

## SJP hosts fourth annual Israeli Apartheid Week

BY NINA GOLDMAN  
News Editor

Tufts Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) is hosting its fourth annual Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) this week, featuring events across campus through Friday.

This year's conference focuses on technology and militarization in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, according to SJP member Munir Atalla.

"The changing political situation of the world and the technology that's available to us affects the Israeli occupation," Atalla, a senior, said.

SJP began the week with a presentation by Ramzi Jaber of Visualizing Impact on Sunday, which was attended by more than 30 community members. Jaber discussed how activists can use data

see IAW, page 2



CAROLINE GEILING / THE TUFTS DAILY

After much deliberation, the TCU voted to cut funding for student groups' off-campus excursions for the upcoming fiscal year.

## Digital Rights Group to discuss privacy issues

BY ROY YANG  
Assistant News Editor

Tufts Digital Rights Group is a new group on campus that aims to facilitate discussions of issues of privacy and digital surveillance in the modern era. The group, started by sophomores Aahlad Gogineni and Stephen Michel, senior Caleb Malchik and alumnus Ian Kelly (A '14) held its first general interest meeting last Wednesday.

According to Malchik, Tufts Digital Rights Group aims to facilitate discussion on the problem of government surveillance and the issues that stem from it.

"Right now, I sense that there's not a huge amount of interest and there's no awareness for the importance of these issues," Malchik

said. "I think we are working on generating discussion and making it into something that people talk about."

Michel also said that the group aims to convince people to care about digital rights and privacy issues. For Michel, the issue lies in adjusting for the present.

"The majority of our laws have been written before the digital age," Michel said. "So moving into the digital age, what rights do we currently have? What rights should we have, and how can we go about getting policy to match those ideals? I think this is something worth talking about in going forward."

According to the co-founders of Tufts Digital Rights Group, the

see DIGITAL, page 2

## TCU Senate removes off-campus travel funding from budget

BY MELISSA KAIN  
Assistant News Editor

The Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate will not be including off-campus travel funding in its budget for the upcoming fiscal year, according to TCU Senator Adam Kochman.

Kochman, a junior who serves as the TCU Treasurer, emphasized that the TCU Senate will not be cutting all travel funding, but it has decided to wait until it knows how much money it has in surplus before deciding how much travel it can fund. The Senate then aims to focus on funding regional travel for groups, he said.

"We want to see how much money rolls back into our surplus, which had been ... depleting for the past five years," Kochman said.

Kochman said that when he joined the Treasury, the Senate funded off-campus travel, but it had only started doing so about five years ago. According to Kochman, a large surplus allowed for off-campus travel funding to begin.

"Once the budget is reset, come July, for Fiscal Year [2016], if the surplus is large enough for us to fund off-campus travel, specifically regional travel ... [then] we want to fund that," he said.

He explained that paying for airfare and related expenses, such as hotel rooms and registration fees, is no longer financially feasible for the Senate to undertake.

"About \$65,000, at least, has come from the supplementary fund this semester ... from only airfare-related costs ... that is not sustainable anymore," Kochman said.

Sawyer Dew, TCU senator and member of the Allocations Board, said that the decision the Senate has made is unfortunate but necessary given the Senate's fiscal situation.

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### TCU Senate Update

The Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate held its weekly meeting this past Sunday, March 1, in which it sorted through appeals and fund requests from campus groups and debated a new resolution to increase housing support for undergraduate summer research.

TCU Treasurer Adam Kochman opened the meeting with the Treasury Report, which featured appeals from Tufts Association of South Asians (TASA) and Torn Ticket II.

TASA, a collective of various subgroups dedicated to South Asian culture and politics, opened the Allocations Board (ALBO) requests with a request of \$2,860. TASA's Bhangra dance team, recently invited to participate in the Boiler Bhangra Competition at Purdue University, specifically appealed for transportation costs and hotel fees.

The Senate, however, cited its policy of not funding transportation for more than one competition per group per year. As the Boiler Bhangra Competition is the team's second competition this year, the Senate agreed to only fund registration and hotel fees.

After overturning the Allocations Board's originally recommended \$2,159, the Senate approved a new amount of \$2,860 by a vote of 15-3-2.

Torn Ticket II, Tufts' student-run musical theatre organization, appealed next. The

group argued that it needed eight new performance microphones for upcoming shows and for future years. Though the Allocations Board originally recommended funding for only five of the microphones, the Senate eventually decided to fund \$1,592 for all eight microphones by a vote of 18-1-0.

Aside from appeals, the Senate approved funding requests of \$80 for Country Swing Dance, \$2,907.09 for Tufts Wind Ensemble, \$538 for Psychology Society, \$171.25 and \$585 for SURGE's two separate requests, \$530 for PostScript, \$2,000 for Tufts Burlesque Troupe and \$1,000 for Tufts Labor Coalition. All of the approved funds were decided by acclamation or majority vote.

After the conclusion of the Treasury Report, TCU Parliamentarian Gauri Seth opened the floor for a resolution urging increased housing support for undergraduate summer research at Tufts. The resolution, in its efforts to expand the Undergraduate Research Fund, stems partly from Tufts Synthetic Biology's request for further funding for students trying to research at Tufts during the summer.

Some senators, however, felt uncomfortable, as the presenters of the resolution could not yet present concrete numbers as to how many students would be interested in an expanded Undergraduate

Research Fund, which currently only provides \$450 for summer researchers at Tufts. Further, many Senate members cited that because they did not know where the extra funding would come from, it would be too hasty to approve the resolution.

The Senate recommended sticking to just expanding the Summer Scholars program, a research fund for rising juniors and seniors. The presenters disagreed with this recommendation, arguing that the program specifically caters to upperclassmen.

Due to insufficient data, the resolution was eventually tabled by a vote of 13-6-1.

Next, Seth addressed recent bylaw changes, which come from recent efforts of both the TCU Senate and Tufts Community Union Judiciary (TCUJ) to strengthen their relationship. Bylaw 4A, which requires the TCU Senate President to meet biweekly with the Chair of the TCUJ, passed by acclamation. Bylaw 7, which changed wording on duties of certain members of the TCU, passed by 17-1-3.

After the TCU Vice President Matt Roy presented the committee and trustee reports, TCU Senate President Robert Joseph rounded the Senate agenda with a recap on the NESAC Student Government Conference.

—by Roy Yang

## Alpha Phi raises \$15,000 through Bid Your Heart Out

BY MIRANDA WILLSON  
Contributing Writer

The sisters of Alpha Phi held their sixth annual Bid Your Heart Out (BYHO) philanthropic event Friday evening, raising approximately \$15,000 to support women's heart health.

Over 500 people attended the event, which started at 8 p.m. in the Sophia Gordon Hall multipurpose room with a silent auction, according to Martha Meguerian, Alpha Phi's co-director of BYHO. At 9 p.m. the event moved to Cohen Auditorium for a live auction and performances by S-Factor and Spirit of Color, Meguerian, a senior, said.

This year, BYHO raised more money than ever before, Meguerian said. She added that all proceeds from BYHO went to the Alpha Phi Foundation for research of women's heart health.

Last year, the event raised more money than any other Greek chapter event in all the NESAC colleges, according to Meguerian. Though the NESAC has not yet made this year's announcement, Co-Director of BYHO Emily Rennert, a

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### Inside this issue

Enigma, a new computer science journal at Tufts, will look at how computer science interacts with a range of disciplines.



see FEATURES, page 3

González fails to progress beyond his roots on his first album in eight years.



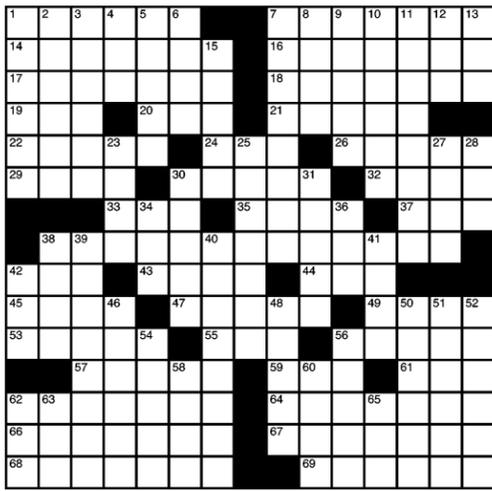
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By Mike Buckley

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MONDAY'S SOLUTION

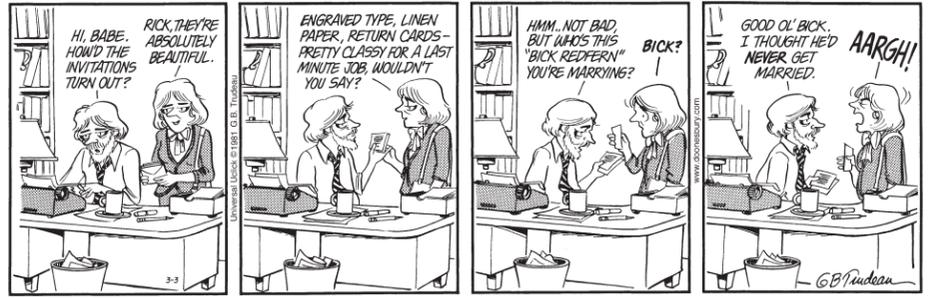
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BY GARRY TRUDEAU

