

TUFTS OBSERVER

TUFTS' STUDENT MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 19, 2007

The Crumbling Ivory Tower

&

High-Minded Intellectualism

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The Observer has been Tufts' weekly publication of record since 1895. Our dedication to in-depth reporting, journalistic innovation, and honest dialogue has remained intact for over a century. Today, we offer insightful news analysis, cogent and diverse opinion pieces, and lively reviews of current arts, entertainment, and sports. Through poignant writing and artistic elegance, we aim to entertain, inform, and above all challenge the Tufts community to effect positive change.



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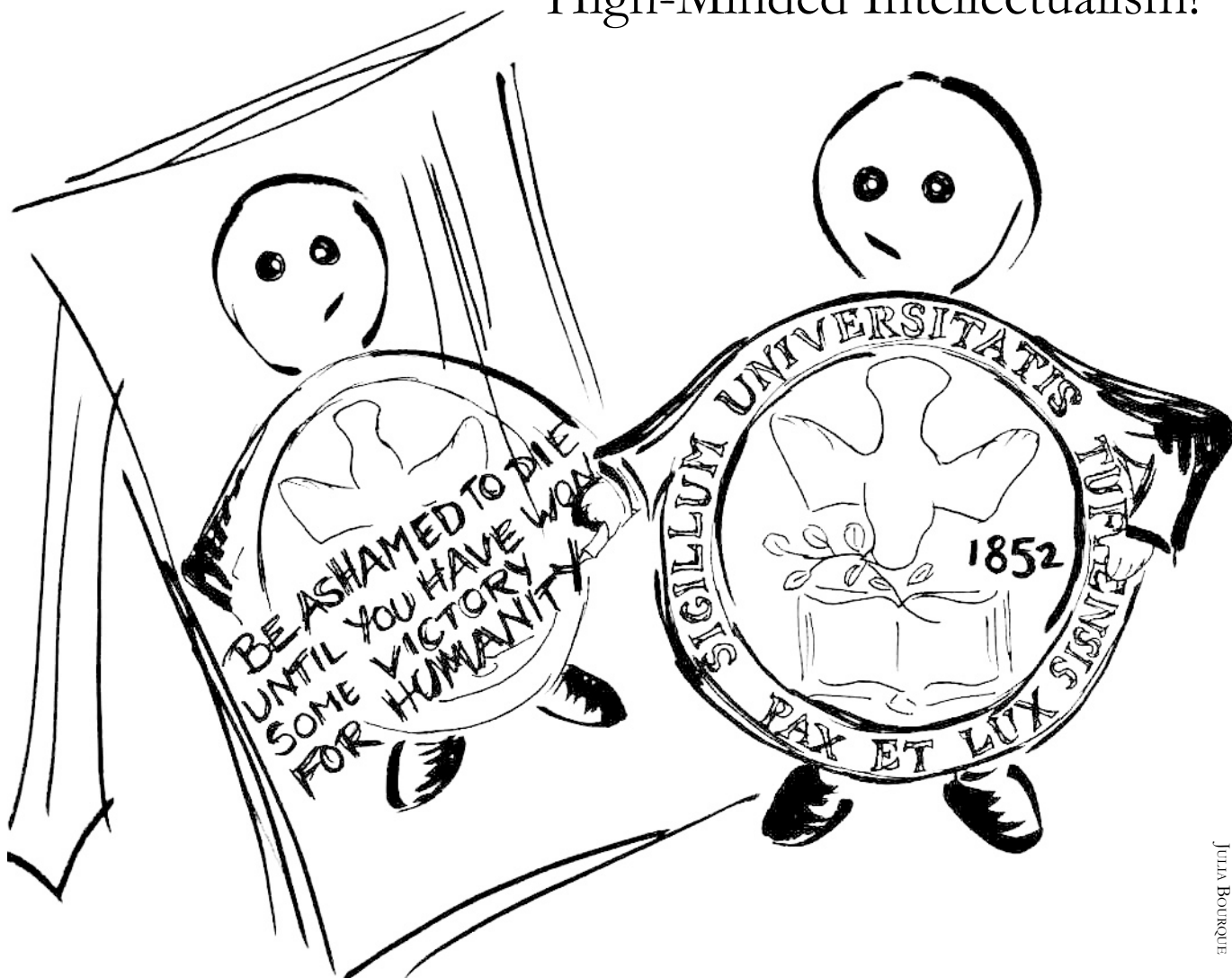
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A Crumbling Ivory Tower

Does Active Citizenship Trump

High-Minded Intellectualism?



Julia Bourque

BY SAMUEL W. DUPONT

You might know of an American college, founded in 1852, that today boasts a number of campuses around the world. This college has long been famous as a center of liberal thought, with a strong academic reputation. More than anything, this college (now a University) is famous for pushing its students to balance their academics with work off campus, to gain experience that might better prepare them for life in the “real world.” In June 2007, this college announced that it would be shutting down, perhaps forever. >>

This was of course not Tufts University, but Antioch College, a school made famous in the 1960s for its ultra-left wing values and hyper-progressive approach to undergraduate education. The reasons for its demise are complex, and mostly financial, but they stem at least in part from the collapse of the school's "ivory tower." Antioch's troubles spring from its radical departure from traditional academics; it favored a more "pragmatic" model meant to train students as good world citizens.

Tufts is not about to close its doors. On the contrary, the university is thriving,

betterment of society, whether local, national, or global. At the same time, it underscores the value of education: active citizenship is a kind of experiential learning, as opposed to the traditional, academic learning of the classroom.

When Larry Bacow became president of Tufts in 2001, he identified active citizenship as one of the University's three major strengths (the other two being the life sciences and the international focus.) In a 2004 article in *Tufts Magazine*, Bacow wrote:

All of our schools are committed

to make a difference around the world.

Whither Intellectualism?

The Tufts faculty is divided between those who are concerned by the growing role of active citizenship at Tufts, and those who are not. The divide is neither clear nor sharp — nearly all agree that there should be a balance between active citizenship and intellectualism — but the subject raises the hackles of some who worry that the balance has slid too far from traditional academic pursuits.

Rob Devigne, professor of political

**“If someone wants to volunteer their time, fine,
but it’s not central to the University’s mission.”**

with rankings and admissions numbers better than ever. Still, when Tufts looks in the mirror, there appears some reflection of Antioch's motto, “Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity.” The impulse to engage with and improve the world has been present since Tufts' Universalist beginnings, but in recent years, the university has been increasingly pushing “active citizenship” as a brand for the school and an ideal for its students.

Debate continues, among the faculty and administration of Tufts, on the importance of active citizenship to an undergraduate education. The Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service and the Institute for Global Leadership (IGL) — two programs that have led the recent rise of active citizenship at Tufts — have been highly successful in attracting both attention and funding for the university. Many professors, however, believe its importance is overplayed, and a more exclusive focus should be put on traditional intellectual pursuit.

What is Active Citizenship?

“Active citizenship” can be an ambiguous term. It describes engagement in the broader community, beyond the campus. It could refer to an internship at the State House, a course that engages with local environmental issues, or volunteer work in a Nepalese refugee camp. At the core of it is the belief in public service: to be an active citizen, one must be working for the

to producing students who are going to make a difference in the world. Active citizenship is a matter of pride and tradition here. In fact, Tufts is a place where people are not afraid to get their hands dirty. We are not an ivory tower. We are a community committed to producing active, engaged, and effective citizens who make the world better through their work.

Active citizenship does have a long history at Tufts. “The Experimental College, Peace and Justice Studies, Community Health: These programs have a strong experiential learning component,” says Rob Hollister, dean of the Tisch College. All of these programs have been around for decades, but according to one professor who chose to remain anonymous, the founding of the Tisch College in 2000 was “cataclysmic in the growth of the importance of active citizenship at Tufts.”

The College's website (which can be found, tellingly, at activecitizen.tufts.edu) describes Tisch as, “A national leader in preparing students to become engaged public citizens and community leaders who will help build a more equitable world.” The IGL, meanwhile, stands by the motto “Thinking beyond boundaries, acting across borders.” Where the Tisch College focuses on students engaging with their local community, the IGL seeks

science, is a strong advocate for more serious academics. “Do I think theoretical knowledge is a higher form than experiential knowledge? Yes, it is. Cultivating the mind is an incredibly difficult thing to do; it requires the energy of the whole University,” he says. “Is active global citizenship an integral part of a university education? I would say no. If someone wants to volunteer their time, fine, but it's not central to the university's mission.”

Jonathan Wilson, professor of English, says he has not witnessed an “intellectual dumbing down” in favor of active citizenship at Tufts, but warns that, “We must be careful not to create a hierarchy where active citizenship is above academ-

bE tHerE

Resolved: Active global citizenship is an integral part of a Tufts undergraduate education

A debate between Sherman Teichman, director of the Institute for Global Leadership, and Rob Devigne, chair of the political science department

November 13, 6:00-7:00PM
ASEAN Auditorium

ics.” Wilson gave a graduation address to Ph.D. students last year in which he praised the virtues of what he called “inactive citizenship,” using Archimedes as an example.

“Here was a guy who was just having a bath, and thinking,” says Wilson, “And by just sitting there in the tub, he came up with an idea that changed physics for a few thousand years.” His point, at the end, is that one need not be “active” to be a valuable citizen; rather, serious intellectual contemplation has great value in and of itself.

Wilson will be directing Tufts’ new

ment and enhance classroom learning. “The highest quality education offers students a mix of different learning opportunities,” says Dean Hollister. “For me, the question is: How do people best learn? Personal experience has a powerful impact on how people learn. It’s about individual strategies of teaching and learning.”

He cites President Bacow’s belief that it contributes to a more vital classroom: “From [President Bacow] has come a very strong message that at Tufts, active engagement goes hand in hand with academic quality — it’s not a separate realm. Our active citizenship work needs to contrib-

active citizenship. “Our basic strategy is one of infusion,” says Dean Hollister. “Rather than creating a separate public service entity, we say it is everybody’s opportunity and responsibility to engage in the world. Most of what we do is in support of colleagues in other parts of the University.”

As a Tisch Scholar, senior Chloe Rossen has been an active citizen in many ways. During her sophomore year, she took a sociology course called “Community Organizing and Social Change.” The class taught her the theory behind community organizing, and set up an

“A summer internship is not more valuable than spending the summer reading Tolstoy.”

Center for Humanities and the Arts. Slated to open in January, the center will “bring together scholars and students in the humanities for intellectual discourse,” according to the *Tufts Journal*. Wilson hopes the Center will allow faculty members to interact and to stay up-to-date on one another’s interests and research. Already looking forward to next semester, Wilson is planning a symposium on the “arts and ethics of translation.”

Many faculty members, particularly in the humanities, agree with Professors Wilson and Devigne that active citizenship should take a clear backseat to academics if it is to play a role in a Tufts education.

“You should major in English, or any Humanities discipline, for only one reason: because you want to think as deeply as possible about life in all its complexity,” wrote Lee Edelman, chair of the English department, in the *Tufts Daily* last semester. In an interview with the *Observer*, he notes that “Morrison, Marx, and Machiavelli are figures whom any ‘active citizen’ needs to understand.”

The Many Benefits of Active Citizenship

For other members of the Tufts faculty and administration, however, active citizenship holds the potential to comple-



ute to our highest goals of research and teaching.”

Since 2000, the Tisch College has undertaken a number of different programs to pursue its mission. The primary program since its inception has been the Tisch Scholars, through which a select group of students have worked extensively toward the goal of becoming more engaged citizens. Additionally, the Tisch College has helped a number of Tufts professors to develop new courses, or to modify old ones to incorporate components of active citizenship.

The College is currently reorganizing, with the likely outcome of broadening its approach to reach as many Tufts students as possible with the message of

intellectual foundation for her work with the Tisch College.

“Taking that class made me more consciously think about how I was doing the work that I was doing in Somerville and how effective or ineffective it was,” she says. She is a strong proponent of the mission of the Tisch College. “Students are more aware of others and the consequences of their actions in an environment like Tufts where there is an emphasis to be a responsible citizen of the world.”

Though he does not identify his institute with the phrase “active citizenship,” Sherman Teichman, IGL director, is another of the major forces pushing Tufts students to engage with the world outside the campus. Beyond the argument that active citizenship promotes high academic quality, Mr. Teichman defines his mission as to make a real, tangible impact on the world. “The root of our idea is that scholarship must be dedicated to solving the world’s most pressing problems,” he says. “So how do you go about doing that? The only way you can do it, ultimately, is to engage with the world. The only way to do that is to immerse yourself.”

EPIIC, a class offered annually through the Experimental College, is a colloquium devoted to a different question in international affairs every year.

In addition to their reading for the class, students interact with practitioners who deal with the issues in their daily work. Often, study in the classroom extends to research abroad, conducted over winter or spring breaks. In this year's class, students plan to explore the theme of Global Poverty and Inequality through associations with organizations in the field, as well as research trips to destinations as varied as China, Haiti, Jordan, and India.

The IGL also oversees a number of other interdisciplinary and extracurricular programs. Prominent among them is ALLIES, a student-run organization that seeks to bridge the gap between American civilians and the military. Another, BUILD, organized in collaboration with the Tisch College, offers students the chance to spend a semester learning about Nicaragua before traveling to a rural community there to work during winter break.

There is no one at Tufts — or among our fallen brethren at Antioch College — who argues for a strictly experiential education, without the presence of a strong academic component. Rather, most faculty members support a balance between the two. The real question, then, is where that balance should lie. Dean of Undergraduate Education Jim Glaser and Dean Hollister agree that it should be up to each individual student to find his or her own balance. Says Hollister, “We like all students who go through Tufts to have the opportunity to develop their civic values and skills. We want to respect different value systems and personal choices. I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

Active Citizenship: To What End?

As they’re sitting in a classroom and reading the musings of many long-dead European men, an inevitable question dogs most college students at some point in their academic career: What, really, is the point of all this? If one is looking forward to a career in consulting, public service, or computer science, why is it necessary to have read Kant, Faulkner, or Rousseau? To some degree, this is where active citizenship comes in, as its purpose is to provide experience that will better prepare students for their lives after graduation.

