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Messenger -- December 10, 1990

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Special Holiday Edition

The Messenger

VOLUME XII ISSUE VI

Roger Williams College, Bristol, R.I.

December 10, 1990

The origins of Christmas explained

By Kevin Christian
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving is over. The turkey has been gobbled down. The dishes have been scrubbed. The relatives have been kicked out. Thoughts of pilgrims, Indians, and turkey now give way to trees, lights, and presents. Winter is in the air. Christmas is almost upon us again. Santa can be seen in malls bouncing children on his lap while ornaments and other trimmings for the tree are displayed in store windows. Christmas carols slowly begin to creep over the radio, and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Frosty the Snowman start to appear more often on your television than old Cosby reruns.

Julius I, Bishop of Rome. There were some difficulties with this, because the church thought it was sinful to celebrate a sacred event such as Christ's birthday with pagan customs like feasting, drinking and the honoring of other gods. When the church finally found it impossible to abolish most of these customs, it "Christianized" a number of them. Many of these customs are present in the celebration of the holiday today.

King Aurthur is said to have first observed Christmas as a holiday in 521 after defeating York. It was celebrated throughout the Middle Ages until the Puritans came into power. During this period, the holiday became hailed as a

"Christmas was originally known as Chistes Masse, a religious festival that began with the angels' song on Bethlehem's plains, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.' In 350 A.D., it was designated to be observed on December 25 by Julius I, Bishop of Rome."

No matter how humbuggish you are, most people will admit that the Christmas season is a pretty special time. The majority of us get together with the people closest to us and exchange laughs, memories and gifts. But it's more than that. It's a feeling inside of us that helps us survive the other 364 days of the year. It lets us forgive one another for the wrongs we may have done, or helps us forget the wrongs they did to us. The most important thing about Christmas is that for one brief day, one scant instant in the frame of time, it unites all of us, man, woman and child with a feeling of (for a lack of a better word) goodness.

Christmas was originally known as Chistes Masse, a religious festival that began with the angels' song on Bethlehem's plains, "Glory to God in highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." In 350 A.D., it was designated to be observed on December 25 by

heathen practice, and Parliament forbade celebration of it, and other religious festivals such as Easter and Whitsuntide. Finally in 1660, yuletide customs gradually resurfaced, but never became extravagant again. During the Victorian Era, Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" filled people with visions of what Christmas spirit consisted of.

In the New World, Christmas wasn't legally recognized until 1856. The Puritans, or Pilgrims, brought over with them a firm belief that the boisterous celebration was only for pagans. However in some areas, such as Jamestown, Virginia and a Dutch settlement in New Amsterdam (later New York City), some holiday customs did survive. The Dutch loved celebrating Christmas with feasting, enjoyment and the belief in

See Christmas, page 2

The Snowball...

Photo by Mark Kasok



The Snowball formal, sponsored by the Junior Class, brought smiles and holiday cheer to everyone in attendance. Let's hope that this party was just one of the many festive events we attend over the holiday.

Being the designated driver brings new benefits

By Don Hannon
Staff Writer

Lorna Hogan, the Substance Abuse Specialist at RWC, is in the process of starting a program called Designated Driver. The program calls for the support of local drinking establishments frequented by RWC students in making sure that the students get home safely.

The program will have the owners of the bars giving free soft drinks to those carrying the Designated Driver identification card. The participating students, in turn, would agree to drive their friends to and from the bars in exchange. Also, everyone will share the comfort of the roads being safer.

"The program is to promote the responsibility

angle," said Hogan.

Being a Designated Driver entitles the student to free cups, tee-shirts and a meal served at half price. Hogan said that this might help encourage students to participate in the program.

One of the things associated with college is drinking, and problems begin when students travel off campus to bars.

In 1989 there were 22,415 alcohol related accidents, said The National Highway and Safety Board. Out of all the accidents on the road in 1989, almost 50 percent were linked with alcohol. There were 52 fatalities in Rhode Island during 1989, and more lives saved equals less pain and suffering for everyone.

Hogan said that in 1989, an estimated 1,093 lives were saved due to the minimum drinking laws.

Colleges are a little different where minimum drinking age laws are concerned, however. Many students have illegal or false I.D.'s, and at RWC students tend to head toward the bars.

Hogan said, "There is a growing trend for restaurant owners to have alcohol limits on their customers." A limit on the amount of drinks a customer has at one time slows down their consumption.

Another program promoted by RWC is A.P.E. (Alcohol Prevention Peer Education). The A.P.E. is student run and consists of workshops and training in the dorms and on campus. Both programs are in the beginning stage and will be running next spring.

News

Christmas, from page 1

St. Nicolaes, later St. Nicholas, and finally, our Santa Claus.

While we believe Santa Claus to be a myth, Saint Nicholas was an actual person. He was a Bishop in Asia Minor (modern Turkey and the Middle East) in the fourth century who was renowned for his kindness, especially towards children. Russia and Greece both took him as their patron saint. His legend spread to Europe through reports of Dutch seamen, who described him as a bearded saint, riding a white horse with a basket of gifts for the good children, and birch rods for the naughty.

