

# THE BROWN DAILY HERALD

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## UFS floats plan to buy locally grown food

BY ZACH BARTER

A University Food Services plan to purchase food directly from area farmers might mean tastier food for students and better fortunes for farmers, according to students and UFS staff working on the project.

The plan, currently entitled "Community Harvest," would also seek to strengthen ties between farmers and the University community by bringing farmers, students and administrators together for meetings and conferences on the local agricultural economy.

"This is about having the direct relationship," said Irena Foygel '05, who is involved in the project. "These farmers might be living very close to us, but we might otherwise not get to meet them."

The direct business makes a significant difference for farmers facing the growing power of agribusiness and the down economy, said Eric Noble '05, president of Oxfam at Brown. Oxfam is a worldwide non-profit organization that focuses on issues associated with hunger and food production.

Associate Director of UFS Virginia Dunleavy, who initiated the project, expressed a similar sentiment.

"It's always great to support your community and we're always looking for ways to do that," she said.

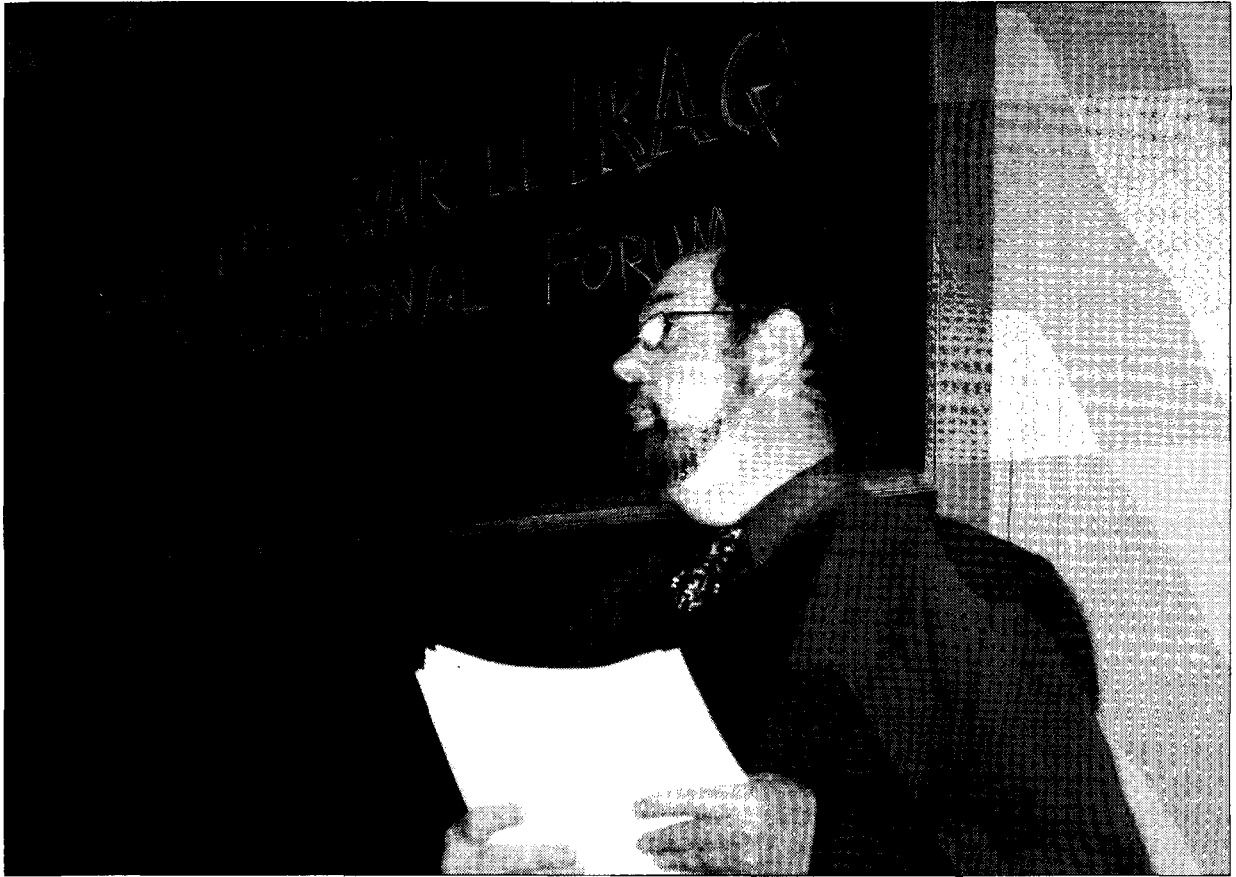
Though the students and UFS have yet to work out the specifics of the plan, direct purchase programs have been successfully implemented at other colleges, including Bates College and Bowdoin College, Dunleavy said. Yale University is attempting to create an all-organic cafeteria as part of its Sustainable Food Project.

"Brown has very much been saying, 'Yes, we're in. We want to help,'" Dunleavy said. "We're just now in the initial stages of planning."

Dunleavy approached members of Oxfam for feedback, input and support after attending a regional trade conference last spring where she heard about the programs at Bates and Bowdoin. Dunleavy assembled a small group of students and held meetings last fall to brainstorm and discuss the plan.

The group recently drafted a letter to local farmers introducing the plan and is currently working to identify farmers who might be interested, she said. Dunleavy said she

see OXFAM, page 4



Alex Palmer / Herald

Associate Professor of Anthropology William Beeman lectured in Metcalf on Tuesday night. His lecture, "The History, Politics and Culture of Iraq and the Region" was organized by Faculty, Alumni, Students and Staff Against the War.

## Beeman opposes Saddam and war

BY ELLEN WERNECKE

Associate Professor of Anthropology William Beeman condemned Saddam Hussein but cautioned against military action in Iraq during a lecture Tuesday night.

More than 100 people attended Beeman's lecture, "The History, Politics and Culture of Iraq and the Region," in Metcalf Auditorium. The event was organized by Faculty, Alumni, Students and Staff Against the War.

"A semi-permanent military occupation is what Iraq, Iran and everyone in the region is afraid of," said Beeman, who is also director of Middle East Studies at the Watson Institute for International Studies. "It would poison relations with the Middle East for a very, very long time."

Beeman said he is "fairly convinced" that military action in Iraq is going to happen.

"I would love to turn back the clock" to when the

United States had better relationships with Arab countries in the Middle East, he said.

"As terrible and debilitating as it was, (the terrorist attacks) have given militarists in our government a window they might never have had," Beeman said.

Beeman said there is no conclusive proof that Saddam Hussein had anything to do with the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Beeman opened the lecture by reading from a 1998 petition signed by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, among others, that called for the United States to "establish and maintain a military presence" in Iraq.

"It should be clear that these individuals were committed to military invasion in Iraq long before" the Sept. 11

see BEEMAN, page 4

## Simmons says University must expand, or it will "die"

BY JULIETTE WALLACK

The University's growth will not be halted by space or financial concerns, President Ruth Simmons told faculty members at Tuesday's faculty meeting.

"If we remain the size we are, we die," Simmons told more than 100 members of the faculty who filled Lower Salomon. And, she said, though the near-term budget "is tight," her long-term plan for the University still includes decreasing class sizes and increasing the size of the faculty beyond the 100 new professors allotted in the one-year-old Initiatives for Academic Enrichment.

Simmons said she expects to receive Brown's budget this week from the University Resources Committee in time for the Corporation meeting. The budget will be balanced, which will require savings in many areas, she said.

Simmons also spoke about the Life Sciences building, University planning and an amicus brief the University will sign in support of affirmative action.

Simmons said the University will sign the amicus brief sponsored by Harvard University in support of affirmative action. An upcoming Supreme Court case questioning the University of Michigan's affirmative action policy in admission spurred the authoring of the

brief.

Though the brief is not a full endorsement of Michigan's policy, it does argue the importance of affirmative action in higher education, Simmons said. She told the faculty the policy is "essential in a pluralist democracy."

Simmons also spent much time presenting a general plan for the University's expansion, including the Life Sciences building and other unspecified areas of possible growth. The building "will get built," but "even with that building, we are still very much short of space," she said. Beyond that, though, she is not sure how Brown will expand. Instead, Frances Halsband, a consultant from R.M. Klimment & Frances Halsband Architects who works on the University's master plan, is studying the options open to the University with a focus on expansion on College Hill.

Simmons told the faculty Halsband estimates the University can get 1 to 2 million square feet of new space on College Hill alone with the use of in-fills, or digging below ground level.

After Simmons' presentation, Provost Robert Zimmer detailed plans for the coming months, including an Academic Priorities Committee report considering the

next round of faculty expansion that he expects will be ready after the February Corporation meeting.

Zimmer also spoke briefly about the creation of a humanities research center and an environmental change initiative, which will be two centers focused on promoting interdisciplinary research in those areas. He said he expects the University will soon start searching for a "leading senior scholar in humanities" and a "leading research scientist" to run the research incubators.

Brown is already a "major presence" in the environmental arena, Zimmer said, and the environmental change initiative will build on the University's strengths. Part of the initiative includes a collaboration with the Marine Biological Lab in Woods Hole, Mass., and Zimmer said he hopes to promote this type of cooperative effort.

The faculty also observed a moment of silence in memory of John McIntyre '39, a long-time University employee whose duties included assisting several University presidents and working with the Corporation.

Juliette Wallack '05 covers the faculty and administration. She can be reached at [jwallack@browndailyherald.com](mailto:jwallack@browndailyherald.com).

### INSIDE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2003

Brown professor examines less intuitive theories about obesity and weight loss  
page 3

University will educate students about file sharing before restricting use  
page 5

Profs and doctors say R.I. could face similar issues with malpractice insurance  
page 5

Adam Stern '06 answers fake fan mail to feel like a real columnist  
column, page 11

Three members of the women's track team throw their way to personal bests  
sports, page 12

### TODAY'S FORECAST



partly cloudy/wind  
high 34  
low 16

THIS MORNING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2003 • PAGE 2

WEATHER

TODAY

High 34  
Low 16  
partly cloudy/wind

WEDNESDAY

High 33  
Low 14  
mostly sunny

THURSDAY

High 30  
Low 12  
light snow

FRIDAY

High 32  
Low 21  
partly cloudy

GRAPHICS BY TED WU

CALENDAR

**STUDY ABROAD FAIR**— to gather information about the study abroad program, Office of International Programs. Andrews Dining Hall, 3 p.m.

