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Students take a bite out of the holidays



AMANDA SWINHART / DAILY FREE PRESS STAFF

Teams of Boston University students compete to create and decorate the best and most creative gingerbread house at the George Sherman Union Monday night.

By Suzanne Schiavone
Daily Free Press Staff

Students took a break from studying Monday night to give Boston University a taste of holiday spirit – literally.

Five teams of two to five students, with 17 students in total, took part in a Gingerbread House Decorating competition through the Culinary Arts and Kitchen Entertainment club, or CAKE.

The teams had one hour to construct and decorate their own gingerbread house using decorations supplied by CAKE, as well

as anything they may have brought.

“They have the gingerbread, they have gumdrops, fruit loops, mini candy canes, peppermints, gumballs, sprinkles and little colorful jellybeans and frosting,” said Lyndsay Maggin, a senior in the BU School of Management.

Many groups brought candy to decorate with ranging from Milk Duds to lollipops to gelt.

Maggin is the co-president of CAKE and was in charge of organizing the contest.

Maggin’s co-president Michelle Rap-

poli, a senior in the School of Hospitality Administration, said that she went to culinary school before transferring into BU for her junior year.

“We met each other during transfer orientation and we realized that we both liked to bake, and we went to Splash together and realized that there was no cooking group so we decided to put one together so we could get people together to cook and bake and eat,” Rappoli said.

“This is a new [competition],” Maggin said. “We didn’t found the club until after Christmas [last year] so this is our first holiday event.”

Maggin said the club has grown significantly since its inception.

“Last May, we had about 83 participants, now we have 457,” she said.

For Monday’s competition, the gingerbread houses were judged based on construction of the house, creativity and design and whether it was finished on time.

Students said that they participated in the competition because they thought it was a fun way to celebrate the holidays. Some had participated in other CAKE events in the past.

“It seems like something nice to get into the holiday spirit,” said SMG sophomore Amanda Cannizzo, one of the competitors in the contest. She said it was her first event with CAKE.

Cannizzo said that her team brought their own candy to decorate the house with and put some thought into their design before hand.

“We’ve been a part of CAKE since the beginning of the year and it seems really fun, and we’ve been to all the activities,” said Danielle Stein, a freshmen in the College of General Studies. “It’s around the holidays...it’s a part of the spirit.”

GINGERBREAD, see page 2

Union condemns RateBU website at final meeting

By Meaghan Beatley
Daily Free Press Staff

Boston University’s Student Union passed a motion to release a statement condemning RateBU.com at its final meeting on Monday.

RateBU.com, a website recently launched by School of Management junior Justin Dooddy, allows other BU students to rate female classmates based on their looks.

Union’s statement reads: “The Boston University Student Union hereby condemns RateBU.com as an offensive website that does not represent the culture that many of us at Boston University work to create and we discourage use of the website.”

The statement was originally set forth by the Women’s Resource Center and called for the site’s immediate deactivation.

However, Union revised the statement because it is not within the body’s power to remove the website because it is not on the BU server.

“We don’t have the authority to directly take it off the Internet,” said Union President Arthur Emma, a College of Arts and Sciences senior.

In light of an impending Washington Post article on the website, CAS junior and Union Director of City Affairs James Boggie urged Union members to release an official statement as soon as possible.

“Because this is attracting national news coverage, we want to make sure we’re clear,” he said. “We want to get out there and say what the Student Union is saying on the website because it’s going to get out there. A resolution from the Student Union is a resolution

UNION, see page 2

Students, faculty torn over idea of Facebook courses

By Lexi Salazar
Daily Free Press Staff

Although Facebook is generally considered a prime procrastination tool, some Boston University students and faculty members said the site can also be utilized for educational purposes.

In October, The London School of Business and Finance launched LSBF Global MBA on Facebook. The application allows prospective students to view lectures and videos and learn the course work required to obtain an MBA – all through Facebook.

The program’s Facebook page states that its “goal is to deliver a first-class MBA experience that allows students all over the world to study in their own time and at their own pace.”

While the Facebook application is free, there is a charge to take exams. According to The Chronicle of Higher Learning, the whole program costs a total of \$22,000.

“It sounds like a great idea to me, if it allows people to pursue their MBA,” said Classical Studies assistant professor Mark Alonge.

Alonge said he believes distance learning is a great way for teachers

to reach more students.

“Facebook is a well-established platform that is convenient for people to use,” Alonge said. “I don’t see why other schools wouldn’t use it.”

Eros Angjeli, a sophomore in the School of Management, said he thinks the LSBF Global MBA is a “good idea” that has potential to be successful.

Combining social life with edu-

“You have your personal life, and you have your professional life.

There should be a line.”
-SMG freshman Diana Chen

cation on the networking website wouldn’t problematic, he said.

Others, such as SMG freshman Diana Chen, said they believe this could be an issue.

Chen said although it’s a good idea “on the surface,” it is flawed.

“You have your personal life, and you have your professional life,” she said. “There should be a line.”

Norman Blanchard, the director of SMG’s undergraduate program,

said he believes there is value in the classroom environment that cannot be reproduced online.

“We believe that the traditional model of learning works better,” he said. “The question is, is distance education better than traditional education? We believe we offer a superior product.”

Blanchard also pointed out that BU does not offer any sort of distance education, a fact he doesn’t see changing in the near future.

College of Communication freshman Chaya Rusk also questioned the validity of earning a degree via Facebook.

“I’m appalled,” Rusk said. “I’m astounded that people think this is acceptable.”

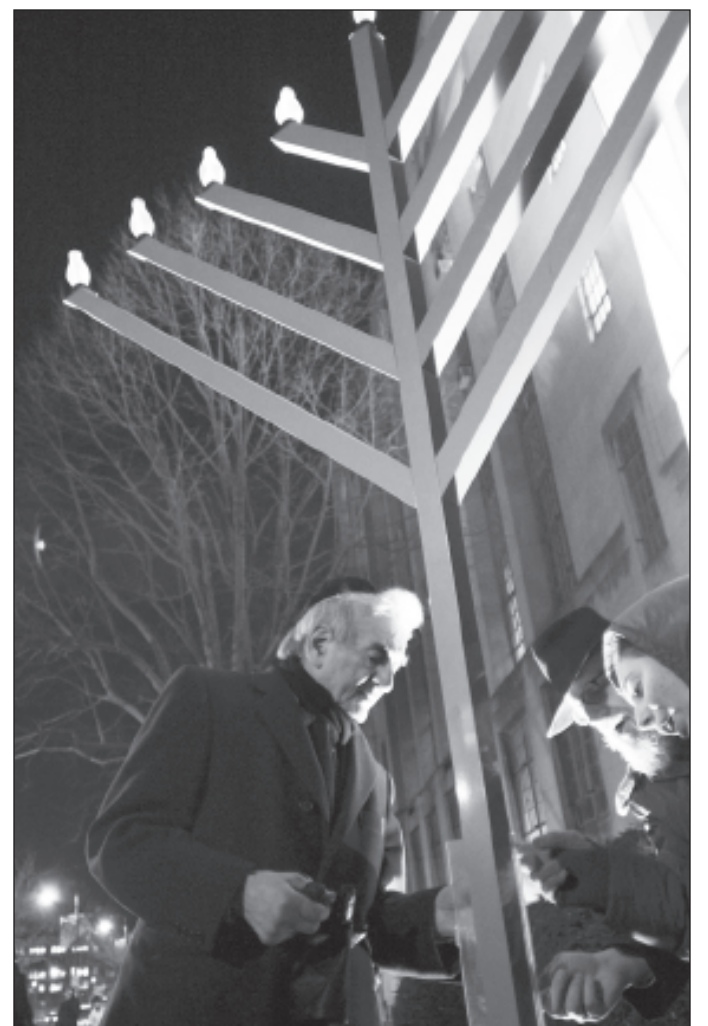
Rusk said she “wouldn’t trust someone with that kind of degree.”