The transformation of St. Nick to the Santa we know today was gradual. In 1809, Washington Irving wrote of a jolly, chubby fellow riding through the air on a sleigh drawn by reindeer. Irving also organized a literary society in 1835 to honor the bishop. From this group's efforts, St. Nicholas took on the form of Santa Claus. His image was cemented by Dr. Clement C. Moore's poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas," that Moore wrote for his children on December 22, 1822.

The Christmas tree is another special symbol of the holiday. As legend goes, religious leader Martin Luther was walking through a German forest one night when he saw a fir

tree illuminated by stars. It inspired him, so he took it home and decorated it with candles. Germany brought the Christmas tree over to America. It wasn't until 1856 that the tree got public recognition when President Franklin Pierce put one up in the White House.

Other tribes used trees in celebration before this, however. The Egyptians used trees to signify life after death. The Romans trimmed trees with trinkets and toys in honor of the Saturnalia, and Druids tied apples to branches to honor Odin. When these people gradually began to accept Christianity, the trees began to represent Christ. Eventually, the Christmas tree stood for Christ bringing new life to the

world after winter.

Like Santa Claus and the Christmas tree mean different things to different people, so does the holiday season itself. To me, Christmas means family, being with the people you care about most. It means my mother and sisters debating which way is the best to decorate the tree; my

father risking his life to string up lights outside my house; snowy nights with my girlfriend watching Christmas movies on TV. It means playing hockey with my brothers on a frozen bog Christmas Eve, each of us guessing what we got for presents. But, most of all, Christmas means being happy to be alive.

Police Report

Thursday, Nov. 29

A 23-year-old RWC student of 8 Kennedy Court was charged with driving with a suspended license by Patrolman Joseph Gonsalves. He and another officer stopped the man because he knew he had a suspended license, said the officer.

Saturday Dec. 1

A woman bumped her head on a speaker at the Topside Lounge, Hope Street, a man

reported to Patrolman Robert Defusco, who was on a work detail there. She refused help from the Rescue Squad but relatives said they would take her to the hospital.

A 911-emergency call came from an RWC dorm at 1:23 a.m. Patrolman Robert Millard said the woman who called was very drunk and said her boyfriend was suicidal. When he was located, he was fine.

RWC BOOKSTORE

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Joyce Reynolds, Proprietor

College Brief

PHI BETA LAMBDA

The second organizational meeting of Phi Beta Lambda, a national fraternity for business students, was held on Tuesday, December 4, 1990.

The goals of Phi Beta Lambda are to develop competent, aggressive business leadership, strengthen the confidence of students in themselves and their work, and create more interest in, and understanding of, American business enterprise.

Darrin Nelson, Tara DeLucia, Jim Connolly, Mark Fitzgerald, Lindsey Johnson, Amelia Bearse, and Charyl D'Aprile have been constituted as the acting Board of Directors, and are responsible for bringing Phi Beta Lambda to RWC.

The following committees were established; Special Events, chaired by Keith Durgin; Publicity, chaired by Kyle Rizzi; and Fundraising, co-chaired by Meg Ryan and Lisa Mainville.

Future plans of the groups include community-related special events, a business professionals forum, academic honors recognition, and other business-related activities.

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CO-ADVISORS.....Dr. Philip Szenher, Ted Delaney

Commentary

Are we killing Bambi or keeping him from starving to death?

By Rob Osborne
Staff Writer

November 26. Time for Elmer Fudd and hundreds of his friends to unpack their hunting equipment and take off in search of lions and tigers and bears. Oh my. Soon the woods will be filled with cries of, "Kill the wabbit, kill the wabbit." Oh, what fun.

Personally, I always find it very important to arm myself with a shotgun while hiking through the woods, as I never know when I'll be ambushed by a vengeful Bambi, or Thumper. Actually, whenever hiking through the woodlands, I choose to arm myself with nothing but a hiking stick. Pretty crazy huh? Maybe, but personally I would think that it's more enjoyable to shoot the landscape with a camera than a gun. The memories last longer. Besides, I don't think that I really have anything to defend myself against (except maybe a hunter), most animals are more afraid of me than I am of them.

So then, what the hell is the big idea behind this hunting thing? I mean, personally I don't see the reasoning in arming yourself with a gun, going into the woods, and shooting

at an unarmed, unsuspecting animal. It doesn't really seem like a fair fight now, does it? The only thing that an animal may have on its side is its speed. However, I doubt that a deer will outrun a bullet.

So what's the point? Is it the challenge? If so, then why not make the battle fair? Leave the arsenal at home and try to catch the deer with your bare hands. Otherwise, where's the challenge? As I assume that's why hunters hunt for sport or challenge. Hell, what other reason could there be?

Is it for food? No. We have supermarkets for that, don't we? But wait! Don't animals have to die in order to get some of that food too? So what distinguishes us from the hunters? Not much. We just don't do the killing ourselves, which makes us better. Rather, we support the killing of animals by food suppliers. So why not support hunting? After all, hunting is just a way of getting around paying for the food. Well, two wrongs don't make a right. But, the killing of animals by food suppliers can be justified, as it fulfills the public need for food. Hunting, on the other hand, seems unnecessary. Sure it fulfills the individual need for food. But the individual

can go out and buy food, so why hunt for it? Why kill more animals than necessary?

