

INSIDE

post-
forests, oysters and swinging



Dark dorm

New Pembroke leads in an energy-saving competition

War on wage

Minimum wage should be flexible, says Hudson '14

TODAY	TOMORROW
37 / 32	39 / 30

U's tuition cost ranks second highest in Ivy League

An online scorecard created by the U.S. Dept. of Education posts colleges' net tuition costs

By **MAGGIE LIVINGSTONE**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The average net cost to attend Brown is \$22,743, the second highest in the Ivy League, according to a "college scorecard" by the U.S. Department of Education.

Cornell has the highest net cost in the Ivy League at \$24,249, according to the scorecard. President Obama announced the creation of the scorecard, which uses data from higher education institutions reported annually to the department, in his Feb. 12 State of the Union address.

The scorecard, an online tool that allows users to search for profiles of specific colleges and universities, calculates average net tuition costs per year based on payments made "after grants and scholarships ... are subtracted from the institution's cost of attendance," ac-

cording to its website. The site's profiles provide information about graduation rates, loan default rates, median borrowing and post-graduation employment.

Jim Tilton, director of financial aid, said Brown's net tuition calculations are accurate and he does not think Brown's costs are unreasonable. Brown's scorecard shows the average net price decreased 1.2 percent between 2007 and 2009, he said.

"Brown, over the last several years, has made significant changes to financial aid programs to get that price," he said. "The loan amount has been constant for four years."

Tilton said he applauds the streamlined format of the website but finds fault in the "median borrowing" section.

"This section is not matching up to our data, because they indicate that they use both student and parent loan debt," Tilton said. "That's misleading in some ways because parents choose to borrow for education for a variety of reasons, sometimes not out of necessity." For example, some families may opt to take out loans to take advantage of lower interest

rates or tax exemption opportunities, he said.

The scorecard's findings follow recent recommendations from President Christina Paxson's strategic planning committees. In a report presented in January, the Committee on Financial Aid — which Tilton chairs — recommended changes like reducing summer earnings expectations, decreasing costs for middle class families and eventually becoming universally need-blind.

Institutions such as Harvard, Dartmouth, Princeton and Yale all have need-blind policies for all applicants, while Brown is currently "need-aware" for international, transfer and resumed undergraduate education applicants, The Herald previously reported.

Alex Mechanik '15, president of Brown for Financial Aid, said attributing the University's "need-aware" policies to the relatively smaller size of its endowment is inaccurate.

"Obviously no one should discount the fact that we have a smaller endowment," he said. "Merely mentioning that

fact doesn't get at the heart of the issue. The question is: Are we taking the best possible course of action given what we could do? We could be doing more."

Reducing average student costs "does not come at the expense" of becoming universally need-blind, Mechanik said. He said his organization's main goals are to encourage the University to extend need-blind admission to all applicants within the next 10 years and to reduce the summer earnings expectations by at least \$1,000. He added that for the most part, these goals are concurrent with the strategic planning committees' report recommendations. The only minor difference, he said, is that "these are not necessarily (the report's) first priorities."

But Tilton said reducing average net tuition, the price reflected in the college scorecard, relates to universal need-blind admissions.

"It's going to cost us money to become need-blind for all students, and it's going to cost us money to reduce that net price," he said. "I don't know that they're separate. The funding wouldn't be separate."

RISD faculty votes supporting divestment

The unanimous vote will pressure the Board of Trustees to end investment in fossil fuels

By **KIKI BARNES**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The faculty of the Rhode Island School of Design voted unanimously in favor of divesting from fossil fuels at a meeting Wednesday.

Though the faculty vote does not translate immediately to divestment, it could put pressure on the RISD Board of Trustees to work to divest from fossil fuels, said Anne Tate, chair of the faculty steering committee, which runs RISD faculty meetings.

Divestment has been a topic of

campus debate since November, when the student group Divest RISD formed and began advocating administrative discussion about divesting from coal, said Emma Beede, a RISD student and founder of Divest RISD.

Beede worked with fellow members of the campaign to petition students and speak with the Board of Trustees, she said. The group's efforts culminated in a presentation that Beede gave to the RISD faculty at a meeting last month.

An informal show of hands at the meeting revealed an almost unanimous opinion from the faculty in favor of divestment, she said. Over the next month, Divest RISD filed a motion to hold a formal faculty vote on the record.

"There was very little discussion," Tate said, adding that Beede's presen-

tation in February presented a logical argument and a reasonable request of the institution.

Tate attributed the faculty's unanimous opinion to an expression of unity and student support and faculty members' beliefs that divestment is a wise choice in light of the threats presented by climate change.

"It's a great opportunity for RISD to be a leader in this movement," Tate said.

"(This vote) means that we're seeing student activism for the first time," Beede said, adding that RISD students have been restrained about activism in the past.

"Climate change is just the thing to bring us out of our bubbles," she said.

Beede said the next step is to get a vote from the RISD student body. She

added that Divest RISD has collected around 200 student signatures through its petition efforts.

"We've been focusing on the faculty mostly," she said. "So far it's been a low-key student campaign."

Beede said Divest RISD's partnership with the Brown Divest Coal campaign has been instrumental and will continue to be important in the months to come.

But Brown and RISD have "very different battles," because RISD is a much smaller institution, Beede said, adding that Brown activists face many more obstacles in their campaign.

Nathan Bishop '13, a member of the Brown Divest Coal campaign, said the group is thrilled about the RISD faculty vote, adding that it is "a wonderful step forward" for the community.

Divestment awaits formal committee proposal

Wednesday's meeting focused on the level of analysis expected in ACCRIP's proposal

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

The Advisory Committee on Corporate Responsibility in Investing did not formally recommend divesting from 15 of the largest coal mining and utility companies, said University administrators and faculty members present at the committee's meeting with President Christina Paxson Wednesday.

The meeting instead focused on ACCRIP's role as an advisory body in general and, more specifically, on what Paxson expects from any formal recommendations the committee makes in the future, said Beppie Huidekoper, executive vice president for finance and administration.

ACCRIP voted in November to draft a formal recommendation in favor of divesting from coal companies. Paxson is waiting for the group to submit its formal recommendation before deciding whether to recommend divestment to the Corporation, the University's highest governing body.

"She wanted to say ... here's how I expect your advice to come, the kind of analysis I expect, what I expect to justify your recommendations and the kind of things that I want to understand — what your thought process was, who was pro and who was against," Huidekoper said.

Though ACCRIP member and Senior Lecturer of Engineering Christopher Bull '79 SCM '86 PhD'06 told The Herald on Monday divesting from coal would "be one of the issues that (the committee) will discuss" at

Budget could help businesses pay interns

If the budget is passed, students and jobless adults will be able to take part in the program

By **SARAH PERELMAN**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

An article in Gov. Lincoln Chafee's '75 P'14 state budget proposal that would

grant Rhode Island businesses partial reimbursement for offering paid internships is currently under review in the state's House and Senate finance committees.

Eligible businesses would receive state funding for up to 50 percent of their interns' wages, according to Article 15 of the proposal. Reimbursement could rise up to 75 percent of wages if the firm decides to hire interns involved with the program for

full time jobs.

One million dollars could be allocated to the initiative — the State Work Immersion Program — for fiscal year 2014 if the budget proposal is passed by the General Assembly, said Laura Hart, communications manager for the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training. The proposal also outlines an additional \$2 million in fiscal year 2015.

College students and unemployed adults would be eligible to participate in the program, according to the proposal. Chafee's proposal suggests internships may last up to 10 weeks or as many as 200 hours of work.

"This is the first time that the state of Rhode Island is committing general revenue dollars from the Rhode Island state budget for workforce development purposes," said Janet Raymond, senior vice president of economic development // Interns page 5

INSIDE



BRITTANY COMUNALE / HERALD

EcoReps promoted the Brown Unplugged contest with a plastic pipework cube on the Main Green to symbolize carbon reductions. See page 2.

// Coal page 4

CALENDAR

THURSDAY
MARCH 7

FRIDAY
MARCH 8

5 P.M.
"English Vinglish" Film Screening
Wilson 102

8 P.M.
Fusion Dance 30th Annual Show
Alumnae Hall

5:30 P.M.
"The Black Russian" Book Signing
Brown Bookstore

8 P.M.
Musical Forum's #YOLO Cabaret
The Underground

MENU

SHARPE REFECTORY

VERNEY-WOOLLEY

LUNCH

Pesto a la Genovese Sauce, Chicken
Broccoli Pasta Alfredo, Orzo Salad,
Cheese Ravioli with Vodka Sauce

Saturday Night Jambalaya, Oven
Roasted Tofu, Navy Bean Pepper
Casserole, Butterscotch Cookies

DINNER

Texas BBQ Brisket, Sweet Potato
Au Gratin, Italian Appetizer Salad,
Raspberry Black Satin Fudge Cake

Roast Turkey, Roasted Veggie Stew,
Mashed Potatoes, Bread Stuffing,
Raspberry Black Satin Fudge Cake

SUDOKU

	8	1	4		2	3	9	
				3	7	9		
3								6
	4	6	1	5	9			
2								4
			7	6	1			
	9	3	5		8	4	7	

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Theme
6 Woody's "Annie Hall" role
10 Slash mark?
14 NBC's "Weekend Today" co-anchor
15 Some parasites
16 Marching band instrument
17 See 60-Across
20 "Viva el matador!"
21 Has the stage
22 Winter airs
23 Plastic ___ Band
24 Summoning gesture
26 See 60-Across
34 Big name in big banking
35 Nick-named actor
36 Miss Piggy, to
37 Neglects to mention
39 Communication no one hears: Abbr.
40 Cabbage salads
42 At an angle: Abbr.
43 Leg bone
45 Applications
46 See 60-Across
50 "... to market, to buy ___ pig ..."
51 Smudge on Santa's suit
52 Snowman's accessory
55 Hearing subject
57 Summer shade
60 Trio suggested by the answers to 17-, 26- and 46-Across
64 Sword with a guarded tip
65 Kept
66 Shah's fate
67 "Buddenbrooks" novelist
68 Wild about
69 Provide room for growth, perhaps

DOWN

1 Jogging instrument?
2 Unwritten test
3 Roofer's purchase
4 Hard water?
5 Going up against

6 Part for a singer
7 Oz visitor
8 Tivo ancestor
9 So far
10 It precedes "Substituted Ball" in the Definitions section of the "Rules of Golf"
11 Pickled veggie
12 First family member
13 Tropicana Field team
18 Date-setting phrase
19 Rich relatives?
23 "Count ___!"
24 Story-telling song
25 Handyman's approx.
26 Shaggy's pal, to
27 Unsettled state
28 Not straight up
29 With money at stake
30 Violinist's supply
31 Member of the Five College Consortium, familiarly
32 Swimmer's need
33 Temper tantrum

38 World No. 1 tennis player between Martina and Monica
41 Abundant, plantwise
44 Tax shelter letters
47 Become pitiless
48 Ascribed, as blame
49 Old Testament queen
52 Mushroom piece
53 Club where "music and passion were always the fashion," in song
54 "Right on!"
55 Fries seasoning
56 Menu choice after an "oops"
57 Dancing blunder
58 Folkie Guthrie
59 Rostov rejection
61 Sox, in line scores
62 Boy toy?
63 Send packing

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

HOI SATIN DECAF
QVC OMANI ENOLA
SOURDOUGH ACTOR
AORTA CLOTHO
PRIMAL JETDEAU
KIAS LYSOL ERST
ILIA C KALA
XED PLAYDOH OPT
LIMP ARGUE
ECCE MIENS ELBA
JOHNDOE OUNCES
ELITES INLET
COLIC TAEKWONDO
TRICK OGEES EON
ASSES TODDY ZOO

xwordeditor@aol.com 03/07/13

New Pembroke leads in EcoReps contest

The energy conservation group is expanding its annual residence hall sustainability effort

By STEPHEN ARK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

New Pembroke has emerged as the early frontrunner in the University's third annual Brown Unplugged: Do It in the Dark energy conservation competition, according to the website tracking energy consumption among the participating dorms. The contest, which began Friday and ends March 21, is meant to promote long-term clean energy habits around campus and is sponsored by EcoReps in conjunction with the Office of Residential Life and the Department of Facilities Management.