“We are preparing people to leave here,” says Dean Glaser. “And [active

citizenship] makes learning more compelling for many people, if we relate what they’re learning to the real world. It’s empowering.” He is echoed by Dean Hollister, who argues that the role of the Tisch College is to “prepare students in a full range of disciplines for lifetimes in active citizenship.”

Jacki Silbermann is a senior who has taken part in EPIIC and is a leader within the New Initiative for Middle East Peace (NIMEP), another student program of the IGL. Looking back at more than three

years at Tufts, she questions the worth of a college education without a connection to the real world.

“I think that applying what you’re learning as you’re learning it seems to be a better option,” she says. “Why can’t you engage in more than one thing at once? Thinking and doing should not be mutually exclusive.”

In support of this goal, the Tisch College has, over the past few years, begun offering stipends for unpaid summer internships in public service or the



DIANA BARGIER



Prof. Robert Devigne, shown above teaching a political science course in Eaton Hall, places more emphasis on intellectualism than real-world experiences.

non-profit sector. The administration as a whole has also been supportive of student internships.

It's no accident that Friday classes have all but disappeared — every semester, the administration urges departments to avoid course meetings on Fridays, to allow students to pursue work off-campus.

Many professors fear, however, that this emphasis on active engagement with the community keeps students from actively engaging with their academic responsibilities. The upshot is a concern that Tufts is turning into a professional school. Prof. Devigne believes that relevance to the “real world” should not be the focus of education.

an eye towards the future. Career Services advertises Tufts' reputation for active citizenship on the front page of its website for potential employers. From the beginning of freshman year, students

“Universities in democracies have always had trouble because, after they graduate, students have to go out and work,” he says. “They always worry: How is this relevant? The purpose of university is not to be relevant. It's about contemplating things you won't get to spend time thinking about, maybe for the rest of your life.”

Prof. Wilson agrees: “Spending the summer at an internship should not be considered more valuable than spending the summer reading Tolstoy.” This sentiment, however, might worry those with

their active citizenship experience as key in finding a job after they graduate. “My internships were especially beneficial in finding a job post-graduation,” says Evan Ream '06, a political science major. “While employers like to see a high GPA, they also want to know that you have had some work experience. Employers make an investment in you and your abilities and therefore they want to know that you can perform outside the classroom.”

Still, an academic education goes a long way to prepare students for the future. “No matter where you go or what you do, the ability to think critically and independently will always be an asset,” says Mr. Ream. “I would honestly say that the best preparation that I got for my transition to the real world was, in fact, what I learned in Tufts' classrooms.”

The Future of Active Citizenship

Again, there appears to be a consensus that students must find some balance between active engagement and academic contemplation. Senior Oleg Svet, a Tisch Scholar and former EPIIC student, has accompanied his international relations major with a heavy dose of active citizenship. His work outside the classroom has given perspective and heft to his academic learning.

“The real world is very different from what textbooks can ever teach us,” he says. “My active citizenship engagement has complemented my traditional academic work by providing another perspective. There is something that statistics, graphs, or even words can never teach us. Personal experiences have greatly shaped my learning.”

“[Active citizenship] shouldn't take over,” says Dean Glaser, “But if you can find the right balance, it's very exciting.” Beyond any particular methodology, Dean Glaser hopes students will

“assertively pursue” the education they desire. “We want students to think about their education, and to find what they want out of it.” There should not necessarily be any need to choose between active citizenship and traditional academics. “There's plenty of room for both here.”

“Marx and Machiavelli are figures whom any ‘active citizen’ needs to understand.”

are bombarded with e-mails and other exhortations to gain “work experience” that might help them find the right career, and make them more attractive to prospective employers.

To some degree, at least, it works. Looking back, many young alumni cite

What Sets Us Apart

How a new seminar will weave a thread through the University

BY DUNCAN PICKARD

A year ago, Tufts provost Jamshed Bharucha sat in the library of a small liberal arts college in New England. The “college” appellation refers to its lack of post-graduate programs. Tufts, on the other hand, is comprised of nine schools offering graduate degrees; yet the Medford campus often feels small — like Amherst or Wesleyan — compared to big schools like Yale or Boston College.

This point made Provost Bharucha wonder what Tufts could offer its undergraduates that small, liberal arts colleges cannot. His reasoning saw a need to bridge the gap between undergrads and post-graduate students. The University’s new seminar program plans to do just that by allowing undergraduates to enroll in courses taught by graduate school professors.

“It seemed to me that each professor from the professional and graduate schools can bring his or her disciplinary approach, and each student can bring his or her interdisciplinary background, and they can work

together on a complex societal topic that will then bring civic engagement to the forefront,” he says.

The Provost hopes to redefine Tufts’ undergraduate experience by rooting cross-curricular research and learning in strong teaching and active citizenship.

The University Seminar

The Provost’s new initiative, called the University Seminar, has three objectives: to encourage the collaboration between the different schools, to introduce greater civic mindedness to the curriculum, and to give students more active learning experiences with professors.

The idea is that at least two professors from different schools will collaborate on a seminar topic of broad civic importance, research it together, and develop a course curriculum. The end-result will be a seminar open to students from every school in the University.

“It will not be a lecture course,” says Provost Bharucha. “Students [will be] synthesizing and analyzing information on the given topic, and interacting with students and faculty from other disciplines to create

a synthesis of knowledge.”

Each seminar will be focused on a complex societal problem. Provost Bharucha cites the HIV/AIDS epidemic and its global ramifications as a possible example. “It’s not enough to say that AIDS is a medical problem. Surely it is a medical problem, but it is also a sociological problem. It’s also an economic and a policy problem. It’s an international relations problem. It’s a problem that artists have depicted in AIDS theater, AIDS literature.”

No professor has actually proposed such a seminar on AIDS, but Provost Bharucha hopes that a similar interdisciplinary topic will bring professors together from across the University. Associate Provost Mary Lee, MD, who will administer the program, says there will be a maximum of 40 to 50 students in each seminar. The team of teachers will select the students, who will most likely be senior undergraduates and graduate students. Faculty will choose the seminar topics this fall and develop the curriculum for each course in the spring. The program will begin in fall 2008, and will be assessed in the spring of 2009. If all goes well, the seminars will begin again the following fall semester. Students will receive credit in their respective degree programs,

Top of page: Provost Jamshed Bharucha.

though the logistics of location and meeting time are still to be determined.

According to the University's top administrators, this is the first program of its kind in any university. "I haven't seen it anywhere," says Provost Bharucha. "I think it's unique. There are many students who like to cross boundaries and schools, because knowledge doesn't know these

problem. You can end up doing more damage if you approach a complex problem like that just from one discipline."

He continues: "All the fields have to collaborate with engineering, geology, medicine, and other fields as well so everyone can use the water in a sustainable way. That's true of almost all major problems that affect society, whether they are domestic or global."

their findings online. "Rather than just write papers that sit on shelves, students will put their work out there so that when someone Googles the topic, the Tufts product might be there, and each student's contribution might be there," says Provost Bharucha. "And the next semester when the seminar is taught, that can be modified and added to."

"Knowledge doesn't know these kinds of boundaries; ideas go across every discipline."

kinds of boundaries; ideas go across every discipline."

"There certainly have been interdisciplinary seminars, but what's unique about this one is the conscious attempt to weave together perspectives as broad as science and the arts, for example, and then also to engage students at all levels of the University," said President Larry Bacow.

Dr. Lee has found that undergrads are especially excited about opportunities to learn and do research off-campus. "We conducted focus groups to try and figure out student and faculty preferences around some of the logistical issues," she says. "We found that the majority of students in Medford wanted to go to Boston."

The Dangers of a One-Dimensional Approach

Not only can a multidisciplinary approach help students learn and collaborate, but it can also preempt some of the challenges that professors encounter in their work.

"There are so many examples of complex societal problems that have been botched because a multidisciplinary approach has not been taken," says Provost Bharucha. He mentions a specific project led by Shafik Islam, Associate Dean of the School of Engineering. Dean Islam was involved in a multi-institutional project on arsenic contamination in the Ganges basin. The government tried to remedy the shortage of clean drinking water by building hundreds of wells.

"They built more wells and they got more water, but it turned out to be contaminated with arsenic that was naturally occurring from the soil," says Provost Bharucha. "Then they ended up with a public health

Civic Engagement

Provost Bharucha hopes that the University Seminar will help diffuse Tufts' mission of active citizenship throughout the schools bearing its name. "This is an effort that will...bring professors and students together from different schools, but this time it will be around a topic of societal importance that tries to anchor civic engagement in the curriculum," he says. "By combining learning and active citizenship through this teamwork, our students will be better prepared to address complex problems in the community, the nation, or the world."

This philosophy is apparent in all the proposed University Seminars. Peter Walker, nutrition and human security professor at the Friedman School and Director of the Alan Shawn Feinstein International Center, hopes to teach a seminar that will build "a better understanding for the students and the faculty of how these two worlds of globalization and justice interact and how we could help ensure that we can have our cake and eat it: wealth and justice."

"We would hope to have some tangible outputs in the shape of a series of publishable training material or case histories," he says.

Outcomes of the Seminar

"I am enthusiastic about launching the University Seminar because it embodies so many of the goals that we have for Tufts," says Provost Bharucha. "I am hoping it will not only inspire cross-disciplinary collaboration, but also lead to innovations in teaching and active learning"

But how does that happen?

Participants in the seminar will collect information on the given topic and place

Eight teams of professors have proposed topics for a University Seminar. According to Dr. Lee, two or three will be chosen for the first round, but she hopes that 10 or 12 will be offered each year as the program develops. "We wanted to limit ourselves this time to make sure everything goes very smoothly," she says. "Once we work out the logistics, we'd like to work our way up."

Is the Seminar Too Broad?

Will so many students involved in different paths of research and scholarship make it impossible for the seminar to reach a collaborative outcome? How will 40 to 50 students be able to come up with a body of information that is both narrow and deep?

That's the challenge, says Dr. Lee. She feels that the traditional approach to research has been narrow and deep, but some problems can be made worse if they are only approached narrowly and deeply.

"You can still do the narrow and deep," she says. "But we really want students to gain that cross-disciplinary perspective. Academia for the past few decades has been focused on research mainly in individual disciplines, but to solve complex problems, you need to do research across disciplines."

She continues: "If you are doing something on public health or policy, if you have folks from Fletcher, senior undergrads, and students in the MD/MPH [doctor of medicine/master of public health] program, you may want to create small groups, so they can contribute their perspectives in each group. But there may be times during the seminar when you would actually split them by discipline so all the MD/MPHs can do [what is most] specific to their program and then

bring them back together.”

In this way, Dr. Lee hopes that students will gain an appreciation of the disciplinary depth of other fields while bringing that perspective to their own research.

“Working across the University, the same word can have a different meaning in different disciplines, and most people aren’t even aware of that,” she says. “My bet is that students and faculty are going to discover this when they enter these seminars. That will be part of the discovery.”

Focus on Teaching

Such broad integration of different topics will require faculty to develop new teaching methods to reach out to their students. The professors from each seminar will work with the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT) in the spring to develop an interactive curriculum.

“Part of the faculty development that we will be doing in the spring is helping the faculty translate their course material into different teaching methods that will engage different students at different levels,” says Dr. Lee. “You’re dealing with very complex topics, and we think that the value will be students coming in with very different perspectives and backgrounds. How do you teach a group that is so diverse?”

Provost Bharucha sees the development of good teaching as central to the mission of the University Seminar. “I’m looking here to stretch innovative forms of pedagogy, of teaching and learning, so that the professors who are selected to direct the seminar will spend a semester before they teach it preparing for it,” he says.

Professors are excited by the opportunity to work with CELT to develop their own teaching methods in collaboration with colleagues. “I want my students to have many ‘wow’ moments,” says Jonathan Garlick, Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and Director of the Division of Cancer Biology and Tissue Engineering at the Dental School. “I want them to feel that they have created new knowledge and to feel empowered to apply it.”

Graduate professors are also excited by the opportunity to work with undergrads. “[Graduate students] are very focused, very committed, but [they are] already thinking

within their disciplines,” says Peter Walker, nutrition and human security professor at the Friedman School and Director of the Alan Shawn Feinstein International Center. “Having undergrads in the seminar will force us both to teach students in a way that is unexpected and make us reassess our assumptions.”

“I teach professional graduate students at the veterinary school and am very excited about getting undergrads engaged in an interdisciplinary approach to health from all perspectives,” says Gretchen Kaufman, Cummings wildlife medicine faculty and Director of the Tufts Center for Conservation Medicine at the veterinary school. “I think this more holistic approach will be important to them and I hope that the seminar will give them new insights into research or career directions that will be meaningful to their future.”

Graduate professors also like the opportunity to break out of their own fields and recover some of that interdisciplinary work that makes a liberal arts education valuable.



“Building interdisciplinary research and teaching programs is very challenging at any University, and the seminar makes this happen without having to confront many of the logistical barriers we often encounter,” says Prof. Kaufman. “The challenge of this program also is to come up with something really new: new ideas and new approaches. This is very exciting”

Forging Relationships across the University

Professors and administrators are perhaps most excited about the relationships faculty will forge in preparing and teaching these

seminars. “One of the great advantages Tufts has is its unique collection of schools. We’re trying to find ways to exploit the synergies among those schools and enable the undergrads to benefit from the presence of all these schools,” says Provost Bharucha.

“Some of the faculty are meeting faculty they would not have otherwise worked with,” says Dr. Lee. “After developing their themes and proposals, they are networking and collaborating in other ways beyond the seminar. I think they have had a lot of fun working on their ideas and identifying potential collaborators.”

Prof. Garlick proposed a seminar on the political, social, and ethical issues that link stem cells to global health with Prof. Mitchell Silver, a colleague at the Philosophy Department and an expert in the areas of medical and health care ethics.

“I have known Prof. Silver for many years and have always longed to teach with him,” he says. “He is a scholar who brings a broad theoretical perspective to medical ethics that is combined with a unique hands-on understanding of global health gained through his training in nursing. My passion to advance stem cell research is tempered by society’s need to have a fundamental understanding of the ethical and moral responsibilities linked to this field. Prof. Silver can provide this perspective.”

