

Groups petition to expand ACSR

BY ROB SILVERBLATT
Daily Editorial Board

This is the first in a two-part series exploring the university's investments. The next article will appear tomorrow.

On the heels of a high-profile scandal involving Tufts' investments, there has been a resurgence in the endowment transparency movement, and its advocates hope the trustees will take note.

In a flurry of recent activity, transparency supporters have requested broader authority for a student group tasked with advising the trustees on investment decisions. They have also charged Tufts officials with ignoring their input and failing to communicate with them.

Specifically, they have called upon the administration and the trustees to expand the size of the Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility (ACSR) and to scrap a nondisclosure requirement that its members are required to sign.

Students at Tufts for Investment Responsibility

(STIR) and the Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate have been the driving forces in the past several weeks behind a student petition and a resolution, both of which they will forward to the administration in advance of this weekend's Board of Trustees meeting.

Senators and STIR members say that the ACSR currently serves little more than a symbolic purpose.

"When you've got nondisclosure agreements preventing you from talking to the community and when the administration doesn't listen to you, there's no dialogue going on at all," STIR leader Martin Bourqui, a senior, said.

The trustees authorized the creation of the ACSR two years ago in response to a growing movement pressing for increased student input in investment decisions. Student advocates at the time called for a 10-person committee to be comprised of undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and alumni, but the

trustees ultimately approved a three-person advisory panel made up exclusively of undergraduates.

After taking time to draft its charter, the group began advising the trustees and the administration last spring. They have access to the university's direct holdings and make recommendations along ethical and financial lines to trustees when the board gets proxy votes in external corporations.

But ACSR members say that after they submitted several recommendations and met with Executive Vice President Patricia Campbell and Trustee Vice Chairman Peter Dolan, they learned that all of their work had been disregarded because it did not meet appropriate standards.

According to ACSR member Lorenzo Arroyo, the university told committee members that they needed to submit the type of reports that he felt are best compiled by financial experts.

"Frankly, it was a bit off-putting to hear that they wanted

a form of document that we only would have heard of had we gone to business school," Arroyo, a senior, said.

As such, he and other ACSR members support an expansion of the committee so that it can include graduate students, faculty and alumni.

Without this beefed-up membership, advocates say, the university is setting the group up to fail. "They are working basically blind. It's not realistic for them to actually be able to get anything done under those circumstances," Bourqui said. "I don't think anybody expected them to be able to do the work properly."

Campbell disagreed, arguing that the students need time to step into their new advisory roles. "The committee is very new, and the input provided last year was not the kind of in-depth research and advice the trustees hoped to see from the students," she said in an e-mail.

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State budget cuts hurt local cities

BY LESLIE OGDEN
Daily Editorial Board

In an attempt to alleviate Massachusetts' current \$1.1-billion state budget deficit, Gov. Deval Patrick has cut \$128 million in local aid this year and expects to slash an \$375 million more next year. At the local level, these cuts may lead to less spending on public services like police departments and libraries.

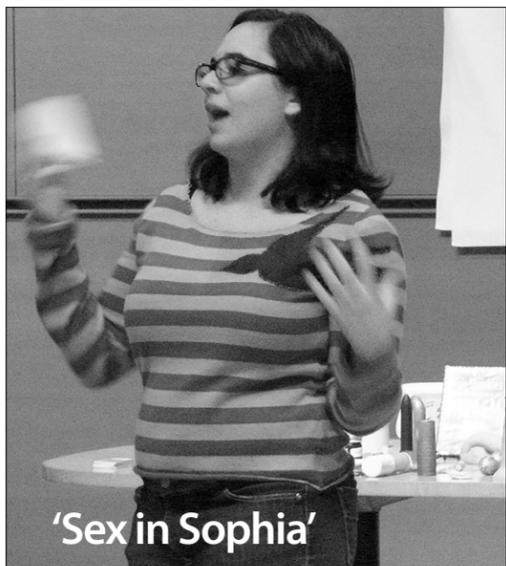
Patrick's decision came after the Massachusetts state legislature voted last month to give him the latitude to make changes to the state budget to address the deficit.

The midyear cuts are the most severe since former Governor Mitt Romney's administration made a \$114-million reduction in the state's local aid budget in 2003.

The recession shifted the focus concerning Patrick's approach to reductions.

"The governor had to cut local aid to some extent both this year and next because of the economic challenges that we are facing," Cyndi Roy, communications director for the Massachusetts Executive Office for Administration and Finance,

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'Sex in Sophia'

ARIANA MCLEAN/TUFTS DAILY

Sex expert Molly Adler, discussed sex toys and personal pleasure last night in Sophia Gordon Hall. Adler also touched on dating and viewing sex in a positive light, during a program entitled "Sex in Sophia."

TUFTS AND THE ECONOMY

Recession hits grad school admissions differently across university

BY CARTER ROGERS
Daily Editorial Board

Tufts' graduate schools' admissions have been impacted by the current economic crisis in a variety of ways, but one trend appears to be a rise in doctoral applications to a number of programs.

The Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and graduate programs at the School of Engineering received increased numbers of applications while some other schools saw no jump.

Officials from both the Friedman School and the School of Engineering attributed the higher amount to a surge in interest in doctoral programs.

Many look to improve their educational standing during recessions, according to Rebecca Russo, the director of admissions at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine.

"Generally over the years, when there is an economic downturn, it's a good time for people to go to graduate school," Russo said. "People may as well improve their education during that time period and hope that jobs will open up when they graduate."

The Cummings School's applicant numbers remained relatively unchanged compared to last year, though.

"The economics don't seem to have an effect at this point," Russo said. "In the last five years, we have been averaging between 700 and 740, and we're right in that ballpark again this year."

The Friedman School received 270 applications, 29 percent more than last year. Doctoral applicants made up a large part of that increase, according to Matthew Hast, the school's associate director of student affairs for admissions.

"There's more return going for a Ph.D.," Hast said, adding that current-

ly "people's careers can benefit more" from receiving a doctoral degree than obtaining a master's degree.

Alida Poirier, associate director of admissions in the School of Arts and Sciences' Office of Graduate Studies, said that she was surprised that only doctoral applications are on the rise.

"I would have predicted that master's applications would be up," she said, explaining that the School of Arts and Sciences has not seen a jump in interest in its master's programs.

The School of Engineering's graduate program had received 616 applications as of last week, up nearly 20 percent from last year's 515. The jump mostly results from a rise in applications for doctoral programs, according to Sergio Fantini, associate dean of graduate education at the School of Engineering.

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Plans for Green Line extension moving forward

BY NINA FORD
Daily Editorial Board

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) recommended yesterday that the Green Line extension project continue beyond College Avenue and end at a station located at the intersection of Boston Avenue and Mystic Valley Parkway (Route 16).

This key decision came after months of deliberation over whether the lengthening of the subway line should end at College and Boston Avenues, near Curtis Hall on Tufts' campus, or extend farther.

Pending approval of federal funding, the EOT will extend the Green Line along existing commuter rail tracks, adding stops at College Avenue and Route 16, neither of which will include a parking facility.

The additional stops would have "significant regional benefits," Kate Fichter, the deputy director of the project at the EOT, told the Daily, praising the recommendation.

"It will reach a much larger population center. It just gets us into residential areas in Medford, as well as Arlington and Winchester," Fichter said. "We anticipate that it will have air quality benefits because it will allow more people to use the T instead of driving."

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), which runs the T subway service, last year announced plans to add seven new Green Line stations in Medford and Somerville. Yesterday's recommendation comes after a series of meetings of an advisory group that has discussed related issues ranging from the location of a support facility to the make-up of new track near Union

Square in Somerville.

The state government has pledged enough funding for an extension of the Green Line through College and Boston Avenues, but it is not currently required to pay for the further extension of the line to Route 16. EOT's recommendation therefore now remains contingent on federal support.

Ken Krause, a member of the Medford Green Line Neighborhood Alliance, a local citizens' group, agreed with the EOT's decision on the terminal.

"I would say the project is stronger by going to Route 16 for approval for funding and for the [Environmental Protection Agency] to approve it," Krause, who is also a member of the advisory group that has studied the extension, told the Daily. He said

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MEREDITH KLEIN/TUFTS DAILY

The extension of the Green Line through Somerville and Medford will be located at Route 16 and Boston Avenue.

Inside this issue

The Daily checks out the decor of the Wren 430s in its first installment of Campus Cribbs.



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Indie rock duo Matt and Kim hits a sophomore slump with its second album, "Grand."



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Some doctoral program applications on the rise

ADMISSIONS

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Fantini said the trend of higher interest in doctoral programs applied across all graduate schools, not just engineering programs. At Tufts, he added, the School of Engineering's attempt to raise its research profile also may have led to more applications.

At the School of Medicine, admissions officers have witnessed only a small increase in total applications, according to Tom Slavin, the school's director of admissions.

As of yesterday, the medical school had received 7,263 completed applications compared to last year's 7,072 and 9,044 additional ones submitted through a central medical school appli-

cation service; the latter figure was down slightly from last year. Slavin said that he didn't expect the number of applications to grow much more.

The Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences has experienced similar stability in its applicant numbers, which have stayed within 10 percent of the school's average over the last five years, according to Kellie Johnston, associate director of admissions for the Sackler School.

While dental schools across the country have witnessed similar numbers as last year, the School of Dental Medicine saw a slight increase in applications from last year's high of 4,300. School of Dental Medicine Executive Associate Dean Joseph Castellana said that although fewer patients

are coming in for elective procedures, dental schools typically enjoy more interest during deteriorating economic conditions.

Officials at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy did not return repeated messages asking for comment for this article.

The veterinary industry itself could be considered largely recession-proof, Russo added.

"We had a veterinarian come and talk to us [who] owns seven or eight clinics in the Boston area," she said. "He said that veterinary clinics are pretty much immune to any sort of recession that happens because people are very willing to take care of their animals. If they're low on money, then they would maybe not spend their money on something else so that they can take care of their pets."

Medford, Somerville forced to make budget cuts

CUTS

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told the Daily. "He made a round of emergency cuts in October and ... was able to spare any cuts to communities, but given the fact that the economy has rapidly worsened, this time around he has to cut cities and towns."

Although no direct reductions were made to the Chapter 70 program, the state's primary conduit of aid to public elementary and secondary schools, Patrick's measures may have impacted education funding in another way. The governor reduced the amount of lottery revenue distributed to communities and other monies contributed to states and towns, called additional assistance funding.

This funding typically goes toward municipal services such as the fire and police departments, snow removal and road maintenance.

Local officials from all over the state are feeling the pinch, including those in the areas surrounding Tufts.

Somerville will have to roll back some services and amenities. The city's planned refurbishment of its Central Hill Memorial Park has been postponed, and library hours will not be expanded. The mayor had wanted to extend library branches' hours, according to City of Somerville spokesperson Tom Champion.

"There is no doubt we are going

to have to look at a variety of budget cuts," Champion told the Daily. "Already, we've moved to leaving a number of vacancies vacant, and we're also looking at ways to trim our capital spending this year."

In Medford, Mayor Michael McGlynn has been working on his new budget cuts and is expected to report his decisions soon.

Somerville will lose about \$3 million this year, or 9.7 percent of its non-education aid, Champion said.

"Essentially what has happened is that we have five months to absorb the impact of that \$3-million cut" during the current fiscal year, he said.

Yet despite these sacrifices, Somerville remains in a relatively stable position. It spends fewer tax dollars per capita than any city in Massachusetts with a population of 50,000 or more, Champion said. The city has a good credit rating, has not seen significant declines in property values and has not been hit by the same borrowing crunch as have many other communities.

"We have really benefited from really good financial management under Mayor [Joseph] Curtatone's leadership, so we're in good shape to weather the storm," City of Somerville spokesperson Lesley Delaney Hawkins told the Daily.

Meanwhile, Patrick has proposed increasing restaurant and hotel taxes to help cities and towns, which would raise the state's meal tax to 6 percent and hotel tax to 6.75 per-

cent. The governor said that these changes would generate \$150 million annually to be distributed to cities and towns.

Another possible measure would give communities the power to raise each of those two taxes by an additional 1 percent and would eliminate an existing loophole that makes telecommunications companies tax exempt.

This legislation would not raise enough funds to eliminate the budget gap, though, and its effects would not be seen in the current fiscal year, according to Champion.

"Over the next 18 months, you're looking at an overall shortfall of \$5 million in originally anticipated state aid," Champion said. "But that is assuming you get the benefit of the revenue from the changes the government is proposing."

To continue fighting these challenges, Curtatone created a special committee to advise the city on how to handle its fiscal challenges. Tufts Professor of Economics Daniel Richards will serve on the committee along with four other local experts.

Although Somerville will utilize all of its resources to look at a full range of possibilities in terms of organizational changes and ways of increasing revenue, the city is in a relatively good position.

"There are plenty of other cities and towns that are looking to close their libraries and shut the doors," Champion said.

Green Line extension to continue to Route 16

GREEN LINE

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that the Route 16 terminus would allow for more riders, longer trips, more cost effectiveness and better air quality.

Following the EOT's announcement yesterday afternoon, the advisory group held a public meeting, during which transportation officials and community members participated in a discussion of the new development and of the project in general.

Steve Woelfel, the Green Line extension project manager for the EOT, presented an overview of the project. He emphasized the fact that progress is now dependent upon approval for federal funding and that many design-related details have not yet been finalized.

The next steps for the extension project are to finish drafting an environmental impact assessment and to file the report with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act office for approval. The extension's completion deadline is 2014.

The Green Line extension project includes two extensions out from the current Green Line terminus at Lechmere station. The mainline will extend to Route 16 along

Boston Avenue, but a separate spur from Lechmere will travel one stop to Union Square.

