2-14-2013

The Good 5 Cent Cigar (2/14/2013)

University of Rhode Island

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"It was really interested in entrepreneurship," Ruggieri said, "and Julie and I had really complementary skills and got along really well." In November 2012, Ruggieri and Sygiel launched Dear Kate, a line of functional lingerie for women. "We make beautiful lingerie for women, mostly bras and panties," Ruggieri said. 

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InterVarsity is teaming up with World Vision by having a "join-in," in which students are able to build medical kits for caregivers in the Kingdom of Swaziland who are working with people living with AIDS. The event will be held on Feb. 27, 8 p.m., at the Harge Forum in the Multicultural Center. URI Senior and president of InterVarsity at URI, Zach Oliveira, attended an event with other members during winter break that motivated him to participate in the "join-in."

"Over winter break, myself and some of the other students went to this event called Urbana where there were 16,000 InterVarsity students from all over the country that went there, and while we were there we made, I think, about 32,000 caregiv er kits in one night," Oliveira said. "So that was a really powerful experience and we wanted to take that back to the URI campus.

The medical kits that are being sent to Swaziland include essential items that the caregivers need while helping others. According to Oliveira, some of these items include anti-bacterial soap, anti-fungal cream, petroleum jelly, gauze pads, washcloths, and water purification sachets.

"The kits include different things like regular medical gloves because a lot of the times they just tie plastic bags around their hands, just because that is all that they have and we also put different creams [such as] the ointment that helps with the pain," Oliveira said. "It's a lot of things that they need there but don't have."

Oliveira has made a pact for lent with other students so that they can help raise money to build the medical kits.

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Through these experiences, Oliveira has used InterVarsity to help create personal experiences and reconnect with God. "I had grown up going to church and youth group my whole life, and then freshman year I only came to InterVarsity once in a while. I didn't come that often and then over the summer I had a lot of things happen in my life and it made me really not to recommend with God," Oliveira said. "So I started coming to InterVarsity more my Sophomore year and even since then God has had me on a roller coaster almost, it's been really cool doing different things with my faith, and living it out instead of it just being a Sunday thing."

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The Good 5-Cent Cigar

BY ALLISON FARRELLY

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CAMPUS

Platforms: Representative At-Large & College Representatives Spring 2013

Representative At-Large

Joe Korzеб

Fellow Students, my name is Joe Korzеб, and I am a freshman running for an At-Large bid to the Student Senate. I am a double major in Political Science and Spanish, from Ellington, CT. If elected, I will bring honesty and accountability to the Student Senate. I believe that I share common goals and interests with most of the student body. I humbly ask for your vote on February 13th or 14th. Thank you!

Tyler Meehan

Looking for that new fresh look to the student senate? Well, my name is Tyler Meehan and as a freshmen here at URI, I am ready to run for a seat in our university’s community. I was a peer leader and worked with student council back in high school. I am ready to represent our students in a positive manner and bring about changes to our school that are so exciting, kids from UMASS will be jealous.

Adam Schmutz

I am running to be your representative because I am both a listener and a speaker. One of my strengths is my ability to work with student council and the organization and analytical skills make me a great candidate to represent the student body and their goals. So let’s get going.

Nicholas Hetland

Hello URI! My name is Nicholas Hetland and I am running for an At-Large position on the Student Senate. Currently I am studying civil engineering. If not enrolled in my studies I am involved in various club and intramural sports as well as Greek life. My dedication to the university along with my organizational and analytical skills make me an enthusiastic and effective voice for the student body.

Cara LoBianco

My name is Cara LoBianco and I’m a dedicated and committed sophomore studying Kinesiology and Nutrition. If I get elected to join Senate I promise I’ll put 110% effort into advocating for students to make this university an even better place to live. My studies are going towards helping people in the future and I’d like to start now as a member of Student Senate.

Rachel McAteer

I’m Rachel. How ya doin’? Well, I am running for student At-Large and once I am behind me already I’m hoping to get re-elected as an At-Large Rep. I won’t bore you with credentials because I am nothing but shining stars, but I will say that I have genuinely enjoyed my time as an At-Large rep AND would like more than anything to hold one of those seats again. Sooo I would LOVE your vote! You stay classy San Diego... I mean URI.