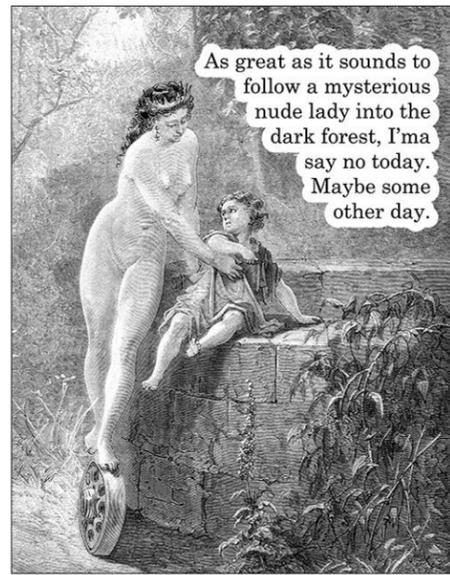


NON SEQUITUR

BY WILEY



MARRIED TO THE SEA



www.marriedtothesea.com

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LUDTA

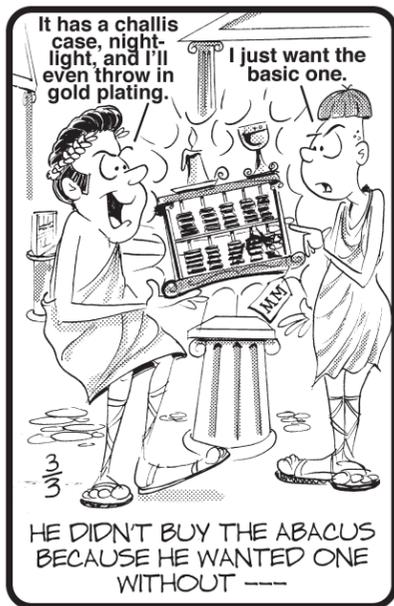
USORC

DAGAPO

NILMYA

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

Print your answer here:  -  (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AISLE ALIAS MAGNUM INVADE  
 Answer: It was dinnertime after a long day of planting bushes and he was ready to — DIG IN

SUDOKU

Level: Knowing your superheroes: Superman's nemesis is Lex Luthor.

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Monday's Solution

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7	6	4	9	5	2	1	8	3
8	2	1	7	3	6	9	4	5



Nick: "You can have the Labia and all that stuff..."



Please recycle this Daily.

## SJP aims to bring different perspective to campus

**IAW**  
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visualization to share facts in a compelling way. Other planned events include film screenings, a discussion of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) tactic and a conversation with Tufts professors about Palestine.

Atalla cited an event held yesterday, "Connecting Black and Palestinian Queer Struggles," as the one he was most looking forward to due to its intersectional nature.

"It's always a joy to be able to connect struggles," he said.

As in past years, SJP members will also hold a to-be-determined direct action to promote their cause, according to Atalla.

"We usually try to supplement our educational programming with a direct action," he said.

With a range of events, Atalla said SJP hopes to attract a broader audience to this year's IAW.

"We try to up the reach of our programming every year," he said.

In the first few years of IAW at Tufts, Atalla said the organizers faced more opposition than they do now.

"It was such a Zionist place," he said. "The shift in the discourse has been monumental."

Dylan Saba, a fellow SJP member and senior, agreed.

"Our first year that we did IAW, it was even controversial within the group," he said.

Opponents of IAW took issue with the use of the word "apartheid" to describe the conditions of Palestinians living in Israel.

"We knew that using that word was going to be very controversial," Saba said. "[But] we knew that if we were to not use that word simply to avoid controversy, then we are playing into the denial of that set of truths."

Aviva Weinstein, a co-president of Tufts Friends of Israel (FOI), maintains opposition to the use of the term.

"Apartheid' isn't an accurate reflection of the reality in Israel," Weinstein, a sophomore, said. "I've spent a lot of time in Israel. I've lived there for a year ... It's not the same kind of oppression that people experienced in South Africa."

Atalla said that in past years FOI members and other IAW opponents attended events to directly voice their opposition.

"That strategy didn't work for them," he said. "They tend

not to come to our events anymore."

According to Tufts Hillel's website, affiliated organizations such as FOI avoid partnering with groups that deny Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state or that support BDS.

"Hillel is not inclined to partner with, house or host organizations, groups or speakers that as a matter of policy or practice intend to harm Israel or Jewish communities, organizations, institutions or individuals because of their political or ideological positions," its policy reads.

While FOI Co-President Anna Linton affirmed the right of anyone to attend IAW events, she suggested that SJP's approach could be unproductive.

"Bottom line, I do not support Israeli Apartheid Week," Linton, a sophomore, said. "It is demonizing more than it is productive, and it prohibits any sort of conversation which is nuanced."

Linton explained that FOI takes a proactive approach to promoting its view of Israel's future rather than reacting directly to IAW.

"Friends of Israel is not interested in engaging in a back-and-forth, accusative, reactionary response," she said. "Israeli Apartheid Week does not define the role of Friends of Israel on campus."

Atalla, however, feels that it is important to present members of the Tufts community with a different perspective.

"People have already heard the other narrative. They're marinating in it," he said. "We're asking people just to question what they've been taught."

The rights of Palestinians is a personal issue for Atalla, who is a Palestinian Christian.

"I come from a history of displacement," he said. "My grandparents were refugees."

While Saba shares this connection — his father is Palestinian and his mother is American Jewish — Atalla noted that there are overall very few Palestinians on campus. He feels, however, that the work of SJP's diverse members is important for the entire Tufts community.

"I think the strongest part of our group is that it attracts people from a wide variety of backgrounds," he said. "I do this work as a Palestinian, but I also do this work as an American."

## Group aims to discuss dangers of NSA surveillance

**DIGITAL**  
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National Security Agency (NSA) and its surveillance will be a primary topic of discussion.

"Information is power, and when the NSA has access to everyone's communications, it creates a huge imbalance of power," Malchik said.

Kelly added that the NSA's surveillance prevents people from making their own decisions.

"The NSA fails to give the civilian population a chance to be autonomous," Kelly said. "Failing to trust your civilians to be autonomous and mature, and instead restricting them and not feeling they can make the right decisions is a huge problem."

Although digital surveillance is becoming a global issue, Gogineni sees a deeper and more insidious problem at hand. For Gogineni, people's complacency and passivity to the "invisible surveillance" is the real issue.

"If you're a law abiding citizen who does absolutely nothing controversial, never tries to change any existing system or do something that might be against the interest in power, then your life will be just fine," Gogineni said. "Other than that, your interest will not be represented. This is definitely not a good thing. You probably won't be thrown to jail unless you do anything to try and make your life better or different, but that's the whole point of democracy."

Gogineni added that it should be the citizens of a society that motivate change.

"Citizens get to effect change, and the people in power are elected by the citizens and are chosen to act in their interests," he said. "It's not supposed to go the other way around, that citizens are fine as long as they are compliant with whoever's in power."

If citizens have in fact lost the power to enact change, Malchik believes that the consequent

imbalance of power between the government and its people has the "potential to completely eliminate people's ability to get together and create change."

In its weekly Wednesday meetings, the Tufts Digital Rights Group will read excerpts from books and utilize relevant media resources to fuel discussion in these issues, according to Gogineni.

Although no plans for physical action and change have been made yet, the co-founders of Tufts Digital Rights Group first hope to see Tufts students care and actively engage in educating themselves in these issues.

"It's really not about the four of us," Kelly said. "It's every single individual, not just Tufts students, but every single individual living in the country. This affects them personally, so it's really about them. It's about getting more freedom, getting the ability to do what they want without consequences."

## Alpha Phi raises money for women's heart health

**ALPHA PHI**  
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senior, believes that Alpha Phi at Tufts will likely receive this recognition again.

Meguerian and Rennert said that this was the third year in a row in which they served as co-directors of the event.

"Each year we really just want to top the amount raised the year before," Meguerian said. "That was a fundraising goal, to keep increasing the proceeds as much as we can. One of my goals was to have the event run smoothly, and I think it ran really well."

By the end of the night, 110 of the highest bidders at the event won prizes, which included gift baskets of makeup, New York Giants season tickets and gift cards to restaurants in Davis Square, among other places, Meguerian said. Additionally, Alpha Phi auctioned off tasks and favors, according to Co-Director of Philanthropy at Alpha Phi Madi Friedman, a sophomore.

"A group of our senior girls offered one bidder a pizza party at their house, and some brothers in Zeta Psi offered to fix something in your off-campus house," Meguerian said.

All of the sisters donated either money or gifts to the auction, Friedman said. They also obtained donations from stores and restaurants throughout Boston, Somerville and Cambridge. Additionally, Tufts fraternities Zeta Psi, Theta Delta Chi, 45 and Delta Upsilon each

donated a gift or a favor and put on brief, comical performances at the event, according to Friedman.

