4-9-2013

The Good 5 Cent Cigar (4/9/2013)

University of Rhode Island

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Reported gunman in Chafee Social Science Center false alarm, police continue its investigation into incident

BY HENSLEY CARRASCO AND LAURA DAMON
Editor-in-Chief and Contributing News Reporter

Multiple law enforcement agencies responded to a report of a possible gunman on the University of Rhode Island campus last Thursday that turned out to be, after some investigation, a false alarm.

At approximately 11:20 a.m. on April 4, the University of Rhode Island and South Kingstown police departments responded to a call of a possible gunman in the Chafee Social Science Center, according to Charlestown Police Lt. Patrick McMalon who was acting public information officer for a short time.

One of the many responding to the call was URI police officer Frank Pascale. Pascale said the URI police "[couldn't] engage" until the South Kingstown police arrived at the scene. URI police were unable to enter Chafee because they are not armed. "This has been a constant battle for police men on campus to get firearms," URI police officer Mark Chearino said. Chearino said that since the Virginia Tech massacre, every state except Rhode Island has armed their campus police officers with guns. Currently, the URI police carry pepper spray and batons.

Through all of the commotion, as police tried to figure out what happened, witnesses recounted different versions of what happened.

The location of the incident was confirmed to have been in Barbara Van Sciver's, who is listed as a lecturer on the College of the Environment and Life Sciences webpage, human physiology class, according to junior Kayla Gilmore and other students.

"We were just sitting there and [I] heard somebody pounding on the door saying he had a gun," Gilmore said. "He was just screaming 'let me in I have a gun.'"

Gilmore said she and others hid under their desks and about "10 seconds later" was when Van Sciver said to the class, "everybody run."

Gilmore said she didn't see the man, but she heard him. Gilmore said the scene resembled that of a stampede in that "everyone was trampling over each other."

"I was going down the stairs head first," Gilmore, Continued on page 3

Hillel brings Holocaust awareness week to URI

BY BRI BLANK
Contributing News Reporter

To honor the brave victims of the Holocaust, the University of Rhode Island Hillel is bringing awareness to campus through the Holocaust Remembrance Week.

The goal of the week is to promote awareness of the atrocities of the Holocaust in hopes that it will never occur again.

"It is important for students to be aware of the Holocaust because over 11 million people perished," junior political science and public relations double major Sabrina Brotons, who also serves as the Holocaust Awareness Week Chair, said. "The Jewish population were not the only victims, and in fact, Hitler's regime targeted everyone and anyone who was considered different. People were singled out based on their race, religion, political views, or sexual orientation."

The weeklong commemorative series of events began on Sunday, April 7 with a Field of Flags Memorial Display on the Hammerschlag Mall located on the walkway leading to the library. There are nearly 2400 small colored flags, each one accounting for 5000

Continued on page 3

Rhody pic of the day

Students take to the Quadrangle to enjoy yesterday's warm weather.

Have you heard Tyler, the Creator's "Wolf" yet?

See page 2.

Today's forecast
71 °F
A.M. showers.

Nickel Brief:
Find out about a controversy surrounding a common circus in tomorrow's issue.

The Good 5-Cent Cigar
Passing of film critic Roger Ebert inspires remembrance, admiration

By Augie King

Entertainment Editor

This past Thursday, April 4, famous film critic and journalist Roger Ebert passed away after enduring a long decade with thyroid cancer. Despite the many difficulties he fought through, including having to leave his film criticism television show "At the Movies" due to surgeries, Ebert continued his film work up to the very end on his personal website. Through his dedication and love for movies, Ebert has been one of the main influencers in becoming a writer; in particular an aspiring film critic and his passing hit me - and the rest of the Internet - pretty hard when the news broke.

Throughout almost the whole weekend, Ebert continued to be trending strong - notably on Twitter - because of the amount of respect he has from other film critics to championing his work. Most famous for having the thumbs up/down system of a film critic, he has since passed away. Ebert's writing: he would be appreciated as high art. In his recent review of "Battle: Los Angeles" he said, "Here's a science-fiction film that's an insult to the words 'science' and 'fiction,' and the hyphen in between them."

A favorite of mine is his takedown of "The Human Centipede". "I am not surprised to award stars to movies I review. This time, I refuse to do it. The star rating system is unsuited to this film. Is the movie good? Is it bad? Does it matter? It is what it is and occupies a world where the stars don't shine."

