

TUFTS OBSERVER

TUFTS' STUDENT MAGAZINE

APRIL 20, 2009



Tufts' Underground Weed Economy

PLUS An Exclusive Interview with President Larry Bacow

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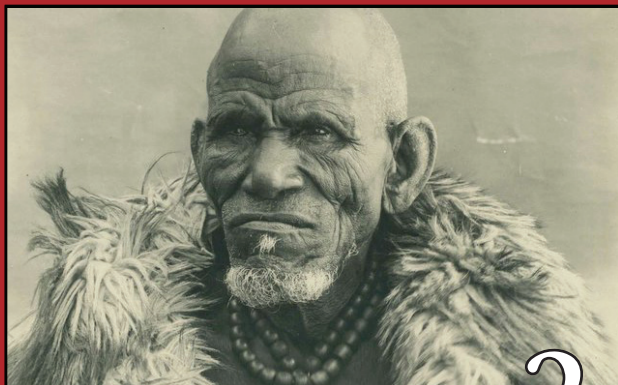
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The *Observer* has been Tufts' weekly publication of record since 1895. Our dedication to in-depth reporting, journalistic innovation, and honest dialogue has remained intact for over a century. Today, we offer insightful news analysis, cogent and diverse opinion pieces, and lively reviews of current arts, entertainment, and sports. Through poignant writing and artistic elegance, we aim to entertain, inform, and above all challenge the Tufts community to affect positive change.



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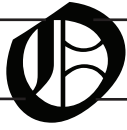
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Since
1895



FROM THE WEBSITE...

SOUTHIE: BEYOND STEREOTYPES (APRIL 6, 2009)

As you mention, the South Boston community is religiously diverse and has been for a long time, as Italians, Polish, Albanians, Lithuanians, and Greeks have made up a significant portion of the South Boston population for decades. One non-Catholic church that you didn't mention is the Fourth Presbyterian Church. With respect to the Catholic churches, there are still six active in the traditional South Boston neighborhood. As for the crime, though South Boston is not immune to issues that plague most inner-city neighborhoods, it remains one of the safest communities out there. Why else would people be dying to move there? Per Boston Police Department stats, they've seen an almost 10% drop in crime over the previous in the past year.

—John

CONTAGIOUS DISASTER: MEXICAN DRUG WAR VIOLENCE EXPANDS INTO US TERRITORY (APRIL 6, 2009)

The federal government doesn't get it. I live in Washington state, and I've taken the time to write both of my senators and my congresswoman, twice. Still no reply. I have family that live along the border, and I am worried about them. I'm not sure what it takes to get Washington to wake up. I recently read that both border patrol and Drug Enforcement Agency officials have indicated that the situation is under control. Good Heavens! Is anyone awake in Washington? "Nero fiddles while Rome burns."

—"Willie123"

GOING GREEN: THE ALTERNATIVE CULTURE COLUMN (APRIL 6, 2009)

Thanks Reggie, it's great to read the truth for a change, instead of the same

old lies about cannabis. No blame here, that's how they keep us trapped—the fear of being caught with a little herb and being put in jail helps keep us hiding, let alone standing up and saying, "This is what helps me. It's what I enjoy or need!"

—Christian

Those who need to medicate but get paranoid might try vaporizing Indica instead of Sativa—the first is a medicinal, mostly "body" high, the second a more "cerebral" feeling; and that cerebral, for some, can form an unpleasant edge, depending on personality, metabolism, & mood. Crappy weed can do this too.

—"Bingo Long"

NEW AGE: EXPLORING AMORTALITY (APRIL 6, 2009)

Dr. Jay Olshansky is fond of his line about how everyone in the past has died. We know this. The question is whether anything can be (or should be) done about this situation in the future. Personally, I would prefer not to have to go through the aging process. I think young and vital is better. But do I think the outlandish predictions of Dr. Aubrey De Grey and company are correct? Not really. The one encouraging aspect of the debate is the really poor quality of the arguments presented by doubters like Dr. Olshansky. He is no engineer, that is for sure. Lines like "beyond their warranty period" comment on the way things have always been and conclude that is the way they must always be. An engineer would think, "How can we extend the warranty?"

—Robert

FROM THE PUBLIC EDITOR (APRIL 6, 2009)

Why doesn't Reggie write articles that address multiple perspectives on the drug war? The column shouldn't be a soap box for some random guy. Hearing ongoing one sided information is not journalism.

Diverse perspectives are necessary for good media. Check out the medical marijuana website at www.procon.org for one example of how to do it fairly.

—Chuck

Chuck, I write a column that is clearly in favor of marijuana legalization. Whether I'm a journalist depends on whether one considers opinion news shows like Keith Olbermann or Bill O'Reilly to be journalism. I've tried to talk about marijuana from the perspective of an on-campus smoker (i.e. my "potiquette" article), a legalization advocate, and an informer (my article on the actual cannabis plant). I believe my articles have covered a broad range of subtopics underneath the marijuana umbrella. Next year I hope to expand my discussion to the drug war as an entity beyond just marijuana. I choose not to offer legitimate defenses for marijuana prohibition because I don't believe there are any, only political ones. If somebody chose to write an article against legalization or featuring some other perspective on the drug war, I'm sure that if it was well-written then either the *Observer* or another campus publication would run it.

