

INSIDE

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Summer reads

The class of 2017 will read "Beautiful Souls"



Bill proposal

Legislation would enhance terms of workers' protection

Ban the box

Bill would eliminate criminal history boxes on job apps

TODAY	TOMORROW
45 / 35	41 / 29

Paxson confirms investment in coal companies

A University advisory committee will likely recommend divestment from coal companies

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

President Christina Paxson acknowledged for the first time that the University is invested in some of the 15 major coal technology companies targeted by the Brown Divest Coal Campaign at a meeting with the members of the campaign, said University officials and students present in the discussions.

The Advisory Committee on Corporate Responsibility in Investment Policies is currently reviewing those investments and will likely recommend the University divest from coal companies, said ACCRIP member and Senior Lecturer of Engineering Christopher Bull '79 SCM '86 PhD'06. ACCRIP will meet tomorrow with Paxson and Executive Vice // Coal page 3



EMILY GILBERT / HERALD

Continuing its campaign for Brown to divest from 15 coal technology companies, the Brown Divest Coal Campaign hosted a protest yesterday on the Main Green.

Donations to U. grow increasingly specific

Most gifts the Corporation approved in February were designated for specific projects

By **KIKI BARNES**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Recent financial gifts to the University demonstrate a trend of donors increasingly specifying what their contributions should fund, said Patricia Watson, senior vice president for University advancement.

"There is a trend slowly moving to friends (of the University) wanting to support very specific (programs)," she said. "They give their money directly to what they want to support."

The Corporation approved more than \$31 million in gifts to the University in a conference call last month. As the University's highest governing

body, the Corporation must approve all gifts totaling over \$1 million.

The largest gift the Corporation approved was an as yet untargeted of \$10 million from Marty Granoff P'93. In the second-largest gift it approved last month, the Corporation accepted an anonymous \$5.5 million donation to go in part toward constructing a rooftop greenhouse and conservatory for the Building for Environmental Teaching and Research, with the remainder going toward the Annual Fund.

"We try to connect what we need with what (the donors) want," Watson said.

"We identify the areas of the

University that interest them most," Watson said, adding that her department works to align donors' interests with the University's present funding priorities.

Beppie Huidekoper, executive vice president for finance and administration, said the University has been engaged in extensive efforts to raise money for the new building.

"Most gifts are in areas we have been planning around," Huidekoper said, adding that this gift is the first large donation designated specifically for the new building project.

Many donors who gave Corporation-approved gifts earmarked a portion of their contributions for the Annual Fund, which supports undergraduate financial aid, teaching and other programs. The majority of

Annual Fund donations fund scholarships and student programs, such as transportation to off-campus events, Watson said, adding that the fund also supports faculty research and projects.

Various portions — with a total value of \$650,000 — of the gifts the Corporation approved at its meeting last month were marked for the Annual Fund.

Huidekoper said the number of Annual Fund gifts the Corporation approves has remained consistent in the past few years. The Corporation approved \$500,000 in gift portions toward the Annual Fund at its meeting last October.

Huidekoper said over the last 10 years, total donations to the Annual Fund have // Gifts page 2

Majority supports same-sex marriage

The poll found little support for Gov. Lincoln Chafee '75 P'14, who faces reelection next year

By **MARIYA BASHKATOVA**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

More than two-thirds of Rhode Island voters support same-sex marriage legislation, according to a poll

conducted by the Taubman Center for Public Policy in February. Approximately 60 percent of respondents said they favor legalizing same-sex marriage, while 26.1 percent said they oppose same-sex marriage legislation and 13.5 percent said they are unsure.

The poll surveyed 593 randomly selected Rhode Island voters by phone Feb. 21-23. The margin of error for the poll is plus or minus 4 percent, according to the Taubman Center.

Respondents were asked to explain their justification for supporting same-sex marriage legislation, and their open-ended explanations were categorized by the Taubman Center into 10 response types. Approximately 50 percent of respondents cited "equal rights" and 27.7 percent cited "personal choice" and prioritizing "love" and "happiness" over "sexual orientation." Other responses included "not government's business to decide," "have friends/family who are gay/lesbian" and "everyone is equal in God's eyes."

When respondents who said they opposed same-sex marriage were asked to explain their // Poll page 3

HEAVY PETTING



ALEXANDRA URBAN / HERALD

Students flocked to Wriston Quad to play with animals including rabbits and a goat at Super Heavy Petting, presented by the Class Board 2015.

Construction changes plans for park on Providence River

Officials hope construction will begin in summer 2014, with the park opening in 2015

By **KATHERINE LAMB**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Seven years after initial plans were drafted to develop a park along the west waterfront of the Providence River, recent construction in the Jewelry District — including several University buildings — has altered those design plans. The new park will offer a grassy space with access to the river and outdoor programming that will strengthen connections between College Hill and downtown Providence.

The city held a design competition to initiate a vision for the park in

2006, but the design has since evolved because "the conditions around this park have changed so much," said Bonnie Nickerson, director of long-range planning for Providence.

"Originally the design didn't take into account the context, because the context was unknown," she said.

The biggest change the commission made to the park plans was selecting a "parcel" from the initial allotment to offer for commercial development, Nickerson said.

The 1.4-acre parcel has the potential to be developed into 3,000 square-feet of space, said Colin Kane, chairman of the I-195 Redevelopment Commission. Due to this change, open land for the park on the west side of the river has now decreased from a 6-acre lot to a 4.5-acre lot, but there is still potential for a "very large park for an urban setting," he said.

The I-195 // Park page 3

CALENDAR			
TODAY	MARCH 5	TOMORROW	MARCH 6
11 A.M.	Student Art Exhibition List Art Building	12 P.M.	John Carter Brown Library Lunch Brown RISD Hillel
7:30 P.M.	EMS Open House Wilson Hall, Room 102	3 P.M.	Wind-Down Wednesday Messages Memorial Lounge

MENU	
SHARPE REFECTORY	VERNEY-WOOLLEY
LUNCH	
Bacon Ranch Chicken Sandwich, Corn and Broccoli Casserole, Baked Potato Bar, Swiss Fudge Cookies	Shaved Steak Sandwich, Vegan Tofu Ravioli with Sauce, Lentil Chili, Nacho Bar, Swiss Fudge Cookies
DINNER	
Beef Teriyaki, Pan Seared Salmon in Cider, Baked Sweet Potatoes, Grilled Caesar Chicken, Magic Bars	Tuscan Pork Roast, Au Gratin Potatoes, Lentil Chili, Moo Shu Chicken, Moo Shu Tofu, Magic Bars

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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Politicos Reagan and Paul

5 Do some healing

9 Mallorcan seaport

14 Lit sign in a dark theater

15 Operatic song

16 Regions

17 Playground frolicker

18 Singer called the "Godmother of Punk"

20 Not getting any younger

22 Mozart's "Così fan tutti"

23 Misdemeanor

26 Reheat leftovers, in a way

30 "Bambi" doe

31 Pep rally yell

32 Grabbed at will

34 Triangular Indian pastry

37 Bufferin targets

38 Set in opposition to

41 Land, in Le Havre

42 Puts into office

43 Enthusiastic reply to "Who wants ice cream?"

45 Classical lead-in

46 Involuntary sign of nerves

49 Color for a panther?

50 One given to bad language

54 Movie reviewer Roger

56 China's Zhou

57 Finishing the 18th, say

62 Caplet or gelcap

63 Dentist's insertion

64 Where the clergy sit, in many churches

65 Mayberry boy

66 It's found in veins

67 Tiny time div.

68 MADD ads, e.g.

DOWN

1 Put on a new cassette

2 Roughly 21% of the atmosphere

3 "La Femme"

