



Tufts engineering has strong female presence, study finds

BY SAMUEL WEBB
Contributing Writer

Compared to its peers at the national level, the Tufts University School of Engineering (SOE) has been very successful at recruiting and retaining female engineers, according to a report published by two members of the Tufts community.

Dean of Engineering Linda Abriola and Director of Education and Development for the School of Arts, Sciences, & Engineering Dr. Margery Davies wrote the report, which is called "Attracting and Retaining Women in Engineering: The Tufts Experience."

Nationally, the percentage of engineering bachelor's degrees obtained by women has hovered at around 20 percent for the past eight years, creating a job market dominated by men.

But at Tufts, the numbers are much more favorable. Last year, 26.8 percent of the engineering bachelor's degrees were awarded to women and this year nearly 31 percent of SOE freshman are female.

Beyond that, Tufts boasts a 99 percent four-year graduation rate for its female engineers, according to Davies.

This is particularly important because, according to Abriola, one reason that the national percentage of female engineers is so low is that many "get discouraged and drop out."

When analyzing these numbers, Abriola and Davies decided that there is no single reason for the SOE's success. "We decided it was a combination of a number of factors," Abriola said.

One of the most important, she said, is the general atmosphere at Tufts, where engineering students often interact a lot with peers from the School of Arts and Sciences. This is particularly helpful for students who have a variety of interests, she said, noting that many engineers double major in a non-engineering field. "They come to Tufts because they feel they can pursue a balance," she said.

SOE Freshman Claire Rollor agreed. "I didn't want to be just a hardcore engineer," she said. "At Tufts I felt like I could express myself in other ways, like music."

The success is also due to conscious efforts to enroll female engineering students, Davies said.

According to the report, the acceptance rate is 41 percent for female engineers compared to the overall SOE acceptance rate of 34 percent.

Tufts also makes an effort to attract female engineering faculty. The SOE has nearly doubled the national average for female engineering faculty members, Abriola said.

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Student mothers aim for housing

BY ERIN BALDASSARI
Daily Staff Writer

The Tufts Alliance for the Advancement of Mothers (TAAM) began circulating a petition earlier this month requesting on-campus housing in which Tufts students who are mothers can live with their children.

Currently, the Office of Residential Life and Learning (ORLL) does provide some off-campus housing for graduate students and faculty members with families. Though ORLL promises on-campus housing to all undergraduate freshmen and sophomores, because children are not permitted to live in the dormitories, student mothers cannot live on-campus with their children.

"We are not asking for free housing, just the same equal access that is provided to all students regardless of gender, sexual orientation, religion, creed or disability," mother and TAAM founder Anne Stevenson (LA '06) said.

Central to the request of the group is the feeling that it is impossible to effectively participate in student life if they live too far away from campus. "If you're not on campus, you can't really participate as a student," Stevenson said at a TAAM meeting.

Beyond that, transportation and long commutes are an issue, according to Interim Director of the Women's Center Susan Gilbert.

"Transportation is one of the biggest challenges. Many of the mothers are living at home, and therefore must com-

mute to school. That takes a lot of time," she said.

Senior Yissy Perez, also a mother, said that members of the administration were initially supportive when mothers came to them last year to talk about housing, but then seemed to imply that granting their requests would tarnish Tufts' reputation.

"They didn't want 'that' image," she said. "[They] didn't want to portray Tufts as a community college."

Stevenson said that the biggest obstacle has not been whether or not resources are available, but whether the administration wants to allocate those resources for specialty housing.

Dean of Student Affairs Bruce Reitman disagreed, saying that appropriate houses may not be available on campus. "There are a lot of regulatory issues about whether or not particular places are safe environments for toddlers," he said.

"You can imagine that a lot of our [on-campus buildings] have stairways with no protection for the stairs and no protection for the space between two parallel stairs," Reitman said. "Doorways, elevators — there are all sorts of issues." Many houses also have lead paint, which makes them unsafe for toddlers, he said.

Perceptions of Tufts' image, he said, have nothing to do with the administration's stance. "I think that it should be the university's interest to provide any

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Campus Center brings Sex Fair back

BY LAURA HILL
Contributing Writer

Visitors to the Mayer Campus Center on Valentine's Day opened the door to discover phallic balloons, condom roses and a "vulva wishing tree," which were decorations for the "Sex Fair," hosted by VOX: Voices for Choice.

"The goal of the Sex Fair is to create a dialogue about sex on campus," senior and VOX member Megan Ault said.

Ault ran the masturbation table, which was the most popular booth at the fair, according to VOX co-president senior Chelsea Toder.

"People are a lot more enthusiastic than I thought they'd be," Ault said.

The fair featured a world map on which students could mark the different locations they have had sex, and another map, entitled "Where have you touched yourself at Tufts?" Ault said that the masturbation map helped include a wider range of people.

"You don't necessarily have to be sexually active to participate and feel involved," she said.

Student turnout was high despite the inclement weather. "In some ways, maybe [the weather] helped turnout," sophomore Morissa Sobelson said. "People want to go somewhere warm and cozy — why not the Sex Fair?"

According to Toder, VOX headed up the fair and several other campus clubs and organizations



ANNIE WERMIEL/TUFTS DAILY

Displays like this at the fair yesterday aimed to inform students about sex.

contributed by running booths that covered a wide variety of issues.

Visitors could learn about "reproductive rights or choice or sexual health," Toder said. "There's an AIDS collective.

There's something for everyone."

Sobelson worked at the HIV/AIDS collaborative and distributed AIDS awareness ribbons.

The Tufts Anthropology

see SEX, page 2

Curtatone elected mayors' organization president

BY JEREMY WHITE
Daily Editorial Board

Supported by a strong backing for his progressive-minded leadership, Somerville mayor Joseph A. Curtatone was chosen Jan. 13 to be the 2007 president of the Massachusetts Mayors' Association (MMA).

The MMA, a subgroup of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, provides a forum for the state's mayors to confront issues affecting their cities and offer collective solutions, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association Geoffrey Beckwith said.

"The association includes all of the mayors of the commonwealth who meet on a regular basis with a common agenda to strengthen the cities and communities of the state," he said.

At the MMA's annual meeting, a group of Curtatone's peers chose him to lead for the duration of 2007.

According to Beckwith, this position puts him at the forefront of a host of issues including reducing reliance on the property tax and finding a way to combat high housing costs.

Although the MMA is a nonpartisan organization, the

prospect of a new face in the governor's office gives heartening news to members who criticize a rift that grew under former governor Mitt Romney.

"I think, first and foremost, this year will be to re-establish a strong working relationship between the cities and communities of Massachusetts and the governor," Beckwith said. "[Romney] had delegated out the responsibility of dealing with municipal issues, and with the occasional exception was not fully engaged in working with mayors on a regular basis."

Curtatone stressed this deteriorating relationship when he endorsed Deval Patrick in the 2006 gubernatorial race because, according to him, Patrick represents a golden opportunity for progress.

"Part of the excitement is working in this atmosphere of hope and opportunity with the new administration and working together to achieve a true partnership between the state government and the municipalities," he said.

Curtatone also hopes that his visibility as president of the MMA will help catalyze changes at the state level similar to

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'C' IS FOR COOKIE

And Tina Ye's cookies are good enough for the Daily



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CALL ME EZRA

Tufts' own Ezra Furman and the Harpoons land a record deal



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tuftsdaily.com

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Several figures have been frequently mentioned as possible Putin successors, including First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and Defense Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov.

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He also said that he has no recollection of a meeting at which a group of mothers requested housing. "There was not a group that was saying we want to go for housing. No group has come to me to ask that," he said. "I don't know if there was a desire for that or not."

Instead, he said that he remembers a request for support, which he said the administration has provided.

"There are a number of things that we have done to help, including providing access to legal advice," he said.

"[We have used] Tufts networks that were identified through legal counsel or the vice president's office to hook [mothers] up with resources that could provide advice on financial issues or other legal issues," he said.

Stevenson does not agree that the administration has done enough, saying that student mothers suffer from a

stigma on campus. "We're invisible. It's as if we don't even exist," she said at a TAAM meeting.

Griselmarie Alemar, also a mother, echoed these sentiments in an interview. "Tufts likes to portray the image that they like to help the community," she said. "[But] we are part of the community, and they don't really help us." Alemar will be returning from medical leave in the fall.

Gilbert and Violence Prevention Program Coordinator Elaine Theodore said that they understand the situation that student mothers face.

"I'm not sure students [who are not mothers] would recognize the difficulty of having a young child in addition to the same academic pressures," Gilbert said. Student moms "deserve equal respect and equal treatment, whether in housing or elsewhere."

Theodore mentioned the transparency of mothers at Tufts. "There is [a perception] that this demographic doesn't exist at Tufts," she said. Student mothers "are really seen in a different

light. They are treated differently by other students and by the administration. The biggest difference is that they don't get housing."

Stevenson said that they are almost alone on campus in this respect. "There is the Crafts House, [La Casa], the [Capen] House, the International House. There is a niche for everyone. They have forgotten us, or they've pushed us aside," she said.

Reitman said that if student moms want their own on-campus house, they need to apply for a special interest house, something he said he is not sure if they have done already.

"The next step is going to be to talk about a new special interest house," he said.

"Do we have an appropriate space? I don't know. Could we address the safety issues? Potentially, yes. But [the] last [time] I knew we were talking about doing this, there was no group [of students] that was looking to do that."

But it is exactly those types of houses that Stevenson is using as a justification.

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CURTATONE

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the "innovations, initiatives and positive things" already accomplished in Somerville.

Robert Trane, president of the Somerville Board of Aldermen, echoed this sentiment and said Curtatone's presidency will encourage other communities to continue to look to Somerville as an example.

"I think it brings a focus to some of the things we've been working on in the city and that we've put in place," he said. "I think other cities and towns will want to start adopting some of our policies."

Curtatone is partway through his second term as mayor of Somerville and is the second youngest mayor in the city's long history, only 38 on his first election day in 2003. Despite his relative youth,

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SEX

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Collective was also among the many organizations running booths. Anthropology students like sophomore Caitlin Felsman distributed information about sexual cultures, habits and norms around the world. "We want to get involved in events on campus that aren't solely academic," she said.

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Features

THE TUFTS DAILY

Thursday, February 15, 2007

CAMPUS COOKING

Cookies are always good, especially when it's cold outside

BY TINA YE
Daily Staff Writer

Cookies! They are sheer gustatory delights any time of year, but they are especially appropriate for celebratory occasions, like Boston's first real snow of the season! (Finally...) Oh, and for the *tabula rasa* of a new semester. Hooray!

Indeed, sweets have always been a part of celebratory rituals the world over. This makes sense considering sugars, butters and spices

were once rare treasures only to be brought out on extraordinary occasions. And after all, nothing amplifies cheerfulness like a good bout of potential cavities.

So let's talk about cookies and how to excel at producing them so that we may cheerfully devour them afterwards. Though there are thousands of different kinds of cookies, some general tips on cooking and baking that are always relevant and helpful do exist. So before you get all floured up, read over these cookie commandments.

By the way, it's always a good idea to Google for cooking tips in addition to the recipe when making something new. Unless I'm familiar with a particular recipe or the cooking technique it uses, I never work based on an unfamiliar recipe alone. Recipes are designed to give the basic procedure for making something, but rarely have the extraneous information that will help you do it well. Allrecipes.com in particular has some helpful videos and tutorials on preparing many common, popular foods.

The Cookie Commandments

One: If you are making cut-out cookies, chill the dough in the fridge for about an hour first. Yes, it's time consuming, but go play a round of Guitar Hero while you're waiting or something. It will be worth it, because your dough will roll out evenly and not stick everywhere, thereby saving you much time and frustration in the long run. You also won't have to flour it as much to prevent sticking, which is good because too much flour can make the cookie dangerously dry. Even if it isn't for cut-out cookies, it's generally a good idea to chill the dough so the cookie doesn't crumble as easily. If you're really short on time, wrap it in plastic wrap, flatten it out a bit, and stick it in the freezer for ten minutes.

