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English angst

New concentration requirements upset students

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Ice, ice, baby

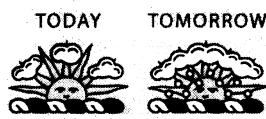
Men's hockey scores three victories during winter break



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#Hashtag

Twitter lingo garners Word of the Year status



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Paxson to promote campus discussion on gun violence

The Janus Forum plans to address recent public shootings through multi-perspective conversation

By **SABRINA IMBLER**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

In response to last December's shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Conn., President Christina Paxson will sponsor a series of forums this spring intended to provoke a campus-wide dialogue concerning the causes and prevention of campus shootings. The plan represents a stronger response to gun violence from the University than any school shooting has previously provoked.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Developing a discussion

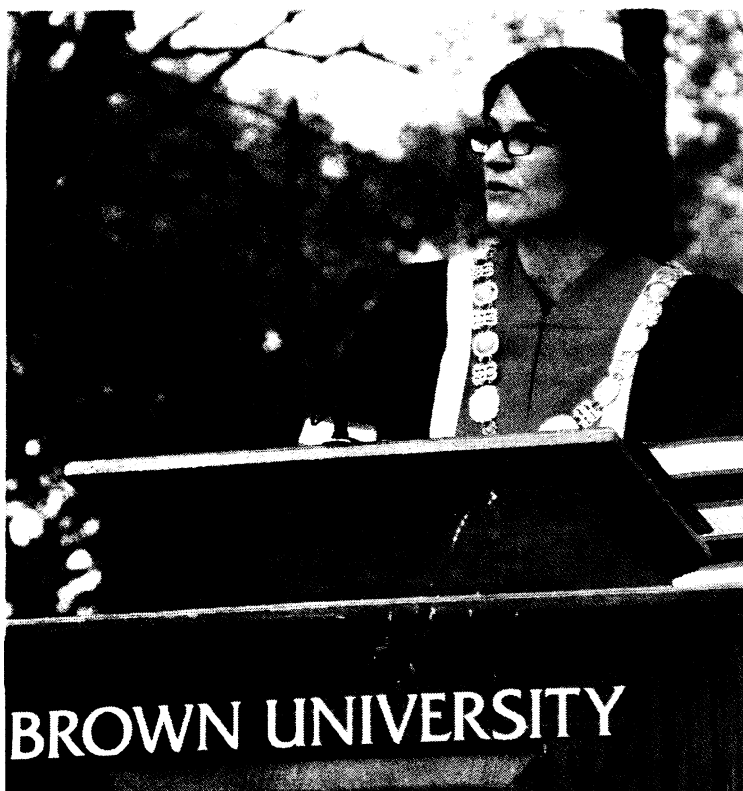
The Janus Forum, the student branch of the University's Political Theory Project, is in the process of responding to a proposal from Paxson to focus a

forum on gun violence.

"We wanted to let them take the lead on whatever they were thinking about, since we were still at the very early stages about thinking how (the dialogue) might come together and what formats it might take," said Kimberly Roskiewicz, assistant to the president.

The Janus Forum provides "venues for frank and thoughtful discussions of potentially polarizing issues," Paxson wrote in an email to The Herald. Students from the group are discussing how to approach the forum and will present their ideas to her early next week, she wrote.

"The Janus Forum way is to approach any issue with multiple perspectives. We have very few rules that we follow. Our one idea is that no idea goes unchallenged," said Sam Gilman '15, the chair of the Janus Forum Steering Committee. The committee has yet to meet this semester, but Gilman said he reached out to its members over winter break to brainstorm potential panels on gun violence. Mental health, legality, the // Guns page 2



EMILY GILBERT / HERALD

In response to the Sandy Hook tragedy, President Paxson has partnered with the Janus Forum to spearhead campus dialogue. Herald file photo.

Same-sex marriage passes R.I. House

The bill legalizing same-sex marriage in R.I. must now pass the State Senate to become law

By **SAM HEFT-LUTHY**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Rhode Island House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a bill last night to legalize same-sex marriage — the first time a branch of the General Assembly has approved such a measure — but the bill's fate remains to be determined.

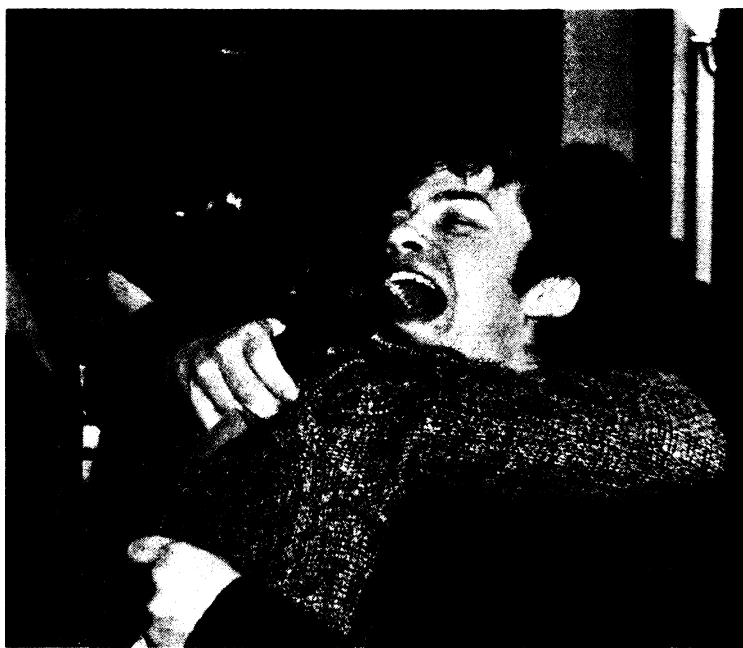
The bill passed 51-19 — with 13 Democrats joining all six Republicans in the House to vote against the bill — and will now have to be passed by the Rhode Island Senate and then signed by Governor Lincoln Chafee '75 P'14

before becoming law. The five remaining Democrats missed the vote.

The Senate poses a major challenge for the bill, in part because Senate president Teresa Paiva-Weed, D-Newport and Jamestown, personally opposes same-sex marriage and has worked against it in the past. But Weed has promised not to block the Senate Judicial Committee from voting on the bill, opening a possible path for the bill to reach the Senate floor — where the vote is expected to be close.

If the Senate passes the bill, Chafee — who has long expressed his desire to see Rhode Island join every other state in New England and legalize same-sex marriage — has said he will sign it.

Rep. Arthur Corvese, D-North Providence, gave an impassioned appeal against the measure, warning that it would be an "irrevocable societal game changer" and // Bill page 3



TOM SULLIVAN / HERALD

Supporters of the same-sex marriage bill celebrate following its passage. The bill passed 51-19 in the House and will now head to the Senate.

New sorority may soon occupy Harkness House

After a declining Art House vacates the space, a third sorority may come to campus

By **BRITTANY NIEVES**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

After years of falling membership and decreasing member activity, Art House, a program house located in Harkness House on Patriots Court, will cease to exist as an organization at the end of this semester. Art House leaders chose to opt out of the housing process this year, making their space in Harkness available to another group this fall.

A new sorority may take the place of Art House, said Kate Tompkins,

Greek and program housing adviser. The two current sororities on campus, Kappa Alpha Theta and Alpha Chi Omega, have expressed a need for an additional sorority to satisfy demands from the female student body, Tompkins said. An extension committee has been formed and is currently working to decide which of three potential sororities will join Brown this fall.

The committee consists of the council's executive board members, the presidents of Kappa Alpha Theta and Alpha Chi Omega, the president and vice president of Greek council and Tompkins, Lena Weiss '13, president of the Panhellenic Council, wrote in an email to The Herald. The committee will be making a decision Jan. 31 after hear- // Art page 2

Severe flu virus hits nation early this year

While not fool-proof, the vaccine proves 62 percent effective and the best potential protection

By **PHOEBE DRAPER**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

During a lecture to his BIOL 0530: "Principles of Immunology" students last semester,

SCIENCE & RESEARCH

Health Services on stage to inject him with this year's influenza vaccine.

"I guess you could call it a publicity stunt," he said.

After class, about 70 percent of Bun-

giro's students followed suit and rolled up their shirtsleeves to be vaccinated against the flu.

With the flu season off to an earlier-than-usual start this year, the vaccine is "far from perfect, but still the best tool we have to prevent the flu," said Tom Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention during a Jan. 11 media conference call.

This year, the flu has resulted in 20 pediatric deaths, and 24 states are now reporting a high level of influenza-like illness, Frieden said at the conference.

The flu season is hitting the nation particularly hard this winter because the predominant circulating strain, H3N2, causes the most severe kind of flu, said Aurora Pop-Vicas, assistant professor of medicine.

"We've had

// Flu page 6

NEWS IN BRIEF

Morning Mail gets makeover

Morning Mail, the announcement emailed to daily community members, has been streamlined to include a hyperlinked table of contents and a smartphone-friendly interface, said Abby Braiman '15, chair of the admissions and student services committee of the Undergraduate Council of Students.

Listings are categorized into user-friendly links, said Geoffrey Greene, director of informational technology support services.

"It's a lot easier to use and better organized because you can just click on the links instead of having to scroll down all the way," said Crystal Acevedo '15.

Some students said they are now more likely to use Morning Mail to learn about campus events.

David Chodakewitz '15, who is a member of the EcoReps program, said he thinks the new format will help his group better publicize registration for an upcoming conference.

Planning for these changes began in UCS meetings last spring, Bramain said, adding that her committee met with representatives from Computing and Information Services and the Office of Public Affairs and University Relations.

Additional possible changes to Morning Mail are in the works, though there is no definitive timeline for those modifications, Bramain said. UCS has recommended expanding the categories of listings beyond events and announcements, she added.

— Alexandra Macfarlane with reporting by Mathias Heller

CALENDAR

TODAY	JANUARY 25	TOMORROW	JANUARY 26
7 P.M.		11:30 A.M.	
Divan Orchestra Panel Discussion		Faculty Club Event Expo	
Perry and Marty Granoff Center for the Creative Arts		Brown Faculty Club	
7 P.M.		1 P.M.	
Premiere Screening "Cape Spin!"		Simen Johan Exhibition	
Cable Car Cinema		List Art Building	

MENU

SHARPE REFECTORY	VERNEY-WOOLLEY
LUNCH	
BLT Sandwich, Vegan Oven Roasted Tofu, Roasted Fingerling Potatoes, Onion Rings, Cajun Apple Cake	Chicken Fingers, New England Clam Chowder, Enchilada Bar, Cajun Apple Cake, Summer Squash
DINNER	
Vegetarian Gnocchi, Vegan Tofu Pups, Pesto Seafood Pasta, Italian Meatloaf, Pumpkin Tofu Cheesecake	Cheese Ravioli with Pink Vodka Sauce, Stir Fried Tofu, Sweet and Sour Shrimp Saute

SUDOKU

8	5		6	1	
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9		2			3
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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Fair share, maybe

5 Polite denial

11 Pro-__

14 Arch type

15 Commensurate (with)

16 Soaked

17 Cry from a duped investor?

19 Brother

20 "I" strain?

21 Where to find Ducks and Penguins: Abbr.

22 Eyes

24 Cry just before dozing off?

28 Eschewed the backup group

31 Mrs. Gorbachev

32 Influence

33 Took in

37 Lab medium

38 Thinking out loud, in a way

40 Farm father

41 Anthem

43 Cupid's boss

44 Free

45 Dog named for the bird it hunted, familiarly

46 Cry from a superfan?

50 Hose

51 Dig in

52 John, Paul and George, but not Ringo: Abbr.

55 Electees

56 Cry from a Jeddah native?

61 Iron __

62 Troubled state

63 Vronsky's lover, in Tolstoy

64 "Balderdash!"

