We take the BS out of BBS.

While the Pipelves shop for enzymes at the new SHM vending machines (no joke), why not take a break from your lab work and read B? We excel at informing, entertaining, and otherwise distracting you from doing anything productive. Don’t thank us, just read B from cover to cover. Enjoy our last issue until the fall, and have a perfectly lazy summer.

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Student life in the Combined Program in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences

Volume 7 Issue 2 June 2006

The World Cup for Dummies
By K. Fakhro

Over the past three years, 197 nations played a total of ~900 qualifying matches in a bid to earn one of 32 spots reserved for the most prestigious cup of modern times: the FIFA World Cup. It is rather unfortunate that the average American has no idea what this competition entails and the following it commands worldwide. Football is played in every country on every continent in the world, and the World Cup is the most viewed event in the history of television (2002 World Cup cumulative audience was 28.8 billion, of which 1.1 billion watched the final). And, if those numbers aren't convincing enough, try a staggering 300 million viewers tuning in last December just to witness the draw deciding which four nations would be in each of the eight world cup groups.

If you’re still wondering what all this fuss is about, you have come to the right place. I am not here to explain football’s rules and regulations, or to delve into the history of the game; instead, I would like to give a very brief guide to the World’s most important competition, and more importantly, provide you with some material to carry an intelligent conversation with us “foreigners” during this Holy Month.

Football is a game of passion, honor and glory; for followers of the sport, there is not a more emotional time than the World Cup. Qualifying for the World Cup is done by breaking the world into six continental zones, with each zone’s qualifiers overseen by their respective confederations. A total of 32 qualifying teams are then drawn into eight groups (A-H) randomly.

The group stage will begin on June 9th, with each team playing the other three in their group only once. A win counts for 3 points, a draw for 1, and a loss for 0 points. The top two nations from each group progress to the knockout stage (aka Round of 16). During this round, nations are paired up such that the winner of Group A plays the runner up from group B, and vice versa. The same is done between groups C/D, E/F, and G/H. This round is single elimination, i.e. if the 90 minutes of full time elapse and the teams are tied, then the match moves into extra time (2 more 15 minute halves). If the draw persists, penalty shootouts decide the winner. The winners proceed to the Round of 8 (quarterfinals), followed by the semi-finals and the finals.

So who are the teams/players to watch? Well, according to FIFA, the top eight seeded teams for this World Cup are Brazil, England, Spain, continued on page 3
No Haven for Cars
BY K. NEWHOUSE

You’ve heard all the stories about how New Haven has been cleaned up in the last decade so that the crime rate is down and it’s now such a great place to live, haven’t you? I believed the stories, just like I believed my elementary school teachers who told me that policemen are there to protect you.

I believed them, that is, until my car was stolen. Twice. In six weeks.

Now, I see that while New Haven may have recovered after being in a small accident. I was able to get it back, and my insurance company fixed it up nicely, but not before a series of irritating and unnecessary misunderstandings at the police station, most of which could have been prevented by having a reasonable department-wide database. I came away disgusted by the inefficiency of the police department, but happy to have my car back.

After two weeks of driving my newly-fixed-up car, I woke up to realize that my car was once again nowhere to be found. When I called to report it stolen, I was told, “okay”, and then, “wait, we just found a record of it being towed.” So I called the towing company to ask if anything was wrong with the car. I knew it was a bad sign when the auto worker started laughing. As it turns out, our local auto theft business is infinitely more efficient than our police department. Within 10 hours, they had left the car without front or side panels, seats, stereo, spoiler, ignition, or basically any other removable part. I asked the towing folks whether it was a bad idea to touch the car, not wanting to disrupt fingerprints or potential evidence. For the second time, I was laughed at. He told me, “They don’t need evidence. They’re not going to investigate, no one cares.” This is where I really started to get upset - if my police department is not only inefficient, but doesn’t care that a vehicle has been stolen (twice), something is seriously wrong.

I figured that it couldn’t get much worse than hearing that no one cares in my city. What I had yet to find out was that not only are the police inefficient and uncaring, but they can also be downright misleading. For a second time, I spent hours dealing with miscommunication and gross inefficiency within the police department. After several hours of frustration, I was informed that my car was not listed as stolen because it had been towed as a parking complaint. Right . . . I just decided that, before I did a poor parking job, I would rip off the panels, remove the seats, and leave wires dangling from the empty dashboard. Sure. So I told them that I would like to report my car as stolen. At this point, I was given the runaround for several days for various creative and unnecessary reasons, and when I finally got to talk to the proper person, was told condescendingly “We won’t report your car as stolen, you should’ve called the day it happened.” And that was that; they wouldn’t budge.

