



DAILY FILE PHOTO

A Health Service employee works at a flu shot clinic.

Professor picked for USDA

BY CARTER ROGERS AND
TESSA GELLERSON
Daily Editorial Board

Assistant Professor Kathleen Merrigan of the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy was nominated by President Barack Obama for the position of deputy agriculture secretary, the White House said Monday.

Merrigan, who directs the Agriculture, Food and Environment Program and the

Center for Agriculture, Food and Environment at the Friedman School, will hold the No. 2 position at the U.S. Department of Agriculture if confirmed by the Senate. The deputy agriculture secretary generally directs day-to-day operations, according to Reuters.

She is credited with helping to develop current regulations for organic food, and advocates of sustainable agriculture and food policy view her nomination as a promising sign of the Obama

administration's commitment to sustainability.

As a staffer under the direction of Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Merrigan assisted in drafting the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, which in part created a system of accreditation for organic foods.

Merrigan's research interests include sustainable development, negotiation theory, policy implementation and interest

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State regulators propose student insurance review

BY LESLIE OGDEN
Daily Editorial Board

Massachusetts state regulators proposed earlier this month a measure to reassess school health-insurance plans for college students, responding to mounting concerns about limited coverage and increasing student medical debt.

The proposal requires colleges to start tracking students' medical bills, including the number of times insurers refuse to reimburse students and the number of students' complaints against their insurance agencies, *The Boston Globe*

reported earlier this month.

The information the colleges submit to regulators would allow them to evaluate whether student insurance plans provide appropriate benefits. The proposal is expected to be adopted next month after a public hearing, the *Globe* said.

The probe came about due to what many believe is a lack of comprehensive health insurance for students from low-income households. Although some people attending colleges and universities in Massachusetts cannot afford

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KAREN CASTILLO/TUFTS DAILY

Ilya Kaminsky, poet and author, reads poetry in Barnum Hall last night as part of a program sponsored by the Department of English. Kaminsky, deaf since the age of four, was born in Odessa, in the former Soviet Union, in 1977. He wrote the acclaimed book "Dancing In Odessa" (2004).

Language service looks to expand

BY LAURA HILL
Daily Staff Writer

The Community Language Bank in Somerville, an organization that employs Tufts students to provide interpreting and translating services, is gearing up for expansion with the launch of a newly redesigned Web site aimed at streamlining its work with clients and translators alike.

The Community Language Bank, run under the umbrella of the Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service, provides services to businesses and nonprofit organizations in the Somerville area to help them surmount language barriers.

The program has entered its

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INTERVIEW | PROFESSOR ANDREW WILSON

Oxford professor discusses Roman economy with the Daily

BY CARTER ROGERS
Daily Editorial Board

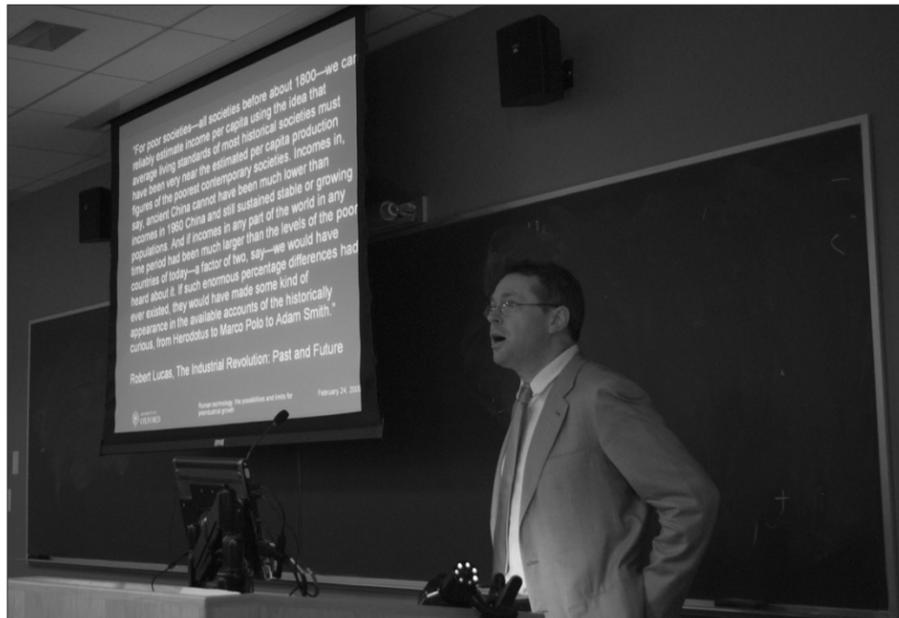
Andrew Wilson, a professor of the archaeology of the Roman Empire at Oxford, is visting campus this week as the speaker for a four-part lecture series sponsored by the Department of Classics. The last two installments of the Balmuth Lecture Series will take place tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Cabot 206 and tomorrow at the same time in Braker 001. While on the Hill, Wilson took a moment to sit down with the Daily's Carter Rogers.

Carter Rogers: First off, how did you become interested in archaeology, Roman archaeology and Roman economic archaeology?

Andrew Wilson: I've always been interested in the past. When I was a kid, my parents would take me around ancient monuments in Britain: churches, castles, roman sites, prehistoric sites, and family holidays tended often to be going to look at ancient things in France and Spain ... I read classics at Oxford and had wanted to be a classical archaeologist, but somewhere along the line I lost sight of that. It

was a very text-based course in Greek and Latin literature, and I flirted with the idea of doing Medieval Latin as a doctorate, but I thought that would end up being too lonely — a library-based existence. Somehow I lost sight of the archaeological aim, and I became a computer consultant for a couple of years. I worked for IBM between school and university. About a year into that I felt that that wasn't really satisfying me. I didn't want to spend the next 40 years doing that. I was spending all my free time reading up about the Roman world and all my holidays going out to Tunisia to look at Roman ruins, so I thought, "Let's try to make a career out of this." I gave up my job and applied back to Oxford to do a doctorate in archaeology. I was always interested in how things worked, so I did a doctorate on ancient water systems and aqueducts and so on in Roman North Africa and from there got generally interested in ancient technology and mills and in particular, the use of mechanical power and then got interested in what the effects of that technology

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SARAH KORONES/TUFTS DAILY

Andrew Wilson, professor of archaeology of the Roman Empire at Oxford University, delivers a lecture "Roman Technology: The Possibilities and Limits for Preindustrial Growth" last night in Cabot 206.

Inside this issue

The New York Post proves that the debate over freedom of speech is alive and well.



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The ski team narrowly missed out on a trip to Nationals, despite a strong weekend performance.



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The Tufts Student Fund

Thank you! At last week's Cause Dinner, **565 students** contributed to a scholarship for one of our peers. **See today's Tufts Student Fund ad for more exciting news.**

Friedman professor chosen

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group politics.

"This is just a terrific honor for Dr. Merrigan, and I cannot think of a more qualified person to receive this nomination, in light of her extensive experience with the myriad of issues that the USDA handles," Friedman School Dean Eileen Kennedy said in a statement released through the Friedman School's public relations office.

Merrigan served as administrator of the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service from 1999 to 2001.

"She has trained many of the future leaders in our field, and we could not be more proud and honored that President Obama has chosen yet another Tufts expert to join his team," Kennedy said.

Merrigan received a Ph.D. in environmental planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has since been heavily involved in agricultural and environmental issues within the United States.

She worked on the Senate Agriculture Committee from 1987 to 1992 and served as a

consultant for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization from 1994 to 1999.

"I have known Kathleen since her days as a graduate student at MIT," University President Lawrence Bacow told the Daily in an e-mail. "She is everything we hope our faculty will be: a world class scholar, an exemplary teacher and someone deeply engaged in helping to shape the world around us."

Her nomination follows the tapping of another Tufts faculty member for a position within the Obama administration.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said on Friday that Stephen Bosworth, dean of The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, would oversee Washington's North Korea policy.

"We pride ourselves at Tufts on educating students to be active citizens," Bacow said. "The appointment of Kathleen Merrigan and Steve Bosworth to positions of leadership in Washington demonstrates that our faculty also value and embrace public service."

Ben Gittleson contributed reporting to this article.

Wilson tackles Roman economy

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were [such as the] economic impact. I'd also been interested in settlement patterns and in trade. All of this came together in some interest in the ancient economy.

CR: Yesterday [Monday], you were talking about the amount of state involvement in economics at the time ... How great was the state involvement in economics then compared with now in your mind?

AW: I think less than a current nation-state would do, but for the ancient world, a remarkably high degree of involvement. It wasn't a command economy like ancient Mesopotamia, for example; it wasn't a completely dirigiste economy. But the state does intervene in a number of ways. It intervenes in markets as a large customer or by incentivizing certain activity. It provides, and quite intentionally so, a lot of capital infrastructure in the form of roads, harbor facilities, canals, which facilitate trade. Even if some of these also have a military use, and

by implication the road system had primarily been constructed for troop movement, but long distance trade quickly follows in that wake. I think what we do see in the late Roman world, the late third century onwards, is a more dirigiste involvement by the state as economic conditions become harsher. And, trying to recover from the crisis of the late third century onwards, the state does take a much more dirigiste line, for example, compelling people whose fathers were in certain professions to follow in those professions. That suggests a labor shortage or skill shortage.

CR: Do you think this could parallel the current increase in state involvement in banking with the current economic crisis?

AW: That's an interesting question. There's not much evidence of direct state involvement in banking. There clearly are banks in the Roman world. I suppose the nearest thing is a crisis where the people bid to collect the taxes overbid and can't collect, and they need to be bailed out by the state.

Community Language Bank looks to expand client base with its new focus on marketing

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second year, and its coordinators have looked for new ways to increase the number of organizations and businesses it reaches.

"We've had about 40-plus unique clients, and currently, with the re-launch of the Web site, our focus is on marketing and getting our name out and hopefully expanding our business quite a bit," senior Chase Webber, co-coordinator of the Community Language Bank, said.

Coordinators hope the amount of work submitted on its Web site will increase. Uploading documents and making online payments will be easier, they say, and the site will provide participants with more up-to-date information on the status of their projects.

"Translators will be able to keep track of what they're working on," said Nancy Wilson, director and associate dean of Tisch College and a representative on the Language Bank Board.

The changes have added a more personal feel to the service, according to Webber.

"It's a lot more hands-on," Webber said of the site, which may in the future feature blog posts and profiles of interpreters and translators.

"Since we started in '06, the online world has changed a lot," Webber said, referring to the success of recent online developments like wikis and blogging. "We wanted to keep up."

Currently collaborating with local organizations National Student Partnerships and Centro Presente, the Community Language Bank has also considered pursuing further growth.

Coordinators have looked to help start similar organizations nationally, as the program was originally developed as a potential model for other language banks.

"We hope that one day in the not-too-distant future we can expand the model and have language banks across the country," Webber said.

Webbersaid they would also like to team up with a local organization called the Liaison Interpreter Program of Somerville, a group of high school students trained as interpreters.

For now, the organization remains firmly connected to its Tufts roots.

"We've had a lot of business



TIM STRAUB/TUFTS DAILY

Senior Chase Webber, co-coordinator of the Community Language Bank, hopes his organization will reach more clients.

with Tufts students that work in the community," such as the Leonard Carmichael Society, Webber said.

A team of 10 Tufts students translates documents and interprets at local events in Spanish and Portuguese. The documents range from fliers for community fairs to multilingual field trip permission forms for Somerville Public Schools.

Tufts alumni Thomas Singer (LA '06) and Sebastian Chaskel (LA '07) founded the business in 2006, when they won both the Frigon Competition in Social Entrepreneurship and the Paul and Elizabeth Montle Prize for Entrepreneurial Achievement, receiving \$50,000 in funding.

"The idea was to somehow connect bilingual Tufts students with local businesses and nonprofit organizations that need bilingual services and translation," Webber said. "There was a talent that was not being tapped among Tufts students."

"It is unique as an on-campus organization because it allows students to serve the community and make money," added Kelsey Bell, a junior and co-coordinator of the Community Language Bank. "Students are filling a community need."