65 Some aces

66 Kid

4 Casbah

5 Had a little something

6 Frère de la mère

7 Dent, say

8 Big lug

9 Travel org. since 1902

10 "Captain Kangaroo" character who told knock-knock jokes

11 Really bad

12 Haggard of country music

13 Flight part

18 Ocean-bay connector

23 Someone to admire

24 Grouch

25 Sung approval?

26 Prison area

27 Bring on board

28 Injury reminder

29 '70s Olympics name

30 Good earth

34 Pixie dust

35 Deco designer

36 Beloved

38 Uffizi hangings

39 Hubbub

42 Pays to play

43 Into a state of decline

45 Ocean borders

46 Patch plant

47 Rock's __ Boingo

48 Start

49 One may follow a casing

52 Trig function

53 XXX, at times

54 Three-handed game

57 Singer

58 Bookmarked item nowadays

59 "Gloria in Excelsis __"

60 British rule in colonial India

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

MAORI WHIG HASP
EXXON WIPE EWER
REYOF LIGHT YOGI
NAE HOG FLAX
ADDENDA NOSE
TREYTABLE AVAST
TAM SWEE CLENCH
IMUP ALOHA RARA
CARREY NORA CAT
ASSET BEYOFP IGS
YALE ALFONSO
JUST AHS EAT
OPIE DEYTRIPPER
DOLL LANA RICCI
INTL EDEN SETUP

xwordeditor@aol.com 01/25/13

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55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66

By Kurt Krauss
(c)2013 Tribune Media Services, Inc. 01/25/13

// Guns page 1

Second Amendment and Congress are all possible lenses through which the forum can tackle the issue of gun violence, he said, though the major aspects of the plan have yet to be decided.

"Like most people, I think the level of gun violence in America is appalling. However, the right policy response has to be informed by analysis grounded in facts and an open discussion of values," Paxson wrote in an email to The Herald. "I do not expect that the conversations we have on campus will lead to a specific conclusion or set of recommendations."

The Janus Forum can effectively create discussion on campus because it currently boasts strong representation from both liberal and conservative viewpoints, Gilman said.

In September 2009, the forum held a debate on D.C. v. Heller, the landmark Supreme Court case that protected an individual's right to own a firearm for lawful purposes. The panel featured a professor from Duke University who had contributed to the merit briefings for the District of Columbia and the lead counsel for Heller, the defendant. The forum comprised 25-minute lectures by each speaker and a question-and-answer session with a packed crowd in Salomon 101, The Herald reported at the time.

Politics of presidential power

It is often difficult for a university president to take a political stance as a private citizen, said Stephen Nelson, a higher education expert and scholar at the Leadership Alliance.

"Some might say, 'Why are you speaking? You're using the pulpit of Brown University. If you didn't have the pulpit of Brown University, then you might not get recognized,'" Nelson said. "Wherever you put your name, your institutional title is right next to it."

He cited the resignation of John William Ward from his position as Amherst College president after protesting the Vietnam War as a rare case in which a president would lose his or her job for taking a specific political

stance.

"You can't directly connect the dots," Nelson added, "but within three months of having gone to that demonstration, he was no longer the president of Amherst."

Nelson also distinguished between the political and humanitarian reactions presidents might have in response to events like Sandy Hook, the latter of which have been more common in the history of higher education. "It's different to have boxes for relief than it is to protest a war. It's not like we're for or against the hurricane," Nelson said in reference to Hurricane Sandy. He added, "Ruth Simmons gave remarks in response to 9/11, which is different from saying, 'Let's track the perpetrators down to the gates of Hell.'"

In the past, university presidents have been able to effect change without taking personal stances on national issues. Nelson cited former Dartmouth president John George Kemeny, who imposed a two-week moratorium on classes in response to the Kent State shootings, holding panels, forums and speakers about the war and national crisis engendered by the event. All the while, Dartmouth never made a statement decrying the war.

Nelson noted that, similar to Kemeny, Paxson took a stance in asserting the importance of the issue of gun violence without making an explicit statement by virtue of calling attention to the event in Newtown and asking for a campus-wide dialogue.

The 2007 shootings at Virginia Tech galvanized the planning and installation of the University's current Emergency Siren Warning System — BrownSiren — along with several other efforts to improve security on campus. But this spring's effort to steer the Janus Forum's focus toward gun violence marks the first attempt by the University to hold panels or forums in response to shootings.

The Newtown shooting has garnered more attention from universities than the 1999 shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. for myriad reasons, Nelson said. He cited the younger age of the students

at Sandy Hook as well as the timing of the event — the Columbine shooting occurred at the end of a school year, whereas the Newtown shooting occurred near the end of first semester — as factors leading to the heightened attention paid to Newtown.

Brown and its peers

The Association of American Universities, which includes Brown, released a statement on gun violence in America earlier this month, suggesting to President Obama and Congress a three-pronged policy improvement of "gun control, care of the mentally ill and the culture of our contemporary media." The AAU president drafted the statement, which was then approved by the executive committee of the AAU. Not all member universities were consulted before issuing the statement, which AAU Vice President for Public Affairs Barry Toiv ascribes to the "need to issue the statement as quickly as possible."

"The AAU executive board is representative of and speaks for the entire membership," Toiv added.

Toiv did not describe the AAU's past responses to the issue of gun violence as "active," but following Virginia Tech, the AAU did approve and release a statement that included a reference to modifying gun laws and regulations. But the organization did not issue a response to Columbine, as it did not take place on a university campus.

Separately from the AAU, many colleges and universities have taken their own steps in response to Sandy Hook. The University of Chicago was one of a few universities to respond swiftly to the Newtown shootings, hosting a panel about gun violence Jan. 15.

Emerson College President Lee Pelton drafted and distributed a pledge promising to lead campus discussions about gun violence this semester and offering help to Obama, who has made gun control a major initiative in his second term. The pledge has garnered the signatures of 269 other college presidents, though Paxson is not among them.

// Art page 1

ing from each of the three new potential groups next week, Weiss wrote.

"There's a very specific process you need to go through to bring a new sorority to campus," Tompkins said. "So they have been going through that process for a year, completely initiated by the two sororities on campus."

It has not yet been determined whether the new sorority will be given the available space in Harkness or whether the sorority will be residential at all.

"If ResCouncil decides to give the space to the sorority as a new Greek house, they would be moving in in the fall," Tompkins said. "So the new organization will anticipate beginning their recruitment process at the end of February and end before lottery applications are due."

Art House currently shares Harkness with members of Technology House, a larger organization. Members of Art House may remain in Harkness as independents, said Audrey Lew '14, Tech House manager. "I find it unfortunate that there

will no longer be a program house dedicated to the arts," Drew Weitman '15, a member of Art House, wrote in an email to The Herald.

Tech House members are meanwhile anticipating the arrival of their new neighbors.

"We always do look forward to meeting with communities," said Matthew Milano '13, vice president of Tech House. "It'll be fun to have a community that's growing and active as a neighbor rather than a community that was reaching the end of its time."

THE BROWN DAILY HERALD

www.browndailyherald.com

195 Angell St., Providence, R.I.

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The Brown Daily Herald (USPS 067.740) is an independent newspaper serving the Brown University community daily since 1891. It is published Monday through Friday during the academic year, excluding vacations, once during Commencement and once during Orientation by The Brown Daily Herald, Inc. Single copy free for each member of the community.

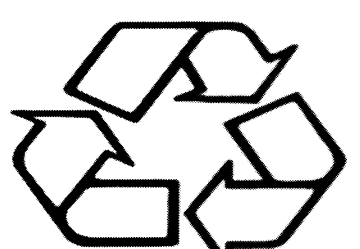
POSTMASTER please send corrections to P.O. Box 2538, Providence, RI 02906. Periodicals postage paid at Providence, R.I.

Subscription prices: \$280 one year daily, \$140 one semester daily.

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Full need-blind unsustainable under current finances, says finance VP

The financial sustainability of making need-blind admission universal is called into question

By TONYA RILEY
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Expanding the University's financial aid to be need-blind for all students — a recommendation the Committee on Financial Aid is considering making — would be unsustainable under the current University budget, said Beppie Huidekoper, executive vice president for finance and administration.

The University is currently operating on a deficit with financial aid acting as the fastest growing expense in its budget, she said. Because of this growth, it is difficult to say how the University would fund any changes in financial aid, Huidekoper said.

The Committee on Financial Aid, one of six strategic planning committees

that will make preliminary recommendations to President Christina Paxson next month, announced its intent to explore recommending universal need-blind admissions during a forum the committee cosponsored last November with the Undergraduate Council of Students. Though the University is currently need-blind for first-year domestic applicants, it considers ability to pay when admitting international, transfer and Resumed Undergraduate Education students.

Though the University has previously looked at the cost of transitioning to universal need-blind admissions, administrators do not have a current estimate on what this change would cost or how it would be funded, Huidekoper said. For instance, she said, staff posi-

tions would not be cut for the explicit purpose of funding an expansion of financial aid. And though expanding financial aid is on the table for discussion, it is impossible to determine what might fund that growth without considering what priorities other strategic planning committees might recommend and how much those might cost, Huidekoper said.

Paxson will make an official recommendation following the committee's final report. If Paxson were to recommend expanding financial aid, the Corporation — the University's highest governing body — would have to approve the change.

Because the Committee on Financial Aid has not yet made an official recommendation, its members are unable to comment on how universal need-blind admissions could be funded, said James Tilton, director of financial aid and com-

mittee chair.

"Some of this involves reorganizing resources that are already in place and maybe restructuring how we use existing resources to more effectively address financial aid needs," said Susan Harvey, committee co-chair and a professor of religious studies. "It isn't just about asking for more money or writing bigger checks."

"We have to make trade-offs and prioritize them," Huidekoper said.

Offering donors examples of specific effects their money could have, such as transitioning to universal need-blind admissions, would make donors more willing to give to Paxson's upcoming capital campaign, said Alex Mechanick '15, president of the student advocacy group Brown for Financial Aid and an undergraduate representative on the committee for financial aid. Though the timeline for the capital campaign has

not yet been announced, Paxson has previously suggested it would coincide with the University's 250th anniversary celebration.

Student groups including BFA and the Brown Conversation have influenced the committee's discussions, Tilton said.

Student turnout in favor of need-blind financial aid for these groups was "absolutely crucial" and "created pressure to make (change) happen fast," Mechanick said.

While the change in diversity on campus would not be immediately evident after a transition in financial aid, incorporating more students with different perspectives will enhance the classroom experience, Mechanick said. Expanding financial aid would also bolster the University's reputation, he said.

The committee is also considering issues including student loan burdens and student work requirements, Tilton said.

// Marriage page 1

would mean a "wholesale redefinition" of the institution of marriage — "not an extension."

"For those of you who made pandering promises to support this bill," he asked, "do you realize the enormity of that promise?"

But many representatives spoke in favor of the bill, too. "I believe that this will be a game changer," said Rep. John Edwards, D-Tiverton and Portsmouth, "but it will be a game changer that will make things better in our state."

If the bill becomes law, then Rhode Island will become the 10th state in the nation to recognize same-sex marriage and the fifth state to have done so through legislation.

Sustained applause swept through the chamber when the vote was announced. Though a group protesting the measure was standing in the State House lobby when the debate began, it was gone by the time the bill's supporters began to shuffle excitedly out.

Taylor Daily '13 — one of several students who testified about same-sex marriage before the House in 2010 before the legislature ultimately approved civil unions — was on hand last night to see the job finished. "I wanted to be here to see all that work come to fruition," he said.