Ebert made it feel like sitting through every movie, even the bad ones, was unique, and that the bad ones could inspire a reaction as inspired and fiery as the great ones. He was one of those who never said where his writing was going to take him, and it's clear as you read through his film reviews, it becomes clear that he was a job to himself, but a passion. His two films reviews ever the same, and never fall into a mechanical structure. Every review made that movie feel special, even if it was a bad one, because his write-up was tuned into that movie in the moment. Often times, he would focus on one aspect and how that made the film stand out rather than breezing through the review "essentials" like acting, visual, special effects and the like. In the case of evocative art films such as "The Tree of Life," which defy typical conventional categories, Ebert would show how his love of the film was brought about by certain feelings it invoked in him, rather than a cold appreciation of its technical achievements. Films were alive to him.

He was also able to make criticism fun, and often funny. The arguments he would often get into with Siskel on "At the Movies," provided much entertainment value, and his writing displayed this too. It was a characteristic style, and how "Anacodna" and "Cop and a Half" got higher ratings than "A Clockwork Orange" and "Raising Arizona." Through his dedication and the rest of the Internet - I'm still waiting on an email from him..."

By Martin Lannan

Contributing Entertainment Writer

Tyler, the Creator's newest album, "Wolf," provides some evidence of Tyler's progression, while working against itself at the same time.

Released on April 2, "Wolf" is much of the same Tyler, just better or for worse. While Tyler, the Creator's latest studio album likely won't gain many new fans, it satisfies die-hard ODD FUTURE WOLF GANG KILL THEM ALL (OWFGKTA) fans. Despite possessing only one true single, Tyler, the Creator has displayed progress in his lyricism but the "shock appeal" content largely remains the same as in his previous studio albums, "Bastard" (2009) and "Goblin" (2011). I am not counting "Odd Future Tape Vol. 2" in Tyler's discography because it was more of a compilation album from Tyler's Odd Future crew.

The album's lead single, "Domo23," is catchy and has an enjoyable accompanying music video that features friends from Tyler's Odd Future crew, Taco Bennett, Jasper Dolphin and Earl Sweatshirt. Unfortunately, other than a catchy beat and spruts of hilarious verses randomly inserted, the lead single does not impress. In my experience reviewing hip-hop albums, and especially recently, an album is only as strong as the singles it produces. Rarely these days does an album fare well with customers and critics without at least two or three strong singles. This is how Drake, Kendrick Lamar and 2 Chainz have managed to gain significant buzz and strong album sales as of late. Drake's "Take Care," Lamar's "good kid, m.A.A.d city" and 2 Chainz' "Based on a T.R.U. Story" have all been certified Gold (at least 500,000 record sold with "Take Care" going twice platinum and "good kid, m.A.A.d city" almost at platinum). Singles, when given adequate radio play, generate the buzz that compels many fair-weather CD purchasers to buy the album.

Regardless, "Wolf" has the chance to succeed despite its lack of multiple singles. Unfortunately, the opportunity is not seized by Tyler to elevate himself to "A-list" rapper status. Instead of diversifying his sound and style, he chooses to feed fans most of the same material that he has become known for. This decision has placed Tyler in a situation in which he is tetering on the edge of becoming a "gimmick" rapper. This can be seen as good or bad, depending on how much of a fan one is of his earlier work. He has successfully appeased die-hard fans, but at the same time, makes no attempt to gain new fans. This plan can work for a while, but has proved mostly unsustainable over time (Tyler has been doing this for

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“Wolf”
From page 2
more than 3 years). Just look at Asher Roth. Asher who? The guy that made that college song years ago? Yes he still has die-hard fans, but he has fallen off the radar completely, perhaps as a result of major label drama since signing with Def Jam Records. Ultimately, “Wolf” does contain bright spots. “Answer” sees Tyler opening up about the absence of his father, while offering words that he would have for his father if he “answered” a telephone call from his son. “IFHY” featuring vocals from Pharrell Williams, of the American hip hop/rock band N*E*R*D, and is an oasis that fans of the mask of a male voice is heard yelling, “I’m a nice guy.” Van Sciver said she didn’t hear exactly what was said but “it just sounded angry to me.” She said students then got up and started to run. She said she stood by the door telling everyone to “go out, everyone, body out.”

Hillel
From page 1
Holocaust victims. This display will last until Sunday, April 14. Last night, there was a candlelight vigil, consisting of songs, prayers, and poetry to remember the victims of the Holocaust.

Softball
From page 4
explored in the second game, scoring in each of the five innings of play and putting the Rams away early. Up next for Rhode Island is a short drive up Route 95 for a doubleheader this afternoon against Brown University.

