Babson Grieves Along with Virginia Tech

The following is a submission from
President Brian Barefoot
'06, POI
To Everyone in the Babson Community:
All of us have been touched in some way by the shootings at Virginia Tech University. Our thoughts and prayers go out, in particular, to everyone who has been directly affected by this tragic event. Babson will host a vigil at 5:15 p.m. this afternoon at the Glavin Family Chapel. All members of the Babson community are invited to attend and reflect on the loss that we feel.

Yesterday’s events remind us of the extraordinary place that a college campus is—where all kinds of people come together to live, work, and learn. Understandably, we expect to do so in a safe environment, which makes the tragedy at Virginia Tech even more shocking.

At the same time, we are fortunate that the Babson campus has long been an unusually safe setting. We have a strong record of vigilance in protecting our students and other community members, and are committed to the highest levels of safety and security. In fact, we are already implementing a rapid communications system that will soon enable us to simultaneously e-mail, text message, and voice mail every member of the Babson community in an emergency. On an ongoing basis, we are reviewing our campus security policies and procedures.

The technology that has many resources available to those who might need support in the aftermath of the Virginia Tech tragedy. I encourage you to take advantage of any of the following, including Academic Services (x6076) and Campus Life (x4438) for undergraduates; the Office of Program Management (x4474) for graduate students; the Employee Assistance Program (698-6025) for faculty and staff; and the Babson Counseling Program (781-253-4965) for any member of our community who needs assistance.

Tragic events such as this can evoke strong emotions regarding sensitivities related to issues in people’s lives, so please be especially aware of students’ and colleagues’ reactions in the days ahead. All of those offices and services are available 24 hours a day through Public Safety (781-253-5555).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or thoughts you may have.

Bus. & Tech Page 6
In Remembrance

Arts Page 4
of those who passed

The following is a submission from Babson College Juniors Dave Adams, Nick Far, George Haloovage, MichaelPopup, Vadim Ruksin and Charles Bogoian.

Something’s You Just Can’t Explain

The following is a submission from Babson College Juniors Dave Adams, Nick Far, George Haloovage, Michael Popup, Vadim Ruksin and Charles Bogoian.

Something’s You Just Can’t Explain

It is the pursuit of man kind to seek understanding. From the profound, to the mundane, we rationalize, turn over, and "figure out." Our minds, innocent and curious, are ready, if they could, to find the answer. Our whole lives, we search for answers. As students, we are rewarded, progress, and achieve by finding the "right" answers. As I stood watching the tragedy in Blacksburg unfold, I like many wanted what seemed like simple answers. How could something like this happen? Why? But could I do something like this, what could drive someone to such extremes?

In the face of confusion and hysteria, it is important to consider the role of the media in this event. The media has a duty to the public to report the news as it happens, but in this case, the media has the power to influence the way we perceive this tragedy. The media has the power to shape our understanding of the world, and it is important to be aware of how the media is portraying this event.

The problem with media coverage is that it often simplifies complex issues into easy-to-understand packages. This can lead to a distorted understanding of the events that occurred. The media has a responsibility to present the truth, but it is important for us to question the information we receive and evaluate it for ourselves.

Another problem with media coverage is that it often focuses on the negative aspects of the tragedy. While it is important to acknowledge the seriousness of the event, it is equally important to remember the good things that were happening before the shooting. The media should strive to balance the coverage of the tragedy with stories of hope and creativity.

The media has the power to shape our understanding of the world, and it is important to be aware of how the media is portraying this event. We should question the information we receive and evaluate it for ourselves. The media should strive to present the truth, and balance their coverage of the tragedy with stories of hope and creativity.
To the Dean of Virginia Tech

We Mourn With You

Thursday, April 16, 2007

The following is an excerpt of a letter written from Ken Giannini, the brother of Babson’s Ken Giannini, to the Dean of the School of Architecture at Virginia Tech. The letter was also copied to the President of the College.

