Hawks' Herald -- September 11, 2009

Roger Williams University

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The Hawk's Herald

Vol. 29 Issue 2

September 11, 2009

Bristol, RI

Don't drink the water
BCWA issues "boil only" warning for E. coli in tapwater

by BEN WHITMORE
Asst. News Editor

The Rhode Island Department of Health issued a boil water advisory Tuesday morning after the Bristol County Water Authority (BCWA), which serves Barrington, Bristol and Warren, reported the presence of E. Coli bacteria in the public water system. Roger Williams University reacted, utilizing its alert notification system to inform students through text message, voicemail message, and e-mail of the proper precautions necessitated by the advisory.

The boil water advisory states that those wishing to use tap water for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, cooking or bathing infants need to boil the water for at least one minute and let cool before using.

Using tap water for hand washing and showering is "perfectly fine," said Annemarie Beardsworth, spokesperson for the Rhode Island Department of Health. "As long as you are not ingesting the water, you are fine," Beardsworth said.

On Sunday, routine water testing by the BCWA showed E. Coli contamination at a single testing site, said Pasquale DeLise, Executive Director of the BCWA. By law, DeLise was required to report the test results to the Rhode Island Department of Health, who initiated the boil water advisory the same day. The Rhode Island Department of Health did not issue a press release about the advisory until Tuesday morning.

DeLise and his colleagues at the BCWA found no E. Coli bacteria present at neighboring test sites. Upon further testing, all other sites in the public water supply were negative for E. Coli or any other type of bacteria, DeLise said.

To kill the E. Coli that showed up in Sunday's test, the BCWA increased the chlorine dosage in the water system. DeLise said. The BCWA will test the entire water supply at least three times this week.

See E.COLI p. 3

Water tower set for November completion

by LAURA KELLY
Herald Staff Writer

Construction continues as the reused steel located on the university's front lawn steadily transforms into a $1.2 million water tower.

Construction remains on-budget and on-schedule, with anticipated completion for November, according to Joe Pangborn, Vice President and Chief Information Officer.

After multiple public hearings discussing the shortage of water in southern Bristol, "the university volunteered to solve this problem... as we too, along with the other residents of southern Bristol, are served by this system, so we thought it a good community project," Pangborn said.

According to Pangborn, "the water is needed... for the main reason of having adequate quantities of water to fight fires (public safety reasons)."

As a third reservoir within the Bristol County Water Authority's water system, the water tank on campus will also "eliminate the line loss (pipe friction) between the tanks in Northern Bristol and the lower peninsula, thereby raising the pressure a bit" for nearby residents, Pangborn said.

Water pressure, however, is proving to be problematic for some residents of the North Campus Residence Hall. According to Pangborn, the new residence hall "contains its own pressure booster system.

"There is no issue with pressure in the res. hall," Pangborn said.

Some North Campus Residence Hall residents disagree.

"The water pressure is a problem every time I shower," senior Rachel Taylor said. "It does take longer to shower; mostly because with the poor pressure, it is harder to wash my hair."

Junior Jon Pifer and sophomore Steve Neves said they have noticed the low pressure in the showers in the new hall since the beginning of the school year.

Many students are also concerned about the loss of the campus' visual appeal.

The purchase of the previously owned water tank actually turned out to be a much more logical and sustainable decision than buying a new one. The used tank is made of thicker material, comes with a longer warranty, and "saves mining efforts, energy to create the steel, and time to service," Pangborn said.

The University plans to paint the water tower's exterior a

See TOWER p. 2

Paolino Field alive with the glory of Say Anything

by LAURA KELLY
Herald Staff Writer

Lead singer of Say Anything, Max Bemis, rests for a moment between songs during CEN's fall concert. Bemis and Say Anything are scheduled to come out with a new CD on Nov. 3. For full story, see pg. 7.
TOWER: To service Bristol

cont’d from page 1

light blue and create "a custom conical roof for the tower ... in order to give the tower a more 'historical' look," Pangborn said. There are no current plans to put an RWU logo on the tower, according to Pangborn.