Two: Don't overbake your cookies! Why is this a problem when you just follow the recipe's time and temperature of the recipe, you ask? Because oven temperature dials can vary a bit — you can "set" the temperature to 350 degrees on some ovens, but on some it could heat to 340 and others, 360. That's enough to throw off the time by an entire five minutes. So a good rule of thumb is to check the cookies five minutes before the time at

which the recipe claims they will be done. You can tell cookies are done with a quick visual appraisal: they should be very light brown on the edges. They will look slightly underdone in the center but cookies continue to cook for a short time after you take them out of the oven, so worry not.

Three: Cool the cookies completely before trying to move or decorate them. The heat must dissipate for the dough to set and harden. Premature disturbance will cause physical breakdown on the cookie's part and numerous "Aw, damn"s on yours.

Four: Don't skimp on fat. The fat is what makes the cookie brown to tender, melt-in-your-mouth deliciousness. It helps along the Maillard reactions, the chemical reactions between sugar and amino acid that are responsible for the tasty, toasty flavor molecules in caramelized onions, caramel candy, roast beef and of course, cookies. So if it says to use a cup of butter, don't use air-filled whipped butter or reduced fat butter-like products. Margarine, however, is okay as a trade-off, and so is vegetable shortening. By the way, if you want chewier cookies, melt the butter instead of merely softening it.

Five: Don't get baking powder and baking soda mixed up. Baking soda lacks acid to complete the leavening process, so it depends on the presence of another acidic ingredient in the dough. Baking powder, however, is essentially baking soda with acidic cream of tartar built into it, so it is more often used in recipes that don't have an additional acidic ingredient. Recipes that include a mixture of baking soda and baking powder are trying to achieve a pH balance for optimal leavening. In order to follow these proportions carefully (a requisite for good baking), I do recommend investing in a set of measuring spoons. In baking, you can't do it "to taste."

Six: This is not a real Cookie Commandment, but so far, the best chocolate chip cookies recipe I've ever used is the one on the back of those Nestle Toll House chocolate chip bags. Seriously.

Now, without further ado, here are two of my favorite cookie recipes. The first one is a basic sugar shortbread cookie recipe with a fun twist: it's made into a cookie sandwich. Of course, feel free to stop at the cookie part and make cut-out cookies that you can then decorate with store-bought icing.



TINA YE/TUFTS DAILY



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Angel Whispers

Ingredients:

1 cup butter (used in 2 steps)
1/2 cup confectioners sugar
2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp lemon extract or 1 tsp lemon zest
1/2 tsp salt
1 egg, beaten
2/3 cup white sugar
3/4 tsp lemon extract or 1 1/2 tsp lemon zest (used in 2 steps)
3 tablespoons lemon juice
1 1/2 tablespoons butter

1) In a medium bowl, cream together butter and confectioners' sugar until light. Stir in the lemon peel, flour and salt. Cover bowl, and chill for about one hour.

2) Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.

3) Flatten teaspoons of dough onto cookie sheet pans, and bake for five to eight minutes, until light brown. Remove from oven and allow to cool.

4) To make the filling, combine the beaten egg, sugar, lemon zest, lemon juice and butter in the top of a double boiler. Chances are, you don't have one. I don't. But what works splendidly as a substitute is a large Carmichael plastic salad bowl placed on top of a simmering pot of water. Stir the mixture in the bowl over the water until it becomes thick. If it doesn't want to thicken, add powdered sugar to the mix. Mixture will also thicken further after it cools.

5) Sandwich cookies with one teaspoon of filling each. Eat!



TINA YE/TUFTS DAILY



TINA YE/TUFTS DAILY

Chocolate Mint Cookies

Ingredients:

3/4 cup butter
1 1/2 cups packed brown sugar
2 Tbsp water
2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
2 eggs
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/4 tsp baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
36 chocolate mint wafer candies or mini York peppermint patties

1) In a large pan over low heat, cook butter, sugar and water until butter is melted. Add chocolate chips and stir until partially melted. Remove from heat and continue to stir until chocolate is completely melted. Pour into a large bowl and let stand 10 minutes to cool off slightly.

2) Beat in the eggs, one at a time into chocolate mixture. Reduce speed to low and add dry ingredients, beating until blended. Chill dough about one hour.

3) Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

4) Roll dough into balls and place on ungreased cookie sheet about 2 inches apart. Bake 8-10 minutes. While cookies are baking unwrap candies and divide each in half. When cookies are brought out of the oven, press 1/2 mint candy on top of each cookie. The mint candy will melt in a bit due to the heat of the cookie. Eat and enjoy!

Both recipes are courtesy of Allrecipes.com.

PETE MCKEOWN | DAILY TOWNIE



Romance, Townie style

By the time this is read, Valentine's Day will be over.

Hundreds of Tufts guys will have missed out on my romantic genius, and for that I am sorry.

Many of you probably bought flowers, went on dates to expensive restaurants with those special, more expensive Valentine's menus, or even did something stupid like trying to surprise her with a favorite home-cooked meal.

All idiotic ideas. It's not your fault, because the townie hadn't yet revealed his 2007 love secrets. So here's a list of a few of my date ideas — nights of bliss the likes of which you will never forget — because if there's one thing a townie knows other than felonies, it's economically-friendly dates that make the ladies swoon.

The first place, often referred to as "heaven" in the Somerville community, is GoodTime's Emporium. The only problem I have with this place is that it isn't called "RidiculouslyAwesomeTime's."

For dinner, sample any of the delicacies that the upscale, modernized menu has to offer, from single slices of cheese pizza to Buffalo wings (an aphrodisiac of epic proportions). Want to work off those calories? Try out some laser tag, because nothing says "you're the best" like a red beam of light blinding your cornea. Some say it's damaging for future vision, I say it's a laser of love.

Forgot a gift? Win her one of the many prizes GoodTime's has to offer with tickets from their hundreds of video games. Who needs chocolates and roses when you can win her with fake vampire teeth and a top-notch Hackey sack? After this she'll be wondering how this perfect night could get better, and that's when you sit down at the bar and start throwing around (one) dollar bills for every townie's favorite game: Keno. Thank me later.

Next stop, Lanes and Games in Cambridge. Lanes and Games is a dating mainstay, found conveniently on Route 2 between the Alewife T stop and a boarded-up strip club. That's as five-star as it gets. Once inside, there's both candlepin bowling and 10-pin bowling. I'd have issues with anyone who suggested candlepin over 10-pin, but this might be due to my almost god-like ability at big ball bowling.

There's a bar on the second floor, again fully stocked with Keno, but make sure to come early. You don't want to get caught playing against the hardcore bowling league guys who don't respect people who pick names like "poo."

Possibly my favorite place for a date is Costco, found down Route 16 in Everett at the Graceland Shopping Center. You can have a sweet dinner and a movie date ... for free. They always have the newest releases showing on their unbelievable Plasma screens, so make sure to pull over a comfy lazy boy couch (found on aisle 43 next to the pastry shop).

The dinner is the real star of the night. Just walk to the frozen food section, where there is a myriad of free samples. If you say you don't like a good bagel bite, then I say you're a liar. You can get a large drink of fountain soda, with free refills, for a meager 55 cents, and there is no better drink than fountain Coke (except maybe good chocolate milk, but that's a whole other column). If Costco gets old after a few dates, Target is only about a football field away.

Do exactly as I say and be ready for some romance in your future. These locations are foolproof ways to woo any lady with minimal fiscal damage. Sure, you could ignore my counsel and go to some trendy restaurant in Beacon Hill or a play or something like that, but odds are, you'd rather being playing Keno, crushing pins or sniping lasers.

That is the townie way.

Pete McKeown is a senior majoring in English. He can be reached at peter.mckeown@tufts.edu.

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7:30 p.m., Cohen Auditorium

Tickets available on February 15th at 9:00 a.m.
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MINTY FRESH RECORDS

WEEKENDER FEATURE | EZRA FURMAN AND THE HARPOONS

From Hotung to Chicago, Ezra Furman and the Harpoons have caught their white whale with this indie record deal

BY MIKE ADAMS
Daily Editorial Board

Last Friday marked the one year anniversary of Ezra Furman and the Harpoons' first ever show at Hotung Café (you may remember it, it used to serve sandwiches or something). Looking back at the past year, they have had the kind of success that any band would kill for, especially a college band. With a very distinct, folk-based indie sound à la Violent Femmes, they were quickly able to expand their appeal beyond the Tufts community. In a short amount of time, the band has gone on tour, recorded two albums and gotten signed to a well respected indie label, all from the comfort of their dorm rooms and during winter vacation.

Some might mistake it for arrogance, but the band has been very nonchalant in the face of all their success. Singer and frontman Ezra Furman sums up the entire first half of the band's existence by saying, "To go on a tour we decided to make an album to have something to sell...."

The album he is referring to, 2006's "Beat Beat Beat," was recorded in campus dorm rooms last spring, but one could never tell just from listening. Since Furman had been writing songs long before the band formed, they were soon armed with an arsenal of 12 songs ready to be recorded. The album's clarity and seamless production are no different from a professional product for which one might dish out 15 bucks.

First comes the tour, then the record label

Like everything else that's happened to them since, according to Furman, they got connected with their record label as an inadvertent result of their tour. "When we were in Chicago," Ezra said, "[our manager] got these guys from the Chicago record label called Minty Fresh Records to come to the

show ... and we gave him a copy of the CD we made, and he just called us a few days after that, saying they wanted to have a record contract, and we were really bewildered."

He later explained the band's shock by saying, "It's just so surprising, we thought we were just frivolously having our rock 'n' roll summer."

In July, the band members returned to their normal lives, trying not to worry about the pressures of being a real, signed band. They could afford to take a step back, too, because they managed to get a very favorable contract that only binds them to two albums, and, as of a month ago, they have already gotten one out of the way.

Harpoons keep on truckin'

For any Harpoons fans out there who think this album will just be a re-packaged version of their old material, well, you are mostly right, but the reality is far more exciting. It is true that of the fourteen songs they recorded in Chicago, eleven appear on "Bang Bang Bang," but, as Furman explains, they "sort of changed into different songs," which seems to be the nature of their style of music, along with their overall attitude, which involves living in the moment and not trying to stay in one place for too long.

The band also had the pleasure of working with producer Brian Deck, whose list of accomplishments include "This Harness Can't Ride Anything" (2006) by Chin Up Chin Up, "Our Endless Numbered Days" (2004) by Iron and Wine, and, most famously, "The Moon and Antarctica" (2000) by Modest Mouse.

The Harpoons weathered the Windy City

The story of how Deck became interested in the band begins with a casual, spur of the moment decision, but may have ended up as one of the defining moments for Furman and the gang.

Furman explained the process. "It was funny, we were talking to him about [how] maybe he was going to do this album and he was like 'I don't know,' and 'I'm not too enthusiastic about it, maybe, I'll see what happens,' and then was like 'I want to see you guys play live,' you know, and see what you're like," Furman said. "So [on a] Thursday [our manager] called us and said pretty much as a joke, 'Do you want to come to Chicago and play on Saturday night for Brian Deck and see if he wants to do the album?' and we're like 'we'll do it!'"

The story doesn't end there, of course, and the weekend drive to Chicago was a bit of a hike for a bunch of Tufts students, especially since many of us often lack the motivation to walk 200 feet to the nearest dining hall.

"In theory it was the stupidest thing ever," Furman said. "I mean we drove so long in this car, and it was a stick shift, and only two of us knew how to drive stick shift ... and then the other thing is, we went to Canada accidentally ... so it took a long time, adding like six hours to our drive; we were in the car for like 24 hours straight ... maybe more."

