

Today:
Heavy Rain
High 45 Low 28

Tomorrow:
Partly Cloudy
High 36 Low 26

VOLUME LV, NUMBER 17

THE TUFTS DAILY

Tufts' Student
Newspaper
Since 1980



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2008

TCU passes resolution proposing judicial review board

After Li case, Senate works to ensure comprehensive trial for students charged with academic dishonesty

BY BEN GITTLESON
Daily Editorial Board

Steven Li was found guilty of academic dishonesty and sentenced to a one-semester suspension last semester — all by one administrator.

After the freshman said he was denied a hearing and a sentencing appeal, the Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate passed a resolution on Sunday calling for reform.

The resolution proposes the creation of a judicial review board, which would consist of students from the TCU Judiciary and administrators from the Dean of Student Affairs Office. The

board would review academic dishonesty cases in which the judicial affairs officer in the Dean of Student Affairs Office believes that there is “indisputable evidence” against the accused student.

Currently, students who have complaints filed against them have their cases settled through a number of avenues, many of which involve the Dean of Student Affairs Office.

The Senate’s resolution is not binding legislation, but instead serves as a recommendation to the administration. Administrators can use it or ignore it whenever they like.

But Dean of Students Bruce Reitman

said it has his support.

“I think this is a good approach and one ... that our office is quite pleased to work with the judiciary to set up,” Reitman told the Daily. “I think that the Dean of Students Office and judicial affairs are quite ... eager to establish a mechanism of the judiciary participating in the weighing of evidence for its irrefutability.”

Some academic dishonesty cases warrant more than one adjudicator under the current system. But when a student admits guilt or the judicial affairs officer decides that there is incontrovertible proof of cheating, then the officer can refuse to grant the student a hearing,

opting to instead issue a ruling called a “dean’s decision.”

Li, whose case brought these issues to the Senate’s attention, said that in his proceedings, Judicial Affairs Officer Veronica Carter ruled that indisputable evidence existed proving he cheated, and she waived his right to a hearing.

Li said he was denied an appeal of his sentencing because the rules for dealing with academic dishonesty cases are clearly stated in university literature. But he said that the circumstances surrounding his case were not completely straightforward, and he maintains that he did not cheat.

see RESOLUTION, page 2

‘Hoodie’ campaign looks to increase university’s public visibility in Boston

BY MARYSA LIN
Daily Editorial Board

Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senator Jake Maccoby is spearheading a project to increase Tufts’ presence in Boston by having vendors throughout the city sell Tufts-related merchandise.

Maccoby, who is also an editorialist for the Daily, noticed that merchandise advertising other area universities was available in Boston stores. Such institutions as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Northeastern University and Harvard University offer clothing and other merchandise, but Tufts is lacking in this department.

Maccoby said that selling Tufts apparel would be a publicity boost for the university. “I think that Tufts and the Tufts administration are always trying to get the Tufts name out there any way they can,” Maccoby said.

He hopes that the campaign will help Tufts gain recognition as a top school in the area and throughout the country.

“Everybody knows that we’re here, but you don’t see us



JAMES CHOCA/TUFTS DAILY

Tufts apparel may be available around Boston soon, thanks to the Senate.

around as much as some of the other schools,” he added.

TCU Historian Alex Pryor is also working on the campaign. “It’s kind of strange when you go into Boston and you go into Cambridge and they have sweatshirts and T-shirts from other schools but not from Tufts,” she said. “Tufts is a major university in the city and it’s a very good university, and there’s no reason it shouldn’t be represented.”

Maccoby and Pryor are currently working with vendors, manufacturers and Tufts administrators to produce apparel like T-shirts and sweatshirts. “The

idea was at least to try and see if we can start anything,” Maccoby said.

It will be possible to maintain the promotion of Tufts merchandise in Boston “if we get a vendor who’s willing to try this, and then we do well,” he said.

“We’re going to try to be proactive,” Pryor said. “It’s the first year we’re seriously allocating resources and time to it.”

Maccoby added that the administration has helped as the project has progressed. “The school has actually been fantas-

see HOODIES, page 2

Tufts fund gives grants to community organizations

BY MEGAN DALTON
Contributing Writer

The Tufts Neighborhood Service Fund (TNSF) recently provided a record-breaking \$22,000 in grants to 34 local organizations.

According to Director of Community Relations Barbara Rubel, this is the largest amount of money that the TNSF has received since it was established 12 years ago. “In 1996, we had about \$8,000 to donate, so fewer grants were awarded,” she said in an e-mail.

The grants were given to individual organizations in Medford, Somerville, Grafton and Chinatown, the four communities that host various schools within the university. Awards ranging from \$200 to \$2,000 were appropriated to a wide variety of institutions, including food pantries and programs that provide services for disabled adults.

According to Rubel, organizations that receive grants from TNSF must be tax-exempt and employ Tufts-affiliated volunteers, such as students or faculty.

Many organizations apply for the grants, Rubel said.

“It’s often very difficult to decide who to fund. The committee has developed a set of informal criteria that give preference to grants for improvements [and] equipment ... that will last a while and for programs that serve people in need,” she said.

She added that the TNSF prefers to stay away from supporting general operating funds and salaries.

Rubel said that the TNSF constitutes one of several ways that members of the Tufts community can contribute money during the annual Tufts Community Appeal, a philanthropic drive that allows faculty and staff to donate to local institutions.

The goal of the TNSF “is to create a convenient way for faculty and staff to offer support to organizations in our host communities, and to support the work of Tufts volunteers who are working there,” Rubel said.

Each organization must appeal to a committee of Tufts administrators when applying for funding. The committee reviews each proposal, making sure that

see TNSF, page 2

Obama pulls ahead of Clinton in ‘Potomac’ contests; McCain beats Huckabee

Senator Barack Obama (D-Ill.) won emphatic victories in the so-called “Potomac Primaries” yesterday, cementing his momentum going into the next major day of Democratic contests and officially overtaking Senator Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) in the ongoing tally of delegates.

Obama took Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia by decisive margins, giving him wins in eight consecutive primaries or caucuses.

He can no longer claim the distinction of being an underdog. “This movement won’t stop until there’s change in Washington, D.C., and tonight we’re on our way,” he said to cheers in Madison, Wisc. “At this moment, the

cynics can no longer say that our hope is false.”

Yesterday’s wins make the next day of delegate-rich elections almost do-or-die for Clinton. The most substantial of the upcoming primaries will take place on March 4 in Ohio and Texas, where Clinton is favored.

In yesterday’s Republican primaries, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) swept the Potomac states. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee has been trying to mount a comeback campaign, but the front-running McCain reasserted himself in the wake of a series of disappointing finishes in last weekend’s contests.

McCain and Obama both won the District of Columbia by the widest mar-

gins of the night. McCain took 68 percent to Huckabee’s 17, and Obama won 75 percent to Clinton’s 24. The races in the two states were relatively closer, but McCain and Obama won those handily as well.

In the Democratic race, Obama has surged past Clinton in delegates, with 1,215 to her 1,190, according to CNN.com. Clinton has the allegiance of many superdelegates — most of them elected representatives and party officials — and this kept her in the lead until last night.

McCain leads in the Republican race for delegates, holding 812 to Huckabee’s 217.

—by Giovanni Russonello



MCT

Inside this issue

A senior and recovering alcoholic discusses dealing with addiction in the college atmosphere.



see FEATURES, page 3

Fifteen-year-old jazz prodigy Matt Savage is impressive, but not masterful, in his latest album.



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tuftsdaily.com

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After Li case, TCU Senate seeks to ensure hearings for accused students

RESOLUTION

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The freshman told the Daily last week that the lack of his right to a hearing is one of the greatest faults with the system. He said that the resolution addresses his complaints about the system.

"The resolution says that every student has a right to a [judicial review board] and that everything has to be done in a timely manner," he said. "I guess that's a step ahead of what we had before, where it's not just two-on-one or one-on-one."

Carter, who declined to comment on Li's case, told the Daily last week that hearings are not generally used "in an academic integrity case, because there is a very specific set of guidelines." A disciplinary hearing involves a five-person panel consisting of two randomly selected members of the TCU Judiciary and three unbiased administrators or faculty members.

Li's roommate, freshman Bruce Ratain, approached the Senate after trying to get involved with Li's case. He said that the judicial affairs officer should never be the only person involved with cheating cases.

"Every student, however indisputable the evidence may seem, has a right to have their case heard by students," he told the Daily.

Ratain worked with TCU Senator Emerson Luke over the past two weeks to draft the resolution that was adopted Sunday. Luke, a junior who is the co-chair of the Senate's Culture, Ethnicity and Community Affairs subcommittee, worked with Reitman on the resolution prior to submitting it at the Senate meeting.

The resolution, titled "A Resolution Supporting the Creation of a Judicial Review Board," passed by a vote of 25-0 with one abstention.

Luke said he was generally satisfied with the debate surrounding the legislation that took place at the Senate meeting.

"I'm happy that the Senate was unified in getting it passed," he said. "I'm happy that ... mostly everyone wanted to be on board in terms of moving forward with this process."

Luke added, though, that he wishes the resolution could have specifically mentioned the judicial affairs officer's position instead of referring in general to the Dean of Student Affairs Office, the department that houses the judicial affairs officer.

"I would've liked it to be more explicit in terms of it referring to the judicial affairs officer as having the discretion [of making decisions on irrefutable evidence] because it is the judicial affairs officer that usually has that discretion," Luke said. "Instead, the Senate voted to take a

broader approach with the resolution."

The resolution specifically calls for a judicial review board, with no mention of disciplinary hearings. Reitman said that hearings sometimes take all day, involve witnesses and are impractical for the review of whether evidence is indisputable.

"I know the resolution does not ask for a hearing in all cases," he said. "What they're asking for is some faculty or maybe student and administration input ... similar to the Committee on Student Life."

The resolution explicitly deals with only cases of academic dishonesty, but under the current system this is not the only charge that can lead to a unilateral decision. Reitman suggested implementing a broader policy to apply to all judicial cases in which indisputable evidence can lead to a unilateral ruling.

"Why limit it to just cases involving academic integrity?" Reitman said. "I think similar [questions] about what cases should be considered irrefutable applies to all cases, and so I think I would not limit it to just academic integrity."

Luke said that the Senate wanted to approach the judicial affairs reforms one step at a time, but that he would be open to expanding the scope of a judicial review board in the future.

"The Senate fully supports this process in more cases than academ-

ic integrity," he said. "However ... we didn't want to overstep our bounds ... by just asking for something that we didn't think was feasible."

The legislation also recommended including the accused student during the judicial review board's examination of the case. The resolution advises allowing "every student to be present and speak on his or her own behalf during the judicial review process and be represented by a judicial advocate if he or she so chooses."

In the meantime, Carter said that she will work to implement the resolution's proposals.

"I am enthusiastic about the proposal, and I feel it will be an improvement," she told the Daily in an e-mail. "I will work with the Senate on ways to implement it."

Reitman said that new policy does not usually impact cases already decided. As a result, it appears that Li's case will not likely be affected by the resolution.

Luke said he and Ratain had, for the most part, accomplished their goal of instituting fair reforms.

"Essentially, what we wanted to emphasize with the resolution is, it would broaden the group of people [involved and] make it so that more people would have input over what constitutes indisputable evidence," he said.



ANNIE WERMIEL/TUFTS DAILY

The TCU Senate wants Boston vendors to sell Tufts sweatshirts.

Campaign looks to raise university's visibility by bringing Tufts apparel to Boston hotspots

HOODIES

continued from page 1

"Everyone's totally on board with this." He cited Tufts' lawyers and President Bacow as main sources of support.

Maccoby said that there are many problems he must solve before enacting the hoodie campaign, explaining that finding willing vendors could be a difficult mission.

"The difficulty is getting a hold of vendors that will do this ... There's no downside for the school, we just need to find the vendors," he said.

He added that in order to convince vendors to carry Tufts gear, there must be a viable market for the merchandise so that vendors can expect to profit.

"All the basic groundwork

has been done; it's just a matter of negotiating and encouraging vendors to take to our idea," Pryor added.

