Visiting professor discusses equality in America

Dillon Stambaugh
Herald Columnist

Distinguished speaker and current Harvard professor Lawrence Lessig gave a passionate call-to-action speech regarding equality Monday night at Roger Williams University.

Lessig, speaking to a nearly full lecture hall in RWU’s Law School, put a spotlight on the United States’ corrupt political system. According to the Yale graduate, this political inequality is caused by Tweedism – a system named for the 19th century Tammany Hall political machine leader Boss Tweed, in which a powerful few nominates who the citizenry can then elect. Lessig explained that this system was around in the days of the American Old South, but still reigns true today.

Furthermore, he explained that this system was around in the days of the American Old South, but still reigns true today. Lessig referenced children participating in demonstrations last year in Hong Kong, another nation experiencing frustration over Tweedist political systems.

“Even students in elementary school showed up to start the process,” Lessig said. But why are there no second grade American students promoting government in the means’ Logis; explains that as Americans, “We’ve resigned ourselves to a reality we believe we can’t change.”

For those like Lessig, who have avoided the treacherous grasp of resignation, there is hope that Tweedism can be combated. According to the speech, big campaign spending in primary elections is the reason for political inequality in the United States. Only politicians who have the funding to compete in extremely expensive primaries are the ones who can get elected. Lessig breaks down the two-step process: Step one: The funders vote. Step two: The citizen vote.

Throughout Lessig’s speech, which was the second part of the University’s President’s Distinguished Speaker Series, he referenced hope and the future. Lessig divided the room into two demographics: those under 25 years old and those under 25 years old. As an optimist who hopes to play a part in correcting big campaigns, Lessig shared hope.

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On Feb. 24, students gathered in the College of Arts and Sciences for a screening of “Dear White People,” a satirical film that tells the story of a conflict between black and white students on a college campus while addressing issues of racism today. A panel discussion preceded the film, in which pre-prepared and audience-generated questions addressed topics such as microaggressions, issues to keep in mind while watching the film, and how change can be made on the University’s campus.

"Dear White People"

Lawrence Lessig, Professor at Harvard Law School, delivers a speech to students on Feb. 24 regarding human rights.
**Breaking the silence**

**How to start a dialogue about depression**

Alison Rochford

**Trigger warning: suicide**

Times of loss or tragedy may feel like they tear a community apart. Director of Center for Counseling and Student Development Jim Ace explains why they should actually bring people together, and how to combat depression on campus.

How to help a friend struggling with depression or suicidal thoughts

I think the most important myth that exists is that if you think your friend is going to hurt themselves, the myth is that talking about suicide is somehow putting that thought into their head. What we really try and teach the student advocates as well as the RAs and the HAWEs, and student in general is that if you have a friend that you think is at risk to hurt themselves, it's really important to bring that up. Bring something really upfront and honest that you've been seeing, they've been struggling and wondering what's going on for them is really a very important step. You don't want someone to lecture somebody about how they shouldn't have suicidal thoughts or that they're going to ruin their family. When someone's down, they just want to vent. You don't want someone to lecture you on the value of life, about how suicide is wrong. The other important we focus on when we train RAs is you can't promise confidentiality, because if a student's telling you they're going to do something, you have to let Public Safety or the counseling center know. Don't minimize it and say tomorrow's going to be a better day. When they're that dark, it doesn't feel like tomorrow is going to be a better day, it's really dark for a long time.

How to cope with the loss of a friend or peer

“Students tend to ignore their sleep, but sleep actually has a huge impact in terms of their immune system, both their physical immune system and their emotional threshold, being able to tolerate frustration and irritability. It’s really important to have a way to maintain healthy sleep patterns. It’s also really crucial to be able to hang out with your friends and to talk to folks about how you’re feeling. It’s really important for your friends to volunteer themselves. Trying to get back into your routines is crucial, too, so don’t blow off class, don’t try to use doing shots and getting high as a way to deal with some of those feelings. You sometimes think, ‘Well I’m just pining away with my friends as a way to have a memorial.’ That actually has a really bad effect a few days later, because you’re getting further behind, you’re risking it. Disrupt your sleep. It’s really a counterproductive way to grieve. You have to find ways to relax, and also what you care and how you exercise makes a big difference.”

Healthy outlets for grief

“I think the best thing they can do is talk to others. I think if they’ve got the personality to do it, they can talk to friends and talk about what’s going on, and if it’s isolated in the worst thing you can have. Folks have different levels of how comfortable they are with other folks, as well as how comfortable they are with their own feelings. The more they think that they’re part of a group better, because in a situation like this, the worst thing that can happen is you just feel isolated and alone. You want to feel like you’re part of a community of you matter, and that people care about you and you care about them. The first thing that pulls people out of depression more than anything else is a sense of feeling like you belong to something. If you’ve got someone who is quite pretty, but they’ve found other ways that’s made for them, like journaling, maybe getting in touch with a friend from back home, or maybe they go on a date with their partner, I think that sense of feeling connected and feeling like we can cope is also a very important factor. Folks who tend to use alcohol or drugs as a way to cope with it or not let those feelings come out. When I worry about on campus, it’s that people are crying and grieving, which I worry when they go underground. I think it’s really healthy to be feeling shook up. It makes sense. To try to move on too quickly and not let those feelings come out creates a lot of delayed grief, and it’s so much more complicated. It’s better to go through this with folks, and sometimes I have to talk to them two months from now.”

