

Visiting the Hill this week

MONDAY

Fletcher IBGC Speaker Series: Theodore Forbath

Details: Global Vice President of Innovation Strategy at frog, a design and innovation company, Theo Forbath will speak about his experience in improving modern technology to fit human needs.

When and Where: 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.; Mugar Hall

Sponsors: Institute for Business in the Global Context (IBGC)

Lyon & Bendheim Alumni Lecture featuring Scott Urdang (A '71)

Details: Scott Urdang, Tufts alumnus and founder and chairman of Urdang Capital Management, Inc., will speak about creating a successful real estate investment strategy.

When and Where: 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Alumnae Hall

Sponsors: Tufts University Alumni Association, Tufts Gordon Institute and Tufts Entrepreneurial Leadership Program.

SILA

Details: The Underground Railway Theater will read a new play entitled "SILA" which covers the impact of climate change on a cast of eight characters living on Baffin Island. The play features three spoken languages: French, English and Inuktitut.

When and Where: 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.; ASEAN auditorium

Sponsor: Tufts Institute for the Environment, the Environmental Studies Program, the Peace and Justice Studies Program, the Department of Drama and Dance, the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy, Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service and the Toupin-Bolwell Fund for the Arts.

WEDNESDAY

Friends of Tufts Libraries Author Talk

featuring Weiping Wu

Details: Professor Weiping Wu, chair of the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning and senior fellow at the Center for Emerging Market Enterprises at the Fletcher School, will speak about the changing nature of the Chinese city. She writes about this change, as well as issues relating to the Chinese economy, society and environment, in her latest book, "The Chinese City."

When and Where: 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Hirsh Reading Room

Sponsors: Friends of Tufts Libraries and Tufts Bookstore.

THURSDAY

Public Diplomacy in the Middle East: Challenges from Desert Storm to beyond Tahrir Square

Details: Ambassador William A. Rugh, who served in the U.S. Foreign Service with the United States Information Agency (USIA) and the Department of State, will host a lecture and Q&A session on the role of public diplomacy in the Middle East.

When and Where: 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.; Cabot Intercultural Center

Sponsors: The Fletcher Diplomacy Club

Unlearning Violence: Evidence and Policies for Early Childhood Development and Peace

Details: This two-day, interdisciplinary conference will feature research on childhood development and its relationship with violence and peace. Steven Pinker of Harvard University's Department of Psychology and Daniel Dennett from Tufts' Center for Cognitive Studies will open the event, which will continue into Friday afternoon.

When and Where: 5 p.m.; ASEAN Auditorium

Sponsors: World Peace Foundation

—compiled by Daniel Bottino and Abigail Feldman



ANNIE WERMIEL / TUFTS DAILY ARCHIVES

The Tufts Educational Day Care Center is investigating reports of a teacher's inappropriate verbal and physical misconduct.

Tufts Day Care investigates inappropriate behavior

BY ANNABELLE ROBERTS
Daily Editorial Board

Tufts Educational Day Care Center (TEDCC) is currently involved in an ongoing investigation of a teacher at the center who engaged in inappropriate behavior with children.

According to Director of Public Relations Kim Thurler, the allegations are not for sexual misconduct or abuse, but for other inappropriate physical and verbal misconduct that was reported through the staff in late January.

"The conduct that has raised concerns involves actions such as poking children and holding their faces, as well as use of an inappropriate tone, demeanor, word

choice and vocal volume in communications with children," Thurler told the Daily in an email.

TEDCC Director Polly Smith, in an email to the TEDCC community, informed those involved with the center that the teacher has been removed from the classroom until the investigation is finished.

"Please be assured that we will be looking at this matter thoroughly to make sure that we have identified any and all conduct of concern, and we will take corrective action as appropriate," Smith said.

Tufts University reported the behavior to the Massachusetts Department of

see **INVESTIGATION**, page 2



ALEXANDER KNAPP / THE TUFTS DAILY

Members of the Tufts community gather in remembrance of Anne Heyman, a friend of Tufts Hillel who died in a horseback riding accident on Friday, Jan. 31. Heyman was instrumental in organizing the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda, a school for orphans of the Rwanda Genocide, and helped create the Moral Voices program at Tufts Hillel.

Tufts Idea Exchange to host fifth idea symposium

BY JUSTIN RHEINGOLD
Daily Editorial Board

The Tufts Idea Exchange (TEX), which will hold its fifth idea symposium on April 9, is currently accepting applications for potential student speakers.

The application deadline is Feb. 11, according to TEX co-president Kit McDonnell. She explained that the application is a google form that asks students to explain their ideas in creative ways.

"We have a written online application that asks a series of questions to kind of get people to formulate their idea because a lot of these can be very abstract," McDonnell, a sophomore, said. "We have kind of quirky questions. One of them is 'What's the takeaway?' and for one of them you have to pitch your idea in an elevator in 60 seconds."

After the TEX applications are received, a committee of student organizers will then

review them and interview the candidates with the most interesting proposals, according to Tony Cannistra, the other co-president of TEX.

"We read your application, we interview the ones we find interesting and then, once we select the speakers, we spend a month and a half coaching them on their idea," Cannistra, a junior, said. "We walk them through their presentation [and] we walk them through their speaking skills, so we really devote a lot of time to these ideas and to the people who have them."

The committee will ultimately select eight students to speak for 10-15 minutes on a topic of their choice, according to McDonnell. These students will join two additional speakers, a professor and either an alumni or a graduate student. McDonnell noted that previous presentations have been extremely diverse and wide-ranging.

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Pilot program to provide iPads to select Tufts courses.



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Kanye West's album "The College Dropout" remains relevant after ten years.



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TCU Senate update

The Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate announced the selection of new senators during its weekly meeting in the Sophia Gordon Multipurpose Room yesterday evening.

TCU President Joe Thibodeau, a senior, announced that juniors Gordon Silverman and Robert Joseph would begin serving as junior class senators immediately. Additionally, junior Andrew Nuñez will begin serving as the Latino community representative and senior Grainne Griffiths will begin serving as the Women's Center community representative.

"This position has usually been filled by very strong members of the community, and I hope to continue that trend," Nuñez said when Thibodeau announced his selection.

According to Joseph, no elections were held as all of the positions were uncontested. He explained that both a junior and a senior senate seat were open, but because no senior submitted enough signatures to be placed on a ballot, the seat fell to the junior class, allowing him and Silverman to avoid a head-to-head election.

Freshman Jessica Howard, junior Solana Davis and freshman Arturo Muñoz were named to the committee that will be selecting the school's next Chief Diversity Officer, according to Thibodeau. He also announced that he will serve as a student representative on the Strategic Planning Committee for the remainder of the school year.

Senators met briefly with the new members of the Committee on Student Life (CSL), who said that they will be monitoring on-campus religious groups and the chaplaincy this semester. Some of the policy changes which these religious bodies have proposed were then reviewed. The Trustee Representatives, who met with the Board of Trustees over the weekend discussed the reception of their venture projects.



CAROLINE GEILING / THE TUFTS DAILY

TCU President Joe Thibodeau (center) and other senators deliberated at a meeting last November. Last night, senate members discussed a proposal supporting adding an education major to Tufts' offerings.

During the Treasury Report, the Senate heard from a group of students who are sponsoring a ski and snowboard trip to the slopes of New Hampshire this semester. The Senate granted the group \$1316.26 by a 24-0-1 vote, and also voted unanimously to grant \$250 to Autism Speaks U. Other allocations included \$556 for the staging of "The Vagina Monologues" this weekend, \$212 for the newly revitalized group Tufts Health Advocates and \$696 for the South Asian Literary and Art Magazine (SALAAM).

The improvisational comedy troupe Cheap Sox, who recently qualified for the College Improv National Championships in Chicago after winning the New England Regionals for the first time in its history, were granted \$1,960 by a 20-5-0 vote. The Tufts Quidditch Team, which will be competing in the Quidditch World Cup in Myrtle Beach, SC in April, was granted \$3,453.45 by a 24-0-1 vote.

The Senate then debated a proposed resolution which would add a new education major to the school curriculum. The resolution cited a recent survey indicating that, "69.4% of undergraduates believed a major in education would be worthwhile to the Tufts community," and said that the major would be a positive asset for students considering careers as teachers. The resolution was tabled and will be reviewed again at a later date.

The Senate concluded its session with an announcement of several upcoming events. These include an ice skating trip in Kendall Square this Saturday hosted by the Latino Center, the Asian American Center's communal game of Jeopardy this Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Sophia Gordon Multipurpose Room and "Tufts Black Student Union Presents Rhythm and Voices," an open-mic event which will take place in Hotung Caf his Thursday at 9 p.m.

—by Josh Weiner

TEDCC renews commitment to children amid investigation

INVESTIGATION

continued from page 1

Children and Families (DCF) and the center's licensing agency, Early Education and Care (EEC), Thurler said. The DCF may hold an investigation of the incident in addition to the ongoing investigation by Tufts.

According to Thurler, TEDCC offers a year-round early childhood education program for children who are between two years and nine months old through kindergarten-age. The curriculum focuses on offering individualized attention to the developmental needs of the children.

TEDCC is located in Somerville on Holland Avenue near the Medford/Somerville undergraduate campus.

According to a Tufts student who travels to TEDCC on a weekly basis for the Leonard Carmichael Society program Special Friends, there are a variety of ways students at Tufts are involved with the center. Around 80 students are on the e-list for Special Friends, and students also have the opportunity to work in paid positions as temporary teachers.

