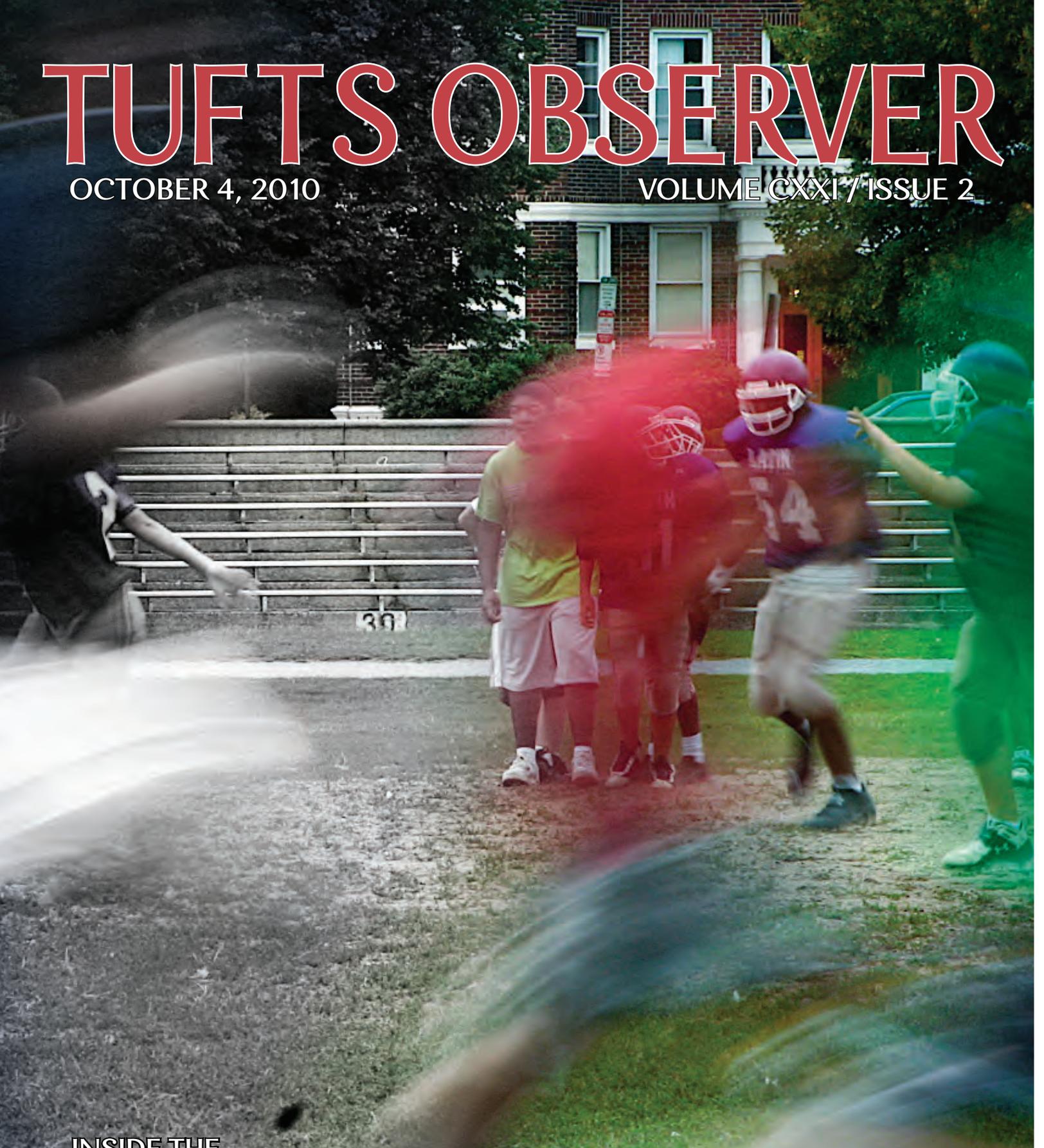


# TUFTS OBSERVER

OCTOBER 4, 2010

VOLUME CXXI / ISSUE 2



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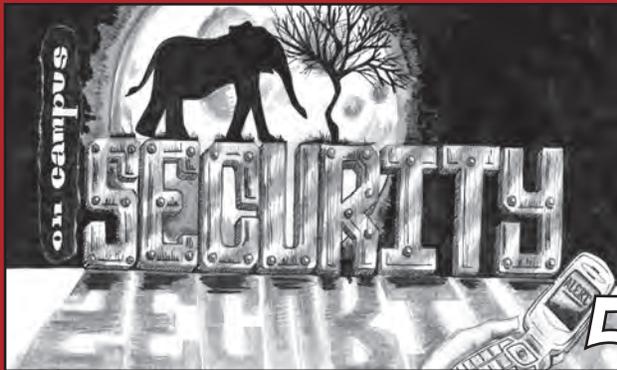
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*The Observer* has been Tufts' publication of record since 1895. Our dedication to in-depth reporting, journalistic innovation and honest dialogue has remained intact for over a century. Today, we offer insightful news analysis, cogent and diverse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



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www.TuftsObserver.org

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Sophia Boudoir  
Amy Connors  
Nick Cutsumpas  
Madeline Hall  
Natasha Jessen-Petersen  
Jessica Madding

Matthew Mazzotta  
Molly Mirhashem  
Saman Nargund  
Roxie Salamon-Abrams  
Jordan Teicher  
Danielle Walquist

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Since  
**1895**



FEATURE

# The Spirit Face Off:

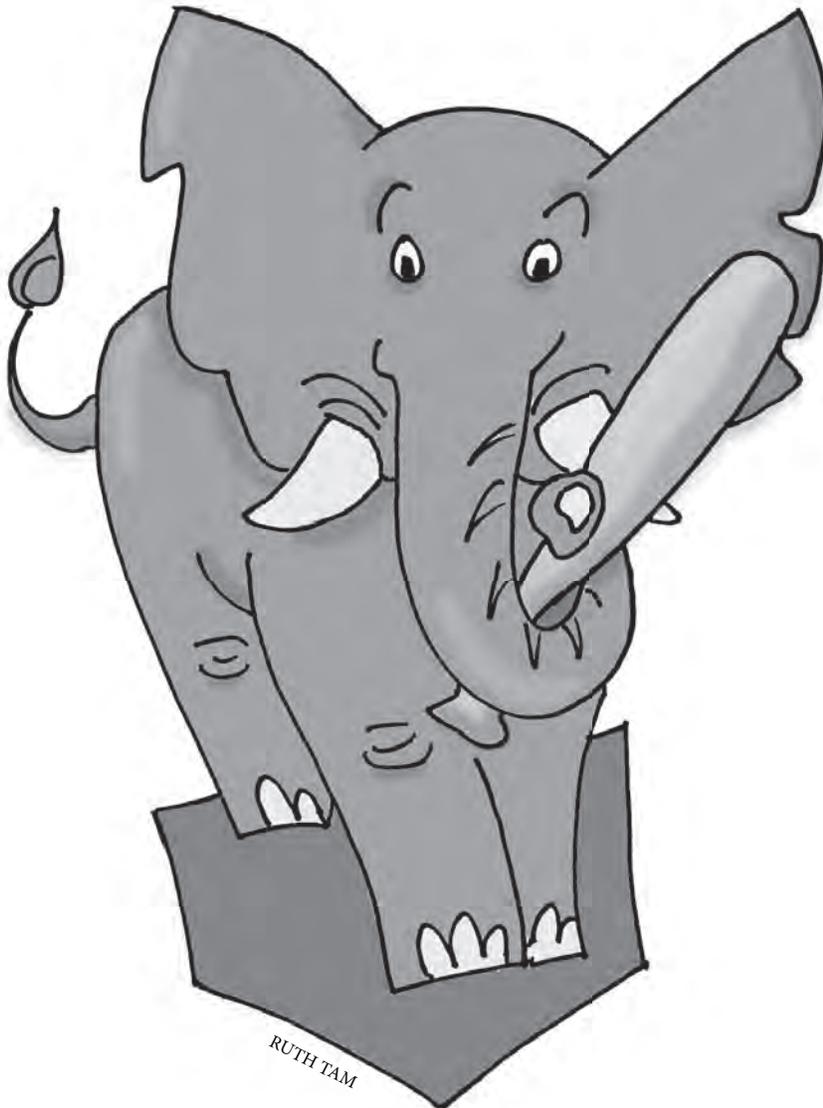


**How Tufts Athletics is  
cultivating its own brand  
of Jumbo Pride**

BY MEG BOLAND



Sports events do not appear to take priority in student life here like they do at other North Eastern Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) schools. When the Williams Ephs face off against the Amherst Lord Jeffs, crowds flood the stands. Students, alumni, and parents alike make sure that such a day is marked on their calendars months ahead of time. Popular t-shirts openly ridiculing the rival school are sold year round at local shops. It's a petty rivalry that students relish even after graduation. Colby and Bowdoin both have similar rivalries. But what about Tufts? **Do we even have a proclaimed rival? Do we even care that we don't?**



Evidently, here at Tufts, the atmosphere is a quite different from comparable schools. The bookstore fails to sell profane t-shirts (unfortunately). Homecoming is the largest gathering of students remotely near a sports field—and even then, not many actually ever make it into the stands. Jumbo pride appears to be reserved for only the athletes themselves.

That is not to say that Tufts athletics have been unsuccessful. In fact, the last year was incredibly successful: the men's lacrosse team won the division three NCAA championship, a first in Tufts' history; the men's baseball team won the NESCAC tournament; the women's field hockey team made it to its second consecutive NCAA semifinal; and Julia Browne won the NCAA tennis singles championship. Furthermore, in a ranking of division three athletics called the Director's Cup, Tufts placed sixth overall out of over three hundred schools. Tufts has made the list for five consecutive years; the sixth place showing is its best yet. Thus, in the wake of very successful 2009-2010 seasons, one wonders if the general student population even cares that Tufts' athletics are now on the rise.

When Athletic Director Bill Gehling was himself a student-athlete here in the 1970s, sports took a different form. Female and male sports were completely segregated. Men practiced at the male-only Tufts facilities and women at the female-only Jackson College facilities. Back then, the paths of men's and women's sports rarely, if ever, crossed. The 1972 landmark constitutional amendment Title IX sparked a



national revolution in women's college athletics. The amendment stated, "No person in the United States shall be... subjected to discrimination under any education program." The sports programs merged under the same department. Female athletics exploded under Tufts' name, revolutionizing Tufts' athletics.

