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The Good 5¢ Cigar

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1971

Volume 61
Issue 45

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

Thursday
December 8, 2011

Eighth annual Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive receives campus-wide support

BY BROOKE CONSTANCE WHITE
News Reporter

Students and faculty at the University of Rhode Island are certainly thinking big about the eighth annual Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive this holiday season.

"Last year we were at 800-850 gifts and this year we have well over 1,000 gifts," Executive Assistant in the Division of Administration and Finance Sharon Kenyon Blackmar said.

When the holiday drive first started eight years ago, the Division of Administration and Finance was the only department involved said Vice President of Administration and Finance Robert Weygand. Now, it has expanded across campus and even beyond the Kingston area.

"The [Narragansett] Bay campus has jumped on board and has started a warm clothing drive for Children's Friend," Blackmar said. "The

Providence and W. Alton Jones campuses have also been doing holiday drives."

All the donated gifts are given to Children's Friend, the oldest social service agency in Rhode Island, which sends the gifts out to children in the state who are less fortunate and won't receive presents for the holidays.

On top of donating gifts for children, anyone wishing to get involved can sponsor a family and get a paper that has clothing needs and sizes and purchase presents for all of the children in the family.

"This year, students, staff and faculty from URI are sponsoring [more than] 30 families," Blackmar said. "This doesn't even include those who didn't register to sponsor families through URI."

Weygand says that sponsoring families and knowing that you are fulfilling the needs of a specific family adds a personal touch.

"When we started doing

this drive eight years ago, we were only donating toys and now we have expanded it to donating more practical items," Weygand said. "It's great to know that we are meeting the needs of these people."

Different fraternities, sororities and several student organizations have gotten involved in the drive Blackmar said. Besides groups on campus, Stop and Shop, Citizen's Bank and Brown University, among other businesses and groups throughout the state, are also involved in the Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive with Children's Friend.

"We hope that this drive helps everyone get into the spirit of giving to those in need," Weygand said. "We've come to realize that in being involved in a drive like this, the people that do the giving usually end up getting more out of it than the kids who are

Continued on page 2

Narragansett orange sticker policy adds new price tag

BY HENSLEY CARRASCO
News Editor

In a 4-1 vote, the Narragansett Town Council approved an ordinance to allow the town to bill property owners or the people responsible for renting out the properties for the costs of emergency response to multiple offenders of the orange sticker ordinance.

The ordinance, which was passed Monday night, will allow Narragansett to bill residents the cost of having emergency services at their home after their first offense.

The decision to give a house causing a "disturbance" an orange sticker is to be determined by the Narragansett police.

Narragansett town ordinance determines a public nuisance as being a "gathering of five or more persons on any private property in a manner which constitutes a substantial disturbance of the quiet enjoyment of private or public property in a significant segment of a neighborhood, as a result of conduct constituting a violation of law."

Student Senate President David Coates said there was a representative of the American Civil Liberties Union who opposed the measure. According to the Providence Journal, the representative of the Rhode Island ACLU said the definition of a public distur-

Continued on page 3

URI Athletics Department program educates students on GLBT issues

BY GUS CANTWELL
News Reporter

University of Rhode Island Director of Athletics Thor Bjorn understands the issue of homophobia in sports; he was once part of the problem.

As a football player at the University of Massachusetts, Bjorn said, "I was 'homo-joking'. I would just not understand." Then his sister came out as a lesbian.

"It made me say, 'I love my sister'... from that point on it was never an issue," Bjorn said.

Bjorn helped determine this year's student-athlete program topic of homosexuality acceptance. He wanted students to feel more comfortable in the locker room and on the field, without the constant fear of being tormented by teammates or other students.

"I really want our family to feel safe, welcome, encouraged

to be who they are," Bjorn said. "Our society hasn't gotten a sense of how damaging words can be."

Following the GLBT sit-in at the Robert L. Carothers Library and Learning Commons 24-hour room last September, Bjorn decided educating student-athletes about homophobia in sports would be a good idea. The idea for the program was originally introduced this past summer by Associate Athletic Director Gina Sperry and Coordinator of Violence Prevention and Advocacy Services Keith Labelle. The pair recognized that homophobia was a major issue across the country.