—Reggie Hubbard

Chuck, it is the responsibility of good media to report the news objectively. However, Reggie Hubbard does not report the news. Indeed, he is an Arts and Opinions columnist who does not purport to be objective or without agenda. The *Observer* is not in the business of censoring people's opinions for the sake of addressing all perspectives of a given issue. If there is some confusion, then the editorial staff has not made it sufficiently clear that Reggie's column is the perspective of one student only, which may or may not align with other students on campus. Moreover, I would be in favor of a "counterpoint" pro-prohibition column. Unfortunately, nobody at Tufts seems inspired to write such a piece.

—Editor



Tufts:

Clearing the Smoke Surrounding the Cannabis Economy

Editors' Note: Reggie Hubbard is a pseudonym employed by Tufts students and marijuana users who, in order to protect their identity, request to remain anonymous. Reggie writes a weekly alternative culture column that explores and reports on issues and stories concerning marijuana.

BY "REGGIE HUBBARD"

Many of the facts presented in this article were gleaned from interviews with regular marijuana users and sellers on this campus. Due to the illegal nature of what is contained, every effort has been made to protect the identities of everyone involved. Many people will object to the way that I have presented information. In order to address such objections and to facilitate dialogue, I will answer all questions e-mailed to me at reggiehubbard@gmail.com and posted on my blog: <http://reggiehubbard.blogspot.com>. Please be aware that responses will be posted on the blog.

Depending on whom you ask, there are five to ten pounds of marijuana smoked at Tufts every week. At an average of \$60 per eighth (3.5g), that's somewhere between \$38,400 and \$76,800 of retail-priced marijuana consumed on this campus every week. At a price ranging from \$300-\$400 per ounce when brought onto the campus, this leaves around \$15,000 or

over two pounds of marijuana in profits to those who sell cannabis on or around campus.

Over the last two months, I have been gathering this and other data. I've met and interviewed all manner of people involved in the Tufts marijuana market, from the freshman consumers to small-time dealers, all the way up to three individuals who were once or are currently responsible for the importation of pounds into the campus sphere. These people agreed to talk to me because they trust me.

The sizeable margin of error in my estimate comes from the secrecy and uncertainty that inherently accompanies any black market good. A similar uncertainty obscures national marijuana figures too, which are made on the highly questionable assumption that the government stops five to ten percent of all cannabis before it can reach users, resulting in an estimated 500 thousand to one million pounds per week of US habit. You can doubt the words of dealers, but it's bound to be better than the government's estimation of its own efficiency. The ability to guess the size of what many consider to be America's largest cash crop is so imprecise that the Department of Justice's (DOJ) 2009 National Drug Threat

Assessment admits, "No reliable estimates are available regarding the amount of domestically-cultivated or processed marijuana."

Still, the Tufts
c a m -

pus numbers may seem a little high, but considering that we are a top-tier, New England university with a sizeable concentration of wealthy students in a state that just reduced cannabis possession to the severity of a parking ticket, that half gram of herb per undergrad per week seems a lot more reasonable.

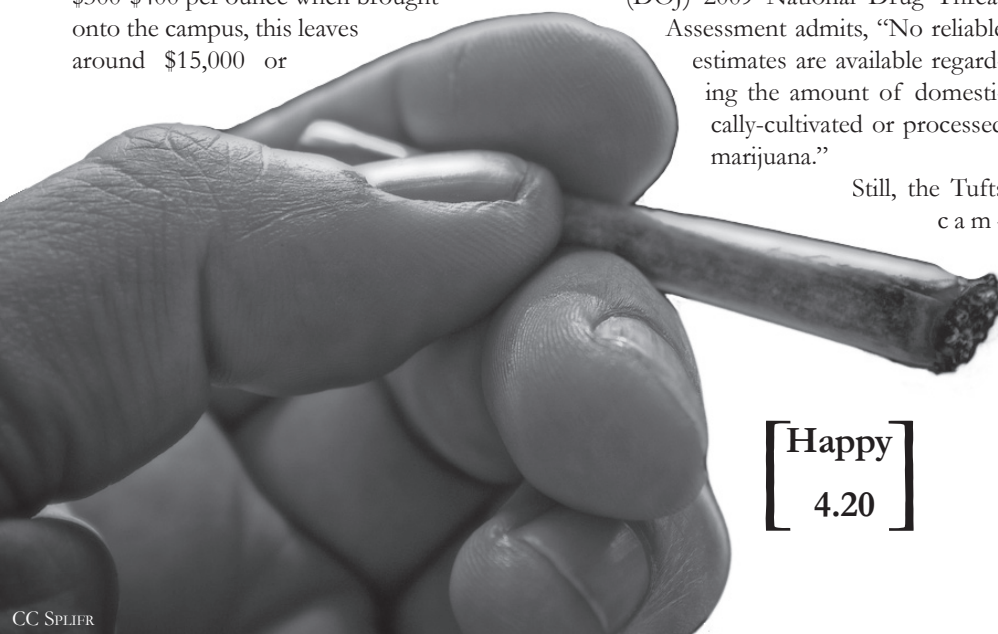
The marijuana community is really a collection of overlapping social groups, within which there is plenty of marijuana smoking and, when you really think about it, a lot of trust. In almost every social group, whether based on a sports team, fraternity or sorority, club, dorm, acting troupe, or just an assemblage of friends, there are bound to be a fair amount of pot smokers, and, like anybody who shares a habit, they bond and form cliques. It's no different than the way in which the heaviest drinkers, gamers, or cyclists find one another in the midst of a larger social milieu.

