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The Good 5 Cent Cigar (3/5/2013)

University of Rhode Island

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Local business owner honors but updates diner tradition

BY NANCY LAVIN Contributing News Reporter

With taxes on small business in Rhode Island rising and customers cautious about spending money in an economic recession, many local restaurants and retail businesses are struggling. But walk into Phil’s Main Street Grille in Wakefield on a Sunday at noon, and you’ll see cracked-leather booths packed with customers, with others eagerly waiting in line for their share of the mounds of golden home fries sizzling on the grill.

“It’s the seasonings, but I can’t tell you what that is,” owner Ken Tetzner said, referring to the famous home fries that are served aplenty with every breakfast plate. They’re even popular to go.

“I literally have someone cutting potatoes all day,” Tetzner said. “Families will come in and get them and then go cook breakfast at home. Fishermen will bring them for the guys on the boat.”

Tetzner credited his success with the long-standing traditions that Phil’s represents in southern Rhode Island.

“It’s an institution in town," said Grandfathers come here, kids at URI, families, locals in the winter and tourists in the summer. Everybody knows Phil’s and has great memories from here,” he said.

Phil’s was started in the 1940s by Phil Watson, a local resident and volunteer firefighter. Since then, it has gone through good times and bad. When Tetzner, the sixth owner, took over 15 years ago, there was little business success and a lot of updates needed.

In his time as owner, Tetzner said he has “put his heart and soul” into turning the “ugly, crumbling building” into a booming breakfast diner and, now, a dinner restaurant as well. In the process, he tried to preserve as much of the original “diner feel” in the breakfast area as possible.

“People know the name, and I wanted to keep what they associate with that name as true to form as possible.”

When Tetzner first began working at Phil’s, he had never cooked an egg. He worked with one waitress per day and did most of the cooking himself, quickly becoming an expert in eggs. Now, he has a 30-person staff, including a chef for the upstairs breakfast and dinner restaurant that opened last June.

“We literally finished construction and two hours later had the opening of the upstairs,” Tetzner said, explaining that the upstairs dining room has a “more sophisticated” menu and less of a diner feel. “So far it’s a process, and it’s going to take time for it to become as popular as our downstairs breakfast is.”

With a full bar, including specials, and events such as karaoke and guest comedians from Comedy Connection RI in East Providence, Tetzner said he hopes to attract people to the newer dining area and spread the word.

“A lot of people don’t even know it’s there,” he said.

“But we’re working on advertising and really using word of mouth to get the word out; I think that’s the best way to get a business going quickly.”

Tetzner also emphasized the importance of using Facebook, coupons and advertisements to help grow the newer section of his business because “people are really looking for a deal right now.”

Word of mouth has certainly helped Phil’s business overall, especially in the downstairs diner, where business has actually increased throughout the past two years according to Tetzner.

“It’s homemade great food at a great price, and breakfast definitely seems more affordable, even in a tough economy,” he said.

Staying open rain or shine also helps business thrive. Phil’s had one of its most profitable days during Hurricane Sandy, according to Tetzner.

“We were actually really busy during the hurricane because we were one of the only businesses open here,” Tetzner said. “People need to eat, and we just kept serving until we started running out of food.”

Tetzner, born and raised in Narragansett, started college at Rhode Island College in Providence and two hours later throughout the past two years according to Tetzner.

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Experts advise on dressing for workplace environment

BY NANCY LAVIN Contributing News Reporter

After hard work on your resume, application submissions and interviews, you have finally landed that prestigious internship or post-graduation job. You’ve got the skill set and attitude your employer is looking for, and you’re ready to rock your new position. But there’s one question that you should be thinking about: Is your wardrobe rock-solid or rock-bottom?

“The attire a student wears to class is very different than what they should be wearing in the workplace,” Carolyn Thomas, director of Career Services at the University of Rhode Island said. “Tube tops and short shorts are not appropriate.”

That may seem obvious, but dressing in a professional setting is not as black-and-white. Depending on where you work, you may need a suit, but other offices may allow anything that’s not jeans and flip-flops.

What about casual Fridays? Does that mean yoga pants are acceptable? What if they’re really nice yoga pants?

“Nice,” Johnson and Wales University associate professor of accounting Beth Cannata said. She frequently gives her accounting students advice on how to fit into the accounting world, one of the most conservatively dressed fields. Cannata has also worked with fashion professionals and students at Johnson and Wales to put together a fashion show of

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THE GOOD 5¢ CIGAR

Rhody pic of the day

Sara Atash | Cigar

The University of Rhode Island Pharmacy Building was evacuated yesterday afternoon when a gas leak was discovered.

