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Student advocacy organization looks to protect student rights

BY CONOR SIMAO
News Reporter

Among the new student groups hitting the University of Rhode Island this autumn, the Student Advocacy Organization has proven to be a real fan favorite, already turning heads and eliciting curiosity on campus. Appropriately titled, the group pledges to "inform students of their rights while on campus and establish an advocacy group to support and encourage student empowerment."

Absent from this year's First Night, the organization first presented itself to the student body at last Thursday's Student Organization Fair. Favorable members showcased their mission statement for the first time. Like most new groups, its officers are still finding their footing and aspiring towards a greater cohesion, but they are hoping for eventual success. They were able to collect a large number of names and email addresses at Thursday's event, always a crucial first step, in building support. Additionally, and perhaps more relevantly, this is not Rhode Island's first Student Advocacy Organization of this kind.

Its presence at URI was inspired by a group of the same name established at Providence College, where, as of June, it has assisted 256 students with over 350 different charges.

Start-up member Sam McCaughery explained, "Our goals are to promote student rights on campus and encourage student empowerment while serving as council for students up against the school conduct board. Specifically, we will advise students on how the judicial process works and help prepare them for hearings."

One of its principal concerns, helping to defend students being dealt a seemingly unjust hand by the university administration, is not the only stated objective. The SAO also pledged to serve a more instructive purpose as well, not just in regards to disciplinary policies, but academic ones too.

"We will advise students' academic rights, as many students don't know they have any."

A quick look at the webpage for the PC SAO demonstrates quite well the educational potential for groups like this one. Pages include "What to do if written up" and a directory of public defenders in the area.

Regarding the group's role as a critical student resource, McCaughery added, "Basically, we can offer expertise in areas that may be unfamiliar and intimidating for most students and will make dealings with the law smooth and easy. We want to be an organization students can turn to when they are in trouble of any kind and need assistance with something."

Student organization promotes charity, gives back to orphanage

BY AUDREY O’NEILL
News Reporter

Students within the University of Rhode Island community are coming together to support the orphans of San Mauricio in Bogota, Colombia.

Make It Bright is a student-driven organization that works in tandem with the Share the Light project to support the orphans of San Mauricio in Bogota, Colombia.

Make It Bright is a student-driven organization that works in tandem with the Share the Light project to support the orphans of San Mauricio in Bogota, Colombia.

"We are working to provide the orphans of San Mauricio in Bogota, Colombia with shoes, clothing, and a better future," said member Alyssa Neill.

The group is currently raising money for the organization through various events and activities on campus. According to Neill, some students may meet the children they're working so hard for. The children love meeting the students, and it is a learning opportunity for both the students and children.

The Make It Bright Organization is also focusing on raising money for the children to have sports and play equipment. The group will have the next meeting Wednesday, Oct. 3, at 6:30 PM.
**Freshman Representative**

**KARLY TURGEON**

Hello, I’m Karly Turgeon and I’m running as a freshman representative for the Class of 2016. Using my academic and life experiences, I’m confident I can apply my leadership and interpersonal skills to the URI community. I’d like to help decide what events and policy take place. I respect my peers and professors. I approach everything with the highest degree of integrity and honor. I’d be grateful if you selected me as your representative.

**RAQUEL MENDEZ**

Hi, I’m Raquel and I’m a Freshmen Representative candidate for this position and I am currently running to consider myself to be a valid source for support in making college less frustrating. I approach everything with the highest degree of integrity and honor. I’d be grateful if you selected me as your representative.

**JENNA SOLOMON**

Hi, my name is Jenna Solomon and I am running for student senate. Since the seventh grade, I have been actively involved with the student council and held the positions of Representative and Treasurer. Now as a Junior in the pharmacy program, I am looking forward to being a part of the student senate and making a difference in our school’s community.

