

The TCU Senate discussed bylaw changes at Sunday's meeting.

Photo by Daniel Rodrigues

## Treasury bylaws proposed to limit new group funds

by BENJAMINGEDAN  
Senior Staff Writer

Two major bylaw amendments passed during the last Allocations Board (ALBO) meeting were announced at Sunday's Senate meeting by Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate Treasurer Larry Harris—amendments which may have larger implications for newly forming groups. A third addendum is pending approval.

The most significant change involves the alteration of the bylaw pertaining to the \$1,000 funding cap on new groups. Currently, a two-thirds majority of ALBO is

required to override the funding limit. If this addendum passes, however, a unanimous vote will be necessary to allocate additional funds.

"This will make sure that the existing bylaw is taken more seriously," Harris said.

Although the new group cap has been overturned on many occasions, it is rare that ALBO has voted unanimously. The Coalition for Social Justice and Non-Violence, for example, after an involved appeals process, received \$3,201. This addendum would greatly inhibit the ability of new groups to lobby successfully for increased funding.

The first new bylaw, Bylaw 25, creates a New Group Fund separate from the existing buffer fund. The "proliferation of new groups," Senate President Jack Schnirman remarked, "has put a strain on buffer funding." By creating a separate fund, ALBO hopes existing groups will no longer be limited in their buffer funding requests due to the large amount of money allocated to new groups.

"This bylaw separates the buffer fund and the New Group Fund so ALBO doesn't have to anticipate the number of new groups," Harris said.

The new bylaw, which passed unanimously, will not go into effect until next semester. Harris will decide the amount of money to be placed in the New Group Fund.

The second new bylaw presented to the Senate mandates that student groups meet with an ALBO chair prior to presenting their budget to the Allocations Board. It is the hope of ALBO that the meetings will enable groups to better research and prepare their budgets.

"We often have to table requests to give groups time to put their budgets together," Harris said. "There won't be a propensity to table in the future."

Bylaw 26 comes in the wake of recent accusations that ALBO has acted disrespectfully toward student group representatives. Some of these complaints were brought up in a recent article in *The Observer* "Student Organizations Criticize ALBO's Behavior" (11/12) which quoted the Freshman Class Council as saying that ALBO members have been "rude and disrespectful."

Amendments are permitted pending a two-thirds ALBO majority vote. Now that the Senate has been given notice of the proposed change, ALBO will be able to vote on the addendum as early as next week.

## University focuses on career planning

by BENJAMINGEDAN  
Senior Staff Writer

"The University has recognized internships as an important issue." So stated Director of Career Services Jean Papalia at Sunday's Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate meeting.

Papalia discussed the revamped Office of Career Services and stressed the increasing effectiveness of the organization. Career Services was recently granted new office space and large conference rooms for recruiting in the Tisch Library. The addition of Papalia to the staff, the increased work space, and more administrative funding is greatly aiding the Office, Papalia said.

Papalia discussed various Career Services priorities during her address. As of now, representatives from over 200 companies annually visit Tufts to recruit students. Papalia says she hopes to attract a higher number and a more diverse group of companies to visit the campus. She also said that Career Services is currently seeking to provide more full time employment opportunities for graduating seniors.

Under Papalia, Career Services is focusing much of its energies on securing internship opportunities for Tufts students.

One strategy, Papalia explained, is joining a consortium of universities to pool information about available internships. The University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania, and various other schools have already committed themselves to the consortium.

"Students will not only see the Tufts internships but also the internships available at the other fine schools...this will make available more geographically diverse opportunities," Papalia said.

In addition, Papalia is working to collect information concerning internships offered through Tufts University departments.

"A lot of departments have their own listings with their own internships. I'm trying to centralize the information... A lot of faculty

members don't know about Career Services," Papalia said.

"Businesses are looking for a lot of the qualities that Tufts students have. I'm trying to let businesses know that," she added.

Papalia has focused her public relations efforts on large companies that traditionally hire many entry level employees. To this end, she has sent letters to companies enumerating the qualities of Tufts students and encouraging them to hire Tufts graduates.

Papalia said that she considers the Tufts alumni community an important tool of the Career Services Office. The on-line Career Advisory Network (located at <http://job.tufts.edu/cpc>) lists 800 alumni by name, field, and region. These alumni have volunteered to advise Tufts students as to possible careers.

"Alumni are a great resource. I just don't think they've been tapped yet," Papalia said.

Papalia also wants to extend the on-line network. An advertisement asking alumni to work with Career Services will appear in the next issue of *Tufts* magazine, a publication of the Office of Alumni Relations.

Papalia's address was followed by an array of questions from senators. Senate President Jack Schnirman asked Papalia if she was aware of last year's Senate report on Career Services.

"I think the students voices were heard," Papalia answered. "I think the administration realized that they have to support Career Services."

Senator Jesse Levey asked Papalia about the possibility of paid summer internships. Many students, Levey explained, are obligated to work by their financial aid packages. Papalia had yet to consider this situation but expressed interest in the suggestion. Additionally, she said issues related to minority employment have yet to be addressed by Career Services but are included in future plans.

"There is not a lot of diversity in our field... We are looking for males and minorities to round out our office," Papalia said.

## Second hearing on impeachment to be held

Los Angeles Times-Washington Post News Service

WASHINGTON—The House Judiciary Committee announced Monday it will hold its second public hearing on whether President Clinton should be impeached, publicly debating "the consequences of perjury," as panel investigators took closed-door testimony Monday from the attorney for former White House volunteer Kathleen E. Willey.

The Dec. 1 hearing, committee sources said, is likely to feature testimony from federal judges, individuals convicted of perjury, and military personnel who would talk about the impact to morale of lying under oath. A witness list, however, has not yet been prepared.

The hearing would leave independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr as the only public witness to discuss the facts in the Judiciary impeachment inquiry of Clinton. Some committee Republicans have said they expect to vote the week of Dec. 7 on approving at least one article of impeachment against the

president for perjury in his grand jury testimony in the Monica S. Lewinsky affair.

Judiciary Democrats' spokesman Jim Jordan ridiculed as "mind-boggling" a hearing in which the GOP proposes "to seek guidance as to their constitutional responsibility from a group of convicted felons."

The White House has been alert to any possible deal to avert an impeachment vote in the House and has heard what some officials described as encouraging signs from third parties in contact with House Speaker-designate Bob Livingston, R-La. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, a former House Democrat, has been sounding out ex-colleagues to see where things stand.

But White House and congressional officials said impeachment received only passing mention during a courtesy call by new White House Chief of Staff John

D. Podesta to Livingston at the Capitol Monday. "Both agreed it was an issue for members of Congress to decide," according to White House spokeswoman Amy Weiss.

That session came as the Judiciary Committee took its first of four closed-door depositions in the inquiry, from attorney Daniel Gecker.

Committee sources said the Gecker testimony addressed possible efforts by the Clinton administration to influence Willey, who

has accused Clinton of groping her in the Oval Office suite in 1993. Although Starr did not include the Willey allegations in his report of possible impeachable offenses, several GOP committee members have suggested that it may help establish a "pattern of behavior" by the president.

Gecker testified for about 3 1/2 hours in executive session. One committee source said only that "it was a helpful session." Another knowledgeable source said it offered "nothing new."



### INSIDE:

-An interview with the director of *Very Bad Things*, Peter Berg, page 5

-Iwei Chen on the irony of affirmative action, page 8

AND MORE

## News Briefs



### Bar, friends won't be charged in student's '24-shot' death

EAST LANSING, Mich. (CPX) — Neither the bar that served Bradley McCue nor the friends who bought him 24 shots of liquor to celebrate his 21st birthday will be charged in connection with his death, Ingham County prosecutors said.

McCue, a student at Michigan State University, and about a dozen of his friends headed over to Rick's American Cafe on Nov. 5 for his birthday.

They were there for about 90 minutes and left at 1:30 a.m. after an employee ordered McCue out because he was drunk, police Capt. Louis Muhn told the *Detroit Free Press*.

McCue's friends took him home, put him to bed and wrote "24 shots" in red marker on his face. He was found dead the next morning with a blood-alcohol level of 0.44 — nearly five times Michigan's legal limit to drive.

While prosecutors said it doesn't appear that any laws were broken, they have forwarded the case to the Liquor Control Commission, which will decide if the bar violated any liquor codes.

The bar's manager, Tom Dempsy, said he thinks his employees handled the situation properly. "We just want everybody to know we did everything we could in our minds to prevent this," he told the *Press*. "His intent when he came through the door was to drink as many shots as he could.

"Personal choices people make have to be held to some accountability. We did not knowingly serve this kid 24 shots."

### Oregon State student struck by falling goalpost

CORVALLIS, Ore. (CPX) — A student at Oregon State University remained hospitalized in serious condition Nov. 23 after she was struck in the head by a goalpost torn down by fans after the football game against the University of Oregon.

Cara Marie Martin, 18, was among a throng of students who rushed the field after the Beavers beat Oregon in double-overtime Saturday. Witnesses told police Martin was with a friend when she noticed the goalpost falling. She pushed her friend out of the way before she was hit.

Authorities said they're still trying to determine whether charges should be filed in connection with the incident.

"Whether or not a crime has been committed has not been determined," Oregon State Police Lt. Gregg Hastings told the *Associated Press*. "But we have a person seriously injured after the actions of some individuals." Police had expected unruly fans to rush onto the field after the game, but withdrew after the crowd overwhelmed them.

In addition to Martin's injury, police made several arrests and doled out citations for offenses ranging from alcohol possession to criminal mischief. At least one dozen drivers were arrested for drunken driving after the game, Hastings said.

A 21-year-old man also was injured after falling from a goal post. He was treated at a local hospital and released.

### USC's 'super fan' dies at Trojan game

PASADENA, Calif. (CPX) — When it came his time to go, Giles Pellerin couldn't have picked a better time or place.

The 91-year-old who was the University of Southern California's most loyal fan, died Saturday during the Trojans' 34-17 loss to UCLA at the Rose Bowl.