At the advisory group meeting, project planners also announced that the Green Line extension to Union Square in Somerville will run parallel to the MBTA's Fitchburg commuter rail line. They officials rejected a one-track loop structure they had considered before.

"[The Union Square stop] better works with the vision Somerville has for the area," Woelfel said during the meeting.

The project also requires a restructuring of the current Green Line terminus at Lechmere to accommodate the two extensions. "In order to extend the tracks out, Lechmere station has to be moved out closer to the corridor the right of way where the tracks are going to come out to Medford/Somerville," Krause said.

The EOT's proposal to build a maintenance facility in the Brickbottom area of Somerville stayed unchanged, despite resident objections. The MBTA does not believe there is another viable location for the facility, but residents and community leaders contend that there has not been sufficient discussion with the commu-

nity about alternatives, according to Sean Sullivan, a member of the MBTA Rider Oversight Committee.

"Somewhere behind all of that is internal analysis," he said told the Daily. "[It] feels like there's a lot of miscommunication going on."

During the meeting, advisory group and community members raised questions about a perceived lack of communication with the community about all the project decisions. "Have you had any conversations with any local city officials?" Somerville Alderman Maryann Heuston (Ward 2) asked.

Community members also voiced concerns about health risks, environmental impact and the involvement of eminent domain.

Tufts' Director of Community Relations Barbara Rubel did not have any concerns about the extension's influence on the university, though. She said the extension would have a positive impact on the Tufts community.

"It just creates better access," Rubel told the Daily. "I think we're just delighted that this project is moving forward. Just as students who live downhill have easy access to the Red Line in Davis Square, students who live uphill will be able to utilize the Green Line."

Groups stir up controversy over investment transparency

STIR

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And while transparency supporters are clamoring for a larger ACSR, Campbell said that the trustees have painted an entirely consistent vision for the group over the past two years.

"The trustees have been very clear from the beginning that this is a student committee," she said. "This was the decision made by the board in May of 2007, and this position has not changed."

But Borqui said that the time has come for a reevaluation. "It's not a two-way conversation," he said of the ACSR's interactions with the university. "It's not a productive dialogue. It's basically just them left out in the cold."

STIR, a new student group that has formed to push for increased endowment transparency, and the Senate will officially present this argument to the administration today in a packet of information. It will include a STIR petition with 190 signatures and a resolution that the Senate passed on Sunday.

The Senate's resolution follows up on a similar one that the body approved last spring, but to little avail.

"The TCU Senate urges the Board of Trustees and the Officers of Tufts University to allow the ACSR to undertake broader activities towards shareholder engagement, such as corporate dialogue, filing shareholder resolutions and increasing transparency in a way that will both protect the security of the endowment and permit greater community engagement," Sunday's resolution, which garnered unanimous support, read.

"I think that STIR is advocating for a really important cause on campus, and we're going to help them as much as we can," TCU President Duncan Pickard said.

Campbell had mixed feelings about the Senate resolution. "While we respect the advocacy inherent in the resolution, we are disappointed that there are a number of inaccuracies in the resolution," Campbell said. She did not elaborate any further.

At Tufts, the push for a more powerful ACSR has accompanied mounting student interest in the endowment following the university's \$20 million loss in the aftermath of Bernard Madoff's alleged Ponzi scheme. But it is also in line with a national movement trending toward more student involvement in investment decisions.

Cheyenna Weber, organizing director for the New York-based Responsible Endowments Coalition, attributed the growing traction of transparency efforts to a basic need for accountability.

"For any person to be held accountable, you have to have some form of public scrutiny," she said.

Weber pointed to successful transparency initiatives at Harvard, Dartmouth, Columbia and Swarthmore. Like at Tufts, students at these colleges advise their administrations on how to vote on proxy resolutions.

All told, around 30 colleges have transparency committees that involve students, Weber said. She noted that compared to those schools, Tufts lags behind the curve in the arena of community account-

ability, as evidenced by the nondisclosure agreement that prevents ACSR members from discussing the university's portfolio with their peers.

"It reflects a larger recalcitrance on the part of the school to release information to the wider student body and to remain accountable to that body in some way," she said.

But Campbell said that the nondisclosure agreements serve important financial purposes. "The NDA agreements are required to protect the proprietary nature of our investments," she said.

Still, Weber said that schools that have adopted transparency initiatives have not suffered financially. "If all these other schools can do it, I don't think there's really any argument for a lack of disclosure," she said.

In fact, Weber and Bourqui argued that having the community screen investment decisions leads to more efficient outcomes.

Typically, transparency movements have been concerned with making sure universities are not making profits through purportedly unethical means, such as investments with environmentally harmful corporations or with groups that funnel money to corrupt governments. But particularly in the field of environmental sustainability — and on other fronts too — advocates claim that unethical investments are generally also not financially viable.

"You don't want to support a company if you know their methods are not sound. And that can be a financial statement or that can be a moral statement," Bourqui said. "I believe that they're fundamentally intertwined. Something that's environmentally unsustainable is probably going to be financially unsustainable in the long run."

Even if ACSR members do win concessions from the trustees, they will still only have access to a very small portion of the university's total holdings.

Members can currently see records of privately held, publicly traded companies in which Tufts is directly invested, but most of the university's money is in hedge and mutual funds. ACSR members are not pushing to see those investments, and the administration has not indicated any support for making them public.

"The Board has a policy of confidentiality to maintain the integrity of Tufts' proprietary investment choices," Campbell said.

While she would not speculate on how the trustees will react to the requests from STIR, the ACSR and the Senate, Campbell said that the university's leadership has indicated that the best course of action for members of the advisory committee would be to restrict their focus.

"The trustees have suggested to the students that they focus on a small number of proxy votes so that they can conduct some in-depth research and provide a clear and well reasoned rationale for their position," she said.

But ACSR members feel that even that would be difficult absent additional support from the administration. "Their actions really don't speak of any sincere desire to engage with us at all," Arroyo said.

Features

tuftsdaily.com

CAMPUS

CRIBS

Presents: *Da Kewl Krew*

BY ALISON LISNOW
Daily Editorial Board

Deep in the heart of Wren Hall lies a hidden gem of brotherhood. Some may think of a suite as just a place to live, but the boys of the Wren 430s prefer to think of their home on the Hill as a fraternity.

Individually, they are a cluster of sophomore and junior boys, but together, they are Da Kewl Krew or Delta Kappa Kappa (DKK).

It all started when sophomore Harrison Stamell gave a title to the spreadsheet he created so the boys could snag a suite in Wren.

"I gave it a lot of thought," Stamell said. "I was trying to think of what label could describe this group of people — this smorgasbord of people of great variety — and one thing that tied us together was that we were all cool and we were all in a crew."

The name didn't stick immediately, but soon they picked it up again.

"It was revived when we threw a frat-themed party ... and we were trying to put up letters on the door," sophomore Bradley Starr said. "We were playing around with different ideas, and then somebody said, 'Wait a minute — DKK!' and the rest is history."

The brothers of DKK have expanded upon the traditions they signed up for by decorating their common room as their ideal version of a fraternity.

"The theme is themeless," junior Gene Kurtysh said. "I feel the spontaneity makes it so interesting, because you can come here every day and be so entertained by what you're looking at."

The seating is ample, the walls are adorned with a variety of artwork and different doodads are scattered throughout. The suite has an eclectic feel as almost everything was either found or made by a brother, such as the vertical DKK sign that hangs to the side of the window.

"It all began last year with a party where we decided to drink 100 bottles of beer and then put them on a wall,"



AALOK KANANI/TUFTS DAILY

Residents of the Wren 430s lounge in their decked out common room.

sophomore Nick Skaff said. "To commemorate our party ... I decided to form the letters delta kappa kappa with the 100 bottle caps. So I took them home, bought this board and after a few hours work we got the first sign of DKK."

Sophomore Jacob Kreimer is proudest of the enormous speakers that are situated on either side of the main couch.

"[The speakers] were found on the way back from the DKK fall dinner at Rudy's," Kreimer said. "Someone so foolishly discarded [them], so I carried one all the way back ... Luckily I know a lady who had a car, and I was able to get use of the car to bring back the

other speaker."

The brothers use their speakers to blast Lord of the Rings transition music and thus describe their common room as feeling like "intermission in a theater show."

Like the speakers, much of the furniture in DKK was found on the side of the street at the beginning of the school year. As Kreimer says, "If it's quality, you need to take it." The brothers carried couches, ottomans, chairs and a table all the way from Davis Square. Not all of it, however, was up to standard.

"We had a couch," Stamell said. "We

see **CAMPUS CRIBS**, page 4

Private schools put big price tag on education; despite economy, many still willing to pay

BY CHRISTINA PAPPAS
Daily Editorial Board

Thirty-eight thousand dollars is a hefty sum of money. It can pay for a new Audi A4, a luxurious worldwide vacation or over 40 pairs of metallic strappy sandals by Manolo Blahnik. It is also the approximate median price of last year's tuition for boarding students at elite private elementary and secondary schools throughout the Northeast, according to the National Association of Independent Schools.

And this year, despite rising tuition prices and the wavering economy, application rates for private schools have generally held steady or even increased, according to Roxana Reid, founder of Smart City Kids — a New York City-based organization that assists hundreds of families seeking to gain private-school admission for their children.

"We're in the business of maximizing their chances," Reid said. "And our business is becoming more and more in demand."

Applications to the recently-founded Sage School have also remained steady, despite the recession, according to Head of School and Tufts gradu-



MCT

As the struggle for college acceptance increases, young children are increasingly applying to competitive private schools.

ate Timothy Monroe (A '87).

The school, located in Foxboro, Mass., specializes in teaching "gifted children," a status generally determined by test scores, Monroe said.

"We serve very specific children," he said. "We exist for the gifted elementary school kids with different

academic needs ... The first graders at Sage are probably doing second- or third-grade work, but since the curriculum is advanced for everyone, the students don't have to slow down for others."

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CARYN HOROWITZ |
CULTURAL CULINARIAN

Save this
column



While perusing the magazine selection at CVS a week ago, I noticed that almost every publication basically had the same cover: a photo of President Barack Obama with the headline "Special Keepsake Inauguration Issue of (insert magazine title here)!" My personal favorite was a gossip rag that had "Oh-Bama-Rama" in block letters over the president's face. Every periodical from Vogue to Rolling Stone to Us Weekly urged readers to save this special issue of their magazine as a memento. Don't forget inauguration! You need to know what was happening to Britney and Lindsay on Jan. 20, too! So, in keeping with the theme of the Oh-Bama-Rama that is sweeping our nation, here is my "Special Keepsake Barack Obama Edition of The Cultural Culinarian!"

I remember the day I jumped on the Obama bandwagon. I don't mean politically — I always knew he was my candidate of choice — but I mean in the Obama-as-rock-star cultural-phenomenon way. In a fitting twist, Barack Obama entered my heart through my stomach.

It was Jan. 16. After my usual mid-afternoon-15-minutes-before-class-starts-waste-time-by-checking-status-updates Facebook.com session, a link to The Huffington Post one of my friends had posted a few days earlier immediately caught my eye: a video of Barack Obama at Ben's Chili Bowl, a diner in Washington, D.C. My thought process was as follows: Chili? Good. Obama? Great. Obama saying "We straight" when asked if he wants extra cheese on his childidog? Priceless. I was hooked. And I've had Ben's Chili Bowl's childidog, and it is damn good; Obama has good taste.

This was not the first reference I'd seen to our president's love for chili on the Huffington Post site. Back in March 2008, I bookmarked an article about Obama's chili recipe that aired on Good Morning America. Throughout the primary season, Obama bragged about his family's chili recipe. John McCain countered with his method for grilling ribs. It was like a battle of the southern comfort foods, and I was hooked. I haven't tried McCain's recipe, but Obama's chili is also damn good; again, Obama has good taste.

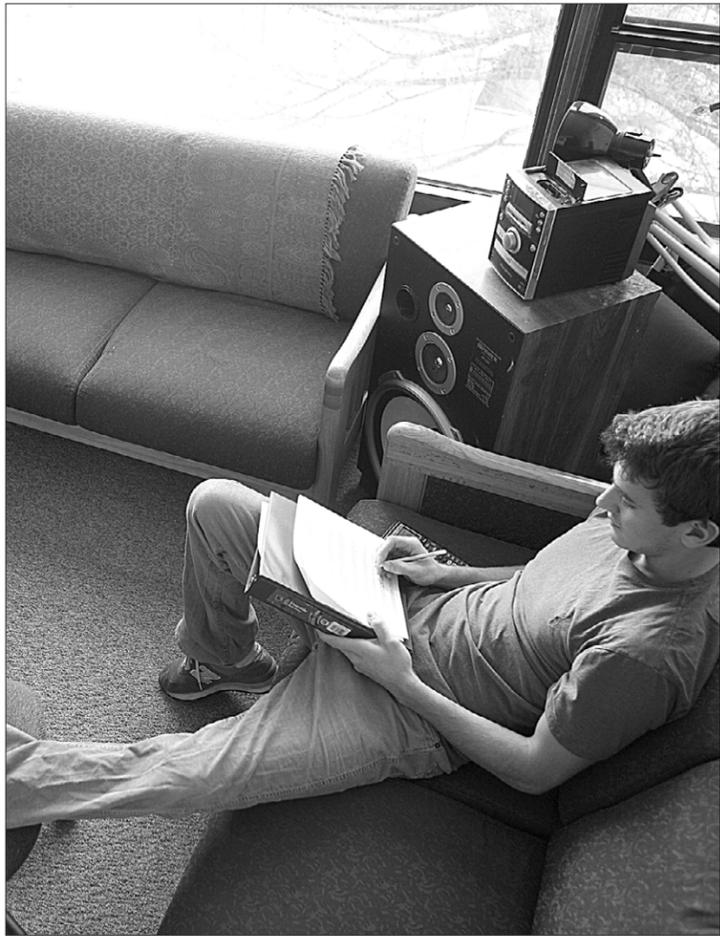
Based on Obama's previously publicized food choices, I was looking forward to inauguration day, particularly what the menu would be for the inaugural ball. The menu for the inaugural lunch served following the actual ceremony was publicized well in advance; the dishes, including seafood stew and apple-cinnamon sponge cake, were inspired by Abraham Lincoln's favorite foods. For the third time I thought, good food choices; Obama, way to send a message.

