Babson Police Respond to Distressed Man in Reynolds
Nicole Smith
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Many people on campus have heard some kind of rumor regarding the incident that occurred in Reynolds early last week, or maybe walking through you noticed the yellow caution tape sectioning off the couches outside of the bookstore last Monday. A man and his daughter were packing up from selling at a push cart inside Reynolds, when the father seemingly passed out. A student worker, Lydia Warren, from the bookstore was on her break and witnessed the man fall. She immediately called for help, reporting a possible heart attack. According to police reports the call was received at 12:56:16 PM. The dispatcher called out to all officers on campus and in an amazing display of responsiveness, Babson Police officers, Chief John Jackson, Officer Anthony F. Curtin, III, and Shift Commander Officer Anthony F. Curtin, III, and Shift Commander

Continued on Page 3

How the Writer's Guild Strike is Affecting You
Amanda Modin & Nicole Smith
babsonTV Manager & Co-Editor-in-Chief

So nearly everyone has heard that the Writer's Guild of America is on strike, but most people may be thinking that it's just a TV thing. The truth is that this strike is huge, costing nearly 2.0 billion dollars to the economy of the past fourteen weeks according to the Hollywood Reporter. This strike is affecting you in a much bigger way than limiting what you can watch when you finish your homework or daily duties. The strike itself cost over 14,000 jobs which included everyone from janitors to actors. Within the entertainment industry alone drastic affects are taking place. The strike is having a huge effect on the reality shows (My Dad is Better than Your Dad, Battle of the Chords, etc) on TV watchers, so it is no shock that television viewing is down by 20%; this also strongly impacts advertising revenue. The companies that would be advertising in these slots must turn to other forms of promotion there in possibly costing much more for them and forcing companies like NBCUniversal to refund hundreds of thousands of dollars in prepaid advertising money.

The implications of hitting a company the size of NBCUniversal, which is owned by General Electric, so drastically have many trickle down effects such as each of the small impacts on some of the entities encompassed by the major company including the power plant, theme parks, movie production and more.

Continued on Page 3

Babson is a safe school but be smart about it, prevent theft on Campus

An Undergraduate email and Common Sense

On Friday night, February 8, a room in McCullough Hall, B tower, was illegally entered and may items were removed. The person responsible has been identified. A lot of the items that were removed have been located, but there are still many items missing. Some of the missing items are pieces of jewelry, clothing, a pair of Prada sunglasses, and a silver flat screen television.

If you found items and believed that they were discredited by the owner, they may in fact be stolen property, so please return the items to Public Safety.

Babson is a safe school, and normally things such as these do not occur, however, it makes sense that sometimes odd things come about or perhaps people from off campus come around. These kind of things should remind you to look up your room when you leave. People do silly things sometimes and you don't want your stuff to open an opportunity up for them. Please remember that although we have a safe campus, always lock the door to your room and don't allow any unauthorized person access into your building.

Spring Concert known by all & then CAB told us too
David Barner
President

Last Thursday was one of the worst Thursdays I've ever had at Babson. This time, it wasn't because of the lack of school spirit that I was sad. It wasn't because we didn't have anything fun to do. Heck, I even went to the pub that night and played some Panam and BK Junior. To be honest, these were two of the few things that salvaged the rainy time that was last Thursday night. It was there where my story turns. Just like I was able to battle the mighty shark that was boredom by logging into Facebook around 8pm and cruising around the web. Everything looked pretty typical on the news feed on this rainy night. There seemed to be a lot of depressed seniors, a lot of free pairs of dolla, a sock gift file presents being given, and a lot of random wall quotes that I can't even remember in this new Babson Free Press that isn't afraid to say anything. On Aim, there were even more depressing conversations from people who wondered if it was worth it to make a trip to pub, or down to the Babson Free Press office to attend our weekly meeting with five food and music. It was kind of sad... Then, all of a sudden, like a shock of thunder, I received one of the greatest messages to ever come across the Aim radio waves. The following is a dramatization of my Aim conversation:

This photo is courtesy of Chris Page on flickr

The interesting part of this story is that CAB was supposed to announce this information during the winter weekend. I was (wicked) excited for the spring events, and did not want to ruin CAB's thunder, so I kept quiet. Unfortunately, it seems word spread across campus and the buzz was bigger than most spring concerts. It was almost as if this early leak about the concert created more buzz than the big winter weekend announcement. So, was this leak such a bad thing? I don't think so.