He was attending his 797th consecutive USC game with his 87-year-old brother, Oliver, when he complained about feeling ill.

Pellerin went into cardiac arrest in the Rose Bowl's parking lot and was pronounced dead before reaching a local hospital.

The retired telephone company executive and resident of Pasadena had watched every USC game — both home and away — in person since the start of the 1926 season. He also attended each of the 28 Rose Bowl games in which the Trojans have played as well as 69 USC/Notre Dame games. His brother, Oliver, joined him for many of those games. On Saturday, Oliver Pellerin marked his 600th consecutive game appearance.

To maintain his streak over the years, Giles Pellerin traveled more than 650,000 miles and spent more than \$85,000. His biography, dubbing him USC's "Super Fan," has been in the Trojans' press guide for years.

Pellerin will be cremated as he requested and entombed next to his late wife, Jessie. In lieu of flowers, Pellerin's family asked that donations be made to the USC athletic department in his name.

Compiled from the College Press Exchange

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# Features

## Alleged scam artist nearly pulled off a masterpiece

Los Angeles Times-Washington Post News Service

In the two decades he spent turning his eye care office into a thriving Beverly Hills medical practice, Steven G. Cooperman came to appreciate the finer things in life.

Over the years, he purchased a home in the nearby Brentwood district of Los Angeles, traded blue-chip stocks, and became a notable collector of art, particularly work by the French Impressionists.

But authorities allege that Cooperman, 56, enjoyed more than the aesthetic value of his paintings. He was indicted by a federal grand jury in Los Angeles last week for allegedly conspiring to steal a Picasso and a Monet from his home in an insurance scam that yielded him \$17.5 million.

Federal investigators have also cast a spotlight on two entertainment lawyers with a Rolodex of star clients, drawing both men into a drama far more compelling than the works of Hollywood fiction they battled over in court.

Whispers of Cooperman's indictment — which alleges that he planned the theft with unidentified co-conspirators — sizzled through the national art circuit last week as appraisers and insurers worried over their own exposure to fraud.

"Cooperman duped everybody and played upon people's trust," said Bob O'Connell, a Chicago-based fine arts adjuster who handled the case for Lloyds of London. "He played on human emotion and maximized the potential for human error."

The details of how Cooperman allegedly pulled off the job are making experts wince, because they appear to demonstrate glaring weaknesses in the highly specialized world of fine arts insurance. In the soft insurance market, experts say, companies are under pressure to write policies first and ask questions later.

William Fried, a former attorney for Cooperman's underwriters, said, "Domestic insurers are paying claims you would think would be phony because they're concerned about losing the business."

O'Connell added, "Now business is so competitive, people are chasing the premium dollar without doing due diligence" to check out the client. "You just cross your fingers and hope you don't get burned."

By the time the insurers and art aficionados learned of the red flags in Cooperman's past, including a run-in with the California Medical Board, it was too late.

Claude Monet's "Customs Officer's Cabin at Pourville" and Pablo Picasso's "Nude Before a Mirror" first drew local attention after Cooperman loaned them to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art for display in a 1991 show, a spokeswoman said. Museums customarily insure loaned works under a blanket policy, and no one officially appraised the paintings.

Cooperman had purchased the Picasso in 1987 at Sotheby's

in New York for \$957,000. He bought the Monet a year earlier from a San Francisco gallery for about \$800,000. But for the Los Angeles show, he was allowed to file his own estimate of their value: \$12.5 million.

With a loan receipt for that amount — not an appraisal document — he decided to update his insurance policy. Alan Jampol, an attorney for two insurance companies involved in the case, said the agent who reviewed Cooperman's request was "not competent."

Nonetheless, the Huntington T. Block insurance brokerage issued Cooperman a \$12.5 million policy underwritten by Lloyds of London and Nordstern Allgemeine Versicherungs, a German corporation. Block's decision is the subject of pending litigation.

On a Sunday afternoon in July 1992, a house worker noticed the paintings were missing and summoned Los Angeles police to Cooperman's Brentwood home. Cooperman, who was away on vacation, told detectives by phone that the two works had been stolen. Although police found the burglary strange, few clues led anywhere. There was no evidence of forced entry and the security alarm never went off.

Cooperman's insurers refused to pay up, saying that he had cheated by overvaluing the paintings. He filed suit, alleging bad faith by the underwriters. In his own declaration, Cooperman swore, "I did not plan, stage, or in any way participate in the theft and removal of the Picasso and the Monet from my home."

Rather than face the prospect of punitive damages if they lost before a jury, the insurers settled for \$17.5 million — a figure they now estimate to be nearly nine times the actual worth of the art.

"This is not a dumb guy," Jampol said. "He's familiar with the laws of insurance. He sensed confusion in the way the policy was issued. And in my opinion, he (believes) he can think farther ahead than these insurance company schlubs."

The trail quickly went cold, despite the \$250,000 reward for the paintings. But the unraveling of a love affair on the other side of the country provided a break.

After a few months of romance, Ohio saleswoman Pamela A. Davis and her attorney boyfriend from Los Angeles, James J. Little, began filing complaints against one another for stalking and violence. Los Angeles Police Detective Donald Hrycyk credits Davis with providing the first tip the art was in Cleveland. Davis also told police in Rocky River, Ohio, that Little was in possession of paintings taken from California.

Cleveland FBI agents found the paintings, one in a cardboard box, one wrapped in a blanket, in a rented storage locker in February 1997, an agency spokesman said. Investigators found evidence that they had been placed in a Los Angeles-area locker shortly after the alleged burglary.

## Cibo, tucked away in the North End, a restaurant worth visiting

by TONY KAHN

Daily Editorial Board

Tucked away a few blocks down from the main action of the North End's main vein, Hanover Street, a



little restaurant named Cibo holds its own against such typical favorites as Giamoco's (which is just across the street) and the Daily Catch. Not only is the line shorter here, but the food is better as well. So unless the loud, spirited crowds attract you, avoid such big hits in favor of a more intimate dining experience.

The Cibo experience is more than dining. The decorating is very stylish with dim lighting, hand-painted murals, and artificially-aged wall paint. It's amazing how many tables are packed into the small space, though the noise level is very comfortable. The back of the space opens to form the modern kitchen, where there appears a melee of Italian chatter, flying food, and delicious aromas.

We were seated at a table separated from its neighbor by approximately three inches, which was apparently enough room for the waitress to squeeze through to take our orders. Although we sat so close, and in the spirit of true camaraderie shared the perfectly seasoned olive oil, there was a startling aspect of privacy because everyone was so absorbed in what was directly in front of them; either their food or their dates, it was hard to tell.

Though the waitress covering our half of the restaurant had her hands more than full, it was not a long wait before we ordered. There is a very respectable wine list, but the traditional offerings on the dinner menu are jarring in the very modern atmosphere. But the bread was good, so we took the plunge and ordered. Although the specials looming over us on a chalkboard on the wall were tempting, we ordered from the regular menu

— bruschetta for an appetizer, plates of spinach ravioli stuffed with ricotta and portabello in a pesto sauce, and fettuccini in a romano cream sauce with porcini. Although they don't offer coffee or dessert, the huge concentration of cafes and bakeries in the area will satisfy your sweet tooth.

Even though the restaurant was packed and the kitchen was packed to the max, the food came surprisingly fast. The bruschetta rivals any in the North End, a huge slab of toasted Italian bread topped with a diced tomato and vegetable sauce and smothered in bubbling melted mozzarella cheese. More than enough for two.

Shortly after finishing the appetizer, we were served our meal — at the same time as our neighbors, and two of the four dishes were identical. So maybe it wasn't that private after all.

The presentation was amazing. Amidst the ruckus of a full house, the cooks were still able to put together plates suitable for exhibition in next month's *Gourmet*.

When the smell of dinner hit, a

typical Pavlov-style reaction ensued. It was well warranted.

The fettuccini was cooked to a perfect al dente, and the Romano cream sauce was a nice alternative to the more common Alfredo sauce which is based on parmesan cheese.

The porcini mushrooms were fresh, and their savory taste provided a nice complement to the rich cream sauce. A choice meal.

The ravioli, however, was a masterpiece. Each bite was an absolute explosion of flavors, from the cheese and meaty portabello mushroom filling, to the spinach pasta, to the basil in the sauce. Not to mention the requisite overtone of garlic! Delicious.

It was very easy to linger over dinner, trying to finish those last bites and to enjoy a relaxed conversation.

The waitress unobtrusively left the check and bid us a good evening and we left at our leisure. This is a great restaurant, one I'm sure to come back to, and recommend to all that covet a good meal.



