Safe Rides gears up for roll out

Student Senate’s newest program, Safe Rides at RWU, is set to hit the road as early as next semester. Safe Rides at RWU is an emergency transportation service for the students of RWU. It will offer transportation back to campus for students who feel that it is not safe to drive or who have been stranded. This will hopefully cut down on drunk driving by students at RWU.

This program will operate on Friday and Saturday nights, from 10:30 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. Student Senate vans will be used to transport students back to campus. The vans will travel to four areas from campus, which covers nearly all of Bristol and Portsmouth. This service will be confidential and free of charge. The student drivers of the Safe Rides at RWU vehicles work on a volunteer basis. They must go through training sessions provided by Student Senate vans.

See SAFE, page 2

Annual tradition celebrated for eighth time at RWU

This event has become a tradition at the university. Student Senate, with the help of other organizations, has been running the event for eight years now, according to senator and Winter Illuminations committee member, Noor Alawyia. The holiday celebration also acts as a fundraiser.

Engvall wins Professor of the Semester

Justice studies professor honored with award

Professor Robert Engvall has been chosen as fall 2010’s Professor of the Semester recipient. Dev Lewis, senator and chair of Student Senate’s Academic Affairs Committee, explained the process behind the selection: “Each semester, students nominate the professors they’d like to see win the award.” Lewis said. “The Academic Affairs committee then sent around a survey to all students through email allowing them to write in the professor they wanted to nominate. We then printed the results, processed them, and then took the top five nominees based on the results.”

Lewis said that over 1,000 people voted in the survey, a number Lewis called “excellent.” The Academic Affairs committee formally announced the results in an all-student email yesterday. Speaking on behalf of the committee, Lewis said “The committee would like to publicly congratulate Engvall for his excellent work for the RWU community.”

Engvall said that he is “honored” by the award. “I certainly thank the students.”
STEVEN KEMP - File photo

McDonald’s Corp. says a key sales figure rose 4.8 percent in November, helped in the U.S. by the popularity of the limited-time McBribe sandwich. The world’s largest burger chain also said Wednesday weaker foreign currencies will hurt fourth-quarter earnings.

Amanda Newman

NEW JERSEY law sidelines student athletes who may have a brain injury

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is playing defense against brain injuries for student athletes. Christie signed a bill into law Tuesday requiring public and private school coaches to remove any athlete from play who shows signs of a concussion. Students who suffer a concussion will also need clearance from a physician before they can compete again. All New Jersey public and private school districts are required to develop policies to handle head injuries.

Dirty money: Tests detect chemical BPA on dollar bills

As if holiday shopping weren’t stressful enough, a new report says the dwindling stash of cash in your wallet might be tainted with the controversial chemical BPA. Tests on a small sample of dollar bills found traces of bisphenol A, the hormone-mimicking chemical linked to health problems from infertility and cancer to early puberty and obesity, said Erika Engvall, a scientist who led the study.

FLASH dance

At approximately 12:02 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8, in the Upper Commons, a flash mob appeared, and proceeded to dance to the song “2012” by Jay Sean featuring Nicki Minaj. According to the YouTube video description, the mob was organized in response to a senior seminar project assigned by professor Brett McKenzie.

SAFE: Program almost ready to hit the road

Continued from page 1

the program and attend their team's regular practice. Safe Rides at RWU is an ad-hoc committee of Senate. An ad-hoc committee is a committee created with or for a certain purpose, and once the purpose is served, the committee ends. As such, Student Senate will be funding the cost to run the program, and the program should start sometime in the near future. When asked of the date, Safe Rides at RWU President Tim Sale said, “The program has claimed multiple start dates that have all been delayed, however, it is safe to say that Safe Rides at RWU will start early next semester. This is not a promise, because the decision is ultimately up to the administration, but it is safe to say that it will start early next semester.” Safe Rides at RWU will help to provide RWU students an option to get back to campus safely on the weekends. Hopefully, students will not abuse the services provided by the program. This has the potential to improve the safety of the university and the surrounding communities.

SEMESTER: Justice studies teacher wins award

Continued from page 1

Tsimortos said he met Engvall by chance last fall during the URI vs. Narragansett trial at the RWU Law School, while he was trying into Engvall’s class. “He’s someone you can go to — he’s really there for students. He really cares,” Tsimortos said.

Engvall has been teaching full-time at RWU since 1999 and was one of five student-nominated candidates voting for the title. He will be commemorated with a plaque that will bear his name with past winners.
RWU alum is dating

Christina Aguilera

AMANDA NEWMAN | Managing Editor

A Roger Williams University alumna has been spotted by paparazzi out and about with singer/actress Christina Aguilera.

Matthew Rutler graduated from RWU in 2007 with a degree in business and a minor in music. He went on to work as a production assistant for movies such as "The Social Network" and Aguilera's new movie "Burlesque," where the two reportedly met. The couple were photographed together in Newport at the end of November.

