Student wins national design contest

Rose Francois
Journal Staff

Despite the 15-minute walk from the rest of campus, the trek to the New England School of Arts and Design can be worth it. There are some very talented individuals there.

Jill Garzik, a senior majoring in interior design and a minor in creative writing, one of them. She recently became the proud winner of the national student award from the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) for her entry into the competition.

Garzik said her project was supposed to be a "holistic day spa and treatment center for people dealing with multiple sclerosis." In addition to the spa, her project included residential apartments for individuals who would be working at the spa.

While researching how to design the spa, Garzik took into account the nature of MS. "It's a degenerative disease," she noted. "It became really important not just to meet the ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] requirements."

Another requirement of the project was that the designs were environmentally friendly. "It's a very popular trend right now," said Garzik, who explained that she wanted the building to contain products and materials that have been or can be recycled.

On its website, ASID describes its purpose as an organization that "strives to advance the interior design profession and, in the process, to demonstrate and celebrate the power of design to positively change people's lives."

Looking towards the future Garzik knows that this accomplishment will help her in the design industry. "I think employers understood the amount of work that goes into a competition," said Garzik.

When asked if winning was the best revenge for not having her project chosen initially, Garzik stated that she is proud to be representing Suffolk University and herself as well.

"It's just satisfying to know that I believed in myself enough to go for it," she said.

Chris DeFillippi
Journal Staff

Several weeks of exceptionally mild New England weather were interrupted as winter returned, bringing with it well over a foot of snow to Greater Boston. With winds in excess of 45 miles per hour, and, at its worst, an accumulation of about two inches of snow per hour, the nor'easter shut down most of the city. Mayor Tom Menino declared a snow emergency and urged the people of Boston not to drive on Saturday night or the rest of Sunday except in the event of an emergency.

The administration of Suffolk took the warning a step further and canceled classes on Jan. 13, even though snow accumulation had ceased in the evening before. The decision to cancel Monday classes was posted on the Suffolk website Sunday night.

Senior Brian Anastas was on campus Sunday, rehearsing for the on-campus performance of "A Country Doctor." Although he described getting on campus as "the worst commute of [my] life," he noted that Temple Street and other roads by Suffolk were surprisingly clear. "Maintenance did a helluva job," Anastas said.

Despite the 15-minute walk from the rest of campus, the trek to the New England School of Arts and Design was worth it. "I was in shock for about four days," said Garzik, who beat out the 81 other contestants. "I submitted it anyway." Garzik said she expects the highlight of her experience to be when she is recognized at a reception at Interiors '06.

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Jill Garzik, winner of the AISD contest.

Freshman Aaron Straus snowboarding on Boston Commons on his day off.

Matt Bencivengo - Journal Staff
STORM from page 1

they were happy to have a day off, faculty and students alike were busy to do some rescheduling because of the cancelation.

Professor Vicki Karns assisted in the hosting of the Suffolk University/University of Florida in Boston Swing Tournament, where representatives of different college forensics (debate) teams from across the nation attended to compete in debating.

The event was held at several of Suffolk's build­ings, and was originally slated to go from both Saturday to Sunday, but was shortened to only Saturday.

"It would have started at seven in the morning and gone until eight at night," said Karns. "A lot of them were staying at the Radisson Marriott, so getting in would be tricky."

Professor Bruce Wickelgren, director of the Suffolk Forensics Society, said that because of the portion of the tournament host­ed by the University of Florida was can­celled, some teams might not qualify for other national competitions.

"A lot of teams paid a lot of money to come out, they put in a lot of money and did not get the qualifications for national," said Wickelgren.

The Counseling Center was one of the many departments that had to cancel several appointments. Lee Grever, a graduate fellow in charge of scheduling counseling appointments, said that, so far, it had not been much of an issue getting patients to reschedule.

"No, we’re just waiting for a few people to call back," Grever said.

The Athletics Department also had some rescheduling. A men's hockey game against Nichols College and a women's basketball game against St. Joseph's College were can­celled on Sunday and Monday respectively. We did have some rescheduling, said of Athletics Jim Nelson said. "Neither [game] caused any significant problem.

