Spanning the Globe from Her Desk

Gina Lopardo helps to broaden student's horizons at RWU

Traci Harris
Contributing Writer

With her warm smile and friendly personality, Gina Lopardo is very open when talking about herself and her position at RWU. Her office shows students that she is fun and friendly. Her desk has little toys on it and the walls are decorated with pictures of other countries. A vase of fresh, pink tulips sit on the edge of her desk.

She has pictures of her nephew and eight-month-old dog, Lucy, a pomeranian mixed with pug.

With a smile on her face, Lopardo said of her new puppy, “She is very cute, I wish I could bring her to work with me everyday.”

Lopardo has been at RWU for six and a half years. She started out as an assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, but when RWU began a study abroad program in Rome in 1999, she jumped at the opportunity to become involved. These responsibilities have evolved over the years and she became a full-time position a year and a half ago. She also currently taking courses at URI to earn her master’s degree. A typical day for Lopardo is a busy one. “I get here at 8:30 a.m. and I’m usually here until around 5 p.m., when I don’t have special projects or meetings or pre-departure orientations going on.”

She has appointments with students and answers a lot of e-mails and phone calls each day, as well as being in contact with program providers. She is in charge of going through all the study abroad applications and writing the acceptance letters.

Lopardo’s face is known around campus; she communicates with everyone from Student Life to Academic Affairs. She is proud to have been a part of the RWU team that hosted a delegation of students from the University of Basrah and Baghdad. Compared to where Lopardo came from, this is not a job she ever expected to have.

“I went to URI and graduated with a major in Italian language and a minor in Italian History,” said the Providence native.

But she has always had a passion for traveling and enjoys sharing her experiences. Of the many foreign countries she has been to, Italy, Greece, Austria, France and England are among her favorites. But her very favorite locale is Florence, Italy, because the culture is part of her family’s ethnicity, it is a beautiful country and a place she has studied extensively.

She has lived in many parts of Rhode Island, but would love to live in Italy for a few years.

Since Lopardo has taken over, the abroad program has really taken off. “We have affiliations with eight different study abroad organizations,” she said. “A strong advocate of trying new things, Lopardo has never figured out why some students do not go abroad. She tries her hardest to get students interested in high school, women were taught abstinence. He felt this was the only way. So instead of embedding fear in anyone who dared to think about involving herself in sexual acts, we were bombarded with the idea that sex would lead to an incurable STD or pregnancy. Either way, it would ruin our lives.

No one ever told us sex could be pleasurable or something that healthy human beings need to experience until college.

This year alone there have been multiple lectures across campus focusing on women and sex. One such lecture, entitled “I Heart The Female Organ,” allowed women and men to learn something about sex and how a woman experiences it. CAS 157 was packed that night with many interested college students who wanted to know how they could get more out of sex, either for themselves or their partners.

“I went to the Female Organasm because it’s obviously an interesting topic,” said Brynne Libby, junior communications major. “I’m glad I can be comfortable in that type of situation and I think many women are starting to feel the same.”

In addition, a production of The Vagina Monologues increased awareness of serious women’s issues. Clitoral mutilation was one, among many, of the topics covered by the famous play that is put on annually at RWU. The play covers several areas, including comical reenactments of 17 different types of orgasms.

Although The Vagina Monologues has the audience roaring most of the time, it educates women about the rights and struggles that females still face today.

Amanda Christie, junior marine biology major, has been involved with The Vagina Monologues for two years.

“The first time I saw The Vagina Monologues, as an audience member, it changed my life,” she said. “It made me realize that every woman has a story and it’s OK. If these women could get up there and talk about sexuality so freely, then why should I be afraid?”

Erin McCurney, an American studies major, has attended The Vagina Monologues and feels it’s a great experience.

“I was relieved to hear other women talking about subjects that I had never thought about,” she said. “I was happy to hear about some things are normal and that others have shared similar experiences.”

Other women are feeling the same way about expressing themselves sexually.

Rachel Beradino, junior psychology major, feels that women should be comfortable with who they are.

“The more we know and talk about sex and our bodies, the better we’re going to feel,” she said. “I think women are making a transition from being silenced about sex in high school, to being praised for talking about it in college and it’s great.”