When I saw the menu for the ball, however, I doubted Obama's food selection for the first time. Greg Sharpe, the executive chef at the Washington Convention Center, served Italian chicken Roulade and tortellini with tomato cream sauce. The choices seemed just so-so in comparison to past inaugural balls.

The menus for inauguration balls usually consist of either lavish gourmet fare or regional dishes that reflect the president's background. The Bush family went the gourmet route: George H.W. Bush's 1989 dinner included crab pâté and stuffed veal loin; the menu for George W. Bush in 2001 featured lamb and soufflé, while lobster and filet of beef were served in 2005. Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan served some of their favorite foods from their homes: Reagan's menu featured an abalone bisque from the menu of one of his favorite restaurants in Monterey, California, while Clinton's guests dined on southern comfort food from Arkansas. Chicken Roulade just doesn't seem to fit in with the trends.

Despite my hesitation toward Sharpe's menu, on Jan. 20, while our newly elected president dined in D.C., I ate a bowl of chili and thought about all of the future food choices Obama will make as president. It just seemed like the right thing to do.

Caryn Horowitz is a junior majoring in history. She can be reached at Caryn.Horowitz@tufts.edu.



AALOK KANANI/TUFTS DAILY

The conglomeration of decorations and furniture, many of which were picked up on the side of the road, make the Wren 430s and a unique crib.

DKK brothers describe their innovative decorative tactics

CAMPUS CRIBS

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carried it all the way up here — this deliciously perfect couch — and it got taken away [due to] fire safety.”

And the boys do have standards of their own.

“We had another big couch [that I carried uphill],” said sophomore Aalok Kanani, who is also a photo editor for the Daily. “There was poop on it. I didn’t realize till I got back to the suite and I smelled my hands. You definitely gotta check what you pick up, preferably before you carry it uphill.”

Kanani and most of the other boys lived on the same floor in South Hall last year, but some — such as Kreimer and Kurtysh — found their way into the brotherhood later.

The Wren common room holds many representations of their friendship such as the silver television, the main focus of the room.

“The TV was actually purchased with 100 dollars won in the [programming board] scavenger hunt; we came in third place,” Kreimer said. “We got 100 dollars, and that was directly invested in the TV.”

A chest of drawers is snuggled into the alcove of the room.

“The top drawer is stocked usually with candy,” sophomore Artem Efremkin said. “We had this huge split about how you pick out the candy: Do you pick out the candy you like or do you have to go in blindly with the ‘crane method?’ ... The other drawer [has] a collection of condoms and condiments. [We use the] crane method [for

that drawer]. [You] have to use whatever you get.”

Most wall decorations, including framed pictures of a tiger and the pope, were purchased for a discount price at places like Goodwill.

Sophomore resident Julian Charnas started a photo series on the strip of wall above the TV to capture the essence of each DKK member.

“The rest of the suite really represents DKK as a group, and I decided I wanted to focus on DKK individually,” Charnas said. “We are stronger than the sum of our parts, but you know each of us individually is pretty nice ... One [photo] is of my wonderful ginger roommate [sophomore Mark Brenckle] in the wonderful New England autumn foliage. It’s him doing the American Beauty thing with the red leaves, shirtless. God, that was one of the best photo shoots I’ve ever had.”

The series is a work in progress, but Charnas has photographs to represent other brothers as well.

The rest of the room is iced with white Christmas lights. Paper snowflakes, found at the theater holiday party, glitter in the window, and a hat rack greets visitors at the main entrance.

“I think it’s a good place to come home to,” Kreimer said.

Want to see DKK for yourself? Check out tuftsdaily.com for video footage.

If you have or know of a sweet campus crib, email Alison Lisnow at Alison.Lisnow@tufts.edu.

High tuition costs fail to deter many potential applicants to private schools

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

continued from page 3

Families now start seeking out elite schools even before elementary school; selective private preschools are increasingly hot commodities. According to Reid, some of the most exclusive Manhattan preschools receive enough applicants to fill their classes four times over. These preschools boast a lower overall acceptance rate than Tufts.

“These schools just have such a great demand that they don’t even need to advertise,” Reid, who works with families of children as young as three years old, explained. “There are a handful of schools that everyone wants to get into. The families want them, not the other way around.”

For many parents seeking to provide their children with the best education possible, private schools seem to offer an educationally rigorous option, though the financial drain can often times be too much of a burden.

Massachusetts resident Joan Munnely, whose autistic son currently attends private school while her daughter attends public school, voiced concerns that not every family can provide the necessary tuition money. “It really costs a lot,” she said. “You have to be financially ready. The economy is so bad right now that even though I would like to send my daughter to private school, I don’t think that’s an option.”

Leslie Tsui, also of Massachusetts, agreed with Munnely’s assessment. Her two children are waiting to receive decisions from the private schools they recently applied to for sixth and eighth grades. “It’s a lot of money,” she said. “I’m not surprised exactly by the cost — most schools that we looked at are 34 or 35 thousand dollars per year — but I am surprised by how many people can afford that.”

Tsui admitted that her decision to look at private schools in the midst of a recession may seem counterintuitive, but she believes that private schools could be safer bets in the long run. “At least private schools aren’t subject to the economy,” she said. “The overrides for public education here just haven’t been passing, and the public schools’ budgets get cut year after year.”

But it’s not always the hefty price tag that deters potential applicants. According to par-

ents who have gone through the application procedures with their children, the intensive process alone is a mental drain.

The application process for preschoolers is weighted more heavily on the family than on the child, according to Reid. Most nursery schools do not require formal tests, but rather evaluate candidates on informal “playgroups.” Reid estimated that most children apply to at least eight schools.

“There are a handful of schools that everyone wants to get into. The families want them, not the other way around.”

Roxana Reid
founder, Smart City Kids

According to Reid, the process of navigating the application process can be stressful for children and parents alike. “Some of the rules are very clear, but others are unclear,” she said. “It’s nerve-racking, because parents don’t want to mess up. They don’t want to do a disservice to their child. These institutions have powerful influences.”

The process, if anything, only gets more taxing as children get older. “It’s a very competitive system,” Munnely said. “I’ve done the searches, I’ve gone through the process and it’s exhausting.”

Tsui agreed. “It’s a very tiring process for the parents and even more so for the kids,” she said. “The applications are a lot of work for them, especially on top of their regular academic and extracurricular schedule. But hopefully, the private schools we’re waiting to hear back from will really prepare our kids for the future.”

Although it comes with financial and mental demands, some feel that private school education is a useful option for some students.

According to Monroe, schools like Sage are important for academically advanced students, because they can promote social and

emotional confidence as well as traditional scholarly skills. “The students at Sage are not self-conscious about their abilities. They can be themselves and thrive in that advanced setting.”

Munnely feels the small class sizes and personal attention characteristic of private schools can make them worth the substantial cost.

“It depends on the child,” she said. “But I think it’s worth it, because I didn’t think public school was successful for my son.”

Though independent schools often claim the credit for the success of their graduates, it may be that private schools simply attract the students best poised to succeed, according to Tufts Assistant Professor of Child Development Tama Leventhal. “The key context is the families,” she said. “It’s not entirely the schools that shape the children.”

Leventhal explained that children at private schools are not a random selection, but rather a highly specific group. “These children are a unique subset, because they’re coming from families with motivated parents who care about education,” she said. “Also, the families of private school children have money, and there’s a whole other host of advantages that go along with that.”

According to Tufts’ profile of its class of 2012, the majority of freshmen — 62 percent — came from public schools. Thirty-one percent hailed from independent schools and the remaining seven percent attended religious or parochial schools.

Sophomore Suzi Shapira, who has attended only private schools since preschool, said that she enjoyed the experience but has never thought of herself as having an edge over former public school attendees.

“I loved my schools. I was always happy to be there,” she said. “But honestly, when I came to college I didn’t notice any difference in abilities between private school and public school kids.”

Freshman Jazmon Prenatt, who went to public school, agreed with Shapira. “Public and private education have different methods, but they both get the job done,” she said. “I definitely do not feel at a disadvantage here because I didn’t go to private school.”

PRIVATE SCHOOLS | BY THE NUMBERS

6.1 million: prekindergarten - 12th grade students enrolled in private schools in America

29,000: private schools in America

82: percent of private schools that are religiously-affiliated

20: percent of students who come from families that make \$100,000 a year or more that attend private schools

55: percent of parents who currently send their children to public schools who would want to send them to private schools

553: the average SAT verbal score of students from independent schools in 2005. The national average was 508.2

31: percent of parents of students attending private, parochial or home school who are completely or somewhat satisfied with the quality of the nation’s education, compared to 56 percent of students attending public school

\$43,500: the tuition for day students at The Forman School, the most expensive private school in the country (For boarders, the cost is \$53,000.)

35: percent of students at The Forman School who receive financial aid

—compiled from Council for American Private Education, theformanschool.org and gallup.com by Sarah Butrymowicz



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ALBUM REVIEW

Matt & Kim's latest does not live up to 'Grand' expectations

BY MATTHEW DIGIROLAMO
Daily Editorial Board

A keyboard-and-drum duo is certainly a novel approach to indie rock, and the fact that such a group could produce catchy

Grand
Matt and Kim
★★★★☆
Fader Label

dance-punk songs without the aid of a guitar or bass is downright impressive. But two instruments can only accomplish so much together, especially within such a unique sound, and Matt & Kim's second release, "Grand," fails to build upon the band's previous success.

The Brooklyn duo, composed of Matt Johnson on keyboard and vocals, and Kim Schifino on drums, met at the Pratt Institute's school of architecture and started creating music in 2004. They quickly gained popularity playing shows across Brooklyn and promoting their interesting style of dance-punk via Myspace.com and Youtube.com. While their original self-titled album may have been considered groundbreaking, "Grand" is disappointingly repetitive.

It's not that the album isn't catchy or fun to listen to, but the same keyboard lines and drum beats seem to reappear in many songs. This repetition is most apparent in songs like "I Wanna" and "Lessons Learned." These tracks have beats worth dancing to and great synth lines that make them addictive, but for listeners who prefer a little more variety they may fall flat.



Matt & Kim's second album, 'Grand,' fails to live up to its name.

The album's first single, "Daylight," is its shining star, leaving no doubt as to why it was chosen as the lead track. The song is an exercise in pure musical pleasure, and Matt & Kim don't hide their pleasure while playing this song. The lyrics may be hard to interpret at first, but upon closer inspection

it's evident that the song is an anthem for good times. Johnson chirps, "and in the daylight we can hitchhike to Maine/ I hope that someday I'll see without these frames," painting a picture of a carefree road trip and

see GRAND, page 7

DEVIN TOOHEY |
THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

How I learned to stop worrying and hate the Academy



The Oscars: They're stupid, pointless, overblown and mean nothing about a film's quality or importance (look at 1958 and marvel at the near-complete absence of Hitchcock's arguably greatest work, "Vertigo" (1958)). Yet I can't help but care. They are the ultimate example of "the Ugly." So let's weigh in on a few things, shall we?

The technical awards are the biggest fraud. Because it's not really "Best Costume Design" or "Best Film Editing," but "Best Film Editing in a film we've nominated for a bunch of other things, oh, and let's throw in a few summer flicks so we don't look all high and mighty." I mean, do you think a forgettable film like "Wanted" (2008) honestly stands a chance of winning "Best Sound Mixing" against "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" (2008), "The Dark Knight" (2008) or "Slumdog Millionaire" (2008), even if it does have the best sound mixing? Of course not. "Dark Knight," "Benny" and "Slumdog" will gobble these up like the overrated vultures that they are.

On to Heath Ledger, who won "Best Supporting Actor" the second they signed his death certificate. The masses and critics were clamoring for a posthumous Oscar before "The Dark Knight" trailer even came out. And when Ledger wins, the Academy will be framed as finally looking past the hype of prestige films and recognizing a good performance for what it is. Somebody shoot me.

Furthermore, I have a problem with people who say, "Well, who can you think of that would deserve it more?" Because — like an ardent pro-choicer hearing "How can you kill innocent babies?" — I cannot help but think that the other side is automatically assuming an initial premise with which I just don't agree. I can think of dozens of people more deserving. I would have nominated Ledger for a Razzie, thank you very much!

It's obvious that the Academy holds itself to few, if any, ethical standards. Officially, being nominated for "Best Animated Feature" does not prevent a film from getting nominated for "Best Picture." Watch "Wall-E" (2008). Watch most other films from this year, including many of the nominated ones. Hell, if you're a critic-lover, you can even read the reviews. Then come back to me, and tell me how honest the Academy is being.

Speaking of "Wall-E," since it's the only one of the nominees that's also nominated for "Best Original Screenplay," it's pretty much a shoo-in. The same goes for "Man on Wire" (2008), as that's the only documentary that anyone has heard of.

I doubt that "Milk" (2008) or "Slumdog" will take home the big gold daddy, but the Academy may try to do a repeat of Ang Lee of "Brokeback Mountain" (2005) and give one of these films the directing nod. One comrade of mine likened this to a Tufts freshman trying to figure out which will give him or her more cred: having a gay friend or an Indian friend. Granted, Gus Van Sant is actually gay while Danny Boyle is just a 21st century example of British imperialism, but who really cares about the actual director anyway?

