

AROUND CAMPUS

Students on live TV

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A brief survey around KSG shows most students have heard of the show, with the season opener event planned to attract even more attention. James Mackison, part of last semester's Controversial Coffee series team, finds the concept very interesting.

"Any idea that encourages debate is a good one," he said. "I will be checking it out."

There are many ways students participate in one of the eight shows. A producer decides on the topic and finds students with opposing viewpoints willing to debate, as well as arranges for a "supplemental feature," such as Sound-Off (equivalent to a verbal op-ed) or Outside the Box (a chance for international students to express their shock, horror or glee about life in the U.S.A).

Boyd, who was closely involved with the creation of *Softball* and appeared on the first show, is now producing a show on patriotism.

Boyd finds that the most challenging aspect of producing is coming up with a topic that will generate enough disagreement to ensure a lively debate.

"That, and convincing people to overcome their fears of being on television," he added.

James Crabtree (MPP1), who was part of the team Grove initially consulted about his idea agrees.

"I didn't really want to do it myself - having a good face for radio - but it seems a good idea," said Crabtree.

However those who can overcome their fears are guaranteed an appearance on Town Hall's wide-screen TV, where students will be invited to watch every Monday's show.

As for the wider Cambridge community, tuning in may depend on whether viewers can endure the show which runs immediately before *Softball*, with a title too risqué to repeat in print (let's just call it "The Trilogies"), or are intending to watch "Muslims Inside and Out" which follows Grove's show.

But more people may tune into cable access television that one might think.

Jacqueline O'Neill (MPP1) finds cable access "unscripted and genuine" and adds, "viewers who don't know their TV stations here may start surfing from the bottom up so *Softball's* Channel 9 will catch them early. If they get hooked by a discussion with informed, reasonable, and unique perspectives - which is exactly what Steve is committed to ensuring - there's no reason for them not to land for a while."

Grove is still on the lookout for people to get involved. He is also hoping to get Kennedy School professors on the show too. It may be a hard sell though, but Grove is well aware of that.

"Whether Professor Gergen will be taking a step down from CNN to CCTV remains to be seen. But we hope he might consider it," he added.

Faculty profile

Robert Stavins

By Scott Taylor, MPP 1
Staff Writer

As far as midlife-crises go, a walk-in wine cellar in one's basement is cheaper than a Porsche (maybe) and a lot less costly than an affair. Prof. of Economics Robert Stavins admits the car and affair never crossed his mind, but the wine cellar...? Yeah, he's got it.

He's also got a matter-of-fact, modest, engaging sense of humor about himself and his "little obsession" with wine, as his wife Joanna calls it.

Stavins is a confessed oenophile. Before foul rumors start to spread, I looked it up. Oenophile; one who appreciates and enjoys wine. Stavins and his wife built the wine cellar a few years ago to accommodate his philo for the oinos (talk to Kostas or Eleni if you need help with the Greek).

It was a "transcendent experience" at a small New Year's Eve gathering many years ago that introduced Stavins into the realm of fine wines. True to the caricature of a wine-lover, Stavins recalls exactly what was served; a 1976 Beaulieu Vineyards George de Latour Private Reserve, a 1976 Chateau Lafite Rothschild, and a 1982 Penfolds Grange.

While his palate may have always been refined, his taste apparently hasn't always been. The worst bottle of wine he's ever had, or at least the worst he recalls and admits to, was a Retsina on a ferry from south of Athens to Crete many years ago. As Stavins remembers it, the wine went down all right, but it didn't stay down, and the Aegean was never quite the same.

His two children, Daniel and Julia, may be interested to know that for their Dad, identifying a favorite wine is like asking a parent to name their favorite child. Kids...stay out of the wine cellar!

Wine has led to the weaving of some Stavins family lore. For New Year's Eve 1999, the family went to Jackson, New Hampshire to ski with friends. The Prof. brought along a couple of special bottles to ring in the Millennium in style but the restaurant at their Inn refused to allow them to BYOW. This led to what is now universally referred to as "The Great Switcheroo", where Stavins and Joanna, smuggled out an empty bottle of the restaurant's brand, poured in the wine from their own stash, and the next night surreptitiously replaced the restaurant bottle with their own.

