Native American student group raises awareness of R.I. heritage

BY FARAH CASALINI
News Editor

A group of students at the University of Rhode Island are dedicating themselves to spreading awareness about Native American culture at URI through cultural events held throughout the year. "Rhode Island's first people were the Native Americans," said president Christian Perez. "Native American history and culture should be spread around campus." Perez, a senior, joined the group in his sophomore year because he wanted to know more about his Native American roots. "I didn't think I knew enough about what I am mostly made of," he said.

The group’s first step in enriching the URI community is with Native American culture and history through its meetings. At the beginning of every meeting, there is at least a 10-minute presentation that explains a portion of Native American history.

In order bring the history to the rest of the community, NASO has a specific goal in mind. Perez said he would like to bring meaning to the monolith stone outside of the Robert L. Carothers library. He said that a message is written on the stone in the Narragansett Algonquin tribe's dialect, but since students don't understand what it means, the statue is often disregarded by students learning against it.

In order to change that, NASO is heading the charge in having a plaque made, explaining the meaning of the message in hopes that more students will respect its significance.
Arrests

-University of Rhode Island student Joseph Degirolamo, 18, of 190 Cliff Drive, North Attleborough, Mass. was charged with resisting arrest, criminal possession of a controlled substance and possession of alcohol after he was found trying to saw down a tree in front of the Memorial Union on March 31 at around 23. When police told Degirolamo to stop, he attempted to run away and then charged at an officer, who used pepper spray on Degirolamo. He is scheduled to appear in Fourth District Court on these charges on April 11.

Larceny

-A woman reported last Thursday that her coat was stolen from a table at the University Commons dining hall while she was sitting down to eat. The incident is still under investigation. The student has her credit card was used fraudulently. The incident is still under investigation.

-A student reported that her iPhone 4S, valued at $400, was stolen from a table at the Butterfield Dining Hall this past Thursday.

-Another student reported that cash was taken from the gate compartment of her 2007 Hyundai this past Sunday at around 8:45 a.m. The car, which was parked in the White Hall parking lot, was locked. The incident is still under investigation.

Noise

-This past Friday at around 11:30 p.m. officers broke up a party at the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity house. Police found evidence that the party was being held and have forwarded the report to Dean of Students Jason Pina.

Notification

-A resident advisor in the Aldrich residential hall reported that he found marijuana paraphernalia in a room this past Friday. No marijuana was found and the student was referred to the Office of Student Life.

-Police from Brown University reported that several pieces of property from the URI football team were stolen by a Brown fraternity chapter. The Brown University Department of Athletics and Recreation this past Friday.

Vandalism

-It was reported that a rock was thrown through a window and a well placed dub-step

-Lecture

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tation that I think anyone could have experienced. The combined a very simple drum solo that was done well, and a well placed dub-step segment that I would believe, would rest with it being an April Fool's prank.

Me for thinking that, because Hargreaves hit a homerun with a solid eight minutes of intense beat-making abilities. It was moments like that, along with 3EB its fifth studio album being released in London, that befriended me to call it a great concert.

All in all, I ended up becoming more of a fan of 3EB as the show continued. Call me what you want, everyone else had fun and I had fun. Jenkins and Matisyahu themselves had fun. Jenkins himself said, "College is about taking new experience in and deciding stuff on your own," and that's all that I could have asked for.

milwaukee (AP) — An 80-year-old woman with little flying experience knew her husband had died after he fell unconscious at the controls of a small plane, yet she remained calm as she landed the aircraft at a northeastern Wisconsin airport, her son said Thursday.

In a phone interview with The Associated Press, James Collins said his 61-year-old father, John Collins, had a heart attack about seven minutes from landing at Cherryland Airport and had called to the cockpit before he became unconscious, Collins said. He had called 911 and that's when everyone came together to help her down.

The pilot who helped was Robert VukSanovic, who lived just a mile from the airport, said Kewaunee County Sheriff's Lt. Doug Kruger.

Collins said his mother knew her husband had died after she unsuccessfully tried to get him back into his seatbelt, which he un buckled before he collapsed.

It is the palimpsest of these proclamations that are also being voiced in Europe. She used examples from current political elections where in political candidates running for office are becoming more and more Judo-Christian imagery. Marine LePen, a candidate in the French 2012 presidential election, was used as an example. LePen spliced images of Joan of Arc from the movie "The Messenger" in her campaign video, saying, "If you are French... vote LePen!" at the end of her clips. She has been known as "France's Joan of Arc."

This prevalence of Judeo-Christian imagery, Lampert-Weiss said, only serves to cement France's long-held beliefs and exclude those who do not hold the normative view. This is why, Lampert-Weiss said, "the whole idea of the cyclical nature of history is an important part of attempting to break cycles of violence."

