It was a busy day at Reynolds this Wednesday as S.T.A.N.D. coordinated the campus to take 3 steps toward ending the genocide in Darfur. Have you logged on to savedarfur.org yet?

S.T.A.N.D. for L.O.V.E.

David Barcay
Co-Editor in Chief

You've probably seen it mentioned in the newspaper, or perhaps watched Larry King on CNN and heard some kind of question about Sudan. Maybe you were scrolling through your Twitter feed, left clicking to check out hastily written updates and the mention of it, with a link at it, at the bottom of someone's profile. Or, maybe you passed through Reynolds yesterday for a bite to eat and saw pictures of it on the windows. What could be such a big issue that it can take prime-time space on one of the world's most well known programs, insert itself in your friends' newsfeed and even show up on our campus center? In one word: Darfur.

For different people the mention of Darfur might bring up different thoughts, different opinions and different ideas. For one group on campus, S.T.A.N.D. (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur), the word Darfur means so much more than any one thought or idea.

Darfur, located in western Sudan, is one of the most desolate and most horrific war zones on innocent civilians. The history to this genocide lies in the past of the Sudanese government and more specifically the role of the S.L.A. (Sudanese Liberation Army) in gaining equal representation within the political system. Essentially, well-known conflict began in the late 2000s when the Sudanese government began to fund the Janjaweed militia groups which started to target several groups, including the Darfur region. These groups are mainly composed of Sudanese farmers and citizens, and then took up the task of defending the targeted groups. Since then the S.L.A. has continued their attempts to save their already scarce land in Darfur. It has been extremely tough, however, considering that the circumstances of the conflict have created huge barriers toward reaching a mutual standstill.

As the violence increased, though, so did the power of the Sudanese government to the Janjaweed militia group over the people of Darfur. On September 15, 2004, only a year and a half after the conflict began (three years ago from the date of this article), the Sudanese Interior Ministerutton Faisal ordered the troops to be deployed. The troops were sent to the region of Darfur, where they began to target the Janjaweed militia groups.

The Janjaweed militia groups were responsible for the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians. They were responsible for the displacement of millions of people, the destruction of homes and villages, and the burning of crops. The Janjaweed militia groups were responsible for the torture and the rape of innocent women and children. The Janjaweed militia groups were responsible for the murder of thousands of innocent civilians.

Second, the group has a donation jar to enable Babson students to make financial contributions for the cause. The money raised will go toward the Save Darfur Coalition, found online at savedarfur.org. Lastly, the group has organized an online community where people from around the world can come together to support the people of Darfur.

Up to the point that the Free Press arrived to the event, the participation in the event was outstanding. Around 4pm that day, with 4 hours still left to go, the donation jar was filled with bills and the petition to President Bush was signed by a huge many in the Babson community. In line with the One-Babson movement, it was nice to come again see Babson coming together to support one cause, to end the genocide in Darfur.

There is no doubt, more work to be done. To continue to help S.T.A.N.D.'s chapter at Babson in any way, please contact Babson Messenger directly at messori@babson.edu. There will be an end to this genocide, and it will be your letters, your opinions, and your voice that will ultimately make a crucial difference for the people of Darfur.
So...It's Spring...How are those FME Business Coming Along?

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2007

The following is a list of the Babson FME businesses, as well as submissions sent in by our students. We hope you enjoy reading about the businesses, and we look forward to supporting them!

This year's FME Businesses are:

- Babtones
- Buzz20
- Custom Cars
- DecaWall
- Poster Ink
- Skininess
- The Birds and the Toes
- Three One Promotions
- Unibones

Business: Easy Furnishing

"Expand your comfort. What does that actually mean? This message is to let you know that we believe in true comfort and convenience for our customers. Our Classic Nine product is an inflatable chair that includes two free inflates with purchase and the option of an electric pump giving you prevention relaxation at the flip of a switch. The chair is made of high-quality furniture seats one comfortably while the air filled seat conform to the curves of your body. The chair has a matte finish which is a luxurious upgrade to most plastic inflatable chairs found in stores."

Where can you find out more or purchase our product, through a secure pay pal service? We have one click away at https://easystorename.com. Our product is for all ages for girls and boys. We had a very satisfied customer and customers ranging from age 5 to 75.

