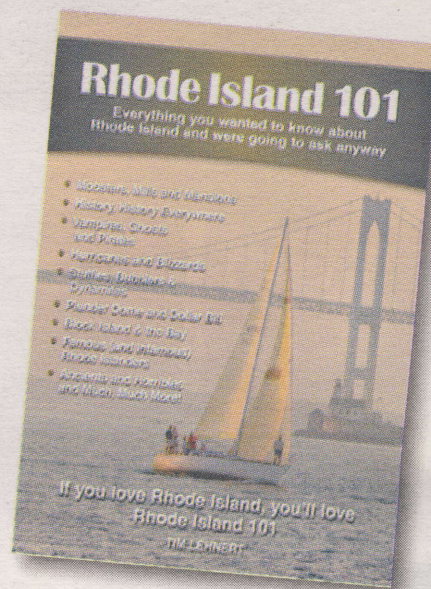


... The Horror...

els). With that goal in
et off to try the most
tem available at the
ea House. Upon order-
an bubble tea, the face
ng woman behind the
contorted with shock
I had to assure her
mes that, yes, I did ask
.
I thought I could ap-
he overload of flavor,
k hearty gulps of the
eat. As I kept sipping
ing down the tapioca,
to lose faith, the taste
g my nasal cavity. Af-
th or twelfth gulp, I at-
to nurse the tea, but I
the point of no return.
ouds became engulfed

by a flavor I can only liken to a
brief, sweet taste followed by
the prolonged sensation that my
mouth had been coated with pu-
reed garlic, onions and toe jam.

After my twentieth pathetic
attempt to swallow, the durian
had won the battle. I had to
sacrifice my desire to devour
a strange food with ease, like
Anthony Bourdain, to keep
my abdomen from ripping it-
self out of my body. However,
the tea essentially did its job,
and I now can say I've been to
bubble tea hell and back. *Brave
enough for durian? Visit the
Bubble Tea House at 849 West-
minster St. and try it - or one
of their many more palatable
flavors. - Alyssa Smith*



pub trivia

Twenty Questions, Rhody Style

Have you ever flipped through *The New York Times Almanac* and wished our state got a little more representation? Besides the requisite cooking and tourism books, has anyone mined the local depths to really examine our rich absurdity? Well, Tim Lehnert's **Rhode Island 101** is a compendium of all things Rhody, detailing history, crime, the economy and even a short glossary of our slang.

The book is organized around rapid fire facts from the obvious to the hilarious (Homonyms - Party and Potty: Chil'ren should yuze tha' potty befawa the pahty, soze they don' have a accidin'). While the delivery is slightly schizophrenic and we wish the inside pictures were taken by locally known photographers (iStock photo... really?), this book is the perfect read while quaffing a pint at a pub or when spending quality time on the throne. Bite-size reading for our Twittering bite-sized consciousness. **-Dan Schwartz**