Joe Maynard

My name is Joe Maynard and I am currently running to be an At-Large Representative in the Student Senate. I would consider myself to be a valid candidate because I am dedicated and passionate about the responsibility and duties of the Student Senate, while also having a year of experience on Senate. With an open mind, I plan on incorporating new ideas and new opportunities to better our ever evolving experience. Thank you.

Luke Stabile

My name is Luke Stabile and I am aspiring to become a member of the student senate. I am a business freshman guide as well as a member of the best buddies organization on campus. As a member of the Student Senate, I will do my very best to get other students involved in campus activities and make decisions that transform the University of Rhode Island into a superior place to learn.

Alva Poulos

Hello, I am Alva Poulos and I am running to be an At-Large Representative. I am a business major and I am ecstatic to be here.

NATOSHI SOLOMON

Hi, my name is Jenna Solomon and I am a sophomore accounting major. There are many names on that ballot and for that reason I am asking for your vote! In the past I have been a Freshman Representative and an On-Campus Representative. This time I am running as an At-Large Representative. I believe that my experience and my knowledge help students and student organizations move in a positive direction.

Cara LoBianco

I’m Cara LoBianco and I’m...
Mama

‘Grammys’

From page 5

ring finger by winning the award for Best Pop Vocal Album. Jay-Z and Kanye West were huge winners as well, Best Rap/Song Collaboration and Best Rap Performance. Country win­ners included Carrie Underwood for Best Country Solo Performance and Zac Brown Band won for Best Country Album. Newbie and nominee Hunter Hayes intro­duced Underwood as she belted out her hit “Blown Away.”

The two standout per­formance were hands down the Bob Marley tribute featur­ing Bruno Mars, Rihanna and Sting as well as the late singers two sons. This award show also brought the return of the incredible Justin Timberlake who absolutely smashed it with his perform­ance of “Suit and Tie” chalk full of great dance moves and a rapping portion with Jay-Z himself. While they didn’t cause a power outage, the performance was arguably the best of the night.

The 55th Annual Grammy Awards were seem­ingly predictable, the per­formances by newcomers and respected music veterans kept the night alive, fresh, and going along with a recur­ring theme of the night- fun.

Blizzard

From page 8

games in a row, losing their credibility in the eyes of fans. Syracuse, led by Rhode Island native Michael Carter­Williams, lost back-to-back games against unranked teams. Then, last week, Florida lost by more than 20 to a bad Arkansas team after they were ranked No. 2 in the coun­try.

Whether its Indiana’s lack of defense at times, Duke’s injury problems, or Michigan’s inconsistent offense, every team seems to have its flaws. The University of Miami is one of the few teams that are really playing well as of late. Miami, led by one of the best big men in the country, Kenny Kadu, is on an 11-game win streak. During this span they have beaten Duke, North Carolina State, and twice beat­en the University of North Carolina. In the past three weeks, Miami has sky rocketed from being ranked No. 14 to No. 1.

Another team that could do some damage in the tour­nament is Gonzaga University. Gonzaga has lost two games this year, one against No. 11 Butler University and the other against Illinois, but their remaining schedule is weak, so losing one of their last six games could severely harm their ranking and credibility.

In this year’s NCAA Tournament the seeds won’t matter, the amount of banners won’t matter, and the school’s history won’t matter. Expect a great tournament, full of underdogs and upsets. With no far superior team, any school can walk into the tournament and walk out with the trophy.

Ticket prices range from $7 for URI students to $10 for general admission.

BY JAKE MARROCCO
Sports Staff Reporter

The University of Rhode Island Student Senate unani­mously approved a program­ming contingency grant for the Electronic Music Association last night.

The $2,200 grant will cover 30 Dsl and sound equip­ment for the group’s 12th annual, and final, “Dance Til’ Dawn” event. EMA is looking to attract more than 800 people and are relying on DJ Stu Nuna, who is recognized in the genre of hip hop and bass, to headline the evening.

Lyla Hunt, president of the EMA, says this will be the low key event it requires quite a bit of time and effort to set up, but the club will be running other events in the future.

