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The Good 5 Cent Cigar (10/24/2012)

University of Rhode Island

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Organization advocates reasonable drug policies, encourages student involvement

BY AUDREY O'NEIL
News Reporter

Students at the University of Rhode Island are attempting to end the war on drugs. Students for a Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP), an international grassroots network of students who are concerned about the impact drug abuse has on our communities. The organization has over 100 chapters at universities on five different continents. This year, the URI chapter of SSDP was ranked the 9th best SSDP chapter. SSDP President Eric Casey has personal reasons as to why he is involved with the group.

I'm involved with this organization because I firmly believe in the values it stands for. The idea of incarcerating someone because they use drugs is so accepted in our society and yet it doesn't make any sense to me. If someone actually has a drug problem, sticking them in jail and denying them access to treatment will not solve their problem. There are also plenty of people who use illegal drugs I couldn't turn are fully functional members of society, and yet the federal government sees cannabis as a Schedule 1 narcotic. like heroin,” Casey said. “When I saw a group like SSDP was at URI, I knew I had to check it out and I've been here since. It's allowed me to travel to amazing places I otherwise wouldn't be able to go and network with the sensible and interesting people.

According to Casey, the organization believes that while it is clear drug abuse can negatively impact society, the current policies do little to stop drug abuse and actually create an environment where drug dealers are free to profit off the black market, while users are left stigmatized with few treatment options. “We believe in replacing our current laws with ones that allocate resources better, starting by legalizing and regulating drugs that pose little danger to society, like cannabis, while treating hard drug abuse as a public health problem instead of a criminal justice problem,” Casey said. “It's clear to us that after spending 40 years and billions of dollars on the war on drugs, if it was actually going to reduce drug use, it would've happened by now. SSDP sees to support individuals who have the desire to positively impact their government and community, and to encourage students to be active participants in the democratic process.

Hopefully, URI's chapter will continue to enable URI students to play a role in the national movement to legalize cannabis and eventually end the war on drugs. As evident in a recent Gallup poll, which showed 50 percent of the country supporting the taxation and regulation of cannabis, it's clear what direction the country wants to go, and I think that organizations like SSDP will remain at the forefront of the movement.

URI student lands scholarship from Rhode Island Blood Center

BY JULIE DAWSON
Contributing News Reporter

University of Rhode Island "super" senior microbiology and medical laboratory science (MLS) double major Siobhan Hopper was the first winner of the Rhode Island Blood Center (RIBC) $5,000 scholarship. She credited her year using its clinical internship with Rhode Island Hospital (RIH), among other things, for winning the scholarship.

"The internship [with RHI] was the major reason I added medical laboratory science as my second major," Hopper said. "It is a bit of an untraditional final year of college, but the chance to get to spend a year in real working lab and learn how it all comes down and is what drew me to add MLS as my second major.

The scholarship also includes a part-time internship position at the RIBC for medical laboratory science. Hopper was chosen among students based on grade point average, interest in the field and community involvement. "The $5,000 from the scholarship will go directly to my tuition," Hopper said.

Hopper's clinical internship with RHI is a requirement of the MLS major. Interned students must apply and be accepted to the URI, 1 five different contents. This with violent offenders and no organization believes that taxation and will continue to enable students to play a role in the democratic process.

The goal of the organization is to give the student a safe place to openly speak their minds about drug use. SSDP seeks to support individuals who have the desire to positively impact their government and community, and to encourage students to be active participants in the democratic process.

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Hurry prepares men's basketball for season

BY MIKE ABELSON
Sports Editor

It's 11 a.m. on a Thursday and Dan Hurley is running the gamut of emotions as he guides the University of Rhode Island men's basketball team through five-on-five drills. He starts out helpful and constructive but a few bad passes and slow defensive shifts later, he's throwing his clipboard across the floor of Keaneay Gymnasium.

So just go for a program going through its first coaching change since 2001.

"We're transitioning to a different style of play with kids that are new to the system and we're taking over a program that was 7-24 last year," Hurley said. "First step, you establish how hard you can practice, how hard you can work. Pace, tempo, [and] attitude are the foundation to success. As our talent gets better moving forward, the wins will take care of themselves. Right now, we're laying the foundation of what we're going to be as a program."