The interpretation and translation services provided by the bank go hand in hand.

"If an organization was going to use the service to send out a flyer in multiple languages to invite [people] to a meeting, they are going to need interpretation services for the meeting as well," Wilson said.

Webber believes the services offered by the Community Language Bank provide invaluable possibilities for both Tufts students and community members.

"The language barrier can be an obstacle for the community," Webber said. "You can take something like that and look at it as an opportunity for an exchange."

State regulators suggest taking a fresh look at student health insurance plans

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insurance, many of those students do not meet the eligibility requirements for Commonwealth Care, a state-subsidized health insurance program for low-income residents.

Under state legislation passed in 1989, Massachusetts requires all college and university students to have health insurance either through the Qualifying Student Health Insurance Program (QSHIP) or through private insurers.

Under the state's 2006 near-universal health care law, though, insurers can considerably limit coverage to students, even if the insurance company's coverage fails to meet a certain standard.

A Tufts student group recently teamed up with the Access Project, a national organization based in Boston that focuses on issues of access to health care, and joined the Technical Advisory Group, a state regulatory agency that looks into student health problems.

The group, called the Student Health Organizing Coalition (SHOC), aims to represent students at the state level and with university administrators.

"It's crazy because a lot of students are being driven into medical debt, and a lot

of people aren't able to get the care they need, so we're researching policy that could change to make the situation better for students," senior Dena Greenblum, one of the lead organizers of SHOC, said. "A lot could happen."

SHOC met with a representative from the office of Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley on Monday and with a representative from the office of Democratic State Sen. Richard Moore yesterday. They have also met with officials from the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, part of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and plan to meet with State Rep. Carl Sciortino (LA '00) on Friday.

"At first, [state officials] didn't want to look into the problems," Greenblum said. "We came with students who had stories, and they seemed really unresponsive, but we got some press, met with different people there and got a much more positive result."

Andrew Cohen, the community research coordinator at the Access Project in Boston, told the Daily that one topic that has arisen often is "medical debt, money people owe to medical providers for the services they received. Sometimes this medical debt can be turned into cred-

it-card debt and other debt as well."

Many of those involved believe another problem lies with the fact that some colleges do not take private plans, which forces parents and students to pay double the fee for health insurance.

The current QSHIP cap is set at a minimum of \$50,000 in coverage, but students can easily exceed this limit in cases of hospitalization, surgery and serious illness. Tufts' minimum is currently set at \$100,000, but students have the option of purchasing additional coverage up to \$250,000, according to Senior Director of Health and Wellness Services Michelle Bowdler.

Tufts' Health Service was able to achieve a substantial decrease in the cost of the insurance plan last year, according to Ph.D. candidate David Proctor, chair of the Graduate Student Health Advisory Board and Department of Classics administrator.

"The premium dropped, and coverage improved," Proctor said.

Tufts students have access to Health Service through a mandatory health fee, and these students are accordingly not charged for office visits.

"The health fee covers a range of services, and the only services that are charged

for are labs, some immunizations [and] travel vaccines, and you are charged if you see a psychiatrist after the third visit," Bowdler said.

The charges appear on the student's bursar account before they can be reimbursed, according to Bowdler. "We give them an itemized bill, and they usually do receive reimbursement from their insurance company," she said. "Upon request, we will bill the insurance company."

Although Tufts works hard to facilitate student reimbursement, Health Service Billing Supervisor Mary Daley said, the task ultimately falls into the hands of the insurance companies.

"Sometimes it's different because there are many different insurances across the country, and sometimes they have a high deductible and sometimes they consider it out of network, so [the reimbursement] might not be 100 percent," Daley said.

Reimbursements and resulting medical debt have come to the forefront elsewhere, as well. New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo recently launched an investigation into insurance plans in his own state, focusing on disclosure policies.

NY Post cartoon sparks debate over freedom of expression



Political cartoons are meant to stir up taboo topics, but recent racially controversial depictions have caused dissent as to whether newspapers should monitor their editorial content more strictly.

BY ROMY OLTUSKI
Daily Editorial Board

A political cartoon published by the New York Post earlier this month stirred the waters of an age-old debate, pitting freedom of the press against political correctness.

The cartoon depicts an ape lying in a pool of blood and two policemen hunched over it, one with a smoking gun in hand while the other says, "They'll have to find someone else to write the next stimulus bill."

The cartoon, created by Sean Delonas, is a reference to a recent news story about a trained chimpanzee in Connecticut that was shot after posing a threat to public safety. But while the comic's creator argues it is meant to mock President Barack Obama's aptitude in authoring the national economic stimulus plan by comparing him to Connecticut's dangerous chimp, many were outraged by the illustrator's alleged racial insensitivity.

"The cartoon ... is troubling at best given the historic racist attacks of African-Americans as being synonymous with monkeys," Reverend Al Sharpton said in a statement. "One has to question whether the cartoonist is making a less than casual reference to this."

Those who felt verbal censure was not sufficient sought to inflict more severe punishment on the newspaper. ColorOfChange.org, a Web site that advocates for black civil justice, asked concerned individuals to sign a letter urging

Paul Carlucci, publisher of the New York Post, to fire the person responsible for the cartoon's appearance in the paper.

In addition to online reactions, indignant protestors picketed outside of the Post's offices for two days following the release of the cartoon until the publication's editors eventually agreed to issue an apology.

But an online New York Post forum, which gave individuals an opportunity to express their opinions on the controversy, showed a divided reaction. Many participants expressed varying degrees of outrage; others, however, were surprised at the negative responses to the cartoon's blatant satire, and some questioned the racist interpretation of its content.

Additionally, one post on the Web site brought to attention that those who rebuke mockery of our president "have very short memories if they can't remember the savage attacks that President Bush incurred in the name of humor and satire."

The cartoon's intentions aside, some Tufts students worry that the overbearing concern for political correctness — like the letter publicized by ColorOfChange.org — undermines the luxury of dissension that our nations Bill of Rights promises.

"If you're offended, it's completely appropriate to express your outrage, but I don't think that should be a reason to limit what people say," sophomore Julia Stimeck said.

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Animal Planet takes Tufts sophomore to Africa

Reality show takes place on game reserve, putting one Jumbo up-close and personal with animals

BY JOHN PETER KAYTROSH
Contributing Writer

Tackling a new job during summer vacation can be quite overwhelming. Whether involving a high-powered internship or a hectic post waiting tables, work during vacation is rarely a picnic. But what made sophomore Matt Maraynes nervous this summer was not an imposing boss, computer problems or angry customers. The problems Maraynes faced were larger — and much hungrier.

By sheer chance and some lucky connections, Maraynes had the opportunity to spend two and a half weeks on the Shamwari Game Reserve in rural South Africa, where he experienced much of the same hands-on training that wildlife rangers undergo.

Maraynes, originally from Chappaqua, New York, had his experiences — along with those of two other college-age students and a group of rangers — filmed for an Animal Planet reality show. "Shamwari: A Wild Life," which premiered in September, followed everyday life on the reserve.

Maraynes jumped at the opportunity to participate. "My aunt is a [public relations] person for the Discovery Channel, and one day in June, I got a call from her saying that a friend of hers who runs a production company on a game reserve in South Africa wanted college students who love animals," he said.



Sophomore Matt Maraynes took his planned environmental studies major to a new level when he travelled to South Africa and came face to face with elephants, lions and giraffes.

The reserve itself has special meaning for Maraynes, who plans to major in history and environmental studies.

"It is not a natural environment, [but it is] completely reestablished as an ecosystem from farmland," he said. "It was cool to go there

and see a working conservation success story."

For Maraynes, the experience of seeing conservation carried out, even on a small scale, was a welcome departure from the facts and figures about environment and population found in text-

books.

"The coolest part was how unscientific it was; the way these rangers do it is intuition, instinct, experience," he said. "It was a really cool way of looking at the environment, something people should use a lot more."

Maraynes recalls sleeping with a baby elephant that needed to be fed every three hours, and bottle-feeding a baby giraffe. But his experiences were certainly not all quite so tame. He and his fellow

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Maraynes praises South African community, conservation efforts

MARAYNES

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students were granted a great deal of responsibility, and with it came some frightening experiences.

"I came face to face with a very aggressive, full-grown, male elephant. He decided whether or not he wanted to pummel us," he said. "[And] the producer surprised us by letting us take part in a routine operation on a lion from a routine game reserve."

But through it all, Maraynes said that he maintained his cool. For him, the experienced rangers with whom he was paired proved to be crucial in allaying many concerns he might otherwise have had, and he praised the close-knit community at the reserve.

"It was a remote, small community of people who spend their whole lives together, a tight family community," he said. "The rangers stuck out in my mind as really fascinating people. They seem so tough and so cool, with a Crocodile Dundee aura — calm and cool in the face of dangerous situations. They were incredibly ... passionate about what they do."

And to Maraynes, there is truly nothing like seeing animals the rest of us know only through photos, statues and stuffed hides in museums.

"When I was two feet from a lion, I was staring at something that has been designed for millions of years to see you as dinner," he said. "It's certainly an interesting experience, more humbling than [frightening]."

The addition of cameras added another element to the mix, but Maraynes explained that they

had little effect on his behavior. "Personally, I found them to be kind of secondary," he said. "I was so excited that I forgot there was a camera there. I'd say the stupid things I normally say and only then realize that there was a camera."

Beyond this, Maraynes made a connection between the animals he encountered and those he might study here at Tufts.

"There's a sort of intimacy that comes from being in contact with [the animals] every day, [making] it a much more intensely emotional practice," he said. "Data collection is secondary to raw beauty."

Maraynes, who said his experience left him awestruck, marveled at the striking difference between the lives of those he met on the reserve and that of his own.

"On the last night, we were talking around a fire at the wrap party. I just remember thinking that there are people out there who have completely different lives than us. They have a lot more patient lifestyles, dedicated to savoring what's around them rather than pushing themselves forward," he said. "I stayed in for a few weeks after I got back, just reading, laying around because I didn't like a lot of the same things."

Back on the Hill, the Jumbo who stared down real elephants and lions will never forget the sense of wonder he felt seeing the big creatures up close, as Animal Planet's cameras captured it all on tape.

"I feel like the luckiest person," Maraynes said. "I did these things that people who go to school their whole lives don't get to do."

Debate over freedom of expression frequently follows after controversial items are published

CARTOONS

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"People have the right to be offensive, and people have the right to be outraged. You can't say that what I feel is more important than what you feel. We should all be allowed to feel; we should all be allowed to fight."

This instance is certainly not the only time that the political correctness of an editorial cartoon has caused an uproar in recent news.

A similar controversy arose last November surrounding Keith Knight's syndicated political cartoon containing the N-word, which was published, uncensored, in The Arizona Daily Wildcat, The University of Arizona's student-run newspaper.

Knight's comic illustrates an actual occurrence on the campaign trail in which a canvasser in Pennsylvania asked a woman whom she was voting for. The woman asked her husband and repeated his answer to the volunteer: "We're voting for the [N-word]."

While Knight explained that the cartoon was intended not as a racist comment but as a means to underscore the enduring prevalence of racism in America, the University of Arizona community did not seem to condone his means of expression.

Members of the university's student body quickly drafted an e-mail calling for a boycott of the independent publication and urging Lauren

LePage, the editor-in-chief, to issue a printed apology.

Still, the Daily Wildcat's charter with its governing organization, the Student Media Board, grants the Wildcat freedom from censorship. However, the paper eventually apologized, according to Mark Woodhams, adviser to the Arizona Daily Wildcat.

"No one forced the Wildcat to issue an apology," Woodhams said in an e-mail to the Daily. "The editors — especially the [editor-in-chief] who stood up and took full responsibility — understood that they needed to address the issue to their readers and gain their confidence. This included recognizing that the comic offended many readers, and not just black readers ... It's not unusual for any newspaper — college or professional — to take responsibility for what they run and to apologize without it being seen as a 'repercussion.' It's just the right thing to do."

Tufts junior Jaleesa Anselm thinks that publications have a responsibility to be conscientious of their readers. "The newspaper should have been sensitive to the fact that the word is really a racist word and could set people off. They could have at least censored the word, which is usually done in newspapers," she said.