4 Angioplasty implant

5 "You are here" document

6 Timeline time

7 Capone cohort

8 Factual tidbit

9 Yesterday's tense

10 Azerbaijani's neighbors

11 Welcoming wreath

12 Welcoming floor covering

13 Bit of fire evidence

19 Adherents: Suff.

21 Danced wildly

24 Amounted (to)

25 Island

27 Weapons from Israel

28 Mild-mannered fictional reporter

29 L.A. Times staffers

33 Exemplification

34 Ump's call

35 Erie Canal mule

36 Athlete's promoter

38 Mani partner, salonwise

39 Laundry room tool

40 -deucy

41 Advice at the track

44 Pop one's cork?

46 Blooms from bulbs

47 Home to Firenze

48 rellenos: stuffed Mexican dish

51 Church keyboard

52 Sporty car roofs

53 Seuss's "Hop"

55 Difficult situation

57 Pollutant banned by Cong. in 1979

58 www address

59 On top of everything else

60 Employ

61 Investigator, slangily

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

ECHO HEARST AWS
LAOS ERRATA SET
SIMPLES IMON SEA
ENERO JOGGING
GEORGIE PORGIE
PLAY AUNT ONES
AIM KILL DNA
WEEWILLIEWINKIE
HAS MEET NON
APSE ABLE TEND
LITTLEBOYBLUE
HANSOLO USHER
INI OLDKINGCOLE
ROC SEESTO ALMS
TSK ENSUED NEST

xwordeditor@aol.com 03/05/13

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By Mel Rosen
(c)2013 Tribune Media Services, Inc. 03/05/13

// Gifts page 1

tripled from roughly \$12 million per year to \$36 million per year. But she does not believe Annual Fund donations will increase at a similarly high rate this decade, she added.

"I don't think we'll see the same trend in the next 10 years, though we hope to sustain it," she said.

Watson said the Annual Fund is the most flexible revenue source the University has at its disposal because it "gives the president and provost room to respond to things unforeseen."

The Annual Fund is instrumental in supporting the University's policy of domestic need-blind admission, she added.

So far, the University has raised \$93 million of its \$200 million fundraising goal for fiscal year 2013, Watson said.

Large-scale donations like those approved by the Corporation — which Watson referred to as "transformational gifts" — can significantly improve the stature of various University programs, Watson said.

"The larger the gift, the bigger the impact," she said. She added that smaller donations can serve equally important roles.

The size and scope of Corporation-approved gifts demonstrate alums' "extremely generous giving, the type of giving that made Brown able" to first implement robust financial aid for students, said Alexander Mechanick '15, president of Brown for Financial Aid, a student group that advocates for an enlarged commitment to financial aid.

Mechanick added that the large gifts approved by the Corporation "underscore the willingness of our alumni to respond in a greater way when the administration" highlights the University's funding priorities.

Huidekoper said many of the recently approved sizable gifts will be paid over a period of five years, so there will be a lag time before the University can derive the full benefit of these donations.

By the numbers

The Corporation approved \$31 million in gifts at its February meeting, including:

\$5.5 million

for a rooftop greenhouse and conservatory at the new Building for Environmental Research and Teaching

\$3 million

for renovations to the John Hay Library

\$2 million

for endowments and scholarships for students from China

\$2.1 million

for the Davis United World Scholars Program

\$650,000

for the Brown Annual Fund (collected from various larger gifts)

THE BROWN
DAILY HERALD

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// Park page 1

Redevelopment District Commission was formed in 2011, and legislation allocated ownership of the park to the commission until the end of its 20-year charter, Nickerson said. When the commission dissolves in 2031, ownership will be turned over to the city, she added.

"What is happening is a real partnership between the commission and

the city in the development of this park space," Nickerson said.

Construction of the park will be another step in creating a "city walk" — a route, including a pedestrian bridge over the Providence River, that will connect sections of the neighborhood, said Arthur Salisbury, president of the Jewelry District Association.

While the city has not formally accepted the idea for the city walk, the

association has a meeting scheduled with Mayor Angei Taveras in March, he added.

The goal is to "create a seamless connection within that part of Providence," said Lambri Zerva, design project manager for the I-195 relocation project.

The pedestrian bridge will likely encourage more Brown students to walk down College Hill and into the Jewelry District, where the University already has a presence through the Alpert Medical School, said Mike McCormick, assistant vice president of planning design and construction. Historically, there has been a disconnect between the main campus and University buildings in the Jewelry District.

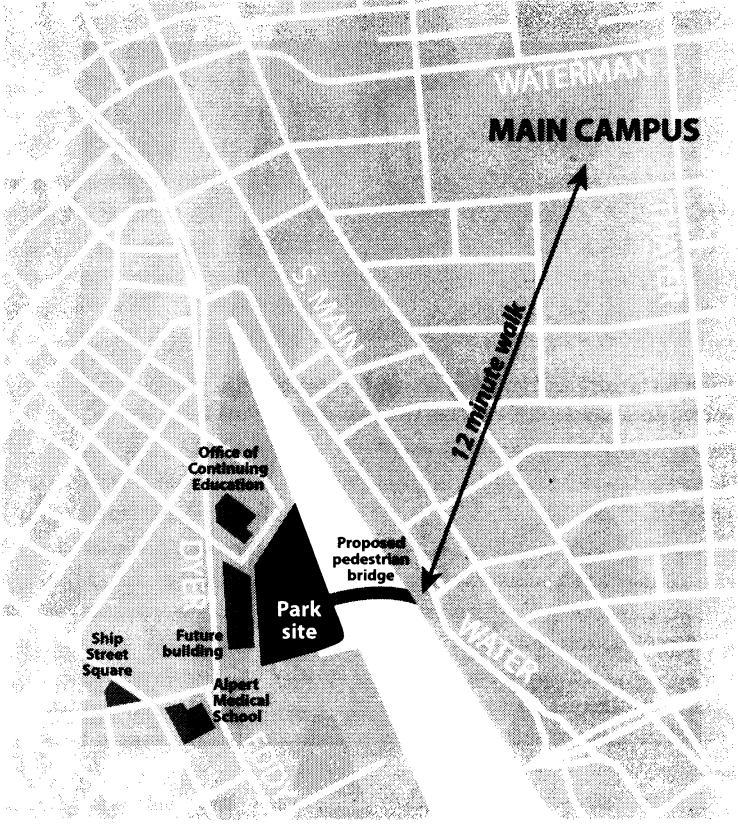
"It's not how long the walk is, but it's how long the walk feels," McCormick said. The park will "shorten the perception of the distance."

"We see this as being a chain of public spaces that will start to connect the Jewelry District to the College Hill," he said.

"Not only does it make the area much nicer, but it improves the Jewelry District and the area that we have a lot of people in," McCormick said. He added that the park will "improve the street life and everyday atmosphere."

While designs have not been finalized, the Jewelry District Association plans to incorporate child-friendly play structures into the park and develop cafes and retail shops along the walk, Salisbury said.

The association is also creating



The construction of the park is part of a larger effort to connect the University's main campus with the Jewelry District.

