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Hawk's Herald - April 16, 2005

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THIS
WEEK



Science labs gets
new equipment
page 3

SPORTS



Free speech isn't cheap

James O'Connor
Contributing Writer

Keri Blais, a senior creative writing major, is frustrated this month. April brings National Poetry Month to the campus of Roger Williams University, but what would be the tenth year of observing the event by writing poems in chalk on campus sidewalks will not take place this year.

Blais, and other students, though disappointed by this decision, were challenged to generate different avenues to express and display their work. Renee Soto, creative writing professor and head of the National Poetry Month event planning at RWU, said to her students one day, "If your grand means of self expression is waiting until the old people give you permission, once a year, to

write on the sidewalk, then that is pitiful!"

Soto urged students, and the rest of the campus community, to come up with their own ideas of expressing themselves, rather than take part in some activity that may only come once a year.

Traditionally, National Poetry Month has always hosted the sidewalk chalking as an opportunity for students to showcase their work. This month, no such activity exists—the planned events only involve outside poets sharing their work with students. Is this an issue of censorship or simply just not the right venue?

Blais feels it is unfair there is no one sponsoring a program allowing students from the creative writing department to express their work. Soto, on the other hand, says students who attend

the poetry-month lectures will "be expressing from an academic stance."

Where can I really write? Speak? Talk? Draw? Act? Dance? Can I say whatever I want? The answers to these questions partially fall into the "Reason and Respect" initiative that President Nirschel developed in the past year. Overwhelmingly, the answer is, "Yes, we, as part of the campus community, can express ourselves however we see fit." But, there are limitations.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states, "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." Because RWU is a private university, it has the freedom to enforce censorship as it sees fit. The First Amendment, along with the fourteenth, constrain government at the local, state and national level. But when it comes to a private university, anything is fair game. Although typically, at private liberal arts universities, censorship is kept in check in the name of academic freedom and by the fear of bad press.

What the University offers in accordance with the Constitution is a statement found in the Student Handbook and Events Calendar on page 105. "Any obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, or other University activities and procedures is prohibited;

however, the University affirms and insures the right to peaceful assembly and free speech" (under "Demonstrations"). This is the University's only policy directly addressing the issue of freedom of expression and speech.

Associate Provost Dr. Jeffrey Martin explained that it usually is a better idea to avoid too many rules or guidelines in relation to matters of free speech.

"There certainly are policies in terms of hate speech and insults and trying to create some sort of civil environment here on campus," he explained. But as far as policy on free speech and censorship, the statement under "Demonstrations" seems to uphold to the full extent.

"Such is the nature of policy making," said

SEE CENSOR, PAGE 4

Rushdie on Stage



Allison Deyo

MIT professor Salman Rushdie spoke to a filled Rec Center on April 6. The critically acclaimed author of *The Satanic Verses*, Rushdie discussed how he lived in hiding, and the barriers of being a novelist under an oppressive regime. For story, see page 6.

Silence is golden for ASL students

Sarah Blomberg
Contributing Writer

As he challenges them on yet another Thursday night With desks piled against the walls and chairs pulled into a semi-circle, all the students participate eagerly in Professor Manuel Martin's sign language class—all without saying a single word.

All eyes are on Martin as he strolls across the room, signs the time: 8:00, punches a fake time card and walks out the door, returning to "punch" his time card again, and sign the time: 5 p.m., all in an effort to show the class that the sign he is teaching them is "worker." Although it may sound like a time-consuming way to teach a single ASL sign, the combination of his energetic mimes and writing on the board make it hard for the students to

forget what they have learned, and ensures that despite the no-talk rule, bursts of laughter will echo down the halls, making the class anything but silent.

Martin's immediate goal is to educate as many people as possible about American Sign Language and deaf culture, hoping things in Rhode Island will be a little better for deaf people, "so they can go in a store and not have to feel so awkward," he said. His ultimate goal is "to take this as far as it can go, hopefully at RWU we will end up with a full sign language program." If that happened, RWU would have the only full program in Rhode Island that would allow people to become fluent in ASL, aside from the Rhode Island School for the Deaf.

Martin would also like

to set up as many classes in the state as he can and turn Rhode Island into as much of a Chilmark as possible. Chilmark is a small town in Martha's Vineyard where, in the early twentieth century, the rate of deafness was 1:4 due to genetics, and everyone knew ASL and treated the deaf people in the town the same as everyone else. When asked about their deaf neighbors today, residents of Chilmark do not even remember who was deaf and who was not because it was such an insignificant factor in comparison to what type of job they had or what kind of person they were.

Before he began his career as the most sought after teacher of ASL in Rhode Island, Martin and his wife owned a laundromat with an

SEE MARTIN, PAGE 5



Chris Villano
Contributing Writer

Dedicated to all the college freshmen, sophomores, and juniors out there who will be attending this year's graduation

So, I was sitting recently in a bagel café with a friend when I came to this conclusion: everyone has their reasons for coming to RWU, and none of them seem to be the right ones. Everyone's got a wack story about how they ended up here. I always hated hearing things like that, so I couldn't believe it had just come out of my mouth. At first I was a little upset, but then it prompted me to think about a special and interesting coming to RWU story, and I'd like to share it with the class!

Evans, Ryan, C
PO1585 890 Cox Neck RD
Mattituck, NY 11952
DOB: 10-24-81

That was all the information I had to remember the first time I used a fake ID to get into a club (Remi's) freshman year. It turns out the first person I ever illegally impersonated for the purpose of getting drunk was the same person I grew up emulating all throughout my early years of high school.

From Providence, with love

"How's it going to be?"