And so, my Honda is officially considered a “parking complaint,” despite painfully obvious evidence to the contrary. THIS IS RIDICULOUS. It doesn’t take much intelligence to realize that a car missing every removable part is probably more than a poor parking job. It doesn’t take much effort to fill out the sort of uninformative, brief police report I received after the first theft. I see no reason for the neglectful non-action of the police officers I dealt with unless it is to preserve their precious declining crime rate, and this is an inexcusable way to go about it. The crowning glory of all of this came when I received a notice in the mail that my parking ticket is overdue and increasing in price. Beautiful. Just beautiful.

continued on page 3
Germany, Mexico, France, Argentina and Italy. My list would replace Mexico and Spain with the Czech Republic and the Netherlands. I would like to highlight three star players more closely.

England: Wayne Rooney. The 21-year old is the most passionate English footballer, having received the Young Player of the Year Award (POYA) twice. With a net value of $60 million, he is England’s biggest hope for winning the World Cup. Unfortunately, the English team’s worst nightmare was realized when the Manchester United forward broke two bones in his foot on April 29. England was eliminated at Euro 2004 when Rooney suffered the same injury, which leaves the team morale at a striking low ahead of this year’s competition. Rooney is expected to be back in form by the quarterfinals, should England make it that far.

France: Thierry Henry. France’s biggest weapon has been playing at top form this year, as he single-handedly got Arsenal to the finals of the Champions League. This prolific striker has held the position of top goal-scorer in the English Premiership for three years in a row. If France stands a chance to set itself apart this year, it will probably come from this man. Additionally, playmaker Zinedine Zidane publicly announced he will retire after the World Cup, increasing France’s incentive to win this championship in his honor.

Brazil: Ronaldinho. Brazil holds the record with 5 trophies and are the favorites for a sixth this year, with their attacking ‘quartet’ being the most dangerous in the world (Ronaldo, Kaka, Adriano and Ronaldinho). Ronaldinho, who just picked up the World POYA for the second consecutive year, has also received the European POYA, as well as the FIFPro POYA. Ronaldinho is unique in having no defined position; instead, his ‘free-role’ allows him to glide across the pitch, creating opportunities from scratch, and taking shots that seemingly defy physics. It would not be an exaggeration to say that Ronaldinho is the most revered player in football and is regarded by many as a deity among mere mortals on the pitch.

Among the other top seeds, the host nation Germany has already won the World Cup three times and is looking to secure a fourth on their home soil - as they did in 1974. It is very easy to underestimate home-field advantage, but it has been shown over the years that the host nation always exceeds expectation. Argentina has also been playing brilliant football recently. It was the first nation to qualify for the Finals and has already beaten Brazil once during the qualifying rounds. Another nation known for its assiduous teamwork is the Czech Republic. Their top form for the Euro 2004 competition was inspiring, and they cannot wait to prove themselves in the country’s first ever World Cup appearance. In their group, the Czech will have to face off with Italy, another very strong side for this year’s competition. Known for their defensive prowess and cunning attacking strategies, the Italians will be looking to engrave their names on the trophy for a fourth time.

All in all, Germany 2006 promises the fans a very competitive and satisfying football tournament. While Brazil remains the strong favorite, every single team will fight its hearts out on the field for the glory of winning the world’s most popular competition. From June 9 to July 9 2006, do not expect us “foreigners” to be anywhere but glued to our TV sets, with an abundance of snacks and drinks, as the biggest stage of international football unfolds. You are more than welcome to join!
If this issue’s Op-Ed makes you go out and purchase the Club to protect your car, then you should also go online to obtain a free credit report to protect your identity. According to a longitudinal study performed by Javelin Strategy & Research in 2005, the cost of identity theft in the U.S. now amounts to $52.6 billion annually, with the average victim owing $5686. While most of these costs are usually waived by financial providers, the average victim still spends about 30 hours restoring his identity. To reduce the risk of identity theft, regularly check your credit report for suspicious activity by visiting www.annualcreditreport.com, where you can obtain a free credit report from one of the three credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion).

Besides checking your credit report, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recommends that you frequently monitor your personal and financial data for signs of identity theft. You should shred personal and financial documents, along with credit card applications and other mail containing sensitive data, before throwing them out. You are also advised to conduct personal and financial business online, as long as you have a secure network connection, up-to-date firewall, antivirus software, and the ability to remove adware and spyware. Finally, you should ignore suspicious telephone calls and emails and visit only those websites that you know and trust. In sum, you should take all necessary measures to safeguard your personal and financial data.

Should you become a victim of identity theft, your first act should be to file a police report in the community where the theft occurred. Immediately afterward, you should contact the credit reporting agencies, place a fraud alert on your credit report, and review your credit report. Close any accounts that you know or suspect have been opened or used fraudulently. Lastly, file a complaint with the FTC.