"Sometimes people don't understand the level to which GLBT is discriminated against," Sperry said. "We wanted to break what people have perceived as a stereotype."

Sperry also recommended bringing Esera Tuaolo, a former NFL player who came out after his retirement, to speak with URI's students and student-athletes. He was chosen largely because Sperry felt he would be honest and open with his audience. Tuaolo also spoke with coaches and administrators about the best ways to make their athletic environments more inclusive.

"The coaches were very receptive to it," Sperry said.

Tuaolo's presentation last Monday night was a mandatory event for all student-athletes and the feedback was extremely positive.

"Once they got there and participated... [the students] were glad they were there," she said.

"There's no better stereotype breaker than [Tuaolo],"

Continued on page 2

Rhody pic of the day



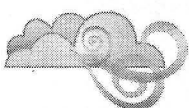
Teresa Kelly | Cigar

Quinn, a 5 year-old keeshond therapy dog, spends some quality time with seniors Amanda Meyers and Kimberly Sauer in the Memorial Union lounge as part of Stress Relief Day.

The Good 5-Cent Cigar

Today's forecast
45 °F

It's going to
be a windy
day!



Nickel Brief:

See what URI students are planning for winter break in our last issue of the semester!

Miss URI men's basketball take on Virginia Tech last night?

See page 4.

CAMPUS

Drive

From page 1

receiving the gifts."

Blackmar says that she believes that giving to those in need is the real reason for the season.

"It's all about being thankful and putting a smile on someone else's face," Blackmar said.

Donations are being accepted until Dec. 15 and can be dropped off at the Memorial Union Information Desk or the Carloti Administration Building, room 108.

The date and time of the collection reception for the holiday drive has been changed and is now on Dec. 14 from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the University Club.

Basketball

From page 4

The Rams were out-rebounded by Virginia Tech 33-29, but Rhode Island was able to grab three more offensive boards than the Hokies.

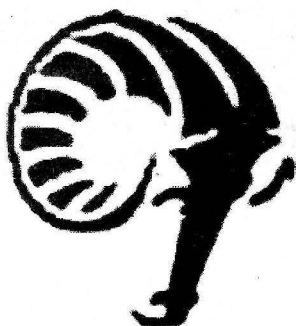
"I thought it was a hard-fought game," URI head coach Jim Baron said. "We knew they were going to come out and pressure us. I thought we did a good job of attacking the basket, getting to the free throw line."

The Rams had three less turnovers than the Hokies, but four costly turnovers in the first half, including errant passes from freshman Jonathan Holton, gave Virginia Tech points which would come back to bite the Rams in the end.

Holton finished with 10 points and senior captain Jamal Wilson added 11 of his own. Eight Rams scored in the course of the game.

"I think our guys fought the fight," Baron said. "I thought we competed. I thought we battled. They made some big shots."

Go Rhody!



GLBT

From page 1

Bjorn added. "It's not a football issue...it's an international cultural issue."

Sperry said that Tualo's presentation was the second part of the program. The first was a video entitled, "It Gets Better." Created by URI's LBTQ Women's group, the 45-minute film was part of a national campaign started due to rising suicide rates among homosexuals.

"I remember the atmosphere was very supportive," Sperry said of the packed Edwards Hall Auditorium on the night of the film's showing. The film was student-initiated and featured numerous students and faculty members on campus.

"It was real people you see every day," she said. "It was a really powerful experience for a lot of people here."

Bjorn said that he has learned a lot himself through these events.

"I'm far more aware of the derogatory language," he said. "In September, I wasn't as aware of it as I am now."

The coaches have also been receptive to the program. However, with coaches coming and going often at universities, Sperry said new coaches will also need to understand URI's tolerance policy.

"In our environment, we want to hire people who are respectful of other people's dif-

ferences," she said. "If [they] don't like that, maybe this isn't the place for [them]."

