An annual Babson tradition will continue again this year. Sponsored by the Department of Transportation and working in coordination with the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, new, unwrapped toys will be collected from the local mass base to be distributed to needy children throughout the Boston area as Christmas gifts.

“This program has been going on since before I started working at Babson,” said Sergeant Andrew Walker, who oversees the program for both Babson and Olin colleges.

Toys will be collected until the 17th December, when UPS, who also donates the time for their trucks and drivers, will pick up and deliver the toys to the local Marine base to be distributed in time for Christmas.

Any toys collected after the 17th will be donated to Newton-Wellesley hospital for children being kept in the hospital over the holidays and/or undergoing partial or early stressful or traumatic treatment.

In order to assist with the toy collection, Public Safety will be continuing the ticket for a toy program as in years past.

Any citations issued from November 17th to December 17th will be eligible to be exchanged for a donated toy excluding handicapped and fire lane violations.

Collection locations have been set up throughout the Babson and Olin campuses. Toys can be dropped off at Public Safety, Reynolds, Glavin Chapel, Webster Center, the ice rink, Olin Graduate building and at the Olin College Campus Center and Olin Hall. In addition, a drop box will be set up at the annual employee Christmas party for donations.

Walker said that last year nearly two entire UPS trucks were filled with toys collected from Babson. “It’s a testament to the entire community,” Walker also pointed out that many of Babson’s sports teams and organizations were a great part of the program’s success, often making specific efforts to promote the toy drive and/or donating toys themselves.

The Toys for Tots program has been around for over 50 years. According to the toyfortots.org website, “Toys for Tots began in 1947 when Major Bill Hendricks, USMC, and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children. The idea came from Bill’s wife, Diane.”

In the fall of 1947, Diane and her husband, Cpl. William Hendricks, took a box of toys and a感觉到 doll to Bill and asked Bill to deliver the doll to an organization, which would give it to a needy child at Christmas.

When Bill determined that no agency existed, Diane told Bill that he should start one. He did. The 1947 campaign was so successful that the Marine Corps adopted Toys for Tots in 1948 and expanded it into a nationwide campaign.

The campaign has been hugely successful since then, growing steadily every year thanks to the faithful support from people around the country.

Communities such as Babson can help greatly, especially because the program here at Babson has a strong history.

Any additional news for the program can be found on the public safety homepage: http://www3.babson.edu/office/public safety/.

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Marquis Jet Founder and CEO to Speak at Babson

WILL HANSEN  B&T EDITOR

Next Monday, December 6th, the Babson College conference series with the Founder and CEO of Marquis Jet Partners, Bill Allard, a Babson alum and head of a highly successful private jet company, will be coming to speak to Babson. The title of his speech will be, “Tales from a High-Flying Startup.”

The speech will be held in Olin Auditorium at 6:30 pm. Refreshments will be served, and there will be an informal reception afterwards, where willing members of the community will have a chance to speak with Allard one-on-one.

The Marquis jet program has brought in many stellar speakers in the past. The speakers generally typify people who are willing to take big risks, if they know their product or service is sold. Allard and his company have tried hard to market and customer service schemes, but it has put them near the top of the game for the private jet industry.

Marquis Jet Partners was launched in 1991, and was designed to provide a new alternative in the private jet industry. The major innovation of the business largely due to the nearly 500 airplanes employed by Marquis.

There are 11 different types of aircraft to choose from, ranging from 7 to 18 seats.

One thing that has greatly helped the company lately is their recognition in the first season of Donald Trump’s hit show, “The Apprentice.” Furthermore, Marquis Jet was featured on CNBC’s Squawk Box as well as part of Babson’s own Apprentice Challenge class.

Due to all of this publicity, and simply the genius of the company itself, Marquis Jet, which started a mere seven years ago, will be bringing in over $200 million this year. This is also due to the fact that the company’s customers include some of the countries biggest names in business, athletics, and entertainers.

Allard will explain in part how Marquis Jet was able to become so successful in such a short period of time. While a significant part of their success came from a partnership with NetJets, a similar company founded back in 1989 and purchased by investment mogul Warren Buffett in 1998, there is much more to the story. Perhaps the best way to learn about it is directly from the source.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Imagine a world filled with superheroes.

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SPORTS

Seniors Brian Ditman and Jeff Nicholson have both been at the top of their game in their seasons thus far.

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AMAN Cultural Show
Promises to Impress
WILL HANSEN
B&T EDITOR
Next Wednesday, December 8th, AMAN S.A.S.A. is putting on their second annual cultural show, called “Masti,” which means “fun” in Indian. The show will take place at 7:00 pm in Sorensen. The event includes a fully catered Indian dinner after the show. The event will take place on the last day of classes, which is excellent timing both for AMAN and for the students. The students have an excellent event to go to after classes but before studying for exams, and AMAN can expect a large turnout since nobody has anything to do.

AMAN S.A.S.A., the second part of which stands for South Asian Student Association, reaches out to one of the largest communities at Babson. It is composed of students from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Dubai, Turkey, Thailand and Sri Lanka. AMAN is actually a Sanskrit word which means “peace.” Sanskrit is an ancient language which originated in modern-day India. The AMAN society has existed for several years here at Babson, but they just recently added the S.A.S.A. suffix, partly to avoid confusion about whether or not AMAN is an acronym, and partly to include people in the group who are not of Indian descent.

AMAN plans cultural and religious events throughout each semester to reach out to all of its members, and also the greater Babson community. Some of the events this semester have included the Diwali dinner, which celebrated the Hindu New Year; and Eid, which celebrated the end of the month of Ramadan for Muslims.

This year’s show will feature a fashion show and performances from Olin College of Engineering and Bentley College, as well as students from Babson, of course. The performances will be dances, which will be accompanied by a fusion of Hindi, Punjabi, classical, hip-hop, Latin, Bhanga and traditional music.

The show has grown from just being part of BAFSA to running its own show, starting last year. The members of AMAN have been working very hard this year to make sure their show is truly spectacular, and they have chosen excellent timing for their event: the evening after the last day of classes for the semester. President Sanjay Rama ‘05 said, “Seeing the amount of time, effort, and dedication the performers have put in...I can’t imagine the show not being spectacular.”

Forbes Marsh, CONTRIBUTING WRITER
Babson has a great tradition of special interest housing. These groups are sections of dorms, or separate towers, in which all of the students are linked by some common set of interests. Here is a look at what some of the special interest groups have been up to this semester:

Babson Leadership Tower: The goal of the Babson Leadership Tower is to have a housing option which promotes leadership and collaboration among clubs, organizations, and athletics, and juststages that with several different programming activities which expand leadership on our campus. Leadership is one of the things Babson prides itself on. All members of the tower have a common ground, as they have all been carefully chosen as leaders in the Babson community who have exhibited exceptional participation in their respective clubs and organizations. They have

NEWS
THURSDAY, DEC. 8TH, 2004

Back

Updates On Special Interest Housing

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Come Celebrate THE Last Day of Classes!