For more information on how to protect yourself from identity theft and how to deal with it if it happens to you, visit www.consumer.gov/idtheft.

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**IDENTITY THEFT**

**BY R. REZNICK**

Mory’s is conveniently located on York Street, between the Hall of Graduate Studies and Toad’s Place.

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**An Important Announcement:**

**ALL** Yale students are eligible to become members at Mory’s!! Yes, this **includes** undergrad, graduate school and professional school students!!

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Please support our contest sponsor!
Christopher Mader - The scientist musician

Christopher, a first year student in the MCGD Track, started playing the trumpet at the tender age of eight and the French horn at age twelve. He was a music double major for a while at Notre Dame, but then biology became too time consuming. His resume is certainly impressive - credits include being the principal of the University of Notre Dame Opera and the University of Notre Dame Pit Orchestra, co-principal of the University of Notre Dame Symphony Orchestra and the University of Notre Dame Chamber Orchestra, in addition to founding the Quintette Energia and playing with the South Bend Symphony Orchestra and the Western Michigan University Symphony Orchestra. While at Yale, Christopher still manages to practice three to four hours a week, usually on weekends, in addition to playing at St. Thomas Moore. He is currently trying to put together a brass quintet, so if you know of any possible recruits, be sure to give him a shout. Says Christopher, “I really feel that science and music complement each other. While music is often considered creative and science more analytical, having both really allows you to be creative in your approach to science. It is also a great way to get away and distract yourself from the endless pile of papers that always seem to be waiting!”

Linnea Weiss - The Rocking Scientist

As a classically trained cellist, Linnea, a fourth year student in MCDB, has played in numerous orchestras and chamber groups. These days, she plays in various string and piano chamber groups, the most consistent being a violin-cello duet with a grad student in Chemistry. She started playing non-classical genres as an undergrad and continued to do so after moving to New York. While in NYC, she played with several bands and was also busy as a studio cellist for many bands, including Moye, Edison Woods, Elk City, and Fabu. After moving to New Haven, she began playing with a local pop band called The Secret Ink. They just released an album on May 12, and you can hear her songs on local commercials!

In her free time (ha!), she composes songs for her own amusement. Fun fact - her first composition was called Beefsteak (as in the tomato) and was named after her cello. Here are the websites for Linnea’s two bands:

http://www.myspace.com/thesecretink
http://www.myspace.com/theglaciers

Kirsten Block - The Singing Scientist

Kirsten, a second year student in MCDB, started playing the flute and piano at five years old but started singing seriously in college (Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois). She sings alto in the choir, but can do soprano and lyric mezzo soprano. She never considered music as a career but currently participates in several Yale choirs, such as the Camarata, the Yale Repertory Chorus, and the Yale Recital Chorus. She packs in all the rehearsals after a hard day in lab, totaling about 7 hours a week. Says Kirsten, “a labmate asked how I have enough time for work and music… but it’s as much a part of me as video games are for this particular labmate. Don’t ask how I breathe - I just do”.

Photos courtesy of the respective students.

Hard to believe, but some grad students have lives outside the lab. Tell us about a friend who has an unusual or exciting background, hobby, or accomplishment. We’ll spotlight him/her in a future issue.
Cell Biology
Paula Estrada (Susan Ferro-Novick)
Cortical Er inheritance and Maintenance in the Budding Yeast Saccharomyces Cerevesie.

Derek Pappas (David Rimm)
Direct interaction Between Alpha-Catenin and F-Actin: Effects and Implications On Stabilized Cell-Cell Adhesion.

Rania Zaarour (Mark Mooseker/Peter Novick)
Biochemical Characterization of a Novel Myo2P-Rna Complex and the Role of the N-Terminal Domain of the Myo2P-Motor in Protein Synthesis.

Darinel Ortiz (Peter Novick)
The Rab Gtpases Ypt31/32P Regulate Multiple Steps of Membrane Traffic.

Jessica Habashi (Xing-Wang Deng)
Identification and Characterization of Fhy4-1, a New Phytochrome A Pathway Mutant.

Camenzind Robinson (Craig Roy)
Remodeling of the Legionella Containing Vacuole: interactions with the Endoplasmic Reticulum.

Christopher O’Connell (Mark Mooseker)
Mechanochemical Characterization of Myosin VI.

Genetics
Sangil Lee (Lynn Cooley)
Characterization of Essential Genes on Chromosome 3R Required for Oocyte Growth During Drosophila Oogenesis.

Stacey Thompson (Allen Bale)
Microarray Analysis of the Drosophila Hedgehog Pathway.

Lisa Petrella (Lynn Cooley)
Characterization of the Role of hu-li tai shao During Drosophila Oogenesis.

