

Babson College President Brian M. Barefoot said yesterday he would step down in June 2008 when his contract expires. The board of trustees will form a search committee to find the next leader of the suburban Boston college, officials said in a press release. AP

Throat slasher gets life for murder

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BOSTON. Backed by family members who openly described his accuser as a "[Expletive] liar," a Dorchester man was sentenced to life in prison for first-

degree murder yesterday in a tense Suffolk Superior courtroom.

Michael Hart, 51, was convicted Monday of killing a 67-year-old man nearly two years ago who came to the rescue of Hart's ex-girlfriend, who had her throat slashed by Hart in a vicious attack on

Miller Street.

Assistant District Attorney Kelly Downes, who called Hart's crime a "violent, brutal and animalistic act for which the defense has given no remorse," was able to prove to a jury that Hart first attacked 31-year-old Tangelia Gibson on the porch of Beother

Billingslea's Miller Street residence.

When Billingslea rushed outside his home to help Gibson, he was stabbed five times in the chest, his heart was punctured and he died soon thereafter.

A tearful group sitting behind Hart in court yesterday offered him words of

support, telling him to "stay strong" and "keep your head up." They also railed against Gibson, who chose not to read an impact statement, calling her a liar for fingering Hart as the killer.

According to testimony delivered during the trial, Hart approached Gibson as

she stood on Billingslea's porch around 11 p.m. on April 30, 2005. After an argument, Hart took out a knife and slashed Gibson's throat before stabbing her in the stomach and leg.

A one-time drug offender, Hart was heard to say during the attack, "I'm not afraid to go back to jail."

Bill would ban tanning for kids under age 16

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BOSTON. In advance of prom season, when many high schoolers turn to quick fixes for well-toned skin, legislators yesterday formally introduced a proposed bill that would ban the use of tanning beds for children under the age of 16.

Citing an increased risk of melanoma and other conditions caused by excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation, Sen. James Timilty filed the bill, which would also require parental or guardian permission for 16- and 17-year-olds to use tanning equipment, and prohibit minors from operating such machinery.

"The statistics are shocking," Timilty said, pointing to a doubling in cases of melanoma in the last 30 years and a mortality rate from the disease in Massachusetts that is 18 percent higher than the national average.

According to Deb Girard of Melanoma Foundation of New England, 70 percent of

the 1 million Americans who use tanning beds daily are white females between the ages of 16 and 49, seeking what they think is a healthy tan.

"These are young women who will face a lifetime of increased risk [for skin cancer and other complications]," Girard said.

A 30-minute session at a tanning bed is the equivalent of a full day at the beach, according to Dr. Kathryn Bowers, president of the Massachusetts Academy of Dermatology.

Day at the beach?

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AP
president of the Massachusetts Academy of Dermatology.

Regular visits to a tanning bed can result in a 55 percent increase in developing melanoma, especially in young women, Girard said.

To those backing the legislation — which would put Massachusetts among 30 states with laws regulating the use of tanning equipment — there is little debate.

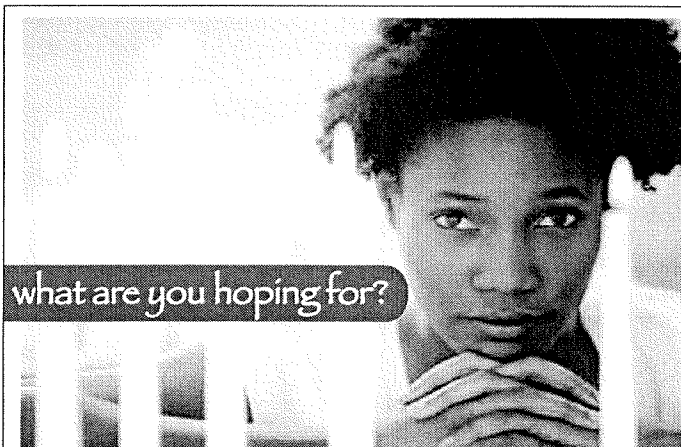
"I predict that in 30 years from now, people will be saying, 'What were they thinking letting kids expose themselves to ultraviolet rays?'" Bowers said.

Bus accident Not Fung Wa this time



A three bus collision caused delays on the Zakim Bunker Hill Bridge yesterday. Two of the buses were on a field trip from New England College to Boston, the third was a schoolbus.

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