Today’s forecast
46°F

You can leave the scarf at home today!

Nickel Brief:

Read tomorrow's issue to learn about a URI graduate who opened a law firm in Providence.

Miss 'The Walking Dead' on Sunday?

See page 2.

Timely hitting team wins over Notre Dame

BY JONATHAN SHIDDELER Sports Staff Reporter

This past weekend may have been the turning point that the University of Rhode Island baseball team has been trying to get to.

The Rams ended the weekend with two victories, the latter came against the No. 22-ranked University of Notre Dame.

“We needed those two wins,” Rhode Island senior Kevin Steinhouse said. “It’s nice to get back on the winning side. We finally got the hits when we needed them and pitched well. Now we just need to stay consistent.”

Despite the 7-3 loss to Virginia Tech to start the weekend, the Rams were able to stay focused, turn the page and pick up their first two wins of their young season.

Eleven different Rams reached base in the 3-0 victory

Continued on page 2.

Contributing News Reporter

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The thing that always keeps me on the fence with “The Walking Dead” is that it can be a very uneven show. For every great action sequence or emotionally hard-hitting moment, there is often an (unintentional-) annoying character around the bend or a mishandled plot development.

After a very strong beginning to the season three (the most consistently good section of the show’s run), the first couple episodes that came after the midseason finale left me concerned. The addition of the “Lori ghost” was incredibly ham-handed, and in conjunction with the short-lived Merle and Daryl adventures and unremarkably shifting away Tyreese’ group without much dramatic impact, it was more of a sign of the writers spinning their wheels without sticking to a tighter through-line.

Luckily my attention lit up when the Governor decided to rain down zombies, but I remained fearful of whether the remainder of season three would be this inconsistent.

Thankfully this was not the case. Despite last week’s episode being very “Andrea centric,” I was drawn into her more than on the fringe in the weak living conditions of the prison, or stay in Woodbury where her safety is more secure? The Governor may be a twisted fellow, but Rick isn’t exactly the best leader either, with his deteriorating mental condition and all. While I was cheering for her to ultimately end the Governor’s life when she had the chance, it was understandable to me when she held back.

Following the (great) Norman Reedus show at Edwards Auditorium this past Sunday, “Clear” could not have been a better return to form for this season. Stepping away completely from both the prison and Woodbury, “Clear” decided to laser its focus solely on Rick, Carl and Michonne as they went scavenging for guns and baby supplies, as well as running into a surprise character (more on him in a minute). Even without major plot movements in the central conflict, this episode was an example of a slower, character-driven one done right.

Too often does “The Walking Dead” mistake plain talking for character building, yet here the writing felt sharper and had character moments that mattered. The biggest beneficiary was Michonne, where actress Danai Gurira finally breaks out of her tiresome scowl and have an actual connection with others. She even tells a joke! I couldn’t believe that, not only did this perpetually dour show have a joke, but also it was spoken by the toughest-skinned of the people on it. The scene where she hands the bullet to Rick speaks more volumes than any drawn-out conversation could have.

The real meat here was when the three of them ran into an old friend: Morgan, the father from way back when in the show’s pilot. His mental condition has deteriorated significantly, and in a paranoid rage tries to gun our protagonists in the streets. It is only after Rick beats some sense into him (and gets a knife in the shoulder) that he calms down and reveals the terrible truths. It turns out that Morgan’s son Duane couldn’t bring himself to kill his zombified mother, just as Morgan couldn’t in the pilot, and she bit Duane in the process. His tearful pleas for Rick to end his misery because of this were devastating to watch, not the last of which because of Lennie James incredible performance.

Morgan is such a strong character in fact that despite being featured in only a couple episodes so far, I feel much more of a connection to him than most of the main cast. It was kind of sad when he stayed in the town as Rick, Carl and Michonne left because I thought he would be a strong emotional anchor for the audience to latch onto, even though him staying made sense dramatically. He feels there is no hope left (I don’t blame him) and has a great line to Rick about how he and Carl will soon be “corrupted by teeth or bullets.” That could be some foreshadowing for an expectedly harrowing season finale, although Carl most likely is not going to kick the bucket any time soon.

If “Clear” is any indication, it is that “The Walking Dead” has a particular skill with writing compelling bottle episodes (i.e. self-contained mini-stories with a beginning and end that don’t advance the plot but reveal more character.) Last season’s “18 Miles Out,” which found Rick and Shane duke out their problems in a parking lot fistfight as zombies surrounded them, was similarly great, and “Clear” is arguably even better. Coincidently Scott Gimple was the writer on both of those, and my fear is that the show runner for season four have now been put to rest. Until that point comes though, we still have to make our way through four more episodes of this season.
Continued

Rusko blows up Ryan Center in impressive way

BY ALEX MCDAVITT
Contributing Entertainment Writer

Last Thursday, University of Rhode Island students were taken to another level of concert-going experience when Rusko invaded the Thomas M. Ryan Center.

