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Dean Logan's Blog

NY Times Salutes the Good Life in the Ocean State

Posted by David Logan on 07/17/2012 at 11:01 AM

This week's Sunday Times devoted its feature "[36 Hours](#)" to the capital city of RWU's home state, [Providence](#).

Quite correctly, the article points to the influence of arts and universities in making Providence "like Portland, Ore., or Austin, Tex.... many times more creative and cosmopolitan than its modest population" would suggest. It has "exceptional food, compelling art and architecture, a thriving gay scene and an inordinate number of very smart people. Yet the city remains unpretentious and affordable." Providence is only a half hour from our Bristol campus, and many law students, especially in their third years, opt to live in a nearby city with so many options, both social and professional.

A couple surprising omissions: while praising the many excellent Italian spots on Federal Hill, the article failed to mention the great seafood restaurants (Hemenway's and the Providence Oyster Bar are among the many top eateries that have amazing happy hour deals) and the signature Providence event, [Waterfire](#), in which wood pyres are set ablaze in the Providence River and tens of thousands gather on summer and fall weekends to listen to terrific music, mingle, eat, and drink.



And speaking of music and hanging out, there are two other traditions not to be missed, albeit not in Providence but in the beautiful seaside town of Newport (10 miles from RWU): the legendary Newport Jazz and Folk Festivals. To rock fans, it was the place where [Bob Dylan scandalously left folk music behind by "plugging in"](#).

and this year's lineups are again stellar, including Jackson Brown, My Morning Jacket, RI's own Deer Tick, and the Tedeschi/Trucks Band, but the one to watch for is the amazing Alabama Shakes. Check out this clip if you haven't discovered them yet. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Le-3MIBxQTw>

Finally, don't forget that RI is a great place for all sorts of water-related activities, and THE place for sailing ([America's Cup World Series events just wrapped up](#)) plus [National Geographic named Little Rhody a 2012 Top Twelve vacation destination for our excellent kayaking](#).

Life is good in RI!