Business: Unistoff

Sun Bright scenario 3

"While walking out the door of my dormitory the thought came to me...I forgot to buy a pair of Unistoff Sunglasses. It was around this point that the sun had started to have some heat in my common sense that I used the难受ish "hand-blower" as I would like to call it. You know what I am referring to, when the sun is bright you can barely see the people 3 feet in front of you, insistently you put up the "hand blower." The hand blower is also known as a "salute to the sun.""

Now I cannot speak for you, but I have many friends, or "nightmares" to be more appropriate, by purchasing a pair of Unistoff Sunglasses for only 8.99 dollars. Now in my vein attempt to not sound like a 1800-***-*** commercial, I am going to non-aggressively ask you to visit www.unistoffunglasses.com to purchase your very own pair of Unistoff Sunglasses. It is very important to mention here...customized Aviator Sunglasses, because after all, who doesn't want to be unique, and I rather like them.

Business: Buzz20

What's the Buzz? Finally, a healthy beverage that really works!

The Company released their product, Water Joe's, flavored water beverage, January 25, 2007. The initial product launch took place at Babson College and is also being sold in the surrounding Wellesley Area for online.

With today's fast paced society and daily pressing deadlines, it is easy to be dehydrated. However, not many of us want the sugary, colorless, and carbohydrates that come with a typical water beverage, Buzz20, one of Babson's newest entrepreneurship endeavors, has this solution for anyone who uses that they are in need of a healthy energy boost.

Buzz20's start-up distribution company from Babson College that sells bottled commercial grade water for everyday use and fixed college students and working students alike, that need an energy boost to help get you through the day. Even though Buzz20 is just starting to officially distribute on Monday, January 29, the company is already doing exceptionally well.

Plans for expansion are well underway to surrounding towns of Wellesley and beyond, such as Needham, Newton, and even Springfield and the greater Boston area.

Buzz20 is a distributor of Water Joe, the manufacturer of the caffeinated water, based in the Mid-Atlantic region. This first successful business has now grown to a successful business and has received extremely good press with wine connoisseurs telling everyone that it is the only other drink other than bottled water to be commissioned by the Chicago Bears. Buzz20 can be used while walking on the floor. The caffeinated water has the equivalent amount of caffeine as a cup of coffee, yet the water is a healthy alternative to any other energy drink that is found on the market with no negative side effects and is easily read by water fountain owners.

William Lee, CEO of Buzz20.

Business: DecaWall

Becoming LIfe without Limits

Interested in adding flair to your dorm room? Promoting your company through customizable decals! DecaWall, one of this year's FME businesses, can help you express your individuality through your unique decals, offer a product that is perfect for you, and customizable. The pre-made decals are supplied by Dillard, an industry leader in the home furnishings business, in California. They come in a variety of bright colors, shapes, and sizes. The decals range in price from $2.00 to $21.00. While they adhere to virtually any surface, they are especially perfect for dorm room walls because they look just like wallpaper but are easily removed without peeling paint.

Another great option is to customize your decals with a picture, a logo, or anything else you can think of. These decals are perfect for dorms, apartments, dorms, and as gifts for our fellow students living in California. They come in a variety of bright colors, shapes, and sizes. The decals range in price from $2.00 to $21.00. While they adhere to virtually any surface, they are especially perfect for dorm room walls because they look just like wallpaper but are easily removed without peeling paint.

Business: Skininess

Skininess is our name, customizing iPods is our passion.

Our business offers quality iPod skins at a quality price. Our custom skins are made from ultra-lightweight and high-grade silicone elastomer that leaves your iPod looking clean and sleek. In addition, our skins also come in a soft but durable leather skin that offers other form of protection and attention for your valuable iPod.

We offer customers to fully customize their iPod skins, by utilizing screen printing for the silicone skins and embossing for the leather skins.

Potential customers can send us their iPods and they will be interested in seeing on their iPod skins. Thus, beginning the process of creating our brand is to design logos, clubs, fraternities and many other groups, people who will buy the iPod skins to keep their creativity via a product that will not only protect their iPod, but in a fashion that no one else can.

Our iPod skins are available in both the Nano and the Video, in a variety of colors. Customization is free on bulk orders of 20 skins or more. What else can you say about a product that no one else can.

Competitive pricing is available to our customers. With skins, we will sell our product, with no form of customization, at prices well below other companies. We offer you our amazing product for as little as $8.99.

For more information, feel free to log onto our website at www.skininess.com. Brace yourself for a Skininess time!

Business: Card Customs

Custom Card Prints is an FME student business based in Wellesley, MA. We create 4x6 customizable postcards and offer business cards also. We are promoting our business seeking to communicate with their clientele through effective, eye-catching advertising.