Nothing short of anything that you would see at a crazy concert such as Rusko (people thinking that crowd surfing is still a thing to do outside rock music), everything fell right into place for one of the wildest nights I've had in my roughly two years here on campus. The people, the environment, the crazy amounts of music and all that glitter still stained on my skin for days to come made me realize that crowd surfing is a very good artist)

you really just need something to attract those who either really enjoy his type of music, or you'd at least bounce your head, twitching your arms, or found someone at least bouncing to his music while not new or original in any sense really did its job in terms of turning the unsuspecting visitors of the Ryan Center into those floatable car mascots you see when driving off the highway. Everything from "Hold On" to "Everyday" was played the way it was supposed to be played. Everyone went nuts, and as the night went on Rusko intensified the show to include some newer tunes that could make everyone's head explode into millions of pieces. Specifically, tunes of "Some Nights" by Fun, "Lost My Mind" by DMX and one of his awesome horns. that went off into the crowd was the large screen of images Rusko is famously known for getting his audience pumped up the entire night.

At times, I saw myself staring away as the lights and images meshed into one giant feeling of dancing and going absolutely nuts. If you weren't at least bouncing your head, twitching your arms, or found someone at least bouncing to his music while not new or original in any sense really did its job in terms of turning the unsuspecting visitors of the Ryan Center into those floatable car mascots you see when driving off the highway. Everything from "Hold On" to "Everyday" was played the way it was supposed to be played. Everyone went nuts, and as the night went on Rusko intensified the show to include some newer tunes that could make everyone's head explode into millions of pieces. Specifically, tunes of "Some Nights" by Fun, "Lost My Mind" by DMX and one of his awesome horns. that went off into the crowd was the large screen of images Rusko is famously known for getting his audience pumped up the entire night.

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Rhody SPORTS

Rhody sports teams endure losses, but also prepare for celebrations

BY MIKE AIELSON
Sports Editor

The University of Rhode Island's men's basketball team took Temple University to the limit on Saturday, but faded late and ultimately lost to the Owls 76-70 at the Liacouras Center in Philadelphia.

The Rams controlled the early portion of the game and led by as much as eight minutes mid-way through the first half. A late run by the Owls closed the Rhode Island lead to one at the halftime break.

The game stayed close early in the second half before Temple busted it open with a 10-0 run. The Rams countered with a 13-2 run of their own, capped by a bucket from sophomore TJ. Buchanan to tie the game at 64 with a little more than six minutes to play.

However; the Rams were unable to hit a field goal in the final two minutes and Temple was able to eke out the win.

The Rams got another sterling performance from junior Xavier Munford.

Munford connected on 12

Baseball

From page 1

against Ohio University, but the real story was senior pitcher Mike Bradstreet, who threw a complete game against the Bobcats.

Bradstreet (1-2) allowed two hits and struck out 10. He did not have a walk and faced only two batters more than the minimum 27.

"That's the type of performance [Bradstreet] is capable of," Rhode Island coach Jim Foster said. "He controlled the strike zone, kept the ball down and threw strikes."

Sunday's victory against the Irish was the quality win the Rams responded in the top of the third inning.

With freshman Connor Foreman at third base, junior Shane O'Connell singled to drive him in and tie the game at one.

Junior Joe Landi was next up and had the task of moving O'Connell to second base on a sacrifice bunt; however a throwing error from Notre Dame's second baseman resulted in O'Connell advancing to third and Landi landing at second.

Sophomore Tim Caputo then singled to centerfield, which allowed O'Connell and Landi to score, giving the Rams a 3-1 lead.

In the bottom of the third junior starting pitcher Torey O'Sullivan gave up a leadoff double and hit a batter. Both base runners wound up scoring on sacrifice flies to put the score at 3-3 to end the third.

Neither team was able to score until there were two outs in the top of the ninth. With senior Pat Forunato standing on third base, freshman Connor Foreman struck a single up the middle to give the Rams a 4-3 lead going into the bottom of the ninth.

Senior Bobby Dean retied the side and pick up his first win of the season. Dean has now thrown 12 scoreless innings for the Rams; he has struck out 10 and has allowed four hits on the year.

The Rams will hope to keep the streak alive going into spring break. Rhode Island will be playing seven games in seven days starting March 10. The first home game of the season will be today, March 19 at 3:30 p.m., at Bill Beck Field against Sacred Heart University.

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Thank you!