

## INSIDE

POST

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bill murray, murray and more murray



Page 2

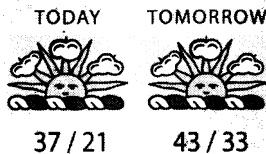
## Grads sad

Students, faculty and admins lament lack of funds

Page 7

## Miss-labeled

Newlon '14.5 argues in defense of feminism



## Finances, need-blind admission dominate State of Brown

*Paxson discussed several issues, including financial aid and the university-college model*

By ALEXANDRA MACFARLANE  
UNIVERSITY NEWS EDITOR

Extending need-blind admission to all students — including international, transfer and Resumed Undergraduate Education students — would cost the University around \$250 million, said President Christina Paxson in her State of Brown address Wednesday.

Paxson also highlighted the current state of the ongoing strategic planning process, the evolving relationship between research and undergraduate education and the University's financial state.

The address, held in Salomon 101, included both remarks from Paxson and a question-and-answer session with students. At times, she deferred questions to other administrators,

including Margaret Klawunn, vice president for campus life and student services, and Dick Spies, former interim senior vice president for University advancement.

The University is looking for directed ways to immediately ease the burdens of financial aid, like providing more relief for middle class families and reducing the summer earnings requirements so students can pursue unpaid internships and research opportunities.

Financial aid is always a priority, Paxson said. "I know it's something students here care about a lot." In the long term, she said the University is looking to transition to need-blind admission for all students, though she made no firm time commitments.

Full need-blind admission is "a bold thing to propose," Paxson said, adding that she does not want to "make promises that we have to renege on," in response to a student question about diversity in economic access.

Paxson's financial discussion was accompanied // **Speech** page 5



EMILY GILBERT / HERALD

President Christina Paxson delivered the fourth annual State of Brown address Wednesday, talking about the University's strategic planning.

## Most faculty committee posts to remain uncompensated

*A rejected proposal sought to combat faculty committees' struggle to attract members*

By RACHEL MARGOLIS  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Provost Mark Schlissel P'15 has rejected a proposal from the Faculty Executive Committee to compensate faculty members for service in University governance, according to minutes from a Feb. 12 FEC meeting. The proposal was drafted to address the chronic shortage of candidates for faculty governance positions.

"All I can say is that we've discussed the proposal at length with the FEC leadership and then amongst the deans ... and decided that service is part of a

faculty member's regular job — teaching, research and service," Schlissel wrote in an email to The Herald.

Of all the faculty committees, only one — the Tenure, Promotions and Appointments Committee — offers financial compensation. Members of TPAC are entitled to compensation because of the importance of their work and the large time commitment it demands, Schlissel wrote.

Faculty members who serve on TPAC get a \$2,000 research stipend after one year on the committee, \$3,000 after two years and \$4,000 after three years, Professor of Religious Studies and FEC member Harold Roth wrote in an email to The Herald. Alternatively, they can replace the second and third year stipends with the chance to receive a full salary while on sabbatical, as opposed to the usual 75 percent.

"TPAC will never have a problem getting people to serve," said Roth, who served on TPAC before compensation was offered.

Roth said the proposal's authors "approximated the amount of effort and hours that went into the different committees" and organized them into four groups, with TPAC in the category of most time-consuming. The next most time-consuming committees would receive compensation equal to half of TPAC's and the third group would receive a quarter. Members of committees that only met once a year would not be compensated.

Schlissel told The Herald in January that though he was initially open to the idea of compensating faculty governance, he was unlikely to approve the FEC's proposal.

"The more I thought about it, the

more I realized that service is part of what we're already paying faculty for," he said. "So it seemed to be like a very slippery slope, to start paying faculty for serving on some committees. There was no way to stop and determine what you should be extra compensated for and what's already part of your job."

Roth said one reason why faculty members are reluctant to devote their time to service is that it does not weigh as heavily as teaching or research when they are being considered for tenure.

"Service doesn't count as much for tenure," he said. "It's research and teaching that are primary. Service is secondary."

He added that University committees like the FEC have a harder time attracting candidates than department committees because departments "make their own" // **FEC** page 4

## UCS endorses Divest Coal resolution

*The council also discussed online education and approved new student groups*

By MAXINE JOSELOW  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Undergraduate Council of Students voted to support the Brown Divest Coal campaign's resolution calling for the University to divest from the 15 "filthiest" coal technology companies at its general body meeting Wednesday.

Council members said they supported the resolution because of its ideological, not economic, implications.

Divesting from the 15 companies would have a great "moral and ethical impact" but little economic significance, said UCS President Anthony White '13, noting that the University's investments in these companies only account for 0.1 percent of the endowment.

The council's support of the resolution marked an attempt to "represent students' moral opinion, rather than ... an economically calculated decision," said Giuliano Marostica '15, UCS general body member.

Kyra Mungia '13, UCS communications chair, said she voted to support the resolution because it follows a historical precedent of the University divesting from causes it does not morally support.

In 1986, the University divested from companies conducting business in South Africa in order to oppose the South African apartheid, and in 2003, it divested from tobacco manufacturing companies to show disapproval of the industry. In 2006, the Uni- // **UCS** page 2

## R.I. Senate considers bill to assist homeless veterans

*The joint resolution would fund housing for up to half of the state's homeless veterans*

By MARIYA BASHKATOVA  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

State Sen. Juan Pichardo, D-Providence, recently introduced a joint resolution — which has the legal standing of a normal bill — that would allocate \$1.75 million to build homes for veterans. The money would fund up to 69 units, which would house about half of the state's homeless veterans.

Though it is not nearly enough money to accommodate all of the homeless veterans in Rhode Island, "I think we have to make sure that we continue to support our veterans, and this is a tremendous start," said Pichardo, who is himself an air force veteran.

Nationwide, 62,000 veterans are homeless, according to a 2012 point count by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Of these homeless veterans, about 270 reside in Rhode Island, according to the state's Rhode Back Home report, which detailed several problems facing veterans returning from overseas deployment. While veterans represent only 7 percent of the American population, they make up 13 percent of the homeless population, according to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.

The Senate Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans' Affairs met Wednesday to discuss the joint resolution along with other bills that affect veteran wellbeing and recommended the resolution be held for further study.

Physical and psychiatric disabilities, the high cost of housing and the poor economy all contribute to veteran homelessness, said Denis Leary, executive director of Veterans Inc., a Massachusetts-based nonprofit that

services New England veterans and their families.