Special Friends was started in 1986 and partners adults and children for a few hours every week in order to build a relationship that benefits the child, according to the TEDCC website.

"There are always teachers around when you are there playing with the kids, so if they see something inappropriate they are most definitely going to tell you," the Special Friends volunteer, who preferred to remain anonymous for the article, said.

Before participating in the classroom visits, Special Friends volunteers are required to undergo an orientation educating appropriate behavior and conduct, the volunteer said.

"In September or October of last year they did an orientation for us and there were a lot of forms," she said. "Basically it was just like, 'No peanuts and no inappropriate clothing.' It sounded pretty standard."

The volunteer said she was unaware of the inappropriate conduct by a teacher at the center before receiving the email, and has not heard discussion about the behavior since the email was sent out.

"They didn't say anything to us except for sending us the email," the Special Friends volunteer said. "Which makes sense because the kids are there and the parents are around."

The center is deliberately attempting to continue its operations as usual, Thurler said.

"The dedicated staff at TEDCC are continuing to serve the children as they always have, and our goal is to minimize disruption to the children, families and the center," she said.

In addition to the email sent to those Tufts students involved with TEDCC, the parents of children at the center were also informed of the inappropriate conduct, according to Thurler.

"We have informed parents whose children attend the center of the investigation and our continued commitment to their children," she said.

Smith promised the TEDCC community that they would receive continued notification throughout the investigation.

"We will continue to update you as we learn more about next steps and will endeavor to provide these updates to you in a timely fashion," she said.

Thurler stressed the importance of maintaining quality care for the children at the center despite the incident.

"Our first priority is the well-being of the children entrusted to us," she said.

Organizers seek diverse, unconventional ideas from applicants

IDEAS

continued from page 1

"Tufts is turning out all of these different crazy ideas and interests," she said. "We have people talking about colonizing Mars and the social implications to why you should reach out to someone you don't really know ... to the implications of using silk in biomedical engineering. Tufts is such a wonderful amalgamation of these different types of people and opinions."

Cannistra explained that each senior who presented last year spoke about a topic other than that on which they based their senior thesis.

"All of the seniors who spoke, of which there [was] a majority — none of them talked about their senior thesis topics," he said. "They all wrote senior theses and they all had another thing they were really devoted [to] and passionate about. For me, it's a showcase of the university's diversity in ideas and sort of the way that students here and faculty here can really break out of their shells."

The primary goal of TEX is to engage and inspire people with a new idea, Cannistra said.

"The goal is to be inspirational and to be thoughtful and engaging," he said. "It's less about delivering information and more about engaging people with an idea. And that's why people are so drawn to them ... they are sort of easy bite-size things to chew on."

According to Cannistra, TEX was first founded in 2011 to provide a forum for members of the Tufts community to share their unique ideas with one another. Cannistra said that TEX is funded by the Institute for Global Leadership's (IGL) Synaptic Scholars Program as a night for sharing ideas.

McDonnell explained that TEX was styled after TEDx, a global series of inspiring and educational speeches. However,



COURTESY KIT MCDONNELL

Students pack ASEAN auditorium during last spring's Tufts Idea Exchange symposium.

rather than bring TEDx to campus, organizers chose to keep the event more Tufts-focused, she said.

"It's the Tufts version of TED talks," she said. "The reason we don't do a TEDx is you have to stream it from different places ... plus, we want to make it Tufts-centric."

Senior Michael Grant, one of last year's TEX participants, spoke about why students should listen to more Nickelback. He said the experience was rewarding and educational.

"I was interested in what shapes our music tastes and how we can sort of break

out of certain cultural pressures to feel certain things about music," Grant said. "It was a really great experience to be able to learn from my friends and peers ... It sort of opened up a whole new world for me in that people were generally interested in hearing each other's ideas."

Features

tuftsdaily.com

iPad pilot program expands faculty, classroom technology use

BY JESSICA MOW
Daily Editorial Board

Students use iPads to watch movies, download apps and listen to music on the go, and now Tufts has begun to incorporate this mobile technology into the classroom. Tufts Educational & Scholarly Technology Services (ESTS), a university-wide service group that assists faculty in their use of technology, recently launched the iPads for Education Pilot to give faculty the opportunity to incorporate iPads into their curricula.

The iPads for Education Pilot program (iPad Pilot) began in the fall of 2012, according to Senior Education Technology Specialist Haejung Chung, who has helped coordinate the program.

"We intentionally recruited just faculty only, and they took a semester to look into what this tool can do for them in terms of teaching," Chung said.

After incorporating faculty members, the pilot program has now expanded to include full classes of students. According to Chung and Interim Director of ESTS Sheryl Barnes, 80 iPads are available for student use and are loaned to classes for the entire semester. After applying, three or four small classes of 15 or fewer students are chosen to participate. The application process is not extremely limited, but does pose some restrictions.

"[Professors] have to have a strong reason for using iPads, [which] meets their learning objectives and goals," Chung said.

According to Chung and Barnes, interested professors must submit a proposal to the iPad Pilot before the semester begins. The iPad Pilot staff then bases its decisions on the professor's goals and the class size.

"Once we get through those two rounds, usually we ... don't have more than a couple [of] classes that we can't accommodate," Barnes said.

Chung, who launched the iPad Exploration Program at Loyola Marymount University before coming to Tufts, said her previous experience was helpful in kick-starting this project.

"At the time [when I arrived at Tufts], I guess there was no initiative that looks at specifically mobile learning, so it was a good time to think about ... doing some sort of tangible project that would help introduce this concept of mobile learning," she said.

Other schools, like Duke University, also loan iPads to faculty and students in select classes. In addition, some schools have created one-to-one programs in which every student receives an iPad and the cost is included in tuition, according to Chung and Barnes. These programs have been seen not only at the college level, but in medical schools and high schools as well. For example, Burlington Public Schools in Massachusetts implemented a one-to-one program using money from their existing budget, according to apple.com.

Assistant Professor of History Alisha Rankin said she uses iPads to improve access to rare texts in her course, "The History of the Book." The devices also help her obtain student feedback through polling applications.

"Ironically, the technology allows us to access the actual readings a little bit better than we can in class because we can all look at the same thing, which I think is really nice," she said.

Students can access PDFs of traditional textbooks and download apps that may provide access to uncommon texts.

"One of the museums at Harvard put out this little app of an anatomi-



GYFJONAS VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

While most students have their own laptops, iPads are not as common in the classroom. The new pilot program, however, has provided 80 iPads for students to use in select courses at Tufts.

cal text from the 16th century where you could actually lift up little parts to see the inside of the body," Rankin said. "But there's an app ... for it where you can just click and the little bits move away."

Rankin uses the application called "Poll Everywhere" to collect information from her students about the readings, she explained.

"I used to do this little thing at the beginning of class called 'confession time,' in which students told me what they had focused on and what they hadn't," she said. "But this allows me to do it anonymously ... I don't know who wrote what, so I just get a sense of what people have read in the class and what they liked the best."

Nancy Gleason, a Fletcher School affiliate who teaches "Water Policy and Politics" — another class currently participating in the iPad Pilot — uses the technology to give her students access to the media. According to Christina Bassick, a senior in Gleason's course, students in the class often use Twitter to stay on top of news related to water policy. In addition, the students' final project requires them to create a presentation using solely iPads, she explained.

"I think there are two positive aspects," Bassick said. "One, we're getting to learn new technologies in general ... and two, for a lot of jobs — especially for recent graduates — you don't necessarily have to write a 15-page paper and submit it to your boss and have them read it. Knowing how to use these apps and this kind of new technology ... will help people in future jobs to be able to say, 'Oh, I know how to do this,' and can make them more comfortable with presenting in the future in a job environment."

However, the privilege of teaching a course full of iPads requires a new level of responsibility for the teacher, according to Rankin.

"It's actually a lot more work to put it together than preparation for just discussing readings in a normal seminar," Rankin said.

Bassick and Chung agreed that technology should not be used without an

intended purpose.

"Certain professors should definitely use [the iPad Pilot], but I think it's something that professors shouldn't just say, 'Oh well, I have the opportunity to use it so I'm just going to go for it and not plan accordingly,'" Bassick said. "Professors really need to plan in advance what they're going to use it for and how it's going to be incorporated in the class, because otherwise ... students can't utilize [them] as much as they should be."

"[The] instructor has to embrace it a lot and then really think through how this could be integrated in and out of the classroom because ... if you don't put much weight into it, the results could be very shallow," Chung said.

Despite the potential for distraction, students reported wanting to use the technology responsibly.

"I feel like when everyone has a laptop, everyone's kind of entitled to [this feeling of] 'use my laptop, I'll do whatever I want on it,' but with the iPad ... it was given to you, we're all using it, we're all supposed to be using it for the same thing," Ryan Grandeau, a junior in Rankin's "History of the Book" course, said.

Tufts Technology Services provided the funding for the 80 iPads in the program. In the future, however, Chung and Barnes said their most important focus will be to further develop the technology Tufts already has.

"We have no idea whether we can renew or whether we can get additional funds, so ... we've been focusing on how we can maximize this investment," Chung said.

Organizers of the pilot program are excited about how this incorporation of new technology can act as a vehicle to help faculty improve their teaching, according to Barnes.