Friedman said that she, Meguerian, Rennert and other sisters started planning for the event at the end of last semester, but most of the work began in January. The sisters put up posters around campus, created a social media campaign on Instagram and filmed a promotional video for the event.

Sisters made cookies the night before to serve at the event, and Meguerian, Rennert, Friedman and sophomore Olivia Scheyer, co-director of philanthropy, started setting up in Sophia Gordon at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Friedman said. Though she said it took a lot of work for those running BYHO, she believes that those who attended the event had a good time.

This was the first year during which the silent auction component was held in Sophia Gordon rather than the Alumnae Lounge, which meant that attendees had to move to Cohen Auditorium between the silent and live auctions, Rennert said.

"We were really nervous about this change at first, but after everything was all said and done, I liked it because we had an open space in [Sophia Gordon], and people walking by looked in to see what was going on," Rennert said. "So, we got a lot of passersby coming to the event, and the transition worked really well because everyone walked to Cohen together."

Alpha Phi International selected the cause of women's heart health for fundraising events among all chapters nationwide, according to Meguerian. She said that the cause matters to her because heart disease is the primary killer of women.

"Some Greek organizations' philanthropy goes towards a general organization, but we like that ours is women-centric because we are a group of women," she said.

Friedman believes that the event was important because of both the cause of women's heart health as well as the implications of the amount of money Alpha Phi raised.

"It shows what one sorority, with the help of the Greek community, local stores and families can accomplish in one night," she said. "Everyone can come together from all different groups in the Tufts community — sports teams, performance groups, not just Greek life. The items we auctioned off weren't just related to sororities, so it's a wide-reaching event for a great cause."

Meguerian expressed her overall satisfaction with the event and the amount of money raised.

"We love that we can send that huge check to the Alpha Phi Foundation for Women's Heart Health," she said. "It makes people take us more seriously. We're a group of girls who like to have fun, but we can also raise so much money for an important cause."

## Budget changes to stand as obstacle for groups that travel frequently

**TRAVEL**  
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"It has become obvious that, fiscally, we're in a spot where we need to make some decisions," Dew, a junior, said.

Kochman expressed the hope that national travel can be funded in the future, but he wants to focus on funding regional travel at the present moment.

He also said that Tufts was the only school in the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) that funded off-campus travel through its student government.

"Other NESCAC schools were very surprised when we told them that we were able to do so," he said.

The changes in budgeting will also indirectly be helpful for many groups on the Tufts campus, Kochman added.

"There will be more money available, hopefully, for events on campus," he said. "This is a move that has to be made right now to ensure that future [TCU] Senates

are not financially crippled. We are not saying we do not want to fund [travel], we're just saying not right now."

These decisions will impact groups that travel often, such as the Tufts Model United Nations (UN) team. According to Annirudh Balachandran, president of the Tufts Model UN team, the TCU Senate's decision came as a surprise.

"Our club focuses on traveling to conferences and competing ... We train, we practice throughout the year, and then we go to conferences and compete in a few different cities, including Boston," Balachandran, a senior, said.

The decisions made have deeply impacted the Model UN team, he explained.

"We don't have the money to do anything, and we don't know if we will be approved for anything going forward, so this has not only crippled us financially ... but also is going to lead to some serious questions about whether or not our

club, or clubs like us, can continue to exist without some sort of financial support," he said.

According to Balachandran, the Model UN team has about 40 members, and they have contributed to their own travel and registration costs in the past.

Balachandran said that he understands why the decision was made, but believes it could have been made differently.

"Personally, I think it could have been done in a different way," he said. "I think if there was a budget issue due to lack of a surplus ... I feel like a better strategy would have maybe been to take a portion off of every club's use, because there are clubs that don't travel but do use a lot [of money]."

Balachandran said that this decision will affect all clubs on campus, but groups are hoping to work with TCU Senate to reach a solution.

"It's important to note that this is something that is going to affect all

students, if they are a part of a club," he stated. "Whether you're a traveling team like Model UN or not ... this is something that is going to affect [groups], and this is something that all Tufts students ... should be aware of."

Kochman emphasized that the Senate's decision should only temporarily prevent funding for student group travel, depending on the status of next fiscal year's budget.

"This is not something we want to do," Kochman said. "We would love to be able to support all of our groups as much as possible, but if we were to continue to budget for travel without being responsible about it, we would be unfairly hurting other groups. So, we would rather wait and see how much comes back into the surplus from the unspent budget from this year, and if that number is large ... we will be able to fund at least regional travel. I hope it will happen."

## Enigma seeks to broaden computer science's scope on campus

BY MIRANDA WILLSON  
Contributing Writer

Interest in computer science has been mounting at Tufts, to the extent that the Department of Computer Science made the decision last spring to restrict the number of students who could enroll in computer science classes to first-years and computer science majors and minors. Given the field's popularity on campus, junior Soubhik Barari was surprised to realize that Tufts lacked an organization or publication to connect students who share an interest in computer science.

Barari came up with an idea for a new publication that would unite the computer science community at Tufts, as well as highlight the versatile and interdisciplinary elements of the field. To see this idea through, Barari asked three peers who are also involved in computer science — junior Calvin Liang, junior Macgill Davis and senior McCall Bliss — to be co-founders of what is now called Enigma, an online data and computing journal.

According to Barari, who is the journal's editor-in-chief, Enigma's mission is to inform the Tufts community of the ways in which computer science interacts with different disciplines.

"We want to bring alternative conversations about computer science that don't fit into the main discourse of computer science," he said. "We feel that it's way more nuanced and has more applications than just making pretty websites."

The four co-founders are each involved with other fields at Tufts and thus bring diverse backgrounds to the journal. Barari, a computer science major, worked on his high school's literary journal, which he cites as another inspiration for this publication.

In addition to computer science, Davis also studies international relations. Bliss, Enigma's director of web and design, is a computer science major with a minor in multimedia arts, and Liang, the managing editor, is an engineering psychology major with a minor in computer science.

Barari encourages students of all backgrounds to contribute to the publication.

"We're looking for people with skillsets in web development, data science or visualization, who are also into political science, net neutrality, technology as it relates to international development, whatever really," Barari said. "One person approached me at our GIM and told me that in his spare time he likes to write historical articles about computer science, and that's something that's really nifty and highlights what we're about."

The journal will consist of six sections: Filter, Canvas, Tutorial, Sync, Linger and Anagram, Barari said. These sections are designed to cover a wide array of computer science topics; while the Filter section is designed to focus on computer science news at Tufts, the Canvas section will present "visualizations of the week" — student-produced visualizations, projects from visualization techniques courses or independent projects.

The Tutorial section will offer computer science students tips for surviving courses, according to Bliss.

"That way students in COMP15 [Data Structures] won't have to Google all their questions, they will just go to our journal and see, '10 Nifty Tips for Using Program X,'" Barari said.

Barari said that the Sync section will feature interviews with Tufts faculty or young entrepreneurs at Tufts, while Linger will work to link students to events, projects, jobs and alum-



EVAN SAYLES / THE TUFTS DAILY  
Calvin Liang, Soubhik Bharari and McCall Bliss founded the Tufts computer science journal Enigma.

ni. The last section, Anagram, will feature lighter activities and topics, such as computer science brainteasers, Bliss said.

According to Barari, part of the journal's goal is to make computer science more accessible to those who have not been exposed to it.

"What we're mainly trying to do is bring those conversations to the Tufts undergraduate population and make computer science more accessible," Barari said.

Liang is excited to see how Enigma will speak to students who are combining their computer science major with another, seemingly-unrelated major, such as English or art history.

"I have a lot of friends who say they're interested in computer science but don't have time to take a whole course," he said. "So we're thinking that with the Tutorial section we'll post guides so you can get exposure to coding without necessarily having to take Introduction to Computer Science."

In addition to the six sections, the publication will also feature Tufts Trends, a project that Barari is working on that utilizes visualization and data science techniques.

"Tufts Trends is a story-based blog, using data mining on public Tufts data to deliver insights and unique stories," he explained.

One idea for the blog that he's working on now will look at Tufts Confessions, a Facebook page on which Tufts students can post anonymously.

"Right now, I'm working on something related to the Tufts Confessions Facebook page. There's an unprecedented amount of public data there, around 25,000 or 30,000 posts on Tufts Confessions overall," Barari said.

Barari hopes to use the data from the page to tell stories about the student population.

"There's so much you can tell from it — what's keeping Tufts students up at night, are we mostly drawn to negative confessions or do we like to see hopeful narratives on Tufts Confessions, etc.," he said.

For now, the journal will be published online only.

"It's easier to get the content out quickly, and less expensive," Bliss said. "We don't have a budget, and everyone looks at things online right now, so we'll try to generate some traction and then see if we either want to publish one article in pamphlet form, or publish the whole journal maybe once a semester."

According to Barari, members will have the freedom to upload new posts at their discretion. Bliss added that Enigma is currently focused on publishing strong content, rather than quickly posting as many articles as possible.

"It would be nice for our users to see some consistency with our articles, so depending on the section, we were thinking we would add new posts either once a week or twice a week and allow our writers to have some time to get a good story," Bliss said.

