

TUFTS OBSERVER

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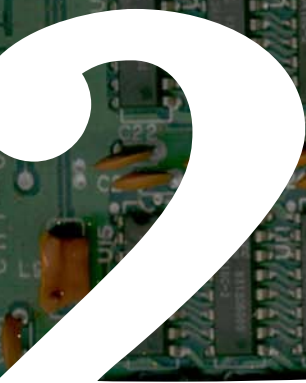
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The *Observer* has been Tufts' student publication of record since 1895. Our dedication to in-depth reporting, journalistic innovation, and honest dialogue has remained intact for over a century. Today, we offer insightful news analysis, cogent and 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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COVER INSTAGRAM WINNER: ADRIENNE DREYFUS





KYLE CARNES

The first generation to grow up with ubiquitous Internet access and witness the global information transformation is now coming of age. Children born in the early 1990s onward are filling classrooms and finally hitting boardrooms with a unique and previously unknown worldview: the integration between technology and everyday life is expected and not learned. The deriding glance given by a millennial to someone who possesses a cell lacking “smartphone” capabilities is telling; the use of technologies to streamline our lives and improve efficiency is no longer the exception, but rather the rule.

One of the most striking aspects of our seemingly innate familiarity with technology is the ability for some of its users to alter the world around them. Prior to the information age, only a select few were able to drastically modify the finished products we consumed. Now the world is generally programmable. With even basic computer science skills, someone can make an app or add-on for most existing products. This is made possible by new creations like Codecademy, online tutorial software that teaches people how to code through a simplistic interface inspired by mobile gaming. The emphasis on caching helpful information for the next programmer in the code is the basis for peers helping peers, each additional recruit building on the efforts of those that came before.

These developments are a major shift in how people live their lives. One no longer has to be a passive customer of the tools that have so drastically changed our world; he can instead change them to more properly fit his specific needs. That being said, being Internet-savvy and being technologically skilled are not the same thing. It often takes a desire to learn the ins and outs of computing before you are able to innovate.

Some Tufts students involved in computer science have increasingly been demonstrating their desire and ability to improve upon long standing concepts, like creating a speech therapy app or building upon totally new concepts, such as a library friend-locator that employs GPS technology. According to both professors and students, Tufts has recently

been improving its reputation in the computer science world. Each year additional companies recruit at Tufts and are looking for students with computing backgrounds; to that end, Evernote,

and [get] it to spread?” His motivation came from creating something that people wanted to use, and it filled a glaring hole in the “Friend Finder” market. When asked about his work on a Trunk

Technology guiding the course of a generation

a cloud-based information-sharing platform, has started hosting an annual “hackathon” here in an attempt to identify innovative ideas. Tufts is now the home of a world class Ph.D. program in Computer Science, emphasizing the fact that Tufts offers the possibility to “study with the stars of CS research.” The number of openings in the computer science field continues to increase, and employers are looking to schools like Tufts for qualified candidates.

Fred Schott, a senior and computer science (CS) major, has been programming since he was 15 years old and has developed a number of new concepts, which range from a Pandora Radio-like photo picking site to a Tufts Trunk alternative that combines social networking and academic collaboration into one. He also created the aforementioned “friend GPS,” called the “Tisch Friend Finder,” to help him determine where his friends were sitting when he was meeting them at Tisch. Asked about his motivation to develop the Friend Finder, Schott explained, “I enjoy the people aspect of it: how do you get people to use something

replacement, he said, “[I started the project] because [Trunk] is something that I know very well, and I’m very interested in how to build it better... [I want to know] why was it built this way? Who was their main focus? It’s cool to see the motivation behind the technology.”

The cycle of technological improvement has shrunk product-launch to launch. Consumers now have the ability to instigate changes and improvements that are experience-based rather than anticipatory of a new trend; and if a new launch fails to deliver the expected improvements and results, it is not far-fetched to expect a member of the tech-generation to create a product that embodies what was “missing” in the original.

Amadou Crookes, a sophomore majoring in computer science and one of the creators of iJumbo, an iPhone app that keeps all the Tufts information a student would need, weighed in on the discussion. “I find it really cool that if I have an idea, I can begin working on it and eventually have a prototype of a product up and running.” Crookes was



CREATIVE COMMONS

always interested in computers, but he only began programming in his senior year of high school and freshman year at Tufts. Asked about iJumbo, he says, “I learned a lot through the [creation] process, and it was great to see the app slowly evolve and grow into what it is now.” iJumbo is an app that offers a Tufts-centric information source, be it Joey updates, dining hall menus, or library hours. It was the answer Crookes and his friends had to the problem of finding lots of disparate information—and the app has found measurable success among Tufts students.

The motivations of Schott and Crookes’ innovations appear to be strikingly similar; these students either identified an opening in the current tech line-up or decided, “they could do it better”. Enterprising students no longer need to have the next “big” idea. Rather, they need to possess the technological acumen to be active participants in the world around them and adapt existing ideas to fit their new needs. Following the April 2012 purchase of Instagram by Facebook for \$1 billion, it’s not surprising that students are interested in de-

ing computer science will be added each year through 2020. The report goes on to say that the supply of recent graduates in computer science could only fill one tenth of the total openings. The number of college graduates with computer science degrees has actually declined since its peak in 2004, and the amount of high school courses in programming is lower now than it was in the 1990s. There is a growing gap between the number of computer science majors needed to run our ever-expanding, technology-fueled universe and the actual number of qualified applicants.

Some of the direct criticism leveled at the tech-generation is its heavy emphasis on social media and its offshoots rather than on the fundamentals of technological development. Will a generation that possesses such inherent understanding and competency with technology lack the skills necessary to actually innovate it? The answer may lie in the experiences of current Tufts students. Schott is following in the footsteps of a Tufts alumnus who connected him with a prospective job in Palo Alto, while Crookes intends to follow a career in computer science post graduation. If Tufts can foster and encourage an entrepreneurial environment for interested students to pursue fields in computing, it is only a matter of time before students and alumni create a pipeline to innovative technology companies.

Obviously, there is a real need for more computer science students.

It seems unlikely that technology is a “bubble” that will pop anytime soon, and it doesn’t look as though it will grow any less complicated. As our lives become increasingly “wired” and mobile, and everyday things become more complicated, the need for CS majors and entrepreneurs will only grow.

For those Tufts students who are worried about finding a job after graduation, maybe it’s not too late to invest in a computer-programming guide. ☺

“Being Internet-savvy and being technologically skilled are not the same thing.”

signing lean, simple applications or programs that give a new spin to older concepts.

Yet, for the seemingly endless zeal modern students have for the Internet and new technologies, there are some fundamental issues with the millennial or tech generation. A recent study by the Association for Computing Machinery that garnered media attention from a slow economy with relatively high unemployment, states that over 150,000 new jobs involv-



THE BIGGEST BULLY ON THE PLAYGROUND

Apple's recent actions reveal the company's grislier anti-innovation side

By Kumar Ramanathan

The relative lack of excitement surrounding Apple's latest iPhone compared to its first iteration was acutely noted by Apple fans and technology pundits alike. But cast in the dark shadow of the mobile giant's recent court battles and increased censorship of apps, the starkest difference in Apple's brand from five years ago is its newly emerged embittered, conniving character.

The story of Apple these past few months has been one of exclusiveness, but the company's walled-garden vision is nothing new. In the early days of Apple's turn-of-the-century revival, Mac software only ran on Apple laptops and a (non-hacked) iPod only worked with iTunes. Eventually, however, Apple was forced to play nice as the underdog. Software like Boot Camp was created to allow Mac laptops to run Windows software, and iTunes was updated concurrently in Mac and Windows versions. The modern smartphone, however, constitutes a entire computing market of its own; one that Apple redefined and now dominates with the iPhone.

These days, the company seems bent on working against the innovative atmosphere that it fostered in creating the iPhone in the first place. In August, Apple was awarded over \$1 billion in damages at the end of a vicious court battle with Samsung over patent infringements. In the tech world, patents are used as nuclear weapons in court in the midst of what seems to be a heightening war to stifle innovation in a broken system. In this system, patent protection is given to such unique ideas as "Internet test-taking methods." Entire companies exist for the sole purpose of hoarding and selling patents.

In the Apple vs. Samsung lawsuit, the latter company was sued for infringements of patents on everything from "List scrolling and document translation, scaling, and rotation on a touchscreen" to the design of a screen on a rectangular slab (pictured here). The use of such general patents is toxic to

technological innovation. Apple's pinch-to-zoom technology, for example, gives them a monopoly on that feature under US law. Even if Samsung emulated the feature using newly built code, it would still be an infringement.

In a *Slate* article, Matthew Yglesias bitingly questions how the automobile industry would work if it had the equivalent of software feature patents, postulating that "maybe GM cars would have a steering wheel, but Toyotas would have a joystick, and Honda[s] you would steer with your feet and use your hands to control the gas and brakes." If mo-

U.S. Patent May 10, 2005

US D504,889

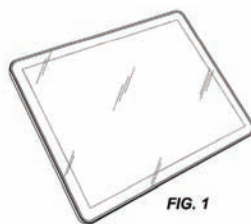


FIG. 1



FIG. 2

nopolistic practices through patent manipulation continues, this may be the future of the mobile computing world.

Apple's monopolistic and stifling policies extend to its own products. The iPhone is designed so that apps can only be purchased through the Apple-controlled App Store. The store has proved to be the iPhone's greatest asset, providing it the indispensable feature of Google Maps or the harmless fun of the fart app. In the early days of the iPhone, Apple's control of the store was seen as a cunning but effective means of cutting off competition to its own apps. Recently, however, the grounds have become much murkier.