"And we were just so tired and we just got stuck at the last minute onto this bill, you know. And we played a great show, and he was convinced. He was like 'Oh my gosh, I've definitely got to do this, I'm so into it!' and it was such a triumphant thing," Furman said.

Harpoons' live shows will blow you out of the water

Those who have seen the Harpoons perform know that the live show is really what wins listeners over, partly thanks to Furman's rambling charm and unique stage presence. In order to give the new album some of the power of their live performance, the band recorded everything except for the vocals while in the same room, enabling them to feed off of each other's energy and adding an element which Furman describes as "cool and raw and live."

The band must have already decided on the "raw" aspect, because they agreed to record and mix all fourteen tracks in just six days, or the approximate length of the average Dave Matthews live song.

Don't get too excited, because the album won't be released until sometime in April, after it gains the Minty Fresh seal of approval.

"They told me that it's gonna be all over the place," Furman said, "in Best Buy and stuff ... yeah, Best Buy, Jesus Christ." As Furman implied, the difference between making an album as an excuse to play a few shows over the summer and making an album that is going to be sold next to the Nintendo Wii is a bigger jump than anyone could have expected.

With fame comes cheering, groupies and Best Buy

Best Buy is not exactly the measure of success for the band that seems to be lacking a clear vision for the future amid all of their recent excitement. Furman summed up his neuroses by saying, "whether with a band or alone, when I'm performing I just feel a little bit vain when you've got people cheering and girls come up to you and they're like 'I'm totally gonna be your groupie' and I'm just like, I dunno, I guess some people like that."

"To me it's like you gotta put up with that stuff to do the good stuff, which is making people feel less lonely...."

Although the band may not have the mindset of rock stars just yet, Furman still holds onto a sense of optimism, however hesitant he may be, that drives him to accept these larger milestones, and to propel his adopted band far past its relatively modest beginnings.

For now, the Harpoons have been offered some amazing opportunities, and if their streak of good fortune continues, they are in line to overstep Guster as that band you are proud to say you went to the same school as.

THEATER PREVIEW

Dystopian vision in 'No Elephants' predicts more than just Jumbo's downfall

BY WILL EHRENFELD
Contributing Writer

In the futuristic society where "Rain. Some Fish. No Elephants." is set, there is perpetual rain, fish are endangered and

Rain. Some Fish. No Elephants.

Written by **Y York**

Directed by **Downing Cless**

At the Balch Arena Theater

Feb. 15-17 and 22-24 at 8 p.m.

Tickets \$5

617-627-3493

elephants have become extinct due to global climate change. These details set the backdrop for Y York's exciting play.

Upon walking into the Balch Arena Theater for this show, the audience will immediately be confronted with an extremely fun and colorful set design. Ted Simpson's scenic design confronts the audience with brash oranges and blues that mesh perfectly with the timbre of the play. Virginia Johnson's costume design is filled with kooky colors and a unique combination of past and futuristic influences.

Director Downing Cless correctly characterizes the action as "always fanciful and fun-filled," but also "subversive and dangerous." It is at first a ridiculous and comical portrayal of the modern American family. At the same time, the show makes an important statement and raises many pertinent questions, forming a kind of "hybrid of 'Father Knows Best' with 'Dune.' 'Rain' crosses yet another line, inducing a question or comment perhaps with every laugh," Cless said.

Y York's fantastic reality plays on issues that plague society today, such as racism. Black people are chemically controlled with "stoppers," pills that severely reduce

mental function and force them into servitude by the all-white populace. Senior Will Shaw plays a character named simply "Blackie." This character's development forms the backdrop for the action throughout, with Blackie undergoing a powerful transformation over the course of the play.

Shaw carefully brings his character from complete servitude to independence and free thought. "We see a black man as a person with a full range of emotions and thoughts and problems," rather than strictly as a stereotype, which he inarguably is when the character first appears, Shaw said.

Along with racism, York tackles the issue of the environment with equal force. Global warming has brought the onset of perpetual rain to the Chesapeake Bay area, where the play is set. Sophomore Ben Samuels plays the protagonist Gene, an eccentric, brilliant scientist with a penchant for fishing. He illegally sails into the bay, only to find out that water has now encroached past the Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. The constant rain is a glimpse at the many harbingers of climate change's devastating effects.

In this rainy future, Gene and his daughters are the only people left in the world who have not been genetically engineered to be mindless drones. Society no longer reproduces through pregnancy; instead, humans are manufactured in test tubes. Gene is the only person, or at least one of very few, who can complete this process. He refuses, based on principle, thereby threatening the very existence of this so-called human race. Samuels lends a lovely whimsical nature to Gene; making him excitable as he is principled.

Three divisive and interesting issues shape this intriguing play: racism, global warming and genetic engineering. Through Cless' deft directorial touch and



SARAH HALPERT/TUFTS DAILY

Will Shaw, Ben Samuels, Caitlin Johnson, and Madeline Schussel rehearse for their show 'Rain. Some Fish. No Elephants.'

fantastic work by the actors and crew, the show comes together in what can be viewed as both a comedy and a harrowing social commentary. One must not forget, though, the deeper message that may be partially obscured by what is a really hilarious show. "Lurking beneath the shimmering surface ... is the revelatory depth of the colossally horrific consequences of current-day systemic racism and environmental denial carried to extremes," Cless said.

What is particularly poignant about "Rain..." is the inevitable fighting back, exemplified by senior Molly O'Neill's character Emily, a 12-year-old girl with a

deformed foot. O'Neill manages to capture the essence of the character, whom she says "acts as a catalyst for a lot of the action because she is a point of real vulnerability for the family."

This, of course, is because deformed individuals are normally "eliminated." It is through Emily, along with Blackie, that the audience gains a fresh look at the problems at hand, as the characters transform and discover their new identities.

Will Shaw, who gives real life to the hero Blackie, summarized "Rain ...": "The show is feather tickling, frighteningly funny and gut-wrenchingly moving and poignant in all of its wackiness."

WEEKENDER INTERVIEW | ZACK SNYDER

The graphic novels of Frank Miller aren't Greek to '300' director Zack Snyder

BY KRISTIN GORMAN
Daily Editorial Board

In 2005, Robert Rodriguez's "Sin City" opened America's eyes to new creative possibilities of how to put a graphic novel on the big screen. Zack Snyder, director of the new film "300," has conquered a different Frank Miller work, transferring Miller's entrancing drawings to an innovative film about the epic struggle of the 300 Spartan soldiers. Best known for directing "Dawn of the Dead" (2004), Snyder's recent endeavor allowed him to enter into another realm of creative film. In a conference call, Snyder discussed the challenges of converting a comic book to film as well as his valued interactions with Miller.

Q: When "Sin City" was adapted, Frank Miller was really involved in the direction. How involved he was in the making of this film?

Zack Snyder: He was involved in different degrees than in "Sin City." He did have approval, and we met and he wanted to see if I was going to steal his book or not. We had long conversations about my philosophy for filming, but he was super-supportive in the sense that he said, "This is your movie and you're directing, but I am here for you; whatever you need, I'll help you out with it."

Q: What were the challenges in writing the screenplay? I saw you did that along with a few other people; how did you address those challenges?

ZS: The biggest challenge in writing the screenplay, and



WARNER BROS. PICTURES

These 300 Spartans wouldn't be talking about troop withdrawal.

the reason I wanted to write it, is because I have so much respect for the graphic novel, but I wanted to make sure that it didn't turn into a movie. I know that sounds weird, but I mean it in the sense that I didn't want it to be Hollywoodized, so I really wanted to use the dialogue and the scenes ... just the shooting style itself. It was all part of, in some ways, the act of writing.

Q: What actions did you take to faithfully resuscitate the intents of the story of the original graphic novel?

ZS: It's a colorful book. The awesome thing about what Frank and Lynn [Varley] did with the color is unique to Frank's

world, as well as the graphic novel world, in the sense that it is a historical retelling of historical events which is different from the norm, what you see in normal comic book movies. The language that we chose to speak, to take Frank's frame and try and make them real, it did need color and lots of post-production, but in the end it was all done out of reference to what Frank and Lynn had created.

Q: How does it feel from going from "Dawn of the Dead" to "300," one of the most sophisticated action films of the year?

ZS: I'm knocking on a lot of wood right now, by the way, but the feeling is when I made

'Dawn' I just tried to make a film that looked cool, it was just a personal film; it wasn't my intention to make a film that did anything except sort of satisfy my sensibilities. It was my hope that people would enjoy that, I didn't want to second-guess anybody. And then, I tried to do the same with "300." If I was going to see something cool, it would look like this.

Q: Do you think people will draw parallels to current world events into the subject matter of the small army?

ZS: We didn't really think about it in the writing. It's been brought up to me recently, of course, and I understand that

people are looking for kind of a metaphor that reflects the current political situation, but my intent was always to spark a viewpoint. I've been asked also, who is Bush in the movie? You know what, if you guys are asking me these questions then I can only hope that inspires debate and that in that way it is a vehicle for change or discussion at least.

Q: How do you think "300" compares to other historically based epics like "Troy" [2004] or "Alexander" [2004]? Do you think "300" is more authentic or simply just following Miller's vision?

ZS: I think the two you just referenced, I think in comparison to them you're talking, with "300," about a movie that reinvents that genre. Those movies have paved the way for me to get at it from a different angle. Certainly what I've done is inspired from what Frank did ... With the two of us combining our aesthetics I think that this genre will be sort of rocked by it.

Q: Were you ever intimidated of not just working with Frank, but the massive undertaking of making this piece?

ZS: I was probably more nervous and intimidated of working with Frank than by the massive project that was making the movie, and that's only because I respect his perspective so much and didn't want to disappoint him. I will say that when I finally did show him the movie, he really liked it and said to me that when he was younger and saw the original "[The] 300 Spartans" [1962] that this was the movie he had seen.

Top Ten Dictators in Film

This weekend we at the Daily will be celebrating Presidents Day just like every good American — by going to the nearest car dealership and taking advantage of their great cash-back incentives.

When we get there you can be sure we won't see presidents like Garfield, Fillmore and Taft plastered across billboards and balloons. What we will see is Lincoln, Washington and FDR frisbees and t-shirts.

Why's that? Because America loves winners (almost as much as we love freedom). For a great president to be a winner there has to be a loser: a King George III, Jefferson Davis or Hitler.

Since we have already counted down our favorite presidents of film last year, here's a list of film's least lovable losers, the dictators:

10) Kim Jong Il in "Team America: World Police" (2004) — Never before has such a psychologically probing investigation of the tyrannical character been attempted as in the cinematic classic, "Team America: World Police." With writing that not only takes on "roneriness" and the desire for human love, but also an anatomy lesson with metaphorical impact, Kim Jong Il is given a sympathetic stage with no strings attached.

