Welcome to Volume 5 of B magazine! In this first issue of 2004, we take a critical look at the postdoc experience of Yale faculty, show off the prolific publishing record of BBS students, share a beauty secret, and offer some edible experiments. Plus, for the first time, we offer REAL prizes to our famous contest! And in late breaking news, we now know who abducted the eppindwarves.

The Postdoc Experience through Time

An Investigative Report

By M. Akins

The face of academic research has changed over the last century. You need only peruse the news sections of Nature or Science (e.g., Science 285:1533-5) to see that the number of postdoc positions has been increasing much faster than the number of tenure-track positions. Scientists are doing more, and longer, postdocs. Simultaneously, however, the opportunities for biology Ph.D.’s in other fields (big pharma, biotech start-ups, sales/tech reps for companies, intellectual property law, etc.) have also increased, which leaves one wondering whether the stats tell a complete story. The real question is how those who wish to continue in academia as faculty fare on the job market. As a window into this question, I have analyzed the career stats of professors at Yale. This is clearly a biased subset of all tenure-track faculty across the nation, yet it is a subset composed of the ambitious and talented—exactly the subset to whom Yale grad students aspire. Thus, as students plan their careers, choosing a postdoc that will lead to the faculty position of their dreams, it is important that they realize how things have not changed over the last fifty years.

To analyze the career paths of Yale faculty, I used the biosketches that had been accumulated for two training grants—the Predoctoral Program in Cellular and Molecular Biology and the Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program. Together, these two training grants include 156 faculty members and cover most of the basic and many of the clinical departments at the medical, main, and Kline campuses. Though the list is certainly not exhaustive, it gives a broad (and likely representative) sampling of the faculty doing basic research in the biological sciences at Yale. Interestingly, the career paths of faculty at Yale have been remarkably consistent over the last fifty years.

I won’t describe the data in too much detail—the figures speak pretty clearly. First, though, a brief word on how the figures are organized. The first four figures represent some measure of time spent as a postdoc after receiving a terminal doctorate (either Ph.D. or M.D.) and before beginning the tenure track. Professors were combined based on the year they received their doctorate. Perusing the data should convince you there has been no real trend over the last forty years. In continued on page 3
How I learned to stop worrying and love the Elm City

BY B. SHANSKY

A little over five years ago, I decided to apply to graduate programs in neuroscience, but had no idea how to go about choosing where. There were so many! I narrowed things down by asking myself the following questions:

1. What cities would be cool to live in for the next five years?
2. What schools in these cities have interesting research going on?

New Haven was right there at the top of the list, beating out New York, San Francisco and Seattle. NOT! I didn’t even consider applying to Yale in the beginning, so convinced was I that New Haven was this pit of crime and filth where I’d most certainly be mugged, shot, or both.

But my mom, who has her degree in biochemistry and is ever the voice of reason, called one day and said, “Honey, there’s an article in Science this week that I think you’d find really interesting. It’s by a group at Yale—maybe you should apply there.” I couldn’t believe it. My own mother was trying to have me killed. Could she have been any less sub-

“Mom, are you crazy?” I said. “New Haven is basically a demilitarized zone!”

“It’s not that bad,” she said. “Remember, Dad and I lived there in the 70’s, and you were born at Yale-New Haven Hospital.” Right. This was a piece of personal history I had been trying to repress ever since I learned that my parents gave up their rent-controlled apartment on 74th and Central Park West to live the suburban dream—first in Connecticut, and then Rhode Island shortly after I was born. It’s just too painful to think about.

She had a point. Any place that helped bring moi into this world couldn’t be all bad, right? I read the paper she told me about, and it was really interesting...was it worth a little danger to do some really amazing research for my PhD? Yes it was, I decided. I threw caution to the wind and sent in my application.