Many veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, which greatly hinders their abilities to find and keep jobs, Leary said. Unemployed veterans then become homeless when they are unable to pay for housing, he said.

Some veterans develop substance abuse problems when they try to cope with PTSD, creating a roadblock to stability, said Kevin Long, senior case manager at Operation Stand Down Rhode Island, a nonprofit that works to end veteran homelessness in the state. Fifty percent of homeless veterans have a serious mental illness, and 70 percent are suffering from substance abuse problems, according to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. The poor economy also plays a role in veterans' difficulty finding work by making jobs scarce, he said.

Long is a veteran himself and was homeless for a time after he returned to civilian life. He struggled with alcohol-

ism and was evicted from his home because he could not pay the rent, he said.

"I stayed in the shelter systems just looking for work here and there, but it's a little tough looking for work when you don't have an address," Long said. He eventually enrolled in a rehabilitation program for alcoholics run by Soldier On, a Massachusetts nonprofit organization that helps veterans.

Veteran-specific programs like Soldier On that are run by other veterans are ideally positioned to help struggling veterans get back on their feet, Long said.

"Being a veteran is a completely different world, and only another veteran will understand," Long said. Three years ago, he was able to find a job with Operation Stand Down — which allows him to give back to others facing the same struggles he did — and he has been there since, he said.

"The veterans were there to help me when I needed it, and I want to be here to help other // **Vets** page 2

| TODAY     | MARCH 14                               | TOMORROW | MARCH 15                                            |
|-----------|----------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 3:30 P.M. | Guns In America<br>MacMillian Hall 117 | 8 P.M.   | Karin and the Improvs Show<br>Metcalf Auditorium    |
| 8 P.M.    | Pi(e) Day<br>The Underground           | 8 P.M.   | Wind Symphony Concert<br>DeCiccio Family Auditorium |

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Cajun Blackened Chicken Sandwich, Eggplant Parmesan Grinder, Ginger Sugar Snap Peas and Carrots

## DINNER

|                                                                                                        |                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tortellini Provencale, Mediterranean Eggplant Saute, Toasted Ravioli with Italian Salsa, Caprese Salad | Meatloaf with Mushroom Sauce, Mashed Red Bliss Potatoes with Garlic, Roasted Beets |
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**ACROSS**

1 Geometry subject

6 Vend

10 "Don't let anyone else hear this"

14 Cowboy, at times

15 Palm product

16 Classic cream-filled snack

17 For the birds?

18 Agile deer

19 Actor Ken

20 Stout

23 Seaside raptor

24 Have to thank for, with "to"

25 Horn sound

26 Belgrade native

28 Lawn option

29 Nova Scotia hrs.

32 Relative via remarriage

36 Shell out

37 Stout

40 Gremlin and Pacer

41 Able to come back

42 Cole Porter's "\_\_\_ Clown"

43 Bond, for one

45 "Heavens to Betsy!"

46 Place to tie up

48 "\_\_\_ we having fun yet?"

49 Intractable beast

52 Stout

57 Dead set against

58 Ram, e.g.

59 Significant

60 Sax immortal

Getz

61 Politico Bayh

62 Blue hue

63 Reaction to being cut off

64 Not a good mark

65 Hem again

6 Milkshake choice

7 Gradually vanish

8 Cobb of "12 Angry Men"

9 Not get the better of

10 Flicker image

11 Ring insert

12 Knife in "West Side Story"

13 Shape (up)

21 Tire-shaped

22 New England catch

26 Nos. for beachgoers

27 Chemical suffix

28 Cryptozoologist's quarry

30 Name meaning "young warrior" in Old Norse

31 Short communication

32 Work on a deck

33 Large volume

34 Yosemite attraction

35 Not a good mark

36 Crossword component

38 Rival of Rory

39 Greeting in Rio

43 When doubled, a breath fresher

44 Specialized undergrad course

47 Permanently

48 Liam Neeson voiced him in "The Chronicles of Narnia" films

49 Like many a prime rib serving

50 One in a Lincoln quartet?

51 Scatter

52 Reason for stitches

53 "Do \_\_\_ ..."

54 Late-inning achievement

55 Barbra's "Funny Girl" co-star

56 Flabbergast

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| A | C | R | O |   | O | U | R |   | A | O | R | T | A |   |
| N | U | E | V | O |   | B | L | I | N | D |   | D | A | T |
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xwordeditor@aol.com      02/14/13

**DOWN**

1 Talk and talk

2 Casanova

3 For the bees

4 Tide type

5 Cubemaster

Rubik

By Dave Eckert  
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***The University budgeted 4 percent of its funds for the grad school, which some say is insufficient***

**By SARAH PERELMAN**  
**SENIOR STAFF WRITER**

Administrators and faculty members have expressed concern about what they called the small share of University funds allocated to the grad school, a subject currently being discussed by members of

**// UCS page 1**

iversity divested from companies doing business in Darfur, and in 2011, it divested from HEI Hotels and Resorts because of allegedly questionable labor practices.

The council's support of the resolution could induce student governments at other universities to show similar support, Mungia added. "It's happening on campuses across the country. I think if a bunch of schools divest from coal, it's going to make a statement."

The council also discussed online course options with members of the strategic planning Committee on Online Teaching and Learning.

The committee is seeking student feedback before it presents its recommendations to the Corporation, the University's highest governing body, said Dietrich Neumann, co-chair of the committee and professor of architecture.

**"Most of you use text messaging, Skype and Facebook. My question for you is, how can that same kind of technology be used effectively in teaching?" Harriette Hemmasi, chair of the committee and University librarian, asked council members.**

**Tsvetomira Dumbalska '16, UCS**  
general body member, said developers  
of online courses should seek to offer  
the same “personal connection” between  
students and professors as are found in

the Committee on Doctoral Education.

Faculty members criticized the level of funds the graduate school received in the recently-approved fiscal year 2013 budget — 4 percent of all funds — according to meeting minutes from the Faculty Executive Committee's Feb. 12 meeting.

The Committee on Doctoral Education is in the midst of discussing the best ways to increase funding for the graduate school in the coming years, faculty members and administrators said.

**"There is broad support among fac-**

ulty and the administration that they want to increase support for the graduate school," said Iris Bahar, vice chair of the FEC and professor of engineering.

This week, the FEC is talking to the president, the provost and University committees to figure out the best way to proceed, Bahar said. Issues under consideration include a timetable for increasing graduate school funding and target areas of potential additional funds, she said.