"The idea hopefully was ... to put things in parts of Boston where the Tufts name isn't out there as much," Maccoby said. He is considering finding vendors in places like Faneuil Hall or Logan Airport.

According to Maccoby, finding willing vendors also means creating a demand and a market for the merchandise. "We would need to drive up a lot of interest," Maccoby said.

Theoretically, the merchandise being sold by outside vendors would be cheaper than that sold by the Tufts bookstore.

Maccoby stressed that the purpose of the campaign is to

give Tufts "more representation in the Boston" area, and is meant to boost Tufts' exposure more than to make a profit. "We're not trying to make money off of it," he said.

Maccoby said that the TCU Senate would most likely provide the money for starting the campaign, but this is not yet definite. In any case, the situation would be financially "no-risk," he added, because "we would have a commitment from the vendors before we purchase the product."

For this reason, he proposes that Tufts sell merchandise to vendors at about the same price as it costs to make the clothing. He hopes that this will make the sale of Tufts gear profitable for outside vendors.

Tufts Neighborhood Service Fund donates to local groups

TNSF

continued from page 1

the organization meets TNSF requirements.

"We know that even very modest grants can mean a lot to community-based organizations," she said. "The discussion is important and every application is given consideration."

Rubel explained that while the TNSF was able to award funding to a large number of organizations, there is not enough money to fund everyone that applies.

The Cambridge and Somerville Program for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Rehabilitation (CASPAR), a non-profit organization based in Somerville, received \$1,000 for Project Winterwear, a program that provides clothing to the homeless population.

"It comes at a time of the year where people who are homeless are at a high risk of death on the street due to exposure to the elements," said Gail Enman, executive director of CASPAR. "What we use the funds for is to buy thermal or insulated hats, gloves and socks for them."

In addition to TNSF's grant, Enman praised the other ways in which Tufts has continued to give back to the community.

"Tufts has been a very good neighbor," she said. "We've had student groups from the Fletcher School cook meals at our shelters and collect money from their classmates to buy and prepare food. They've even run a silent auction and given the proceeds

to us."

According to Elizabeth Ammons, co-coordinator of Medford's Unitarian Universalist Community Cupboard Food Pantry and Tufts English professor, this year's TNSF grants were extremely helpful.

"We know that even very modest grants can mean a lot to community-based organizations. The discussion is important and every application is given consideration."

Barbara Rubel
Director of Community Relations

"Many people probably don't realize that there is hunger in this area," she said. "The grant has allowed us to continue providing food for all of our clients ... We've not had to cut back on the amount of food [we distribute]."

Ammons said that Tufts has been a support system for local organizations and communities.

"It is an outrage that we even need food pantries in this country," she said. "But since we do, it's really valuable to have this support from Tufts."

MARKETS

Yesterday's close

▲ DOW JONES
133.40 12,373.41

▼ NASDAQ
0.02 2,320.04

WEATHER FORECAST

Today
Wednesday, February 13
Heavy Rain
Sunrise: 6:44 AM
Sunset: 5:14 PM

Sunday
Cloudy
33/31

Periods of rain, may be heavy late. High near 45F.

Thursday

Partly Cloudy
36/26

Sunday

Cloudy
33/31

Friday

Few Snow Showers
44/20

Monday

Showers
36/26

Saturday

Partly Cloudy
24/14

Tuesday

Partly Cloudy
32/20

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Drinking had become my natural reaction, and was the only way I could even feel remotely good about life or myself."

"John"
recovering alcoholic
see Features, page 3

Features

THE TUFTS DAILY

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Recovering alcoholic finds sober path at Tufts

BY SARAH BLISS
Contributing Writer

The hum of everyday life penetrates the halls of Wren and South Halls alike; feverish video-gaming cries, muffled keyboard punches and the familiar screams of Red Sox fans bring comfort to a typical college environment.

A signal of the most dangerous of activities, however, may come from silence — a partner-in-crime all too familiar to John*, a Tufts senior and recovering alcoholic who asked to be interviewed anonymously to protect his privacy.

In the midst of the omnipresent illegal drinking scene that accompanies the onset of college, John rapidly spiraled toward alcoholism soon as he arrived at Tufts in 2004.

"I started binge drinking as soon as I got onto campus. A lot of things weren't working out right," John said. "I wasn't making any friends, I wasn't joining social organizations and I wasn't doing well in class."

Unaware that his drinking could be classified as alcoholism until the fall of his sophomore year, John sought counseling to address his overall discontent.

"I went to Tufts' counselors spilling my beans, saying things like, 'My mother doesn't love me,' 'I feel so alone,' 'I don't know how to make friends,'" John said. "I didn't think that drinking was part of the problem. I had never even considered it."

His journey to rock bottom progressed until the fall semester of 2005, when then-sophomore John unintentionally brought his addiction to the attention of the school's administrative faculty.

According to John, an act of violence committed at an on-campus party compelled the hosts of the party to report him to the administration.

"Fortunately, no one got hurt. Nothing was destroyed, but people were angry about the incident, and they had the right to report it," he said. "This was the first time that people were thankfully starting to get into my life, and they really brought home the point that something was wrong here."

Still, his addiction had become voracious, eating up any trace of normality that his life had once possessed.

"Drinking had become my natural reaction, and was the only way I could even feel remotely good about life or myself," John said.

A temporary suspension and mandatory medical leave forced John to move back into his mother's home in Cambridge. Nearly one month after the



AALOK KANANI/TUFTS DAILY

While college students are known for their binge drinking, many neglect to consider the dangers of alcoholism. For one Jumbo, drinking turned into a problem that led to disciplinary action and a medical leave from Tufts.

incident at the party, a build-up of high stress and anxiety led him to attempt suicide.

"I basically had a nervous breakdown," he said. "I called one of the Tufts 24/7 counseling system and I took a bunch of Tylenol. I was on the phone the whole time. [The counselor] called an ambulance, and the next day I went to detox."

After detox, John was pressed to enter Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), but made little progress.

"I didn't stay sober my first entry into AA. After a few months of being around AA, I started drinking again," he said.

Though John returned to Tufts, his addiction continued to affect his life at school.

"I came back to Tufts, but my drinking had just gotten so much worse until, in 2006, at Fall Ball, I left a party, blacked out and woke up latched to a hospital bed."

"At the worst point in my drinking, I had no friends," John added. "I was a real isolationist ... It was definitely not healthy."

In a second round of disciplinary actions, John was confronted by deans, counselors and his parents, who unanimously beseeched him to take time away from school and get help.

"A paper was put in front of me for medical leave," John said. "They just said, 'Take a year off, get help, go home and rest,' and that is what I did for two semesters. I went back to AA and took it much

more seriously this time."

Currently living off-campus in Cambridge, John is majoring in mechanical engineering. He is now focused on his extracurricular life, his part-time technical support internship in Wellesley and his studies. He says that his once-tarnished relationship with Tufts has healed over time.

John's path to recovery has been aided by his off-campus residency.

"It would have been very hard to spend my first year of sobriety on campus, around Tufts," he said. "Things are going much, much better than they ever did in years past."

At his request, Judicial Affairs Officer Veronica Carter provided John with a chance to apologize to those affected by his actions at the party in 2005.

"Veronica Carter set up a situation where I could make amends to someone I had wronged," he said. "It was generally a very beautiful experience."

Continually addressing the factors that provoked his alcoholism, John proposes that the campus become more involved in actively confronting issues attached to drinking.

"I haven't seen it, but it would be good to see Tufts get more forums available to talk about it," he said. "A place to talk about drinking at Tufts, where no one is judged or held accountable. I think to get the issue out in the open would be a start to addressing at least the culture of it."

*Name has been changed.

MICHAEL SHERRY | POLITICAL ANIMAL



The expectations game, Part II

A week has passed since Super Tuesday, and the dynamics of the Democratic nomination battle have changed completely.

While Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) had been steadily gaining ground against Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.), there was never any real doubt over who was the underdog and who had the edge.

No longer. After Obama's excellent showing on Super Tuesday — winning more states and delegates than Clinton and nearly surpassing her in total votes — he can legitimately claim to have an edge, albeit narrow, over his competitor.

He won't, of course. The Obama campaign is not nearly stupid enough to fall into the trap of setting high expectations. The expectations game is a time-honored, venerable and annoyingly inconsistent rubric for measuring candidates, but it's one by which the media always abides.

Despite the Clinton campaign's best spin, the "media consensus" was that Clinton had to score a knockout punch on Super Tuesday. Obama's victories in Iowa and South Carolina were blips on the radar screen, but when the race opened up to 22 states across the country, Clinton's name recognition and disciplined campaign would carry the day.

Obama's "expectations," on the other hand, were more modest. His team forecasted "keeping up" with the Clinton machine. It was projected that he'd be all right if he kept within 80 or so delegates of Clinton by the end of the night. After all, he's still the underdog. It's unreasonable to assume he could go toe-to-toe with Clinton.

Election night comes, and the two candidates fight essentially to a draw. Obama picks up a few more states and delegates, Clinton nabs a few more total votes (thanks to her success in populous California). But despite the actual numbers being roughly equal, the night was declared an Obama victory.

Why? He beat expectations. Clinton had to win decisively. Obama could fall a little bit behind and be OK. By doing better than that, he was crowned the victor. And the resulting influx of money and media attention is powering him through the February primaries.

So we're now in a new phase of the race. Obama, like it or not, has an edge in delegates, momentum, cash and enthusiasm. It's tight, but he's now the frontrunner. He and Clinton are battling for the title of "underdog," since it's great to be held to a lower standard. Clinton's firing of her campaign manager, Patti Solis Doyle, along with the \$5 million personal loan she gave her campaign, will contribute to the "campaign in disarray" atmosphere surrounding her recently.

All this is to set the stage for the March 4 primaries of Texas and Ohio — two huge states that demographically favor Clinton. The idea for the Clinton campaign is to play up the underdog theme as those primaries approach. Anything to make the Clintons seem down and out is the goal. At a recent press conference, Clinton hired a man playing the world's smallest violin to provide music — so that when the Texas and Ohio victories come through, they seem like triumphant comebacks rather than expected, pre-ordained victories.

What's that, you say? What if Texas and Ohio go to Obama instead? Then it's all over, and the Clinton campaign knows it. Anonymous sources high up in the campaign have admitted that if they don't pull out wins in both of those states, Obama will be the nominee.

So for those waiting impatiently to find out who the Democratic candidate will be, relax. We won't know until at least March 4.

Michael Sherry is a junior majoring in political science. He can be reached at Michael.Sherry@tufts.edu.

HOUSING LOTTERY 2008 | ARTS HOUSE

TUFTS HOUSING LOTTERY 2008



EMILY COHANE-MANN

Resident: Annelies Kamen

Year: 2010

2007 Lottery Number: 2849 (In a range from 1500-2999)

Location: Arts House double

Pros: Large rooms, many bathrooms, kitchen, social cohesion

Cons: Social atmosphere not conducive to studying

Difficulty of getting in: Varies based on application process

Recruitment selection: Taking place this week

Located on 37 Sawyer Ave., the Arts House, or "Arts Haus" as it is commonly dubbed, is home to eight singles and three doubles. Unlike traditional dorms on campus, students are required to go through an application process rather than submit a lottery number if they wish to live there.

According to sophomore and Arts House resident Annelies Kamen, new residents are chosen by members of the house based on an application and an interview session. While the application contains some logistical questions, Kamen said the questions are more personality-based, with questions along the line of, "Which do you like better: robots or dinosaurs?"

Kamen, who was looking for a drastic change from her freshman-year dorm, said that the Arts House was her first and only choice of housing. The house has served as the perfect contrast to a standard college dorm. "The house is not just like a boarding house," she said. "It's pretty cohesive ... we spend a lot of time in the common space." Kamen praised the house's well-equipped kitchen and said that nearly every resident has an individual bathroom. As for a study time, however, the sophomore said getting work done is tough task. "It's difficult to stay in your room and not socialize," she said.