Kara Bernstein (Susan Baserga)
Ribosome Biogenesis Directly Promotes Passage at Start Through Whi5, the Yeast Homologue of Rb.

Immunobiology
Shannon Anderson (Mark Shlomchik)
Characterization of the Intrinsic Properties of Murine Memory B Cells.

Philip Kong (Joe Craft)
The Immunobiology of a Murine Lupus Susceptibility Locus.

Sean Kim (Richard Flavell)
Epigenetic Regulation of the Ifn gamma and Il4 Loci in T Helper Differentiation.

Jae-Hyuck Shim (Sankar Ghosh)
Role of Chmp5 in Late Endocytic Trafficking and Receptor Down-Regulation During Mouse Embryogenesis.

Jennifer Lund (Akiko Iwasaki)
Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cell Recognition of Different Classes of Viruses by Toll-Like Receptors.

Interdepartmental Neuroscience Program
Christoph Cantener (Fred Sigworth)
3-D Reconstruction of the Bk Channel.

Samuel Hernandez (Tony Koleske)
Adhesion-Dependent Regulation of P190Rhogap in the Developing Brain by the Abl-Related Gene (Arg) Tyrosine Kinase.

Nelson Medeiros (Paul Forscher)
Analysis of Myosin II Function in Neuronal Growth Cones.

Jed Meltzer (Todd Constable)
Cognitive and Electrophysiological Aspects of Task-induced Deactivation in Functional MRI.
Eric Schmidt (Steve Strittmatter)
The Role of Collapsin Response Mediator Protein (Crmp) in Sema3A Signaling and Axon Guidance.

Jennifer Warner (Ron Duman)
Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) Mediates Neurogenic and Behavioral Responses to Antidepressants.

Microbiology
Damon Banks (Hui Zhang)
Regulation of the P53 Tumor Suppressor Protein by Cul4 E3 Ubiquitin Ligase Complex.

Charlotte Frank (Margaret Hostetter)
Interactions of Candida Albicans with Intestinal Epithelial Cells.

Nathan Sherer (Walther Mothes)
Cellular Aspects of Retroviral Budding and Transmission Revealed by Live Cell Imaging.

Miguel Talavera (Enrique De La Cruz)

Jeffrey Sabina (Dieter Soll)
Two Aspects of Cell Metabolism: (I) Response to Growth Inhibition and (II) the Consequences of a Split Gene.

Rachel Anderson (Scott Strobel)
Post-Structure Biochemical Studies of Two Catalytic RNAs: Ribosomal RNA and Group I Intron.

Stephen Aller (Vinzenz Unger)
Insights into the Molecular Structure of Copper Uptake in Eukaryotes.

Diane Hannemann (Enrique De La Cruz)
Actin and ADP Binding Linkage in Myosin V.

Katherine Sprinz (Andrew Hamilton)
Molecular Recognition of Protein Surfaces by Rational and Combinatorial Methods.

James Robblee (Enrique De La Cruz)
Mechanism and Thermodynamics of Nucleotide Binding to Processive Myosins.

Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Jeremy Gore (Nick Ornston)
Deletion Mutations Caused by DNA Strand Slippage in Acinetobacter Baylyi.

Stephen Hartman (Craig Crews)
Global Analyses of Stat Target Selection and Transcription Regulation.

Antony Jose (Michael Koelle)
Conserved Molecules and Mechanisms of Neuronal Signaling Revealed by the Analysis of Simple Nematode Behaviors.

Jing Li (Shirleen Roeder)
Meiosis: the Beginning and the End.

Jennifer Miller (S.P. Dinesh-Kumar)
Cloning of RCY1 and Characterization of Its Role in Cucumber Mosaic Virus Resistance in Arabidopsis Thaliana.

Tomomi Tsubouchi (Shirleen Roeder)
Mechanisms of Chromosome Synapsis and Crossover Distribution During Meiosis in S. Cerevisiae.

Tessa Burch-Smith (S.P. Dinesh-Kumar)
The N Resistance Protein Recognizes its Tobacco Mosaic Virus Elicitor Through a Novel Mechanism.

Suhua Feng (Xing-Wang Deng)
Regulation of Scf-Type E3 Ubiquitin Ligases by the Cop9 Signalosome and Cand1.

Shawn Straszewski (Gil Mor)
Studies On the Regulation of Trophoblast Apoptosis and Survival During Pregnancy.

Liang Chen (HongYu Zhao)
Statistical Modeling of Transcription Regulation in Eukaryotes.

Geeta Devgan (Michael Snyder)
Identification of Yeast Kinase Substrates Using Proteome Arrays.

Neurobiology
Brian Ramos (Amy Arnsten)
Noradrenergic and Intracellular Pathways Involved in Age-Related Working Memory Deficits in Rats and Monkeys.