“Studying this broad range of topics in an environment with students at different stages of their personal and professional development will undoubtedly provide unique perspectives into issues of global concern,” says Prof. Garlick. “I sense that this program will promote innovation of thought and discovery of new knowledge that will evolve in meaningful and unexpected ways.”

“This seminar...provides an ideal platform for raising a new concept of health to the entire University community,” says Prof. Kaufman. “It supports an exercise to develop innovative curriculum that incorporates a wide diversity of disciplines and levels of expertise with shared values and concerns. It also establishes an excellent base from which to develop new interdisciplinary cross-school programs at Tufts that we have been pursuing.”

Jumbo Allegiances —

Is Tufts in Red Sox Nation or the Evil Empire?



BY PETER SHAEFFER

Democratic presidential candidate, current Governor of New Mexico, and former Tufts graduate Bill Richardson caused quite a storm in an interview with Tim Russert. On an edition of *Meet the Press*, Gov. Richardson made an unbelievable declaration that had nothing to do with Iraq, healthcare, or any other issue concerning the future of the country. Rather, Gov. Richardson had to defend his position on one of the most polarizing questions of today: Red Sox or Yankees? For Gov. Richardson, his allegiances should be a no-brainer. His years spent at a prep school in Concord,

Massachusetts, as well as Tufts should make Gov. Richardson a die-hard member of Red Sox Nation. Nevertheless, when questioned about what job (other than the presidency) Gov. Richardson would want to hold, he dropped a bombshell: centerfield for the New York Yankees. When Mr. Russert asked him about this contradiction in allegiances, Gov. Richardson responded, “My favorite team has always been the Red Sox. I’m a Red Sox fan. End of session. But, I’m also a Yankees fan.”

Similarly, Tufts University itself divides its allegiance between the BoSox and the Bronx Bombers. Yankee-lover Jim Stern, chair of the board of trustees,

shares a friendly rivalry with die-hard Red Sox supporter and University president Larry Bacow. In a recent interview with the *Observer*, President Bacow described the origins of his Sox fanaticism.

“I came to Boston in 1969 and really became a Red Sox fan in ’75 when they went to the World Series and lost to the Reds,” says the President. “But that’s how I came of age as a Red Sox fan. Jim and I usually email back and forth to tease each other, like in ’04 when we beat the Yankees and came back from three down.”

The leadership is divided, but what about the commoners? Does Tufts fall within the boundaries of Red Sox Nation or have we been overcome by the Evil



Empire? Although geographically located in the capital of the Nation, the number of students from the tri-state area might have enough standing to build what would be a Yankee embassy here. To understand the complexity of the conflict between the Red Sox and Yankee fans, a brief primer on the history of the feud is in order.

The History

Until recently, the Red Sox-Yankees “rivalry” never really existed. For most the 1990s and early this century, the Red Sox were no match for the Yankees. New York won four World Series from 1996-2000, while Boston failed to make the playoffs in every year but 1999, losing to the Yankees

in five games in the American League Championship series. The “rivalry” was even more one-sided for most of the modern era in baseball. From 1918, when the Red Sox’s 86-year championship drought began, the Yankees won 26 championships and 39 American League pennants. During that same period, the Red Sox won zero championships and only 11 American League pennants.

What was most painful for Red Sox fans was that some of the most heart-breaking moments came at the hands of the Yankees. In 1978, the Red Sox watched a once 14-game lead over New York dissipate, forcing a one-game play-off for the division title. In a moment that most of New England would like to forget, Yankee platoon player Bucky Dent hit a three-run homerun that effectively took the momentum away from the Red Sox, as they went on to lose the game and the division. Twenty-five years later, another Yankee would rip the collective heart out of Red Sox Nation with a late-inning homerun. In 2003, the Red Sox were five outs away from a World Series berth when then-manager Grady Little left fading ace Pedro Martinez in to protect the 5-2 lead. Martinez failed to hold the lead, the game went into extra innings and the rest was history. Aaron Boone’s game-winning homerun was more inevitable than heartbreaking — such was the history of the Red Sox and their “rivalry” with the Yankees.

The 2004 playoffs fundamentally changed the balance in the Red Sox-Yankee feud. For the first time, the Red Sox emerged victorious, and they did it in historic fashion. After losing the first three games of the ALCS, Boston became the first team ever to come back from a 3-0 deficit and win the series. For once, paradise was found for the Red Sox and their fans. The Evil Empire had been defeated, and a real rivalry was born.

The Rivalry on Campus

The escalating feud between the Red Sox and Yankees showed real signs of life on campus, as fans of both teams took their passions to fanatic, sometimes dangerous heights. During the 2004 ALCS, the Tufts University Police Department (TUPD) increased the police presence on campus in order to prevent gatherings of

students that required six TUPD cruisers and a prisoner transport to disband the previous year.

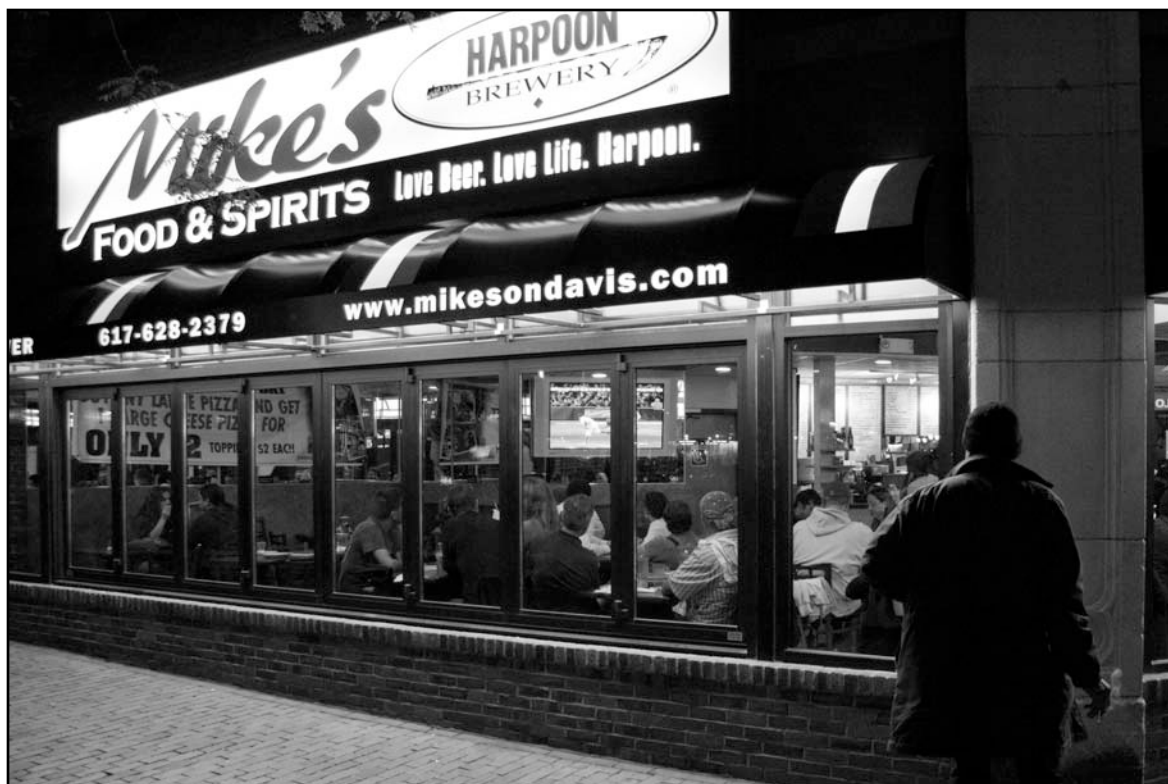
For some, coming to school in Boston is the first exposure to the Red Sox-Yankee rivalry. “I’m really only a Red Sox fan because I’m near Boston now,” says freshman Drew Walker from Michigan. Some new fans, on the other hand, have more enthusiasm about being in the middle of one of the more competitive sports rivalries: “One of the factors in choosing a college,” Cameron LeHart revealed, “was that I could watch Red Sox games.”

A factor that makes the rivalry so passionate is the perception Red Sox and Yankees fans have of each other. In a *Tufts Daily* article from October 2004, then-senior Bryce Petrucelli described the rowdy behavior of Red Sox fans on campus as the norm, rather than the exception. “Fenway fans are far worse [than Yankee fans],” he says. “You can tell just by looking at the sort of rude slogans on their shirts.”

Red Sox fan Hari Nandu disagrees. “Red Sox fans are generally more passionate than Yankee fans,” he says. “We have had a rough time for most of the century, but we stuck with our team. Yankee fans just feel entitled and are more pompous. I really can’t stand them.”

Nevertheless, do these perceptions really fit the current state of the feud? Ever since Red Sox team president Larry Lucchino called the Yankees the “Evil Empire” back in 2002, Boston has increased its own payroll to astronomical heights, surpassing every other team in the league besides its rivals in New York. If the Yankees are the “Evil Empire,” then the Red Sox are “Evil Empire 1a.” Just like fans in New York, Red Sox supporters now expect a championship quality team every year. Anything less is now unacceptable.

More importantly, the mutual hatred Red Sox and Yankee fans have for each other does not extend to the players or managers of both teams. Roger Clemens, Wade Boggs, and Johnny Damon had no qualms in switching sides. To them, baseball is a business, not a way of life. Pride, money, and the quest for a championship drove these players to the other side. While for the fans the Red Sox-Yankees rivalry is life and death, to some players it is nothing more than another game.



A student in Davis Square bears the October cold to check out the score of the Sox game showing at Mike's Pizza.

The State of the Rivalry

With the Red Sox currently playing in the ALCS, and the Yankees enduring another first round playoff disappointment, the Red Sox have the upper hand for the time being. Some, like freshman Robert Gleich, hope the current success of the Red Sox lasts, so Tufts students could “rage in Boston” if the team were to win its second World Series title in four seasons. The recent playoff troubles of the Yankees have allowed Red Sox fans to gloat for maybe the first time in the history of the series. Some students are having a hard time adjusting to the new situation. According to Ed Bernstein, also a freshman, it has been “a new challenge to be civil to Yankees fans on a regular basis” with the all the recent success of the Red Sox.

The relative rise of the Red Sox is part of a growing trend in the changing relationship between Boston and New York. Historically, most pundits considered Boston a secondary city compared to New York when it came to professional sports teams. The glamour teams were always the Yankees, the NHL's Rangers, or the NBA's Knicks. Since 2000, the balance of success between the two cities has changed.

The New England Patriots won three Super Bowls in four years, and are flirting with a perfect season this year. The Boston Celtics, after years of mediocrity, seem destined to rule the Eastern Conference with the recent acquisitions of Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen. Even the Boston College Eagles are in the midst of an

undefeated season with a national championship a definite possibility. In New York, the Jets and Giants have shown little signs of life, the Knicks have been a train wreck under the reign of Isaiah Thomas, and the recent post-season failures of the Yankees and Mets are already well-known. For the first time in a very long time, Boston has truly become a title town.

Fundamentally, the Yankee-Red Sox feud is so combative because

it is simply a manifestation of the innate rivalry between the two biggest cities on the East Coast, Boston and New York. Like a modern-day Athens and Sparta, the two great cities believe that their way of life, their traditions, and their warriors are the greatest. It is only a relief that these contests can take place on the playing field, not the battlefield.

Which side is Tufts on? That question is hard to answer. What we do know is that fans of both teams are some of the most passionate, knowledgeable fans of the sport. And unlike a certain former Tufts graduate, they know the importance of choosing one team and sticking with them through thick and thin. ☎

Emily Maretsky contributed reporting to this article.

→ Which side are you on?

Send us an email at observer@tufts.edu with New York-Boston rivalry stories at Tufts, pictures of you or friends decked-out in baseball gear, or just with your team preference.

We will get back to you in two weeks about where Tufts' loyalties lie.

Seeking an Active Education

In the past few years, “active citizenship” has become synonymous with the brand and reputation of Tufts University. There is no question that encouraging students to gain hands-on experience beyond our walls should be a goal of the University. Such pursuits, however, should not come at the expense of a crumbling ivory tower. More importantly, the *Observer* urges the administration to improve the manner in which students are exposed to the opportunities available while on the hill.

Despite the reservation of members of the faculty, real world experience should play an integral role in the college curriculum. As Professor Robert Devigne noted in this week’s feature news article, students are increasingly seeking relevancy in their education. While Professor Devigne argues that universities are “not meant to be relevant,” practicality must be an integral part of an undergraduate education. Such is the reality of a society that places such importance on career advancement. Jobs, internships, and volunteer experience are now critical components of a competitive resume. By no means should the University force work experience upon students; some may come to Tufts seeking a quality education and nothing more. That does not mean, however, that the curriculum cannot be both practical and intellectual.

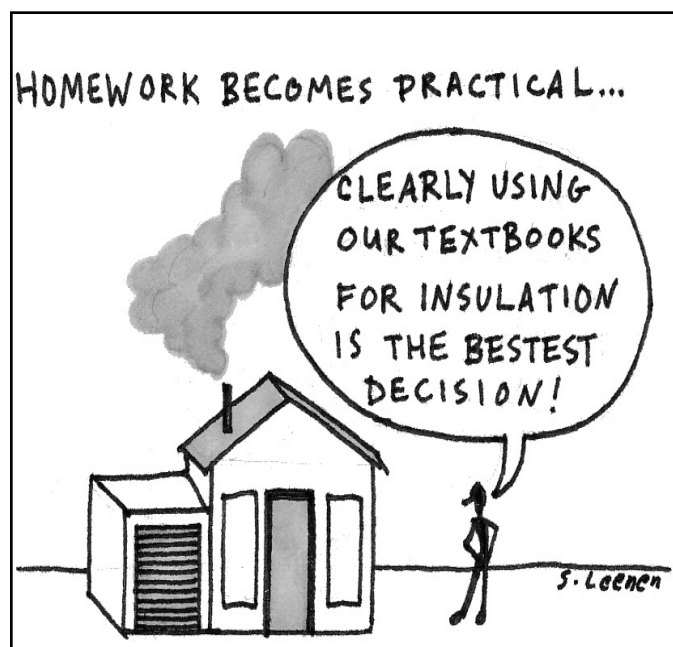
The Institute for Global Leadership’s yearly EPIIC course, which devotes advanced study of a pressing issue in

international relations, is a clear example of the blending of active citizenship and rigorous scholarship. Students enrolled in the course are not only expected to complete intense academic requirements, but also to pursue research opportunities abroad, using what is learned in the classroom and applying it towards solving the world’s most troubling problems. The extensive research opportunities afforded by EPIIC will not only benefit the student in his academic pursuits, but also strengthen a resume in the eyes of a potential employer in the field of international relations, public health, or any number of public policy fields.