At our website (www.babsonfreepress.org), 41 of the 56 votes were in favor of

Continued on Page 6

Free Press launches Website and babsonTV: Big hit!
David Barner
President

There is no better smell in the world than the new car smell. It doesn't make too much sense, really, why this smell is so appealing. It might represent how fresh the car is, how it's never been part of a war, or how the car is a virgins to experiencing the natural New England experience that is the "Wintry Mix". It could be that there is a biological connection to this smell, and that maybe our smelling-nerves just respond to this smell, favoring thumbs up. Or, maybe it just smells good because the car doesn't smell like your buddy's Dominic's infested gas-guzzling-should-be-illegal monstrosity on four wheels.

So, why do I even care about the new car smell? Who would I even bother wasting your time by illustrating this rarely cared about aroma? Well, to be short and blunt, The Free Press has recently adopted the fragrance, and it doesn't look like it's going to go away anytime soon. The reason for The Free Press adopting this indefinitely addictive scent are due to many different changes within this organization. As you know, we've changed in the past, and we're

Continued on Page 7
The Great Storm or GOLD & the Recession of 2008

Shawn Golshani
Contributing Writer

Once the facts are laid out on the table, the conclusion is clear:
We are heading for a perfect storm for gold.

Take a glance at the economy today and you’ll find that all our historically accurate indicators and measures all say the same thing: the U.S. economy is transitioning from a growth period into a downward spiral known as a recession. Don’t take it from me, ask any economist, politician, or member of the Federal Reserve and you’ll see that no one is disagreeing with the fact that we are heading for a recession. This prediction of the Federal Reserve said plainly: “We are heading for an economic spasm.” Further evidence is in the fact that the Fed has lowered their projections for growth for 2008 from 2.5-2.7% to a new projection of 1.8-2.2%

But what does this all have to do with GOLD?

My research on oil, inflation, the dollar, interest rates and social security all show that these seemingly unrelated economic measures are all important variables in the price of gold. In other words, in order to see where gold is going we must know where the economy is going. One undeniable fact is that gold shoots up as oil prices jump. For the last 30 years (Since gold was put on the free market in the 1970’s) the price of gold has had remarkably consistent relationships with oil.
The first and most significant indicator for GOLD: Oil.

Just take a look at the chart for oil prices and put it on top of the chart for gold prices and you will find a remarkably close correlation. We see that the price of gold ALWAYS WITHOUT EXCEPTION follows the price of oil. But why? What is the relationship between Gold and Oil?
The relationship between GOLD and OIL

Just as you learned in your good government class, if B=C THEN A=C that is the relationship between GOLD and OIL. In order to understand that relationship you must know that GOLD is an inflationary hedge. This means that gold rises with inflation. Thus it is a clear and unambiguous fact that no economist will disagree with. One thing you will notice is that gold does not lag behind inflation but nevertheless gold rises as inflation rises. This is the fact that you must know that increases in oil prices ALWAYS spur inflation. The reason behind this direct relationship is that energy is the life blood of the economy. And because the gold market is so unimaginably dependent on oil this means that for at least the next ten years oil is the lifeblood of our economy and that alone is enough for gold. Thus, an increase in oil prices takes a cut out of EVERYONE’S profits which leads to an increase in pricing to compensate. Now, IF increases in OIL create an increase in inflation AND GOLD keeps up with inflation this means that an increase in oil prices also increases GOLD prices. So then our discussion turns to oil.

Today’s global oil production is at 85 million barrels a day and very close to maximum capacity. Chefs and of the OPEC cartel (oil exporting country cartel) OPEC have admitted themselves that they can not meet the 100 million barrel a day demand for the end of the decade. Let’s not forget that the GLOBA L economy is BOOMING. Thus,Increased demand in the EU are all flourishing which means their irreverable thirst for oil is going to increase. But it is not going to be as drastic this. The last time we had a spike in oil prices, America was the only major consumer. Here is the part in my argument that some people stop me to say that alternative energy sources come to the rescue and I simply reply that alternative energy as a “short term solution” is no where.