Liliana Rutler, Matthew's sister, is a current RWU sophomore. "Matthew is a good big brother who enjoyed his time at Roger and comes back often," Liliana said.

Senate considers funding proposed turf field

AMANDA NEWMAN | Managing Editor

Roger Williams University's Student Senate will vote Monday on whether or not they will contribute $50,000 in funds to the university's recently proposed turf field project.

According to an all-student email dated November 29, Senate was to discuss the idea of contributing funds towards the proposed field at the December sixth senate meeting.

If passed, the money would be taken from the Senate's reserve account, which is only used to fund "capital projects," according to Senate Treasurer Matt Paige, and given to the university.

Paige said that the Senate has been debating whether or not they should fund the turf field and if so, how much they should contribute. They eventually decided on a sum of $50,000.

In the all-student email, the Senate said, "In an effort to facilitate the development of this turf field, the Student Senate has agreed to spend no more than $175,000 from the reserve account."

Paige did note, however, that the money is for the turf field only, meaning that if the University fails to approve the installation of the field, the $50,000 will be returned to the reserve account.

"When we see an opportunity to push along a project that students want to see, we will consider it," Paige said. Currently, the idea of funding the field is being processed through Senate in the form of a bill, which is expected to be voted on at the Dec. 15 Senate meeting, by which time the Senate hopes to have a decision formally made.

RWU Dance Theatre to hold winter dance show

Student dancers will perform pieces choreographed by guest artists, professors, and fellow students

Article Courtesy | Tracy Pretorius

The Roger Williams University Dance Theatre will perform in concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday to Saturday, Dec. 9 to 11, and at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 11 and 12, in Performing Arts Center, 1 Old Ferry Road. Dance students will perform works by guest artists Sean Curran, Kelley Donovan and Ashley Winston and by dance faculty members Michael Bolger, Katie McNa­mar and Melody Huff­in­dard.

Pieces by dance majors Kristen Majors, Elizabeth Kelley, Emily Caprio and Courtney Steim­nach will also be performed.

In the concert, dancers will perform a piece choreographed by Sean Curran during his resi­dency with the RWU Dance and Performance Studies Program in November. Mr. Curran made his mark on the dance world as a leading dancer with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie­ Zane Dance Com­pany. He received a New York Dance and Performance Bes­sie Award for his performance in "Secret Posture" and was an original member of the New York City cast of the Off-Broad­way percussion extravaganza "Stomp," performing in the show for four years. He began his col­lege career in dance at Roger Williams University.

Kelley Donovan's choreo­phy was selected by the New York Times as one of the six outstanding dance events of the 2000 season. Her choreo­phy has been commissioned by World Music/­Cultural Events in Bos­ton and the Djo Theater in New York City. The Boston Globe said of her work: "The choreographer ... enters midway like the eye of the cyclone that has been gen­erating movement all the while. She is like a double helix in mo­tion, constantly flipping perspec­tive. She seems to reach out and coil inward at the same time, her body twisting and spiraling, arms curving forward and back with quick shifts of dynamics."

Tickets are $10 for general ad­mission and $5 for students and seniors. Seating is limited. For ticket inquiries, call the box office at 254-3626.
WINTER: Community enjoys holiday tradition

The whole purpose behind Winter Illuminations is to raise money, and it's also a good chance to bring the Bristol community together. It is not just for Roger Williams University," Alaweyat said.

And sure enough, people of all ages lined up for the various food stands provided by Bon Appetit. When asked, most students responded that the food, "said sophomore Izzy DePristo. Even Alaweyat exclaimed, "Good food!" when she was mentioning things she likes about Winter Illuminations. She also explained that Winter Illuminations is like "that one last hurrah before we break into finals, before we go off and start winter break."

When all was said and done, Paige expressed his happiness with the turnout. "The event went really well! We had a lot of people show up, and we were able to present a check to the Women's Resource Center, who are very grateful for our efforts," Paige said. "I'd like to thank everyone for their help with the event. I'm especially grateful for the aid of the clubs, orgs. Student Programs and Leadership, Scott Yongen, and Dr. Champagne."

"Also, a big thank you to everyone who made it out despite the cold!" Paige said.

Clockwise from top left: members of the Winter Illuminations committee pose for a photo-op with Swoop.

Students brave the cold to enjoy the treats provided by Bon Appetit.

President Champagne and Matt Paige, chair of the Winter Illuminations committee, present a check for $428.14 to the Women's Resource Center of Newport and Bristol Counties.

Auction made of volunteers from the Winter Illuminations committee and held a silent auction, where we auctioned off a reggae show in Providence courtesy of WORI and Collin tickets, which were donated by (senator and fellow Winter Illuminations committee member) Ryan Freed's office. Ryan Freed's Women's Resource Center.

