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CNN's chopper American Morning co-anchor, Soledad O'Brien, gave the 2005 Homecoming Weekend keynote address on Oct. 22 in the Campus Rec. Center gymnasium, discussing diversity and her job in broadcast journalism with an audience of about 800 students, their guests, and local Britolians.

"I'm thrilled to be here because I know this a community that's very involved in the discussion and thinking about diversity," she said of RWU. The accomplished 39-year-old broadcast journalist, who was christened with the name Maria de la Soledad O'Brien, said she has been in the midst of diversity all her life. Her mother is black and Cuban, and her father is Irish-Australian. "I'm sort of the poster for diversity."

O'Brien recounted the racial discrimination that she was subject to during job interviews and at a west coast television station, San Francisco's KRON. O'Brien listened to inner-office whispers that tagged her as having been "hired because she's black."

"The week before, I had gotten turned down at two places. The first place said, 'well, Soledad is such a complicated name. I really can't hire you unless you're going to change it.' The second place, a day later said, 'we're only going to make one black hire, and the truth is, you're not dark-skinned enough to count for us."

"So all within a one-week, period, I had been too ethnic, not ethnic enough, and ethnic enough to get a job."

O'Brien addressed hesitance and ignorance about diversity. "People tip-toe around the word," she remarked. Yet, she said, "[t]here's something that envelopes every difference within a people, whether it be politics, economics, ethnicity, religion, or culture."

"Some people talk about diversity, and it's sort of a euphemism; they're really talking about black people. When I talk about diversity, and what I expect from diversity is more voices, even the voices you don't necessarily like or want to hear from."

O'Brien said she credits her parent's inter-racial relationship with inspiring and instilling in her life lessons. "When they started dating, inter-racial dating was very much frowned upon. When they decided to get married in 1958, inter-racial marriage was illegal in Maryland, so they had to leave to go to Washington, D.C. to be wed."

"I definitely look to their example about moving around the obstacles that other people place in my way."

She also attributes her success to persevering above criticism. "That was probably the most successful thing I did — figuring out the path I wanted to go on, sticking on that path, and not really looking into feedback as to what other people thought."

"People really go out of the way to knock you down. One thing that was really helpful to me was uncovering that people don't get to define who I am and what I'm going to be. I get to define that. Whether I'm going to be successful or not is truly up to me."

O'Brien believes the advent of new technology is opening up new jobs and strengthening the industry. "TV news is a great industry, it's changing. There are cable channels, there's blogging, there are so many opportunities. The number of jobs in news has just grown geometrically."

The Harvard graduate's career in the media began with an unglamorous job at the NBC affiliate, WBZ in Boston in 1989. "They hired me to be the 'girl who pulls the staples out of the wall. Believe it or not,'" she laughed, "it was a paying job!"

"Her parents, however, were not impressed. "Worriedly disappointed does not even come close to describing how they felt about my brand new, great job removing staples from the staple remover."

The position, however, affirmed her love for the industry. "I loved it, and I knew I wanted to stay in news. The news room is..."

Bowman tells her "Walk Away" story

Over 1,000 students and faculty packed into the Recreation Center for a program entitled "Walk Away" on October 17. Sophomore Health and Wellness Educator (HAWES) Becky Bowman shared her own experiences from a drunk driving accident in which both her mother and best friend, Katie DeCubellis, died.

The HAWES and Donna Darmody, the university's Wellness Coordinator, put together the program to demonstrate the dangers and consequences of drinking and driving and alcohol poisoning as a part of National Alcohol Awareness Month. All first-year students, as well as students who have been written up for alcohol misbehavior, were required to attend.

Many resent being forced to attend the program. "I thought it was well done," said freshman Robert Katz. "But I already know not to drink and drive. I wish we hadn't been forced to go."

However, according to Darmody, the HAWES worked hard to "relate it more to the type of drinking occurring in college."

The skits at the end, therefore, mimicked scenes that would be typically found on a college campus.

In an all-student e-mail, Vice President of Student Affairs John King and Dean of Students Kathleen McMahon said they were "seeking to significantly reduce the number of student making decisions that puts them in harms way while also enabling you to be a helpful resource to peers heading in a dangerous direction."

Three years ago, Bowman helped put together a presentation called "Walk Away." She has visited various high schools, speaking about the night and showing a film that was created about her experience.

"All the HAWES and Donna Darmody deserve so much credit [for organizing the RWU program]. They were so supportive, and they put together all the skits at the end," said Bowman.

The film included accounts from Bowman, DeCubellis' parents, and state police inspectors who came upon the scene of the accident. Following the shorter film, Bowman came out and spoke about...
"From Bayside, with Love"
Sling of the Century

So, I woke up last Sunday afternoon fully clothed and asleep? Mainly because I didn’t remember the decision to sleep, you know, you wake up and you’re like “wow, I was asleep?” So as I got up and began to explore a new day I had been previously unaware that I was in, I noticed a few things. First, my cell phone was broken, awesome. And second, there was a note taped to my desk.

The note read:
Remember to include “The Body” (Nicole Greenup) in your next article

And as I began to wonder how the hell I was going to do that and more importantly what kind of circumstances could have possibly led to the creation of this note, it hit me. This girl is aware of her nickname? Most people have no clue what their nicknames are. Like that girl freshman year that could kill a gorilla with her stare and most of the time looked like she slept in embalming fluid still to this day has no idea we called her “Living Dead Girl” (“Death” for short). But the fact the “Body” was aware and accepting the decision with her nickname surprised me and prompted me to think more about this nicknaming phenomenon that EVERYONE does (Don’t deny it, Goat Boy).

When we came to this university as freshmen we all started with a clean slate, nothing aside from our outward appearance defined us as individuals. After a few days we made friends with a group, or clique, of people based on proximity and characteristics we had in common. We slept, shat, and partied in all the same places. And amidst all this commonality is where, I believe, the group-given nicknames originate. I use the term “group-given” because what keeps these nicknames alive is their acceptance as humorous and accurate within your group and also their frequency of use (only the good ones have made it this far).

A nickname could come from anywhere. It could come from the fake name you gave the RA’s that first very time you got written up (Dave Towers). It could arise from your ability to consume alcohol like a champ (Slingshot Chick). For example, “Funnel Chick” is a girl who can funnel a beer as fast, if not faster than most guys (I am pretty sure she averaged less than 3 seconds). Some advice, first impressions are important. If you’re a freshman girl, on the first day of school don’t walk into a room full of older guys who you will be sharing a floor and bathroom with and announce, “Any guy who doesn’t lift the seat up is going to have to deal with my wrath!” That’s no way to make friends, and that’s why your nickname is “Urinal.”

Nicknames could also be extremely literal. Like “Shiny Face,” this dude just had a really shiny face; I don’t know what else to say. Or “Hot Chick,” which is pretty self-explanatory. They could also be metaphorical, like “Tink Ass.” I haven’t seen this girl since freshman year, and if it wasn’t for my ass-obsessed friend I would have completely forgotten about her. But this girl, man, it was like 44% of her body!

The sexual nicknames are definitely my favorite, just because they’re so ridiculous. “Titus McQuarrel” could possibly be the funniest name I’ve ever heard. On rare occasions people will give themselves sexual nicknames, which I guess is a way of self-advertising. During my freshman year she had a roommate who dubbed herself “The Blow-Job Queen.” Now I never experienced this first hand, but if it were up to me I would have been a little more vague and gone with “Take it Deep.”

But then there are those nicknames that are just completely irrelevant and impossible to even type without a little green squiggly line underneath and Microsoft Word telling me “sentence fragment, consider revising.” These are names that are so personalized within your group of friends that no one on the outside would even begin to know how to decipher them (think about that one…. now laugh to yourself). And this brings me to my title, “Sling of the Century.” The information I’m about to give up is so incriminating that my friends may never speak to me again, but my journalistic integrity (haha) won’t allow me to withold.

The word “sling” takes on a completely different meaning within a certain group of people. It may or may not know or admit to knowing. It’s a way of saying “hot girl” to the guy next to you without having to be so blatant and risk getting caught. So say two guys are sitting down in the main computer lab in the library (a.k.a. the room of wandering eyes) and a girl across the way sits down at a nearby computer, one guy will make the name of the other guy and say “sling.” Sounds ridiculous I know, but this method of communication can be extremely useful in public places. So now you tell me what, or who “Sling of the Century” is.
“Walk Away” from the pressure

Each student turned in a blue card at the end of the show, so administrators could record the number of freshmen in attendance. On the card, students were asked to rate the show on a scale from 1 to 5 with 5 being the best.

Of the 1034 freshmen who attended, 539 freshmen rated the program a five which is approximately 52% of the attendees. Only 18 rated the program a 1 and only 22 rated it a 2.

“I obviously, the students found it very powerful,” said Darmody.

Although all freshmen were required to attend, faculty had to turn away some students at the door because they were afraid of violating fire codes. Anyone who missed the program will watch a taping of the presentation sometime in November.

Because of the apparent success of the program, administration plans to give the “Walk Away” presentation to incoming freshmen in the Weeks of Welcome next year.