Let’s jump into the hypothetical and say that IF ALL the major powerful world leaders today decide that they all want to implement alternative energy instead of oil, that implementation would take AT LEAST 10 years. Leaders in the industry realistically think it will take 30 years. By having these facts about oil on the table we then see that it’s clear the demand for oil is surpassing supply. Anyone in economics 101 can tell you that high demand and low supply means incredibly high oil prices. Now if you still not convinced that oil prices will keep going up, you should know that today’s oil is not even at all time high (when adjusted for inflation). The inflation adjusted record for oil is $102 a barrel and we are still not there. If you think that this is new news you’re wrong because you can read the reports of our past presidents who predicted oil would be $100 a barrel for 2008 or look at the book “the Oil Factor” by Stephen Leeb PHL DEP which predicted that oil will be at a minimum of $100 a barrel by the end of the decade. In conclusion, what we know that the strongest indicator for GOLD is oil and oil will be posting high prices for a while.

By some estimates, there will be an average of two percent annual growth in global oil demand over the years ahead, along with, conservatively, a three percent natural decline in production from existing reserves. That means by 2010 we will need an additional 50 million barrels per day.” Vice President of the United States – Cheney

The second indicator for GOLD: crisis and poor economic health.

Gold is more than a commodity people invest in for it has a psychological value to it. Gold is seen as a safe place to put your money because you can touch it, its shiny, and has glamorous connotations to it unlike a stock which the investor simply gets a piece of paper. GOLD has always done well when other investments have underperformed, a crisis situation like a war is present, and when the general health of the economy is bad. If the rising prices in oil are not enough to convince you that gold is going up, up, and away, then let’s diagnose the health of the economy.

Indicators that the Economy is going through a downward trend.

The week dollar is only getting weaker. Just listen to the reports of the high level executives in our government. They will all tell you the same thing: that the long term strength of the dollar is a priority not the short term strength. The Fed has many different conflicting objectives to meet which means in order for them to get the economy back on track they are forced to lower interest rates to ease the “economic slump” we are heading for. Any economist will tell you that lowering the interest rates weakens the dollar and spurs inflation. Interest rates have dropped a whopping .75 points in three months which is highly relatively speaking. So we see that the dollar is weak which is another factor that hurts the economy and helps the price of gold and the price of the economy is experiencing inflation but not only from oil but low interest rates too.

The kicker: Negative Interest Rates.

Now when gold really starts to zoom ahead is when the economy is experiencing what is called negative interest rates. This is a fancy term that just means that interest rates are lower than the rate of inflation. The reason why this formula is deadly powerful for gold is that because gold keeps up with inflation all you have of the OIL and gold will it out perform the other interest rates in other investments. Essentially, an investor can borrow money to buy gold and the gold will cover the financing costs in addition to making the investor a profit. As interest rates go lower, we get closer to negative interest rates which makes the value of gold go up. And because the economy is going into a recession (as supported by Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernake) we can expect low interest rates as a tool for damage control just like we saw with September 11th when interest rates dropped to 1% to help the economy back on track.

A real estate market gone south, growing demand for social security, and a stock market that is going downward does not help the economy either. We do need gold.

Let us give you a final and true economic indicator that is very powerful for the STOCK MARKET. Remember we stated above that oil is the lifeblood of the economy and high of prices means a cut in corporate profits which means increases in price also known as INFLATION. A formula has been come up with that says if oil has over an 89% year to date increase in price that the stock market will go down for the next year. But if the price of oil is less than 20% this figure is sustainable by businesses and the stock market will not go down. Remarkably, this formula has been applied time after time in the last 30 years and has always been true. Because there has been an upward spike in oil we will see the stock market go down for 2008. In fact it has already begun its downward trend with companies like Fedex lowering their projections because fuel prices are simply unsustainable.

But the stock market is not the only clear spot for our economy. In January 2008 there will be 78 million Americans fil
The sales of DVD's and movies have declined as their major outlets for advertising are prime time shows. The strike has hit the Los Angeles area profoundly, especially in areas such as transportation (one limo service reported losing 230,000 in lost revenue in one week, and there are 1200 limo companies in LA), restaurants and hotels. Kraft Food Services, the company that caters to 10 sets feeding the crews, sets and writers took a hit when the sets were no longer staffed with people who needed to eat. When the Writer’s Guild announced that they would picket at the Golden Globe’s Ceremony the Screen Actors Guild proclaimed they would not cross the picket line and thus the Ceremony was call-cancelled, costing the network millions of dollars in expected revenue. The fashion industry too took a hit as designers’ outfits no longer needed to be designed to walk down the red carpet. The writer’s strike also affected what some may call copy cat incidents such as the Broadway Stage Hands strike, and the CBS News Writers strike. There is of course the obvious effect on television, shows that will be returning won’t be returning until long after the strike is officially over as the writers will have to write episodes again. Some shows will find it hard to come back. As the intention of most companies with showing a television show in syndication (the reached within the 5th seas. As the shows had to stop they will not return the normal amount episodes of the season in comparison to most seasons. That means that good shows that aren’t as popular, shows like Supernatural and Friday Night Lights which would have to make it through six or more seas in order to make syndication, a circumstance which is not highly likely. Negotiations are near close this week, relying upon a vote from the Writer’s Guild of America whether they have recognized it or not and soon the after effect of the deal made will come to light as well as other companies and people around the globe feel the impact here in the entertainment industry as well as near any other industry.

