



Seniors experience Canadian culture Four-day trip includes visit to Biodome, CBC

By Ali Blajda '05

For the first time in over ten years a senior class took the initiative to plan and execute a class trip that would provide them with a plethora of fun times and memories before their final months together. From March 30th to April 2nd, the graduating class of 2005 traveled to Montreal, Canada and experienced the different aspects of Canadian society and sites of the city.

The senior class left Hopkins Academy on Wednesday, March 30 at 7:30 AM and after almost 5 hours of driving arrived at St. Catherine's Street in downtown Montreal. The afternoon consisted of exploring the city and light shopping. On Wednesday night the seniors had lunch at the Hard Rock Café.

On Thursday the seniors participated in a morning walking tour of the city and in the afternoon they visited Montreal's Biodome, which houses four of America's most beautiful ecosystems.

The ecosystems that were viewed by the seniors included the lush and humid Tropical Forest, which is warm even in the depths of a Montreal winter, the Laurentian Forest, which changes with the seasons, the St. Lawrence Marine Ecosystem, and finally the Polar

Worlds of the Arctic and Antarctic where students spent several minutes observing the arctic penguins. "I thought it was cool because it had all different climates and all different kinds of animals, especially the penguins in the Arctic."

said senior Lauren Sylvain.

On Friday the group spent the day at the

Canadian Broadcasting station, taking tours of the building and taping their own radio show. The show was made up of seniors play-

ing roles such as the producers, news reporters, weather reporter, and sound technicians.

"It was really fun being able to produce a radio show with everyone in our class," said Becky Sadlowski.

The radio show was recorded and burned onto a CD that the class listened to on their way home from the station.

That night the class attended dinner at a haunted mansion, where every waiter and server dressed and acted as a dead person. The dinner was very different than anything anyone had ever experienced, but many found the difference to be enjoyable.

"It was a very interesting experience and I definitely felt a cultural barrier. I also thought it was a little weird when a dressed up woman followed me to the bathroom," said Jackie Wanczyk of the Haunted Mansion dinner.

Saturday the seniors planned to visit Montreal's Notre Dame church and finish the trip with some shopping in old Montreal, however a rainstorm and the Pope's deteriorating condition caused the group to depart early.

The senior class as well as all of the chaperones thoroughly enjoyed the trip. "It was awesome to learn about Canada's culture and a great bonding experience with my classmates," said senior Peter Bova.

"It was really fun being able to produce a radio show with everyone in our class."

~Becky Sadlowski



Photo by Ali Blajda

Seniors Kristen Hayes and Amanda Berg make the most of the Canadian atmosphere during their senior class trip as they dine for lunch at a cafe in Montreal.

Journalism class trip to AIC entertaining and educational

By Ali Blajda '05
Gary Pelissier '07

The 35th Annual Scholastic Press Forum, sponsored by American International College provided an excellent opportunity for members of the journalism class to learn more about the techniques and styles that go into creating a newspaper.

"I thought it was a fun, enjoyable experience for all involved, because it was both entertaining and educational," said sophomore Matt Strom.

On March 9th the Hopkins Academy journalism class met with students from all across New England in order to compare and learn from each school's news-

paper. Students also attended seminars of various related topics, including web page design, weather, movie reviews, radio broadcasting, and layout.

"I thought that the seminars were very interesting because we got to see how professionals work," said Matt Kushi.

Presenters included 22 News broadcasters Brian Lappis and Sy Becker, both of whom were, "cool and really funny," according to Laura Phelon. Students also saw and heard from ESPN journalists, writers from the Valley Advocate, and various others from the profession.

Lucas Wood also got a chance to attend the forum, even though he will not be in the journalism class until next year. "It was inspirational," he said, "an excellent experience."

Lina Phou did not speak as highly of the trip. "It was okay, but it could have been better."

When asked how so, she simply responded, "more famous people, because the workshops weren't that interesting."

Either way, the journalism department walked out with a little bit more knowledge on the business and some great memories.

News Briefs

Graduation

Graduation will be held on Friday June 3rd at 8 PM in the gym.

Seniors' last day

Seniors will be released from their last day of classes at 1:30 on May 27th.

Senior Banquet

The Senior Banquet will be held at Goben in Sunderland on May 31st.

Senior Seminars

Seniors Seminars will take place during the seniors last week of classes May 23-27.

Class Night

Class Night for seniors will be held on Thursday, June 2nd.

High School Awards Ceremony

The high school awards ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 26th.

Junior Prom

The Junior Prom will be held on Saturday, May 21st from 6-11PM

Memorial Day Parades

The Hopkins Academy Marching Band will participate in Hadley's Memorial Day Parade on May 30th and in Amherst's parade and ceremony on Monday, May 31st.

Oral sex scandal rocks prep school

By AJ Bias '05

Five varsity hockey players were expelled from Milton Academy after allegedly receiving oral sex from a 15-year-old sophomore girl.

The first occurrence was on Jan. 22, when two of the hockey players received oral sex from the girl in one of the boys' dorm rooms.

The next night, the two hockey players, along with another 15-year-old male, engaged in sex acts with the girl in the boys' locker room. The following night, once again in the boys' locker room, the two hockey players and the girl were joined by three teammates for more sexual acts.

Authorities also reported that a fourth event occurred on Feb. 12, this time at a birthday party in the Courtyard by Marriott hotel, involving the same girl and two of the same hockey players.

Asked if an event like this could ever take place at a school like ours, principal William Mahoney said, "I'm not naive enough to think that it couldn't. Anything can happen anywhere nowadays. I hope that nothing could go on for as long as it appears to have gone on without anyone noticing."

Mahoney also believes that the media is taking the wrong angle at the story. "It gets portrayed like an X-rated movie. I think it was more about a girl looking for attention, needing to be wanted and valued."

Out of pure coincidence, Milton Academy is also where former Hopkins Academy physics teacher and boys soccer coach Mike Duseau now teaches. "The incident was not in my area," said Duseau.

Restaurants' cleanliness challenged

By Matt Strom '07

When MSNBC did a special report on the cleanliness of restaurants and the hygiene of their employees, they went to the top ten food chains across the country including McDonald's, Burger King, Subway, and Wendy's.

Some of the results were a little shocking, to say the least. Burger King came in last place, having critical errors like rat droppings on the shelves and unsafe holding temperature for their food. Unsafe holding temperature is prepared food held at room temperature, unsafe refrigerator temperature, and unsafe heating temperature. Taco Bell came out on top, with the least amount of critical errors.

Upon hearing this, I went out into the field and did some of my own work to see how restaurants in Hadley ranked on our scale. In the MSNBC report, restaurants were judged on a critical error scale including such things as improper food holding temperature, the use of gloves when preparing food, and hazardous or unhealthy working conditions. Any one of those problems was equal to one "critical error" which endangers the health and safety of the customer.