STORM from page 1

SGA on umbrellas, scanners & investors’ club

Garrett Quinn

Journal Staff

If the last meeting of the Student Government Association was any indica­tion, students may have two new scanners for art students and an umbrella-loan program for rainy days to look forward to.

Class of 2008 Senator Chris Dwelley was busy before the Jan. 9 meeting, author­izing a portion of the legislation that was placed before the body: The Appropriation of Sufficient Computer Equipment for NESAD, Extension of Cafeteria Hours, Rainy Day Act and a piece of legislation to establish further student lobbying by the Rainy Day Act.

Several SGA members, including the new secretary, senior Mike Walsh, cospon­sored the legislation. The only roadblock to providing umbrellas in the Sawyer and Donahue buildings that can be rented out by the student body during inclement weather.

Stuart Viner on the Hill is a piece of leg­islation that would seek to provide umbrel­las for rain-drenched students.

"It is extremely hard to focus and effec­tively work or study while your clothes are uncomfortable and dildipated by natural elements," read the legislation. The legisla­tion to provide umbrellas in the Sawyer and Donahue buildings that can be rented out by the student body during inclement weather.

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Wind-power advocate talks about Cape wind farm

Nickolas Papadopoulos

Journal Staff

While living in a gas line during the 1975 gas shortages, Jim Gordon could only think of one thing: America's need of cheap and efficient fuel. Today, Gordon is one of the leading advocates for installing tur­bines off of Cape Cod to generate elec­tricity from wind. He came to Suffolk's Archer Building on Jan. 9 to speak about his cause.

"We have a tremendous wind resource here in New England, ” Gordon said.

Wind power, though backed by environ­mentalists and supporters of reduced dependence on foreign oil, is not without its critics. Opponents of the wind farms, who claim that their presence will be an eyesore against them.

"I don't think that they will have a lot of people against them," said Gordon.

Gordon insists that, despite these criti­cisms, wind power on the Cape is viable and worthy it.

He pointed out that the greatest areas for harnessing the wind were either up in the mountains of the region or off of the coast. Gordon also said that the highest area of potential growth here in New England is in Cape Cod.

"We wanted to provide energy to Cape Cod and the general region," he said.

In addition to the Energy Management Inc. in 1975, and Gordon said it was successful enough until OPEC, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, reduced their prices from $40 a barrel back to $8 a barrel. The United States

was back on its feet again, but Gordon was out of a job.

Since then, his company came back.

EMI's is now offering to build the wind farm off of Cape Cod, a source of energy that will result in limited pollution production, waste discharge or water usage.

Gordon and EMI are proposing to charge 11 cents for every kilowatt of elec­tricity an hour as opposed to the 12.5 cents per kilowatt an hour for natural gas.

It may not seem that Cape residents will be saving much money from the wind farm, but Gordon has pledged that he and his company are willing to set these prices for the next 20 years without increase. This will save money for residents in the long run because of the rising prices for both petroleum and natural gas that we have experi­enced in the past couple of years.

"It's such a bargain," Gordon said.

Despite some of the possible benefits, there are many Cape residents who have opposed the constructions of the wind farm. Governor Mitt Romney has been an outspo­ken opponent of the project as well as Robert Kennedy, a strong advocate of envi­ronmental concerns, who opposes the proj­ect because it will ruin the scenic coastline of Martha's Vineyard.

Questions about the durability of the farm offshore and the effect it will have on boating and marine life have plagued the project from the start. Concerns about how the wind farms will affect the view (the tur­bines will be visible from shore) remain some of the most persistent.

Gordon cited that the 50 windmills that were built off the coast of Denmark have "become a popular tourist attraction and a destination. ([Wind energy]) will become a trillion dollar industry," he said.

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MA: good for business

Daniel Johnson
Journal Staff

The Beacon Hill Institute, a fiscally conservative think tank that conducts studies on economic issues and advocates policy change, is based out of Suffolk University and employs several professors from the Sawyer School of Management. Annually, it releases a report on how competitive each state's business climate is. Despite relatively high taxes and numerous business regulations, Massachusetts is still a good place to do business; it was found to have the most competitive, and healthy, business culture in the country. New Hampshire finished as a close second.