We all know what happened next—I came for interview weekend, was taken to BAR, and while I was slightly concerned that there was no metal detector, I was pleased to note that there was a nice pool table, as well as an abundance of exposed brick. A city with a bar like this has to be at least somewhat civilized, I thought to myself.

So I came to Yale, and it was okay. Now, I know what you first- and second-years are thinking—“What does she mean, okay? New Haven is more than okay! We have upscale dining options, like Zinc and Roomba! We have swanky lounge-style bars, like Bottega and Neat! We have well-known yuppie chains, like Starbucks and J Crew! And for the love of god, IKEA is coming! I mean really, could this place get any better?”

Depending on your standards, the answer to that question today is “maybe”. Five years ago, however, you’d be hard pressed to find anyone (especially a student) who wouldn’t give you a resounding “definitely.” Don’t get me wrong, it’s not like I or any of my classmates was shot. And for sure, the price was right when it came to rent. But it would take me two hands and two feet to count all of the new businesses that have popped up since we arrived. When you do the math, you get a pretty good picture of the Waterworld-esque void this town once was. Okay, maybe it wasn’t quite that bad, but of the places listed in the last paragraph, the only one that existed on my matriculation day was Starbucks. Ninth Square was totally sketchy save for Bentara, but we were too poor and too busy waiting an hour and a half in line at Pepe’s to know what was good for us. If we wanted to go dancing, our only option was Toad’s, where “dancing” was really just a euphemism for “wading through an inch of beer;” and forget about sipping an apple martini while sprawled on anything even remotely velvety. The Temple/Crown St scene was but a twinkle in a budding entrepreneur’s eye. Even GPSCY was kind of a dump. If memory serves, just about every weekend night found my friends and me either at the movies or playing Trivial Pursuit.

Over the course of the last 5 years, however, changes began in our fair Elm City. New-wave social theorists have given us expressions such as “urban renewal” and “renaissance-of sorts”, and that’s exactly what New Haven is undergoing. It’s been sprouting businesses all...
that light, I have used standard deviation rather than standard error for the error bars. This allows you to see that the variance within each group is actually quite large—there is no one story of how people go from students to faculty. Additionally, the n for each time period is indicated in parentheses after the label for that period.

A brief explanation of each figure will suffice before I offer my interpretations. Figure 1 shows the most basic stat—the time between earning the final doctorate (phrased as such to account for those who got their M.D./Ph.D. the hard way) and starting the tenure track. This includes some “nonproductive” time, such as a career hiatus or time spent as a medical resident. To characterize just the productive time, Figure 2 shows how much time was actually spent as a postdoc. Figure 3 quite simply shows the average number of postdoc positions held before starting as a professor, while Figure 4 shows the average length of each postdoc. Figure 5 approaches the data from a different angle, examining how long faculty spent as postdocs as a function of number of postdoc positions held.

The most notable fact about the data is the lack of any strong trends, and certainly none over the last 20 years. The total years spent as a postdoc has hardly changed at all. The only change appears to be in the length of individual postdocs, which increased slightly (from ~2 to ~3 years each) during the 70s and has stayed up since. This increase, however, is compensated by the drop in number of postdoc positions held (from ~1.5 to ~1.2) during the same period.

An interesting note on time spent as a postdoc is that it does not progress linearly with the number of postdocs held. The vast majority of faculty at Yale (105/156) did only one postdoc (9 did no postdocs at all). When they did more than one, they were shorter than the time spent on one postdoc. As an example, those two faculty who did four postdocs spent just 2.4 times as long as a postdoc as did those who did only one. This is a fact to consider as we plan our own careers—those who have found themselves at Yale did not wander aimlessly as postdocs.

continued on page 4
over like a well-watered Chia Pet, and grad
students finally have fun things to do. Not
that we don’t break out Trivial Pursuit once
in a while—we can’t get enough; but now
when we find ourselves knowing the
answers not because of our superior intel-
llect, but because we’ve been through all
the cards four times, we have a fallback
plan. Or ten. Below, you’ll find in no partic-
ular order Five Reasons You’re Glad You
Waited Until After the Millennium to Apply
to Grad School.

