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Fraternities, sororities hold annual Greek Week

BY AUDREY O'NEIL Contributing News Reporter

Fraternities and sororities at the University of Rhode Island have joined together to help raise money for national and local charities.

For more than 60 years, Greek Week has been a long-standing tradition during the spring semester at URI, according to the Greek Life website. During this week, the fraternities and sororities show their school spirit by participating in fun and creative activities and events. Each fraternity and sorority earns points by participating and the group with the most points by the end of the week is declared the winner. Greek Week has raised thousands of dollars in the past for various charities by hosting these events.

Freshman and nursing major, Ray Bolvin, is a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and is participating in Greek Week for the first time.

“It is really fun to see everyone out there and participating because it makes the events more enjoyable so more people want to be involved,” Bolvin said. “It also makes it more enjoyable knowing that we are helping to raise money by doing these crazy things and that we are having fun while doing it.”

One of the events Bolvin participated in with his fraternity was the Red Bull Chariot Race that was held yesterday at Fraternity Circle. During the event, teams were required to build their own chariots and race against others.

“It was really fun watching everyone out there and participating because it makes the events more enjoyable so more people want to be involved,” Bolvin said. “It also makes it more enjoyable knowing that we are helping to raise money by doing these crazy things and that we are having fun while doing it.”

Group creates film, reaches out to students struggling with sexuality

BY KIMBERLY DELANDE News Reporter

Last Saturday, the Rhode Island PBS aired “It Gets Better at URI: Coming Out for Change.” The film was created by members of the University of Rhode Island LGBTQ Women’s Group to support students in the community who may be struggling with their sexual identity.

The 56-minute film was created chiefly by five graduate students who had no prior experience in filmmaking, but wanted to do their part to help create change for their community. The students, Jen Kaye, Kim McGuinness, Portia Burnett, Christina Kinney and Dana Speeeler were inspired to make the film by the national “It Gets Better” campaign.

The “It Gets Better” campaign is a national movement that strives to reach out to gay and lesbian youth, in response to the media’s publicizing of suicides that have resulted from the harassment of gay students. The idea to create a URI-specific film was suggested during a Women’s Group meeting, which initiated the project.

“We wanted to inspire hope in students that may be struggling with their sexual or gender identities,” McGuinness said. “We also started the project because we wanted to identify supportive faculty and staff at URI. We all thought it was a great idea and would be a fun project to take on.”

The film featured a variety of members of the URI community, including students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni. Some of the people featured in the film were of the LGBTQ community, but others were allies, or supporters of the community. McGuinness said the

Friday's forecast: 62°F

Check out tomorrow's issue for coverage of Ron Paul's visit to URI.

Check out our review first!

See page 2.
'Cabin in the Woods': a refreshing, original film that pokes fun at horror movie cliches

BY AUGIE KING
Entertainment Editor

"The Cabin in the Woods" is the kind of movie that I would love to discuss in detail, but can't because it would rob the picture of it's element of surprise. Many of my favorite movie-going experiences are ones where I went in not knowing much about the film and was able to enjoy everything unfold as it happened onscreen. "The Cabin in the Woods" is one of those great experiences.

I'll give a very basic plot so as not to ruin the central conceit. Five college students go off for a weekend of partying and fun at a cabin...in the woods. That sounds a bit like "Evil Dead" or any other generic '80s horror movie right? Well, there's much, much more to the plot than that, but I won't divulge too many details. Crazy monsters are terrorizing the college students, but it's not as simple as that.

What I liked most about these characters is both their easy likability and how they don't easily fall into the clichéd stereotypes. The innocent "virgin" isn't much of a virgin, the arrogant jock is actually friendly and smart, and the horny girl is more knowledgeable than he seems, etc. As the plot starts kicking into high gear, the horror genre of typical characters in horror movies gets turned on its head.

Ultimately, "The Cabin in the Woods" reveals itself to transcend horror boundaries and becomes a re-invention of the genre much like "Scream" was in the '90s. It is simultaneously a love letter to horror and a criticism of tired tropes that get repeated dozens of times in the genre. The final scene of the film, where we one character needed to kill another to survive, could almost be seen as a middle finger to the "torture" subgenre that has sprung up recently with "Saw" and "Hostel".

