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MBTA crime rates are at their lowest since 1980.

## MBTA crime rates at record low

BY KATHERINE SAWYER  
Daily Editorial Board

Crime rates on Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) property have fallen to their lowest level since 1980, the MBTA Transit Police reported at the end of January.

MBTA officials said that in 2009 crime rates dropped 21 percent, including a sharp decline in the number of aggravated assaults, larcenies and murders.

Only 827 serious crimes were

reported at the MBTA in 2009, down from 1,052 in 2008. There were no reported murders and the number of aggravated assaults decreased from 103 to 88 over the last year.

Given the number of individuals riding the MBTA transport lines daily, these crime rates are low and should assuage commuters' safety concerns, according to Joseph O'Connor, deputy chief of the MBTA Transit Police.

see MBTA, page 2

## Administration faces tough choices about financial aid budget

### Meeting enrolled students' needs remains top priority

BY HARRISON JACOBS  
Daily Editorial Board

In the wake of one of the most devastating economic downturns of the last several decades, Tufts administrators and admissions personnel have begun to prepare themselves for what could be one of the largest groups of students requiring financial aid in recent memory.

Though the university budget for the 2010-2011 academic year has yet to be set, the state of the economy of the last year has left those closest to the issue of undergraduate financial aid speculating about the size of the financial aid budget and how much of an increase would be doable.

Regardless of how the admissions process plays out, however, administrators stressed that retaining existing students would take precedence over increasing aid for the incoming class.

"It makes no sense to say, 'Oops, sorry, we can't afford you anymore,'" Dean of Admissions Lee Coffin said. "That's the essential part of this whole story — what do we do to protect our current enrollment."

Executive Administrative Dean



JODI BOSIN/TUFTS DAILY

As the admissions process continues, discussions about the financial aid budget are underway.

for the School of Arts and Sciences Leah McIntosh agreed that the university prioritized meeting the financial needs of enrolled students.

"It is Tufts' policy to meet demonstrated need of admitted students, even if that need changes after the student has matriculated," she said.

That policy came into play the last fiscal year, the first affected by the recession, when an additional 100 upperclassmen were awarded aid for the 2009-2010 academic year.

"We knew [last year] that the current group was going to have

see ADMISSIONS, page 2

## At think tank launch, Swett stresses student activism

BY KATHRYN OLSON  
Daily Staff Writer

National student-run think tank the Roosevelt Institute last night officially launched its new Tufts chapter at an event featuring Lecturer of Political Science Katrina Swett.

Aimed at shaping a progressive national and foreign policy, the Roosevelt Institute encourages students to engage in policy research and writing and delivers their proposals to policy makers and advocacy groups.

Sophomore Julie Kalt, administrative director of the Tufts chapter, said that the organization will "give students the opportunity to solve real world problems and get their policy proposals published" in Tufts publications as well as in the Roosevelt Institute publication, 10 Ideas. According to Kalt, this would allow students to be part of activism that produces concrete results.

"We want to make activism and academic interests more tangible for Tufts students and give them a legitimate outlet for their ideas," she said. "A lot of students just do activism and that's amazing, but we want students to see the other side. When you marry direct action and policy writing, you can make meaningful and sustainable change."

According to Kalt, the Tufts chapter will equip participants to create progressive policy papers by hosting writing workshops taught



JODI BOSIN/TUFTS DAILY

Last night marked the official launch of the Roosevelt Institute at Tufts.

by Tufts professors and progressive community leaders, including Massachusetts State Sen. Patricia Jehlen (D-Somerville).

Swett, who is also running for New Hampshire's second district congressional seat, was one of the speakers at the launch event. She noted the importance and difficulty of translating ideas into reality, and commended the Roosevelt Institute for encouraging "young

people to take their half-formed ideas, giving them the opportunity to refine those ideas into meaningful policy and perhaps developing them into concrete action."

Praising the Roosevelt Institute's marriage of grassroots activism and policy writing, she stressed the importance of "knowing those on whose behalf you lead."

see LAUNCH, page 2

## Mass. Governor says stimulus funds created or saved 14,000 jobs

BY MARTHA SHANAHAN  
Daily Editorial Board

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick announced Jan. 30 that nearly 14,000 jobs were either created or saved in the last three months of 2009, thanks to funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The figure represents the distribution of 4,722 full-time positions among a number of workers.

Matt Shapanka (LA '09), a research analyst at the Massachusetts Recovery and Reinvestment Office, noted that this figure includes both new jobs created and jobs saved with ARRA funding. It also includes existing jobs that last year's stimulus bill funded.

He explained that jobs created refer to jobs that did not exist before they were funded by the stimulus and jobs saved refers to preexisting jobs that are now being funded by stimulus money.

The Recovery and Reinvestment Office estimates that the stimulus bill awarded Massachusetts state agencies \$4.3 billion, \$3.1 billion of which has been committed to direct benefits and job creation and \$2.4 billion of which has been spent.

According to Shapanka, the state government allocates the stimulus money to various agencies.

"Two thirds of the money goes to the state government and it's distributed from there," he told the

Daily.

Shapanka added that the stimulus money will continue to be spent in the coming year.

"Part of the 2010 budget is passed," he said. "The 2011 budget proposed by the governor also includes plans to continue spending."

Alethea Pieters (LA '02), Public Affairs and Communication manager at Massachusetts Recovery and Reinvestment Office, said that the majority of job creation will likely occur in the coming year since the bill is a 27-month program.

She added that most jobs retained by the state were in the field of education, although all employment sectors have seen growth.

Shapanka also listed public safety and construction of public works projects as other major categories where jobs have been created or retained by stimulus funds.

The recovery office's Web site corroborates this, reporting that job recovery efforts related to education have collected the most money from state agencies, followed by jobs in energy and the environment, housing, labor, public safety and transportation.

Even with the jobs created by stimulus spending, however, the Massachusetts Department of Labor's job report showed that the

see JOBS, page 2

### Inside this issue

Famed Beacon Hill couple hosts "The Literati Scene."



see WEEKENDER, page 5

Hockey team gears up for final two weeks of season and hopeful playoff spot after 8-5 victory over Wesleyan.



see SPORTS, back

### Today's Sections

News	1	Editorial   Letters	10
Features	3	Op-Ed	11
Weekender	5	Classifieds	14
Comics	9	Sports	Back

## Committee recommends increasing Tufts' financial aid budget

### ADMISSIONS

continued from page 1

unprecedented levels of need," Coffin said. "I had said, 'this is going to be really, really ugly.'"

To meet this need, the trustees approved a 12 percent increase in the financial aid budget — the only increase in the overall budget for this academic year — a number they hoped would be enough to not only provide aid to all upperclassmen requiring it, but also for the incoming freshman class.

According to Coffin, however, this hope did not pan out. "Every penny of that increase was absorbed by sophomores, juniors and seniors," he said.

This meant that despite changes in the economy, the level of aid for incoming freshman did not increase from the previous year.

Some are fearful that the same situation could play out this year for the incoming freshman class.

Senior Adam Weldai, a trustee representative on the Tufts Community Union Senate and a student member of the Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid Committee, expressed his concern that this would have long-term repercussions.

"We don't want admissions to have a flat budget [for freshman financial aid] again," he said. "It could affect not just this freshman class, but also other freshman classes in the future. It would be a strategic and wise decision to increase the budget so we can maintain the sort of socioeconomic diversity we have here at Tufts."

The Undergraduate Admissions and

Financial Aid Committee is comprised of faculty, students and administrators. It offers admissions-related recommendations on what it thinks is the best course of action to university administrators.

The issue of the relationship between aid levels and socioeconomic diversity is not lost on committee chair George McNinch, associate professor of mathematics.

"The academic profile of the incoming class has gone up and the socioeconomic diversity has improved," he said. "We've had some gains in those areas. We don't want to lose that."

According to Weldai, McNinch and other committee members recently drafted and sent a letter to University President Lawrence Bacow, Provost Jamshed Bharucha, Executive Vice President Patricia Campbell, Dean of Arts & Sciences Robert Sternberg and Dean of Engineering Linda Abriola offering their support for an increase in the financial aid budget.

In their letter, the committee members expressed their hope that aid for the incoming class would not remain level, as it was this past year. They also recognized, however, the tough budget decisions that await administrators.

Still, according to Coffin, the debate is not whether or not the financial aid budget should be increased, but where the money for such an increase will come from.

"[Bacow] absolutely agreed with us, but you can't spend what you don't have," he said.

Determining the suitable size of an increase further complicates budgetary

### Undergraduate admissions statistics for the Class of 2014

Overall applicant pool for the Class of 2014 is 15,436, the third largest pool in Tufts history and a three percent increase from last year.

This is the sixth year in a row in which the number of undergraduate applicants has been above 15,000.

The Early Decision (ED) pool increased by six percent.

The School of Engineering received 2,333 applications, a five percent increase from

last year, marking the fourth consecutive year of record applications to the engineering school.

Engineering applications have, in the last five years, increased by 31 percent.

The number of African American applicants rose by 14 percent, setting a new record.

— compiled by Ellen Kan with contributing reporting from Harrison Jacobs

decisions and student tax returns may not be sufficient gauge.

"What does a full year of economic crisis do to our budget?" Coffin said. "Some people are recovering, some are getting worse. How do we absorb those changes?"

Only one fiscal quarter of 2008 tax returns, which was used to determine last year's financial aid, was affected by the economic decline. This year, students will be sending in tax returns for 2009, when all four quarters were mired in the recession.

Administrators are currently unsure about how much aid existing students will need because the deadline for financial aid applications is later this spring.

Despite these concerns, Coffin expressed

his confidence that meeting the needs of existing students would not negatively affect the standards of the incoming freshmen class.

"I look at the pool as we're reading it and the quality is as strong as it's ever been," he said. "I don't anticipate that the Class of 2014 will look any different than the Class of 2013 or 2012."

Coffin added that it was important to recognize the priorities of the current moment.

"There is a sense in the admissions game that we always have to provide more, be faster, be better, but right now we're in a time where we have to preserve," he said. "You take the core of what we've created and preserve it."

## Awareness efforts have helped to lower MBTA crime rates

### MBTA

continued from page 1

"We have 1.2 million riders a day and if you look at the number of crimes that occur, it is a very safe system and your chance of being victimized is very low," O'Connor told the Daily.

He attributed this decline in crime to the policing strategy of vigilantly reviewing crime statistics and responding to any notable patterns that arise.

"What we do is look at detailed statistics of crime and put our officers where crimes are occurring," he said. "Anytime we see crime occurring, we put officers there and that's helped reduce crime."

O'Connor also called the MBTA's ongoing public awareness campaigns a key measure in its crime-prevention strategy.

"We think there's a number of reasons crime rates are down," he said. "We have a number of ... public awareness campaigns that we use to help our riders be aware and not be victims of crimes."

One of these campaigns, according to O'Connor, is a partnership between the Transit Police and the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center to raise awareness about sexual assaults that occur on the MBTA and to encourage riders to come forward to report these crimes.

Several Tufts students, however, said that they were still concerned with the safety of riding the T, especially at night.

Sophomore Emily Cox says she generally feels safe on the T but still exercises caution.

"I've never felt unsafe, but I've definitely been aware that it's not the smartest thing to be alone on the T at 12 in the morning," she said. "I'm more aware of my purse and the people around me, but I've never actually felt threatened."

Freshman Marian Younge felt that she should not ride

the T alone at night, but otherwise is not concerned.

"I usually go with friends, so I feel safe," she said. "Maybe if I went by myself, I would feel scared."

Some students still feel that the T may not be safe despite decreased crime rates. Freshman Erik DeAngelis echoed Cox and Younge's sentiments. "I know I shouldn't be worried, but at the same time, I wouldn't ride the T at night," he said.

O'Connor said he hopes that the Transit Police's public campaigns and increased security will alleviate these fears and make people feel safer on the MBTA systems.

"Unfortunately, in the past some high-profile incidents have created fear perceptions among some riders," he said. "One of our core missions is to reduce the fear among riders."

Aside from trying to increase the personal safety of commuters, the Transit Police have also focused their efforts on protecting personal property.

The police launched a campaign to prevent theft from motor vehicles parked in MBTA garages, which is classified as larceny. They have been distributing handouts in garages and asking riders to remove global positioning system (GPS) devices and other electronics from sight and to wipe windshields to remove the marks left by these devices.

Officers are also working to reduce bike theft, handing out educational materials to bike riders at stations and encouraging the use of stronger locks and serial numbers to aid in locating stolen bikes and arresting thieves.

With these measures in place, reported larceny dropped 26 percent in 2009, from 701 incidents to 522. O'Connor says that officers still consider preventing larceny a priority, but hope this drop indicates the success of current measures.

## Massachusetts among top stimulus spenders

### JOBS

continued from page 1

unemployment rate in December 2009 increased to 9.4 percent.

In addition, recent reports show that the Massachusetts economy shrank by 0.2 percent in the last three months of 2009.

Shapanka said that Patrick's administration will continue to focus on the issue of job creation in the coming months.

