

THE BROWN DAILY HERALD

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Roots of Taiwanese language serve as important reminder of unique culture

BY JEFFREY AUSTIN

The aboriginal roots of the Taiwanese language are an important reminder of the uniqueness of Taiwanese culture and identity, Professor KhinhoaN Li of Harvard University told an audience in Wilson 102 Tuesday night.

In his lecture entitled "Finding Formosa," Li attempted to refute the misunderstanding that the Taiwanese are simply misplaced Chinese, and that Taiwanese culture is only an extension of Chinese culture.

Li demonstrated that the 24 modern languages of Taiwan have their roots in both the languages of Southeast Asia, such as Vietnamese, and in ancient aboriginal languages from the island of Taiwan.

Li spoke in Taiwanese through a translator, interrupting only to specify his preference for the term "language" over "dialect."

Li is a professor of Taiwanese and is a distinguished scholar of phonetics, syntax and sociolinguistics. He is also an award-winning poet and is active in the movement of Taiwanese language revitalization.

In a phenomenon he called



Jason White / Herald

KhinhoaN Li, professor of linguistics at Harvard, spoke as part of Taiwanese Culture Week.

see TAIWAN, page 5

No extra fear for Brown's Int'l students

BY MONIQUE MENESES

Senior Lilian Tse's parents' advice from Hong Kong in response to last month's Code Orange alert wasn't that much different from the reaction of many Americans.

"If your friends are getting the Bush-recommended safety and survival kit, you should too," her parents told her.

But as the date for the possible war between the United States and Iraq approaches, many international students at Brown said they do not feel enough of a threat to their well-being for their parents or themselves to be concerned.

"My family and friends are not worried about my being here. They understand how it feels to live in a country where terrorism is present. Paris, like America, is not exempt from terrorism," said Clara Armand-Delille '03, a student from France.

Other students said their parents were worried about safety issues in the United States. These fears, they said, are based on the way American news channels shape people's perceptions.

"My parents are definitely worried now," Tse said. "They're even more worried because next year I'm actually going to work in (Washington,) D.C."

Students said, although they probably will not go home if war breaks out, they have friends at other universities who have left America since Sept. 11, 2001.

Parents with children studying in the United States feel the pressure to assist them in preparing for an upcoming war, students said. Stephanie Morin '05 told The Herald that many of her mother's friends in Sao Paulo, Brazil, rushed to buy anthrax vaccine to send to their children when doctors diagnosed several cases of anthrax in the United States. Her parents, she said, did not join in the vaccine-shopping frenzy.

Some international students said they found the burgeoning American national-

see INTERNATIONAL, page 4

Former HR staff member Bailey now in City Hall

BY MERYL ROTHSTEIN

This December, Sybil Bailey returned to her office at Human Resources in tears. Her fellow employees were excited to see her return from her four-month leave, but Bailey informed them she would not be back next semester. She was moving to City Hall.

Bailey, formerly director of employee relations for Human Resources at Brown, is now director of personnel for the City of Providence under Mayor David Cicilline '83.

Bailey currently oversees 5,000 city employees. Her responsibilities include hiring and terminating employees and handling employee leaves and suspensions.

Her goal is to increase equality in hiring by removing the influence of money and connections that dominated city government in the past, Bailey said. She also plans to tighten up the city's hiring process, ensuring that the city's current procedures are rational and efficient, she said.

She took a leave of absence from Brown in September of 2002 through December of 2002 to serve as interim head of personnel under acting Mayor John Lombardi. When Cicilline won the mayoral election, she had every intention of returning to her job at Brown, Bailey said.

see BAILEY, page 4

Pagan memorial service held for Station nightclub victims

BY ZOE RIPPLE

When Sandy Greene lost her husband Skott Greene in the Feb. 20 West Warwick nightclub fire, she sought comfort in her faith. But the many multi-faith services that took place in the wake of the tragedy didn't include Paganism — her chosen faith.

Because of her asatru beliefs, a subset of the heathen tradition, she and a handful of other friends and relatives of the victims were yet to be included in any of the interfaith ceremonies — until the Chaplain's Office facilitated a Pagan ceremony.

Jon Keiser, a pagan who noticed that his community had been left out of other memorial services, helped arrange the service. On Tuesday night, about 25 local pagans, heathens and Wiccans gathered in Manning Chapel to remember those who died in The Station nightclub fire.

"Hail to the east, element of air ... bring to us your winds of change. Hail to the west, element of water ... that we may cleanse ourselves of recent events and begin to heal," said Aradia, a priestess from the House of Annwyn and practicing witch, during part of a ceremony to call the elements.

Greene and others participated in a call and response ceremony in which participants invoked Hella, the god of death, and Tyr, the god of justice, by speaking and then shouting the gods' names and drinking from a horn, a sacred vessel.

Portions of the ceremony were conducted in Old Norse, an ancient Germanic language. Pagan beliefs are centered upon Teutonic, pre-Christian religions, Keiser said.

Dolores Rornack RUE, a member of the pagan community, said the ceremony offered an alternative to Christian and Catholic memorial services.