Dana Jones, a freshman in the College of Arts and Sciences, said she believes LSBF Global MBA will not be a huge success as it will be “targeting specific people” who may not want to leave home.

She also said she doesn’t believe people can ever seriously consider Facebook an academic resource.

“People use Facebook to get away from studying,” Jones said.

HAPPY HANUKKAH



MICHELLE SIMUNOVIC / DAILY FREE PRESS STAFF

Nobel Laureate and Boston University professor Elie Wiesel lights the menorah in Marsh Plaza Monday night.

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Elmore 'disappointed' in RateBU site

UNION: From Page 1

from the student body at large. . . So we may not have direct authority but we have indirect power."

Boggie said another point of contention lies in the legality of posting pictures on the website without owners' approval or awareness.

"This is an area in Internet law that's fuzzy," he said. "What's happening is that these are photographs taken from Facebook, and the owner of [rateBU.com] is saying that anyone can use them once they're on Facebook...it's not clear if you lose ownership once they're on Facebook."

College of General Studies sophomore Constanza Ortiz encouraged Union members to stand behind the WRC.

"If the Student Union doesn't stand by a club like the WRC that clearly feels very passionate about this, we're falling behind in our responsibility," she said. "At the end of the day, RateBU, that's BU, that's all of us."

In an interview with The Daily Free Press, Dean of Students Kenneth Elmore said, "I am disappointed that something like this [RateBU.com] has that kind of power. . . and we need to ask ourselves why."

Gingerbread champs credit gelt

GINGERBREAD: From Page 1

"We think using gelt from Hanukkah will give us the cutting edge," she said.

"I'm in CAKE, so I figured I'd go to their activities," said Aditi Pai, a sophomore in the College of Communication. "Last year we did Iron Chef...it was really cool."

Pai said that her team planned in advance for the competition and bought marshmallow Christmas trees for their gingerbread house.

One of the main problems that competitors said they ran into during the building process was the roof.

"Our roof kept falling down," said Rachel Schweiker, a sopho-

more in the College of Arts and Sciences. "We had to spend more time trying to keep it up instead of doing the other stuff."

"Our roof was a little heavy, so keeping it up was a little hard but we got it," Nekou Nowrouzi, a freshman in CGS.

The winning team was made up of Stein, Felicia Aguiar, Nekou Nowrouzi and Alex Hubert, all freshmen in CGS.

Their design integrated a gelt roof panel and candy canes, among other features.

Rappoli said that the next event CAKE plans to hold will be centered around Valentine's Day, though they do not have the exact details finalized yet.

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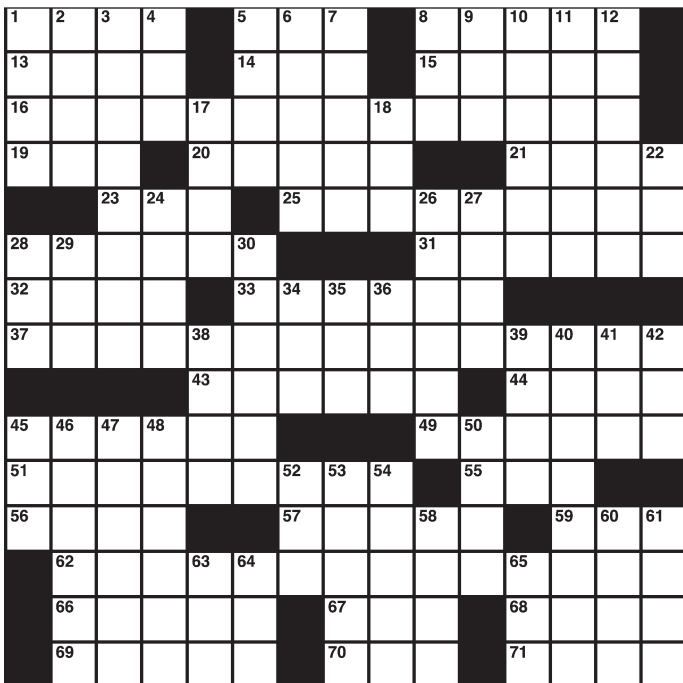
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MEDIA SERVICES

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14 Bud
15 Little wood
16 M
19 So-so connection?
20 ___ forces
21 Senate majority leader Harry
23 Baseball stat.
25 Ma
28 More clownish
31 Doesn't try to reach the green, in golf
32 Current letters
33 Less taxing
37 Max
43 Most tender
44 Pace
45 Low-quality
49 Sumatran swingers
51 Maxi
55 Site of a 1981 sitcom honeymoon
56 Minute amount
57 ___ badge
59 "Big Blue"
62 Maxim
66 Old number?
67 Instrument on which Jake Shimabukuro can play "Bohemian Rhapsody"

68 Kind of officer or shark
69 Meg and Robert
70 ___ Perce tribe
71 Asian beef source

Down
1 Goya subject
2 Yemen neighbor
3 Crackerjack
4 Poetic tribute
5 Common crossword clue letters
6 "The Art of Loving" author
7 Cartridge filler
8 Coolers, briefly
9 One may be choked back
10 Stylish
11 They may be liquid or frozen
12 Original "Star Trek" studio
17 Wise one
18 Driller's deg.
22 Bank acct. entry
24 Morrow and Damone
26 One who lifts a lot?
27 '50s-'60s chief justice Warren
28 Microwave
29 Cologne cry
30 Boil over?
34 ___ Jordan: Nike brand
35 Vane dir.
36 Part of TGIF
38 AOL et al.
39 Culture medium



40 Lover of Yum-Yum in "The Mikado"
41 Little butt?
42 Gold meas.
45 Second-century date
46 Barrel worker
47 Thing
48 Hercule's creator
50 Uniformed campus gp.
52 Little rascal

53 Chance to see what you missed the first time
54 Early mode of transportation
58 Powerful 1966 hurricane
60 Yak
61 Word on a biblical wall
63 Cock's mate
64 Jr. and sr.
65 Type

SOLUTION IS ON
PAGE 4

CLASSIFIEDS

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SUDOKU-PUZZLES.NET DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM SOLUTION IS ON PAGE 4

CAMPUS CRIME LOGS Whip it real hard

By Susan Zalkind
Daily Free Press Staff

The following reports were taken from the Boston University Police Department crime logs from Nov. 29 to Dec. 6.