In June, workers from East Coast Construction and Preferred Tank and Tower began the construction of the tower, which, upon completion, will be handed over to the Bristol County Water Authority.

If you like to write or want to get involved with something on campus,
join the Hawk's Herald!

We hold meetings on Mondays in MNS 212.
If you have questions, please E-mail us at hawks herald@gmail.com

College Republicans remember 9/11

Sept. 11 is a tragic day that people are already seeming to forget. The Young America's Foundation wants College Republicans to make sure students take a moment out of their day to remember those who tragically lost their lives. The RWU College Republicans set up 3,000 flags, a tradition kept for the last three years, honoring every life lost. We also have a whole week of events that go along with it. We set up the flags Wednesday night. On Thursday night, we are showing The Path to 9-11, which is a movie that depicts both sides of the political spectrum in showing us how we got to Sept. 11, 2001. On Friday, the bell tower will toll at 8:46 am when the first tower was hit and 10:28 when the Pentagon was hit. Friday night, we are hosting a vigil, just a small little ceremony, in honor of those who lost their lives. We must never forget this fateful day in history, and for that, we want our campus to acknowledge it just for a brief moment.

Sarah Koch, President of RWU College Republicans

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E. COLI: University responds

cont'd from page 1

sure that all harmful bacteria have been eliminated. After each test is com-
pleted and its results are analyzed, a process that takes about 24 hours per
test, the BCWA will report its findings to the Rhode Island Department of
Health, who alone have the power to relieve the advisory.

"It's really up to the board of health to make that decision. All samples
being negative, they will decide to relieve or not to relieve," DeLise said.
"Hopefully everything will be back to normal as soon as possible. It's a hard-
ship for the community."

The university is taking measures to adjust to the regulations of the ad-
visory. "We received an indication that this was not going to be resolved by
tomorrow, and therefore we thought it would be prudent to provide water to
our resident students as a precaution so they would have safe drinking
water available to them for the next several days," said John King, Vice Pres-
ident for Student Affairs.

On Wednesday, the university purchased 1,400 cases of Crystal Springs
water, and organized the distribution of twelve-packs of 16.9 ounce bottles of
water at various locations throughout campus.

"The work of our work study students, custodians and facilities staff made
it possible to unload and distribute the water in such a quick fashion," King
said.

According to King, each twelve-pack is intended to last a single student
for four to six days. The university would purchase more water if the advisory
continued on longer than anticipated, King said.

The university was alerted of the boil water advisory at 10:00 a.m. Tues-
day morning when a health inspector from the Rhode Island Department of
Health called James Gubata, Bon Appetit General Manager, informing him
of the just-issued advisory. The Department of Health contacted Gubata be-
fore other university administrators because he was in charge of food services,
an operation that posed a very high risk to the campus when the tap water
was contaminated, according to King. Gubata called the university Depart-
ment of Public Safety to alert them of the risk to campus.

Gubata, who is "highly-trained" in food safety, discontinued the use of all
university ice machines, soda fountains and coffee makers, as well as the ice
creates, as a precautionary measure, which uses tap water.

Although its coffee makers flash heat water while brewing, Bon Appetit
chose to discontinue their coffee and tea service until the advisory is over. The
coffee makers receive water through a direct line from the currently contam-
nated Brustol water supply. "We're not taking any chances," Gubata said.

On Tuesday, Bon Appetit ordered 2,000 gallons of water, 5,600 pounds of
ice and 1,200 cases of soda in order to cope with the lost use of the fountain
drink machines and backroom food washing sinks, according to Andy
Costanzo, Bon Appetit's Production Manager. Tuesday's orders are enough to
"get us through the week," Costanzo said.

In the event that the boil water advisory lasts longer than anticipated,
"Coca-Cola and Crystal Springs are both on board, they know that we are in
an emergency situation, so we are priority, and they said that they would
bring us product everyday," Gubata said.

According to Costanzo, Bon Appetit has evaluated their efforts through
"good contact with the health department."