During the service, Keiser told the

see PAGAN, page 4

Feminism is more than not shaving your legs, teach-in makes clear

BY NORA YOO

Feminism is about more than just abortion and hippie-era reminiscent notions of women not shaving their legs, speakers made clear Tuesday night at the Feminism Teach-In, one of the events planned to celebrate Women's Herstory Month.

"Feminism does bring up everybody's anxiety and it brings out people's prejudices in ways I'm not sure anything else does," said panelist Gail Cohee, director of the Sarah Doyle Women's Center and professor of gender studies. The panelists proceeded to discuss how feminism often has a negative connotation and how people must

look beyond the stereotype to comprehend the complete picture of feminism in today's world.

Leslie Soble '05, panel coordinator, said she was very concerned about the issue of feminism and wanted to use this event as a tool to increase awareness about what feminism means and how it applies to everybody.

"I'm surprised about how many people don't know about feminism or have a negative conception of feminism," she said. "Feminism is open to all people, regardless of your ethnicity, gender or sexuality."

see FEMINISM, page 5

INSIDE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2003

Brown professor Tucker helps NASA detail the earliest days of the universe
academic watch, page 3

Camille Gerwin '03 offers some advice on how to use duct tape in the meantime
opinions, page 7

Jaideep Singh '03 says the Bush administration's missile defense system is flawed
opinions, page 7

Luke Meier '04 says college basketball pool is weak; all the real stars go straight to the pros
sports, page 8

Men's ultimate off to a strong start, leaving teams behind at Stanford Invite
sports, page 8

TODAY'S FORECAST



mostly cloudy
high 46
low 25

ACADEMIC WATCH

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2003 • PAGE 3

Professor Tucker helps detail the universe's early years

BY LEV NELSON

Cosmologists now have a picture of the universe's early years in unprecedented detail, thanks to a NASA satellite designed in part by Professor of Physics Gregory Tucker.

The Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe satellite measures cosmic background radiation — light left over from the first big bang — mapping the universe in the microwave region of the electromagnetic spectrum.

"The most surprising result is it appears that the first stars formed 200 million years after the Big Bang, not 700 million years as we previously thought," Tucker said.

WMAP has enabled cosmologists to define more accurately several numbers about the universe for which they previously had rough approximations. They can now say that the universe is 13.7 billion years old, plus or minus 200 million years, and that only 4.4 percent of the universe is made up of what we would consider "normal" matter, Tucker said.

The other 95.6 percent is mostly mysterious dark matter and dark energy — details scientists can measure indirectly but have never observed up close, Tucker said.

"It shrinks the error bars," Tucker said. WMAP has led to "precision cosmology measurements." That clears the way for cosmologists to develop more detailed models of how the Big Bang happened, he added.

The microwave radiation WMAP measures gives a picture of the universe roughly 300,000 years after the Big Bang, Tucker said.

The variations discovered by WMAP are signs of early density variations in the infant universe. The question cosmologists are now asking is, "How do we get from this

extremely smooth early universe — uniform down to one part in 100,000 — to a clumpy one in which you either have a star or galaxy or you don't have a star or galaxy?" Tucker said.

A "smooth universe" is one in which all matter is distributed evenly with no appreciable space in between. Tiny variations in density led to the clumping of matter and the configuration of the universe today.

WMAP is unique in that it is the first satellite to orbit at the so-called second Lagrange point — a stable point in space about four times the distance from Earth to the moon, Tucker said. As the satellite orbits the sun, it keeps Earth and the moon behind it to screen it from the sun's heat, which would throw off measurements.

WMAP, conceived in 1996 by a group of about 13 scientists, was renamed in tribute to team member David Wilkinson, who died recently. The satellite was launched June 30, 2001.

"A lot of hard work goes into designing (a mission like this)," Tucker said. "You know what science you want to do. That sets requirements for the kind of measurements you want to make, which sets requirements for the design."

WMAP is a follow-up to NASA's Cosmic Background Explorer, launched in 1992, Tucker said.

COBE was the first satellite to measure variations in background radiation. Against a baseline of about three degrees above absolute zero, it detected variations on the order of millionths of a degree, Tucker said.

The cosmic background radiation was previously thought to be uniform. "It looks like you're in a fog,"

"The most surprising result is it appears that the first stars formed 200 million years after the Big Bang, not 700 million years as we previously thought."

Gregory Tucker
Professor of Physics

Tucker said.

COBE was able to sample the sky in seven-degree segments, Tucker said. For comparison, a full moon in the night sky takes up about half a degree, so COBE couldn't detect gradations finer than the span of 14 moons.

In contrast, WMAP has a resolution of 0.21 degrees, so it can make a much sharper, more accurate map, Tucker said.

Cosmic background radiation was first discovered in 1965 by scientists at Bell Labs who were investigating causes of interference in satellite communications.

Bell Labs had a signal that they couldn't identify. At the same time, a team at Princeton, led by Wilkinson, had calculated what the signal of the cosmic background radiation should look like, Tucker said. The two matched.



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International

continued from page 1

ist sentiment in some parts of the country — bolstered by the prospect of war — disconcerting.

"To me it's sort of frightening," Armand-Delille said. "I don't want to be politically incorrect, but I think the reason some Americans are blindly pro-war is because of their lack of information."