Since then, Tufts' athletics have only incurred positive developments. According to Gehling, an activity that used to only take place "across the tracks" now has started to become an "integral part of the educational experience of the Tufts' student." Within the last ten to fifteen years, a notable shift has taken place as athletics have begun to take a more central role in student life.

Tufts is still by no means a sports-centric community. Gehling explains what most of us have already accepted: "The notion of spirit is a theme you hear on and off at Tufts. I don't see it as a place without spirit, there is just so much else going on that sports don't take a priority for most." Overall attendance of students at sports games is often quite low. More students were aware of Tufts' new sex-while-the-roommate's-there policy than the NCAA championship game, both of which were nationally publicized. But this doesn't mean that Tufts kids don't love Tufts—they just may not love sitting in the bleachers as much as their peers at Williams and Amherst. Tufts athletes may feel as though there is no school spirit, but it might just be that most Jumbos merely show their Tufts pride off the field.

This difference in Jumbo pride may have to do with the characteristics of the typical Tufts student. The type of students who usually attend Tufts have historically been very different from the typical students that make up our rival—and more athletically spirited—schools. Tufts never quite fit the "small New England college" mold that other schools in our athletic conference embody. In the past, this caused a sort of identity crisis for Jumbos. Gehling recalls that, when he was a student in the 1970s, "Tufts really struggled to find out what it was. Location-wise it was always in the shadows of Harvard and MIT. At the same time, size-wise Tufts did not fit in with other small New England colleges."

COURTESY OF ANDREW MORGENTHALER CC



Since then, Tufts has built a name for itself in academia and has found its own prestigious place in the m $\acute{e}$ l $\acute{e}$ e of New England colleges. Tufts' previous growing pains have since shaped a unique campus and consequently unique athletic department. While some small colleges, such as Amherst and Middlebury, boast numbers of student-athletes close to half of the student body, varsity athletes at Tufts make up less than 15%. Because of this selectivity, the average GPA of an athlete at Tufts is the same as the overall average school GPA. Coaches stress the importance of being active in the classroom. Recruiting numbers are generally limited, with fewer students aided in the admissions process than at other competing schools. Thus, while some colleges distinguish athletics from academics, Tufts encourages cohesion.

The overall lack of enthusiasm towards athletics at Tufts might be entirely apparent. However, that does not mean that athletic support is a last priority for the Tufts Administration. The Alumni Association and the University Advancement programs run by the undergraduate administration both aim to gain funding for athletics. Most of the Athletic Department's budget has been secured through fundraising and six-to-eight figure private donations. In the past, such funds have gone to the renovation of Cousens Gymnasium, the installation of Bello Field, and the construction of the William A. Shoemaker Boathouse.

But whether or not funding for athletics has increased in recent years is a difficult question. As the economy faltered, so did the amount of overall donations given to the school. Gehling was vague about plans to do much-needed renovations on

some of the facilities. While reassuring that projects are being reexamined in the coming months, he cannot give a definite timeline. Despite the stalled projects, Senior Associate Director of Development Chris Grugan claims that athletics has "held its own" in terms of fundraising in the past few years, even as other programs have faltered—implying that athletes are more likely than non-athletes to give back to Tufts post-graduation, so as to specifically support their teams during hardship.

Last spring, alumni of the men's lacrosse team bought the team new jerseys before their NCAA championship game. While the team ultimately could not wear the uniforms, the gesture demonstrated the loyal following of their alumni. The university has not specifically explored the correlation of those who attend alumni events and donate to the Alumni Association. However, Timothy Brooks, head of the Alumni Association, is sure that athletes comprise a large percentage of donors. He insists that if there were a poll taken at any given alumni event, most of the attendees would likely have been athletes. Brooks pointed out the connection between the eagerness of an athlete to involve themselves in alumni activities and the school spirit that athletes must possess.

An increase in school spirit within the Tufts athletic community could be attributed to last years' successes. Grugan explained the correlation, saying, "I think that we are seeing the cumulative effect of having so many successful programs... which has resulted in a bump in giving". The greatest donors to the athletic department as of late have been alumni athletes, followed closely by parents of current athletes.

Overall, it is hard to determine whether or not athletics here at Tufts are generating more student attention these days. Our crowds will never be comparable to other NESCAC schools. However, there is no doubt that Tufts' athletics are gaining recognition outside of Medford. And though the bleachers may never be full for any given game, Jumbo pride will always exist someplace or another. ☺

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*Meg Boland is a sophomore majoring in international relations. She is a member of the Tufts varsity women's lacrosse team.*



# See No Evil, Fear No Evil



BY MOLLY MIRHASHEM

Almost weekly, Tufts students are emailed campus safety announcements from TUPD, usually detailing students' and residents' run-ins with local burglars. Sometimes, if we're lucky, an artistic rendering is included. Now whether or not these updates are sources of laughter or legitimate concern may depend on the student, but we've always accepted them as staples of every day life at Tufts. However, with the recent speculations of Tufts' campus safety in the news, one can't help but wonder if Tufts' small security breaches point to a much larger safety issue on campus.

Walking around Tufts University, one doesn't experience any unusual feelings of danger or insecurity. Yet, as almost everyone on campus has heard, the online news source, *The Daily Beast* has ranked Tufts the most dangerous college campus in America this year.

"We pored over the three most recent calendar years of campus security and crime data (2006-2008) compiled by the

U.S. Department of Education as well as the FBI and the Secret Service, in conjunction with the Clery Act, the federal mandate requiring all schools that receive federal funding to disclose crime information annually," says *The Daily Beast* website. But one can't help but be puzzled by the site's methodology while walking around a seemingly safe campus packed with Frisbee players, Hillel goers, and back-pack laden students on the way to the library.

The question of methodology is partially clarified by a later disclaimer on the site, reading, "We also deferred to the [National Center for Education Statistics] in determining what a 'campus' is—for example, it groups the two main campuses for Tufts as a single entity, even though they are seven miles apart (Tufts' Boston campus is the reason it ranked so poorly)." This addition brings an important question: if the two campuses were grouped together, how does this ranking impact those students on the Medford/Somerville campus, who quite possibly have no interaction with the Boston campus in Chinatown?

The ranking was performed among 458 universities nation-wide that met various qualifications including student body size and the presence of residential facilities. Harvard University is ranked third on the list (MIT is at 14<sup>th</sup>), making the Somerville/Cambridge area appear to be the most dangerous place to attend school in America. Considering the notoriously dangerous locations of some universities on the list (such as the University of Baltimore), it is unbelievable that Tufts and other nearby schools topped the chart.

Tufts freshman David Sutherland agrees, and says, "My initial reaction [to the ranking] was disbelief. Coming from an area near Hopkins and Virginia Tech, given the events that have happened there, I really didn't think that Tufts deserved this ranking." Sutherland went on to say that he didn't ever feel unsafe at Tufts, so the ranking didn't really affect him.

Tufts junior Arya Saniee had similar opinions to offer: "Walking home from the library or from a friend's dorm, I've never felt unsafe." Yet Saniee didn't have the



JESSICA MADDING



same feelings about the areas surrounding Tufts as he did about the campus itself. He added, "There is a lot of crime in the surrounding areas of Tufts that are off campus."

Tufts' Executive Vice President, Patricia Campbell addressed the issue in a letter to the Tufts Community on September 16, "We wanted you to know that [*The Daily Beast's*] listing is based on flawed methodology and is extremely inaccurate," she said. "We believe there are several reasons for its gross inaccuracy. First, unlike some Boston-area universities, Tufts has reported to the U.S. Department of Education not only incidents that take place on our three campuses but also incidents on adjacent public property that are reported to us by municipal police. This is done so that our community is aware of such incidents and can take proper precautions, but it may create the misperception that our campuses are less safe than they really are."

Last year, Emerson College of Boston was ranked most dangerous. How is it that colleges in cities like New Orleans, Baltimore, Atlanta, and DC (all nationally ranked within the top 20 most dangerous in America) have evaded the number one spot two years in a row? And were beat out by Boston?

Campbell seemed to won -

der this same question and went on to say that reports in the future would be more specific, and thus would avoid such confusion in safety rankings. Campbell's letter also attempted to assuage lingering student concerns by detailing many safety enhancements that have been made in the last few years at Tufts, and referencing the accreditation that Tufts University Police Department has received, holding them to the "highest possible professional standards."

In addition to stating his agreement with Patricia Campbell's letter, TUPD Captain Mark Keith offered students suggestions for maintaining their personal safety on and off campus: "As always, the Department of Public Safety encourages students and staff to always be aware of their surroundings, whether it be on or off campus and use common sense to limit the possibility of becoming a victim," he said. "Avoid walk -

ing alone, stay in well lighted paths and areas, use the campus shuttle or avail yourself of the safety Escort that we offer on all campuses 24/7. Don't walk or jog while listening to iPods—it limits your ability to stay attentive to your surroundings. Always let Public Safety know if you have any safety concerns."

Unquestionably, Tufts, like any college campus, is a place where crime exists. Yet it is clear from various authorities and accounts at the university that the extent of this crime does not reflect the results of *The Daily Beast's* survey—, students can rest assured that their safety is in good hands while on campus. Or, at the very least, Tuft students, usually known for being bookish and pasty, can revel in their street cred being raised by living on the most "dangerous" campus in America. ☺



JESSICA MADDING



# For the Love of the Game

BY KATHERINE SAWYER

For many at Tufts, intramural sports offer the opportunity to compete in various athletic ventures without sacrificing the fun of the game. But this less competitive, arguably more enjoyable, athletic forum is facing significant changes as a result of a transformation underway in Tufts athletics.

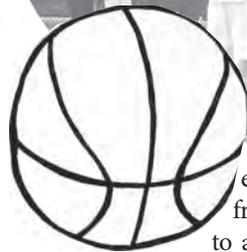
Intramurals (IMs) at Tufts are getting serious with new rules including a \$30 fee paid to the league if a team forfeits a game. According to Tufts Intramural Director Cheryl Milligan, “Forfeits include not being on time, not having enough players, or not showing up. Fees are due the following day, and half of fees collected will go to ‘Right to Play’ which is a non-profit bringing sports to children in underserved communities worldwide, and the other half will go to administrative fees in changing the schedule after forfeits to keep the league going.”

Although the funds go to a good cause, this change may affect the character of Tufts IMs. From first-hand experience, I know we all have those nights when homework is more pressing than playing a fun game of soccer. My freshman year team, “\*\*\* Soccer Stars!! \*\* we r kute,” was obviously not a serious venture, but a fun way to bring friends together and play a sport we enjoyed in our youth. If we had been forced to pay a fee for every forfeit, we would have gone broke.