December 8, 2004
Sotenson Auditorium

Babson Students $7
Non-Babson $10
Price Includes Full Indian Buffet Dinner
catered by Curry Leaf Restaurant

E-Tower: The E-tower is a group of 21 Babson students who live together and share a common interest in entrepreneurship. Our goal is to create an environment with the resources and energy to aid in the creation of new businesses. Although many members own businesses, this is not a requirement. All that you need to join is the interest in entrepreneurship. This year, the E-tower has taken a trip to Weirs Beach, sponsored a successful karaoke night, and hosted an "Apprentice Thursday" and kicked off the speaker series with the founder of Fresh City and President Barefoot. Upcoming events include more speakers, more group trips and a competition of women entrepreneurs.

For more on the E-Tower, visit www.etower.org, or contact Tyler Salditti at tscott314@babson.edu.
Same-Sex Couple Discusses SJIC Decision At Babson

ROB BALIER STAFF WRITER

Hillary and Julie Goodrich, the plaintiffs in the case where the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court legalized gay marriage in Massachusetts, came to Babson's Chapel on November 30 to talk about their life as a couple and their success in legalizing gay marriage. The couple has been together for about 15 years and they even have a daughter who is nine years old.

But until a little over a year ago, they were not allowed to marry because they were both women. A few years back, they realized they actually wanted a marriage license in Boston, but were turned down because they were both women.

So they decided to file a class-action suit against the state of Massachusetts to allow them to marry. Finally, on November 18th, 2005 the state's Supreme Judicial Court ruled that same-sex marriage should be legal.

During their one hour talk, the couple walked the audience through how they were able to get married and also about their struggle for equality for gays.

They said that even though they have claimed a clear victory for gays, there is still a long road ahead.

EROL SARIKAYA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Wednesday October 27th 2004, I was involved in an unfortunate incident during a celebration at Kenmore Square for the Boston Red Sox winning the World Series. I understand rumors about this have been circulating around campus and I wanted to personally explain my feelings and apologize for my actions.

To set the scene, I was in Kenmore Square celebrating after the victory with roughly 2,000 other people.

I saw two people on a light post and thought it would be very fun to climb the light post and cheer.

I was about 10 feet in the air and held my body around the visor above the green light in order to maintain balance. This proved to be a large mistake as my weight and eventually broke off, where I came to the ground.

Thankfully my actions did not lead to anyone around me being injured and did not spark rash events by riot police that were nearby.

I was consequently held and taken to jail by the police. Throughout the entire process as noted by the officers I was very cooperative and at no time talked back or resisted the arresting officers.

Since this incident has had a severe impact on my personal relationships to the community so that others at Babson College can learn from my mistakes and not repeat them, I am through what I am currently going through. I realize that during events like this there is a desire to be outrageous and let an emotional rush take over, it certainly happened to me.

However, throughout my actions I did not keep in mind the perceptions that police officers and national media had of me and I have quickly learned that riot police during these events do not have the luxury of erring on the wrong side, and must always assume the worst in order to eliminate any problems before they escalate.

Unfortunately it is one of the things we act to see just how much of a family the Babson Community is, and the responsibility we each have on campus toward each other. If you get involved in any sort of trouble or action you can forgive my actions and accept my sincere apology.
First-Year Student Died Monday
This article originally appeared in the December 4, 2003 issue of the Babson Free Press.
LINSEY ALIX
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In a tragic and startling event last year on Monday, December 1st, 2003, Thomas Siever an undergraduate freshman at Babson College, died. The cause of death was suicide, which took place around 5:56 pm in Park Manor South basement. One year after the event took place, a candle was lit in his honor in the Glavin Chapel throughout the day.
The event was shocking and strongly affected the Babson College community. Tom was a valued member of the Rugby team and friend to many who knew him in South and the freshman class.

Babson, from Plymouth, Massachusetts, is survived by both his parents and two siblings. The reaction from all the members of the Babson community was very strong. Carol Hacker immediately arrived on the scene upon hearing of the event. President Barefoot, who flew in from out of state, also came immediately to campus.

SGA hold a candlelight vigil for students at Reynolds in memory of Tom a week after his passing. An open mic was available for any students who wanted to share their memories of Tom, and the event was attended by several hundred students and staff. Afterwards a banner was available for students to sign which was displayed at the funeral the following day.

After the event occurred, Tim Mann sent out a campus wide e-mail which informed the students of what had occurred and how the school was working with the family. Class Deans and RAs were all available to help with those who needed to talk.

That e-mail also organized a separate gathering at noon on the following Tuesday at the Chapel. During this gathering, many people came forth to share a memory of Tom or say a prayer.

SGA President Jennifer Sanchez spoke to the people who had gathered there, expressing how tragic an event it was.

"Tom has touched each of our lives in one way or another whether we realize it or not. He will definitely never be forgotten. Instead of mourning Tom’s death, we must celebrate his life and, more importantly, our own lives and the lives of those around us. Think of the people who surround your life and how they impact you - and tell them. If Tom has taught us anything, it is to cherish life, love and people," said Sanchez at the time.

Babson College was greatly saddened by the tragic event. It is hoped that others out there do not consider this as a viable option, and realize that there are many people on Babson’s campus who are willing to help and listen. Professors, deans, and other faculty are there if one ever needs them.

So yesterday, December 1, 2004, Babson paused to remember a student who is still missed and remembered by all.

The Babson Free Press and the Babson Community send their prayers to the entire Siever family and friends of Tom.

Chamber of Commerce Reinstated At Babson
SUPREET MANIKALTA
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The Chamber of Commerce, a committee of the Student Government Association, is dedicated to helping student entrepreneurs reach their potential by linking them to resources both inside and outside of Babson College.

Though originally founded in 1978, when businesses grossed 250,000 dollars in revenue, the Chamber was lost without record until its reformation in 2004. In 1980, the school had 26 student businesses operating and registered with the Chamber, a huge increase from 1963, when the first Babson’s first business was established.

Under the leadership of the Vice President of Commerce, the Chamber seeks out student entrepreneurs and the resources they require to successfully run their businesses. The Babson Chamber reaches not only the Babson Community, but also to the outside community. Our belief is that the value of one entrepreneur is far overshadowed by the potential of many entrepreneurs working together to communicate their problems, share their best practices to other various members, and network. In addition to these meetings, workshops and speaker give guidance on ways to address challenges and inspiration to keep striving to reach their goals.

The Chamber’s Commercial Report, printed annually for Founder’s Day, provides the Babson Community and others with information about the current trends and accomplishments in the area of entrepreneurship with spotlights on individual student businesses. The Chamber also works with Babson F.R. to promote student businesses and spur revenue growth for business owners.

The first meeting will be held at 2 PM on December 5th in Trin 201/202.

BETA Students Reap Rewards This Week
LOUIS BELOTT
NEWS EDITOR

On Wednesday afternoon, students passing through Reynolds were hounded by student entrepreneurs hawking their wares to anyone who tried to pass through what is sometimes referred to as "The Gauntlet." No, FME did not get off to an early start this year. Instead, five groups of elementary and junior high school students who took part in the BETA (Babson Entrepreneurial Teaching Alliance) program this semester.

