Snow Day!!

Vanessa Williams
Co-Editor-In-Chief

Nearly a week in advance word had gotten out about a storm headed for Boston. By Friday students were updated about snow emergences and parking procedures for the storm: "Forecasts are indicating the possibility of 6-13" or more of snow over night Saturday night and Sunday." Late Saturday night people were beginning to question the forecast when not a flake had been seen. By Sunday morning however the skies and streets were filled with tiny white flakes, soon to symbolize freedom and rejoice for the Babson Student Body.

"During the day I had heard several students question the possibility of a snow day, but I never thought it would happen," reported one student. By 7:30pm however the word began to spread that this dream had in fact come true. "I was in my sorority's tower, someone texted my sister and she texted it out loud all 5 of us choused, then more people walked in screaming," recounted Lynn Root.

"I was in my room - my residents were running through the halls screaming 'No school!' I definitely let one of those 'I just won the lottery' screams and then called to brag to my little sister" said Dante Love.

Student John Williams recounted his experience as one of amazement: "I was in the gym and had just finished three miles when my friends inquired if I had heard about the snow day; they assured me that it was unequivocally true. Because of this, the water fountain behind the treadmills will always have a special place in my heart. An incredible moment when I least expected Babson College to make me feel young and care-free."

The news spread like wildfire, and the reactions described as "shock, utter disbelief, and happiness so pure that it is difficult to describe," remarked Dave Barnier.

On Monday's day off, many students took time to relax and enjoy the weather. "When I heard that classes were cancelled the first thing I thought was, 'SLEDDING!" said Jing Mai. Students were seen sledding down the Coleman/Back Wallpaper hill, playing football in the snow on the upper fields, and skiing down to the campus center. TIG was rumored to have created an igloo, the location unknown. Others left campus to go skiing and sledding at nearby locations.

While many spent the day enjoying the weather, for some, it was just another day. Ashley Watkinson had mixed feelings: "Well, I heard about the day off and I got excited, then I realized that I had a class at Wellesley College that was not cancelled. I was sad."

"I said I was going to do work, and did none all day" reported one student.

Whether the day was exciting, the news breathtaking, or the day ordinary, all students seemed to agree that snow days are a gift. "I think snow days are important for mental health and that they should be seen as a day to show respect for Mother Nature, for all she has done for us," concluded Dave Barnier.

Photo Courtesy of Henry Robins for The Babson Free Press

Babson students go sledding at Wellesley College on their day off from school

Alpha Epsilon Pi Celebrates Torah Ceremony with Chabad

Jason Bedrick
Editor Emeritus

The US Postal Service has a building in New York City, inscribed with the motto "Neither snow nor rain nor heat or gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." Well, on Sunday February 12th, a massive snowstorm kept just about everyone indoors.

Many local events were canceled and hundreds of flights were canceled in Boston leaving thousands of stranded travelers. But, in Wellesley, over one hundred friends and community members, including twelve brothers of Alpha Epsilon Pi, gathered in the midst of the storm for a historical event, the completion of a Torah scroll.

Written by hand, using a quill and special ink on dozens of sheets of handmade animal parchment, all sewn together to form a long scroll, Jews believe that a Torah is a living embodiment of the Divine Will. Specially trained scribes, known as "Soferim," spend up to 18 months writing each Torah. There are 304,855 letters in a Sofer Torah. If one letter is extra or missing, it renders the Torah invalid for use until the blameworth is repaired.

Originally planned for the Wellesley Free Library, the heavy snowfall meant that the library was forced to close for the day. This in turn meant that Wellesley-Weston Chabad Center Rabbi Moshe Bleich had to resort to Plan B: hosting the event in his own home.

"It was an absolute miracle," said Rabbi Bleich, "a dozen people stepped up to the plate to make this event happen," including several local students and community members: Worcester kosher catering company G & T Caterers were concerned about their ability to reach Wellesley on Sunday, so they brought the food a little early...30am!

Since over 200 people had made reservations to be at the event, a handful of people decided to queue in front of the house, the house became a makeshift parking lot.

Several others cleared the house, set up tables and chairs, prepared the food and made other last minute preparations. In the end, over 100 people braved the weather and made sure to attend the ceremony including many local families, students from Wellesley College and Babson College.

"I didn't know what to expect from the ceremony, especially since you usually think of Orthodox people as very strict, but Rabbi Bleich is young and very open and relaxed," said ISP brother Michael Fisher. "He provided a comfortable atmosphere that allowed me to become more familiar with my religious tradition."

It was a mitzvah (commandment) that every Jew should write his or her own Torah scroll, but since that is extremely difficult, Jews are allowed to purchase a letter in the Torah and thereby fulfill their obligation.

Photo Courtesy of Will Paris for The Babson Free Press

Snowman in front of Park Manor Central on the way to Tuomasen

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Alpha Epillon Pi attended a Torah dedication ceremony at the Wellesley-Weston Chabad House on Sunday, February 12th. Twelve current brothers and one graduate were in attendance.

Continuation of front page...

Everyone at the dedication ceremony had the opportunity to purchase a letter, word, or verse in the Torah and to hold the quill as the scribe wrote the letter into the Torah. "It was incredible to participate in a once-in-a-lifetime mitzvah," said Josh Neman, President of the Beta Epillon Chapter of Alpha Epillon Pi.

