

THE BROWN DAILY HERALD

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Jason White / Herald

YO-YO MANIA

As part of Taiwanese Culture Week, students participated in a Chinese yo-yo workshop on the Main Green.

“The Ruth Effect” aims to loosen purse strings

BY CARLA BLUMENKRANZ

Most would agree that an economic recession is no time to start a capital campaign, but University fund-raisers hope donors' desires to see the Initiatives for Academic Enrichment implemented will loosen their purse strings.

Last year, Brown's annual fund saw 15 percent increases in dollars and in the number of donors from the previous year, yielding \$17 million in total. These gains were in marked contrast to fund-raising at educational institutions across the country, which grew on average only 0.5 percent in 2001 — the smallest one-year increase since the mid-1970s, according to an American Association of fund-raising Counsel study cited by the Chronicle of Higher Education last week.

Considering this poor climate for fund-raising, the rate of growth for Brown's Annual Fund last year represents a “quantum leap” in donations, said Senior Vice President for Advancement Ronald Vanden Dorpel, and one that he attributed to enthusiasm about the Initiatives for Academic Enrichment.

As Simmons and senior administrators travel the country soliciting donations, they have emphasized first and foremost, “If you want to see these academic enrichment initiatives get up and running quickly, the best way to do that is to make a gift to the Brown Annual Fund,” Vanden Dorpel said.

Alumni, parents and friends have generally responded positively to this focus on funding Simmons' initiatives, according to Jerome Vascellaro '74, national chair of the Brown Annual Fund. “Donors like to know where their money is going to, and I think people were inspired by elements of the plan,” he said. Need-blind admission and the proposed addition of 100 new faculty members in particular have inspired increased support, he added.

“Through the fall, the president and others were out with a very clear, very coherent and very exciting message,” Vascellaro said. “Brown has this plan to remain distinctive and to enhance its academic reputation.”

In the coming year, the University expects to raise \$19 million for the Annual Fund, an 11 percent increase from the previous year, with two major matching gifts to supplement donor enthusiasm about the initiatives. The Joukowsky family has pledged to match gifts from the 10 youngest alumni classes and the senior class up to \$500,000, and an anonymous challenger will also contribute \$500,000 if the University receives at least 500 gifts of \$10,000 or more, said Tammy Ruda, director of the Brown Annual Fund.

If all goes as planned, \$19 million is only the beginning. By the end of the upcoming capital campaign, Simmons

see RUTH, page 4

Carcieri budget puts colleges on heightened alert

BY ADAM STELLA

A little-noticed provision in the governor's proposed budget is creating a stir among college and university presidents in the state, who fear their institutions could lose the tax-exempt status they have enjoyed since the state's founding.

Governor Donald Carcieri '65 recently unveiled a budget that withdrew state protections for non-profit institutions, such as universities and hospitals. Municipalities such as Providence, which is facing a \$30 million deficit, would be free to require these institutions to pay property taxes or cash payments in lieu of taxes.

The budget still must be approved by the Rhode Island General Assembly, but if it is it could bring about a fundamental shift in the relationship between Brown and Providence. Providence has been hampered in its attempts to coax money from universities in the past by state legal restriction. The provision would give the city an upper hand in bargaining, something colleges and universities have enjoyed in the past.

Providence Mayor David Cicilline '83 has been a vocal advocate of soliciting more funds from colleges and universities in recent weeks, but he was not involved in lobbying Carcieri to include the provision in his budget proposal, said Cicilline Press Secretary Karen Southern. The provision was a “pleasant surprise” to the Cicilline administration, Southern said.

The provision “underscores an important issue in the municipalities of the state,” Southern said.

Neither Brown nor the Rhode Island School of Design anticipated the proposed change. The sudden announcement has left both institutions rushing to respond to growing pressure from the city over taxation.

“We're stunned,” RISD Director of External Relations Ann Hudner said.

The proposal was completely unexpected in part because RISD is currently in conversations with the city about how RISD can aid the city's economic growth, Hudner said.

Brown hopes the city will accept contributions from the University that keep the University's tax-exempt status intact, President Ruth Simmons said.

Simmons said she would like to avoid statutory provisions mandating property taxes and instead find ways to contribute to the city that are consistent with the University's mission, such as spurring economic development and assisting with education.

see TAXES, page 7

Brown enters planning stages of Ratty renovation

BY ZACH BARTER

The University has entered the early planning stages of renovating the Ratty — but current students may not be around to see the final product.

In addition to envisioning what a renovated Ratty will include, the University is looking at how best to serve students during the renovation process and how the renovation might relate to other major undertakings, such as a makeover of Faunce House, Vice President for Campus Life and Student Services Janina Montero told The Herald.

But both Montero and Director of Food Services Gretchen Willis said few concrete details are available at this point in the process.

“We really haven't done a lot of conceptual work on the project at all,” Willis said. “It's not exactly clear what's going to be in that building.”

Variety, flow and atmosphere are all high on the agenda, “but there are all sorts of things we need to do

before we get to that point,” Montero said.

The main logistical question hinges on whether the University closes the Ratty completely or phases in the renovations. The University must then decide how UFS will continue operations with as little disruption as possible.

“It's not just the students,” Montero said, noting the Ratty also houses offices, storage areas and food preparation facilities. “We need to look at all those pieces and get a sense of where and for how long to relocate.”

Were the University to phase in the renovations over the course of several years, it might look at expanding operations in The Gate, Josiah's and Andrews Dining Hall to compensate, Montero said.

If, on the other hand, the University decided to close the Ratty completely, it would need to find a larger temporary facility, Montero said. She said her office has

see RATTY, page 6



Jason White / Herald

Renovation to the Ratty could take years once approved.

INSIDE THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2003

Duke president steps down after 10 years; one of first women to head a major university campus watch, page 3

Author William Upsi Wimsatt thinks Brown is full of promise for the 21st century campus news, page 7

Hanne Eisenfeld '06 thinks girls today are growing up too quickly these days opinions, page 11

Kristina Arvanitis '02 thinks the Brown administration is smoking crack opinions, page 11

Brown's equestrian team comes from behind to finish second in Connecticut sports, page 12

TODAY'S FORECAST

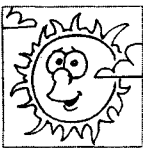
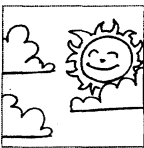
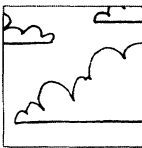
p.m. snow showers
high 34
low 19



THIS MORNING

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2003 • PAGE 2

WEATHER

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			
High 34 Low 19 p.m. snow showers	High 34 Low 24 partly cloudy	High 39 Low 23 mostly cloudy	High 47 Low 33 cloudy

GRAPHICS BY TED WU

CALENDAR

LECTURE — "Social Context, Heritability, and Deviant Behavior," Guang Guo, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Zimmer Lounge, Maxcy Hall, noon.

LECTURE — "Tangled History and Photographic (In)Visibility: Ho Chi Minh on the Edge of French Political Culture," Panivong Norindr, University of Southern California. Brian Room, Maddock Alumni Center, 4:30 p.m.

LECTURE — Affect and Edifice: Reenactment in Patricidic Culture," Rebecca Schneider. Petteruti Lounge, Faunce House, 5 p.m.

FILM — "Memories of Underdevelopment," the first film from Castro's Cuba to be released in America. Wilson 102, 7 p.m.

THEATER — "SOLD," a story of black artists in the music industry, Rites and Reason Theatre, 7 p.m.

PERFORMANCE/WORKSHOP — Magdalen Hsu-Li will perform, followed by the workshop "Redefinition of Identity: Asian American Women in the Arts." Salomon 101, 7:30 p.m.

FILM — "The Fishing Season (A Campanha do Joao da Murtosa)," in Portuguese with English subtitles. Room 116, Watson Institute, 7:30 p.m.

THEATER — "Six Characters in Search of an Author," by Luigi Pirandello, directed by Kevin Moriarty. Stuart Theatre, 8 p.m.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Bent pipe
6 Goody-goody
11 NYPD broadcast
14 Lama
15 Overlay
16 One of the fire signs
17 Aesopian loafer
19 Stylish
20 Like some pottery
21 "Good Will Hunting" actor
23 Santa Fe-to-Roswell dir.
24 Recess
27 Has been
28 Sophisticated
32 Torrid affair?
35 Old-time socialite
36 She-bear, in Seville
37 Bounded
39 Hardy
42 Take
43 Ruler until 1917
47 Chevy sportster
48 Frumpy
52 Set in opposition (against)
53 "Oklahoma!" aunt
54 "Six Feet Under" network
57 No longer in the dish
59 Much of a detective's job
61 Indy 500 letters
62 Carpenter's tool
65 Singleton
66 Indian drum
67 Actress Verdugo
68 Where to find 17-, 28-, 48-, and 62-Across
69 Out of line
70 Shoemaker's strips

DOWN

- 1 Squeezes (past)
2 "Theme": "Doctor Zhivago" song

ACROSS

- 3 Trumpet sound
4 Malt dryer
5 Football formation
6 Speech unit
7 Blame
8 Little rascal
9 Took to court
10 Lie haphazardly
11 Running on empty
12 Drudge
13 Muscle beach sight
18 Towel word
22 Actress
25 Zetterling
26 Web giant
28 Some G.I.s' duties
29 Snatch
30 Crew member
31 Short sidekick?
32 Peter Krause's "Six Feet Under" role
33 Musical range
34 Film holder
35 Abrasive stuff
38 Skid row woe