It’s important to note that the semantics of the [event],” Hunt said. “It will be a differ­ent event that will grow in the future. I know one. It’s awesome, but I think we will do something a little different in the future.

The event will take place on Saturday, April 13 and the doors will open at 7:30 p.m., with music beginning at 8 p.m. and ending at 2 a.m.

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BY JAKE MARROCCO
Sports Staff Reporter

The Senate officially rec­ognized the URI Cheer Club. The group seeks to create an environment for male and female students who enjoy cheerleading as a hobby to come together and learn routines.

The club currently has 26 members and will hold meetings on Thursdays at 7 p.m. at a location that has yet to be determined.

The Senate will vote next week on a programming con­tingency grant for the Slam Poetry Club. The group would use the $2,000 grant to bring a professional poet for a perfor­mance.

The Senate voted to open the Rhode Island Senate Bill that would enforce RPIA bus fee for all students who attend a Rhode Island college or university. The fee would be $50 per semester and cover all rides from the service. The group would like URI removed from the proposal.
URI student writes about mentoring experience, encourages others to apply

Dear Cigar,-

As freshmen we all felt the excitement and urge to do everything, simply because we finally had freedom. We are away from our parents, have no curfew, and no chores (maybe laundry), -finally we all decide what is best. Then you begin to feel a strong sense of maturity and independence inside of you. But is this actually the case? Suddenly you realize you miss your mother, you do not know how to do laundry, you are the messiest out of all your roommates, you miss class and can’t get extra help for some reason. You think to yourself, “this is not the student I used to be.”

A URI 101 mentor helps ease the transition from high school to college in such a way that he or she demonstrates how to use their independence positively in a fun and educational atmosphere. During the fall semester, mentors team up with an instructor to facilitate a class of 20 to 30 freshmen within the same learning community. Throughout the 10-week course, mentors play a vital role in teaching their students about time management, resources on campus, diversity, community involvement and other important transition topics. Students come into the class as anxious freshmen and emerge as more developed college students. URI 101 is about networking with others. It is about teaming up with not only your co-instructor on a weekly basis, but also with your students to create a dynamic classroom. You will work with fellow mentors to exchange advice and share strategies to take advantage of the university.

My overall URI 101 experience was phenomenal. I feel as if I was able to give back in a positive way and help my students both inside and outside of the classroom. Being a mentor gave me a sense of accomplishment every day.

I say this because being a mentor is not just showing up to class and being the “mentor.” It meant interacting with students, helping them with questions and concerns inside and outside the classroom. Throughout this mentor experience I can faithfully say that I learned a lot about myself and grew as a person. Being a mentor forced me to become more attentive to school, because I had a responsibility. Although my students may not know this, they motivated me in all aspects of life to do better, for the simple fact that I viewed myself as a role model; therefore I did not want to preach something to them that I was not doing myself.

Throughout my 10-week experience as a mentor, I concluded that an effective mentoring relationship is considered by having mutual TRUST, RESPECT, being UNDERSTANDING of one another (thoughts/feelings) and having mutual empathy. A good mentor must be willing to share real life experiences, wisdom, and practical knowledge. Being a good listener, observer and willing to dedicate time to students can also be very beneficial.

As a mentor I felt as if I was very approachable and easy to talk to, which made me comfortable with my students and being in front of the class. I made sure I put 100 percent effort into knowing, accepting, respecting and supporting my students’ goals, interests and individuality. One thing I noticed about my students is that not all of them were self-confident or confident with what they did and how they did it. Therefore, one thing I made sure I did was offer constructive criticism to make sure they believed in themselves. At the end of the 10 weeks, I made it clear to them that although we were no longer in the classroom setting, they can still view me as their mentor and they should not hesitate to contact me for any questions or concerns.

Mentors do an amazing job and an extremely important one at that. One must have the desire to take on this great leadership role. You all have what it takes to be a mentor! Applications are available online, (www.uri.edu/uri101) and are due March 20. For Questions, contact uri101mentor@gmail.com.

-Johan Molina
**THINK GREEN!**

Please RECYCLE your copy of *The Good SC Cigar* when you are finished reading. Thanks!