"We're continually scanning the whole technology teaching landscape and looking for opportunities," Barnes said. "We know it's not about the iPad — it's about the teaching and about trying to help. Faculty have a lot to do, so we're there to help lower some of that barrier to entry for them and ... pave the way a little bit."

LEX ERATH | SUGAR & SPICE



Make
the 14th
Your
B***

Wonder how many of us actually look forward to Valentine's Day. As in a completely genuine, totally unadulterated longing for the 14th of February. If you really consider it, it's got to be a pretty small percentage, don't you think?

You've got the girls who are too busy dropping enormously obvious hints to their beleaguered boyfriends and gossiping with fellow hinters about the big day to actually feel real anticipation for the holiday itself. Then there's the aforementioned beleaguered boyfriend, who spends all of February frantically trying to predict all of his girlfriend's ever-changing wishes and, even more dangerous, trying not to fall prey to misleading comments where she's thinking you-better-not-believe-me-when-I-tell-you, "Oh, let's not make a big deal of it this year. I don't need flowers to know how you feel about me." (Get the flowers.)

Then we've got the lonely hearts: the single girls who aren't sharing the 14th with anyone except their Netflix account and the chocolates they bought themselves. They'll spend the night drinking away their sorrows with cheap wine and cursing the authors of last month's Cosmo article "How to Snag a Guy by Valentine's Day." And we've got the intended snag-ees: the guys spending V-Day alone. You think they'd be the happiest of the lot, but the masterminds behind Valentine's Day — Hallmark and Hershey's — have done an excellent job of glamorizing the holiday to "sell the dream" to anyone. Their advertisements are so masterfully crafted that even a single guy might fall prey and find himself secretly wanting to curl up and snuggle in front of the latest Nicholas Sparks movie.

So after all that, what's a hinting girlfriend/beleaguered boyfriend/wine-drunk girl/"Notebook"-quoting boy to do? How do you beat the system? The answer is simple and sort of Matrix-esque: just flip all of society's expectations of you and realize you're happier doing exactly what won't make Hallmark any money.

It's a little-known fact (I blame the Godiva-Hallmark conspiracy) that breaking up with a significant other on Valentine's Day isn't actually frowned upon, but actually encouraged. The 14th is all about love, commitment, and relationships, and your now-ex (after they're done keying your car) will eventually realize that you took this holiday seriously and truly examined your relationship, and they will probably even thank you for it. (Mark my words, in five years' time there will be a new holiday on the 15th of February called National Rebound Day).

Single gals, use this Friday as an excuse to kick-start your new workout regimen. Instead of eating your weight in chocolate carbohydrates or drowning your sorrows in alcohol, hit the gym and sweat out all your frustrations (Bonus — you'll look hot for Rebound Day!). And single guys, instead of playing beer pong with your buddies and bragging about how you can't be tamed (you can), fulfill your real wishes and binge-watch every Ryan Gosling rom-com out there. Just don't go get inspired and make a grand romantic gesture to a girl you usually ignore — that's best left to Taylor Swift's music videos or Ryan himself. Indulge your inner preteen girl just for this one night, and wake up the next morning safely single and swearing never to do it again.

There you have it: a foolproof method to avoiding V-Day tears that's more reliable than your best waterproof mascara. If you choose to go the traditional hearts-chocolates-and-flowers route, don't say I didn't warn you. Love hurts!

Lex Erath is a sophomore who has not yet declared a major. She can be reached at Alexandra.Erath@tufts.edu.

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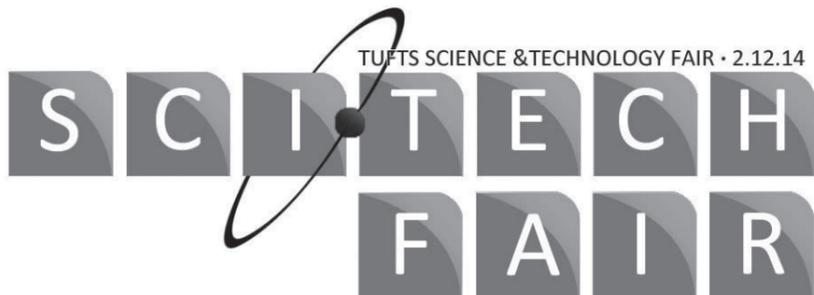
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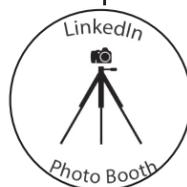


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Sochi Olympics open with great artistry, minor hiccups

BY NIKA KORCHOK
Daily Editorial Board

Watching the Sochi Winter Olympics opening ceremony was like viewing a performance of the Bolshoi Ballet Company performing “Swan Lake” (1875). Mystical, whimsical, beautiful and — at times — over the top, the entire opening ceremony was an exercise in elegance, extravagance and precision.

Nearly every part of the ceremony went flawlessly — with the minor exception of the unveiling of the Olympic rings. Audiences all over the world over were shocked when the one ring ran into a technical glitch and didn’t transform as planned from a snowflake into the fifth Olympic ring. The awkward four-rings-and-a-snowflake hovered in the air, leaving a blemish on the production’s otherwise flawless execution.

Most of the evening consisted of Russia doing what it does best: flaunting its history of producing some of the greatest artists the world has ever known. Russian ballet companies performed excerpts from “Swan Lake,” danced out the conflicts from “War and Peace” (1869) and moved the story along from the Viking beginnings of Russian history to the building of St. Basil’s Cathedral to modern day Russia. For the largest — yet often quite isolated — country in the world, Russia proved that its enormous gestures of art and showmanship are almost as expansive and sweeping as its massive territory.

Despite the minor flaw of the fifth Olympic ring not opening, NBC made a bigger faux-pas by not including the greatest event of the night: the Russian



Fireworks displays were frequent at the opening ceremonies of this year’s Winter Games. SAM CHURCHILL VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

Police Choir performing “Get Lucky” (2013). An under-appreciated and lively performance, the men of the choir proved that Russia has got funk, soul and a sense of artistry.

The Cyrillic alphabet commanded the order of introduction for each country’s team, emphasizing that Russia is still a country that has its own mindset and is proud of its unique history and culture.

Perhaps the strongest metaphor for Russia’s execution of this opening ceremony — and its resurgence as a power player on the global stage — is the tale of young Lyubov. Lyubov, the lead in the show who danced among crowds of ballerinas and guided viewers around

Russia, was portrayed by an 11-year-old girl named Liza Temnikova. Temnikova is not a prima ballerina in a Russian ballet theatre or the daughter of Russian aristocrats, but rather the child of two taxi drivers. She got her big break at a casting call for the lead in the show. Living what many in the U.S. would describe as “the American dream,” young Temnikova represents what Russia presents as “the new Russian dream” — the ability to rise above hardship to success.

As Lyubov, she took viewers on a journey through the several thousand years of Russia’s history, a tour de

see SOCHI, page 6



Kanye West brought a fresh perspective to the hip-hop scene when ‘The College Dropout’ was released in 2004. SUPER 45 MUSICA INDEPENDIENTE VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

Kanye West’s ‘The College Dropout’ turns 10

BY JOSH WEINER
Daily Editorial Board

At the height of his fame, MC extraordinaire Jay-Z had a choice to make. Should he honor the request of Kanye West, an innovative young producer who wanted to rap over some of the beats Jay-Z had crafted, or abide by his peers’ beliefs that those same beats would be better off saved for somebody else’s record?

In hindsight, this was one of the biggest turning points in the course of hip-hop history. Jay-Z’s decision to take a risk on West yielded the first of its many payoffs exactly ten years ago, on Feb. 10, 2004, when West released his debut album, “The College Dropout.”

“[The] College Dropout’ is one of the

all-time great hip-hop debuts, probably the best example of a promising hip-hop debut actually leading to the great career it promised,” “Rolling Stone” critic Rob Sheffield told the Daily in an email.

“I think it’s a hip-hop landmark,” Professor of History Peniel Joseph said. “It reasserted a kind of authentic, intellectually-based voice of the streets ... that [had] been lost by the time the album came out. In an age before Obama and after Apartheid, [West] was an astute observer of the ennui of black middle-class life.”

In 2003, the year that Eminem’s “Lose Yourself” (2002) and 50 Cent’s “Get Rich or Die Tryin’” were all-conquering, emerging from relative obscurity and securing

see KANYE, page 6

MOVIE REVIEW

‘Labor Day’ sappy, overwrought

BY ALEX KAUFMAN
Daily Editorial Board

The newest addition to director Jason Reitman’s long list of film credits ruins his streak of creating quality movies like “Juno” (2007) and “Up in the Air” (2009). “Labor Day” feels just like what it implies — two too many hours of hard, strenuous labor.

With Kate Winslet as Adele, the reclusive divorcee struggling to raise her son in 1980s New Hampshire, and Josh Brolin as Frank, the hunky, escaped convict who seeks refuge on the holiday weekend, one would expect sparks, magic and dramatic integrity. What viewers get instead is a stale, overly serious melodrama with some intended romantic moments that end up causing inadvertent laughter throughout the film.

The movie is set in motion when Henry (Gattlin Griffith), Adele’s son, tells Adele that he needs to get new clothes since he has outgrown his old ones. Adele hesitantly obliges, while obviously dreading each and every moment she’s outside. All around the New Hampshire town, neighbors, TV news programs and print papers warn of an escaped convict.

