Hit-and-run on campus leaves student in critical condition

Maureen Clancy, left, seen here with friends, is a senior at RWU and is double majoring in education and psychology.

Christopher Parish
Contributing Writer

Architecture major Eric Van Tassel, senior, knows the scenario all too well.

It starts with a brief hesitation by his computer. Then a Web site doesn’t respond. Away messages won’t load, and Instant Messenger takes longer than usual to come through. Van Tassel knows exactly what’s happening, as do most of the students on the RWU campus—the network has gone down.

"It used to be a lot worse," said Van Tassel. "The problem isn’t as bad now. I really only remember the network going down once this year.”

There are a lot of technical reasons why the RWU network connection shuts down on occasion, and most of them are no fault of the school, says Director of Information Technology (IT) Joe Pangborn.

"Students with computer problems who do not keep their machines up-to-date become hindrances to other students," said Pangborn.

Juniors and seniors will remember a time when the school’s network was unreliable. "Staying online" for more than a few hours was considered quite a feat, and one could tell when a "crash" was imminent as AOL Instant Messenger responded with 100 "door-slamming" sounds as each person around the school was cut off from the system, followed by a loud nothing.

A member of the United Nations Pathways Program, Gilbert said, "What’s nice about the conference is that technology that enables us students at RWU to communicate and debate with other universities and guest ambassadors and speakers who are also connected to the system. And it's a great opportunity to express your opinions and get feedback from other students as well as people who are educated in the topic.”

As RWU continues to "bridge the world,” Professor Katherine Hall and Director of Information Technology (IT) Joe Pangborn want to maintain the strong relationship between the United Nations and several American universities.

"This is a wonderful experience for the students," Pangborn said. "It gives them a more worldly education, and a more global opinion in solving problems.”

Since September 2003, RWU, Fairleigh Dickinson (FDU), Lock
Chris Villano
Contributing Writer

Is it just me, or has beer pong lost some of its novelty? Four years ago, beer pong was like a new kind of drug, it got you messed up and was seriously addictive. Whoever could go the longest was definitely the coolest, and guaranteed a good time. Beer pong had the ability to single-handedly turn a boring party into an all night hook-up and puke fest—amen. It’s truly amazing what a pair of plastic balls can accomplish. (I wish someone would’ve told that to my eighth grade science teacher. Rumor around school was that he shot one of his testicles off with a harpoon gun...true story.)

But alas, I feel as though the golden era of beer pong has come and gone and we’re slipping into the dark ages of malt liquor and flip cups. Nowadays, any party you go to will surely have a beer pong table set up right next to the laptop playing bad rap music off Kazaa. This table will be specially equipped with its own set of random rules (most of which you’ve probably never heard). Not only have the rules gotten totally out of hand (what is “blowing”?) but so have the lists. And by “list” I mean that beer-soaked piece of paper with your name at the bottom. Have you ever waited three hours for a game of pong? If you said “yes,” stop reading this and think of a new drinking game that can impeach beer pong, because I’m sick of those dirty southern red states!

Although its decline has inevitably fallen upon us, beer pong will not go down without a fight and continues to evolve. BP’s simplest evolution came in the form of unbridled expansion. Can you imagine the first guy who thought, “Hey, we should try playing with more cups!” He must have felt like such a genius (I wonder if a yellow Solo cup flashed over the top of his head). Have you ever seen a game of 50-cup, four-ball, four-man beer pong? Aside from how awesome the picture looks in your Webshots folder, it’s really nothing special—just a long, drawn-out awkward game with a lot of confusion where NO ONE can hit the last cup.

Due to BP’s decline in popularity, a new breed of drinking games have begun to fill the void. This guy's personal favorite just happens to be a little game called “40 hands” (and no, it’s not called “Edward 40 hands,” that name is stupid and it needs to stop, see the list of rules). I like this game because it embodies what a beer drinker is all about. Unlike pot heads who think of crafty and unique ways to enjoy their product of choice, a beer drinker will just purchase the largest container of the worst liquor in the store (a 40 oz.), duct tape one to each hand, and then proceed to race friends to the finish line, a.k.a., the bottom of the bottle. A friend of mine recently stated that “40 hands claims lives,” which is a true statement if you replace the word “lives” with any of the following: “consciousness,” “the last thing you ate,” “common sense,” “your ability to function” or “brain cells.”

