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Bristol, RI

Knowing our limits: new alcohol policy begins

by BEN WHITMORE
Asst. News Editor

The academic year begins with new alcohol policies featuring stricter limitations on the quantity allowed in legal drinkers' possession and harsher punishments for all alcohol policy violators.

New campus policies, released in July, are the result of deliberation by the Alcohol and Other Drug Taskforce, a policy think-tank group comprised of both students and administrators.

Some of the new alcohol policies reflect direct student input the administration considered when drafting the final policies, according to John King, Vice President of Student Affairs. Citing data that showed that 26 percent of students transported to the hospital for alcohol-related sickness last year had consumed hard alcohol on the night of their transport, administrators debated whether or not to completely ban hard alcohol from campus, King said.

The administration heard from students, many of whom were of legal drinking age, "loud and clear" that they were opposed to a complete ban of hard alcohol, King said.

"The students argued that because the majority of students transported to
See ALCOHOL p.3

Chameleon club canceled

by ALLISON COLLINS
News Editor

Chameleon Club, the highly-attended dance event, has been canceled, according to Vice President of Student Affairs, John King.

"The recommendation was to cancel Chameleon Club for the foreseeable future," King said.

The event, a long-time favorite of RWU students, was originally created to bring a large amount of students together on campus, administrators said.

"It was to have a great place for people to dance and unwind and embrace being together," Caitie Abrahamson, one of last year's Chameleon Club chairs, said.

"UConn truly disappointed that Chameleon Club had to be canceled," Ted Beatty, the chair of Campus Entertainment Network (CEN), said.

"I think that people took a great event and made it into something about drinking and that was not the original point of the event," Abrahamson said.

Chameleon Club had the highest number of student transports in the history of the university.

The event had 11 transports—eight of the students were freshmen. Students were transported to area hospitals after consuming dangerous amounts of alcohol, according to administrators.

The following Chameleon Club, scheduled for Halloween night, was canceled.

Yet, Chameleon Club returned in the spring semester. This time more activities were held before the event and more pizza was served during the event. There were five transports and as a result, the traditional Spring Weekend Chameleon Club was canceled.

"[The] Administration decided to cancel the Spring Weekend Chameleon Club for last year and then wanted to put the decision on whether or not to have them in the future up to the AOD committee," Abrahamson said.

The Alcoholic and Other Drug (AOD) Taskforce recommended canceling the event, according to King.

"Just because we're not going to hold Chameleon Club, doesn't mean we're not going to hold dance opportunities," King said.

"It was decided that none of the additions would have a drastic enough impact upon the students to change the attitude towards Chameleon Club," Abrahamson said.

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University to begin charging for printing

by BEN WHITMORE
Asst. News Editor

Beginning after Columbus Day weekend, students will have to pay to print at all printing stations across campus, including the library's Learning Commons and the School of Law's printing stations, according to John King, Vice President of Student Affairs.

Students will be charged 8 cents per black and white printed page and 15 cents per colored printed page.

The university administration is currently integrating new software with existing swipe card hardware that will comprise the new pay-to-print system, according to King. In addition to entering their login names and passwords, students will need to either purchase pre-paid printing cards or swipe their student IDs to utilize any university printer.

Pre-paid printing cards will be sold at the undergraduate and School of Law libraries; student IDs can be credited with "print dollars" at the bursar's office, or at the student ID office in the Lower Commons, said Joe Pangborn.

See PRINTING p. 2
Vice formation committee, according to a struggling economy has cont'd from page 1.

"Every year the administrative's budget committee looks to reduce expenses and make good decisions that can help the bottom line and keep tuition as low as possible," King said.

Keeping tuition costs low in a struggling economy has been a priority for the budget committee, according to Pangborn. Last year, the budget committee helped allow RWU to hold its students' tuition and fees to the lowest percent
centage annual increase in over two decades.

The new priced printing system is the latest result of ongoing efforts to specifically reduce printing-associated costs.