**LECTURE**—“Kyiv’s Non-Traditional Immigrants,” Blair Ruble, Kennan Institute, Watson institute. McKinney Conference Room, Watson Institute, 4 p.m.

**LECTURE**—“Ethics in the Academy,” Edward Beiser, Sheridan Center for Teaching. Sheridan Center, 96 Waterman St., noon

**PANEL DISCUSSION**—“Brown Graduates Doing Social Change in Providence,”Part of Black History Month. Room 001, Salomon Center, 6 p.m.

**THEATRE**—“Revelations:The Outtakes,” by Christina Anderson, Creative Writing Program. McCormack Family Theater, 70 Brown Street., 8 p.m.

**AUDITION**—for “Dido,” by Production Workshop. Arnold Lounge, 3-6 p.m. and Lyman, Room 002, 7-10 p.m.

CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**  
1 Only fair  
5 “Star Wars” character known as “the Hutt”  
10 Strike callers  
14 Letter abbr.  
15 Ancient Greek theater  
16 One-handed captain  
17 Salacious look  
18 Streaker with a tail  
19 Chichi  
20 “I don’t think so!”  
23 Like vows  
24 Academy trainee  
27 Interface device  
32 Mustard, e.g.: Abbr.  
33 Attacking each other  
37 “I don’t think so!”  
39 Withdraw, as from a dependency  
40 Belief  
41 “My Life as \_\_\_”: 1985 film  
42 “I don’t think so!”  
44 University head, slangily  
45 Golden State sch.  
46 Political understanding  
48 “The Merry Widow” composer  
50 Take on, as responsibility  
55 “I don’t think so!”  
60 Ban target  
62 Paragon  
63 Phnom \_\_\_  
64 Marker, maybe  
65 Film noir, say  
66 Switch ending  
67 Designer Schiaparelli  
68 First appearance  
69 “The Wiz” star, 1978

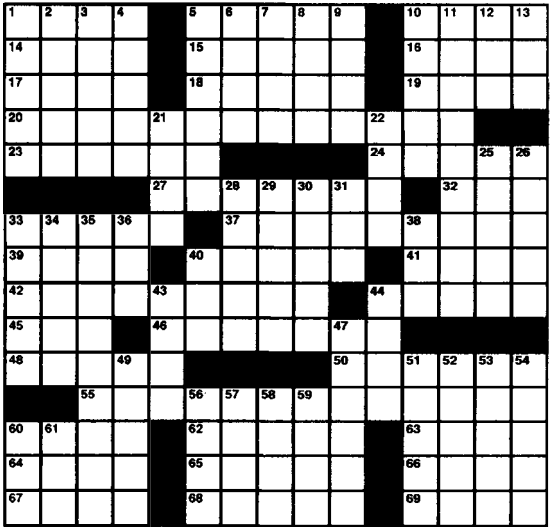
**DOWN**  
1 Hacienda rooms  
2 Alamogordo’s county  
3 Fencing material  
4 How ham may be ordered  
5 Mirthful  
6 Fusses  
7 “Let it \_\_\_”: Everly Brothers hit  
8 Certain Afrikaner  
9 Against  
10 Ryder competitor  
11 Ham language  
12 It’s built with bets  
13 Heavens  
21 Poet \_\_\_  
22 Where Tennessee Ernie debuted, with “the”  
25 Fenway team, familiarly  
26 Poem of mourning  
28 In regard to  
29 \_\_\_ de León  
30 Many a preadolescent  
31 Absorb, as a loss  
33 Very bad

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**  
STUFF PROS PROD  
TENOR HASH ROUE  
ARTOODETTOO OOZE  
BRIT ONS RONDOS  
SALERNO STAG  
BAMBOOSHOO  
SPIRIT ELF OMOO  
TINES HAD PRINT  
OTTIS AIR MANTAS  
WHOOPDEDOOS  
LIES UPTICKS  
SNIVEL ICU LONI  
TORI POOHPOOHED  
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By Paul Gamache  
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02/05/03

Pornucopia Eli Swiney

MYSTERIOUS LOST PORNUCOPIA...  
DISCOVERED IN FILES 2/4/03



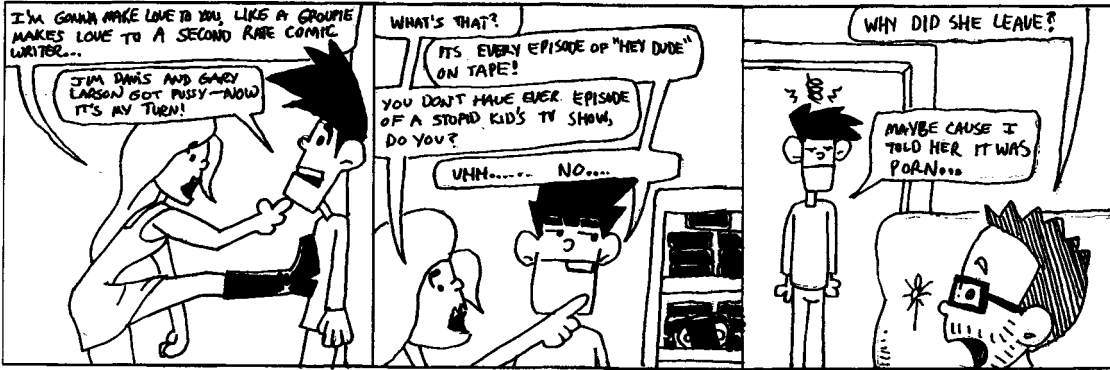
A Story Of Eddie Ahn



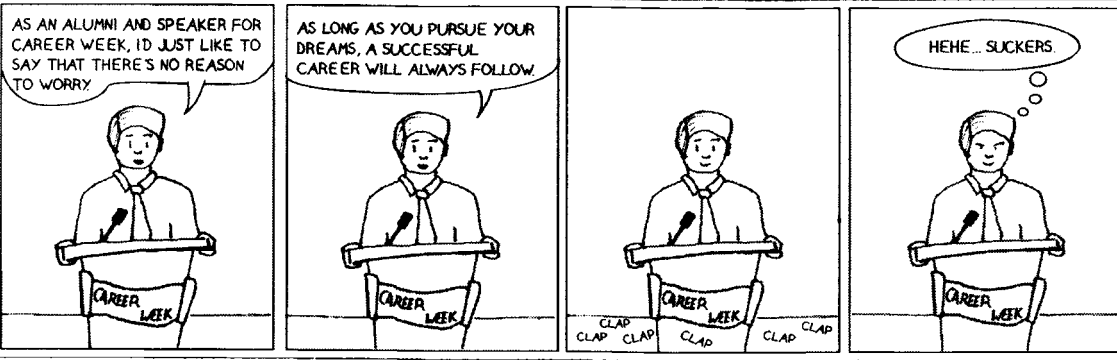
Coup de Grace Grace Farris



My Best Effort Will Newman and Grace Farris



Hopeless Edwin Chang



MENUS

THE RATTY

**LUNCH** — Vegetarian Corn Chowder, Country Wedding Soup, Chicken Cutlet Sandwich, Baked Macaroni & Cheese, Mixed Vegetables Creole, Swiss Fudge Cookies

**DINNER** — Vegetarian Corn Chowder, Country Wedding Soup, Noodles with Seafood, BBQ Chicken, Pizza Rustica, Red Potatoes with Chive Sauce, Summer Squash, Braised Cauliflower, Olive & Herb Bread, Orange Delight Cake

V-DUB

**LUNCH** — Vegetarian Corn Chowder, Country Wedding Soup, Chicken Andouille Shrimp Jambalaya, Falafel in Pita Bread, Vegan Nuggets, Green Peas, Swiss Fudge Cookies

**DINNER** — Vegetarian Corn Chowder, Country Wedding Soup, Roast Turkey with Sauce, Baked Manicotti with Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, Bread Stuffing, Fresh Vegetable Saute, Mandarin Blend Vegetables, Olive & Herb Bread, Orange Delight Cake

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## ACADEMIC WATCH

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2003 • PAGE 3

## Prof. examines how food variety affects eating

BY STEPHANIE HARRIS

People who eat the same foods every day may be less likely to be overweight than those who vary their diets, said Rena Wing, a professor of psychiatry and human behavior who is currently studying the issue.

A current study examines whether eating a variety of foods causes food intake to increase. Wing said she believes that those who eat several types of food at one sitting will eat more than someone who has just one type of food.

"If you have some meat, a salad, vegetables and pasta, you'll eat more than someone who just has macaroni and cheese, for example," she said.

Wing is also looking at food variety over days — whether people who eat the same thing every day eat less than those who have different foods each day.

The study examines the snacking habits of male college students. "We want to see whether variety in snacks has any impact on your preference for the snack, your consumption of the snack (and) your rating of how palatable it is," she said. Wing is also looking at how hunger influences the amount of food students eat as a snack, which foods they choose and how much they like the snack.

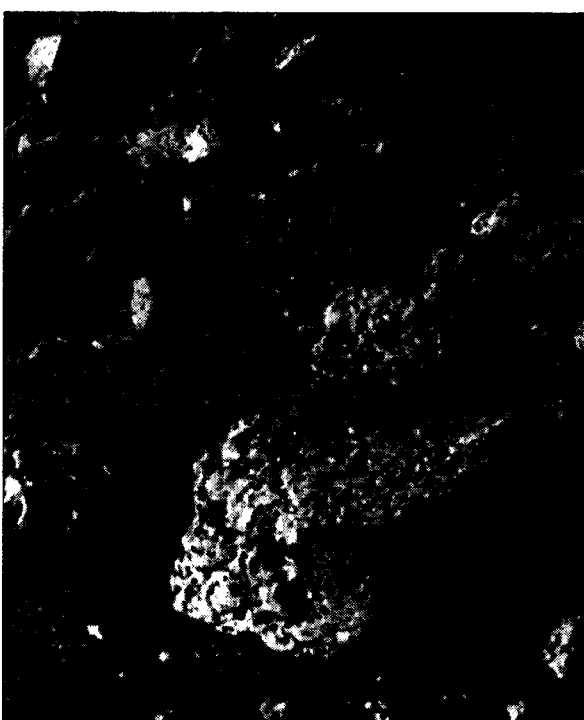
The percentage of overweight Americans has jumped sharply in the past decade, according to the latest results of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, published in October. Sixty-four and a half percent of adults were considered overweight in the 2000 survey, compared to only 56 percent in 1994.

