Dashboard Confessional, Yung Joe to Play the Wahoo

BY JACK BORCH
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

As another spring rolls towards the end of the regular school year in May, Johnson & Wales University embarks on hosting its annual Wildcat Wahoo on Saturday, May 3 at the Harborside Recreation Center. The Wahoo itself will be better than ever this year. In the past the Wildcat Wahoo or "Griffin Get-down" (referring to the former JWU mascot) was comprised of a carnival like set-up involving rides and music acts; in recent years music artists who have performed at the Wahoo include Shade, Sugar Hill Gang, Snoop Dogg, Papas Buckap, Droopcick Murphys, Common and most recently, Sugezz, Talib Kweli and William Tell.

This year JWU has pulled all the strings to bring to its community a truly one of kind show suited just for our college. The artists this year (drum roll please) will be Dashboard Confessional and Yung Joe. When the concert committee here at JWU, involved in coordinating the artist selection process for the Wahoo was informed of this, it was full steam ahead.

Not only does this event contain a nationally renowned, diverse musical lineup for all the students here at JWU, there will also be carnival rides, free food and tons of free novelties to spread around.

As for the music artists themselves, they have weathered the storms respectively to earn a spot on this year’s Wahoo. In a recent conversation with the solo artist playing the tour, Chris Carrabba, he commented on the current situation explaining, “I am more than excited to get a chance to play in front of JWU students as well as with another artist much diverse from myself, it will be something I’ll never forget; and definitely a chance for college students to catch a varied line-up of artists in different aspects of musical talent.”

Dashboard Confessional will be opening the music festivities on May 3 at 7:00 p.m. The alternative rock outfit Dashboard Confessional hails from Boca Raton, Florida, and is headed by singer/songwriter Christopher Carrabba, who became the poster boy for a new generation of emo or emotional rock fans in the early 2000s. Starting the group purely as a solo act, he marked his first proper effort with the release of 2000’s acoustic guitar-driven Swiss Army Romance. Carrabba had previously fronted other rock bands such as Further Seems Forever and toured with bands such as My Chemical Romance, Thrice, New Found Glory and; he turned his attention to Dashboard after a friend heard some songs he’d been writing on his own and encouraged Carrabba to pursue them full-time. Dashboard Confessional allowed him to mold simple acoustics with passionate, personal wordplay to make for a delightful introduction to his individual work. Even in his earliest solo days, when Carrabba often played gigs primarily composed of hardcore punk bands, fans latched onto the naked honesty of his lyrics, and an immensely devoted following began. Both the Drowning EP and the second full-length, The Places You Have Come to Fear the Most, the latter of which began their “full band” sound, were issued in early 2001. Pop kids of theTRL generation united for Dashboard Confessional’s emocore style, and 2001 proved golden for Carrabba. “Screaming Infidelities” became a modern rock hit. With magazine covers, sold out shows, #1 singles & videos, soundtracks, awards...what more can you say about Dashboard Confessional? Well, there past two albums have progressively dropped their best and most personal piece of work to date with Dark and Summer in 2006 and The Shade of Poison Trees recorded in 2007 with famed U2 collaborator Daniel Lanois, whose signature sound – both viscerally powerful and intricately beautiful – can be heard throughout the album.

The second music act on the roster this year at the Wahoo is an up and coming hip-hop mogul, Yung Joe. Rapper Yung Joe (born Jassen Robinson) learned about running his own business from his father, who owned a hair-care products company. It was also his father who gave a teenage Yung Joe his first break, writing a jingle for the Revlon company. Joe decided right then that the hip-hop business was for him, but he needed time to find his own style. Watching the various hip-hop crews that grew out of his native Atlanta, Yung Joe didn’t feel a kinship to any movement until the hard-edged T.I. came on the scene, although he was a big Outkast fan. Like T.I., Joe had begun rapping with the street in mind. To release this music, he formed his own company, Mastermind. He later hooked up with Russell “Block” Spencer and his Block Enterprises label and released the hard club track “It’s Goin’ Down” in early 2006. The track became an Atlanta favorite and eventually landed on the desk of Sean "Diddy" Combs. From that partnership was born New Joe City, Yung Joe’s first smash album and his latest release in 2007, Hustlemond. Yung Joe’s style has often been described as an artist who belts out lyrics with a certain degree of flair an mixes them in with beats that are contagious.

Students must remember that to attend the Wahoo, they need to have their student IDs.