At the same time, our business cards are perfect for individuals who network and are involved in any form of professional communication.

Why Custom Card Prints?

First and foremost, our product can be customized to fit your every need. If you simply wish to have an image to be featured on your company advertisements, traditional postcards, or even business cards, we can do that for you. The second overt benefit is that we guarantee the shipment of your product within five business days from the time we place the order and develop an absolutely new postcard, sell not just postcards, but business cards too!

Contact: Custom Card Prints

Can I place an order today?

For more information, please contact: Rachin Loo (781) 888-5474

rebahon@babson.edu
The World's Fastest
Computer Chip Is Coming

Dhaval Kapadia
Business & Technology
Editor

There are days of using single core processors. As chipmakers struggle to outdo the revolutionary idea of having dual cores on a single chip, computers started to run much faster and consumed much less power. The Babson Lenovo T60 ThinkPads, that have been issued to the incoming freshmen can be equipped with single and dual core processors. Well, guess what? Chipmakers are coming out with a single chip that will be able to have 80 cores. Go figure.

This chip is capable of giving mind-blowing speed and no complaints for battery life. Quite frankly, the list can go on and on. Well, the wait won’t be too long. Actually, according to the Chief Technology Officer at Intel, Justin Rattner, it will be released in about five years. When it will be introduced to commercial markets, it will change the way computers function, literally.

Intel has been successful in producing such a chip, the size of a fingernail. This chip is capable of performing 1 trillion calculations every second. This could very well be, the fastest chip ever made. It just makes one wonder how the possibilities that this chip will provide consumers and business. Technology has no limit. It will continue to grow and shock everyone.

In financial markets on Wall Street, tasks that take days to complete will take minutes, if not seconds to complete. The possibilities are simply endless. According to BusinessWeek, 10 years ago, a group of supercomputers taking up about 2,000 square feet and consuming a half-megawatt of electricity could do the same job that this fingernail-sized chip will be able to. Information will be transmitted at lightning speed and the technology will take a giant leap.

Rivals such as AMD and IBM have been attempting to accomplish such an innovation using multiple chips. After purchasing graphics chipmaker ATI, AMD says a new platform they are working on will also aid to revolutionize the computer industry.

One major drawback is the fact that software is not able to take advantage of multiple-core chips as of yet since they have not yet been made to do so. Software makers are in a dire predicament while trying to write threaded programs that have the capability to take advantage of just two cores. The announcement from Intel will of course give it a major advantage and simply go to show that processors have the capability to grow and advance beyond belief.

Our world is becoming more and more digital by the second. Software is starting to replace hardware in many new inventions.

Try to imagine the world without technology. Guess what? You can’t.

Internet Ruining Asia’s
Competitive Advantage

Ashwin Bhat
Staff Writer

"Dude, I’m going to hit up Golden Shopping Center and buy an external hard drive!"

"You idiot! Buy it on eBay or deals2buy.com."

This winter, as I went back home (Hong Kong), I made up my mind to go on an electronics shopping frenzy. Having researched a little online for the best prices, I came up with some 120GB external hard drive in Hong Kong that cost under USD 60 was selling at USD 67 on deals2buy.com.

And in most “brand name” stores throughout Hong Kong, this external hard drive would probably be seen for a price of over USD 130. This is not just applicable to external hard drives.

Speaking of laptops, cell phones, Televisions, Palm…the list are all much, much more inexpensive online. So inexpensive, that it would make sense to buy them online from Hong Kong and also pay the high shipping fee for the product to come to Hong Kong from the US, purely because you would still be saving around $20-25 dollars in some cases, much more.

And, the manuals would be in English. That’s always a plus.

Nonetheless, my Chinese has indeed taken off ever since I purchased that wondrous DVD player.

The Ups and Downs of Wall Street

Dhaval Kapadia
Business & Technology
Editor

Well, the economy of the United States is slowly, but surely beginning to improve when compared to the past few years, during which financial markets were gravely suffering. Despite of experiencing a slowdown in housing and the decline of mortgage applications, Chairman of The Federal Reserve, Ben Bernanke strongly feels that the outlook for inflation, in the near future, is simply put, "benign."