"Obesity is on the rise in the United States and worldwide," Wing said. "The speed with which obesity is increasing suggests that it's got to be due to environmental changes, not genetic changes. Genes wouldn't be able to change this quickly," she said.

Wing said two major factors are contributing to the weight gain: intake size, how much people are eating; and expenditure, what people are doing to burn calories. Population-wide, intake has been increasing as portion sizes — both in restaurants and at home — get larger. Expenditure, on the other hand, has been decreasing.

"More time is spent watching TV, sitting in front of the

see FOOD INTAKE, page 4



Photos courtesy of James Head

By studying rock formations in Antarctica (top), scientists hope to better understand the Martian environment.

## Brown geo prof. studies glaciers for Mars insight

BY MATTHEW SHOPSIN

Professor of Geological Sciences James Head recently spent five weeks studying rocks and 15-million-year-old ice to learn more about the geology of Mars.

Head, along with Boston University Professor David Marchant, traveled to the Dry Valleys of Antarctica last November to explore glaciers and rock formations that are believed to resemble those on Mars.

Antarctica's "cold glaciers," which do not have a layer of melt water, are most likely similar to glaciers on Mars, Head said.

Most glaciers on Earth are "wet glaciers." The friction created by their movement causes a layer of water to form underneath them, which lubricates the glaciers' movement.

Cold glaciers, such as those found in the Dry Valleys, exist in environments where it is not possible for water to melt due to extreme temperatures.

Head said the same kind of glacier is believed to exist on Mars because there is very little water in the planet's atmosphere. If the glaciers on Mars were wet glaciers, they would introduce water into the atmosphere, he added.

As the ice in cold glaciers, rocks are deposited in a parabolic line. A similar formation has been observed on Mars by satellites, Head said.

Rock formations in Antarctica also offer new information about the geology of Mars.

Rocks on Mars contain pits in their surfaces that scientists once believed were caused by gas from volcanic formation. But in the Dry Valleys of Antarctica, rocks with similar pitting can be found that is due to salt weathering, not volcanic activity, Head said.

Head said studying an environment on Earth that parallels that of Mars allows us to understand more about the Martian environment.

Herald staff writer Matthew Shopsin '06 can be reached at [mshopsin@browndailyherald.com](mailto:mshopsin@browndailyherald.com).

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## Beeman

continued from page 1

terrorist attacks, he said, describing the current administration as a "decade-old military machine."

"They have all the offices of power now," Beeman added, "coupled with a rather formidable propaganda machinery."

Beeman said Hussein came to power in 1979 under the aegis of the "ruthlessly secular" Ba'ath

party, which had overthrown the monarchy in 1958. Beeman reiterated that the United States supplied Iraq with arms in the 1980s, fearing a Communist takeover in Iran.

"Ironically, Iran was on the verge of winning the war and taking out Saddam" before the United States intervened, he said.

A dispute with Kuwait in 1990 over diagonal drilling — a technique, Beeman noted, developed by the American-based

Halliburton Company once run by Vice President Dick Cheney — led to an Iraqi invasion of the principality and to U.S. military involvement in the region.

"No one was more shocked than Saddam," Beeman said, when the United States retaliated. "Saddam was our best friend — we gave him much of the arsenal which we now claim is a grave danger to us."

"The people now in power were furious in 1991 that we didn't 'finish the job,'" Beeman said. Fear of regional fragmentation, he added, prevented the United States from taking Hussein out of power.

"Saddam is not a nice man," Beeman said. "He is a dissolute, very cruel ruler. If he wants to maintain power as a minority within a minority, the only way to do it is through terror and ruthlessness. And he has literally gotten rid of all the competition."

Beeman first outlined a general history of Iraq before commenting on the current state of affairs in the region. He described the Middle East as "a place that

we all have, whether we like it or not, an important tie to," before discussing the formation of Iraq following World War I from the remains of the Ottoman Empire.

Iraq's ethnic divisions, Beeman said, are a prime source of volatility for the country. Present-day Iraq, he said, is "inhabited by a variety of peoples — many of whom would have wanted an independent state or a state different from the one Great Britain created."

He pointed out that the ethnic group to which Hussein belongs, the Sunni Muslims, forms only 20 percent of the general population, and that most of the country's oil reserves lie in territory controlled by the Kurds and the Shiite Muslims, who form the remaining 80 percent.

Iraq has a history of exploitation dating back to the Ottoman Empire's policy of allowing European countries to develop its territory, Beeman said. These economic agreements, or "concessions," allowed the empire to modernize beyond its means, but at the expense of its subjects, he

said. Iraq itself was formed as a concession to the head mufti, or state official, of Mecca, who had sanctioned resistance against the Turks during World War I; the territory now comprising Iraq and Jordan was divided for the mufti's two sons.

Beeman told his audience to question the Bush administration's statements and its commitment to military action.

"If it looks like the president will lose the next election because of the war, the war will stop," he said. "A war is not worth losing the presidency. In the end, that's the primary objective."

Co-sponsors of the lecture included Not Another Victim Anywhere, the Campus Greens, the Office of the Chaplain, the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and the Departments of Africana Studies, American Civilization, Community Health, Comparative Literature, English and Modern Culture and Media.

*Herald staff writer Ellen Wernecke '06 can be reached at ewernecke@browndailyherald.com.*

## Oxfam

continued from page 1

and Peter Rossi, assistant director of UFS, would spend the summer formalizing the plan for next fall.

Though the plan does not change where the food is coming from, it aims to change how the University obtains the food — namely, without a middleman. The planning group is also researching ways to bring new products to the dining hall, Dunleavy said.

Yale introduced pickled carrots to its dining halls for the first time under the program, and UFS is looking at ways to bring fresh cranberries to Brown dining halls, Dunleavy said.

"It's just going to be small scale at first and we'll see where it goes," Foygel said.

The fresh local apples in the Ratty last fall were one example of what the plan would support, Dunleavy said.

Another possibility would be for the University to guarantee to

purchase a certain amount of a farmer's crop before the growing season — something that would provide security to farmers and give them the flexibility to experiment with new crops, Foygel said.

"Giving that guarantee to small farmers is what allows them to branch out. It takes out all the instability they have," she said.

Both Foygel and Noble said they were confident the plan would be received favorably by the student body.

Displaying a label on locally grown food might make students more conscious of the issue, Foygel said.

"If students knew more about the farming process, they might feel better about the food they ate," Noble said. "I don't think most students are happy with the state of the food right now. I think any progress would be good."

*Herald staff writer Zach Barter '06 covers campus life and student life. He can be reached at zbarter@browndailyherald.com.*

## Food intake

continued from page 3

computer and using a remote control for everything," Wing said.

That this combination — eating more and exercising less — contributes to weight gain is not surprising. Wing is working on theories that are a little less intuitive.

The change in numbers of overweight adults may also reflect the adoption of a new definition of overweight. The World Health Organization recently set the definition of overweight as a person who has a body mass index of 25 or higher. Obesity is defined as a BMI of 30 or above, and extremely obese at 40. This standard is more accurate than the previous method of "percent overweight,"

which looked at how a person's weight differed from the standard weight at his or her height and age.

The new definitions are based on data sets showing the health consequences that arise as BMI increases, Wing said.

*Herald staff writer Stephanie Harris '04 edits the Academic Watch section. She can be reached at sharris@browndailyherald.com.*

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## CAMPUS NEWS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2003 • PAGE 5

## Brown doctors and professors say malpractice insurance issue affects R.I.

BY JULIAN LEICHTY

In an attempt to fight high malpractice insurance costs, doctors in New Jersey are withholding non-emergency care. The New York Times estimated that thousands of New Jersey's 22,000 doctors are taking part in the strike.

Deemed a crisis situation by doctors, rising insurance costs have forced many physicians to retire, move or give up procedures.

Robert Hackey, Ph.D. '92, an associate professor of political science at Brown and a health policy and management professor at Providence College, said the doctors' actions reflect a national problem.

"I think that the physicians have a very legitimate concern," he said. "You're seeing a dramatic increase in premiums," he said, for surgical subspecialties in particular.

While the situation is not at the point of strikes in Rhode Island, Dr. Donald Coustan, chair of the obstetrics and gynecology department of the Brown Medical School, said they could be.

"We're beginning to see premiums go up," he said. "If nothing is done, I think we could get there."

The strike "ought to send a signal that things are very, very wrong," said Steven DeToy, director of public and government affairs for the Rhode Island Medical Society.

DeToy said the problems facing doctors are complicated in the state. "In Rhode Island, you've got the cost of practicing medicine skyrocketing," making it difficult for many doctors to cover costs, he said. "The solution would be to have an environment where physicians can get adequately reimbursed and where costs were under control," he said.

"People that get injured in a medical interaction deserve compensation," DeToy said. "The question is whether that compensation is affordable to the system."

Insurers say patients treat bringing medical malpractice to the court as if they were entering the lottery, with the hope of receiving high-profile large judgments. Consumer groups defend the right of patients to sue, arguing that capping awards ignores medical negligence problems. Trial lawyers believe the problem is being overstated — payouts are often negligible for victims of malpractice and insurance companies make bad business decisions.

Hackey's approach to reform would include caps on the amount of money awarded in malpractice suits but otherwise provide for as much support for corrective procedures and compensation for time and income lost.

"The use of liability lawsuits to deal with medical quality problems is a lousy tool," he said. Some

see DOCTORS, page 6

## Twins bike across Egypt over break

BY HANNAH BASCOM

A trip along the Nile this winter break gave twins Zahara and Shereen Kassam '05 the chance to see 272 miles of Egypt — while riding their bikes.

Christmas morning, while millions of families around the world unwrapped presents, the twins landed in London, the first step on a biking trip that would take them and 62 other participants 272 miles along the Nile River and help raise over \$250,000 for charity.

"What we saw in Egypt was totally different than what normal tourists would see. We didn't just sit on a bus and go from site to site. ... We went in and really got to see how they lived," Shereen said.

Focus Humanitarian Assistance, an international emergency response agency that provides relief and support following natural and man-made disasters abroad, conducted the trip and drew participants from the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

The day after Christmas, the sisters flew with other participants to Cairo and then to Luxor, where they met up with the River Pioneer II. The boat followed them along the river for the duration of their trip, carrying their belongings and serving as sleeping quarters.

The River Pioneer "is definitely not like your Royal Caribbean. It's okay though; the view made up for it," Zahara said.

After dropping their possessions off on the boat, the sisters began biking.