Bliss attempted to start her own website a year ago on which writers, musicians and filmmakers could easily connect and make movies, but the club fell through due to Bliss's study abroad plans. Now, she is excited to be a part of Enigma.

"I'm really into this idea of an interdisciplinary club, of making this into something bigger than computer science," she said.

Barari said that he sees Enigma as a combination of the Tufts Observer, Khan Academy and LinkedIn.

"There are a lot of things we're trying to do with the journal," he said. "It's all to show the Tufts community that computer science isn't synonymous with coding, to bridge the gap between the humanities and computing."

Barari acknowledged that computer science could seem intimidating to those who are unfamiliar with it.

"There are so many people who have their foot in the door in computer science, and we just want to invite them in," he said. "We want to make people see that computer science is ubiquitous, and exists everywhere that we are; at the same time, it's something people can take and transform and make personal and use for things outside of what people think computer science is about."

### KENDALL TODD | CULTURE SHOCK

## Going out



A few Fridays ago, several friends and I decided to stop by Gare Montparnasse, a train station that happens to have a public piano available to anyone who wants to play. With one pianist and several singers in our group, we figured we'd mess around for a little while before heading off somewhere else for the rest of the night. We ended up staying there for four hours.

Here's the thing about being a group of friendly, mildly talented youths taking advantage of free instruments: People come to listen to you. Sometimes they even stick around, hoping for a conversation or an opportunity to make a request.

That night, we befriended several interesting people, most of whom were waiting for their trains to arrive (when asked whether or not we were waiting for our own trains, we awkwardly replied in the negative: "No ... we just wanted to use the piano..."). Included in this group of new acquaintances were a sound engineer with a one-handed triangle (the percussion instrument) in his backpack, an old woman carrying a huge grocery bag full of snacks, a well-groomed young man who tried to improvise higher melodies over whatever song we happened to be playing and a very philosophical homeless man who did not hesitate to share with us his thoughts on life, the universe and everything else.

We started out the evening playing standard piano fare — The Beatles, Elton John, Vanessa Carlton. Then our sound engineer friend took his turn tickling the ivories and we collaborated on Britney Spears' "Toxic" (2003) and Adele's "Rolling in the Deep" (2010). In between songs, the old woman tried to talk to us about French music in the 1940s, about which we unfortunately knew nothing whatsoever, though we were happy to listen to her enthusiastic explanations. Then, around 1:00 a.m., the homeless man took over the keyboard.

After several long minutes of tuneless banging, he turned to us and asked a deeply thoughtful question: "What are the three universal languages?"

We were baffled, of course, and did our best to guess. Our first try — music — was apparently correct, but after that point we were stumped. A long series of guesses and rejections ensued. The man tried to lead us down a train of thought toward his answer, but he was speaking very confusing French and it was very late at night, so we understood little of what he said. Finally, we arrived at the answer he was looking for: That the three universal languages are music, geometry and love.

What a perfectly Parisian mindset. Music is clear enough; in my opinion, there isn't any other medium that better influences and expresses our emotions. Geometry, too, because symmetry is comprehensively beautiful — Paris itself is evidence enough of that, as it may be the most symmetrical city ever designed. And finally, love: Paris isn't called the 'city of love' for nothing — turn any corner in the city and you're sure to find a couple or two sharing a smooch.

We had to leave the station shortly after this 'big reveal,' which disappointed us slightly. Our desire not to miss the last train of the night won out, though, so we said goodbye to our friends at the piano and left.

In the subway station, we walked by a man playing the Sexy Sax Man song on a tarnished saxophone to a crowd of couples holding hands beneath the arch marking the entrance to the train tracks.

Music, geometry and love. I think he might have been onto something.

*Kendall Todd is a junior majoring in international relations and French. She can be reached at [kendall.todd@tufts.edu](mailto:kendall.todd@tufts.edu).*

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CONCERT REVIEW

## Screaming Females greets The Great Scott with wild stage presence, huge sound

BY ANJALI NAIR  
Assistant Arts Editor

On a typical Thursday night, The Great Scott — a music venue in Allston, Mass. — is overflowing with post-college punks looking to see their favorite underground acts tear up the stage and, in the true spirit of rock 'n' roll, break every noise code violation possible. On Feb. 26, the Allston venue hosted New Jersey trio Screaming Females as it continued on its album release tour, which had started five days earlier in San Francisco.

The new album, "Rose Mountain" (Feb. 24), sees Screaming Females mature from abrasive noise rock developed in New Brunswick basements into a far more deliberate style of songwriting. But the band has not lost its spirit; the show was every bit as raucous as past ones, showing off frontwoman Marissa Paternoster's unbelievable guitar prowess. The tight rhythm section comprised of bassist "King Mike" Abbate and drummer Jarrett Dougherty held its own throughout the show, with King Mike making up for the lack of a rhythm guitarist. In fact, the studio recording on their albums does no justice to the band's huge, raw sound, which can only be truly experienced at a loud, intimate venue like The Scott.

Supported by three other bands from their record label, Don Giovanni — Vacation, Tenement and Priests — Screaming Females played

a sold-out show. A sizeable crowd built up even before the headliners took the stage around 10:30 p.m. Unfortunately, this reviewer missed the opening act, Vacation. Noise pop trio Tenement, however, put on a great show, spitting out the catchiest songs of the night.

Priests is a band worth elaborating on, if only to describe the intensity of its exhausting set. While the band had an interesting mix of bizarre riffs, well-intentioned fuzz and feedback, vocalist Katie Alice Greer's atonal caterwaul could only be tolerated for so long. It was difficult at times to distinguish one song from another due to the seemingly endless wails that carried through consecutive numbers. Although she handled it with poise, Greer forgot the set list several times, even causing the band to start a song over. To her credit though, her energy was palpable, and the moments in which she stayed on key were not as grating. Others in the crowd, though barely bobbing their heads during the set, didn't seem to mind, erupting into approving murmurs once the band got offstage; they even got compared to Joy Division by one particularly charmed audience member.

Despite these expressions of satisfaction, the change in the crowd's demeanor was apparent as soon as Screaming Females got onstage. Eager moshers started pushing their way toward the front of the crowd, and the air was sticky with sweat. The



JASON PERSE VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS  
The bassist for Screaming Females delivered melodic baselines and a warm tone.

see SCREAMING, page 6

DANIEL BOTTINO | FROST FOR YOU

## In a disused graveyard



Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (King James Version, Gen. 3.19). This phrase, taken from the book of Genesis, was recited in a multiplicity of languages to me and millions of Christians worldwide two weeks ago, on the occasion of Ash Wednesday. As I heard these words and received the ashes upon my forehead, I reflected upon the significance of this reminder of my own mortality. For the relevance of this statement from Genesis extends, I believe, beyond the Christian community to all people of the world, transcending one's personal religious belief or lack thereof.

Pondering this, my thoughts turned, as they often do, to an apt Robert Frost poem, entitled "In a Disused Graveyard" (1923). In just 16 succinctly phrased lines of verse, the poem addresses an issue that's relevance has not faded in our modern society: humanity's refusal to recognize its own mortality. Beginning in a rural village graveyard, Frost draws a hard line between the living and the dead: "The living come with grassy tread / to read the gravestones on the hill; / the graveyard draws the living still, / but never anymore the dead."

This graveyard, as suggested by the poem's title, has ceased to accept new corpses for burial. The graves will see no further addition to their company: only an occasional visitor from the world of the living will disturb their rest. I have been amongst these visitors, having taken many walks in disused cemeteries similar to the one Frost describes, marveling at the craftsmanship of bygone ages still evident on the carefully carved 17th- and 18th-century slate and marble gravestones. Beneath carved images of fearsome death's heads, the stones' still-legible epitaphs consist of sobering reminders of human mortality, which were typical of New England Puritanism. As Frost describes: "The verses in it say and say: / 'The ones who living come today / To read the stones and go away / Tomorrow dead will come to stay.'"

But the world of early Puritan New England has itself long since passed away, leaving these grim epitaphs as objects of curiosity to the modern viewer, for whom death seems remote — a vague worry pushed to the edges of consciousness. Surrounded by technology and gadgets unimaginable only twenty years ago, it is easy for us to see the world as conquered by the genius of humanity. But in line with this advancement of technology has come a terrible price: a loss of humility in the face of inevitable death. For death remains as unalterable and unavoidable today as it was in Puritan New England, 300 years ago.

And so the grim stones of Frost's disused cemetery are not joined with modern stones bearing similar reminders of mortality: "So sure of death the marbles rhyme / Yet can't help marking all the time / How no one dead will seem to come. / What is it men are shrinking from?"

The answer to Frost's question is starkly simple: The reality of death is what we shrink from. But instead of cowering in death's face, we must accept its reality. This acceptance will allow us to make the most of our daily opportunities and tasks. Another opportunity, to complete the job left undone or to say the kind word left unsaid, may never present itself again.

Unfortunately, this acknowledgment of mortality is difficult; it is simpler to believe the lie of death's unreality: "It would be easy to be clever / And tell the stones: men hate to die / And have stopped dying now forever. / I think they would believe the lie."