No stoner is an island—every extended stoner group knows a "guy" or two. Regardless of whether you help a buddy obtain the phone number of said "guy," or you pick up O's to split amongst friends, this is drug trafficking. In the college bubble however, the lines between helping out a friend, distributing, and dealing get blurred and forgotten. Eddie Einbinder, author of *How To Have Fun And Not Die*, notes, "It's always the kid starts dealing pot because he's buying too many eighths a week, realizes why aren't we buying an ounce and just smoke for free and maybe make some cash."

Of course, sometimes people plan on selling drugs.

Frank had an ambitious plan of making \$50,000 by selling weed all throughout college. Jake wanted to pay off his own toking habit that he picked up senior year in high school and if the alcohol bills got covered too, all the better. Frank told me that that

[Happy]
4.20





he estimates at least 15 lbs. per week were coming in back then; he was responsible for distributing five of them. Back then weed was markedly worse, selling for \$35 of \$40 per eighth, which probably explains the hike in the amount circulating. Jake stopped selling when he came back for his sophomore year and made the decision to stop smoking; when he tokes up these days, he pays with clean money. Frank made \$20,000 his freshman year. Things got sketchy and he called it quits while he was (way) ahead.

The obvious question for people like Frank—students bringing enormous quantities of cannabis onto campus—is, where do they get it and whom do they get it from? It comforts me that there is no single answer to this question. Marijuana seems to sprout from just about everywhere: ex-hippies who have sold to Tufts kids since the 1970's, young townies, people in Vermont, Maine, New York, Western Mass. and various people associated with serious Drug Trafficking Organizations (DIOs as the DOJ calls them).

The wide range of sources for marijuana is one of the facets of the trade that interests me personally. Today, the majority of crops originate from a handful of operations that disseminate via standardized shipping routes. In fact, the five plants per person limit in place in the Netherlands coupled with the majority of consumption by tourists has resulted in an illegal international trade of highest-grade herb from North Africa. Even in Amsterdam, reefer has illegal roots.

The fertility of the pot market is one of the main reasons Pat Buchanan is now a fan of legalization. "There are two sure ways to end this war swiftly: Milton's way

and Mao's way," he comments, "Americans are never going to adopt the Maoist solution. For the users of drugs are all too often classmates, colleagues, friends, even family. Indeed, our last three presidents did not deny using drugs."

"I make money because I have a connection."

Anyone interested in selling marijuana needs three things: capital, a scale, and somebody who trusts them enough to sell them some grass.

I might point out that not a single person I spoke to has sold marijuana consistently for two years straight. One might assume this trend is due to high-risk stresses on cats like Frank, but small-timers fluctuate in and out of the market depending on schedules, availability, social situation, and the need for weed. At another point on the spectrum is Hank, a junior who is friends with someone who sells ounces. Once every week or two Hank will pick up a bag and weigh out six eighths that he gets rid of over that time period.

Still, the market for pot faces natural shocks like any other, most often at the beginning of semesters. This January, as often happens, many of the big distributors decided to stop dealing without passing on their connections to the next generation. This left a void in supply and high demand. Within weeks, many entrepreneurs, freshmen and sophomores especially, were arranging to bring in small amounts ranging from an ounce to a quarter pound. This recent shock also had the effect of escalating the accept-

able price range towards a very heady \$60 to \$70 an eighth.

I have witnessed the distribution of three pounds in twelve hours following a two-day drought. The pot market is a well-connected, grassroots network.

This is why part-time smokers can transition into big-time sellers overnight when they run into special, one-time deals. In February, in the midst of the high-quality headies-only market, Jim—a sophomore who doesn't normally sell marijuana—was offered a half-pound of mid-grade marijuana from a local friend for \$1000 (\$15.63/eighth). In no time, Jim had nothing but a thousand dollars profit and a batch of weed brownies to show for it.

Most dealers are motivated by the prospect of free marijuana. John, a senior, claims that he doesn't make a dollar from selling weed, although he manages to provide up to a quarter pound a week. John smokes weed for free. But, being the philanthropist that Tufts expects him to be, he estimates that he inhales no more than a third of his personal ganja since he shares generously with friends and visitors to his merry abode. Perhaps unsurprisingly, of all the dealers I spoke to, John seemed the happiest to be selling weed. He truly loves it and being an upperclassman, doesn't live with the fear of repercussions that often come from being involved with freshmen or other loose-lipped souls. John began dealing only this past year during a lull in October when he had a friend who moved to the area. John's lack of business motivations is driven by his love for the good herb and his humble understanding that he, too, can

only “smoke everyday for free because [he] knows somebody.”

Others who sell larger amounts are inspired by the need to pay for other drugs or alcohol. As Jake put it, “the black market is incestuous.” Most of the profits from the pot trade pay for marijuana, but, for those who can make greater profits, marijuana sales can pay for more expensive drugs like cocaine, opiates, and all sorts of prescription pills I never bothered to learn about.