A recent trend hitting campuses is supporting the idea of women empowerment. Sex toy parties have become a fad.


From Providence, with love

“Sometimes the light’s all shinin’ on me; Other times I can barely see...”

Chips Villano
Contributing Writer

I’m not big on details and deadlines, but pretty sure this is my last column. Over the course of the school year, I’ve divulged very personal and often incriminating information about myself—mostly to people I don’t even know. Why? Because it was funny and because I wanted “Joe College Kid” to have something in the paper to which he could read and relate. However, there has been one particular incident I kept secret for the past month or so. Even now I hesitate to begin writing it, but at this point, I just feel obligated to tell it.

Me: “Dude I can’t drink tonight. St. Patty’s unimportant to my life.”

Ryan: “It’s Friday night, besides, I just heard about this staff called “The Monster” and I think we gotta try it.”

Me: “What’s the monster?”

(Ryan usually suspects big crowds around the living room in anticipation.)

Ryan: “You take 50 cases of beer, a wide, a cool, anything you like, and go from bar to bar.”

Me: “Sounds like a pseudo-jungle juice party.”

Ryan: “Yeah, but this stuff supposedly turns you into a monster!”

So whatever, I’m sold and so are the rest of the guys. We had some girls from Providence College come over one Friday night, so the idea of a jungle juice seemed to fit perfectly.

Not only did the entire concoction fit perfectly into our five-gallon Polish Spring water jug, but we sure could go around all night.

You know where you are sitting around a room with a bunch of fans drinking and talking, and about half an hour in, the mood seamlessly changes and everyone is fatuously engaged in ravenous conversation to the point they are practically screaming at one mother! Well, I always like to make a mental note in my mind as that happens, you know, sit back and take a look around. Because in this particular night, I noticed something was a bit off. One of the girls was basically crying in the corner. Apparently, she became so inebriated she had convinced herself that her brother died. And, the Monster began to rise in ugly head.

The general idea in the house had changed so drastically because of this freak occurrence that we could no longer keep the party going. In the hopes of keeping our buzz alive, most of the guys and I opted to head down to a local bar and meet up with our friend and sister. I mention the sisters for one reason: Does Rhode Island, it might as well be another country.

Now, you need to understand I’m in a law and ethics class and one of the only things I learned was that the protections of the first amendment are not against all laws but what I do want to bring up here today. As I’ve said before, “This is Rhode Island, it might as well be another country.”

I suddenly found myself thrust into the side of the cop car, hands behind my back in the process of being booked. Apparently, cops don’t have to go to college and take mandatory law classes where they learn about “freedom of expression.” Do you remember last week when I mentioned how good of a job Ryan Evans did? Well, I should have split second I was being apprehended, two knights in glass-eyed, stainless steel armor came to my rescue. It was Ryan and “John” and they demanded to know what was going on, as they had not witnessed my previous acts of misconduct.

Thanks to their incessant questioning and distraction, I was able to wuss out of the way of the officer’s grasp. I began to back-peddle and ask why I was being arrested. They couldn’t break any laws. The cop responded with, “Either you get in the back of the car, or I’ll pepper spray you!”

I stood confused, and in my moment of perplexity, the cop took this opportunity to push my face against the wall. I tried to relax my demeanor, but I had no choice chemical burn to the face. In the police academy, officers are taught that pepper spray is a “tan star” as it was called at the police report immediately renders a person helpless and causes them to become immobilized and drop to the ground without any physical agency.

But what this officer failed to realize was that I was no person, I was a monster. My Fight Flight mechanism had kicked in as soon as the spray hit my face. I ran right out of my doom as fast and as far away as possible and within about an hour of my arrival, I could get.

I imagine myself running like Forrest Gump, in full sprint with only one thing on my mind: “run.” I returned to my apartment and later learned no one had been arrested and taken to the police station. But in that moment everything else was of little concern to me, because I was in agitating mode.

