President Ladner was fired on October 10, 2005. Almost a decade earlier, Adelphi University’s President Peter Diamandopoulos was fired after living in a $1.2 million Manhattan apartment, while his university’s finances were seen as less than stable. Another example is former President Kenneth Keller of the University of Minnesota, who in 1988 quit after a public outcry over spending more than $1 million in kitchen and dining room renovations.

While the excessive charging of personal and traveling expenses to a university has been evident in the past decades, the surplus of Ladner’s spending has once again raised questions of presidential ethics, need for proper governance in the higher education system, and compensation.

Unethical presidential behavior is an issue drawing more media attention nationwide. RWU President Roy J. Nirschel said there must be good governance in higher education.

Notable Presidential Scandals

- **Hillsdale College, George Roche** (Alleged affair with daughter-in-law on payroll)
- **Stanford U., Donald Kennedy** (4, 000 sheets)
- **Townson U., Mark Perkins** ($60,000 house renovation)
- **Central Florida, Steven Altman** (Massages while traveling on university business)

“A president must have an ethical compass to differentiate between running up legitimate expenses versus blatant stealing from the university,” said President Nirschel.

Sometimes presidents and trustees become friendly; they may move in the same social circles, and this is where the lines become blurred. At our university, I respect the board members, but we are not used an escort service.

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**Traveling to Bristol bars can be risky business**

Kaitlin Curran
Herald Staff

Bars in downtown Bristol such as Gillary’s, Judge Roy Bean’s Saloon or Topside are just out of walking distance for most students. Unfortunately, that means students looking to enjoy the Bristol nightlife better have a designated driver or a few extra bucks for a taxi. As far as the university is concerned, those students are on their own.

According to John King, Vice President of Student Affairs, “Public Safety can’t accommodate requests from students in Newport, downtown Bristol or Providence seeking rides home after a night out. The officers and vehicles are needed on campus and have regular patrol responsibilities for our properties.”

It doesn’t look like the University is making plans to offer such a service to students either.

“The University has no plans to set up a ride service to provide transportation to or from local bars for individual students,” says King. “Once students or any citizen reaches the legal age for obtaining alcohol service, they have a duty to drink responsibly and within the limits of the law.”

Despite the university’s decision, some students feel differently.

“I think that the school is so close to University, as he hosted his son’s lavish engagement party, while sending the bill to the university. The party’s expenses were just one of President Ladner’s accumulated half-million dollars paid by the university over the past three years, leaving ample room for questioning by American University’s board of trustees, students, and professors.

President Ladner was fired on October 10, 2005. Almost a decade earlier, Adelphi University’s President Peter Diamandopoulos was fired after living in a $1.2 million Manhattan apartment, while his university’s finances were seen as less than stable. Another example is former President Kenneth Keller of the University of Minnesota, who in 1988 quit after a public outcry over spending more than $1 million in kitchen and dining room renovations.

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“I think that the school is so close to
"From Bayside, with Love"

"I eat finals for breakfast"

I used to run track. My race was the 400-meter dash, which is basically a sprint once around the track.

For those of you unfamiliar with this race, it’s revered as one of the most grueling events at any track meet. Why? Because during the home stretch (the last 50 meters) your lungs begin to burn, your extremities start to tingle from lack of oxygen, muscle catabolism may occur, and the craziest part of all, you feel like you’re still running as fast as you can but you’re really only moving at about 40% of your top speed.

I hated that race, but I do miss one thing about it. The feeling I got when I won, all the pain and pre-race stress seemed more than worth it.

The only situation in my life I can compare to the 400-meter dash is the last few weeks of the semester. We’re in the home stretch, running on empty, bloodshot eyes, sick with laryngitis and unable to speak, physically drained, sleeping in only power-nap form, stressing about the workload...

OUR PETS HEADS ARE FALLIN’ OFF!

Last year I wrote that we don’t really get the month of January off for break, we actually just have to cram the entire month of January’s workload into the next two weeks. I’m sticking to that theory. This can be a very intense and lifestyle-altering time in many a student’s life, and it’s interesting to note the different types of “finals week” people you may encounter during the most stressful time of the year.

Keep in mind, though: I’m not talking about you and me, just everyone else.

Here’s a classic you may remember from high school. The A+ student bitching to me how they’re going to fail every test who also lied to me and said they haven’t studied, when each night, all semester they’ve been preparing. This person takes perfect notes and never misses a class. Don’t tell me you’re going to fail the final, don’t lie right to my face, because if you do it this year I’m going to sharpen my #2 pencil in your ear (the one I’ve been chewing on).

On of my favorites is the guy who remained in denial about the massive workload thing far beyond the point of no return (which is the Wednesday afternoon coming back from Thanksgiving break). This guy went out and got drunk almost every night this week and in a few days is going to find himself working for about 35 hours straight.

An extremist variation of this guy is the guy who straight up doesn’t care about anything. He has no idea his? even in college and shows up to the final wearing the same clothes he got drunk and pissed himself in last night.

Then there’s the person who can’t accomplish anything academic before midnight. This person also usually waits until the last minute because they work best under pressure, hey, I guess I really am writing about you and me.

I look to my left and see a half empty bottle of Tylenol PM. We have no idea when we’re actually going to find the time to sleep, there’s no such thing as “night and day.” So when we manage to find the precious few hours to actually pass out or the half-day to spend in a coma-like state we need to pounce on it like “that guy” pounces on the last slice of pizza (did you even pay for that?).