On the topic of directors, I must ask, oh Academy, why dost thou hate Darren Aronofsky so? Your omission of "Requiem for a Dream" (2000) was

see TOOHEY, page 7

VENUE PROFILE

The Middle East attracts obscure, impressive bands

BY MITCHELL GELLER
Daily Editorial Board

Mention the Middle East and many things come to mind. Indie rock, however, is not usually one of them ... at least not for people outside of the Boston area.

The Middle East
Central Square on the Red Line
472 Massachusetts Ave
Cambridge, MA 02139
617-492-1886

The Middle East Restaurant & Nightclub, which first opened its doors as a Lebanese restaurant in 1974, is currently one of Boston's premier music venues for independent and underground musical acts, from rock to hip hop to electronic and everything in between.

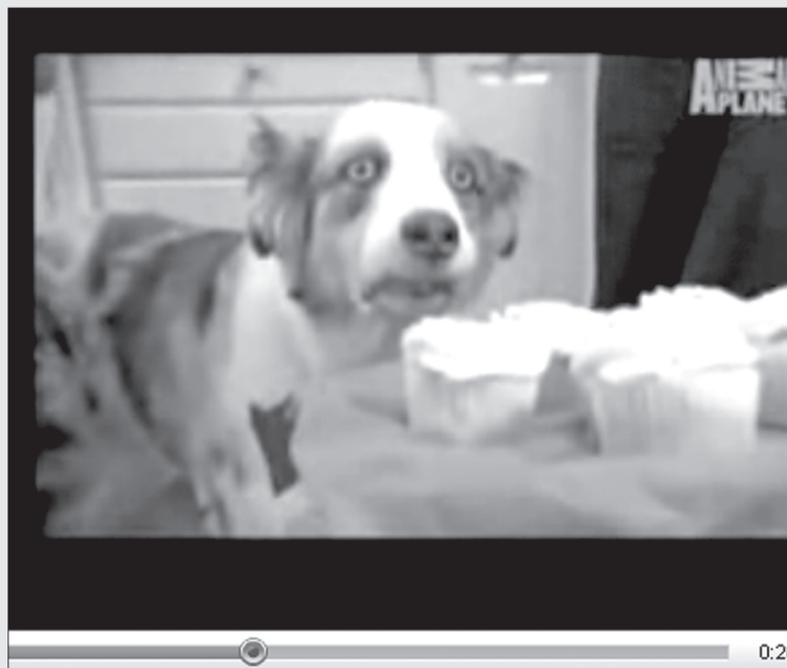
The original restaurant is still present, but the business has expanded into four adjacent spaces: The Corner, which is the original eatery; Upstairs at the Middle East, a smaller live music venue; ZuZu, a smaller, more expensive restaurant space and, the most well-known portion, Downstairs at the Middle East, a large music space that is often referred to simply as "The Middle East."

The Corner sits above Downstairs at the Middle East and offers fairly standard Middle-Eastern cuisine, ranging from hummus and grape leaves to baklava and a variety of salads and grilled entrées. The food is decent, but not breathtaking; most people

see DOWNSTAIRS, page 6

ONLINE @ tuftsdaily.com

Check out the viral video of the week at 'THE SCENE'



Each week the Daily Arts Department will choose the latest, most contagious video currently circulating on the web. A link to the video and a brief description are posted on our blog, "The Scene," at tuftsdaily.com.

This week's video is a clip from the E! Network show "The Soup." It features part of an episode of "It's Me or the Dog," in which a dog trainer helps people with their unruly pets.

The video's premise is simple: Stains the dog likes to eat human food, so trainer Victoria Sitwell trains him to "stay" when presented with a tasty treat. While practicing the command, hilarity ensues. This video has already been likened to the "Dramatic Chipmunk" and parodied endlessly.

The Middle East in Cambridge is comprised of four parts including two restaurants and two performance spaces for small name bands with big followings

DOWNSTAIRS

continued from page 5
just come for the music.

Next door to The Corner sits ZuZu, with a smaller, more intimate setting. The food offered is more upscale than that of the Corner, but the increase in quality comes at a steep price. Upstairs at the Middle East is a small venue with a capacity of just under two hundred people, and often gets smaller, local acts.

Even when a band is blasting highly distorted dissonance at a sold-out crowd, the band's fans feel like they are part of something special.

The real draw is Downstairs at the Middle East. The club has a capacity of 575, though it feels smaller. Concert-goers enter from a side door around the corner from The Corner and descend a flight of stairs to get to Downstairs.

The club itself is narrow but fairly long. The stage is located opposite from the entrance and is just big enough for a five-piece band or one particularly animated single performer, although many artists make use of the floor as well. It would be difficult to leave empty space on-stage at the Middle East. To the left of the stage lies an elevated area which is usually cordoned off for 21-and-over guests with a full bar and a few booths, and to the right of the stage along



MEREDITH KLEIN/TUFTS DAILY

Every Wednesday at 9:30 p.m., visitors to The Corner can enjoy free belly dancing and live music.

the wall is another fully stocked bar. Most shows at the Middle East are 18-and-over, but there are some for all ages. Occasionally they host 21-and-over nights, but these are few and far between.

The acoustics of the space are

surprisingly strong, helped, no doubt, by the speaker stacks located on either side of the stage that boast over a dozen large speakers in total. The Middle East is standing room only, and it is not uncommon for audience members to find

themselves jammed up against the speakers. For those who enjoy their hearing abilities, earplugs are highly recommended.

Shows at the Middle East are usually not Billboard-Top-40 artists, but they often sell out nonethe-

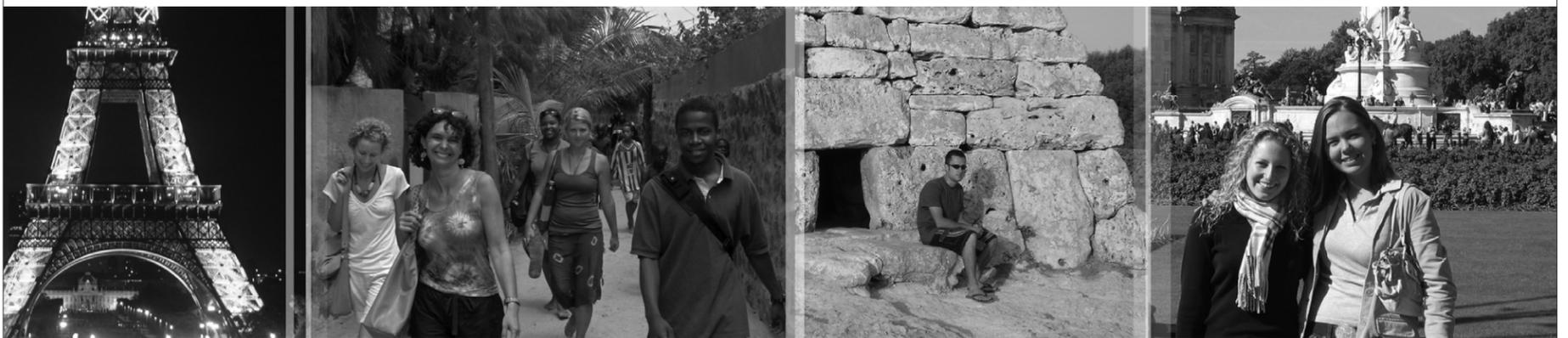
less, drawing large college crowds. The bands that perform at the club may be smaller names, but they still have very dedicated followings. The Middle East has hosted bands that have gone on to make it big, such as The Flaming Lips, Public Enemy, TV on the Radio, Elliot Smith and Modest Mouse. Even the Jonas Brothers and up-and-coming groups like No Age, Sunset Rubdown, RJD2 and Matt & Kim have performed here.

The atmosphere during these shows is high-energy. Sure, sometimes crowds will be filled with too-cool-to-dance hipsters, but mini mosh pits (large scale moshing and crowd surfing are frowned upon for liability reasons) often pop up when appropriate.

The nice thing about the Middle East Downstairs is the intimacy of the space. Even when a band is blasting highly distorted dissonance at a sold-out crowd, the band's fans feel like they are part of something special. Leaning up against the stage and screaming along with a favorite song makes one remember why live musical performances are so important. A venue like the Middle East is rare and indispensable, especially in the age when music fans increasingly hear only MP3s and see YouTube.com videos of their favorite bands.

Upcoming shows at the Middle East include Delta Spirit, Mae, ...And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead, Joe Budden, Black Lips, Razorlight and Dan Deacon. Tickets are available on Ticketmaster or at the door. The Middle East is located at 472/480 Massachusetts Ave. in Cambridge, located near the Central Square T-stop on the red line.

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Matt and Kim's second album, although not terrible, falls prey to repetitive lyrics and beats

GRAND

continued from page 5

unbridled optimism for tomorrow.

The group capitalized on the brilliance of this song by including a remixed version of "Daylight," with an orchestral section and a slower tempo, as the album's closer. Though it is an interesting way to end an album and both versions of the song are musically different, some fans may feel cheated by a lack of effort.

Another gem is "Cinders," which is devoid of lyrics aside from Matt screaming a countdown at the beginning and end of the song. The track is short, much like the album itself, clocking in at under two minutes, but gives the band a chance to flex its musical muscle and write something somewhat varied from the other tracks on the album.

Unfortunately for Matt & Kim, the album doesn't build upon these tracks and develop into anything substantial, which is disappointing since the duo has a wealth of potential. Tracks like "Don't Slow Down" have an even greater lyrical intensity than "Daylight," but there is something missing: Johnson's keyboard parts are dull at best and provide little variety. "I'll Take Us Home" has just the opposite problem as Johnson's keyboard sections have very different melodies but Schifino seems to play the same beat over and over again. It's as if the two have trouble coordinating their talent. On many tracks, one shines while the other fails to make an artistic contribution.

On of the few songs that rates somewhere in between bad and good is "Good Ol' Fashion Nightmare." While the track falls victim to the same repetitive traps



MYSAPCE.COM

Matt Johnson and Kim Schifino live in a corrugated steel house.

previously discussed, the way the simple and melodic singing of "Oh, like a good ol' fashion nightmare" harmonizes with the backing synth makes for a fun listen.

Despite the repetitive nature of "Grand," the album is not terrible by any means. Fans of Matt & Kim will enjoy the disc, though

they may still prefer the band's first effort over this. New listeners will likely embrace the album outright, finding enjoyment in the unique combination of indie and dance music.

Matt & Kim will be coming to the House of Blues in Boston on March 22.

Toohey explores all that is ugly in the Academy Awards

TOOHEY

continued from page 5

a lamentable mistake, but its small initial release, experimental style and scary content at least gave me reason to understand your vile prejudice. "The Fountain" (2006) was a misunderstood masterpiece, and I would have been shocked if your meager minds could have grasped its beauty. But "The Wrestler" (2008)? Amidst the craze, the hype and the awards, how could you only give Marisa Tomei and Mickey Rourke nominations?

Did you fail to see how Aronofsky's camera so beautifully works like brilliant prose? Did the script not move you, with its mild nuances and strong dialogue? Was the film itself so above you that you had to toss "Best Picture" nominations to pieces of garbage?

And let's not forget the most horrible snub in the midst of the atrocious "Wrestler" hatred: Bruce Springsteen. As a true and proud Jersey-ite, I have to ask where the *#&\$ was Bruce's nomination? Only three best songs, two of them from "Slumdog" (when the only memorable song in that movie was MIA's "Paper Planes"), and no love for The Boss?

So here's how this years awards are going to go down: Tomei will lose, and that is fair. I would give best supporting actress to Viola Davis for managing to upstage Meryl Streep. But will Rourke lose as well? His performance is astound-

ing, but the Academy let their Aronofsky-hatred overpower them once before when they gave Ellen Burstyn's Oscar to Julia Robert's insipid turn as Erin Brockovich.

It's obvious that the Academy holds itself to few, if any, ethical standards.

One can hope that Rourke will win or, if not him, Sean Penn (and chances are that the Academy is at least sane enough for that). I prefer Rourke since he created his character from scratch, and I never know where to draw the line between acting and an impression when playing a historical figure. Frank Langella steered away from a traditional Nixon impression but veered into the deranged lovechild of Nixon and Jimmy Stewart. It's doubtful, but I have a horrible fear that the pretty, popular boy, Brad Pitt, will take home the golden boy for his role as Benjamin Button, which was as compelling as a vacuum cleaner instruction manual.

Join me next week when I weigh in on the big five mommas of them all. And, oh yes, I will not be happy.

Devin Toohey is a senior majoring in classics. He can be reached at Devin.Toohy@tufts.edu.

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EDITORIAL

Investing in more transparency

In the spring of 2007, following repeated requests that the Tufts endowment be made more transparent, the Board of Trustees authorized an Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility (ACSR), which was to be comprised of undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty and alumni. This group was to be tasked with examining the way in which the endowment was invested and making recommendations to the trustees to avoid unwelcome entanglements in companies and regions of which the student body largely disapproves. At the time, the creation of the ACSR was seen as a welcome addition that would give student input (from graduates and undergraduates) to the Trustees and to provide a window for contributors and alumni into the spending of their donated money.

Today, however, the membership of the ACSR has been whittled down to three undergraduate students after the group was ultimately denied the use of graduate students and faculty advis-

ing. Furthermore, these dogged undergraduates have discovered that their recommendations have been ignored since last spring because, according to Patricia Campbell, their input was "not the kind of in-depth research and advice the trustees hoped to see from the students." While we at the Daily have plenty of faith in the ability of the Tufts undergraduate student body to perform in-depth research, we also believe that the ACSR could perhaps have contributed "the kind of in-depth research and advice the trustees hoped to see" had they been allowed to have graduate student or faculty members. If the issue with the group is that their briefings are not professional enough, there is an easy solution: let them liaise with a professional.