In the past, the budget committee implemented maximum page restrictions and programmed university printers to print double-sided pages in order to reduce printing costs. The print budget, however, has continued to rise, increasing fourfold over the past four years, according to Pangborn.

Because RWU is a tuition-driven institution, nearly all university-related expenses are paid with tuition dollars, Pangborn said. "So, yes, we could have...free things, but that would drive tuition costs up, and our goal as an administration is to keep the tuition costs down," Pangborn said.

Ecological responsibility is equal motivation for instituting the new system, according to King. "It's really the sustainable way to approach this issue because whenever people have unlimited everything, they tend to use that resource at a far greater level when they know that value is placed upon it. It's been our observation, over the years, that there is a lot of needless printing that occurs," King said.

King and his fellow administrators hope the new system will "force students to put a higher value on what they choose to print, and to own their printing and their related costs," King said.

"These things become tradeoffs. If we want to have free RIFTA [public bus service] for all students, which is a very expensive program, other things eventually have to give," King said.

The new pay-to-print system is the only "student services-related cut" that the administration has made in the most recent bout of budget-trimming, King said. "We have...free things. Some students say they will be more reluctant to use university printers once printing fees are implemented. "I might think about it more, but I'll probably still come to the library printing station because it's more convenient to leave straight from here for class with your freshly printed paper," Dave Bennett, senior, said.

"Last semester I didn't set [my printer] up until finals week...it sounds a lot like after this, I'll be setting it up sooner," Bennett.

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FORTIN: RWU students remember

Cont'd from page 1.

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The Hawk’s Herald’s Recipe of the Week

Southwest Guacamole

2 ripe avocados
1 tomato, chopped
1 halfcup diced onions
1 clove garlic, minced
1 tsp. lemon juice
2 tbsp. sour cream
1 jalapeno pepper, diced

Peel and mash avocados. Combine all ingredients and salt to taste. Serve with any Mexican food and tortilla chips.

WTF of the Week

Henry Lindner

In an attempt to feel useful in a world with an abundance of modern technology, this payphone made itself useful by pitching in on freshman move-in day and holding the door for students with their hands full.
Form enhances function: Global Heritage Hall benefits from cultural art

By KELLEIGH WELCH
Editor

Going along with the University's slogan "Learning to Bridge the World," RWU opened its doors to its newest academic addition, The Global Heritage Hall, on September 3.

This new building provides students with resources to further their education and with decorated classrooms representing some of the heritages found within the Rhode Island and surrounding New England areas. These represented heritages include Italian, Portuguese, Native American, African American, Latino and "Bristolian."

The rooms were meant to support and embody the global commitment of RWU, Project Manager, Ashley Tully, said. "There are other cultures in the area that are important, and if we had more space we would have showcased more."

Tully explained that the decoration of this building was meant to inspire students to learn globally.

"We had a lot of input by a lot of the faculty in that building," Tully said.

"I thought [the Heritage Rooms] were pretty cool," freshman David Bailey said. "If you taught an African American class in the African American room, it would bring it to life."

Bailey also suggested that watching the Martin Luther King "I Have a Dream" speech with the mural of the Civil Rights March on Washington D.C. (832/1863) would add new meaning to the speech and put students there.

One of the unique qualities about these Heritage rooms is the commissioned art pieces featured on one of the walls in each room, which tell the story of the heritage. Many of the artworks use materials common to the heritage's place of origin. For example, the "Bristolian" room features "Snail Valentino," a work created by a Cape Cod Artist, which contains hand-knotted rope and shells, along with a frame made from an antique ale vat (similar to a keg) from the Narragansett Brewery. The content of the piece alludes to famous Bristol locations and events, such as the Reynolds House, Linden Place, 4th of July Parade and the High Street Victorian.

The Latin Room features a Tepehuano yarn painting, common to Mexican culture, which consists of colorful, hand-tweaved yarn and wax on wood, showing pagan images such as the sun, moon, water and fire.

Each room also contains a mural that covers one of the walls, which depicts a relation to the featured heritage. The combination of wall-sized artworks and murals gives students a feeling of immersion in the room's theme's culture.