Since "Cabin" is very much a horror comedy and not a straight ahead scare fest, there are some very funny moments that poke fun at conventions of horror movies. There is one about audiences wanting to see cheap nudity and gratuitous violence in horror movies that had me doubling over, and another where one character questions the idea of splitting up that was great too.

For its first hour, the movie moves along at a speedy pace, successfully changing out jokes, some decent scares and surprises along the way. However, I kept asking myself where it was going and if there was more to the story than what was revealed. Perhaps this was intentional on director Drew Goddard and writer Joss Whedon's (who is handling "The Avengers") part because around that time the final half hour goes completely bonkers in a good way. My friend who I saw the movie with said it could be interpreted as "the ultimate horror movie," and in that last cli­max where everything but the kitchen sink is thrown in, it just about earns that title.

While I did compare "The Cabin in the Woods" to "Scream" not too long ago, the two could not be more different. "Cabin" takes its meta aspects much further than "Scream" did, by not only referencing the clichés of horror movies, but also dissecting and integrating them into the plot, which is why they work the way they do. That is not to say that the movie is an intellec­tual exercise. On the contrary, it's a smartly conceived thrill ride in the vein of "Inception," where the clever­ness never threatens to over­come the shear entertainment value. Don't let anyone spoil it for you, and go see this genu­inely original movie.

Horror movies throughout decades have constantly reinvented genre

BY MATT GOUDBREAU
Entertainment Writer

While filmmaking as a whole has changed consistently with the times, one genre has dominated the changing land­scape over the years. Originally more of a cult or subgenre of drama, horror has become one of the most dominating genres. We have come a long way from the silent era of the 1920s to the gratuitous violence of films we see today. Single films, or even groups of films, have been responsible for the shift. The newly released "Cabin in the Woods" is being hailed as a story of new found footage that was very similar to the one in "The Blair Witch Project," but consider­ing how poor a film I find it to be, I can't exactly call it ground­breaking. The "Saw" genre has been called groundbreaking for its traps and violence. I cannot exactly call that a good thing because it seems to use the clichés of horror, character made refer­ences to elements such as abstinence, means of survival, and are even shown watching "Halloween" at one point.

This new found footage genre can be traced back to "The Blair Witch Project," but consider­ing how poor a film I find it to be, I can't exactly call it ground­breaking. The "Saw" genre has been called groundbreaking for its traps and violence. I cannot exactly call that a good thing because it seems to use the clichés of horror, character made refer­ences to elements such as abstinence, means of survival, and are even shown watching "Halloween" at one point. The '70s are often considered the revival of horror genre. The decade was also responsible for changing the switch genre with its films "Halloween" and "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre." Both films were complete opposites, as the former is tame in its vio­lence, while the other is explicit and even repulsive at times. These also inspired faces for their killers, such as Michael Myers, who then led to other iconic horror icons such as Freddy Krueger and Jason Voorhees.

For the most part, the '80s and early '90s all followed the slasher genre or tried to be vio­lent for the sake of violence. While few movies from that period stand out, a couple of cult films called "Evil Dead" and "Evil Dead II" were the first exploitive horror films to add comedic elements and self-par­ody. In a sense, they're classic 80's movies, but somehow connect­ed to viewers and paved the way for movies such as "Slihier" (a personal favorite of mine) and "Scream" in 1996. "Scream" rejuvenated the slash­er genre by poking fun at itself, and by addressing clichés in horror. Characters made refer­ences to elements such as abstinence, means of survival, and are even shown watching "Halloween" at one point.

The "Saw" genre has been called groundbreaking for its traps and violence. I cannot exactly call that a good thing because I feel this has desensit­ized moviemakers, leading to directors trying to outdo each other with their violence. Sure, other films from Hammer, along with "The Exorcist" pushed the envelope, but it was done to suit the story and make them stand out. Now, every horror film seems the same to me. Luckily, "The Cabin in the Woods" seems to put some newfound life into the genre by mixing comedic undertones with visual horror and plot twists, while dissecting horror clichés much like "Scream" did. Maybe this will remind viewers that being simpl­er or original can be scary, rather than simply terrorizing someone's heart out for shock.
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Greek

From page 1

ig the team from our frat build the chart so everyone wants to win the race, Bolvin said. "But it really isn't about winning. We are just focusing on going out there and supporting our frat and having fun."

