



TUFTS OBSERVER

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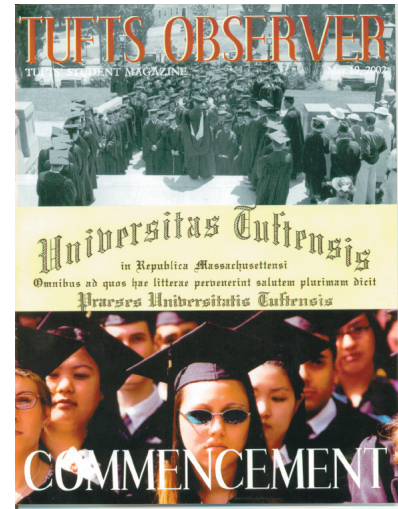
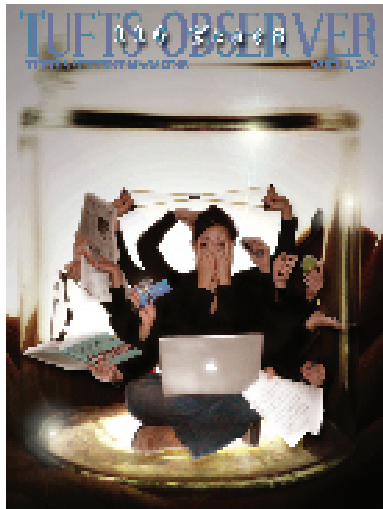
DECEMBER 2, 2005



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Cover Photo by Rachel Geylin



In Loving Memory



Boryana Damyanova

September 20, 1983 – November 22, 2005

"We must not allow the clock and the calendar to blind us to the fact that each moment of life is a miracle and mystery."

H.G. Wells



POLICE

BLOTTER

Monday, November 21

At 11:30 p.m., there was report of larceny in Tisch Library. A non-student stated that he and a friend were working in a private study room. They both left momentarily and returned to find his Apple iPod missing. The item is valued at \$250, and there are no suspects. The students expressed anger not so much at the crime but at the fact that non-students were occupying scarce study room space.

Tuesday, November 22

At 12:45 p.m., there was a report of a past larceny in South Hall. At 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 18, a student left his room unlocked and went to take a shower. When he returned ten minutes later, his wallet was missing, including cash, ID, and credit cards.

Wednesday, November 23

At 2:00 a.m., there was a report of an arrest as a result of disorderly conduct. Officers responded to College Avenue because of a loud noise complaint, but instead found two individuals scuffling on the sidewalk. Upon being approached by the officer, one remained, and one took off on foot down lower campus road but was quickly apprehended. The officer reported that the student was being belligerent, extremely disrespectful, offensive, and uncooperative. After warning the student several times, the officer attempted to arrest the student for disorderly conduct. The student resisted arrest, resulting in a physical altercation that did not end until another officer arrived on the scene. The student was immediately placed under arrest and sent to the hospital to treat minor injuries. The student is being charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, and assault and battery of a police officer.

Monday, November 28

At 1:00 p.m., there was a report of a past breaking and entering at Theta Delta Chi Fraternity. Sometime on Friday, November 25 or Saturday, November 26, unknown persons entered 123 Packard Ave. and caused significant damage, including broken windows, holes in the walls, and a broken door. The new damage was barely noticeable amidst the existing squalor, but residents insist that they treat their house with the utmost respect.

All day, there was a report of only one happy person on the Tufts campus. The writer of this column celebrated his 21st birthday on this day. In the typical fashion, he drank himself silly and ignored all other obligations.

—Compiled by Spencer Maxwell with the cooperation of the Tufts Police Dept.

COLLEGE BULLETS

Student Convicted of Plot To Assassinate Bush

On Tuesday, November 22, a federal jury convicted Ahmed Omar Abu Ali of joining al Qaeda and plotting to kill President Bush. With this ruling, the jury effectively dismissed Ali's claims that the Saudi Government had tortured him into falsely confessing to the plot. Abu Ali is a 24-year-old US citizen, and is from Falls Church, Virginia. He had been arrested by Saudi authorities in June, 2003 at a university in Medina, Saudi Arabia for his alleged involvement in several terrorist plots, and plan to become leader of an al Qaeda terrorist cell in the United States.

Historian Arrested Over Holocaust Views

On November 11, 2005, British Historian David Irving was arrested in Austria and charged with violating a law that prohibits Holocaust denial in any form. Irving is well known for his controversial views that the number of deaths and the manner of the deaths of Jews were exaggerated. He was in Vienna for one day to speak at a University when he was arrested by Austrian authorities, and is still in custody, pending a court date.

—Compiled by Spencer Maxwell

Tufts Trivia of the week



What percentage of Tufts Undergraduate Students are active in the Greek system?

Answer: 15%



Getting (Safely) Around Tufts ... and Beyond

BY LYDIA HALL

Sure, there's plenty to do on the Tufts campus. But every now and then, students have the desire for something more. So they head off campus, to Boston, Harvard Square, or elsewhere, in search of fun. But how, in this age of three dollar-a-gallon gas prices, to get to their destination? *The Observer* takes a look at the advantages and disadvantages of some different methods of transportation available to Tufts students—and offers some tips for getting around safely.

CARS

All students, except freshmen, have the option of bringing a car to campus. With his or her own method of transportation, a student's life is bound to be much easier, right? Not necessarily. There are quite a few costs that come with bringing a car to Tufts. First of all, gas prices of late are astronomical, which

traditionally cash-strapped college students clearly don't appreciate—there's even a Facebook group called "People who Voted for Bush Should Pay for my Gas!" Second of all, students are required to pay a fee to the university for parking, which can reach up to \$440, for parking that isn't always very accessible from students' housing. For example, if someone isn't lucky enough to have an allotted parking space at their on-campus house (as some frats, sororities, and Tufts-owned houses do), it means a walk to either the Hill Hall lot or the Cousen's Gym lot—which, during a New England winter, can be a bit unpleasant. Other students complain that they "hate driving in the city" and dislike paying for parking off-campus, which can be extremely pricey in the greater Boston area. However, there are certainly positive reasons why students keep bringing cars, year after year. "For one, it gives you more freedom with things like food shopping and going home [and] visiting friends," comments one student. Also, "you're not tied down to the MBTA schedule," and can leave the greater Boston area for entertainment such as concerts.

THE JOEY AND MFA SHUTTLE

The Davis Square shuttle, or the "Joey," has been a familiar sight on the Tufts campus for the past 20 years, shuttling students to Davis and back—or sometimes, if someone is feeling too lazy to walk, just uphill or downhill between classes. The shuttle runs approximately every 15 minutes during the week and on weekend evenings, and every half an hour during weekend days, and is certainly a popular method of transportation. The drawbacks? Some students feel it's "unreliable" and that it waits for too long in front of the campus center before heading to Davis. Others wish it made a stop midway between Olin and the campus center. However, there's still no better way, except maybe by car, to get uphill during a rainstorm.

Craving some fine art? Tufts also

operates a shuttle between the campus center and the Museum of Fine Arts. Leaving every 20 minutes between eight and four, and every half an hour up until six, this is also a resource for the students who take classes at both Tufts and the MFA.

THE BOSTON BUS SHUTTLE

Started after an initiative by the TCU Senate in 2004 and brought back this year, the Boston bus shuttle provides transportation until three in the morning on weekend evenings between the city and Tufts. According to a *Daily* article from last year, senators hoped the bus would give students "the chance to enjoy the city after the Red Line closes in the evenings." The shuttle is free of charge to students with their Tufts IDs, and makes half-hourly stops at Boylston Street and Kenmore Square. However, there are drawbacks. Some students have complained that the shuttle fails to wait at its designated stops, leaving them stranded in the city and forced to either wait for half an hour until another bus comes, or to take a cab. To make sure this doesn't happen, familiarize yourself with the bus stop that you'll be using, and make sure you're there a good 15 minutes before the bus is due to arrive. Don't forget your ID, either!

THE T AND THE BUS

Unless you count walking as a method of transportation, the subway (the first in the US!) and the bus are still easily the cheapest ways to get around Boston, costing only \$1.25 and .90, respectively. Students call the T "useful," and "fine" for getting around the city. They also appreciate its low cost. However, there are some drawbacks. One student complained that the T was "showing its age" compared to other cities, and that it was "pretty damn noisy." Others dislike the fact that, particularly on the Red Line, it often takes a long time between trains, and one student believes a screen telling when



RACHEL GEYLIN



RACHEL GEYLIN

ZIPCAR

the next train is coming would be helpful. It also closes at one in the morning, which is much earlier than the subway in other cities. Still, though, it tends to be pretty reliable, and, judging by the number of students lined up to buy tokens in Davis on a Friday night, it continues to be popular. The bus is another good source of transport that fewer students seem to take advantage of. It's even cheaper than the T at \$0.90, and a 94 or 96 bus can take students straight from Davis to Tufts. The 96 is also a quick and easy way to get to Harvard Square from the bottom of the Memorial Steps. Go to mbta.com for schedules and other useful information.

Need a car, but just for the day? The clear solution would be to rent one, but most college students aren't eligible to do this, as car rental companies typically require that their customers be 25 or older. What to do? If you're over 21, try Zipcar, a company that allows its customers to rent cars for short periods of time—and in the price, they include costs like insurance, gas, and provide satellite radio entertainment. There also is no need to compete for on-campus parking spaces, and roads are made less congested, as “each Zipcar takes 7 to 10 cars off the road,” according to their website. With fewer cars on the road, also, there is less pollution in the air.

Reservations for cars can even be made in advance, and first-time customers get 125 miles for free. The cost? It starts at \$60 a day, or \$8.50 per hour—but Tufts students and faculty are eligible for discounted membership of \$25 per year—a bargain compared to having a car of your own. Go to zipcar.com/tufts for more information.

CABS

With the T closing earlier than most clubs and bars in the Boston area, it's not uncommon for a student without a car to find himself or herself stranded in the early hours of the morning without transportation back to Tufts. Cabs, then, are the only option. The advantages of cabs? You choose your destination, and it's usually pretty quick and efficient door-to-door service. The big disadvantage? It can cost an arm and a leg, particularly at night, with extra charges added on that can be as much as six or seven dollars. There was also an incident this year in which a man, disguised as a cab driver, attempted to rape two women in the Faneuil Hall area, which made some people skittish about taking cabs. Generally, they tend to be safe, but it's good to follow some safety tips. Make sure that the vehicle you get into is clearly designated as a cab, and is registered. Use the buddy system at night, and if the driver's information and license are posted inside the cab, look at the photo and make sure it matches the person who's driving your vehicle. If you notice anything suspicious, get out in a well-lit area and call the police. ☎

KEEPING SAFE AT NIGHT

Most students find themselves out and about late on weekend nights—and why not? It's college, after all. However, it's important, especially in the city, to be careful, particularly in light of incidents such as the attempted mugging on campus of two female students last year. Tufts Police Department Officer Linda MacKay offered the following tips for staying safe at night.