### The North End offers atmosphere

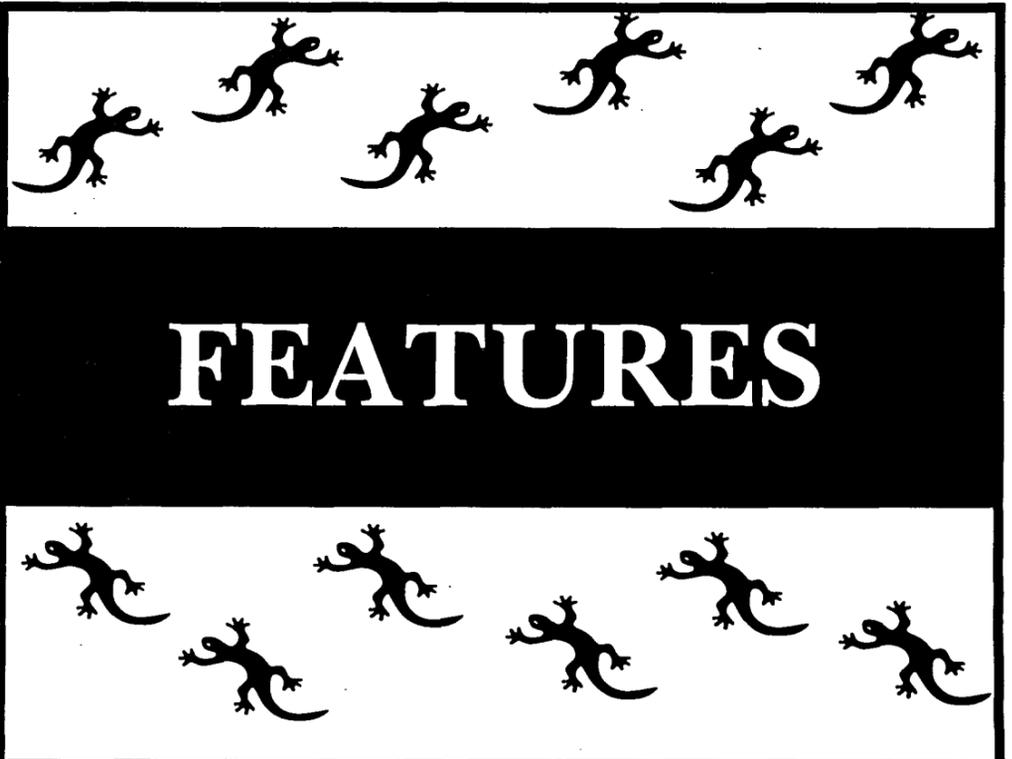
The North End is the perfect place to spend an evening. Granted, one must risk death crossing the traffic in the middle of the Big Dig construction site, but it is well worth it.

Right off of the Haymarket stop of the green line, Boston's own "Little Italy" is teeming with restaurants, bars, cafes, and myriad of little mom and pop shops hawking anything from antique furniture to framed photos of the Old Country.

The North End is also one of the more historic neighborhoods in Boston. Several spots on the Freedom Trail run along its narrow streets. Irish immigrants originally developed the area in the early 1800s, but since the influx of a large Italian population in the 1890s, the North End has remained largely Italian.

One of the best things about the North End is its versatility. It suits a romantic evening as well as a group excursion, and almost everyone can find something that they like. The prices vary greatly, but the menus for most of the restaurants are displayed outside the door. It gives you something to look at during the sometime long waits.

— Tony Kahn





# Arts & Entertainment

## Death & violence can be good

by THOMAS POWELL

Daily Staff Writer

What happens when five guys have a wild bachelor party and accidentally kill the live entertainment?



### Very Bad Things

Starring: Jeremy Piven, Christian Slater, Daniel Stern  
Directed By: Peter Berg

As you can imagine, very bad things.

Kyle Fisher (Jon Favreau of *Swingers* and *PCU*) is about to marry the beautiful Laura Garrety (Cameron Diaz from *There's Something About Mary*), and four of his friends treat him to one last night of wild debauchery in Las Vegas. The five seemingly normal, middle class guys have a bit too much fun, though, and a stripper/prostitute accidentally dies in her hotel bathroom.

They begin to call the cops but hesitate as Robert Boyd (Christian Slater) spews skewed self-help babble to persuade them to simply get rid of "the 105 pound problem." The group begins to splinter and turn on itself, and some horrible things start to happen. So begins a viscous, funny morality tale of death and betrayal.

Peter Berg (*Chicago Hope*, *Fire in the Sky*, *Aspen Extreme*) steps behind the camera to write and direct *Very Bad Things*, his first feature. He directs with the sure

hand of one who knows the ways of cinema. The events of the film are pretty ghastly, and only a small changes could have pushed this movie over the top, creating an overly sick and revolting work or, in the other direction, a ridiculous comedy. Berg seems to straddle the fence here and skillfully combines comedy and gore to create a tense, funny movie.

From the beginning, the movie seems to forebode evil events, and as it progresses, the characters are thrown into horrible twists and turns which end up being surprising and fun to watch. The pace never lets up, and it feels as if at any moment a new disaster could come crashing down into their lives.

Peter Berg commented, "I wanted a film that just kept going, that just didn't stop." The editing, music, directing, acting, and cinematography click together perfectly to create just the right level of on-edge tension and comedy propelling the movie forward at break-neck speed.

Jeremy Piven (*Grosse Pointe Blank*, *PCU*), Leland Orser (*Seven*, *Saving Private Ryan*), Daniel Stern (*Home Alone*, *City Slickers*) and Jeanne Tripplehorn (*Waterworld*, *The Firm*) round out this incredible ensemble cast. Any movie this overflowing with talent is bound to produce at least something of value, and *Very Bad Things* does not disappoint. All of the actors work well together and their chemistry infuses each scene with extra power and comedy.

The violence is, at times, overwhelming, and Berg will surely be the brunt of scorn from parental groups. Beneath the death and violence, though, lies a sense of morality and a commentary on the type of insanity seemingly normal people can be pushed to. While it may appear that the movie condones violence as a means to an end, the characters involved are severely punished when thrust into this circle of hell created by the death of the stripper. After all of these horrible trials, the viewer is treated to an ending with a hilarious cinematic payoff.

If this movie does anything to the movie-going public, it will definitely disturb them. In fact, the movie is so disturbing it's funny.

Viewers be warned: this movie is not for the faint of heart. As test screenings predict, the audience reaction to this movie will be split wider than the Grand Canyon. Some will absolutely abhor this movie, but many will "get it," laughing right along with the carnage. There are no in-betweens here. In the end, if you thought the Ear Scene in *Reservoir Dogs* was kinda' funny, you will most likely find *Very Bad Things* a very amusing movie.



Friends turn on each other after a bachelor party goes wrong.

## Director offers insight into film

by THOMAS POWELL

Daily Staff Writer

With tousled hair, rolled-up sleeves, and a travel-weary look, Peter Berg sat down to discuss his life, his work, and his violent, yet cynically funny, writing/directorial debut, *Very Bad Things*.

Berg grew up in a middle class family in Chappaqua, a suburb of New York, where he was instilled with "a firm sense of sarcasm and a dark humor" which has manifested itself in his work. He "had a comfortable life [growing up] but there is a lot of dysfunction in that life" which he explored in this movie.

His acting career began in college plays and he eventually broke

### Interview

wasn't able to articulate my feelings very well. From that I started writing monologues. I'd create a character like Ed, and Ed was pissed off about something... just ranting and raving, and then I showed one of them to a theater teacher in my high school who was very supportive of it and thought they showed some promise." After that experience, he continued to cultivate his writing and has had a play produced, a screenplay optioned but never made, and has written several episodes of *Chicago Hope*.

Berg said that he is indebted to

about Vegas was these packs of white, suburban males... good guys, normal guys, and to see these guys in Vegas it was like Vegas had become this key that was unlocking this demonic shadow monster forces and these guys were going nuts... then they leave it all in Vegas and they go home and they leave it all in the desert." This experience coupled with his interest with the "fragile balance" that exists with a group of guys between love and hate inspired the premise for *Very Bad Things*.

"When I wrote the film I was kinda' pissed off about a lot of stuff and... I vented a lot of stuff when I was writing it." Then, after calming down, he decided to make the movie less cynical and more entertaining. "I didn't want to make a chilling movie. I wanted to make something that... people could laugh at and have fun with." He also wanted to inject the movie with a sort of moral sense where if you "give good you get good, and if you give bad you get bad."

His goal in writing was to make a movie that would entertain and stick with the viewers after leaving the theater. "The movies I remember really loving were movies where I would sit in the car afterwards with my friends and we'd talk about it for four hours... that to me is my instinct. The energy of this film is my instinct. The problem today is people literally plan stuff, like trying to shock.... I just basically tried to tell a story that was at the end of the day a story that entertained me."

After marketing the script to every major studio in Hollywood and being turned down, Berg raised \$5 million from independent investors. One of the main aspects that attracted the financing was the previous commitment of Cameron Diaz and Christian Slater who both "got the movie" and

see INTERVIEW, page 6

## Hip-hop's virtuoso

by ROB QUINTILIANI

Daily Staff Writer

*Incinerator*, Virtuoso's first solo release, is an intense battle-cry, flame-broiling all the phony M.C.'s who claim allegiance to the rap throne.

Virtuoso yields a ferocity reminiscent of rap's origin, while slinging together thoughts and ideas with the pin-point accuracy of a lyrical Robin Hood. The rapper's verbal darts are aimed directly at the hearts of the candy rappers who have compromised their style to fit the guidelines of the modern hip-hop industry.

An insightful and extremely complex up-tempo rhyme schemes color Virtuoso's lyrics throughout this single. Effortlessly, he glides through the music, while constantly challenging the limits of language by exploring the earth and parallel dimensions. "I fertilize the earth/give birth to orchids/liquidate from an orifice/to syncopate rigor mortis." Virtuoso is a silver-backed guerilla on a rampage with "omnipotent weaponry" and if you get in the way, he'll "plough your eyebrows with a tractor."

The rhythmic beat of the music was done by Beyonder, most well-known around the Boston area for his production work on 7L and Esoteric's "Be Alert" — featured on the Rebel Alliance album, which compiled Boston's brightest hip-hop acts in 1997.

Beyonder has matured as a producer, weaving more diverse layers of sound into his rhythms. Where his old beats sounded somewhat two-dimensional and relied heavily on the M.C.'s ability to mold to them, this album is a more complete effort. With two layers of percussion, and a droning bass that perfectly offsets the screeching sample, his rhythmic magic can keep bodies rocking even without the lyricist.

Together, Beyonder and Virtuoso are a lethal combination. Their music seamlessly flows together. When standout area DJ n is added to the mix during the chorus, the track explodes leaving your head bobbing as it becomes a soundtrack for the rest of the day.

The B-side of "Incinerator" is not by any stretch of the imagination a throw-away. "Orion's Belt" is an instant Boston underground hip-hop classic. Beyonder's beat is not as complex as the headline track, but the sound has a faster, friendlier feel and the break is nothing short of hypnotic. Here, Virtuoso joins forces with local compatriots Mr. Lif and Esoteric, each grabbing a verse.