—by Marissa Carberry

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with Jason Safer on Piano

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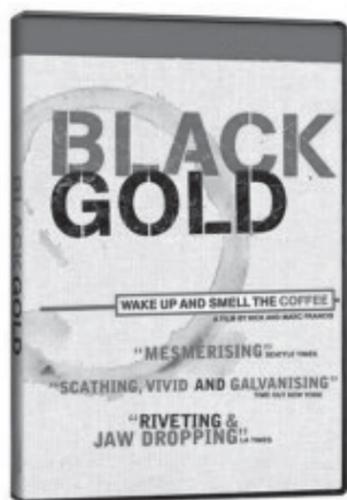
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Mass poverty is one of the world's most pressing problems and daunting challenges.

2008 EPIIC Film Series



Black Gold

Wednesday
February 13
7:30PM
Barnum 008

Coffee, the world's second highest traded commodity after oil, touches upon all socioeconomic groups, from rural producers in Brazil, Vietnam, and Ethiopia, to the worldwide consumers drinking an estimate 500 billion cups yearly. With nearly 10 billion coffee plants grown across the planet, this commodity truly is Black Gold. This 2006 British Independent Film Award-winning documentary traces the economics of this coffee, from farm cooperatives in Ethiopia, through the New York Board of Trade, the international benchmark for coffee futures, and into specialty coffee shops around the world. Come join us in our discussion of the dynamics of this important issue, and how the current global system affects the 25 million producers globally reliant on coffee production

Tickets for the EPIIC Symposium will be on sale at the film showing and at the campus center.

For more information: IGL: 617-627-3314 or <http://www.epiic.org>

ALBUM REVIEW



Fifteen-year-old jazz prodigy Matt Savage fails to reach his potential in his latest album. AMAZON.COM

'Hot Ticket: Live in Boston' showcases auspicious talent

BY GIOVANNI RUSSONELLO
Daily Editorial Board

For Matt Savage, this album was a big test. The 15-year-old jazz piano phenom, who has overcome the bar-

Hot Ticket: Live in Boston

Matt Savage Trio



Palmetto Records

riers of autism to become a renowned child musician, told the Daily last fall that he was ready to move beyond prodigy status.

He framed his back-to-back performances at Tufts University in September as an audition for admittance into the true kingdom of jazz.

"First, you're the kid prodigy," he told the Daily before the shows, which he recorded for his newly released

see SAVAGE, page 7

ALBUM REVIEW

'Crow' takes off for State Radio

BY JOSHUA ZEIDEL
Contributing Writer

State Radio will not write its audience a love song. With that little disclaimer out of the way, let it be known that the power

Year of the Crow

State Radio



Nettwerk Records

trio composed of Chad Stokes Urmston (formerly of Dispatch) on guitar and vocals, Chuck Fay on bass and vocals, and Mike "Mad Dog" Najarian on drums has brought forth a subtle, yet scathing, third full-length studio album.

Weighing in at a hefty 13 diverse tracks, "Year of the Crow" will not immediately grab a listener unfamiliar with the band's distinctive blend of punk, reggae and roots rock. But give the album just one or two more listens and suddenly the expert musicianship, stripped-down rock arrangements and Urmston's savagely blunt socio-political musings will gel together irresistibly.

In 2002, after the break-up of the independent phenomenon Dispatch, Urmston started writing and recording demos for a side-project called Flag of the Shiners, which soon evolved into State Radio as Urmston solidified the lineup with bassist Fay.

After a couple of drummers, the band stuck with Najarian, whose heavier style blended with Urmston's reggae-influenced

see STATE, page 7

WINSTON BERKMAN AND CHARLOTTE BOURDILLON | TWO FOR TEA



Tongue and Tacos

The owner is literally shredding bunches of fresh cilantro onto one of the vacant dining tables. This is what we first see upon walking into Tacos Lupita, and it bodes well for both the quality and authenticity of ingredients, not to mention the awesome flavor. Since being introduced to Porter Square's own Tacos Lupita by a mutual friend, it has quickly climbed to the top ranks of our favorite nearby cravings, and it's under-priced to boot.

The menu is roughly divided into tacos, burritos, quesadillas and the lesser-known huaraches, mulitas, tortas and gorditas. For whatever you order, you can choose between carne asada (grilled steak), al pastor/cerdo (roast pork), pollo (chicken), chorizo and lengua de res (tongue). Yes, tongue — try it, you'll like it (Charlotte didn't try it).

While we haven't tried all of their options yet, everything we have tried has turned out pretty well. Our favorites so far have been: pollo gorditas (Winston) and the chorizo taco (Charlotte). For the gorditas, those of you who immediately think of Taco Bell's Cheesy Gordita Crunch, don't. It's much better. It's a corn tortilla that's split sideways like a pita, stuffed with meat, beans, cheese and lettuce. As the employee behind the counter put it, "you can just pick it up with both hands and dive in."

The tacos are prepared with the same crispy and wholesomely-textured corn tortilla as the rest of the menu's offerings. Served open-faced, they are on significantly smaller rounds than the Tex-Mex variety.

Fair enough, considering they are \$1.99 each for unquestionably crisp and fresh chopped tomato salsa, that aromatic fresh-cut cilantro and a high-quality and cooked-to-order sprinkling of your 'carne' of choice. Brilliant as a side or made into a meal on their own, these have raised our standards for what to expect in a taco.

The best part of both the gorditas and the tacos is that after you order, you can see the cook shape each corn tortilla from a ball of dough using a cast-iron press. No matter which meal you choose, be sure to ask for both the green and the red sauces, (they come on the side) because most orders only come with one, though both are worth sampling.

One way to round out your meal is with one of a selection of Mexican or Salvadorian bottled sodas. Or, if you have the appetite, Tacos Lupita carries horchata, a typical Salvadorian drink. Rich, slightly sweet and milky, it's an unusual beverage made from roasted, ground rice.

Tacos Lupita isn't located right on the T, but it's not too far off the beaten path. When you exit at Porter Square, cut across the Shaw's parking lot and take a right on Elm Street. If you walk roughly five blocks, you'll find it just before the intersection of Elm and Somerville Avenue, across from the gas station. Sure, you can't see it from the exit of the T, but it's really not the same sort of effort it takes for an "evening out."

Winston Berkman is a sophomore majoring in international relations; Charlotte Bourdillon is a sophomore who has not declared a major. They can be reached at Winston.Berkman@tufts.edu and Charlotte.Bourdillon@tufts.edu, respectively.

MOVIE REVIEW

As hitman in a fairy tale of hell, Farrell does not disappoint

Martin McDonagh's new film mixes absurd comedy with bloody action sequences

BY KAHRAN SINGH
Senior Staff Writer

On most days in Boston, it's rare to hear about an upcoming war between white and black dwarves. Even if one keeps in mind

In Bruges



Starring **Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, Ralph Fiennes**
Directed by **Martin McDonagh**

that dwarf is an improbable euphemism for midget, that the war is going to be part of a larger war of people of all races (versus the white dwarves and their fellows), and that this is all occurring in a movie set not in Boston but Bruges, Belgium, such a statement can seem refreshing, but still odd.

"Refreshing but odd" can sum up the experience of watching "In Bruges" (2008). From the opening lines, Ray (played by Colin Farrell) and Ken (Brendan Gleeson) weave a delightful spell over their audience, interspersing absurdly comedic moments (complete, of course, with a cameo appearance by fat Americans) with the dark violence expected of a movie about two hitmen.

Martin McDonagh's opener for the 2008 Sundance Film Festival starts with our two soon-to-be favorite hitmen, Ray and Ken, banished by their mysterious London-based employer, Harry (Ralph Fiennes), to sit tight after the botched murder of a priest. With that opening, we are brought into the incredibly beautiful world of Bruges, complete with iconic images that could just as easily be of Neuschwanstein or any other of the Swan King's fairy-tale castles.

As the mist fades in and out of the rustic setting, we learn the back story of our two hitmen, their mysterious employer and the random stars of a night-time movie shoot



Eye patches are so in right now. IMDB.COM

on a Bruges corner, all of whom become part and parcel of this slowly meandering story. While there isn't quite enough blood for die-hard "Kill Bill: Vol. 1" (2003) fans, this definitely is no "Jarhead" (2005). Bloody shoot-out action is interspersed throughout and is prominently featured in the vaguely appropriate ending.

The action and comedic interaction of the main characters is a pleasure, but the real attraction of this movie is in Farrell's startling performance. The jittery, guilt-stricken Ray is a far cry from the relatively one-sided characters Farrell portrayed in movies like Phone Booth (2002) and Daredevil (2003). With remarkable on-screen chemistry with his fellow actors, Farrell seems extremely real and relatable, a difficult task when the audience is full of spasmodic college students and the character being portrayed is a Dublin-based hitman.

Of course, a comedic action-drama is a tall order, and it doesn't succeed at all times. The emotion in characters' lines is generally on the mark. However, McDonagh as a director has a few misses; it would not be

difficult to find oneself laughing at the real tears coming out of Farrell's eyes. Of course, half the theater will probably be in a similar state, so it will not be an awkward one-sided miscue. This kind of black comedy is where "In Bruges" really excels.

Looking at it holistically, "In Bruges" is a delightfully silly, oh-that's-why-I'm-not-a-hitman fiasco of a show. A bit too many coincidences and Gleeson's self-sacrificing tendencies as Ken are a bit hard to swallow (he is a hitman, after all), but Farrell's performance as Ray absolutely sparkles.

Though the audience may be left wondering what exactly was up with those alcoves in the park, even the manliest men will walk away satisfied. Clémence Poésy (Fleur Delacour in "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" (2005)) parades around, and there are plenty of dum-dum bullets in action. Yes, that means a head with no face, exposed brains and more blood than an episode of "Dexter." "In Bruges" comes at a perfect time when there is a lull in the movie-making industry, so what could be more enticing than a couple comedic hitmen?

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**You took a test to get into Tufts.
Should you have to take one to get out?**

Great jazz doesn't make Savage a jazz great — at least not yet

SAVAGE
continued from page 5
album, "Hot Ticket: Live in Boston." "Then you're the up-and-coming pianist. And some go as far as being a jazz great. It's all about [the fact that] you have to continue. You can't stop anywhere ... Well, I'm 15 now, but I'm going to pretend I'm 25."

So, did he pass the test? Is he more than a child prodigy? Is he on his way to becoming a jazz great? Well, not yet.

Savage has always advanced staggeringly quickly and his proficiency in the face of autism is inspiring. But the question still lingers after "Hot Ticket" — when will he make the jump from auspicious cusp-sitter to bona fide professional?

He has better control over his technique than on past efforts. Savage no longer loses his rhythm in an overanxious roll or a misplaced, syncopated lick. And the less halting, smoother playing makes for a more professional sound. But the album smacks of a disappointing conservatism; he doesn't swing hard, he takes far too few melodic risks and the harmonic structures he employs are almost a regression from those of his last album, "Quantum Leap" (2006).

He plays more conservatively on "Hot Ticket," perhaps because of the daunting prospect of recording a live show for a relatively highly anticipated album. ("Quantum Leap" vaulted to the Top 25 on the jazz charts, and the "Hot Ticket" press kit quoted Jimmy Heath christening Savage as "the future of jazz." It looks like his PR people expect the budding star to do even better with the new release.)

But while it detracts from his playing in many ways, his newfound steadiness makes "Hot Ticket" a bit of a smoother ride than "Quantum Leap," and when Savage does start to light up late in the album, it proves more exciting than anything on his previous records.

On the Miles Davis classic "Seven Steps to Heaven," the album's only track that Savage didn't pen himself, he whirls off to a breakneck start with his solo in the middle register. He keeps it up, zigzagging his way up the keyboard and then div-

ing back down. Savage's solo wiggles and spins on this manic ride and he injects chords that are more syncopated and harmonically imaginative than any he has played yet on this record. The hottest swing tune on this album, "Seven Steps to Heaven" does pick up where "Quantum Leap" left off, as Savage struts his greater adroitness on the keys with flowing cascades and masterfully sharp runs.

But most of "Hot Ticket's" numbers are Latin tunes or ballads, and on these Savage rarely finds his groove. For instance, the opening track is "Muy Caliente," a Latin song. The head is catchy, alternating between a punctuated block-chord pattern and a drifting, single-note interlude. However, Savage doesn't let go enough, sticking faithfully within the scales and staying right on top of the beat. The listener can't help but feel a bit like he or she is hearing a piano recital rather than a jazz concert.