Warning signs of depression

“Depression, unlike sadness, lasts a hint of a chunk of time. A true major depression has to be at least two weeks of depression. Often when someone is sad, something can kind of perk them up within the next day or so. That’s very different with depression. You see depression physically with them with isolate and with them, and also you may have trouble with appetite, may have trouble with sleep, depression around how they use substances. Their perspective on life changes, their hygiene will change. It’s a very deeper comprehensive effect versus something like sadness.”

Warning signs of suicide

“The first step is to understand that there’s someone in your life. Hopelessness is a very important factor, kind of helpless. Depression is a contributing factor. Folks who tend to use alcohol or drugs as a way to cope is also a very factor. When people are suicidal, they can often talk about death and dying, and they give us hints that they think things just aren’t worth it. There’s a darkness around the future. I think hopelessness is one of the most important things to look at. People can be sad, but there’s a difference between being sad and being depressed, and also feeling like this is never going to lift.”

**Resources available on campus**

**Public Safety emergency:** (401) 254-3333

**Public Safety non-emergency:** (401) 254-3611

**Suicide hotline:** 1-(800) 273-8255

**Counseling center:** (401) 254-3224

**CORE on duty:** (401) 254-3161

**Cinnamon Bun Waffle Fundraiser**

Next Wednesday (March 4th) from 7 PM till 10 PM Student Senate will be selling Cinnamon-bun waffles to benefit American Cancer Society’s Relay For Life.

Call or text 802-375-4788 or 860-748-5802 to order and a member of Student Senate will deliver a hot Cinnamon-bun waffle to your door.

**Budnets**

Applying for a Student Senate Scholarship. Applications can be found on OrgSync now. They close on March 20th.
I love to make him laugh

Knowing Perry was always an absolute delight. I always enjoy so much to hear that you're making someone else happy. I was always made to feel welcome and included in the circle of friends. Perry's poems, songs, and music are a testament to his passion for art and expression. His words were more than just words; they were a reflection of his unique perspective and the world he saw around him. Perry had a way of making even the most mundane moments feel special. From a simple conversation about the weather to sharing a joke, Perry always had a way of bringing joy to those around him. His infectious laughter and his zest for life were contagious, and I always felt grateful to call him a friend.

The best to bike with

Dear Perry,

I'm never ever going to forget your bike rides with me. We would always stay in on the weekends, etc., and go on bike rides. We would talk about anything and everything. Those bike rides were a special time for us. Perry was effortlessly genuine, and his humor, his taste in music, his formative years and even all the other moments of his life, that you had always been a part of, we never took for granted. The amount of time we spent together, and the conversations we shared, are some of the most cherished memories I have of him. I will never forget the times we spent together. I wish I had more time to spend with Perry. I miss you so much, Perry. I hope you are doing well today. I love you, man! 

Sincerely,

[Signature]

My neighbor who loved punk

Perry and I bonded on so many things, like playing basketball together, Pokemon cards, music, and especially punk rock music. Even though we didn’t always agree on everything, we respected each other’s tastes in music and stayed open to trying new things. Perry was a musician who was always willing to experiment and try new things, and he encouraged me to do the same. I remember one time when we were listening to a new band, and I wasn’t sure if I liked it. Perry would always say, “Just give it a try, and see if you like it.” And you know what? Sometimes, I was wrong, and other times, I was right. But no matter what, we always had a great time exploring new music together.

He was always selfless

I remember the first time Perry and I met at a party in college. We were both roommates in the same dorm, and we bonded over our love for punk rock. We would often share our music collections and discovered so much in common.

The best of that year's slam, but it was also the best of that year's slam (for me). I'm incredibly proud of you, and I'm going to miss you, Perry. I wish I could do more to help you, but I just can't. You need to be strong and stay true to yourself.

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[Signature]
Men’s tennis changes conditioning program to gain an edge

Connor Casey
Sports Management

As the Roger Williams University men’s tennis team gets into the rhythm of the regular-season, the one thing on the managers’ mind is winning a Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC) Championship. For the past three seasons, the Hawks have been the second best team in the CCC behind Nichols College. In each of those three seasons, RWU has made a run to the CCC Championship match and each time, they fall to their conference rival Nichols. This year, the team has been dedicated to the offseason workouts and are confident that they can make a run for the title.