If you’ve never been pepper sprayed before I’ll try my best to describe for you. It’s like being hit by fire in the face. And of course, I did the worst thing possible. I jumped into the shower and quickly discovered that water was the only cure for the spray, water becomes fire, fueling the. With one hell of a splash, I hit the movie Fight Club. (June 11 the neutralize the burn) I eventually quelled the burning,百姓 configuring my face within an hour. So yes, the mental image you have right now of me, lying down in the bathroom floor, spraying a gill of milk directly into my own eyes, is accurate. This seems like a minor thing to wrap it all up but, I’ve got it wrong. Exhausted, I went to sleep around 3 a.m. Upon waking, I’m drown from a night of Ryan Evans’ restless night’s experience. Just as I was about to reach REM, I was awoken by a noise in my room.

Utilizing the information received from Ryan and James (where they live) the cops decided to act out a real life version of “CSI: Providence” and hunt me down. The first thing they did was pop into my mind when I realized the cops were nam­ naming through my room in the dark. “OK, let’s just pop out the window.” But then I remembered, I’ve about 40-feet high so that idea was out of the window. I didn’t know why, but I sat up in my bed to see exactly what they were doing. I thought maybe I was wrong to plant that type of crack in my dresser and send me to jail for 20 years. When they saw me sit up, they said “Have you been pop­ pepper sprayed tonight?”

I was shocked, I responded with, “Uh, yeah.”

MORBID? What I should have been saying was “No, their caps had just busted in the house uninvited, and that’s so illegal!” In true Fight Club fashion, I was escorted out of the house in whatever I was I was sleeping in, headlong and fire back on my way to jail. Damn, that sounds bad!

Think about the worst and most boring class you’ve had in college. Now imagine your professor start class off by saying, “I’m going to let you go today.” But then, he never does. You just keep sitting there all antsy, like, “It now, it is now, it is now.”

That’s my experience in jail was like, only remove any window, chains, other people, reading, lectures, and of course the opportunity to doodle. Replace with a 5x1 cell with no windows, a tiny bench, a big window, and yourHR felo8v,4d Gemelll, who was in there for "beating the f*** out this chick, but we can’t let her in to corno," a silver to­ let thing and the endless yelling of random comments people made to you. Yes, all the other freaks in the adjacent cells. To put it simply, jail sucked. Ten hours of pure hell, boredom, and insecurity in the situation again—another man has to relieve himself in front of me.

I was under the impression we’d let out before 8 a.m. (I remembered calling the warden that night out of bounds when we could bail out Ryan and “John.” “Not until 8!”)

But, because of a snow day (City of Providence, surprise), we found our­ selves waiting around until 3 p.m. It was brutal, I had to be able to post the $50 bail, unlike some of the poor bums in tow there, who were get­ ting themselves sent to ”the ACT” (or “the adult correctional insti­ tution”).

They weren’t your typical bailed out offenders. They were like insane asylum padded rooms. The only way to look out of your cell was through a hole about 3x3 inches in the door. This was used to provide the inmates with cold McDonald’s hamburgers and McDonald’s apple juice boxes, which boasted the charitable donations made to the Ronald McDonald Foundation. (a paragraph I must have read 400 times).

You’ll never find myself sitting by the door like a caged animal, staring out of the food slot. And just as I felt ready to burst with anxiety, a set of eyes appeared in the window. Not in the cell, but behind the bars. They were “Johns,” and in the moment I first noticed them I felt as though I were wearing Miss America’s crown on my own. The eyes of a little boy came to the first time for pre-school or daycare, confus­ ed and lonely. But this would only last for a split sec­ ond, because the realization that these were the eyes of a child, someone who had been going through the same trauma as me, brought instant relief. It seems like a small bit of condoleence, but at the time, it was massive.

By the time we were released, The Monster within us had left and been replaced with the uncertainty and realism of the experience. It would take us a few days to finally recover from the traumatic experience, which left us unequipped to handle the opportunity to doodle. Replace with a 5x1 cell with no windows, a tiny bench, a big window, and yourHR felo8v,4d Gemelll, who was in there for "beating the f*** out this chick, but we can’t let her in to corno," a silver to­ let thing and the endless yelling of random comments people made to you. Yes, all the other freaks in the adjacent cells. To put it simply, jail sucked. Ten hours of pure hell, boredom, and insecurity in the situation again—another man has to relieve himself in front of me.