"We've been working on this for a long time," said Seth Magaziner '06, a board member of Marriage Equality Rhode Island. "The job's not done, but



TOM SULLIVAN / HERALD

Rep. Arthur Corvese, D-North Providence, vehemently opposed the same-sex marriage bill to no avail. The bill passed the House 51-19.

it's a good day."

Magaziner said that the next step will be lobbying the Senate, as well as convincing Rhode Island citizens to contact their senators and express support for the measure.

As the supporters filed out of the State House, a man wearing a "Rhode Islanders United For Marriage" called

out from the top of the steps to two people walking away.

"Are you coming to Devil's?" he asked, inviting them to the lesbian-owned bar where the victory party was being held.

"We have a strategy meeting," one of them yelled back. "We don't have time to party."

English department evaluates requirements

Capped courses frustrate non-concentrators hoping to take intro-level English classes

By MAGGIE LIVINGSTONE
STAFF WRITER

The English Department is evaluating the effects of three recently introduced concentration requirements, ENGL 0210, ENGL 0410 and ENGL 0610, said Stephen Foley '74 P'04 P'07, department director of undergraduate studies and associate professor of English.

These requirements — established in the fall of 2011 — have been met with a mixed response, including complaints about the difficulty of enrollment in the courses, according to both students and department faculty members.

Though the three requirements were previously offered, concentrators were not obligated to complete all three. For the past year and a half, the English department curricular advising committee has met to discuss the changes, though members did not share plans for future restructuring because the courses were only recently made mandatory.

"Curricular changes don't happen fast," Foley said. "We are still in an observing period."

Vanessa Ryan, assistant professor of English and member of the curricular advising committee, said the requirements are considered "gateway classes" for potential English concentrators. These courses aim to give a broad scope of the English concentration, she said. They are ENGL 0210: "Medieval and Early Modern Literatures and Cultures," ENGL 0410: "Enlightenment and the Rise of National Literatures and Cultures" and ENGL 0610: "Modern and Contemporary Literatures and Cultures." The courses progress from early literature to modern works and are intended to showcase many genres, modes and styles of literature.

Though there are three numbered course designations, there is usually more than one course offered within each number category in any given semester, so students can choose between different courses in the same

chronological category. For example, this semester there are two ENGL 0610 courses — ENGL 0610E: "Postcolonial Literature" and ENGL 0610G: "American Fiction and Mass Culture."

Because these courses span a large swath of time and multiple genres within literature, they appeal to many non-concentrators and undeclared students. But the courses are capped at 30 students and enrollment preference is given to concentrators.

"The drawback of these classes is that they're capped for discussion, so you lose potential concentrators," said Kimberly Takahata '14, an English concentrator. "If they are to be required still, the cap needs to be fixed."

While Ryan acknowledged this problem, she explained that because the classes were only made mandatory in the fall of 2011, many juniors and seniors needed to fulfill the requirement, creating a cycle in which non-concentrators or underclassmen are prohibited from enrolling.

"A lot of juniors and seniors are in them right now, and that's a matter of logistics," Ryan said. "Hopefully with time that will balance out."

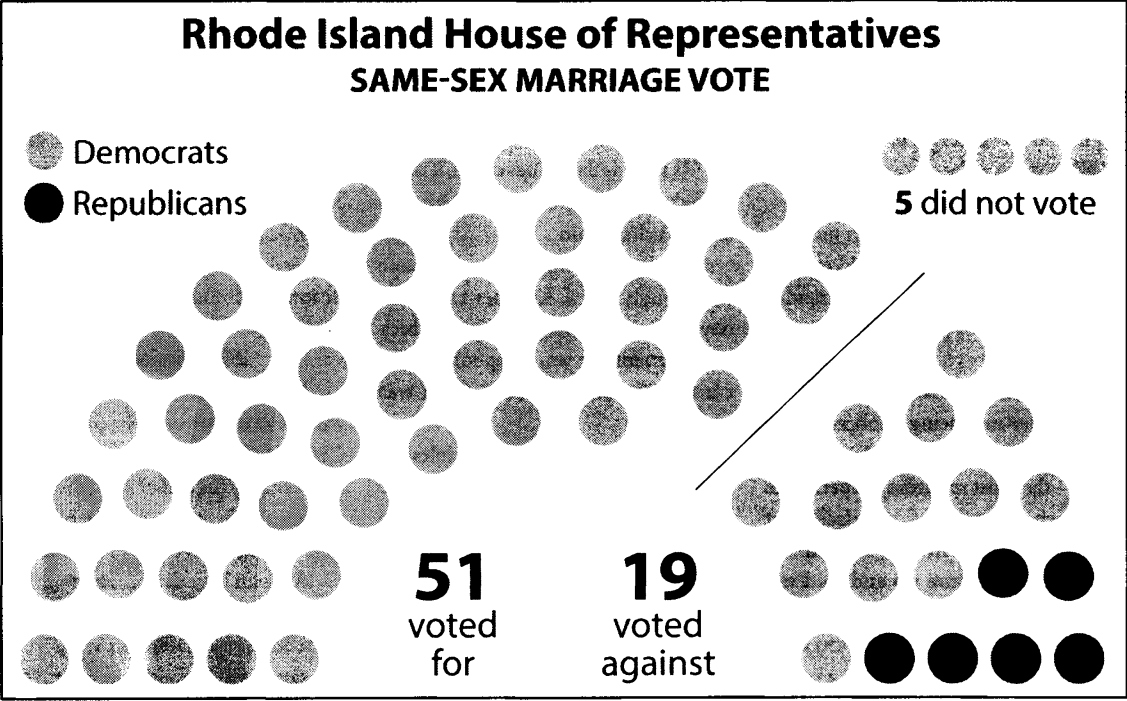
Other students have had different problems with the restructured system. Everett Epstein '13, an English concentrator, said he was annoyed that he had less time to take the three classes because they became mandatory in the fall of his junior year.

"I think all of the English classes I've taken already cover the material, but I have to take the 0410 and 0610 my senior year," Epstein said. "I don't think I would be taking them if they weren't required."

Overall, the clarity the three introductory courses provide for the concentration has outweighed the enrollment issues raised, Ryan said.

"Meeting with my concentration advisees, I see how well these mandated classes have worked," she said. "There are clearer learning goals for the concentration."

"What we have here is a planning problem, not a content problem," Foley said, adding that the department is discussing the kinks, but that students should "not expect a magical solution anytime soon."



GREG JORDAN-DETAMORE / HERALD

M. HOCKEY

Bruno fights through winter break, preps for tough lineup

Plagued by injury and illness, the men's hockey team has split wins and losses so far

By **CALEB MILLER**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The men's hockey team went 3-3 over the winter break, bringing its overall record to 6-8-4, 2-5-4 ECAC. The squad went 1-1 at the UConn Hockey Classic, earning them third place, and 2-2 in conference games.

The first two league wins for the Bears came Jan. 11 against Clarkson and Jan. 19 against Harvard. Team captain Dennis Robertson '14 said the wins were important in boosting the team's morale for upcoming conference games.

Offensive productivity was key for the Bears, who scored an average of 3.3 goals per game over break, an improvement from the 2.1 average in the team's first 12 matchups. Robertson said this increase could be attributed to more players getting involved in the offense.

"Guys are starting to click out there," Robertson said. "We are getting more balanced scoring, and our game against Harvard is a perfect example where we

had five different goal scorers."

But on defense, the Bears have been plagued by injury and illness. Goaltender Marco De Filippo '14 has had knee problems, and fellow keeper Anthony Borelli '13 has suffered from the flu twice. Defensemen Matt Wahl '14, Joey de Concilys '15, Kyle Quick '15 and Nate Widman '16 have also missed time due to injuries.

"This is the worst year I've seen for injuries," Robertson said. "Even guys that are in the lineup are still not at 100 percent."

But Head Coach Brendan Whittet '94 said the team will not be deterred from playing hard and seeking success.

"Guys get injured. It happens everywhere," he said. "The people that step into these roles have a job, and I want them to do a job without having excuses to fall back on."

After a short holiday break, the Bears were back in action Dec. 29-30 at the UConn tournament competing against nonconference teams. No. 14 Minnesota State Mankato beat Bruno 3-1 in game one, but the Bears rebounded the following night with a 7-2 victory over American International College. Robertson said the tournament was important for helping the team shake off rust while allowing them to test their



EMILY GILBERT / HERALD

Men's hockey faced two nationally-ranked opponents during winter break. Battling knee problems and bouts of flu, the Brunonians skated to a 3-3 record. Herald file photo.

mettle against different styles of play.

Before heading back into conference play, Bruno hosted a European all-star team, the Russian Red Stars, in an exhibition matchup Jan. 2. The Bears rolled to a 7-1 victory in the contest, with a hat trick by Jeff Ryan '13.

When the Bears travelled to Clarkson to resume league play, forward Ryan Jacobson '15 led the squad, contributing two goals to the Bear's 3-2 win.

Bruno followed the win a day later with a second league game at St. Lawrence, but this time the Bears came out on the losing end of another 3-2 decision.

Bruno fell to No. 11 Dartmouth 4-2 at home Jan. 18, but avenged the conference loss with a 5-2 win over Harvard the following night.

The road will not get any easier for the Bears as three of their next five games are against top 20 teams in the

national rankings. Despite all the injuries this year, the team remains upbeat heading into this crucial stretch of the season, Robertson said. Whittet said the key to success through the brutal schedule will be disciplined play.

"We have to concern ourselves with ourselves," he said. "We've got to focus on the little things and making sure we're as crisp as possible when the puck drops."

Kushner '13 recognized at Celtics game for nonprofit work

Nonprofit CCChampions plans to expand to the Northeast with a Boston area branch

By **ALEXANDRA CONWAY**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Ten-year-old KJ stood with Sidney Kushner '13 on center court during halftime of the Boston Celtics home game Jan. 9. This moment, which would be special for any Celtics fan, was especially significant for KJ, who is in the midst of a long battle with cancer.

He is one of many pediatric patients Kushner has worked to inspire through his nonprofit, Connecting Children with Champions, and these dedicated efforts led the Celtics to honor Kushner as one of their "Heroes Among Us."

The Heroes Among Us program was established by the Boston Celtics in 1997 to honor individuals who have positively contributed to various causes and communities.

Kushner, whose organization works to form one-to-one long-term friendships between children with cancer and professional athletes, said he was initially motivated to create a way to instill positive belief in pediatric patients after learning that over 350,000 children in the United States battle cancer. Kushner was aided by the Starr Fellowship, which provides support to aspiring social entrepreneurs at Brown. Initially based out of Kushner's hometown of Pittsburgh, CCChampions has helped inspire over 300 children, expanded to the Providence area and will launch a larger New England chapter, based in Boston, within the next two months.

The beginning

Kushner said he was originally inspired by childhood hero Lance Armstrong.

"What he did on and off the bike, I

felt like he was kind of doing superhuman things," Kushner said. "I realized it's what you're doing outside the sport that defines your legacy. That opened my eyes to a whole new world."

Kushner said he was also inspired by a personal experience he had with a friend in high school, Lauren, who was diagnosed with a rare form of back cancer.

"It was the first time someone close to me had been diagnosed with cancer, and what really struck me was how the entire community rallied behind Lauren," Kushner said. "Unfortunately, she passed away, but it really lit (a) fire in me, since the community she had built was so inspiring."