When I went out into the field I incorporated my own ideas into a rubric, since I wouldn't be able to get behind the scenes like the MSNBC reporters. My first stop was the mall, which contains both a Taco Bell and a Subway.

Subway attendants changed their gloves after every sandwich they made, and also made sure to put the lids back on the containers of food, as soon as they were done. I asked the manager about the temperature and the containers. He said that it was checked daily to make sure the food was properly cooled making Subway our first critical error free restaurant.

Taco Bell was also criti-

cal error free. The restaurant employees wore gloves at all times and changed them in between meal making. They also made sure that their food was stored at the proper temperature.

A short distance away from the mall was my next stop, McDonald's. McDonald's employees wore gloves at all times, but did not change them in between meal preparation, which was their first critical error. I also observed some of the employees wiping their noses and itching their heads while preparing food, which accounted for another critical error.

When asked McDonald's employees were not aware of temperature control, but did say that someone was in charge of that specific task and came daily to "check it out".

Next I made my way to Burger King, where employees also wore gloves at all times, but neglected to change them in between meals. I did not, however, see any employee scratching their forehead or rubbing of the nose. The Burger King manager was aware of the temperature control issue and he told me that there was always at least one person on duty who knew how to make sure all the food was maintained properly. This gave Burger King only one critical error.

My last stop was to none other than the red headed lady herself, Wendy's. Wendy's employees changed their gloves in between food production and also were in control of where their hands went. There was also no need to call out the manager because the employee at the register was able to answer all my questions on food maintenance.

Wendy's along with Subway and Taco Bell contained no critical errors. As a result, I believe they are the cleanliest of all fast food restaurants in Hadley.

Teen takes own life, nine others in Minnesota school shooting

Student thought to be interested in Nazism, Hitler

By Marisa Allen '07

On Monday March 21, Jeff Weise decided to take his life along with nine others in a school shooting in Red Lake Minnesota. Jeff Weise didn't grow up in Red Lake. He was a normal boy. At one point, he lived in a mobile home behind a pickle factory. No one noticed his peculiarities until he moved to Red Lake in 1999.

Weise's father committed suicide in 1997 and his mother was killed in a severe car crash in 1999, so he was forced to move to Red Lake to live with his grandfather.

The Red Lake shooting is the worst school shooting since the 1999 Columbine massacre.

The final death toll was 10, including Weise. With parallels between Columbine and Red Lake (the life or death questions and the black trench coats) this school

shooting is one of the worst.

Weise was interested in Nazi and Hitler sites, and had

'It's sad... this can happen anywhere.'

~Principal William Mahoney

German soldier."

When Mrs. Slocomb was asked the question of what her initial reaction was she said, "it's sad."

The reality of it is "this can happen anywhere," Principal William Mahoney stated. "We do the best to prevent something like this from happening [lockdown drills]." Head Teacher Diane Chapman stated, "It's unbelievable."

A search for healing began the night after the shooting in the gym. The community gathered together with the families of the victims. As the sage and sweet grass was lit in memorial, there was an outbreak of sadness.

Community members were encouraged to spend more time with their kids and to teach the traditional values of the native tribe.

posted just days before the shooting on a site. "I've been feeling a strong connection towards Nazi Germany...like in a past life I was a



Photo by Jamie Barstow '07

Sophomore Heather Earle happily cutting open her fetal pig in Mr. Madenski's biology class.

New GSA promotes tolerance for people of all sexual orientations

By Marissa Allen '07

Earlier this year Mrs. Young's contemporary issues class had the idea of starting a Gay straight alliance here at Hopkins. A gay straight alliance (GSA) promotes the understanding and awareness of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender issues and to provide a friendly and supportive environment for all students.

The GSA is for lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) along with people who identify themselves as straight to come together as one. It's a place where you are accepted, respected and valued no matter what sexual orientation, gender/identity or expression.

The GSA was co founded by Kevin Jennings "to empower youth activists to start Gay-Straight Alliance clubs and fight homophobia and transphobia in schools." He went to Harvard and graduated as a history teacher only to get kicked out of his first job because he was gay.

This act promoted Jennings to start a gay straight alliance among the kids he taught at his school. The GSA could open the student body and teachers minds to accept differences.

Now that Hopkins has a GSA with a growing number of members and Mrs. Young as the Teacher advisory, the school can

grow to accept and appreciate people for who they are.

On April 13th there was a day of solidarity where anyone who tolerated the GSA and LGBT's could show their support. The GSA also handed out stickers to whoever forgot to dress in a white shirt and jeans.

Over all the GSA and day of solidarity was a great way to promote awareness. As a result of the fact that many showed up and gave their support it is clear that Hopkins students tolerate and support the GSA and LGBT. Many people are already looking towards next year and hoping that the day of solidarity will be just as successful.

Martha's back on the block after five months in prison

By Jack Peirce '05

Since recently being released from a 5-month federal prison sentence, Martha Stewart has appealed to a judicial court to loosen the limitations on her 5-month house arrest sentencing.

Stewart was imprisoned for lying to federal officials about sale of a stock that took place in 2001. She served five months in a West Virginia federal prison and is now serving the second part of her term at home.

While on house arrest, Stewart is allowed to work for 48 hours a week, where she can be out of her house. Recently, a federal court ruled to allow Stewart to eat at New York restaurants during this 48-hour period of "working" time. She explained such dinners as necessary for her business

"She's rich enough, she should have the business dinners at her house," said Lila West '05. "She could hire servants and waiters."

Stewart has recently requested that her ankle bracelet be removable. Her lawyer explained this request because it hampers her employment as a lifestyle expert. The ankle bracelet prevents her from wearing certain dresses that are a large part of her lifestyle.

In one of the most recent moves in Stewart's case, a federal investigation has been launched to see if, by attending an event sponsored by Time Magazine to celebrate their 100 Most Influential People awards, the terms of her house arrest were violated.

Hunger banquet enlightening Students' eyes opened to food scarcity

By Gary Pelissier '07

Yellow gets rice, orange gets rice and beans, and blue gets a full course meal. Sound strange? It isn't if you attended the Oxfam Banquet on March 22nd sponsored by the Hopkins Academy sociology class.

The seemingly arbitrary assignment of classes and food was an effort to raise awareness about world hunger and the poverty that is out there right now. Each person, upon arrival, received a color-coded card which determined his or her class. However, the cards are proportionally correct to the world order, resulting in most sitting on the floor while dining on water and rice with their other first-class compatriots.

"Let them eat cake!" the famously coined statement by Marie Antoinette has never been more applicable, for those few who were privileged enough to receive blue cards they were given got a meal of salad, chicken, rice, vegetables, and even cake! But not all

were in their high-class glory. "I was in high class and the food was good, but I gave my friends some vegetables and a roll," said Kristin Szymkowicz.

Despite a few cheating efforts, the general effect was created. Katie Brewer said that, "We learned a lot about how life was like outside of Hadley." "It was good because it [let] you know that not everyone is ignorant," says Ashely Amon.