Of course, there is always the argument that the killing is necessary. If a certain amount of animals is not killed each year then there will be overcrowding of the forests. This overcrowding will lead to a lack of food for the animals, causing some of them to starve to death. This type of death is cruel and painful. By killing off a certain amount of the population each year, the problem is not only avoided, but many animals are spared a slow and painful death in exchange for a quick, painless one. However, is this not comparable to euthanasia? Can we not then say that, because there are people in third world nations starving to death, a certain amount of their populations should be killed to avoid the problem? Also, what has become of the idea of natural selection? By allowing hunters to kill animals do we not disturb that process, and possibly damage the delicate balance of nature?

So what is the point of hunting? To Mike Cicale, a student of RWC, it is a way to clear his mind. He said "You can sit in the woods for hours and not see a thing. I

Photo by Erica Lariviere
Photo Editor



Displaying their kill might give many hunters a great sense of pride. For others, it might make us shed a tear or two.

can just sit there and think."

When asked why he couldn't do that without a gun he replied, "Sometimes I do." Then he thought aloud, "Why do I hunt?" and replied to himself "It's the reward. You can sit there for hours for a week waiting. When you finally get that deer, it's like a reward."

"So it's the challenge?", I asked.

"Yeah. I mean, do you know how hard it is to shoot a deer? Those things can move. And through the trees? Those things get goin' about 70 miles per hour. They're so hard to shoot."

Then I asked, "Do you

use them for food."

"Oh yeah," he said, "My mom makes great deer."

"Why can't you just go to the store?", I questioned.

"I can, but they kill animals there too. I mean, how do you decide whether it's better for a cow to die with a spike through its head or a bullet in its heart?"

So then, is hunting actually good, or is it a necessary evil? I guess it depends on how you look at it. Personally, I feel that hunting is dangerous, not because someone can be shot accidentally, but because many of the reasons that we use to rationalize hunting could just as easily apply to humans. Just a little food for thought.

There's more to life than clean lampshades

By Michele Baccarella
Contributing Editor

The other day I was cleaning, well straightening actually, because, according to my mother I don't clean.

Of course I don't clean. Why should I? This is the '90s, there are 10 million other things I would rather be doing. Cleaning is done only when absolutely necessary, a very different school of thought than my mom.

When I asked my mom what she did last weekend she told me she and my father cleaned the house. Oh, I said, like dusting, vacuuming, stuff like that. "No," she said. "We hosed down the aluminum siding and I went out on the roof and cleaned the windows."

You did this of your own free will, I asked.

I can't imagine myself spending an afternoon cleaning the outside of a house.

When I was in my teens I hated Saturday morning. Saturday morning did not mean Superfriends and the Smurfs and bowl of Alpha Bits before going out shopping or whatever. Saturday morning meant changing the sheets, vacuuming and removing a ridiculous amount of knick knacks to dust. If I was smart I would have gotten rid of the clutter and dusting would have been a snap. This would not be so bad now since I have graduated from the clutter stage, for the most part. Now it's either spotless or total mess.

I guess I was a pretty

normal teen-age girl. My dresser was covered with makeup, pictures, trophies, little porcelain dolls, jewelry boxes, a Smurf collection and God knows what else. I was also progressing through the stuffed animal stage where it took 15 minutes to make my bed because I had to arrange about 40 stuffed animals on it.

I hated dusting with a passion but what made it worse was that I was also responsible for the living room. There the dusting was torture. The furniture had all these hard to reach grooves that I always ignored until I heard the voice, Mom's voice saying "I'll be right in to check." And this woman would look for dust in places I could not imagine dust would go.

Under lampshades, at the very bases of tables or cabinets.

My rationale was, "Who in the world was going to walk into the living room and pick up a lampshade and look for dust between the pleats?" Not me. But mom's comeback was "I don't care I know it's there."

Moving out solved that problem. She was in her glory when she came to visit. To her my apartment was filthy. I swear it wasn't. Everything was neat as a pin, just a little dusty.

When I was younger I may not have been cleaner but I was straightner extraordinaire. I liked things organized. If things were organized they simply looked clean. I would clean

so well, the rest of my family could never find anything. Again, that ended when I moved out, but when I go home, the first thing I do is head for this one counter and straighten it. That's how my parents know I'm home if they are not home for my arrival.

I guess today it's not so bad to not want to spend the majority of a Saturday scrubbing and cleaning. I guess our generation realizes that there's a lot more to life than clean lampshades.

Mom's taught me a lot about cleaning and I'm sure some of it will come in handy someday, just not right now.

And if you ever come to my apartment, I just ask that you don't look under my lampshades.

Commentary

The meaning of Christmas has been blurred by consumerism

By Samuel R. Gilliland
Staff Writer

The season is upon us and going in full-swing. Everywhere we go, we are sure to be confronted with decorations, carols and sales. It is the season's inevitable. Every salesperson from the shopkeeper to the department store tycoon looks forward to the month of December for an increase in sales.