"Everything that we are doing is good. They checked the temperatures of
the dish machines in the washroom and the chemicals that they gave us to
sanitize should do the trick. We are ahead of the curve and that we are doing
real well by their standards," Costanzo said.

Gubata estimated that it would cost into the thousands of dollars for
Bon Appetit to continue to supply their kitchens and patrons with potable
water and other drinks. But students' safety is Gubata's "first
priority."

"I don't care if it costs millions of dollars - no one is going to get sick on my
watch," Gubata said.

For more information on E. coli water contamination, see the Rhode Is-
land Department of Health's question and answer webpage, at

Peace Corps

4 ROGER WILLIAMS ALUMNI ARE SERVING OVERSEAS...
FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN JOIN THEM!

Thursday, September 17
Peace Corps Information Session
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Center for Student Development (CSD)
Career Exploration and Civic Engagement Building
Roger Williams University

Recommended deadline of October 1, 2009
for all 2010 departures.
www.peacecorps.gov/apply/now
Involvement fair through the eyes of a senior

by KELLEIGH WELCH
Editor

When I came to Roger Williams University, I recall the orientation session in which a group of professional staff stood up on stage, with lights flashing in my eyes and free t-shirts flying by my face, and shoved a bunch of information down my throat. With the combination of a migraine and the overwhelming amount of information that was being fed to me, in my head, all I could think was: "Dear God, I just want to go to bed!"

But what I did get out of that moment, which seemed like an eternity but only lasted about two hours, was an interest in getting involved.

And all through the summer, I could only remember one thing: Get involved. Get involved. Get involved.

Apparently, this message stuck. Upon arriving to RWU in the fall of 2006, I waited to adjust to my dorm, my classes and my friends, but at the first chance, I gave my contact information to approximately 20 clubs and organizations. This opportunity, which conveniently occurs once a year, was the involvement fair.

As a senior who has experienced her share of involvement, I now see the involvement fair through a different lens. My first thought this year: where's the Squirrel Watching Club? My second thought: where's the Chair Rearrangement Club?

These clubs were the essence of my bringing rights at home. Although I was not personally a member of either, I found some sort of joy in saying that my school had these clubs. There were exciting, simply because of their uniqueness.

But with the graduation of the founding members, these clubs would be placed in archives, only to be remembered at class reunions over drinks and laughter.

But upcoming clubs have the opportunity to take over. As I wandered from table to table, I stumbled upon new clubs, such as the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu club, which teaches you the art of, well, Brazilian Ji-Jitsu. Founder John Cutrone explained that the sport is "like wrestling, but you win by submission. There is no striking, only grappling.

The Fencing Company was there, which started up last year. They had their annual climbing wall, which I would have easily joined. I've been playing boxers.

The ROTC had their annual climbing wall, which I would have easily conquered if it weren't for my recent arm injury from over-copying.

WQRU provided the background music with their updated live unit, exposing new music and adding a fun and exciting vibe to the fair. This organization provides continuous music over radio waves on 88.3 FM, also providing live concerts and live DJ events throughout the semester. To promote their upcoming 90s Dance, which is co-sponsored with the Inter-Residence Hall Association, they were handing out colorful sunglasses while blasting Michael Jackson songs.

For those looking for a more professional group to join, there was the American Institute of Architecture, which is geared towards architecture students. They offer an element of professional development, with portfolio reviews and conferences, but also provide a bit of fun, such as the annual Beaux Arts Ball.

As I wandered from table to table, watching clubs and organizations promote themselves and encouraging freshmen to find groups that cater their specific interests, I would wave to a friend here or there, and suddenly it hit me.

Get involved.

I got it. In the four years of being at RWU, I have met my closest friends through working with the newspaper, Didin on WQRU, attending events and being involved.

So as a senior, looking back, I would say that the best thing I did was get involved. And I suggest to freshmen, sophomores, juniors or whoever, that you should too.