Bjorn and Sperry both understand that this is just the beginning and more work will need to be done to ensure that acceptance of those in the GLBT community does not stay solely within the athletic department.

"The key is to not just check the box and say we're done," Bjorn said. "It's got to become part of our daily lives."

"You continue to train athletes...so later they can do the work," Sperry added.

Sperry also hopes to create optional training sessions for all athletic department faculty in the future. This would allow faculty members to become "safe zones," as people that members of the GLBT community can safely discuss issues with. She would also like to see more GLBT-related websites added to the main URI website.

"When students are looking to come to URI, they look at those web pages," she said.

Sperry is considering a focusing on transgender athletes and the issues that arise when transgender athletes try out for teams during future programs. The ultimate goal, she explained, is to make all students and student-athletes feel accepted in the community.

"People don't want to be tolerated, they want to be respected," she said.

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6 News Reporters

1 Entertainment Editor

3 Entertainment Writers

1 Sports Editor

3 Sports Reporters

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CONTINUED

Club Notices

Student Action Sustainability wants you for next semester! We'll be meeting in Merrow Hall this Thursday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. to discuss our exciting new projects for next semester including our Earth Day celebration fair and we want you to be involved. Please join us Thursday for pizza and fun!

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Lost/Found

Lost: Case of jewelry, Friday, Nov. 11 on Boston Neck Rd., Narragansett. This case contains meaningful pieces of jewelry representing a lifetime's worth of work. Reward upon return, no questions asked. Please call (401) 429-3000 with info.

Senate

From page 1

bance made by the town was "too broad and open to abuse." The Providence Journal also wrote that the council amended the original ordinance to "require written warnings from the police" in order to lengthen the time for appeal and "to narrow the definition of 'disturbance.'" During the student senate meeting last night, Coates said the ACLU representative had an issue with the "definition of disturbance used."

Coates said the cost of the emergency services will be added onto the normal fee for receiving an orange sticker.

"You're going to pay for the cost of having the police at your residence," Coates said. "[This will happen] after the first offense. If the police come twice in a 12-month period, you'll get the new violation fee tacked on. I think it's pretty obvious it's targeted at [University of Rhode Island] students."

Coates said the students who live in Narragansett could be subject to police calls from neighbors who aren't particularly fond of them.

"It's well known that the police in Narragansett don't always wait for a complaint to come in," Coates said. "They see a lot of cars at a house, they'll knock on a door."

He added that if students were to move from

Narragansett to the newer on-campus dorms that it would be a good thing. He said it will affect Narragansett because with a loss of students living in the area, the town will have to make up for the lost income.

In order for students to appeal the additional ordinance and fees, they have to go through the Narragansett director of public safety. Coates said the town solicitor was instructed to find the costs of what the fee would be for the services. During the meeting, External Affairs Chairman Derek Troiano said the proposed fee was more than \$1,000.

Troiano said the fee is "supposed to compensate the costs to get police officers to the scene." Troiano said if the ordinance is still a "pressing issue" at the beginning of the second semester of classes, he will create an opinion bill for students who oppose the ordinance.

In other news:

- The Student Senate recognized Hillel: The Center for Jewish Life on Campus.
- The Student Senate confirmed the president's decision to have Scott Mullin become the Director of Marketing.
- The Student Senate elected Michael Merolla, Ashley Cordisco, Scott Mullin, Abigail Farrow and Christine Juhr.
- President David Coates vetoed the approval of the student senate's finance handbook.

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December 2011

University of Rhode Island

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Grammy Award winning jazz musician, Esperanza Spalding takes to URI stage

BY CARISSA JOHNSON
Asst. Photo Editor

Tuesday night, the University of Rhode Island had a surprise guest play at the Fine Arts Center recital hall: Grammy award winner Esperanza Spalding.

Spalding, a 27-year-old jazz bassist and vocalist, surprised Grammy viewers earlier this year when she beat Justin Bieber for the Best New Artist Award. Spalding was asked to come to the jazz program's fundraiser concert on Tuesday by David Zinno, a professor in jazz string bass, to help raise funds for a jazz scholarship.