Although Brown sometimes seems like it is in a bubble that separates the community from strong xenophobic sentiments, some international students said they have experienced firsthand what it feels like to be told to go back home.

Tse said about three weeks ago she received a phone call from an anonymous woman asking her where she was from. She told her she was from Hong Kong. The woman asked if she had been joining in the peace protests and Tse responded in the affirmative.

"If you want to join the protests," the woman said, "go home."

Sofyan Sultan '03.5, from Pakistan, said he has seen a change in attitude among the American people from when he first arrived in 2000.

"Recently the American people have started to almost des-

perately cling to their government. People become far less skeptical of the government, while there should be more questioning of the decision they are making," he said.

In many parts of the United States, shoppers are stocking up on duct tape and canned goods. Several international students said they found this "need to prepare" ridiculous. Some said it suggested that the government is attempting to create fear among the American people.

"I think people are becoming psychotic because of this war," Armand-Delille said. "I think it has to do with the latent oppression in the country. People are going nuts. ... It's the first time people in the U.S. have been exposed to such a long threat like this."

Other students said they think preparing for the war might not be such a bad idea.

"There's some utility in buying these things. However, I don't think anyone is going to bomb Providence Place Mall and I don't think Iraqis are going to release biological pathogens in the U.S.," Sultan said. "If war makes these things likely, maybe I should (prepare)."

Some students said they feel that if war does break out, they have no other role to play but as the detached observer.

"It won't affect me personally," Tse said. "I don't feel a threat

I guess because I don't feel as if my country is being attacked."

Others students said war would have a direct impact on their lives.

"For me, it's mostly about how it's going to affect what I'm planning to do this summer," Morin said. "I want to go to East Timor to work with an NGO, but if war breaks out, which it probably will, my parents aren't going to allow me to go."

Armand-Delille said she, like many international students, will have to wait and see what happens.

"I guess I'll stick around. What else can I do?" she said.

Herald staff writer Monique Meneses '05 covers international students. She can be reached at mmeneses@browndailyherald.com.

Pagan

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"Baldr Myth" of a lost pagan god who was mourned by other gods. "Even the gods have to live with loss," he said.

Addressing the audience in Manning, Aradia said the fire had been a "significant loss for the Rhode Island community and the pagan community"

Explaining the pagan view of death and dying, Aradia said that death was a "change, not an ending." She told the audience the essence or soul of one who dies "joins the energy of those who walk the earth."

The ceremony, titled "In Honor of Kin: A Memorial for the Victims of the Station Fire,"

Explaining the pagan view of death and dying, Aradia said that death was a "change, not an ending."

was a "collaboration between pagan and asatru communities," Aradia said.

We are "blessed to share life with those who died," she told the audience.

Herald staff writer Zoe Ripple '05 can be reached at zripple@browndailyherald.com.

Bailey

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But after meeting with Cicilline and some of his staff-to-be, she found that "their plan, their vision, their strategy was very appealing and familiar to me," she said. Bailey said she was excited to have the opportunity to work with a new team of people, including Cicilline, who she said she believed was "really going to change Providence."

Bailey said her work at Brown helped prepare her for her current job. "It seems very natural to transfer some of that knowledge here," she said.

At Brown, Bailey dealt with

supervisors, managers and employees in a variety of work-related issues. Assistant Vice President for Human Resources Roberta Gordon said that Bailey's new job is a "logical next step" because it is larger and more complex than her position at Brown.

Bailey is well prepared for her new job, said Director of Compensation Betsy Warner. During her years at Brown, Bailey worked in Human Resources in compensation, employment and employee relations.

Additionally, as a native resident of Providence, Bailey has always been devoted to and active in her community, Warner

said. This includes both her involvement in her church and her participation on the city's Charter Review Commission, which reviewed the city's by-laws, Warner added.

It "gave me a good understanding of the way the city works," Bailey said.

Gordon said she is proud of Bailey and considers her a "success story." But she is still sad to see her go, she said. "Brown lost an outstanding employee, and the city gained an outstanding employee," she said.

Herald staff writer Meryl Rothstein '06 can be reached at mrothstein@browndailyherald.com.

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Taiwan

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"Taiwanization," Li said interest in reclaiming Taiwanese culture is growing with the recent democratization of the country since the Chinese nationalist party, KMT, lost power in 2000. He predicted that in the future, Chinese culture and the use of the Chinese language will decline. In about a month, Li said, the Taiwanese government will officially recognize 14 aboriginal Taiwanese languages.

Li used examples of linguistic similarities between Taiwanese and Southeast Asian languages to show the legacy that Taiwan owes to influences other than China. Words such as "kang" and "tan," which mean "river" and "wet," respectively, have very similar counterparts in the Vietnamese language.

Four members of the Brown Taiwan Society, which sponsored the event, opened with reflections on their relation to Taiwanese identity. Michelle Lin '03 recalled having to explain her identity to inquisitive elementary school classmates.

"I'm Taiwanese," she had to say, "which is basically like Chinese."

Rich Hsieh '03 spoke about the stigma his family placed on their Taiwanese identity, labeling as Chinese all that related to their culture.

Both students spoke of the importance of reclaiming the cultural implications of their Taiwanese heritage without feeling influenced by the inherent political connotations of such an identity.