Needless to say, I got in. Everyone has role models growing up, mine just happened to be my best friend's older brother. He was a star on the varsity sports teams, dated a girl with (huge) fake breasts and drove around in the coolest truck you will ever see (too bad his ex-girlfriend kicked a giant dent in the side, for no other reason than insanity). So, can you blame me?

Herein lies the start of my coming to RWU story, but this isn't about me. It's about fifth year senior Ryan C. Evans of Mattituck, New York!

I assume Ryan transferred to RWU from the Merchant Marine Academy on Long Island for two reasons: 1) he got a lot of financial aid, and 2) the bridge looked real pretty. Actually, I seem to be overlooking how much the Merchant Marines (for lack of a better term) stunk. After a full year there, he was unable to transfer the majority of his credits and only retained two things: how to make a perfect bed and how to walk around like there's a stick up his ass (if you can say it on TV, I can write it in *The Hawk's Herald*).

He was in his third year of college by the

time I got here, so having him around to show me the ropes was a huge help. I learned early on that you can get written up for not cleaning up bodily excretions in a Stonewall bathroom—thanks for the example, buddy! I could joke about it for another 200 paragraphs, but Ryan is really one of a kind, a true friend. He'd give you the shirt off his back and the last five dollars in his wallet if you really needed it. He's the first one to offer to drive out on a Friday night and spent my entire freshman and sophomore years making the trip to 1776 every weekend to buy alcohol for us—never complaining.

Ryan always kept spirits high and can rarely be found in a bad mood. I think back specifically to one example. Last semester we drove to Virginia so he could meet up with this girl Amy. He met her on his pseudo semester abroad trip to Florida where he worked as a lifeguard at Disney. While there, he made no money and dropped out of his one class, earning no credit (I know I've mentioned that before, sorry man). After an awkward first night, we would later learn that this girl had a boyfriend and the whole

time she had been leading Ryan on. Instead of getting upset, or depressed, and driving right up the coast eight hours back to Providence, we stayed and had an amazing time that I'll never forget.

And on a more related note, I don't even know if I'd be writing this right now if it weren't for his encouragement. Early on last semester, when I started writing this column, I was unsure if people would like it and constantly doubted everything I wrote. I would frequently ask Ryan to read it over and give me some feedback. His reactions were priceless and always left me feeling accomplished and funny. Thanks for that man.

I see now that he's become more of a friend to me during the college years, but no less of a role model. He's helped me realize that it's not about how crazy the parties are or how prestigious the school is. It's about the people you meet and the impact you have on each other's lives. It's people like Ryan that mean the most in college, the ones you laugh with, who lead by example and help you mature.

When I think about my upcoming senior year,

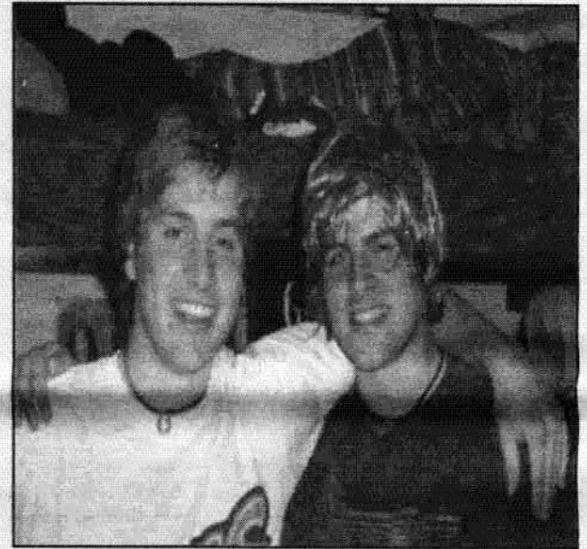
Editor's Desk

You know how Bud Light salutes the "Real Men of Genius?" Well here's one for you...

Today I salute you, Mr. Nocturnal Nightmare Neighbors. Yeah, you know who you are. You spend the hours of the day zoning out in front of the television set, ignoring classes and making Easy Mac until it's taken over your small intestine.

Here's to you, Mr. I-Wake-Up-At-10:30 p.m.-And-Start-a-Party Man. Yeah, we know how much fun it is to perform human bowling at midnight, bump the bass on your stereo hard enough so our walls shake and launch into that stupid theme music from the Vonage Broadband phone company ("Wohoo Woho wohoo"). Who cares if it's 1:30 a.m. on a Tuesday?

So, thanks to the noisy neighbors who have kept me up for nine months. You stay classy Bayside 224.



with Ryan out in "the real world," I'm reminded of a Jack Kerouac quote from his novel *On the Road*.

"What is the feeling you get when you're driving away from people and they recede on the plain 'til you see

their specks dispersing? "It's the too huge world vaulting us, and its good-bye/But we lean forward to the next crazy venture beneath the skies..."

Good Luck, Evs, we'll miss you.

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To contact the Hawk's Herald, email us at hawksherald@yahoo.com or call x3229.

Upcoming Campus Events:

Ball In The House, A Cappella Showcase: April 17, 7:00 p.m., Field House. Free to RWU students.

Spring Weekend! April 21-23

Relay for Life: April 30-May 1, Rec Center. For more info, email: RelayForLifeRWU@hotmail.com



Allisyn Deyo

Christina Hoff Sommers lectures RWU students on April 5.

Feminist on Monologues, "atrocious and anti-male"

Blaine Moffa
Editor

Advertising qualms left the RWU College Republicans (CRs) facing a low turnout on April 5, when feminist Christina Hoff Sommers visited RWU to give a presentation on the moral discrimination of *The Vagina Monologues*.

Students may recall a life-size penis standing outside the Union prior to the lecture; the tactic was used by the CRs to draw campus recognition about their event. Conflicts arose, however, and only 60-75 people showed up in the CAS lecture hall. After several members of the CRs read excerpts from "The Penis Monologues," (written by Monique Stuart, senior), the advocate for women's rights took the stage.