The studies the Institute puts forward have caused stir in policy circles in the past. David G. Tuerck, the executive director of BHI, stated in the report's forward, "The competitiveness index has proven to be a powerful tool in the hands of policy makers and leaders. Our reports are used by the governor, businesses, and the public in making economic decisions."

Awards range up to $3,000 and the application deadline is June 1, 2006.

Applications and additional information can be obtained online at www.johngyleseducationcenter.com.
Sunset Grill and Tap: land of a thousand beers

Chris DeFiliipi
Journal Staff

If you've ever had the pleasure of heading out for drinks with an out-of-town friend you haven't seen in a while, the Sunset Grill and Tap is probably the safest bet in Boston. If your friend has matured since your days together, the Grill boasts a selection of over 100 beers on tap, hundreds of up-scale bottled imports as well as classy dining. If your friend has gone on a downward spiral, the Sunset Grill also offers beers in five-oz. style yard-tall glasses as well as malt liqueur served in brown paper sacks. Whatever direction you want your night to go in, you'll have help. The wait staff is knowledgeable and the alcoholic content of each beverage is listed clearly on the menu. Whether you want to take a mini tour of Europe or get massively over served for under $15 is entirely up to you.

While the sheer variety of beers at the Sunset is its greatest strength, the number of options can be intimidating to those whose idea of a diverse selection is when Budweiser and Coors are served. Still, those domestic standbys are here at the Grill. If your experiment with the Japanese Kirin beer, a blonde ale, also gets high marks. In addition to being smooth, it has almost the faintest taste of honey in it. This will come as a welcome surprise to those who are used to detecting the faintest taste of the giant metal drum their beer was brewed in.

For the more adventurous, there are also those that go by slightly more intimidating names such as Dragonlayer and SkullSpine Scotch, that have an alcohol content to match. And, of course, for those who know their beer and enjoy plenty of it, there are the tall glasses, which come as a yard or half-yard tall, and are balanced in a wooden stand you keep at your table. For a good time, try filling it with the most amusingly named beverage on the menu. As opposed to most jokes, you'll find that as you're finishing your enormous pipe flask of brew, this one will only get funnier with time.

If one feels slightly primitive drinking out of these tall, unwieldy devices, drink something primitive. The Grill usually has six brands of mead, the medieval honey-based drink; on try. The Canterbury Tales Mead, for starters, which is middle-of-the-road, both in terms of the strength of the flavor and its alcohol content. In addition to the imports, there are some standout selections from the microbreweries in the southern New England area. You can get the pumpkin or blueberry flavored beers, or, if you're looking for something more subtlety different, you can try a bottle of Flying Dog. Their Indian Pale Ale isn't as bitter as some of the more popular brands, but will still arouse your taste buds. Their wheat beer, with its smooth, slightly sweet, hearty taste, is one of the most flavorful domestic beers on the market.

The food, while not as impressive as the drinks, is consistently above average. Most of the dishes include hearty slabs of meat and fresh vegetables. The nachos, even if you order them vegetarian, eat like a snack; they come drenched in melted cheddar cheese with generous dollops of sour cream, guacamole, salsa, juicy tomato wedges and crisp shredded lettuce. The shrimp po' boys (a take on the New Orleans favorite, which uses oysters) is another strong recommendation; it comes in a wheat bread roll and is overflowing with the spicy little braided prawns.

In addition to the selection at the Grill, its atmosphere also has something for everybody. The lighting is dim enough so that it doesn't feel like a family restaurant, but the walls are covered with colorful posters and counters of different brands of beer, almost kitcrey, which adds a fun and friendly element to the place. The usual crowd is most- ly in their 20s and varies from the alternative music crowd, to the big goofy guys just kicking back and sharing some jokes over drinks.

The Sunset Grill might not be a well kept secret around its location in Allston-Brighton, but folks on Beacon Hill might find it a delightfully diverting surprise. While the bars downtown can be a hole-in-the-wall, an upscale joint, or a raucous sports bar, the Grill might be the closest to a little bit of them all. So, hop the green line to the Packard's Corner stop, walk about five minutes and you're there. Why let the BU kids have all the fun?