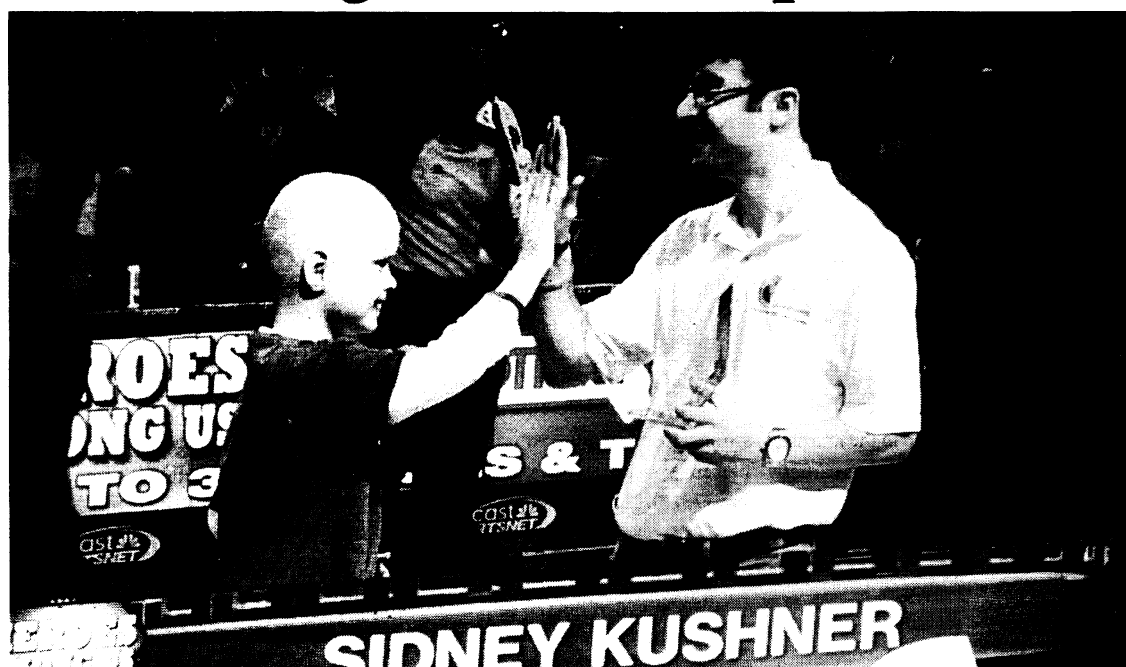
In the summer of 2011, Kushner, eager to learn more, volunteered at a camp in Toronto for kids with cancer. It was here that he befriended an inspirational 11-year-old boy, Andy.

"He was the most die-hard baseball fan I ever met, and once I shared my love for baseball as well, his eyes just lit up," Kushner said.

Kushner said it was at that moment he realized how professional athletes are much more than entertainment and could help children like Andy keep believing in themselves. Recalling his prior experience with Lauren, he put his idea into action.

Forming friendships

When children enter the program, he or she is paired up with a professional athlete in what is known as the "CCC friendship." An induction ceremony, during which the child receives a personalized jersey with the athlete's number and the child's name, formally recognizes this new bond. Six months of building and developing "team chemistry" follows the ceremony, said Kushner. The athlete, who serves as an inspirational pen pal and mentor, communicated with the child via letters, emails, phone calls, texting and even occasional visits. The



COURTESY OF CCCHAMPIONS

Ten-year-old KJ and Sidney Kushner '13 share a joyous high five at a Boston Celtics game honoring Kushner's nonprofit, CCChampions.

relationship lasts six months, the average length of active treatment.

"During this time, the child is usually on really intensive medications and in the hospital months at a time, and it really removes the child from feeling like a normal kid," Kushner explained. "So we introduce the child to a role model to allow them to be a normal kid again and have those big dreams."

At the conclusion of the six months, another special ceremony is held, and the child is presented with a CCChampions Championship trophy.

Earning recognition

Kushner said being honored at the Celtics game was simply the icing on the cake — the most rewarding experiences have been seeing the children's faces light up. "That is what I live for," he said.

"They called me up and told me about the Heroes Among Us program," Kushner said. "They said they loved the work I was doing, especially at a young age, and asked me to come to the game to be honored. ... I was speechless."

Kushner was provided with four tickets to the game — one for him and three to share. Kushner said he immediately knew whom he would invite. A few weeks prior to the ceremony, ten-year-old KJ had signed up for CCChampions, writing that his biggest dream was to go to a Celtics game.

"As soon as the Celtics called, it made perfect sense to invite him and his parents," Kushner said.

The days leading up to the big game were rough for KJ, Kushner said. Two days before the event and in the thick of treatment, he was hospitalized because his white blood cell count was nearly zero.

"The doctors told him that unless he could bring his count up, he wouldn't be able to go," Kushner explained. "As soon as the doctors said that, his counts skyrocketed, and that's what CCChampions does ... it inspires."

It was only the second time in the past 13 months that KJ was healthy enough to leave his house, Kushner added.

Kushner said the most special moment of the evening was when he and KJ were brought out to center court.

"It was just the two of us standing on the big Celtics logo ... everyone stood up cheering and it was one of the loudest and best moments of the entire game," Kushner said. "It was an unbelievable experience for me. It's great to be recognized, of course, but on a bigger organizational scale, it was the kick-off we need to make a huge impact in the Boston community."

What lies ahead

After Kushner graduates in May, he will move to Boston to be the full-time CEO of CCChampions. Kushner said he hopes that by the end of 2014, the Boston chapter will be strong and the organization will expand across the country.

"Athletes have this message ... if you believe in yourself, you can accomplish something great," Kushner said. "When you say this to these kids, a switch flicks in their head that makes them realize they can do that too."

'Hashtag' voted Word of the Year by American Dialect Society

Brown linguists discuss language's constant evolution, especially in the age of technology

By JESSICA BRODSKY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Word of the Year is one that is rarely spoken.

The word "hashtag" — the act of using a pound sign (#) followed by a word or phrase to tag a message on Twitter — was dubbed "Word of the Year 2012" by the American Dialect Society Jan. 4.

The word "hashtag" was created for Twitter in 2007 by compounding the British term for the pound symbol and "tag," Twitter's mechanism for categorizing posts. New words are formed from "building blocks that often come from other words, or else they may be common prefixes or suffixes that are attached to some base," said Ben Zimmer, chair of the New Words Committee of the American Dialect Society.

"As that word became more common, people didn't think of it as being a compound anymore," Zimmer said.

The meaning of "hashtag" changed, too — today, the pound symbol itself is

even referred to as a hashtag.

Pauline Jacobson, professor of cognitive, linguistic and psychological sciences, referred to the cause of linguistic evolution as the "\$64 million" question. Linguists know that languages change when they come in contact with each other and when they are passed down from one generation to the next. New words are constantly being created, based on the speakers' needs and the new phenomena and technologies around them, Jacobson said. As words develop and spread, they get incorporated into the language — but the process of entering a language is not immediate.

"There is no sharp notion of suddenly it walks into the door and now it's part of the language," Jacobson said. Nor is there any guarantee of how long a new word will remain popular. Words that spread very quickly may be just as easily forgotten, Zimmer said.

Younger generations, particularly high school and college students, are key to language changes, including the popularity of new words. Words, like other trends, can "catch on like wildfire across a segment of youth," said Laura Kertz, assistant professor of cognitive, linguistic and psychological sciences.

For example, the word "cool" origi-

nated in 1940s jazz circles and was incorporated into the youth slang of the 1950s. From there, it developed into an "all-purpose positive term," Zimmer said. How long words remain popular often has to do with whether they are adopted by a group that has prestige, Kertz said. Another determining factor in the pervasiveness of new words is how they sound. "App," a word with catchy pronunciation, was voted Word of the Year in 2010.

To become Word of the Year, a word or phrase must "say something about the times we're living in," Zimmer said. Hashtag reflects the need to use space concisely and effectively in online forums. Changes in language that reflect new ways of communicating online are not necessarily for better or for worse, Kertz said.

"Usually when people talk about language online, they're concerned about language falling apart, about degradation of language," Kertz said. But language changes all the time and people control the way they use it, he said, describing the difference between a person's way of speaking to their parents and their friends as an example of exercising that control.

Zimmer predicts that the future of changes in language will be heavily driven

American Dialect Society Awards

Word of the Year:

#hashtag — a word or phrase preceded by a hash symbol (#), used on Twitter to mark a topic or make a commentary

Most Useful:

-(po)calypse, -(ma)geddon — hyperbolic combining forms for various catastrophes

Most Euphemistic:

self-deportation — policy of encouraging illegal immigrants to return voluntarily to their home countries

Most Likely to Succeed:

marriage equality — legal recognition of same-sex marriage

Most Creative:

gate lice — airline passengers who crowd around a gate waiting to board

Least Likely to Succeed (tie):
phablet — mid-sized

electronic device between a smartphone and a tablet;
YOLO — acronym for "You Only Live Once," often used sarcastically or self-deprecatingly

Most Unnecessary:

legitimate rape — type of rape that Missouri Senate candidate Todd Akin claimed rarely results in pregnancy

Most Outrageous:

legitimate rape

Election Word:

binders (full of women) — term used by Romney in the second presidential debate to describe the resumes of female job candidates that he consulted as governor of Massachusetts

-From the American Dialect Society

by new technology and novel ways of communicating.

"It's an exciting time to be observing language and how it develops because

there are all these new forms of communication that we can watch and see (language) develop in real time," Zimmer said.

Study finds smoking worsens hangovers

Research from addiction study center could not determine cause behind behaviors' linkage

By ALEX CONSTANTINO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On your next night at the Whiskey Republic, leave the cigarettes at home — smoking could lead to a worse hangover, according to a new study from Brown's Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies. The research was published in the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs earlier this month.

To conduct their study, researchers including Damaris Rohsenow, a research professor of behavioral and social sciences, analyzed daily reports from students at an unidentified Midwestern university about how many drinks they consumed, how much they smoked and how they felt the next day.

The researchers focused on drinking episodes when students had an estimated blood alcohol level above .11, slightly

over the legal limit of .08. On those nights, students who smoked were more than twice as likely to have a hangover than students who did not. Additionally, students who smoked more cigarettes reported having more intense hangovers the next day.

Hangovers are "not one of the common negatives" reported by students during alcohol counseling, said Frances Mantak, director of health education, so it is difficult to tell whether Brown students have similar experiences. There is a large gap between perceived and actual smoking on campus, with less than 5 percent of students falling into the heavy smoker category, she noted.

The researchers found a correlation between smoking and hangovers but could not explain the relationship. Due to poor understanding of hangover mechanisms in general, explaining that link is difficult, Rohsenow said.

One possible explanation could be that alcohol affects nicotine receptors, Rohsenow said. Smoking has also been linked to poorer sleep quality, which is known to worsen hangovers, she said.

Because the students keeping the diaries did not record how much and how well they slept and because the study did not include biological measures, the authors were unable to test these explanations.

Roland Moore, a senior research scientist at the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, wrote in an email to The Herald that he finds the study "persuasive." Moore drew a parallel between the chemicals in dark liquors like bourbon and rum to those in tobacco smoke. Past research has found that dark liquors lead to worse hangovers, he wrote. "I can speculate that the numerous toxic byproducts of tobacco smoke ... could similarly contribute to the experience of hangover," he added.

Previous research has shown detrimental changes in the brain structures of alcoholics, which are even more pronounced in those who smoke, Rohsenow said.

She said she hopes college students will see her study as yet another reason to quit smoking, as the research demonstrates that even minor use of tobacco with alcohol can have negative effects.

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Health Services preps resources to fight virus

Students encouraged to take health precautions in light of especially severe flu outbreak

By **CORINNE SEJOURNE**
STAFF WRITER

In response to this year's particularly severe flu season, Brown has implemented several measures to prevent the spread of the flu and to care for those infected, Health Services administrators said.

Health Services sent an email to all students last week about the recent outbreak, outlining how to prevent infection through vaccination and good hygiene, how to recognize symptoms and what steps to take after contracting the flu. The email urged students to receive the vaccine from Health Services and to use FLU WEB, a resource on the Health Services website where students can notify Health Services they are sick.

