pages is a skill in itself), and a sarcastic twist in poetry by Greg Abazourous.

He said that during finals week the last thing he felt like doing was reading a Faulkner.”

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

QRI leaves semester with notable improvements

By Bill Monighetti
Contributing Writer

The upcoming week will see the end of what has been a very productive year for 88.3 WQRI. Within the past year, Matt Butler along with his fellow board members have made great strides to further the progress of WQRI. During the beginning of the year, QRI was broadcast out of a small, very hot room, isolated behind the Other Place. About half way through the first semester, the booth was relocated to a more practical location: the second floor of the Rec Center, overlooking Fresh Bytes. The club’s growing CD collection has gone from virtually nonexistent at the beginning of the year to their now several hundred CDs from Andrew WK to Zwan. This year has also seen the rise of a music club, which will be run by Peter Batz next year. The club has made strides to purchase a drum kit, pa, and practice space since its creation last year, as well as provide intellectual stimulation for the mind until retirement. “I do,” he said.

The administration thought that by encouraging older faculty to retire, says his division mentor Grangage.

I'm not much of a duffer.” Szenher does not rule out a part-time return.

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

Grangage says that perhaps in three years he will retire. “When you get near to retire or deliver a retirement message everyone will do so at one point in their life. This is Dr. Szenher’s sentiment. "Teaching at RWU has been a key component in the fulfillment of my personal goals. Thanks to the help of), my teaching, RWU faculty and administration colleagues, and the 3000 or so RWU students enrolled in my classes over the years who supported me for doing what I love."
A "Wild Wild Western" Spring Weekend

Aubrey Joyce

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

If students took a little more worn-out this week, it might not be final examinations, it might because of this year's jam-packed Wild Spring weekend.
Lending a helping hand to the four-legged and homeless

By Nicole Da Silva-Johrend Contributing Writer

The walls are a baby pink, and trimmed with a "kitten-inspiring" border. "Work-study student" hand prints are everywhere, and playful mice. The 1,000 square foot room is crammed with cardboard boxes and scratch posts, and an old, tattered, stuffed cat named "Cats." The room, which is used to house cats in need, serves as a calm haven for adopted cats. A cat tree and a cat door allow cats to move between the foster room and the day room. The day room is filled with food bowls, beds, and toys.

A light blue plastic box, filled with a rainbow of toys, is on the floor. A black cat, with a white chest, is playing with a pink ball. "She's so happy," one of the workers says. "She's been with us for a while, and she's really happy now that she has a new home." The room is filled with play and noise, but also with a sense of purpose and care.

The room's staff, who are always willing to help, work with cats and dogs to get them ready for adoption. "We're here to help the animals," says one of the workers. "We want to give them a second chance at a happy life." The room is open to the public, and visitors are encouraged to come in and play with the animals. "We have a lot of visitors," says one of the workers. "They come in to see the animals, and they always leave happy." The room is a place of rest and calm, and a safe haven for the animals.

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

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Another one of those block-rockin’ beats

By Blaine Moffa
Co-Editor

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

The RWU Color Guard opened the show and performed once again before intermission. A surprisingly silent and coordinated routine kept the gym in anticipation before the small group launched into a second sequence to a Jock Jams number. The girls displayed an appreciation for the audience. Twenty-five members choreographed the eighteen numbers, and credit goes out to all of them. The dance show: this spring was the most skilful, most diverse and most entertaining it has been in at least three years. Hoxie, Riker, Marak and Mosher are unquestionably skilled and impressive dancers but the team as a whole generated enough talent and energy on stage that it was a shame the show couldn’t have been held in an arena. Four male dancers made appearances, and gave the audience an extra chance to cheer with approval. Aaron Hampton, Jeff Thibeau and Michael Perry participated in numbers, and Billy Leaver gave a cameo to the beginning of “I Love Rock and Roll” to help Courtney Scherer as she skillfully sang a verse and chorus of the Joan Jett song. The run-down of performances were so impressive it is unfortunate length does not permit enough of a review for each individually. But a top five is necessary.

5. “Striperella” (choreographed by Susan Hoxie): While the group performances for Donna Summer’s “Last Dance” and a techno dance mix filled the Field House with an explosive finish to a two-hour show, the beginning section was at most striking. About half a dozen girls started with a cheer routine for Def Leppard’s “Pour Some Sugar on Me.” and only three words truly capture the moment: Black Light Responsive!

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

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

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

1. “Radio’s Girls” (choreographed by Heather Gardin and Kim Tammaro): With a quintet on stage, these girls brought back tap in a flashy way. Started by a small rhythm-making skid, they lit up the stage with innovative routines to some old school beat-boxing.

A quarter shuffles the stage as old women during their performance of “It’s Alright.”

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

Audra Medeiros

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Rugby team suffers loss in Beast of the East

By Richard Trueblood
Contributing Writer

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

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

Despite the losses, the team was not discouraged.

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

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

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

By Tim Mannion
Contributing Writer

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

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

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

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

The RWU team has two girls who play, one who says she is in the best player on the team. This theory has been challenged, but none dare to take the risk of openly admitting it because of the possible beating that would ensue. One thing that is uncompromising is the team: the arrival of the sophomores has created terrific play and a new-found attitude.

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

“Ted knew the people to call to get us into the tournament,” says Jake Cormier. Getting in wasn’t easy, but not enough for this team though. They finished fifth last year and were thrown back into the mix when Princeton came calling again. The Hawks dominated the tournament 7-0 this year and came out with a world ranking of #133.

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

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

They have upcoming tournaments through the rest of this year and are making strides at boosting their world ranking, but their main goal over the next two years is to help people get interested in the sport.

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

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

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