It used to be that prices went down for the holidays. Now, they only go up. Salespersons have realized that people are going to buy, no matter what the price. They have to; it's

Christmas.

In the past few years, groups of merchants have gotten the bright idea of holding Christmas celebrations for the sole purpose of increasing business. The Christmas revelers do not realize that those little purchases are part of the merchants' subtle plans. And what of the competition among these merchants? Fierce. The winner is the one with the most elaborate decorations and the higher tax bracket.

Too many years ago, Christmas was not the great commercial venture that our generation chooses to make of it. Christmas trees were decorated on Christmas Eve, not the day

after Thanksgiving. Stockings were filled with fruits and nuts and little toys. Gifts were usually made by the giver. Those gifts had not sticker proclaiming "MADE IN TAIWAN." Gifts were from the heart. Today, the measure of love in a gift is proportional to the amount of

financial pain the giver suffers. I'm not saying that no one can give such gifts from the heart. What I am saying is that if love is in the gift the price tag doesn't matter.

Each year, I seem to lose a little more Christmas spirit, most likely because I refuse to let myself get

wrapped up in the increasing sense of commerciality in it all. And, frankly, that's fine with me. Call me sentimental, but I have difficulty joining in the celebration of money. The measure of a true friend is in the giving itself, not in the amount of giving.



Photo by Erica Lariviere
Photo Editor

The holiday season sends us many confused messages. The ad above makes us wonder if Christmas is no more than naming your price.



Photo by Erica Lariviere

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT

the student from RWC that had to do his laundry, but had only \$1.50? He went to the Bubblemania Laundromat and inserted 4 quarters into one of their economy washers, and later 2 additional quarters into one of the dryers. When the student left with his clean laundry, he still had a quarter in his pocket!!

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Damn Yankees 'Damn Yankees'	8.49	12.99
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All Music By
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Our Service Is Music To Your Ears.

The Hawk's Eye

Intramural Playoffs

Whiffleball

Semifinals from 12/3:

Legion of Doom def. Bhagavad, 7-0
Steam Cleaners def. Hurricanes, 6-2

Championship from 12/6:

Steam Cleaners def. Leg. of Doom, 4-1

Volleyball

12/6: Nike Alumni def. Piranahs, 15-3, 15-10

Dealers def. Morphosis, 15-7, 11-15, 15-13

Recent Results

Women's Basketball

Date	Opponent	RWC	Opp.	Won/Loss
Gordon College Tournament				
11/30	Gordon	43	72	L
12/1	Maine/Farm.	47	75	L
12/3	Salve Regina	46	51	L

Men's Basketball

Date	Opponent	RWC	Opp.	Won/Loss
RWC Tournament				
11/30	Wheaton	74	101	L
12/1	Wentworth	76	80	L
12/4	Salve Regina	58	81	L

Hockey

Date	Opponent	RWC	Opp.	Won/Loss
12/1	Skidmore	2	5	L

What Santa Will Bring

New England Patriots-- two wide receivers, a quarterback, two running backs, a tight end, etc.

Andre Agassi-- an electric guitar

Terry Bradshaw and Dick Vitale-- lifetime memberships in the Hair Club for Men

Boston Red Sox-- pitching, pitching, pitching

NFL-- a superbowl that isn't another NFC blowout

Dwight Evans-- all the respect and recognition he justly deserves

Bo Jackson-- a vacation

Pete Rose-- to be allowed to make a "friendly" wager on Bud Bowl

Photo by Mark Kasok



These two "cueballs" ham it up for our Messenger camera. Rack 'em up!

Congratulations

Male Athlete of the Week (Dec. 4): Junior forward Andrew Burke (Holden, MA) scored 47 points, including four three-pointers and pulled down 18 rebounds in three games during the week. Burke was named to the all-tournament team of the RWC Tournament.

Female Athlete of the Week (Dec. 4): Senior forward Debbie Zilka (Monroe, CT) had a total of 38 points and 16 rebounds in the three games during the week. Zilka was named to the all-tournament team of the Gordon College Tournament.

Congratulations to junior **Matt Carroll** (Fall River, MA), sophomore **Scott Rivoira** (Sandwich, MA), and freshman **John Donzella** (Windsor, CT) of the RWC soccer team for having been selected to the Commonwealth Coast Conference All-Conference Team. Carroll made First Team honors while Rivoira and Donzella were named to the Second Team.

Congratulation to the **Steam Cleaners** who won the intramural whiffleball championship on Dec. 6. The Steam Cleaners defeated the Legion of Doom 4-1 in the finals.

Women's Basketball

(after 6 games)

Player	PPG	RPG	FG%	FT%
Debbie Zilka	15.2	5.5	43.7%	68.2%
Maureen Gradley	10.7	6.7	29.6%	57.1%
Kristen Vachon	7.2	4.3	27.0%	52.9%
Amelia Bearse	5.7	2.8	29.4%	28.6%
Jennifer Vizzo	4.3	1.2	28.9%	33.3%

Men's Basketball

(after 7 games)

Player	PPG	RPG	FG%	FT%
Vincent Godwin	17.6	2.6	33.8%	72.7%
Andrew Burke	13.4	5.1	40.0%	25.0%
Timothy Smith	9.3	3.3	41.7%	60.0%
Roger Reddock	9.0	6.2	42.9%	75.0%

PPG--points per game, RPG--rebounds per game, FG%--field goal per., FT%--free throw per.

