4-25-2012

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Women’s studies class honors URI student at memorial poetry reading

BY NANCY LAVIN
News Editor

Friends, family, students and faculty remembered and celebrated the life of Erica Knowles in a poetry reading at the 193 Coffeehouse last night.

The reading was organized by a class in the women’s studies department entitled “Feminist Law into Action.” For this event, kind of embodies like everything we’ve been doing in the class: not just talking about feminist issues, but putting that into action,” said junior journalism major and class member Maggie MacDonald. “When this happened, we really steered the class in a new direction and focused on this and what we could do.”

In addition to organizing the event, the class raised money for a bench in Knowles’ memory on campus, as well as donating to Origami Poems Project, an off-campus poetry group that Erica participated in.

“We’re studying how to use resources and really make a movement out of something on our class and we figured there was no better way to honor her and to use our time in the class than to make an event that epitomized her and everything she enjoyed in life,” sophomore women’s studies major and class member Jessica Corrado said.

“I tried to do something new with the Jonnycake Center supported local families,” Corrado said. “The baby shower was a good idea because it is out of the box.”

Other students in the public relations program helped plan the event by collecting donations for a raffle from various businesses in the area. Gift certificates from Rhode Island Book Company, Caliente, Burger Shack and the South County Cinema were all donated to be raffled off during the event.

Susan Gustaitis, executive director of the Jonnycake Center, hopes this fundraiser could be an annual event.

“The public relations students wanted to do some-thing with the Jonnycake Center and I try to engage younger students with fun things to do,” Gustaitis said.

Gustaitis said doing something new with the Jonnycake Center would be beneficial during this special time with Mother’s Day around the corner. The students planned the event and promoted it through Facebook and the Jonnycake Center’s website.

Alongside public relations advisor Regina Bell, undergraduate students in the program are able to apply their newly acquired skills to a local cause. Now having planned an actual fundraising event, the experience gained throughout the baby shower will help students with their future careers.

“Doing this event was good practice for the future,” Corrado said. “Any remarkable opportunity that comes

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Public relations department hosts charity baby shower drive at Sigma Delta Tau house

BY ANITA E. BAFFONI
Contributing News Reporter

Decorations lined the walls in the Sigma Delta Tau sorority house on Monday for “A Baby Shower” that the students in the public relations program at the University of Rhode Island hosted.

Partnering with the Jonnycake Center allowed all donations, including baby clothes, blankets and toys, to help support local mothers in need.

The Jonnycake Center of Peace Dale is a nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive assistance to individuals and families in need for food, clothing and basic household items. The organization is donation-driven and all proceeds go directly to the less fortunate residents in southern Rhode Island.

Junior Jessica Corrado intended to create a fundraising event that steered away from traditional routes. While studying, public relations within the Harrington School of Communication and Media, launching a baby shower themed fundraiser seemed fitting with Mother’s Day quickly approaching.

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Local businesses withdraw from Ram Account service

BY ALEX KOWALSKI
Contributing News Reporter

Most services operating within the University of Rhode Island or its outer-lying areas accept the URI Ram Account, a student identification debit managed by URI Dining Services.

Two years ago, the department outsourced part of the operation to CBORD Group Inc., a programming company that designs and maintains catering systems and campus ID software for universities and colleges.

Many students aren’t aware of exactly how much URI keeps of their Ram Account dollars, how it is spent or what role CBORD plays in it. Some off-campus vendors have lambasted and even cut-off the Ram Account program, saying the Ram Account costs their businesses too much.

The only fees outlined with the Ram Account include a three dollar online credit transferal charge and $50 charge for cash withdrawals for graduates and students leaving URI. The URI ID cards themselves act as keys to student information. The front of the cards include the holder’s full name, photo, identification number and date of birth. According to estimates by URI Dining Services, approximately 6,835 ID holders carry at least one dollar of Ram Account money. A majority of the people who use Ram rely on it for a litany of conveniences including snacks and drinks from stores on and off campus and printing at the library.

In an email from Dining Services director Steve Melio, he wrote that on a “normal week,” “spring semester Ram Account transactions are about $6,000.00 per day. The current cumulative balance of those

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Rhody pic of the day

From sunshine to heavy rain and back again, one of the benefits of Rhode Island’s crazy weather is the blooming of flowers on campus, including this cherry tree outside of Green Hall.

Today’s forecast 59 °F

It’s gonna be a bright, sun-shiny day.