The backdrops of the experi­ ence, what ultimately forced me to make the decision to move back to campus for senior year. I remember feeling a sense of guilt that right after the beginning of the year when we first moved away from RWU and into the city. But now, I feel just disconnected from all the different places and people I worked so hard to get to know. I miss the campus more than ever now, and although the Providence-Living experience was a life-altering event, I won’t go home.

So that’s the story of my arrest. Does anyone else find it ironic that I ended the year with a traumatic incident involving the wrong side of the law. I bet everyone saw it coming, huh? Actually, I wasn’t too surprised. I was almost 18 and maybe I’ll be back next year with something like, “From Bayville, With Love.”

As for me, I wouldn’t be here with an extra 100 hours, I’ll be sure to quote a quote from a Three Eye Fish about each year. I’m sure I’ll be the one to order whatever it is that those three, that I don’t like, every time there’s a quote to every story, but nothing left to be said.”
Picking Up Trash For No Cash
One RWU student works to keep campus clean

Steve Ansenar Contributing Writer

He's no Captain Planet, but Dave Smith is doing what he can to keep the University clean and preserved.

On a dump and wind- struck Sunday afternoon, Smith, a junior, walked along the path that leads to the dock behind Bayside Apartments. At the bottom of the hill, a mound of garbage was piled with trash bags, bulging to the brim. Earlier that morning, Smith and his group, the Preservation of Nature Coalition (PNC), had collected over 15 bags of debris and garbage that plagued the water and grasslands. Almost every Sunday at 1:30 p.m., Smith gathers friends, roommates and other volunteers to meet in Bayside before guiding them to the shoreline to rid the school's beautiful surroundings of excess litter.

"Honestly, each time there's been about 10 people involved," said Smith of his project. "The most miniscule thing is that each time we get more and more garbage. The first week we filled an entire dump truck with about 16 bags of trash. This weekend we managed to pile a whole mound of garbage bags in the back of a pickup."

A native of South Windsor, Conn., Smith has been adamant his whole life about maintaining a pristine environment for everyone to enjoy. His mellowness and extravagant hippie-like hair go hand in hand with his dedication to maintaining a clean environment. Often seen playing his guitar along the walls of Bayside, Smith has a new message for the University that he wants to be heard.

"It's so beautiful around this campus, and something needs to be done about it," said Smith. "I want people to see the beauty of this campus and just about the earth in general. There's a mess and we need to clean it up so we can enjoy it." The University has aided Smith in his project, which he started solely out of his own interest, by supplying trash bags, gloves, poking sticks and a pickup truck to transport the trash. President Nirschel guided Smith towards Scott Yonan, special assistant to the President. Yonan has helped Smith, and crew, throughout the weekly process.

Along with the University's help, Smith has been assisted by friends and students to take charge with the Preservation of Nature Coalition (PNC). Students Michael Moody, Ryan Lunde, and Josh Payne have been down at the dock with Dave on these Sunday afternoons to help Smith achieve his ultimate goal of ridding the shoreline of the immense garbage buildup.

"I started helping Dave because he's my roommate and he's so into this project, so I backed him up on it," said Josh Goodwin, a junior architect major. "It's not fun looking at a dump site, especially for four years, and if we can get it cleaned up, it's something everyone can enjoy when the weather gets nice."

This is just the first step in a much larger plan Smith has for the PNC. Once the group can successfully organize a large enough mass of volunteers, Smith looks next to improving other aspects of the University's environment. Such ambitions include stopping the over-flows of dumpsters around campus, replacing Styrofoam supplies with products made of corn material and starting a University-wide recycling system.

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Annear: unique, poetic and lyrical

Danielle Amend
Contributing Writer

"I'm going to own this stage," Steve Annear, junior at RWU, said after his first performance at an Expression Session on campus. Tomorrow morning, he'll be grappling with muffins and cornflakes in the classroom, learning to be a journalist.

A junior at RWU, Annear has fallen into his niche—wielding hip hop and slam poetry between creative writing and journalism. This kid's got a way with words and gravitates toward areas where he can use his creative pen.