The students taking part range from third to eighth grade and stay after school for an hour and a half each week, during which time Babson students come in and teach about business and entrepreneurship.

The program is somewhat modeled after the Babson curriculum. It's really an impressive version of FME," said Greg Provencale, '05, who joined BETA this year. "It's tailored to their age group so the concepts are things they can understand."
The prime objective, just as in FME, is to develop a product, sell it, and donate the profits to charity.

The curriculum is modified from time to time, but is designed to be very hands-on. "We teach a lot of things through activities and games to keep the kids interested," said Lucrce Borrego, '06.

Even though the program is an after school program, nearly all the teachers from Babson say the students have lots of energy for every class and are eager to learn.

This was obvious in their sales results, as all but one of the five groups on campus sold out on Wednesday. One group that sold laptop cleaning kits was the first to sell out.

The 10 week program concludes next week and the students will give a presentation at their regular school, similar to the end of FME, detailing what they learned and what went right and wrong during their business.

"It's a mutually beneficial relationship," Provencale added. "We go to see and teach the kids, but we can learn a lot from them as well."
Not Another Cliché Article about Babson's Social Life

JASON BEDRICK
OPINIONS EDITOR

Okay, perhaps the title was a bit pretentious; it's hard not to be cliché when discussing the social life (or lack thereof) at Babson. Almost everyone has one gripe or another about the social scene at Babson and few students are reluctant to share their grievances with anyone within earshot.

However, though there is no shortage of students who feel that something is wrong, there are far fewer who can identify the exact problem and fewer still who have ideas how to fix it.

Most of the complaints are open secrets: not enough events, a culture of cliques, strict alcohol policies, too many group projects, etc. Perhaps no single issue is behind this wallowing and gnashing of teeth, but rather it is the cumulative effect of these smaller issues.

On the other hand, what can appear to be a small issue can lead to great unhappiness. For example, some students are concerned about the newly-enforced policy banning painting walls found on page 70 of the student handbook.

(The policy has) suddenly become effective this year," DJ Hageman '06 protested, "It's never been a problem; sometimes there was a minimal fine but that was it."

For years, sports teams, Greek organizations and other groups would paint murals in their common rooms and then repaint them while at the end of the year.

"At Northeastern, painting walls is encouraged to build community," argued Mike Restivo '06. "Now they're threatening high fines, suspensions and loss of housing.

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Students need to take more initiative to enhance the quality of life at Babson. SGA and the administration are generally responsive to ideas and often willing to fund activities.

The administration could do more by examining what works at other colleges and trying to implement similar programs here. I look forward to returning to campus in a few years and hearing about how much students enjoy life at Babson. And a positive social experience could go a long way toward increasing alumni donations.

In the meantime, here's what students around campus are saying in response to the question:

"What is the #1 obstacle to a social life at Babson?"
"What is the #1 way to improve social life at Babson?"?

"There is a problem with the segregation of groups."
-Martin Fleisher, '07

"E-mails and flyers are ineffective. We should have more students presenting events by word of mouth. Organizations should be rewarded for bringing students to events."
-Eric Briceno, '06

"We need more free beer. Anything that brings people together without costing a fortune."
-Rick Sierpina, '05

"The administration often says one thing (about loosening certain policies) but then does another."
-Kot Licks, '05

"There isn't enough connection between the different classes."
-Malte Zybicki, '06

"There's nowhere to have a party!"
-Kim Shappo, '06

"Bab is a problem. They should do sensitivity training."
-Richard Alfred, '07

"People tend to develop cliques and stick with them. Babson should encourage more inter-organization and cross-cultural events. And more people should take it for their food."
-Wendy Wong, '05

"There aren't enough social events that people want to attend. We should have more events in Reynolds and make it more comfortable and less corporate."
-Forbes Marsh, '07

How old is the Supreme Court?

HERBIE WEIBURGH
STAFF WRITER

The issue of legalizing marijuana has been at the forefront of many young people's minds for decades, but until now, it did not seem to have much of a chance. There is a case in front of the Supreme Court of the United States right now addressing the perception of medicinal uses of marijuana.

Since control over the substance was not given to the federal government in the first place, it should techni- cally have little or no juris- diction over its usage, espe- cially in a state like California where marijuana usage is legal with proper prescription according to state law. Why then did federal officers barge into the house of California resident Angel Raich and take her plants?

According to the Bush ad- ministration, which has fol- lowed the Constitution word for word since they came to power in 2000, has announced that the federal agents were going to take the substance was being grown and consumed within the state. Raich, who stopped this, was a mother of two and not able to attend to her own needs without enduring ex- treme pain without the spe- cial strain of marijuana. To dispute her argument, the obvious and helpful substance is just cruel. How is this differ- ent than prescription pain killers? It is used in the same way, does not have more se- vere side effects, and requires a prescription.

The Supreme Court now has to make the decision whether they will follow the Constitution and morality or destroy the most sacred document in American his- tory at the altar of age and institutional conservatism. According to CNN, Chief Just- ice Rehnquist, Justice Scalia, and Scalia's lackey, Justice Thomas, are all fun- damentally against changing the federal statute proclaim- ing medicinal marijuana ille- gal.

Justices Bouter and Breyer have voiced strong support for legalizing the case for the legal- ization of medicinal mari- juana. So, unless one of them finally grows a heart, or there is a plurality among the other justices, the case is doomed to the fate of most other morally conscious cases that have come or are ex- pected to come before the Court in the near future.

Meanwhile, Raich, a woman whose well being hangs in the balance, suffers daily from her numerous health defects.

Aside from her brain tumor and scoliosis, two horrid dis- eases which constantly threaten her life, she is in- flicted with chronic nausea, thrombosis, endometriosis, uterine fibroid tumors, pala- syis, asthma, and rotary cuff syndrome. All this while trying to raise two children.

Scalia says that if outlawing ivory trade and feathers is constitutional "for the bet- terment of mankind," then marijuana should be unconstitutional? Why? Justice Scalia, nowhere in the Constitution does it give the government the right to outlaw ivory or eagle feathers? That's why we are willing to overlook this because just about everyone agrees that marijuana or ivory or eagle feathers adds anything to society.

Their banning from society does better our society. How does the continued suffering of a mother of two at the hands of a laundry list of hor- rible diseases help mankind again?

I seem to have lost that memo. The new axis of evil: North Korea, Iran, and a little middle-aged California woman.

Do You Agree or Disagree With This Article? Have Your Own Opinion About Babson's Social Life?

EMAIL THEM TO: FREEPRESS@BABSON.EDU

Kerry-Post Election Day Blues

ANDREW LAWRENCE
STAFF WRITER

On Election Day, I voted for John Kerry. Anyone who knows me well wouldn't be surprised to find him on my ballot. I am quite the liberal as a long time supporter of universal health care, reproductive rights, and so many other issues. I waited a few weeks before the election where I would vote for John, I would have voted for him. In general, this election seemed to be an exercise in absurdity.

