

The Penguin

April 1st, 2011

New England Conservatory

Issue XXXII

NEC ADVANCES TO THE FINAL FOUR !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



by Beth Blitzer

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Viola Faculty Announces Ban on Viola Jokes, Ignites Controversy

by Zach Preucil

The NEC Viola Department raised eyebrows this morning when they announced a blanket ban on Viola Jokes, or any humorous statements relating to the instrument.

"We've put up with them for years, and it's about time that this ridiculous slander be put to rest once and for all," viola faculty Kim Kashkashian stated at a press conference held by the Beethoven statue. "Such remarks are insensitive, unthoughtful, and ultimately degrading."

Kashkashian's colleague, Martha Strongin Katz, explained that the ban came about after a freshman had come to her lesson in tears because a bass player had asked her what the difference was between a viola and a trampoline (you take off your shoes to jump on the trampoline).

"She could barely get through her Hoffmeister, she was so upset," Katz recounted emotionally. "And my heart just went out to her."



Vital Accessories For
Viola Concerts

After hearing the story from Katz over a cup of coffee at ERC, Roger Tapping decided that such incidents could go on no longer.

"I immediately called Kim, Marcus, and Dimitri, and the five of us went straight to Tony Woodcock's office," he explained. "The President was extremely sympathetic to our cause, and instituted the ban at once."

The new law states that for every joke told, a practice room will be labeled as "Viola Priority" - sharply curtailing the already limited number of rooms in the upper floors of Jordan Hall.

"It's about time that we have priority rooms, anyways," said faculty member Dimitri Murrath, who speaks from experience as a former

NEC student. "Why should brass and piano players get all the benefits? You can practice your Liszt just as effectively on an old upright, and for Pete's sake you don't need a high ceiling to

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NEWS BITES

by Ross Holcombe

Entrepreneurial Musicianship Program Under Scrutiny

The New England Conservatory's widely touted Entrepreneurial Musicianship program came under fire from PETA yesterday when it was discovered that grant proposals are routinely tested on animals before final approval.

Animal rights activists lined St. Botolph Street on Thursday to protest the abuses against animals that have been perpetrated in the name of grants to support NEC students' musical projects.

"It's absolutely horrible," said graduate violist, Maya Jacobs. "I had no idea that they were doing animal testing, and I will definitely not be applying for any more entrepreneurial grants until I can be sure that no animals were used to test grant proposals."

Speaking under condition of anonymity, an individual connected with the program confirmed that animal subjects were occasionally used to test the side-effects of the grants before final approval is announced.

"It's really an issue of protecting human well-being," said the anonymous source. "I can't say I totally agree with the practice, but I can see that it could be beneficial to make sure that these grants, many of which contain long lists of potentially hazardous chemical ingredients, don't cause harm to human beings before we finally approve them."

In a statement released this morning, Rachel Roberts, director of Entrepreneurial Musicianship at NEC, said, "I vehemently deny that the Entrepreneurial Musicianship program has engaged in any unethical animal testing. We will gladly open our laboratory doors to animal rights groups in order that they may rest assured that no animals were made to suffer during the production of these grants."

Grant recipient Michael Dahlberg was shocked to learn that his proposal, recently approved by the department, had been tested on animals prior to the awarding of the grant.

"I knew that my grant proposal included pretty significant amounts of cocamidopropyl betaine and even trace amounts of glycol distearate, but I was certain that those chemicals had already been extensively vetted by other labs and wouldn't need to be scrutinized again by the scientists at NEC," Dahlberg announced at a press conference early this morning.

"I really had no clue that they were using animals for chemical testing," agreed Albert Oppenheimer, another recent grant recipient, whose grant proposal relied heavily on tetrasodium EDTA in order to sequester calcium and magnesium within his grant's detergent compounds.

"I really should have looked into these grant-testing processes much more carefully," admitted Oppenheimer. "I mean, you would think that animal testing on musical entrepreneurial grants was only happening in third-world countries these days, but I for one was shocked to discover that it was going on right under our noses this whole time."

NEC Rebranding Campaign Announced

Fearing that having music schools with names other than 'Berklee' in the Boston metro area is confusing and alienating to local residents, president Tony Woodcock announced at a last-minute press conference. Beginning in the Fall 2011, New England Conservatory will be renamed the 'Berklee College of Music.'