9) Idi Amin in "Last King of Scotland" (2006) — Forest Whitaker is currently hoping to garner Oscar gold for his simultaneously charismatic and brutal portrayal of the infamous Ugandan dictator. His jovial personality makes him one of

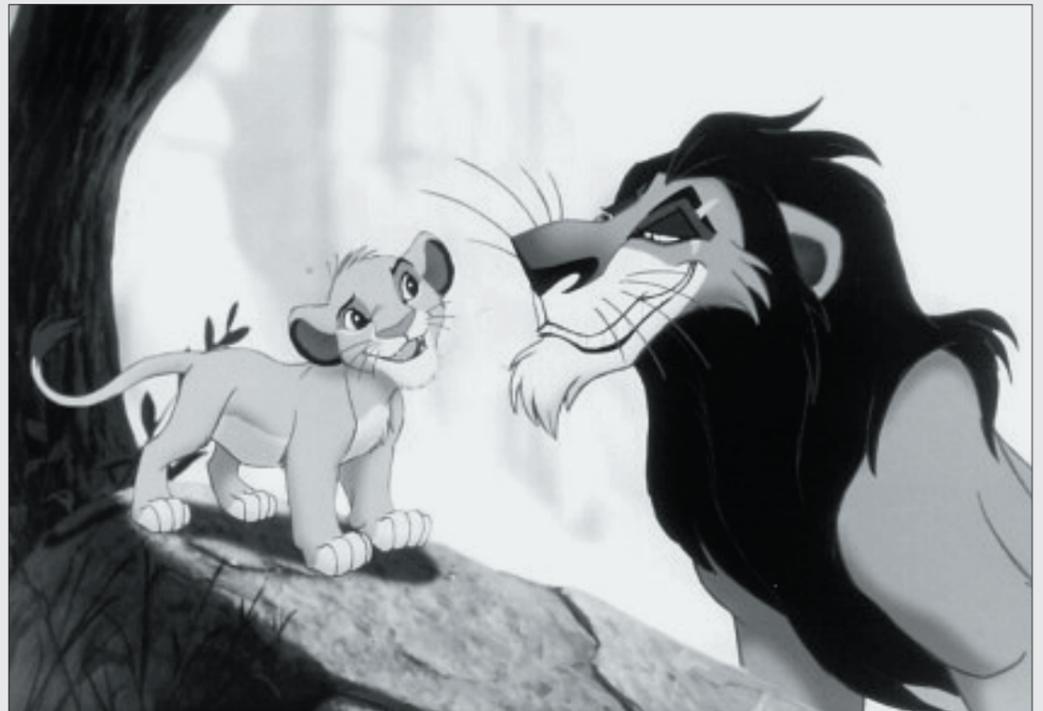
cinema's most likable dictators — once you get past the fact his regime killed upwards of half a million people.

8) Scar in "The Lion King" (1994) — Combining every possible stereotype Disney could muster, this flamboyant, dark-furred (skinned?), British feline represents everything maniacal. With his bloodthirsty, cackling army of hyenas that goosesteps in tune with "Be Prepared!" the Nazi imagery is enough to leave any cartoon-loving child "scarred."

7) Capitán Vidal in "Pan's Labyrinth" (2006) — While only a fascist general, and therefore not technically a dictator, Vidal marches through director del Toro's visually masterful mixture of disturbing fantasy and gory reality, ruling over his small country estate in Franco's Spain with more malice than almost any other villain in cinema.

6) Emperor Palpatine in the "Star Wars" trilogy (1977-1983) — Sure, Darth Vader is the villain that everyone remembers from the Galactic Empire, but he goes soft in the final minutes of the trilogy. Emperor Palpatine, like all good dictators, goes down with lightning shooting out of his fingertips. Of course, we've got to ignore the prequels, where we learn that the Emperor took over the galaxy through yawn-inducing political maneuvers.

5) McDonalds in "Super Size Me" (2004) — After Morgan Spurlock's dangerous experi-



DISNEY

ment with McFood intake, Americans were deeply affected, forever doomed to think twice about the ominous question, "do you want fries with that?" and the lingering suspicion that Ronald McDonald might have his sights on something more than fast food domination.

4) Sauron in "Lord of the Rings" trilogy (2001-2003) — Most dictators would give up after they've been killed, but Sauron showed true dedication. Coming back from the dead as some sort of amorphous evil spirit, he ultimately loses points for being defeated by Hobbits, widely derided as

the wimpiest of Middle Earth creatures.

3) Commodus in "Gladiator" (2000) — Sometimes it's easy to know when a character is going to get killed in a movie. For River Phoenix's spoiled brat emperor, it was pretty clear from the minute he stepped on screen. Once he kills Russell Crowe's family, the next hour was just waiting around for him to get stabbed.

2) Adenoid Hynkel in "The Great Dictator" (1940) — The tyranny and oppression that comes hand in hand with dictatorships isn't much of a laughing matter — unless you're

Charlie Chaplin. On the brink of World War II, Chaplin played a buffoonish Hitler clone that supposedly even attracted the real Hitler's attention. We'd venture a guess that he wasn't too happy with what he saw.

1) George W. Bush in "Fahrenheit 9/11" (2004) — Calm down, no one's calling Bush a dictator, though Michael Moore calls him just about everything else in his documentary. If he was, could we even be writing this? Then again, we haven't read the Patriot Act in a while.

— by Kristin Gorman, Sarah Cowan and Greg Connor

Global Imbalances: Do They Matter?



Dr. Miranda Xafa,
Alternate Executive Director at the
International Monetary Fund Board,
will review the various theories that have
been advanced to explain the historically
unprecedented rise in external imbalances
globally, and their policy implications.

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Letters must be submitted by 4 p.m. and should be handed into the Daily office or sent to letters@tuftsdaily.com. All letters must be word processed and include the writer's name and telephone number. There is a 350-word limit and letters must be verified. The editors reserve the right to edit letters for clarity, space, and length.

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EDITORIAL

Not another Iraq

On Aug. 22, 2002, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars 103rd National Convention, Vice President Cheney said that there was "no doubt that Saddam Hussein now has weapons of mass destruction."

On March 18, 2003, in a televised address to the nation, George W. Bush declared that intelligence gathered by various governments had left "no doubt that the Iraq regime continues to possess ... some of the most lethal weapons ever devised."

Four days later, General Tommy Franks was quoted in the Minnesota Star-Tribune as asserting that there was "no doubt that the regime of Saddam Hussein possesses weapons of mass destruction."

These veteran decision-makers were wrong. Four years after those statements were made, what was envisioned as a quick, cheap and popular military action to oust a dictator and spread democracy has resulted in a quagmire of epic proportions.

Thousands of soldiers have died, Iraq has slid into chaos, and 20,000 additional troops were recently deployed in an attempt to stop the hemorrhaging. Every government official who had no doubt that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction was a key player in the decision to rush America into an ill-conceived, ill-planned military conflict.

Yesterday, President Bush stated in a news conference that there was no doubt that Iraq is providing weapons to help Iraqis harm American soldiers, as reported by the Associated Press.

Regardless of the validity of this statement, both Congress and the American people are duty-bound to question it. It may be that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, president of Iran, has personally authorized the sale of improvised explosive devices to the militias in Iraq in order to further deepen the conflict and cripple America's military power. Conversely, these sales could have been authorized by rogue agents within the government, or they may not have occurred at all.

If these allegations turn out to have a grain of truth, the United States has few options. A wider war with Iran is both politically repugnant and militarily unfeasible; the United States Army is stretched to the breaking point. But President Bush has expressed little faith in engaging diplomatically with Iran directly.

The Democratic Congress must now serve as a check on the leadership of the president. Congressional oversight of the executive branch is one of the cornerstones of American democracy, and one that becomes even more important during a time of war. Speaker of the House Pelosi has already promised that Congress

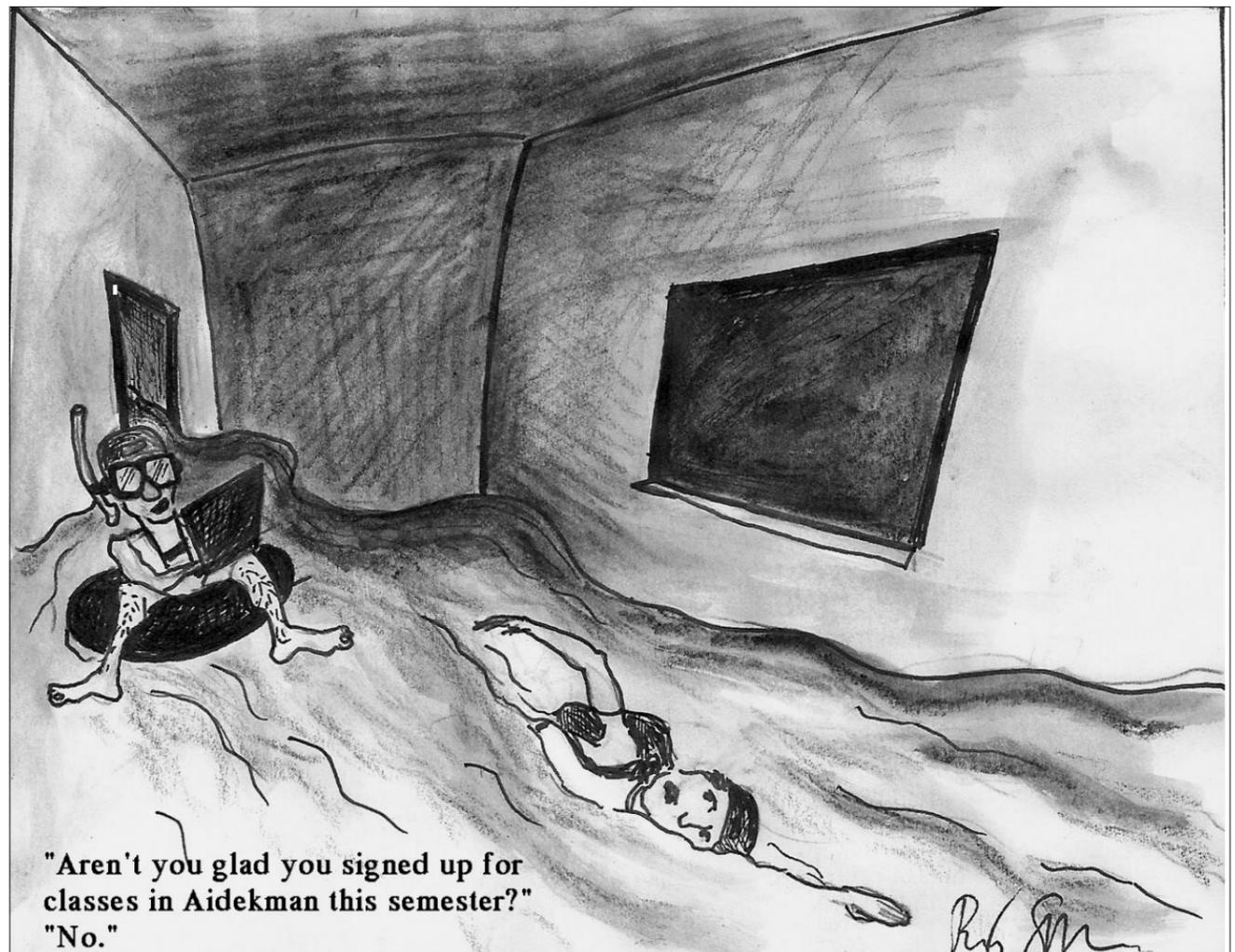
will provide no more "blank checks" to wage war in Iraq.

It is the duty of our senators and representatives to exercise caution, particularly considering the result the last time Congress gave the president the authority to use force in the Middle East. It is imperative that tough questions be asked and answered before any kind of action can be taken.

As yet, no formal action has been taken in the direction of Iran, and it is possible that no formal action will be. At this point, the unquestioning patriotism and fear for safety that many Americans and their leaders in Congress felt in the run-up to the Iraq war has largely evaporated. For this reason, and because of the change in control of Congress, it is likely that difficult questions will be asked when determining a course of action. Many senators, particularly the myriad running for president, will be only too happy to challenge further unpopular military action.

Finally, we as college students, voters and individuals in the context of a greater America must be willing to look with a discerning eye on the president's proposals and the reaction of Congress. Whatever the ultimate outcome, it is critical that both Congress and the American people provide the oversight that this administration desperately needs.

ROXY SPERBER



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,

While Daniel Halper's column "What's a neocon?" (Feb. 5) does address the way in which "liberalism" has come to connote different or additional ideologies than its classical definition, he wrongly equates the neoconservatives' drive to spread democracy abroad with traditional liberalism.