My all-time favorite has to be the “I eat finals for breakfast” guy. This guy has the finals process down to an exact science, and frankly, I’m impressed. With a combination of weed, Adderall, synthesized music (Crystal Method), Eye-of-the-Tiger-esque work ethic and a steeling intellect that spits literary choralia, this guy blows the curve for all of us. His substance abuse and chemical dependence on drugs doesn’t hinder his ability to perform at an optimal level. In fact, this guy stressed out less than the rest of us because he does not even exist on the same plain of reality.

Not having to come up with a “closing paragraph” is awesome.

Letter to the Editor:

Campus charges unethical

Dear Editor:

Over this holiday weekend, two relatives of mine (one attending RWU and another attending UMass-Dartmouth) related that they were being assessed money damages for various problems that occur on campus.

They mentioned money assessments for broken windows, special cleaning of bathrooms, and other "damage" to University property."*

This practice of assessing money damages for such things should cease immediately and all students so harmed should be immediately reimbursed by their respective schools.

This practice is clearly illegal — there is no due process and to simply confiscate someone’s property (money) without due process is something the university should condemn. If the "guilty" party cannot be established using lawful means, it may be unfair, however, the university/college must bear the responsibility and costs.

It would take only one lawsuit in Small Claims Court from a student so harmed and a ruling from the Bench to end this practice.

It is difficult to imagine an institution of higher learning engaging in such practices.

Sincerely,

Eric Clifton, M.A.
cityvjsion@comcast.net

Editor's Note: A full-feature story on the ethics of fines will appear in an issue of next semester’s Hawk’s Herald. If you feel as though you have been unjustly fined, email us at hawkherald@gmail.com and tell us your story.

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OP-ED:

Bah Humbug: Merry Christmas...or else

Will Grapentine

Now that America is done with the turkey-talk of wishing each other a "Happy Thanksgiving," we can go around wishing each other a "Merry Christmas!"... or can we? Although the kick-off Christmas season has constantly been followed by such traditions as shopping, baking, and decorating, a disturbing trend has initiated with Christmas that has free expression take a back seat to political correctness.

So what is this disturbing trend? To some Americans it has gone unnoticed. But to those who have not been appeased by the mere sight of pine trees and snowmen, it is evident how more and more companies are becoming apprehensive by just uttering the words "Merry Christmas" when the holiday season comes around and instead decide to substitute phrases of religious specificity such as "Happy Holidays" or "Season's Greetings."

With retailers such as Wal-Mart, Target, and Kohls headlining this P-C development worthy of a Scrooge, retailers are only the tip of the iceberg. Companies ranging from Nabisco foods to Dell computers are also taking part in what they see as a method to appease the spiritually Christian while not offending any other groups of religious difference. This informs that Christianity had lost its number and is now just another group in a big melting pot. This is untrue, as a poll taken by ARIS data circa 2004 shows that a whopping 96.5% of the US population in some manner, Christian.

This may come as a surprise to the idea of not even using the word "Christmas" has been embedded in American culture in recent years. Because it has become a primary goal of retailers not to offend exclude or ignore the lowest common denominator, we as a country are losing sight of something that our moral fiber is based on: religious freedom.

Although in some respects that ideal is officially carried on today (i.e. can practice any religion one desires), the fact that expressing Christian greetings of the holiday season has become a banned idea by the PC of this country is all but oxymoron.

To think that the pilgrims came halfway around the world to find a place where they could proudly display their brand of Christian faith only to have that freedom unofficially and subliminally ransacked centuries later by a cause that allegedly calls for "equality."

These groups, ranging from infamous NAACP to individual town councils, have shown such bases against groups of the majority (i.e. Christians) to an extent that whole towns have had their Christmas traditions confiscated. Take for example a case in December of 2004 where town officials in the Miami suburb of Bay Harbor Island banned the nativity scene on public property while okaying a menorah for Hanukah. This double standard is a growing trend among American towns and, in the name of Christmas, must be stopped.

But how does one go about halting this holiday hindrance? After all it is only fair that all holidays are included, but not at the expense of neglecting the national holiday that is not only celebrated by a majority of this country but also what is a large part of national history.

If those embraced by the Christmas season want to turn the tides on this battle of politically correct maneuvers, people have to start small. First off, DO NOT be afraid to wish others a "Merry Christmas." By doing this, you are making claim for the Christmas season without giving into the anti-religious holiday greetings.

Next is voicing disapproval to the retailers. Although a boycott is as improbable as it is unnecessary, calling a customer service line for the retailers (such as Macy's) that do use Christmas cards, symbols, and icons in their ads and congratulate them for embracing the tradition of the Christmas season.

The Christmas season does not have to be turned into another political issue. The only way it will become one is if those who celebrate the holiday allow for this trend to continue. By verbalizing that what is being done with the holiday goes beyond commercialization and into the realm of desecration will show both towns and companies alike that we as a nation have not lost sight of what the 25th of December is all about.

By spreading the joy of the Christmas season, and convincing others to do the same, we as Americans can invoke our freedom of speech to publicly celebrate Christmas and do so not in shame but in joy.

Editor's Note: The views expressed in editorials written by any member of the faculty or student body, including members of the Herald staff, are not necessarily the views of the Herald.

If you'd like to submit an Op-Ed with your views on any issue, email us at hawksherald@gmail.com.

“Tis the Season for giving

Celeste Foley
Special to the Herald

Christmas is the season of giving. For those less fortunate, the Student Volunteer Association and Feinstein Service Learning Center have come to the rescue. These groups set up a giving tree that has been successful in providing holiday joy to local families for the last few years. This year four families were adopted. The giving tree, located in the Student Union, is filled with gift tags with ages of the children and what they would like.

The Stonewall Council is also raising money to go to the families. The gifts donated from the giving tree must be brand new and do not need to be wrapped.

Gift cards and other donations are also welcome. These can be brought to the FSL office, CAS 124 to ensure happy holidays for all.