FREE

SECOND SET OF COLOR PRINTS

with this ad....good thru Dec 31st
limit 2 rolls.... sorry, no disc film.

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Old Photos Copied, Laminated, Video Transfers, Passport Photos,
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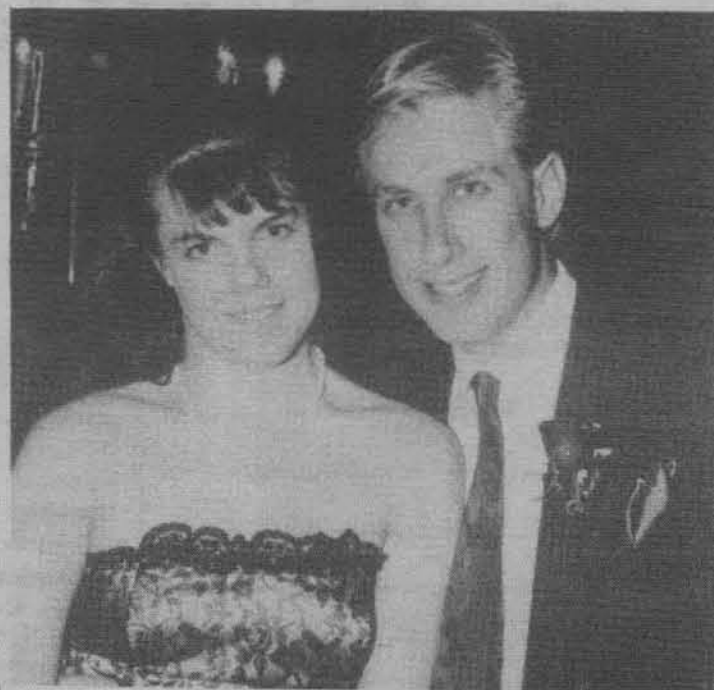


Photo by Erica Lariviere
Photo Editor

One of the best things about Bristol is the Christmas spirit which is manifested in festive lighting and decor all around town.

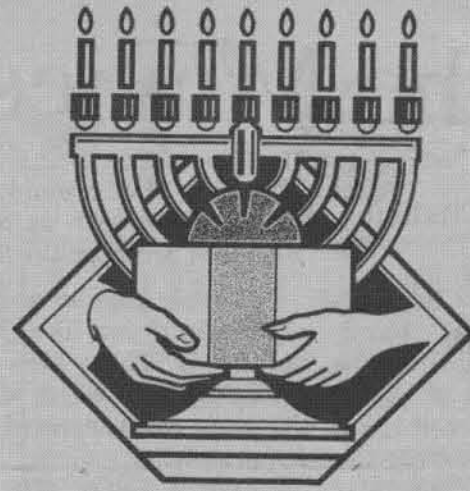
The Snowball

It seems that everyone at The Snowball was eager to smile for our photographer. The Junior Class can be proud that they had a record attendance. A sold out event is hard to come by at RWC. RWC can be proud that its students are smiling, showing a little leg and getting lots of affection at this year's Snowball.



Photos by Mark Kasok

Happy Holidays from The Messenger



Enjoy your winter vacation, especially those of you who are seniors, because it's the last break you will probably ever get! Happy holidays.
Todd Drury

Best wishes for the holidays.
Phil Szenher, Advisor

Happy Holidays
Ted Delaney, Advisor



Best wishes for a warm and peaceful holiday season filled with love and laughter. The Messenger staff appreciates your readership. Have a relaxing and safe January break. Let's hope all our soldiers come home soon.

Kary Andrews, Managing Editor

"Well, the weather outside is frightful and the fire is so delightful-and since we've no place to go, Let it snow, Let it snow, Let it snow." Wishing you all snowy, cuddly holidays and a healthy and happy new year.
Aimee Godbout, Copy Editor

Have a Happy Holiday and a Safe and Happy New Year!

Dolores Del Padre, Features Editor

Warm wishes for a happy holiday season.
Kristy Meghreblian, Ad Manager

May we have a wonderful break and an even better spring semester. Happy holidays!
Alissa Randall



"Maybe we'll leave come springtime-
meanwhile have another beer."
Rob Osborne

Happy Holidays
Pamela Gershowitz

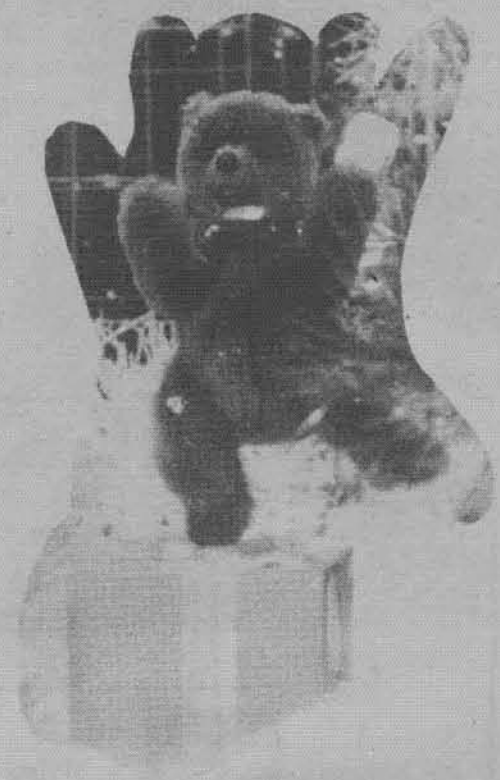
Happy Holidays!
Michele Baccarella, Contributing Editor



