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New Director of LGBTQ Center named

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The Good 5¢ Cigar

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1971

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'Just what this country needs'

www.ramcigar.com

Friday

February 10, 2012

University police officer protects, connects with campus community

HENSLEY CARRASCO
Managing Editor

Since 1997, University of Rhode Island patrolman Mark Chearino has created another role in his job by doing more than protecting and serving the URI community.

After working in airfield operations from 1986 to 1994, Chearino took up a job in security until around 1996. That year there was a job opening on campus at the police department and he decided to apply. Chearino got the job, went to the police academy, graduated and became a police officer in 1997.

He said he knew he wanted to do something geared toward a police or a firefighting profession and when the opportunity opened up he knew he had to take it.

Chearino said he does everything a police officer is required to do." In addition to that, Chearino said he "butt[s]



Teresa Kelly | Cigar

University of Rhode Island Police Officer Mark Chearino.

get out into the community, that's why I'm always around," Chearino said. "I just like the community that I serve and protect. I think it benefits everybody to have community-related police officers. Talking to the students, getting to know them as much as we can, having them get to know you as a person as opposed to

because people are moving around non-stop and running to class. Chearino takes the afternoon-to-early-night shift, which he said was the "downtime" shift. This time allows Chearino to socialize with students. He said he doesn't let the fact that he socializes with students get in the way of him doing his job. He said if there is

URI student a rapper on his way to making it big

BY SARAH CALLAHAN
Contributing News Reporter

Have you ever wondered how music artists get famous? How your favorite rap star was discovered in some small city? It has to start somewhere and for one University of Rhode Island student "Think Big" is definitely a motto he lives by.

Junior Bobby Colombi, who is majoring in communication studies, was born and raised in Warwick, R.I. Colombi began listening to rap music in seventh grade.

"My first CD was Nelly[s] *Country Grammar*, the edited version," Colombi said.

Later, Colombi got his hands on an unedited version of an Eminem album. Little did he know that this CD would influence who he is as a rap artist today.

Many know him as "BoCo" and for those who don't, it won't be long until you do. The three

with include, "Inaugural Address" and "Swagger Jagger," which have reached thousands of views on YouTube from people all over the world.

High school was when Colombi began rapping for an audience. As a freshman and sophomore, he would attend parties where people would ask him to freestyle, which commonly refers to rap lyrics which are improvised through a capella or with instrumental beats.

By his senior year of high school, Colombi began to post recorded versions of his freestyles onto Facebook. At this time Mark Rossi, also from Warwick, began making instrumental beats for Colombi to rap to.

Rossi and Colombi made a good pair when it came to making new music.

After graduating from Warwick Veterans High School, Colombi and Rossi entered URI in the fall of 2009. Colombi con-

organization meetings
and practices just to say hello.
"I take [it] a step further to

campus as being "like New
York City during the day"

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dents to his music by way of
tapes and recorded videos. Some
recent songs he has come out

Rossi was there to produce. By
Continued on page 2

New director of LGBTQ Center named

BRIANNA RESTO
Staff Reporter

Elizabeth "Annie" Russell
was named the new director of
the LGBTQ Center at the
University of Rhode Island last
month.

Russell came to URI from
Bowling Green State University
in Ohio where she earned a doc-
torate and also taught. At URI,
she has taken a teaching job with
the Women's Studies depart-
ment.

Russell, originally from
Indiana, felt it was time for her to
pursue further education, so she
moved to Michigan where she
attended Adrian College as an
undergraduate student. After
graduating with a bachelor's
degree in communication, she
decided to attend Ohio
University to obtain her Master's
degree in Education. From there,
she went on to obtain her Ph.D.
in higher education administra-
tion.

While qualified educationally,
Russell also has the life experi-
ence needed to make a difference
at URI.

"When I was going through
my own 'outing' process, the
administration [at Adrian] was so
supportive," she said.

Russell said she wants to be
there for students in the same
way the administration at Adrian
College was for her. "We can
make this a better place," she
added.

Russell said that she is
adjusting well to Rhode Island
living.

"I'm loving the weather," she
said.

Currently residing in
Cranston with Mabel, her beagle-
Dotson mix, Russell said that she
intends to stay at URI for a long
while, with the hopes that she
can turn URI into a "premier
institution" on LGBTQ issues in
just five years.

Russell has been working on
a strategic planning process in

which she maps out everything
she hopes to accomplish at URI.
This planning will finally come to
fruition on Feb. 16 when the first
"Queer Town Hall Meeting" will
take place at 7 p.m. in the
Multicultural Center, Room 005.
Her plans for the meeting is to
have students be able to talk
freely about "queer issues" that
are present on and around cam-
pus, she said. Russell encourages
all students to attend.