The conditioning aspect of the team’s workouts has been crucial in preparing them for the upcoming season. Senior captain Brian Swanson said that the conditioning sessions have given the team a season to work on increasing their speed and footwork while still being able to play their usual_pattern. The Hawks have found new ways to work on conditioning, including workouts that avoid running traditional sprints. At times they have done sprints, but they have also played full-court basketball games as a team to make conditioning a little more tolerable.

“We are focusing way more on conditioning this year because that’s what we realized when we played Nichols last year at the first class as a team,” said head coach Sean Livingston. “We need an edge and conditioning is going to be our edge.”

All of these off-season and in-season improvements have been made with one goal in mind. RWU wants to get past Nichols and win a CCC Championship. For the seniors on the team that have lost to Nichols every year of their collegiate careers, this is their last shot. Everyone on the team recognizes the fact that the number one goal for the season is finally getting past Nichols.

Livingston said, “We’re focusing on the Commonwealth Coast Conference,” and lead coach Barry Gorman. “We get to the final step this year and lost to Nichols. That’s something we have really been working for this whole season. We are looking to get ourselves in the best position to make it happen.”

The annual spring break trip to Florida is proving to be a recruiting tool for the Hawks and the schedule is stacked with competitive teams that will push RWU and give the team a good idea of how they will stand against the better teams in the CCC. Following their spring break trip, the team will return to the frigid Northeast to face off against the College of the Holy Cross, a Division I school. “The big goal for everybody that’s here is to make a run for the title,” said head coach Sean Livingston.

The men’s team will look to make a run at the CCC Championship this year as the men’s team have the most talent and broke several school records last year. As well, sophomore Rezky Kolak, who holds the record in the 100- and 200-meter races, should do well for the team this year. Along with sophomore Joe Albina would all finish with high performances and help put the match for RWU.

The Hawks continued their successful season by winning the New England and Future Tournament this past Sunday. The Hawks improved their record to 17-3 overall and 4-0 in the NECC while dropping to 20-6 overall and 2-2 against conference teams.

Other News and Notes

The men’s basketball team was eliminated from the Commonwealth Coast Conference playoffs this past Tuesday after losing 61-46 to Eastern Nazarene College. Junior Austin Gavigan led the Hawks with 15 points and four rebounds, but the Hawks were unable to grab a lead. The freshmen on the team add 12-11, junior Francis Joyce, who filled in for the seniors in the lineup, with strong performances and help put the match for RWU.

With their first meet on March 21, the Hawks got off to a good start and have another strong season. Kulak and Swanson have another strong season. Kulak and Swanson have another strong season. Kulak and Swanson have another strong season. Kulak and Swanson have another strong season.
Ariola reaches milestone

With the season approaching, head coach of the softball team Joyce Fesenmeyer is confident that her team is ready to perform. The 14 seniors her team has adopted for this season is “wings up,” in relation to the school mascot. “When a hawk is in flight, their wings are up, ready to attack or strike. This is exactly how the softball teamitten is ready to play. Maudie stressed that staying in the moment and focusing on the process of the game is more important than the result.

The team is well balanced with experience and new talent, with only one senior, six juniors, six sophomores, and four freshmen. All seven upperclassmen won the 2013 Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC) Championship and are determined to get back to that level. Senior captains Alana Peoples and junior captains Megan Maliga and Veronica Alcova have been strong leaders and are determined to have success. The team is working hard to incorporate the new freshmen into the program.

“The bottom line is that we have a few transfers who didn’t get as far as we wanted to last year,” Fesenmeyer said. But it’s not just the players on the field who will contribute to this season’s success. The Hawks are joined by incoming assistant coaches, and Kelly knows that their familiarity with the team has led to significant trust between the players and coaches.

“The main struggle so far this season has been organization. With inconsistent snowfall and temperatures frequently dipping below 13 degrees, the team has been forced to practice inside. It’s hasn’t been easy to find practice time with all the other spring sports teams using the gym, fieldhouse, and fitness center as well.

“We’ve just been really kind of scrambling for indoor practice time,” Kelly said. “When we can’t outside, it causes chaos for everybody. It’s tough for the guys mentally, practicing at all times in the gym. It becomes hard to get into a routine.”

Fesenmeyer agreed, saying, “We never really know what we’re practicing or when we’ll have a chance. So we’ve been trying to take advantage of every chance we get when we can make it outside.

“The Hawks got their first taste of outdoor competition March 21 against Rhode Island College. We have a few transfers who didn’t get as far as we wanted to last year,” Fesenmeyer said. But it’s not just the players on the field who will contribute to this season’s success. The Hawks are joined by incoming assistant coaches, and Kelly knows that their familiarity with the team has led to significant trust between the players and coaches.

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Looking to rebound

After championship loss, women’s lacrosse looks for success

Michelle Ryder
Herald Contributor

The Roger Williams University women’s lacrosse team is coming back this year confident and hungry for a more successful season than they had last year. The Hawks finished 11-8 overall last year and had a record of 5-3 in the Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC). The road throughout the CCC tournament was not easy, and the Hawks ended up falling to Endicott in the championship game. Senior attacker Kelsey Rahilly was a key player in that game and continues to be a huge asset to the team.