"The governor is committed to creating jobs and putting people back to work," he said.

Patrick on Jan. 8 proposed a series of measures to improve job growth and stimulate small businesses, including a freeze on businesses' unemployment insurance rates and giving \$25 million in loans to smaller businesses.

His announcement also included a plan to allocate \$2,500 for each new job created by businesses that have a staff of less than 30. In order to receive the funding, the job must last for more than a year.

Patrick in October made a similar announcement about stimulus funds. The Boston Globe, however, conducted a review that found inaccuracies in job recovery report-



Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick credits stimulus funds for 14,000 jobs created and saved.

ing by agencies.

The recovery office said that the system for tracking job creation and retention numbers has since been improved.

According to Pieters, the office now counts the number of funded jobs through a system of secretariats reporting job recovery statistics back to the government. These secretariats oversee different employ-

ment sectors.

"We chose to decentralize reporting," she said.

Pieters said that the state was among the top spenders of stimulus money. "Massachusetts as a whole is proud to be ninth in the nation for percent of available funds spent," she said.

Corinne Segal contributed reporting to this article.

## Roosevelt Institute last night officially launched its Tufts chapter

### LAUNCH

continued from page 1

Swett alluded to the fact that politics often interferes with policy, making finding an effective way to realize plans a crucial part of good governance.

She noted the current struggle the Obama administration is having with this issue, acknowledging that "the qualities it takes to succeed in politics are not always the same as those required to succeed in government."

Another aspect of good governance that Swett highlighted was the ability to communicate effectively with the public about complex issues.

"Those interested in policy should note that those who create understandable and controlled narrative to the public will form effective policy," she said.

Kalt explained that the national organization operates based on six

different "policy centers," ranging from economic development to the environment. The Tufts chapter, however, will just focus on defense and diplomacy, education and equal justice.

The notion of a progressive think tank can mean a lot of different things, according to Kalt. "An Arkansas chapter would produce different ideas than a Tufts chapter would," she said.

While the Roosevelt Institute is geared toward progressive policy change, it adheres to being non-partisan and welcomes students from many different disciplines, according to sophomore Leslie Ogden, defense and diplomacy policy director for the Tufts chapter.

"[The Tufts chapter] wants to be open to everyone so that a biology major can come in and write about the environment and an economics major can write about taxes," she said.

Ogden said that current members of the Tufts chapter started research last fall, focusing their efforts on meeting the Feb. 1 deadline for the institute's publication and building a base of support on campus.

Students produced short, two-page policy proposals on topics ranging from making Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority fares free to improving government care for Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Ogden herself traveled to Sri Lanka through the Education for Public Inquiry and International Citizenship program, and produced a proposal on reconciliation and justice in the aftermath of its 26-year civil war.

She added that the Tufts chapter hopes to eventually teach an Experimental College class on policy writing.

# Features

tuftsdaily.com

## Tufts senior uses personal battle with cancer as motivation for charitable work

BY CHRISTINA LUO  
Contributing Writer

Usually busy with people streaming in and out, Hotung Café was virtually silent for 10 minutes aside from the voice of senior Sebastian Gillen. Gillen was speaking at the Feb. 3 Relay for Life kickoff event about childhood cancer and the need to raise funding for cancer research. Gillen, a pediatric cancer survivor himself, devotes his free time to raising awareness of the disease at fundraising events.

Born in South Boston, Gillen had a relatively normal childhood for the first eight years of his life. After moving to Westchester, N.Y., however, he began having chronic pain in his stomach and back that affected his daily life. The pains continued but were undiagnosed.

"I couldn't stand up to play the violin in our school's orchestra and I went to the nurse's office every day," Gillen said.

When his pains worsened and he began experiencing symptoms like heartburn, stress and lactose intolerance, Gillen and his mother went to the doctor's office to undergo further tests. Using an ultrasound, the doctor found a tumor and called Gillen's mother with the devastating news.

"They told us I probably only had a week to live," Gillen said.

Though his prognosis was dismal, Gillen's family resolved to try any treatment options that could save him, thereby beginning his long, arduous battle against pediatric cancer.

Gillen checked into The Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York and was immediately sent into surgery. After examining



DAILY FILE PHOTO

Sebastian Gillen has been an enthusiastic supporter of Relay for Life.

his tumor, doctors explained to Gillen's family that they could not operate: The tumor was the size of a football and was wrapped around his heart. Attempting to remove it would be too dangerous.

Gillen was eventually diagnosed with stage IV neuroblastoma, which is a fast-growing cancer of the sympathetic nervous system that can spread to the bone and bone marrow. As an eight-year-old,

Gillen did not understand what was happening to him.

"I didn't know anything at the time," Gillen said. "All I knew was that I had to redo all these tests all over again."

Gillen's doctors considered a variety of treatment options that could potentially prolong Sebastian's life, including a risky

see GILLEN, page 4

## Tufts performance of 'Vagina Monologues' raises money for global charity Girls' LEAP

Show emerging as tradition on college campuses nationwide

BY ARIELLE BARAN  
Contributing Writer

What do you get when you mix orgasmic moans, humorous rants and serious accounts of domestic violence and rape? These varied subjects all make up the provocative collection of stories known as "The Vagina Monologues."

Every Valentine's Day weekend, college campuses around the country sponsor performances of "The Vagina Monologues" to raise awareness and money for a women's charity. This year, director junior Angel Veza, along with producer junior Eugenia Lee, chose to donate the play's proceeds to Girls' LEAP (Lifetime Empowerment & Awareness Program), an organization dedicated not only to violence prevention, but to healthy conflict resolution and self esteem.

"We really wanted to focus on a program that was empowering and that focused on prevention," Lee said. "A lot of people will donate to women's shelters, but we wanted to do something that would work with young girls before the problem even hits."

Veza, a women's studies major, feels deeply connected to women's issues for personal reasons. Veza, who transferred to Tufts in the fall, experienced an abusive relationship while at Emory University.

"I ended up pressing charges through the school against the person who abused me, and even though they found him guilty of all my charges, they let him stay at the school, which is completely wrong on so many levels, and that just sort of sparked my passion in terms of me getting involved with women's issues," Veza said.

Veza became involved in putting on "The Vagina Monologues" after she went to the Tufts Women's Center and found out that no one had taken on the responsibility of organizing the play. The production of the monologues has been completely student-driven and both Veza and Lee have dedicated time and hard work to the play.

"Angel and Eugenia did an incredible



DANAI MACRIDI/TUFTS DAILY

"The Vagina Monologues" is designed to raise awareness about violence against women.

job, and the show really manages to capture that," stage manager freshman Sam Jaffe said.

Playwright Eve Ensler created "The Vagina Monologues" after interviewing numerous women about their sexual experiences, their bodies and their vaginas. Some of the monologues are funny, others horrifying, but all are true.

"There is something in it that speaks to everyone, boys and girls," Jaffe said. "It's funny, and it's sad, and that's what good theater is all about."

The play has been translated into 45

different languages and performed in 130 countries. The monologues' global success allowed Ensler to start a movement called V-Day. The movement is dedicated to stopping violence against women and celebrating women.

Every year, in addition to supporting various women's charities, V-Day focuses on one issue related to women. This year, the spotlight fell on the strife of women in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). United Nations personnel and other armed

see MONOLOGUES, page 4

BEN KOCHMAN | BETWEEN THE SLICES

## The great equalizer



It all started on one fateful night in 1762, in a dark and crowded English tavern. A nobleman named John Montagu was engaging in his favorite pastime: gambling with his friends. Usually Montagu, whose claim to nobility was that he was the fourth Earl of a mundane town called "Sandwich," (named after the Old English sandwich, or "sand town") was one of the finest gamblers in the entire English underworld.

But tonight, the Earl was off his game. Montagu had forgotten to grab dinner on his way to the gambling den, and desperately needed a snack to tide him over and allow him to focus. He hastily called over the nearest butler.

"Good sir, I am famished, and I could horribly use something delicious to dine upon," Montagu said.

"Of course, sir," answered the obliging butler. "Shall I bring you the usual, a steak with a side of fried potatoes?"

"Sounds delectable," Montagu said. "But wait! I am busy gambling, and eating a steak would require both of my hands. I cannot afford to lose any time placing dubious wagers!"

"Well, sir, that is certainly true," the butler said. "What shall I make you then?"

"Let's see. Do you have any roast beef on hand?"

"Of course."

"And what about two slices of bread? You must have bread, correct?"

The butler nodded.

"Well, then you must place a few pieces of roast beef betwixt two slices of bread, so that I may hold the meat in my left hand as I make deadly bluffs with my right."

"Of course, sir, right away," said the butler, as he went into the other room, completely unaware of the impact of the food he was about to construct.

Montagu's invention quickly caught on with the other noble English gamblers. It was ingenious, this new creation: a convenient way to eat a delicious meal with minimal effort and without grease and meat-juice getting all over one's hands.

Montagu's friends, who used each other's hometowns as nicknames, soon began ordering the "same as Sandwich," which eventually was truncated into just "sandwich." And a legend was born.

Fast-forward 248 years: Today, the sandwich is one of the fundamental components of world cuisine. A good sandwich packs loads of flavor into a mobile package. It is a purveyor of cultural culinary knowledge. We can bite into a croque-monsieur (the French version of the "grilled cheese") and be transported to a crowded Parisian street; one bite of a succulent gyro takes us to the maritime landscape of Greece.

The sandwich is the ultimate food equalizer. It is a meal that binds all eaters together, whether they are second-graders at an American elementary school enjoying a Bologna on rye, or sophisticated diners at a bistro having honey-glazed ham with melted brie, Dijon mustard and sliced apple, all contained in a buttery brioche.

In a world in swift motion, we all share the need for expediency and convenience in our dining experiences. Yet I firmly believe that a sandwich must be both convenient and delicious. It may not be fancy or particularly glorious, but a sandwich has the power to bring people together and fill our lives with memorable, flavorful moments.

This semester, I promise to do my best to discover some of the finest sandwiches sold in the Medford and Somerville area, and to vilify those that do not fit the bill. I will also reveal some creative ways for you to make delicious sandwiches on your own, and will interview some sandwich experts in the community as part of my continuing search for sandwich nirvana.

We'll take a look Between the Slices. And I promise you: the journey will be a savory treat.

Ben Kochman is a freshman who has not yet declared a major. He can be reached at Benjamin.Kochman@tufts.edu.

## Cancer survivor stresses need for awareness across United States

### GILLEN

continued from page 3

open-heart surgery. They ultimately decided on a cutting-edge cancer treatment being offered by the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

"I was very, very lucky, because [Sloan-Kettering] is the best place to be treated for what I had at the time," Gillen said.

Gillen's treatment lasted one-and-a-half years. He underwent surgery, radiation, immunotherapy and six rounds of chemotherapy. He experienced debilitating side effects like Crohn's disease, type-one diabetes, arthritis and autoimmune diseases. Fortunately, the treatments were effective and succeeded in shrinking his tumor. By the time his doctors removed it, it was only the size of a walnut.

According to the Pediatric Cancer Foundation, though cancer is the leading cause of disease-related death for children under the age of 19, it is still relatively rare. Approximately 35 to 46 children in the United States are diagnosed every day with some form of cancer. Annually, 10,500 children below the age of 15 and 3,700 adolescents are diagnosed with cancer.

The most common forms of pediatric cancer are leukemia, a cancer of the blood cells and brain cancer. Gillen's form of cancer, neuroblastoma, is very rare, with about 700 new cases introduced in the United States every year, according to Sloan-Kettering's Web site. Of those cases, most are found in infants.

As a survivor of pediatric cancer, Gillen's main objective is to refuse to let the subject be ignored. One organization Gillen is passionate about is the St. Baldrick's Foundation, which aims to raise funding for childhood cancer by having people shave their heads.

"It started out with these Irish guys at a pub, drinking and betting," Gillen said. "One guy, who had this massive amount of hair, bet his friend that if he didn't raise \$10,000 he would cut [it all off]."

Since its inception in 2000, St. Baldrick's

has grown exponentially, with \$16.6 million raised in 2009, and more than \$1.3 million in 2010 alone. In 2009, 30,619 males and 2,751 females shaved their heads at 630 different events around the world.

Gillen also works with CureSearch, which links the Children's Oncology Group with the National Childhood Cancer Foundation in order to fund research and find a cure for childhood cancer. Every year, CureSearch hosts the Gold Ribbon Days in Washington D.C., bringing patients, survivors, supporters, families and researchers to lobby Congress for more funding.

CureSearch also holds an annual golf tournament called the "Shark Shoot-Out," hosted and founded by legendary professional golfer Greg Norman. All money raised by the tournament goes toward CureSearch, with a total of \$11 million raised to date.

In December, Gillen was asked to speak at the tournament's fundraising dinner, using the same speech he made at Hotung Café. Norman thought it was "the best speech ever" and asked for a personal copy of it.

Gillen's close childhood friend Zara Waldman, a graduate of Emerson College, said that Gillen's talent for public speaking and his inquisitive, caring personality have always been apparent.