Sigma Phi Epsilon also participated in their own fraternity event, slip 'n slide bowling, which was held yesterday at the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity House. This event was mainly focused on fund. Each person was required to slide down a slip 'n slide in order to knock over the oversized inflatable bowling pins.

Other Greek Week events included Broom Ball and the Greek Life Eat Off. During the Greek Life Eat Off, hosted by the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority, each team was challenged to eat foods that were placed in front of them. The team that ate the most food won this event and earned points for the week.

The next event in store for Greek Week is the Hot Shot Contest. The contest, a three-point shootout, is taking place in the Tootell gym at 4 p.m. The team who makes the highest number of three-point shots, wins.

"I am definitely looking forward to all of the events left for this week," Bolvin said. "I hope that our frat can continue to earn points and show the Sigma Phi spirit."

Film

From page 1

nally came forward and spoke about why it was important to be an ally," while members of the LGBTQ community, "told their stories of struggles and perseverance, determination and change, in order to send the message, ‘it gets better.’

“Although the film features individuals associated with URI in some way, it is appropriate for an audience that extends far beyond URI," McGuiness said. "This includes any LGBTQ students of any age and any educators, parents or anyone anywhere who seeks to raise awareness and support the LGBTQ community."

According to McGuiness, education is the first step to bringing about change, and that "It Gets Better" can act as the tool needed for people to educate themselves about this issue. McGuiness expressed hope that the film would also be a starting point for educators to discuss what URI needs to do to become a safe environment for LGBTQ individuals.

"Schools have to recognize that there are LGBTQ students and LGBTQ teachers who need to be met," McGuiness said. "Change is not going to happen without taking initiative."

For Green, working on this film "opened her eyes to how much support exists for the LGBTQ community." The five students, along with their advisors, human development and family studies professor Dr. Pauline Vaccaro, clinical counselor Holly Nichols and a student life member, Carolyn Sovet, were able to assemble people last summer who expressed an interest in telling their story, or offering money to write the film. The film, McGuiness said, could not have been possible without their support.

"After the premiere, and after all of the positive reactions from students, faculty, staff and people I didn't even know, I'm realized that getting the ball rolling toward change isn't all that hard," McGuiness said. "Making long term changes is a much more daunting task, but you have to start somewhere. The URI LBQT Women's Group is on our way.

Police arrest 6-year-old for throwing temper tantrum

ATLANTA (AP)—A 6-year-old who threw a tantrum at her U.S. school was taken away in handcuffs, firing up a debate over whether teachers and police are oversoliciting with disruptive students.

Salseca Johnson's family lashed out Tuesday over her treatment and said she was badly shaken, while the school system and the police defended their handling of the incident.

Civil rights advocates and criminal justice experts say frus­ trated teachers and principals across the country are calling in the police to deal with even relatively minor disruptions.

Some juvenile authorities say they believe it is happening more often, driven in part by an increased police presence at schools over the past two decades because of tragedies like the Columbine school massacre.

But numbers are hard to come by.

"Kids are being arrested for being kids," said Shannon Kennedy, a civil rights attorney who is suing the Albuquerque, New Mexico, school district, where hundreds of kids have been arrested in the past five years for minor offenses. Those include having cellphones in class, spitting, refusing to switch seats and destroying a history book.

In 2010, a 14-year-old boy was arrested for inflating a condom in class.

Salseca was accused of tearing items off the walls and throwing books and toys in an outburst Friday at her school in Georgia. Police said she also threw a small shelf that struck the principal in the leg, jumped on a paper shredder and tried to break a glass frame.

Police refused to say what set off the tantrum. The school called police, and when an officer tried to calm the child in the principal's office, she resisted, authorities said. She was handcuffed and taken away in a patrol car.

Baldwin County schools Superintendent Geneva Brasel called the student's behavior "violent and disruptive" and said the girl was taken away out of safety concerns for others.

Interim Police Chief Dray Swicord said the department's policy is to handcuff people when they are taken to the police station, regardless of their age, "for safety of themselves as well as the officer."

He said the girl will not be charged with a crime because she is too young.

The girl's aunt, Candace Ruff, went with the child's moth­ er to pick her up at the police sta­tion. She said Salseca complained about the handcuffs. "She said they were really tight. She said they really hurt her wrists," Ruff said. "She was so shaken up.

The girl was suspended and can't return to school until August, her mother, Constance Ruff, said.