Deal or No Deal?

BY RALACH BALECART
STAFF WRITER

Thanks to Sigma Alpha Mu, students were able to participate in Deal or No Deal?, one of the most coveted television shows on April 17th.

All funds raised from the event went to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Once the event began at 8 P.M. the MC introduced one of the brothers who looked like Howie (the host of Deal or No Deal) himself. Rather than a million dollar prize, there was a reasonable prize of $100.00.

The game itself was very similar to the real Deal or No Deal?. There was tension, stress, careful planning, and even some humor by “Howie” himself.

Between the games, attendees received raffle tickets to win prizes. The first round of prizes included a Boston Red Sox Softball and Hat. Other prizes ranged from movies to Starbuck's gift certificates. Unfortunately, nobody won the $100.00 prize, but like in Deal or No Deal?, it takes luck and skill to win the highest prize.

Students & Community Celebrate Cambodian New Year with Fashion, Foods

BY OTTO NEUBAUER
ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On April 11th, students and community members gathered at the Harborside Recreation Center to celebrate the Cambodian New Year.

The event featured many traditional Cambodian foods, a presentation, dancing, and a fashion show.

Approximately 60 people attended the event.

Attendance was higher than expected, commented Kiirvann Chhouen, one of the event coordinators.

Cambodian New Year Celebration

Otto Neubauer / Campus Herald

JWU International Fest, April 15

Alhussain Alhamid

Herald Newsroom: (401) 598-2867 • Herald Advertising: (401) 598-1489 • Herald E-mail: campusherald@jwu.edu
Islandfest an Afternoon of Food, Music and Fun

By CAMERON SPENCER  
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, April 19, the Johnson & Wales Caribbean Students Association hosted its 9th Annual Islandfest, an afternoon full of the music and food of the Caribbean. It was a beautiful day outside, and it was easy to imagine what life would actually be like in the islands.

The day’s festivities included a display of the flags from all the countries represented there and an explanation of their designs. Some of the nations included Guyana, Jamaica, Grenada, and a new addition this year, El Salvador. Although not technically a Caribbean nation, El Salvador was included in Islandfest as part of this year’s theme of “When Cultures Collide”. In keeping with this theme, students of all backgrounds were invited to spend the day exploring the cultures, music, and food of the islands. For someone with little knowledge of and experience with the Caribbean, it’s easy to see it as a somewhat homogenous group of people and places. At Islandfest, it was clear how ever, that the Caribbean is a complex group of culturally independent nations, each with its own unique way of life.

Music, dancing, and raffles made the event fun for all who attended, but for myself, and I suspect for many of the culinary students there, the food was one of the best parts.

Dishes from each country were offered as well as sodas and other drinks from the Caribbean. Some of the highlights included Goat Curry from the Guyana table and the Festival from the Jamaican table. I had the opportunity to speak with Giselle Quinones, the current President of the Caribbean Students Association, who told me about this year’s events and a little about their club which seems to be one of the more active ones on campus.

In addition to Islandfest, they host weekly meetings, and other events such as movie nights and Cultural Kallaloo. She told me that the purpose of these events were to promote cultural awareness and interaction, but also to simply provide students from the Caribbean a place to get together and get a taste of home.

Survivor Survivor Ethan Zohn Speaks on Charity

By SARA CHRISTENSEN  
STAFF WRITER

If he wasn’t on his way to catch a train back to New York, Ethan might still be at Xavier Auditorium, taking pictures with students, answering questions, and recruiting interns for his non-profit organization, Grassroots Soccer.

Last Monday, Ethan Zohn, winner of Survivor Africa, came to JWU to give his speech. Character: The Ultimate Survival Tool. He talked about how the secrets to succeeding at Survivor and life are not about using people to get ahead or sacrificing your values to get what you want. It is about being true to yourself, and doing good things for someone else.

One great story that he shared was from when he was on Survivor in Africa. For winning a challenge, he was given two goats. With those goats, he was able to go into Kenya and trade the goats for food or souvenirs. After eating, he pulled out his only luxury item that he brought with him, a hacky-sack, to play with the Kenyan children. Before leaving, he decided to give the toy to two of the children. He said that seeing the look on that boy’s face was worth it for Ethan to give up the one thing that he had.

This was a pivotal moment in Ethan’s life, when he decided that he wanted to start an organization to help children in Africa who are affected by HIV and AIDS.