Four members of the Brown Taiwan

Society, which sponsored the event, opened with reflections on their relation to Taiwanese identity.

Abe Young '04 recalled memories of riot police and street protests from his days in Taiwan as the child of pro-democracy activists. He embraced the political nature of his nationality and said, "Suppressing talk about Taiwan is ignoring one of the most lively, spirited moves toward democracy."

Young said the event was a success. "I'm glad that a diverse group of people showed up," he said, "including people of other nationalities that related Professor Li's talk to their own culture, as well as random people throughout campus that were interested in learning more about what Taiwan is."

Audience member Winston Len '03 was one of those able to relate Li's talk to his own experience. His familiarity with the Hokkien dialect of China enabled him to understand much of what Li said in Taiwanese.

Li's lecture opened the University's first annual Taiwanese Culture Week. The event was the first in a series dedicated to Taiwanese culture that will be running through Sunday.

Meier

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passion of the college game (passion in the sense of dedicated student fans, not camera-smashing players), the games mean more and Bill Walton can't extol the virtuous "priorities" that only his son possesses.

Granted, the current supporting casts at these schools would not be the same if the players mentioned had in fact stayed, but at least they would be playing somewhere else, and the competition would be that much better. The game would be jumping. Instead it seems flat. Consider our perennial best league — the Atlantic Coast Conference.

ACC games used to have magic to them. They were larger than life. The conference was a land flowing with Tim Duncans (who played four years!), Elton Brands and Vince Carters. Who are the best players now? Steve Blake and J. J. Redick? With all due respect to these two guys (and I admit Redick has plenty of talent) they look like the two best players from your high school team, not the ACC. They should team up with Dunleavy and hustle people in 3-on-3 tournaments. You think people would put their money down on those three jokers? But I've digressed.

I don't know what the solution is, but I wish college basketball — the best basketball played in this country — had more talent. I won't ask players

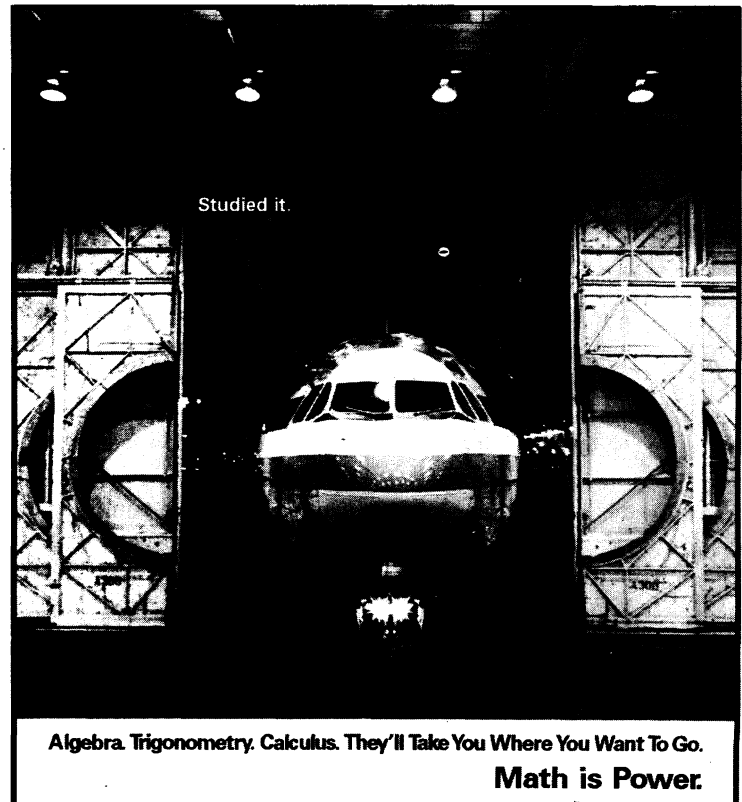
not to skip college for the money, but why can't they just skip high school instead? I, for one, would have appreciated watching LeBron James play the last two seasons for Ohio State, and don't tell me he wasn't ready. As for being academically ready, that's a different question, but perhaps Clem Haskins and Jim Harrick could head up a committee to help

top 16-year-olds make the academic transition to college. And if they really have to write their own stuff, just let them be Physical Education majors at Alabama — then they'll at least get to play some major conference college ball.

Everyone should.

Luke Meier '04 hails from Champaign, Ill.

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Feminism

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Panelists described their own personal experience with feminism, followed by an open discussion during which they fielded questions from the 20 students in the audience.

Sarah Swett '06, a member of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, attended the panel and participated in

the discussion. "I think that discussions like these are vital to the progression of the feminist movement. ... They need to happen on a sporadic basis and not just as planned events," she said.

"Feminism has long been an important part of women's history ... and it is an important part of our lives today," Soble said regarding preparations for the event, which is part of Women's Herstory Month.

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EDITORIAL/LETTERS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2003 • PAGE 6

STAFF EDITORIAL

In our midst

From the scribbles on bathrooms walls to the pages of the Daily Jolt, disturbing anti-foreign sentiment at Brown is surfacing as the United States comes increasingly close to war with Iraq. While this trend is by no means an all-pervasive one on the Brown campus, it should be noted, and combated.