// Food page 8

cal background in cuisine, the class could still be enjoyable, she said.

"Everyone relates to food because everyone needs to eat," Warren-Shriner said. "Even if you don't like cooking, it relates to you. Everyone appreciates that French food in particular

says so much about the culture."

Rothman said she particularly appreciated the course because she plans to work at Yelp, a location services application that features restaurant reviews, after graduation.

"Getting an immersion in French food is wonderful," she added. "I'm becoming a cheese expert."

// Coal page 1

President for Finance and Administration Beppie Huidekoper.

Members of the Brown Divest Coal Campaign, which launched in September and aims to encourage the University to withdraw investments from major coal companies, met with



The park could provide a new space for farmers' markets, performances and other outdoors events during the summer.

venues in the park to host summer events such as farmers' markets, shows and performances and allocating open grass for other outdoor activities.

The three design teams collaborating on the waterfront development presented the reformed park concept to the commission in November, and the Rhode Island Department of Transportation has since created more detailed plans, Nickerson said.

The commission hopes to see the park ready for construction by

summer 2014 and open to the public within 18 months, in late 2015, Nickerson said.

The city has set aside \$3.8 million for the park, according to Providence Business News. The funding will come from the I-195 project budget, which was funded by the sale of other parcels of I-195 land, Zerva said.

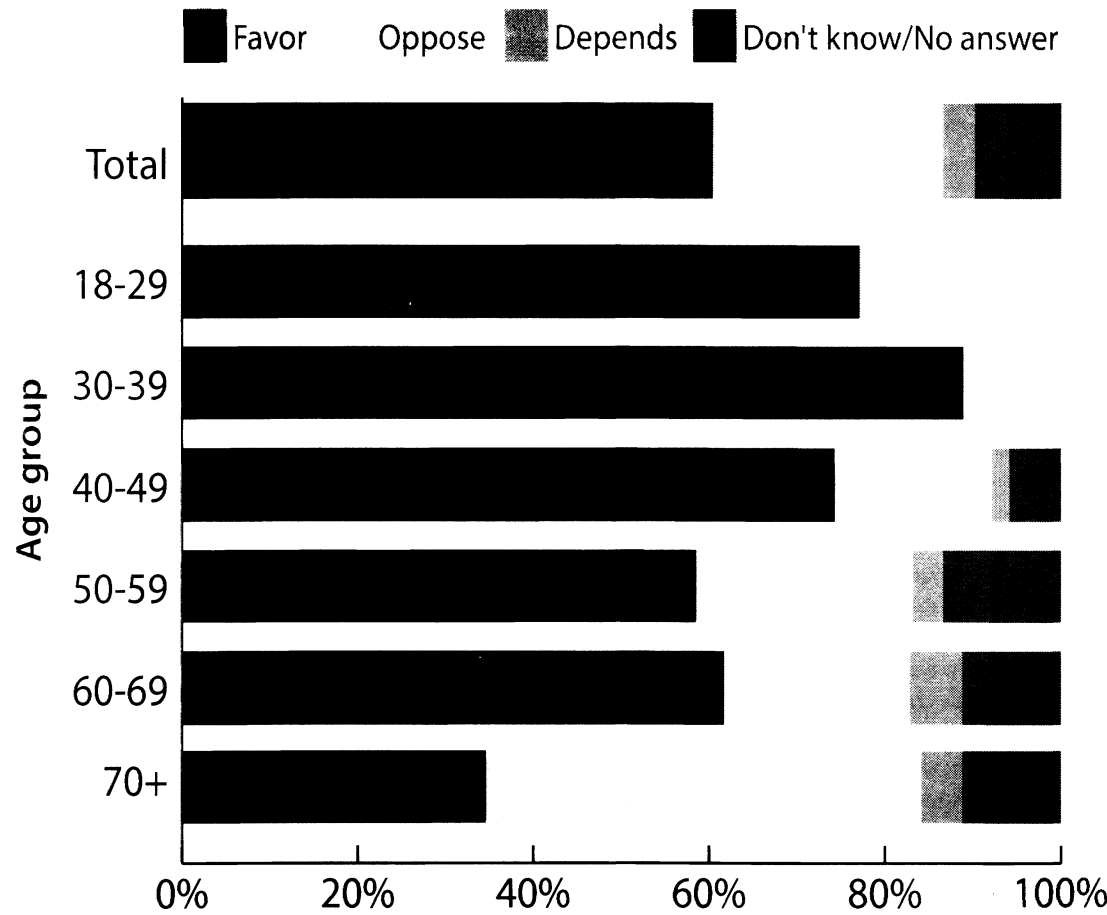
"People have very much endorsed what we're doing with the park," Kane said. "We just need them to understand it's a patient process, but we're all working hard to get there."

Paxson during her office hours Feb. 12. Acknowledging that the University has investments in coal, Paxson told the group she was waiting on ACCRIP's feedback before deciding how to handle these investments, said Katie Cohen '13, who was present at the meeting. Paxson told group members that she "had been thinking a lot about (the)

campaign," Cohen added.

Though Paxson did not specify which of the five coal mining companies and 10 utility companies are part of the University's investment portfolio, she indicated divestment from coal "would be a feasible thing for the University to do," said Divest Coal member Emily Kirkland '13. // Coal page 4

Taubman Center poll:
Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into same-sex marriages?



People over the age of 70 showed the least support for same-sex marriage legislation while respondents under 40 had the greatest approval rates. Over 50 percent of all age groups supported the proposed legislation.

// Poll page 1

opinions, the top answers given were "religion/Bible says it's wrong" with 40.8 percent, "marriage should be between a man and a woman" with 22.4 percent and "civil unions are sufficient" with 10.5 percent. Other answers were categorized as "morally wrong," "undermines traditional family structure" and "unnatural."

Same-sex marriage legislation is currently stalled in the State Senate after passing with strong support in the House of Representatives in January.

The high percentage of state voters who said they favored same-sex marriage legislation "puts a lot of pressure on the president of the State Senate to bring the bill to the floor, but it may not be enough to pressure the members of the Senate to pass it, because they are worried about the opinions of members in their individual districts," wrote Wendy Schiller, associate professor of political science and public policy, in an email to The Herald. But some senators may be overestimating opposition to the bill among their constituents, she added.

Last September, 56 percent of Rhode Islanders said they support same-sex marriage legislation in a WPRI poll. The difference of four percentage points between the results from the WPRI and Taubman polls is probably not significant, because it is within the polls' margins of error, Schiller wrote.

The Taubman survey also questioned voters about their satisfaction with vari-

ous state leaders and their perceptions of the state's economic health.

Rhode Islanders overwhelmingly expressed dissatisfaction with the national and state economies, with 94.2 percent of respondents calling the state's economy "not so good" or "poor." Over 80 percent of respondents also chose this answer to describe the national economy.

When asked to rate the job performance of Gov. Lincoln Chafee '75 P'14, over 70 percent of respondents described it as "only fair" or "poor," while 25.5 percent called it "excellent" or "good."

The Washington Post recently ranked Rhode Island's upcoming 2014 race for governor as fourth in a list of the country's top 15 gubernatorial races to watch in the next cycle. Analysts suspect Chafee will face a challenge from Providence Mayor Angel Taveras or State Treasurer Gina Raimondo. Taveras and Raimondo's job performances were deemed "excellent" or "good" by 63.7 percent and 56 percent of respondents to the Taubman poll, respectively.