IRHA took the lead in fundraising by playing an important role in fundraising by selling paper snowflakes and making a banner of support to present to the Women's Resource Center.

RWU President Dr. Ronald Champagne presented a giant check with the fundraised sum to a representative from the Women's Resource Center at Winter Illuminations, giving a whole new meaning to his words, "This is a time when we celebrate giving."

After President Champagne's presentation and a brief acknowledgment of thanks to various people by Paige, the main event took place, the lighting of the modest pine tree growing in the quad.

Champagne lead the crowd in a rousing countdown, and at the end, the tree began to glow a bluish white, which resulted in much cheering. Afterwards, Paige wished the students luck with finals and wished everyone happy holidays, and then the crowd was left to mingle and continue partaking in the other aspects of Winter Illuminations.

During the event, WORI played music to get everyone in the holiday spirit, such as the very appropriate hit "Baby It's Cold Outside." 

Also, before the lighting, the university's Acappella group, Special Delivery, performed for the crowd. There were other illuminations around the quad besides the tree. Projections, such as one proclaiming "Happy Holidays!" lit up the surrounding buildings. Other moving lights gave the still very green grass a more snowy appearance. Then there was the inflatable Santa Snoopy and the number of people in festive costumes, including the school mascot, Swoop.

Though there were recognizable aspects of various specific holidays, such as Santa hats, Alaweyat specified that Winter Illuminations does not have an intended religious affiliation. It is meant to celebrate all the holidays in this season.

"I'm very grateful for our efforts," Paige said. "I'd like to thank everyone for their help with the event. I'm especially grateful for the aid of the clubs, orgs. Student Programs and Leadership, Scott Yongen, and Dr. Champagne."

"Also, a big thank you to everyone who made it out despite the cold!" Paige said.

Continued from page 1

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And sure enough, people of all ages lined up for the various food stands provided by Bon Appetit. When asked, most students responded that the food was their favorite part of Winter Illuminations. They loved the kettle corn and hot apple cider. "Of course college students like this event, there's free food," said sophomore Izzy DePristo. Even Alaweyat exclaimed, "Good food!" when she was mentioning things she likes about Winter Illuminations. She also explained that Winter Illuminations is like "that one last hurrah before we break into finals, before we go off and start winter break."

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To those who know where to look, Manny's serves up value

Danielle Terry | Held Reporter

The maroon awning reads, "Van's Spa," but the glass window advertises hot dogs and burgers. Inside, crates of Empire Soda bottles run down the store's center and the walls are lined with newspaper clippings. Customers can be seen walking behind the counter to help themselves refill their coffee mugs.

"It's only a little hole in the wall but it's a place for fun," Manuel Rego said, while flipping burgers behind the counter.

Rego is better known by his nickname Manny, and his diner, Van's Spa, is also better known as Manny's. It's a small restaurant located on Wood Street. Passing by it is easy to do, partially because of the small size and partially because of the misleading awning.

The restaurant does not offer any spa services.

"Young kids don't understand that because you don't know what it is. Years ago, a spa was like a store that has a little bit of everything but it has a center point," Manny said.

Before Manny owned the restaurant, Van's Spa was a convenience store that sold magazines and some groceries. Eventually it turned into a coffee shop, which then turned into a diner. In the past 4 years that Manny has been the owner, he has not changed the name or very much else about the diner. The only major renovations he made were adding an air-conditioning unit and decorating the walls.

This local restaurant's main draw is that they serve big portions of food at cheap prices.

Manny's specializes in breakfast and lunch, in fact most days the diner closes at 4 p.m. For breakfast, Manny personally serves large breakfast sandwiches with home fries, all for $3.00. For the same price, he also serves a cheeseburger and fries for lunch. Grilled cheese and french fries is only $2.00 and these are just some of the unbelievable specials that Manny offers on a daily basis.

"It's fairly priced. My expenses are low and I don't have any help. It's all family run," Manny said.

Manny works in his restaurant seven days per week and the only help he has is from his mother-in-law. The restaurant certainly has that family-owned feel; the atmosphere inside is very casual, which is probably why Manny's regular customers feel comfortable enough to walk behind the counter and pour themselves refills.Besides its local student residents, Manny's is a pretty popular place for Roger Williams University students. With its large quantities of good food at great prices, Manny's is a college student's dream. Students can have a filling breakfast and lunch and still have extra money left over for books and drinks.

The college kids are good to me and I mean that, I've made some friends. They're very nice to me despite my ways," Manny said.

RWU students make up a large percentage of Manny's customers, but he appreciates the students as more than just who helps keep him in business. He knows everyone and enjoys having the "college kids" in his restaurant; he trusts them.

"I'm Gruff. If you take me serious, you've got a problem," Manny said. Part of the charm of Manny's restaurant is Manny himself. He is a unique character that makes the whole place. Manny's driving experience fun. He never writes an order down because he can always remember them.