As tempting as it is, we must reject this lie — only thus can we make the most of our lives before we inevitably return to the inanimate dust from whence we were born.

Daniel Bottino is a senior majoring in psychology and history and minoring in film studies. He can be reached at dbotti01@tufts.edu.

ALBUM REVIEW

## José González's third album fails to show growth

BY NIKA KORCHOK  
Executive Arts Editor

With his third solo album, "Vestiges and Claws," out Feb. 17, José González sings like a ghost who is haunting

**Vestiges and Claws**

★★★★☆

José González

Mute

himself. The first strains of the album are as familiar as going home. The autumnal chimes and soft-spoken yearning will comfort listeners looking for the same achingly cold lyrics paired with his crackling ember voice that set González apart in his previous albums, "Veneer" (2003) and "In Our Nature" (2007). What listeners may not find is the artist finding new territory, sticking instead to a tried-and-true formula that is exquisite, but, given the time between his previous album and this one, a little underwhelming.

First leaking out just a few somber guitar chords, which are soon paired with González's haunting voice, the opening song feels like it is emanating from some place secluded and lonely. "With the Ink of a Ghost" sounds like a specter of González himself; his voice lilts in his trademark voice and seems to come from another world.

"Let it Carry You" enters with a snapping melody; a deeper congo drum livens up the laggard tempo of the first track. The song is easy and peaceful; it brings a springtime melody to brighten up the days of an eternal winter — the vision of flowers bud-

ding after hibernation. The pleasant hymn features lyrics like "Seeing the migrant birds pass by / taking off to warmer skies / hear them singing out their songs / tune in, realize nothing's wrong." Veering nearer to Jack Johnson than other contemporaries like Fleet Foxes, the track is sweet, but it carries

melody and an acoustic guitar rounds out the sound. "Why didn't I see / the forest on fire, behind the trees?" A pan flute enters, feeling almost a touch too whimsical for a song of such gravity. Since González's tracks are known for a swash of folk overtones, the occasional woodsy, fairytale instru-



J VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS  
José González's haunting style grows weary the third time around.

weight in lines like, "Let it carry you away / and dance off into the fall / of things near / of things gone."

On "The Forest," González sings of barren landscapes and empty spaces. The space between verses mirrors this sense of isolation, with each line feeling more and more displaced than the rest as a violin bleeds out a somber

mentality isn't exactly unexpected, just disappointing.

"Leaf Off / The Cave" is where González starts to falter. Singing "May the life lead you out" ad nauseum, González' work on the track is lazy; both his lethargic guitar work and the

see GONZÁLEZ, page 6

## Screaming Females pairs intense guitar riffs with newfound, deliberate lyricism for outstanding live show

### SCREAMING

continued from page 5

band's exhilarating set began with "Empty Head," a catchy tune from "Rose Mountain." The song had some signature big riffs, accentuating the perfect complement between King Mike's warm bass tone and that of Paternoster's guitar. Those unfamiliar with the band's live shows might have been taken aback when Paternoster took command, bursting into a fury of shredding during the solo break. Although the studio version of the solo is not bad by any measure, the faster solos livened up the song as well as the crowd. Especially in a live set-

ting, when overdubs aren't possible, she worked wonders in filling up the stage, creating a "wall of sound."

As the show progressed, these elaborate solo breaks became a theme, each one just as intense as the one before. The band's stage performance in general was by far the most enthralling aspect of all the songs. Paternoster prowled the stage, guitar in hand, with formidable presence. In endearing contrast, when she finally addressed the crowd towards the end of the show, she was so soft-spoken in nature that one could hardly believe that she had embodied such a domineering attitude only moments before. King Mike also



RENE GREFFIN VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS  
Marissa Paternoster electrified the crowd last Thursday with her skillful guitar playing.

brought a lot of energy to the stage, even channeling some complex, Rush-like bass lines in certain songs.

The show went on to include some older tunes in the band's repertoire, like the noisy "Pretty Okay" (2008) and "It All Means Nothing" (2012). Toward the end of the show, Paternoster even dove into the crowd, guitar-first — and, impressively, didn't miss a note. The show ended with a two-song encore, finishing off an already exciting show with two charged-up performances. With the already successful reception of its new album, Screaming Females is bound to get a surge of popularity in the near future.

## José González demonstrates talent with lyricism, fails to deliver anything new on his third album after eight-year hiatus



J VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

José González, in "Vestiges and Claws," brings back his classic, haunting style. However, in his third album, González appears to eschew progress in place of consistency.

### GONZÁLEZ

continued from page 5

sheer immutability of his lyrics leave much to be desired. It's a campfire acoustic cover of himself.

"Every Age" is grandfatherly in its suppositions. "Build a place where we all can belong." Thanks, Mr. Rogers. How does the world get there? González doesn't really offer any answers. It isn't necessary that he deliver them, but one would assume that asking, "How low are you willing to go before you reach all your selfish goals?" eight years ago on "How Low," off of "In Our Nature" would have given him enough time to ponder some answers to his questions.

"Vissel," an instrumental piece, is quiet and balanced, with a steadiness that feels like it has finally reached a place of solidity. It is here that González might hit something worth sticking around for. "Afterglow" features the same slow, provocative tambourine and soft-spoken hymnal chorals of hits like "Heartbeats" (2003).

González has the musicality and the prowess to take listeners to a haunted, wild place with this work. Yet the tracks on "Vestiges and Claws" feel supine; they move along a flat plain in the desert, lonely and looking for no one and nothing to take them back to civilization. While González's rhythms are untamed, the album feels simple and easy. While "Veneer" and "In Our Nature" placed González' music in a solitary Thoreauvian cabin in the woods, it seems as though he never left that place. With eight years since his last work, one has to wonder if this artist is merely enjoying the ride, without challenging himself or his listeners to dig deeper and answer the questions he woefully asks, over and over, on track after track.

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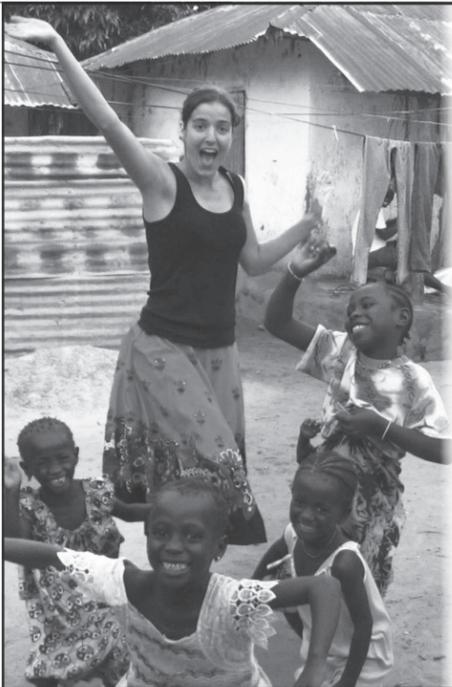
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## EDITORIAL

## Updated CASA is step in right direction in tackling sexual assault

After decades of frustrating inaction, the issue of sexual assault on college campuses is finally getting the attention it deserves. At Tufts, groups like Action for Sexual Assault Prevention work to encourage a campus culture of consent, while events such as It Happens Here force us to confront the reality that the lives of many of our peers have been impacted by rape and sexual assault. On a national scale, legislators are grappling with how to decrease the near-epidemic rates of sexual assault on American campuses while simultaneously ensuring due process for the accused. One such attempt, the Campus Accountability and Safety Act (CASA), was reintroduced last Thursday by a bipartisan group of sponsors. Here at Tufts, and at colleges across the country, this legislation is desperately needed.

Current federal law on this issue is woefully inadequate. Its most fundamental problem is that it creates a system of perverse incentives for college administrators to sweep rape and sexual assault under the rug by under-reporting incidents. Until recently, colleges across the

country were dealing with the problem by ignoring it — a terrifying thought, considering the fact that one in five women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted during their time in college (not to mention even higher rates for LGBTQ people and women of color).

CASA aims to address the myriad of problems with existing legislation by flipping the incentives. The bill outlines several new requirements for colleges: They must educate staff members who deal with rape and sexual assault investigations on how these issues impact students, clarify their relationship with local law enforcement, make data on campus sexual violence public and appoint "Confidential Advisors" and other resources for survivors. Failure to meet the bill's requirements will result in steep fines — up to one percent of the school's operating budget. The money from these fines will then be used to create a system of competitive grants colleges can use for prevention efforts and research.

Critics of the original version of CASA argued that it failed to protect the rights of the accused because it did not expand

on their existing protections under federal legislation. The updated version of the bill attempts to rectify this by mandating that colleges keep accused students fully informed of their rights and the details of the accusations against them through every step of the adjudication process. It is always important to fight for the rights of the accused, but just because CASA does not radically expand their existing rights does not inherently mean that colleges will be able to simply do away with due process once the legislation is enacted. In fact, sponsors of the bill have argued that it helps the accused by clarifying the rights of all parties involved. Making significant changes to the existing system will inevitably be beneficial to survivors as well as the accused, especially when reforms focus on increasing education, prevention and transparency.