Some people sell marijuana as a full-time job; Bryan sells between a QP (quarter pound) and HP (half pound) a week in eighths and quarters to maximize profit. He pays for the rent of his off-campus apartment with the proceeds and is still left with some spending money. But dedicated involvement takes up time. “You gotta answer phone calls, and you gotta be available,” Bryan told me, “Stoners have no loyalty, they’ll go to whoever can get them weed.” Still, that work ethic pays off; the day before I interviewed him, Bryan made an easy \$100 in an hour by walking down College Ave.

One motivation that is not usually noticed by dealers until they have been actively selling for a long time is the improved sense of business acumen. Running any business is tough, but running one in which you must negotiate marketability with privacy, profit with friendship, and potiquette with The Law, is as tough as it gets. Without question, I would trust an ex-reefer jockey as my banker over some quantitative economics major who might just cause the 2037 interplanetary financial meltdown.

What I call pot dealers, Jack Cole, a 26-year veteran officer who spent years as an undercover narcotics agent before becoming founder and Executive Director of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), calls “accommodating friends.” Still, for participating in the market, if caught, they could face prison time or at the very least expulsion, a permanent note on any school records, and a news story outing them on the eternal Google machine.

Jack Cole and the others at LEAP have a saying: “You can get over an addiction but you can’t get over a conviction.” What former Lt. Cole is saying is that it is possible to get over an awful addiction, but, once the legal system has you at all, they have you by

the short and curlies. It’s why most schools already know better than to turn over students to the actual police for drug offenses. In school, it is much cleaner and easier to deal with such situations than if lawyers get involved and a student is left with a criminal record that might prevent them from getting a job (and eventually donating money back to their alma mater). It’s also a lot easier for a school to not have to defend a possibly illegal search if the only punishment is expulsion.

Even if Johnny Q. Law doesn’t get involved, punishment in the drug market can affect a student irrevocably. Even for very minor dealing, most schools will expel a student. But an equal or greater danger is campus media coverage and, as I have mentioned, Google. *The Daily*, reporting on an incident in September, printed the names of three students. Those three people, barring a change in name, will forever turn up on the Internet as drug dealers. For allegedly providing a commonly traded and appreciated good and due to journalistic indiscretion, these three have been branded.

The probability of getting caught grows with time as more and more people smoke the original dealer’s weed and as his name become casually (and mythically) associated. Bryan notes, “You can’t get your name out of people’s mouths 100%.” This is why any time Bryan takes on a new client, he asks: “If you’re caught and the cops say ‘just tell us where you got it and you can go.’ What do you say?” A wrong answer means you might not even get to know Bryan’s name (hint: it’s not Bryan.) Bryan also doesn’t sell to girls most of the time because, sadly, “girls talk too much.”

As mentioned briefly above, marijuana sales often fund “harder” drug habits. Aaron Houston, the only full-time marijuana lobbyist in Washington comments, “When you have the black market, there’s encouragement to engage in other black market activities.” Eddie Einbinder adds to this, noting, “College kids can get rich and that could possibly lead to other problems with drug abuse.”

This happens at Tufts. One dealer, who funds his Oxycontin habit with pot sales, confided in me that, like himself, some dealers fund and nurture harder drug habits. Even barring new experimentation, the ability to be high 24/7 for free

allows many dealer to go through college in a stoned haze.

What I have described happens on every college campus in this country (perhaps barring military academies and a dozen special cases). Those who fear for the well-being of the Tufts student body should console themselves with the knowledge that what transpires here is more muted and less dangerous than the goings on at many schools. Also, for most students here, drug use gets no more extreme than reefer or maybe the once-a-year psychedelic.

The demand for marijuana by students will continue to drive massive amounts of the population towards drug dealing. By DEA estimates, 900,000 teenagers in America are selling drugs (so juniors and seniors aren’t included).

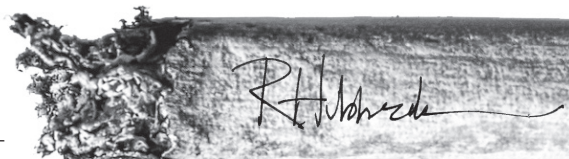
This article comes out on April 20th, 4/20: the unofficial holiday that we stoners have claimed as our own. Today, at least half of the undergrads here and at schools across the nations will spend the day smoking weed and hanging out in massive, extended acts of illegal protest. All this pot came from somewhere in the US, Canada, or Mexico, from loving home growers and industrial scale grow “ops.” For most of us, the sack in hand will have gone through five or six intermediaries, the last two of which were probably fellow students.

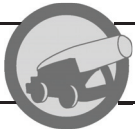
The government is, in their own words, at “War” with you. No one is benefitting, and a vanishingly small few continue to support such as war. Still, the pot you might smoke to celebrate 4/20 is illegal. If you are so inclined, go out today, smoke some civil disobedience and keep supporting change we can breathe in. ☪

Peace, Love, and Bowls,

Reggie Hubbard

<http://ReggieHubbard.blogspot.com>





Tufts' Loj: To Fund or Not to Fund?