While Chafee began his political career as a Republican and is currently serving as the first independent governor of Rhode Island, he has previously suggested he may run as a Democrat in 2014.

Schiller wrote voters are more disappointed with Chafee's leadership style than with his policy decisions, so if he "can project a more forceful governing style... he can improve his approval rating."

'Beautiful Souls' chosen for class of 2017 summer reading

The book marks the first summer reading assignment written by an undergrad alum

By **SANGKYUNG YANG**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Incoming first-years will explore the tension between legal or political obligations and moral duty studied in "Beautiful Souls" by Eyal Press '92 for their summer reading, Associate Dean of the College for First-Year and Sophomore Studies Ann Gaylin announced at Early Admitted Students Day Feb. 19.

The book examines "moral decision making from a variety of viewpoints, both contemporary and historical" and is the first summer reading selection to have been written by an undergraduate alum since the summer reading program began in 2007, said Dean of the College Katherine Bergeron.

"Beautiful Souls" chronicles four accounts of people who defy laws and their loyalties on moral grounds, despite potential penalties — a Swiss police officer who illegally allowed Jewish refugees across the border in 1938, a Serbian who hid the identity of Croatians to save their lives, an Israeli soldier who refused to fight in captured territories and a financial whistleblower who exposed corruption in her firm.

The book selection was based on suggestions from faculty and staff members, Bergeron said. Summer reading choices must adhere to certain criteria. The book "should be extremely well-written" have an appropriate length and

be understood from "multiple points of view," Bergeron said. Gaylin praised the book as "very engaging."

In the past, summer reading selections have been related to University events. Last year, "Sons of Providence," which examines Rhode Island's role in the slave trade, was chosen following the appointment of Anthony Bogues as the inaugural director for the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, The Herald previously reported. The class of 2015 read "Factory Girls" for its summer reading because of the book's connection to the Year of China.

But not all previous summer reading selections were as topical, Gaylin said.

"Beautiful Souls" did not have a particular connection to a University event, but it raised "pressing questions of moral significance in our world today and actually knowing how to make the right decision," Bergeron said, adding that these are "important questions for student(s) to grapple with."

This is the first time the University has chosen a book written by a Brown undergraduate alum, but Bergeron said that did not affect the decision-making process.

"Students will appreciate the opportunity to meet a Brown alumnus who has had a successful writing career," Gaylin wrote in a email to The Herald. Since the University invites the author of the summer reading to speak every year, Gaylin



"Beautiful Souls," chosen from suggestions by faculty and staff members, features stories of four people across the globe who choose to follow their moral compasses rather than the law, despite the legal consequences.

wrote that Press "is looking forward to returning to campus again."

Press, now a professional journalist, said his writing "broadly resonated with his experience at Brown" and that the selection of his work was personally meaningful to him.

Press noted "Beautiful Souls" has received attention from other universities, as its issues are relevant "moral developments in our society over the decade."

Press said the book has two primary sources of inspiration. From a literary perspective, he said he wanted to explore people who "stand by their principles" in difficult situations, which is "inspiring to explore as a writer." From a moral

personal perspective, he asked himself "what (he) would have done in their situation(s)," he said.

Press said he did not think the book would change how a person would act in such situations, but perhaps it would affect the way readers view people in similar situations. Through the stories in the book, the readers will recognize "how valuable, important and self-affirming these acts were," he said.

Elizabeth Conway '17, who was admitted early decision and is currently a senior at Manchester High School N.H., said she is excited to read the book because the issues it explores seem "inspiring."

This year marks seven years since Brown's summer reading projects for new students began in 2007. The goal of summer reading is to allow students to meet with other students and faculty members in a "low pressure environment and to talk about issues of some significance," Bergeron said.

This common reading experience "ends up binding people together," Bergeron said. Students will remember this reading experience in the future, she added.

"The reading becomes more important later on than it does on that particular moment you sit with your classmates," she said.

Classified

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Coal

Vice President for Public Affairs and University Relations Marisa Quinn confirmed the University's financial involvement with coal companies but downplayed the size of these investments in an email to The Herald.

"Brown has less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the endowment invested in a small number of the companies cited by the Brown Divest Coal student group, or less than \$2 million," Quinn wrote. "We will communicate the outcome once the ACCRIP has made a recommendation and a final decision has been made."

Following her meeting with ACCRIP tomorrow, Paxson will decide whether to recommend divestment to the Corporation, the University's highest governing body, which will make the final decision on whether the University should divest, Bull said.

The conversation around divestment from what Brown Divest Coal calls the "filthy 15" was previously complicated by the University's lack of a formal acknowledgement of its investment in these companies. But Bull said ACCRIP does not need absolute knowledge of University investments to make recommendations about the companies to which the University should avoid financially ties.

"That's not how we make the decision," he said. "We certainly can find out how many of those companies we have direct investments in, but typically that's not public knowledge and that's not something that we would probably make public."

ACCRIP previously recommended divestment from HEI Hotels and Resorts following accusations the company violated legal labor standards, as well as "companies whose business activities



Members of Divest Coal protested in formation yesterday on the Main Green, creating a human version of the Fossil Free campaign logo.

can be shown to be supporting and facilitating" genocide in Darfur, according to the committee's website. After the University divested from HEI, institutions including Yale, Penn, Vanderbilt University, Princeton and Harvard also announced they would not reinvest in the company.

When Brown Divest Coal presented to ACCRIP last November, the committee voted to draft a formal recommendation endorsing divestment from coal. But Kirkland said many members of Brown Divest Coal are frustrated with the pace of the conversation around divestment.

"The process as a whole has been taking a while and we'd like to see it moving more quickly," she said.

Following their meeting with Paxson last month, Divest Coal continued holding public demonstrations to build pressure on University officials, leading

a protest on the Main Green Monday. Addressing an audience of 40 to 50 students, group activists led call-and-response chants and held up construction paper to form a large, orange X logo, the symbol of the environmentalist Fossil Free campaign with which the group is affiliated.

Though they said they are excited to move forward with the campaign, many members of Brown Divest Coal said Paxson's admission did not surprise them.

"I think that we all knew that the likelihood of us being endowed in one of these companies was extremely high because it's the status quo, and right now we haven't been shifting our status quo," said Lucy Bates-Campbell '13, one of the organizers of yesterday's protest.

"We knew that if we weren't invested that the University would have said so earlier," Kirkland said.

Bill would ban criminal history box from job apps

Applicants are currently judged by their criminal pasts instead of their qualifications, Rep. Slater argues

By **UDAY SHRIRAM**
STAFF WRITER

Rep. Scott Slater, D-Providence, introduced legislation in the General Assembly that would ban employers in the state from having a box on a job application that asks about the applicant's criminal history and from asking about criminal records in preliminary job interviews.

The "ban the box" legislation — which would apply to both public- and private-sector employers — would not prevent employers from conducting background checks. Many cities and counties — including Providence and Boston — already "ban the box." Seven states have adopted policies similar to the proposed legislation, according to the 2012 National Employment Law Project report Resource Guide.

If passed, the bill would give applicants "a chance to be considered on

their qualifications, not immediately rejected from consideration because of a wrong decision in their past for which they have paid their debt to society," Slater said in a press release.