Opinion

Save yourself a trip to the dentist

You've barely had time to unpack your suitcases or add your roommate on Face­book, and you, along with hundreds of other freshmen, are already breaking a cardinal rule of parents everywhere: don't take candy from strangers. Somehow within the first few weeks at Roger Williams University you've forgotten that accepting enticing sweets from unknown people, even unknown peers, usually ends badly. You'll learn soon enough.

But at the time, on that September afternoon on the D'Angelo Common, it doesn't matter. You and other newly dubbed Hawks happily scope out the clubs and organizations present at the annual Involvement Fair. You blow caution to the Bristol breeze, greedily exchanging e-mail addresses and promises to attend meetings for Sturbruda and M&Ms.

And just a few short hours after your pockets and purses start swelling with not just candy, but pens and key chains too, your Gmail accounts follow suit. Reminders for the first meetings of the year inundate your accounts, pleading you to make appearances. Filled with sugar and aspirations to "get involved," you agree and thus commence your journey into student leadership. It's here where you should start questioning whether the candy was worth the commitment.

That's because, unbelievably to you at the time, you've entered a world of hierarchy and favoritism. It's likely that the organizations you've chosen to join have admirable objectives; perhaps they want to increase unity, provide a voice for the student body or bring quality musicians and comedians to campus. But that doesn't change the fact that once within the org, you're going to be faced with an ultima­tom: remain apathetic and mindlessly support events, or accept your role as a com­petitive and ruthless member of their org. Vote the former.

They ferociously fight to obtain the largest percentage of the student activities fund and schedule their events on the most opportune days. Each views for the best situation, creating animosity and feelings of contempt amongst their members. And in doing so, they contradict the objectives in their own mission statements. Instead of promoting the unity and camaraderie they pledge to uphold, they hurt feelings and sever friendships.

And for what? Despite the few orgs. that try their hardest to host creative and entertaining events, the most prominent simply serve as a way to dispose of our student activities fee. They practically throw away money on their unoriginal and tired programs. Members of orgs. decide whom they'd like to see or what they'd like to do, disregard the suggestions from the general student population and plan the events in their own perspective.

Recommendation: class of 2013, say no to the Milky Way. Pass on the Smarties; abstain from the Twizzlers. You'll fight the Freshman 15 while avoiding the less than admirable aspects of RWU orgs.

Find other ways to fill your resume, whether through internships, independent projects or academic endeavors. And if you're really interested in contributing to an org., just attempt to keep yourself removed from their inner-workings. Forget the advisors, the weekly meetings and the tedious paperwork. And more importantly, pass on the self-righteousness and needless hostility towards fellow students.

It's tempting, the notion that you too could one day find yourself plastered on the infamous Involvement Wall in the Rec. Center. But before you write your name down on that sign-up sheet, ask about Shazam, and just where that bit-sized candy bar took him.
by KELCIE SWEENEY
Study Abroad Correspondent

Italy! So much has happened since I arrived in Italy two weeks ago! Florence is a beautiful city full of so many things to do! It’s taking a bit to get used to the city, but it has been quite an adventure. For example, a 25 minute walk to school is a little different compared to a short stroll across campus, and shopping in a grocery store where everything is in a foreign language takes considerably longer than a quick visit to Shaw’s.

During the week we settled into apartments spread across the city, quickly finding good restaurants, places to go at night and shopping. It amazed that there is so much stuff, while the city itself isn’t that big.

From the top of the Duomo, the largest church in Florence, you can see all the way to the country. Many of the staircases were tight and it isn’t that big. Many of the staircases were tight and it isn’t that big.

Recently we went to a Vineyard in Chianti, which was about 45 minutes out of the city. The hill was at the top of an extremely steep hill which overlooked the valley of grapes.

The vineyard itself was built approximately 800 years ago, but its real claim to fame is that a member of the family, a daughter named Lisa is a Junior studying abroad in Florence, Italy and will write a weekly column for The Hawk’s Herald about her experiences.

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Lessons from abroad: Exploring the countryside

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On another trip some students went to Siena and San Gimignano, a city and town located in the Tuscan region, outside of Florence.

