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## The Good 5 Cent Cigar (11/29/2011)

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# The Good 5¢ Cigar

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1971

Volume 61  
Issue 39

'Just what this country needs'  
www.ramcigar.com

Tuesday  
November 29, 2011

## Ex-NFL player discusses homophobia in sports, hopes to promote tolerance of homosexuality in future generations

BY GUS CANTWELL  
News Reporter

Growing up in Hawaii along with his parents and eight siblings, then six-year-old Esera Tuaolo witnessed a group of kids beat up a boy because of his perceived homosexuality.

"When I saw that, I saw a little bit of me [in him]," Tuaolo said in front of a few hundred students and community members in the University of Rhode Island's Edwards Auditorium last night. "That was the day I took that kid within me and threw it in the cabinet and shut the door."

Now 43 years old, Tuaolo is a former NFL defensive lineman, a father of two children and an openly gay man. After spending the first 35 years of his life as "an actor," Tuaolo decided to come out on national television after his retirement from football.

"I came out because I wanted to be happy," he said. Tuaolo came to the University

of Rhode Island to speak particularly to the university's student-athletes about homophobia in sports and the difficulties of being a gay athlete. Speaking for the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender community, he explained that his journey was long and arduous, and his sexuality often got in the way of his successes.

Though he said coming out was one of the toughest events of his life, he is glad he revealed the secret that tore him apart inside.

"If I felt like this when I was playing, the sky [would have been] the limit," he said.

Tuaolo admitted he often held back during his career for fear that his prominence would cause someone to reveal his homosexuality. He said this exposure could have alienated him from his teammates.

One particular example occurred during his first season in the NFL. After making a great defensive play, his mind "blanked out" from fear



Teresa Kelly | Cigar  
Former NFL athlete Esera Tuaolo sings the song that saved his life, Sarah McLaughlin's "In the Arms of an Angel," during his talk last night in Edwards Auditorium.

and he could not remember the rest of the game.

"I just remember going home and seeing my friend having tequila to drink my pain away," he said. "Instead of [being] happy, I got so worried that someone was going to [reveal my sexuality]."

Twelve years removed from his playing days, Tuaolo speaks with athletes across the country to promote awareness and tolerance of homosexuals, as well as the elimination of the words "faggot," "queer," and "homo" as derogatory words.

"I'm doing it for the kids, the ones who don't have a voice," he said.

He explained that players need to be held accountable for their actions, and that coaches should "create a safe environment for [their] players."

During a luncheon earlier in the day, Tuaolo said he

Continued on page 2

## Photo exhibit shows challenges of hunger

BY BROOKE CONSTANCE WHITE  
News Reporter

Women Ending Hunger, a volunteer group from the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, partnered with the University of Rhode Island to present a Witness to Hunger photo exhibition in the front lobby of the Robert L. Carothers Library and Learning Commons.

Director of Communications at the Rhode Island Community Food Bank Cindy Elder said the exhibit was inspired by the national initiative Witnesses To Hunger, a project in which low-income mothers and their children take photos of the issues most important to them.

The Women Ending Hunger group meets several times a year to work on policy changes, community outreach, hunger awareness and improving the food stamp program in Rhode Island.

"We felt that we could give voice to the issue and allow Rhode Island mothers to take part," said Elder. "We want to give a sense of the reality of the issues to people and show them that hunger is very local people just like you and me deal with food insecurity."

For the exhibit, the food bank found four women in the state who took pictures of the challenges they have trying to feed their families.

"Hunger [for these women] is a struggle to feed their families on a daily basis. Daily becomes weekly, weekly becomes monthly and soon it becomes years of hunger."

The exhibit is designed to show viewers how this problem affects Rhode Island and how it is a real struggle many people deal with.

"There have been times when there wasn't enough food for me, my husband and my kids; I don't tell them, I just act like I eat," a woman named Marie W said in one passage in the exhibit. "I make especially sure my kids eat, and I make sure my husband eats because I know he works."

Continued on page 3

## 'AIDS Awareness Week' commences with hands-on presentation on testing and advocacy for youth

BY SHAWN SAIYA  
Sports Editor

The University of Rhode Island's Student Alliance for the Welfare of Africa (SAWA) in collaboration with Classy Leaders Achieving Student Services (CLASS) kicked off the third-annual "AIDS Awareness Week" last night in the Multicultural Center ahead of "World AIDS Day" this Thursday.

The two groups hosted a speaker in the Hardge Forum Room to promote awareness and advocacy for HIV/AIDS among young people. Erika Boulware from Planned Parenthood of Southern New England lead the event, which she coined as an "HIV/AIDS 201, not 101," which was meant to build upon the previous knowledge those attending had already.

"We try to spread aware-

ness about certain issues that may be going on in Africa, but we also know that HIV and AIDS [are] a huge problem here in the United States, so it's not only something that Africa-based but it's also here," SAWA President Tetee Joseph said.

The 90-minute interactive presentation touched on such areas as the services provided by Planned Parenthood, a 20-minute film titled "Bloodlines" which featured young people infected with HIV and a debate on the risk factor of getting the disease from certain activities.

Boulware explained that one of the biggest services provided by Planned Parenthood is testing for sexually transmissible infections, such as HIV. She frequently promoted testing among young people during her presentation as one of the

best ways to raise awareness and stop the spread of the disease.

The first activity was a word association tree that had those in attendance say words that they associated with AIDS. Boulware then broke down the different words into grouping of facts, beliefs and emotions to try to separate truths from rumors associated with the disease.