Thanks to an anonymous donor who contributed 90% of the cost, every brother of Alpha Epillon Pi at the event had the opportunity to write a letter in the Torah. Last semester, another anonymous philanthropist donated mezuzahs (scrolls containing prayers affixed to the doorposts of Jewish homes) to the Alphi Psi Tower.

The Torah scroll was donated by Sandra Brand, a Holocaust survivor and author who passed away this year. The program was funded in part by the Unterberg Endowment for Chabad on Campus.

"It was a very festive atmosphere," said AEPS brother Scott Breitman, "I was looking forward to seeing Matzahah, but the other band was great."

Though Mitzahah, the famous Chassidic rapstress, had to cancel his appearance, attendees had the pleasure of dancing to Piamenta, who Rolling Stone just called "the Jewish Hendrix."

Anyone who is interested in buying a letter in the Torah should contact Rabbi Bloch at 781-292-1096 or email chabad@wellesley.edu. Wessley-Weston Chabad's next major event will be its annual Purim bash on the evening of Monday, February 10 at the Wellesley Community Center. This year's theme is 'In the Shetel.'

Babson College
Public Safety Incident Log

1/30/06 - 2/6/06

Lock outs 107
Forcible Assistance 10

Monday 1/30/06
9:30 pm Request for transport to NWH for an ankle injury. Services rendered.

Tuesday 1/31/06
6:12 am Items found in Beben Hall on the 1st Floor. Items returned to owner.
8:09 pm Report of a noise complaint Keith Hall. RA contacted to check area.

Wednesday 2/1/06
3:47 pm Report of a lost backpack in Trim Hall. Back pack found and returned to owner.
8:40 pm Report of a suspicious person in the construction area. Area checked okay.
8:48 pm Officer reported hearing glass breaking in the Trim Lab. Area checked. 9:13 pm Student reported losing her purse in Malloy Hall. Location and returned to owner.

Thursday 2/2/06
8:50 pm Report of a noise complaint in Keith Hall. RA contacted.
9:23 pm Request for an ambulance in the Webster Center. Transferred to NWH.

Friday 2/3/06
1:30 pm Report of an alcohol violation in Forest Hall. RA contacted.
3:23 pm Report of a noise complaint in Vanwinkle Hall. RA contacted.

4:19 pm Report of a fire alarm in PMN. Alarm reset.
7:38 pm Employee called to report a broken window in the Hollister building. Report filed.

Saturday 2/4/06
2:22 am Report of an intoxicated male on the roadway by McCullough Hall. Transported to NWH.
7:19 pm Report of a fire alarm in Putney Hall. Alarm reset.

Sunday 2/5/06
12:16 am Report of a noise complaint in Coleman Hall. RA contacted.
1:52 am Report of a fire alarm in McCullough Hall. Alarm reset.
3:02 am Report of a noise complaint in Bryant Hall. RA contacted.
3:25 am Female taken into protective custody by McCullough Hall. Report filed.
4:30 am Report of a disturbance in Vanwinkle Hall. Trespass order issued.

Monday 2/6/06
1:16 am Request for an ambulance in Coleman Hall. Non-student with a laceration on her head transported to NWH.

CCD Corner
One Size Does NOT Fit All

Most likely, you will be one of several applicants in the candidate pool. One of the ways in which you can differentiate yourself from the competition is to have a polished resume and cover letter. While writing a cover letter can be tedious, taking the time to compose a well-written letter can make a difference in the screening process. Below are suggestions for writing cover letters that 'knock the socks off' of employers.

Keep it Short and Sweet. Many folks think that a long letter that describes each of your experiences, skills, and credentials is the way to go. Wrong! Don't bore employers with superfluous details and lengthy paragraphs. Your cover letter should be easy to read —short paragraphs with varied sentence structure to keep the reader's interest.

Read Before You Write. Taking the time to research the company before you write your letter can help you differentiate yourself from other candidates. Research not only provides details about a company, but can also help you to gain a better understanding of the company's needs, products, or services. Knowing this information can help you effectively articulate your particular contributions as well as help you to personalize the letter.

One Size Does Not Fit All. While components of your letter may resemble content you have written for other employment or internship opportunities, each letter should be personalized to the company to which you are applying. The research you compiled will help you to describe how your qualifications can help you make specific contributions to the particular employer to whom the letter is addressed.

Don't Mention Money. You've heard that asking salary questions during an interview is poor form. In a similar manner, it is not a good idea to mention salary in a cover letter. While some ads will request that you provide information about your salary requirements, do not include specific numbers—your numbers may be out of the ballpark. Simply, acknowledge the request and add that you are happy to discuss salary information in the content of an interview.

Test Your Letter's Effectiveness. To ensure that your letter makes the right impression, it is recommended that you have a trusted friend, colleague, faculty member, or CCD career advisor review your letter. Their feedback can be invaluable, plus they may spot some types that speech check didn't pick up.

Guidelines for writing cover letters are available on the CCD Web site: www.baboon.edu/ccdug.


SGA Game Day Award given away by our President Brian Sarefoot.
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Email Freepress@babson.edu with your name and your area of interest.

Election Results

Babson Free Press

The Babson Free Press

The Babson Free Press was named a Moody newspaper by the students of Babson College.

Our production facilities are located on the first floor of the Pond House Center.