Nevertheless, Professor Devigne and others who fear that active citizenship may replace academic accomplishment as the mantra of a Tufts education are rightly concerned. As the experience of the now defunct Antioch College illustrates, an institution that loses its focus on academic pursuits will most certainly face irrelevance: academic deans, administration officials, and professors must continue to expect students to place their academics first. The key issue centers on maintaining the delicate balance between promoting real world experience while holding students to high academic standards. The two are not, and should not, be mutually exclusive. The idea of active citizenship should include students challenging themselves to look at issues from a different analytical perspective than their major prescribes. The recent development of university seminars, which will have undergraduate and graduate students from different disciplines collectively tackling an issue that crosses all academic fields, is just one opportunity for such personal active citizenship.

Beyond a doubt, active citizenship should remain an active pursuit of students at Tufts. Thus, the problem lies not with the University placing too much emphasis on such activities, but with students not knowing about what options are available. Many graduating seniors cite ignorance as the main impediment to taking advantage of the Institute for Global Leadership or the Tisch College. With the varied activities that occur during freshman orientation, basic information about these programs becomes muted. If Tufts wishes to place such great emphasis on active citizenship, a session about what constitutes this citizenship and the mediums through which students pursue it should be required for all first-years.

Ultimately, decisions on choosing a major, participating in extracurricular activities, and becoming an active member of society fall upon individual students. That being said, a student failing to pursue opportunities because of ignorance about what is being offered is unacceptable. ●



TICKER TAPE

Bite-size news you might have missed since our last issue.

Three Tufts researchers recently published a new book, "A Darwinian Approach to Huntington's Disease: Subtle Health Benefits of a Neurological Disorder." Philip T. Starks, assistant professor of biology at Tufts, alumnus Benjamin R. Eskenazi, and biology doctoral student Noah S. Wilson-Rich collaborated on the project.

They propose an alternate explanation for the fact that people with Huntington's disease have more children than unaffected people. The common conception was that this greater number of offspring was due to promiscuity, something researchers thought was a behavioral side effect of the disease.

The "Darwinian" research indicates that people with Huntington's, despite health problems later on in life, are healthier during their "prime" years than people without Huntington's.

For this reason, they may more easily have children. "We've raised the possibility that the high birth rates are a result of better health," Starks explains in a Tufts press release.

"We know that healthy people have more offspring than those who are sick. Huntington's is a disease that may have beneficial health effects on people early in life, but dire health costs later when symptoms express themselves. Ironically, these early health benefits may contribute to an increased prevalence of the disease."

Thomas Hornos, EN '10, recently became the youngest skipper ever to take top honors at the Snipe World Championship in Portugal. "We didn't expect this outcome

because we just started to sail together. At most, we were hoping to make the top 20, because we sort of looked at the regatta as an opportunity to practice together," teammate Enrique Quintero said in an interview with Tufts athletics.

"It is an honor and a privilege to conquer the title," Hornos says. He is currently a sophomore studying mechanical engineering.

On October 10, the LGBT Center and the Queer Straight Alliance celebrated National Coming Out Day with a rally at the

campus center. The event was an opportunity for members of the LGBT community to tell their stories and for new participants to come out of the closet.

The Massachusetts Alliance of College Republicans held their fall convention at Tufts on October 13. Massachusetts State Senator Scott Brown (A'81) was a guest and speaker, and he was joined by former U.S. Con-

gressman Peter Torkildsen. The event took place in Barnum Hall.

Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, a Tufts alumnus and publisher of the *New York Times*, was the first speaker in the Tufts Leadership Forum series. He spoke in Cabot Auditorium on October 16.

TCU Treasurer Evan Dreifuss is considering a change in the way the TCU administers the student activities fee. According to

the *Tufts Daily*, approximately \$500,000 per annum is placed in low-yield certificates of deposit to help fund on-campus programming. Mr. Dreifuss proposes that some of the \$500,000 be invested in brokerage firms instead.

In a recent report to the Senate, Mr. Dreifuss said: "Although we did earn over \$6,000 in our CDs last fiscal year, I am certain that had we been allowed to plunge into the equity and fixed income markets... our returns would have been substantially higher."

The University's associate treasurer Darleen Karp is unsupportive. "These are student activities funds [that] are collected from the students to pay for activities that occur during the year," she told the *Tufts Daily*. "There are working capital funds... so we wouldn't want to take any risks at all with this money."

— Compiled by Kate Schimmer

TCU Watch

The Senate discussed a student proposal to institute a school-wide honor code to be submitted upon the completion of each academic assignment. The proposal is still in its preliminary stages and the Senate agreed to further investigate the feasibility and potential costs and benefits of such a code.

In honor of the late Dr. Gerald R. Gill, the Senate renamed its teaching award the Dr. Gerald R. Gill Professor of the Year Award.

The next TCU Senate meeting will be held on October 21 in the Large Conference Room in the campus center.



Arthur Sulzberger, publisher of the *New York Times*.



The different uses of intellectualism: What's the value of academia once students graduate to the real world? See page 2.

INTERRUPTIONS

WHAT'S YOUR FLAVOR?

JP LICKS FLAVOR OF THE WEEK

BY OLIVIA TEYTELBAUM

Allow me to present to you a hypothetical situation in which you weigh in excess of five hundred pounds due to an intense addiction to Pad Thai. You love the flavor: for breakfast, for lunch, for dinner, on your way home from work, in the shower, while sleeping — ALL THE TIME. Your doctors have given you three months to live if you continue at your current rate of noodle consumption. Your life depends on you conquering your addiction to Pad Thai: How do you do it? Go to JP Licks, and try the Pad Thai flavor. One of two things will happen: Either you will rejoice in the addition of a dessert to your repertoire of Pad Thai victuals, or you will *never ever* want to lay eyes on the dish again. This isn't the Asian response to Noodle Kugel. This is, as the website describes it, "noodles, green onions, and cilantro combined to surprise your palate." Surprise? More like permanently cripple, curling you taste buds into the fetal position. Derek, an employee of the establishment, put it eloquently: "It's just really bad. Tastes like cold pad Thai. It...yeah." For a pleasant October flavor, try the pumpkin. It's smooth, goes down clean, and doesn't have any graham cracker "crust" foolishness in it. Tastes just like grandma's!



ANGELA ROBINS

CAMPUS POLL: We ask, you respond.

Coffee: Where is it best on/around campus?

Winner: The Rez!

Runner-up: Dunkin' Donuts (particularly the one on Boston Ave.)

Other thoughts: Dewick — it has Splenda!; In my tummy.



ANGELA ROBINS

PARTY LINE: *What's your favorite toy?*

Larry Bacow, University president

My boat. I own half of a sailboat with a former colleague of mine from MIT. I keep it on Buzzards Bay. I don't take it out often enough. We usually sail to Maine every summer for our family vacation. This is the first year in 21 years that we didn't. Just too busy.

Jamshed Bharucha, provost and senior vice president of the University

The iPod. I am a musician, so I think the iPod is one of the greatest inventions of our time. It enables you to organize massive amounts of music and access it readily and carry it around with you. Before that you had to have a collection of CDs and maybe you took a few CDs along with your portable CD player, but this is just astonishing. And the fact that you can download anything from anywhere. I have a very stressful job, a 24-seven job, and it's important to have balance. If I'm exercising or driving long distances, I listen to my iPod.

Matthew Schuster, editor of the *Primary Source*

I have a lot of toys, that's a hard question. I collect professional wrestling action figures and I have about 120 of those lined up at my desk at home. I still like simple things. I have a metal slinky in my dorm and some old yo-yo. My sister was in Eastern Europe and she bought me back some little handcrafted wooden toys. I wish there were more like that as opposed to the new technological gadgets.



RYAN STOLP

boston blues festival



HATCH MEMORIAL SHELL

Boston Blues Festival artists perform at the Hatch Memorial Shell. See page 26 for a review.

TREY KIRK

Homecoming 2007



Clockwise from top left: Tufts' male step team, Blackout, breaks the stage; Seniors prep pre-game; senior Nate Grubman cheers his team; the morning after.





Lauren Herstik ('10) is a combined-degree student with the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. See page 32 for more original artwork, as well as the Fall 2007 Poetry Contest winner.



The Devil's Advocate Tackles Fair Trade Coffee

BY SETH STEIN

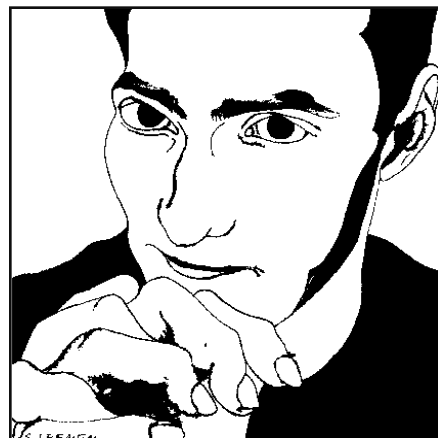
I love coffee. What was initially a potion to help me stay awake in my morning classes in high school has become a passion. I love tasting coffees from around the world, each with their own subtle, complex flavors and unique characteristics — I particularly like Central American coffees, which generally feature rich, chocolaty overtones and smooth finishes. Normally to feed this habit I find my way to Peet's in Harvard Square — but this weekend I knew I would be in New York, the Mecca of bohemian coffee shops and trendy espresso bars. Certainly, I would slake my thirst for a good cup of coffee.

So I find myself at Think Café, writing this article. Think is typical of the new coffee craze sweeping the nation. It is a hangout for NYU students, featuring free WiFi, jacks for your MacBook, exposed ceilings and fair trade coffee. Which leads me to the coffee itself. I may not be a coffee connoisseur, but I know a thing or two about a good cup of java. And the cup next to me, getting colder by the minute, is as bad as Carmichael's Central Mountain Blend. In short, the fair trade coffee I have sampled in my life has

coffee is \$.50. This price is a historic low, making it very hard for the majority of coffee growers to make a decent living. Before 1988, the Coffee Export Agreement established export quotas for coffee producing nations. This kept the price of coffee steady and profitable. But how efficient was this system? Due to the fact that most coffee producing nations are in the third world, farmers had to bribe officials to make sure that they would buy their coffee because the quotas allowed only a certain amount of coffee to reach the market each year. Although this system seemed to provide a fairer price than the current market, it was horribly inefficient and just as bad for growers.

The market changed because of two countries: Brazil and Vietnam. Brazil is the world's second largest grower. Increasing mechanization and estate style growing methods, coupled with the depreciation of the Brazilian currency, has allowed Brazil to produce significantly cheaper coffee as well. Vietnam is a more interesting case. Vietnam produced only 1.4 million bags in 1990, but is now the third largest grower in the world. This is spurred by cheap labor and a focus on the robusta bean, which is hardier (but tastes much worse). The actions of

guidelines. It promotes commune-style growing methods, gender equality and environmental protection. Disregarding the issues I have with trying to impose a socialist ethical system on other people, the goals seem laudable. Follow our stan-



dards, and we will pay you upwards of \$1.20 a pound for your coffee.

But no system is perfect. Critics of fair trade range from free market advocates to staunch supporters who think they have lost touch with their roots. Free trade advocates point to the source of the problem: low worldwide prices. The problem is, people are growing more coffee than consumers are drinking. This is partly because Brazil and Vietnam have done so much to jack up their production; it is also due to the fact that coffee drinking in the first world has been in decline since the 70's. In 2003, the world consumed about 122 million bags of coffee — but wasted 15 million bags. To put that in perspective, that is a little less than double Vietnam's current production. The free trade solutions to this problem are twofold. First of all, coffee producers can try to stimulate demand with marketing — Got Coffee? Secondly, coffee producing nations can do what they can to limit production. Maybe the problem isn't that coffee prices are so low — maybe the problem for South American farmers is that they have not been taught to diversify their crops.

Other critics point to the rise of gourmet coffee brands. Columbian and

“Fair trade certification requires farmers to follow strict social and ethical guidelines. It promotes commune-style growing methods, gender equality and environmental protection.”

always been not only bad, but offensive to the senses. Why exactly am I drinking this then?

The immediate answer is that this is the only café I really like around NYU. A more detailed answer revolves around the history of fair trade, and the failure of the coffee market and the remarkable lows in coffee prices.

The average cost of a pound of

Brazil and Vietnam have pushed smaller, less-efficient growers out of the market, destroying 600,000 jobs in Central America, while creating over four million coffee related jobs in Vietnam.

This is where fair trade steps in. The fair trade movement has roots in the 1940's, but the modern movement began in 1988. Fair trade certification requires farmers to follow strict social and ethical

FAIR TRADE COFFEE...



... A BITTER SOLUTION

Ethiopian farmers grow some of the best coffee in the world that can fetch prices higher than \$1 a bag. Farmers that grow this coffee and take advantage of fair trade certification are at a distinct disadvantage. While their neighbors to the south are seeing a jump in prices per bag as high as \$.70, they are seeing only a \$.20 increase. They could, alternatively, take advantage of the growing specialty coffee market in the first world — which topped \$6 billion in 2001. But they do not all have the resources or the knowledge to take part in that booming new market, so fair trade seems like a better deal. That hardly seems fair, does it?

Perhaps the biggest critique comes from a simple fact. Fair trade coffee accounts for a maximum of 5% of the market. That is a sizable chunk, but we have to ask ourselves: how is 5% going to save the world or change the production

and consumption methods of something as ubiquitous as coffee?