Paul,

I know words cannot help much, but from across the ocean let me tell you that everyone in London is grieved for you and your classmates and colleagues and the families of Va Tech. It is a tragedy beyond comprehension. I think in true comprehension, I only found this morning as I went to train that I read the front page of the national newspaper Daily Mail that showed a close up of a stone building and police covering a wounded girl away and the headline of ‘America’s Tragedy’. There was no mention of where this occurred on the front page, but, to me, it was an image of stone walls...those ‘Hokie’ stone walls that bring back great memories of the school. I am going to take a moment to remember the 18 (20) student on that great campus.

I opened the page to confirm what I already know. I am still in shock at the magnitude of Virginia Tech. It is without a doubt the strength of character, pride, self belief, thirst for knowledge and friendships that are the things I have taken from Virginia Tech that have made me a better person. I feel incoherent that I cannot now give the second thought that I usually give to those that die. I am truly sorry for your pain and support each other as we always have. I trust with all this that Virginia Tech or our University or tarnish this fine reputation but give it a renewed and timely purpose to teach and be the highest standards and to open its arms to all that seek knowledge. The world is watching Virginia Tech. Let them see the character we are made of. Please hold your head high, don’t have knee jerk reactions and keep your campus a place that is open and welcoming to all. It is a place for our students, our faculty and friends.

Ken Giannini
RBA Assoc AIA
Director

MCA Architecture Limi

71 Hookton Street London SE1 8LR
370 7702 7040 093 7028 722
Ken.giannini@mca-uk.com

From Tony Collier

I think it puts in perspective how small the concerns we all agonize with, on a daily basis, are in the scheme of things. It has been too long since I was in the college atmosphere that would breed individuals who could be a part of this in their own right. For me, though, there has been something missing from all the stories and reviews in the mainstream media. Conflicted, I don’t know if occasionally sitting alone for hours on end, contemplating the loss of friends, or having to change for me in the aftermath of something like this. Will more people open up and be accepting of a student who can appear to house some of the qualities that Cho Seung-Hui did? Or will more people look at me with cautious eyes, ready to tell Deans that I am ‘different’ or ‘mad’? Has Seung-Hui sent a strong message to the world in his suicide and replication of those rebels more reason to allow ‘white hunts’ to further alienate student situations?

We have been very concerned with terrorism since September 11th, 2001. While I am a pacifist, I’ve always found myself to be - what some may think is - too unempowered to do anything about this. I’ve only been in two classes in politics before, but there is no such thing as “us” versus “them” in any sense of this world; it’s all perception. Powerful, the difference that rumor can make. It can determine your life. Today’s world gives you the right to vote, determine where you live or what wars you fight and run, and increasing control over the agenda. Getting information on a small or grand scale is a necessity in today’s society. Especially considering a person doesn’t know when what dirt will get out and what kind of heading is. The political situation, I don’t punish myself much despite debilitating experiences of fame coming because of past miscelebrations. So, I’ll be open. Maybe what I have seen can help someone else find some amount of heartache in the future. How we treat each other after tragedy is an important thing. I would like to help remedy one of this out. Even the ‘terrorists’. What hurts the most is perhaps the element of surprise. If you trust a person and fall in love, and then the next day you wake up and hit your head on the reality that not everyone can be trusted so sim;ply? Is my attitude on the backsides of something unconventional or revolutionary, I can’t turn ev;rything - a trusting heart turns out worth more. It is important to remember that people are just people.

From The Aronios

Mo - Our thoughts are with you and your friends at VT. We pray for your continued safety and send our love.

The Golden Rule

Robin Messerli
Staff Writer

The impetus for writing can be different for me from location to location, but I am always thinking about Virginia. What happened at the college on Monday was tragic and Americans have been listening with sympathy to the story since. I think that we all can dream of the characteristics of a person to do something so disgusting. Of course, we’d like it not to happen, and we’d like to understand how - "how?" At the end of the day, however, we all lock our doors for safety and remember the evils of the world to tempt the keyhole. After any horrible activity from one human or another, our hearts go out to whom we can help in the moment and maybe aid anything like it happening again. Unfortunately, I feel the need to warn against not allowing the shooting to show towards treating others in an even more paranoid light.

