Blue and Golden
RWU celebrates 50th anniversary

Stefani Guarneri
News Editor

Recognizing our Past, Celebrating our Present, Building our Future is the slogan for the 50th year of Roger Williams University.

On Thursday, February 23, the anniversary of RWU, friends of the university, students, faculty, alumni, staff and politicians celebrated the event. According to university estimates, over 600 people were in attendance.

President Roy Nirschel opened his speech with these words, “50 years ago today, our founding fathers decided that this state needed a junior college.”

“I remember when RWU began at the YMCA, and now it has moved to one of the most beautiful locations,” said Governor Donald Carcieri. “(RWU) is one of the most rapidly growing universities in the nation.”

The chairman of the Board, Ralph R. Palpito attended the event and concentrated his speech on the major changes he has seen over the past 35 years.

“In the past 35 years, I have seen the school grow from a small struggling school to a private thriving school,” said Palpito. “We’ve accomplished a lot in the last decade.”

Expanding on the idea of improvement, Nirschel discussed the core value of learning to bridge the world.

“We have students from 40 states and from every continent except Antarctica,” said Nirschel. “Our programs reach out to places from Providence to Vietnam and from Bristol to Hong Kong. At RWU, we make learning to bridge the world very seriously.”

According to Palpito other aspects of RWU have also improved.

“Faculty is better and more dedicated than ever, which is the reason why students come to study and stay,” said Palpito. “Ninety percent of the faculty have PhDs.”

I would get great satisfaction if 100 percent and all programs were accredited as highly as they could be.”

Many of the speakers also spoke about the addition of the first law school in Rhode Island to the RWU community and its accreditation.

Congressman Patrick Kennedy agreed.

“I am grateful to the Nirschel’s leadership,” said Kennedy. “The law school is such an asset to the state, and it has been an honor to work with Senator Jack Reed to help provide resources.”

Alumni Jason Pettacomb (class of 2004) was asked to speak. He was given the honor of Fulbright scholar, the first from RWU.

“RWU has been my nurturing mother,” said Pettacomb. “Professors and faculty have nurtured my learning and that experience at RWU has stayed with me.”

Governor Carcieri concluded his speech, by reading a proclamation written by the Governor’s office. “Now, therefore, I, Governor Donald Carcieri, of the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations do hereby proclaim, February 24, 2006 as Roger Williams University Day.”

Kennedy and Lieutenant Governor Charles J. Fogarty recognized the memorable occasion with their own proclamations and plaques expressing hope for the future and to recognizing the commitment RWU has to educational excellence.

Politicians recognized February 23 as RWU day in Providence because that was the evening of its kickoff event at the Biltmore, but in the state of Rhode Island, they proclaimed February 24 as RWU day in the state of Rhode Island.

“We know a couple of the proclamations but not all, so it was a nice surprise,” said commission co-chair Allison Chase Padula. “To invite important people like we did is kind of catchy and go. All of them were able to make it though, so that was really nice.”

Displays were set up throughout the ballroom with pictures of construction of Cedar and Stonecall and pictures of past classes and events. A display case with academic and athletic awards were also around the room. Coordinators were also able to get the original charter for the school.

To view the displays from the kickoff event at the Biltmore, and the proclamations read, visit the foyer of the University Library.

In addition to speeches made by politicians, administration and alumni, university faculty and staff unveiled the new website, Little Roger, an anniversary video and the 50th logo.

On the website, one can find information on upcoming events and view pictures from the past fifty years. The website can be viewed at www.50th.rwu.edu.

“Josh Cliff did a phenomenal job on the website,” said 50th Commission Co-chair Allison Chase Padula. “It looks so different than what we’ve done before. It has a creative look.”

According to the commission, the website will be continually updated with quotes, photos and other submissions.

“Everyone you go, there will be something new,” said 50th Commission Co-chair John Lindsay. “The website helps connect those far away such as Alumni who couldn’t be there or those students.”
"From Bayside, with Love"

"The Perfect Excuse"

Chris Villano
Herald Staff

Do you ever wake up in the morning and begin to reshuffle all the events of the previous night and realize that some incidents are unforgivable? You close your eyes and sigh, "that didn't really happen" you think to yourself as you lie in bed with your socks still on. Somehow "well, I was really 'last night' just doesn't cut it as a reasonable excuse. However, it's taken me awhile to realize this, but your friend's birthday is the perfect excuse for anything.

No matter what you did the night before, "it was sodas' birthday last night so" is like a get out of jail free card. When I was a kid, the best thing about a friend's birthday was probably bringing home the goodies bags provided by super-moms across the country. Now, the same principal still exists, actually no, the only comparison I can draw is something to do with goodies bags but I'm just not going to go there.

Your friend's birthday (on campus) is also a perfect excuse for a visit from one or more of their friends from "home." Last year I described the experience of visiting a friend at their college or university as "a weekend long freak show where you sleep on floors and drink entire bottles of 99 apples while disreputing everyone you see, because you'll never see them again." So for those people visiting, it's the perfect excuse to go crazy.

This creates somewhat of "a perfect storm of the perfect excuse," everyone participating in the festivities is operating within the perfect excuse principal and the only possible outcome is a maelstrom of mayhem.

Your friend's birthday is the perfect excuse for openly admitting to a same sex friend (a very gay way) that "I love you man, no no no seriously I love you man we've been through so much (harp) shit together it's just like, dude... seriously (end with hug)."