ACROSS

- 40 Went untended, as a garden
41 Spot for roses
44 "Loves You": 1964 hit
45 Feel lousy
46 Warehouse loading aid
49 In good shape
50 Bikini trials
51 Sine qua non
54 Crummy quarters
55 Bush adviser
56 Scowcroft
57 Edible pods
58 Italian hot spot
59 Cornhuskers' org.
60 Artifice
61 Bowl
63 NFL ballcarriers
64 Woods rival

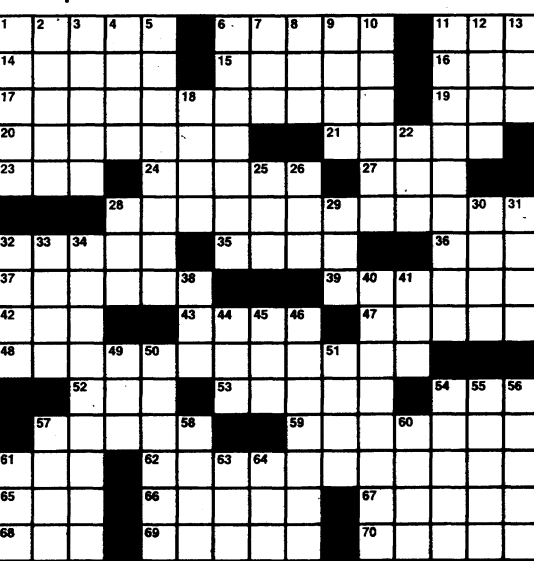
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

S	I	R	E	D	S	A	L	V	E	W	E	D
E	C	O	L	E	A	L	O	A	N	H	A	D
C	O	O	K	I	E	D	O	U	G	H	I	R
T	N	T	T	I	L	E	R	A	P	T	L	Y
V	I	N	Y	M	A	N	S	E				
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S	I	C	R	A	N	T	S	G	R	A	C	E
T	E	A	C	A	R	T	S	T	R	A	D	E
B	O	R	I	S	W	O	E	S				
G	O	B	L	E	T	A	I	R	E	A	I	M
A	L	A	B	I	B	B	L	E	T	T	U	C
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E	V	E	T	E	S	T	S	D	I	O	D	E

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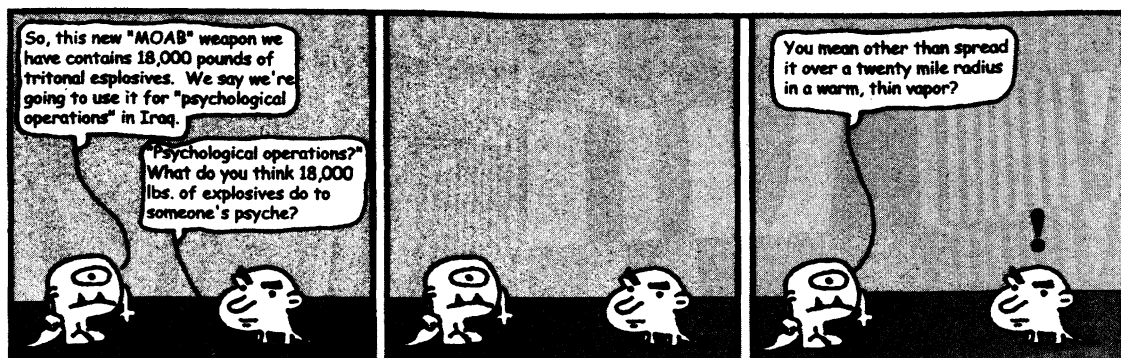


By Norma Johnson

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03/13/03

Pornucopia Eli Swiney



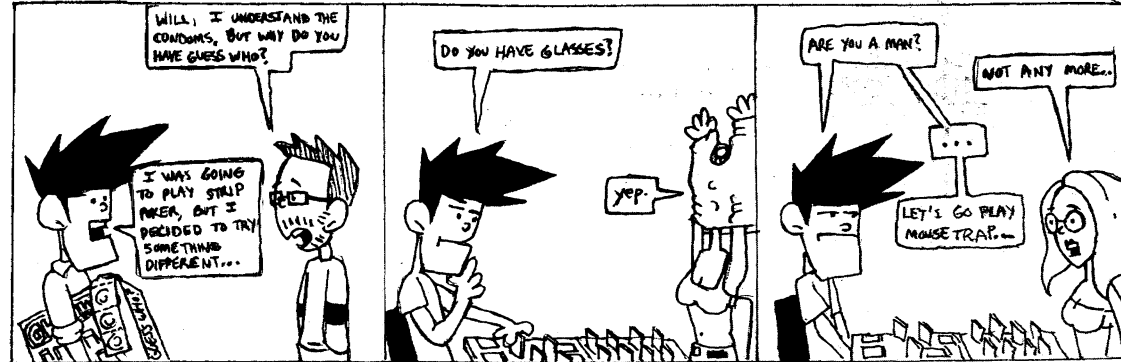
A Story Of Eddie Ahn



Coup de Grace Grace Farris



My Best Effort Andy Hull and Will Newman



Penguiner Haan Lee



MENUS

THE RATTY

LUNCH — Vegetarian Cream of Mushroom, Chicken Soup with Tortellini, Turkey Pot Pie, Red Potato Frittata, Sauteed Zucchini with Rosemary, Chocolate Cupcakes with White Icing

DINNER — Vegetarian Cream of Mushroom, Chicken Soup with Tortellini, Sesame Chicken Strips with Mustard Sauce, Chinese Beef & Peppers, Vegan White Bean & Eggplant Casserole, Herb Rice, Peas with Pearl Onions, Vegetables in Honey Ginger Sauce, Sourdough Bread, Washington Apple Cake

V-DUB

LUNCH — Vegetarian Cream of Mushroom Soup, Chicken Soup with Tortellini, Sloppy Joe Sandwich, Vegetable Strudel, Vegan Warm & Spicy Dahl, Creole Mixed Vegetables, Chocolate Cupcakes with White Frosting

DINNER — Vegetarian Cream of Mushroom Soup, Chicken Soup with Tortellini, Garlic Pepper Chicken, Vegan Vegetable & Tempeh Saute, Herb Rice, Fresh Sliced Carrots, Stir Fry Vegetable Medley, Sourdough Bread, Washington Apple Cake

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CAMPUS WATCH

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2003 • PAGE 3

Duke President Keohane will step down in June 2004

Nannerl Keohane was one of the first female presidents of a major research university; future plans unknown

BY DANA GOLDSTEIN

Duke University President Nannerl Keohane announced March 1 she will be leaving her post in June 2004. Her departure will end a historical tenure — Keohane was one of the first female presidents of a major research university.

Following the spring semester of 2004, Keohane will take a one-year sabbatical, after which time her plans remain unknown. "We are very much hoping she will come back and be on the Duke faculty," said Professor Nancy Allen, chair of the Duke Academic Council.

In her March 1 letter to the Duke community announcing her resignation, Keohane wrote, "I am eager to have several years of active involvement in teaching and research as a political theorist before I retire altogether." To ease her transition back into the classroom, Keohane is planning on team-teaching a political theory class at Duke with Professor Peter Euben next year.

Keohane arrived at Duke as its eighth president in 1993. Allen said, "My happiest day at Duke — and I've been here almost 25 years — was the day the council announced Nan would be President."

At the start of her presidency, Keohane took on the ambitious project of moving all of Duke's first-year dorms to one part of campus. "That was a bold move," Allen said. "It was initially suspect ... but when you ask people now in retrospect, it's really been a good thing."

Keohane has also been responsible for the creation of the Duke Women's Initiative, an ongoing study that will broadly assess the lives of women students, faculty, administrators and alumni in the Duke community. Allen said

one recommendation that has already come out of the initiative calls for the creation of a larger childcare facility on the Duke campus.

Keohane's Women's Initiative has not failed to attract attention from Duke's student body. Duke sophomore Rajeev Chaudhry said, "She's such a feminist. She's done a lot for women on campus. I think that's her biggest accomplishment — equality within the student body, faculty and also the employees."

But Keohane's most ambitious project to date has been her fund-raising campaign, "Campaign for Duke." Since the campaign began in 1996, Duke has raised \$2 billion.

Brown President Ruth Simmons, who knows Keohane personally and has appeared with her in public on several occasions, called Keohane "a leading light in higher education. ... Her sensible leadership will definitely be missed."

Chaudhry, who is involved with Diya (a South Asian student group), the Community Service Center, the Duke Democrats and the First-Year Advisory Council, said Keohane had been an accessible advocate for student groups.

"She's really open to everyone and also really generous," Chaudhry said.

After graduating from Wellesley College in 1961, Keohane studied economics and law at the University of Oxford on a Marshall Scholarship. She later earned her doctorate in political philosophy at Yale University. After teaching at Swarthmore College, the University of Pennsylvania and Stanford University, Keohane returned to Wellesley as its president in 1981. For both Keohane and Simmons, who came to Brown from Smith College, the top post at an elite women's school provided a stepping stone to the presidency of a top university.

Herald staff writer Dana Goldstein '06 can be reached at dgoldstein@browndailyherald.com.



Photo courtesy of Duke University
Duke President Nannerl Keohane will leave in June 2004.

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hopes to raise as much as \$25 million for the Annual Fund, Vanden Dorpel said, using a "double-ask" strategy that succeeded during the capital campaign from 1979 to 1983.

During these years, the University asked major donors to contribute to both the Annual Fund and a capital campaign, he said. As a result, the Annual Fund grew from slightly less than \$1 million to well over \$5 million, and the endowment swelled by over \$180 million. The most recent capital campaign, led by former President Vartan Gregorian from 1992 to 1996, raised \$55 million for the annual fund over the course of five years and expanded the endowment from \$431 million to over \$800 million, according to University documents.