In a small but important move, the company repeatedly rejected an app that tracked US drone strikes on a map and sent push notifications whenever new strikes were recorded. Despite the creator's revision of the app according to Apple's guidelines, it was rejected from the App Store for the final time on Sept. 12. What was Apple's reasoning? They found the app "not useful" and its content "objectionable and crude." In the confines of its walled garden, Apple need not provide any more reason for what would otherwise be tantamount to censorship, potentially of a politically charged nature.

The iPhone 5 is a symbol of how far these anti-innovation policies go. Along with a few decent upgrades comes the destruction of backwards compatibility—the dock connector that pervades all current Apple products has been replaced with a new "lightning connector," featuring the radical change of being half an inch shorter. What about all the accessories you already bought? Worry not: for only \$30, Apple will sell you an adaptor. Meanwhile, Google Maps has been dropped for a new Apple-made app that has already received scathing reviews from every corner of the Internet.

Apple's policy of anti-innovation is one of bullying other companies into submission, wantonly censoring the content its users can access, and inventing incompatibility to put a cherry on top of its profit margins—just because it can. As consumers, we ought to pick our technology wisely. I urge you to make an informed choice, choosing a product that uses open source technology and does not engage in censorship.

Behind the powerful products designed by creative and talented engineers lie corporate giants, and the biggest of them can afford not to care about their consumers or innovation. It's time for us to stop caring about them and start making informed choices in our own interest, beginning by abandoning Apple. ☪



GIA ROWLEY

ROCK&ROLL

Russian girlband
Pussy Riot takes on
the Kremlin

By Moira Lavelle

They've garnered support from Madonna, Genesis, Green Day, Yoko Ono, and Amnesty International for their most recent performance in Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow. Pussy Riot—the all-female group that is half punk band, half political activist platform—has been making headlines far beyond their home in Russia. And despite their current two-year sentence to a penal colony for the performance, it seems to still be making headlines.

In February, the group staged a protest in the Cathedral in Moscow. Clad in their usual attire of balaclavas, dresses, and leggings, all in bright primary colors, the group lip-synced and danced along to a profane song pleading the Virgin Mary to release Russia from the rule of Putin. The dancing and consequent police apprehension can be seen in a music video that went viral and sparked the group's notoriety.

The three women currently in jail are Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, age 23; Yekaterina Samutsevich, age 30; and Maria Alyokhina, age 24. However, Pussy Riot is composed of a much larger creative cohort that works to put together videos and organize other protests to get their message out. The message is a simple one: the group is unabashedly feminist and wants to change attitudes in Russia. The name itself (usually written in English) is meant to be aggressive and provocative. Additionally, the group is vehemently anti-Putin. Most of their songs indict the president personally and they have been known to burn pictures of him.

Pussy Riot, though discussed as a punk band, is not much concerned with musicality. The group only has a handful of songs, only one of which is over two minutes in length. There is not much merit found in the songs in terms of melodic structure, nor is there meant to be. The music is meant to send an anti-establishment message, and the blaring punk guitar sounds certainly accomplish that. The band released their first single—"Putin Lights Up the Fires," a song that calls for an end of the regime, brought about by feminism—immediately after their sentencing.

While the sentence could have been up to seven years, legal experts in Russia state that two is still excessive for a political performance. The issue is that the protest was couched as a move against the Russian Orthodox Church. The performance was in a cathedral that was destroyed during the Soviet years, a fact that was seized upon by the band's opposition. In an interview, President Putin explained: "You know, Russians still have painful memories of the early years of Soviet rule, when thousands of Orthodox, Muslim, as well as clergy of other religions were persecuted. Soviet authorities brutally repressed the clergy. Many churches were destroyed. The attacks had a devastating effect on all our traditional religions. And so in general I think the state has to protect the feelings of believers."

"It's an incredible injustice that they were just put in jail because they exercise freedom of speech."


Yoko Ono

When their trial began in late July, the women apologized and stated that they never meant to offend the Church; they merely wanted to speak out against Putin and Kirill I, a leader in the church, for supporting Putin's most recent bid for presidency. However, the combined power of the Kremlin and the Russian Orthodox Church was enough to firmly put an end to the protests. In the trial, the judge concluded that the performance was trying to incite religious hatred, and derided the heavily feminist message. The group will file an October 1 appeal in Moscow city court.

The response to Pussy Riot has been lukewarm at best in Russia. However, the trial aroused sensibilities around the world

and created a cry for greater freedom of speech in Russia. There have been protests from New York to Germany with protestors wearing the signature balaclavas. Musical artists by the dozens have been pledging their allegiance; Madonna even wore the name "Pussy Riot" on her bare back during one performance. Here in the US, the government spoke out against the sentencing. A White House spokesperson stated: "While we understand that the group's behavior was offensive to some, we have serious concerns about the way these young women have been treated by the Russian judicial system." Amnesty International also heartily opposed the verdict and accused the Russian authorities of stifling free speech.

Though the support is vast, the question remains: was the sentence rightfully apportioned? Is Pussy Riot truly the feminist freedom-of-speech advocates the West has painted them to be? The group has links with the radical group Voina, which means "war" in Russian. Voina is known for even more outlandish performance art including theft, public orgies, and vandalism—something that might not be as fitting with the image of peaceable freedom fighters. Is the support of Pussy Riot merely a return to Cold War sentiment of supporting any entity that opposes the Kremlin? Is it a projection of Western societal norms onto a situation that very little is known about, or has Pussy Riot revealed a true humanitarian issue in Russia?

On September 21, Pussy Riot was awarded the LennonOno Grant for Peace, which is given out biennially in honor of John Lennon, from Yoko Ono and Amnesty International in New York. Pyotr Verzilov, the husband of Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, accepted the award with the couple's four-year-old daughter. Said Ono: "I thank Pussy Riot for standing firmly in their belief of freedom of expression and making all women of the world proud to be women. It's an incredible injustice that they were just put in jail because they exercise freedom of speech. We just have to work on it and make sure they are released as soon as possible." 

Loose Lips

Will leaked videos undermine Romney's presidential bid?

By Justin Kim

Like him or not, Mitt Romney is no slacker.

In fact, he is by far one of the most meticulous men in politics. His painstaking preparation for every speech, interview, and debate has been well-documented since he first came on the political scene by challenging the late Senator Edward “Ted” Kennedy for his seat in 1994. But even with all his planning, Romney was unequivocally blindsided by an amateur video taken at a Boca Raton private fundraiser in May.

The infamous video, which has now gone viral with millions of views, captures Romney making controversial remarks about the 47 percent of Americans who do not pay income taxes. Romney notes, “My job is not to worry about those people. I’ll never convince them they should take personal responsibility and care for their lives.” He goes on to state that these people “believe they are victims” and that they think they “are entitled to health care, to food, to you-name-it.”

For a presidential candidate, especially one with a longstanding image issue,

the video was the equivalent of showing a forest fire with kerosene. The remarks reinforced every negative stereotype voters have of Romney as an insensitive and condescending elitist who lives in an ivory tower and is utterly out of sync with everyday Americans. Romney chooses to ignore the fact that this “47 percent” demographic is comprised of the elderly, the disabled, the retired, and the working class, struggling with high unemployment. He is essentially dismissing half the constituency and saying that they, along with their votes, are not worth his time. Romney and his oratory gaffes have put him in an extremely vulnerable position and, with little time left before elections, he has to find a way to right the ship. But what about the fact that an amateur video was able to reach millions of people in a matter of days, and singlehandedly shifted the course of the national political conversation? This unmistakably demonstrates that the Internet and technology have fundamentally transformed the ins and outs of presidential campaigns.

Now, more than ever, public relations is key. The way in which voters view the candidates can be even more important than social issues or economic policy. Romney, capitalizing on his past as the head of Bain Capital and being consistently pro-big business, has long held an edge over incumbent Barack Obama in campaigning funds. His team has already spent millions of dollars on commercials—but not one of them has had the impact of the “47 percent” video. The recording exploded via social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook, magnifying the political spotlight on Romney’s clear blunder as a man seeking to move into the Oval Office. Voters, Republicans and Democrats alike, are forced to reevaluate their perceptions of Romney. Which is undoubtedly helpful to the Obama campaign.

While Romney’s campaign may have an advantage in funding, Obama’s campaign clearly has the edge in social media fluency. The ongoing transition of media power—from the traditional television news and print outlets to a burgeoning movement in social media and online


Sink Ships

news—can only work to the Democratic campaign's advantage. Obama has almost 29 million fans on Facebook and over 20 million followers on Twitter. In comparison, Romney has slightly over seven million fans on Facebook and one million followers on Twitter. Whether it's tweeting a picture of a relaxed and amiable president conversing with celebrities Jay-Z and Beyoncé, or posting a clip of an appearance on "The Late Show With David Letterman," Obama's team is clearly more dexterous when it comes to portraying its candidate as a modern and approachable leader, one who fits seamlessly into the digital age.