Traditional liberalism holds individual freedom as the highest good. And while the neoconservatives within and outside the Bush administration may use the language of liberalism to gain support for their political goals (for example, spreading "freedom" to Iraq), it is uncertain whether their motives are founded on classically "liberal" ideology or a more geopolitical power struggle.

It is true that in the realm of international affairs, liberal thought includes the notion

that liberal or democratic states generally are peaceful toward one another, but come into conflict with non-liberal states. The notion of converting a country to democracy or imposing a political system upon a culture, no matter how liberal or open that system might be, however, is fundamentally non-liberal. This inherent contradiction stems from the fact that if freedom is thrust upon a people from an outside force, it loses its validity as a political system in which individuals and society have are free to develop in a self-commanding way. "Freedom" becomes an empty concept.

Truly free individuals are what liberal reformists like John Stuart Mill desired within a democratic framework. However, Mill also feared a "tyranny of the majority" or "tyranny of opinion," in which despite legal protections for individuals' freedom

of speech and religion, alternative ways of life would be stamped out by social stigmas. Spreading democracy through military force, without any immediate need to protect against genocide or other forms of violence on a grand scale, is also a type of tyranny, as it seeks to impose a certain way of life that should really be developed by the people who are to live it.

Democracy is, by nature, for, of and by the people. What's more, the neoconservative thrust in the so-called "war on terror" has resulted in serious disregard for Americans' civil liberties and freedoms on the part of our federal government. Thus, I would urge Mr. Halper to reconsider his equating modern neoconservatives with more traditional liberal thinkers.

Sincerely,
Jason Yeager, sophomore

CORRECTION

The viewpoint piece, "Diversity of thought must not be ignored" (Feb. 14) incorrectly stated that the Richard E. Snyder Lecture was to take place yesterday. It is scheduled for Wednesday, March 14.



MCT

No easy solutions

BY PEDRO ARROYO

In an editorial published Tuesday, Feb. 13, Ashley Samelson said, "... there are a lot of students, liberal and conservative, white, black or purple, who don't like affirmative action."

Ashley, you are right, and I'd like to add my name to the list. I do not like affirmative action any more than you do.

When The Primary Source or anyone else examines the issue of affirmative action in the college admissions process and concludes that it is a distasteful practice that falls far short of our egalitarian ideals, I cannot help but agree.

But here's where I do disagree. I disagree with the notion that if we would just get rid of affirmative action everything would be ok.

It wouldn't be. To argue otherwise is to ignore the reality and complexity of the problem before us. The most disturbing component of this new wave of anti-affirmative action sentiment is that it is entirely reactionary. Totally lacking is a careful and deliberate discussion of what the alternative to affirmative action programs should be. Amidst all this discussion of what's wrong with affirmative action and with the college admission process, we've forgotten to focus on what's wrong with America's educational system.

So, in case we've all forgotten, there is a huge and multifaceted educational gap in America caused by structural features that are within our collective power to transform. And though it would be overly simplistic to the point of inaccuracy to call this educa-

tional gap simply a "race" gap, there is no doubt that it is greatly "racial-ized."

To call for an end to affirmative action within our current social reality would be to allow the aggregate of the effects of racial and class oppression and disadvantage to dominate the admissions process even more than they do today.

A shift in that direction would predictably create winners and losers, and we can predict who those winners and losers might be. It is no coincidence that the battle against affirmative action is waged by those who have most to benefit from the fundamentally unequal distribution of wealth and resources in America.

It is irresponsible to suggest that we should eliminate policies aimed at alleviating a demonstrably serious injustice without at the same time offering an alternative solution.

Why is such an alternative withheld?

We can only conclude that the critics fail to grasp the gravity of the problem at hand or that they wish to perpetuate an imbalance that benefits them. No critique of affirmative action can be taken seriously unless it includes an alternate model that addresses the underlying conditions that affirmative action seeks to resolve. Otherwise, such a critique must be considered part of the conservative agenda that has steadily eroded equality within the United States for the past three decades.

I, for one, would like to see the end of affirmative action within my lifetime. But if affirmative action does end, I want it to be

for one of two reasons: either racial parity is achieved or such programs are replaced by even more aggressive models.

If we want to get rid of affirmative action programs, then we have to abolish the conditions that give rise to the need to have to take affirmative action in the first place.

Let's level the playing field. I mean really level the playing field. Let's give every child in America a chance at a quality education.

Let's give every child in America access to the private tutors and Kaplan courses so many Tufts students enjoyed on their way to securing their greater "merit" which they now cherish as validation of their greater entitlement.

Let's make kids from Chestnut Hill go to school with kids from Mission Hill and see if Beacon Hill continues to refuse to aggressively address education in Massachusetts. Let's end the apartheid system of education by which some students enjoy the amenities of Choate while other students go through metal detectors on their way to classrooms with 40-plus students.

The sad reality is that America does have an educational crisis and it needs to be actively addressed. If not affirmative action, what kind of action will solve our problem?

While I have your attention, one last thought: if you're at Tufts and you're embittered because you didn't go Ivy, you might need to gain some perspective.

Pedro Arroyo is a junior majoring in sociology.

OFF THE HILL | UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Don't have to date a Jew to be a Jew

YURI CASTANO
Daily Pennsylvanian

Sometimes I wonder whether I'm killing Judaism.

"Every time you intermarry you are killing the Jewish people." This is how one Holocaust survivor chose to end her speech to an audience I was in last year at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust-remembrance museum in Jerusalem.

I suppose that woman would have looked at me, the product of an interfaith marriage, and seen an empty space where a real Jewish child could have been — one that would date Jewish girls, marry one and

mass-produce Jewish babies.

This woman's comments were somewhat jarring for the many interfaith children in the audience, including me. They would have been equally controversial if presented to the large Jewish population here at Penn, regardless of parentage.

Now, more than ever, American Jews are a religious and ethnic minority trying to preserve their traditions in the face of assimilation. Of the many demographic concerns facing a shrinking American Jewry, intermarriage is tantamount.

I learned more about these issues in a conversation I had a week ago as part of the Jewish Renaissance Program, a student dia-

logue group mediated by the acting director of Penn Hillel, Rabbi Michael Uram.

Uram's presentation cited data from the 2001 National Jewish Population Survey (NJPS), which helped me explain the basis of the aforementioned Holocaust survivor's accusation.

The NJPS reported that between 1996 and 2001 47 percent of Jews married a non-Jew. It also noted that 74 percent of Jews with intermarried parents also intermarried.

This poses a problem because, across the board, from lighting Shabbat candles to attending a synagogue, intermarried Jews

see JUDAISM page 10

NEIL PADOVER | MAN, I'M AWKWARD



Beam me up, Scotty

My biggest regret about having been born in 1985 is being almost certain that there are some technologies I will never experience. Some of them are so innovative I cannot even foresee their creation as I write this, but others have existed in some dreamlike form for ages.

I'm talking, of course, about teleportation. Teleporting has been a dream of mine ever since I first saw it being done on "The Jetsons" and the occasional "Star Trek" episode (I channel surf, I'm not a Trekkie).

The cold, hard truth is that I hate traveling. Now, don't get me wrong. I love new places, being exposed to a different culture, new topography, and fine cuisine. It's the getting there part that really irks me, which is what has prompted my friend Saadon to dub me the "quintessential non-traveler."

I'm a pretty inexperienced driver, so when I made the trip from my house in New Jersey all the way to Medford, Mass. alone last May, I thought I was a king. I had braved I-95 straight to the Tufts campus. And when I passed the campus center in my sister's 1995 Volvo, I rolled down the windows and pumped up my music. When I pulled into my driveway on Conwell Avenue I had a sense of contentment, of real-world achievement I had never felt before.

And then I decided to pull into the garage and proceeded to tear the entire bumper off the car and damage the right headlight. Let me repeat that in case you didn't catch it: I crashed into my garage. Rest assured, the \$500 in damage was well worth it just so I could tell this story.

As bad of a driver as I am, I'm a worse backseat driver, and an even worse passenger-side driver. I think I have a condition called BSDT, Backseat Driver Tourette's. I believe this because I can be carrying on a completely normal conversation and still manage to randomly interject my own feelings on the driver's actions. It usually goes something like, "That's so great that you and Beth ... stop sign ... are getting back together ... yield ... I think it's important that you two ... PEDESTRIAN ... talked it over and decided to ... red light ... work it out."

I've taken three international flights in the past year and a half. I'm already pretty jittery on planes as it is, but there's something I've realized in traveling abroad: when the stewardess comes on the little microphone during turbulence, it sounds a whole lot scarier in a different language. When they're busy telling us politely to buckle our seatbelts and enjoy this new Hilary Duff movie, all I'm hearing is "Watch out b—ches, this plane is going down!"

I take the Greyhound bus a lot from South Station to Port Authority in New York, and if there's anything I've noticed over the past four years in terms of where they could use some improvement, it would be their security.

There is none.

Believe me, I've gotten on the bus with the wrong ticket several times, and I don't think it's because of my charm. One time last semester I was standing in line when a big guy with a puffy jacket asked if I could watch his bag while he ran to the store. People have done this for me in the past, so I said, "Sure."

As the line moved forward I kept kicking his bag ahead, further and further, until I

see PADOVER, page 10

Neil Padover is a senior majoring in English. He can be reached neil.padover@tufts.edu.

TV is better than traveling any day

PADOVER

continued from page 9

was at the very front of the line, about to board the bus. I told the attendant, "This isn't my bag. I was watching it for someone on line." She stared at me, and like a robot just said, "You're not supposed to do that." I agreed with her and promptly boarded the bus.

And that's the day I realized how easily anyone can be implicated in a would-be bombing. When the guy finally got his bag and boarded he sat right near me. I apologized for leaving his bag out in the cold, but he shrugged it off and just gave me a fist-pound. So, I thought even if this guy was a

bomber, at least he's really chill.

I just don't think I was made for travel. My psyche wasn't designed for road-trips or plane rides. Call me American, but I was built on instant gratification. I would love to go to point B, but it's so far. So, until teleportation is at our fingertips, I'll just chill at point A.

Maybe I'll watch a documentary on the Discovery Channel later about point B though, since I won't be going there anytime soon. I'll make some popcorn, maybe some hot chocolate. We can make an evening out of it. What do you say? Oh, you're busy? That's cool, maybe some other time. Man, I hate being awkward.



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Tolerance is key for Judaism to thrive

JUDAISM

continued from page 9

report weaker connections to Judaism and lower levels of Jewish involvement. Only 33 percent of children of intermarriages are being raised Jewish, according to the study.

The data clearly demonstrates that Jewish intermarriage is damaging to the perpetuation of American Jewry. The question that remains in my mind is "Do I care?" The fact that I date non-Jews and do not prioritize marrying a Jewish woman would suggest to some that I don't.

I don't seem to be in the minority either. The NJPS reports that zero percent of Jewish college students with only one Jewish parent date "only Jewish woman" and 59 percent say it is "not important at all" for them to marry a Jew.

Though I am not willing to change my dating practices or marriage ideals, I am still invested in Judaism. Some branches of Judaism view marrying a practicing Jew as critical to supporting a Jewish household, but everyone has a different idea of what it means to be Jewish.

The Jewish community needs to approach this issue inclusively. The way to keep Jews in the community is to stop accusing those who choose to marry outside of it of "killing the Jewish people."

The mission of Hillel is to embrace inclusivity. All Jews are welcome at Hillel, whether or not they are kosher, heterosexual or dream of a Jewish wedding. This tolerance is present in the fact that, for example, "there is no policy that you can't sit in Hillel library and eat a cheeseburger," Uram said.

While many Jews still wouldn't feel comfortable doing this, this is an admirable stance.

"We respect the fact that every student is on a journey and our mission is to help them on that journey, not to provide them with an endpoint," explained Uram. This progressive approach to Judaism has transformative potential.