With a 39.1 percent reduction in kilowatt hours so far this month, New Pembroke held first place in the contest as of press time. Thirteen other dorms have joined the contest this year.

Last year, 893 students participated and saved more than 23,000 kilowatt hours of electricity, according to the event's website. Littlefield Hall won last year's contest with a 26.6 percent reduction in energy, a total of more than 1,500 kilowatt hours of energy conserved.

Dorm captains in each of the par-

ticipating dorms orchestrate students' conservation efforts.

Klara Zimmerman '15, one of the competition's two dorm captain managers, said EcoReps has become more organized this year, allowing them to "increase the publicity of the competition much more than in previous years, expand it to include more students and reduce energy savings more."

EcoReps has used a number of new promotional materials, including a hollow cube made of plastic pipework on the Main Green. The cube was large enough for onlookers to walk inside and was the size of one-eighth of a metric ton of carbon, said James Giarraputo '15, an EcoReps coordinator who also interns for the Department of Facilities Management. He noted that the cube is approximately 1/88th of the energy conserved at the University in last year's contest.

EcoReps member Johnny Snelgrove '14.5 aided promotional efforts by recording a song to raise awareness for the competition. Giarraputo said Snelgrove's song, "Do It In the Dark," will be released as a video once the competition ends.

"Spectacle is our philosophy," Giarraputo said. "We try to catch peoples' attention and make them come to us."

This year, contest coordinators said they have done more to help dorm cap-

tains who are new to EcoReps.

"I think it's awesome that those outside of EcoReps were willing to take on the initiative and spread the word about the competition to their hallmates and friends," said Zimmerman, who was a dorm captain last year.

EcoReps provided new leaders with support recruiting team members, making posters and hosting training sessions.

"I usually have very environmentally-conscious habits, but specifically for the month of March, I use natural light for as much of the day as possible before I turn on the lights in my room," Zimmerman said.

Giarraputo said students can undertake many measures to reduce their energy consumption, including using a power strip for computer and cell phone cords and turning it off when it is not in use. He said students can also use community refrigerators instead of smaller dorm refrigerators.

As part of their efforts to build on the competition's efforts, EcoReps coordinators plan to host two incandescent "light bulb upgrade" sessions at J. Walter Wilson between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. this Friday and March 15, Giarraputo said. At the sessions, EcoReps members plan to distribute energy-efficient light bulbs to students who choose to recycle their older incandescent bulbs.

UCS proposes new campus safety measures

The council also held a forum to discuss campus apathy toward student government

By MAXINE JOSELOW
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Members of the Undergraduate Council of Students suggested extending SafeWalk to Fridays and Saturdays and increasing lighting on campus to improve public safety while speaking with Deputy Chief of the Department of Public Safety Paul Shanley at the council's general body meeting Wednesday.

DPS is considering expanding SafeWalk into weekends, Shanley said. "We're crunching the numbers to see how much it would cost to add Friday and Saturday nights," he said.

DPS also makes efforts "behind the scenes" to ensure students get home safely, such as assigning two or three officers to offer students rides back to campus from popular destinations such as the Whiskey Republic, he said.

Kyra Mungia '13, UCS communications chair, identified inadequate street lighting as another public safety issue.

Shanley said DPS usually asks Facilities Management to install temporary light fixtures until the National Grid can put in place more permanent lighting, citing the current light on the corner of George and Thayer Streets as a sample case.

Besides streets, areas on campus such as the Main Green could potentially benefit from increased lighting, said Brandon Tomasso '13, UCS vice president.

DPS must "find a balance" between need and aesthetics when making decisions about lighting the Main Green, weighing "where we need light and where it looks best," Shanley said.

After discussing public safety with Shanley, the council approved Miyo Malouf '16 as the new elections board vice chair. Malouf will assist Caleb Miller '16, elections board chair and a senior staff writer for The Herald, in running the spring UCS elections process.

Malouf "would be good at diffus-

ing conflict between candidates," said Holly Hunt '13, UCS general body member.

The council also joined with members of the Brown Conversation to hold an open discussion about the purpose and frustrations of student government. The student body's apathy and lack of awareness about UCS's efforts emerged as a major topic.

The Brown Conversation, a year-old initiative, brings students together on Saturday nights for dinner and informal discussion of their frustrations with the University, such as the cost of tuition, said Marguerite Joutz '15, a member of the group. Last semester, the group brought in several strategic planning committee members, and it will host President Christina Paxson in April, Joutz added.

Members of the Brown Conversation sought to foster discussion with UCS because the two groups talk about similar issues, so the campus could benefit from their cooperation, said Wayne Byun '16. "How can we collaborate to make this school a better place?" he said.

"A lot of times it's really difficult to get people to care," said Christine Mullen '16, UCS general body member, citing the fact that the majority of students do not check the council's Facebook page and did not respond to its fall poll.

"There's nothing stopping people who care from being as aware as they want to be," said Kimberly Wachtler '13, UCS general body member. Students often vent their discontent with UCS without being truly informed about the issues at stake, Wachtler said, adding that "people love to throw bombs and they don't like to do research."

Council members said the bureaucratic nature

// UCS page 5

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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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EDITORIAL
(401) 351-3372
herald@browndailyherald.com

BUSINESS
(401) 351-3260
gm@browndailyherald.com

Proposed tax credit cuts vex area businesses

The state's corporate tax is currently the sixth highest in the nation and the highest in the region

By EMILY BONEY
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Local business owners, chamber of commerce representatives and a spokesperson from Woonsocket-based pharmaceutical company CVS spoke in favor of the lower corporate tax rate and against tax credit reductions proposed in Gov. Lincoln Chafee's '75 P'14 budget during a state House Committee on Finance hearing Wednesday.

Most of the witnesses testified in favor of lowering the corporate tax rate from 9 percent to 7 percent over a period of three years to make Rhode Island more competitive with Massachusetts and Connecticut.

The tax incentives and corporate tax reductions come out of Article 9 of the budget, which also includes highly-contested reductions in tax credits for job creation. One of the credits under consideration — the Enterprise Zone Business Tax Credit — offers a tax reduction for businesses that increase their employment bases by 5 percent within a year in struggling parts of Rhode Island. Chafee proposed a reduction or the possible

elimination of this credit.

The committee also debated Chafee's proposal to reduce over the next two to three years the Job Development tax credit, which, according to the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, lowers the corporate tax rate by "a quarter percentage point for every 10 new jobs created for those companies having a baseline employment below 100, or a quarter percentage point for every 50 new jobs created for those companies having a baseline employment above 100."

CVS representative Robert Goldberg testified that the company — which ranked 18th on the Fortune 500 list of businesses and has brought considerable economic growth to the state, according to Goldberg — benefited from the Job Development tax credit, though he did not have the exact tax numbers to present to the committee.

The company, founded in Rhode Island, has expanded in the state over the past year. Goldberg said the company's position is very clear — "any reduction made to tax credits will result in serious consideration of job growth in the state."

Peter Merino, the director of the new Office of Management and Budget, said Chafee's budget "gets people back to work" and "improves the state's overall business climate." Chafee unsuccessfully

// Interns page 1

and operations at the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce. Current workforce development projects in place are all federally funded, she added.

Chafee's proposal is especially timely because federal funds are facing cuts due to Congress' attempts to balance the federal budget, Raymond said.

Raymond said she stood before the state House of Representatives last week to testify in favor of the proposal, and she added that she plans to return next week to speak before the Senate.

Since internships afford students valuable work experience and allow businesses to complete tasks that might

otherwise not get done, "connecting employers with interns is a win-win situation," she said.

Career services representatives at Rhode Island's colleges said they support the proposal because it could benefit students.

"We hear it often. If (students) could get paid, they would do more internships," said Robbin Beauchamp, director of the Career Center at Roger Williams University, and "students who have multiple internships are much more likely to get an interview" with a prospective employer.

The program could make internships an option for students who have passed up internship opportunities to get jobs to pay for their educations,

she said. In a survey, 59 percent of Roger Williams students reported they have held an internship, but only half of those internships were paid, Beauchamp added.

"I certainly think funding for internships is a positive thing for any student," said Michael Wisniewski, director of the Office of Career Development at Salve Regina University. Internships not only give students a glimpse of the professional world, but they can also provide ways for students to reflect on the real-world applications of their academic studies, he added.

"I think it's a really great thing for companies too," said Linda Kent Davis, director of the Career Development Center at

// Interns page 5

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SAT looks to revamp in coming months

The College Board announced plans for long-term research to modify the SAT

By **MAGGIE LIVINGSTONE**
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

David Coleman, president of the College Board, announced plans for outreach in the coming months to “re-design the SAT so that it better meets the needs of students, schools and colleges at all levels” in a Feb. 25 email sent to College Board members including Jim Miller '73, dean of admission.

Coleman outlined three general initiatives that research teams would follow in the restructuring process to increase the test's value: change the test's content to emphasize knowledge relevant to future college work, ensure it adequately measures what admissions officers and other faculty members look for from college applicants and guarantee student test performance mirrors strong classroom instruction.

“An email specifically about re-designing the SAT is not done every year,” wrote the College Board communications team in an email to The



SAM KASE / HERALD

Changes to the standardized test aim to guarantee that scores reflect classroom instruction and make the test accessible to all students.

Herald. Coleman became president of the College Board in October.

James Tilton, one of 12 members of the College Board Board of Trustees and director of financial aid at Brown, said one of his priorities as a member

of the board is to make sure the SAT is accessible and equitable to all students.

“As a financial aid rep, I have an opportunity in the research process to be able to review, identify and make changes,” he said.



LYDIA YAMAGUCHI / HERALD

Before making a decision on divesting from coal industries, President Christina Paxson is waiting for a formal recommendation from ACCRIP.

// Coal page 1

yesterday's meeting, Bull said Wednesday that ACCRIP and Paxson “did not discuss the coal issue specifically.”

“(The discussion) was more on the moral, ethical, legal and economic basis for how we make decisions,” he said.

But Ian Trupin '13.5, a member of ACCRIP, said coal was discussed in detail during the meeting, though he did not elaborate on what was said.

Bull said a complex issue like coal divestment requires “due diligence,” adding that both ACCRIP and Paxson want

to ensure all possible sides of the issue are debated.

“We’re a volunteer group and we’re all busy,” he said. “I can say that I’d like to have this completed and in front of the president in the next month or so. I’d like to see that, but I certainly wouldn’t guarantee it.”

Emily Kirkland '13, a member of Brown Divest Coal, said the group did not expect ACCRIP to recommend divesting at the Wednesday meeting. But she added that she expects ACCRIP to release its formal recommendation “within a week or 10 days.”

LITERARY ARTS PRIZES

The Literary Arts Department is sponsoring the following prizes for the Brown community:

Academy of American Poets Prize: For the best poem (up to 20 pages) by a Brown student.

Kim Ann Arstark Memorial Awards: For the best poem or poems (up to 20 pages) written in celebration of life by a Brown student.

Feldman Prizes in Fiction: For the best story or stories (up to 50 pages). Open to all Brown students.

Beth Lisa Feldman Prize in Children's Literature: For the best story or stories for children (up to 50 pages). Open to all Brown students.

Frances Mason Harris '26 Prizes: For a book-length manuscript of poetry or prose fiction by a currently enrolled undergraduate or graduate woman.

John Hawkes Prize in Fiction: This contest honors the memory of John Hawkes, the internationally-recognized author and dedicated professor of creative writing at Brown University. The contest is open to all students currently enrolled in the Graduate Program in Literary Arts. The submission must be a work of fiction (up to 50 pages).

Edwin Honig Memorial Prizes in Poetry: Honoring the memory of Edwin Honig – poet, translator and founder of the Literary Arts Department at Brown University (up to 10 pages). Open to all Brown students.

Weston Prizes: Best literary work by Brown undergraduate seniors (up to 20 pages, any genre) or MFA candidates (up to 50 pages, any genre).