Stallone gets geared up for 'Rambo V'

Daniel Johnson
Journal Staff

John Rambo rode away 17 years ago from war-torn Afghanistan during the conclusion of 'Rambo III' and Sylvester Stallone is set once again to reprise his role in the 'Rambo' saga. The fourth installment of the saga has long been awaited by fans of the franchise, which began with David Morrell's novel, "First Blood." Morrell's story depicted a Vietnam veteran (John Rambo), who after his military service has become of a drifter with little meaning left in his life.

The novel soon caught on with readers and was adapted into a successful movie, which generated millions of dollars at the box office as well as two sequels. When contacted, actress Julia Nickson, who played Rambo's love interest in "Rambo: First Blood Part II," noted the upbeat of the first sequel, "It is an 'A' action film, in which no expense or creativity is spared and yet it still has a classic action style that is well revered in pulling its audience in and then

Sprinnging an unexpected trap...Stallone totally immersed himself in the experience of providing a roller coaster thrill for those who care to take the ride. Despite the success of the sequel, the new film is moving in the direction of the original. Last year's "The Hollywood Reporter" released a general synop- sis of the film that stated, "The story centers on former Viet nam vet John Rambo, who is living a reclusive life back home in the U.S. But when a girl goes missing, he is forced to abandon his quiet lifestyle and take justice into his own hands." This plot stays true to the Rambo of "First Blood," deciding justice on his own rather than working alongside government officials as he did in both "Rambo: First Blood Part II" and "Rambo III." Regardless of the film's direction, the bond that the Rambo character made with audiences cannot be experienced firsthand can be related to by viewers.

With filming scheduled to take place in the spring, relatively little remains said about the cast and crew that will appear in the film outside of the principle actor, Stallone. Napier noted hypothetically that he would like to see the return of the villain that he played in "Rambo: First Blood Part II." "I doubt very seriously that I'll be in it, but wherever I ever went they said, 'I hope they'll make another movie and I hope you're in it and I hope he comes after your ass and I hope he kills you' and I said 'yeah man too.'" With little known about the exact plot of "Rambo V," what is known is that the film will have a $50 million budget to revisit the action scenes that built the franchise and familiar filming locations in the United States and Mexico.
Conversational and controversial film 'Don's Plum' had an all-star cast before any of them were all-stars. Banned in the U.S., the film boasts amazing cameos by Leonardo DiCaprio, Tobey Maguire, Kevin Connolly and Jenny Lewis among others, and mostly improvisational banter about everything from masturbation to molestation to drugs to sex and back again. Too bad you'll never see it.

'Don's Plum' is banned in the U.S. Why, you ask? Well, shot in 1997, or somewhere around there as it is not clear, it didn't exactly pass the ratings boards. The film is about everything and nothing in particular.

The two up-and-comers created quite a stink, citing that they had an understanding that their involvement in the film was simply as a favor to writer-director R.D. Robb and some of the other actors in the film, and that it would never be released in the U.S. or Canada. DiCaprio and Maguire were sued by the producers early on, also, after they wanted to release it commercially in the U.S., and apparently the men and women behind the now A-listers 'ruined' the movie's chances of mainstream success in the states.

Despite the movie's controversy, and seeing as though it was released overseas, it is relatively easy to find the film on DVD. Online auction sites such as eBay feature it often, and some online file-share sites offer it (illegally, of course).

The bottom line is the movie is worth a watch if you can find it. Besides the main characters, the film boasts amazing cameos by the likes of Ethan Suplee, Jeremy Sisto, Meadow Sisto and Amber Benson of TV's 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer.'

Incidentally, the movie was banned from performing to find himself and travel the world, Martin has come back with his brand new album Life (Sony). Kicking off the concert with Middle Eastern flavor, Martin performed 'I Don't Care' before going into his hit 'Livin' La Vida Loca.' A real highlight was when a beautiful flamenco dancer appeared clad in a white filmy dress and danced with him to 'Besos De Fuego.'