Also involved in the exercise in human interests was social ascension or descension. Before dining, random members of the first and second classes were switched, to demonstrate the instability of the lower classes. "It was funny," said Katie Brewer. Laughs or not, the illustration was drawn for all of us to see: the world isn't as privileged as we are.

Most walked out of the cafeteria with a new perspective. George Copoulos reported that he is now, 'sponsoring a poor kid.'



Photo By Ashley Gwozdzik '07

As winter has left us and spring is in the air, the time to bust out the bathing suits is finally here. There's just one thing that some people are not looking forward to doing, and that is spring cleaning. However, we at the Hawk's Claw are not those people... the joy of using industrial cleaner on the journalism floor was too tempting to resist.

Eating disorders: on the rise or fall?

By Marissa Allen '07

Eating disorders are common among teenage girls and boys. There are many types of eating disorders including Anorexia Nervosa, Bulimia Nervosa, binge eating, and compulsive eating. Eating disorders are common among teenagers because as they grow up and become more inde-

pendent they are pressured to be the best they can be. Eating disorders are on the rise because of society's pressure to be thin. Children and teens that are raised in dysfunctional families are at an increased risk for developing an eating disorder along with depression.

without treatment, sixty percent of them will recover with treatment, and the remaining twenty percent will not recover. According to statistics 19% of college girls were bulimic in 2003 and 8,000,000 or more people in the United States have an eating disorder.

'How many people actually have eating disorders?'

When someone is anorexic he/she is obsessed with being thin and may constantly worry about how many calories or how much fat they have. They consume diet pills, laxatives or water pills to lose the weight even faster.

Bulimia is when the person binges on food and uses purging or laxatives to remove the food. Compulsive eating is when a person eats non-stop with out deliberately removing the waste.

Warning signs for eating disorders are usually subtle and appear without warning. If you think a friend or peer shows signs of an eating disorder please get help right away, you might save their life.

How many people actually have eating disorders? One percent of the population of people ages ten to twenty have anorexia and about four percent of the population has bulimia. One out of a hundred people have a binge eating disorder. Only about ten percent of all people with eating disorders are male. With all these people with eating disorders, twenty percent of them will die

Students get Close Up view of gov't

By Gary Pelissier '07

Nine teens, picked to go to Washington D.C., to learn about the government and see when things stop getting polite and start getting real.

Sound like an episode of the Real World? In fact, it almost was. Nine Hopkins students were given the chance to go to Washington D.C. with Mrs. Parsons on Close Up this year. Those who went were Alysha Wilcox, Nathaniel Hudak, Jason Vachula, Sam Hahn, Amy Parsons, Heather Earle, Sean Paradiso, Caitlin Waskiewicz, and Gary Pelissier.

Close Up is an opportunity for students all across the country to not only experience Washington D.C., but to also understand the government and each other. The six-day experience involve seminars, topic forums, workshops and city-study programs where the students saw Washington in and out.

"We discussed the media, important topics in congress and the senate, and heard a heated debate between a liberal and conservative," says Nathaniel Hudak.

"I never knew that politics were so involved in my life. I didn't know that it could affect me that much," comments Megan Cruse, from Minnesota.

Aside from learning about government, there is plenty of time to meet other people from different states and backgrounds. In fact, Close Up encourages it. You are allowed to pick one of your roommates from your school, and then the other two are randomly selected, and you are almost never put in the same workshop or bus as anyone from your school. This environment might sound drastic and maybe even scary, but it is a great chance to meet many people.

It isn't, however, a vacation by any stretch of the imagination. Wake up is at six and bed is at 11, and between then you are always on the go. Those thirteen hours, six days a week, are extremely intense.

"We were on our feet from dawn till dusk seeing D.C., from the insider perspective, in a week what takes others months to see," said Caitlin Waskiewicz.

But, when all is said and done, and when we came home to play catch up with sleep and our mountains of homework, only one thing was on our mind, that "Project Close up was one of the best experiences of my life," said by Nathaniel Hudak.

"I am forever indebted to those who made our governmental Mecca a reality," says Sean Paradiso. In fact, eight other teens, picked to go to Washington D.C., are forever indebted as well.

Sophomores experience dangers of drinking during trauma center visit

Matt Strom '07

The sophomore health class took a trip to Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut to experience the "Let's not meet by accident" program. This program was meant to show teenagers not only what happens to them while they're drinking, but also the consequences that ensue.

Other 10th grade health classes have taken trips to hospitals, but this is the first time they have ever done this program. Students were taken into a classroom environment where they were shown short movies and pictures having to do with over dosing on drugs.

Students were brought up to the helipad where they were shown what happens in the event

you are deemed a trauma patient and need a helicopter lift to a hospital.

The students were walked through the procedures in the event of a trauma, and what would happen to the patient. Some of the procedures include the removal of all clothing from your body. You can kiss those American Eagle jeans goodbye because they aren't carefully removed. They are cut with scissors strong enough to cut through metal, and anything in the way of their jobs, must go.

The EMT showed students the procedure they might have to take in order to treat your injury. For example, if you had a collapsed lung, the EMT's would

make a small incision in between your ribs, and then thrust a tube into your chest in order to drain any fluid. As many as seven of these tubes can be in your chest at once.

The students would have also been taken down to the trauma room itself, only there was a trauma patient in there at the time, and was inaccessible to them. The program facilitators then took the class back up to the classroom sharing some of their own experiences in the trauma room.

The sophomore class departed from the hospital after a question and answer session at the end of the program.

Stay tuned for next month's issue, as we will be posting where our seniors are headed for college!

Teacher of the Month

By Lina Phou '07

Over thirty years ago, the students of Hopkins Academy set paper airplanes on fire, had chair throwing contests in the cafeteria, and someone even threw a typewriter out a window.

And who was there to see all this? That's right, our beloved computer teacher, Mr. Talenda (Mr. T).

Having gone to Salem State University where he majored in business education, Mr. Talenda is this issue's Teacher of the Month.

After Salem State, he attended the American International College (AIC) in Springfield where he took night classes to get his master's degree in teaching.

He began teaching at Hopkins Academy while taking his night classes at AIC because he "liked the idea of teachers having lots of days off," he said, and he's never thought of teaching at any other school.

The reasons behind that were because it was difficult to find a job in his field and because he likes "dealing with the students because they're the best and I like yelling at them too!" he says.

He feels that the current students of Hopkins Academy "are much more responsible, better behaved, and more intelligent than ever before. They just get better and better and better." And although in difficult situations he can reason with high school students, he finds that the "middle school students have more of a desire to learn new things."

As much as he loves Hopkins Academy and its students, at the end of the next school year he will be retiring, and said (with an enormous smile on his face), "I'm *really* looking forward to it."