Nickel Brief:

Can’t make the baseball game today? Pick up tomorrow’s issue to find out how the team did against Hartford.

Want to know how Dayglow went?

See page 2.
ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Rocker Ted Nugent is scheduled for court hearing next week in Alaska on Tuesday, when he is expected to plead guilty to transporting a black bear he shot in southeast Alaska days after he wounded a bear in a bow hunt, which counted toward a state season limit of one bear at that location. The agreement said Nugent knowingly possessed and transported the bear without a hunting license in violation of the Lacey Act.

Nugent, famed for his 1977 hit "Cat Scratch Fever," drew the attention of the Secret Service last week after he rallied support for Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney and said of the Obama administration: "We need to go to Bata­
tiefeld and chop their heads off in November." His com­ments were made during a national Republican campaign meeting in St. Louis.

Nugent discussed the matter with two agents during Thursday, the singer said on his website. Nugent said he was just speaking figuratively and that he didn't threaten anyone's life or advocate vio­lence. A Secret Service spokesman has said the issue has been resolved.

In the latest case, accord­ing to the agreement, the six­
day hunt was filmed for Nugent's Outdoor Channel television show "Spirit of the Wild.

Nugent's Anchorage attorney, Wayne Anthony Ross, said Monday that his client didn't know he was breaking the law, which went into effect four or five years ago. Ross, an assistant hunt­
ing guide in Alaska, said he didn't know about the rule either.

Besides, the first bear left only traces of blood, as if it had just been scraped by the projecticle, according to Ross.

Nugent is going with a guilty plea, however, because he "knew the law is the law," Ross said.

"What are you going to do about it — a magician act?" he said. "The fact that we didn't know about it doesn't change it.

Broadcasting footage of the hunt on his TV show also shows Nugent didn't know he was in the wrong, said Ross, who sits with Nugent on the National Rifle Association's board of directors.

"It's kind of embarrasing for him because he practices ethical hunting and advocat­ed ethical hunting and gets caught up in a crazy law that none of us have heard about," Ross said.

A call seeking comment from assistant U.S. Attorney Jack Schmidt was not imme­diately returned Monday.

Nugent, who signed the document April 14, agreed to pay a $10,000 fine, according to the document, which says he also agreed to a two-year probation, including a special condition that he not hunt or fish in Alaska or Forest Service properties for one year. He also agreed to create a public service announce­ment that would be broadcast on his show every second week for one year, the docu­ment states.

Nugent also agreed to pay the state $600 for the bear that was taken illegally, according to the document.

A plea agreement would have to be approved by a judge.

With hunting, Nugent has run afoul of the law before.

In August 2010, California revoked Nugent's deer hunt­
ing license after he pleaded no contest to misdemeanor charges of deer-baiting and not having a properly signed tag.

Nugent's loss of that deer hunting license through June 2012 allows 34 other states to revoke the same privilege.

Summer movies are on the horizon

BY CONOR SIMAO
Entertainment Writer

With the semester finally winding down, summer is offi­cially on the horizon. As always, it will deliver to casual and devoted moviegoers alike a full plate of summer block­busters—those high budget and flashy films that emphasize fun and hit the spot like an occasional, unapologetic blast­

of radio pop music. And with free time abound in these coming months, there's sure to be time aplenty for all of us to check out these massive hits. So below is listed the Cigar's "Summer Movie Guide," to help you map the way from here.

"The Dictator" — Sacha Baron Cohen may have peaked in Hollywood with his 2006 hit "Borat," but what better time than summer to emulate its glory with another unapologetic comedy? This year, Cohen's "The Dictator" will be released as a departure from his faux­documentary stylistic persu­asion. If you need a few post­
final examination giggles, check this one out starting May 16.

"Men In Black III" — Following on the heels of its famous two predecessors, this film is sure to attract loyal fans of the series it's extending. Employing Will Smith, Josh Brolin, and Emma Thompson, this flick may be dependable, but only semi-promising. It opens next month on May 25.

"The Amazing Spider-Man" — It's like the other Spider-Man movies...sans Tobey Maguire. This reboot may be attempting to ride the wave of superhero mania ubiqui­tous this summer, but I get the feeling that better options are clearly available. See for yourself when the movie comes out this July 3.