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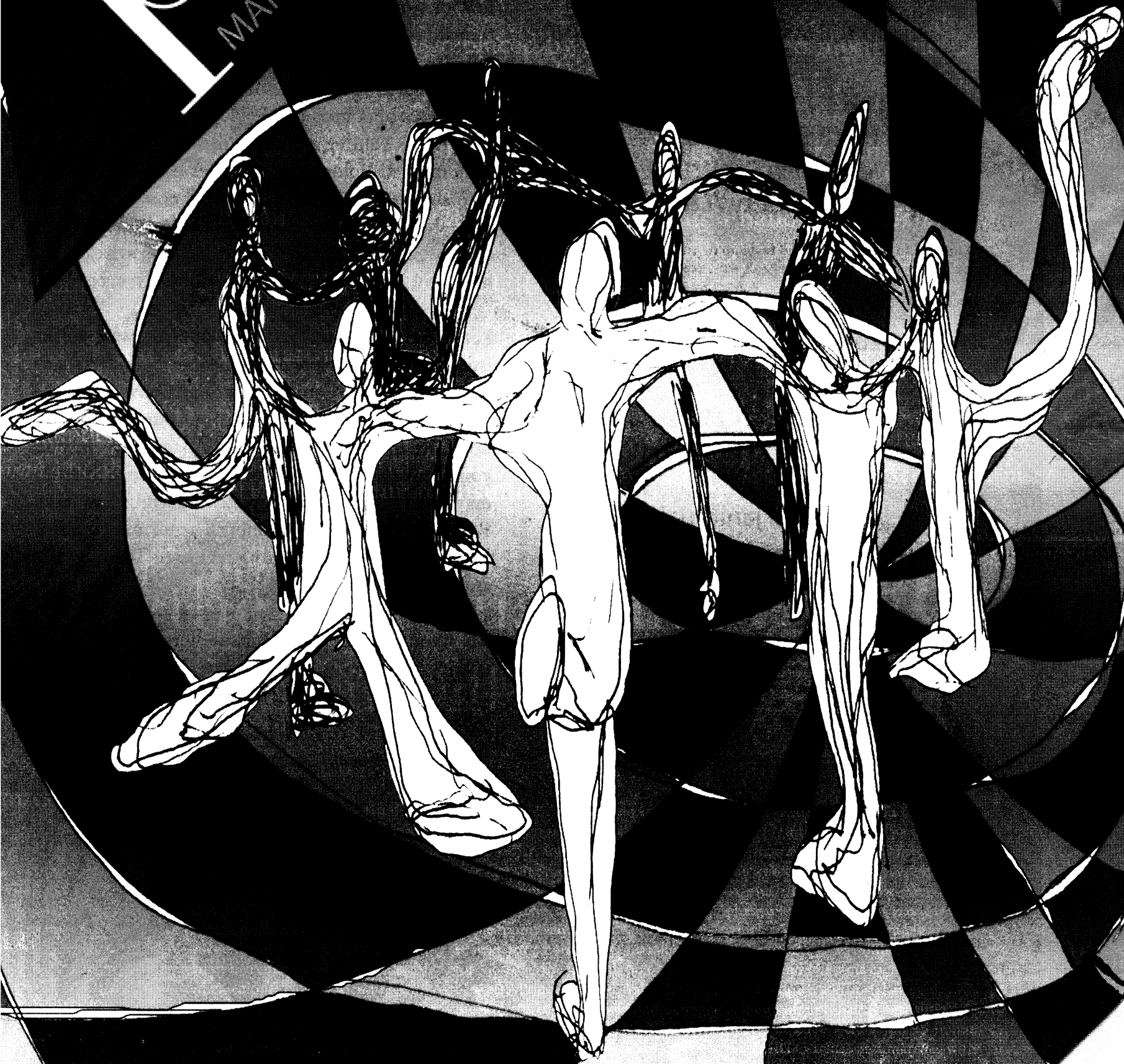
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Adam Davis
Dillon O'Carroll
Rémy Robert
Tanya Singh
Ben Wofford

Staff Illustrators

Madeleine Denman
Marissa Ilardi
Sheila Sitaram
Grace Sun
Adela Wu

illustrations by**Cover**

Sheila Sitaram

Frustrations

Marissa Ilardi

Getting Spicy at Jo's

Emily Reif

In Full Swing

Robyn Sundlee

Tenth of December

Phil Lai

Art Grows on Trees

Lauren Galvan

Fine-Tuning Fine Dining

Grace Sun

contents

3 upfront

bad sex // *beej*

emily post // *emily post-*
frustrations //

lauren childress

4 features

getting spicy at jo's //

emilio leanza

in full swing // *isabelle aubrun*

5 arts & culture

tenth of december //

leslie shen

tv without tv // *adam davis*

6 arts & culture

art grows on trees //

cassie packard

7 lifestyle

fine-tuning fine dining //

rémy robert

corporeal janitorial // *mm*

8 lifestyle

top ten

post-it notes

the qua quagmire //

john qua

editors' note

Dear readers,

It's going to be, possibly, a girl! Kate Middleton accepted a gift of a teddy bear yesterday, saying "Thank you, I'll take that for my d—" We'll take that as a confirmation that she never learned how to pronounce "Django." In any case, the pseudo-announcement has engendered a lot of Girl Power in the Post- offices today, and we're celebrating with Dixie Chicks, Indigo Girls, and not Taylor Swift. (There's a special place in hell for women who damn Amy Poehler and Tina Fey to hell.)

We're excited for Kate, and we can't wait to see her pretty face on a little baby. (Hopefully she doesn't inherit Will's balding genes.) Will she grow up to be a diplomat? A diplomat in space? A manicurist? We're sure she'll excel at whatever she chooses, and hopefully she will join Sasha and Malia in leading by example and show us how to live our lives in peace and harmony, all while wearing colorful J. Crew coats.

Let us help you pass the time while you wait. In this issue, Leslie Shen previews George Saunders's new collection of short stories, *Tenth of December*, and if that doesn't make you want to go out and buy the book, we don't know what will. Adam Davis inspires you to take a break from your Netflix queue to reflect on the way our generation watches TV. And, as usual, Rémy Robert makes your mouth water and your wallet groan with her tantalizing review of *The Dorrance and New Rivers*.

After you're done, pass this issue along to your b—
xoxo,

claire and zoë



Hey peeping tomtoms, like what you see? Check out *Goose and Tomtom*, showing in the PW Downspace March 8-11.

naked photo^

bad sex hot wheels

BEEJ

unqualified

Dear Beej,

My two best friends have started dating each other. Obviously I don't begrudge them their happiness (congratulations, guys!). But considering that we spend a lot of time together, it does make things a little strange for me. I'm left out in a pretty apparent way (not that I want in). Do you have any recommendations for making the transition from third musketeer to third wheel?

Sincerely,

Third Wheel

Dear Third Wheel,

Have more sex. Kudos to your friends, wish them the best—but if you're going to have a lot more alone time on your hands, it doesn't have to be completely alone time, if you catch my drift. What I mean is that you could be having sex during that time. Like right now, for example, instead of writing to me to ask about it.

If you can hear your friends in your apartment, scream louder. If their bed-springs are squeaking, start knocking on your headboard. If the sound is unbelievably painful to listen to, just go to the apartment of the rando you're hooking up with. You're not in a relationship, so celebrate.

Too bad you don't want in,

Beej

Dear Beej,

When is it appropriate to start using toys with a hook up? I really enjoy sex with my We-Vibe, as well as the occasional handcuff scenario, and I'm wondering when is too soon to bring a toy into the mix.

Sincerely,

Toys Really Upgrade Sex

Dear Toys R US,

Who doesn't love a good sex toy? One of my favorites is the F*ck Saw (dildo attached to Jack Hammer). Of course, pulling that out on the first or even second time sleeping with someone might scare them off. For example, many men might find the presence of a vibrator in the room intimidating and emasculating. The We-Vibe, for example, may say something like, "Your penis is lacking." Which may very well be true—but sometimes people like you to get to know them a bit before saying things like that. Likewise, anal beads aren't everyone's cup of tea (though don't knock it till you've tried it. I always say).

Still, do you want to play with the big dogs? Swim with the sharks? Start busting out the freaky stuff, and you'll attract a fellow freak. You'll get better at spotting who might be game, and kinkiness will be back on the menu.

Have fun playing!

Beej



emily post-

paying respects

EMILY POST-

etiquette expert

Dear Emily,

I'm going out for drinks this weekend with a guy I really like. I'm not nervous about the date—we have a great, flirty vibe—but I'm already dreading the moment at the end of the night when the check arrives. Do I offer to pay? Just put down my card? If he picks up the check, what do I say? I don't want to have to worry that he has expectations just because he bought me a whiskey coke or two, but I also don't want to come across as a girl who doesn't appreciate being treated to a drink now and then. Why is this so awkward? Help.

Sincerely,

Paying Is My Problem

Dear PIMP,

Emily's dear departed mother—bless her gin-soaked soul—taught her to sit primly with her hands folded when the check arrived. In Emily's youth, she dutifully followed this advice and still retains the opinion that a lobster dinner is a small price to pay for the overwhelming pleasure of her company. Nevertheless, after Emily's second divorce, she entered a

bonemian phase of her life in which she left the world of custom-tailored Harris Tweed sport coats and ventured into an exotic land of sculptors, literature professors, Californians, and—once, impetuously—a marine biologist. In dining with these impecunious men, Emily discovered that it can be just as feminine to signal for the check and, when it arrives, murmur in one's sultriest tone, "Please. Allow me."

Regrettably, my darling, this check business is not an issue that can be codified. It depends upon the mood of the evening, the upbrining of your date (*always* allow a Texan to pay the bill), and your own preferences. However, as a general guideline: When the check arrives, you may say, "I'm happy to split it with you." If he declines, allow him to pay. One ought not to discourage one of the world's few remaining chivalrous men. You need not prostrate yourself at his feet in gratitude. A simple thank-you will do, ideally when leaving the bar.

By the by, if a man has expectations after buying you a drink, the only thing that you owe him is a good, sharp slap.

frustrations i want a friend in you

LAUREN CHILDRESS

contributing writer

We all know the story. You're a typical Brown student, grinding your way through three-hour seminars and 60-page articles, with no time for extra engagements ... when you suddenly discover yourself constantly thinking about how effortlessly cool that one guy in MATH0190 is. You want to get to know him—to meet him at the Ratty for coffee, Cajun chicken pasta, and lazy conversations. To see what he thinks about Eyed@Brown and get his advice about that cute TA. And then you realize: You have a friend crush.

The friend crush: a longing for the increased platonic companionship of an acquaintance or stranger—a longing so intense that it may even first be confused as a romantic crush. (This is not to be confused with the "crush on a friend," the complicated development of all sorts of mushy feelings for an already-established companion.)

Take, for instance, a friend of mine whom we shall refer to as "Sara," who had a serious friend crush on the star of her biology class, "Jimmy." He was handsome, spoke fluent Japanese, and was heavily involved in the Anime Club. After failing to attract his attention for most of the semester, Sara decided in desperate platonic infatuation to try to get closer to Jimmy by joining the Anime Club herself—even though she'd only seen a few Naruto episodes while babysitting. Yet despite her efforts to quickly brush up on the subject, Sara and Jimmy still aren't friends—in fact, she can count the number of words they've exchanged on two hands.

The anguishes of the friend crush are espe-

cially acute at Brown. The severity results directly from the tension between our "coolness" and our tendency to stick with the familiar. Many Brown students are exceptionally talented individuals who stand out and pique interest even from outside their friend groups. At the same time, it is a congenital human habit to remain in social circles in which we already feel comfortable. This makes it harder to actually meet those new and exciting people we admire from afar, despite our cravings for their platonic companionship.

For many Brown students, it's difficult to naturally expand our friend groups beyond those formed during our first years here, and not simply because so many of us are incapable of finding a non-creepy way of bridging the gap between social circles. One of the reasons for the fizzling out of so many friend crushes is that they can be so lingering. When we fall, we fall hard—and the prospect of getting rejected can be terrifying. This fear can paralyze us, and we subsequently rationalize our passivity toward our friend crushes by citing that 15-pager due next Monday or that really annoying lab that takes up too much time.

As a result, we remain in an awkward limbo where it can be hard to move forward with our platonic attraction. As Brown students, we largely prioritize our own academic goals—admirable in many ways, but the choice comes at a price. We pour most of our energy and vigor into academics and athletics, leaving little emotional and physical time and space left with which to pursue the arduous work of getting to know another person, a universal necessity for

making any intimate connection.