"Bloodlines" was then shown. The film had the testimony of several young people living with the disease. Some of those featured were infected by means other than sexual activity, such as intravenous drug use and blood transfusions. The overall message of the film was to show young people that they are not "invincible" and that the disease won't always affect people that they don't know. The film stirred some

emotions from those in attendance such as fear and sadness, but also hope.

Another activity followed the film where attendees were given a card with a scenario written on it and they had to judge the risk associated with getting HIV from the activity. Some activities were as simple as hugging or kissing, while others involved various sexual acts involving different orifices. Each person placed their scenario based on how much risk they perceived with it and a discussion followed in which some answers were changed with knowledge.

The discussion then turned to what life would be like for the attendees if some of the "high-risk" acts were removed from their life. While the consensus was that

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### The Good 5-Cent Cigar

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Today's forecast  
62 °F

Afternoon  
showers!



### Nickel Brief:

Check out tomorrow's issue of the Cigar to find out how the men's ice hockey team did this weekend

Looking to go back to your childhood roots, Muppet-style?  
See page 6.

# CAMPUS

## Campus Police Reports

### Burglary

- The Alpha Chi Omega sorority house was broken into this past Thursday, after the house was locked for the Thanksgiving break. A window was broken in the process and the incident is under investigation.

### Larceny

- A \$1,600 Apple iMac, owned by the university, was stolen from an office in Davis Hall at around noon last Tuesday. There was no sign of forced entry and it is unclear if the office door was left unlocked.

## Tuaolo

From page 1

wants to make a special connection with the people he speaks to.

"I love to make sure that my audience feels like the victim," he said. He believes doing so is the best way to make people understand the traumas in his life.

Tuaolo reached out to the student-athletes, likening them to celebrities who can use their prominence on campus to promote the awareness of the issue of homosexuality in athletics.

"I know a lot of football players who are gay," he said. "There are athletes at this

school that have contacted me that are in the closet."

In retrospect, he believes coming out was one of the best decisions of his life. Prior to his announcement, he suffered from depression and contemplated suicide on numerous occasions.

"I'm thankful for my friends, my family, my children and I'm happy to still be alive," Tuaolo said during the luncheon. "Hopefully when my children go to college, this will be an afterthought."

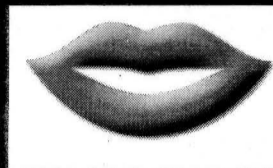
Though the people of his church turned away from him after his announcement, Tuaolo remains true to his faith. He believes God will love him and others like him unconditionally.

He punctuated his presentation by singing Sarah McLaughlin's "In the Arms of an Angel," a song Tuaolo heard on the radio that he believes saved his life because it gave him the strength and courage to stay alive.

During the hour-long presentation, Tuaolo explained much of his life as well as his hopes for the future. His main message was clear, and his repetition cemented the phrase in the walls of the building.

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words kill."

Got a question for the sexperts?



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## CONTINUED

## AIDS

From page 1

it would decrease chances of contracting the disease, it would take some of the "guilty pleasures" out of life.

Each participant was given a card with a letter written on it in the next activity. The participants then paired up three different times and were given a different sentence to finish each time. The activity was a simulation of how the disease could be transmitted using verbal interactions, as opposed to sexual, to show the ease of which HIV can spread.

Boulware ended the presentation with anonymous

questions attendees had relating to the disease, testing and contraceptives among other things.

"AIDS Awareness Week" continues today with a movie presentation at 7 p.m. in Multicultural Center Computer Classroom 005. The week continues with a confidential HIV testing clinic in the Memorial Union Gallery from noon to 3 p.m. on Wednesday and is concluded with the "World AIDS Day Benefit Show" on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Memorial Union Ballroom. All events are free to attend.

## Volunteer

From page 1

We've had times when there was no food...you open the cabinet: nothing."

According to the latest press release from the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, throughout the last four years, the number of people being served at emergency food pantries has risen 58 percent. There are at least 60,000 people being served meals at 100 food pantries across the state.

The report also indicates that there are 181,000 Rhode Islanders living in households with incomes below 130 percent of the federal poverty level – the level that qualifies children for free school meals.

## Is tech friend or foe to Santa Claus?

NEW YORK (AP) — Kids can video chat with Santa, follow him on Twitter or enlist NORAD to track his every move online. And yet in many ways, technology may be making it harder for parents to keep their children believing in the jolly old elf.

At nearly every turn, the Internet threatens to blow the fat man's cover.

Practically any schoolchild can type "Is Santa real?" into Google. And just a few clicks can bring youngsters to websites that sell customized letters from the North Pole or offer advice on how Mom and Dad can fool the kids into believing in old St. Nick.

"I have a love-hate relationship with technology and Santa," said Kristi Kovalak, a mom in St. Louis. "The beauty of Santa is the not knowing. Technology is all about knowing, and knowing this instant. I swear, Google is the nemesis of the North Pole."

She embraces digital life daily but stays far away from cyber-Santa for her two boys, ages 5 and 11.

"We don't do robo-calls. We don't submit lists to Santa online. I don't have tracking apps on my phone," she said. "Too much proof means you then have to explain away when the next crazy thing contradicts it."

Kevin Grout and his wife had a close call recently while watching a Santa Claus parade on TV with their children, ages 6, 4 and 5 months. A commercial came on for a website that creates email greetings from Santa. They switched channels just in time.

"We're definitely in this boat, primarily with our oldest. She's a smart cookie," said Grout, of St. Catharines, Ontario. "It was clear to me a poor strategy to run it during a Santa Claus parade when many kids would be tuned in."

Santa sites can easily be found by any kid with an iPad.

Igco.com, for example, screams: "Discover our acclaimed letter from Santa, phone call from Santa, Santa evidence kits and official good list certificate. Make your children's eyes pop out of their heads this Christmas!" (Parents might have fun explaining away the Santa boot print kit, complete with a plastic template and a shaker full of snow crystals, for \$15.99.)