"This rebranding will be a major step forward for our school," Woodcock said in his statement. "No longer will the students and faculty of NEC be embarrassed to reply that they do not, in fact, study or work at the Berklee College of Music."

According to witnesses, an unidentified Caucasian male confused the New England Conservatory with the Berklee College of Music yesterday while riding the T. This is the five-hundred-and-sixty-eighth such misunderstanding in only the last six months.

"I was riding the 39 bus home from work," said Tom of College, "when a stranger quite awkwardly forced me to start up a conversation with him."

After College told the man that he worked as the dean of a music school in Boston, the stranger proceeded to animatedly proclaim: "Oh, you work at Berklee?"

Students and faculty have noted an increase in such conversations in recent weeks. Responding to a recent poll, 83% reported at least five incidents of music-school-name-related-confusion within the last month.

Senior horn player Lauren Hunt expressed optimism about the rebranding campaign. "I am very excited for our school's new name," Hunt said. "It's always really embarrassing and inconvenient for me to have to explain to people that yes, I go to music school in Boston, but no, it's not the Berklee College of Music. This will clear up a ton of confusion and leave me with more time and energy for practicing. It's a win-win."



Ross Holcombe is a first-year graduate trombone performance major. Send comments and questions about these articles to Ross.Holcombe@necmusic.edu.



Self-Avowed Underdog Team Upsets Top-Seeded Ohio State Fun Facts about NEC's Key Players

Paul Burdick (5' 10") When he's not shutting down his opponents on the court, Burdick can be found enjoying his other pastimes, including long walks on the beach, pressing wildflowers, and writing sonnets about algorithmic music.

Bill Drury (6' 1") "Boy Scout Bill" is his nickname, because he always comes prepared with short-shorts for the throwback games!

Tony Woodcock (5'7") Sporting prescription goggles, Woodcock may not look like your typical basketball player, but fitness buffs will recognize him for his continual presence at the local YMCA, where he can be found every day, perfecting his sprint intervals on the stairmaster.

Tanya Kalmanovitch (7' 3") She's so tall, she must be good at basketball! She's the team's star center, great at defending the net and other stuff that tall people automatically do well.

Stratis Minakakis (6' 5") A recent transfer from the Greek national A1 league, Stratis has not only shown his prowess at the game, but has been busy whipping his teammates into shape, with constant drills and high expectations that have left the entire team with perfect pitch.

Head coach Benjamin Zander and Assistant Coach Anthony Coleman have long been heralded as an unlikely duo, due to what's seen as fundamentally different coaching styles. While experts say the team has suffered in previous years as a result of such conflicting leadership, this year the pair seems to have hit their stride, with Zander encouraging players to think constantly of the possibilities of winning the championship game, while Coleman encourages players to sit down in a group and discuss the merits of winning the championship, what it means to play well, and what their conclusions tell them about themselves.

Wayne Shorter (6' 3") He'll be there!

Ruth Lepson (5'5") Lepson may be the shortest player on the team, but the feisty attitude of this starting point guard more than makes up for her lack of height. She's unstoppable inside the paint!

Norman Bolter (6' 4") Bolter continues the grand tradition of long, flowing locks on star athletes. But don't mess with the tress: during a game against Kentucky earlier this year, Bolter got into a fist fight with Brandon Knight after he allegedly pulled Bolter's ponytail.



Beth Blitzler is a 5.3rd year prep school student in historical bracketology. (My final four: King Arthur, Robert Schumann, Mohandas Gandhi, and Niels Bohr) If you notice any truthful statements, please send an e-mail to bethblitzer@necmusic.edu

Riddle

By Yijuan Geng

施氏食獅史
石室詩士施氏，嗜獅，誓食十獅。
氏時時適市視獅。十時，適十獅適市。
是時，適施氏適是市。
氏視是十獅，恃矢勢，使是十獅逝世。
氏拾是十獅屍，適石室。
石室濕，氏使侍拭石室。
石室拭，氏始試食十獅屍。
食時，始識十獅屍，實十石獅屍。
試釋是事。

Translation:

A poet named Shī lived in a stone house and liked to eat lion flesh, and he vowed to eat ten of them. He used to go to the market in search of lions, and one day at ten o'clock, he chanced to see ten of them there. Shī killed the lions with arrows and picked up their bodies, carrying them back to his stone house. His house was dripping with water so he requested that his servants proceed to dry it. Then he began to try to eat the bodies of the ten lions. It was only then he realized that there were in fact ten lions made of stone. Try to explain the riddle.