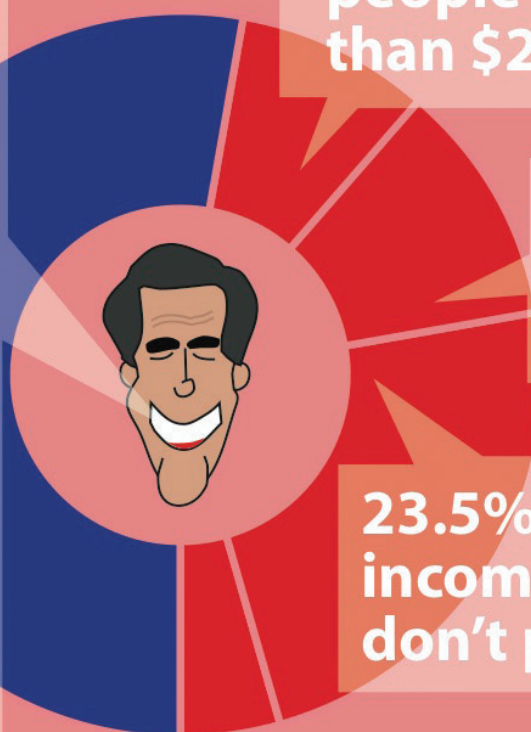
Obama's social media outreach is perpetually expanding. His team recently organized an "Ask Me Anything" thread on Reddit where the president personally an-

swered unscreened questions from more than 200,000 public viewers in real time. His campaign also just launched the "For All" project, which is designed to encourage voters to write an issue that matters to them on their hand and take a picture of it to upload to a prominent social media platform such as Instagram. All these measures continue the narrative that Barack Obama is a man of the people, one who will make sure your voice is heard.

The Obama campaign will continue to utilize its technological savvy to hurt Romney and capitalize on this recent fortuitous turn of events by blasting him on a wide array of media outlets. And while the presidential race seemed like it could go either way in recent months, it now seems as if Romney has lost tremendous

traction in the aftermath of the viral Boca Raton video. But even with Obama's dominant Internet presence and the significant damage done, the election is far from over. With the presidential debates set to begin on October 3, Romney has a chance to recoup with a strong showing and by forcing Obama's camp back on the defensive and hammering the incumbent on his plans to fix the horrendous economy and high unemployment rate. Romney is a notoriously well-prepared debater who can inject a special blend of wit and confidence into his answers, so long as he isn't caught in a situation in which he will be forced to improvise. But Romney should have his fingers crossed and hope that he doesn't slip and fall again, because next time he may not be able to get back up. 

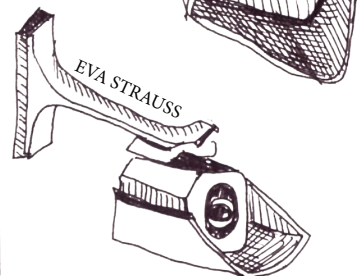
47%
OF
AMERICA
PAYS NO
INCOME
TAXES



8.5% are seniors or people making less than \$20,000 a year

10.8% don't pay because of tax breaks

23.5% have such low incomes that they don't pay income taxes



i spy with

Is Tufts' new video surveillance

On September 18, an informational forum took place at Tufts regarding recent plans to develop a video surveillance system here. Director of Public Safety at Tufts University Kevin Maguire and five colleagues—two deputy chiefs of TUPD, one security consultant for TSG Associates, and Tufts' director of emergency management—gave a brief presentation outlining the goals, ethics, and planning process of the surveillance system.

"We're here because we have concerns for the community," said Maguire. "Currently there is no policy for video surveillance. Not a good place to be for a university."

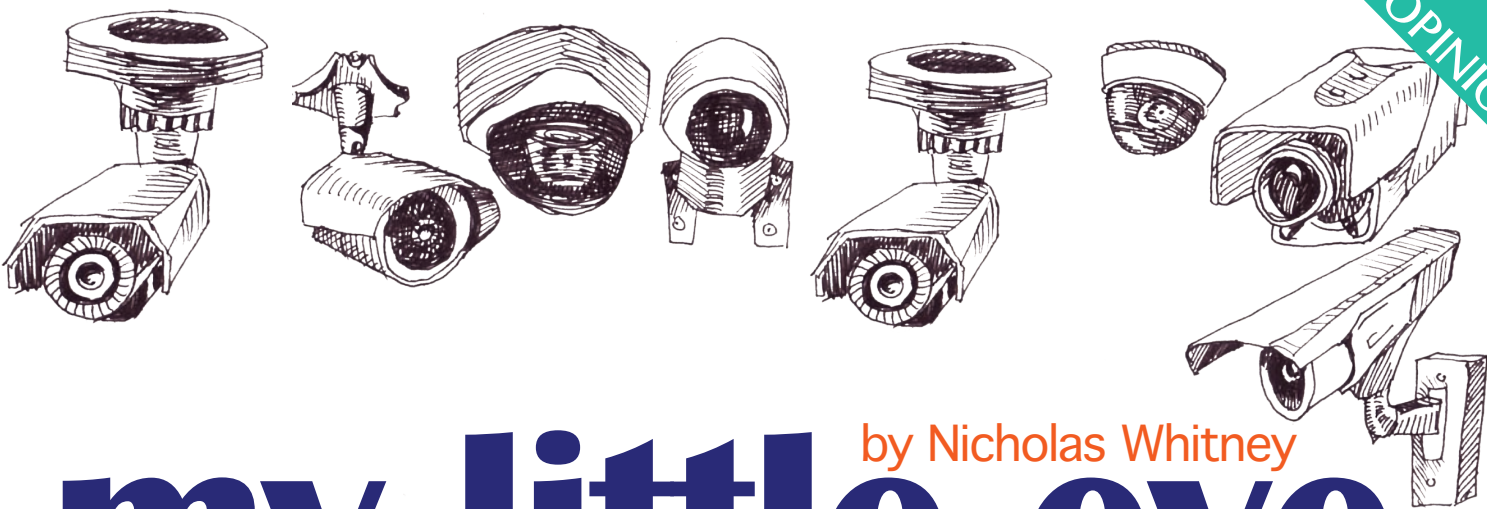
The need for some type of security measure is a valid concern. The Virginia Tech incident in 2007 is still as fresh in our minds as it was five years ago. In simple terms, what happened at Virginia Tech was a tragedy. There's no exaggeration needed: it was unthinkable, unbelievable, and caused irrevocable physical and psychological damage. Maguire and his colleagues assert that adding a surveillance system would allow for preemptive deterrence; if someone were to see these cameras, maybe they wouldn't commit a crime in the first place.

But Tufts in 2012 is entirely different than Virginia Tech was in 2007. We have security issues that need to be addressed—that's a fact. But we're also centralized; our campus is all in one place. If a threat to our security were to occur in one building, the TUPD could be there in a matter of seconds. We have a blue-light system and panic buttons across campus. Our student body is much smaller than Virginia Tech's and news can travel faster and more efficiently. We have many widespread social media outlets now that weren't nearly as universal in 2007—Twitter updates, for example, are capable of spreading information and security alerts in real time.

Tragedies like the Virginia Tech shooting as well as those more recent should never be taken lightly, and hopefully will never happen again. But the video surveillance system isn't the solution to this concern. First of all, the planned system won't be monitored around the clock. TUPD will review the tapes only after they've received a tip. So although Maguire's intentions aren't misplaced, the video surveillance might not be as helpful as he wants it to be.

It seems a little
BIG BROTHER
to me.

According to Tufts' 2011-2012 Public Safety Report, there were zero murders, manslaughters, arsons, non-forcible sex offenses, drug law arrests, or illegal weapon possession arrests reported to TUPD, local PD, or non-police between 2008 and 2010. One robbery and twenty-five forcible sex offenses were reported in those three years. The only true outlier in terms of statistics was the number of burglaries that occurred: during that same time period, 92 burglaries were reported. Most burglaries occur in locations where the surveillance system wouldn't reach—dorm rooms, the library, and so on. What purpose would the surveillance system serve, then,



by Nicholas Whitney

my little eye

program more hassle than help?

if you forgot to lock your dorm room and somebody snatched your laptop? There won't be cameras to catch that.

Is this a necessary project for the university -- and therefore also its tuition payers -- to spend money on? Are there other, more dire changes that we need to make first? Is the crime on campus so rampant as to push the surveillance system to the top of Tufts' priority list? Sophomore Nick Teleky suggests a better use of financial resources: "There are things on campus that, in my view, should be higher in the queue to be renovated--dorms, classrooms [for example]--because these are visible problems that can be fixed," he said. "If TUPD has some enlightening stats about violent crime on campus, then I might agree."

Teleky's assertion reaches the foundation of opposition to TUPD's argument: why invest in something that we only hope will bring positive change, when we can improve what is already visibly wrong on campus? In my (admittedly very short) time here at Tufts, I have seen TUPD just about everywhere I go. Maybe I'm just a naive freshman, but I genuinely do feel safe with TUPD around. Just the other week we had an intruder in my building, and the police arrived within minutes and settled the issue. I understand that adding video surveillance would only increase TUPD's monitoring power, but is it really, truly necessary? I don't think so. If crime were rampant, maybe that response would be different. But we're lucky enough to have a relatively safe on-campus environment already.

Furthermore, the places we need to worry about in terms of more violent and abusive crimes are probably not places the cameras would reach. Is the Campus Center seriously a hotspot for dangerous crime? No -- streets like Powderhouse Boulevard

and side streets of Curtis Street (like Tesla, Upland,, and Conwell) are places where a student probably should take the most caution. These roads and locations peripheral to the Medford/Somerville campus hold the most pertinent safety threat, but the cameras will only affect on-campus locations.

So, if these video cameras won't deter significant on-campus crime any further than TUPD already does, the question becomes, what will they do? They'd be a presence, which is, to put it bluntly, just annoying. Of course, you shouldn't do anything on camera that violates Tufts' conduct rules--that's just dumb--but, as college students and as adults, we shouldn't have to be in constant fear of surveillance. It seems a little too like Big Brother to me.