Manny has run several different restaurants throughout Rhode Island before owning Manny's, so he is used to the restaurant business. "I do it my way and I can..."
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The odds are you'll gain 30 pounds between the ages of 18 and 35.

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'Science at Blithewold' open through Jan. 2

Articled by Bristol Phoenix

Once again, Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum is transformed into a dazzling display celebrating the magic of Christmas. "Christmas at Blithewold- Tiffany, Tinsel & Toys" is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays to Sundays through Sunday, Jan. 2, at the mansion at 101 Ferry Road.

Visitors are greeted by an 18-foot Monroe Pine tree in the foyer, designed by artist Joanne Murrman and hung with origami swans made by local school children. Admission is $10 for adults, $8 for seniors (55 plus) and college students, $2 for children 6 to 17 years old, and free for children 5 and under. There are discounts for AAA members and military families.

Afternoon teas are at 1:30 and 3 p.m. Tuesdays to Fridays; children's holiday teas from 4 to 6 p.m. Mondays, Dec. 13 and 20; children's storytimes at 4 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays in the living room; and children's author Joan Krall Creamer and her tale of "The Magic Sceptre: The Legend of Blue Santa Claus," followed by holiday treats, is on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

Concerts and storytimes are free with admission. Teas are $12 on a first come, first served basis. Reservations are not taken. Teas are not suitable for very young children. Tickets are sold in the mansion. Children's holiday teas are $30 per adult and $23 per child. Tea, hot chocolate, desserts and savories are served.

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Recently, Roger Williams University students began viewing and contributing to a new website called Like A Little.com. This site allows students to post anonymous messages online via a user-created account. Started by RWU students Reas, Studley, and Williams, the website is gaining attention and becoming a platform for students to share their thoughts and opinions anonymously.

**About the Website**

The website, Like A Little.com, was created with the goal of encouraging students to express their thoughts anonymously. Reas, Studley, and Williams developed the site as a way to foster open communication without the fear of judgment or repercussions. Students can post messages on the website and are encouraged to interact with one another in a non-judgmental environment.

**Website Features**

The site allows users to post messages, which can be read by others without identifying the user. This feature is designed to encourage students to share their thoughts and opinions without the fear of being identified or judged. The site also includes a feature where students can vote on the posts they like, allowing users to express their opinions anonymously.

**Student Feedback**

Students at Roger Williams University have responded positively to the website. Many students have found it to be a safe and anonymous platform to express their opinions and share their thoughts. Reas, Studley, and Williams hope to continue to evolve the website and make it more user-friendly and accessible.

**Conclusion**

Like A Little.com is a platform where students can anonymously share their thoughts and opinions. The website has become an important tool for students to communicate with one another in a safe and non-judgmental environment. The website is expected to continue to grow and evolve as students discover and use it.
Where to shop for gifts in Bristol with Floral Symphony and Harbor Bath & Body

**Floral Symphony**

573 Hope Street  
Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
Saturday-Sunday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

This is not your average flower shop. Floral Symphony features a wide assortment of fresh cut flowers, holiday plants, and pre-potted plants. The designers are able and willing to create custom-crafted bouquets and gift baskets to meet any price. The shop also stocks a selection of baskets, vases, and pots to enhance the arrangements' presentation. There are also a selection of chocolates and other treats to make up tasty gift baskets. Floral Symphony offers a 100-percent satisfaction guarantee on all their flowers, ensuring that all their creations stay as beautiful outside the shop as they were when they were first created. The shop will also arrange for out-of-state flower shops to create bouquets for customers who do not live locally.

**Gifts under $20.00:** Roses, assorted fresh cut flowers, wreaths, poinsettias, and smaller custom-designed bouquets.

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**Studio Six**

259 Thames Street  
Monday-Saturday 10a.m.-6p.m.  
Sunday 12p.m.-5p.m.

As its slogan implies, shopping for holiday gifts at Studio Six will most certainly "Always be Fun." The shop features a wide selection of light-hearted gifts for both children and adults. Kids would enjoy any number of the colorful toys and clothes featured for sale. For adults, Studio Six offers a variety of house warming gifts, from candles and soap, to made-from-recyclables pasta strainers and knit monkey-shaped wine bottle covers.

**Gifts under $20.00:** Puzzles, children's clothing, glassware, candles and candle holders, and "Bristol Rhode Island" sweat-shirts

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**Harbor Bath & Body**

251 Thames Street  
Monday-Tuesday 11a.m.-4p.m.  
Wednesday-Saturday 10a.m.-6p.m.  
Sunday 12p.m.-4p.m.

Stop in by the Harbor Bath & Body shop for locally made soaps and body care products. The shop has sweet-smelling bar soaps and body lotions made with all-natural ingredients right here in Bristol. There are also facial care products for men, including aftershave balms and facial moisturizers. But besides beauty products, Harbor Bath & Body also has great stocking-stuffer gifts like packs of gum and tins of breath mints with tongue-in-cheek satirical labels. Plus, students who show their school I.D. earn a 15 percent discount on their purchases.