"I have had some concern for a while that the schools have relied a little too heavily on police officers to handle disciplinary problems," said Darrel Stephens, a former Charlotte, North Carolina, police chief and board member of the Major Cities Chiefs Association.

Some civil rights advocates, educators and law enforcement officials are concerned that officers are operating without special training, and that over­whelmed teachers are unsure that calling in the police could also result in serious criminal charges.

In Albuquerque, Annette Montano said her 13-year-old son was arrested last year after burping in gym class.

Albuquerque school officials have declined to comment on the arrests there. But Ellen Bernstein, president of the Albuquerque teachers union, said students' bad behavior is more extreme these days.

"From sexual harassment to cutting schoolwork, there is more chronic and extreme disrespect, disrespect and kids who basically don't care," she said.

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Women's track team sets class, personal records at Brown University Invitational

By Jonathan Shedeler

Sports Staff Reporter

The University of Rhode Island track and field team had an outstanding performance this past weekend, setting a total of five class records in the Brown University Invitational in Providence, R.I.

"There were great performances all around from the team," assistant coach John Melnick said. "The team took advantage of great weather and were very productive which is great to see."

Sophomore Hannah Janecek won the 100-meter dash with a personal best of 11.94 seconds. Janecek also placed first in the 200-meter dash with a final time of 24.93.

Sophomore Kaylan Pickford took first place in the pole vault with a personal best of 3.60 meters. Junior Hayley Madsen finished first overall in the 800-meter dash on her way to a personal best time of 2:20.52.

Melnick said it's possible the team thing -

Senior Kalyn Sheehan had a tremendous weekend. She won the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14.34. In the 200-meter she finished second with a time of 24.97.

Sheehan was also on the 4x100-meter relay team with senior Chelsea Jureby, sophomore Jennifer Christian and junior Ashley Smith. The team finished first with a final time of 46.46, which was good enough for the team's second best finish all year.

Two runners set personal bests during their runs. Senior Alexi Capozzi finished with a final time of 26.15, while freshman Erin Flanagan crossed the finish slightly behind her, finishing with a time of 27.24.

Senior Haley Mathewson, junior Rebecca Wright and freshman Nicolette Pelrine captured personal bests in the 800 for the Rams. Pelrine had a final time of 2:20.52.

"It's important for them to improve on what they have as long as they stay competitive, stay healthy and get ready for May, we should do great [in the Atlantic-10 Conference Championships]," Melnick said.

This weekend, the team will travel to Princeton, N.J., to compete in the Princeton Invitational. According to Melnick, the team's approach will be similar to what it has been in the past.

"We just need to treat this meet like the rest, make sure we improve on what we have done and not just watch what is going on around us," Melnick said.

Cleveland Indians make Johnny Damon signing official

By Tim Lima

Contributing Sports Reporter

The University of Rhode Island women's tennis team bid adieu to its seniors on Saturday, beating Albany 6-1 and winning its seventh straight match.

"My last regular season match at URI was definitely heart wrenching," senior Tristany Leikem said. "At the time, it was sad to focus on the match but I had a million emotions.

"Her emotions, however, failed to alter her play, and Tristany went on to win her singles matches 6-0, 6-3. Saturday's match marked not only her last match at URI but her twin sister Kristen's. A long way from their hometown of Tucson, Ariz., the sisters have relied upon each other for support along the way. This made Saturday's senior day special for the twins.

"Having Kristen there was great because we have completed this chapter of our lives togethers," Tristany said. "I wish we could keep playing and just be here, but we have a great support system here at URI."

Women's tennis team keeps on winning, defeats Albany

The team's record of 12-7 is not as remarkable as the road they took to get there. During a losing streak of six consecutive games from Feb. 17 to March 15, the Rams were asked as though their season might have been lost. Since then, what is a clear example of determination and will, the Rams haven't lost, winning seven straight matches.

Two of those seven matches came against conference opponents, who the Rams will soon face in the Atlantic-10 Tournament. With a 2-2 record in the conference,URI is approaching the tournament with confidence.

Along with Tristany and Kristen, Pam Emery also made a mark in her college tennis career. Kristen was beaten by her opponent Kristen Scott in a close match, while Emery defeated her opponent, Livia Gherman 7-5, 4-6, 1-0.

The Rams now look to their most important part of their season, the conference championships. The championships will begin on Thursday in Charlottesville, Va.