To do as well as we did, it was surprising to the school, our conference, and other teams in Division III, Rahilly said. “The Hawks unfortunately got the short end of the stick that game. It all came down to the last three minutes of the last period. It was competitive back and forth and the Hawks were up two goals when Endicott eventually tied it up 13-13 with seconds left in the game. There were some unfortunate calls in the last three minutes upon giving Endicott control of the ball a majority of the game; the last three minutes were a nightmare and I really thought we were going to over-run them.”

Vogeley said. “As the game went on and off the field throughout entire games and don’t let the wins slip away.”

Last year was a big turning point for the team, where their character as a person and commitment to the team only grew stronger. “The girls were absolutely fantastic, but this is sports and there will be a winner and there has to be a loser. I told them that there was nothing more I could ask from them. They were looking to hold that trophy but unfortunately we had to let them go. I think we are looking for someone at the same level of experience that has familiarity with the team. I think that everyone has the same mindset for the year,” Rahilly said.

It was a huge learning experience for the team, but rather be a silent leader and role model. This season the Hawks are being led by captain, senior Andie Krefsky and Mackenzie Logan, and junior Caitlin Murphy. The Hawks are pleased with last year’s outcome and have been working since the fall to get back to the championship level.

“Last year was a big turning point, but our state would not have been where they were without my teammates, so I wouldn’t have been such a successful player if it wasn’t for them,” Rahilly said.

This season, the Hawks have lost six players from last year, but have also added five new team members. The connection between the upperclassmen and freshmen has been successful on and off the field. The transition has been seamless, Vogeley is very pleased with the bond the players have formed. As far as this season goes, the team is excited for their games against New Women England College and their rematch versus Endicott College.

Coach Vogeley is very optimistic about this season, and is excited for their spring break trip that they will be taking down to Florida. During their trip, they will be playing other Division III schools including Washington College and Fredonia State.

Roger Williams University will be traveling to Eastern Connecticut State University on March 8, to compete in their first match of the season.

With the season set to begin, the Hawks will want to execute their game plan from the get go. They’ll need to play complete games, sweep double headers, and hopefully finish off the season with a CCC Championship. For a successful finish to the season, the Hawks look to be strong with the band.

Baseball is the same thing every year. You have to pitch, you need good defense, and you play timely hitting,” Lund said. “These are the three big keys for us.”

Andrew Grassey
Sports Editor

“We had times last year where we would come out hot and play well and then coast and let the game slip away,” said senior captain Chris Trawick. “I feel like this year we need to keep going and don’t let the wins slip away.”

BWU hopes that for this season, they can remain focused throughout entire games and the doubleheaders on their schedule. The Hawks take on conference opponents almost every weekend of the season with many of the match-ups being doubleheaders. The Hawks want to sweep those double headers to make sure they make it to the CCC tournament.

“We want to win double headers,” said junior captain George Lund. “All the conference games that we play are Saturday and Sunday. We cannot let our guard down.”

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Working to finish

Baseball sets goal to win 30 games, championship

Last season’s record: 11-8
Captains: Senior Andie Krefsky, Senior Mackenzie Logan, Junior Caitlin Murphy
Coach: Lisa Vogele
Preeason projection: 3rd in CCC

Final decision is to make sure from their Florida trip, they will have their first home game on March 17 against Rhode Island College.

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BASEBALL QUICK HITS
Last season’s record: 26 - 17
Captains: Senior Joe Hock, Senior Chris Trawick
Junior George Lund
Coach: Derek Carlson
First Games: March 7 vs. Wartburg College
The Roger Williams University women’s basketball team was knocked out of the Commonwealth Coast Conference (CCC) playoffs on Tuesday night after losing to Endicott College 73-59.

RWU was the number two seed coming into the playoffs, but the seven seeded Gulls were not intimidated by being the underdog. RWU will finish the year with a 19-7 overall record and a sour taste in their mouth after losing to the seven seed on their home court.

The Hawks got out to a slow start offensively and dug themselves into a hole early in the game. The offense was stagnant to start the game, with little ball movement which led to turnovers. Endicott got out to an early 10-2 lead before RWU head coach Kelly Thompson called a timeout to get her team together. She recognized that the team’s slow start was due in part to Endicott, but also jitters from her own team.

“All year Rachel [Battista] has been a good offensive spark off of the bench,” Thompson said. “She was making layups and hitting threes and she was just aggressive.”

The second half started with Endicott going on an 11-4 run, which put the Hawks down by double digits for the first time in the game. Another Thompson timeout calmed things down for RWU because the team came out after the timeout and went on a 12-2 run of their own. The run evened up the score at 47-47 with just over nine minutes to play in the game. Although the Hawks’ offense had been more productive, Endicott was slowly able to open up their lead as the game was coming to a close. A cold streak from the field in the final minutes allowed Endicott to seal the game by making their free throws down the stretch.