In the end, I'd rather use the money for more pertinent, physical demands: more dorm renovations, bathroom amenities, and improvements to academic buildings or Tisch. Maybe even more funding for academic scholarships, improvements to Career Services, or for research at Tufts. These are all things that I would feel comfortable, as a tuition payer, contributing to. As of right now, the plan for video surveillance is simply too vague. Before we go any further, we need data, we need campus-wide discussions, we need a transparent planning process that incorporates all who would be affected by this plan. Until then--until we receive more firm answers--I'm going to keep asking questions. 🗣️

For detailed information on this process, visit
<http://publicsafety.tufts.edu/video-security-on-campus/>



{ ELEPHANT EARS }

with free service Ears for Peers, Tufts' network of anonymous listeners is only a phone call away
by Moira Lavelle

In the midst of cramming for a mid-term, dealing with an abusive relationship, or feeling lonely and depressed—there are many times in the life of a college student when a sympathetic ear is needed. Tufts, however welcoming and inclusive it tries to be, can be a pretty overwhelming place. Ears for Peers exists to be that anonymous, unbiased someone who can listen to whatever woes or concerns are the issue of the evening—for any Tufts student, any night.

Every night from 7:00p.m.-7:00a.m. the Ears for Peers hotline is open, with their guarantee that calls will be confidential. Students are encouraged to call (617) 627-3888 or use instant messaging to contact tuftsE4P.

The “ears” who answer the calls are volunteers from the student body. In the words of one member of the staff, Patrick*, “I think Ears for Peers is utilized more than people expect, and for various reasons. It’s great to have a peer-run health hotline, because people call with not only serious problems, but also just to vent,” he explains “The fact that there’s another [student] on the other end creates a sort of camaraderie. We can all relate to the stresses of student life and therefore, the caller is less afraid of being judged rather than helped.”

Callers have a range of concerns. There are those who are having issues with stress, homesickness, or are concerned about a friend. Students are allowed to talk for as long as is needed with their caller. Conversations are typically between 10 and 20 minutes, but have known to last for up to two hours. According to another Ears for Peers member, Amy*, “Sometimes you can feel like you’re going in circles, but often they have more to talk about if the conversation is lasting longer. The biggest problem is people apologizing for keeping you on the line, but I just say that that’s what I’m here for, and what I want to do.”

There is no typical caller, and no typical call, thus the staff members are trained

to deal with anything. Patrick detailed his training: “We were given general instructions on how to handle calls and potential situations. At the end, we practiced what we’d learned with ‘simulation’ calls and were given feedback on how we performed. After that, we were paired with a veteran member and did several shifts with them. Really the best training we got was during the shifts because it’s impossible to fully prepare yourself for any potential problem or caller that arises.”

Both staff members expressed that they wished more students took advantage of the service. Amy admitted she understands why the phones aren’t always ringing off the hook: “I think that not everyone knows about it. Additionally, students are worried that someone will recognize their voice; people are very concerned with anonymity. A lot of people feel like they should have everything together, and it’s hard to admit they need help or need to talk about it.” Another challenge the group faces is advertising. Posters are placed all over campus, but any advertising can be fraught with issues. For a student to advertise they have to reveal they are a part of the program, and thus lose their anonymity.

Why the extreme need for anonymity? Amy explained: “On the line I never feel the need to who I say am; it would be more harmful than helpful. You’re there just to be an unbiased listener and lend a helpful ear, if the caller knows who you are they’re going to rethink things, they’re going to worry you might see them in a different way, they’re going to reconsider your advice.” Staff members sometimes run into trouble having to tell a friend that they have to go somewhere but can’t specify where, but in terms of the calls it’s much easier for both parties to remain unnamed.

The staff members spoke about how this anonymity also allows a separation between their personal lives and the calls.

It would be difficult to carry the burden of every caller’s problems at all times, and it is better to leave some emotional space. Amy spoke about the log staff members keep: “There’s a log for every call and IM. You explain what call was about, and what tactics you used in talking to them. Did you just listen? Did you give advice? Did you provide them with another service like an abuse line? Then you detail how the conversation ended, and how you felt about it.” She reflected, “That’s helpful, and I do this because this is what I want to do, it’s much easier to detach myself from it and not think of it as part of my life.”

Ultimately the staff members both expressed that they were incredibly grateful to be a part of the program, and were thankful they had an opportunity to help the Tufts community. “For me,” says Patrick, “the best part of the program is that I feel so much closer to the Tufts community. It’s like being the best friend of the entire student body. I hear your problems, and I want to help.” The goal is that callers will feel more comfortable opening up with feel that they already have an ally, another student, and despite the anonymity.

Ears for Peers emphasizes that no call is too large or too small for their services. The staff members are there to provide a venue for students to talk with no judgment. The aim is simply to listen. ☎

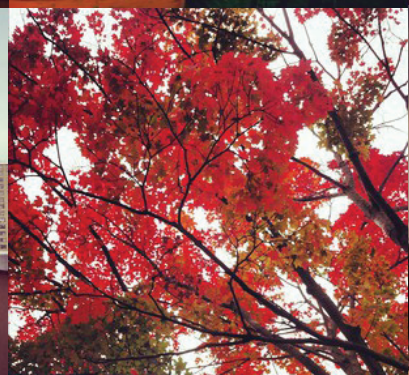
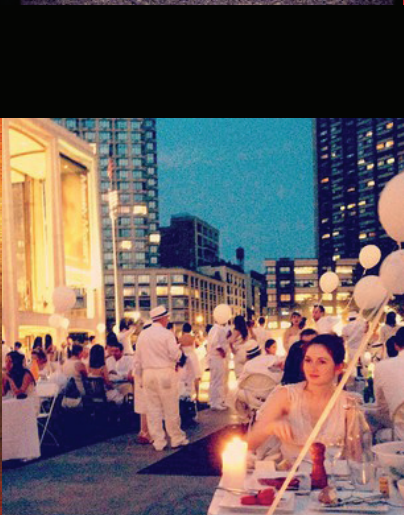
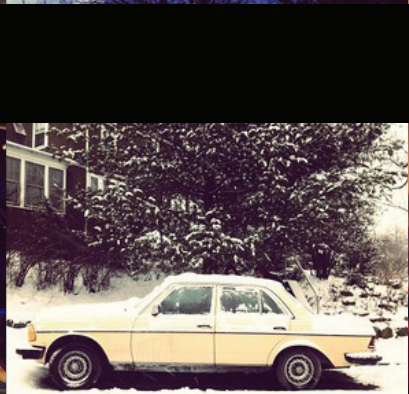
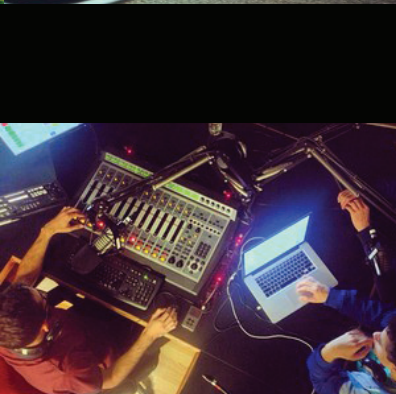
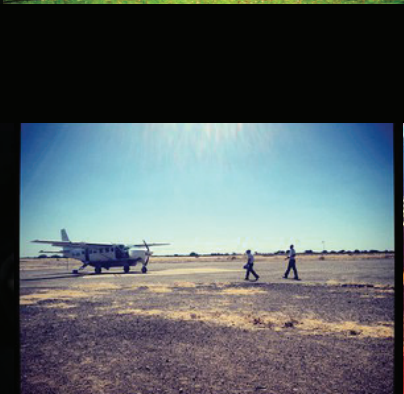
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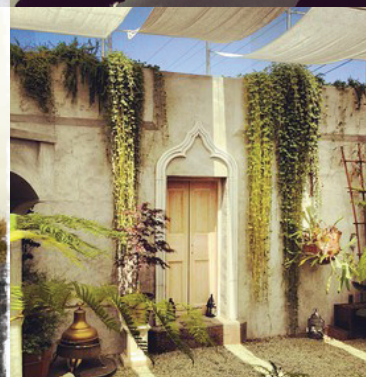
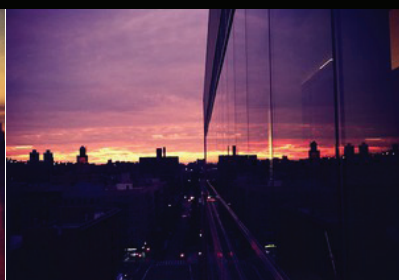


IZZIE GALL



INSTANCES







SENSE &

SUSTAINABILITY

Through the Tufts Farmers Market, students have access to fresh, locally-grown produce by Danny Gottfried

The aroma of a crisply grilled chicken breast smothered in pineapple salsa lingers in the air. Various international accents chat and laugh, and the sun shines warmly on the tents below. The Tufts community navigates the hustle and bustle in back of the Mayer Campus Center, heeding the vendors' invitations to explore their tables of organic romaine lettuce, juicy tomatoes, and fresh ears of corn.

Welcome to the Tufts Farmers Market. The program, organized by the Friedman School of Nutrition, provides students an opportunity to purchase organic produce grown by participants each Wednesday behind the Campus Center—an opportunity students are taking full advantage of.

The first Tufts Farmers Market took place in October of 2009 and was an instant success, according to Director of Dining and Business Services Patti Klos. Klos explained how farmers participating in the Friedman School's New Entry Sustainable Farming Project (NESFP) provide produce grown on local farms, which is then trans-

ported to Tufts by members of the United Teen Equality Center (UTEC) in Lowell.