Other News Sources:

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Thurs. P. 10:57 T. 2006

**Seasons of Love**

Dante Love

Staff Writer

Despite his adorable good-look, nothing could have saved Punsatwany Phi, everyone’s favorite shadow puppet turned meteorologist, from being completely forgotten not two weeks after his big day. “The competition was just too strong,” commented a source very close to Phi. And at an estimated $13.7 billion, I’d tend to agree.

Valentine’s Day, named for one of three catholic priests executed between 269 and 271 A.D. — lovely I know — is widely considered the most romantic day of the year and why not? Nothing says ‘I Love You’ like a bouquet of roses on the 1.7th anniversary of a craftsman’s beheading.

But, as any garden variety hopeless-romantic can attest, that which we call a rose by any other word would still smell as sweet. And smell they did — all 180 million of them. While predictable classics, red and yellow, made strong showings, a few brave souls decided to take the road less traveled offering their loved ones a familiar gift in an unfamiliar shade with colors ranging from orange to blue.

But why settle for easy candy when you can have the real thing? According to the Chocolate Manufacturers Association and National Confectioners Association, the $26 billion bar-chocolate bottle of chocolate sold this week should be enough to make Willy Wonka green with envy. Careful Willie. Love is not ensor or heart or arrogant or rude; remember, I’d add ‘commercial’ to the last but that’d just be silly.

So where does all this leave Phil? A known champion of hope, justice, and wintry conditions; Phil plans to recycle his recently-striped title in a year’s time, but you know what they say: All is Fair in Love.

A Labyrinth Retreat

William Hurley

Staff Writer

A long day of classes, it was thoroughly relaxing to visit the labyrinth set up in the Reynolds backroom. Caressed by Spiritual Life, this week’s What’s Up Wednesday and Wellness Week provided students a unique opportunity to meditate, unwind, and reflect. A canvas lay in the middle of the room, imprinted with a maze-like pattern. Once a student passed through the labyrinth, he would have the opportunity to kneel and contemplate. The peace in the courtyard was quite soothing.

However, after having a conversation with Rev. Ann Adams of Babson’s Spiritual Life team at the Glavin Chapel, I learned that the tradition of the labyrinth contrasts that of a maze. “The labyrinth has many symbolic associations depending on how it is configured. It’s different than a maze because it isn’t a game,” said Adams, who has experience walking with labyrinths. She continued, “It has roots in ancient Native American, Etruscan, and British cultures, but cannot be traced to any single religious faith group.”

Adams optimistically hopes that the Glavin Chapel will eventually acquire a labyrinth of some sort. She said labyrinths can take many forms depending on canvas materials, often painted on wood and built on stone, and her “goal is to have an outdoor labyrinth, in addition to one per-

mantly painted on the Glavin Chapel floor.” This is an exciting idea, as Babson students certainly deserve a break once in awhile! In the meantime, the Chapel has a quiet Prayer Room on the lower level, as well as a wide variety of weekly spiritual events to help students relax.

The Babson Free Press

Founded in 1834

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Anonymous letters to the editor will not be published. All letters must be submitted no later than Friday by 5:30 p.m. before the Thursday edition of the newspaper. All letters are subject to editing and become the property of the Free Press after submission. Typically, no more than a letter to the editor are printed in a given week. All letters should be no more than two pages.

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Investing in Social Responsibility

Alex Turetzak
Business and Technology Editor

Looking to make some cash and ridding the world of trash? Then perhaps a career in socially responsible investment management is the thing for you.

For Catherine Friend White, founder, partner, and senior portfolio manager at FinArc, an investment management firm that combines institutional portfolio management expertise with personal service specializing in socially responsible investing, this was this week’s featured speaker at the Babson Investment Management Association.

White received her MBA degree from Babson College and a B.A in Philosophy and French from Dickinson College. Her investment management career began in an unusual fashion, “I was one of the few people who got a job by responding to an ad in the Wall Street Journal; not many people coming out of college get hired like that any more, I was very fortunate; I’ve been working in the business now for over 27 years.” White explained.

Coming out of college White always knew she would one day start an investment company of her own, sure enough, White founded FinArc in 1990.

FinArc specializes in creating customized portfolios for high wealth individuals and corporate institutions. “These fundamental value mixed cap portfolios contain stocks that have gone through a robust quantitative and social screening. This screening process produces a list of stocks of the most compelling, least expensive, and environmentally responsible companies.”

“We first analyze the financial valuation of over 11,000 stocks in our database, emphasizing valuation ratios and forward earnings growth.” White said, “If a company doesn’t meet our financial requirements they are not going to be added to the portfolio.” Once these requirements are met we then screen them based on social and ethical responsibility.”

White points out that many companies may pass the initial fundamental screening, but it’s the social and environmental screening that keeps them out of the portfolio.

The most important threat that many companies have that have had environmental issues in the past are associated with the tobacco industry. Many of our clients don’t want their legacy to be to sell profits from companies selling tobacco to “kids” said White.

Of the most stocks that come out of the small or mid-cap companies— a higher percentage of which are listed on the NASDAQ exchange.

White suggests, “I think this is because of a generational link to tobacco stocks running these companies. You look at technology companies, you have a younger, more diverse work force so some of the large cap companies that have been investing in tobacco for a long time. I think they are more open to people of different cultural backgrounds working for them because they’ve grown up in a more accepting society.” Coincidentally, these companies tended to be the most environmentally responsible.