Some faculty members expressed support for delaying certain building projects, such

// Grad page 3



**TOM SULLIVAN / HERALD**

**Council members cited the “moral and ethical” impact of coal divestment, rather than the economic impact. Herald file photo.**

normal courses. Skyping a professor may not provide as intimate an experience as talking in person, she said.

Kimberly Wachtler '13, UCS general body member, expressed concern that students in online courses may be less motivated to watch lectures assigned for homework. The University should use monitoring technology to "hold students in online courses accountable" for watching assigned lecture videos, she said.

The council also approved the categorization of the Brown Fantasy Sports Organization, Quidditch Appreciation Club, Quest Scholars, Wubapella, Math-

**WISE, Face AIDS and Bloco de Brown, as Category 1 student groups. It voted to recategorize Pakistani Students at Brown from a Category 2 to Category 3 group.**

After much debate, the council did not approve making A Better World by Design a Category 3 group. Currently, the group functions as a subsidiary of Engineers Without Borders.

Allowing the group to bypass the typical categorization process and immediately become a Category 3 group would set a “dangerous precedent,” said Jon Vu ’15, UCS alumni relations liaison, because other groups might want to take the same approach.

## // Vets page 1

veterans when they need it," he said.

Though providing veterans with housing is an admirable goal, it is also necessary to deal with the root causes of homelessness, Long said. Members of the military should be briefed on available services prior to discharge to ensure they understand all their options and have support for readjusting to civilian life, he said.

Preventing homelessness is vital to treating the problem on a larger scale, Leary said. Veterans Inc. has been especially successful with its Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families program, which allows the organization to provide temporary financial assistance to families that fall behind on housing payments. In the past year, the program has allowed more than 400 families to stay in their homes, providing a cushion for veterans who may be out of work for a few months, he said.

The organization also provides “psychiatric stabilization services, case management services and food bank services,” he said.

“The fact that somebody comes back from serving in the military and putting their life on the line for all of us and then they end up sleeping on a park bench — you have to say, ‘Wow something’s messed up here,’” he said. “We’ve really got to put some attention on this.”

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## // Grad page 2

as the Brain Sciences Center, in order to allocate more funds to the graduate school, according to the meeting notes. Bahar said the idea of delaying construction of the Brain Sciences Center did arise, but faculty members also raised many other ideas for securing more funding. Administrators have made no concrete decisions so far, she added.

"The budget for the graduate school has gone up every year in the last decade," said Provost Mark Schlissel P'15. Increasing funding for the graduate school is necessary as the University becomes more research-based, but this will not take away from the University's undergraduate focus, he said.

"I think it is a priority for the University to have a strong graduate program, but at the same time there are many other priorities," said Peter Weber, dean of the graduate school and chair of the Committee on Doctoral Education. "I hope that we can move forward strongly with graduate education at Brown, and exactly how that works out we'll have to see."

Graduate students said they support greater funding and have various ideas of where the money should go.

Stipends for graduate students should be increased, said Matthew Lyddon GS, president of the Graduate Student Council.

"The idea (of stipends) is that we shouldn't have to worry about financial contingencies in order that we can focus on our research, our coursework and on learning to become good teachers," Lyddon said.

The current \$2,500 summer stipend

for graduate students is difficult to live on, Lyddon said. He acknowledged the University faces a tough budgetary situation but said Brown's education mission includes providing its graduate students with sufficient funds to pursue their research and teaching, especially due to their value to undergraduates as teaching assistants.

Graduate students' research can provide great opportunities for undergraduates to get hands-on experience in their fields of interest, Bahar said, adding that increasing funding for one student body can benefit the other at the same time.

Vice President of Social Events and Student Life for the GSC Acey Sieffert GS expressed concern about the lack of funding for large-scale mentoring pro-

grams for graduate students.

Though they are older, graduate students still struggle to adjust to Brown, Sieffert said, especially if they have never gone to school in the United States before. She said she hopes to access University funding to organize a graduate student peer mentoring program analogous to the undergraduate Meiklejohn program.

Maria Saliccioli GS, a representative for the department of education on the GSC, said space for graduate students to study and socialize is her primary concern.

The Committee on Doctoral Education is looking at ways to increase space for graduate students, Weber said, adding that he knows of cases when graduate

students "in desperation have had to go to Starbucks" to hold office hours.

Faculty members and students said they want the undergraduate program to remain consistently strong as the graduate school expands.

"The selling point for Brown is the

undergraduate experience," said Sasha Land '15, adding that it was a major reason she chose to attend the University.

Bahar said keeping both programs strong can be done simultaneously. "Undergraduates are very important to Brown."

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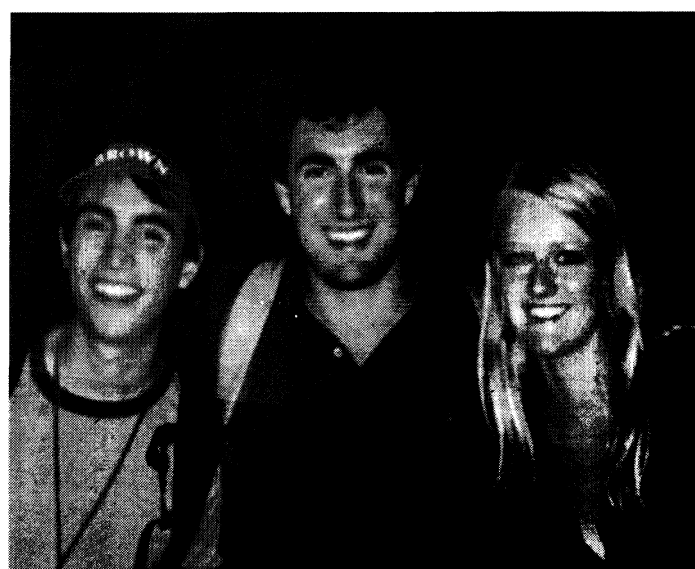
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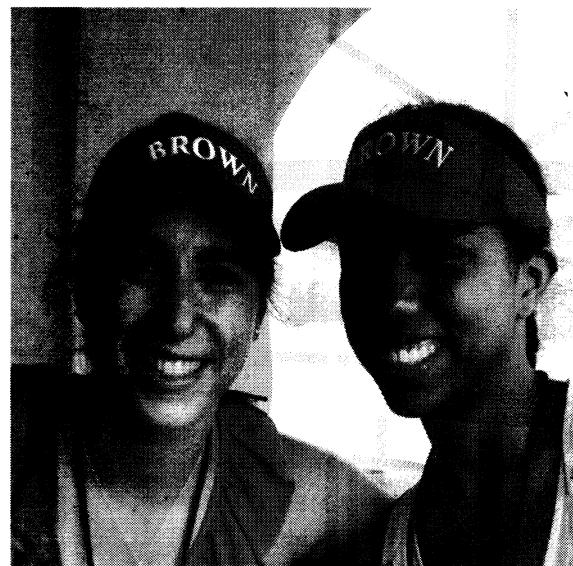
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## // FEC page 1

rules" about compensation. If you run for a departmental position, he said, "the department is going to think very highly of your public-mindedness." Departmental support is particularly desirable for tenure candidates, he said.