"Seb had, and still has, the ability to make people believe that the money actually helps, the awareness actually helps, that those dollars and minutes really become lives prolonged and medical knowledge enriched," Waldman said. "His zest for life is most definitely contagious."

According to Gillen, the most important success supporters can achieve is to raise awareness, even though money is always helpful.

"[Pediatric cancer]'s not a thorny issue; it's pretty clear cut," he said. "People don't like talking about it, and for good reason. No one likes to think about children in hospitals with IVs up their arms, but it's something that we can fix, something that just has to be."



DANAI MACRIDI/TUFTS DAILY

"The Vagina Monologues" will be performed on campuses nationwide this weekend.

## 'Monologues' raises awareness of violence against women

### MONOLOGUES

continued from page 3

forces have been implicated as perpetrators of sexual violence in the DRC. Genital mutilation, rape and sexual humiliation are among the reported cases of gender-based abuse.

Survivors of the violence face many challenges in addition to physical and psychological trauma. Barriers in receiving health care can account for increasing rates of HIV, and survivors face legal injustice and social stigma when dealing with reporting their abuse.

TheV-DayWeb site is also promoting a letter campaign aimed at Congolese President Joseph Kabila, asking that he do more to stop violence and abuse against women.

Veza refers to "The Vagina Monologues" and their role in inspiring this global

movement as a "domino effect." The monologues are at the root of Enslar's worldwide movement, a movement that so far has raised over \$70 million to stop violence against women.

"I hope the audience will understand that there are a lot of women's issues that need to be addressed. People hear 'The Vagina Monologues' and think it's so funny and make fun of it, but they have no idea the big impact it has on certain people. I just really hope it will inspire people to want to do something. It's a great way to start a dialogue," Lee said.

There will be two showings on Feb. 13 in Cohen Auditorium, the first at 6 p.m. and the second at 9 p.m.

Pins and chocolate vagina lollipops will be sold in the lobby before the play and all proceeds will be donated to Girls' LEAP.

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KRISTEN COLLINS/TUFTS DAILY

## Boston's Cultural Guards

Legendary Beacon Hill residents host star-studded television show

BY ADAM KULEWICZ  
Daily Editorial Board

Nearly every tabletop in Smoki Bacon and Dick Concannon's elegant living room is filled with autographed pictures of the couple with authors, actors, politicians, poets and other famed literati. As the images suggest, the couple is well acquainted with some of New England's most cultured individuals. But, for Bacon and Concannon, these acquaintances extend beyond the Beacon Hill social circuit, of which they are legendary members.

For almost 30 years, the couple has shared the work of its remarkable friends and acquaintances with the New England area through a radio-turned-television show, "The Literati Scene with Smoki Bacon and Dick Concannon." In the weekly show, which is now aired on 16 public stations in New England, Bacon and Concannon take turns interviewing influential individuals in the literary, artistic and political worlds, though most of their interviewees are authors.

"Authors are like women who've just had babies. They have spent months, sometimes years, working on their book, so once it's published this is the birth, and they want to talk about it. They could bore you to death, but guess what: That's nirvana for the interviewer," Bacon said.

### Legendary hosts for legendary guests

While Bacon and Concannon have interviewed some of the most influen-

tial names in contemporary literature and culture, they are very well known in their own right. Both hail from the Boston area, and have been actively involved with local charities and the arts for decades. They have also repeatedly been described as "fixtures" in the Beacon Hill and Back Bay social scenes by major New England publications like *The Boston Globe*.

Bacon (born Adelaide Ruth Ginepra), 82, is rarely seen without her emblematic, oversized glasses and has a very bubbly personality that translates into her interviews on the show. She graduated from the Jackson Von Ladau School of Design in Boston in 1951 and worked in public relations for many years.

Concannon, 80, is slightly more reserved than his wife, but his signature bowtie and understated intelligence bespeak the Beacon Street address for which both seem to have been destined. He graduated from Harvard in 1951 and worked in business real estate with several different companies.

When they were married in 1979, the couple decided to combine their interests in public relations and sales and founded Bacon-Concannon Associates, a firm that coordinates public relations and special events for local charities that cannot afford to do so themselves. In this line of work, the couple worked with some of Boston's most notably unique

individuals. From these experiences came the idea for a radio show.

"A friend of mine was the head of special events at the [Boston] Park Plaza Hotel and said to me, 'You're running across all these personalities; why don't you start a radio show?'" Bacon said. "So we found a couple of sponsors and we found a couple of radio stations, and basically what we started doing was interviewing people who raised the quality of life in New England. We [interviewed] politicians, musicians, artists, actresses," Bacon said.

Beginning in 1980, the show was recorded at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel and was originally named "Celebrity Time." The guests came from very diverse backgrounds, but some were more talkative than others. Concannon reflected on one particularly quiet guest, the newly appointed director of a local theater.

Hoping to attract listeners to the theater for his guest, Concannon then asked the director how much parking was available. "He said, 'Adequate.'" Then I said, "Tell us about the theater. What do you see its description as?" He said, "Tudor," Concannon said.

"So what would happen when we got an interview like this," Bacon added, "Dick and I would start talking among ourselves and, hopefully, the person would come in and join us in the conversation."

Eventually, publishing houses started sending the couple books and, after inviting several authors to appear on their program, they quickly found that authors gave excellent interviews and would make for a perfect central focus of the show.

### The Literati Scene

After Bacon and Concannon decided to primarily interview authors, they changed the name of the show from "Celebrity Time" to "The Literati Scene with Smoki Bacon and Dick Concannon." Following the name change, they decided to make the switch from radio to television and then from filming in a studio to filming the show themselves.

They acquired their own camera and editing equipment and began interviewing authors in the café of the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, in their own painting-filled living room and wherever else their interests took them. "It suddenly became a Mom and Pop show," Concannon said. "The two of us could carry our own equipment."

With this freedom, the couple has been able to conduct interviews with a wide range of authors. "They can be waitresses; they can be doctors; they can be politicians. There's no particular professional group," Bacon said of the

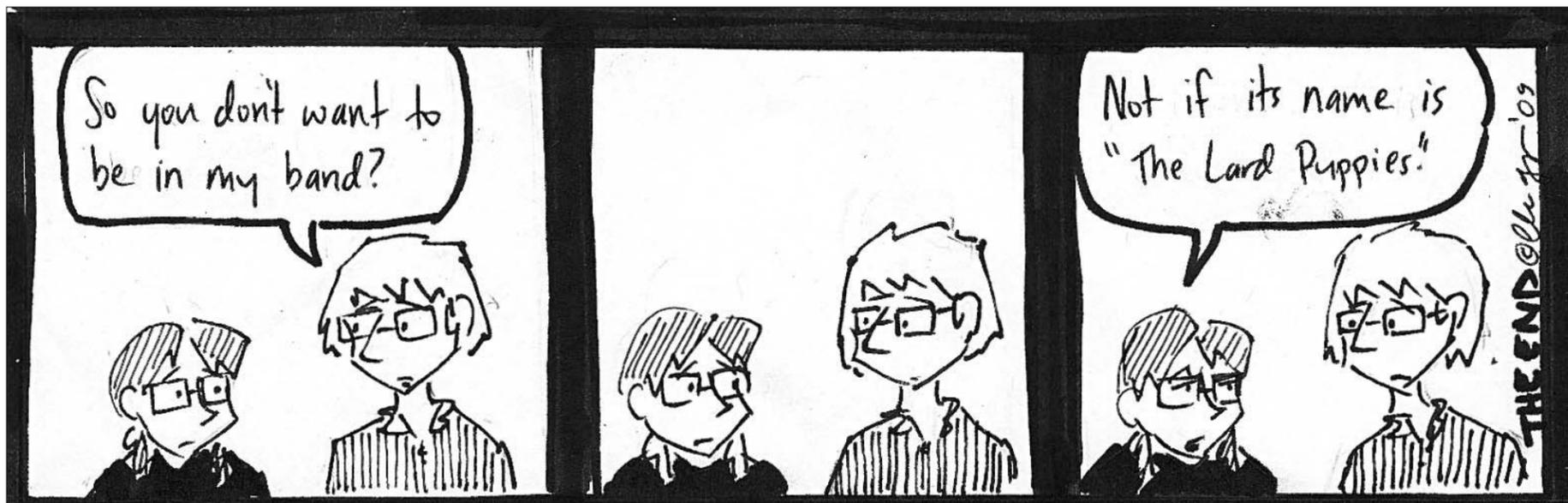
see FEATURE, page 7



KRISTEN COLLINS/TUFTS DAILY

Top: Smoki Bacon and Dick Concannon in the living room of their Beacon Hill home. Above: Memorabilia from Bacon and Concannon's legendary interviews and acquaintances

## ARTS PROFILE



COURTESY CHASE GREGORY

## Jumbo draws Tufts experience in cartoon panels

Sophomore cartoonist Chase Gregory brings her real life to her sketches

BY JESSICA BAL  
Daily Editorial Board

Some people keep journals. A few others, like Chase Gregory, record their lives in picture panels.

The Tufts sophomore has been creating comics since she was about eight years old, and even in real life she's a bit of a cartoon version of herself. She sports her signature combination — glasses and a pair of braids — almost every day. "I trademark myself," Gregory said of her consistency. "It's bizarre and rather perverse."

She explains this aspect of her style with a shrug and a smile,

as if Gregory doesn't take herself too seriously. She makes for a plucky star in her autobiographical, visual stories — one who is more than willing to gush about her inner geek and to find humor in everyday situations.

Gregory's current Web comic "T is for the T" is part of a collection of student blogs sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Until college, cartoons were just a hobby for Gregory. But as she began to value cartooning as a legitimate artistic expression, Gregory's friend convinced her to set up a personal blog, chaseinpanels.wordpress.com, to showcase her

work. Her blog caught the attention of Assistant Director of Tufts Admissions Daniel Grayson, who offered Gregory a spot on the admissions Web site.

"They basically gave me a creative blank check, so of course I jumped at the chance," Gregory said. She now manages the student blogs for Tufts Admissions in addition to contributing her own comic panels to the collection.

"T is for the T" captures conversations and observations that characterize Gregory's time at Tufts, and cartooning has made her aware of punch lines in everyday dialogue. "It's rare that

I have nothing to talk about," Gregory said. "Tufts is quirky, and people laugh a lot, so there's a lot of funny material and a few quiet moments too."

As a self-described "super nerd," Gregory fills most of her time pursuing literary theory and radio — and by telling others how much she loves Tufts. She is an English and American studies major, assistant general manager for WMFO and a tour guide. Professors pop up in her cartoons, as well as radio idol Ira Glass of "This American Life" (though, unfortunately, not in Gregory's real life).

She is a comic artist with aca-

ademic sensibilities, and it shows. Gregory can intelligently trace the history of comics from the fictional stuff of superheroes to the alternative underground movement of the '60s to the newest wave of autobiographical comics, in which she herself participates. Thanks to her own comic explorations and to a class in the Experimental College called "The Cartoonist in American Society," Gregory spouts off names of influential artists like Art Spiegelman, Gilbert Shelton and James Kochalka. Her favorite Web comics include "Hark! A Vagrant" and

see COMICS, page 8

## MOVIE REVIEW



POST-GAZETTE.COM

A tragic love story unfolds in "Dear John."

## 'Dear John' tells tragic tale of young love and war

BY ANNA WILLIAMS  
Daily Staff Writer

A soldier in the U.S. Army has certain responsibilities: a duty to his or her country, a commitment

### Dear John



Starring **Channing Tatum**, **Amanda Seyfried**, **Henry Thomas**  
Directed by **Lasse Hallström**

to a squad, a mission in a battle. But sometimes love becomes the real battle and the only thing worth fighting for. This question of a soldier choosing between his

country and his woman is at the heart of "Dear John."

Based on the 2006 book of the same name by best-selling author Nicholas Sparks, "Dear John" is the love story of Savannah (Amanda Seyfried), an idealistic, religious college student, and John (Channing Tatum), a rebellious soldier. The two seemingly opposite adolescents take part in a whirlwind, two-week romance in South Carolina during the overlap of John's leave and Savannah's spring break. Their love is tested when John returns to the army to finish his tour.

The lovers attempt to remain close despite the distance by writing a series of love letters to one another. Sharing intimate details and promises of life after the army,

John and Savannah desperately cling to their love and the past they share. But when the World Trade Center collapses and talk of a war in Iraq follows, John must make the difficult choice between being with the person he loves and fulfilling his responsibility as a soldier.

Lasse Hallström ("Chocolat," 2000) directs this tear-jerking romantic drama starring Tatum and Seyfried, and featuring a cameo performance by veteran actor Richard Jenkins as John's father. A true and honest portrayal of what it means to live with heartache, "Dear John" delivers a typical, yet satisfying romance against the backdrop of the Iraq War.

see DEAR JOHN, page 8

## WEEKENDER INTERVIEW | CHANNING TATUM AND AMANDA SEYFRIED

## Tatum and Seyfried chat about 'Dear John'

BY ANNA WILLIAMS  
Daily Staff Writer

Channing Tatum of "Step Up" (2006) and Amanda Seyfried of "Mamma Mia!" (2008) star in the newly released film "Dear John" as two people who fall in love amid the tension of the Iraq war. Based on the 2006 novel by Nicholas Sparks, "Dear John" follows Savannah (Seyfried), an idealistic college student, and John (Tatum), a rugged soldier, and their love as it is tested when John is deployed to Iraq.