HERE ARE SOME FANTASTIC FACTS ABOUT MR. T:

- His **worst** subject is math. "If it's got letters and funny symbols on it, forget about it."
- His **family** is *the most important* part of his life
- If he had an **unlimited** amount of money he would get *every* student a **fully equipped laptop**.
- Favorite animal: **dog** because it's "man's best friend"
- Favorite sports team: **New England Patriots**
- Favorite color: **turquoise**
- Three people he would like to be are **Charleston Heston** (actor), **Ronald Reagan**, and **Stevie Nivon** (blues guitarist).
- Three people he would like to meet are **Teddy Roosevelt**, **John Wayne**, and **Gandhi**



Photo By Lina Phou '07

Mr. Talenda seems to have spotted some trouble in the classroom, but there is no need to worry, with his keen eyes and persuasive bat, order will soon be restored.

A new face, a new story

By Veronica Hilton '07

As most of you know Mrs. Fitzgibbon is on maternity leave after giving birth to a baby boy at the beginning of March. Here to fill in for her is Ms. Tania Ozain originally from Chile. She received her bachelor's degree to teach children with special needs from the Universidad de Playa Ancha in Valparaiso, Chile.

She worked with special needs children for 5 years in Chile, where she taught children of all ages. She worked in the public schools with poor children and part time in private schools, where the wealthier children attended.

She chose teaching as her career because it runs in her family; both her parents are teachers. They started up a private school because they didn't like how the government was running the public schools. She loves to help people and she loves to teach.

She is from an area where most people work to help people; it's the way to give back to the community. In Chile the public schools are for the poor children, the middle class has charter schools, and of course the rich attend the private schools.

Ms. Ozain finds middle school students to be closer to children because they are constantly moving. The high school students are more reflective on the world; they are more thoughtful.

The three people she liked to be for a day would be her grandmother, Gandhi, and Frieda Carlo. People that she would like to meet are Mandela, her great grandmother, and former presidente de Chile, Allende. Also, her favorite colors are blue, purple, and red and her favorite animals are horses and dogs.

National Poetry Month

By Lina Phou '07

Roses are red
Violets are blue
March is over
The month just flew.
So why am I still rhyming?
I really have no clue.
Valentine's Day is over,
So there's no more need to woo.
Ah ha! Of course! It's April!
It's National Poetry Month, too!
Now that I've figured it out
There's no need for this poem to continue!

Pretty lame isn't it? I think so too, but I needed something to get your attention. Without having me mention it in the poem, I'm sure all of you know that April is National Poetry Month. This is the month where we honor and celebrate the achievements made by poets, and the poets themselves.

The Academy of American Poets, because of many reasons, dubbed April National Poetry Month in 1996. The Academy felt

that it had to be a month while children were in school curriculum. Because of the many holidays during the fall and winter, they felt that spring would be a good season to place it in. Now why not February or March? Well, February is, as mentioned in our last issue, Black History Month, and March is Women's History Month, so April seemed like a logical choice.

Although one of its goals, as I've mentioned before, is to honor poets and pieces of their work, there's more to NPM than just that. Its other goals are to encourage Americans to read and increase publication of poetry. They get this message through by having thousands of bookstores, schools, and libraries participate in NPM each year. They have reading festivals, book displays, workshops, and other activities where they provide ways to improve your poetry.

The man behind St. Patrick's Day

By Laura Phelon '07

Saint Patrick's day is a day of eating corned beef and cabbage, wearing green clothing and specialized buttons that say "Kiss me, I'm Irish." However, wearing green and eating special beef should not be your first priority for Saint Patrick's Day is just that; a day celebrated in honor of Saint Patrick, which is why it is celebrated on March 17th (the anniversary of his death). But who is this Saint Patrick and why is he so great?

Saint Patrick was born in Scotland over a thousand years ago. As a young child, he was kidnapped and sold to a local landowner to work as a shepherd. Having only sheep for company, Saint Patrick was lonely and prayed to God for comfort. One late night, he heard a voice in the distance telling him to escape to Ireland, so he climbed aboard a ship. When he arrived, he decided to become a priest and that he wanted to convert Ireland to Christianity.

Saint Patrick spent three years studying to become a priest

and finally achieved his goal. He preached God's teachings and converted virtually all of Ireland to Christianity in thirty years.

Saint Patrick is known for such legends as chasing all of the snakes out of Ireland and bringing the dead back to life, but obviously these tales are far from true. He was a gentle soul and a devoted Christian, nothing more.

As I have said before, Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated on the anniversary of Saint Patrick's death. The shamrock is an important symbol of Saint Patrick's Day because Saint Patrick used the shamrock to preach about the sign of the cross in his quest to convert all of Ireland to Christianity.

The first Saint Patrick's Day parade was held in New York City where Irish soldiers marched along the streets with a band playing traditional Celtic music. After this first parade, it became a tradition to have a parade annually in New York City and it gradually spread to various regions of the world.

'Legend has it that Patrick chased all the snakes out of Ireland.'

NCAA tournament pool dominates school

By Owen Stebbins '07

Sixty-five Division I men's NCAA basketball teams face off to compete for a national championship every March. Fifty-three Hopkins Academy students, teachers, and parents made their respective picks to win the national title. The tournament is filled with drama that includes first round upsets and cop-out selections. Those who participate hope to be on top of the pile at the end of the tournament.

Consider this: there are roughly 260 students enrolled at Hopkins academy in grades 7 through 12. At least 40 of them have entered into this competition, yet friendly extravaganzas, which is nearly one of every six students here.

Tony Czajkowski says, "It [the bracket pool] adds more excitement to the tournament because there is something at stake."

The rules for the tournament were as follows: one point for

a first round win, two points for a second round win, four points for the sweet sixteen, eight points for the elite eight, 16 points for the final four match-ups and 32 points are awarded to your tally if you pick the correct national champion. With a potential for 32 points in each round, you can be awarded up to a grand total of 192 points by the end of the tournament should you pick every single game correctly.

In a pool that can be won by a single point, prophesizing the right upsets in the first round can play a pivotal role in the final outcome of the competition. While it is tempting for some to have the number one seed upset by an unknown sixteen seed in the first round, this has never happened and could destroy your chances of winning if that number one seed wins the national title.

Though a 16-1 upset is nearly impossible, there is almost

always a 14 over 3 seed upset. For instance, only one out of the 53 competitors in the bracket pool picked tiny Bucknell to defeat third-seeded powerhouse Kansas. However, many students picked Vermont to shock Syracuse in a 13-4 seed game. This poses the question, why and how did you pick that upset?

For sophomore Joe O'Connor, deciding on an upset has a pretty easy solution. He says, "I pick the school that has a cooler name." Also, some just couldn't help but want those Vermont Catamounts from the tiny state university in Burlington to finally get their first tourney win, with NBA prospects Taylor Coppentrath and T.J. Sorrentine graduating this spring.

Having a tournament pool within our scholastic environment has created a competitive atmosphere around the greatness of college basketball in March.