After winning the million dollars, Ethan started Grassroots Soccer, a non-profit organization that trains professional soccer players in Africa to help teach children in schools about HIV and AIDS prevention.

Ethan’s fame for being a reality star may have faded, but we will be seeing more of Ethan soon, whether it is with his charity work, hosting TV shows, or on one of his many travels. (Ethan had to get back to New York that night because he was leaving for China to do an awareness project for Grassroots Soccer.) Ethan’s speech was funny, enjoyable, and educational. He connected with a lot of students on a very realistic and personal level.

Johnson & Wales students can purchase discounted movie tickets at the Office of Student Activities’ Box Offices located on the first floor of CBCSI (Downcity) and on the second floor of the Harborside Recreation Center.
Someday Providence, Pete Kilpatrick
Perform at Surf Club Fundraiser

BY JACK BURCH
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

On a balmy Friday evening, students hurriedly clamored into Pepsi Forum for what was to be an intimate show with the bands Someday Providence and Pete Kilpatrick. This event, hosted by JWU’s Surf Club, was an effort to raise money for the Surfrider Foundation RI chapter, a non-profit grass-roots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our world’s oceans, waves and beaches. Founded in 1984 by a handful of visionary surfers in Malibu, California, the Surfrider Foundation now maintains over 50,000 members and 80 chapters worldwide.

As for the bands, they brought all they could muster. Starting off the event was Pete Kilpatrick minus his band as a solo acoustic performer; he incorporated tight and tasteful rhythms and created a multi-dimensional sound that instantly set him apart. As a singer, Pete Kilpatrick demonstrated the rare ability to consistently deliver catchy melodies, along with sincere and colorful lyrics while his acoustic guitar flowed throughout. Someday Providence, a modern rock blend of styles from reggae to pop-punk, charged up the crowd and had them with each thumping cadence. In the past, the band has scored a local hit on 95.5 WBRI. Their song “Summer in Rhode Island” was the third most requested song of the week being only behind Charles Barkley and The Muse during a moderate span.

In terms of the event where 50-60 students gathered around to hear these heart-lifting tunes, Surf Club successfully raised a little over 450 dollars for the Surfrider Foundation and in the process gave everyone involved a warm memory of not just another Friday night here at Johnson & Wales.

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a series of public forums

MONDAY, APRIL 28: 6:30PM – 8:30PM
VOTING: Claiming Our Democracy
JWU MULTICULTURAL CENTER

presented by Anne Edmonds Clinton
with the support of Rhode Island Black Storytellers
funded by the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities
Forum will be lead by Dr. Leslie Brown and moderated by Ray R. Rickman

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For information about "The Covenant" call 258-1910
RSVP to Susan Conner x1265 or sconnx@jwu.edu
www.covenantwithblackamericans.com

Student Government

Election Results:
The winners are as follows:

President:
Jason Atkins

Speaker of the Senate:
Geoffrey Long

Speaker of the House:
Sara Christovich

Chief Justice:
Kyle Britto

Senator:
Jack Burch
Michael Baretto

Representative:
Brian Yi
Ashley Masterson
Desiree Scalavino
Adam Archila
Thomas Bichko

Congratulations & Good Luck! From the Staff of The Campus Herald!

Students Light Up in Honor of 4/20

VANESSA MILLER
BOLDER DAILY CAMERA

"Nine, eight, seven..." A crowd of about 10,000 people collectively began counting down on the University of Colorado's Norlin Quadrangle just before 4:20 p.m. Sunday.

Yet the massive puff of pot smoke that hovers over CU's Boulder campus every April 20 -- the date of an annual, internationally recognized celebration of marijuana -- began rising over the sea of heads earlier than normal this year.

"Oh forget it," one student said, aborting the countdown to 4:20 p.m. and lighting his pipe early. He closed his eyes, taking a deep, long drag.

"Sweet." Although it's become an annual and renowned event at CU, this year's 4:20 celebration was different in some ways than in many previous years. The crowd was so large it migrated from the long-traditional site of Farrand Field to the larger Norlin Quad; festivities kicked off earlier than normal with daytime concerts; and CU police handed out zero citations.

"At this point, none are anticipated," said CU police Cmdr. Brad Wiesley.

About 15 CU officers and a half-dozen deputies with the Boulder County Sheriff's Office had a presence Sunday among the mass of pot smokers, who bounced giant balls and tossed Frisbees through the haze. CU police did handle four medical-related calls for health issues including dehydration; two people were taken to Boulder Community Hospital.