Seyfried and Tatum caught up with the Daily and told us what it's like to be a part of the Nicholas Sparks phenomenon. They also dished on everything from their views on love to why their characters' love story is significant to so many couples in America.

**Question:** In the movie, you play a soldier in the Iraq war and the girlfriend who is waiting for his return. How did you prepare for such heavy roles?

**Channing Tatum:** I met with a lot of soldiers in the army who are in relationships, and some who are even married, and they have to go through this every time they get deployed. And I know it's a different life being a soldier's girlfriend or wife. You have to endure a lot.

**Amanda Seyfried:** I recently just met a bunch of women who are literally just hanging and waiting. I went to Fort Bragg, and there were these women who were telling me that their husbands have just been deployed. And



THECINEMASOURCE.COM

Channing Tatum plays a soldier torn between love and duty in "Dear John."

I really can't just say, 'Oh, I understand,' because I don't. I wouldn't be able to do that; I'm not that brave. But they trust that these are the people they are meant to be with, so they wait. And I think that is so beautiful and so brave.

**Q:** In the movie, your characters write a series of love letters to each other in order to stay close in a long-distance relationship. Do you feel that the type of love depicted in "Dear John" generally works out?

**AS:** I think it's harder to connect when you have that much time away from somebody. If it's meant to be, it will happen, and the love will come back to you. I definitely think there is that one person in the world for everybody, so it's completely possible to stay with a relationship like that.

see INTERVIEW, page 8

## What's Up This Weekend

Want to make your weekend artsy? Check out these events!

**Dreamgirls:** Buy tickets at the Colonial Theater this weekend for one last chance to catch this famous musical. What better way to spend Valentine's Day than listening to heart-breaking hit songs such as "One Night Only" and "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going?" Beyoncé might not be there, but this is one show still worth seeing. (Performances daily, ending Feb. 14, at the Colonial Theatre. Tickets \$25+.)

**Tufts Film Series' Schizophrenic Valentine's Weekend:** Feeling lonely? Get over it the healthy way with a double feature of "Breakfast at Tiffany's" (1961) and "American Psycho" (2000). ("Breakfast At Tiffany's": Feb. 12 at 7 p.m., 13 at 9:30 p.m., 14 at 7 p.m. and 15 at 8 p.m. "American Psycho": Feb. 12 at 9:30 p.m., Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 14 at 9:30 p.m. Films shown in Barnum 008.)

**Total Eclipse of the Heart — '80s Love Song Sing-Along:** Got the Valentine's Day blues? Why not sing your heart out with the likes of Pat Benatar and other classic '80s love songs? (Feb. 13. at 11:55 p.m, Coolidge Corner Theatre. Tickets \$10.)

**Spotlight Talk: Luis Melendez — Master of the Spanish Still Life:** Curatorial Research Assistant Claire Whitner delivers a 15-minute spotlight talk, going in depth on a few select works of art. (Feb. 14 at 1, 2 and 3 p.m., Torf Gallery at the Museum of Fine Art. Talk is free with museum admission.)

**Barefoot Truth with The Sweet Remains:** Fans of acoustic rock will enjoy the music of Connecticut-based Barefoot Truth, who will be celebrating the release of their fifth studio album, "Threadless." The Sweet Remains open. (Feb. 12 and 13 at 8 p.m. Tickets \$15.)

— by Josh Zeidel

## TOP TEN | MOVIES THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN NOMINATED FOR AN OSCAR BESIDES 'THE BLIND SIDE'

We at the Daily Arts Department are seriously not amused because "The Blind Side" (2009) has been nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture. Seriously, what were you thinking, Academy? Not only is this movie unworthy of that honor, but there are plenty of other films that came out in 2009 that we think would be better suited for this prestigious nod.

**10. Kittens Inspired by Kittens:** "I'm her mom." "No ... she's not ..." Who says YouTube.com videos aren't worthy of an Oscar or two?

**9. "Zombieland:"** Bill Murray provides one of the best cameos ever and Woody Harrelson goes Rambo on some zombies. Plus, everyone loves Michael Cera clone-bot Jesse Eisenberg.

**8. "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel:"** Without a doubt the best sequel subtitle since "Breakin' 2: Electric Boogaloo" (1984). A lot of talented people — including Justin Long, Amy Poehler, Jason Lee and Zachary Levi — shamed themselves and/or got their voices sped up for this movie, but hey, at least they got paid.

**7. "Star Trek:"** Technology came at the right time for this one. Let's face it, no one wants to see Leonard Nimoy in 3D, but Zachary Quinto? And this Vulcan has emotions? Uhura better watch out: BEAM US UP Scotty!

**6. "The Hangover:"** The picture slideshow at the end of this film speaks for itself. Is Carrot Top snorting that ... off a stripper?

**5. "The Young Victoria:"** Emily Blunt's strong performance as Queen Victoria of England lends a great deal to this film that explores the early years of the legendary queen's reign. The film is well acted and beautifully shot and includes enough period costume and architecture to satisfy even the most proper and historically conscious Britons.

**4. "(500) Days of Summer:"** There are more than 500 reasons to fall in love with this movie — the soundtrack being just one — and it's a complete crime that it's not included in the nominees. Zoey Deschanel doesn't do much aside from blink, but she's still better than Sandra Bullock.

**3. "Sherlock Holmes:"** Never has Sherlock been so badass — he's got the moves of a Jason Bourne, the British cool of a James Bond and the deductive reasoning of Socrates all rolled into one. So logically, this film merits an Oscar on the character's awesomeness alone! Elementary, my dear Watson.

**2. "Fantastic Mr. Fox:"** It's got Meryl Streep in it. Well, Meryl Streep's voice. Done deal.

**1. "A Single Man:"** Colin Firth gives one of the best performances of his career with his poignant portrayal of a heartbroken man learning to cope with the death of his longtime lover, played by Matthew Goode. The film is beautifully shot, courtesy of fashion designer and first-time director Tom Ford.

— compiled by the Daily Arts Department

## Smoki Bacon and Dick Concannon host local interview program

### FEATURE

continued from page 5

writers they've interviewed.

In each weekly show (airing on Channel 23 in Boston at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays), the couple takes turns filming and interviewing authors or other guests. Bacon and Concannon tend to ask questions that allow authors to elaborate on their works themselves, but both are very well read. Their dynamic personalities make for interesting conversations that often carry over into the off-camera luncheons that Bacon and Concannon frequently hold for the authors following the tapings.

Over the years, guests have included authors ranging from President Kennedy's Press Secretary, Pierre Salinger, to Princess Diana's former butler, Paul Burrell. The couple has also interviewed such authors as Pablo Picasso's former muse and lover, Françoise Gilot, and Dan Brown, author of "The Da Vinci Code" (2003).

At the time of this interview, the couple was preparing for an interview on Jan. 25 with Nobel Prize winner Joseph Stiglitz, who recently wrote "Freefall" (2010), a book detailing the current economic slump. According to Concannon, Stiglitz will be the third Nobel Prize recipient that the couple has interviewed.

"Now the marvelous thing here is,

there's no way you're going to get me to read a book on economics, whereas Dick was very excited about reading this expert," Bacon said. "And so when the books come through on art and music, the cultural scene, I grab [those]. We both go back and forth on the political. We both like politics."

### Literati, Glitterati and Favorites

Bacon and Concannon have interpreted the word "literati" very broadly, and as such they have used their television show to interview many personalities outside of the literary world.

"We make our own rules," Bacon said. "That's the marvelous thing about having your own show. I love the freedom, because I'm a very opinionated person, of putting on whom I want. And if you don't like it, that's the way it goes."

Bacon and Concannon have also hosted the likes of two Radio City Rockettes, actresses Leslie Caron and Angela Lansbury and famed restaurateur Harry Cipriani. Bacon and Concannon have also traveled with their camera equipment through Europe, including to Italy, where they interviewed five chefs.

Within this broad range of guests, both have, of course, had their favorites. For Bacon, it was John Lahr, a drama critic for "The New Yorker," who is also the son of the actor Bert Lahr, who played the cowardly lion in "The

Wizard of Oz" (1939).

"I just adored 'The Wizard of Oz,' and it was the first time I ever clutched during an interview. He comes in and he looks just like Burt Lahr. And I found myself loosing control of what I wanted to ask him because all I wanted to do was stare at him," Bacon said.

Because of his interest in baseball, Concannon's favorite interview was Roger Kahn, author of "The Boys of Summer" (1972), a book that chronicles baseball in the New York area.

While describing their favorite interviews, the two also mused about their past interviews with Nikita Khrushchev's son, three different Kennedys and an exciting interview at a New Hampshire artist colony with animator Chuck Jones that, by chance, turned into a dual-interview when it was interrupted by filmmaker Ken Burns.

According to Bacon, one of her favorite aspects of the show is the incredible opportunity it provides her and her husband to interact with unique individuals from all backgrounds. "It allows us, at our age, to keep on top of the scene," she said.

Neither have any plans to stop soon, and both eagerly anticipate their upcoming interviews with current authors. As of this point, Bacon and Concannon are set to interview authors Philipp Meyer, Curtis Roosevelt and Steve Yarbrough, among others, in the



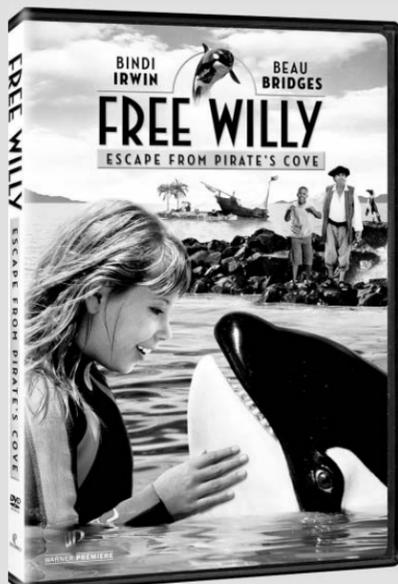
KRISTEN COLLINS/TUFTS DAILY

Bacon and Concannon's show features guests from diverse backgrounds and disciplines

coming weeks.

"There's a wild diversity of people [out] there," Bacon said. "It's an ongoing education for us, and it's something we love."

### FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TUFTS DAILY



DVDACTIVE.COM

The piece-of-crap, straight-to-DVD release dishonors the beloved memory of Keiko.

Dear Orca Playing the Part of Willy in "Free Willy: Escape from Pirate's Cove" (2010),

You got a lot of nerve, stepping into the illustrious shoes of your predecessor, Keiko the Orca — better known as Willy — in the first three "Free Willy" (1993, 1995, 1997) movies. Okay, we know orcas don't actually wear shoes, but you get the point.

The fact is, you signed onto a crappy, straight-to-DVD picture, starring alongside — of all people — Bindi Irwin, 11-year-old daughter of deceased Crocodile Hunter Steve Irwin. By now, we're sure that you've discovered that a willful disregard for large, dangerous and wild animals (like you) runs in the family.

You need to remember that your species, *Orcinus orca*, is the biggest, baddest, most-ballingest branch of the entire dolphin family. Playing the lead role in some two-bit family film makes you and your fellow killer whales look like a bunch of cuddly, sissy little porpoises.

If you take a moment to think back on your proud lineage, you will realize that the life's calling of an orca does not involve a cheesy silver-screen career. No, instead of living the life of an aquatic-industry whore, you should be swimming free, devouring walrus and scaring the holy bejesus out of ignorant humans who mistake your dorsal fin for that of a shark. You need to get the whole pod together and start a freaking riot.

This aggression will not stand. This treatment is exploitative, no matter how many buckets of fish your handlers and agents negotiated from the studio executives. If they decide to keep the franchise alive, prepare for a lifetime of jumping through hoops — literally and figuratively.

You might play Willy, but you'll never be truly free. So the next time your agent comes to you with some cockamamie scheme to further your stardom, actually bite his head off. The look of surprise on his face when it's sloshing around in your stomach will be priceless.

Sincerely,  
The Tufts Daily Arts Department

## Cartoonist melds comics and academics

### COMICS

continued from page 6

"Cowbirds in Love." Gregory thinks about storytelling and comics the way she might analyze a film in class, and applies art and literary theory to her own works in order to experiment with the medium.

"I think [cartooning] is really valuable because we don't think in just words or just pictures," Gregory said. "To meld the two makes sense."

Her advisor, Lee Edelman of the English department, read her panels and responded with his own theoretical interpretation and suggestions. "He came from the perspective of someone who's into film," Gregory said. "He pointed out how comics are an interplay of the visual and verbal." The disconnect between words and images is something Gregory says she wants to explore.