Feelings of anger directed toward the “enemy” are, of course, somewhat of a natural phenomenon during times of political conflict. But we must be careful to distinguish between people and the actions of their governments. You may not agree with the policy decisions of Egypt or Turkey, but students, visitors and American citizens from these countries had nothing — or very little — to do with them.

Many Americans seem unable to make this distinction. The Council on American-Islamic Relations and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee reported that in recent weeks there have been more “backlash attacks” on Arab Americans and Muslim Americans than at any time since the period immediately following Sept. 11, 2001, the Associated Press reported.

Brown students aren't immune to this trend. Nearly every day, new discriminatory posts, urging students to take action against “towelheads,” appear on the forum section of the Daily Jolt and in discussion posts on The Herald's Web site. Assuming that a large percentage of these posts come from Brown students themselves, the frequency is disturbing. And Brown must take credit, as an institution, for bathroom graffiti lamenting those who would “rather save a raghead than their own mother.” Even though we like to think of our peers as enlightened academics, it's highly unlikely that some non-Brown rogue snuck into Wilson to scrawl these eloquent lines.

Some international students — from a variety of countries — have even been directly targeted. A student from Hong Kong told The Herald she received an anonymous phone call from a woman who, after asking her country of origin and whether or not she was participating in peace protests, told her to “go home.”

Luckily, no violent or large-scale instances of blatant discrimination have taken place on campus. But the rumblings of bigotry are nonetheless disturbing.

THE BROWN DAILY HERALD

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RYAN LEVESQUE

LETTERS

U.S. will make sincere effort to prevent civilian casualties

To the Editor:

In response to Schuyler von Oeyen's article (“Why the world makes a difference,” March 10), the point of this potential war is not to murder a population of teenagers and children, but to disarm a deceitful and therefore threatening regime. Installing a democratic government in Iraq is a bonus that comes with taking out a threat to our country's people.

Though a large number of self-righteous 20-year-old Ivy Leaguers may disagree, the United States realizes that a country does not continue to hide chemical and biological weapons unless it is planning to use them. The only link al-Qaida has to this conflict is that they have shown that Americans are not exempt from being attacked on our own soil. To think that the United States will not take every precaution to spare innocent lives in Iraq only shows that you are too high on your own sense of morality.

Antiwar demonstrators refuse to understand that every person has a conscience, not just them. When America says we will spare the innocent, we mean it. How could anyone not?

Stephen Kausek '05
 March 11

Beale's rosy depiction of Thurmond's racial views incomplete

To the Editor:

In his “Democratic Party is the true enemy of racial equality” (March 11), Stephen Beale writes that Sen. Strom Thurmond and others who fled the Democratic Party for the Republican Party did so “only after shedding their segregationist pasts.” Though it is true that Sen. Thurmond did not again run for president on a segregationist platform, many supporters of racial equality object that he has never truly apologized for his once overt support of segregation.

In a 1998 interview, Sen. Thurmond responded to the question of why he had never apologized for his racism by saying, “I don't have anything to apologize for. I don't have any regrets.” Thurmond did add that, “I may have said some things that I could have left off,” but this mild statement, coming a full half-century after his Dixiecrat run for president, seems a far cry from “shedding (his) segregationist past.”

Peter Asen '04
 March 11

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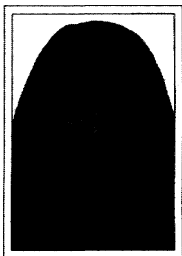
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OPINIONS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2003 • PAGE 7

What to do with duct tape in case we're not attacked

LAST WEEK, I MADE MY BI-WEEKLY TRIP TO THE POST OFFICE and was surprised to find a package from my mom waiting for me. It wasn't my birthday. No major holiday was coming up. So I didn't know quite what to expect. I eagerly tore into the box, looked inside, and there it was: four rolls of plastic drop cloths, three rolls of duct tape and a flashlight with batteries.



CAMILLE GERWIN
BEYOND THE
BUBBLE

"President Bush said we should be prepared," my mom said later over the phone, trying to justify her gift.

"President Bush isn't the brightest bulb in the box," I replied.

Actually, I wasn't surprised at receiving duct tape from my mom. She's a worrier and takes things like an orange level terror alert seriously. Naturally, I'd expect her to be first in line at Home Depot with a cart full of duct tape. It's the rest of the nation that I was surprised at, that is, until this rush on duct tape reminded me of something. Mass

paranoia is not something new to this country. Does Y2K ring a bell? Let your mind wander even further back in history.

Though several decades before our time, we have all heard about the mass hysteria of the Cold War that swept the nation, especially during the 1940s and 1950s. Schoolchildren learned to "duck and cover." After all, crouching under a tiny wooden desk would certainly protect them from a nuclear attack (just like duct-taping our windows will certainly protect us from chemical or biological warfare). Fallout shelters were built (I suggest renting the movie Blast From the Past), Japanese Americans were put into internment camps and Senator McCarthy's index finger got quite a workout as the nation went on a proverbial witch-hunt.