Sophomore Lia Tucker, however, thinks differently. She explained that, in its context, Knight's cartoon provides a critique of lingering

bigotry in the United States, and to apologize for its publication would be to undo its important, anti-racist social commentary.

"Intent is very important. I don't think [the cartoon] was meant to be racist; I think it was meant to show that racism exists, and apologizing for that is not fitting," she said. "[The cartoon's protesters] are not caring about context. The outrage is close-minded; it's an automatic response, and [the cartoon] says as much about the people who use those words as it does about those who summon the cry against it."

That said, Tucker realizes that the N-word carries a history of negative racist connotation and that its use should have been expected to stir anger among its readers.

But again, the argument boils down to something larger than the single cartoon's offensiveness, namely whether political correctness infringes on the right of independent media to make their own publishing decisions.

"I think it's totally fine to create a mass letter to the editor and express distaste for a cartoon, but editorials are meant to express opinions, and they're controversial a lot of time. They may not even mean what people are interpreting them to mean," Stimeck said. "If you aren't allowed to say your point because someone thinks your point is wrong, then that's not going to get us any further."

Tufts Department of Drama and Dance Presents

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GALLERY REVIEW

'Egg and Nest' exhibit examines science through photography

BY ALLISON DEMPSEY
Daily Staff Writer

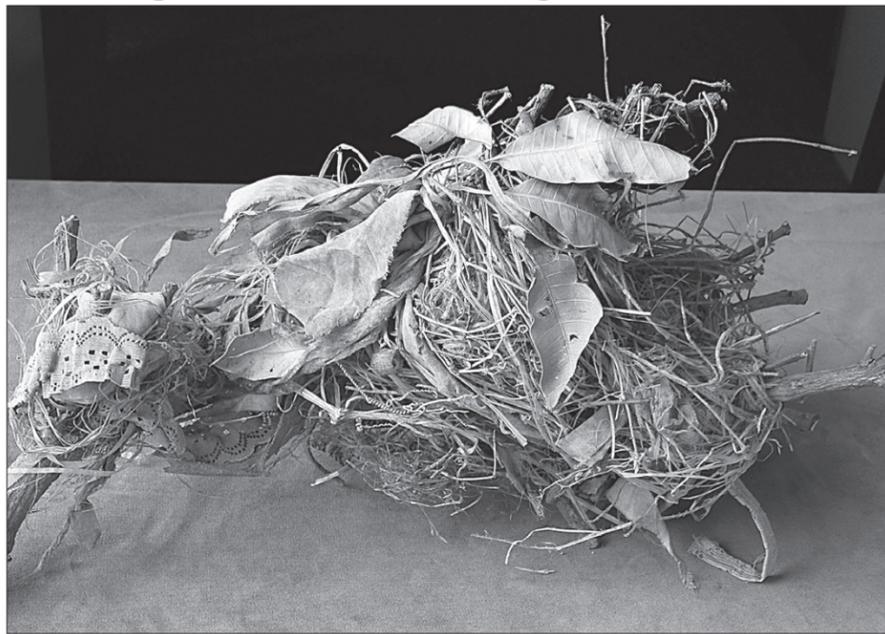
The Harvard Museum of Natural History might seem like an atypical place for an art exhibit. Filled with a

Egg and Nest: Photographs by Rosamond Purcell

Through March 15
Harvard Museum of Natural History
26 Oxford St. in Cambridge, MA
617-495-3045

world-renowned collection of glass flowers, giant African mammals and incredible clusters of rocks and gems, the museum is a haven for science lovers. Surprisingly, however, it is among these artifacts that renowned photographer Rosamond Purcell chose to exhibit her latest work. "Egg and Nest: Photographs by Rosamond Purcell" is now on display at the museum. All of the photographs in the exhibit were taken from Purcell's latest book by the same name (2008).

Purcell, based out of Somerville, has made her mark on the photography world countless times with her seamless portrayals of pieces from natural



COURTESY ROSAMOND PURCELL

The story of Joseph's bird's nest is slightly less well-known than that of his coat.

history collections. She is most well known for her re-creation of Ole Worm's "wunderkammer," or "curiosity cabinet." Worm was a 17th-century Danish

collector of natural treasures from far and wide, and Purcell's reconstruction

see EGG, page 7

DEVIN TOOHEY | POP CULTURE GONE BAD

Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?



One of my favorite literary works is being cannibalized. Next week, "Watchmen" (2009) will hit theaters, but, for me, the terror has already begun.

Let me take you back for a moment. The year is 2000, and I'm the precocious, fat kid in eighth grade that has been into comics for as long as he can remember. These were the days when superhero movies were just coming out of the category of "absolute flop," before the Spider-Man franchise grossed billions and definitely before, sigh, Christopher Nolan. This was a time when saying I was a comic fan led to derision and comments like "What? Do you want to get it on with Wonder Woman?" and "You know you're no longer in 2nd grade, right?" Even some of my teachers wanted to know what a smart kid like me was doing wasting his time reading comics.

It was this year that I discovered "Watchmen." When I put down the trade paperback, having finished issue 12, I literally said aloud, "Wow." I knew comics could be great. I knew that they could be smart and challenging, but never before had I been confronted with a masterpiece like the one I had just read. This was one of the most meticulously put-together, perfect things I had ever read. And it worked because it was a comic. This achievement proudly proclaimed that you could do as well through the medium of comics as "Citizen Kane" (1941) had done through cinema or any modernist or post-modernist work has done through prose.

Over the years I watched my little geek sanctuary become just another morsel to be consumed by the masses of mainstream. Suddenly, everyone knew who Aunt May was, that the Phoenix force possessed Jean Grey, and what could happen if you walked down the right back alley in Sin City. But "Watchmen" remained safe. Every time I reread it, I found it more brilliant. Unlike some other comics, which only held me in a nostalgic grip (and sometimes not even then), this one continuously reprimanded me for not fully grasping it upon the last reading. In fact, a speech of Dr. Manhattan, one of the titular Watchmen, was the jumping off point for my Tufts admissions essay. Even Hollywood, in all its stupidity, would not be audacious enough to try to touch my beloved "Watchmen."

Then along came Zack Snyder. I might have rather given my ten bucks to al-Qaeda than donated it to the cause of increasing "300's" (2006) profits. How directing "300" makes him the "visionary" that the "Watchmen" trailer touts is beyond me. He espoused his belief that he would be faithful and that he would not change things and that he was a fan. But that was a lie. Would a fan of Joyce adapt "Ulysses" into a comic?

Then came the pictures. All the characters looked cool. Wrong choice, Snyder. The characters were supposed to look ridiculous, pathetic, like overgrown kids playing dress-up. Silk Spectre's outfit should not be sexy but make you wonder if she even owned a mirror; because if she did, she probably would have thrown on another few layers. Nite Owl is the fat kid who puts on a Halloween costume and suddenly thinks he's Superman, though he's still just the fat kid in a cheap costume. In the comic, the costumes highlighted the realistic nature of "Watchmen." They underscored the utter tragedy of normal people trying to be comic book characters, hoping to make the world a better place and failing miserably.

Next, there was the trailer. Overall, it's a cool action movie trailer. I suppose that would be satisfactory if "Lolita" (1955) could be regarded as just a quirky piece of erotica. "Watchmen" should not excite audiences like a generic action movie. It should engage one as an intellectual, artistic piece.

see TOOHEY, page 7

THEATER REVIEW



SPEAKEASYSTAGE.COM

"Five. Five-dollar footlong!"

'Blackbird' play examines a forbidden and destructive relationship

BY EMMA BUSHNELL
Daily Editorial Board

The word "shock" begins David Harrower's play, "Blackbird," at the Speakeasy Stage in Boston. Though "Blackbird" does shock, it is

Blackbird



Written by **David Harrower**
Directed by **David R. Gammons**
At the Speakeasy Stage Company
through March 21
Tickets \$37 to \$110

much more complex than a simple shake-up of the audience's expectations.

The play essentially has two characters: Una (played by Marianna Bassham) and Ray (Bates Wilder). Theirs is a textbook story, but

has unique elements. The couple met 15 years earlier, when Una was 12 and Ray was 40. They began a relationship and ran away together, leading to Ray's imprisonment and Una's psychological ruin.

Their story is about sexual abuse, something that society has deemed, in no uncertain terms, sick, wrong and unlawful. It is a well-known fact that no criminal is more harshly treated by his fellow inmates than a child molester; it is a crime even the most hardened murderer would think unforgivable.

"Blackbird" looks at one such perpetrator and his victim as though through the pages of an Ian McEwan novel. Yes, the crime was bad, and everyone's lives were ruined. But why did it happen? How did these characters find themselves in a sexual relationship all those years ago? It seeks not to validate but to explain the characters' story.

see BLACKBIRD, page 7

MOVIE REVIEW

'Fanboys' almost too geeky for its own good

BY EMEI WILLIS
Contributing Writer

A decade ago, in a small town not so far away, fanboys were eagerly anticipating the 1999 release of "Star Wars:

Fanboys



Starring **Sam Huntington, Kristen Bell, Jay Baruchel, Dan Fogler** Directed by **Kyle Newman**

Episode I- The Phantom Menace." Accurately capturing the excitement leading up to opening night of the prequel, "Fanboys" (2008) is a great spoof and tribute to both the Star Wars films and their fans.

The story follows five 20-something fanboys who are counting down the 200 days until the film hits theaters. One of the geek-friends, Linus (played by Chris Marquette), has terminal cancer, prompting him and his friends, Windows (Jay Baruchel), Hutch (Dan Fogler) and Eric (Sam Huntington), to plan a cross-country trip to break into George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch. Their mission is to get a first look at "Star Wars: Episode 1 - The Phantom Menace."

Anyone who saw the first "Star Wars" prequel remembers how it turned out: It wasn't exactly a classic. But "Fanboys" is set in a world pre-Jar Jar and "Mannequin" Skywalker. The Force was back, and fans celebrated by camping out in front of theaters months before the film's release; the anticipation and intense excitement was electric. Since then, though, the new trilogy has been the victim of many deserving jokes, but "Fanboys"

see FANBOYS, page 7

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NYMAG.COM

If you find this image hilarious, you are this film's target audience.

Despite many star-studded cameos, 'Fanboys' falls flat

FANBOYS
continued from page 5

does not bash Lucas' mistakes. Instead, it fondly looks back on the excitement that came before the disappointment.

Outside of the "Star Wars" galaxy, "Fanboys" demands a pop-culture savvy audience. The journey has shout-outs to "Willow" (1988) and "THX-1138" (1971) and is sprinkled with cameos by the likes of Billy Dee Williams, Carrie Fisher, Kevin Smith, Craig Robinson, Danny McBride and, of course, William Shatner. And it seems like Seth Rogen is contractually obligated to appear in any and every comedy nowadays — "Fanboys" is no exception.

Despite the deluge of cameos, though, the film relies on its cast, who could easily star in a remake of "Revenge of the Nerds" (1984) based on appearance alone. Marquette is perfectly cynical as the dying Linus, while Fogler is exceptionally loud, rude and raunchy — his talent apparently. "Fanboys" was filmed before Baruchel garnered fame and attention from his Judd Apatow film. Baruchel looks like a dork and can certainly act like one. The always fabulous Kristen Bell delivers a solid per-

formance as one of the "boys," Zoe. She represents the small subculture of fangirls who can get their Jedi on just like those with a Y chromosome.

The comedy of "Fanboys" is genre specific, and fans really need to know not just "Star Wars," but "Star Trek" as well, as the movie makes many jokes about the rivalry between fans of each show. This strategy is good for a few laughs, but has been done in previous films like "Galaxy Quest" (1999) and countless episodes of "Family Guy." Not only has it been done before though, but it's perhaps been done better.