With an increasing interest in socially responsible investing, there’s no surprise it is the most rapidly growing sector of the investment management industry. “This industry is growing at a rate 20% more quickly than regular portfolio management.” 1 in 3 million investors today is screened for social responsibility.” White said.

The Babson Investment Management Association is exploring with White explaining career possibilities in the field. “More and more jobs are being created in socially responsible investments; people are hiring.” That bodes well to those looking to do something with some cash and ridding the world of trash.

Students at Babson can attest to having extremely busy lives. But for those looking to make money through socially responsible investing, living the world at the same time, socially responsible investing is a perfect fit.

Babson Investment Management Association

Speakers: Spring Semester

2/16/06 – John Beaver, Gina Fruin, Richard Grasfeder; Research Analyst, Congress Asset Management; Equity Analyst, Putnam Investments. Research Analyst, Janney Montgomery Scott

2/23/06 – Robert Ginsberg; Portfolio Manager, Voyager Fund, Putnam Investments

3/2/06 – Hewitt Heiserman, CFA; Author, It’s Earnings That Count (McGraw-Hill, 2004); Columnist, The Motley Fool

3/9/06 – Babson College Fund; BCF report and research

3/16/06 – Jason Kennedy; Greenwich Capital Markets

3/30/06 – Dan Fuss, CFA; Vice Chairman, Loomis Sayles

4/6/06 – Deborah Allinson, CFA; Senior Managing Director, Wellington Management Company

4/13/06 – Babson College Fund; BCF research

4/20/06 – Hugh Crowther, CFA; Principal, Crowther Investment

4/27/06 – BIMA Officers; Election of 2006-7 officers; plans for next year, end-of-year reception

A Delicious Way to View the Web

Christopher Cicchitelli
Staff Writer

The last year has seen significant growth in what many are calling “Web 2.0” - the second generation of architecture and services on the net. Del.icio.us is a company that is in charge of the guard of the Web 2.0, offering a completely free social networking service that has never before been seen. Del.icio.us (yes that’s a web address, type it into your browser) is a site known as a “social bookmarking” website. On its base level it’s a hosted bookmarks provider, that is to say it remotely hosts your “favorites” links, allowing you access to them any time you want. The social aspect is in how it lumps everyone’s bookmarks together or tracking how many people book mark a particular news article or blog, for instance.

When one browses del.icio.us more than just a list of bookmarks is that it allows users to tag their favorite lists. Think of tags as a keyword, or grouping, for content. Tags are used by many different channels among them Google, with a feature for sorting email called “labels,” where users simply attach a search phrase to an email as opposed to folders to group it with similar email. Del.icio.us or other site you add, the more groupings it is attached to. Facebook uses tags to search among students in college. Ever notice how you can click on someone’s interest in, say “sudoku,” and Facebook will list a list of everyone who has sudoku in their profile? Del.icio.us works in a similar way allowing users to tag their links and then search for other users who have similarly tagged bookmarks. You can also search by keyword to see who has them and what they have come across and marked as of-interest.

So let’s say you are interested in reading about Windows Vista, Microsoft’s upcoming replacement for Windows XP. Instead of using a search engine I would have gone either to a search engine like Google or to a content specific website like www.winsupersite.com to search for and read the latest press. Instead, with del.icio.us I just go to http://del.icio.us/tags/vista to show all the bookmarks from countless others like me that contain favorites tagged with “vista.” The results are similar - or appear on a page that would see from a search engine; however, they contain a count of everyone who has marked a bookmark that particular webpage, often numbering in the thousands. The higher the number, the more popular the article- increasing the relevancy accuracy of del.icio.us.

Conversely, web publishers and content providers are often using del.icio.us in a slightly different way. By using the built in features in an author of a commonly read news article could, for instance, find all the blogs that have written about his article and what they are saying about it. All it takes is a search in del.icio.us of the exact web address, and all the following pages get displayed. A search engine like Google can in most cases provide this same function, but not as easy, the notion, but it cannot do so as concisely and accurately as a listing direct references can.

It’s a whole new way to look at the web.
The Olympics Need Revision

Herbie Weisburg
Opinions Editor

Like many of you, I have been passively watching the winter Olympics in Turin, from the spilling ceremonies through yesterday. In fact, to one degree or another, I have watched the Olympics my entire life. One thing always astonishes me: no matter how many Olympics I might see, the sheer number of competitions there are.

You always hear about the speed skating, jumping, snowboarding, figure skating, mogul, and downhill skiing events, but there are so many more that very few actually pay attention to. When a sport is no longer practiced, it should be taken off the roster of events. I would feel sorry for the people who train their entire life for the skeleton competition, but I do not even know anyone who continues to perform this sport.

I can not imagine one of my friends challenging me to a skeleton race on the weekend. I have been sking for about fifteen years and have never witnessed a skeleton race, nor have I ever heard the term used other than to refer to the animal outside of the Olympics. It is cool to watch, maybe ESPN 3 can save them a spot on the lineup, but it does not belong in the most prestigious sporting event in the world.

Do not get me wrong, I am not picking on the skeleton guys. Having so many kinds of skiing and skating competitions are equally confusing. Ice dancing looks good, but why are pair skating and ice dancing different events? The only difference seems to be a few jumps.