- * Always walk with a buddy
- * Walk on well-lit, well-traveled roads and walkways
- * Look alert, and always be aware of your surroundings.
- * Enroll in the Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) Program (a self defense program for women)
- * When approaching your parked car, always have your keys out and ready. Be aware of anyone near your car, and before you get in, check to see that no one is hiding inside.
- * Utilize the Campus Safety Shuttle. When the shuttle is not running, call the Tufts Police to request a safety escort.
- * Familiarize yourself with the locations of the campus blue light emergency phones. They can be used as campus phones, or you can use the red button to reach the Tufts Police in an emergency.
- * Avoid using Automated Teller Machines at night if possible, especially ones in more remote locations. If there are suspicious persons loitering around an ATM, do not use it—go to another ATM, preferably one in a well-traveled area.
- * Never attempt a physical confrontation with a suspicious person.
- * Report suspicious persons immediately to the Tufts Police at X66911 or (617) 7627-6911. Program the ten-digit number into a speed-dial on your cell phone.



The Gift of Life

BY MICHAEL SKOCAY

The bone marrow registry drive held in the campus center on Wednesday, November 16 had the mission of saving lives. The 185 members of the Tufts community who registered for the Gift of Life database that morning were doing their part to make this goal a reality. It took only a swab from the inside of their cheek to collect a sample of DNA and some basic health information to add these students to the growing registry of almost 100,000 potential bone marrow donors. Any one of these individuals may be the match for a patient with Leukemia either now or in future years who is in dire need of a life saving donor.

The drive, which was co-sponsored by Hillel, TEMS, and the fraternities and sororities AEPI, SIG-NU, and ZBT, was years in the making. Planning for the event began a few years ago when Rabbi Tzvi of Tufts Chabad center “noticed that there was no such drive” in the Medford area. Tzvi knew that a drive at Tufts would be successful because the school promotes active citizenship and students are involved in giving back to their community. He contacted the Gift of Life and began planning the event with senior Michael Garshick as its coordinator. The organization then sent all of the necessary supplies directly to Garshick, including swab kits, registration forms, and information pamphlets.

Michael Garshick posted an announcement on tuftslife.com regarding the event and expected around 300 students to attend. A little over half that number actually registered and Garshick explains that “many people were hesitant because they thought the drive would involve direct donations” or blood samples. In addition, a dozen students were unable to register because they had recently spent time in European nations where they could have contracted mad cow dis-

ease. This is a precautionary measure as the disease cannot be detected in tissue samples.

The Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation was established in 1991 as a “donor recruitment organization” to help save the life of a single leukemia patient. From 1991 to 1995, the foundation expanded its grassroots efforts to a worldwide database listing the tissue type of 60,000 potential donors from the United States,

Canada, and Israel. Thousands more have registered with the organization in the last decade and over 1,000 patients have successfully received bone marrow and blood stem cell transplants from matching donors. Gift of Life is one of 48 bone marrow registries in existence today, all of which are working to save lives.

Patients with leukemia and other disorders which require bone marrow transplantation fight a constant battle

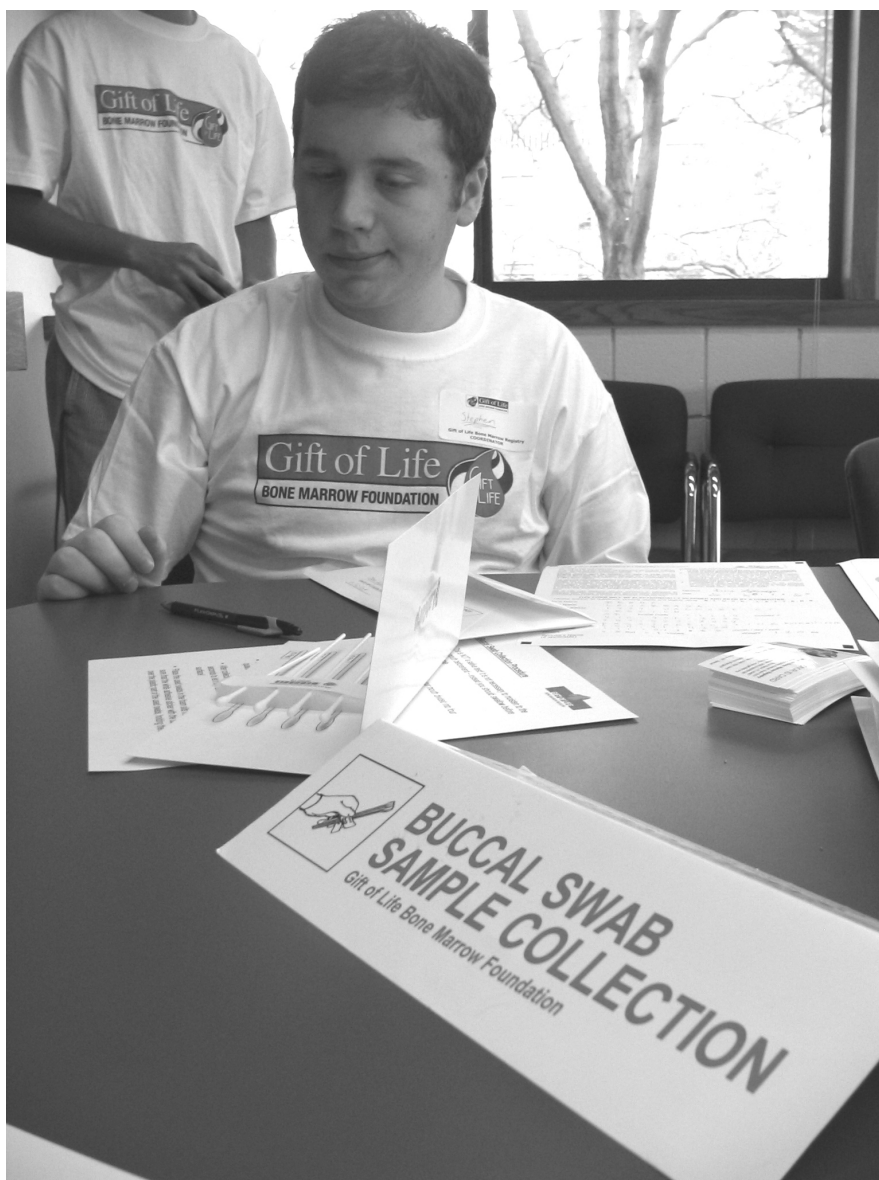


STEVEN ROSS



against the disease and a race against time to find a donor. Members of a patient's family are tested first and because proteins in the blood are inherited, there is a 25 percent chance that a family member will be a match. If family is not match, the only remaining option is to find a random donor through a program such as Gift of Life. Members of one's own ethnic group tend to have a higher likelihood of being a match. Thus Gift of Life registers as many Jewish donors as possible because of the reduced size of the ethnic group following the Holocaust. Many patients wait years to find a donor and tragically, some succumb to the disease before a match can be found.

For the 185 Tufts students who registered at the drive, they took the preliminary step toward saving a life and their journey may continue on. Once a potential donor's tissue type is entered into the database, it will remain on the list until they are 61 years old. The tissue types of patients with leukemia and other bone marrow and blood disorders will be entered into the database and compared to the list of donors. If there is a likely match between a donor and a patient, the donor will be contacted by the Gift of Life for a blood sample to confirm their tissue type and check for infectious diseases. The final step in the process is the actual donation. The donation involves the collection of marrow from the pelvic bone through a minimally invasive surgical procedure or the newer technique of peripheral blood stem cell transplantation. The second procedure is less invasive and involves harvesting stem cells from the blood, known as aphaeresis, and the filtering out



STEVEN ROSS

through an IV to replace the patient's own damaged bone marrow. In a few months, the patient's immune system

organizers had hoped, Rabbi Tzvi hopes that the event will become an annual tradition. Unfortunately, once a student signs up with the registry they do not need to return the following year to reapply. The students who are now part of the Gift of Life database have made a remarkable commitment to those suffering from life-threatening diseases of the blood and may be called any time in the next 40 years to donate a gift of life. Their selflessness defined in a quotation from the Talmud, which is also the motto of Gift of Life: "he who saves one life, it is as if he has saved the entire world."

For more information about becoming a part of the bone marrow registry visit giftoflife.org.

Although the bone marrow donor drive at Tufts was not as successful the organizers had hoped, Rabbi Tzvi hopes that the event will become an annual tradition.

of the cells with a cell separating machine. The bone marrow sample or stem cells are then rushed to the patient—who may be anywhere in the world—and transplanted

will likely recover from the disease as healthy marrow is produced.

Although the bone marrow donor drive at Tufts was not as successful the



GAMMA: Encouraging Healthy Decisions

BY ALLISON JONES

The Greek system here at Tufts rarely receives positive publicity these days, and it seems that the administration is becoming much tougher on fraternities and sororities, especially in light of the events of last year. Many students argue that the Greek life on campus is their only social outlet, and without it, Tufts would be no fun at all. One Alpha Phi sister said that after coming to college, her sorority had become “a great support group [that] provided ways to participate in community service and campus activities that [she] would have otherwise known nothing about.” Other students believe that frats in particular are a nuisance because of their rowdiness, the prevalence of underage drinking, and the safety issues surrounding their events. The feelings on campus are mixed, but regardless of the differing opinions, everyone should be glad to learn about the new developments within the Inter-Greek Council (IGC).