I would like to extend my holiday wishes to the many faithful readers of The Messenger (and to those who aren't so faithful). I thank the athletes, coaches and athletic administration for their cooperation. Finally, I would like to send a special holiday greeting to the writers, photographers and other Messenger personnel who I have worked closely with this semester.
Neil Nachbar, Sports Editor

Best wishes for success and peace in the new year.
Samuel R. Gilliland

To all the faithful readers of The Messenger, have a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and a restful five weeks away from RWC. We all need a long break! Enjoy!
Susan E. Cicchino



~~Happy~~ ~~New Year!!~~

Photos by Erica Lariviere
Photo Editor

At the Movies

By Susan E. Cicchino
Staff Writer

Now with the Christmas season close at hand, several new movies may be heading your list of things to do. The number of ticket sales is highest during the Christmas and summer seasons.

A few holiday movies currently playing which may interest you, include "Home Alone". This comedy has been the number one movie since its release a few weeks ago. This sophomoric, cartoon style movie about an eight-year-old who is left behind from the family vacation to Paris, delivers tons of fun and laughter, and is particularly popular with the younger kids to see. "Home Alone" is a comedy for kids of all ages.

On the other extreme, we have "Misery," a psychological thriller based on the popular Stephen King novel. This one offers us a

star this time around, the film is filled with as much high tech action as the first.

Another popular sequel, especially if you like ghost hunting is "Three Men and A Little Lady", which offers the same warm hearted fun as part one.

And, if you're into the sequel of a sequel or a sequel, of a sequel, there's always "Rocky V".

For those who enjoy a good drama, "Dances With Wolves", which is produced and directed by its star, Kevin Costner, has already received critical acclaim. It's the story of a Civil War colonel who leaves civilization to live alone on the frontier, and later joins an Indian tribe, adopting their language and culture. Although the movie's length is not all that desirable, (it's over three hours long) the wonderful camera direction, and vivid, colorful scenery are spectacular enough to keep the audience interested for



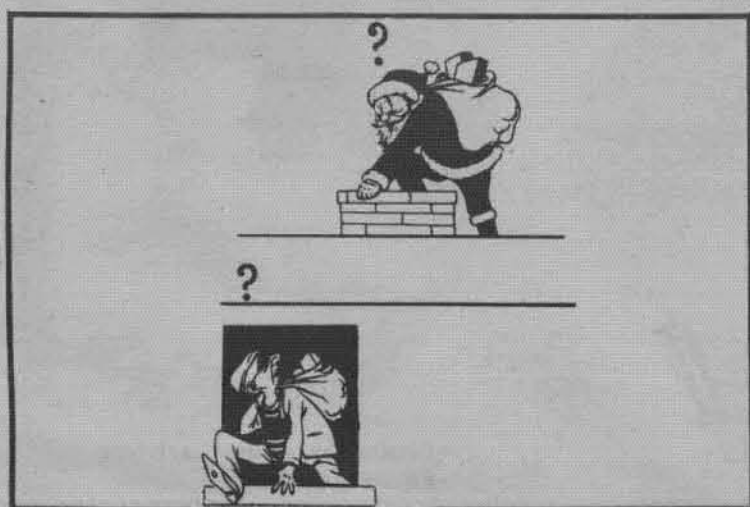
"Predator 2", one of the many movie sequels we have to choose from this holiday season.

good scare about a famous author who is saved from a car wreck and held captive by his "number one fan", who happens to be a psychopathic killer. Along with some comic relief, and captivating performances, "Misery" is a class "A" thriller, without "going" us to death, like many of Stephen King flicks in the past.

If you're into sequels, "Predator 2" was recently released. Although Arnold Schwarzenegger does not

the entirety of the film.

There's something for everyone out this holiday season. If you enjoy all types of films, then you'll have a full schedule of movie viewing ahead of you. However, if none of these movies interest you, "Kindergarten Cop", "Godfather III", and "L.A. Story" are due for release. Whatever your taste in movies is, this Christmas holiday season is sure to satisfy!



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THE HEALTH PAGE

IS SEXUAL ASSAULT ON THE RISE?

You may have been reading in the press, seeing on TV, or hearing your friends talk about sexual assault on college campuses. It is unclear whether this crime is increasing or whether more people who have experienced it are coming forth and reporting it. Whichever is the case, it is an issue with which students and college administrations everywhere are faced. What we do know is that when this happens everyone involved suffers; first and foremost the victim but also the person accused. They, their friends and their families are deeply affected. Over 50 % of all rape victims are raped by someone they know. Most college women who are raped are victims of "acquaintance rape". The college wants you to protect yourself. The following information has been put together by Roger Williams College Health Service and Counseling Services to help you take care of yourself. Don't become a victim. Don't become accused.