Hint: Show this to someone who is Chinese!

Shi Eating the Lions
Shìshì shìshì Shī Shì, shì shī, shì shí shí shī.
Shì shíshí shì shì shì shī. Shí shí, shì shí shī shì shì.
Shì shí, shì Shī Shì shì shì.
Shì shì shì shí shī, shì shǐ shì, shǐ shì shí shī shìshì.
Shì shí shì shí shī shī, shì shìshì.
Shìshì shī, shì shǐ shì shì shíshì.
Shìshì shì, shì shǐ shì shí shì shí shī.
Shí shí, shǐ shí shì shí shī, shí shí shí shī shī.
Shì shì shì shì.



Yijuan Geng is a sophomore piano performance major. Send questions or comments about this article to yijuan.geng@necmusic.edu.

Truth is Beautiful

A short story by Wesley Chu

"Fairest glass in which I peer, tell me what I wish to know! I, the Queen, so famed and dear, loved by all the people so, ask this question of you now. Speak, I say, hold not thy tongue! Look upon my pearly brow, over which my hair is hung: raven tresses row on row, shining in the moonlit night. See my face, behold its glow! Beauty great to match my might.

"Art thou stunned? I blame thou not. Very few have dared to speak, humouring no other thought while they gaze upon my cheek."

Captivated by her charm, Queen-of-All was satisfied, stretching out a heavy arm, on which gemstones were applied.

"Even these accessories cannot match my loveliness. Indeed they shine and aim to please; still, their blinking gaudiness is no contest to my skin. Marvellous my glowing face, greatest of my blood and kin!"

Sighing loudly at her grace, Queen-of-All admired the shape staring back behind the glass. Happily, she twirled her cape.

"Honoured is my royal class. Lineage has blessed me much, granting me an endless charm, lending me a stylish touch."

Instantly she felt alarm. It was minutes since she heard praises of her gorgeousness. There had not yet been a word from the mirror. Nonetheless, she addressed the mirror that she had only newly bought. "Finally, enough chit-chat. Say what prettiness I've got."

"Pardon me," the mirror spoke. "I believe the truth, thou said, is why my magic thou evoke." (Here the mirror sighed with dread.)

"Majesty, yes, I was stunned. Far beyond compare, thy looks. Through my massive knowledge-fund – never once in all my books – have I ever met a face quite like thine. It is a fact. Sadly –" spluttered it, "– Your Grace – ugly!" wept it thus and cracked.



Wesley Chu is a sophomore piano performance major. Send comments and questions about this article to Wesley.Chu@necmusic.edu.

Breaking News

Penguin Placed Under Arrest at Northeastern Rugby Game, Fans Left Puzzled

Compiled by The Penguin Editors

"A very embarrassing day for New England Conservatory," said President Tony Woodcock of this infamous incident that took place last week. "Our own Penguin caused us humiliation, money, and perhaps most saddening, shame at our lack of sports programs."

The referee blew a whistle when the Penguin ran across the field into the middle of the rugby game. The Penguin began to hit the Husky repeatedly until several players were finally able to separate the two. The Husky ran away while the Penguin took a minute to calm down. He then started to cry.

"Look at my phone," he said, handing it to the referee. "You see all these?!"

The referee looked through various text messages sent over the course of the last week, and proceeded to read them aloud.

- What time is your game today, Penguin? Oh wait, I forgot. NEC DOESN'T HAVE ANY SPORTS TEAMS. HAHA!

- How are you liking the weather today Penguin? Remind you of HOME? Homesick for your ICEBERG? HAHA!

- Aw, poor little birdie. Did I make you cry? Did I hurt the birdie's feelings?

- Nice webbed feet, Penguin. How fast can you run in those? Oh wait, excuse me...I should say WADDLE. LOL!

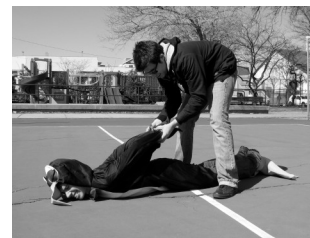
- Huskies just won the game tonight. Give us a hand! Oh wait, pardon me, I should say...WING.