Cleveland Indians make Johnny Damon signing official

By John Melnick

Sports Staff Reporter

Johnny Damon has left the on-deck circle. He's officially with the Cleveland Indians.

Next stop: The starting lineup — and maybe the 3,000-hit club.

The 38-year-old outfielder signed a minor league contract on Tuesday, the next step in his 17th season and a class record with a time of 11.94 seconds. Janecek also placed first in the 200-meter dash with a final time of 24.93.

Sophomore Kaylan Pickford took first place in the pole vault with a personal best of 3.60 meters. Junior Hayley Madsen finished first overall in the 800-meter dash on her way to a personal best time of 2:20.52.

This weekend, the team will travel to Princeton, N.J., to compete in the Princeton Invitational. According to Melnick, the team's approach will be similar to what it has been in the past.

"We just need to treat this meet like the rest, make sure we improve on what we have done and not just watch what is going on around us," Melnick said.

Johnny Damon signed the final copy of the contract on Tuesday, making him an official member of the Indians.

Damon is the team's seventh AL team. He'll be reuniting with former teammates in the dugout, including Derek Lowe and Casey Kotchman.

"They're a team that's building for the future, but they also have a chance to win now," Damon said. "That's a good thing to have. They locked up a few players and I think they locked up a few on a few more, possibly. It's that right mix. A team that's as youthful as they are, and adding a guy like Derek Lowe during the offseason, and now adding a guy like me, hopefully we can give them a boost and some experience."

Damon is at the team's year-round training complex in Goodyear, Ariz., getting game experience after not being in a spring camp for the first time since he was picked in the first round by Kansas City in 1995. Damon, who needs 277 hits to reach 3,000 in his career, will likely spend some time with Triple-A Columbus before joining the Indians.

Damon thinks he can be ready soon.

"I feel like I can be ready in a week," said Damon, who spent Tuesday running, shagging flies and lifting weights. "I kept myself in pretty good shape during the offseason. That's why I don't think it's going to be too long. But I also understand that when the Cleveland Indians do get me, I need to be in great shape and just be healthy and ready to go."

When he's brought up, Damon will likely take over in right field for Michael Bourn, a part-time player in the past who has been starting this season. Damon was needed in left field when the Indians had to implement an outfield shift, moving Michael Brantley over to center with Grady Sizemore on the disabled list following back surgery.

Damon has delivered. He led the Indians with .320 average during spring training — he's batting .322 through Tuesday's game in Seattle.

Once Sizemore returns, Antonetti said it's possible the Indians could carry five outfielders — Damon, Brantley, Damon, Sizemore and Shin-Soo Choo — the rest of this season.

Damon knows there are no guarantees he'll play every day. He understands the coming and going time and continue to produce to stay in the lineup.

"I understand the game and how guys can get hot and you can't take them out of the lineup," he said on a conference call. "I also understand that I can get hot and it can be tough to get me out of the lineup. I'm here for the team. It's not a story about me. It's a story about the Cleveland Indians adding another guy to the outfield."

"When you're tired, play a little first — I'm up for whatever."

A career .286 hitter, Damon also brings the Cleveland Indians leadership and play-off experience. As Antonetti said, Damon is "universally respected" and can serve as a mentor to some of Cleveland's younger players.

The biggest impact will be between the lines despite Damon being back in the lineup.

"We still think he has some quality baseball in him," Antonetti said.

Damon also could earn another $1.4 million in performance bonuses based on plate appearances, is excited about joining the Indians — shares with only Hank Aaron, Brooks Robinson and Pete Rose.

Damon has appeared in 59 postseason games for the Rays, Oakland Athletics, New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox.

The 3,000-hit milestone is right in front of him, but Damon said it was never a personal goal.

He'll retire one day, but he's not planning to stop any time soon.

"I'm playing to win," he said. "I'm playing for the Tribe fans. I'm playing for the Indians organization. I'm not really playing for myself. Obviously, I always want to go out there and play well and treat the game with respect, but there's a lot of fans out there that really wanted to see me keep pushing and keep fighting."

"I wasn't ready to pack it up. So 3,000 could be on the horizon, but if it comes or not, when I leave this game I want to make sure there's no regrets. As long as I keep doing the game I love and hopefully this is a successful year, I'm going to keep going."

Contributing Sports Reporter