Literary Lounge

Memories

Courtney Reed

When will I be released from them?
They haunt my thoughts, prayers and dreams.
When will they be released into oblivion...
When will I be free of their taunting, teasing and cruel intentions?
It's been days, weeks, and months since it ended.
Since I have been ripped from the warm crevice of his heart...
The memories need to flee, and let me live on.
They need to stop ripping, tearing and shredding my heart into pieces.
Soon there will be nothing left that makes me who I am.
They will soon steal every bit of love that is left and never give it back.
When will I be free?

One little girl

Marissa Allen

Just one little girl with my heart in my hands
One little girl holding it to give
This little girl has turned her back on the world
For during her whole life she's seen the backs of the ones she loves
More and more as the years go on
And this little girl grows
She pulls her heart back
And covers it more and now she has turned away
But here and now stands a man
All he asked, is for her love
Can she,
Should she risk it
She has no reason to doubt him or believe him
He will leave
But this love she fears she can't keep
Because she never really has had the chance to learn to love
And she fears that she can't be what he deserves and needs

In honor of national poetry month, the Hawk's Claw has added a segment to the Features section dedicated to your poetry. Each issue we will publish poems written by you, which means give us your poems! Hope you enjoy the selected poems for this issue.

Concealed In Darkness

Paul Hilton

Night! What is it that thy conceal in darkness,
the velvet curtain that holds the unknown,
that holds what we fear.

Night! Is the sight of the eye just the image of the mind,
are the shadows that you conceal true images of the real,
or is the darkness itself the real illusion.

Night! Why doth thy despise the moon
is it the moon expels your darkness,
or that the moon shows us what the shadows truly are,
the shadows of illusion.

Tomorrow

Peter Serio

Tomorrow
Things will change
Tomorrow
I'll be over it
Tomorrow
Dreams come true
But today was once a tomorrow
And today
Nothing changed
Nothing was better
Nothing was realized
Live for tomorrow, my friend
There's nothing for you here today

Napoleon Dynamite's favorite animal

Ligers - hybrids of lions and tigers - exist off screen too

Matt Strom '07

We've all seen the movie, but is Napoleon Dynamite smarter than we all think? Believe it or not, the liger is, in fact, a real animal. Napoleon is also right in saying that, "it's like a lion and a tiger mixed."

Ligers are a hybrid feline that has been bred from a male lion and a female tiger, thus giving it the name liger. If this breeding had been done the other way around, then it would be called a tigon.

Ligers are unusually large compared to their parents, but share many of the same features. Hybrid animals usually display what is called "hybrid vigor". This means that the hybrid offspring grows much larger and faster than either of their parents.

A male liger can weigh in at about 900 pounds and grow to be 12 feet long.

Male ligers have a small mane that is often the tan shade of a lion, the stripes and long body of a tiger, and spots, which appear on the side of its lion father.

Female ligers are more orange or gold shaded and have little, if any, mane. Both males and females share the stripes and spots.

Some of the "magical skills" ligers have are their ability to roar like a lion, but still have the magical skill to make the sounds of a tiger. Ligers also have a strong love for the water, which derives from their tiger parent, and despite their large size can still move swiftly and silently through difficult terrain.

You won't find any ligers popping up in the wild soon. Most ligers are sterile, which happens with most hybrid animals, but on occasion they can breed.

Down through history, very occasionally, animals fitting the description of ligers have been sighted in the forests of India and these rumors have persisted for over 1,000 years. Despite this, a liger has never been officially documented in the wild and unless that happens they will remain a creature of myth.

According to the Munich zoo, if a liger was to breed with a tiger it would be called a tili, or if it were mated with a lion it would be a lili.

Ligers are usually bred in captivity because it is rare that either lions or tigers would meet one another in the wild. This is because geographically lions are usually located in Africa while tigers are found in Asia, but who knows, maybe Napoleon Dynamite has his own plans for this special species.

Director has success at Hopkins Academy debut

By Lina Phou '07

Claire Avitable was the director of the plays known as "Spring Shorts." Though this was her first time directing at Hopkins Academy, she has also directed at other schools, mainly at Smith Academy.

"I usually do about five big productions each year, but 'Spring Shorts' is already my third this year," she said. "I got a call from Dr. Young asking me to direct the play."

"Since the director for the previous two plays was taking a break, a new director was needed because he didn't want drama club

to just die out during the spring," said Avitable.

"Spring Shorts" was a combination of seven small skits, usually ranging from 10-15 minutes with a few exceptions. The titles of the plays are "Debut", "...And Stuff...", "High Tide", "DMV Tyrant", "Toes in Sand", "Pumpkins for Smallpox", and "What Theatre Really Is."

After being recruited, Avitable realized that the time frame for the play was too short to do just one play, so she worked with other people to compile seven small, separate plays into one big

production.

She says that the first and last plays are a comedies dealing with what it's like to be an actor and felt that it's a "good way to start and end the show."

This collection of short skits vary in content, but all of them dealt with being an adolescent. These short plays provide good roles for teenagers because they show strong relationships between the characters.

"Spring Shorts" premiered on Friday, April 29th, and was also performed on the 30th and 31st.

Speak Out:

The Draft

For this month's issue of Speak Out, we asked teachers and students about their feelings on the draft, and what they would do if there was a draft.

"Oh, Canada"
Peter Serio '07

"If there was a draft I would enlist to support my country and I feel that the draft dodgers are cowards."

Lucas Wood '07

"I would say I'm bipolar so that way I would be ineligible."
Courtney Reed '06

"If there was a draft then I would leave for Canada."
Matthew Hebert '05

"Military forces are already spread too thin. If our country continues to engage in wars under false pretenses, government leaders will need to give the draft serious consideration."

Mr. B-G

"Although I don't want a draft, in some ways it would be good because it would be a better representation of the population as a whole. It would prevent the army from relying on the poor and minorities."

Mrs. Slocombe

"There is no draft."
Mr. Talenda

"The odds of a draft are 99:1."

Principal William Mahoney

Crime and Punishment

In journalism, the first things we learn are the responsibilities of the journalist, one of which is being a watchdog on the government. This is a fair responsibility, and one that most journalists pride themselves on. To the Hawk's Claw, the school is our government, and this we watch. We have the power of observation in the school stadium that is our Academy.

A week ago, an affable and well-respected member of the senior class received a three-day out of school suspension for punching another student in the face during a lunchroom confrontation. The crime was undeniable and castigation was naturally required. Nowhere will the Hawk's Claw advocate for no action to be made. However, there is more to this seemingly simple story. The 'victim' in this situation (the one who found himself with a bloody nose) is not as innocent as one might imagine.

Eyewitnesses, including those on the Hawk's Claw staff, saw the whole thing unfold. It began with that 'victim,' not involved with the perpetrator at all, going up to the senior and questioning his ethnicity, quickly added to that, a strong, pejorative, racial statement. Clearly, and justly, the senior was provoked beyond limitation. The 'victim' received a two-day in-school suspension.