Quilty finished the game with 12 points and eight rebounds and Battista finished with 15 points. Junior captain Angelica Ariola overcame a tough first half and finished with 11 points, three assists, and three rebounds.

Connor Casey
Sports Manager
andrew grassey/the hawksherald.com

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TRACK AND FIELD & MEN’S TENNIS, A5
Journalism students travel to report on social issues abroad

Rachel Lombardi  
Herald Reporter

For the first time, Roger Williams University sent a group of students on a two-week study abroad trip during winter break to Hispaniola, split by the nations of the Dominican Republic and Haiti, to report on pressing social justice issues from a journalistic and historic perspective.

In a merged history and journalism course, 12 students were led by Assistant Professor of Communication Paola Prado and Assistant Professor of History Alimina Quacada-Grant. They reported on issues including unequal distribution of wealth, racism, poverty, class, race, sex and drug trafficking, and lack of basic human rights such as healthcare, clean water, and education.

“The logic of the program was to start on the metropolitan east coast, which is a haven for tourists from all over the world and progress with the students in a westward movement across the country,” Prado said. “The students traveled to popular tourist destination Punta Caña, the capital of the Dominican Republic Santo Domingo, El Seybo, the second largest city in the Dominican Republic Santiago, Restauracion, and the Haitian border town of Tiyolo.”

“We recognized the historical legacies and patterns that have produced and maintained these cycles of poverty, corruption, and despair,” said senior secondary education and history major Kedan Higgins. Higgins added that the group saw offers to improve these issues in some areas, illustrated through the various community technology centers that offered free Internet access and educational programming to citizens and communities.

Students noticed that the roads changed from tar to dirt as they crossed into Tiyolo. Since the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, townsfolk have hoped for a better future for their families, a better economy, better schools, and better healthcare.

After the earthquake, Haiti faced so many problems, many were left for dead and many others not found. Those who survived had no shelter, food, or basic necessities. To this day, the chaos remains for Haitians who live in Tiyolo. Sewage runs through the streets where young children ran barefoot, and all food and water is contaminated.

A pharmacy doctor and priest in Tiyolo, Roger Guerrier, explained that he has been in Haiti for 10 years and has worked at his pharmacy for nine years. Guerrier’s pharmacy provides basic first aid, HIV prevention, and water source education.

“Although there is a highly dedicated doctor in the village, he lacks the necessary resources to provide complete and proper healthcare to everyone in the village,” Higgins said. Higgins recalled the voice of a woman wailing from a church where she buried her 14-year-old girl was taking place.

“She passed away in her sleep, and because of the lack of medical technology, nobody knew the cause of her death,” Higgins said. “We recognized the historical legacies and patterns that have produced and maintained these cycles of poverty, corruption, and despair.”

Junior criminal justice major Gabby Readler explained that being on site gave her the ability to witness things and feel emotions that cannot be taught or felt with a textbook. Senior French and history major Chelsea Langard said that the trip made her more appreciative of what she has and learned the importance in spreading the word of these social justice issues.

“RWU can be a bubble of privilege, and it’s so important to recognize that privilege and use it for good, like helping the voices of the underprivileged be heard and amplified through us,” Higgins said. “Without trips like these, many people would never otherwise step outside of that bubble, or worse, never recognize that they’re in it in the first place.”

In border town of Haiti called Tiyolo, a town full of barefoot children and sewage running through the streets. People can rarely find food or water that isn’t contaminated, and rely on limited medical supplies to keep their people healthy.
Professor of the week

Aquaculture expert brings worldly experience to students

Shana Sims
On the Bay Editor

Most professors spend their time on campus, in classrooms teaching or working at their office. Associate Professor Dale Leavitt spends 50 percent of his time working in public outreach for Roger Williams University.

It's hard to understand where Leavitt finds the time. He teaches Spanish literature, aquaculture, marine resource management, environmental toxicology, ichthyology, and freshwater biology. He also works in the wet lab and on the learning platform with all sorts of shellfish and research projects. Over the past 10 years, he has conducted projects with students that help them apply that knowledge to the real world.

"My hope is that the students that take my class have a really good understanding of how to take that knowledge and put it to work," Leavitt said. "And we spend most of the time in class doing exactly that.

Students work mostly on the Narragansett Bay doing various things, depending on their class. Before he was so involved at RWU, Leavitt grew up on the water and was supposed to spend his time there. "I was a lighthouse keeper's son," he said. "I was raised on the water, and knew where he was going to spend the rest of his life.

"I am a Dutch lighthouse keeper," he said. "That's how I made money all through high school. I came from a long history of fishermen. My grandfather was a lighthouse keeper, all of my brothers worked off the fishing. I really did."

Leavitt said. "I grew up on the water, so it was kind of goofy to sit down and read the recordings, but it really does feel kind of goofy to sit down and read the recordings, but it really..."