"You don't have to identify
with any of the LGBTQ labels to
attend and be supportive," she
said.

Russell is adamant on reach-
ing out to students and has two
core messages to deliver to the
student body as a whole.

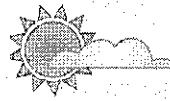
"People care about you and
they love you," she said. "My
door is always open."

Russell's office is located in
Adams Hall on the first floor and
she urges students to drop in, say
hello, and introduce themselves.



Photo courtesy of the
University of Rhode Island Students Society. The Rhody Student
Library Center sits in the Memorial Union.

The Daily Sun-Cost Caper

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"Keep your face to
the sunshine and
you cannot see a shadow."


Nickel Brief:
Get more information on a
book available at CBC in the
next issue of The Caper.

Check out some of the
best albums of 2011.
See page 3.

The Good 5¢ Cigar

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1971

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'Just what this country needs'
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Thursday
April 12, 2012

193 Coffeehouse offers cozy atmosphere, cheap drinks, live musical entertainment

BY NANCY LAVIN
News Editor

Where can you find \$1 coffee at the University of Rhode Island? Nowhere, right?

Think again. Though its chain, for-profit counterparts like Dunkin' Donuts and Bagelz may be more well known to URI students, the 193 Coffeehouse does in fact offer \$1 coffee, and a lot more too.

The student-run, not-for-profit coffee lounge has been a student hangout spot since it began in 1994. Originally located on the ground floor of the Memorial Union, where RAM Computers is currently, the coffee spot has since moved to the end of the first floor of the union, tucked away in a corner complete with couches, board game, and a wide variety of beverages.

"It's not really work, because it's not anything extremely difficult, but it's really a lot of fun," said sophomore employee Kyle DeMartino, who started working there this past September. "It's really the people who make it a good place to work."

The staff consists of 16 volunteers who work for a small stipend, about \$20 per semester, for three hours per week, according to co-coordinator Elena Krajeski. Krajeski added that despite the lack of monetary incentive, the staff is at full capacity, and always receiving more applications.

"I wish this could be a full-time job, that would be great," DeMartino said. He added that even without pay, he would love to work more at 193 because of the "funky atmosphere and friendly staff."

"It's a real community feel, a hangout place," Krajeski explained. "I don't have a living room, so this essentially acts as my living room when I'm at URI."

Plenty of students seem to find the atmosphere welcoming as well, since various student groups elect to hold meetings and events at the shop. The 193 Coffeehouse also has its own events coordinator who organizes bimonthly open mike nights and concerts on weekends.

"When we have a concert going on or an open mike

night, this place is pretty much packed," DeMartino said.

Between the morning rush for coffee before class and these big events, the shop usually makes about \$550 per week, which is funneled back into the coffee shop for buying supplies and coffee, according to Krajeski. Part of 193's "claim to fame" is its assortment of fair trade coffees and teas, which it purchases from Equal Exchange, a Massachusetts-based fair trade supplier.

Additionally, hps money is pooled together at the end of each month and designated for a staff activity, Krajeski explained.

Krajeski added that one of her personal goals as co-coordinator is to get more professors and faculty to visit the coffeehouse.

"I think they may think they're not welcome here, because it's mostly students who frequent 193," she said, "but they are definitely welcome and I would love to see more of them here interacting with students."

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URI student requests more gender-neutral bathrooms

BY KIMBERLY DELANDE
News Reporter

Last night, sophomore Julia Schoellkopf held public forum during the Student Senate meetings, in which she discussed the status of gender-neutral bathrooms on campus and why the University of Rhode Island should seek to have more of them in its buildings. In order to raise awareness about this issue, Schoellkopf is planning to host a protest and collect signatures in a petition in the 24-hour room in the library on Wednesday, April 18.

Gender-neutral bathrooms, according to Schoellkopf, are, ideally, single stall restrooms a person of any gender can use. People who would benefit from these restrooms, Schoellkopf said, are disabled people who may have a caregiver of a different gender. For the same reasons, single parents who have a child who is a different gender than them would also benefit from the addition of more gender-neutral bathrooms. According to Schoellkopf, taking your child to the bathroom when you are a mother with a

son, or a father with a daughter, can be an "uncomfortable experience" for the child, parent, and the people in the restroom.

One of the biggest reasons Schoellkopf is advocating for gender-neutral bathrooms on campus, however, is to be more inclusive toward transgender people. For transgender people, using public restrooms can lead to them being harassed, either through "crude comments or with violence."