In Siena they are famous for the Piazza del Campo, which is where every year the townspeople have a horse race, called the Palio di Siena. The race has 10 horses from 17 of the city wards. The race involves weeks of fanfare in which horses and riders are prepared for the dangerous race, including festivals and blessings at churches. The flags for this race mark the different areas of the city and are easily seen at every corner. Visiting Siena definitely taught me about how seriously the Italians take their sports.

San Gimignano is a small little town on the top of a hill and is famous because it is one of the few undamaged and preserved medieval cities in all of Italy. Famous for a particular type of white wine, which grapes are grown in the valleys it overlooks. San Gimignano is also a beautiful place to visit.

San Gimignano has multiple medieval towers that are still standing, and there is an impressive view from the top of the only public one. While some would consider it a tourist trap, I found it to be a really beautiful place.

As my adventure continues, hopefully further away from Florence and Italy in the next couple of weeks, I will continue to write on the events that take place. Until then, arrivederci!

Kelcie shows off fresh grapes in Chianti during a vineyard tour in Chianti, a region in Italy famous for their wine.

How green can you be?

SAMANTHA DUGGAN
RWU Eco-Rep

It is no secret that our environment is in danger. Pollution, built up landfills, deforestation and a flux in greenhouse gases are warming our climate and drastically effecting our ecosystems. The unfortunate truth is that we are the ones that are being negatively affected.

To help make RWU a greener, more environmentally friendly campus, the new RWU Eco-Rep team is dedicating the month of September to the three R’s: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. It may sound a little corny, or bring you back to elementary school, but learning more about the three Rs can show how simple it is to maintain a green lifestyle and just how much a single contribution can help make a difference.

Recycling is the easiest to aid the environment. Paper, glass, aluminum, metal, plastic, rubber, electronic, and textiles are just a few among several materials that can be recycled. Recycling paper and commingled materials (aluminum, glass, metal and plastic) on campus this year has never been easier; clearly labeled bins for each are located by every dumpster on campus, and in every unit of all the on-campus resident halls. Recycling just one aluminum can will save enough energy to power a TV for three hours, and if this school were to recycle just one ton of paper this year (which is possible!) we would save 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, and enough energy to power an average American household for five years! Imagine that!

Reducing the amount of water and electricity used in your household, apartment, or dorm contributes to the environment the most drastically of any of the three Rs. When a faucet is left running it flows at a rate of 2 gallon per minute. Just making sure that the faucet is off when you brush your teeth can save up to 8 gallons of water a day! To reduce the amount of energy lost through light, switch all your light bulbs to compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs). CFLs produce the same amount of light, use a third of the electricity of a regular bulb, and last about 10x longer. This is another simple, money-saving solution that significantly benefits the environment. Last year, Americans paid about $8 billion a year for electronics that are in sleep mode or have a check that always stays on. To prevent this, it would be a good habit to actually unplug electronics when they are not being used. Again this saves energy and money.

There are so many simple, quick ways to get started on saving the environment right away. At least one Eco-Rep lives in every dorm and we are always available for questions about recycling and sustainability. Talk to your Eco-Rep, visit our website (http://sustainability.rwu.edu), or begin recycling on your own today and see just how fast your contributions can make our Earth as green as it deserves to be.

E-mail us your Letter to the Editor at hawksherald@gmail.com
by KELLEIGH WELCH
Editor

On Sunday, September 6, the Campus Entertainment Network brought the band Say Anything to campus, providing an outdoor concert with barbecue for students.

Lead singer Max Bemis performed for a small crowd, however with the amount of cheering and singing along, one could easily be fooled by the size. The band began with a few upbeat favorites from their first album, "...As A Real Boy," such as "Every Man has a Molly" and the fan-favorite, "Woe." They also played songs, including the new single "Hate Everyone," from their new album, set to arrive in stores on Nov. 3.

The concert was great," senior Collie Jackson said. "One of the best RWU has had since I've been here, and Say Anything is an amazing band.

Behind the stage, the Hawk's Herald was able to sit down with the band to learn a little more about the lives they live.