Now, you might ask yourself, “Why would anyone want to do that?” But I don’t have the answer to that question, because the only people asking it are the ones who have never played. So stop being the designated driver, go buy some duct tape and a Colt .45 and imagine you’re in a place where the more you drink the cooler you are. Because one day you’re going to wake up and you’re going to be in a place worse than hell, and that place is called “the real world.” So all I can say is live it up while you got the chance, get off the pong waiting list and hell, why not funnel a Genny... ICE!

From Providence, with love
“Get me some duct tape, 80 ounces of beer and some perseverance”
What's most definitely, without doubt, you'd "new shows. Student-run "play," "punk cable off the committee radio Internet brake who station, out... well-located pre-ohe need to rec-he there is a ~ well. But yeah, it own radio is no saving your relationship. music can be sal- that Cedar admits that he has had sub-net sub-net aggressor! car and you break down yw itIdetp taJt al$olllt diagnosted if computer crash, I'd try iff' a mistake by cheating, and and hole- Help! with myguy11 may lose hi", You have to with waves. lhappened, sup-a a righttn seek prompt medical aid that may help him in the may a you have Pangborn stu~- is a genre for my instanta~ to approach stu-deth and 10 need to tell him. You owejt rndio increased a your your shirt's... with "real is no secret is no every a you have... Pangborn stu-... 10 protect the general passing out CDs to... Cheater ••: You absolutely, most definitely, without a doubt, have to tell your boyfriend! In all likelihood, he is a HIV carrier and may develop AIDS. You must provide him with this critical information so that he may begin testing for HIV. Without a proper diagnosis, you are denying your boyfriend the right to seek prompt medical aid that may help him in the future. We understand that you made a mistake by cheating, and although you should have come clean right after it happened, you have a major responsibility to tell the truth now. If you don't pass this on to the man you supposedly care about, there is no saving your relationship. (Not that we're saying there is a good chance the relationship can be salvaged once you do spill the beans.) Regardless of all of that, this is a matter of health and it's not something to be taken lightly. You owe it to your boyfriend to tell him what's up so that he has a chance to take the proper precautions to protect himself and any future partners he may have. Unfortunately, this means he may break it off with you. Be prepared for the worst reaction possible. You have to come to terms with what you've done and you need to do it now! Look to your family and friends for support as you undergo treatment. We wish you all the best.

Dear Meg and Ash:

Last semester my roommate had trouble fitting in. She spent a lot of time in her room and was lazy. This semester she met a lot of people and started going out nightly. She tends to come home very intoxicated and different guy every night. One time she even brought home a girl! She gets sick from her alcohol and drug use and her promiscuous activities are keeping me up at night. I am sick of my stinky room and slutty roommate! What do I do?

Weary and Willow

Got a question for Meg & Ash? Send an email to: askmeg_ash@hotmail.com

Music waves hit campus

Steve Ammea CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Roger Williams University radio station, WQRI 88.3, delivers an abundance of music genres from hip-hop to punk to classic rock. It seems there is a genre for every listener and in the past year the station has expanded: from variety of music to location and its outreach to potential listeners through larger promotions.

Last year the station relocated from its hole-in-the-wall room below the dining hall, to an expansive and well-decorated booth in the Rec Center.

The new location has brought increased interest from students who want a role in the radio station's music committee, or who want to start their own radio shows.

The student-run music committee, directed by Sean Moran, sophomore, meets every Wednesday to review and discuss new music available to the station, and then go over any problems or promotions within the station.

Even though the music played on-air is left entirely up to the DJs who host shows, the music committee supplies the DJs with recommended CDs if they don't have a preferred genre.

"I am responsible for getting music into the station and making sure it's out there for the DJs to play," says Moran.

"We make as many CDs available to them as possible in many different genres, but ultimately what's played is a combination of what we have available and the DJ's personal collection."

Certain bands commonly seen in the station are Ok Go, The Strokes, My Chemical Romance, and Panic! At The Disco.

IT (cont'd from page 1)

"Connection Interrupted" message.

Now, however, the IT department has done a better job eliminating those problems, even though they confess, they still happen.

"The connection itself has only gone down twice," he said. "Once was due to a cable-cut in Boston where the fiber didn't do their job correctly. Another time was due to a power outage when a wind storm knocked out power, which knocked out the connection."