Figure skating is one of the coolest looking events, and I can respect that there is a different kind of dynamic when it is a team event, but making a whole new event just to incorporate/discoarporate a few jumps in basically the same routine seems somewhat pointless.

My biggest pet-peeve when it comes to the winter Olympics is that the competition has to be the competitive event. I do not see the point of allowing people that are not necessarily the best of anything to win an Olympic medal. They work very hard, but it seems somewhat pointless.

You could have an award for the best overall athlete, but the combination of ski jumping and cross country skiing seems somewhat random. Hearing di-e and tri-a is just confusing and annoying. They require two entirely different skill sets, different skis, and different courses. What is the unifying factor? I just do not understand.

My next problem with the Olympics is not with the games themselves, but with the broadcasting. I do not care what baseball, football, or basketball commentators think about skiing or skating. I hardly care what they think about baseball, football, or basketball.

These television behemoths can afford to splurge on people who are actually knowledgeable. Who knows, specialization might bolster audience. I know I would like to learn more about the random sports as long as I am watching them.

The Olympics are the most prestigious competitions in the world and I would like to see them be more exciting and more entertaining without diluting their importance.

Cheney and His Big... Guns

Herbie Weisburg
Opinions Editor

Vice President Dick Cheney shot a man on Saturday. He was hunting with his friend Harry Whittington for quail. Whittington was standing behind Cheney, who turned around, following a covey, and shot Whittington. Fragments ended up lodged in Whittington, one in his heart, causing a heart attack. According to all accounts, Cheney and his party rushed to help Whittington, who was on the ground.

The story is not that Cheney shot someone, though, it is not even the seriousness of the incident. Most papers are latching onto the fact that Cheney chose not to disclose the shooting to the press. The Bush administration is known for their lack of disclosure, but this was just stupid. It was a matter of public record. Without anyone to set the press straight, rumors of everything from conspiracy to murder flooded newsstands and gossip spread rapidly.

The fact is accidents happen. No one likes to admit it, but people get shot all the time by accident. The form that was filled out on the incident was specifically for accidents and specifically not for an accidently shooting someone while hunting. It is obvious that this is not the first one the police have seen.

Let's face it, Cheney did not mean to hurt anyone. He made an awful mistake, but not an unthinkible one. Whittington is 78 years old. If he is able to sit up only a few days after the incident, his injuries were clearly not as severe as was originally portrayed.

That said, Cheney brought this on himself. His ruthless persona is not helping the poll numbers. Not apologizing immediately makes him seem heartless and insincere. Giving the first interview to Fox, a well-known supporter as a puff piece shows megalomania or selfishness.

When Professor Hotchkiss brought up the subject of the Cheney shooting in class today, I learned something. Coming from a "real American family," Professor Hotchkiss was apparently trained how to see a gun.

According to her, the first two things you learn are to always be aware where everyone else is and to know where you are shooting. Cheney broke both of these rules. White House representatives blaming Whittington for being in the wrong place does not cut it and has not in the eyes of Americans.

I imagine that is why Cheney came out on Wednesday to talk about how sorry he is for everything that happened. After rarely ever hearing a official in this administration apologize for anything, I was struck by the seeming sincerity and depth of the statement.

Cheney described the whole thing as "one of the worst days of my life." I'm not sure he had come out earlier I would have more of a chance of believing him. Now, I can not help thinking that the whole apology was a publicity stunt.
Opinions / Int'l

Go Nuts Hunting

Darius Eslami
Contributing Writer

Harry Whittington was shot in the chest and the face. He was hunting quail on a south Texas ranch. The guy who shot him was Vice President Dick Cheney. I don’t know about you, but this sounds like something straight out of The Wedding Crashers.

Sure, Dick Cheney went to visit Mr. Whittington in the hospital. But I don’t see how he can be expected to “see to it he is doing fine and in good spirits,” a spokeswoman said. “He has made a ‘mistake of the union’ to some.”

He’s had some great ideas in the past. Invade a country for no imminent threat based on some madman’s idiotic doctrine of “liberation of the peoples.” And when people say that we shouldn’t be in a war in the first place, they play ‘you support the troops.’ I do support the troops. I don’t support the cause, the invasion, and the man who led us to the state we are in. He does not believe whatsoever in unifying the left and the right, which he originally claimed. He wants to shoot the left in the face or, in other terms, completely ignore the other side of any argument.

Another genius plan by the president is phone bug “law” to spy on what our citizens are saying. Let’s completely invade their privacy. And let’s just completely keep them from protesting against the gov’t. “That’s how I imagine a slack-jawed president designing such a ‘master’ plan. I mean, he’s right. If I have nothing to hide, then why not allow someone to listen in. Who are we to be so protective of our rights?” It’s as if we are all being shot in the face with birdshot and not being apologized to. I’m being rather harsh, I admit. Cheney may have apolo- gized. I just may have missed it. I am having a major diffi- culty whether to appreciate the humor of the situation or the reality of it.

Me, Japan, and my junior high

Harry Kohase
Staff Writer

I spent my 13 years in Japan. The most daunting yet memorable time was my junior high school. It was, very differ- ent from schools in England or the United States. Let me tell you what it was like back then.

I was in a boarding school in Chiba prefecture, which is next to Tokyo. It might sound close in terms of location. But to get to my school, I had to take a taxi from the nearest train sta- tion and it was the only way, unless by car. The taxi would take another 20 minutes to get to my school. The school is self-sufficient and has its own farm.