Even supporters of the movement feel it may have lost its soul to Starbucks and Wal-Mart (Starbucks is the largest distributor of fair trade coffee in North America). They take issue with fair trade being co-opted into the current market system. Before the 1980's, fair trade was supposed to be about establishing an alternative, socially conscious trading system. But this kept it incredibly small. Save for a few co-ops and specialty coffee stores, fair trade was practically unknown. The push for labeling allowed fair trade to go mainstream — and become tied to corporate America. Right now, there is a boom, and life is good — but what happens if consumers' tastes change? One thing corporate America cannot be faulted for is inefficiency. Consequently I expect we will see a downturn

in their purchasing of fair trade coffee. With the system as it is, that would spell disaster for fair trade farmers around the world.

Maybe the problem isn't going to be solved through fair trade. Is it possible there are better methods? While we won't know until we try, we can speculate. One alternative is to bring back the quota system. As I previously mentioned, this would probably just make things worse. Or we can be truly radical. Fair trade sounds nice, but what about true free trade? The alternative-to-globalization movement claims that the world's experiment in free trade has been a disaster; people all around the world are growing poorer, while the rich are just getting richer. Although this is true, I would counter that the reason free trade failed is because it wasn't truly free. Look at Ameri-

RYAN STOLP

can farm subsidies and tariffs. The problem with free trade is that we aren't pursuing it as our policy; we're imposing it on others. Look at the results when we do practice free trade, such as the lowering of import restrictions with China. We get lots of cheap goods, and China has experienced an awe-inspiring reduction in poverty. Maybe we could pursue a policy from the top down that benefits everyone — producers and consumers.

Although I have presented certain critiques of fair trade, it is a movement with its heart in the right place and a good head on its shoulders. It may not be perfect, and it will probably not end up helping everyone that deserves it. But for now, it has at the very least sparked debate and gotten the issue on people's agendas. And maybe that's all we need. ☺

Seth Stein is a sophomore and has not yet declared a major

Because Some Americans Still Like America— A Response to ‘Exile: It’s So Hot Right Now’

BY STEPHANIE BROWN

I am trying to figure out why William Ramsdell thought he was speaking for the entirety of our generation when he noted this alleged “neo-expatriatism.” While I concede that studying or traveling abroad is a significant way to broaden one’s horizons, forgetting one’s origins and homeland is to our great detriment. I would argue that despite his whiny laments, America is still very much the country we know her to be — diverse, free, and beautiful.

The United States of America still has a few things going for her (last time I checked, at least.) She’s still developing

technology, new pharmaceuticals, and brilliant research in the fields of science, medicine, and math. Psychologists and health experts in the U.S. continually come out with new developments on the foods we eat, the sleep we get, and the cigarettes we smoke. While our health system is in no way perfect, we still have amazing doctors and great facilities, and few countries in the world can match our healthcare standards. The education system needs some reform but the country’s colleges and universities are producing talented, bright, and passionate people who want to improve the condition of our country and the world. We may not have one type of cuisine, but Americans enjoy the luxury of being from

everyone’s origin — we stop by Chinatown for lo mein and eat Nathan’s at Coney Island. Our nation has a unique culture and an even more unique idea of what it means to be an American. What is so beautiful about this nation is that there is no such thing as the typical American home, American job, or American appearance. Due to the sheer size of our country, we can travel from coast to coast and see the open sky in the Great Plains or go whale-watching in Washington; roller-blade down the boardwalks of California and eat lobster off the Cape, or take pictures in front of the White House in D.C. There’s the quirkiness and eccentricity of our country that makes us great, too — I’ve never seen a Graceland in Austria. Or the Grand Canyon in France, for that matter.

Our varied cultural threads weave themselves in an organically American way, and our attitudes and national identity reflect this. We are a country often accused of being prideful, arrogant, or cocky — but it’s not a lack of humility in our national conscience, but rather the existence of a confidence and happiness one exudes as an American. I am more than overjoyed to live in a place where I can eat what I want, think what I want, vote for the things and people that matter to me, and exercise a free speech that people in other regions bleed and die to have. Our forefathers struggled to bring this type of freedom and liberty to these shores, and I think in my own optimistic way modern American society has not entirely forgotten the significance of our history. But to return to Ramsdell’s points for a moment:

Fitzgerald and Hemingway did leave the country to become expatriates, but let’s not forget the difference in time period,



ROXANE SPERBER

political environment, and perhaps most importantly, the psychological problems that plagued Hemingway and his genius, or the severe alcoholism that Fitzgerald suffered. Not to discredit either of their brilliant works, but perhaps the texts could also have found a home here at home as well. Plenty of other amazing authors came from this time, and any true writer knows that the creation of words to paper does not involve a geographical location but rather an innovative thought or creative

seem like a picture from a college brochure. Last time I checked, European countries like France, Ireland, and others have a higher rate of homogenous populations. And guess what? They have MTV over there, too, and McDonald's. Again, not an American phenomenon, but a global one. I don't know where you live that the architecture is cinder blocks and cement, but if you chose to really research American architecture you would find plenty of novel design (have you ever heard of Frank

is well-structured and has created for us a representational and democratic environment, one in which discontented persons like yourself have the freedom to complain as you please, and not only complain as much as you want, but to protest existing legislation and lobby for change. If there is so much you do not like about the current state of affairs, why leave America in such a lethargic and blasé fashion? Instead, do something to better our country. It is your mentality that something in need of repair

“It seems as though all of us have to go out and seek the world in order to return
and make something of our lives.”

rant. Writers are an angsty bunch, and it does not surprise me to hear you would lay claim that “it is safe to say that while living his life to the fullest, he was careful to choose the right side of the big pond.” While I refuse to boldly assert he [Hemingway] was living life to the fullest — the man was disgruntled and unhappy with the world's affairs — I know another important fact; Hemingway returned to the United States. Yes, perhaps he felt in his young age the draw of adventure and the thrill of rebellion, but what ultimately called to him is the infinitely comforting idea of home, a place of beginning — maybe the only place we will always understand and will always understand us. Even Fitzgerald came back to Hollywood to pursue further literary attempts.

I can understand the desire to escape, even if only briefly, to another point on the globe, to duck into the street side café in Paris and sip your latte with malcontent. But the wisdom of time reminds us, as Herman Melville reaffirms, “Life's a voyage that's homeward bound.” It seems as though all of us have to go out and seek the world in order to return and make something of our lives. So while I applaud the notion of discovering one's self, I cannot advocate your other reasons or motivations for leaving our great nation.

In defense of all things American, I will reiterate that there are still plenty of good and noble aspects to this country. I don't consider us a homogenous soup, and if you opened your pretty little eyes to the left and right of you, diversity wouldn't just

Lloyd Wright? Or how about William Le Baron Jenny, ‘Father of the American Skyscraper’?) Our country has some of the strangest and greatest architecture in the world, but if you so desire, skip over the pond and take a look at the same-old, same-old romantic structures of Europe. Exciting to see rows upon rows of identical buildings? I thought so.

But I find the most interesting portion of your article to include the insulting of not only America as a country, but Americans in particular. You mock the education system, ridicule the political system, make sweeping generalizations about rural America, and suggest that everyone is obese or being molested by Catholic priests.

Let's re-cap: despite the need to improve and re-structure our educational system and support our educators, this is not a uniquely American problem. Additionally, it is a well-known fact that our universities and colleges boast curriculums that attract people from all other the world. In the wake of the Catholic scandal, I would like to remind you, William Ramsdell, that in picking up a history textbook you could find example of scandal or conflict within any large religious sect, not to mention that the molestation of children by religious officials extends beyond the American borders and far beyond our own time. And while politics is more often than not a continuous debate across the aisle, not all Americans view our “Executive-in-Chief [as]...an international laughing stock.” Moreover, the American political system

cannot be fixed, but I am from a much different school of thought — one which informs me it is a far more noble thing to stand up for what you believe and love, and strive to improve the situation in which you find yourself. I refuse to insult European countries in the way you have insulted America, but I would like to remind you that expatriatism is not the romantic or ideal situation to find yourself in, nor is it a solution or proper coping mechanism to our domestic problems. As an American, I still firmly believe that we are a country of strong, proud, and industrious people, in a beautiful country with plenty of opportunity, integrity, and hope, and the fact that you do not see this in your homeland saddens and astonishes me. There's this document you might have heard of called the ‘U.S. Constitution,’ that sums up a few of these things I happen to believe, and the pre-amble sums it up quite nicely:

“We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

Perhaps if you take a look at this ‘Constitution,’ you might change your mind about us. I've only got three more words for you: God Bless America. ☺

Stephanie Brown is a junior studying international relations. William Ramsdell's article was published in the September 28th issue.

Uncovering the Evidence

BY DANIEL ROSEN

The scene is dark. A woman lies dead on the parking lot pavement of a run-down motel, her belongings spread across the cold ground. No, this isn't Detroit, this is *CSI: The Experience*, a new exhibit at Boston's Museum of Science. Based on the popular CBS television series, this new exhibit, open through January 1, tasks visitors with solving one of three crime scenes. You can solve the mystery of the young woman's death as mentioned above, the case of a car that crashed into a living room, or the incident of a human skull found sticking out of the ground by a hiker. Each mystery tests your analytical abilities. While they are not too difficult to solve, they offer an interesting and unusual trip off Walnut Hill.

After viewing a short and somewhat unnecessary introductory movie describing the life of a crime scene investigator, guides lead visitors into one of the crime scenes, which they select at random. At each one, visitors receive a card on which to collect evidence and record observations. Throughout each scene is a plethora of clues and important details to keep in mind. Take note of body positions, personal belongings and crime location — everything is relevant

to solving the mysteries. Following the evidence collection process, visitors are led into a crime lab filled with mock scientific equipment for you to explore. To solve the mysteries, visitors must use DNA analysis machines, cell phone hacking equipment, autopsy reports, and other investigative techniques. While scrutinizing the evidence, visitors can record their observations into a computer with a webcam, or view the suspicions of previous sleuths. After analyzing all the evidence, visitors enter their findings in another computer, guess who the killer is, and see if they are correct.

The actual process of collecting and

reviewing evidence only takes around 45 minutes. Some of the most interesting aspects of the exhibition, however, are those that aren't tied directly to the main crime scene-solving activity. Five stations staffed by museum educators are situated throughout the exhibition area, offering visitors more detailed explanations of the technologies and methods used by crime scene investigators. At one station, an instructor helps visitors record and analyze their own fingerprints under a microscope, explaining the methods and technologies used along the way. At another station, visitors learn how chemical clues in bones can reveal the age, sex, and height of a person. In addition, the museum offers several lectures from personalities in the law enforcement field throughout the exhibit's tenure, including legendary criminal profiler John Douglas, who founded the FBI's Investigative Support Unit. The lectures and stations add a lot to the experience, and should not be missed.

With corporate sponsor CBS, *CSI: The Experience* aims to bring the now ubiquitous *CSI* television series outside of the small screen and into the real world.

Unfortunately, the exhibition does have a few drawbacks. With *CSI: The Experience*, the Boston Museum of Science, along with corporate sponsor CBS, aims to bring the now ubiquitous *CSI* television series outside of the small screen and into the real world. Whether or not this is a good model for a science exhibition is debatable. While recreating the popular show may bring more visitors to the museum, in reality it detracts from the overall experience. From the moment you enter the exhibit, you are constantly reminded that it is based upon a TV show. The introductory movie features *CSI*'s head investigator Gil



JULIA BOURQUE

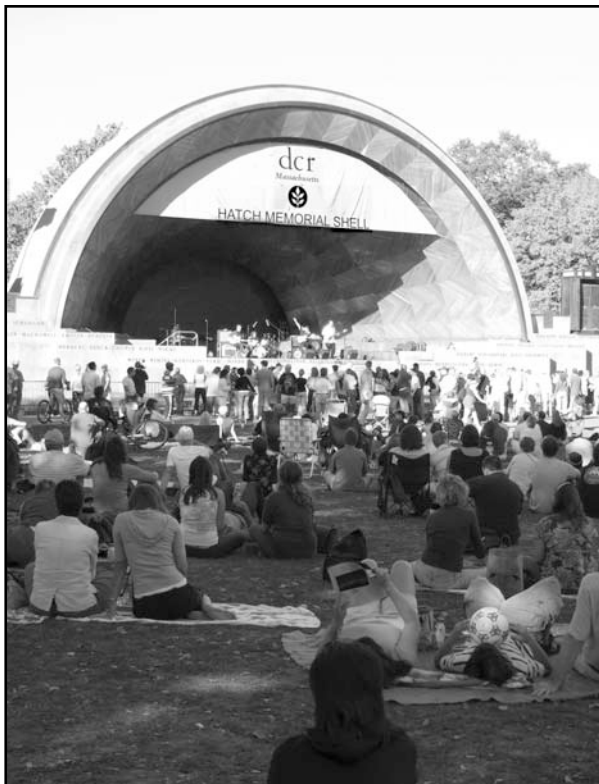
Grissom (William Petersen), and a number of *CSI* characters guide you through the evidence collection and analysis process. It is also important to remember that most crimes are not so thoroughly investigated in crime labs — doing so is far too expensive and tedious for most local de-

partments — so the actual crime scene investigation process is not depicted as realistically.

Nevertheless, in addition to the *CSI* exhibit, the museum features numerous permanent attractions. The Museum of Science is also home to a huge IMAX theatre, a planetarium, a laser light show that features the music of Pink Floyd and other artists, and a 3D digital theatre. If you've never visited the Museum of Science before, now may be a good time to go. ☉

Admission to CSI: The Experience is \$23 and tickets are timed, so be sure to call ahead to reserve the specific time slot you want. The museum is a short walk off the red line Charles/ MGH MBTA stop. For more information, visit mos.org.

True-Blue Souls at the Boston Blues Fest



HUI LIM

BY KATIE CHRISTIANSEN AND HUI LIM

We love John Mayer as much as the next nine to 65-year-old American female; really, we do. Four hours at the Boston Blues Festival, however, quickly put things in perspective. As much as John may have broken into the blues world with his albums *Try!* and *Continuum*, he has really only tapped the surface. Watching such influential legends as Sir Mack Rice and The White Owls at the Boston Blues Festival, we were exposed to a deeper level of blues that we would have never otherwise been able to appreciate. Let's face it: "Your Body is a Wonderland" doesn't exactly cut it outside the projectile-vomit pop genre of music.