For those of you who have been sleeping, this is the boldest hip-hop that Boston has to offer. It's only a matter of time before all of these artists start to gain greater national exposure. Their raw skills and original styles are too nasty to be overlooked much longer. This album is some of the most freshest and exciting music of today's hip-hop scene.

You can pick up this record, and most other underground Boston material at Biscuithead Records on Mass. Ave, and Newbury Comics in Cambridge or Boston. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming shows at the Middle East and the Playhouse.



### Virtuoso

Incinerator



Peter Berg directs the controversial *Very Bad Things*.

onto the film and television scene. Most notably over the years, he has appeared in the films *Copland*, *Fire in the Sky*, *Aspen Extreme*, and *A Midnight Clear*. On the small screen, Berg is finishing up a long run as Dr. Billy Kronk on *Chicago Hope*.

Acting, however, is not his only passion. Since childhood, he has been writing plays, monologues, and screenplays. He started out by writing stream of consciousness journals because, he said, "I wasn't able to communicate... a lot of thoughts and emotions... and I

the folks at *Chicago Hope* for boosting his career and allowing him to grow artistically in his acting, writing, and directing. "Those people have been so good to me, I can't describe it. They've taught me how to make films, they let me direct, they let me write.... It's been like getting paid to go to film school." They even let him leave for several episodes to make and then to promote *Very Bad Things*.

Said Berg of his inspiration for the film, "When I used to go to Vegas, when I first moved to Los Angeles... what blew my mind

# The 'Daily' takes an inside look at 'Very Bad Things' with director Berg

## INTERVIEW

continued from page 5

were willing to work for scale and deferments.

"One of the advantages of being an actor when you write, you can kind of think like, well, 'What would I want to do if I was playing this part? What would be provocative if I put myself in the role of any of those guys?' And it made the roles more appealing to the other actors."

All of the roles in the movie were fairly easy to cast except for the role of Kyle Fisher. Berg was originally going to play the part himself, but when he realized all of the responsibilities he would face, he turned the role over to Jon Favreau. "I kept seeing actors, but

sabotaging them. Saying, 'Ah, they're no go, they're no good,' and everybody was telling me... 'Don't do it man, just direct.' And, I was being stubborn, and I wanted to play the part, and... I was thinking about Favreau because of that scene in *Swingers* with the phone where he self-destructs on the answering machine. And I heard that he read the script and liked it... and he came in and... he was just so right that I knew he had to do it."

Because Berg wrote the film and "really knew who the characters were," he felt more sure of himself when making directorial decisions on set. "Actors are like kids: they'll test you, and if you're not sure, they'll run all over you, but if you're — you know — not an asshole...

actors will go down your road. That being said, Jeremy Piven is the most aggressive improviser of any actor working today. A lot of people don't realize how good of an actor he is. I think he's one of the best, and I really think he will leave his mark." When the actors wanted to improvise, he did not stop them. "The whole scene when they drive to Vegas is basically all improvised."

Another goal of his in writing the film was to allow all of the characters a pivotal moment. "I've done films where I was just kind of sitting around saying: 'What am I in this movie for? How come I don't have a moment? What about me?... Let me do something.' I wanted to do more. I wanted every character to be memorable in this film."

Says Berg of his first impressions of the film, "When I first saw the rough cut of the movie it was a three-and-half hour rough cut, and I was so traumatized and sickened by it that I couldn't really talk for two days. It wasn't funny; the stuff was so much more realistic on film.... I thought I'd made a horrible mistake." Nevertheless, through editing, he found the right mood of the story and made it all work.

Because of the violent nature of the film, Berg has received a wide range of responses. "I'll have people come up to me after a screening and say, 'This is the worst piece of shit.' Then I'll have people come up to me and say 'I love this movie. It's my favorite movie of all time.'"

At one point a woman in her 60s

walked out of a test screening looking as if she would be sick. Says Berg of this reaction, "There are people who I don't think should see this film.... I love pushing it, you know, and if I push it too far, so be it. If you don't understand the metaphor that's at play here and that it is a bit of a farce, so be it.... Peter Farrelly called me last week and he said 'way to go, way to go.' If you're laughing at that movie, that's kind of my sense of humor."

As for Berg's plans for the future, he wants to keep acting, writing, and directing. He currently has two projects in development: a TV show which he is creating about Bellevue and psychiatric patients, and a movie about a group of New York city firefighters who get into trouble.

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# Sports

Jordan Brenner

## Keeping the stove warm

September and October have traditionally been baseball's pivotal months. An argument can be made that today, however, November and December have a greater bearing on which teams will contend for pennants.

### Full Court Press

In the era of free agency, offseason moves, or lack thereof, largely determine the course for the following season. Those teams that are willing to pay the price now should be sitting pretty next fall. And that means that a number of highly sought-after stars will be reaping the benefits of this season.

What is most interesting about this offseason is the waiting game that seems to be going on. Other than Mike Piazza's early seven-year, \$91 million signing with the New York Mets, the bulk of this year's excellent free agent crop is still being pursued by various clubs. Bernie Williams, Mo Vaughn, Kevin Brown, Randy Johnson, Albert Belle, Rafael Palmeiro, and Brian Jordan remain available to the highest bidder. However, no one seems to sign first, with each wanting to use each other as a way of driving up their asking price.

For instance, if Johnson signs this week, Brown's value only increases to those who are unable to land the Big Unit. If Bernie Williams goes to Arizona, Albert Belle could be the central figure in a bidding war between the Yankees and the Red Sox. It should be an interesting next month, to say the least.

A look at some of the principle free agents, what they want, and who wants them:

**Bernie Williams:** The five-tool center fielder and his hated agent Scott Boras have been the subject of much controversy. They expect nothing less than at least five years and over \$10 million per season to consider an offer. Arizona supposedly offered seven years and \$100 million, but after inking pitcher Todd Stottlemyre, can a young franchise really afford to pay that much for Williams?

The answer is yes, because owner Jerry Colangelo has enormous financial resources. However, that doesn't mean it's the right thing to do. Williams has a history of getting hurt and has produced great numbers when healthy, but all this in a lineup featuring great protection. In Arizona, he'll have Travis Lee and Matt Williams, with possible contributions from Jay Bell. But without Chuck Knoblauch or Derek Jeter to get on base in front of him, his numbers will certainly decline.

He is actually more valuable to the Yankees, even though they are a better team and are offering less money. He fits perfectly into the middle of their lineup. Although he is a switch hitter, he is most valuable from the right side, where he is more productive and offers great protection in between lefties Paul O'Neill and Tino Martinez. If he leaves New York, the Yankees will either have to go out and sign the troublesome Belle for roughly the same price, or send a package of top prospects including Mike Lowell and Ricky Ledee to Montreal for Rondell White. And White will not only command a lot of money in the future, but will also not be as productive.

The Red Sox have also jumped into the thick of the Williams hunt, which may actually make George Steinbrenner (he may be selling the team, but he'll still run the ship) more anxious to up his offer to Williams. Texas and Baltimore are also reportedly interested, and watch out for a surprise team jumping in late (Detroit? Toronto? The Mets?). Most of New York seems to think Bernie is gone. Call it a hunch, but I think we'll be seeing him in pinstripes again next year.

**Albert Belle:** Williams' fortunes are closely linked to Belle, who has exercised a clause in his contract enabling him to become a free agent until the beginning of December. Belle's choices are clear-cut: the Yankees, Boston, or returning to the White Sox.

If the Yankees can't get Williams to stay, expect them to make a push to sign Belle. He would fill Williams' role of providing right-handed power in the cleanup spot. Manager Joe Torre is confident that he can handle Belle, who is baseball's answer to the devil.

The Red Sox, meanwhile, *must* sign either Williams or Belle. Having terminated negotiations with Mo Vaughn, the Sox face a public-relations nightmare if the only bat they replace him with is Jose Offerman, whom they signed to a ridiculous four-year, \$26 million deal. But no one ever accused the Red Sox of being smart. Otherwise, they may have actually won a World Series in the last 80 years.

Belle's case is unclear, but will be solved in the next two weeks.

**Brian Jordan:** Well, it looks like the Braves just signed him. The fact that a 31-year-old outfielder with back problems and without any consistent success in the past can land a five-year, \$40 million deal ensures that Williams, Belle, and Vaughn will be getting at least \$12 million a season. The Braves did not spend their money wisely on this one. With a lineup that is already too right-handed, they would have been better served spending their money on a left-handed hitting role player such as B.J. Surhoff. He would have been a much better addition to the outfield and they could have plugged him into the number-two spot in the lineup.

see BRENNER, page 11

## Returning talent a good reason for women to dream

by JON JAPHA

Senior Staff Writer

It must be every college coach's dream to only lose one player to graduation. Luckily for Tufts'



### Women's Basketball

UMass-Dartmouth	51
Tufts	80

women's basketball coach Janet Savitz, this is no dream, but a reality.

"Having everybody return is supposed to help," Savitz said.

Savitz led the Jumbos to a 12-11 record last year, the first winning season in the past three years, a sign that Tufts is returning to the glory days of old when the Jumbos were a perennial NESCAC power.

Tufts enjoyed winning seasons from 1984-1995, the year that Savitz was hired. After coaching the team to 14 wins in her first season, Savitz has worked on rebuilding the program. This season could prove to be a breakout season for the squad.

"This is the first group of players that I brought in, and they have been through the gamut in the past few years," Savitz said. "I think that they have the experience to have a really strong year."

The only senior lost from last year's squad is Sarah Howard, a forward who provided defense and perimeter scoring before suffering a season-ending knee injury late last season. Fortunately for the Jumbos' hopes, Savitz has a strong

crop of freshmen that will help fill the void that Howard left.

"The new players have added depth and bring a scoring mentality combined with the ability to play defense," Savitz said.