And the friend crush tends to develop more tentatively than the romantic one, as the potential friends must often displace themselves from the safety of their usual social groups in order to interact. Making friends is a hard enough task without adding to it a sense of the social vertigo that comes from moving out of an established comfort zone, especially if there are no mutual friends who often facilitate more organic friendships.

Faced with t-his obstacle, we often settle for the no-man's-land of the friend crush. It's more convenient to imagine a relationship than it is to actually forge one.

And even if there are a handful of over-achievers willing to put in the extra time and effort to reach out of their own comfort zones to make contact, what happens after this tenuous connection has been established? Many people don't look past the first exciting couple of opportunities to talk, mentally fast-forwarding from acquaintanceship to a place where the two of you have suddenly become the best of friends, sharing your most intimate secrets. It's still a crush, after all—by definition, somewhat irrational—and it's easy to forget that the rest of the friendship must still be built. This can lead to an awkward middle ground, where you're itching to "take things to the next level" but are unsure of how to proceed.

And what about—worst of all—a situation in which, having expended all this extra effort in getting to know the person, you determine that your friend crush was really just an illusion after all? What if Sara had discovered that



Jimmy, despite being really good at Japanese and having a major otaku, just doesn't know how to carry on a real conversation? What if the crush is, well, crushed?

All is not lost. The moment we discover that they aren't so perfect after all is the same moment we learn to appreciate the array of strengths and weaknesses we've encountered and dealt with in all our personal relationships. People are "cool" not because they glide through Orgo, but because their characteristics complement ours so beautifully. So do yourself a favor: The next time someone you maybe don't know that well wants to grab a coffee or spend an hour or two in the SciLi studying, go for it. Who knows? They might be friend crushing on you.

Illustration by Marissa Ilardi



getting spicy at jo's

a slice of life from behind the counter

EMILIO LEANZA

contributing writer

Soamy Silva often gets mistaken for a student. At 22, she's around the same age as the kids who, drunk and stumbling, regularly fill the late-night Spicy With line at Jo's. She's behind the grill five days a week, so you've probably seen Soamy before, with her blue piercing above her lip, curly light brown hair, and perpetual smile.

But if you've never really talked to her, you should. I recently met up with Soamy for tea and conversation on one of her few days off. We discussed life, dreams, and the shit she puts up with on a daily basis.

The first thing I noticed was how different Soamy looks outside of Jo's. Her hair, unconstrained by a net, juts out freely around her round, vivacious cheeks. The bright, relaxed outfit she's wearing is a stark contrast to the apron and canvas green polos required by the Jo's dress code. Jokingly, she tells me she's surprised anyone would want to interview her: "My life sucks." I disagree.

I'm surprised by how much I can relate to her. Both our families happen to come from the same small city, Ponce, Puerto Rico, though neither of us has lived on the island. And we've both had a parent who was, at one point or another, in jail. We also bonded over a shared love for clubbing and the beach—and over the fact that we both spent Valentine's Day sans date.

Nevertheless, the courses of our lives have run rather differently. A Providence native,

Soamy went to Central High School and later got a degree in massage therapy from Lincoln Tech. A professional masseuse for a while, she quit her job at a local spa once it "started getting sketchy." She then went to CCRI to study substance-abuse counseling and, somewhere along the way, wound up at Jo's. "I'm bored easily. My interests go back and forth," she told me, waving her hands to emphasize her point.

Though she says the pay and benefits are good, Soamy looks at her position at Jo's as a job, not a career. I could feel the excitement swelling in her as she told me about her two dreams. One is to open her own successful business in Providence: a restaurant serving "Spanish but mixed" cuisine. Spices With, in case you're wondering, won't be on the menu. Her other dream is to become a fashion designer and create her own line of clothing. She starts sewing and culinary classes in April and, judging by the determined seriousness in her voice, I'd say she stands a good chance of fulfilling at least one of her dreams.

In the meantime, she'll still be working at Brown. "When I applied to Jo's, they didn't tell me I'd be on the grill 24/7," Soamy says with a wry grin that doesn't quite mask her irritation. "The rush can be really stressful; sometimes people don't want to move or have their backs turned. I have to keep asking 'Can I help you?' until they respond."

Still, the majority of students who come into Jo's wasted don't cause any serious problems for Soamy. In fact, as a young person who also likes to go out, she finds their drunken antics funny, for the most part. But there are always exceptions, and this past Halloween weekend was especially bad.

On October 31 at around 1:45 a.m., when whatever's left over from the grill gets placed on the countertop for "grab 'n' go," a spiced kielbasa slipped off the glass and onto a girl's chest. Soamy apologized, but this didn't stop the visibly drunk student from yelling at her. Jo's closed for the night, and the situation could've ended there. However, the student came back the next evening and accused Soamy of "throwing a piece of chicken" at her. Soamy corrected her: "It was a kielbasa and you were drunk." This prompted a slew of verbal insults from the student.

Soamy's older coworkers advised her to take a walk to blow off steam. Instead, she went to the basement and cried. Her manager came down and, though supportive, basically told her, "You can't talk back to them." The customer is always right, even when they're beligerently drunk and shouting.

It's hard to imagine that anyone, drunk or otherwise, could get so angry with Soamy, who's incredibly nice to everyone. What most upset Soamy about the incident, she said, is that the student "made it seem like I was her

maid."

As disquieting as it is, I'm positive that Soamy's story of mistreatment by a student is not an isolated incident at Brown. The Spicy With counter is just one backdrop for the manifestation of the inherently unequal power dynamic between student and staff.

During my two years here, I've watched students treating BDS workers, custodial staff, and public safety officers with patronizing contempt and condescension. Yet what's particularly troubling about the kielbasa incident is not simply that Soamy was treated unfairly but that her voice was effectively silenced—because she's behind the counter instead of in the line.

When verbally harassed, Soamy had only two options: silently take the abuse or respond and risk being fired. The student, though eventually escorted out of Jo's by security, was able to dish out insults with relative impunity. In a place where the values of community and diverse perspectives are constantly being praised, it's frustrating to know that the voices of Brown staff members often don't count as much as those of the students here.

But it doesn't have to be this way. Instead of interacting with staff as if they exist solely to serve us, we should give them the respect they deserve—even when we're wasted. Soamy, for one, would appreciate it.

Illustrated by Emily Reif



Did I meet my Prince Charming on the dance floor? Nope. But was that even my intention? Not really. My Friday night swinging shenanigans were extremely fun and freeing and offered quite a revelation. It turns out that I can get (kind of) physical with the opposite sex without subscribing to a paradigm that makes me feel uncomfortable and compromised.

When I told my father of my nighttime doo-wopping and shoo-bopping, he was delighted. And when I launched into a full explanation of thesis-like proportions outlining the various pleasures of the evening, he cut me off—already understanding that I had at last discovered the same method of gradual barrier-breaking and confidence-boosting that he had 30 years ago.

Illustration by Robyn Sundlee

in full swing

dance steps in the right direction

ISABELLE AUBRUN

contributing writer

My father is something of a guru when it comes to relationships. I'm most comfortable going to him when things are stagnant in the romantic sector of my life. And since inactivity in that area seems to be the norm, I turn to the guy a lot.

Recently, I've been feeling an uncomfortable nagging that I've been doing something wrong in the realm of college courtship. In the face of frustration, I've tried to devise plans, to write lists, to take states. Ultimately coming up empty, I consulted my father.

He could relate. "By age 20 I do not believe I had had a single date," he wrote in an email. "I was a late bloomer," he insisted.

So what exactly allowed him to make the seemingly gargantuan leap from hesitant bachelor to emboldened husband?

The answer: partner dancing. And though he'd been saying it for years, it was not until a couple weeks ago that I finally heeded his advice. My dad rocked 'n' rolled in his day; I decided I would swing. I donned the flowiest article of clothing I owned and headed over to Alumnae Hall for Brown's annual Zoot Suit Ball.

I was reluctant at first, edging farther and farther away from the 50 or so people gathered on the dance floor. But then I told myself I would not be a wallflower. I was there by some combination of my own self-determination and a little push from the universe. Dammit, I wasn't going to waste the opportunity.

Swing dancing was one very concrete step—literally—to counteract my tendencies

as a late bloomer. Partner dancing brings two people together in a physical way. Requiring that hands be clasped, pelvises joined, legs synchronized, eyes locked, and smiles mimicked, it's the ultimate way to pair up and move. None of this grinding business where someone comes up behind you to have their way with you. Just two consenting parties having a dance together—and, at least for me, a gateway to further, more mature engagement with the opposite sex.

I'm disenchanted with Brown's hookup culture, having frequently observed people who tout their hookups until the novelty wears off and all that seems to remain is frustration that it didn't actually mean anything. I place emphasis on process and intention in romance, so I'm uncomfortable partaking in a culture that seems to value neither. Of course, this is one woman's opinion. I might be bummed because I can't get immersed in it myself, whether by choice or by the cruel conspiring of the fates. When I asked my friend her opinion recently, she claimed all I needed to do was drink more and I would feel more at ease in throwing myself at anyone. Thanks, but I don't think that's for me.

Swing seemed like a better place to start. That Friday evening's swingers were a motley crew: The men in the room included older Providence locals in neatly pressed suits and goofy, sweet, and sweaty Brown undergraduates in hastily tied ties and wrinkled khakis. The women were mostly talented Providence

professionals and seasoned Brown Swing Club experts in skin-tight frocks. And there were a few guardedly hopeful newcomers, myself included.

To kick off the dancing, the women were instructed to form a circle around the men, who then selected a female partner from the ring—a horrifying way to partner up. Some dudes walked with a determination I envied, chose a lady, and got ready to dance. But most shuffled slowly within the circle, indecisive and understandably shy. I shifted back and forth uncomfortably on the spot as I waited for my very own stud to pluck me from the crowd.

But then I decided that I wasn't going to stand for this nonsense.

I broke from my two friends and strode up to a young, lost-looking fellow.

"Hi, I'm Isabelle. Would you like to be my partner?" I asked. He nodded—and that was all I needed to begin my evening of swing dancing.

That night, I was grabbed, spun, pushed, pulled, bumped, and shoved. Hands grazed my breasts; legs went in between mine. My hair whipped guys' faces, my shirt rode up, and my hands were everywhere.

All we were doing was dancing. It was innocuous and unromantic. But it was also consequential and thrilling. I had never before been touched like that, and I certainly had never touched anyone like that myself. But there I was, doing it like it was no big deal. Doing it like I knew exactly where my hands could go and exactly how good I could look on a spin.

tenth of december

the best book you'll read this year?

LESLIE SHEN

contributing writer

Whether George Saunders' new short story collection, *Tenth of December*, is the best book of 2013—as Joel Lovell claimed in an article for *The New York Times Magazine*—remains to be seen. But I would hazard a guess that it is the most compassionate book that will be released this year — depending how you define “best,” this might mean the same thing.

Tenth of December: 10 stories. The lion's share of critics' praise has gone to two or three of them, but there's merit elsewhere too: Take “Sticks,” a story of children, raised austere, who grow into hard-hearted adults. At just over a page in length, “Sticks” affirms that Saunders still manages to say, with few words, what is hardest to say about struggling to do right by the people you love.

Of course, the heavy hitters in the collection are not to be ignored: There's the title story, about a man dying of cancer who, wanting to shorten his family's suffering, goes to freeze to death in the woods. Out in the cold he sees a boy in danger and rushes to his aid in an act of heroism that reminds him briefly of the preciousness of life. There's “The Semplica Girl Diaries,” set in a twisted world (essentially our own) where impoverished immigrant women are paid to be strung up as yard decorations for the wealthy. In this twisted world, a father writes in his diary that to be able to afford the ultimate status symbol of a Semplica Girl display would also be to feel capable, at last, of providing his children with a life as comfortable as those of their richer peers. “Lord, give us more,” the father writes. “Give us enough.”