“We think it’s something they need to see and hear as soon as they get on campus,” said Darmody.

Although RWU was the first college Bowman spoke at, a few days later, she went to Stonehill College to speak.

Later this year, Bowman will be attending a national conference with Darmody and three HAWES. They will give the “Walk Away” presentation. The conference is a gathering of college PEERS nationwide.

“We’re real excited about the potential this program has and the message we can bring to college students in the state and potentially around the country,” said Darmody.

Bowman agreed. “There will be students from all over the country, so we’ll see if this takes flight.”

Soledad O'Brien

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As a child, O'Brien watched Mathied Lair News Hour, “a lot, a ton. I grew up in a family that loved the news, and was really interested in international news.”

The aspiring journalist began climbing the ladder, taking jobs as a production assistant, associate producer, field producer, and broadcast reporter for NBC affiliate stations across the country. Her fast track to CNN’s American Morning, which she co-anchors with Miles O'Brien, featured a stop at ABC's The Weekend Today Show, based in New York, where she worked as co-anchor.

O'Brien joined the CNN team two and half years ago, and said she loves the opportunity she has at the network to let diversity trickle in so and shape her stories. “It’s a great place to cover news.

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The Truth about New Orleans: An insider's perspective

Nabehed Hadjifjifi

I want you to take everything you think you know about New Orleans and throw it out the window. For most college aged students that means Mardi Gras, so for right now just forget it. Forget about the debauchery and chaos-lined streets of the French Quarter, forget about Bourbon St, hang grenades and "big ass beers" for a week straight. Now imagine a beautiful city with the most intriguing, unique, and deep rooted history and people of any city in this country. A city whose every building and magnolia tree tell of a culture that is undeniable different and precious from anything you could possibly imagine. It is a city filled with the faint sounds of jazz musicians, parades, festivities, and yes, the rowdy tourist and drunken college student at all times of the day. This city, as I am describing it, has been my home for the past two years, and while I will always consider myself a chowda-loving Rhode Islander at heart, my more recent home has helped to change and define me more than my previous eighteen years in the Ocean State.

I know you are wondering how that is possible, but if you knew the city of New Orleans like I do, you wouldn't need to ask. Though my time there had been short, the city seeps into your veins and your heart so much that by the time you first Mardi Gras rolls around you consider everyone else the tourists. The city becomes more than a place to live or a place you go to school, it becomes part of you and I believe, one that will remain with you for the rest of your life. The point is that while New Orleans may only have been a spring break destination for most of you, it is much more than that to the nearly half a million people who lived there prior to Aug. 29.

Now reduced to a decrepit shadow of its original form, the city has become ill with toxic sewage, flooded waters as high as rooftops in some areas, and a reputable playground for violence and bigotry. However, there were many problems such as these that existed in NOLA (New Orleans, Louisiana) before one of the most powerful and devastating hurricanes in US history buried my beloved city under water.

One of the main problems with New Orleans prior to the hurricane, two problems which make up all of humanity: nature vs. nurture. In this case, I am referring to the nature of the city (meaning its physical nature), the land and the set up of the city itself. The nature of the area, physically speaking, is like a bowl, with the city sitting directly in the middle at the lowest point. Much of Louisiana today is swamp lands and marshes, which, while once actual land, has now been reduced to mud sitting too far below sea level for comfort. The mud is not as a result of the hurricane but of global warming, urbanization and industrialization. We are wasteful and we are washing away our planet's natural defenses which keep the weather in check. The number of hurricanes has doubled in the last 34 years and as the numerical value increases so does the severity and damage that they do. Global warming and has been linked in recent years to global warming, the gradual increase in the earth's temperature in the lower hemisphere. The Gulf of Mexico has some of the most temperate waters in the world all year round, ensuring a hurricane playground. With New Orleans sitting squarely in the middle of it all, and sitting far below sea level jutting out as it does, this was a disaster waiting to happen.

Now on to the nurture portion of my theory. When I say nurture I am talking about the nurture portion of my theory. When I say nurture I am talking about the political and social forces decided by various people and how that has affected the city itself. The government, locally and federally, was very much to blame for such a catastrophe being allowed to occur. We'll start locally. New Orleans, while an amazing city has so many problems that the local government just cannot seem to fix. It has some of the worst public transportation, which is a huge reason why so many people could not get out of the city. So many people depend on public transportation to get from point A to point B within the city itself, how were those people then expected to be able to get out of it? Many people will say that whoever stayed in the city during the evacuations was responsible for staying. I'm not saying that the means to leave were not there, but I don't think they were expected to do so? In addition, there had been numerous evacuations in the past two years for prior hurricanes, all of which turned out to be a false alarm. I know because I was there for Ivan last year. I went to Texas for a week as did many other students and residents, and while I am a bit of a drama queen I don't think I'm much more than a small enough branch on my front porch. So don't blame the people of New Orleans for not trusting local government when they call evacuations that are unnecessary. Not only leaving the city, but returning has been an issue. Mayor Nagin had put out many press releases to reopen the city way before federal government, only to recall it now due to the threat of Hurricane Rita. Many residents feel that inaction, delay and confusion on the part of the local government was a major problem before Katrina hit and continues to cause trouble now. However, we can't solely blame Nagin and Blanco, the federal government has got a lot of explaining to do in their response, or lack there of. If you don't believe me, just think about how it took the feds nearly four days to send any aid or troops to the Gulf after the hurricane hit, whereas as we were at last year's tsunami site (across the globe) within a day.

There is something seriously wrong with that, but it is not as if this was the first time the feds refused aid to Louisiana. Way before Katrina even hit with the federal government practically ignored Louisiana, and gave minimal aid to the deprived state, let alone NOLA itself. The streets were some of the worst I have ever seen in my life, littered with potholes sometime nearly the width of an entire street lane. The schools were some of the worst in the country. There were more low income housing projects than I have ever seen in one single city, and most of them in unlivable conditions. These conditions led to a great social rift between races and classes, leaving a very small population of middle class, with most people being either very poor or very wealthy. Moreover New Orleans is set up like a checkerboard, placing the most wealthiest a street away from the most poor all over the city. The city itself is nearly 67% African American, and about 25% of them are living below the poverty line. This is a problem that one city cannot fix itself. Why weren't more money put into the city to fix this problem? These tensions left to themselves were the reasons for the hiked up crime rate, and the excessive crime that happened in the wake of the hurricane. For example, people have been breaking into RiteAid and Walmart, stealing guns and robbing the streets in gangs, stealing, raping, killing and setting fire to stores. Most ironically to be hit was the Saks Fifth Avenue in Canal Place Downtown, which was the epicenter for rich white consumerism in New Orleans.

Then when you turn on the news you see black people "looting" and white people "getting away just as quick." It's a subconscious place that such racism which was contributed to the problems pre-Katrina filled the news afterwards. In addition it's not like there should have been any shock about what happened to the city structurally. In 2002 an article was published in the Times Picayune laying out in great detail exactly what would happen were a severe storm to hit New Orleans. No reinforcements were made to the levee system. It was eerie how close that article was to what actually happened, and was scientifically proven as well. So forgive me when I call Bush's bluff when he says that he "didn't know the levees would break" and that's why a mandatory evacuation wasn't called sooner, and why more of an effort on the part of FEMA was made to bus people out before the hurricane instead of stuffing them inside the superdome and then out to the streets where many of them died. He knows he was wrong and now must play catch up by firing the former head of FEMA and making a public apology for this inaction in this matter. But he didn't do it because he felt bad, he did it because his approval rating dropped lower than it had ever been. Rapper Kanye West was partly right when he said that George Bush "doesn't care about black people," but moreover I just don't think George Bush cared about New Orleans. His refusal of the aid that other countries offered afterwards has furthered this point. And while the current state of affairs in New Orleans cannot be blamed completely on him, he cannot escape his part in this matter. If you are offended by this article I would ask that you step back and ask yourself why. Are you upset because of the things I have said about the government, or are you upset because it's true and you never realized it before? If it's the latter, don't blame you, because its not something that is really talked about. People, both those in New Orleans and those not, would talk about the problems but would never really come up with a solution. It was almost as if both local and federal officials had given up. Now that the city needs to be rebuilt from scratch, this is the time when they are taking these problems of the past into account and trying to figure out solutions for the future.

What makes me most upset is that it had to be a national tragedy like this with a death toll as high as 1000 as of September 19, and almost 70% of those coming from Louisiana alone, to get people to actually do something to restore the city. The jazz, the history, the culture, the food, the sugar bowl, and yes the drunken crime that is Mardi Gras have been things that people associated with New Orleans up until this point. However, now, as a result of this tragedy, maybe people will start to see the underlying of it all and the darker more unsettling elements will finally be called into question and changes will be made. Maybe. One can only hope. And I hope that everyone who reads this will continue to give money to the Red Cross, donate clothes to the victims living in Middletown, and take any means necessary to reach out and continue to help.
Calling all the Cool Kids... in the Classroom?

Elizabeth Liederman
Herald Staff

Classrooms, in a relative sense, have usually been considered thriving learning environments containing the masses of knowledge hungry beasts. Lately, however, it seems that classrooms have taken on a different kind of atmosphere almost entirely, especially at the RWU.

