

TUFTS OBSERVER

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The Observer has been Tufts' 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, creative writing and lively reviews of current arts, entertainment and culture. 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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CONTRIBUTORS

Neil Aronson
Chelsea Brown
Matt Burch
Alex Gomez
Stephanie Green
Suzi Grossman
Lauren Jayson

Natasha Jessen-Petersen
Amanda Johnson
Campbell Kliefoth
Shir Livne
Ellen Mayer
Jessica Madding
Molly Mirhashem

Becky Plante
Irene Richardson
Tufts DCA
Brian Yen

Cover Graphic by Ryan Stolp

*Inside Cover Photos, Clockwise
from Top: Campbell Kliefoth,
Catherine Nakajima, Brian Yen,
Chris Zakorchenny, NY1*

Since
1895



In 2009, Tufts crossed the \$50,000 mark and became the most expensive school in Massachusetts. Several others have since joined the club, but as college tuitions continue to grow at rates outpacing inflation, it begs the question, is the value of a Tufts degree worth its expense?



BY ZACHARY LAUB AND CAITLIN SCHWARTZ



ONLINE ALTERNATIVES TO LIFE IN THE DORM



In the 1998-99 school year, a Tufts first-year education—including room, board, and the activities and health fees—cost \$30,817. Adjusted for inflation, that would be \$41,300 today, \$10,000 less than what a student without financial aid is currently paying. As university endowments are down and yet schools continue to compete with each other to attract the best faculty and students, this trend shows no sign of abating. What's a school to do?

Arms Racing

Part of the problem is structural, derived from the laws of the market. Schools are constantly competing to attract the best faculty members and students. Achieving this goal requires more and more each year. Attracting a premiere faculty requires the most exciting research centers, competitive salaries, ample funding and low teaching loads. Meanwhile, marketing oneself to prospective students requires fancy campus centers (bowling, anyone?), a diverse array of a extracurricular activities, athletic facilities that would be the envy of any Boston Sports Club member, so-called “academostars”—celebrity academics more often found on TV than in a classroom, who demand large salaries but bring lots of prestige—low student-faculty ratios, palatial dorms.... The list could go on and on. The oligopolistic market of universities, especially at the elite level, encourages this continued “arms racing,” which drives costs up and up without any end in sight.

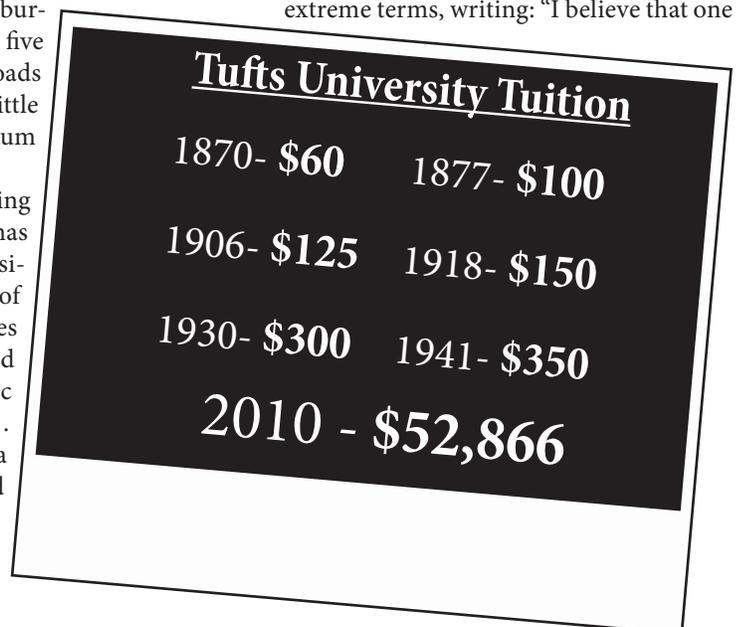
College presidents have said repeatedly that the average cost per student

is actually greater than the \$50,000+ tuitions paid by students who are not receiving any aid. No more than a quarter of university positions are instructional, but rather, support, and only a fraction of instructional positions are tenured or tenure track. Many teachers are grad students or adjuncts burdened by four to five course teaching loads while making little more than minimum wage.

The ongoing Great Recession has prompted intensified discussion of how universities should respond to dire economic circumstances. Stanley Fish, a law professor and public intellectual who blogs for the *New York Times*, has called for austerity on

campus: a return to the core university mission of teaching and research, all frills be damned. Goodbye, Spring Fling and goodbye, Cousens Gym.

President Bacow, in a September, 2009 email to the Tufts community, echoed Fish's sentiment, though in far less extreme terms, writing: “I believe that one





long-term consequence of the economic crisis will be even greater pressure on higher education nationally to control costs. Personally, I believe this is healthy and long overdue. Unlike many industries where competition tends to put pressure on firms to control costs, in higher education the market often does exactly the opposite. Competition for students has led some institutions to invest in lavish athletic facilities, opulent dormitories, and concierge services in residence halls. It is my hope that Yankee frugality will re-emerge as a virtue in higher education as a consequence of this economic crisis.”

Andrew Hacker, a Queens College political science professor emeritus and Claudia Dreifus, a *Times* reporter, argue in their new book *Higher Education? How Colleges are Wasting our Money and Failing our Kids—and What We Can Do About It*, that research and writing should be undertaken by professors after hours, as would be the case in any other profession; teaching should be a full-time responsibility. Others, including Mark C. Taylor, a professor of religion at Columbia, have argued for the abolition of tenure. While the intent of tenure was to promote academic freedom, he says, it has served instead to force universities to dole out their highest salaries and benefits to employees who have few teaching responsibilities and can hardly be held accountable if they were to stop all their research activity or student advising.

Online Alternatives?

What is clear is that many simply cannot afford the time or financial commitments of a traditional liberal arts education, and online programs have found their market niche catering to this growing crowd. University of Phoenix, a ubiquitously-advertised “accredited institute of higher learning” offers its prospective students each their own “Graduation Team.” The group of advisors who make up this team—digital presences incapable of arranging face-to-face meetings—are dedicated to helping students through enrollment, academic and financial queries. This mysterious cyber process presents graduation as a purchasable package, accessible to everyone as long as they can fork over the cash and have mastered their touch-typing. As the University of Phoenix proudly says on its website, “In school, as in life....clarity is good. Confusion isn’t. No one GETS THAT more than the faculty and staff at the University of Phoenix.” The website is a jumble of instructional videos and vindications of University of Phoenix’s status as a credible educational institution, and it’s almost impossible to find out anything about academic material without providing an uncomfortable amount of biographical information. Even so, the temptation lingers: University of Phoenix offers to sell you a degree, straight up. Less sacrifice, less time, less bu-

reaucracy.

Does the University of Phoenix get it? Does the real return to austerity involve removing the entire structure of a college education as we know it? We may question the legitimacy of a degree earned online, but it may not be a greater leap of faith than in-

vesting exorbitant amounts of money in private institutions just for the name that gets printed on the diploma. As we all tremble at the thought of the hostile job market that we are sure to face after graduation, regardless of our education at an elite university, we can’t help but wonder, *is it worth it?* We take a chance with our investment the same way that universities hope that their investments will improve the value of their degree in society. In a way, online degrees even the playing field. The exchange between student and institution becomes a lot simpler: money for a degree, no questions asked.

Although University of Phoenix has garnered some high-profile students lately—Lil Wayne recently enrolled—its degree does not yet carry the same cache as a Tufts degree would. A century and a half has shaped the expectations that arise from a Tufts degree—just because online degrees are advertised everywhere does not mean that they are really gaining any recognition. The question is whether these online institutions could develop to provide a meaningful education to yield lucrative jobs, or whether they will just continue to extract money from anyone they can convince to try their programs. Another solution could be adapting online education technologies for already-established institutions to improve education and even cut costs.