Chris Villano
Herald Staff

Dear Self-Conscious,

I'd also like to make reference to last issue's conundry of my column. Honestly didn't mind it at all, just felt bad for all the people who submitted facts and were told by me they were going to get printed in the top 15 list. But overall, I think we should feel accomplished. On the same day the President of the University held a forum on the concept of "Free Speech," the University censored its students. And by "we" I mean, Greg Walsh, Bumpy Cun. Just Call me Charles, A Willow 42ite, Anonymous F. Kick of Death, Chilly, P-dough and Willow 53, myself, and of course A Red Headed Step Child. Take a bow.

Editor's Note: The views in Chris Villano's column are not condoned by the editorial staff.

Genny Light (that snuff is foul, I don't care what it costs).

Dear Meg and Ash:

I'm going away on Spring Break with a bunch of my friends. My boyfriend is coming with us too, but he's not friends with any of the same people. I'm kind of nervous that personalities might clash. What can I do to ensure a good SB?

-Scorched Spring Breaker

Dear Scared

This is a very common worry and we're sure a lot of people are facing this same problem. What about getting everyone together before you guys leave? The best way to help the situation is to make sure everyone meets before the vacation. Have a pizza party or something social. You don't want any unexpected surprises. Talk to your roommates and your boyfriend about any concerns that they have with each other. This may not be that bad of a situation... they could instantly bond and become close and then there are no worries! Just make sure that everyone show each other respect and there shouldn't be a problem. Have fun!

May & Ash

Dear Meg and Ash,

I've been going to the gym for about 2 months to get in shape for Spring Break and I still haven't seen the results that I really want. I'm going away with a lot of people and I feel like I'm going to be embarrassed and ashamed when I have to get into a bathing suit in front of everyone! HELP!!

-Self Conscnsous About Spring Break

Dear Self-Conscious,

Ok... first of all, EVERYONE else is feeling like this! Not one person is loving the way their body looks right now. Don't try and kill yourself to get some unattainable body to impress people. If these people are really your friends then this shouldn't be an issue at all. Don't ruin your spring break thinking about how you look! We know how hard it is, but try to enjoy the sun and relaxation. If you're really feeling bad then pick a bathing suit that works with your body type. Ask an employee at the store to help you pick something that fits your body. Don't try and become stick thin... just try and be healthy: Eat right, exercise and take good care of yourself. That above all should really make you feel good about yourself. Good luck and try and fight the pressure!

Meg & Ash

Meg and Ash are RWU's own personal advice gurus. These experienced advice columnists have contributed to the Hawks Herald for over a year and are ready to take on more of your emotional challenges. Write to Meg and Ash at askmeg_ash@hotmail.com.

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Is it ok to say the “N” word?

Charlie Schigini  
Herald Staff

The multicultural center was packed Tuesday night, as junior students filed into the room one by one, widely regarded as offensive and demeaning.

The word ‘nigger’ has been used for centuries by all types of people all over the world, but ultimately does it hold the same meaning?

As the debate continues in finding middle ground to this hotly contested issue, here at Roger Williams University, it is clearly a divide. Some African Americans feel that it is ok for the word ‘nigger’ to be used as long as it is in a tasteful and informative manner.

Others who oppose the idea for the stigmatic term to be used feel very strongly that ‘nigger’ should never be used, and it is not even appropriate for black people to use, which is always the common argument. One way or another, this topic seems to have no end in sight, devoid of any logical solution as to whether it is to be tolerated or not.

The land before Roger Williams

Phil Deotti  
Herald Staff

Thousands of people call RWU their home away from home. It’s a beautiful, coastal campus. The campus is a place where work hard and play hard, earn degrees, forge friendships and make memories. But before the many students ever get there, from bars, streets, and even when they turn on the TV. One black student explained his moral beliefs.

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Passion CMX CONVERTER...
Continued from p.7

who are abroad.”

On the website, one can also find the anniversary video that was presented after the speeches were made. According to vice president for public affairs, Susan Rivers, the idea of the video was to find stories that the university can brag about and then share those stories with the world.

The idea of the Little Roger Photo Contest was also developed in mind to help Alumni and students abroad feel connected to what is happening for the 50th on campus. The designers of the photo contest want students to be inventive while reinforcing the core values. (See sidebar for more information on contest rules and ways to enter.)

“We are using the RWU spirit to get those around the world involved,” said art director, Raymond Talaman. “Mail him to Malaysia or stick him in your coat pocket and carry him to the top of Kilimanjaro.”

All students abroad were mailed a Little Roger of their own, and each faculty and staff member was also given one.

“People are already calling to find out how they can get one [a Little Roger], and they seem to be embracing the spirit of the 50th,” said Chase-Padula.

According to co-chairs Chase-Padula and Lindsay, overall the kickoff event exceeded their expectations. The third chair is Professor Michael Swanson who was away at press time and not available for comment.

“You work on things in theory and then at the event, everything really comes to life,” said Lindsay. “Everyone seemed to have a great time.”

Students agreed. “I felt that the Biltmore was amazing. It was so classy and so great to see students, the governor, the mayor and alumni there,” said student commission member Bobbi-Lynn Anderson.

One speaker pointed out that it was ironic to celebrate the kickoff event only miles from where RWU began.

At the student kickoff event, Rockin’ Roger’s Diner, Lindsay also felt the excitement for the events.

“I heard students say ‘I heard things were going to be big but I did not realize this big,’” said Lindsay.

According to the chairs, there is something for everyone over the next year. There are programs from formal events such as the 50th Anniversary Gala at Marble House Mansion in Newport this fall to the Winter Fire event in September or the PawSox Game over the summer.