**Gifts under $20.00:** All the bar soaps, men's soap-filled body sponges, lavender-scented eye masks, and kids soaps that smell like grass and cake.
This boutique features an eclectic assortment of home decor. Shoppers may enjoy antique buttons that have been remade into rings, necklaces, and bracelets. There are also starfish and sea dollar ornaments and brushed-metal globes. The boutique also features a wide assortment of table runners, quilts, pillows, antique glassware and place settings. Time & Thyme Again stocks items that have a well-worn and well-loved feel that will complement almost any home they end up in.

Gifts under $20.00: Antique button earrings, hand-crafted soaps and dishes, and scarves.

Head down to this Bristol boutique for everything paper—from calendars and stationery, to unique greeting cards and thank you notes. The triple-P features hard-to-find papers crafted into elegant journals and stationary sets. You’ll also find a wide range of cards—from funny to sentimental—that are a step above the typical Hallmark variety. After you check out, one of the employees will gladly gift wrap your items free of charge, taking time to incorporate each of your gifts into a pleasing presentation.

Gifts under $20.00: Headbands and other accessories featuring decorative buttons, notepads, pens, calendars, and cards.
Ed Brum, a custodian on campus, is planning to retire sometime in the first quarter of next year—that is, by March 2011. He has been working here for 21 and a half years. He is originally from Portugal, having immigrated to the United States in 1964 at the age of 19. He first moved to Bristol, where he still resides, and met his wife there, whom he married four years later in 1968. He has two children: one daughter who is a teacher—and who has a son that is five months old—and one son who is a technician.

Before working at Roger Williams University, Ed had two other occupations. His first job was construction work, which he did for 15 years. His second job was at Shamut Bank, where he worked for five years, as a maintenance worker.

About being a custodian, he said, "I decided to make less money [than in construction work], but the benefits are important for me and my family. Also, it is year-round work, with construction, I would have to stay home for months. I am also now close to my home. With that job [at Shamut Bank], I had to travel all over the state." In comparison to working at the bank, being a custodian has provided better benefits and pay for him, Brum said.

Brum has enjoyed being in an educational institution. "The students are very educated: when a student comes to college, he or she has good grades and a strong family as support," he said. "These are better students than from any high school."

In regards to challenges in the past at RWU, he said he has had none. "Management treats me nice; I have no reason to complain: my co-workers are kind," Brum said.

Brum has also had good relations and communications with students. "I really enjoy how pleasant the students are to me," he said.

However, Brum also notes that he could have been a good maintenance worker—as he had been while working for Shamut Bank—but the opportunity never came for night-shift, which he preferred to work. As for the custodial work on a daily basis, "Maintenance just explains to me what to do and I do what I need to," Brum said.

Brum remarks that he tries to come to work every day. "I only take a day off when I am really sick," he said. "I consider myself a good employee.

In regards to his plans for retirement, Brum is planning to travel often to Rancho Mirage, Calif. and North Conway, N.H., having connections at both places. "I also do wallpapering for myself, which I have been doing for the past thirty-five years," he said. "I would work two to three days each week for the business, just to keep myself busy: it is a job that I really enjoy.

Brum will also take care of his grandson with his wife, drinking coffee together and playing with him in the morning. Brum said he will in particular miss the good relationship that he has had with both the co-workers and the students.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT FOR THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?

SAM ECKEL
"I am most excited about decorating the house and the tree! It is my favorite part about the holidays. Seeing the house all decorated puts me in such a happy mood!"

THEA ROWAN
"I'm excited to watch Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer with my family and the Hershey's candy cane kisses"

IAN DEMELLO
"I'm excited to take a little break from studies, enjoy some warm weather in Miami so I can start fresh next semester."

MELISSA AVERY
"I'm really excited to give gifts to everyone."

THEA ROWAN
"I'm excited to watch Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer with my family and the Hershey's candy cane kisses"

BRITTANY GALLIN
"I'm excited to hang out with my dog and my family and yeah, have a break from school, this week is probably going to kill me."

PAUL ARUTE
"I'm excited to see and be with my family."
Letters to the Editor

In response to ‘Feral cats thrive on campus thanks to human help’ [from the Nov. 16 edition of The Hawk’s Herald] and the recent report by The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management’s Raptor Program of owl predation on campus, we would like to respond to some of the concerns brought up.

The campus community needs to understand that these cats are not feral cats in the traditional sense, as they are not living in a natural environment. They are domesticated cats that have been left behind by their owners, which is why they are often referred to as ‘abandoned’ or ‘feral’. These cats have been domesticated and are not capable of living in the wild as they are not equipped with the necessary instincts to survive in their current environment.

