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

Volume 7  Issue 4     December 2006

After completing the initiation rite of running gels for all the upperclass B staff members, first year BBS students were allowed to join B and have made immediate contributions. Alongside this new blood we bring you familiar features and seasoned writing from our veterans. Speaking of writing, look at all of the student publications we found! BBS students rock. Sorta like our contest. Enjoy!

Dean Butler’s “2-4 Project”

BY SARAH NICHOLS

How many times have you reflected about what you thought graduate school was going to be like when you arrived here in New Haven and how different it actually is? What do you tell new students now that you have a better picture? Recognizing the pitfalls of being a graduate student is easy in retrospect, but instead of laughing about it with your friends at a Friday night happy hour or printing ‘Top Ten Reasons You Know You’re a Science Student’ shirts for your retreat, the Dean of the Graduate School, John Butler, is calling on everyone to report departmental feedback.

If the phrase hasn’t been buzzing around your department, the “2-4 Project” is a Graduate School review aimed at how Yale can streamline students’ education. B readers should be aware that internal evaluations on a departmental basis are going on this semester, and the Dean is looking for everyone’s participation in the evaluation. The “2-4 Project” was announced by Dean Butler last spring, asking departments to assess critically the transition from classes to research, presumably during the second through the fourth years (hence the name of the project). Do students know what is expected of them? Are students getting efficient feedback? Both of these critical questions affect how a student moves forward in this school.

Some of the Dean’s suggestions include making requirements and evaluations more stringent, changing the grading system, changing financial aid packages, and adding department specific workshops and seminars. If while reading the last sentence you had a gut reaction one way or another, this would be the time to speak up. The purpose of the review is not only for suggesting how to improve procedures, but also to document successes which can ultimately help other departments as well.

Since students in the sciences move into research more quickly, concerns for science departments are different from humanities or social science departments. This is a fact that students on both sides recognize and is why it is extremely important to gather a diverse sample of opinions. Students will be meeting with their Director of Graduate Studies in person at some point during the review process. In addition, Dean Butler and Assistant Dean John Mangan have worked on putting together an anonymous survey for students who don’t feel comfortable

continued on page 3
Grad School - First Impressions

By K. Hamilton, K. Diller, and their Classmates

Kara Hamilton: I was excited about coming to Yale and about possibly getting to do some research that was actually interesting, but for the most part I was pretty sure I wasn’t going to like grad school, mostly because the last six months of my undergraduate thesis were pure agony. Then orientation started, followed quickly by classes and rotations. Mostly, everything was just plain overwhelming. There was a ton of new information, and so many new people, and my poor little California brain had a hard time just figuring out which side the ocean was supposed to be on. But the people here are amazing. The faculty and administration are actually helpful, and I’m pretty sure they truly care about us. I somehow ended up in a great rotation lab, and for the first time in forever I like science again. Once I started to relax, I realized that yeah, grad school is kind of fun. I’m still not sure how I ended up moving to Connecticut. I miss the left coast like you wouldn’t BELIEVE, but so far I’m loving Yale.

Katie Diller: First year BBS students have been hard at work making the transition to Yale graduate life from undergrad college and professional positions. Some of them shared their stories of what this wonderful new life has entailed...

“My postdoc refers to me only as Boy. I like to think that it is meant to be affectionate.” - AL

“Four of us first years were making our way to Kline from the med school for yet more faculty talks. After getting off the shuttle, we decided that there must be some way to cut through a building and get to Kline. We made our way through random buildings and finally wound up in the very creepy basement of KBT. We went up the stairs expecting to emerge victorious in the main lobby, but where the first floor door should have been, there was a broom closet. We continued to wander around lost until in a Harry Potter style, we tapped on the bricks and followed the staircase that appeared up to the second floor, where we took the elevator back down to the first. Unfortunately, this type of problem repeated itself when we went to find GPSY.”

“My PI described my NSF grant attempt as ‘Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum walking through a garden.’ I don’t know what that means, but it can’t be good.” - AL

“Squirrels have giant balls. I know this because I have killed some.”

[B Magazine disclaimer: We do not promote the injury of animals on campus for any reason. It is our assumption that this story refers to an approved lab experiment.]