Enter Frank: tall, dark, handsome and sporting a bloody abdomen wound. He approaches Henry and, in minutes, forces Adele — against her better judgment — to give him refuge at her home for just a night. It soon becomes apparent that Frank will be staying the weekend, the two will fall in love and that it won’t take long for the cops to find Frank —

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NATALIE GIRSHMAN | LOVE ON SCREEN

The No Marriage Rule



Previously, I’ve talked about tropes that have both a good and a bad side, but which I still hold some affection for. However, this next trope is particularly pernicious and one of my own pet peeves in popular depictions of love: we rarely — if ever — get to see a couple actually being a couple. Instead, there’s page after page, episode after episode, or scene after scene of them breaking up and making up and going through all kinds of angst about why they aren’t together. Rarely — if ever — is a couple portrayed as staying together through most of the series and dealing with the actual challenges of relationships. I like to call it the No Marriage Rule.

Why can’t characters actually get together? First of all, a writer can generate a lot more dramatic tension with endless meaningful glances, deep conversations, accidental (and not-so-accidental) glances and witty banter than with a couple simply being happy together. Even once a pair has gotten together, writers often decide to throw various obstacles in their way. From temptation in the form of an old flame, to job offers in a foreign country, to deadly diseases, to unexpected pregnancies, a couple — especially a television couple — can’t expect an untroubled existence.

Writers may also fear fan backlash if they get a couple together and fail to produce an absolutely perfect romance: for instance, some feel that writers on “Friends” (1994-2004) got Ross (David Schwimmer) and Rachel (Jennifer Aniston) together too soon. Sometimes, a couple is better off apart than together such as Finn (Cory Monteith) and Rachel (Lea Michele) on “Glee” (2009-present), back when “Glee” was still a show that people talked about. Their endless, monotonous, contrived story arcs pulled attention from couples that could have been more interesting and instead repeated the same story for two consecutive seasons.

Yet there are still couples that prove the narrative potential of a couple that stays together, with one of the best examples being Lily (Alyson Hannigan) and Marshall (Jason Segal) from “How I Met Your Mother” (2005-present). Admittedly, they do briefly break up at the end of the first season, but they get back together within the first few episodes of the second season. Throughout the series, they’re a funny, fun and affectionate couple that dispenses advice to the eternally hapless Ted (Josh Radnor) and try to help Barney (Neil Patrick Harris) and Robin (Cobie Smulders) have a functional relationship. They’ve gotten through job changes, the death of Marshall’s father, their initial struggle to have a baby and the actual difficulties of parenting — and they still remained one of the most likable and interesting couples anywhere in popular media. There’s also Henry and Clare in “The Time Traveler’s Wife” (2003), whose relationship remains strong and develops throughout the novel. Other notable exceptions to the rule include happily married secondary couples in the work of Jane Austen — such as Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner in “Pride and Prejudice” (1813), who provide an example of a good marriage for the hero and heroine — and Bob (Craig T. Nelson) and Helen Parr (Holly Hunter) in “The Incredibles” (2004), whose relationship is actually made stronger by the trials they go through.

Other tropes may be annoying, but the No Marriage Rule can be harmful. It can teach us to focus on the getting together part of a relationship rather than on being in one. Negotiating the ups and downs of a relationship may be more challenging, but it’s certainly more rewarding. Moreover, a lack of happy couples on screen makes happily ever after seem almost impossible. Popular culture should depict love in all its phases, from beginning to end, and present all kinds of couples, from those who are too shy to do more than exchange longing looks to those who are married with children. Love is bread and roses, coffee and champagne and courtship and marriage. Let’s have a media that reflects that.

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COURTESY PARAMOUNT PICTURES

The contrived 'Labor Day' family bakes a pie.

'Labor Day' stifles audiences with melodramatic clichés

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the perfect set-up for more heartbreak for the depressed Adele.

While the romance between the two actors was believable enough, the circumstances of the long weekend were neither authentic nor passionate. Without any further ado, Frank begins (in broad daylight) to patch up the house, clean the gutters, re-tile, cement, fix the car and replace the tires. It seems too good to be true.

Not to mention, Frank also bakes. He brings the whole family — which he's a part of after only a day — together to make a delicious peach pie. He teaches Henry to play baseball, and later on ends up in Adele's bed, keeping Henry awake at night.

With a screenplay like this, what are high caliber actors Winslet and Brolin to do, other than to scrape any ounce of nuance out of their characters' storylines? No one can blame them for giving it their all when there's not much to go off, other than a plot that lacks common sense and characters who are not fully fleshed out.

The editing throughout the film, which sneaks glimpses at the lovers' respective romantic histories, was one of few aspects to be applauded. The flash-

backs to Adele's sublimely impassioned romance with her ex-husband were well balanced with Frank's unhappy, loveless marriage to an unfaithful wife. On one hand, it explains why the two are perfect together; on another, it begs the question, "Why is this happening?"

The movie receives a minor redemption — and is saved from being truly horrible — in the relationship between Henry and Mandy (Maika Monroe), a girl Henry's age who moves to town. At first, her goth-like appearance gives Henry (and the audience) a start, until viewers realize that her looks match her hysterical personality. In just two scenes, Mandy is able to bring the audience to raucous laughter — a much-needed reprieve from the pain of the main plot and Tobey Maguire's narration throughout the film.

More often than not, Reitman's film is content to suffocate its audience in overly sweet romance and subpar melodrama. Perhaps that's what audiences expect from a Reitman production nowadays. Unfortunately, the movie lacked any dramatic worth or viability in its writing. Though it was once seen as an Academy Award contender, "Labor Day" was too laborious to even come close to Oscar gold.

West's debut album left permanent mark on hip-hop

KANYE
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hip-hop stardom was certainly a topical narrative. West himself capitalized on that trend when he released "The College Dropout's" lead single, "Through the Wire," in September.

The song had been recorded almost a year earlier while the rapper was confined to a Los Angeles hospital following a near-fatal car crash. To this day, hearing a man rap with a metal plate fastened to his jaw during surgery remains a unique and indelible listening experience.

"Strictly as a musical personality, he came across as so emotional and energetic, so full of curiosity and high spirits and invention," Sheffield said, recalling the first time he saw "Through the Wire" performed live at a 2004 Miami concert. "It seemed he could go anywhere from there."

"The College Dropout" further parlayed West's early struggles as a musician into such captivating numbers as "Spaceship," "Two Words" and "Last Call." Elsewhere, the Chicago MC could be found wooing the ladies ("Slow Jamz"), thanking his relatives for everything ("Family Business"), and unwinding a bit with a few comedy tracks ("The New Workout Plan," "Breathe in Breathe Out").

Yet it was on the track "All Falls Down" that West hit a lyrical high point. The album's third single established that, even with celebrity in his grasp, West still possessed the problems of the everyman. Life was as uncertain and scary for him as it was for the "single black female addicted to retail" he raps about on the track.

"It seemed very vulnerable, the whole song — a kind of vulnerability which I thought was very exciting," Assistant Professor of Music Stephan Pennington said. "He was talking about insecurity a lot — how do you deal with a fairly hostile environment [in which] all that insecurity weighs you down? For me, I was shocked by him dealing with all these parts of black lives which are not acceptable in the classic

hip-hop narrative."

On a record chock-full of enduring material, the song for which "The College Dropout" is best remembered is likely "Jesus Walks." This track establishes its presence instantly as a group of baritone singers first delivers its unmistakable "bump-bump-bump-bump-BA-bump" refrain. Drums, violins, flutes and gospel singers are then infused into a militant soundscape that remains as sonically riveting and complex as anything ever achieved in rap music.

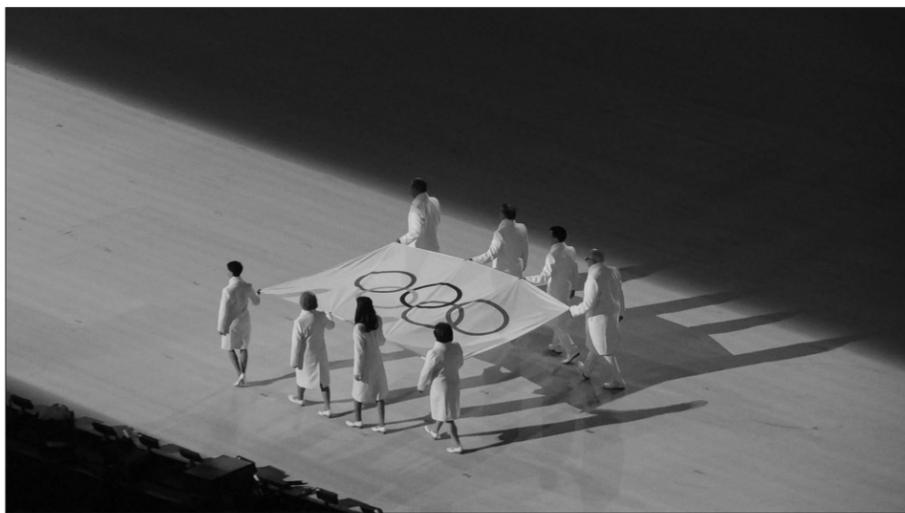
Moreover, as the song's title implies, West had become the rare individual daring enough to use hip-hop as a platform for expressing his feelings about Jesus Christ and — perhaps even more boldly — the hope which Christ inspired even when all else appeared so grim in the black urban landscape which permeates the lyrics.