Once Annear, 21, came to RWU's Bristol, R.I., campus, he knew he had found his school. "The campus was so amazing, I wanted to get out of Boston, but still be able to travel home whenever I felt I wanted to, so it was really a perfect school to be at." While finding the school was easy, Annear had to think a little longer about a course of study. He had always loved creative writing and the art of telling stories, but by sophomore year, Annear decided that communications would be a more practical, "stable" choice for working world employment.

"I had taken journalism courses in high school and loved them, but I went with it," he declared, and is now on the journalism track toward a bachelor's in communications, with a minor in creative writing.

"Sometimes," Annear admits, "I feel like I'm wasting my time at school, and if I had more free time to go out and play little shows and hand out demos, I'd be more satisfied."

While splitting school to pursue a musical career is tempting, he's content with "going through the motions," of getting an education.

"I love it," Annear's family would back him regardless of the path he chose. "I didn't want to drop out of school and invest all my time in something silly, my parents wouldn't give me money to do it, but they'd support me with it." Annear was raised in Arlington, Mass., on the outskirts of Boston. He's "exceptionally close" with his only sibling, a brother, who's three years his senior.

"We hang out all the time, I turn to him for everything," Annear said. While both are very creative and artistic, [Steve] felt he needed to get out from "the shadow" of his brother, an animator, so he began to focus on writing.

This passion for writing is apparent in the lyrics he pens: "They're original, eloquent, and autobiographical streams of prose. One set begins like this: "I need some sort of inspiration to expand my mind out of this societal explanation, some sort of tension release session to stimulate my hip hop infatuation/an expansion from the collaboration of scientific calculations."

"I like the fact that I get words off my mind and onto paper," Annear said, "and I express what I'm feeling or what my opinions are through rhyming. I feel like I get a huge hunk of something both engulfing me off my back."

He finds inspiration in rapper Sage Francis, whose lyrics, according to Annear, are "really geared toward opening your mind."

With his baseball cap tipped sideways, Annear starts with the hip-hop sound effects; pop, snap, schwoo, he waves his hands wildly and bounds—surprisingly fluidly—across the stage.

"That's all you got gimmick?" someone shouted. They wanted more.

RWU’s Relay supports cancer research

Kateleen Curran
Contributing Writer

"Good Times, Good Cause"—a motto that sums up an important event.

This spring marks the third annual Relay for Life at RWU, and it is the largest fundraiser held on campus. The event is sponsored by Delta Sigma Pi, the professional business fraternity which has been planning the event for the past three years.

Bridge Rosicot, Motria Rudko and Kristin Ford, all juniors, are the event co-chairs.

"We were appointed last year through Delta Sig to plan this event. It was new to all of us, our first event. This is our second year and with one under our belt, we are more experienced and couldn't be more excited for this year," said Rosicot, vice president of pledge education.

Relay for Life is an overnight event that raises money for research programs for the American Cancer Society (ACS). It starts Saturday, April 30, at 6:00 p.m., and ends Sunday, May 1, at 12 p.m. Teams of people take turns walking laps in the Field House of the Rec Center, trying to keep at least one person from the team walking at all times. There are games, music and food for most of our participants and the emotional connection is evident throughout the night," added Rosicot.

The event takes a lot of preparation and Rosicot, Rudko and Ford have their hands full in the upcoming weeks. To gather teams, they sent out campus wide e-mails and set up a table in the Student Union. Because it is a non-profit event, the entertainment and food must be donated. The entertainment committee is responsible for recruiting local bands, DJs and karaoke, as well as providing games such as volleyball and ping pong. They are still working to recruit bands, but last year the majority of bands were RWU students. The food committee is in charge of contacting local businesses, like Bristol House of Pizza and Domino's, to donate food. With an anticipated 200 participants, there needs to be plenty of food and entertainment for everyone.