In the midst of a recession that has forced many colleges and universities to extend the quiet phases and completion dates of ongoing campaigns, the University has yet to establish a time frame or working goal for its upcoming drive, Simmons told The Herald on Wednesday.

But once the Corporation reviews a series of scenarios drafted by the Office of Development — which present a variety of timelines, structures and staffing options for the campaign — Simmons said she hopes to establish a time frame within one year.

Until the University determines the scope of the campaign, no advance gifts will be pursued, Simmons said. But, "you can look at the initiatives and see the campaign priorities," Vanden Dorpel said. For instance, "if you need 100 additional faculty, then, ideally, you would like to endow 100 faculty positions, each costing about \$3 or \$4 million, depending on the position." Therefore, the aspect of the plan calling for the expansion of the faculty may cost between \$300 and \$400 million, Vanden Dorpel said.

In total, the campaign's size will be in the range of campaigns initiated by similarly-endowed universities in recent years, all of which have had working goals of over \$1 billion, Simmons told The Herald last semester.

Last May, Johns Hopkins University — which in 2001 had a \$1.8 billion endowment to Brown's \$1.4 billion, according to this year's National Association of College and University Business Officers Endowment Study — announced the beginning of a \$2 billion campaign. The campaign, which collected over \$728 million during its two-year quiet phase, including gifts of \$100 and \$150 million, is slated to conclude in 2007.

Now as always, however, the economy is a variable in the success of any capital campaign. And given the current economic climate, the most successful campaigns are those that take into account the potentially uncertain circumstances of their contributors, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education.

"My sense is that, when we call people on the phone, we're hearing more people say, 'Yes, we're going to give to Brown,' but not how much," Ruda said. "They're hanging back to see how much they can afford. People are a little more hesitant to commit to a specific amount, but they're not saying no to Brown — and that's excellent news."

Herald staff writer Carla Blumenkranz '05 covers the Office of the President. She can be reached at cblumenkranz@browndailyherald.com.

"Sweeter even than

to have had the

joy of caring for

children of my

own has it been to

me to help bring

about a better

state of things for

mothers generally,

so their unborn

little ones could

not be willed away

from them."

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CAMPUS NEWS

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2003 • PAGE 5

Library workers will discuss U. response to union proposal

BY JULIETTE WALLACK

Unionized library workers will meet Friday morning to discuss the University's response to a proposal union negotiators submitted in an effort to further contract negotiations.

Library workers' three-year-old contracts expired in September 2002, and the University granted several extensions while negotiations proceeded. But the unionized library workers, who make up a little under half of the 175-person staff, have been working without a contract since the most recent extension expired on Feb. 28. Non-unionized employees are working under a different contract.

The proposed library restructuring is holding up the negotiation process, said Karen McAninch, business agent of Service Employees Union International Local 134. One of the major issues union members object to is the University's plan to use "involuntary transfers" in order to make the planned reorganization work. Other topics under negotiation include benefits and pay raises.

But right now, negotiators are focusing on what they see as objectionable involuntary transfers, and even that issue has been slow to evolve.

"We were very cautious about making a formal proposal about the reorganization because we felt like we weren't being presented with a formal proposal from the University," McAninch said.

The proposal submitted Monday focused on the issues included in the reorganization, which included requests that the University "anchor" workers in their current jobs. Then, McAninch said, the union is recommending the University plan the reorganization around those anchored workers and thus be able to see exactly what positions need to be filled.

For workers, anchoring "doesn't mean trying to do the same thing they're doing now," but it will mean preventing a transfer to an entirely different area, such as from circulation to processing, McAninch said.

The proposal also includes recommendations as to how the University can better spend \$92,000 currently allotted for off-site book processing. McAninch said all processing — which includes putting call numbers on books and placing them in the correct order — is currently done on-site, but the reorganization includes plans to eliminate or modify the jobs of those staff members who currently perform those functions and pay book distributors to process off site.

But, McAninch said, the \$92,000 could be better spent in other areas and, at the same time, several staff members would not have their jobs eliminated.

The proposal was a necessary step, said Trish Dumin, senior library associate specialist.

"The members need guarantees up front in certain aspects," she said. "That's what the members' charge was. We're trying to get those guarantees so that we can move forward on other issues."

Dumin said it is frustrating for all of those involved to watch negotiations drag on as they have for the past six months, and President Ruth Simmons echoed that sentiment on behalf of the University.

"From the University perspective, we would like for this to go as smoothly and as quickly as possible," Simmons told The Herald, but she said the union and the University hold different perspectives. She said the purpose of the restructuring is to improve service to students and faculty.

Both McAninch and Dumin said the decision of whether to authorize a strike is up to the members, and each said it is unlikely a strike will occur before the union members meet Friday morning.

But Simmons said Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration Elizabeth Huidekoper and Vice President of Administration Walter Hunter are developing plans to put in place in the event of a strike, particularly if it occurs during the crucial semester's end.

"Few places on campus are as important as the library," she said. "It is not an afterthought when it comes to thinking about conditions or compensation."

Shoeless graffitist criticizes, inspires

BY STEPHANIE HARRIS

Hip-hop music was blasting in Starr Auditorium Wednesday night. The speaker in the front of the room was dressed in a T-shirt with a Nike swoosh reading "Child Labor" and socks — no shoes. It was obvious that this was not going to be any old lecture.

William Upski Wimsatt, an activist, writer and graffiti artist, spoke to an overflowing crowd of over 150 on "Why Brown is America's Best Hope to Save our Ass in the 21st Century."

"Which is obviously not true," he said of the title. "Everyone is detached. We're over here in theory land," he said.

"There's a sense of 'I'm smart; I have to analyze everything,'" he said of the Brown environment. "What's lacking is a feeling, emotional intelligence."

Despite his criticism of the Brown environment, the crowd, comprised mostly of self-proclaimed activists from Brown and the Providence community, was responsive to the energetic Wimsatt. Almost the whole audience "stood and stretched" on Wimsatt's suggestion and, when he asked the students to introduce themselves to their neighbors, a loud buzz immediately filled the room for about 10 minutes.

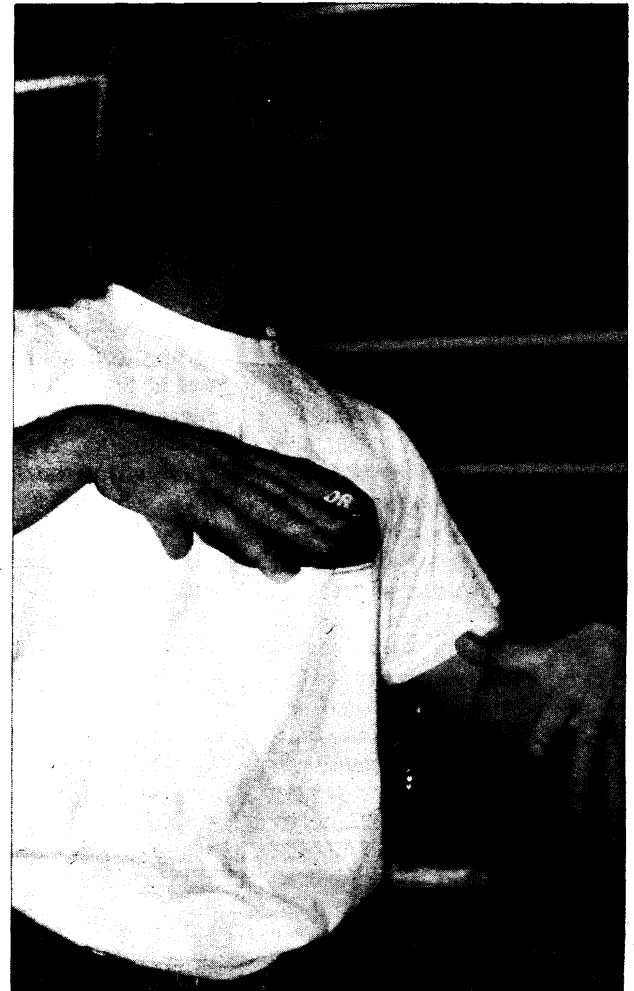
Wimsatt explained why he sees Brown as filled with promise. "We're hard pressed to find anywhere in the country a concentration of people who are socially conscious and very, very privileged in the same place," he said. "And who has more power than people who are socially conscious and very privileged?"

One of Wimsatt's goals, he said, was "stopping the right-wing takeover." With control of the White House, both houses of Congress and many of the major donors in the United States, "the Republicans are the strongest they've ever been," he said.

Although not a strong supporter of the Democrats, Wimsatt said, he would like to see at least one house Democratic — "just to jam the process up a little," he said.

The Republicans, despite their strength, are also "in trouble," Wimsatt said. Population demographics are changing, and the increase in minority groups that traditionally do not vote Republican may be a threat in upcoming elections.

He called for an alliance of liberals, progressives and radicals to change this Republican power structure. Ironically, President George W. Bush himself has been "an elegant recruiter" for this alliance, as he is angering even traditionally Republican groups and causing them to lean



Alex Palmer / Herald

Author, activist and graffiti artist William Upski Wimsatt sees Brown as full of promise.

more toward the other side, he said.

The previous generation built up liberal and progressive interest groups, he said. "The work of our generation is to build coalitions between the progressive forces. ... We cannot build those coalitions unless we can build deep and trusting relationships between those groups," he said.