Ultimately, this legislation is an essential step in the right direction. It will bring much-needed resources to students at Tufts and at schools across the country, while encouraging universities to take further action to prevent rape and sexual assault on their own campuses.

## FURY



## OFF THE HILL | UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

## No net neutrality, no freedom of speech

BY NICK VOGT  
The Daily Gamecock

On Thursday, the Federal Communications Commission voted to defend net neutrality by a slim vote of 3-2.

Net neutrality has been a hot topic of discussion recently — essentially, it means Internet Service Providers (ISPs) will be unable to control the speed of the internet depending on the host of the webpage. Regardless of what you can read on MSNBC (owned by Comcast), this was a monumentally important and beneficial decision by the FCC.

Make no mistake: Defending net neutrality essentially defends the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech. If ISPs were allowed to strangle access to webpages they don't like, our ability to freely access and communicate with each other would be severely hindered.

This was a very important victory for the support of an open and free internet.

Yet there is little doubt that the large cable and internet conglomerates will continue to work toward restricting internet access, even in the wake of the Open Internet Order.

The fact that the FCC vote was so close, 3-2, shows that the fight is still far from over.

The margin could not have been slimmer, and I fear that I was all too close to writing this piece on a much more somber note, while having much slower access to the websites that support net neutrality.

If the Open Internet Order didn't pass, I might have not been able to gather my sources and make a solid argument for net neutrality because the ISP conglomerates could've strangled out my access.

Thankfully, the FCC made the right decision, and I was able to freely read the opinions that Comcast and Verizon certainly didn't like. And, now that the Open Internet Order has passed, you as the reader will be able to read this

article online without your ISP restricting your access.

Thursday was a monumental victory, no matter how slim it was. Although I would've been more comfortable with a 5-0 vote, 3-2 ensures the same result.

Net neutrality has been in the public eye for a few weeks, which inevitably means the public will lose interest in this topic soon. But it is important to know that, even with the passage of the Open Internet Order, the battle for a free and open internet is not over.

While the Open Internet Order was a great victory, it is important to remember that the margin was incredibly slim. This was yet another step to an open and public internet, and hopefully we will reach that goal one day soon.

Right now, I'm happy to know that it did not take hours to research the opinions the large conglomerates do not like.

## Correction

In the March 2 article titled "Tufts neuroscientists break new ground in autism spectrum disorders research," the photo identifies the lab as part of Tufts Medical Center. In fact, the lab is a Tufts University lab that is unaffiliated with Tufts Medical Center.

## OP-ED

## Teaching life: Black freedom, Palestinian liberation

BY JONATHAN JACOB MOORE

I am not writing this to provide fodder for the onslaught of Zionist and inherently racist rhetoric that is sure to accompany my words in the comments section once this is posted online. It is not that I don't respect those who disagree with the basic aim of Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW), which is "to educate people about the nature of Israel as an apartheid system and to build Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaigns as part of a growing global BDS movement." I simply cannot, as a black man in America, waste any energy engaging those whose denial of reality and the existence of white supremacist propaganda threatens my existence and the lives of countless others, including my Palestinian siblings in the struggle for earthly freedom and self-determination. I, like hundreds of students on this campus, am simply in the business of unapologetic truth telling. This is not the "Black voice" on the "issue" of Palestine — this is my Black voice on how Palestine is my issue.

To be Black in America is to both have your back used as a bridge and your bones used as toothpicks after colonial digestion of the displaced — to make sense of the nonsensical and wash away the deep imprint of history on the individual consciousness. Black people in the United States have always been towering trees with damaged, scarred roots, as the late political leader Marcus Garvey reminded us. To be Black and to be Palestinian are to be free with centuries of colonial imposed asterisks.

Black people in America and worldwide must reject the hegemonic white supremacist narrative that insists our continued oppression, co-option and mortality are isolated incidents. As the Black, radical activist Angela Davis said, "Once we know something, let's not pretend we don't know it." Just as the racial hierarchy and all of its spoils, born from the greatest (slave) nation in the world, are not accidental, nor are the bombs dropped on schools in Rafah or the maintenance of hundreds and hundreds of militarized checkpoints throughout occupied Palestine. As a black American, not only will my silence, as Audre Lorde says, not

protect me, but that silence is, in fact, a resounding endorsement of the same violence that continues to be visited upon my community, my body and the bodies of those I love.

While those that lead and benefit the most from the white supremacist state that is these United States of America have no incentive to advocate for the liberation of Palestine, black Americans are, as are anti-Zionist Jews, implored by our own histories to say, "or nah ... not in my name," with the aim of making visible the obfuscated connections between oppressions worldwide. Our oppression is not identical, yet our resistance is inextricably connected. This work demands that I refuse to engage in futile discourse and instead focus on subversive education of my self and of my community. To rupture the fear that there is not enough space or time or money or people to fight for revolution in every context is critical and, as a Black person, I cannot afford to buy into the myth that I am alone.

I am never alone. Neveen Jamjoum was never alone. Mohammed Abu Khdeir was never alone. Tamir Rice was never alone. We are and always have been united in our resistance to that murderous and malicious violence manifested in nation, in mob, in police officer and in wall. We are together, so let's not pretend we don't know it.

Let's not pretend that we must prioritize speaking love and power to the oppressed bodies of some while neglecting others — being honest about the terror that millions contend with everyday is not an option. Let's not pretend that violent resistance is a cause and not an effect. Let's not pretend that Palestinians can refuse being bombed anymore than Blacks in the U.S. can refuse being shot down like prey. It is our societal positioning that makes invitation or consent to this violence a blatant fallacy. Let's not pretend that when little Black and Brown children are taken from their parents, their blood is not on the hands of the silent and supportive. Especially considering the work being done by paranoid Zionist lobbies like AIPAC to shore up support among Latinos and Black Americans for Israel's crimes against humanity, it

is imperative that I remind myself again and again: The oppression of Palestinians is, and always has been, a civil rights issue that demands my attention.

As a Black American, I am descendant of a people that have for centuries known resistance like the backs of their hands and the tips of their noses. Resistance is not an option, but how I choose to resist is. I choose to resist beautifully, paying close attention to the ways in which I am implicated in the erasure of others, and reminding myself that I am not the first Black man to wake up unsure of everything.

As Tufts' Students for Justice in Palestine continues to provide a radically honest and approachable forum for discussing what Palestinian liberation means on campus during this year's Israeli Apartheid Week, I urge Black students to learn more and embrace a politic that centers around narrative disruption, embracing resistance and radical realness over superficial comfort and accommodation of white discomfort. We cannot afford to get lost in neo-liberal rhetoric of respectability and co-operation.

Let me be clear: Those that stand in the way of Palestinian liberation, either through inaction or reinforcement of the settler-colonist's narrative of symmetrical power and religious fanaticism are not allies to Black people, nor are they our accomplices in the dismantling of the post-colonial world.

I don't care if you're cute or vegan, or anti-nation, or a socialist, or voted for Jill Stein or that you listen to The Roots. If you're not about my freedom (and Palestinian freedom, right now) then I'm not about you.

To resist truly is to love acutely, and Palestinian poet Rafeef Ziadah summed up this sentiment beautifully when she said, "We Palestinians teach life ... after they have occupied the last sky."

We teach life ... and don't intend on stopping anytime soon.

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## ADAM KAMINSKI | THE COOL COLUMN

## Kaleidoscope science



Ever since my middle school days, when I was compelled to watch "Leprechaun in the Hood" by what I now imagine must have been near-Clockwork Orange-tactics, I have had a slightly biased vendetta against all of cinema.

Although I seemed entrenched in my anti-cinematic ways to friends and family, this weekend, film inadvertently married my amateurish love of science. In short (or, rather, in three hours): "Interstellar." Having watched the movie and having now absorbed every retrievable word of Neil deGrasse Tyson on the subject, I have started to appreciate Hollywood's imagination, especially when it takes the shape of clever and well-researched science fiction.

Two exemplar films, among many, educate, promote and twist science with their distinct conceptions of the cosmos, the biological world and the parameters of human ability. If America can't stop watching, it might as well learn too.

In 1958, Irvin Yeaworth directed "The Blob," a science fiction/horror film about a gelatinous goo, maybe redolent of that sebaceous cyst on your cousin's back, that arrives on earth from outer space via meteorite. It promptly begins to consume people from a rural Pennsylvania town who evidently have nothing better to do than make out on the roofs of their cars while parked in the woods.

A cheesy (or should I say gooney?) flick, but definitely one with an underlying principle about the cosmos. If you just scoffed, hold on a second. The Blob is most definitely an alien, nothing new in the cinematic world, but he is also a non-anthropomorphic alien. The diversity of life on earth is astounding, from mammals to extremophiles, from mimosa plants to microbes, from Mother Theresa to Christopher Hitchens; so why shouldn't the diversity of life in outer space be just as astounding, astonishing and unpredictable?