The rooms also display printed photographs, some of famous people, of the room's featured heritage, who lived in RI or are related to RI in some way. For example, there is an image in the Native American Room of a traditionally dressed woman called "Dancing Star," who is a direct descendant of King Philip, shown in the mural on the east wall, standing at the base of Mt. Hope.

Display space that will feature student artwork is currently under development, according to Tully.

However, some of the decorations in the rooms have been questioned regarding their connection to the specific heritage.

In the African American Room, a "Black History Poster," provided by 123posters.com, shows panels of various images of art and prominent figures in African American history.

However, according to Art and Architectural History professor Rebecca Leuchak and her African Art and Architecture class, some of the images' relevancy to African culture is questionable.

According to the Image Credit Information form, images of a "Colossal Olmec Head" from Mexico, a Buddha from Thailand and a Bonda Woman of India are featured in the poster.

Leuchak provided a website, http://www.si.umich.edu/CHICO/Schomburg/text/whit.html, which explains the Olmec head.

However, the notion that there were Africans in the "New World" before Columbus and that the Olmec Head is based on African physiognomy is highly problematic and not really accepted knowledge. Certainly something so far not accepted generally is probably not good to include in the photomural," Leuchak said. "The other examples are again—pretty unaccepted and unsubstantiated visual comparisons of facial features with arts that are far distant in time and geographic locale from Africa. Really not the kind of shaky theories that we should put out there in public as a statement."

Beyond representing various cultures in the RI and Southern New England areas, the decoration of the building is meant to give students a connection to the world and encourage them to continue to explore.

On the first floor, to the left of the main entrance, students can enter the Foreign Language classroom and lab, which is designed to look like a European cafe-style classroom in Pottier, France, with high tables and chairs, which, according to Dr. Anthony Hollingsworth of the Foreign Language Department, "puts the teacher on the same level as the students."

Hollingsworth explained that this seating style puts students in small groups and encourages the use of the language in a more comfortable setting.

The classroom is equipped with four monitors, which can be used for various activities such as teleconferencing, movies and during class time, will project cityscapes of locations that speak the language being taught. For example, a German class would see sights of Berlin, while an Italian class may view Florence.

"RWU students can't take students to another country for 50 to 60 minutes, but we can put them in a classroom to make you think you are in another country," Hollingsworth said.

"Language courses are all about conversation. It's awesome that the room is set up like a café because it stimulates conversation," senior Ashley Lago. "The TVs are great, not only can you see the city we are studying, but what we are studying we can write and edit and text. It's very language learning friendly."

Students have class in the new heritage rooms in Global Heritage Hall.
Students weigh in on new buildings

By GRIFFIN LABBANCE

With the new year underway, first year and returning students alike can't help but notice some significant changes that the University has undertaken in the past year. The opening of campus for the fall semester coincides with the opening of the North Campus Residence Hall and the Global Heritage Hall academic building. Although the buildings are new and state-of-the-art, students have many mixed feelings about them.

The North Campus Residence Hall, apart from housing students, also boasts many academic and recreational features. Some examples include its classrooms, study areas, convenience store, pool table and several athletic courts. Senior Meaghan Smith believes that these features help better satisfy the needs of the campus community.

"The new hall exceeded my expectations from looking at the plans. There are many different features that meet many different interests on campus," Smith said.

Along with Smith, Resident Advisor Christina Webel agrees that although it is a great building now, it will increase in popularity as the year goes on.

"As the year progresses, students will utilize the building more and more as they discover the different features of the building."

The Global Heritage Hall also opened at the beginning of the school year. Many students were eager to attend class in the building and take advantage of its state-of-the-art technology.

Freshman student Dan Felleman says that the building has a unique style and that the innovative classrooms are different than any he's seen before.

Senior Amy Falcone, however, disagrees.

"The building was made to increase classroom space, but there seems to be a lot of open common area and not as many classrooms as students imagined."