Friday, October 28, 2005

Now, it seems, students have shifted their attention— as well as their “quest for knowledge”— to a more enjoyable fate: playing with their cell phones during class, in every which way possible.

The drill might sound all but too familiar: a professor, in the midst of preaching about a subject a passion to his/her, is rudely interrupted by a bag vibrating (at a vigorous force) on the floor grounds, or by a ring tone rendition jamming for, for example, “Viva la Vida” by LI Cool J, or maybe “toxic” by Britney Spears, or even by the miraculous tinkling noise one hears when receiving an text message, etc.

It has often not only a distraction from the professor’s point of view, but also from the point of view of the “cool kids” on the receiving end of the line, amon the other surrounding classmates. This, in turn, guides the students’ attention away from the class-in-session, to more interactive and mysterious text message; a missed call; or, for the sidekick-obsessed folk, maybe even a short ‘n’ cute instant message!

“Distracted by the alarm,” remembers professor observation Theresa Keel, senior, has more lately, not than noted, at least one of this cell phone craze spreading throughout campus because of a particular student who would probably admit, it’s not too hard to notice.

“I was sitting in my night class, watching a video, lights out. I heard the room quickly and noticed a few students were radiating a bright blue glow from under their desks. They were obviously taking, for example, ‘Viva la Vida’ or their mobile-to-mobile minutes,” Keel says.

And this is just one of the numerous instances this semester where Keel has seen several of her classmates being examined by the workings of their cell phones.

Exactly what, then, are professors at RWU doing about these cell phone distractions, occurring more and more frequently as the semester unfolds? And do they even tamely will their policies or agendas ever really get through to their students?

According to Psychology professor Rebecca L. McLaughlin, “I tell [my students] to respect their peers and their professor— and if they have to talk on the phone, well then, they’re adults, they can get up and go outside to do so. But, they should respect everyone else. Go talk in the hall.”

McLaughlin is clearly a little more lenient in her classroom, although repeatedly tolerating the use of cell phones in her presence doesn’t benefit students when it comes time for her to determine their grades.

On the other end of spectrum are other RWU professors who apply a more serious policy to their classes and their expectations of the students.

For Steven Howie Gorel, senior, the Anthropology 101 topping class took last semester entailed a strict cell phone policy (with even stricter consequences), compliments of his professor, Jessica Skolnikoff.

“Basicall, if your phone rings once in a class, you would lose two points. It’s an important essay describing why it rang; there was an older woman taking the class who had to write one,” Gorel recalls, adding.

“I think if your cell rang twice, your grade would drop a point, but I don’t really remember the details of the policy. It was a year ago,” Gorel says.

Likewise, junior Jennifer Denes has had the glorious experience this semester of taking a class in which her professor’s harsh cell phone policy has brought so light the seriousness of his syllabus claim, and the even more serious consequences that follow when someone’s cell phone happens to disrupt his class.

According to Denes, “Most of my teachers are seriously against cell phone use in class. One of my professors, every time he hears a cell phone ring—or even vibrate—gives us a pop-quizz on some random fact, not even related to anything from class; they’re each worth 20 points.”

“On the last quiz (due to my cell phone ringing), he asked us what the annual rainfall was in Minnesota... how random and irrelevant?”

Yet, some teachers, regardless of their presumed or stated cell phone policy, are a lot more lenient towards their students’ cell phones. “When someone’s cell phone feels the need to put class on hold in return for a moment’s worth of migraine-triggering melodies and vibrations,” says Gorel.

Writing professor Heather Price, for instance, tends to “keep her cool” when reacting to such cell phone interruptions.

“When a phone rings, it’s very obvious. But I think the bigger problem is that when students use their phones in class, I don’t understand where they do it, even if they don’t realize that I know. So, sometimes I’ll call them out on it, and sometimes not—but it does affect their grade,” Price explains.

Nevertheless, some students have managed to get away with making toys out of their cell phones during class.

For senior Joe Moretti the availability and easy access he has to his precious PDA kick in various class settings has been nothing but fun—or, at least, a suitable way to pass the time when boredoms and his attention span dwindles.

Morretti, who always travels with his sidekick as a companion (in a manner similar to how Aladdin’s Jafar wears lago, irritating bird, on his shoulder) has recently found a various amount of ways to amuse himself during those lengthy periods of class time during the course of each week. Luckily enough, he has got to face yet to more problems with annoyed or concerned professors.

“One of my teachers watches me (using his Sidekick) all the time. He just doesn’t care. Until one of my teachers calls me out, I’m not going to stop using it,” Morretti admits.

Still, with all of Moretti’s luck aside, it is one exclusive up to the professors to apply cell phone policies that they feel are suitable for their individual classroom environments.

Until then, it looks like cell phones are just going to keep ringing— whether they do so in the classroom, or in any of the other places throughout Bristol where students might find some suitable cell phone service available to them.

“A sidekick bundles FDA (personal database assistant) functions with internet access and phone service. It has an address book, calendar, ‘to do list,’” etc., and its main function is that it has a keypad accessible to make text-messaging and IM’ing a lot more convenient.

Live Strong: Tulane professor relocates to RWU

Tracy Lenle Features Editor

Never had he dreamt of picking up and moving to New England, especially under the circumstances that so quickly came upon him. Tulane professor of 33 years, Ed Strong, was caught in the fortunate ones to flee New Orleans before the catastrophe of hurricane Katrina swept the city.

With his wife and son, who currently attends Northwestern University, New Orleans escaped to Florida for, what he thought would only be a short trip. But strong winds and rough waters that were devastating the city.

Having spent so much time in the Gulf Coast, Strong was familiar with hurricanes and storm warnings. “You see storms come and you see storms go. Some of the storms you pack up for and you leave and some of them you go to the shelter,” he explained.

It was just days before Tulane was to begin its fall term, with freshman and returning students moving into their dorms, when New Orleans Mayor, Ray Nagin, expressed his grave concern about the quickly approaching hurricane.

“Saturday night [August 27] at about 9 or 10 o’clock the mayor came on TV and said that he’d told him to evacuate the city. This meant that every time was about to get people out of the city for Katrina was there,” Strong recalled.

After first deciding to stay in the city and hope for the best, Mayor Nagin’s advisory warnings and visibly shaken state made Strong rethink his plan. By 4 a.m. Sunday, Strong and his family were packed up, leaving their most precious belongings and heading for Florida.

“We made a brilliant, brilliant move,” Strong proudly explained. “We went down the coast [to avoid all of the traffic] and drove across the coast to the east. It was brilliant because nobody was there, but it meant that we had to go to 350 miles to get to the edge of the storm.”

Although they only had two days worth of clothing and supplies, Strong quickly realized that the city of New Orleans would not be ready for a return until a much later, and undisclosed date.

So what do you in that kind of situation is, well, you start figuring, ‘we aren’t going to be back anytime soon, so now what?’

Concerns of where to temporarily reside plagued the family because Mr. Strong had to live in a state where he could not work. Only Connecticut and Rhode Island were able to grant her the opportunity. Although they weren’t too keen on the summer, after a phone call from a friend in Bristol, a fall in New England seemed imminent.

Strong’s new living situation in Bristol has been a positive one. His wife’s family finished up their home where he has opened his home with welcoming arms.

Through a connection, Strong was able to hand a meeting with Dean Ebrahimpour of the Gabelli School of Business and was immediately offered a teaching position for the semester. Since he arrived, Strong has been pleasantly surprised with his new surroundings. “This place has tremendous appeal,” he explained. “This has been real good for me to keep my head in the right place. I am teaching marketing seminar, the same class that I teach at Tulane...so it worked out.”

The city of New Orleans is slowly being revived and Tulane University plans to reopen its doors on the 17th of January. Although it will pose some problems since his wife will likely remain in Bristol, Strong plans to be in attendance.

But without mixed feelings...

“RWU has a really impressive kind of record... when you consider higher education is a growth industry, RWU is a fantastic success. That’s exciting to see and that’s exciting to be with.”
I see the “bright blue,” and it looks glorious!

Erika Murphy
Herald Staff

As students of Roger Williams University, we have come to know and love our “bright blue” shuttle bus that graciously ferries charter students to and from campus. Not a day goes by that the average student does not see the shuttle somewhere, whether it be around campus or out in Bristol. Along with the trolley, the shuttles are a staple of the RWU community.

The shuttle runs everyday. Monday through Wednesday its hours are from 7:15am to 1:10pm. On Thursdays and Fridays, the shuttle runs from 7:15am to 3:30am. On Saturdays the shuttle runs from 10am to 3:30am and Sundays from 10am to 1:30am. The shuttle has three different routes: the inter-campus, Baypoint/Founders, and Almeida/King Phillip.

After the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, the price of gas skyrocketed, at some points going up close to fifty cents in a span of twenty-four hours. Gas reached its peak in price several weeks ago when the Cumberland Farms station [in Bristol] was $3.46 a gallon. Since then it has come down quite a bit. However, it is still not as cheap as it was before.