Many of the stories are strange, populated as they are by dysfunctional relationships,

exaggerated thoughts, and brand-name chemicals that make the user wax poetic. But while it's all very well to go on about how strange these stories are, doing so overlooks how intensely they're concerned with what is real. They are emotional without being sentimental. They speak of prejudice, privilege, and domestic insufficiency. They set middle-class existence against a national backdrop of emotional suppression, insincerity, obsessive consumerism, and punishment of poverty and illness. Even “Escape from Spiderhead,” the story most fully belonging to the realm of science fiction, moves us less with its dystopia (where convicts serve sentences as lab rats) than with its narrator's deeply human struggle to keep his dignity.

I'll never forget the last sentence of “The Wavemaker Falter,” the first story Saunders wrote for his debut collection, *CivilWarLand in Bad Decline*. How that sentence devastated me the first time I read it. How it devastates me still when I read it now: “Lightning strikes the slaughterhouse flagpole and the antelope scatter like minnows as the rain begins to fall, and finally, having lost what was to be lost, my torn and black heart rebels, saying enough already, enough, this is as low as I go.”

There are echoes of that heartbroken poetry in *Tenth of December*, but these are distant and temperate echoes, less despairing and wild, less reliant on the sardonic, downtrodden 30- to 40-year-old male narrators of stories past (though they're still present). In this volume, Saunders casts his net over a wider, more accessible range of characters than ever before, tenderly deconstructing American myths by exposing the shortcom-

ings of the American family. I miss the old voices, but happily find that in new characters their spirit endures, informed as always by abject sorrow and soaring elation and other relatable emotions. There's some experimentation with structure, some fluctuation of register, but he's still pulling old beloved tricks: the corporate drudges; the bosses and coworkers; the rivals, losers, and winners; the curiously energetic terseness; the disconcerting vocabulary of offices; and (yes!) one theme park. For fans, there is undeniably much to get used to in this book, but on the whole it's like greeting an old friend.

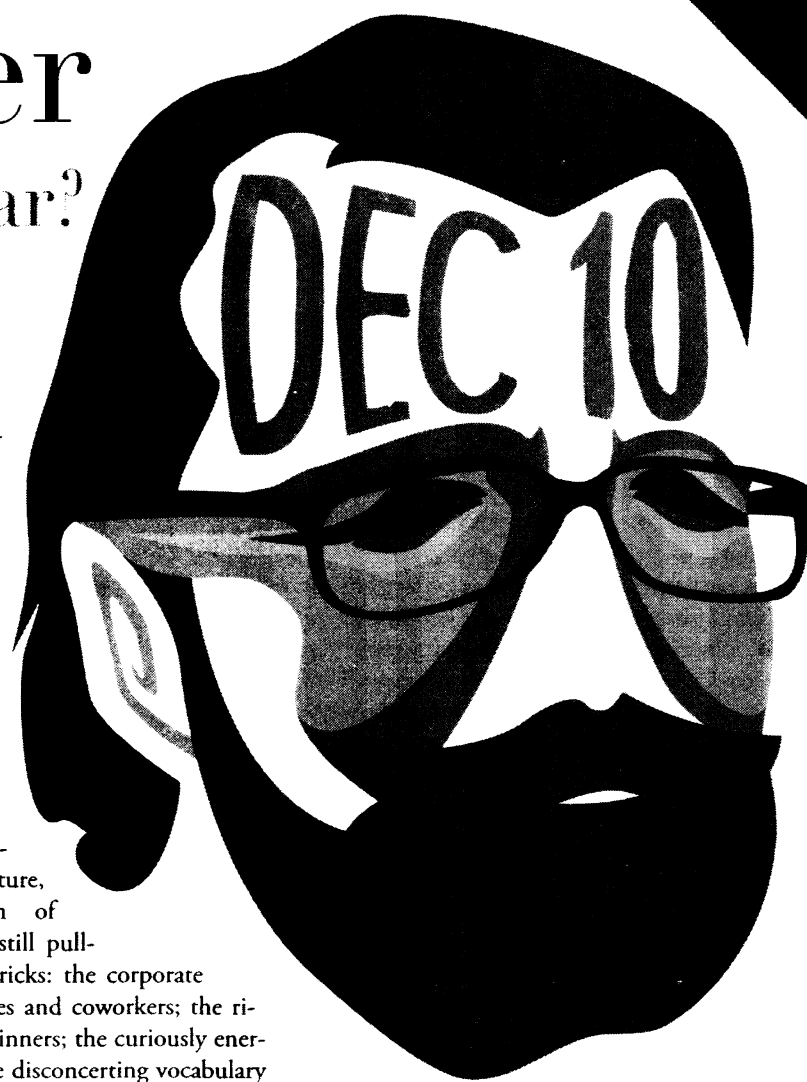
Perhaps best of all is how Saunders renews the hope that even inside our monstrous literary circle jerk there are writers who matter outside it, who don't find it beneath them to write stories that are *about* something. He renews our belief that reading a story can and should change the reader, and that language can and should be a process of moving away from what we think we know. It moves us away from judgment and toward uncertainty, toward empathy.

If you're wondering whether or not you should read *Tenth of December*, you absolute-

ly should. No guarantees that you'll enjoy these stories exactly as much as or more than the rest of Saunders's body of work, but like the rest of his stories they are honest, wise, important.

So if, in the hustle and bustle of his visit to our campus, I may take a moment to be starstruck and sentimental, I say—and I know there are others who say the same—thank you, Mr. Saunders, for this latest book, for doing so generously and unpretentiously what you do for American literature. And, of course, thanks for being here today. We're glad you've come.

Illustration by Phil Lai



tv without tv

the new way we watch

ADAM DAVIS

staff writer

When's the last time you sat down with a group of people in front of a television?

If you're like most students, I'd venture to guess that it's been a while; the way people watch TV now looks nothing like it used to. If you dare to look back to the time when television first established itself as a must-have domestic device in the 1950s, viewing patterns would probably look so different you wouldn't even be able to recognize them. It was a family affair, with the whole brood settling in around the television “hearth” to catch their weekly program. It was calculated, communal, and scheduled. And these days, who has time for that?

It's not just the explosion of options that has affected the way consumers today—college students in particular—view television. If your family wants to watch *Two and a Half Men* but you'd prefer the latest episode of *The Americans*, it's not that hard to find other ways to access your shows so the parentals can enjoy their bland sitcom in peace. There's no need for agreement or compromise anymore. You watch what you want; I'll watch what I want. There's enough TV for everyone.

The bigger issue at stake here is scheduling, and this is where college habits play a big role. In its early days, television was categorized by an ideology of liveness (thank you, soon-to-be MCM degree); regardless of whether the program itself aired live content, there was an ideological cache attached to the program's original air date and time. That was when the episode went “live,” and you didn't want to be the only one of your friends who missed it. It's not that liveness is dead now—who would want to watch the Super Bowl (Beyoncé Bowl?) on tape delay?—but that it's become displaced. The episode becomes live when you tell it to be. Big test tomorrow? Fine, I'll put off the newest episode of *Enlightened* for a couple days. Your friends want to go out to dinner on Thursday? No big, you'll just watch *Community* tomorrow.

In college, we are used to having control over, and flexibility in, our scheduling—you don't have to go to the cafeteria at 11:30 when the bell rings. So if a TV network thinks it's going to control your schedule by telling you that you've got to be in front of the screen directly at 9 p.m., you're going to say, “No thanks. It's a

Wednesday, and WhisCo is calling.” College students have always been this way, which is why Nielsen Ratings dismissed college viewers for so long. We are too fickle, too malleable for them to hold on to.

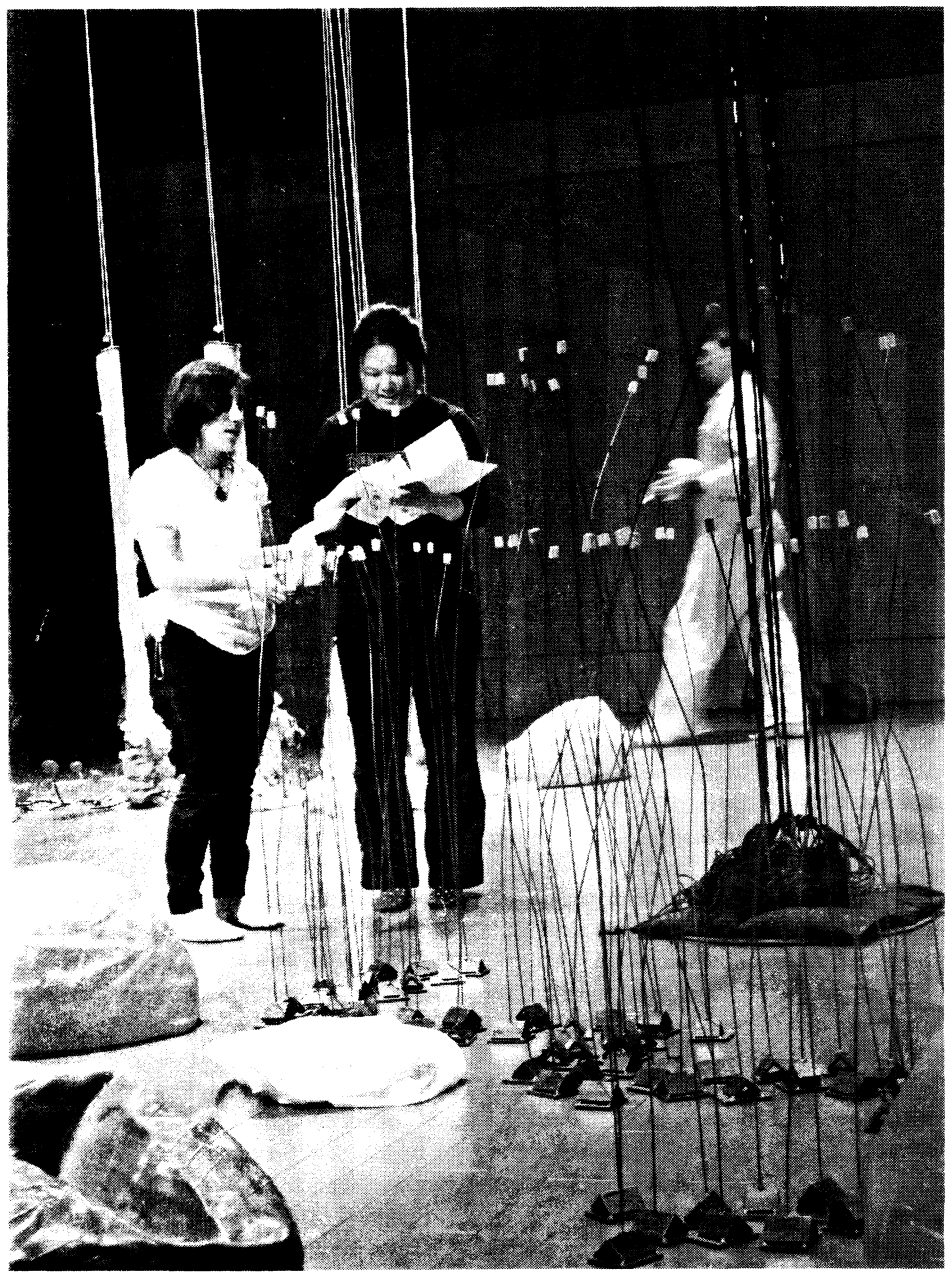
Nowadays, though, Nielsen realizes the need for change. The TV industry is beginning to catch up to college viewers and is transforming accordingly. DVR companies like TiVo were the first to catch on to the increased desire for time-shifted television. But even DVRs are now outdated for college students—you actually have to own a TV to use one. Instead, we turn toward our computer screens. Hulu, HBO GO, other less savory websites. The Internet is a vast wonderland for TV lovers, where you can find last night's episode of one show right alongside the entire season of another. These sites are the places where liveness is shifted. Instead of asking friends if they've seen last night's *Homeland*, we ask if they've seen this week's *Homeland*. There's some give, some flexibility, built in, even though these sites generally encourage viewers to try to keep up with the show as it airs. And so we've bought into that

model of TV viewing. If you don't have 8–9 on Tuesday free, you can just watch at midnight on Thursday, then talk about it over the weekend.