Gregory also took inspiration from a friend who was reading art theory and suggested applying a few of those concepts to her cartoons. "He was reading about a movement where people take photographs and impose nonrealistic

images on those photographs," Gregory said. "It's an interesting dialogue between the real and abstract." The result for Gregory was a series of cartoons grounded in actual photographs documenting a trip to San Francisco.

While those experiments are often side projects from "T is for the T," Gregory has found that her personal pursuits within cartooning have begun to collide with her work for admissions. "The stuff that I'm doing on my own is turning into the stuff that I'm doing for the Web comic," she said. "It's just another way of expressing what Tufts is."

And what is Tufts for the girl in the glasses and braids?

"Tufts, for me, has been a place where, for some reason, they said, 'Here are all the resources you need. Go crazy! Do what you want to do all the time,'" Gregory said. "[It's] a place where every activity that I do — the thoughts we think in class, the job I have, the work I do with WMFO — gives me a lot of joy."

Read about Chase Gregory's adventures at [tntufts.wordpress.com](http://tntufts.wordpress.com).



KRISTEN COLLINS/TUFTS DAILY

Chase Gregory's Web comic "T is for the T" is featured on the admissions Web site.



COURTESY CHASE GREGORY



EONLINE.COM

Amanda Seyfried plays Savannah, a college student separated from her true love.

## Film stays close to novel, but too close to clichés

### DEAR JOHN

continued from page 6

Sparks, author of such notable novels-turned-chick-flicks as "The Notebook" (2004) and "A Walk to Remember" (2002), is the true mastermind behind this movie. Romantic films have a formula for success that Sparks has perfected. Fans won't be disappointed by the innocent, adolescent love, the conflict that emotionally and physically separates the lovers or the tragic climax that ultimately tests the couple's love for one another.

Sparks' fans will no doubt be pleased to find almost no differences between the book and the movie. The character development is extensive thanks to the book, which acts as an extra resource for the writers and actors.

Unfortunately, the film is unable to sustain a connection between the two separated characters, a literary feat for which

the novel received much praise. The movie also adds several scenes to try to make up for this weakness, including a cliffhanger of an ending.

Although there are distinct similarities between this movie and others of Sparks' creation, "Dear John" has the ominous theme of war that adds a new feel. The film's poignancy lies not only in the lovers' unfortunate timing, but also in the audience's fear for John's safety during his tour of duty. This is a typical wartime love story, so the darker subject matter and the intricate, surprising plot line make a significant impression.

The film stirs an emotional response within the viewer, but it isn't overdone. Seyfried and Tatum's characters highlight the theme of love's ability to endure. Their performances emphasize the connection between the war and the conflict between the two

lovers, creating a tension that propels the film forward.

The relevance of the movie today should be readily apparent, with the pain of the Iraq war ongoing and fresh in audiences' minds. By casting an innocent young couple as the protagonists and setting the story close to the present day, "Dear John" successfully calls attention to the impact of war in a way that is more relatable than most romantic war dramas.

Despite the passionate lead portrayals and interesting plot twists, "Dear John" still has a been-there, done-that quality to it. Although it is emotionally satisfying, it fails to live up to romantic stories like "Titanic" (1997) or war-driven dramas, such as "Atonement" (2007). It does stress the power of choice in the context of love and responsibility, as well as the classic theme of love triumphing over all.

## Stars of 'Dear John' affected by emotional intensity of roles

### INTERVIEW

continued from page 6

**CT:** I agree. If you want to make it work, it will work. It gets painful, though. You start fighting over the little things, and it is really that you just miss the person so much. No matter what, you can't give up.

**Q:** The two of you are playing pretty important roles as a young couple amid the war in Iraq. How did you feel portraying that kind of couple?

**CT:** This role had a huge impact on me. This is my third soldier role, but my other roles weren't a representation of a modern soldier. However, it is in no way, shape or form in my head that what I do makes me understand what real soldiers go through.

**AS:** I have always had a huge appreciation for soldiers to begin with, and now I really understand that the biggest sacrifice is leaving your loved ones. Not only are you risking your life, but you are risking what you have at home.

**CT:** I had the chance to talk with a lot of soldiers, and they said that the knowledge that you will return is the thought you live by. And that getting anything in the mail makes you happy. I can't imagine being away from the person I love for that long. Two weeks is ridiculously long for me. I don't think I could do it. So I am constantly awed by people that do it.

**Q:** How do you think this movie relates to college students, given that there are so many young couples falling in love and getting married? Do you think this will be

identifiable to people?

**CT:** Oh, I hope so. This film is about first loves, and I think that once you find someone that you care about, you should really hold on to them as much as you possibly can.

**AS:** I agree. There is always that challenge of determining whether this is the person you want to spend the rest of your life with. And in our story, they did meet that young, and they fell in love. And that kind of love can thrive, if you let it.

**Q:** Veteran actor Richard Jenkins plays the role of John's father in the film. What in particular did you learn from him?

**CT:** He is such a giving actor. I do a scene with him in the hospital, and I think I owe that whole scene to him. I'm not really sure how to explain it; he was just there for me. As an actor, sometimes you don't know what you are doing, but then you look across the room, and there is someone in the scene with you who is just completely there for you.

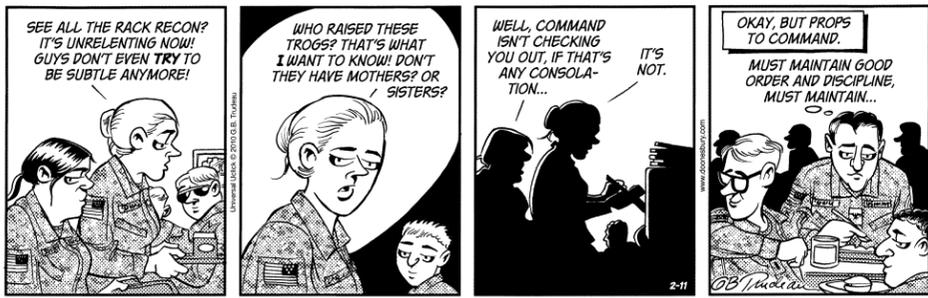
**Q:** There are many other movies made about love and war. What makes "Dear John" stand out against the other films within this genre?

**AS:** It's really a character study of two people who fall in love and how they deal with events out of their control.

**CT:** This is not a story about war. This is a story about two people in love for the very first time. It is always that first love that is the one that is impossible to get right. Our characters are just trying to get it right.

DOONESBURY

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

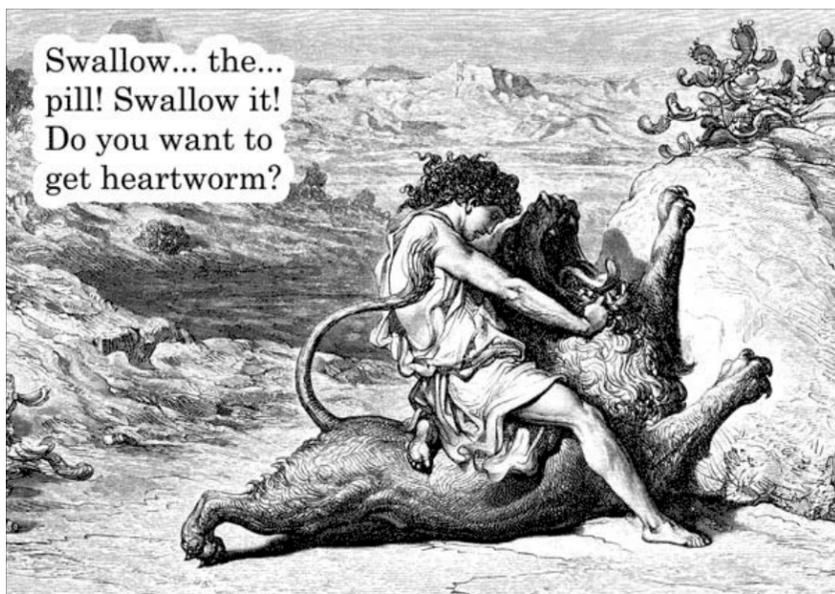


NON SEQUITUR

BY WILEY



MARRIED TO THE SEA



www.marriedtothesea.com

SUDOKU

Level: Enjoying Valentine's Day when you are single and lonely

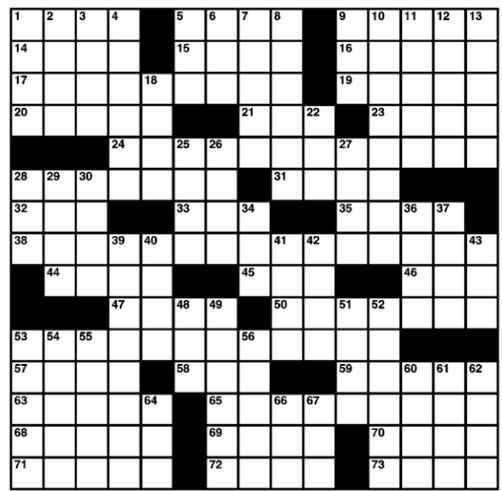
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Wednesday's Solution

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CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**  
 1 Holy pilgrimage  
 5 Kids' getaway  
 9 "Gimme a break!"  
 14 Nobelist Wiesel  
 15 "This looks like trouble"  
 16 Leonard Marx, familiarly  
 17 "Get going!"  
 19 Peyotes, e.g.  
 20 She played Donna in the film "Mamma Mia!"  
 21 Sinus specialist, briefly  
 23 Baseball Hall of Famer Speaker  
 24 '1986 Pulitzer-winning Western novel  
 28 Feel the heat  
 31 Food critic Sheraton  
 32 "Bingo!"  
 33 X-Games bike, briefly  
 35 Run at a red light?  
 38 1968 Troggs Top 10 hit, and a hint to the hidden puzzle theme in the answers to starred clues  
 44 Jeans joint  
 45 Yield to gravity  
 46 Sportage maker  
 47 Fresh response  
 50 Serious-and-funny show  
 53 \*Gunpowder, e.g.  
 57 They're not returned  
 58 Bosox great  
 59 Comforting comment  
 63 Parts partner  
 65 "Duffer's thrill  
 68 Native Alaskan  
 69 Treater's words  
 70 Persian Gulf land  
 71 \_\_\_ and all  
 72 Prime minister before Rabin  
 73 Ancient British Isles settler
- DOWN**  
 1 Bridge position  
 2 Burn balm



By Nancy Salomon

2/11/10

WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTION

W	A	D	E	A	W	L	S	B	A	D	G	E
R	O	A	M	D	E	E	P	E	L	I	A	N
E	N	T	O	U	R	A	G	E	T	O	R	M
N	E	A	T	N	I	K	A	M	A	T	E	U
I	D	A	B	R	O	O	C	T	O			
S	O	U	V	E	N	I	R	P	F	F	T	
P	O	S	E	R	R	I	P	E	R	L	S	D
A	L	T	E	T	A	G	E	R	E	I	P	O
M	A	R	A	H	E	A	P	E	T	N	A	S
E	N	T	O	D	E	R	R	I	E	R	E	
E	S	A	I	N	L	E	B	I	T			
M	A	S	S	A	G	E	D	I	D	A	S	E
T	M	U	S	T	P	R	O	M	E	N	A	D
L	O	R	A	N	E	A	V	E	I	V	E	S
S	A	Y	N	O	W	H	E	N	C	E	N	T

- 41 Fellows  
 42 Rural prefix  
 43 Beatles "A \_\_\_ in the Life"  
 48 Security threat  
 49 Course for weavers?  
 51 Fired up  
 52 Like some weights  
 53 Bocho series  
 54 City NW of Orlando
- 55 Brand on a patio, maybe  
 56 Hole site  
 60 Foal's parent  
 61 Rink, often  
 62 Canterbury's county  
 64 Some NFL linemen  
 66 Feature of a two-lr. monogram  
 67 Neighbor of Aus.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

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

DAITS  
 ○ □ □ □ ○ □ □ □

RUIFT  
 □ □ □ □ ○ □ □ □

TAUROH  
 ○ □ □ □ □ □ ○ □ □

HOCCUR  
 ○ □ □ □ □ □ □ □



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

Ans: "○○○○ - ○○○○○○○○○"

LATE NIGHT AT THE DAILY

Sapna: "The only problem with rain boots that allow you to walk through puddles with reckless abandon is that they make you really sweaty."



Please recycle this Daily

## THE TUFTS DAILY

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The Tufts Daily is a nonprofit, independent newspaper, published Monday through Friday during the academic year, and distributed free to the Tufts community.

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## EDITORIAL

## A challenge to the tenure system

In a Feb. 4 interview with the Associated Press, Ohio State University President E. Gordon Gee revived a contentious debate in academia by calling for a reassessment of the tenure process at research universities. The country's highest-paid public university president and the head of the largest university in the nation, Gee acknowledged that while individual professors "should gain recognition at the university for writing the great American novel or for discovering the cure for cancer," the tenure review system as a whole is outdated. In putting forth his support for reform of the tenure system, Gee should be commended simply for his boldness in speaking out against a system in which he himself is deeply invested.