The album's third track, "Setting Sun," is a case study in the problems with Savage's balladry. The slow piece is more reminiscent of a film's mediocre soundtrack than of the "Ruby, My Dear" that it strives to be.

It is hard to hold anything against this kid as a performer, for he offers uncannily timed humor in his high, boyish voice after most of the album's 12 songs.

"When I wrote this next song, I thought it was horrible," he says between tunes. "I thought it was so awful that I decided to put it in the title; this next song here is called, 'An Awful Song' — and in parentheses — 'That You'll Really Hate.'"

Recognizing how far Savage has come already, we still have reason to hold out hope that he will get over that hump and achieve remarkable expertise on the adult level.

But on "Hot Ticket," we see that the home-schooled boy genius with an affinity for math will need to quit playing by the book and fitting things perfectly into their rhythmic locations. After all, the quirks that we saw on "Quantum Leap's" best track, the syncopated and halting "Give Me a Break," simply outmatch the rigidity and harmonic tedium of the latest album.

State Radio's 'Year of the Crow' is an interesting exploration of current events through music

STATE
continued from page 5
guitar work to pull the band more securely into their current reggae-rock style. A 2005 EP, "Peace Between Nations," followed in 2006 by "Us Against the Crown," State Radio's first full-length album, established the group as more than just a Dispatch side project. With "Year of the Crow," however, the band explores some new territory.

This album showcases the growth of the individual multi-instrumentalists, as well as a willingness in the band as a whole to try out some new sounds without straying too far from its distinctive style. The opening track, "Guantánamo," with its complicated, shifting time signatures and angular guitar riffs, may miss the mark melodically, but adequately conveys the message of protest implied by the song's name.

Not just the obligatory acoustic song on the album, "The Story of Benjamin Darling, Part 1" features a compelling bass, organ and percussion back-up, where previously just Urmston's guitar would have sufficed. Indeed, the guitar is muffled on this track to such an extent that it blends seamlessly into the other instruments, allowing the vocals to take the spotlight over the folksy, instrumental backdrop.

Notably featured on this album are Fay's work on piano and organ and Urmston's trombone arrangements. The organ parts help to flesh out the band's sound and provide more of a musical diversity on songs such as "Omar Bay" and "Sudan," while the trombone lines lend a ska feel to "Barn Storming" and "Fall of the American Empire." These additions, as well as the use of cello on "Fight No More," save the album from the poten-



State Radio's latest is about as cheerful as a crow lecturing about anarchy. AMAZON.COM

tial monotony of non-stop, guitar-bass-drums rock songs.

And of course, fans of the band's prior work will be relieved to find plenty of loud, fast rock on this new album. Tracks such as "CIA," "Gang of Thieves" and "Rash of Robberies" demonstrate State Radio's knack for composing and performing highly coordinated yet frenetically energetic songs. Their minimalist "power trio" setup has granted the band the ability to replicate such synchronized studio recordings in a live setting.

Furthermore, the band's political appeal remains, for the most part, unmatched in today's music scene. Urmston's writing for State Radio may not have risen to the level of his prior songs, such as Dispatch's "The General," in terms of instant appeal, but by no means has the 32-year-old singer-songwriter lost his political inspiration.

"Year of the Crow" plays almost like an audio protest manifesto,

featuring songs about torture and detention at Guantanamo Bay, the imprisonment of the West Memphis 3, genocide in Darfur, CIA corruption, the war in Iraq, military conscription in rural areas and the injustices of Native American reservations.

But despite such heavy subject matter, "Year of the Crow" comes off as anything but depressing. Rather, with such upbeat rhythms and creative melodies, the songs convey a truly galvanizing energy. "Fall of the American Empire" gives listeners a pleasant and upbeat vision of a final, decisive end to all the hopeless messes detailed in the previous 12 tracks.

After using the whimsical imagery of a party with the Mad Hatter and Quinn the Eskimo to lend light-heartedness to the number, Urmston finally reflects on his and State Radio's position: "But me, I'm just working a sound bite/ Just rolling my smokes tight/ You know, they said it was all right, all right."

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P.O. Box 53018, Medford, MA 02155
617 627 3090 FAX 617 627 3910
daily@tuftsdaily.com

EDITORIAL

Senate's judicial review proposal will help protect falsely accused students

On Sunday the Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate passed a resolution calling for the creation of a judicial review board to review academic dishonesty cases. Students and TCU senators had been calling for reforms after freshman Steven Li, who was suspended for academic dishonesty, said he was denied a hearing during his case because there was irrefutable evidence against him.

Li was accused of altering his original response to a chemistry quiz problem before submitting it for a re-grade. The irrefutable evidence against him was a photocopy of the quiz Li had originally handed in, which showed a discrepancy from the copy he turned in for a re-grade. Under the current judicial affairs system, a student who admits guilt or against whom there is "irrefutable evidence" of cheating can be denied a hearing and sentenced.

The Senate resolution is non-binding

legislation; it is merely a recommendation to the administration. Still, the Senate should be commended for acting quickly in response to student interest and for taking steps to make sure all students have a chance for a fair trial. We applaud the Senate for taking these steps and urge the administration to bring the resolution's goals to fruition.

Given the severe personal and professional consequences that accompany an academic dishonesty ruling, it is Tufts' responsibility to ensure that any evidence used to incriminate a student is valid. And whether or not Li himself is guilty, the existence of a review board can only decrease the likelihood of an erroneous and damaging ruling and increase the fairness and deliberation of the university's disciplinary process.

After all, if the evidence against a student is truly "irrefutable," there is no risk that it will wrongly exonerate

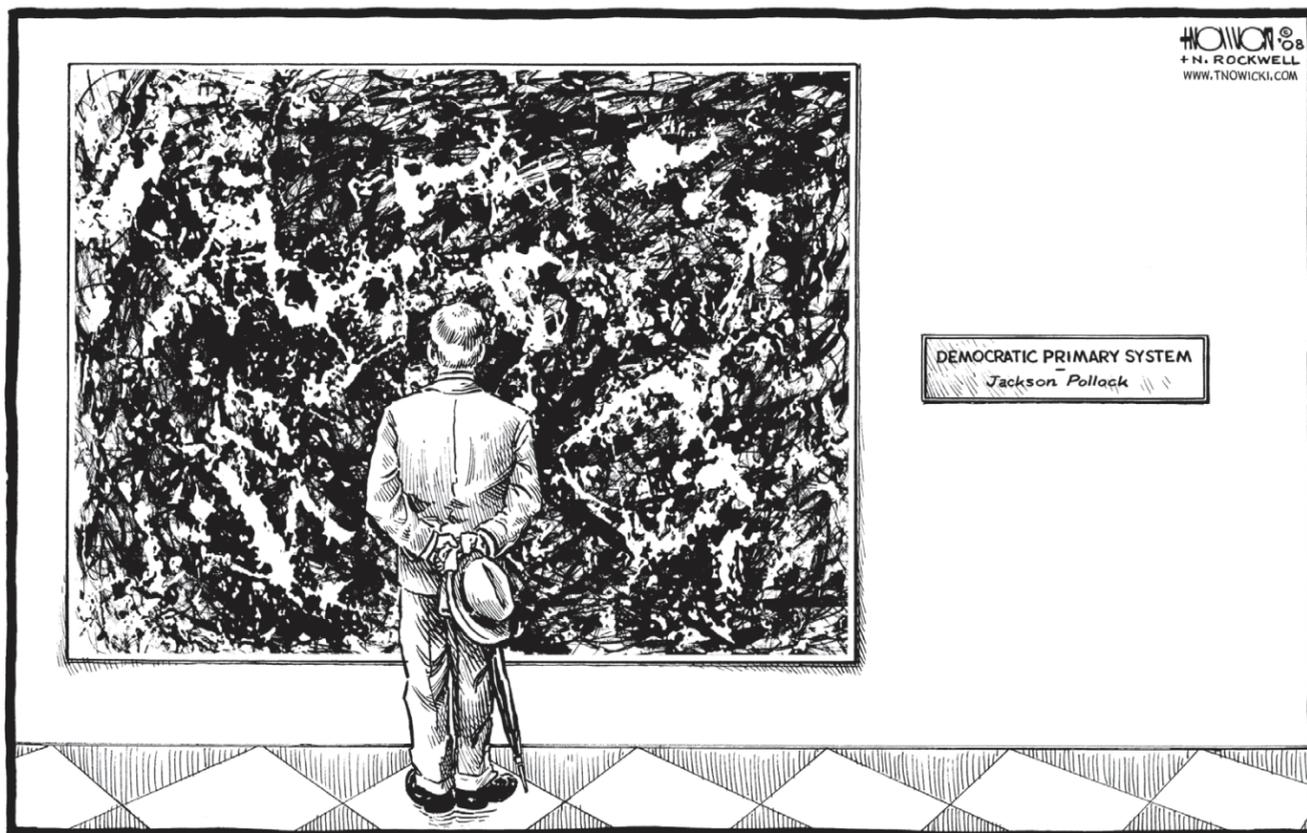
him under a committee's review. The decision to punish a guilty student will have more, not less, credibility if the evidence is fairly evaluated.

Much to its credit, the administration appears willing to work with students to set up a judicial review board. Dean of Student Affairs Bruce Reitman told the Daily that the resolution "is a good approach and one ... that [his] office is quite pleased to work with the judiciary to set up."

We hope the administration will follow through with this process. For under the status quo, with university regulations that allow students to be tried and sentenced without a hearing, the potential for false and damaging disciplinary actions is great.

Solving this problem should be a high priority for Tufts. We urge the administration to work swiftly to implement the Senate's well thought-out proposal.

TERRENCE NOWICKI



OFF THE HILL | BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Standardize academic credit for military service

As if constant reports of inadequate stipends and medical care were not enough to draw attention to the mistreatment of veterans, the revelation that many colleges and universities refuse to grant former soldiers credit for skills learned during service ought to bring some overdue reform to the way service members re-enter non-military life. Though the issue is complicated, colleges and military planners should both work to repay the soldier's sacrifice financially as well as symbolically.

Responsibility for providing Veterans Affairs benefits rests simply with the federal government, but the issue of college credits involves many conflicting

interests. Though participating schools form a consortium — Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges — which caters largely to veterans looking to transfer their work and training to an affordable degree, many other colleges do not accept any military training. Boston University's Metropolitan College accepts some credits, but other BU colleges likely evaluate troops on a case-by-case basis.

Soldiers should not have to choose colleges simply because an institution is friendlier to servicemembers. The rules should be more standardized. The American Council on Education, which defines accreditation standards for most military service, should expand its defini-

tions of what counts as college credit. The military should also help make school administrators' decisions easier by developing course syllabi and evaluations that can be applied to academic settings.

Colleges should not have to violate their academic standards to accommodate veterans demanding credit, but they should take a broader view of what counts for coursework. Though most enlisted soldiers' training does not come with a traditional syllabus or end with an explicit letter grade, the training troops receive in engineering, medicine and information technology — to name a few — often meets or exceeds the caliber of comparable college and university courses.