He also performed old favorites from his immensely successful self-titled album, such as 'She's All I Ever Had' and 'Spanish Eyes,' not to mention soon-to-be hits off Life. Martin also performed 'She Bangs,' made infamous by American Idol contestant William Hung. When he sang 'The Cup of Life' a flurry of silver confetti flew out over the entire crowd, it felt more like Carnival in Rio de Janeiro than a concert at the Boston Opera House. Everybody was dancing and screaming to the beat. More screams came when half way through the set his shirt came unbuttoned. After leaving the stage people started chanting his name.

Martin came back out and performed two more songs, 'La Copa de La Vida,' which was slow, soft and mellow; and then ended the show perfectly with the pumped-up energy infused, 'Drop It On Me.'

With a flamenco dancer, great rhyt

The Latin lover has returned.

The Latin music invasion is back, and leading the way is none other than the man who started it all, Ricky Martin, who performed at the Opera House on Feb. 8.

After taking a five-year-hiatus from performing to find himself and travel the world, Martin has come back with his brand new album Life (Sony). Kicking off the concert with Middle Eastern flavor, Martin performed 'I Don't Care' before going into his hit 'Livin' La Vida Loca.' A real highlight was when a beautiful flamenco dancer appeared clad in a white filmy dress and danced with him to 'Besos De Fuego.'

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With a flamenco dancer, great rhythm, dance, energy, romance and a lot of screaming girls. In all seriousness it was more fun and infinitely better than expected. The Latin king of pop, Ricky Martin, is back.
Opinion

Chris DeFillippi's Plague Ground

For any college student about to graduate there will be many new and unexpected things to cope with in the "real world." College loan payments are looming, the parents may want you out of the house sooner than later and there's the matter of getting a decent job.

This job search may be more critical than one would expect and there are more important things to be looking for in a company rather than which has "Casual Fridays" or a Starbucks in the building.

One of the fastest growing issues for young adults entering the workforce is being able to land a job that provides affordable health coverage. With each passing year, fewer companies fit this description.

Currently, Senate President Travaglini and House Speaker DiMasi are in debates on Beacon Hill about what must be done in order for more people in Massachusetts to have some sort of health insurance coverage.

It is a common reality that people get sick and injured. Usually, most people don't know exactly when it will happen; see CARE, page 7.

Letter to the Editor

President lacks bold leadership

Dear Suffolk Journal,

Last week's editorial praising President Bush's State of the Union address was in no way reflective of reality. The author's argument that the President offered bold leadership for his troubled nation was flawed, misleading and just plain wrong.

The President offered absolutely no bold plans for the last three years of his administration, only contradictions. Bush called for more Americans to enter the fields of math and science.

The one area where Bush could rally the nation, the rebuilding of New Orleans, got only six lines that the proposal was retracted towards the end of the speech. He's a weak, lame-duck President with entitlement programs, aU of which are going to cost Bush a lot of money and not a promise.

It's nice to know that the President cares more about the financial stability of the Saudi royal family than millions of Americans struggling to pay their energy bills.

With entitlement programs, all that's needed is to raise the payroll tax cap on wages and the system will be well funded for years.

But this would cost Bush's rich friends more money and he would never make the rich pay their fair share.

After all this is a President who has cut taxes for the rich three times in the middle of a war. I guess the President can't think of a better way to spend $1.2 billion than by giving it to his rich friends.

President Bush's speech represented the reality of Washington. He's a weak, lame-duck President who can't get any significant programs approved.

His administration and his party are raked when corruption charges and the 12 years of Republican rule in Congress is in serious jeopardy.

The one area where Bush could rally the nation, the rebuilding of New Orleans, got only six lines towards the end of the speech. Even when everyone agrees action must be taken, the President refuses to act. So much for bold leadership.

Blake Webber
Class of 2008
February blues hit hard

The cold weather depression has hit Boston and affected every aspect of our city life. From sports, to relationships (or lack thereof), to shopping and finally to any kind of self-motivation, February has proven itself to be the least favored month here in town.