A custodian told BUPD on Nov. 29 that he had found containers of nitrous oxide in the form of 15 empty whipped cream bottles in the trash. BUPD said it suspects the whipped cream bottles were abused and used as drugs.

Passed Gas

A man reported that gas was stolen from his blue BMW sometime between 6:15 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Nov. 29. The man said he'd parked his car outside 640 Commonwealth Ave. with a full tank of gas. When he returned to the car, his gas tank was empty.

The Bodyguard

On Nov. 30, BUPD was called in after a student hired a private bodyguard to accompany her while she took classes at the School of Management. The student said she hired the guard from New England Risk Management Insurance and Legal Investigations after another student yelled at her. The student did not alert BUPD about this issue. BUPD then escorted the bodyguard off-campus and issued him a trespass warning.

It Wasn't Me

A student on 32 Harry Agganis Way lost her purse on Wednesday. Housing Security found the purse with marijuana inside. The student confessed to possession and was issued a citation.

Oh Darling, You're Simply Smashing Tonight

A BU student was arrested at about 1:45 a.m. on Thursday for malicious damage. BUPD said it saw the student smash and tear off the side mirrors of four separate vehicles on Ashford Street while with a female friend. The friend was not arrested.

Sen. leaders spar over DADT repeal as session end draws near

By Matt Hawley
Daily Free Press Staff

Recent challenges to the 1993 United States military policy "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" have caused the debate over the controversial topic to resurface and heat up further.

The House of Representatives passed a bill in May that would repeal the policy, and now, the Senate faces a time crunch to decide the fate of the bill before the winter recess.

However, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said on Monday that he did not believe that Congress would repeal the law before Congress recessed.

On an aircraft carrier on the Arabian Sea, Gates told sailors that he was "not particularly optimistic that they're going to get this done."

"I would hope that they would," Gates said.

The Log Cabin Republicans, a gay Republican organization, have also been pushing for the repeal of the law.

The group filed a federal lawsuit in 2004 against the policy, which went to court in July 2010. On Sept. 9, Judge Virginia Phillips ruled that the policy was unconstitutional under the First and Fifth Amendment, violating soldiers' right to free speech and right to due process.

A month later, Phillips ordered military personnel to stop all enforcement of DADT, but the Department of Justice appealed to the Ninth Circuit, winning an injunction and keeping the policy in effect.

Another mark against the continuation of DADT is the recently published report conducted by the Department of Defense.

According to this report, which surveyed nearly 400,000 active duty service members, more than 115,000 of whom responded, about 70 percent of those surveyed "predict mixed, positive or no effects in the event of a repeal."

Additionally, troops who believed that they had worked with a gay, lesbian or bisexual soldier rated their experience with said soldier as "very good," "good" or "neither good nor bad" 92 percent of the time.

DADT, see page 7

Hit the books: A guide to study lounges

By Chris Gambon
Daily Free Press Staff

It's the night before that first final. The guy in the next room is simultaneously blasting Pink Floyd from his computer, watching Monday Night Football and carrying on a vigorous conversation with his girlfriend about the best item on the menu at Cane's (it's the chicken fingers). When finals are looming around the corner and dorm rooms are no longer the study haven they once were, it is crucial for students to have other places to turn to for a productive study atmosphere on campus. The following is The Daily Free Press' guide to the best places to study on-campus with little to no distractions.

Shelton Hall study lounge:

Shelton Hall, located at 91 Bay State Road, is home to a study lounge that provides a convenient place for students residing in East campus to crack open the books. The Shelton study lounge on the ninth floor is an ideal place to study because it not only provides a quiet atmosphere to get work done, but also a stunning view of the Boston skyline. Dining Services also runs Late Nite Café at Shelton until 2:00 a.m., so if a study session runs late, there are always snacks and fried food to be had merely floors away.

Some students said that the



MICHELLE SIMUNOVIC / DAILY FREE PRESS STAFF

Third floor of George Sherman Union (top); Shelton Hall study lounge (bottom left); Mugar Memorial Library (bottom right).

view of Boston from the Shelton study lounge provides a much-needed break from the sometimes dreary atmosphere of Mugar Memorial Library.

"The view is incredible which makes it bearable to stay inside and study on nice days," said College of Arts and Sciences junior

Aditi Narayan. "There are plenty of tables and quiet and talking allowed study room options."

"When I'm studying I like to be isolated from distractions but without the claustrophobic feeling of those damned Mugar cu-

STUDY, see page 5

BOOKS ON BOOKS



RACHEL FRANKLIN / DAILY FREE PRESS STAFF

Professor Binyomin Abrams answers chemistry questions during his office hours Monday.

Menino leaves hospital after 5-day stay

By Jaime Lutz
Daily Free Press Staff

Mayor Thomas Menino left the Brigham and Women's Hospital on Monday after a five-night stay due to what his staff said was a bad reaction to medication.

The hospital stay was one of several for Menino, 67, this year. An earlier, three-day visit at Brigham and Women's over the Thanksgiving break was for an infection that Menino contracted while on vacation in Italy.

On Wednesday, the mayor was readmitted because the medication for the infection made him feel sick, said spokeswoman Dot Joyce to The Boston Globe.

Doctors believe that Menino's later reaction may have been caused by pain medication, Joyce said.

Menino said that while in Italy, he scraped his elbow while showering, apparently causing his arm to swell up within a few days. Doctors diagnosed him with cellulitis and septic bursitis, two types of infections. He was prescribed antibiotics and underwent minor surgery to drain his arm of excess fluid.

Though Menino plans to stay at home and recover for several days, he told reporters outside his house that he would continue to work.

"My home is just as good as City Hall," he said.

Earlier this year, Menino recovered from serious knee surgery in late 2009 and underwent a minor operation for cataracts. He also suffers from Crohn's disease, an inflammatory disease of the bowels.

Obama, Republicans reach potential tax deal

By Jaime Lutz
Daily Free Press Staff

President Barack Obama and congressional Republicans announced an agreement Monday night to extend multiple tax cuts, lower the payroll tax and extend unemployment benefits, among other stimulative measures.