"It is a very good looking building with many nice features, but it seems to be more of a center and focal piece for the campus," she said.

With the NCRH and the GHH came another, less-expected, addition to the campus. Behind Stonewall Terrace, the University and the town of Bristol are constructing a water tower. Many students don't think the water tower is necessary and simply see it as an eyesore.

"Maybe if it were to be painted the school colors," said Sophomore Peter Dunn. "The appearance would much more inviting to the campus than it is now," Dunn said.

Other students commented that the tower would be much more pleasing if it looked different, rather than the opinion that the tower should just be taken down in general.

Despite the water tower, overall it appears that the majority of the student population welcomes the new additions.
Eco-Reps plan to increase recycling

by ALLISON COLLINS
News Editor

The campus’s Eco-Rep program, launched this semester, seeks to increase recycling by 20 percent, according to Scott Yonan, the Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs and Director of Special Projects.

Eco-Reps will track the amount of recycling taken out of residence halls, and monitor how full those bins are in order to determine how much has been recycled, according to Yonan.

"The main task is to increase recycling in residence halls by 20 percent," Yonan said.

Other goals include educating students and encouraging them to conserve water and gas, according to Yonan.

"Realistically, we can't go in and shut off their shower," Monique DiTullio, the Eco Rep Coordinator, said. The Eco-Reps hope that through education, students will make the choice to conserve on their own.

The Eco-Rep program consists of 12 students and one coordinator, also a student, who all live in residence halls. Eco-Rep positions are paid, either through payroll or work-study, according to the Eco-Rep web page.

"They're there as a resource," DiTullio said, for those living in the residence halls.

Eco-Reps are in residence halls to educate about sustainability through signs, tables and programming green events, according to the website.

The Eco-Reps took it upon themselves to make sure people recycled during the move-in process.

"We set up recycling bins, and students throw away all their trash," DiTullio said.

On Aug. 30, the Eco-Reps tied dyed washcloths in hopes that students will not use as many paper towels in the residence hall bathrooms.

"We're just hoping to have these educational programs everywhere," DiTullio said.

Beginning Aug. 30, and continuing every stopping global warming," other Sunday, the Eco Reps will travel to the New Residence Hall, Almeida and Bayside to pick up recycling from residents, according to DiTullio.

Students can make small changes in their lifestyles to live a more sustainable life, according to DiTullio.

Yonan and DiTullio emphasized that every little action can help, such as taking the cap off a water bottle before trying to recycle it.

That part of the bottle isn't number one or two plastic, and can't be recycled, Yonan said.

Unplugging the television and microwave while students are not in their rooms can also help conserve energy. They draw electricity even when they are not on, Yonan said.

Students can also buy CFL bulbs instead of regular incandescent light bulbs.

"Roughly 90 percent of the electricity that goes into the old bulbs comes out in heat, not light," Yonan said.

A lower wattage CFL bulb can be just as bright as a higher-wattage incandescent bulb, Yonan said.

"We're just hoping to have these educational programs everywhere," DiTullio said.

Yonan said.

"Our earth is at a point where we should be doing these things," DiTullio, a junior, who has previously worked with Greenpeace, said.

"I think people will care once they realize what's going on," Will Cappozzoli, a senior who described himself as the Eco-Rep co-coordinator, said.

"I've always been really connected to the environment, but it's a pretty daunting task- stopping global warming," DiTullio said.

"It's an all-inclusive movement because everyone lives on the planet," DiTullio said.

"I think that climate change is completely going to be the issue that defines our generation," DiTullio said.

President Nirschel attended a retreat about the Clinton Global Initiative last spring. Yonan said.

"This is an organization that Bill Clinton put together to address world hunger, world health and climate change," Scott Yonan said.

The Clinton Initiative asked those who signed on to try to improve one of those areas, according to Yonan.

RWU signed on to try to improve climate change, according to Yonan.

"It's so important for students to have a hand in this, the university has done so much," DiTullio said.

"It seemed like a really perfect way to raise activism on campus," DiTullio said.