Out of curiosity, I looked up on the internet what each candidate's favorite album was. After about two minutes, I dis- covered Kerry's favorite album was Abbey Road by the Beatles. This outstanding selection was hard to beat. George Bush would need to try very hard to defeat the farewell album from John, Paul, George, and Ringo. Despite my efforts, I still have yet to find any record of Bush's favorite album. So I became curious.

How can the leader of the free world not have a favorite album? His favorite movie is 'Full of Beans' - a movie that the voice of Darth Vader and the guy from Waterworld playing bas- ketball with his blind date and Sandlot he would have got my vote. His favorite ice cream is vanilla, a打磨 ridiculous. For those of you who think they've never had this flair for the absurd, you should use on Baskin-Robbins ice cream cakes. He drinks diet coke.

My mother and 13 year old sis- ter are tough enough to handle the College of Social Life and the free world opted for Pepsi One? What state is this country in? Bush has a cat named India. I think that answers a lot of questions of where Bush lies in the Pakistan-India con- flict. Then one fact stood out and decided my vote.

George Bush is the co-owner of the Texas Rangers for ten years. Over this time, the club was a perfect 500. As a base ball fan living in America, that is a woman with whom I could entrust control of the world's most powerful country. I had to vote for Kerry, if not for our country at least for Shoeless Joe Jack- son (the original co-owner) of the Rangers.

After Thanksgiving dinner at the Lawrence house, my father, a very patriotic American, told me how he could have voted for Kerry. I turned him to boasted with tears in his eyes and the tears of passing out after the Cowboys crushed Chicago, and, feeling a bit out of sorts, I said to him because Dad, in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make."
Apple's Valuation Gets Higher and Higher

JACK PHELPS
B & T EDITOR EMERITUS

The price of Apple Computer shares (Nasdaq: AAPL) won't stop rising for a year now, and it's time to take a look at whether the valuation is getting too rich to be realistic, or if the stock has more room to climb.

The rise began a year and a half ago when national attention first hit the iPod and iTunes. Prior to the visibility achieved with those releases, Apple was seen as a niche player with little ability to execute a mainstream product release and a market capitalization composed predominantly of cash-on-hand. The company's products had never intersected with mainstream product needs: gaming and office program compatibility were weak at best.

But then the company's design skill won out in the MP3 player market and revolutionized the online availability of music. Apple's iPod cornered the market in these arenas, so the switching costs that traditionally plagued a convert were nonexistent. This drew the element of attention the company hadn't received since the release of the first iMac in the nineties.

Speaking of which, the company's valuation is back up to the same level it was at that time, if not higher. A P/E of about 95 and a market cap of $26 billion. That's a big change from the $6 billion ($8 billion at cash-on-hand less cash) it was at in March 2000.

So what, exactly, has changed?

The iPod now makes up roughly thirteen percent of Apple's sales in dollars, while iTunes comprises about three percent. Those are nice additions to its product line, but the story isn't strong because of the dollars involved.

Gene Munster of Piper Jaffray conducted a study of iPod users, releasing in November results indicating that six percent of the PC users who purchased an iPod then purchased a Macintosh. Another seven percent, the study found, said they planned on purchasing a Mac within twelve months.

Even though the study was only of 200 users (thus yielding a deviation percentage greater than the predicated conversion at a meaningful confidence interval), I'll give mister Munster this: iPod sales and probably iTunes sales have had an impact on Apple's other product sales, mostly because of Apple's skill in designing usable products. Fans of music who used to care about the function of PCs are increasingly won over by the usability of a Mac. With sales of the iPod having topped 2.4 million units in the last nine months alone, this means a lot of conversion.

But there are some caveats to take into account. For one, the iPod conversions are likely people who are on the cutting edge of gadget design, who are the most wealthy, and who would already be the most likely to switch. They are almost certainly non-representative of all iPod owners.

Then there's the fact that Apple's growth prospects are weak in developing markets, where people typically buy the cheapest computers possible. Apple's Japan sales are actually down this fiscal year, slightly in dollar terms, but heavily in units (the difference is probably in the currency fluctuation). This bodes equally badly for Apple's share in other Asian markets.

Moreover, Apple's largest sales increase by channel has been from retail store sales, where it runs roughly at an operating break-even. Gaining market share with that could only get so far.

However, another factor works in Apple's favor: the increasing Internet-available applications. Any program a person needs that is available cross-platform in a web browser is a win for the company, because it's a breach in the traditional barrier between PC's and Macs. As platforms are becoming more important, the user interface of slick white plastic and the company's Safari browser meet up with native wireless and Bluetooth and make the iPod look like a real deal for old holdouts, regardless of the iPod's impact.

Ultimately, though, Apple will have to hit the growth numbers expected by the market.

The company's profit margin is about three percent—a back-of-the-envelope calculation, but when taken with a couple-percent improvement, it will have to grow its revenues at the current 30 percent for years to warrant the current valuation.

The cross-sellability of iPod owners is just what didn't accomplish that.

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**Nintendo DS Sells 500,000 In First Week**

WILL HANSEN
B & T EDITOR

Ever since the original Nintendo Game Boy was released, in 1989, the friendly video game company has always been considered the leader in hand-held game technology. However, they did have one major flop, in the way of the Virtual Boy, which makes some gamers skeptical about Nintendo's newest foray into the hand-held video game world.

This new product is the Nintendo DS, which stands for Dual Screen. The system is approximately the size of a large cell phone, and flips open along the long axis (whereas most cell phones flip along the shorter side). The system has several buttons on the face, as well as the usual directional pad for moving around the screen.

However, the most interesting new feature is that the lower of the two screens is actually touch-sensitive, and the DS comes with "two styli", as well as a small "button" that fits on your thumb, to manipulate the touch screen.

The DS also features a few other features that are, if not exactly revolutionary, are definitely cool, and should prove for some interesting games in the future. One of these features is the existence of built-in Bluetooth wireless, which allows for multiplayer gaming with up to 16 DS systems.

One excellent feature of this is the idea of "game sharing." This basically means that if one person owns the game, they can send files to other systems in the area, to allow them to play without actually needing to own the cartridge themselves.

The DS also features a built in microphone, which Nintendo says will eventually be used for voice communication during multiplayer games.

Of course, since the range of the DS wireless is only 30-100 feet, chances are a hearty yell will reach the people you are playing with.

Furthermore, the microphone has voice recognition technology, so perhaps users could, in the future, control their character with simply their voice.

The dual screens of the Nintendo system are each powered by their own processor. The lower one is 33MHz ARM7 and a 66MHz ARM9. To make sense of these numbers, the Game Boy Advance uses a single 16.5MHz ARM. Another advantage of the DS over the Game Boy Advance is that the system has a standard headphone jack, so there's no need to buy an adapter just to keep the noise pollution down.

One of the downsides of the Nintendo DS is the lack of any big-name launch titles. Perhaps the largest title is a re-release of the N64 game, Super Mario 64 DS. While it will be nice to play this classic game on a new system, a new Nintendo system really deserves a whole-new Mario game. Hopefully, one will be forthcoming, but we're holding our breath.