"[Esperanza] is a good friend of mine and agreed to perform with us. Because we have no money to pay her fee, which is astronomically high at this point, she is coming up as my friend," Sinno said.

When Spalding took to the URI stage, she received great applause. Throughout the night, Spalding sang several songs, jumping octaves with her voice fluidly. She also played several songs on the bass using several unique techniques. Spalding's

movements as she was playing and her facial expressions were always quite exaggerated, highlighting the passion she felt while playing. All the other performers had wide smiles and smirks as they became more involved in their own playing alongside Spalding.

The concert drew quite a crowd and there was a well-rounded variation of music which Zinno described as "highly experimental." The show also featured the band Planet Safety comprised of Leo Genovese on the piano, Bob Gullotti on the drums and Zinno on the bass.

"All these incredible musicians are doing us a favor to help raise money for [the] URI jazz studies scholarship," Zinno said. "The music department is overcrowded and they are cutting our budget every year. The arts are not a priority at URI and we would like to change that."

The night was studded with special guests including Bob Mover, an accomplished alto saxophonist and vocalist, who played for most of the night. His daughter, Emily Mover, a guitarist, composer, and vocalist,

also played an original song called "Mean Man."

"A lot of [Emily Mover's] music has been found in movies and TV shows like 'Grey's Anatomy,'" Zinno said.

Every performer had solo time, showing their vast talents and using the instruments in a variety of unique ways. Gullotti used several different mallets throughout the concert and Genovese started to pluck the stings inside of the piano for an entirely different sound. Spalding and Zinno used different types of bending and plucking their bass strings while Spalding's voice itself was an experiment in its extreme highs and lows that flowed so smoothly.

The concert ended with Spalding singing a tune about giving donations to the URI jazz scholarship using lines such as "We need your money so give it away, give it today...seriously" and "Music is the most precious human expression, someone has to make a rhyme and I guess that's me so pass the hat and give freely."

Rhody SPORTS



Men's basketball worn down by Virginia Tech

BY MIKE ABELSON
Sports Staff Reporter

With 5:38 left and the University of Rhode Island men's basketball team trailing Virginia Tech by seven, senior Jamal Wilson faked left and went right.

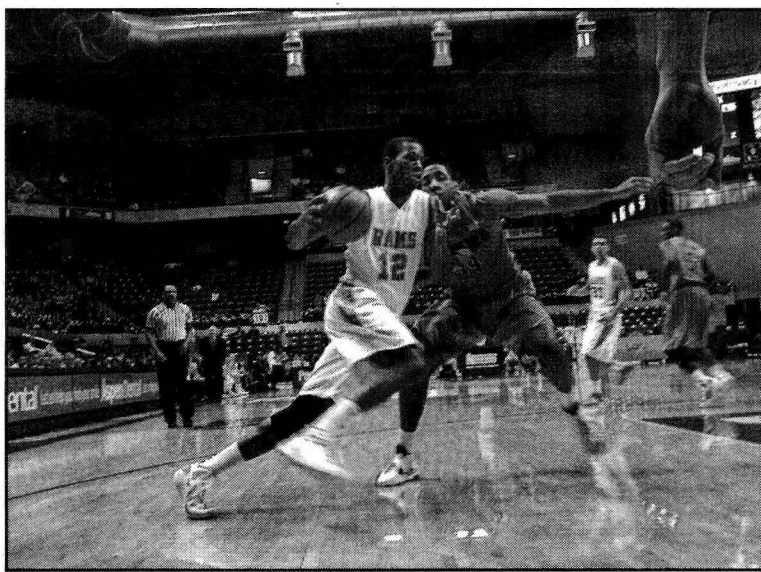
He drove the lane uncontested and looked to be about to convert a sure layup.

As he rose up, Tech's Jarell Eddie rose even higher and stuffed the shot at the rim. Eddie scored a three-pointer five seconds later to put the Hokies up by 10 and stop a Rhody rally en route to a 78-67 win last night at the Thomas M. Ryan Center. Eddie finished the game with 15 points.