The Giving Tree adds a festive spirit to the Student Union.

Timothy Merritt
Ethics: Presidents speak out against violations

Continued from p.1

buddies. It is important to keep a distance and balance.

In addition, President Nirschel said, "it is extremely important to have a depth and breadth of trustees with a lot of different interests and backgrounds."
The board of trustees has the ultimate fiduciary responsibility for the operation of the university. The board is responsible for all actions of the President and CFO, and it must maintain proper oversight to protect the university," said William Hall, Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer at Salve Regina University.

Robert Carothers, President of the University of Rhode Island, said, "Board members should give of their time and resources to support the university, and the president should keep them fully informed of any issue of substance at the university. Neither party should ever be surprised at what the other says or does.

"Honest, accurate, and timely communication is very important," Nirschel said. "The good, the bad, and the ugly.

President Ladner's $800,000 salary and a second contract, which only a few board members knew of, has raised debates about a college president's compensation and benefits.

At Roger Williams, a committee reviews the salary of the president and the board of trustees is fully aware of the president's compensation package. President Nirschel said that in determining compensation one must "benchmark what the position is worth, there must be a baseline." President Carothers said that, in terms of how a president should be compensated, he believes, "whatever it takes to get the highest quality person the school can afford. Aboard, however, is the key word. Harvard, with a $20 billion endowment, cannot afford to have less than the best to bring in and manage that money. Roger Williams or URI can afford much less, nor will the faculty and students tolerate salaries that seem beyond the persona of the institution."

Salary is just one factor in a president's compensation. President Ladner spent nearly $220,000 for his personal chef expenses, and $44,000 in alcohol, which were all charged to the University.

President Nirschel said in terms of added clauses about personal expenses in a contract, he personally has "always shied away from different compensation. It just doesn't look or feel right. I will always think 'how will it look in the Providence Journal or the New York Times?' It is a public relations sense of decisions."

President Carothers said that sometimes it can be hard to distinguish when travel and other expenses is in the best interest for the university.

"I just came back from a four day trip doing fund raising in Houston, Dallas and Charleston. There, I had to entertain people and be entertained by people, bring various Rhody gifts to alumni, etc. Similarly, in Kingston I have to use the president's residence to do official entertaining. But this kind of thing gets more presidents in trouble than anything else," President Carothers said.

When it comes to RUW, President Nirschel said he is "frugal when it comes to how much University money is spent."

Yet he also notes that in any university "fund raising requires cultivation. On his last trip, he received a large gift for the university. In that situation, the outcome greatly outweighed the cost of the trips."

"When I had to do a new kitchen in our house, I raised that from a donor and certainly can do that from the institution." The institution of how much University money is spent."

es and make a president a hero or a bum.

While traveling and other expenses may be inherent with the president's job, running a university is like running a business.

"In reality, we are all business people," Carothers said. "I manage a budget of nearly half a billion dollars a year, and I could not be successful at this without a good business sense.

For example, URI runs the biggest restaurant business in Rhode Island, feeding something like 50,000 meals a week. We have to consider everything any other restaurant does - customer preference, quality of menu, good service, and advertising."

President Nirschel said the university is a business and we are its consumers.

"Being a president is like running a little city with a government," he said. "I am running approximately a $140 million business, and it must be run well and with integrity."
Mr. RWU” a fun way to raise money for charity

Sean McGriff

There are various activities that Roger Williams students look forward to each and every year. These activities include Wicked Weekend, Spring Weekend, and the most recent Mr. RWU competition. Every year a group of male Roger Williams students join together in an effort to raise money to go towards the Children’s Miracle Network.

In order to add a more interesting aspect to this fundraiser, each contestant competes in a variety of performances at an annual event, known as Mr. RWU.

This year’s competition consisted of ten Roger Williams male students and their personal assistants. The contestants included Shashwat Buxi with Ahni Mooradian as his assistant, Al Borrelli with Lorraine Pfiefer, Chris George with Amanda Martinello, Kerry Gilmore with Erin McBurney, Todd Hiller with Teas LeCoche, Joe Marchione with Becky Bowman, Chris McGrath with Alexa Allen, Alex Nicholl with Regina Galvin, Karl Pelletier with Abby Ruth Terreri, and Eric Rollie with Alexa Haddad.

“I really enjoyed the entire experience, meeting and becoming friends with all the people involved has been more than worth it,” senior Kerry Gilmore said.

The competition kicked off with an opening dance number in which all ten of the participants performed together on stage in a relatively comical choreographed dance routine. Following the dance routine, contestants appeared one by one on stage and modeled athletic wear.

During this portion of the show, the contestants were accompanied by young children who received some sort of toy during their appearance.

After the athletic-wear portion of the show, lights were dimmed and a slideshow with pictures of the boys as young children was presented. Following the slideshow, each of the contestants performed a talent that they had spent weeks perfecting. Talents included singing, reciting Shakespeare, reading, and learning how to be Superman.

“Talent was one of the most enjoyable parts of the show,” Kenmore said. “Each contestant had a different talent to show off, and it was really exciting to see everyone perform.”

The final portion of the show included the booth competition, where the boys took the opportunity to thank their assistants for all their hard work and dedication to the event. After the formalwear section of the show, another slide show was presented containing pictures of the boys a few weeks prior to the show and what it took to actually prepare for what they had to do.

The final portion of the show was an interview session in which each of the contestants had to pick a question from a jar and answer it to the best of their ability.

All throughout the show a panel of four judges watched each of the sections intently and gave each of the boys a score for each performance. Towards the end of the show all of the points for each section were tallied together in order to determine who had won the competition.

As for this year, senior Todd Hiller won the Mr. RWU title with the highest cumulative score.