Unfortunately, Bemis did not participate in the interview, but instead sat in the corner of the Senate Chambers on a stack of chairs playing his guitar.

According to starpulse.com, Bemis had "struggled with crippling stress," and "suffered a nervous breakdown that ultimately led Say Anything to drop off two tours in 2008, including an opening slot with the band's idols, Saves the Day." However, with Bemis fronting the band, the story of how the band to be had to come from his personal band biography on the band's official website, sayanythingmusic.com.

"During the lonely, depressing period of time when I dropped out of college to prepare for writing and recording our first record for Warhol, or Jesus. I had to write an overzealous drive in human beings. From that point of our lives was. Was I doomed to struggle, the fact that every creative person has this sick ambition to affect some sort of change in society with their art, to be more than just a guy in a band or a poet or a sculptor. I couldn't decide if this ambition was a good or bad thing but I decided to parody that overwhelming drive in human beings by crafting a truly over the top musical about...myself."

Including Bemis, the band consists of Coby Linder on drums, Alex Kent on guitar, Jake and Jeff Turner on guitar and vocals, and Parker Case on keyboards.

"We've been with this group for 4 years," Jeff Turner said between the chatter of the band microwaving hot dogs for their meal. "This year we've been playing a lot of college shows, since we've been recording our new album."

Of the band's long list of favorite songs to perform, they agreed that "Admit it" was one of the best.

"Say Anything, like many bands, finds inspiration and influence through the works of other artists.

"All of our influences come from such a specific array," Kent said. "We've been with this group for 4 years, is the common favorite between the band, and has provided much influence for the music Bemis creates.

Beyond discussing lyrics and influences, the band passed ideas for a possible lineup for the concert and shared stories of their travels and tattoos.

They provided a relaxed atmosphere, and gave the impression that they were "just like everyone else."

At the conclusion of the interview, Case wanted to make a point to say that RWU was "our favorite college to play at."
MIND: Football season predictions

cont'd from page 8

the Packers will be heading back to the playoffs. The Vikings are an interesting pick for the playoffs. With Adrian Peterson in the backfield, their running game may be the best in the league. As much as I am sick of hearing about Favre, he will make the Vikings a better team and gives them a chance at a successful season. The Detroit Lions will once again be at the bottom of the division, but it will be exciting to see Calvin "Megatron" Johnson catch the deep ball from Matt Stafford.

NFC South

This is a division that contains four young teams who all have room to grow over the next few seasons. The Atlanta Falcons are clearly the favorites to win this division and the addition of Tony Gonzalez only makes them stronger on offense. Matt Ryan and Roddy White are an exciting combination, and Michael "The Burner" Turner is a powerhouse in the backfield. Both the Carolina Panthers and the New Orleans Saints have strong players on both sides of the ball, yet are also lacking some important pieces. Both teams could have a shot at the playoffs if they play well, but it will be a long road to Miami for either club. Tampa Bay has improved their running game significantly, but their quarterback position is up-in-the-air, and their defense is aging quickly. I look for the Falcons to run the table in this division while making it back to the playoffs.

NFC West

After coming off an unbelievable Super Bowl run, the Arizona Cardinals are ready for another successful season. Kurt Warner, if he can stay healthy, has plenty of weapons around him in Larry Fitzgerald and Anquan Boldin to go back to the playoffs. The Seattle Seahawks will be better than last year, and the free-agent signing of T.J. Houshmandzadeh can only help. The San Francisco 49ers and the St. Louis Rams are still in the rebuilding process and both will continue to struggle this year. This is the Cardinals division and they should have no problem finishing on top.

Like sports?

Write for The Hawk's Herald's sports section!

For more information contact: dmalkin118@g.rwu.edu

Men's soccer continues to perform at a high level

Men's soccer is hard at work

by DAN MALKIN
Sports Editor

After beating Fitchburg State College and almost finishing off Plymouth State in overtime, the men's soccer team went back to work against Johnson & Wales at home this week. Early on in the first quarter, senior captain Justin Plourde fired a ball towards the net that was eventually headed in by freshman midfielder Billy Kissane.