Rep. Michael Chippendale, R-Foster, Gloucester and Coventry, who is co-sponsoring the bill, wrote in an email to The Herald that he is disappointed with media outlets that reported the bill would force employers to hire felons, including individuals whose specific convictions should disqualify them from certain professions — for example, a convicted sex-offender applying for a job at a school. "An applicant can in fact be disqualified if there is a 'direct relationship' with their criminal history and the nature of the job being sought," Chippendale wrote.

A "direct relationship" means that the nature of the criminal conduct for which the person was convicted has a

direct bearing on his or her fitness or ability to perform one or more of the duties or responsibilities necessarily related to the license or employment sought," according to the text of the bill.

Employers can ask about a criminal background or run background checks to determine whether a "direct relationship" exists once they have determined the applicant is a serious candidate for the job, Chippendale wrote, and they can refuse to hire applicants if federal and state statutes prohibit individuals with their criminal records from holding certain positions.

This is the third year Direct Action for Rights and Equality has pushed for this bill with Sen. Harold Metts, D-Providence and Slater, said Misty Wilson, an organizer for DARE. The bill will be heard in the House Labor Committee March 20, though a date to vote on the legislation has not yet been determined. The Senate is yet to schedule hearings on the bill.

The Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce has voiced the most prominent criticism of the bill, Wilson said. "No one has outwardly come out to oppose the bill yet, but we're working on a getting a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce so that we can communicate about their concerns," Wilson said.

"Not only is (non-compliance with federal law) a concern but there is a further concern about safety and potential employer liability," the North Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce posted on its website.

"A culture of criminal background checks has cast a cloud of discrimination upon many people and their families," wrote Bruce Reilly, a law student at Tulane University and convicted felon, in an article on liberal news site RIFuture.org.

One of the main opponents of the bill was "a lobbyist who represents background check companies," Reilly said. The companies fear the law will expose flaws in their methodology,

making them vulnerable to lawsuits, he wrote.

Metts said the bill is important for alleviating discrimination against people of color in the state, helping to combat recidivism and racial profiling in job applications. "People coming out of prison need jobs to feed their families, pay rent, move on with their lives," he said in a press release. "A job, a place to live and supportive services are the three legs of the stool of successful re-entry programs, but one of those legs is missing when a person can't find a job, and unemployment continues the cycle of repeat incarceration," he said.

"I have consciously hired previously incarcerated individuals with the goals of helping them get their feet back on the ground, offering them an opportunity to become productive members of society, helping reduce recidivism and the corresponding burden on our prison systems and welfare programs," Chippendale wrote.

Senate debates expanding worker's comp program

The bill would amplify worker protection, but opponents argue it is not worth the cost

By **CORINNE SEJOURNE**
STAFF WRITER

Legislation proposed in the State Senate in February would expand the state's temporary disability insurance program to cover workers who need to take time off work to care for family emergencies or a new family member.

The legislation, proposed by Sen. Gayle Goldin, D-Providence, would broaden the program's benefits to accommodate individuals who need to take time off to care for sick, injured or new family members. TDI currently only compensates workers experiencing temporary disability or injury.

Rhode Island's TDI — which is supported entirely through worker contributions — funds wage replacement for individuals unable to work due to non-employment-related illness or injury, according to the Rhode Island Department of Labor Training website. TDI became the first program of its type to be implemented in the United States in 1942 and remains one of few programs nationwide, according to Department of Labor Transportation. Similar systems exist in New York, New Jersey, California and Hawaii.

This expansion will directly affect just under 400,000 workers who pay into the program, Goldin said. But it will residually affect all Rhode Islanders, since it offers support for workers and their families, she added.

The bill includes rules, regulations, an application process and a certification process, as well as penalties to prevent fraudulent use of the funds, Goldin said.

This expansion is intended to be a "cost-effective strategy" to modernize the program to fit today's lifestyles and

incorporate the "push-pull" dynamic between work and family, she said. It also offers employers a sense of stability and confidence in their workforce, as it allows workers to take necessary leave and return to work without problems, she added.

Ken Block, chairman of the Rhode Island Moderate Party, said he disagrees with the premise of the bill, noting that Rhode Island's TDI program is already an "extremely expensive insurance" policy that can cost individuals as much as \$720 per year.

Part of the concern, Block said, is the state's mandate of TDI contributions, which forces employees to spend part of their paycheck in a certain way. Before augmenting TDI, there should be "study and evaluation of the program as it sits right now," he added.

With the potential for increased usage and subsequent tax increases, the TDI expansion will make an already expensive program even more expensive, Block said. In Rhode Island, employees already take leaves through TDI at a rate of 9 percent, a higher percentage than workers in other states, he added.

Ashley Denault MPP'07, director of research with the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council, said critics suggest "our TDI program — the way it is structured — places our state at a disadvantage." Denault said the program's structure allows for the possibility of individuals collecting more from the system than they paid into it, pressure on employers to compensate for payroll taxes and the incentivization of unnecessarily long stretches of leave.

But Goldin said studies in California and New Jersey — which implemented similar programs in 2004 and 2009, respectively — show neutral to positive effects in areas such as employee morale, productivity and focus, adding that the proposed changes should have positive implications for public health.

Prof explores 'neuroeconomics' in lecture

Economics in upcoming years will use research from neurobiology more, NYU professor says

By **ALEX CONSTANTINO**
SCIENCE & RESEARCH STAFF WRITER

The task is simple: If you're offered candy bars, choose your favorite. But instead of picking the one you like best, Paul Glimcher, a professor of neural science, economics and psychology at New York University, as part of an experiment exploring how people make choices.

Glimcher delivered the final lecture in the Rhode Island Medical Society's bicentennial lecture series yesterday in Metcalf Auditorium.

Glimcher began his lecture by explaining his unique field. As Professor of Neuroscience David Sheinberg summarized in his introduction, Glimcher's research is fundamentally about how the circuits of the brain allow people to make choices.

Glimcher calls his approach "neuroeconomics," an "interdisciplinary fusion" of both approaches to understanding behavior. Economists, he said, look at decisions as products of the value, called utility, and the probabilities of different outcomes. But neuroscientists look at decisions as the product of the firing of individual brain cells called neurons.

He noted that there has been some skepticism of this approach — neuroscientists tend to question the value of economics, and economists debate the relevance of neuroscience, he said. But he said similar debates once occurred between chemists and biologists regarding the importance of knowing the structure of DNA, which is now recognized as a milestone in genetics.

Glimcher continued with an exploration of over 50 years of research about decision making. Following earlier work on reflexes in neuroscience and on utility in economic decisions theory, he



LAUREN GALVAN/HERALD

NYU professor Paul Glimcher measured college students' brain activity as they chose between DVDs and art posters as part of a behavioral study.

co-authored a study that found a region of the brain that correlates to decisions, called the lateral intraparietal area. In the study, monkeys were presented two snacks. Lateral intraparietal neurons fired more frequently in the area representing the snack that the monkey wanted more. After the study was published in 1999, neuroscientists have devoted much attention to the area. Even "my dog has recorded in this cortical area," Glimcher joked about the popularity of studying this region of the brain.

The findings also hold true in human subjects. Glimcher's lab put undergraduates in an fMRI, a device that measures blood flow in the brain, and showed them different rewards, from a DVD of the movie "Madagascar" to a poster of a Monet painting. Activation in the lateral intraparietal area correlated with how the subjects eventually

ranked the rewards, but only moderately, which he attributed to the noisiness of the fMRI signal.