Leading the new class of freshmen are Emily Desmarais and Tiffany Trehan. Desmarais, who is explosive in the open court, and Trehan, who will come off the bench to add a scoring punch, should flourish in Savitz's up-tempo style of play. Also coming off the bench will be Shira Fishman, who has shown in pre-season scrimmages that she works well with the rest of the team.

"We have a lot of perimeter people," Savitz said, "so we have to play an up-tempo game and keep rotating bodies in and out." She added that she would like to mimic the Arkansas Razorbacks' mentality of "40 minutes of hell."

These freshmen will have to wait their turn, though, before they can crack a starting lineup that includes five returning players. Senior Carrie Hironaka, last year's leading scorer, will handle the point guard duties and share the backcourt with junior Melissa Harvill. The front line is made up of players who are all 5'10" or taller. Junior Molly Baker will join forces with seniors Nicole Bach and Stephanie Buia to create a much-needed presence in the paint.

"One of our greatest weaknesses is rebounding," Savitz said, "but we are improving, and, of course, it's a point of emphasis for us."

This starting core should be



Photo by Daniel Rodrigues

The women's basketball team is deep and talented this year.

able to work well together, since they have played together the past few seasons. Four of the five starters even live together, demonstrating the solidarity of the group. Tufts' veteran starting line-up, featuring three seniors and two juniors, should have an advantage over younger, less-seasoned teams.

"These five are experienced," Savitz said. "They enjoyed the success from last season, and are eager to keep it going."

Hironaka and Buia were the top performers offensively last year, both averaging in double figures, and also clocked the most minutes on the team. Hopefully, the added offensive potency will take some pressure off of Hironaka and Buia

see BASKETBALL, page 11

## Tufts places 13th in Nationals

by NEIL TAYLOR

Senior Staff Writer

The men's cross country team, which experienced one of the most successful seasons in the school's history, finished a respectable 13th place at Nationals on Saturday. Although this is the second highest finish ever for Tufts, the team felt a general disappointment after the race.

"It was a new experience for us. Only two of our runners had ever run in Nationals before," sophomore Dave Patterson explained as a possible cause for some of the slow times.

"We were all a little more psyched up for qualifiers," junior Matt Lyons continued. "We were just less energetic for this race, but we gave it our best shot."

The team did achieve one of its most important goals, however. By placing in the top 13, they secured a fifth berth for next year's national race. "I was really proud of this," graduate student Rod Hemingway said. "Gaining the fifth spot was our big responsibility."

The obvious standout performance in the race was Hemingway, who achieved All-American status for the second time, with his 26th place finish (25:43). "I was satisfied with the way my season ended," Hemingway said. "I feel like the team deserves all of the credit, because they pushed me every day."

Lyons finished second for



### Men's X-Country

Tufts, 52nd overall (26:08), despite two falls in the beginning of the race. "It was a tough day for me," Lyons said. "It was disappointing, but I hope to be All-American next year."

Finishing third for the Jumbos was Dave Patterson (26:16) who placed 66th overall. Following Patterson was freshman Ben Smith (27:00), who had a really strong race finishing 130th place in the country.

"Ben stepped up big time and saved us," junior Steve Kaye said.

Kaye finished closely behind Smith (27:06) in 140th place. "I was extremely disappointed with my race," he said. "After the best race of the season at pre-nationals, I hoped to improve on that time."

Junior Pete Rodrigues finished sixth for Tufts (27:20) in 152nd place. "I guess I was overwhelmed with the quality of the race," Rodrigues said. "My nerves just got to me."

Senior Jason Burke was again bothered by his asthma problem and suffered a fall about a mile into the race. "[Burke] has the ability to be up there, it's just beyond his control," Hemingway said. "He has had a very successful career and was truly an All-American during every practice."

The runners did not perform quite as well as they hoped, but simply making it to Nationals is a huge accomplishment. "We had a bad race, but still finished 13th in the entire nation," Hemingway said. "How many other schools can say that? It shows what a strong program we have."

"This was a great experience for these kids," Coach Connie Putnam said. "The emotions were so high at race time and they just tried too hard."

Winning the race was North Central College from Illinois. The other New England teams fared better than Tufts as Williams, Keene State, and Brandeis finished third, seventh, and eighth respectively, but there was only a small 50 point gap between Tufts and Keene State.

Although the end result of the season was not as exceptional as many of the runners had hoped, the fairly young team continu-

see X-COUNTRY, page 11

### UPCOMING SCHEDULE

**Tuesday, November 24**  
**Women's Basketball:** @ Johnson & Whales, 6:30 pm.  
**Men's Basketball:** @ MIT, 7:00 pm.

**Wednesday, November 25**  
**No Games Scheduled**

# Viewpoints

## Isn't it ironic, affirmative action helps white men

by Iwei Chen

Julian Pardo de Zela believes that affirmative action is no longer needed because "at some point history must be accepted for what it is: history." ("The undeserved beneficiaries of affirmative action," *Daily*, 11/19) "Today," he argues, "it's virtually impossible to identify the individual victims and beneficiaries of discrimination in the past." He believes that history does not determine the life chances of different individuals identified with different groups.

If this is the case, why are three out of ten African-Americans born into poverty while only one in ten white people find themselves in the same situation? To add insult to injury, both minority and white women are disproportionately represented among the poor. Is this a coincidence? Are women naturally inferior to men? Are minorities less hard-working than the majority? If one does not believe in the bell-curve theory about race, how then should one interpret the socio-economic reality of America?

In his article "The American Class Structure" (*The American Sociological Review*, 1982) sociologist Erik Olin Wright reveals a fundamental flaw in our society: "The United States may be a 'middle class society' in certain cultural or ideological ways, but it remains structurally a class society within which the working class continues to have the greatest numerical weight." This means that the whole idea of a "meritocracy" is a sham. Uncle Sam doesn't want every American

*Iwei Chen is a senior majoring in international relations and history.*

to live in the suburbs, go to Tufts, drive around in a jeep, and sport the latest Abercrombie sweater.

In lieu of that cozy, decidedly middle and upper-middle class dream, we have a society in which "in-state and local government jobs in 1996, women earned on average just 81 percent of men's median salaries, while black and Hispanic workers took home 85 percent and 91 percent of white worker's median paychecks." In fact, according to Wright 64 percent of all blacks today are in the working class while only 44 percent of whites are.

Fundamentally, the economically weakest and therefore politically disenfranchised sectors of our society are women and minorities. These patterns of class distribution clearly and distinctly spell out a real need for affirmative action today. No doubt, there are affluent African-Americans as well as homeless white people but the problem isn't about the exceptions, it's about the rule.

There is a method to the madness of race and gender relations in America. The richest sectors of society are dominated by white people, specifically white men. Journalist Keith Bradsher reveals the widening economic gap in our country: "In 1989, 1 percent of American households — with net worth of at least \$2.3 million each owns nearly 40 percent of the nation's wealth... Further down the scale, the top 20 percent of Americans — households worth \$180,000 or more — have more than 80 percent of the nation's wealth." ("Gap in wealth in U.S. called widest in West," *The New York Times*, 4/12/95) If there are more white people with high-paying white collar jobs than minorities, then they are the ones hold-

ing a disproportionate amount of the wealth in the nation.

This wealth means one can buy one's children "merit" to get into elite universities and attain the nation's highest-paying jobs. First and foremost, rich people can provide a safe, sheltered environment in which their kids can grow up, away from the squalor of urban housing projects and underfunded public school systems. Secondly, they can pay for Princeton Review courses to artificially bump up the all-important SAT scores (\$500) for admissions into the Ivy League. They can also pay for summer school and camps that allow participants to hone in on academics and special skills like playing the violin or lacrosse. With these extra luxuries that are only affordable to the wealthy, the wealthier candidates for admissions into elite colleges seem much more attractive than the ones who apply from the ghetto and have never played an instrument in their lives because their parents couldn't afford it.

Moreover, private universities are not non-profit organizations; they are in the business of providing high-quality educations for "qualified" students. This means you're basically out of luck if you're from a working class background (as most minorities are) and are applying to a place like Tufts, where financial aid is scanty at best.

The plot thickens when one investigates the legacy pool of applicants to universities. If you're wealthy and also have parents that are alumni (mostly white men because women and minorities were not generally admitted until recently) at your first choice, chances are more likely that you will get in.

A former dean at Princeton who now runs a college consulting firm, writes of one Ivy League University where the average SAT score of the freshman class is 1350 and only 1280 for legacies and says, "At most selective schools [legacy status] doubles, even triples the

America is demonstrated by who you know or how much money your parents make, not what you know. Ironically, then, affirmative action actually helps white men, a group which has historically viewed affirmative action as a direct attack on its interests. Affir-

**"Fundamentally, the economically weakest and therefore politically disenfranchised sectors of our society are women and minorities."**

chances of admission." (*The Meaning of Difference: American Constructions of Race, and Gender, Social Class, and Sexual Orientation*)

In fact, many colleges even place admitted legacies in a special "Not in profile" file (along with recruited athletes) so that when the school's SAT scores are published, alumni kids won't pull down the average. Why do people with legacies, who are primarily white, have an advantage over those without legacies, who are primarily minorities? Richard Steele, director of undergraduate admissions at Duke University, bluntly replies: "Our survival as an institution depends on having support from alumni so according advantages to alumni kids is just a given." (*The Meaning of Difference*)

Yet strangely enough, none of affirmative action's detractors seem to be aware of this fundamentally racist policy. They are too busy whining about "reverse discrimination" to see how the reality of race and gender coupled with class affects who gets in to which elite schools and ultimately acquires which high-paying jobs.

Seen in this light, "merit" in

affirmative action forces employers to adopt formal hiring practices, creating opportunities for average whites that have few connections in the old boy network of white elites.

To say that the two great social ills of racism and sexism don't exist completely renders the nurture side of the argument obsolete. Thus, affirmative action's opponents only believe in the nature side of the argument. They like to think they are above society, that they are the only people who had no help along the way in climbing the social ladder of America. Unfortunately, humans are just as much a product of their society as they are of their biology. Nobody is wholly independent of the economic and political forces that move and shape society. There is too much order in the present and historical patterns of discrimination to prove otherwise.