Firing a precision pass that was shot quickly past the goalkeeper for another goal, giving the Hawks a two-zero lead. After that goal, Kissane tapped a ball to Jared Falconer in on the left side, who was also able to convert another score for his team.

Early in the first half, Falconer fired a ball downfield towards Liam Isleib, who retrieved it near the Wildcats' goal. Isleib made a quick move at the keeper and was able to score the first points of the half. Kissane, the freshman from Glastonbury, CT, was able to score his second goal of the season to further help his team pull away with the lead. D.J. Hunter scored from the left corner of the field, which later led to John Pearson scoring an amazing goal that bounced off the post and past the keeper. Michael Friedman was able to cash in from the left side for the eight and final goal for his team.

Junior goalkeeper T.J. Doherty now has his first victory as a Hawk after earning the shutout. Ian McClughin, a freshman goalkeeper, came on to relieve Doherty of his services and was able to get a save of his own.

The next game for the Hawks will be an important one, in which the team begins TCCC play. The squad will take their three-and-one record on the road and travel north to Boston to take on Wentworth Institute of Technology.
The 2009-10 NFL season kicks off this weekend for what should be another exciting football season. Here are my predictions for regular-season records and playoff match-ups:

**AFC East**
The division will be stronger than last year, with the return of Tom Brady and the arrival of Terrell Owens. The jets will play rookie quarterback Mark Sanchez, who one day will be a solid player, but needs to play at an extremely high level for his team to have any chance at succeeding. The Patriots will be the best team in the division and I see them having a strong season leading up to the playoffs. The Miami Dolphins will continue to progress as a franchise under Bill Parcells and will have a legitimate shot at a wildcard berth.

**AFC North**
The Pittsburgh Steelers return as defending Super Bowl champs and look to have another very successful season. Their running game will continue to develop, while their seasoned defense will surely be relentless. The Ravens are a young team led by quarterback Joe Flacco, who will continue to develop into a prime-time player. There are some question marks beside the defense, while their seasoned defense will surely be relentless. The Cleveland Browns are a dynamic running back, while Ray Rice could emerge as the starter. I do not expect much from the Cincinnati Bengals or the pathetic Cleveland Browns.

**AFC South**
Tennessee is a team that has high expectations coming into this season. I like the Titans’ “Smash and Dash” duo of running backs in Chris Johnson and LenDale White. I believe those two players can lead the Titans into the playoffs. The Indianapolis Colts are clearly the best team in this division, where Peyton Manning will once again lead his team into the playoffs. The Jacksonville Jaguars are a dark-horse team in this division. Maurice Jones-Drew is a dynamic running back, but their passing game will remain an issue. The Houston Texans are a young team who will continue to improve. Their three-man rotation of Matt Schaub, Steve Slaton and Andre Johnson is always fun to watch.

**AFC West**
The Chargers have lots of talent on both sides of the ball. LaDainian Tomlinson is now in his 30’s and needs to return to form if the Chargers are to have a shot at the Super Bowl. If Phillip Rivers continues to improve as a play-caller, the Chargers should be able to make a run in the playoffs. The Kansas City Chiefs will be better than last year, but will still struggle on both sides of the ball. I refuse to even discuss the Oakland Raiders’ current situation; they don’t even deserve to show up for one game all season.

**NFC East**
Here’s another difficult division with four strong teams who all have a shot at the playoffs. Even with the departure of Plaxico Burress, the Giants remain the best team in the division. Eli Manning has numerous weapons at his disposal and the running game, anchored by Brandon Jacobs, should continue to flourish. The Dallas Cowboys and Philadelphia Eagles come into the season with many question marks. The Cowboys have lost Terrell Owens and the Eagles went out and signed Michael Vick. Both teams are strong on many levels and both have a serious chance at making the playoffs. The Redskins had a strong off-season and to land the starting quarterback is a big plus. The Giants will have any chance at succeeding. The Patriots will be a team to watch. The Miami Dolphins are clearly the best team in this division. In the end, however, the Giants and the Cowboys will earn playoff berths.