But online education need not be full of false promises. Tufts has in fact been a pioneer of Open Courseware (OCW), a project started by MIT to put course materials—syllabi, readings, lecture notes, PowerPoints and assignments—online, available to anyone with an Internet connection at no charge. Its guiding philosophy is that a university should not limit its intellectual capital to those who can afford tuition and can access campus. The idea is that teachers across the globe can improve their courses, students can pursue self-study, and the public can “glimpse the depth and breadth of what leading universities are offering.” To this end, materials from such classes as Introduction to Modern Physics, Force and Strategy, and Tropical Ecology and Conservation,

Tuitions for the three largest online universities:

1. University of Phoenix \$13,200
2. University of Florida \$17,841
3. Arizona State University \$17,003

<http://onlineuniversitydata.com>



The three largest online universities are:

1. University of Phoenix - 224,880
2. University of Florida - 51,725
3. Arizona St. University - 51,481

<http://onlineuniversitydata.com>

Over the past 10 years, online for-profit enrollment in the state of Arizona has grown

1239%

North Dakota's enrollment in similar programs has grown

2311 %

chronicle.com

as well as courses from Fletcher and the various health sciences schools, are all available.

Fletcher has taken its own initiative in the realm of online education, offering the GMAP degrees—Global Master of Arts Program—largely online. An alternative to its traditional masters program for mid-career professionals who would not be able to take up residence for a year in Medford, the GMAP connects three two-week residencies over the course of the year with online collaboration the rest of the time, providing each student with a laptop loaded with state of the art communications software.

Only time will tell if further developing programs similar to OCW or Fletcher's GMAP can eventually bridge the enormous gap between a traditional liberal arts education a la Tufts and the questionable quality of a degree pursued online from a for-profit corporation. Perhaps such a compromise between the old and the new, between the proverbial life of the mind as pursued on the Hill, and education on the fly, could be the solution to reining in out of control tuition hikes. In the meantime, the only thing that is clear is that with tuitions continuing to soar with no end in sight, something's gotta give. ☺

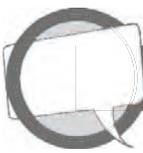
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Write for the *Observer*.
observer@tufts.edu



This Election Day, affordable housing in Massachusetts is on the chopping block.

NO ON QUESTION 2

BY MATT BURCH
AND AMANDA JOHNSON

For Massachusetts voters, November 2nd marks the deciding day in a close, contentious race between incumbent Governor Deval Patrick and Republican challenger Charlie Baker.

But a little farther down on the ballot there's a question that hasn't gotten as much press or attention, but could very well have an even greater impact on the lives of working families and senior citizens in the state. It is Question #2, a referendum calling for the repeal of the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Law. The law, known as Chapter 40B, is the primary means by which households making less than

\$50,000 a year can afford a home. A repeal would be disastrous for these families, while voting "No" on Question #2 would uphold a law that serves as a model for the nation.

The law, which went into effect in 1969, aims for cities and towns to reach the level where 10% of the housing is "affordable" for families earning 80% or less of the median income. In communities where the 10% threshold has not been achieved, developers can be granted more flexible zoning rules for developments that include affordable housing. Under 40B, if developers are denied the authority to build by the municipalities, they have the right to appeal to a state board, which can overturn the decision.

Massachusetts has become an exceedingly expensive place to live over the last several generations, and is currently one of the most expensive states in the union. Much of this is due to the rising housing costs, which have forced many people out of the neighborhoods they grew up in, and discouraged businesses from settling in the

state. Workers often find themselves unable to live in the cities in which they are unemployed, and students find no other option but to look for jobs elsewhere upon graduation. Senior citizens can no longer afford to retire in the state where their families live and they have made spent their lives. Newly single mothers often cannot stay in the towns where their kids have been attending school. The effects of expensive housing have had ripple effects on other areas of the economy, and made it difficult for middle-class families to stay afloat, especially in the midst of a devastating economic environment.

40B has worked to mitigate the effects of these skyrocketing housing prices, and achieved many of its desired results. Over the past decade, the law has been responsible for 80% of the affordable housing created in Massachusetts outside major cities. In 1997, 24 communities had reached the 10% affordability threshold; today there are 51 cities that have met that goal. In eastern Massachusetts, on average over an acre is needed for a housing development, making new construction nearly impossible in the generally dense area. 40B has allowed developers to bypass these strict laws and provide homes for thousands of families in the state.

Besides adding affordable housing, the construction authorized by this law has led to many jobs, a much needed boost to the current dismal economy. If Question 2 passes, and the housing law is repealed, it would halt the construction of 12,000 projects that have been approved because of the flexibilities that the law allows.

Detractors of the bill often argue that the law gives the state excessive power, allowing it to overstep its authority and impede in the local process. In reality, however, the vast majority of decisions are

still made at the local level. The law gives the developers the chance to appeal a local decision if necessary, but, in practice, this measure is rarely needed. Some critics call the law "developer welfare" and cite instances where developers have made excessive profits. While these cases are unacceptable, such behavior is actually prohibited under the current law, and steps have been taken to increase oversight. Profits made by developers using 40B are actually capped at 20%, making it the only law in the state that limits developers' profits.

In an age marked by political corruption, broken promises, and apathy, citizens are feeling increasingly unsure of what they're really voting for at the ballot box. Voters should take comfort, then, in the unambiguous results that defeating the 2nd ballot initiative ensures. By protecting the Affordable Housing Law, voters are standing up for a program with a proven record. While no one can ever be completely sure that the leaders they vote for will represent the interests of average people, voting to protect the Affordable Housing Law unequivocally does just that. It has allowed residents of the state to afford the cost-of-living, and has created thousands of jobs.

Many voters going to the polls this Tuesday are looking for measures that will have their interests at heart. The Affordable Housing Law unequivocally advances these interests, and must be protected. Please stand with thousands of religious, environmental, and community organizations, and leaders—including outspoken supporter President Larry Bacow—and vote "no" on ballot question two. ☺

Matt Burch is a senior majoring in Political Science. Amanda Johnson is a junior majoring in International Relations.



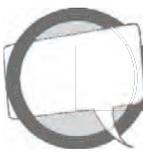
Falling for Fall

BY CAITLIN SCHWARTZ

Candy corn is a polarizing food. You can't be iffy on candy corn. Hate it or love it, candy corn is in your future. These little kernels of sugar pack a festive punch of color that almost rivals the majesty of the leaves changing color around our campus. Jumbo Express stocked their shelves with candy corn a couple weeks ago—have you picked up your quarter pound yet? No, that isn't just the sugar rush talking, you are totally amped for all of the fall holidays coming right your way.

And why wouldn't you be amped? The season of autumn gives you reasons to celebrate with the passing of each fortnight. And you've come to the right place because here in New England, we have some seriously glorious fall foliage to boast about. Just take a deep breath, and take in the majesty. All of life's stressors—midterms, job applications, etc.—are fleeting, but you can always count on autumn to come back and remind you why Earth is a beautiful place to live. So carve a pumpkin, play soccer, chase a turkey, eat some candy corn. Have an awesome autumn! ☺





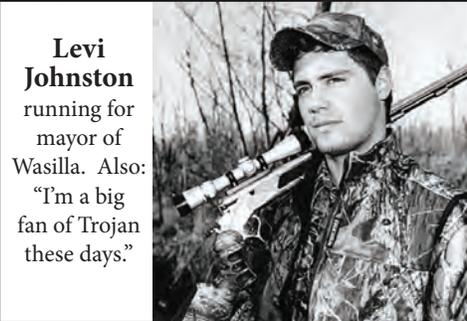
The Observer 2010 Election Matrix

BY ZACHARY LAUB

Hey, that's a pretty good idea!



The **Rent is Too Damn High Party** on gay marriage: "The Rent is Too Damn High party feels if you want to marry a shoe, I'll marry you."



Levi Johnston running for mayor of Wasilla. Also: "I'm a big fan of Trojan these days."

LEFT WING

RIGHT WING

Sweden's **Pirate Party**, protecting the right to privacy, is becoming a transnational movement.



Sarah Palin posted a note on Facebook: "Drill, Baby, Drill and Mine, Baby, Mine!"

6,871 people like this



Christine O'Donnell running for the U.S. Senate in Delaware: "I dabbled in witchcraft."



Israel's parliamentary system makes strange bedfellows, including the **Green Leaf and Holocaust Survivors Alliance**

What the hell are they talking about?



REAL TALK

with chels and irene

BY CHELSEA BROWN AND IRENE RICHARDSON

There's this girl I'm kind of friends with who I like. She does flirty things like nuzzle my shoulder and text me about inside jokes. Last weekend I tried to make a move and she kind of laughed it off then bailed. What's the deal? Does she want me to ask her out first?



ALYCE CURRIER

*chelsea
says...*

Oh friend, you are not the first. Let me introduce you to one of my favorite theories of attraction, which you can find on the interwebs. It is called the Ladder Theory. The “ladder” is a metaphor for your ranking of the opposite sex upon meeting them. Guys have one ladder. Girls have two. Hence the confusion.

