URI students advocate voter registration, absentee ballots for out-of-state residents

BY CONOR SIMAO
News Reporter

With Election Day 2012 quickly approaching on Nov. 6, college campuses are abounding with young voters ready to participate in the democratic process, many of them through their first experience at the polls. But while voting is an American right often held to be fundamental and sacred, students pursing college degrees outside of their electoral district are often faced with one persistent challenge: finding a way to make their opinion count at the ballot box despite their geographic circumstances.

Certainly, University of Rhode Island students far from home can make long and cumbersome commutes every November just to cast their vote, but several alternatives provide such students a gateway to voting without leaving the locality.

Alex Kowalski, president of the ‘URI College Democrats’, assures students who are registered to vote that maintaining their franchise is comfortably within reach. In fact, there are two possible routes for many registered voters living outside of their district. “Students who are registered to vote in another state and who are unable to make it back to their district on Nov. 6, the day of the general election, can apply for an absentee ballot by filling out an absentee voter application form that’s available through their state’s board of elections,” Kowalski said.

A “mock zombie outbreak” was ideal for this course. It’s communicable, scary and there’s generally no cure.”

As a consultant for the Rhode Island Department of Health, Bratberg used his past experiences in this field to help evaluate and provide feedback on his students’ work. According to Bratberg, his role as a consultant is particularly helpful to this course, since his knowledge in this field has given him the prior knowledge needed to know what to do during an outbreak.

While the course always focuses on public health, last semester was the first time zombies were a central theme for the class. Bratberg has been teaching this elective course for eight years, but has changed the theme of the class each time it’s been taught. In one of this course’s variations, Bratberg’s students collaborated in groups with film/media majors to design documentaries that would educate the public about an outbreak. No matter what the theme of the course is, however, Bratberg highlighted the importance of having his students work together in their projects.

When students work in a team, I’ve found that the final product is stronger if they were to work individually,” Bratberg said. “Plus, everything is done in teams in the real world. You can’t always work with friends or family to get things done.”

Bratberg said he will be “taking a break” from teaching the course this year, but has been thinking about moving it to the fall. If the course were taught in fall instead of spring, Bratberg said, he could have his students work with the university’s annual immunization clinic to help administer flu vaccines.

This year, Bratberg helped coordinate the Health Politics-Honors Colloquium this fall, and is also teaching an honors course based on the lecture series. In the course, students split up into four groups to compete with each other on different areas of physical wellness.

The groups monitor how many hours they’ve slept, how many fruits and vegetables they’ve consumed, how many steps they’ve walked and how many minutes they exercise, with the aim to tally the results to see which group is the healthiest. Students will also meet with the public speakers of the colloquium in order to brainstorm ideas on how to promote public health.

“With the end of the course, the students will put together a public health proposal,” Bratberg said. “A big part of the course is getting the students [to] collaborate and put together options to solve real world problems.”

According to Bratberg, who has been teaching the URI for 10 years, being able to teach these innovative courses is something he fully enjoys.
Voter

From page 1

canvassers website, which must be mailed to their town or county clerk," said Kowalski.

The Rhode Island Secretary of State’s office also informs voters that they may temporarily change their residency to Rhode Island to vote in-person, but that this change may impact the financial tuition assistance they receive. For this reason, the College Democrats recommend that voters opt for the absentee ballot instead.

As for out-of-state students that are not currently registered, the process is similarly streamlined. Kowalski explained that such students “can usually register to vote in tandem to the absentee application, a simple process for most states. Some states require notarizing and/or a copy of a valid identification card along with the absentee application. Most students who are out-of-state and can’t get home to vote are eligible for absentee balloting, because being away for college is often a more-than-valid excuse for many states. When it’s accepted, their municipality will send them a mail-in ballot, which must be filled out and returned to their town before a set deadline.”

Both the College Democrats and College Republicans, two major political student groups across the nation and at the URI, have been doing their part to help register students through frequent registration drives and informational events.

Both organizations will be present on the URI quadrangle tomorrow, as part of the school’s “Student Involvement Fair,” where more information about registration drives and important political events will be accessible.

Zombie

From page 1

The flexibility, Bratberg said, as well as the excitement of seeing his students succeed is the most rewarding part of his job as an educator.

"One of the biggest joys to me is when a student gets it," Bratberg said. "I'm just a guide to their education, so watching students retain information and use that to solve problems is always great for me to see.”