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**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

Strong acting, characters save otherwise unremarkable "Mama"

BY AUGIE KING
Entertainment Editor

Guillermo del Toro is a man who genuinely loves horror movies. Even when he isn't making horror movies of his own, he is still feeding the fire and "The Devil's Backbone," he is producing original horror works by newcomer directors. Even though not all of them have been of consistent quality (for every great "The Orphanage" there is an average "Don't Be Afraid of the Dark"), there has a certain amount of horror mixed with the dark fantasy that his directed work is known for. His new producing effort, "Mama," is closer to the lower end of the spectrum, although it's positive virtues are strong enough to counterbalance the many stumbles along the way.

Through a series of events that start with the 2008 financial crisis, a father kills his wife and coworkers and then takes off with his two daughters. The three of them mysteriously disappear and are feared for five years. During that time, the father's twin brother has been tirelessly searching for them, to the irritation of his punk, rocker girlfriend since the two of them are strapped for cash. When the girls are miraculous found alive, they are put under their uncle's care in a house that can be observed and reintegrated back into society. However, the ghostly being, who the girls call Mama, that looked after them all these years, isn't too keen on them being taken away and begins terrorizing the couple.

While ideally despite being ostensibly a horror movie, "Mama" is more successful and compelling when it comes to the characters and the initial premise is that it is when it turns up the scares. The traditional trappings and beats of other ghost and haunted house movies are frequently hit, so there is a been-there-done-that vibe that has to be overcome. While director Mario Muscietti (adapting his own short film) doesn't have a grasp on suspense as the best horror directors out there do, he had to carry out these sequences to creepy enough effect, and concoct a few creative bits. The one that stood out the most was a sly camera trick where it appears as if the two sisters are playing with a blanket, only for us to see the uncle's girlfriend, Annabel, and the other sister in the opposite room.

Unfortunately, these scares are rather sparsely spread between what's clearly a whole host of cheap tricks, some of the movie hanging with dead air. But thankfully, the acting and character development are more than enough to make up for the average horror picture. The actresses playing sisters Victoria and Lilly, Megan and Isabel, respectively, do a superb job of portraying both the feral and sweet sides of these girls. Their first appearance after the five-year gap is arguably scarier than any of Mama's ghostly tricks, primarily due to the convincingly wild and animalistic acting on the part of these two girls. It also helps that the Oscar-nominated Jessica Chastain is playing Annabel. Annabel's contentious relationship with the girls and her mace about her future seems a bit too easy a way to pack for what she didn't ask for provides a compelling backbone to latch onto. Annabel could have easily been the least scariest of the bad guys if the two of them in the hands of a lesser actress, but continued on page 3

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GRAMMYS "put on predictable, fun show"

BY ANASTASIA MUCA
Contributing Entertainment Writer

The Grammys are the biggest party of the year for everyone in the music industry. This year show brought amazing performances, unlikely winners and of course- shocking events. Did Chris Brown, who was seen cozying up to Rihanna all night, really refuse to give a standing ovation when he lost for Best Urban Contemporary Album? Was that a British accent Taylor Swift put on in mockery of an ex-fling in her rendition of her single "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together?" And was that seriously Adele departing from her signature black ensembles in a magenta dress? I suppose shocking is not exactly the right word choice for these events.

Although the drama of the night was predictable, it still made for a good show. Taylor Swift opened up the night in an "Alice in Wonderland" themed set belting out her summer hit. The Grammys had a slight syncing policy this year and according to Twitter, Facebook, and other social media the enforced rule really showed during Swift's performance. The 23-year-old singer shamelessly changed the part of her song where she mimics an ex-boyfriend trying to win her heart back by saying "I still love you." She said the line in a British accent, clearly taking a jab at 19-year-old Harry Styles, of One Direction, and then she promptly said, "Sorry, I can't, I'm busy opening for the Grammys."!

Speaking on behalf of music lovers everywhere, we can all breathe easy knowing that "Call Me Maybe" did not win a prestigious Grammy award last night. Adele beat out that catchy tune with her "Set Fire to the Rain" in the Best Pop Solo Performance. "We Are Young" by Fun won Song of the Year as well as Best New Artist. Before the first award had been given, British pop stars, veteran Elton John and an amazingly stimulated newcomer Ed Sheeran, performed a rendition of Sheeran's hit "The A Team."