Last year 14 teams with 112 total team members participated in the event. The event raised $12,359, exceeding the goal of $10,000, and 125 luminaries were lit in the ceremony. Because it is a non-profit event, the entertainment and food must be donated. The entertainment committee is responsible for recruiting local bands, DJs and karaoke, as well as providing games such as volleyball and ping pong. They are still working to recruit bands, but last year the majority of bands were RWU students. The food committee is in charge of contacting local businesses, like Bristol House of Pizza and Domino's, to donate food. With an anticipated 200 participants, there needs to be plenty of food and entertainment for everyone.

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This year, the organizer's goals have increased. They hope to raise $20,000 with 200 team members broken into 22 teams. They also hope to recruit at least five cancer survivors who will walk the first lap of the event. John Notre, a professor at the Providence campus, will be among them. The luminary goal has also increased to 500.

One of the top fundraising teams is the on-campus club, Future Teachers of America, with a total of $985. Vanna Tremblay, co-president of Camp FTOA, said, "I believe that Relay for Life is one way people can make a big difference in the ongoing battle against cancer. It allows students to not only raise funds, but the event also unites and inspires students. I am proud to attend a school which participates in this heart-toucing, life changing event."
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Sexuality

Sexuality (cont'd, from page 1)
not-so-unusual Friday night activity. Stefanie Mazel, sophomore psychology major, recently hosted the all-girl party that educates and aids women with their sexuality.

I had the party because I had gone to one before and had fun," she said. "I thought it would be a benefit to my friends because they'd learn something and have a good time." The parties often take an hour, and allow women to browse causally through vibrators, edible lubricants and different types of shaving cream. Guests are also encouraged to talk about the ups and downs of past sexual experiences.

So, why are women becoming so open about their sex lives? Many believe it's a natural progression. "I think women are more likely to talk about their sexuality now than they were when they were in high school, because they are gaining more experiences and are becoming more comfortable with themselves," said McBurney. "They want to get advice from others and know that they are not alone in many of their experiences."

Natural gas tankers raise concerns for Bristol, RWU, Fall River community

James O'Donnor
Contributing Writer

Last September, Marykae Wright, a Bristol resident, got involved in Save Bristol Harbor, a special interest group that focuses on preserving the bay, after hearing a talk by General Patrick Lynch, who gave an overview of the LNG proposal. "We did a panel discussion with Jerry Landay and Ray Gillinson (RI State Rep) who gave an overview of the whole issue. We got about 20 people and a lot of what we were asking questions," said Amy Bovine, member of the College Democrats. At the second event, a discussion about private profit vs. public safety, Bovine stated that, "People got really revved up. They were asking what they could do. Some students wanted to get out and hand out fliers throughout Bristol."

Keyspan and Amerada Hess plans to import the LNG for energy needs raise serious concerns affecting RWU, the Rhode Island community and large parts of the Massachusetts community. Keyspan is focused on a docking site in Providence and Amerada Hess is looking at a site in Fall River. Both sites are located in densely populated areas along shoreline communities. RWU's main campus is located within the blast radius of both LNG tanker routes in the event of an explosion.

Brendan Doherty, Director of Public Safety, met with RI Attorney General Patrick Lynch on the LNG issue. "The security of the students is paramount. We certainly would be safer community without these ships floating by."

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Last September, Marykae Wright, a Bristol resident, got involved in Save Bristol Harbor, a special interest group that focuses on preserving the bay, after hearing a talk by General Patrick Lynch, who gave an overview of the LNG proposal. "We did a panel discussion with Jerry Landay and Ray Gillinson (RI State Rep) who gave an overview of the whole issue. We got about 20 people and a lot of what we were asking questions," said Amy Bovine, member of the College Democrats. At the second event, a discussion about private profit vs. public safety, Bovine stated that, "People got really revved up. They were asking what they could do. Some students wanted to get out and hand out fliers throughout Bristol."

Keyspan and Amerada Hess plans to import the LNG for energy needs raise serious concerns affecting RWU, the Rhode Island community and large parts of the Massachusetts community. Keyspan is focused on a docking site in Providence and Amerada Hess is looking at a site in Fall River. Both sites are located in densely populated areas along shoreline communities. RWU's main campus is located within the blast radius of both LNG tanker routes in the event of an explosion.