Recycle

From page 1

cardboard helps the environment by reducing tonnage entering a landfill, but also helps the university’s finances. URI receives a credit for its solid waste bill for the sale of cardboard.

"It means that each month we are charged by [Waste Management,] ... to pick up and transport trash and recyclables to the landfill or recycling facility. When they sell the cardboard to a recycling company, we get a percentage of what they sell the cardboard for taken off our regular monthly bill," Brennan said.

Feedback from parents and students during move-in weekend about the program was positive, according to Brennan. “During move-in parents commented on how happy they were to see that we were recycling the cardboard,” Brennan recalled. “One father said that he worked at Brown University and that they did not recycle cardboard during move-in.”

Contact the Cigar

Editor-In-Chief
Hensley Carrasco
uricigar@gmail.com

Sports Editor
Mike Abelson
rhodysports@gmail.com

Entertainment Editor
Augie King
cigarentertainment@gmail.com

The Good Five Cent Cigar
tables website, which must be mailed to their town or county clerk," said Kowalski.

The flexibility, Bratberg said, as well as the excitement of seeing his students succeed is the most rewarding part of his job as an educator.

"One of the biggest joys to me is when a student gets it," Bratberg said. "I'm just a guide to their education, so watching students retain information and use that to solve problems is always great for me to see.”

Recycle

From page 1

cardboard helps the environment by reducing tonnage entering a landfill, but also helps the university’s finances. URI receives a credit for its solid waste bill for the sale of cardboard.

"It means that each month we are charged by [Waste Management,] ... to pick up and transport trash and recyclables to the landfill or recycling facility. When they sell the cardboard to a recycling company, we get a percentage of what they sell the cardboard for taken off our regular monthly bill," Brennan said.

Feedback from parents and students during move-in weekend about the program was positive, according to Brennan. “During move-in parents commented on how happy they were to see that we were recycling the cardboard,” Brennan recalled. “One father said that he worked at Brown University and that they did not recycle cardboard during move-in.”

Find us FREE in the iTunes store!

Alumni Center
Ballentine Hall
Barlow Hall
Brownning Hall
Buckfield Hall
Carlotti Hall
CHS
Chafee
Fine Arts Center
Fogarty Hall
Green Hall
Hopkins Hall
Hope Commons
Heathman Hall
IEP House
Kirk Engineering Lab
Memorial Union
Multicultural Center
Newman Hall
Potter Building
Quinn Hall
Robert L. Carothers Library
Roosevelt Hall
Swan Hall
Taft Hall
Visitors Center
Washburn Hall
White Hall

Run For Student-Senate!

Get involved! Make a difference at URI!
1. Declaration open on September 15th and will remain open until September 21st.
2. Elections will take place September 26th and September 27th.

Visit us at student senate.org or drop by room 301 in the Union for more information.

South County Art Supply

student discount 10%

plus $5.00 off purchases of $25 and up with coupon

THE ONLY THING MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN OUR STATS ARE OUR GRADUATES.

At Quinnipiac University, our students are our main focus. It's why we offer 23 graduate degrees in Field ranging from business to health sciences. It's also why Quinnipiac was ranked a top 10 national regional university offering a full range of masters-level programs by U.S. News & World Report and second in the northern region in U.S. News’ High-Combing Schools category.

To find out how Quinnipiac can help you succeed in your career, call 1-800-462-1944, e-mail graduate@quinnipiac.edu or visit our website at quinnipiac.edu/gradustudies.

Quinnipiac University
1-800-462-1944 | Hamden & North Haven, Connecticut
Anti-Muslim film ignites controversy

BY MELISSA LICHTMAN
Contributing Entertainment Writer

Violent riots continue to break out across the Middle East in response to the small, low-budget, American film released over YouTube. This film, “Innocence of Muslims,” whose creator had been operating under a false identity, has outraged the Islamic community due to its negative portrayal of the Islamic prophet Muhammad. Since the release of this film, the Middle East has broken out into a series of violent riots. The Islamic community is directing its anger and rage towards the United States regarding the creation of this privately-made, anti-Islam film.

Riots over the film began at the United States embassy in Benghazi, Libya, which resulted in the death of four United States citizens, including the embassy’s ambassador. The protesting throughout the Middle East region is continuing with equal brutality as fires and violence break out through the streets, resulting in more deaths and injuries. Outraged Middle Eastern countries believe that the views expressed in the film are cumulatively representing the views of the entire United States. The search is ongoing for the man who created this suspicious and privately produced film as the Middle Eastern violence and hatred towards the United States continues.