Over at Santa.com is a menu of prices for letters from Santa. There's a fancy one on a scroll for \$19.99 and a simple postcard for nearly

\$3. (Mommy, why does Santa charge?)

Enter the search query "Is Santa real?" and up comes an entry on a psychology site about the dreaded question itself and how parents who are trying to keep the Santa secret live in fear this time of year.

Kyla Kelim of Fairhope, Ala., caught her oldest, a 9-year-old boy, on her iPad playing Santa sleuth a week or so ago.

"We're so close with him this year, not believing," she said. "He was Googling 'Santa,' and I saw him type the word 'myth' when I grabbed it and said no electronics. I'm constantly having to follow my phone and iPad and stuff around right now. We're trying not to debunk Santa for our 7-year-old."

Not all parents are worried technology will destroy the magic.

Dad Brian Searl in Ormond Beach, Fla., keeps the Santa secret for his 7-year-old daughter through apps that offer Santa video chat and recorded calls from the big guy. "It isn't getting harder. The methods are just different," he said.

And what happens when she's older? He said he might go retro and haul out the movie "Elf" with Will Ferrell, the one "where the sleigh doesn't have enough power because people don't believe."

Other parents, though, are finding that in some ways, it was easier to maintain the Santa myth before high-speed Internet.

When Kimberly Porrazzo's boys, now in their 20s, were little, she and her husband jingled sleigh bells outside their kids' bedroom windows on Christmas Eve, and Dad took to the roof to make scampering hoof sounds.

When one of the boys was still a believer at 12, she broke the news — gently — before some playground skeptic did it for her. The Lake Forest, Calif., mother turned the experience into a little book she self-published, "The Santa Secret: The Truth About Santa Claus."

"Now, with technology, all the various opinions on whether or not he exists are more readily available to children beyond asking their parents," she said. "It's likely they will Google rather than asking their parents. That's why parents need to share the secret on their terms."

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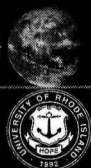
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# EDITORIAL & OPINION

## Moving Forward

Freedom of expression has been an integral part of American society since the conception of the Constitution. From news reporters to football players, it is a freedom exercised every day, and is occasionally challenged by those with different opinions and lifestyles.

The NFL, for example, is typically viewed as a league of dominant men with equally dominant personalities. These personalities are carried over into lifestyles of each player's choosing, a lifestyle one can assume involves other masculinized activities.

But, because of societal ideations of how a football player should live, alternative lifestyles tend to be frowned upon. Former NFL football player Esera Tuaolo understood this and felt unsure of coming out to his teammates as a homosexual. Playing professional football for nine years in the 1990s, he was a witness to the homophobia displayed in the NFL, noting inflammatory remarks toward the GLBT community.

Though everyone has a right to their own opinion, these opinions should not be projected onto others in a derogatory manner. Society as a whole needs to become more accepting and sensitive to the lifestyles of others. Like Tuaolo, many other homosexual Americans are afraid to reveal their true identities; society's constant use hurtful slurs and remarks toward homosexuals seem to have instilled a sense of fear about identifying as a member of the GLBT community.

It is time to move forward and accept alternative lifestyles as normal and static. Only then will America be able to truly flourish as a diverse and unified country. Views do not have to be changed or forced upon others. Simply, one can learn to accept others' differences by limiting usage politically incorrect slurs and making valid attempts at maintaining a friendly atmosphere.

There are students on campus, including those at the University of Rhode Island GLBT Center in Adams Hall, who can provide advice and support for any student struggling with sexual identity.



SARAH MOSLEY  
Cigar Columnist

With Christmas fast approaching, Santa brings presents and winter brings, well, cold and flu season! With posters for flu shots practically being thrown at you and signs to wash your hands all over the bathrooms, it may seem like those are the only steps you can take to keep healthy. According to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, up to 20 percent of the American population contracts the flu each year. There are also one billion people who catch a cold each year, according to Medline Plus. There is no cure for the cold or flu, but there are preventative steps you can take to avoid being one of those people.

Eat a healthy, balanced diet. This is obvious advice – eating a healthy diet can improve your total health. This includes boosting your immune system, and by doing that, your body can better fight off colds and the flu. Most college students find it

hard to eat healthily on campus, but by keeping a few snacks stocked up, you can avoid the midnight cookie binge. Foods that can boost your immune system include leafy greens, berries and nuts. Keeping a can of (unsalted) mixed nuts in your dorm can be a great snack when you stay up late doing homework. But, make sure you're watching how much you're eating. A serving of nuts is only a one-fourth of a cup, and any more can provide way too much fat, including saturated fat. However, peanuts do have proteins and minerals that help fight infection. Yogurt is another good immunity-boosting snack; the probiotics in it help keep your gastro-intestinal tract healthy.

Foods you can incorporate into your meals include fatty fish, beans and eggs. Fatty fish such as salmon and tuna are high in omega-3 fatty acids, which help increase the activity of white blood cells to eat up bacteria in your system. Beans are high in zinc, which increases the production of white blood cells. Eggs

contain choline, a compound that helps shield the body from germs and other invaders. Other cold and flu-fighting foods include mushrooms and onions – toss a few into your salad or stir-fry.

Exercise regularly. Incorporating 30 minutes of exercise into your regular daily routine can make a big difference for your body. Regular exercise can boost your immune system and help your body fight the cold and flu. Also remember to hydrate – it keeps the immune system functioning properly.