Other changes follow in the same vein, attempting to legitimize IM sports: all play-



CATHERINE NAKAJIMA



ers must check in at the front desk before games to allow for an electronic attendance record, and only players already listed in the roster can play for the team. Although these policies will undoubtedly help organize intramurals this year, they seem to add a level of unprecedented seriousness in this “for-fun” arena.

These new rules and regulations coincide with a shift in Tufts’ athletic scene, which is shining placing a bigger spotlight on varsity athletics, some sports gaining funding to keep their records strong. This shift, however, comes at the expense of some junior varsity (JV) teams such as girls’ soccer. The girls JV team this year lost its funding and has instead been replaced with a club team.

In the midst of this shuffling of funds and categories, perhaps IM sports are seeking to reinvent themselves. The field still hosts an A level for more competitive, athletically-inclined teams, and a B level for teams looking for something less intense. This year’s new rules stipulate that a player may only be registered for one league and if any individual is registered for both an A and a B team, he or she will automatically move to the A team, a measure is meant to ensure fair competition and skill levels. The more intense categorization is just one more way it seems IM sports are becoming more serious.

This begs the question, is the A league trying to fill the void left as JV and club sports lose funding? What will happen to the B league as this shift

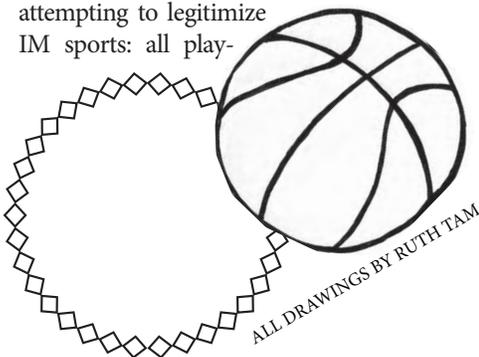


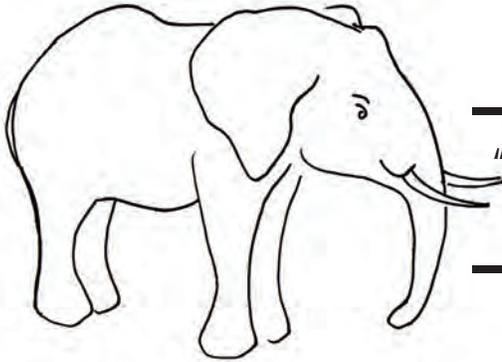
occurs? For those looking to have some fun and get a little exercise in the process, IM sports represent a low-commitment, high-fun activity. If a trickle-down effect occurs and A leaguers find themselves playing with former JV or club players, will they move to the B league? Will the B league still boast its silly names and entertaining game attire if play gets more competitive?

While the increased regulation could help keep intramural sports alive and well by encouraging participation and fairness in the games, these changes may also affect the spirit of the game. If IM sports become more competitive, what will take their place? IM sports are the end of the road of organized athletics at Tufts, and if they become more serious, they could neglect a whole facet of Tufts students who want to play for fun, not for the scoreboard.

Perhaps these new rules don’t point to a shift in Tufts’ athletic atmosphere. Maybe Tufts IMs just needed them so people would show up for games—that makes sense. Maybe these rules will have no noticeable effect and will just help IM sports to become more legitimate. All I know is that if I forget to show up to one of my IM volleyball games this semester, if for some reason I’m not on that court in my tie-dye shirt and neon spandex, I better not have to pay a fine. ☹

*Katherine Sawyer is a junior majoring in International Relations and Environmental Studies.*





# MIDTERM ELECTION

"The first responsibility of every active citizen is to vote," F during his matriculation speech. "I expect 100 perce

BY

NEIL

## NATIONAL

**37 open Senate seats. 19 will be contested.** Be sure to watch Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid battle for reelection in his home state of Nevada against Tea Party-backed Republican Sharron Angle. Reid is a powerful player in the senate (opposed to abortion but a spokesman for the recent health care bill) and the results of Nevada's senatorial race could speak to the nation's shifting priorities. There are **10 Republican incumbents running for Senate versus 12 Democrats**, and the remaining 15 races have no incumbent running. The Republicans need to pick up nine seats in the Senate to win a majority.

**435 open House seats. 100 will be contested.** With a large number of incumbents retiring this year, Republicans need to win 40 new seats to gain control of the House and may well succeed if Democrats can't pick up momentum before November.

Restlessness and frustration with those in power have turned the 2010 midterm elections into a **referendum on President Obama** and the Democrat-controlled Congress. **Approval ratings of Congress are at 20%**, so Republicans are hoping to gain control of Congress. They have a better chance in the House than in the Senate. Winning the Senate looks increasingly unlikely given the Primary victories of Tea Party-sponsored candidates, who may not attract moderate voters in November.

The Democrats are trying to prove that they have accomplished significant reforms in the last two years. The first provisions of the **Health Care Bill took effect on September 23**, allowing thousands of children with pre-existing medical conditions to gain access to insurance. House Republicans are promoting their "**Pledge to America**," a platform with main points including making the Bush tax cuts permanent, repealing ObamaCare, and instating a spending cap.



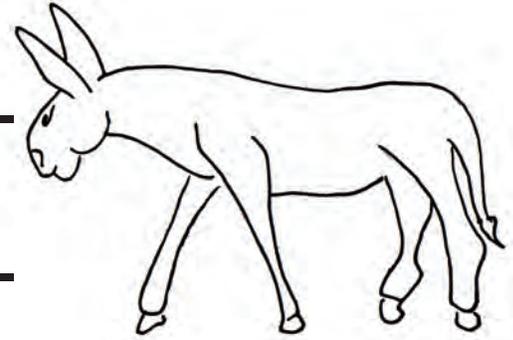
## LOCAL

Physically, **Tufts is split between the 7th and 8th Congressional districts**, so you'll be voting for different candidates depending on where you live. **Medford is located in the 7th district**. Congressman Ed Markey is running for reelection there after 36 years in the House. He is a senior Democratic leader, notable for sponsoring the Waxman-Markey Climate Change Bill that passed the House back in 2009 but has since stagnated in the Senate. Markey is running against Republican Gerry Dembrowski but is almost certain to win as a popular incumbent. **Somerville is located in the 8th district**, currently represented by Democrat Michael Capuano. He has held the seat for 12 years and is running unopposed this year.



# IONS: 2010 EDITION

te," President Larry Bacow told the incoming class of 2014  
percent participation from eligible voters. No excuses."



ARONSON

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Democrat Deval Patrick seeks reelection as governor** against Republican Charlie Baker, Independent Tim Cahill, and Green-Rainbow Party Jill Stein. Cahill is currently the State Treasurer. Despite an impressive early showing in the polls, it looks like **the election will come down to Patrick and Baker**.

Patrick's achievements include creating a streamlined Department of Transportation, investing in the biotech industry in the state, closing corporate tax loopholes, and deregulating the car insurance market. Patrick **served the state through the recession**, and Massachusetts fared better than other states, although it was forced to make \$1.5 billion in cuts for its 2011 budget. Critics have made the case that the governor did too little too late.

Baker, the former CEO of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, talks of **running the state more like a business**. He helped turn Pilgrim into one of the nation's highest rated health care providers. He served the state for a number of years as Secretary of Health and Human Services and as Secretary of Administration and Finance. He worked to successfully overhaul the state's welfare system in the 1990s but may have mismanaged the infamously expensive Big Dig.

There are also three referendums on the ballot in November. Question 1 involves repealing a **double tax on alcohol**, Question 2 deals with issuing **permits for low-income housing**, and Question 3, perhaps the most controversial, would **reduce the sales tax from 6.25% to 3%**. While that sounds nice in theory, there are big concerns about how the state will make up for what would amount to a huge hole in the already precarious budget.

## REGISTERING

**The deadline in Massachusetts to register to vote is October 13.** If you want to register here, you can go to [www.eac.gov/voter\\_resources/register\\_to\\_vote.aspx](http://www.eac.gov/voter_resources/register_to_vote.aspx), print out the national voter registration form, fill it out, and send it to the included address.

You can also visit the Medford or Somerville city halls to register there. Because the Tufts campus is split between two cities, it can be rather difficult to figure out in which city you are supposed to register and where you are supposed to vote. Thankfully, Tisch College has **a list of where to vote** according to various residences on campus, available at [activecitizen.tufts.edu/?pid=153](http://activecitizen.tufts.edu/?pid=153).

**If you want to register as an absentee voter** in your home state, visit the Tisch College website for more information at <http://activecitizen.tufts.edu/Vote>

**Visit soon because many states require registration three to four weeks before the election.**



# No Horsing Around

BY KATIE CHRISTIANSEN

To be a captain of a Tufts club sport is to enjoy the camaraderie of dedicated athletes and to learn, for better or for worse, the inner workings of the Tufts Athletics Department.

For the past two years, I've enjoyed my role as captain of the Tufts Equestrian Team (TUEQ), and learned more than I thought possible about leadership, organization, patience and whatever other virtues St. Augustine touted in his tomes. It's been an incredibly rewarding experience albeit not without its moments of frustration.

Without a doubt, the biggest area of contention for us has been budgeting and fundraising. Our out-of-pocket expenses are astronomical—roughly \$44,000 per year—and as a point of reference, our starting budget this semester was \$7,900. We make it work every year with rabid fundraising efforts, but we're still only ever in the black at the eleventh hour.