The tax deal would add \$900 billion to the deficit over the next two years.

The plan calls for a two-year extension of the Bush tax rate for all income levels, in a step back from Obama's previous insistence that only tax cuts for the middle class be extended.

At a press conference, Obama attempted to explain this, saying that he didn't like parts of the deal, but he agreed to a plan that would not raise taxes on the upper class in exchange for in-

creased benefits for lower and middle class workers.

"It's not perfect, but this compromise is an essential step on the

“ It's not perfect, but this compromise is an essential step on the road to recovery.”

President Barack Obama, in a press conference on Monday

road to recovery," Obama said.

"It will stop middle-class taxes from going up. It will spur our private sector to create millions of new jobs, and add momentum that our economy badly needs."

Most of this stimulus comes in

the form of lower taxes.

Tax breaks such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and the college-tuition tax credit would see

extensions under this plan, and it would allow businesses to write off new investment expenses for the next year.

A new tax cut is part of the plan as well, in the form of a cut in Social Security payroll taxes

from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent.

The White House claims that this will increase the amount of wages workers receive by \$120 billion in the next year.

The one spending increase comes in the form of a 13-month extension of expiring unemployment benefits, giving more support to those facing long-term unemployment.

The plan was greeted warmly by several key Republicans, but some commentators believe the president may have a harder time convincing his own party.

Particularly controversial to Democrats is a provision that would let the estate tax start at \$5 million at a 35 percent rate.

Democrats preferred the prior estate tax, which taxed money passed to heirs above \$3.5 million at 45 percent rate.

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SCIENCE TUESDAY

Microbes and Aliens

NASA researchers recently discovered a new microbe that can survive without one of the basic elements needed for life on earth. Could this organism be the key to finding life on other planets?

By Kira Cole

Features Staff

When NASA announced early last week that researchers had made an undisclosed astrobiology discovery that would impact the search for life in space, it sent ripples through the scientific community and popular culture alike. Speculation was rampant about what this discovery could portend. Some hoped the world was days away from meeting little green men from a distant planet.

In reality, the discovery was much closer to home.

In a press conference on Thursday, NASA researchers said they found a new microbe in Mono Lake in Northern California which substitutes phosphorus with arsenic, a toxic chemical, in order to grow and reproduce.

"It is terrestrial life, but not life as we know it," said Mary Voytek, director of the astrobiology program at NASA headquarters and leader of the press conference's panel discussion.

"All life that we know of requires carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, hydrogen, phosphorus and sulfur," said Felisa Wolfe-Simon, the NASA astrobiology research fellow who led the experiment, in the press conference.

"We've discovered an organism that can substitute one element for another in its major biomolecules," she said.

"The newly discovered microbe, strain GFAJ-1, is a member of a common group of bacteria, the Gammaproteobacteria," the NASA website said.

The research was funded by NASA's astrobiology program, Voytek said.

SUBSTITUTION REVOLUTION

The key to discovering the microbe was not to search far off in space, but to look in Earth's backyard, Wolfe-Simon said.

"If you want to look for an organism that can substitute one

element for another, you might want to think about where that particular element is abundant, and Mono Lake is abundant in arsenic," she said.

Mono Lake, located just outside Yosemite National Park, contains three times the salt of seawater and has a pH level of 10, which is equivalent to bleach, she said.

"This seemingly inhospitable environment teems with life, like bacteria and algae and brine shrimp," she said.

She said she had been thinking about the ability to substitute phosphorus with arsenic for a long time.

"The physical size of arsenic and phosphorus are very similar," she said. "That chemical similarity lends insight into something."

Researchers took mud from Mono Lake and placed it in a laboratory environment that lacked phosphorus, but was rich in vitamins and sugar needed for growth, she said. Scientists also added high doses of arsenic to the mud, she said.

"We found that not only did this microbe cope, or deal with the toxicity...but it grew and it thrived, and that was amazing," she said. "Nothing should have grown."

Then, researchers measured the total arsenic concentrations within the cells to determine what was occurring at the molecular level, she said.

"We found that the arsenic was associated with a band of genomic DNA," she said.

Researchers determined that the microbe incorporated arsenic into the backbone of its DNA, rather than maintaining the normal phosphorus backbone, she said.

TO INFINITY AND BEYOND

Scientists said the discovery has changed common conceptions of what is required for life on Earth, and that it could potentially affect the search for extraterres-

trial life as well.

According to NASA's website, "The results of this study will inform ongoing research in many areas, including the study of Earth's evolution, organic chemistry, biogeochemical cycles, disease mitigation and Earth system research. These findings also will open up new frontiers in microbiology and other areas of research."

"It is not about arsenic, and this isn't about Mono Lake," Wolfe-Simon said. "It's about thinking about life in a planetary context, and asking questions, simple questions, with a simple experimental design."

"If something here on Earth can do something so unexpected, what else can life do that we haven't seen yet?" she said. "We've cracked open the door to what's possible elsewhere in the universe."

ALIEN ACADEMICS

West, who will be teaching Astronomy 105, "Alien World," next semester, said he most likely would incorporate the new finding into his class.

"We will be discussing many issues of habitability and the possibility of life in the universe," he said. "These new results do alter our perspective about what is possible."

"For our astronomy classes, it will just remind us to keep an open mind," he said. "However, for the biologists, this result may lead to fundamental changes in their curricula if the result holds up."

Students said they didn't necessarily share the researchers' enthusiasm.

"It's all well and good, but it would have been cool to have been shaking hands with aliens next week," said Samuel Taber, a College of Arts and Sciences sophomore. "Maybe I've just seen too many science fiction movies."

Don't get distracted by StuVi2 view

STUDY: From Page 3

bicles," said CAS junior Pamela Bilewicz.

Third floor of the George Sherman Union:

A world away from the overwhelming hustle and bustle of the first floor of the George Sherman Union, the third floor of the GSU is a sanctuary for students looking to hunker down and get some serious studying done.

An open study atmosphere, the third floor of the GSU is host to a number of couches and armchairs that are perfect for students who plan on studying with a small group of classmates.

There are no monitors as there are in some of the official study lounges elsewhere on campus, so quiet conversation is usually tolerated.

With the GSU food court two floors away and Mugar Memorial Library right next door, the two most important things to any study-bound student, food and books, are in close proximity.

Mugar Memorial Library:

The library may seem like an obvious place to study, but the first floor of Mugar Memorial Library is perhaps one of the most resourceful places on campus for students to prepare for finals.

With an enormous bank of computers, the first floor of Mugar provides students with Internet access for whatever their study (or procrastinating) needs may be. The library's print center

is also located on the first floor, which students can use to print out documents for free.