"It's interesting and fun."

Over all, Dutch isn't as hard for people learning it as it is for people learning it as it is for people. I am actually a bit sad that learning Dutch is coming to an end. I have hopes to continue learning this language as much as you can. I am actually a bit sad that learning Dutch is coming to an end. I have hopes to continue learning this language as much as you can. I am actually a bit sad that learning Dutch is coming to an end. I have hopes to continue learning this language as much as you can. I am actually a bit sad that learning Dutch is coming to an end. I have hopes to continue learning this language as much as you can. I am actually a bit sad that learning Dutch is coming to an end. I have hopes to continue learning this language as much as you can. I am actually a bit sad that learning Dutch is coming to an end. I have hopes to continue learning this language as much as you can. I am actually a bit sad that learning Dutch is coming to an end. I have hopes to continue learning this language as much as you can. I am actually a bit sad that learning Dutch is coming to an end. I have hopes to continue learning this language as much as you can. I am actually a bit sad...
Harvard professor visits campus
Lawrence Lessig talks politics and journalism with students

Jacquelyn Voghel
News Manager

In the United States, many citizens hold the right to vote as a basis for liberty and political equality. While many recognize that suffrage and representation excluded large groups of citizens throughout American history, people often assume that issues of political equality have since been resolved. In the modern day, people associate voting with making their voices heard in government.

According to Professor Lawrence Lessig of Harvard Law School, voting does not guarantee that the general public’s opinions will be recognized. Lessig holds that political equality is not only an issue of the past, but an ideal that the country must continue to work toward today. As Harvard’s Roy L. Furman Professor of Law, Lessig is also an attorney, author, and activist, and is known for his views on corruption in American political equality. Citing the ideas of the Framers of the Constitution, Lessig expressed that people were meant to have an equal influence in the political system, regardless of economic status. Lessig, however, also holds that many of the concepts that are supposed to guarantee citizens equality have not been realized.

Specifically, he focuses on the idea that the country’s system of political campaign funding undermines equality in the United States. While less than one percent of the population makes significant contributions to campaign funds, Lessig asserted that this small fraction of the country’s population is grossly overrepresented in politics. While in office, members of Congress spend 70 percent of their time attempting to raise enough money to get reelected. As a result, Lessig expressed that Congress focuses on appealing an incredibly small, wealthy portion of the population, rather than the general public.

"In order to get elected, you have to make the funders of campaigns happy. When you make funders of campaigns happy and psychologically do that thirty to seventy percent of your time, you’re not going to be representing people who aren’t funding. That dynamic distorts how Congress thinks about what they’re doing, and that’s the dimension that you have to fix,” Lessig said.

When you make funders of campaigns happy – you’re not representing people who aren’t funding. – Lawrence Lessig Professor, Harvard Law

While Lessig stressed that the opinion of the general public as a whole is overlooked in politics, he emphasized the effect that this political inequality will have on the younger generations, including current college students. While issues such as climate change, job growth, and debt are the bane of the younger generation, Lessig pointed out that the older generation will not have to worry about the consequences of these issues.

"People my age, global warming isn’t going to affect us. We’re not going to have any problem with social security, we’re going to have health care until we die. Those are issues that are very abstract for us, but very real for you,” Lessig said.

Ultimately, Lessig believes that recognizing corruption in the election funding system is necessary for a vital step forward in political equality. Once this issue has been recognized, he ensures the importance of supporting movements that advocate for change in the way that elections are funded. Furthermore, Lessig stated that this involvement is particularly important for students.

"There’s a lot of people my age that aren’t going to be around. Your generation is the one that needs to change this. If you don’t change this, if you don’t work on this, you’re not going to be able to change the way that elections are funded,” Lessig said. "We have to change the way elections are funded. We have to change the way that people vote, we have to change the way that people think about what’s important in this country. If you don’t change, then you’ll have a government that’s more responsive to commercial or economic or financial efforts. If you had a more democratic response of government, then that’s more of a chance that it would be delivering the kind of policies that would be beneficial to the generation that you represent."

Jacquelyn Voghel
News Manager

Lawrence Lessig visits campus as part of the President’s Distinguished Speakers Series and talks to students and faculty about political equality and the corruption of congressional funding.

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Welcome.

Christian community of RWU. All are welcome.

Worship Christian Ecumenical Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $5 for students, $10 for adults.

Details: Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

“Riders to the Sea” is about Irish women struggling to survive. It brings feminist themes in different genres.

Details: Feb. 26, 27, 28 at 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

CEN Movie: The Breakfast Club

Enjoy this classic movie with breakfast foods. Bring your friends, jocks, nerds or popular kids.

Details: Feb. 27, 9 p.m. Upper Commons.

Zen Meditation

Get in the zone and feel the stress of school melt away during this meditation session.

Details: March 3, 6 p.m., Intercultural Center Prayer Room.