Sports Talk: Every other month of the year Bostonians can count on one thing: Boston sports. The Pats may not have pulled through this year but this is the only sport where we will cheer for teams rather than our own only because it gives us Sundays to look forward to. Who doesn’t love a day filled with nachos, beer and a bunch of guys around the TV? The Sox season is just about here and nothing could be better than a night at Fenway chanting the oh-so-classic “Yankees Suck,” slurring “Sweet Caroline” in the 9th and belting the guy in the seat next to you (as long as he’s wearing some kind of Red Sox apparel). Unfortunately, this February Boston sports are an all time low. People should pay other people to buy their tickets. I just can’t see myself buying a jersey with Szechuan or Olowakandi on the back, it’s just not right. So for the remainder of the month I’ll have to watch my 2004 World Series DVD.

The Dating Scene: How is a girl supposed to find a date or impress a current boyfriend this month is beyond me. Until I can find a guy who thinks knitted or windblown hair, matters, a juicy suit, and chunky Uggs are attractive I’m going to set for waiting until spring (whenever that may be). February is just an ugly month in weather and style.

Style Watch: Shopping this month is not an easy task, even for a shop-a-holic. You go into a store with a smile and leave with a headache. What do you buy this time of year? Heels—too risky, boots—too late, sneakers—have too many. T-shirt—not realistic; a bathing suit for Spring break—anxiety. For now, the only purchase you can be sure about is your grande cinnamon double latte from Starbucks. When would you need therapy when there’s retail therapy?

Motivation: Your lack of motivation is not your fault! I honestly think MTV and ABC are entirely to blame for this laziness. How is one expected to perform their best in school, commit to a workout routine, or even job search when there is an addictive schedule on TV that we are so loyal to. With ‘Grey’s Anatomy,’ “The Game,” “Three and Back,” “American Idol” and “Six and the City” reruns on throughout the week, there is no way of pulling yourself away. All I can do is thank God this is a short off-season. Until the Red Sox are playing and the sun comes out, the mood around here will remain the same. But at least we have “Real World: Key West” to look forward to next week—one more show to add to the February lineup.

Look for more in future job

CARE from page 6

without insurance, one visit to the emergency room can launch anybody without major financial savings into insurable debt.

Having as many people as possible in the state on some sort of health insurance will ultimately lower healthcare costs on the whole, because people will tend not to wait as long to see a physician while their conditions grow more severe.

Unfortunately though, many companies do not offer any sort of comprehensive healthcare coverage for their employees. Some politicians are proposing that is local companies take responsibility for their employers, or that they additionally contribute to the pool of funding which goes to the uninsured in Massachusetts, thus not allowing businessess to skirt the responsibility of keeping their employees healthy.

What is unique about young adults entering the workforce is their lack of options concerning their healthcare.

Elderly citizens have far more options than the youth of America when it comes to how they will pay for their medical bills, but this is because they are on a small fixed income while youths are not.

So, everyone beneath the age of 65 better make sure they have enough money to fund for themselves. There is hope for the soon-to-be young professionals though. For one, maybe it wouldn’t be so bad to stay in school and get a master’s degree. That may be just another roundabout way to defer the “real world” but hey, if it’s something you want to do, your parents’ health insurance should cover you until you’re 25 and as long as you’re a full-time student.

Also, don’t apply to companies that don’t provide health insurance.

Even if you move out of the city to a dirt-cheap apartment, limit your alchoholic consumpion to one night a week and eat macaroni and cheese nightly, you’ll still be hard pressed to pinch enough pennies to cover all your bills and pay for the full cost of health insurance.

Finally, and maybe most importantly — be healthy! In the terrible event you do have to go without health insurance for a little while, you don’t want to be scarfing down McDonalds and clicking the railings leading down to the Park Street T step; less visits to the doctor and emergency room equals less medical bills.

If you’re saying to yourself, “Yeah, sure, easier said than done.” All I can say is best of luck to us; we’ve got our work and bills cut out for us.

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Opinion: There's hope for Boston sports yet

Nick Giannino
Journal Contributor

It is a non-point to say that success in professional sports is measured by how many trophies your respected hometown brings at the end of the season. Who plays little league baseball or soccer and goes home happy without a trophy? I know I cried my damn eyes out.

But the point is that we don't watch little league baseball/soccer/hockey/football with the same intentions as to which the professional sports teams play.

