URI helping educate underrepresented children through SMILE program

BY AUDREY O'NEIL
News Editor

Students at the University of Rhode Island are working together to educate underrepresented children.

Collegiate SMILE is an inclusive organization dedicated to furthering the SMILE program experience. Members of this program integrate university and real world experiences, provide mentoring and learning activities, and offer career explorations to all members.

Collegiate SMILE, Science & Math Investigative Learning Experiences, has the mission to further the SMILE experience for SMILE alumni and others who are interested in learning about science, technology, engineering and math careers.

Fifth year Chinese IEP major Jimmy Li is the president of Collegiate SMILE and has been involved with the SMILE program since high school.

"I got involved with Collegiate SMILE because I am a SMILE alumni from high school," Li said. "I participated in the SMILE program on the high school level for four years. I love the program and the many opportunities it has given me in high school. At the college level, I would partake in the Challenge weekends each for the SMILE program each year. However, I felt that there was something missing still after the end of each Challenge weekend. It was the fact that there was the wait between each year that I wanted to do something with SMILE. Therefore, I presented the idea of Collegiate SMILE to the SMILE coordinators at URI."

Freshman, and vice president of Collegiate SMILE Lisa Li was also involved with the SMILE program in high school.

"We strive to offer all SMILE members with career and networking opportunities, leadership, and personal growth," Lisa Li said. "The group wants to have a different yearly theme that benefits the URI campus and the surrounding community. Personally I would like to help recruit more members so we can help make an even greater impact as an organization to the community."

In the future, the organization would like to continue to aid with the Challenge weekend activities and also mentor students with the middle school and high school SMILE members.

"Just to give back and provide information to students about college information and our experience on getting to college," Jimmy Li said. "My personal goal is to hopefully get started with all group missions' goals and to provide a foundation for Collegiate SMILE before I graduate."

Collegiate SMILE will be working with the URI SMILE program during the high school challenge weekend that will occur this weekend.

"Anyone with an interest

Continued on page 3

Softball team falls 5-2 to Radford in USF tournament finale

BY EMILY JACOBS
Sports Staff Reporter

The University Of Rhode Island softball team lost 5-2 to Radford University in the South Florida Tournament Finale on Sunday.

The Rams were first to get on the board, scoring two runs in the first inning, but were blanked the rest of the game. Seniors Courtney Prendergast and Kelly Coker led off with back-to-back singles. Junior Jocelyn Mattison would later drive them home on a bases-loaded hit.

Radford responded in the bottom of the first, scoring one run. The Highlanders went on to stop the Rams offensively and score four more runs of their own. They scored two in each of the third and fourth innings.

"I was pleased we got runs early but of course we were disappointed we struggled to get more hits," Rhode Island head coach Erin Layton said. "They were frustrated with the performance, and the team did struggle."

Although the Rams only saw six hits, two of them extended hitting streaks. Both Coker and Prendergast are on an eight-game hitting streak batting .385 and .423, respectively, to start the season.

The Rams picked up six hits on the game, two coming from Coker. The other hits being from Mattison, sophomore Megan Congor, Prendergast and junior Amy Gleason. All hits that came during the game were singles.

Junior Cassie Baker made her first appearance of the season, coming in as relief and pitching 1.2 innings. She was able to strike out two batters, but allowed two runs. Junior Sam Bedore also took to the mound, pitching two scoreless innings of relief, striking out two.

While the Rams struggled on offense, Radford was able to create opportunities on their offense, stealing eight bases. The Highlanders were also able to gain an edge on hits, putting up two more than the Rams.

Continued on page 3
Tomb Raider' game reboot worth waiting for

BY THEO KONTOS
Contribution Entertainment Writer

Tomb Raider, one of the most anticipated games of the year, finally arrived on Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3 this month. I’m glad to say it was definitely worth the wait. With all the excitement over next-generation game consoles coming out this year, there’s still a few gems left for this generation. Tomb Raider balances stunning graphics, exciting game play, tight controls and a fantastic story into one of the crowning games of this generation.