The punishment was unfair. After researching the topic, not only do we have moral qualms, but also on page 38 of the school handbook, 'assaults' outlines that both physical and verbal attacks result in automatic three-day suspension. So, what happened to the rest of the initiator's punishment?

If we allow this in our schools, we only show the student body one thing: we condone prejudice. Hopkins Academy already has a reputation for being a narrow-minded school, but we are working towards reversing that. With such institutions as the GSA we are taking positive steps. However, it seems as though some with authority are trying to undo these steps we've worked so hard to take.

The Hawk's Claw is also not in the business of gossip or slur, and we will not publish those names involved or what was said. It is not the 'who' or the 'what,' but the 'how' that we care about. It is *how* punishment is followed by crime. If we allow one instance, we set the precedent for more.

Racism and violence are things we cannot accept. Racism is something we will not accept.

Spring choices: run or drive

Spring sports started March 21st, and for Hopkins Academy that meant the beginning of the Baseball, Softball and Golf seasons. For most here at Hopkins, this is a time of anticipation, excitement, and joy, but for those who are forced to make the decision between a job and sports, it can be a bit more intense and trying.

Although apparently mysterious to some, students do need money. For most, this means getting a job. Jobs aren't fun. They aren't exciting and by no means do they incite anticipation, or at least as much as sports do. Jobs also take a large amount of time and effort, virtually draining a person of energy. Most find it completely impossible to balance all three- sports, jobs, and most importantly, grades. As Emily Morse says, "I'd rather do sports or any other extracurricular, but we all need money, so a job is frequently more practical."

So March 21st, for many, is a day of decision. They are forced to make the choice between money and parental independence, or sports and asking mommy and daddy for money. Surprisingly, many choose the job. And here is where the issue begins.

"Live and let live" is a statement that has never been so applicable to life. People do what they need to do, and if they need a job, then they get one. Especially for our age, with car insurance, gas, and good time costs at an all time high. Alvin Chan says that, "I want to make more money to buy stuff and a car."

So, what to do, what to do? It's a tough choice, but it's a personal one. Only that person can make that choice, for only they will have to live with the consequences or the perks of it. Pressuring a person to do either can be insensitive to their current status and their necessities. It may be frustrating when the all-star baseball player stops playing to work at Stop-and-Shop, but don't you think he wants to play as well? "I quit crew to work," says Elizabeth Kline, "but I would rather be doing crew. I needed money for my car."

Beep beep! or home run!?! You choose, but leave the choosing to the individuals. Anything else is just unfair.

Draft who? Draft you

The D word. Maybe it's not four letters, but "draft" still elicits the same kind of reaction from anyone who could be involved, which is just quite simply, 'no.' Luckily, this word isn't one that has become as commonplace in our generation's vocabulary as it has our parents'. However, that could change in the somewhat near future and it is the opinion of this staff that that just cannot happen.

In light of the military efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, it has become aware that perhaps our military is spread too thin. This, we will not refute. But the proposed, or generally thought of solution for this problem is the draft. And this is preposterous.

In general, the draft is just a bad idea. This is not said presumptuously, for there are many rationales for this reasoning. First off is its efficiency. Generally, the draft is only instituted in times of public disinterest in the military. There is a reason there is a military insufficiency: no one wants to fight for the cause. The draft is an impractical institution for this generation, for now, for this cause. If, in the far off future, a draft is instituted, how well will an unmotivated forced military fare? Not very well.

At the same time, we affirm that the draft is not necessarily something that has been politically pursued. This is more of a word-of-mouth idea; an after-thought of Vietnam. However, if thought through, regardless of its status, the draft is and would be a frivolous wastes of lives, the lives of tomorrow and posterity.

The Easter Bunny Exists!

But where did he come from?

Ashley Gwozdzik '07

From mourning the death of Jesus to decorating eggs and hiding candy, Easter has evolved throughout the years. Many years ago, after sitting in church for hours on end and an overloaded Sunday sup brought a family together. Now a-days you go to church anywhere from 45 minutes to an hour, then to be followed by the Easter egg hunts and posing with the Easter Bunny at the mall.

do with Jesus Christ and his resurrection. However, Easter itself pre-dates Christianity, for it was originally a pagan festival to celebrate the goddess of offspring. The Christianity part came later and happened to fall on the same time year. The Easter bunny came into existence because the rabbit and the hare are symbols of fertility in many Pagan cultures, especially in spring when Easter is. Easter Bunnies trace their origins back to Germany, a Pagan hub, in the 1500's.

'After all, he didn't just hop into history...'

How was it that the Easter Bunny evolved? After all, he didn't just hop into history. When Rob Honzell of the Calgary Herald, questioned the Easter Rabbit, he managed to get a lot of questions answered that people might have on their minds.

The Easter Bunny came to represent a holiday that has to

do with Jesus Christ and his resurrection. However, Easter itself pre-dates Christianity, for it was originally a pagan festival to celebrate the goddess of offspring. The Christianity part came later and happened to fall on the same time year. The Easter bunny came into existence because the rabbit and the hare are symbols of fertility in many Pagan cultures, especially in spring when Easter is. Easter Bunnies trace their origins back to Germany, a Pagan hub, in the 1500's.


Thanks to Pagans and Christians, those who celebrate Easter now have the choice to overload on the sweets and torture kids by making them search for very well hidden Easter eggs that are chalked full of candy.

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

-Anne Bradstreet

Hawk's Claw, the school newspaper of Hopkins Academy, provides an open forum for student expression. All students are encouraged to submit their opinions and letters for publication. A writer's name may be withheld from an article; however, the adviser must be aware of the writer's name. The editorial staff reserves the right to publish, edit, or revise, without altering the content of the article.

Subjects that are covered in Hawk's Claw editorials are the opinions of the Hawk's Claw staff, not necessarily the faculty or any one individual. Columns that are signed are the views of the writer and not of the Hawk's Claw staff.

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The Power of Wording

One student's reaction to a commonly misused word

By Matt Kushi '06

"You're such a retard!" How many times have you heard these words uttered out of someone's mouth when someone says or does something weird? Chances are that you hear it at least 10 times a day. Now I want you to take this into thought. How many people do you think use the word and fully understand what it means. More times than not, the user does not understand it and associates it with stupid.

You may be wondering why I am bringing this up. It so happens that I understand the word better than anyone who uses it. For much too long have people associated those that are mentally retarded and/or have disabilities as the lowest forms of life. I am here to tell you just how wrong those people are. Now you're probably wondering why I feel like I know so much about this. I'll tell you why I know so much. It's because my older brother, Joe, who is 21, has both severe disabilities and mental retardation. He has very limited body movement, caused by the Cerebral Palsy that he suffered at birth. He cannot see, walk, or talk.

When you say the word "retard" to call someone stupid, you are calling those who are like my brother stupid indirectly and

'My brother is one of the smartest and most courageous men I've ever known.'

they are not. My brother is one of the smartest and most courageous men I've ever known. He can do very little for himself, yet day after day he keeps on going. He has his rough spots but he goes out and tries to do things that a lot of people take for granted.