In September 2004, the shuttle had 11,800 riders on all of the routes. At the end of September 2005, the number of shuttle riders increased dramatically compared to the previous year, with a total of 27,000 riders. To help accommodate the influx of students taking the shuttle, RWU Public Safety currently has seven full time shuttle drivers along with four part time drivers, and six shuttles in service with another 34-passenger vehicle on the way.

More often “resident commuters” (people who live in off-campus university housing) have come to depend on the shuttle as their means of getting to and from class. Rising gas prices are not the only reason that there appears to be an increase in student usage of the shuttle system.

The parking situation has many students wanting to risk having to fight for a space in the new parking deck. With the new parking regulations, resident commuters are only allowed to park in 3-Jot or the parking deck.

According to Brielle Henry, a Baypoint Resident Assistant, “the shuttle being full and what happens to the students left behind, very specifically. The policy states that when the shuttle is full the riders must wait until the next schedule.” The largest shuttle has a capacity of 34 passengers and we assign that to pertinent shuttle routes. Unfortunately, the over crowding happens once in a while because it is almost impossible to extrapolate as to how many riders we will have at specific times. We realize that on occasion this can pose some difficulties for students meeting with schedules and we have augmented our services accordingly. We have also worked with Student Affairs to ameliorate any issues regarding leaving students behind at the shuttle stops,” he said.

“Our shuttle drivers do a good job parking the stops in a safe and timely fashion. In light of the fact that the safety of our riders is our first and foremost concern, we ask that riders plan accordingly and try to avoid last minute transportation.”

Parking issues don’t end at campus for Almeidians

Beth Kleinman
Herald Staff

It is 5 a.m. and the rain is pouring down. Exhausted RWU senior Nicole Karam is returning home to her Almeida residence hall. Karam had parked her car in the nearby fire lane, a place to park. Finding none, and eventually giving up, she creates her own spot next to the fire lane.

It is 10 a.m. The next morning and Karam is returning to her car to head to class. She frantically searches the lot, confused, because her car is not where she remembers parking it. She had arisen from her few hours of sleep only to find that her car was not there; it had been towed because Karam had parked in a fire lane.

Most RWU students could agree that parking on campus is no easy task, but what about parking at off-campus housing? The Housing Department on top floor of Almeida Hall, one of the university’s off-campus housing complexes, seems to be rising to the same level as an issue.

This semester, there are 310 Almeida housing residents. There are only 284 parking spaces. These numbers might be appealing at first reaction; however according to Public Safety, there are only 256 active permits for Almeida residents.

This means that 256 students living at Almeida have registered and paid for a purple parking permit. These numbers considered, there should technically be 28 parking spaces still available at Almeida.

Tobin says that cars will be towed if the vehicles are parked in a fire lane, in order to ensure that emergency vehicles can enter the complex. “We have always enforced parking bans in critical areas at Almeida such as fire lanes and blocked dumpsters.”

She continued to mention that any vehicle that has been ticketed 3 times will get a boot, in order to determine the owner. Starting last week, Public Safety has been enforcing parking bans in critical areas at Almeida with no permit at all. Tobin also informed that about 30 tickets have been issued so far this semester at Almeida housing. “Once it’s been determined who belongs there, we should have more available space up there,” she stated.

What is the reason for this sudden lack of parking spaces, and what is to be done about it? Last year there were 290 total residents living at Almeida. Compared to the 310 this year. The design occupancy for Almeida is 306. Last year before housing lottery, students were offered a chance to “superize” their Almeida apartments. If a resident volunteered to make his/her bedroom a triple instead of RWU’s standard 2.

Student Affairs and the Housing Department at RWU, said that he never had a problem last year trying to find a parking spot. However, this year, Schwab stated that he has to park far away from his room at least twice a week.

RWU senior Dustin Lombardi, who lives in the Almeida Hall, explained that people have to park on the grass at Almeida all of the time. “I’ve had to go home and park on the grass,” he lamented.

Eager students wait to board the shuttle to take them to their respective dorms

Kate Tobin, Transportation and Parking Coordinator of Public Safety at RWU said, “We have received complaints from frustrated students who return after 11 p.m. and cannot find a spot.”

Karam experienced these frustrations first hand when her car got towed. She had to pay $85 to retrieve her towed car, on top of a $35 parking ticket. When she called Public Safety for a ride to her car, she was told to catch a taxi.

“Why don’t I just waste more money on a taxi on top of my $35 ticket and $85 towing?” exclaimed an angry Karam.

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Ben Schwartz, an Almeida resident and senior at RWU, said that he never had a problem last year trying to find a parking spot. However, this year, Schwartz stated that he has to park far away from his room at least twice a week.

RWU senior Dustin Lombardi, who lives in the Almeida Hall, explained that people have to park on the grass at Almeida all of the time. “I’ve had to go home and park on the grass,” he lamented.

Plans to add more parking spaces at Almeida are moving forward, said Director of Housing at Roger Williams, Tony Montefusco, who explained that the additional spaces could be coming within a few weeks. Clearing some of the grassy areas behind the Almeida townhouses has been considered in order to add more parking spots. This would yield at least six new parking spaces for Almeida. Though this is a large number, it would help improve the situation. “I hope we’ll be adding some more spaces,” Montefusco commented, while explaining that parking at Almeida right now is “just tight.”

Though the Housing Department at RWU is not in charge of the parking situation, it tries to work together with Public Safety as much as possible. The Department of Housing can sometimes recognize certain needs of the students and it can make suggestions to Public Safety about those needs. It is a “joint effort,” explained Montefusco.

Tobin suggests to the frustrated residents of Almeida, to park on campus, at J lot, and take the shuttle back to Almeida. She also suggests the shuttle for main campus residents who are going to visit friends at Almeida. As for non RWU students, Tobin suggests that “visitors should still come to campus and receive a parking ticket. But we hope that visiting should encourage their guests to park on campus and take the shuttle to Almeida.”
**Ramadan: a month of fasting**

Fatima Ghadain
Herald Staff

The month of Ramadan is the one in which the Qu'ran was sent down, a guidance for mankind, clear proofs for the guidance, the criterion: so whoever amongst you witnesses this month, let him fast it. (C. Surah al-Baqarah 2:185)

Have you heard of people fasting on campus this month? There are about 30 students and faculty celebrating Ramadan at RWU this year.

Ramadan is the holy month for Muslims. It is one a year, every ninth month, following the lunar calendar. Each month begins with the sighting of the new moon, which explains why Islamic holidays occur at different times of the year.

Ramadan is a month of blessing, the time when Allah revealed the first verses of the Qu'ran, the holy book of Islam.

During Ramadan, Muslims fast - they eat or drink nothing from sunrise to sunset. Usually the family gathers around Suhoor, a meal eaten before the sun rises, and Iftar, a meal eaten after the sun sets to break the fast.

“Ramadan, for me, is usually a holy month of fasting and praying and special family gathering with highly special food Harira and Moroccan sweets,” says Ouabda Ziani, a junior Moroccan PLUS student.

The main purposes of Ramadan is to feel the suffering of the poor while hungry and thirsty, to practice self-control, and to cleanse the soul.

Ramadan is during this month.

OP-ED: *Crisis in Darfur*

Mackenzie Miller, class of 2009

Imagine living in a place where your life is threatened, your home has been destroyed, and you are forced to flee to a neighboring country. Although this scenario is a reality for millions of Sudanese, many Americans know little to nothing about the crisis in Darfur, a region of western Sudan.

I myself was also ignorant to the violence and destruction until a few months ago. I had heard about Sudan before this summer, but it was not until I attended a benefit for the woman of Rwanda that I truly understood the severity of the crisis.

As the eyes-opening experience and stories of genocide in Rwanda I knew I had to get involved in helping the people of Darfur. My goal with this article is to inform students and faculty of the conditions in Darfur and hopefully provoke you to get involved.

The violence, rape, and starvation in Darfur result from government-sponsored militias, known as Janjaweed, who are clearing out areas considered to be destroyable to the Sudanese government. The inhumane and destractive Janjaweed movement has been an ongoing issue since 2003. Over 400,000 people have died during the crisis.

Although the U.N. has not declared a state of genocide in Darfur, the U.S. Congress and President Bush have declared the situation genocidal.

Genocide is defined as the systematic killing of all people in a national, ethnic, or religious group. If you are not familiar with the Rwandan genocide, I recommend that you watch the film “Hotel Rwanda.”

After learning about the crisis in Darfur it was obvious to me that something needed to be done. Public awareness became a key factor in prompting action so I decided to participate in the International Solidarity Fast for Darfur. On October 6, people in from over twenty countries came together to participate by giving up either a meal or a luxury good for the day.

The fast was started by STAND (Students Taking Action Now; Darfur) and other organizations worldwide. There were many notable fasters including Bill Cosby, Bette Midler, and Ben Jelen.

The fast was an excellent way to become personally involved and allowed me to realize that I take commodities such as food, shelter and safety for granted. I personally, gave up two meals and donated to World Vision which is a non-profit organization I am familiar with.

I am a college student so I was not able to donate a lot of money, but I gave what was better than nothing.