A list of shows and when they are likely to be returning can be found at www.babsonfreepress.org along side this article.

Teddy Bear Promotions...
Look out for the FreePress teddy bear on campus...
Learn more at www.babsonfreepress.org

Register Now to Compete in the 2008 Northeastern U.S. Premier Renewable Energy Business Plan Competition!

What is the Ignite Clean Energy Competition?

Babson Energy and Environmental Club

Sponsored by the MIT Enterprise Forum Energy Special Interest Group, the Ignite Clean Energy (ICE) Competition began in 2004 as the first organization to stimulate the growing clean energy industry in New England. It provides start-up clean energy companies and entrepreneurs with the opportunities and resources to develop business skills, network with industry professionals and the chance to attract potential investors. The winners will be awarded a total of $250,000 in cash and services.

The competition runs from January-May and competitors receive hands-on support from industry mentors who provide the knowledge and skills needed to attract investors and to build a sustained company. Students and professionals can sign up to participate in the competition.

Why Should You Sign Up?

The winning teams will be awarded approximately $200,000 in cash and services from participating sponsors. Services range from office space to legal services to public relations services. In addition, teams have received national and local publicity in key publications such as BusinessWeek, NRECA, and Mass HighTech.

In 2008, the MIT $100K Business Plan Competition and the Ignite Clean Energy competition have joined forces to provide the MIT Clean Energy Entrepreneurship Prize. The Grand Prize winner of ICE will move on to compete for the MIT CEEP—a $200,000 Grand Prize awarded on May 14, 2008. Three secondary prizes of at least $20,000 cash each will also be awarded.

For More Information, visit www.ignitecleanenergy.com
A different Babson Social Experience

Daina Ruback
Staff Writer

I’ve discovered a solution that dispels cliques at Babson! Sounds absurd if you know, but when 30 or so Babsons venture from almost every grade, organization, and social circle to get together for a greater cause, the precautions and social limits seem to just disappear.

Dean Hans brought this motley group of students, faculty, and staff (Greg and Laura, too) to the town of Sekondi in the Western Region of Ghana on this winbreak. Babson with its faults is providing it’s students with an incredible learning and travel opportunity. So there’s my pitch, for those all who are not graduating this May or December, apply for this trip! It will change your life.

Babson MBA Bhavin Shah had this to say about his experience: “The trip to Ghana was one of the most memorable moments of our entire MBA program. The people in Ghana were very warm and hospitable. Their yearning for knowledge was beyond my expectation. It definitely helped us understand the mind of me of how Indians was 10-15 years back. So there are definitely a lot of opportunities that lie ahead for the people of Ghana and for the rest of the world to be involved in Ghana.”

What really made it special were the people I met if I ever get the opportunity to go back.

We stayed in the town of Sekondi for 10 days. Dean Hans headed this trip and brought us to Ghana for the past 10 years. So anyone who has been to the church compound, Assemblies of God, of his contact and good friend, Reverend Andoh. We were staying in the faculty that Reverend Andoh hopes to turn into a computer and learning center.

The Monday- Friday we spent planning and

Daina with classmates and Ghanaians from this winter’s trip

entrepreneurship in Sekondi and Takoradi. We split up into 11 groups (3 people in a group) and every morning went to 11 different high schools in the two towns. The students were bright, articulate, full of personality and a lot of good conversation. I can honestly say that I came home with a handful of good friends from Ghana who I would look up in an instant.

the both Babsonians and Ghanaians. Ghanaians are infamous friendly and lived up to this reputation. Everyone we met was incredibly welcoming and friendly and (all of good conversation. I can honestly say that I came home with a handful of good friends from Ghana who I would look up in an instant.