The vaccine is free, and students can call or walk in for appointments, Director of Health Services Edward Wheeler said. Health Services has administered about 3,500 flu shots this year. Roughly 3,000 people on campus got the vaccine before winter break, and about 500 have done so since — the majority in the past three days, Wheeler said. Health Services has informed students about the flu through Morning Mail, posters, table slips and posts on the Brown University Health Education Facebook page.

"We're trying to get the word out in as many ways as possible," Wheeler said. He also highlighted FLU WEB as a helpful resource for students who

become sick by allowing Health Services to provide information about symptoms and connect students with various resources. The site enables sick students to be excused from classes, notifies a Health Services representative to contact them and allows them to coordinate friends to bring them meals from dining halls.

Margaret Klawunn, vice president for campus life and student services, also strongly suggested students get vaccinated and encouraged students to take advantage of FLU WEB, saying the website "worked very well a couple of years ago" with the H1N1 virus outbreak.

Wheeler noted that since this year's outbreak occurred over winter break, the reported numbers of flu on campus so far have been "very low." He added that he was happy with the number of vaccinations provided thus far but said he continues to urge students to be prudent in keeping themselves healthy.

Students' responses to news of the flu outbreak have been mixed. Leah Haykin '16 said she was glad she got the vaccine before going home for winter break. She said it was difficult for the rest of her family to get the vaccine following the "hysteria" that surrounded news of the outbreak.

Monica Kim '16, who has not received a vaccine, said her doctor told her this flu outbreak has been made to be a bigger deal than it is, with public perceptions amplified after the more moderate flu seasons of the past two years.

Like many others, Alison Su '16 chose to get the vaccine when she returned home after learning of the outbreak, adding that the vaccine was "running out everywhere."

// Flu page 1

a lot more hospitalizations this year from influenza-like illnesses and more incidences of laboratory-confirmed influenza," Pop-Vicas said. Previous seasons have yielded few lab-confirmed flu cases in adults and the elderly, but Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island has had close to 40 admissions in one month this year, she said.

As of mid-November, about 37 percent of Americans had been vaccinated, which is on par with last year, said Joe Bresee, chief of epidemiology and prevention with the CDC's influenza division, during the conference call. Still, the CDC hopes that number will rise to about 50 percent, Bresee said. Approximately 130 million doses of flu vaccine have been delivered, he added.

This year's vaccine is 62 percent effective, meaning vaccinated individuals are 62 percent less likely to get a case of the flu that requires them to go to a doctor, Frieden said. This number is comparable to flu vaccine effectiveness rates from past years but is below the 90 percent efficacy of most childhood vaccines, he said.

Flu vaccines come in two forms — flu shots, which contain a version of the influenza virus that has been inactivated, and nasal sprays, which contain a weakened version of the live virus, according to the CDC.

Once injected into an individual, the vaccine causes the body to make antibodies, said Daniel Weinreich, assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology. This is the body's way of "remembering" the foreign virus, so the next time the individual encounters that virus strain, it can identify it and mount a defense much more quickly, he said.

"The vaccine mimics infection," Weinreich said. "Your body is ready because it has had the exercise and the training." Those who do not receive the vaccine have a longer lag time before their body recognizes and attacks the flu virus, he said.

"The pick of vaccine strains was as good as it could have been this year," Frieden said in the conference call. "About 90 percent of all the strains circulating are included in the vaccine," he said.

But there is one strain, which accounts for about 10 percent of the circulating flu viruses, that the vaccine is not effective against. There is no evidence that this strain is more or less severe than other strains, Bresee said.

Creating an effective vaccine is difficult for scientists because the flu virus



ZEIN KHEIF / HERALD

While the flu vaccine helps prevent the virus' spread, it is not entirely effective, and even those vaccinated can have symptoms. Photo illustration.

mutates at such a rapid rate, Bungiro said.

The virus mutates in two ways, Bungiro said. The first way is through antigenic drift — genetic variation that occurs in the virus as it replicates. This form of mutation takes place gradually, but "over time changes the virus enough that antibodies that you made last year might not be as effective," Bungiro said.

The second mechanism of mutation, known as antigenic shift, is harder to predict, he said. For this sort of mutation to occur, two different strains of the virus must infect a single organism. Inside the host, the virus strains swap genetic material, resulting in a new form of the influenza virus, Bungiro said.

"The only thing predictable about the flu is that it's unpredictable," Frieden said in the conference call.

The World Health Organization and the CDC begin work on the vaccine one year in advance, Bungiro said, meaning the 2013-2014 vaccine is already being developed.

The vaccine can include three strains of flu, so scientists predict which three strains will be the most prevalent during the following year's flu season. Development of the vaccine amounts to an "educated guess," Bungiro added.

"You get one shot, but it's actually three vaccines," Weinreich said.

To increase the effectiveness of the vaccine, scientists are currently devel-

oping quadrivalent vaccines, which could include four strains of the virus, Frieden said.

"There's a lot of research going on towards improving influenza vaccines by novel approaches like looking at different proteins on the surface of the vaccine," Bresee said. He noted the quadrivalent vaccine could be used by the CDC as soon as next year.

"We tend to think of influenza as one entity because the experience of the illness is very similar. But on a genetic and molecular level it turns out that there are diverse strains of flu," Weinreich said.

Because the immune systems of young people are stronger than those of the elderly, the vaccine tends to be more effective in younger recipients, Pop-Vicas said. This is a public health challenge because the people who are most susceptible to severe flu — the frail, the elderly and people who have had cancer — are also the least likely to benefit from the vaccine, Frieden said.

Despite the flu virus' propensity to mutate, the vaccine is an effective measure against the flu, Weinreich said. While the vaccine will help prevent infection in individuals, perhaps a greater benefit is that it shuts down the widespread transmission process, he said.

"There's a certain population effect," Weinreich said, "and the fewer people who are infected, the harder it is for the virus to get traction in the population."



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THESE ARE THE BREAKS? Rethinking Black Performance in the 20th Century



AMST 0191J MW 8:30am-9:20am
Instructor: Micah Salkind

In this course students will look critically at cabaret, documentary film, theatre, dance, popular music, and museum exhibitions, rethinking the ways that Black performances have been configured in debates about American identity in the 20th Century. Rather than try to understand Black performance, and performers, in reductive aesthetic and political frameworks, students will read and write about them as heterogeneous and complex. Enrollment limited to 17 first year students and sophomores. WRIT

American Studies at BROWN



R.I. hit by deadliest flu outbreak in a decade

Proximity to Boston might be contributing to increased incidence of flu virus in Rhode Island

By **CHAD SIMON**
STAFF WRITER

This year's flu outbreak has been responsible for more deaths and hospitalizations in Rhode Island than any influenza virus within the past 10 years. Rhode Island recorded 90 cases of the flu during last year's season but has reported 458 cases as of Jan. 17, said Dara Chadwick, chief officer of health promotion for the state Department of Health.

The significant increase in hospitalizations for confirmed cases of flu between this year and last year has led the Department of Health to strongly encourage everyone to be vaccinated, particularly those who are 18-49 years old, Chadwick said.

Director of Health Michael Fine signed a declaration of widespread flu incidence Dec. 5 requiring all healthcare workers who had not been vaccinated to wear face masks when treating patients.

Momotazur Rahman, investigator in health services policy and practices said Rhode Island is particularly prone to the flu due to its proximity to Boston. "We have lots of commuters that go to Boston for work, and it is very likely that it will come to Providence very soon," Rahman said.

Boston, which has already suffered 18 flu-related deaths, has declared a public health emergency, the Providence Journal reported Jan. 9. Rahman added that Providence is more likely to be affected than any suburb of Boston because of its high population density.

Fewer reported cases of flu in Boston over the past two weeks might signal that the outbreak is beginning to ebb — though only slightly as many remain sick, the Boston Globe reported Jan. 18. The

apparent decrease in reported cases on the East Coast is matched by an increase on the West Coast, the Globe reported.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a report in January detailing widespread outbreaks of the flu in 47 states. The national total number of deaths also qualified this year's flu season as an "epidemic," the New York Times reported Jan. 11.

The state is seeing an increase in demand for the vaccine in response to the outbreak, but is "not getting calls from pharmacies saying we are completely out (of the vaccine)," Chadwick told the Journal Jan. 15.

This is the first flu season following the passage of a law in October of last year — the first of its kind in the nation — that mandates all health workers be vaccinated during flu season. SEIU Healthcare Employees District 1199 filed a lawsuit opposing the new law in December, claiming that the Department of Health "violates workers' due process rights," and that "no valid medical evidence shows vaccinating employees against the flu protects the health of patients," the American Medical News reported Jan. 14. The lawsuit is still underway, and the Department of Health is standing by its policy on the grounds that requiring health workers to be vaccinated is an appropriate measure to prevent the spread of the influenza virus.



ALEXANDRA URBAN / HERALD

With its high population density and proximity to Boston, Providence has faced a large flu outbreak, contributing to the nationwide epidemic.

Tips from Health Services

- » Get a flu shot.
- » Wash your hands frequently for 15-20 seconds, or two "happy birthday songs." If you are unable to wash your hands, use the hand sanitizer gel from dispensers located around campus.
- » If you are sick, cover your cough with a tissue, and then throw it away and wash your hands. In a pinch, cough into the crease of your elbow.
- » Take good care of yourself — get enough sleep, eat well and exercise.
- » Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- » Don't go to class if you are sick.

— Courtesy of Ed Wheeler, director of Health Services

Perspectives on Privacy

Rights, the Law & the University

a Colloquium
presented by
the Information
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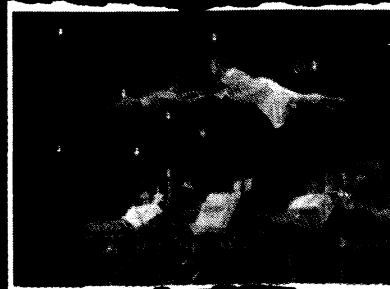
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Dual Degree artists gain freedom with exhibition's move to Granoff

With the first dual degree grad class in its last semester, show features art inspired by 'fullness'

By **STEPHANIE HAYES**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Men in bright kilts milling about, a tower of fridges packed with beer and ice cream, a glass jar filled with handwritten wishes and an open-invitation potluck. These are just some of the pieces one might encounter at "Full," the fifth annual Brown-RISD Dual Degree Exhibition, currently on display in the Perry and Marty Granoff Center for the Creative Arts.

Last night's official opening marked an evening of dual significance for the Dual Degree Program — the last semester of the program's first graduating class and the first year the Granoff Center has been used as the exhibition space for the program's artworks.

Thirty students across all five years of the program contributed a total of 39 works to the voluntary exhibition. This year's theme, "Full," was selected to "reflect the current

stage of the program," said Rachel Ossip '15, a member of the committee responsible for choosing what she referred to as the "ever-hotly debated" topic of the show.

"This is the first year that there are five years in the five-year program, so it's full in that manner," she added.

The open-ended nature of the theme allowed for the range of styles and media used by students, including fine arts, design, installations, textiles and animation. Interpretations of fullness ranged from the literal — with depictions of food, such as Isabel McCormack's '15 painting "Alimentary, Dear Watson" — to the symbolic — with representations of filled or empty space, such as Dora Mugerwa's '15 steel and sheet metal chair, "A Member of a Fragile Species."

Multiple artists interviewed said this year's move to the Granoff Center allowed greater autonomy over their works. Formerly housed in the Brown/RISD Hillel, the center for Jewish life on campus, the previous Dual Degree exhibitions were restricted in terms of the size of the works, the content and even the selection of cheeses served on opening

FULL
THE 5TH ANNUAL BROWN-RISD DUAL DEGREE EXHIBITION



ALEXANDRA URBAN / HERALD

The opening night of the Brown-RISD Dual Degree Exhibition marked a special occasion, as it was the first year that the program, which began in 2008, had students of all five years show their works.

night.