Last semester, students were given the opportunity to apply for the Eco-Reps positions.

"I decided to be an Eco-Rep because I have a passion for not only preserving the environment but educating people about sustainability," Will Cappozzoli said.

"But what I've found is that there's a lot of interest," Cappozzoli said.

People may care about sustainability because of the opportunity to save money or because they care about the environment, Cappozzoli said.

"There's so many different angles you can attack this issue from," he said.

"You don't know how it's going to affect us ultimately," Cappozzoli said.

"We've very green but we still have further to go," Yonan said. "We can be greener."

Peer Pals fosters friendships with mentally disabled

by OWEN KAUPPIA
Web Manager

A large part of Roger Williams University’s reputation centers around its interactions with the community. From annual Community Connections programs to its support of local farms, RWU has made its mark in surrounding areas.

The most direct way Roger Williams is reaching out to the community is through Peer Pals, a group similar to Best Buddies, which fosters friendships between people with mental disabilities and people without mental disabilities.

"Peer Pals will work closely with Living In Fulfilling Environments (L.I.F.E.) Inc., a Rhode Island based non-profit organization, in order to provide people with mental disabilities enriching experiences centered in the community.

"The goals of the club are to create friendships between RWU students and the L.I.F.E. members, while increasing acceptance and understanding of people with disabilities," said Peer Pals President Katie Buzeman.

"L.I.F.E. is a really great organization that provides specialized support for its members," Buzeman said.

"They make a point to be involved in the community and I'm excited that Roger Williams is going to become another outlet for them."

Buzeman and the faculty adviser of Peer Pals, professor Jessica Skolnikoff of the Anthropology/Sociology department, expect to hold multiple events during the semester including dances, sport outings, and group gardening.

This wide range of activities will allow numerous occasions for students and L.I.F.E. members to bond and get to know each other.

"I really hope students become a part of this club," said Buzeman. "It will be beneficial to everyone that's involved."

Meeting times have not yet been decided, however Peer Pals will have a table at the Involvement Fair on September 9th. For more information, contact Katie Buzeman at kbuzeman317@rwu.edu.
Women’s soccer returns in preparation for a strong season

By AARON PIEMONTESI
Herald Staff Writer

The 2009 women’s soccer team has returned to the pitch in preparation for a great season. Although they lost a heartbreaking season opener to Wheaton College, the women’s soccer team is not about to throw in the towel. Last season the Lady Hawks took the Coast Commonwealth Conference Championships, a first ever in the team’s history, and they are eager to prove themselves again this year.

This year’s team will feature new head coach, Abigail Jackson, who comes to Bristol with high hopes for her first season. Her squad will be led by three senior captains, Jen Garcia, Geahy, Amanda daCunha, Mid-Fielder, and Carey Baldwin, Mid-Fielder. The women’s soccer team has another opportunity to do great things this season. This year’s roster was greatly impacted as the team lost three skilled seniors to graduation last semester.

“They were a big asset to the team and will be greatly missed by everyone. We’re going to have some tough shoes to fill, but the talent is available to step up and fill those positions that were lost. I have faith,” Laurin Pendleton, a sophomore forward, said.

It is easy to believe that she is not the only one that feels this way, as this team is not one to settle for second. The team has six returning All-TCCC team members, four of which were named to the 2008 NSCAA/Adidas All-New England team. Look out for the Lady Hawks this season as they boast a strong and talented lineup. It should be an exciting and eventful season to watch as the Women’s Soccer team strives to repeat as TCCC Champions.

The team will play their next game of the season on the road against UMass Dartmouth. They will kickoff their home opener against Brandeis University on Sept. 17.

MIND: Florida chosen to repeat national victory

cont’d from page 8

boys return with their three highly skilled players on the offensive side of the ball. With Zac Robinson at quarterback, Kendall "Spud" Hunter at running back, and Dee Bryant at wide receiver, OSU should be a threat for any opposing defense. Their defense still will struggle at times, but has improved over the offseason and should find itself playing at a higher level.