Tolerance stands to increase Jewish involvement and participation. Students with any level of Jewish exposure can come to understand and connect with Judaism in an individually unique and meaningful way.

Jews who are comfortable being Jewish in their own way will likely pass their heritage down to their children. From this perspective there is no reason why intermarriage should automatically preclude Jews from maintaining their traditions.

Whether or not my wife is a Jew, I want to remain Jewish and teach my children about Judaism. If we are rebuffed by the Jewish community, however, we may just become just another statistic.

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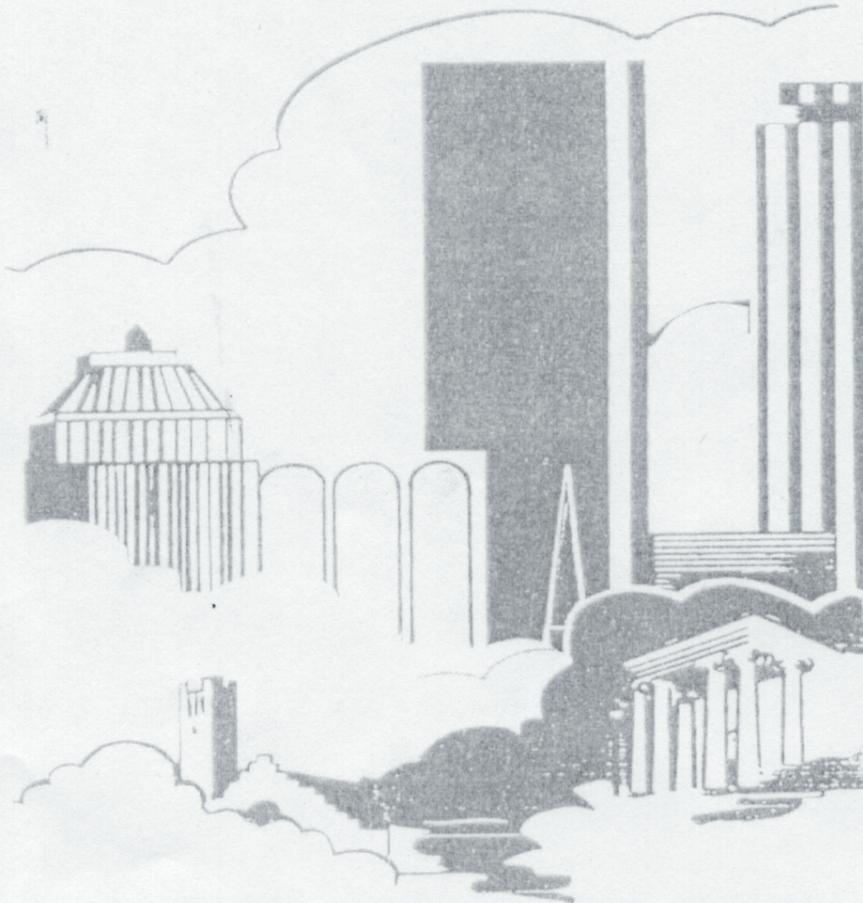
Copies of Tram Nguyen's book will be on sale before her talk

Dinner reception to follow at the Asian American Center, Start House

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Webber makes amends with Detroit

NBA
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tion should go to Webber, who has posted as many double-digit scoring games in his 14 matches as a Piston as he had while playing for the Sixers earlier this year. Overall, Webber is averaging 13.1 points and 7.0 rebounds per game since joining Detroit.

The emergence of Webber as a low-post threat who can score and rebound has been instrumental for the Pistons, who have struggled all season to fill a void at the center position. Detroit found itself with a hole in its frontcourt when Ben Wallace — a starter on the Pistons for six seasons and a dominant persona on the Detroit teams that went to back-to-back NBA Finals in 2004 and 2005 — left last summer after agreeing to a four-year, \$60 million contract with the Chicago Bulls.

In Wallace's place, the Pistons had been starting Nazr Mohammed, giving him a five-year deal during the off-season, but without much success. By Jan.

10, Mohammed had just four double-digit rebound games, compared to Wallace's 24 at the same point last season.

In stepped the 6'10" Webber who, despite always yielding a couple of inches to the opposing center, made Detroit forget about Wallace. Having posted three double-doubles since donning a Pistons uniform for the first time on Jan. 17, Webber has become the steady low-post presence Detroit has been seeking to relieve the burden on power forward Rasheed Wallace all season.

Webber himself may be the one reaping the most benefits from his move to the Pistons, as it has afforded him the opportunity to make amends with his hometown city. While starring as part of the University of Michigan's Fab Five in the early 1990s, Webber committed one of the most infamous gaffes in modern sports history, calling a timeout with the Wolverines down two to UNC in the 1993 NCAA Championship game even though Michigan had

none left. The result was a technical foul that gave the Tar Heels two free throws and the national championship, as the Fab Five left Michigan without having brought a national title to Ann Arbor.

Nearly 10 years later, the Fab Five's back-to-back Final Four appearances were struck from the record books when it was revealed that booster Ed Martin gave Webber and three other former Michigan players \$616,000 in illegal payouts while they were student-athletes. Detroit often took out its frustration on Webber, as he was booed during his trips to the Palace of Auburn Hills, 30 miles from Ann Arbor, as a visiting NBA player.

But since his homecoming, Webber has been embraced by Pistons fans, who gave him a standing ovation when he watched Detroit play Minnesota from the stands on Martin Luther King Day, just before signing on with the Pistons. Webber's play has only further helped resurrect his image in the eyes of his hometown.

Swallow your Celtic pride

BAULD
continued from page 15
season that was only made worse by a pointless entry into the playoffs where the team lost in the first round to Indiana for the second year in a row, the Celtics still grabbed Gerald Green and Ryan Gomes to complement Al Jefferson and Delonte West, but missed out yet again on that turnaround player. If we screw up this season and start winning, we can kiss any shot at a future franchise player goodbye.

At the time of this column going to print, the Celtics have lost 18 consecutive games. With any luck, loss Number 19 is in the books and the road to topping the current NBA record of 24-consecutive losses set by the Cleveland Cavaliers still remains open. The Cavaliers completed that task over a two-season stretch

from 1981-82 into the 1982-83 season, but the Celtics have always been about excellence: they'll top 24 in only one season.

In some ways a record losing streak would make a fitting bookend to those 16 World Championship banners hanging from the rafters. They say that pride comes before the fall, but when you're this bad you've got to find a reason to be proud.

So the 2006-07 Boston Celtics season is as good as over. And while most New England sports fans are checking off their calendars until Red Sox pitchers and catchers report for Spring Training, I'm counting the days down until June 28, 2007, when the fate of the Celtics dynasty may very well be decided. Here's hoping the luck of Red may still be with the team.

Hopkins says he aims to unretire and fight

BERNARD FERNANDEZ
McClatchy Newspapers

Bernard "The Executioner" Hopkins finally can celebrate a happy occasion the way most people do.

"I had me a slice of cheesecake at the MGM Grand Monday night," the Philadelphia boxing icon said from Las Vegas on Tuesday. "It was my first dessert in, like, three years. I love sweets, too. It's just that, when you're a fighter, you got to be disciplined."

Hopkins (47-4-1, 32 KOs), the former longtime middleweight champion, allowed himself to fall off the cheesecake wagon just this once because he's officially an active boxer again. On Saturday, he and former undisputed junior middleweight champ Winky Wright (51-3-1, 25 KOs) signed contracts to stage a 170-pound bout on July 21 at a location to be determined, and televised by HBO.

It will mark the first fight for Hopkins, 42, since June 10 when he bulked up to light-heavyweight

and methodically took apart the division's top star, Antonio Tarver, en route to a 12-round unanimous decision in Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall.

Hopkins had announced beforehand that, win or lose, the Tarver fight would be his last. He had promised his late mother, Shirley, he'd retire from the ring by his 41st birthday, and although he missed the deadline by five months, he figured that was close enough.

But Hopkins, who put on the extra pounds under the strict supervision of noted fitness guru Mackie Shilstone, felt so fit at his new weight that it wasn't long before he began talking about resuming his career. With four fighters from former Soviet Union countries holding the most recognized heavyweight titles, he indicated he wanted to move all the way up to heavyweight to challenge WBC champ Oleg Maskaev and bring one of those belts home to the United States.

American Shannon Briggs dethroned Belarus' Sergei

Liakhovich on Nov. 4, however, and Maskaev apparently has decided to stage his next defense against mandatory challenger Samuel Peter or former WBC heavyweight king Vitali Klitschko. So Hopkins set his sights on something lighter, if not necessarily lower.

"As a promoter myself (as a partner in Oscar De La Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions), I can understand Maskaev's thinking," Hopkins said. "Maskaev didn't want to risk the embarrassment of losing to a bulked-up middleweight. He didn't want to be the next John Ruiz. Ruiz (the former WBA heavyweight titlist) was ruined by losing to Roy Jones. No true heavyweight wants to live with that for the rest of his life. If I had Maskaev, I would have told him the right move would be to leave Bernard Hopkins the (bleep) alone."

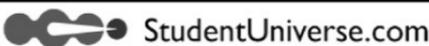
Undeterred, Hopkins then told Richard Schaefer, CEO of Golden Boy Promotions, to get him a fight against as big a name as possible.

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Big questions loom for Roddick after Federer

BY DARREN SABEDRA
McClatchy Newspapers

Shortly before the Australian Open last month, Andy Roddick was assessing his chances of beating the big bully of men's tennis, Roger Federer. "There's still a long way to go," he said, "but I'm a lot more optimistic."

Roddick didn't come close to conquering Mount Federer in Australia. In fact, his 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 defeat to the Swiss in the semifinals was worse than expected.

But as Roddick, 24, returns to San José this week for the SAP Open, two questions loom: Will the Federer debacle ruin Roddick's year? Or will the United States' top player keep building on the progress he has made since tennis legend Jimmy Connors started coaching him last summer?

The answers should begin to emerge when Roddick steps on the court at HP Pavilion. His opening-round match Wednesday will be his first on the ATP Tour since the loss to Federer on Jan. 25.

"I don't think it's back to the drawing board for Andy at all," Jim Courier, who was ranked No. 1 in the world in the early 1990s, said. "Andy didn't play his best tennis. Roger played incredibly well. It would be way too soon for Andy to panic based on one match."

Pete Sampras isn't so sure about that. Like others, Sampras said he thought Roddick was on the verge of beating Federer after relatively close losses at the 2006 U.S. Open and the year-ending Tennis Masters Cup in Shanghai.

But now Sampras suspects

Roddick might have taken a step back.

"I think Roger wanted to set the record straight that he is clearly the best player," Sampras, the winner of a record 14 Grand Slam titles, said. "Roddick does have a big game, but he seems uncomfortable playing Roger. They play similar games, but Roger is that much better at it. Roger has that extra gear to impose his will. Roddick really doesn't."

That said, Roddick has played better under Connors' tutelage. He is coming to the net more. He uses his backhand with more power and precision. And, except when he plays Federer, he is winning again.

In two Grand Slam tournaments with Connors on his side — last year's U.S. Open and this year's Australian Open — Roddick has reached a final and a semifinal. In the four Grand Slam events before Connors arrived, Roddick failed to advance beyond the round of 16 and twice lost in the first round.

Not surprisingly, Roddick said of Connors, "It's just great having a mentor and adviser who has been there before, who kind of gets what you're going through a little bit."

Connors, 54, hooked up with Roddick last July in Los Angeles. Soon thereafter, Connors, who spent a record 160 consecutive weeks at No. 1 in 1974-77, was in Roddick's hometown of Austin working with his pupil.

The week in Texas had immediate results. Roddick won his next tournament, in Cincinnati. It was his first title in nearly a year, and set in

motion a run at the U.S. Open. "I'm proud of him," Connors told the New York Times during the Open. "The way he's playing and the way he listens and the way he goes about his practicing, you don't find someone who's had his success to be willing to continue to do that."