**On-Campus Representative**

**REBECCA TENAGLIA**

I’m a freshman Pharmacy student with an interest in Leadership Studies, from Bethlehem Pennsylvania. At URI, I’ve attended the Leadership Institute, work in the athletic business office and aquatics center, and plan on joining Lambda Kappa Sigma. I absolutely love URI and would be honored to have your support. It would be my goal to make continuous improvements that make living on campus a better experience for everyone.

**Off-Campus Representative**

**ANTHONY DAVIDSON**

My Name is Anthony Davidson I’m a political science major here at URI. I am interested in assisting URI students as your off-campus housing representative. I am currently stretching my outreach and involvement in the community and being a commuter resident of Bonnet for two years is a strength that I bring to the campaign. I believe I will be a positive, charismatic, and interesting addition to the student council. I am looking forward to having the opportunity of representing the off-campus students. Let’s Go Rhody!!!!!!!!!!! We are all inventors, each sailing out on a voyage of discovery, guided each by a private chart, of which there is no duplicate. The world is all gates, all opportunities.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

**At-Large Representative**

**ARISTIDES KAPPTAOS**

My name is Aristides Kappatos. I am running for at large representative for URI’s Student Senate. My goal is to be involved in making helpful decisions that benefit the students as well as the university as a whole. I want to represent the students and ensure our voices are heard throughout the URI community. I hope to serve you, the students, as a future URI senator. Feel free to contact me at akappatos@my.uri.edu.

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From page 1

p.m., at the Memorial Union. "We hope to spread our duties beyond fundraising to organizing clothing, shoe, and toy drives at local elementary schools and other locations in the community."

Moffit said. "Our true hope is to spread the message of service throughout the community, it doesn't matter how one gives back, just that we are participating in global action."

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These are all decidedly mature audiences who crave hard-edged material. While there were many comic book movies this year, "Dredd" brings comic book fans good fun.

BY AUGIE KING Entertainment Editor

When one thinks of comic book movies, the first images are probably of Spider-Man swinging across New York City, Iron Man flying around blowing up other robots, or the X-Men using their special powers together. These are all decidedly PG-13 affairs, and despite the movies having gotten the stigma of being labeled child's play in some circles, the recent gritty Batman movies notwithstanding.

But, there are many comic properties out there for more mature audiences who crave hard-edged material. While there haven't been many good movie versions of those out there, "Dredd" is here to turn the tides for comic fans that want to see the hard-hitting violence of its source transcribed onscreen.

After some background exposition establishing that most of the United States has become consumed by radiation and one gigantic city was built along the entire East Coast, we learn that crime had become so rampant that the police force was transformed into the "judges." The judges are basically cops with the ability to determine crime sentences on the spot and dispense justice as they see fit. Judge Dredd is one of the more under-giving men on the force, and on a routine murder investigation with his new rookie partner, Anderson, the two are trapped in a block (essentially a whole neighborhood in one skyscraper.) The block's crime lord, Ma-Ma, doesn't want the judges to find out about her new drug line, and orders them dead.

Background information aside, the actual plot setup is as simple an action movie premise as you can get, and has been used in others such as "Die Hard" and the recent "The Raid." What sets "Dredd" apart from those two previously established endeavors is its sense of style and the world that has been established. It's a science fiction world for sure, and yet, the sets and costumes are so well-designed in ways that feel both futuristic and grittily believable at the same time. It's an unfeigned environment, a place where the likes of Dredd are perhaps necessary to apply this brand of first-hand justice.

In those cases, the movie is violent and fun in the same way that old-school action movies were, when killing nameless henchmen in the way where the bloody ways was the name of the game. "Dredd" is like those shoot-em-ups, but with a distinct modern twist. Ever since "The Matrix," slow motion is a tool that has been oversurpassed to the point of parody. "Dredd," however, uses it in a way that feels fresh and organic, as the drug that Ma-Ma is pushing slows the brain down to one percent its normal speed. At times, the bad guys will take a hit of the stuff, only to unexpectedly have Dredd and Anderson's bullets ripple through them and spell copious amounts of blood everywhere in gloriously-styled fashion. It's a neat twist on an otherwise formulaic trope, showing that, despite the numerous action sequences, the movie has a semblance of a brain behind it.