As an example of these relationships, Wimsatt read a story about interracial friendships he had written for a

see **SAVE OUR ASS**, page 7

Ph.D. candidate Schepps discusses whiteness in the media and racism

BY JESSICA WEISBERG

Mentioning "The Goonies" to a group of young twenty-somethings initiates a wave of nostalgia, as fans recite their favorite one-liners, all innocently comedic and teething with childish nonsense. But Elizabeth Schepps, a doctoral candidate in American Civilization, discussed the racist elements of this cult favorite during a lecture on Wednesday night, entitled "White Faces, White Films: Whiteness in the Media." The event was a part of "Deconstructing Whiteness Week."

Schepps argued the character of Data provided a white interpretation of a Chinese character. Data's accent and love of odd scientific gadgets are a re-occurring source of comedy throughout the film. She also showed a clip toward the beginning of the movie in which Mikey manipulates Rosalita, a newly-hired Hispanic maid, by taking advantage of the fact she does not speak English.

"The scene shows the language of power," Schepps said. "Mikey uses a form of linguistic oppression in order to degrade Rosalita."

Other films discussed were "Love Finds Andy Hardy," "Hair" and "American Beauty." The films covered a 60-year time frame in order to demonstrate changes in the concept of whiteness over time.

"Watching movies from four different eras shows that whiteness is a construct that changes depending on social context," Schepps said.

"Love Finds Andy Hardy," for example, was part of an extremely popular series of films during the 1930s about an all-American teenager dealing with "normal, mundane problems," Schepps said. In the aftermath of the Great Depression and the onset of World War II,

Schepps said she believes "Americans needed an escapism from the more serious problems they were facing themselves." The films show that all problems can be overcome by simply adhering to family values, she said.

"Hair" follows a group of subversive New York hippies who resist white societal norms through their clothes, hairstyles and music. Students at the event discussed how resistance to mainstream society occurs only among the privileged classes. "Even those reacting against white culture are a part of white culture," Schepps said. "We analyze these characters through preconceived notions of whiteness." But the end of the film, in which a former subversive goes to Vietnam where he dies a hero's death, embodies the conservative backlash of the 1970s. "The film is different from the original play in that the plot changes and no longer demonizes mainstream culture," Schepps said.

"American Beauty" was critically acclaimed for its portrayal of the common man. Schepps argued that the problem with this analysis is that Lester is the "upper-middle class suburban common man." Lester's frustrations are indicative of his economic privileges. Like the characters in "Hair," he has the resources to question and reject aspects of his mundane life, she said.

Schepps said the purpose of her lecture was to raise awareness. She encouraged her audience to continue to enjoy pop culture. "Keep laughing at the stuff you find funny," Schepps said, "but after it's over ask yourself why you were really laughing."

Herald staff writer Jessica Weisberg '06 can be reached at jweisberg@browndailyherald.com.

Herald staff writer Juliette Wallack '05 can be reached at jwallack@browndailyherald.com.

Lee

continued from page 12

on the other hand is, in the words of Vince McMahon, an "unbelievable" shooter and has led the Mavericks to the NBA's best record this season. Other trades may appear lopsided towards one team at first, but like all things requires a few years to view from a historically broad perspective — for evidence, look at the Vince Carter-Antawn Jamison trade from the same year. And it pains me to say this because Vinsanity's my boy, but he has not been the same since his knee injuries.

The NBA draft lottery and selection of draft choices is unpredictable and requires hindsight to judge. The lottery has a large element of chance, but with skill anybody can take advantage of it. After all, the Magic still have not won a championship, while the Lakers managed to snag Kobe in a trade for the lowly thirteenth pick. Of course everything looks different with the benefit of hindsight. That just illustrates my point to anybody who believes they know everything about a lottery: Don't say, "I told you so," because it might just come back to bite you in the extreme lower back area. The luck of the lottery number does not always determine a team's fate. As Obi-Wan Kenobi once said, "In my experience, there's no such thing as luck."

Hanyen Andrew Lee '06 hopes the Force will be with him in today's lottery.

Ratty

continued from page 1

entered into discussions with the Faculty Club and other local establishments to examine that scenario, though she declined to give specifics.

Either way, it will take at least one year to develop plans for the renovations and interim period, Montero said, and it will take several years after that to complete the renovations.

"I would like to hope that within the next five years it will be done or close to done," Montero said. "At this point, we have got to come up with some options and put them on the table and price them somewhat."

Montero said more details would be available in the next two months.

Willis agreed five years sounded reasonable for a time frame, but said it was not yet clear how that might break down into planning and construction stages.

"We're just thrilled that there's finally support for the project," Willis said.

Positive feedback from last summer's renovation of the V-Dub has been especially helpful in guiding the discussions, Montero said, though she said it would be difficult to replicate that atmosphere in the Ratty.

"You don't necessarily make small environments into large environments," Montero said. "The question is whether you want to have different kinds of rooms or different kinds of set-

The Ratty opened in 1951, when it served meals family-style to Brown men dressed in sport coats and slacks. The four-line system was installed in the early 1970s, and renovations in 1988 and 1991 created the front and back alcoves and the catering rooms on the side of the main dining area. The 1991 renovation also replaced the floor paneling. "Other than that, there really hasn't been any significant work done on the building since 1951."

Gretchen Willis
Director of Food Services

tings within a larger one."

Several students cited the V-Dub renovations as an example of what they hoped a renovated Ratty would look like.

"The lighting in the V-Dub is great. It changes the atmosphere right away," said Sara Yerry '04.

Jessica McCrory '06 said she hoped seating in a renovated Ratty might resemble the new V-Dub.

"I think it's really nice to have a comfortable, alcove type of seating," she said.

Students also reacted positively to the possibility of converting the Ratty into several smaller spaces or stations.

"I think it would help promote variety, and I think it would help promote food quality, because it wouldn't necessarily have to be produced en masse," McCrory said.

A Ratty renovation of that sort will likely lead to changes in meal plan, Willis said.

"We're always thinking about

how we can provide more flexibility without raising the cost, and I'm sure that if we had a renovated facility, things would change," Willis said.

The Office of Campus Life and Student Services, which has been discussing the project with UFS, Facilities Management and Executive Vice President Richard Spies, has also received suggestions from faculty and staff, Montero said.

In addition to issues of variety and atmosphere, faculty and staff are interested in developing attractive spaces "both to have meetings as well as to interact in a more serendipitous way with students," Montero said.

Willis said student input on the menu and atmosphere of a renovated Ratty would also be encouraged as the planning process moves forward.

Mary Morell '03, who works as an office assistant for the UFS Student Management office,

said she thought carrying out renovations would be difficult no matter how the University went about it.

"I feel like so many people come to the Ratty that it'd be hard to do without disrupting things very much," she said.

The Ratty opened in 1951, when it served meals family-style to Brown men dressed in sport coats and slacks. The four-line system was installed in the early 1970s, and renovations in 1988 and 1991 created the front and back alcoves and the catering rooms on the side of the main dining area. The 1991 renovation also replaced the floor paneling, Willis said.

"Other than that, there really hasn't been any significant work done on the building since 1951," Willis said.

Herald staff writer Zach Barter '06 covers the office of Campus Life and Student Services. He can be reached at zbarter@brownailyherald.com.



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Taxes

continued from page 1

Simmons has met with Cicilline and Carcieri about the University's role in the city and state and both have assured her that they want to maintain the mutually beneficial relationship they have had in the past, she said. She said she hopes their actions will be consistent with their past assurances rather than their current "rhetoric" about taxation and other payments.

Brown and RISD are both members of the Rhode Island Independent Higher Education Association, an organization that lobbies on behalf of the state's universities and colleges. Since the governor unveiled his budget on March 5, RIIEHA has discussed responses to the provision, Hudner said.

"There have been conversations to have a unified response," she said. "The unified message is: Institutions of higher education have always been in conversations about the future of the city and state."

RISD will not "knee-jerk react" to this proposal, Hudner said, but it is determined to maintain its traditional relationship with the city.

"We will defend our tax-exempt status to the limit," she said.

Rhode Island cities have been hurt by a weak economy for several years, but they are still required to provide services used by tax-exempt institutions, said Carcieri Spokesman Jeff Neal. Carcieri believes city deficits are

a communal obligation and that currently tax-exempt institutions should recognize their duty to the community, Neal said.

"The governor's position is that it is time to begin a dialogue," Neal said. "He was hoping that this provision would be the catalyst for beginning that discussion."

Carcieri's budget also included an increase to the state's Payment in Lieu of Taxes contribution to the city. The PILOT program partially reimburses the cities and towns for the assessed property value of land occupied by tax-exempt properties within their jurisdiction. The reimbursement rate was 24.8 percent for fiscal year 2003, and Carcieri's budget calls for it to be raised to 27 percent.

Cicilline is hoping to reach agreements for payment in a "cooperative spirit," Southern said. But Cicilline told The Herald last month that colleges and universities "have a responsibility to contribute to the financial support of the city" and that he would seek to compel payment if voluntary agreements could not be reached.

Cicilline told The Herald last month that he hopes to resolve this issue by the next fiscal year, which begins on July 1.

Cicilline is having preliminary conversations with the leaders of the city's colleges and universities about this issue and will have more specific conversations about it in the near future, Southern said.

Hudner called discussions about voluntary payments "premature."

If the city compels Brown to

Carcieri's budget also included an increase to the state's Payment in Lieu of Taxes contribution to the city.

make payments to the city, Brown may have difficulty finding the necessary funds, Simmons said. She called the University's budget "clearly constrained."

The idea of contributing student tuition to the city is a "very bizarre notion," Simmons said, adding she doubted students would consider such payments as a "worthwhile reason to raise tuition."

Endowment money is restricted and cannot legally be turned over to the city, Simmons said. The only way to create leeway in the budget would be to reduce employment of faculty and staff, which would reduce income taxes that go to the state, Simmons said. She said she is "puzzled by the logic" of trying to collect property taxes from colleges and universities and hopes to clarify these issues with Cicilline and Carcieri.