Beyond the droid jokes, "Fanboys" is a standard coming of age film. It is about growing up, moving on and the things that keep us together. In this case, "Star Wars" is more than just a series of geeky films — it is the true heart of "Fanboys." It is for all those people who dress up year after year as Browncoats for Comic-Con, who argue about whether Han Solo shot first and who wonder if the final cut of "Watchmen" (2009) will feature the squid. It is a geeky movie for a geeky audience, but it reminds everyone what it means to be truly passionate about something, even something like "Star Wars."

Prize-winning play takes an unconventional approach to the textbook romance story

BLACKBIRD
continued from page 5

The audience discovers that the couple's affair did not consist of seduction or abandonment. It is presented (perhaps most shockingly) as a classic love story. Both Ray and Una are given their fair share of text, and the audience hears both sides, diplomatically and simply. The lines are not poetic; the characters are not particularly brilliant or penetrating. But the play leaves the audience trying to decide whether the arguments the characters present merit a re-examination of society's harsh moral judgment of their situation.

The play is framed almost like a second trial for Ray and Una. It takes place entirely in a break room at Ray's workplace — some kind of pharmaceutical company — where Una has tracked him down from a photo she found in a trade magazine. The room is bleak, empty and dirty. The only

connection to the outside world is a frosted glass window to the hallway that is fully manipulated by director David Gammons. It is no coincidence that there is a strong feeling of interrogation coming alternately from Una and Ray. The transfer of power and use of physical levels between the characters is expertly executed.

Deception is brilliantly written into the script and delivered with all appropriate subtlety by Wilder. Through nervous tics, body language and vocal tone, Wilder manages to transform a seemingly one-dimensional character into someone worth listening to for 90 minutes. One may not necessarily sympathize with him, but he proves himself to be a different kind of person than one might expect from a sexual predator.

Though the entire play takes place between the same two characters and in the same room (despite an interesting power play

between Una and Ray as one or the other attempts to "go outside"), it is far from static. Constant and varied movement and emotional ups and downs lend purpose to every minute. Bassham and Wilder work with and off one another with expert grace, and their complicated relationship is wholly believable even under the scrutiny of an intimate theater space.

This dark horse winner of the 2007 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play is so successful because it is provocative with purpose. Its author has said that it is based loosely on a news story, but it manages to avoid the oft-sprung trap of filling in "behind the scenes" and justifying wrongdoings. Both characters change in their brief, one-act encounter, and in the end, the audience is left unseated and uncertain by the events they have just witnessed. That is the mark of the unity of script, direction and acting so valuable in theater.

Toohey mourns the rapid spread of 'Watchmen' propaganda and dreads the movie's release

TOOHEY
continued from page 5

On top of everything, they changed the ending. I will not go into details, for I hope you plan to read the comic. Let's just say, it poses a moral question (and not in a contrived manner like "The Dark Knight" (2008) does) that is completely unanswerable. I have pondered it for eight and a half years to no avail. Even if they have not overtly changed it, I doubt they will give it the complete moral ambiguity of the source material. There will be good and less good, or evil and not-so-evil. A line can be drawn.

And now, the entire thing has

spread like the plague. I cannot go on Facebook.com without seeing Rorschach staring back at me, telling me that the city fears him. Friends send me links to a Nite Owl/Silk Spectre side-scrolling arcade game. There are even "Watchmen" condoms (for the man who ejaculates over half an hour early, I suppose). Soon, everyone will be asking "Who Watches the Watchmen," will know who killed Edward Blake, and will get the joke in the prior sentence.

I want to go back. Back to days when knowing what "Watchmen" was (and better yet, having read it) showed that you knew something about comics. Back to the

days when no one knew what my old AOL screenname, "Veidt35," meant. Snyder is making me wish that comic-book movie adaptations never happened.

I can't expect everyone reading this column not to see "Watchmen." But please, I know you're all busy, but before you see it, read the book. And if you can't do that, promise yourself you'll read the comic soon afterwards. You'll make the little, fat adolescent in me just a little less sad.

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

Purcell presents many interesting portraits of eggs in her exhibit

EGG
continued from page 5

will in time be on permanent display in Copenhagen.

A reconstruction of a former art exhibit seems like the ultimate still life, and this is the discipline in which Purcell shines. Many of her photographs toy with lighting and use anomalies from nature as their primary subjects.

Nature presents an endless wealth of opportunities for photography. Purcell is fascinated by the transience of natural objects and, in her own words, "the puzzle of uncertain identity."

Her interest and fascination with the natural world easily includes the contrast of birds' eggs with their nests. In her gallery statement, Purcell said, "Visually nothing could be more different than an egg and a nest. The first is always perfect, no matter what the outer variations in shape; an egg is endless, irreducible. A nest, on the other hand, is an artifact assembled by beak and claw, often messy, but always adapted to the needs of the next generation of birds."

Though Purcell reveals the disparity between the egg and the nest throughout this exhibit, she only once displays them together in the same photo. Instead, she usually offers side-by-side comparisons, allowing egg and nest to shine without one muddling or distracting from the other's intricacy and beauty. She took the photographs in 2007 on assignment for Harvard University Press with funding from the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, the organization with the largest egg and nest collection in the world.

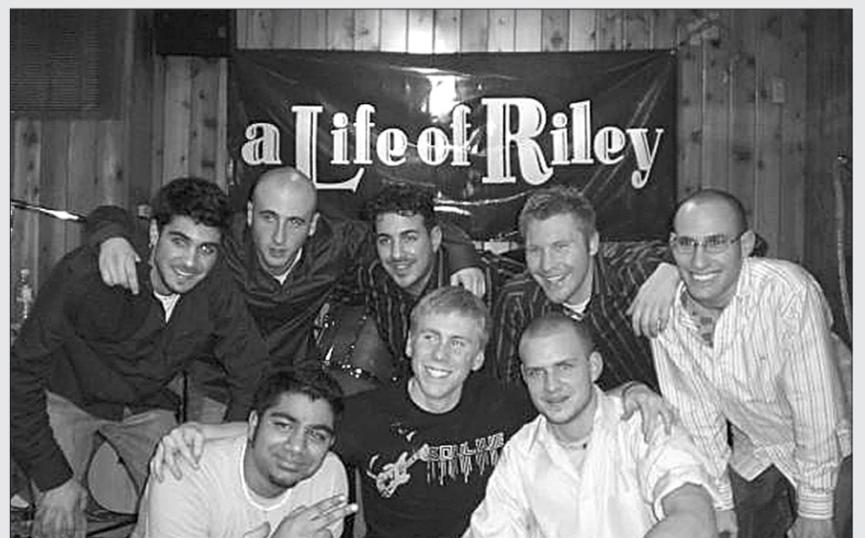
Each egg and nest displayed in the exhibition has some unique quality. The "Bell's Vireo Nest" has decipherable newspaper clippings as some of its main foundation. The "Great-Tailed Grackle Nest" utilizes strips of audio tape amidst grass and sticks. The "Tinamou Eggs," solid and untainted, vary in shade from blue to gray to green to mauve — each egg a different color.

Perhaps the most interesting photo is an egg "unrolled." The egg of the common murre bird is unfolded in a Mercator projection, in similar style to many projections of the globe on a flat surface. Viewing an egg in such a way allows one to see all patterns and intricacies simultaneously, whereas when looking at an egg in its original form, only one side is visible at a time.

Blue Magruder, director of communications and marketing at the museum, discussed the science museum's interest in Purcell's work. "There's so much science in eggs," Magruder told the Daily. Purcell's photographs provide a middle ground for science and the arts. She approaches one of nature's greatest dichotomies in the egg and the nest, and she then transforms it in order to give it artistic value.

The creature behind all this scientific beauty, the bird, is only found in one photo. Purcell's "Great Egret from Ecuador" hangs in between the two main walls of the gallery, without egg or nest. The egret serves as a reminder of the unique nature of birds and their habits and also of the creature to whom we must pay homage for such natural splendor. It embodies science and art, as does the exhibit.

Student's band might win \$25,000 record deal



COURTESY RAHUL KULKARNI

Tufts senior Rahul Kulkarni started the band a Life of Riley during his last year of high school. Since then, the band has been signed by and dropped an indie label, independently released two CDs, gone on tour twice, and performed at venues across the Northeast. Now a Life of Riley is the front runner in a competition sponsored by Gorilla Productions, a management company. Last summer, they won two live battles and are currently leading the fourth round of an online voting competition which ends on Feb. 28. The first place prize is a \$25,000 record deal, which Kulkarni, who plays lead guitar and helps write songs, believes will change his life.

"I'm looking for something to do next year," Kulkarni said. "I've definitely wanted to be rock star since I was a little kid."

A Life of Riley began as a Latin percussion band playing high school gigs in New Jersey. After senior year, the band members chose to focus on college. They now write during

the semester and perform during the summer.

"When we were seniors in high school, we wanted to do the band full-time," Kulkarni said. "But I'm Indian and have Indian parents, and they're not cool with that."

But attending college hasn't kept the band from growing or improving their music. There are now eight members, a wider variety of instruments and a vocalist. Kulkarni compares the band's sound to that of Guster, emphasizing the talent of all band members.

"We recruited the best musicians we could find," Kulkarni said. "We're really catchy — pop-friendly — and there's a lot of talent in the band. We put on a sick live performance which has become more of a craft that through the years we've perfected."

Voting for the competition will continue online at Gorillamusic.com until March 1.

—by Naomi Bryant



AALOK KANANI/TUFTS DAILY

TASA

culture show



AALOK KANANI/TUFTS DAILY



AALOK KANANI/TUFTS DAILY



JO DUARA/TUFTS DAILY



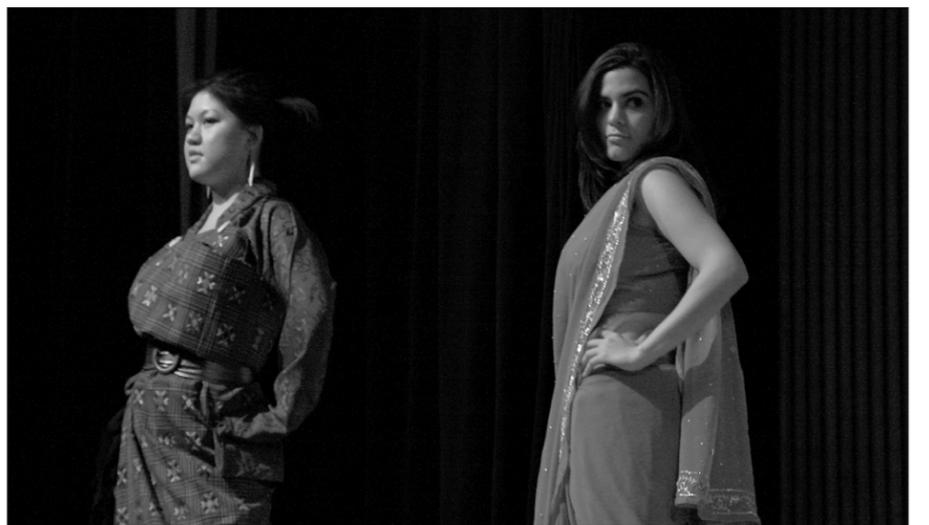
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JO DUARA/TUFTS DAILY



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AALOK KANANI/TUFTS DAILY

TASA

culture show



AALOK KANANI/TUFTS DAILY



AALOK KANANI/TUFTS DAILY



JO DUARA/TUFTS DAILY

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EDITORIAL

Less than five years after political conservatives of all stripes spoke with certainty about a permanent Republican majority, the party finds itself out of power, out of influence and, arguably, out of ideas. As it wanders in the political wilderness, the GOP must begin to make some difficult choices about what it intends to stand for; whether it will purge itself of the ideologically impure, or whether it will cut a deal with the devil just to stay viable. The growing divide in the Republican Party today is perhaps most clearly illustrated by the debate about President Obama's economic stimulus bill.

Republicans in Congress have uniformly refused to play ball, insisting that more tax cuts are the solution (in the same way that "more bullets!" is an effective remedy for a gunshot wound). Republican governors have been more divided, with Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, Haley Barbour of Mississippi, Mark Sanford of South Carolina and others condemning the money, while Arnold Schwarzenegger of California and Charlie Crist of Florida have enthusiastically embraced the funds.