CAS junior Leslie Guthrie said that the versatility that the first floor of Mugar offers is what makes it one of her favorite places to study on campus.

"I can listen to music, write a paper and run into friends who are in the same study ship as I am," she said. "Plus I don't have Microsoft Office so I sort have to be there to get anything done."

The third floor of Mugar is home to the PAL study lounge, which is a more conducive atmosphere for group studying. With couches and armchairs, the PAL lounge is the perfect place to go over exam material with classmates, as quiet conversations are permissible.

Student Village II study lounge:

Student Village 2, located at 33 Harry Agganis Way, is home to one of the most panoramic views of the Boston skyline in the city. The 26th floor of the residence hall also happens to be a study lounge open to Boston University students.

While the view may be distracting at first, the study lounge at the top of StuVi 2 has a quiet and productive atmosphere for students looking to prepare for finals. For students residing in West campus, the StuVi 2 study lounge is undoubtedly one of the most desirable places to dive into some studying.

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A compromising compromise

As Republicans and Democrats continue to squabble over budget cuts and tax policy, the two sides claim to have at least come close to reaching a compromise over one issue. Democrats plan to agree to extend the Bush tax cuts for all Americans in exchange for the Republicans agreeing to an extension of unemployment benefits. But while it is good that the two sides are making an effort to compromise, the agreement is both unbalanced and fails to adequately address the nation's problems.

While the Democrats agree that the Bush tax cuts should be extended for the vast majority of Americans, their original plan to let the cuts expire for the wealthiest two percent of citizens would play a huge part in helping to reduce both the deficit and the income gap between the richest and poorest Americans. Meanwhile, Republicans have denounced letting the cuts expire for the top 2 percent, insisting on their extension for all and continuing to look out for the interests of those who don't need to have their interests protected. Though Republicans claim to be intensely committed to reducing the federal deficit, their constant support of tax cuts for the rich shows that this concern is secondary.

In exchange for this, the Republicans

made the concession of extending unemployment benefits, something they have consistently fought against. But at a time like this, continuing jobless benefits is not only helpful, but necessary. The unemployment rate is at 9.8 percent, well over the natural rate. In an economic environment such as this, high unemployment is not an indication of the laziness or failures of individuals. For many, no matter how hard they try, it is simply not possible to find a job at this time, as most companies are not hiring. The fact that Republicans consider assisting these people to be a huge concession shows just how out of touch they are with the needs of those in need.

While the Democrats are trying to help the middle class and those who are truly in need of assistance, the Republicans continue to hold out to advance the causes of the wealthy. In tough economic times like these, our representatives should be focusing on what provides the greatest good for the greatest number, and supporting the middle class, rather than those who are already considerably better off without any outside assistance. If this is the best compromise that the Republicans and Democrats could come up with, then it looks as though this will be a long two years.

Justice is only skin deep

By law, juries are required to base their verdicts solely on the facts of the case at hand, without influence from outside factors. But in the case of John Ditullio, a man on trial for murder in Florida, lawyers feared that the defendant's appearance would obstruct this opportunity for fairness. As a result of his lawyer's arguments, the court is paying \$125 a day to have Ditullio's tattoos, which include a swastika on his neck, covered up during the trial process.

Ditullio's lawyer claimed that it would be impossible for jurors to give a man with his client's appearance a fair shake and would automatically judge him based on his appearance, an assertion with which the judge concurred. But whether this is true or not, Ditullio made the decision to tattoo a swastika and a crude insult on his neck. His appearance reflects his personality, for better or for worse, and shouldn't be hidden in order to try to encourage a jury to judge him less harshly.

The bigger issue at stake is not whether his appearance should be altered, but

the fact that the court is actively spending money on Ditullio's lawyer's efforts to make his client look better. If he wants his tattoos covered up, at least the money should come out of his own defense fund. It is not uncommon for lawyers to attempt to make their clients look more presentable for trial. But it is uncommon for this sort of thing to come out of the public's pocket.

If the jury is more swayed by Ditullio's appearance than the facts of the case, then that is their own fault. But using the court's funds to give a man who has been accused of murder twice a better chance not only benefits him unfairly, but is a bad use of the court's money. Whether the tattoos should be a consideration or not, Ditullio chose to get them, and now must face the consequences of his actions.

The last time he was accused of murder, Ditullio was acquitted on a mistrial. Allowing him to potentially escape harsh punishment again due to a technicality undermines the very justice system that Ditullio's lawyer claims to be trying to uphold.

The New Normal

Preparing for phase four

Today, in honor of the end of this little editorial journey, I want to take you back to 1997. Or maybe 1998 – things from that era tend to run together. In any case, our destination is New Hampshire Estates Elementary School in Silver Spring, Md. (mascot: the brontosaurus). I am in second grade, and I am about to do something precocious.

Backstory: after failing my kindergarten eye test, I was diagnosed with amblyopia, which is a kind of lazy eye that doesn't rove around. Basically, it meant my eyesight was lopsided to the point of near-blindness in my left eye. So from then until fourth grade, I wore glasses and, every so often, a patch on my right eye. I always used to say it was to

a sense of propriety or modesty or necessity or something like that.

At the beginning of this semester, when I first knew I'd be spending months at home recovering from an injury I could never have expected to have, writing this column seemed like a natural route to take. I would miss The FreeP; I wanted to keep using my brain, keep writing, try to act like I was on campus as much as I could. I thought maybe I would have something interesting to offer as I underwent this strange new experience. I had a new perspective on living with a handicap, on the unpredictability of the world and on what it means to grow up and how.

I thought, I'll have nothing better to do; maybe I can share some of this with BU. Maybe we can all try to learn something, or just be a little entertained. Maybe I can just rant about Harry Potter for 13 weeks. They don't have to read it. I'm just writing.

I know that I've had a lot of remarkable things happen to me this fall. Certainly, the speed and breadth of my recovery have been remarkable, and sometimes I think my attempts at resilience have been a little remarkable too. My boredom has definitely been remarkable, but so has how fast the semester has flown by. I've met remarkable people at the National Rehabilitation Hospital and learned remarkable things about how the world works and how people can endure the worst, and maybe become better for it.

But it occurred to me as I was trying to think how I could possibly put a cap on all of that, that the actual exercise of writing this column could be construed as a bit remarkable too. I thought back to my patch speech at that assembly in second grade. I'm sure that choice didn't seem remarkable to pint-sized me. And now, pint-sized no longer, I still don't exactly find the fact that I'm writing this column particularly surprising. It's just a way to explore what's happened to me, to keep people in the loop and try to get everyone's heads around it and its implications a little bit.

I guess, though, that it is kind of an insane thing to do – spending three months sharing 800-word snapshots of intimate secrets, emotional rollercoasters and embarrassing Harry Potter-related panic attacks with the entire BU community. Well, I have few regrets about it. Call it what you want; for me, it was just part of the process.