"The first day was really cute. We rode right through a village. (The townspeople) were lined up along the road, cheering and saying 'Hello, what's your name?'" Zahara said.

Not all of their experiences with villagers were as pleasant. "We expected a scenic route, but we went right



Photo courtesy of Focus

Sisters Zahara and Shereen '05 biked across Egypt.

through shanty towns. ... Children would put sticks in our spokes," Shereen said.

Roads were often cracked, bumpy and covered with sand, which would cause bikers to lose control and fall. The wind was also especially strong.

"There were times when I thought it was going to blow me off the side of the cliff," Shereen said. "It was hard. We didn't train off-road as much as we should have, and we didn't train uphill."

The bikers got up each day at about 5:30 a.m. and started biking by 7 a.m. They biked until the sun set at about 5:30 p.m., traveling up to 82 miles per day. The ten straight hours of biking were intense, but stopping at sunset allowed the travelers time for relaxing and shopping after dinner.

see BIKES, page 6

## File sharing on network raises legal and technical concerns; CIS reacts

BY LOTEM ALMOG

Every day Brown students are breaking the law — and most don't even think twice about it. The law in question is the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998, according to entertainment attorney Daphne Clarke '97, president of DC Entertainment Law.

Every time students download music or movies using programs like Kazaa or iMesh, they are likely in violation of this act.

"An artist has two rights to his music. First, he has the right to the sound recording itself. Second, he holds the rights to the lyrics and music notes," Clarke said. File sharing violates the first of these rights, she said.

Fortunately for students, record labels will probably not target them in copyright infringement lawsuits, she said.

"Students do not have deep pockets, so (record labels) would go after file-sharing companies," Clarke added.

University officials, however, do not want to put themselves at risk for such a lawsuit.

"When copyright laws are violated, this kind of behavior exposes the entire university to liability issues. The price is too high — potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars," said Connie Sadler, director of information technology security for Computing and Information Services.

In addition to the legal concerns, excessive file sharing on the Brown network leads to considerable technical problems.

"The line is crossed when someone pulls down a file and provides for redistribution, like with Kazaa," Sadler said. "Then it becomes serious — it affects the University's Internet bandwidth and the Internet connection speed, as well as slowing down internal communication."

In response to these issues, Brown and CIS plan to educate students, faculty and staff about appropriate uses of network services. With the cooperation of Pam Vogel, associate director of CIS, the University is investigating all possible avenues to reach members of the community, Sadler said.

In January of 2000, Brown attempted to block students from using the popular file-sharing program Napster due to the bandwidth difficulties it was causing. There are not currently plans to take similar measures with new file-sharing programs that have developed, Sadler said.

Sadler hopes that educating the community will allow CIS to maintain all the programs available through the Brown network. "We prefer not to shut down any services because many of them are legitimate," Sadler said.

At the rate that file sharing is done now on the Brown network, the University would have to finance an upgrade for more bandwidth, she said.

Once the file-sharing education initiative begins, there

see NETWORK, page 6

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## Doctors

continued from page 5

states are known for having systems where plaintiffs win big judgments, he said.

"Physicians are ordering extra tests and doing things they don't necessarily believe are medically justifiable simply to have resources to defend themselves when the inevitable lawsuit comes," he said.

Kevin Esterling, a postdoctoral fellow in health policy at the A. Alfred Taubman Center for Public Policy and American Institutions, agreed. He said that in the big picture, jackpot awards "are very rare."

"There are reasons why we have malpractice," he said. "Using the argument that these awards and the lack of damage caps and so on is sacrificing the healthcare of citizens is essentially political rhetoric more than accurate economics."

Hackey also said overall steps should be taken to improve the quality of medical care. "Somewhere between 45,000 and 98,000 Americans die from medical errors of all sorts" each year, he said.

Exactly why premiums are going up is the subject of debate.

Lawrence Vernaglia, a health care lawyer and a teacher of

## "You're seeing some real growing concerns about both the financial rewards of practicing medicine and the professional autonomy."

**Robert Hackey, Ph.D. '92**  
associate professor of political science

health law at Providence College, said there is no clear agreement on why malpractice insurance premiums have increased so rapidly for certain specialties. He does believe that the problem will have to be resolved.

"I don't think the insurance companies will be able to raise their rates forever and make it impossible to get insurance," Vernaglia said.

"Certainly the government will have to get involved in one way or another," Vernaglia said. He said he favors government assistance with malpractice insurance premiums.

According to a press release

by Public Citizen, a national non-profit public interest organization, the "medical malpractice insurance premium spikes in New Jersey are not caused by the legal system but by cyclical economics of the insurance industry."

"Doctors who stage walkouts are falsely demonizing America's legal system," said Public Citizen President Joan Claybrook.

"Capping damages, which doctors are calling for, will only hurt those who have been most severely injured by doctor errors. ... The long-term problem is a crisis of medical negligence." Public Citizen's press release says that "repeat offenders" amount for the bulk of malpractice insurance payouts in New Jersey.

The Kaiser Family Foundation, a national health philanthropic organization not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries, reported in March 2002 that 87 percent of doctors felt that overall morale has gone down, Hackey said. "This is a very telling case to illustrate the current predicament of physicians in society and the changing views within the medical profession," he said.

"You're seeing some real growing concerns about both the financial rewards of practicing medicine and the professional autonomy," he said.

## Network

continued from page 5

will likely be consequences for students and other network users abusing Internet privileges. Disciplinary action will come from legal departments, human resources, student life and/or disciplinary councils, Sadler said.

Student reaction to the possibility of limited file-sharing options was mixed.

"I am a downloading music junkie. I don't think it's Brown's

place to shut us off of anything. It's something the record companies and artists should be in control of," said Katharine Shuster '05.

Shuster said that Brown should only control file sharing if it truly is a bandwidth issue.

Others, however, were less concerned. "If they shut down Kazaa, I would just listen to the radio and go to the movies instead," said Helen Chow '04.

"I used to download movies, but the software necessary to play the movies corrupted my computer anyhow," she added.

## Bikes

continued from page 5

The sisters often went to Egyptian markets, which are open until midnight.

They were surprised to see only male shop owners and shoppers at the markets and were also startled at their attitudes toward bargaining with female tourists.

"One kiss and you could have the whole store. If you used your femininity, you could get (the price you want). If you had more (self-)respect than that, it was harder," Zahara said.

Men on the trip pretended to be their fellow bikers' husbands or brothers so the women would not be harassed or hit-on, she said.

On New Year's Eve the sisters reached the end of the bike route and had a celebration in Luxor, near the Valley of the Kings. "We were exhausted but we were really excited that we finished the trip," Shereen said.

Though the trip is over, they intend to stay in touch with many of the other participants via e-mail.

"Biking is usually an individual sport, but this was a team trip," Zahara said.

The sisters hope to do another trip next winter to aid focus by hiking Mt. Kilimanjaro or biking through India or Eastern Africa.

Herald staff writer Hannah Bascom '06 can be reached at [hbascom@browndailyherald.com](mailto:hbascom@browndailyherald.com).

**The sisters often went to Egyptian markets, which are open until midnight. They were surprised to see only male shop owners and shoppers at the markets and were also startled at their attitudes toward bargaining with female tourists. "One kiss and you could have the whole store. If you used your femininity, you could get (the price you want). If you had more (self-)respect than that, it was harder," Zahara said.**

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## WORLD &amp; NATION

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2003 • PAGE 7

## In Houston, President leads memorial service for fallen crew

**HOUSTON (Washington Post)** — The sky was a perfect blue over the quadrangle of the Johnson Space Center, as it was on Saturday, when the Columbia disintegrated 40 miles above Texas into a macabre shower of wreckage. Mission Control Center, recipient of Commander Rick Husband's garbled last transmission, was quiet Tuesday, the flag above the fortress-like building flying at half-staff.

With that backdrop, NASA officials, military chaplains and President Bush assembled Tuesday with a promise to honor the memory of the Columbia astronauts — "seven lives of great purpose and achievement," as the president described them — by pressing ahead with space travel.

Three days after the Columbia disaster, families of the dead and thousands of space agency workers gathered in grief Tuesday at NASA's nerve center. Sitting in the front row with the first lady, newly widowed spouses and children and parents of the dead clutched each other's hands. In the "Astronauts Only" section, those whose fate was not to be on mission STS-107 hugged their hus-

bands and wives.

"Their mission was almost complete, and we lost them so close to home," the president said. Hearing Bush's words, Evelyn Husband, wife of the Columbia commander, leaned on her daughter and quietly wept. When Bush finished, NASA T-38 jets roared overhead in their "Missing Man" formation of mourning.

The president, in his eulogy, remembered mission specialist David Brown, who was asked several weeks ago by his brother what would happen if something went wrong with the mission. "This program will go on," Brown told his brother. Tuesday, Doug Brown sat in the first row of the memorial with his mother, father, two cousins and 22 other family members of the crew.

"Captain Brown was correct: America's space program will go on," Bush said. "This cause of exploration and discovery is not an option we choose; it is a desire written in the human heart. We are that part of creation which seeks to understand all creation. We find the best among us, send them forth into uncharted darkness, and pray they will return."

Yarmulkes and military dress caps topped grieving kin who, like the crew, were a mixture of black, white and Indian. A Jewish and Christian chaplain read the Psalm of David in Hebrew and English. From space, said Rabbi Harold Robinson, "we learn the unity of all humanity here on Earth."

This town has become sadly proficient in memorials for fallen space travelers. Three days after the Apollo 1 fire in 1967 killed three astronauts on the launch pad, Houston held their memorial services. Four days after the Challenger explosion in 1986, President Reagan bid farewell to "our seven star voyagers" in a memorial here at the Johnson Space Center.

And here the mourners of lost astronauts assembled again Tuesday, in what for many was a nightmarish rerun of the Challenger memorial, right down to the jet flyover. Bush's nine-minute remarks were strikingly similar to Reagan's 17 years and four days ago.

Like Reagan, Bush recalled the astronauts' early desires to travel in space, and their fervent wish that the space program would continue if they were lost.

## Idea that Saddam would abdicate is "rubbish"

**BAGHDAD, Iraq — (L.A. Times)** He sat at the head of a long table in an immaculate business suit and tie, calmly puffing on a cigar — a portrait of austere authority as he called on his generals and colonels, listened to their praise and anger, and responded to their remarks one by one.