The mystery grows about who this anti-Islamic film creator is after his believed identity turned out to be a fraud, and his current location is unknown. Those who participated in the creation of this film, such as the actors and actresses, became suspicious after the script was drastically changed from the film that they believed they had been cast for. These featured actors and actresses, as well as most of the film’s crew, were under the impression that they were working to create an action and adventure film that would be called “Desert Warrior.” The sudden script changes blindsided the cast as the film transformed from an action movie to an expression of hate and negativity. The new script, and the final film, portraying the Muslim community and its beliefs in a negative way, became a reflection of the derogatory and hateful views of the film’s creator.

With the release of this film, the idea of expressionism through moving pictures has been turned from an art form into a way to spread negative and hateful messages. This poor quality and derogatory film expresses its creator’s personal views; these views are now being inaccurately attributed to belonging to the United States as an entire country. The targeted Muslim population fought against the anti-Islamic messages in this film with expressions of its own. These expressions have been violent, including burning the American flag, as well as many riots that have escalated to killings and injuries.

The views shared through this film have led to a world-wide outbreak of controversy and violence and have endangered the lives of many.

The violence caused by the freedom of speech and expression that this filmmaker used in order to publish his unpopular views has transformed the idea of how far the effects of expressionism can go. The growing danger due to the daily violence that continues with equal volatility worldwide influence. In the past, expressionism through art forms had been known as a positive way to channel emotions, or entertain a crowd; it is now becoming known as a potential for initiating violence.

This new film differs from controversial films in the past due to the extent to which the views are shown, as well as the hateful nature in which they are expressed. The historically controversial film, “The Last Temptation of Christ,” directed by Martin Scorsese and released in 1988, was a film that raised questions and was even banned in some countries. Although this classic film pushed boundaries, it was not a film that degraded an entire culture and religious group.

Audiences who viewed “The Last Temptation of Christ” saw a well-directed movie that provoked thought; the artistic work in Scorsese’s film emphasized its true dedication to pursuing its art.

Contrastingly, in the violence-provoking, anti-Islam film, it is clear that the purpose was not to create a well-directed artistic film or to provoke thought in audiences. This film’s low quality, shaky storylines and designed sets are indicative of the creator’s true intentions. His goal was to communicate negative and inappropriate views of the Muslim culture, views that would insult an entire religious culture. When expression crosses boundaries, as this film has done, the idea of what a film is quickly changes; it goes from being a positive artistic expression that can inspire viewers to a negative expression of hate that can lead to the loss of lives. The persisting Middle Eastern violence resulting from the messages in this film has caused chaos around the world. The violence continues along with the question of how great an effect expressionism can have on a global scale.
Men's soccer wins first game against UNH

BY CONNOR MCCOLLUM Contributing Sports Reporter

It took extra time but the men's soccer team won its first game of the season by defeating University of New Hampshire 3-2 in sudden death overtime last night at the URI Soccer Complex. The Rams suffered a very tough 2-1 loss on the road at the College of the Holy Cross this past weekend, but the Rams firing early on a windy Tuesday night.

The Rams came out of the gates pushing forward and getting balls into the box. A low cross from the left hand side was driven low across the box for graduate student Brett Uitley to break the deadlock just 10 minutes in.

The Rams continued to press forward and just five minutes later, the Rams doubled their tally after a brilliant half volley by sophomore Mike Casey found the back of the net.

Throughout the remainder of the first half the Rams possessed the ball and continued to create chances with nice link up play and long balls over the top.

New Hampshire turned up its play in the second half. The Wildcats began to push forward and in the 55th minute, they were rewarded. Senior Charlie Roche was left unmarked in the box for the simplest of tap-ins to halve the deficit. New Hampshire tied the game with an equalizer in the 74th minute when freshman Angel Maldonado capitalized on a rebound after Rams goalkeeper, redshirt freshman Thomas Spenser, made a save but failed to control the rebound. A rushing Maldonado put his foot through the bouncing ball and fired home the equalizer.

The Rams were rattled after a Wildcat attack 10 minutes after Maldonado equalized. UNH took the lead 3-2 when 6'4" striker David Schattler came off the bench to put UNH ahead.

With 10 minutes to play, the Rams had to push forward for an equalizer. Substitute goalkeeper, redshirt junior Adam Blanchard, essentially acting as a sweeper, began to lump the ball forward. The Rams began to push every forward and with only six seconds remaining on the clock sophomore Mike Casey tallied his second goal as the ball was knocked down from a header to his foot where he casually hammered it into the back of the net to send the game into extra time.