Besides the universe, there are puzzles to solve here on earth as well, notably this stumper: What in the world is an X-gene? I am talking, for those among my readers who are not Marvel Comic geeks, about the biological source of the X-Men's superhuman abilities. "X-Men" as a movie franchise (2000-2016) has made over seven billion dollars and is known for starring both Gandalf and Jean Valjean. Well worth discussing.

The theory behind "X-men" is, believe it or not, theoretical biology. The X-gene is a dormant gene that codes for superpower-inducing proteins and that is virtually never expressed, but that is a part of human DNA nonetheless. Therefore, when a genome mutates in a specific way, activating the X-gene, the phenotypes associated with it are expressed. This process might be likened to atavism, the expression of ancestral phenotypes and genotypes that are preserved in one's DNA but that do not usually code for visible traits — especially not traits like wings and lasers.

The underlying question here might be something like this: How is it that our DNA (and our mutations of DNA) makes us who we are? Conceived in the turbulent 1960s, "X-men" may have social as well as biological implications.

The cinematic function of imagination — that is, taking real scientific concepts and distorting them until they're science fiction — may be analogous to the function of progression in scientific disciplines. Trailblazers interpret the facts we do have and use them to push into the unknown. Maybe scientists move with a bit more prudence than "X-Men" did, but still, seven billion dollars means they were on to something.

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## OFF THE HILL | TEXAS A&amp;M

## Veterans deserve support, regardless of boundaries

BY KATY STAPP  
The Battalion

I'm what people would call a "military brat." I was born in a little town called Bedford in England, within driving distance of the nearby United States Air Force base where my dad was stationed in 1993.

On Sept. 11, 2001, I watched my dad pack a bag and place it by the door, just in case "duty called." Luckily for my little sister and me, it never did. But I developed a whole new respect for him after seeing him pack that bag — the looming orange duffel bag by the door meant he didn't need to be asked twice to be ready to go if needed.

After my sophomore year of college, my dad had three daughters in college, two sons in private school and taxes to pay, so he asked me to make a trip to the Financial Aid Office to inquire about a Texas legislative act with a weird name — the Hazlewood Act.

The Hazlewood Act is a Texas benefit providing veterans, their spouses or their dependent children with up to 150 hours of tuition exemption at public Texas institutions. To qualify, the

veteran must have served at least 180 hours of service, received honorable discharge and must have lived in Texas at the time of entry into active duty.

On Jan. 26, the District Court for the Southern District of Texas ruled the requirement that veterans must have lived in Texas when they enlisted unconstitutional. The judge, Ewing Werlein Jr., argued the provision violated the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause.

The state's appeal is pending, but in the meantime the eligibility requirements remain the same.

Public university leaders in Texas are concerned in particular with one ramification of this court ruling — money.

The Hazlewood Act brings with it significant economic implications for public universities in Texas. More than \$169 million were waived in tuition and fees due to the Hazlewood Act in 2014, covering around 39,000 recipients, according to the Legislative Budget Board.

Texas university officials argue that if the benefit were to be available to people who were not Texas residents at the time of active duty enrollment, it would cost universities much more than it already does, and it already

costs a lot. And that cost grows more each year, even with the residence requirement.

But Werlein Jr. doesn't think that's what matters. In his ruling, he wrote, "Texas may not discriminate against its more recent residents in favor of more established residents simply to control costs."

And I concur. Keith Harris, the plaintiff in this case, joined the army at 18 when he was living in Georgia, but he moved to Texas in 2004 and received his bachelor's degree from the University of Houston in 2011. He's been in Texas for more than 10 years. That length of residence, along with his service, should justify him to be more than deserving of receiving the educational benefits Hazlewood has to offer. And I would put my money on the fact that Keith Harris, like my dad, wouldn't hesitate to be ready to go if called.

The Hazlewood Act was not created to benefit universities. It was created to benefit the people who serve the country. And if benefiting our veterans by allowing them to get an education nearly free of charge means costing public Texas universities some money, so be it.

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## Tufts bests Middlebury in season opener

### MEN'S LACROSSE

continued from back

strike made it 10-9 in favor of the Jumbos. That was as close as Middlebury would get for the rest of the game.

Tufts scored seven unanswered goals in a five-and-a-half minute span to stretch its lead all the way to 17-9 with just over five minutes left in the game.

"We were able to really raise the energy level and that helped start us on our run in the third and fourth quarter," Uppgren said.

The final ticks of the clock were a mere formality, with the game all but locked up for the Jumbos.

"I thought that once we got back to the basics and calmed down things started moving in our direction," Dew said. "We were winning the 3v3s on the face-offs, shooting better and our defense played very well."

Over the course of the second half, Tufts outshot Middlebury 40-17 and outscored them 13-4.

The game's leading scorer, however, was a Panther: Broome paced Middlebury with five goals.

Uppgren led the way for Tufts offensively, compiling four goals to go along with two assists. Senior co-captain attackman Cole Bailey and junior midfielder Garrett Clarke each found the back



KATY MCCONNELL / THE TUFTS DAILY

The Jumbos' offense came on in the second half of their 17-10 win over the Panthers.

of the net three times, with Bailey adding an assist as well.

Junior midfielder Conor Helfrich dominated in the face-off circle, winning 20 of his 30 attempts there and corraling 11 ground balls.

"[It was a] great team win on Saturday," Bailey told the Daily in an email. "[We] started off slower than we anticipated, but [we] have to applaud Middlebury for coming out with more ener-

gy to start the gam. Our team remained calm after going down and continued our style of play. Shots started to fall in the second half and the entire team did a great job of winning the loose ground balls."

Middlebury played a good game and a very strong first half, but it could not hold off Tufts' offensive surge in the second half. The Jumbos got back to their desired

style of play and were able to dominate the third and fourth quarters at the snow-surrounded Bello Field.

"Once we settled and just executed the fundamentals we started playing Tufts lacrosse," Dew said.

The Jumbos will remain at home and begin their out of conference schedule on Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. when they play host to the Keene State Owls.

### SAM GOLD | THE GOLD STANDARD

By athletes,  
for us all



The Players' Tribune, a first-of-its-kind media platform whose writers are exclusively current and former professional athletes, aspires to bring "fans closer to the games they love than ever before." They're lying.

Gone are the days of journalistic meddling, of careerism, when writers would hunt ravenously for stories with utter disregard for the individuals they'd soon be trashing. No longer must athletes fling open the gates to their personal lives to interlopers. Just ask Marshawn Lynch.

The internet turned Marshawn Lynch into the visored, tight-lipped superhero to Roger Goodell's villain, but we would be remiss to overlook Lynch's vanguardism.

As his teammates stood by his side as Lynch parried the same prepackaged rubbish that reporters lobbed up to him week after week, I could not help but feel that there was a mutinous undercurrent about their performance. Whether it was previously latent I don't know, but it was there, and it was going to detonate, with Lynch as its standard-bearer.

There is a tectonic shift in sports journalism — and all journalism — that has drastically altered the status quo, busting the monopoly of the blue-bloods and household names. Call it democratization. For a time, the newcomers who gained entry into that club, while they represented the quintessential little guy, were still journalists. Now athletes, once at the mercy of the pen, have thrown themselves into the mix.

Hence The Players' Tribune.

It launched Oct. 2, the brainchild of Derek Jeter, it was unprecedented in both mission and scope. Since then, scores of athletes have graced its pages to much fanfare and critical acclaim, offering the masses an undiluted glimpse into the minds of their idols. Not since the advent of the internet itself has there been such a momentous change in the way we view athletes and sports in general.

Neither Lynch nor Jeter, however, is quite the trailblazer each has been proclaimed. Athletes have always been outspoken, even eccentric (see: Dennis Rodman and his BFF, Kim Jong Un), but never did they have the opportunity to flesh out their thoughts and feelings in a forum run by other athletes. Those who wished to be heard outside the confines of a post-game interview penned op-eds or wrote books — occasionally employing ghostwriters in their stead — voicing their opinions the old-fashioned way. Perhaps the best-known and best-regarded of that generation is Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

The sexagenarian is a Twitter sensation, boasting a following of nearly 1.7 million strong, but that is not what makes him remarkable. Abdul-Jabbar is somewhat of an enigma. He is skeptical of MLK Day, a stalwart of the #BlackLivesMatter movement and ardent defender of cops; when former Atlanta Hawks owner Bruce Levenson resigned last September over an email that he himself determined was racist, presumably because he wanted to preempt a Sterling-esque fiasco, Abdul-Jabbar reached a very different conclusion: that Levenson was "a businessman asking reasonable questions about how to put customers in seats."

His input is valuable because it is from a vantage to which we are typically not exposed. Abdul-Jabbar is an insider, but he is much more than a lanky frame with a silky hook shot. And he's not alone.

I accuse The Players' Tribune of lying not because their slogan is a lie in itself, but rather because it conceals their true motivation, which is not unlike Abdul-Jabbar's. With The Players' Tribune now fully operational, let us hope that legions of Abdul-Jabbars emerge from the woodwork — not as athletes, but as human beings.

Sam Gold is a senior majoring in religion. He can be reached at [samuel\\_l\\_gold@tufts.edu](mailto:samuel_l_gold@tufts.edu).