"We wouldn't be allowed to show nudes (at Hillel), and figure drawing

is a big part of the artistic training at RISD," Ossip said. "So it would ban us from that conversation."

"It's a much more formal, professional exhibition than in previous years," said // Full page 9

Orchestra promotes dialogue for peace

Musicians engage in cross-cultural dialogue through performance and discussions

By **ANDREW SMYTH**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, a youth orchestra uniting young Israeli and Arab musicians in a spirit of open dialogue and international cooperation, has returned to campus for the first time since 2006. Led by acclaimed conductor, pianist and activist Daniel Barenboim, the musicians will be on campus until Jan. 28 and will perform two concerts of Beethoven symphonies at Veterans Memorial Hall.

Barenboim founded the orchestra in 1999 with Edward Said, the late Palestinian-American literary scholar. Its members, most of whom are professional musicians, come from Israel, Palestine, Iran, Turkey and several other countries in the Middle East. Funded in part by the regional government of Andalusia, they meet every summer at their permanent home in Seville, Spain to rehearse for international tours and engage in discussions for better understanding.

What began as a workshop at a Johann Wolfgang von Goethe festival in Weimar, Germany — the orchestra's name comes from a collection of Goethe poems — has evolved into a world-class orchestra, with performances at distinguished venues including Berlin's Philharmonic Hall, Milan's Teatro alla Scala and Moscow's Tchaikovsky Conservatory. Former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan called the ensemble "a source of inspiration and a model for the Middle East," and Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon named Barenboim a U.N. Ambassador of Peace in 2007, according to Barenboim's personal website.

Since WEDO's last visit in 2006,

the troupe has maintained ties with Brown. Students and faculty members have participated in musical and philanthropic initiatives in Ramallah, Spain, and Berlin, where a new Barenboim-Said Academy will soon open.

"Our relationship both with Maestro Barenboim and with the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra is long-standing," said Michael Steinberg, director of the Cogut Center for the Humanities and the sponsor of the event. "In fact, they're starting a two-week tour (of the United States), and their longest stay is with us at Brown and in Providence."

Following its residency at the University, the orchestra will perform all nine Beethoven symphonies at New York's Carnegie Hall, an undertaking it tackled last July at London's BBC Proms.

Najla Said, daughter of Edward Said, honored the start of the residency with a performance of an abridged version of her off-Broadway, one-woman show, "Palestine," Wednesday night at the Cogut Center. In an exploration of her complicated sense of identity — she grew up on Manhattan's Upper West Side with a Palestinian father and a Lebanese mother — the piece thoughtfully questions what it means to be an Arab-American. She delivered an energetic and unguarded monologue that, with refreshing bouts of humor, was both acutely political and intensely personal.

"I wish I could explain this, how the Middle East works," she said. "But I can't do this without self-consciously feeling like an orientalist," she added playfully in reference to her father's seminal post-colonial study, "Orientalism."

Last night in Metcalf Auditorium, "Dissonance and Harmony: A Conversation," featured Barenboim in a public discussion with Israeli peace activist Miko Peled, Palestinian au-

thor and doctor Izzeldin Abuelaish and Mariam Said, vice-chair of the Barenboim-Said Foundation and wife of Edward Said. The event was streamed live on the University website.

The orchestra was intended to be "a forum where young people from different countries in the Middle East could come and dialogue with each other, a project which would make people think and reflect," Barenboim said in a University documentary produced during his 2006 visit to campus.

"This is an experiment in coexisting for people who have one language in common, and that's the musical language," said Mariam Said in the documentary.

Declared an "orchestra against ignorance" by its founders, WEDO has maneuvered boldly around taboo repertoire and diplomatic boundaries. In 2006, the orchestra performed under armed guard in Ramallah, inspiring the Emmy-award-winning documentary, "Knowledge is the Beginning." In 2008, it gave a controversial performance of Wagner's "Die Walküre," which is officially banned in Israel for the composer's anti-Semitic sympathies, at Berlin's Waldbühne, a building constructed by the Nazis.

"This is an orchestra that does not exercise censorship," Steinberg said. "If something is controversial, you think through it, you work through it. You don't shove it under the carpet."

WEDO will perform Beethoven's Symphonies Nos. 2 and 3 on Saturday and Symphonies Nos. 1, 8 and 5 on Monday at 8 p.m. in Veterans Memorial Auditorium. "Dissonance and Harmony: The Arab-Israeli Conflict Through Music and Academic Discourse," a discussion between orchestra members and the community, will be held tonight at 7 p.m. in the Perry and Marty Granoff Center for Creative Arts.

Ivy Film semester opens with 'warm' zombie rom-com

Jonathan Levine '00 hosts Q&A on new film to inform and advise aspiring filmmakers

By **RILEY DAVIS**
STAFF WRITER

The Ivy Film Festival is kicking off the new semester with an advanced screening of the film "Warm Bodies" followed by a question-and-answer session with director Jonathan Levine '00 Sunday.

Levine's film is a romantic comedy with a twist — the drop-dead gorgeous protagonist is replaced with an undead zombie. Based on Isaac Marion's novel by the same title, the film takes place in a world caught in the midst of a zombie apocalypse and tells the tale of a zombie whose love for a human begins to restore his humanity.

R, the zombie protagonist played by Nicholas Hoult, first meets his human love interest, Julie, played by Teresa Palmer, after killing her boyfriend and eating his brains, causing him to absorb all of her boyfriend's memories and thus fall in love with her. As R and Julie make their way back to a band of human survivors, R becomes more and more human as his love for Julie deepens. But set against Julie's disapproving father, played by John Malkovich, the couple must fight to stay together and bring R completely back to life.

IFF chose "Warm Bodies" not only to take students' minds off the cold,

but also because the co-directors of the festival, Evan Sumortin '12.5 and Mahima Chawla '13, said the Q&A would encourage student filmmakers to ask questions and learn about the industry.

"Jonathan Levine is a Brown alum who's been successful in the film world," Sumortin said. "[He] can give us a really great perspective on what it's like to be a young filmmaker."

"Warm Bodies" is not the only event IFF has in store for this semester. IFF will show "The Interpreters" — a film about urban violence — as part of its Stories for Change series Feb. 6.

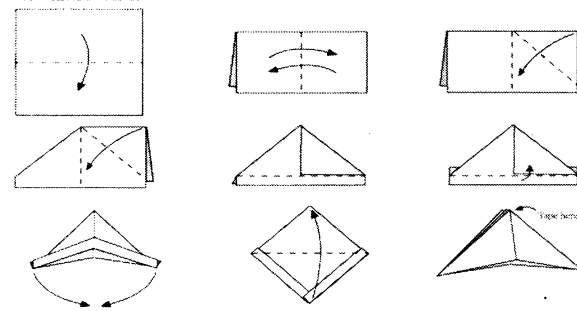
"The point of the Stories for Change series is to show films that inspire some sort of change or thought or action," Chawla said.

The festival itself — a series of screenings, workshops, question-and-answer sessions and lectures with the goal to both educate and entertain — will take place April 8-14.

"The point of the week is for student filmmakers to showcase their films, meet other filmmakers and meet industry guests," Chawla said, adding that the organization hopes to assemble a master class for aspiring filmmakers, featuring industry guests.

The screening will be held at the Martinos Auditorium in the Perry and Marty Granoff Center for the Creative Arts, and free tickets for the event will be distributed at 3:00 p.m. today in J. Walter Wilson. Limited tickets will also be available at the event.

Read. Recycle.





ALEXANDRA URBAN / HERALD

The Dual Degree's exhibitions move to the Perry and Marty Granoff Center for the Creative Arts this year allowed for larger pieces, such as the refrigerator installation, above, by Lukas Bentel '15 and Kevin Wiesner '15.

// Full page 8

Dual Degree exhibition veteran Youbin Kang '14.

"Because Granoff is a dedicated gallery space, we can have a lot more free-standing sculpture, and there's more accommodation for video pieces," Ossip added. While one proposal of a Lego tower spanning all levels of the Granoff Center was dismissed due to safety regulations, other large-scale works were featured in the exhibit.

One work that benefits from this newfound freedom was "For Your 42" Flatscreen TV," a collaboration between Lukas Bentel '15 and Kevin Wiesner '15. This installation consists of a stack of seven mini-fridges filled with beer and Ben and Jerry's ice cream, complete with the appliances' ambient humming. The artists' friends said they were "more than happy" to contribute to the work by donating old fridges and consuming pints of ice cream.

The QR codes beside each artwork, which can be scanned with a

smartphone to allow viewers to access an online artist's statement, are another new addition to the exhibition.

While there was an overwhelmingly positive response to the exhibition, some viewers expressed skepticism about Jian Shen Tan's '15 performance piece "A Full Table." This was an interactive potluck involving fellow artists and audience members. With little signage or explanation, its display on the same level as the catered food created confusion between what was part of his piece and what was free food.

The creativity extended to the use of space. To the surprise of gallerygoers, certain artworks were hung in the bathrooms and elevator bays. "We were excited about that because it's unexpected, and it pushes the notion of 'full' into putting work where people might not normally find it," said Ossip.

The exhibition will hang until Feb. 13. "I just hope those mini fridges don't return to my basement!" Ossip said.

Students pitch startup ventures to Silicon Valley companies

Entrepreneurship Program launches new 'Accelerator' trip to Silicon Valley to showcase talent

By **SAM HEFT-LUTHY**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

After Gavrav Nakhare '15 and his family moved several years ago, it took almost half a year for them to figure out what appliances they would purchase for their new kitchen.

"I found it really funny because there are these professional doctors who took five months to choose a fridge," he said, referring to his parents. "I couldn't believe how hard it was."

Nakhare forgot about the experience until he met Will Hewson '15 in his CHIN 0100: "Basic Chinese" class. Hewson told Nakhare he wanted to start a company that would make it easier for people to purchase appliances online. Together with Daniel Hackney '13, they founded durgood, one of six student startups to travel to Silicon Valley on the Brown Entrepreneurship Program's first ever West Coast Accelerator trip.

From Jan. 13 through Jan. 18, the 10 students toured the Silicon Valley and met with venture capitalists, lawyers and Brown alums who work for companies like Facebook and Google.

The trip was organized by Brown Venture Labs, one of two divisions of the Brown Entrepreneurship Program. Founded last year, Venture Labs looks for promising student startup groups and helps connect them with resources such as investors and partnerships.

"Right now we have two subsets (to the Program)," said Adrienne Tran '14, founder and managing director of Brown Venture Lab. The other branch of the program is the Idea Lab. "We have the Idea Lab, for people who are in the 'idea' stage or who don't quite know what type of venture they'd like to work on," he added. "Brown Venture Labs is more like an in-depth dive, taking five companies and accelerating them to the next level."

The West Coast Accelerator trip

offers an additional opportunity "for the students who are farthest along and have garnered the most resources from Silicon Valley," said Elizabeth Weber '14, former president of the Entrepreneurship Program.

The trip started out with an orientation and meet-and-greet at the office of Derek Schueren's '98 company, Recommind. From there, the students got a crash course in startup development from various groups, many of which were started or staffed by Brown alums. Throughout the trip, mentors and Brown alums shared stories about their experiences in Silicon Valley and offered advice to the students. The students also visited law firms, where they learned about "the legal aspect of startups," Nakhare said, "which we as students usually don't think about."

"It was completely filled from morning to evening with pretty much everything a startup needed," he said.

The students went to the Google campus, as well as to Facebook's headquarters, where they spoke with CFO of Facebook, Inc., David Ebersman '91.