Some of the other launch titles include Asphalt Urban GT, which seems to be a fairly straightforward racing game; Madden NFL 2001, a simplified port of the new classic football game; and, the most interesting title, Feel The Magic: XXEY.

This game is essentially a series of mini games, with the ultimate purpose of impressing a lovely lady friend. The mini games are often fast and inventive. Some of them include blowing into the microphone to move a sailboat, and swirling on the screen to create a whirlpool. These titles will be fun, but there's nothing in here that's truly stellar.

Overall, only time will tell if the Nintendo DS can escape the Virtual Boy fate. However, Nintendo did sell 500,000 systems in the first week of sales, so that's definitely a good sign. I know that a DS is at the top of my Christmas list, and I'm pretty sure I won't be disappointed.

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BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

THURSDAY, DEC. 2ND, 2004

Linux And Robot Toys (Toys!) Go Mainstream

CHRIS CICCHETTILI
STAFF WRITER

Over Thanksgiving break bored with Windows and sick of it crashing I decided to try something new. I bought Linux. Specifically I bought Novell SuSE Linux 9.2, mainly because it has the latest kernel and software updates but also because I own stock in the company so I figured I should well check out what they sell.

Novell is currently switching its business strategy from an enterprise network software provider to become a Linux product and solution provider, a move that will either sink the company or pay off in spades. I tried Linux in the past, back before the days of graphical interfaces and then it was complicated to install, complicated to use, and lacking features and took for granted in Windows.

This time around however it’s very different. Linux has a better system, a better interface, and a more user friendliness as the main reason for companies to switch to Linux since the early days but what amazed me was how much it had improved in business and customization features.

Linux is completely skinnable, and unlike Windows Blinds and similar programs work better than anything else I’ve seen. Linux causes absolutely no slowdown or degradation in the OS. Thanks to the open source movement you can get virtually any program you could ever want for free, and then you just get it installed onto your laptop, automatically setting up all the hardware drivers and even installing Linux from a CD (and useful) open source programs to get me started.

I could even open up Windows files from within Linux, another feature previously unavailable in past editions. While I paid $60 for the student retail version, you can get other "distributions" for $20 I read. Fedora Core (the free version of Red Hat) is that the route you want to go down. Either way I highly recommend trying Linux.

For all you techies and geeks out there put the Robosapien (see picture) on your Christmas (or Chanukah, etc.) list. For those of you unfamiliar with the Robosapien it is a toy robot (and I use the word 'toy' liberally here) made by Wow Wee and designed by a NASA physicist that is able to walk and run and even pick up objects and even pull off some kung fu moves, all controlled by a wireless remote control.

It’s just not as tall and just under five pounds with batteries, but what makes this toy so fun is its ability of destroying those of us not playing with Legos anymore is that it’s designed to be hackable, combining smooth design with color contact, extra space for mounting modifications, and power to spare.

Hobbyist sites are already buzzing with ideas for mods, and accessories of its price. I expect this to be the world’s first widely adopted humanoid robot. It actually does walk pretty fast and can move pretty fluidly; early adopters have made the Robosapien Dance to music and created its own music videos.

Others are giving the robots more powerful motors, some are even building robots which add security control to a home; all this in the span of just months. I can’t wait to see what’s next.

Andrew Woodward
STAFF WRITER

By now you have undoubtedly heard of the "Predator" clone, a widely used unmanned surveillance aircraft, which has been used in Afghanistan and Iraq over the past couple of years. This aircraft has gotten a lot of press coverage, not only because of its effectiveness on the battlefield, but also because its implementation marked the beginning of a trend towards robotic vehicles being used by the military.

This trend has been continued by iRobot, a company based in Burlington, MA, known for their Roomba (Robotic vacuum). Their "PackBot" (Backpack Robot) has also been employed in battle by the U.S. armed forces.

The PackBot, a treated vehicle which is capable of climbing over tough terrain, is being used to explore caves in Afghanistan and to detonate booby traps. It has its application has been limited to surveillance and scouting missions, and therefore it has not been employed in very many combat operations.

The most amazing advance in military robotics will come not from a robot, but from a human life, we must still recognize the importance of human intelligence on the battlefield rather than robots. Nevertheless, the engineers have tried to automate those tasks by assuring that it will only be humans peeling the trigger, and that they recognize that function can never be done autonomously.

Whether these new Talons will see widespread use in combat remains to be seen, but one thing is for sure, the U.S. military has recognized the benefits of using robots in combat rather than risking human lives.

While some will argue that engineers have gone too far this time, it seems that enough checks and balances have been built in to make the Talon a safe weapon. In the years to come you can definitely expect to see more and more robotics being used by the military, and the Talon will likely take its place in this group of fighting machines.

Cuban Does What A Typical Guy Would Do With A Billion Dollars

MYLES TRYDER
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, November 27, Mark Cuban announced that he will be launching a hedge fund. Formerly, this would cause a headache in the grand scheme of things but, as is his wont, Cuban has added something of a twist to the whole endeavor. To further demonstrate his longstanding claim that investing for fun is as valid as gambling, Cuban has decided that his hedge fund will deal not in business stocks, but in sports events. In other words, he will invest only in sports, not investors, but gamblers.

For those who are not familiar with Cuban, he first made his fortune as the host of Broadcast.com to Yahoo! for $4 billion during the tech boom.

Shortly thereafter, he purchased the Charlotte Bobcats in two deals totaling $275 million, and still has $250 million in league officials. Cuban is a veteran of the NBA, and he now has a track record of getting ridicules league officials.

Additionally, he was the star of ABC's "The Benefactor," a ratings flop that's been dumped by the network.

The announcement came on his website, www.blogmaverick.com, which is that's worth reading for his ongoing public feud with Donald Trump alone.

On his site, he stated: "There are always people trading on emotion rather than logic. There are always people trading on hopes of the big hit. What Peter Lynch would call the '10 Bagger.' They were gambling. Nothing more; nothing less." While Cuban has long stated this, he finally decided to act upon it.

All things considered, it really does make sense the way that he states it. Sports, by and large, work through a ruleset that is far more familiar to the general public than any by which Wall Street abides.

The games are played before the public, so that all can be sure that the outcomes are legitimate. And, as Cuban adds: "The gaming commission appears to actually enforce rules of play, unlike the SEC. Furthermore, there is a wealth of statistical information in sports that is pretty much uncorrupted by business trading counter parts."

As Cuban explains it, investments and gambling are most different, a difference that is important to make money, while people gamble expecting to lose it.

In gambling, acting on emotions and intuition in such a way that will generally lose money, is part of the experience. Therefore, the sports books simply play to induce emotional betting, and by Cuban's theory, let the smart money get its share.

In order to see to it that his money stays "smart," he has promised to hire the best and the brightest in the betting business.

Whether or not his plan comes to fruition remains to be seen, as does whether or not this is the start of a new movement. For my part, I certainly hope that it is.