“I moved here from the Midwest, and was disappointed to find that New England guys do not drive trucks. I know this because I slept on an air mattress for 6 weeks eagerly hoping to find a chivalrous gent who would help me transport a mattress and bed from Ikea to my apartment. When I finally realized that blue state boys don’t drive trucks, and with as much effort as it would take to stuff an infant back into the womb, I managed to shove a twin sized mattress into the trunk of my Dodge Neon (with the seats folded down) and get it across the city and up the stairs of my apartment building myself. Ahh, the pride and joys of having my first solo apartment!”

“Almost every time I talk with my parents they ask me to explain again what it is that I am doing here so that they can repeat it to their friends. They say to me, ‘So tell me again what you are studying-Genetical Forensic Biology?’ What??! No! After deciphering the MCGD-BBS acronyms upwards of 200 times, I now tell them the same thing I told the little girl I used to babysit for: ‘I’m learning to be a scientist. I get to use a microscope every day!’”

Your Opinion

B magazine seeks Op-Ed pieces from members of the BBS community. Please submit your column (maximum length 600 words) by email or via the web:
Bmail@yale.edu
http://info.med.yale.edu/bbs/B/

Special thanks to Sara Nichols, CBB, for writing this issue’s cover story. Thanks also to Thihan Padukkavridana, MCGD Track, and Lynn Sherrer, postdoc in MB&B, for the photos on pages 4 and 10, respectively.
1. What is your overall assessment of your department/program? What are the strengths and weaknesses of its curriculum? What changes would improve the program? Please be specific.

2. Have you received adequate and timely feedback from your department/program? Are expectations clear?

3. If you are in the process of advancing to candidacy or have already done so, how could your department/program have better prepared you for research and writing?

4. Additional comments?

The general nature of the questions requires that the student spends some time to think about how to answer them. The results are being sent to your DGS and the appropriate Dean anonymously.

Ultimately each program should be organizing a committee, meeting with students (in subfields if the department is big enough), and meeting with the faculty, who will discuss students’ feedback. While the changes to course requirements will apply only to incoming students, students can take advantage of changes in other areas. The report should eventually be circulated in your department for you to learn which changes will be implemented. Stay tuned!
The World Game: Second Installment
By K. Fakhro

"The World Game" is a series of opinionated articles following major developments in the sport most countries would call their national pastime: football.

During the last installment, I left you with plenty of post-World Cup analysis and the interesting crisis that shook the Italian league. In this issue, we shall venture northwest across the English Channel and take a look at the competition developing in the English Premier League (aka the Premiership). Specifically, I would like to highlight two clubs (and their managers), which I think have played very big roles in English football in recent years.

We will get started with Chelsea, a club whose name gained prominence over the past few years after it became the biggest-ever football club sold to a foreign national (Russian-born oil tycoon Roman Abramovich) in 2003. Interestingly, it was then that the media started dubbing the club 'Chelski', owing to Abramovich's heritage. Abramovich brought the club a turn of fortune, hiring Portuguese manager Jose Mourinho, and giving him the freedom and flexibility to spend as he sees fit to make the club not only the best in the country, but the best in Europe. And so their saga began - Mourinho diligently assuming his role as the spoilt five-year-old at the candy shop, with nothing smaller than $100 bills and all the candy in the world to pick and choose from.

As expected, Abramovich's deep pockets have given Chelsea back-to-back titles, force-fully squeezing the team into what used to be an Arsenal/Manchester United rivalry at the top of the table. Not surprisingly, Chelsea's squad has seen major changes over the past three years. This summer alone, Chelsea fortified their squad with colossal signings, picking up Hilario (Goalkeeper), Salomon Kalou (Striker), Jon Obi Mikel (Midfielder), Wayne Bridge (Defender), Ashley Cole (D), Khalid Boulahrouz (D), Michael Ballack (M), and Andriy Shevchenko (S). The latter four are considered among the top footballers in the world in their positions.

The list of big names signed over the past three years is equally impressive. Yet, it should come as no surprise that these signings were, economically speaking, horrible decisions. They cap off Abramovich's total investment into the London-based club at a whopping $600 million since his takeover in 2003 (that's about $700,000 per day)!

His deep pockets have continuously cushioned Mourinho's almost erratic spending decisions. With his buy-high/sell-low mentality, it is estimated that Chelsea are currently standing at a $200 million deficit in transfer spending after three seasons! But who cares, right? Obviously, this is all just pocket change for the 11th richest man in the world, whose estimated worth is upwards of $18 bn.