Winning Mr. Congeniality, the title for the contestant who the boys voted on with the best personality, most reliable, and the most fun, was senior Kerry Gilmore.

“Mr. RWU was an amazing experience in that it not only allowed me the chance to become closer friends with a group of wonderful people, it also allowed me to be involved in a charity and fundraiser that is unique and very worthwhile,” Hiller said. “On top of all of that it was a lot of fun to participate in and rehearse to present the final show to our audience.”

Overall the fundraiser was a huge success due to the large number of people in attendance and to the participants who raised 5,000 dollars for the Children’s Miracle Network.

“What I feel I truly gained from this experience is motivation,” said Gilmore.

“Going to the hospital and seeing what science can do to help those in need was really inspire me to truly dedicate myself to my work in hopes that someday I too can create something which has as much of a life-changing benefit as those which aid those children.”

CEN staff attends Activities Conference

Nicole Lombardi

Special to the Herald

Eight students from the CEN Board and ICC attended the National Association of Campus Activities Northeast Regional Conference in Marlboro, Mass. from November 17 to November 20.

NACA hosted 99 agencies and over 100 colleges from the Northeast such as Assumption College, Southern New Hampshire University, and Johnson & Wales University.

The conference consisted of educational sessions, showcases, and a market-place. Showcases are acts performed for 20 minutes that give the audience an idea of what these performances are like.

The performances are all different types of programs such as comedians, acoustic guitarists, and slam poets that could be brought to the campus. Five acts perform at each of the designated showcase times.

Marketplace is a time for the students to meet the agencies and get information about booking the acts for their campus. Each agency gets an area to set up information about their program. Students can then go to the tables during marketplace and receive more information about their product and talk personally with the agents and performers themselves.

During the conference there is a special event called School Swap. During this time each college has a table, which they decorate with the theme of the conference. They bring their gimmicks and t-shirts they have used at their events to swap with other colleges at this time.

It is a great opportunity to get new ideas for gimmicks and to get free items. The booths are judged for creativity and how well it represents the conference theme.

At the ending banquet, many awards are given to recognize professional staff, student leaders and the college. Roger Williams received an award for Best School Swap Booth and the CEN Co-Chair Bobbi-Lynn Anderson received the Student Leader of the Year Award along with four other students.

“It was such a great honor to be nominated and recognized by this association,” said Anderson.

The next conference is NACA Nationals which will be held in Boston, Mass. This conference combines all the regional conferences into one giant conference, so colleges across the country will be in attendance.
**RKU’s Food Critic:**

**Bristol House of Pizza: Open late, but don’t eat the pizza**

**Kaitlin Gurnon**
Herald Staff

**Bristol House of Pizza**
**Restaurant Ratings (1-5)**

- Food: 2.5
- Service: 5
- Price: 3.5

Why is it that everywhere in Bristol closes early? I did not have any intentions of doing my final food critique for the semester on Bristol House of Pizza, but seeing how it was the only place open late on a Monday night, I thought I’d give it a whirl.

Bristol House of Pizza is a quaint, “towmic” pizza place located at 55 State Street in Bristol. Since they opened their doors in 1977, it has been a typical hometown pizza place with all different kinds of pizza, pasta, salads, and grinders. Also, unlike many places in Bristol, Bristol House of Pizza is open seven days a week until 10 p.m.

The pizza was nothing special. Oily and almost too much cheese, I was not impressed with the quality. The sauce had a tangy twist to it and the crust was too crispy; I could have broken a tooth. I also ordered the Steak Bomb, a steak and cheese grinder with peppers, onions, and mushrooms. It was pretty good. The steak was shaved, not too chunky or chewy and the entire sandwich was pre-salted to perfection. All of the grinders at Bristol House of Pizza are toasted, unless asked otherwise.

The best part about the grinder, I must say, had to be the cheese. If there is one thing I can’t stand, it’s a steak and cheese that doesn’t have enough cheese on it. It’s either melted so much you can’t even taste it or the cheese is placed on the base of the sub roll so that it doesn’t reheat evenly. This steak bomb had just the right amount of cheese melted on top of the steak so that it was covered entirely.

The fries, on the other hand, reminded me of MacDonald’s, but with a funkier taste. Now don’t get me wrong, I like MacDonald’s French fries, but if I wanted MacDonald’s, I would go to McDonald’s.

**From Broadway to the Big Screen, ‘Rent’ still rocks**

**Elizabeth Liederman**
Herald Staff

Broadway’s “Rent” is back … although it hasn’t even left the stage yet. But now everyone near and far to its beloved performance space can now see it whenever they want (in movie theaters across the country, that is).

Based on Jonathan Larson’s 1996 Broadway musical, “Rent” is a year-in-the-life of eight young adult New Yorkers, all of whom live as struggling artists in the city’s East Village and find themselves coping with the painful realities of AIDS, homelessness, drug addiction, and paying the rent (circa 1990).

The big message in “Rent” sings its way through both the play and the film from beginning to end, one of hope and salvation in the face of addiction and death. Most apparent in each of the ensemble’s performances is having to accept the reality that they are all fighting with the fact that death within their “group” is inevitable, and worse, never too far away.

Since its 1996 opening, “Rent” has remained a touchstone for the younger generation growing up in the age of AIDS.

For anyone who has ever been a part of the “Rent” audience on Broadway, this is obviously good news. For everyone else, the time has finally (and conveniently) come to see what they’ve been missing all these years, and it only takes a trip to the movies to do just that.

Moreover, in “Rent” the movie six actors from the Broadway stage have returned to resurrect their characters on camera, reminding audiences why they fell in love with “Rent” from the very beginning one more time.