The crowd size at last year's CU gathering was rumored to have topped 5,000, Wiesley said, meaning this year's gathering drew about double.

"I guess it's not like they had to cut a 4 p.m. class to do go, it Wiesley said, speculating as to why so many more people showed up.

"People are not all that busy at 4:20 p.m. in the afternoon on a Sunday."

"From the steps of Norlin Library, some of the thousands present said the turnout appeared comparable to that of a peace march or protest.

CU freshman Emily Benson, 19, of Kansas City, said she thinks the decriminalization of marijuana will become a hot topic in the upcoming political season and said she felt part of something bigger than just a smoke-out on Sunday.

"We're at the starting point of a movement," she said. "This is a big part of the reason I applied here -- for the weed atmosphere."

Although CU junior Max Lichtenstein, 21, isn't into marijuana or smoking, he also felt Sunday's event was a chance to do something "bigger" than himself. He passed out 126 Rice Krispies treats with messages attached asking that they act out against the injustices in Darfur.

"Tomorrow, when you're sober... call the White House at 202-456-1414," the note read.

"I just like being generous and doing nice things," he said. "I'm like a good Samaritan."
Gnarls Barkley: An Odd Couple

BY JACK BURCH
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

More than just gimmicky good folks with a penchant for outlandish costumes, Gnarls Barkley’s Cee-Lo Green and DJ Danger Mouse make some of the most deceptively funky songs about maladjusted behavior and alienation. Their unavoidable 2006 hit, “Crazy,” from their brilliant debut disc, “St. Elsewhere,” may have sounded like a call to party, but it's really a tension-filled rumination about psychosis.

When established artists come together for a project, it's widely assumed that their collaboration will be a one-off affair. However, most of these collaborations don’t produce a hit of the magnitude of Gnarls Barkley's “Crazy.” Featuring Cee-Lo’s soulful vocal over Danger Mouse’s inventive mix of samples and retro instrumentation, the song lifted both the former Goo-Goo Mob member and the underground producer into a level of success neither had previously experienced.

So...anyway, Craziness brought such unexpect- ed success that Gnarls Barkley reconnected and returned for a second album, trying to see if lightning would strike twice. Their sophomore album, “The Odd Couple” is titled after a TV show, just like their debut was. The album cover artwork is quite similar on both albums. The album opens and closes with the sound of a movie projector, just like the last album did. After reading, that last sentence, if you’re expecting me to write that the music on this album continues strongly in the vein of the previous record...

...By the heard of Zeus, you’re the bride.

“The Odd Couple” is essentially “St. Elsewhere Part II.” Danger Mouse’s soundscapes draw heavily from Sixties pop, combining the rhythmic pulse of Golden-era Motown with that spooky chordal feel that marked all the best Wall of Sound and Beach Boys records. Cee-Lo still has one of the most soulfully expressive voices in all of music (seriously...he’s the only rapper/singer that’s excellent-and underated-at both). He's also an intriguing lyricist-this album delves more into darker subject matter than the previous album. While some of it sounds a bit juvenile, more of it successfully contributes to this album’s slightly spooky feel (although, thank God, there are no more songs about necrophilia).

With a running time of just over a half hour (OK, 38 minutes), no song stays around long enough to overstay its welcome. The album’s only true clunker is Whatever, which is spoiled by Cee-Lo’s “bratty teenager” lyrics. You’ve got to roll your eyes at an almost-40 year old man who’s still singing “Shut up, Mum/It’s not okay.” It’s unclear whether he’s talking about the pins out of athletic kids or whether he’s serious, so I’ll just say the song sucks and leave it at that.

However, one terrible song (and a couple of merely average ones) don’t make a bad album, and there’s much more here worthy of recommendation than not. Surprise features some mighty pretty low-slung guitar playing over what sounds like the theme to “Hawaii Five-O,” while Cee-Lo’s lyrics take centerstage on Blind Mary, a love song on which a message advocating loving someone for their internal qualities is successfully shoe-horned in over a musical background that suggests the baseline The Beach Boys Good Vibrations being played over circus or car- rinal music. No Time Soon is another win- ner, with Cee-Lo emoting over a groove that suggests “Songs of Faith & Devotion”-era Depeche Mode as sung by Al Green.