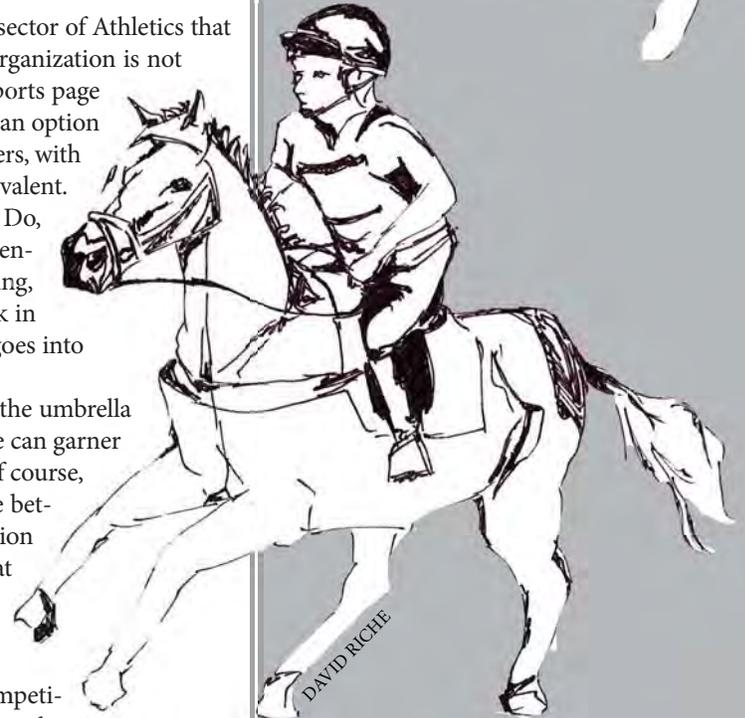
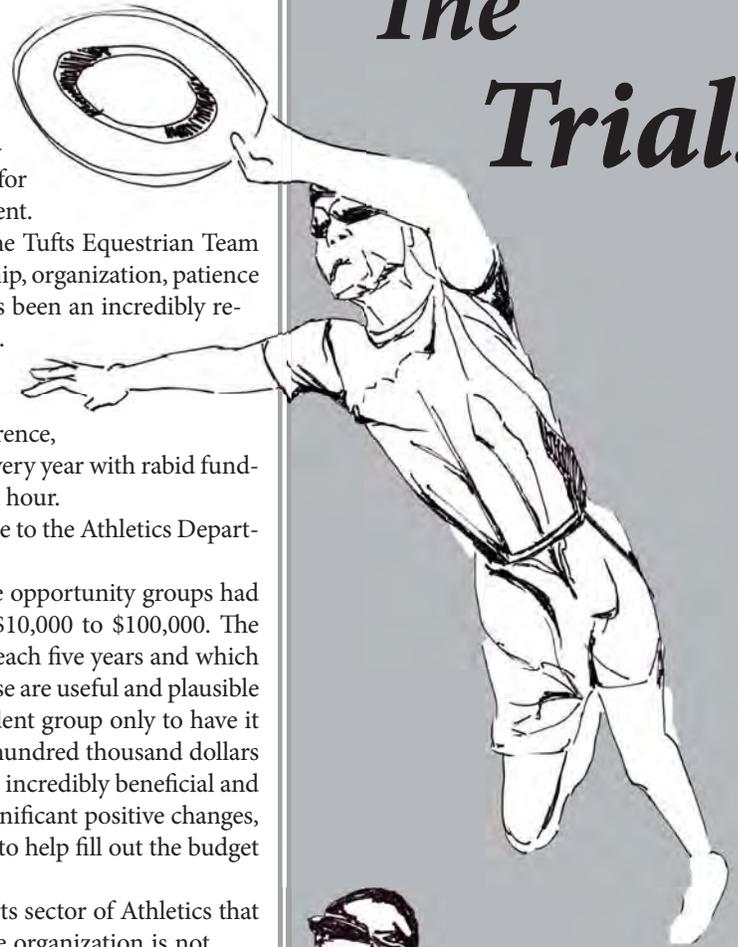
Our recent transition from the jurisdiction of the TCU Senate to the Athletics Department has been relatively smooth. Well, except for one thing.

At the TCU Treasury meeting last week, I learned about the opportunity groups had to apply for a budget surplus grant ranging in amounts from \$10,000 to \$100,000. The grants are to be used for projects whose temporal scope would reach five years and which would have a positive impact on the Tufts community. I think these are useful and plausible stipulations; after all, what's the use of handing \$50,000 to a student group only to have it disappear into internal affairs? Theoretically, there are a couple hundred thousand dollars in TCU Senate budget surplus. While I think the grants would be incredibly beneficial and the large amounts in which they are offered would encourage significant positive changes, I can't help but wonder whether a few thousand could be spared to help fill out the budget gaps in Tufts' club sports.

But it's the disconnect between the Senate and the club sports sector of Athletics that confounds me. The word "club" in and of itself indicates that the organization is not varsity. Go to the Tufts Athletics Website and you'll see that club sports page is not on the main screen. Click on "Inside Athletics" and you'll see an option for the club sports page. The club sports are then divided into two tiers, with the first tier consisting of organizations that have no varsity equivalent. Equestrian falls into this tier, along with cycling, rugby, Tae Kwon Do, water polo, skiing, fencing, volleyball, ultimate Frisbee, and table tennis. All of these sports are responsible for their own budgets, coaching, practice space—everything. Athletics might serve as the framework in which these sports operate, but there's still a lot of guesswork that goes into running a club sport.

It seems to me that perhaps all club sports belong back under the umbrella of the Senate. As it stands, the only additional budgetary aid that we can garner from Athletics comes in the form of buffer funding. While this is, of course, indispensable and greatly appreciated, perhaps club sports would be better aided and better organized under the auspices of an organization that focuses on clubs at their essence. Club sports need the aid that the Senate can provide and would benefit from its transparency as a governing body. Athletics is wonderful at what it does and at what it should do—organizing and overseeing varsity sports. This is not at all to say that club sports should not be considered robust and competitive entities; rather, they need to be considered at a more objectively realistic level. They need to be supported, funded and regulated by a body that is better equipped to regulate, aid, and promote not only financial stability but goals and purpose as well. ©

## The Trials



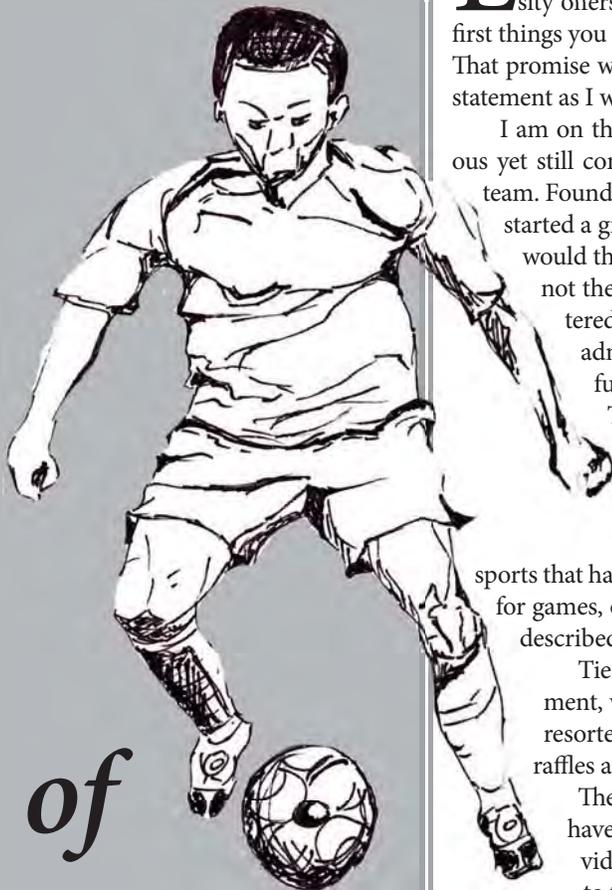
DAVID RICHE



# Playing Footsie with the Tufts Athletic Department

BY DANIEL WEINSTEIN

## & *Tribulations*



## *of Tufts' Club Teams*

Let me take you back to the pre-fresh years—the time when you toured college campuses, listened to various spiels about the academics and extracurriculars the university offers, all the time wondering, “Is this school for me?” I’m sure that one of the first things you heard was, “If we don’t have a club that you want, we will help to start one.” That promise was made to me at Tufts, but I found that there is not as much truth in the statement as I would have hoped.

I am on the executive board of Tufts University Football Club (TUFC), a less rigorous yet still competitive alternative to varsity soccer, what used to be the junior varsity team. Founded in 2006, TUFC has grown to over 70 members, two teams, and has even started a girls’ team, TUWFC, all spurred on by the elimination of JV programs. One would think such a popular club would get the full support of the university. This is not the case at all. Since its inception, TUFC and other club sports have encountered various obstacles in dealing with the Athletic Department and university administration. According to their Constitution, TCU Senate cannot directly fund sports teams. This responsibility shifts to the Athletic Department. The Athletic Department is free to distribute money to club sports teams as it sees fit.

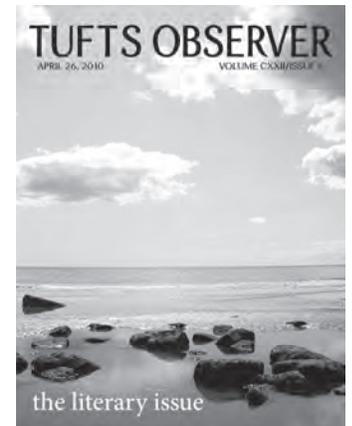
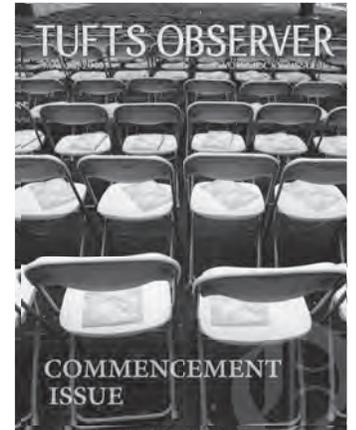
For TUFC, talks with the Athletic Department had been few and far between until last semester. The Athletic Department recognized TUFC, but gave us only “tier two” status. This status is reserved for club sports that have a varsity equivalent and means that we have no access to trainers, venues for games, or regular practice times. Jake Schiller, executive board member of TUFC, described the treatment of TUFC members as that of “second class citizens.”

Tier two clubs must pay out-of-pocket for fields, referees, jerseys, and equipment, which means heavy dues must be collected from each member. TUFC has resorted to a variety of fundraising efforts to help cut the cost to members, but raffles and the bake sales can only help so much.

The TCU senate approved an increase of money to club sports, but club sports have not seen so much as a penny. That money does not go directly to the individual teams; instead, the collective sum of money for all club sports is given to the Athletic Department, which in turn distributes the money. Of course, if there were Tufts facilities that could be used for games, less funding would be needed. Even without playing games at Tufts, only about \$1,000 would eliminate all practice, field, and equipment related expenses for TUFC.

It is not just an issue of funding that hinders club sports. Scheduling changes daily because the times and locations of practices can be altered by the Athletic Department on a whim. This is not to say things haven’t gotten better for club sports and TUFC. In the past year talks have reopened between club sports and the Athletic Department and relations have been much improved. TUFC is now a recognized club and has field space for practices at night.