CAMPUS

Woman, 80s lands plane on low fuel after husband dies

They were coming back from their second home in Marco Island, Florida, Collins said. His 81-year-old father, John Collins, had a heart attack about seven minutes from landing at Cherryland Airport and had called to the cockpit before he became unconscious, Collins said. He had called 911 and that's when everyone came together to help her down.

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CAMPUS

Police Reports

Heritage

From page 1

Perez said the task is on track to be completed by the time he graduates this May. In order to keep students in the Native American culture, NASO hosts several craft-making sessions. For example, earlier this year it held a native beadwork class that taught students how to make Native American style moccasins. In past years, NASO has also taught students how to make Native American jewelry and feather-earrings.

"Everyone gets really into it," Perez said. While it holds several events every year, the largest event, and the one the group is most proud of, is its annual spring powwow, held anywhere between 400 and 500 attendants every year. The event features Native American food and clothing vendors, face-painting and dance performances.

"Sometimes we get the cringe," Perez said. "It's a really fun event."

Overall, Perez said he believes the ten-member group has grown well with its ability to fulfilling the group's overall mission. One of its proud achievements, he said, is the relationship with local Native American tribes that has been established while he has been here.

The group meets every Tuesday in the Multicultural Center. Perez said that anyone is welcome to join.

NASO's third annual Spring Pow Wow is being held this Saturday, April 7, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Old Track Field off of Route 138. Admission is $1 for URI students.

Concert

From page 3

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CLASSIFIEDS

Third Eye Blind, Matisyahu take URI by storm

BY ALEX MCDERVITT
Contributing Entertainment Writer

On Sunday night, the limelight of concerts occurred at the Ryan Center with the inclusion of the very popular California-based band Third Eye Blind, and the surprising quality of one Jewish rapper Matisyahu came with their A-game in mind and made fans heavily satisfied. Where I could say that for what the fans in the stands might have thought, the floor section was abalze with life and soul.

Going into the show, I didn't really know what the night had in store for someone who, for the most part, really didn't follow Third Eye Blind outside of their main remembrances ("Jumper," "Never Let You Go," and "Graduate"). Beyond it all, the heavy underdog, Matisyahu, who started the show, really made my ears stand up with his clever use of sounds and fluent lyrics (whenever I could understand them) in his opening set.

While many of the concert attendees seemingly stood there, either in complete solitude or not over-watching for didn't know what to do, I kept hopping my head, side to side with my feet tapping to the rhythm of the beat. Matisyahu rocked center stage in his cutback haircut, blazer-wearing outfit. At a stage in his cutback haircut, I have to say- not that bad. I really dug his "Song," (my self-app) "Life," "Losing a Whole Year," "Graduate," "Up," "Sunshine," "Jumper," "How's Gonna Be" his new release "Sunshine" and the very psychedelic "Lord Raise Me Up," I have to say- not that bad. I'm not really huge into the indie market of rapping (sad to say), but I really dug his getup and stage work as a whole throughout the entire night. He certainly seemed like it was fun to be had, and he certainly had a percentage of fans on his side (I remem-
Monday night the University of Kentucky Wildcats head coach John Calipari claimed the first national championship of his illustrious yet asteroid-ridden career.

But his basketball career began in 1988 at the University of Massachusetts. In his eight years there he led the Minutemen to five consecutive Atlantic 10 titles. In 1996 the Minutemen, led by the Naismith College Player of the Year Marcus Camby, made it to the Final Four for the first time in school history. That year, Coach Cal was honored with the Coach of the Year award from multiple news and media outlets.

That season the school had its 41-game record vacated because Camby received improper benefits. This marked the first Final Four appearance to be taken off the books from Calipari, but not the last.

Calipari left UMass and went to the NBA as a tryout. Three years there with the New Jersey Nets as a head coach, and one year in Philadelphia 76ers as an assistant was unsuccessful to say the least.

Then coach Cal went back to school.

He went to the University of Memphis where he built a powerhouse program within Conference USA. In 2007-2008 coach Cal and his Tigers won 38 games (as he has national record) reached the final four, and lost in the national championship game to the same coach and school he beat Missouri, Kansas University and Bill Self.

Days after losing the championship coach Cal was announced the new head coach at the University of Kentucky. A year later the NCAA was given information stating Rose had an unknown person complete his SAT exams that got him into Memphis. This made him ineligible for that year, and forced Memphis to vacate their record-setting season and Final Four appearance.

This was the second time Calipari had a Final Four vacated. As well as the second time he left the school before NCAA sanctions were handed down.

Regardless of the "wrong" Calipari has done, although he has never been penalized, he has changed the game of college basketball and its recruiting tactics. An NCAA rule change in 2005 could have been a blessing in disguise for coach Cal. The rule change stated all participants in the NBA draft must be one year removed from their senior year of high school before they can declare for the NBA.

That was when coach Cal started the "one-and-done" revolution in college basketball in Memphis. Derrick Rose and Tyreke Evans were two top point guards, which played basketball and "attended" classes for a year before entering the NBA, where they have become stars.