Glimcher is currently working on a related-decision problem called the paradox of choice. When a monkey has to compare two similarly-ranked rewards and a third, less-desirable one, the third object hinders its ability to rank the other two. Similarly, when presented with eight candy bars at once, undergraduates have trouble picking their favorite even if they had valued them individually only moments before.

As Glimcher noted, the standard economic decision models do not predict this behavior. "The economics of the next 30 years will be one that takes advantage of all we've learned about how things are maximized, but respects the neurobiology" of the price of that maximization, he concluded.

EDITORIAL

Who cares about calamari?

Last Thursday, Rep. Joseph M. McNamara, D-Warwick, Cranston, introduced a bill he said would promote “the good and wonderful things” about Rhode Island — by making fried calamari the state’s official appetizer. A move so lacking in substance is a distraction that will steal valuable time and energy needed to solving the state’s real problems — debt, poverty and crime.

Proposing, debating and approving a bill takes time and resources. After the bill is written, it is read in its entirety to the legislative body. It is then handed to a committee, where it is debated, revised and given a public hearing for the committee to discuss the bill with any other interested parties. If the committee feels the bill is still worthy, it is brought to the floor for a full second reading, where it is debated by the full legislature and subjected to a simple majority vote for any amendments other lawmakers may suggest and for its general approval. If that vote passes, it moves on to a third full reading in its house of origin. Only if it passes does it move to the Senate, where this entire process is repeated again.

Potentially devoting this energy to a bill deciding the state appetizer is absurd. The legislative process clearly illuminates the bill’s insensibility, but the problem stands that the bill is being brought up in the first place. Rhode Island is under intense financial stress, experiencing serious poverty rates and a dangerous resurgence of crime visible even on College Hill. That a politician thinks time should be devoted to what is essentially a vanity trophy for the state rather than to the crucial issues that affect the state is irresponsible at best.

Following the 38 Studios fiasco and serious problems with pensions, Rhode Island was financially battered in the 2010 fiscal year. It ended with the state facing over \$9 billion in unpaid debts, adding up to 107.2 percent of the year’s revenues and putting many state-run projects on hold. Though the state has rallied, bringing in a \$47.3 million surplus with the 2012 fiscal year, it still faces over \$69 million in debt, and some departments continue to exceed their budgets. State leaders should work to curb spending in these departments or work to increase the budget surplus for next year, rather than devoting time to appetizer-related bills.

Then there are the state’s poverty and unemployment rates. According to the 2011 Census, Rhode Island stands at a poverty rate of 14.7 percent — 1.2 percentage points below the national average but still a disconcerting number. The unemployment rate is the most shocking. Since December 2012, the state was tied with Nevada for the infamous title of the most-unemployed in the nation, with our rate of a shocking 10.2 percent. By focusing foremost on balancing the budget, Rhode Island could work to create more part-time state jobs specifically to assist those in poverty or perpetual unemployment.

Finally, crime in Rhode Island, particularly in Providence, demands constant vigilance from the state government. NeighborhoodScout, a website devoted to urban analysis, ranked Providence as the 52nd most dangerous city in the country, reporting a one in 17 chance that a Providence resident could be subject to a crime.

We are not anti-food. But the fact that state legislators are wasting valuable time on trivial issues is unacceptable, particularly when such time and energy should be channeled towards ensuring Rhode Island’s fiscal health. As one of the worst victims of the 2008 Housing Crisis and the 2010 fiscal debacle, Rhode Island has far more issues to be tackling than what pre-entree meal should be Statehouse-sanctioned, and we implore legislators to consider those rather than debate the merits of fried calamari.

Editorials are written by The Herald’s editorial page board: its editor, Dan Jeon, and its members, Mintaka Angell, Samuel Choi, Nicholas Morley and Rachel Occhiogrosso. Send comments to editorials@browndailyherald.com.

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY VITTO DI VAIO



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Paxson must address labor concerns

To the Editor:

In an overwhelmingly positive article reviewing Christina Paxson’s presidency thus far (“Paxson lauded for ‘bottom-up’ leadership title,” Mar. 1), Stoni Tomson ’15 was the only quoted critic of Paxson’s administration, while the other students mentioned had only praise for Paxson, even asking themselves, “WWCPD?” (What Would Christina Paxson Do?). Unfortunately, if we all decided to live by the maxim “WWCPD?” our days would include not only dog-walking and consultation with academic departments, but also a persistent refusal to engage with student groups working to ensure that our University sustains its history of social responsibility.

Tomson’s incisive comments remind the Brown commu-

nity that though Brown is in violation of its own vendor code of conduct by failing to cut its contract with international human rights abuser Adidas, Paxson continues to refuse to cut Brown’s sideline agreement with Adidas. Paxson has been increasingly indifferent to Brown Student Labor Alliance’s appeals to Brown to honor the rights of workers around the world. While we laud Paxson for her positive work in listening to departments and the Undergraduate Council of Students, we maintain that she has ignored students where it matters most: in regards to the University’s values of social and economic justice.

Trevor Culhane ’15 and Shelby Mack ’14
Members of Brown Student Labor Alliance

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Everyone relates to food because everyone needs to eat.”

— Paige Warren-Shriner ’13

See FOOD on page 8.

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Beyond righteous indignation



DAVID ROMERO
OPINIONS COLUMNIST

The Kappa Sigma fraternity at Duke University threw a Feb. 1 Asian-themed party called “Asia Prime,” in which the predominantly white frat brothers and their guests were invited to wear stereotypical Asian clothing to fit the party’s theme. When members of Duke’s Asian Students Association and other offended students found out about this case of gross cultural appropriation, they spoke out against it by posting pictures from the party featuring obscured faces of some of the party’s actual attendees.

Though many students agreed the party theme was insensitive and called for punishment of the fraternity, some disagreed with the way in which the protest itself was handled. Indeed, it is simple enough to speak out against such a blatantly racist theme, but it is decidedly more difficult to productively combat the surrounding issues.

This inevitably prompts questions: Was it immature to post pictures from the actual party? Is there a more effective way in which students could have protested the event? In order to answer these questions, we must think about how we normally react to social insensitivity.

Many people I know would react with shock or disappointment upon discover-

ing the existence of an event like the Asia Prime party. Friends of mine would post angry statuses about the offense on Twitter or Facebook, while others would complain privately to their friends about over-privileged, racist fraternity “bros.” Personally speaking, I love to complain privately about people who offend me simply to get it off of my chest.

But complaining to my close friends about being wronged does nothing to initiate a useful conversation with the perpetra-

tor. Let’s revisit the Duke case. Members of the Asian Students Association were right to campaign against the fraternity and demand a response. The students’ campaign was successful, as the fraternity has been suspended by both Duke and its national organization. But there is still dialogue to be had.

The poster campaign against the party and fraternity is the result of righteous indignation on the part of angry students. Once the anger cools down and both sides

hit close to home for a lot of people, is counterproductive. Even though I believe the Duke fraternity’s actions were insensitive and extremely hurtful, it deserves the chance to work toward a solution to its mistake.

To be fair, I am not suggesting that an offended group, which is usually a minority group with a right to be offended, should hold back from expressing its frustration. Whether it’s campaigning through posters or contacting a university’s officials, the expression of indignation certainly has a place within the communicative process of social justice. But a successful conversation cannot end with anger — it must end with a resolution from both parties involved. Respectful and direct communication between the parties is necessary. This is the case for the Duke situation and for any personal dispute.