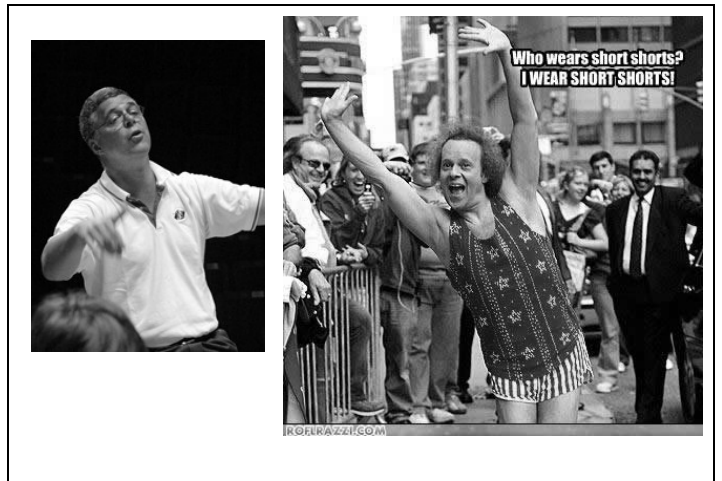
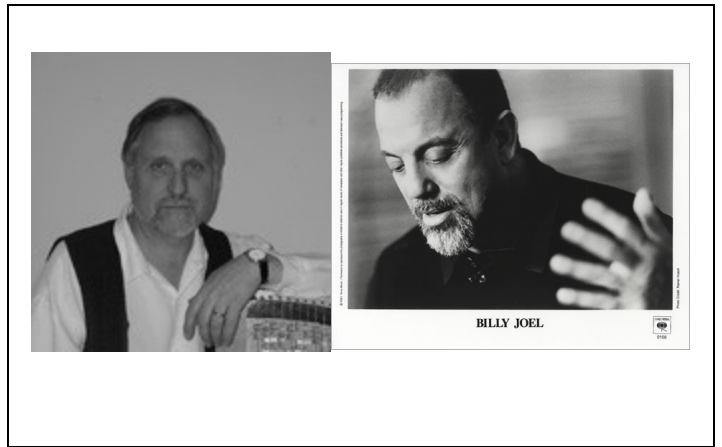
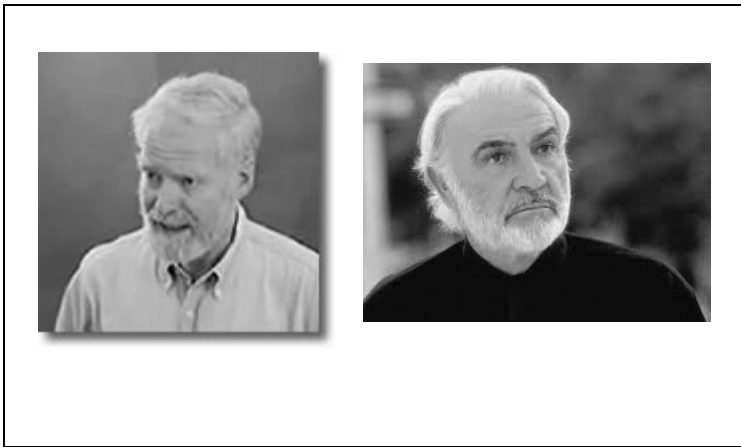
"I just snapped," said Penguin. "I couldn't take it anymore. Musicians have feelings too, even the ones that are birds!"

The flute players on the field looked at each other and shrugged. Though everyone present was moved by the Penguin's plight (not flight, because he can't exactly fly), campus security had already been called. The Penguin was taken off in hand cuffs

(awkwardly placed around his wings), and released on bail gathered by NEC's scholarship funds, funds to the Penguin newspaper donated from the Entrepreneurial Musicianship department, and a benefit concert given by students to support the Penguin. He has since been banned from future sporting events, although rumor has it he's trying to put together an NEC rugby team.



NEC Faculty Doppelgangers



Viola Jokes Ban continued from page 1

blast out the Ride of the Valkyries! But if the other departments get the upper hand in practice room availability, then so be it. Before long, the entire second floor hallway will be called, 'Harold in Italy!'

Predictably, the ban was met with dismay by several students and even fellow faculty members.

"Viola jokes are a part of being a classical musician," said cellist and president-emeritus Laurence Lesser shortly after the conference. "How will we ever go on without being able to tell the one about how many violists it takes to screw in a lightbulb? I - no, no!" he cried suddenly, as Kashkashian hurried up the stairs to label room 249 as a viola priority.