To be clear, we at the Daily do not support giving the ACSR the power of veto or even a substantial role in the process of investing the endowment. The trustees are perfectly welcome to ignore the ACSR's recommendations if they so choose, and they probably will.

The trustees are professionals who are explicitly tasked with managing the endowment, and the student body has no right to usurp their duties and overrule their expertise. This, we concede. But the administration should at least let the ACSR have a graduate student or a faculty member who is able to explain to the undergraduates what they are seeing and help them to formulate their response.

As it stands, the ACSR is worthless, not only to the trustees, who might at least find their recommendations interesting, but to the three disconsolate undergraduates who make up the diluted and disregarded ACSR, who are getting nothing out of this experience.

Tufts University is dedicated to education; that is, after all, what we are here for. These students are passionate about this issue and motivated to understand and examine it. The administration should encourage that passion and give them the tools they need to develop it.

WAYNE STAYSKAL



OFF THE HILL | UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Phelps needs to rebuild image

BY EMILY WEITHMAN
The Daily Gamecock

Well, I hope he at least got the pot for free.

The notorious snapshot of Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps taking a hit from a bong has been the subject of much media attention in the last day or so, and has also, unfortunately, been confirmed by the prominent athlete himself. Phelps made no comment other than to state his apologies.

There seems to be controversy, or at least confusion, about what Phelps did wrong. The man committed a minor infraction. He participated in an activity where no one was hurt. He expressed regret for his actions. These statements are all true, but to what degree? Possession of marijuana, despite vigorous argument, is in fact a criminal offense. Phelps won't be charged, but he has been disgraced. And was no one hurt by his actions? Not his millions of fans or the people he represents as an American

Olympian? Confusion indeed abounds.

As for regret, I can only hope that his apologies were sincere and not an effort to salvage his image or his sponsorships. Are we naïve enough to think this was the first time? Will it be his last offense?

Phelps said, "I engaged in behavior which was regrettable and demonstrated bad judgment ... For this, I am sorry. I promise my fans and the public — it will not happen again."

Yeah, it won't happen again. On camera. And for those blithely unaware of current events, it all happened during Phelps' November 2008 visit to Gamecock Country. Now a new Facebook.com group called "Michael Phelps Smoked Weed at my School" is circulating and his fan page is brimming with reassuring comments.

One USC student wrote to his new idol: "Hey Michael, it makes me sad to think that you were so willing to apologize to the nation. If someone can win more gold medals [sic] than most small countries and still smoke weed, more power to you," the

student said. "I think that people need to learn that they don't get to dictate how celebrities live their lives. I'd have liked to see you make that stand, but I realize why you felt you had to apologize."

Overlooking the blatant misspelling of the word "medals," I have to find fault with another part of this dissertation. The writer feels that celebrities should be exempt from public examination. Their private lives should be held to the same standards as those of any regular person. But what most people seem to forget is that celebrities are not regular. They face public scrutiny, but also enjoy public adoration and other special treatment. Does this man deserve millions of dollars in sponsorships, and to have a blind eye turned every time he messes up and embarrasses not only himself, but his country too?

Until yesterday, Phelps was a hero and a role model to people everywhere. Respect like that is not handed out; it must be earned. And no amount of gold medals can replace good judgment.

The dissenting opinion from the TCU Senate's recovered funds vote

BY BRANDON RATTINER AND
ELLIOT MCCARTHY

To students, \$20 is a lot of money and deciding how to spend \$100 constitutes a big decision. So when the Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate was given the task of distributing \$687,780, it was a downright scary amount of money. There were literally thousands of ways to mess up the decision and spend it unwisely. The fear of wasting the money ended up overwhelming the TCU Senate, eventually leading to an ultra-conservative decision to save nearly all of it. Out of the whole sum, only \$88,000 was spent directly on student groups or projects.

Both of us, along with the six others who voted against this proposal, could not be more disappointed by the Senate's lack of action. The 18 members of the body that voted for this proposal let their fear cripple their optimism and duty. This sum of money may have been frightfully large, but the opportunity to make real, tangible, positive change on campus was even larger. By doing nothing, the Senate ran away from this opportunity with its tail between its legs.

Receiving the recovered funds was an

unbelievable and totally unique way to give back to the student body. As senators, we had near complete freedom regarding the funds, as long as we: 1) were being fiscally responsible, 2) were not binding future Senates with a decision and 3) were doing something to truly benefit the student body. The decision made on Dec. 7 and into the morning of Dec. 8 addresses the first two charges but ignores the third. The Senate chose to save approximately \$300,000 in a low risk and low return savings account; to put \$300,000 into a higher interest and higher risk endowment to gather interest and to benefit student activities; and approximately \$88,000 to be distributed to the student groups through the Allocations Board.

This is, of course, the fiscally responsible way to deal with the money, but it is also the path of a body that simply refused to make a decision. There were a number of legitimate plans and proposals on the table, but none were deemed worthy or necessary. Financial aid, campus center renovations, grants for creative programming, wireless and other great ideas were deemed unworthy by the TCU Senate. Moreover, helping build a new trips cabin, a measure visibly supported by Tufts Mountain Club and many other students at nearly all recovered funds func-

tions, did not even make the final ballot the student body was able to vote on. The dismissal of all of these ideas was a slap in the face to all students that campaigned and worked hard to get their ideas passed through the system.

As senators, we are entrusted with the burden of making difficult decisions that promote the welfare of the student body. As senators, we failed to meet our responsibility in regards to the recovered funds. Spending recklessly would have been just as foolish as not spending, but there were numerous good ideas being discussed. Saving the money for the sake of saving is a ridiculous notion. Does the TCU Senate simply believe that one day a new brilliant idea will arbitrarily surface? Why not at least give the money back to the students in an innovative grant program that allows them to control the funds (junior Xavier Malina's idea)? Money is meant to be spent and has absolutely zero utility when sitting in a bank account. The ideas were there; the courage the senators needed to vote on them was not. Hopefully, this lack of decisive action will be only a temporary roadblock in the quest to better the Tufts experience.

Fortunately, the benefit of saving the money is that it is still there. Both of us

encourage everyone in the student body to press their senators a little harder this semester in an effort to make them decide on something concrete. In fact, between the wounded economy and the shrinking endowment, saving the money for programs might actually be a good idea. But it is important that the saved money is earmarked for something. The whole point of this article is to re-launch the conversation. New ideas are always welcome, and pressure on the TCU Senate is always appropriate. As elected representatives, the desires of our constituents are of paramount importance to us, and with some student activism, hopefully some other senators will begin to make decisions they can be held accountable for. If you see a senator walking down the street or at a party, please tell him or her how you feel. Tell him or her that we have a golden chance to make a timeless impact on the Tufts community. Tell him or her to do what is right for Tufts.

Brandon Rattiner, co-chair of the TCU Senate Education Committee, is a junior majoring in political science and philosophy. Elliot McCarthy, a TCU senator, is a freshman who has not yet declared a major.

Student action at the Fares Lecture

BY JUSTIN BIRUDAVOL

I am writing to show my distaste with a large portion of the student body, based on their actions at the Issam M. Fares Lecture featuring the Right Honourable Tony Blair on Feb. 2, 2009. My principle complaint is that a majority of the attending students left their seats and headed for the door while Mr. Blair was still speaking on stage. Mr. Blair was finishing up his speech, making some last comments and saying thank you to Tufts for having him. During this, however, students began speaking loudly and left their seats for the door. These simple actions are symbolically weighted with signs of disrespect, rudeness and disregard for international figures and respected members of academia, including Mr. Issam M. Fares and President Lawrence Bacow.

Mr. Blair did not walk from a nearby house or from somewhere on campus — he flew here from London. As he noted in his speech, he began his day at 6:00 a.m. and managed to be on one of the only, if not the only, planes to leave London at that time due to their snowstorm. He could have easily cancelled the trip and spent the day with his son, who as Mr. Blair also mentioned in his speech, was ecstatic about the snowfall.

But even if Mr. Blair was already in Boston, he is one of the world's leading political figures. He was a guest at our university who went out of his way to come speak to us about the very issues we are studying in our courses. The students' actions last night did not reflect this. Any guest at Tufts deserves our respect and we should have the decency to hear that guest out.

I was speaking with a friend after the lecture, and he was telling me that he saw Mr. Blair speak while he was studying abroad at the London School of Economics. At that speech, my friend said, the attending students not once left their seats, stayed for the entire question-and-answer session, stood and clapped at the end of the speech and then waited for Mr. Blair to leave the stage before they proceeded to leave as well. These students even dressed more formally than British students typically do, as a sign of respect. This is the type of behavior that a student body should show. Tufts students, especially those in International Relations, claim that they are outstanding scholars and are model students in their respected fields. Yet their actions in front of the very person many are hoping to be one day did not reflect this.

This incident is part of a larger pattern at Tufts. In classes, students pack up their things, stand up and head for the door while the professor is still speaking. Tufts students must be under the impression that they decide when the class finishes, not the professor. Even if the class is running over the scheduled time, it is not an excuse to leave. Students should be happy they are getting more class time for their money. These are professors we are studying under, respected members of academia. You wouldn't walk away from a friend when he or she starts to finish what they were saying in a conversation, so why do you do so when a professor is speaking?

I read an article regarding e-mail etiquette published on Oct. 16, 2008 in the Daily entitled "Professors feel that e-mail lingo and poor grammar lead to overly casual exchanges." I was shocked that there even was a problem with that. Students should



REBEKAH SOKOL/TUFTS DAILY

know how to write a formal e-mail and always err on the side of caution. If there is a clear indication from the professor that signals that a less formal approach is welcomed, then by all means respond in an appropriate manner.

I interned with the State Department at the U.S. Embassy in Paris for a semester. In the Office of Political Affairs, where I worked, the Foreign Service Officers would address each other and the Deputy Minister-Counselor and even the Minister-Counselor by their first names. This is done as an effort to create stronger and closer relationships in the office. That being said, it was also appropriate, and sometimes expected, that in certain situations you address any superior as "sir" or "ma'am." This goes for the classroom. Students should understand their relationships with professors.

I've heard stories of students arguing with professors over grades and the student saying something along the lines of "I don't deserve this grade. This is not what I am paying you for." My response to that is, "How dare you speak to a professor that way, you self-righteous (insert expletive of your choice here)?"

Never mind that these people are respected members of academia — that is no way to speak to anyone.

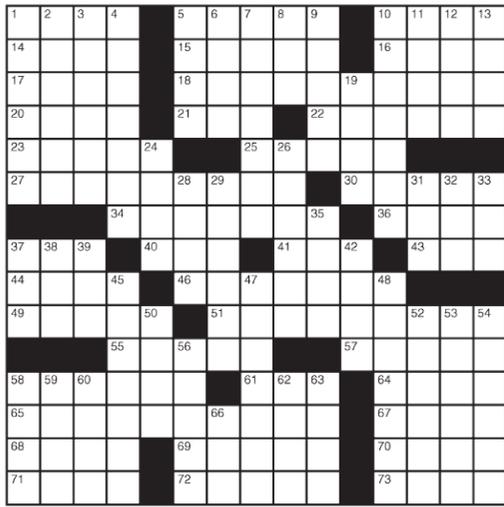
I taught middle school students this summer, and one of my classroom rules was that no one was to pack up before I finished speaking and concluded the day's lesson. I did not want to see my students behave like some of the students at Tufts. If they did, I would be embarrassed that those students whom I had taught were showing such disrespect.

I do not claim a moral high ground by this piece. I am well aware of cases where I have erred. But I have learned from those cases and am working to never act that way again. I hope that those students who left while Mr. Blair was speaking, or those who pack up and leave while a professor is still talking, will not continue to do so in the future. I ask this for the sake of our student body, so we are not negatively labeled in the future, but instead praised at the level we have the potential to reach.

Justin Birudavol is a senior majoring in International Relations.

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
 1 Chamber
 5 Tidy any loose ends
 10 Lawn waterer
 14 Ms. Bombeck
 15 Surfaced
 16 Ms. Fitzgerald
 17 Ceases to function
 18 Graveyards
 20 Dusting powder, briefly
 21 Bound
 22 Incarnate
 23 Shaq of the NBA
 25 Like a haunted house
 27 Nationalistic
 30 Flier
 34 Besets
 36 Skier's transport
 37 Stallone, to friends
 40 The Greatest
 41 Guilemot's cousin
 43 Wail like a baby
 44 Promissory notes
 46 Most favorable
 49 Heavy reading
 51 Incorrect
 55 Radio, TV, etc.
 57 Flash of light
 58 "I Love Lucy" studio
 61 Retirement letters
 64 Centerward
 65 Type of seizure
 67 Fat-free milk
 68 Gradual diminution
 69 Type of fairy
 70 Leak slowly
 71 Roman tyrant
 72 Binge
 73 Tacks on
- DOWN
 1 Colorful grass
 2 Journalist
 3 Fallaci
 3 Brunch order
 4 Lash coating
 5 Speed-of-sound number



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2/4/09

SOLUTIONS



- 6 Dunkable treat
 7 City under Vesuvius
 8 Operate
 9 One Fonda
 10 Marshall or Hoover
 11 Jumble
 12 Snow glider
 13 Not difficult
 19 Give forth
 24 Bart's sister
 26 Cream-filled dessert
 28 Norway's capital
 29 Taiwan's capital
 31 Easy as
 32 Train unit
 33 Make an effort
 35 Japanese wrestling
 37 Take a chair
 38 Old card game
 39 M-m-m-m good!
 42 "Fu"
 45 Part-time athlete
 47 Turncoat
 48 Singer Etheridge

- 50 Vend
 52 Sounded like a pig
 53 Loose
 54 Tramples
 56 Compositions for two
 58 Daily start
 59 Fencing tool
 60 Take to the sky
 62 Ceremonial act
 63 Dull pain
 66 Flatfoot

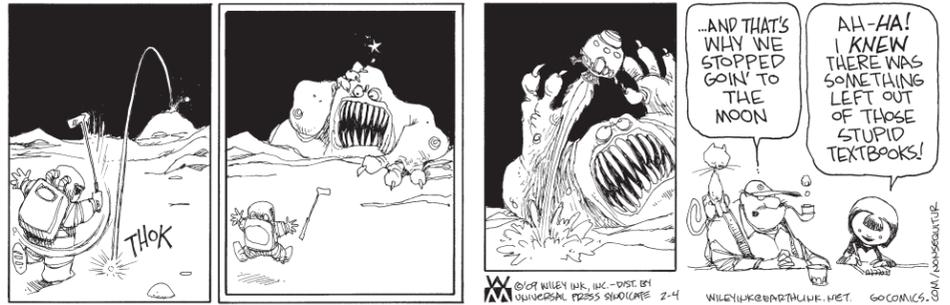
DOONESBURY

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



NON SEQUITUR

BY WILEY



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JUMBLE

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

FLAIN
 ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

ENVIL
 ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

MULVLE
 ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

MOINCE
 ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Ans: ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○, ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek



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

SUDOKU

Level: Launching foundations for faith and sports within six months of each other

	9				1		4
3				8			
		8	5		2		
6				1			3
		2				7	
1				3			2
			8	7	3	2	
							5 6
	2						
		1					
							3

Solution to Tuesday's puzzle

8	1	7	4	9	5	3	2	6
9	3	2	8	7	6	1	5	4
4	6	5	2	1	3	8	7	9
3	2	1	6	8	9	7	4	5
6	5	4	7	3	2	9	8	1
7	9	8	1	5	4	2	6	3
2	8	3	5	6	1	4	9	7
1	4	6	9	2	7	5	3	8
5	7	9	3	4	8	6	1	2

LATE NIGHT AT THE DAILY



Evans: "I'm baller at Tetris."
 Sarah: "Calling yourself baller at Tetris doesn't make you cool."