While Schlissel acknowledged service is less of a priority for faculty members, he said failure to fulfil their service obligations to the University is reflected in their salaries.

The University has historically struggled to fill faculty governance positions. In fall 2011, the FEC went six months without a vice chair before Professor of Philosophy Mary Louise Gill filled the post in the spring.

Schlissel said he was still willing to consider compensating junior faculty members for their service.

"In instances where we call upon untenured faculty to do more than the usual amount of service, we are thinking of giving them some course relief — so instead of teaching four courses, you might teach three courses — to mitigate the early career consequences of devoting extra work, more than they really should, to service," he said.

Both he and Roth stressed that while a few governance positions must be reserved for untenured faculty members to ensure their fair representation, the junior faculty as a whole is shielded from the increased service obligations of senior faculty members.

"We need them to serve, but we don't want to hurt them," Schlissel said. "We're very protective of the time and effort of the untenured faculty to make sure that everyone has their best chance to become tenured."

But Assistant Professor of Engineering Petia Vlahovska, the only untenured member of the FEC, said she has no difficulty balancing service with her other commitments.

From the amount of work she has done for the committee, she said, "I don't think I need compensation." She also said she thinks "only the most senior members, like the executive officers, should be compensated" for completing a large number of "administrative tasks" in addition to their other respon-

sibilities.

The time commitment was not a concern for Vlahovska when she ran for the FEC, she said.

"I felt that only teaching and doing research is not enough to be part of the Brown community," she said. She described her term on the FEC, which ends in June, as an enjoyable "learning experience" she hopes to repeat.

"I will try to get involved again because I really liked it," she said.

Despite its rejection, Roth has not given up on the proposal.

"I think it's the right thing to do if you want faculty to generally participate in the stewardship of this University," he said. But ultimately, "the buck stops with the provost."

## // Guns page 8

in opposition to the bill.

Rep. Doreen Costa, R-North Kingstown, Exeter, who is leading the opposition in the House, said she believes the bill is "the worst piece of legislation" that has been introduced in the General Assembly during her two years as a representative.

The legislation is simply a "knee-jerk reaction" to the December shooting in Newtown, Conn., she said, adding that it will not foster any significant reduction of gun violence in Rhode Island.

Costa said failure to pay the registration fee can turn "law-abiding citizens into criminals." One of her constituents, she said, owns

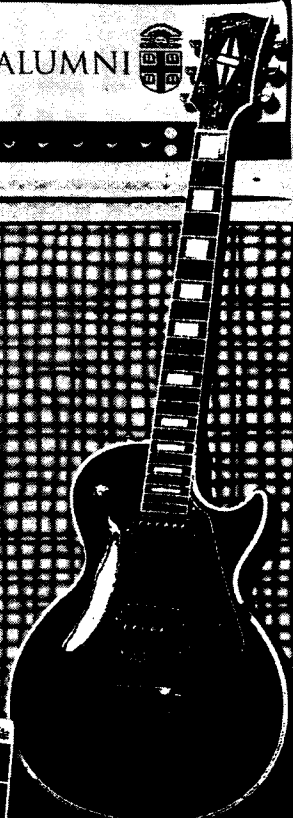
// Guns page 5



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## // Speech page 1

by a slideshow that displayed graphs of University revenues and expenditures. Revenue has grown in the past decade, partly due to a 1.1 percent increase in the size of the student body.

Though University finances have been stabilized since the recent economic downturn, it is essential to set the University on steady financial footing for future planning, Paxson said. "You have to get your house in order before you go on to the next big thing."

"It's time to look at the next decade in a serious way," Paxson said as she discussed the six strategic planning committees, which are designed to help her formulate her presidential agenda, with a focus on academics, student life and financial access. "We are approaching this in a very analytical way," she said.

With Elliot Maxwell '68, one of the architects of the Open Curriculum in the audience, Paxson addressed "how we can translate the ideas of the Maxwell-Magaziner project in the 21st century."

Paxson said the introduction of online learning would not turn Brown into a fully online institution, and technology would only appear in classrooms after the University studied the best integration methods. The human interactions gained outside the classroom — which can also play a role in education — should not be lost in this online transition, Paxson said.

The strategic planning committees still have many questions to answer, including where the money for these developments would come from and what divisions of the University actually need to be on College Hill, she said.

Paxson invoked the mission of the University, most importantly the "understanding in a spirit of free inquiry." Paxson spoke of how she took advantage of the liberal arts opportunities at Swarthmore College as an undergraduate, at times studying English, philosophy and psychology.

While Brown has the resources of a university, it should stay "true to its

roots in liberal arts education," she said, adding that she will continue to emphasize this over the course of her administration.

In Brown's university-college model, scholarship and education are often perceived as at odds with each other, "but that doesn't have to be true," Paxson said. As the University continues to plan, the six committees can find ways to make students part of the research process.

Paxson called the University's upcoming 250th anniversary a chance to examine Brown's history, both the good and the bad, and added that the content of the celebrations will be "driven by members of the community."

More than 10 students volunteered questions as part of the question-and-answer session. Paxson told students the Jewelry District offers interesting opportunities for expansion but the distance is not feasible for students who conduct most of their studies on the Hill. Considerations to potentially move the School of Engineering to the Jewelry District has come under student criticism, The Herald previously reported.

In response to another question, Paxson said a modest amount of student loans "aren't necessarily a bad thing," because they constitute investments in students' futures. Despite this, Paxson said she does not want the average size of loans to grow.

"I learned a couple new things," Paxson told The Herald regarding the question-and-answer session, adding that she is surprised to see the tension between the liberal arts and pre-professionalism "alive and well."

Student questions provide useful context for moving forward in the planning process, Paxson said, adding that this will provide specific ways to adjust the reports as they develop in the coming months.

The State of Brown address was established under former President Ruth Simmons in 2010 and is sponsored by the Undergraduate Council of Students.

