Student arrested in connection with cell phone theft at Mackal Field House

BY HENSLY CARRASCO
Editor-in-Chief

A University of Rhode Island student has been arrested and charged with two counts of larceny and two counts of fraudulently using credit cards in connection with a reported theft at Mackal Field House.

On Feb. 19, Jaquan Smith, 19, of Elmont, N.Y., was found by URI police to have been in possession of a stolen iPhone — valued at $1,200, according to URI police Maj. Stephen Baker. He said the iPhone was originally reported stolen on Feb. 18 by a student who said he was playing basketball at Mackal Field House that evening. When he returned to his backpack, his iPhone was missing. The student was unable to provide a serial number for the phone, and from there the police were able to enter it into their system as stolen.

"This particular report has been one of a number of incidents that we've had of the like nature at either Keaney Gym or [the] Mackal Field House area," Baker said.

"Cell phones were taken or entire backpacks or clothing that contained a wallet or cell phone. We had some prior information that some stolen credit cards were used at a store in the Fortin Road area. Since that store was technically [out of] our jurisdiction we worked with the South Kingstown police detectives and were able to identify a possible suspect in the use of those stolen credit cards. We felt that the same suspect may be involved in the theft of these cell phones."

The following evening, Feb. 19, Baker said URI police officer Frank Pascale had an involvement with Smith, which is when he was found to be in possession of the stolen iPhone. Smith was released, but the iPhone was confiscated. The serial number on that cell phone matched that of the stolen one, and an arrest warrant was then obtained, Baker said.

Baker added that this involvement was due to another incident.

"Another victim had confronted him that evening about the case and they called us to intervene," Baker said. "It's possible some of the information we get from the other victim may lead to another arrest [and] another charge."

Baker said Smith turned himself in to the URI police on Feb. 20 and was charged with possession of stolen goods, a misdemeanor. URI police then turned him over to the South Kingstown police department where he was charged.

"They subsequently charged him with two counts of larceny and two counts of fraudulent use of a credit card," Baker said. "That is in regards to two other incidents at either Keaney Gym or Mackal Field House in which a wallet — or wallets — were taken that contained the credit cards that were ultimately fraudulently used."

Baker said there are still a number of other cases the URI police department is looking into and "would expect there to be more charges [on Smith] either presented at that time or before then." Baker said he thinks there were more people involved and "it's possible there will be more arrests made. "We feel pretty strongly that our suspect is involved in most, if not, all cases," Baker said.

Baseball team swept by Ole Miss over weekend

BY JONATHAN SHIDELER
Sports Staff Reporter

The University of Rhode Island baseball team was swept on the road over the weekend by No. 17-ranked University of Mississippi.

The Rhody offense was held at bay by the great starting pitching from Ole Miss. All three starters the Rams faced were highly scouted major league prospects.

"Facing top pitchers like this is good for our hitters," head coach Jim Foster said. "Facing teams with top caliber pitchers is going to get the timing for the hitters where they need it to be come conference play."

A series opened up with an 8-1 loss for the Rams.

Ole Miss' starter was junior Bobby Wahl, who played on the USA Baseball National Collegiate Team this past summer. Wahl pitched five innings, giving up one run on two hits.

Saturday's contest was a 1-0 walk-off loss for the Rams, which nearly resulted in a win against the Rebels. Senior pitcher Sean Furney had a strong performance, throwing eight scoreless frames while allowing just three hits and one walk. The one walk was an improvement from seven-walk game he had last week against Florida State University.

"[Furney] stayed around longer again..."

Continued on page 3

Rhody pic of the day

Students and other members of the University of Rhode Island community took part in the filming of a 'Harlem Shake' parody video at the Mackal Field House on Saturday.

Nickel Brief:

Pick up tomorrow's issue of the Cigar to learn about URI's new Cheer Club.

Enjoyed reading "Favorite Movies of 2012" and want to read Part II?

See page 2.
North Korea's latest video game attempt is unique, frustrating with online gamers

BY ADAM HOFFSTEIN
Contributing Entertainment Writer

Have you ever wanted to cruise through the empty streets of North Korea's capital city and collect pictures of gasoline cans? Of course you have. Thankfully, a North Korean video game company called Koryo Tours has released a new and exciting video game which allows you to do all of the above. This game will take you far from the comfort of your own house. Yes, we are talking about “Pyongyang Racer,” the new game available now only by logging onto the Internet. Or maybe it would be if “Pyongyang Racer” could handle more than four people logging on at the same time. The game is notable for being one of the very first video games to come out of North Korea.