Guy meets girl: the hotter the girl is, the higher she is placed on his proverbial ladder. Guys consider sleeping with every girl on their ladder; whether they would admit to it is a different story.

Girl meets guy: If guy is hot, he is placed on the “real” ladder. If guy is not hot, he is placed on the “friends ladder.” In between the ladders lies the Abyss.

What happened to you, my peach, is you were placed on the friends ladder and in your bid to woo her—which is called “jumping ladders”—you fell into the Abyss of Awkwardness. It is sometimes hard to tell which ladder you are on, but important clues are if she says diminutive things like “you’re the cutest” or “I feel like I can talk to you about anything.” Get ready for further frustration: girls’ “real” ladders are often populated by assholes.



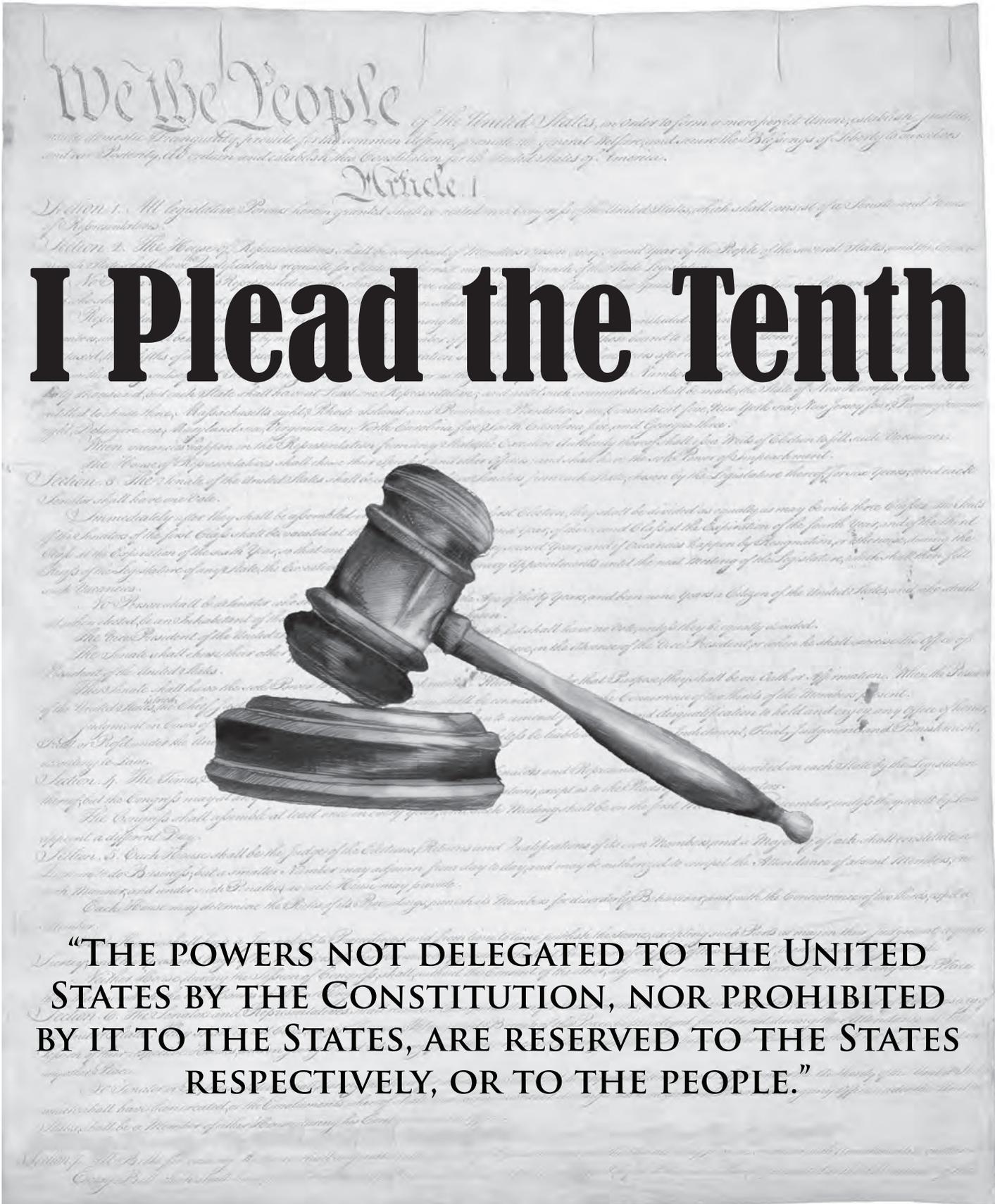
*irene
says...*

Chels has summarized the situation pretty accurately. I’ll just elaborate on a couple points. “Hot” as it applies to both girls and guys doesn’t necessarily boil down to looks. It’s about presenting yourself with confidence. It’s about saying, “It’d be cool to talk to you but if we don’t talk, I won’t cry.” In short, it’s about swagger. So friend, don’t despair if you don’t look like Joseph Gordon-Levitt (although a lot of you could use a haircut. Just saying).

This is why girls seem to go for assholes. Assholes don’t think they’re assholes; assholes just think they’re awesome. They’re confident. So we’re not endorsing that you insult the girl you’re after. Just take this lesson from the jerks: project your own self worth. Tell her a funny story. Decide where you two should go for dinner. And while you’re at it, confidently tell her you like her outfit. She’ll appreciate it.

In the meantime there’s not much you can do about switching off the friend ladder. So you have to drop it. It’s time to stop being interested. Fake it if you have to. Waiting around like a puppy does not count as swag. And in a weird way this is the best thing you can do to get her interested.

Check out the ladder theory in depth at www.ladderttheory.com ☺



We the People

Article 1

I Plead the Tenth



“THE POWERS NOT DELEGATED TO THE UNITED STATES BY THE CONSTITUTION, NOR PROHIBITED BY IT TO THE STATES, ARE RESERVED TO THE STATES RESPECTIVELY, OR TO THE PEOPLE.”



BY LAUREN JAYSON

I plead the fifth. Everywhere you go—walking down the city streets, listening to conversations at a local cafe, or in your living room watching courtroom dramas—people always seem to invoke this phrase.

However, most people do not hear, “The powers not directly delegated to the federal government nor the state government fall under the responsibilities of the state government.” Most people don’t hear references to the commerce clause, or to the federal government impeding on a power specifically delegated to the states—most people don’t hear their friends “pleading the tenth.”

The Tenth Amendment is concerned with figuring out just where the constitutional power of the federal government ends and that of the states begins. The Tenth has gained a lot of buzz recently because of its limits on the reach of the federal government, making it a Tea Party darling.

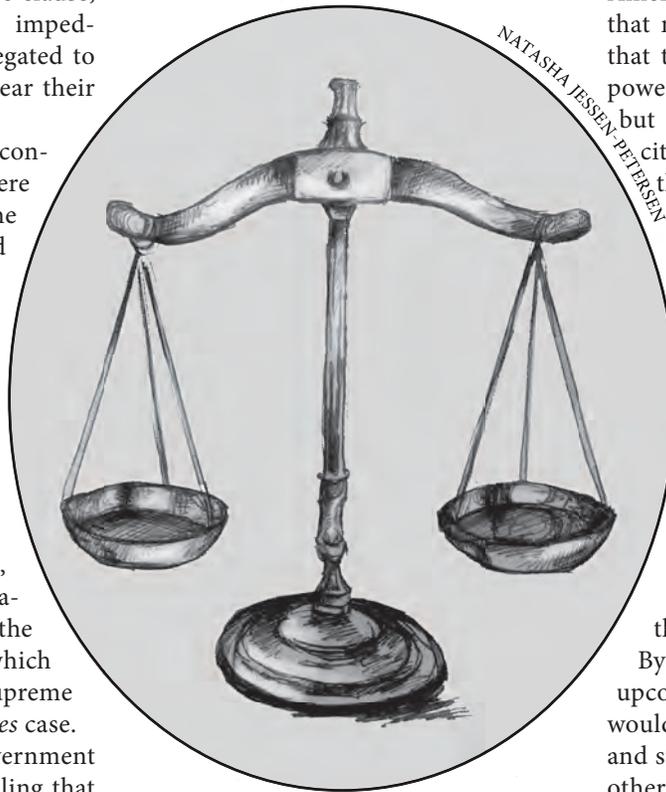
Recently, the Tenth Amendment burst to the forefront of America politics. Newspaper headlines, political protesters, and even coffee shop conversations have been reenergized by the idea of the Tenth Amendment, which recently landed before the Supreme Court in the *Bond v. United States* case.