A risky divide

This example highlights a greater problem for the GOP. Like any political party thrown unceremoniously from power into ignominious near-irrelevance, the Republicans are in the midst of a severe identity crisis. The eclectic coalition of social conservatives, fiscal conservatives and foreign-policy hawks that has held since the 1980s is in grave danger of falling apart because every Republican is absolutely sure that he or she knows what is best. Rather than taking some time to create a national platform, individual Republican factions appear to be striking out on their own, hoping that if they yell loud enough, the others will follow their lead.

Schwarzenegger, Crist and moderate GOP senators like Olympia Snowe (Maine), Susan Collins (Maine) and Arlen Specter (Pa.) appear to be leading a "common sense Conservatism" movement, which has drawn such animosity from other Republicans that new RNC Chairman Michael Steele publicly mused about punishing the three senators during an interview

with Neil Cavuto. Meanwhile, the House Republicans are leading the "Principles Matter More Than Your Job" crusade; Sarah Palin (R-Alaska) and Mike Huckabee are still "just like you," and Mitt Romney is waiting for the field to sort itself out before he decides who he has to be to get elected this time.

Each faction is sniping at the others, and the intra-party squabbling has gotten so distracting that one would forget about the Democrats entirely if they didn't keep passing legislation.

The GOP has two choices if it wants to be a political player again. It can either find a clear set of principles around which its members can rally — similar to Newt Gingrich's successful "Contract with America" — or it can become what it always insisted it was: a big-tent party.

Both options are perilous, of course; the first risks alienating current members, while the second dilutes governing principles. Yet Republicans in Congress and in the governors' mansions will have to make that choice if they want the GOP to regain its credibility in the years ahead.

DON WRIGHT



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

While attending Tufts from 2004-2008, I consistently grew to appreciate the writing and content of our school's newspaper, the Tufts Daily. I even once contributed an article of my own, co-written with a friend of mine from the University of Pennsylvania. Recently, to my and my fellow alumnae's disgust, a repulsive, immature and poorly written weekly column called "If You Seek Amy" by Logan Crane has entered the dialogue of the Tufts Daily and, even worse, the Tufts community.

Now, before I go any further, and anybody who knows me can vouch for this, I am not averse to inappropriate humor or writing of any kind. I revel in

acting inappropriately and support the inappropriate behavior of my peers. I also find no fault with Mina Ratkalkar's weekly column "Sextrovert." That at least serves some value in encouraging safe sex in one article and giving advice for dealing with long distance relationships in another. However, if I want to know how to hold a girl's legs to avoid a queef or where the best place is to have sex in public, my first instinct shouldn't be to pick up the latest issue of the Daily — although that is quickly changing.

We reserve that type of writing for other publications, like the Penthouse Forum for example. The Tufts Daily should encourage detailed reporting in its daily articles and impressive and

educational prose in its weekly columns — not borderline pornographic stories that my bulldog Rufus could write while drooling over the most recent winner of the Westminster Dog Show. Instead, from reading this most recent entry, I'm left with a worse taste in my mouth than when I recently saw a trailer for the "Jonas Brothers: The 3D Concert Experience" (2009). Tufts is a great school, and the Daily used to be an impressive newspaper. Let's try to move forward from this and keep "If You Seek Amy" to Crane's personal e-mail list.

Sincerely,
Eric Miller
Class of 2008

Give credit where credit is due

BY EDWARD CHAO

Today, the Tufts Arts, Sciences and Engineering (ASE) Faculty will meet to vote on the proposals put forth by the Tufts Education Policy Committee (EPC) capping the number of pre-matriculation credits granted at Tufts from Advanced Placement (AP) courses and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses to five, restricting the use of AP credits to fulfill only one of the two courses for each distribution requirement, and asking individual academic departments to reevaluate their departmental policies towards AP credit.

The Education Policy Committee's recommendations came out of concerns of limited student access to AP programs, too many AP credits being granted, AP courses not being on par with college courses at Tufts, the "dilution" of a Tufts degree with too many pre-matriculation credits, and the actions of other universities limiting pre-matriculation credit.

While the proposals that the EPC has put out are well intentioned, they overlook the detrimental impacts that they will have on the Tufts education system. Furthermore, they go about trying to achieve their end goal of helping Tufts students obtain a quality college education in the wrong way. The proposals set forth will sacrifice academic depth and understanding for shallow exposure, hurting both AP students and non-AP students.

The EPC seems dead set on restricting the number of AP credits based on the increasing numbers of students coming in with AP credits and the growing trend among other "peer institutions" to limit AP credits. However, it would only make sense that with Tufts' growing academic reputation and admissions standards, high school students come in better credentialed and prepared with more college level courses and higher GPAs and SAT scores. Eager to follow other institutions, the EPC proposals fail to take into account the context for our own university's complex

requirements and resources.

Capping the number of AP credits that Tufts students can bring in at five severely limits the option for Tufts students to be eligible for advanced standing, allowing them to graduate one or two semesters earlier. AP test credits are clearly less expensive than the cost a Tufts University credit (\$86 for an AP test versus \$4,672 for a full Tufts credit and \$1,750 for a Tufts summer course). Jumbos should have the opportunity to accelerate if they have fulfilled the necessary requirements. This policy will also make it more difficult for students who wish to double major or complete a minor in a different academic concentration, an endeavor that a majority of Tufts undergraduates undertake.

Restricting the use of AP credit to fulfill only one of the two classes for each distribution requirement will also have unforeseen impacts on class enrollment, as well as the educational quality at Tufts University. Let's say that I am a biology major who is not mathematically inclined. My previous score of 5 on my AP Calculus BC exam would have exempted me from both distribution requirements in the Mathematical Sciences category. Now, the new policy will only give me a maximum of one credit in that area, and I will be forced to take another Math course. More Tufts students will be enrolled in introductory level courses when they have already been sufficiently exposed to the foundations of the distribution area. The administration and academic departments will struggle to allocate their resources via faculty and room space to either accommodate more upper level courses or introductory classes.

The Advanced Placement program is in no way perfect; however, it does bridge the intellectual gap between high schools and colleges. The Education Policy Committee should be asking instead why AP students aren't given more leeway in their placement at the college level, so that students who are not comfortable at a higher level are allowed to take a lower-level course. Why does Tufts not have a math place-

ment exam? The absence of math placement exams also puts those non-AP students at a disadvantage. We have so many language placement exams yet none in other subject areas. Ideally, Tufts would not accept AP credits, but it simply is not practical without cutting down on the requirements we already have.

The EPC's proposal urging individual academic departments to re-evaluate their department's academic credit policy is the only logical proposal put forth that should be adopted by the ASE Faculty. This is a proposal that the TCU Senate overwhelmingly believes should be adopted and examined before any of the other proposals are even considered. For example, the Tufts academic departments could decide that only scores of 5s on the AP exam were worthy of Tufts credit. This would limit the number of students coming in with AP credit while bolstering Tufts' reputation. It is only fair to say that credit should not be granted for an AP course that does not correspond to the standards of a Tufts course. Who would think that Document Based Questions and Free Response Questions (lovingly nicknamed DBQs and FRQs) on the AP US History exam would ever be featured in a history class at Tufts? To my fellow APUSHers, I would never want to hear about Republic Motherhood and the Cult of Domesticity either. But in the same vein, if it meets the same standards as it does with most mathematics, natural sciences and languages, credit ought to be granted.

Tufts' academic departments would be better guardians of these credit policies than the Education Policy Committee, helping protect a Tufts degree while simultaneously helping students make the most out their education at Tufts. Tell your professors to vote no on capping the number of pre-matriculation credits and restricting distribution requirement credits.

Edward Chao, a TCU senator, is a sophomore majoring in International Relations and economics.

A sincere thank you from Tufts STAND

BY COURTNEY PITTENGER, CHRISTINA KAY
AND AUDREY G. MILLER

The fight against genocide is not going well. The conflict in Darfur has entered its sixth year of brutality, and other catastrophes continue to brew in Burma and in the Congo. It seems the world is losing sight of its global responsibility towards peace. Domestic issues are quickly taking precedence over international humanitarian crises, as developed nations grapple with a shocking economic downturn that's affecting all areas of regular life.

But not here at Tufts. While the recession certainly has affected everyone, Tufts STAND is incredibly grateful that our peers refuse to ignore the broader global situation. We know things have gotten hard, and we thank you for your constant support and assistance as we try to aid those in underdeveloped nations. Over the past two years, you guys have been truly amazing. Campus support for our events and activities has left STAND humbled and inspired. We are truly grateful for every donation, and we want you to know that you are, in fact, making a difference in the lives of many. Here's a recap of the numerous ways you have supported our causes and where exactly your donations have been going:

Last year, STAND members spent countless hours in the crafts center silk-screening t-shirts. With your help, we sold all 450 shirts and raised \$1,500. This was donated straight to the Genocide Intervention Network, who provided firewood and solar cookers for 500 displaced women in internally displaced persons camps in Sudan. This made it easier for these women to remain inside the safe borders of the camps, helping them to keep their families safe and intact. Outside the camps, these women are often raped by Janjaweed militiamen. Your dollars help to protect them.

You have been supportive of more than just our large events. If you have ever bought a cookie or a brownie from one of our bake sales, you have also been contributing. Believe it or not, last year those bake sales raised nearly \$1,000 for civilian protection! And this past fall, three fun events, Dance for Darfur, Rave for Refugees and our Darfur House Party, also helped raise thousands of dollars. We were thrilled to see so many Tufts students turn out to rock out for our cause.

In December, Last Dorm STANDing raised over \$1,400 in one night. This money went straight to civilian protection in Darfur and Burma. You were incredibly generous to the STAND members collecting money in each of the dorms, contributing whatever you could. In fact, some residents of Hill Hall even began collecting change themselves. We were truly wowed by the initiative they showed. This money was enough to provide radios for two villages in eastern Burma, containing a total of approximately



50 people. These radios connect villagers to the civilian radio network which warns them of impending attacks. Alternatively, this money was also enough to provide seven donkeys or four donkey carts to help strengthen firewood patrols in Darfur.

Over the last few weeks, you have supported Pangea, the umbrella organization for STAND, in the most amazing way. A Sudanese student himself, Hisham Bedri, probably better known as "the kid with the 'fro,'" created a campus-wide competition for the title of Tufts Best Dance Crew. We've never seen Cohen Auditorium more alive with enthusiasm. The first night alone raised over \$1,000 for international relief agencies. You have made the impossible possible; this was one of the most successful fundraisers ever on the Tufts campus. It went beyond the money. You also helped us get hundreds of postcards signed, which are being sent

to President Obama asking him to make Darfur a priority under the new administration.

So, on a final note, STAND is absolutely thrilled with all we have been able to achieve so far. The student body has been unexpectedly generous, and for that we are unbelievably grateful. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We are sure that with your continued support in 2009, we will be more than able to exceed our expectations.

This article was written on the behalf of the Tufts chapter of STAND. STAND is a student anti-genocide coalition. STAND works to end genocide by educating the Tufts community, advocating for effective solutions to global conflicts, and raising funds for the victims of violence. For more information, visit tuftsstand.blogspot.com or www.standnow.org.

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**NATIVE AMERICAN
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“James Luna has dramatically
 expanded the language,
 territory, and possibilities
 of Indian art.”

— Truman Lowe and
 Paul Chaat Smith,
 Curators, NMAI

When: Wednesday
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Where: Barnum Hall 008

*Sponsored by the A&S Diversity Fund and the Elizabeth Toupin Fund
 in the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Study*

UPDATE

The Tufts Student Fund

Now we can raise even more for a fellow Tufts student!

An anonymous alumni donor has offered to support our efforts to provide a one-year scholarship for one of our peers. All we need is for 25% of the student body to give to the Tufts Student Fund, and the alumni donor will contribute \$25,000!

25% = \$25,000

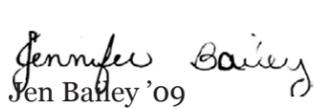
Please make your contribution **between now and March 6**—a gift of any size counts. Thanks to the generosity of more than 560 students at last week's Cause Dinner, we're well on our way!