Nonetheless, that still means that inflation remains a risk, and if the need be, the Fed is ready to take necessary measures. (If you know what I mean). To the Senate Banking Committee, Bernanke, emphatically claimed that the outlook for the coming year, in terms of the economic prosperity of the United States, is very optimistic. Despite the lag from the diminishing housing market, the U.S. economy will advance at a moderate pace.

The primary uncertainty that the Fed is dealing with is undoubtedly commodities such as oil and their prices and their arcane, and usually unpredictable prices. The rates presently sit at 5.25 percent, however, as Bernanke puts it, the Federal Reserve "is prepared to take action to address inflation risks if developments warrant."

Financial analysts feel that Bernanke’s outlook for the future means that the prices for US stocks and bonds will rise, the value of the dollar will rise, and the Fed will begin to reduce rates sometime this year. He also expects the Gross Domestic Product to grow. Even though the housing market showed minor signs of getting "back on track", the economy would not immediately begin to skyrocket. There exists a strong disinterest in residential investment and its weight will continue to press down upon economic growth in the coming months, if not quarters.

Moreover, as far as the job market is concerned, Bernanke feels that the pace of hiring will slow down quicker than people normally expect in today’s market. As "baby boomers" begin to retire and job growth slows down, economic activity could be affected in more than one way. US exports among American trade partners are growing in a robust way. As of now, the Fed has no true timetable that explicitly states when and if they will make any changes to rates or anything of that sort. We will just have to wait and see one by one, and if the constantly changing financial markets pave a clear path indicating the future of America’s economy (The keyword: if).

A shopping street in the busy environment of Hong Kong.
Leader
Bricklayer
Human being*

We believe community service is a part of our job description. Last June, we asked our US staff of 29,000 to take a day away from work and help their neighbors. We called it 29k/30.

Learn more about this project and others.

Visit pwc.com/community
Morning Blues

Justin Peagam
Art Editor

Part 2: Memory of a Civil War

Memory is deceptive because it is colored by today's events.
-Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

For most people, their memory is like a beach. The waves of time wash over the impertinent parts of the past, leaving behind only the events that can be drawn snow. Easod was not like most people. His physical appearance was superior to even the most erudite of scholars. His analytic feature helped him commit to memory over three thousand master paintings. Along with his disposition, his memory was the cause for his fame in the art world - former fans to be truthful, Easod's name does not appear in the historical values of paintings better than anyone and know whose paintings could be purchased and which could not.

After he graduated from the University of Cambridge, Easod's doctorate in art history, he opened a little gallery in the post district of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. With his financial backing of his aristocratic parent - his mother was the granddaughter of the Rothschild, and his father was the great-grandson of a French artist. Along with this wealth and a lifetime of wealth rewarding the uncharted waters of New France - he set out to become one of the best art critics in the world.

While Easod, still housing in bed, realized he could not rid his mind of the idea, he decided it was time to get up and take a shower. It was now 5:30. He washed a bit of the cold, wooden floor with his trusty slippers. He thought to himself that his slippers were placed directly under the bed, a coincidence that made him feel connected to his life. He slowly moved across the floor, pretending to be lethargic, while in the mirror, he saw himself wake up. He pulled out his expensive equipment, preparing to use his usual traditional methods of oil paintings.

While burning the first of many cigarette memories, he noted, "My mind is full of confusion today."

"Good morning Professor Bertard," spoke the familiar voice.

"Frick, he thought aloud to himself."

He had completely forgotten about this event. It was arranged by one of the museum's curators who was fond of him. But he had become quite aty at dodging the museum's summons requests for him to speak, last week, at a dinner party hosted by the museum and its wealthy patrons, he found himself cornered by the affectionate curator who unabashedly implied to speak at a museum event, the newest Delacroix exhibition. With two bottles of Burgundy in hand, Easod boldly attended an audience of the most important socialites awaiting his response. Easod kindly accepted the offer. He arranged to have dinner with the free food and chance to see any one of the charming women present. He bought a stack of tuxedos, which he found exceedingly more interesting than ever. He was the most intelligent of the historians present that evening. The night of sex with Patric, a popular American art student at Concordia University in Montreal - so he liked to think - whose company was reliable. Only after minutes after climax, it was definitely not worth the cost of admission.

Delacroix or that he found the painfully limited collection of the museum beneath his stature. He successfully dodged the museum's multiple invitations for two reasons. Firstly, he suspected that they were looking for a dumb. And for three years, he was France's youngest millionaire artist dealer. His success saw him access into elite art circles everywhere he went, and Montreal was no different.