Yet, much more needs to be done overall in order to improve club sports’ situation. For a large club like TUFC to get such little attention is shocking and a disappointment for students like me who arrived at Tufts expecting more. ☹

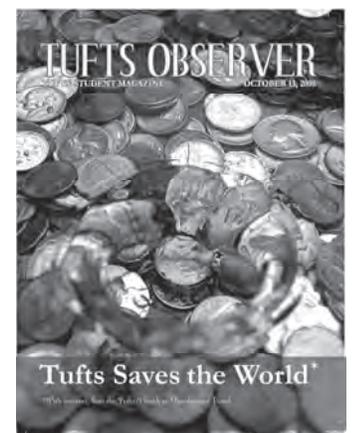


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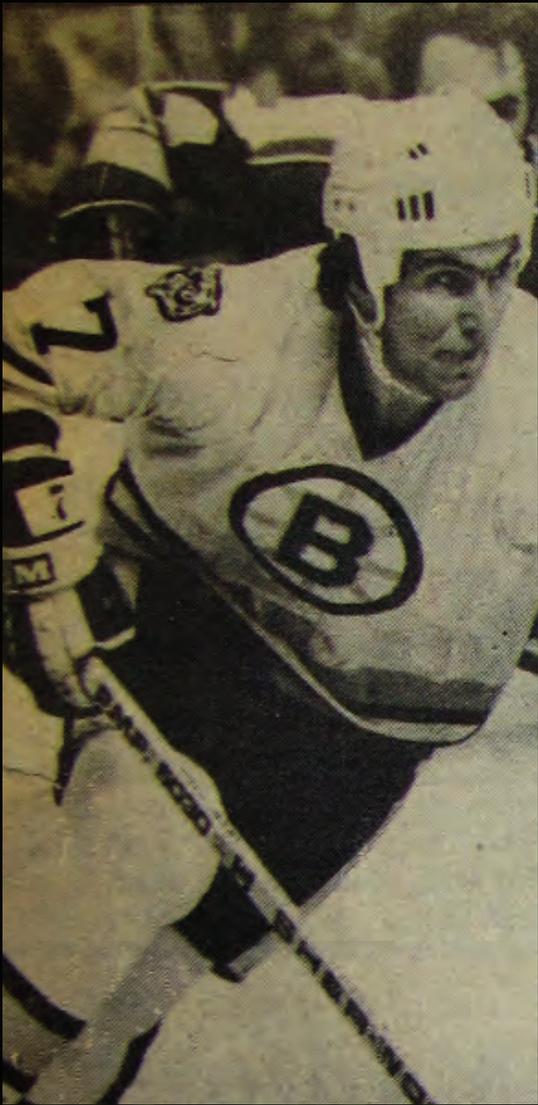


# Jumbo Sports



**THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT  
TUFTS' ATHLETICS ARE GAINING  
RECOGNITION OUTSIDE OF  
MEDFORD.**

**JUMBO PRIDE WILL  
ALWAYS EXIST  
SOMEPLACE OR  
ANOTHER.**





**TO GIVE ANYTHING LESS  
THAN YOUR BEST IS TO  
SACRIFICE THE GIFT.**

*- Steve Prefontaine*



# the tufts Observer



*Color photos courtesy of Andrew Morgenthaler via Creative Commons*

**B & W PHOTOS TAKEN FROM 1983  
ISSUES OF THE TUFTS *OBSERVER*  
COURTESY OF TUFTS DIGITAL  
COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES**



# Think Tank with a Soul

## The Roosevelt Institute Channels Student Ideas into Practice

BY MADELINE HALL

**B**usiness-professional attire required. Pantsuits preferred. Stoic faces, tiny notebooks with silver pens surround a table. Is that a complementary tray of pastries in the corner, provided for today's meeting? How lovely.

This might be the set-up of any other national think tank. Don't be fooled, though; the Roosevelt Institute is nothing like your average DC organization. Its members have good intentions, innovative ideas, and—YES—souls. What's more, Roosevelt operates right on Tufts' campus. All those posters you might have seen emblazoned with our former president's visage promoted the first major event hosted by the Roosevelt Institute this semester, a policy-writing workshop, and the group is just getting started.

As the first national student-run think tank, the Roosevelt Institute helps students on 80 different campuses across the country take their activism to the next level. The organization takes a more direct approach to student initiative by incorporating their ideas into the actual policy-writing process. Through various training sessions, Roosevelt leaders teach thoughtful students how to develop solutions to pressing issues and subsequently write policy memos explaining the problem and proposing a solution. These memos are often published in Roosevelt journals that circulate among members and nonmembers

alike, and even presented to local groups to effect immediate change. The topics discussed run the gamut, from transportation reform in Boston to health care in Sudan. In other words, this ain't your dad's activism.

Being a part of Roosevelt means being connected to limitless resources and individuals that help transform proposed ideas into implementable solutions. Its office in Washington, DC, staffed by full-time policy directors, acts as a connection to the greater world of policy implementation. What's more, the campus network itself is enough to impress. Eighty Roosevelt chapters allow a nationwide spread of likeminded students who are all looking to have a greater role in the policy-making process. Harvard University's Roosevelt chapter hosted the annual Northeast Spring Regional Conference last spring, drawing bright minds from other states and other train stations. Tufts and many other northeastern universities attended the conference to listen to a mixture of professional and student panelists discuss topics ranging from healthcare to education to foreign diplomacy. With regular interactions among Roosevelt members, the transfer of knowledge between campuses intensifies, enriching students from all reaches of the country.

Just a year old, the Tufts chapter of the Roosevelt Institute has grown rapidly. At the outset, the chapter was characterized by three policy centers: Defense and

Diplomacy, Education, and Equal Justice. With even this modest array of topics, the chapter saw much success in its infancy; multiple members saw their work published, while others attended conferences like the aforementioned Harvard spring conference.

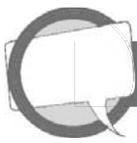
Roosevelt at Tufts has also expanded this year to add Healthcare and Energy and the Environment as policy centers. In addition to past endeavors, Roosevelt at Tufts will be hosting Think 2040 this year, a facilitated discussion that encourages students to propose what kind of world they would ideally like to see in the year 2040. Spearheading the campaign is sophomore Elias Kahan, who is looking to invite a wide range of student groups to send representatives to the discussion. Occurring in mid-October, Think 2040 will surely inspire constructive conversation about the future for the Millennial Generation.

It is so easy for students to be overwhelmed, lose their sense of efficacy, and start wondering, what's the point? Roosevelt at Tufts counters this by giving students the means to channel their innovative ideas into practical policies just waiting to be implemented. ☺

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*Madeline Hall, a sophomore majoring in international relations, is the Events and Communications Coordinator for the Roosevelt Institute. Look for upcoming issues of the Observer in which Roosevelt members will pitch their ideas.*





# Lessons from a Strip Club

by **Sophia Boudoir**



**MUDDY DRAWERS**

This past weekend, my friends were at a club. They found themselves less than thrilled with the scene; the sweaty, writhing crowd and overpriced drinks weren't cutting it. They decided to leave, and roamed around in search of an open bar. Alas, it was almost 2:00 am and Boston was predictably dead. Not yet ready to call it a night, they cast about for something to do. "If only Aphrodite wasn't with us, we'd go to Centerfold," one of the guys grumbled. Aphrodite—the only girl in the group—perked up. She had heard about the infamous strip club, but had no idea our friends frequented the spot. She was intrigued, and it took little persuasion for her to agree to accompany the guys to the club.

I'll leave what happened inside to your imagination, but it will suffice to say that, despite some initial hesitation and discomfort, Aphrodite ended up enjoying herself. The women were beautiful and the dancing was more sensual than explicitly sexual. Though the crowd was a little creepy (read: middle-aged and balding), they were generally respectful of the dancers. There was none of the leering, cat-calling, and general griminess that she had expected from a strip club.

What surprised Aphrodite most, however, was how much she enjoyed watching the scantily clad women around her. She was unexpectedly attracted to the strippers, and was ogling their bodies just as much as the men surrounding her. When she relayed her story to me, she seemed uncomfortable to admit how aroused she had felt, and it was with bashful reluctance that she admitted to me that she allowed one of the guys to buy her a lap dance.

When I heard the story, I was enthralled. Kicking myself for deciding to stay in during what turned out to be such

an eventful night, I couldn't stop thinking about Aphrodite's adventure. Why was it that my friend, who identifies as heterosexual, felt so attracted to female strippers? Why on earth did she acquiesce to receiving a lap dance, and why did she enjoy it?!

And to speak more generally, why is it more socially acceptable for straight women to have feelings of homoerotic attraction than it is for straight men? At parties, it is acceptable for drunk girls to playfully make out with each other, but that's hardly the case for guys. It's more acceptable for female celebrities to express same-sex attraction (remember Britney and Madonna's infamous VMA kiss?). In an interview with British *Cosmopolitan*, Christina Aguilera was quoted as saying: "I think women are such sensual beings. And, I mean, I'm attracted to men ultimately—I'm married and I love my husband and I love what we do together, but honestly? If I had the choice between viewing a naked man or a naked woman, I'd choose the woman. We're just naturally sexier and more beautiful to look at." Though this is somewhat

scandalous, it is much more acceptable than if straight male celebrity had said that he enjoyed looking at naked men. Similarly, if a situation arose where a group of my female friends decided to go to a male strip club, I can say with certainty that none of my heterosexual male friends would agree to come, let alone receive a lap dance. Is this bias due to socialization? Have we become more accepting of lesbian tendencies because of the culture in which we've been raised? Is this just another manifestation of the way women are objectified and sexualized in our society, or is there a biological explanation for this difference?

A team of researchers at Northwestern University tackled this question, publishing their results in a paper called "A Sex Difference in the Specificity of Sexual Arousal" (Chivers et al, 2004). In this study, researchers exposed both men and women video clips depicting both heterosexual and homosexual sexual behavior, and recorded their subjective arousal (by means of a self-report, using



the Kinsey sexual fantasy scale) and physiological arousal. Psychological arousal was measured in males by measuring changes in the circumference of the penis, and in women by measuring the change in “vaginal pulse amplitude”, which measures female arousal. Moreover, the study included post-operative male-female transsexuals, in order to eliminate the possibility that the differences observed between men and women were due to the way genital arousal was measured, and ensured that they truly reflected differences in arousal.