Okay, so we haven't gone to those extremes quite yet in our own time. The terror alert has since gone back down to yellow, meaning we can hold off on taping our windows shut. However, with war in Iraq looming, Bush may have us rushing to hardware stores again soon. Could this duct tape trend just be the beginning of another era of irrational paranoia? In order to do my part to prevent history from repeating itself and because using my abundance of duct tape to seal my windows is about as likely as Saddam Hussein celebrating the Fourth of July, I've put together a little list of alternative uses for duct tape. Feel free to pass it along to your own family worrywarts.

Use #1: Brownies love to walk around with frayed jeans and tears in their clothes. I know that may be part of your personal style, but it's cold outside! Besides, Brownies are all about individuality, and that grungy look is way over-used around campus. Make a new fashion statement by using duct tape to patch up those holes.

Use #2: Need a second semester change of scenery? Re-decorate your room. You can use duct tape to hang posters. Don't worry, end of the year room damage charges are just a myth.

Use #3: Did you get back from a long weekend a day earlier than planned, only to find your roommate's groceries, wet towels, underwear, books or other sundry items on your side of the room? Use duct tape to make a line across the center of the floor, so she won't get confused again.

Use #4: For those of you living off-campus, duct tape has many uses around the house. If I had my supply of duct tape just a few weeks earlier, rather than waiting for our landlord to come fix our burst pipes as our basement filled with water, we could've just sealed that puppy right up. What about if you need the common room for a little one-on-one time with your crush? Duct tape your housemates' doors closed from the outside. That'll give you a few hours of privacy.

Use #5: This one's for the girls. For formal events, you wear low cut dresses with funky straps that won't come close to covering your bra. So, forget the bra — duct tape is the answer. Just lift and separate. You'll end up with the needed support, no bra straps and the added bonus of extra cleavage. (Yes, this is actually done. Guys, don't bother trying to understand this concept. Just smile and nod.)

Use #6: Be like my mom and send duct tape as a gift. Apparently it's the latest trend.

Camille Gerwin '03 would be happy to donate her duct tape to those in need.

Missile offense

Bush rushes to deploy a system that won't work

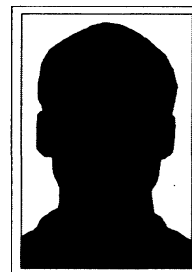
ON THE EVENING OF SEPT. 10, 2001, I HAD A chat with a professor about administration plans to develop a national missile defense. We agreed that the system was a bad idea made worse by the fact it didn't even work. Plus, he reasoned, if someone really wanted to attack the United States with a nuclear device, they would use a low-cost delivery mechanism like a suitcase, airplane or boat. The next day his words were given a tragic new relevance, and the logic of missile defense was irreparably damaged.

But logic escapes the authors of the Bush administration's current budget proposal. Not only do they allocate \$9.1 billion to NMD (the highest one-year NMD budget allocation ever), but they request the system be exempted from a law requiring a minimal level of testing of all weapon systems before they are deployed. The Pentagon plans to have a limited ground-based system in place next year. For a system designed to knock missiles out of the sky — akin to hitting a bullet with a bullet — why have a lower standard of testing?

To add to the trouble, the tests conducted so far tell us little about how NMD may function if it were responding to a missile attack — in each trial the testers knew the trajectory of the incoming warhead and faced no realistic decoys. The tests were basically show trials, and to base our NMD assessments on them is pure folly. The Pentagon admitted this in

a report released last week.

Let's pretend that the system is foolproof. Does it justify the \$73 billion that has been spent over the last 19 years, or the \$9.1 billion Bush proposes for next year? What threat does it counter? Iran and



JAIDEEP SINGH
J-DEEP
THOUGHTS

Iraq's missiles can come nowhere near the United States, so ultimately, NMD aims to protect us from North Korean missiles. North Korea's ability to nuclearize its long-range missiles remains questionable. With our tight budget (thanks in part to tax cuts), the \$9 billion could certainly be used in more promising endeavors like supporting local and state agencies for their homeland security efforts, or education, or health care or anything that actually makes sense. A missile defense system would also give potential attackers an incentive to move away from expensive missile programs and divert their resources to cheaper ways of delivering the terror.

One Republican commentator foolishly argued recently that we should deal with Iraq now and put off North Korea till later because we have missile defense to counter the North Korean threat. This is a dangerous skewing of reality, and it reflects the pervading false faith in a famously faulty system.

The law requiring a basic level of testing is in place to prevent faulty weapon systems from being deployed. But NMD seems too important to President Bush to warrant following the rules, because he will get cheers and votes in 2004 when he tells voters he's protecting them from ballistic missiles. The fact that the system doesn't work won't matter. The votes will.

Jaideep Singh '03 is an international relations concentrator from Sugarland, Texas.

Absent without leave

Congress has disappeared from meaningful debate over Iraq

PRESIDENT BUSH AND HIS INNER CIRCLE HAVE made a choice to try and sell this war as just that — a war — rather than as a "limited military engagement," or some such euphemism. In that case, Bush ought to seek a formal declaration of war from Congress.

But thus far, Congress has failed to do its job. Not only did it delegate its sacred responsibility to declare war last October, but debate on the topic has since remained scarce. Two senators, Robert Byrd of West Virginia and Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, have been consistently calling for more congressional debate over war.