Most of the time, however, a failed or significantly slower network connection is due to a student who has a faulty computer. Sometimes it is a computer that serves up incorrect ISP addresses and confuses other computers on the network. Other times a student computer has a virus that infects other computers on the system. Some viruses are designed specifically to send bogus traffic through a network, slowing connections considerably. Occasionally, a piece of network equipment will need to be replaced.

In situations where a student's computer is the problem, IT staffers need to track down that student and take the computer off the network. Fortunately, safeguards against spreading viruses have been implemented so one student cannot infect the entire campus community. Computers have been broken into groups called "sub-nets." This change was put into place last year to decrease the size of the network connections and to protect the general campus.

Each sub-net carries about 250 students. So, for example, a student who lives in Cedar who is downloading multiple items from the Internet will hog bandwidth and cause the students in that sub-net to suffer from a slower connection speed. However, students in Maple or Stonewall will not be affected.

Furthermore, that Cedar student can no longer spread viruses to other sub-nets: only the 250 students in his sub-net can be infected.

When the network does fail, a monitoring tool sends a text message to a network administrator saying that there is a problem. The instantaneous notification helps the administrators to fix problems quickly and efficiently.

Students can prevent these problems and maintain a faster Internet connection by keeping their computers virus-free and up-to-date with patches, spyware and ad-ware software, and by not downloading large items unless necessary (that means you, file-sharers).

"Last year we started passing out CDs to the students because we wanted to try to help students solve these problems," said Pangborn. "It's like having a car. If you don't maintain your car and you break down on the highway, you're impeding and slowing down everyone else on the road."

Computers are fickle instruments, however, and even Pangborn admits that he has had computer problems.

"If I said that the IT Director never had his computer crash, I'd be lying," he said. "It doesn't happen very often, because I maintain it very well. But yeah, it does happen."

RWU's WQRI, located in the Campus Rec Center.
Resolve your resolutions

Ellen Casady
Contributing Writer

The most effective, simple way to keep your New Year’s resolution? Don’t make one!

Don’t give in to peer pressure from society, friends and family. Just say “No.” The problem with making resolutions? They tend to be unrealistic, and hence, doomed to fail.

“Don’t make a resolution to do it. Just go out, and enjoy. Take it easy and don’t worry about how much you are doing” said Mike Dill, freshman.

According to a General Nutrition Center poll, 88 percent of Americans have at least one resolution. “I have to admit, I’ve been thinking about making New Year’s resolutions. This is something I have done on and off each year. This year, my resolution was to stop drinking so much coffee. I think it’s really hard to keep a resolution, but if you really want to keep it, I guess anyone can do it,” explained Jessica Hampton.

A new year symbolizes a fresh start, which for many people is a motivating factor in keeping, or even making, a resolution. For those who insist on making goals for themselves, here are some tips to help keep that resolution.

Choose a resolution that is attainable and realistic. For example, giving up bar-hopping on Thursday nights might be an extreme—at least in college.

Avoid choosing the same resolution as last year. Chances are if you didn’t succeed last year you won’t this year.

Create similar resolutions as your friends or family so that way you can support each other. It’s always nice to have someone to talk to when you’re doing the rowing machine.

“Last, always reward yourself with every step closer to completing your resolution.” A new year is a clean slate. It is an opportunity to forget the past and start fresh. Resolutions can help you deal with the things that can be changed—hey, what’s done is done, a new year awaits.

Drunk Dialers take heart

Drunk Dialers, also known as Drunk Dialing, can be a serious issue on college campuses.

Leann Widmark
The Chronicle (Duke U.
) Durham, N.C.

It’s 1 a.m. You’re out with your friends, and you’ve had a few too many Long Island iced teas. What do you do? Whip out the cell phone, of course.

Looking through your phone book, you decide to call your ex-boyfriend, or maybe that certain someone you’ve been eyeing in your history class. Regardless of who it is, you will probably regret that call in the morning—if you remember it at all.

Drunk dialing. It’s rampant on college campuses. But soon there may be something you can do to prevent it.

The cell phone company Virgin Mobile Australia introduced a new service in December that is specifically designed to avoid drunk dialing— or, “dialing under the influence.”

The service has the potential to be popular if introduced in the U.S., Mallison added. Virgin Mobile in Australia has a similar target market—18 to 30-year-olds— in Australia and the United States, and this service fits right in the middle of that group.