What researchers found was that the relationship between sexual arousal and sexual orientation differs fundamentally between men and women. The data for men showed a strong correlation between male arousal and their stated sexual orientation: straight men were significantly more aroused while watching videos showing female-male and female-female sexual behavior, while gay men were significantly more aroused watching male-male sex. The data for women told a different story. Both heterosexual and homosexual women experienced strong genital arousal to both male *and* female sexual stimuli. In other words, both homosexual *and* heterosexual women were significantly aroused watching male-female sex as well as female-female sex. In other words, lesbians can be aroused by watching straight sex, and straight women can be turned on by watching lesbian sex. According to the authors of the study, “female sexuality seems generally to be more flexible than male sexuality.”

This study has been repeated (with different variations) several times since 2004 (Bailey, 2009; Chivers, 2005; Chivers, Rieger, Latty, & Bailey, 2004; Lippa, 2006, 2007; Suschinsky, Lalumiere, & Chivers, 2009). In these studies, researchers used different methods to generate arousal, from video clips to audio clips to pictures of swimsuit models. Regardless of methodological variations, each reports the same thing: women become highly aroused watching both lesbian and heterosexual sexual behavior, regardless of their sexual orientation.

The conclusion at which all of these studies have arrived is that men exhibit “category specific” sexual responses. This is because they experience both genital

and psychological sexual arousal when they watch films depicting their preferred sex, but not when they watch films depicting the other sex. Women, however, do not show a “category-specific” genital response to erotic stimuli, and as a result heterosexual and lesbian women are indistinguishable in terms of their responses to heterosexual versus lesbian erotica. One of the reasons that men are category-specific while women are not is that homosexuality is much more likely to be due to genetics in men than it is for women. There is more evidence that for men, sexual orientation is due to biological contributions, whereas there is little evidence that female homosexuality is due to biological factors (Mustanski et al., 2003; Diamond, 2003). Furthermore, there are very few women who are exclusively homosexual; most lesbian women have had heterosexual sex and relationships with men. This makes sense given the difference in category specificity examined above; men are so reliable in their patterns of sexual arousal that researchers can accurately predict a man’s sexual orientation by measuring his genital arousal in the lab. This is probably because male sexual orientation is coded in their genetic makeup; it’s biological. Women’s sexual orientation cannot be predicted using biological indicators; it is instead determined mainly by socialization (nurture, instead of nature), and is therefore more fluid.

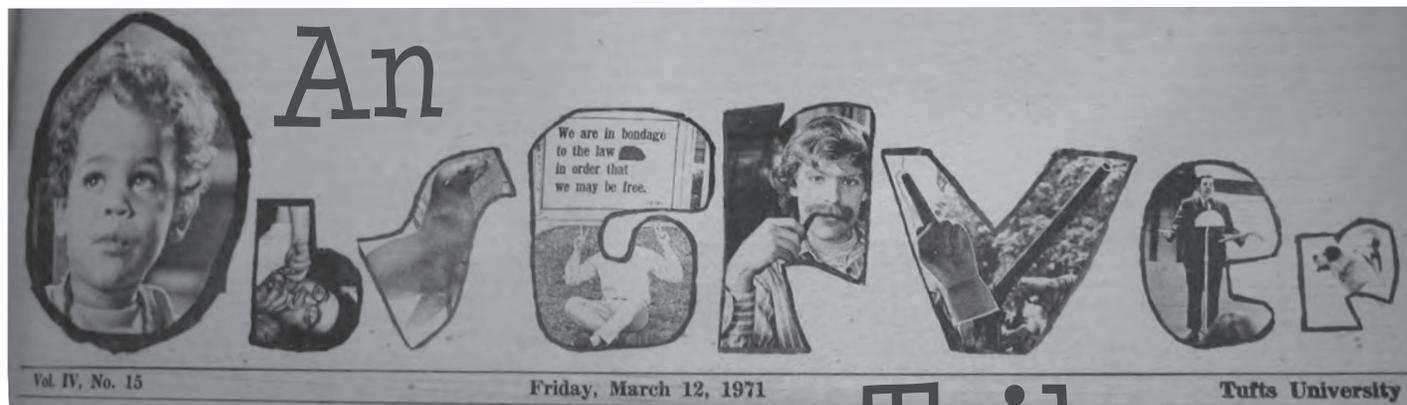
You might be wondering why you don’t see more women hooking up with each other, since they clearly become aroused watching other naked women. According to a study done by Laumann, Gagnon, Michael, & Michaels, “despite their capacity to become sexually aroused by both male and female sexual stimuli, women do not have higher rates of same-sex sexual activity than men” (1994). So, even though straight girls can appreciate and even become turned on by naked girls, they still prefer to have sex with men.

The Chivers study addresses this issue as well, and Aphrodite would be comforted to know that “a self-identified heterosexual woman would be mistaken to question her sexual identity because she was aroused watching female-female erotica; most heterosexual women experience such arousal.” The authors also comment on male category specificity, adding “a self-identified heterosexual man who experienced substantial arousal to male-male erotica, however, would be statistically justified in reconsidering his sexual identity” (Chivers 2004).

All things considered, it’s completely normal—even expected—that straight women are turned on by other women. Aphrodite can relax—she can go to strip clubs and enjoy lap dances without having to doubt her sexual orientation. Maybe next time I’ll even join her. ☺



CATHERINE NAKAJIMA



# Tail

ROXIE SALAMON-ABRAMS

*This is a story for my mother—Julie Salamon—a woman who likes history and radishes and all other things that come full circle.*

Two years ago my dad’s birthday fell at the most hellish time of my final exam period. Amidst the chaos of endless papers, presentations and double shot cappuccinos I had only enough time to send him a quick birthday email and sing a very speedy “Happy Birthday to You” into his voicemail.

When I emerged from my exam period stupor I realized that my half-assed birthday wishes just wouldn’t cut it. I come from a family that gives handcrafted birthday adventures in place of hallmark cards. The summer before, my dad and I had guided my mom on a Walt Whitman tour of New York City for her birthday. We rode our bikes across the Brooklyn Bridge and listened to Whitman’s “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry” on my portable iPod speakers as we gazed out at *Manhattan north and west*).

Clearly, I needed a gift that would live up to the Salamon-Abrams standard. I decided to reach into my parents’ past for inspiration. I dragged my friend Ali out of the springtime glory that comes just as the school year draws to a close, and into the depths of Tisch library. Together we ventured into the basement of Tisch, otherwise known as “Level G,” to see what clues I could uncover from my parents’ past at Tufts University. I had visited the famous spot in the lobby of Miller Hall where they met in 1971. I had seen my dad’s yellow house on Dearborn Road and my mom’s second floor apartment on Curtis Ave. I was now ready to explore the nucleus of their Tufts experience, the foundation upon which all of their memories and experiences at Tufts were built: *The Tufts Observer*.

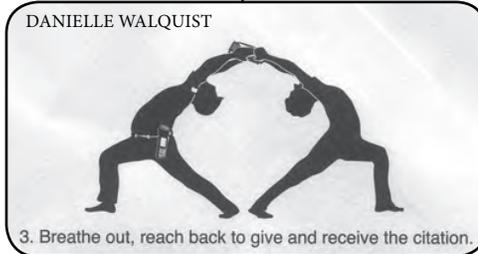
Level G is a place that not many students at Tufts have or will ever step foot in (although I highly recommend a visit before you graduate); it houses many of Tufts’ archives and special collections. Among its collections are bound editions of nearly every publication ever produced at Tufts—original prints of every issue of *The Observer* dating back to its start as the *Tufts Weekly* in 1895. In the archives I found the makings of a birthday present for my dad—I pieced together articles he had written and edited between 1971 and 1975 (in the pre-*Daily* days) and glue-sticked them with photos of my college-age parents into the 2009 literary issue of *The Observer* to create a personalized “Bill Abrams” *Observer* issue.

But, my time spent in the archives led me to find more than just a *schmaltzy* birthday present. I found a living history of Tufts and a new connection to my school. The archivist, who took remarkable pride in her work in the depths of Level G (*not* the basement, as she corrected me), gave Ali and me a brief, but memorable tour of the treasures of Tisch’s hidden trove. She handed us a box. Inside, beneath a thin layer of tissue paper, lay a taxidermy tail. “That,” she exclaimed, “is all that is left of the original Jumbo!”—the very same Jumbo that was burned in a fire in 1975, the Jumbo that my mom, Julie Salamon, had written an obituary for in *The Tufts Observer*.

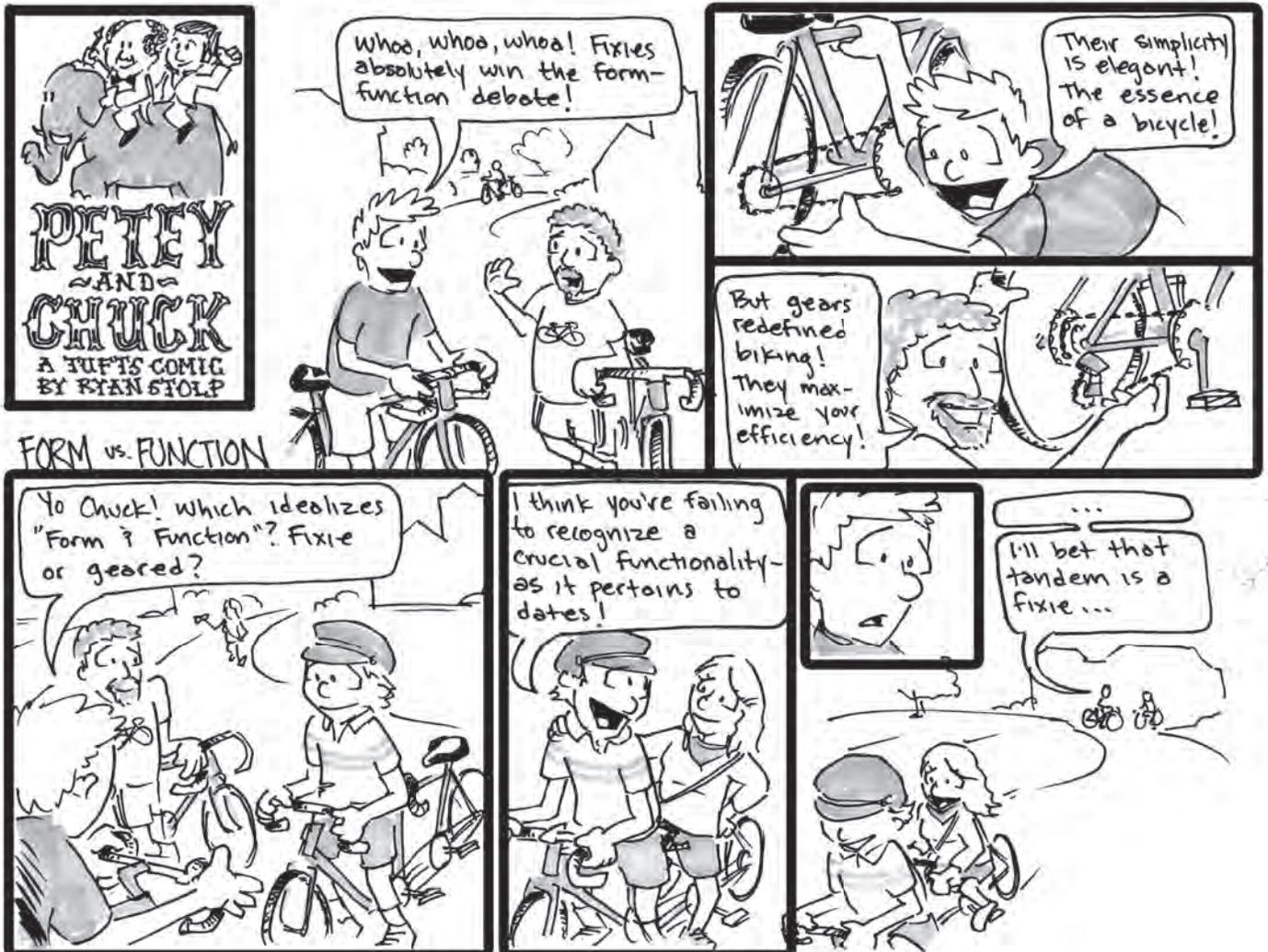
As I stood with Jumbo’s tail in my hand, I knew that one day someone would ask me to write this whole journey down. The time had come for me to join my parents in the bound periodicals of Level G. ☺