Truthfully, he hated this sphere of society comprised of wealthy people who knew nothing of art - even though they could barely tell the difference between a Turner and Gainsborough. For these reasons, he could say that he did not love money. Instead, he loved the painting. His passion revealed him to his life, searching and eventually finding a younger, more genteel Patric. For these reasons, he could say that he did not love money. Instead, he loved the painting. His passion revealed him to his life, searching and eventually finding a younger, more genteel Patric.

Damali ayo speaks at Babson

Justin Peagam
Art Editor

With the unfortunate events of September 11, and the school's subsequent efforts to enlighten the campus on the topic of multiculturalism, it has recently seemed one of the most popular committee chairs. It is not a surprise. As her presentation clearly demonstrated, she is committed to creating a more harmonious and culturally diverse campus. She can talk as an artist, as a public intellectual, or as a social activist. She can discuss the issues of racial disparity still ubiquitously prevalent in the U.S. Her talk was accompanied by a collection of photographs displayed on the second floor of Stearns.

Damali ayo pushes the limits of what we call an artist. She calls her approach "Art as art," which defines the mentality that art must be current, accessible, and an agent of dialogue and social change. Her topic is the role of artists in moments of participation. Art is a term that is often associated with a particular aesthetic appreciation. However, in her mind, the necessarily impact the greater pillars that make up the world we live in.

This exclusive exhibition is overexposed by you who purports art as that is as visually accessible as mainline media. The aesthetic dictum of "Art for Art's sake" is supplemented by a message which is the cultural importance in promoting social change. The idea of art as a vehicle for change is not new. In 1963, Edward Mural exhibited "Djeuner sur l'Herbe," a painting that questions the modernity and potential of a modern art exhibit, and made public a practice that was - if not accepted - tolerated. Based on his theory, this painting caused much discomfort for the masses of Parisian (and rich) people who were already well aware of his lasciviousness showcased before their own eyes.

The Arcade Fire will save you

Eoin Daly
Staff Writer

Music is the purest form of art. It touches the most emotions. Fluid, uncensored. It does not require us to bend our thoughts towards the most common concepts. With only our ears, we can focus energy in a general direction, as the depth of our soul. It makes us cry, fill us with an inexplicable sense of excitement and makes us aware of inexplicable emotions.

Last semester, I found out. I could feel the emotions my computer using Ruckus. I coincided with an usual emotional experience: it was a night to a month long revelry. I downloaded CDs that I used to listen to during my University years and I jumped up and down in bed with excitement! The soundtrack in my head and stomp around with an unheard of energy. This emotional stage has come and gone and I feel certain that this was the post of music allowing me to vent my emotions. If you do not have a complicated emotions in a concrete way, thus avoiding avoiding the most uncontrollable outbursts.

The Arcade Fire, a Montreal-based band, is praised for its unbound energy, even if it lacks the viewers themselves that is not a need the buzzer. It's hard to place the emotions that one finds at this album. But I would definitely recommend it! This album has something for everyone. The experimental nature and singing narrative about their intentions. This band is also known for their stage shows. They have a neon sign outlining a book, complete with binding and fascinating pages. It is symbolic of continued...
GARDASIL: Vaccine to be available in Health Services - Spring 2007

WHAT IS HPV?
HPV stands for "human papillomavirus," of which there are more than 100 strains. Common HPV is:

- According to the CDC, approximately 20 million people are currently infected with HPV.
- It is estimated that 66-70 percent of sexually active women and men acquire a genital HPV infection at some point in their lifetime.
- A U.S. study of female college students found that an average of 14 percent became infected with HPV types 6 and 11, and 43 percent were infected during the three-year study period (1989-1992).

What are the effects of the virus?
- The virus can cause visible genital warts (men & women) and cervical cell changes (women).
- How is the virus transmitted?
HPV is spread primarily through genital, oral, and anal sexual contact. It can also be spread by more casual skin-to-skin contact and oral and hand contact with genital lesions.

How can I protect myself?
- Use latex condoms to reduce the chance of acquiring or spreading HPV.
- Do not have sex with someone who is infected with HPV.

Can HPV infections be cured?
- The vast majority of people eliminate the virus spontaneously.
- For some treatment is indicated, the goal is to help the immune system stop the virus.

WHAT IS THE HPV VACCINE?
- Gardasil (Merck & Co) is a vaccine (injectable liquid) that helps protect against HPV strains 6, 11, 16, and 18. These strains cause cervical cancer, anal and oropharyngeal cancer/vaginal vulvar lesions, and genital warts.