With the new service, Duke University sophomore Doug Keith could have avoided an embarrassing late night phone call.

“Freshman year, I was really drunk on a bus ride,” Keith explained. “I got it in my head that I would call my ex-girlfriend and tell her off.”

Keith called his ex-girlfriend’s home number instead of her cell phone, however, and ended up yelling at her dad after mistaking him for one of her friends.

And Keith is not alone. According to a survey conducted by Virgin Mobile, 30 percent of drunken calls are made to ex-partners, and 19 percent are made to current partners. Of the 409 people surveyed, 95 percent admitted to making drunken calls, and 54 percent of them did so as often as one to three times during a single night out.

Drake junior Kate Abrahamson said she would readily invest in the service to avoid the trauma of seeing who called Monday....
When I was offered the chance to take part in the UN Pathways Program a year and a half ago, I jumped at the chance. I knew that it would benefit my students and also allow me to develop more content for my upcoming critical writing for the social sciences and humanities class, which focuses on the human agencies of the UN," Professor Hall explained.

The program has proven to be a success as students and teachers interested and energized about the conferences that are held each semester.

Suhonjic is a big reason that RWU is involved with the Pathways Program.

"What transpires in the video conferences with Ambassador Kamal is both an engaging and informative look at other countries' perspectives on the UN and the issues that affect our world."

Dalila Suhonjic, Director of Global Initiatives at FDU, stated, "When our president J. Michael Adams came on board some four years ago, he came with a vision to transform the mission of the university. The faculty senate adopted the mission as follows: Fairleigh Dickinson University is a center of academic excellence dedicated to the education of world citizens through global education. A series of programs (curricular and co-curricular) were initiated. One of them was the UN Pathways Program. In short, the UN Pathways Program serves the mission of the university. I tried to recruit some UN officials to participate in this program. Ambassador Kamal was interested in what FDU was trying to achieve."

RWU was invited into the Pathways Program by Suhonjic and Fairleigh Dickinson. In 2002, FDU was told by the UN that in order to begin the video conferencing program, they had to find some peer institutions to participate with them as well.

The UN Pathways Program from Cuba," Hall stated. "It's so interesting to hear the Cuban bias side. Not everything we hear (from the Cubans) is always true but it's nice to hear the other side." Mackenzie Miller, freshman, said about the RWU field trip to the United Nations on December 1.

Hall and Pangborn took a select group of UN Pathways Program members for an exclusive tour, lunch in the Delegates Dining Room, a briefing on Global Compact, and then to Fairleigh Dickinson's campus in New Jersey where students heard Cuba's ambassador, Orlando Requeijo Gual, speak on "Vanishing Ambassador Gual were enriched and stimulated by their experience. Not only are some of Professor Hall's classes being taught with a focus on the UN, but students who participate in the Pathways Program have a new perspective on America's relationship with other countries, especially Cuba.

"A lot of cool things happened on that trip. I've heard nothing but accolades from Ambassador Kamal and FDU about how professional the students, venue, and networking at RWU has been," Pangborn said. The benefits of this strong relationship with the United Nations seem endless. RWU students are granted the privilege to help brainstorm topics that ultimately get chosen by Ambassador Kamal. In addition, students are a part of RWU's direction of "going global."

"My students can listen to me in class and hear my perspectives, but now these conferences have allowed students to hear a variety of perspectives, while also engaging with other universities and using cutting edge technology," Hall explained.

The students who spent the afternoon with the enhanced greatly by the number of students from abroad," President Nirschl stated. He further explained how universities have an important role in exploring and inviting programs such as the UN Pathways into their environments.

"The UN Pathways Program links our students with several other colleges and the UN and gives students a chance to question, probe, debate and agree or disagree. That is what universities is all about."

There are no financial repercussions for being one of four sites for the video conferences. The equipment is something that the university "already had in its pipelines," Peter Wilbur, associate vice president of finance and administration, said. RWU has had all of the necessary equipment to utilize the Pathways Program conferences before the program began. Other activities such as the "civil discourse" and video conferences for the study abroad students will be able to use the equipment that's already in place.

"This program goes along with the University going global," Wilbur said, "we wanted this anyway; there are no financial concerns."