Although the history of Blues runs deeper and farther than that of pop, the music is nothing if not accessible, as the crowd at the Boston Blues Festival certainly proved. People of all ages were sprawled across the grass in front of the Hatch

Memorial Shell, picnicking, reclining in chairs, and enjoying the beautiful weather — all to the groove of the Blues playing live onstage. Some were inspired to dance; others nodded along between bites of fried dough and sips of lemonade. Complimentary music with a serving of the view of the Charles River and its sailboats and blue skies — simply delightful.

Every year on the last weekend of September, the Hatch hosts a handful of the finest Blues musicians in the nation — all at no expense to the audience. Yes, you read right — that's two luxurious six-hour

days of blues music, absolutely free. The Hatch has been the faithful venue of the festival since its founding in 1996 by blues disc jockey Greg Sarni. This year, it was held during the 22 and 23 of September. The festival is the only one of its kind in New England, and is the main event of Boston Blues Week, during which several blues artists also play paid performances

"There's no money in the Blues," she told us. "Only fame."

— festival volunteer & Blues Trust board member Terry Mackie

in and around the Boston area.

Of the ten acts that graced the Hatch with their presence, The White Owls, Billy Blue, and The Mystix left lasting impressions. The White Owls, composed of five middle-aged men who look like they would be more at home rustling around with their kids, made use of instruments and musical techniques that are becoming lesser known amidst the music scene. Expertly melding

the whine of a lap steel guitar and the deep thump of a double bass, members Mike Dinalo, Steve Sadler, Andy Plaisted, Dean Casell, and Dennis Brennan managed to create a rich sound that clearly harkened back to the roots of the blues genre.

The band plays every Sunday night at Sally O'Brien's Bar at 335 Somerville Avenue in Somerville, starting at 9:00 p.m. Check out myspace.com/dennisbrennan for more information.

Another older, but just as enthusiastic, performer was Billy Blue, a veteran of the blues since his college days. After beginning his career in New York under the tutelage of various local blues artists, he finally immersed himself in the underground Boston blues scene. He managed to recreate a concoction of no-frills, straight-up blues, whipping out his harmonica for several minute-long solos. While a harmonica solo might not sound like the most thrilling of musical interludes, Blue possesses an uncanny ability to make it sound like the most beautiful, intricate, and richest instrument on earth. With the release of his new album *Blues in My Room*, Billy Blue makes a valiant effort to show us that "the blues still lives!" as he so proudly proclaimed to an enthusiastic crowd at the Hatch.

Billy Blue plays every 2nd Thursday of the month at Gilrein's Home of the Blues, 802 Main Street, Worcester, MA. His next show is Thursday, November 8, starting at 9:00 p.m. For more information, see billyblues.com.

The following day, Boston local band The Mystix offered a different sort of blues, one drawing from rock n' roll, R & B and country, which is not surprising, considering guitarist Bobby Keyes has lent his skills to recording with Jerry Lee Lewis and the popular 1980s boy band New Kids on the Block. Although it has only been together for four years, the group has managed to create a sound that is grittier, dirtier, and funkier than its counterparts,' thanks to lead singer

Jo Lily's brilliantly rough voice. The rest of the members, Marty Richards, Marty Ballou, and Tom West, contribute stunning drums, rhythmic bass, and keyboard, respectively. Like Billy Blue, The Mystix are planning the release of a new album entitled *Blue Morning* this month. See a pattern?

The Mystix's recently released album, Blue Morning, is now available at Newbury Comics, and online on iTunes. Their next show is Friday, November 9, starting at 10:00 p.m. at the Lizard Lounge, 1667 Mass Ave., Cambridge. For more information, see themystix.com.

The Boston Blues community is one that rivals Tufts in closeness and familiarity. To illustrate its close-knit friendliness, here's a hypothetical situation. Say you're at a concert and you lose your wallet. You can try and look for it, or notify security, but deep in your heart you know that you've just bid most of your valuable personal items adieu. So, when the Mystix announced that they had found the missing wallet of a Wheaton student, Katie was pretty shocked and kind of jealous. (Katie once lost her 11th grade ID card at a Matches concert. She is pretty sure it is now part of the Hudson River either in the belly of a fish or stuck to the bottom of a barge.) We digress, but the honesty, familiarity and sense of community that were at the Boston Blues Festival were novel, fresh and a bit comforting. It quickly became evident that these people use the small size of their intimate community to their advantage, looking out for and supporting one another like family.

All this quality, feel-good music by the Charles River for free? If you're thinking that it's too good to be true — well, in a sense, you're right. What people don't know about the Boston Blues Festival is that it *does* cost a great deal — just not to audience members. The festival is produced by the not-for-profit charity Blues Trust Productions, which pays the full price of rental, security, and everything else any regular tenant of the prestigious Hatch venue would. Their non-profit status doesn't get them any discounts on these fees, however. We were unable to ascertain what this meant for the earnings of the musicians themselves, but festival volunteer and Blues Trust board member Terry Mackie had this to say:

"There's no money in the Blues,"

she told us. "Only fame." But this fame guarantees them nothing. "These artists are originals — people have been ripping off their music for generations."

What's even more disconcerting is the lack of support Blues Trust Productions receives from the media. No major newspaper publicizes the event (we checked a few different papers), which severely limits the number of festival-goers, and correspondingly the revenue that Blues Trust is able to gain for its causes. We spoke to two university students on the edge of the field who were sadly unaware that they were in fact at the Boston Blues Festival. When asked for their opinion of the festival grounds, the two college students responded, "It's a neat area." As it turns out, they were passing through only to collect a lost cell phone, and had no intention of staying for the festival.

Blues Trust Productions keeps the festival free for good reason: to share the Blues with all of us. But that's only one of their noble goals. Blues Trust Productions gives out an annual Lifetime Achievement Award, in recognition of veteran blues musicians who have contributed substantially to Blues music. The charity also established a Berklee College of Music scholarship, and has contributed to a variety of other meaningful causes, ranging from medical foundation funds to burial expenses for revered late musicians. The social consciousness of this primarily music-centered organization is powerful, to say the least.

So remember: the next time the last weekend of September comes around, head on down to the Hatch for the Boston Blues Festival. Bring friends, a picnic mat, and some deck chairs, but do also remember to bring some cash for the CDs, or a festival souvenir, as little as it may be — support the festival, and keep the Blues playing. ☺

The Boston Blues Festival is held the last weekend of September in the Hatch Memorial Shell at the Charles River Esplanade in Boston (Charles/MBTA station). Admission is free; donations are welcome. For more information on the festival and other programs by Blues Trust Productions, see blustrust.com. For other upcoming events at the Hatch, visit hatchshell.com.

ARTS THIS WEEK

TUFTS:

Sunday, October 21, *Spirit of Color Free Open Dance Class*, weekly open dance classes featuring street jazz, hip-hop, and modern dance styles. Hill Hall Gym, noon to 1:00 p.m. Free. For more information, see ase.tufts.edu/soc.

Sunday, October 21, *Community Concert Series - Elizabeth Reian Bennett, Shakuhachi*, Distler Performance Hall, 3:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Music Department, Bennett presents "Sounds of Autumn," a concert of ancient monk solos to evoke the time of year.

Monday, October 22, *Boricua Pop: Puerto Rican Folklore and Consumer Fantasy Public Lecture*. Granoff Music Center, Agnes Varis Music Lecture Hall, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Free.

Wednesday, October 24, *Poetry Reading - Barbara Ras*. Award-winning poet Barbara Ras reads and discusses her latest collection, "One Hidden Stuff." Tisch Library, Room 304, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Boston:

Friday, October 19, *Wicked*, a play about the two witches of Oz. Through November 11 at the Boston Opera House. Tickets and performance times vary. For more information, see wickedthemusicaltour.com.

Friday, October 19, *CSI: The Experience*, Boston Museum of Science. On view through January 1, 2008. Based on the CBS franchise *CSI*, the exhibit offers a look into forensic science and investigative techniques. Tickets \$23. Admission is by timed ticket only. Call (617) 723-2300 for reservations.

Saturday, October 20, *Sensacional! Mexican Street Graphics*, Stephen D. Paine Gallery at UMass Art. On view through December 1. The exhibit features graphic designs of comic books, flyers, posters, and street signs common in Mexico. For more information, see massart.edu/calendar.

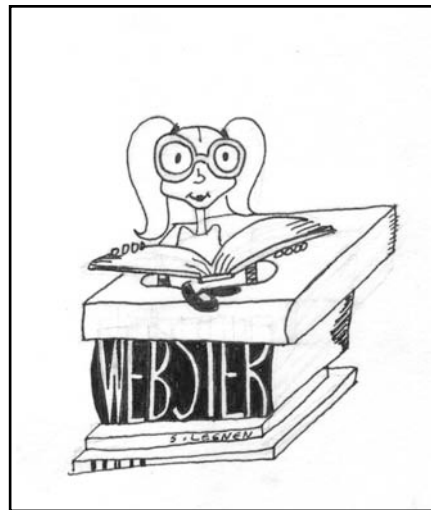
Book It with Two

BY MARK PAGLIA

This past summer saw the publication of two noteworthy books, both written by long-established authors, and both completely free of Horcruxes and sappy epilogues. The first is *Mere Anarchy*, the latest collection of short stories from renowned filmmaker and writer Woody Allen. While Allen's films have taken a turn for the dramatic as of late, all of the stories gathered in *Mere Anarchy* are intended solely as comedic pieces, attempting to fill the page with as many jokes as possible. In his typical fashion, Allen intersperses farcical slapstick humor with esoteric allusions and casual bits of his vocabulary that practically necessitate that the reader have a copy of the O.E.D. readily at hand. Many stories contain occasionally groan-inducing puns quickly followed by finely crafted phrases such as "I bumped like the *Titanic* into an old iceberg I had known in college," all serving the purpose of satirizing modern ways of life. Just as his style of humor varies, Allen's subject matter is eclectic, encompassing Bollywood films, private eyes, Disney cartoons, and a somber novelization of "The Three Stooges."

There are moments in the book when Allen appears to be returning to comedic ground that he has already covered. His story about futuristic clothing brings to mind his early movie *Sleeper*, in which the cryogenically frozen Allen awakes in a bizarre new world. Similarly, his tale of everyday modern life, written in the style of Tolstoy, is entertaining, but at its heart the book is borrowing the central joke from Allen's supremely funny film *Love and Death*.

This is not a major fault for *Mere Anarchy*, which still captures one of America's greatest humorists in his peak form. In the stories "Strung Out," a playful experiment with theoretical physics, and "Thus Ate Zarathustra," in which Friedrich Nietzsche tries his hand at writing a cookbook, Allen proves that he



SARAH LEENEN

still possesses the keen wit and mastery of language that have made him such a cultural icon. Ultimately, *Mere Anarchy* mirrors Woody Allen's prodigious film career: a few of its contents are passable, and one or two are forgettable, but

Allen intersperses farcical slapstick humor with esoteric allusions and casual bits of vocabulary that practically necessitate that the reader have a copy of the O.E.D. at hand.

the highlights make the entire collection well-worth discovering.

In contrast to *Mere Anarchy*, another notable novel published this summer eschews humor in order to convey a deceptively simple tale of tragedy. Ian McEwan's *On Chesil Beach* concerns itself with a single evening in 1962, and the events that have led its two protagonists to find themselves on the titular beach. These protagonists are Edward and Florence, two recent college graduates who are spending the first night of their honeymoon in the English countryside. As the two edge closer to the consummation of their marriage, subtle tensions build and unspoken thoughts conspire to push them apart.

Intermingling with the events of their wedding night are the life histories of the husband and wife. McEwan delicately unveils the influences that have shaped his two characters: Edward, the

studious son of a schoolmaster in rural England, and Florence, the talented musician and progeny of renowned but distant parents. Many authors have used the techniques of flashbacks and broken chronology, but McEwan's skill is in his ability to weave two separate histories into the narrative events of his tale. These forays into the characters' backstories lend greater depth to their wedding night, providing insight into their actions, what they say to one another, and what they choose to leave unsaid.

In depicting the events of the night in question, McEwan further proves his tremendous literary ability by intertwining the perspectives of both Edward and Florence as the night unfolds. His ability to capture the thoughts of the two characters, the ways in which these thoughts are manifested, and how their misunderstandings turn into tragedy all demonstrate the talents that have made Ian McEwan such a fixture of

contemporary fiction. *On Chesil Beach* was recently shortlisted for the prestigious Booker Prize, causing something of a

controversy over whether it is a novel or a novella, as the latter is ineligible for the Booker. Nonetheless, it is an honor that is certainly well-deserved by this latest work of such an outstanding artist.

Each of these books showcases an established writer demonstrating his own unique writing style. While Allen accomplishes this through an unrelenting stream of jokes and a refusal to take life seriously, McEwan uses delicate and understated prose to render realistic portraits of its characters. Although neither book is the masterpiece of its author, *Mere Anarchy* and *On Chesil Beach* still contain the writing styles and elements that have made Woody Allen and Ian McEwan so renowned, which is reason enough to read these and other works by the two literary titans. ☺

Mere Anarchy and *On Chesil Beach* are both available in Tisch Library, as well as at most bookstores and online booksellers.

Porter Exchange: A Gateway to Japan

BY MARY JO PHAM

Outside, it's an unassuming white brick building. Inside, it's a brief escape into the land of the rising sun. And it's all just one T stop away, in Porter Square. With Tokyo halfway around the world, who knew that the 1928 Porter Exchange Building would be a gateway to Japan?

With quite a few restaurants and even a Japanese grocery store, Porter Exchange, located at 1815 Mass Ave., opens at a set of glass doors and leads any hungry guest to the "Common Market," where six tempting eateries await.

Just past the Common Market sign that hangs over the food court, one can find Cafe Mami, Kotobukiya Sushi Bar, Sapporo Ramen, Cho Cho's, Tampopo, and Ittyo. Each mini-restaurant features its own specialty. One recent crisp fall afternoon provided the perfect opportunity to judge and enjoy steaming bowls of rich udon soups and the sides that arrived with the delightful (and in some cases not so delightful) broth.