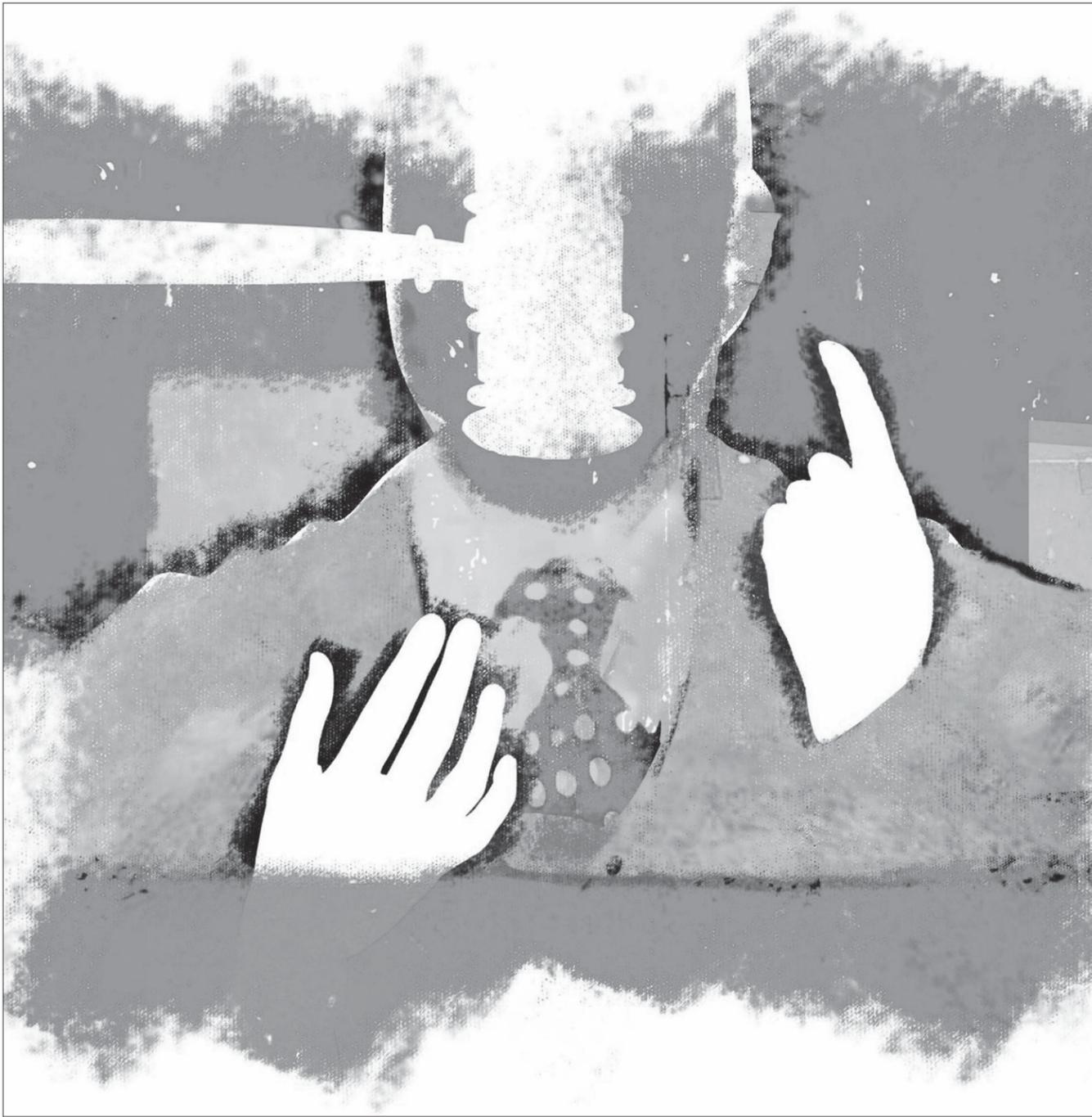
Corrections

The Feb. 8 features article "Tufts grads embrace Teach for America program as a stepping stone toward other career paths" referred to Tufts graduate Kayt Norris as a "then-senior" in fall of 2007. In fact, Norris graduated in spring of 2007 and was a recent graduate that fall.

A caption for the picture accompanying the Feb. 7 article "Experts condemn court's colorblindness ruling" said, "The University of California, Berkeley law professor spoke last night at Sophia Gordon Hall." In fact, the speech was held at Distler Performance Hall.

Jeremy Strauss' Feb. 11 sports column, "How un-Patriotic," referred to the Washington Redskins' owner as both "Dan Snyder" and "Dan Synder." The owner's actual name is Dan Snyder.

These errors have been corrected on Tuftsdaily.com.



MCT

Guilty until proven innocent

BY KEVIN DILLON

In the past, I have usually thought of Tufts as a place of equality, justice and integrity. Through a variety of committees, such as the Tufts Community Union (TCU) Judiciary and the Committee on Student Life, the administration purports a commitment to ensuring due process for any student disciplinary matter.

Yet Ben Gittleston's article, "Student denied hearing, sentencing appeal in cheating case," (Feb. 4) has revealed a gaping hole in the university's seemingly just punitive process.

Under most circumstances, if an infraction has occurred or a student is accused of a crime, the indicted is given a chance to defend himself or herself against the allegations. It is a system mirroring our nation's legal system, one that has worked quite well throughout America's history. Looking back to the time before America's inception, it is easy to understand why the Bill of Rights includes the right to a fair trial.

The Court of Star Chamber from 15th century England provides an illuminating example of justice gone wrong, when expedience was stressed and only "incontrovertible proof" was needed for a conviction. The court operated outside the rules of English common law in an attempt to expedite court proceedings.

Yet such swiftness came with a cost, as the court would hand out judgments without even an argument of defense, developing into a powerful tool to stifle all political dissent and leading to its infamy.

While not oppressing alternative views, Tufts does face a pressure to eliminate all academic dishonesty with as much haste as possible. However, it is crucial to ensure that the rights of the accused are preserved and that

they are able to defend themselves against all allegations brought forth, so that justice is preserved and the integrity of Tufts' judicial process is maintained.

Miscarriages of justice can also be found in our nation's own history. During the second Red Scare, Sen. Joseph McCarthy fed on public fear to consolidate power, which he exerted in the form of expedient "hearings" to uncover those "disloyal" to America. The Senator had his own form of "incontrovertible proof" in the shape of a list of communist sympathizers — a list to which only he was privy.

For a time, the peculiarity of this arrangement did not impede his rampant denunciations of communism against government officials. The House Un-American Activities Committee also struck fear into the hearts of Americans. It used similar tactics: the idea of a trial being unnecessary, and the spreading of doubt and suspicion among the population. There was no need for hearings; if you were accused of being a communist, you were a communist, and you needed to be punished.

In his letter to the Tufts community after the Primary Source incident, President Bacow condemned those college presidents who gave in to public pressure during that time, providing authorities with any "proof" they desired. Yet though colleges no longer have to fight against McCarthyism, a new problem plagues many campuses: academic dishonesty.

Cheating of any form must not be tolerated. However, this does not give the administration the excuse to deny the rights of students to defend themselves against allegations. It is imperative that a university protect a student's right to innocence until proven guilty, regardless of public pressure to act otherwise.

Dean of Student Affairs Bruce Reitman's and Dean of Judicial Affairs Veronica Carter's declaration of "incontrovertible" evidence against student Stephen Li is reminiscent of the days of the Spanish Inquisition or the trial of Ferdinando Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, when only an accusation was required for conviction and demonstrated proof was unheard of. The problem with such thinking is that there does not exist such a thing as incontrovertible proof. This is illustrated by the lack of an official definition of "irrefutable evidence." There only exists over-vigilance, which becomes elevated in times of trouble and leads authorities to make hasty decisions.

Evidence, no matter how condemning, means nothing until scrutinized under cross-examination and used as part of an argument. Arguments can be imperfect or flawed, which is why it is crucial to allow those accused of crimes with serious consequences to receive fair trials in which they may attempt to prove the faultiness of such thinking, protect their innocence and therefore avoid unwarranted punishment. Furthermore, it is the duty of those in power to ensure that the rights of the governed (in this case, the students) are preserved, regardless of the allegation.

On behalf of the Tufts student body, I strongly urge all those in the administration, such as Reitman and Carter, to think heavily on the issues at hand. And as the TCU Senate drafts recommendations for judicial reform, please consider its advice so that we may have a just legal process at Tufts — rather than one that merely mimics due process while barring students from fair representation.

Kevin Dillon is a junior majoring in sociology.

DAVE ADAMS | CYNICISM PERSONIFIED



Making the case for Barack

Barack Obama is the best, most qualified candidate for president.

I am very black-and-white about this for a reason: One cannot view this in shades of gray. At the end of the day, one must back a candidate. In this week's column, I will explain why I support Sen. Obama (D-Ill.). But first, I'll address some key elements of the dialogue concerning the candidacies of Obama and Hillary Clinton.

First there are the issues. Let's face it: Hillary and Barack have pretty similar stances. Unlike the Republicans, who face a schism between candidates based on the issues, the Democratic front-runners agree on most of the issues in the aggregate. Moreover, I would assume that most Democrats, myself included, would at least be able to tolerate their second-choice Democrat in office. While I strongly endorse Barack Obama, I certainly would not move to Canada if Hillary were behind the wheel.

Second, there is the matter of demographics. I'm not colorblind and I'm not stupid. I'm quite aware that Barack is a black guy; I just don't care that much. Voting for a candidate because she is a woman, or he is black or any other demographical distinction is just plain stupid.

I hear a lot of people saying that having Hillary as the first woman president would be great. I ask why, to which they respond, "Because she's a woman."

So? What does that mean to me? Why is a woman more capable to be the head of state than a man? If they were to say that she has good policies or the necessary experience, maybe I would understand their reasoning. But I refuse to believe that voting for someone because she is a woman (or because he is black — the same logic applies to Obama) is a responsible choice.

Third, I mention the criteria of experience. Saying a presidential candidate doesn't have enough experience is a silly comment. People seem obsessed with the idea that Barack is inexperienced and thus cannot lead the country. Yeah, and who is experienced? The presidency is an incredibly misunderstood job.

The president does far less than people believe he or she does. Most of the day-to-day work is handled by cabinet-level officials and their bureaucracies, or even by the president's staff. The president is insulated by his or her staff; many of the standard tasks involve meet-and-greets and photo-ops. Because the president is both the executive and head of state, he or she handles a lot of unimportant, ceremonial duties.

So, to someone who says a candidate is inexperienced, I say: inexperienced for what? Shaking hands? Kissing babies? I would assume that to get this far, candidates are quite experienced with that.

So, why Barack? Quite simply, he's an inspiring leader. When I first heard him speak, I got goose bumps. I still do. The president's main job is to motivate and inspire the population. Public policy matters are largely formulated, drafted and carried out by deputies; the big cheese just okays them and takes responsibility if they fail.

Look at our best presidents (a subjective view, I know): Lincoln, FDR, Kennedy. Honest Abe pushed the populace toward unity by any means necessary. FDR lifted the gazes of millions with his warmth and confidence through a depression and a war. Kennedy boldly pursued American excellence in space and aerospace technology, inspiring a wave of innovation and greatness.

Barack will be on this list, too. His policies are good, but that isn't my concern. He has the potential to inspire each and every one of us, despite two wars, a slowing economy and countless other crises.

Barack is a leader, not just an ambitious politician. A driven politician pushes himself. A true leader inspires and motivates others.

Dave Adams is a freshman who has not declared a major.