5. The bar at Hot Tomato’s. It’s all about
the martinis, baby. Huge martinis, made
with good liquor, and that come with cool
garnishes, like rock candy and pixie stix.
Mmmm…pixie stix…

4. I gotta give props to the Boston Post
Road for bringing customer-friendly and
high-quality businesses Best Buy and
Trader Joe’s to the neighborhood. A visit to
either is like a visit to heaven (Lord knows
the Post Road needed a little salvation).

3. The Playwright. I admit it, I love
KC101 night. It’s not so much that I love
being crushed on the dance floor by drunk
SCSU students, but the DJ usually plays
tons of 80’s (which you’ll rarely hear at
Risk or Image), and look, Ma—no inch of
beer!

2. Miso. In my opinion, the yummier
and freshest sushi in greater New Haven,
and by far the coolest atmosphere. Lots of
exposed brick, and you know I like that.

1. Artspace. This gallery has played a
huge role in the gentrification of Ninth
Square. A great place to stroll through
before or after dinner, plus they have
openings about once a month where you
can schmooze with the artists. Come
prepared with comments like, “I love your use
of the rusted cow bell here to signify the
decline of family farming in America. It’s
so post-postmodern.”

There are so many more (like just about
all of the Broadway shops), but there just
isn’t time to go into them all. I’ll just sum
up by saying this: New Haven rocks!

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Googling your DGS

By M. Akins

Yale is frequently in the news. Some of the press is good; some is bad. I decided to get an idea of how all this press affects the public’s perception of Yale and its faculty. Naturally, to figure this out, I turned to the internet. www.googlism.com, to be precise. It is a website that searches Google for you and delivers just sentences containing your search term, stripped bare of all context. Just the tool I needed! As a first step, I decided to examine perhaps the most important factor—what the public thinks of the BBS DGSes.

Right off the bat, I discovered that Cell Biology is in trouble. Susan Ferro-Novick seems to be moonlighting, which can only mean less attention for her duties at Yale. In fact, “Susan is the director of the school of flirt-ing® and president of dynamic communications.” Students can trust in the direction of her leadership, though, as she “is moving toward the oncoming lightbeam.” What more could one ask?

Cellular and Molecular Physiology is in the sure hands of Emile Boulpaep. Emile has no problem communicating with students as he “is breakin’ and rappin’,” which is surely related to his being “god’s gift to womanhood.”

Computational Biology and Bioinformatics has two DGSes (Perry Miller and Mark Gerstein), which is good since “Perry is going to go back on drugs.” It’s not clear whether that statement was made before or after the related “Miller is convinced that there will be people living on mars sometime in the future.” Perhaps Perry will be involved with directing the overall vision of the program while Mark handles the finances. He certainly has much practice, as “Mark G is well known for ensuring that he pays the minimum possible for any petrol.”

Reports are conflicted on the DGS of Experimental Pathology, David Stern. It seems that some sources indicate that “David is a rooster” while others point towards him being “a dolphin.” If any students in his program have had trouble finding him, that’s because “David is on Humboldt parkway in Buffalo.” He might be tough to spot, though, as “David is in fact not burning.”

Meanwhile, another Stern, Michael, is in charge over in Genetics. It turns out that, contrary to popular rumor, “Michael is not Latoya.” Glad we got that cleared up. What we do know for sure, however, is that “Michael is shocked by his mystic fish.”

Perry Miller’s conviction that humans will live on Mars may or may not be well-founded. What is certain, however, is that aliens are already among us. In fact, Immunobiology is DGSed by Al Bothwell, and “AI is not a human being.” In fact, he “is the pavement of Zion.” Don’t pretend you don’t know what that means.