Chase-Padula also shared that Commencement this year will have some extra special events surrounding it as a part of the celebration of the anniversary.

A new program of events with additions will be put out over the summer.

“We already have a new event in the works that I think the students will be really excited about,” said Chase-Padula. “The main thing is for everyone to get involved and participate and to really just have a great year.”

While the 50th anniversary commission has a lot planned for the year, the slogan and speakers recognize that RWU will continue to change and grow.

Palipino said, “I promise you the RWU story is just beginning.”

Little Roger Photo Contest

To Enter the Contest

Little Roger will be appearing all over campus. Be on the lookout. You can get your own Little Roger from faculty, staff and other students.

Get a Little Roger for a Friend

Take your Little Roger to his Embassy, the Department of Student Programs and Leadership (The Campus Recreation Center).

Place your Little Roger next to a sign that says: “Happy Birthday Roger Williams.”

Submit a picture of your Little Roger (either alone or with its human). Deadline for submission will be during the 50th anniversary celebration. The most “creative” entry will receive a prize.

Categories for Judging

Hit the Books (Love of learning as an intrinsic value)

On the Job (Preparation for career and future study)

Lab Partner (Collaboration of students and faculty in research)

Helping Out (Commitment to community service)

Where in the World? (Appreciation of global perspectives)

RWU Spirit/Hawk Pride

Famous Faces

*For a full list of rules and ways to enter, visit www.50th.rwu.edu.

Student Ambassadors: The chosen few

Courtney Ayogist

Herald Staff

In coming to college, many students look for a niche or a special activity to call their own. On Roger Williams' University's campus, many different programs and activities are offered in order for students to get involved and potential members can find like-minded classmates.

One of those groups, the Student Ambassadors, offers to the Roger Williams’s student body a dynamic like no other. The Student Ambassadors, a prestige group of students, must be nominated by a faculty or staff member, have at least a 2.5 GPA and a clean judicial record. Overall, these individuals represent the students who stand out as leaders on campus.

The Ambassadors must also represent the student body at many events held on campus. Among other things, we assist with accepted student days,” said Student Ambassador Sam Wilson. “We run a program called Student's Zone where accepted students can come without their parents and ask us questions they would not feel comfortable asking in front of their superiors or parents. We also work at prestigious events at the President's residence, convocation and commencement, and meet with important guest speakers.”

Ellen Messali, another Student Ambassador, believes this unique group of students adds a positive dynamic to the campus.

“We attempt to represent the student body as a whole,” said Messali. “We are a group of students who stand out as leaders and individuals and we positively characterize Roger Williams’s students.”

“We attempt to represent the student body as a whole,” said Messali. “We are a group of students who stand out as leaders and individuals, and we positively characterize Roger Williams’s students.”

As a newly chosen Student Ambassador, Nicole Lombardi looks forward to the opportunities this position will present to her.

“When I was notified that I was nominated to apply for the position I was honored that someone thought I would be a good candidate for the position,” said Lombardi. “I am looking forward to getting to know the professional staff and the president on a new level. Also, I see this as a great opportunity to meet new people and try new things while representing the University and getting others excited about the University as I am.”

Another objective the Student Ambassadors have is to connect the university with the community it surrounds to strengthen the community’s perceptions of Roger Williams’s student body.

“The ambassadors hope to bring the important figures of the campus and community together,” said Wilson. “We hope to bring the student perspective to events and demonstrate that Roger Williams is enabling great leaders.”

Above: Rockin' Roger's Diner student kickoff event occurred Friday, February 24 in the Recreation Center. Bottom left: The proclamation, declaring February 24 RWU day in Rhode Island, made by Governor Carcieri can be viewed in the university library.
The Senate: governance across RWU

Editors Note: This is the second story of a three-part series.

Michael Harley
Herald Staff

They are freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. They eat with you in the dining hall. They sit next to you in class. They study in the library with you. Some live down the hall from you.

However, when you see your friend on campus, you probably would not call her "Ms. Senator."

Twenty-two students make up the Student Senate, each of them serving a specific role.

Most of the senators ran for office for similar reasons.

"I wanted to run for Student Senate because, most importantly, I wanted to have a leadership role in my university," said freshman Alicia Merschen-Perez. "I wanted to be able to help other students get their concerns answered, and to help them in general."

After making the decision to become involved, each student then had to campaign.

"Election time is nerve wracking," said sophomore and Senate Treasurer Veronica Columb, "and you really have to try and get other students to know who you are.

"You need to plan your own election. It can be lots of fun!"

Class of 2011 students had less stressful experiences than others, because some nominees faced no opposition.

"Once the deadline passed we were made aware it was an uncontested election, which definitely alleviates the pressure," Alumni Affairs Chair, Jane Shaugnessy said.

Once they are elected, the students must make a number of influential decisions that have a serious impact on all students.

"Senate is difficult in a sense that it is a big responsibility," said sophomore Jacqueline Bonduel. "The role of a Senator should not be taken lightly. The decisions that are made have an effect on many different people, therefore we must be diligent and professional with our choices."

While the Senate makes important decisions, its power does have limits. When it comes to problems regarding administration, President Michael Wittk said: "We can't say you have to do this, but we can offer suggestions."

Wittk also was quick to mention how helpful the administration has been.

"I found last year and this year our administration has been really good with working with us," said Wittk. "They always have the student in mind."

"It's not as versus them. There is no butt heads."

Being in a position of great influence, the Senate must make the student in mind.

Editors Note: This is the second story of a three-part series.

