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## Fall 2001 Issue

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# *History Alive!*

*Fall 2001 Issue of the official Providence College History Club Newsletter*

## ***Gladiator Movie Review***

On November 8, 2001, Dr. John Lawless, Assistant Professor of Classics at Providence College, delivered a presentation entitled "The Movie *Gladiator*: Pokemon with Swords or the Real Thing?" The presentation, which featured scenes from the movie and commentary by Dr. Lawless, analyzed the historical accuracy of the 2000 winner of the Academy Award for Best Picture and also discussed the history and nature of gladiatorial combat in general. The presentation was very informative and contained wit and humor, as when Dr. Lawless replied to a question about the central character's religious beliefs: "Maximus isn't a Stoic, because they didn't believe in an afterlife. He isn't a Christian. Apparently he belongs to one of the mystery religions—which is appropriate because it's mysterious which one it is." On a non-historical note, the evening ended with social camaraderie over pizza and soda, generously provided by the Residence Life Office. A great time was had by all, and the History Club thanks Dr. Lawless for his time and effort.

*Report by James Kabala*

## ***Whaling Museum Trip***

On November 17, 2001, members of both the History Club and the Portuguese Club set off for New Bedford and the New Bedford Whaling Museum. It was an excellent trip. Among the features of the museum were a genuine whale skeleton, a half-size replica of a whaling ship, and a silent film about whaling from the 1920's, featuring actors in the starring roles (including Clara Bow, the original "It Girl", in her film debut) and real-life whalers as extras. (The New Bedford whaling industry was then on its last legs, but still existing.) The film had dubbed-in commentary from the 1970's. Perhaps the best part of the trip was the performance of sea shanty singer Pat Mendoza, who performed classics such as "What Shall We Do with the Drunken Sailor?" and "Shenandoah," as well as his own compositions. We later dined at a fine restaurant staffed by a colorful ex-Marine.

*Report by James Kabala*

**Please stay tuned for many more exciting History Club events in the Spring of 2002!!**

*We are in the process of looking for students who are interested in running for a position on the executive board next year. If you are thinking of trying out, or have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the current officers listed below.*

President: James Kabala, ext. 3098

Vice President: Adam Jones, ext. 4168

Treasurer: Jason Andreotes, ext. 4231

Secretary: Keith Lewison, ext. 4063