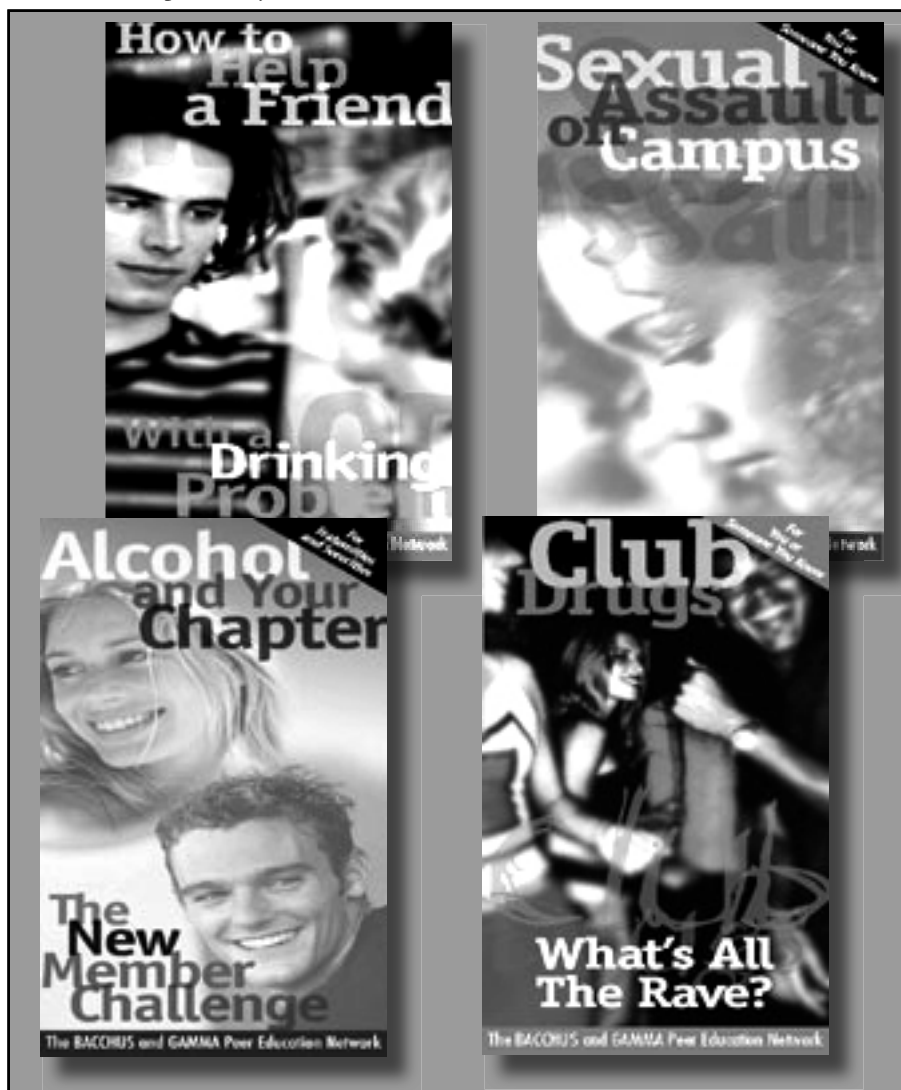
Since the more serious events of last year, the IGC has reinstated a group called GAMMA, (Greeks Advocating Mature Management of Alcohol), which is part of The BACCHUS and GAMMA Peer Education Network. BACCHUS (Boosting Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students) was founded in 1975 at the University of Florida as an outlet for student concern about alcohol abuse on campus. The organization wanted to raise awareness about the dangers of alcohol abuse and underage drinking because several incidents had brought these problems to the students’ attention. While the university administration was hard on the Greek organizations that broke the rules and put students in dangerous situations, members of the fraternities and sororities realized that it was really up to them to regulate and monitor their own behavior. GAMMA was formed by the Greek system itself with those concerns and goals in mind, and today the two organizations can be found at over 150 schools across the country. GAMMA was previously a part of Tufts, and due to a renewed interest, the group has come back to

life with the aim of reestablishing Greek life as a positive part of the Tufts community.

Alexis Liistro, the President of the IGC, started GAMMA this summer, and it was active and running in September 2005 at the start of this school year. She said that she was aware that GAMMA had been an organization on campus in the past, and she felt that “the Greek System needed a group like GAMMA that would make all of the Greek members responsible for [their] own actions.” As a national organization, GAMMA exists to encourage healthy decisions, and as the Greek life on campus comprises a large portion of the social life, GAMMA places much of the responsibility on the Greek or-

ganizations for ensuring that students are in a safe and healthy environment. Liistro said that one of the main objectives of GAMMA is encouraging that responsibility.

Margot Abels, the Director of Alcohol and Drug Education and one of the advising staff members of GAMMA, said that the group was really the “brainchild” of Liistro, who approached her with the idea earlier this year as part of an initiative to improve Greek life on campus. Among other projects and improvements that Liistro is working on, Abels said that GAMMA is mostly geared toward “ensuring safety at Greek parties and alcohol/drug-related education.” Abels and Elaine Theodore, the Violence Prevention



WWW.BACCHUSGAMMA.ORG

Education Coordinator, work with the students to guide the progress of GAMMA's goals and set the initiatives of the organization into motion on campus.

GAMMA at Tufts is a part of the IGC,

“It’s about a real examination of what’s happening and in a realistic way coming up with and implementing potential solutions.”

and receives its funding from the IGC like the Greek organizations do. One of the most important features of GAMMA is that it was founded by students within the Greek system and not by the Office of Greek Affairs. This is a step toward what Todd Sullivan, the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, considers to be one of the big goals for the Greek system at Tufts: “taking ownership in alcohol and other health-related issues.” The Office of Greek Affairs encourages any effort to improve the safety and health of students, so it heartily supports GAMMA and sees the desire of the students to take responsibility for their own actions as a positive development and a step in the right direction to making students more comfortable at Greek-sponsored events on campus.

Initially, GAMMA was divided into three committees: the party liaisons, the education group, and the media group. The party liaisons discuss ways to make Greek-sponsored events and parties more safe, and Abels said that these members will be “trained to manage and, hopefully, reduce harmful consequences of substance use at Greek events.” The education group will work to heighten the awareness of alcohol and substance abuse by hosting educational events on campus. The media group, working closely with the other two groups, uses on and off campus media resources for educational purposes in encouraging student responsibility and awareness of these issues. Students in each committee are trained to deal specifically with their area, but all three groups come together to plan events and execute the goals of GAMMA. Abels said that they are also planning on having a consultant visit the committees and to work with them on training and that “the training should have a second hand impact on the entire campus.”

This year, GAMMA is planning a series of dorm talks and group discussions on

alcohol safety from a student’s perspective. Pamphlets and formal speakers are often the only means by which students are “educated” about alcohol before coming to college, and GAMMA recognizes that the best way for

students to learn about alcohol management and safety is from other students. Liistro said that the focus of these talks will be “the realisms of alcohol,” and by talking with freshman openly about the positive and negative aspects of drinking, GAMMA hopes to decrease the incidence of dangerous situations arising from ignorance of the effects and risks of alcohol abuse. They are still recruiting members and planning for the residence hall presentations is still underway, but Abels and Liistro were both confident that these talks will be well-received and informative.

During the past two years, the administration has changed its Alcohol and Drug Policy to regulate alcohol use on campus, TEMS has changed its rules to make students more comfortable in calling for help, and the Office and Greek Affairs has been tougher on fraternities and sororities that break the rules. But GAMMA has shown that the most important factor in improving the safety and health of Tufts students is the students’ own

awareness and desire to change that which is under their own control. In recognizing the inherent problems of alcohol on college campus, GAMMA is proving that the Greek organizations at Tufts are not only becoming more aware of the problems at hand but are also maturing into bodies that wish to improve themselves. On this very important point, Abels said, “in my opinion, GAMMA is a concrete step—perhaps not the only or most effective step we might take, but certainly a start—to making change. It’s not about the administration; it’s not about judicial responses (both of which are already solidly in place), and, it’s not about considering whether Greek organizations should remain at Tufts. It’s about a real examination of what’s happening and in a realistic way coming up with and implementing potential solutions. It’s about considering the reality of Greek life (especially the role in campus social life) and the perceptions—and taking steps with student buy-in and leadership, and with the direction of adults that have expertise in health education, safety, culture change, etc.”

Currently, GAMMA has only Greek members because it is part of the IGC, but Liistro said anyone can be involved. At this point, GAMMA is still relatively new, but once it has been operating for some time and events have been successfully run, it will expand its goals and activities. To get involved or find out more, please contact Margot.Abels@tufts.edu or Charles_C.Thomas@tufts.edu. ☎



[HTTP://TUFTS.EDU/GREEK](http://tufts.edu/greek)

A Desperately Needed Drive

Although the American Red Cross conducts near-constant blood drives and decries the lack of donorship in the United States, more than eight million people donate blood every year. By contrast, there are fewer than 100,000 potential donors worldwide in the entire Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation database.

Part of the disparity is demand—more than five million people receive blood transfusions every year, and that number continues to grow. But it is also a problem of ignorance. The main reason people cite for not donating blood is the fear of needles. If that is the reaction to being pricked by a small needle, it is not surprising that most people balk at registering to be a potential bone marrow donor. The general conception of the process of donation is that it is a highly invasive procedure, with serious risks and side effects.

In actuality, the donation of bone marrow is a safe procedure that involves only minimal pain. In fact, the process sounds much worse than it actually is. After the donor is anesthetized,

a hollow needle is inserted into the iliac crest at the back of the pelvic bone. One to two pints of bone marrow are then extracted. This may sound like a lot, but it represents only two to five percent of the entire bone marrow in a human body. The body will replace the harvested amount in less than two weeks. The procedure usually takes between 60 and 90 minutes.

Despite the image most people have of it, the risks involved with bone marrow donation are actually quite minimal. Possible side effects are infection and allergic reaction to the anesthesia, but these occur in only one percent of donations.

Bone marrow donation is accompanied by a certain amount of pain. Most donors report being sore for a week or two after the procedure, and compare the discomfort to the pain of a hard fall. While the prospect of having a sore pelvis for two weeks is not exactly pleasant, the accompanying pain killers will more than make up for it. And that seems miniscule in comparison to the diseases that bone marrow recipients usually have. Leukemia, both Hodgkin's Disease and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, breast cancer, T-cell depletion, and cytokines are all treated with bone marrow transplants. Most people would be willing to donate bone marrow to a family member suffering from such a disease, but is the process of donation really invasive enough to legitimize refusing to do so for a stranger?

The organizations that sponsored the bone marrow registry drive earlier this month, Hillel, TEMS, AEPi, Sig Nu, and ZBT, should be lauded for their efforts. However, as impressive as the 185 individuals who registered for the Gift of Life database that the drive yielded is, it should only be seen as a beginning. As more people learn how minimal the procedure of donation is, the numbers registering should increase.

Another bone marrow registry drive should be held next semester, with the goal of doubling the number of people registered. The registration procedure requires only the swabbing of the potential donors mouth. No one at Tufts is too busy to have this done.

In instances where patients requiring bone marrow transplants can find no match among their family members, they are left with no other recourse than to look for a random donor on Gift of Life or one of the other 48 bone marrow registries currently in existence. However, with the number of potential donors in this country, to say nothing of internationally, no one should ever be left without a match. All that is required is for everyone to take the time to register, and commit themselves to donation should they be matched to a patient.