Kaitlin Carman
Herald Staff

Pizza Wave, located on 406 Maincon Ave in Bristol, recently opened its doors to the public. With a wide variety to choose from and reasonable prices, it looks as if Classic Pizza might get some major competition.

Pizza Wave reminds me of a Papa Gino's where you walk in, place your order, and sit down with your number. Pizza Wave actually brings you the food, which I thought was nice.

The interior is designed to look like you just stepped out of the car onto a beach. The ceilings and booths are all dark blue and the walls a sandy yellow, really giving that ocean effect. Surfboards are hung up, giving it a nice personal touch and there is plenty of seating. In fact, some of the booths look like they could fit about five people to a side; they're huge!

The menu ranges from pizza to seafood from Mexican to Italian. There's literally something for everybody and the prices are reasonable as well. The most expensive pizza at Pizza Wave is a huge House Special with toppings for $13.69 or a large Veggie Delight with toppings for $13.69.

The pizza was pretty good. The crust isn't as thick as some of the other pizza places around town and it's definitely not greasy. It lacks the "Why did I eat that, my stomach is really angry at me right now?" feeling you get from most fast food.

Aside from the pizza, I decided to try a specialty Wrap and of course, french fries. The chicken Fajita wrap was great. Grilled chicken, onion, pepper and mushroom with lettuce, sour cream and shredded cheese, it was so big and stuffed that capacity that I had to take half of it home.

I'm also happy to report that the fries at Pizza Wave are fantastic. They were hot, fresh, and crispy - just the way I like them! I sampled their cheeseburger and was pleasantly surprised to find it enjoyable. My friends from home vouch for me when I say I KNOW cheeseburgers. They're probably my favorite thing to eat and considering Pizza Wave doesn't specialize in them, and it wasn't the best burger I've ever had, I have to say they did a good job.

The burger was big and juicy, topped with lettuce, tomato, and an onion with fries and a pickle spear on the side. I never thought I'd say this about a pickle, but it was fantastic. I'd order the burger just to get the pickle. Call me crazy, but I'm being serious. It beats eating a pickle from a jar any day!

Overall, I 100% enjoyed my meal at Pizza Wave. For a place that just opened its doors, I'd say they're doing well and it's another great option added to the list of pizzerias in Bristol. Definitely check it out, it's worth it.

Do you have a restaurant that we should review? Email your suggestions to hawksherald@gmail.com.
Award given to outstanding student leader

Sarah Conover
News Editor

Recently, members of the organization Campus Entertainment Network (CEN) attended the National Association of Campus Activities (NACA) in Boston, Massachusetts. Junior Bobbi-Lynn Anderson received an award naming her “Student Leader of the Year.”

Mainly, Bobbi-Lynn Anderson received an award from the Roger Williams University campus, John Lindsay, an advisor to CEN, sent a letter of reference to the NACA recommending Anderson for the award.

“Because she gives so much to the university, I thought she deserved to be recognized,” said Lindsay. “She devotes her life mostly to student leadership, so I couldn’t think of a person who deserves it more.”

However, Anderson didn’t know that Lindsay was nominating her. “It was a complete surprise. I didn’t even know I was up for the award,” said Anderson.

According to Lindsay, Anderson was also nominated for her work both in CEN and in the campus community. Over her three years on campus, Anderson has held many leadership roles. She was her freshman vice president and the representative from interclass council for CEN.

“I was able to be a representative and basically, I was able to see capacity in which CEN impacts the campus community,” said Anderson.

The NACA conference included states in the New England region such as Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Only five students were awarded the title Student Leader of the Year.

Students of CEN enjoying the NACA conference in Boston.

According to Anderson, she has been heavily involved on campus since her freshman year. The plethora of activities she has been involved with include everything from CEN, to alternative spring break to class government to the women’s center.

“I was recently recognized as a Vagina Warrior (for the Vagina Monologues) for a speech I made at the Mircel to End Silence in the fall,” said Anderson.

However, of her clubs and activities, Anderson has been most involved in CEN, as co-chair she helps all the chairs of the various committees and acts as a support system for them.

“It’s a lot of fun, and I love it, so I will definitely be involved with CEN next year, and if I can, I would love to be co-chair again,” said Anderson.

As a junior, Anderson is already planning on attending graduate school where she hopes to get an assistanship in campus activities. Currently, she is double majoring in communication and Italian with a minor in marketing. Eventually, she said she will probably end up involved in public relations or event planning.

In addition to the leadership award, CEN won a school swap award for the gimmicks they use. Their award was “Best Use of Theme: Passport to Programming.”

CEN is an organization made up of 11 committees. There are chairs for each committee, representatives, a secretary and treasurer (who are work study students) and the two advisors who are John Lindsay and Marshall Guthrie. The concise and stage crew make up the operations aspect of CEN.

According to Anderson, it’s because of the entire team that they can win awards.

“Other schools don’t have the team that we have,” said Anderson. “We’re so lucky to have such a dynamic board.”

Couple of the Moment:
Dru Konesky and Krissy Shafer

Interview With Dru:

1. When and how did you first meet Krissy?

“I was going out with a bunch of friends to a club in Providence. We went with like 15 people, and we started talking and ended up dancing together the whole night. After that, we went back to the dorms with everyone and just hung out. We said goodnight and she went in for the kiss. After that, we started walking and ended up being together a month later.”