First single Run (I’m A Natural Disas- ter) is a rush of danceable energy, although Cee-Lo’s speed-singing and chorus of “Run children! Run for your life!” gives the song an uncomfortable layer of paranoia. Danger Mouse has a very good idea of how to create a particular atmosphere for his productions. Open Book’s chirping birds, off-kilter per- cussion and imported choral passages (which could have potentially been lifted from any- thing ranging from an old religious album to an Enigma CD) suggest one of those heart- stopping scenes in a horror movie when a character is being chased by a demon. The duo manages to hit the nail squarely on the head with the haunting Who Will Save My Soul. Over a groove that sounds like Crazy after taking about 30 Valium, Cee-Lo’s voice is positively angelic, even as the lyrics take a fairly dark turn. It’s a disturbing, yet inti- cate and beautifully, singing.

So, on one hand I want to congratulate Gnarls Barkley for this album, and on the other I want to jump down their throats. While The Odd Couple doesn’t really show any artistic growth, the duo thankfully doesn’t make any artistic concessions in light of their previous album’s success. Actually, there’s not one song here that screams “obviously hit” the way “Crazy did”, and one thing that obvi- ously changed from the last album to this one is that Cee-Lo raps not one line here. So maybe “The Odd Couple” is more of a fine- tuning than an outright cop.

Either way, it’s good. And in the end, that’s all that matters.

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Concert Doors open @ 6 p.m. • Show @ 7 p.m.
FREE w/ J&W ID Limit 2 guests per J&W ID $10 for Guests
STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Guest Speaker: Jackson Katz
The Macho Paradox: Why Some Men Hurt Women and How All Men Can Help
Open to JWU Students and the Public
Monday, April 28, 7–9 p.m.
Xavier Auditorium
60 Broad Street, Providence, RI 02903
(Broad and Claverick Streets)

In this multimedia lecture, Jackson will explore male cultural influences on sexual and domestic violence, and suggest strategies to educate men in the fight against all forms of sexual violence toward women. Topics covered include: male peer culture in schools and colleges; media images of pornography, prostitution and sex; dating violence in the sports culture and the U.S. military; the many intersections between race and culture, and the role of homosexuality in all male groups. Katz uses both entertaining and disturbing clips from his award-winning videos, including Tough Guys, to underscore the importance of understanding and changing the cultural environment that condones or promotes sexism and violence.

WHO IS JACKSON KATZ?
- Former all-star football player, Harvard graduate, educator, activist, filmmaker and America’s leading anti-violence expert.
- Director since 1996 of MJW-INC, the first worldwide gender-violence prevention program in the U.S. Marine Corps
- Member of the U.S. Secretaries of Defense’s Domestic Violence Task Force from 2000-2003
- Co-Founder in 1989 of the non-profit educational gender violence prevention program at Northeastern University
- The most widely used sexual and domestic violence prevention program in professional and college athletics today
- Katz has lectured at more than 950 colleges, prep schools, high schools, middle schools, professional conferences and military installations in 44 states.
- He has appeared on Oprah, “Good Morning America,” “60/20” and “CBS Evening News.”
- Why is Jackson Katz’s work so important? According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, one in four college women surveyed is a victim of rape or attempted rape.

Jackson’s Web site: www.jacksonkatz.com

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“I am not exaggerating when I say that, nearly one month after Jackson Katz’s presentation, Duke University students and staff are still talking about him...

The power and emotion the students experienced was clearly demonstrated when they sprung from their seats to give him a standing ovation.”

Kristin Siebricht, Duke University
Ideas and Opinions

The Fearmongering of John McCain

By Patrick Dyl
Editor-in-Chief

John McCain’s campaign sent supporters a fundraising e-mail Friday that claims Hamas approves of Democrat Barack Obama’s foreign policy vision, and is hoping for his victory this fall.

Obama supporter Rep. Robert Wexler responded to the McCain fundraising e-mail Friday. “John McCain likes to talk about the civil campaign be plans to run, and yet today he has engaged in a shameless, divisive, and cynical kind of politics that he pretends to reject—all in reckless pursuit of campaign dollars,” said Wexler, calling the message “empty tough talk and divisive fear mongering.”

Senator McCain is practicing the worst kind of campaigning this country has ever seen, fear-mongering. America’s more shameful times have also seen this tactic used, be it the rats of Joseph McCarthy, Japanese Internment during World War Two, and as far back as the forced relocation of Native Americans. And if you somehow missed what he was really saying, somehow didn’t hear the tone too subtle text of “vote Democratic and die” than Senator McCain will continue to get away with fear-mongering as a political tactic.