Is that too much to ask to save a life? ☉

Correction: In our previous issue we mislabeled ASCE. The actual name of the organization is the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Information and Policies

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PHOTOGRAPHER'S CORNER



This photograph was taken atop Little Haystack Mountain with a view of Mount Lincoln in the White Mountains, New Hampshire. Although now covered with a thin layer of snow, these mountains and those around them are absolutely beautiful. Just a short drive from the Tufts Loj in Woodstock, New Hampshire, the White Mountains are a fantastic locale for hiking in the spring, fall, and summer, and skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing in the winter. If you have not been there yet, I strongly recommend you go; it would be a shame to spend your four years at Tufts having enjoyed the fruits of Boston, yet having neglected those of the Tufts Loj and New Hampshire

BY STEVEN ROSS

Please direct photo submissions to photoF05@gmail.com



A Little Conversation, Please

BY TIM NOETZEL

On Thanksgiving Day, my roommate's family, like many other families in America, gather around the television to watch the Lions receive their traditional Thanksgiving flogging. Since my roommate has kindly invited

The blame, I believe, lies squarely on our own shoulders; our apathy and individualism have choked the throat of communication.

me and two other friends to join his family for the holiday, the three of us watch the game just as we would at our own homes. I'm unsure what prompted the realization, but sometime during the second quarter, I begin to notice the silence; with very few exceptions, we have said nothing for quite some time. It's not that the game is particularly captivating—the Lions take to their beating like they do every year, with all the grace of a stuffed Turkey. Nor does the television's sound drown out the possibility of conversation. It is merely that we are, for the most part, silent. Occasionally, one of us will utter a brief curse in response to the most awful of a series of terrible plays, falling silent after a moment or two. We go on like this for quite some time.

It was with the greatest reluctance that I realized that, on the whole, our generation has about as much understanding of how to have a real conversation as President Bush has of how to end terrorism. We may argue

Your English professors may tell you of a time when families would sit together by the fireplace to hear books or newspapers read aloud.

frequently and mutter under our breath occasionally, but we participate in conversations about art, politics, and literature—or even discussions that are not merely long-winded complaints—about as frequently as we encountered weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. As an article, entitled “How to

Tame an Inflated Entertainment Budget,” published in the November 19th edition of the *New York Times* stated, “for all the talk of the Information Age, we are really in the Entertainment Age.”

A simple reflection on the devices that many of us use on a daily basis, each designed with the express purpose of en-

tertaining the individual, demonstrates the problem all the more clearly. Apple iPods, PlayStation Portable game consoles, and next-generation cell phones—with so many added features that conversation has become a lesser, even secondary feature—all isolate the individual for entertainment purposes.

It was with the greatest reluctance that I realized that, on the whole, our generation has about as much understanding of how to have a real conversation as President Bush has of how to end terrorism.

Even books have become isolating forces in our society; your English professors, if pressed, may tell you of a time, many years ago, when families would sit together by the fireplace to hear books or newspapers read aloud. These new forms of entertainment,

for a few dollars or a few hundred, buy us our loneliness, even amid the presence of a swelling crowd.

Digital devices, however, are not the only things keeping us quiet. Our schedules, which leave many of us feeling winded for the better part of each day, leave little

time for socializing. Likewise, many have little desire to express an opinion and little knowledge of how to do so safely; in an age of political correctness, some fear that their thoughts might offend others and, therefore, remain silent altogether. Finally, at least for the younger among us, there is the added problem of having no sanctioned place in which to converse; unlike older generations, who could chat up the latest political scandal while enjoying a pint of Guinness, we no longer enjoy the right to a few drinks and a good conversation; fake IDs, as my roommate discovered, are too expensive and too poorly made to merit purchasing. Today, it is clear, isolation has become our way of life.

Our lack of communication has far greater implications than mere boredom on Thanksgiving afternoon. Each day we remain silent, our country invades, and we ourselves grow weaker. Each day we remain

silent, thousands die of starvation, disease, and genocide. Each day we remain silent, we allow careless drivers and unwary pedestrians to secure for themselves an early end.

I will not bother to suggest some poorly-conceived solution or half-witted cure for our difficulty. Those facts which I have mentioned previously are not the causes, but the symptoms of the problem. There is nothing wrong with a book, an iPod, or a hectic schedule. The blame, I believe, lies squarely on our own shoulders; our apathy and individualism have choked the throat of communication. Perhaps the only real solution is time; when the increasing violence and suffering of today swells into tomorrow, some may yet find their voices. If not, we may be ever silent. ☉

Tim Noetzel, LA '08, is majoring in English.



A Tale of Online Dating

BY MARGOT RAPOPORT

I have a confession to make. It is something of which I am very ashamed and about which I have lied to a number of people ...

I met my boyfriend on an online dating service. Yes, it's true. All of my hall-mates from sophomore year are probably quite disappointed to find out that the story I used to tell about getting stuck on the T and falling in love with the guy sitting next to me is a complete fiction. I have lied about how we met for a long time because I think the truth makes me sound like some sort of desperate loser who sits around all day hoping to meet her soul-mate and is unable to find guys on her own. In this article, however, I will attempt to tell the truth. Don't say I didn't warn you.

When my roommate and I were bored one day, we looked at some dating sites. I

The men online can be divided into two categories: super sketchy and super desperate.

decided to try it, taking it more or less as a joke. I kept my profile up for about a week and half and I expected nothing whatsoever except maybe a good laugh or two.

While my story starts out like a very typical online dating success story, it is not. It's true that I met someone I clicked with after being quite skeptical of the whole thing, but I am in no way recommending that others try it. Overall the experience was incredibly bizarre, unsatisfying, and sketchy. I am convinced that I lucked out and found the one and only non-disturbed male on the website. Okay, maybe there are a few others—I apologize if one of them is reading this—but the overwhelming majority of guys were not worth my time.

The men online can be divided into two categories: super sketchy and super desperate. The first group, super sketchy, is fairly easy to imagine. It consisted mainly of guys who were at least 10 years older than me and wanted to "get to know me better." Many of these guys would not take

no for an answer. One 36 year old (I was 19 at the time) asked me if I wanted to have a good time in college or if I wanted him to show me what a *real* good time was. Another 30-something who lived in California got so upset when I told him he was too old and too far away that he begged me to just talk to him as a friend because he felt like he was really missing out if he didn't get to learn more about me. He then emailed me some pictures that I'm fairly certain he does not send to his other "friends."

The sketchy group was nothing compared to the desperate group. These were guys who have probably never had a girlfriend and want one so badly that even a vague sliver of possible interest sends them off the deep end. The only way to properly elaborate upon the men in this group is to re-enact an instant message conversation I had with one. Please note this is the first (and only) conversation we ever had.

DesperateGuy101: Hi I'm John

MargotR: Hello I'm Margot

DesperateGuy101: Nice to meet you Margot.

DesperateGuy101: I have never had sex but I really want to. But don't worry I don't only want to have sex I also want a girlfriend. I'd really like a girlfriend who will have sex with me.

MargotR: umm ... oh.

DesperateGuy101: Would you like my cell phone number?

MargotR: Why don't we just talk online for now.

DesperateGuy101: Oh no! Are you rejecting me already???

I think that conversation speaks for itself. The desperate group also included the one who asked me if I wanted to see a picture and proceeded to send me three or four new pictures of himself every day for a week.

In order to access all of these wonderful men you only have to pay about \$30 a

month! I didn't pay because at the time they were offering free profiles and it was possible to very sneakily get my AOL screen-name into mine. But the site is designed to detect screennames and delete them from profiles. In order to access any of their email, messaging, or "flirting" services you have to pay. Some websites today still offer free profiles but many require a credit card number just to browse the site. By the way guys, I've heard that the majority of women on these sites are not any more high quality than the men; they are just as creepy in different ways.

Although I would probably never try online dating again, it is arguable that the selection of men and women online is no different than in the real world. While the bad ones may be even more extreme, and less inhibited due to the impersonal nature of the internet, the good ones do exist. In any situation it is rare to find someone who you are very interested in, is very interested in you, and is available. At least on the internet you've got the available part guaranteed. A number of people also feel as though the online profiles are a good way to ensure that you have some common interests with the people you date. This is debatable as the profiles are often vague, frequently dishonest, and rarely reflect the user's personality.

Given that I have successfully used online dating, it would be unfair of me to judge others who choose to do so. I realize now that not everyone who uses online dating is the stereotypical loser with no friends. In fact, I know a number of normal people who have met people online. Because of this, I am trying to be more honest with people. When I do muster up the courage to tell someone how I met my boyfriend, the person I am telling almost always has a friend or relative who has tried online dating and enjoyed it. Still, if you are going to give online dating a shot, be careful and don't expect to have an earth-shattering connection with the first person to whom you talk. ☹

Margot Rapoport L.A., '06 is majoring in psychology and community health.

A University of Workaholics

BY MIKE SNYDER



I've always liked meditation. Though some shrug it off as new-age crap or self-help for the insecure, I always found it to be empowering and stimulating, like drinking a cold glass of ice water after sprinting a tough mile. That's why I was pleased to discover that Tufts had a Buddhist Sangha, which meets every Sunday in the evening to discuss Buddhist philosophy and to meditate. Eager and hopeful, I went to the first Sangha meeting of the semester in early September, and I remember leaving the session with an acute feeling of joy and happiness. I haven't returned since.

You know the reason as well as I do. It's not due to lack of motivation or even lack of energy, but lack of time. There are simply a dozen other things I should be doing on a Sunday night from the hours of seven to nine, whether it be Arabic homework, emailing a professor, or writing an 800-word opinion piece for a local campus publication.

It dawned on me recently that instead of continuously trying to justify my skipping out on ten consecutive Sangha meetings, the solution might be to acknowledge, in true Buddhist fashion, that there's something wrong with this situation. Let's face it: Tufts students are overachievers. We're also overworked, not to mention a little overambitious. The proof is obvious: Few people on this campus under the age of 23 receive eight hours of sleep a night, and who hasn't dreamed of attending Harvard Med, Harvard Law, Harvard Business, or Harvard whatever?

Take the following example. According to the admissions website, about one third of undergraduates will pursue a double major, and this number will no doubt continue to rise as newer and more workaholic freshmen classes join the university. Impressive, I suppose, but even more impressive would be for students to create their own majors with the "Plan of Study" option. This requires less work but a lot more creativity. I think quite a few liberal arts students are also under the impression that unless they double major, they will be at a serious disadvantage when it comes to applying to grad school. While I certainly am not the authority on this topic, I know well enough that to double major is the exception, not the norm.

We then rationalize our academic overachievement by alluding to the familiar "work hard, play hard" principle, which

The administration calls this "challenging oneself." I call it insane. No wonder we need so much counseling and therapy.

declares that it's okay to work your butt off during the week as long as you show off your butt during the weekend. Such is the case for Halloween parties, where most people put a ton of effort and imagination into their costumes, preparing days in advance. Indeed, Jumbos overachieve in all aspects of their lives.