I concede cases exist in which the offended party may feel unsafe communicating directly with its perceived oppressors, and that is a valid sentiment. For most cases, though, it is appropriate to confront an issue in a straightforward manner in order to get past anger and come up with solutions. Many opposing parties would be surprised to discover that, while social justice is advanced by individuals, social justice can only exist through a mutual understanding between groups.

David Romero ’14 doesn’t like going to parties anyway and can be reached at david_romero@Brown.edu

A successful conversation cannot end with anger — it must end with a resolution from both parties involved.

tors to try to resolve the issue. For example, if the Asian-themed party took place at Brown instead of Duke, I would probably discuss the event with a couple of people, maybe email a dean and then sort of forget about it. Merely complaining can thus become a method of forgetting — a conversation stopper that does not engage a wide public dialogue and thus has a small impact. It would make me feel better, but it would accomplish little else. And instances of racism or other structural wrongs committed against minorities demand much more than complaints on Twitter.

So how should one respond to an instance of perceived social injustice such as a

gain distance from the issue, the two opposing sides must work together to prevent another similar conflict from arising. No media source has reported any direct communication between the fraternity and offended students. Engaging in a direct discourse would prove to be a productive manner of openly dealing with the issue and would lead to mutually resolving the problem. If there is no communication between the two disputing parties, then the conflict necessarily becomes a competition in which one side has to be declared the loser.

This combative mode of resolving problems, especially structural problems that

Killing Pablo

BY NICO ENRIQUEZ
OPINIONS COLUMNIST

Hank Crumpton is someone who knows national security. Not only was he one of the top CIA agents in Afghanistan, but he was also the coordinator for counterterrorism. Recently, I went to see Crumpton speak about the issue that poses the biggest threat to our national security. I expected to hear a lot about the Middle East, al-Qaeda and Iran. He surprised me.

Crumpton’s biggest fear is the Mexican drug war.

It wasn’t Iran’s nuclear potential, Kim Jong-Il’s successor or al-Qaeda’s plans. It was our friendly little neighbor, Mexico. As his wise words reached my ears, I felt the metallic taste of irony on my tongue. I had attended the speech in hopes of learning something new. Instead, I was listening to the same facts I had carefully gathered in my quest for knowledge about the horrors of my homeland.

According to my family friends who live in Monterrey, the ninth-largest city in Mexico, drug cartels have instituted a curfew on the main highway toward the nearby Texas border. Anyone who drives on that road after dark will be kidnapped or worse. In other words, the Mexican military has completely lost control of one of the country’s main highways. The problem receives no press because, according to Reporters Without Borders, in 2010, Mexico was tied with Iraq and second only to Pakistan in its

overall level of danger for journalists.

So what does this mean for daily life? As Americans sit, Mexicans die. Almost 55,000 people have died over six years as a result of the drug war. Over four times the number of people who died in the conflict in Afghanistan have died in Mexico over the same amount of time. And that’s not 7,000 miles away — it’s right next door. The drug gangs dispose of the bodies in various ways, each more horrifying than the last. The gangs sometimes use acid to burn away the evidence. In other cases they take the heads of the dead and roll them through nightclubs. In the worst scenarios, they take ran-

dom body parts and stack them neatly on the doorsteps of relatives of the deceased.

In 2008, the U.S. Joint Forces Command issued a report stating Mexico is at risk to “rapidly fail or collapse.” That is just its public stance — in private, the belief may be more extreme. Five years have passed and former Mexican President Felipe Calderon’s valiant war against the gangs has only made the carnage worse.

As informed, educated and well-intentioned citizens of the United States, we need to help bring about the change necessary to keep our country safe. In 2006, the Justice Department estimated there were 100 Mexican “drug distribution networks” in American cities. The Drug Enforcement Administration now estimates the cartels operate in 1,286 cities. That is more than a twelve-

fold increase in six years. Chances are that any U.S. city you can name, large or small, has a Mexican drug cartel making millions — or billions — off its addicts.

If Mexico collapses, our border violence will rise, our problems with illegal immigration will increase and our stability will be shaken. We cannot leave this issue to a decade from now.

We must change how we fight drugs. For now, ignore the facts that our persistent campaign against marijuana users is a waste of tax dollars to the tune of \$7.7 billion a year, disproportionately targets minorities, ruins innocent nonviolent peoples’ lives

and splits their families and has not caused any appreciable decrease in marijuana use since the crackdown began.

Focus on where the money goes. U.S. officials say marijuana sales may make up 60 percent of the cartels’ revenue. The recent legalization of weed in the states of Washington and Colorado is estimated to cost those gangs \$2.8 billion. Those are mid-sized states. According to Gallup polls, 50 percent of Americans support legalization. We should legalize weed so that we can fight the gangs, make our justice system more just and save wasted federal dollars.

Another effective means of attack is tougher gun control. Seventy percent of guns seized from Mexican cartels were originally sold in the United States. If we had responsible background checks on

gun buyers, we could hammer a historical source of strength for these gangs. A study by the National Institute of Justice found that nearly 40 percent of gun transactions in the U.S. are private sales that do not require any sort of background checks. Former murderers can use channels like Craigslist to buy a gun, and they will do so without any oversight. Pair this necessary change with a ban on the sale of all high-capacity magazine weapons, and we could force the gangs to find other more expensive, harder-to-source markets.

And finally, the most controversial and potentially most important solution is modeled off the joint U.S. and Colombian governments’ war on Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar, detailed in Mark Bowden’s book “Killing Pablo.” If Mexico is to be saved like Colombia was, we must make it clear this is a war. They must take out the kingpins who challenge the viability of the state one by one. They cannot bring the most violent ones to court, because, just like in Escobar’s Colombia, the current justice system is too corrupt and too full of holes to bring much justice. Mexico cannot do this alone. It is up to the United States to provide the intelligence and Special Operations assistance it did in Colombia. It may be an ugly solution, but Colombia proves it can work — there are still drugs and cartels in Colombia, but they no are longer attempting to take over the whole country.

May we find a solution soon, and may we save my homeland.

Nico Enriquez ’16 can be reached at nenriquez3@gmail.com.



M. BASKETBALL

Brown 84
Cornell 65

Brown 61
Columbia 58

M. BASEBALL

LSU 7
Brown 1

Brown 5
Nicholls St. 4

M. ICE HOCKEY

Cornell 4
Brown 1

Cornell 5
Brown 2

W. BASKETBALL

Brown 58
Cornell 51

Columbia 58
Brown 55

M. LACROSSE

Brown 9 (OT)
UMASS 8

W. SWIM & DIVE
7th place
678.5 points

FENCING

Squads begin postseason play against Ivy League foes

All-Ivy selections Hawrot and Deak are among the 20 to be sent to the NCAA qualifier

By NIKHIL PARASHER
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

The men's and women's fencing teams competed at the Ivy League Championship tournament at Harvard over the weekend, with the women's squad finishing fourth and the men's placing sixth.

The women's team went 3-3 over the weekend — the best it has fared in four years. During captain Cory Abbe's '13 first season on the team, the women's squad was winless at the tournament, and it won one match each of the two following years. This year, it boasted wins over Cornell, Penn and Yale.

The match against Penn was not decided until the penultimate game, when Kathryn Hawrot '14 gave Brown its 14th win. The victory provided the margin Brown needed and to end up edging out Penn 14-13.