"I am happy to lay open our budget to the mayor," Simmons said. "If he can find in our budget a reservoir of unspent funds, that would be a surprise."

Herald staff writer Adam Stella '05 is the assistant metro editor. He can be reached at astella@browndailyherald.com.

Save our ass

continued from page 5

book called "Some of My Best Friends."

He described his childhood in a racially mixed school in Chicago, where he attempted "awkward reverse assimilation," feeling more comfortable with his black friends than his white ones.

He eventually became, as he called himself, "Mr. Conscious White Man." Fighting for black nationalism and social justice, Wimsatt said he began to feel a sense of unworthiness and a lack of self confidence because of his lack of confidence in white people.

Wimsatt also spoke about the difficulties in getting young people involved in the political process. "I used to work for Rock the Vote and, even then, I didn't vote," he said. "We tell kids to vote, but they don't know who to vote for," he said. There is no entity that can endorse candidates that works specifically with the Rock the Vote constituency, he said. He is currently in the process of making a league of "hip-hop voters."

Wimsatt spent the last portion of his speech on "Strategies and Solutions." He urged students to take action now. "Anything you want to do that you think is crazy, you've got to find a way to do it now" before you become adults and get to the "regimented part of your life," he said.

"Know your blind spots in a Brown education," he said. "You're afraid to mess up. You got

here by not messing up. But if you don't mess up, you can't do anything really interesting," he said. Brown students are also afraid to challenge authority and afraid to be challenged, he said.

Other "strategies" included studying the right wing; when asked, not a single audience member said they had ever done so.

Wimsatt stressed the importance of getting "good people" — like those at the lecture — into positions of power. He asked if anyone planned to go to business school. Despite the loud hisses coming from the audience, Wimsatt praised the one student who raised his hand. Many activist organizations fail because of poor management, he said.

Wimsatt also suggested reading alternative media and networking and using all resources. He urged students to take time off if possible and to go to other countries to "see how other people live."

He asked students to find a way to "connect (a class) to a real world project that's out there" and connect with local organizers both in Providence and in their home towns. He took time out of his speech to allow students involved in projects to describe them to the audience.

One project, called "Resource Generation," was for "cool rich kids" who, instead of hiding their wealth from their friends, use their money and connections to improve the world, he said.

Herald staff writer Stephanie Harris '04 can be reached at sharris@browndailyherald.com.

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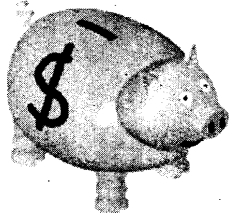
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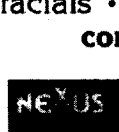
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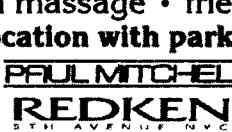
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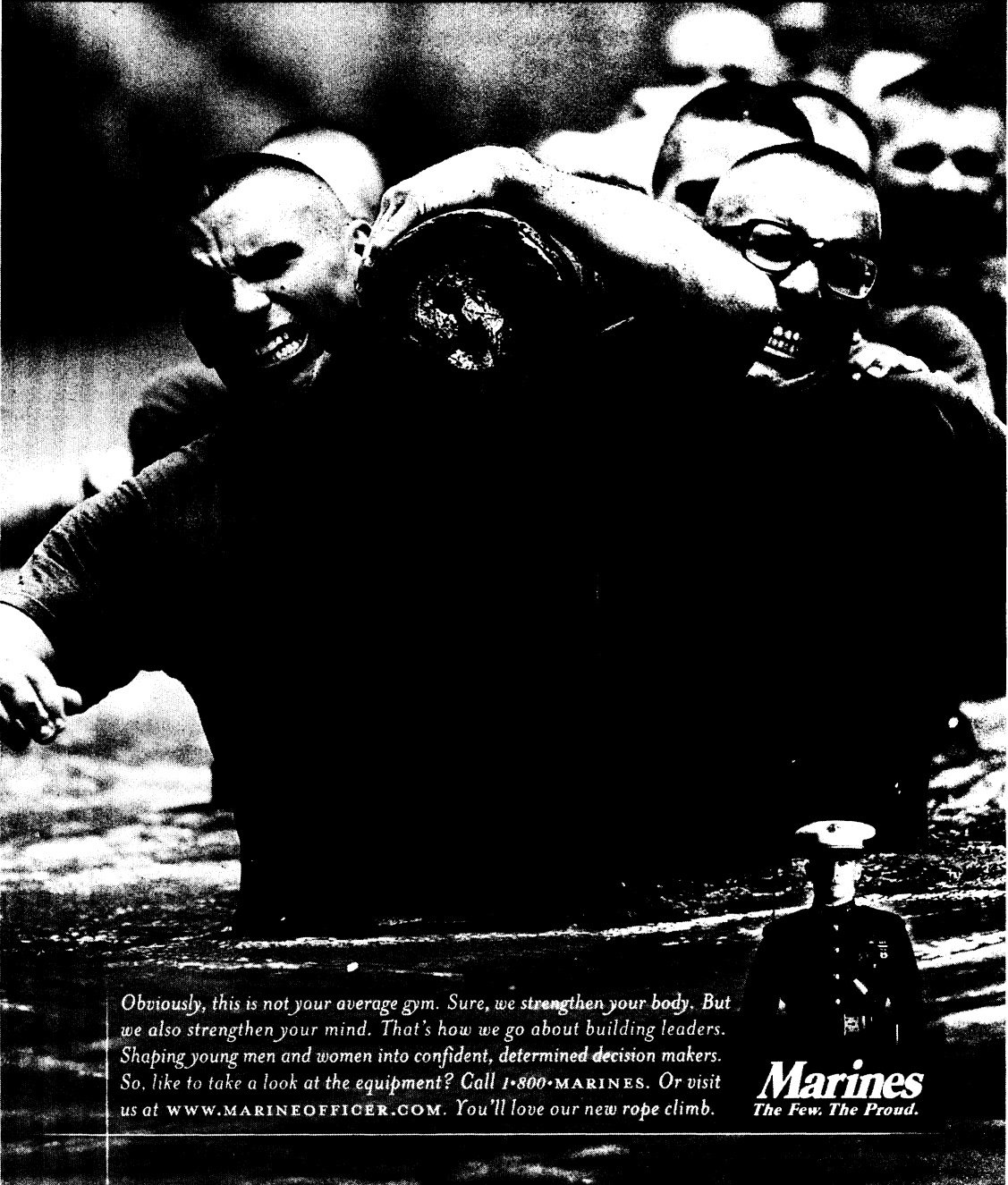
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Chang

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the sun?" (a Chinese idiom).

When asked in an ESPN interview whether Yao thought he could teach Americans about his culture and his history, Yao responded, "I think I can do it through the way I play and the way that I deal with the game, the way I treat the game." This seems to be consistent with Yao's approach in dealing with uncomfortable situations as well. On Jan. 10, 2003, Yao, in response to Shaq's mocking of the Chinese language, simply said, "I think there are a lot of difficulties in two different cultures understanding each other, especially countries of very large populations (such as) China and the United States."

Yao's popularity in China has a lot to do with his upbringing. Born in 1980, Yao came into the world at a time when China's economy was floundering. Conditions were so bad Yao's family actually had to write to the Chinese government for special permission to have milk sent to their home so that Yao would have a chance to grow tall. As a basketball player with the Shanghai Sharks, Yao rode his bicycle wherever he went. (Every time I think of this I imagine someone like Shaq riding a bike to practice and it makes me chuckle.)

Throw away his 7'6" figure and Yao is a kid just like you and me. Yet Yao is the quintessential diplomat for two countries with a troubled past. On the court he hits 18-foot jumpers and off the court he

When asked by a reporter what his favorite word in English was, Yao chuckled and responded, "My favorite phrase is 'last question.'" But who can blame the kid? After all, 1.3 billion people is a lot to fit on a person's shoulders.

embodies the hopes of an entire nation. Every time Yao does anything remotely interesting, the people in China proudly tune in to see their hero in action. No wonder he lives with his parents. That is a lot of pressure.

But alas, even the Asian sensation that is Yao Ming gets tired every once and a while. But at least Yao keeps his wits about him. When asked by a reporter what his favorite word in English was, Yao chuckled and responded, "My favorite phrase is 'last question.'" But who can blame the kid? After all, 1.3 billion people is a lot to fit on a person's shoulders, even shoulders as big as Yao's.

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Equestrian

continued from page 12

am's points substantially by winning her Open class, while Sarah Staveley-O'Carroll '03 placed second in the same class. McLaughlin continued her competitive riding by winning the next Open class. Leila dsinger '04.5, who won both her classes the week before and competed in the ride-off, took home the blue ribbon again in Intermediate flat. Irden, who placed first at last week's show, continued the streak by winning her debut novice flat class, making her the top-scoring Brown rider of the day.

With those wins, the Bears are suddenly back in the competition and vying for one of the top three spots. But, Roger Williams still held a strong lead first, with a perfect score on a flat of 21 points.

It was a day for seniors, as Jysson Oakley '03 took the blue ribbon and Sarah Gordon '03 placed third in Novice. Mallory ss '06 began the next division, advanced Walk/Trot/Canter, by placing second, while Ariana cenas '06 took third in the following class. In a remarkably competitive Beginning W/T/C class, Galyn Burke '05, who has had a near-perfect season,

Joanna Kels '04 captured the blue in a decisive victory, boosting the team into second place.

placed third, while Jenny Fauth '05 took second in her class.