Please recycle this Daily

Event	Housing	Housing	Housing	Wanted	Wanted
<p>Chaplains Table - Religion and Politics 2/5/09 from 5-7 PM in MacPhie Conference Room - Dewick Dining Hall. Reverend David O Leary, D. Phil. University Chaplain. Chaplains Table Overview of Program.</p> <p>Noontime Concert Thursday, February 5, 2009 - 12:30 PM. Leah Kosch, piano. ALL ARE WELCOME</p>	<p>3 and 4 BR Apts. Both beautiful apartments have been completely refinished. Entire house rebuilt. Great location close to main campus. Parking option available. Rental available 9/1/09. \$1800 and \$2300. No fees. Just Beautiful. Call (781) 526-8471. Thanks.</p> <p>4 Bedroom, 2 Bath Apt. Amazing location, 2 blocks from Tufts, newly renovated, stunningly beautiful. Huge sunny rooms, 2 new bathrooms, new hardwood floors, new designer windows, new heating, electric, kitchen. Parking negotiable. Available 9/1/09 \$2400. No fees. (781) 396-4657</p> <p>3 Bedroom, Curtis Ave. 53 Curtis Ave. Somerville. 3 BR Eat-in Kitchen, Full Living room, new decks, laundry system, parking, new heating system and windows. \$2000. Russ 978 663-6370</p>	<p>4 Bedroom, Curtis Ave. 53 Curtis Ave. Somerville. 4 BR Eat-in Kitchen, Full Living room, new decks, laundry system, parking, new heating system and windows. \$2400. Russ 978 663-6370</p> <p>6 Bedroom Apt at Tufts Large 6 bdrm/2 bath on Walker St, across from Tufts football field, newly updated, washer/dryer, lots of off-street parking, storage, porches, yard, subletting O.K., \$625/bdrm/month, available June 1. Call Tom 617-413-5716 or TomCDriscoll@comcast.net</p> <p>Great 4 Br Apt Available for next school year. June 1, 2009 - May 30th 2010 - Right near school. Last one left \$2450 - Call 617-448-6233</p> <p>Available for Lease 3 Bedroom, very close to campus, for school year 2009-2010. Common room, big kitchen, parking - ACT NOW WONT LAST. Call 617-448-6233</p>	<p>3 and 4 Bedroom Apartments (781) 863-0440 No fees, \$525-\$645/BR. Clean modern apartments next to Tufts on quiet street. New washer & dryer. Large modern kitchens with new refrigerators, dishwashers, and oak cabinets. Bathrooms remodeled. Hardwood floors, front and back porches, garages.</p> <p>4 Bedroom Apt at Tufts Large 4 bdrm on Walker St., across from Tufts football field, newly updated, washer/dryer, lots of off-street parking, storage, porches, yard, subletting O.K., \$625/bdrm/month., available June 1. Call Tom 617-413-5716 or TomCDriscoll@comcast.net</p>	<p>Tufts University Conference Bureau & Summer Programs Positions now available in conference facilitation, office administration, and residential counseling. Many positions include housing and duty meals. Visit our employment website at http://www.ase.tufts.edu/conferences/employment for details.</p>	<p>Sperm Donors Needed Cambridge. Up to 1200 dollars a month. Healthy MEN, wanted for California Cryobanks sperm donor program. APPLY ONLINE www.spermbank.com</p>

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Jumbos will take on Killington in last regional competition next weekend

SKIING

continued from page 16

impressive. In his second race of the day, he skied the 3,000-foot course in a time of 59.78 seconds, a blazing average of 34 miles per hour. Ladue's time was also only one second off the pace of the first-place finisher, senior Justin Schwartz of Castleton State, and less than seven tenths of a second off the pace of his teammate Bresee.

"Ladue had the race of his life," Hering said. "It was a treacherous, high-speed course. That hill is legendary. He creamed me; he beat the number two kid and came within [0.7 seconds], which is so close to the first. [His] top speeds were approaching 50 miles per hour."

Bresee also had a stellar day individually. He finished in second place out of a large field of 87 finishers — though there were a handful of skiers who did not finish the race or were disqualified — and was less than eight tenths of a second out of first.

With his strong Sunday showing,

Bresee solidified his sixth-place overall individual standing on the year. Trailing Bresee are Valentin in ninth, Ladue in 20th and Hering in 24th.

"Clearly, the strength is our team unity and the fact that we're competing very well even though we're a young team. The majority of our talent pool is all sophomores."

Greg Hering
junior

While the men took care of business on Sunday en route to their second-place finish, the women performed equally impressively but without the same result. The Jumbos, currently

in sixth place on the season, finished fifth out of eight full teams. Three other teams were racing short-handed, resulting in a much higher score due to an automatic last-place score taking the stead of the absent skier.

The Jumbos were led by freshman Jessica Levine, who came in with a time of 2:23.61 and was followed immediately by sophomore Lindsay Rutishauser with a time of 2:23.93 and freshman Fritz Pieper at 2:32.19. Senior captain Alissa Brandon had a mediocre first race and did not finish her second, leaving her out of the mix on Sunday.

"She fell and lost a ski," senior Pam Garfinkel said. "She was really ripping it down there and lost a ski or something. It's a really fast course at Dartmouth, so there are a lot of falls."

Saturday, however, was a different story. Brandon, as per usual, led the women's team with a combined time of 2:25.01, which was good enough for an 18th-place finish in the field of 80.

She was followed by Levine at 2:29.54 and Rutishauser at 2:33.58.

Unfortunately, Brandon's strong finish did not lift the team to a higher overall result than on Sunday. Once again, the Jumbos finished in fifth place out of nine full teams.

The men's team, in similar fashion to Sunday's result, took home second on Saturday as well. Bresee led the pack with a time of 2:14.12, Valentin was second with 2:15.88 and Hering third with 2:18.27.

The last mountain standing between the Jumbos and the regional competition on Feb. 21-22 is Killington next weekend, a course where the Jumbos have had mixed results.

"[Our] goals are just to keep up the momentum into the last race," Garfinkel said.

"We've skied there a couple of times already this year. We're enthusiastic ... We know the terrain pretty well. We'll be looking to exceed expectations, definitely."



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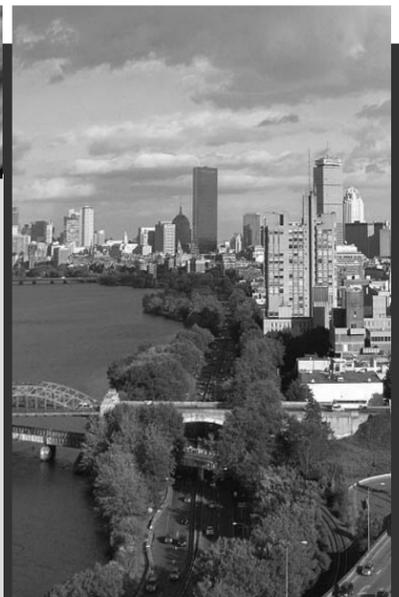
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Tufts

Jumbo epeeists remain confident as winter fencing season winds down

FENCING

continued from page 16

meet of the year in Jackson Gym against NYU, another team that has received votes in the NCAA national poll. The end result for Tufts was a narrow defeat, but the Jumbos came away feeling they'd put forth a strong effort.

"I didn't do too great, but I've only had two weeks of practice, and NYU is solid," said junior foilist Naomi Bryant, who is also the executive arts editor for the Daily and who spent last semester abroad.

Tufts' sabre captain, junior Alex Cheetham, also recently returned from abroad, and in her short time back on the Hill is already noticing improvement in the young sabre squad.

"We still have somewhere to go as a fairly new team, but I think we did very well against a very good team in NYU," Cheetham said. "As the season progresses, we've shown a marked improvement. Sarah Danly did very well, going 2-1. She's a freshman, and she's improved a lot since last meet."

Epee's dominating 8-1 win against NYU displayed the level of progress the other weapons

are seeking.

"I didn't know what to expect against NYU," Hughes said. "Last year we didn't do nearly as well. But this was a big deal for us. We had a lot of bouts go to the final touch and we won them 5-4, and those feel good because they could go either way."

The tensest bout of the day came on the middle strip in Jackson where, with Tufts freshman foilist Meredith Paul knotted in her individual match at four points apiece, a victory could have kept the Jumbos in contention for the overall win.

"I was backed up and then I lost a meter, so I was only allowed one foot on the strip," Paul said. "And then I lost. It was disappointing."

Tufts eventually fell 15-12, with sabre and foil both going 2-7, but coach Jason Sachs expressed no disappointment.

"It was a tremendous improvement," he said. "NYU is strong. It was a little like David vs. Goliath. [Senior foil captain] Christine Lee beat an A-ranked fencer. You can see the improvement as we're getting back into the swing of things."

"She beat me last year, so I'm happy I got to beat her before I



COURTESY AARON DONOVAN

Junior epeeist Becca Hughes, shown here in last year's home meet vs. NYU, helped the epee squad go 8-1 against NYU on Saturday.

graduate," said Lee, who went 2-1 against NYU. "We're ranked Ds and Cs, so we did well considering how strong NYU is."

On Saturday, Tufts will host the second conference meet of the

year after recording a 2-4 performance last week in the first conference meet at Brown.

"I'm looking forward to fencing Wellesley," Hughes said of the upcoming Feb. 7 competi-

tion. "Every year that's a toss-up, but I think we should be able to beat them. Also, fencing BC again — I'd like to have a chance for the team to beat them, not just our weapon."

With O'Neal and Hill not getting any younger, Phoenix needs a quick fix

NBA

continued from page 15

Charlotte Bobcats, has been enough to ease the Suns' troubles. Granted, Richardson does nothing to improve a team that needs defensive help, but with his slashing ability and his terrific three-point shooting, he seemed like a natural fit for the Suns run-'n-gun offense.

Maybe the fans in Phoenix are giv-

ing up on this team too quickly, but the Suns look to be far from a championship-caliber team. As the **Boston Celtics** proved last season, and the **Detroit Pistons** and the Spurs have also shown, defense is the peg that championship teams hang their hats on. Despite all of the moves by GM Steve Kerr, the Suns look like they have fallen further from the top in the West.

Phoenix is just a half a game ahead of

the **Utah Jazz** in the fight for the playoffs. One team is going to be left out of this race, and it could be the Suns. So how can Phoenix get back near the top of the conference? If it involves trading Stoudemire, they will need to make sure they get quality defense in return.

Suns fans are trying to talk themselves off the ledge, and the 48-point win over the Kings does give a glimpse

of what this team can do when it is clicking. Still, with key cogs O'Neal and Grant Hill aging and the face of the franchise, Nash, slated to be a part of the 2010 free agent class, the window is closing in Phoenix. With this in mind, the Suns urgently need to find new ways to stay on the list of championship contenders as they continue to slip toward the middle of the pack in the league.

WE KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE ANY BIG PAPERS DUE YET. MIDTERMS? PLEASE.

TAKE SOME TIME AND WRITE AN OP-ED.

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The Op-Ed section of the Daily, an open forum for campus editorial commentary, is printed Monday through Thursday. Submissions are welcome from all members of the Tufts community. We accept opinion articles on any aspect of campus life, as well as articles on national or international news. Opinion pieces should be between 800 and 1,200 words. Please send submissions to oped@tuftsdaily.com in the form of a .doc or .docx file no later than 1 p.m. on the day prior to the desired date of publication. If you are unable to save your submission in one of these two formats, contact us for other instructions.

Please include a contact number with your submission.
Feel free to e-mail us with any questions.

INSIDE THE AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Tennis world's best battle their way through Melbourne

BY TIM JUDSON
Daily Editorial Board

While the 2009 Australian Open saw some familiar faces atop the podium, what the American non-tennis fanatic might have missed while 16 time zones apart from the action is just how close the world's current No. 1s — Rafael Nadal and Serena Williams — came to being dethroned.

