Students help out with multiple local organizations during alternative break

BY ALLISON FARRELL
News Reporter

While many URI students grabbed their bathing suits and aloe and headed towards warmer weather over spring break, a group of 10 students stayed in Rhode Island to aid their community.

The Alternative Spring Break (ASB) led by senior and pharmacy major Melissa Reilly is a "week-long adventure" according to Reilly. Run through the Feinstein Center for Service Learning, ASB brings students to different non-profit organizations to do community service.

"The purpose of it [ASB] is to promote community engagement within the URI community," Reilly said. "We recruit all ages all majors and then we go out in our local community and do good."

"We reached out to all the non-profit organizations we knew already and said do you have any projects for us to do and all of them said yes," Reilly said.

The organizations that ASB worked with include A Place To Grow, Welcome Home House of South County, Grittech, South Bay Manor, and the Rhode Island Adult Correctional Institute.

Reilly has already passed on her role of coordinator of the in-state ASB trip to trip veteran Mary McVay, ensuring to continuation of the community service initiative.

The in-state ASB trip was established for the first time at URI last year. The idea was introduced to Reilly and one of her peers by their now faculty advisor Sarah Miller, a coordinator at the Feinstein Center for Service Learning.

"Not only does it look good on your resume but it definitely gives you a connection to the university and to other students," Reilly said. "It can give people their niche and let them know community service is their thing."

Though Reilly enjoyed all the different non-profits she went to, Welcome House, a transitional house for people who were recently released from jail, stood out the most. "They've turned around so many lives and they really work with people," Reilly said. "They're such a great organization and I wish more people knew about them."

Applications for next years in-state ASB trip can be found in Roosevelt hall and Reilly encourages anyone to apply. "It's really a life-changing opportunity," Reilly said.

Continued on page 3

Rhody pic of the day

University of Rhode Island students trekked to class through the remnants of Monday night's winter storm.

Missed last two episodes of "The Walking Dead?"

See page 2.

Nickel Brief:
Pick-up tomorrow's issue of the Cigar to read about a group of URI students charged in a credit card fraud case.

The Goon 3 Cigar
‘Walking Dead’ struggles with dull stretches, still offers action

BY AUGIE KING
Entertainment Editor

While it is a very uneven show, I remain attached to “The Walking Dead.” This is because even though the show often mistakes “stretching it out” for plot and character development, when it hits the mark it hits hard. It’s what keeps me going through the duller stretches, and the two episodes that followed the fantastic Morgan-centric one have created another of those stretches.

Think about it for a minute. What was accomplished in the Rick/Governor conversation episode? They are going to war, which we already figured was going to happen anyway. The talk between both leaders had its compelling moments, but only two things of note really occurred in the episode. One is that the Governor wants Michonne to be given to him, although I’m pretty sure Rick would not do that. Secondly, Glen and Maggie were able to get some alone time and have sex. The most interesting segments were actually the short bits with Hershel and Milton as well as Daryl and one of the Governor’s henchmen.

The episode that aired this past Sunday was more entertaining than the one before it, although again, not much real progression happened. With the exception of one wordless cameo from Rick, this one was entirely Woodbury-centric. The Governor, chasing down Andrea, who has definitely decided to leave, takes up the majority of the time as he makes sure she does not reach the prison. One of the consistent strengths of “The Walking Dead” has always been the action beats, and this one was certainly suspenseful. Once the two reach an abandoned factory, the cat-and-mouse game grows even more in intensity, especially once you figure in the zombies threatening to expose Andrea’s position.

Here is the rub though: she gets caught. With this the episode is back to square one with Andrea brought back to Woodbury and now chained there. Is there is no plot drive for them, this leaves the more interesting parts to be the non-main plot related ones, particularly Tyreese’s group. Almost immediately after he and his companions were introduced, they were shoed away from the prison, and have since only been shown fleetingly at Woodbury. That changed this week when we finally got the chance to spend time with them and really establish where they stand. It wasn’t much, but at least I was comforted that the writers haven’t totally forgotten about them, and even allowed them to take affirmative action when they found the Governor’s holding pit of zombies.

Here is where I ask the question: does the show really need to take this long to get where it is going? There isn’t an issue in the first half of the season, where action, character and plot was mixed very well and remains the most consistently great section of the entire show. With this still-developing second half, I am reminded of the famously slow season two leading up to the barn massacre, where the writers were basically padding things out just to fit the 13-episode count that most cable shows follow.

With the 16-episode season three, I see a similar occurrence happening. Most TV audiences love that TV gives stories the opportunity to explore depths that a two or three hour movie would not allow for. This is true, but those imposed episode numbers can have the adverse effect of spacing things out more than they need. In the case of the current season of “Walking Dead,” I would have preferred a tight 12 episodes rather than the bloated 16. The best TV shows are able to find fascinating avenues and characters that can adequately fill the time amount given to them, whereas “The Walking Dead” seems to have trouble achieving that same effect.