Gunman
From page 1
who sustained minor bumps and bruises on her legs, said. Another student in the class, Shawn Volpe was recording the incident on his phone and was able to capture audio from within the class. He said it was a normal lecture when someone got up and yelled. From his recording a male voice is heard yelling, “I’m a nice guy. I’m a nice guy,” followed by a female voice yelling, “Oh my god.” Following those two, all that could be heard was yelling by students in the class in addition to the sounds of desks. Volpe said he didn’t see the person who said, “I’m a nice guy.”

Israel Memorial Day – lunch with a discussion of the relations between the Holocaust and Israel over the years. The evening will conclude with an exhibit of Holocaust photographs and literature at the Hillel Center.

The URI Hillel is a Jewish organization on campus that provides opportunities to explore and celebrate Jewish heritage. The group takes trips to Israel and various other locations to participate in civic engagement.

replaced McMahon in addressing the media. He said, during the press conference that “at no time was there a gun or an active shooter on the campus.” The university, by way of the alert messaging system to students also wrote “the investigation has revealed that at no time was there a gun or an active shooter on the campus.” What the police did find was a Nerf gun in the backpack of a student in the class, but URI Police Department Major Stephen Baker said he did not know if the Human vs. Zombies game is connected to the incident. URI President David M. Dooley said there has never been a problem with the Human vs. Zombies organization in the past. Castellone said it’s possible that it was a misinterpretation but all possibilities are open.

When asked if this brings up the case of arming on campus police officers, Dooley said he supports the move to arm campus police officers.

When asked if she thought the incident was real or not, Gilmore said “I don’t know why anyone would joke about that.”

Staff meetings
Thursdays at 7 p.m.
Be there!
Softball loses three of four during weekend series versus Lasalle, Fordham Universities

BY JACOB MARROCCO  Sports Staff Reporter

The University of Rhode Island softball team split a weekend series with LaSalle University and was swept by Fordham University in a doubleheader Sunday afternoon.

The Rams dropped Friday's matinee with the Explorers, 7-2, but rebounded Saturday afternoon to salvage their second Atlantic-10 Conference win of the season, 7-3. Fordham was able to handle Rhode Island on Sunday, defeating the Rams 6-2, and winning the season game 12-2 in five innings. Rhode Island's record drops to 7-19 overall with an A-10 posting of 2-6.

"I think overall it was a pretty solid weekend for us," Rhode Island senior outfielder Kelly Coker said. "Playing in [Atlantic-10] play, every game is important for us to win, but I think we have a lot of confidence now that we are able to take from the weekend to use in our A-10 games for the rest of the year."

LaSalle sophomore pitcher Alicia Aughton helped herself during Friday's game with a two-run home run. Aughton stymied Rhode Island on the other side of the ball, only allowing one unearned run. The Explorers cemented their victory in the top half of the sixth inning—after a solo shot from junior shortstop Megan Hodgson and a two-run home run courtesy of freshman designated player Paige Giunta.

Junior pitcher Sam Bedore took the loss for Rhode Island, going six innings and yielding seven runs on eight hits with seven strikeouts, giving her more than 60 on the season thus far.

"I think offense is very mental and we've been working on some mental game and just working on our strength in the cage," Coker said. "We've had a lot of games where we've put up a lot of runs, so we just need to put it all together."

In their second match-up with the Explorers, Rhode Island jumped out to an early advantage after a four-run first inning. Freshman catcher Taylor Aitcheson drove in one run on a single and freshman leftfielder Emily Hendricks grabbed an RBI with a bases-loaded walk later in the inning. Coker, who had a RBI double earlier in the inning, was also able to steal home.

Rhode Island allowed two unearned runs to score in the top of the third inning, but redshirt senior shortstop Courtney Prendergast and catcher Courtney Benedict each got the runs back for the Rams in the bottom of the third after hitting an RBI double and subsequently scoring on a wild pitch.

LaSalle put another run on the board after an RBI double from senior first baseman Tristen Musgrove, but the Explorers were shut down by the pitching of junior Erika Szmyinski thereafter. Szmyinski picked up her third win on the season, allowing only one earned run and striking out two on the afternoon.

Rhode Island started off strong against Fordham, taking an early 1-0 lead, but Fordham pushed three more runs across the plate in the later innings. Szymanski was dealt her sixth loss of the season after yielding six runs on eleven hits to the Rams.

"I think [Bedore and Szymanski] pitched really well, but we need to back them up a little better and work as a team," Fordham's offense