"We had crossed the Rubicon at that point where you could talk about so much — guns, drugs, misogyny — but West was saying, 'If I talk about God, my record won't get played,' [as if that topic] had been considered too sectarian," Joseph said. "So I think he put that irony and those contradictions in the air. I don't think Kanye West is a huge Christian, I think he's a provocateur, and he was able to play off of that."

By selling 440,000 copies in its first week, "The College Dropout" made an immediate impact on hip-hop listeners. Ten years on, as West continues to serve as one of the music industry's driving creative forces, his very first record still holds a firm spot in many fans' hearts. Its legacy endures as one of the finest debut albums by any rapper ever and as the first stepping stone to one of hip-hop's most consistently fascinating and far-reaching catalogues.

"He came out and blasted the competition out of the water," Aliandro Brathwaite, a senior, said. "And he did so consistently. He did not falter."

"If 'Through the Wire' and '[The] College Dropout' were his only hit records, he'd still be remembered today," Sheffield said. "It just so happened that he went on to exceed that achievement many times over."



J. BRILMAN VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Carrying of the Olympic flag during the 2014 Olympic opening ceremonies in Sochi.

Russia wows with pageantry at opening ceremony

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force of fantasy that explored the best parts of the country's past — Peter the Great, realist literature by Tolstoy and Dostoyevsky and reform following the fall of the Soviet Union. Temnikova's command of the story was reminiscent of Clara in "The Nutcracker" (1892), and the result was as fantastical and wondrous as the Christmas fairytale itself. But just as "The Nutcracker" makes light of potentially intense situations, so too did Russia gloss over harsher parts of its own history. While tactfully paying homage to the soldiers who died for Russia in World War II, the former USSR chose to focus on a more bright and cheery version of its story.

While Russia painted its past with the brightest of colors, one of the loudest

statements at the opening ceremonies came from Germany, whose athletes painted themselves in bright colors in a literal way: rainbow outfits. While officials deny that the team's opening ceremony uniforms were a protest against Russia's anti-gay laws of late, the message of the candy-colored parkas was loud and clear: while Russia is leading the games, the rest of the world is there to try to tell other stories too.

In a wild and exciting opening ceremony, Russia revealed that it still has the pageantry to command the world's attention. However, only time will tell if "the Russian dream" is something that can hold true once the Winter Games have ended and if the voices of the rest of the world will rise in a rebellion that overpowers Tchaikovsky's ballet scores.

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EDITORIAL

2014 Winter Ball is relative success

Even first-year students have heard the appalling tales of last year's Winter Bash. Stories from upperclassmen are accounts of drunken, apocalyptic horror — every university official's nightmare. We, as the student body, were not only irresponsible in terms of our own health — with at least 15 students needing medical attention from paramedics — but were downright disrespectful toward a venue that was willing to host an event for thousands of college students. Dangerously intoxicated students threw up and even urinated in the lobby of the Westin Copley Place Boston Hotel, managing to capture the attention of Fox News and The Boston Globe, both of which rightfully depicted our actions as those of bad-mannered and insolent youths.

Understandably, the university could not let similarly campus-wide events continue

without further consideration and revision, so in light of the absolute disaster that was 2013's Winter Bash, a more civilized Winter Ball took place on Saturday, Feb. 8. The event, which — not surprisingly — was not held this year at the Westin Copley Place but instead at the Boston Royale, began relatively early in terms of college nightlife, with the first buses leaving campus at 5:30 p.m. and the doors of the Royale closing at 8 p.m. This change, clearly an effort by the university to curb excessive drinking among students and avoid a repeat of last year's embarrassment, was coupled with a reduction of the number of tickets sold from almost 3,000 to only 1,200.

Winter Ball was a chance to demonstrate that we are capable of conducting ourselves in a respectful and responsible manner; in this regard, it was a huge success. The event

ensued without any notable mishaps, and overall, we managed to be courteous and considerate — behavior that should be standard for all guests, students included. Yet although this is a step towards proving to the university that we can be trusted at fun and community-building events such as these, we should not expect our one-time good behavior to grant us total absolution. If earlier, smaller and more controlled events such as Winter Ball remain the norm over the next few years, it is important to keep in mind that we have actually only accomplished the bare minimum. While we can pat ourselves on the back for avoiding alcohol-related hospitalizations, not trashing a public place and steering clear of making regional headlines, we should try to remember that this is what is expected of us — and we should definitely keep up the good work.

JEHAN MADHANI



OFF THE HILL | SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

Charting Delhi's changing political skyline

BY GURREIN KAUR MADAN
The Phoenix

A strained silence fills the hall as Delhi's newly elected chief minister, Arvind Kejriwal, rises from his seat to address the Delhi legislative assembly for the first time. He wears the same scarf and sweater that he wore throughout his campaign. His Gandhi cap, which has now become a symbol of his year-old political party, has the words "I am a common man" written on it.

Almost a year ago, Kejriwal parted ways with his mentor Anna Hazare in their influential anti-corruption movement against the Indian government. While Anna wanted to stay away from the "dirt" of Indian politics, Kejriwal believed that it was the only path through which a tangible change could be made. With vigorous idealism and an unwavering belief in his cause, Kejriwal formed the Aam Admi Party (AAP) or the "common man party", whose members comprised politically inexperienced journalists, activists, college students, housewives and others mostly belonging to the middle class.

Not surprisingly, the AAP was mocked, dismissed and severely underestimated when it decided to run for the 2013 Delhi legislative assembly elections. After all, it was a year-old party. It had no solid financial backing and had only temporarily caught the imagination of people. The fight had and will always be between the Congress (the ruling party) and the BJP (the main opposition). The election results, however, shocked the assured: the AAP got 28 seats out of the 70, and agreed to form a minority government with the Congress,

which had won a mere 8 seats. Kejriwal became chief minister.

This turn of political events is historic. One David has killed two Goliaths, as Gopalkrishna Gandhi put it. To the seasoned politicians out there: Can you look beyond the voting numbers? Do you grasp the anger of the voter? Of how furious she is with what you are doing with the system? How tired she is of the excuses, delays, laxity and the day-to-day unfairness that she is subjected to? That the vilification of the opponent is not what they want to hear when they ask you of your accomplishments and policies as an elected representative? And that the common man, as Kejriwal calls him, years for a transparent, honest system which does not require him to enter the labyrinth of bribing officials?

The AAP is a result of this anger. It is a faceless identity that represents the public's frustration with the depravity of Indian politics. In a country where politicians buy votes and audaciously list their criminal records, the AAP stands out with its non-macho, grounded and educated members. It did not seek to slander any political party in particular, but criticized the corruption that had become necessary in order to survive. Neither did it pontificate about how it would rule Delhi if elected, but instead offered to become a means for the people to rule their city.

Of course, there were moments when the AAP seemed slightly unnerved at the prospect of competing against strong-footed politicians. But its idealism and its aim to fundamentally change Indian politics into becoming honest and accountable remained unaffected.

Like many, I didn't expect its members to get elected. Of course, I believed in their cause and admired their perseverance to catalyze change, but winning the Delhi elections seemed out of reach. They seemed too moral, young and pure to enter the arena of Indian politics, which abounded with betrayal, mudslinging and hypocrisy. They were banking on the anger of the people against the government. They were appealing to the moral conscience of their voters. They were expecting too much change in a short period of time. With their victory in the election, I am compelled to consider that a revolution has begun in the country.

In the few days following Kejriwal's induction as chief minister, he has tried fulfilling many of his promises. Up to 20 kiloliters of water has been made free for all households that have a functional water meter, electricity rates have been subsidized by 50 percent for a section of Delhi's population, 47 new courts have been established, night shelters have been created for the homeless and an anti-corruption helpline has been set up which has already led to the arrest of two constables. Perhaps most importantly, an atmosphere of transparency, honesty and responsibility is being created in Delhi.

However, the clean image that the AAP has heavily relied upon cannot be its only strength. The AAP can be stubborn and impulsive. They have dabbled into partisan politics and then have been forced to apologize for it. They have made some hasty decisions only to withdraw them later. If it wants to stay in Indian politics, its spirit and core values must remain intact despite the new pedestal of power that Kejriwal and his team now stand upon.

OFF THE HILL | HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Rebuffing the Crimson: In defense of Massachusetts's buffer zones

BY IVEL POSADA
Harvard Political Review

"Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech." If a recent Crimson Staff op-ed is to be believed, there is nothing more to our founding charter than those 10 words. According to the Crimson, the Constitution's free speech protections are of such paramount importance that they prohibit the erection of 35-foot buffer zones (areas in which protestors may not legally enter) around abortion clinics. This stance shows a callous disregard for the wide range of liberties the Constitution seeks to protect; additionally, it is symptomatic of a pervasive, unhealthy fetish with free speech that is hurting American democracy.

Clearly, the importance of free speech is of greater weight than its textual presence indicates. Robust speech protections are undoubtedly a necessary cornerstone of democratic government. But real democracy, the kind of democracy that our constitution seeks to implement, requires more than just free speech.

Alongside the freedom of speech, the Constitution also protects a wide range of important values. Some are very specific: women, persons of every race and adults eighteen years of age and older are guaranteed the right to vote; poll taxes are impermissible; the quartering of troops during wartime is prohibited; and slavery is categorically banned. Other rights are more vague: Congress is prohibited from "abridging" the freedom of speech; citizens are protected from "unreasonable" searches and seizures and everyone is assured "due process" and "equal protection" of law. Yet for all the Constitution's effort at listing protected freedoms, the document does not tell us what to do when these rights conflict.