As a student at Tufts and a board member of the Tufts Mountain Club, I believe that funding the Trips Cabin is a responsible use of a portion of the TCU Senate's recovered funds. The fact that the Loj received only a portion of the funds seems to have been forgotten

in all of the uproar that has come in the aftermath of the decision. There is still plenty of money to fund the other clubs that have requested it—clubs that also deserve the consideration of the Senate. TMC saw the funds sitting in a bank account and knew that senators had only voted against our structure because they thought that the school would be loaning us the money this year. When it became apparent that the senators were unaware that TMC was not receiving as university loan, we decided to try again for the funds. Senators voted, and we won their support. Yes, a couple of people involved in the vote were members of the Mountain Club, but, even without their support we still would have won the vote easily.

The Loj is designed to accommodate the student body at large, not just mountain clubbers. The disgruntled senators still crusading against the TCU decision know the terms of our agreement. Using the recovered funds, TMC will work even harder to include everyone in The Loj and facilitate transportation. This has become a politicized decision, which is a shame. If you take a trip up to North Woodstock and come see our Loj, you'll realize that making it possible for more people to come really does help the student body at large.

Oh and wireless would have never been sustainable/is not a concern of student activities. ☺

- JULIE BLOCH

The question I want to ask TCU Senate is, if it ain't broke, why fix it? The Loj isn't a problem, but frivolous, unchecked spending is. Here are some things to do with \$230,000 besides build a Trips Cabin:

Send 4.42 students to Tufts for a full year, give 230 more grants for unpaid summer internships or jobs, increase the budget of every club at Tufts, make more events free, extend dining hall hours on weekends, buy a few dorms wireless capability, renovate existing buildings, increase parking space on campus, subsidize school trips, provide supplies for classes, bring guest lecturers to campus, improve the salaries of those who keep our school clean and beautiful, increase the buffer in case of surplus spending, provide transportation to the Loj...the list goes on and on.

In a time when everyone's budget is tightening, it seems as though those with deep pockets can't yet feel them getting lighter. Individuals with limited budgets, like college students, better understand the fluctuations of their economic status because \$230 spending dollars are easier to track than \$230,000. It's time for large organizations to join the average American citizen, and the average world citizen for that matter, and be smart with money. Don't use nearly a quarter of the budget



for something that currently attracts less than a quarter of students. There is always space in the Loj, and if more people wanted to go, they would. Students are not going to start spending every weekend in the mountains just because TCU has wasted a quarter of its budget on a cabin.

Ultimately, TCU must be careful with its money regardless of whether or not there's a surplus from recovered funds. Spend money on things that affect more people more significantly—that's what we elected you to do. ☺

- ARIANA SIEGEL AND AVIGYA SHRESTHA



MIKE SCHECHT



SPRING BLOOMS IN WASHINGTON

A JAPANESE TRADITION WITH A HOME IN THE US

BY CARA PALEY

The time has again come for Washington, D.C. to stomp out the dreary colors of winter and commemorate spring's birth with an invasion of pink—the color of the picturesque cherry blossoms that dot the city during the annual National Cherry Blossom Festival. From March 28th until April 12th, viewers once again flock to the nation's capital to immerse themselves in this new pink existence, also characterized by various festival activities and a pervasive spirit of unity.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is more than a glorious introduction to the spirit of spring. It commemorates Tokyo's Mayor Yukio Ozaki's donation of 3,000 cherry trees to the city of Washington—a celebration of friendship between Japan and the United States. On March 27, 1912, on the north bank of the Tidal Basin in West Potomac Park, First Lady Helen Taft and Viscountess Chinada, wife of the Japanese ambassador, planted the first two trees. According to Gary Leupp, a professor who specializes in Japanese history at Tufts, First Lady Taft had first heard of the beauty of the Japanese cherry blossom from a woman who was a resident in Japan. Shortly after, the wife of the Japanese consul in New York City requested that the cherry blossoms be offered in the name of Tokyo to emphasize amicable and lasting Japanese-American relations. Later, in reciproca-

tion, the United States government donated flowering dogwood trees to Japan in 1915. Sponsored by civic groups in Washington, D.C., the first Cherry Blossom Festival was held twenty years later in 1935.

The cycle of giving and receiving continued to define Japanese-American relations. After First Lady Bird Johnson accepted an overwhelmingly generous donation of 3,800 more trees in 1965, the United States later provided Japanese horticulturists with cuttings in 1981 to replace the loads of Japanese cherry trees that had been destroyed in a flood.

Soon, the nature of the annual event expanded to include a variety of activities, thereby allowing the festival to extend to two weeks. Each year, to both admire the picturesque sights and engage in the multitude of events, more than a million people make the streets of Washington, D.C. their home.

The 2012 National Cherry Blossom Festival was no exception. Last Sunday, visitors took advantage of the mid-60 temperatures to stroll through the Tidal Basin and admire the grand Washington monuments

along a backdrop of cherry trees. The peak of the festival is most notably a parade that extends ten blocks along Constitution Avenue. Another exciting appeal includes Alex Trebeck, the host of "Jeopardy!," who will serve as the Grand Marshal.

Another famous feature is the Sakura Matsuri festival, the largest Japanese street fair in the nation and an extension of the Cherry Blossom Festival. Visitors can stroll the lively streets, munch on Japanese food, and watch traditional performances and sumo wrestling. To the excitement of many, Maki Kaji, the man who created the increasingly popular Sudoku puzzle, will make an appearance.