Finally as the Bears came to the last division of the day, Walk/Trot, they were now within only a few points of Roger Williams and UConn. Joanna Kels '04 captured the blue in a decisive victory, boosting the team into second place, while Lauren Rogoff '05 and Connie Lee '05 took second in their respective classes. With a total of 36 points, the team took second place, or the reserve championship, just two points behind RW and two points ahead of UConn. By beating their closest rival by two points, however, they now lead Zone 1 Region 1 by 19 points.

After a week off this coming weekend, the team travels to Johnson and Wales' barn in Rehoboth on March 22 and ends the season at Connecticut College on March 29.

Sarah Staveley-O'Carroll '03 is a member of the equestrian team.

M. swimming

continued from page 12

dropped time in all events that were swum and, up until the last day, we were only out of fifth place as a team by less than 70 or so points." He noted that "since we only had 13 swimmers at the meet, I thought it was pretty remarkable."

Moors attributed much of the team's strength this year to freshmen like Brumberg. "The freshman class as a whole is a really strong group and brought an unusual amount of maturity and leadership to the team which was very helpful," he said.

The team hopes to expand its size next year to bolster the program, as having only 13 swimmers rather than the usual 30 was a major drawback this season, especially in dual meets. "We were at a severe disadvantage the whole year but we never let up any or let our hopes down," Brumberg said. "We fought until the end."

Because there are no graduating seniors, team members said they will only continue to improve in the coming season.

"We performed well at Easterns and that will carry a lot of momentum into the next season," Moors said. "If we work hard and focus on moving up a couple places for each event, our results will improve by a lot."

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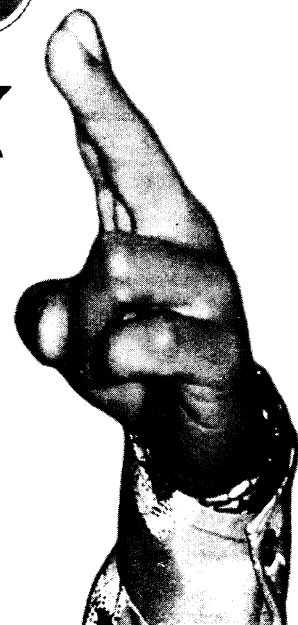
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EDITORIAL/LETTERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2003 • PAGE 10

STAFF EDITORIAL

Forcing the issue

So it's come to this. After a month of fruitless negotiations between the University and the City of Providence, Governor Donald Carcieri '65 has blackmailed Brown into remaining at the bargaining table by including a provision in the state's proposed 2003-2004 budget that would, in theory, allow Providence to collect property taxes from previously exempt institutions.

Carcieri's move would grant Providence the leverage it needs to pressure the University into making some form of cash contribution, though it would probably be significantly less than the value of the land. But Brown may not have the money to give. President Ruth Simmons has claimed that the University does not — and Brown's recent actions to balance its budget seem to support this claim. This semester the administration has announced a hiring freeze, raised student loans for the 2003-2004 academic year and extended the timeline for faculty hires. Brown's billion-dollar endowment cannot be tapped because the vast majority of those funds are legally off-limits, Simmons told The Herald.

There's no question the City is in dire financial straits and that the University and Providence exist in a reciprocal relationship. But bullying the University into forking over money may be detrimental to both. In "Bigger than Brown" (Feb. 25), The Herald urged the University to make a monetary contribution to the city. And it still should, if this gesture would do more good than harm. But, if such action would force the University to fire faculty and drastically increase tuition, as Simmons has since suggested, both the quality of Brown — and the city — will decline.

Simmons and the Mayor should (without legislation) weigh the costs and benefits of a cash contribution to the city before any action is taken. If it hasn't already, the University should allow the City to examine Brown's budget to determine whether Brown has the capacity to give. If the money's there, it should go to the City. But in the meantime, Brown should conduct a study of the University's contributions to outline for both politicians and the public just how important Brown is to the state.

Former mayor Vincent Cianci used to joke that without its colleges and universities, Providence would be "a big Fall River" — another of New England's decayed factory towns. Providence's plight will in the long run hurt Brown. But the reverse is also true, and Cicilline and Carcieri should keep that in mind when they ask Brown for money it may not have.

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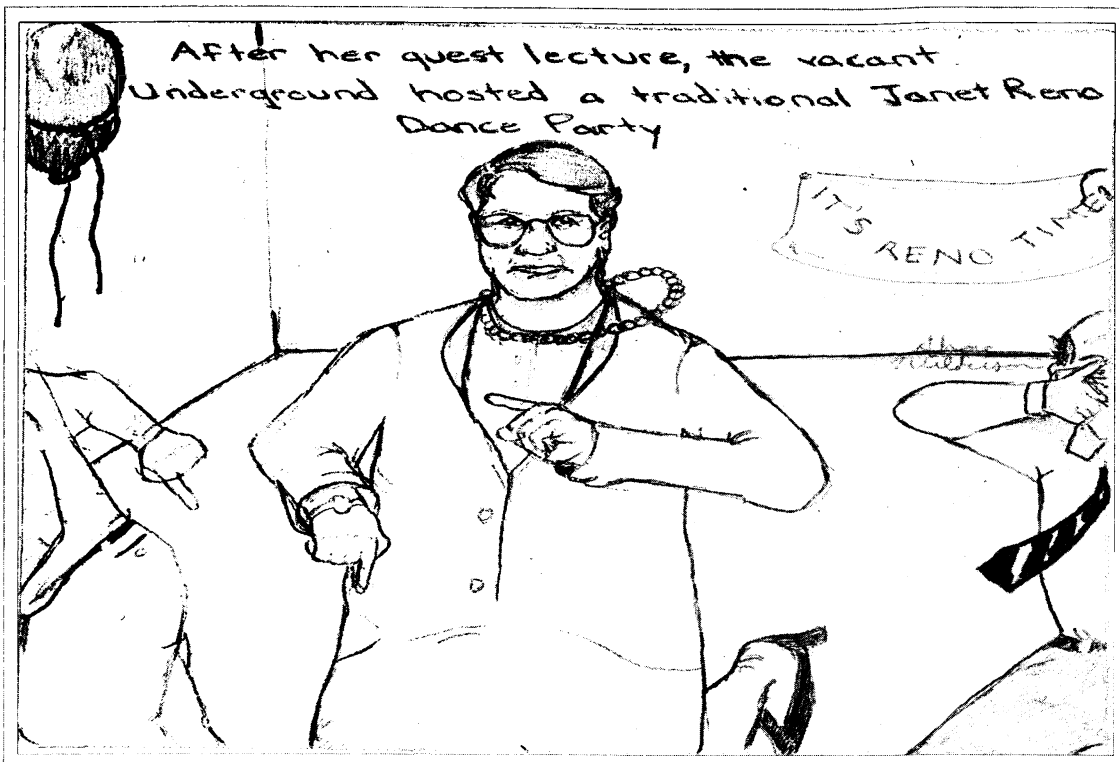
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SHANE WILKERSON

LETTERS

Money spent on new chairs should go toward student loans

To the Editor:

We are writing to you from the luxurious comfort of our new ergonomic Herman Miller chairs, on the mezzanine level of the Sciences Library. We have to tell you, the mesh-like Pellicle suspension system is really doing our lumbar regions some good, and the Waterfall front edge is reducing pressure in our thighs and allowing our blood vessels to pump freely. None of this support, however, feels as good as the support of a financial aid package without loan increases.

In your March 6 editorial ("A necessary sacrifice") supporting loan increases, you reiterated the words of the administration in saying, "the financial aid office is strapped for cash" but, to simply "cut somewhere else" is not a workable solution.

If students actually had a voice in the budgetary decisions of this University, we would say, "We would be perfectly happy sitting in the old plastic and cushion chairs, if that meant we could work less (146 hours at campus minimum wage = \$1000 loan increase) and sleep more, without having to sacrifice our academic performance, and if we could be free to plan our future without worrying about the \$200+ in loan payments we will be making each month until we're 40."

The listed price of each chair, by the way, ranges from \$799 to \$1150. And there are many new chairs, as there are many students on financial aid, populating the Rockefeller and Sciences libraries.

We invite you all to come and try out some of these cutting edge new chairs in the SciLi. Do you think they contribute more to "academic enrichment" than an economically diverse student body? Hey! This comfortable repose has left us with a new idea. Maybe fancy study chairs could be a "necessary sacrifice," instead of financial aid packages.

Gabrielle Coppola '02.5 and Anna Purinton '03
 March 9

"Whiteness" forum turns into blind attack on whites

To the Editor:

While we acknowledge that racism is an overwhelming problem in today's society and that the most historically significant racism in the United States has been perpetrated by whites against colored minorities, we also believe it is a dangerous fallacy to imply, first, that all whites are racist, and, second, that racism and prejudice cannot be directed against whites. This is precisely what was implied at "The Historical Construction of Whiteness" discussion ("Def. of 'whiteness' evolved over time," March 11"). The panelists turned the event into nothing more than a forum for finger-pointing.

The first speaker, Professor Roth Gordon, began the event by stating that, although it might seem as though the event were a time to celebrate whiteness, it was actually an opportunity for whites to realize the power of their actions to oppress colored people and for colored students to "take a stand" against the whiteness oppressing them. (The choice of the word "colored" is that of the panelists.) This statement immediately biased the panel discussion in a way that was not only unnecessary, but also inappropriate. For the most part, Professor Roth Gordon's arguments were founded on implicit accusations and were oriented against a "whiteness" that neither she, nor any of the other speakers, defined. Again, while we object as well to any form of racism, we think it was inappropriate to direct this solely against the white students present, instead of encouraging people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds to work together against discrimination.