"The Dark Knight Rises" — Speaking of better options, Christopher Nolan's adored Batman trilogy strikes again this July, prompting the ques­tion: "has it really been four years?" Yes it has, so get excit­ed. Rising above the bar left by Heath Ledger's Joker rendition and the entire "Dark Night" film will be difficult, but filling the seats for this eagerly await­ed conclusion will certainly not be. Fill one yourself this July 20, when the movie officially hits theaters.

"G.I. Joe: Retaliation" — Remember "G.I Joe: Rise of the Cobra"? If so, I apologize. The attempted franchise kickoff inspired more than a few nasty reviews and nearly typecast Channing Tatum as "that guy who was terrible in G.I. Joe." But it's fair to assume the nega­tive backlash has energized the Paramount team to demon­strate its merits with its not exactly demanded sequel, which hits the box office June 29.

"The Expendables 2" — The summer blockbuster formula is alive and well in this testosterone heavy action flick. Big stars, inflated muscles (maybe eggs,) and lots of good cinemat­ic violence will be fueling Stallone's latest film to big screens this Aug. 17.

"Rock of Ages" — Another stellar cast will be join­ing hands this summer, but its movie will differ significantly from the one mentioned above. "Rock of Ages" is an a adapta­tion of a musical of the same name starring the likes of Alec Baldwin, Tom Cruise, Russell Brand and Catherine Zeta­Jones. While quasi-egy in its rock-n-roll spirit, singing and dancing will certainly consume this film to great extent. I get the feeling its acting stripes will land it commercial and critical acclaim, but we'll all have to wait until its release on June 15 to know for sure.

Ultimately, this summer's blockbuster season is just that: a summer blockbuster season. That's not to say highlights are not evident. "The Avengers" and "Dark Knight Rises" are sure to rally the troops and replace last year's "Harry Potter" obsession. However, if you don't really enjoy dressing up as the Joker, Batman or Incredible Hulk, here's to hop­ing the rest of these movies hit the right notes.
Poetry

From page 1

studies major Victoria Lombardi said.

The class also created three pieces of artwork, one being Erica's poems and pictures into a memorial collage. One will be given to her family, one to her stepmom, and the third will be hung in Roosevelt Hall.

"I'd like to take off my official hat and put on my Erica Knowles hat," director of the women's studies program in Lieberman.

"One of the reasons I adored Erica is because she was a great troublemaker. I'm a troublemaker too. And she and I sensed that in each other very easily, which is probably why we knew each other really well.

Lieberman, who knew Knowles for three years, recalled her feminist theory class in reflection of a take-home final exam, Knowles was the one student who chose to take the exam in the three-hour allotted time with Lieberman.

Lieberman also shared something that Knowles wrote in her rejection of a class, which most students in the department find to be extremely difficult according to Lieberman.

"Becoming a women's studies major has made me a better person on so many levels, and I truly mean that by statement," Knowles wrote.

"At a time when my self-worth was a face on a milk carton and fear and anxiety were my daily medications, WMS 315 saved my life. It gave me back my fight.

Carla Knowles, Erica's stepmom, as well her aunt and other classmates shared poems that she had written, or other experiences they remembered sharing with her.

"She is big shoes to fill," Carla Knowles said.
Police probing Saints alleged wiretapping

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A joint Louisiana state police and FBI task force is investigating allegations that the New Orleans Saints set up general manager Mickey Loomis’ booth in the Superdome so he could listen in on opposing coaches.

State police Col. Mike Edmonson confirmed the joint effort Tuesday after discussing the matter with Dave Welker, special agent in charge at the FBI’s New Orleans field office.

“I thought that was an excellent opportunity to share resources of both federal and state wiretapping laws were in fact broken,” Edmonson said by phone from Baton Rouge. “It’s important for the public to know these are allegations at this point. We will thoroughly, expeditiously, but fairly look into whether any laws have been broken. If they have, we’ll sit down with the district attorney in that area to determine how to proceed.”

Loomis and the Saints have called the allegations “100 percent false,” and have said they are reviewing legal recourse following an ESPN report Monday in which anonymous sources described a setup that would have allowed the general manager to eavesdrop on opponents from 2002 to 2004.

ESPN could not verify the system was used.

Loomis said the alleged actions would violate NFL rules, if not state and federal laws.

Edmonson said he is aware that statutes of limitations — six years under state wiretapping laws — may hinder prosecution but added, "Let’s find out if any laws have been broken first, and that’s what we’re doing right now. It’s up to us to find out facts and get with the district attorney, who will then decide if it’s appropriate to prosecute has passed.