The tenure system was originally introduced in the 1940s following several incidents of first-rate professors being fired by their universities because their research disregarded their respective presidents' political and ideological convictions. Tenure guaranteed them the freedom to pursue their research of interest without

risking dismissal from their positions. Many professors still use tenure in this way, waiting the six years until they have made tenure to publish any controversial research.

The main objection to the tenure system is that it is not being applied to the right people or that the professors who do receive it are not necessarily deserving of the award. A major problem for universities, large and small alike, is balancing research and teaching. Undergraduate education especially must contend with the effects of professors putting more effort into research and publishing than into the classroom, all in the name of receiving grants from which his or her department can benefit. According to many, the amount of money a professor brings in through publications in scholarly journals, rather than the quality of their teaching, is the determinant of tenure.

Gee noted that there is no perfect formula for determining who receives tenure and that it will be difficult to revise the system. The corner-cutting solution for many large research universities is to simply look at the quan-

tity of publications, not the quality of them, much less a professor's energy in the classroom. On the other hand, smaller universities tend to put more weight on the teaching aspect than on the research and publication numbers. While this superficially may seem superior, the fact is that smaller universities also need to bring in money from research as well as build up the name and prestige of the school. In effect, a balance needs to be set up, and reform is the only answer. Long-time proponents of the abolishment of tenure, however, must realize that the system stems from idealistic roots and that it can still be used for the betterment of universities on the undergraduate, graduate and research levels.

It is a brave, bold step that Gee took in acknowledging that the system is flawed and should not continue without being reevaluated. As university students, we can look at Gee's sentiments as verification that as America's higher education system as a whole is changing, our best interest is being taken into consideration by those making these important decisions.

## DEVON COLMER



## OFF THE HILL | MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

## For the love of doctors and capitalism

BY AMANDA WHITE  
The Parthenon

I love the United States. Not in one of those super-patriot, rifle and rebel flag kind of ways, but in the logical love of capitalism, the U.S. Constitution and the faults and strengths of this great nation. I love the fact that we spread technology. I love our beautiful national parks. And although I know there are problems with the system, overall I think America works well.

With my great love of the U.S., I can't help but love capitalism and the fact that a well-educated, hard-working individual can work his or her way to the top of any profession. Particularly, I value those of the medical profession and for that reason, I cannot support the health care plan.

Wow, I finally said it. I do not support the health-care plan. I have kept my mouth shut on this issue for months (except with close friends, of course) because I didn't want to be labeled as a Tea Partier, a Nazi,

a town hall assassin or a murderer. I just don't think the plan will work.

Doctors spend years in school and go thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of dollars in debt. The services they provide are as close to God as I can imagine — the magic of bypass surgery and removing brain tumors is something I can only begin to understand. The people in a hospital can literally save your life and have vowed to do so if given the opportunity. Why should they not be paid for their services?

A relative of mine is a neonatologist in Nevada and has one of the highest success rates for premature and multiple births in the country. It took him years to reach this level of near perfection, and he has done it while raising two children with his wonderful wife. He works long hours, is on call almost constantly and is dedicated to his work. Are you going to tell me that he does not deserve a large pay check?

This man has done the work, gone through the schooling and gained the experience. It took years for him to make

money past his med school debts and now, as I look at the cry for a health care bill, I can't help but think that people are taking his skills for granted. If we don't pay people the amount of money we do, how will we get any good doctors? They won't be able to pay for med school!

As someone who recently underwent a rather expensive surgery, I say that I am willing to pay the large amount billed to me because my well-trained and well-educated doctor did what I could never do — he fixed me! Because of him, I ran a mile the other day. He deserves the money he's getting.

The capitalist system shows us that the more you put in, the more you get out. Although it's never certain (look at the stock market, for instance), it is a usable system that produces great professionals. If we make health care part of the government, how will we pay to train wonderful doctors? How will we produce new medicines, vaccines and cures? Someone must answer these questions before I consider universal health care.

# Students paying for a Just and Stable Future

BY CHELSEA HOGAN

You may remember walking past tents staked out on the Residential Quad last semester with a banner declaring the sleeping students' cause: The Leadership Campaign. Students slept out on the Tufts campus from late October to early November in an effort to get legislation introduced in the Massachusetts legislature calling for 100 percent clean electricity in the state by 2020. What you may not have been aware of was that our effort on campus is part of a larger statewide effort, as members of the group Students for a Just and Stable Future (formerly MAPS).

You may also be unaware that on Sunday nights during this period Tufts students and students from other Massachusetts colleges, including Northeastern University, Boston University, Boston College, Harvard University and Clark University, among others, gathered in the same tents but on the Boston Commons in front of the Massachusetts State House. All done with the intent of garnering attention from legislators for our bill, the tactic was not only visible — we did receive media attention — but also controversial.

The Boston Commons closes at 11 p.m., so sleeping there all night was an obvious, but calculated, violation of that rule. As a result, the Boston Police arrived in the early hours of Monday mornings to take the information of each of the trespassers, which could range from 60 to 120 students depending on the night. At the end of last semester, participants began receiving in the mail summonses to a hearing before a magistrate for trespassing.

Throughout the campaign, the National Lawyers Guild has worked with Students for a Just and Stable Future and been supportive of our cause. They have been especially crucial in striking a deal with the courts that was, some would argue, to our benefit. This

settlement involves paying a fine of \$50 to the Boston Municipal Court for each instance a participant was cited by police officers. In return for this payment, all criminal charges are being dropped against us and we have been assured that we can tell future employers that our records are clean.

Court appearances began last Monday and will continue to today. Based on e-mails issued from the National Lawyers Guild, approximately 14 Tufts students are scheduled to appear in court, some with as many as five citations. In all, about 200 participants are expected in court to pay their fines. While the charges for each instance of trespassing seem to have varied by the day last week, some students have or will have to pay up to \$250, if not more, for their role in protesting.

College, especially at a university like Tufts, is expensive as it is, so shelling out more money to fight for a cause you believe in says a great deal about the campaign's participants. Despite the setbacks we have faced, in particular this legal dispute, students have remained optimistic. Some students have even expressed unlikely hopes that the state will put their money to good use, installing solar panels on the Massachusetts State House or building wind turbines. If this were the case, we would literally be paying for a just and stable future, which while inefficient, would at least be fruitful.

That is not to say, however, that our efforts have been fruitless. In fact, they have led to a bill being introduced in the Massachusetts legislature. An Act to Create a Repower Massachusetts Emergency Task Force, albeit a modified version of our progressive bill, would not commit the state to 100 percent clean electricity by 2020 as we had originally hoped, but would instead create a task force that would determine how it is possible for the state to reach that goal. This bill was introduced by State Representative William Brownsberger

(D-Belmont) and was just released from the U.S. Senate Committee on Ethics and Rules. This is great news for our campaign because it means that our bill has moved forward to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Ethics.

But our fight is not over. If the bill is not released from this committee, then it will not move on to the general assembly for debate and will have no chance of being passed. That is why we are asking students to help push this bill through the committee by calling the two co-chairs of the committee, State Rep. Barry Finegold (D-Essex) and State Sen. Michael Morrissey (D-Norfolk), and telling them that you support this bill.

We are not asking for a lot from students or from our legislators. This bill, while a clear step forward for Massachusetts, does not signify a big commitment for the state. If the Massachusetts legislature cannot see fit to pass a bill that only creates a task force to determine how the state can reduce its emissions, and respond to the increasing demand for action on the climate change front, then it has no place being considered a leader.

The opportunity is now for the state to take action and make headway in achieving a just and stable future, but it will require that we show our support in passing this bill. If you are interested in contributing to this campaign, please call these legislators. There is even a "Call Your State Legislators" event on Facebook.com that provides their phone numbers, as well as a short script. If you want additional information, you can contact the Boston Legislative Coordinator of our campaign at Drew.Fuchs@gmail.com.

*Chelsea Hogan is a sophomore majoring in chemistry and environmental studies. She is a media coordinator for the Tufts chapter of The Leadership Campaign.*

ELISHA SUM | OUR GENERATION

## The 'F' word



Tori Amos once sang, "If the sharpest thing where you come is a blade of grass, take me with you."

Perhaps being an English and French double major has inspired my reverence for language and the acknowledgement of the power it can wield to disparage and upset. Or perhaps it was my obsessive devotion to the extremely talented musician Tori Amos that clinched the deal. Regardless, I am writing this column with the wholehearted belief in the importance of words.

Having said that, I'd like to discuss the shame-inducing "F" word: Feminist. (I hope that wasn't censored, but if so, expect an acrostic to reveal the naughty word.)

Although feminism denotes the acceptance of a value system to which many people would have no problem aligning themselves, identifying as a feminist carries the burden of negative stereotypes.

Many people do not consider themselves feminists, though feminism seeks to benefit everyone, whether directly or indirectly. Why not sign yourself over to a dogma that promotes the equal rights, recognition and opportunities for people in all spheres of life? The stigma further encourages the reproduction of the apologetic clause: "I'm not a feminist, but [insert feminist statement here]." But why should society consign those supporting equal rights to a disclaimer? The forceful grouping of all feminists into a bag of unsavory adjectives probably stops many (like those who are ideological but not nominal feminists) from using this label. Thus, as "Schoolhouse Rock" suggests, I'll begin by unpacking these adjectives.

Though several more stereotypical characteristics exist, these four descriptors first come to mind: man-hating, angry, ugly and whiny. To start with, I'd like to debunk the belief that feminists hate men with empirical data. A 2009 University of Houston study found that women identifying as non-feminists report stronger feelings of hostility toward men in comparison to those identifying as feminists. Fancy that: a stereotype that doesn't convey the entire truth. The kicker of the study lies in the explanation that the findings likely resulted from the umbrage non-feminists take with being restricted within the traditional spheres they themselves support. Perhaps the adjective "man-hating" would do better to reinvent itself. Maybe inequality-hating? It just doesn't have the same ring though.

Joking aside, feminism is not a movement that promotes hate; it seeks to spread awareness and enact change in unfair systems. Dismissing it with the polarizing adjective "man-hating" reveals nothing about feminism; conversely, the trivializing act affirms the existence of gender inequality in stereotyping a movement that aims to stop the marginalization of a large portion of the population, specifically women.

The remaining three adjectives all function similarly in that each aspires to illegitimize feminists by calling their femininity into question, which implicitly suggests that men aren't feminists. As you may well know, angry, ugly and whiny are not very becoming traits for young ladies. The prominent discourse discounts feminists as failures to a social construct of femininity without addressing the ideological aspects of feminism.

Also, a resistance to recognize the inequalities existing within society exists; thus, it dismisses the way in which individual, discriminatory acts can indicate issues at the institutional level, which then frames the protests of those seeking fairness as irritating complaints already heard and sufficiently dealt with. Feminists then aren't allowed to be angry and express it without backlash, for only men can express anger without reproach. Thus, the stereotypes themselves necessitate the existence of feminism to combat the reality of gender inequality.

I am feminist, and you've heard me roar.

*Elisha Sum is a junior majoring in English and French. He can be reached at Elisha.Sum@tufts.edu.*

# An argument for a traditional Winter Bash

BY PHOEBE PICKERING

This past Friday many of us experienced Break the Ice — the first Winter Bash to be held off campus. For all of you who weren't there, I'll try to convey the feel of the evening in one word: chaotic.

Don't get me wrong; I had a good time. It was nice to get off campus, and to be in a large and carpeted ballroom instead of in Gantcher Center — which no matter how inebriated you are always seems to smell faintly of sweaty tube socks. But I woke up the next morning thinking: "Was it worth it?" Would I rather get over the gym sock smell and still have a crisp Hamilton in my pocket? I concluded that although it was nice to be off campus, I could have had just as good a time in our trusty old gym — albeit with some slight changes.

I know the general reasons why the event was moved, even though I freely admit I don't know any specifics. As far as I can tell from the many Tufts Daily articles over the last few months, the administration felt overwhelmed with the number of people at previous Winter Bashes. There were many complaints that the lines for the bathrooms were too long and chaotic, and there were simply way too many hammered kids to deal with. Although the move to the Sheraton Boston Hotel did address some of those problems, it failed to solve all of them and also created unique ones of its own.

Here's how my experience went down. I started out the evening with a group of friends, all of whom had tickets for the 10 p.m. bus. We dutifully arrived at Aidekman Arts Center at five minutes to 10, only to be met by what seemed to be half of the student body — including many people who had tickets for the 9 p.m. bus. We sucked it up and lined up obediently, but proceeded to spend 40 minutes winding our way

through Aidekman in a line so horrendous it could only have been set up with the express purpose of sobering people up. When we did finally get to the bus, there was only one waiting in the parking lot. This made me wonder — shouldn't there have been many buses, one coming right after the other, in order to accommodate the vast number of partygoers? Having only a few buses arrive every half-hour seemed like poor planning, considering most students probably wanted to leave between the hours of nine and 10 p.m.