He moved on to Kentucky where we saw John Wall, DeMarcus Cousins and Brandon Knight (just to name a few) all leave the read for the parquet at the end of their freshman year. Some people bash Calipari for taking in freshman standouts for a year and pushing them to the next level. But you can't be upset with Calipari or make him out to be the bad guy. He just simply played the hand he was dealt, and is still playing it like a professional.

He started a revolution in college basketball and how to recruit. Kentucky has turned itself into a safe haven for kids who want to play basketball for a year and then turn to the NBA. And today we are seeing some of the greatest coaches of all time such as Mike Krzyzewski, Roy Williams, Jim Boeheim and Jim Calhoun follow suit.

Now that speaks volumes about how much he's improved on the sport and where he stands as a head coach today and all time, with the elite.

Women's tennis team shut out La Salle, 7-0

The University of Rhode Island women's tennis team's victory on April 1 was anything but a joke, as the team shut out La Salle 7-0.

The victory came with great contribution from freshman Nithila Asokaraj, who now leads the Rams with 15 singles wins. Facing Pearl Williams of La Salle, Asokaraj was dominant, winning the match 6-0, 6-0. Her efforts have earned her the Atlantic 10 Rookie of the Week Honor, as she became the first Ram to do so since 2009.

"I'm really thankful for the award," Asokaraj said. "I hope to continue to progress with my game and make our team proud.

The Rams are nearing the end of their long season of ups and downs. While seemingly going from one streak to the next, including a month-long slip, the Rams are currently rolling. The win over La Salle is the fourth straight for the team, with just three remaining before the Atlantic 10 Tournament begins. Although the Rams have struggled, Asokaraj has truly enjoyed the ride.

"I am so pleased with our team," she said. "We are all very close on and off the court and our team support has really improved throughout the season."

The 7-0 victory over La Salle was the first complete, shutout since the team faced Monmouth University nearly six months ago. The Rams are now 9-7 on the season, with a record of 2-2 against conference opponents.

"Today, the Rams will take on Hartford in Connecticut looking to win their fifth straight. Though the year is coming to an end, the Rams know they can still improve.

"As a team we just need to keep staying focused and keep fighting for each and every point," Asokaraj said.

"I think with that mentality, we have a great chance of doing well in the A10 tourney.

The Rams will conclude their 2011-2012 season on April 14, and will travel to Charlottesville, V.A., to compete in the conference tournament on April 19.

Baseball player discusses former team, decision to join URI, career aspirations

When Pat Fortunato first put on a college uniform in 2008 at Winthrop University in South Carolina, he was a pitcher.

Today he is the starting second baseman for the University of Rhode Island baseball team. How times have changed.

"Believe it or not it came down to a couple of schools coming out of high school and URI was one of them," Fortunato said. "But I decided to go down south, every Northeast kid's dream is to go down south, get out of the Northeast. Things didn't work out there so it was weird that I ended up at URI."

At Fairfield College Preparatory School in Fairfield, Conn., Fortunato helped lead the Jags to a state semi-final appearance in 2007. He was selected to the all-state team twice and participated in the Connecticut All-Star game his junior and senior years. Fortunato also played for the Fairfield basketball team.

Fortunato gave up his scholarship at Winthrop (to his parents' chagrin) to come closer to home. He said that he enjoyed the Southern experience, but missed home.

"Being down South was fun, and the baseball was great, but my parents couldn't come see me play every day," Fortunato said. "I was pitching every day and I wanted to play the field. Here it turned out great."

After an up-and-down year in 2011 Fortunato has turned it on. He is one of three players to have started all 26 games for the Rams this season, and his .304 batting average is the fourth highest on the team. His .466 slugging percentage is second on the team and his 304 batting average has been nearly flawless. His 64 assists are second on the team, and his 54 putouts are fifth-most on the squad. His .976 fielding percentage is the sixth-highest on the team.

Rhode Island head coach Jim Foster said that Fortunato is the type of player he looks to have on his team.

"He's obviously an outstanding athlete," Foster said. "He's a kid with tools across the board. For him to do a good job for us is pretty exciting. I think his best days are ahead of him. He's starting to feel comfortable and feel it out a bit. I think you're going to see a great deal of improvement in him over the next year and a half."

Foster went on to say that he would have no problem having Fortunato step on the mound if the situation arose.

"We had him out there to help us on the mound at some point whether it be this year or next year," Foster said. As consistent as Fortunato has been this year, he says that there is always room for improvement.

"I'm kind of taking it game by game," Fortunato said. His last couple of days have been a struggle which is good. It's good to struggle a little bit so you can learn from mistakes you're making you're not cruising the entire season. There's no such thing as it.

A communications studies major, Fortunato has little interest in pursuing a career in broadcasting. He said that he'd rather work with children.

"I kind of want to work with kids," Fortunato said. "I work at a Boys and Girls club in Southport, Conn. every now and then. I know there's not that much money in it, but it's fun."

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