After seeing the play in New York several years ago, Sommers said she was outraged, claiming the *Monologues* are "atrociously written, viciously anti-male and claim to empower women when it makes them look desperate and pathetic."

"I just wanted it to go away; I didn't find it intelligent or advancing of women. But instead of disappearing, it's a worldwide phenomenon," she said.

The *Monologues* was written by Eve Ensler and the popularity persuaded her to create V-Day, a global movement

to stop violence against women.

"I cannot criticize Ensler for her humanitarian effort, but good cause does not exempt it from critical evaluation," Sommers said.

Sommers described the writing as weak, citing that calling a vagina a "tulip" or a "shell" does not qualify as exemplary. In addition, she says college is a time to immerse in intellectual greatness, and it is "offensive" that the *Monologues* is often the only play college students see. Sommers said the play is not just belittling to women, it is a "rogue's gallery" of anti-male text. She argues that the one section of the *Monologues* written about "Bob" is a weak example because the boring man is of no interest to the woman, except for his sexual fetishes.

"All that says is while most men are aggressive and stupid, once and a while you will come across an ordinary man who will want to stare at your vagina for hours," said Sommers.

Sommers also argued it was ridiculous for celebrities like Winona Ryder and Kate Winslet to consider themes from the *Monologues* applicable to everyday life, and college girls who claim the play has changed their life is "worrisome."

"What is empower-

ment? Is it freedom to obsess over our anatomy? Verbalize a word like 'vagina' a hundred times? We are not reducible to our anatomy, our bodies are not ourselves," declared Sommers. Real empowerment, she claimed, was succeeding intellectually.

"Sommers handily exposed the *Vagina Monologues* for the sick, demented and tasteless play that it is. The irreverent feminists in the Women's Center and their mindless supporters would have learned a lot if they would have attended," said CR member Jason Mattera, senior.

[Monique] Stuart said that while the lack of advertising hurt attendance, she was pleased with Sommers' presentation.

"I think Ms. Sommers did a fantastic job of separating Eve Ensler's cause from the play itself, showing people you can criticize her play without being against her cause to raise awareness about violence against women."

Other RWU students, however, were not impressed. Mike Fisher, senior, said he thought Sommers' speech lacked clear argument.

"I was expecting it to be more controversial, but it turned out to be all hype," Fisher said.

To the Editor:

This letter is in regards to Kaitlin Evans article, entitled "Fashion should have stayed in closet," of the 4/2 paper.

Kaitlin, it's pretty sad that you have the nerve to publish an article that criticizes a charitable event. Over 70 students gave up their time to have meetings and rehearsals in the effort of raising money, and they all did a terrific job and excelled on stage.

I took your article very personal and insulting because you left the one important, and obvious reason for the fashion show—it is an altruistic event held every year to raise money for a charity in need. Each year we send the proceeds to an aid organization that is desperately in need (this year it was the tsunami relief) and in the past we have donated all monetary proceeds to the West Warwick Club fire. Each year we also donate all canned goods to the local food bank who is lacking food at this time of the year. All of the models, performers and the DJ donated their time to help raise money. So before you make any opinions of the fashion show just keep that in mind.

I would also like to mention that since we have started the fashion show as a Career Center, CEN and MSU co-sponsored event, we have increase audience attendance by 200 percent, making this year's show record with attendance and participation. We are obviously doing something right. The fashion show has also showcased talent every other year which has always been a hit, even this year. The point is to make it an entertaining night. Not only do you get to see fabulous fashion, but you also get some live entertainment. As for what the models wore... most of the clothing they wore was provided by corporate sponsors including Brooks Brothers, EbLens, Our Place Tuxedos, POAM and Talbots, which you also conveniently forgot to mention. The models looked like pros, the music was pumping, the emcees shined and had a good time, and from what I saw of it, the audience was into it and having a good time. It was our most successful year yet.

I would like to send a personal thanks to each and everyone that donated their time in the effort of the fashion show. It was a huge success attracting a record number of people (minus one opinionated journalist) who enjoyed the show. Thanks to the fabulous four emcees who were terrific, the DJ who did an amazing job, each and every model, and all of the performers including Magic Steve, 'Special Delivery', the MSU Dance group, Debra, 'The Hot Sextet', The International Dance, and Erin, and the entire fashion show committee. You all did a great job.

Sincerely,
Shannon Green

To The Editor,

This letter is in regards to the article written by Kaitlin Evans, entitled *The Fashion Show Should've Stayed in the Closet*.

As one of the coordinators of this year's fashion show and an employee of the Career Center, I was personally insulted by your article. I have been involved in the fashion show for the past three years, and am proud to say that every year it has improved significantly. While the fashion show used to be put on solely by the Career Center, we have since incorporated CEN and MSU in order to draw in a larger audience and **raise more money for charity**. This seems to be a fact that you failed to mention in your article.

Every year the fashion show is done **not** to showcase award-winning performances and *the* clothing from the most fashionable stores, but to raise money for charity. As a sophomore, you are most likely not aware of this, but to reach our goals, the fashion show has grown much larger and (as a senior I can say from experience) much more entertaining. I am personally very grateful that this year we had a record number of models and acts sign up to participate. In the past, a mix CD was the best we could do, but DJ Epic was nice enough to offer his services for our small but charitable event. As for your critique of the performances, I thought all of the acts did an amazing job. I would like to start off by correcting you—Special Delivery did **not** perform "I'll Be," but rather "I Could Not Ask For More" by Edwin McCain—right artist, wrong song.

Here's some other things you don't know: The participants in the MSU dance re-worked their blocking just hours before the show because they wanted to perform their best; Debra was so eager to sing that she used her own money to return early from a field trip to New York and be back in time to perform; and Erin's chief concern about her dance was that the audience wouldn't be able to hear her tapping (which was obviously not under her control but the control of the sound crew).