2. After we “discovered” Krissy, was there an immediate attraction to her?

“Well, to be honest, the first time I discovered her was at a party in Bayville. We didn’t know each other but she was sitting in the corner and me and my roommate walked in the room. He looked at me and said, ‘You want to talk to that girl or should I?’ I looked over there and I thought ‘That’s rad’ and I walked away. (laughs) That doesn’t go over too well now, but the first time we actually hung out at the club, yes, there was an immediate attraction because she knew how to dance and looked wicked good.”

4. What is the cutest thing you’ve done for her thus far?

“We’re both really good at making the other feel appreciated and loved. The last thing I can think of is this Valentine’s Day. I woke her up at 6 in the morning and brought her over to my room. I made her a cup of decaffeinated coffee with her favorite French toast and we watched the news. I know I know, everyone probably thinks it’s corny but she, I love her. I am taking her to Italy when we graduate, so that might be one.”

5. Why might you think your friends would “nominate” you guys as the next couple of the moment?

“All of our friends call us mean and dork around here. Krissy and I are always the ones to regulate when things get out of control, most of the time. We have also cooked Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for all our friends, so we definitely get viewed as the maternal figures. I think people would nominate us because they like the way we are with one another, and even through the rough times, they have stressed wanting us to stay together.”

6. What if (any) fights have you had, and why were you fighting to begin with?

“I believe we have ever fought about anything. I mean sometimes Kyssy gets mad and can not control herself and just starts with me, but really I am an angel and never get mad, so I calm her down before a fight happens….. No, we have had our share of fights, but for the most part, the fights we get in are usually just over something stupid, because I am being an idiot. She really is awesome. However, we’re learning a lot more about another another as time goes on, and there are always going to be little bumps along the way.”

7. What unique qualities about Krissy keep you coming back for more?

“She is the best person I have ever met. She genuinely cares about people, is awesome to talk to and will always be there to listen, whenever I need her. She is freaking hilarious and can make me laugh whenever. Everything about her is unique because she has so many qualities wrapped into one and most of all she is real, not fake. Oh and I think she is gorgeous.”

Interview With Krissy:

1. When how long have you and Dru been together?

“Two years with a couple of breaks.”

2. When and how did you first meet him?

“We met sophomore year… he went with his friends to the club Nestance, and I being best friends with one of their girlfriends, met up with them there. I spent the night trying to get him drunk, dancing with him as much as possible.”

3. What was your first impression of him at the time?

“He was a cute metro sexual who was fun to flirt with.”

4. What’s the cutest/most memorable thing he’s ever done for you?

“Well there is always the candle-lit sunrise breakfast, but I’d have to definitely say it was when we were in little Italy at Spices in Disney, and he sat me down and gave me a letter explaining a real trip to Italy! we will be taking in June!”

5. Do you guys have any dorky (but cute) rituals together… and if yes, what are they??

“We love to cook for each other, we get waxy too excited about food! Also, watching Adam Corolla’s home show or Bill Maher.”

6. What do your friends say about you two as a couple?

“People hearts, butterflies and pink bunnies flying around our heads’’ hahaha they don’t feel right if we aren’t together.”

7. How often do you guys spend time together, and what are some of the more amazing things you’ve done?

“We spend time together each day… especially meal times obviously! We’ve had some crazy shared cream and water fights, tough-wrestling matches and built some great forts in stolen.”

8. How does it feel to be this weeks couple of the moment?

“Makes me happy, being a sensor, that I have the relationship in college I always dreamed I’d have by now. I realize how lucky I am!”

Do you know a couple that should be the next Couple of the Month?

Hawksherald@gmail.com
Musicians Guild rocks RWU campus

Steve Annear
Herald Staff

Down a dim lit hallway on the first floor of the Student Union, a group of young music enthusiasts cram themselves into a musty, dank, rectangular room, full of instruments and amplifiers. They meet there once a week, despite the uncomfortable circumstances. They are the dedicated members of the Musicians Guild.

The vibrant mix of students, from the casual dress to the punk rock gather around in a room half the size of a Cedar Quad and discuss how they will be able to pull off some important tasks for the semester. A blank sheet of paper is passed around the room, as members sign in and right down some suggestions for equipment they will need for the semester.

President of the Guild, junior, Peter Bartash reads the list aloud to his fellow band members hoping some ideas may generate a conversation. Amongst suggestions of new amplifiers, tuning the piano, and more decorations for the barren walls, Bartash reads off playful remarks that keep the crowd laughing.

It is an uplifting environment run by dedicated students who all share a common interest: Keeping the music alive.

But the meetings aren’t always about social gatherings about what concerts are coming up, or what band is better than the other. When it comes down to it, the Musicians Guild means business. And recently they have been fighting “the man” to try and save what they have left of their tight knit organization.

With the new Dining Commons underway, the Guild has been proposing different options for where the Jam Room will be next year. When the current Student Communications building, the Guild will have to pack up their equipment and hit the road.

“We were originally told we would have a Jam Room in the new Student Union,” said Bartash, “but there wasn’t much money for it in the budget. It’s disappointing, because this group is a big part of this campus, so I hope the school considers us when we have to move.”

Before they are faced with relocating, the Guild plans to first conquer more important tasks, leaving their own problems aside, and concentrating more on the student body.

On April 2 the group is sponsoring a Cancer Benefit on campus in the Field House. The concert will feature various members of the Guild’s bands as well as any other students from RWU who have an interest in performing in the fundraiser. Bands will play for free during an all day concert where students and members of the community can come and enjoy the stylish sounds of fellow musicians.

“We hope to get a lot of good bands who want to have fun,” said Public Relations Coordinator of the Guild, Valerie Walker. “This will be a great event and not only will it benefit the group, but it will benefit the community as a whole.”