"It's just great having a mentor and adviser who has been there before, who kind of gets what you're going through a little bit."

-Andy Roddick, on Coach Jimmy Connors

But for everything Roddick has achieved in tennis, he has won only one Grand Slam tournament (the 2003 U.S. Open) and is 1-13 against Federer.

It's anyone's guess whether Connors (who shares coaching duties with Roddick's brother, John) can do anything about either. If not for Federer, Roddick might have won the past two Grand Slam events. Instead, he is searching for answers.

Connors was unavailable for comment for this story. But, after Roddick's loss to Federer at last year's U.S. Open, he told the Times: "I'm going to give him a game, no matter who he plays. This is not building a game from the ground up. This is tinkering here and tinkering there to give him the opportunity to beat Roger Federer."

During his playing days,

Connors was as feisty as anyone. He won eight Grand Slam titles, including five U.S. Opens. In 1991, Roddick was in the stands when Connors made his legendary last stand, a dramatic run to the Open semifinals at age 39.

Rekindling the stories must be great, right? Well, if they are, Roddick wouldn't know.

"I don't remember one time where he's been talking about his matches, what he did," Roddick said. "That's probably the part that's surprised me the most. I ask him a lot of questions about it. [But] he kind of focuses on what I have to do."

So, what are the workouts like? Extremely vocal?

"It's weird," Roddick said, "because he's not as loud and boisterous as you all might think. He's pretty demure. Very straightforward, very involved with the whole process."

Connors doesn't travel with Roddick to every tournament, so it's unclear whether he will be in San José this week. It also was uncertain if Connors would make it to Australia last month because his mother, the woman credited with making him a champion, had just died. But Connors was there, in time for Roddick to outlast Marat Safin in the third round.

"For him to be here in the flesh, we're really happy," Roddick said at the time.

Time will tell if Connors, Roddick's fourth coach since 2004, is the man to lead him to consistent greatness. Because in today's tennis, consistent greatness means only one thing: finding the key to beat Roger Federer.

Tufts optimistic about Howe Cup

WOMEN'S SQUASH

continued from page 16

before the Howe Cup now is to rest up," Thys said. "We are playing very hard and we have a lot of girls winning going into the tournament."

Their first opponent on Friday will be Vassar, which is ranked directly behind Tufts, at No. 21 in the nation. Although they're not underestimating Vassar, the Jumbos are confident they can play three matches and get to the finals in the tournament. After a difficult season, in which it was forced to play shot-handed, the team is excited to finally have a full lineup for the culmination of the season.

Their first opponent on Friday will be Vassar, which is ranked directly behind Tufts, at No. 21 in the nation.

As for now, the crew is taking these final days in stride, both mentally and physically, as it prepares for the biggest tournament of the season.

"We're focusing on length and being consistent with length," Barba said. "We're also focusing on ending the point so we're not worn out this weekend."

Lauren Ebstein contributed reporting to this article.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

FOOTBALL

After another stellar regular season that returned no dividends in the play-offs, the San Diego Chargers have finally parted ways with head coach Marty Schottenheimer. Barely a month after losing to New England, Schottenheimer's firing came in the wake of the expulsions of several coordinators and assistants on the Chargers' staff. Schottenheimer had one year remaining on his contract.

BASEBALL

While New England is getting a belated gift from the snow gods, Red Sox pitching sensation Daisuke Matsuzaka had his first catch as a member of Red Sox Nation. Photographers, mostly from Japanese organizations, snapped pictures for the 20 minutes they were allowed to watch, some having waited hours the day before for the chance to catch a glimpse of the star as he arrived in Florida. Matsuzaka arrived on Tuesday in Fort Myers, although the remaining pitchers and catchers will not arrive until Friday.

BASKETBALL

The ubiquitous NBA All-Star Game hits Las Vegas this weekend. While the East and West rosters continue to be in flux, as injuries prevent stars from playing, the perennial Slam Dunk Challenge and Three-Point Shootout on Saturday night should provide some quality entertainment. Nate Robinson will defend his aerobic prowess against Dwight Howard, Gerald Green, and Tyrus Thomas, while Dirk Nowitzki will face-off against Gilbert Arenas, Damon Jones, Jason Kapon, Mike Miller, and Jason Terry.

HOCKEY

Heading into last night's contest against the Chicago Blackhawks, the Pittsburgh Penguins continued to take the NHL by storm, with just one loss in their last 10 games. The pundits considered the Penguins — boasting young talents such as Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin, and Jordan Staal — were a team on the rise, but no one could have predicted Pittsburgh would maintain its early-season winning ways through February. The Penguins' continued success has come in spite of a dry spell by their second-year star, Crosby, who has failed to light the lamp in his last seven games.

—compiled by Andrew Bauld and Sapna Bansil

INSIDE THE NBA

Webber resurrects career and image with his homecoming



The newest member of the Detroit Pistons, Chris Webber, drives to the basket against Tim Thomas of the Los Angeles Clippers on Monday.

BY SAPNA BANSIL
Daily Editorial Board

When the **Philadelphia 76ers** initiated a mass exodus of superstar talent from their floundering team earlier this season, the consensus was that of all the players up for grabs, point guard Allen Iverson was the biggest prize to claim. Ultimately, on Dec. 20, the **Denver Nuggets** surrendered a starter, a 12th-year pro, and two first-round draft picks for the seven-time All Star, hoping that a pairing of Iverson and the NBA's leading scorer, Carmelo Anthony, would give them the edge in a cut-throat Western Conference.

So far, however, Denver's investment has not paid off well. Iverson, limited by an ankle injury that will sideline him for this year's All-Star Game, and Anthony, suspended 15 games for an on-court brawl with the **New York Knicks** on Dec. 16, have only been in the same backcourt for six games, in which the Nuggets have gone just 2-4. Denver has mustered only

12 wins in 27 contests since acquiring Iverson, dropping them to seventh in the West and just two games above .500 heading into last night's game against the **Minnesota Timberwolves**.

Instead, the greatest beneficiary of Philadelphia's fire sale has been the **Detroit Pistons**, who spent just \$1.87 million to land castoff Chris Webber after the Sixers bought out his contract on Jan. 10. Since signing the former University of Michigan star, the Pistons have won 11-of-14 games, including seven in a row, to catapult themselves to first place in the Eastern Conference and up their mark to a season-high 14 games above .500.

Webber's addition has added a spark to a Detroit offense that seemed blasé at times during the season, as the pistons have increased their output by exactly two more points per game since coming to terms with the five-time All-Star. Much of the credit for the offense's revitaliza-

see NBA, page 13

ANDREW BAULD | YOU CAN'T STEAL FIRST



Losing to win

The Boston Celtics have been one of the most storied franchises in NBA history. Marked equally by their historic victories as well as their memorable rivalries, would anyone have thought that in 2007, the greatest foe to the Green would be winning a single game?

I know it's been written to death. I know there are two camps in this debate, and those individuals are firmly entrenched: either you will never accept defeat, or you hope that as the losses pile up, the closer the team may get to scoring Greg Oden or Kevin Durant in next year's draft. As fans of ESPN.com's "The Sports Guy" already know, he has coined the term "fantanking" for those fans who fall in the latter category.

After seeing the Celts in action last Friday, I am now a full-fledged resident of the U.S.S. Fantanker.

Never in all my years of fandom have I ever actively rooted for one of my teams to lose. Nothing trumps pride in my book, pride in one's team. And I would expect even players, no matter how bad their team may be, to have the pride to continue playing as hard as possible. But the Celtics are a different story.

I'm not saying the Celtics aren't trying. They are actively working at a specific goal each night, be that focusing on blowing a fourth quarter lead or pacing themselves to trail the entire length of the game, from the very second the ball is tipped.

I never wanted to see it come to this. This is the team of Bird and Auerbach. And it's sad that in the season of Auerbach's death, the team he built would disgrace his memory with the worst record in team, and perhaps league, history. But then I got to thinking: What would Red do?

During the 1978-79 season, the Celtics finished in last place in the Atlantic with a 29-53 record. Their .354 winning percentage was the worst at the time since the 1949-50 season when they finished at .324. But Red had a plan. Thanks to only a slightly better record the season before, in the 1977-78 draft, the C's used their sixth pick to draft a college junior out of Indiana State by the name of Larry Bird. It was a risk, since Red knew that Bird would stay in college for one more year. Through a rule that has now been changed thanks to Red, the Celtics retained the rights to Bird and signed him one year later.

Of course the gamble paid off, and the following season Bird led the Celtics to a 61-21 record, a 32-game improvement that remains the best single-season turnaround in NBA history. The Green captured first place that season, before losing to Philadelphia in the Conference Finals.

Could this be the same hope for this generation of Celtics? Would Red condone this continued floundering in the hopes of capturing an Oden or Durant for next season? I don't think he would encourage his team to tank, but let's say he'd probably see the glass as half full if the losses continued. We have to swallow our Celtic pride this season in the hopes of reclaiming our former glory next season.

Right now the only thing winning could do for the Celtics is hurt them. Case in point: after a lackluster 2004-05

see BAULD, page 13

Andrew Bauld is a senior majoring in English and political science. He can be reached at andrew.bauld@tufts.edu.

Games of the Week

LOOKING BACK (FEB. 13) | VIRGINIA TECH 81, NORTH CAROLINA 80 (OT)

It was déjà vu all over again in Chapel Hill on Tuesday night. Having already stopped a 13-game North Carolina winning streak in January, No. 25 Virginia Tech completed the season sweep of the fourth-ranked Tar Heels in an 81-80 overtime thriller on Tuesday night. The Hokies rallied from seven points down with under seven minutes to play in regulation, to take a brief 72-71 lead with under three minutes to play. Nigel Munson converted one of two free throws to even the score at 73 in the final minute, sending the contest to overtime. Zabian Dowdell, who scored a career-high 33 points in the upset, converted all four of his free throw attempts and was 17-of-19 from the charity stripe on the game. North Carolina phenom Tyler Hansbrough, who scored 22 points thanks largely to sinking 14-of-18 free throws, had an opportunity to tie the game at the line with 12 seconds to play, but only downed one freebie. The win propelled the Hokies into a three-way tie for second place in the ACC with Carolina and Virginia at 8-3. The Tar Heels travel to Chestnut Hill to take on first-place Boston College on Saturday night in a contest that will most likely decide the ACC regular season title.



Virginia Tech's Zabian Dowdell (1), Deron Washington (13), and Jamon Gordon (22) celebrate the Hokies 81-80 overtime victory over North Carolina on Tuesday.

LOOKING AHEAD (FEB. 17) | NESCAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT FIRST ROUND



LAURA SCHULTZ/TUFTS DAILY

It's that time of year ... February Madness!

That's right, friends -- the brackets on the back page were no mirage. Saturday marks the first round of the NESCAC men's and women's basketball tournaments. So sharpen your pencils, pull up your Div. III power rankings, and start rooting for those Cinderella stories ... at least on the men's side.

On the women's side, there's at least one favorite to get out the pom-poms for: the second-seeded Jumbos. Tufts hosts Middlebury on Saturday afternoon at 3 p.m. at Cousens Gym and is hoping to Xerox its 61-50 triumph over the Panthers on Feb. 2. In the win, senior Valerie Krah scored 21 points and broke the Tufts All-time three-point record. The Jumbos held Middlebury to 27.9 percent field goal shooting in the win.

Expect favorites Bowdoin and Williams to pick up victories, but sixth-seed Amherst, who thumped Bates, 65-51, in January, has an opportunity to hand the third-ranked Bobcats an early exit on their home court.