Furthermore, it is important to note that these cats are not causing any harm to the campus community. They are not aggressive and do not pose any threat to the students, faculty, or staff. In fact, they are beneficial to the campus as they control the population of rodents and other small pests.

We encourage anyone who has concerns about these cats to reach out to the campus’ Animal Services department or the Student Affairs office for assistance.

Sincerely,
[Names]

Dear Editor,
The article titled “Access Denied” in the Nov. 11 issue of The Hawk’s Herald does not accurately reflect what is happening on this campus. The animals that are thought to be feral are actually domesticated cats that have been abandoned by their owners.

These cats are not a threat to the campus community and do not pose any health risks. In fact, they are beneficial to the campus as they control the population of rodents and other small pests. It is important to remember that these animals are not feral, but rather abandoned pets that need a loving home.

We encourage anyone who has concerns about these cats to reach out to the campus’ Animal Services department or the Student Affairs office for assistance.

Sincerely,
[Names]
While the concept of WikiLeaks is new to this generation, the idea of leaking important secret government information is not. Those willing to rebel and gather government secrets have their own reasons to do so, while others have reasons to put a stop to it. I believe that WikiLeaks gives us a reason why we should be questioning our government’s actions throughout the international community and in the two wars that we are currently fighting. The fact that a member of our United States military went rogue and downloaded classified information onto a Lady Giga CD beats me. Why more people are not talking about the fact that a person in our own military stole classified secrets, who knows.

But it is that simple realization that this was not an “anti-American” move: this was to share information that our government has kept from us. WikiLeaks and its members/affiliates/etc. cut their way out for them when they decided to take this on.

When these cables were leaked, I found myself sitting through the information trying to find something that uncovered the latest secret. To my disbelieve, there is nothing in WikiLeaks that will cause a catastrophic event against the U.S. What is more damaging is the view of our U.S. military that no one is discussing. With such a complex and deconstructing topic, there can never be a complete understanding of the information.

As a political science major, I know that WikiLeaks is bad for our country’s foreign policy. No real good can come out of private cables between the U.S. State Department and our foreign embassies being leaked, sharing what some would say is our entire foreign policy. This probably is not the best move to strengthen our relationships with other nations, but I do not feel that the world is going to boom from this.

But, as a Journalist major, it is the publication: First Amendment right to publish what we believe is important information for our understanding of our government’s foreign policy. It is in their power to make public what they feel is important for us to know, while many do not agree with this concept, it is something that has happened before. Just look at the Pentagon Papers. An insider distributed classified information to the New York Times and they went ahead and published it, even if the New York Times did that I commend (and they did this for WikiLeaks too) is that they checked the safety of the information with the State Department before ever publishing any article.

There is no clear and concise answer to the debate about WikiLeaks and I can guarantee the public either a) it feels the same way or b) it has no clue what WikiLeaks is. But what we do have is anyone that can find out what our government’s secret actions are.

I believe that it is once more time to say that while we begin to enter the work force in the coming years, it will become our responsibility to take care of the well being of our country. I’d ask for everyone to open their eyes and ears to the world, see it differently several times, form an opinion on some things, and get busy living. Happy Holidays to all.

Alexandra Arzadian
Assistant Opinion Editor

On Thanksgiving weekend, I found myself bored with the chance to take a trip into Boston and visit the new wing at the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston. To say that I was excited is an understatement. I had heard all of the hype about it and had witnessed the construction going on for years, but I still don’t let myself hold too high of expectations. I rationalized that because the economy is so horrible, there would be no way this new wing would blow my mind.

I was completely wrong to say the least. They went through so much to construct these four levels of space and made an experience that was dense, yet still very organized.

The wing consists of their Art of the Americans collection, chronologically ordered from Native Americans and early settlers to Modern Art, up until the 1970s. I was there for a solid five to six hours and I still do not feel like I experienced everything this new wing has to offer, it was almost like a whole other museum.

What was unique to me was that each of the paintings was not simply white like most museums, but each room was decorated to fit the pieces that it held. When I first heard about this, I wasn’t sure if it was a good idea; might it distract or be dated? Just wasn’t sure. But then, I saw the content it was placed in, it felt modern. The art, furniture, and sculpture all in the same room, truly immersing you in the epoch that you were experiencing and the walls seemed to fit, which would not have happened if they were simply white walls.

The most impressive of the paintings to me was the “Passage of Delawares” by Thomas Sully, which was roughly 12 by 17 feet and was housed in an enormous gold frame. Standing in front of this painting was truly an experience, and the story behind it was very interesting. Also, on the ground floor they had the actual framing of a house from the early settlers that you could actually run your hands on and stand inside.

One criterion that I had was that the Native Art section of the new wing was not complete enough, the majority of the art focused on the European settlers of North America, while the Native Americans of North, Central, and South America were not represented well. What they did have for Native American art was all in one area and not chronologically spaced throughout the exhibit. This was probably a choice of consistency in viewing, but it was almost offensive.