I am honestly very surprised that you think enough of yourself and your opinion to stylistically critique the participants of a charity event! Our goal this year was to diversify the fashion show—rather than using only student leaders as participants and only modeling clothes, we invited the entire campus to join in, including performers. We showcased some dancing, some singing, and a band whose styles ranged from international music to Broadway to pop to jazz and back again.

So, if there are parts of the fashion show that you didn't like, that's fine by me. I just think that everyone involved should receive recognition for at least trying to offer something for everyone and putting so much time and effort into this event—and with a record attendance of 200 students, I think we did something right.

Sincerely,
Erin Roach

Censor

(cont'd. from page 1)

Martin, "Once one rule is created, a hundred more are to follow." Detailed policies on free speech seem to have been purposely avoided.

The Reason and Respect initiative was instituted this year, and is creating more opportunities and venues for free speech in the form of civil discourse.

"We are trying to spark debate," said Jeffrey Gillooly, executive assistant to the President. Part of the goals that the Reason and Respect initiative are aiming for is "to turn down the volume of voices and focus more on the substance of the views being expressed."

One facet of this program is the Civil Discourse Distinguished Speaker Series, in which various nationally recognized speakers give lectures at RWU regarding "the great issues of our time." At each of these lectures, discussions (or one could say, the exchange of ideas) have been prompted by an open mic with questions and answers. The other half of this new program is the Journal of Civil Discourse, in which students, faculty, administration and university staff may submit bodies of work addressing a variety of topics.

June Speakman, professor of political science and advisor to both the College Republicans and College Democrats, discussed the idea of an ideal university environment, in which she referred to author John Stuart Mill's philosophy of "the marketplace of ideas."

"It is an open and free arena in which the exchange of all different ideas can take place," she said. Speakman points out another theorist, John Milton, whose literary contributions are important to the issue of free speech because he says that as the good and bad ideas are discussed, the good ideas will pre-

vail.

Martin illustrates the same environment, adding that "the interchange of ideas can get messy sometimes, but it is good to have discourse." Both of these campus advocates of free speech stress the importance of civility in the exchange of ideas in order for ideas and philosophies to be challenged, without things "getting personal."

Expression Sessions, which has a name that speaks for itself, is a program offered by the Campus Programs Department. This is one of the most open programs offered at the University in which students, faculty, University staff and administration can come to express whatever they want, however they want and which way they want to do so, every Thursday night.

Assistant Director of Campus Programs Marshall Guthrie noted that, "the only limitations would be time constraints. If a lot of people sign up to get on stage for that week, the order just goes by drawing numbers from a hat." In recent years, there has been no instance of harmful views or highly inappropriate demonstrations at Expression Sessions, but should the situation arise, Guthrie comments, "We would probably have to regulate the event more closely by doing a previous submission of material system or something of that sort."

Recently, the College Republicans felt they had been treated unfairly by the University in the way advertising restraints for the "Penis Monologues" were handled. There were no concerns about the content in advertisements for the *Vagina Monologues* but "everything was turned down upon the review for the Penis Monologue advertisements," said Monique Stuart, author of the College Republican sponsored parody.

"They said it was vul-



Michelle Donabed

Above, Testaclese distributes flyers for the "Penis Monologues" outside the Student Union.

gar and offensive" she commented. Upon another review of content, some of the posters were approved by Campus Programs. For the "Monologues" event, planning went without restraint.

Advertising is a matter that deals directly with free speech at RWU in regards to what can and cannot be posted. The Campus Programs Department is responsible for handling all of the advertisement approvals. The proposed advertisements are submitted to Assistant Director of Campus Programs Becky Riopel, who looks for any questionable content.

"We are very open to work with the groups if something is initially red-flagged," says Riopel. "We try to reach a compromise by creating the same message, but without the offensive impact we first found questionable."

There has never been an instance where something Campus Programs approved was found to be of a controversial nature to the campus community. "Hurling insults shuts down discussions," said Guthrie.

"The goal is educa-

tion. It's not about stifling the message," adds Riopel.

Expression Sessions are held in the back section of the Snack Bar in the Student Union, an important distinction John King, the vice president of student affairs, makes.

"The most important litmus test is the venue," he says. "In an art gallery or at a Web site, the viewer is choosing to look at the content, but for an open and common venue like the quad, people don't have the choice anymore. They are forced to see a demonstration as they are walking to class. So in this case, the range of freedom is limited."

This can be offered as part of the reason why the sidewalk chalking has been a hot issue. In 2002, members of the campus community found a written phrase on the sidewalk offensive, and dispute arose because everybody could see what was written in the quad.

Last semester, the theater department put on the play "Lysistrata," which, according to William Grandgeorge, a professor in the theater department, "is the sexiest play ever written."

Grandgeorge said that "during the performance you have actors walking around with props of two foot erections attached to them. We put that play on without any com-

plaint."

He believes that this administration is well rooted in its freedom of speech policies, "They let the theater department handle the theater department and the writing department handle the writing and so on."

Grandgeorge has been at RWU since 1969 and recalls the last time controversy arose over content in a production.

"A student came proposing to direct a one-act play called 'Mad Heart' by Leroi Jones. In it, an actress takes a Crucifix down from the wall and jams it up her vagina. This student director had actually found a student who would agree to do this act, but at that point, I decided that was too over the top. What was done instead was a metaphorical way to display it and the play was shown."

This was in 1974, and Grandgeorge makes it a point to show how long it has been since subject matter of such a controversial nature has come across his desk.