WHAT IS ACQUAINTANCE RAPE?

An "acquaintance" may be a date or boyfriend of the victim, or someone the victim knows only casually from her residence hall, a class, or through mutual friends. Regardless of the relationship, if one person uses force to coerce another into submitting to sexual intercourse, the act is defined as rape. The same criminal penalties apply in cases of acquaintance rape as in other rape cases.

WHERE AND TO WHOM DOES ACQUAINTANCE RAPE HAPPEN?

Acquaintance rape can happen anywhere, at anytime, to anyone. However, statistics indicate that it occurs more frequently among college students, particularly freshmen. Many acquaintance rapes follow a similar pattern in which the students involved have been drinking heavily and/or using drugs. Fraternity parties and student residence halls are the most common places for it to occur.

WHY DOES ACQUAINTANCE RAPE HAPPEN?

College students are vulnerable in a variety of ways. Alcohol consumption may be the greatest contributing factor. With use of alcohol and/or drugs, a person's inhibitions are reduced and their judgement is adversely affected. Communication deteriorates and verbal and nonverbal signals aren't given clearly or perceived accurately. Sometimes there is pressure for both sexes to perform in stereotypical ways (men dominant and decisive, women submissive and pliable). Sometimes people ignore their own instincts about trouble and don't leave a situation when they should. Any or all of these things can put a person at risk.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF ACQUAINTANCE RAPE?

Although the rape victim is not responsible for the crime, she may feel shame and guilt and try to find reasons to blame herself. Most women who have been raped experience anger and depression and many lose the ability to trust people and to judge their character. Victims can become fearful of people they know and begin to avoid certain people and places. The emotional pain of such an experience can impair a person's ability to develop intimate relationships. It is important to know that while nothing can alter what has happened, counseling can help the recovery process for both people involved.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF?

WOMEN

Trust your gut feelings. If you feel you are being pressured, you probably are. It may be time to split!

Know what you want and don't want sexually. If you aren't sure STOP and talk about it. Talking may seem difficult, but it beats being assaulted.

Be assertive. Be clear in what you say. Sometimes men think that being low-key, shy, and unsure means that you really want to "do it", but just don't want to say so. Be direct and firm when you say no. For example: "You are a nice person and I like you, but I'm not ready to have sex with you."

Be aware that your body language and the way you act gives a message. If you look "hot" and come on to someone, he may assume you are ready to hop into bed. This does not make your dress or your behavior wrong, but it is important to understand the potential for misunderstanding.

Pay attention! When someone is getting close and starting to hit on you, make sure you don't end up alone with that person unless that is what you want.

Getting wasted puts you at risk! Alcohol and/or drugs can prevent you from thinking clearly and acting decisively. This may lead you into a situation you will regret later.

MEN

Don't assume anything! If you are not sure what she means stop and check it out. Avoid legal and college judicial complications.

Be Cool. If you get "shot down" don't take it personally. If a woman says no to sex she isn't rejecting you, she just doesn't want to "do it".

Don't pressure anyone. This leaves you open to accusations. No means No! If she hesitates, pulls away or acts in any way unsure, it's NO. Lighten up!

Appearances can be deceiving. If a woman looks "hot" and comes on to you, it doesn't necessarily mean she wants to "do it".

Sex, unlike the movies, doesn't always generate a sequel. Just because she has done it with you before doesn't automatically mean she agrees to do it again.

Getting wasted invites trouble. Alcohol and/or drugs can impair your judgement, lower your inhibitions, and cause you to misinterpret signals. Under these conditions your actions may produce a situation you never intended. However, you are still responsible and could end up being legally charged with rape. Don't take the risk!

In Rhode Island anyone who has been raped should contact the Rape crisis Center (941-2400) and seek immediate medical care at Women and Infants Hospital (274-1100). You may also receive confidential care and support through the College Health Service (X2156) and the College Counseling Service (X2124). As with any emergency at night, call Security (#HELP- from a campus phone) or dial 253-1040 X4358 and ask for the Hall Director on duty.

The Health Page is sponsored by RWC Health Services and The March of Dimes.

CPS

Compiled by Aimee Godbout, Copy Editor

SUNNY OFF CAMPUS

Boys Don't Make Passes At Girls Who Eat Masses?

In an experiment at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, Assoc. Prof. Susan Basow says she has proven the old wives' tale that women who eat large meals in public are considered less socially desirable than women who eat small meals.

Basow had different student volunteers observe a trained actress eat four different meals, ranging from a "feminine" small salad to a "man's" plate of a large meatball parmesan sandwich, cheese sticks, soda, large fries and chocolate cake.

The men and women brought in to observe the eating actress rated her as less and less "feminine" as the meals set before her got larger.

Now, If He'd Just Return The Drinks He Bought With His Fake I.D.

A former Southern Illinois University at Carbondale student sent his alma mater an anonymous money order for \$750 the first week of November, saying he hoped it made up for money he cheated the university out of in 1970.