"It was pretty stressful," Hawrot said in reference to the Penn matchup. "We were all really happy and impressed we were able to do that."

Members of the women's squad

performed better than in past years and supported each other throughout the tournament, Abbe wrote in an email to The Herald.

"The weekend went extremely well," she wrote. "What we did exceptionally well was come together and fight as a team. ... We yelled our hearts out for every touch our teammates got."

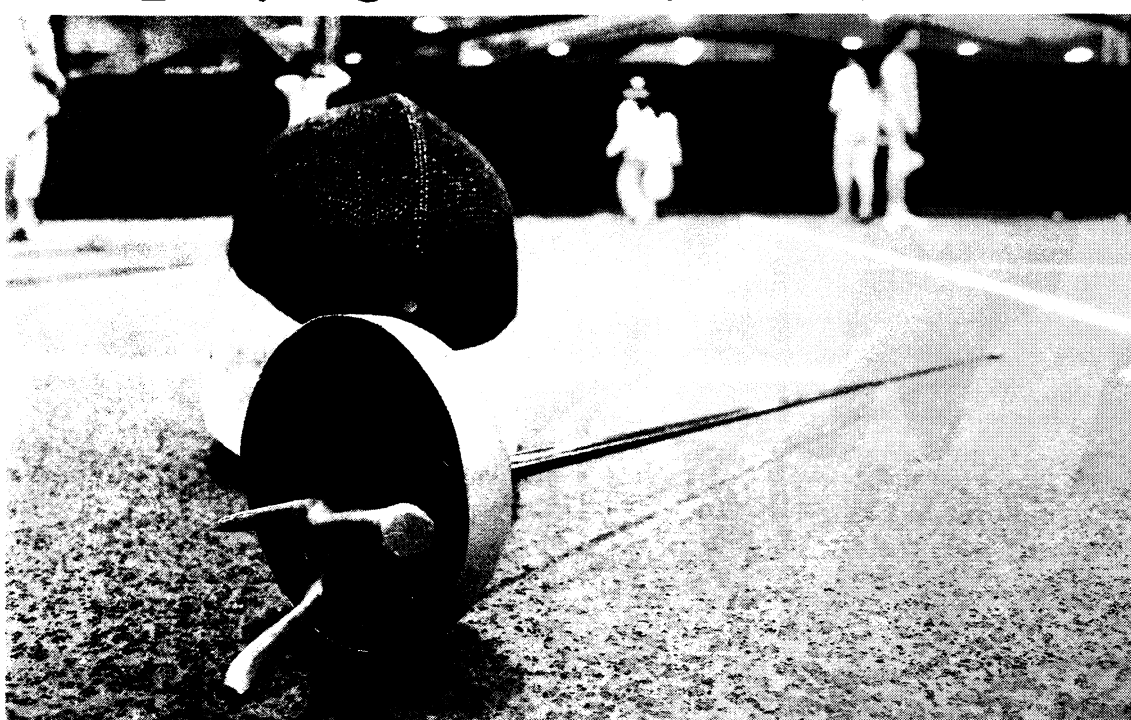
The men's squad did not fare as well. It lost each of its five matches, dropping to last place in the tournament — Dartmouth does not have a fencing squad, and Cornell only has a women's team.

Head Coach Atilio Tass said though the squad did not win any of its matches, it showed a "great competitive spirit."

Nick Deak '14, a fencer on the men's team, said the squad was somewhat disappointed with its finish.

"We definitely didn't do as well as we were hoping," he said. "We didn't do as well as we did last year, overall."

Though the men's team did not fare as well as it has in the past, it, along with the women's squad, boasted individual stars. Deak won 11 of his 15 individual matches and was awarded a first team All-Ivy spot for the tournament. Hawrot won 13 of her 18 matches and made the second team All-Ivy.



HERALD FILE PHOTO

The men's and women's fencing squads participated in the Ivy League Championship en route to the teams participation in the upcoming Regional Championships to be hosted at St. John's University.

"It was pretty exciting," Deak said of his All-Ivy selection. "The past two years that I've fenced in this tournament, I've had pretty bad tournaments. The competition is really good ... So, this year, I was pretty happy to kind of break that trend of doing kind of poorly."

Hawrot, who made first team All-Ivy her freshman year, said her All-Ivy

selection "feels good," and that the competition has gotten tougher now that the top Ivy fencers — who took last spring off to concentrate on qualifying for the 2012 London Olympics — have returned.

"I wasn't really expecting (the selection)," Hawrot said. "At least for the women's side, the tournament was a lot harder. A lot of Olympians returned

from taking semesters off."

Abbe, Deak and Hawrot will be among the 20 fencers Brown will send to this weekend's Regional Championship tournament at St. John's University. This tournament will determine which fencers will compete at the NCAA Championship tournament, which takes place in San Antonio later this month.

SOMETHING FISHY



CAROLINE GRANOFF / HERALD

This crispy Rhode Island-style calamari may be the official state appetizer if legislation recently introduced by Rep. Joseph McNamara passes.

'A table!' delights French foodies

A new class in the French department teaches language and culture skills through food

By MAGGIE LIVINGSTONE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Baguettes, chocolate mousse or a touch of brie — menu items at your favorite French bistro? Perhaps. But these items can also be found on the class agenda for FREN 1510: "Advanced Written and Oral French: A table!," a new course that uses French cuisine as a medium for learning practical language and grammar skills.

Annie Wiart, senior lecturer in French studies, said she devised the concept for "A table!" last year, after teaching a unit on cuisine in an intro-level French course. She added that a recent statement from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization calling the gastronomic meal of the French "intangible cultural heritage" also sparked her decision to create a class devoted exclusively to food.

"Recently in France many blogs and television programs have developed around food," Wiart said. "It

became a hot topic, so we're trying to look at various aspects."

While most language courses follow roughly the same format — with lessons in grammar, speaking, reading comprehension and writing — this class is unique in being a study on French culture and cuisine.

"I'm studying two things at once," said Sally Rothman '13. "In other classes we're just gaining language skills. At the end of this course I will really know a lot about French cuisine with the added bonus of knowing French."

Wiart said she is particularly fond of "content-based language instruction." She added that organizing around a topic of interest, rather than teaching language point blank, is more apt to motivate students.

"I really liked French and am not a huge literature person, so I gravitate to classes that are more culturally-oriented," said Paige Warren-Shriner '13.5, a student in the course. "French food is the epitome of French culture."

A hands-on approach is integral to the course, Wiart said. At the beginning of the semester, students were broken into small "cooking groups" of three or four that meet several times throughout the year to prepare French

meals, host dinners and hone their language skills through conversation.

"We cooked a swordfish with vegetables and then a cake," said Lorenzo Moretti '14, who hosted his cooking group once this semester. "The idea is you get together with your group as many times as you can and speak French."

Students recently presented in pairs on different regions in France, exploring the cuisine specific to each area. Themes throughout the semester include cheese, bread and wine, health, table settings and the meal as a tool of communication, Wiart said. Recently, students discussed making a baguette and compared it to a standard American loaf of bread, she added.

"I know a lot about flours used in American bread, but French bread flour is distinctive," Warren-Shriner said. "I brought in bread on Tuesday. I tried to make a baguette and kind of failed."

Because this is the first semester the class has been taught, the structure and syllabus are evolving, Wiart said, adding that she hopes she will be able to teach it again. Current students range from cooking aficionados to novices, but regardless of a student's techni- // Food page 3