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Sexuality

Sexuality (cont'd, from page 1)
not-so-unusual Friday night activity. Stefanie Mazel, sophomore psychology major, recently hosted the all-girl party that educates and aids women with their sexuality.

I had the party because I had gone to one before and had fun," she said. "I thought it would be a benefit to my friends because they'd learn something and have a good time." The parties often take an hour, and allow women to browse causally through vibrators, edible lubricants and different types of shaving cream. Guests are also encouraged to talk about the ups and downs of past sexual experiences.

So, why are women becoming so open about their sex lives? Many believe it's a natural progression. "I think women are more likely to talk about their sexuality now than they were when they were in high school, because they are gaining more experiences and are becoming more comfortable with themselves," said McBurney. "They want to get advice from others and know that they are not alone in many of their experiences."

Natural gas tankers raise concerns for Bristol, RWU, Fall River community

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Breach of LNG Tanker

Currently, there are no security measures in the case of an LNG explosion, but when and if the time comes where LNG shipments become a reality, Doherty says, "I will be sitting down with the president and the vice president to come up with the appropriate plan of action." It has been decided that for these ships to travel to their docking sites, protection must be offered by an escort of the State Police Marine Watercraft and Environmental Police Boats along with Coast Guard Cutters mounted with M-16 rifles. To further reduce risk of an attack, state will be required to perform routine closures of major traffic arteries in Rhode Island, such as the Newport/Pell Bridge, I-95 in Providence and RWU's very own Mt. Hope Bridge.

Gillooly addressed what he calls "a major inconvenience" to the University if in fact the proposed sites are cleared for LNG shipments and the bridges must be shut down. Shipments are currently estimated to be delivered by the tankers every four to five days, once at the Providence site and once at the Fall River site. This totals a potential number of four times a week in which the Mont Hope Bridge would be routinely closing for arrivals and departures of the LNG tankers. The operation of the University would be affected because countless numbers of students who live in the Baypoint dorms, along with further students, faculty and staff members living independently on the other side of the bridge, would not be able to cross in the case of a passing LNG tanker. Regulations have not yet been specified as to the opening and closing of bridges, but the current estimate of the time frames will be between 20 to 30 minutes.

A very shocking statistic about the passage of the LNG tanker under the Mount Hope Bridge is that "it is estimated to clear the bridge by merely five feet!"

In Nirschel's letter to FERC, he requested that the "commission work with energy providers to seek other alternatives than the terminal sites in Providence and Fall River." Jerry Landay, a RI for Safe Energy member who actually went to Washington to meet with FERC officials, suggested that an offshore platform terminal, where the tankers would dock, is a preferred alternative. A pipeline would then transport the LNG underwater to a site on land.

"They should have gone there in the first place. Don't ask my why they didn't!" exclaimed Landay. FERC has the ultimate authority from the federal government to tell the state government what to do in regards to energy issues like LNG. Investigations are still underway and no decisions have been reached.

"Based on a thorough evaluation, I have concluded that the safety and security risks by the proposed upgrade to the Providence Terminal outweigh the potential energy benefits for the New England region," Governor Carcieri said. Wright explained that, "We still have some tiny hope that they will deny the proposals but it doesn't look that way. Then we're just going to have to try to fight it."
She packs a mean punch

Alexander DaLuca
Contributing Writer

Most coaches are thrilled when their team can string a few wins together. The Roger Williams University women's softball Coach Steve Pappas had the good fortune of watching his Hawks run off 18 consecutive wins.

"One of the best teams ever," pondered Pappas while reflecting on past teams he has managed. "It's too early to tell. Every team is different. We've had two teams make the NCAA tournament behind great pitching and team camaraderie."

Although only time can tell if this team will be the best softball team in school history, they have already rewritten the record books. With their recently snapped 18-game winning streak, the Lady Hawks are the owners of the longest one in school history—in any sport.

This particular team is made up of mostly young up-and-comers, with only two seniors. However, Michelle Picard and Jenn Browne have used their four years' experience, and been essential to the team's success.

"Michelle is one of the leaders," praised Pappas, after Picard conveniently popped in and out of his office, glove on her right hand, ready to go toss the ball around on her day off. "It's a four-year starter and had something like a 20-game streak this season," Pappas said.