Pharmacology
Kian Peng Koh (Jordan Pober)
T Cell-Mediated Vascular Dysfunction in Human Allograft Arteries.

Georgia Anyatonwu (Barbara Ehrlich)
Pore of Polycystin-2, Its Regulation and Molecular Interaction with the Ryanodine Receptor.

Jia Li (David Stern)
Regulation of Chk2 Activation by DNA Damage.

Kristen Massimine (Keith Joiner)
Identification and Characterization of Novel Strategies For the Chemotherapeutic Inhibition of Toxoplasma Gondii and Plasmodium Falciparum.
Got Brains?
BBS students at the Troup Magnet School in New Haven as part of Brain Awareness Week.

Photos courtesy of N. Horst.

B magazine Haiku Contest Non-Winners
Nobody’s a loser here at B. Below are our favorite non-winners. See the back page for our top picks and honorable mentions.

Let’s get things rolling with what appears to be a phone call...

Jan Zulkeski, Senior Admin Asst, Genetics
Five- Two Six Eight Four
Jan? Jan? Jan? Jan?

From BBS’ only hip faculty member...
Dan DiMaio, Professor of Genetics
I pamper my cells
Water, warmth, and CO2
Why do they hate me?

I can’t find my clone
Twenty billion molecules
Are laughing at me

From incoming BBS students...
Andrew Hayward, incoming MCGD Track
Your blush bounty’s fount
Fetal bovine serum, dear
Best left unexplored

Philippe Lefrançois, incoming MCGD Track
On a bridge back
I saw my Southern intact
Its bridge unstacked

Anna Trofka, incoming MCGD Track
Great times in a lab
When you play with chemicals
That one’s cancerous

From our resident poet...
Kumar Narayanan, INP
tip-tap, the pippette
speaks, of mix’ed solutions
which was my control?

stumbling student
ependorf tubes in the air
a sweet summer, lost

beacons shine above
cedar street, a welcome glow
the lights of lab

the sweet, gentle heat
of laser printed pages
afternoon results

graduate school
many difficult questions
where is the free food?

shattered agar gel
sad eyed graduate student
peach blossoms in winter

From our philosopher...
Meisha Bynoe, Microbiology Track
Lil class, useless grades,
or no life and long days... Yup!
Better grad than med!

And finally, from the desperate, the cynical,
and the general lab riff-raff...

James Cresswell, Research Assistant, Internal Medicine
Grant deadline looming
And we’re all out of coffee.
Heads will roll for this.

Ani Sinha, Microbiology
data oh data
why are you eluding me
i’d like to leave soon

Maya Davis, Pharmacology
Friends don’t let friends use
Santa Cruz antibodies
No one’s that hopeless

Matt Cabeen, MCDB
Instead of science
We talk about grant money.
Be generous, Bush!

Dylan Burnette, MCDB
Work too much in lab
Not one groupie do I have
Will become Rock Star

Julie Golomb, INP.
Rob Sears, Neuroscience Track.
Andy Bellemers, INP.
“I am not a psycho killer,” I told my skeptical roommate with the very first words we exchanged. “I am just a cook.” Whit and I were sharing a room at the Omni during grad school recruiting because our last names happened to fall next to each other alphabetically. He’d come in from the desert in Arizona and I had come up from New York where I was working the hot line at a fine French restaurant on the Upper West Side. Whit walked into the room while I was cleaning and honing a giant chef’s knife.

A satchel of other blades was spread out across my bed. Clearly this formidable array of cutlery showed that I meant business—but what business?

Picholine’s kitchen was populated by serious cooks, young men and women who had ambitions to run four star places of their own. I had a different ambition, which was what took me to New Haven, but I shared with my teammates an unwritten code of conduct. Knife care was rule number one. We sharpened, honed, and cleaned our knives every day. A sharp knife separated the good cooks, those “with chops,” from the poor ones, the “shoemakers.” The dishes we turned out reflected our care. We spent hours of practice turning, slicing, peeling, or shaping vegetables in the palm of one’s hand. My late friend Nilly gave me a seventeen-centimeter Japanese vegetable cleaver by Global, made of a high-tech blend of metal alloys. Though I have retired Nilly’s cleaver, it still remains the cherry on top of my knife kit.

A lot of cooks I know have been adding Japanese knives to their repertoire. The main appeal of these knives is aesthetic. A Japanese knife “looks Japanese” the same way a Pagoda block of Costco cheddar. The second is a three or four inch pairing knife, ideal for cutting small things or making precise cuts. Lastly, everyone should own a good bread knife with a serrated blade long enough to span a loaf of crusty sourdough or French pain au levain.