As the defining feature of the National Cherry Blossom Festival and the temporary face of Washington DC, viewers may pause to question, "Why the cherry blossom?" While it is true that pink blossoms triumph over all else in announcing spring's onset, the symbol of the cherry blossom extends further. "The cherry blossom (sakura) in Japanese culture is a powerful symbol of evanescence, transitoriness. But also the



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beauty of these things. It's precisely because the petal is dying that it's beautiful falling through the air as it does," said Gary Leupp, professor of Japanese History. As this idea is also associated with the idea of a quick and inevitable death, the cherry blossom can also be tied to mortality. In short, the cherry blossom embodies the beautiful yet ephemeral nature of existence. An enduring metaphor, the cherry blossom has often defined Japanese art and culture. During World War II, the symbol of the cherry blossom, painted on the side of some Japanese planes, strongly evoked the intensity of war and the transience of military life. The vigor of the 2012 National Cherry Blossom Festival marks United States dedication to uphold this spirited mesh of Japanese culture and American unity. 🌸

INTERNATIONAL



RUSSIA AND US RELATIONS SYMPOSIUM 2009: FINDING A COMMON GROUND

BY MARYSA LIN

The US-Russian Relations Symposium, held April 10, dovetailed a “fresh start” in US-Russian relations earlier this month following meetings between President Obama and Russian President Dmitri A. Medvedev. Backed by the International Relations Directors Leadership Council and the Tufts International Relations Program and co-sponsored by ALLIES, the Department of German/Russian/Asian Languages and Literatures, Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honor Society), Russian Circle, and Sigma Iota Rho (International Relations Honor Society), the symposium featured speakers with a wide spectrum of expertise in US-Russian affairs and addressed challenges and opportunities of the relationship between what many still see as the residual Soviet Union.

Speakers Kuban Kabaev, Rouben Shuragin, Jan Havranek, and Charles Inter-

rante—affiliated with the Fletcher School—and Charles Bergen and Former Colonel Leonid Polyakov—affiliated with Harvard—led the panel discussions “Security Issues in US-Russian Relations” and “Petropower:

Energy and Russian Politics.”

Following the panels, keynote speaker Dr. Thomas M. Nichols took the stage to examine the historical and contemporary sense of conflict and tension in the US-



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Russian relationship. Dr. Nichols is Professor of National Security Affairs and a former chairman of the Strategy Department at the United States Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island described himself as a “Sovietologist.”

According to Nichols, “there is no longer any organic source of tension between the Russian Federation, NATO, or the United States,” and their contemporary relationship is plagued by “silly squabbling” and petty conflicts in recent years, mainly resulting from incoherent American policies. America is “paying the bill” for totally mismanaging relations with Russia for two decades and not fully realizing that the Russian Federation is not the Soviet Union, Nichols said. One example of “inconsistent and heavy-handed American policies” Nichols cited was the Bush administration’s unilateral withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty while at the same time maintaining his “bromance” with former President Vladimir Putin.

Another source of tension Nichols cited was the “absolute incoherence” of NATO expansion from the Russian perspective. Nichols explained that since NATO is a security alliance that by definition has a specific enemy, expansion in the post-Soviet era is regarded as unreasonable aggression by the Russian Federation. Nevertheless, Nichols insisted that “there is no second Cold War here,” just two large countries mutually engaged in policies that worsen relations

With the Obama administration came



hopes of a real, sustained shift in US-Russian relations, especially in the face of struggles with Iran, Afghanistan, and North Korea. What are the real hopes for pushing the “reset button” in the new administration?

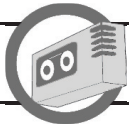
Nichols framed five major areas where the United States and Russia share significant mutual interests: strategic nuclear reductions, non-proliferation, terrorism, global economic stability, and democratic development in Russia. In the area of fighting terrorism, Russia has even more to gain from cooperation than the US, as Russia has hosted more major terrorist attacks since September 11 than any other country in the world. Accord-

ing to Nichols, the incentives for anti-terrorism are so strong in both countries that “we should practically be de facto allies on this issue.”

Perhaps Putin, Medvedev, and the Russian Federation will seize the current opportunity for a new start in US-Russian relations—there is certainly concrete incentive for them to do so. The economic downturn and subsequent drop in energy prices is devastating for a Russian economy built primarily on energy exports. Russia is also facing a long-term demographic crisis due to negative population growth, and the Federation suffered significant blows to its international credibility following its widely condemned foray into Georgia and its shutoff of natural gas supplies to Ukraine, which literally left parts of Western Europe in the cold.

However, it is undeniable that under Putin and Medvedev’s tutelage, there has been a resurgence of nationalism and ugly conflicts harping back to Soviet-style thuggery. There have been several high-profile attacks and murders of writers, lawyers, and activists that either criticize or openly oppose the Russian government. In the face of this, it’s difficult to accept Dr. Nichols’ optimistic prediction that eventual democratization is inevitable in Russia. Perhaps the “coordinated criticism” Nichols cites as instrumental in weakening the USSR regime can speed along the democratic transition in Russia, but, in uncertain times, the Russian bear may yet prove unpredictable and temperamental. ☪





An
Exclusive Conversation
with
President
LARRY BACOW

The *Observer* sits down face-to-face with the Tufts President to discuss prospects for need-blind admissions, the economy, bias at Tufts, and shin splints.