The loss was Rhode Island's first against a team from the Atlantic Coast Conference since losing to the University of North Carolina in the 2010 NIT Semifinals.

"That play was a great hustle play," Virginia Tech coach Seth Greenberg said. "Chased that play down and then he converted. That's what I expect from him."

The Rams hung tough throughout the game, but poor shooting did them in. Rhode Island shot 40 percent from the field and only hit two three-pointers. The Rams converted 21 of their 24 free



Lauren Gingerella | Cigar

Senior Orion Outerbridge drives to the basket against Virginia Tech last night at the Thomas M. Ryan Center.

throws, which kept them in the game throughout.

Junior forward Nikola Malesevic led the way for the Rams. The "Serbian Storm" scored 23 points on 7-14 shooting. Malesevic hit all eight of his free throws.

"We played harder definitely," Malesevic said. "We played more as a team."

The Rams scored the first seven points of the game and fended off a 9-2 run by the Hokies to keep the game close. The Rams were behind by a single point at intermission and most of the nearly 4,000 in attendance felt an

upset in the making.

The Rams led six minutes into the second half, but a three-pointer by Eddie put the Hokies up for good.

The Rams stayed close for much of the second half until Eddie's block and score took the wind out of their sails.

"We [have] got to play better defense sometimes," Malesevic said. "Sometimes they just got easy dunks, easy penetration. If we stop them a couple times then we get the win, but we didn't, so we lost."

Continued on page 2

Meet Reece Markman: on and off the field

BY NIKITA DUKE
Contributing Sports Staff Reporter

On the field, University of Rhode Island men's soccer senior Reece Markman doesn't kid around. The 5'10" midfielder from Dallas has been an asset to the team since his rookie year.

He appeared in 17 games in his freshman, sophomore and junior years each, making seven starts his sophomore year and 14 in his junior. This season alone, Markman scored URI's lone goal in their 1-0 win against St. Louis University and set up the game-winner in Rhody's 2-0 victory over Holy Cross University.

Prior to his collegiate career, Markman was a starting midfielder for the 2007 United States Youth Soccer Association Under-17 National Champion Andromeda Soccer Club. He also helped lead the team to the 2007 San Diego Surf Cup U-17 Showcase Super title, as well as three North Texas Classic League Grand Championship titles and an appearance in the Dallas Cup XII Soccer Tournament semifinals.

Off the field? Well, that's a completely different story.

To sum up Markman's off-field character, fellow teammate sophomore Joey Haught capped it all off saying, "Reece is a character." However, once getting to know Markman, one will discover that describing him as such may be a vast understatement.

If you ask Markman how he wound up at the URI, he'll tell you, "Well, I couldn't get into Hogwarts." When asked why he didn't peruse hockey (another of his childhood sports), he'll say it's because, "the ice melts too fast in Texas." And if you ask him how he prepares for games, he'll tell you that he chews three pieces of Orbit Sweet Mint gum, sprays water on his head and puts his left shin guard, left sock, and right shoe on first. (These were only a few of Markman's many peculiar pre-game rituals.)

Markman also claims that he's known amongst his teammates for doing anything and everything not to lift weights during work outs.

"I would stand by the water fountain and stretch while I yelled at the rest of the team to work harder," Markman said. "We have an award called the 'Iron Ram', which goes to the hardest working soccer player when lifting, and for some reason, I never won that award."

Others on the team said Markman is known for being a particularly caring individual, something he is in agreement with.

"I am a very caring person which is why I prefer assists rather than goals," Markman

said. "That could be the biggest lie or most truthful thing I've ever said."

Fellow teammates such as senior captain Franco Lo Presti had plenty of interesting stories to offer up about Markman, all of which were also a bit too inappropriate to include, but if you're in the mood for a good laugh just ask Lo Presti to tell you the "handling of the 'soccer' balls story." He gets a big kick out of it.