The fast, website listed several organizations recommended for donations; if you would like to find out more about the fast you can go to the official Web site (www.darfurfast.org).

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved with the crisis in Darfur. The Save Darfur Web site (www.savdarfur.org) is a good place to find a variety of ways to help. Now that you are informed of how dire the current situation is, I urge you to take action because there is too late for the people of Darfur.

RWU Student Senate

Meetings

Monday 6:30 p.m.

Student Senate Chambers
Upper Level Rec. Center

(Meetings Open to Everyone)
Clumsy leather CD booklets, and fragile portable disc players are a thing of the past. Instead, small white sound buds can now be seen in the ears of music lovers all over the world, but the other end of the cord lays the real mystery.

Several years ago, a music player and storage device small enough to slide into a pocket or clip onto a belt would have been laughed off as an impossible invention. Today, companies such as Apple Computer Inc., the creator of the iPod and iTunes, have this technology to thank for great success in the portable music market.

The iPod has grown into the most popularly used music player in existence, and it is constantly redesigned with new technology.

History was made on October 11th, 2005, when Apple proudly announced and unveiled its finalized line of fifth generation iPods, presenting unprecedented video capabilities, unmatched battery life, and higher storage capacities.

The new iPods followed the release of the incredibly innovative iPod Nano at the end of the summer. In either white or black, customers can choose between a 30GB or 60GB hard drive. All of the fifth generation iPods, including the 2GB and 4GB Nano, have the capabilities of playing music and storing and viewing photographs. The feature that received the most hype from enthusiasts of portable music devices, however, was the new ability to play video on the two larger models. The wider screen and higher resolution allows for crystal clear video to accompany the iPod’s already notable sound quality.

Apple’s portable music market is in constant motion, capturing a wider range of customers through the steady release of new innovative technologies. It is not just inventors and designers creating these products, it is the customers who use them. Their ideas and needs prompt Apple and other electronics companies to manufacture new products every day.

Just like the creation of iPods and other portable music players, the music industry is relentlessly progressing. Many musicians and entertainment industry professionals have shared mixed opinions about MP3 technology, and the endless ability of listeners to steal music. The concern is that CDs can be borrowed and loaded onto any computer and then put on MP3 players, preventing customers from purchasing music in stores.

Companies such as Apple and Microsoft have participated in an ongoing effort to avoid music theft by designing user-friendly software for computer owners, especially consumers of the iPod and other MP3 players.

Apple’s product, iTunes, comes standard on all Macintosh computers and is available for Windows users through a free download. These programs allow for the storage and organization of music files, and provide links to online music stores where full CDs and individual songs can be purchased.

Despite widespread resentment throughout the music industry, many musicians do see a brighter side to current technology.

Products like the iPod open up the ears of many listeners to new genres of music that they may have never heard or been interested in. With nearly unlimited storage capabilities, people no longer have to worry about piles of jewel case CDs, or spending too much money on potentially unsatisfying music. Close-mindedness has lost its place in music, because many of the excuses originally used to avoid new music styles are no longer legitimate. Although CD sales may have experienced a steady decrease following the creation of MP3 technology, concert sales went up.

With the trend of people who didn’t mind filling up a few megabytes and experimenting with newly suggested music have been flocking to concerts in support of bands once considered to be underground artists. Both the fans and bands have technology to thank for this newfound relationship.
All dressed up and no place to go...but the Ritz

Anga Melitsky
Herald Staff

Wannabe New Yorkers gathered in the Field House to pay homage to New York's Ritz Hotel last Saturday night for RWU's 2nd annual Homecoming dance.

Among the 400 guests were students of all classes, some accompanied by their families. However, all were dressed to the nines. With specially decorated table clothes and roses strewn across them, the atmosphere was nothing short of extravagant. "There was a lot more that went into the decorations and planning this year," Becky Riepold, the Assistant Director of Student Programs and Leadership stated. "We spent two days decorating for it, all day Friday and half of Saturday, so it turned out really well!"

Junior Al Borel, a Mr. RWU candidate, earlier that day, they were able to share their first dance that night at the "Ritz."

This year's dance was a highlight for students and families as the guest list was vastly larger than the previous [and so on ...]

Sony Vice President Makes RWU High-Def

Timothy Mannion
Editor

As a 1993 graduate of Roger Williams University, Timothy Baxter, never would have expected that he would be returning as a guest speaker for the "Distinguished Leader Lecture Series" and discussing his current position of Senior Vice President of Strategic Marketing for the Sony Corporation of America.

During his first semester at RWU back in '83 Baxter had a severe battle with mono. Fast-forward 21 years and he is fighting yet again. But this time his fight isn't with his sickness, but with online entertainment competitors. And as of today, he is on the winning side.

Baxter's position holds so much credibility that even the strongest geeks will find it hard not to have their knees. His lecture, titled "Embracing Change at Sony," was the opening event for Homecoming and Family weekend and his background with RWU made him a terrify choice.

As a result of RWU education helped me in several areas of life. It gave me an opportunity to mature and a develop a sense of responsibility, while still having the time of my life, and I was able to integrate the academics with my internship experience and apply it in the "real world," Baxter explained.

While Baxter brought with him a very Sony-fed atmosphere. A powerpoint presentation with plans for the next generation of Sony products was shown across the projector, something he's extremely passionate and excited about.

As a result of the night's success, many students and administrators alike would like to see Casino Nights held in the future.

"Everyone's a good atmosphere here," says Cato. "I'd like to see this happen a couple of times a year."

"This is a great idea for students and families; it's laid back and fun," said John Lindsay, Associate Director of Student Programs and Leadership, and co-chair of Casino Night. "This could be an annual event."

"It's nice having this flow right up into Midnight Madness," said the other co-chair, Assistant Director of Athletics Mike Gallagher. "It seems to be more popular. This will happen again next year, and it will become an annual event."

Sony continues to dominate the gaming industry. The PS3 has state-of-the-art technology incorporating the new cell processor for an unrivaled entertainment experience. It will deliver more quality graphics and a processor that is over ten times faster than the PS2. Plus it will have the next generation blue-ray capability to watch HD movies.

While Sony is busy creating, the public is anxiously waiting. The next generation of products is no longer geared to the future, it's here.

"Sony is clearly at a crossroads. It is a company moving from the analog age to the digital age. We are battling existing and new competitors while maintaining our focus on improving profitability in the fiercely competitive market. We have an unrivaled brand to go along with a wealth of assets in the music, gaming, and movie industry. Our focus will be on positioning ourselves for the exciting and challenging world of convergence. It will be exciting to see it play out."
Homecoming & Family Weekend

Photographs by Danielle Ameden
October 21-23, 2005
Christopher Parish
Sports Editor

As part of the weekend’s homecoming activities, the RWU men’s and women’s cross country teams took a break from intercollegiate competition to race the alumni in a friendly 5K at Colt State Park on Saturday.

The run, dubbed the “Hawk Walk,” was run on the women’s regular course and was run coed, rather than separately as in most races.

Despite the cold and drizzly conditions, a strong turnout attended the race with many alumni from the past few years. 2005 graduate Allison Belanger attended the race but did not run.

Other members in attendance included former captains J.J. Prunr and Steve Goffredo on the men’s side and Diane Leith and many famous women’s alumni.

\[...\]

Members of the Cross Country team prepare for the 5K “Hawk Walk”

RWU’s 1st Hawk Walk!

Christopher Parish
Sports Editor

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\[...\]
Becoming “civil” at Roger Williams

Katrina Carrey
Field Staff

RWU President Roy J. Nirschel sent a letter to the university community on Oct. 14, announcing the second Reason and Respect: A Journal for Civil Discourse, that is published on the university’s website: “Universities such as ours must be places where dialogue and discourse, especially on controversial issues, should be the norm. Civility, reason, and respect are equally important when engaged in such discourse,” stated Nirschel in the letter. The editors of the journal are all RWU faculty members with diverse backgrounds and experience. Dr. Kate Mele, editor and professor in the Department of Writing Studies; Bob Engvall, associate editor and professor in the School of Justice Studies; and Roxanne O’Connell, associate editor and professor in the Department of Communications and Graphic Design, are the trio that publish the journal. Uniquely, the Journal For Civil Discourse at RWU publishes undergraduate and graduate student writing. Other colleges publish undergraduate literary magazines, but according to Mele, “a scholarly journal is rare.”

A JOURNAL OF CIVIL DISCOURSE AT ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

“Three people are very pleased that so many students submitted work for this issue, and work of publishable quality.”

The overall theme of the journal for the fall semester was “The Great Divide.” When the first issue of the journal was released its main focus was on race relations in America. The Fall 2005 issue is focused on tolerance. All of the entries are a variety of scholarly, analytical and argumentative essays. They are formally researched with a 3,000 word limit. The journal also publishes book reviews, which are held to maximum of 1,500 words.

“We tend to view the works of speakers who have been on campus; however, we would be interested in reviews of any book or movie that addresses the theme for any given issue,” says Mele.

