Editorials give good ‘PR’ to gays and lesbians

F. John Books
Senate approves the Equestrian Club's budget

Jessica Rojas
Editor

The Equestrian Club is back in the saddle again. After having their 97-98 budget fail last month, the University of Rhode Island Student Senate approved a $10,240 budget for the club at last night's meeting.

"The club did a bit of soul searching," said Finance Committee Chairperson Jonathan Cross. "And they came back with a detailed four-page packet with a revised budget request."

The problems with the budget, according to many senators, were that the senate was paying too much for students to horseback ride, no effort was being made to help pay for the lessons nothing was being done to promote new membership.

The hope was to encourage fundraising (by failing the budget) said President Dean Copans.

The cost for a lesson is $250, last year the senate paid $200 for members to ride and they came up with $50 each, according to Cross.

The new budget will require club members to pay $150 a semester. The senate hopes the increased responsibility on the members will yield fundraising. The senate will help the club with the remaining $100 per rider.

The senate hopes the newly approved budget will encourage member drive.

According to Equestrian Club President Gina Less, the club's goal is to use the money to pay for 90 members a semester to making the club available to 40 more students than they currently are.
Imagine, if the same two people fighting in my front yard met as strangers half way around the world, they would probably be friends. They share the same classes, they share the same school, and they share the same country. A bond of friendship would almost be immediate. Yet in my front yard the same two students are enemies. Does that make sense?

Someone please explain how anyone can have a “rockin’ time” hating and hurting their neighbors.

Lauren LaScala

Sharing differences to live in acceptance

To the Cigar,

As someone who has had to question and explore issues of sexuality, I understand how our society, whether it be laws, our campus or personal attacks, can not only be sensitive, but downright intolerant. Discrimination, oppression and harassment based on sexual orientation affect all of us. Whether it is ourselves or someone we know or love, we are faced with institutional and daily homophobic attitudes and actions.

Thankfully, there are organizations and committees that are working to eliminate the discrimination of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals. Here at URI, I am a member of one of these groups - the Gay Straight Alliance. Elan, one of the conference is to bring together members from all communities to explore and celebrate our differences and commonalities. Through the sharing of personal experience, research, artistic expression and entertainment, the 25 panelists and the attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a multicultural, open-minded and free environment. In addition, the keynote speaker will be speaking on “Creating Change through the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Communities”; therefore, giving us a better understanding of how to end oppression.

I urge you to participate in this event. The only way that we are going to be able to live in our society or even a campus of acceptance and come to know each other is by breaking down the walls that divide us.

To be a fabulous night of art and

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To the Cigar,

Just last night, a URI Student Senator felt the need to express to me, on behalf of many (or at least several) in the student senate, the lofty and gilded opinion of those fabulous statesmen. The basic argument is that my editorials are bad “PR” for gays and lesbians. I feel that it is of benefit to all of us at the university that we (gays and lesbians) express ourselves. The results can only be positive, for it familiarizes the general population with gays and lesbians and, at the same time, empowers us to express ourselves in greater numbers and intensity.

Furthermore, the senator said the intellectual symposium is an example of a proper device to communicate gay and lesbian issues on campus. My opinion is that symposiums are a valid and important sociological tool to educate and inform. But I feel that to make gays and lesbians a more familiar and “less threatening” group on campus, we need a more practical approach; for example: using the editorials to communicate to a more broad, campus-wide audience.

F. John Brooks

Senior Challenge

To the Cigar,

At this time of the year the Senior Challenge Program is now in full swing. As the past 1990 Senior Challenge Coordinator and an alumus, I want to encourage your participation in the 1997 Senior Challenge.

This unique and innovative program strives to keep URI traditions and standards everlasting and to develop and improve the programs of the university. I am writing to encourage you to make this the best challenge ever. With only a few months until graduation, annual giving may be one of the last things on your mind, but this program is important. Your participation, more than the amount, will mean a great deal to the university, its alumni and its students. Help to be a part of the effort to sustain and improve the university, of which you have been a part of for the past four years.

You cannot believe the excitement you will feel as an Alumnus to see the URI accomplishing the wonderful programs and expansions it will, or to see another program or sports team gain national recognition. Help to ensure that URI maintains its position as a leader.

Every dollar pledged and each person that gets involved makes a difference. Whatever your part may be, please take the time to speak with a class agent and learn more about the Senior Challenge. Make 1997 the best yet, and help the university to do the most if you can!

Very truly yours,
Kurt A. Blake, Esquire, '90
1990 Senior Challenge Co-coordinator