Writer Alex Garland stylishly plays the audience's sympathies with Anderson rather than the titular character, allowing us to see through the minds of both the drug lord and Anderson's conscience. Because Anderson grows up near the eradiated zone, his mind has developed psychic abilities, making her a very useful asset for the judge force, allowing forms of interrogation and battle tactics not possible before. Through her, we see what this clearly facetious system looks like to an outsider, adding subtle moments in between the bloodletting where the movie develops a sense of self-awareness to its ridiculous excesses.

The character of Judge Dredd does not have the same level of public awareness in the US as he does in the UK, where he is a major pop culture icon, and judging (no pun intended, I swear) by the low box-office returns, he won't have it any time soon. This film, however, as "Dredd" is an action movie that has been getting many unexpectedly positive reviews, and I will gladly join that battle cry. It's very well recommended for comic and action fans and if you end up liking it too spread the word around.
Women’s volleyball team opens Atlantic-10 Conference play, splits weekend games

**BY JONATHAN SHIDELER**
Sports Staff Reporter

The University of Rhode Island’s women volleyball team opened up Atlantic-10 Conference play this past weekend and split its two matches.

“It’s big to get our first A-10 victory of the season,” head coach Bob Schneck said. “It would have been great winning both games, but winning the second gives us the confidence we need.”

On Friday, the Rams opened up the A-10 play as they traveled to Temple University. Temple defeated Rhode 3-0. All three sets were close and hard fought on both sides. Temple took the first 25-23, the second 25-21 and the third 25-15.

Junior Britta Baestar finished the match for Rhode with a team-high 17 kills; she also pitched in with seven digs. Sophomore Catie Steffen led the team with 12 digs and notched seven kills.

Schneck said the team was let down and a bit hard on themselves after the hard-fought loss in their first A-10 match. He let the team know that they had put it behind them, which they did in the very next game against La Salle University.

Saturday’s win was a great all-around performance for Rhode as it swept La Salle in straight sets 25-20, 25-20 and 25-18.

La Salle is a team that Rhode has had success against in the past, posting a record of 28-3 all-time including this weekend’s win.

Senior Annie Nelson led the Rams in both assists (40), and digs (14). Including Nelson, four of Rhode’s players notched double-digit digs. Senior Ashley Tenpant had 13, while the freshman duo of Cate Seman and Lizzy Fugel hard fought the game with 11 and 10 digs respectively.

Steffen and Baestar combined for 29 kills on the day. Steffen led the team with 16 while Baestar added 13 of her own. The duo also played a clean match combining for only six errors.

“The team really bounced back well,” Schneck said. “We know we are a good team and that was a win we needed.”

As the Atlantic-10 play continues, matches don’t get any easier for the Rams. This weekend the Rams will play host to Virginia Commonwealth University on Friday and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte on Sunday.

VCU has a record of 13-2 overall with a 1-1 record in conference play, while Charlotte is 8-6 overall with a conference record of 0-2.

VCU is an extremely tall and athletic team that has five players over 6’3’. VCU lost to Duquesne University and defeated Georgia State University this weekend, while Charlotte lost to both.

Coach Schneck took a quote from New England Patriot starting quarterback Tom Brady when alluding to the importance of the teams effort.

“We need to be at our best when it matters most,” Schneck said.

This weekend is without a doubt a time when winning matches against conference opponents matters.

Follow Jon on Twitter @shubydla

**URIs basketball team faces toughest schedule in recent years**

**BY TIM LIMA**
Sports Staff Reporter

The University of Rhode Island basketball program has one of the toughest schedules in school history this upcoming season, playing 10 teams that were in last year’s NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament.

We’re not used to this. Here in Kingston, we’ve grown accustomed to watching our team play a tough opening game followed by a slow of mediocre non-conference opponents. If you win most of your games, you may be a fringe team, right on the edge of making the NCAA tournament. Most likely, as we saw in the 2010 season, you will fall just short of making the tournament and set your sights on the NIT. If you lose, well, better luck next year.

