

AT LAST
The sun finally returns today, with highs near 60; clear tonight.
Forecast, E10

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Troubled students a dilemma for schools

Professors and counselors at local colleges say it's difficult to tell when a student's bizarre behavior will turn to violence.

BY AMANDA MILKOVITS
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

The young man was scaring the other students in his graduate-level writing class.

He was menacing and making bizarre remarks. Some of the students told Prof. Mary Cappello they were afraid he was going to do something violent.

Cappello, an English professor at the University of Rhode Island, knew she had to do something. "Often we have to be sensitive to the fact that students may be giving us cries for help, but we're not psychologists," Cappello said.

She took the man aside and asked the chairman of the department for assistance. The young man acknowledged that he needed to be removed from the class, she said, and he finished the work on his own. "What I find is if you give that student one-on-one [attention], that's a first step," Cappello said. "So many times, they just need somebody they can trust, somebody else who acknowledges, I'm having a problem I can't deal with by myself."

Ask any professor and you'll hear the stories about the troubled students they've seen. They've had students who lashed out. Some were depressed and wrote of suicide. Some were provocative, and wrote creepy stories that shocked their classmates. These students are now on their minds as details emerge about Virginia Tech killer Cho Seung-Hui — a loner, withdrawn, angry, and the author of bizarre and violent screeds in his writing class.

Cathleen Calbert, an English professor at Rhode Island College, remembered a student whose writing frightened her enough to worry about the campus' vulnerability. The professors want their students to feel safe enough to write and express themselves, and yet sometimes there are warning bells. "People have

SEE **SIGNS, A4**

Minister who plagiarized may be forced out

Members of Providence's First Unitarian Church will vote on April 29 whether to give the Rev. Donald Cameron a second chance.

BY RICHARD C. DUJARDIN
JOURNAL RELIGION WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Even before his formal installation five months ago as the senior minister of the city's prestigious First Unitarian Church, the Rev. Donald Cameron was impressing many with his thought-provoking and often powerful sermons that spoke of poverty and race, and how to be a more caring community.

One member of the 440-member congregation was so moved by one of the minister's sermons at the 190-year-old Meeting House that he began to check whether he could look up the sermon on the Internet. It led to a disturbing discovery that may very well end Mr. Cameron's career.

What the church member found was that the sermon, which was delivered Jan. 28 with the title "To Be Religious is To Be Aware," was drawn almost entirely from words used by the Rev. Richard Gilbert at a Unitarian church service in Rochester, N.Y., in 1997.

Further research by the same member, whose name has not been disclosed, found two other sermons that were drawn almost verbatim from sermons delivered by other ministers, including a sermon on the Rev. Martin Luther King that had been preached in 1996 by one of the denomination's most gifted preachers, the Rev. Galen Guengerich, the senior minister of

SEE **MINISTER, A8**

FUROR OVER FIRINGS



NYT / DOUG MILLS

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales is under intense scrutiny as he prepares to testify yesterday before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Gonzales on the defensive

Senators from both parties voice skepticism over the attorney general's explanations for the firings of eight U.S. attorneys.

BY DAN EGGEN and PAUL KANE
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Alberto Gonzales came under withering attack from members of his own party yesterday over the dismissals of eight U.S. attorneys, facing the first resignation demand from a Republican member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and doubts from others about his candor and his ability to lead the Justice Department.

Gonzales appeared frustrated, weary and at times combative during a five-hour hearing of the Senate panel that was widely considered crucial to his bid to hold on to his job. He sought to craft a careful defense of the firings, apologizing for the way they were handled but defending them as the "right decision."

"While the process that led to the resignations was flawed, I firmly believe that nothing improper occurred," Gonzales said. "It would

"I believe there's consequences for mistakes. ... And I believe the best way to put this behind us is your resignation."

SEN. TOM COBURN, R-OKLA.,

calling for the attorney general to step down.

be improper to remove a U.S. attorney to interfere with or influence a particular prosecution for partisan political gain. I did not do that. I would never do that."

SEE **GONZALES, A6**

In storm's wake, shorefront homes, beaches punished

An immeasurable amount of sand has been ripped away from some of the state's best-known beaches, such as Narragansett and Misquamicut.

BY PETER B. LORD
JOURNAL ENVIRONMENT WRITER

From Westerly to Narragansett yesterday, state coastal experts found scoured beaches, smashed walls and fences and sand splashed onto roads and parking lots. The sand was just about everywhere except where it should have been, on the state's beaches.

Last weekend's storm didn't destroy any houses, but it ripped away immeasurable amounts of sand, put several more oceanfront houses in jeopardy and left several beaches as unwelcoming as abandoned parking lots.

Narragansett Town Beach looked like a moonscape, littered with so many stones it would be difficult to spread a blanket and sit down. Pointed spikes poked up along the center of the beach, neat pairs running parallel to the sea wall. Town officials said they belonged to a boardwalk that stood 100 years ago, when the beach was more than a hundred feet farther

SEE **BEACHES, A11**

For R.I., change is in the wind

As a study identifies 11 potential sites for wind farms, a conference on the energy source takes place at URI.

BY MICHELLE J. LEE
JOURNAL ENVIRONMENT WRITER

NARRAGANSETT — The potential of harnessing energy off Rhode Island's shores drew more than 200 people to the state's first conference on wind power.

Scientists, environmentalists, business people and politicians mingled yesterday at the University of Rhode Island's Bay Campus to learn more about the intricacies of wind power. The event was held by the University of Rhode Island, Roger Williams University, the state Office of Energy Resources, and the Washington County Regional Planning Council.

The conference came a day after Governor Carcieri released a comprehensive wind study identifying one land and 10 offshore sites that would be ideal to place wind farms. Carcieri's ultimate goal is to generate 15 percent of Rhode Island's electricity from renewable energy in the next five years. The study found the projects could meet the state's goal and cost \$900 million to \$1.9 billion.

The event was timed to provide context to the governor's wind study, said conference organizer Eleftherios Pavlides, director of the Wind Power Rhode Island Project and an architecture

SEE **WIND, A11**

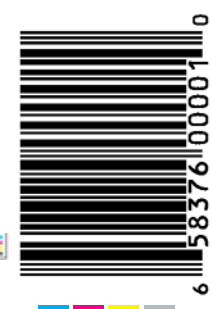


THE REV. CAMERON



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG

From left, Gary Gump, Tina Dolen and Christopher Burnett gather under the shadow of the Portsmouth Abbey wind turbine yesterday.



INSIDE TODAY

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SCHOOL SETTLES LOAN CASE

Salve Regina University agreed to a settlement with New York's attorney general over arrangements with the school's preferred lenders and will reimburse more than \$7,800. **B1**

JOB GROWTH SLOWS IN R.I.

Job growth in Rhode Island slowed during the first quarter, with small gains or even declines reported in restaurants, finance and construction. **F1**

D.C. MAY GET A VOTE

The House passes legislation to give the District of Columbia a full seat in Congress, marking the biggest victory in nearly three decades in the city's quest for voting rights. **A3**

WORTH THEIR WEIGHT

A paperweight worth \$75,000? You can find it, along with hundreds of others, at the biennial Paperweight Collectors Association convention being held in Warwick. **B1**