While Nadal played with incredible heart, fighting five-set victories in both the semis and the finals and eventually defeating No. 2 seed Roger Federer, Williams won her matches by somewhat different means.

After seeing Williams struggle in the fourth round and quarterfinals of the tournament, sports analysts would have been diagnosed with Australian heat stroke had they predicted that she would go on to utterly dominate the world No. 3 Dinara Safina in the finals.

The tournament's No. 2 seed cruised through the first three rounds as expected, picking up a trio of straight-set victories over unranked opponents. In the fourth round, the younger Williams sister seemed unprepared for the young gun she was slotted to face.

Victoria Azarenka went into the tournament on fire, having won the Brisbane International Tournament the week prior to the start of the Grand Slam event. Azarenka handily dealt with her first three opponents, two in straight sets and one by way of forfeit, and went into her round of 16 match as an underdog — but an underdog with great confidence nonetheless.

Playing with the zest of a 19-year-old, the righty from Belarus caught Williams completely off-guard. In the first set, a stunned Williams could do little to combat the precision of her opponent. Azarenka took the set 6-3, breaking Williams twice.

The biggest statistical discrepancy undoubtedly was Azarenka's masterful serving, as she got an incredible 82 percent of her first serves in during the first set while Williams managed just 56 percent.

The American looked incredibly unsettled, bouncing the ball as many as 20 times before most of her serves. On one occasion, she took an unfathomable 37 bounces before serving — a stat that would make even Sergio Garcia, the

undisputed king of shot procrastination, stare in awe.

Thanks to the first-serve discrepancy as well as Azarenka's first-set advantage in winners, unforced errors and double faults, the teen handed Williams her first lost set of the tournament.

In the second set, Azarenka looked a bit out of tune as the two stepped back onto the court, and she called for a medical timeout with Williams up 3-2. After briefly leaving the court, Azarenka staggered back on looking weak and devastated. The distressed Azarenka haphazardly dropped one more game before she approached the net and forfeited the match.

A terribly-timed virus spelled the end to an incredible start to the match and allowed Williams to escape what could have been an early Aussie Open exit.

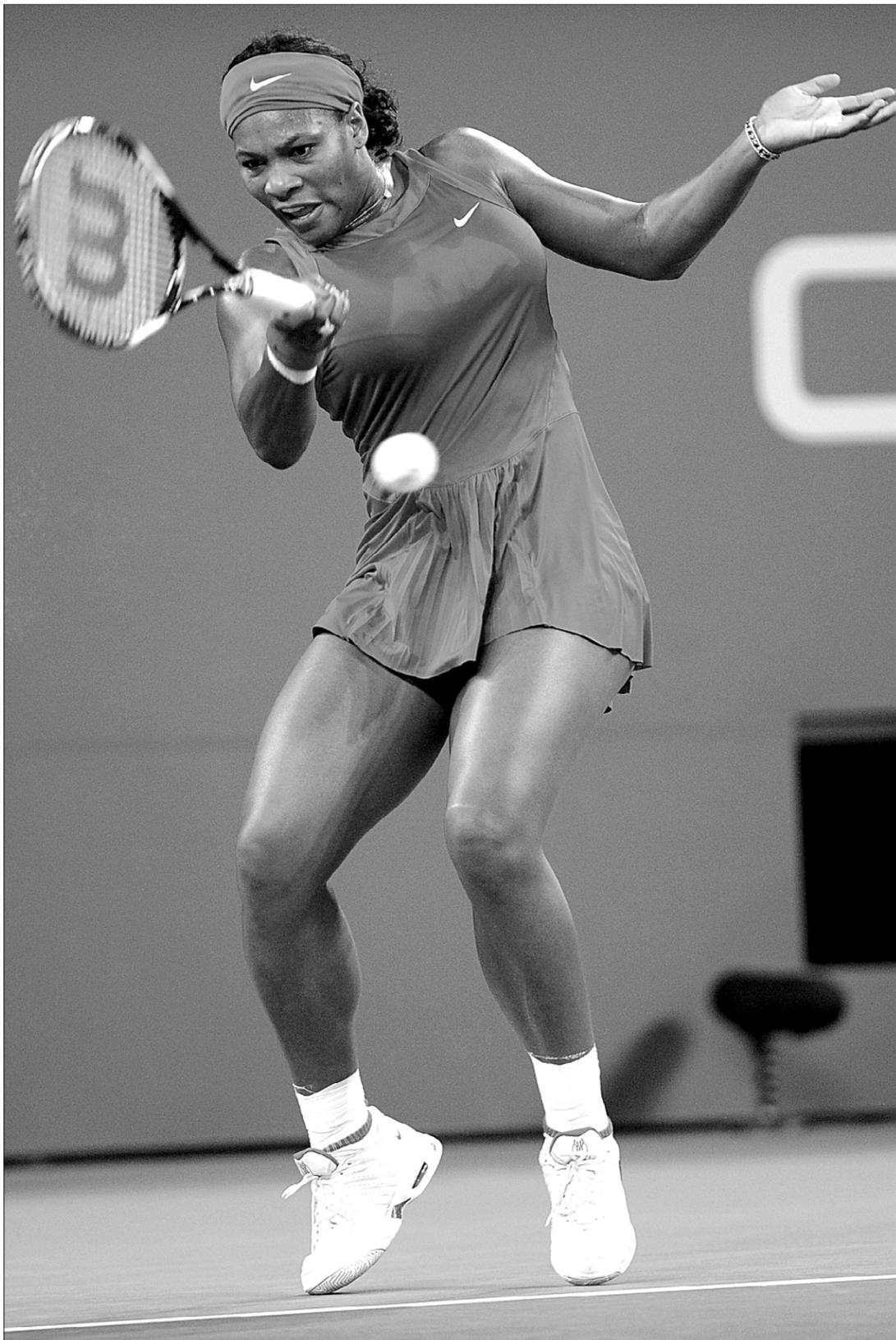
Williams then faced Russia's No. 8 seeded Svetlana Kuznetsova and, for the second time in three days, lost the first set.

Once again, a force outside the players' hands in the second set boosted Williams to victory. The hot Australian sun was heating the court to a staggering 41 degrees Celsius (106 Fahrenheit) and Williams seemed unable to cope. Before the start of the second, however, officials decided to close the roof to lower the temperature — a move that infuriated Kuznetsova.

Despite the change, the Russian gained a 5-4 lead and was serving for the match, but she was broken by a determined and no longer overheated Williams, who then easily took the final set and the match.

After Williams went on to destroy her final two opponents in straight sets, including a 6-0, 6-3 final victory over Safina in under an hour, critics may have stopped attributing Williams' success in the tournament to luck and nature. But the fact of the matter is that the now-No. 1 player in the world was outplayed in two of her middle-round matches, and only after two strokes of good fortune was she able to turn the tide and leave with a win.

Perhaps it was her destiny, as Williams also won the Australian Open in 2003, 2005 and 2007 and has now continued her every-other-year crowning. Whatever the case, the sports gods down under were on her side in 2009.



Serena Williams overcame fourth- and fifth-round deficits on the way to her fourth Australian Open championship and 10th Grand Slam win. Williams was down a set against Victoria Azarenka and Svetlana Kuznetsova but stormed back and easily handled Dinara Safina in the finals to recapture the top world ranking.

STATISTICS | STANDINGS

Men's Basketball (9-11, 1-5 NESCAC)

	NESCAC		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Middlebury	5	0	18	2
Amherst	4	1	16	3
Colby	4	1	13	5
Williams	4	1	14	6
Bowdoin	2	3	12	6
Trinity	2	3	6	12
Bates	2	4	11	9
Wesleyan	2	4	6	12
Conn. Coll.	1	5	11	9
Tufts	1	5	9	11

Individual Statistics

	PPG	RPG	APG
Jon Pierce	21.7	8.6	1.2
Dave Beyel	12.8	4.6	1.5
Aaron Gallant	12.4	3.1	1.4
Matt Galvin	5.8	2.6	4.9
Dan Cook	4.6	2.0	0.7
Tom Selby	4.6	5.0	1.0
A. Quezada	4.0	1.4	2.2
James Long	3.9	3.4	0.4
Reed Morgan	3.3	1.4	1.1
Sam Mason	2.2	2.4	0.7
Bryan Lowry	2.1	1.3	0.2
Peter Saba	1.0	1.0	0.2
Max Cassidy	0.9	1.5	0.1
Team	74.6	39.2	13.0

Women's Basketball (16-2, 5-1 NESCAC)

	NESCAC		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Tufts	5	1	16	2
Amherst	4	1	19	1
Bowdoin	4	1	16	4
Bates	4	2	15	6
Trinity	3	2	15	3
Williams	3	2	8	12
Wesleyan	2	4	10	8
Colby	1	4	9	9
Middlebury	1	4	7	12
Conn. Coll.	0	6	7	12

Individual Statistics

	PPG	RPG	APG
Julia Baily	14.3	8.3	0.9
Colleen Hart	11.9	4.2	5.0
Kim Moynihan	10.9	4.5	2.1
K. Tausanovitch	10.2	6.2	1.1
Casey Sullivan	8.1	2.9	1.9
Rachel Figaro	7.5	5.6	1.0
Lindsay Weiner	2.9	0.8	0.5
Vanessa Miller	2.9	3.7	1.8
T. Kornegay	2.2	1.1	1.0
Katie Puiushys	2.0	2.1	0.2
Kate Barnosky	1.4	0.5	1.0
Katie Wholey	1.3	0.6	0.4
Stacy Filocco	1.2	0.4	0.5
Team	74.4	43.6	16.8

Ice Hockey (8-9-1, 4-8-1 NESCAC/ECAC East)

	NESCAC			OVERALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Amherst	10	2	1	12	4	1
Middlebury	10	2	1	13	4	1
Williams	9	2	2	11	4	2
Trinity	9	4	0	12	5	0
Conn. Coll.	5	5	3	9	6	3
Bowdoin	5	6	2	8	8	2
Hamilton	6	7	0	7	10	1
Tufts	4	8	1	7	9	1
Colby	3	8	2	5	10	3
Wesleyan	2	10	1	2	14	1

Individual Statistics

	G	A	Pts.
Tom Derosa	10	8	18
Nick Resor	8	9	17
Dylan Cooper	4	9	13
Mike Vitale	1	8	9
Evan Story	6	2	8
Andy Davis	3	5	8
Matt Amico	1	7	8
Lindsay Walker	3	4	7
Zach Diaco	3	3	6
Doug Wilson	2	4	6
Team	48	74	122
Goalkeeping	S	GA	S %
Scott Barchard	497	46	.915
Jay McNamara	55	9	.859
Team	557	60	.903

SCHEDULE | Feb. 4 - Feb. 8

	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Men's Basketball	at UMass Dartmouth 7 p.m.		vs. Trinity 7 p.m.	vs. Amherst 2 p.m.	
Women's Basketball			at Trinity 7 p.m.	at Amherst 3 p.m.	
Ice Hockey				at Trinity 7:15 p.m.	at Wesleyan 3 p.m.
Men's Swimming and Diving			at MIT/Middlebury Invite 7 p.m.	at MIT/Middlebury Invite 1 p.m.	
Women's Swimming and Diving			at MIT/Middlebury Invite 7 p.m.	at MIT/Middlebury Invite 1 p.m.	
Men's Indoor Track and Field					Tufts Invite III 10 a.m.
Women's Indoor Track and Field					Tufts Invite III 10 a.m.
Men's Squash			Maine Round Robin at Bowdoin 6 p.m.	Maine Round Robin at Bowdoin 11 a.m., 2 p.m.	
Women's Squash		vs. Wellesley at Belmont Hill 6:30 p.m.	Maine Round Robin at Bowdoin 6 p.m.	Maine Round Robin at Bowdoin 11 a.m., 2 p.m.	

INSIDE THE NBA



Shaquille O'Neal, shown here backing down two Washington Wizards defenders, is in the midst of his best scoring season in three years, averaging 17.8 points per game for the Phoenix Suns. Still, O'Neal has been unable to catalyze the struggling Suns, who seem to be tanking under a new coach and a new offense.

Light not so bright in the valley of the Suns

BY ETHAN LANDY
Daily Editorial Board

The **Phoenix Suns**, at 26-20, currently sit in the would-be eighth playoff spot in the Western Conference, and they still have Steve Nash, Amare Stoudemire and a rejuvenated Shaquille O'Neal. So why does it feel like the sky is falling in the desert?

The Suns are 4-7 in their last 11 games, with three of those wins coming versus the dregs of the league — the **Toronto Raptors**, **Sacramento Kings** and **Washington Wizards**. A 48-point blowout win over the Kings, the elixir of the NBA, might temporarily ease some of the anxiety out in Phoenix. Still, this is a team that has looked shaky for much of the season under new head coach Terry Porter. Since a heartbreaking Christmas day loss to the rival **San Antonio Spurs**, the Suns' best wins have come against a Jekyll-and-Hyde **Dallas Mavericks** team and the injury-riddled **Atlanta Hawks**, who have fallen back to earth after their scorching start.

As usual, offense is not the problem for the Suns, who have the fourth-

highest scoring average in the NBA. But this statistic can be misleading, as the Suns, a team that had prided itself in playing fast-break basketball, are not playing their seven-seconds-or-less style, ranking 26th in the league in field goals attempted per game. And the defense, still, is failing in Phoenix. Without Mike D'Antoni at the helm, the offense cannot pick up the slack.

Nash, who flourished under D'Antoni and won back-to-back MVP awards, has seen his numbers drop in his 13th year in the league. The Suns' floor leader is still averaging 13.9 points a game, though this is down three points from last season. He has also seen his assist numbers dip below 10 per game for the first time in five seasons. Playing with a bad back, Nash has become more of a distributor in the last month as Porter has tried to get his point guard more comfortable in the offense. It doesn't help that Nash has openly questioned the confidence of his team and the ability of his teammates to play together.