But this year promises to be different, beginning with the schedule. Ten teams that went dancing last year will play URI this year, a number that far exceeds previous seasons.

Rhode Island will open with Norfolk State University, which was one of last year’s NCAA Cinderella teams. They beat the University of Missouri, a number-two seed, in last year’s tournament before falling in the third round.

Then, the Rams will take on the Hoyos of Virginia Tech University. This will be a rematch of the nationally televised season opener last year, two years ago, which URI lost.

URI will also get a look at Madison Square Garden in November, where they take on Notre Dame. If all goes well, the Rams will play at the Mehegan Sun Arena where they will compete against one of college basketball’s bluebloods, the Ohio State University.

If you win, you’re making the NCAAs.

Upon returning home, URI will host Loyola University at Maryland, who is coming off the second round of the NCAA tournament a seed 16 seed.

Loyola fell to Ohio State in the second round of tournament.

The Rams will then travel to Auburn University to take on challenging, but often overlooked, Tigers team.

Rhody will then fly home for a matchup against George Mason University. Last year the Patriots went 24-9 with a 14-4 conference record in the Colonial Athletic Association.

December will begin with a battle against a regional foe, the University of Vermont, which is coming off an impressive 24-12 season.

Combining that with an always-difficult conference schedule, the Rams certainly have their work cut out for them this year.

If URI can get started, the Rams will definitely be a team to watch.

The Rams have secured their victory with a goal after 74 minutes. Senior captain Annie Nelson scored a goal from outside the 18-yard box that found the upper left corner of the goal and sealed the victory for the Rams.

“DAMN right we were able to respond with a goal to make it 3-1 and put them out of it,” Schneck said.

It was definitely an offensive game for the Rams. By the end of the game, they recorded 12 shots, seven of them on goal, while Albany was only able to muster three.

The Rams also dominated in corner kicks. Although they all came in the first half, the Rams took seven corners to Albany’s one.

‘Fired up, we are fired up,’” Needham said. “Xavier is our next challenge and we look forward to meeting that challenge.”

It will be a busy weekend for the Rams. Following the Xavier game Friday night, they will have another home game Sunday against the University of Dayton who is looking strong starting off the year 6-3.

Rhode Island will come out 7-3-1 right now is a great start for us,” Needham said. “But really, everything has been a building process going towards the Xavier game and then, ultimately, the Dayton game.”

The Xavier game will be played Friday, Sept. 29 at 7 p.m.

Follow Emily on Twitter @emmajae22

**Women’s soccer team downs SUNY Albany**

**BY EMILY JACOBS**
Contributing Sports Reporter

The University of Rhode Island women’s soccer team improved its record Friday night to 7-3-1 with a win 3-1 over the University of New York at Albany.

The first goal for the Rams came just more than five minutes into the game. With a corner kick opportunity, senior Jennifer Barrientos bended her kick past the Albany keeper into the back of the net.

The second goal for Rhode Island came in the latter part of the first half, 35 minutes in, when freshman Alex Ruggieri scored the first goal of her collegiate career. Ruggieri was able to get the ball to find the net off a pass from Barrientos. The first half closed with Rhode Island recording five shots on goal while Albany tallied zero.

“The first half we ran them into the ground with the ball,” Rhode Island coach Michael Needham said. “Possession was our key to the offense.”

The Great Danes struck early in the second half to cut the Rams lead in half and pull themselves back into the game. About three minutes in, Albany senior Despina Psomopoulos lofted a pass to Allison Carhart who rocketed the ball past Rhode Island’s sophomore Reilly Lindsey to make the score 2-1.

“I think we need to be a little more professional with how we close games out,” Needham said.

The Rams helped secure their victory with a goal after 74 minutes. Senior captain Maggie MacDonald fired a shot from outside the 18-yard box that found the upper left corner of the goal and sealed the win for URI.

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