What should we do when attempts to respect the free exercise clause privilege religion over non-religion in ways that implicate the establishment clause? How do we resolve instances where the state's duty to ensure domestic tranquility seems to infringe on privacy rights? And how do we settle the numerous instances where an alleged speech claim is in tension with

other important values, such as a woman's right to choose? There is constant debate about how much weight each of these constitutional rights should be accorded and how we should balance these weights when they conflict.

These cases are notoriously difficult because the Constitution offers no overarching standard for their resolution. Inevitably, an appeal must be made to extra-textual values to settle the dispute. That is why law is necessarily a value-laden process and why judging can only make sophist pretenses at value neutrality. But for all the difficulty in resolving these dilemmas, one thing is abundantly clear: when one of these freedoms is valued to such an extent that it seriously erodes our remaining liberties, something has gone horribly wrong in the balancing act.

That is the predicament in which America currently finds itself. For the past several decades, free speech has been accorded such an inordinate value that it is slowly obliterating some of our most cherished freedoms. In *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale* (2003), for instance, the Supreme Court held, counter to centuries of free speech jurisprudence, that an organization's alleged right to express non-core viewpoints trumped a state's right to eradicate the socially corrosive effects of invidious discrimination. In *United States v. Stevens* (2010) the Court likewise held that a porn company's right to film and sell animal crush videos (in this case, a video where a woman crushed the skull of a live kitten with her stiletto heel) outweighed a state's right to protect animals from undue cruelty. Perhaps most notoriously, in *Citizens United*, the Court held that a corporation's free speech claims outweighed the state's right to protect the integrity of the electoral process. The problem with all these cases springs from the same diseased root: a gross misunderstanding of the value of free speech relative to other constitutional objectives.

In *McCullen v. Coakley*, we are, yet again, faced with a constitutional dilemma where freedom of speech is in tension with another protected value — in this

case, a woman's right to choose. As the Crimson sees it, the choice is easy: we must decide between preserving freedom and securing safety at the expense of liberty. That dichotomy is irresponsibly misleading. As is frequently the case with constitutional dilemmas, freedom is not just on one side of the equation, it is on both. As well as the protestor's freedom to express his viewpoint, there is also the woman's freedom to carry out an abortion in a safe environment without undue stress.

In a last-ditch effort to respect women's freedom, the Crimson mentions that what is actually wrong with Massachusetts's buffer zone is its size. A smaller zone, they suggest, would more easily satisfy constitutional standards. That statement is preposterous. It is ludicrous to suggest that determining the exact size of a buffer zone is properly within the reach of judicial competency. Questions concerning exact measurements have been traditionally left to the discretion of legislatures — and rightly so. While Massachusetts is certainly not at liberty to erect a buffer zone that encompasses the entire commonwealth, it most certainly can erect a 35-foot buffer zone when, in good faith, it believes that size is necessary to protect the safety of women and their health providers. Unless there is overwhelming evidence to the contrary, the Court has a duty to defer to the state's judgment in this case.

The failings of the Crimson article are graver than mere ignorance regarding judicial function. Its primary error is the inordinate weight attached to free speech. On this score, it resembles those religious zealots who read the proscriptions against homosexuality in *Leviticus* without considering the Bible's overarching purposes. The Constitution, read as a whole, is about more than simply ensuring freedom of speech. That right only makes sense if we understand it as part of a rational continuum of freedom that embraces a far greater range of values. Respect for that overarching mission should lead the Court to uphold Massachusetts's buffer zone.

KEVIN CRISCIONE | ILL LITERATES

Is an e-book a real book?



In the 21st century, some things have changed and others haven't. Folks may still be reading *Moby Dick*, but is reading the classic 1851 whale tale any different on the smooth yet phony inky-looking surface of a Kindle?

Today's question: whether or not reading something on an e-Reader, Kindle or other device that would have been considered futuristic two decades ago is profoundly different in any way. As usual, I have a frothy batch of opinions to serve up about this, ready for your dutiful ingestion.

The naysayers of the e-book debate argue that reading a book in traditional hardcover or paperback form is a singular experience diluted by electronic means of downloading and reading. On the other hand, the yea-sayers claim that e-book and e-readers make all sorts of literature more accessible and transportable, removing enormous barriers to consumption, with the only downside being that certain stuck-up naysayers will get nostalgic over paper-based books.

I completely get that there is a physical and aesthetic quality to a traditional paper book that can't be replaced. However, it is a luxury that isn't really needed by most students and fans of literature. Actual books are cool, but I believe the fixation that certain writers and literature fanatics have about traditional hardcovers and paperbacks stems from a privileged understanding of what it means to be literary (cough, cough, Jonathan Franzen — he is one of my favorite authors, but seriously, he often engages in the essay equivalent of yelling at kids to get off his lawn). On an unrelated note, I feel so Tufts-y for having used the word privileged in my column!

The traditional notion that physical presence inscribing a kind of meaning to something, that being able to hold a book or a film reel in your hands makes it more valuable and special in an inarticulable way has run headfirst into the brick wall of digital culture. We can download so much so frequently that the idea of physical permanence holds no value. I don't really feel one way or the other about this; I just think that it is a reality of our times that we all ought to accept.

Perhaps, though, something has been gained in this lack of value placed on the physical. Convenience, for sure. Greater accessibility to what were formerly obscure works of literature as well. Benefits for American education systems? We'll have to see.

Besides, doesn't arguing that the meaning of a piece of literature depends on the medium through which it is conveyed totally negate one of the fundamental wonders of literature (as opposed to other media of storytelling), that is, that literature expresses so much using only written language and nothing else (as opposed to the myriad components of film/drama/other forms of narrative)?

That last sentence was pretty convoluted, but my overall point, cheesy as it is, is this: I don't think the manner in which we transcribe and read works of literature should affect its meaning as long as the same passion remains in the writing and reading of it. Essentially, this whole column is a long-winded way of saying that we should go ahead and read on Kindles if it makes sense, even if paper books are pretty cool, too. e-Readers can be just as sexy as the most elegant hardcover novels, as long as the story is sublime.

Book of the week: "Ender's Game" by Orson Scott Card, for effectively predicting the invention of the laptop computer and the benefits it would have for education and entertainment. Also, for being a book I have read without even really considering seeing the recent film version.

Kevin Criscione is a junior majoring in English. He can be reached at Kevin.Criscione@tufts.edu

OFF THE HILL | UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Sochi Olympics offers opportunity to reflect on LGBT rights in Russia

BY ISABELLE CAVAZOS
The Oracle

As the world watches the Sochi Olympics, the swell of Olympic excitement is accompanied by the dimness of Russia's current LGBT rights climate.

The choice of location for the Winter Olympics, which started Friday, has refueled attention toward Russia's anti-gay propaganda law, which bans the sharing of "non-traditional sexual relations" among youth, on a national scale.

In this problematic position, the spectacle of the Olympics has the potential to not only entertain and invoke national pride for participating countries and their athletes, but to direct attention to the LGBT rights issues occurring within Sochi and Russia as a whole.

Rather than announce a boycott, President Barack Obama chose to show his support for the Russian LGBT community through his words of praise for American gay and lesbian participants' efforts in the games. He also chose to include members of the LGBT community of the U.S. in the opening and closing ceremonies, such as women's tennis player Billie Jean King and women's ice hockey player Caitlin Cahow.

While expressing his confidence in U.S. LGBT athletes through these ges-

tures, he also conveys his sheer defiance towards Russia's discriminatory laws, a message that participants in the Games can certainly amplify.

While athletes are barred from conveying political statements while on the medals stand, they are free to do so during press conferences. Opportunities such as this, along with implementing social media, should be used to their fullest. This year's games will feature a record number of competing nations for the Winter Olympics, totaling 88, which allow participants to reach a greater audience in Russian territory.

Though Svetlana Zhurova, a gold-medal speed skater and mayor of the Olympic village, said she believes it is illogical to use the Olympics as a means of protest, the brutal enforcement of the law is reason enough for athletes to utilize the widespread attention of the Games to further broadcast its radical nature.

For instance, in spite of Sochi mayor Anatoly Pakhomov's attempts to erase LGBT presence by claiming there are no gay people living in the city, violence and discrimination against the LGBT community prevail in Sochi. Some believe the laws in Sochi perpetuate violent behavior and disapproval of the gay community since it is publicly endorsed by Russian leaders.

Others, too, have lived in fear following the law's enforcement. Public shaming has occurred and recorded beatings have been spread online. One Moscow model, Pavel Petel, has spoken out about being attacked and receiving death threats.

Where a protester in Russia takes a great risk in even unrolling a rainbow flag, Olympic athletes with the world's attention can speak to the media and use social networking sites to further debate this unjust law and share the stories of those suffering.

Of course, Olympic athletes and advocates are still subject to the anti-gay propaganda law and its consequences.

However, effective protest does not necessarily have to occur within the venue and can begin outside the context of the games. Already, 52 Olympic athletes, 12 competing in Sochi, are supporting the "principle six" campaign, advocating the clause for "non-discrimination" in the Olympic charter.

In conjunction with gay-rights advocates that will not have a presence in Sochi, such as the Human Rights Campaign which will utilize social media alongside protesters around the world, Olympic athletes bear substantial power with this rare opportunity to spread awareness and support for wavering LGBT rights in Russia.