The return of the RWU literary magazine will soon add the artistic environment to campus. The former literary magazine, called *Calliope*, had its funds removed in the late 1990s by the former administration. Now, the current administration is in favor of reinstating a literary magazine that is nationally renowned as

Calliope was. The program, part of the Creative Writing Department, is being lead by Soto and one main focus is to gather a crucial number of students in the editing process.

"The magazine will not accept any work generated by the RWU community because of the fear of conflict of interest. The point is to publish the work of the best new and established writers, which the students have a very heavy hand in choosing from the side of editorial aesthetics," says Soto.

Speakman, who also wrote, "Is Civil Discourse Simply About Manners?" said, "It's a pretty free place. There's not a lot of regulation."

This seems to be the resonating tone of the faculty and administration's opinions about free speech at RWU. The avenues of expression are available. No one in an authority position is saying "No!" Some of the limitations are merely guidelines in reference to the time of day or location in where it is OK to demonstrate, which can be found in the Student Handbook.

To have a view or opinion heard, a piece of art looked at, or any form of expression demonstrated, all it takes is an idea and the action to make that idea come to life.

poetry month

THE ACADEMY OF AMERICAN POETS

month

poetry exhibits

book awards

Martin

(cont'd. from page 1)

upside down sign. When they agreed to accept a deaf foster son in 1984, his life was forever changed. Jeffrey was 14 years old when he needed a family to take him in while he attended a school for the deaf that was far from home. Martin, who has no children of his own, found himself with a son, and quickly learned sign language from him so that they could communicate.

When Jeffrey returned to his family the following year, Martin's role as a dad was taken away from him, and he eventually lost touch with his son.

"Jeffrey's life was heading downhill and there was nothing I could do about it," Martin said, explaining that there was no way to communicate with him since his mother would not relay messages and he was too far away to visit. "He is my whole motivation for what I do," Martin says, hanging his head in painful memory, as his eyes begin to tear.

"I do it for other deaf friends that I have as well, but they can see what I do, Jeffrey does-

n't. It's for him because it's the only thing I can do to pay him back for all he's done for me."

Since the wonderful year that he spent with Jeffrey, Martin has interpreted for President Clinton and conducted workshops in Seattle, Wash., teaching others his effective methods of ASL at the college level. He traveled to Vietnam numerous times, a place that has become his second home, and started The Vietnamese Sign Language Research Project to document signed languages that have not been recorded.

Martin took his first formal ASL class in 1989, and by 1992 became a part-time sports interpreter. In 1994 he became a full-time interpreter in education, drama and business and began teaching ASL at a Worcester, Mass., elementary school, developing his inspired curriculum, which he has since taught to many educators of ASL. He later became the consultant for the RI School for the Deaf ASL program, and was offered a teaching job at URI.

His first night teaching at the college level, Martin was very nervous. He recalls, "I was so unnerved that I dropped

my handouts in a puddle in the parking lot! Luckily, since I was so nervous I had also made three sets of extra copies." It took a lot of courage for him to stick to his voice-off rule during his first class, he was very intimidated and the students did all they could to bate him into talking. This same class gave him a standing ovation at the closing of the semester, when he finally spoke, giving a last-class lecture.

"It was the most wonderful thing," Martin remembers, "I was so amazed at their reaction that I cried, I wished Jeffrey could have seen it."

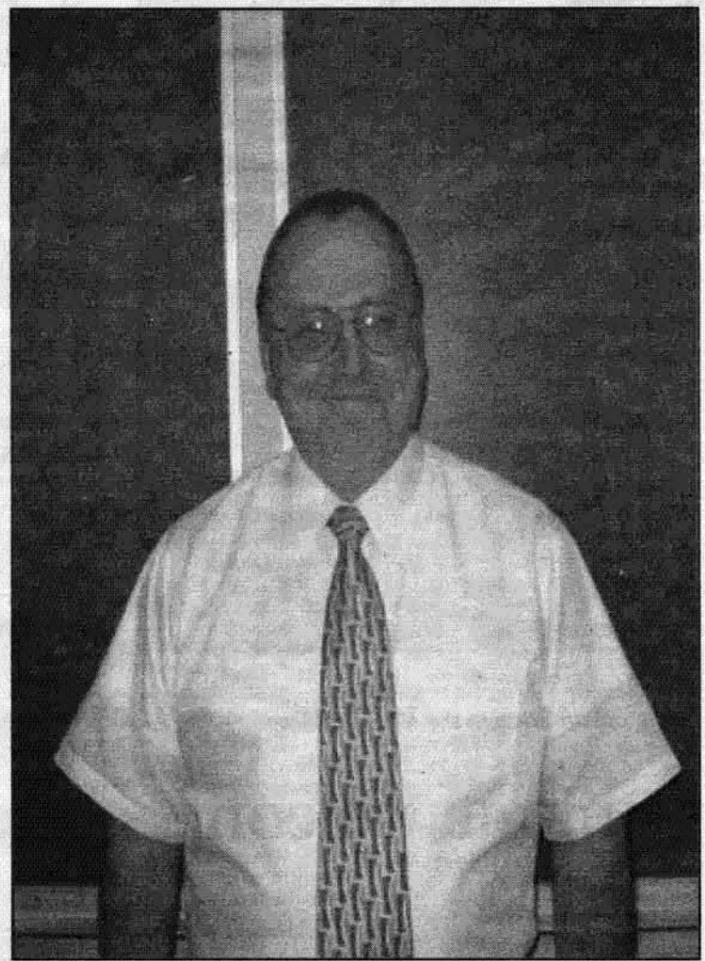
Since teaching at URI, Martin has also taught at RWU and Mass Bay. "I have not had to apply to any of these colleges, they contact me asking me to come and teach, it shows how strained we are for teachers, there are just not enough qualified instructors of ASL," said Martin.