The journal is closely linked to the Civil Discourse Lecture Series that took place on campus in Spring 2005. Both the journal and speaker series are concentrated with discussing “The Great Divide” and its sub-themes, “reasonably and respectfully.”

“reason

We hope that the speakers’ series inspires members of the community to write about what they hear at the lectures. And that has been the case so far. In the current issue of the journal we have a number of essays that reflect on such recent speakers as Gary Bauer, Salman Rushdie, and Nan Levinson,” says Mele.

Unfortunately, many students at RWU are unaware of the scholarly journal.

October brings PINK back 'til spring

Tracy Lemle
Features Editor

With October again upon us, most people, true to form, pull out the usual Halloween colors, orange and black. But, one color has maintained its position in this cold dreary month—famously pink.

The month of October allows the color one more chance to shine and help support the victims of breast cancer. The month has been designated by the American Cancer Society’s 10th year hosting the breast cancer awareness campaign “October brings PINK back ‘til spring.”

The American Cancer Society’s “PINK” campaign is one of the most widely recognized breast cancer crusades. Other campaigns include the MAM Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, which donates $50-cents for each 21.3oz bag sold, and proceeds from even for every 14oz bag sold. Avon and Victoria Secret’s “PINK” campaign are just two others that are constant supporters of breast cancer research every year.

Other means of raising money for the cause include the annual “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk,” hosted by the American Cancer Society.

Last year, 8,000 participants raised nearly $629,000 for the cause. The money went to furthering breast cancer research, early detection, patient education and services in Rhode Island.

More than a week of rain, the sun came out to greet the thousands of walkers dedicated to the fight against breast cancer,” said Jim Beardsworth, Society spokesman. “The 10th anniversary event was a tremendous success thanks to the support and hard work of so many. The American Cancer Society congratulates everyone who took part.”

Following the walk, breast cancer survivor Deanne Fonteit of Greenville was presented with the Terese Lasser Award for her volunteer work with the Reach to Recovery program. Reach to Recovery is a peer-based support group for women with breast cancer orchestrated by the American Cancer Society.

This year participants helped to promote $45 million increase in government funding by signing a petition and a banner to show their support for the cause, in the hopes of gaining more awareness from Congress.

The American Cancer Society claims that by being physically active, consuming a healthy diet, reducing alcohol intake, maintaining a healthy body weight, and not smoking, women will help reduce their chances of being diagnosed by the disease.

None of these “remedies,” however, will guarantee a cancer-free life.

With more awareness and taking the appropriate precautions, women will have the chance to either avoid or recover from this often-fatal disease that will plague a staggering 1,000 women this year.

With every step, walk, donation received, and pink product purchased, we are one step closer to cure.
Lynn Kent: Tales from the Crypt

Tracy Lemle
Features Editor

Tucked somewhere between life on Earth and the spirit world, lies Lynn Kent, Warren’s own afterlife Spirit Communicator.

“I talk to dead people. That is exactly what I do,” Kent explained. “I prove the continuity of life.”

Kent, who has been practicing her spirit communication for the past seven years, knew that she would soon be thrust into the spotlight. “Spirit kept telling me I was going to be able to communicate with the dead.”

As a professional Medium, Kent connects the spiritual world, those who are now at a “higher level” than all humans still living on this “Earth plane.” Through her work, she is able to change the minds of people who believe it is impossible to converse with those “on the spirit side,” by proving to her clients that she can, in fact, reach loved ones through divine services.

Starting from a young age, Kent learned of the sixth sense from her grandmother. Her family believed that Kent’s deceased grandfather came back to tell her that he was “OK” by sending a white dove to her grandmother in the middle of the night. “I was very lucky, I was always (and still am) supported by my family.”

After years of belief system, Kent finally realized — with the spirits also informing her of the urgency — it was time to get licensed. She went through mail courses, affidavits, and spoke in front of a board to become an Ordained Minister of Spiritualism through the National Spiritualist Association of Churches. In addition to her personal business, for the past three years Kent has been a full-time Medium at Kent Spiritual Center in Warren.

In her quaint office of only three rooms, Kent provides services that range from contacting deceased loved ones to looking towards the future with the use of her crystal ball. “All mediums have psychic abilities and all psychics have medium abilities as well,” Kent explained.

Although some tend to be skeptics, Kent is confident in her abilities and believes that she can contact any spirit that needs to convey a message to their living loved one. “People are used to working with tangible things (not energy), things they can touch, feel, and see, so if they can’t see it, they don’t believe it... but spirits are energy and they work with energy” which fosters this disbelief.

Kent and her husband [who is an extremely instrumental in the pursuit of her gift] met at a Spiritualist church several years ago. “I believe spirit put my husband and me together. [Meeting him] proved what I already knew was happening. Spirit gave me information... and I started to see it prove itself. I was really happy with it.”

Without her husband, who runs the technical and business end of the operation, Kent would not be able to provide the services that have proven to be so effective. “I believe that there’s a universal source out there that wants me to do what I’m doing. I’m not right in the middle, I’m just driving the bus.”

Between her father getting it and their new grandson (that is now on this Earth plane), Kent has only had four clients so far. “That wasn’t enough; the woman needed more proof.”

Although it is at the spirit’s discretion as to how much information is relayed to the Medium, sometimes a perfect image will come through. In this case, a very clear sign was being conveyed when Kent started to him a tune [that the spirits were singing in her ear]. The tune was the Doctor Zhivago theme song, and immediately after hearing it, the client burst into tears.

“My parents danced to that song at their wedding and it was their favorite!” the woman shrieked. Apparently, before her father died, he forced Kent’s client to purchase a music box with the Doctor Zhivago theme. At that moment, the woman was convinced of human life being able to connect with the spirit world.

Readings like this are testament that good to me,” she said. “They send me people in need, people who want to believe.”

Although “trust in the unseen is harder for people to accept,” signs like Doctor Zhivago convince clients of the validity of spiritual contact and have them wanting to continue to communicate with their loved ones.

After seven years of practicing, Kent has only had four clients whose energy she could not contact. “Spirit comes to us in any way they can... they let you know they’re around... and although they try, we don’t always hear them.”

But Kent certainly has. Although the spirits kept saying that she would be in the newspaper, Kent told them that it just wasn’t the right time. Between her father getting sick and dealing with her mother and various doctors, and her new grandson (that is now on this “Earth plane”), Kent was too busy to think about a newspaper, until a few weeks ago when she was contacted for an interview. “It would have been hard to sit down a do an interview until this time,” Kent said.

“Since spirit tells me something, I listen.”

O’Donovan: makes 1st trip to RWU campus
continued from p. 13

O’Brien revealed. “Podcasting is the ultimate de-centralized way of communicating.”

The lecture was a success. Students and professors alike enjoyed the presentation and appreciated the insights about podcasting.

The lecture was a success. Students and professors alike enjoyed the presentation and appreciated the insights about podcasting.
A crash shuts down the side of the house. The pale glow of the moon at twilight. The sounds of the unknown impending deep from within the wood. When these frights start making a bump in the night, you know that Halloween is approaching. Now that we are almost ready for All Hallow's Eve, what better way to celebrate the spooks then with a fright night of films? Like most holidays, there are films that make great companions in celebrating the season, but Halloween is the only one where horrors, Sci-Fi's, thrillers, suspense, and even animated movies all come together to make Halloween complete. But where does one start in finding the perfect movie of thrills and chills? Here is a list of the ten top films from several genres that will turn your Halloween from bland to bloodcurdling. So sit back, turn the lights off, and let the nightmares begin...

5. House of Frankenstein
"House of Frankenstein" (1936): Having trouble deciding what monster movie to mangle? Try all three! This is where the big three monsters (Count Dracula, Frankenstein's monster, and the Wolf man) all come together to form a tight story with bite, as a mad scientist exhibits Dracula and company to create triple the terror for all of Transylvania.

If you like this...
Go for Hugh Jackman in "Van Helsing" (2004). Although you get more originality with House of Frankenstein, Van Helsing gives it a modern spin starting Americas favorite mutant!

4. The Day The Earth Stood Still
"The Day The Earth Stood Still" (1951): A film about a mysterious force terrorizing a city and the mass panic the citizens exhibit in its aftermath. Although it may sound like a typical sci-fi suspense, the film's undertone is particularly relevant in a post-9/11 world. A great performance from the actors in the film, but the alien-robot definitely steals the show!

If you like this...
Definitely take a look at Mel Gibson's recent alien horror hit "Signs" (2002). You get the alien, scared little kids, Mel Gibson, and the great direction by the master of surprise endings M. Night Shyamalan (director of "The Sixth Sense").

3. Mad Monster Party
"Mad Monster Party" (1967): What would a holiday be without your cartoon specials? This relatively unknown claymation hit is truly the pre-cursor to what influenced Tim Burton's "The Nightmare Before Christmas." Produced by the same studio that brought the "Rudolph" and "Frosty" Christmas specials, it tells the story of what the classic creatures (invisible man, mummy, Dracula, etc) do on the 31st of October.

If you like this...
Go for the famous "It's the great pumpkin, Charlie Brown" (1966), another staple in holiday animated specials, showing how the peanuts gang spend there Halloween (oh and did I forget to mention Linus and the great pumpkin?)