Which party rode roughshod over Americans’ rights while shouting that it was actually protecting them? Which party took this country into the most utterly backwards, utterly counterproductive, utterly ruinous war in our history?

Which party has been in office as more Americans were killed in the pointless fields of Iraq that were killed in the consuming nightmare of 9/11?

Which political party has suggested that we bomb Iran?

Which political party will stop at nothing to consolidate power and paint those who disagree with them as Un-American and ter-
rorist?

The only thing worse than the amount of disre-
spect I have for the right is the tonnage of hate the right has for the left. What really bothers Senator McCain about Obama’s and the Democrat’s foreign policy plans is that they do not support endless war, which in turn, supports the national defense industry which pours millions of dollars into the campaign war chests of Republican candidates.

Claim a difference between the parties on the voters’ chances of survival, and you do, in fact, Linder’s work for him. And we, Democrats and Republicans alike, and every varia-
tion in between, Americans, are sick to death of you and the other terror mongers trying to frighten us into submission, into the surrender of our rights and our reason, into this betrayal of that for which this country has always stood.

Franklin Roosevelt’s words ring true again.

And, clarified and amplified, they are just as current now as they were when first he spoke them, nearly 75 years ago. “We have nothing to fear but fear itself” and those who would exploit our fear, for power and for their own personal, selfish, cynical, gain.

Quote of the issue...

“At least we’ll have an all-female office who can lead and accomplish something.”

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, at a California political lunch during which he declined to endorse a candidate for president but implied that any of the remaining options would be an improvement over the status quo

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Lifting the haze from 'high' holiday myths

BY ALVIN CARROLL
THE DAILY CAMPUS (U. CONNECTICUT)

The "stoner" superbowl, and a favorite holiday of all herbal lovers, 4/20 is a celebration of all the green glory that is marijuana. It is a day where red eyes are as common as blue, snacks, foods are inhaled by the pounds and tie-dye and hemp uniforms are seen all around. However, there is much haze surrounding the history behind this holiday as the participants themselves.

Many people have no idea as to why 4/20 is the preferred spark time of the green culture, and an equal amount have only heard the urban legends. Paige Nuzzolillo, 4th-semester anthropology major, believes that 4/20 is celebrated, "because it's the police code. 420 is the police code for marijuana." Tom Morphy, 2nd-semester theater major, believes it's "because it was Hitler's birthday." Zane Roberts, 2nd-semester theater major, believes it's simply because "stoners need a holiday too." While there are all widely believed theories, none of them are actually correct.

Four-twenty is actually not a police code

A Message from the Student Body President

On Friday, April 18, 2008 the Student Government Association gathered in CBCSI to announce the results of the Spring Elections.

Four Hundred and eighty-nine students voted for candidates running for Associated President, Speaker of the House, Chief Justice, University Senator and University Representative. The winners are: Jason Atkins, Association President; Geoffrey Long, Speaker of the Senate; Sara Chrestovich, Speaker of the House and Kyle Britto, Chief Justice. The winners for University Senator are: Jack Burch and Michael Baretto. The winners for University Representative are: Brian Yi, Ashley Masterson, Desiree Scalavino, Adam Archila and Thomas Biehko.

The winners will take office following the adjournment of the April 27, 2008 Senate meeting.

The Art of Being Alone

BY JACK BURICH
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Being a part of society is a good thing, but sometimes people take it a little too far.

Case in point: apparently, a lot of people these days (especially those in my generation and in college) can't conceive of someone being alone for a while by choice. They view being alone as a "social failure" - as if the only way to be alone at a particular time is if nobody in the world wanted your company. This includes, but is not limited to, "romantic" company (or lack thereof).

In my situation, I live a majority of my life alone without even a faint impact of a romantic/social girlfriend, and have done so for several (5+) years now, so, while I enjoy any particular interesting company, I am used to being alone in its entirety (especially when I take myself out backpacking in the North Cascades or Coastal Range). This doesn't mean I want to be alone, it just implies that until a woman comes along that is worth my time and effort, that I have more significant things to take care of. This also implies to my buds. And I am certainly not the only one out there like this.