SUDOKU

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Friday's Solution

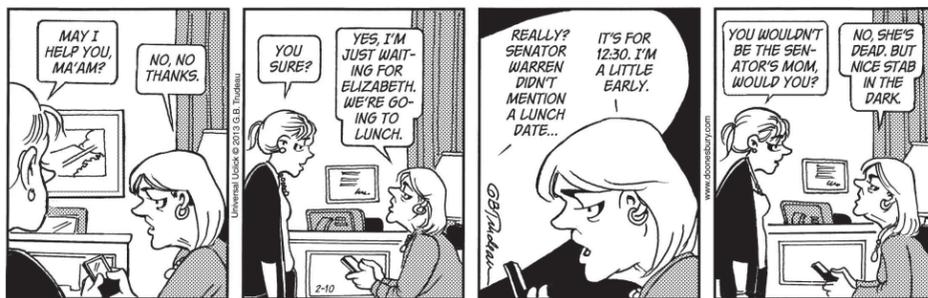
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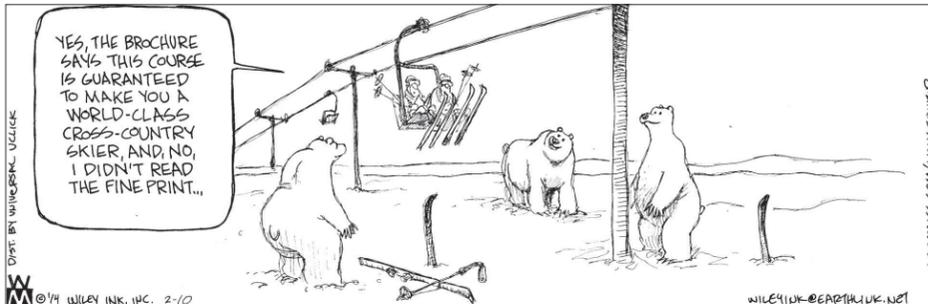
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BY GARRY TRUDEAU



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Photos by Chantel Bilodeau

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Weekend losses leave Tufts in precarious position

MEN'S BASKETBALL

continued from back

with 10 rebounds and six assists, and Williams senior tri-captain center Michael Mayer added 23 points and 10 boards.

For Tufts, Firempong scored 23 points and sophomore guard Stephen Haladyna had 20.

During the final 25 minutes, the Jumbos looked overmatched.

"They ran us out of the gym," Cohen said. "We were bad defensively and they were just the better team, to be honest."

But the game Tufts really needed was Friday's contest in Clinton, New York. Both Tufts and Hamilton entered at 2-4 in the NESCAC. The winner would gain the inside track to the postseason.

"We had an opportunity this past weekend to make it an easier run into the playoffs," Cohen said. "But we didn't capitalize."

Tufts trailed 30-18 with 6:10 to go in the first half before rattling off a 13-0 run, leaving Hamilton with a slim 34-33 advantage heading into the half.

The teams traded leads for the much of the second half until an 8-0 Hamilton spurt gave the Continentals a 61-52 edge with six minutes remaining.

Refusing to quit, Tufts shot lights-out for the remaining minutes of the game to stay alive. Junior guard Ben Ferris nailed back-to-back 3-pointers to give the Jumbos a 66-65 lead with 1:16 to play.

After two layups for Hamilton, freshman guard Tarik Smith hit another three to tie it at



CAROLINE GEILING / THE TUFTS DAILY

Senior tri-captain Kwame Firempong shoots a foul shot against Wentworth on Nov. 23. Firempong averaged 20.5 PPG for the Jumbos over the weekend.

69 at the 23-second mark.

With 14 seconds left, the Continentals called timeout. They inbounded to senior guard Greg Newton, who drove in for a layup with 5.7 seconds on the clock.

Tufts was unable to get a shot off in the final seconds, and Hamilton walked away with a 71-69 victory.

Firempong had a game-high 18 points while Ferris and Smith scored 13 apiece. Newton led the Continentals with 16, including 14 in the second half.

"We've lost games in every kind of way, lots of close games that we could have closed out," Firempong said. "It's a learning experience for all of us that we can hopefully use going forward."

The Jumbos now have four days to regroup and work on their defense. As Cohen pointed out, the team has been getting beat off the dribble and has struggled to guard ball screens.

More than anything, though, the Jumbos have had trouble closing out games: They are 1-8 in contests decided by 10 points or fewer.

To make the playoffs, Tufts will need late-game stops and late-game buckets against Colby and Bowdoin. Otherwise, this season will end sooner than planned.

"If for some reason we don't make the NESCAC tournament, it would be pretty devastating as a senior," Cohen said. "Everything's on the line this weekend."

Defense shuts down opposition, pushes winning streak to 21

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

continued from back

NESCAC team."

The intensity carried over to the beginning of the second half. Junior guard Ellen Cook sank two free throws with 17:38 to play to bring Williams within one point, 34-33. With the home crowd behind their backs, it seemed the Ephs were going to give the undefeated, fifth-ranked Jumbos a run for their money. But back-to-back layups by junior guard Haley Kanner and Rocchi put the Jumbos back up by six and silenced the crowd. More importantly, the quick buckets sparked a 22-4 spurt over the next 10 minutes that gave Tufts a 56-37 advantage, essentially putting the game away for good. A quiet home crowd looked as stunned as the Williams players.

"We really came out strong in the second half," senior tri-captain Caitlin McClure said. "I'm not exactly sure what it was, but something just clicked for us. We played together, came out with a lot of energy and, luckily, we got that quick push to give us a big lead."

"In the second half we brought the energy

[and] came out of the locker room ready to go," Rocchi added. "We made some tough shots which I think deflated them."

Foley led the way with 22 points on 8-12 shooting from the floor, while Kanner added 12 points to go along with five rebounds. Freshman forward Michela North continued her stellar rookie campaign with six points and a team-high seven rebounds.

The Jumbos also traveled to Hamilton on Friday to take on a pesky Continentals squad that entered the action on a two-game win streak. Tufts has made a habit of jumping on teams out of the gate and putting games away early, and Friday's contest proved no different. Trailing 4-2 in the opening minutes, the Jumbos rattled off 10 straight points and never looked back. Tufts extended the lead to 20 at one point in the first half before settling for a 34-16 advantage at intermission.

Tufts received contributions across the board to help put Hamilton away in the second half and cruise to a 31-point victory. Junior guard Kelsey Morehead lit up the stat sheet, tallying 11 points, seven rebounds, five assists and four steals. North scored a game-

high of 14 points off the bench, while McClure and senior tri-captain guard Liz Moynihan chipped in with nine points apiece.

But to the delight of head coach Carla Berube, it was the Jumbos defensive effort that shined brightest on Friday. Tufts held Hamilton to 41 points for the game on just 30.6 percent shooting from the field, including a lowly 13.3 percent from beyond the arc.

"Defense is coach's bread and butter," said Rocchi. "This weekend it really started coming together. We were getting huge stops, which allow[ed] us to control the tempo of the game and push the ball in transition."

"It's something we've always stressed," McClure added. "We do defensive drills in practice every day. It's a huge focus. We're confident on defense, and we use it to fuel our offense."

The Jumbos are now only three wins away from finishing with a perfect regular season. In order to do so — and to continue winning in the playoffs — the team will need to keep bringing that defensive intensity that has fueled it thus far.

Tufts fights well against difficult competition

FENCING

continued from back

helps a lot when we play the teams more at our level."

The epee class also competed well, going 5-4 and 7-2 in the two victories. Sophomore Julia Malleck was the star for her class, winning twice against Lawrence and three times against Farleigh Dickinson.

Despite struggling as a whole, the foil class got a key win against Farleigh Dickinson from senior Maillin Li, which helped guide Tufts to victory. Li also delivered a solid performance against Lawrence, winning all three of her bouts.

For the rest of the day, the Jumbos struggled to win the decisive bouts, falling in close matches to Duke and UC San Diego, 16-11 and 14-13, respectively. Sabre once again played well, winning eight of nine against the Blue Devils and going 5-4 against the Tritons.

"We've had our strongest season since I've been here [in sabre]," Bean said. "It's been fun, consistently beating Div. I teams."

The foil class delivered their best performance of the day against Northwestern, going 5-4 against the nationally-ranked squad. Freshman Juliet Hewes won all three of her bouts, while Li won two out of three. Unfortunately for the Jumbos, the sabre and epee classes could not match their early successes, losing 6-3 and 8-1, respectively, as Tufts fell to the host team 18-9.

The one other match of the day came against top ranked Princeton, who handed the Jumbos a lopsided 24-3 defeat. Instead of focusing on the loss, however, Bean and Hisey encouraged the team to feel good about its positive performances, which included individual wins from Hewes, Malleck and freshman Anna Gooch.

"[Princeton] was really tough, but we had some good tactical touches, which is what we're looking for," Hisey said. "Fencing badly and winning doesn't feel as good as fencing well and losing, and I thought we fenced really well against Princeton."

Their late surge seemed to carry over into this weekend's Northeast Conference matches, of which Tufts won five and lost one. The results of the matches were not posted at press time.

With only the New England Intercollegiate Fencing Conference championships remaining, the team is feeling good about themselves as they enter their season's final phase.

"We've always been one of the top schools in the NFC," Hisey said. "We're ranked fourth, and we've beaten two of the teams ranked higher than us, so we're feeling very confident."