Bye-Bye Soldiers... Hello Armed Robots

Photo Courtesy Of Will Straw For The New York Times; PrePress

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Theology Is To Literature As Water Is To Oil
JUSTIN PEGRAM
STAFF WRITER

Today, in both writing and colloquial speech, there are times people use biblical sayings without even knowing it (for example: "the writing is on the wall").

Excluding the humanistic component of faith (which should not be undermined), Christianity has proliferated because of the appeal of its text. I can almost guarantee that a sub-par version of the Bible would never have gained the popularity of its actual counterpart. That is, when it comes down to actually reading, people—especially college students—are engaged.

It must be acknowledged that historical tensions between Biblical stories and early elite have created an artificial divide, casting the Bible as a strictly theological work separate from empirical knowledge and human creativity. Regardless of faith, the Bible should not be ignored simply because of this superficial dichotomy. The fact that in order to study the Bible in university one must take theology speaks to the great length about this separation. I would like to see a literature course (not a theology course) devoted to the Bible here at Babson. I am not professing conversion. In fact, I believe all sacred texts should be criticized from a literary standpoint—I speak of the Bible whenever it is the text I am most familiar with. I do agree that, because faith is not a compartmentalized aspect of life, rather it permeates through all aspects, it can be hard to completely separate the two. I simply read it as a piece of literature. But, people do not even go that far. They never even consider reading it as literature. For your holiday reading, I suggest the Bible.
Book Review: Mountains Beyond Mountains

Eoin Daly
Staff Writer

To some Paul Farmer may seem like a man with a clear mission and to others he may be seen as an enigma, or perhaps too far removed from being a regular guy. Tracey Kidder writes an intimate biography called Mountains Beyond Mountains about Paul Farmer, whose life work is saving the world.

The time spent following Dr. Farmer around the world gives Tracey Kidder access to the gritty work that is done in the clinics and the touching relationships that make Paul Farmer not just any doctor working in a Third World country. The people he treats become his life instead of an afterthought.

What makes Paul Farmer an incredible and motivational character is the fact that he is not one-dimensional. As with many great people he is at once resultate, unpredictable and over-all human. If you hear Paul Farmer speak at Harvard, which he often does, you may not see the human side. But it is Tracey Kidder’s ability to weave anecdotes, analysis and direct quotation into a fulfilling account of a living legend that makes this book special.

What makes this book impossible to put down and even harder to forget is that it is a true story. The man that leaves such an impression works just a few moments down the Mass Pike in Cambridge. His world acclaimed foundation, Partners in Health, which he heads and is Nobel Prize winners on its board of directors, makes it hard to believe that it was all started by one man with the idea that everyone, no matter how poor deserves to be re-

ceives medical care. Paul Farmer could have been just another Harvard doctor who made all the money he needed. Despite his less than modest upbringing on a house-

boat in Florida, Paul’s intelligence gained him a scholarship to Duke.

He entered Harvard Medical School and simultaneously discovered the passion of his life, helping people. Not in the typi-
cally noble doctor manner how-
ever; he wanted to help people who really needed it. Farmer’s first experience in Haiti led him to be so profoundly taken that he knew he had to do some-

thing.

What makes Paul Farmer a great human being is that he is a man of action, who does all he can to change the world, as cliché as that sounds. Farmer spent his years at Harvard Medi-
cal School acquiring the best medical knowledge and then flying back to Haiti between classes to develop his clinic in Cange, one of the poorest regions of the poorest country in the Northern Hemisphere. His efforts in Cange helped drastically decline the AIDS infection rate by real-
izing the human dimension to the problem and the benefits of preventive care.

Paul Farmer’s story of finding problems and fixing them is one that has led to much global accolades as well as anti-multiresistant tuberculosis in Russia.

Dr. Paul Farmer has spoken at the World Health Organization, with Russian heads of state and the head of Peru’s health agency. Paul Farmer always had the knowledge, the will and the deep love of his patients to use any power he has to help whoever needs it.

Above, an image from the new hit PC game, Half-Life 2. The image shows the player wielding the gravity gun, which allows the character to pick up large objects, like the mining cart.

Half-Life 2 Does Not Disappoint Gamers

WILL HANSEN
B&T EDITOR

One of the most highly anticipated PC games of all time has finally been unleashed upon the gaming world: Half-Life 2 is out. On November 16th, 2004, the PC gaming world as we knew it was fundamentally changed.

But was it really all it’s supposed to be?

The original Half-Life was released in 1998, and became the new gold standard for the first-person shooter genre. Since then, and all the way up until Halo arrived on the scene, Half-Life was used to judge all other first person shooters.

Because of its brilliant use of scripted events to tell the story, as well as its groundbreaking engine, it was clear that it would be difficult to top.

Clearly, the sequel to this game has big shoes to fill. Half-Life 2 has been in development for Valve for literally the past six years. It has been the longest worked-on games in history.

The biggest improvement over the old game is simply the new physics engine. The Havok physics system allows for the rag doll effect now common in first person shooters.

Essentially, this means that when a person is killed in the game, they will fall fluidily, instead of having a set death animation. This means that bodies can be seen tumbling down stairs, shaking with successive shots, and ending up in re-

ally twisted positions on the ground.

The other aspect of the physics system is the ability for almost every object in the world to be manipu-

lated in the beginning. In the beginning, players can lift lighter objects such as crates, cans of paint, glass bottles, and a number of other items.

These items can be thrown at enemies for slight damage, and are often used to solve jumping puzzles.

Sometimes crates must be stacked in order to create stairs, or cinder blocks must be moved onto a set of pulleys to lift a gate.

Later in the game, the player gets a weapon called the gravity gun, which can be used to pick up larger items, as well as hurl lighter items further and faster.

Now we’re talking. Imagine lifting up a huge crate, and grabbing it to throw halfway your enemies, while setting up a few steel drums as a makeshift bar-

ri
cade to deal with the problem, and you have an accurate description of some of the events which take place af-


fter the gravity gun falls into the player’s hands.

Another amazing aspect of the game is the scalability of the graphics engine. It was rumored that Half-Life 2 would not run on any but the most powerful of gaming sys-

tems. This would be the game which would require all “true” gamers to up-

grade their systems.

But where does this leave us, here with our “Babtops”? The computers we are given at school are great for Excel, web brows-
ing, and simpler gaming, but they simply do not have the graphics card required for a game of this magni-
tude.

Distraught, but deter-
minded, I purchased Half-
Life 2 in order to test its functionality on my Babson-issue laptop. Sur-
prisesingly, it actually works.

Sure, I have to run it at its lowest resolution setting, but many of the other op-

tions are at medium or higher.

I am able to see most of the textures at reasonable quality. The only problem is that there is some pretty bad fade-in of objects, but only when there are many on the screen.

It certainly doesn’t get in the way of gameplay, as the frame rate is top notch, but it is rather annoying to suddenly run into a barrel that didn’t exist 3 feet ear-

lier.

One of the greatest as-

pects of the original Half-

Life was the excellent story, and this new entry does not disappoint.