## // Guns page 4

87 firearms and finds the potential \$8,700 fee impossible to pay.

This bill could actually lead to greater illegal gun ownership by residents unable to pay the fee who will bypass registration, Costa said.

The extra \$100 takes money out of citizens' pockets and could be better al-

located elsewhere, such as toward buying firearm safety devices, she said.

Finn said she could see that the fee might be set too high, adding that the Massachusetts fee is only \$20.

But the importance of this bill is its role in fostering dialogue about gun regulations in the state, she said.

In light of recent gun-related tragedies, Finn said the state needs "to begin

thinking about who has access to guns in our society."

Costa said the current process for purchasing firearms in Rhode Island is effective. Residents are limited to three firearms in one transaction and must complete an extensive paperwork process and background check and wait 10 days.

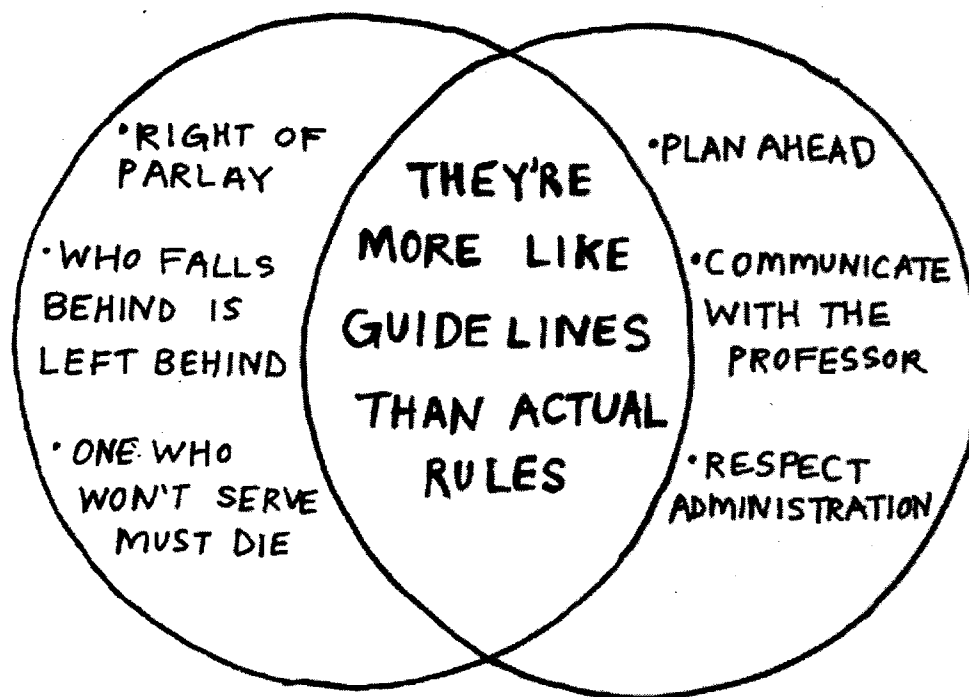
"You can't just go buy a gun and throw it in your purse," she said.

## COMICS

Old Lace | Veena Vignale

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## EDITORIAL

## EDITORIAL CARTOON BY ANGELIA WANG

## What is college really worth?

The future of higher education, specifically public and private universities, is currently engaged in an escalating tug-of-war that pits “constructivists” against “traditionalists.” The former, decrying the traditional college model of lectures, deadlines and the campus, have found support in leaders such as Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Florida Gov. Rick Scott. Starting this year, Texas will have 10 public universities committed to offering degrees at \$10,000, while 23 Florida public institutions have promised to do the same. Though we cannot predict this effort’s effectiveness, it raises significant pedagogical questions and concerns about what a college education will mean in the coming decades. The \$10,000 degree represents a troubling commoditization of education — but the true value of a degree goes beyond price tag.

With the current economic climate and continually rising tuition costs, we understand why many high school graduates decide to eschew a traditional degree and engage instead in the work force or methods of self-education. Names like Bill Gates, Steve Jobs and Mark Zuckerberg serve as examples of those who went on to become successful without ever receiving a degree (other than honorary ones). We see no fundamental problems with this. An individual’s growth and learning can be supported by myriad sources, but without the exercise of personal responsibility and initiative, no external source — including a university degree — can stand alone as a sufficient identifier of a person’s ability.

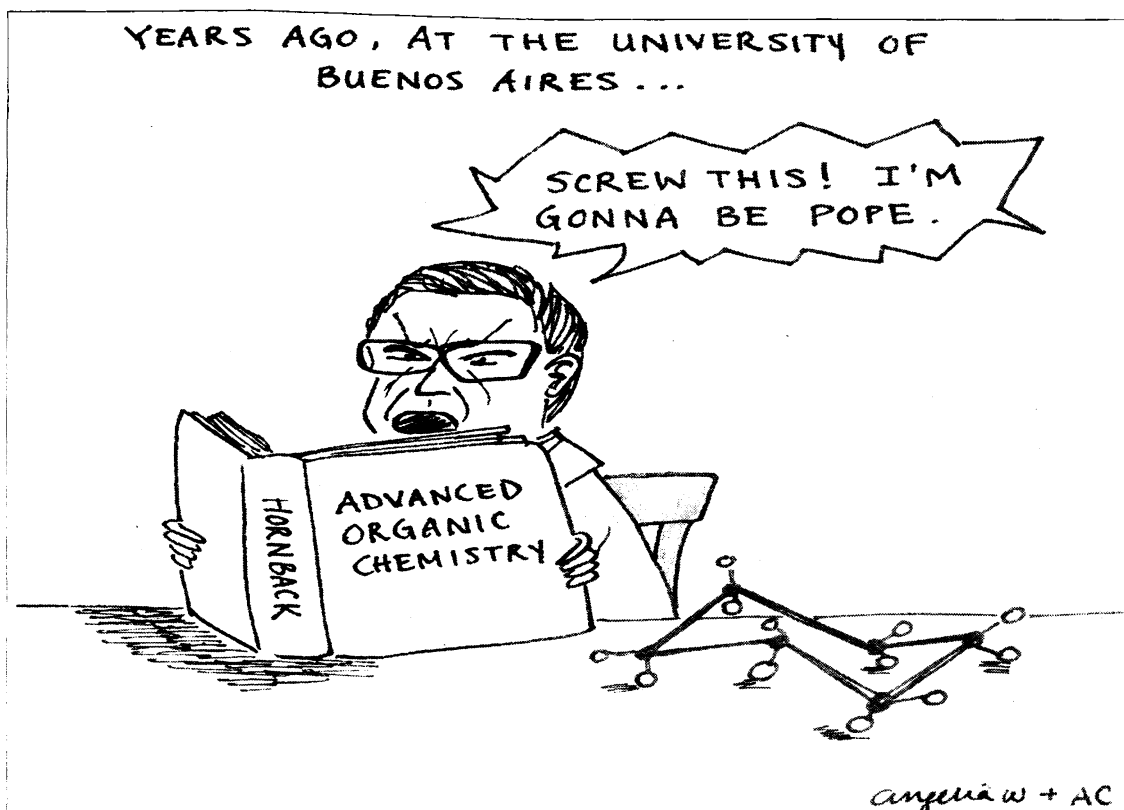
And herein lies our chief concern regarding the \$10,000 degree. A degree, in its purest form, is merely a physical representation of a hard-earned quality education. At the same time, a degree and success, in all forms of the word, do not necessarily go hand in hand.