I have talked about how the situation was handled by authorities, we can look for ways to better communicate in emergencies, and we can discuss how to treat each other better to strengthen the college atmosphere that would breed individuals who could be a part of this in their own right. For me, though, there has been something missing from all the stories and reviews in the mainstream media. Conflicted, I don’t know if occasionally sitting alone for hours on end, contemplating the loss of friends, or having to change for me in the aftermath of something like this. Will more people open up and be accepting of a student who can appear to house some of the qualities that Cho Seung-Hui did? Or will more people look at me with cautious eyes, ready to tell Deans that I am ‘different’ or ‘mad’? Has Seung-Hui sent a strong message to the world in his suicide and replication of those rebels more reason to allow ‘white hunts’ to further alienate student situations?

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Counseling Program at Human Relations Service

Dr. Betsy Kelly McCormick, Director: 781-239-1950
Falling Kings: Babson ChessMates’ bring in a True Master.

Eric Cheah
Staff writer

The kings were falling on Monday, April 9th, after 17 undergraduates, MBAs, and other friends of Babson ChessMates, invited to try to beat the Chess Master, Petr Jiroušek, as his own game, all failed. One by one, we fell in our futile attempt to win a grand prize, a Chess set imported from the Czech Republic, offered by Petr’s wife, Julie Stubb, an employee at the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship of New England, a Babson affiliate.

Through Julie, this fun event was set up as part of ChessMates attempt to spread awareness and educate students on the fun of playing Chess. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity for the Babson community to get a Chess Master of this magnitude, a man who was Czech national champion during his youth, while also playing on the Czech and German national teams. He became an international master at the age of 20, and did all this before his immigrating to America in 2003.

The tables in Reynolds 241 were set up as a horseshoe, in a way as to minimize walking by Petr. Nick’s Pizza and Calzones were served starting at 6:30 and allowed the challengers to fill their stomachs before putting up their best games.

Unfortunately, no one who attended was able to draw Petr, which was the requirement for winning the grand prize. Petr was able to quickly think quickly on his feet and recognize how to beat each and everyone one of his opponents, even though no two games were alike. A few students, however, were able to give him a little trouble, allowing Petr to quip that “there were a few challenging games.” Amongst these challenging games played against him were from MBA student Marin Barbana, Bridgewater State student Vladimir Tulshev, and undergraduate Patrick McNamara, who lasted the longest amongst the challengers.

It was a quick night for the three e-board members of ChessMates who challenged him, as Eric Chan was the third to fall, and co-founders Ryan Salomone and Shi Ming Chung found out that they were no match for the master soon thereafter.

This night not only served as a reminder to those who love chess on this campus that chess is not only fun, but also is the most exciting event during ChessMates’ two year existence. Realizing this, and looking to grow the existing club, the organization’s e-board is completely made up of juniors and seniors, and we are now recruiting those who are interested in e-board positions. For those interested, the list of positions are/will be available — special events coordinator, vice president, SGA senator, intercollegiate liaison, treasurer, etc. Please contact en1@babson.edu if interested.

The Chess Master schooling Free Press’ own Dave Barner and Eric Chan.

Photo By: Carla Ni

The Armenian Genocide was the first genocide of the 20th century, occurring from 1915 to 1918. Over 1.5 million Armenians living in Ottoman Turkey were eliminated from their historic home and through forced deportations and massacres.

Although 92 years have passed, the US government still refuses to call these events “genocide.”

Hosted by the Armenian Students’ Association.
Pizza will be provided!

Artistically creative? Want to have fun and get published?

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Investing: Buy What You Know

Eric Schlein
Staff Writer

With almost ten thousand publicly traded companies in the United States, investors have an overwhelming and daunting task of picking the best investments. While a person can use online screeners to find investments, chances are the average investor will be more than overwhelmed with the amount of companies he or she can choose from. A better idea would be to sit down and list the sectors and industries you understand. It is unhurried and passive speculative to invest in something you don’t understand.

Ask any investment guru like Warren Buffett, Munish Pabrai, or Seth Klarman and they will tell you the same thing: if you don’t understand a company’s operation, you shouldn’t own it worth your time. This is what Warren Buffett calls the “circle of competence.”