Now we get to the Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program, another program with two DGSes, Haig Keshishian and Charles Greer. Apparently having two DGSes allows for outside exploits, as “Haig is about to make yet another gargantuan effort to move his drinks cabinet six inches closer to Berlin.” I’d criticize the effort, but, as everyone knows, “Keshishian is given carte blanche to shoot anything and everything.” So, I’ll tread lightly over to the other DGS. Try as I might I couldn’t dig up any dirt on Dr. Greer, which certainly has nothing to do with his being my advisor. As everyone knows, “Charles is an outstanding person as well as teacher,” which is why he has become known as “both a legend and a genius.” Less known within biology circles is that “Greer is widely known as the world’s foremost authority on the subject of extraterrestrial intelligence.” Perhaps he should investigate AI.

Speaking of faculty members who indulge in outside interests, Microbiology’s DGS, Joann Sweasy, has quite the list of other endeavors. Her most sincere passion “is conducting some official research into cow tipping.” In addition, though others may sneer at the idea, “Joann is also proficient in natal astrology and relocation techniques.”

MB&B’s DGS, Mark Solomon, has a lot to hide. Did you know that “Mark is a monkey junkie” or “a golden god?” Assuredly you also know that “Mark is where your pig puts his/her front feet on a small box and nose in the air.” One web site had to be expressing a personal desire rather than a secret fact when it declared that “Solomon is the sexiest woman alive.”

Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology may have been the bravest in hiring Ron Breaker. Despite their best efforts to find someone to do the job, “Ron is surprisingly substandard” and also “is captain obvious.” That doesn’t prevent him from having fun, however, as often “Breaker is skipping or shuffling around in a circle.”

Neurobiology better get ready for big changes for its DGS, Amy Arnsten. It seems that “Arnsten is taking it ‘one step at a time’ with a bleach job as the first step on the way to going green.” Shudder.

If anyone has any complaints in Pharmacology, they best not bring them to the stubborn William Sessa. At least I figure he’s stubborn, since “William is one of over 40 very special donkeys who help the Elisabeth Svendsen trust for children and donkeys.” Don’t worry, though, since he is “neutered and vaccinated for rabies and dblpp.” Being a donkey doesn’t prevent him from “putting words into mouths of athletic supporters,” perhaps the oddest pastime of any of our DGSes.

I hope this brief foray into what the world at large thinks of Yale and our very own BBS DGSes has been as enlightening for you as it was for me. Try it for yourself! Go to www.googlism.com and let everyone in your lab and family know what the world thinks of them!

Editor’s Note: All the statements contained in this report must be true because they were found on the internet.

If you’d like to googlize your registrar, your chairman, and/or your classmates, write a story and send it to us at bmail@yale.edu.
IN PRESS

More Fun Than...

BY J. KUAN

The holidays are over and we're back to the boring, daily grind that is labwork. It's cold outside, the windchill is making it feel more like northern Manitoba than New Haven, and the next holiday we have to look forward to is Valentine's Day. I know. As my Magic 8-ball might say, "outlook not so good." But fear not fellow scientists! I have compiled a short list for you to cut out and put up on your bench for those days when you're feeling a little less than motivated. Well, at least it keeps me going.

Going to lab is more fun than...

▷ massive head injuries (thanks Ken & Mitch!)
▷ playing darts with Stevie Wonder
▷ being the guy who stuffs the little filters in the pipet tips
▷ math
▷ owning a store at the old “Chapel Square Mall”
▷ trying to do labwork in your kitchen
▷ doing anything outside
▷ being a Philadelphia Eagles fan
▷ the morning after that one night at C.O. Jones...there's always one...
▷ a Carrot Top marathon (why did they give me the morning after that one night at C.O. Jones...there's always one...)
▷ doing anything outside
▷ trying to do labwork in your kitchen
▷ owning a store at the old “Chapel Square Mall”

Cell Biology


Cellular & Molecular Physiology


Immunobiology


Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program


Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology


Neurobiology


Pharmacology


In Press continued on page 8
In Press continued from page 7


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Something’s Fishy with the Squid

BY C. MILLER

Ever since my Yale interview weekend back before the turn of the century, the Kline Squid has been an object of fascination for me, to the point that I've been promising the B magazine staff I'd write an article about it for literally years. Finally, in this issue, I've run out of excuses; the staff is calling my bluff: it’s time to write the article.