Lesser's apparent misstep, however, paled in comparison to the outburst of jokes from students who wanted to see if the ban would in fact be enforced. Graduate violist Brett Walfish hurried to report to Katz after a freshman flutist asked him what was orange and looks good on a viola (fire), and Tapping himself was confronted by an unnamed violinist who inquired politely how one might get a violist to play "pianissimo tremolando."

"Well, you have to really focus on release of the bow pressure," Tapping replied, apparently unawares. "And make sure that the bow arm is loose and relaxed--"

"What about writing a whole note with 'solo' over it?" the violinist smirked.

Room 251 went after that one.

In fact, as the day wore on, it became apparent that the ban was having little effect. Not only were the number of jokes increasing astronomically, but no violists were actually using the viola priority rooms.

"We're not that concerned about it," said a group of woodwind players rehearsing in a newly-designated priority space. "These are violists we're talking about - they only practice every *other* day."

As a matter of fact, President Woodcock was shocked to find that his inspection of the second floor around mid-afternoon only yielded one violist, who wasn't even practicing in a viola priority room, but in room 263, which is labeled as "Sauna Priority." "What better way to sweat out toxins than practicing the Bartok concerto in ninety-degree heat?" explained the violist, who was wearing nothing but a baccini adorned with alto clefs.

Woodcock was nevertheless quite unnerved, and immediately called Kashkashian to meet with him in Bistro 33 to reconsider the ban.

"It only appears to have exacerbated the situation, and let's face it, violists are going to have to put up with these jokes for the rest of their careers," he stated over a half-eaten Gainsborough wrap. "If you really want to escape them, why don't you all just switch to the violin?"

"Ah, but you've just put your finger on it, Mr. President," said Kashkashian, sadly, as she pushed aside the last of her Bagel Blast. "We've already tried that."



Zach Preucil is a junior cello performance major. Send comments and questions about this article to Zachary.Preucil@necmusic.edu.



Personals



Can These Lost Souls Find Love?

Compiled by Josiah Weilerstein and Shirley Keshet

Seeking Female Patron and/or Lover

*Come soothe my tortured soul
and save my career,
Oh one more thing,
Is your brother here?*

Please call Pioty.

Two women needed for two personalities

*If you're soft and quiet,
we can be friends,
if you're blonde and loud
let's make amends...*

*Just so you know
I'm a little crazy
I'll jump off a bridge for you,
if both of us aren't too lazy.*

Call Leipzig Insane Asylum and ask for Bobby.

I can last 4 minutes and 33 seconds!

Please call The Cageman.

Woman seeking (compiler's note: we're not sure.)

*I can read.
I can write.
I can read and write music.
I'm living in the 12th century
I'm probably looking for a woman...*

Please call the nunnery and ask for Hilde, NOT Brunnhilde.

The Wagner

I'm gonna win. My ego is so big that I'm not looking for a woman. I'm definitely enough for both of us.

*I'm bi-winning!
Siegfried is winning over here,
Adolf is winning over there,
duh...winning!*

I'll write you madrigals, but be careful!

*Carlo is my name
Death is my game
Looking for a dame.*

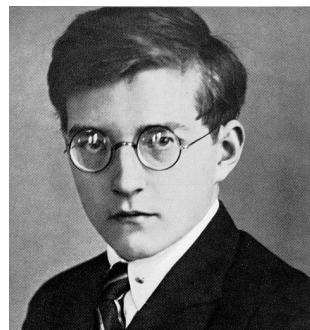
*Don't cheat on me though, or else I will rip out your intestines
and leave them outside of my castle. For my cattle.*

Short relationship please.

*look. ing. short. and soft.
relations.
call anton.*

I'll Shost YOUR kovich!

*Looking for woman with camouflage expertise,
good standing with the KGB,
and...OH GOD, GOTTA GO
DO NOT CALL UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!*



Hot off the Press!

Sign of the times:

Staff of the Technology Department throws in towel. Except for basic electricity, technology will be no longer be used at NEC, in any way whatsoever. "Its called going back to 1883," they say. "When all this email stuff wasn't so invasive on my workday. Music and Technology just do not go together. Period."



Faculty Announcement

NEC composition professor Michael Gandolfi to be replaced by Bono. As Bono teaches composition, Gandolfi will become the new lead singer for U2.

Local:

Panera Bread to close, Burger King to reopen! Reason rumored to be because Panera did not get enough business in its opening weeks. Plus, people just miss Burger King.



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*Too bad for you!
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