Around Campus	Housing	Housing	Housing	Housing	Wanted
<p>PreMed Applicant Meeting On 2/13/08 at 5:30 p.m. there will be a meeting for premed students. This meeting is sponsored by Health Professions Advising Program. It will be held in Dowling 745A.</p>	<p>Apartments Apartments for rent. 3, 4 and 5 bedrooms. Very close to Tufts. Off-street parking. Dishwasher, disposal, washer and dryer. Refrigerator. Available June 1. For information call Danny 781-396-0303.</p> <p>4 Bedroom, 2 Bath Apartment Amazing Location - 2 Blocks to Tufts, Newly Renovated, Stunningly Beautiful. Huge Sunny Rooms, 2 New Bathrooms, New Hardwood Floors, New Designer Windows. New: Heating, Electric, Kitchen. Parking negotiable. Available 09/01/08. \$2400. No Fees. Please call (781) 396-4675.</p> <p>3 & 4 Bedroom Apartments Both Beautiful Apartments have been completely refinished. Entire House Rebuilt. Great Location close to Main Campus. Parking Option available. Rental available 09/01/08. \$1,800 & \$2,200. No Fees. Please call (781) 526-8471. Thanks!!</p> <p>3 Bedroom Apartment Five minute walk to school. Very large 1st floor two family house - Two baths, large den. Free off-street parking. Great place. 617-448-6233.</p>	<p>Apartment for Rent Three 4 bedroom apartments for rent. Walking distance from Tufts University. 62 Powderhouse Blvd. Somerville, MA. Call Charlie @ 781-646-7434 if interested.</p> <p>3 Bedroom Apartments From \$1785 / Month, Call (781) 863-0440. Modern 3 bedroom apartments next to Tufts; New Washer & Dryer; Newly refinished hardwood floors; New windows throughout; Modern kitchens and baths, garages available, front & rear porches, no fees.</p> <p>Two apartments, steps to campus! 4 BR + 2 bath apt. Couple of blocks to campus! Laundry in basement, some off-street parking, hardwood floors, excellent condition. \$2400/month. Also, 3 BR across the street from campus on college ave. \$2100, call 617-230-1601. Available June 1, 2008.</p> <p>3 Bedroom at Edge of Campus Large 3 BR APT 6 rooms in nice condition on Capen St. Other 3 bedrooms within 5 blocks with parking, hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen, porches, sun. Call 781-956-5868 for details.</p>	<p>4 Bedroom Apt at Tufts Large 4 bedroom apartment on Walker St., across from football field, hardwood floors, washer/dryer, lots of off-street parking, storage, porches, yard, subletting O.K. \$2500/month., available June 1. Call Tom 617-413-5716</p> <p>3 Bedroom Apartment Large 3 bedroom apartment 245 Boston Ave. 6 big rooms, 2 porches, hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen, living room, and dining room. Off street parking for 2 or 3 cars. W/D in basement. \$1750/mo not including utilities. Call Rick 781-956-5868</p> <p>3 Bedroom Apartment for Rent 53 Curtis Ave. Somerville, 3 Bedroom, Eat in Kitchen, Living Room, New Windows, New Heating Systems, New Front and Back Porches, Washer and Dryer, Parking. Contact Russ 978 663 6370</p> <p>House on College Ave 4 bedroom (\$2600) AND 6 bedroom (\$3900) on 209 College Ave. Off street parking. Rent one or both apartments. Available June 1, 2009. 617-633-0965</p>	<p>4 Bedroom Apartment Three great four bedrooms to choose from - Right next to school. Two four bedrooms in one two family house. Can be used as 8 bedroom whole house. 617-448-6233</p> <p>5 Bedroom Apartment Bowdoin St, close to Sci Tech, 5 Br 2 Ba, new dishwasher, fridge, free laundry in unit. Hardwood floors, 1 off-street pk space, lg EIK, \$2800/mo, avail 6/1, first and last required, email Miriam and Derek (miriam.marx@tufts.edu, derekyim@gmail.com).</p> <p>1 Bedroom Apartment Gorgeous 1 Bed Apartment. Only Two Blocks from Tufts, Large Sunny Rooms, New Bathroom & Kitchen, Newly Refinished Hardwood Floor, Huge Thermal Pane Designer Windows. Off Street Parking available. 09/01/08. This is an Amazing Apartment w/ no fees. \$1000. Please Contact 781-396-4675.</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>Ticket-Takers Needed! \$8.50/hour. Ticket-takers needed for EPIIC's International Symposium February 21 - February 24, 2008 ALL Tufts students welcome. For more info contact Janelle Smart at Janelle.Smart@tufts.edu</p> <p>Got sperm?? \$\$ Got Sperm \$\$ - Cambridge. Up to \$1100/month. Healthy MEN, wanted for California Cryobank sperm donor program. APPLY ONLINE: www.spermbank.com</p> <p>Mad Science of Greater Boston Area Instructors Needed to present FUN science activities for kids at schools and parties. Need car and experience with kids. Training Provided. P/T. \$25/1 hr program. Apply online: www.madscience.org/greaterboston or 781-899-6006</p>
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<p>For Sale</p> <p>Medford Estate Sale - Sat. Feb 16 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Winthrop to George to 81 Gourley Rd. - across from Tufts-Dame School building. Furniture and household items priced to sell. 781-820-8237</p>					

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Duke and Carolina not the only ACC squads poised to make noise in March

MEN'S BASKETBALL
continued from page 16
to the non-conference cupcake American University.
Since then, though, Maryland has turned it around big time with a run that included road wins against UNC, the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets and the Boston College Eagles. In fact, last Wednesday's win at Boston College was coach Williams' 600th career victory, placing him eighth among active coaches. With Vasquez at the helm, Maryland

is capable of doing some serious damage in the ACC. A win tonight at Duke would certainly solidify the Terps as a serious conference contender.
Lurking at the outskirts of the top of the conference are Clemson and the Virginia Tech Hokies who are 5-4 and 5-5 in the ACC, respectively. The Tigers, 17-6 overall, have a very balanced attack with five players averaging over 10 points per game. In order to make a run at the tournament, though, coach Oliver Purnell and

company will have to bounce back strongly after coughing up a second-half, double-digit lead in their recent loss at Chapel Hill.
The Hokies are led by 6-foot-6 junior A.D. Vassallo, a native of Puerto Rico. The Hokies also sport a potent threat in Deron Washington. The senior from New Orleans is averaging 12.7 points per game, many of which come in the form of vicious dunks. If these two players remain healthy and Virginia Tech continues to receive solid contributions from

freshman big man Jeff Allen, then coach Seth Greenberg's team should have a good shot at an NCAA bid come March.
Georgia Tech and the N.C. State Wolfpack are currently on the outside looking in but might have enough time before Selection Sunday to right the ship. The Yellow Jackets are 4-4 in ACC play but also post an underwhelming 11-11 overall record. Sidney Lowe's Wolfpack is 4-5 in conference play but possess a stronger 15-8 overall record. Freshman center J.J.

Hickson will need to step up big time for N.C. State to get a serious look from the committee.
All told, the ACC will probably see anywhere from four to six teams getting their tickets punched to the NCAA tournament come March. As for contentions that the ACC is weak this year, one must consider the conference RPI rankings — an accurate measure, especially this far into the season. The ACC is on top of the rest.
Not too bad for a so-called down year.

Skiers ready for Regionals

SKIING
continued from page 16
knew could place. Lindsay stepped up and did a great job filling that third spot but it's a bummer that we didn't make Regionals.
One female skier will continue racing for Tufts, as Fontaine got the individual bid to move on to the postseason.
"I am so excited," Fontaine said. "It was a little close at the end in the standings but I just can't wait to go and compete against the other divisions."

The men's team will head to Waterville Valley on Feb. 23 for the regional race, where the Jumbos will need to get in the top four to advance to Nationals.
"I had two not-so-stellar runs on Saturday, but sections were good and I am definitely in good shape for Regionals," Benson said. "The team is looking great for Regionals. We will be training all week and we have a weekend off so it will be a good time to train and prepare ourselves. We have a great chance at Nationals if we ski well."

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Wednesday, February 20

- 11:00am: Microfinance and the Challenge of Eradicating Poverty

Thursday, February 21

- 7:00pm: Your Future in an "Everyone a Changemaker" World
- 8:00pm: Megacities: Global Slums and the Urbanization of Poverty

Friday, February 22

- 12:00pm: Scarcity and Sustainability: Climate Change and the World's Poor
- 2:00pm: The Resource Trap: Conflict, Corruption, and Failing States
- 7:00pm: Alleviating Poverty: Is Aid the Answer?

Saturday, February 23

- 9:30am: Bottom-Up Development: Microfinance and Entrepreneurship
- 11:30am: Investing in Human Potential: Health, Education, and the Millennium Development Goals
- 2:30pm: America's Poor: Is there a Domestic Poverty Trap?
- 4:30pm: The Environment in an Unequal World
- 5:15pm: Small-Group Discussions (topics tba)
- 8:00pm: Illicit Trade and the Informal Economy: Abuse of the Poor

Sunday, February 24

- 1:00pm: Corporate Social Responsibility: Principles, Priorities, and Profits
- 3:00pm: Governance, Wealth, Power, and Accountability

DAILY DIGITS

2

Jumbo divers who scored first place wins in both the three- and one-meter dives at the Middlebury Invitational. Senior Kendall Swett and sophomore Rob Madera, of the women's and men's swimming and diving teams respectively, both came out on top in both diving events.

53-0

All-time home record of the North Carolina men's basketball team against the Clemson Tigers, a new NCAA record. The previous record of 52 straight home wins against a single team ran from 1929-2002, when Princeton overcame Brown in every home contest.

61.8

Shooting percentage of the men's basketball team during its first NESCAC win of the season, a 93-68 rout of Williams Saturday in Medford. This was the best day of shooting from the field for the Jumbos in four years and was buttressed by 56 percent efficiency from three-point land.

16-0

The Boston Celtics record against Western Conference teams this season, the most recent victory coming against San Antonio 98-90 Sunday at the TD Banknorth Garden. While the Celtics guard the best NBA record, they have the second best conference record at 23-9, coming short of Detroit's 25-6 mark.

6

Straight losses posted by the women's squash team. Despite a lackluster conclusion to the regular season, save a finale match today against Wellesley, the Jumbos squeaked into the second division of the Howe Cup national tournament, beating out Amherst for the final spot and forcing the Lord Jeffs into the third division.

0

Years of head coaching experience under the belt of new Washington Redskins head coach Jim Zorn. Having left his job in Seattle as a quarterbacks coach, Zorn was originally hired as the new offensive coordinator before being promoted to the top coaching position a mere two weeks later. Zorn's new contract is a five-year deal reportedly worth \$15 million.

Newsom hopes to break camp with Indians

NEWSOM

continued from page 16

and our CEO's going to sit down with them soon, so we have a good relationship."

The motivation for RSI came as a reaction to what Newsom perceived as an opportunity to align the interests of both fans and players.

"I thought, well, a lot of fans will love the chance to follow guys and help them out," he said. "And players would love the chance to be financially stable. So why not bring them together, and that's where we came in."

Jon Searles, a pitcher in the San Diego Padres farm system with an economics degree from the University of Pennsylvania, shared with the New York Times his reservations about the business from an economic side.

"Don't get me wrong — \$50,000 can be everything to a player in the minor leagues," Searles said in the Feb. 1, 2008 article. "But the risk of them committing five percent in perpetuity for a quick \$50,000, there's a break-even point where only players who aren't characterized as prospects might do it. And rational investors will assess those percentages."

Newsom acknowledged that this may be true, but he added that each player would make that decision in the context of his own situation.

"With 99.9 percent of minor leaguers, you just don't know how it's going to shake out," Newsom said. "We've talked to a bunch of [first-round draft picks]. It's up to each individual player whether it's worth it. What people do with money and how they handle it, I don't think people completely know."

"And that's the thing: would a first-rounder take \$50,000? I don't know, maybe. But what we're saying is that for every player it's going to be a different situation. We're going to take things on an individual case-by-case basis. It's not going to be like every player does this in the world — we understand that."

One thing that has been particularly encouraging for Newsom is the positive reaction that he's gotten from inside the baseball world.

"The response has been awesome," he said.

"I've been humbled by how supportive the baseball community has been to this. I knew it was a good idea in some ways, but I didn't know how players were going to react to it. I've heard from so many of my teammates and my friends, and a lot of guys are interested. We realize that the idea works on both sides."

In addition, the company has had little trouble attracting interest from a wide variety of investors.

"We've got everything from people inside the industry, to people in the entertainment industry, to just the regular everyday fan," Newsom said. "We heard a lot of stories about a dad buying a share for his son, and they were going to wake up every morning and check my stats. And that's what we were looking for, to bring as many people in as possible."

In addition to the Times article, Newsom has received inquiries from ESPN and NBC about appearing on their stations. But despite all of the media attention, Newsom's focus is still primarily on his own baseball career.

"I'm just a baseball player right now," Newsom said. "I don't know what to tell people except that yeah, I'm interested in a lot of different things. But my main focus is helping the Indians and becoming a big leaguer. The idea is what I wanted the focus to be on, not me."

Newsom will turn 26 in May, and while his clock is ticking, he's also closer to playing in the major leagues than he's ever been. He was an Eastern League All-Star last year with the AA Akron Aeros, posting a 3.12 ERA in 49.0 innings pitched, and he aims to start the 2008 season in AAA when camp breaks in late March.

"I wouldn't trade this for anything," he said. "I'm learning a lot and I'm enjoying the heck out of my experience, and it's allowing me opportunities I would have never had. If it doesn't work out — if for some reason, I can't make it — then I [will have to] put my heart and soul into it. But it wouldn't be the end of my world, and there are greater tragedies. Personally I think I've come a long way, and I feel very good about where I'm at as a player."