Dance Series: “HIC SVNT Dracones”

This show is a 15th century world of espionage with romance and excitement. K.J. Holmes and Devika Wickremesinghe explore body, time, place and emotion in this production. This event is free and open to the public.

Details: March 2, 7:30 p.m., Performing Arts Center.

Great Film Series: “North by Northwest.”

A classic Alfred Hitchcock movie with Cary Grant brings you into the world of espionage with romance and excitement.

Details: Feb. 25, 7 p.m. GHH G01.

Roger At Prayer

Each Thursday, take a spiritual time out and pray for concerns you have for yourself and others. All are welcome to take part this prayer, meditation and intercession opportunity.

Details: Feb. 26, 12 p.m., Intercultural Center Multipurpose Room.

Common Reading: “From Circle” to ‘The Glass Cage: The Intersection of Technology and Humanity.”

Nicholas Carr, author of “The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains” and “The Glass Cage: Automation and Us” will discuss this year’s common reading.

Details: March 2, 7 p.m. Recreation Center Field House.

Washington and Lee University Singers in Concert

The Washington and Lee University singers lead by Dr. Shane Lynch bring choral music to the Global Heritage Hall. Enjoy both traditional and contemporary selections at this music.

Details: Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m. GHH Atrium.

Christian Ecumenical Worship

Reflect, pray and celebrate Communion on all Sundays of the semester with the Christian community of RWU. All are welcome.

Details: March 1, 8, 15 at 4 p.m., GHH 200.

Birss Memorial Library Exhibition: Richard Wright’s “Native Son”

This event celebrates the 75th Anniversary of Richard Wright’s novel “Native Son” and “Now,” one of the first major works of literature by an African-American writer. The exhibition will include other works, such as one of Wright’s unpublished and controversial essays, “I chose Paris,” as well as photographs spanning from the 1930s to the recent events in Ferguson, MO.

Details: Open daily during library hours from Feb. 1 through Mar. 31.

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MANAGING EDITOR

JESSICA CUTLIFFE

editor-in-chief

JANINE WEISMAN

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ADRIANNE HARRIS

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Lisa Shafford
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Athletes
- Hollerin’
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cheer
- Cheerleading
- Crew
- Cross
- Country
- Diving
- Equestrian
- Fans
- Field
- Frisbee
- Golf
- Hawks
- Wrestling
BASKETBALL "HULQNJIB"
ATHLETES & COMICS
February 26, 2015
THE HAWK’S HERALD

All winter long
I still keep my tan.
Who am I?
This answer to this riddle is somewhere on campus!
Tweet @thehawksherald and tell us the answer. Winners and the answer will be printed in next week’s issue!

Last week’s answer: The Library

MBA
- Accounting
- Hospitality
- Information Technology
NBA One Year Program
M.S.
- Finance
- Human Resource Management
- Physician Assistant Studies
M.A.T.
- Culinary Arts Education (noncertified)
M.Ed.
- Teaching and Learning
Ed.D.
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“MYXFIIS PYRTMNYE

Sudoku
Fill in the grid so that every row, column, and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

1 3 7 5 9 6 4 2
2 8 4 6 5 7 3 1 9
4 8 5 7 9 2 3 1 5 6 2
3 1 6 8 5 9 4 7 1 5 2 3
5 9 7 6 3 9 8 4 5

Answer to last week’s Sudoku

5 6 9 8 1 3 7 4 2
1 3 7 9 4 2 6 5 8
8 2 4 5 6 7 3 1 9
4 8 5 7 9 2 3 1 5 6 2
3 1 6 8 5 9 4 7 1 5 2 3
5 9 7 6 3 9 8 4 5
Question of the week:
What are looking forward to about warmer weather?

Kristen Audette | SENIOR
“Playing frisbee and just being outside 24/7.”

Jake Genereux | SOPHOMORE
“Being able to walk outside and not freeze to death.”

Shelley Payanis | FRESHMAN
“Being able to go down to the water on campus.”

Alissa McGeehan | SOPHOMORE
“Not having to dress in layers and wearing nicer clothes.”

Alex Camosci | SENIOR
“Seeing people on campus and being able to go out and do things.”

Caio Metre | SOPHOMORE
“Everything feels better, everyone looks happier.”

SnapShot
Search
This picture is somewhere on campus!
Tweet @thehawksherald and tell us where you think the photo was taken. Winners and the answer will be printed in next week’s issue!

Last week’s answer: The hawk logo on the floor of the lobby of the Recreation Center

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“Coming out of grad school, I had leverage during the interviewing and negotiation process. It’s not just that I have an education or an MBA; I have a Bryant MBA.”

Merelith Soper, Product Marketing Manager at EMC, a leading provider of IT storage and healthcare solutions.