I'm no exception. During orientation, I promised myself that I would attend the Buddhist Sangha meeting every Sunday in order to rejuvenate and quiet my mind from the hustle and bustle of college life and those damn video games my floormates and I keep playing. But such a goal quickly vanished when I made the critical mistake of attending the student activities fair. Within a week, I was involved in more activities than in my four years of high school combined. I am especially disappointed when I recall that one of the reasons I started meditating in high school was because of my busy, no-room-to-breathe schedule. Now, my busy, no-room-to-breathe schedule is the very reason I stopped.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying we should be content with inadequacy; I'm saying we are inadequate without contentment. How can anyone who double-majors, holds leadership positions in multiple campus organizations, and uses the leftover time to get smashed on the weekends ever be happy? The administration calls this "challenging oneself." I call it insane. No wonder we need so much counseling and therapy.

Thanksgiving was a big wake-up call for me. Over the break, I had the chance to reunite with my high school friends in LA. While exchanging information about our respective college lives, I was surprised to discover that they did not appear to over-extend themselves nearly as much as Tufts students do. They had much to be thankful for: They had learned from the chaos that was high school and found a healthy, satisfying balance in college. This balance, though

it may not land them a spot at Harvard, will ultimately lead to extraordinary happiness and peace. This balance is nothing less than meditation in action.

Maybe the Tufts admissions committee should modify their approach. Instead of conforming to the Ivy League method of accepting students whose resumes span two-digit page numbers, Tufts should seek out healthier, happier students who have clearly attained a balance in their lives. Such an action would make a bold statement as to what the university deems truly important in its student body. If Tufts is really looking for bright students who can think critically, they should stop admitting the overachievers, for they are neither bright nor thinking at all.

And here's one final tip: If the admissions committee should happen to discover any more prospective students who meditate every week, let them in—and hope they don't make the same mistakes I did. ☯

Mike Snyder, LA '09, has not yet declared a major.

Sex, Standards, and Sluts ... Oh My!

BY KIRA DOAR

Though I miraculously managed to survive the abstinence only sex-ed curriculum of my Montgomery County Maryland public high school education, I definitely did not make it out scar-

red. That was the day I realized just how differently men and women are judged for their sexual histories, as well as how outrageous an abstinence only curriculum is.

free. Much of my emotional trauma resulted from one guest speaker in particular ... Cassie. Cassie was a woman in her late twenties with a miserable hair cut. Nevertheless, I initially thought was pretty cool, until she introduced the "Present Activity."

As she stood in front of the class, Cassie pulled from her bag of tricks a beautifully wrapped gift complete with metallic wrapping paper, ribbons, and one of those big bows on top. Her instructions were as follows: "I'm going to pass this present around the class. If you would like to, go ahead and unwrap it a little bit. Take the bow if you want. Remove as much or as little as you like." By the time the box had made its way all around the classroom, it was missing significant chunks of wrapping paper, all the ribbons had been removed, the jerk in front of me had taken the bow, and the package itself looked like it had been run over by a car as a result of its handling. Cassie's little experiment reached its climax as she reached into her bag and pulled out a newly wrapped gift, "Now would you rather have sex with this unwrapped gift or the one that everyone else has taken a piece of?" She held the two presents up next to each other in the front of the room, the virginal and the tainted package.

That was the day I realized just how differently men and women are judged for their sexual histories, as well as how outrageous an abstinence only curriculum is. Though the activity was not meant to be gender exclusive, it definitely affected the girls much more than the guys in the class. While my female classmates began

to wonder if they were damaged goods because of their sex lives, the boys continued on their merry ways, hoping to bone anything that walked.

I now have to refer to two Oscar-worthy movies that are both pivotal in American cinematic history and help to

shed light on my present debacle. The first film is *American Pie 2*, and the exposure it brought to the "Rule of Three" is noteworthy. When playing the number game, which by the way is a miserable idea considering it almost always causes shit to totally hit the fan, there is an easy formula to find the true number of people someone has had sex with. Guys have the tendency to exaggerate the number of people they've slept with by a considerable margin of error, so divide

Get used to it, folks! The majority of girls at Tufts are not searching for their future husbands to have sex with to make millions of babies, nor are they just helping out in providing a better alternative to masturbation.

their given number by 3 and you've got your real count. Girls have been raised to be ashamed of their sexual past and therefore tend to lessen their number, so go ahead and multiply that sucker by 3 and there's your real quantity.

In Kevin Smith's masterpiece *Clerks*, Dante Hicks and his girlfriend Veronica start to play the number game (stupid, stupid, stupid.) Dante reveals he has had twelve sexual partners, up to and including Veronica, and is relieved to find out that she has only had sex with three guys. The happy convenience store cashier is comforted knowing that his girlfriend has only had two other guys take a piece of

her wrapping paper and ribbon, while he has taken the bows off of four times as many girls. So when does shit actually hit the fan? As soon as Dante finds out that Veronica has given blow jobs to 36 guys, actually 37 including him. All of a sudden his wonderful girlfriend who brings him lasagna at work gets yelled at to "try not to suck any more dick on the way to the parking lot" as she leaves.

Wandering through the Campus Center, you are far more likely to hear people chatting it up about some girl they think is a slut, as opposed to some guy they've sincerely lost respect for due to his demonstration of poor ethics as a result of his numerous sexual encounters. Males are considered to have increased their sexual prowess while females have decreased their sexual purity as their list of partners expands. It was foolish of me to assume that at an institution of higher learning, with such an enlightened student body, this absurd double standard would be less prevalent.

The jump to label a girl as a slut is the common reaction of those people scared shitless by women embracing their sexuality, especially considering those girls are all

over campus and even published in *The Daily* (thank you, Sara Franklin.) Get used to it, folks! The majority of girls at Tufts are not searching for their future husbands to have sex with to make millions of babies, nor are they just helping out in providing a better alternative to masturbation. We're having sex to satisfy our own desire for physical pleasure ... deal with it.

So my message and general point to all the above rambling: don't hate on the girls with the beefier sexual résumés. You can probably learn something from them. Also, fuck you and your presents, Cassie. ☹

Kira Doar, LA '08, has not yet declared a major.

LONG-AWAITED HOLIDAY MOVIES ...

Not Today: *Rent* on Screen Disappoints

BY KATHRYN LOBEL

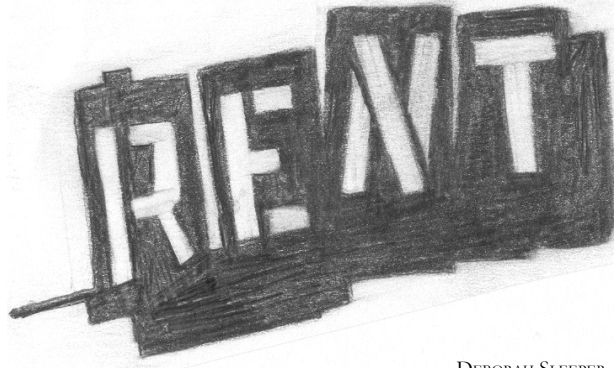
The 1996 Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway musical *RENT* from Jonathan Larson has hit the big screen. An updated version of the opera *La Boheme*, the play has developed a following of adoring fans anxiously awaiting its arrival in theaters. On Wednesday, November 23, 2005, the brilliant musical—with its powerful songs and heart-wrenching content—was finally shared with the public. The story of bohemians struggling with life and love in New York's East Village, Chris Columbus's film adaptation tries to capture the strength of the stage, but doesn't quite manage to do it. As a movie, the play loses its organic feel, that distinctive edge created by the band of friends on stage. Instead the director brings *The Sound of Music* to the New York streets as Mark sings while riding his bicycle through the East Village.

The film's lack of originality and creativity may be its downfall. Columbus takes the play and reproduces the story of the survivors of Avenue A in 1989 almost verbatim. Mark (Anthony Rapp), an aspiring filmmaker, is recently dumped by Maureen (Idina Menzel), a sexy performing artist and activist, for Joanne (Tracy Thoms), a young, female lawyer. Mark's roommate Roger (Adam Pascal) is a musician and a recovering addict who lost one lover to AIDS and is therefore reluctant to get involved with Mimi (Rosario Dawson), an exotic dancer who lives downstairs. Another loving relationship among the group of friends is between Tom Collins (Jesse L. Martin), a semi-employed philosophy instructor, and Angel (Wilson Jermaine Herredia), a tough yet sweet Latino transvestite. AIDS overshadows these

relationships and eventually leads to the tragic death of the vibrant Angel, who "helped us believe in love." Benny (Taye Diggs), an ex-roommate, now owner of the building where Mimi, Mark and Roger live, is constantly in conflict with his old friends and tenants, because of their consistent inability to pay rent. Through these intertwining relationships, naïve idealism and the themes of love and hope prevail among

for the stage, but not for the screen. The rhythm of the score is adopted at times, but often the lines are presented as everyday speech. These inconsistencies butcher the flow of the script.

Despite this failure at adapting the written script, the power of the relationships is believable. We feel Roger's internal torment when he tenderly gazes down at Mimi and his voice softens, "I should tell you, I should tell you," and then his tone suddenly flip-flops and he angrily cries, "No! Another time, another place, the temperatures would rise, there'd be a long embrace." Through the dramatization of every action and gaze, we are assured not to miss the meaning of a single interaction. The problem with reenacting the play on film is that we lose the nuances and subtle facial expressions that



DEBORAH SLEEPER

the "actual reality" of poverty, disease and death. Live in the moment, the cast sings, because there is "no day but today."

Why did such a magnificent script work as a play, but not as a movie? For one, Columbus detracts from the film by choosing to illustrate the song lyrics. For example, Mimi sings, "I heard you sold your guitar and bought a car" and Roger responds, "It's true." We then see a shot of him in a beat-up convertible driving alone on a dusty, open road. Instead of adding to the emotional intensity, the image belittles Mimi's feeling of devastation and therefore the heart-wrenching power of the scene.

Rent's inability to deliver the dialogue also hurts the film's emotional connection with the audience. In the Broadway musical, lines are delivered in a rhythmic fashion, which is appropriate

make the film characters appear real.

In spite of such a drawback, Columbus makes a wise choice in casting many alumni from the original Broadway cast. Many actors are eight or nine years older than their parts, but their intimate familiarity with the music and their characters create the "actual reality" they sing about. Their seductive characters successfully romanticize love and poverty as they passionately belt out the lung-stretching score.

RENT is a charming movie with a charismatic cast delivering a stunning score. It will be thoroughly enjoyed by those who have not yet seen the original play, but for us adoring devotees, the film is a disappointment. Even with its gallant attempt, it simply cannot do the play justice. That is why to me, *RENT* is a musical that should never have been made into a movie. ☹

Goblet of Fire Ignites the Screen but Burns the Book

BY SCOTTY KNIJAZ

*Spoiler Alert: There will be much discussion of Harry Potter past, present, and future, so be warned if you have not read the books.