Look for West Virginia and Oklahoma State to make runs in March Madness

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

continued from page 15

and 10 rebounds. Rutgers was led by guard Epiphanny Prince, the hero of the UConn game, who scored 21 points.

With the NCAA Tournament just over a month away, it's about time for teams to start putting together résumés for the tournament committee. Unlike the men, where Cinderella teams reach the later rounds of the tournament every year, the women's bracket is usually more top-heavy.

Of the past 13 tournaments, nine have been won by either UConn or Tennessee. By contrast, there have been only three teams, Florida, Kentucky and

Connecticut, to win more than one men's championships in that same timeframe.

That being said, it's worth mentioning two semi-sleepers quietly putting together solid seasons and poised to make a deep run in the tournament.

In the women's world, where top teams are constantly squaring off, regular season experience is invaluable in the playoffs. The **West Virginia Mountaineers** got blown out by both Tennessee and UConn early on but have since reeled off eight straight wins in the challenging Big East, including Rutgers and the **Notre Dame Fighting Irish**. At 8-1 in the Big East, West Virginia sits right under UConn and Rutgers and has

the magic combination of frontcourt and backcourt scoring necessary for a March run.

Receiving solid production from center Yinka Sanni and guard LaQuita Owens gives the Mountaineers a balance of options not many other teams have. It also doesn't hurt that Owens and Sanni are both seniors, as veteran leadership has time and again proven to be a huge asset come tournament time.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, the **Oklahoma State Cowgirls** have put together a solid season while avoiding the national powerhouses West Virginia has faced. And despite a two-game slide in late January, Oklahoma State

has put together a very impressive season, sitting at 19-3 for the year while playing out of the Big 12. A convincing Feb. 5 victory over a **Baylor Bears** team that was eyeing the national title race highlighted their schedule, but conference victories over the **Oklahoma Sooners** and **Nebraska Cornhuskers** also proved impressive.

Their strength of schedule, in comparison to teams in the Big East, SEC and ACC, is weak, but one must not forget that Baylor won the national title in 2005. Oklahoma State scores and defends well, and, with a tournament appearance almost a lock, looks to bring their southern game to the grand stage.

STATISTICS | STANDINGS

Men's Basketball (11-11, 1-6 NESCAC)

	NESCAC		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Amherst	8	0	21	2
Trinity	6	2	18	5
Bowdoin	5	2	18	4
Middlebury	5	2	17	5
Bates	4	3	15	6
Conn. Coll.	3	4	16	6
Williams	2	5	15	7
Colby	1	6	11	11
Tufts	1	6	11	11
Wesleyan	1	6	8	14

Women's Basketball (19-2, 5-2 NESCAC)

	NESCAC		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Bowdoin	6	1	17	5
Amherst	6	2	21	2
Tufts	5	2	19	2
Wesleyan	5	2	15	7
Williams	5	2	16	6
Bates	3	4	13	9
Middlebury	3	4	12	10
Colby	2	5	7	13
Trinity	1	7	10	11
Conn. Coll.	0	7	10	12

Hockey (6-13-1, 4-10-1 NESCAC/ECAC)

	NESCAC			OVERALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Middlebury	10	3	2	14	4	2
Colby	10	4	1	11	7	1
Amherst	9	4	2	11	6	3
Bowdoin	10	5	0	14	5	0
Wesleyan	6	6	3	8	8	3
Williams	6	6	3	8	9	3
Conn. Coll.	6	7	2	6	11	3
Trinity	6	7	2	10	8	2
Tufts	4	10	1	6	13	1
Hamilton	3	11	1	4	15	1

Individual Statistics

	PPG	RPG	APG
Jon Pierce	21.9	8.6	1.1
Jake Weitzen	14.0	5.4	2.8
Ryan O'Keefe	11.0	3.1	1.4
Jeremy Black	9.4	2.9	5.5
Aaron Gallant	8.5	2.7	1.4
Dave Beyel	7.2	2.7	1.0
Pat Sullivan	3.9	3.3	1.0
Dan Cook	3.0	0.8	0.5
Sam Mason	2.5	0.9	0.1
Bryan Lowry	1.9	1.4	0.4
Tom Selby	1.7	2.2	0.2
Aaron Harris	0.7	1.3	0.0
Matt Galvin	0.6	0.9	1.2
Team	79.7	36.3	16.1

Individual Statistics

	PPG	RPG	APG
Colleen Hart	11.9	3.6	3.6
K. Ummah	11.5	9.9	1.0
K. Tausanovitch	10.0	8.1	1.2
Kim Moynihan	8.3	4.2	1.9
Julia Bailly	8.0	5.3	0.5
Jenna Gomez	6.0	4.4	2.0
Lindsay Weiner	3.5	1.3	0.4
Casey Sullivan	3.4	1.5	1.3
Stacy Filocco	2.2	0.9	0.4
Katie Wholey	1.9	0.5	0.8
Vanessa Miller	1.7	1.9	2.2
Katie Puishys	1.0	1.2	0.1
S. Robinson	0.2	0.5	0.0
Team	66.3	46.7	13.9

Individual Statistics

	G	A	Pts.
Ross Gimbel	7	9	16
Kurt Herzog	7	7	14
Lindsay Walker	2	12	14
Greg O'Connell	4	9	13
Cory Korchin	6	6	12
Dylan Cooper	4	6	10
Aly Davis	2	6	8
Doug Wilson	5	1	6
Mike Vitale	0	6	6
Joe Milo	4	0	4
Team	50	84	134

Goalkeeping

	S	GA	S %
James Kalec	471	49	.906
Issa Azat	179	31	.852
Team	650	82	.888

SCHEDULE (FEB. 13 - FEB. 17)

	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
Men's Basketball			at Bowdoin 7 p.m.	at Colby 2 p.m.	
Women's Basketball			vs. Bowdoin 7 p.m.	at Colby 3 p.m.	
Hockey			at Southern Maine 7 p.m.	at Salem St. 3 p.m.	
Men's Swimming					
Women's Swimming					
Men's Squash			at Nine-Man Nationals	at Nine-Man Nationals	at Nine-Man Nationals
Women's Squash		at Wellesley 6:30 p.m.			
Men's Track and Field				at MIT Invite 12 p.m.	
Women's Track and Field					Tufts Invite III 11 a.m.

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INSIDE MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Down year for the ACC? Depth and parity suggest otherwise

BY BEN WALDRON
Contributing Writer

Each college basketball season produces its own pieces of conventional wisdom that announcers and pundits enjoy stating as fact. Such declarations and prognostications usually hold insight and sometimes turn out completely correct. Nevertheless, fans must analyze all of these types of observations with a critical eye.

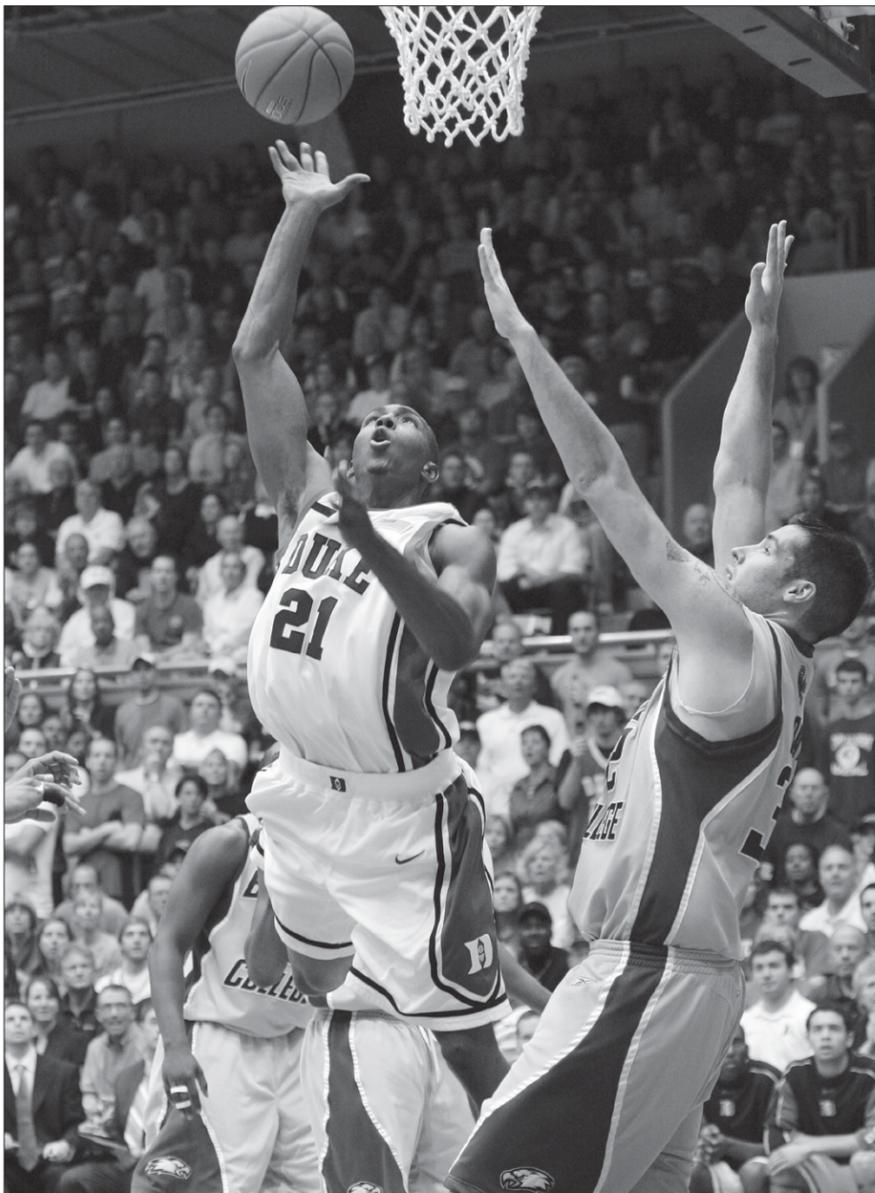
One of this season's prevailing pieces of conventional wisdom is that the ACC is going to get a maximum of four bids to the NCAA Tournament. This assertion is mostly based on the fact that only a few teams in the conference have distinguished themselves as clearly ahead of the pack, namely the **Duke Blue Devils** (21-1, 9-0) and the **North Carolina Tar Heels** (22-2, 7-2).

While a conference without many strong frontrunners might be a weaker one, the logic can work both ways. A conference in which most teams have similar records, like the ACC this year, is one that has a good level of competition and parity. Some might label this as a weakness, but it might as readily be called balance.

The Blue Devils and Tar Heels have both posted very impressive seasons this year, as befits the perennial ACC top dogs. In Durham, coach Mike Krzyzewski has taken a team without a true center to No. 2 in the national rankings. Senior guard DeMarcus Nelson has been Coach K's go-to guy, averaging 15.5 points per game. Also carrying the load is highly touted freshman swingman Kyle Singler with 13.8 points per game to go along with 6.1 rebounds, the highest average on the team.

Meanwhile in Chapel Hill, junior forward Tyler Hansbrough has lived up to the massive amount of hype he received before the season. With 22.8 points and 10.8 boards per game, he has proven himself a force to be reckoned with for the No. 5 Tar Heels, since both of those averages rank in the top 10 nationally. Sophomore guard Wayne Ellington has chipped in 16.4 points per game, even without the help of star sophomore point guard Ty Lawson, who has missed the past few games with a sprained ankle.

With Lawson out, Heels fans have cause for concern. UNC's most recent loss was at the hands of Duke, a team that relies heavily on backcourt playmaking. And just this



Duke senior guard DeMarcus Nelson has averaged 15.5 points per game this year and has helped lead the Blue Devils to a 21-1 record. Duke sits atop the ACC, a conference with more potency than meets the eye.

past Sunday, UNC needed two overtimes to best the **Clemson Tigers** at home. If Lawson is unable to recover soon, the Tar Heels may end up limping into March.