So one should not be surprised to see Jose Mourinho's ego growing exponentially after every win; the guy is so self-centered he actually had the audacity to nickname himself the 'Special One'. Granted, Mourinho does have a keen managing mentality - but if you gave any top-flight manager that much money, I would be very disappointed if they delivered anything less. In my opinion, and I'm no big Chelsea fan, the only thing 'special' about Mourinho was his availability when Abramovich bought the club back in 2003. Many non-Chelsea fans (just like their anti-Yankees counterparts here in America) despise

Allison Staton, Shannon Stewart, and Elizabeth Winogard-Cort of MCGD share fashion tips.

Just some random pictures from the GPSCY Halloween bash. Thanks to Thihan Padukkavadiana for providing the photos and thus helping us fill the dead space on this page.

Michael Stulberg, Christopher Lord, and Christopher Heffelfinger of the MCGD Track wear their pajamas in public.

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho (L) and billionaire club owner Roman Abramovich (R). (www.sky.com)
this Goliath’s recent stronghold on the
Premiership and the way this club is luring top
players from around the world with salaries
never thought imaginable in football. Take the
example of Andriy Shevchenko - the former AC Milan striker
whom the fans absolutely loved - having to terminate his con-
tract with Milan in favor of a
weekly wage of $200,000, in
addition to a transfer fee of $56
million; clearly an offer no 30-
year-old refuses!
Chelsea’s very impressive
record in the past two years has
begged the question: can any-
one stop this team?
Fortunately, the football
Gods smiled upon Manchester
United to assume said duties.
Under the leadership of Sir Alex Ferguson (who
just completed his 20th year as manager),
Manchester United have been among the most
successful clubs in the history of European
football. In fact, United are the only team ever
to win the “Treble” (Premiership title, FA Cup,
and the European Champions League in the
same year, 1999), an achievement that earned
Ferguson a knighthood for his ‘services to the
game’.
Sir Alex Ferguson’s most important con-
tribution to Manchester United has been his
belief in molding young talented players into a
strong cohesive team, a gift which has paid
dividends in the likes of Ryan Giggs, Paul
Scholes, Roy Keane, David Beckham and Gary
Neville - graduates of the Manchester United
Academy in the early 1990s. It is said that
Ferguson travels around the UK to handpick
the Academy’s incoming class every year. In
addition, every United fan waits eagerly to find
out whom Ferguson’s eyes are on during the
transfer window. His transfer decisions over
the past few years speak volumes about his
keen managerial aptitude. His purchase of
Portuguese winger Cristiano Ronaldo along-
side young English sensation Wayne Rooney
reinforced his focus on a future in which
United regain a hold of the Premiership. It
actually came as a surprise that Ferguson
decided to settle for only one signing this past
summer: 24-year-old British midfielder
Michael Carrick. Although rumors are circulat-

ing that Ferguson has his eyes set on signing
American teenager Freddie Adu, and that the
17-year old is flying out to Old Trafford to try out
this winter.
Not surprisingly, pundits have criticized
Ferguson’s lack of transfers this summer,
claiming there was no way Man United could
seriously challenge a Chelsea side with eight
new signings. However, Ferguson is proving
them wrong yet again. United currently sit on
top of the table, 3 points ahead of Chelsea and
10 points clear of third-place Arsenal.
Moreover, United have been performing very
well internationally, placing on top of their
gems in Ferguson’s eyes. Now, the team’s
coming of age marks a turning point that
should be taken very seriously by Chelsea if
they want to secure a third consecutive title:

money cannot replace the hunger
for glory.
I do not want to give the impression
that Chelsea and Man United are the
only teams contending for the
title. Historically, Liverpool and
Arsenal have been worthy oppo-
nents - the latter having won the
Premiership title three times.
Liverpool’s gaps in the striking
department have been filled this
year through the purchase of Craig
Bellamy and Dirk Kuyt, who can
both work alongside Peter Crouch
to terrorize the oppositions’ goals.
Arsenal, on the other hand, have
decided to reinforce their midfield and defense
through the acquisition of the “Czech Mozart”
Thomas Rosicky, veteran French defender
William Gallas, and Brazilian Under-19 captain
Denilson Neves; not to mention the long-term
commitments made by Kolo Toure and Cesc
Fabregas, which will keep the team strong for
many years to come.

