Battle of the Charles

Idea and Motivation

Have you ever wanted to go back in time? This question was the basis for my idea. While walking along the Harvard Bridge one day, I realized that I wanted to use the Charles River as the background for some idea time. Since Charles is a large body of water, I thought that a nautical battle between a modern battleship and an old pirate ship would be a good idea.

Photos and Technique

The City (Color)

I took this photo along the bike path on Memorial Drive with a Kodak Easyshare Z730 digital camera. This photo would serve as the half of the background for my photo with the Prudential building as the center of the shot.
I took this photo along the bike path on Memorial Drive with a Nikon N70 camera. This photo would serve as the second half of my background. I scanned the negative and resized the photo to match with the color version. I joined them together at the Prudential building to make the background, the city which is half color and half B&W.

**The Sky**

I wanted the B&W portion of my picture to represent the past. Since there were no skyscrapers during the 15th Century, I decided to overlay an image of the sky over the skyscrapers in the B&W section. I took an color photo with my digital camera then used my Koday Easyshare software to convert it to black and white. I then resized the image and placed it over the shore to make the image look like a field.

**Pirate Ship**

This photo was taken at the model ship display in Building 5. I was walking by on the way to class and noticed this ship and thought it would be perfect for my picture. I took the photo with a Nikon N70 B&W camera and scanned the negative with the Leafscan. I used the magnetic lasso to copy the image as best as I could.
Battleship

Like the pirate ship, I found this model ship in the model ship display. The photo was taken with my digital camera.

Clock Tower

To represent time, I decided to replace the Prudential building with a clock tower. I took photos of the old grandfather clock in my fraternity. After scanning the negative of the B&W photo, I realized that the clock was slightly rotated so that it didn’t match up with the color photo when I tried to combine them. I used the crop tool to crop the original image scan and rotate it so that the clock was properly oriented (rotated photo not shown). After rotating the clock, I changed the scale and combined the images.
Once I had the basic clock done, I felt like there needed to be an explanation as to how a modern battleship was able to battle a 15th century pirate ship. Time would have to somehow be damaged or distorted for this type of scenario to occur. I then took a photo of a kitchen knife and made it look as though it were plunged into the clock tower, thus damaging time. By combining these elements, I was able to create the finalized tower.

**Final Image**

Taking these images, I used the city as a background and added the clock tower to the layer. The tower was rescaled and placed over the Prudential building. I then took the battleship and pirate ship and paced them in the water. I cut out part of the bow of each ship to make it appear as though the ships were slightly submerged in the water. I then edited the color and contrast of the layers to adjust the view and merged the layers. The final result is shown below.