Ms. Bond took the US government to the Supreme Court over a ruling that landed her in jail for six years, in lieu of the mere three months she could have served. After trying to poison her friend, who was pregnant with Ms. Bond’s husband’s baby, Ms. Bond was sentenced to serve six years jail-time. Ms. Bond appealed the ruling, however, claiming that this was not a matter that could be decided by the federal government and insisting that the state should decide the outcome of her trial instead (as state imprisonment is often a lesser amount of time than federal imprisonment).

This case calls the Tenth Amendment into question, as well as the power of the federal government to rule in a case such as this one. The case has yet to

be decided, but it brings to light many of the underlying controversies that build the foundation of this divisive amendment. If the Supreme Court rules in Ms. Bond’s favor, states will become significantly more responsible for maintaining public safety, but more importantly, conservative political movements will gain a lot more traction in the coming months.

Since in 1895, the Tenth Amendment has been interpreted in one of two ways. According to many, including Justice Rehnquist, the Tenth Amendment



NATASHA JESEN-PETERSEN

should be modeled after its post-New Deal era of American history interpretation. Through his rulings in cases such as *Fry v. United States*, Rehnquist limited the power of the Tenth Amendment, largely through its closely associated Commerce Clause, and gave the states jurisdiction over many areas in which the federal government may have previously wielded power. According to this view, the Tenth Amendment exists to keep the federal government in check. Conversely, many look to cases such as *Champion v. Ames*, in which the Supreme Court upheld the Commerce Clause (a constitutional clause granting the federal gov-

ernment the power to regulate interstate commerce). This interpretation contends that the federal government does in fact derive extensive powers from the Tenth Amendment.

While this debate could likely continue for centuries, the ramifications of the Supreme Court cases that involve the issues of the Tenth Amendment are extraordinary. Teaching assistant for Tufts “Justice, Equality, and Liberty” class, Jordan Wolf, points out that traditionally, “the supreme court has read the Tenth Amendment to be *very weak*, meaning that most people think all it’s saying is that the federal government has all the powers given to it in the constitution but no more. The Supreme Court has cited both the Commerce Clause and the Necessary and Proper clause to show that Congress has wide power when it makes laws so that just about anything is acceptable. This gives the federal government wide power over the state.”

In the rulings the Supreme Court has made in this area, though, there has been a significant amount of internal and external tension. Among the public, among the Congressmen and government agencies, and even among the justices, there is a great divide. By ruling in favor of Ms. Bond in this upcoming case, the Supreme Court would officially restrict federal power and strengthen states’ influence. On the other hand, by ruling in favor of the US government, the Supreme Court would stress the powers and supremacy of the federal government.

Whether the Tenth Amendment is interpreted loosely or strictly, in favor of state power or federal power, in favor of Ms. Bonds or the US government, the debate will rage on for years. It will undoubtedly continue to fuel a fire that continually divides the justices on the Supreme Court, forcing them to step back and understand the purpose with which the framers of the Constitution wrote the infamous Tenth. ☪

Lauren Jayson is a freshman who has not yet declared a major.



Bringing the Heat

BY MOLLY MIRHASHEM

We all remember the beginning of the semester, sweating bullets as we moved into our dorm rooms, tossing and turning at night due to the overwhelming heat. We all wondered, "Is it supposed to be this hot in September?" Turns out, the answer is no. According to LiveScience.com, 2010 is now tied for the hottest year on record. (Currently, the superlative belongs to the year 2005.) A report from the US Government, quoted in the National Geographic Daily News, calls global warming "undeniable."

The rise in temperatures over the last several years will have detrimental consequences in both the near and distant future, if the pattern continues. Not only will this rise in temperature have environmental repercussions, it will also impact major political affairs around the world.

The greatest effect of this long-term heat wave will occur near the poles of the earth. Small bodies of water are gradually disappearing, and some animals, such as polar bears, are being negatively affected. Lengthy droughts have also been an obvious result of this warming trend. Tufts' Director of Environmental Studies, Colin Orians says, "[These droughts] make areas without good irrigation systems highly susceptible to crop failure. Stressed plants are also more susceptible to insect outbreaks. This is likely to lead to great reliance on pesticides with all of their environmental effects. This has implications for forestry as many of the pests are decimating forests in the West."

Additionally, the scorching weather of 2010 and recent years has also contributed

to forest fires, like those that rampaged the California wilderness not too long ago. Furthermore, California's notoriously warm temperatures reached a new high last month, as Los Angeles set an all-time high temperature of 113 Fahrenheit in late September. The problems don't end there. The permafrost below the surface of the earth has been observed to be melting, causing the ground to shrink and swell and permanently alter the lay of roads and railroads.

The United States can't expect to see a large change of habits in response to these record-setting highs, since our lifestyle is so dependent on fossil fuels. Concerns for the American economy have continually overshadowed the more pressing concerns for our environment. And at the rate we're going, we are headed nowhere but up; record high temperatures have been broken twice as often as record lows in the last decade.

Professor Orians has some ideas, and nothing too idealistic or far-fetched. "We need to rely less on fossil fuels," he says. "Getting rid of oil and coal is not going to happen. Therefore, in addition to using less, we need to invest in clean coal technologies with the hope we can prevent carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere and leading to even greater warming."

Another Tufts University biology professor, Francie Chew, also offered her opinion on what our best form of action can be to address the drastic spike in temperature. To her, it's the collective action of citizens doing their part. She said, "Individual initiative is crucial. Even if one person recycling doesn't accomplish a whole lot in itself, it helps to make others aware. Big policy changes can come through a series of small steps."

So even if the possibilities seem grim for the US government as a whole to suddenly start "going green," individuals who make an effort to be more environmentally

conscious will have an infinitely important impact. It is impossible to eliminate our national dependence upon coal and oil. Yet eventually the consequences of our coal addiction will reach a breaking point; after so many fires, floods from melting ice, and shrinking species populations, the abandonment of reliance on fossil fuels will become mandatory. The problem is that right now, global warming is so easy to ignore, for the effects seem far-off.

One can only hope that world powers will begin to recognize the severity of the state of our climate that 2010's temperatures clearly indicate. Unfortunately, with so much of the global market resting economically on the fossil fuel industry, a green planet may seem like a long shot.

While my first few nights in a stuffy, hot dorm room were unpleasant and sleepless, such things are undoubtedly the least of the problems that arise with the climate's swift ascent into record-breaking statistics. It's frightening to think of the world's poles melting, the West Coast going up in smoke, and the planet's biodiversity shrinking exponentially. The scientific community is begging the rest of the world to pay attention and take responsibility for what we've caused. As Professor Chew said, "individual initiative" can carry us a long way. ☺

Molly Mirhashem is a freshman who has not yet declared a major.