The Cowboys will have a great season, and finding in the extremely difficult Big 12 South should make for some exciting, high-octane ballgames.

8. Alabama
The Crimson Tide comes off of a terrific season that saw them once atop the rankings. This year’s team will feature first-year starting quarterback Greg McElroy, who will be key to this season’s success. If McElroy can play well, Alabama will once again be a great team. Terrence "The Mountain" Cody is a mammoth of a player at the DT position and will anchor a strong D-line.

I look forward to their first game of the season against VT, as well as their trip to Oxford to take on the Rebels.

9. Ohio State
Outside of hosting USC at home and traveling to Happy Valley to take on the Nittany Lions, their schedule is favorable. Anything short of a Rose Bowl appearance will be a disappointment for Buckeye fans.

10. Georgia Tech
Call me crazy, but I think the Yellow Jackets have a legitimate shot at finishing the season ranked in the top 10. I think the Hokies’ running back loss will hurt them in the ACC down the stretch and will give GT a chance to win the ACC.

Jonathan Dwyer is a straight-up stud and an unbelievable talent at the running back position who fits in perfectly with Paul Johnson’s flex-bone offensive scheme.

All eyes will be on quarterback Josh Noshita in October when the Hokies travel to GT.

Honorable Mention

Conference Predictions
ACC- Atlantic- FSU Coastal- GT
Big East- 1. West Virginia 2. Pittsburgh
Big 10- 1. OSU 2. Penn St
Big 12- North- Kansas South-Texas
Pac 10- 1. USC 2. California, Oregon St. and Oregon all finish 9-3
SEC- East- Florida West- Ole Miss

Do you like sports?

Write for The Hawk’s Herald sports section!
Contact our sports editor
dmalkin118@g.rwu.edu
The Hawk's Herald  
Sept. 4, 2009  
Sports

Dave Kemmy takes over as Athletic Director
by DAN MALKIN  
Sports Editor

The Roger Williams University athletic program will feature a new athletic director during the 2009-2010 season. Dave Kemmy has been appointed to that position after serving for years as the head coach for the highly successful RWU wrestling program.

Kemmy began coaching the wrestling team in 1994, where he guided the squad to 13 straight wins in the Pilgrim League and posted a very strong 219-146-7 overall record. Kemmy was also able to capture five Pilgrim League titles and posted a very strong 219-146-7 overall record. Kemmy was named as the NCAA Division III National Rookie Coach of the Year, as well as earning New England Rookie Coach of the Year honors.

Throughout his time serving as the wrestling coach, Kemmy has had eight wrestlers earn All-American honors. One of his most successful seasons came last year, where four athletes were named to the All-American team. His teams have also featured 74 All-New England player honors and 88 All-Pilgrim league honors.

Kemmy also respects the academic achievements of his athletes, and is very proud of his 23 Academic All-American students.

"As director, I have strived to implement something I call the eleven initiatives," says Kemmy. "This process will help athletes and coaches on and off the field, while helping to build important leadership skills.

After years of coaching highly successful wrestling teams, in 2005, Kemmy was recognized for his hard work by being named Chairman of the NCAA Division III Wrestling Committee. Kemmy also served a four-year tenure on the NCAA Wrestling Committee. For all of his dedication and hardwork, The National Wrestling Coaches Association awarded Kemmy for his 25 years of hard work in the sport.

"I have been at this school for a long time and have had great success with the wrestling program," Kemmy said. "I'm excited about all of our upcoming seasons and helping to build our athletic program.

Kemmy has been such a successful figure in the sport of wrestling that from members from around the league chose to appoint him as commissioner of the Pilgrim Wrestling League. He has served fifteen years as the commissioner, along with being the Secretary and Reporting Director of the NCAA Division III Wrestling Association. He was also an evaluator of the officials at the NCAA Division I Championships during the past three seasons.