Of course, catching the cold or flu is not automatically prevented by taking these measures, but following the steps can lessen the symptoms of your next cold and help you recover quickly. There are many benefits of following these steps other than prevent disease. Living an overall healthy lifestyle is important for preventing not only the cold and flu but cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

## The Good 5¢ Cigar

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## Student pharmacists help out during American Diabetes Month

To the Cigar,

November is American Diabetes Month and it is a great time to recognize the immense impact this condition has on the millions of Americans experiencing its effects. Each year, thousands of people suffer from blindness, kidney failure, and lower limb amputations – all because of a chronic condition many Americans know little about. Over 23.6 million people in the United States have diabetes, but nearly 5.7 million of those individuals are not even aware that they are suffering from this condition. Undiagnosed diabetes is a national health crisis, and health care providers across the country are taking this opportunity to encourage adults of all ages to have their blood sugar checked.

There are certain risk factors that make it more likely for some people to develop diabetes than others. These include a family history of diabetes, individuals who are obese/overweight, and individuals who have little or no physical activity. Additionally, everyone's risk increases with increasing age.

The student pharmacists at the University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy have taken action to help the citizens of our community to learn if they may be at risk of diabetes, and to provide interested individuals with more information about this chronic condition through Operation Diabetes. Student Pharmacists were available at the booths in the Memorial Union this past Nov. 9 to help individuals determine if they are at risk and educate them

on ways they can live a healthy lifestyle to prevent diabetes. We will be having more events these upcoming months so keep a look out.

On behalf of the children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, mothers, and fathers of those reading this letter, do yourself and your family a favor – find out if you are at risk. It could save your life!

Sincerely,  
Marian Gaviola  
Student Pharmacist  
Representative  
American Pharmacists  
Association Academy of  
Student Pharmacists  
University of Rhode  
Island College of Pharmacy

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Breaking Dawn, part one reveals much anticipated wedding, appeals to mature audiences and separates 'twihards' from fan girls

BY SARAH-ROSE MARCUS  
Contributing Entertainment Writer

I had been waiting to see "Breaking Dawn, Part One," and was excited to finally see its release in theatres last week. I will admit that I am a "Twilight" fan, although I don't take the series as seriously as I do with "Harry Potter."

I mostly watch "Twilight" to laugh at its cheesiness or to stare at Robert Pattinson's pale, glittering body. However, this "Twilight" experience was much different than the previous three movies I had seen.

The movie began by giving fans what they have wanted to see: Bella and Edward marry. Then they gave fans what they really wanted to see: them finally having sex. The start of the

movie is typical of the series, showcasing their tortured love to its audience. However, after the sex scene the movie takes a dark turn that separates its fan base from its fluffy preteen audience.

The plot of the movie rings true to the book as Bella becomes pregnant with Edward's baby. However, this baby is part vampire, and is slowly killing her by eating away at her body. If you are someone who complained that "Twilight" isn't graphic enough, you will be happy to see some gory, chilling and slightly traumatizing scenes. The movie shows Bella's character in a new way, much past an enamored teenager. However, this is because of its writing and directing rather than Kristen Stewart's acting performance.



Breaking Dawn, part one offers a new twist in the Twilight saga

Acting leads Pattinson, Stewart and Taylor Lautner all know at this point that fans will flock to the movie,

regardless of their performance. Their characters have also been as developed as they can be. It seemed that

Pattinson and Stewart could do this in their sleep. Also, the actors may have known that people see the movie as a joke, and it felt a bit like a "Saturday Night Live" parody. For example, Lautner's character is hard to take seriously considering he is always half naked, and it felt like he wanted to crack up laughing when he said lines about "warming Bella up."

Overall, this movie could be enjoyed by mature diehard "Twilight" fans rather than the hormonal tween girls who enjoyed the previous movies. It can also be enjoyed if you are a fan like me, who enjoys the story, yet laughs at the ridiculousness of it.

Write to the Cigar  
today at  
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### iTunes match wins cloud music war

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In recent weeks, Apple, Google and Amazon.com have each launched the missing puzzle piece in their wireless mobile music systems.

Apple enabled storage and delivery of your songs over the Internet through iTunes Match. Google started selling music digitally. Amazon shipped an electronic-books device, called the Kindle Fire, that does much more than books.

With those additions, each system now lets you buy songs, store them on faraway computers called the cloud and retrieve them wirelessly on devices connected to the Internet.

But which system do you want to live with? It's a choice you can't make lightly because these companies don't play nice with each other. Once you've adopted one, it's hard to switch.

If this were the Music Cloud Wars, then Apple's iTunes Match would be winning — but not by much.

Here's a quick primer, along with a few ways to get in and around their digital barriers.

iTunes Match.

There's a good chance you are familiar with iTunes. The software is on millions of computers, and many of you have iPods, iPhones or iPads that let you consume content bought through the iTunes online store.

iTunes Match is a \$25-a-year service on top of that. It sees everything you have in iTunes and matches it to copies Apple already has stored in the cloud.

### Putting humans on display - Paris museum asks why

PARIS (AP) — It's a queasy experience, viewing chained tribal dancers do a white man's bidding, or African women stripped and photographed to feed European curiosity.

Until just a few generations ago, this is how most white people learned about those with skin of a different shade. A new Paris exhibit examines how for centuries, colonizers plucked villagers from Africa, the Americas or the South Pacific and put them on display half a world away. The demeaning tradition shaped racist attitudes that linger today.

Curator Lilian Thuram, a former soccer star and now anti-racism advocate, hopes the exhibit at the Quai Branly Museum in Paris makes people question deep-held beliefs about the "other."

"You have to have the courage to say that each of us has prejudices, and these prejudices have a history," he said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Thuram is an ideal public face for this unusual exhibit. A pensive black man with a ready smile, he has suffered racist insults on and off the field.