In an effort to generate money for donations towards the Cancer Benefit, the Guild has been putting together a compilation CD which features members of the organization performing the music they love.

It is the second volume that the Musicians Guild has produced in the past year. The CDs were on sale last week, and can still be purchased from the Guild for $5. Portions of the money raised will be donated to the Cancer Society while some will be used to try and find a home for the musicians in the coming year.

“I expect to raise as much money as we can,” said Bartash of the concert. “It is for a great cause and hopefully students and faculty will come out and support it and make a small donation to the effort.”

The jam room, located on the first floor of the Student Union, has housed the Musicians Guild for several years.

Michael Hurley

Olympics Galore

William Grupenboe
Herald Staff

The 2006 Winter Olympics brought many things to the table including steroid setbacks, tourism for Italy and twenty-five various U.S. medals. But there was one thing the trek to Torino failed to bring to the table: ratings for NBC.

When closing ceremonies for the event only managed to rake in 8.5 household rating/13 share, only the third best network for the evening, it was clear that the Olympics 2006 were a ratings disaster.

But the closing ceremonies were not the only Olympic-sized failure for NBC.

According to the H o l l y w o o d Reporter, NBC’s primetime coverage of the Toronto Winter Games averaged a 12.2 household rating/19 share, down 36% from the Salt Lake City Winter Games back in 2002.

Did the college demographic tune in to games of champions?

“Not really, so no,” said John Maintanis, a business major at RWU. “Although I glanced at them occasionally I didn’t spend hours and hours of TV time dedicated to the Olympics.”

Maintanis isn’t the only student who tuned out of Torino.

“I didn’t watch a thing,” said Matt Smith, a Business management major at RWU.

So what could be causing this Olympic-sized rip in the ratings race?

“I think its about them,” said Maintanis. But Shaun Russell, sports information intern for the RWU athletics department, disagreed. “Although the ratings didn’t bring in as many viewers as hoped, I know a lot of people who turned in to Curling,” Russell said.

Perhaps the biggest reason the Olympics lost viewers was because Americans didn’t need to see the games to know the results.

“I knew the scores for all of the games even before they were on the air,” says Smith. Russell agreed. “With things like the Internet and the ESPN news ticker, why watch the game when you can get results at the click of a button?”

Russell, who admits he didn’t watch much of it himself, went on to say that information technology has made watching this once-every four-years even less exciting for viewers.

“Not what should NBC do to increase Olympics to ratings gold?”

“Just stick to the basic sports like hockey, and not so much of the regional stuff,” said Maintanis. But some think it doesn’t take that much.

“In my opinion, I think the sport itself like watching something in Pacific Time, and there won’t be as much of a problem,”
Chronic illnesses, a chronic problem

Keri Tanzi
Herald Staff

Matthew Noble
Herald Staff

I hated to see my college building evolve from a place that I could do anything and everything at, to one where most illnesses are not physically noticeable. Joe*, a college senior, suffers from sickle cell anemia. "I get severe pain and end up in the hospitals quite often," he said. "Lots of times I will hear people say that I don't look sick, and that gets me upset. I've had professors, doctors and friends not believe that I'm in pain because I look 'healthy.' Most of the time, when people are suffering from a disease, that doesn't mean they aren't. I wish people would just realize that.

People with chronic illnesses are otherwise typical, they may have to work a little harder to achieve their goals, but they are not different from the average individual.

"I have to take a lighter course load each semester, I only take four classes," says Kate*, a RWU junior. "Sometimes I miss classes either because of being hospitalized or being too sick to go. I still manage to keep up my grades, and I even do good on quizzes and exams because I have to work harder than people who don't suffer from an illness, but it's worth it."

*names have been changed by request
What Steve Perceives:
The legend of the great white rapper

Steve Atti pear
Herald Staff

For anyone who thought that white hip-hop artists started with the Beastie Boys and ended with the veteran of the "Definitive Jux" Organization what happened? Aesop Rock has been part of the Underground Hip-Hop scene for quite sometime now, carrying a laundry list of records on his back. But that's his most recent album, "Fast Cars, Danger, Fire and Knives," released this past summer, is putting his name on the boards. His eclectic ability to manipulate words with cut-throat precision will leave listeners rewinding their iPods, and back-tracking their CD players. A mixture of hard-hitting beats combined with immense amounts of alliteration, Aesop delivers a sound so sure that it's no wonder MTVU has been broadcasting his video on a daily basis.

As a veteran of the "Definitive Jux" record label, Aesop has maintained a steady sound that rarely changes, and never fails to disappoint followers. Although it has taken him years to begin to break into the mainstream world of Hip-Hop and Rap, Aesop has been persistent enough on the scene that he is worth much recognition.

"Fast Cars, Danger, Fire and Knives" is a seven track EP that, although short in song numbers, gives listeners thirty minutes of verbal and instrumental bliss. The CD was originally released with an 88-page booklet containing every lyric from every album Aesop has ever recorded. This was a rarity for most Eminem on the scene, and was a token of his personal appreciation for fans picking up the album.

With the words printed right there on the page, Aesop Rock hits his fan base with unapologetic and brutal honesty, as we finally get to find out exactly what he was trying to say for all these years. The artistically appealing booklet, titled "The Living Human Curiosity Sideshow," is packed with an intricate assortment of multi-syllabic phrases that seem only to make sense coming out of the mouth of Aesop himself.