When asked if she enjoyed being involved in the United Nations Pathways Program, Courtney Howe, sophomore, said, "Yes, I think that it is great having direct contact with the ambassadors and the United Nations." Howe has enjoyed the lectures on topics such as Global Impact, and the discussion of disarming other countries' weapons. "It's a great learning experience!" she said.

A common theme is woven through the philosophies of the regularly involved members of the UN Pathways Program.

"There are no negatives, these are idealistic and realistic goals," Pangborn said.

"What transpires in the video conferences with Ambassador Kamal is both an engaging and informative look at other countries' perspectives on the UN and the issues that affect our world."

Members of Pathway stand outside the United Nations building.

From left: Courtney Howe, Sherry Marton, Sophie Eldridge, Jill Damico, Jill Dubendris, Anju Metlinsky, Regina Ganter and Mike Diabatato.
Drunk
(cont'd, from page 4)
called the next morning.” Abramson already uses Virgin Mobile, so the service would be at her disposal if and when it becomes available in the U.S. But Abramson did not think that it would be worth it for someone to switch phone companies for the service if they did not already have Virgin Mobile.

“Drunk dialing is a very accepted and expected occurrence,” Abramson explained. She added that it can be avoided simply by taking away a drunk friend’s phone—which does not require changing phone

companies.

Keith said he would not use the service to avoid drunk dialing because “it’s more fun if you just let it happen.”

But for some, the consequences of drunk dialing are not always fun.

“A guy in my fraternity called his girlfriend, got in a fight with her and told her to have sex with every guy she saw in Chapel Hill. And then he broke up with her,” sophomore Henry Coles said.

When Coles’s fraternity brother called his girlfriend the next day to chat, Coles said, she asked if he remembered breaking up with her the night before.

He, of course, did not.

Bio professor retires after 33 years at the University

Heather Kendula
Science Editor

At the end of fall semester, a professor who has touched the lives of thousands of students with her rigorous and demanding courses retired from Roger Williams University after 33 years of teaching.

Dr. Martine Villalard-Bohnsack, biology professor, or “Dr. Martine,” as her students affectionately call her, has made contributions as an educator, researcher and scholar and many of her publications have become standard texts in colleges and universities throughout the world.

She decided to retire at the end of last semester because she “felt that it was time to do something else. I have a long list of tasks I want to accomplish and new challenges I want to undertake. While I still thoroughly enjoyed my classes, I felt constrained by time.”

One of the few resident experts in macroalgae in New England, a discipline she has been studying for 36 years, some of Villalard-Bohnsack’s published works include, “Seaweeds of the Connecticut Shore” and “An Illustrated Key to the Seaweeds of New England.” She is also the author of the campus publication “Walking Tour and Guide to Selected Campus Trees,” Roger Williams University.

Dr. Villalard-Bohnsack taught courses in botany, biology, marine physiology, greenhouse management and horticulture, as well as maintained the greenhouse and developed interdisciplinary projects with students from the School of Architecture landscape design program.

She received numerous research grants in order to conduct research with undergraduate students, and she also received the Collaborative Rhode Island Sea Grant to study the population dynamics of Grateloupia doryphora, bioinvasive seaweed found in Rhode Island waters.

Dr. Villalard-Bohnsack admits that she will miss her students greatly.

“I have had a tremendous amount of fun over the years introducing students to the wonders of the botanical world,” she said.

Amanda Christie, a junior marine biology major, said, “I thought she was really smart and knew a lot, I learned a lot from her.

“She was a great teacher, she really made you want to learn, and she was there if you needed help which is important,” said Alison Hey, a senior environmental science and psychology double major.

Over the years, Dr. Villalard-Bohnsack was always eager to communicate with her students and fellow staff members the excitement she found in the “botanical world.” She admits she will miss her colleagues in the math and science department.

“They were an unusually good bunch of people and I will miss my daily interactions with them,” she said.

Dr. Villalard-Bohnsack has retired to Francistown, NH, where she will be working with freshwater algae and doing biological illustration. She also plans on spending her leisure time traveling, spending time with her recently-retired husband, gardening, hiking, reading and woodworking.

When asked if she would ever consider returning to teaching, Dr. Villalard-Bohnsack replied, “I am leaving my options open and do not rule out that possibility, but at this point I do not know.”