Overall, Half-Life 2 lives up to most of the hype sur-

rounding it. Despite some problems with Valve’s hotly-debated Steam sys-
tem, the kinks seem to be ironed out, and the game is working fine.

Valve even managed to surprise players with an early release of Half-Life 2 Deathmatch, for those itching to get online. Also, pur-

chases of Half-Life 2 in-

clude the re-done version of the old classic, Counterstrike Source.

Be sure to pick this one up as soon as possible. If it doesn’t run well enough on your laptop for your liking, get a new computer.

This one’s worth it.
Mid-East and Palestinian Future Uncertain

VIRAL KAPADIA INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

As a result of the death of former Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat over two weeks ago, there will be immense change in Palestine and its policies which brings many people and leaders across the globe of the possibility of greater peace and stability in the region. Yasser Arafat received a very mixed opinion on the policies he carried out during his lifetime from world leaders, upon his death.

Many were quoted as saying that Arafat was an astounding leader for the Palestinian people who continued and preserved their fight for independence and a free state, while others considered him as a selfish leader who gave up an immense opportunity to achieve peace by rejecting the deal made by the US and the PLO handshake in the Oslo Peace Accords and offered in the last decade by Israel to give Palestine a certain amount of land.

Many believe that Arafat put a greater emphasis on his personal popularity than compromising to achieve peace. Arafat had amassed an immense amount of wealth over the years from the $1 billion in international aid that came to Palestine each year. Arafat used this money not only for the Palestinian cause, but also for his personal reasons such as giving his wife Suha who was living in Paris a $100,000 a month allowance.

It was the wealth of Arafat that lead to disagreements between the Palestine Liberation Organization and his own government which led to his death, with both sides claiming their share. The deal that was struck between the two parties left Suha Arafat with a large share of wealth that will last her for her lifetime as she was given a lump-sum payment of $20 million, and will be paid $35,000 per month for the rest of her life.

Arafat had also been criticized in the past as being power hungry due to the controversy over the dispute with the Fatah party which he appointed, Mahmoud Abbas, less than two years ago.

Abbas resigned from his position over growing disagreements between him and Arafat over a power struggle, and many believed that a peaceful Middle East and Palestinian leadership could not occur in Palestine after Arafat’s death.

The above photo, London’s Big Ben along the Thames River, was taken by Viral Kapadia before his semester abroad at Westminster Abbey comes to a close.

Smoking May Be Banned in England

MATT SAINDON INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

A government plan could soon see a smoking ban in action in England. It would be the latest country to execute such a huge popula

Osbourne Family Is Stripped Of Jewels

MATT SAINDON INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

After celebrating the birthday of Elton John’s boyfriend, David Furnish last week, famous rock singer Ozzy Osbourne and his wife Sharon were nowhere to be seen in public. The new couple is said to be more than happy with the headbanging couple they have been living in the past few years. Sharon has mentioned that she and Ozzy worked very hard for The Osburnes to have offered an 187,000 dollar reward for information leading to the conviction of these two thieves.

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Student Athlete Highlight: Diving and Basketball

ASHLEY JAIN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As the fall semester comes to a close, the Free Press would like to highlight two athletes that have had spectacular seasons thus far. Seniors Brian Ditman and Jeff Nicholson have both been at the top of their game in their respective sports.

Ditman, a diver for Babson's Swimming and Diving Team, has been named to the all four years of college. He previously dove at Amity High School in Woodbridge, CT. Ditman placed third in the NEWMAC's on both the 1 meter and 3 meter boards last year and has been diving impeccably this season so far.

In the meet against UMass-Dartmouth on October 30th, Ditman received a 212.95 on the 1 meter and 201.30 on the 3 meter. Against Brandeis, he dove 218.05 on the 1 meter and 220.35 on the 3 meter. At the Wayne's World meet, he dove 212.70 and 217.00 on the 1 and 3 meter, respectively. And finally, at the MIT/BC/Brandwinds meet, he hit 187.75 on the 3 meter. In all events, Ditman has placed first. His hard work and dedication to his sport have earned him a spot on the Babson varsity for three seasons.

In basketball, Jeff Nicholson has been a consistent player for the team. Nicholson, also, has been playing well for his fourth year on the men's basketball team. A team leader in the following categories, he is averaging 18.7 points, 6.9 rebounds, and 3.8 blocks per game. On the pace that he is at, Nicholson hopes to achieve the 1000-point mark for his career. He is also leading the NEWMAC Conference in blocks. There are 7 teams in the conference — the others being Clark University, United States Coast Guard Academy, MIT, Springfield College, Wheaton College, and WPI.

For the rest of the season, Nicholson hopes the team will be NEWMAC champs and be a contender in the NCAA tournament. Nicholson claims that in 1996, the men's basketball program has appeared in RCAC tournaments, NCCAA tournaments, and NEWMAC.

This past season, the team was 22-6, won NEWMACs and advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament. We wish those two athletes the best of luck for the remainder of the season and look forward to seeing their success in the spring.

Box Scores

as of 12/1/04

Men's Basketball 3-1

The 3-1 Babson men's basketball team is currently led by head coach Scott Atlas. The team has had a strong start to the season and is looking to continue their winning ways.

Women's Basketball 1-3

Babson's women's basketball team is also off to a strong start with a 1-3 record. The team is led by head coach Melissa Worn and is working hard to improve their record.

Men's Ice Hockey 3-1-1

Babson's men's ice hockey team is currently 3-1-1. The team is led by head coach Ken Mandarano and is working hard to improve their record.

Women's Ice Hockey 4-2

Babson's women's ice hockey team is currently 4-2. The team is led by head coach Lisa McAndless and is working hard to improve their record.

Upcoming Schedule

12/9
Men's Ice Hockey vs. Trinity at 7 PM

12/14
Men's Ice Hockey vs. Wesleyan at 2 PM

12/14
Men's Basketball vs. Salem St. at 1 PM

12/14
Men's Swimming vs. Clark at 1 PM

12/14
Women's Basketball vs. Brandeis at 1 PM

12/14
Women's Swimming vs. Clark at 1 PM

12/19
Men's Basketball vs. Framingham St. at 7 PM

12/17
Men's Basketball vs. Emerson at 7 PM

12/19
Women's Basketball vs. Worcester St. at 7 PM

12/19
Men's Ice Hockey vs. UMass-Boston at 7 PM

The Babson Free Press

Founded in 1934

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

ASHLEY JAIN, Editor-in-Chief
LINDSEY ALEX, Editor-in-Cool

ABOUT THE NEWSPAPER

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Anonymous letters to the editor will not be accepted. All letters must be submitted no later than Sunday by 4:00 P.M. before the Thursday of publication. All letters are subject to editing and become the property of the Free Press after submission. Typically, no more than 2 letters to the editor are printed in a given week.

All letters should be no more than 500 words.
Pacers/Pistons Brawl Branches Issues to Light

JEFF HILL
STAFF WRITER

I am sure by now that most of you have heard about the brawl that ensued at a Pacers vs. Pistons game two weeks ago on Friday the 13th. It was between two of those for whom you haven't heard the full story, here it is.