Still, the two new faces on-screen – Rosario Dawson as “Mimi” and Tracie Thoms as “Joanne” – give such bold and believable performances that in the end they, too, could just as easily pass for being a part of the original Broadway entourage.

Even so, it’s hard to say whether or not the movie really works on its own, without making a continuous reference to the theatrical version. There is also the idea that in a theatrical setting, an intimacy exists between the players and their audience, a feeling that is almost impossible to re-create within the confining walls of a movie theater.

In the same way the play unfolds onstage, each musical ensemble in the movie works to indulge the deeper meaning and overall plot that defines “Rent” behind the camera. Through both the play and the movie version’s pain, agony and loss, “Rent” stays on top of its game by remaining – quite surprisingly – upbeat, inspirational and heartwarming all the way through till the end.

For a recommendation solely on the basis of familiarity, it seems likely that fans of the stage version will be the audience majority for the movie version of “Rent.”

Regardless, with the help of a memorable, catchy, talent-packed soundtrack and an impressive cast, it would be highly suggested to take this unforgettable performance in on the big screen, instead of waiting to rent the DVD version it months from now.
Canadian hip-hop septet giving free show on Friday

Marshall Guthrie
Special to the Herald

PD-Atrics, the new album by Canadian hip-hop experts "The Pocket Dwellers," represents a band on the verge of making it, or breaking it.

The 7-piece group will be performing live and free this Friday, December 2 at 9 p.m. in the RUW Field House, but you can listen to their entire album now on [www.pocketdwellers.com](http://www.pocketdwellers.com). The Pocket Dwellers have taken a more hip-hop approach in their latest work, though a band consisting of a lyricist, DJ, live drummer, guitarist, bassist, and two horn players can’t help but span a wide spectrum of music.

From the rock of “Want to Be,” to the funk of “Circus,” what you get is a deceptively fun album. Of course, the ever independent PD still take a couple jabs at the industry-manufactured artists in songs like “Critical Acclaim” and “Repetition,” but remain good natured in doing so.

Their live show certainly transcends hip-hop into a celebration of funk, soul, rock, rap, and life. I recently attended a Pocket Dwellers performance, and I was delighted at how they mixed their older, funk rock stylings with their newer, more hip hop sound displayed on PD-Atrics.

The lead single, “Trust Us,” morphed from the full force breakbeat-dance bit of the cd-version to a near party-anthem when performed live. Their live line-up provides the song with a bouncing horn section, free style bass lines, and one of the most energetic lyricists I’ve seen as of late; rock, hip-hop, or otherwise.

In short, neither PD-Atrics nor The Pocket Dwellers live show is one to be missed, so take the short walk to check them out. This is a band that is definitely making it.

Editor’s Note: Be sure to check out the Canadian hip-hop group Pocket Dwellers on Friday, December 2 at 9 p.m. in the Field House. There is no cost for this show.
The Movie Guru's Christmas Special: The Top 10 holiday movies of all-time

Will Grempentine
Herald Staff

For the past few generations, American culture has been blessed with the magic of Christmas through the wonders of visual stories. Whether it be animation or live action, seeing the spirit of Christmas artistically expressed in the form of entertainment adds a new dimension to not only observing Christmas as a holiday but seeing that wonder reformatted for your viewing pleasure.

But where exactly did the holiday standby hail from? What sparked people’s growing interest in the seasonal sensation? With Charles Dickens’s book, “A Christmas Carol,” people got a taste of Christmas magic as a work of fiction and have later come to regard it as one of the biggest literary classics of all time.

Aside from it being a literary phenomenon, “A Christmas Carol” has also become the most remade Christmas special, headlined by the George C. Scott rendition (1984) as well as the more recent Patrick Stewart remake. Hollywood’s golden age of cinema has also released some of the most memorable holiday traditions, some not even appreciated when first released.

The first one, “It’s a Wonderful Life” (1946), was a critical and financial disaster. The film, which focuses on the troubles of a man who spends a life of doing good for others and the divine intervention that follows, has become one of the most praised and frequently aired Christmas movies to date.

The next silver-screen gem would be “Miracle on 34th Street” (1947). The first Hollywood feature-length classic to feature the man in red, “34th Street” focuses on a Mary’s Santa, this one being the real thing, who inspires a non-believing young girl to find her inner-child.

Following the dawn of television in the 1950s, the magic of Christmas was also introduced to the small screen during the 1960s. One of the most popular was the CBS claymation classic “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.” The special about the red-nosed reindeer that could, helped to define studio Rankin Bass as one of the biggest animation studios of the twentieth century.

But Rudolph wasn’t Rankin Bass’s only creation. Starting in 1969, America got to know “Frosty the Snowman,” which followed the magical adventures of the happy jolly soul as he makes his way to the North Pole before he melts away.

But Rankin Bass didn’t produce all the Christmas cartoons we know and love. Other specials include the perennial favorite “Christmas with Charlie Brown” (1965), which features the commercialized Peanuts gang discovering the true meaning of Christmas thanks to Linus and a very small tree.

Next is the Dr. Seuss classic, “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.” This 1966 classic adapts the famous children’s book about the grumpy creature as he tries to steal Christmas from the Whos.

Finally, what Christmas would be complete without family? The Muppets share that sentiment in “A Muppet Family Christmas” (1987). In this offshoot from “The Muppet Show,” we see Fozzie and the gang pop in on his mother just as she is about to leave for Malibu, only to be joined later with other Jim Henson friends from Seaside Street and Fraggles Rock.

The 1980s also had its share of big Christmas classics. Starting with the beloved “A Christmas Story” (1983), we see Gene Shepherd’s satirical semi-autobiography brought to the silver screen as a mid-western boy from the 40s years for the ultimate present: a Red Ryder B.B. gun. The following year people got “Santa Claus the Movie,” a modernized origin of Kris Kringle brought to you by the same producers of the “Superman” films.