Wellness Wednesdays
Recreation Center Conference Room
12:10 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
February 16: The Practice of Meditation
with Cindy Daniels
RWU goes global with Vietnamese university

Blaine Maffei
Editor

By winter intersession of 2005, students will be able to take classes in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

In February 2004, President Roy J. Nirschel visited Vietnam, where he was approached by a member of his Board of Overseers. It seemed that Dr. Binh Tran, a Vietnamese-American business entrepreneur, was looking to partner with an American university. Nirschel, who has always had a passion for global education, jumped at the chance.

"Dr. Tran was really the 'guiding light' in the process," said Nirschel. RWU established a major academic center within American Pacific University (APU), which had its grand opening Jan. 15, attracting international media coverage.

The center allows Vietnamese students to take rigorous academic courses including English as a Second Language (ESL) and a "College Bridge" course that hones studying skills.

RWU established a major academic center within APU that allows Vietnamese students to take rigorous academic courses including English as a Second Language (ESL) and a "College Bridge" course that hones studying skills.

Pell grants drive up college costs

Lisa Humes-Schults
Daily Californian

BUFFALO, Calif. Federal Pell Grants, meant to ease booming student fees, could actually be responsible for growing fees, according to a report released Wednesday.

The report, issued by the Cato Institute, a public policy research foundation, concludes that funneling more federal aid to students is increasing the demand for higher education and, in doing so, unintentionally driving up the price of college.

"It's nearly impossible to believe that tuition is not being increased by subsidizing higher education, and maybe we ought to think about how much it's happening," said Cary Wolfram, author of the report and professor of political economy at Hillsdale College in Michigan.

Wolfram said the root of rising fees boils down to simple economics: legislators will see increasing demand for higher education as a signal to raise student fees and allow Pell Grants to cover the additional cost.

"I think that you do see a trend. When the federal government does increase the flow, the state uses part of that to divert its flow to other priorities," said Jedd Medefind, chief of staff for Rep. Tim Leslie, R-Tahoe City, who serves on the Assembly's higher education committee.

The solution to growing fees is to phase out federal aid to higher education over a 12-year period, Wolfram said.

Pell Grants and other federal aid are prohibited at Hillsdale, but private loans provide enough aid for students, he said. If Pell grants were eliminated, Wolfram said the private sector would follow suit and cover the cost.

"Before we go off expanding the program ... what we ought to do is sit down and see if this thing is doing what we thought it would," he said. "Are there other ways of doing that that might make us better off?"

The study comes on the heels of President Bush's effort to boost the maximum Pell Grant by $500 over the next five years.

His proposal would ask Congress to reform student loan programs to save billions in cash, which could then be sent to fill the hole left by Pell's $4.3 billion budget shortfall.

Despite the correlation between growing Pell Grants and rising student fees, some California lawmakers said it is not a cause-and-effect relationship.

"My experience is that that is not the case," said Jason Murphy, spokesperson for Sen. Jack Scott, D-Pasadena. "I don't think there's any indication that we've tried to bail out because the Pell Grants have grown."

Murphy said instead of seeing higher education as a place to cut costs when Pell Grants seem sufficient, legislators choose to boost Cal Grants—state-funded grants for college students—to cover the growing cost of college.

Since 2000, when California changed Cal Grants to entitlement funds, the grants jumped from $452 million to $545 million in 2002.

Pell Grants, besides driving up tuition costs, also pose a threat to individual institutions' academic freedom, Wolfram said. By accepting federal dollars, he said, the government is able to control instruction and create mandates to educators, with the threat that aid will be revoked if requirements are not followed.

"The federal government cannot tell the state what to do," he said. "But what you can do is pass a statute that says we're taking away the loans at UC Berkeley if you don't comply."

Instead of eliminating Pell Grants as a solution to soaring student fees, increasing aid would ease the burden of paying for higher education, said Roberta Johnson, associate director of financial aid at UC Berkeley.

"I don't buy the base assumption that the very modest increases in Pell Grants are driving the surging costs of higher education—it's too simplistic," she said. "The kinds of increases that are being proposed don't begin to cover the rising costs of higher education."
RWU softball team pitches in around town

Gio-Mario Murolo Contributing Writer

The members of the 2005 women's softball team started their year with community service for children, senior citizens and families in need. Coach Lauren Hall and K.C. Ferrara, through the Feinstein Service Learning program, and raked leaves for senior citizens in the Bristol area. Also, as part of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, they collected food to put in Thanksgiving baskets that were decorated for families in need. In December, they wrapped over 200 gifts at Bristol Parks and Recreation Community Center for a children's Christmas party.