Picard, tri-captain, is indisputably the statistical leader for the Lady Hawks. She leads the team in almost every offensive category: hits, homeruns, RBIs, total bases and slugging percentage. In addition to her offensive skills, she is a vacuum at first base, swallowing up, sometimes acrobatically, most balls that are thrown in her direction.

Pappas also offered high praise for starting catcher Jenn Browne. "I just spoke to the coach about Jenn Browne. She is a quiet leader. She is in her fourth year as a player. She was the backup to an all-conference catcher for two years. Her time is now. She has performed above and beyond what the coaching staff and myself expected."

Browne is capitalizing on her time. She is batting around the .400 clip and is third in the team in doubles with 11. She also has the full time duty of catching for the two-headed pitching monster, Laura McAbee, sophomore, and Ronnie Fodor, junior.

McAbee and Fodor have pitched every inning this season for the Hawks and the combination has been effective. Each pitcher has over 55 strikeouts, and a combined earned run average (ERA) of 2.48. Fodor's record is 14-3 and McAbee's is 12-3.

"Fortunately, we have two pitchers that are good enough for seven innnings a game," said Pappas of his duo.

"Kristin Cerreto is also capable of pitching and I am confident enough to put her in the game if I have to."

Cerreto, junior, second baseman and tri-captain, is probably the quickest member of the team. She is the lead-off hitter and crafty at the plate. She is batting .400 with her slapping hitting style. But one shouldn't be fooled—she has deceptive powers.

"Kristin had been bunting and slapping hitting for her first few at bats of the day (against Curry College)," explained Pappas. "She has tremendous speed and bat control, so if she places the ball right she will get on base. At this particular at bat I had noticed the outfield was in close on the edge of the grass, so she swung away."

That led to her first homerun of the season, as she rounded the bases while the outfielders ran back to chase the rolling ball.

The biggest addition to the team has been designated hitter and occasional third baseman, Jen Lyford, freshman. Like Cerreto, she too is a slap hitter. Of her 49 hits, 46 of them are singles. She leads the team in batting average at .471 and on base percentage at .522.

Nikki Houser, sophomore, has been stellar with her power in the clean-up spot. She is batting .425 with 18 doubles and one home-run. Defensively, she has been perfect in right field with a fielding percentage of 1.000.

While the team has some star power, final tri-captain Gina Mariano explained that it has been a team effort.

"We won 18 hard-fought games in a row, which was unbelievable. It was an amazing atmosphere because every single girl contributed and we couldn't have won that many without each other. We don't really focus on how many games in a row we have won; we focus more on being a team and getting things done."

Mariano has suffered some injuries this season, but when 'healthy she mans third base.

Three freshmen round out the starting line-up. Ashley Couture plays left field, and LeEllen Lewis, who tied for the lead in triples with five, roams center field. Of Callie Nealson is the starting shortstop and leads the team in assists with 76.

With a plethora of young players, the future is bright for the Lady Hawks. But with only a few games left with the luxury of Michelle Picard in the line-up, now is the time for the team to make a run at winning the CCC tournament and earning a bid to the NCAA tournament.

In order for that to happen, the team must keep improving.

"We need our fielding percentage to be 100 percent," said Mariano.

"But we're not machines and errors will happen. It depends on how well we deal with errors and adversity. We need to constantly have our heads in the game and make smart plays. There is no doubt that we have the talent to make it to the NCAA tournament."

Coach Pappas reiterated Mariano's outlook.

"As a coach, when mistakes are made we talk about them publicly," explained Pappas.

"Not to chastise the players, but to learn from them. Every team makes physical errors; we just don't want the mental errors. We need to keep working on mistakes and learn from them."

"Every team makes mistakes and errors wins games."

This particular team has what it takes to win and has proven that.

With the conference tournament nearing, the Lady Hawks must continue their winning ways to solidify their spot as one of the greatest softball teams (or any athletic team) in the history of RWU.

"Overall, I'm very proud of us," commended Mariano. "We need to keep the intensity high, where it is, and keep making smart plays."