“Pyongyang Racer” is truly a glorious sight to behold. Upon logging onto their website, which may or may not be up at any given time, you are greeted with a disturbingly simple loading screen and a button that says, “Go Now!” You’d better press that button, or you will be treated to an infinite loop of horridly computerized folk music.

Once you’re pressed the “Go Now” button, you get to wait again while “Pyongyang Racer” loads its cutting edge and 3D models and graphics. This may take anywhere between five minutes and three days due to the poor optimization of the site and the fact that it appears to be hosted in someone’s basement. Occasionally, the game will load fully, dropping the unsuspecting player in the middle of Pyongyang’s pourous and uneven 3D roads. Don’t worry though- the highway you get to “race” on is largely void of cars except for a few busses pulled over on the side of the road. I’m using the word “race” pretty loosely here because there is no evidence that the goal of the game itself above what could have been B-grade thriller material. Even going by the plot summary, this film seems to take its frequent twists in the outrageous but fun "Wild Things," the erotic tension of the plot brings with sharper precision and less flashy abandonment. As with other Soderbergh works, the film has been filmed down to its core elements. No shot is wasted and every scene counts. He and Burns play the audience like a fiddle with skillful misdirection and manipulation, always keeping everyone on their toes and never settling into a predictable pattern.

It also helps to have a talented cast to guide them along, which this film did not lack. Despite not having too much screen time compared to his three co-stars, Channing Tatum continues to serve as a capable supporting actor. For someone I used to dread seeing in a movie, his continuing experience with Soderbergh (the way also in “Haywire” and “Magic Mike”) has paid off very well in honing his skills. He is however missing a long absence from movies, Catherine Zeta-Jones looks to relish having the more “fun” role of the ex-doctor, having played a previous doctor, she often gets the juiciest dialogue to spout, particularly in her exchanges with Jude Law.

The real meat of the story involves the relationship between Emily and her new doctor, who are played by Rooney Mara and Jude Law. Marra’s more internalized acting style (also put to great use in her breakout role in “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo”) complements her character nicely, who usually appears to be in a different world than everyone else. The film seems to be the protagonist, but soon the focus shifts to Banks, at which time Law definitely adds to the picture. He is the most difficult, having to transition between caring, obsessive, frustrated and distraught often in the same scene. It is an impressive performance from an actor who is, in my opinion, undervalued by some.

Banks’ side of the story adds a timely and relevant edge to the movie that separates it from other thriller categories. At one time when everyone is taking prescriptions or some other form of medication, and people are worried about how taking so many of those will affect their brain chemistry, this lends to the ominous and clinical tone of the film. The grand scheme of things, the subject matter is mostly window dressing, although it definitely adds to the psychological elements of the thriller plot.

Whether or not everything totally adds up in the end hardly matters. Burns and Soderbergh have constructed a taut and tightly wound thriller that takes the audience on a suspenseful ride. I have heard some call the movie “Hitchcockian” in its twists and psychological underpinnings, and I would agree with that assessment too. Even with the clear influence from the master of suspense, “Side Effects” carries out its own course with the modern premise at its core and strives for smartly realized entertainment.
Cigar writer picks top five favorite albums of past year

BY CONOR FAGAN
Contributing Entertainment Writer

David Byrne and St. Vincent - "Love This Giant"

At some point during his countless collaborations with music veteran Brian Eno and contemporary indie sensations like Dirty Projectors, the public image of former Talking Heads front man David Byrne underwent a drastic change.

Where once stood a wordy synthy-pop star dancing like a monkey-operated marionette now stands a lauded icon of alternative rock and all of its paradoxical intellectualism. This time around, Byrne selected songstress Annie Clark, better known as St. Vincent, as his co-pilot for the baroque aptly titled "Love This Giant."

The duo has swapped dirge-like chanting of seminal rock icon King Crimson with King Diamond. After his 2011 mixtape "Section 80," garnered him some much-deserved fandom, critical acclaim and financial backing, rising star Kendrick Lamar has returned with his first major label LP entitled "Blunderbuss." As with any debut hip-hop album worth its salt, Lamar's new record boasts a cornucopia of guest appearances including pop star Drake, gangster veteran Dr. Dre and the entirety of Lamar's hip-hop super group Black Hippy. With opening acts as well as calling as "M.A.A.D. city" can steal the spotlight from Kendrick, however. The MC glides over 17 tracks layered with dreamy down tempo wailing saxophones and some much-deserved fandom, been fixed on side projects and rock on display in "The Departure." Lamar's fans.