"While I've been bringing this issue to light, I've talked to a few students on campus who thought this issue wasn't a big deal," Schoellkopf said. "I've had some people tell me that transgender people could just use a bathroom that matches their gender. Even if they were to do that, they'd still face the threat of harassment and violence. No one should feel uncomfortable when using the bathroom."

Schoellkopf also noted that there are students who may not identify as either male or female, who would be uncomfortable with using gendered bathrooms. There are also stu-

Continued on page 7

Heath department supervisor talks role of DNA in forensic biology



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Senate

From page 1

dents who are intersex who might also have issues with using a restroom that is gendered. The safest solution to all of these various issues, Schoellkopf said, is to create more safe spaces on campus, in the form of gender-neutral bathrooms, where everyone can feel included.

According to Schoellkopf, a committee from the LGBTQ Center met with administration to propose that more gender-neutral bathrooms were created on campus. They cited that 37 buildings have a gender-neutral bathroom out of the 150 buildings in the University of Rhode Island. These numbers, according to Schoellkopf, are "inexcusable."

"There are over 100 buildings on campus that don't have a gender-neutral bathroom," Schoellkopf said. "Having only 37 isn't enough. According to the Transgender Law and Policy Institute, the best practice for a university is to have at least one in each building. That's my goal and that's the LGBTQ Center's goal, but we're still struggling with administration."

Senator Brian Sit also highlighted the fact that the LGBTQ Center, last year, held a committee that attempted to map out all of the locations of gender-neutral bathrooms on campus. The biggest example of how easily more gender-neutral bathrooms could be created, according to Sit, is in the library's 24-hour room. The gendered bathrooms there have just a toilet and a sink, and there is "no reason why it couldn't be changed to gender-neutral."

"The situation has improved over the years," Sit said. "Adams Hall has a gender-neutral bathroom, and

we're lucky for that, since the LGBTQ Center is there. But not every building or dorm can advocate so strongly."

Bruce Hamilton, director of the Student Involvement and the Center for Student Leadership, said that while there are some difficulties with installing gender-neutral bathrooms in certain buildings, it is "not something that is hard to do."

"It's ridiculous to hear people tell you it can't be done," Hamilton said. "There's a gender-neutral bathroom in [Memorial Union], for one. It was not a huge cost for us [to install], but we felt it was a very important thing for us to do."

For Schoellkopf, being able to advocate for more gender neutral bathrooms on campus holds personal significance to her. Schoellkopf, who has worked with special needs children in the past, has seen how people with disabilities cannot often access public places. To her, bringing this issue to light is a great way to help "bring about change in [her] campus community."

"During my time at URI, I've noticed that LGBTQ issues and problems that people with disabilities face are often overlooked," Schoellkopf said. "Everyone deserves the right to be included in public places."

In other news:

Tonight, members of the Student Senate will go to President Dooley's house to discuss various issues on campus.

Big K.R.I.T

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ments" and is run with the intention on "hav[ing] a minimal environmental footprint." K.R.I.T. said he is a fan of J. Cole's music and when he was asked to join him on the tour, K.R.I.T. told him he would join.

When asked what he would have majored in, had he been in college and not rapping, K.R.I.T. answered, without hesitation, "architecture."

"I really love drawing," he said. "I love designing things and being creative. Drafting would be the second thing only because most architects design the craziest [things] ever. I like to think big. I want to design a building that's on a ball and doesn't fall off."

In order to achieve such a task, K.R.I.T. said students should keep their priorities in line. He said students shouldn't waste the time they have now by sitting around. He stressed students should do well in school.

"Keep your grades up," he said. "Focus on doing your best now because it will pay off later. It's easy to slack now. If you execute on what's in front of you [and] make sure you handle all of your business now it'll pay off and be easier to maneuver throughout life [and] your career. "Follow your dreams. If something is meant for you, it'll definitely happen."

Titanic

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Stuart does some inspiring work as an older Rose and small bit actors such as Bernard Hill and Ioan Gruffard provide emotion and screen presence. A strength of Cameron is getting good performances out of everyone and this certainly applies to "Titanic." Another strong aspect of the film is James Horner's score, which conveys emotion to compensate for the occasionally clunky dialogue. I'm not a Celine Dion fan, but I really like the title song of the film.

To conclude, I wish I had not put off seeing this film for so many years. When it was finished, I wanted to see it again. I'm still not a huge Cameron fan, but this film certainly does increase my respect for him, and the 3D version is very much worth your money in theaters.

193

From page 1

Upcoming events at the 193 Coffeehouse include Occupy URI meetings this week and next, and a movie night tonight. There will also be a memorial poetry reading for Erica Knowles, a URI student who was killed in a car crash in February, on April 24.

193 Coffeehouse is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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