"The first market was so novel; we had never done anything like it, and it was only supposed to be a one-time event," said Klos. "It happened to be a nice day, and Adele Bacow, [former president Larry Bacow's wife], was one of the first people in line. She thought it was marvelous that we did it, and so did many others."

The first market sold out in 45 minutes, a result that exceeded even Klos' hopes, she said. "A benefit of buying local is that you tend to get fresher produce that not only tastes better, but also is more nutritious because it hasn't been sitting on the shelf for a very long time," said Tina Woolston, Program Director in the Tufts Office of Sustainability. "For example, the tomatoes that they bring to the farmers market are ripe when they are picked, but the tomatoes you buy at the grocery store are green when they are picked, and they are put in ethylene glycol chambers to make them ripen, and that's why they don't taste as good. Even the ones from the vine are just allowed to turn a little bit red before they are picked."

"[Tufts] buys food in such large quantities that we often have to source them from wholesale vendors and they can't always tell you exactly where they came from," said Communications and Outreach Specialist in the Office of Sustainability Fannie Koa. She added that the NESFP farmers' market is a unique opportunity for students because they can see exactly where the food they consume comes from.

"The Medford Campus at Tufts provides a unique market for the farmers in New Entry, because we don't need to worry about how much to bring," Director of NES-

FP Jennifer Hashley said. "Tufts Dining has agreed to buy any produce not sold in market."


Most of the extra food ends up in Tufts' central culinary kitchen, where food is prepped before being incorporated into meals at Dewick and Carmichael.

Klos said, "Our goal is to have plenty [at the market], and it's ok if we don't sell everything out. We provide meals to almost 10,000 people every day, so if there are 30 ears of corn left over, for example, it's very easy to work through that."

The NESFP provides immigrants and US citizens who might not have the means to farm the initial assistance required to get up on their feet, says Hashley. Participants in the program take an "exploratory farming" class in addition to an eight-week long course that helps them develop a business plan, and intensive practical trainings.

Upon completion of the education components of the program, prospective farmers present their business plan, and are given land access at an incubator farm leased by the organization, said Hashley. The NESFP provides all farming necessities from tractors to tools, and allows participants to use them for up to three years while they build a financial base and a consumer following.

The program is at Tufts in the hopes that students here will expand the farmers' consumer following. "Keep coming [to the market]," urges Klos, "because the reason we are doing this is to support local farmers through the Friedman School Program, and to make fresh produce available to students. We want students to take advantage of it."

The market is from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 a.m. Wednesdays through October 10. 



The first market sold out in 45 minutes.

NEEDED: A NEW DISCOURSE ON

BY AARON LANGERMAN

Are China and the United States engaged in an inevitable power struggle, an unavoidable antagonism that makes long-term cooperation impossible? Headlines from American news sources and statements from US officials seem to promote this view. President Obama insists China needs to “mature” as it rises to power. American news headlines range from “China, Japan, and Taiwan island dispute could lead to war” to “U.S. call for ‘cool heads’ in China-Japan island dispute.” The other side of this issue—how China sees the United States—is noticeably different. To the Chinese, the US is expansionist, aggressive, and determined to constrain China’s military. Can we reach a common ground? If cooperation between the United States and China is possible then first it requires a new rhetoric—an alternative discourse—to disseminate from the two nations.

China fears the US more than the US fears China, and for good reason—the US maintains massive military deployments throughout the region, literally surrounding China with troops. In East Asia, the US has thousands of troops based in countries like South Korea and Japan, military alliances with most countries in the region, and arms sales agreements with nations like the Philippines and Vietnam. The US recently moved more troops to Australia as a part of President Obama’s Asia “pivot,” which is the United States’ current strategy of focusing policy away from the Middle East and toward Asia. The US’s large troop presence in Central Asia (China and Afghanistan share borders) completes the military encirclement around China.

Statements from US officials confirm China’s fears that the US will use its force to constrain China’s growth. Andrew Nathan and Andrew Schobell of *Foreign Affairs* call the rhetoric coming from US officials “sugar-coated threats.” On one hand, US officials—President Obama especially—reassure the Chinese that the United States is focused on promoting cooperation between the two nations. Yet the same officials reassure the

sionist power intent on unilaterally pushing its demands as a way to maintain its superiority. In “How China Sees America: the Sum of Beijing’s Fears” from the most recent issue of *Foreign Affairs*, Nathan and Schobell write that, for the Chinese, “the United States is omnipresent. It is the most intrusive outside actor in China’s internal affairs... Chinese analysts see their country as heir to an agrarian, eastern strategic tradition that is pacifistic, defense-minded, non-

“Can we reach a common ground?”

American public that they will not allow China to threaten US interests in the region. It’s no wonder that China blames the United States for hindering cooperation. From the Chinese perspective, the double-sided nature of statements from US officials confirms that the United States isn’t serious about cooperation unless it’s on its own terms.

The American media exacerbates the situation by consistently referring to China as a “threat.” This rhetoric confirms China’s belief that the US is an aggressive, expan-

sionist, and ethical. In contrast, they see Western strategic culture—especially that of the United States—as militaristic, offense-minded, expansionist, and selfish.”

China isn’t innocent either. In the past two years especially, China confirmed American fears of Chinese aggression by claiming islands in the South and East China Seas. In 2010, China staked claims on the Japanese Senkaku islands. A few months ago, when the Japanese central government purchased the islands as private property, China responded with a wave of anti-Jap-

CHINA


OPINION

anese nationalism. Since then, China has put further claims on various islands in the South China Sea, some of which belong to Vietnam. Vietnam responded with its navy when “civilian” Chinese fishing boats were found in Vietnam’s waters. Vietnam and the Philippines—afraid that China may try to take over other parts of the South China Sea—drastically increased arms sales to improve their navies. South Korea and Japan have also taken measures by reaffirming the alliance with the United States. An eerily reminiscent scenario as the one that set the stage for World War I: a rising power disrupting stability and spurring arms races and alliances that ultimately ends in conflict.

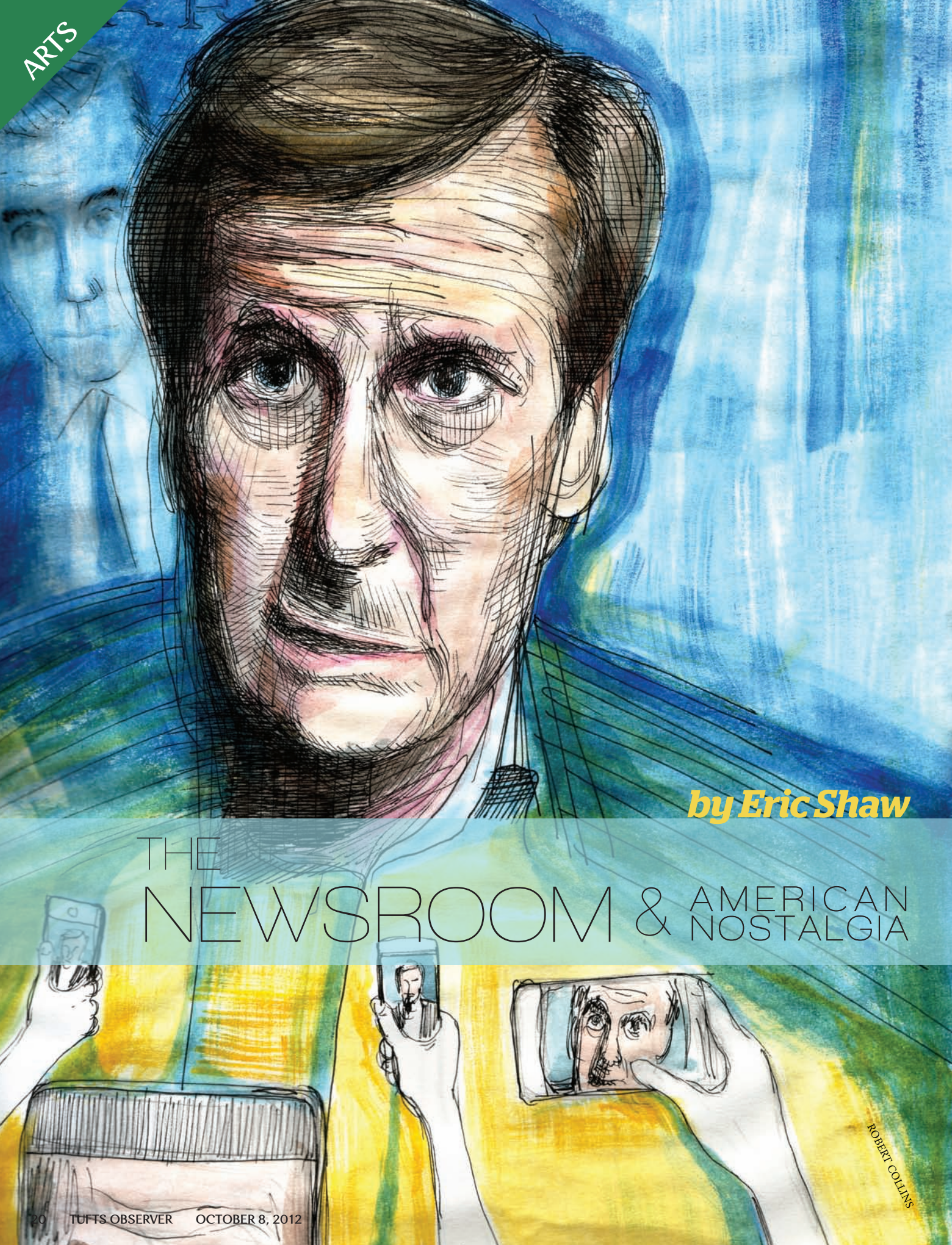
China insists on negotiating territorial disputes bilaterally, one-on-one with every individual country. The United States insists China work through existing institutions such as the UN and ASEAN. The status quo is heading in a direction where cooperation with China could become exceedingly difficult. Yet conflict is in neither China’s nor the United States’ interests. Because conflict is the least favorable, most costly scenario, both the United States and China have a significant bargain zone in which to negotiate compromise and cooperation. “Conflict with China is a choice, not a necessity,” writes Henry Kissinger earlier this year, “Both [the US and China] have the responsibility to take into account the other’s nightmares, and both would do well to recognize that their rhetoric, as much as their actual policies, can feed into the other’s suspicions.”