In short, while the concept of a discussion on whiteness seems to us to be a valid one, and while valid points could be raised, the outright aggressiveness with which this was presented was unwarranted, unhelpful and offensive. We found this discussion to be inexcusably biased. It did not represent a deep or meaningful discussion so much as an instance of angry finger-pointing that we were surprised and offended to find at an Ivy League institution.

Jen Silverman '06 and Allison Shaw '06
 March 1

COMMENTARY POLICY

The staff editorial is the majority opinion of the editorial board of The Brown Daily Herald. The editorial viewpoint does not necessarily reflect the views of The Brown Daily Herald, Inc. Columns and letters reflect the opinions of their authors only.

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OPINIONS

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2003 • PAGE 11

A dark Senior Night

Current University policies negatively affect the endowment

AS A RECENT ALUMNA, I OFTEN WONDER WHAT SORT OF crack this University is smoking.

The administration is all too quick to point out Brown's lagging endowment and the need to raise alumni giving in order to bolster undergraduate and graduate programs, to hire more faculty and to build state-of-the-art facilities. However, it fails to satisfactorily make the connection between student life and alumni giving, an omission I fear will send alumni giving into a freefall once we recent graduates are earning enough to comfortably give back to our alma mater.

On one hand, we have "Brown First," a policy ostensibly enacted to increase University revenues by making it more difficult for student groups to obtain purchase orders for non-UFS catering and other local services outside the University. Though not an all-out ban on outside purchases, with this policy, student organizations can only choose from a list of Brown-approved vendors.

KRISTINA ARVANITIS
GUEST
COLUMNIST

While in the short term this may alleviate some budget issues for UFS and the other departments, you can't deny that openly making it more difficult for students to plan events is only going to increase ill will and affect alumni giving in the future.

The same goes for the new financial aid policy. When Director of Financial Aid Michael Bartini discussed proposed changes in financial aid policy with the Undergraduate Council of Students a couple of years ago, he was asked whether the adoption of a need-blind admission policy would affect the current ratio of loans to grants in a financial aid package. Moreover, he was committed to lifting the work-study requirement for first year students, a move that he again assured UCS would not impact aid packages. Now, as Brown has approved a \$1000 decrease in University grants each year in order to support need-blind policies and finance the removal of work-study for first years, I scratch my head in awe.

True, \$4000 extra is a blip for students like myself who have tens of thousands in loans to repay. But for alumni and current students who look back on our own work-study experiences and wonder why current first-years can't swing 10 hours a week swiping cards at the Ratty or working circulation at the Rock, these policies leave us wondering where Brown's priorities lie.

Where are tuition increases going to? An abysmal portion of the revenue seems to be directed toward student life. We still lack a concert hall and a lively student center. We still have students living in the common rooms of suites and first-year dorms. Is telling a first-year student that they don't have to work (until next year) worth more than these other pertinent student life issues? And while yes, the University obviously must place academic reputation and enhancement first on its agenda, the relegation of student life to the lower half is only going to make it more difficult to bolster alumni giving to further that agenda.

Just think "Brown" really quickly. The first images that flash through my head are those of the friendships I made and the wonderful memories I had on campus. I think that's true for a lot of students and alums. But for those whose good times include planning cultural dinners, seeing a band at the Underground or hanging with friends at a Senior Night, we quickly realize that it's increasingly difficult for student groups to order from Apsara. For many of us, our time at the Underground would be relegated to the spring semester of our senior year, and none of our under-21 friends would be able to join us there. We see that due to one isolated incident, the Brown Alumni Association will no longer fund Senior Nights where alcohol is present. We get frustrated, and days later we receive a call from a timid sophomore urging us to give back.

What do we tell her? As a former student caller I know what most alumni say when they refuse to give. "Brown isn't what it used to be." Click. A convenient excuse for some, yes, but for many it's a true concern. Why give back to a University that is neglecting what you found so wonderful about your experience there? Why support those priorities?

Please, Brown, do continue to attract top-notch faculty and better academic programs. The enrichment I received from Brown courses was invaluable, and I am truly grateful. But please do not do so at the expense of student life. I fear our endowment will plunge lower and lower and that Brown will dip further in the rankings until this University is only a shadow of the great institution it used to be.

Kristina Arvanitis '02 is a former Herald opinions editor and Senior Class Gift chair.

Children are now sex objects

WALKING THROUGH THE CROWDS IN THE MALL, I see a figure coming toward me who could be any of a hundred people I see on campus every day. The too-light blond hair is perfectly blow dried, the make-up expertly applied, the jewelry matching the clothing which is about half a beat between revealing and tacky. This apparition would not have been especially unusual, except that as she came closer I realized that she was short. Very short. And she was trailed by individuals who could only be her mother and not-so-much-younger brother. This girl might have been only 11 or so, certainly no older than around 13. In other words, a late elementary school/early middle school kid.

Within the mall are the stores that cater to the fashion-conscious among us; Charlotte Russe and Guess and Forever 21 carry clothing designed not to be worn, but to be flaunted — long flared pants and tiny sequined shirts, clothes that speak of certain attitudes and goals. Which, in and of itself, is not problematic. Dressing up and feeling special and desirable and sexy is fun. But when such a strong emphasis is placed upon appearances that even prepubescent girls feel pressured to conform, there is something off balance in our cultural perceptions.

One might wonder as to the source of these trends. No, the idea of tight shirts and plunging necklines is nothing new, but when did the desire to emphasize every curve extend to those who as yet had absolutely no curves to flaunt? Though we are a society in some ways removed from our biological underpinnings, very rarely do we dress, especially in these attention-demanding fashions, solely for personal fulfillment. The central idea is to attract, if not demand, the attentions of the world in general, especially those to whom we find ourselves attracted. The central idea of judging a mate — of judging in general — by physical beauty, will never really go away.

But historically, children (for this individual was a child), have been exempt from the demands of a perception-conscious society. Childhood is something removed, before the demands of the real world have

become a matter of regular concern. Formalized rites of passage marking the transition from childhood to adulthood used to be highly anticipated. At a certain age, girls were allowed to pin up their heavy, burdensome braids, taking on the sophisticated twists that they had seen their mothers wear. This moment was a privilege, a time to enter the adult world with its accompanying responsibilities.

Maybe this is what rang so very false about the sight of a not-yet-teenage girl dressed like a 25-year-old. A caricature of herself, she represented all the complications and tensions of adulthood without having any knowledge of them or any preparation for the world that she would someday enter. And she is not an anomaly. Not only do comparatively young girls see the modish styles in store windows and on TV, but they have venues of their own by which to mimic these larger-than-life examples. Stores like 20 Below, Limited II, and abercrombie specifically and unmercifully target the pre-teen population. The availability of these styles is a validation of their necessity. Suddenly, a girl not wearing low-cut, fitted jeans isn't achieving her full potential — she is somehow less appealing, less exciting than her peers who do.

Commercialization has long been blamed as the proponent of all those evils which plague our society today. Yet in this case, the situation is not entirely external. One of the most chilling things I have heard is a mother encouraging her daughter to be more stylish, to try these pants, to fundamentally become another premature adult. There is nothing inherently negative or unnatural about clothes or make-up or fashion, but these are the concerns that accompany a certain age. Girls made to believe they are women too early are robbed of a precious time of existence and transformed into something empty.

There is a joy in running about outside, getting dirty, jumping into piles of leaves and finding leaf bits stuck in one's hair for the next several days. But no one can run in high heeled boots, nor risk getting up to their elbows in cookie dough and staining their semi-sheer shirt. Parents and societies who encourage a preoccupation with sophistication in dress and behavior are denying their children a chance just to live. And thus the foundation upon which to build a life is also lost.

HANNE EISENFELD
CAST OFF THIS
TATTERED COAT

Hanne Eisenfeld '06 thinks that cookie dough is always more important than fashion.

Veil of ignorance is hazy

THE CONCEPT OF MAKING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC decisions behind a "veil of ignorance" is at the heart of liberalism in today's society. In his book "A Theory of Justice," John Rawls developed this idea in order to find the best method of objectively setting societal policies. He argued that because all people are biased by their status in life, the only way to make just decisions is to imagine we are all awaiting rebirth; people don't know who they will become, what socio-economic status they will achieve, or even what race or ethnicity they will be. Rawls believed that if this mindset were established, society would aim to maximize the well-being of the worst-off citizens. Because we all have the same chance of being born into an undesirable lifestyle, we should treat the worst-off citizens with sympathy and the benefit of the doubt.

This idea provides an explanation for why our society uses a progressive tax in which the wealthy are taxed a higher percentage of their income than the poor. (N. Gregory Mankiw's "Principles of Economics" p. 448)

Before I continue with my thoughts on Rawls' veil of ignorance, I would like to point out that sometimes I write columns about passing thoughts I have entertained. I think the ideas and opinions that follow are worthy of note, but I do not claim to have all of the answers with regard to how society should function.

Back to the issue at hand, Rawls' ideas seem to be well-intentioned, but I do not believe they make any pragmatic sense. It seems that the United States tax system is the only fabric of our culture has embraced the veil of ignorance.

For instance, people are not judged behind a veil of ignorance when approached in a social situation. If an ugly, socially awkward individual attempts to court someone, rejection is certainly to be anticipated. Society does not expect us to think, "Well, it's not his fault that he's so darn hideous and annoying. He was just born that way. I could have been born that way, too. I better go out with him." It just does not happen.

Similarly, people who are not intelligent are forced to face the consequences of their stupidity. Brown is not about to start accepting sub-par applicants. The people in the College Admissions Office realize that viewing applicants through a veil of ignorance is ignorant!