The man, who signed a note to SIUC President Charles H. Hendersman as "S," says he effectively stole the money when he worked on campus. He did it by fudging his time card. "Many times I put down that I had worked more hours than I really did," he wrote.

And It Wins The Prize For Best Pep Rally Of The '90s Too

About 200 students were drawn to a Harvard Lampoon Nov. 1 street celebration of U.S. News & World Report's naming of Harvard as the top university in the land.

After a fanfare of loud drums, celebrants raised signs reading "Harvard: The Harvard Of The U.S." and "Jesus Was A Legacy."

"There are some who say that Harvard may have the brightest professors but Harvard students aren't happy," said Lampoon staffer P.D. Khazai from the podium. "But we say 'Wake up! Life isn't about being happy. It's about going places.'"



TOP TEN PLAY LIST FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 10, 1990

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. STAY | DON DOKKEN |
| 2. BEST I CAN | QUEENSRYCHE |
| 3. FIND ANOTHER WAY | HEAVEN'S EDGE |
| 4. MISTRESS FOR CHRISTMAS | AC/DC |
| 5. LOVE CAN MAKE YOU BLIND | EVERY MOTHER'S NIGHTMARE |
| 6. I SAW RED | WARRANT |
| 7. REMEMBER MY NAME | HOUSE OF LORDS |
| 8. SHELTER ME | CINDERELLA |
| 9. SIGNS | TESLA |
| 10. RUNAWAY | DAMN YANKEES |

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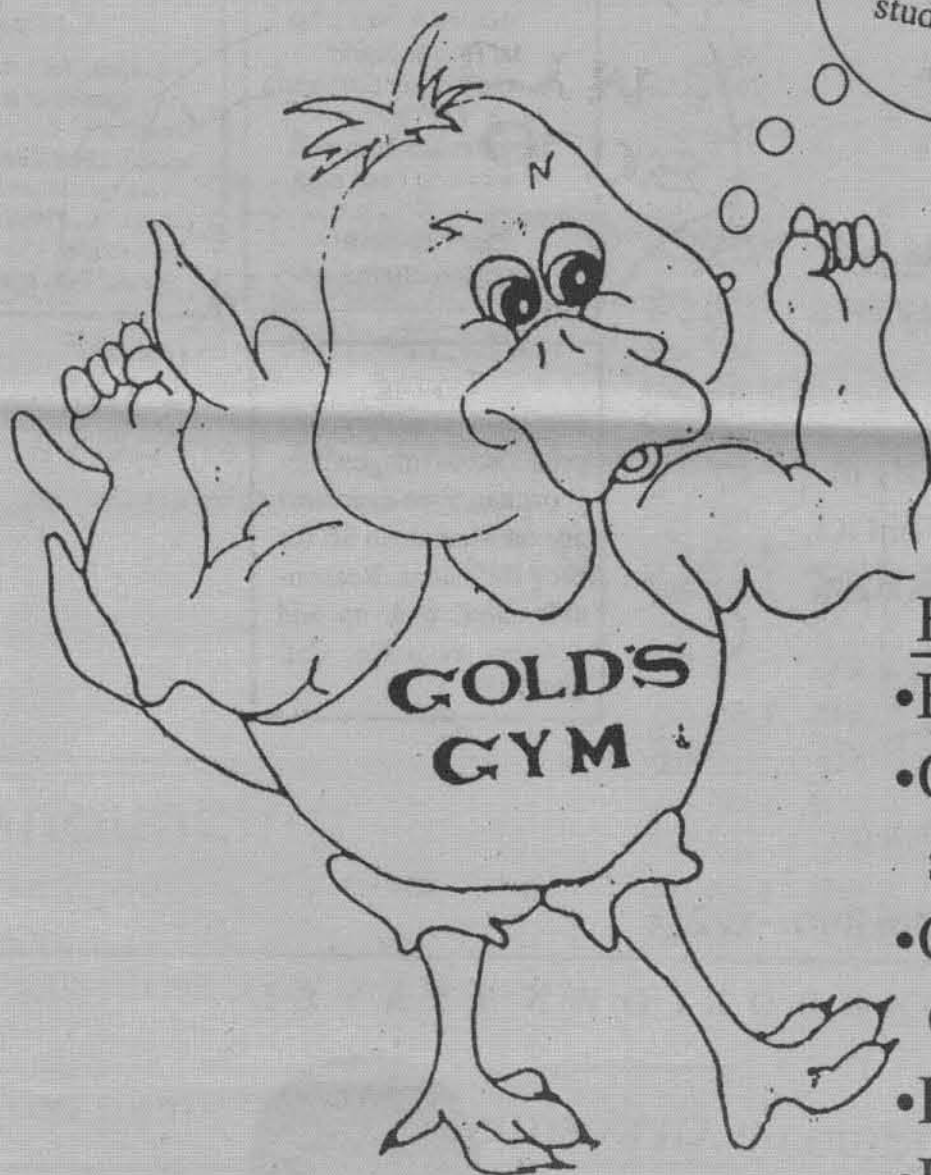
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