The US continually refers to China as a “rising” power, for example, without recognizing that China sees itself as a returning power that has historical-

ly—for thousands of years, excluding the last two centuries—been dominant in the region as a stabilizing force. Furthermore, the phenomenon of China’s growing military is not in itself unusual. What would make less sense would be if the nation with the second-largest economy in the world *didn’t* invest some of its resources in its military, especially considering that the United States spends over six times more on its military than China does.

Both the United States and China have good reason to fear the other. But neither has a good reason to pursue a costly conflict or protracted cold war. It is important to correct for erroneous beliefs—on the United States’ side, that China is an immature, rising power that is inherently antagonistic because it’s undemocratic; and on China’s side, that the US is inherently expansionist, aggressive, and unwilling to compromise. If both nations continue to publish discourse—statements from key officials and articles from news sources—that reinforce these beliefs, the irrational outcome of conflict can become a rational “least-bad” solution. Neither country wants the other misinterpreting its actual intentions, but it’s easy to project threatening messages in the name of maintaining effective deterrence without realizing the long-term implications deterrence has on perceptions of the United States. It’s easy to resort to hardline solutions as a short-term band-aid to a problem, but it’s also important to look at the long-term implications. Perhaps, with a new discourse, we can and will reach a common ground. 





by Eric Shaw

THE NEWSROOM & AMERICAN NOSTALGIA

ROBERT COLLINS

This summer, a three minute YouTube clip labeled “The most honest three and a half minutes of television, EVER...” popped up on my newsfeed. Normally, something with such a dumb title wouldn’t warrant a second look, but I saw Jeff Daniels’ face in the preview image and realized it was a segment from Aaron Sorkin’s new HBO drama, “The Newsroom.” Yes, the man who brought us “The West Wing,” wrote the screenplay for *The Social Network*, and has grown famous for his fast-talking, fast-walking scenes is back. I had heard mixed reactions to the show; critics were frustrated by it, but many of my friends loved it. I decided to watch this clip to see if it could pique my interest. Instead, it pissed me off.

The first half of the clip features a young woman who stands up and asks a panel, “Why is America the greatest country in the world?” This pushes snarky anchor Will McAvoy (Sorkin’s ideological stand-in on the show, played by Jeff Daniels) to launch into a monologue about why America is not, in fact, such a great country. He fires out statistics at a frenetic pace, and gives the clip’s title some credibility. Then, he loses it.

He starts off by referring to the young woman’s generation as the, “Worst, period, generation, period, ever. Period.” The irony was clearly lost on those who were sharing this clip on Facebook. The people who were advocating this as “truth,” and making comments like, “Couldn’t agree more,”

For those on the left, this means talking about Clinton or Kennedy. For those on the right, it’s all Reagan, all the time. In every case, it is implied that America used to be better and that our fathers did it better than us. For them, this strategy works perfectly—political and patriotic nostalgia like this sells just as well as sex does. But let me pause to call bullshit on this whole notion. America has never been as good as we like to think.

After devoting the first half of his speech to more concrete facts, “The Newsroom”’s McAvoy begins speaking in vague generalities about the America of the past. These generalities, seemingly straight from his imagination, prove mostly untrue and border on offensive, ripe with contradictions and hypocrisy. He says that in the past, “we stood up for what was right.” Like what? Civil rights? Took us long enough. And even when they were recognized as law, more than half the country opposed them with fierce bitterness. Amid soft, inspirational music, McAvoy wistfully refers to a time when we “acted like men.” Feminism and women be damned. Grab a bottle of scotch and a gun, and get cracking on the world’s problems. The most blatantly false line comes when he laments that, “we didn’t scare so easy.” What the hell was communism? It was literally called the “Red Scare.” Americans were so paranoid that they mistook their school desks for bomb shelters.

Every era has its problems, yet every era’s people think the one before theirs was the best one. Nostalgia is as American as apple pie and baseball. Mention anything from the 90s around our generation and we start gushing over early “NOW” CDs and cartoons. Jon Stewart provides an eloquent explanation (and I’m paraphrasing): “it’s because we were fucking kids.” You can’t get through thirty minutes of a speech or editorial newscast without hearing, “When I was kid...”

Memory isn’t a bad thing, and is necessary for us to understand our current state, but it becomes dangerous when we start glossing over the ugly spots. This is what makes “The Newsroom” so maddening. One of Sorkin’s main satirical targets throughout the show is the cable news cycle, and his critique of the media hits the nail on the head. The show depicts the way that different media outlets often argue with one another without saying anything of substance. It also accurately captures and critiques how the media quickly moves on from important issues to the most interesting news piece of the day, or how certain outlets perpetuate false information. In these aspects, “The Newsroom” is reminiscent of the Daily Show, but with much more plot.

However, the show fails to criticize the past or examine how our media got to this point—in other words, the show’s critique hinges solely on Sorkin’s opinion of what the news should be. Sorkin is addressing real problems, but his analysis falls into the

“Every era has its problems, yet every era’s people think the one before theirs was the best one. Nostalgia is as American as apple pie and baseball.”

are the ones being insulted. We are being insulted.

Here lies a typical generation gap and a classic case of blind American nostalgia. Far too many people subscribe to the idea that America used to be better than it is now, that the way our country and our people acted was superior to the way we currently act. Politicians and members of the media alike love to invoke the past in order connect with their audience.

McAvoy continues the speech by belittling many current accomplishments, as if everything good in the world happened before 1970. He says we “made ungodly technological inventions, explored the universe, cured diseases.” That is true—but it implies that we have ceased to do those things. What about today’s advanced computers, the Curiosity rover, and breakthroughs in cancer research?

same trap of American nostalgia as do the media practices it condemns. In its inconsistency, it loses its credibility.

As Will McAvoy says in the final part of his speech, “The first step in solving any problem is recognizing there is one.” Let’s recognize the difference between remembering our past and analyzing it. The former involves selectivity and self-denial, while the latter involves objectivity and honesty. Which one sounds better? 📺

take *a* toke of liberty



by Archie and Mr. Wilson

Clouds of smoke drift above the hills of Boston Common, announcing the annual arrival of the Boston Freedom Rally—more bluntly known as Hempfest. As rays of sunlight beam through the lingering smoke, I find myself next to a group of four zombies. They drool on themselves, swaying slowly, their faces pressed to the grass and their eyes closed, detached from reality—definitely the consequence of drugs stronger than marijuana. On the distant stage, a faceless MC passionately reminds us: “Utilize your high.”

I light up a joint, throw on my sepia-tinted Wayfarers, and embrace the orgasmic future before me in this complete cultural immersion. Behind me, some teenager rants anxiously about how he’s “de-particalizing.”

His friends try to calm him down. Sure—some people here might be on more psychedelic substances than others, but that doesn’t negate what we all came for: to support the legalization of marijuana. Or, maybe we all just want to get high.

Today, Hempfest’s good people—or bad, depending on your moral posture—all push and bend the law. The police, typically the stoner’s greatest enemy, don’t lay a finger on us, as there are simply too many people for them to make arrests and issue fines. They realize that their resources are better spent limiting Hempfest to the Common. Two officers ride horses at the edge of the grounds, containing the festivities. The boys in blue contract their neck muscles, fighting the temptation to turn and witness the unlawful sight before them. I wander

near one of Boston’s finest and watch his eyes closely. He passes me as if I’m invisible. Ironically, on this day, the sober people are the ones most detached from the reality occurring on the Common.

The police continue to guard the edges. If weed were dangerously obliterating our sense of reality, they might intervene. They must know it’s safe. So, if they’re willing to accept the harmless mischief today, why not tomorrow? Why fine and detain the taxed college student smoking a bowl at the end of the night to blow off some steam? I figure the protesters might have some answers.

I turn back towards the stage as an activist shouts, “Because of you, weed’s going to be legalized. Because of you, no one’s getting arrested today.” She’s referring

to the Massachusetts Medical Marijuana Initiative, more simply known as Question 3. The initiative will appear on the ballot on November 6 of this year; marijuana was already decriminalized in Massachusetts in 2008. If this initiative is passed, medical marijuana will be legalized in the state. This initiative might lead to similar consequences to the ones we see happening in California. There, most pot smokers find it hysterically effortless to obtain a medical marijuana card. (“Doc, I have lower back pain and nothing seems to relieve it.”) Whether or not it becomes this easy to get a smoker’s license, today’s protesters make one thing clear: passing Question 3 would only bring us closer to the overarching goal of recreational marijuana tolerance.

As shallow as it seems, I can’t help but feel a bizarre sense of communal freedom. Sure, most of us might be at Hempfest to get high; but realistically, how many countries would allow this? Marijuana might not yet be recreationally legalized—we’re


not quite as progressive as the Dutch—but doesn’t Boston have a suitable enough lenience to it already? Even if one day toking together may seem to be trivial freedom, it is still a freedom nonetheless.