Despite my harsh words, I do look forward to the concluding couple episodes to this season. If nothing else, there should be plenty of mayhem and a high body count to go along with it, and if there is anything “The Walking Dead” does incredibly well, it is killing its characters and zombies in gory, bloody and satisfying ways. Once that is done though (I hope the rumors of the prison/Woodbury conflict continuing on after the finale are untrue), season four will have to pull a wild card out of its hat to fully hook me back in. At the moment however, I am on the fence.

Like the previous episode, this leaves the more interesting elements as the non-main plot related ones, particularly Tyreese’s group. Almost immediately after he and his companions were introduced, they were shoed away from the prison, and have since only been shown fleetingly at Woodbury. That changed this week when we finally got the chance to spend time with them and really establish where they stand. It wasn’t much, but at least I was comforted that the writers haven’t totally forgotten about them, and even allowed them to take affirmative action when they found the Governor’s holding pit of zombies.

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Hoops
From page 1
point. It was a very physical game. They had Mark Madsen and some physically strong players.

King - Beginning of the second half we're pretty much neck and neck, and as the half wore on we built some momentum and started taking control of the game. We were playing our style, but playoff experience or you're never really going to get a big lead; they don't let you do that.

Reynolds-Dean - It was nip/tuck for a while and then we pulled away with a decent lead, but we knew they weren't going to bow down and surrender. I think we just got the lead we got a little comfortable thinking that the game was over and then all hell broke loose.

As the second half progressed the Rams were able to build a lead but were unable to find a way to maintain it. Larry Farmer was yelling "Tyson you've got to stop them!" and I was like "I'm trying; they're just hitting everything." It was crazy.

Harrick - To this day I'll swear we got robbed in that game. A horrible, horrible, horrible no call is what we got. It was probably the toughest loss I've ever had in my life. I still haven't gotten over it.

Clay - We had nothing to lose and plenty of stuff to lose. That plays quickly everything got taken away from us. I'm pretty sure that if Cuttinio, Anthony, maybe, got the ball in that relative moment we would have done stuff different.

Murphy - The last minute of the game almost felt like an out-of-body experience. It didn't matter what we did; we couldn't right the ship. Every move we made was to no avail and our backs were up against the wall, the wrong move. The momentum had changed and it was like a wave.

Reynolds-Dean - They made all the right plays at the right times and we made all the wrong plays at the wrong times. Once they seized control of the game we were kind of shocked for a moment and it was hard to overcome.

Kris Weems made the first of two free throws with 13.3 seconds left to make it 77-74 Stanford. Clay got the rebound and passed it to Wheeler. Wheeler took it up the floor and put up a three pointer. He was fouled.

The first barely hit the rim. The second shot was just as short. The third shot, a forced, long one, barely made the rim and gave Stanford the ball with less than five seconds left. The game marked the end of the career of Mobley and Wheeler.

Wheeler - I was so nervous because I just wanted to win, but I'd been in that situation before. My freshman year we were at Temple and I had to hit two shots to make it over and I hit them. So I was trying to think about that, but I was so nervous I missed the first one, then missed the second so I just "shut up and miss the next one" so we can tap it back and get a shot.

Clay - It's a heartbreaker; we should have been there to the Final Four and maybe have a chance of winning it. But Tyson and I were leaving that year and it was heartbreaking to see them get so close to a Final Four and maybe a championship.

Harrick - You've got to make your foul shots and we didn't make enough. But boy, they made some unbelievable shots. I wouldn't have done anything different though.

King - Tyson got fouled and it was just one of those things when you're playing with a lead you don't have the pressure. Unfortunately I didn't make those free throws, but it wasn't his fault at all; we should never have even been in that position in the first place.

Reynolds-Dean - I didn't know what happened at that moment. It was a kind of shell shock. Just five minutes earlier you're in control of the game and now your season is over.

That April, both Mobley (41) and Wheeler (47) were both picked in the NBA Draft. Mobley, who did not return multiple requests, calls, and emails for an interview, played 11 years in the league with four teams. He scored more than 16,000 points in his NBA career.

Wheeler played one game for the Denver Nuggets before being cut due of an abundance of guards. His first game was against Mobley and the Houston Rockets. Wheeler played a few years in Europe and was now assistant coach at Fairleigh Dickinson.

Wheeler - I got in near the end of the game. I got fouled and I shot my first foul shot and it went right off the backboard. Cuttinio was next to me and he said "Damn that was a brick" I made the next one and I made a three-pointer.

Whenever I shoot a three-pointer I always say my last name like "Wheelor" and I shot it right in front of the Houston bench and I remember looking at Hakeem Olajuwon cracking up. It was a good experience.

Baseball
From page 4
one day becoming college softball players like us. It was a very humbling experience. Sticking together and battling every out of seven solid innings, we suffered a mere 3-0 loss to one of the best teams in the country.

Although no loss is a good loss, we learned a lot about our mental and physical toughness as a team during this game.