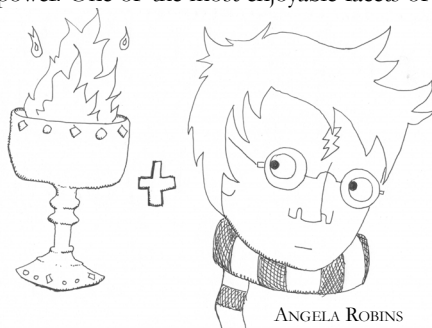
Harry Potter enthusiasts can be separated into two different groups. The first group is comprised of fans who have either read each book once, read the first three and then for some idiotic reason decided to stop, never read any of the books but enjoy the movies, or any combination of the three. The second group is made up of the fanatics. These are the people who have read each book more than twice, have parties at Barnes & Noble until midnight awaiting the release of the newest book, and feel that everything in the universe can somehow be related back to J.K. Rowling's magical world of Harry Potter. If it was difficult to tell, I am a proud member of this latter group. As *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, the fourth installment in the series, unfolded on the big screen, it became clear to me that the fans would love it, while the fanatics would leave unfulfilled. As a movie, *Goblet* is well acted, funny, and action-packed. As an adaptation of a novel, it is fair at best.

In my (humble) opinion, the fourth installment of the series, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* is the best one to date. It doesn't get any better than the first wand duel between Harry and Voldemort, the first time Harry actually speaks with his parents, and the indescribable emotion of mutual respect, admiration, and teamwork felt by Harry and Cedric as they decide to simultaneously touch the Cup at the end of the maze. We often here snobby people coming out of a movie theatre and smugly exclaiming, "Oh, the book was so much better!" On the contrary, I thought that to see all of this played out on the big screen would prove better than the book. Then, when I heard that Ralph Fiennes had been cast as Voldemort, I was certain. This was going to be the best movie ever. So, being more than a little excited, my friend (group one) and I decided to buy tickets to the 12:01 a.m. showing on Thursday night at the humungous Loews Cineplex in Boston Common.

When the movie begins, you see state-of-the-art scenery, view the incredible special effects, and hear the warmingly familiar John

Williams score that are common to all the films in the series. It is apparent that you are in for an extremely well made film, and that is exactly what *Goblet* delivers. The music, editing, camerawork, and acting are all impeccable. It is this last, most noticeable aspect upon which I would like to comment further.

The fourth book sees Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) unwillingly and mysteriously entered into the gravely dangerous Triwizard Tournament. Accompanied, as always, by his best friends Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) and Hermione Granger (Emma Watson), Harry competes in the tournament while simultaneously trying to make sense of the ominous clues of the Dark Lord's ever-increasing strength and return to power. One of the most enjoyable facets of



the film is that Radcliffe, Grint, and Watson seem more comfortable than ever in their roles, and have really come into their own as actors. Having the difficult shoes of Richard Harris to fill, Michael Gambon also improves with his second go-around as the wise and powerful Albus Dumbledore. The familiar supporting roles of Maggie Smith (Minerva McGonagall), Alan Rickman (Severus Snape), and Robbie Coltrane (Rubeus Hagrid) are again fantastic, and the new faces are even better. Brendan Gleeson is awesome as the eccentric and crazy Mad-Eye Moody, and Lord Voldemort couldn't have been better portrayed by anyone but Ralph Fiennes.

At the helm of the picture is Mike Newell, the first Englishman to direct a Harry Potter film. With his command of the brilliant cast, Monty Pythonesque British wit shines through in *Goblet*, the funniest of the series so far. He flawlessly leads the younger actors through the trials, tribulations, and comedy of adolescence expressed in the scenes surrounding the first school dance, the Yule Ball. The comedy is sharp and smart, the action is fast-paced and suspenseful, and the danger is both ominous

and real. All of these are perfectly balanced through great direction.

In that same beginning scene where the special effects shine and the familiar music warms the soul, it is apparent that liberties were taken and vital events in the plot were changed with respect to the adaptation of the novel. Now it is an extremely difficult task to transform a 734-page book into a two and a half hour movie, and for that, screenwriter Steven Kloves should be commended. He is able to present the story without veering too far from the actual events and themes presented in the book, though much is left out and several things are changed. If you would allow me to rant for a few sentences: there are no house elves; no Ludo Bagman; no Bertha Jorkins; Sirius Black has one scene, and even Mrs. Weasley is among the absentees. As far as what was changed: the character of Barty Crouch Jr. is a very loose adaptation, and the maze scene—which solidifies the powerful bond of friendship between Cedric and Harry—is completely wrong. Also, the all-important graveyard scene where Harry battles Voldemort is greatly altered and half as emotionally evoking as in the book. I understand that some of the omissions and changes were necessary, but others seem to have been altered for no reason, and much that was left out would have added greatly to the special effects and other moviegoer interests.

As a movie, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* will not fail to entertain even the most muggle audience. It is extremely well done in every aspect, from the acting to the special effects of the tournament scenes. The film succeeds in the never-ending evocation of such varied emotions as humor, fear, tension, suspense, and love. I would even go so far as to say that it is the best film of the four. As an adaptation of a novel; however, it is not great. It was an understandably difficult task, but Rowling writes the books with so much detail that almost everything needs to be included. If you are looking for a good movie, you won't lose in choosing *Goblet*. If you go into it expecting to see a Sphinx or a first look at Bellatrix Lestrange through the pensieve, then you will leave disappointed. The judgment of the film might separate the fans from the fanatics, but everyone can breathe easy and have no fear: Hermione is still hot. ☺

Four Stars for 3Ps

BY ANNETTE FARRINGTON

I had been at Tufts for over three years and had never ventured behind the doors of the Balch Arena Theater. I therefore jumped at the chance to check it out to review two recent productions put on by Tufts' own 3Ps Theater Company. 3Ps (Pen, Paint and Pretzels) is the oldest student organization on campus and serves as the umbrella for most of the other theater groups.

Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* was 3Ps' major Fall show, meaning the organization pulled out all the stops, used a full set, as well as an in-house costume and lighting designer.

A Delicate Balance, for which Albee won a Pulitzer Prize in 1966, possessed a similar energy as his 1962 Tony Award winning drama, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* *Matt and Ben*, a workshop production written by Mindy Kaling and Brenda Withers, is a nifty little play which turned into a pleasant surprise.

Although the two shows couldn't be further from each other in style—one a 1960s existential living-room drama, the other a modern, light hearted rendering of two local celebs' roommate days—they do have a similar thread. Both examine the boundaries of friendship and challenge us to examine our own expectations of these relationships.

In *A Delicate Balance*, Agnes (Caitlin Johnson) and Tobias (Armen Nercessian), are an older couple with a comfortable, country-club life. The play opens with Agnes explaining to Tobias how she will go crazy as she gets older. The scene livens up when Claire (Lizzy Oxler), Agnes's live-in sister, comes on stage. Agnes is harsh and unsympathetic towards her, while Tobias seems to enjoy her company and ever so subtly has fun mocking Agnes behind her back. Things really get going when Agnes and Tobias' neighbors, Harry (Michael Taub) and Edna (Betsy Goldman) knock on the door. In a scared voice, they explain "We were just sitting on the couch and started thinking and we got frightened." They never really explain what they are scared of but they proceed to move their belongings into the house and take up residence in Agnes and Tobias' daughter's room.

You can sense the neighbors are apprehensive about getting old and being alone, and they become almost childlike around Agnes and Tobias as they plead with them to let them stay. Albee presents a very uncomfortable situation for the couple. They have a very nice upper-middle class life, but they swore allegiance to their best friends. Now Harry and Edna do not want to leave. A Molotov cocktail is thrown in to this tense mix when Agnes and Tobias's daughter Julia (Laura Semine) comes home unexpectedly after leaving her fourth husband.

The play encompasses a set of complex situations and uncomfortable scenarios. In the

characters of Matt and Ben would be played by women. The short play is an absurd comic-fantasy about what may have gone on between the two friends during their stint as roommates in Somerville, and how they may have come to write *Good Will Hunting*.

Matt and Ben's lack of a plot does not make it any less engaging. The play revolves around the friends' interesting character eccentricities; Matt (Jessica Fisch), the anal Harvard drop out and Ben (Katherine Round), the easygoing, beer drinking slob. They're an odd couple to be sure, talking about how they are going to make it big when all of the sudden a fully-written scrip of *Good Will*

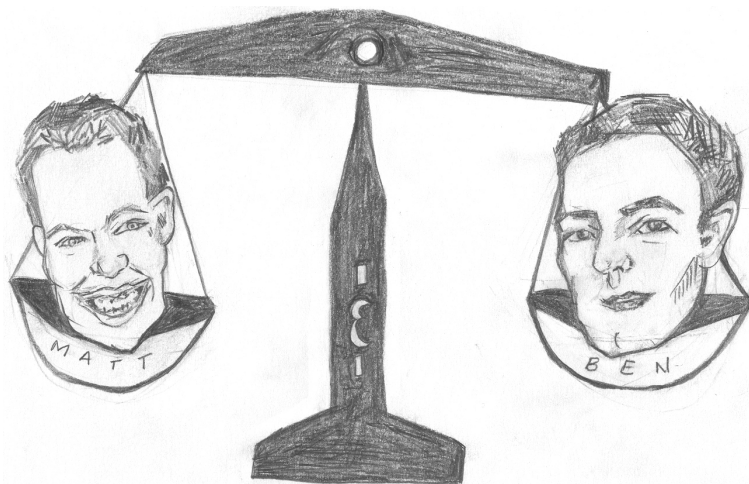
Hunting flies through the window. This startles Matt and Ben as well as the audience. They both admit that the script is brilliant, and spend much time trying to figure out how to make it look as if they wrote it.

Fisch and Roundrise to the challenge of playing well-known movie idols. After my initial surprise, I never thought about their gender. As they discuss their plans to present scenes from *Good Will Hunting* to potential movie

producers, they both act out the female lead, and you really believe that they're men playing a woman. It was fun as an audience member to play into the dual reality of a woman playing a man playing a woman.

Many ego clashes and fights break out between the two. Ben leaves and goes to his mother's and Matt is left to nurse his wounds. As he is doing so, he hunts for the script so he can at the very least take it with him. When he finds it, it's blank—metaphorically suggesting that Ben wrote the screenplay and Matt has taken him for granted all this time. *Matt and Ben* deserves a larger audience and I can't wait until it comes to a theater in Boston.