My brother has shaped me and my family into who we are today. We are united in helping my brother battle the evils of prejudice towards those who are not as fortunate as us.

A lot of nights, when Joe may have a rough spot, my family and I will stay up a good portion of the night to help him. My current job is being Joe's PCA (Personal Care Attendant), so I know what I'm talking about.

I obviously care about my brother, but I care even more

about making people aware of the horrible situations that he has to go through. I know that a lot of my friends use this word frequently for the wrong reasons and I try to ignore it. You will never hear me use the word "retard" in the wrong context and hopefully in the future my friends won't either.

I hope in this article you have become a little more aware of this problem. If you have more questions, talk to me personally and I will be happy to answer any questions.

For those of you who feel that I am being too sensitive with this subject, I'll let you know one thing. I am not in the business of making friends and enemies. I am in the business of saying and doing what I think is right. Next time you use the word "retard" to describe someone you think is stupid, think back to what you are really saying.

For those of you who do not use the word "retard" in the wrong context, I thank you and ask you to help me in the task of making others aware.



Photo by: Veronica Hilton '07

Ice-cream titans A.J. Bias '05 and Aaron Thayer '05 dual it out on which has the superior taste.

Beep, beep! Who has the keys?

By Gary Pelissier '07

"Start the car. Back up. No right on red here. Go! Go! There's a right on red here!"

Shouts from your driving teacher, as you push through your required 12 hours of lessons. Driving was supposed to be this great experience, but for some reason, being yelled at the whole time isn't too appealing.

For the majority of 16 year olds, this is commonplace. Driving schools have become a tradition and a milestone marker on your proverbial road to the road. The whole license process is long and drawn out. 30 required classroom hours, 6 required driving

hours with an instructor, 6 more with the instructor for observation, and 12 with your parents. Good times? Definitely.

So you have that workload to complete in six months, never mind the added stress of just passing the exam. It's fine and great to do all the requirements, but a license is more than just going through the motions. However, most comment that it isn't that difficult. Matt Kushi says, "It's easy as long as you watch your lights."

Regardless, the stress is overbearing. Driving gives you freedom, freedom we all want, but

there is a lot of work involved. All in all, it sometimes can take a year of training, between classes and then road lessons, before one is eligible for their license.

Once completed, license-bearers have a huge amount of responsibility they need to watch over. It's a dawning of a new day. But for some, responsibility isn't the only thing they have to watch over. Courtney Reed comments saying, "It stinks because I can't see over the wheel!"

Be it the wheel, responsibility, or preparation, driving can be just as big of an issue as it can be liberation.

**Chewy
Louies**

VS.

**Iggy
Biggies**

By A.J. Bias '05

Now my friend Aaron is going to try to convince you that Iggy Biggies, or Biggy Iggies as they should be properly called, are the greatest ice cream sandwich of all time. I am a fan of them, but nothing can compare to the chocolaty delight that comes from eating a Chewy Louie.

First off, I have to explain to you what a Chewy Louie is. A Chewy Louie is an ice cream sandwich consisting of two double chocolate chip cookies, with a mound of vanilla ice cream in between them.

For me, these delicacies are the greatest desserts that man has ever invented. There is a lot of chocolaty goodness in those cookies, and the vanilla ice cream melts in your mouth.

Chewy Louies and Iggy Biggies are both made by Foodmark Inc., and I must say that they do a great job with their products. They're sold at a reasonable price, and they always taste good.

However, I don't understand why anyone would want to get just a regular Iggy Biggy. Why pay the same price for a chocolate chip cookie sandwich, when you can get a double chocolate chip cookie sandwich at the same price, and get an even better taste.

I am not the only one who has this love for Chewy Louies. "I love chocolate, and I love ice cream, so it's a great combination," said Mark Waskiewicz '05.

So, if you're looking to get not only a cookie fix, but your ice cream and chocolate fix, then look no further than the freezer of your local convenience store, and reach for a Chewy Louie.

By Aaron Thayer '05

Do you ever find yourself famished and unable decide whether you want cookies or ice cream? You're vacillating between a chewy chocolate chip cookie and rich vanilla ice cream. Well, look no further; the Biggy Iggy is your answer.

It's the perfect blend of rich creaminess, and chewy, chocolaty goodness.

When you walk in to Cumberland Farms and walk to the frozen treats, you're presented with a decision: grab a Biggy Iggy or a Chewy Louie, the double chocolate cousin of the Biggy Iggy. Once you taste a Biggy Iggy, you'll know that it is the better decision.

Now, I know fellow reporter AJ Bias will tell you the Chewy Louie is better, but only you can be the judge of that.

The first delicious bite of a Biggy Iggy is a breathtaking concoction; a beautiful juxtaposition of cookies and ice cream.

When you sink your teeth into one you'll truly know why they're better than Chewy Louies. I'm not the only person who love Biggy Iggies, eleventh grader Bill Wonsley says, "I love them. They're the best."

The only way you can truly know is to try one yourself. So, I encourage you to go to your local Cumby's and try both a Biggy Iggy and Chewy Louie. I tell you to try both because I am confident you will love the Biggy Iggy.

Whose mom is a tool?

You've beaten the horse with your 'tools' and 'your moms,' give it a rest

Ashley Gwozdik '07

As months change into years, days turn into weeks, and seasons go by, we become familiar with the phrase "out with the old and in with the new." To some this could mean spring-cleaning, out with all the old stored up winter work that was left half done. Or for some students it means out with old sayings and in with new ones—a tidying of the lexicon in tune with the seasonal shift.

"No, your mom goes to college!" is probably one of the more familiar phrases. I think just about everyone at Hopkins has heard at least one of the "your mom" sayings or has been called a tool/tool mansion. Sure it was funny to hear people tacking "your mom" onto everything, and dreaming up creative ways to call folks

tools, but these sayings have now become overused and redundant.

When it gets to the point where someone would say this bites, and it automatically becomes "your mom bites," it's just flat out annoying. Then when you admit to saying that these jokes are not funny anymore, you become a tool. What is a tool? It's the equivalent of a moron. And if you do get marked as a tool, say a few prayers and hope that you won't be put to shame on Aaron Thayer's web site for "tool mansions."

What if someone were to say a "your mom" joke to someone who doesn't have a mom or they took it the wrong way? I bet the person would have a "hot date" with Mr. Mahoney and the other kid's parents. Let's just leave the tools in the shed and our loving mothers out of the tool mansion.



Photo by Peter Billman-Golemme

Cindy Hopf '07 winds up to pitch in a game against Pioneer Regional, while Becky Sadlowski is ready at third base. The Golden Hawks would lose 4-1 in a ten-inning thriller.

Spring sports teams look to achieve new heights

by AJ Bias '05

The 2005 spring sports season is up and running, and expectations are high for all teams.