Enter Netflix. They've tapped into the mindset of college binge-watchers, releasing all 13 episodes of the first season of their new program *House of Cards* at the same time. They've made the statement that you don't need to own a TV to watch TV. You don't need to block off a specific hour each week. You watch when you want to watch and as many episodes as you want to watch. When the fourth season of *Arrested Development* arrives, you can even watch the episodes, according to producers, in whatever order you want to watch.

Netflix is changing the television game, at least for ultra-savvy viewers (among whom most college students can be found), by making the program work around you and not the other way around. You may still not have full control, but your share of the pie is growing; and for college students, that's a good thing. We're ahead of the industry curve.

Who needs an actual television when you can have TV your way?



art grows on trees

how to build a forest

CASSIE PACKARD

lifestyle editor emerita

The completed forest looks like an *Alice in Wonderland* set design, the proper setting for an impetuous caterpillar with a hookah. Multicolored fabrics twine skyward, illuminated by vivid green and blue lights. Bright inflated plastics conjure images of flowers and mushrooms. Metal reeds bend in the gentle fingers of an invisible wind. Sounds both subtle and strange quietly emanate from speakers that have been integrated into the fantastic landscape. It's magical, surreal, immersive—and eight hushed hours long.

PearlDamour's *How to Build a Forest* is eight hours long because it needs to be; it's a performance-installation piece exploring process and gradual growth, and its length and scale are appropriate for those goals. If your focus is purely on the complete forest—which stands for a mere 30 minutes prior to disassembly—you've missed the point (a fallacy committed by several reviewers).

Presented by TAPS and the Creative Arts Council, *How to Build A Forest* showed in The Granoff Center on February 27 and 28. The piece was produced by the combined efforts of visual artist Shawn Hall and artistic collaborative PearlDamour. PearlDamour is composed of artists Katie Pearl, an MFA candidate in writing for performance at Brown, and Lisa D'Amour, Brown's playwright-at-large.

PearlDamour's pieces tend to be large and interdisciplinary. Sound artists Brendan Connelly and Christopher DeLaurenti oversaw sound design for the piece.

From beginning to end, *How to Build A Forest* is an immersive experience. Upon entering the studio in which the performance unfolds, viewers are approached by costumed "rangers." In performative whispers, the rangers give audience members instructions and suggestions. They recommend liberal break-taking during the lengthy performance, and suggest that viewers vary their vantage points—experiencing the work from the twin rows of seats in the studio, from a glass-paned overlook, or from within the chimeric forest itself. The rangers also provide each observer with a handy "Field Guide," a visually appealing pamphlet that not only gives some background on the piece but also explains the origins of its various material elements. The "Field Guide" tracks the materials from the store or factory back to the earth, noting any mutations caused by human intervention. The "Field Guide" is the project's linchpin, really spelling out its intentions and indicating that the artists practice what they preach: careful attention to the fragile, living components that constitute an ecosystem.

The pace is slow and deliberate. *How*

to Build A Forest opens with performers, wearing robin's-egg-blue jumpsuits, executing a careful and balletic unwinding of black fishing lines. They attach Ziplocs of fabric to the lines with clothespins, blow into colorful plastics on the floor, and suspend wire mica nets and neckties, arranging all the materials (including rubber gloves, yarn, vinyl records, and fishing weights) meticulously. The measured intentionality lends itself to an air of ritual: the infinitely repeated tradition of quiet growth.

I came and left the installation several times, noting the crowd's constant shift. Throughout the experience, my favorite vantage point was from within the exhibition amongst the fabric trees. After showing a gatekeeper my shirt tag and finding that my shirt was (unsurprisingly) made in China—harkening back to the notion of awareness of the origins of and development of materials—I was allowed entry to the forest. I installed myself in the weird and wonderful environment, sitting amongst artists, whistling performers, and the more courageous audience members. At the six-hour mark the forest was complete. The whole building experience had bordered on meditative.

And then, jarringly, disassembly began, wrenching us from that quiet dream-land-

scape. D'Amour aptly expressed that "the materials are in charge in the build, and we humans are in charge in the disassembly." This sentiment felt particularly poignant as the forest reverted back to sparse studio. The performance ended with spoken word poems.

How to Build A Forest is a compelling combination of heady visuals and a subtly communicated—and excruciatingly important—takeaway message. Viewers experience both the lovely slowness of growth and the painful swiftness of destruction. The project echoes the loss caused by Hurricane Katrina, which racked the artists' hometown. As I initially squirmed in my chair and then grew still, I was struck by how much humans underappreciate and undervalue process because of our collective fixation on product. Nature is one such process. We only miss it when we've uprooted—obliterated—its product.

"We are building for things that can't be rebuilt," the "Field Guide" ends. *How to Build A Forest* communicates this final message beautifully, planting it within its viewers like a seed.

(If you missed *How to Build A Forest*, check out its cool time-lapse video at <http://vimeo.com/32998219>.)

Photos by Lauren Galvan

fine-tuning fine dining dollar oysters and live jazz

RÉMY ROBERT

lifestyle editor emerita

Look at you, senior spring, so full of contradictions. As I struggle to answer the question of my post-grad plans, I'm pulled in opposite directions. On the one hand, the poignancy of the homestretch makes Providence all the more seductive, adventuring all the more fervent, my mindset all the more indulgent. On the other hand, *oh wait*, it's all coming to an end, and we're about to go out into the Real World, and I need an income, and isn't the only socially acceptable response to all this a wallop of Debbie Downer realism?

I find myself shifting into high gear to tackle my restaurant bucket list—partly as a drawn-out farewell to this funny city of ours and partly because, yes, now's the last time I can live beyond my means without ramifications like eviction or bankruptcy. Recently I've punctuated my existential frets with validation from oysters and mezcal. Slowly, I'm piecing together this concept called adulthood. My latest theory, if these dinners are any indication: It's that paradoxical balance of living it up and cutting back, an appreciation for nice things and a way of strategically weaseling them into my otherwise unglamorous twenty-something life.

On any given night, New Rivers dishes out food as gorgeous and thoughtful as it is exorbitantly expensive ... unless you go on oyster night, as some friends and I did last week. The raw bar features a handful of oyster varieties, all culled from New England waters and accompanied with touchy-feely tasting notes, and you take your pick. Normally they run at \$3 each, but every Tuesday, blessed Tuesday, they're marked down to \$1 a pop. Unlimited. No strings attached. Tasting notes be damned, I couldn't have differentiated between the

Walrus & Carpenter and Plum Point oysters that composed my dozen. That didn't matter because both were awesome. I could go back each week for a dozen, bolstered by a big \$8 bowl of Brussels sprouts roasted with sweet soy sauce and chili and finished with cashews—the best veggies in the land! I could, I will, and I won't feel like a financial failure when I do it. \$20 spent this way feels indulgent but seems downright responsible compared to past dinnertime impulse buys on Thayer (say what, \$14 stone pot bibimbap?).

Dinner at The Dorrance was another story. There's no getting around the fact that it's extravagant—with a chef who trained at Noma, the best restaurant in the world, it's no surprise, either. A friend and I went in the name of YOLO but also to bask in its ridiculous dining room: It's in the old Federal Reserve building downtown, and the bank's patterned tile floors, chandeliers, and ornate floor-to-25-foot-ceiling windows were preserved in the transition. Fancy molding on the ceiling makes it feel like you're in *The Princess Diaries*, in the greatest way possible.

After some waffling and half-assed suppression of giddy laughter, we decided on the six-course tasting menu and sat there feeling smug as plate after elaborate plate (the six courses did not include a slew of “nibbles” to begin) materialized before us. Midway through our bowls of roasted celeriac, bone marrow, whey-parmesan broth and herb pistou, the jazz started up. Serendipitously, our dinner coincided with locally based Travis Colby Band's weekly set. IT JUST KEEPS GETTING CLASSIER!

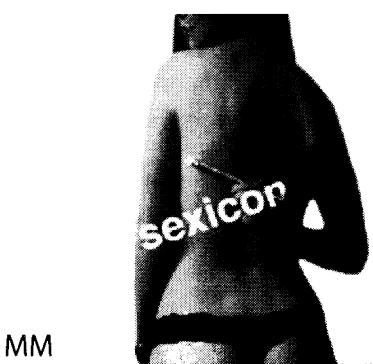
No dollar-oyster nights take place within these gilded walls, but the trick to making it

accessible is to skip the food entirely—The Dorrance's bar is a draw unto itself and decidedly more feasible for we the unemployed. Hunkered under the mezzanine, so it feels more intimate than the palatial dining room, it's got plenty of seating. It's also front row for the band, whose big jazz and funk music takes well to the acoustics of 25-foot ceilings. It all just really *works*, albeit in an East Egg-y way. And the craft cocktails deserve their own *Portlandia* skit: Veritable mixologists make blends such as smoky mezcal with jalapeño, lime, and vanilla, or five-year rum with apricot, Creole bitters, and frothy egg white. They are around \$10 each, so you're better off going to the GCB if you're looking to get hammered, but I can think of few lovelier dates

(platonic or romantic) than getting cocktails at The Dorrance to the tune of free, great live jazz.

As I gear up to become an adult, my conception of adulthood just gets foggier: sensible and restrained here, mature and refined and utterly romanticized there. I know myself; I know I'll figure good food into my budget even when it means forgoing, say, heat or decorative rugs. These snooty dinners are in some small part a defense mechanism, but in learning to experience them within (slightly more) reasonable means, I get to have my cake and eat it. Because everyone, even grown-ups, wants cake.

Illustration by Grace Sun



MM

sexpert

For this week's *Post-* sex column, I thought I'd write a post-sex column—that is, an article about those post-coital habits, routines, and rituals by which we recover from a roll in the hay. Whether we're washing off the fluids or making a secretive trip to the toilet, all sexually active individuals have to deal with the messiness and exertion that good sex often requires. And while many of us would rather fall asleep and skip the cleanup, our sanitary sanity often depends on it.

For men, the recovery interval following an orgasm is called the “refractory period,” according to Masters and Johnson. While some men have a brief or nonexistent refractory period, most are unable to have another erection for at least 10 minutes. This is a good opportunity to perform the necessary rites, like peeling off the condom or drinking water to compensate for all the

sweat you just produced. If you don't use a condom (which hopefully means you had a heart-to-heart about STIs and birth control beforehand), one of you might have to waddle to the toilet and eject some fluids from your vajayjay or your butt. One of my friends stuffs tissues into her vagina to soak up her boyfriend's semen; another keeps a special towel by her bed. To prevent the kind of vaginal seepage that can occur after unprotected sex, some women wear a tampon the day after sex or put on particularly absorbent panties.

But the post-coital comeback doesn't stop there. If you're female, it's good to go pee after sex to prevent urinary tract infections; if you've just had anal, you might feel like you have to take a shit and skulk off to the bathroom mumbling about how you forgot to brush your teeth. Just as everyone experiences sex differently, everyone recov-

ers from it differently. Your partner might konk out instantly or get a hankering for pizza bagels. You might resent the wet spot on your bed sheets and do a spontaneous load of laundry. These tendencies and patterns are not separate from the sex act; instead, they're an inevitable and important part of any hookup. They're not any grosser or dirtier than sex itself—so be careful not to offend your partner when you Febreze the crap out of your bed. And if you're uncomfortable with the post-sexual janitorial work, invite your partner to clean off with you in the shower, where you can sexily soap off all the discharge. Better yet, have sex in the shower, where you can't sully any sheets.

While doing some fieldwork, I stumbled across a company devoted solely to post-coital sanitary products. Kanoodled is the pragmatic manufacturer of “Coochie

Cleaner,” “Weiner Wash,” “Panky Hankies,” and other such hygienic items for when the sex is over but the wetness remains. And while I commend Kanoodled for addressing the trenchant issue of post-coital cleanup, I doubt their wares are anything but baby wipes, soap, and terry cloth. If you're compelled by the idea of after-sex asepsis, why not put together your own personal “kit of Kanoodled,” with an old washcloth and some room-sprays and what-have-yous. Store it with your lube and fuzzy handcuffs.