There are no residences or shops within 1 mile radius. That meant no students could go out to town until weekend. I re- member it was the best thing to go out for walk away from the convenience store that was lo- cated about 2 miles away on sundays. 99% of the students lived in the dormitory. The sys- tem was really strict.

During the weekend, which was Monday to Saturday, we would wake up at 6:30 in the morning by the croaky voice of other super star, Tracy McGrady had returned to the lineup just three weeks ago. Injuries have plagued the two superstars of the Rockets, but as Tracy Ming looks to pass with Tracy McGrady they have propelled the Rockets to a 3-7-1 record. The two stars hope to lift the Houston Rockets from the di- visional cellar to a playoff berth. If Tracy McGrady’s back can stay stable, the two may just be able to do that.

The team is six games behind the Los Angeles Laker- ers for the eighth and final playoff spot. The New Or- leans Hornets claim the seventh spot. But, with little vet- eran leadership, the young Hay to the Mac Blast the Rockets Towards Playoff Hopes

Ian So
Contributing Writer

Hayo Ming is truly an intriguing phenomenon for the few NBA players to show enormous poise and modesty as we get used to the idea of other basketball skills. His persona has led to his widespread popular- ity and he has received many marketing deals and is the lead vote getter in the NBA 2006 All-Star game. Many of his votes were from onsite overseas’ votes, but only 10 papers showed his im- mense popularity in the states.

Last week, Hayo Ming demonstrated why he was popular by quickly helping the Rockets to a three game win streak before falling to the Lakers. In his last six games, Hayo has averaged 20 points, 10 rebounds and 2 blocks. Hayo has provided the interior defense and offensive punch the Rockets sorely needed.

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LIFESTYLES

THURSDAY, FEB. 16, 2006

Ms. Marjorie Agosin “Visits” Her Past

Sanat Hojoo
Contributing Writer

This Tuesday, February 14, the 42-year-old Latin American poet was in Residence at Colby College. Ms. Agosin, a native of Chile, was invited by the Professor of Spanish Literature, Dr. Carmen Fuentes. Ms. Agosin’s poetry has been the subject of much critical acclaim in both Latin America and the United States. She is a frequent visitor to the United States, and has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors.

Ms. Agosin, currently a resident of Wellesley, is originally from Chile. She was invited to Colby College by Dr. Carmen Fuentes, a professor of Spanish Literature. Ms. Agosin’s poetry has been the subject of much critical acclaim in both Latin America and the United States. She is a frequent visitor to the United States, and has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors.

What do YOU want to do?

Manjari Rastogi
Lifestyles Editor

I certainly hope that the title caught your attention because it very well could be the thing I want to know. If you are reading this, chances are that you are a Bashen student and if you’re one, then I’m sure you might not have the idea that the social life is a bit lacking at our fine institution.

Now before you get all defensive, please keep in mind that I didn’t say that you yourself felt this way but instead that you had actually heard this statement before.

This past weekend, Winter Weekend, was a great time. Walking into Sorenson Theatre on Thursday night, it was such a good feeling to see the hustle bustle in the lobby, mostly preparing to take our seats in the balcony. It was so nice seeing such a large turnout at the comedy event which featured VH1 comedians, Paul Scher, Rob Huebel, and Aziz Ansari.

The rest of the Winter Weekend events experienced similar success: ranging from the extremely long Build A Bear line to the jam-packed President’s Ball venue, Stanke Gymnasium. To be honest, there was such a great feeling to be part of such an active campus. My only wish is that every weekend could be like this.

So many people complain about the lack of social life but who ever thinks to do anything about it? The truth is that Bashen does a great job at putting together events and it’s a shame that students don’t take advantage of it. Occasionally, however, else do people expect to improve? You can’t walk around with this attitude that something is wrong or not be willing to do anything about it.

My question at this time, and it’s a serious one, is what would you like to see done differently? What events do you think should really do well, learn how to enhance experiences for the customers, which in this case means us.

Of course, artists that have been through a traumatic time in their life that find the best way to deal with such a past is to heal through their creativity. Ms. Agosin does that when she wrote a poem about the dictatorship that took over her country, where her own countrymen were forced to perform such tasks that she aptly named the poem “The Unbelievable Part”. In her poem she discusses the shock that she received when she noticed men torturing her friends and family and burning the teeth. These heinous acts, instilled fear among the locals, but these creatures of fear were none other than “People like you, me; nice people, just like us.”

The breadth of Ms. Agosin’s poetry is astounding and her language and poetic thought can make subjects such as Anne Frank and her grandmother, Josefina, come back to life. She writes about strength and conviction and her passion for changing the way in which students enjoy poetry. She thinks that we need to remind them that they are not a forgotten group and that their vulnerability is the greatest strength that they carry.

At other times her poems take us to another era, like the poem entitled “Hollywood”, recreating those moments spent with her mother watching Marilyn Monroe movies in the first row of the theater, just because her grandmother’s voice and hearing weren’t perfect.

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Enron: The Smartest guys in the room, really?
Anantasree Chaturvedi
Staff Writer

This documentary is the must see for every business student as well as any individual even mildly interested in business. I found this documentary to be very enticing as it takes the viewer through the entire journey of the Enron scandal from when they ruled the stock market to when they became the outcasts of the financial world. "Smartest guys in the room," is a refreshing documentary because it talks about facts and not biased towards any one part and does not use fancy camera movements or dramatic sound effects to portray the participants in a different light.