Like *A Delicate Balance*, *Matt and Ben* tests the boundaries of friendship and close relationships. As any good play should, both shows allowed the audiences to contemplate and continue the friendship dialogue with their own personal relationships long after the lights have gone down and the theater doors have closed. ☐



DIANA BARGER

end Julia has a meltdown and runs into the living room with a loaded gun pointed at Harry and Edna demanding they leave her room. Tobias calms her down and manages to persuade her to hand him the gun though he holds on to in a disturbingly determined way and for a moment the audience wonders if Tobias wouldn't like to turn the gun on all the people in the house.

The performances were strong and engaging, Nercessian and Oxler especially. He won the audience over during his monologue about how he put his favorite cat to sleep after she looked like she didn't love him anymore. Oxler was riotously fun and naughty; she really captured the cynical wit of the character. *A Delicate Balance* was a well thought-out, unsettling yet satisfying production.

Matt and Ben was also an enjoyable revelation. I really didn't know what to expect but figured I was in for a treat when realized the

Law for the Layman:

In *Active Liberty*, Supreme Court Justice Provides Much-Needed Insight

BY MARK PAGLIA

Put it lightly, the United States Supreme Court has been interesting as of late. Given the confirmation of John Roberts as the successor to the late William Rehnquist, the crashing end of the Harriet Miers nomination, and controversies surrounding Samuel Alito, it is a most appropriate time for a book like *Active Liberty* to be published. Written by Justice Stephen Breyer, the tome is an insightful exploration of how the Supreme Court, in his opinion, should interpret the Constitution and how such decisions can further expand democracy in America.

The title of the book refers to one of two relationships between government and its constituency. At the outset of his argument, Breyer outlines the idea that there are two forms of liberty. Modern liberty is the individual's freedom from government intervention into their life, while ancient liberty, also called "active liberty," is the individual's freedom to enter into government matters. Breyer concerns himself with the latter of these two forms of liberty, as the title quite obviously suggests.

As he expounds on the subject, Breyer reveals his judicial philosophy, which involves ruling in a manner that promotes this active liberty while attempting to maintain citizens' freedom from the government. He does this by giving examples of decisions he wrote while on the Supreme Court and explains how each one relates to his goal of broadening the role of the people in their government. The examples come from varied topics, including affirmative action, separation of church and state, and the nuances of freedom of speech. In all cases, his predominant argument is in favor of law that upholds the basic principles of equality and liberty, and not necessarily a literal reading of statutes.

In expounding his legal philosophy, Breyer also challenges the approaches of

another school of judicial thought, one to which several of his fellow justices belong. His contention is with judges who believe in strict, literal interpretations of the Constitution in an effort to know what

There is, however, an ever-present call for compromise throughout this short treatise. While Breyer wishes to rule on cases in a manner that promotes active liberty, he understands that the capacity to

While Breyer wishes to rule on cases in a manner that promotes active liberty, he understands that the capacity to be free of government intervention must be accounted for at the same time.

the founding fathers would have wanted. Aside from pointing out that the founders rarely, if ever, came to any consensus on how the Constitution should function, Breyer argues that this method is harmful to active liberty. While it may create a risk of what some call "judicial activism," Breyer attempts to uphold the intention of the legislator and the spirit of the law

be free of government intervention must be accounted for at the same time. His constant theme is that there must be a reflection of everyday life in any court decision. The trade-off is that some aspects of life must be conceded to government regulation in order for the Constitution to remain viable. As such, one must tread upon a fine line on order to ensure the continuance of a truly democratic society.



TREY KIRK

when reviewing cases. He cautions that "overemphasis on text can lead courts astray, divorcing law from life," while proclaiming that his own methods promote a greater voice of the people in lawmaking.

Given the current climate surrounding the American judiciary, Breyer's book is a timely and elucidating work. Its appearance is slightly deceptive, as it is one hundred and sixty pages, including notes and an index. However, it is dense and thought-provoking, rendering it far removed from a quick read. Breyer does an admirable job by keeping his writing from being overly technical and arcane. At the same time, it can easily slip into mundane sections that move quite slowly between legal examples. Nonetheless, *Active Liberty* remains an insightful work by a man of unquestionable legal expertise, and an important glimpse into the mysterious realm of the highest of courts. ☉



ARTIST'S CORNER

Risk

by Chloe Green

Est-ce que ce monde est sérieux?
Suis-je sérieuse ?

I can feel the shit curdling
Lying in wait
Ladies in waiting
Spinning long colorless spindles
And if I prick my self on this needle here
I will want to scoot away from myself

Eyes ache and pull and loll.
They are being twisted,
double fisted.
Little devil knuckling the reigns.
Some mucus little mother fucker crawled up from
Down there.

Panic. weight.
I am trying to shift it off
Irritated like some lumbering turtle

I hear words like *virus*
and *secret* and
LIE

That thing underneath my tongue
That grisly clenching on my voice

And he is there in the middle
of all I've smeared.
I'm holding him or trying to
with this careless body.

So clean and hopeful
bright and golden and so like a child
there is light coming from him
suddenly.

Please direct poetry and artwork submissions to Timothy.Noetzel@tufts.edu





Milestones of Realization

BY OLIVIA SAUCIER

As a child turns into a teenager, and then into a so-called young adult, he or she goes through a series of transformations within. These changes are marked by half a dozen or so momentous rude awakenings that will stay with him or her throughout life. Some of these are universal; some may only be felt by certain people. Some are quick, like light bulbs lighting up above one's head; others take years to formulate or even understand. The following are considerations that have shaped the person that I have become.

14-years-old—schoolyard disturbances

I am ashamed of a childhood moment when I mistreated or insulted others for no reason. We all have those memories of being a jerk to someone who didn't deserve it, even if it only happened once or twice. The more I remember those times, the more ingrained in my mind they become, like a vicious circle of thoughts preventing the absolute certainty that I am a good person.

15-years-old—age is nothing

My parents are not super-humans. Their word is not the perfect truth. They are a man and a woman, just like everyone else, and they don't have any more of a clue than I do.

Following this evolving thought (around

Do you remember that moment? When you grasped that the world was just a lot of overriding human decisions and nothing more?

16-years-old)

Adults may deserve respect and sometimes admiration from younger generations, but they too are just like me. For all I know they're just 20-year-olds in aged bodies. Their opinion is not worth more than mine and they are not by definition wiser.

I have completely changed the way I view my elders.

16-years-old—cynical about the sexes

Women are fully aware of the control

they exercise over men. Girls understand that they can use their sex to their advantage very soon—after only a few middle-school flirtations. Every year, through OBSERVATION rather than experience, I learn how far men will follow their “natural longings.”

These changes are marked by half a dozen or so momentous rude awakenings that will stay with him or her throughout life.

Around 17-years-old—the makings of an anarchist

All the customs and rules of society were decided by men—by ordinary guys with ordinary thoughts. We are the ones who make the rules we then impose upon ourselves. The “government,” the “corporation,” the “media”—behind all these big names are men and women working to enforce a variety of regulations. So why should I, an equal to them, believe in these fabrications? Why should I obey unbreakable laws when I had no say in their creation? Who says we have to buy into a world that was built so that we don't question it?

Do you remember that moment? When you grasped that the world was just a lot of overriding human decisions and nothing more? Why do I have to be part of all these supposed obligations? Then I always hear

myself answer: you have to believe in it, because no matter what anyone says, there simply is no other way.

My 18th birthday—fully aware of my own mortality

Everything I am; a living, breathing, feeling being thing will no longer be, and there is absolutely nothing I can do about it. I may have control over all the course my life may take, but there is no doubt where I am going to end up. I had thought of

this before of course, but I suppose all the “once-you-turn-18-your-life-will-start-to-go-by-in-a-flash” statements finally took their toll. For almost a year after my birthday, the sobering thought haunted me. As I quickly discovered, pondering it for too long can lead

to conclusions such as “Life is pointless,” and other existential mutterings which can be dangerous, and are best left alone.

18-years-old—responsible for genocide

I can't help feeling guilty at the mention of past horrors the world has let happen. I feel shame when I watch the deportation of Jews in a World War II movie, not because I or anyone in my family had anything to do with it, but just because it happened. Any mention of Native Americans, Armenians, Rwandans, or Cambodians brings out the same reaction at the very back of my mind. I associate with their names atrocities that should not have occurred. But they did, and I am ashamed of them.

Summer 2005—valuable member of society

My first paycheck. Wow! I am a contributor to my community through the service of my work and the benefits of my paying taxes. I am a participating supportive force in the world. I am no longer a child, completely dependent on the kindness of others. I can now care for myself. What a nice feeling, and you know what? It can only grow from here.

Every day, I think a combination of these thoughts—finding myself more and more incapable of avoiding them. I associate them with what I see around me, I develop them more fully in my head, and I often try to chase them from my mind. In the end though, I never forget that they are completely necessary; I need them to remember where I came from. ☺



Spice Up Your ...

Boston Bar Scene, Part III

BY ADRIENNE ROMA
AND MELISSA FIORENZA

We know that last week you all were at home, upset that you didn't have the *Observer* on the Friday after Thanksgiving, wondering what cool bars you should try out with all of your high school friends. And we confess: we probably could have used some advice for places to go, since we turned 21 *after* we left home. But since we couldn't advise you on your own hometowns, we decided to stick with Boston and throw out our last three favorite places around town. Here goes ...

1. Tavern in the Square. This Central Square hot-spot is a favorite among both residential Cambridge nerds and sports fanatics alike. Located just minutes away from the Central Square T-stop, this restaurant and bar is a diamond in the rough. Surrounded by dive bars, Tavern in the Square is home to seven

restaurant located next door to Tavern in the Square.

2. The Tap. Just around the corner from Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market, The Tap is easily one of Boston's most "untapped" resources. The Tap usually draws a local crowd, but tourists

head to The Tap for a cold beer and a bar that is certainly easy on your wallet.

3. Grafton Street Pub. Grafton Street Pub sits right next door to the crazy, just-turned-21-college-scene (and sometimes not even) of The Hong Kong in Harvard Square. This modish and chic upscale pub is a refuge for

Monday night is Trivia Night at Tavern in the Square, so if you feel smart enough, go challenge yourself against those "wicked smaaht" Harvard and MIT students.