Even with this criticism, the museum was something to really cherish and much more than I expected in these hard financial times. I encourage everyone to take the trip up to Boston—scary, I know—and go to this wing. You’ll get a student discount and also if you have a Bank Of America card, you can get in free on the first full weekend of every month. It’s really worth the trip.

Alexandra Arzadian
Contributor

At the Museum of Fine Arts Boston

Alexandra Arzadian poses in front of "Passage of Delawares" by Thomas Sully, which was roughly 12’ x 17’ and was housed in an enormous gold frame.

Theresa Gormley

New wing at MFA Boston is worth checking out

Copyright 2009, Massachusetts Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston.

“send chanc...
A freshman's view of the semester in

ALEXANDRA ARTURO

I think that it should be a rule that anything Christmas should not happen until after Thanksgiving. When it happens, never mind ready to be thinking about Christmas. Some people like to do their Christmas shopping year-round, so that it is "less stressful," but I am one of those people that just likes to get it over with... After Thanksgiving weekend, I went out and bought all my presents for friends and family at once; now, I don't have to think about it until it's actually time to celebrate. In every single store, there is Christmas music playing, but this year, December... It was almost tolerable because I was doing my Christmas shopping, but I can't imagine how annoyed I would have been going into stores on my own, to be honest. So, I am thankful for your music in November and hearing it.

When I was younger, I remember listening to the car with my dad and him going from channel to channel on the radio complaining about how early the Christmas music was playing that year, but honestly that isn't so relevant now. Most people listen to their favorite radio or podcast at home. That is really all happening on the radio and having to sit through bad songs... On the bad notes of songs, why do modern musicians only cover old Christmas songs? If I have to hear Mariah Carey and Jessica Simpson sing octogenarian Christmas songs that I've heard a thousand times again, I might cry. It seems like every mainstream musician has come out with a Christmas album; even Bob Dylan, who happens to be Jewish. Yes, it is safe, easy, light-hearted thing to sell, but do we really need to hear all of these songs again and again? How hard would it be to come up with your own Christmas song? You just need bells and an upbeat tune with lyrics about being jolly; it doesn't seem that difficult to me.

Even so, when it does come around to the last couple of days before Christmas, it is kind of nice to hope yourself up with holiday jingles, but I just can't bring myself to be that in love with Christmas until it's actually going to be here and I feel the same way every year. Please don't start the Christmas music until it's at least December.
Let's Talk About Sodium:

Effects of salt on your body

KATLYN PROCTOR | Opinions Editor

Believe it or not, salt is unavoidable in our everyday diet. It not only acts as flavoring, but it also preserves the freshness of food. It is important to consume 1.5 grams of sodium (equal to 1/2 teaspoon) per day, which can be done easily with one meal. This is why sodiu m is so dangerous to our diets. Sodium is important for our health for a few reasons: it helps maintain a balance of fluids and influences whether your muscles are tight or relaxed. A high level of sodium is dangerous; if the kidneys can't process the sodium you consume, it causes the element to accumulate in your blood. This is bad for two reasons: it will increase the pressure in arteries, which causes the heart to work harder. Also, it will cause the retention of water, sometimes noticed with swollen fingers.

Be aware of foods that are high in sodium. If you tend to indulge in Ramen for a late night snack, you may want to consider eating something else. McDonald's is a common choice for foods containing lots of sodium. It would be best to eliminate foods from this location altogether. Instead of eating up packaged snacks, reach for an apple; it will provide more energy anyways.

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Bring your Friends, show your student ID's and get the NWU SB Italian Special

Quids, tax, and gratuity not included.

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Meal includes:
Salad and Garlic Bread
Pasta with your choice of:
Meatballs
Chicken Parmesan
Eggplant Parmesan
SUNDAY PUZZLER

ACROSS

3. Comely box shop 105
4. Plume 106
5. Vertical procession 109
6. Hearst at a fundraiser 111
7. Miss Canada 113
8. City in Africa 114
9. Godrick 115
10. Wrench 117
11. Jabotar 118
12. Gurny 119
13. Worship as divine 120
14. Napped 121
15. Pack animal 122
16. Perched hard tool 122
17. Fish paddler 123
18. Side splatter idol 125
19. Jellyfish 126
20. Salt 128
21. Exhilarating stuff 129
22. More show 130
23. Drunkery cry 131
24. Gilding sound 131
25. Drunken (plur.) 134
26. “All’s well” 135
27. Spontaneous 137
28. Led parts wall 139
29. Puffin 140
30. Season nood 142
31. Common subscription 143
32. Sir Arthur – Doyle 144
33. Can’t help as age 145
34. Kind of plane or yoga 146
35. Young women 147
36. Heaven snack 148
37. Bimbo 149
38. Tense feel 150
39. Seen – do 150
40. Secondaries 151
41. Eyed hunk 152
42. Stylus 153
43. Led parts wall 153
44. Puffin 154

DOWN

45. Common substitution 96
46. Sir Arthur – Doyle 97
47. Can’t help as age 98
48. Kind of plane or yoga 99
49. Young women 100
50. Heaven snack 101
51. Bimbo 102
52. Tense feel 103
53. Seen – do 104
54. Secondaries 105
55. Eyed hunk 106
56. Stylus 107
57. Led parts wall 108
58. Puffin 109

SUDOKU

What do you think?