EDITOR
Shana Sims
ssims554@rgw.edu
In honor of Black History Month, we take the time to celebrate the life of George Washington Carver, a famous Black inventor whose discoveries have helped the world be a bit "greener." Carver was born in the early 1860s and quickly developed a love for learning and plants. He was known as the "plant doctor" around the neighborhood, as he knew many herbal and natural remedies to common ailments.

With this knack for botany and horticulture, he became the first black man accepted into Iowa State University. Upon graduation, he was offered a job as Director of Agriculture at Tuskegee Institute and, although it paid very little, he was accepted the title and job. There, he expanded his education and performed thorough research. Eventually, he came up with a system of crop rotation where farmers rotate between depleting cotton plants with replenishing peanut plants. Carver flourished through this system, but there was a large excess of peanuts.

This surplus of peanuts sparked the creative mind of Carver, and he began to think of many uses for the peanut: foods, medications, cosmetics, paints, papers, ink, laundry detergents, and more. Through this system, but there was a large excess of peanuts. This surplus of peanuts sparked the creative mind of Carver, and he began to think of many uses for the peanut: foods, cosmetics, paints, papers, ink, laundry detergents, medicines, and so much more. The research Carver did is very important to society today, in addition to being an eco-friendly invention. Instead of creating many common, mass-produced items using harmful chemicals and non-renewable energy, he used peanuts, which are a very renewable, abundant crop in the US. Everyday objects are more natural, healthy, and less harmful on the plants. In both the production sense and the final product sense, George Washington Carver helped to create a greener world. We salute you, George Washington Carver, for your tireless dedication and commitment, and not for your fame or fame, but for the improvement of the world we all share.

Students perform early feminist drama

On the Bay Editor

Shana Sims
On the Bay Editor

Sometimes the best way to get to know someone is to look at them through the eyes of a traveler. Don’t miss out on any hidden Bristol gems with the ‘Explore Bristol’ app. Next time you have a free afternoon, go downtown Bristol. Click on ‘apparence’? tours’, and see what’s near you. Select ‘play’, ‘shop’, ‘eat’, ‘stay’, and ‘how’ near you. Check out the interactive map, or look specifically for events, art, or museums. Even the best way you can tap on something, the app will give you detailed information on that place. For example, click on Linden Place, you can see the history of the building and current uses that you might not have known were right in downtown Bristol. Click on Colt State Park and see more history about this favorite spot.

Shana Sims

What’s ‘appening’?
When cartoons first became a staple in your childhood, which ones were your favorite?

9 a.m. ................... The Powerpuff Girls
10 a.m. .................... Hey Arnold
12 p.m. ..................... Rugrats
2 p.m. ....................... Spongebob
3 p.m. ....................... Recess
5 p.m. ....................... Ed, Ed and Eddy
8 p.m. ....................... Rocket Power
10 p.m. ...................... Catdog

Artist of the week

Kate Tufs
Herald Reporter

Creating art is a talent that many strive to possess. Attleboro, Mass. native and senior graphic design major Catherine Wilkinson embodies this talent. Wilkinson has been painting since she could hold a brush, and hasn’t stopped since.

“I’ve enjoyed creating art for as long as I can remember,” she said in an email interview. “I like working with paint the most because it can so easily be changed, I can always go back and improve it if I want.”

Art takes shape in many different forms, whether it is a painting, sculpture, or drawing. All artists have a different style, but in the end they have the same goal in mind. Their goal is to create something that affects people. Whether that effect is enjoyment at the way it looks or bringing out a certain emotion when they look at it, art has that kind of power. Wilkinson knows this and is considering becoming an art teacher one day.

“If I could find a career after college that involved both graphic design and painting I’d be very happy,” Wilkinson said.

Living in Rhode Island, there are countless places that provide inspiration for beautiful landscape paintings. Wilkinson has taken full advantage of this state, and likes to paint art that has a beach or coastal style to it. She also gains inspiration from the things she sees around her.

“I gain inspiration from everywhere. Landscapes and buildings, natural forms such as shells, rocks, trees. I love to walk through stores such as Homegoods to get different ideas,” Wilkinson said.

Creating art can also be a very emotional experience for artists. It provides an outlet for expression without the use of words.

“It’s a means of escape and relaxation for me, something that I really enjoy doing,” Wilkinson said. “I love finishing a painting and stepping back and thinking, ‘wow I just painted that.’ It’s a good feeling. It’s almost a feeling of surprise, and I hope that never goes away, the feeling of being proud of myself.”

Wilkinson has showcased her work in a number of ways. She has posted pictures of her work on Facebook. Her art was also accepted into the Annual Student Juried Art Show, where she won an award and received the Jessica Raposa Memorial Art Scholarship.

“Painting, to me, means putting down on paper what you enjoy, what you find physically attractive,” Wilkinson said. “Painting means fun and expression, it means color and light. Painting means time, hard work, and knowing in your back from obsessing about the shape of something or that line that you just can’t get right, because it’s worth it when you have that final product.”

When cartoons first became a staple in your childhood, which ones were your favorite?