Most notably, in his song "Holy Smokes," an alternative personal view of today's religious upbringings, Aesop voices a comment about religion: "I'm old enough to know what religion was/ I was Catholic, man/ and truly didn't give a f**k/ '94 moved out the crib and haven't seen a preacher since/ while Knifed evil zeeps in the Christian leaders p*ck." "I'll Priest that slapped with parental advisory warning/ I'll be auditioning gods in my office on Monday morning.

Aesop's approach at mind-boggling metaphors and hidden meanings is what has separated him from the mainstream culture.

For anyone who enjoys deciphering linguistics and contemplating unique out-turns toward societal ideals, this album should be your next investment. The lyrics, the music, the booklet, and the interveen voice: they are everything that brings the mystery behind such a unique artist to life.
Sports

NBA teams gearing for playoffs
While the West Coast battles, the East fight for lottery picks

Jim Dugan
Herald Staff

Now that the NBA All-Star Weekend has come and gone, and now that I’m starting to get over my anger of Andre Iguodala being ripped off in the dunk contest, it’s time to start looking toward the play-off stretch.

As normal, there are many teams fighting to make the top eight in the West. And as is normal, there are many teams trying to get in better draft positions in the East, which is why I’m just going to skip them here.

Breaking down the West isn’t easy as there are only two teams that I could confidently say have no chance of making the playoffs. Those three are the only three teams (Dallas, San Antonio, Phoenix) that I can confidently say will make it. As for everyone else, the playoff picture is still to be determined.

Guaranteeing the Clippers will make the playoffs would be like predicting the Cubs to win the World Series - you just can’t believe in it. That being said, the trade for Sam Cassell during the off-season was one of the greatest moves of the year. The Lakers and Timberwolves cannot be discounted either, for one and only one reason each. Those reasons: Kobe Bryant and Kevin Garnett. Kobe is the league’s highest scorer and could very well keep his team in the playoffs single-handedly. K.G. could use a little bit of help from his teammates, but if he doesn’t totally give up in frustration from the lack of help, he very well could lead them back to the playoffs again.

New Orleans and Memphis have surprised many people, but they currently have the advantage and already hold the six and seven spots respectively. Rookie point guard Chris Paul has been absolutely nothing short of spectacular all season long. Combined with David West, New Orleans has been deadly. Memphis continues to use good team work and the leadership of Pau Gasol to hold onto their playoff hopes.

Utah and Golden State also can’t be counted out. Utah has one of the greatest coaches in the league in Jerry Sloan, and he could always get the team to organize and become a playoff contender again. Golden State was one of the hottest teams in the league at the end of last season, nearly pushing into the playoffs. If the team could catch fire again with some improved play from Baron Davis, they could threaten to make the playoffs again.

The two teams that could be the biggest threats to upsetting one of the top three teams in the west aren’t even in the top eight playoffs spots yet. Those teams are Houston and Sacramento. Houston has shown that they couldn’t beat a high school team when Tracy McGrady is not in the line-up, going 1-13 games without him. However, when he is there, he and Yao Ming combine into a great combo, which is why many experts thought they’d be a top team before the season started.

What Sacramento has done has been rather amazing. They turned from a high powered offensive team lead by Peja Stojakovic, Chris Webber, and Mike Bibby. Now only Bibby remains on a team known more for its defense then offense. With the addition of Ron Artest, the team is extremely dangerous.

As for my opinion, I think both Sacramento will make the playoffs because they are just too strong in all aspects of the game now. I don’t think Kobe will be able to make up for how horrible the rest of his team is, and the Lakers will be out.

Roundup: Winter sports conclude, some tragically; spring sports around the corner

Herald Staff Reports

The wrestling team capped a strong season with a third-place finish in the New England D-III Championships last weekend. The team scored a school record 107 points in the tournament, beating the previous record of 80 set in 2001. In all, eight out of 10 wrestlers earned All-New England honors — also a school record.

Zach Weinrich was named the New England champion in the 184-pound division and was named “Rookie of the Year.” Anthony Nicollechia (125 pounds) and Andy Lacroix (141 pounds) were runners-up in their respective divisions.

Dan Rosak (149) and Mike Staple (197) were third in their weight class. Jared Cramoiks (165) and John Russel (285) were fourth and C.J. McCormack (157) was sixth.

Weinrich and Lacroix will be traveling to the National D-III Wrestling Championships this weekend, hosted by The College of New Jersey.

In other news...

FEBRUARY 27
The equestrian team recorded five first-place finishes at the Wesleyan University show in Herndon, Ct. on Saturday.


The Hawks will compete this weekend at the University of Rhode Island Show at Clouds Hill Farm, starting at 9:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY 22
The men’s tennis team announced it has named its captains for the 2006 season.

Senior Ryan Kline of South Windsor, Ct. and junior Dave Plessica of Old Tappan, N.J. will lead the Hawks into the season, which begins March 8 at UMass-Boston. Last season the Hawks were 8-9 overall and 5-3 in the CCC.

FEBRUARY 22
The baseball team has announced its captains for the 2006 season.

Seniors Kevin Thompson of Southington, Ct., Travis Cooney of East Hartford, Ct., and Andrew Lippscott of Southington, Ct. will be named the team’s captains for the 2006 season. They will be named the team’s captains for the 2006 season.

Have a safe and enjoyable Spring Break!
Sports, My Way: Time to bolt from the CCC?

Christopher Purish
Sports Editor

Chris Cormier did everything he could last Tuesday to vault his team to the semifinals. He hit 3-pointers at all the right times. He gave his teammates the spark they needed in the second half after trailing by eight at halftime. With 11.4 seconds left, Cormier took the big shot with the Hawks down by one. And he hit it. It was a storybook ending for a great team. Except it didn’t end that way. Wentworth Moreover the length of the floor and drained a 3-pointer to end the game.