BY JULIA IVANOVA AND
CAITLIN SCHWARTZ

Tufts Observer: *What are your goals relating to need-blind admission at Tufts and how plausible do you think that they are at the moment? What obstacles do you face in their achievement?*

President Bacow: The goal remains the same as it has always been and that is to become need-blind. We've said that financial aid [is a] priority in the capital campaign and it remains so. We made tremendous progress towards being need-blind. The financial aid budget has grown dramatically over the course of the campaign—12 percent this year alone. We were need-blind for two years in a row, even though we did not announce it as a policy...we didn't declare victory, because we wanted to endow this commitment. We were using expendable funds in order to become need-blind.

This year, we were able to admit 95% of the class on a need-blind basis. What happened is the economy collapsed, so we were facing a much needier group of students...So we read [applications] need-blind, and then we... calculated what the class would cost us, and realized that we couldn't afford that with the realities of the economy. We in-

creased the financial aid budget but the students were needier, and so we needed to be need aware for the last 5% of the class.

TO: *So the main priority of being need-blind is that students who are admitted can get through all four years at Tufts?*

LB: Exactly, and that is why we concentrated the increase in the financial aid budget this year for the returning classes. We knew that those classes would need more aid just to stay here, and we felt we had a different obligation to the students we haven't accepted yet.

TO: *How do you perceive class diversity at Tufts?*

LB: Diversity can be looked at in lots of different dimensions. We have ethnic diversity, we have racial diversity, we have religious diversity, and we have geographic diversity. And then we have socio-economic diversity. I think it's only recently that we have made significant progress with socio-economic diversity and that goes hand-in-hand with the increase in the financial aid budget...Over the last two years we saw a 70% increase in the number of students enrolling at Tufts (not just admitted) who came from families with less than \$40,000 incomes. And that

number is 12-13% of the student body at Tufts. I think we have improved dramatically. What is really interesting is [that] the economy may be generating more socio-economic diversity than anything else...I think [that] changes the conversation about socio-economic diversity at Tufts.

TO: *What is the best way to address the situation of students and their families taking on significant loan burdens in order to attend a school they love as opposed to a cheaper state school?*

LB: We don't want anyone to be financially irresponsible and I would challenge the premise. The average student at Tufts graduates with debt, but it's not a huge amount of debt. I think the numbers are around \$25,000. What's interesting is that if you graduate from here and get a job and try to buy a car the first year you're employed, you'll take on probably as much debt to buy a car as you will have done to finance your college education...Unlike a car, a college education will probably pay you back many times in terms of the return you will get on that investment through increased [future] earnings. So I don't think it's irresponsible to take on debt to finance a college education.

That said, every family has to decide and

make their own judgment whether or not this is worth doing their other choices. And there are lots of ways to get a college education in the United States and a lot of places you can get a great education for a lot less than you can get here. [But] it is a different education...That's not to say you can't get a great education at a state university, it's just different...Different people will make different decisions in the market place, and Tufts is not for everyone. It's my goal to see that fewer and fewer people have to make those choices based on financial situations. That's why we are putting so much effort into financial aid.

TO: *In the Boston Globe, you said, "during these challenging times, it is essential that we all work together to preserve all that is special about Tufts." What do you find unique about Tufts?*

PB: I think this is an exceptionally collegial community: I think it's unpretentious. I think it's a place where people care about other people; I think it's a place where people work really hard to do the right thing. I think it is a place where people are generally unselfish. I think it's a modest place in

a way that I find enormously appealing...I find those things very special. It is a place where we tend not to draw sharp distinctions. We treat everyone as valued members of our community.

TO: *How can Tufts move on constructively from the sting of losing money in the Madoff scandal?*

PB: We have done a complete audit of our investment process...to learn what could we have done differently [and] which were the questions we didn't ask...The reality is that we were defrauded. What we learned is that we asked the right questions, (and even asked them in some cases of the SCC) and did not receive answers that would have warned us off. But, we have made some changes to how we do things, which will hopefully avoid problems like that in the future.

That said, the real thing people should focus on is not the \$20 million we lost in ASCOT Partners, which in turn invested in Madoff, but \$500 million we lost due to the decline of the market, which is the approximate impact of where the endowment was and

where it is today. At its high watermark, the endowment was \$1.5, \$1.6 billion and now it's down to 1.1 billion. That's the big sting. So it was painful to lose money the way we did: in a fraud. But, the really big sting is dealing with the decline of the market.

TO: *How would you view your own handling of the financial crisis? Is there anything you would have done differently?*

LB: Well with 20/20 hindsight, I would have moved the entire endowment into treasuries and we wouldn't have lost anything. But everything comes into sharper focus when you're looking at the rearview mirror, so I think we made some really good decisions, better than many of our peers, during the good years. We actually led the nation in endowment growth from 2005 to 2007...And when things were going well for us, we didn't spend like drunken sailors. There were some peer institutions that did and they are paying for it big time.

TO: *In the face of Tufts' financial losses, what sacrifices need to be made?*



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LB: Well, we tried to put students first and...I don't think students have seen much of an impact in cuts in their activities at Tufts. There may be things that were planned that have been deferred, but I don't know much has been taken away from you. That has been very conscious on our part because we have tried to put students first. That doesn't mean we haven't cut other things...We froze salaries for people making more than \$50,000, we have left open a large number of positions that remain unfilled, which means that everyone else will have to work harder...we have cut back on all sorts of expenditures [both] large and small. Again, we try to do it in ways so that most people don't see it.