Will Gardasil help me if I already have HPV?
- If you have been diagnosed with Gardasil, you are already HPV infected. However, this vaccine could prevent infection with other types of HPV that you may not have been exposed to before.

Who receives the vaccine and how is it given?
- Gardasil is for girls and women 9-26 years of age.
- The vaccine is given in 3 doses: First Dose: you are ready to have a healthy life.
- Second Dose: 2 months after the first dose.
- Third Dose: 6 months after the first dose.

What is the cost of the vaccine?
- The vaccine is covered by some health insurance plans.
- Health Services will process a payment receipt which can be submitted for health insurance reimbursement.
- The vaccine is not covered by Blood Bank Insurance or Medicare.
- For more info call Blood Bank (718) 794-1000.
- Sources: American College Health Association- HPV Task Force: General Health Association: HPV-Medical Information from the CDC: Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)
Valentines Day In China

Ian So
International Section Editor

While Chinese and Western traditions are different, the expression of love by using money is a common theme. One Babson student from China commented that Valentines In China is, "a marketing opportunity for businesses to make money" — evident the Chinese elite who can be seen buying nine hundred ninety-nine roses or five thousand dollar watches for loved ones. Five thousand dollars is 12 times more than what a Chinese farmer’s income is per year. And yes, Chinese rose prices are also jacked up during Valentine’s Day compared to other days.

The Chinese Valentine’s is another reflection on how the Chinese economy is slowly becoming Western. Now the traditionally unromantic Chinese people can spend on luxuries such as love.

Valentines is an economic boom in America and China, but the story behind the Chinese Valentines is much different. Valentines is not celebrated in February but during the 7th day of the 7th month of the year: July 7th. The date represents the 7th daughter of the Chinese Emperor of Heaven. The story behind this date starts with the seven daughters of the Emperor coming down from Heaven to Earth to bathe naked. A mischievous cow herder, Niu Lang, saw them and stole their clothing. As the seventh and most beautiful daughter, Zhi Nu, had to ask the cow herder for their clothes back. Upon seeing Zhi Nu naked, Niu Lang had to marry the heavenly daughter. The two spent many years happily married until the father of Zhi Nu, the Emperor of Heaven, could not stand seeing his daughter spend so much time on Earth. So, the Emperor separated the couple and put them on two different stars. The mother heard the punishment and felt sorry for the couple so she allowed the two to see each other once a year on July 7th. For once a year on July 7th, magpies would form a bridge between the two stars so the two lovers could be united. The story is a reflection of Chinese values that romance is second to familial commitment, as well as a sharp contrast to the business driven romanticism of the modern Chinese Valentine’s Day.

Japanese Professionalism Grade: A+

Xiao O Wang
Contributing Writer

Salesmen on the street repeat their slogan with enthusiasm and excitement even though most people walk by and ignore them; bus attendants from the hotel bow when the bus leaves and wave their hand until the bus is far gone. At a 24 hour convenience store you can expect nothing other than sincere willingness to help from the clerks. Those scenes are rare in America, but in a trip to Japan, from what I saw, people are devoted to their roles and they make a constant effort to wholeheartedly fulfill their roles. Everywhere I go, people seem to be happy and make an effort to stay positive in their role. And when everybody does it, it makes the Japanese experience happier. Even when I went to McDonald’s I was greeted with a smile and a hello. I will be lucky if a US McDonald’s attendant looks me in the eye or even sounds alive. One can argue that people are at McDonald’s for convenience and not service — that having extra service costs more and hurts profits. But, perhaps as evident by Japan’s strong economy, better service means spending extra. Personally I found myself spending much more because of the friendly services of Japanese employees.

In China or even United States, I constantly see people who act miserable in their jobs and simply do not want to be there. I haven’t seen it in this city. This funny thing is that Americans even expect tips, whereas there is no such thing in Japan. Tips are an American tradition for customers to give to workers for a good job or something extra. In Japan, it is traditional to do extra things and do a good job with no tips.