About 15 feet from where I was standing, Cormier sat at mid-court with his head in his hands. It was horrifying to watch – to see a good guy play his last game and have it be so heartbreaking. For the Hawks, the second seed in the Commonwealth Coast Conference, the loss was an upset. It was anything but what the Hawks needed. And as I stood watching the events unfold as the crowd went from rapture to reserved almost instantly, I couldn’t help but think the same thing over and over again.

It’s time for RWU to move out of the CCC.

Last Tuesday’s heartbreaking defeat proved, if nothing else, that RWU’s teams can do nothing but meet expectations in their respective seasons. Upset losses to average athletic teams like Wentworth paint a negative connotation of the pride and strength of the RWU teams. Should the same happen to other teams going at the hands of revered institutions like Coast Guard Academy, Connecticut College, Middlebury, Williams, Amherst or Brandeis, the loss is greatly justified.

But now, anything short of a championship berth is regarded as somewhat of a disappointing season. The conference is weak at best, and often the same teams vie for titles in every sport. The CCC might as well stand for the “Can’t Compete Conference.”

Most (RWU) sports fans know that the conference is regaled as somewhat of a laughingstock. The colors are ugly. The site has received only 178.000 hits in the past year. Last spring, Athletics Director John Curley posted a message on the school website that we wanted to upgrade our athletic programs. And as I stood watching the events unfold as the crowd went from rapture to reserved almost instantly, I couldn’t help but think the same thing over and over again.

It’s time for RWU to move out of the CCC.

Sure, the trophies are nice, but RWU’s most recent accolades seem somewhat diminished given the level of competition in the conference.

I don’t mean to suggest that these schools’ athletic programs aren’t worthwhile. Plenty of small schools would fit well with other smaller schools in New England. These teams fit well in a conference like the CCC. And while the conference served its purpose for RWU for a while, the university has outgrown the small-school, mid-major atmosphere of this conference.

As Roger Williams University celebrates its 50th anniversary, the school continues to focus on how far we’ve come and how far we have to go. RWU wasn’t even a member of the NCAA until 1996. Now, in the university stands to new heights both academically and athletically, it’s time for the school to raise the level of competition for its athletic teams.

In the fall, every team made at least the conference semifinals. In the winter, disappointing and heartbreaking seasons in basketball made for early playoff exits. But wrestling secured a place as one of the top 30 I-D-II teams in the country and the swim team has come out of the gate with enormous success for a first-year program. This spring, men’s lacrosse and softball will contend for a title. The baseball team has a good chance to return to glory after a disappointing 2005 season. And the women’s lacrosse team is steadily improving. For our teams, anything short of a conference plaque or a title appearance, given the quality of the schools in our conference, is a disappointment.

Just for kicks, go to the conference website (www.commonwealthcoastconference.com). Honestly, it’s embarrassing to have our school’s name on the site. Words are spelled incorrectly. The colors are ugly. The archives are limited and don’t even include some of the championships. There is virtually no information available and the site has received only 178,000 hits in the history of the site (I alone probably account for half of those). Now visit the conference website for the elite I-D-II New England schools, www.nesac.com. It is a well-designed, well-organized site full of good information about the schools and their athletic teams. In no way am I suggesting that we join the NESCAC (New England Small College Athletic Association), I doubt we’d be accepted if we wanted to. But this is the standard to which all teams should look. Another site, www.newmaconline.com, is also well-designed and organized. The NEWMAC (New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference) is a conference more befitting of a university like RWU.

The advantages are limitless. The competition is better. The championships mean more. Our athletic teams would get more recruits, leading to more prestigious programs. Our school records would mean more. The school raised millions of dollars to upgrade our athletic facilities. Now it’s time to upgrade our athletic competition.

Just one day after the frustrating last-second loss, Cormier and freshman Billy Barrett played pickup basketball in the field house. For them, the season might be over but the game never ends. These are the breed of players RWU is developing.

They deserve to be playing in a conference that respects them as much as they respect the game.

Roundup: Captains named for spring athletic teams

Continued from p.11

12.2 seconds remaining to give the Hawks a two-point lead, but Wentworth responded with a 3-pointer at the buzzer to clinch the victory. The Hawks trailed by eight at halftime but rallied with a 20-5 run to grab a seven-point lead midway through the second half. Freshman Brad Baranger scored 22 points to lead the Hawks. Cormier added 18. Freshman Billy Barrett had eight points and seven assists. Brandon Parrish had six points, five rebounds, five assists and four steals.

The Hawks end their season at 12-14.

February 19

The swimming and diving teams, in only their first varsity season, finished the year with strong showings at the New England D-II Championships. The men's team finished sixth out of 15 schools with 241 points. Doug Cameron placed eighth in the 1650-yard freestyle race. Jon Plummer was seventh in the 50-yard freestyle. Andy Hadden was eighth in the 200-yard butterfly. The RWU team of Cameron, Justin Leary, John Curtis and Plummer placed sixth in the 400-yard freestyle. Leary was also fourth in the 100-yard backstroke.

The women's team finished eighth out of 22 schools with 358 points. Jenny Dill was third in the 200-yard backstroke and fifth in the 200-yard breaststroke. Alexis Aron and Kaitlyn Friedrich were each fourth in the 1650-yard freestyle and the 200-yard butterfly, respectively.