The \$10,000 degree essentially serves as a middle ground for those who scorn the exorbitant costs of higher education but acknowledge the possibility of losing out on \$1 million, on average, of lifetime earnings by forgoing a degree. This sort of logic is pragmatic but problematic. If degrees get cheapened to the point of blatant commoditization, these Texas and Florida institutions will not likely be attracting many students who pursue education for its own end. Rather, these institutions will mostly be attracting those who view a degree as a necessary prerequisite for higher earnings.

The \$10,000 degree is aimed to disprove the potentially elitist idea that not everyone is suited for a particular standard of education, and it is honorable in that respect. But when Scott cut \$300 million for state universities in the same year that he advocated reducing tuition, the \$10,000 degree seems more like an unsustainable political statement that has more incentives than providing an affordable “education” for those who seek it.

Brown’s reputation as one of the top undergraduate universities in the world has perhaps deluded us into thinking that a number like \$42,808 — the University’s cost of tuition — can be justified. While the possibility of overvaluing our education exists, it does not take away from the logical reality that a \$10,000 degree will come with immense limitations. It ultimately comes down to whether people are currently willing to make the trade-off between price and quality. We cannot confine the value of a college degree to an arbitrary number. Rather, we should devote our efforts to improving accessibility without sacrificing quality or services.

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



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Policy overlooks burden on Main Green dorms

To the Editor:

We, the residents of Hope College and Slater Hall, believe Brown Concert Agency should continue to provide those living in our buildings with free Spring Weekend tickets, due to the immense inconvenience we will encounter as a result of the concerts. We have appealed to BCA, but it refuses to consider our case because it believes the “benefits outweigh the costs.” We think this decision was motivated entirely by BCA’s interests and made without considering the lives of those affected.

Spring Weekend has a tremendous negative impact on residents of Main Green dorms, and for this reason, we should receive compensation. We will experience loud noises constantly as the stages are set up, the Special Event Committee’s carnival is held and the concerts themselves take place. During

prior Spring Weekends, the buildings have been completely empty during the concerts as the sounds and vibrations are impossible to withstand. These disruptions are likely to compromise our sleep and access to our buildings throughout the week. If we were given tickets, we could escape the buildings and enjoy the concerts — but if the concerts prove as popular as projected, then it is possible that students will be unable to obtain (or afford) tickets. Although we understand the decision, we believe it is unfair that such a small group has to bear the costs for everyone else without being compensated whatsoever. We urge BCA to consider reinstating the free ticket policy out of an understanding of what we will have to endure.

Thirty-two Hope College residents and 51 Slater Hall residents

See the full list of signatories online

## Students must speak against Keystone pipeline

To the Editor:

The power Rachel Bishop ’13, Emily Kirkland ’13, Rebecca Rast ’13.5 and Daniel Sherrell ’13.5 are demonstrating in their determination to stop the Keystone XL pipeline and force this sad nation to focus on climate change is building throughout the United States, Canada and many parts of the world (“Undergrad arrested at

Keystone pipeline protest,” March 12). If Obama agrees to the pipeline, massive peaceful civil disobedience demonstrations will take place. How about the rest of the students in Brown Divest Coal? Why aren’t they flooding The Herald with statements of support for the courage you four displayed?

Tom Bale ’63

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## QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Being a veteran is a completely different world, and only another veteran will understand.”

— Kevin Long, senior case manager at Operation Stand Down

See VETS on page 1.



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## Brown's High Holy Day policy



ALEX DRECHSLER  
OPINIONS COLUMNIST

I can fortunately say that as a Jew on Brown's campus, I never feel unwelcome or ostracized. Of course, there are subtle, everyday ways in which I am different: I call my roommate's Christmas lights "holiday" lights, I avoid eating bread around Passover and I say the word "schlep" more often than I probably should. But for the most part, I feel like an integrated member of the Brown community no different from my non-Jewish counterparts. For much of history, the opposite was true. This equality and acceptance is not self-evident and is something the Jewish community should not take lightly.

But there are times in which the consequences of my faith become shockingly evident. Interestingly, while we speak very often of the divisions that class or race or politics can cause, the separation that religions produce remains very much under the radar. Nevertheless, despite our acceptance, the Jewish community still has its differences. It is essential for Brown community members to respect and honor these differences just as they do the many sources of rich diversity that presents itself on our campus. One such separation is the unfair distinction the University makes between Christian and Jewish holidays. Though we are at a point of historic acceptance of diversity of faith, it is still extremely important that Jews and non-Jews do

not become complacent in acceptance and that we fight together against this unacceptable, inequitable policy.

As a co-chair of the Holidays Committee at Brown RISD Hillel, I helped plan last year's Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur events. These "High Holy Days" are the most important in the Jewish calendar — not Hanukkah or Passover as my non-Jewish brethren may expect. Each night of the High Holy Days, hundreds of Brown students descend on Brown RISD Hillel in their blazers and

Christian population. When I hear students complain that finals ended only days before Christmas this past semester, it reminds me of the unfair policies the University has.

But this next year presents a particularly concerning coincidence. Rosh Hashanah will begin Sept. 4 — incidentally the same day the 2013-2014 academic year's classes will begin. While Brown RISD Hillel strongly encouraged the University to move the first day of classes so that it would not coincide with the Jewish holiday, the University voted in oppo-

anced policy the University should seriously reconsider.

Having school during these major Jewish holidays will interfere with the observation of the holidays. Students who avoid classes during the holiday will miss some of the first few classes of the year and a significant portion of shopping period. For those students who are less observant, this will act as a deterrent and significantly reduce the number of students who observe the holiday.