"He came and chatted with us for an hour," Nakhare said. "It was amazing what he had to say about how Facebook transformed from a small startup to one of the biggest companies out there."

Josh Ezickson '15, president of the Brown Entrepreneurship Program for the upcoming year, said he was "thrilled" with the quality of visiting lecturers and the "extensive" nature of the network of Brown alums in Silicon Valley.

At the end of the program, the student teams went to Mohr Davidow Ventures, a venture capitalist firm, where they pitched their startups to a panel of judges who gave them feedback on their presentation and decided which of the six ventures would be most viable as companies.

"The judges couldn't come to a unanimous (decision on one) team that was the best," said Alon Sacks '15, president of Brown Idea Labs for the upcoming year. They ultimately recognized three of the six teams — Consign, gsucces and LoveGov — as "fundable companies," he said.



COURTESY OF ELIZABETH WEBER

Aspiring entrepreneurs participated in the first ever West Coast Accelerator trip over winter break.

LoveGov is a startup social network designed to connect students to information about federal and local politics, Consign is a web platform for online consignment and Gsucces is a mobile app that helps students in China study for standardized exams.

Nakhare said durgood is still in the planning phase of operations and that their goals for the trip were less about developing funding sources than were those of the other groups, including the three recognized teams of the pitch contest.

The founders of durgood are planning to search for funding in the upcoming months, but they are currently still finalizing a "viable product," Nakhare said. "It was as great as it could

be for where we are."

Several of the teams stayed in Silicon Valley to continue pitching to other venture capital firms, Weber said.

The event's planners said the experience of visiting the West Coast will help the teams further develop their ventures, and they plan to run another similar trip next year.

"There's just this sort of feel in the Bay Area in Silicon Valley ... this very startup-y feel," Ezickson said. "Venture capitalists actually ended up laughing at us because we were dressed in suits, and it's the first time they were pitched to in suits in a long time," he added.

"I know a lot of teams really embraced that culture, that laid-back and really friendly culture that Silicon Val-

ley had. They can really see themselves moving back out there once they have their companies more established," Ezickson said.

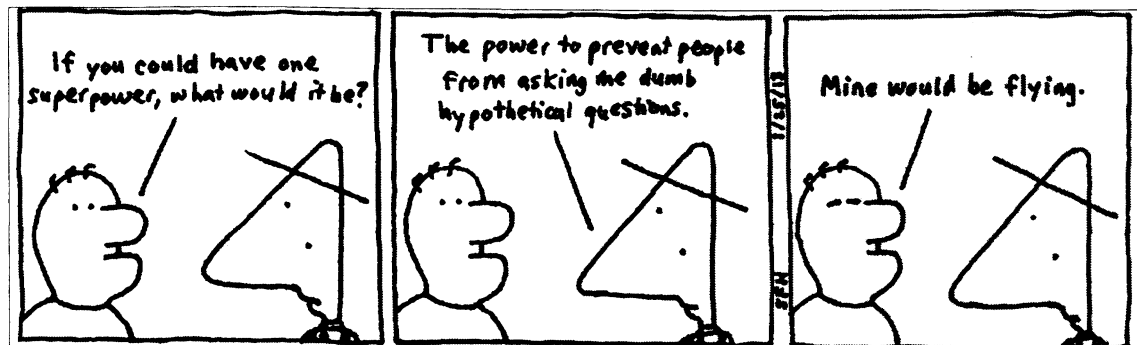
Though the Providence community has criticized the program's search for resources outside the city, Weber said she hopes the program will soon find more resources closer to home.

"We were delivering that 'people capital' and those resources and connections that could not currently be made in Providence," Weber said.

At the end of the trip, several of the teams expressed interest in returning to the "laidback and really friendly culture" of the Silicon Valley once their companies are fully formed, Ezickson said.

COMIC

Join the Club | Simon Henriques



DIAMONDS & COAL

A **diamond** to the Brown Concert Agency booking chair, who said the musicians students most commonly listed as their preferred Spring Weekend performers were either unavailable or too expensive. We hope this gift will help cover the cost of poaching some top-notch artists from the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival.

A **cubic zirconia** to the American Dialect Society for deeming “hashtag” the Word of the Year. We like, totally, like #loveit / May YOLO die a quick and painless death.

Coal to Rep. David Bennett, D-Warwick, who asked us to “imagine working three hours for a pizza.” We do, actually — it’s called “jazzercise.”

A **cubic zirconia** to the junior who said of the Naked Donut Run, “It’s like the Ocean’s Eleven of desserts and nudity.” Great. Just give us a ring when Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts make their appearances.

Coal to the new sorority that may replace Art House’s spot in Harkness. Can’t you two just team up for a Claude Monet-themed toga party?

A **cubic zirconia** to this year’s flu vaccine, which is 62 percent effective. To the other 38 percent — we wish you the best of luck with phlegm-fest 2013.

Coal to the sophomore who said he hopes the Residential Council’s plan to cluster student housing by class year will “make the housing lottery a lot less stressful.” We’ll be waiting in the wings with some Xanax. Just in case.

A **diamond** to Professor of Cognitive, Linguistic and Psychological Sciences Sheila Blumstein, who advised students not to “thoughtlessly book activities into (their) calendars.” We agree. That’s exactly why The Herald’s information sessions — at 2 p.m. on Feb. 9 and at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 11 at 195 Angell Street — should be the only things scheduled in your planners.

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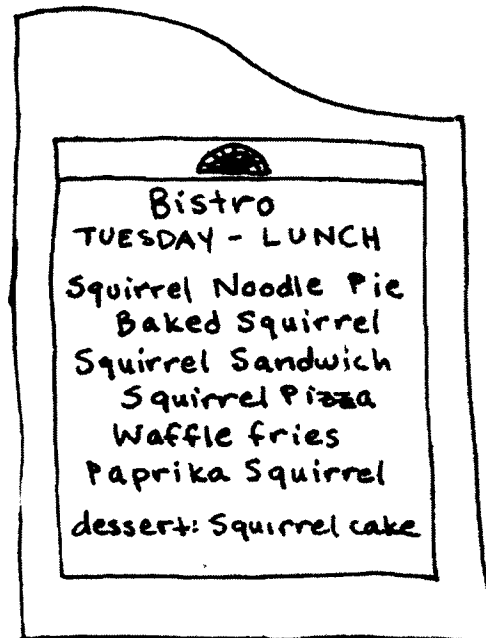
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

“ We have to concern ourselves with ourselves. ”

— Head Coach Brendan Whittet '94

See M. HOCKEY on page 4.



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Brown and its hidden conservatism



KEVIN CARTY
OPINIONS COLUMNIST

Though we may be both a bastion and a stalwart of Progressive America, Brown and Brown students will always have their conservative moments, elements and attributes. That should be obvious, but what parts of us do reflect conservatism? That is far from obvious because two of our most Brunonian attributes, our sexual values and open curriculum, appear to be our most liberal but are, in fact, reflective of some conservative doctrines that are easy to ignore.

First, let's talk about sex. We have Fem-Sex, the Naked Donut Run, Sex Power God and naked parties that easily outnumber our frat parties. We are, on the surface, perfect examples of carnal freedom in the decades after the sexual revolution. But things like nudity and personal sexual knowledge are sideshows to the real issues of the decades that have followed the sexual revolution, those issues being gender roles and family structure. Rethinking gender roles is critical and, all things considered, I think the Brown community does a pretty good job of doing just that. Still, when you start looking at the other disputes, Brown shows itself to be built on some real conservatism.

In his landmark treatise on class in America, *Coming Apart*, Charles Murray demonstrates that the new upper class, a class overwhelmingly represented at Brown, acts according to a bourgeois social conservatism

despite its seemingly bohemian impulses. A majority of the Brown student body, for all of its sexual liberation, is a product of a social ethic that loves and lives out a conservative two-parent family structure. Frankly, our existence and success at this school is a result of that fundamentally conservative unit. Decades of research have shown that children of two parent families are "more likely to attend college" than other children, in addition to receiving a host of other benefits.

Post-sexual-revolution liberalism has

servative at heart.

Similarly, consider the New Curriculum. It would appear that prioritizing intellectual freedom would be a great indication of our progressivism. The American academy is liberal turf, and advocacy of scholastic freedom goes hand in hand with American Civil Liberties Union-esque freedom of speech. So where's the conservatism?

By eliminating the core and keeping most concentration requirements to a minimum, Brown has defined academic freedom as im-

taneous order of the price system and its efficient movement of resources. At Brown, academic freedom and a small set of advisers and regulations result in a spontaneous academic order. In this Brunonian system, students and professors both use their own interests and knowledge to produce a set of classes that is vibrant, full, interesting, and eventually results in a valuable education for all who are enrolled and engaged. Without the central planning of a core curriculum or a dean who knows the passions of each and every student, Brown somehow manages to cater individually to each student without demeaning the quality of a Brown education as a whole. That is a result of spontaneous order, a concept that is above almost all else deeply conservative in its history, its assumptions and its aspirations.

The fact that these two things are built on seriously conservative ideas should not be cause for alarm but rather be cause for reconsideration. The concepts of spontaneous order and bourgeois sexual conservatism, whose respective successes are exemplified by our own spirited university community, have more merit than first meets the liberal eye. If we Brown students, so many of us full-throated in our progressivism, were to reconcile that success or even incorporate it into our own ideology, we would be better students, better thinkers and better citizens.

Kevin Carty '15 is a sophomore political science concentrator from Washington D.C. He can be reached at kevin_carty@brown.edu or followed @PolitiCarty.

The concepts of spontaneous order and bourgeois sexual conservatism, whose respective successes are exemplified by our own spirited university community, have more merit than first meets the liberal eye.

been reluctant to encourage or advocate two-parent homes, despite this data. Modern progressivism and the Brown student body, I think, shy away from asserting the importance of two-parent families because it smacks of the "family values" agenda of the religious right that we love to hate. Still, regardless of our feminist or progressive credentials, most of us have benefitted from a two-parent family structure. Why wouldn't we advocate this structure if it has helped us so much? At best, this political posturing is willfully ignorant. At worst, it is hypocritical. Either way, if we mean to be consistent in our political positions, we need to do a better job of acknowledging that many of us have benefitted from a social structure that is con-

portant and evensacrosanct. Furthermore, it has provided a framework of advisers and limited rules within which that freedom can thrive. In sum, by instituting the New Curriculum, Brown has allowed a spontaneous order to come about, an order that efficiently and desirably allocates education.

To explain, a spontaneous order occurs when conditions like these are met, when a certain liberty is enshrined and a structure is built to assist the life of that liberty. In this situation, a group of people — using their own knowledge, following their own self-interest, and acting individually — can come to unconsciously create an orderly social system. In a market economy, economic freedom and the rule of law result in the spon-

Rethinking undergraduate economics



LUCAS HUSTED
OPINIONS EDITOR

When I tell people I concentrate in applied math-economics, I get a handful of responses depending on the inquirer. "Oh wow, so you'll definitely have a job," is one. "Oh jeez, that sounds tough," is another. Aside from making me uncomfortable, these comments dismay me. They are emblematic of the sentiment that an economics concentration is somehow an "ideal" or aptly rigorous undergraduate degree to strive for.

Within the last 15 years, and especially in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis, the number of economics majors has increased rapidly across the country. At Brown, the number of concentrators per class was 96 in 2001, and now it is over 200. Just in the last two years, the concentration class size has increased by over 20 percent.

The rise in the number of students choosing economics is likely due to increase in jobs available to economics concentrators upon graduation. One student interviewed by The Herald said he chose economics to "pad his resume" and "appear hireable." Indeed, many of my peers covet jobs in finance and consulting and think a degree in economics is the best way to reach this goal. There is nothing wrong with this — students should strive to get the most out of their diploma. The real question that baffles me is this: What makes an economics degree employable? Is it even all that rigorous?