Hurley was named head coach last March to replace Jim Baron. He has said that he has a two-year plan to rebuild Rhode Island and it is at its first NCAA tournament since 1999, and year one will be a difficult one. The Rams have nine scholarship players at their disposal and four of them are new to the program (two freshmen, two transfers).

Three transfers, Gilvydas Biruta (Rutgers), Jazelle Reischel (Rice), Delphon Minnis (Texas Tech), are ineligible to play this year, but can practice with the team.

In order for Rhode Island to surpass its predicted Atlantic-10 Conference finish (between 14-16th out of 16 teams depending on what poll you read) it will have to receive production from its new players immediately. Freshmen forwards Jordan Harris, a top-200 recruit by numerous publications, and Mike Ammual will have to play large amounts of minutes early and learn as they go.

Hurley prepares men's basketball for season

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Nickel Brief: Learn about a URI graduate who started his own business in tomorrow's issue of the Cigar.

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Drugs
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the forefront of the movement," Casey said.

The organization hosts the annual Hempfest music festival on the URI Quadrangle in April. SSDP also holds events such as movie screenings and guest speakers and as a group, attend conferences. Last year, the organization traveled to Los Angeles for the Drug Policy Alliance International Conference. Casey had the opportunity to travel to New Hampshire for the Republican primary and was able to actually question presidential candidates about drug law reform. SSDP also testified at the statehouse in favor of the marijuana decriminalization bill, which was passed by the legislature and will go into effect in April 2013.

The organization is currently planning a movie screening with a panel of experts in drug policy reform, including former law enforcement officials. SSDP is also looking to collaborate with other organizations as well as businesses to improve Hempfest.

"We are also working this year with a variety of different groups across the state, including the Brown University chapter of SSDP, to attempt to lobby the Rhode Island General Assembly to pass a bill that will legalize, tax and regulate cannabis for personal use in 2013," Casey said. "There will be a number of distinguished organizations working strategically to accomplish this goal and judging by the popularity of initiatives in several other states, as well as by the margin decriminalization passed in Rhode Island, we feel that this goal is within reach sooner rather than later."

SSDP has meetings every Thursday, at 6 p.m. in Room 300 of the Memorial Union. If students are unable to attend the meetings, they are still able to become involved by contacting the organization on the Facebook page, www.facebook.com/urissdp, or they can follow them on twitter @URISSDP.

"We do realize that everyone isn’t looking to testify in front of senate committees, but there’s a lot of different ways people can contribute. We are also always looking for faculty or other community members to work with," Casey said.

Volleyball
From page 4
up 50 total kills on the weekend, which accounted for 36 percent of the Rams total kills. Steffen is stepping up big at a time when her team needs it most, in the thick of the playoff hunt.

"Whenever someone receives an honor like that, it’s a big deal for the player and the team," Schneck said. "I sat her down last week and we talked about focusing in on the present. As you can tell, I think it got her more focused-in at a very important time."

The wins this past weekend helped push Rhody out of the bottom four in the conference and into the middle of the pack. This weekend, Rhody takes on Saint Louis University (7-16, 2-7) and Butler University (12-11, 2-7). If Rhody can pick up wins against both teams, Rhody will be right in the middle of the hunt for a spot in the Atlantic-10 tournament.

Scholarship
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program, and can either work at RIH or Fatima Hospital.

The first six weeks of the internship involve an intensive lecture series that includes three, two-hour classes a day in a variety of topics all related to clinical science. Once the six-week rotations are over, students transition to different hospital laboratories for training rotations over the next 10 months. To complete this year-long internship and finish her major in microbiology, Hopper had to extend her time at URI an additional year.

"For me the internship was well worth an additional year to my college career, especially because after this year I will be ready to take my boards and be nationally certified as a Medical Laboratory Scientist, which opens up so many job opportunities to me in hospitals and private labs all across the country," Hopper said.

At RIH, Hopper said she dealt with patient specimens and learned about their health status from the test results.