This is especially disheartening for Jewish first-year students, who will either miss the first few days of school or miss out on the observation of their faith during this integral holiday. Missing school will mean first-year students miss out on a day that is symbolically meaningful and practically important for integrating into college classes, reviewing syllabi and getting to know professors. For others, missing out on the High Holidays will mean turning their backs on their faith and losing the opportunity to continue their connections with Jewish life through the Jewish community on campus. Students should not be forced to make this difficult decision.

Given the practical and moral issues surrounding the University's policies towards the Jewish High Holy Days, Brown should seriously consider moving next year's first day of classes and even giving time off for the major Jewish holidays in the future. A community that prides itself on accommodation and embrace of diversity would do nothing less.

Alex Drechsler '15 can be reached at  
alex\_drechsler@brown.edu.

**Brown is known for its embrace of diversity, its respect for differences in beliefs and backgrounds and its keen concern for acceptance and community. It is a moral imperative that the Jewish faith and culture are treated with the same respect.**

yarmulke to observe the holidays. For many Jews on Brown's campus, this set of Holy Days is the only connection to their faith. For more observant Jews, it is an important time of self-reflection. Because work is prohibited religiously and services are often held early in the morning, many Jewish students do not attend class throughout the holidays.

To be honest, we should never have classes planned on these two days. Back in New York, school was always canceled during Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur. Brown should be no different. A significant portion of Brown's community is Jewish and will be observing this holiday. It is to the Jewish community what Easter and Christmas are to our

sition.

Brown is known for its embrace of diversity, its respect for differences in beliefs and backgrounds and its keen concern for acceptance and community. It is a moral imperative that the Jewish faith and culture are treated with the same respect as other religions, especially given University policy towards Christmas. Students have the right to be able to practice major tenets of their faith and to honor their cultural heritage without it interfering with school work. Unfortunately, by elevating Christmas to a higher status than Jewish holidays of equal import, the University is marginalizing one of its largest communities. It is a discriminatory and imbal-

## The F word



CARA NEWLON  
OPINIONS COLUMNIST

Two weeks ago, I was accused of being a feminist.

I received the insult in response to a column I had written ("Don't rape," Feb. 25) in which I argued that our college campuses—and culture in general—needed to send a clearer message about sexual consent. I also contended that rape is, in fact, bad.

I got slammed in the comments section. "The only rape case I know of at Brown destroyed the life of a male due to a grossly unfair process (that doesn't even respect U.S. law) and has been set up by feminists like Cara Newlon," wrote the anonymous commentator. "It has been frequently published that the scientists who came up with the statistic 1/4 of women get assaulted and 1/5 get raped were feminists in the 80s, who made up the numbers."

I had been labeled a devious feminazi. This hadn't happened to me before. It was kind of exhilarating.

And it underscored a deeper part of American culture: Feminism can be a dirty word.

Of course, this isn't true for everybody. On Brown's campus, we have active and vocal feminist groups, loud and proud on a quest for equality. Yet denunciations of feminism seem to be de rigueur — even by prominent, influential females:

"I'm not a feminist — I hail men, I love men," Lady Gaga said in an interview. "I celebrate American male culture and beer and bars and muscle cars."

Taylor Swift also rejected feminism in a

2012 interview, stating: "I don't really think about things as guys versus girls. I never have. I was raised by parents who brought me up to think if you work as hard as guys, you can go far in life."

My anonymous commentator, Lady Gaga and T-Swizzle have a certain view of feminism. They seem to operate under the assumption that feminists are a horde of angry women, working in seamless Groupthink, waving burning bras around their heads like some sort of Victoria's Secret medieval mace. Feminism means: Women = good, Men = bad probable rapists. Some detractors believe

**Shame and social opprobrium are powerful tools. Backlash to feminism is just an attempt to bully women into silence on uncomfortable subjects — and it's succeeding.**

gender inequity no longer exists.

This view on feminism is problematic. For one, feminists have rarely agreed on anything. When the Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced to Congress in 1923, many female reformers who had previously fought for suffrage opposed it, fearing it would eliminate women's protective working legislation. Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem had a notorious rivalry, culminating in Friedan's refusal to shake Steinem's hand.

Sheryl Sandberg, chief operating officer at Facebook, recently published "Lean In" — a feminist manifesto which encourages women to gain confidence, assert themselves in the workplace and put their personal lives second. Unsurprisingly, Sandberg has faced massive backlash from proclaimed feminists and non-feminists alike, critiquing her perceived dismissal of the concerns of working

mothers.

The divisions remain: Should women focus more on work or children? Can there be a balance? Should we focus on getting more women in math and science? Are porn and stripping demeaning or empowering? Do we need an Equal Rights Amendment?

The prior critique of feminism also stems from the idea that gender inequity is defunct. As Taylor Swift aptly put it, girls who "work as hard as guys" should succeed as much as their male counterparts. Yet they don't.

In 2012, the United States ranked 22nd on the Global Gender Gap Index, which mea-

sures economic and educational gender discrepancies. While more women attend college than men, they earn less than men — according to American Association of University Women studies, women's wages are 7 percent smaller than men's in the same occupation.

More striking is the leadership gap: Women constitute only 17 percent of the House of Representatives and the Senate. In Feb. 2012, the House formed a panel of all-male witnesses to discuss contraception. In the words of Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y.: "Where are all the women?"

Critics almost universally panned Seth MacFarlane after his uncomfortable hosting of the Oscars, featuring a ditty titled "We Saw Your Boobs." It served to exemplify the inequities within Hollywood, where women constitute only 9 percent of directors, 15 percent

of writers and 25 percent of producers.

Feminism is not about men versus women or about vilifying men. It's about advancing society to a point where a woman, all other things equal, can make the same amount of money or get the same leadership position. It's about living free from the fear of sexual assault and eliminating the double standards that permeate our culture.

I received intense backlash when I wrote a column about sexual assault. A week later, Zerlina Maxwell — feminist, commentator and rape survivor — went on Sean Hannity's show and argued against arming women to prevent rape. "The reality is that we need to be changing how we train and teach young men," Maxwell said. "We need to teach them to see women as human beings and respect their bodily autonomy. We need to teach them about consent and to hold themselves accountable."

Hannity brushed her off, stating that "evil exists in the world," simplifying the myriad of sexual assault situations to attacks by strangers. In reality, most sexual assaults are perpetrated by people the victim knew and perhaps trusted — a friend, a boyfriend. Maxwell subsequently received rape and death threats.