In conclusion, it is important to note that
the 06-07 English Premier League season is
still in its opening stages. With 26 of 38 games
remaining, it is obviously too early to predict
any outcomes. If Man United remain in top
form, there is no reason why they should not
clinch the Premiership title for the ninth time
in fourteen seasons. However, the game of
football succumbs to unforeseen circum-
stances that end up having profound effects
on a team’s performance, considering for
example natural impediments such as fatigue
or injury, or unnatural ones like a call-up for
international duty. Nevertheless, the premier-
ship promises to host some of the most chal-
 lenging matches in European football this com-
ing season.
It is my sincere hope that you, the reader,
get the chance to catch a few games of dynam-
ic, dramatic and unpredictable football this
season. As always, feel free to drop me a line if
you want to chat or learn more about the excit-
ing developments that shape the World
Game.  
Cell Biology


Computational Biology & Bioinformatics


Cellular & Molecular Physiology

Experimental Pathology


Immunobiology


Rabenstein RL, Caldarone BJ, Picciotto MR (2006) The nicotinic antagonist mecamylamine has anti-depressant-like effects in wild-type but not beta2- or alpha7-nicotinic acetylcholine receptor subunit knockout mice. Psychopharmacology (Berl) Oct 3; [Epub ahead of print].


Microbiology


Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry


Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology


continued on page 8
continued from page 7


Neurobiology


Pharmacology


In the kitchen at Picholine on New York’s Upper West Side, I worked alongside three other cooks who had tattoos paying homage to salt. One had an ancient Chinese character on his shoulder; another had a Sumerian symbol on his forearm; I think the last was Aramaic, and I never wanted to know where that one was kept. Why were these aspiring young chefs so taken by the most mundane seasoning, one found on tables from McDonalds to Applebees? Surely saffron or coriander is more sophisticated. Rosemary or thyme seems more poetic. Chili peppers are more rebellious. I learned that much like a knife is the extension of the cook’s hand, salt is the extension of his tongue.

Salt has been hugely important in human history. In Greek and Roman times, it was used to season and preserve foods, to disinfect wounds, as an element of rituals, and as currency. In fact, Roman soldiers received part of their pay in salt. The term for their salt rations, “salarium argentum,” is the origin of our word “salary.” Salt was so important it was used to ratify agreements. The Old Testament instructs, “With all thine offerings thou shall offer salt.” This refers not only to God’s irrevocable pledge to his chosen people, but to the contracts men make with each other. For example, among desert cultures, when a deal was struck the men from each side would combine their salt with the salt of others, their grains becoming irretrievable from the mix, symbolizing the permanence of the bond. The New Testament too contains many references to salt. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls His disciples the “salt of the earth.” We might take this literally, that they are born from grains or dust. But if we recall that Jesus always spoke in parables, we arrive at other meanings. He may have been exhorting his followers to be faithful; or charging them with the task of purifying the world; or merely teaching humility.

Fifteen hundred years later, the process of salting fish enabled Europeans to venture away from their own coasts to the Grand Banks and beyond to the “New World.” As in Roman times, food preserved with salt was a staple in the arsenal of conquest and settlement. The Spanish used salt to separate silver in their South American and West Indian mines. Just as American Patriots rebelled against the British tax on tea, so did Gandhi in the 20th century lead a revolt against British levies on salt in India. In defiance of the British monopoly on the salt trade, Gandhi went down to the sea and made salt illegally by stepping into the water and soaking his clothing in the brine, letting it dry, and scraping off the crystals.

The developed world today gets most of its salt from either salt mines or the distillation of salty water. Mining salt is backbreaking, dangerous work. In Poland and Russia, salt miners are rewarded beyond their meager pay with veneration for the fruit of their labor. Salt has entered the proverbs of all cultures. The Iroquois warned not to “slaughter more than you can salt.” In Andalusia, Spain’s Moorish southern province, one parts with a dear one with the wish, “May you be well salted.” While many Japanese homes contain bowls of salt to ward off evil spirits, trading in salt carries the risk of bad luck—“If I peddle salt, it rains; if I peddle flour, the wind blows.” Just as in Western cultures, salt in the Orient is involved in healing, but also in the tears of mourning. The Germans extolled the healthfulness of salt in the diet, “Salt and bread make the cheeks red.” But my family doctor says that if you can see the salt on food, as on a potato chip, don’t eat it. For at least two centuries physicians have urged people to abstain from salting their food, claiming that salt caused mental illness, prevented the natural processes of tissue death and renewal, and brought on hypotension and stroke.