As extra time began, both sides started off fairly conservatively. The teams created few chances, but it was not until the eighth minute of extra time that the Rams broke through. A nice bit of play released senior Matt Ribbens behind the defense. His first shot was saved but the rebound fell right back to him for an easy tap-in goal that gave the Rams the much-needed victory.

After the game, several UNH players were handed a yellow card for excessive complaining to the referee and Ribbens was shown his second yellow and ejected retroactively for removing his jersey. The win was Rhode Island's first of the season and improves the Rams' record to 1-3-1. Up next for the Rams is a road date next Tuesday against regional power Boston College.

Women's tennis performs poorly in road tournament

BY TIM LIMA Staff Sports Reporter

The University of Rhode Island women's tennis team competed this past weekend at the Stony Brook Classic on Long Island, N.Y. and had a dismal showing, finishing without a victory.

Ten teams were invited to compete at the event, including the very young and inexperienced Rams. The oldest members of the team have just one year under their belt, making for a learning-as-you-go season. Though Rhode Island did not record a victory in any singles or doubles match, the Rams did not go down easily.

Newcomer Freshman Galina Chernykh from Russia fell to her opponent, Stony Brook's Nini Lapylava, but managed to make it interesting before falling 8-4. Freshman Elizaveta Sadorokina, also from Russia, lost in her match to Army's Eva Sung 8-1.

Sophomore Nithila Asokaraj fell 8-2 to Ambacht College's Carolina Richman. The closest match of the day, though, involved sophomore Karolina Wozjak, who fell 8-4 to Bryant University's Stephanie Smysler. If this loss was any predictor as to how this season will go, the Rams may be in trouble. Last year, the Rams competed at this same tournament and performed much better. Rhode Island managed a combined 5-3 record from the then-senior duo of Kristina Tinck; Kirsten Leikem, with then-freshman Kathleen Uy winning all of her matches, finishing 4-0. Wozjak managed a 3-1 record to add to the team's success, and they left Stony Brook with optimism.

Things have changed, though. The senior leadership provided by the Leikem sisters is no more. A young team starving for experience has found no relief, at least not yet. It is clear that this team is in the midst of a rebuilding season and is aiming to improve week-to-week while laying down the foundation for the future.

Prior to their first match of the season, Asokaraj explained the importance of togetherness for this year's team. For the rest of the season, unity and optimism should remain the main focus.

Today, the Rams will play host to Central Connecticut State University at 3 p.m. They will then quickly pack and head to Philadelphia, where they will attend their second tournament, the Cisilari Invitational, over the weekend at the University of Pennsylvania.

Women's basketball team hires new director of player development

BY COLIN HOWARTH Contributing Sports Reporter

The University of Rhode Island women's basketball team took a step in the right direction by hiring the winningest coach in the history of Siena College, Gina Castelli. Castelli was hired as the director of player development.

"Her personality and demeanor fits in well with the staff," head coach Cathy Inglese said. "She's very upbeat and just a great person. It's a very good fit."

During Castelli's tenure at Siena, she posted a 337-297 record and was named the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Coach of the Year on five different occasions. She led the Saints to seven MAAC regular season titles and one MAAC Tournament title. Castelli is third all-time in MAAC women's basketball history in both wins and games coached.

She guided her team to the NCAA Tournament in 2001, 2004 and 2006, posting a combined 35-11 record and went on to win the WNIT three different times. She has coached seven MAAC Player of the Year award winners and 20 of her former players have gone on to play professionally.

"She has a lot of experience and sees the whole picture," Inglese said. "[Castelli] brings a program together." It's been eight years, though, since Castelli has posted a winning record. Last year, she steered her team to a 10-17 record and after the season, Castelli decided to move in another direction.

According to Inglese, Castelli's job as director of player development will consist of doing a great deal with leadership and team activities. One of her main goals is dealing with community support. Also, she will be taking notes at practice and pointing out different flaws she sees that the team might have.

She will also be focusing on how the team is doing academically. Castelli's teams have always had a great amount of success academically. In the 2009 NCAA Division I Graduation Success Rates and NCAA Graduation Success Rates Report, the Siena women's basketball team displayed a 93 percent Graduation Success Rate.

The Good 5¢ Cigar

"It's YOUR paper URI, Come write for us!

ramcigar.com