The statute of limitations for federal wiretapping crimes is generally five years. "Where these allegations take us, we’ll certainly go there," Edmonson said. "Out of fairness to the involved, let’s find out if any of these allegations are factual.”

Under state law, the only law enforcement agency in Louisiana that can investigate wiretapping violations is the state police.

U.S. Attorney Jim Letten in New Orleans also said his office had been told about "general allegations" involving the Saints and possible wiretapping, but he did not elaborate. Letten declined to discuss who made the allegations, and whether they involved Loomis or any other Saints officials.

Loomis explained his use of an earpiece and described his game-day setup in the Superdome booth in an emailed statement on Monday afternoon.

He said he has a monitor in his booth that provides league-issued stats, a small TV with the network broadcast and an earpiece to listen to the local radio broadcast.

"To think I am sitting in there listening and actually ... doing something with the offensive and defensive play calls of the opposing teams makes this story and the unnamed sources that provided the false information that much more less credible," Loomis’ statement said. "It just didn’t happen.”

Washington Redskins defensive coordinator Jim Haslett was the Saints’ head coach from 2000 through 2005. In a comment the Saints forwarded to the AP by email, Haslett denied knowledge of any system that would have allowed for eavesdropping on opponents.

The Saints have been in trouble since early March, when the NFL released a report describing a crunch-o'clock bounty system that provided improper cash bonuses to defensive players who delivered hits that hobbled targeted opponents.

Commissioner Roger Goodell has suspended head coach Sean Payton for the entire 2012 season in connection with the bounty probe. Loomis was suspended for the first half of the regular season and assistant head coach Joe Vitt was suspended six games.

The team also lost its second-round pick in this week’s NFL draft and was fined $500,000. Goodell took away the Saints’ second-round pick in 2013 as well, but has said he may lessen that punishment if he is satisfied with the club’s cooperation in the ongoing investigation.

The NFL still has yet to hand down punishment to between 22 and 27 current and former Saints defensive players whom the league has said participated in the bounty program.

The Cigar is hiring!

Now accepting applications for the following positions:

If you can't play, write for Sports!

rhodysports@gmail.com

Baseball team downs Brown University 13-4 at home

BY JONATHAN SHIPEL

Baseball Sports Staff Reporter

Yesterday afternoon the University of Rhode Island baseball team picked up win number 25 of the season against Brown University behind great hitting and solid pitching.

"It’s good when the team has days like this," head coach Jim Foster said. "We needed to continue to pitch well, hit well, and play good defense.”

The Rams were held scoreless in the first inning but scored every other inning besides that. The Rhody offense started with three runs in the bottom of the second. Afterwards they scored one in the third, two in the fourth, fifth and sixth and one more in the seventh, before they wrapped up the day up with two more in their final at bat.

Three different players had multi-RBI games for the Rams. Senior Jeff Cammans went three for five with a total of three RBIs and five stolen bases. Senior Dan Haverstick and Ty Muller supplied more offense from the middle of the order. "Sticks and Muller both went two for four and drove in two runs.

At the top of the order it was junior Chris Famiglietti and sophomore Jeff Roy setting the tempo. The two outfielders went a combined three for six with five walks on their way to scoring four runs. The duo also had three stolen bases, Famiglietti had one while Roy had the other two.

Making sure things start off right at the top of the order is something that makes the game easier for the rest of the team. "When those two are clicking it makes it a lot better for our ball club," Foster said. "They get on base, cause a lot of havoc, and get in scoring position which is key to winning games.”

Sophomore Liam O’Sullivan got his fifth consecutive victory of the season. In games that O’Sullivan starts, the Rams average 10.8 runs and yesterday was no different as they scored 13.

O’Sullivan threw a total of seven innings; the Bears offense could only manage five hits and two runs off the right. O’Sullivan’s first six shutout innings were nearly perfect as he only allowed two hits. In the top of the seventh, O’Sullivan gave up a lead off single that was followed by a home run. After that, O’Sullivan settled down to finish the inning.

"I’m really proud of what [O’Sullivan has] done this year,” Foster said. “He’s matured throughout the year and gets better each start. He throws strikes and gets guys out which is great.”

After O’Sullivan departed it was freshman Cole Warren, and Jay Ferri who closed the door. The two finished with a combined two innings pitched, four hits, and two runs to put the final score at 13-4.

Before the Rams travel to the No. 2 ranked team in the country this weekend. Florida State University, they play a day game today at home versus the University of Hartford. First pitch is at 3:30 p.m.