Despite all of Markman's crazy antics, his teammates, as well as head coach John O'Connor, were all in agreement that he has been a big part of the team throughout his four years at URI and will be greatly missed next season.

"[Markman] has grown as a player and person throughout this program," O'Connor said. "I think this past year he has demonstrated a great deal of leadership as well as his ability to pull guys around him and change up a previously awful year."

O'Connor also said that Markman made many sacrifices for the team, often playing in positions that weren't his strongest and pulling through for the greater good.

"I enjoyed playing with Reece for the past two years" Haught said. "He was always a hard worker and a good friend. He helped us greatly in the midfield this year and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors."

Markman said he believes the soccer program is heading in the right direction, which is very important to him, and that he will miss his fellow teammates, particularly the three other seniors leaving the team this year.

"I'll miss Franco [Lo Presti] beat-boxing for every girl he's ever met, I'll miss Oscar screaming at [sophomore] Josiah [Austin] in his crazy Rhode Island accent, and I'll also miss the time [senior goaltender] Peyton [Warwick] jumped over a broken fence and landed flat on his face," Markman said with a laugh.

In regards to what the future holds for Markman, he said he hopes to spend at least a year in Australia after graduation and play on a semi-professional team against URI alumnus Kevin Shaw. After, he plans to move to Las Vegas where his two brothers currently reside and pursue a career in advertising.

"I loved all four years of playing with URI, with all the ups and downs...and there were lots of downs," Markman said. "But I don't regret it. And for the boys who are reading this, just wait until you graduate. It's all worth it."

Swimming and diving team captures invitational win, now 2-2 on season

BY JOE HOLLENBECK
Sports Staff Reporter

The University of Rhode Island women's swimming and diving team continued its impressive start to the 2011-2012 season, winning the Harold Anderson Invitational hosted at the Tootell Aquatic Center this past weekend. This marks the fourth consecutive time that the Rams have captured the annual invitational.

The Rams finished first in the invitational with 959.50 total points. The other schools that competed were Providence College (703), the University of Maine (679), Assumption College (485.50), Bryant University (362) and College of the Holy Cross (212).

The Rams had a record-setting weekend. Junior Susan Nugent set a new pool, varsity and meet record in her winning 200-yard butterfly (2:03.70), as well as a varsity and meet record in the 100-yard fly with her winning time of 57.65 seconds.

Freshman Rachel Revolinski also set a record for

the Rams. She tied former Ram Lillian Falconer's varsity time and set a new meet record in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:05.55.

"It is always nice to set records," head coach Mick Westkott said. "We seem to have a knack for setting records at these events. It was very promising to see [Revolinski] set a record of her own so early in her URI career."

The Rams earned the top two spots in the women's 200-yard freestyle. Freshmen Sarah Keshishian and Chaya Zabludoff finished first and second, respectively. Keshishian finished with a time of 1:54.26 and Zabludoff was a close second, finishing in 1:54.35.

In the 100-yard backstroke, the Rams took two of the top-10 finishes. Senior Katie Mangano finished in first place with a time of 58.98 and sophomore Caitlin Carter took fourth place (1:00.56).

The Rams finished strong, taking the top two spots in the 400-yard freestyle relay. The team of Keshishian, Zabludoff,

Carter and junior Eileen Morrison finished first with the time of 3:35.89. Mangano, Nugent, and freshmen Emily Thomesen and Colette Aubin combined to finish second place with a time of 3:36.21.

"I am proud of our team for winning this event again, these are good schools we are competing against and I think we put some pressure on them after this weekend," Westkott said.

The Rams will be back in action when they host Bryant University on Dec. 10 at 1 p.m. in the Tootell Aquatic Center.

In other news, the swimming and diving team announced the signing of two new recruits on Tuesday. Jenna Kirchoff from Severna Park, Md. and Kate Snyder from Lenexa, Kan. will both swim for the Rams beginning in the 2012-13 academic year. Kirchoff is a distance swimmer who's best events are the 500-yard and 1,650-yard distance freestyles, while Snyder's strongest events are the 100-yard and 200-yard backstrokes.