2. The Birds
"The Birds" (1963): This Alfred Hitchcock classic goes beyond the over watched "Psycho" as the director tries his hand at the freaks-n-creatures genre. Once again, set in sunny California, the birds shows you just why you want to get pecked to death.

If you like this...
Try a movie by Stephen King's tortured mind! For best scares (and a storyline attached) go for "Christine" (1983) about a murder machine with a mind of its own...

And the best films for Halloween night:

1. Halloween H20
"Halloween H20": If you're sick of seeing Jamie Lee Curtis running from her nasty big brother, take heart. This time it's Halloween: The Next Generation as we have her in the witness protection program with her son (played by a then-young Josh Hartnett) as the murderous Michael Myers terrorizes a private school (do you think class will be cancelled?)

If you like this...
there are a world of other modern fright films out there from the vampire hunting adventures of "BLADE" (1998), the ghostly haunting of "THE RING" (2002), to the foreboding face-off of "Freddy VS. Jason." (2003) So go to your video store and get spooked movie buffs... if you dare...
Identity theft: the latest problem to hit RWU

Kathleen Curran
Herald Staff

The Internet is a dangerous place. The notion that you can surf the web safely in the comforts of your own home has been thrown out the window due to the recent increase in identity theft scandals and the looming threat of your personal blogs floating in cyberspace forever. No one is safe, especially college campuses, which hold an ever-increasing supply of personal, and sometimes damaging information, disclosed mostly by the students themselves.

RWU has taken steps to protect students, faculty, and administration from the harmful effects of identity theft, which allow hackers to steal information from anyone who posts on the web.

Phishing scams seem to be one of the biggest concerns. A Phishing scam occurs when an e-mail is sent to a user that falsely claims to be a valid business or corporation and trick the user into giving information that can be used to steal identity.

According to Joe Pangborn, Chief Information Officer of the Information Technology Department (IT), RWU issued a new system on the Internet server that will help prevent some of the major problems dealt with identity theft.

“What we’ve done (IT) to try and protect the University community is eliminating this kind of thing because a lot of Phishing scams come through emails. We have an appliance that we put in a couple of years ago that sits in front of our e-mail servers and basically looks for known spam and tries to get rid of it.”

There are three steps the appliance takes to prevent outside sources from corrupting the server:

• Three Black Lists of known spammers are checked by the appliance to see if any names are familiar.

• The next stage looks at a number of criteria. The number of pictures in the e-mail, whether the e-mail has various levels of fonts, whether it is written in html or plain text, and whether or not it has different colored contents inside. The appliance will rate each of these criteria and give it a number or score on a scale of 1-9.

• The final step adds up the scores. If the score is higher than 9, the e-mail is given a tag and the user is able to decide what he or she wants to do with it. A tagged e-mail is possible spam and the user can delete it, put it in a folder etc. The tags are useful because some e-mails that people receive may have a lot of pictures or colorful fonts and are not spam.

The appliance also uses a several-layered approach that looks for spam and runs anti-virus. All incoming first passes through McAfee, the e-mail server then runs Clam AV. Students, faculty, and administration were all given Norton anti-virus to run on their personal computers.

While this appliance protects against e-mail born viruses and attempts to hack into University e-mail accounts, it is only useful for the RWU e-mail accounts. All other accounts and information are at the mercy of Internet users.

“In terms of identity theft, it is very difficult to protect users from identity theft because most of it is a lot of common sense. The best thing we can do is [spread] awareness. Just yesterday something showed up in my e-mail box from PayPal. It said ‘your PayPal account needs verification.’ No legitimate or financial organization will ever send you an e-mail asking you for account information. Most people don’t know that so people will go [online], see something and give their bank account number and/or personal information.”

According to the Identity Theft Resource Center Web site, a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing identity theft scandals, a Harris Interactive and Gardner Study concluded that there were 7 million victims between June 2002-2003. The study showed a 25% increase in this crime between 2003 and 2005.

Blogs pose another problem. They allow users to post all kinds of information on the web at the risk of anyone having the ability to read it.

With the recent increase in popularity of websites such as “The Facebook” and “MySpace,” college and even high school students are putting themselves at risk.

What many don’t understand is that literally anyone can read the personal information they post.

Business employees have gotten into trouble in the past for things they have said online or opinions they have posted on a personal website. Unfortunately, there is no clear solution to this problem.

RWU does not run web content filtering because it interferes with research and academic related issues. To censor websites like “The Facebook” or personal websites could interfere with the academic community on campus.

The only way to prevent students from falling into an Internet pitfall is to make them more aware of the consequences. According to an article in The Boston Globe, Tufts University advised their incoming freshman at orientation to leave out personal information such as dorm room numbers and class schedules.

According to the Federal Citizen Information Center website, there are a number of ways to prevent information from being stolen:

• Do not give out your Social Security number to people or companies that you do not know.

• Before disclosing any personal information, make sure you know why it is required and how it will be used.

• Shred information you no longer need that contains personally identifiable information and account numbers.

• Keep the personal information you have at home and at work in a safe place.

• Do not carry extra credit cards, your birth certificate or passport, or other cards that display your Social Security number in your wallet or purse, except when necessary.

• Create unique passwords and personal identification numbers (PINs) and avoid using easily available information such as mother’s maiden name, date of birth, or the last four digits of your Social Security number.

• Use passwords on your banking and brokerage accounts.

• Get a copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit reporting agencies at least once a year. Review the reports to be sure no one else is using your identity to open new accounts or to use your existing accounts.

www.public.gov

Good vs-Evil Halloween Bash
Sat. Oct. 29th

Get your Topside Party card at Topside on either Wing Nite and enjoy these great specials:

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$4 Coors Lite pitchers all the time!

Monday & Wednesday - 20¢ Wings Nites 7-9 p.m.
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Friday - $5.00 cover for Live Bands ($2 discount off for cardholder & date - show'm the card)
Special Late Night Menu available Friday & Saturday Nights only 9-1
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Bacardi Drink Specials - come see the Bacardi Girls!!
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$4 Coors Lite pitchers all the time!

Watch for specials that you can only get with the Topside Party Card!

Under 21 Welcomes until 9 p.m.
What's the number for room service?

Truel Harris
Herald Staff

The quality of your life can only enhance the quality of your education, and at Roger Williams University we'll do everything we can to make sure that this is a place you'll be glad to call home.

Dr. Maguire also noted that the RWU housing department needs to get their act together, as other colleges around the area are putting them to shame.

- Truel Harris, Herald Staff

College life: the healthy way to eat

Lindsey Richard
Herald Staff

Can healthy eating and college life go together? Of course, says Ann Litt, author of The College Students Guide to Eating Well on Campus and Fuel for Young Athletes.

The Washington, D.C.-based nutritionist spoke to RWU students on Oct. 19 in the Student Union, and posed some valuable suggestions for the college student trying to avoid the "freshman 15."

Litt has counseled the Washington Redskins, served for several media campaigns — including the "Got Milk?" campaign — and has visited more than 60 campuses in the past two years.

Going to college is tough on its own, but in order to maintain a healthy weight is another issue. College students usually gain weight due to their busy schedules. So many choices plague them on what to eat, and they are not to be cut out along with drinking -- whether it be alcoholic or not, and munching on that snack food.

According to Litt, the way to lose the freshman 15 is to choose the easiest, choose what is filling. Get all your food groups in, making sure you eat your fruits and vegetables with each meal.

Some last words from Litt: carbs fuel you, protein and training build muscles. Do not pig out, pay more attention to what you eat, and fluids are the most important nutrient. Keep eating!

- Lindsey Richard, Herald Staff

RWU students see the orange when one falls in favor; why not pick one up?

Truel Harris
Herald Staff

If you drop an orange, is it worth picking up? That's what we asked RWU students this week.

- Truel Harris, Herald Staff

We have three children in college in three different states and I have never had any trouble at their colleges for move in day. It seems to me that the RWU housing department needs to get their act together, as other colleges around the area are putting them to shame!

- Terry Maguire, mother of RWU student

The Hawk's Herald· Friday, October 28, 2005
A new tradition begins at RWU
Swimming and Diving makes varsity debut

Continued from p. 1

and diving team are generally weak at the beginning of a season. That was certainly not the case for this team. In the first two events of the day, two school records fell. In all, eight records were broken, setting the bar as high as could be expected.

Athletic Director George Kolb was among the nearly 150 spectators in attendance for the event.

"It was exciting from an administration standpoint," Kolb said. "Hours and hours of work went into this day, particularly from coach O'Brien. Her quality and her coaching and her personality really sped up the process. She has a special ability.

"To have this happen, to see the smiles on the faces of the swimmers... it was a special time."

The meet, which was originally scheduled to be an official varsity meet, was changed to an unofficial scrimmage for several reasons. Not all members of the WIT team were able to attend because the meet conflicted with the school's final vacation. But coach O'Brien and Kolb decided that it would be beneficial to utilize the event as a test run for the new state-of-the-art equipment.

According to Kolb, the presentation went off without a hitch... almost.