Maybe it's my "woman's innate inability to never ever let anything go," as MacFarlane would say. But shame and social opprobrium are powerful tools. Backlash to feminism is just an attempt to bully women into silence on uncomfortable subjects — and it's succeeding.

Sexist behavior deserves to be reviled and feminism celebrated.

Cara Newlon '14.5 is happy to talk at  
cara\_newlon@brown.edu. Be warned:  
She's a feminist.

SPOTLIGHT ON  
THE STATE HOUSE

BY ADAM TOOBIN  
CITY & STATE EDITOR

Kelsey Smith

The House Corporations Committee held a hearing Wednesday on the Kelsey Smith Act, a piece of legislation that would require telecommunications companies to provide law enforcement officials with information regarding the locations of missing persons based on signals transmitted to or from their phones.

The bill is named in honor of Kelsey Smith, an 18-year-old woman who was abducted and murdered in Kansas. Authorities "were able to locate Kelsey's body because her wireless provider released the 'ping' or 'call location' information from her cell phone," according to the release.

Several other states have enacted similar laws, in part because federal law does not require telecommunications carriers to provide information that could help locate abductees.

Veterans

Sen. Frank Lombardi, D-Cranston, introduced legislation in the House March 11 that would reduce the corporate tax burden on businesses owned by disabled veterans.

The bill would "waive corporate filing fees and the business corporations tax for those corporations whose majority owners are veterans who have a service-connected disability," according to a state press release.

"I have nothing but respect for individuals who keep their businesses running despite all the financial pressures they face," Lombardi said in the press release. "I have even more respect for former members of the military who have been disabled as a part of their service and who still put their heart and soul into running a business in our state."

The Senate Committee on Special Legislation and Veterans' Affairs held a hearing on the bill Wednesday.

Rep. Stephen Ucci, D-Johnston, Cranston, has introduced an identical bill in the House of Representatives. It is currently before the House Committee on Finance.

Declawing pets

The Senate passed legislation Wednesday that prohibits landlords and superintendents from requiring tenants to have their pets declawed or "devocalized." The House Judiciary Committee is now deliberating on an identical bill.

Senate Majority Leader Dominick Ruggerio, D-Providence and North Providence, said these procedures can be inhumane and threaten pets' safety, according to a state press release.

"Devocalized" pets undergo a surgical procedure to have their vocal chords cut, usually in order to reduce the volume of a dog's bark.

Declawing can entail "full amputation of the last knuckle of each of a cat's toes, often involving cutting through the animal's ligaments, nerves, skin and blood vessels," according to a press release.

Providence wins philanthropy challenge

Mayor Angel Taveras' idea aims to improve literacy skills for children from low-income families

By MARIYA BASHKATOVA  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Providence won the \$5 million grand prize in the Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayors Challenge yesterday, according to a press release from Mayor Angel Taveras' office. The contest — sponsored by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's charitable organization — called for submissions of inventive ideas to improve life and solve problems faced by cities across the country.

Taveras' winning idea, called "Provi-

dence Talks," will attempt to increase vocabulary learning and literacy in underprivileged children by supplying low-income families with portable voice recorders to track the number and type of words and conversations exchanged in the household over the course of a month, the Associated Press reported. After these word and conversation totals are analyzed, families will receive counseling about how to best improve their children's language skills.

The project aims to close the large vocabulary gap that exists between low- and high-income children before they start school — a gap of more than 30 million words by the time children are four years old, according to Taveras' press release.

"Education is the path out of poverty

— I know, because I have followed it," Taveras told the AP. Taveras grew up in poverty in Providence's South Side before attending Harvard to complete his undergraduate education and Georgetown University for law school.

The prize money will initially fund the implementation of the idea for a small number of families, but the number will grow to 2,850 families by 2018, the AP reported.

Submissions in the competition were judged for their creativity, feasibility and ability to spread to other cities. More than 300 cities across the nation submitted ideas in the contest, and 20 were chosen as finalists. Four other cities won awards of \$1 million to implement their ideas — Philadelphia, Houston, Chicago and Santa Monica, Calif.

Bill looks to crack down on gun owners

Rhode Islanders would be required to register their firearms and pay a \$100 fee for each weapon

By MONICA PEREZ  
STAFF WRITER

A bill introduced in the R. I. House of Representatives Feb. 14 would require the state's gun owners register their firearms with a state licensing authority and pay a \$100 registration fee per gun.

Gun owners who fail to register their firearms could face up to three years in prison or a \$3,000 fine if the legislation is passed. The legislation was referred to the House Judiciary Committee for review.

Rep. Linda Finn, D-Middletown, Portsmouth, Rep. Edith Ajello, D-Providence, Rep. Maria Cimini, D-Providence and Rep. Christopher Blazejewski, D-Providence, are sponsoring the bill in an effort to create a system for electronically registering guns and hold people accountable for their firearms, Finn said.

"In states like California and Mas-

sachusetts, there is currently a system of documenting firearms, but in Rhode Island, nothing like this exists," Finn said.

The system would provide local law enforcement with basic information about gun owners, she said, adding that she hopes it will discourage people from illegally selling or loaning their guns. The database could assist police officers in confiscating a firearm from a gun owner who has been arrested for a crime, Finn said.

Over 150 protesters rallied at the State House Feb. 28 // Guns page 4

THE JANUS FORUM LECTURE SERIES | BROWN UNIVERSITY

GUNS IN AMERICA:  
Reducing Crime

Thursday  
March 14  
3:30pm  
MacMillan 117

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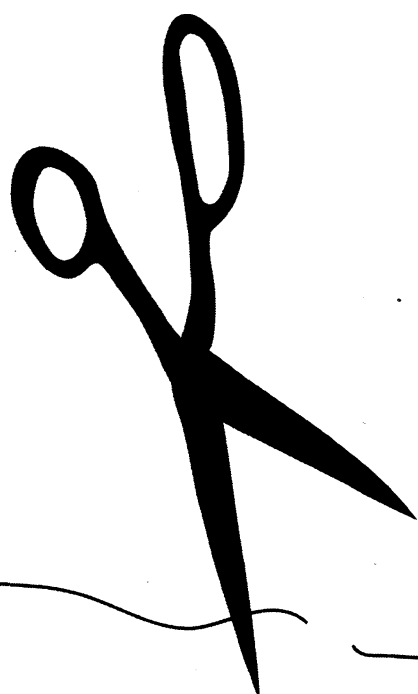
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