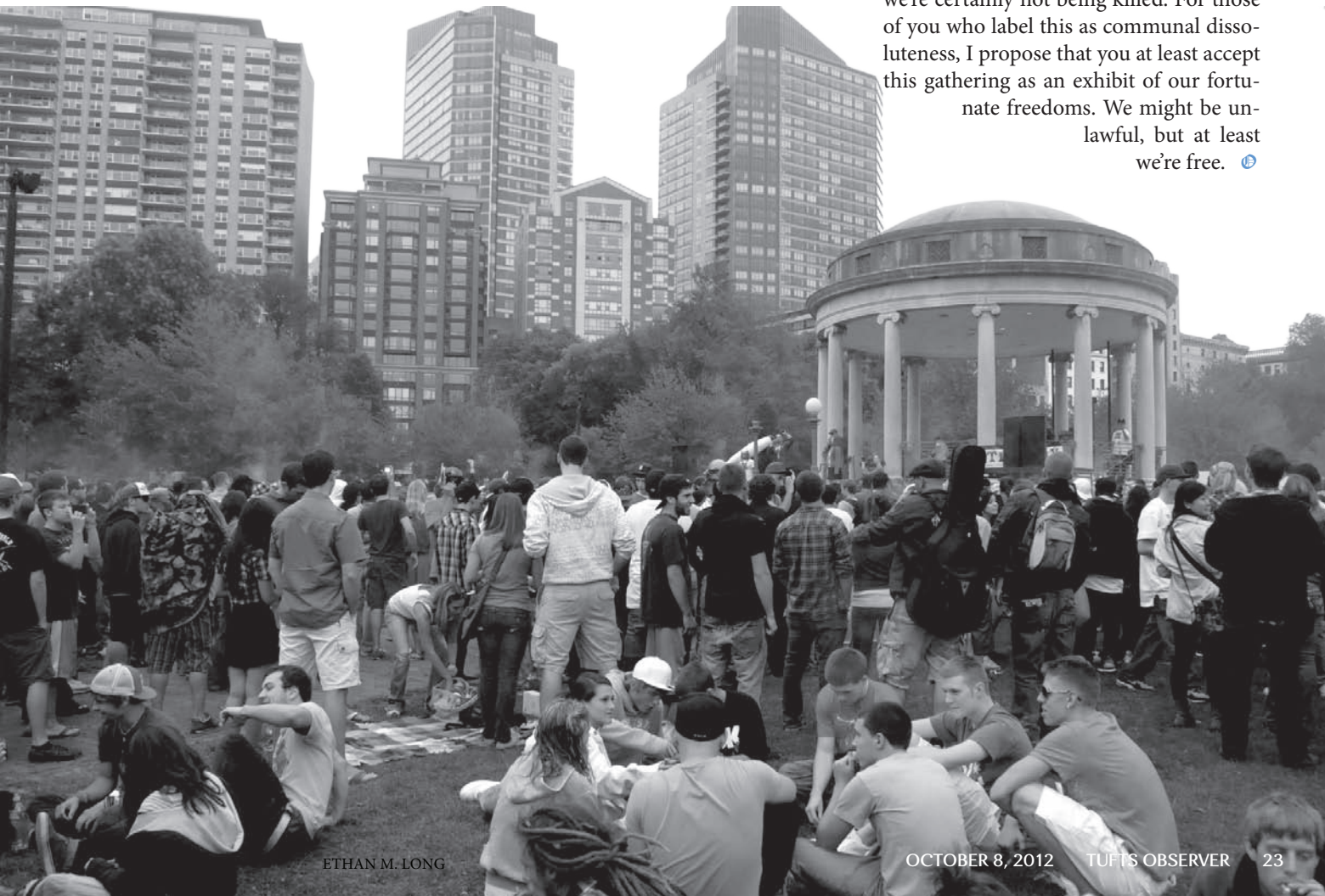
I can’t help but feel that today’s events are an incredible representation of our American freedom. It’s not perfect, but comparatively speaking, it’s incredible. This is a cultural moment where we can express our visions of what the law should allow. While smoking weed may still be illegal—even more so in other states—we still have this capacity to influence.

At nineteen minutes past the hour, the crowd begins a 4:20 countdown like it’s New Year’s Eve. On my left, a suspect man in a heavy coat pulls out a cross-blunt. To my right, another character with a pointed goatee strolls by in a black velvet suit and red top hat, carrying a walking stick. Psychedelic tapestries blow in the wind. Two teenagers devour fried dough over-sprinkled with powdered sugar. The countdown reaches zero and a huge cloud of smoke

escapes into the air as the motley crowd sparks up their 4:20 joints.

I continue to coast through the crowd and consider the culture that I’m plunging into. Is this whole affair just an empty pursuit of jubilation? Is pot the alluring flower that sinks us into a state of artificial bliss and perpetual laziness? Perhaps it does for many of these attendees, but the opposite effect is equally possible. What if marijuana sparks new paradigms, enhances creativity, and promotes communal celebration?

Maybe these questions are not as momentous as the burning symbol of American freedom that glows in Boston today. I imagine that a couple miles away, some anxious mothers smell the fragrance and misconstrue it as joint fatuousness. However, this gathering is nothing but a reminder of our American virtues. As unlikely as it is, how would a military state or dictatorship respond to a festival of this nature? With malicious subjugation, no doubt. Yet, we’re not being beaten and we’re certainly not being killed. For those of you who label this as communal dissolution, I propose that you at least accept this gathering as an exhibit of our fortunate freedoms. We might be unlawful, but at least we’re free. 



street food fusion

By Rebecca Sinai

Chef Duy (pronounced DooWee) Tran, 24, is no newcomer to excellent experimental cuisine. The owner of recently opened DooWee & Rice in Somerville, Tran has been working—and cooking—in the Boston area for years. After attending Le Cordon Bleu, he worked as a personal chef and then at Wonder Bar where he began to entertain

the idea of opening his own space. This idea has come to fruition in the form of DooWee & Rice.

Located at 868 Broadway (formerly the home of East Asia), the restaurant's unique name originates from the phonetic spelling of Tran's first name and his specialty of unique rice dishes. I had my first taste of the new spot less than two weeks after it opened its doors to the public. The brand new restaurant already feels like a Somerville staple, with elephant vases on every table and wonderful aromas escaping through the kitchen into the small dining room.

Tran, who is a fan of both break dancing and blogging, is of Vietnamese descent, and this serves as his culinary jumping-off point. DooWee & Rice offers several Vietnamese classics, such as Vietnamese Squid Salad and Homemade Vietnamese Eggrolls. However, dishes are not limited to traditional Vietnamese fare. Tran calls his restaurant a “small fusion test kitchen” because he infuses all different types of

cuisine into his recipes, creating unique dishes like spicy Hunan shrimp baos and spicy ginger essence salsa with wonton chips.

This fusion-style model allows Tran to cook “whatever [he] want[s] to make” with “whatever is fresh,” so that patrons can always have seasonal and original fare. He also emphasized that he does not use any added salt in his dishes.

Tran recommended that I try the basic and popular Steak and Rice, at \$9. As he headed back to the kitchen to prepare the dish, which he custom-made to accommodate my nut allergy, I was brought a cup of the Limited Fresh Seafood Soup, \$5, made with Tran's own mother's recipe. The cup was filled with shrimp, crab, eggs, quail eggs, squid, and mushrooms, along with a light and tasty broth.

Tran joined me as I enjoyed my Steak and Rice and described the two sauces drizzled over the steak—“great white” yogurt sauce and Vietnamese Chimichurri sauce. The ingredients were fresh, the steak was tender, and the personalized service and neighborhood feel were unbeatable.

The menu at DooWee & Rice is constantly changing, although some of the most popular (and simple) dishes—including his Chicken & Rice, Steak & Rice, and Crispy Chicken Hearts—will stay put for the foreseeable future. There is a 10% discount for college students and late hours on Friday nights, perfect for grabbing a bite after a long night at the Pub—or Tisch. DooWee & Rice also delivers within a one-mile radius. ☺



fuel our future

by audrey dunn

OFF
CAMPUS



GRIFFIN QUASEBARTH

It has recently come to my attention that aquariums, history museums, science museums, and other such places seem to have fallen off the face of the earth. Where have they gone? Did something drastic happen to them, causing their extinction?

Following some rather extensive research on Google, I found that they are, in fact, still around. It is my forced exposure to them, via elementary school field trips and family outings, which has vanished. Imagine then my surprise when I rode the T to Science Park and found the wonderful Museum of Science right here in Boston. I was also surprised by its massive scope; the museum holds exhibits ranging from butterflies, to X-rays, to deep explorations of time, sight, and smell. *Energize!*, an exhibit devoted to investigating renewable resources right here in Massachusetts, especially caught my attention.

Energize! is comprised of several interactive stations that address topics such as solar energy and other recent energy innovations (cow manure as fuel, anyone?), as well as the tradeoff between renewable and nonrenewable sources. As a visitor, you can learn about each resource or issue by reading the presented information or by having it read to you by a friendly woman through headphones (for those of us who are a little lazy, under the age of five, or both).

Each station also has user-friendly, hands-on activities, and informative models that show how these resources work. For example, when learning about wind turbines, you can spin mini-gears to create energy, exemplifying how the turbines more efficiently turn mechanical energy into electrical energy in real life. At the same wind station, you can track how many kilowatts of energy the museum's Wind Lab's seven turbines have made that day and over their lifetimes. Also, there is information available on the installation of similar turbines all over Massachusetts. This includes data on turbines' efficiency, monetary and environmental costs, installation technology, and level of acceptance by the community.