The Enron scandal is one that has already entered history books and financial journals as one of the biggest and most expensive scams of the century. However very few people including many highly acclaimed financial experts have no idea at to what really caused Enron to collapse literally overnight - clearly a scam of such magnitude cannot come out of an overnight error.

This documentary shows the build up to the scandal: what sort of behavior and what kind of practices lead up to this explosion on Wall Street. It not only focuses on the bosses and the top executives, but it also on the little people who lost everything because of the decisions made by the greedy few.

There are several instances where one feels that the film overlooks the investor angle, especially when they quote conversations between traders who went to lengths discussing how natural disasters and national tragedies fueled their stock price and how they manipulated their own companies' resources to influence the price of their stock.

The portrayal of traders is one aspect of this film that stands out as being biased and unreliable. Here, you can see some of Michael Moore's influence spreading. Since Moore's optimized documentary broke onto the movie scene, many documentaries have attempted to sway the audience and make provocative claims in the hope of generating a block-buster like Fahrenheit 9/11.

Nevertheless this is still an excellent piece of non-fiction jewelry following suit shortly after. Today, the holiday appeals to an international audience. Cultures from all around the world have embraced this transcient Western tradition, adapting it to their own personal tastes and values.

I always find it amusing (and a little sad) how most people celebrate these types of holidays without appreciating the history behind them. While I am not advocating that everyone go out and become historians, I do feel that, as members of a modern society infatuated with technology, we often tend to arrogantly dismiss the past without appreciating its significance.

Dave Matthews' Cover Band came to campus for Winter Weekend.

A History of Valentine's Day
Justin Peagram
Arts Editor

Most people associate Valentine's Day with flowers, chocolate, and perhaps a romantic evening with someone whose company is most agreeable. On this day, lovers, or soon-to-be lovers, exchange notes and gifts, proclaiming their affections toward one another in the hopes of igniting or reigniting lustful passions.

It is estimated that more people copulate on Valentine's Day than any other day of the year. And yet, how has this day of love-making come to exist?

The history of Valentine's Day, much like Christmas and all the other Western super-holidays, is imbedded in the Catholic Church — though I am sure most theologians and religious historians cringe at today's contemporary interpretation of this sacred day.

On a side note, the Church eliminated St. Valentine's Day as an official holiday, using the ostensible pretense of holiday proliferation as an excuse to eliminate this controversial day of lechery.

The history of Valentine's Day actually precedes Catholicism by at least one thousand years. In ancient Greece, February was the month where the Hellenistic world celebrated the sacred marriage of Zeus and Hera. Following in this tradition, the Romans dedicated February the fifteenth to the festival of Lupercus, the god of fertility. Ironically, the nudity involved in this ancient celebration was ten times more vulgar than scantily dressed Victoria's Secret supermodels.

The Catholic Church actually has three St. Valentine martyrs officially documented on February 14th. The connection between romantic love and these Saints is not clear, and many scholars propose that this day was originally created to counter the blasphemy of the Roman holiday.

Another possible precursor to the romantic Valentine's Day is Valentinus, the Gnostic teacher who emphasized the marital bed in his idea of Christian love. The claim was quite heretical in those days when extreme asceticism was the norm in Christianity.

The Medieval era saw the emergence of a romantic St. Valentine's Day in England and France. On this day, lovers would exchange kind words, affectionately calling each other "Valentines". The fourteenth century is said to be the period when most of the legends about St. Valentine were invented.

These include, among others, the story of how on the day of his death, St. Valentine sent his daughter a letter that read: "From your Valentine." Subsequent references by the likes of William Shakespeare only increased the holiday's overall appeal.

Valentine's Day spread to America when the Europeans came over, and the mainstream appreciation of this holiday occurred in the 19th century. Exchanging chocolates and gifts became popular in the mid-twentieth century, with the and serves as a good information source, especially considering the main trial is just about to begin. Another reason to watch the proceedings is because that this is such a dark chapter in the history of American business that it will not be forgotten very soon, and will probably become synonymous with business fraud, corruption or doom for the next generation of business people.

I bet you that it will not be long before you hear "I heard that company went down the drain, Enron style," and thus it is readily to know what actually happened and more important how it happened because, as many sayings often proclaim, those who don't know history, are bound to repeat it.

Dave Matthews' Cover Band came to campus for Winter Weekend.
SGA

Student Government Association Meetings

Wednesday!

@ 6:30
Trim 201 / 202

SGA
(the voice of the student body)

GET INVOLVED ON CAMPUS!

Any Questions?
Email: sga@babson.edu
Return of the Clemens?

Edward Chinu
Staff Writer

As pitchers and catchers begin to report this week, old friend Roger Clemens is still unsigned. Four teams are hot for his services: New York Yankees (is there anyone they are not interested in?), Houston Astros, Texas Rangers and Boston Red Sox. Clemens, who turns 44 in August, was by far the best pitcher in the National League last season as he posted a miniscule 1.87 ERA.

The time the Red Sox had spring training with 6 starters, half of whom are hoovering the age of 40. So why do the Red Sox need another pitcher over the age of 40? Here are five reasons the Red Sox should stop pursuing The Rocket:

Reason 1: All about the money.