In Seth Klarman’s book Margin of Safety, he preaches to investors never to risk any money. While you may be right 90% of the time, you don’t have to worry about losing your money because you wrong. It can destroy an investment track record. Klarman shows companies that are in line with a portfolio yielding 10% a year is better than a portfolio yielding 9% a year for nine years and being down 20% the tenth year. By making errors, the investor can make almost every time will allow you to achieve better investment results.

A perfect example is the sub-prime mortgage business which now seems to be in freefall. At one time this business was highly regarded by analysts and investment banks. If the average investor had listened to the analysts speaking highly of the sector, one may have been very happy with a sub-prime mortgage lender. Chances are, most investors didn’t know what the sub-prime mortgage industry was and were buying what they thought were great businesses a few years ago and bought most of their investment.

A coin collector I was talking to the other day was buying shares of gold companies in 1999 when everyone was saying gold was as well as every other commodity was a bad investment. This coin collector told me that he understood the business of buying gold for a living. He was able to observe that the price to get into the ground was more expensive than the actual gold itself. By understanding the industry, he was able to get in early on the commodity bull market because of the commodity shortage causing a large supply and demand imbalance in the years ahead.

There are many companies that may appear cheap by current financial measures such as price to earnings and price to sales. These financial ratios can only go so far for you don’t understand why a company Returns on Equity decreased or increased profit margins are so low, and it is not worth investing in that industry.

Wal-Mart is a perfect example of a great company and they have never been cheaper. With the record downturn in housing the furniture industry has followed. Yet like all cyclical company’s you buy when things seem like they can’t get better not when every thing is easy. Following this market psychology would probably yield market beating returns as is. But back to Natuzzi. The Motley Fool recently had a great article on them where Seth Jayson had this to say:

“Sure, the company recently announced that it expects sales to be flat for 2007, and profits around breakeven. But a look at the most-recent earnings results shows, a company that’s got greater potential than management’s 2007 prognosis might imply. For 2006, net sales were up 9.8% and operating income top 16.5 million euro, reversing last year’s loss. Most important of all is that this company was cash generation by operations, which came to 69.9 million euro, nearly tripling last year’s 23.2 million euro. Pulling out capital, we’re left with a company that produced about 862.5 million in free cash flow. And it’s trading at an enterprise value of only 8292 million.

This statement is very compelling to me and unlike Seth I have decided to purchase shares. To read more market insights by Eric Schlein, visit his blog ValueSeeker.net.
National Tragedy, Local Reaction

Herbie Weisburgh
Opinions Editor

Everyone felt the ripple effect of Monday’s tragedy. To think, one student could be so disinherited by the neo-Ameri-
can socio-economic mindset that he would be driven to kill indiscrimi-
nately over thirty individuals in the safety of their univer-
sity. If just for a second, the thought of the possibility of such an attack at Babson crossed my mind how would I be able to cope? What would I do? Many schools often have enough work and stress to suggest a similar environment could exist. If there were a mentally-unstable enough person here, I could only imagine what would happen. It is a scary thought.

So what is the answer? Should Catcher in the Rye be banished from schools and every-
one just pretend that feelings of inequality and contempt do not exist? No, of course not. That would only harbor feelings, tak-
ing away our ability to deal with existing problems. Ignoring a problem rarely fixes it, espe-
cially something powerful enough to cause such pain and destruction.

While not the ultimate solution, there seems to be a simple and powerful solution out there that should be explored. At a business college like Babson, it is easy to forget that not every-
one values money and power above all else. Outside of ac-
counting and finance classes, money is not everything, and,
certainly, being born into wealth does not offer any validity. In fact, I would argue that it is more admirable to make it to Babson from a less privileged background. It means more. If you have money, value it, or are vain, do not use it to make oth-
ers feel inferior or degraded. Do not let your actions reflect so poorly on the community here.