"Mumford & Sons" were also big winners of the night, nabbing Album of the Year for "Babel." The Black Keys won Best Rock Performance, Best Rock Song, Best Rock Album and Best Producer. The Black Keys pulled off a spectacular rendition of "Lonely Boy" with the Preservation Hall Jazz Band and alongside the legendary Dr. John, albeit wearing a hugely bizarre feathered headdress. While Mumford & Sons sang their folk hit "I Will Wait."

Rihanna proved to critics everywhere that there really is quality singing pipes in the star with her version of the ballad "Stay" with vocalist Mikky Ekko. Kelly Clarkson acknowledged two Grammy Lifetime Achievement Awards with Patti Page and Carole King, by performing two of their songs "Tennessee Waltz" and "(You Make Me Feel Like) An American Woman," respectively. Country besties Miranda Lambert and Dierks Bentley doubled up their duet by singing both of their hits, Wiz Khalifa and Miguel also hit the stage in a duet later in the show. Best Urban Contemporary Album winner Frank Ocean performed his song "Forrest Gump" with a whole heap of stars, none of which made Ocean appear as if he was running throughout his whole performance-just like Gump. Maroon 5 and Alicia Keys surprised everyone with how beautiful their voices jived in their performances.

The Emerging Leaders MBA at Bentley University is a full-time, year program designed specifically for recent or soon-to-be college graduates. It provides a comprehensive foundation in business management, offering students the chance to gain hands-on experience while specializing in one of eight business-focused concentrations. So when your opportunity arrives, you'll be prepared to make the most of it. Visit www.bentley.edu/graduate/elmba to learn more.

BENTLEY UNIVERSITY
Waltham, Massachusetts 02452

**PREPARE to stand out.**

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"Community" continues trucking down own path without creator Dan Harmon

BY RYAN GIBBS
Contributing Entertainment Writer

"Community" has finally begun its fourth season without its original anchor, Dan Harmon, but not necessarily without its rudder or sense of direction.

Harmon was effectively fired from running his own creation last spring, and since then fans have been wondering what direction - for better or worse - one of the most acclaimed sitcoms on television, "Community," has been going. With the fourth season premiere: it was originally supposed to premiere in October but moved all the way to February thanks to NBC shifting its lineup around. The legion of fans have waited nearly a year for the answer to the question, "Is Community still good without Dan Harmon?"

I don't know the answer to that question based on "History 101," the long-awaited season premiere. Much like you can't judge a book by its cover, you really can't judge the quality of a season based on its first episode without it containing an obvious "jump the shark" moment. I was honestly expecting to see one of two scenarios: "History 101," a complete disaster, shark-jumping premiere "(something along the lines of the first "The Office," or the whole Spader's lone season as the boss on "The Office," which was completely inaner and unfunny and sort of tiresome for the disaster of a season we received) or a great episode that felt like Harmon hadn't left at all. I got neither option: This was a pretty good episode, but one that has a Dan Harmon-shaped hole in the center of it, one which I hope can be repaired over the course of the season.

Throughout the episode there is a sequence of laugh-tracked multi-camera sitcoms situated inside of a daydream by Abed (Danny Pudi). Additionally, these scenes feature appearances by guest star Fred Willard asphyxiate Chase's character Pierce. The episode was likely filmed before Chase's departure (but after his public feud with Harmon, which is likely referencing), so it makes the scenes with Willard kind of awkward. These sequences tie into an internal crisis that Abed is having about the change inherent in leaving school. It nicely mirrors fan reactions about the show continuing without Harmon and where the show will go without his hand (continuing it without the contrived sitcoms, more generically "wacky" sitcom plots).