"We learn how to test the specimen, obtain important information from the results, and all the scientific theory behind the testing," Hopper said. "We are learning from people who actually work in the field and all of these people volunteer to teach us, so it’s a very different learning experience than anything I’ve had on the URI campus."

Hopper recommended the MLS major to students interested in the medical field because of the hands-on experience it provides.

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Mysterious Soiree
Celebrating Halloween Locally

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame introduces fan vote, announces nominees for 2013

BY RYAN GIBBS Contributing Entertainment Writer

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, located in Cleveland, has announced the nominees for the class of 2013. The list, which consists of 15 artists, will be brought down to five inductees through voting by Hall of Fame voters, previous inductees and, for the first time ever, the fans.

The fan ballot will consist of the top-5 artists voted on in a poll on the Hall of Fame website and will be counted as a single vote for each artist among the more than 600 ballots. While this might seem insignificant to some, it is a step in the right direction for the hall, which has often been criticized for notable snubs, late turnarounds and genre pandering. When you get MellowHype, you’re getting a spin-off of Odd Future so any fans of OFWGKTA will certainly enjoy it. Although not quite at their artistic peak, I give “Numbers” a B-.

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Rock and Roll Hall of Fame doesn’t disappoint OFWGKTA fans

BY MARTIN LANNAN Contributing Entertainment Writer

MellowHype, the tag team duo of Left Brain and Hodgy Beats of OFWGKTA aka Odd Future, recently released its third studio album, “Numbers.” Released on Oct. 9, “Numbers” is a true display of the progression of Hodgy Beats’ lyrical skills as well as the progression of Left Brain as a producer. “Numbers” sees Hodgy Beats and Left Brain taking listeners on a drug-fueled, “day in the life” type ride. I say “day in the life” because of the constant references to the daily activities of MellowHype, and the rest of Odd Future for that matter. Pop culture references are also included, much to the delight of this listener. For example, on the track “666,” featured guest Mike G. (also of OFWGKTA) raps, “well I’m the midnight maudience that makes twilight music and fans think. I’m more awkward than Kristen Stewart.” The guest feature fun does not stop there, with OFWGKTA members Frank Ocean and Earl Sweatshirt making appearances. OFWGKTA front man Tyler the Creator also makes a contribution, co-producing the aforementioned track “666.” “Numbers” truly is an appropriate sequel to their second studio album, “Blackened White.” It builds on the signature sound the two have created since their formation in 2010. The “rat-a-ta-ta-like” production offered by Left Brain has progressed from simple to its own unique and trippy sound. The only other producer that comes to mind that resembles Left Brain’s sound is Drumma Boy, and even that’s a stretch. Left Brain’s unique sound is most evident on the tracks “Gurl,” “NPWGKDSH” and “Break.”

Not to be outdone, Odd Future raises the bar with constant interjections of Left Brain’s prowess. Hodgy’s flow captivates the listener to the point that most of his lyrics do not even need to make sense. This is because the production, together with Hodgy’s laid-back verses, flows along smoothly. The listener is instantly immersed in the lyrics by spurs of thoughtful wordplay from Hodgy.

Additionally, Left Brain continues to try his hand at rapping something he has done on the group’s previous two albums. Although much less refined, Left Brain is able to transcend the producer role relatively successfully. This is very similar to the style of the Alchemist and his group “Cangrene” (with rapper Oh No).

“Numbers” is certainly a twisted, fun, enjoyable experience for the listener. I recommend checking MellowHype out if you like alternative, underground rap that hasn’t been played out by the radio. When you get MellowHype, you’re getting a spin-off of Odd Future so any fans of OFWGKTA will certainly enjoy it. Although not quite at their artistic peak, I give “Numbers” a B-.
Rhody SPORTS

Men’s hockey gives away game one, able to get series split

BY COLIN HOWARTH
Contributing Sports Reporter

The No. 16-ranked University of Rhode Island men’s hockey team rebounded on Saturday beating West Chester University 3-2 after losing in a shootout to them on Friday, 7-6.

On Friday, URI jumped out to a 5-1 lead after two periods. West Chester scored four unanswered goals in the third, including one with 1:07 left of regulation, to bring the game to overtime. West Chester was able to score twice in the shootout to pull off the shocker.