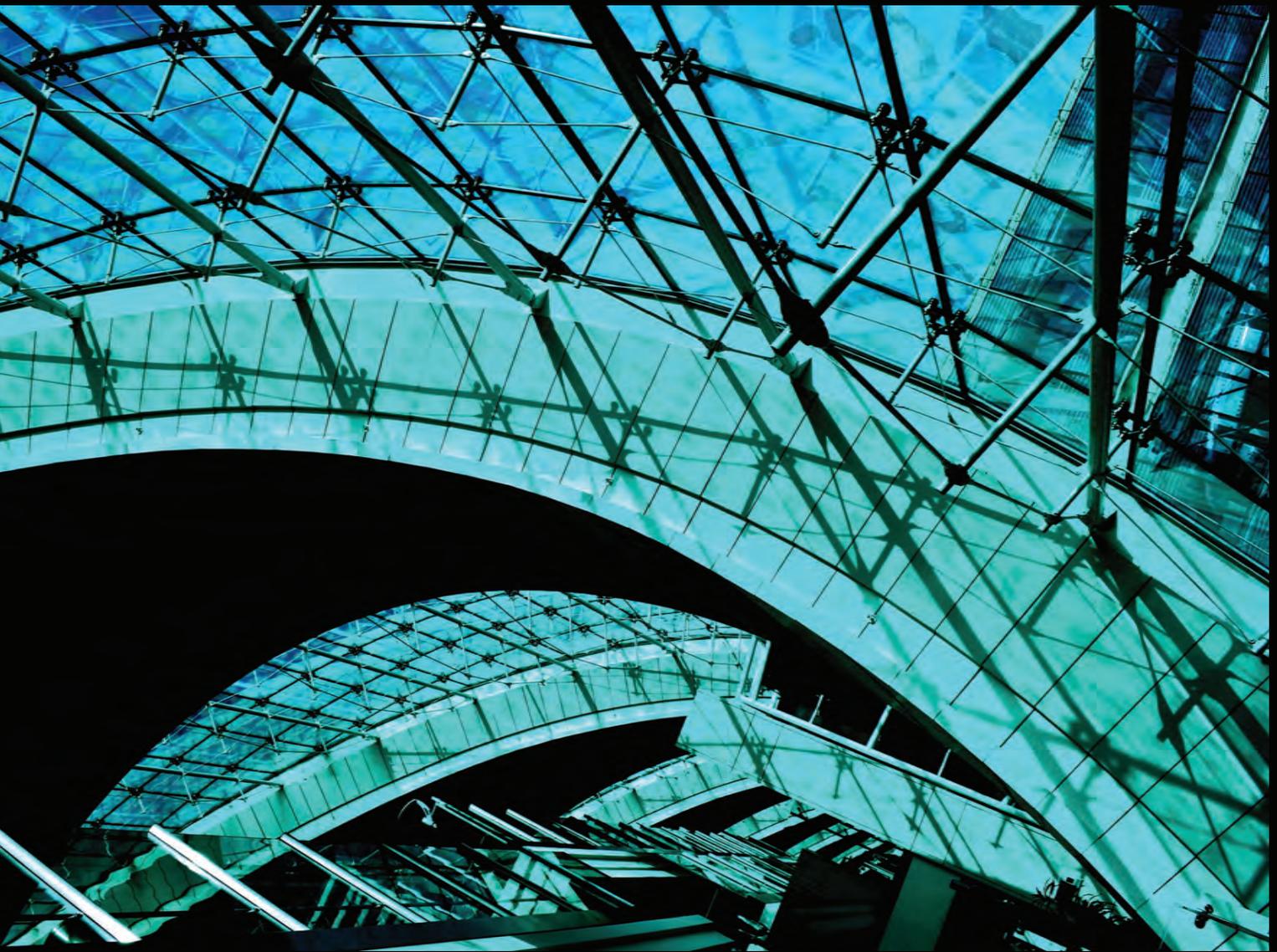


carlsberg
dublin / beer
factory /
is alcohol
something evil
and forbidden /
a tangible form
of sin /
they saw how
much work goes
into proper
brewing /
a form of art



dubai inter
geometric

new york
buildings
inside / in



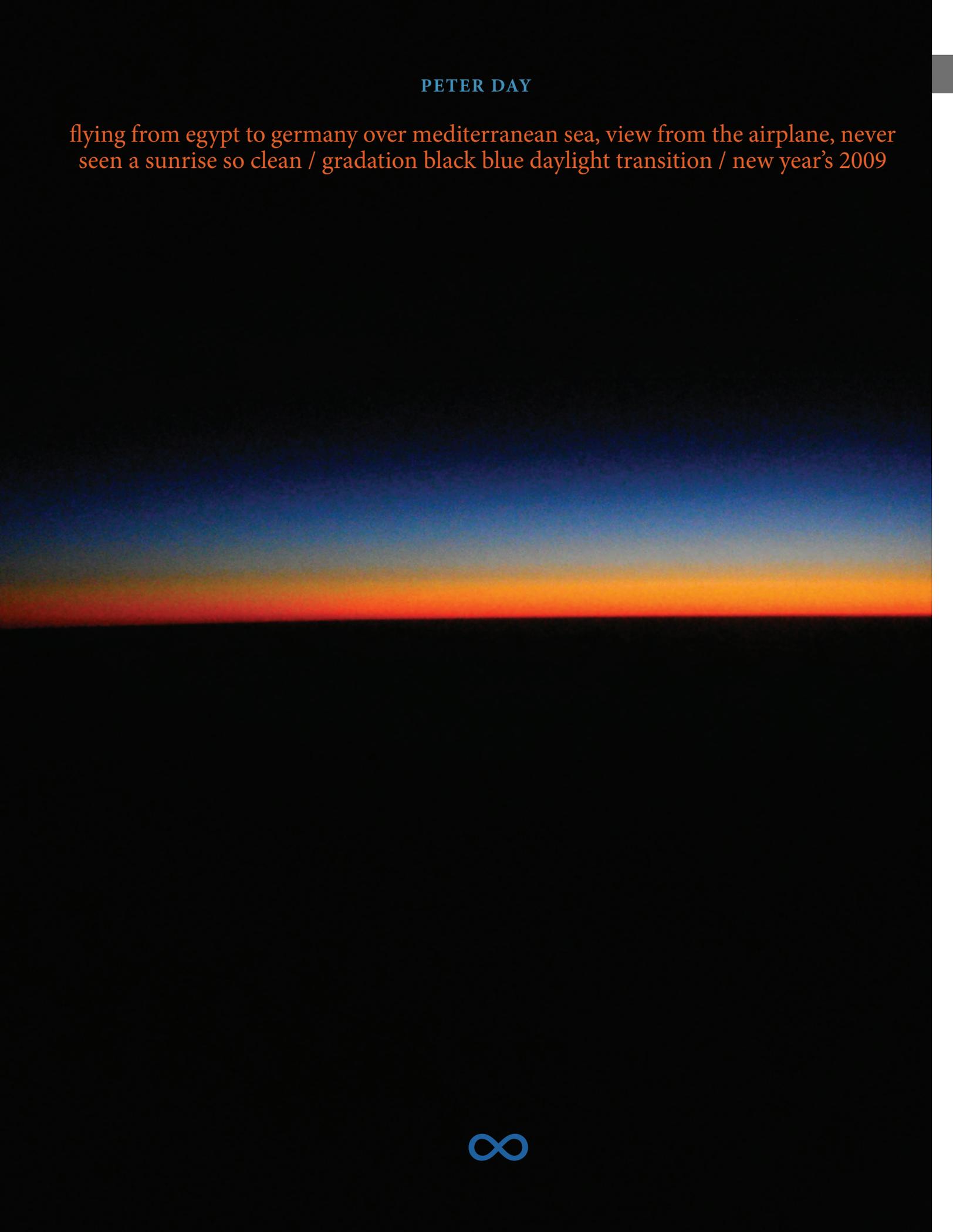
international airport / simplicity /
electric confinement / lines / barriers / isolation

SAMAN NARGUND

ork city /
ngs / boxes /
/ imagination / outside

PETER DAY

flying from egypt to germany over mediterranean sea, view from the airplane, never
seen a sunrise so clean / gradation black blue daylight transition / new year's 2009





JESUS SAVES!

...money?

BY NEIL ARONSON

America is (in)famous for doing everything bigger; we have bigger cars, bigger houses, bigger portions, bigger people, and...bigger churches? Yes, even churches, those sacred centers of prayer and local community, have been Americanized to become large, corporate entities with congregations measuring in the thousands. This month, one of the most famous megachurches, the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy as it struggles to pay its creditors. The extravagant Cathedral is an architectural landmark in the area; it is built out of 10,000 rectangular panes of reflective glass, fits nearly 3,000 people, and sits next to a 236-foot bell tower made of stainless steel. It is also home to Robert Schuller's Christian television program *The Hour of Power*, which is broadcast to millions of viewers across the globe. Many media outlets have made much of its financial

collapse with headlines like "Megachurch Has Mega Problems" and "Cracked Crystal," but is this really a sign of the end of a supersized era?

There are good reasons to think not. Rick Warren's nearby megachurch in Lake Forest was also facing budget shortfalls, but was able to raise \$2.4 million in 48 hours, following an emergency appeal to its congregants. There have been few, if any, reports of other megachurches facing financial distress. In fact, it's rather surprising that the worst recession in recent history has affected megachurches so little. A 2009 study by the Lake Institute on Faith & Giving found that overall, one third of surveyed churches made budget cuts, but that "very large congregations, those with weekly attendance over 1,000 congregants, were the least likely to report decreased total fundraising receipts." Another survey by the Leadership Network in 2009 found that 96 percent of churches with more than 2,000 in attendance have actually experienced growth.