The Hawks’ Herald created a short survey to give its valued readers a chance to sound off on the things they love about their school paper, and the things that they could do without. Completed surveys are welcome to be placed in the drop boxes in the upper commons and at the library. We appreciate your time and thoughtfulness.

1. Would you prefer to read more hard news or soft features stories in the paper?
   - Hard news
   - Soft features

2. Do you prefer to read the Herald online or in paper form?
   - I read more online
   - I read the physical paper more

3. What is your favorite improvement in the Herald? (Check all that apply)
   - 16 page issues
   - Puzzles
   - More news stories
   - Better sports coverage
   - Better copy editing
   - Bristol coverage

4. Where do you feel we can most improve? (Check all that apply)
   - Larger weekly issues
   - More national news
   - Improved website
   - More sports coverage
   - Investigative news
   - Fewer features stories

Other
Sports

Highlights from the competitions that you cheer for

Olympic softball players to speak, hold clinic at RWU

Article Courtesy RWUHawks.com

Members of the United States Olympic Softball Team, Natasha Walter and Vicky Galindo, both will be on the Roger Williams University campus Jan. 8 and 9. Saturday evening, fans have the opportunity to join Walter and Galindo for an autograph and photo session before enjoying dinner and keynote speeches from each athlete. Sunday morning, Walter and Galindo will conduct a youth players’ clinic alongside RWU head coach Joyce Maude and the RWU Hawks softball team.

Walter is a four-time World Cup Champion, two-time Pan American Gold Medalist, three-time World Champion, 2004 Olympic Gold medalist and 2008 Olympic Silver medalist. She earned the 2003 Honda Brodorick Cup as the nation’s top collegiate female athlete and also earned Pac-10 Player of the Year after a stellar career at UCLA. She has competed in the National Pro Fast Pitch professional league since 2005 and currently plays in the Japan League for Team Toyota. Galindo earned an Olympic Silver medal as a member of the 2008 U.S. National Team. She is a three-time World Cup Champion and two-time World Champion, while also earning the gold medal at the Pan American Games in 2007. While competing at Cal-Berkeley she was twice named a First Team All-American and is a three-time All-Pac-10 recipient. She currently serves as head softball coach at West Valley College in Saratoga, Calif., and has been on active member of the NPF Chicago Bandits since 2006.

The two athletes will join RWU’s first-year head softball coach Joyce Maude in coaching the players’ clinic both Saturday and Sunday. Maude joins RWU after receiving Coach of the Year awards in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, East Coast Athletic Conference, Carolina Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and Ohio Valley Conference.

Saturday’s dinner, held on the campus of RWU in the Global Heritage Hall, is limited to the first 100 registered and paid fans. Doors open at 4 p.m. for an autograph and photo session, along with a silent auction featuring various sports memorabilia. At 5 p.m. Galindo will deliver her speech entitled, “Journey to the Olympics,” followed by dinner and Walter’s speech, “Living the Dream.” Afterward, fans have the opportunity to join in a question-and-answer session with both Olympians.

Sunday’s clinic features two, separate sessions with the first beginning with registration at 8:30 a.m. The Olympians and Maude will be assisted by the RWU Hawks softball team in running various skills sessions concluding with an autograph session from 12-12:30 p.m. The second session begins with registration at 1:30 p.m. and runs through 4:45 p.m.

Parkour club flies high in first year

Dan Keefe | Herald Reporter

Billy Keeley takes a deep breath and glances over the edge. He looks down to see a drop of about 25 feet before taking a few steps back for a running start. Without fear, without hesitation, he propels his body off the edge and takes a few steps back for a running start.

Without fear, without hesitation, he propels his body off the edge of the building. Keeley takes a leap of faith in the name of the sport. He jumps for parkour.

“Parkour is the art of moving from point A to point B as quickly and efficiently as possible,” Keeley said, who is Vice President of the Parkour Club at Roger Williams University.

Efficiently is the most modest interpretation possible. To an outside observer of the acrobatic, stunt man-esque act of parkour, another definition would go something like this: Care-free feeling of faith in the sport of parkour can do so if they put in the necessary practice and take the necessary risks.

Dan Keefe (91) is the art of moving from point A to point B as quickly and efficiently as possible, "Keeley said, who is Vice President of the Parkour Club at Roger Williams University.

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