The reason for his voice-off method is multifaceted. First, it allows him to demonstrate that the school could hire a deaf instructor and they would be able to do the same thing he is doing. To emphasize this, Martin will not talk dur-

ing the break, or before or after class. Students are still able to communicate fine with him through other means. A second reason for voice-off is that it allows students to have as close to an experience being immersed in ASL as possible, since immersion has been proven to be the most effective way to learn any language.

"Sometimes you just have no idea how you affect people," said Martin, who will occasionally receive e-mails or letters from past students thanking him for his influence. "That is what I enjoy about teaching."

And he will continue to influence and inspire as many people as he can until the deaf people in our society are finally better understood, and we can all begin an effort at communication with



Sarah Blomberg

Manuel Martin conducted ASL workshops in Seattle, Wash., interpreted for President Clinton and started the Vietnamese Sign Language Research Project. He teaches a course at RWU on Thursday nights.

each other. While a Spanish-speaking person in the United States can learn to speak English and survive in American culture, a deaf person cannot learn to hear.

In the words of Victor Hugo, one of Martin's favorite philosophers, "What matters deafness of the ear, when the mind

hears. The one true deafness, the incurable deafness, is deafness of the mind."

Martin's efforts have certainly opened up some minds, and will continue in that pursuit indefinitely. He has found his life's purpose in this important education.

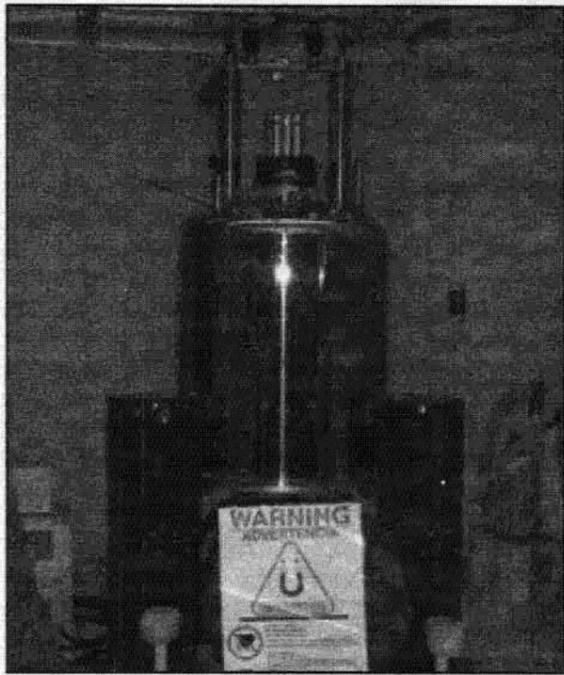
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The nuclear magnetic resonance magnet, above, is the latest addition to the MNS building. Blaine Moffa

MNS gets new lab upgrade

Heather Kordula
Contributing Writer

If you think supercalifragilisticexpialidocious is a mouthful, try nuclear magnetic resonance magnet.

On April 8, Dr. O'Shea, Dr. von Riesen, President Nirschel, Kerry Gilmore, junior, as well as members from *The Bridge* magazine gathered for a photo shoot to welcome the newest addition to the MNS building.

Nuclear magnetic resonance, or NMR, occurs when the nuclei of certain atoms are absorbed in a static magnetic field and exposed to a second, oscillating magnetic field. Some nuclei will experience this action and others will not,

depending upon whether they possess spin.

Spin is a fundamental property of nature, like an electrical charge or mass. Spin comes in multiples of one-half and can be positive or negative. Protons, electrons and neutrons possess spin. Individual unpaired electrons, protons and neutrons each possess a spin of one-half.

The NMR magnet is one of the most expensive components of the nuclear magnetic resonance system. Most magnets are superconductors, meaning it has an electromagnet made of superconducting wire. The wire has a resistance approximately equal to zero when it cools to a temperature

close to absolute zero, or, about -273.15 degrees Celsius, by immersing it in liquid helium. Once the current starts to flow in the coil, it will continue to flow for as long as the coil stays at liquid helium temperatures.

"In order to keep the machine maintained, it is refilled with liquid nitrogen every two weeks, which costs \$180," von Riesen explained. "Every six months the core has to be refilled with liquid helium."

The National Science Foundation decided to give a matching grant to the school to pay for half the price of the new machine, which cost a total of \$225,000.

The machine arrived mid-February, and students in environmental chemistry and analytical chemistry are using it for their class projects. According to O'Shea, the students can set up the experiment in class and then the computer will send the information directly to the student's email address.

"Once the student is back in their room they can download the free software and finish working on their project," O'Shea said.

Members of the American Chemical Society have also used the new machine to present research they conducted at the 229th ACS Exposition in San Diego, CA.

Campus welcomes international figure Salman Rushdie

Michael Hurley
Contributing Writer

On April 6, Roger Williams University, welcomed world-renowned author Salman Rushdie spoke before a crowded Rec Center audience as part of RWU's "Respect & Reason" speaker series.

The presentation began as President Roy J. Nirschel welcomed the crowd to the "intel-

lectual epicenter of Rhode Island." He introduced Rushdie, describing his style as "magical realism" and explaining the life-threatening danger Rushdie faced after releasing *The Satanic Verses*.

Rushdie discussed the struggle between writers and politicians, stating, "both offer visions of how things are, but... writers admit that the

thing they're trying to sell you is made up." He said this is a paradoxical situation, because authors are more often telling the truth than politicians.

Next, Rushdie spoke about the mass slaughter in Pakistan that the government denied happened. He stated that, though much documentation exists, "The government is telling you

that your memory is a lie."

Perhaps the most personal of Rushdie's points was that of the power of the imaginative writer. He claimed that when you write, you discover that people with power are afraid of you. As he described, powerful people are "scared of an individual, speaking fearlessly... without restraint." This is an

observation that he made after, as he so eloquently stated, "the excrement hit the ventilation system" following the publication of *The Satanic Verses*.