As spring break ended with a 4-5 record for Rhody, some valuable lessons were learned that we will take into our upcoming games and carry throughout the rest of the season. We have learned that any team can beat any one on any given day. We need to always be ready to play and bring our "A" game. We have learned to play every game like it is our last, because we never know what surprises the following day may hold. With this attitude, ambition, and confidence, we look forward to starting conference play and competing with some of the toughest teams in the country. Presession has ended, ladies and gentlemen, and your Rhode Island Rams are ready to show the conference what Rhody softball is all about.

Softball
From page 4
After back-to-back losses to Eastern Tennessee State University and Wake Forest University to start, the win streak began with an 18-8 rout of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

One of the biggest stories of the week is senior pitcher Mike Bradstreet, who threw his second consecutive complete game shutout. Bradstreet gave up five hits, struck out six, and did not allow a walk in the Rams 4-0 win against Winthrop.

"Mike threw a great game," Foster said. "He is the kid we need to do good in order for us to win. His first few starts were tough, but he made the adjustments and got better."

College Sports Madness recognized Bradstreet as their Atlantic-10 Conference player of the week, making the second time Bradstreet has been named with the honor in the short season.

The Rams went on to beat Winthrop in the second game 4-2 and the final game 2-1.

After having yesterday's home opener postponed, the new home opener is set for today at 3:30 p.m., against SUNY-Stony Brook. The Rams then host a three-game weekend series against Hofstra University this weekend.

The Good Five Cent Cigar
It's YOUR paper URL, come write for us!
Cigar staffers make NCAA basketball tourney picks

BY JAKE MARROCCO, BRANDON MAXWELL, AND EMILY JACOBS

Sports Staff Reporters

Jake:

As much as I would love to see Liberty University take the crown in Atlanta this year, I had to actually buckle down and pay attention to my bracket this season. As this is the most involved college basketball fan I know, I feel that picking my national champion was an extremely difficult task. However, I will just narrow it down to my Four for this concise column.

After triumphing over Michigan State University in the first Eight, I believe the University of Louisville will go on to face Ohio State University for the opportunity to punch their ticket to the finals. The Buckeyes, fresh off their victory against Kansas State University, will pull the upset (seemingly) on April 6 and advance to the play the winner of Georgetown University vs. Indiana University.

The Hoyas upset the Kansas Jayhawks in the Elite Eight while Indiana was able to own their two-seed, the University of Miami (FL). While I believe the former is a one-point game, the Hoosiers will put another notch in their victory belt.

In the final, the vicious attack of Indiana, aided by Christian Watford, Jordan Hulls and Cody Zeller, will prove to be too much for Ohio State. Zeller and the Hoosiers bring home the championship, 71-64.

Brandon:

Although the easy choice for NCAA champion this year would be to pick one of the top seeds I decided I’d go the path less traveled and pick a team no one expects to win: 12th seed Oregon.

I know it seems like a crazy pick, especially since the lowest seed to ever win the tournament was eight-seed Villanova last year. However, this year I believe Oregon will be a back in 1985, but I can explain myself.

For starters, Oregon doesn’t even deserve to be a 12 seed. I don’t know what the selection committee was thinking, but a team that just won the PAC-12 tournament should be around a fifth seed at least. Oregon should beat up some of the lesser teams starting with Oklahoma State tomorrow.

Yes, the Ducks lost eight times this year, but the team still has 26 wins and a better record than fellow Midwest contender Michigan State. On top of that, five of those eight losses came to the likes of Colorado University, the University of Cincinnati, and the University of California, all teams that are competing in this year’s NCAA tournament as well.

Emily:

The NCAA Tournament is all about the upsets. As I go through game by game I try and look for Cinderella stories, but of course as the games get down to the elite eight and final four I look at the better team.

This year I choose big games going into the Elite Eight. Duke University against Michigan, University Michigan against Georgetown, Kansas State against Ohio State and finally Indiana will face Miami. I only have two number one seeds going into the elite eight and only one moving onto the final four, Louisville.

Moving onto my final four, number two seeds take the lead. I have Ohio State, Miami, and Georgetown. Miami was able to prove themselves in the ACC championship game as they took down North Carolina. That is why I have them defeating Georgetown and moving onto another championship game.

I have number one Louisville taking out Ohio State. Both teams played hard during championship week, but when Louisville came back against Syracuse to win the Big East men’s championship game, I knew they would continue playing with that drive.

In the championship game I have Miami over Louisville. Miami has been silent for quite a few years and I think they are back as top contenders and will take the 2013 title of national champion.

Baseball team takes form with help of good pitching

BY JONATHAN SHIDDELER

Sports Staff Reporter

The University of Rhode Island baseball team (6-11) wrapped up its spring break with a three-game sweep of Winthrop University. The Rams have now won six of their last eight games in the young season.

The Rams lost their first nine games to top-ranked opponents, including Florida State University and the University of Mississippi. Now that those games are behind them, head coach Jim Foster is pleased with the team’s progress and improvements.

“The guys are right where they should be,” Foster said. “Obviously we keep playing and guys keep improving. They are a good group of young kids that work every day and get better every day.”

Continued on page 3