This is why affirmative action is still so urgently needed — because the history of racism and sexism in America is not dead. Indeed, it thrives on anti-affirmative action rhetoric and the cherished myth that our country is a "meritocracy" — a land of unequal opportunity.

## Tisch's necessary e-mail policy

by Jennifer Hendrickson

I am on the reference staff at the Tisch Library and would like to respond to Doug Burns, the author of "Upset@tufts.edu" (*Daily*, 11/4). I want to address his anger over the no e-mail policy at the Tisch Library.

The reference staff are "e-mail Nazis?" I see the humor in this. But to compare e-mail deprivation to being deprived of life, limb, and

**"The terminals are for reference, research, and study, not for recreation."**

humanity is absurd. E-mail is a convenience. It is available at computer facilities, including Eaton Hall, Jackson Hall, and sometimes the Mark computer lab. (By the way, Mark is housed in the library but not run by the library.) The Tisch Library has made exceptions to the general no e-mailing policy by allowing e-mailing assignments from professors and telnetting to library catalogs. But the library cannot afford to accommodate e-mail overflow due to the lack of terminals in the labs for the following reasons.

*Jennifer Hendrickson works on the reference staff at the Tisch library.*

Computer terminals at the library are, in effect, the catalog, now that a card catalog no longer exists. The computers are for locating books, articles, and other information sought. A patron should be able to walk into the library any time it is open and look into the catalog, database, or Internet. The terminals are for reference, research, and study, not for recreation. Other Tufts libraries have a no e-mail policy, so why

is Tisch singled out by the author of this article? No one has been kicked out of the library for doing e-mail. They may have been asked to yield their terminal to a patron doing research. All students are not as willing as the author of the article to yield their terminals. When patrons are waiting to use the computers, the reference department has tried two methods to get those doing e-mail to log off. One is the airport terminal method, a loud general announcement that instructs people to log off of their e-mail accounts so that other patrons can do research. Believe it or not, yelling at students is not something a reference librarian relishes. This method has not solved the problem, and it has annoyed those doing work. The second method, which involves asking an indi-

vidual to log off, does not work much better. The person gets upset that they have been singled out instead of another, understandably so.

This brings up a larger question: the meaning of a library. In this technological age, the meaning continues to change. More and more patrons seek information over a computer. Still, books have their place, as does quiet study. I don't think many people would dispute that a university library is largely used as a place to

search and study. When the reference computers are overrun with e-mail, people tend to congregate and socialize over the terminals. This atmosphere hinders those trying to work.

There are places to do e-mail, including the labs and dorm

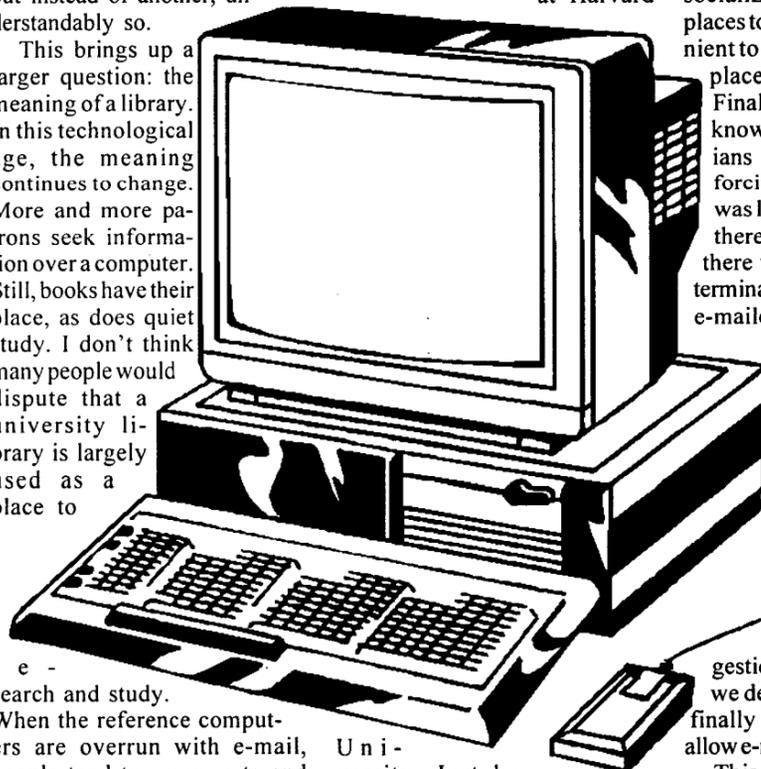
rooms. It would be a good idea to also have some terminals at the student center. I have seen this at Harvard

that food is not permitted in the library. There are places to eat, places to get exercise, places to socialize, places to study, and places to e-mail. It is more convenient to do all these things in one

place, but it is not necessary. Finally, I would like people to know that the reference librarians take no pleasure in enforcing the no e-mail policy. It was little over a year ago when there was no policy, because there was no need of one. But terminals became inundated with e-mailers. It was the patrons, including faculty and students, who complained that they could

not get onto a computer to look up books or to do research. Many people complained at the reference desk; others filled out "suggestion" forms. That was when we deliberated for a while and finally adopted a policy not to allow e-mail.

This policy is just as uncomfortable to enforce as it is to abide by. But at least it helps to ensure that a computer terminal will be open to any patron, including Burns, when needed for research.



# Viewpoints

## So, you want to be a Rockette?

by Leigh Wald

As a Westerner, I am accustomed to friendliness in all places — restaurants, public transportation, banks, and shops. Walking the streets of any city west of the Mississippi, I can easily pass by my fellow cowboy boot-wearing citizens without knocking off their wide-brim, custom-steamed Stetson hats. Like our wide-open plains and fields, our personal space is something that is not taken away, even on a downtown street. We pass with a smile and a tip of the hat, not brushing shoulders or turning to let a group pass.

This simple act of giving each other enough space to pass by does not seem to be a part of an Easterner's mind set. I would think that with much of the population teetering around on high platform shoes, people would give each other enough space to pass by; twisting an ankle while sporting a two-inch platform is most embarrassing and I would think getting knocked over on the way to an 8:30 a.m. class would be even worse. Having experienced this East Coast phenomenon not only while using the Red Line on the T, but also here on our campus, I can only make a plea to my peers: keep the shoulder rearranging to the chiropractic section of your medical school textbook.

I have coined this annoying

*Leigh Wald is a freshman who has not yet chosen a major.*

component of everyday life "the sidewalk squeeze." Yes, folks, I, like so many of my peers, have been "squeezed" one too many times. Walking to and from classes each day, I attempt to share the sidewalks and paths that criss-cross the academic quad and wind through campus with fellow students. I enjoy the crisp air and falling leaves, yet a day has not gone by without my shoulder getting knocked practically to Davis by a fellow path-user. I still look behind me in bewilderment. Is the sidewalk not big enough for you to walk calmly by me, next to me? I know all about the freshman 15, but the scale tells me I have not gained all 15 yet, so I know that my body is not impeding the passage of other people.

I am not the only one who has encountered this phenomenon.

Several friends have had their shoulders and arms rearranged walking to class, or their paths suddenly altered by passersby going the opposite direction. The sidewalks and paths are certainly wide enough to accommodate two-way traffic.

I am used to an unwritten rule that sidewalks and paths have an unmarked yellow line down the middle. One direction on one side, the other on the other side. Simple, right? Convenient and user friendly as well.

I don't know whether to attribute this phenomenon to rudeness or to distraction or to total unawareness. Trekking back up-

hill arm-in-arm with five of your best friends at 1 a.m. in the morning is always enjoyable, but is it really necessary to continue the Rockette-style walk during those never-long-enough ten minute intervals in between classes? It only hinders others and completely crosses that "yellow line."

I stay on the side of the path I'm on, I move over; I separate myself from the people I'm walking with to let others pass. In these cases, a few inches does make all the difference.

Its such a simple act, letting

someone pass safely, sharing the path, not taking someone's shoulder with you to class. Wider sidewalks are not the answer; that would only compound the problem, making the five-person Rockette walk into a ten-person kick line. Some good old-fashioned courtesy for others would be just fine. We must just be aware that there are in fact other people who would like to use the paths as well, who do not enjoy stumbling over shrubbery and wood chips going to class.

Your mother always told you to

use the sidewalk; she taught you that sharing was the right thing to do. Now, a combination of these two tidbits of common sense could be something that you and your friends can practice together, maybe even bring home to show the folks. Who knows, perhaps one day Easterners will discover the joys of walking on a sidewalk calmly and in harmony with other path. Do platform-wearing and non-platform-wearing souls a favor (cowboy boots are much more comfortable, anyway): spread the knowledge, spare the shoulders.

## Tufts Connect still isn't listening

by Oren Friedman

I am writing about a serious problem with Tufts Connect which I know many Tufts students have been experiencing. It is now 11:00 p.m., and I have been trying to dial off-campus for about a half-hour but can get nothing except a fast busy signal.

Do not kid yourselves; this is not a random switchboard glitch. It typically takes a minimum of around seven attempts to dial off-campus, during the day, before the call will go through; and I have been blocked from calling for up to an hour.

For the off-campus contingent, just close your eyes and imagine that you have a test the next day. You have an important question to ask an off-campus friend in the class, and you have been wasting your time punching the digits into your phone for twenty minutes. In talking to other students it does seem that the problem has been worse on my phone; however, most admitted to having difficulty calling off campus.

I started complaining to Tufts Connect at the beginning of the semester, and was told a story about there being a limited amount of outgoing circuits which can result in calls getting jammed when the usage is high. I don't under-

*Oren Friedman is a senior majoring in biology.*

stand this explanation, considering there has never been this type of problem in past years. Perhaps, it is the result of the brilliant five-digit dialing plan that allows us direct linkage to the Grafton campus or the medical school — just what we always wanted, right guys?