Why then can’t we resist shaking salt on everything from sirloin steak to watermelon? As my friend the cook and food writer Barbara Michelson explains, “salt is like the lens of a camera,” it brings flavors into focus. Homemade chicken soup without salt is bland as dish water, but add a pinch—not a pinch—of Morton’s kosher salt and it becomes satisfying to the soul. Crispy seared foie gras showered in coarse, flat flakes of Maldon sea salt is transformed from rich-man’s liver into the pinnacle of decadence. Fresh August tomatoes taste like a bite of summer when you add the crunch of grey Fleur de Sel.

On the shelves of gourmet stores, in the repertoire of fine restaurants, and in the larders of home kitchens around the world, one can find an enormous variety of salts. No longer are cooks limited to iodized table salt or even the workhorse kosher salt. Today we can pick from pink volcanic salt from Hawaii, black salt from the beaches of Fiji, grey peat-smoked crystals from the Scottish isles, and salt raked by old bereted men of Brittany. These exotic salts are not intended for salting the pot or a ball of bread dough, but rather as “finishing” salts, to top off the plate at the last minute. Sprinkle large crystals of salt on a garden salad and the leaves snap to attention, taking on texture and revealing flavor previously unknown from lettuce.

When a kitchen fire delayed the launch of the New York restaurant Per Se, chef Thomas Keller dispatched his staff to other restaurants in the city so their skills would stay sharp. I worked with one of Keller’s chefs d’partie, a serious cook who had apprenticed for eighteen months with England’s top, but infamously abusive, chef Gordon Ramsey. Once Per Se opened its doors, Keller sent a gift to each restaurant that had hosted his men and women. In the neat white box were three jars of highly prized salts from distant lands, an expression of practicality and deepest gratitude. B
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,
If I have 5 first author papers in second tier journals and another student has only 2 first author papers, both in Nature, who would be the better job candidate?
--On the market
Dear On,
The answer is neither. You'll both lose out to the 6th year postdoc who has 14 publications, 3 patents, and a 9 year track record of independent funding.
You may want to put down this magazine and get back to work.

Dear B,
I open BME, formaldehyde, and other smelly chemicals under our fume hood. But where do the fumes go from there?
--Things that make you go hmmm
Dear Things,
Hmmm...New Jersey?

Dear B,
My roommates are betting on who will win the next Nobel prize. What's your take?
--Bettings man
Dear Betting,
Forget the leaders in nanoparticles, gene therapy, or cell biology. My money says they're finally going to recognize the guy who invented duct tape. About time, too.

Dear B,
What exactly does pH represent?
--Unsure
Dear Unsure,
pH is a concept that, unfortunately, a sizable minority of scientists have trouble mastering. Experience shows, however, that you can still have a successful career without getting a handle on this topic.
Oh, as for the abbreviation, pH stands for "personal Hygiene".  B

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Trail Mix
Hammonasset Beach State Park
by H. Chapin

For most people, the phrase “a day at the beach” conjures up images of lounging in bathing suits and dipping in the waves, but I think the best time to go to the beach is when you can walk next to the waves - in a jacket. A great place to do just that is Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison, CT. In the colder months there is no entrance fee, the crowds are down, and you are left to enjoy the miles of public beach, trails through saltwater marsh, and a beautiful, boulder-strewn point.

The main attraction of Hammonasset is, of course, its ocean frontage. The 2 miles of white sand beach is the largest stretch in Connecticut (no snickering from you Floridians, please), and when the park opened in 1920 people came from across the country to visit this stretch of coast and enjoy the miles of sand. Today over one million people visit the park annually to run, fish, walk, and bike the miles of sand, boardwalk and paved sidewalks. Humans aren’t the only ones who hang out there: last winter we came across a seal lounging on the beach, nonchalantly enjoying the snow, sun and sand.

While the beach itself is lovely, I find the most interesting sections of the park on the eastern edge, at the far end from the entrance. Leaving from the parking lot by the nature center you will find a trail leading back through the woods. The trail meanders through old fruit trees, planted at some point in the park’s more agricultural past, before reaching a small boardwalk and overlook onto the salt marsh. As you wander the trail and look over the marsh you may notice the large boulders which were dropped here by the last ice age. The small overlook itself is a perfect place to watch migrating birds and check out the landscapes revealed by the changing tide levels.