The British Comedy Store

Carla Ni
Staff Writer

I was disappointed with British comedy. The reason why the comedy show was not an amazing experience for me was probably because most of the comedians were doing jokes based on British pop culture, which I am not up to date with. There were also sexist and racist jokes, so when the comedian was doing their act, all I could think of was, "Boy, was that lame, or what that really ignorant of them." I guess I should have been more open minded going into the show, especially since it was a show based in London, a much less politically correct place than the US. I have been to many comedy shows when I was in NYC, and the comedians there are always careful to watch the audience’s reaction to their acts and the comedians will respond accordingly. The comedians in NYC are much more aware and sensitive of the diversity of the audience, therefore they tend to stick with jokes that are more universal and they steer clear of jokes that are too blatantly based on race or sexual orientation. I guess it was a shock to me that people would laugh at jokes that I would consider vicious, ignorant and degrading, but to the native Londoners, these jokes might just be lighthearted fun. The easy and open consumption of alcohol and the availability of delicious steak burgers (which I am eating in the picture) might have added to the ease of laughter.
Sports

New Alert! A Happy Boston Sports Fan

Eric Chen
Staff Writer

At the time of this writing, I am sitting in negative 7 degrees Fahrenheit, worth of bitter, wintry goodness. My homework is undone and I've been doing this looking at the weather maps since school started from a diet consisting of mostly bread, cookies, pie, 7-Eleven foods (MSG, Pepe), and some overly-expensive Girl Scouts cookies. My heart is brimming with excitement as I await the second half of the Celtics-Heat game, a game in which my Celtics are going after a franchise record 10 game losing streak. That's right, a franchise record! My Patriots just lost in the real Super Bowl two weeks before the other hyped up fake Super Bowl, the Bruins continue their mediocrity, and fans of subpar years, and by far the best news items I've heard in a while is the Belichick signed injury-prone, zero time all-star, career underperformer, 34 year old Drew to a 5 year, $70 million dollar contract, and a guy who can't hit in Julio Lugo to another $9 million dollar deal.

Boston Sports fans are used to seeing their teams lose. And now that it's February, it's really going about as well as you'd ever want it. I mean, think about it. Without tears, there's no joy. Without unbearable losses, there's no "there's always next year." Without young potential, there's no hope. Without saviors, there are no fans in the stands. Without golf, there's no boring sports television. And so on...

But seriously, I really do relish the mediocrity of current Boston sports. I relish the shot at grabbing the number one NBA draft pick and seeing Greg Oden or Kevin Durant playing for the Celtics. I relish seeing Jefferson and Gerald Green at "da gahdlen" while averaging 20 points and 10 rebounds for the next 20 years. I relish seeing Phil Kessel become a 12 time all-star with ten 40 goal seasons. I relish Tom Brady taking the Pats back to the Super Bowl three years running. I relish Peyton Manning reverting back to a perennial loser. And best of all, I relish the thought of another Red Sox World Series season using a starting lineup of guys consisting of Manny, Big Papi, J.D. Drew, Julio Lugo, Coco Crisp, Wily Mo, Jason Varitek, Youkalis and Mike Lowell, and five starting pitchers capable of winning 16 games with sub 4.00 ERAs. I especially relish being able to buy two hundred dollar tickets to a super bowl tie, a interleague game against the Pittsburgh Pirates, sit in the stands with #1 fingers pointing towards the heavens, and have seven dollar hot dogs in my stomach.

Sure, there's the possibility of another "we didn't get Tim Duncan!" snafu. Big Al and little Gerald never living up to expectations. Kessel being nicknamed "Ryan Leaf of Hockey." Bill Belichick pulling an "I'm going to coach the Jets" sort of move, and the Patriots actually having several "5-16, 6-72 ERA" seasons. But without following: How many, there's no optimism. That's why I'm so excited. I believe, pretty soon, the venerably optimistic Boston sports fans yelling "Sox Sucks!" chants will soon become "Yanks suck!" once again and Kobe vs. Durant will be the next magic vs. LeBron showdown. I believe the Patriots will once again dissect teams' weaknesses and own Peyton Manning on his way to a few more 12-0 and 12-1 seasons, and the Bruins will quietly become a much better team as people start to actually and adequately attend games. In 2011, I will be able to die happily knowing that the Red Sox won in 2007, the Patriots in 2008, the Bruins in 2009, and the Celtics in 2010. With one world championship in the books, I will be able to sleep easier at night and once we win this thing, there's no turning back.

Who Would You Take: Oden or Durant?

D avid Niles
Staff Writer

Oden or Durant? That is the question. With the Celtics amidst an 18 game losing streak (as of February 2007), the Cavs have finally relented and started to show some fight. Oden and Durant fans have actually resorted to rooting against the Cavs, while I continue to supporting the future of the organization. The Celtics have been mediocre for far too long and being mediocre in the NBA goes you nowhere. If your not at the top, you're only in there to get out of there and to sink to the bottom of the NBA standings. So, you put your franchise in the best possible position to get the highest possible draft pick.