Anyway, speculation aside, with phone service charges at a whopping \$31.50 a month, I feel that it is ridiculous that students are encountering this problem. The fact that students may not be able to reach their friends off-campus in an emergency is inexcusable.

Three weeks ago, I was told that there was some sort of "investigation" to look into the problem, however I can assure everyone that nothing has improved. I called recently to ask what had happened with the investigation, and the receptionist gave me the name of two employees that were in charge of it — she, of course, claimed to know nothing about it. Funny how these two cats are never in the office when I call. On top of that, about five days ago, I left a detailed message for one of the guys with instructions for him to call me back, but he just hasn't.

In other Tufts Connect news, the TCU Senate has been working on getting funding for cable in the main lounges of the Residence Halls. This year, most halls have gone without cable in the lounges.

Reception is horrible without cable, and students should be able to congregate in the main lounges and watch the Thursday night line-up together instead of alone in their rooms. According to the administration, the price tag was too high. Well, perhaps the Senate was correct to accuse the administration for nickel and diming, but let us take a look at the breakdown. Cable TV rips off students at rate of \$30.00 a month, and when you multiply that by ten months and then by ten or so Residence halls, the numbers add up.

However, the real reason the administration should not be paying for cable in the main lounges is not because of the high cost, but because Tufts Connect should be paying for it. Honestly, I was shocked to learn that the service has not been complimentary.

Before you call me naive, I do not think that it is unreasonable to expect the company that has a monopoly over all of Tufts rates to flip a switch and turn on the cable to the jacks in the lounges. It really would be no skin off the back of Tufts Connect, and for once it would be a step in the direction of customer service.

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"If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"

These oft-quoted words of the Jewish sage Hillel and the approaching Thanksgiving holiday at first seem to have little to do with each other. Hillel's thought was enormously influential in

shaping religious thought two millennia ago; Thanksgiving has never been a religious holiday and must contend with the fact that the heavily secular influence that is the holiday shopping season abuts it. Yet the real meaning of Thanksgiving is not far removed from Hillel's question at all.

The first part of the sage's tripartite query may sound like a call to egotism and rapacious, narrow self-interest — which would be crass at any time, but especially so in light of the coming holiday — but it is not. It is an acknowledgement that each of us bears the ultimate responsibility for our own lives. As we consider this question, we ought also to consider that it is easier for us to "be for ourselves" than it has been for most other people who have ever lived and than it presently is for vast numbers of people all over the world — we seldom want for material comforts and seldom know real privation. Most of us have probably come from what might be termed "comfortable"

upbringings in our past, and most of us will find such a lifestyle readily attainable in our futures. Thus does Hillel lead us back to giving thanks.

And thus should realizing that we have much to be thankful for lead us to the second, and more challenging, part of Hillel's question. For although our responsibilities as sapient beings begin with our own lives, they do not end there. This does not mean that we must all devote our lives to volunteerism; not everyone is willing or able to do so. What it does mean is both much simpler and in a way much more difficult.

To "be for more than oneself" is not something done part of the time, or at a certain phase in life. It is a way of thinking and living, which while it need not affect all that we do, should at least cause us to consider how and why we do it. To "be for more than oneself" is not self-abnegation or to be against one's own interests. To help someone else is not to harm oneself. To live life is not to participate in a zero-sum game, although to believe otherwise often suffices to make the belief reality.

To live mindfully of Hillel's question is not only not to harm ourselves, it is very often to help ourselves, although in ways we may not even conceive of. Our lives and experiences are more similar than we often suppose, and these similarities can exist in the face of the greatest differences. To be both for oneself and for others is to live more broadly and fully than one could otherwise. To realize, upon reaching old age, that one has lived less broadly and

less fully than one might have cannot but be a horrifying realization.

Although horrifying, this realization need never occur, for as the first of Hillel's questions leads to the second, so does the second lead to the third. Indeed, the third is the most challenging question, for how one reflects upon and answers it determines whether or not the reflections on the first two are meaningless. As we all surely know from experience, that put off to be done "tomorrow" is sometimes never done at all; there is truly no time like the present. Yet the challenge laid down before us by Hillel's or any other such query need not seem so daunting that we shrink from it. We need not and should not second-guess our every action or question our every decision, but it cannot hurt us to consider from time to time what we do, who we are, and most importantly, why.

There is no better time for such reflection than the coming holiday, for the days off permit us time to ponder these and other questions and the holiday itself invites us to consider that which we have to be thankful for. Thanksgiving began more than 350 years ago as a celebration to give thanks for two of the most basic things: food and life. Today, the first surrounds us in such abundance that we tend to take it for granted, and the second often seems to rush by us in a collegiate blur. As the blur slows down for a few days later this week, we would do well to consider the timelessness of Hillel's wisdom and to be truly thankful for what we have.

### The Philosopher's Stone

## Being and thankfulness

# THE TUFTS DAILY

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## Off the Hill

### Instructors organize for better salaries

College Press Exchange  
CHARLOTTE, N.C. — After years of low pay - dead last among 15 Southern states - N.C. community college faculty are doing more this fall than complaining. They've launched a statewide organization aimed partly at fighting for better salaries.

North Carolina's community colleges often are praised as national models—efficient, effective schools that train workers and help drive the state's economic engine.

But their teaching salaries don't match their well-regarded image. With a 1997-98 average salary of \$32,206, N.C. community college instructors' pay trails community colleges across much of the nation. And recently, N.C.

Faculty have seen their pay slip below salaries of some elementary, middle and high school teachers, as North Carolina moves to raise public school teacher pay to the national average.

Now, community college teachers say they want attention, too. "We're glad (Gov. Jim Hunt) has gotten school teachers' salaries up. But now it's time to get community college salaries up," says Jim Davies, a Rockingham Community

College professor who chairs the steering committee of the fledging N.C. Community College Faculty Association.

Every year, one in six N.C. adults enrolls in at least one course at a community college. And in some ways, the mission of North Carolina's community colleges is the most complex of the state's educational institutions. The state's 58-college system offers basic-skill courses that can help people get off welfare and get their first job.

And they offer students a low-cost way to get their first two years of college before transferring to a four-year school.

Colleges also play a key role in training workers to meet the needs of the state's businesses and industries. At Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory, for instance, Hmong refugees from Laos learn English while they're retrained for jobs in the local hosiery industry.

Community colleges "are the only institutions that can be the broker used to make existing industries more competitive and also become magnets for new industry," says George Autry, president of MDC Inc., a Chapel Hill think tank that studies economic development.

## Letters to the Editor

### Affirmative action still needed in US

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to Julian Pardo de Zela's Viewpoint in the *Daily* on ("The undeserved beneficiaries of affirmative action," 11/19).

Pardo de Zela argues that not every white person has reaped the same benefits from America's history of discrimination, and he asks whether a "five-year-old white kid growing up in a trailer park" has really benefitted from slavery and discrimination? It is true that the fruits of this nation's past crimes have not been showered upon this poor white child; but it is also true that, despite all the disadvantages this child will surely endure, he or she will not be denied a job by a discriminatory employer, turned down for an apartment by a bigoted landlord, or subjected to daily indignities, harassment, and abuse by a racist police officer.

This is not to say that this child will have it easy. Indeed, this is precisely why we need class-based remedies to improve the life opportunities of all our nation's children. But, until we deal with the disadvantages with which people are burdened specifically because they are not white, we cannot abandon race-based remedies like affirmative action. (Ironi-

cally, it is often the same people who oppose affirmative action who oppose class-based remedies like welfare, minimum wage, and government subsidized child-care.)

Pardo de Zela writes about discrimination that happened 50 or 100 years ago as if it were a thing of the past; unfortunately, African Americans today not only suffer from an unjust past, but from a discriminatory present. Pardo de Zela asks us to "stop looking at people solely as members of groups, and look at them as individuals." Let us remember that it was not affirmative action that began that practice; it originated in the long and continuing history of racism, *de jure* and *de facto* segregation, and discrimination. Individual harm calls for individual remedies; group harm requires group remedies. Wandering through the nation's ghettos, looking at homeless shelters, and reading Amnesty International reports of police brutality, it's hard to believe that anyone could think that the United States has done all it needs to do about racism.

Alex Shalom LA '99



INTERACTIVE CARTOON

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**Classifieds Classifieds Classifieds Classifieds Classifieds Classifieds**

**EVENTS**

**Attention All Engineers**  
Tufts Society of Women Engineers invites you to attend A Night With Industry. Come meet representatives from companies like Anderson Consulting, Teradyne, and Stone and Webster. Nov. 24th 6:30-8:30 Alumni Lounge.

**Reflections on the Spiritual Quest**  
Wed., 11-25-98, 12:00 noon - 1:00pm, Goddard Chapel. Speaker: Rev. Scotty McLennan, University Chaplain. Topic: "The American Holy Day."

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**It's open market for baseball's big stars**

**BRENNER**  
continued from page 7

**Mo Vaughn:** Earth to Mo. Come in please. What are you waiting for? Let's recap: Vaughn publicly excuses the Red Sox from further negotiations, receives a great offer from Anaheim, and still hasn't signed. What gives? Obviously, he's hoping to increase the offer after one of the others (Williams) signs. But not many teams have expressed interests.

The Dodgers would love to add Mo, but first have to move Eric Karros. Maybe Baltimore will make a push if they lose Palmeiro. But Vaughn should just sign with Anaheim and move on with his life.

**Rafael Palmeiro:** Another unclear situation, Palmeiro reportedly wants to re-sign with the Orioles, and they have supposedly made a solid offer to keep him. But he remains unsigned as well. Perhaps he is hoping to benefit from Vaughn's contract.

It is most likely that he'll be back in Baltimore. If not, he could jump to Texas, but the Rangers are more interested in acquiring pitching. Also, if Vaughn ends up somewhere other than Anaheim, the Angels could go after Palmeiro.