If the 1980s were filled with Christmas fun, the 1990s had a whole lot more. Starting in 1990, Christmas tradition got mixed with slap-stick burglary in the Chris Columbus Classic “Home Alone,” where we see Macaulay Culkin accidentally left behind by his family only to fend off burglars on Christmas night.

Followed by the ten times better “Home Alone 2: Lost in New York,” the films work on similar ideas albeit the second adding the magic of one of the world’s most Christmas-filled cities.

Next comes the 1990s big take on St. Nick with Disney’s “The Santa Clause” (1994). In this film, we see Tim Allen slip on the boots as he is forced to become the jolly old elf after accidentally making his predecessor have an untimely roof accident.

Finally, the ‘90s brought to film that Christmas quirk that all parents go through: finding that one rare toy! In the 1996 film “Jingle All The Way” Arnold Schwarzenegger plays a father trying to get close to his son (Jake Lloyd) by trying to track down the rare Turboman doll.

In recent years, the love of movies and specials for the Christmas season have not withered but strengthened. Starting in the Christmas of 2000, the world was blessed with Ron Howard’s revision of the classic “The Grinch” in which Jim Carey plays the big green meanie. Grossing over $260 million in domestic dollars alone, it set off a new-found interest in the Christmas classic.

Next up came Tim Allen’s Santa sequel “The Santa Clause 2.” In it we find Christmas displayed on the silver screen.

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Turnout low at Int’l Education Week

Turnout wasn’t quite what many people had hoped for but nonetheless, International Education Week (IEW) was celebrated during November 12-18. It was a week not only celebrated at RWU but all over the world from Bristol, R.I. to Sydney, Australia. The world took part in celebrating cultures and diversity.

The goal of the week may have been tuned in about the week, but the students at RWU seemed, for the most part, tuned out. Although there have been many reasons not to go, the majority have said that they were unaware of the events, or did not have any free time to go.

Junior Lauren Ciarelliago said she was unaware of the special week.

“I did not know it was International Education Week until the end of the week. It was also not aware of all of the events that were going to take place at our school.”

The week’s activities involve members of the campus, the greater community, and the world. The week’s goal is to “celebrate diversity of all kinds on campus.”

Hayden has his own outlook on the week; that it is “a great program, just to highlight the international connections that the campus has, the multi cultural aspects of the campus, the diversity of the people.” He said that “everything is something that can get lost in the shuffle if we don’t shine the spotlight on it.”

IEW was started in the years while Bill Clinton was president and is getting bigger each year.

Sunday was Celebrating Living Traditions. It was an intercultural festival of South Asia, The Middle East, and Celtic Cultures.

One of the three offices involved on campus was the department of communications. Dr. Anjali Ram, assistant professor of communications, was dressed in her lehenga and spoke about the holiday Eid.

“Our goal was to really bring awareness of the different cultural traditions that reflect the heritage of the community of Rogers Williams,” said Ram.

Ram feels there is not a connection within the campus.

“These are all people from the outside, and we had the Celtic harpist. These are all people from our community, we have perhaps more diversity than we think we have, or maybe it’s an awareness that we don’t have enough of and it might be that we don’t deserve nice things to do.”

The host for the night of Celebrating Living Traditions was, Priyanka Joseph, a student from India that has been here since May.

Joseph made reference to the international students involved.

“We are all taking part of the Global Fest, and everyone is pretty excited about it, simply because it gives people an opportunity to tell others about their country, which is something that happens easily at all, especially in Rhode Island, and they have that because most international students, if you give them a chance to tell you about their culture or their food, their eyes will light up.”

Joseph is one of the many people involved that think highly of the celebrated week.

“I think it’s a great thing,” Joseph said. “I just wish more people were into it, I’m sure that can happen, because it’s a good thing.”

The turnout was fairly low for the program. Of the 40-60 people there, most of them were the participants of the program.

Of the many programs that took place last week, the big event was Global Fest, which took place on Wednesday. Jeanne Lopez is the student that started Global Fest last semester in the student advocacy office where she works.

On Global Fest, Lopez said, “The goal was to have a great event in which RWU members and local community members could share their diversity.”

“It was meant to prove that while RWU is not one of the nation’s most racially diverse schools, our student body is comprised of various cultures of people who have visited different places, studied abroad, and come from different backgrounds.”

Lopez added that it’s “an afternoon of food, dance, fun and learning! Students represented various cultures with food, dance, music, and art.”

Once again, attendance was lacking. “I am not sure of the exact number of visitors; I think that at least 150 people got to experience Global Fest,” said Lopez.

Ciarelliago did make an appearance at this event, but not because she knew about it before, “I was in the Rec Center eating lunch at the Hawk’s Nest and noticed that something was going on in the gym, so I stopped by there for about five minutes but then had to go class.”

A key factor that was missing from many of these events was the students. Both Lopardo and Hayden agree that to raise student turnout, faculty could help. They could let students know what is going on and encourage them to try these events.

“I am not sure why students do not get more involved, but I think that it partly has to do with the fact that many students are not aware that these types of events are going on at our school,” Ciarelliago said.

Lopez makes a different point for such a low turnout.

“One issue that I have noticed during my time here is that some students feel like they are not supposed to go to international themed events unless they are international students, she said. I wish that members of the RWU community would go out and attend events about globalization and diversity; it’s a good way to learn new things about each other and the world outside of Bristol, Rhode Island.”

Professors of the university also feel that is important that students get involved with learning about new cultures.

“Part of being in college is to really expand your mind, open your mind, not to what you already know it to be open your mind and we would be doing you a great disservice if we didn’t do anything like this,” Ram said.