Last year, Kemmy achieved his greatest accomplishment by being inducted into the New England Wrestling Association Hall of Fame. Kemmy became only the 12th coach ever to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

When RWU needed to fill its Athletic Director position, Kemmy was clearly a perfect fit. Kemmy will serve as the Interim Athletic Director of all athletic departments, including intramurals for this upcoming year.

Men's and Women's Cross Country returns to the track
by DAN MALKIN  
Sports Editor

The Roger Williams University Men's and Women's Cross Country teams punched their bags and moved back to Bristol before all other students to begin training for their upcoming season. Both squads have worked hard during the off-season in hopes of outdoing themselves after last year's highly successful season.

Last year, the teams were able to bring home a conference championship and are determined to live up to high expectations this year's season.

The men's team has three captains this season: Chris Deseulo, Tom Eynsiaut and Tom Mayor. Tom Mayor will look to his captains along with standout runners Jon Ellis and Andrew Galliant. Both athletes were major pieces of last year's success when the squad earned a 9th straight TCOC title.

On the ladies' side of the track, the team will be on the line during this season's campaign. The women's captains consist of seniors Susan Thaxter, Lisa Marie McNulty and Alyssa "All Day" Donovan. Coach Livingston will rely heavily on his three All-Conference runners: Thaxter, Donovan and Juliana Fernandes.

"We as a team are all very determined to have yet another amazing season," Donovan said. "Both teams have been training at a high level and we feel good about the start of this year's season."

Both teams will kick-off their years this Friday in Smithfield, Rhode Island for the Bayview Invitational.

Maliks's Mind
Predicting the top ten: end-of-the-year picks for bowl season
by DAN MALKIN  
Sports Editor

1. Florida
The Gators are by far the best team in the country going into the season. The Gators have the best quarterback in Tim Tebow, a dynamic defense and a fast offense with many different weapons.

Florida will have two major games against LSU in Death Valley and Georgia in October, where they will have to win both to keep their championship hopes alive. I see the Gators having a dominating season and a legitimate shot at another national championship.

2. Texas
After their heart-breaking loss in Lubbock last year to Texas Tech, the Longhorns return hungry and determined for an even more successful season.

Colt McCoy will once again lead the offense, as he makes his push for a Heisman Trophy.

Texas has a very difficult schedule; one of their biggest games will take place when they travel to Stillwater to take on Oklahoma State. All in all, it should be a successful season for the Longhorns.

3. Oklahoma
The Sooners and coach Bob Stoops are set for another successful season. The Sooners' quarterback Sam Bradford, who was potentially the first pick selected in next year's NFL draft. The Sooners revolve around an aggressive passing attack that features numerous threats at the wide receiver position. No questions asked, Oklahoma should be unblemished and may go down as the best game of the season. That game will decide which team has a better shot at playing for the national title.

4. USC
The Trojans are entering this season with freshman quarterback Matt Barkley as their starter. Barkley will one day be a great player, but starting a true freshman can sometimes come back to haunt a team.

Barkley's second game won't be easy, as the Trojans will travel to the Horsehoe to take on Ohio State. If USC loses this game they still could have a shot at the championship, but it will make their Pac-10 games that much more important. Regardless, if Barkley plays well, he can put his team in contention for another trip to the Rose Bowl.

5. Ole Miss
When Houston Nutt came to Oxford, Mississippi fans were expecting big things from him. He has quickly lived up to those high expectations and has built a very strong team going into this season. Jevan Snead had a great first season at quarterback and he's only getting better. Derek Mason is a wonderful flex position player who fits Nutt's crazy, Wild-Rebel offensive scheme perfectly.

The Rebels don't have an extremely difficult schedule facing all of their major matchups at home and, if they play up to their talent level, will find themselves in a great position come bowl time.

6. Boise State
The only way the Broncos can finish the season ranked this high is by winning their first game at home against a strong Oregon Ducks team. It won't be an easy task for Boise State, but if they pull it off they could put themselves in the position to play in a major bowl game.

7. Oklahoma State
Fans in Stillwater could not be more excited about their squad entering into this year's season. After a highly successful campaign last year, the Cow...