**Kevin Brown:** Another Boras client, he and Johnson are far and away the top two pitching prizes available. Stottleyre's contract only further solidifies the fact that they will be making well over \$10 and closer to \$15 million a year. Brown is looking for a longer-term deal than Johnson, which may be

scaring certain teams away.

The front-runners appear to be Colorado and San Diego. The Rockies should do anything to get Brown, who would give them a top-flight ace, and more importantly, a ground ball pitcher to throw in Coors Field. The Padres, on the other hand, would love to reward their fans for supporting a new ballpark by re-signing Brown.

The Braves and Diamondbacks are also involved, but are unlikely winners in the Brown sweepstakes. Two teams that should be making major pushes but don't seem to be doing so are the Mets and Indians. The Mets need another front-line starter to go along with Al Leiter. Cleveland would become the World Series favorite if it can add Brown in front of Bartolo Colon and Jaret Wright. Brown may be tired of moving around, though, and could settle in San Diego long-term.

**Randy Johnson:** Johnson is getting old, but has at least three more good years left in him, as he proved with his strong second half after his trade to Houston. A number of teams would love to acquire the Big Unit.

The Rangers, Astros, Angels, and Diamondbacks have all made moves to sign Johnson, with each having been considered the front-runner at some point during the offseason. Johnson has some unfinished business in Houston, after losing in the first round of the playoffs, so that might give the Astros some advantage. The D-Backs are willing to spend, but as his career winds to an end,

Johnson also must be thinking about winning a World Series. Texas and Anaheim both stand to gain dramatically in the American League if either can sign Johnson. Baltimore also wants Johnson, but have too many in-house problems to be considered a favorite. The Yankees are just in the race for show.

These seven players have been the most talked about this off-season, but there is also a group of lower-priced free agents who could help a number of clubs. Surhoff, Steve Finley, Robin Ventura, Tim Belcher, and Delino DeShields would all be smart additions for a number of contending clubs. In fact, it may be a team (such as the Mets) that is able to sign a couple of these players that will make greater strides than whoever signs one of the big-ticket players.

**Men optimistic about future**

**X-COUNTRY**  
continued from page 7

ously performed well under pressure, and placed high in every major race of the season. With a trip to the national race behind them, the men's cross country team looks optimistically towards next season.

"The race was a good learning experience," Kaye said. "We will know what to expect next year and how to gear up for that."

With only two of the top seven

**NESCAC particularly strong**

**BASKETBALL**  
continued from page 7

and not force them to dominate each game.

With 15 players on the active roster, there will be some that don't see much playing time, but in order for the fast-break style of play to be effective, everyone will have to buy into the team concept. Bringing the team together will fall on the shoulders of the five seniors, who have been handed the reins of the team.

"Every one of the seniors is a leader, and I have basically said that it's their team," Savitz said.

With all of her weapons in place, Savitz has set her sights on improving on last season's record. This is a very attainable goal, as Tufts should be able to run with the best in the NESCAC this year. The Feb. 13 matchup at Williams will serve as a great marker to how far Tufts has improved. Williams, who is returning four starters, fin-

ished 23-4 last season and won the ECAC tournament.

Williams is just one of many strong teams in the NESCAC. The conference is so top heavy that Savitz has trouble pin-pointing tough individual games.

"We are going to be challenged every game this season," Savitz said. "There aren't going to be many easy games in the NESCAC." She added that Tufts' non-conference schedule is equally challenging.

Don't feel bad for Savitz, though, as she is in the rare position of coaching virtually the same squad two seasons in a row. With the weapons that she possesses this year, look for Tufts to experience a dream season.

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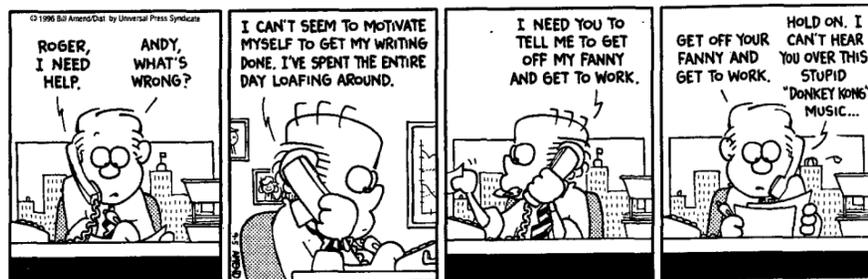
Doonesbury

by Garry Trudeau



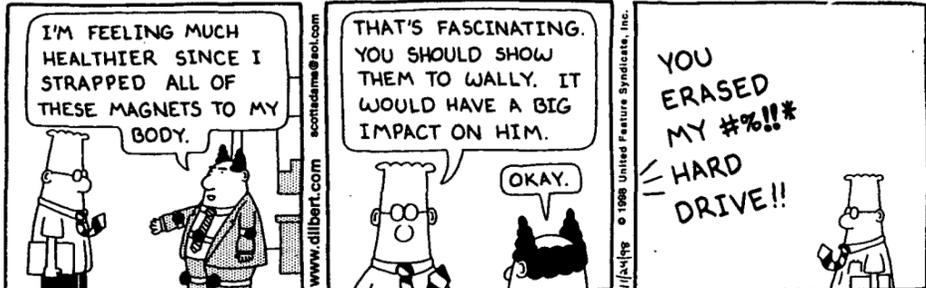
FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



Dilbert

by Scott Adams



by Judge Judy



Mother Goose & Grimm

by Mike Peters



# Around Campus

TODAY

TOMORROW

Society of Women Engineers  
Night with Industry  
Alumnae Lounge, Aidekman Arts Center,  
6:30-8:30pm.

University Chaplaincy  
REFLECTIONS ON THE SPIRITUAL  
QUEST - "The American Holy Day"  
SPEAKER: Rev. Scotty McLennan,  
University Chaplain  
Goddard Chapel, 12:00 noon -1:00pm

Dept. Of Comparative Religion  
"Schiism from Quietism to Revolution"  
With Prof. A Reza Sheikholeslami  
Terrace Room, Paige Hall-2:30-4:30pm

Asian Christian Fellowship  
General Meeting  
Pearson 106, 7:30-9:00pm.

SUNDAY

Tufts Shokotan Karate Club  
Weekly Practice  
Crane Room at Paige Hall, 7pm.

Hillel  
Volunteer Trip to Shelters Inc. in  
Cambridge  
Hillel Center, 9am-3pm

## Turkey Day (Turkey Tofu Day for the vegetarians)



is only two days away.

### Weather Report

TODAY

TOMORROW



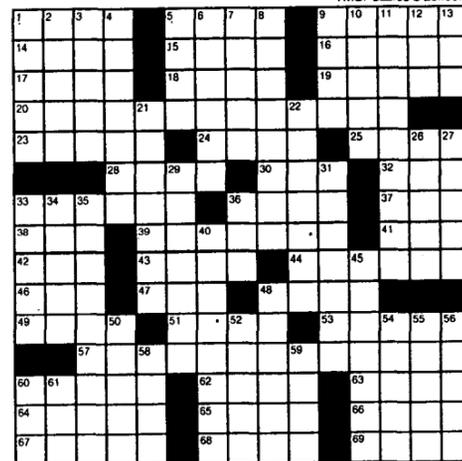
Where is...  
High: 54; Low: 38

...the sun??  
High: 49; Low: 42

### The Daily Commuter Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Commotion
- 5 Religious group
- 9 Brief summary
- 14 Not taken in
- 15 Moises or Felipe
- 16 Reflection
- 17 Actor Guinness
- 18 ERA, e.g.
- 19 Errand boy
- 20 Sweet treat
- 23 Man the helm
- 24 Racing org.
- 25 Engrave
- 28 Edible tubers
- 30 Gov't trade agcy.
- 32 "Do Ya" grp.
- 33 City on Lac Leman
- 36 European defense assn.
- 37 Sought office
- 38 Antique auto
- 39 Sharp-cornered
- 41 Ky. neighbor
- 42 Coffee container
- 43 Comparative word
- 44 Trinidad's partner
- 46 Yech, to Yorick
- 47 Signal for help
- 48 Move merchandise
- 49 Make an effort to resist
- 51 Grp. of oil producers
- 53 African fever
- 57 Easily moved
- 60 First in quality
- 62 Silently ill-humored
- 63 Gladiolus, e.g.
- 64 Chekhov or Bruckner
- 65 Org.
- 66 Child's taboo
- 67 "True Grit" star
- 68 -majesty
- 69 Feds



Monday's Puzzle Solved



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## Dinner Menus

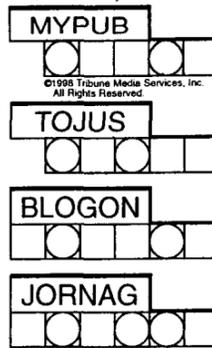
DEWICK-MACPHIE

CARMICHAEL

- Clam chowder
- Aztec rubbed chicken breast
- Sweet and sour fish
- Ginger burgundy marinated pork
- Roast turkey
- Cranberry sauce
- Butternut squash
- Vegetarian cous cous
- Pecan pie
- Lowfat marble cheesecake
- Clam chowda
- Moo shi veggies
- baked fish
- Broccoli and cheese dynabites
- Spinach mushroom lasagna
- Whipped potatoes
- Vermicelli and marinara
- Whole baby carrots
- Pecan pie

### JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: A

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



WHAT THE YOUNG DRUMMERS DID AT THE RECITAL.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Jumbles: NIPPY LATHE SEPTIC PURVEY  
Answer: The kind of audience the zookeeper had when he washed the cage - "CAPTIVE"

JUMBLE CLASSIC SERIES NO. 17 - To order, send your name, address and \$5.45 and make check payable to Tribune Media Services, P.O. Box 4330, Chicago, IL 60680-4330.

### Quote of the Day

"I have lots of hobbies which I pursue to the fullest. I have a large sea shell collection which I keep scattered on beaches across the world. Maybe you've seen it. I also collect rare photos. I have a very rare photo of Houdini locking his keys in his car."

— Steven Wright