Look people, the most important relationship we have in our lives is with our selves. And even though we are the only ones who are present at every moment of our lives - from birth onward - this relationship can be the most difficult one to cultivate. This may be because society places such emphasis on the importance of being in a romantic partnership, even teaching us to set aside our own needs for the needs of another. Until we know ourselves, however, we cannot possibly choose the right relationship to support our mutual growth toward our highest potential. By allowing ourselves to be comfortable with being alone, we can become the people whom we wish to have a relationship. Perhaps at no other time in history has it been possible for people to survive, and even thrive, while living alone. We can now support ourselves financially, socially, and emotionally without needing a spouse for survival in any of these realms. With this freedom, we can pursue our own interests and create fulfilling partnerships with friends, business partners, creative cohorts, and neighbors. Once we've satisfied our needs and created our support system, a girlfriend/boyfriend then becomes someone with whom we can share the bounty of all we've created, and the beauty we've discovered within ourselves.

So why are people so dependent on others? Why do they see being alone as a sign of failure?

I don't have a definitive answer. Maybe, as a friend suggested, they don't like themselves, so they need the company of others (no matter which others...such as egotistical jerks) to draw their own attention away from themselves. Maybe they look at themselves and are disgusted by what they see, and they need to be distracted. Maybe their "company" is in exactly the same situation, so it's a bit like a symbiosis - both don't have any self-esteem on their own, so each uses the other to fake some (you know them...the groups of girls who go to the clubs just to get wasted and boast that they're SO hung-over the next day...no one cares). And, apparently, it works.

I know I will never convince people like those of anything, but, to everyone else, being alone at a particular time isn't a failure or a shame. Choosing to be alone at a particular situation doesn't make you a "weirdo". Indeed, it's healthy to be on your own for a while, from time to time - it allows you to get to know yourself better (of course, that's exactly what many people fear...and). And being able to have fun, to enjoy a place you like while alone is a power - one which many people lack. It's something to be proud of.

Last, I love any of you who actually took your time with something to reflect on entitled "The Hermit Soliloquy".

Under the brow of this little hill I have built my little hut: Here I live in lonely silence, secluded from every human eye. The awful stillness of the wilderness gives me opportunity to raminate upon the follies and vices of my fellow mortals, with whom I formerly lived - Today I will contemplate the human heart in the hermitage and in the social circle; I will draw up a judgment concerning its operations in those two different situations. I will embrace with gratitude the Source of all existence shall fill my heart.
CE Students Don’t Fit the Mold

By Cameron Spencer Staff Writer

At 6:00 p.m. on Mondays most students are ready to go on with their day and put schoolwork to the side. However, there is a group of students that are just getting ready to enter any of the campus buildings to start their school work. This group of students is known as the Community Education (CE) student body. What many don’t know is that the CE community is made up of a group of individuals, as diverse as the classes being offered to them. Just as varied are their reasons for taking classes at night and in some cases, later on in life than your average college student.

In one of my classes, I encountered a woman in her 40’s who had been a part of the Rhode Island workforce for more than 20 years. She found herself using her expertise to transition to a role as part of the Johnson & Wales University Department. While working for the university, she was offered as part of her employment benefits, the opportunity to take classes free of charge. It was then that she made the decision to enroll in the Business School as a CE student. This would offer her the opportunity to develop herself professionally with minimal out of pocket costs, therefore enhancing her resume and making herself a more marketable candidate for employment.

Another student I had the opportunity to speak with was Rheta. Rheta had originally attended another institution and graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Textile Merchandising and Design. After obtaining her degree, she quickly found employment in the retail industry. Unfortunately, after spending some years within this industry, she found herself at a level from which she didn’t have a reasonable expectation to advance with her current degree. This lack of advancement opportunity impelled Rheta’s decision to pursue a second degree. When she finally completes her second Bachelors of Science degree in Business Management she will be able to branch out to different industries, and if she chooses to she will also be able to advance further within the retail industry.

There’s also the case of Alex who began her post-secondary studies at Johnson & Wales immediately after graduating High School. She found at that time that JWU was not the school she wanted to attend, and she took a hiatus of a few years and tried her luck at other institutions. Eventually, she found herself in a position where she was offered a scholarship a decision to return to Johnson & Wales and complete her education. She decided that the advantageous offer would be extremely beneficial financially and returned to JWU. Alex doesn’t currently have daytime employment, but she feels that it is her advantage to take classes at night because she "feels like classmates during the day are dumbed down to fit the demographic of day students."