Winter Bash is billed as the first of the Senior Pub Nights for the spring semester. Therefore, when my friends and I found out on the bus that the bar we had been expecting only served beer and wine, we were pretty bummed. To top it off, the cost of drinks was exorbitant — \$9 for a cup of beer. Clearly, the price of the event had the potential to escalate for many students. I ask you: If there is a separate space cordoned off for those who are over 21, if the event is billed as a Senior Pub Night and if drinks are going to be ridiculously overpriced, shouldn't the adults of legal age at this university be entitled to a full bar?

As for the rest of the event: The coat check was closed when I arrived, although in the end I was glad I hadn't taken advantage of that particular perk. The line after the dance ended was at least 20 minutes long, and I know many people who lost their coats. The under-21 section (into which I descended when I decided I was ready to get my dance on) looked exactly like Winter Bash in Gantcher, except for the plush carpeting under my feet. The line for the bathroom was miraculously short, although I was surrounded on both sides of my stall by girls heartily upchucking their dinner and drinks. The food, I hear, was excellent — although I didn't get a taste of it myself. My ride back was problem-free, although I heard from friends

that several buses got lost.

My experience wasn't half bad, despite the long line for the bus and the lack of alcohol at the bar. I have had three other Winter Bashes that were just as much fun, however, and so my question remains this: Why did we need this change? From what I've heard, Tufts lost a tremendous amount of money on this endeavor. I read in the Daily on Feb. 2 that former Tufts Community Union President Duncan Pickard — a longtime advocate for fewer expenses for students — thought that the \$10 ticket was reasonable for what we received. I disagree.

Break the Ice at the Sheraton had just as many problems as Winter Bash in Gantcher. Although the lines for the bathroom were short, the hassle of transportation and checking coats pretty much cancelled that out. My experience in the bathroom amidst the puking partiers was a testament to the fact that there were just as many drunk people at the Sheraton as there usually are in Gantcher. This was probably the result of underclassmen having to pre-game harder and earlier in order to catch their assigned bus.

I have no idea whether the university considered Break the Ice a success or not. Personally, I felt like I shelled out \$10 for an experience I could have just as easily had at Gantcher — which would have been a much more convenient location. My advice to the administration: For what it's worth, keep the event at Gantcher, but invest in a few Porta-Potties to reduce the bathroom lines, add more security to deal with the huge crowd and order a thousand pizzas to help reduce drunken behavior. We would be saving money for the school and for the student body.

*Phoebe Pickering is a senior majoring in English.*

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Special Guest Host **Latoya Edwards**  
New England Cable News Reporter  
and morning weekend anchor



# A Village Called **VERSAILLES**

**Friday, February 19, 5:30pm-7:30pm**

**Screening: 5:30pm, Braker 001**

**Dinner and Speaker to follow**

“A Village Called Versailles” documents the underrepresented perspective of the Vietnamese refugee community in New Orleans East in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. It traces the historical trajectory of their migration from villages in North Vietnam to urban America, and the relief, return, and rebuilding efforts after this national disaster. The film explores, through the eyes of local leaders, the questions of immigrant political empowerment, interracial relations, and intergenerational community formation.



Associate producer LOAN DAO, who will be speaking after the screening, was awarded the May 2009 Yamashita Prize from University of California-Berkeley's Institute for the Study of Social Change. From an early age, she has been involved in creating social networks and locally-based organizations that provide sites of healing and support for Southeast Asian American communities. She co-founded “VietBAK” (Vietnamese Bay Area Katrina Relief Group) and frequents the Gulf Coast to help with rebuilding and relief efforts, provide translations, and advocate for more resources for the Vietnamese communities.

Sponsored by the Vietnamese Students Club and Asian American Center, through funding from the AS&E Diversity Fund  
 Co-sponsored by American Studies, Anthropology Department, Sociology Department, Asian American Alliance, Anthropology Collective, Filipino Cultural Society, Japanese Culture Club, and Tufts Association of South Asians  
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## Bresee, Fontaine and Valentin earn all-division honors

### SKIING

continued from page 16

to put up strong results, and though her 59.10 time in the second race of the day kept her out of contention for the top spots, she comfortably skied to a ninth-place finish with a combined 1:59.10. Sophomore Jessica Levine, who had struggled on Saturday, surged up the ranks on Sunday, and with two almost identical runs locked up 24th place.

The third-place team finish was more than enough to end WPI's hopes of a Regionals spot, giving the Jumbos their own coveted slot as Tufts ended the season six points behind Northeastern and 13 ahead of WPI.

"It meant a lot to us as a team," Fontaine said. "It also meant a lot to me personally. We qualified my freshman year and hadn't qualified since. It was great for me to go out on a winning note. All of the girls are really excited."

However, things did not go nearly as well for the men's team, as it was faced with a series of disastrously bad breaks. Senior captain Brian Bresee, who

entered the weekend in fourth place individually, did not finish his first run on either Saturday or Sunday, and junior Thomas Valentin, usually the team's second-best skier, could not race due to a last minute injury.

"I think it was just a series of unlucky events," junior Arlin Ladue said. "Tom tweaked his knee and Brian took a couple of nasty crashes. Sometimes that is just how ski races go."

Senior Pat Tonelli did his best to keep Tufts' dreams afloat, with a 23rd-place finish on Saturday and a 20th-place finish on Sunday, and Ladue chipped in a season-best 13th-place performance on Saturday, but it was not nearly enough. The men finished in fourth on both days, dropping them into fourth for the year, far behind second and third place teams WPI and Northeastern.

Still, the slot for the Regional race remained intact for the Jumbos.

The weekend also brought some individual positives for both the men's and women's teams. Bresee and Valentin were selected to the men's



JOSH BERLINGER/TUFTS DAILY

Sophomore Jess Levine struggled on Saturday but improved her position to 24th overall with some strong runs on Sunday. The women's team's all-around effort earned it a spot in the Regionals after a fourth place finish in the division.

All-Thompson Division Team, while Fontaine was selected to the women's team.

"It was a little bit unexpected; because I took last year off I wasn't expecting to do that well," Fontaine said. "But it was nice to go out on a win-

ning note and be recognized for the hard work I put in."

Both teams had seasons full of ups and downs, but as Regionals approach, their slates will once again be cleared. But each side understands the type of competition they will be up against.

"It's going to be fun to have both the men's and women's teams there this year," Ladue said. "Anytime we go into Regionals we are optimistic, but at the same point we are aware of what we are getting ourselves into."

## EDITORS' CHALLENGE: NBA ALL-STAR WEEKEND EDITION

	WINNER	MVP	DUNK CHAMP	3-PT. CHAMP
Adam G.		Kevin Durant	Nate Robinson	Danilo Gallinari
Alex P.		Chris Paul	Nate Robinson	Daequan Cook
Ben K.		LeBron James	DeMar DeRozan	Daequan Cook
Claire K.		LeBron James	Gerald Wallace	Stephen Curry
Daniel R.		Dwayne Wade	Gerald Wallace	Stephen Curry
Dave H.		LeBron James	Shannon Brown	Danilo Gallinari
Ethan L.		Rajon Rondo	Shannon Brown	Stephen Curry
Evan C.		Kobe Bryant	Nate Robinson	Stephen Curry
Jason H.		LeBron James	Gerald Wallace	Danilo Gallinari
Jeremy G.		Carmelo Anthony	Shannon Brown	Danilo Gallinari
Kerianne O.		Carmelo Anthony	Shannon Brown	Chauncey Billups
Lauren F.		LeBron James	Nate Robinson	Stephen Curry
Mike S.		LeBron James	Shannon Brown	Stephen Curry
Sapna B.		Kevin Durant	Nate Robinson	Danilo Gallinari
Steve S.		Kevin Durant	Gerald Wallace	Danilo Gallinari

## Nebraska has stepped up against top opponents this season

### NCAA WOMEN'S BBALL

continued from page 16

option on this undefeated squad. Averaging 19.4 points and 9.9 rebounds per game, Griffin is shooting 61.6 percent from the field as a 6-foot-2 forward constantly being double- or triple-teamed by opposing defenses.

But should some squad find a way to stop Griffin — which has not seemed doable this year — head coach Connie Yori can rest easy knowing that senior guard Yvonne Turner is on the perimeter. Turner, who leads the Big 12 with 2.9 made three-pointers per game, is shooting 42.9 percent from downtown, good enough for 28th in the nation.

Most importantly, though, Turner has stepped up in big games. In back-to-back wins over conference foes Baylor and Kansas State, she canned six threes in each game. Turner also hit four from beyond the arc in Nebraska's romp over then-No. 10 Oklahoma State (OSU) in the first ever meeting between a pair of top-10 teams ever to be held in Nebraska.

And that is the Cornhuskers' power: They have been able to dispatch any top-ranked opponent in a schedule ranked among the country's best. When Nebraska's non-conference season closed, its strength of schedule was ranked No. 25 by CollegeRPI.com and it currently sits at No. 22.

Versus top-25 opponents, the Cornhuskers' offense has been even better. In its eight games

against AP Top 25-ranked foes, Nebraska is averaging 77.4 points per game, including topping the 90-point mark three times. Compare that to last season, when the squad managed 80 points on only two occasions. This year? Try 10.

For insight into this remarkable year, look no further than the Feb. 3 romp over OSU, an 88-67 game that was never close. Five Cornhuskers finished in double figures as the Cowgirls coughed the ball up 16 times. Four days later, determined not to let the high ranking go to its head, Nebraska blasted No. 12 Texas A&M 71-60 behind Griffin's 11th double-double of the year.

In the 2008-09 season, the Cornhuskers started out strong in non-conference play, winning their first seven contests, but faded when it counted, ultimately finishing the year 6-10 in Big 12 play and losing by 11 to New Mexico in the Women's NIT.

This season, though, there has been no such collapse. With eight regular season games left on its schedule, Nebraska has a legitimate shot at running the table and entering the NCAA Tournament with an unblemished record.

But for a program that has never made it past the second round of the NCAA Tournament and has only made the Big Dance seven times in the bracket's 27-year history, the Cornhuskers have nowhere to go but up.

## INSIDE THE NBA

# Worthy players missing out on All-Star events

BY ALEX SCAROS  
Senior Staff Writer

What better place to hold the NBA's biggest spectacle of the season than the palace Jerry Jones built?

All-Star Weekend will tip off this Friday at Cowboys Stadium with the Rookie Challenge and continue with All-Star Saturday Night, before the official game on Valentine's Day.

Despite the romantic nature of the game's date, this year's rosters have not been shown love by critics, especially in the case of Allen Iverson, who was voted in by the fans as a starter despite his subpar 14.4 points per-game average and his tumultuous departure from Memphis earlier in the season.

In the East, Derrick Rose, Rajon Rondo and Gerald Wallace all earned their first All-Star appearances, while in the West, Deron Williams and Zach Randolph did the same. However, just like every other year, there are some players who got snubbed but were well deserving of an All-Star bid.

New York's David Lee heads the field of players who were robbed this season. Lee is averaging 20.0 points and 11.4 rebounds per game. He's tied for fifth in the NBA with 31 double-doubles and is the heart and soul of a Knicks team that is on its way back to respectability. Lee isn't a flashy player — he will never average 28 points per game or be in the MVP race — but he does have all the intangibles a team needs. He's deceptively athletic and nimble for a forward of his size, and though his defensive game is below average, he is invaluable to the Knicks and would be on any team in the NBA.

Other people shortsighted by the vote include Atlanta's Josh Smith (15.1 points per game, 8.5 rebounds per game) and Memphis' Marc Gasol (15.3 ppg, 9.8 rpg), but Sunday's game is fast approaching, so taking a look at the members who will be participating will prove more valuable.

All-Star starter Kevin Garnett is probably unworthy of being on the team this year despite his status as a fan favorite. Garnett, who plays the same position as Lee, is averaging just 14.5 points and 7.3 rebounds per game, his lowest numbers since his rookie year, after coming back from a devastating knee injury last season.

Garnett has been one of the best power forwards in NBA history and is the leader of the Celtics defense, but he is simply not having the 24-points, 12-rebounds and three-blocks-per-game seasons that he used to and has missed 10 games after re-aggravating the injury while playing against the Golden State Warriors on Dec. 28th.

Garnett is a 15-year veteran and is going to make his 13th All-Star



Boston Celtics forward Kevin Garnett, left, is averaging 14.5 points and 7.3 rebounds per game but partially rode name familiarity to his 13th All-Star Game appearance.

appearance on Sunday, but the familiarity of his name has prevented others who are just as deserving from earning their first trip.

Monta Ellis is the best player you've never heard of. The Golden State Warriors shooting guard is having the best season of his career and putting up All-Star-caliber numbers. The 6-foot-3 guard, who was drafted out of high school in 2005, is averaging 26.2 points per game this season, which is good enough to make him the sixth highest scorer in the NBA. Though the lowly Warriors are a dismal 13-37, Ellis' individual play should not go unnoticed.

Ellis is also averaging 5.4 assists per game, forming a tandem in the Warriors' backcourt with rookie Stephen Curry that has the potential to evolve into one of the most formidable duos in the Western Conference in the coming years.