I guess I came to Yale expecting it to have lots of secluded corners and somber passages whose history and significance were known only to a select few—indeed, how could they remain secluded and somber if every student and campus-tour-sightseer kept traipsing through? Such spaces were necessary, I thought, to make Yale’s Ivy League aura complete. Naïve? Yes; but then again, I’m from Ohio, so what do you expect?

Back to the Kline Squid. See, my plan was to write a column that would enlighten BBS students about some of those somber-and-secluded secrets of the Yale campus, and the Kline Squid seemed like an excellent place for the column to start. First, it hangs physically out of reach high in the KBT lobby. Couldn’t that be a metaphor for some secret that it was hiding, also out of reach? (“My god,” you’re probably thinking, “I bet he just made that up to sound literary and interdisciplinary! What a bunch of crap!” You would be correct.) But more tantalizing were the rumors that the Peabody Museum threw it in the dumpster and Mike Snyder, Chair of MCDB, rescued the squid from the trash heap and had it hung in the KBT lobby. Frankly, the possibility of a faculty member dumpster-diving for a giant squid was just too funny for me to ignore.

I’ll let you in on a secret, all right: the Kline Squid is boring. Really. First, if you read the information panel below it, you’ll find that it’s not even a real squid! It’s just a model of a giant squid, with foam tentacles and fake eyes. As for the rumors, there was the typical kernel of truth: the Kline Squid did formerly hang in the Peabody Museum; but this is where fact turns into fiction. Carol Hwang and Donald Wiggin have worked in KBT since before the squid arrived, and both confirmed that it was loaned to KBT several years ago when the Peabody was being renovated. It’s been in KBT ever since. I should probably mention that Mike Snyder also denies digging the squid out of a dumpster—but would you really expect a self-respecting faculty member to admit that sort of activity? Thus, no giant squid in a dumpster, and no MCDB faculty in a dumpster, either (at least, not to rescue a fake giant squid model). So much for the mystique of the Kline Squid. B

Wildlife experts transport the squid from the Peabody Museum to KBT in 1999. Photo courtesy of the Yale Bulletin & Calendar.
Dear B

Got a problem? Got questions? Just ask B. (Advice is for entertainment purposes only, and you have only yourself to blame if you follow any of the stupid suggestions.)

Dear B,

I have not been getting my magazine for 4 months now. I rang up and changed my address to 161/62 Victoria St, Werrington 2747 when I moved. I have cheeked with the post they don't have them and I cheeked with the last place I lived at and they don't have them. I have a 2 year subscription with you and I get them every 2 years for my bday. Just wondering where my magazines are?????

--Jess

Dear Jess,

Wow. Not only did I not know that we offered subscriptions ("subs" in your parlance), but I didn't know it was possible for someone to write so poorly. Based on your spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure (or complete lack thereof), I'm going to conclude that you're probably incapable of appreciating the extraordinary prose we offer in B. If your birthday is coming up, I suggest you 'check' around for something a little more your speed. Perhaps the Harvard BBS newsletter.

Dear B,

How do you know if your cells are competent?

--Man on the Hill

Dear Man,

I don't know about YOU, but MY cells - like everything else about me - are competent. I take exception to your even insinuating that they might be otherwise.

Dear B,

It may be cold outside, but it's so hot in my lab that we're all practically dying. My PI refuses even to acknowledge that there's something wrong with the @!#$! heating system. How can we get his attention?