If you haven't contributed already, we hope that you will join us in this effort. Gifts to the Tufts Student Fund can be made by:

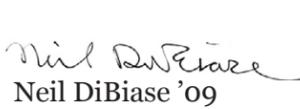
- **completing the tear-off slip below and returning it with your cash or check contribution to one of the following locations:** Tisch Library Circulation Desk, Dowling Hall Student Services Desk, Hillel Center Front Desk;
- **calling 1-866-351-5184 to make a gift by credit card;** or
- **making a credit card gift online at www.tufts.edu/givenow** (please choose the "student" check-box, provide your contact information, and enter "Tufts Student Fund" in Gift Designation 3).

Thank you for your participation!

The Tufts Student Fund Committee

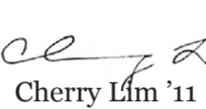

Jen Bailey '09

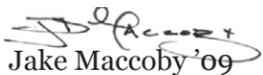

Toby Bonthron '09


Neil DiBiase '09

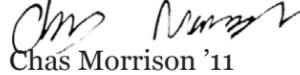

Yolanda Fair '09


Tim Li '09


Cherry Lim '11


Jake Maccoby '09


London Moore '09


Chas Morrison '11


C.J. Mourning '10


Duncan Pickard '10


Nathan Render '09


Antonella Scarano '10


Matt Shpanka '09


Scott Silverman '10


Kyle Sircus '11


Dan Slate '11


Sam Wallis '11


Jimmy Zuniga '12

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please email studentfund@tufts.edu or call 617-627-4930.

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Payment Method

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Class year _____

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THE TUFTS FUND FOR ARTS,
SCIENCES & ENGINEERING

UPDATE**The Tufts Student Fund**

Now we can raise even more for a fellow Tufts student!

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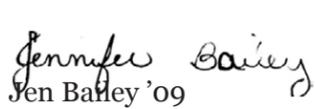
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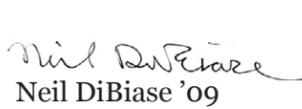
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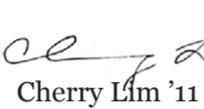

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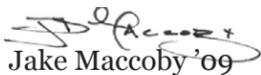

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Email _____

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Sports

tuftsdaily.com

FENCING

Jumbos finish sixth in field of 15 once again in New England Championships

BY JEREMY GREENHOUSE
Daily Editorial Board

Despite having a more well-rounded squad than it did in 2008, the fencing team's standing at New England Championships mirrored its result from last season. Last year, a top finish from epee, a sixth-place finish from foil and a 10th-place finish from sabre placed Tufts sixth in the tournament. This year at Mt. Holyoke, epee fell to fourth, foil held at sixth, and sabre leapt to fourth, culminating in a similar sixth-place finish.

The New England Women's Intercollegiate Fencing Association (NEWIFA) had 15 teams compete in the New England Championships, held the week before the NEWIFA Championships. The format for the event was different from any meet that Tufts has participated in this season, as each school had to rank a fencer A, B or C in each of the three weapons, and then every fencer competed against each fencer in her like-ranked grouping. The normal dual format is for all three combatants of a certain weapon to face each of the opposing fencers with the same weapon.

"For some schools, the difference between the A, B and C fencers isn't that great," junior epee captain Rebecca Hughes said. "For schools like Smith or us, the A, B and C are more or less the same, but a school like Vassar has some girls that are really, really skilled, while some others are only marginally good comparatively. So it turned out to be exactly what we expected."

The epee team was battling various ail-

ments as well as stiffer competition than last year, resulting in a fourth-place finish. Hughes has been suffering from tendonitis in her knees, preventing her from practicing in the last couple of weeks, and neither sophomore Coryn Wolk nor classmate Georgia Raney was at full health.

"I think we did really well considering the circumstances," Raney said. "I had to miss practice a lot, and I was a little unsure starting the day off as I hadn't fenced competitively all week and hadn't been doing footwork. But we started out fencing teams that weren't really competitive. They were more club teams, so that was a good warm-up, and it helped."

In the A spot, Wolk won nine of her 14 bouts, while Raney at B had the most victories of any Tufts fencer with 11, finishing second behind Vassar's B. Wolk and Raney were recently named Northeast Fencing Conference Second Team All-Stars after both compiled 27-9 records over the course of the year. Hughes rounded out the ladder with an 8-3 record of her own. Vassar, which finished second in epee last year at one victory behind Tufts, sliced through the field of competition, winning 36 of 39 bouts. Also rising in the standings was Boston College. The Eagles held a losing record last year in epee and finished no higher than fourth in any weapon, but this year, they finished no lower than third.

"I never thought of Vassar as one of the strongest fencing squads in the Northeast," Hughes said. "But at the same time, they did beat us, and BC has become one of the stronger teams."

All three epeeists earned resounding wins in duals against MIT, which, despite a sixth place finish in epee, won the overall competition on the strength of a 38-1 showing in sabre.

Tufts' best result may well have come from the sabres. Though freshman Sarah Danly went 4-10 at A, the Jumbos demonstrated their depth in the latter two spots, where junior sabre captain Alexandra Cheetham and sophomore Cacey Bowlus combined for 18 victories in 25 bouts. The 22 wins were a strong improvement over last year's 12.

Tufts' lowest finish came in foil, where senior foil captain Christine Lee, a First Team All-Star in the Northeast Fencing Conference with a 30-6 record this year, struggled at the outset.

"Going into it, I was more focused on the individual aspect of the tournament, but then I started not doing too well," Lee said. "Then I started thinking about it as a team tournament, and I fenced better. We finished sixth, but we were close to the two teams in front of us, so it was exciting at the end."

Although Lee won nine bouts each of the last two years, the competition lapped her this year, as she dropped from second in 2008 to seventh in 2009. Freshman Meredith Paul went 10-4 after not fencing in the previous competition, while sophomore Nadia Nibbs went 5-7.

Next week's NEWIFA Championships will follow a similar format, though top foilist Lee will not be fencing. Paul, Nibbs and junior Naomi Bryant will likely fill out the foil squad.

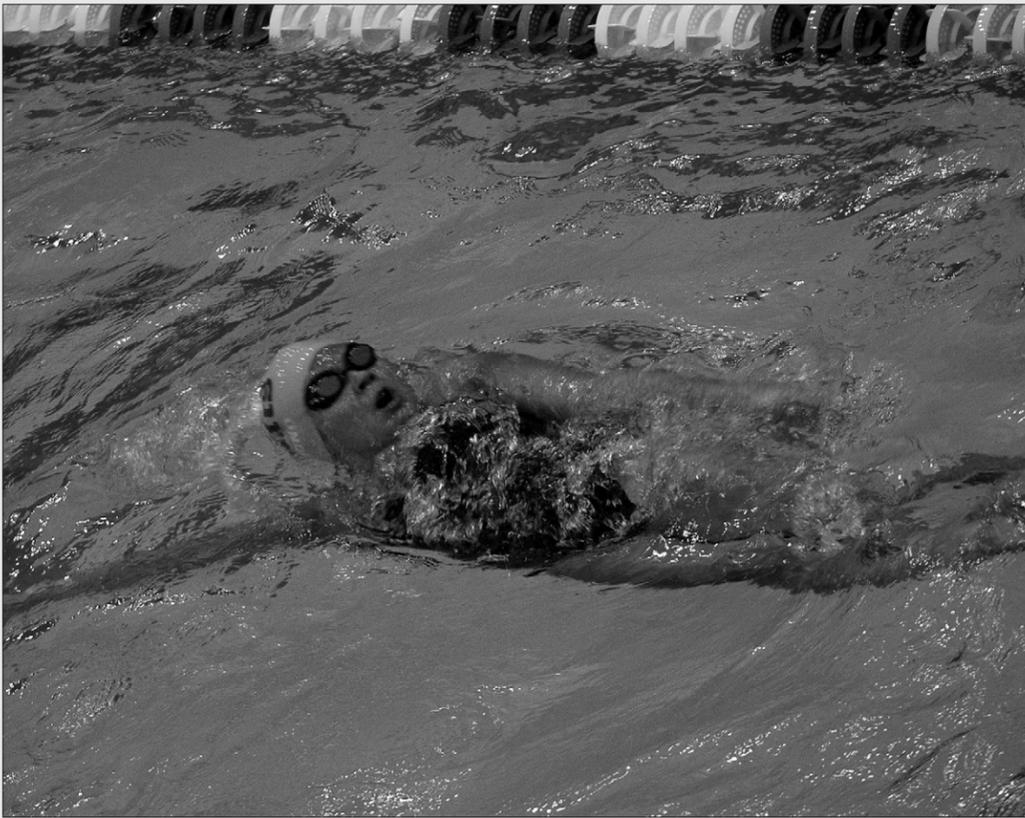
Hockey's Barchard earns NESCAC Player of the Week honors

For the second week in a row, a member of the Jumbo ice hockey team has been named the NESCAC Player of the Week. A week after sophomore Tom Derosa earned the conference nod, freshman goalie Scott Barchard, who has been nothing short of stellar all season, posted a combined 112 saves in two games over the weekend, solidifying his hold on Tufts' single-season saves record with 812 on the season, 114 more than the previous record of 698 set in 2003-04.

Barchard's performance was all the more notable in light of the significance of Friday night's contest against UMass Boston. Coming into the game, the Jumbos needed a win to ice their spot in the NESCAC playoffs for the first time since 2004-05. With the season on the line, Barchard came up with 53 saves to lift the Jumbos to a 4-2 win and a playoff berth. No less impressive was his 59-save outing against Babson in a 3-2 overtime win the following day, one save shy of the school's single-game record.

The Jumbos will next take on No. 1 Amherst in the first round of the NESCAC Tournament this Saturday, and they will count on Barchard, with his .926 save percentage on the season and four 50-plus save performances, to be solid between the pipes.

—by Evan Cooper



JAMES CHOCA/TUFTS DAILY

Seven Jumbos earn All-NESCAC honors, Bigelow takes NESCAC Coach of the Year after third-place finish

With a program-best third-place finish in the NESCAC Championship meet, the Tufts women's swimming and diving team capped off the best statistical season in Jumbo history. En route to placing third out of 11 teams at this past weekend's event, the team claimed one individual conference title as well as five second-place finishes. The awards, though, continued to stream in even after the Tufts bus departed from Bowdoin.

In her 27th year with the program, coach Nancy Bigelow

has been named the 2008-09 NESCAC Coach of the Year for leading the Jumbos to an 8-1 dual meet record. In addition to Bigelow's award, seven swimmers were recognized for their outstanding seasons. Receiving All-Conference honors for their efforts were freshmen Courtney Adams, Annie Doisneau, Valerie Eacret and Katie Russell, sophomore Megan Kono, junior Lindsay Gardel and senior tri-captain Katie Swett.

On their way to earning the slew of awards, the Jumbos also broke 11 school records

at the NESCAC Championship. Most notably, Kono posted an NCAA A-cut time with a 17:11.91 in the 1,650-yard freestyle, extending her season by automatically qualifying her for the NCAA Championship meet. Gardel, who qualified for Nationals earlier in the year, will join Kono and possibly Swett, who is waiting to see if her time secures her a spot, at the NCAA meet next month. The program's best season ever may get even better yet.

—by Evan Cooper

SKIING

Jumbos narrowly miss trip to Nationals Strong weekend effort falls short

BY PHILIP DEAR
Daily Editorial Board

The Tufts alpine ski team learned the hard way that sometimes great just isn't quite good enough.

At the Eastern Regional Championships, held at Waterville Valley this past weekend, a fifth- and seventh-place finish out of 13 teams in the slalom and giant slalom competitions, respectively, left the Jumbos out of a Nationals bid for next weekend by a slim margin. A fifth-place overall finish was necessary to qualify for the National Championship in Winter Park, Colo., and while Tufts was within the boundaries after the first day of competition, a tougher second day left them just out of the last spot.