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### As Always.... Sudoku!

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### Common

**From Page 1**

"COMMON’S COMING TO BABSON!: Indeed, this was a better sign than I expected, given that I had heard a lot of ‘Who’s Common?’ replies around campus.

Now, to address this question, ‘Who’s Common?’ I’d like to drop some quick Common knowledge. Here are some quick facts: Common launched his career in 1992 with the LP ‘Can I Borrow a Dollar?’ On this album, check out the song ‘Take It Easy’. There is a video on my YouTube mixtape on our website. Listening to the song now takes you on a spinning record-trip down to the early 1990s, with his relaxed and amazingly catchy old school lyrics. It reminds me a lot like the A Tribe Called Quest stuff from way back. In response to whether he’ll go back to his old school style, Common told AllHipHop.com, ‘I don’t think I could ever go back to who I was in ‘94 and ‘96. But as you evolve you sometimes go back home, and people say that I’m going back home because I’m doing raw hip-hop and that’s where I began.’ (AllHipHop.com)

Common’s completed seven albums since then, with his most recent two most well known as being very Kanye West revamped. But, really, this dude brought nothing but G.O.O.D. Music to the table, despite the chatter from critics that Kanye West made Common ‘good’ again. Common responded to these useless music critics telling AllHipHop.com, ones again, ‘But I truly can bring back music, however he is helping me to create music that the masses and people can enjoy and love,’ said Common. ‘I have to give credit where it is due. Kanye has been a big plus to my album and this new part of my career and that is why we are riding together’ (AllHipHop.com).

Common has also been active in the past few months to promote the Barack Obama movement. He rapped an insanely cool set at the Trinity United Church of Christ and has been dropping Obama references even dating back to his ‘Fading’ Forever release last July. More recently, he was featured in a will.i.am produced video called ‘Yes, We Can’, also on the Babson Free Press’ webpage.

If you are trying to get a fast-forward listen into who Common is, and what his music is about, I suggest you do three things: 1. Visit our website at www.babsonfreepress.org. Click on ‘Dave’s Top 10 ‘Common’ YouTube Mixtape. Watch those videos and get a sense of the unique style that Common has. 2. Visit his page on Wikipedia. It’s useful to get some background and read for some possible upcoming albums. 3. BUY HIS ALBUMS! Or, Ruckus them. Get familiar and ruck that music in all over Pitts.

Lastly, to everyone who has told me Rap sucks, at least do me a small favor and check out Common. Listen to his verses in ‘Gaining One’s Definition’ and ‘Forever Begins’. If you thought Rap music didn’t contain the soulful content that you wished you could hear, then you missed Common. He’s helped define and carry forward good music since 1992, and is about to show Babson how to throw down at PepsiCo like no one’s ever done before.

‘Now let’s start the show!’ Step out of the cold! We come from the gate! To the top of the Globe!!!

Demos and old friends, pops they had to him. The chosen one from the land of the frozen sun. When drunk nights get remembered more than sober ones. Walk like warriors, we were never told to do. Explored the world to return to... It’s the thin line between love and hatred. I’m the black pill in the Matrix, the saturated life. They say life is what you make it. So I wait quick on a spaceship so I can take it. Common, ‘They Say’

### Classifieds

Spring Break 708 Mexico, Jamaica, Bahamas and Florida. STS has the Best Parties & Best Prices Guaranteed. Call for Group Discounts! 800.648.4849 www.ststravel.com

Looking for round table with diameter close to 5 feet for a student organization on campus. Please email babsonfreepress@gmail.com with available tables!
Website

From Page 1

not afraid of it. In January 2007 we became financially independent of the school, and adopted our own set of shaky financials and headaches. When we announced the move in late January, we were overly excited that this change would only be a good thing for the school, and a release from the fictitious "administrative censor" that many thought had prevented us from writing some of our articles. Looking back on the change, it appeared the Babson Free Press had been going through its FMB stage—re-learning what the four Ps were, and how we could leverage our organization to the Babson campus.

Last semester we decided to skip a few classes and took a seat in our own version of Professor Rivis' IMB Strategy course. We relooked at our operations, our community with the latest news, and the content that we were delivering. We re-opened such big topics as "Who should the Free Press serve?" and began to uncover smaller topics like, "What kind of free food would Babson students like every week if they wrote for the Babson Free Press?"