If you're like me, though, corporeal janitorial work is no big deal. For me, the most important thing to do after sex is get cozy and hang out with my guy. I'm not talking about putting on a Hefner robe and smoking a cigarette. I'm talking about back scratches and snuggles, pillow-talking and exalting in our nakedness. I'm talking about letting go and enjoying the intimacy.

corporeal janitorial

adj. of or relating to the hygienic or restorative acts that directly follow a sexual encounter; the temporal opposite of foreplay



music is

emailing Trent Reznor.

film is

viewing *Hugo* in memory of Chávez.

tv is

watching out for Rhode Island's loose seals.

books is

anticipating George Saunders's newest *Game of Thrones* book.

food is

devouring our children in preparation for winter storm Saturn.

booze is

spiking our coffees with bourbon. #midtermseason

topten ways the sequester will affect post-

1. Every other week is a rerun.
2. We drop the hyphen in our name. Also the *o*, as we can't afford to buy any v_w_ls.
3. Illustrations? Here's some clip art!
4. Drunk Photo gets replaced by Sober Photo ... no money, no booze.
5. We become black and white and in the red all over. #cheappuns
6. Because we're 2big2fail, the UFB gives us a bailout of \$26,779.
7. WE F*CKING LOVE CRACK.
8. We start renting out our production room to 305 Fitness.
9. Pst firez copy cheef,
10. [Redacted due to insufficient funds.]

the qua quagmire it's all relative

JOHN QUA

contributing writer



I come from a very gay family. Let me explain: The Qua family is a small one, in which there are exactly three cousins. And exactly three of those cousins are men. And exactly three of those cousins are gay. This makes my familial generation 100% gay.

The situation makes for some interesting meet-the-family moments. My father's hippie college friend recently, and a bit awkwardly, exclaimed, "I mean ... you're like, the poster family for the nature argument, dude!" Inevitably, the questions begin, well intentioned though always predictable. Who came out first? Me, my brother five minutes later. How did the family react? Confused at first, accepting in the end. How do you think you all came out that way? Dunno, your guess.

There is no guidebook for predicting what a family reunion of three gay male couples and their families will be like. When I talked about this with my mom, she told me she was hoping someone would give her a granddaughter, because otherwise that's just a whole lot of testosterone. The names of the few media sources we have to understand these problems make clear just how new they are: *Modern Family*, *The New Normal*.

Add to this the fact that our home is oddly situated in the heart of East

Coast WASP-dom. Darien, Connecticut, is the prototypical suburban, white-collar town in every imaginable way. It is overwhelmingly white, a good proportion of the dads work on Wall Street, and a good proportion of the moms stay at home. Our house is next to a horse field, best known for hosting the annual polo match between Princeton and Yale. Down the street is the Goodwives Shopping Center, which was used as a set for both versions of *The Stepford Wives*. In fact, Darien was the inspiration for the novel on which the films are based. You may or may not be able to see my house in passing in the 2004 version ... a fact I clearly take pride in. I do not exaggerate when I say the popped-collar polo in neon green and pink is the highest form of town fashion, accentuated sometimes by *two* popped collars.

I have never been sure where my brother's and my gayness fit into this. When you have that awkward precoming-out phase in a school with a uniform, things get real interesting. Will and his friends burn-frayed the tips of the collars and the stitched little men on their black polos. I went the opposite route, insisting daily on a crease in my khakis and a tucked-in shirt. As two of the three out homosexuals in our tiny private school, we

gained a reputation as "the Qua brothers," a term that I think was most often followed by the whispered, "Did you know, they're *both* gay?" It wasn't so much a problem—we were never physically bullied—as it was a fact of which everyone was acutely aware. Nonetheless, it was difficult, and my brother and I became each other's best friend, closer still for sharing a difficult and often isolating sexuality.

I wish there were a way to imbue the LGBTQ rallies and marches with the sentimentality my family inspires in me. I associate my family with homosexuality, not through an activist lens but through the day-to-day experiences of all the conversations, issues, and complexities that accompany the fact that we three men love men. Much of the resistance to homosexuality that I have encountered has come from those who do not know gay people and have no reason to care about LGBTQ issues themselves. I'd like to think stories like ours can make clear that the call for marriage equality often comes from a place of family, which does not displace sexuality but rather enhances the strength of the call for rights. For that reason, it matters that the Qua family is so gay: Perhaps our story can inspire some to make that connection between rights and families.

weekend five

George Saunders reading, Martinos Auditorium, Thurs 2:30 p.m.

Senior Night #7, Spats, Thurs 9 p.m.

Brown Jazz Ensemble feat. Kurt Rosenwinkel, Salomon, Fri 8 p.m.

Marisol as performed by the second-year Brown/Trinity Rep MFA students, 87 Empire Street, Fri 7 p.m., Sat/Sun at 2 p.m.

Fusion Dance Spring Show, Alumnae Hall, Fri 8 p.m., Sat 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m.

2013 CAMPUS DANCE
BATTLE OF THE BANDS

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Deadline Date Monday, April 8th at 5pm

EDITORIAL

Divest administrative
irresponsibility

In recent months, Brown Divest Coal has been vocal with chants like "Brown take action, stop extraction!" ringing out across the Main Green. Since September, the group has persisted in protesting what it believed to be Brown's investment in coal companies that contribute to unsafe environmental and labor practices. But changing policy is difficult when the University will not acknowledge change is needed. We urge administrators to enact clearer channels of communication about financial investment and engage with students on a more direct level about concerns over our fundamental values as a community.

Last semester, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Beppie Huidekoper told The Herald she was "unsure" whether the University actually had investments in coal companies, and administrative response has remained largely quiet. Endowment details are not open to students or the public, and repeated requests from the Brown Divest Coal for details on the University's energy portfolios have been met with silence or hesitation.

And yet, according to an article published Tuesday in The Herald, Paxson admitted during a February meeting with campaign members that the University has investments in coal companies. This is in troubling contrast to the silence on the issue that the administration has held since the campaign's efforts began with the academic year. No public announcement was made, and the investment was only confirmed in an email to The Herald. Neither Paxson nor any other University official has identified which coal mining companies the University has investments in, though the email took care to specify Brown is invested in "less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the endowment" of the companies the national Divest Coal movement labels the "filthiest" 15 coal companies in America.

This investment is supposedly mitigated by the fact that it is "less than \$2 million," and the Advisory Committee on Corporate Responsibility in Investment Policies is expected to recommend divesting. But concerns remain regarding how the University approaches transparency. That Brown is involved with these companies — regardless of the ethical stance one takes toward them — should be something stakeholders in the University are privy to. We can debate whether we are consumers of the educations provided to us or integral parts of the institution who should help shape its future. But either way, we represent a substantial part of the University's business model, and it is crucial students and others invested in Brown are aware of the causes, values and structures we tacitly support.

The University's lack of communication with the community is unacceptable. Paxson stipulated that specific companies the administration is involved with will only be revealed after the ACCRIP recommendation, and the admission that we were invested at all only came after months of dedicated campaigning. While it is encouraging to see the administration take the passions of its students seriously and respond to calls for accountability, the reluctance to conduct open dialogue around this issue has disturbing connotations. Brown has divested from questionable connections before — tobacco and Darfur come to mind — and ACCRIP conducts reasonable, thorough investigations into the University's investments. But the process has been long and opaque.

Navigating a bureaucracy takes time, but the University's actions can set an example for other institutions of higher education. Divesting from coal companies is an ethical, sustainable choice that shows commitment to our core values. But regardless of how the University responds to the specific question of coal, its commitment to transparency remains limited — an issue that must be resolved in the future.

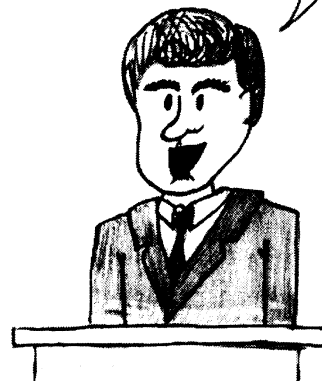
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EDITORIAL CARTOON BY ANGELIA WANG

HELLO! IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE. I'M GOING TO INTRODUCE THE PERSON WHO WILL INTRODUCE THE PERSON WHO WILL INTRODUCE THE PERSON WHO WILL INTRODUCE PRESIDENT CHRISTINA PAXSON, WHO WILL INTRODUCE THE PERSON WHO WILL INTRODUCE OUR GUEST LECTURER TODAY.



HOW EVERY LECTURE EVENT BEGINS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Column unfairly attacks Israeli laws

To the Editor:

Editors of The Herald should ensure that their opinion writers are at least peripherally cognizant of the positions they pontificate.

In his op-ed, ("Lattanzi-Silveus '14: Solidarity with resistance to apartheid," Mar. 5) Luke Lattanzi-Silveus '14 boldly asserts "the Israeli laws ... are inhuman and specifically set up so that the Jewish people systematically dominate the Arabs," pointing to apocryphal allegations of abuse and neglecting to cite any "inhumanities" of current Israeli law. He then astutely points out "some 30 laws ... specifically privilege people of Jewish nationality" in Israel, a controversial doctrine found in many developed societies known as "citizenship."

The Jews, like their Arab neighbors, have a right to self-determination. Yes, this creates tension between Arabs living in Israel who feel that they live in a country at odds

with their identity. For this reason, many of them have chosen not to apply for the citizenship that is offered to them. But if Lattanzi-Silveus is truly against apartheid, why has he not called for divestment from Saudi Arabia, where apostasy is punishable by death? Why has he not decried the inhuman legal code of Iran, which imposes an estate tax only on non-Muslims? And what of Egypt, where President Mohamed Morsi has described Jews as the "descendants of apes and pigs?"

In its editorial response to Israel-criticism on campus, The Herald quoted Thomas Friedman: "Criticizing Israel is not anti-Semitic, and saying so is vile. But singling out Israel for opprobrium and international sanction — out of all proportion to any other party in the Middle East — is anti-Semitic, and not saying so is dishonest." The Herald would do well to actually heed his words before publishing another piece of denigration.

David Kaufman '16

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Spectacle is our philosophy."

— James Giarraputo '15, EcoReps coordinator

See PEMBROKE on page 2.



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The \$9.00 minimum wage: a policy to increase unemployment



OLIVER HUDSON
OPINIONS COLUMNIST

President Obama gave his State of the Union address Feb. 12. But “State of the Union” is a misnomer. For decades, the so-called “State of the Union” has not been what the name suggests — a presentation of the nation’s current condition and future challenges. Instead, the address has been a feel-good campaign speech, downplaying America’s problems and promising that America’s best days lie ahead. Obama’s speech was no exception to this dishonest tradition. His speech was not a presentation of the nation’s state. Instead, listeners endured trite platitudes. Americans learned that they need “Stronger families. Stronger communities. A stronger America” and that we must “build new ladders of opportunity into the middle class.”

Between the empty rhetoric, the president proposed a few policies. One proposal was raising the federal minimum wage to \$9.00 per hour. The president unequivocally claimed that a higher minimum wage would help “businesses across the country.” But basic economic theory and empirical evidence disagree. In fact, raising the federal minimum wage will increase unemployment.

The theoretical case against a higher minimum wage is a standard topic in any introductory economics class. The argument is that labor, like any other good or service, has a market governed by a supply curve and a demand curve. The intersection of the sup-

ply and demand curves determines the going market wage. A minimum wage sets a price floor in the labor market. The price floor causes a surplus of labor, since employers are willing to hire less labor at a higher price while more workers are willing to work for a higher wage. As a result, employment decreases. This theory against raising the minimum wage is crystal clear and can be found in most textbooks, including Gregory Mankiw’s, used in ECON 0110: “Principles of Economics.”

The empirical evidence about the minimum wage is more mixed. A prominent 1994

study of employment in New Jersey fast-food restaurants after an 18.8 percent minimum wage increase concluded that the hike in the minimum wage actually increased employment in fast-food restaurants. But this study is far from conclusive about the relationship between the minimum wage and employment. A follow-up study found that the 18.8 percent minimum wage increase in New Jersey had no effect on employment or in fact decreased employment.

The theoretical case against a higher minimum wage is a standard topic in any introductory economics class.