Nevertheless, Tufts saw some great performances from its male skiers, while the women did not compete in Regionals. The Jumbos were led by sophomore captain Brian Bresee in both the slalom event on Saturday and the giant slalom on Sunday. Bresee finished eighth overall in the slalom with a time of 1:32.66, less than three seconds off the pace of the winner, Colby-Sawyer senior Travis Plass. On Sunday, Bresee managed a tie for 18th place with a combined time of 2:17.45. Again, Bresee was mere seconds off the lead as the first-place finisher came in with a time of 2:12.20."

"I felt like with the slalom, I didn't ski one of my best races," Bresee said. "Giant slalom is kind of my weaker [format] — I'm still working on it."

"Seconds are really important," Bresee continued. "Especially at Regionals where it is much more competitive, everyone's going to be a little more spread out."

A consistent middle man for the Jumbos, sophomore Thomas Valentin finished the two slalom races in a combined time of 1:39.52, which was good for 26th place in the individual standings. Classmate Arlin Ladue finished close behind in 29th with a time of 1:42.41. In fourth for Tufts was junior Greg Hering, who came in 0.7 seconds combined behind Ladue at 1:43.11.

"Overall, the team did really well," Bresee said. "We had solid performances from both [Valentin], who's been doing really well all year, and [Ladue] as well."

"We skied really strong[ly] in slalom, placing fifth as a team, on a really tough course against teams who ski the hill more than we do," Hering said. "This same trail has held over 10 World Cup races and is one of the most challenging in the East. Our giant slalom performance was solid, but we just need more time on snow. The competition was stiff [because] the division above us is more intense than our division."



COURTESY KATHY BRESEE

Sophomore captain Brian Bresee led the Jumbo skiers at Regionals this weekend in both the slalom and giant slalom events. The Jumbos were just closed out of a Nationals spot after a tough second day of competition.

Young Jumbos hope that time and practice will help them advance next season

SKIING

continued from page 15

The Jumbos, who ski in the Thompson Division of the Eastern Region, finished second in their division behind perennial powerhouse Castleton State. But in the Regional competition, Thompson Division's one-two punch only finished

third and fifth in the slalom and sixth and seventh in the giant slalom, emphasizing the disparity between divisions in the region.

Plymouth State University crushed the competition on Saturday, winning the slalom course by over eight seconds between their top three rac-

ers combined. On Sunday, Colby-Sawyer stole the show, beating second-place UMass Amherst by nearly four seconds. Plymouth State finished in a close third.

All things considered, the weekend was a success, and the only thing holding the Jumbos back from a trip to

Nationals next year is time and experience on the slopes.

"We just have to ski some more giant slalom — we need to get some more training in," Bresee said. "We definitely have room for improvement, and hopefully, we'll be able to get it next year."

"Nobody had a huge

expectation that we'd get to Nationals," Bresee continued. "It's a huge challenge to actually beat some of these teams out to qualify. We were a long shot for Nationals, but I'm happy with how we performed. We're a very young team, so we're looking good going forward into next year."

STATISTICS | STANDINGS

Men's Basketball (9-15, 1-8 NESCAC)

	NESCAC		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Middlebury	8	1	22	3
Amherst	7	2	20	5
Williams	6	3	17	8
Colby	6	3	17	8
Bowdoin	5	4	17	8
Bates	4	5	13	12
Trinity	4	5	9	15
Conn. Coll.	2	7	13	12
Wesleyan	2	7	7	17
Tufts	1	8	9	15

Individual Statistics

	PPG	RPG	APG
Jon Pierce	21.7	8.7	1.3
Dave Beyel	13.4	4.5	1.3
Aaron Gallant	11.8	3.1	1.6
Matt Galvin	5.0	2.3	4.2
Tom Selby	5.0	5.1	0.9
Dan Cook	4.3	1.9	0.7
A. Quezada	3.8	1.4	2.3
James Long	3.8	3.7	0.3
Reed Morgan	3.3	1.3	1.2
Sam Mason	2.5	2.8	0.7
Bryan Lowry	1.9	1.4	0.1
Peter Saba	1.0	1.0	0.2
Max Cassidy	0.7	1.2	0.1
Team	74.2	39.3	12.9

Women's Basketball (21-3, 7-2 NESCAC)

	NESCAC		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Bowdoin	8	1	21	4
Amherst	8	1	24	1
Tufts	7	2	21	3
Bates	5	4	16	9
Trinity	4	5	17	7
Wesleyan	4	5	12	11
Colby	4	5	13	12
Williams	3	6	8	17
Middlebury	2	7	8	15
Conn. Coll.	0	9	8	16

Individual Statistics

	PPG	RPG	APG
Julia Baily	13.4	8.0	1.0
Colleen Hart	12.1	4.1	4.5
K. Tausanovitch	9.9	6.4	1.2
Kim Moynihan	9.7	4.5	2.1
Casey Sullivan	7.4	3.0	1.6
Rachel Figaro	6.8	5.8	0.9
Vanessa Miller	2.9	3.4	2.0
T. Kornegay	2.9	1.3	1.1
Lindsay Weiner	2.7	0.7	0.5
Katie Puishys	2.4	1.7	0.2
Kate Barnosky	1.2	0.5	0.7
Stacy Filocco	1.0	0.4	0.5
Katie Wholey	1.0	0.5	0.3
Team	70.6	43.0	15.7

Ice Hockey (11-11-2, 7-10-2 NESCAC/ECAC)

	NESCAC			OVERALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Amherst	16	2	1	18	4	1
Middlebury	14	4	1	17	6	1
Williams	12	5	2	14	8	2
Trinity	12	7	0	15	8	0
Conn. Coll.	9	7	3	13	8	3
Bowdoin	8	9	2	11	11	2
Hamilton	8	11	0	9	14	1
Tufts	7	10	2	11	11	2
Wesleyan	4	13	2	4	17	2
Colby	4	13	2	6	15	3

Individual Statistics

	G	A	Pts.
Tom Derosa	15	13	28
Nick Resor	16	11	27
Dylan Cooper	5	16	21
Mike Vitale	4	9	13
Andy Davis	4	8	12
Evan Story	6	4	10
Doug Wilson	3	6	9
Matt Amico	1	8	9
Phil Clark	0	8	8
Lindsay Walker	3	4	7
Team	70	106	176
Goalkeeping	S	GA	S %
Scott Barchard	812	65	.926
Jay McNamara	55	9	.859
Team	872	79	.917

SCHEDULE | Feb. 25 - Mar. 1

	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Men's Basketball					
Women's Basketball				NESCAC Tournament at Bowdoin	
Ice Hockey				Nescac Tournament at Amherst	
Men's Swimming and Diving			NESCAC Championships at Wesleyan	NESCAC Championships at Wesleyan	NESCAC Championships at Wesleyan
Women's Swimming and Diving					
Men's Indoor Track and Field			Open New England Championships at BU	Open New England Championships at BU	
Women's Indoor Track and Field			Open New England Championships at BU	Open New England Championships at BU	
Men's Squash			CSA Individual Championships at Williams	CSA Individual Championships at Williams	CSA Individual Championships at Williams
Women's Squash			CSA Individual Championships at Williams	CSA Individual Championships at Williams	CSA Individual Championships at Williams

INSIDE NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Several mid-major teams command notice on ESPN's BracketBusters Weekend

BY ETHAN LANDY
Daily Editorial Board

Every year, a new Cinderella finds its way into the glass slipper and surprises the nation by making a deep run in the NCAA Tournament. And in the last seven years, more people have taken notice of these mid-major teams, as ESPN has broadcasted its BracketBusters Weekend to pit teams from these conferences in marquee games against one another.

In a year where parity reigns and the top teams in the nation all have major flaws, it is not inconceivable that a team from a mid-major conference will make it to the second weekend of the tournament in March. Last year, the **Davidson Wildcats** were agonizingly close to reaching the Final Four before a two-point loss to the eventual national champion **Kansas Jayhawks**.

At the beginning of the season, it seemed that Davidson was a good bet to be the next **George Mason Patriots**, who reached the Final Four in the 2006 tournament. With Stephen Curry returning for his junior season, the Wildcats had one of the best scorers in the country and the experience of having played deep into the tourney. Ranked 20th in the preseason polls, they were the highest non-major conference team outside of the **Gonzaga Bulldogs**, a team which most college basketball fans know can hardly be described as a part of the mid-major tier after years of success.

But this year, Davidson is in danger of missing the tournament altogether. Despite having Curry, the nation's leading scorer, in the fold, the Wildcats are not the same team as they were last year. With their star at less than a 100 percent due to a nagging ankle injury, the Wildcats lost their BracketBuster game Saturday to the Horizon League-leading **Butler Bulldogs**, which would've given them a key win over a top-25 team.

Part of Davidson's hardships have come due to the loss of point guard Jason Richards, but they can also be attributed to the fact that the Wildcats cannot sneak up on teams anymore. With a weak out-of-conference résumé, including a 1-4 mark versus the RPI Top 50, the Wildcats will likely need to win the Southern Conference Tournament to get into the Big Dance. Davidson currently sits in first place, two games ahead of the second-place **Citadel Bulldogs**, whom they faced without Curry. But with two conference losses in the last five games to the **College of Charleston Cougars** and **Citadel**, a win



Numerous mid-majors seem poised to repeat the feats of Davidson and star Stephen Curry, shown here earlier this season against Western Carolina, who nearly took a relatively unknown school to the Final Four last year.

is not assured.

If No. 23 **Butler** is now the obvious mid-major team to back, which ones might be bona fide Cinderellas? At the top of the list are the **St. Mary's Gaels**, winners of three straight including a

victory in their game over a previously ranked **Utah State Aggies** team. All this has been accomplished without the services of sophomore star guard Patrick

see **MEN'S BASKETBALL**, page 19

INSIDE NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Huskies cruising through schedule unscathed

BY ALEX PREWITT
Daily Editorial Board

Like the all-female baseball team in the classic 1992 film, the University of **Connecticut Huskies** are in a league of their own.

The unanimous No. 1 team in the nation, the Huskies have bulldozed through a brutal non-conference schedule and sit atop the Big East standings with a perfect 13-0 conference mark (27-0 overall) and look poised to continue their impressive run deep into March. With just three games remaining on its schedule, UConn holds a two-game lead over the **Louisville Cardinals** in the Big East and, barring straight losses to end the season, have all but solidified a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

The earliest statement made by the Huskies came on Nov. 30, when they steamrolled the current No. 2 **Oklahoma Sooners** at home, 106-78. In that game, junior Renee Montgomery exploded for a career-high 30 points and matched the Connecticut all-time record with 13 assists. As impressive, though, was the way the Huskies flawlessly dominated every facet of the game, making the Sooners, who will

most likely be a fellow No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament, look foolish.

Junior Maya Moore added 27 points and 12 rebounds in that game, as Connecticut held Oklahoma, the fifth-highest-scoring offense in the country, to 38.8 percent shooting. The ease with which the Huskies defeated the Sooners has been a constant theme for coach Geno Auriemma's squad, which is ranked first in scoring margin, distancing itself from its opponents by an average of 32.0 points per game.

In a year when five different men's teams have held the nation's No. 1 spot, the Connecticut women have remained atop both the AP and ESPN polls for 15 weeks. By avoiding the pitfalls that have plagued their male counterparts, the Huskies have rolled over the country's elite. The gap between them and the rest of the nation seems to be widening by the day.

On Jan. 19, UConn beat the then-No. 2 **North Carolina Tar Heels** in Chapel Hill by 30, ending UNC's 31-game home winning streak. Just when keying on one particular player seems like a good idea for opposing defenses, another player seemingly steps up to

carry the Huskies to victory. Such was the case against North Carolina, which focused on shutting down Moore, who was coming off a 40-point performance against the **Syracuse Orange**. Instead, Montgomery led the attack with 21 points.

On the season, three Huskies — Moore, Montgomery and junior Tina Charles — rank in the top 100 in the country in scoring, while both Moore and Montgomery are in the top 11 in assist-turnover ratio. Their prowess carries over to the defensive end, as Connecticut has allowed an opponent to score over 70 points just three times and boasts the second-best scoring defense in the country.