Personally, I never expected to still be attending college at the age of 25. Like many others, I thought I would graduate high school at 18 and consequently attend college for the following four years. Unfortunately, life takes many twists and turns, and I found myself going from an exemplary student to a high school dropout during the first half of my Junior year in High School. Once I realized that my life was going down a path that I did not want to follow, I decided it was time to do something about it. I enrolled at a local college and began taking some classes toward a possible career in Nursing. After investing about three years worth of time and effort, I decided this wasn’t what I wanted to be doing. The years passed, and I found myself in a situation that was less than desirable; I had a considerable amount of work experience, but I was not an ideal candidate for employment because the highest level of education I had completed was the General Education Development (GED). It was at this point that I had to do some introspection and make some adjustments in my life. I visited a couple of local institutions and found that Johnson & Wales was the most effective school to help me accomplish my goals. The CE program at JWU provided me with the ability to take classes at my own pace and on my own schedule. Since CE classes begin at 6:00 p.m. I could reasonably hold a full-time job and be able to take classes at the same time. The fact that there are 4 terms every year in which one could take classes, versus the traditional 2 offered at most other institutions, made my goals attainable on a more streamlined time schedule. Now that I have made the decision to attend Johnson & Wales, I feel that ultimately I made the right decision. Sure, it was a much bumpier road than I would’ve chosen to travel, but in the end I know that through the CE department I will be able to accomplish some of my short-term goals. The important thing to remember is that ultimately it is not just in age, height, weight, preferences or even race, but at the center of our personal stories that we find true diversity. Get to know each other.

Softball Swept by Rivier in Double Header

By Daniel Booth

Director of Athletic Communications

The Johnson & Wales softball team was swept by Rivier in a Great Northeast Athletic Conference double header at Pierce Field on Sunday afternoon. Rivier took a 1-0 win in the opener and finished the day with a 5-1 victory in the nightcap. In the opener, Rivier scored the only run it would need in the top of the third on an RBI single by freshman Julie Abraham (Worcester, Mass.). The visiting Raiders added another run in the top of the sixth on a run scoring single by junior Jenna Hoadle (Ramsey, N.J.) en route to the 2-0 win. Freshman Amanda Rae Sullivan (East Granby, Conn.) suffered the loss for JWU, allowing two runs on six hits. Sophomore Monica White (Augusta, Maine) picked up the win for Rivier, pitching the complete game two-hit shutout with 14 strikeouts.

Johnson & Wales took the early 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first in the nightcap on an RBI single by freshman Christin Casar- eale (Middletown, N.Y.). Rivier responded in the top of the fourth, scoring three runs, including an RBI single by freshman Nikkie Bodanza (Shrewsbury, Mass.), to take the 3-1 lead. The Raiders added single runs in the sixth and seventh to take the 5-1 victory. Bodanza was 3-for-3 with an RBI in the win for Rivier while freshman Amanda Ryan (West Bridgewater, Mass.) was 3-for-3 with a run scored for the Raiders. Junior Sheri Plante (Millbury, Mass.) was 2-for-3 in the setback for Johnson & Wales.

The Wildcats finish the season with a 5-3 overall record, 3-3 in league play. Rivier improves to 19-10 overall, 16-10 in the GNAC.

Baseball Drops Pair Against Suffolk

By Daniel Booth

Director of Athletic Communications

The Johnson & Wales University baseball team dropped both games of a Great North- east Athletic double header against Suffolk at Adams Field on Saturday afternoon. The first game was an extra innings affair with Suffolk taking a 4-3 victory in 10 innings. The host Rams finished the sweep with an 11-2 win in the nightcap.

Suffolk took a 4-3 lead in the bottom of the first in the opener on a sacrifice fly by junior Keith Carter (Newburyport, Mass.). Johnson & Wales responded in the top of the second on an RBI single by junior Eric Rapuano (Clinton, Conn.) and grabbed a 2-1 edge in the fifth on a run-scoring single by senior Mike Wenzg (Manchester, Conn.).

JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY

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This is required of all graduating students. Sessions will be held April 21–May 2 at the Kinsley Building (Downcity) and The Friedman Center (Harborside).

☐ Pick up Your Cap & Gown
After the interview session, students will receive a cap & gown form. Students not conducting an SFS interview will not receive a cap and gown.

Caps and gowns will be distributed at the JWU Downcity or Harborside bookstores Monday, April 21 through Friday, May 2.

NOTE: Caps and gowns will not be distributed without a completed original form.

Visit www.jwu.edu/commencement/prov for continuously updated information.