One very popular station at the exhibit is an interactive map of Massachusetts showing businesses and homes that utilize renewable energy sources for at least some of their electricity needs. The user is able to choose the year they want to see and can zoom in or out on a particular area of the state. Starting in 2003 and making his or her way into 2012, the

user can see the proliferation of sites that use at least some sort of renewable energy in Massachusetts. I checked up on Tufts' progress, only to find that it essentially hasn't had any.

There is also a station devoted to energy innovations such as the electrical equalizer, a flywheel system that stores excess energy to be released when needed and results in a more efficient electrical grid. Another station is devoted to extraterrestrial energy, which is still being researched by the NASA Glenn Research Center.

If renewable energy really isn't your thing, the Museum of Science also has much more to offer: exhibits on live animals, nanotechnology, and cosmic light, as well as an IMAX theater. This museum is a stop Tufts students should visit at least once before graduation. ☺

the museum of science

location	green line science park stop
hours	9 a.m. to 5 p.m. sat. - thurs. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. fri.
cost	\$22 per adult, free for members



Solstice

By Jonathan Dutko

[MAN enters, stage left. Nude; jaw square; back straight; shoulders broad, with powerful arms stretching in each direction, encompassing everything. He emerges triumphant, fingers extended, fanned out from open and massive palms. He is beautiful, dark, Perfection Itself, as his massive feet are planted front and center stage. No terrestrial light necessary here: his halo should do just fine.]

MAN: In the beginning, there was nothing. The Universe in Her entirety spun on the axis of Time with precision but without meaning. Each sun rose and set over its Everything for billions of years, to the agony of silence. The winds blew and the stars burnt themselves out; oceans boiled into nothing and galaxies were swallowed whole, and all the while the Universe stood, anxious, chewing Her filthy nails, waiting for the audience to show up. [Eyes narrow, anticipatory; a predatory grin. In a turn, he circles the proscenium under his sweeping arms.]

The whole of Everything was chaos: unseen, unfelt, massively clumsy, and ultimately forgotten by those who could not be charged to remember. Pointless, countless beings, who lived to die, to feed, to mulch and to kill again. Untold worlds became stages set for puppets pulled along by the marionette strings of biology. And still! No audience.

Our home was such a stage, once. Our people were once mannequins wrapped in man-flesh. *[Pointing, now, into the audience]* You, sir, who have seen our Sun rise golden and set crimson, and all in between! Or you, sir, who have watched our great ships sail across the dual voids of Time and Space! All of you, you watchers, you seekers, you planters-of-flags and you champions of war on now dead worlds. *[Arms forward, beckoning]* Where did you come from? How, from the abyss, did you emerge? Why were you, of all things great and small in this Universe, why were you wrenched so painfully from the clockwork called the “natural course of life”?

[Grin widens. Revealed: a glistening pair of pearl canines] Do you not understand, friends and neighbors? Look deep. Listen closely to the whispers of the soul. Do you not hear it? Your very Reason sings Itself in the weave of your existence, and yet you still do not see? *[Voice building]* It is written on your very bones! Your nerves are tuned to its melody. Strain your ears, brothers! Catch the faint, unheard sounds of Perception bubbling over Reality; your burden is written in the froth.

[A pause. Arms drop, slung limp. A hand reaches to his face as his smile fades, contemplative, and he turns from the audience, not necessarily away but certainly out.]

Ah. But perhaps the language is foreign. Perhaps you have forgotten the words that are chanted to you from within. That is okay. You were not charged to remember.

And we all need to be coaxed, once and again.

The Life and Times of a Subterranean

BY DIANE WEGGE

Clusters of humans gather behind the yellow line
headphones pushed into ears,
tunnel-vision engaged with phone screens—
together but silent.

A frail, Asian immigrant man
is looking through the crowd.
He drags a dry bow
across the strings of his violin.

Screeching, still romantic.

A leaky pipe dripping overhead adds soft percussion,
contributing another drop to a small pool
collecting in a dank corner.

Rounding a corner,
the train lights shine in the tunnel.

Humans scurry down escalator stairs;
space between bodies behind the yellow line
begins to shrink.

Morning commuters,
noses buried.
Books and newspapers do the trick.

Lights beam,
steady; they blaze straight ahead
staring the crowd in the face.

A wall of wind comes on like a gust;
the procession of cars cling, whistle on their rails.

As the train rolls to a stop,
the humming, buzzing crowd swells behind the yellow line,
pushing, slinking in front of one another.

The doors slide open.
In a matter of seconds, the cars are populated.
The doors slide closed in orchestration
and the train blazes forward.



Mitt Romney gets a spray tan to appeal to Latino voters.

CROSSWORD

by Lindsey Kellogg

The key will be posted
online at tuftsoobserver.org

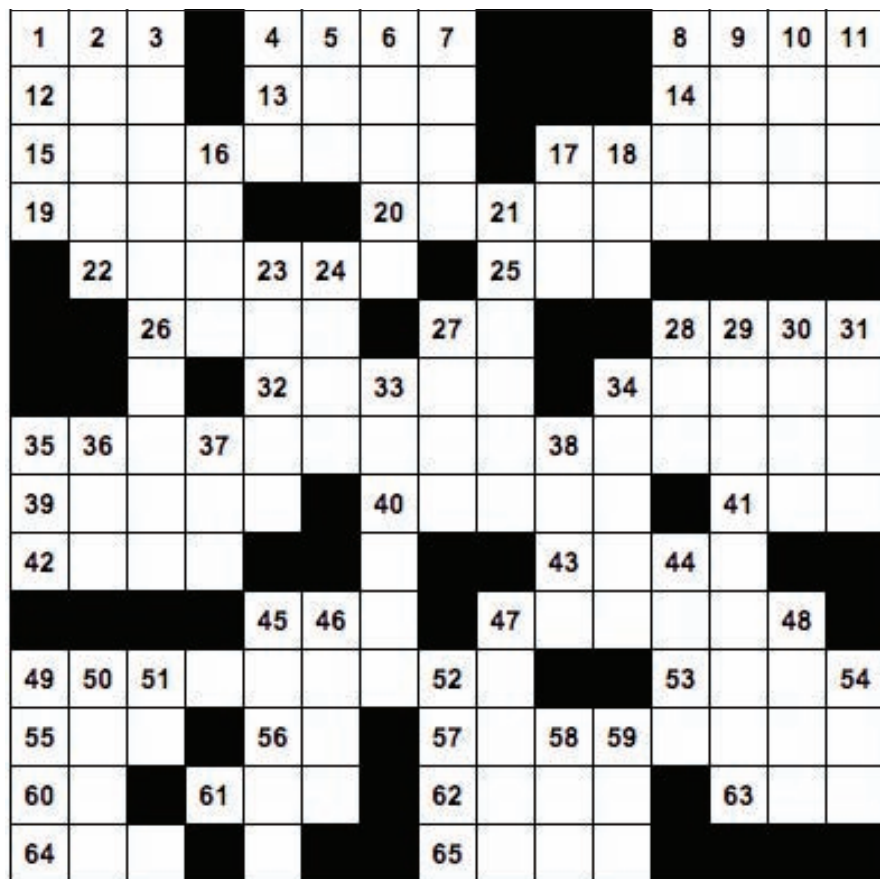
ACROSS

1. buddy, guy
4. two four-letter words, shortened
8. you do it to unclean things
12. pitcher stat.
13. a sigh of relief, or, a very small battery size
14. where does one go to see exotic animals?

15. adverb to describe a mistake, especially if you are quite posh
17. one's viewpoint
19. saucily free and forward
20. where off-campus students might study
22. possible summer camp activity
25. Australian isl.

26. engineering majs. who have no lives
27. common college dilemma: "what do I want to --?"
28. member of a certain female a capella group
32. some free music applications
34. Academy Award winner Meryl's daughter
35. many a music-minded kid wants to be a member of one
39. will this weather phenomenon have hit by publication?
40. opposite of boy, on Long Island
41. French article
42. Indian pueblo name
43. controversial meat type
45. cute ghostly word
47. where off-campus hipsters might study
49. exceptionally tall flora type
53. many non-straight
55. its function is a conjunction
56. Israeli author Amos
57. follows the norms
60. one great plains state's initials
61. he owns a trolley
62. greeting to one's mother
63. a type of student exercise
64. Leonardo in Inception
65. Thor's dad

7. 7th great iteration of Katherine
8. possible typo of "what up"
9. states from opposite ends of the south (in initials)
10. it comes with a twin but often loses it
11. garden tools
16. object
17. a Mrs. in Mexico
18. TV channel with many types of programs
21. had some tofu
23. remove rodents
24. _ou're _o _amn _ice
27. abbreviated term for New York's sections
28. poke
29. "Completely ready to listen!"
30. it crosses a graph
31. common lights
33. "If I had glowsticks, --- ----."
34. a Miss Emerson, in Marseille
35. JFK's bro
36. extracted through mining
37. a Jumbo from Seoul might join this (abbr.)
38. Strauss of the jeans world
44. "-- you -- go to bed tonight..."
45. HBO's True ----
46. verb for sludge
47. not an iPhone
48. disease Tufts emails warn of
49. itty bitty rock bits
50. make as if it never happened
51. 90's ska band initials
52. cave noise
54. snowboarding video game
58. mi. used by sailors
59. Korean --- death



DOWN

1. Easter treat
2. a stop, in Strasbourg
3. 2016ers probably don't know his name
4. Diego of SoCal
5. bit of cardboard on a shirt
6. beginning of a Dwight meme





TUFTS OBSERVER
SINCE 1895

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PLEASE RECYCLE