For many people both inside and outside the country, President Saddam Hussein is Iraq, and in the televised meeting with military unit commanders last week, he betrayed no hint of emotion and no glimmer of panic about the gathering storm of a war to drive him from power.

Instead, he projected an air of determination to face whatever battles lie ahead and a willingness to accept whatever happens — a confidence that the odds will turn and he and his rule will survive.

One Iraqi who has known no other president in his adult life said it would be against Saddam's essence to leave power. He characterized the president's attitude as one of "victory or death." Said a European observer in Baghdad: "He thinks that he is an incarnation of Iraq. ... He is not able to leave."

That mind-set, in the eyes of diplomats and government officials here, is the reason that efforts to force Saddam to step down and spare the world the

cost — in blood, resources and stability — of a U.S.-led attack are likely to fail.

Rather, Saddam looks set to marshal his diplomatic and public relations resources in coming weeks to try to slow the march to war, by receiving international envoys and making gestures aimed at bolstering public skepticism in the United States and Europe. At the same time, he has been working to bolster the loyalty of Iraqis and the larger Arab world by reminding them of perceived U.S. double standards and turning the tables on President Bush — accusing the U.S. administration of aggression and lying. While Saddam is flexible and pragmatic to a point, those who have watched him for years cannot imagine him simply going off to live out his years in a foreign country.

Accustomed to being in charge of himself and all around him, as he has been since 1978, he would never expose himself, these observers say, to the kind of humiliation now facing former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, who is on trial at the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

"This is rubbish — psychological warfare (and) wishful thinking by our enemies," Uday Taie, a government spokesman here, said of reports of Arab initiatives urging Hussein to leave voluntarily.

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# Chavez supporters fight Caracas City Hall

**CARACAS, Venezuela (L.A. Times)** — Dozens of demonstrators commemorating Hugo Chavez's 1992 failed coup attempt seized Caracas City Hall on Tuesday, firing weapons, threatening employees and injuring five before being chased out by national guard troops.

The occupation of the office of Mayor Alfredo Pena, an opponent of President Chavez, was a reminder that even as a general strike in Venezuela seems to be crumbling, national reconciliation is a long way off.

An eleventh anniversary observance in Plaza Bolivar of the attempt that occurred when Chavez was still a soldier began peacefully, with Vice President Jose Vicente Rangel laying a wreath before a statue of the Liberator Simon Bolivar in the capital's government and historic core.

But the ceremony soon turned violent, a direction to which Venezuelans have become increasingly accustomed. About 40 followers entered city hall which fronts the plaza, and fired off pistols and fireworks, according to Pena spokesman Ramon Muchacho.

Troops of the National Guard, which owes allegiance to Chavez, were called to remove the demonstrators but took 30 minutes to arrive, according to Fire Chief Rodolfo Brisenio. Among the injured were three city policemen under Pena's command who were hurt as they tried to clear the hall.

"We have reached a new level of violence and impunity when armed groups can enter city hall, create chaos, and threaten women and children all with the National Guard standing by doing nothing," said Muchacho in an interview in a parking lot just off the plaza.

Opponents called a general strike Dec. 2 hoping to bring the national economy to a standstill and forcing Chavez to quit. But the 63-day strike continues to dissolve as many stores, banks and restaurants reopened, usually for abbreviated hours.

"If I don't produce who is going to bring food to my house? No one," said Cristobal Jimenez, a waiter at Tasca Tio Pepe, a cafeteria inside the Tamanaco City Shopping Center. "I got a job during the strike at a catering company but it didn't work out. No one in Venezuela wants to celebrate anything."

Meanwhile, proponents of an August referendum to shorten Chavez's term said they have gathered millions of signatures. Chavez, energized by the failure of the strike to force him out, dismissed the effort.

"To cover up the great defeat that we gave them, they claim to have collected 4 million signatures in one day," Chavez said at a ceremony granting urban land titles to the poor. "Let them believe their own stories and create their own lies."

On Feb. 4, 1992, Chavez, then an unknown lieutenant colonel, and several others plotted to overthrow the government of President Carlos Andres Perez. About 80 civilians and 17 soldiers died in pitched battles. Chavez was imprisoned, then freed and later ran successfully for president in 1998, his stature enhanced by a his role in the coup, as an idealist willing to lay down his life for reform. He took office in early 1999.

Chavez supporters would like Feb. 4 to become a day of national "jubilee" if not a formal holiday. In a speech Tuesday, Chavez said that "Feb. 4 is a day which divides history."

Eleven years later this is just the beginning of that revolutionary process. Today, the spirit of Feb. 4 is more alive than ever in the heart of the people."

But in the Plaza Altamira in the upscale residential area that is the nerve center of Chavez opposition and where dozens signed petitions Tuesday for Chavez' recall, people disagreed.

"We aren't celebrating anything, we are mourning the people who died in the 1992 coup attempt," said political activist Pic Ling Fung.

## Legislation for piracy is dim, trade groups say

**WASHINGTON (L.A. Times)** — Leaders of major entertainment and technology trade groups, often at odds over piracy and copyright issues, have found something to agree on: Chances are slim that Congress will jump into their controversies with significant legislation this year.

The shared views, expressed at an investor conference here Tuesday, mark a surprising shift because advocates on both sides of the copyright and piracy debate have frequently turned to lawmakers for help.

The conference was sponsored by Washington-based Precursor Group, an investment research firm. It included representatives of the Motion Picture Association of America, the Consumer Electronics Association and the Recording Industry Association of America.

Several key players said factors ranging from the distractions of a possible war to the lack of consensus among various industries would keep Congress from acting on significant mandates. Initiatives likely to stall include those requiring electronics companies to install controversial copy-protection devices,

restricting peer-to-peer file sharing or expanding the rights of consumers to copy their favorite movies and music, the speakers said.

"The prospects for legislation are rather dim," said Fritz Attaway, general counsel for the MPAA, which represents the major film studios. "I don't think any bill will be enacted without a large degree of consensus among the various affected industries."

Last year, the studio trade group — along with Walt Disney Co. — was behind the introduction of one of the most divisive bills. That measure, sponsored by Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., would have put sweeping technology mandates on electronics makers to protect the entertainment industry's content. The bill mobilized technology and electronics companies, which fired back with their own bills to relax copyright protections and expand consumer rights.

The slowing economy and growing anticipation of war with Iraq also appear to be pushing copyright issues to the back burner. Members of Congress "are going to be distracted," said Gary Shapiro, president of the Consumer Electronics Association.

Some of last year's most controversial bills have not yet been reintroduced, including the Hollings bill and one that would allow record companies to use technology to block file sharing of copyrighted materials, sponsored by Rep. Howard L. Berman, D-Calif.

Rep. W.J. "Billy" Tauzin, R-La., also is working on a widely anticipated bill to speed up the rollout of digital TV by tackling key copyright disputes, but a final draft has not been released.

The RIAA, rather than pushing aggressively for new copyright legislation, recently said it would instead look to private-sector negotiations and enforcement of existing laws.

"There's going to continue to be a lot of congressional sound and fury," said Bruce Mehlman, assistant secretary of the Commerce Department. But Mehlman saw only a 10 percent chance of any major legislation being passed.

The one possible exception, Mehlman said, might be a narrowly crafted bill requiring the adoption of a so-called broadcast flag, a copy-protection technology to prevent television programs from being retransmitted over the Internet.

## State legislatures call growing budget gaps alarming

**NEW YORK (L.A. Times)** — Warning that they see no relief in sight, the nation's state legislatures said Tuesday the budget gap facing state governments grew by almost 50 percent between November and January.

"State budgets are under siege. The faltering economy, declines in the stock market, contractions in the manufacturing and high tech sectors and soaring health costs have combined to undermine the stability of state budgets," said a report prepared by the National

Conference of State Legislatures.

Facing the mounting gulf between revenues and income, states have delayed capital projects, tapped reserves and cut spending to balance their budgets. Officials in 29 states have imposed across-the-board budget cuts.

Stringent measures are expected to continue.

The report said the states' collective budget shortfall in the current fiscal year had climbed to \$25.7 billion

through January, up from \$17.5 billion just two months earlier.

The gap for the 2004 fiscal year is currently pegged at \$68.5 billion, but the analysis warned of even deeper red ink.

"The magnitude of next year's budget gap is startling," said Angela Monson, a state senator from Oklahoma who is serving as the conference's president. Thirty-three states estimate budget gaps in excess of 5 percent, with 18 of those facing gaps above 10 percent.

"There is great cause for concern since the deficit numbers continue to grow at an alarming rate," she added.

The conference based its report on data from the first six months of the fiscal year that began on July 1.

Officials in 36 states said budget gaps existed midway through the current fiscal year. In an attempt to reduce the shortfalls, Medicaid spending has been cut in 13 states, outlays for education in 21 and layoffs of state employees have taken place in nine states.

Proposals to increase taxes have been made either by the governor or legislators in at least 24 states. Higher taxes on cigarettes are being considered in 14 states while six states are looking at increasing taxes on sales of alcohol.

Among states facing the biggest shortfalls, Alaska has a current projected budget gap of 30 percent. But some analysts say that since the state depends heavily on revenues from oil production, the problem could be eased somewhat if the price of oil remains above \$30 a barrel.



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# Science may not be worth risks of human space exploration

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Since the giddy days of the Apollo missions, when the world watched transfixed as astronauts took the first steps on the moon, space has seemed our birthright and the next logical step in our manifest destiny.

But for all the effort and sacrifice, the results so far have been a wildly mixed bag, ranging from the sublime to the trivial. Ironically, the three products most associated with astronauts — Tang, Velcro and Teflon — were not developed for the space program. But manned space flight has brought such useful items as CAT scanners, smoke detectors and cordless drills. Astronauts brought back the first rocks from the moon and repaired the once-blurred vision of the Hubble Space Telescope so astronomers could see almost to the beginnings of time.

At the same time, millions have been spent discovering that snail embryos develop nicely in micro-gravity, tomato seeds germinate slightly faster and female fruit flies live longer than males. Heaps of bacteria, yeast, worms, stick insects, slime mold and Japanese carp have been lofted into the void for a seemingly endless string of modest experiments — some of which could have easily been done on Earth, if they were worth doing at all.

Perhaps the most crucial discoveries through 40 years of manned space flight argue strongly against the enterprise itself. Humans — fragile creatures in the harsh world of high radiation, near-zero gravity, and hazardous launches and reentries — seem poorly suited for a life in space.