King Diamond. After his breakup of Dream Theater. Ihsahn boasts some serious mindless bad soundtrack that sounds like Satan's harsh screams in his straight!" Ihsahn isn't an abysmal lyricist? Should Watch TV."

Ihsahn - "Eremita"

Let 2012 be known as "The Year of the Former Band Leaders," I guess. Since the dissolution (and temporary reunion) of seminal symphonic black metal band Emperor, lead singer and multi-instrumentalist Ihsahn has been slaying audiences for the past six years hammering out quite the string of solid metal albums, as well as writing an instruction column for Guitar World magazine called "The Left Hand path."

This time around however, we shift attention to avant garde King Crimson as King Diamond. The dizzying time signatures, wallowing saxophones and dirge-like chanting of "The Eagle and The Snake" and "The Grave" are just a few of the newly incorporated elements of 1970s progressive rock on display in "Eremita," the Norwegian wizard's latest LP. Jazzy guitar breaks complete with middle-eastern percussion intertwined with galloping melodic death metal and Byzantine shedding on "Departure." Though hailing from Norway, a calling as "M.A.A.D. city" can steal the spotlight from Kendrick, however. The MC glides over 17 tracks layered with dreamy down tempo wailing saxophones and some much-deserved fandom, been fixed on side projects and rock on display in "The Departure." Lamar's fans.

Kendrick Lamar - "good kid, m.A.A.d city"

Could it be? An up-and-coming rap phenomenon that has garnered him White's primary focus had with "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" the added difficulty of making a difference in the world. I guess. Since the release of his third album "Blunderbuss" itself is every bit as good - and not better than Converge's break out classic "Jane Doe."

Converge - "All We Love We Leave Behind"

Converge's latest albums blur the borders of hardcore punk, thrash metal and rock in a ferocious vortex of down-tuned guitars and guttural vocals, but the Salem quartet have been playing that game for the better part of two decades. From the bluesy whomp of "Sadness Comes Home" to the slow-churning melody of "Coral Blue," which may well be the Noise Converge never come to producing a fully fledged ballad. The 12 tracks' running time in contrast to their collectively fluid consistency are what make "All We Love We Leave Behind" one of 2012's best records. Even the critics might dare to liken the group's new direction to "stadium rock," I dare say that "All We Love We Leave Behind" is every bit as good - as not better than Converge's breakthrough classic "Jane Doe."

Baseball

From page 1

The Rams lost last night to Mississippi State University 13-2. Milan Mantle was shelled for the Rams, allowing eight hits and eight earned runs in 2.2 innings, including seven hits in the first inning.

The Bears' second baseman Tim Caputo had a good day in the nine-spot, going 3-4 and scoring one of Rhody's runs.

The Rams will play the Bulldogs again tonight before traveling to North Carolina for three games this weekend against one of Rhody's top opponents.

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Men's ice hockey senior prepares to wrap up Kingston career, reflects on legacy

BY MIKE ABESON
Sports Editor

David Macalino is a numbers guy. The senior star of the men's hockey team has a 3.8 GPA in accounting and racks up points on the ice by the dozen. The 141 points amassed by the Washington Township, N.J., native are tied for ninth in University of Rhode Island's history with Adam Gilbert. Macalino's 82 goals put him at seventh all-time in that category.

"It's an awesome milestone to hit," Macalino said of his points record. "I didn't even realize until this year that I had a chance to be at that high. That's awesome; leave my mark on the school."

Macalino is one of only four seniors on this year's Rams, and he said he takes his role as a veteran role model seriously. Being a co-captain alongside fellow senior Mike Taft brings added responsibility on a team as young as this year's Rams.

"It's more important this year than ever to show them how to carry themselves the next few years because they're young, their minds are moldable," Macalino said. "They're going to look at you and think that what you do is acceptable in upcoming years. Pretty much just setting a good path for them is going to mature them as a person and help the team be more successful in the future." Macalino's hockey career began 15 years ago, but he hit his stride at St. Augustine's Prep in New Jersey. As a junior, Macalino helped lead the Hermits to a state championship; it was also the first unbeaten, untied season in New Jersey high school hockey history.