## Allen continues to roll at Open New Englands

### WOMEN'S TRACK

continued from back

took 20th overall out of the prelims of the 60-meter dash, running 7.98 seconds. She also came back to run in the 200, which she ran in 26.07 seconds, placing 28th out of the prelims.

Although Tufts had these individuals compete in the meet, many Jumbos competed in the relays. On Friday evening, the distance medley relay team of Smith, sophomore Hannah Loss, senior Lauren Gormer and sophomore Kelly Fahey teamed up to run a U.S. No. 12 time of 11:53.98 (converted to 12:01.62 on a flat track), a time that ranks fifth overall in program history. Unofficially, Smith split 3:36.9 in the 1,200, Donohue split 58.9 in the 400, Gormer split 2:14.9 in the 800 and Fahey split 5:03 in the 1,600. First-years Evie Heffernan, Sara Stokesbury and Lena Walton, as well as junior Katie Kurtz banded together in the 4x800-meter relay to try and run a fast time, and they ran well. Running in the seeded heat, the team was able to use the pace of the race to run a time of 9:49.66 for 20th overall. In the 4x400-meter relay, sophomore Rita Donohoe teamed up with

Loss, Smith and Gormer to run a time of 4:01.74 for 24th overall.

"Going into the meet, we had our eyes set on breaking the 12 minute barrier and then looking at our options from there," Smith said. "Anytime you step on the track you want to PR, but to have every member of a relay drop a huge PR on the same day was definitely a pleasant surprise."

First-year Prudence Sax competed individually in the 1,000, and she ran a new personal record of 3:01.11 for 13th overall. Additionally, Loss ran as an individual in the 500, clocking a personal best of 1:20.89. Tufts' lone field representative was sophomore Keren Hendel, who competed in the pole vault, launching herself over the standard at a height of 11' 1.75" to take 13th overall.

"I went into the race knowing that it was going to be a fast heat and that if I stuck with the pack it would pull me in for a good time, and it worked," Sax said.

Next weekend, a few athletes will travel to New York City to run in the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) meet, held at the Armory, which has historically proven itself to be one of the fastest



CAROLINE GEILING / THE TUFTS DAILY

The women's track and field team performed well individually at Open New Englands.

tracks in the nation, while others will run on Friday evening at Tufts' own Last Chance Meet, held at the Gantcher Center.

"The short sprinters and throwers will be heading down to New York City for ECACs to take advantage of the depth of the competition at that meet," Smith said. "Meanwhile, our [distance medley relay] team will be here at home running at the Last Chance Meet with the hopes of punching our ticket to Nationals by running a similar time on a flat track to eliminate the banked time penalty. If we can run a similar time I think we will find ourselves safely

within the NCAA top 12 cutoff."

The majority of the team, however, is done racing for the indoor season, and these athletes will instead shift their focus to the outdoor season for the coming weeks.

"Those who are not racing indoor anymore are starting to build up mileage again and shift their focus to the outdoor season," Sax said. "Our team has a lot of potential to do well outdoors, so we are really looking to set ourselves up to be in the best position that we can be in to show the region and the nation just how talented we are."

## MEN'S LACROSSE

# Jumbos earn first win of the season over conference foe

BY JOSHUA SLAVIN  
Assistant Sports Editor

In its season opener on Saturday, the men's lacrosse team defeated the Middlebury Panthers by a score of

**MEN'S LACROSSE**  
(1-0 Overall, 1-0 NESCAC)  
at Bello Field, Saturday

Middlebury	3	3	2	2	—	10
Tufts	2	2	6	7	—	17

17-10. For the defending champion Jumbos, the game was the first step in its quest to win back-to-back titles.

The Jumbos entered the game as heavy favorites as the No. 1 ranked team in the nation and five-time defending NESCAC champions. Going against a formidable opponent, Middlebury more than put up a fight. The Panthers jumped in front early, getting two goals from junior attackman Jon Broome and another from junior attackman Tim Giarrusso.

Middlebury's quick strikes put Tufts into a quick 3-0 hole just under nine minutes into the game. The Jumbos fought back and cut the deficit, but still trailed 6-4 at halftime.

"First and foremost we want to give Middlebury a lot of credit they are a great team and came out with energy and a great game plan," junior midfielder Sawyer Dew told the Daily in an email. "We started out maybe a little slower than we wanted maybe because of that first-game anxiety coming into



KATY MCCONNELL / THE TUFTS DAILY

Cold weather and a slow first half did not deter the Tufts attack.

play. We were so fired up to play it may have hurt us."

According to junior attackman John Uppgren, the Panthers effectively took advantage of some of the Jumbos' lapses.

"We got away from some of our fundamentals and Middlebury was able to capitalize on our mistakes," Uppgren told the Daily in an email.

Tufts came out firing to start the second half, both literally and figuratively. The

Jumbos scored the first three goals of the third quarter to take their first lead of the game at 7-6.

The two teams traded goals and, with 12:37 remaining, a Panthers'

see **MEN'S LACROSSE**, page 11

## WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

# Tufts hopes to use final meets to send more athletes to Nationals

BY CHRIS WARREN  
Sports Editor

Over the weekend, a few members of the women's track and field team traveled to Boston University's Track and Tennis Center for the annual New England Intercollegiate Amateur Athletic Association (NEICAAA) Championships, colloquially known as Open New Englands. At this meet, top teams and individuals from all divisions across New England merge to try to run fast times or hit high marks in an attempt to prove their worth among other regional teams. Only a few Jumbos competed, but they competed very well.

Junior Marilyn Allen, who has been on a tear in the 60-meter hurdles and 200-meter dash this season, had a pair of excellent races. On Friday, she cruised through the preliminaries (prelims) of the 60-meter hurdles, running 8.96 seconds in both the prelims and the semifinals, her personal best in the event last season. In the finals, she held her own, tying her own school record which she set a few weeks ago at Tufts' Cupid Invitational with an 8.90 second clocking for sixth place overall. Allen was the only Div. III hurdler to make the final, as the majority were Div. I athletes (another athlete in the final was a Div. II competitor). With one week to go before the fields for Div. III Nationals are set, Allen's time stands as U.S.



CAROLINE AMBROS / THE TUFTS DAILY

The Jumbos hope late-season meets lead to more athletes competing at NCAAAs.

No. 13 (the top 17 individuals in each event qualify for the national championships). She also competed in the 200, an event which she has excelled in at BU; she ran well, running 25.51 seconds out of the prelims.

"Marilyn [Allen] had a phenomenal race," junior Sydney Smith said. "She was the

lone Div. III athlete to make the finals, which definitely boosted our confidence knowing we have one of the top hurdlers in New England as our teammate."

Junior Alexis Harrison also made appearances in two events at the meet. Harrison

see **WOMEN'S TRACK**, page 11

## Lee, Pulde earn NESCAC Player of the Week honors

Capping off a memorable weekend for Tufts athletics, sophomores Josie Lee and Mason Pulde earned NESCAC Player of the Week honors. Pulde, a goalie on the ice hockey team, is the first Tufts hockey player to win the award this season. Lee, a guard on the women's basketball team, follows senior tri-captain forward Haley Kanner, who won the award for her performances on Jan. 17 and 18. That same week, Kanner won the honor for the U.S. Basketball Writers Association Div. III National Player of the Week.

On Saturday, Pulde was a revelation against the top-seeded Trinity Bantams in the NESCAC quarterfinals. Facing the second-best offense in Div. III and a team considered by many experts to be a top 10 program nationally, Pulde stopped 42 of the 43 shots he faced en route to a 2-1 victory. In the third period, he blocked all 25 shots he faced as the Bantams desperately tried to even the score. The upset secured the Jumbos their first ever NESCAC semifinal appearance. In his first year as Tufts' starting goalie, Pulde has posted a .914 save percentage and has given the program optimism after it failed to reach the postseason the past two seasons.

Following the injury to senior tri-captain guard Hannah Foley in the first half of Tufts' 53-40 semifinal victory over fourth-

seeded Williams, Lee stepped up, scoring eight points and corraling six rebounds off the bench. Against second-seeded Bowdoin in the NESCAC Championship game the next day, Lee recorded her first collegiate career start. With the Jumbos struggling offensively in the first half, Lee notched nine points to help the Jumbos to a 28-22 lead. Lee ended the game with a stat sheet that mirrored her clutch all-around performance. Playing a career-high 35 minutes, she finished with 12 points, six rebounds, five assists and three steals as the Jumbos defeated the Polar Bears 68-52 to win their second consecutive NESCAC Championship. While the Jumbos were considered a lock for an at-large bid before the postseason began, the victory clinched a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Div. III Women's Basketball Tournament.

Both athletes will be back in action this weekend. Pulde will look to continue his excellent season in a semifinal matchup against second-seeded Amherst on Saturday. If the Jumbos win, they will compete the next day for the NESCAC Championship and an automatic bid to the NCAA Div. III Men's Ice Hockey Tournament. Lee and the Jumbos return to the court on Friday as they take on the Pine Manor Gators in the opening round of the NCAA Div. III Women's Basketball Tournament.

—by Ross Dember