Another delightful curiosity to check out is the string of boulders piled up along Meigs Point. A trail leads across a rocky beach strewn with bleached tree bones before climbing up and along the rocks that form the point. While the boulders on the beach were originally put here by glaciers, the large breakwater itself was actually constructed with stones trucked in from quarries in northern New England in 1955. The boulders had another interesting use during World War II when the point was used as a target range for pilots, as the gunners aimed at targets on the point before flying out over the sound. There are no reminders of that, now, and you can stand high above the waves on top of the boulders, enjoying the peace that is found at the meeting of land and ocean.

Historical information taken from the Connecticut DEP information page on Hammonasset. B

Attention hikers: have a favorite hike we haven’t covered? Have a tip or a gripe or suggestion you’d like to share? Please feel free to get in touch with Hannah Chapin or Elisabeth Wurtmann because they want to hear your comments!
The Graduate Student Guide to New Haven Theaters

By K. Newhouse

It’s bound to happen around this time of year: summer is a distant memory, the weather’s turned bleak and you start wondering why, exactly, you thought moving to New Haven would be a good idea. Or maybe you’re just feeling a little too surrounded by all things science. Or perhaps you’ve finally mustered the courage to ask that cute rotation student in your lab on a date but don’t know how to impress her without spending your whole month’s cart-lunch budget. Never fear: with several theatres right here in town offering student discounts and great shows, it’s easy to leave the Petri dishes behind and get a bit more cultured yourself.

Yale Cabaret: Student tickets $10; packages as low as $3/ticket.

Upcoming show: “Crave” Nov 30-Dec 2.

For a unique evening out with little planning required, take your date to the Cabaret - with a new show every weekend produced and acted by Yale drama school students, there’s no need to worry about repetitiveness. Get there early and have dinner (or just drinks and appetizers) from the Cabaret’s restaurant, right at your seat. If you’re a big fan, committing to several shows can save you a bundle - the 10-show pass is $35; the whole-season (20 shows) is $60. This is the smallest of the theatres, which is good for an intimate atmosphere, but it means that advance reservations are often needed.

Yale Repertory Theatre: Single student tickets $17.50-$27.50; student packages from $15/ticket.

Upcoming shows: “Black Snow” Dec 1-23; “In the Continuum” Jan 12 - Feb 10.

Yale’s professional theatre presents a range of plays - from debuts of new plays by the likes of August Wilson and Sarah Ruhl to fresh spins on the classics (including great versions of Shakespeare). Shows typically run for about a month and feature impressive professional acting and production talent. Although the quality of acting is consistently good, some of the shows can be a little bizarre or edgy for the average theatre-goer. It’s worth taking your chances, though - Yale Rep plays are sometimes so outstanding that they move to Broadway (the real broadway - not the one where our undergrads buy their J. Crew clothes) shortly after opening here in New Haven. The student flex pass is the best deal - it gives you discounted tickets for 4 or 6 plays, and you can use them whenever you want.

Long Wharf Theatre: Single student tickets $20


Presenting revivals of classic and modern plays along with debuts that often proceed to Broadway, Long Wharf is a sort of Yale Rep for grown-ups. The plays are generally fantastic, but the clientele tends to be over 50. Students (or anyone under 30) can purchase $20 tickets to any show, but you’ll be relegated to the far side sections. Fortunately, it’s a small theatre, so even if you’re watching the actors from the side, you’re still close enough to feel the energy of live theatre and appreciate the top-notch performances.

Shubert Theatre: Student rush tickets: $13 and up.


Unlike the other area theatres, the Shubert brings in touring shows for stints of 6 days or less. If you like musicals and classic American fare, this is your theatre. Unfortunately, if you like cheap tickets, you’ll have to wait until 2 hours before showtime, when the box office puts all remaining seats on sale to students for half their normal price (so you usually end up paying $10 or $15 for the second balcony, ranging up to $40 for ground-floor, close-to-the-front seats.) The shows are of reliably good quality, and the atmosphere of the opera house-style theatre is so festive that even watching from the very back row can still feel like a special night out.

Elm Shakespeare Company’s Shakespeare in the Park

Student suggested donation: $5.

I realize that this is out of season, but you can’t talk about budget-friendly New Haven theatre without mentioning Shakespeare in the Park. Every August/September, The Elm Shakespeare Company takes over Edgerton Park with a well-acted version of a popular work by the Bard. Recently, they’ve added a second, non-Shakespeare play on alternating evenings. This may be the best deal in town for live theatre - where else can you pay $5 to watch a great live show underneath a starry sky? Next August, arrive early with a group of friends, some blankets and lawn chairs, a picnic dinner, and a bottle of wine.