Of course, just because I need only three knives does not mean I own only three knives. Many specialized variations fill the slots in my oak block. My collection began with a set of five Sabatiers, beautiful high carbon, full-tang, riveted handle French knives. (“Full-tang” knives are made from a single piece of forged metal that runs from tip to tail, providing weight and balance.) Sabatiers are fairly common today, but the set I bought at a specialty retailer in a converted service station near an I-95 exit ramp in rural South Carolina is crafted in a style typically reserved for sale in France. Since then I have acquired two ten-inch chef’s knives to take over for the ubiquitous eight-inch. One is a heavy German knife with a three-rivet handle and the other is a cheaper American model with a molded plastic handle that you can beat the hell out of and afford to buy another. Two slicers, an eight and a ten-inch, compete for my affection whenever I prepare a roast, steak, or fish. My boner knife is unfortunately named but brilliant for butchering whole birds and big cuts of meat. I have three paring knives: a three-inch, a four-inch, and a bird’s beak with a curved blade used especially for turning-slicing, peeling, or shaping vegetables in the palm of one’s hand. My late friend Nilly gave me a seventeen-centimeter Japanese vegetable cleaver by Global, made of a high-tech blend of metal alloys. Though I have retired Nilly’s cleaver, it still remains the cherry on top of my knife kit.

A lot of cooks I know have been adding Japanese knives to their repertoire. The main appeal of these knives is aesthetic. A Japanese knife “looks Japanese” the same way a Pagoda knife looks different from an old Tudor house. Japanese knives are harder metal and more difficult to sharpen, but they take a razor edge and keep it longer. They are also usually lighter, with a hollow handle and/or a blade that stops at the handle, “half-tang.” Perhaps the biggest difference in the Japanese knife is the bevel of the blade. European blades are symmetrical, beveled twice, with two angles on both sides. Japanese knives are usually beveled on one side only. This means that the knives are not truly ambidextrous. Often their handles are shaped with a bias for one hand or the other.

Woe unto all of us left-handers! The knife I crave more than any other is a twelve-inch Japanese sushi knife, with a bamboo handle, Damascus steel blade, and a lefty’s bevel. Apparently left-handedness is rare in Japan, so my knife will cost a premium. The bamboo handle greets the hand like a familiar friend, and it’s pretty when it’s resting. And Damascus steel is downright gorgeous, though not historically Japanese. The origin of the name Damascus is contentious, and refers to a style of forging, not the place of origin of the ore. Instead of pouring molten steel into a mold and then hammering the final shape, Damascus steel is folded and pounded, folded and pounded, like a baklava pastry, over and over. The result is the hardest, sharpest blade imaginable, with a stunning iridescent pattern emanating from the folds. One can find a version of the knife I described for around $150, or $50 for the lefty. But if one has lost his mind, or robbed a bank, it would be easy to spend $2,000 for a high-end beauty.

I have gone to the brink and back, and it might take another really cool knife on my wish list to push me over. I’ve been coveting a ceramic vegetable knife, also Japanese. Ceramic knives are harder and sharper than metal ones, and must be sent to Japan for factory sharpening every so often. Or maybe the push will come from a heavy Chinese meat cleaver I have been eyeing for three years. Most people think these knives are only good for gross butchery, hacking through bone and cartilage. From countless hours of watching expert chefs, I can say that in the right hands, cleavers can be as good at delicate tasks as paring knives. The chef who instructs the Asian kitchen at the Culinary Institute of America uses a broad cleaver to de-bone an entire chicken, leaving the bird whole, in under twenty-seven seconds. I can only dream of having chops like hers!
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,**

Aside from my thesis committee and maybe my mother, no one else on planet earth will ever read my thesis. In contrast, humanities students can publish their entire dissertation in book format and wind up doing book signings at Barnes & Noble. How can my tome of work on the crystal structure of a histone protein receive the same attention?

---Wanna Be a Star

**Dear Wanna,**

Nothing enhances true scholarship more than the Dan Brown treatment. First, start your thesis with a page that simply says “FACT: The true power of histone proteins has been known for decades but has been suppressed by a cabal of Nobel laureates, the British monarchy, and the National Academy of Sciences.” Then show a little data, maybe a graph or two, and point out how a histone protein looks remarkably like an ancient symbol used by the Druids. Once you've got the reader hooked, throw in the albino rat who sneaks into the lab and nibbles the technician to death. You've really got the ball rolling now, so this is the time to unleash the shocking truth: Histone proteins were so named because they carry the secret to the HIStory of STONEhenge. Only the Queen and a bunch of uppity scientists have kept us from this startling revelation. Thanks to your masterful crystallography work, though, the earth-shattering nature of histones can no longer be suppressed.

So who's going to play you in the movie?

**Dear B,**

I heard that MCDB will be moving to a new building eventually. What will happen to Kline Biology Tower?