It's a delicate undertaking for a museum: exhibiting offensive images without glorifying them, urging visitors to look closer and be repulsed.

Scientific curator Nanette Jacomijn Snoep said the exhibit isn't about blaming viewers of the past for their curiosity.

"For the visitors of this era, it was a way ... to see what was happening elsewhere in the world. Except that visitors

weren't totally aware that was a spectacle, that it was a fabricated difference," fabricated to make the viewer feel superior, she said in an interview.

Many of the subjects of this colonial cruelty remain nameless, and forgotten to history. "Zulu Mealtime" one photo reads. "Bushmen." "Indian Chief." "Negro Head." An old film reel shows a Frenchman peppering commands at two dark-skinned dancers in head-dress so cumbersome their faces are barely visible.

But some have been identified, including the great-grandparents of Thuram's 1998 World cup teammate Christian Karembeu, shipped to Paris from the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia and exhibited as "cannibals."

The Quai Branly exhibit includes a projected silhouette of South African Saartje Baartman, known to 19th-century viewers as the Hottentot Venus, and a naked, backside-only photograph of another African woman with similarly generous buttocks.

Just when you think the exhibit is all about the past, a familiar venue jumps out: New York's Coney Island features in an old "freak show" poster. Zulus were put on display at Buckingham Palace. Paris' Jardin d'Acclimatation, today one of the French capital's most popular amusement parks, once hosted human "zoos."

Such displays bolstered 19th-century scientists who sought to prove that different races were biologically distinct — and whites biologically superior.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## New 'Muppets' movie brings back childhood memories

BY AUGIE KING  
Entertainment Writer

Nostalgia can be a funny thing. Despite being excited that the Muppets were back in some way shape or form, I realized that I haven't actually seen all that much Muppet media.

I only watched the show occasionally, enough to recognize the characters, and I have only seen the "Muppet Christmas Carol" and "Muppet Treasure Island" movies (which I've been told are the lesser movies). And as someone who wasn't as familiar with the Muppets as I had thought, I can happily say that I was very entertained by their big screen comeback.

Plot Synopsis: Since "The Muppet Show" went off the air, the Muppets have gone their separate ways, and oil tycoon Tex Richman wants to demolish the old studio and drill for oil there. On their trip to Los Angeles, brothers Gary and Walter learn about this plot, team up with Kermit to get the gang together, and try to raise the money needed to pay off Richman.

Although the plot is a simple one, it's executed with enough charm and humor to overcome the familiarity of it. The individual lives that the other Muppets have now pro-



New 'Muppets' movie offers the same entertainment value as older ones.

vide a lot of comedic material to mine, such as Animal's anger management group with Jack Black and

Fozzie's band of the Mooppets (trashy knock-offs of the original Muppets). Miss Piggy is also living in Paris now, which soon becomes a "Devil Wears Prada" parody.

While on the outside the Muppets seem like children's material, there is actually a lot of meta humor and in-jokes for older audiences to enjoy. In fact the adults at my show-

ing were laughing more than the kids were. There are TONS of celebrity cameos here, including Whoopi Goldberg, the previously mentioned Jack Black and even Mickey Rooney.

Many of them feel pointless and unnecessary but there are enough good ones to overcome that.

Also know that the movie is a musical, especially in the first half, so those who are turned off by musicals may not be as entertained as oth-

ers. I can't say many of them are memorable, not including Gary and Walter's "Man or a Muppet," but they're done with enough energy and enthusiasm to be entertaining.

Since the movie is basically set up as a giant love letter to the Muppets and the innocence they brought to television points are made about how modern media is too cynical and appeals to the lowest common denominator too much, expect all your

favorites to get moments to shine. Some may be irritated that newcomer Walter often steals time from the old standbys, but his storyline, in addition to Kermit and Miss Piggy's relationship, provides the heart that raises this movie above most other fare.

The only character who feels one-dimensional is Mary, who is really just there to create drama with Gary so that actress Amy Adams can sing a few songs. The movie also has scenes that border on saccharine, mostly where Jason Segel could've toned down his "gee-whiz" attitude. However, I guess that's the point. The innocence and purity of the Muppets is what makes them and this movie so appealing, and it is definitely worth seeing for both long-time fans and newcomers willing to be won over.



## Ringling circus agrees to \$270K fine

VIENNA, Va. (AP) — The owner of the Ringling Bros. circus has agreed to pay a \$270,000 fine to settle allegations that it violated federal animal-welfare laws in its handling of elephants, tigers, zebras and other exotic animals.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says the civil penalty announced Monday is the largest ever assessed against an animal exhibitor under the Animal Welfare Act.

Vienna-based Feld Entertainment, which owns the circus and other well-known acts such as Disney on Ice, said it does not admit to violating the law and agreed to the settlement as a cost of doing business to resolve its differences with the USDA.

"We look forward to working with the USDA in a cooperative and transparent manner that meets our shared goal of ensuring that our animals are healthy and receive the highest quality care," said a statement released by Kenneth Feld, chief executive officer of Feld Entertainment.

In inspection reports from 2007 through this year, inspectors said circus handlers made elephants perform

when they were ill and used the same wheelbarrows to feed meat to tigers and haul away their waste, among other allegations.

An inspection report from August alleged that a 35-year-old female Asian elephant, Banko, was forced to perform at a show in Los Angeles despite a diagnosis of sand colic and observations that she appeared to be suffering abdominal discomfort. Circus officials told the inspectors that separating Banko from the performing elephants would have been even more distressing to her.