--Hotter than Heck

Dear Hotter

A nearly impenetrable barrier isolates faculty from the real world. You'll need a multi-step process to break through:

1. Take a picture of your PI and enhance it with horns, a pitchfork, and a severe case of red-eye. Blow it up to lifesize and post it outside your lab for everyone to see.
2. Every hour on the hour, crawl on your stomach past your PI's office, whispering "water...water...must have...water."
3. Buy one of those vending machines that stocks ice cream sandwiches and fudgesicles. Invite the entire department to your lab for a snack. Tell them you charged the machine to your adviser's grant and that you're taking requests for a second machine.
4. If all else fails, show up to lab (and departmental seminars) naked. After people call the cops on you a few times, and after your subsequent interviews on News Channel 8, your boss will buckle.

Contest continued from page 12
Trail Mix: An Offshoot of Lifestyles of the Poor and Academic
By J. Rinn

Slide-slap-slipity, slide hop on some skis and take a ride. The sport of skiing speaks for itself, so this is simply a guide from my 5 years (and sadly my last winter) of experience with East Coast skiing. In fact, last winter there were times where skiing was better in Vermont than resorts out West. Should this winter prove the same I have highlighted four places, starting with the beginner; moving to the recreationalist; and finishing with one of my favorite places of all time that I guarantee snow snobs, tree troopers and cliff jumpers alike will appreciate!

Powder Ridge
Powder Ridge is small, manageable, and close - only a 20 minute car ride away. Plus it is super cheap and is open until 10 pm (yes there are lights)!! If you are looking to teach a friend to ski or snowboard, start here! I have made the mistake of trying to teach a beginner at big name resorts such as Killington, Stratton and the like. The beginner areas can be too crowded or have a cross slant yielding skiers stuck on the sides and making it harder to get going again. In my experience it is better to get someone on their way at a small place so they have some confidence going into the resort jungle. More info: http://www.powderridgect.com

Mt Snow
Mt. Snow is the closest place to get a little bit of everything. However, as one of the smaller resorts, it sacrifices a little bit of coverage. I would say that the average patron is an upper intermediate skier, whereas Killington’s typical skier may lean a little more toward the beginner. Lastly, it takes only 2.5 hrs to drive there (2 if you’re really motivated), making Mt. Snow the closest good place in VT. More info: http://www.mountsnow.com/

Killington
Killington has something for all levels, and if you don’t have someone to teach you, Killington prides themselves on their ski and snowboard instruction. Killington also works out really well if you are going in a group of mixed ability. There is everything from long meandering easy trails to snowboard parks to tube sledding for kids, even grown ones. Chances are everyone will find something to their liking. More info: http://www.killington.com

Jay Peak
This place is a hidden treasure and one of my top 5 favorite resorts in the country! Jay Peak is small, far away, and no frills; but it has the best snow, steeps, trees, and drops! You may feel like you have walked back in time to the early 60’s where if you skied it was likely that you were Scandinavian. This place is a purist’s dream! Book hotels in advance (surely if you drove 5 hours to get there you may want to get another day in). There are only one or two motels within an hour of Jay Peak. More info: http://www.jaypeakresort.com/

One final tip: Ski places are getting even better at having patrons surrender to 500% marked up food by not having microwaves. To save some cash, bring a camping stove.


**From Becca Shansky’s kitchen.
Lifestyles of the Poor and Academic

Budget Glamour
By E. Provost

Working long hours in the lab may leave a graduate student little time for extended grooming, though, hopefully, not basic hygiene. If your coiffure has run amuck and your skin has gone to yuck, there is a low cost solution: Gal-Mar Academy of Hairdressing, Skin and Nails, LLC.

Gal-Mar is a beauty school that enrolls students in a hairdressing or salon program. Gal-Mar is accredited by the National Accrediting Commission of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences, and although you are worked on completely by students, supervisors are always on hand for questions, corrections, praise and insuring that you leave satisfied. Gal-Mar achieves professionalism both in its décor and the conduct of its students.