"We forgot the CD for the National Anthem," Kolb said with a chuckle. "Julie (O'Brien) decided to have everyone do the Pledge of Allegiance instead. That was interesting; I'd never seen that done before."

"It went well," O'Brien added. "The new timing system worked well, and that was one of the items we wanted to be set with.

The performances by the athletes were just as successful. In all 11 swimmers and three divers won their events, including Rivas, who won the three-meter diving event.

"I felt like I could have done better on a couple of dives," he said. "The first meet of the season is always kind of nerve-wracking for me, especially with a new team in a different state. But I thought I did ok."

According to coach O'Brien, Rivas is one of many freshmen who are helping this team to succeed.

"We had fine performances by everyone, especially our freshmen," she said. "The records that were broken were primarily by freshmen and that helps them build confidence and it helps push the upperclassmen."

The success of the meet has great implications for the future. RWU has been chosen to hold the Commonwealth Coast Conference Invitational on November 16, which is a big deal, Kolb said.

"We have one of the best facilities in the Northeast," he said. "We could have one of the top swimming programs in New England in a couple of years, but no matter how good this program gets, this team got to be a part of this first ever event."

Nearly 150 spectators turned out to watch the first ever varsity swimming and diving meet on Wednesday in the aquatic center. At bottom left and right, RWU divers warm up for the one-meter (right) and three meter events.
Hands across the sea
Former Hawks' big man accepts contract to play in Europe

Christopher Parish
Sports Editor

A former RWU men's basketball player and 2005 graduate has accepted a contract to play in Europe.

Brian Scharrerweber signed a one-year deal with the Liverplool Basketball Club in Division II of the English Basketball year. Scharrerweber has a two-year option on the contract.

In his first game with the team, he scored 12 points and cleaned up the glass with 16 rebounds.

During his time at RWU, Scharrerweber was a co-captain, a second-team All-CCC selection and second all-time in blocked shots at the university with 140, fourth in field goal percentage and sixth all-time in rebounding.

Scharrerweber graduated in May with a double major in Political Science and History and was a member of the RWU Law Fraternity

In his junior year, the 6'9" center from Salisbury, Mass. averaged 12.8 points per game and 6.7 rebounds. He led the conference with 64 blocked shots and was second in the CCC in field goal percentage at 57.7 percent.

RWU coach Mike Tully had nothing but positive things to say about his former player.

"Brian's always been a hard worker," Tully said. "This was one of his goals as soon as last season ended. For him to be playing over there is a testament to how hard he's worked. He's always improving from year to year.

"I think he was the best player we ever had, and that's saying a lot."

Tully’s father, George, said he wishes Scharrerweber the best.

"He's one of my favorite people," Bob said. "Coach Tully and I thought that Brian had the potential to play professionally. I'm pleased that he has tapped into that potential. He'll have an opportunity not just to play but also to experience a new place and culture and life over there. In a lot of ways, his education continues."

In next week's Herald Sports Section...

- Cross Country CCC Championship
- Men's and Women's Soccer CCC Qtrs and Semis
- Women's Volleyball CCC Qtrs

Pick up your copy of the Hawk's Herald on November 4
The homecoming weekend brought a festive air despite the damp conditions on Saturday. At left, Bayside residents offer their cheers for men’s soccer conference MVP. At bottom, one of those candidates, Michael Bray (6) wrestles his way through two New England College defenders for the ball. RWU won the game 3-1 and secured their perfect conference record. The team will host a quarter-final match on Saturday.

Christopher Parish

Roundup: Men’s soccer perfect in Commonwealth

Herald Staff Reports

The women’s soccer team guaranteed a home playoff game with a thrilling overtime win over Colby-Sawyer College. Stephanie Johnson scored the game-winner with just two minutes remaining in the first overtime. Caitlyn Mayo scored the other goal for the Hawks. Meghan Banville and Kaya Leonard split time in goal for the win. The Hawks ended their regular season 10-7 and 8-4 in the CCC.

SATURDAY, 10/22

The squadrant team is currently ranked third in New England after an impressive showing at the University of Connecticut on Saturday.

Meghan Wilkerson earned two first place ribbons and was the High Point Rider in the show. Carolyn Pickett won the Novice Flat event as the Hawks finished second behind UConn.

SATURDAY, 10/22

The women’s soccer team scored just four minutes into the contest and never looked back to earn a 4-0 victory.

Mary da Cunha scored the eventual game-winner. Brittany Taylor, Nicole Gillis and Andrea Ritter recorded the other goals for RWU. Meghan Banville made six saves for the shutout as the Hawks improved to 9-6-0 overall, 7-4 in the CCC.

SATURDAY, 10/22

The women’s volleyball team finally lost on Saturday, dropping both matches to Wesleyan and Coast Guard.

In the first match, the Hawks won the first game 30-24 but dropped the next three, 18-30, 21-30, and 16-30. Erin Carolan notched 10 kills and Ashley O’Keefe had 12 digs.

In the second match, the Hawks had no answer for a Coast Guard team that is one of the best in New England with only three losses to their credit. The Hawks fell in straight games, 21-30, 13-30, 14-30.

SATURDAY, 10/22

The men’s and women’s swimming days had a strong outing in their first official varsity meet on Saturday at Colby Sawyer College. The men earned both their first win and their first loss, beating Colby Sawyer but falling to Keene State College. Justin Leary placed first in the individual medley, second in the 200 yard backstroke, and third in the 200 yard freestyle. Leary’s IM time broke the school record by nearly three seconds. Edson Rivas also won the event, the one-meter dive.

The women fell to both Colby Sawyer and Keene State but had some strong individual performances. Jenny Dill won the 50 yard breaststroke event, and Erin Leonhardt won both the 50 and 100 yard freestyle races.

SATURDAY, 10/22

After a scoreless first half, RWU seniors took over on senior day and propelled the team to a 3-1 victory over the University of New England on Saturday.

Jamiere Perine and seniors Shohei Okubo and Mike Bray scored goals for the Hawks, who secured their perfect record in the conference. Kevin Deegan gave up just his fifth goal this season in the win. Record: 18-5-0.

FRIIDAY, 10/21

Joel Montgomery scored five minutes into the first overtime session to keep the Hawks unbeaten in the conference with a 1-0 victory over Salve Regina.

Kevin Deegan made six stops to preserve the shutout. The Hawks are 11-2-3 and 9-0-0 in the CCC.

THURSDAY, 10/20

The women’s volleyball team can’t seem to lose lately.

Their 13th win in a row came at the hands of Umass-Boston, 30-20, 32-30, 30-23 in Boston. Amy Maurer had 11 kills and six digs. Caroline Smith added 16 kills and Lauren Dunigan had eight.

With the win, the longest streak in team history, the Hawks improve to 18-5.

Case(s) Closed

RWU teams have been very successful, but their trophies remain unseen … until now

Christopher Parish

Sports Editor

Sixteen plaques sit in a pile on top of a cardboard box in the coaches’ offices. Three trophies and a conference championship plaque lie untouched on the cross country coach’s desk. Another plaque sits at the bottom of a locker in the varsity locker room. A very old and rusted cup sits on top of a large filing cabinet.

The awards have been sitting around, collecting dust and multiplying like rabbits with every passing season; a scattered remembrance of the success of RWU teams.

But they won’t be lost relics for long.

A new athletics initiative will add a state-of-the-art trophy case in the building in an attempt to finally show appreciation for the past and future successes of the RWU teams.

Athletic Director George Kolb says that the expense is worth the reward.

“We will have six trophy cases that look like one giant case with different divisions,” said Kolb. “Everybody will be represented. Some teams have had more success and have more of a tradition, but we want everyone’s accolades represented.”

The trophies are expected to be installed in the lower kiosk of the Campus Recreation Center, near the vending machines and the elevator, just before Thanksgiving.

“They might have a veil over them for the week after Thanksgiving,” Kolb said. “But we’re going to have a special ceremony to unveil the trophies before the first men’s basketball game of the year.”

Gathering the plaques, however, will be more of a task than may be anticipated. First-year women’s volleyball coach Brett Stothart doesn’t even know where his team’s trophies are. Men’s basketball coach Mike Tully didn’t seem to be sure either.

“They’re not around,” he said.

Fortunately, wrestling coach and Assistant Athletic Director Dave Venuto keeps inventory of many of the trophies that have been won since the late 1980s. His own team’s plaques and trophies, specifically for All-American and All-New England wrestlers, are often made in groups of three; one for the athlete who won the award, one for display in his office, and one for display in the trophy case.

Kolb says that the new trophies are important to display for past and future athletes to see.

“We need them so that alumni and parents, current students and prospective students can all see the success that our teams have had,” Kolb said. “Even with a young school, there are so many plaques and trophies that we may not be able to fit them all.”

The trophy cases are just one in a series of projects designed to give the Rec Center a certain allure. A Hall of Fame is in the works, as are action photos and team photos.

But in the meantime, the 2003 CCC men’s soccer runner-up plaque will be homeless in its resting place next to the desks in the Athletic Administration office, right next to two trophies, two trophy plates, and four equestrian ribbons.