The whole deal started when Ben Wallace of the Pistons was fouled and didn't like it. Wallace, in retaliation, began to scuffle with Pacers Ron Artest. The scuffle between the two players caused teammates to come off the benches and onto the courts.

While all this was happening, Ron Artest had left the court and went to lie on the scorers table. It is at this point that a 15-foot-up shot was thrown by a fan at Artest; it hit him in the face. This prompted Artest to stand up and run into the stands to get at the offending fan. He immediately started swinging at people in the stands and his response, several fans started to either break up the fight or swing back at the Pacers. Meanwhile, the game continued and many - many of fans in the stands fighting several people, a few Pacers ran into the stands to help defend their teammates. Finally, after security managed to break up the brawl in the stands, the Pacers began leaving the court. As several Pacers were about to leave, another fan came down from the stands and confronted them.

This situation however was put under control by security very quickly. As the Pacers walked out they were under a deluge of thrown items from fans. Needless to say, the game was called with 10:30 left and 45-33 the score, and then remaining on the clock.

Due to these events, several suspensions have been handed out by the NBA commissioner. Jermaine O'Neal was given a 25 game suspension, Stephen Jackson was given a game suspension, and Ron Artest received an NBA record suspension by being forced to sit out the entire rest of the season.

The players are also likely to get sued by several of the fans in the stands who were involved in the fight. A lawyer has been offered for any information regarding the fans that instigated the brawl.

The first issue in NBA history of players going up into the stands to attack fans. It has cast a cast on the game and the sport that athletes are already heavily criticized for the immature behavior. This even could signal some changes in the NBA.

One example is possibly giving them suspensions more liberally to discourage any behavior like Wallace's. The only reason this whole mess. A second is that they may somehow separate the fans from the court, much like they did in early basketball when it was played in a cage. In short, this event is extremely significant and has brought the attention of many of the issues in the NBA.

NFC Playoffs: Who Is Going Make it and Who Won't Make It

JOSE GAZTAMBIDE
STAFF WRITER

Now that week twelve of the NFC is over, it is safe to start talking about the playoffs.

Would you believe that 15-1 could actually make it in the AFC this year, but with a losing record may make it in the NFC? The NFL is the superior conference, so in this edition we will cover the likely playoff contenders and their chances of winning the conference.

Patriots: With their final 5 games being Cleveland, Cincinnati, Miami, the Jets, and San Francisco, the odds are the Patriots will finish 8-8, but 15-1, claiming a 1-1st round bye and home-field advantage during the playoffs. By the end of the season, Ty Law and Tyrone Poole will be back, making an already good Patriots defense even better. Corey Dillon has played magnificent for the Pats, and has lifted Tom Brady's play with the legitimate threat of play-action. Prediction: Best contenders in AFC Championship game to meet Atlanta Falcons in the Super Bowl.

Jets: The Jets have taken major steps towards improving this season despite a relatively poor year by Chad Pennington. Jonathan Vilma has played well and has been getting better as the year goes on.

Falcons: In the east, the Falcons have played a huge part of the NFC, in particular the run defense, which is the 5th in the NFC. The Jets have the ability of running the ball and stopping the run, but they're not as good as the Steelers. Prediction: Win wildcard, lose to Steelers.

Pittsburgh: The Steelers pounded the ball with Jerome Bettis and Duce Staley, and have one of the best defenses in the league. Roethlisberger won't win them many games, but he won't lose them either. Without Plaxico Burress, who is out with a hamstring injury, their offense is not nearly as potent as it could be. They will need to hold on until he gets back, and make a push into the AFC Championship game.

In the NFC: Baltimore: The best defense in the NFC will win the second wildcard spot assuming Jamal Lewis comes back next week. Without him, their offense rivals the Dolphins and Redskins as the worst in the NFC. Another key piece to the offense is tight end Todd Heap, who feeds off of play-action passes as Jerome Bettis and Duce Staley, and have one of the best defenses in the league. Roethlisberger won't win them many games, but he won't lose them either. Without Plaxico Burress, who is out with a hamstring injury, their offense is not nearly as potent as it could be. They will need to hold on until he gets back, and make a push into the AFC Championship game.

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Indianapolis: Peyton Manning is having by far the best offensive season of any player in NFL history. His 126.6 QB rating is absolutely unheard of, and may never be reached again. Unfortunately for Peyton, the defense is still one of the worst around, and as long as other teams in the AFC continue to be balanced, Peyton and the Colts will put on a good show and be eliminated by either the Steelers or the Patriots in the second round. Prediction: Manning throws 60 touchdowns but gets eliminated in the second round again.

San Diego: The Chargers are a scary team. A VERY scary team. And the scariest part is that Ladanian Tomlinson has been hurt most of the year with a groin injury, and hasn't been 100% yet. If he ever does get all the way back to health, the best runner in the NFL will be a force in the AFC.

The chargers defense has been a surprise, and their 2-4 defense has been crushing running games all season long. If the Chargers were in the NFC, they might be looking at a Super Bowl bid, but they are unfortunately faced with far superior teams in the Patriots, Steelers, Jets, and Colts. Prediction: lose in first round.

Richie Sexson, Carlos Delgado, Magglio Ordonez and Nomar Garciaparra are all available, Nomar would have been a great fit in San Francisco with its large power alloy and Nomar's gap power. Sexson, Delgado, or Ordonez could thrive hitting behind Bonds as well. Look for the Giants to sign Ordonez to a one-year deal, selling him on the inflated RBI production that will give him a better shot at a fat contract for 2006.

Gabe Kapler - Yemeni Giant: The first of the 2004 Red Sox to sign elsewhere, Kapler was looking for a chance to start. With Dave Roberts arbitration eligible, Kapler was expendable to the Red Sox, disappointing the female fan base of Red Sox nation.

Doug Mirabelli - Red Sox, 2 years/$3.25 million: The Mirabelli signing was somewhat lost in the news of the Mets offering Pedro Martinez 3 years and $37.5 million. Mirabelli should continue to serve as the best backup in baseball, however the Sox fall to resign Varitek. Mirabelli would not be a huge problem as the Sox starting catcher. Unless he goes to the Angels, Varitek is likely to stay with Boston through arbitration or their 4 years, $35 million option.

Eris Benson - Mets, 3 years/ $22.5 million: Looking to get back to credibility the Mets signed him to a 3-year deal with pitcher Rick Pettro, he could tích under the life of this contract. In the unlikely scenario that Pedro Martinez signs with the Mets, they'll have a very respectable 1-4 of Martinez, Glavine, Benson, and Zambrano. Still, 3 years for someone that hadn't a sub 4.00 era since 2000 is somewhat questionable.

Darnell Miller - Brewers, 3 years/8.75 million: This is some what bad news for Red Sox fans. The Sox were looking at Miller as an option if Varitek left them had offered him a 2 year deal with a reported 6 million. Miller however returned home to his native Wisconsin, taking the first three years he received.