The 3 vs. 6 matchup is ripe for an upset on the men's side as well, as the No. 6 Jumbos travel to Williams, a team they defeated, 82-65, just two weeks ago. Don't expect top-seeded 23-1 Amherst to lose its second-straight game this weekend, but seventh-seeded Bowdoin is hungry for another win over No. 2 Trinity after defeating the Bantams, 75-69, in January.

Junior Khalilah Ummah and her team will need to take it to the hoop against Middlebury this weekend at the NESCAC tourney.

Jumbos seek repeat of last year's NESCAC Tournament showing

BY SAM KRUMHOLZ
Senior Staff Writer

Senior tri-captains Chloe Young-Hyman and Jess Bollinger, as well as the elite diving squad, will lead Tufts to the western part of the state this weekend for the three-day NESCAC tournament held at Williams.

With a fourth-place showing at last year's conference tournament, the squad has a tough road ahead of itself if it wants to equal that performance.

"We would like to swim and dive well and give a 100 percent effort this weekend," coach Nancy Bigelow said. "Williams, Middlebury and Amherst seem to have a pretty solid lock on the top three places, but I think fifth would be a very, very, respectable showing for our group."

As has been the case throughout the season, the diving crew is expected to be at the forefront of the competition. Junior Kendall Swett has won most of her diving competitions this year, never falling lower than second place. Swett transferred to Tufts this year from Lake Forest College following a season where she was an All-American in the one- and three-meter dives, winning the Div. III national championship in the latter. She will be competing in both of those events at the NESCAC championships, where she is favored to bring two first-place finishes back to Medford.

"I'm just trying to relax and have fun and compete better than I have all season, as well as preparing for the upcoming Nationals," Swett said.

The Jumbos' trio of freshmen divers, Lindsay Gardel, Kelsey Bell and Kara Lindquist, will compliment Swett. The rookie divers have all made their presences felt this season, consistently finishing in the top five in both diving

events all year

"These are three freshmen who are really, really good, and I think we could all be in the top six," Swett said.

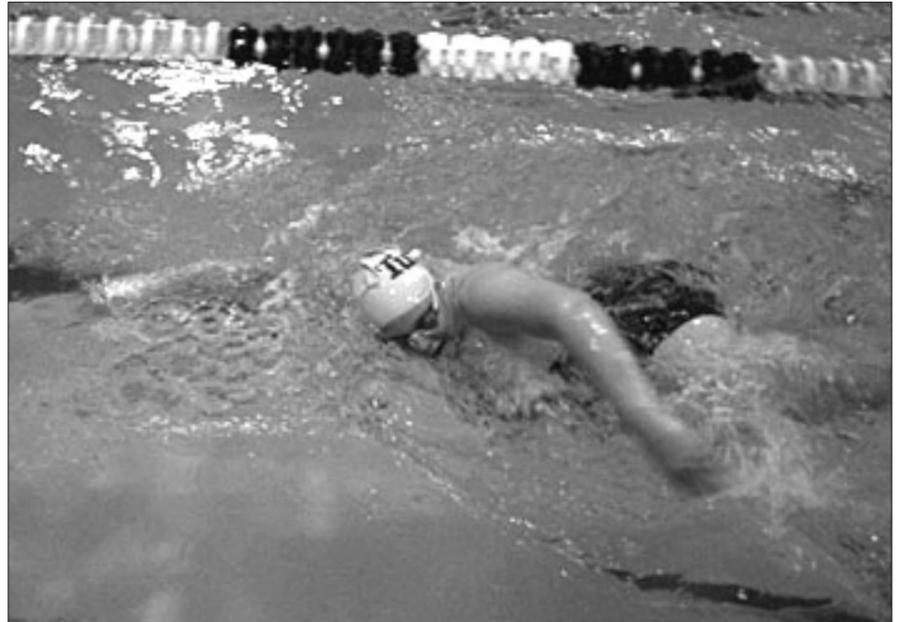
Also integral to Tufts' success will be the performances of Bollinger and Young-Hyman. Both swimmers have anchored the Jumbos all year, and both are experienced in championship meets. Young-Hyman is shouldering a heavy workload, swimming the 50-, 100- and 200-yard breaststroke in addition to the 100-yard freestyle. Young-Hyman qualified for Nationals last year with a fifth-place showing in last year's NESCAC 100-yard breaststroke race and hopes for a similar performance this year.

"This could potentially be my last meet, and I just want to go in and have fun and enjoy the experience," Young-Hyman said. "This is also my last shot at qualifying for Nationals, but it's also more importantly a team competition."

Young-Hyman is seeded third in the race, behind All-American juniors Amanda Shapiro from Wesleyan and Kelly Norsworthy from Colby. Young-Hyman also has a good chance of making the final heat in the 50-yard breaststroke, where she is seeded in the top eight.

Bollinger, too, has a busy weekend ahead of her, where she will be competing in races with distances ranging from 200 to 1650 yards, swimming all three longer-distance freestyle events, as well as the 400-yard individual medley and the 200-yard backstroke. Bollinger is a strong threat to place in the top eight in both the 1,000- and 1,500-yard freestyle as well as the 400-yard IM.

"Jess Bollinger has been swimming very well all year," Bigelow said. "I think she will have an even better meet than the one she had her freshman year when she made the B-cut for Nationals in the



Shown here swimming against Brandeis earlier this season, sophomore Hannah Robinson and the rest of the Jumbos will need to race their best times this weekend at NESCACs if they want to equal last year's fourth-place finish.

400 IM."

For the team to swim well, however, it will depend on strong performances across the board, not just among the top swimmers.

"We will need all of our front-line kids to swim their best, girls like [freshman] Meredith Cronin, [sophomore] Michelle Caswell, [junior] Tia Bassano, [sophomore] Katie Swett, [senior] Eva Johnson, [freshman] Emily Japlon and [junior] Claire Pigula," Bigelow said. "Everyone is going to have to swim and dive well to score points. All 24 competitors are going to be key."

The NESCAC championship is the culmination of the team's season and the

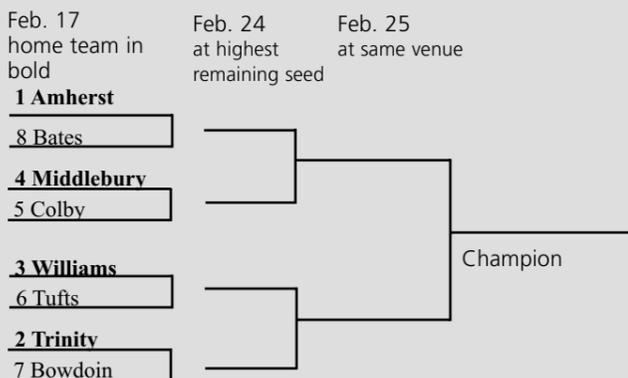
last meet for the individuals who failed to qualify for Nationals. The Jumbos will enter the meet fully tapered and in a position to shave several seconds off their times from earlier this season. Like last year, there will be a dogfight for places fourth through sixth, where Tufts, Connecticut College and Colby are extremely close.

"The main goal is to have fun. We've all been working extremely hard, and it's hard to go into a final meet and place concrete goals," Young-Hyman said. "It would be really exciting if we could place fourth, and if we all swim our hardest and have our minds in the game, we have a good shot."

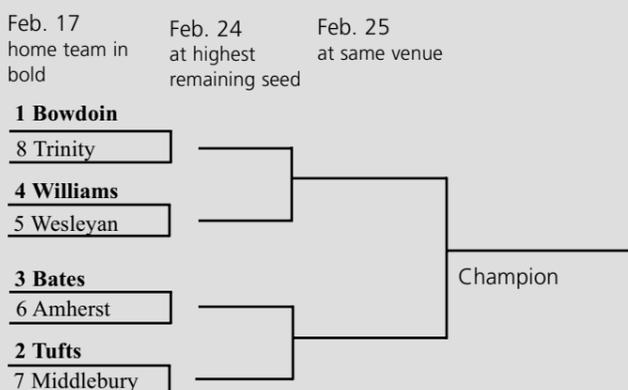
League hoop tourneys open Saturday

Why wait for March Madness when you have this weekend's opening round of the NESCAC Tournament? Williams plays host to men's and women's first round contests, with six other schools hosting one opening matchup. The Tufts women host Middlebury, while the male Jumbos are off to Williamstown. Here's a peek at the brackets:

Men's Basketball NESCACs



Women's Basketball NESCACs



Note: Teams are rebracketed after the first round of the tournament, with the lowest remaining seed playing the highest remaining, and the two middle seeds playing one another.

Team drops final home match of season

Tufts finds itself unable to beat an undermanned Bates squad

BY KAITLIN O'REILLY
Contributing Writer

It was not a happy ending for the women's squash team on Tuesday evening.

WOMEN'S SQUASH (7-14)

at Belmont, Tuesday

Bates	6
Tufts	3

- 1) Engman (B) def. Barba (T)
- 2) Gerrish (B) def. Avrutin (T)
- 3) Haynes (B) def. Marx (T)
- 4) Blomstedt (B) def. Thys (T)
- 5) Lemoine (B) def. Herrmann (T)
- 6) Webel (B) def. Leis (T)
- 7) Tufts def. Bates by default
- 8) Tufts def. Bates by default
- 9) Tufts def. Bates by default

Hosting its final match of the season at Belmont Hill School Tuesday night, Tufts fell to 10th-ranked Bates, 6-3, dropping to 7-14 for the season.

The match could have easily gone in the Jumbos' favor, as they recorded default victories in the seventh, eighth and ninth positions, due to the Bobcats' undermanned crew. But with two close five-game contests going Bates' way, the Bobcats took all six matches played on the courts.

Still, the team was content with its performance.

"The match against Bates went really well," senior co-captain Liz Thys said. "I went

to five games and [freshman Stefanie Marx] went to five games. At the end, I think I was just tired from practice and the weekend but it was really close, which was great."

The most competitive matches came from Marx and Thys, playing in the third and fourth spots, respectively. Marx took the first two games from her opponent, senior Schuyler Haynes, before Haynes rebounded to win the last three, and ultimately the match, 5-9, 3-9, 10-8, 9-7, 9-3.

Playing in her final home game of her squash career, Thys also put up an admirable fight against Bobcat sophomore Sarah Blomstedt, holding a 2-1 lead after the third game. Unfortunately for the Jumbos, Thys could not pull out the win, with Blomstedt taking the decisive final sets, 9-7 and 9-6.

Tufts was also hampered by a depleted squad of its own. Despite battling an illness, sophomore Jessica Herrmann, playing in the number five spot, managed just six points against junior Caroline Lemoine, falling in three games, 9-5, 9-1, 9-0.

Additionally, junior Micela Leis, who has been fighting an injury the entire season, fell to sophomore Margot Webel, 9-1, 9-4, 9-1.

Playing in the number one spot for the first time since the NESCAC Tournament, sophomore Victoria Barba squared-off against Bates senior Kelsey

Engman and was defeated in three games, 9-0, 9-0, 9-2.

The team's regular number one throughout the season, senior co-captain Julia Avrutin played in the second position, but was also edged out by a 10-8, 9-4, 9-6 match with junior Charlotte Gerrish.

"Jules played really well even though she went to three," Thys said. "Bates is a really strong team, and we had a good chance to beat them."

For Thys, Avrutin, and senior Morgan Glasebrook, the loss was a disappointing end to their home careers. But the Jumbos must hold their heads high as they prepare for the Howe Cup, the team national tournament held at Yale this weekend. Last season, playing in the C Division of teams ranked 17-24, Tufts fell to Hamilton 5-4 in the finals of its bracket. The Jumbos believe the odds are in their favor to get over the hump this time around.

"We have a really good chance at winning this weekend," Thys said. "We have beaten all the other teams in our division at least once this season so we have a really good shot at winning the C division, which is our goal for the weekend."

With three days between Tuesday's match and the start of the Howe Cup on Friday, the squad will use the time to rest and nurse any wounds.

"The most important thing

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