"This Chamber is, for the most part, silent — ominously, dreadfully silent," said Byrd in February. "There is no debate, no discussion, no attempt to lay out for the nation the pros and cons of this particular war. There is nothing." Congress needs to ensure that if we attack Iraq, we do so with explicit goals; Congress needs to discuss specific strategies for killing the germ of terrorism, rather than medicating the symptoms; Congress needs to discuss how to strengthen, not sabotage, our alliances.

"And this is no small conflagration we contemplate," cautioned Byrd. "This is no simple attempt to de-fang a villain. No. This coming battle, if it materializes, represents a turning point in U.S. foreign policy and possibly a turning point in the recent history of the world." Such vital, weighty issues are certainly worthy of congressional debate, but senators are unlikely to shoulder their responsibility until the body bags start coming back home. Republican senators rode to victory on Bush's bellicose coattails; Democrats are fearful of further split-

ting their party on the issue, anxious about appearing "soft" on terrorism, scared of picking the wrong side in a war debate and nervous about appearing morally rudderless.

Byrd invoked James Madison, calling upon the Senate to awaken from its etherized state. It seems fitting to conclude with the entire excerpt:

"In no part of the constitution is more wisdom to be found, than in the clause which confides the question of war or peace to the legislature, and not to the executive department. Beside the objection to such a mixture to heterogeneous powers, the trust and the temptation would be too great for any one man; not such as nature may offer as the prodigy of many centuries, but such as may be expected in the ordinary successions of magistracy. War is in fact the true nurse of executive aggrandizement. In war, a physical force is to be created; and it is the executive will, which is to direct it. In war, the public treasures are to be

unlocked; and it is the executive hand which is to dispense them. In war, the honours and emoluments of office are to be multiplied; and it is the executive patronage under which they are to be enjoyed. It is in war, finally, that laurels are to be gathered; and it is the executive brow they are to encircle. The strongest passions and most dangerous weaknesses of the human breast; ambition, avarice, vanity, the honourable or venial love of fame, are all in conspiracy against the desire and duty of peace."

Senators are duty-bound to debate this war; we have elected leaders who shrink from their duty. Senators less entrenched than Byrd and Kennedy are wary of debating war because they see it as a political risk — but is debating war riskier than ignoring the separation of powers? Is debating war riskier than wounding the Constitution? Is debating war riskier than actually going to war?



SARAH GREEN
BETTER THAN
CATS

Sarah Green '04 enjoys baked beans, lots of cod and voting for the Kennedys.

SPORTS WEDNESDAY

MARCH 12, 2003 • PAGE 8

Today's stars: Be like Mike or drafted like KG

THIS PAST WEEKEND MY FRIEND Drew visited me from Clemson University and shared his opinion that red-hot Kentucky is the best team in college basketball. I agreed. "But do you even feel like you could name their players?" he asked.

"Sure," I said, "there's Bogans and there's ... hmmm ... well there's Bogans." His point hit home. The best college basketball team in America is largely anonymous.

It seems that across the board, the talent pool is

not so thick in college basketball these days. The success of Kevin Garnett, Kobe Bryant and Tracy McGrady (arguably the NBA's three best players) has sent a message that college ball is for the less than gifted. The elites no longer make a two-year Chris Webber pit-stop; we're lucky if they give us a one-year Stephon Marbury.

Top high school players may say they want to "be like Mike" but they really emulate Kobe and T-Mac. Those guys didn't win a national championship like Jordan, but they don't seem to be losing sleep over it either. You can't convince a top high schooler that Shane Battier is cooler than Garnett. (Although Bill Walton will try his best.) The mark of a great player now is to join the league straight from high school, and the fraternity is growing rapidly. If the trend continues, we may see the day when the two or three players on each NBA team who went to college will be the ones forced to carry everybody else's bags.

What this leaves behind in the college game is purity and passion but far less talent. Yes, Arizona's loaded. But do they have the talent of a Michigan team with Webber, Jalen Rose and Juwan Howard? A Kansas team with Paul Pierce and Raef LaFrentz? A Duke team with J. Williams, Mike Dunleavy and Carlos Boozer? And these three teams didn't even win championships! That's how talented and competitive NCAA basketball has been.

The talent pool is thinning though, despite what may be the highest level of high school basketball talent ever. Do you feel, like me, that there just aren't many great big men in college basketball? Well, there would be if Amare Stoudemire, Kwame Brown, Tyson Chandler and Eddy Curry were playing in front of Dick Vitale instead of Marv Albert. Those guys would be amazing. And they'd only be sophomores (Stoudemire is only a freshman).

In a more far-fetched scenario, we could imagine the quality of the NCAA if players didn't leave early at all. Think of Maryland and then add Chris Wilcox. Consider Connecticut with the addition of Caron Butler. Add Eddie Griffin to Seton Hall, and Dajuan Wagner to Memphis. Reconsider the Big Ten if Indiana still had Jared Jeffries and Michigan State had Jason Richardson. Recoil in horror at the thought of facing this year's Arizona squad with Gilbert Arenas joining the bench.