It just makes me think of something I heard at the hospital soon after I was discharged. One of my parents asked my doctor whether I was supposed to be doing any of the exercises I worked on in physical and occupational therapy at home, now that I was going to be doing three or four hours of therapy per week as opposed to per day.

Not really, said my doctor, because now that you're back in the world, life is therapy. Everything you do is part of your recovery; everything is a potential challenge, an opportunity to figure out how to deal with your injury.

So I suppose this has just been a part of my regimen, and I want to thank you, nebulous readership, for acting as a sounding board.

I was up at BU this weekend, finally, finally, finally. It felt amazing to be back – to see friends, old haunts, professors, as though I'd never left. But at the same time, quite unexpectedly, there was also an element of deep terror: to realize that in six weeks, I'll be back for good, dealing with a packed academic, extracurricular and social life on top of continuing recovery and inclement weather. I don't know if I'm ready, but I guess I won't ever know that until I've tried.

Onward and upward, then. We've been through phase one, dealing with the crime; phase two, dealing with the hospital; phase three, dealing with home. Bring on phase four.



ANNIE ROPEIK

give the left one exercise. I was an adorable little pirate child, goofy-looking and a big dork, with ambitions of being a paleontologist and a love of Star Wars. (Harry Potter was, at this time, barely a twinkle in my eye.)

You might recall that I mentioned, what seems like a very long time ago now, that my current injury attracts a lot of interest from kids. Well, in the days of the patch, I was in the thick of interested kids, being one myself. I got stares, heck yes. I got questions, I got comments, I got envy from nerdy little boys and teasing from snooty little girls. Being, of course, an aloof and emotionally mature 7 or 8-year-old, though, this didn't bother me too much. I had my prepackaged explanation (I just gave it to you, too) and plenty of extra patch-shaped Band-Aids to share. I knew eventually that we'd grow up, my eye would get better, I'd move on. So I dealt with it. I think I was too young to consider doing anything else.

But being precocious and all – did I mention that I was precocious? Because it was out of control – I was not satisfied with small-scale information distribution. So when the opportunity arose to take things to the next level, I went right for it. This opportunity came in the form of some routine all-school assembly. At the end, the teacher or whoever was leading it asked if anyone had anything else to share. And yes, baby Annie raised her hand.

I marched right up there, patch and all, in front of the whole school, and I set the record straight: "A lot of people ask about this eye thing," I assume I said, "so I just wanted to tell you all definitively what the story is." Well, maybe I didn't use the word "definitively," but at any rate, that's what I proceeded to do. It's not a very complicated story; really, outrageous as it kind of seems that I did it, I think I had the right idea.

I've been thinking about this family-favorite anecdote a lot this semester. For years, hearing about this thing I did when I was younger, I thought it was funny. I thought, assigning no special relevance to this knowledge, that I would never do something like that now, now that I'm older, now that I have

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CUMMINGS: BU not as overrated as BC fans would have you think

CUMMINGS: From page 8

loss, whether it's a heartbreaker like the aforementioned Helmet Catch Game (triple gulp) or a blowout like the two matches against BC this weekend.

Trust me, I know how hard it is to keep perspective when you just watched your team get absolutely trounced, but we're still in the first half of a very, very long season. BU lost because its attack was messy and disorganized, not because they're not talented enough to keep up.

Remember, this team was ranked No. 2/3 in the country for a reason. They're

not as "overrated" as those BC Superfans think, and they will have a successful season. Don't get me wrong, as much as it kills me to say it, BC is a great team. That much was apparent over the weekend when they outskated, outsmarted, out-everythinged BU. But teams are never as good as they look in victory, and never as bad as they look in defeat.

That's why I'm telling you to not freak out. Am I saying BU is still better than BC? Of course not. BU has a lot of work ahead of it if it wants to be competing for the Hockey East title, much less the Frozen Four. But they definitely aren't the mess

they appeared to be over the weekend.

It's clear that, barring some catastrophic injury, BC and BU will most likely (jinx alert!) be competing until the very end for the conference title. The two games over the weekend were the first times the teams have faced each other this season. We weren't sure which team would skate away with the victory, but the weekend is over and we know that, for now, BC is the better team.

Keep in mind that BU still has two games against BC remaining on the schedule, one at Agganis Arena and the other at TD Garden in the Beanpot first round. If you think

BU coach Jack Parker hasn't circled those games on the schedule after this weekend, you are clearly mistaken. The Terriers will be looking for revenge come January, especially after two defeats where BC doubled BU's goal total and thoroughly dismantled their defense. And I, for one, can't wait to see how this team responds.

So Terriers fans, fear not. We've got a good team on our hands and a very intelligent coach at the helm. There's still plenty of time for our boys to right the ship and become the force we all know they can be. You can put the respirator down now.

Northeastern forced 21 BU turnovers thanks to second-half press

NORTHEASTERN: From page 8

The St. John's defense forced a lot of turnovers from the Terriers, mainly by using a full-court press defense. BU had 13 of their 21 turnovers in the first half, and 17 of the turnovers were steals by the Red Storm's swarming defense.

"Every single turnover turned into an open layup for them, which means we weren't able to get into our half-court set as much, and they got easy baskets," Greenberg said.

One reason the BU offense struggled was the lockdown defense on BU forwards Kerry Cashman and Caroline Stewart. The two were shut out on the offensive end, which resulted in only 12 points in the paint for the Terriers.

"Unfortunately I thought their team did a great job taking them out. They didn't let them get good looks and they were physical with them," Greenberg said. "Our toughest two players are Caroline Stewart and Kerry Cashman."

Some positives of the game came from the bench, including nine points from freshman guard Melissa Gallo and seven points from Sims. The two played 18 and 19 minutes respectively, and were sparks for a team that struggled all night.

"They've earned it in practice," Greenberg said. "We really wanted to put [Sims] in because she plays very fearless."

Sims and Gallo played well enough to earn themselves a start in the next game against Northeastern (3-4), and Sims began

the game with the first five Terrier points. However, the lineup change was not enough to earn BU the win.

Against the Huskies, the Terriers kept themselves in the game until the half but faltered as the game went on. The team struggled against another press defense that forced 21 turnovers from BU.

"We are really going to face the press defense now because people are beginning to see it as a weakness for us," Greenberg said.

Sophomore guards Chantell Alford and Mo Moran began the game on the bench instead of their usual starting spots but didn't lose any production. Both played more than 30 minutes and were tied for the team lead in points with 12 each for the game.

"Alford and Moran did not start because we felt like we needed to jumpstart them a little," Greenberg said. "But on the bench I talked to them about what was going on out there and how we were being defended."