---Concerned in KBT

**Dear Concerned,**

I snuck into Levin's office and stole his Hello Kitty notebook. There's some seriously strange stuff about Science Hill in here. For example, did you know that Yale plans to sell the naming rights to the Forestry school to a logging company? The “School of Timber and Environmentally Sensitive Deforestation” will open this fall.

But I digress. Here, apparently, are the main options for KBT:

1. Levin takes over the tower, periodically pours lava from the top, and renames himself the “The All-Seeing Eye.”
2. Yale rechristens the building as KPT (Kline Prison Tower), posts heavily armed guards on the roof, and welcomes its more unruly faculty to their new “home.” (There were a bunch of smiley faces next to this option.)
3. The French Department moves in, installs cigarette vending machines on every floor, and then goes on vacation.
4. ABC's Extreme Makeover Home Edition comes to town, knocks Kline down, and in one week replaces it with a charming cape full of shiny Kenmore appliances.

I hope it's not Option 4 because that show always makes me cry.

---Regular Guy

**Dear Regular,**

Microbiologists are impressed by two things: 1) parasitic flesh-eating diseases and 2) intelligent conversations about parasitic flesh-eating diseases. The way I see it, then, you can either contract hemorrhagic fever or go get a Ph.D. in microbiology. Both are equally impressive, so pick the option that hurts less.

Pretty much a toss-up, isn't it? B

---Wanna Be a Star

**Dear Wanna,**

Nothing enhances true scholarship more than the Dan Brown treatment. First, start your thesis with a page that simply says “FACT: The true power of histone proteins has been known for decades but has been suppressed by a cabal of Nobel laureates, the British monarchy, and the National Academy of Sciences.” Then show a little data, maybe a graph or two, and point out how a histone protein looks remarkably like an ancient symbol used by the Druids. Once you've got the reader hooked, throw in the albino rat who sneaks into the lab and nibbles the technician to death. You've really got the ball rolling now, so this is the time to unleash the shocking truth: Histone proteins were so named because they carry the secret to the HIStory of STONEhenge. Only the Queen and a bunch of uppity scientists have kept us from this startling revelation. Thanks to your masterful crystallography work, though, the earth-shattering nature of histones can no longer be suppressed.

So who's going to play you in the movie?
TRAIL MIX
BY E. WURTMAN AND H. CHAPIN


Early summer is perfect for camping, and this is a lovely little trip that easily fits into busy summer weekends. It takes about two hours to drive from New Haven to the headquarters of Mount Washington State Forest in western Massachusetts. If you get an early start and reach the park by early afternoon, you can hike up to the broad, flat summit of Alander Mountain overlooking the Berkshires, with views all the way out to the Catskills, and then walk back down to spend the night at the campground. Alternatively, if you roll into park late in the day, you can enjoy a leisurely dinner at the campground and hike the summit the next day. The campground is about 1.5 miles from the trailhead along the shortest path, and it’s good to carry water in with you unless there has been rain, in which case you can find water in a stream not too far beyond the last camping site.

The other highlight of the trip is Bash Bish Falls, a dramatic waterfall that crashes into a pool surrounded by boulders. In theory you can walk there from the summit of Alander Mountain, though we had limited time and opted to drive to the parking area near the falls. Adventurous hikers can take the left trail out of the parking lot, scrambling up and over the cliffs that form the falls, while those with tired knees can take the right trail for an easy mosey to the area below the falls. This can be crowded on hot summer days, but the people are there for a reason: the falls are beautiful, well worth the visit.

Details: Google “Mount Washington State Forest” to find the Massachusetts DCR webpage that has driving directions and a link to the trail map. b

SUMMER IN THE CITY
BY K. PATRICK

Has the recent emergence of the sun got you itching to get out of lab? Summer is upon us and as always, New Haven will be providing us with countless excuses to finish up that experiment “tomorrow.” Here’s a list of just a few of the cultural, epicurean, and sporting events that the Elm City has in store for us this summer.

New Haven Arts and Ideas Festival (June 10-24) This year marks the 11th Annual International Arts and Ideas Festival in New Haven and as usual, it offers a wide variety of poetry, jazz, dance, and performance art events. Shows on the New Haven Green are free, while other performances in Yale’s theatres or courtyards require tickets, which range in price from $10-$40, depending on the event. Highlights include a free opera on the green (Puccini’s Gianni Schicchi), the U.S. premiere of 4D art’s presentation of Shakespeare’s “The Tempest,” and a concert by Grammy award winning jazz musician Terence Blanchard. Those of you lamenting that your stipend won’t stretch quite as far as you’d like can opt for other free events, including bicycle and walking tours of New Haven, which are held throughout the festival and range anywhere from touring famous New Haven eateries, to mountain biking through West Rock State Park. Check out www.artidea.org or pick up a program at the INFO New Haven kiosk for the entire schedule of events.