The inspection reports also cited splintered floors and rusted cages used to contain big cats such as tigers, and an incident in March 2008 where two zebras briefly got loose from their enclosure at 1st Mariner Arena in Baltimore. In 2010, another zebra escaped its enclosures in Atlanta and had to be captured by area law enforcement, according to the reports.

Feld spokesman Steve Payne said that, generally, the circus has seen an increase in recent years in inspections not only by the USDA but also by state and local regula-

tors. He said that from June to September, one of the circus' traveling units was inspected 82 times by 18 different agencies.

"We're highly regulated. We accept that regulation. We embrace it," Payne said.

Norfolk-based People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, which has filed numerous complaints with USDA against the circus, especially for its handling of elephants, said the fine is a good first step. But it called on the government to confiscate the elephants.

"What remains to be done is for the public to be made aware of this history of abuse so that people will know to keep their children away from the circus," PETA said.

As part of the settlement, Ringling also agreed to hire a compliance officer who will ensure that all employees follow the rules outlined in the Animal Welfare Act. All employees who handle animals will also have to undergo compliance training.

## Early Disney drawing up for auction in Nev.

RENO, Nev. (AP) — An original, autographed drawing by Walt Disney, believed to have been made about 1920 before he hit it big in the entertainment world, will go up for auction in Reno this week.

The whimsical drawing of a cigar-chomping man wearing a derby hat will be among 1,400 items up for sale at the two-day auction set to begin Tuesday at the Atlantis Casino Resort.

Titled "Fill Up My Can," the illustration has an estimated value of \$35,000 to \$50,000. It's believed to pre-date Disney's Mickey Mouse, which made its cartoon debut in 1928.

"Real pieces signed by him (Disney) are really rare," said Fred Holabird of Reno-based Holabird-Kagin Americana, which is staging the auction. "This is one of the earliest known signed Disney pieces, if not the earliest."

The drawing was once owned by Disney's sister, Ruth Disney.

Also up for auction is what's billed as the "first and possibly only known copy" in private hands of the original Nevada Black Book, which features names, information and photos of about a dozen

people barred from entering Nevada casinos.

The 11-page book includes mobster Sam Giancana, whose presence at Frank Sinatra's Cal-Neva hotel-casino at Lake Tahoe prompted revocation of the singer's gambling license in the early 1960s.

The book was made by the Nevada Gaming Commission about 1960, and was owned by the state's first gambling officer.

"It represents the first effort to keep illegal people out of Nevada casinos. It's a big step in the way we did business in Nevada," Holabird said, adding the book is expected to fetch up to \$5,000.

Also drawing interest is a unique \$50 gold coin struck during the California Gold Rush. It's estimated to be worth from \$135,000 to \$175,000.

"It's the best piece in the auction," Holabird said. "It's one of the first \$50 gold coins Augustus Humbert struck when he was appointed U.S. assayer in San Francisco in 1851."

Also up for auction are collections of Old West photos and Mustang Ranch brothel memorabilia

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Announcements

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## Colombian survivor: 'I ran the other way'

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — The Colombian police sergeant who saved himself when leftist rebels killed four fellow captives said Monday that he ran for his life into the jungle while his companions ran the other way.

Luis Alberto Erazo, who spent nearly 12 years as a prisoner of Colombia's main rebel force, said the leader of the guerrillas guarding the five captives had always told them that if government troops surprised the group the rebels would protect them.

But when he heard gunfire Saturday, Erazo turned and ran for the jungle. Government troops had engaged the rebels' outer security ring in combat.

"The only thing that occurred to me was to run for it," he said from the safety of a police hospital bed in the capital, Bogota.

Erazo was folding a towel when gunshots rang out. He felt what turned out to be a bullet graze his face and something sting his neck, he said in an interview with Caracol TV, his left cheek bandaged with gauze.

He said he thought the shots were coming from a guerrilla sentinel.

So he ran for his life, chased by two rebels whom he managed to evade before

hiding under a tree for hours.

The other four captives, all of whom had been held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, for at least 12 years, were apart from him and ran toward their guerrilla jailers, Erazo said.

Colombian officials said three of the men were executed with gunshots to the head, the fourth with two shots to the back.

Human Rights Watch issued a statement Monday calling the killings "a war crime" and saying those responsible should be brought to justice.

Defense Ministry officials said military units acting on intelligence that FARC had hostages in the area happened upon the rebels holding the five during what amounted to a reconnaissance mission.

The commander of the FARC's 63 front, which held the men, had told the five that if ever there was a firefight "we should run toward (the rebels) because they would get us out of there and deliver us safe and sound to our families," Erazo said.

His companions heeded that advice "and they were killed in a cowardly manner, without risk," he added. One of them, Capt. Edgar Duarte, had a bad foot and couldn't walk.

It is a long-standing FARC policy to kill captives rather than allow them to be liberated.

Prosecutor Arturo Jose Bolanos, who filed charges against a female guerrilla captured during Saturday's fighting, said soldiers stumbled on the rebels by chance and the guerrillas were able to cover their retreat with gunfire.

When the soldiers finally reached the rebel camp, they found the slain captives, Bolanos said. Duarte was in his shelter with his hands crossed, the other three bodies lay several yards (meters) away, the prosecutor said.

Erazo was slightly wounded in the cheek by a bullet and had a small wound in the back of his neck from a grenade fragment, Col. Adriana Camero, director of the police hospital where Erazo was recuperating, told the AP.

"He's a bit anxious, with some sadness, with mixed emotions at having regained freedom but having lost his friends," Camero said.

Erazo told the AP and another international media organization Monday afternoon that he believed most of the young rebels who guarded him had been "obliged" to join the insurgency.

"Who is going to be happy in a hell like that? Eating

poorly, living poorly and getting sick," he said.