Another player that came off the bench for the Terriers in this game was senior guard Kat Briggs, who played 16 minutes against the Huskies.

"Kat plays pretty good defense," Greenberg said. "Alex wasn't really stopping anyone, and as a coach right now, things aren't going really well so you look for different answers."

BU will look to end this three-game losing streak on Wednesday at 5 p.m. against University of Massachusetts at Case Gymnasium.

Stewart passed 350-rebound threshold with 11 boards against NU

FRONT-COURT: From page 8

said. "I thought they did a good job today taking them out. They wouldn't let them get good looks, and they were physical with them."

Stewart and Cashman, two of the team's three captains, even struggled on the boards, a stat they often dominate. Cashman pulled down just four boards before fouling out with 3:47 to play. Stewart (seven rebounds) was also in foul trouble for a majority of the game and played just 24 minutes.

"Unfortunately, they have to pick up a lot of fouls because they have to help people, help people out of position," Greenberg said. "They just have to do so much for us right now. I'm sure they are very exhausted

young women."

As St. John's defensive effort allowed the Red Storm to run away with the game, a visibly frustrated Stewart took a quick glance at the scoreboard—which then read 27-12 in favor of St. John's—with 6:23 left in the first half, punching one palm with her other fist.

Unfortunately for Stewart and the Terriers, the rest of the game would only yield more of the same, and their opponent would only expand its lead as the clock wound down as Stewart and Cashman tried fruitlessly to turn things around.

On Monday night, NU did not shut Stewart and Cashman down quite like St. John's did, but the Huskies were effective enough to get the 67-55 win. This time, the

duo was able to stay out of foul trouble for the most part, but a low shooting percentage did BU in. Cashman was just 1-of-7 and Stewart was 3-of-8 from the field.

"We weren't sharp," Greenberg said. "It's unfortunate, because our game plan was to get the ball inside a little bit [to Stewart and Cashman]. We really missed, and we missed badly. I thought that that really changed the game for us. Kerry got frustrated, and her body language changed, and it gives the other team a confidence boost."

As disappointing as the 2-7 season has been for the Terriers thus far, Stewart and Cashman have been the source of several bright spots. Against Northeastern, Stewart had 11 rebounds, allowing her to pass the

350 mark for her career, while Cashman hauled in 12 boards to up her total to 305.

"They both rebounded the heck out of the ball," Greenberg said of the NU game in particular. "Anytime there's a personal milestone, I'm happy."

On the season, Cashman and Stewart are averaging 8.7 and 8.1 boards per game respectively and both are averaging 7.7 points per game.

If the Terriers are going to turn their season around during the rapidly approaching conference play, which BU is expected to do well in as it was the preseason favorite to win the conference, Stewart and Cashman will likely be a central part of it as they continue to be the team's physical, mental and statistical leaders.

BU, Northeastern tied first three games they played in 2009-10

W. HOCKEY: From page 8

think they're a very opportunistic offensive team. I don't think they look at one player to do it. They've got some kids who have poise around the net, and when they get an opportunity to make a good shot, they make it."

Northeastern is only two points behind BU in the HE standings and a win will not

only give the Terriers more breathing room in their conference, but will also give them more confidence as the season progresses.

"Northeastern is right there," Durocher said. "They're a program that continues to be on the rise, and [Husky coach] Dave Flint does a fantastic job as well as his staff. If all of a sudden, we can win what they would call

a four-point game, it gives them a loss and it gives us a win in the column... It'll be a big win for whoever gets it. We're going to see if we can't get the job done."

BU and Northeastern met up four times last season. The first three games the pair played, the teams tied. Northeastern ended up winning the two teams' final match in the

Beanpot semifinals in a shootout.

"I think with Northeastern, they've got pretty good quickness, they've got pretty good diversity and they got a volume of kids who are scoring goals for them," Durocher said. "It'll be a real good matchup to have to deal with not only their quickness but their All-American type goaltender."

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Dems race against clock to repeal DADT

DADT: From Page 3

While these numbers bode well for the repeal of DADT, not all of the questions delivered similar sentiments.

Thirty percent of the entire U.S. military, and as many as 58 percent of service men and women in the Marine Corps, believe that a repeal would have a "negative" or "very negative" effect on the ability of a unit to "work together to get the job done," according to the report.

The variance in responses from different parts of the military resulted in varying recommendations when the Joint Chiefs of Staff appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Friday.

The Chief of Naval Operations said that the repeal would have minimal consequences, but the Chiefs of

Staff of the Army and the Air Force and the Commandant of the Marine Corps all opposed the repeal.

According to the Department of Defense website, the chiefs of the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps opposed the timing of the repeal more than any concerns about the effectiveness of gay soldiers.

"Implementation of the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell would be a major cultural and policy change in the middle of a war," said Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey Jr., according to the Department of Defense website.

As Sen. John McCain and other Republicans try to filibuster the repeal, the question of when or if it will be repealed remains.

"I think it will be over-turned given American sympathies toward gays at the moment and their increasing po-

litical clout, but I don't know when," said Boston University political science professor Christine Rossell. "It is way down on the president's list of important things to deal with at the moment so he will not provide any leadership on this issue. So, it may not be overturned until and if he is re-elected."

BU political science professor Graham Wilson emphasized America's inability to get over the issue of homosexuality.

"It's extraordinary that this is still such an issue in the US. When they asked commanders from friendly countries like Israel and the U.K., what had been the result of allowing gays to serve, their reaction was that it was a non-event," he said. "Why is the U.S. so hung up on equality for gays?"

Today's crossword
solution brought to you by...
RIP DUTCH DOMINATION

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“I’m sure they are very exhausted young women.”

-Women’s basketball coach Kelly Greenberg on Kerry Cashman and Caroline Stewart

Sports

Women’s hockey to face Northeastern in first of potential four-game season series Monday, p. 7



[www.dailyfreepress.com]

CUMMINGS AND GOINGS

Sometimes it doesn't hurt to lose

Get off the ledge, BU hockey fans.

In case you hadn't heard, BU was dominated in every aspect of the game over the weekend as BC soundly swept the two-game set by a combined score of 14-7. It was a rough outing that undoubtedly left a lot of fans aggravated by its sloppy play, and of course, frustrated that they lost two straight to Boston Freaking College.



ALANNA CUMMINGS

Well to all you worrywarts out there, I have a message for you: it's all going to be just fine. The immediate hockey future may look bleak and uncertain, but

let's just consider how terrible it would be to wake up in the body of a BC fan, Freaky Friday-style. Not helping? OK, listen up.