Che’s actions at Virginia Tech were by no means justified. They were cruel and unthink-
able, a blown up response result-
ing from a twisted mind and who
knows what kind of upbringing He was obviously a deeply troubled youth who lost any right to complain or cause for sympa-
thy as soon as he picked up that gun. No one has the right to physically assault innocent people. However, his actions were not entirely without prove-
cation, no matter how warped.

If some individuals at Babson continue to show con-
tempt for their background, resenting, and community by act-
ing in a disgraceful manner, it is
there peremptory. We all know that the school has its share. Not time to face it, though, it
is an opportunity to make a little differ-
ence. You can stand up to them, but better yet, set a good ex-
ample. By becoming the an-
thesis, the well balanced, kind, con-
siderate, scholarly, philan-
thropic business student, you can create a more positive feel-
ing on campus. Everyone can make a little difference. If en-
ough people make a conscious decision to set a good example, the school would be a better place and anyone who comes here would realize that there are many more great people than potter up in our community. It should not take something so

devastating to wake up the commu-
ity. Babson has a lot of po-
tential. Help us realize it.

The Real Patriots’ Day

Have an opinion!

Get involved!

Herbie Weisburgh
Opinions Editor

On the third Monday in April, Patriots’ Day, children in Massachusetts, Maine, and Wis-
consin rejoice for lack of school. In Mass. and Maine, businesses also close down. Auspiciously tall Kenyan men whisk through town like finely tuned running machines to crowds of incoher-
ent drunk and family-type pic-
mickers in order to home the price for being the fastest per-
son crazy enough to want to run twenty-six miles. The Red Sox play a home game every year on the day for no apparent reason whatsoever other than to further pollute the meaning of the day itself. I, for one, am confused. Nothing really important happened on April 16. Nothing that important happened on “the third Monday in April.”

On April 19, 1775, the battles of Lexington and Concord were fought. On that day, Paul Revere made his fabled ride. The “shot heard ‘round the world” was heard and responded to. The songs of Boston by the minute-
men began. It was a symbolic victory that has been used to inspire troops ever since. Havin-
g that knowledge, I have no earthly idea what any of it has to do with what Patriots’ Day has become. Sure, some history buffs reassert a grossly inaccur-
ate portrayal of the battles, but on the wrong day and in the wrong context. It is not like anyone really appreciates Patriots’ Day for what it really is.

Sadly, Patriots’ Day has fallen the way of St. Patrick’s Day, Valentine’s Day, or Labor Day. No one really knows what it means. Hell, I am from New York. The only reason to bring up Patriots’ Day is when it de-
lays taxes. Then, of course, it is the most glorious holiday imag-
inalible. Praised be St. Patrick, or

whatever the day is named for, and all that jazz. For any of you who actually thought it was named after a St. Patriot after that comment, wow, just give yourself a nice hard slap across the head. It is not like you are using it for anything else.

Patriots’ Day could be about so many things. It could be about the bravura of Paul Revere and Joseph Warren, who, despite the flight of all other rebel leaders, resolved to stay in Boston and help the cause. It could be about the accomplish-
ments and bravery of the poorly armed milita who were able to defeat the red coats and drive them back, despite inferior num-
bers. It could even be about the cunning and guile of Margaret Gage, who supposedly supplied “Paul Revere” with valuable in-
formation about her husband’s movements and plans. If not for her, there would be little chance of the American minute man being prepared for an attack or having the foresight to move their supplies. A deceitful wife proved to be the greatest weapon of the Massachusetts militia.

One way or another, looking back at your Patriots’ Day, and looking forward to the next, I ask you not only to think about the day off and how aw-
some the shortened week is right when you need it most. Think about what the bastards of De-
signer Turkish fashion that Ms. Gage was forced to wear while portraying her husband to her countrymen or Samuel and John Adams, who bid at a relative’s estate until after the battles were over. Actually, on second thought, just Disneyfie the whole series of events like every other holiday; just think about the brave men who started the founding of the United States of America.
Honor the Dead in Faith
Jim So
International Editor

Throughout history, death is the greatest unknown. For mankind, philosophers and scientists spend their lives explaining and prolonging life, but few have been able to explore and explain the realm of death. Instead, religion is delegated with the role of explaining death.