North Carolina's first loss was to arguably the most surprising team in the ACC so far, the **Maryland Terrapins**. Coach Gary Williams and the Terps are 6-3 in

the ACC, good for third in the conference. Do-it-all sophomore guard Greivis Vasquez and explosive senior big man James Gist have led Maryland's recent resurgence. The Terps have overcome a truly rough start that included losses

see **MEN'S BASKETBALL**, page 11

EVANS CLINCHY | DIRTY WATER



Green, gold and giddy

I am too young to remember the 1980s. Not a day goes by that I neglect to thank my lucky stars.

Amid the mess of incompetent presidents, bad hair bands, disappointing movie sequels and, well, Buckner, it's hard to find any redeeming qualities in the entire decade. I probably shouldn't even try.

But one thing stands out — the glory days of the Celtics-Lakers rivalry. As someone who has only recently rediscovered his passion for basketball, I only wish I had known what I was missing throughout my childhood. I'm from the generation that sees Casey Affleck in a green "I Hate L.A." T-shirt in "Good Will Hunting" and feels nothing. The emotion's just not there.

How can you blame us? Larry Bird was in Boston for 13 years, made the playoffs all 13 times and won three rings. He retired when I was five. In the 15 years since, the Celtics have had four winning seasons. That's right. Four.

Luckily, they're closing in on number five.

For the first time since Bon Jovi was "Slippery When Wet," the Celtics are heading into the All-Star break with the best record in the NBA. It took an entire childhood, but I finally got to see it.

But that's not all. It's as if Red Auerbach scripted it from the grave. Just as the Celtics acquired Ray Allen, James Posey, Eddie House and some guy named Garnett in an offseason frenzy last summer, the Lakers simultaneously emerged to threaten their best season of the post-Shaq era, arguably positioning themselves as the best team in the Western Conference.

Obviously, there are question marks. The jury is still out on whether Pau Gasol can replace the production, on both ends of the floor, once brought by Andrew Bynum; whether Bynum can return from his season-threatening knee injury in time for the playoffs, and if he does, whether he'll be back in full force; and whether the 29-year-old man-child masquerading as the face of the franchise can stop whining long enough to lead his team into a deep playoff run.

(In case you missed the first three times I used this column to relentlessly bash the Lakers' superstar, I'll inform you now that Kobe Bryant has never won a postseason series without Shaquille O'Neal. If Kobe's Lakers and Shaq's Suns end up meeting in the playoffs this season, I may have to sell a kidney just to fly out west for a couple weeks and see the inevitable fireworks live.)

But here's the thing: As much as I hate the Lakers, I'm rooting for them this season. I want the Gasol trade to make Mitch Kupchak look like a genius (as of this writing, the Lakers are 4-1 post-Pau). I want Bynum to come back in March and swat shots like a superstar. And, as much as it pains me to say this, I think I want Kobe to grow up and win.

Because more than anything, I want to see a Celtics-Lakers NBA Finals in June. If nothing else, it'll teach me to hate L.A. for the right reasons. I want a healthy rivalry — not an isolated resentment of one man just because he cheats on his wife, chases away Hall of Fame teammates and takes more bad shots than 50 Cent.

The Celtics and Lakers have met in the Finals 10 times, easily more than any other two teams in NBA history. For the last of those 10 series, I was in diapers. But if the Celtics can win the East this spring, and the Lakers can do their part to stave off the rest of the West's heavyweights, we could see a return to the good old days.

Because if I couldn't dream about the return of Celtics-Lakers, how could I ever look back at the '80s without wanting to hurl? I'll be honest. I'm getting tired of sitting through reruns of "Back to the Future Part III."

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

INSIDE WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Rutgers falls to No. 1 Tennessee on controversial call

BY AARON FRANKEL
Daily Staff Writer

These days, it seems every discussion about women's basketball begins and ends with the **Rutgers Scarlet Knights**.

Last week, the Scarlet Knights downed the **UConn Huskies**, dethroning them from the unbeaten ranks with a huge offensive output in the second half. Tuesday, Rutgers faced another title contender when it traveled to Knoxville to take on the No. 1 **Tennessee Lady Volunteers**. However, a controversial call derailed the Knights' chances at their second monumental upset in as many games, as Rutgers fell 59-58.

Like the UConn game, Rutgers started slow, scoring 23 points in the first half and heading into the break down 11, as compared with 24 points and a nine-point deficit against the Huskies. And just like in that UConn game, Rutgers charged back in the second half, using a run toward the middle of the half to win the second frame by 10.

But this time the team's best effort just wasn't enough, as Tennessee senior Nicky Anosike's clutch free throws with 0.2 seconds remaining ruined Rutgers' tremendous effort. Anosike also prevented the Knights from being the first squad in women's basketball history to beat No. 1 teams in consecutive games.

But Rutgers coach C. Vivian Stringer is stunned Anosike even got the chance to go to the line. When Anosike grabbed a rebound with 0.2 seconds remaining, the game clock appeared to freeze for what ESPN later determined to be 1.3 seconds. That gave Anosike time to draw a foul on Rutgers center Kia Vaughn and earn a controversial trip to



Tennessee senior Nicky Anosike, seen here during last season's national championship game against Rutgers, notched a pair of controversial free throws against those same Scarlet Knights Monday night, lifting the Lady Vols to a 59-58 victory.

the free throw line, as time appears to have expired long before Vaughn was charged with the personal.

To Anosike's credit, she was unfazed by the situation and calmly sank the

free throws. Junior Candace Parker, regarded by most as the best player in the nation, led the Vols with 27 points

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ALUMNI PROFILE

Minor-league pitcher Newsom ventures into business world

BY NOAH SCHUMER
 Daily Editorial Board

When people ask Randy Newsom (LA '04) what he does for a living, they are often impressed to learn that he's a professional baseball player in the Cleveland Indians' farm system. But when he talks to those from within the Tufts community, the sentiment is often quite different.

"People are like, 'You're 25 — what have you accomplished?'" he said.

That may be about to change. Not only is Newsom steadily ascending in his baseball career toward the major leagues, but his recent business venture has captured national media attention. While the former Jumbo pitcher works out on the Hill in preparation for the upcoming season, he has another career on his mind as well.

Real Sports Investments (RSI), the brainchild of Newsom and two partners, was developed during the last quarter of 2007 and launched in January. The company is built around the unique idea of allowing fans to buy shares of individual minor league players, with the hope that they'll one day be able to cash in on .002 percent of the millions in salary that the player could make in the major leagues.

Under the rules, a player could sell up to five percent of his future major league salary. From the player's perspective, the incentive is

the chance to augment his minor league salary with some extra cash.

"For some players, it's an insurance [policy]," Newsom said. "It's kind of spreading out the risk, and as a baseball player, you never know what the future holds. I think a lot of people have a misconception about how much minor leaguers make. It's a winner-take-all sport, so only the top guys get paid. Everybody else kind of struggles along, and then you either make it or you don't."

During the month of January, Newsom sold a total of 1,800 shares at \$20 apiece, netting himself a \$36,000 bonus. The company was temporarily shut down earlier this month after concerns from Major League Baseball and the players' union arose over whether the company violated any of the rules within the collective bargaining agreement or those set by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Newsom says he didn't hear directly from the SEC until very recently, but he refunded all of the shareholders and has plans to sit down with these groups to hammer out an agreement.

"We've just started talking to the SEC about possible ways we fit in, and it's kind of like a square peg in a round hole," he said. "We don't really fit into anything under their exemptions, and we don't really fit into anything under their jurisdiction, so nobody's really sure. As for the MLB, we've been in contact,

see NEWSOM, page 13

Loss to Williams drops women's basketball team to No. 21 in national poll

As it turned out, the women's basketball team lost more than just some ground in the NESCAC standings over the weekend.

On the heels of its worst performance of the season — a 63-46 loss at conference rival Williams on Sunday — the Jumbos fell from No. 14 to No. 21 in the most recent D3hoops.com poll, which was released Monday night. The ranking is Tufts' lowest since Dec. 31, 2007, which was also the last time the Jumbos did not appear in the Top 25. The seven-position drop was the furthest any team has fallen in a one-week span since NYU fell 13 spots in late January.

The No. 14 ranking had tied for Tufts' highest-ever position in the D3hoops.com poll, a mark it also reached on Jan. 13 on the strength of a program-best 12-0 start. But as with their most recent ascent to the No. 14 spot, the Jumbos held onto the position for just a week. A Jan. 18 loss to NESCAC foe Amherst dropped the Jumbos to No. 18.

Tufts had been steadily rising since the setback, climbing back to the No. 14 ranking ahead of its contest at Williams. But the team shot a season-worst 27.5 percent from the floor en route falling 63-46 to the Ephs, just the Jumbos' second loss of the season.



LAURA SCHULTZ/TUFTS DAILY

Tufts was hardly the only upset victim in Div. III last week, as five of the 13 teams ranked ahead of the Jumbos, including three in the Top 10, also lost. In all, 18 of the 25 teams appearing in Monday's poll were either unranked or ranked in a different position the week before.

—by Sapna Bansil

SKIING

Regular season ends in a white-out that cancels costume race

BY TIM JUDSON
 Daily Editorial Board

The races at Killington Ski Resort this weekend marked the end of the regular season for the men's and women's club ski teams. The men took up their usual post at second place of 11 teams on both days, while the women wound up with an impressive fourth-place finish in the slalom on Saturday before posting a seventh-place finish in the grand slalom (GS) on Sunday.

On Sunday, the GS results were based on just one run, as extreme weather conditions shot down any hopes of a festive final run. Since Sunday's second run is customarily the last of the regular season, the skiers have always dressed up in costume for the race. The Jumbos had costumes ready to go, but the weather did not cooperate.

"We got all dressed up with nowhere to go," freshman Brian Bresee said. "[Senior captain Andrew] Benson had a '70s women's one piece, [sophomore Pat] Tonelli had a multicolored women's jacket and I had a cut-off Buzz Lightyear tank top."

Costumes among the women ranged from a "Call on Me" theme to one racer throwing on a giant M&M costume.

Due to the cancellation, Sunday's results were based solely on the results of the first run, which also took place in extreme conditions.

"It was ridiculous," senior Lauren Vasey said. "You could barely see and there was snow everywhere. The second run ended up being cancelled because of lightning and thunderstorms."

"The weather was such that it wasn't even really worth running a race," Bresee said. "It was an absolute white out and we would get only 15 seconds or so of visibility. It was really tough to run a race in those conditions, and we were lucky to even get a run in. The results are not really indicative of anything because of the weather."

Despite the conditions, the men's team finished with a satisfying sec-



COURTESY KATHY BRESEE

Senior captain Andrew Benson finished his Thompson Division career on Sunday with 32 career regular-season wins. He led his team to a second-place finish on the season, good for a Regionals appearance on Feb. 23-24.

ond-place finish behind Castleton State, while the women dropped to seventh position.

"All three of our top guys finished despite the weather," Benson said. "The conditions were interesting and led to some pretty funky results."

On the women's side, sophomore captain Nicole Fontaine impressed by pulling out a time of 45.54 seconds on the GS course, good enough to win the race outright.

"It was just kind of my type of course," Fontaine said. "It was straight and fast and I went with it. These last couple races I have

been skiing GS more like I did last year. I feel better about the whole situation now and I am more confident."

On Saturday the teams were fortunate enough to enjoy a clean day of racing. The men's team once again took a second-place spot behind Castleton despite a few messy runs.

"I ended up hiking on my second run," Bresee said. "But we still came in second even with some rocky runs, some hiking and Tonelli straddling a gate, so I think we did pretty well."

The top three times on the day

came from Benson, who finished second overall, followed by Bresee and sophomore Greg Hering, who came in at 11th and 12th, respectively. Benson finished less than a second and a half behind the leader despite missing his initial start time, which forced him to be the last racer to push off for his first run.

"He had to start from the very back and it's tough to do well from there," Bresee said. "The course got really rutted up, but he did a great job to still come close to the winner."

The women finished in a satisfying fourth place spot on

Saturday after solid runs from all three of the usual top finishers. Fontaine finished in fourth overall, while Vasey and freshman Lindsay Rutishauser followed in 17th and 23rd, respectively. The women were especially happy about beating Gwynedd-Mercy College, the team that beat out Tufts for the last spot at Regionals.

"I am happy with the way the season went given how we thought we were going to do at the beginning," Vasey said. "Nicole and I were the only returning skiers who we

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