It's a rather sweet sentiment by show's remaining staff, but the stakes are too frequent, and the episode feels scatterbrained as a result. Harmon would have turned these sequences to be fewer and further apart, which would not have made a unique idea with Harmon, which it is likely doing so much with what would be a waste of time in the hands of less experienced writers. Meanwhile the plot featuring Shirley (Yvette Nicole Brown) and Annie (Alison Brie)'s attempting to prank the dean (H. Jon Benjamin) with their plan to leave school after the "semester" is far more interesting than either of the other plots. Troy (Donald Glover) and Britta (Gillian Jacobs)' plot about wishes in a fountain really doesn't go anywhere but is pleasant enough. Jacobs and Glover are probably the two best actors in the series' ensemble and the writers are so good at making them do so much with what would be a waste of time in the hands of less experienced writers.

While some of the actors have nothing to do, or are handed mediocre plots, the show's mesh well, and the resolution is decent. However, nearly every writer's notes (including mine) think nothing other than thinking how Dan Harmon would have had certain things presented. When you remove a show runner for a series the way Harmon was, it disrupts the flow of things and often things like quality suffer as a result. "History 101" provides inconclusive evidence as to whether or not "Community" is ruined forever. Instead it is just okay, and I'm not sure how I feel about that right now. What I do know is that I did not like this episode as much as the vast majority of "Community" episodes, but it is not nearly the worst episode the show has done. I look forward to seeing where the show and its new runners (David Guarascio and Moses Port, who created the short but great CW series "Alien in America") go from here.

Cigar writer offers unique Valentine's Day film options

BY AUGIE KING
Entertainment Editor

Valentine's Day is here, and here are some romantic movies that people might be watching with their significant others. It can be fun, sweet, and often quite funny to watch movies together at this time of the year, but sometimes a little variety is needed. Here are some movie suggestions that are a bit diverse and/or present romance in unconventional ways.

"Before Sunrise" and "Before Sunset"

I figured I would cheaply mix things up by including both before (soon to be thirds) of Richard Linklater's tale of two people who encounter each other by chance on a train through Europe and form a relationship that does not fall into the typical romantic formula. The first part, "Sunrise," is one of the great modern romances, as the two characters, Jesse (Ethan Hawke) and Celine (Julie Delpy) fall in love during the course of a night, however the chemistry between the actors and Linklater's superbly natural and funny writing completely sells this. "Sunset" (through circumstances that lead to this point in the story) shows that, although they have gone their separate ways in the years since, the spark between them remains. Their personalities and interactions have matured beyond their early-20s selves in "Sunrise" and the ambiguous ending leaves their outcome a mystery, and yet somehow, there is beauty in that. I have little knowledge about these films beforehand and now they are two of my favorites.

"Wild at Heart"

David Lynch is not the first filmmaker that would come to mind as a man with a romantic outlook on life. His films are dark, surreal and disturbing and don't fit into any particular genre. "Wild at Heart" is no different from those, yet the relationship between Sailor (Nicolas Cage) and Lula (Laura Dern) gives the film an uncharacteristically passionate edge for Lynch. The film is structured as if Lynch is throwing all the craziness found in his other works at this deeply in love couple to test how far they will go for one another. And in the end (spoiler!), no matter how you interpret because of the witty interplay and incredible chemistry of real-life couple Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt. As a result, two people who have never been together got entangled in the same plot, they are forced to go up against one another in a fight for their love. However, the two soon realize that their relationship is much more important and special than the whims of their bosses, and eventually work together to uncover the truth and repair their marriage.

It is a very romantic idea when you get to the end of it all. The many chases, gunfights, and explosions are just the delirious cherry on top of it all. Plus, battles of the sexes don't get much better than the mid-film brawl between our two stars.

"Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind"

Many people already know about this modern classic, from Charlie Kaufman and Michel Gondry, a remarkable story-telling to the great performances of Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet, but I figured I was worth it to repeat the praises again. As Carrey's character, Joel, is having his memories of a soured relationship erased, he begins to remember the good times that he and Clementine had together, and tries hard to hold on to them as they slowly fade from his mind. With a more than capable supporting cast, and in addition to the memorable leads, "Eternal Sunshine" has rightfully earned its place among the greats, and to spoil both this episode and bittersweet moments would do it a disservice.

Let's keep Southern Rhode Island clean

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Thank you!
Freshman Allison Faria said, "My boyfriend lives in California so we're going to have a Skype date."

Freshman Matt Sirois said, "I don't really care for Valentine's Day...so I'm going to Panera with my friends."