Erazo, a balding 48-year-old, looked pallid and was missing two front teeth, which he said had simply fallen out during his long captivity.

The FARC took up arms in 1964. It is composed largely of peasants in a country with high rural poverty where land is concentrated in the hands of few and funds itself through cocaine trafficking, kidnapping and extortion.

Analysts see few prospects for a military solution to the conflict despite a series of major setbacks for the rebels including the combat death on Nov. 4 of the FARC's top commander, Alfonso Cano.

Erazo said he had spent the past decade with Jose Libio Martinez, one of the slain men and the longest-held of the FARC's captives. He had been held since being taken prisoner on Dec. 21, 1997 on a remote southern mountaintop called Cerro Patascocoy.

The son who never met him, 13-year-old Johan Steven Martinez, publicly rebuked the FARC on Sunday.

"Gentlemen of the FARC," he said, "you have broken my wings, broken my dreams, the longing to know my father personally."

## Native Americans to serve on the federal bench

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ahead of a meeting Friday between President Barack Obama and hundreds of Native American leaders, the administration unveiled new rules for tribal lands that officials say will expedite home building and energy development.

The proposed changes — the first of its kind in 50 years — would open the door to badly-needed housing development on reservations, and for wind and solar energy projects that tribes have been eager to launch.

The plan gives Obama another boasting point for this week's meeting with leaders of the 565 federally-recognized tribes at the White House.

"We have for three years worked very hard to change the relationship between the administration and the nation's first Americans," Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said Monday. He said Obama tasked him with changing the federal government's relationship with tribes "in a very complete way."

Obama has been winning high praise among Native Americans. The president has

appointed Native Americans to high level positions in his administration, signed laws to improve health care and law enforcement for Native Americans and resolved a long running lawsuit over royalties for minerals on tribal lands. In February, Obama nominated Arvo Mikkanen to serve as a federal judge. If confirmed, he would be the only Native American actively serving on the federal bench.

"We've had more access to federal officials to speak about these important issues in Indian Country," said Mellor Willie, a Navajo tribe member and executive director of the National American Indian Housing Council.

That was the case on the land leasing rules. Willie said the council asked the administration to consider reforming the rules during the transition between the Bush and Obama administrations. He said the Obama administration has held a number of meetings with tribes on the subject and provided draft proposals to leaders as the rules were being rewritten.

## Man sentenced to time served in LA stowaway case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A man convicted of getting a free ride from New York to Los Angeles using an expired boarding pass with someone else's name on it will be freed from federal prison having already spent five months behind bars.

Olaide Oluwaseun Noibi, 24, was sentenced Monday in a Los Angeles federal courtroom to time served after he pleaded guilty in August to a stowaway charge that carried a maximum five-year prison term. U.S. District Judge Manuel Real ordered Noibi, who has dual citizenship in the U.S. and Nigeria, to serve one year of supervised release and pay more than \$950 in restitution to Virgin America.

"I am not just sorry for putting other flights in U.S. airspace on the 24th of June at risk but I'm deeply sorry for any heartache I might have caused," Noibi wrote in a letter for the sentencing. Noibi, dressed in a white prison jumpsuit with his head hanging and his eyes closed, did not speak at the sentencing. In the letter, he called his actions "reprehensible, disgraceful and downright absurd."

Authorities said Noibi's actions had nothing to do with terrorism — he just wanted a free flight. But the incident raised questions about the effectiveness of airport security procedures.

Noibi wanted to travel to Atlanta, where he has relatives, and found a boarding pass for a Los Angeles-bound flight on the ground at John F. Kennedy International Airport. He told FBI agents he hoped to find a Delta flight headed for Atlanta if he got past security, according to court documents.

Noibi said he showed the boarding pass to an airport hostess who didn't stop him before he got to the security checkpoint. There, he told a female screener he lost his identification and showed her his student identification card and a police report that said his U.S. passport had been stolen. She called over a supervisor and he eventually was allowed to go to his gate, according to an FBI affidavit.

He made it on the plane, and the flight crew didn't realize until midflight that an extra passenger was onboard in a premium seat that was supposed to be empty.

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# Rhody SPORTS



## Men's basketball wins first game against Hofstra, drops two over the weekend to BU, CSU

BY MIKE ABELSON  
Sports Staff Reporter

To say that the Legends Classic sub-regional was up and down for the University of Rhode Island would be an understatement.

After winning their first game of the season over Hofstra University 85-73 on Friday night, the Rams dropped a pair on Saturday and Sunday. Boston University beat the Rams 70-64 on Saturday and Cleveland State led wire-to-wire Sunday to defeat Rhody 67-45.

Cleveland State, which defeated nationally-ranked Vanderbilt University earlier in the season, led from the opening tip and eventually opened up a 31-point lead. The loss was Rhode Island's worst since a January loss against Xavier and it matched the third worst loss at home in school history. The Rams are now 1-5 on the season.

Senior Orion Outerbridge led the Rams with 12 points and seven rebounds on Sunday. The Rhody bench added 14 points and 16 rebounds. Outerbridge was named to the all-tournament team.

"Once we made some changes as far as our lineup goes I thought our second

group did a great job of really competing, being in the mix, and making plays," Rhode Island head coach Jim Baron said after the Cleveland State game. "They [CSU] are good basketball team."

The Rams outrebounded the Vikings 36-25 and Baron said that he thought it was one of his team's best rebounding performances. However, 20 Rhody turnovers kept the Vikings in the driver's seat.

"I think that this team is a work in progress," Baron said. "We're going to learn by each game and guys are going to need to step up and be focused and take care of what we expect them to do. It's a learning process for the upperclassmen of being leaders and of the younger guys being focused."

Senior Jamal Wilson was held to season-low eight points in each of the games against BU and Cleveland State.