The deaths of Columbia's seven astronauts have driven

home this vulnerability and reawakened a debate that has ebbed and flowed since the first human, Russian Yuri Gagarin, entered space in 1961. Are robots better suited to explore space, a task they can handle at a fraction of the cost?

For some scientists, the cost of launching humans into space far outweighs any scientific or commercial benefit—the major justifications that NASA has used to promote its shuttle and space station projects.

These critics say a large number of experiments done in space by astronauts could have been performed on Earth at lower cost, with more conclusive results and far less risk.

"The astronauts aboard Challenger died bringing up a satellite and carrying along a teacher — two mundane activities that are not our purpose in space," said Louis Friedman, executive director of the Planetary Society, a Pasadena, Calif., space exploration group co-founded by astronomer Carl Sagan.

Robert Park, a University of Maryland physicist, said few shuttle experiments have been worthy of publication in leading scientific journals. Many of the experiments are devised not by scientists, but by schoolchildren.

"Nothing more than science fair experiments," Park said.

Ever since the Apollo program, born of the race to beat the Russians to the moon, NASA has struggled to find a clear course for its manned space program. Sending a human to Mars was too costly; launching unmanned probes left astronauts unemployed.

The agency finally settled in the 1970s on building what has become one of the most costly engineering projects in history — the International Space Station, projected to cost \$100 billion by the time it is complete. The space shuttles were created to ferry parts and crew up to the facility like long-haul trucks.

With a human trip to Mars stalled by cost, the station was no

longer able to serve as a platform for travel to distant planets. Instead, conducting scientific experiments became the main justification for spending at least \$5 billion a year on the orbiting facility and its fleet of shuttles. NASA planners thought using astronauts was critical to keeping the public — and Congress — interested in the program.

"We go into space to do things we can't do on the ground," John Charles, the chief scientist for the experiments aboard the ill-fated Columbia said shortly before the shuttle lifted off. "Access to hard vacuums, access to the radiation environment of space, access to micro-gravity. That's why we're there."

Space experiments have indeed yielded a bounty of knowledge — primarily in how the human body responds when deprived of gravity.

In space, chests expand. Fluid redistributes in the body, thinning the ankles, bulging the neck veins, erasing wrinkles and forcing the kidneys to work overtime. Faces of astronauts become rounder because of the fluid movement, which also causes runny noses, persistent sinus congestion and fainting fits upon return to Earth.

The long-term effects of zero gravity are far more serious. During a four to six month stay in space astronauts can lose 30 percent of their bone and 10 percent of their muscle and experience radiation doses roughly equal to eight chest X-rays a day.

"If we're ever going to send humans out beyond Earth orbit on distant missions, we need to know how to fix these things," said Bruce Murray, former director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and co-founder of the Planetary Society. "When you land on Mars, there's not going to be an ambulance waiting for you."

# Talks held in bid to end asbestos suits

WASHINGTON (Washington Post) — Lawsuits over cancer-causing asbestos are wreaking so much economic and human damage that longtime political enemies are discussing a controversial détente to end the suits once and for all.

Union leaders and a few trial lawyers have been talking privately with representatives of General Electric Co. and other Fortune 500 companies about creating a privately financed, multibillion-dollar compensation fund for asbestos victims, according to people familiar with the talks. Under the nascent plan, which would require congressional action, asbestos victims would forfeit their right to sue in exchange for an immediate cash payment from the fund.

The discussions have grabbed the attention of strange legislative bedfellows. Senators including liberal Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and conservative Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, are monitoring the talks in hopes of possibly turning the idea into a new law early this year.

A deal to settle the ever-growing pile of asbestos lawsuits would have broad ramifications for plaintiffs and the thousands of companies they sue. It also would touch the lives of millions of Americans unknowingly hit by the economic side effects of the dispute.

Asbestos — the cancer-causing fiber that most Americans associate with the dusty wrappings around pipes in schoolrooms, factories and basements — is driving dozens of companies into bankruptcy and costing tens of thousands of workers their jobs.

The deadly fiber, until 25 years ago widely used in products as varied as insulation and brake linings, causes mesothelioma, a cancer of the chest and abdomen, and damages the lungs when inhaled.

Obstacles to a deal are ubiquitous. Some corporate leaders remain divided over the best approach to fix the asbestos mess, and others are locked in a dispute over how much each company would contribute to a compensation fund. Participants must also decide who would administer the fund, what role judicial officials would play in overseeing it and what medical criteria would be used to determine how much each victim would get. At the same time, many congressional Democrats are wary of striking a deal that would bar victims from seeking damages by suing businesses.

But for the first time in 20 years, key Republicans and Democrats say they are nearing a solution that could save jobs and promptly compensate thousands of cancer sufferers.

"I am convinced we can get a fair solution — fair for companies and fair for victims," Leahy said. "Just the sheer weight of all this coming down" will force Congress to play a role.

Creation of a government-run compensation fund is the most popular solution among union leaders, many influential corporate executives and key Democrats, but insurance companies want an alternative approach that would focus on establishing medical criteria to settle lawsuits through the courts.

Mark Iola, a Dallas-based lawyer for asbestos victims, says he and other trial lawyers are working with insurance companies and the National Association of Manufacturers to convince lawmakers that establishing new medical criteria would root out frivolous lawsuits and most quickly get money to the sickest victims.

The American Bar Association, the nation's largest lawyers' group, is close to formally endorsing a similar proposal.

## BROWN UNIVERSITY FOOD SERVICES



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## EDITORIAL/LETTERS

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## STAFF EDITORIAL

## A fresh idea

It's one thing to talk about being socially responsible and quite another to put those ideals into practice. From the free trade coffee in The Blue Room to the sweatshop-free products in the Brown Bookstore to the energy-conscious building renovations around campus, Brown is already a remarkably environmentally friendly and socially responsible institution — thanks largely to student-driven initiatives. And yet, there's always room for improvement.

We applaud Virginia Dunleavy, associate director of University Food Services, and the other students involved in the Community Harvest program. Not only can the program improve the quality of food in the dining halls, but it can aid farmers suffering the effects of agribusiness and an economic slump.

Although improving ties with local farmers is a worthy goal in itself, the program brings with it additional opportunities to make dining hall food more health- and environmentally conscious. UFS can more closely examine products purchased and select farmers using eco-friendly agricultural practices.

Yale University has already begun an initiative to create an all-organic cafeteria. The inclusion of more organic products in dining hall menus would undoubtedly meet with approval from many students. The possible additional expense is something the community should consider funding.

Many other areas of the University outside food services would benefit from increased attention to socially and environmentally responsible initiatives. Issues once widely discussed on campus, such as the living wage campaign and the push for the socially responsible investing of Brown's endowment, seem to have fallen by the wayside in recent months. It is the responsibility of Brown students to remain vigilant, and ensure that the ideals we support are engendered on a practical level on Brown's campus.

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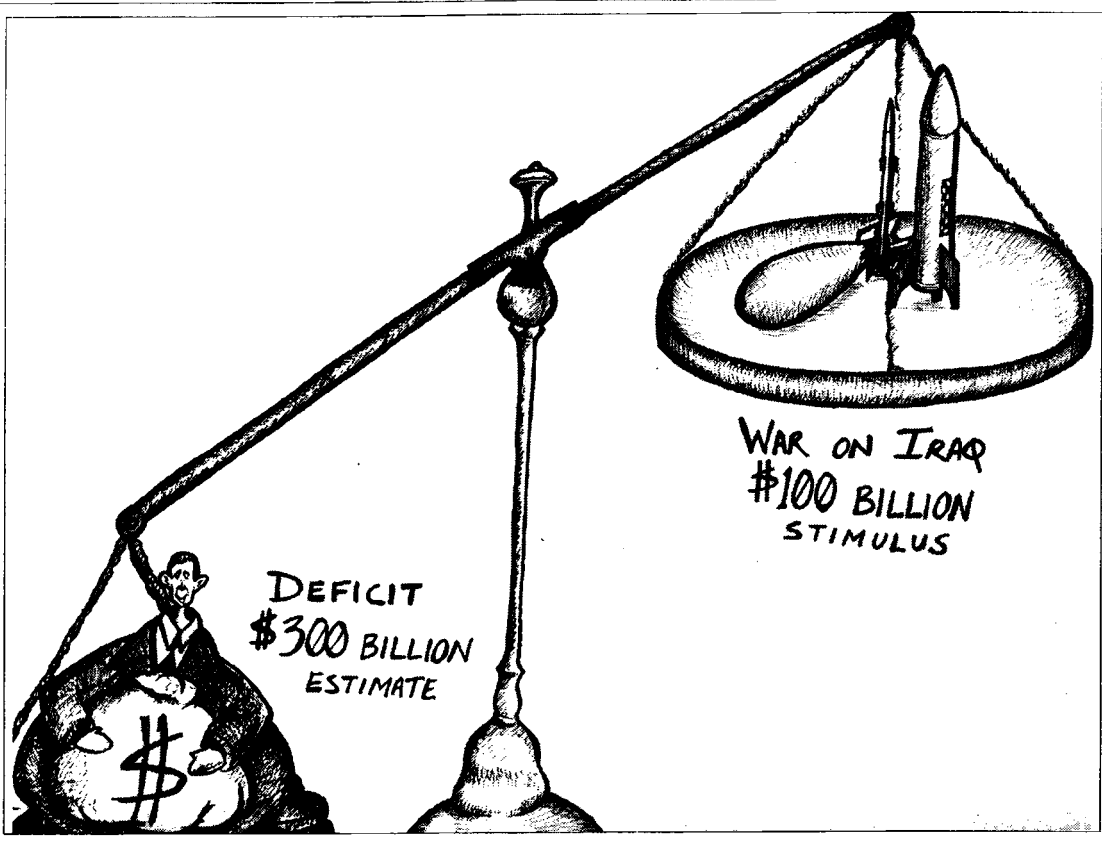
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RYAN LEVESQUE

## LETTERS

## Stolen blood drive banner key part of collection efforts

To the Editor:

On the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2003, I arrived on campus to set up for the second day of a two-day blood drive in Sayles Hall. Imagine my dismay to see that a 10-foot banner (it said "DONATE BLOOD," with the Rhode Island Blood Center logo) that I had hung the day before was ruthlessly cut down from between a tree and a light post.

"Why the outrage?" you might ask. The Rhode Island Blood Center is the state's sole collector of blood used for transfusions. It is a non-profit entity with the mission to save lives through blood donations. The stolen banner was fairly new, and cost the Blood Center \$500. It was custom made by a sail maker so that the letters could be removed to allow use in many locations.