After leading the Hermits to the state final his senior year before falling to perennial power Delbarton, Macalino took a year off to test the waters of junior hockey. He plied for the midget team in the Philadelphia Junior Flyers program.

"We had a lot of exposure to colleges and junior programs in that way," Macalino said. "I had no interest to play in the [Atlantic Junior Hockey League]. The goal was to play in the USHL (the top junior league in the country) and I really didn't see a reason to not continue with my education unless I had a legit shot to do something career-wise with hockey."

Macalino said that he received interest from Division III programs, including Skidmore College, Salve Regina, and Western New England College, but he wanted a bigger school atmosphere. For Macalino, it came down to Rhode Island and its on-ice rival, the University of Delaware.

"It was between here and Delaware and I had a couple of buddies up here and that kind of swayed me," Macalino said.

This weekend's ACHA Nationals marks the end of Macalino's career, which started in elementary school.

After a decade and a half on the ice Macalino said that the sport taught him a lot.

"Definitely a great learning experience on so many levels; camaraderie, leader- ship, learning how to handle situations both good and bad," Macalino said. "I think it definitely helped me mature as a person, and being able to manage so many different things at one time as well. Traveling for hockey, school, have a social life; it taught me how to manage my time and do things that I think were actually important."

In recent years, Rhode Island coach Joe Augustine has had a recent graduate help man the bench during games, and Macalino said he was interested in the gig if the right opportunity arose.

"I'll have to sit down with coach and talk about it," Macalino said. "If it's a flexible schedule, and I can do it a couple of days a week, it's a possibility. I'd be good to stay around the game even though I'm not playing."

After graduating in May, Macalino will continue at Price-waterhouseCoopers in Philadelphia. He'll be back in Kingston in the fall to get his Masters in accounting before embarking on another career full of numbers and records of a different sort.

"Before that though, Nationals looms; and one more chance for Macalino to lace up, glove up, and play hockey.

Cigar editor offers advice to young sports writers

BY MIKE ABESON
Sports Editor

There are four freshman sportswriters on the Cigar staff, and many more freshman journalism majors here at the University of Rhode Island.

For any young writing, journalism, English, or film major or anyone interested in embarking on a career in journalism, I've put together a list of things that have helped me greatly in my six years in the local media. Whether you want to be able to help you become better, writers, better students, and better people.

1: Read good writing. If you want to be a good writer and are reading nothing but Bleacher Report, the dumb part of Deadspin, and Bill Simmons you're writing will start to mimic that. But the idea is to get better. If you want to be a long-form sportswriter read Wright Thompson. If football is your thing read Mark Schlabach or Greg A. Bedard. Regardless of your interest, find good writers and read their work.

2: Listen to people in the business. When you get an internship, or start freelancing for a start-up job, whether it's the ACHA Nationals' looms; and one more chance for Macalino to lace up, glove up, and play hockey.

3: Go small to go big. If you think you're first full-time staff job out of school will be at the Providence Journal or the Boston Globe, you're crazy. Look to your local papers for a starting job. Whether it's the Narragansett Times or the Warwick Beacon in Rhode Island or the Salem News or Quincy Times in Massachusetts, there are always small, local papers looking for writers to hire cheap.

Yes, it isn't the big time, but being able every athlete, you have to work your way up through the minors to get to the show. Also, every step will be a good learning experience.

4: Know your sports. You know everything about football: fantastic. You know all the nuances of the infiel d fly rule: way to go. Do you know the difference between boys and girls lacrosse? Do you know the scoring system of wrestling or all of the different events in track and field?

Learn now, because you'll have to know them. I've been asked to cover every sport imaginable, and knowing your sports will endear you to coaches and editors and make you a better writer. Being able to break down a zone blitz is fantastic, but it won't help write that girls soccer story due in 15 minutes.

5: Do the social media thing. Last summer I didn't have a Twitter. One good talk- ing to by my editors at ESPNBoston.com showed me the error of my ways.

Knowing how to generate a following on Twitter is one of the things that writers have to be able to do today. Being able to shoot out a quick tweet with a game result or information about an injured player in real time are some of the things being asked of writers these days, and being able to be information and funny in 140 characters or less is a big asset in a journalistic world that is becoming web-based.

6: Make a business card. It's simple, but it'll make you look better to peers. Also, it's a great feeling to say to someone "Oh you work for the Big City Times?" Here's my card."