The varsity softball team is looking to further its magical run from last season, which saw them enter the Western Mass Division III tournament as a number ten seed, and advance all the way to the semifinals before bowing out to eventual champion Pioneer.

The girls have a high power offense, with seniors Sam Gwozdzik and Ashleigh Malinowski, as well as junior Chrissy Laurenza leading the charge.

This, along with pitching duo Becky Sadlowski and Cindy Hopf, should make the team

a contender for the title once again. "I think we have the potential of making it to the semifinals again and hopefully the finals," said Jackie Wanczyk '05.

The varsity baseball team, coming off a dismal 3-15 season, is looking ahead with high hopes and a new outlook on things.

The team, led by junior pitcher Mark Lore and senior infielder Pat Phelon, got off to their best start in years, by winning their first game of the season, 1-0 over archrival Smith Academy.

For the golf team, this will be their best chance yet to win a Western Mass title. "This is our last chance for a while to do really

well, because after the four seniors leave, we will be exceptionally young and exceptionally inexperienced," said coach Rick Berger.

The team returns its best two players in seniors Mark Waskiewicz and David Artzerounian, and also has a slew of underclassmen that are looking to garner a spot on the team. "I don't know what to think about this season since golf is a unique sport," said Berger.

"It's not like basketball where if you have three good players you can win. If you have three good golfers, they can win all their individual matches and you can still lose as a team."

Celtics fall in 7 to Pacers

By Matthew Kushi '06

When the Boston Celtics pulled off a blockbuster deal to bring Antoine Walker back to Boston, they didn't know that they had just acquired the spark to the team that they needed. They knew that they were acquiring someone who had provided the team with a formidable 1-2 punch in the duo of Paul Pierce and Antoine Walker.

The Boston Celtics were a new team following the Walker trade with Atlanta. The Celtics went 18-9 since Walker had his name written back into the starting lineup for the Celtics and were locked up in the first round of the play-offs with the Indiana Pacers.

The trade that brought Walker back to the Celtics was unique. The Celtics traded Gary Payton, Tom Gugliotta, Michael Stewart, and a future first round draft pick for Walker.

Payton was traded to Atlanta but as part of the contract

agreement, was waived by Atlanta. Payton then resigned with the Celtics as a free agent. This whole process took one week. This deal also interested a few other GMs as they thought that the deal was fixed for Payton to come back to Boston to start with. This would have been against the trading policy the NBA has.

They finished the Regular Season with a record of 45-37, which is much better than the meek 27-28 record they sported at the time of the trade. The sad thing was, with a record below .500, they were #1 in the pathetic Atlantic Division.

The Celtics, despite their number three seed, lost the best of seven game series with the Indiana Pacers in seven games, suffering one of the worst game 7 playoff losses in NBA history, with a score of 97-70.

Tiger strokes his way to fourth green jacket

by Matthew Kushi '06

Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods, two of the most recognizable names in golf, shared the spotlight in Augusta National at the 2005 Masters golf tournament.

For Nicklaus, it was a farewell. After 45 years of playing in the Masters, the "Golden Bear" decided that this was the end. For Tiger, it was a welcome back. Tiger, with this year's victory, claimed his 9th Major, half of Nicklaus' all-time mark of 18.

With the retirement of Nicklaus from the Masters, golf has lost another legend to the grips of time. Nicklaus won his first major, the U.S. Open, in his rookie year in 1962. Nicklaus never looked back as he bagged 18 total majors and became golf's premier legend.

Tiger Woods, our generation's Jack Nicklaus, made the 2005 Masters even more memorable by winning his first Masters since 2002. The highlight of the match for Woods was the near impossible shot he made on the 16th hole in the final round. After putting on the prestigious Green Jacket, he dedicated the win to his ailing father saying, "This one's for you, Pop."

In 30 years Tiger Woods may be called the greatest golfer of all-time and will most definitely be linked to the legendary golfers of the past such as Bobby Jones, Sam Snead, Ben Hogan, Arnold Palmer, and Jack Nicklaus.

UMass men's basketball grounds new coach

by Owen Stebbins '07

Former Eastern Kentucky University basketball coach Travis Ford will be at the helm of the UMass Minutemen basketball program this coming season.

Ford, who reached the NCAA tournament for the first time in his coaching career this past March, signed a contract worth \$200,000 annually at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. He will be replacing former UMass coach Steve Lappas, who was fired after he failed to reach the postseason again.

Lappas led the minute-men to their first winning season since the '98 Minuteman campaign with a record of 16 wins and 12 losses. Lappas' contract agree-

ment with the university however required him to reach either the NIT or the NCAA tournament in order to keep his job.

After losing in the first round of the A-10 tournament to bottom seeded LaSalle, the Minutemen sealed the deal in terms of not making the NIT tournament. On Monday, March 14th, UMass athletic director John McCutcheon announced that Lappas' contract would not be extended. In his career at UMass, Lappas compiled a record of 50-65 with just one winning season.

Travis Ford, who has spent the past five seasons coaching the Eastern Kentucky University Colonels, posted a 22-9 record this past season, the first winning

season at EKU in 11 seasons. The Colonels won the Ohio Valley Conference championship in '05, granting them an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament where they were defeated by Ford's alma mater, Kentucky.

Ford, who was a point guard at Kentucky from 1991-94, has inked two new point guards already to replace departing guard Anthony Anderson. Chris Lowe, of Mt. Vernon high school in New York, and James Life of Manatee Junior College in Florida.

With four returning starters from last season, Ford has been given an opportunity to take the up and coming Massachusetts basketball program to new heights next winter.

Sox struggle early

by Owen Stebbins '07

The defending champion Boston Red Sox have gotten off to a solid start at the end of the first month of this year's baseball season. After starting off with a weak record of 3-5, the Red Sox had a mediocre record of 12-11 at the end of April.

Splitting the first six games of the season series against rival New York, the Sox are near the top of the American League East with Baltimore, while the Yankees are in fourth place with a record of 11-15.

It would appear that the tremendous offensive season David Ortiz had last year was not just a fluke. Thus far he has belted out nine home runs, including two monster blasts over 425 feet in a game against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Manny Ramirez is having another one of those years, hitting sky-high home runs over the light towers above the green monster and onto the Massachusetts turn-

pike. The two sluggers each had over 130 RBI's and 40 homers a year ago hitting back to back in the lineup.

Curt Schilling has struggled to stay healthy after returning from the DL, as he is back on the disabled list with a mild bone bruise on the same ankle he had surgery on during the off-season. Pitcher Tim Wakefield had an impressive start with two wins, before struggling with his knuckleball indoors against Tampa Bay.

New Red Sox pitcher Wade Miller made his Red Sox Debut on April 8th after his rehabilitation. Miller did not get the decision in the 6-4 loss. Matt Clement has shown signs of brilliance on the mound for the Sox with a perfect record of 4-0.

The Sox will continue their season series with the Yankees with a series over Memorial Day weekend.