Despite the mixed empirical evidence, the economics profession leans strongly toward endorsing the textbook view that a minimum wage increases unemployment. A 1978 article in the American Economic Review reported that 90 percent of surveyed economists believe the minimum wage increases unemployment for low-skilled workers. A similar 1992 survey found that 79 percent of survey economists believed a minimum wage increases unemployment for low-skilled workers. In general, empirical studies do not provide enough evidence to reject the theoretical model.

With a mixed empirical record but a resoundingly clear theoretical description, the minimum wage should not be readily accepted as good policy. If it were true that a minimum wage increases unemployment, then it would be harmful, particularly in today’s weak economy when many low-skilled workers are already out of work.

ignore the negatives of a policy that does not affect him or her. But what if the minimum wage were applied to unpaid summer internships? If there was a minimum wage for summer internships, many fewer internships could be offered, as the theoretical model suggests. Some students would get paid internships who had previously only gotten unpaid internships, but many students who would have gotten unpaid internships would not get any internships.

From the point of view of the whole economy, the minimum wage for internships would prevent many would-be interns from completing productive work. The economy would be weaker, and Americans in general worse off. From the point of view of the student, his or her future would have worse prospects, since he or she would not have the chance to gain skills and increase productivity. The result of a minimum wage for internships is bleak for students and Americans generally.

The internship example should make us ask: If willing students are allowed to work for free, why shouldn’t anybody else? Does it really matter that something is called an “internship” as opposed to a “job” if it is productive work in both cases?

Obama’s “State of the Union” presented the minimum wage as a silver bullet of economic growth. It’s time that Brown students and the American people in general ask themselves whether that is really true, instead of simply taking the president’s word for it.

You can call Oliver Hudson ’14 a cold-blooded ogre by sending your comments to oliver_hudson@brown.edu.

The implications of Brown Confessions

CAITLIN DORMAN
GUEST COLUMNIST

On the night of Feb. 26, someone posted in Brown Confessions, “I’m suicidal, but I’m too much of a pussy to actually do it.” When I read this post I was terrified. Immediately I questioned what I should do. Should I try to convince this person to identify him or herself? Call Psychological Services or some other form of suicide hotline? But I did nothing.

This column isn’t about the morality of doing or not doing something. Within a few minutes, this crisis had passed when someone commented with a phone number to call. Some other individuals commented long appeals on why not to do it. I cannot pretend to speak for all people who have Brown Confessions on their Facebook News Feeds, but I did not sign up for this.

I feel awful for the person who posted that comment. I wish I could give him or her the help he or she needed, but frankly, I can’t on that Facebook page. There is no shame in mental illness or rough times. I have been in some pretty rock-bottom psychological places myself, but my ability, or anyone else’s ability to relate to what this person is going through does not make it Facebook-appropriate.

When I read this post, I described

feeling scared, but I also felt isolated and helpless. I couldn’t help but feel a sense of responsibility that if this person went through with hurting him or herself, it would be partially my fault for having read it and failed in helping.

The following afternoon, another person posted “I’m struggling with bulimia. My family knows but my friends don’t. The weight gain is making me more depressed than I’ve ever been in my life. Psych Services didn’t help.” I feel aw-

serious confession hotline for these sorts of admittances and cries for help — people who are dedicated to reading each and every post and helping those in need — I would be in full support of them. But it should not be the burden on 600 students’ shoulders, students with varying degrees of Facebook activity, to sift through all of the confessions in search of the anonymous people who may be in physical or psychological danger.

At first, the confessions on this page

I couldn’t help but feel a sense of responsibility that if this person went through with hurting him or herself, it would be partially my fault for having read it and having failed in helping them.

ful for this person, too. He or she should never feel ashamed for struggling with this illness. But should this be on Brown Confessions — a page so anonymous that instead of messaging the administrators of the page, you upload your confessions through SurveyMonkey?

I am not even going to outright state these sorts of pleas for help shouldn’t be on Facebook. If there exist groups of people on this campus who want to set up a

were benign, but in a matter of days they escalated to some people confessing about serious problems they were facing. Do the confessions I mentioned above seem appropriate in the context that placed them below a comment such as, “I know I should be paying attention in class, but my professor has really great tits and all I can do is fantasize about having sex with her?” Does it seem appropriate that people have liked the comments I mentioned

above? I am sure their intentions were in the right place, but a thumbs up near a post like one of these seems inherently inappropriate.

We can’t change the nature of the Brown Confessions page as it is. “Confessions” is a Facebook fad, just like its predecessors, Brown Compliments and Brown Admirers, and it will be primarily composed of friends giving each other ego boosts and trolling. I don’t think Brown Confessions is the right venue to confess depression or feelings of inadequacy. It’s not fair to the uninvolved Brown populace and it’s not fair to the posters, who are not getting the help or attention they deserve. There are plenty of forums on campus to discuss these important topics, but I don’t think it should be popping up on so many students’ News Feeds.

Some of us are more capable of emotionally supporting others than the rest of us, but the point is that there are plenty of things college students should not have to deal with — not because we shouldn’t care, but because they are beyond our capacities to handle. Some of us are barely holding our lives together as it is. Our limits need to stop being tested on these Facebook groups of diverse constituencies before things get out of control and we see our limits fail.

Caitlin Dorman ’16 is concentrating in Science and Society and is interested in receiving your feedback at caitlin_dorman@brown.edu.

Bill to ban plastic bags introduced in General Assembly

The legislation would make Rhode Island the first state to ban plastic grocery bags

By **ALBERT ANDERSON**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A bill to ban grocery store use of plastic bags statewide was introduced into the General Assembly earlier this month by Rep. Maria Cimini, D-Providence.

Plastic bags have already been banned in all the counties of Hawaii and in cities like Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and nearby Barrington, but if this legislation is passed, Rhode Island would become the first state to implement a statewide ban.

Rhode Islanders use approximately 192 million plastic bags every year, according to a 2006 report by the Brown Policy Review.

Cimini said the ban is necessary because the bags “pollute our waterways, and that’s not attractive — it’s incredibly unpleasant.”

Rhode Island is “a state that prides (itself) on (its) natural resources, on (its) oceans, bays and many lakes,” she said. “Polluted waterways not only pose harm to aquatic life but also could

damper one’s enjoyment of being outdoors.”

Environmental groups have long cited plastic bags as a major source of pollution. “Single-use plastic bags are consistently one of the top items found in Rhode Island coastal cleanups, which means they are one of the most common types of trash polluting Narragansett Bay,” said Channing Jones, a spokesman for Environmental Rhode Island, an organization that supports the ban.

Plastic bags are non-biodegradable. They are only vulnerable to photodegradation — disintegration from exposure to ultraviolet rays. Only a small fraction of the bags used annually are recycled, and the remaining bags can end up polluting forests and streams and harming wildlife, according to a 2003 National Geographic article. Advocates of plastic bags defend the product by citing reports that plastic bags account for only 2 percent of litter nationwide.

Opponents of the ban argue that paper and reusable bags require more energy to produce and dispose of than plastic ones do and that reusable bags can be dangerous for consumers’ health, because they can harbor bacteria upon continued use.

Representatives of the business community are also concerned the ban could cause retailers to experience a drop in sales and that employees in the bag-making industry could lose their jobs. “From an economic standpoint, more than 30,000 Americans have jobs creating these bags in 349 plants across the country, and this is an economic development issue,” said Paul DeRoche, executive director of the Rhode Island Retail Federation. “You just can’t shut the door. It’s all about jobs.”

A study released in 2012 by the National Center for Policy Analysis on the effects of the Los Angeles bag ban concluded that affected retailers experienced a drop in sales and were forced to reduce their workforce compared to retailers outside the ban’s jurisdiction. “It’s not good for economic development, and it’s just not good for the whole retail industry,” DeRoche said.

Jeff Baum ’15, a member of the student environmental group emPower, said he does not think these economic concerns should deter the legislation. “It all depends on ... how you place the economic incentives,” he said. “The state wants to shift economic incentives away from plastic, so eventually that will lead to recycling credits — probably more jobs in recycling, if more



DAN ZHANG / HERALD

The ban on plastic grocery store bags, which will take effect in January 2014 for large retailers if passed, looks to clean up polluted waterways.

recyclable products are starting to be produced.”

If enacted, the legislation could set a precedent for other states nationwide, said Rep. Edith Ajello, D-Providence, a cosponsor of the bill. “One state doing it makes it easier for the next state. It’s sometimes hard to be the first state to do it,” she said.

The bill would take effect January 2014 for large retailers and January 2015 for small stores. Cimini said it is rare for a bill to pass the first year it is introduced, but at the very least, she said she hopes “we can have a real conversation about the lengths we are willing to go as a community to protect our natural resources.”

SPOTLIGHT ON THE STATE HOUSE BY ADAM TOOBIN CITY & STATE EDITOR

Under 21 clubbing

The era of 18-and-older club nights might be coming to an end in Rhode Island — a state lawmaker has introduced legislation that would ban individuals under the age of 21 from attending clubs that serve alcohol. Rep. Joy Hearn, D-Barrington and East Providence, said in a press release she is co-sponsoring the bill because it will help decrease violence at the state’s clubs.

“When you have underage people in an environment where alcohol is being served, it becomes a breeding ground for trouble,” Hearn said in the press release.

She added that permitting underage individuals into clubs makes it easier for them to acquire alcohol. “It doesn’t matter that clubs aren’t allowed to serve 18-year-olds,” she said in the release. “Underage patrons can more easily find ways to get alcoholic drinks from friends who are of age, and it’s dangerous.”

It is unclear whether, if the bill passes, the law would prevent individuals under the age of 21 from attending concerts where alcohol is served.

Student activity fee

Rhode Island public schools might soon be able to charge their students activity fees to fund extracurricular groups, including athletics teams and musical groups.

Sen. Louis DiPalma, D-Little Compton, Middletown, Newport and Tiverton, introduced the legislation in the General Assembly Jan. 23, and the bill had its first hearing before the Senate Committee on Education yesterday. DiPalma said he wants schools to have an opportunity to save programs that might otherwise be cut due to a lack of funds, WPRI reported.

At the first committee meeting, the bill’s opponents overwhelmed its supporters, WPRI reported. Opponents expressed concern that a fee would prevent low-income students from participating in after-school activities. Anita McGuire-Forcier — a member of the Woonsocket School Committee — warned the legislation would send children who would have been in after-school activities to the streets, potentially causing a spike in crime.

The legislation would not require schools to implement activity fees, and it contains a provision that would prevent schools from charging fees to students who receive free or reduced lunches.

City debuts new education initiative

Evidence2Success aims to foster closer ties between schools and their surrounding areas

By **KATE KIERNAN**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Two neighborhoods in Providence have been selected to pilot Evidence2Success, a program to improve behavioral and academic outcomes for children and strengthen ties between schools, government agencies and local organizations.

Evidence2Success — which was developed by the Annie Casey Foundation, a national nonprofit committed to children’s welfare — aims to initiate programs in the West Providence and the South Providence/Elmwood communities by 2014, said Jessie Wastrous, engagement manager of Evidence2Success in Providence. Olneyville has also agreed to participate in Evidence2Success but has not set a start date.

To determine which city would be the first to implement Evidence2Success, the Annie Casey Foundation looked for communities dedicated to establishing long-lasting changes for children, said Norris West, the director of strategic communications for the foundation. The foundation selected Providence based on early commitment and enthusiasm from public officials and local organizations, Wastrous said.

The Foundation works to foster positive relationships between families and communities, strengthen students’ emotional and physical well-being and support educational initiatives, according to its website. Its efforts include reducing the number of children in juvenile detention and improving the lives of children in the foster care system, West said.

Providence received \$300,000 dol-

lars in grant money from the foundation to implement Evidence2Success through 2016, said Angela Romans, senior adviser on education to Mayor Angel Taveras.

To implement Evidence2Success, the Foundation is working with the Providence Public School District, the Department of Children, Youth and Families, local nonprofits and service providers such as Medicaid, said Jessica Ripper, senior communications associate for the Annie Casey Foun-

dation. The program aims to establish long-lasting partnerships among stakeholders, engage the community in determining its most critical needs and determine how to allocate available resources to meet those concerns.

While information for the program is still being collected and no programs have officially been selected, leaders of Evidence2Success are particularly interested in looking at the “risk and protective factors” that influence children’s lives, // Success page 5

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