Last December we celebrated Brown's 25,000th pint of blood collected since 1979. No other organization in Rhode Island has attained that milestone. The people of Rhode Island depend on Brown University to help collect the blood needed by numerous patients, and they depend on the promotional materials, such as the stolen banner, to help spread the word about blood drives.

If you have the banner or know where it is, please turn it in to the Department of Safety. No one will be prosecuted, no questions asked. It's the right thing to do. Lives depend on it!

**Peter Hanney**  
**Rhode Island Blood Center**  
 Feb. 4

## Herald's coverage of space shuttle disaster is lacking

To the Editor:

During the memorial service for the Columbia 7 on CNN yesterday, Aaron Brown (CNN reporter) said something that greatly disturbed me. He said that not only the people at the Johnson Space Center are grieving and feeling a loss, but the whole world is remembering the crew from Space Shuttle Columbia.

So what is it that disturbs me so much? Well, I am disgusted and disturbed by the response here at Brown, primarily that of The Herald. I feel that as the sole daily media outlet here, it should have been the responsibility of The Herald to help the community honor the Israeli, Indian and American heroes we lost. Instead all I can find is the obsession over ourselves regarding the Norwalk virus.

**Christopher Pollak '06**  
 Feb. 4

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# OPINIONS

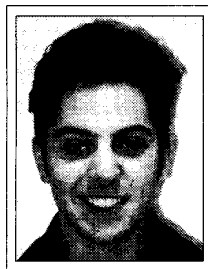
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## Stern's "fan base" asks the tough questions

*Thayer Street beggars, ordinary readers weigh in*

LIKE ANY OTHER WRITER FOR THE Herald, I'm in it for the recognition, the girls and the insane quantities of fan e-mail. Unfortunately, none of those things has actually happened. Nevertheless, it was always a dream of mine to publish a "Readers Write" column, so that I could at least pretend that there are some people out there who really do want my opinions or advice on certain issues that affect them.

So without further ado, I present to you what my Readers Write column would have looked like if my readers had sent me some mail.



ADAM STERN  
ADAM'S RIB

Dear Adam,

I was intrigued by your article categorizing college-age guys ("The five categories that classify college-age guys," 10/28). You wrote that all guys in college fall under one of the following categorizations: Player, Wannabe Player, Teddy Bear, Steady Relationship Type, The Anti-Dating Bookworm/Videogame Freak. I was wondering if you thought girls could be categorized in the same fashion.

Always Reading,  
— Rachel '06

Ah, Rachel. If only you were real, maybe we could go out.

To answer your question, yes, a very

If you e-mail [astern@browndailyherald.com](mailto:astern@browndailyherald.com), maybe Adam Stern '06 will have enough fan mail to run a real "Readers Write" column.

similar categorization system can be used for college-age girls. All of the categories are actually identical in meaning to those in the male version, but for some reason society demands that they have different names. For instance, the equivalent of the male Player would be a four or five-letter word that means "someone who gets around." Come on, Rachel, you go to Brown; you can figure out what monikers I'm referring to. The Wannabe Player's girl counterpart is called a Flirt. The Teddy Bear becomes a Prude. The Steady Relationship type of girl is just called Boring. And finally, the female Anti-Dating Bookworm/Videogame Freak earns the name "Hey, will you do my homework for me? Thanks."

I think the fact that women are given far more derogatory categorizations by society is a sad statement on the cultural roles and stereotypes we have come to embrace.

So do society a favor and let women enjoy the fruits of their social status. Next time you see a girl starting to act promiscuously, just tell her that some day she will make a great Player.

Buddy,

Got any change?

— Panhandler on Thayer Street

I just gave it to the guy in front of the bookstore. Am I the only schmuck who gets angry at the beggars when they ask for change after I have given it all away already? These poor people are requesting a little bit of charity that could help

them survive, and all I can think about is that they should have some system of coordinating their begging so pedestrians only get accosted once a trip.

Hey Adam,

You seem to have an awful lot of thoughts on stupid things like the tri-honk alert system and the reasons why people work out at the gym. I just wanted to know if you were ever going to inform the readers of your views on the escalating crisis with Iraq or North Korea. I mean, really, isn't that what opinions columnists are supposed to write about?

— Joey '05

In my tenure as a columnist, I have consciously attempted to stay away from political issues for a couple of reasons. First, I feel that they are covered well enough by my peers for the purposes of the Brown community. Second, I could not contribute a single ounce of decent insight into global problems and national security.

Let's face it, I don't know too much about the international political scene. It took me 10 years of education to realize that Korea and Vietnam were actually completely distinct countries, with distinct wars. Okay, that is a slight exaggeration, but to think that, as a freshman at college, I could intelligently write about anything as grave as war would be a little conceited.

Besides, nobody should be relying on me to inform them of what's going on. With as many 24-hour news stations as there are, people should be sick of hearing and reading about the world by now. That is why I hope to entertain and enlighten my readers on issues that some

have deemed "silly," or "the stupidest thing I have ever read."

Dude,

Don't you hate it when girls point to a really ordinary looking girl and say, "Oh, she's so pretty." I mean really, what planet are they from?

— Ross '03

Your question is a good one. Many a columnist has attempted to answer this question. I would recommend reading one of my favorites, ESPN.com columnist Bill Simmons, for his comments about taste differences between men and women on what constitutes beauty. Perhaps I can offer an alternative viewpoint from a slightly more adolescent angle.

Although originally I did hate it when women asked me about the looks of ordinary girls, I have come to accept that men and women just have different tastes. Women seem to love those classically beautiful types. You know, the ones that look great when they roll out of bed in sweats because their beauty lies within their unwavering facial and body structure.

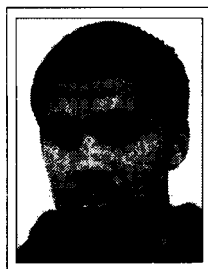
While guys think that's cute, we usually seek other aspects of a woman's appearance to qualify for our gaping drool. For us, proportions are extremely important. For instance, I was recently lucky enough to meet Pamela Anderson. While it is no secret that she is not completely natural, it is also no secret that any guy would say she's incredibly hot. I think the major difference is that women think of whom they would like to take wedding pictures with; while men wonder more about the honey-moon.

## Post-war Iraq must be independent, democratic

*If there is no way that war can be stopped, at least Iraq should be handled well*

SOME DEMOCRATS WOULD BE LYING if they told you they would still oppose a war on Iraq if the president were Clinton or Gore instead of Bush. But conservatives who underscore this point are really missing the more important issue. It's not so much that we liberals would blindly support a Democrat, it's that we'd support someone we could trust and whose rhetoric corresponded to policy. But now that we've arrived at the brink of war, it's time to start talking about how we want Bush to proceed once battle begins, as Professor Elliott Colla has advocated in these pages.

It's useful to understand why people like me distrust Bush and the statements he makes. He has talked endlessly about crimes against humanity and "evil" while he has shown little enthusiasm for the International Criminal Court, a body set up to prosecute miscreants like Saddam Hussein who commit crimes against humanity. His words consistently aim to conceal and deceive: outlining a "healthy forests" initiative that only makes logging easier, speaking



JAIDEEP SINGH  
J-DEEP THOUGHTS

against the "quota system" at the University of Michigan knowing full well that such a system was not being employed by the university and providing an "economic stimulus plan" he admits is not a stimulus but a long-term "growth" plan (which benefits the richest Americans the most). This deception may just be the nature of politics, but it seems excessive.

Even if I set aside my bias against him, I can't even agree with the way Bush handled Afghanistan. When it counted the most, Senator John Kerry points out, we sent Northern Alliance troops to the Tora Bora region to search for al-qaida fighters rather than doing it ourselves. It's probably why we didn't capture as many al

Qaida operatives as we hoped for. We have consistently refused to extend our patrols beyond Kabul, making our mission there irrelevant for much of the country. If this is how we are "rebuilding" the country where bin Laden planned the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, how am I supposed to believe that we will be a responsible occupying power in Iraq? Also, don't forget that Afghan President Hamid Karzai's security has been outsourced to a private security company (a subsidiary of

**If we are bound to invade, the best thing we can do now is avoid civilian casualties and prove the United States is in this for the right reasons.**

Halliburton) because we don't want to do it with our own troops.

Despite the president's poor record in Afghanistan, there is no denying the repression, torture and widespread fear in Iraq. On top of this, economic sanctions have debilitated an already beleaguered population. So, I've come to agree with one of my professors — one quite familiar with the history of dubious Western intervention in the Middle East — when he says the Iraqi people have suffered far too much under economic sanctions and that war may be the best way out.

If we are bound to invade, the best thing we can do now is avoid civilian casualties and prove the United States is in this for the right reasons. I don't know enough about war technologies to say what should be done to avoid harming innocent civilians. In any case, we must be open about our mistakes and not conceal casualty figures on the Iraqi side (as the Pentagon often does).

We shouldn't rebuild Iraq half-heartedly. The administration should invest (our tax dollars) in a mini-Marshall Plan for Iraq. Instead of unleashing a horde of

American oil companies on Baghdad, we should develop creative solutions that will direct oil revenues toward reconstructing Iraq. We should even consider promising all existing countries that their oil contracts will remain intact in the post-Hussein era.

Bush should promote real democracy, as opposed to a U.S.-backed puppet regime. Remember how we thought installing the Shah in Iran would promote our interests in the region? Iraqis, like Iranians, are perceptive and will see through it. Our best hope to win over hearts and minds in the Middle East is the establishment of a legitimate regime in Baghdad. If we meddle more than is absolutely necessary, we will only confirm suspicions.

I know it may sound like a cop-out to abandon antiwar arguments now. I do not wish to belittle the possible impact on innocent Iraqis and U.S. soldiers. But the momentum has moved so dramatically toward war that it may be more constructive at this point to make sure the war and its aftermath are handled in a way that will make Americans proud.

Jaideep Singh '03 is an international relations concentrator.

## SPORTS WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 5, 2003 • PAGE 12

## King James gets hooked-up

IN CASE YOU DO NOT KNOW ANYTHING about the sports world or have been studying abroad, let me tell you a little bit about LeBron James. He is a senior at St. Vincent-St. Mary's High School in Akron, Ohio, and he plays basketball. He plays basketball



CHRIS HATFIELD  
OUT OF LEFT FIELD

really well. No, I am not saying "really well" as in Joe Somebody from your high school, but "really well" as in the best high school baller in the country. In fact, not only will he be the first pick in the upcoming NBA draft, chances are he would have been the first pick had he

left high school last year. With his team ranked number one in the country by USA Today, all seemed perfect on Planet LeBron ... until recently.