O’Connell: “Assistant Professor of Communications, echoed those sentiments.

“I can’t explain why we have students who are on this campus who seem not to recognize the importance of being familiar with, being exposed to, working with other cultures.”

O’Connell believes that it cannot just be pushed aside.

“It does really matter and it’s going to matter more and more, we’re not going to be able to go back to the days when America was the dominant force in the world.”

O’Connell thinks consciousness arising can be good and bad, “It’s important, and it’s a double edged sword. It’s really strange, what we really want to have is not to have it [global diversity] be something very special; we want it to be part of your everyday. And when we don’t see that happening, then we turn a blind eye to paying attention to things, but by the very fact that we bring attention to it, we make it the other.”

Lopardo is optimistic about International Education Week and its future.

“It is also a positive thing as the University is trying to move forward with internationalizing the campus, globalizing the campus. It’s a nice way to recognize that, to get it to the spotlight and have fun with it as well and provide a lot of valuable information.

“I hope it will continue to grow with coming years.”
Sports

What would YOU do to Keep Manny?

Timothy Manion
Editor

All great stories spawn from an idea. That idea can change the world. Or in this case, the idea can transform the 2006 Boston Red Sox forever.

The impending situation involving Manny Ramirez has reached its peak, coming full circle since his plane landed in Boston back in 2001. His demand to be traded has been highly publicized (several times in the last couple of years), giving the media an open shot at the free swinging slugger. While these brush outs gave their opinions (respected or not) what was apparent was the outpouring of emotion that fueled the fire.

The Boston Globe ran their pieces, Web backed their hunter. But where were the fans? The fans that pay to watch Manny play. The fans that pay his salary. Sure one could always go on the airwaves, but that cell-phone bill would surpass the heating and the electric. While most were quick to write Manny off to the highest bidders, (Meet the Mets, indeed) a Red Sox fanatic was at work. He was working towards a goal; a common goal aimed to reunite Manny with Boston. A fast so large he enlisted the help of the free market to push his one big idea.

The man's name: Jeff Guiney. The idea: KeepManny.com.

KeepManny.com launched at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, November 29. Boston, we have a problem. The site's overall goal went as stated, "We here at KEEPMANNY.com do NOT want to see Manny play for anyone else besides the Boston Red Sox. After watching him play in Boston since he arrived via free agency in 2001, we have grown very fond of the quirky and aloof left fielder. We feel it would be an absolute travesty to see him dealt to another team ... Whatever your reason for wanting Manny to stay in a Boston Red Sox uniform, we urge you to sign our petition and let your voice be heard."

The website has had the red carpet treatment since joining the cyberspace world. Just a few hours after its birth, KeepManny.com had 46 signatures on its petition page. As of press time, just three days later, over 48,300 people have posted their thoughts. The success was felt by those who ran the site.

"A link to the site was put on bostoniredogs.com yesterday around 2:15 p.m. Then things exploded this morning when the Boston Herald's Inside Track did a write up on us," said Chris Linnanane, a member of the crew who started the webpage.

The site will be featured on ESPN's Cold Pizza and ESPN.com in the coming days.

This outburst of support for Ramirez has been growing since KeepManny.com went up. The site posted their favorite letters to Manny so far.

"Well, I already named my cat after him. Now I'm willing to up the ante by naming my firstborn child after him. Please stay, Manny!"-Audrey Zimmer, post #814.

These fans may not have a face but they have a voice. And it has been heard. Now those media outlets are talking about the fans influence. "We hope to give enough interest to sway Manny and show that we love him and want him to stay with the Sox ... we feel as the website states, as well as the article in the Herald, that the media has misinterpreted and misrepresented the general masses ... hopefully, Manny and the Red Sox organization see the site and they realize how much of an impact the public feels Manny has on the success of this ball club," Linnanane added.

The impact of KeepManny.com will be felt in the coming weeks. Redsox.com has already picked up the story and (surprise, surprise) 'Save Manny' T-shirts are already in production.

Headed to Mecca - South bend, Indiana

Timothy Manion
Editor

The 792 mile trip took us 12 hours. Three pit stops (two for gasoline, one for Redbull and beef jerky) later we landed at Exit 77. The sign flashed blue and gold. We made it. South Bend, Indiana. Home of the Notre Dame Fighting Irish.

My grandfather used to bleed blue and gold. My father currently bleeds blue and gold. His three brothers bleed blue and gold. Their passion was passed down to me. For most ND fans, South Bend is the Mecca of the West. The annual Mannion trip to ND was far and away the best weekends of my early life. Not everyone gets it. You have to have that feeling when you enter the place. The air is better, the water is better. That feeling returned to me as soon as we pulled off the exit. My brother and father joined me for a weekend in the Irish lore.

The difference between reality and ND is almost unequivocal. ND is a picture perfect image of what I think heaven will look like. Well, somewhat. They can be easily compared. After rounding the Exit 77 off-ramp we were face to face with a toll booth. While other college's has its own exit off a major highway? Heaven has a gate (toll booth), I was told. $1.50 later the car was parked and we were on our heels walking towards the center of campus.

The bookstore, the commons, the administration building, the marching band all calls the north quad home. Yes, the Notre Dame marching band. For some reason the ND band plays their instruments non-stop on game day weekends. A student went on to tell me that band tryouts are more hectic than football tryouts. Only at Notre Dame.

I have never thought about the how real to life the movie Rudy is when it pertains to the emotions on the campus. But the director deserves some kind of award. Rudy says that he just wants to be part of "it." But what is "it"? "It," is the overall love fest that goes on at ND. Everything is big. Everything is over the top. Hell, ND is the only university that has a pep rally, filling the ND basketball complex every week. 18,000 fans and students pack the place to roar the players speak. It was almost too much to see.