The Crystal Cathedral's bankruptcy, then, seems to be an isolated incident caused by internal struggles and poor management rather than a general trend. The well-known Schuller retired as senior pastor and left the show in 2006, and since then, the Cathedral hasn't been able to find a leader inspiring enough to guide it through the recession. Schuller's son had a stint as senior pastor for a couple of years, but his style of in-depth theological discussion and scriptural exegesis was apparently too serious for a congregation used to his father's flashy, simple, optimistic positivism. Since 2008, the elder Schuller, along with his daughter, have been co-leaders, but the inconsistency has led to a nearly 30% drop in church contributions.

If there is anything to learn from the Crystal Cathedral's situation, it is that like any successful big business, megachurches depend on maintaining a popular brand that appeals to the right demographics. Schuller saw this a generation ago,





realizing that unwarranted optimism and mindless self-affirmation blended with a touch of Jesus was exactly what people wanted to hear. In a typical sermon, Schuller preached, "I am somebody. I can do something. I will do something."

Today, part of the Cathedral's problem is that its congregation is aging and it has been unable to reach out to youth as effectively as other churches. Thirty minutes to the South, for instance, Saddleback Church has attracted scores of young members with a brand new \$20 million youth facility called "The Refinery" that hosts concerts, movies, and parties. Churches across the country have found, oddly enough, that by focusing on what is utterly unrelated to religion—television shows, pop music, sports—they can get young people who wouldn't otherwise walk through a church door.

Has religion thus become just another commodity traded in the American

marketplace? The most successful churches run themselves like businesses, selling a sense of community more than anything. They develop outreach (read: publicity) campaigns to target key groups like minorities and youth. They create Facebook pages, post to Twitter, and sell iPhone apps to help the devoted always stay connected. Their pastors write books and host radio shows to promote the brand. Saddleback Church has even spread to nine other local "campuses," turning itself into a kind of chain church. And so these megachurches expand, sometimes to outrageous sizes:

growing at the expense of their regular-size counterparts.

Many analysts claimed that the recession would mark a turning point in the American lifestyle: no more irresponsible spending, decadent displays of wealth, or irrational exuberance. But the core of the American identity appears to have changed little. Yes, people may not be buying as many flat-screen TVs at the moment, but who really thinks that Americans won't spring at the chance as soon as they have a little more money in their pockets? It will take more than a Great Recession to do real damage to the bigger-is-better mindset that is behind our passion for big TVs and even bigger churches.

“has religion become just another commodity traded in the American marketplace?”

Joel Osteen's Lakewood Church in Texas claims over 40,000 in attendance each week.

The example of these other megachurches, still going strong, speaks to the indomitable spirit of American capitalism and mirrors the recession's effect on the larger economy. While smaller businesses have teetered on the edge, large corporations have been able to use their immense resources to hold on and in some cases even prosper. Just as the biggest banks have been able to push smaller local ones out of business, megachurches seem to be

So there may yet be hope for the Crystal Cathedral. Despite their recent financial troubles, services are continuing as usual, and Schuller reports that they are experiencing the best cash flow in ten years. With the right PR expert, some creative advertising, and maybe even a little divine intervention, the Crystal Cathedral may well continue to tower over the California skyline as a symbol of the American way of life. Hallelujah and amen. ☺

Neil Aronson is a freshman who has not yet declared a major.



RUTH TAM



BY JESSICA MADDING

Royall House and Slave Quarters: MEDFORD'S DARK PAST

Driving down George Street, just past the gym, and on your way to I-93, you may have noticed a particularly large house accompanied by an expansive, manicured lawn and a wrought-iron fence. What you may not have noticed is the smaller, half-brick, half-clapboard building that lies behind it. Constructed between 1732 and 1739, this building is the last remaining slave quarters in the northern United States and the mansion it accompanies is one of the finest 18th century homes surviving in New England. Both the buildings and grounds, collectively known as the Royall House and Slave Quarters after the Royall family who originally owned the property, are a National Historic Landmark.

After being told by my wilderness leader (three long years ago) that this house served as inspiration for the song “To Grandmother’s House We Go,” I decided to finally pay a visit. As it turns out, Grandmother’s house is on nearby South Street. Instead, what I discovered was a piece of living history that opened my eyes to the truth about slavery in New England.

When I was told that the small building I was standing in was the last remaining slave quarters in the north, I was shocked. How could such an important building be virtually unheard of and why are people more familiar with “Grandmother’s House”? Many think of slavery as a system practiced largely on southern plantations. However, not only did slavery exist in the North, it existed right here in Medford, and it was far from benign. In fact, the Tufts family is known to have had slaves around this same time!

After the Royalls moved from Antigua to Medford in 1732, along with 27 of their slaves, they occupied the house until the Loyalist family fled prior to the American Revolution. The Patriots used the property during the Revolution, and General George Washington himself helped to plan the siege of Boston there. Legend has it that he interrogated two British soldiers in the mansion’s Marble Chamber. The Fletcher and Tidd families then occupied the property until the Daughters of the American Revolution purchased it in 1898.

With the mission of exploring the “meanings of freedom and independence before, during, and since the American Revolution, in the context of a household of wealthy Loyalists and enslaved Africans,” the Royall House Association, which now owns the property, does just that through tours and public lectures. Inside the Slave Quarters, one can find remnants of its former occupants’ lives, which were uncovered in a full-scale archeological dig from 1999-2001. Spoons, marbles, petitions for freedom, and other pieces from the past brings to life a piece of our history many shy away from. Unfortunately, much more is known about the white occupants of the property; however, the story of Belinda, one of the Royall’s slaves who petitioned the Massachusetts Legislature for a pension, is even more impressive in light of the lack of information about individual slaves associated with the family. Although this may not be a typical destination for a relaxing time away from Tufts, it a short stroll from the gym and a definite must before graduation. ☺



UPCOMING CONCERT PREVIEW



BY MEGAN WASSON

NOV
03

The Dandy Warhols
Do you really need an excuse to go see this retro-inspired synth-rock band? No, you don't.
Royale Boston, 7:00 PM, \$25

NOV
03

Matt Costa
One part Jason Mraz, one part Jack Johnson, and one part adorably awkward nerd. Sadly, ladies, he's taken, but you can still listen to his sincere, perfectly stripped down songs and dream.
Paradise Rock Club, 8:00 PM, \$18

NOV
09

Sara Bareilles
Cheesy? Yes. But in a guilty pleasure that you don't feel so guilty about indulging sort of way.
House of Blues, 6:30 PM, \$22.50

NOV
14

Kings of Leon
Why not? Even if you don't like their music, they're pretty cute. That's reason enough.
TD Garden, 7:30 PM, \$42.50

NOV
18

Kate Nash
She's like Lily Allen's indie, twisted little sister with an even stronger British accent and a penchant for ripping boys to pieces in her songs.
Paradise Rock Club, 8:00 PM, \$20. ©



Veggie Planet
47 Palmer St.
Cambridge
MA 02138

Recommended: The daily special, the “safe and sound”