“We jumped to a huge lead and all of a sudden, we had guys lose their concentration,” URI head coach Joe Augustine said. “We tried to sit on that 5-1 lead and go to sleep and look what happened.”

On Saturday, West Chester came out firing, taking the first set 25-22, the opening set 25-22, the second set 25-13. Rhody couldn’t close the door in the second set, giving West Chester their first set 25-13. However, they bounced back in the second set to even the match with a 25-20 win. The third set was one of the most entertaining as they played well enough to win, but could have played better, Augustine said. “It was nice to come back from a two goal deficit; they showed a lot of character there.”

“We knew we couldn’t step back,” sophomore goalie Andrew Sherman said. “On Friday, we weren’t prepared [but] we didn’t step back today. It took us a little while to get going, but we started rolling and it all started with our defense. Besides the first period, we held a 3-0 advantage.”

Sherman turned aside 26 shots in the win.

The win improved URI to 7-3, with two of those losses coming in overtime.

Macalino has 11 goals in 10 games, six more than anyone else on the team. He also has five assists, giving him 16 points.

“Our expectations are very high,” men’s hockey coach Jay Octeau said. “We’re young and we have some guys that are stepping up. We expect a lot can get a lot. The key is consistency.”

Rhode Island’s next game is an exhibition game at the University of New England on Friday. URI plays at the NCAA Division-III level.

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The Good Five Cent Cigar

Women’s volleyball sweeps pair of weekend conference games

BY JONATHAN SHEDELER
Sports Staff Reporter

The University of Rhode Island women’s volleyball team won both of its matches at home this past weekend, defeating La Salle University and Temple University.

The wins ended Rhody’s four-match losing streak and now gives the team a record of 8-14 overall with an Atlantic-10 Conference record of 4-5.

“It’s nice to see the team win games back to back,” head coach Bob Schneck said. “As long as we can do it again this weekend, our chances to contend [for the A-10 championship] can be greatness.”

The Rams opened up the weekend Friday against La Salle. The match was a constant back and forth battle as teams traded off each of the first four sets.

After Rhody took the opening set 25-22, the Explorers took the second set with a score of 25-18. The Rams won the third set in a deciding set victory with a score of 25-13. Rhody couldn’t close the door in the fourth set, which La Salle won 26-24 to force a fifth and final set. The fifth set was a close, tightly contested set, which the Rams won with a final score of 22-20 to take the match.

Sophomore Catie Steffen tied her career high in kills with 22 while also limiting herself to only three attack errors.

Junior Britta Baarstad contributed to the win with her four double-double of the season; she had 16 kills and 14 digs. Also registering double-digit kills was freshman Cate Seman who had 13. Seman also had nine digs in the match. Sophomore Kelly Rosenberg was a key contributor off the bench with a career-high 40 assists and 17 digs.

On Sunday, the Rams were back out on the floor for another five-set match, this time against Temple.

The Rams started the match down a set as Temple won the first, 25-18. Rhody bounced back in the second set to even the match with a 25-20 win. The third set was one of the most entertaining sets Rhody played all weekend; it was a constant battle that Rhody won with a final score of 30-28. Temple put the lost set behind them quickly as they took the fourth 25-22.

The Rams would go on to take the final set 15-10, marking just the second time this year the team has won back-to-back matches in a weekend.

Rosenberg had another outstanding match for Rhody as she had career highs in assists with 57, and digs with 19. Those numbers were good enough for her fourth career double-double.

Rosenberg was one of the players coach Schneck inserted into the lineup last weekend and hopes that it would give the team a needed change and he said he is pleased with what he has seen thus far from her.

“Kelly has really been great since she’s been in there,” Schneck said. “Her play has been consistent and she really helps other players on the team play better.”

Baarstad was another Ram who stayed consistent throughout the weekend as she notched 22 digs and 13 kills.

Again, it was Steffen who led the Rams for Rhody. She registered her eighth double-double of the season with a career-high 28 kills and 24 digs. Her 28 kills tied for the fifth highest single match total in school history.

The phenomenal weekend led to Steffen being named the Atlantic-10 offensive player of the week. Steffen picked up the honor for the second straight week.

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