"Our loss to BU took the wind out of us and it kind of carried over," Wilson said after the Cleveland State game. "My whole approach today wasn't a good one."

Even with the two defeats, the Rams were not without good performances.

Freshman Jonathon Holton was named Atlantic-10 Conference rookie of the week for his performance over the weekend. Holton averaged 12 points, 6.3 rebounds, 1.3 assists, and a block across the three-game weekend. Holton's best game came against Hofstra when he scored 20 points and blocked a pair of shots.

Outerbridge and Malesevic led the Rams in scoring against BU with 16 and 15 points respectively.

With the sub-regional now behind them, the Rams can look ahead to playing five of their next six games in the Ocean State and four of them at the Thomas M. Ryan Center. Up first for Rhode Island is a trip to Providence tomorrow night for the yearly game against Brown University. It will be the 153rd meeting between the Rams and the Bears.

"Brown is another very good team who is very strategic at playing," Wilson said. "We've just got to go to film and listen to our coaches. They prepare us very well for our opponents, and it's up to us to go and execute that."

Rhody returns home Sunday at 2 p.m. when they host the University of Maine.

## Volleyball team records best season in 10 years

BY JOE HOLLENBECK  
Sports Staff Reporter

The University of Rhode Island women's volleyball team finished sixth in the Atlantic-10 Conference this season. It was the team's best finish since 2001, which was also the last time the team made it to the A-10 Championships.

The Rams fell in five sets to Saint Louis University in the first round of the A-10s, but head coach Bob Schneck still considered this season a major success.

"We played hard all season long," Schneck said. "We had our fair share of bad games and mistakes throughout the year, but when we needed to put some victories together we were able to."

The Rams received strong offensive play all season long from senior Kayla Wilson and sophomore Britta Baarstad. Wilson led the Rams in kills with a career high 433 and Baarstad finished second in kills with 355.

For the second consecutive season, the Rams finished with a .500 record. The team ended the year with a 15-15 record. Last season they finished 14-14 and fell one game out of the A-10s.

The major difference this year was inter-conference play. The Rams finished the year with a 7-8 conference record, with big wins over Xavier University and

Fordham University.

"The highlight of the season was without a doubt our win over Xavier," Schneck continued. "They have always been one of the top teams in the conference and we played our best game of the season in front of our home crowd and it was just an amazing experience."

In a season full of positives though, the Rams have plenty to improve on if they want to be a strong contender for the A-10s. The Rams lost most games when they did not have a strong hitting percentage.

Unforced errors continuously sank the Rams throughout the season. When the team was able to overcome the errors and play mistake free, they could not be beaten.

"Obviously the one major issue we have to work on for next year is the amount of miss-hits we had all year," Schneck added. "If we can get that under control, we can hang in there with anyone."

The Rams are only losing three senior players and look to be in good shape for next season when they will attempt try to reach the A-10 Championships again.

"That is always going to be my goal for the season," Schneck said. "We want to win it all every year."

## Branch has big game as Patriots keep rolling

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Tom Brady pointed with his left index finger. Deion Branch picked up the signal and changed his route. The result was a 63-yard pass play.

On a team with star receivers Wes Welker and Rob Gronkowski, Branch and Brady have a special chemistry that makes the New England Patriots offense even more dangerous.

The long connection came early in the second quarter of the Patriots' 38-20 win over the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday. Branch ran out of gas and was tackled at the Eagles 1-yard line, but BenJarvus Green-Ellis rushed for the touchdown on the next play. Suddenly, the Patriots had a 14-10 lead and never trailed again.

Branch finished with six catches for 125 yards, one of his best games of the season.

"Deion is a very instinctive receiver," coach Bill Belichick said Monday. "He has a great sense of timing, of when the quarterback is ready to throw the ball, when he needs to be open, how to get open. Tom, from his position, kind of has that same sense of what the receiver would expect him to do and what he should do in certain situations and that's almost

always what Deion would do."

The Patriots improved to 8-3, tied for the best record in the AFC. They should improve on that Sunday when the Indianapolis Colts (0-11) visit. New England has scored the most points in the AFC. Indianapolis has allowed the most in the NFL.

So the Patriots, who have dominated their last three opponents, figure to do that again.

Belichick, though, likely will emphasize the strengths of the Colts, not the season-long absence of Peyton Manning.

"Schematically, (the Colts) look pretty much the same as they usually do," he said. "Obviously, a couple of changes in personnel, but a team we always have trouble with."

Eight of the Colts losses have been by more than seven points. The Patriots have the passing game to win by a lot more than that.

At the start of the season, Welker and Gronkowski were the big producers. In the first three games, Welker had 31 catches for 458 yards and Gronkowski scored five touchdowns. Branch started off well with 15 catches for 222 yards in the first two games but managed just a total of one in the next two.

Welker leads the NFL with 82 receptions and Gronkowski is tied for fifth with 60 and second with 11 touchdown catches. Even tight end Aaron Hernandez, with 47 receptions, is ahead of Branch's 45.

But Branch can still help Brady turn a broken play into a big one.

On Sunday, Brady threw for the first time in his career to a wide-open Tiquan Underwood, who had just been signed. The receiver couldn't latch onto the ball.

"It would have been a tough play," Belichick said. "It could have been a little better executed all the way around. I thought he ran a good route. The ball was a little inside."

On the very next play, Brady turned to a receiver he has plenty of experience with — Branch.

The quarterback scrambled to his left as Branch ran 13 yards down the left sideline and stopped at the first-down marker. That's when Brady pointed. That was Branch's cue to cut inside cornerback Brandon Hughes, who played more because cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha was limited by a knee injury.

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