After months of asking questions and finding answers, we re-launched the Babson Free Press on February 01, 2008 with some big changes. Here is a brief overview of some of these changes:

A new approach to journalism—No longer will the Babson Free Press write an article, "just to fill space." We will only write an article if we believe it is fun to write, fun to read, or important for the Babson community to read. We believe in the power of the Free Press, but we do not believe in the watering down of our material just to make it fit into 8 pages. Quite simply, if we do not have enough good material to print 8 pages in a week, we will leave pages blank. We're not afraid to do this, as we know our readers will appreciate to fewer pages of good content.

Online news and entertainment—We knew the Babson Free Press lacked the amazing timeliness that exists in news reporting today. With our new website at www.babsonfreepress.org, you will find a new online community with up-to-the-day news and campus event announcements. You will find a community of YouTube and viral clips submitted by the Babson community. You will find new polls every two days, and articles written by Babson students that will raise issues unparalleled to most written about in the past few years. You will find PDF's of past issues, available for download and saving forever (or at least until the next time your hard drive crashes). You will find all of our staff's pictures up with email links, making it easy to contact us and get your organization more promotion, or your news story more likely to make it on our website. You will find headlines easier to scroll through, with our new search function, and better communication about when our issues do print. You will also find new music from ASCR, updated every Tuesday that is free, legal, and best of all, independent. And, what is the best thing about www.babsonfreepress.org? The change that hasn't happened yet. We're putting half of all our insane amount of energy into this project, and will be sure that it adds a great amount of value to the Babson community.

The babsonTV revolution—The Babson Free Press launched babsonTV with one intention: To have fun. We knew that there was an incredibly fun niche on the Babson campus for quality video content that was both informative and funny. We will be producing weekly shows, including our first show called "The Damn News Show". Look for more on babsonTV at our website. www.babsonfreepress.org.

Teddy Bear Promotions—We have not announced this promotion yet, but look for an announcement early next week on www.babsonfreepress.org. If you would like to win an iPod, I would recommend paying attention!!! We've got cameras, and we're not afraid to use them! We now are filming news and uploading it to our website. At our website, www.babsonfreepress.org, you'll find much of President-elect Leonard Schlanser's first speech to the Babson Community, as well as more video coverage on babsonTV.

We will bring together several cameras around campus, and will capture some of Babson's most "news-worthy" happenings...

We learn from IBM—We rigorously follow IBM's new slogan "STOP TALKING, START DOING". If you see us hyping up these changes...

To the Right are screen shots of the new Babson Free Press Website. www.babsonfreepress.org

"Check it out!"

Dave's Web Related Recomendation of the Week (besides www.babsonfreepress.org)
Pat's Dissertation on the 2003 Patriots, Part 1

Patrick McNamara
Sports Editor

Sunday, October 21st was a glorious day. At around 11:30pm, the Boston Red Sox clinched the American League Pennant and were off to their second World Series in four years. My good friend and sports writer Brandon was in town from DC, and he was fortunate enough to be at the game, celebrating with fellow brethren ranging from his last-seat-rowed brother to a jolly happy Papaloon on the field. Back at Babson, when I go to school, we pranced and danced outside, running around. In fact, one of the "seven wonders of the world" occurred when beer fell from the sky onto my face (it was a Red Sox celebration from a higher dorm floor). The scantest moment of the night occurred when I received a text message from Brandon saying, "PLEASE CALL" in all capital letters (no worries, as this message must have been auto-generated, because he has no recollection sending it nor was it in his outgoing folder on his phone...a mystery still unsolved). Things could not get better.

I cash back roughly nine hours prior. The Patriots are in Miami, winning 27-7 in the second quarter, facing a first and 10 from the Miami 40. All game to this point the Patriots had been successful passing the football. As I plead to Brandon for a pass, the Patriots instead ran a 2 yard draw play to Kevin Faulk. 2nd and 8. Am I happy? No, of course not. In fact, if you watched any Patriots games this season with me, you would know that I acted as more of a coach than a fan. Screaming out questions for the Patriots' coaching staff had become a regularity, more so on offense than on defense. The Patriots finished the season with greatest statistical offense in the history of the game, and I was questioning nearly every call that was not a pass directed at Moss. Of course, two plays later, Brady launched a fifty yard touchdown pass that was caught by Moss in the end zone while the Bengal's defensive backs...I imagine the sequence went like this: Ball in the air to Moss...Moss..."Oh no...the ball goes..."...Moss continues "ashes..." at this point the ball falls into one of Moss' arms..."we all fall down..."...well, except for Moss.