**NFC North**
The Chicago Bears and the Minnesota Vikings are two teams that have major off-season moves in their quest to improve. Minnesota’s move to trade away the best running back in the league is rather bold, while the Bears made a major trade, acquiring Jay Cutler, and the Vikings decided to make the move and sign Brett “Old Man” Favre. Green Bay is now the best team in this division. This season, all eyes in cheese country will be on Aaron Rodgers. Greg Jennings is an unbelievable wide receiver and with Rodgers, the Packers are a team to watch.

**NFL Predictions: Patriots, Chargers, Giants and Steelers lead the pack**

**College football: Upsets occur in week two**

The first week in college football was filled with exciting play that consisted of numerous close games and the full of a powerhouse team. The big story this week came from Dallas, where Oklahoma and BYU squared off against one another. Heisman winner Sam Bradford and the Sooners came into the game as the third best team in the country with dreams of returning to the BCS title game. After Saturday night’s game, one impact hit on the prized quarterback may change all hopes.

During the final seconds of the 2nd quarter, Bradford was forced to the ground landing hard on his right shoulder. The hit left Bradford on the sidelines for the remainder of the game and changes everything in Norman for all Sooners fans. Max “The Missionary” Ted Hall and the Cougars played solid football throughout all four quarters and escaped with a 14-13 victory.

The win also changes everything for BYU, who now have a very good chance at making a push for a BCS bowl game and even puts them in early discussions for the BCS title game. The Cougars have a difficult schedule throughout the remainder of the season with games against Florida State, TCU and Utah. If BYU can somehow go unbeaten, they would have built themselves a legitimate resume for a National Title birth.

The game between Alabama and Virginia Tech also had National Title hopes at stake, where the Crimson Tide overcame some early mistakes to keep their title run alive. Greg McElroy made his debut at quarterback and played solid football throughout the game, while finishing with 250 yards and a touchdown. Sophomore running back Mark Ingram ran for 156 yards and a touchdown while also being on the receiving end of another score. Terrence “The Incredible Hulk” Cody once again anchored a very talented Nick Saban defense.

Tyrell “T-Mobile” Taylor had a difficult game for the Hokies, where he was only able to pass for 11 yards and never got his running game going. The loss leaves Virginia Tech in a difficult situation, where Frank Beamer will have to work overtime to get his troops ready for their showdown against Nebraska in two weeks.

The other big game of the week featured Oklahoma State and the Georgia Bulldogs in a Big 12-SEC showdown in Stillwater. The Cowboys played great football on all levels and seem to be living up to the lofty expectations that come with their highest preseason ranking in school history.

The triple threat of Zac Robinson, Kendall Hunter and Dez Bryant will be an offensive force to be reckoned with all season long. Robinson threw 2 touchdowns to Bryant and also ran for a score of his own. I believe the Cowboys will be 7-0 on Halloween, when the Longhorns will come to town for what should be an amazing battle between two Big 12 south teams.

The other game results during the week were pretty much expected, with few upsets taking place throughout the country. Oregon traveled to Boise to take on the Broncos, in hopes of getting some revenge after last season’s loss in Eugene. However, Kellen Moore and D.J. Harper played well, both leading their teams to a 10-8 victory while keeping their BCS hopes alive.

The other big game of the week was played last night, where Miami traveled to Tallahassee to take on their rival, Florida State. The Seminoles were ranked 18th in the country coming into the game and were expected to be a dominating force in the ACC. However, Jacob Harens and the Canes stepped up to the occasion and played strong football through all four quarters. At the end of the fourth quarter, Harris’ 40-yard strike over double-coverage to Travis Benjamin. The play eventually led to a Craig Cooper rushing touchdown to seal the victory. In the end, the Canes came away with a 38-34 upset and will be prepared to host a talented Georgia Tech team next Thursday night.

All eyes will be on USC and Ohio State this week, where the Trojans will make the journey to the Horseshoe in Columbus to take on the Buckeyes. It should be another exciting week in the college football world, as the race for the National Title begins to take shape.