I know through first-hand experience how much it sucks losing to such a hated opponent, a rival whose name makes you angry with the fire of a thousand suns. (Yup, I'm looking at you, Sasha Vujacic.) Losing to the team you hate most in sports is probably the last legal form of torture, especially when you're forced to watch buffoons like Rex Ryan prancing around the sidelines like a 13-year-old pubescent boy who just found a "Baywatch" calendar. But it doesn't mean that those losses aren't constructive.

A team has to fail a few times in order to know what its weaknesses are and how to fix them. In fact, I'd say losing actually makes a team better. (Unless said team starts with a "C" and ends in "Leveland.") Consider the 2007 New England Patriots. (Gulp. Bad memories coming up. Have a respirator ready.) Bill Belichick, Tom Brady and Co. were destined for immortality and greatness and every other hyperbolic noun you could imagine. They were 18-0 going into the Super Bowl (double gulp) and were on top of the world. Their one flaw? They never lost.

The Pats never had the chance to see how faulty their defense was or that their mistakes could cost them a victory. (Get the respirator!) I'm convinced that if they had experienced defeat just once, they might not have been so arrogant, and they definitely would have won the Super Bowl. Good teams know how to recover from a

CUMMINGS, see page 7

Huskies hustle Terriers

By Kevin Dillon
Daily Free Press Staff

The Boston University women's basketball team stumbled twice in the last three days, losing to No. 20 St. John's University on Saturday at home before falling again on the road against Northeastern University, to put the team on a three-game losing streak.

The Terriers (2-7) began the weekend with a tough home loss against the Red Storm (7-1) by a score of 66-42. Despite a stronger second-half performance, they could not overcome the huge deficit they fell into during the first half.

"They're in the top 25 for a reason," said BU coach Kelly Greenberg.

The Red Storm went on a 21-3 run midway through the first half and never looked back. The only points the Terriers scored over that span came on a sophomore guard Kristen Sims 3-pointer after eight consecutive points by the Red Storm.

NORTHEASTERN, see page 7



Sophomore guard Chantell Alford (above) tied fellow guard Mo Moran for the team lead in points with 12 off the bench in BU's 67-55 loss to Northeastern.

MICHAEL CUMMO/DAILY FREE PRESS FILE PHOTO

Front-court stalwarts Cashman, Stewart keys to BU successes, failures

By Tim Healey
Daily Free Press Staff

When it comes to her team's leaders, BU women's basketball coach Kelly Greenberg is honest and straightforward.

"Our toughest two players are [junior forward] Caroline Stewart and [senior center] Kerry Cashman, every day at practice and at every game," Greenberg said.

So when you take a look at the St. John's University and Northeastern University box scores, it should come as no surprise that the team lost both games.

On Saturday, Stewart and Cashman were both held scoreless as St. John's routed BU (2-7) 66-42. The two shot the ball a combined six times. To Greenberg, though, it was all a part of St. John's plan.

"You're not going to win the game when these two kids don't touch it, and I think that was St. John's game plan," Greenberg

FRONT-COURT, see page 7

W. hockey will battle Northeastern in big HE game

By Meredith Perri
Daily Free Press Staff

After a solid outing over the weekend, the No. 5 Boston University women's hockey team is looking to take on Northeastern University in a game that could have a major impact on the season.

On Saturday, the Terriers (12-2-3, 4-1-3 Hockey East) beat University of Connecticut in their second straight road shutout. Junior forward Jenn Wakefield and junior defenseman Tara Watchorn scored three points apiece to boost the Terriers. Wakefield scored two goals

for her team leading fourth power-play goal and fifth game-winning goal. Freshman forward Marie-Philip Poulin also scored a power-play goal.

"Saturday's game was probably as thorough a game as we've had" said BU coach Brian Durocher. "We grabbed the shutout, killed all the short-handed situations and scored a couple of power-play goals."

The Terrier defense was especially strong during the game as it only allowed 12 shots on goal. Furthermore, freshman goaltender Kerrin Sperry, who was named the

HE Co-Rookie of the Month, continued her unbeaten streak with her second straight shutout.

"Kerrin's play was solid," Durocher said. "One of those pucks goes in late in the second period and they get momentum and they're at home, that's going to be a real, real fight all the way to the end... Sometimes it looks like its 4-0 on the scoreboard, but it was within a whisker or a couple of good saves of being a dog fight right to the end. Fortunately, she made the saves."

In its last game, Northeastern (10-3-4, 3-2-3) scored four goals in

the third frame to overtake University of New Hampshire, 4-0. Sophomore Rachel Llanes scored two goals during the game, and junior goaltender Florence Schelling had 22 saves in her third shutout of the season. Two of Schelling's shutouts came between Nov. 6 and Nov. 12 when she went 176:08 minutes without giving up a goal.

"I feel like their team starts with goaltender Florence Schelling. She's a real top notch goaltender," Durocher said. "The next thing is I

W. HOCKEY, see page 7

M. hockey falls to No. 7 after BC weekend sweep

By Sam Dykstra
Daily Free Press Staff

The Boston University men's hockey team dropped to its lowest spot in the national rankings since Oct. 23 on Monday when it fell to seventh in both the USCHO.com and USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine polls.

The Terriers (7-3-5, 5-3-4 Hockey East) suffered their first series sweep of the 2010-11 season when they dropped two contests in a row to Boston College - 9-5 on Friday and 5-2 a day later - over the weekend. They are now a paltry 1-3-4 in their last eight games.

The Eagles (11-5-0, 9-4-0 HE) were awarded for their efforts with an upgrade from No. 8 to No. 4 in both polls and received four first-place votes - three in the USCHO.com poll and one in the USA Today/USA Hockey polls.

University of New Hampshire moved to its highest ranking of the season when it vaulted to No. 3 in the country after it beat University of Massachusetts-Lowell 3-1 Thursday and University of Vermont 5-1 three days later.

No. 8/6 University of Maine, whose record of 7-3-4 is nearly identical to that of BU's, was the other HE team to find itself in the top 10 of both polls. No. 17 Merrimack College gave the conference its fifth team in the rankings.

Rounding out the top five in the both polls were No. 1 Yale University, No. 2 University of Minnesota-Duluth and No. 5 University of North Dakota, respectively.

BU will get begin its road back toward the top five Wednesday when it takes on Northeastern University at Agganis Arena.



Senior forward Joe Pereira was one of only a handful of Terriers BU coach Jack Parker thought performed well last weekend.

U-JIN LEE/DAILY FREE PRESS FILE PHOTO

The Bottom Line

Tuesday, Dec. 7

W. Hockey @ Northeastern, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 8

W. Basketball vs. UMass, 5 p.m.
M. Hockey vs. Northeastern, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 9

M. Basketball vs. La Salle, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 10

W. Hockey @ Harvard, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 11

M. Basketball @ Harvard, 2 p.m.
M. Hockey @ Rensselaer, 3:30 p.m.
W. Basketball @ Marist, 7:30 p.m.