The win over the Tar Heels was also a great indicator of how the Huskies should play come tournament time. Connecticut is now 4-0 in No. 1 versus No. 2 matchups on the road and is 9-2 all-time in those games.

An in-depth look into any potential team that could challenge the Huskies in March yields few results. The Sooners were recently upset by the **Texas A&M Aggies**, bumping them further down in the rankings after

see **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**, page 19

EVANS CLINCHY | DIRTY WATER



Dinosaur Jr.

It was a good couple of weeks to be a nostalgic sports fan.

You had Brett Favre quitting like it was 2007, Tiger Woods playing like it was 2006, Shaq and Kobe winning like it was 2002, and Roger Federer looking mortal like it was — good Lord. I can't even remember when. It's been a while.

But if there was one indication that the nostalgia had gone too far, it came a week ago today.

Last Wednesday night, Ken Griffey, Jr. backed out of an imminent free-agent signing with Atlanta, deciding at the last minute to return to Seattle and rejoin the Mariners team franchise that had elevated him to superstardom in the 1990s. It's refreshing; it's heart-warming; it's one of the great comeback stories we've seen in sports in recent memory.

It's also a bad idea. Maybe not for the Mariners' PR department and maybe not for the local media, but definitely for the Mariners as a baseball team.

We're talking about a Seattle team that won 61 games last year, untouchably the worst in the American League. Baseball Prospectus' PECOTA system has them projected to win 72 this season — a huge improvement! — but still tied for worst in the American League. The franchise has watched Ichiro Suzuki age, Raul Ibanez skip town and the pitching staff, with the exception of a young stud named Felix Hernandez, continually disappoint.

Its only hope is to rebuild around King Felix and a small crop of position-player prospects — namely Wladimir Balentien, a 24-year-old corner outfielder who at least shows some raw power; Jeff Clement, a 25-year-old slugging catcher and DH; and Mike Carp, a doubles-hitting first baseman who, at 22, was a key piece of the New York Mets' trade for J.J. Putz.

Acquiring Griffey, whether he's used as a right fielder or a DH, is only going to block the development of at least one, if not all three, of these rising stars. It's easy to sell that move to TV executives, who are eager to showcase one of the era's few steroid-free legends and have never heard of Jeff Clement anyway. But how do you sell it to the men in the clubhouse? And what happens when he hits an awful midseason slump, like the .205-hitting June that led to his trade from Cincinnati last year? Won't that just make things worse? Can you bench the one and only Junior?

I'm not just writing this column to ask a bunch of rhetorical questions about a pathetic last-place team. The bigger issue is that one of the game's all-time greats, a man who hit 398 homers before age 30 in a Mariners uniform, is physically back where he started, but his image has gone from immortality to pity.

The cover of *Sports Illustrated* on May 17, 1999 called him "good enough to become the greatest slugger of all time." He was the only player under 30 named to the Major League Baseball All-Century Team in the famous ceremony before Game 2 of the '99 World Series. Hank Aaron, when asked by the AP in 2000 about his then-all-time home run record potentially being broken, replied, "I'd bet on Griffey."

But Barry Bonds did so instead, and Alex Rodriguez probably will next, and it's sad that a man with a far better reputation than either of them ever had is going out like this. Instead of simply being one of the greats, Griffey is going to cement his legacy by going out as a washed-up platoon guy on a bad team. Baseball has plenty of those. It doesn't have enough iconic players like the old Ken Griffey, Jr.

Cincinnati Reds rookie Jay Bruce made me chuckle a year ago when he said, "There's only one Ken Griffey." I wouldn't want him to be wrong in more ways than one.

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



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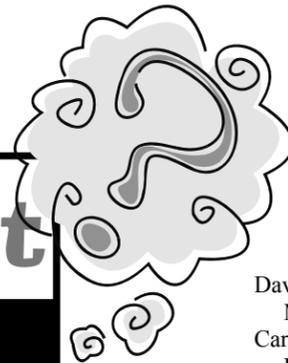
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DAILY DIGITS

1,145.5

Points tallied by the women's swimming and diving team at the NESCAC Championship meet this past weekend at Bowdoin College. The Jumbos' score was good enough for third place, Tufts' best in the nine-year history of the conference meet. Led by sophomore Megan Kono, who shattered two Tufts records, the Jumbos established new marks in 11 events and had seven swimmers earn All-NESCAC honors.

13

Years played on the Indianapolis Colts by wide receiver Marvin Harrison, who was released from the team yesterday. Harrison, a shoe-in for the Hall of Fame, is second to only Jerry Rice in career receptions and has been named to eight Pro Bowls. In 2002, Harrison set the single-season record for receptions, and he has teamed up with quarterback Peyton Manning to form the most prolific passing tandem in the history of the league.

4.67

The average margin of victory in three games dating back to last season between the Tufts and Amherst women's basketball teams, all of which have been Lord Jeffs wins. The Jumbos will take on Amherst this weekend in the NESCAC semifinal at Bowdoin College in a battle of two nationally ranked teams. In last year's tournament final, the Jeffs defeated Tufts 59-53 to capture the championship after previously giving Tufts its first loss of the year on a buzzer-beater.

8

Months that Tiger Woods was away from the PGA Tour due to ACL surgery following last year's Masters. In his first match back, Woods is seeded No. 1 overall in the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship and will take on Brendan Jones at 2 p.m. today in the opening round of the 64-golfer tournament. Woods has won 14 major championships in his career and is third all-time on the list of PGA Tour wins.

MAAC could produce this season's Cinderella story

MEN'S BASKETBALL

continued from page

Mills, who has missed the last seven games with a hand injury.

The problem for the Gaels, who at one point were ranked No. 22 in the nation, is that they play in the same conference as Gonzaga. Despite coming within two points of upsetting the then-No. 19 Bulldogs without Mills on Feb. 12, St. Mary's could be in trouble, as they are only third in their own conference. But if the Gaels find their way into the tournament and Mills comes back healthy, they should be a feared squad come March Madness.

Another potentially rough matchup for major conference opponents in the tournament would be the **Creighton Bluejays**, the leaders in the always-tough Missouri Valley Conference at 12-4 in league play and 23-6 overall. Their win over George Mason Saturday was their eighth straight, and with prolific three-point shooter senior Booker Woodfox leading the team with 16.1 points per game, they are playing as well as anyone.

And speaking of the Missouri Valley conference, two of the teams chasing Creighton suffered losses to a pair of dark horses this past weekend. On Friday, the **Niagara Purple Eagles** earned an important victory over Creighton's conference rival **Illinois State Redbirds**. Although the Purple Eagles boast junior guard Tyrone Lewis, the third-leading scorer in the MAAC conference at 16.5 points per game, along with the league's top rebounder in senior Bilal Benn, Niagara still is not the top threat from its own conference.

That team would be the **Siena Saints**, who have already clinched the MAAC regular season title and beaten the second-best team in the Missouri Valley conference, the **Northern Iowa Panthers**, in their BracketBuster game. Subtract a last-second loss to the **Rider Broncos** on Feb. 7, and the Saints are undefeated in their conference and have hung tough against teams like No. 15 Kansas and the top-ranked **Pittsburgh Panthers** in earlier non-conference matchups.

The most impressive thing about Siena is its depth, with six players averaging over eight points a game. Three of these players average more than 13.5 a game, led by senior Kenny Hasbrouck's 15.0 points a game. With that type of balance and their experience playing tough opponents this season, the Saints could score an upset in March.

But rather than wait until then, the fireworks will go off this Friday when Siena visits Niagara in a pivotal conference game for both clubs. Though a win by Niagara would not help it in terms of the regular-season race, it would certainly help its standings with the NCAA tournament selection committee.

These BracketBusters winners made a big statement on national television this past weekend. In the end, however, there is a chance none of them will get the chance to play in March. Such is the life of a mid-major, when weaker opponents with big names make the tourney and quality schools find themselves on the outside looking in. But whichever of these teams make it, expect one to become the latest bandwagon craze in March.



Connecticut's Tina Charles, who averages 16.0 points per game and leads the team in blocks, is just one of the many forces on the undefeated Huskies' roster, which has rolled over every opponent with ease thus far.

UConn Huskies favored to win it all this March

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

continued from page 17

Connecticut handled them back in November.

The new No. 2, the **Stanford Cardinal**, is 22-4 on the year and boasts a big win over the **California Golden Bears**, a top-five team. Likewise, the **Golden Bears** are tied for first in the Pac-10 with Stanford, but they have also suffered an 11-point loss to Oklahoma in December. The **Maryland Terrapins**, led by the hot-

shooting Kristi Toliver, could be a dark horse in the tournament, but again, their résumé is tainted by a 29-point loss to the **Pittsburgh Panthers**, a team that UConn smacked by 53 points just last week.

With just three cupcake conference games left on its schedule, Connecticut should easily waltz into the Big East Tournament still undefeated. There, as has been the case all year, the Huskies will be relatively unchallenged, as

they hold a 29.8-point average margin of victory in conference play thus far.

With the way Auriemma has his team playing right now and with a roster loaded top to bottom with quality talent, the Husky faithful can confidently compare this team to that of 2002, when a Diana Taurasi-led squad went 39-0 to win the national championship. All indications this season, thus far, point to the replication of such a feat.



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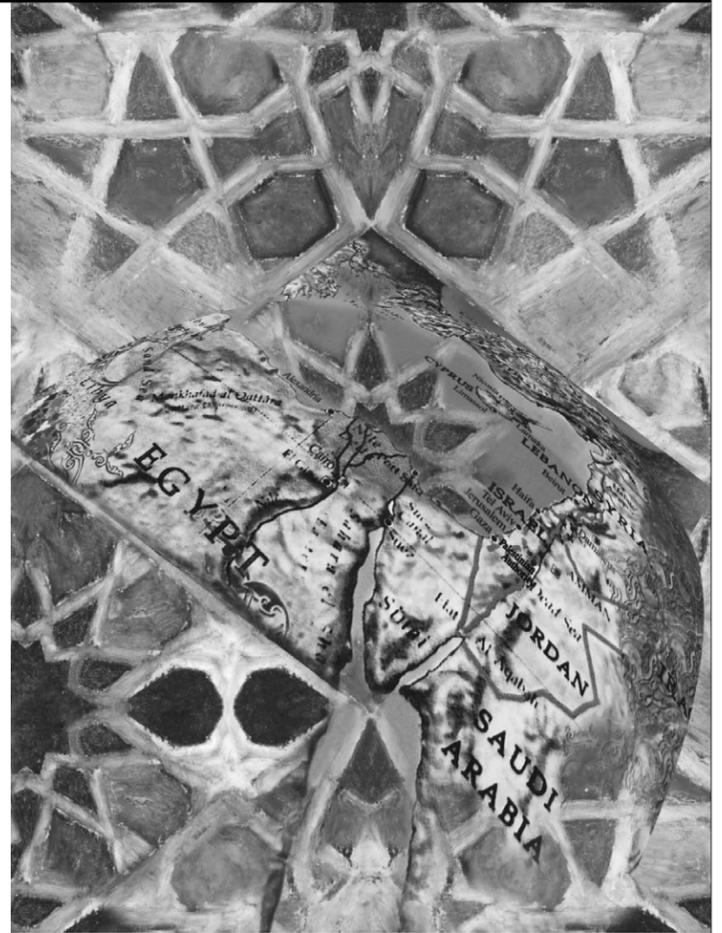


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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Thursday, March 5, 2009

WELCOME
3:00-3:15 p.m.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
3:15-4:30 p.m.

SESSION I
4:30-6:15 p.m.
*America and Iran:
The Historical Context*

Friday, March 6, 2009

SESSION II
8:45-10:30 a.m.
*Zones of War and Diplomacy:
The Eastern Mediterranean*

SESSION III
10:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
*Zones of War and Diplomacy:
Iraq, the Gulf, and Afghanistan*

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
1:15-2:15 p.m.

SESSION IV
2:45-4:30 p.m.
Nuclear Issues

SESSION V
4:45-6:30 p.m.
*American Policies and Options
in the Region*

CONCLUDING REMARKS
6:30-7:30 p.m.

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