Stoudemire, meanwhile, has been

the subject of numerous trade rumors lately despite being an All-Star starter. He is averaging over 21 points a game along with eight rebounds, but the power forward is the only real tradable asset on the team and has regressed since coming on strong at the end of last season. It had appeared that playing alongside O'Neal had helped improve Stoudemire's game, but this year it is the Diesel who is making great strides instead of the young gun.

Even so, the resurgence of O'Neal has not been enough to energize the fans in Phoenix. Shaq, an All-Star reserve, is averaging 17.8 points a game, his highest in three seasons, along with nine rebounds. Stoudemire's statistical decrease has been O'Neal's gain, as he has taken over the majority of touches in the post. But when it comes to getting the big man the ball down low, the Suns have moved away from the fast-paced offense that had been their trademark in recent years.

Not even the recent addition of Jason Richardson, acquired in a trade with the

see NBA, page 13

EVANS CLINCHY | DIRTY WATER



Got literacy?

I am sitting down to write these words somewhere in the very wee hours of the morning on Tuesday, Feb. 3. "The Yankee Years," a 512-page hardcover bombshell of a book co-authored by Sports Illustrated's Tom Verducci and former Yankees manager Joe Torre, has been available in bookstores worldwide for a matter of minutes. Needless to say, I haven't read it yet.

Neither have you.

That probably hasn't stopped you from forming an opinion on it. Right? I mean, we all know Torre's story. Came to the Bronx in 1996 inheriting a wild card-winning Yankees team. Immediately won the World Series. Stayed for 12 seasons, made the postseason all 12 times, piled up six American League pennants and four World Series titles along the way. Left after the 2007 season when the front office insulted him with an incentive-laden one-year contract offer. Moved out West and took over the Dodgers.

When you're talking about a man who spent 12 years juggling the egos of Alex Rodriguez, David Wells, Randy Johnson, Gary Sheffield, Kevin Brown, Jason Giambi, Carl Pavano, Paul O'Neill, Derek Jeter, Mariano Rivera, Jorge Posada, Andy Pettitte and Roger Clemens — just to name a few — you're inevitably going to have a bias in one direction or the other.

Pavano already released a statement, saying he is "extremely disappointed that someone I had a lot of respect for would make these types of comments." Wells scoffed at a reporter and said "I'd knock him out" when asked about Torre. Rodriguez dismissed the book's references to him — a friend told the New York Daily News that "he laughed at the stuff because he is so beyond all of that."

But none of these people have read the book either. They're basing their opinions off of conjecture, off of hearsay, off of little bits of short excerpts that have all been taken out of context. We know that the book contains a quote about how Wells can "make your life miserable" and that Rodriguez is at some point nicknamed "A-Fraud." We know very little, however, about how these quotes come up, why they are relevant or even when they are said.

This is the New York sports media at its worst. The cheap tabloids that spend 12 months a year scavenging for Yankees controversy hit the jackpot when "The Yankee Years" hit bookshelves, and they'd be foolish not to market the Torre/Wells/A-Rod clashing the way that they have. This is an industry where shock value, not actual substance, is what sells, so why bother waiting for the whole story?

The New York Daily News, when it ran an article on Sunday about the Torre fiasco, had a poll running alongside the online edition of its story. The question read simply, "Do you think this book tarnishes Joe Torre's Yankee legacy?" Fifty-one percent of readers checked off the "Yes, he should have kept quiet" option; 19 percent opted for the neutral, reasonable choice of "I'll have to read the book." This, to me, is a problem.

But then again, when has anyone ever cared about substance? After all, this is a book about baseball. There are plenty of precedents. "Moneyball" (2003) is a book about on-base percentage. Like it? Hate it? Just sound off. "Ball Four" (1970) is about drugs. Everyone has an opinion on drugs. Let's hear it.

When did this happen? When did sports media devolve to the point that everything can, and must, be reduced to a two-second sound bite? Is anyone else worried about this?

In an interview with SI.com, Verducci told the magazine that the book "frames the 1996-2007 Yankees around the macro issues and seismic changes in the game ... the Steroid Era, expansion, contraction plans, competitive balance issues, the rise of information and statistical analysis, the change in ownership of the Boston Red Sox, biomechanics as the next possible market inefficiency ... Those and other issues all provide important context to the book. It's an historical account."

Now that sounds like a good book. Probably about 512 pages worth. I wouldn't want any less.

Evans Clinchy is a senior majoring in English. He can be reached at Evans.Clinchy@tufts.edu.

DAILY DIGITS

100

Yards Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison ran after intercepting a pass from Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner on Sunday, recording the longest play in Super Bowl history. Harrison, who needed an oxygen tank after recording the touchdown, finished the game with four tackles in a 27-23 Steeler win. With just 19 seconds left in the half, Harrison's pick viciously swung the momentum towards the Pittsburgh sideline.

26

Points scored by senior co-captain Kim Moynihan scored on Friday night, including nine to open the second half, which helped give the women's basketball team a 75-63 win over Wesleyan. On Saturday Moynihan, who was recently named co-NESCAC Player of the Week, continued her hot streak with 14 points in a 85-67 victory against Conn. College, helping Tufts to a national No. 16 ranking.

4:23

Time it took Spain's Rafael Nadal to outlast Switzerland's Roger Federer in Sunday's Australian Open final. Nadal, who won 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (3), 3-6, 6-2, secured his sixth Grand Slam championship and his first in Melbourne while keeping Federer from winning a record-tying 14th major. Nadal has now beaten Federer in their past three meetings, all in Grand Slam finals.

51

Saves recorded by freshman goalie Scott Barchard in the ice hockey team's 3-1 loss at the Malden Forum on Friday. A career high for the rookie, Barchard's effort sticks him at a tie for eighth in the Tufts record books for most saves in one game. With just seven contests left on the schedule, Barchard is on pace to break the single-season saves record of 698, set by Ben Crapser (E '05) in 2004.

61

Points scored by the Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant, setting the new record for the most points scored at Madison Square Garden. Bryant, who helped his Lakers to a 126-117 win over the host New York Knicks, was 19-for-31 from the floor and a perfect 20-for-20 from the charity stripe. Los Angeles now stands at a Western Conference-best 38-9, with Bryant leading the charge with 27.4 ppg.

34

Average speed, in miles per hour, of Jumbo sophomore skier Arlin Ladue in last weekend's competition. In his second race of the day, Ladue skied the 3,000-foot course in a time of 59.78 seconds, placing him just one second behind first-place finisher Justin Schwartz of Castleton State. Ladue's top speed down the course approached 50 miles per hour.



tuftsdaily.com



This Saturday, the women's basketball team will head to Amherst's LeFrak Gym seeking revenge.

In the last two meetings between Tufts and Amherst, the Lord Jeffs ended the Jumbos' perfect season on a buzzer-beater before going on to beat them in the NESCAC Championship game.

The Daily will be on hand with live scores and updates as these two conference giants meet again in a game that holds home-court implications for the playoffs.

To follow the live blog of this game, visit TuftsDaily.com Saturday beginning at 3 p.m.

Jumbos overcome Corsairs

The women's basketball team pulled out its narrowest win of the season last night in Cousens Gym, edging out UMass Dartmouth 66-60 in a non-conference matchup. The nationally ranked No. 15 Jumbos improved to 16-2 on the season and are on a four-game winning streak since a Jan. 23 loss to the Colby Mules. UMass Dartmouth fell to 3-17 but was playing with only five able-bodied players for most of the game, actually managing to lead 28-27 at the half and tie it up at 52-52 with under 10 minutes remaining. Tufts stormed ahead with a 9-2 run in the final minutes to put the game out of reach.

The Jumbos outrebounded UMass Dartmouth by 13 to counter lights-out shooting from three-point land for the Corsairs, who shot 57 percent from beyond the arc. Sophomore guard Colleen Hart scored a career-high 23 points while distributing five assists, while senior co-captain Kim Moynihan, the NESCAC co-Player of the Week, scored 12 points and grabbed eight rebounds.

See tomorrow's Daily for further coverage.

—by Jeremy Greenhouse



JOSH BERLINGER/TUFTS DAILY
Sophomore point guard Colleen Hart scored a career-high 23 points in last night's 66-60 win.

SKIING

Ski team scales peaks and valleys as captains crash and newbies excel

BY PHILIP DEAR
Daily Editorial Board

After a weekend of top-notch skiing, the alpine ski team has left itself in strong position heading into the final weekend of regular-season racing.

The men's team currently sits in third place in the Thompson Division, having racked up 27 points in eight races so far this season and leaving itself only a point off the pace of second-place Boston University. But since a somewhat tumultuous start to the season that saw the Jumbos finish fourth and sixth in their first two races of the season, the team has eclipsed BU's mark in five of the last six races, leaving the skiers confident in their ability to overtake the Terriers.

"I think that barring anybody falling — basically as long as we can stand up — we can definitely overtake BU next weekend," sophomore captain Brian Bresee said.

On Sunday, the men's squad finished the day at Dartmouth placing second out of 11 teams, topped only by the eventual victors from Castleton State, which has won all eight of its races this season. The Jumbos' top three finishers were Bresee with a two-race combined time of 2:05.57, sophomore Arlin Ladue with a mark of 2:09.24 and sophomore Thomas Valentin at 2:09.59.

"Clearly, the strength is our



JOSH BERLINGER/TUFTS DAILY

Sophomore Thomas Valentin helped the Jumbos to two second-place finishes this weekend, skiing a 2:09.59 at Dartmouth on Sunday.

team unity and the fact that we're competing very well even though we're a young team," junior Greg Hering said. "The majority of our talent pool is all sophomores.

Our weakness is that we kind of fall a lot."

Ladue's Sunday performance was particularly

see **SKIING**, page 11

WOMEN'S FENCING

Jumbos fall to NYU, lose four of five over tough weekend

BY JEREMY GREENHOUSE
Daily Editorial Board

For the first time this season, the women's fencing team both fenced on back-to-back days and hosted a meet. But despite the change of schedule and venue, the results ultimately remained the same, as the Jumbos dropped four out of five matches over the course of two days, culminating in a 1-3 Sunday at the MIT Eric Sollee Invitational.

In the latter of Tufts' two separate days of competition, the epeeists proved they could hold their own against even the best of Div. I opponents, continuing to confirm themselves as the strongest Tufts weapon in competition.

"Yesterday, it was a long day, considering we had a meet Saturday as well," junior epee captain Rebecca Hughes said. "I think we exceeded our expectations considering the fact that we beat Yeshiva and [Boston College]. BC is really formidable, so that was a good moment for us."

Over the course of the day, epee went 2-14, while foil and sabre lost 14-22 and 11-27, respectively, solidifying the losing results. Every weapon beat up on Yeshiva, however, while epee pulled out the only other win with a 7-2 victory over Boston College. Tufts faced more difficult challenges later on, as the field was filled with nationally ranked top-10 teams. Still, the Jumbos put forth respectable efforts against No. 9 Pennsylvania and No. 7 Princeton, especially in epee.

"Penn and Princeton both have world-class fencers," Hughes said. "We normally don't face them, but that's a really good experience for us, and it lets us be able to get points [towards individually qualifying] for NCAAs. It's tough for a [Div. III] school to qualify for NCAAs, so fencing those programs gives us some bonus points."

The 20-7 loss to Penn. was as close as any team came on the day to the Quakers, as Penn. deftly sliced through the competition, finishing Sunday at a perfect 5-0. Tufts' 23-4 loss to Princeton was less respectable, though the Tigers did manage to post a clean 6-0 sheet at the Invite. The most impressive individual performance came from sophomore Georgia Raney, who won all three of her bouts against Penn.

"I feel like everything came together and worked for me," Raney said. "I didn't overthink anything. I just kind of fenced. I didn't stress about anything, and it made me really relaxed. Even when I lost, I felt like the other girl was just better, so I never got upset. The girls I fenced were all competitive, and it just so happened [that] my point was on and I could figure them out before they could figure me out."

"Georgia fenced amazingly," Hughes added. "She was really composed all day, and against Penn she was confident, patient and took her time, so she deserved to win."

The day before, Tufts hosted its first

see **FENCING**, page 13

Barchard stands his ground as Tufts beats Suffolk



JAMES CHOCA/TUFTS DAILY

Freshman goaltender Scott Barchard stopped 36 of 37 shots in goal to lead the ice hockey team to a 4-1 non-conference win over Suffolk last night.

The ice hockey team ended a two-game losing skid last night with a 4-1 victory over non-conference Suffolk. The win was only the team's third on the road this season, the last one coming over Norwich on Jan. 9 at the tail end of a five-game Jumbo winning streak.

Junior Mike Fitoussi opened the scoring for the Jumbos at the 11:51 mark in the first period with his first goal of the season. Just 22 seconds into the second frame, Tufts' sophomore leading scorer Tom Derosa netted his 11th goal of the season to give the Jumbos a 2-0 lead, also securing him sole possession of the Jumbos' top spot in the points column with 19.

Freshman goaltender Scott Barchard proved crucial in the second frame, stopping all 20 shots he faced to keep the

Jumbos on top. He would finish with 36 saves on 37 shots.

The Rams finally broke through with 7:19 left in the game on a tally by junior Niles Moore, cutting the Jumbos' lead to 2-1, but they could not beat Barchard again.

Junior Joe Rosano added a security goal for the Jumbos, his third of the year, with 2:20 remaining, and freshman Nick Resor added his ninth on an empty-netter with five seconds to go for the final score in the 4-1 victory.

The victory evens the Jumbos' overall record at 9-9-1, though their NESCAC standing remains unchanged as they still sit at No. 8.

See tomorrow's Daily for further coverage.

— by Evan Cooper