The book, which questions the Koran (the holy book of Islam), resulted in Rushdie's living in hiding for several years, because Ayatollah Khomeini (the former President of Iran) issued

a fatwah (a ruling), calling on all good Muslims to kill him if they found him. He described the situation as a battle between people with a sense of humor and those without.

Questioning the Koran is considered sacrilegious, but Rushdie made the case that most people who protested his book had never actually read

SEE RUSHDIE, PAGE 7

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Guinness holds cultural angels and demons

Kellie Corcoran
Contributing Writer

It was a "lovely day for a Guinness" when I recently visited the brewing headquarters of the beer giant in Dublin, Ireland.

Guinness flows like water from all pub taps here, and the tour of the factory highlighted the many wonders of the dark beverage.

While it is not a staple in most RWU fridges, here even the smallest of kids grow up with the taste.

Have you ever heard the saying "Guinness Is Good For You?" The Irish believe it to be so good that it's common for a pregnant woman to have a glass a day. That may be Irish lore, but the fact is that Guinness is



even available on top of the French Alps, or in Nepal on Mount Everest. But no matter where you are, each true Guinness has a special ingredient only available from the Dublin brewery. Therefore, a little piece of Ireland is contained in all Guinness glasses. St. James Gate Brewery, the largest in the world, pro-

duces well over 400 million pints a year, ensuring there's always enough for everyone. However, there is also a darker side to alcohol consumption in Ireland, and sometimes there is too much to go around. Irish and American drinking habits are in sharp contrast. In Ireland, there is a definite "pub culture," with social life revolving around the bars and alco-

holic beverages. On any given day of the week, the local bars are packed with young and old. Although a majority of American college students consume alcohol on weekends, for Irish students these activities commence on Sunday and do not end until Thursday or Friday. Binge drinking among Irish youth is on the rise, and the statistics show the numbers to be steadily increasing. Compared to a variety of other countries around the world, Ireland consumes the largest quantity of alcohol, about 13.5 liters per adult in 2003 (according to the *Irish Times*). In America, however, the National Institute on Drug Abuse claims "Binge drinking

in the U.S. reaches its lowest level of a 17 year period."

Visiting the pubs is such a significant part of daily Irish life that alcohol has become deeply ingrained in society, especially the favored Guinness beer. People catch up with friends over a quick pint, but the Irish prove that every day is always a "lovely day for a Guinness."

Rushdie used Bellow's story of a dog that perpetually barked. Bellow said this dog was protesting against the "limitations of dog life," as if the dog was saying, "For God's sake, open the universe a little more!"

Rushdie used this story to inspire the audience to expand the possibilities of knowledge, to go the limits and to always push outwards.

Using his own novels as examples, he claimed that it is better to go to the edge than to sit safely in the middle. He emphasized that the audience, like novelists, must push back when being pushed.

the Earth." With low blows thrown at Dan Brown, author of *The Da Vinci Code*, Rushdie next focused on democracy, calling it, "not a tea party." He mentioned the former Iron Curtain, a fictional symbol for Soviet oppression, built to keep people within the country. He said that now, cultures seem to be pushing people out, which is just as dangerous.

The most intriguing line from Rushdie's lips was, "reality is no longer realistic." He used a story by the late Saul Bellow, novelist and Nobel Laureate, to expand his point.

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full of protein and iron, so perhaps the advertising phrase of "A Guinness A Day Keeps The Doctor Away" actually holds some truth.

Way back in 1799 Arthur Guinness signed a 9,000 year lease for the St. James Gate Brewery in Dublin, which ensures future generations the opportunity to enjoy the distinct taste of the beer. It has caught on in pubs across the world, and is

Rushdie

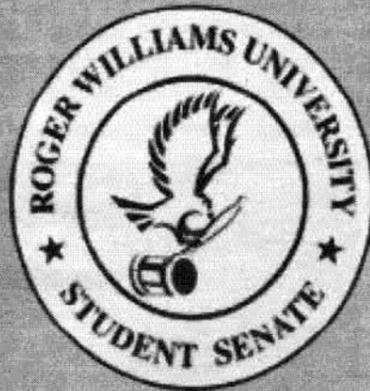
(cont'd. from page 6)

the Koran. He marked the "incredible decline of intellectual subtleties in our lifetime" as one of the great tragedies of the Eastern World. Furthermore, Rushdie found humor in the use of the new verb, "Dixie Chicked," which is a symbol of American freedom.

Rushdie had an interesting approach to life, claiming that family, nation and religion are stories in which we live. He said that human beings are "storytelling animals" and that storytelling is "essential to our nature as creatures of

Student Senate

Meetings are held every Monday at 6:30 pm in the Student Senate Chambers (Located on the second floor of the Recreation Center).



We Govern Your Body

Incoming freshmen should ballpark 1,000

Brett Kearns
Contributing Writer

Roger Williams University's incoming freshmen class, is like the town of Bristol, a nice, cozy and comfy number—hopefully around 1,000 students.

This number is one the University would like to see the incoming freshmen to hover around; however, the RWU Administration says it does not want to limit itself to a fixed freshmen enrollment number.

Lynn Fawthrop, Vice President for Enrollment Management & Retention, said that

between 1,000-1,020 students is a number that is a good fit for the University when considering admitting students. That is a significant reduction from four years ago, where the current senior class began at approximately 1,220 freshmen.

Fawthrop clarified the misconception that the University halts the enrollment process at 1,000 students.

"Halt is a strong word," Fawthrop said. She also discussed the variables that go into considering the number of students that are

admitted to RWU; the University also has a responsibility to retain as many students as possible and figure them into the overall enrollment equation.