Udon noodles are made from wheat and have been a Japanese staple since the ninth century, according to a legend that

Underneath soft warm lights in a setting that is casually welcoming (despite the incoherent decorating scheme of Pollack prints and sponge paint) Cho Cho's restaurant booth is well known for its concentration on Japanese and Korean culinary treats. My choice at Cho Cho's was the Vegetarian Udon soup with tempura vegetables.

The aroma of the hearty scallion-topped broth rose in the air, dancing above the heavy black bowl. The first sip of broth was satisfying. The noodles were perfectly cooked. The third spoonful of noodles and soup was sublime, with the tempura-battered vegetables fried to a crispy deliciousness. The last spoonfuls of broth were a nice end to the meal, though on the salty side.

A touch of Korean flavor was added to my meal with pajon, a delicious fried pancake with scallions served with light



RYAN STOLP

ments tucked away in restaurant seeming almost out of the Far East.

Ittyo is the self-proclaimed "Japanese Noodle Factory Since 1994." When a waitress was asked about the "noodle factory" that existed in the restaurant, she simply shook her head and said, "Oh no, just a saying."

So much for hoping. One wouldn't go for Ittyo's fluorescent ambiance — or lack of ambiance, for that matter. Set in decor that weighs heavily on faux Italian tiles and a Tuscan color scheme, Ittyo revealed itself not only to be out of touch with its decor, but disappointingly out of touch with its edamame and udon soup as well.

I could smell the decay of my edamame before the waitress could even place it on the table. Unlike fine French cheeses, old, graying edamame soybeans just aren't tasty looking. It didn't go untouched, however. This reviewer had to bravely verify her suspicions: served in half the portion size given at Cho Cho's, the edamame at Ittyo's was miserable.

The bowl of udon arrived with fewer noodles than expected, and the first spoonful of broth was something one wouldn't ever like to recall. While the dark amber broth was beautiful, the flavor just wasn't grand.

I could smell the decay of my edamame before the waitress could even place it on the table. Unlike fine French cheeses, old, graying edamame soybeans just aren't tasty looking.

credits a Buddhist monk who traveled to China and brought back the basic noodle concept to Japan.

Since then, udon soup has been one of the most popular Japanese dishes. When prepared well, udon noodles are tender but not too soft, served in a hot soy sauce-based broth. It is usually ordered with a topping or an addition of meat or prawn. At every restaurant I visited at Porter Exchange, udon was served with the restaurant's own unique twist on tastes.

dipping sauce. Although the pajon was delicious the first time around, a second visit was a bit of a letdown. It may have been the cooks or my own aggrandized expectations that came following pajon cravings.

Along with pajon, Porter Exchange's Cho Cho's offered freshly steamed soybeans, otherwise known as edamame. Edamame is a personal favorite, and Cho Cho's was pleasing enough. The bill amounted to about \$12 per person, including tip — priced just right for a few mo-

The udon slightly redeemed itself by coming in a combo: soup with three inari. Inari are tofu pockets filled with sweet sesame rice. It's something worth ordering at Ittyo, if not the only thing worth ordering.

However, not all is terrible, as Ittyo can be a vegetarian's heaven. There are four styles of tofu available — steamed mushi tofu, chilled hiyakko tofu, fried agedashi tofu, and goma tofu, or tofu with sesame sauce.

For dessert, there's Tapicha, quite literally an island oasis that's also a bubble tea bar. Located between Porter Exchange's Tokai gift store and Kotobukiya grocery store, Tapicha uses an easy three-step ordering process sure to please customers.

First, let your eyes linger a bit and take in the 36-flavor menu. Go for milk, coffee, chocolate, or vanilla, if you'd like something familiar. Or try the more exotic, like sweet honeydew or the delicious taro and lychee flavors.

Next, Tapicha tells you to choose your tea base from three options: English tea, Jasmine tea, or Thai tea. Essentially: sweet, sweeter and very sweet.

Finally, just tell the folks at Tapicha what you want for the best part: traditional tapioca bubbles ("boba"), coconut jelly, or a mix of both.

The Far East itself is far, but the tastes of it aren't much further than Porter Square, and a trip to Little Tokyo is worth it. There are plenty more eateries to sample beyond Cho Cho's and Ittyo. The Porter Exchange Mall is also home to an actual, full-sized restaurant, Bluefin (as opposed to smaller stall-style restaurants). It also has a beauty boutique, the Tokai gift store, a small bakery kiosk, and two Kotobukiyas, one of which is a sushi bar and the other of which is a Japanese grocery store.

A trip is worth it — if not for the food, then for the novelty and brief escape. Just take a left after getting off at the Porter Square T stop escalators and turn left onto Mass Ave. Continue for about a block. The gateway awaits on your left — you just have to stroll through.

The Porter Exchange Mall is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. It is open for business from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sundays. ☎

30 for \$30 or less: Fabulous Presents That Won't Break the Bank

BY LYDIA HALL

Picture this, if you will. It's the morning after the night on the town to end all nights, which, while undeniably fun, cost you a pretty penny — those margaritas don't come cheap! Staggering over to your computer, a glance at your calendar reveals something you'd entirely forgotten — [insert name of friend/significant other/family member] has a birthday coming up. And you have yet to purchase a present — and after last night, it's looking like you might not have much cash on hand. How to give [insert name] the birthday present that he or she deserves without completely breaking the bank? Never fear — here are 30 suggestions, all of which will cost you \$30 or less. Happy shopping...

For Your Glamorous Friend

For the glamour girl in your life, head straight to Marc by Marc Jacobs at 81 Newbury St. Here, you'll find luxe quilted leather long wallets for a mere \$28. Available in colors like gold, silver, and red, they're a perfect accessory for a night out on the town. Also at Marc are matte leather wristlets, available in similar colors, and also a steal at \$27. For a tasty and luxurious treat, perfect as an addition or on its own, wander further down the street (230 Newbury) to Teuscher Chocolatier. A box of 10 decadent champagne truffles from the Swiss chocolate maker sells for \$15. If you're searching for something a bit more exotic to add, peruse Teuscher's extensive selection of chocolate bars, which come in flavors like pink pepper and chili pepper (\$5.50).

For Your Girly Friend

For the girly girl in your life, check

out Amy Butler's gorgeous range of stationery. A colorful box of 20 cards in various flowery designs and 20 envelopes sells for \$13.95 — go to amybutlerdesign.com to purchase. Another always classic (and currently stylish) present is a headband. Shopkitson.com has a wonderful selection of them, ranging from an elegant black leather microdot headband by J&J (\$24) to a charming polka dot-printed creation from L. Erickson (\$28). Also adorable at shopkitson.com are France Luxe's dog-shaped hair clips. These tortoise shell barrettes, in the form of a Scottie dog and available in four colors (pink included) are sure to spice up any hairdo — and they'll set you back only \$12. Finally, to make her next trip more convenient, A Touch of Ivy makes beautiful silk paisley travel cosmetic cases. Choose from large (\$30), medium (\$25), or small (\$20) — all are available at The Flat of the Hill, located at 60 Charles St. on Beacon Hill.

For Your Stressed Friend

Have a friend who just needs to chill? For a decidedly relaxing gift idea, head to Sabon at 129 Newbury. The delicious-smelling shop takes baths and showers to the next level, with a full range of scrubs, shower gels, and soaps, many of which include essential oils and a blend of 21 revitalizing minerals straight from the Dead Sea. Try a foaming "bath latte" potion, available in scents that include vanilla-coconut, mango, and lemon mint (\$22). Or choose an exfoliating body scrub, beautifully packaged and available in a smaller size for \$24 or a larger size for \$30, or refreshing shower gel (\$18). For an at-home facial in a box, look no further than the Dead Sea mud masque (\$30), designed to remove oil toxins from the skin and to replenish it with minerals. The facial polish-



LYDIA HALL

ers (\$29), which act as natural antiseptics, also come highly recommended. Finally, for a quirky twist on a classic gift, try “Soap on a Rope,” a string of fun-shaped soaps (\$10-11).

To create the ultimate comfort package, add some sweets from Cardullo’s Market in Harvard Square along with something from Sabon. The shop has a truly impressive selection of international treats, from Japanese licorice to Swiss chocolate bars — all of which, of course, are under \$30. Throw everything into a cute bag from Hidden Sweets next door, and voilà.

For Your Parents

Ah, parents. They can be notoriously difficult to shop for. But the Boston area is actually chock-full of appealing presents for Mom or Dad. For a parent who loves to write, head to Cross in Harvard Square. Although most of luxurious pens tend to be on the pricier side, one model, the “Classic Century,” will cost you only \$30. Sleek and elegant-looking, the pen comes in nearly every color of the rainbow, from lime green to gold. For the tea-drinking parent, head to Whittard of Chelsea at 170 Newbury. Here, you can create your own unique blend of tea for \$6.95 an ounce. Choose a base tea (types include black and green) and then blend away, adding flavor shots and mix-ins like fruits and flowers. The range

of flavors is eclectic, with unusual add-ins like sunflower, hibiscus, and papaya, as well as favorites like rose hip. Need a tea that’s even more exotic? Whittard also stocks the brew in decidedly unique flavors — Irish Cream being only one example (\$6.95). And for a parent with a green thumb, try the Alpine Strawberry Recycl-Bowl (\$19.95), which includes everything necessary to grow tasty strawberries at home. Go to wishingfish.com to purchase.

For the Candy-Craver

For someone with a sweet tooth, what could be better than homemade ice cream? Just add ingredients to the Ice Cream Ball (\$29.95), toss it around for 20 minutes, and dessert is served. The contraption is available at wishingfish.com.

For Guys

It can also be a bit trying to shop for men in general. For an always-adorable gift idea, Marc by Marc Jacobs has a wide selection of silk boxers. All in whimsical prints, they’ll set you back only \$16. Want to improve his grooming habits? Sabon also stocks shaving accessories, including musky-scented moisturizing shaving cream (\$24) and soap (\$5.50). For classic cocktails, pick up a pair of martini glasses for only \$8 at martiniware.com, which also sells handy shakers (\$24.95 for the 24-ounce model).

For Anyone

Finally, for a present that anyone on your list will surely appreciate, try a Little Black Book, available at Cross for \$14. These handy guides include expert information on such subjects as sushi, wine, and cocktails — sure to spice up the recipient’s next party, as it includes the recipe for nearly every cocktail you could ever want. On a similar note, make the next get-together even more interesting with Party Games for Adults, a guide to grown-up fun that puts traditional ice breaker games to shame. Costing a mere \$9.95, the book is available at shopkitson.com.

P.S. It just wouldn’t be a birthday present without a card ... so add one from Sappycards. The hilarious greetings bear messages like “Blah” and “It’s nearly impossible to find a greeting card for you.” Buy a pack of six cards for \$18 at sappycards.com. ☺

SHOPPING FOR INEXPENSIVE GIFTS:

Marc by Marc Jacobs
81 Newbury St.

Teuscher Chocolatier
230 Newbury St.

Amybutlerdesign.com

Shopkitson.com

The Flat of the Hill
60 Charles St.

Sabon
129 Newbury St.

Cardullo’s Market
Harvard Square
6 Brattle St.

Cross
Harvard Square
0 Brattle St.

Whittard of Chelsea
170 Newbury St.

Wishingfish.com

Martiniware.com

Sappycards.com

The Bottom of the World

This short story is the runner-up for the prose portion of the Fall 2007 Observer Creative Writing Contest. Rebecca Novak is a sophomore that has not yet declared a major.

BY REBECCA NOVAK

"The bottom of the world is gold, and the world is upside-down."

—Jack Kerouac

The sun is high and shining brightly through the windshield. Waves of light crash hotly into the glass, tamed slightly by the faithful buzzing of the AC. It is hot, fiercely hot, the kind of hot that sinks into you and pulls damp beads of sweat up through your pores to pill down the length of your nose. My nose is frecklier in the summer. I check for new spots in the car's side mirror. There is a small one by my left eye. Land falls away below the car, four wheels forcing searing asphalt away from the low chassis of our '92 Honda Civic. I'm distracted from my freckles by the flickering of the white lane markers, semi-distorted in the magnified glass. Mom is still talking.

"Katie, are you listening? What are you looking at?"

"Nothing. Sorry Mom."

She turns up the radio and sings a little with the Rolling Stones. I winced.

"Do you have to do that? You're not in tune."

Mom stops singing. She turns the volume knob farther to the right. Mick Jagger wails a little louder out of the back speakers. I'm glad Mom has closed her mouth but I don't like the way her face has gotten tense. I look at her and watch her lips purse. It's an unconscious habit of hers, a kind of facial tic that kicks in when she doesn't like something. They purse and relax a few more times — the cycle will continue until her mood improves. Her hair is pulled back in the heat, and my eyes linger on the gray roots below the unnatural brown. Her eyes are on the road and her hands are, for once, on the wheel.

She glances at me and I look away, returning to examining my cheeks in the mirror.

"I'm glad you're here with me, Katie. You're busy and I know that, but it's not going to be long until you're off at school and..."

"Yeah Mom, I know."

She's quiet again. I lean my forehead against the hot, smooth glass of the window and hum with "Beast of Burden." I can't wait to get out of here. My forehead is slick from perspiration and slips a little on the tilted surface. The white lines continue to run away below the wheels of our car.

"Where are we going, anyways?"

"Leya, you know Leya, my friend from college?" I nod but Mom can't see it. "Leya told me about this place that just opened up out in Walnut Creek — they're supposed to serve chocolate egg crèmes just like I had when I was your age in Manhattan. I want you to try one."