That isn't to say you don't play to win. Instead, you play the season with realistic goals in mind as well. Two teams that play realistically are the Boston Celtics and Bruins.

No one at the beginning of the season expected the Celtics to come out and run the table in the Atlantic division. The Celtics are a work in progress and have been rebuilding since the Rick Pitino era of deconstruction. The Celtics have identity problems, lacking a true captain (cory Paul) and a consistency of coaching, going from Pitino to O'Brien then to Rivers.

Yes, the Green are young and inexperienced...but talented. And for Mr. Collins to say that Danny Ainge is getting younger is just that.

The Boston Bruins are also in the mix for rebuilding, not just in their organization but in the entire league. After the strike of 2004, teams were thrown into chaos. The Bruins sought to re-sign key players during the off-season and disrupted the chemistry in the locker room.

The Blues are similar to the Celtics in that they consist of many youthful prospects, with high ceilings and low experience. They also lack a true captain, pre-Joe and post-Thornton.

Despite having an injured starting goalie, Tim Thomas has stepped up. To also quote Mr. Collins in saying that trading "the face of the franchise, Joe Thornton, for three average professionals," we again see a falsity. Marco Sturm, Brad Stuart and Wayne Primeau are all solid players: Stuart and Sturm are all-star quality and Stuart is a player to build around.

The Red Sox were a great team on paper heading into 2005. But as we all know there's only one type of paper that's consistent in its use: I'll give you a hint. It's in your bathroom. Lackling a true ace and a dependable closer all season certainly did not help the Sox of '05. Many fans were coming off the high that was 2004 and expected similar.

What is remarkable about 2004 is that not one of their starting pitchers got injured all year (barring Derek Lowes boo-boo on his thumb and the Schilling Bloody Sock, but really do those count?).

With this in mind, the '04 Red Sox won 98 games. The '05 Sox won 95 games and tied for the overall AL East. Three wins less than the year before with no bullpen, no closer and no ace: remarkable.

And to make the playoffs again as the wild-card isn't disappointing so much as it is not 2004. Fans that should be disappointed should be that of the two New York teams, as their respected ownerships blew their bank up for the likes of Randy Johnson and Carlos Beltran, both busts of the 2005 season. The Red Sox paid their players what they were worth and get their money's worth from them.

The Patriots were in a similar situation to the Red Sox and were expected to repeat. But once again, it is wrong to assume that the '04 Patriots would be the same when they lost both Coach Crennel and Weis. Then key injuries to star players that Mr. Collins has referred to as well as free-agent deals that turned bust.

An aging running back put the season on its knees (Tom Brady). Brady had a career year, throwing for more yards and more touchdowns than years past.

Injuries are disappointing but what the team did with their disappointment is more important. They became an entertaining team toward the end of the season. Are we to be disappointed that the '05 Patriots didn't repeat the '04 Championship?

Of course, but for what it's worth, could they really win with their injuries? And for Mr. Collins not to call them a dynasty, claiming that right is entitled to a team that should "win three or four more championships" I question this: Which team has won six or seven Super Bowls with the same group of guys? The Steelers of the late '70s and early '80s won four in six years and are classified as a dynasty. Patriots are three out of four. You do the math.

"It's not about the end, it's about the journey" some stupid high-school senior once wrote in their graduation speech. I was not that senior but I do believe in the hip jargon "Just Graduated" Johnny used when it comes to sports teams.

The Yankees didn't win all 26 rings from acquiring free-agents every season (Note to Mr. Steinbrenner: Try some home-cooking. Eating out all the time costs a lot and you can get sick).

The teams that won consecutively were homegrown. They proved that growing the organization from within is a success unto itself. No team runs the table and dominates the league without going through some growing pains in years before.

Just because the Red Sox and Patriots didn't dominate or sprinkle fairy dust, and the Bruins and Celtics are struggling doesn't mean the season(s) are a failure.

They are just more growing pains in the long life of an organization that will eventually lead to another parade down Tremont Street. Oh and the Pittsburgh Pirates do have a chance. They're just in growing pains...not the Kirk Cameron ones either.