Haircuts are walk-in, and the last appointments are an hour before closing so that students will not have to rush. Call before coming to check on the wait. Both male and female students offer a range of services, from basic wash and cut ($9.00+), to perms ($30, short hair), coloring ($26, short hair; $20 touchups), and highlighting ($3/foil). Senior discount day is Tuesday, so beware. The senior citizen center comes by the bus load, and the smell of perm solution may overwhelm.

In addition to the standard haircare available at Gal-Mar, a host of salon services are available. Salon services include basic manicures ($7), French manicures ($8), pedicures ($20), and artificial nails ($30, full set, $15, fill). Also, waxing services are available; for example, eyebrow, lip/chin or sideburns ($7), full leg ($30) and bikini ($15). A large range of facial services are available, including a basic facial ($28), men's facial ($32) and a range of facials for specialty skin types and rosacea ($30-40).

Finally, Gal-Mar has a host of body care services. Gal-Mar is not a massage therapy school and they claim no medicinal benefits to their treatments, so massages are referred to as anti-stress treatments (30 min, $20, 50 minute, $30). They also have a variety of wraps and exfoliating scrubs; for example, the Sea Mud Body Wrap ($40), Hydrating Body Wrap ($40) and Sea Salt Body Scrub ($30), and Self-Tanning Treatment ($35, no UV light).

Salon services generally come with an anti-stress/relaxation treatment. A manicure or pedicure there is accompanied by 10-20 minutes of relaxing hand or foot massage. During facials, while the masks and treatments set, there are arm, neck, shoulder and hand massages. Students for salon services are supervised, and a full interview to ascertain basic health and habits takes place before any services are provided.

Part of the Gal-Mar experience is its pace. A quick in and out is rare. Students vary in their program progress, and although they are always competent, they are sometimes slow. Students enjoy working on younger clients since most of the customers are mature women getting a weekly set or perm. Haircuts can take from 30 minutes to 2 hours, so be prepared to sit. Salon treatments can take awhile too. For services that are untimed, such as facials and wraps, there is little hurry by the students. They are making hours towards graduation, not pushing though as many clients as they can in a day, so they will frequently take their time while focusing on your comfort. Students only work on one client at a time.

Gal-Mar is located at 352 State Street, North Haven. Clinic hours are Tuesday (5n Discount Day) 9:30-5:30, Thursday 9:30-9, Friday 9:30-7:00 and Saturday 9-4. Call for appointments or to check availability of services at 203-281-4477. Gal-Mar also offers a range of salon products in their on-site store. Students are not paid for the services they provide but appreciate tips.

See several more great recipes on page 10!
The **BUZZ**
The final estimated tax payment for 2003 is due April 15, 2004. International students should consult the International Tax Office at [http://www.yale.edu/tax/int/](http://www.yale.edu/tax/int/).

Total applications to the BBS Program, the Yale Graduate School, and peer institutions nationwide are down this year. In almost all cases, the decrease is due to a significant drop in international applications.

Congratulations to [Paula Estrada de Martin](mailto:paula@yale.edu), Cell Biology, who married Thomas J. Martin on November 8th, 2003 in Monterrey, Mexico. In almost all cases, the decrease is due to a significant drop in international applications.

Rumor has it that [Laura Pedraza](mailto:laura@yale.edu), Genetics, and Brian Casey just got married somewhere in Central America.

**Sports Update**
Looking for fun and to meet new people? **BBS volleyball** wants you! Games every Sunday afternoon. No prior experience necessary. Please email [steven.becker@yale.edu](mailto:steven.becker@yale.edu) to register.

Call for volunteers for the first annual **Grad-Pro Field Day**! Tentative date Sunday May 2nd.

What is **Field Day**? An all day university-wide event filled with competitions and games on Yale’s Old Campus and Cross Campus (dep vs dept tug-of-wars, kickball games, scavenger hunts, relay races) for more info email [steven.becker@yale.edu](mailto:steven.becker@yale.edu).