JORDAN BEAN | SACKED

The dumbest billionaires



For a group of the wealthiest, most successful people on the face of the Earth, professional sports owners sure do make bad decisions.

It has been proven time and time again that the road to winning championships does not come from writing the biggest paychecks, but rather from spending wisely and drafting players well over a period of time.

However, this message has not reached the top floors of athletic facilities worldwide. They have continued, despite repeated evidence to the contrary, to dole out the big bucks to free agents, foolishly thinking it is the key to success.

For example, after acquiring superstars Adrian Gonzalez and Carl Crawford, the Red Sox thought they were poised to make a championship run. Instead, they suffered the worst collapse in the month of September ever, followed by their worst season since 1966, winning only 69 games.

The Los Angeles Lakers recently gave Kobe Bryant an extension, while injured and unable to play, to keep him as one of the highest paid players in the league. His mighty contributions this season have led them to a near-league-worst with an 18-32 record.

Joe Flacco cashed in his Super Bowl victory by signing a deal worth over \$20 million a year, but saw his Ravens go just 8-8 this past season, hardly enough wins to justify that kind of money.

The formula does not work. This is just a handful of the many examples to illustrate this point. Yet, the owners don't learn.

Part of the problem is that there are exceptions to the rule to give them hope. The 2009 Yankees signed roughly \$500 million worth of talent en route to winning the World Series, but that doesn't necessarily mean it is sustainable. This is evidenced by the fact that they are now left with aging superstars and regretful contracts.

The root of the problem is that the owners of the business are not experts in the field. Imagine a scenario in which whoever bid the most money could be the owner and CEO of Apple or Microsoft. It's safe to say that the company would likely sputter if not run completely into the ground. At their worst, teams can become like fantasy leagues for the rich.

The solution to this, implemented by the smart and successful owners, is to pass off all team management responsibilities to those who have spent their whole life perfecting the craft of a sport's operations.

If we were to juxtapose two programs and owners, we would highlight everything there is to know about this. Patriots' owner Robert Kraft is the gold standard. He treats the team as an investment and owns it for his enjoyment, not just as a toy to play with. He trusts those with more knowledge than he has to make the football decisions. The long-term success of the team is nothing short of remarkable given the current salary cap era in the NFL.

On the other end of the spectrum is Dallas owner and general manager Jerry Jones. No one can question that his heart is in the right place. He's willing to spend the money on players and he even built a brand new state-of-the-art stadium, but consistently chooses to meddle in the affairs that involve signing and creating a roster. Under his ownership, the team has been on the verge of winning every year, but has consistently come up just short in the biggest moments.

Owners should buy teams because they have the money and love for the game, not because they're qualified to make day-to-day decisions. It's time for them to become wiser and sign a player for what he will do, not what he has done. Leave the sports decisions to the sports guys, but until next time — you're sacked!

Jordan Bean is a sophomore majoring in economics. He can be reached at Jordan.Bean@tufts.edu.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Tufts knocks off Hamilton, Williams, remains unbeaten

BY ZACHEY KLIGER
Daily Editorial Board

It was business as usual this weekend for the women's basketball team as they improved to

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
(21-0 Overall, 8-0 NESCAC)
at Williamstown, Mass., Saturday

Tufts	31	33	—	64
Williams	27	18	—	45

at Clinton, N.Y., Friday

Tufts	34	38	—	72
Hamilton	16	25	—	41

21-0 on the season with back-to-back road victories over NESCAC foes Hamilton and Williams.

Tufts traveled to No. 10 Williams on Saturday for what was sure to be a grueling NESCAC test. The first half lived up to the billing, as both teams exchanged blows in what was a high-energy, chippy affair — typical of a NESCAC showdown.

The Ephs' defensive pressure stifled the Jumbos, who were unable to find their offensive rhythm for much of the game. With just under six minutes to play in the opening frame, Williams grabbed a 27-24 lead on a pair of free throws from junior guard Kellie Macdonald. The Jumbos responded with a quick 5-0 run of their own, sparked by a 3-pointer from junior guard Hannah Foley.

Tufts held Williams scoreless in the last five minutes of the first half and headed into the break with a 31-27 advantage.



MATTHEW SCHREIBER / THE TUFTS DAILY

Freshman forward Michela North makes an easy layup against Amherst on Jan. 17. North scored a game high of 14 points in the team's 72-41 win over Hamilton.

"Williams is a really good team — definitely one of the tougher teams in the NESCAC," senior tri-captain guard Ali Rocchi said. "Both halves

were a battle. You know you're going to get that when you go up against a

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

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Jumbos drop two NESCAC games as playoff hopes diminish

BY AARON LEIBOWITZ
Daily Editorial Board

When the Jumbos' season began three months ago, their sights were set on the NCAA tournament;

MEN'S BASKETBALL
(11-11 Overall, 2-6 NESCAC)
at Williamstown, Mass., Saturday

Tufts	25	45	—	70
Williams	35	49	—	93

at Clinton, N.Y., Friday

Tufts	33	36	—	69
Hamilton	34	37	—	71

making the NESCAC tournament was practically a given. The question was not whether Tufts would make the playoffs but which seed the team would occupy.

Now, Tufts not only has no shot to reach the national tournament, but is on the outside looking in at the NESCAC playoff picture. On Saturday, the Jumbos lost at Hamilton, 71-69, after the Continentals scored the game-winning bucket with 5.7 seconds remaining. On Sunday, they lost at Williams, 93-70.

With two games left, Tufts is 11-11 overall and 2-6 in-conference games, tying them for ninth place with Conn. College. The top eight teams make the playoffs.

"It's completely unacceptable to not make the tournament," senior tri-captain point guard Oliver Cohen said.

This Friday and Saturday they will host Colby (12-9 overall, 3-5 NESCAC) and Bowdoin (18-2 overall, 5-2 NESCAC), respectively. If they beat Colby

and lose to Bowdoin, they will need Conn. College to lose at least one of its last two games — one of which is against second-place Williams — and will also need Colby to lose its final game against last-place Bates.

If they win both, they will make the playoffs.

"The mindset, I would say, is that the playoffs start for us this Friday, single elimination," Cohen said.

Over the past three seasons, Tufts has won 17, 16 and 13 games, respectively, reaching the NESCAC playoffs all three times. Now, the team is stuck on 11 wins and fighting for its playoff life.

"We're down, but we're not out," senior tri-captain guard Kwame Firempong said. "We have two games left, and we're going to do everything we can to make sure we get both wins."

In Williamstown on Saturday, the game slipped away from Tufts late in the first half.

With the score tied at 23 with five minutes left, Ephs freshman forward Duncan Robinson converted a four-point play that sparked a 21-2 Williams run. At halftime, the Ephs led 44-25.

The Jumbos' offense picked up in the second half, but the defense did not slow the Ephs' lethal attack.

Williams shot 53 percent for the game and 43 percent on 3-pointers, while Tufts shot only 35 percent overall and 28 percent the 3-point line. The Ephs also dominated in the paint, 52-22.

Robinson finished with a game-high 25 points to go

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

WOMEN'S FENCING

Jumbos compete against top teams in country at Northwestern Duals meet

BY JASON SCHNEIDERMAN
Daily Editorial Board

The women's fencing team competed in the Northwestern Duals meet on Feb. 1 and 2, winning five matches and losing seven. The Jumbos faced the No. 8 Temple, No. 9 Northwestern and No. 1 Princeton — three teams ranked in the national top 10 and some of the stiffest competition they've seen all year. However, playing against the top fencers in the country served as valuable preparation for the team's upcoming Northeast Conference matches.

"It was a great experience for all the girls," senior co-captain Shelby Bean said. "[It was] definitely the best I've seen us play as a team, both in the wins and the losses."

After a successful first day of competition, the team had more good bouts the following Sunday, despite starting the day in defeat to a talented Stanford squad. But as was the case on the first day of the event, facing tough competition early helped prepare the Jumbos for the rest of the day.

In their next match, Tufts beat the University of Detroit-Mercy, winning 21-6 behind contributions from every class. Sabre won 8-1, epee won 6-3 and foil put in their best performance of the weekend, winning 7-2.

After a hard fought loss to North Carolina, a top Div. I school, Tufts went on to win its last two matches against Caltech and Cleveland State, 20-7 and 22-5, respectively, to end the weekend on a high note.

The previous day, the Jumbos were able to shake off an early loss to bounce back and win some key games later in the day.

Their first match of the weekend was against Temple, which Tufts lost 19-8



COURTESY NICOLE CHAN

The women's fencing team battled against some of the best teams in the country on Feb. 1 and 2, winning five of their 12 matches.

despite their best efforts. While the final results of the match were disappointing, the hard-fought manner in which it was played set the tone for the rest of the weekend.

"I thought we had some great bouts against Temple, even though we lost," Bean said. "The big thing in fencing is never giving in, and I thought everyone

competed well to the end."

Tufts bounced back to win its next two matches, beating Lawrence 18-9 and Farleigh Dickinson 15-12. Both victories were marked by strong performances in the sabre class, with the group going 8-1 against Lawrence and 7-2 against Farleigh Dickinson. Senior co-captain Julia Hisey and sophomore Alexandra Boden were

standouts in these matches, winning 10 of their 11 bouts. Bean also contributed, winning twice against Lawrence and once against Farleigh Dickinson.

"Playing against the top teams, you really have to think and strategize," Hisey said. "I think playing in those matches

see **FENCING**, page 11