The freshmen of the Class of 2009 will begin their collegiate careers in the fall, will follow the graduating undergraduate senior class of 2005, which is the largest class in the University's history.

The University expects 650 full-time undergraduate students to receive diplomas in May.

The Herald would like to extend it's thanks to all the contributing writers for the 2004-2005 academic year. Look for our final issue on April 30. Good Luck Graduates!

McAbee strikes out eight, leads softball to consecutive victories

Tim Mannion
Contributing Writer

The RWU softball team took down Regis College Pride in back-to-back games at Paolino Field Tuesday afternoon, extending their winning streak to 10 games and their current record to 17-5.

In game one of the doubleheader, the Hawks trampled the Pride after a slow start. Pitcher Ronnie Fodor, junior, took the mound to start the game and had some trouble getting out of the first inning. After giving up an early double and a few sacrifices by Regis hitters, the Pride held a 1-0. Opportunity knocked in the same inning as Regis was able to load the bases, but no one came to see who was at the door as Fodor was only able to get out of the inning down one.

The Hawks came up to bat in the bottom of the first and were able to capitalize on a few costly wild pitches. The heads-up

base running showed by the Hawks carried the momentum well into the third inning as they led 4-2.

After a couple of liners screamed to the outfield and a couple more infield hits scattered along the rough base paths, the Hawks found themselves down by a run in the third inning. With only one Regis batter retired, RWU head coach Steve

Pappas went to his bullpen to stop the Regis run. Right-hander Laura McAbee, sophomore, showed terrific heat on her first pitch to the plate and she quickly worked her way out of the bases-loaded jam.

McAbee's shutdown attitude carried the Hawks into the next inning as they put four runs on the scoreboard by the likes of Ashlyn Couture, freshman, who had an

RBI double and a run scored in the bottom half of the fourth.

McAbee would settle down and pitch the rest of the game flawlessly as the Hawks would pile on five more runs and take game one of the dip.

In game two of the doubleheader, coach Pappas called on McAbee to pitch again. Much like game one, McAbee delivered. She pitched a one-hit gem, striking out seven



Sports, My Way

Christopher Parish
Contributing Writer

Rather than a rant about a particular group that annoys me this week, I've decided to enlighten my spirited readers (all four of you) with my random thoughts from the week in sports both at RWU and abroad...

1. The Red Sox and the Yankees should NEVER play on opening day. In fact, they shouldn't be allowed to play each other until June.

2. "The Curse of the Bambino" was gone for a few months, but David Wells taking the number three has brought it back. Seriously, he's even fat like The Bambino.

3. While wearing RWU attire around campus has increased, it is still considered passé to attend sporting events. Baseball, women's lacrosse and men's tennis were all competing last week within 150 yards of each other and there were MAYBE 50 people at all three events. This is sad.

4. I saw an eighth grader in a basketball game on Friday who was 6-foot-7. No joke.

5a. If Illinois won Monday's game against UNC, I'm \$70 richer. If UNC won, I'm \$5 poorer....

5b. ...Not that I bet on sports. Ever.

6. Tim Mannion, my sports editor, is certifiably insane. But he's still awesome. In fact, all of my editors are awesome. Blaine and Allisyn are great. I think they deserve credit for putting a great paper together this year.

7. If I took steroids this cross country season, would anyone notice? Or care?

8. This has nothing to do with sports, but it's important. Guys, pulling elaborate April Fool's Day jokes on your girlfriend is NOT recommended. Like, at all. If you even thought about it, go out and buy her flowers immediately.

Thus concludes my random rant. Have a good week everyone.



Men's lacrosse blows lead to Williams, snapping five-game winning streak

Tim Mannion
Contributing Writer

The men's lacrosse team saw their five game winning streak come to an end at the hands of visiting Williams College Ephmen, falling 12-5 on Wednesday afternoon at Bayside Field.

The Hawks jumped out to a quick 1-0 lead just three minutes into the game, as Dave Plescia, sophomore, handled the ball back at X when he found Lee Bischoff, senior, cutting in front of the crease for an open bounce shot.

The Hawks would tally another goal just a few minutes later as Ross Baker, senior, took the ball near midfield and fight several Williams's defenders in his way as he ripped a shot past the Eph's goalie.

Up 2-0, RWU did the little things to keep their early lead. Ground balls

and constant ball movement led to another goal just three minutes later as Plescia took a cross pass behind the goal from Eddie Huydie, freshman.

Williams' head coach took a timeout following the third goal, obviously frustrated in his team's performance. The timeout proved to be a good move as the Eph's came out with a sense of urgency. Williams used their patient pass-controlled offense to keep the RWU defenders constantly moving, and tallied their first goal with just four seconds left in the first quarter.

The late goal proved to be the early turning point. Williams would find the back of the net five minutes into the second quarter to slim the Hawks lead to 3-2. The Ephmen would tie the game less than a minute later as they took advantage of an RWU penalty, the first of the



Doug, D'Auria (30) cradles his way past a William's defender. The Hawks fell to the Ephman, 12-5, making their current season record 5-6.

game. RWU would end the first half down 4-3, but things were looking good as goalkeeper Bobby Hensley, freshman, made some terrific plays in net to keep the Hawks in it.

RWU came out flat in the second half, though, as the hangover from the

second period continued to throb. Williams used their disciplined ball movement to take precious time off the clock and also confuse the RWU defense. The Eph's would pounce the Hawks by reeling off six straight goals and ending the third period with a commanding 10-3 lead.

RWU would rally the troops late in the fourth period with two goals coming in the last five minutes, but it was too little to late. The Hawks have a home game this Saturday when they face rival Gordon College at 3:30 p.m. on Bayside Field.

Tim Mannion