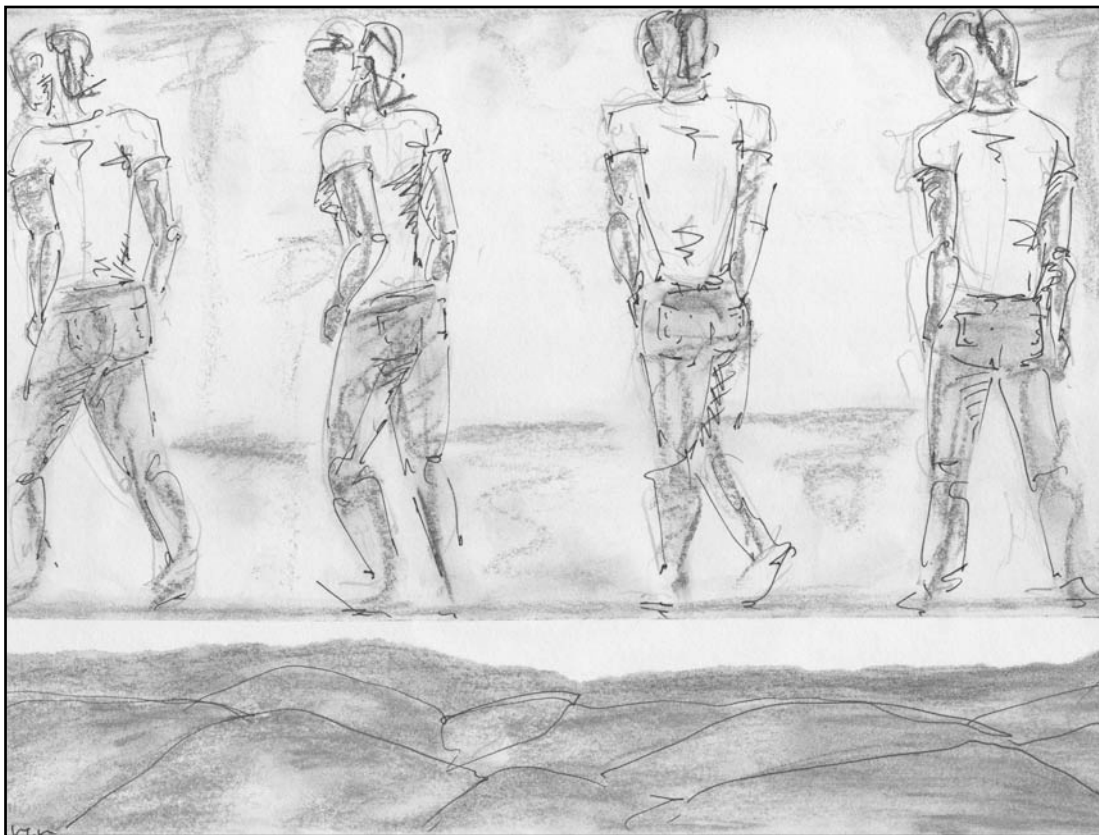
I'm getting dizzy from looking at the road from this angle. I lift my head from the window, leaving behind a filmy layer of sweat.

"They don't have those at Coffee Roasters?"

"No honey, these are different. They're..." Mom pauses. She's not looking at the highway and I can see the green road signs flashing in her glasses. Exit 42 passes by, inverted, in her lenses.

"Mom? Are you okay?"

"Sure, Katie. I'm fine." She sounds fine, but she doesn't finish her phrase. I don't question her. I've heard enough about New



York.

The freeway has left the suburbs and the squat brown houses lining the roadside have morphed into the rolling yellow hills of California June. Long fronds of sun-bleached grass fold over one another, blanketing the hillsides and trapping heat to bake the arid earth below. I watch them rise and fall behind the cement wall separating the road from the open-spaces. Mom hates these hills, she thinks she was tricked with the “Golden State” ploy —she never got her gold, and the closest things to it are these godforsaken parched-yellow hills.

Even the air in my lungs is hot. I re-adjust the air conditioning vent for the third time, pointlessly, aiming it first at my forehead, then my neck. I’m getting fidgety.

“How much farther?”

Mom doesn’t answer right away. I think the heat is getting to her. “Not long. Just a few more exits.”

Exits 43, 44 roll by. I wonder if she’s forgotten where she’s going. She’s never been any good with paying attention to these things. She somehow hitchhiked cross-country when she was twenty, but how she made it the whole way without getting lost is a mystery to me.

“Katie, read these directions, will you? Is it exit 45, or 54?” Mom fishes on the dashboard for a crinkled tan post-it with her right hand, and finding it, holds it out to me. The car swerves slightly. I take it. The paper has crisped with the weather and Mom’s scrawl is barely perceptible.

“Could be either,” I mutter. I peer at the abused square, deciphering. “Looks like

56 to me.”

The turn signal clicks on immediately. “Shit,” says Mom. “We just passed it.”

“It’s only a few back though, right?”

“Right, we’ll be there soon, don’t worry, Katie.”

We exit and re-enter the freeway from the other side easily, there aren’t many

the time as a girl.”

“Who combines eggs and chocolate, anyhow, Mom?”

“You don’t get it, just wait. They were my favorite thing growing up. I haven’t been able to find a decent one since I left New York.”

She left the east coast a long time

“I can’t wait to get out of here. My forehead is slick from perspiration and slips a little on the tilted surface. The white lines continue to run away below the wheels of our car.”

people on the road today. The radio is playing a song I don’t know but Mom is singing, under her breath this time. It’s some oldies station. The air conditioning has finally kicked in and the car is cooling down, slowly. I push my hair back from my face, enjoying the cool of the artificial breeze evaporating the dampness from my forehead.

“Just wait until you have one of these chocolate egg crèmes, Katie. They’re the best thing for hot weather, I had them all

photograph that Mom gave me when I turned eighteen—I stuck it in a drawer and only found it again a few weeks ago as I began packing up for college. It’s an old rendering, discolored in the strained tradition of early Kodachrome photographs. My grandfather took the photo on her eighteenth birthday. In the photo, it’s afternoon in Central Park and Mom is standing in front of the Fountain of Bethesda beside my grandmother. Grandma, now bent and forgetful, is tall and beaming. Mom is of



equal height, and her hair is long and curly and brightly brown. She is looking slightly to the left of the photographer. Her clothes are inexpensive and well worn; she's wearing a woven blue cardigan over some kind of dark pleated skirt and stockings. Her shoes point directly at the camera. Her mouth is steady but unsmiling, and her left hand is hidden inside her coat. I liked the picture, but I didn't understand why Mom had given it to me.

"Hold on," Mom's voice is loud and jarring and I blink, trying to get my bearings. The air conditioning is making my eyes dry, and it takes a moment for them to adjust to the change in scenery. We've left the freeway and have come to the outskirts of Walnut Creek. The dry grass has been replaced with darkly-green planted trees and lush irrigated lawns that blur as we pass. A sprinkler system is on in the shrubbery bordering the road, watering the thick olive-colored leaves and pink blooming flowers of a magnolia plant.

"I think that's it," says Mom, pointing at a building several yards from our still-moving car, "check the directions!"

The restaurant is a small, brightly

painted establishment called "Zackary's". A placard in the corner of the window reads: "Authentic New York Cuisine" and in slightly smaller lettering: "Now Hiring." Mom swings the car into the parking lot. Her hands are tight on the wheel and her

"The employee behind the counter is my age and pimply.

I'm glad I don't know him."

mouth is still. She jerks the clutch a little and the car shudders as she switches gears. She pulls to a stop. I'm reluctant to leave the now chilly car, but Mom isn't. The heat is overwhelming as we exit the car, and I squint into the brightness of the parking lot. There are withered carnations in planter boxes beside the entrance to Zackary's and they nod lazily in an invisible breeze.

I open the double glass doors and a wave of cool air envelops me. Finally we've found somewhere that got the temperature right.

"This place is freezing!" says Mom.

The restaurant is small, and obviously newly opened. Bits of sawdust have collected in the corners of the room and the musk of fresh paint underlies the classic lunch-counter combination of scents: roasted deli-meat and toasting bread. The

employee behind the counter is my age and pimply. I'm glad I don't know him. His head is in one hand and he doesn't move, neither with the ringing of the bell announcing our entrance, nor in response to the assaulting wave of warmth we bring with us. Mom

marches right up to him.

"Two Chocolate Egg Cremes, please."

"Excuse me?" asks the kid, lifting himself from his hands. His nametag, Robbie, is crooked and I think I see him wipe a bit of drool from his chin. I'm disappointed to see his name isn't Zackary.

"Chocolate egg crèmes. You know, seltzer water and chocolate syrup." He looks at Mom, clearly bewildered. "But... not too much syrup." She adds, helplessly.

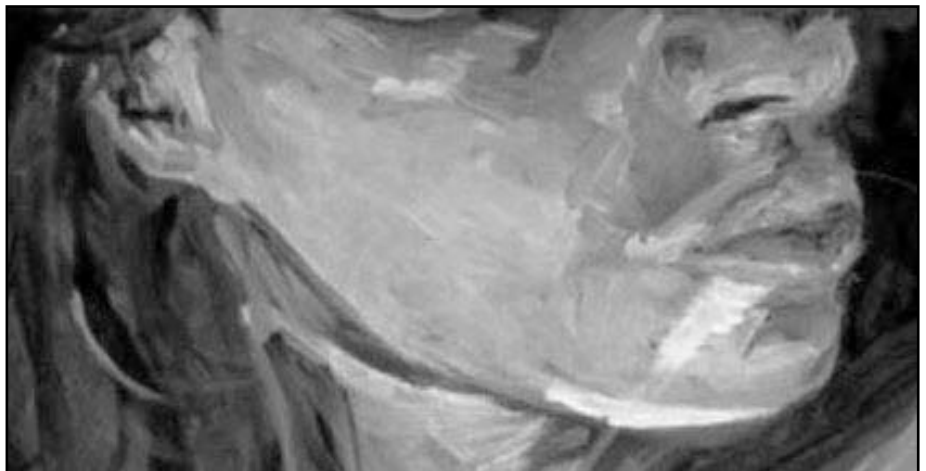
"Right." He nods and walks stiffly into the back room. I look sideways at Mom. Her lips are pursing and her eyebrows are low and close together. I scratch the spot right behind my left ear, even though it isn't itchy. Robbie comes back quickly with two clear plastic cups in his hands. He sets them on the counter. I can see the fizzy liquid inside. He punches some numbers on the register and looks at my mom. ☺

Providence Rail

The tracks? Spools unraveling.
Steel carpet, padded thistle,
the roar a dirge for a wounded queen
and yet, and yet—
a dark glow drones where fingers glide:
fluorescence and flicker, thread and hum,
a messenger, their own grey sun.
Above the billowing
rail, the oxidated wheels of retreat,
Elijah descends with trumpets.
The nectar he pours
sprinkles my navel, bitter,
a grey glisten among fallen leaves. Hope
will fade to orange, and feathers rise:
Promise to breathe as Icarus did.
The angels somersault, demand
I flee this industrial warmth.

Fools. I will only live as naked
as Hamlet's madness.

—MICHAEL YARSKY





Flood

The house, yellow, brick:
minced, a cloud fist crashing.
Phantoms parse the change like chesspieces:
this life, that life, they skitter through sea like
chains.

Hair pulled, legs parted,
a mouth blessed with riverwater. Sirens lure,
puppet the flood like wired floss. And Jane?
A flux of marbled light, a neon pulse.

On a risen roof, a shaded shingle,
she vibrates through birth. New flesh wades
the wooden drift, a jasmine eye,
a peach limb floating.

And then the whimper that mutes
the ever-levees breaking.

—MICHAEL YARSKY



Michael Yarsky is the winner of the poetry portion of the Fall 2007 Observer Creative Writing Contest. He is a senior majoring in Economics.

Lauren Herstik ('10) is this week's featured artist. Lauren is a joint-degree student with the museum school majoring in English.

POLICE BROTHER

Wednesday, October 3

At 10:00 p.m., TUPD responded to a call from an RA in Houston Hall reporting a student with a gun. Upon arrival, officers found the supposed gun to actually be a plastic replica that had been spray-painted black. Officers conceded to the RA that the replica was very realistic. The toy was then confiscated.

Thursday, October 4

TUPD responded to a call at 7:15 a.m. that stated parts of drain pipes at both Braker Hall and Bromfield Pearson had been stolen sometime during the previous night. Apparently, the pipes were made of copper, making them especially desirable.

Monday, October 8

At 2:30 a.m., TUPD responded to a call at 92 Professors Row (Sigma Nu) where officers found a large group of students smoking marijuana. Four bongs, two pipes, a “masher,” plastic sandwich bags, a gas mask, a vacuum sealer, plastic tubing, four mouth pieces, and rolling papers were confiscated.

Wednesday, October 10

TUPD officers saw smoke from a second story window in Latin Way at 1:27 a.m. Officers smelled marijuana and went to investigate. Upon arrival, TUPD found five students in a room, three of whom were smoking marijuana. An empty bottle of Captain Morgan’s Rum was also located. The smoke detector had been covered and a glass bong was in sight. A report was sent to the Dean’s office.

Friday, October 12

At 1:26 a.m., TUPD officers responded to a call on College Ave. by a female student who reported that two males, who identified themselves as Harvard students, had followed her home. Upon arriving at her house, the males attempted to follow her into her home, but she locked them out on the front porch. After only a few minutes the female student heard shattering glass, and found that a ceramic flower pot had been thrown through a bedroom window. The suspects fled, and TUPD notified the Somerville Police Department; however, no arrests were made.

—Compiled by Molly Posner, with the cooperation of the Tufts Police Dept.

COLLEGE BULLETS

A “Blatant Act of Racism”

On Wednesday, September 10, a noose was found hanging from the door of Dr. Madonna G. Constantine, a black professor at Columbia University’s Teachers College. The incident sparked a rally hosted by students protesting the hate crime. Dr. Constantine, whose specialty at the Teachers College is race, racial identity and multiculturalism, spoke at the rally stating her personal thoughts about the act and urging the university to “stay strong in the face of such a blatant act of racism.” Current investigations have yielded no suspects.

Facebook Picture Leads to Possible Expulsion

Adam Key, a Regent University student, faces disciplinary action and possible expulsion because he posted a picture of Pat Robertson, Regent University’s founder and president, making what appears to be an obscene gesture. Key took the picture from a YouTube video where Robertson scratches his face with his middle finger. Key, a second year law student, reported that the university demanded that he either publicly apologize or submit a legal brief defending his actions. Key chose the latter, and now faces disciplinary action from the private Christian university under its Standards of Personal Conduct.

—Compiled by Molly Posner

Heard on the Hill

“There is a difference between having the right to say something and saying something because it is artful and important.”

President Larry Bacow,
September 27, 2007.



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