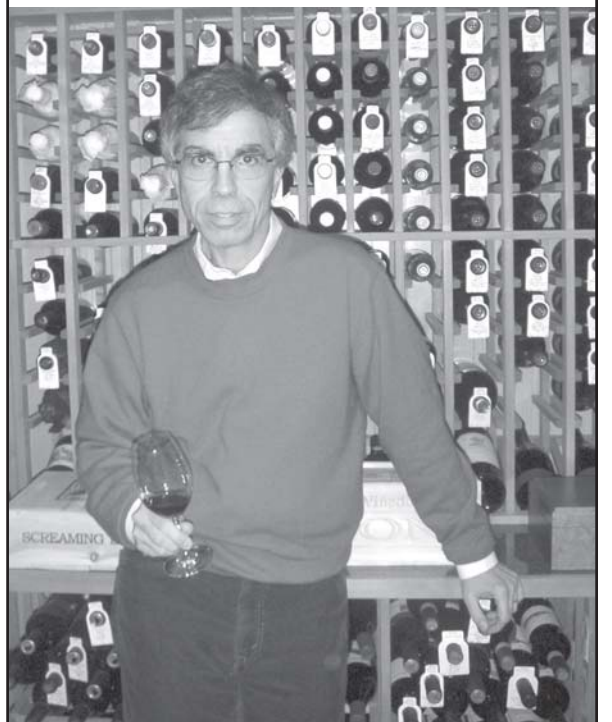
One wonders what his peers at the Oenonomy Society, to which Stavins belongs, might think. It was at an annual gathering of this group

where he tasted perhaps the best wine of his life, a 1947 Chateau Petrus.

So, what does Stavins look for in a good wine? The economist in him "seeks to maximize his utility given his tastes and preferences, subject to his budgetary constraints".

Indeed, Stavins admits he's tried to marry his professional acumen with his personal passion by under-

Red or white?



Professor of Economics Robert Stavins collects wine on his spare time. Photo by Robert Stavins

taking a hedonic analysis of wine prices. Though Stavins has actually collected some data, Dean Ellwood should know that this project has been put on the backburner.

The Dean might also be interested to know that Stavins might upgrade the caliber of wine he serves the Dean and his wife Marilyn next time they're over for dinner. Apparently the last time Ellwood was over chez Stavins, he was still, merely, a professor.

Who then merits the really good stuff? Given the unimaginative options presented to Stavins by yours truly of Alan Greenspan (he defers to his economist wife who works at the Federal Reserve on this one), Catherine Zeta-Jones (he'd serve it in Riedel stemware) and Manny Ramirez (a member of the Boston Red Sox who could easily afford the Chateau Petrus, but probably goes for the Gallo), it would be Manny or any of his Red Sox teammates who would get the best bottle.

If you're ever asked to dinner at the Stavins, better to not swing by Trader Joe's for the two buck chuck. And if you want to make an impression, try to nonchalantly squeeze in a reference to the "malolactic fermentation of excessively oaky California Chardonnay".

The line is from the wine-loving movie *Sideways* and Stavins will see you right through you. Nevertheless, you might get a laugh from the Prof. and, more importantly, get him to crack open a bottle of the good stuff and share a funny story. The man has quite a few of both.



Attention: All First Year Students

Information on the KSG Summer Internship Fund (SIF) has been updated for 2005. KSG students considering a summer internship in summer 2005 with a public or nonprofit sector organization that is unable to pay (or can only minimally pay), should refer to the SIF website for detailed information and an application.

SIF application deadlines are:

Friday, March 11 (round 1) and Friday, April 8 (round 2)

Access the SIF webpage at <http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/career/SIF.htm>

Other summer funding opportunities can be found at:
<http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/career/sources.htm>

Both of these links can be accessed on the student page of the Career Services site as well. Any questions concerning SIF funding should be referred to Janice Rand Vaughn, Director of the Summer Internship Fund.

Good luck with your search for a summer internship!