Quirky traffic signs, Zen parking tickets, shit-powered streetlights

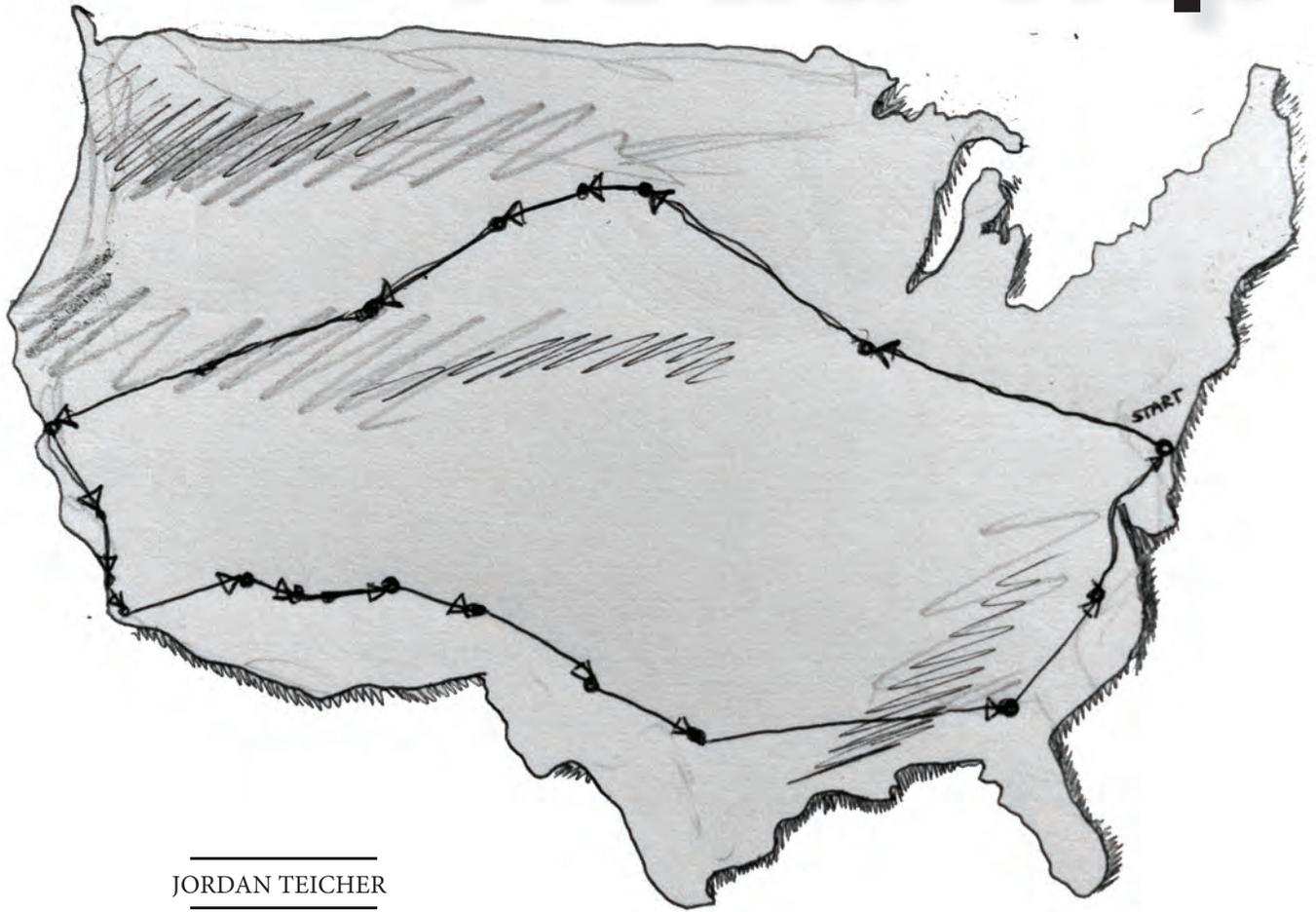


...must be Cambridge.





# The Death of the Road Trip



JORDAN TEICHER

**M**ay 23, 2010. I'm driving down thin, spiraling roads in Yellowstone National Park on the fifth day of a cross-country road trip with my best friend from high school. It's snowing heavily, and at ten o'clock, the sky is so black I can only see five feet in front of the car. The weather prevents me from driving more than 10 miles per hour, and we're still 15 miles away from the campground where we're supposed to sleep for the night. Stubborn condensation clouds the windshield.

Fred, my friend, has the passenger window open and is dusting off the snow with his hand, trying to salvage some sort of visibility for either of us. I'm not panicking too much, but I'm alarmingly out of my comfort zone, as is Fred. We have to adapt, roll with the punches, stay safe, find somewhere with warmth to sleep

for the night. But at this very moment, all I can think of is, how the hell did I get into this situation?

This same thought has circulated the heads of many travelers faced with the unfamiliar. Since Jack Kerouac galvanized young Americans to see their homeland with his 1951 novel *On the Road*, the cross-country road trip has been a fundamental part of our national culture. It offers a way to see the unknown, and perhaps more importantly, a chance to feel vibrant and young before the daily grind of jobs and family life test the limits of our spirit.

I know a few people who have taken the trip, most of them now 50 or 60 years of age. With great clarity, they recall their memories from the journey—not just anecdotes, but also how it shaped their perspectives of America as a whole. However, when it comes



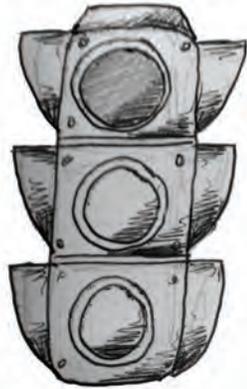
to members of my generation, I know only a handful of people who have taken a cross-country road trip. When Fred and I told friends and family of our plans, the usual response started with a wide-eyed, open-mouthed look of surprise, as if to say, “Who does that anymore?”

And then again, who *does* drive across the country anymore? The very thought of it is outdated, connoting images of hippies cruising on the highway in a yellow Volkswagen van. The culture of our generation favors the quick interaction—the email, the text message—over the slow journey. It’s not a question of one being better than the other; it’s just a difference of philosophy.

Think of how our current society is designed to integrate young men and women into *adulthood*. A college degree has become a necessity instead of an advantage. Summer breaks between semesters are now extensions of the school year, full of internships and classes. There’s little time to take an expansive road trip. By the time schooling is over, one is expected to enter the work force immediately—after all, those massive student debts aren’t disappearing by themselves.

But the economics of a cross-country road trip can be overwhelming as well. Fred and I each spent over \$2,000, mainly on fuel, food, and shelter, and even then we were quite conservative with our spending. One night, we camped out a quarter-mile off the highway by the Grand Canyon simply because it was free. Then the added expenses, such as parking, tolls, and attractions, make the grand total even higher. Money may not be an issue for a select few, but for others, it makes a cross-country trip seem daunting.

However, time and money are not the only important issues. Having a compatible travel partner is just as critical. Fred and I have been best friends since the seventh grade. He is the Ricardo Tubbs to my Sonny Crockett, or perhaps more accurately, the Dean Moriarty to my Sal Paradise. Neither of us is too domineering and we are both able to be honest with each other. And on an 8,000-mile trip, honesty is crucial. Even so, we had problems, disagreements that we needed to overcome.



“On a road trip, the transportation becomes a large part of the **experience**. It’s not necessarily fun to drive *fourteen hours* in one day, but it provides a chance to *venture* through parts of America that aren’t normally seen.”

The idea of being with the same person for every waking moment of a three and a half week span can be too taxing for some, regardless of how many cool Miami Vice references you make about friendship.

Finally, the road trip has also become obsolete because of a lack of patience in modern teens and young adults. A cross-country trip is a grind, full of ten-hour drives in the middle of nowhere. Generally, we perceive the means of transportation and the destination as separate entities with regards to a vacation. Yet, on this type of trip, the transportation becomes a large part of the experience. It’s not necessarily fun to drive fourteen hours in one day from New Jersey to Chicago, but doing so offers the traveler a chance to venture through parts of America that aren’t normally seen. With plane tickets easily accessible and cheap, driving thousands of miles might not be appealing. It’s a challenge on both the body and the mind that many young Americans appear unwilling to take on these days.

Many factors prevent young people our age from taking cross-country road trips. And while it might not be as sexy as a Caribbean beach vacation, I will say without equivocation that my drive across America with Fred was the most significant event of my life. If anyone has the chance, I strongly suggest taking the trip. Seeing the whole country without interruption is an inimitable experience.