The Tomb Raider series has been a staple of action games since the original Tomb Raider’s release more than 15 years ago. Sadly, for the last decade or so, the series has been blighted with clunky controls, uninspired stories and cookie cutter sequels. Tomb Raider (2013) reboots the series from the ground up, featuring a completely new game engine and a new Lara Croft. The story starts from the beginning and paints Croft as a realistic, sympathetic character. The story will leave you on the edge of your seat as you follow Lara’s journey and surprising plot twists.

Combat, never a strong point in the Tomb Raider series, has received a full makeover. Armed with a bow and arrow, and a handful of guns, Lara is fully capable of holding her own but can still easily become overpowered without paying attention to her surroundings. The array of gadgets and weapons are all useful, and you will find yourself using different tools for different situations. A simple leveling up system allows gamers to choose new skills for Lara and customize her weapons.

The production values in Tomb Raider are matched by few games this year. The graphics are some of the best in any game and a thrilling score accompanies the action. The action set pieces in the game can seem a bit cliché at times, such as escaping a burning building or barrel-rolling down a raging river, but everything is handled so well it is easy to forget the familiarity. The fire effects are particularly impressive and play a large role in the game.

Tomb Raider has needed a new coat of paint for years and Crystal Dynamics has delivered. Their previous attempts at resurrecting the series produced some passable action titles, but Tomb Raider (2013) is a strong contender for game of the year, even though it is only March. Rarely does a game live up to the hype like this one.

Gamers should not get so caught up in the next generation that they miss out on some of the gems coming out this year. After Tomb Raider, Bioshock Infinite and Gears of War: Judgment are right around the corner. Even Wii U owners finally have something to get excited about with the exclusive Monster Hunter 3 Ultimate hitting stores today.

Pats

From page 4

Swittek to the line. The Patriots also added wide receiver Kenbrell Thomas, who caught career-highs in receiving yards (443) and touchdowns (4) last season with the Bulldogs.

If New England can add seasoned defensive ends John Abraham and Dwight Freeney to the mix, or at least one of the talented pass rushers, there is no doubt that the Patriots will once again be primed for a Super Bowl visit, one that hopefully involves revenge on Flacco and the Ravens.

Basketball

From page 4

in Rael LaFrentz and Paul Pierce and were picked by many to make it to the Final Four.

Harry - After summer I took the team downtown in the hotel and put on a tape of UMass - Kansas, and I made them watch that tape. At the end of the tape I said, “You guys know you can play with UMass because you beat them. UMass goes into Kansas and shock them to the world but win the game. Kansas doesn’t play as well on the road as they do at home. You guys can win this game.”

Murphy - We were extremely focused in on playing the game. We were very loose before the game. I remember sitting in the locker room before the game and talking about a show on the Discovery channel, lions and tigers or something like that. We were very loose before the game and we felt very prepared.

Clay - Kansas was one of those things where we felt like we were just as good, but still they had Paul Pierce and
**Classifieds**

**SMILE**

*From page 1*

in science or math who wants to help with middle and high school students or just wants to get out with a group of nerds can join our group" Li said.

All students are welcomed to join Collegiate SMILE and meetings are every Wednesday at 7 p.m., room 301 in the Memorial Union.

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**Softball**

*From page 1*

"I want the team to get more comfortable on the plate," Layton said. "I think this game showed us some things we need to work on, but I did see great effort."

The Rams are back on the road Thursday, as they travel to the University of Hartford for a doubleheader.

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**David Bowie album recalls former styles in new ways**

*BY EVAN GIBBS*  Contributing Entertainment Writer

David Bowie, the famed chameleon of rock & roll who has adapted to many shifts in popular music (and often perfected them) fell silent after the release of his 2003 album "Reality." Many in the music world simply assumed he would never release a new album again, so imagine the surprise when "The Next Day" was announced back in January.

"The Next Day" does not see Bowie in his regular "chameleon" role. You would think that the album - with its cover being a vandalized version of the one for his own classic "Heroes" album and a single that recalls the people and places Bowie loved in that era - would be one that calls back to his Berlin period, but it doesn't. The album has mostly a hard psychedelic feel to it. This style is also used as a template for Bowie to cherry pick from other genres that Bowie experiment with in the past. For instance, "You Will Set the World on Fire" feels like the best song that his ill-fated and unjustly underated early '90s alt-rock project Tin Machine never made.