Prices: \$2.75-11.35
All major cards accepted

Hours: 11:30am-10:30pm,
Monday-Saturday, 11am-10:30pm Sunday

BRIAN EN

Veggie Planet

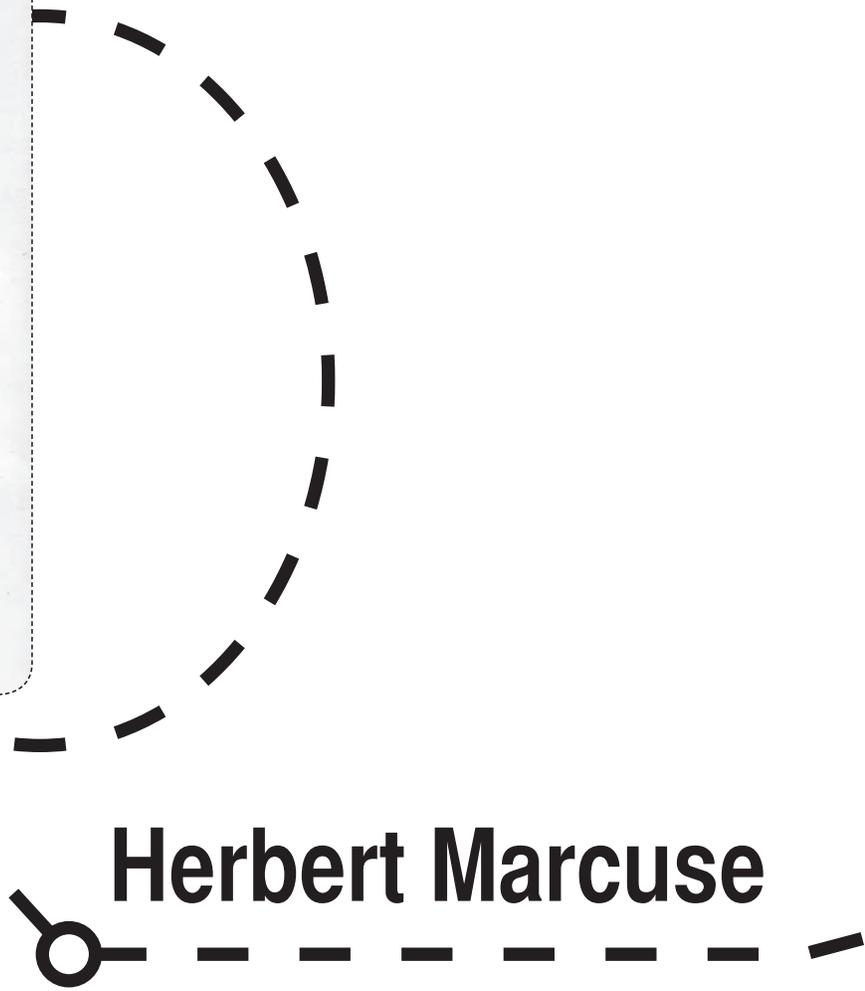
BY ELLEN MAYER

Cohabiting in a space with Folk Music venue Club Passim, nestled beneath the trendy boutique LF, and just across the street from Lizzy's, a gourmet ice cream shop, Veggie Planet is in a particularly hip corner of Harvard Square. The name Veggie Planet might be a) silly and b) immediately unappealing to the general meat-eating population but I suggest you take a hint from Shakespeare and look beyond the name. Though every dish they serve is either vegan or vegetarian, their menu is inviting for even the pickiest eater.

Filled with equal parts progressive yuppie parents and their kids, folksy old folks, and offbeat 20-somethings, the space itself has little ambiance. Regardless, the vibe is warm and inviting and when I ate there for Sunday brunch, an 11-string classical guitarist provided a lovely soundtrack to my meal.

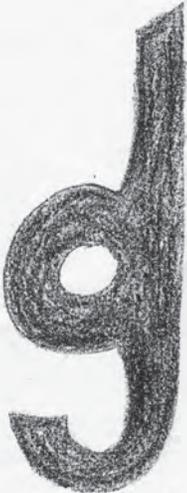
The menu at veggie planet is odd, to say the least. Every dish on the front page is designed to be served as a pizza on the most socially conscious dough I have ever encountered (dairy free, organic, and produced locally by a non-profit that helps unemployed men and women become economically independent) but can be ordered on rice or as an omelet. This seemed strange to me until I discovered that their version of pizza is very different from anything I'm used to. Because Pizza is the veggie planet specialty I chose to order the day's special pizza with fresh figs, sautéed spinach, goat cheese, and chipotle sauce. It was divine. The crust itself was cut into two rectangular slices and tasted more like flatbread than pizza dough. The figs were cooked perfectly and piled on top of a generous expanse of warm, creamy goat cheese. Though delicious, the pairing of fig and goat cheese is hardly original. The really inspired aspect of the dish was the chipotle drizzle, adding an entirely unexpected twist to the dish. I also sampled the “safe and sound” pizza, the Veggie Planet version of a plain. It was just as good as the special though obviously more basic. With asiago and mozzarella cheese, fresh tomato, extremely fragrant basil, and fried garlic it was more like bruschetta than anything else.

Veggie Planet also serves a variety of salads, a special soup, and granola, waffles, and special breakfast pizzas during brunch. The service, provided by cute and crunchy looking college kids, is a bit slow but friendly and helpful. Coffee (fair trade of course), tea, and water are self-service, reinforcing the communal feel of the restaurant. At around \$10, a meal at Veggie Planet is well worth an excursion off Tufts campus. While you're at it you could even catch a folk music concert, or head upstairs to find a very fashionable (if expensive) dress for the next big party. ☺



Herbert Marcuse

the **web** of domination has
become the web of
Reason itself, **and this**
society
is fatally entangled in it.

ledge → ledge
 edge → edge
 wedge → wege
 fridge → fridge
 bridge → bridge
 badge → badge
 lodge → lodge
 dodge → dodge

Guess what?
 We just made this
shit efficient.
 Time to step up your
 Fucking game, alphabet.

grat
 gnarl
 gnar
 gnarly
 gnar whale
 gnargonomics
 gnarget or ~~gnarget~~
 wall mart



a) wave
 b) butt



a) bird
 b) butt





A History of Lewis Hall

BY KATIE CHRISTIANSEN

How many times have you walked by Lewis and thought, “I wish this hall had a more appropriate name.” I would guess somewhere between one and two thousand times, but my ball-parking isn’t so great. We’ll assume for all intents and purposes, though, that it’s a lot, which is ironic because when you consider that Lewis used to be called Freefer Hall, things get a whole lot funnier.

Freefer Hall. Doesn’t that sound a lot like free-for-all? Reefer Hall? Both not inappropriate given the gilded history of Tufts’ own Mystery Machine. But before you give the administration too much credit for a robust sense of humor, consider the fact that the building was originally built under the auspices and financial generosity of Mr. & Mrs. Quentin P. Freefer in 1969. Kinda legit, right?

But a February 25th, 1971 article from the Observer entitled “Young Dorm Raped” reveals problems with the new dorm, problems that may not seem too foreign to today’s students. Author Stephanie Green writes, “From the paneling warping off the main floor walls to the doorknobs on the fire doors that break off in one’s hands, the dorm has been suffering from a multitude of problems.” Let’s keep in mind that this article was written just months after the official opening of the dorm, when all was supposed to be shiny chrome, glowing wood, and spiffy linoleum. At least those who have braved residence in Lewis can take solace in the fact that their dorm has always been a cataclysm of broken hinges and questionable safety mechanisms.

After the monolithic edifice was officially dedicated to Professor Leo Rich Lewis (the legend behind Tufts’ melodic alma mater) in 1972, the too-good-to-

be-true moniker was dropped. Somewhere between 1972 and 2010, however, the majestic title of Freefer Hall has been relegated to mere typeface in the tomes of archives in the G-level of Tisch. Put that in your Lewis bathroom and smoke it. ☹



DEDICATION OF “FREEFER” HALL, CA. 1970. COURTESY OF THE TUFTS DIGITAL ARCHIVES



JESTER HAIRSTON AT THE DEDICATION OF LEWIS HALL, 1972. COURTESY OF THE TUFTS DIGITAL ARCHIVES



BLAST FROM the past O

The article below was first printed in the February 25, 1971 edition of the Observer. It was written by Stephanie Green, and appeared under the headline "Young Dorm Raped." As it turns out, Lewis has always fucking sucked, even four months after it was built.

Tufts's newest dormitory, the \$1.8 million Lewis Hall (Freefer), has only been in use for four months, but already destruction by both students and outsiders and deterioration have taken their toll. From the paneling warping off the mainfloor walls to the doorknobs on the fire doors that break off in one's hand, the dorm has been suffering from a multitude of problems.

According to Dean Steindler, these problems are not significantly different from those of other dorms, but student agree that the newness of the dorm makes them more obvious.

"Somebody goofed" was the comment of one resident when describing the deterioration of the decorative plywood panels that extend along the firstfloor hallways. Tufts Director of Physical Planning and Construction, Lawrence L. Ketchen, admitted, "We discovered the panels were moving about the middle of October." However, he stressed that "this is very unusual for plywood paneling. The companies involved asked us to wait through one heating season in order to try and locate the problem. Then they'll either replace the panels or put them back to stay."

King of Freefer Hall, Spencer Lovette, has observed other evidences of faulty construction. "In one section, there is a two-foot-high, two-inch-deep hole in the wall.

Apparently, two kids were wrestling and one was thrown against the wall. The wallboard isn't the strongest." He listed example of many locks that are broken "not because of a great amount of abuse but because of poor quality." Vacuuming the carpet has proved to be a problem because "the vacuum pulls up the strip carpet along the wall. You can't do that to a good carpet." Even a curtain rod fell from its secured perch under the weight of the curtain.