Take, for example, a four-day stretch Fred and I encountered towards the beginning of our trip. Our fourth day started in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where we had camped the previous

night. We left early, heading west, and visited the Badlands. We drove through the Badlands National Park, gawking at the mountainous rocks in 80° heat. We continued west, arriving at the unimpressive Mount Rushmore by nightfall, by which point the temperature had cooled to 40°. Our fifth day ended in Yellowstone during the aforementioned snowstorm, where we booked a hotel room in a lodge six minutes before the computer system shut down for the night. When we finally arrived in San Francisco, we found ourselves in the ghetto—beautifully named The Tenderloin—and booked a motel for the night. (It should be noted that at 2 a.m., a prostitute in a sundress mistakenly knocked on our door, which we did not open during our entire stay).

The experience was not only thrilling, but also risky, rewarding, and enlightening. Something of this magnitude taught me how to mature by taking care of myself without the protection of my parents or the safe enclave of a college campus. Being on the road, navigating, caring for oneself, and, ultimately, making quick decisions and adapting to unfamiliar surroundings are life lessons that cannot be taught; they must be experienced. Regrettably, members of our generation are largely unwilling or unable to take advantage of this opportunity. If the road trip is dead, then let this serve as its eulogy. ☹



ART BY NATASHA JESSEN-PETERSEN



# SWEAT IT UP IN BOSTON

*Nine offbeat ways to break a sweat (or watch someone else do the sweating) around Boston*

BY MEGAN WASSON

## **BIKRAM YOGA BOSTON**

*Yoga and sweating in public are your thing*

When: Classes held daily

How much: \$20 for 10 days for first timers is your thing,

Where: 30 JFK Street, Harvard Square

[bikramyogaboston.com](http://bikramyogaboston.com)

## **THE DANCE COMPLEX**

*Belly dancing and capoeira (Brazilian martial arts) classes*

How much: \$13 a class

When: Belly dancing: Wednesdays 8:30-9:30 PM,

capoeira: Mondays 6:30-8:00 PM

Where: 536 Massachusetts Avenue

[dancecomplex.org](http://dancecomplex.org)

## **STATIC NOYZE DANCE CLASS**

*Take a hip hop class taught by Static Noyze*

When: Thursdays 7:30-9:00 PM

How much: \$15 a class

Where: Jeanette Neill dance studio, 261 Friend Street

## **PADDLE BOSTON**

*Kayak and canoe rentals*

Where: The Charles River via Kendall Square

How much: Kayaks for \$15/hr, 3 person canoes for

\$16/hr, \$55 for a two hour guided tour of Boston

[paddleboston.com](http://paddleboston.com)

## **BEANTOWN BOOTCAMP**

*Verbal abuse and a serious workout*

When: 6:00-7:00 AM, Tuesdays-Thursdays for four weeks

How much: \$200

Where: 90 Canal Street

[beantownbootcamp.com](http://beantownbootcamp.com)

## **URBAN ADVENTOURS**

*Guided bike tours of Boston*

Where: City View tour starts in North End, takes you all over Boston

How much: \$50 per person for 2.5/3 hours and 10-12 miles

[zerve.com/adventours](http://zerve.com/adventours)

## **BOSTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB**

*Needed: Short-shorts, sweatbands, and a sense of irony*

Where: 407R Mystic Ave, Medford, take the Route 95 West Medford Bus.

[bostonttc.us](http://bostonttc.us)

## **BOSTON DERBY DAMES**

*Roller Derby--a combination of roller skating, relay races, and full-on aggression*

Teams: Wicked Pissahs, Cosmonaughties, Nutcrackers, Boston Massacre.

[bostonderbydames.com](http://bostonderbydames.com)

## **BOSTON RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**

*Like football, but less boring. Hot guys. Cheaper than baseball.*

[brfc.org](http://brfc.org), next game 10/9. ☺



# UPCOMING CONCERT PREVIEW

BY ALYCE CURRIER

OCT  
10

## XIU XIU, DEEFHOOF

Experimental, noisy, squeaky voices, sometimes grating. Xiu Xiu are interesting, the sort of douchebags you want to get to know better. Deerhoof make it really, really hard not to have fun. But what is this "Paramount?"

‡18, Paramount Theatre, Park Street T stop

OCT  
21

## RUSKO

Dubstep. You'll love Rusko if that's your thing. Their opening set for Crystal Castles at House of Blues was the sweatiest of delights.

‡20, Royale Boston, Boylston T stop

NOV  
05

## PRETTY LIGHTS

Electronic and funky. If you like your concerts substance-enhanced and danceable, check this one out.

‡25, House of Blues, Kenmore T stop

NOV  
09

## DAVE MATTHEW'S BAND

Just kidding. Don't do this. Please.

‡72, TD Garden, North Station T Stop

NOV  
20

## DELOREAN

I don't remember what any of their songs sound like, but their recent Boston show at Great Scott was almost unreasonably dance-inducing (and it wasn't just the liquor I had in my bag, promise).

‡12, Middle East Downstairs, Central Square T stop

(All listed ticket costs are box office, advance ticket prices. Prices may vary online based on service fees or on the day of the show.) ◊



# Home

By Amy Connors

Saffron light above the sink  
tints the taste of butter cream  
from the spoon with reverie  
thoughts fall away  
like loose change to the floor  
where echoes of my mother rest  
if the humidity's right  
I can feel the flannel cats and dogs  
still press against my skin  
where July bug bites were  
once scratched by tiny scallop nails  
construction paper dreams rest  
under the veils that once  
brought 8-legged nightmares  
when laws were based in light  
they say the seasons change  
and time is a line  
I say the tender leaves always return home



CATHERINE NAKAJIMA



# Umbrella

By Nick Cutstumpas

Swiftly it climbed  
Resisting its rise  
Reluctant to be cast  
Into a world without control,  
Its sedentary soul  
Succumbing to its assailant  
Wind became the master

Against its will I watched it fight  
But it was the prisoner  
Let go  
Whipped back and forth  
Abused and beaten  
Let go  
Carried out above the surf  
A lone figurehead in the sky  
Let go  
And then it stopped  
Frozen in the trance of contemplation  
It no longer fought  
It embodied the wind  
Galvanized by each gust  
Willed by each wisp  
Eternally engulfed in a dance  
No longer did it struggle  
Its movements became swift  
Wind and umbrella  
Umbrella and wind  
Waltzing above the water  
Courting its invisible companion  
Tap dancing its way along the horizon

The sails on the boats were envious  
Aspiring to ascend  
And join the dance  
They cut themselves loose  
Liberated from their ropes and pulleys  
That had kept them at bay for so long  
Joining my umbrella  
Above the shackled world below  
Entangled in bliss  
My umbrella was gone  
Caught up in the rapture  
Lost in harmony  
Farewell



SAMAN NARGUND

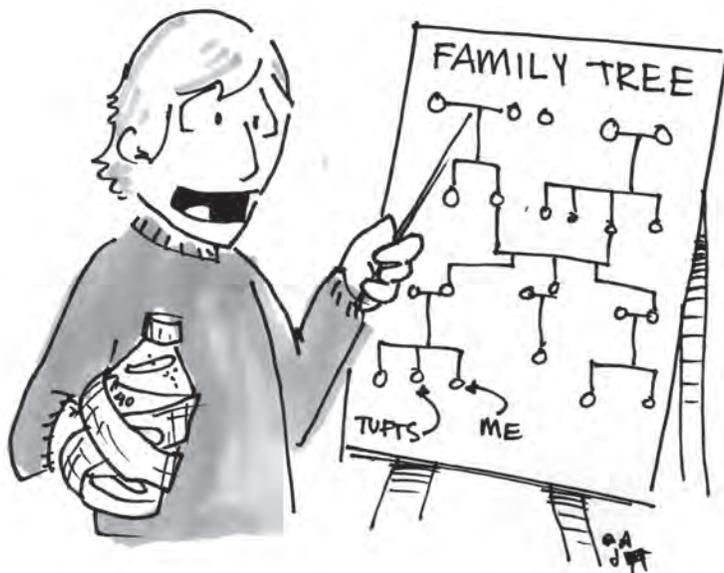
CATHERINE NAKAJIMA



# POLICE BLOTTER

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Always with an ear for overly sonorous music, Tufts Police went knocking on a door in Latin Way. An occupant of the loud room opened the door, and after, seeing who was doing the knocking, abruptly, and with out success, tried to close the door. The occupant said he was a U Mass student, a claim that was quickly corroborated by another occupant. Police, now growing tired of the recurrent theme of non-Tufts aliases, thought it tiring and frustrating when the “U Mass” student turned out to be yet another boring Tufts student. The alcohol was taken and the music turned down to a more palatable volume.

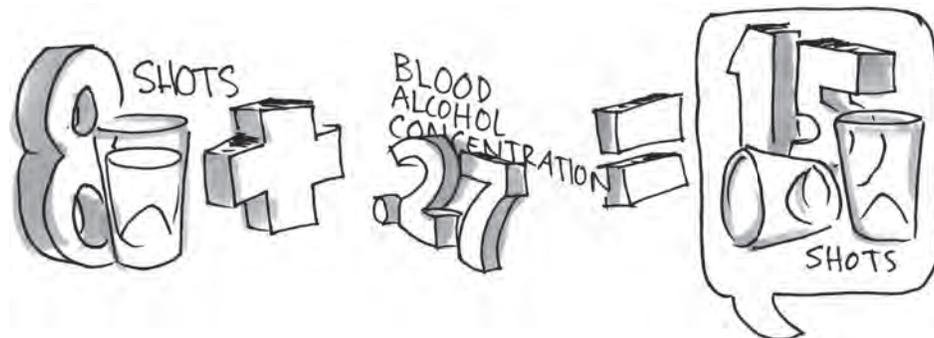


Scattered noise violations with widespread reports of alcohol. And a heat wave.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Police were perplexed by an individual placing two 40 oz. beer containers on Boston Avenue (40's are supposed to be taped to your hands!). When officers asked for the individual's ID, he was quick to state that he was an older brother of a Tufts student. Police initially thought it odd that he looked nothing like the likeness on his Massachusetts ID. “Well,” they thought, “maybe his brother can clarify things!” Police again found it odd that the Tufts photo of his little brother looked much more like their suspect. Needless to say, the 40's were confiscated, along with the ID.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26



Tufts Police encountered a numerical anomaly when an intoxicated student reported he had consumed 15 shots of rum. “I guess that’s why he went to Lawrence Memorial Hospital,” posited Sgt. McCarthy. “That’s a lot. It explains why his math was off. The count might not be accurate.”

—illustrated and compiled by Ryan Stolp



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