The love fest continued into the night. Thousands of fans gathered outside the stadium to salute first year head coach Charlie Weis. Apparently, Weis has already been anointed savior of the program, after three years of mediocrity under Tyrone Willingham. My visit to South Bend was when the Irish were 7-2 (since then they went on to knock off Stanford to become BCS eligible) This game against Syracuse proved to be a pinnacle event because ND hadn't had a winning season, in which they crashed the top 10, since 2001. Weis had arguably turned the program into an overnight success. All the Irish really needed was that magic that Weis bottled up at New England. Well he opened the whole container and smothered everything. Some call "it" swagger. Some call 'it' arrogance. Some call 'it' a winning attitude. Either way, 'it' was back. The 'it' that has been gone for so long, had finally reappeared.

Only this 'it' was the dark older brother. This 'it' consumed the entire atmosphere. The media, fans, boosters, and band all wanted a piece of 'it'.

As I lay awake on my hotel room floor, I pondered what my father had said to me hours before, when we were still7

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For some, it's just a stadium; for me, it's my place of worship. No ads, no sponsored names, no flashy gimmicks. Welcome to Notre Dame Stadium.
Rough start won't 'discourage' Gumbby

Shaun Hogan
Herald Staff

In the Hawks' second game of the season, against Newbury, it seemed as if Daniel Gumb would pull the team ahead as he scored 10 points and seven rebounds. However, as he jumped for his eighth rebound of the game, Gumb landed on his left leg wrong and, in his own words, "it just snapped."

During sophomore Daniel Gumb's freshman year, he distinguished himself as perhaps one of the most successful freshman players in Roger Williams Basketball history. At the end of the 2004-2005 season, the man they call "Gumbby" had become the team's second leading scorer with an average of 14.4 points per game. Gumb also notched a team high average of seven rebounds per game. He came into the 2005-2006 season looking to be as successful as last year.

The Hawks opened their season the weekend of Saturday November 19 when they faced off against Lasell and Newbury College in the Brandies Tip-Off Tournament. Gumb scored 11 points off the bench in the match against Lasell, where Roger Williams lost despite the team's best efforts by only eight points. The final score was 68-60.

Gumb's broken leg will prevent him from playing for the rest of this season, as he has been given a six-month time frame for recovery. Even though he cannot play, Gumb still feels very connected to the team.

"My teammates call me everyday and tell me how I am still a part of the team," he said. "My teammates are the greatest and I will be there for them whether I am injured or healthy, just like I know they are for me."

Gumb started playing his sophomore year at Kennedy Catholic High School, in Summers New York. During the first year of his high school career he played alongside Donnie McGrath, who is currently a senior playing for the Providence College Friars.

Gumb is proud of what he accomplished in high school basketball, especially his team's victories during his senior year.

"My senior year was my season to remember," he explained. "My team won the county championship in my senior year and we started the first time in my school's history that any team had done that."

Gumb feels privileged to have been placed in the Hawks' starting lineup so quickly, a position that allowed him to gain such an outstanding record in his first year of college basketball.

When he looks back on his freshman year Gumb can describe it a few words, "It was a lot of fun, I enjoyed it."
Sports

Christopher Parish
Sports Editor

Apparently, I have a propensity for getting somewhat famous people to talk to me.

A few weeks ago, I wrote to ESPN columnist Gene Wojciechowski about a fantastic column he wrote about Belalguerrean receiver Terrell Owens. I praised his work and mentioned that next morning, he wrote back to thank me and give me some advice. I’ve also exchanged emails with famous sports cartoonist Frank Glass.

I’ve had some experience with professionals and other notable famous people before. I know Howard Dean personally, as do I NHL star John LeClair. LeClair graduated from my high school in 1986 and used to hold his charity celebrity golf tournament in my hometown.

I used to cover the event for my hometown paper, where I met past and present NHL stars like Mario Lemieux and the Maurice Richard, Barry Melrose and reigning NHL MVP Martin St. Louis. That was nice, but I’m wondering if I can do better.

See, last spring my girlfriend and I won a fish during Spring Weekend. Are college athletes in a variety of different sports and I’m addicted to Facebook. What’s your excuse?

To test my theory, I’ve sent about a dozen messages via Facebook to some college athletes in a variety of different sports.

Here’s the lineup:

Matt Leinart: The USC quarterback and last year’s Heisman Trophy winner who despite being the most popular QB on the planet is actually the second-most popular guy on his own team. If you’re wondering, Reggie Bush doesn’t have a Facebook profile.

Marcus Vick: The Virginia Tech quarterback and back-younger brother of Super Bowl star Michael Vick. His brother still has a Facebook profile, although to be fair it still says that the fourth year NFL superstar is in undergrad.

Jk Redick: The Duke shooting guard, perhaps the most loathed college player on the planet. Not sure why, really. I can’t stand Duke, but I don’t mind Redick.

Candace Parker: Tennessee freshman hoop phenom; better known for dunking all of the boys at the McDonald’s All-American game two years ago.

Shelden Williams: Another Duke star, currently listed as the 12th best player in the country.

Simon Baur: University of Wisconsin cross country runner; recently won the Division-I national cross country race.

Matt LaPorta: University of Florida first baseman and member of the U.S. National team.

Webb Simpson: Wake Forest University sophomore, one of the best college golfers in the country. Also kind of a goofy looking kid.

Brett Sterling: Colorado State hockey player ranked in the top 20 in the country; currently leading all college D-I hockey players in goals scored.

Randi Patterson: Junior soccer player at UNC-Greensboro; named earlier this year to the National Under-20 team, where he’s a teammate of soccer phenom Freddy Adu.

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