If you're a Sox fan, head over to The Tap to watch the games on their huge plasma screen TVs and get appetizers at half price.

plasma screen TVs, a huge bar, and seating area to house even the rowdiest of Patriots fans. The bar selection is equally as varied, with even the hardest-to-find microbrews. Hungry for a bite to eat? The menu at Tavern in the Square is almost as diverse as the people that come in for a drink—offering everything from Shepard's Pie to wood grilled pizzas. Tavern in the Square (617-868-8800) offers entertainment every night, whether it is a live band or DJ, free of a cover charge. Monday night is Trivia Night, so if you feel smart enough, go challenge yourself against those "wicked smaaht" Harvard and MIT students. If you're looking for a more romantic spot, we still recommend you head over towards Tavern, but for a quieter, more intimate seating area, try Wish—the sister

also find themselves attracted to the 24 beers available on tap, all of which are relatively cheap compared to other area bars. Even though the beer flows like water, there is still a full bar, so no worries ladies, you can still order your

many Harvard students, area locals and young professionals looking to avoid the sweaty dance floors of the neighboring bars. The vast dining space, spacious bar and plentiful windows overlooking Mass Ave make for a busy scene on the weekends. When it's not freezing out, the windows open and the bar area floods onto the street. Dining is permitted even into the late night hours, serving up stylish Irish comfort fare and contemporary European selections—whether it is a simple snack or a full blown meal. The bar offers a wide variety of beers, as well as a full bar, to allow for everyone in the group to grab their drink of choice. Tables in the back are ideal for a romantic setting, while towards the front of the bar area students and recent grads fraternize and flirt. Grafton Street Pub (617-497-0400) advertises itself as Harvard's newest and finest bar in casual dining, and is certainly worth a trip if you're looking for a new, fashionable bar scene with the best martinis in Harvard Square.

Amaretto Sours. Similar to every other pub in Boston, The Tap (617-367-0033) also offers your typical pub fare, chock full of greasy hamburgers, cheesy nachos and spicy Buffalo wings. If you're a Sox fan, head over to The Tap to watch the games on their huge plasma screen TVs and get appetizers at half price. There is also live music almost every day of the week, playing anything from Dave Matthews Band to Simon and Garfunkel. If you happen to be at The Tap on weekend nights, there is a DJ who comes in and helps liven up the place with everybody's favorite dance tunes. So if you're in the mood for an often overlooked Beantown favorite, we recommend that you and 20 of your closest Boston-sports fan friends

So there you have it, straight from the horses' mouths. Nine of our favorite bars for you all to try out, pending your age of course. We know it can get stressful this time of year, so for a little fun away from Tisch, give one of these a try. If any of you get too crazy, don't forget to go back and reread our Hangover article for morning after remedies. ☺

The Red Sox Reload

BY SARINA MATHAI

Just when most Red Sox fans were prepared to head into this winter despondent over the Theo Epstein debacle that resulted in the call for Larry Lucchino's head, Lucchino finally found

Needless to say, the prize of this deal was 25-year-old Josh Beckett, who is widely known among Red Sox nation as the guy who mowed down the Yankees in Game 5 of the 2003 World Series.

something to satiate Sox fans' thirst for blood. Last week's blockbuster deal with Florida sent shortstop Hanley Ramirez, right-handers Anibel Sanchez, Jesus Delgado and Harvey Garcia packing for right-handers Josh Beckett, Guillermo Mota, and third basemen Mike Lowell. Needless to say, the prize of this deal was 25-year-old Josh Beckett, who is widely known among Red Sox nation as the guy who mowed down the Yankees in Game Five of the 2003 World Series (remember that one?) and anyone who can cause pain in the hearts of Yankees fans is a friend of Red Sox fans.



COURTESY OF AP

Pitcher Josh Beckett adds a young arm to a Red Sox pitching staff that suffered from old age last season.

Thus, Beckett will be welcomed to Fenway with open arms and Beckett himself is "pumped" at the notion of pitching in one of baseball's pressure-cookers, which is a far cry from Florida where the bright orange of the vacant seats basked in the sun. Can he handle it? According to Beckett, he

doesn't see why not. "I don't think it comes out under the spotlight," Beckett said in a recent Boston Herald article. "I'm kind of sure of myself. If you have a failing mentality, you're probably going to fail more often than you would if you were pretty confident

If Beckett, who was prematurely compared to fellow Texas native, Roger Clemens, has such great stuff, why hasn't he risen to allstar status?

in yourself?"

Yet the question still remains. If Beckett, who was prematurely compared to fellow Texas native, Roger Clemens, has such great stuff, why hasn't he risen to superstar status? Hell, why hasn't he pitched in an All-Star game? In the 106 games he has pitched in his career, Beckett has a 41-34 record and a 3.46 ERA, which is significantly lower in Florida (3.14) than elsewhere (3.83). His best year was in 2005 when he went 15-8

In the end, the Red Sox did give up a lot of prospects, but the core of the Sox "youth movement" still remains, especially in the pitching staff.

with a 3.38 ERA in 29 starts.

There's no questioning his stuff. With his four-seam fastball, Beckett can reach the upper 90s. He has a good changeup and nasty curveball. Also, he can get a good sink on his two-seamer at 92-94 mph.

However, the answer remains in this one stat: he has never pitched more than 178 2/3 innings or won more than 15 games in a season. Beckett has made several trips to the DL due to a recurring blister problem on his middle finger. Furthermore, he had shoulder issues last season. Jackie McMullan spoke to Celtics physician, Brian McKeon, recently for an article and McKeon revealed that there is not much you can do when it comes to a blister. "Obviously, it's an overuse problem," McKeon said. "You have few choices when that's the case. You can accept it for what it is and know he's going to miss chunks of time each year." If Beckett can pitch anything like he did in the 2003 postseason where he pitched in six games (five starts) for 47.7 innings, 47 K's, 21 hits, 12 walks and just 10 earned runs, statistics which included a five-hit complete game shut-out on three days rest in Yankee Stadium, well then, I guess I can deal with

a blister here and there.

Let's not forget the other components of this deal. Guillermo Mota will hopefully improve the utterly horrible bullpen that took the field in the 2005 season. Mota has a 3.61 ERA with 375 K's in 464 innings and has kept hitters to a .231 average since 1999. His best year was in the 2003-2004 season with the Dodgers when he set up Eric Gagne with a 1.97 ERA, 78 hits, 99 K's and 26 BB's in 105 innings. Since then, how-

ever, Mota has not had the same success. Last season, he had inflammation problems with his elbow and opposing batters hit a blaring .336 against him. Keith Foulke will hopefully be back to his All-Star form next season to provide the Sox with a formidable

1-2 punch out.

Mike Lowell acknowledges the fact that he was the just the throw-in player in this deal and while the Sox will have to take up his (gulp) two-year, \$18 million contract, he can fill the defensive void left by the most-likely gone Bill Mueller. The Sox hope that Fenway can rejuvenate Lowell's rather

This blockbuster trade not only bolsters the Red Sox on the field, but also sends a message to the rest of the league that despite the off season drama, they are moving ahead on all gears.

lackluster offensive production in 2005, yet if he can match Kevin Millar's numbers from last season, he will be a success.

With every good pick-up, there will be a significant loss and the sacrifice the Sox made in this deal was prized prospect Hanley Ramirez, a 21 year-old who was seen among baseball scouts as the top-rated player in the Red Sox minor-league system and one of the top-rated shortstops in all of the minor leagues. While Ramirez has been projected to be a .300, 20-homerun player in the majors, he has yet to have his breakout year in the minors. There is no questioning his physical prowess and ability, yet scouts have questioned his focus and overall behavior. One also has to raise an eyebrow as to why Epstein would sign Edgar Renteria to a four-year deal last off season when he knew that Ramirez was waiting in the wings.

Anibel Sanchez, 21, was also another sacrifice as he was one of the Sox's prized pitching prospects. The other players in this deal, Delgado and Garcia, both 21, are raw and have potential yet that is yet to be seen.

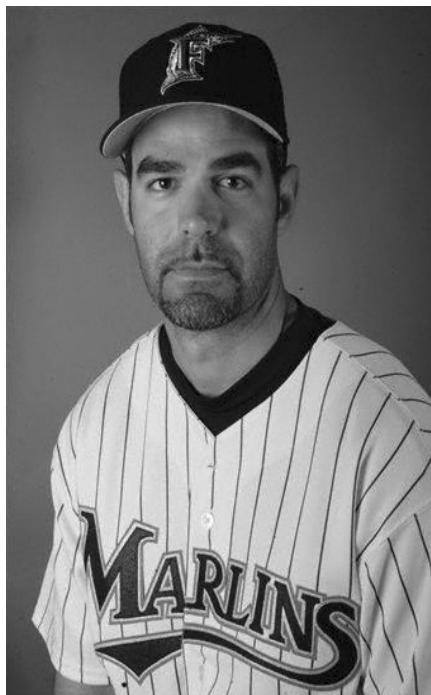
In the end, the Red Sox did give up a lot of prospects, but the core of the Sox "youth movement" still remains. They still retained pitchers Jon Papelbon, Jon Lester, Craig Hansen, Manny Delcarmen, and second-baseman Dustin Pedroia. All of those pitchers are 25 and under and now you add Beckett to the mix and the Red Sox are looking at a strong pitching staff for the future.

This blockbuster trade not only bolsters their team on the field, but also sends a message to the rest of the league that de-

spite the off-season drama, they are moving ahead on all gears. Questions of whether or not the Red Sox front-office is in disarray are now effaced, or at least quieted.

For the first time in a long time last season, the Red Sox went without a legitimate ace and it showed very clearly. With the addition of Beckett, the Sox get back

the ace they lost last season with Pedro Martinez. He is no Roger Clemens, but if he can pitch anywhere near as well as Clemens did during his tenure with Boston, Red Sox nation has a lot to look forward to. Let's hope because, as Rick Pitino would put it: Roger Clemens is not walking through that door, Pedro Martinez is not walking through that door, and Curt Schilling pre-2005 is not walking through that door. It's time to move on and focus on the Red Sox of tomorrow. ☺



COURTESY OF AP

Third baseman Mike Lowell is coming off of a poor offensive season, but he should have no problem matching the numbers of the streaky Kevin Millar.

Support your
fellow
Jumbos!

Meet new
people, cheer on
your friends, and
show your spirit as
these Jumbo sport-
ing events.

December 3rd

Men's Basketball vs. Brandeis
2:00 P.M.
@ Cousens Gym

Men's and Women's Track and Field
Husky Carnival
10:00 A.M.
@ Northeastern

December 7th

Men's Hockey vs. UMass-Dartmouth
7:30 P.M.
@ Malden Forum





Open Forum

Should gay men be allowed to donate blood?



“Yes, I don’t see why not. I think they carry the same risks as everyone else.”
—Bharat Battu, '07



“Yes, don’t they test everyone’s blood anyway?”
—Samantha Ferrell, '07



“I think they should be allowed to donate. The AIDS issue is something that has to be taken into caution when donating, but they shouldn’t be discriminated against because they’re gay.”
—Talia Quandelacy, '07



“I really want to say no, but to be politically correct, yes.”
—Andrew Savini, '07

—Compiled by Rachel Geylin





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