As I reflected throughout the season, I asked myself if my complaints were warranted. Now that the season is over and we finished with more wins than any team in the history of the NFL, yet empty handed, I would have to say that yes, they were valid. Past the season, when the Patriots lost, it was, well...it wasn't OK, but it wasn't the end of the world. Losses were a gut punch. But something was clearly different this season. We couldn't. And I don't mean to say we couldn't, to the major sports. Football is the only sport where a team could feasibly go undefeated. And, as I told you in Week 2 of the season, I believed that this Patriots team was going to go undefeated and win the Super Bowl. And in any other season, not going undefeated would have been OK, but this season featured the Spygate Chronicles, where every fan outside Patriots Nation not only wanted to see the Patriots lose, but they wanted to see Bill Belichick's head on a platter. We were not being embraced by NFL casualties to go undefeated, rather, we were being knocked down at any possible juncture. So, in a season where everyone in the world wants you to lose, the last thing you could tolerate was fan pressure. And Right...we didn't lose. At any point where the Patriots called a play I did not agree with, of course I was going to lash out. We CAN NOT lose this season. The Patriots stood for something that I'm not sure anyone understands. Blinded by asterisks, fans missed the beauty and the magic of the Patriots. Forty year old Junior Seau did not miss a practice all season. Randy "moon the crowd" Moss accepted a six million dollar pay cut, but remained with the Patriots. All season everyone understood their role.

I think Bill Belichick Washington was the greatest example of this philosophy. The Patriots signed him away from the Bengals, and he expected to be a third or fourth option for Brady. But he wasn't. He wasn't any option. Statistic points out that he did not catch one pass all season. I don't even think he was thrown a pass all season. In fact, I'd be surprised if someone told me that he was on the field more than ten times all season offensively. Kelley Washington worked his butt off all season in practice, and did not see one pass thrown his direction. Did he whine? Did he quit the team? No, of course not. He was a Patriot. He found a way to fit in. He found a way to be a part of the team. There are players out there who we thought agree that Washington turned in an all-star season on special teams.

This team adopted the "humble pie" mentality early in the season, taking shots from reporters. ESPN analysts, Gregg Easterbrook, and just about every non-Patriots fan in the world. Yet they continued to win. No matter what they did, they were always criticized, right through the very last second of the Super Bowl. They weren't allowed to score to much either. They couldn't run the ball. The defense was old. ESPN announcers were briefly cheered for the Ravens on that Monday Night game. The officiating in the Colts game was embarrassing. Don Shula called for an asterisk. Bill Belichick does not do game handshakes properly. Patriots fans are arrogant. Right...we did not lose one game in the second of the Super Bowl, when Belichick hugged Tom Coughlin, people hated the Patriots, and wanted to see them lose...no, they wanted to see them suffer.

Be sure to read next week's Free Press to continue reading Pat's Dissertation on the 2003 Patriots!

Whaaaaaaaaaaaaat's Happening, Babson?

FEBRUARY 12 - MONDAY
8am-7pm :: Poster Sale (Reynolds)
12pm-1:16pm :: BFIF Research Chat
(Olin Hall - Needham Room)
5pm-6:30pm :: International Student Employment Workshop (Reynolds 241)

FEBRUARY 13 - Wednesday
8am-7pm :: Poster Sale (Reynolds)
2pm-5pm :: INTERNSHIP FAIR 2008!
(Knight)
6:30pm-7pm :: SGA Meeting (Trim 201)
7:30pm-10pm :: The Charles D. and Marjorie J. Thompson Visiting Poets Series – Natasha Trethewey (Sorenson)

FEBRUARY 14 - THURSDAY
12pm-4pm :: Valentine Card Making (Reynolds)

FEBRUARY 15 - FRIDAY
7pm-9:30pm :: Men's Ice Hockey vs. Middlebury

FEBRUARY 16 - SATURDAY
2pm-4pm :: Women's Basketball vs. Coast Guard
4pm-6:30pm :: Men's Ice Hockey vs. Williams

FEBRUARY 18 - MONDAY
All Day :: NO CLASSES!
7pm-9pm :: Monday Matches, Chess (Reynolds)

Photo courtesy of FLO@flickr.com