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The *B* magazine

**“Top 10 Ways to Annoy Your Labmates”**

**Contest**

**Part of the great b-yond- a showcase of student creativity**

EXTRA special thanks to our sponsor, Independent American, LLC, for providing the prizes! Congratulations to all of our winners! You can pick up your prizes in the BBS office.

**#10.** “Your mice looked hungry so I fed them.” *Kendra Frederick, MB&B*

**#9.** Take some freshly run gels and put them in people’s shoes, just like Dr. Scholl’s told you to. *Craig Gibson, Cellular & Molecular Physiology*

**#8.** “Be careful - I spilled some 32P on your bench a few days ago.” *Maya Davis, Pharmacology*

**#7.** Repeatedly say, “I don’t think that’s going to work.” *David Ocame, research assistant, Psychiatry*

**#6.** Unplug the -80C freezer so you can charge your cell phone. *Craig Gibson, CMP*

**#5.** Tell rotation students that their first task is to take apart the other lab members’ microscopes and put them back together so they ‘learn about optics.’ *Mike Coggins*, **Physiology & Int Med Bio Track**

**#4.** Turn your cell phone ringer on high and leave it on your lab bench. Call yourself from other phones. *Mike Coggins, Physiology & Int Med Bio Track*

**#3.** Passive-aggressively address what annoys you about your labmates by submitting your pet peeves for display in front of the whole BBS. *Josh Weinger, MB&B*

**#2.** Cut the middle finger off of all the gloves. *Kendra Frederick, MB&B*

**First Place** - **$30 Modern Apizza Gift Certificate**

**Second Place** - **$20 Amazon Gift Certificate**

**Third Place** - **$10 Atticus Gift Certificate**

**Other Notable Ways to Annoy Your Labmates**

- Add random oligos to the Taq reaction buffer (remember, extra bands = extra fun). *Neal Mitra, MCDB*
- Graduate in 4 years. *Ryan Jensen, Genetics AND Sierra Colavito, MCGD Track*
- Declare your lab bench a “pants-free zone.” *Dylan Burnette, MCDB*
- Refer to your solutions by code name: NaCl is now Naomi Campbell, SDS is now Sammy Davis, Jr., EDTA is now Dame Edna. Lithium acetate is Prozac, stripping solution is Bacardi. *Erica Champion, Genetics*
- Edge up behind them and whisper to their experiments. *Janice Pour, MCDB*
- Put little pieces of fiestaware in everyone’s lab coat so they think they’re hot. *Ryan Jensen, Genetics*
- Set timer. Let it go off. Ignore. Repeat ad nauseum. *Kendra Frederick, MB&B*
- Put empty chemical containers back onto the shelves, so that whoever re-orders them will know what to get. *Matthew Beard, postdoc in Cell Biology*
- “Cheer up, I just got published in Nature!” *Maya Davis, Pharmacology*
- Arrive late. Leave early. Complain that you spend too much time at lab. *Craig Gibson, CMP*
- Put on coat, hat and gloves whenever you go to the cold room, even for a minute. *Sierra Colavito, MCGD Track*
- Label your equipment with stickers that say “MINE!” *Hillary Selle, MCGD Track*
- Use a marker to black out frequently ordered items in all the catalogs and then tell everyone those items are “classified.” *Neal Mitra, MCDB*
- “Oh, I like your perfume. It smells like yeast.” *On-Sun Lau, MCGD Track*
- “I know that you like to play puzzles, so please don’t be angry at me just because I shuffled all your samples.” *Rui Chen, MCDB*
- “Where they yours?” was your answer when your lab mate asks about the now gone granola bars he kept at his desk. *Nadya Morales, Microbiology*

* **B** magazine staff members are ineligible to win prizes.*

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continued on page 9