On Jan. 31, he was suspended for the remainder of the season by the Ohio High School Athletic Association. His offense — receiving two throwback jerseys with a combined value of \$845 in exchange for taking pictures to be displayed on the walls of a generous sports store. The OHSAA is saying that James compromised his amateur status "by capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of monetary value." Is the OHSAA justified in suspending James and effectively ending his high school career?

As much as LeBron may say that he thought the store was rewarding him for his 3.5 GPA, as he stated in an interview with Deion Sanders, he obviously knew why he was getting the jerseys. I had a better GPA in high school and all I got was a pat on the back.

However, I believe that LeBron is probably telling the truth when he says he did not know that he was putting his playing status in jeopardy by taking the jerseys. Think about this for a second: If you were offered anything with that value for taking some pictures, would you take it? The only reason I can come up with that a rationally thinking person would say no is if they knew they would face consequences similar to those facing LeBron. LeBron has had a giant bulls-eye on his back since the beginning of the season and possibly even earlier, as it was a given fact that he would immediately go pro after graduation. Of course, driving a brand new H2 Hummer valued at around \$50,000 is bound to raise questions about whether he is accepting gifts.

Word is hitting the Internet that LeBron has hired a lawyer and has filed an appeal. Why he will win and why he should win the appeal are two very different things. He will win because of a clause in those kooky OHSAA bylaws that says only his school can suspend him for violating rules that do not have to do with sports directly.

He should win because, frankly, if every player who accepted gifts because they were good at sports were suspended for the remainder of their seasons, high school and college sports would end as we know them. I am not just talking about them at the highest levels either. Any athlete who is known in their community will get "hooked up" every now and then. There is no way to eliminate that sort of thing, so why not just let it be? In this situation, LeBron's teammates and his fans are the ones who lose out, not James himself — he is going to get his money anyway. I say let the kid play and we should move on to bigger things — like making another Terry Tate commercial.

Chris Hatfield '06 hails from Salem, N.H.

## Throwers lead women's indoor track in tri-meet with Harvard, Columbia

BY KEELY THARP

The Brown women's indoor track team competed in a tri-meet against Cornell and Harvard on Feb. 1, and the performances provided a possible glimpse of the conference championship match-ups. The Bears will work hard to improve upon their third-place, 26-point finish.

The highlight of the meet was the personal record set by each of the three throwers. Jill Lynch '05 won the shot put with a throw of 13.92 meters. Lynch is now ranked second in the Ivy League and is planning to improve in order to reach her goal of winning indoor heps.

The other two throwers, Rachelle Seibolt '04 and Jennifer Donahue '05, placed third and fifth in the weight throw with distances of 15.64 meters and 14.40 meters, respectively. Head Coach Robert Johnson praised Coach Michelle Eisenreich for her "tremendous job with the throwing program."

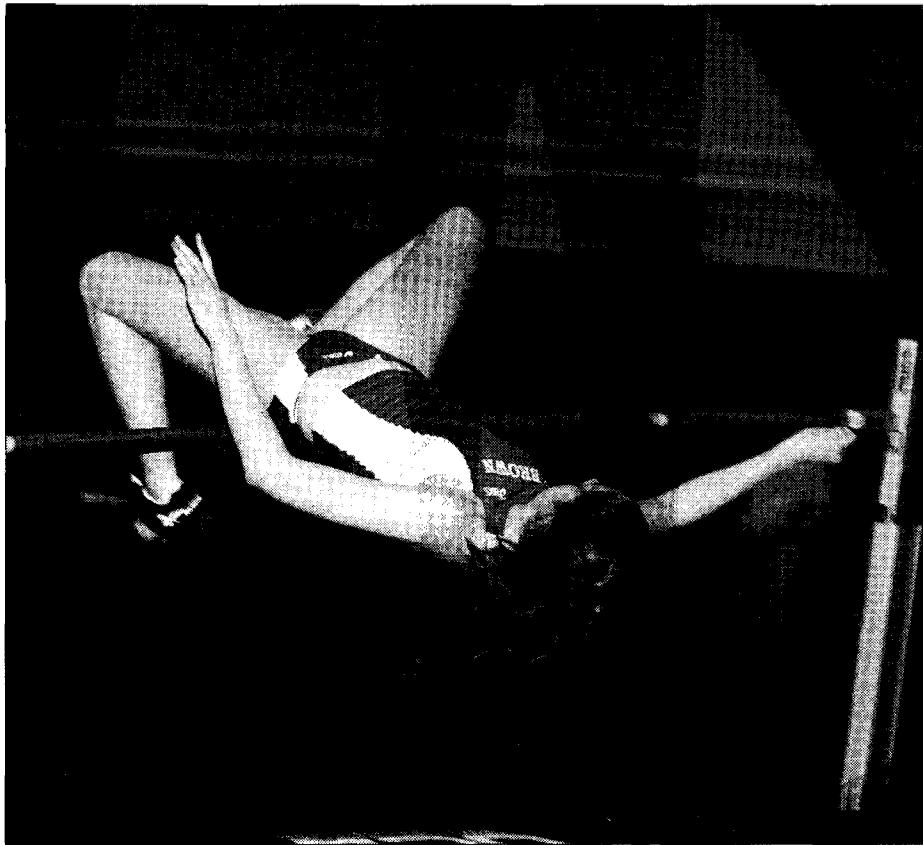
"She puts them through the ringer and now it is starting to pay off, which bodes well for future competition," Johnson said.

The second winning event for the team was the pole vault. Lauren Contursi '03 vaulted 3.65 meters and continues to maintain her position as a consistent high scorer for the team.

Also contributing to the team's final score was Brittany Grovey '06, who placed second in the triple jump with a leap of 11.47 meters.

Erin Meschter '06 and Ashley Wall '05 placed third and fourth in the high jump. Both Brown's 4x400 and 4x800 meter relays placed third, as did Katherine Kosub '04 in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:15.84.

In other events, Fara Kitton '05 placed fourth in the 60-meter hurdles. Julia



dsplcs

Members of the women's indoor track team will next compete at the Milrose Games and the University of Rhode Island Invitational to be held this Friday and Saturday, respectively.

Stevenson '04 continues to improve and reveal her versatility as she ran to a third place finish in the 60-meter dash and a second place finish in the 200-meter dash. Also placing in the 60-meter dash was Jaylon White '05, who finished fourth.

Captain Basia Dabrowski '04 said the team recognized they are not in the fastest stage of training, so the performances are not indicative of what the ath-

letes are capable of achieving.

"We have to stay positive and continue to work hard," Dabrowski said, "and the coaches will peak us."

Several scoring members of the team are injured, while others are coming back from injuries — something that was naturally reflected in the final score.

The women are now in preparation for the next meet on Feb. 8 at the University of Rhode Island.

## Men's, women's ski teams overcome weather in season's only home carnival

BY DANIEL C. MURRAY

Imagine Meehan Auditorium. Imagine Meehan Auditorium's ice surface divided lengthwise down the middle and raised to a 30-degree pitch. Now stick a few poles about fifteen yards apart, zigzagging down the middle, and send fifty of Brown's toughest linebackers on ice skates down the track.

Add 20-degree weather, a nice cold wind chill and don't forget the six-by-six inch deep groove the 6-foot-2-inches, 210-pound linebackers carved into the ice.

Toss on a spandex ski suit, something like your mother's one-piece that she sports in St. Barthes, and a pair of giant slalom skis.

Now feel the pain of the Brown men's and women's ski teams.

The Brown men's and women's ski teams held their annual carnival this past weekend at Loon Mountain in New Hampshire. The weather was uneventful during Saturday's slalom event; however, on Sunday terrible weather and unsafe course condition forced the teams to head back to school early.

"Ski racing is not easy," said Alexander Bernstein '05, a new member of the ski squad this year. "This may sound a little obvious but it's true. The course gets terribly icy and quick and sometimes a little scary."

"As a new racer, I get a little intimidat-

ed," Bernstein said. "I guess it's natural, but I thought growing up a recreational skier would make a huge difference — it doesn't. I have so much more respect for ski racers. They are unbelievable athletes, both the men and the women."

Despite rough conditions, the men's team turned in a decent performance over the weekend. On Saturday in the slalom, Christopher Palmisano '04 and Alexander Petals '04 finished 55th and 80th.

Jake Colognesi '05, Greg Hanyen '05 and Jonathan Hastings '05 finished 15th, 49th and 72nd, respectively.

Charlie Cummings '06, the sole first-year on the men's squad, finished 30th.

"Conditions were definitely difficult on Sunday," said Captain James Maher '03. "It snowed off and on Saturday night and Sunday morning, and, because it was also warm, the snow was wet and heavy."

On Sunday, Maher finished 44th, while Cummings, Hastings and Petalas finished 31st, 57th and 61st, respectively.

The women's team kept up their stellar record, progressing towards their ultimate goal of the Nationals, which will be held at Northstar in Tahoe, Calif. Overall, the team finished third in its only carnival.

"The women's squad continues to build their strength with each weekend of competition," Head Coach Karen Finocchio said.

Saturday's slalom went smoothly for the women with two finishing in the top 10 and three others in the top 30.

Adrienne Jones '03 and Captain Doria Dibona '03 finished in ninth and 12th place.

Like at the past two carnivals, the trio of Hilary Swaffield '06, Caitlin Stanton '06 and Stephanie Breakstone '06 skied well and continued to turn heads.

"The freshmen on the squad have solidly found their footing and add tremendously to the team's success. Stephanie Breakstone, Caitlin Stanton and Hilary Swaffield have made tremendous strides in their skiing," Finocchio said.

Molly Sheinberg '04 finished fifth in the slalom and eighth overall in the giant slalom.

On Sunday, the women fared even better in the giant slalom. Dibona finished fifth on Sunday, followed by Swaffield in seventh, Breakstone in 12th and Stanton in 13th.

"The efforts from the men's and women's teams this past weekend were phenomenal," Finocchio said. "Not only do they have to focus on racing, but also assist extensively with race operations. Our carnival was exceptional because of their hard work."

Finocchio and her team head to Ascutney Mountain this weekend in Vermont.