The NBA, by the nature of having only five players at a time on the court, and the time have less than 10 players making regular contributions, there is a sport where one player can change the fate of a franchise. Take the Cleveland Cavaliers as a prime example of this. The Cavs were a perennial pitiful team. They drafted for years and years until they won the draft lottery four years ago and took LeBron James first overall. Last year they made the play-offs and this year they sit atop the Eastern Conference and are currently battling the Pistons for the top seed. Consequently, the question becomes "can the Cavs take Greg Oden, a 7-foot 270 pound center out of Ohio State. Oden is a terrific defender and shot blocker, physically dominates opponents inside and on the glass, and is also known for being very cerebral and unselfish."

Oden is most often compared to Patrick Ewing, and even Bill Russell. Or the Celtics can opt for Kevin Durant, a 6’11” 240 pound freshman out of Texas who can play the 3, 5, or 4 positions. His versatility can become a factor at the college level, as he can shoot outside and take his game to the paint. He is described as a skilled, polished player with a shooting guard, while blocking shots and rebounding like a center or power forward. Most don’t look likes and is compared to Kevin Garnett of the Minnesota Timberwolves.

A lot of fans have been jumping on the Durant bandwagon because his numbers in college are superior to that of Oden’s numbers. However, Oden has been playing mostly with only his other blue-chip brothers (poor, poor injury). I think the solution lies in the answer to the question: "Is one franchise centers are there in the NBA right now? By my count, there are only three (Shaquille O’Neal and Tim Duncan). These three players have accounted for seven of the past eight NBA Champions, with Shaq winning four and Duncan winning three.

If you look back at all the NBA Champions over the years, they all had a franchise center other than Jordan’s Bulls. So if the Celtics are given the choice to choose Oden or Durant, they would be foolish to forgo the chance to take a franchise center, a player that could alter the fate of a franchise.

intramural in action

Josh Nespoli
Staff Writer

At the start of every new intramural season I write an article about the excitement and expectations of the upcoming season. The 2007 Winter Season is no exception. We have yet another great turnout, and with one week already in the books we have a fair idea of what teams have the potential to bring home the most coveted prize Babson has to offer ~ IM Championship T-shirts.

With a solid eight teams, and only two weeks left in the regular season, the volleyball playoff picture is already beginning to take shape. With undefeated teams remaining, it looks like the bottom five will be battling for the final playoff spot. The final two games find all eight teams still alive with playoff hopes.

The volleyball season has to point this point been loaded with fun-filled games and good times. Kicking the intensity up a notch, the indoor soccer season remains true to form with ultra competitive games, and even more intense bouts with temper. Papi Chiles, the defending champs, remain the team to beat - but they can count on some serious challenges for that title from defending outdoor champions Co. Jones, as well as annual challengers Skinz and The Doos. Word of warning: watch out for these IMA teams. They are talented, and with something to prove against the young bucks of the undergraduate, they can beat anyone on any given night.

Speaking of something to prove, in basketball it’s all about the young guys this year. The “newbies,” if you will, are entering this year’s 5v5 league with confidence rarely seen from freshmen and sophomores in a league annually dominated by upperclassmen. Just a word of advice for those young guys: the seasoned vets aren’t about to just let you have their title. This is especially so with a hungry Babson Celtics (who held off a brilliant comeback by the Young Guns) and a talented Goodfellas (who teamed up and passing was reminiscent of the great teams of the 90’s), a team basically consisting of last year’s champions. This year’s darkhorse is The Throwbacks. These guys are tenacious, big, mean, and have take no BS.

Finally, everyone’s favorite IM Sport is underway. Dodgeball ‘07 opened up with only the dodgeball champion in IM history going down for the first time in two years in shocking fashion. Two-time champion Buyside Tigers fell 4-3 to a relatively unknown Great Balls of Fire, thanks in large part to a dramatic come-from-behind victory by Buzzy’s “Booboo” Belcher in the second game of the match. This year’s competition, much more so than any sport in the four years I have been a part of intramurals, is full of teams that can beat anyone on any given day.

Can you feel the excitement? Check out our schedule of upcoming tournament play, and come cheer on your friends.

http://www3.babson.edu/Athletics/Intramurals/ default.cfm