"This dorm was originally intended only for Jackson girls," commented Spencer. "If only girls lived here, it would have withstood a few years' use, as evidenced by walking through girls' and boys' sections." A comparison reveals, he indicated, that the boys' sections have a much greater amount of wear and tear. However, even a girl bemoaned the fact that the walls were originally given only one coat of paint: "We certainly haven't taken these walls apart, but it looks like it." A male resident sounded a deeper note of gloom. "I'm really glad I'm living in Freefer this year, because it's not going to last much longer."

Destruction has hit the dorm extremely hard since September, the latest casualty being the Friday-night wrecking of one of the pinball machines just installed on Thursay, Feb. 18. Almost anything which can be taken or destroyed has been. Even the telephone at the front desk has been ripped out several times. ☹



Night

sometimes, when you
lean in close, i can feel
that strange pull.
i think about electrons
and charges and forces
but nothing makes sense.

your breath won't fog,
but i wish it would, that i could
have some proof of this. i
know i'll wake up soon.

and i wish you lived miles
away, so we could walk
and sway in this dance together
until the sky breathed pink
and innocence.



By Shir Livne

BRIAN YEN



Song for a Peace Pipe

By Alex Gomez

That joint that night was a clean, blue ray of clarity and respect. It put our hearts in the right place. We loved each other, warm fuzzies all around. That joint that night hit us all just right. That joint that night was stuffed with Royal Blue weed. It's the best I've ever smoked, like an outdoor pool. That joint got us high in every way we could imagine. It conquered every territory of our spirits. That joint that night was the Roman Empire. Stuffed with Royal Blue weed, the best purchase of the century, I announced. It rivaled the Louisiana Purchase (the only other purchase we could think of)! That joint that night filled our chat with substance, put kind words on our tongues and Wonka candy on our minds. A girl named Amy laughed and sighed, and she swayed as her stress slid off. That joint that night said Hey, these benches are really quite cool, and weren't your butts too hot? We sat on the roof in a dim violet glow, and Amy thought about chemistry for fun. That joint that night got Matt to talk. "Don't know why you're knocking Britney," he said, "that song 'Lucky' was my jam." And we all smiled bubble gum grins, because that's why we love Matt. That joint was like Ronnie Reagan, the Great Communicator. Pats on the back echoed through that night, and we sensed that hugs were in our future. I took a hit of that joint, turned to Samuel and

said, "I'm fucking in love with this reality." "Pretty good times," said he. "Pretty good times." That joint that night pulled up the zipper on the World's light jacket, kept the chilly out, so that we knew who we were and where we were going. That joint even helped Payday live up to its name; I paid for one and out shot three. Like beautiful birds of caramel and peanut, they flew at the vending machine window and dropped into my hungry hands. That night that joint whispered into our ears, softly, so it all made sense. All the baby deer of the spirit world crept close to us and sniffed our socks. They licked Matt's hands and told him his cap looked rugged. Well, Matt took a hit of that joint, paused, and stroked the scruff

he'd been growing.

That joint that night helped us let go of our fantasies and fall in love with true

life. We soon said good-

bye to the soft light of the roof, and

then said goodbye to our girlfriends. After

that joint that night, we said goodbye to our girl-

friends, but our peace was too immense to be in-

terrupted by the loss. That night we all knew who our

dearest friends were. Our joint brought us that far, that close

to elation. That joint that night put us quietly to bed, and the

young birds sang as our pal the Sun started his morning paper

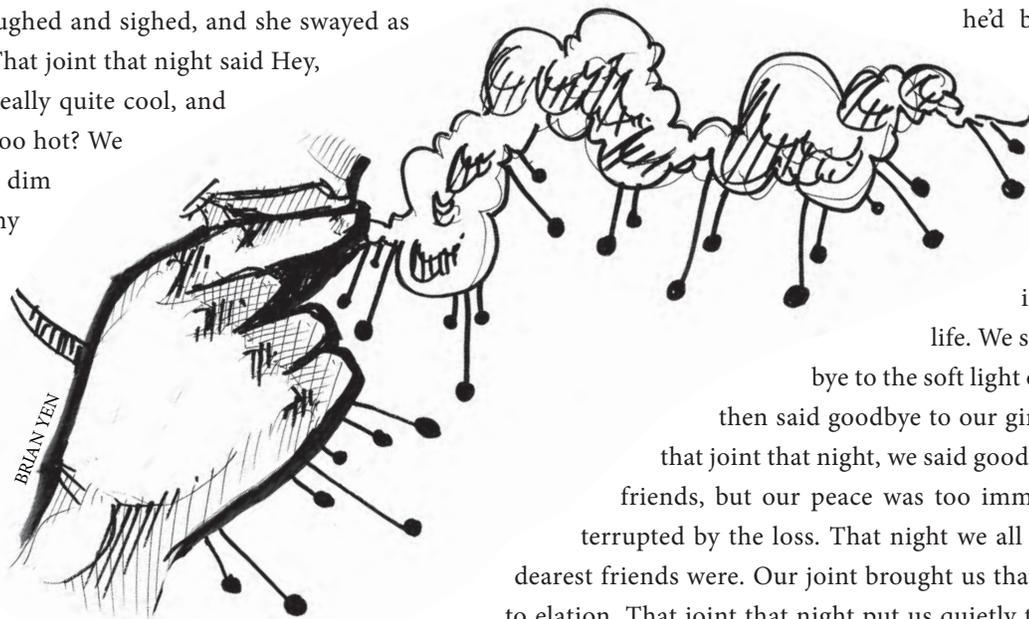
route, and we knew we had done nothing wrong. That joint

gave us the strength to stay up through that night and to love it

for all it contained. But to me that joint that night was a muse,

and she woke me up in the morning so I could write this down

while my friends slept in. ☺





POLICE BLOTTER



Scattered pot smoking in the usual places, with a high chance of drinking when the parents go back to their hotels.

“That cartoon of me could be a lot better.”

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

ATO had a crowd on the dance floor,
Police were slammed in the face by a door.
Through the peephole they saw,
And heard a blabbering jaw,
Say “lock the kegs and put cups on the floor.”

If you walk in and cups are all over, you're not going to say they're from last night.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 10:45 PM
& TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 4:14 PM

Lewis hall had an odor,
Of something green and in smolder
The next day again,
Another student grew bolder,
The fear of police made him colder.
Surprise on his face,
The police reflected,
“New people, but always the same place.”

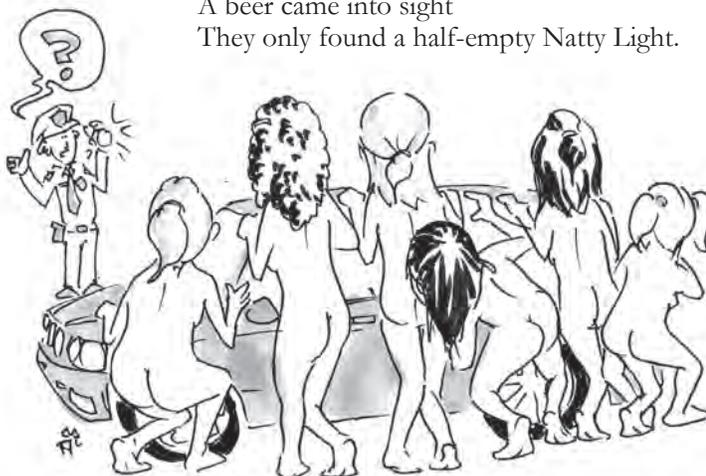
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16
10:50 PM

Police saw a girl throw a beer on Professors Row Lane,
Oh no, “I was holding it for a friend,” she sang.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17
12:51 AM

Limerick, take two
P-Row again saw two,
Being merry and having a brew,
The cops showed up
The can flew up
And over the hedge it blew.

Tee You Pee Dee asked for Eye Dee
She cried “I was a drink of monster ener-gy”
The cops sought out Right,
A beer came into sight
They only found a half-empty Natty Light.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21

Six females in undies, the call rang out loud,
Police went to investigate the nude crowd.
As they got dressed,
And covered their breasts,
They gave ID's from their pants on the ground.

—illustrated and compiled by Ryan Stolp and Avery Matera



PETER DAY

TUFTS OBSERVER

SINCE 1895

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