Restaurant Tours (June 10-24) Here’s a great way to try out some of the best cuisine New Haven has to offer without spending much more than the cost of a few cart lunches. The Arts and Ideas festival has organized a series of à la carte restaurant tours, each of which hit up 3 different restaurants. Combinations include Caffe Adulis, Union League Café and ZINC or Central Steakhouse, Nini’s Bistro, and Skappo Italian Wine Bar, in addition to 4 other tours. See www.artidea.org for details and to buy tickets ($30 for each 3 restaurant tour).

Pick-Your-Own at Bishops Orchard (all summer) Tired of rummaging through the often not-so-fresh produce section of Super Stop and Shop? This summer, you can pick your own at Bishops Orchard in Guilford, CT (Exit 57 off I-95N). Strawberry season runs from mid-June to July 3, blueberry picking goes from mid-July through late August and raspberries, peaches and pears are in season from late August thru mid-September. Check out their website at www.bishopsorchards.com for more details.

Pilot Pen Tennis Tournament (August 18-26) Arguably New Haven’s biggest yearly sporting event (excluding the Yale-Harvard football game, where “the game” is mostly eclipsed by “the pregame”), the Pilot Pen brings some of tennis’ best players to our own backyard. Many of the big names of last year’s tournament, including winners James Blake and Lindsay Davenport, have already entered this year’s Pilot Pen, so the level of competition should be second to none. You can buy tickets at the Connecticut Tennis Center at Yale before the match or preorder them online at www.pilotpentennis.com. And as always, make sure you get the Yale student discount!

Shakespeare in the Park (selected evenings between August 17-September 2) This summer, the Elm Shakespeare Company will be performing “Much Ado About Nothing,” one of Shakespeare's so-called “comedies” (although I don’t recall it being particularly funny). The plays, which are performed at Edgerton Park (on Whitney and Cliff Streets), are typically well-acted and directed, with pretty impressive sets and costumes. The outdoor venue lends itself nicely to picnic dinners. Student tickets (suggested donations) are only $5. See www.elmshakespeare.org for details.

Other random ideas for visiting the (much greater New Haven area. Enjoy a lobster dinner while sitting on tree stumps at The Place, in Guilford, CT...Take in a little history at Mystic seaport or indulge the science nerd in you at the Mystic Aquarium...Go for a hike at Sleeping Giant State Park and reward yourself with a picnic at the top of the mountain (ok, hill)...or Explore the Connecticut Wine Trail-apparently there is one! See www.ctwine.com.

Whatever you do, get outside, enjoy the warm weather and remember: everyone’s free to wear sunscreen. b
The BUZZ

The largest incoming class in the history of the BBS Program will be arriving this fall. Get ready to welcome 102 new students.

How many faculty are there at Yale? According to university documents, the official count is 3,333.

Rumor has it that the first year Computational Biology and Bioinformatics students have planned a trip to Germany together.

In other CBB news, congratulations to Jill Rubinstein, 2nd year CBB student, on being admitted into Yale’s MD/PhD program.

Says Kathy Fisher, registrar in Pharmacology, “My daughter is getting married in two weeks, so I imagine you can announce my obituary shortly.”

Congratulations to Paulette McRae, Neurobiology, on her recent engagement to Terrence Barclift.

Congratulations to Dana Small, assistant professor of Surgery and INP faculty member, and her husband David Sasso on the birth of Darwin Jonah Small Sasso, 7 lbs 15 oz and 21 inches, on April 18.

The B magazine

“Haiku” Contest

Congratulations to our prize winners below, who can pick up their prizes from the BBS office (SHM L-200). We are indebted to Mory’s for sponsoring our contest. See their ad on page 4.

1st Place - $30 gift certificate to Mory’s

Jeff Knight, Pharmacology

B is recycling

contests they had my first year.

Time to graduate.

2nd Place - $20 gift certificate to Mory’s

Matt Cabeen, MCDB

A man on my floor

Handles gels with his bare hands

Yet lives, cancer-free.

3rd Place - $10 gift certificate to Mory’s

Sean Kim, Immuno ’06

Closed eyes, tilted head--

Richard, sleep at home instead;

Not at my defense!

Honorable Mentions

Kristin Patrick, Microbiology

PCR product

Appears in water control

I have magic hands

Chad McCormick, MB&B Track

Thousands of dollars

For such a simple mistake

Find me at GYPSY.

James Cresswell, Research Assistant, Internal Medicine

Prof. asks, "Want some love?"

I turn my back instead and

Mount my coverslip.

Maya Davis, Pharmacology

Pharmacology

Is just a way to say that

We should do more drugs

More Haiku entries, some of them truly bizarre, may be found on page 8.

Please support our sponsor

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