It's a nice world. The best young basketball players are wrapped up in the

see MEIER, page 5

Ultimate frisbee opens season with strong showing, semifinal berth out West



Photo courtesy of Scobel Wiggins

Daniel MacArthur '05 (above) and Brownian Motion exceeded expectations with a semifinal finish in Palo Alto, Calif.

BY BEN WISEMAN AND BEN SPRUNG

The Brown men's ultimate frisbee team traveled last weekend to Palo Alto, Calif., for the 2003 Stanford Invite — one of the most competitive tournaments of the spring season. The team, which unlike its West Coast opponents has yet to practice on grass or play in a tournament, came into the 16-team tournament seeded ninth overall. Brownian Motion impressively advanced to the semifinals, leaving a trail of West Coast teams behind them.

"I think we exceeded other team's, and even our own, expectations for how well we could play," said Josh Ziperstein '05.

Brown began Saturday's play seeded third in their pool. The first game of the day was against the second seed in the pool, University of California at Davis. Brown came out strong in the first half, energized by the excitement of playing ultimate in beautiful weather. On the strength of the deep game, good defense and some sloppy play by Davis, Brown jumped out to a 7-2 halftime lead. Davis then pulled it back together for the second half and fought back to pull within one at 8-7. Davis' offense had the disc to tie, but a key point block by Jake Keeler '03 on the Davis goal line gave the disc back to Brown. Brown quickly punched it in for a 9-7 lead and never looked back, winning by a final score of 12-9.

The second round of the day saw Brown matched up against Oregon, the tournament's top seed. Brown played solid fundamental ultimate, establishing its deep game early and playing strong defense during a close first half that put Brown ahead, 7-6. The second half remained close, but big plays helped Brown pull away. A layout block in zone defense by Neale Mahoney '05 began a momentous run, and a toe-dragging sideline reception by Mike Franz '03 led Brown to a 12-11 victory.

Brown's final pool play game of the day was against 16th-seeded Chico State. Despite Chico's low seed, Brown could not pull away and found themselves receiving the pull at 11-11, double game point. A quick 70-yard strike from Paul Vandenburg '05 to Josh Ziperstein '05 ended all hopes of a Chico State upset, giving Brown the win and a quarterfinal berth the next day.

Sunday's elimination games brought a heightened intensity to the tournament. In Brown's quarterfinal game, tensions ran high as Brown battled Humboldt State of California. Tempers flared as a Humboldt player spiked a disc on a Brown player after a goal. However, Brown remained focused and, despite problems matching up with Humboldt's height, pulled out a tough 15-13 victory to advance to the semifinals.

In the semis, Brown matched up against University of California at Berkeley. The game was close early on as Brown's zone stalled and proved unable to stop the patient Berkeley offense. At halftime, Berkeley led 8-6, a lead the team would not relinquish for the rest of the game. In the second half, Brown's defense forced a number of Berkeley turnovers but was unable to convert on scoring opportunities. Berkeley pulled away 13-10 as time ran out for Brown. Berkeley ultimately lost 16-14 to defending national champion Stanford in the finals.

Despite the semifinal loss, the tournament was a positive experience for the team, demonstrating Brown's ability to play top-level ultimate with the nation's best teams.

"We showed this weekend that we have a high-powered, exciting offense that forces other teams to change their style of play," said Captain Will Arnold '04.5.

The next stop for the Brown men's ultimate team is College Easterns held at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington on the first weekend of spring break. With many of the same teams in attendance, Brownian Motion is looking forward to another competitive, warm-weather tournament.

Ben Wiseman '05 and Ben Sprung '05 are members of Brownian Motion.

Top individuals compete for men's indoor track at ECAC/IC4A meet

BY KEELY THARP

A handful of men traveled to Boston University to compete at the ECAC/IC4A championship meet this past weekend. With the limited squad, Brown finished 20th.

High jumper Ray Bobrownicki '06 ended the indoor season with a bang, finishing in fourth place. He tied for third, but was bumped down a spot because he registered more missed jumps than his opponent. His soaring jump of 6'10.25" was a personal record. His jump was only three inches below the winner of the competition, who provisionally qualified for the NCAA tournament by clearing 7'1.5".

In the pole vault, Aaron Salinger '03 tied for eighth place by clearing 15'11". Brad Bowery '03 also scored for the Bears in the event, placing second with a vault of 16'6.75". He then attempted the NCAA qualifying height of 17'6". Bowery struggled valiantly against the pain of an injured back but was unable to cleanly clear the height.

On the track, one sprinter and three distance men competed for Brown. On Saturday, Brandon Buchanan '03 ran the 55-meter dash and qualified for the semifinal round of competition. Once in the semifinals, Buchanan missed the finals by one position. He finished ninth with a

time of 6.49 seconds.

In the mile Patrick Tarpay '05 placed 12th, close on the heels of the ten men who qualified for finals. Rounding out the day's competition for the Bears were Jeff Gaudette '05 and Matt Emond '04. Both men raced in the 3,000-meter event. Gaudette's time of 8:27.60 gave him an 18th place finish and Emond's time of 8:38.61 came in 29th.

The entire team will now begin preparation for the outdoor track season.

Sports staff writer Keely Tharp '03 covers the men's indoor track team. She can be reached at ktharp@browndailyherald.com.