Captain Kristin Cerreta, junior, said that the community service was, "A fun experience. The whole team was able to get together, get involved, and help people that really needed it. At the end of day, we all went home knowing that we accomplished something. We not only work as a team on the field, but we work together off the field to better the community. With each service we do, we not only grow as a team, we strengthen our friendships, and more importantly, our family."

The softball team plans to continue their service this semester, as they are looking to start a school supply drive for elementary schools, as well as spending time with Girl Scouts and trying to coordinate work with the Women's Center on campus.

Head Coach Steve Pappas said, "If you're a member of the softball program, I can guarantee that not only will you graduate a better softball player, but more importantly, you will leave here a better person."

Coach Pappas, and assistant coaches Lauren Hall and Dave Charbonneau, said the goal is to make the girls better team players.

John Madden: The Man, The Myth, The Legacy
Madden 2005 still tops the list as best football video game

John Madden has been the man for more than 15 years.

This isn't your run-of-the-mill pass-and-catch backyard pickup game. For most gamers this has been their football game since it debuted in 1989. Some are quick to point out that Madden '96 is the greatest of all time. Back then "boom and "whap" were frequent terms used to describe the tackling. Now people are trying to master defenses like Bill Belichick or running the West Coast offense like Bill Walsh.

Madden has become the face of sports video games. The legend continues each and every year and with it comes "The Madden Rules." These rules are the spoken, unwritten laws that each group of friends create in order to keep the integrity of the game in order. The Michael Vick Showstopper: this is exactly what it sounds like. No one can play as the Atlanta Falcons (unless you're a newbie) because Michael Vick will totally abuse a defense. Curtains on Vick—the show is over before it even got started.

The Peyton Manning Mercy Rule: It can be put in effect in any game, but mostly against the Colts because Manning lights up the scoreboard. It states that any player losing by more than five touchdowns with him as starter is half a hundred to will forfeit the game and give him/her controller. Face it, you suck.

For some, Madden has become the epitome of the man who the game is named for—slow and should be near retirement. Madden finally took a seat on the bench. These people have turned to dark side. Their lone option is ESPN football. With a terrific price tag set at $20, as well as excellent game play and graphics, this game was a breath of fresh air.

The fact of the matter is that ESPN football is JV compared to the beast that is "Madden." Starting next year EA, the company that makes Madden, owns the sole rights to the NFL and NFLPA. No more ESPN franchise. Monopoly isn't just a board game anymore.

**Editors note: Is there something severely wrong with downloading the Madden soundtrack and listening to it all day?**

Sports, My Way
Christopher Parish Contributing Writer

While most of you recover from your Super Bowl hangovers (both emotionally and alcohol-induced, in which I'm sure the majority of you are either reveling in the birth of a dynasty or, as I'm hoping, suffering as innocent bystanders in the year Philadelphia finally gets a sports championship), I'm going to take this opportunity to get everyone geared up for the next upcoming, great sporting event.

Sharpen your No. 2 pencils and start drawing your brackets. It's almost March, and that means March Madness.

In three years I've yet to place any higher than second in a March Madness pool, and therefore I've come up with some simple rules to follow. Here looking for the major upsets:
- **Choose your "bracket-busters" carefully.
- Sometimes looking at a team's losses is more important than their wins.
- Any favored team that lives and dies by the 2-pointer is a good bet to lose early.
- Invariably, some team you've never heard of will make the Sweet 16.
- NEVER have all four #1-seeds made it to the Final Four, nor have they lost in the first round.
- The Pac-10 conference is ALWAYS weaker than it looks, and the ACC is ALWAYS stronger than it looks.
- Never go against a good coach. Unless it's Bobby Knight.

Think you've got what it takes to beat me? Prove it. Join the Yahoo! Fantasy Sports Tournament Pick'em group, open to all RWU students. Entering is simple: go to fantasyports.yahoo.com and sign in (create a username if you don't have one). Find the Tournament. Pick'em site and select "Create a Pick'em Group," then "Join Group."

The league ID is 96371 and the password is rwo. Good luck!