"Valentine's Day," a psychedelic love song, is another throwback, with Bowie's current guitarist Earl Slick doing his best possible impression of his '70s Spiders from Mars guitar virtuoso Mick Ronson. Likewise, the percussion heavy "If You Can See Me" recalls his IDM and jungle influenced 1997 album "Heathen." The albums psychedelic pop influences are apparent on most of the tracks, but perhaps less as Bowie spotting this as a new trend and more as him revisiting a genre that he hadn't given a proper visit to since its late 60's heyday.

One of the obvious highlights is "Where Are We Now?," the first single and centerpiece to the album. The ballad, slowly placed after four consecutive up-tempo rock numbers, sees Bowie recalling places and people he knew from his Berlin Period, the aforementioned era during which Bowie released three great albums ("Low," "Heroes," and "Lodger") during his residence in West Berlin during the late 70s. The best thing about "Where Are We Now?" is that it doesn't sound like anything like something Bowie would have made in that era, making it seem like the longing reminisce Bowie intended instead of a facsimile a lesser artist would have made out of a love letter to the most revered period of their career. Aside from "Where Are We Now?," there's just one other ballad on the set, "You Could Feel So Lonely You Could Die." Bowie's written and performed many brilliant ballads in his career ("Space Oddity," "Life on Mars," "As the World Falls Down") but understand that he wanted to do something a bit more alive for his first album in ten years.

Out of the many rookers on the album, the opening title track is a highlight and one of many that features a strong late '80s alternative rock influence. Bowie must have been impressed by the leaps of British bands like Blur, Suede, and Primal Scrum that hit big in the '90s which were endless indebted to him, as each album since then has featured a reciprocal influence on a couple tracks back to those groups. This is also apparent on tracks like "I'd Rather Be High" and "Dancing Out in Space." Another influence creeping into Bowie's sounds is that of Tom Waits, as the sax-and-keyboard stomper "Dirty Boys" sounds quite a bit like a song from Waits' early '90s albums.

"The Next Day" is Bowie's best album in a long time. I like quite a few of his albums from the '80s onward, but after "Scary Monsters," he became very spotty releasing excellent albums ("Let's Dance," "Earthling," the soundtrack for "Labyrinth") alongside mediocre records ("Hours") and outright awful ones ("Never Let Me Down.") Here, however, he's focused on making songs which are unadulterated with being needled to be performed live (Bowie has said he will not tour the album) and has made an album that fans of all of his distinct periods can enjoy.
High up in the rafters of the Thomas M. Ryan Center at the University of Rhode Island a series of blue banners hang to commemorate basketball success gone by.

There are banners for NCAA Tournament appearances and even a few for Sweet Sixteen. The most recent banner was put up in recent years, but the most inconspicuous of all is one that is now the most eye-popping.

1998. The year of the Rams. What? There is no way that a school on a hill in a village in Rhode Island could compete with a school with a basketball royalty. They didn't compete with the bluebloods; they beat them.

Fifteen years later the 1998 Rams, and their charismatic coach, continue to loom large in Rhode Island lore.

This is the story of those 12 young men who coached—well, coached—what they considered to be their team: a new head coach, a former head coach, and former coach, off coming of a championship at UCLA, was the best choice for us. 

Harrick—Coaching is worse then cocaine. It's a disease that gets in with all of us and I don't think I ever get over it away. Really didn't know so much about Rhode Island basketball, but I knew there was a chance to do something.

Before we ever called the recruit, we were on the committee and there were a lot of good names for coaches and we had to choose. You see, Coach Harrick, coming off of a championship at UCLA, was the best choice for us.

Harrick—Coaching is worse then cocaine. It's a disease that gets in with all of us and I don't think I ever get over it away. Really didn't know so much about Rhode Island basketball, but I knew there was a chance to do something.

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Wheeler—Tyrone (senior guard) should have got a NBA shot. It was a tough game and we had a shot to win it.

Murphy—You know what I remember most about that game; Tyson tips a loose ball into my hand and I shoot a quick shot and I miss it. I had more time left on the clock than anyone.

Wheeler—That was a great game. Cuttino had an excellent game that game. We felt we should have made a bigger game out of it. We couldn’t get over the hump.

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