For example, in Christianity, death is the end of human existence on Earth and its entrance into the spiritual world where we are judged to enter Heaven or Hell, like Christianity, Hinduism, has shared elements of a heaven and hell, while another religion Buddhism opposes Western ideas of an afterlife.

Buddhism is globally practiced by millions of people and has the fifth most practitioners. The idea behind Buddhism is that suffering is in life is caused by desire. To free oneself from desire means to free the mind from the cycle of desire and suffering.

During Buddhist funerals, the bodies are cremated and for up to forty nine days, monks will recite prayers and recite the soul of the deceased through songs and prayers.

Filipino Assimilation in the United States
Antonette Ho
Contributing Writer

"My strength is aching. It's the dream of our family to be here in the United States, and after years of dreaming, it's real. We're coming over to the United States, Filipinos have always dreamt of the United States, Filipinos have always dreamt of the United States, Filipinos have always dreamt of the United States, Filipinos have always dreamt of the United States." 

In the early 20th century, a group of Filipinos attended the St. Louis World’s Fair, which was described as the "best guides to visitors in the different Filipino buildings" for these Filipinos. Americans have the impression that Filipinos are barbaric, yet these educated Filpino citizens were able to confront the stereotype that had been imposed on them.

As a result of arriving in the United States, Filipinos face a lot of "cultural shock." According to some living in the United States, there are no surprises with some of the behaviors they encounter. Retiree Cariloan, who lives in a house made of bamboo with no electricity and plumbing, arrived in the U.S. with his family, and though they have lived quite levishly. He instantly gained weight, because "back home, we eat better."

In addition, it is important to recognize that, like all other Filipinos arriving to the United States, Filipinos have had their obstacles adjusting to the so-called "nothing put." By the early 1970s, the Filipino population had grown immensely, as the midst of the Great Depression, many white laborers had growing resentment towards Filipino laborers; regardless of the fact that this immigration had slowed down during this time due to economic reasons. U.S. image makers were depicting Filipinos as incapable, ungrateful individuals. Yet, with their initial exposure to American culture, the Filipinos were able to overcome these obstacles easily with ease and control.

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In addition, it is important to recognize that, like all other Filipinos arriving to the United States, Filipinos have had their obstacles adjusting to the so-called "nothing put." By the early 1970s, the Filipino population had grown immensely, as the midst of the Great Depression, many white laborers had growing resentment towards Filipino laborers; regardless of the fact that this immigration had slowed down during this time due to economic reasons. U.S. image makers were depicting Filipinos as incapable, ungrateful individuals. Yet, with their initial exposure to American culture, the Filipinos were able to overcome these obstacles easily with ease and control.
Lacerosse players innocence in those 1985. I am not going to get into the details of either story type. But I do know each of them (over and over and over again). Their importance in my memory is that I have come to realize that they serve as a reminder of how little progress we have really made in terms of race, gender, and social class in our pain and progress with the same reminder on a consistent basis.

Black athletes are still fighting stereotypes and trying to overcome the same obstacles as their predecessors. One of the most common examples is that of over 120 Division I college football teams, the number of black head throughout the season. This percentage is dwarfed by the high percentage of black athletes who comprise the teams they are coaching or, more accurately, that can see a black quarterback succeed, but numerous black columnists don’t even question when they say Briar Ulrich and Jason Sebel are overpaid. The point is that Black Americans want to see white players succeed at positions predominate by black athletes. This is why Larry Johnson can get away with saying he is happy Herman Edwards’ job is secure because he just couldn’t take in a white coach. There is a lot of anger in the air because a black quarterback can imagine if the white football players were to come out and say the same thing and they would have to take orders from a black man. It’s very frustrating.

There is a basketball movie “White Men Can’t Jump,” in which a black basketball player is able to hustle playground opponents out of money by playing with a white partner because none of them can believe a “white boy” can do any good at basketball. There is a lot of comedy in the role of a black cornbread to be ridiculed by teammates if he is an effective player. And while the Williams sisters complain about the rac, they have also taken the opportunity to show how talented inferior opponents as “white meat.”