Cell Phones on the Cheap

By K. Keating

Have a cell phone? Like money and wish you had more? This column might not be as profitable as an NSF grant, but it can save you some money on your cell phone bill. Yale graduate and professional students are eligible for a discount on their cell phone plan from both Sprint and Verizon. Students get 10% off their monthly bill through Sprint and 15% off through Verizon. The GPSS cell phone page at http://www.yale.edu/gpss/Advocacy/cell_phone_plans.html explains the details. The page mentions that you may need to head into a corporate store and show them a Yale student ID and a pay stub, but I was able to get the Verizon discount with a simple phone call to the Verizon account representative listed on the GPSS page. In addition, there’s no need to wait until the end of your contract. I called up mid-contract, and the discount applied to my next bill. The GPSS page also lists other useful information, such as the addresses of local stores for T-mobile, Sprint, Verizon, and Cingular, complete with links to Google maps. For people new to the area and planning on purchasing a cell phone, I’ve found Verizon to have the best coverage in both New Haven and New England, with Sprint a close second. If you’re looking for something inexpensive, Sprint offers the cheapest monthly plan at $30 (before the Yale discount) for 200 minutes per month and all four carriers offer at least 450 minutes for $40 per month.
Congrats to our prize winners! Super special thanks to the Yale Cabaret for sponsoring our contest. Did we mention the Yale Cabaret yet? If we haven’t, then let us say now that we really appreciate the generous support of the Yale Cabaret. Yep, the Yale Cabaret is where it’s at.

1st Place **THE MIGHTY MIGHTY HISTONES**
Kathy Egan, INP
*10-ticket flex membership to the Yale Cabaret*

2nd Place **DENSITOMETRY’S CHILD**
Shanta Whitaker, Microbiology & Glenn Rowe, MCDB
*4 free tickets to the Yale Cabaret*

3rd Place **THE SEX PISTILS**
Jessie McDonald, Immunology Track - let’s hear it for the first year students!
*2 free tickets to the Yale Cabaret*

Honorable Mentions **ZINC FINGER**
Mike Turner, MCDB

**‘N SYNCHRONION**
James Lulo, MB&B

The Best of the Rest

**MEAN GENE AND THE STANDARD DEVIATIONS**
Jason Wallace, MCGD Track

**PENTOSE PHOSPHATE SHUNT**
Justin Cotney, Ex Pathology

**STUDENT T AND THE ERROR BARS**
Frank Slack, Assoc. Professor, MCDB

**NEW TUBES ON THE BLOCK**
Imran Babar, MCDB

**THE PROFESSIONAL TEENAGERS, A.K.A. THE PRO-TEENS (THEY’RE A WESTERN BAND)**
Matt B. Johnson, Neurobiology

**DINESH MODE**
Patrick Cournoyer, MCGD Track

**THE P-53’S**
ThaiBinh Luong, CBB

**TAQMAN AND THE POLYMERASES**
Shanta Whitaker, Microbiology & Glenn Rowe, MCDB

**COUMASSIE BLUE**
Jason Wallace, MCGD Track

**LORD PROTEINACEOUS AND THE SONICATORS**
Aditya Paul, MB&B

**FLIMSY AND THE HANDWAVERS**
Frank Slack, Assoc. Professor, MCDB

*And submitted after the judging began…*

**THREE BLOT NIGHT**
Julie Button, Microbiology

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**Rumor has it that Avis Brennan, INP, got engaged to Bryan Hains.**

**Monica Vella, MCDB ’04 and postdoc in Internal Medicine, and Peter Angelastro, MCDB, were married on May 6. We missed reporting on this seismic event in our last issue.**

**We hear that Matt Calabrese, MB&B got married to Allison Foss on November 11.**

**Katherine Martushova, INP, wed Gilbert Owuor, Drama, on November 8.**

**Jena Gillman, Pathology, and James Cowan welcomed Marlo Grace into the world on September 19.**

**David Zenisek, assistant Professor in Cellular & Molecular Physiology, and his wife Jen had a baby girl, Claire, on September 18.**

**Ralph DiLeonardo, assistant professor of Psychiatry, and his wife Amy are proud to announce the birth of Tiana Rose on October 20th at 7:04 AM - 7lb 7oz and 20 inches long.**