Don't get me wrong. I love the topic and

wouldn't have concentrated in anything else. But it is for this reason that I take the glorification of economics with a large grain of salt. The truth of the matter is that the minimum requirements leave one without the math skills necessary to understand most research work in the field and without the writing practice to explain ideas competently.

To illustrate my point, I share the following anecdote: When I told my advisor I wished to look at graduate programs in econ, he did not suggest that I take as many upper-level economics courses as possible. Instead, he told me to take more math classes: linear algebra, multivariable calculus — for starters — and preferably real analysis. That is actually the reason that I chose applied math-econ-

some familiarity with multivariable calculus and proof-based analysis seems fundamental.

For the sake of argument, let us suggest the undergraduate economics degree need not be technical. It should introduce students to the lexicon of economics and, like all other liberal arts degrees, routinely force them to argue their points through papers and research. Aside from sparingly few seminars, though, most economics classes require no paper writing. Most economics undergrads could scrape by without writing a single paper.

With no rigorous math training and no writing required, the concentration has become overcrowded. Economics classes are needlessly large. Ironically, the department

nomics analysis.

I don't seek to unfairly malign Brown's economics department. Our university is not alone in its treatment of the economics degree. A comparison with Harvard — an unpleasant but interesting one — reveals a nearly identical set of requirements. Furthermore, Brown's department has some classes, like those listed above, that require more math. But students can easily avoid those and receive the exact same degree.

I don't seek to criticize those students who choose to major in economics. Economics is a wonderful field. I highly encourage anyone who has not to explore the department. The real shame is that many students find the need to couple economics with another concentration or seek extra math and writing training outside of the department. Economics students are Brown students after all. They are smart and capable, and they deserve a degree that challenges them a little more analytically and critically.

To this extent, the department has made strides in my time at Brown. It recently increased some of the econometric requirements and made the degree a bit more difficult. But economics classes are still in limbo. Most are too rudimentary in math to be challenging, and few to none require the kind of rigorous, thought-provoking analysis other social sciences require with papers and projects. Brown misses a great opportunity to jump ahead of its peer institutions by not solving this problem.

Lucas Husted '13 learned to write by reading the Economist. He can be reached at lucas_husted@brown.edu

Economics students are Brown students after all. They are smart and capable, and they deserve a degree that challenges them a little more analytically and critically.

nomics when I first came to Brown. I wanted to study economics, so I had to study math.

This idea should make sense. Most economics research requires a great deal of math training. Empirical work is driven by statistical analysis where you attempt to explain human behavior with imperfect data. Many of the theoretical concepts in economics require a great deal of calculus. An undergraduate degree, particularly a bachelor of arts, need not dive into great detail with this math, but

has had to institute a very anti-"free market" approach to shopping period to control the high demand of its more popular courses.

The smallest classes are those that require the most math background. ECON1820: "Behavioral Economics" started with about 100 students last year, but nearly half dropped as they learned that it wasn't going to be "easy." ECON1640: "Econometrics II" had fewer than 10 enrolled students, despite teaching the math concepts that comprise macroeco-

McCoy '14: Confronting gun culture in the NFL and NBA



ETHAN MCCOY
SPORTS COLUMNIST

It is no secret that in the NFL and the NBA, a gun culture exists among the same players whose jaw-dropping athletic exploits bring family and friends together on a nightly basis.

There is no official data on the exact number of professional athletes who own guns, nor on how many guns each athlete owns, but numerous estimates from players in both leagues indicate a percentage that far exceeds that of the overall American population — 47 percent of all American adults, a 2011 Gallup poll found. According to a December USA Today investigation, multiple NFL players estimate that three out of every four players in their league own guns. In the NBA, estimates prove harder to come by, but Atlanta Hawks guard Devin Harris surmised in 2010 that 75 percent of NBA players are gun owners, and gun-related incidents have consistently been a blemish on the league's image.

The reasons behind the pervasive gun possession make sense. In signing professional contracts, young men are thrust into positions of instant wealth and notoriety where their faces, incomes and even the locations of their homes become public knowledge. Many athletes feel this makes them a target for crime and seek to defend themselves and their families

accordingly. Another factor may be the machismo culture of professional sports that brings forth constant trash talk and the urge to intimidate opponents and command respect. Just take a look at the 2011 Men's Journal article on Steelers linebacker James Harrison titled, "Confessions of an NFL Hitman," which features a photo of a shirtless Harrison staring down the camera and crossing two hands over his chest.

Gun-related incidents off the field have riddled both leagues in recent years. In 2009, Washington Wizards guards Gilbert Arenas and Javaris Crittenton pulled guns on one another in the team locker room during a disagreement over gambling debts. That same year, then-Cleveland Cavaliers guard Delonte West was pulled over for a routine traffic violation and found in possession of a small arsenal including two loaded semi-automatic handguns and a shotgun concealed in a guitar case. This past spring, former Nets center Jayson Williams was released from an 18-month prison sentence following the accidental fatal shooting of Williams' limousine driver.

The NFL has seen similar headlines. Last July, Baltimore Ravens linebacker Terrell Suggs was forced to surrender his collection of seven firearms, including an AK-47, after a domestic abuse case. In November 2008, former New York Giants wide receiver Plaxico Burress infamously shot himself accidentally in the thigh with a Glock pistol inside a nightclub. And just last December, in a

tragedy that sent shockwaves around the sports world, Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Jovan Belcher shot and killed his girlfriend before turning the gun on himself in front of the team's head coach and general manager at Arrowhead Stadium.

Players in the NFL and NBA are well aware of the stage they live on. They recognize that their actions on and off the field are followed, scrutinized and emulated by youths and adults across the nation. Both leagues have done an admirable job of giving back to local communities and using their positions of influence for good. League-wide initiatives include the NFL's Play 60 and NBA Cares, carried out alongside the seemingly endless efforts of individual athletes and franchises.

But now more than ever, it is time for these athletes to confront a glaring problem in their own world and expand their work off the field to help prevent gun violence. Players and teams in both leagues responded to the Sandy Hook tragedy in touching and sincere ways, from Kevin Durant and Chris Johnson writing tributes on their footwear to Victor Cruz visiting the grieving family of six-year-old Jack Pinto, who was laid to rest the day before wearing his favorite Cruz jersey. These players, conscious of their positions in the spotlight, responded with grace, selflessness and compassion. But can — or will — members of the sporting world use that same pedestal to act further? To confront the pathology surrounding guns in this country by changing their

own ways?

As the push to curb mass shootings and gun violence — perhaps the most maddening aspect of American exceptionalism — begins to finally gain long overdue momentum, professional athletes must also recognize their role in this movement. As is true with the spectrum of gun owners across the country, many athletes are likely responsible gun owners, but these unsettling trends of incidents involving their colleagues should give all players pause. It is unrealistic to expect every player to turn in his guns, but gun-owning athletes must reevaluate their firearm ownership. Personal responsibility aside, now is the time for players to also speak out about the dangers of guns, lend their influential profiles to gun control campaigns like Demand a Plan and push within front offices for measures that will increase their leagues' roles in combating gun violence.

Steps in the right direction have already begun. After the Belcher tragedy, seven NFL players reportedly turned in their guns. After Sandy Hook, Chicago Bulls enigmatic big man Joakim Noah pledged to ditch his signature "six shooter" celebration, and has since stuck to his words. Earlier this month, outspoken Minnesota Vikings punter Chris Kluwe voiced his support for increased gun control on the Colbert Report. These instances are encouraging and serve as examples of both personal accountability and a recognition of professional athletes' prominent roles in American culture.

I am not arguing that the NFL or NBA should ban their players from legally purchasing and owning guns. That is simply not possible and would only serve to play into the hands of right-wing extremists spewing rhetoric about the government taking their guns away — the NFL to them would be a microcosm of the country, with Roger Goodell serving as the tyrannical Barack Obama. Nor am I saying that these leagues can bring about change alone, or in a way that advocacy groups and individuals who have worked tirelessly toward gun control cannot.

But professional sports are an ingrained part of American culture, and players reside in positions of enormous power and influence. As the recent responses to the Belcher tragedy and the heartbreak of Newtown have shown, many believe that enough is enough. Now is the chance for these individuals to tackle a problem that has long been staring them in the mirror, and in doing so take a leading role in helping to change what we value and who we are as a nation. These athletes are already leaders when it comes to practicing and advocating education, physical fitness and community involvement. Now is the time to add gun control to that agenda.

Ethan McCoy '14 thinks the shotgun offense is the only gun the NFL needs. He can be reached at Ethan_McCoy@brown.edu.

HOME GAMES THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY

W. Basketball vs. Yale
6 p.m. @ Pizzitola
W. Ice Hockey vs. Colgate
7 p.m. @ Meehan Aud.

SATURDAY

Fencing Tournament
9 a.m. @ OMAC
W. Ice Hockey vs. Cornell
4 p.m. @ Meehan Aud.

SUNDAY

M./W. Squash vs. Bates
11 a.m. @ Pizzitola
M./W. Squash vs. Bowdoin
1:30 p.m. @ Pizzitola

M. BASKETBALL

RECENT GAMES

Rhode Island 59
Brown 47

Brown 75
Niagra 74

Brown 71
Daniel Webster 34

Brown 65
Yale 51

M. BASKETBALL

Bears continue winning ways into Ivy play

Basketball finds success on the court and in the community over winter break

By **SAM WICKHAM**
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

Heading into Ivy League play, the men's basketball team has cruised to victories in its last three games, bringing its overall record to 7-8. The Bear's biggest win in a 4-3 campaign over break came Dec. 28 in a 69-68 upset against cross-town rival Providence College.

"I thought that was an important win," said Head Coach Mike Martin '04. "We had been working pretty hard leading up to that game and hadn't really seen the fruits of our hard work in the win-loss column."

Bruno opened its Ivy League campaign Saturday, posting a 65-51 win over Yale (6-12, 0-1) at the Pizzitola Sports Center.

"We talk about getting better every day and being the best team we can be," Martin said. "I'm very confident we can be a good basketball program going forward, and I think our guys believe that as well."

Co-captain Sean McGonagill '14 led the Bears, scoring 20 points and dishing out four assists. McGonagill was joined in his efforts by co-captain Matt Sullivan '13, who added 13 points of his own and collected 6 rebounds.

"I think improving one step at a time

is the biggest thing for us," McGonagill said. "We're looking to improve our fundamentals and our basic team defense. We want to go in and improve ourselves every day."

McGonagill was honored as the Ivy League Co-Player of the Week for his performance. McGonagill said that Sullivan and co-captain Tyler Ponticelli '13 will also continue to play important roles as the team enters Ivy play.

The team's commitment to hard work also extends off the court. Bruno hosted a clinic for the Rhode Island Special Olympics over break, teaching fundamentals and drills to nearly 150 Special Olympians.

"It's always important to keep our team involved in the community," McGonagill said. "It was a great experience for us to help individuals learn more about basketball."

"We're all fortunate to be in the position we're in," Martin added. "Basketball has afforded us all some pretty incredible opportunities. ... Any chance we have to use basketball as a way to give back is a great opportunity for us."

Bruno aims to stay unbeaten in the Ivy League in Saturday's rematch against Yale in New Haven.

"We need to focus on what we did well in our last game, as well as what we can improve on," McGonagill said. "Playing good defense is the biggest thing for us. If we can get stops and have more possessions than they do, that will lead us to a win."



EMILY GILBERT/HERALD

Co-captain Sean McGonagill '14 helped lead the Bears on a three-game winning streak. *Herald file photo.*