Freshman Brendan Sullivan said, "Roses are red, violets are blue, tomorrow is Valentine's Day, I have no plans...[what] about you?"

"What are your plans for Valentine's Day?"

Freshman Christian Castario will be "Sharing the love."

Freshman Nick Donovan said he's "just gonna hang with my friends."

Junior DiAndre Nixon said he "bought [his] girlfriend roses, [is] taking her to dinner and will be telling her I love her."

**BLUNDERGRADS**

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**CA-CAW!**

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**GROW A PAIR, HERE'S YOUR $50 IN UNMARKED BILLS.**
Manford's three lifts Rams past Flyers

BY MIKE ABELSON
Sports Editor

Every time Rhode Island and Dayton lock horns, something special seems to happen and last night was no exception.

Junior Xavier Manford drove the floor in five seconds before putting up a wobbly, contested three with 3.3 seconds left to lift the Rams to a show-stopping 75-72 win.

"We thought we played really well," Rhode Island coach Dan Hurley said. "Defensively-second half-I thought we were really strong. X stepped up and gave us an exhilarating win."

After Dayton's Kevin Dillard hit a contested three with 10.6 seconds left to tie the game, Hurley called a timeout to set up the final play.

The ball was inbounded to Manford who pulled up on the right wing, leaned right, and threw up an awkward shot with two Dayton defenders defending.

"I made a move to the left and I saw the rim open up so I just shot it," Manford said. "It feels good. Our team we just deserve it. We've just been working hard. We've been in a slump and we deserved this win."

The Rams have been a solid three-point shooting team all season, but last night they were exceptional. Rhody connected on 10-22 threes to keep Dayton at bay.

The Rams shot 50 percent and did not fall into the habits that have plagued them throughout the season. Whenever Dayton put together a multi-possession run, the Rams always seemed to have an answer.

"We had great focus," Hurley said. "I just feel like we're comfortable in the games that are close. Every game minus three or four this year could have gone either way."

Rhode Island has generally been relied upon to carry the offensive load, and he did lead all scorers with 18, but the Rams spread the wealth offensively. Freshman Mike Aaman pumped in 11 points in 18 minutes of action and sophomore guard Mike Powell added 10 points while also dishing out five assists.

Forward Anton Malesevic stepped up and played, perhaps, the most all-around game of his URI career. Malesevic has a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds. He also dished out a game-high seven assists as well as amassing a pair of blocks and three steals.

"When you're in the arena two hours before the game and you see a guy dressed and out on the court earlier than he's been, you know he's locked in," Hurley said of Malesevic. "He just made a lot plays, a lot of tough guy plays. He played the way we need seniors to play."  

In the closing seconds of the game, the Rams in contention for the final spot in the Atlantic-Ten tournament. Rhody lost two games to Duquesne but they are six big conference wins over Duquesne.

 Expect underdogs and upsets in 2013 NCAA Tournament

BY COLIN HOWARTH
Contributing Sports Reporter

If you were to ask me last month who I thought was the most dominant team in college basketball, I probably would have told you Michigan. Last week I probably would have said the University of Michigan. Today? I have no idea.

For the past five weeks straight, the top-ranked team in the country has fallen. With a little more than four weeks left in the NCAA Tournament, there is still no clear favorite.

Last year, the University of Kentucky was easily the best team in the country. They lost two games all year, and swept through the NCAA Tournament unscathed by teams by more than 12 points a game. Although Indiana University, Duke University, and the University of Virginia have looked like the clear favorites all year, they have all proven they are beatable.

Michigan and Indiana have both lost to unranked teams in the past week, Wisconsin and Illinois respectively. Although Duke has only two losses on its resume, the Blue Devils have barely been escaping close games against poor teams such as Wake Forest University and Bucknell University.

Then there are the teams that have seemed dominant at one point in the season, but have proven that they cannot be trusted. These teams include Syracuse University, University of Florida, University of Kansas, and University of Louisville. All four of these teams have been ranked in the top three some in the top four during the season. None of them stand in the top five.

Kansas, who had an 18-2 record entering the season, and Louisville, who was ranked No. 1 in the country four weeks ago, both lost three