The natural form of capitalism which we embrace is to allow the most talented members of the population to be rewarded by success because they are deserving. It can be seen in the social realm, in our schools and in our businesses. Yet, for some reason the veil of ignorance reigns supreme in our tax system.

My opposition to using the veil of ignorance does not mean I oppose a policy such as affirmative action in any way. I understand and agree with the ideas behind it. Viewing all people behind a veil of ignorance, however, makes no sense. If two people were given the same opportunity to succeed, and one does and one does not, why should the failure be evaluated behind ignorance?

Achieving economic success is almost always just like any other accomplishment; it takes talent, acquired skills, and hard work. Usually, economic failure is due to a lack of these important qualities. Therefore, a veil of ignorance seems as out of place in our monetary system as it does in any other aspect of society.

ADAM STERN
ADAM'S RIB

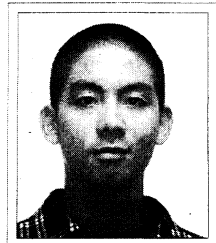
Though Adam Stern '06 admits being blessed with good looks, socio-economic comfort and charm, any success he will have in life will be due to talent and hard work.

SPORTS THURSDAY

MARCH 13, 2003 • PAGE 12

NBA lottery not all up to chance

WITH THE HOUSING LOTTERY DOMINATING gossip in the Brown community this week, my thoughts turned to another lottery as I sought solace from the unpredictability of the system: the NBA draft lottery and draft selections. Unlike the housing



HANYEN ANDREW LEE
PADAWAN LEARNER

ing lottery, many feel the draft lottery is predictable, orderly and just. The teams with the higher choices tend to get the better players. But is the system really that predictable? Are teams about to be screwed by the system? Is "The Man" manipulating things behind the scenes?

Like the housing lottery's supposedly "random" algorithm for assigning numbers, the draft lottery fails to provide everybody with equal opportunities for selection and thus necessitated several reworkings over the years. After the Orlando Magic got to select Shaquille O'Neal and Chris Webber in successive years, the NBA weighted the lottery more in favor of the worst team in the league. And yet the team with the worst record in the NBA has not won the lottery in the eight years since the change, most notably when the Celtics had a 33-percent chance at landing Tim Duncan in 1997 and ended up with Ron Mercer and Chauncey Billups instead. I think "Undercover Brother" needs to go on a fro-busting mission to pacify members of the Celtics management who are still intensely interrogating Oliver Stone.

When it comes to the draft choices themselves, many people feel they have it all figured out. Everybody knows that LeBron "King" James will go number one in the draft. Many NBA scouts are confidently stating seven-foot Serbian phenom Darko Milicic will go second in the lottery. They will be the two impact players of this draft. Or will they?

The incidences of franchise-changing decisions in the NBA draft lottery, for better or worse, is well chronicled by several major blunders in basketball lore which clearly illustrate that the higher draft choice isn't always the better player. The Portland Trail Blazers selected Sam Bowie with the second pick of the draft in 1984 over Michael Jordan. Jordan went on to become the consensus greatest player ever and Sam Bowie became the paradigm for tubs of lard like Vin Baker.

There are also major differences sometimes between picking number one and number two. In the 1969 draft lottery, Milwaukee chose Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (then known as Lew Alcindor) with the first pick and Phoenix picked Neal Walk with the second. Milwaukee won the NBA title the very next season and Kareem went on to become the NBA's all-time leading scorer. Walk brought us down memory lane yet another time as Vin Baker reincarnated into the past. (Actually, I have no idea if he was like Vin Baker, but like Doc Brown in "Back to the Future," I figured, "What the hell.")

More recently, trades have shown a preliminary selection of a player is not an end in itself. In 1999, the Bucks traded Dirk Nowitzki to the Mavericks for Robert "Tractor" Traylor. Now what kind of a nickname is "Tractor" anyway? Suffice it to say, he's driven himself off the map. Nowitzki

see LEE, page 6



Photo courtesy of Sarah Staveley-O'Carroll

Despite a second-place finish by the equestrian team over the weekend, the team still maintains its first-place position by 19 points over the University of Connecticut.

Equestrian comes from behind to finish second

BY SARAH STAVELEY-O'CARROLL

Last Saturday, the Brown equestrian team traveled once again to Windcrest Farm in Hebron, Conn. After winning their season opener there the previous week, the Bears hoped to keep up the momentum. With only three more shows left, the team aimed to ride defensively and keep its regional lead, in order to capture an automatic bid to Zones at the end of the season, and then qualify for Nationals.

However, the day started out slowly, with only a single win over fences, an important victory won by novice rider Rebecca Barker '05. Beginning with Open fences, Kristin McLaughlin '03 took third in the first class of the morning. Co-Captain Jessica Kingsborough '04 came up next in the Intermediate and rode a competitive course to take second in her class. Kate Rae '04.5 start-

ed off Novice by placing second as well, while Amanda Burden '04 placed third in her Novice fences debut.

After some disappointing rides and only a few points for the Bears, Barker rallied the team with a near-flawless course, impressive enough to win the Bears' first blue ribbon of the day.

While the team was lagging far behind its competitors with a total score of only 4 points at the end of jumping (out of a possible 21), the women rallied their energy during a lunch break.

Although the women had a commanding lead in the region already, they knew it would only take one substantial defeat to UConn for them to lose their first-place standing in the region. When flat started, Jamie Peddy '06 boosted the

see EQUESTRIAN, page 9

Downsized men's swimmers compete in EISL Championships

BY JINHEE CHUNG

From March 6 to 8 the men's swimming team competed in the Eastern Intercollegiate Swimming League's Swimming and Diving Championships. Ten teams, including Navy and Army, in addition to the Ivy League schools, battled for the championship title at the Nassau Aquatics Center in New York. Due to the tremendous overall quality of the swimmers, this year's conference meet had some of the fastest times ever, breaking numerous meet records. Despite a valiant effort by the Bears, Brown placed eighth overall with a total of 604 points, and Harvard came away with its seventh title in eight years with 1592 points.

The Bears started the first day of events with a sixth-place finish in both the 200-yard freestyle relay of Captain Jefferson Moors '04, Aron Gyuris '04, Matt Zimmerman '05 and Timothy Wang '05, and the 400-yard medley relay of Moors, Brian Wood '04, Zimmerman and Wang. Stellar freshman Eric Brumberg '06 also

swam into sixth in the 200-yard individual medley.

Brumberg continued his strong performance on the second day of the meet, grabbing second for Brown in the 400-yard individual medley and breaking a Brown record with a time of 3:54.31. Moors set another school record of 1:37.38 in the 200 freestyle, coming in second place in the event, and led his teammates Max Allen '04, Wang and Brumberg to another fifth-place finish in the 800-yard freestyle relay.

On the third and final day of competition, Allen and Moors splashed their way to sixth and fourth in the 200-yard butterfly and 200-yard backstroke, respectively. The relay team of Gyuris, Moors, Wang and Zimmerman grabbed sixth place in the last event of the conference, the 400-yard freestyle relay.

"The team was spectacular," Brumberg said. "Almost everyone

see M. SWIMMING, page 9

Yao Ming: From the court to your tablecloth

ON AN AVERAGE WEEKNIGHT IN THE United States, an NBA game between two strong teams usually draws about 1.1 million viewers. "Hmm, not too shabby," you think to yourself. But consider this, my naive friend. According to the Washington



ALBERT CHANG
TWO FEET
SHORT OF YAO

Post, in China, on the morning of Nov. 20, 2002, a broadcast basketball game between the Houston Rockets (a mediocre team at best) and one of the league's worst teams, the Cleveland Cavaliers, drew 5.5 million viewers. This excludes another 11.5 mil-

lion viewers who tuned in to see the game replayed that night.

Unlike most phenomena of its kind this one has an explanation. People all over China are dodging work, skipping classes and losing sleep just so they can catch a glimpse at the Asian sensation that is Yao Ming. The nature of casual street conversations in China has been revolutionized from talk of communism to talk of the NBA.

But wait, there is more to this kooky peculiarity. The majority of the 5.5 million viewers who rose with the sun to catch Yao's early-morning appearance are not what we would consider avid die-hard sports fans. On the contrary, these fans have just recently been introduced to the game of basketball. They are people like my friend's Chinese grandmother, who for the life of her cannot decipher the meaning of the phrase "slam dunk," but nevertheless drape themselves in Yao Ming jerseys and decorate their kitchens with Yao Ming table cloths.

While NBA fans may feel U.S. basketball is being widely influenced by the inexorable force known as "Yaomania" (graceful title, I know), a quick glance into how Yao Ming has transformed Chinese culture reveals Yao's influence in the United States is dramatically different from Yao's influence in China in both magnitude and character.

U.S. analysts like ESPN's David Aldridge evaluate Yao's rebounding techniques, shooting form and passing accuracy. (Yao averages 13.8 points, 8.2 rebounds and 1.8 blocks per game.) Sports fans predict on sports discussion boards and fantasy basketball forums that Yao will change the way the game of basketball is played once his skills fully mature.

However, the "Yao hype" rings to a different tune in China. Chinese people like my friend's 70-year-old grandmother do not pore over his statistics. They love Yao not because of his pure athletic ability on the basketball court but because of the person that Yao is off the court. They are enamored with Yao's humility, wit and unselfishness. They also equally adore Yao's universally genuine but shy smile and his humble but quick-witted one-liners.

Yao's popularity in China is growing larger with his every act of graciousness. In response to China's decision to retire his Shanghai Sharks number, Yao made arrangements for a billboard to be put up in Shanghai that read, "How does a single blade of grass possibly show its gratitude to

see CHANG, page 8