The Western Conference reserves at the guard position — Brandon Roy and Deron Williams — are on winning teams and are putting up All-Star numbers as well. Players like Ellis who play on small market teams simply cannot

garner the votes that bigger names get, but their statistics speak volumes about their individual capabilities.

Despite the two players who could have made the rosters, the weekend still promises once again to be the most entertaining All-Star weekend in professional sports.

Although baseball has its Home Run Derby, the NBA Slam-Dunk Contest still captivates viewers worldwide as one of the best stages to display raw athleticism. Last year, when Dwight Howard dunked on a 12-foot hoop, LeBron James "preliminarily" promised to participate in this year's contest.

As expected, he will not take part, but two-time champion Nate Robinson will defend his crown valiantly against the Los Angeles Lakers' Shannon Brown, the Charlotte Bobcats' Gerald Wallace and the winner of a "dunk-off" between Los Angeles Clippers' Eric Gordon and Toronto Raptors' rookie DeMar DeRozan.

But James' absence in the event is a microcosm of the All-Star games' problems. As is the case with Ellis and Lee, the best players sometimes are absent from the All-Star festivities.

## Jumbos key up for homestretch, playoff run

### HOCKEY

continued from page 16

something they were unable to do in numerous games lately when they struggled early on.

"We're trying to establish ourselves in the first five minutes of the game to set the tempo and get the other team to play our game instead of us playing theirs," said sophomore goaltender Scott Barchard, whose consistent performance in the net has been a big reason why the Jumbos have survived those rough starts. "It's time for us to start playing a full 60 minutes."

Against Wesleyan last Friday, the Jumbos were at their opponents' throats from the starting whistle, scoring three times in the first period. They then kept the pressure on throughout the contest as they went on to win the game by three goals.

Among the standouts for the Jumbos last weekend was junior Zach Diaco, who notched a hat trick against Wesleyan and scored the Jumbos' lone goal the following day in a 4-1 loss to Trinity. Diaco currently leads the Jumbos with 13 goals and is tied with junior Tom Derosa at the top with 22

points on the season.

"Diaco is just shooting the puck a lot and keeps it simple," Cooper said. "He keeps his feet moving fast and he skates through checks."

Cooper, who had two goals of his own against the Cardinals, noted that Tufts needs to focus on the hard work exemplified by Diaco going forward, noting that the team doesn't care if it looks pretty, as long as the puck winds up in the back of the net.

"Getting ugly goals is especially important in the playoffs," Cooper said. "You never know what's going to go in."

Right on par with Diaco is Derosa, who has chipped in with eight goals and 14 assists on the season. Freshman defenseman Trevor John has also cashed in seven goals from his post on the blue line and Cooper has seven of his own. With so many capable scorers, Tufts is focused on just getting more pucks in the net and seizing more opportunities to bang in rebounds for garbage goals.

Above all, the Jumbos know that they can continue to rely on the solid goaltending that they have gotten

from Barchard, whose .940 save percentage is top in the NESCAC and tied for second in the nation among all Div.-III goaltenders. In fact, despite being out-shot by an average 15 shots per game this season, the Jumbos have still outscored their opponents 62-56.

"I'm just trying to get better every day in practice," Barchard said. "My job is pretty simple — I just have to stop the puck."

Though the Jumbos faltered last Saturday when they fell to Trinity — one of the top teams in the conference — they won't let it affect their attitude going into the final weeks of the season. Coming off a big win the night before, Tufts, according to Cooper, might have been a little complacent.

But now that the team has finished its NESCAC schedule and has only ECAC games left, it is all business. Though the playoffs may not start for another three weeks, with a position in an ultra-competitive league that is anything but certain, the Jumbos are taking nothing for granted.

"When it comes to the playoffs, there are no second chances," Cooper said.

## DAVID HECK | THE SAUCE



## Manning the top spot

Originally, I wasn't planning on writing about the Super Bowl. I just didn't think there was anything unique or insightful that I could add to the conversation. Yes, it was a fantastic day for the city of New Orleans. Yes, Drew Brees and Sean Payton are very good at what they do. No, Reggie Bush is not.

You don't need me to tell you any of that.

But over the past few days, I've heard a lot of criticism of Peyton Manning. A man who was being called the greatest quarterback in history a week ago is now being referred to as a choke artist — again — and as a guy whose place in history is in question due to his 9-9 career playoff record. Hell, John Harris of the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review wrote that he'd take Ben Roethlisberger, who has never even come close to sniffing an MVP award, over Manning.

So apparently, I've got some defending to do.

Let's start with the basics: 50,128 passing yards (fourth all-time), 366 passing TDs (third), 64.8 completion percentage (fourth) and 10 Pro Bowls. He's the only player in league history to pass for 4,000 yards in a season 10 times, and he's also the only player to rack up four MVP awards.

Those numbers alone should be enough to put Manning far and away past any active quarterback in the league — yes, even that guy named Brady. But to many people, the only thing that matters is championship rings, and Manning only has one. So how can he be among the greatest?

To that, I make one simple, albeit controversial, claim: Winning isn't everything. It's a team game, after all, so how can you determine one person's legacy when the teammates around him determine so much about his postseason success?

Are Trent Dilfer and Brad Johnson both better than Dan Marino because they each won Super Bowls on tremendous defensive teams? Is Ramiro Mendoza one of the greatest relievers in the history of baseball because he has five World Series rings? Steve Kerr racked up five NBA titles. That means he's better than Tim Duncan and Kobe Bryant, right?

I can already imagine the dissenters bubbling at the mouth to respond: "Yes, it is a team game, but the quarterback position is arguably the most important in any sport."

Fair point, dissenters. I can't argue with that, so instead I'll take it a step further. On which team do you think the quarterback is the most indispensable? That's right, the Colts.

When Tom Brady went down in the first game last year, the Patriots put in backup quarterback Matt Cassel and went on to win 11 games. This year, when Brady came back, they won 10 (and if you think that's a testament to Cassel and not the Pats' system, check out his numbers with the Chiefs this year and get back to me).

Can you imagine the Colts winning 11 games without Manning? The guy runs their offense. If he went down, they'd win four games — maybe — and they'd probably come against the Raiders, Lions, Rams and Redskins.

I'll give another example. Last year, Brees had an MVP-caliber season, racking up over 5,000 passing yards and 34 touchdowns. But the Saints went 8-8 and finished last in the division.

That does not happen to Peyton Manning. The Colts have made the playoffs for eight consecutive years and for 10 of the past 11.

If you still need more convincing, consider the fact that Manning has taken 34 pass attempts per game for his career (fourth all time) and has completed on average 22 of them (second). The Colts have never had a top-notch defense, and their run game is rarely among the best in the league. They rely almost entirely on Manning, and year after year, he delivers.

As I said before, it's a team game. But when you've got someone like Manning, your team is already pretty much set.

David Heck is a senior majoring in philosophy. He can be reached at David.Heck@tufts.edu

## ICE HOCKEY

## Jumbos getting into playoff state of mind

BY EVAN COOPER  
Daily Editorial Board

It may not be the playoffs yet, but don't tell the ice hockey team that.

With their 8-5 win over Wesleyan last Friday, the Jumbos padded their advantage in the race for the final NESCAC playoff berth, and though two weeks of competition still remain in the season, Tufts is starting to get into that playoff mentality.

Friday night, the Jumbos will head north to take on the University of New England before they face Southern Maine on Saturday. Both squads are members of the ECAC East, which means that even though the Jumbos hold an advantage over Conn. College for the last NESCAC

playoff spot, these games still matter in the postseason race.

"These are important games regardless of whether or not we're trying to get into the playoffs," junior tri-captain Dylan Cooper said. "These games still count, plus we haven't locked up that playoff spot yet."

While Tufts plans to treat these games like any others, the team also wants to start getting into the playoff mentality and making the necessary adjustments — both physically and mentally — that could bring it post-season successes.

Above all, the Jumbos have, of late, been focused on coming out hard and sustaining that effort for the entire game,



JOSH BERLINGER/TUFTS DAILY

Junior tri-captain Dylan Cooper and the Jumbos are focused on raising the intensity of their play as the playoffs approach.

see HOCKEY, page 15

## SKIING

## Men's and women's teams both on road to Regionals

BY ETHAN STURM  
Senior Staff Writer

Coming into the last weekend of the regular season at Cranmore Mountain in New Hampshire, both the men's and women's ski teams had clear goals in mind. The men, in a three-way tie for second place, hoped to pull out in front, while the women hoped to hold off WPI for the coveted fourth-place

spot in the conference standings and their first trip to the Regional race in three years.

By the end of the weekend, both had earned a trip to Regionals, but in very different fashions. While the men's team struggled throughout the weekend, the women thrived.

The women's team has learned over the course of the season what it is like to have its back up against the wall. Finishing in

seventh and sixth place in the first two events of the season, respectively, the Jumbos have been clawing their way up from the beginning.

Despite a streak of strong finishes, the team's destiny still hinged on the two races this past weekend. Entering the race leading WPI by only seven points for the final Regionals spot in the Thompson division, one poor race could have been

disastrous for Tufts.

"On the first day there were a lot of disqualifications so it was definitely a bit nerve-wracking," senior Nicole Fontaine said.

But on both days, the Jumbos showed the consistency that has gotten them this far. On Saturday, Fontaine broke the one-minute mark in both races, finishing in 56.64 in the first and a 59.03 in the second, comfortably cruising to 12th place.

A 34th-place finish for senior co-captain Lindsay Verola and a 36th-place showing by sophomore Fritzi Pieper rounded out the scoring for Tufts, who cruised to a fourth-place finishing score of 405.91, beating WPI's 418.03.

Sunday was more of the same for a unit that came out extremely focused. Fontaine continued

see SKIING, page 14

### Bears maul Jumbos in midweek matchup



ALEX DENNETT/TUFTS DAILY

Shortly after a strong NESCAC tournament in which the women's squash team ballooned its win total from one to three, the Jumbos fell victim to Brown on Tuesday night in a battle of two top-25 squads.

The Bears, ranked 10th in the latest College Squash Association poll, rolled through No. 25 Tufts 9-0, winning all but two matches in straight sets.

In the No. 2 slot, sophomore Alix Michael put up the strongest fight, taking the second set versus Brown senior Kali Schellenberg 15-13 before succumbing in the final two, 11-8 and 11-2.

Michael's classmate, Mercedes Barba, also enjoyed some success at the No. 3 position, capturing the first set 11-8 before dropping three straight to Bears sophomore Erika Rhonen. At the top position, Brown freshman Sarah Crosky struggled with junior tri-captain Val Koo, ceding 25 total points throughout the match, but ultimately closing it out in straight sets by 11-8, 12-10 and 11-7 margins.

The bottom of the Jumbos' ladder, though, had a harder time with Brown. At the 7th, 8th and 9th positions, the Bears allowed just 22 combined points in nine total sets.

At 3-13 overall, Tufts now turns its attention to a home meet with Wellesley College on Thursday at Belmont Hill School at 6:30 p.m. before taking a two-week break leading up to the Howe Cup at Yale. One of the Jumbos' three wins this year came on Dec. 3 when the squad rolled 9-0 over the Blue.

— by Alex Prewitt

## INSIDE WOMEN'S NCAA BASKETBALL

## Nebraska emerges as a force to be reckoned with

BY ALEX PREWITT  
Daily Editorial Board

When it comes to elite teams in women's college basketball, the discussion begins and ends with the No. 1-ranked Connecticut Huskies, owners of a 62-game winning streak — the second longest in NCAA history — and last year's national championship. So far, Geno Auriemma's squad has seemed literally unbeatable, running its record up to 23-0 and winning by an average of 39.3 points per game.

No one has even touched the Huskies this season, as Connecticut figures to roll to its second national title in as many years and continue its dynasty into the new decade. But maybe, just maybe, there is a storm brewing out in the Midwest — one that, come March, could unseat Connecticut's place as the queen of the game.

Nebraska, the only other undefeated team in the country, currently sits in the No. 3 slot in the latest AP Top 25 poll and has rolled powerfully through its 21 games thus far. And in a game traditionally dominated by the East — only one school west of the Mississippi River has won a national title since 1994 —

the Cornhuskers are poised to make some noise with one of the nation's best players at the helm of a potent offense.

Like its counterpart in Connecticut, Nebraska has rolled through a fairly tough schedule with relative ease, topping Big 12 and non-conference opponents alike by an average of 23.6 points per game, second nationally to UConn. The newfound success is astounding considering that this team did not even make the NCAA Tournament last season.

Last year, Nebraska averaged just 62.2 points per game, including 59.7 in Big 12 play. This season? Try a blistering 79.1 points per game, which would rank as the third best scoring average in school history. In five meetings with Big 12 South foes, the Cornhuskers have won by an average of 19 points per contest, putting up 80.8 points per game against some of the country's best competition.

At the individual level, senior Kelsey Griffin just might steal the national Player of the Year Award away from Connecticut studs Tina Charles and Maya Moore, simply because she is the first, second and third

see NCAA WOMEN'S BBALL, page 14