The Red Sox already have one big salary player and they will be bending the rules to get rid of him for the past 3 seasons. Clemens will be demanding at least $18 million (his salary last year). The latest listing of shortstop Alex Gonzalez puts the Red Sox $400,000 below the $136.5 million luxury tax threshold. If the Sox were eligible to sign Clemens to a one-year $20 million contract, a 40% surcharge on that threshold would kick in. Since the Red Sox and Yan- kees are in the luxury tax for the last two seasons, they would be the only teams who would have to pay the luxury tax.

Is the Rocket really worth $30 million?

Reason 2: Home sweet home

What better than pitch right at home? If he resigns in Houston after May 1, he has the chance to return home whenever he wants and not go on any road trip. With the break after the World Baseball Classic until May 1, Clemens will be refreshed for the rest of the season. Clemens came out of retirement two years ago so he could pitch at home, so why a change of heart now?

Reason 3: Injury-prone?

By the end of last season, Clemens was seen limping around the clubhouse and his hamstring issues limited him during the Astros' playoff run. Adding a 43-year-old pitcher to a rotation that has so many questions to answer will be too risky for a Red Sox team that is built to go deep in the postseason while starting the youth movement.

Reason 4: The circus comes to Fenway.

Wherever the Rocket lands, it will become a circus. With the return of the Rocket, Yawkey Way will turn into a bigger circus than it was this off-season. What was key for the 2004 world champions was that the distractions were held to a mini- mum during the stretch run. The last time the Red Sox had a circus season was the season before John Henry and Co. bought the team. It would be wise that the Red Sox clear away from this circus.

Reason 5: Clemens is no longer 25, 25 cabs.

Clemens will be asking for the world once he signs here. Ending his career where it began will be a buffer for the media. Not only will the circus be around the clubhouse, the circus will become his own show. How will this be taken by the new Red Sox? His Game 7 opponent in the 2001 World Series, Curt Schilling, will have enough to say about Clemens going on his own schedule, with no road trips. And we complain about Manny being Manny?

Officiating Steered These Playoffs

Edward Chinu
Staff Writer

This version of the playoffs was unusual. No, it wasn't the absence of the New England Patriots dominating the games. It was the men in pinstripes that took the headlines away from the games themselves.

The NFL assigns the best rated officiating crews from the regular season to man the playoff games. But it just so happened that these crews all had a bad day during the playoffs.

The miscreants started in Denver when the Patriots faced the Broncos in the divisional round of the playoffs. Late in the second quarter with the Patriots clinging to a 3-0 lead, a late pass interference was called in the end zone on Asante Samuel. Samuel played Ahhlie Lello perfectly had a step on the route, looking back for the ball with no contact. Yet, the back judge in the end zone saw contact.

With the call made in the end zone, the Broncos had the ball on the 1 yard line. On the ensuing play, Mike Anderson punched it in for an easy touchdown. The Patriots were never the same after this series of events so they made mistakes no Belichick team would ever make.

In the next APC divisional round game, the referees nearly gave the game from the Pittsburgh Steelers to the Indianapolis Colts. Troy Polamalu intercepted Peyton Manning late in the fourth quarter to seal the win for the Steelers. The Steelers only saw the ball taken off as the play was overturned after the Colts challenged.

This gave Manning and his Colts another breath to eventually pull within a field goal. If the Colts had come back to win that game, that officiating crew would have been crucified by Steeler fans. The overturn caused the league to come out and say they made a mistake on the play.

If the officials were able to call a good game, we would not be having this discussion. The Bill Leavy led crew started its mistakes early — too early — in the Super Bowl. On the Seabahs first formidable drive into Steeler territory, an offensive pass interference on Darrell Jackson wiped away what would have been the first touchdown of the game.

But the back judge saw Jackson stretch his arm off and away from Steeler safety Chris Hope and throw the flag. Normally this call would not be made. This forced the Seahawks to eventually settle for a field goal instead of a touchdown. The Seahawks were never able to regain the momentum they had during that drive.

What could have been a great postseason was mired by bad calls that changed big football into mediocrity, boring football. The referees laid a sour egg in the most crucial time of the season.

This postseason will force the NFL to change its position in referees and make changes accordingly (which they will probably do a great job as they always do in such situations).

The last one they need to be worried about. What they need to be is concentrate on a new labor agreement. The future of the NFL depends on it.

Snapshot Scoreboard

February:
10 Ice Hockey vs. Williams L 1-3
11 Ice Hockey vs. Middlebury W 3-1
11 Men's Basketball vs. Springfield L 64-71
11 Men's Swimming vs. Springfield L 86-123
12 Skiing at Ascutney 10th/10 (W) 5th/10 (M)
11 Women's Basketball vs. Wellesley W 45-40
12 Skiing at Ascutney 10th/10 (W) 6th/10 (M)
14 Men's Basketball vs. MIT L 41-65
14 Women's Basketball at WPI L 46-48

Upcoming Games

February:
17 Ice Hockey at Tufts 7:35pm
17 Skiing at Sunapee TBA
17 Women's Swimming NEWMAC Championships at MIT
18 Ice Hockey at Connecticut College 3pm
18 Men's Basketball at Wheaton 3pm
18 Skiing at Pat's Peak TBA

Visit www.babson.edu/athletics for more on your Babson Sports.