Then there is Paul Horning, the former Heisman Trophy win-ner from Notre Dame, who be-came a college football commen-tator. When asked about his alma mater’s struggles a few years ago, he said he believed that Notre Dame needed to lower their academic admission poli-cies because they needed to attract “true black athletes.” Can you believe he said that? How racist! For this man to imply that white athletes are inferior to dark-skinned athletes but not the racist context you were thinking when you read about the same thing. The fact is that not all of the cost of America. Of course what he said was racist. It is racist not even to mention the fact that athletes aren’t as smart as whites and can’t get into Notre Dame seen. You can ask any college president that the system we are still dealing with. For this implication Horning was right to have the same opinion. There is a lot of the fact that Horning was equally implying that white ath-letes aren’t as good as black athletes.

That is the standard double we are now dealing with. Two forms of racism, equal in injus-tice but called a different name. Sometimes it appears we have come along way since the days of Jackie Robinson but the more you observe in sports, the more you realize how far we still have to go. I don’t want to play anymore—batting around .200 while his career average in April is .336. The team has struggled, however, the Piedros at second base batting .222 with no RBIs — and no real backup at the spot other than Alex Cora, who has ZERO hits on the season. Julian Tavarez is a big question mark — the contending team throws out Slyde Snyder, Jed Pleinier, and JC Romero out there in the 7th and 8th innings? And lastly, the captain of the team and player everyone trusts, catcher Jason Varitek, looks like an 80 year old man trying to swing a bat.

I’m not saying this team isn’t good. A team with a $4 million dollar payroll must be half decent, unless you are the LA Dodgers. This team has players — Papelbon, Big Papi, Manny — who are capable of bringing this team to first place in September. But it’s the com-bination of aging (Selig), Tim Varitek, Walkoff, Kendrick, bullpen (Piniero, Snyder, Rodriguez), Jay Varitek, and the big names (Hasek,icks Okajima, Pedroia, perhaps Dike-C), strug-gle with injuries and the per-sonal issues come up. These players are having the same thing every year since 1998, with 2004 an ac-ceptation. Each year, this team is a group of us glimmers of hope by being in first place during April or May with the struggling Yankees on its tail, and every time the Sox don’t fail to disappoint the Fenway Faithful.

What pitched the first game that number 5 pitcher Julian Tavarez pitched knows that he’s about to lose 15 games if he continues to pitch like he did. Mike Timlin looks like an old walking fragile sen- 100 miles-an-hour gopherball every time he gets the ball. And Josh Beckett is doing the same thing he did last year, tease us with his impeccable talent and then flailing once players realize he can throw he is straight fastballs.

But the Fenway Faithful, keps telling me, “The Yan-kees suck” and “Carpenter is hurt for the Cardinals, so no one else can win the World Series.” But then again, it’s April and already more warning signs are in. Manny Ramirez looks like a machine but do called a different name. Sometimes it appears we have come along way since the days of Jackie Robinson but the more you observe in sports, the more you realize how far we still have to go.

It’s Called Bruns.

Wait ‘til Next Year, Again?

By Eric Chan

The Sox season has been nothing short of adventurous so far. Dike-C makes a magical 7-10 strikeout debut against the Kansas City Royals, then gets out-dueled by a 21 year old who struggled most last year on a bad team in Se- cola. Manny Ramirez is batting around the .300 line at the time of writing, and the two baby bench guys thought to be super subs before the season started, Alex Cora and Willy Mo Pena, are both batting .000 with 200 RBIs. The Tampa Bay Devil Rays were in first place for a few days, though normally has taken over as the Sox are back in first place in the early going.

Sure, the team’s in first place and the pitching is as good as mommey’s cooking, but can aging 40 year old pitchers Curt Schilling and Tim Wakefield continue, giving us so much to cheer for?

It seems to me that it’s the same thing every year since 1998, with 2004 an ac-ceptation. Each year, this team is a group of us glimmers of hope by being in first place during April or May with the struggling Yankees on its tail, and every time the Sox don’t fail to disappoint the Fenway Faithful.

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In Memory of Those Lost at Virginia Tech

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