I'll give you an example from the president's marathon challenge: we organize long runs on the course every year...In the past, we just chartered buses. We didn't do that this year: the buses are expensive...we saved some money [when people volunteered to drive]. The more painful changes have involved deferral of some important capital projects, the biggest one being the new laboratory building that we were going to build. And that is affecting engineering and biology in a big way.

TO: *What is the best way for the Tufts community to respond to the recent bias incident at Tufts and address people's pain while also avoiding chaos and widespread accusations?*

LB: I think whenever there is an incident on campus, the first thing we need to do is pause to understand what actually happened. And from what I've read, there are different explanations for what transpired. I think it is important not to jump to conclusions. That said, I've tried to encourage people to find a way to talk about differences on this campus. I gave you a "homework assignment" [in one of my emails], and I deliberately didn't do it in a context of a specific incident because when we try to talk about specific instances, the conversation becomes more difficult than it might be otherwise...Any incident of bias is one incident too many.

We also need to understand that issues of race and ethnicity are among the most difficult issues we confront as a society, and Tufts is not perfect—we strive to be better, but we are not perfect. We reflect the larger society we live in...There is no institution in society that has been successful in eradicating discrimination that has been based on race, on gender, on ethnicity, on religion...[faculty] Sam Sommers, Nali Nihabadi, Keith Mattocks...have concluded from their research is that these problems



[have a deeper biological, neurological, perceptual root] than anybody ever thought. I think that we always have to work to do better. What's important is that people speak out in the community when these things happen, but we can't jump to conclusions. I also don't think you should paint an entire community with a broad brush generalizing from one incident.

TO: *What is your favorite Ludacris song?*

LB: I could not tell you

TO: *What's on your iPod?*

LB: Most which is recorded on my iPod was recorded well before you were born. It's a mix of stuff I listened to in college and graduate school. There's great classical stuff on my iPod: I have Glen Gould's recording of Beethoven piano sonatas...I've also got some Ella Fitzgerald...some classical jazz stuff...a variety things.

TO: *Do you listen to music while you're running?*

LB: Only if I'm running by myself. I tend to do most of my running with students and others and then I like to talk when I run, it makes the time go fast. When I'm running long distances by myself, I'm always listening to music. I'll go for a three-hour run listening to my iPod, and I'm generally not really listening to the music, but it's sort of there. I usually find that it's a good time to think about something. On the really long runs, I get almost into a meditative state and I'm not quite thinking, I'm not quite listening, and the miles just sort of click off and maybe after a couple hours, I realize I've run twelve, thirteen miles [or so]. And then, there's only an hour left, so that's not that bad [and] then I'll listen to music, and then I'll start to hurt.

TO: *Do you ever get shin splints?*

LB: Yes, I got shin splints BADLY the first year I ran [the Boston Marathon]. So badly that I could not run for a month before the marathon, all I did was cross-train. I was on the elliptical, I ran in the pool, I did stationary bike...I did not run at all, I couldn't take a step without it being painful. I went for treatment 3 times a week...I remember standing at the start at Hopkinton and saying I'll know within the first 200 yards whether or not I'm going to be able to do this. And I ran the whole thing.

A couple of pieces of advice I'd give you if you're prone to shin splints (because trust me, I know about these things) [is that] you need to change your shoes frequently. Most people don't realize...running shoes

start to break down after 300 miles, and so what I do is I write the date that I bought the shoes in indelible ink on the shoe and I know how much I run a week and I know when it's time to change. The second thing which I do is I've got two different pairs of shoes that I run in and they're made by different manufacturers...and will hit your foot differently. What causes shin splints is the same thing over and over and over again, so running in shoes that have different stiffness and things like that helps. The other thing is if you're prone to shin splints, is you've gotta ice right after you run. And take Vitamin I.

TO: *Vitamin I?*

LB: Ibuprofen. Regularly. Right after you run.

TO: *What was your favorite class in college, or what class you wish you had taken at Tufts?*

LB: I majored in Economics and took a lot of math. I became an economist because of one course that I took in college, and

that was an Intermediate Macro Economics class I took from Bob Solow, who ultimately became my mentor as an undergraduate. I remember going up to him after class to ask him a question and he invited me back to his office to talk about it. I had never been in a faculty member's office before, and then, as we talked about it, he said this is interesting maybe we could both learn about this in the future. I wound up doing a reading course with him the next semester and that course changed my life, so that would be my favorite course. He went on to win a Nobel Prize. He was a great guy to have as a mentor, and he is still a great guy.

What did I wish I had taken? I've become a classical musical aficionado later in life and the reason has everything to do with my son Kenny and my wife Adele. When Kenny was five, he and Adele started taking piano lessons together and they both became serious pianists. Kenny is now 27, so for the last 22 years, literally every day I have heard serious music in the house when one or the other has been practicing. Kenny moved

out of the house when he was 18 to go off to college, but Adele still plays daily and I found that I really, really have developed a love for classical music and if I had time, that's what I'd like to study. The other thing that I'd like to know more about is neuroscience. I think of all the sciences, it's going through one of those interesting explosions in knowledge right now. I think it has vast consequences.

TO: *What is something that no one knows about you?*

LB: That I am a pretty accomplished juggler. I should say I'm a modestly accomplished juggler. In fact, I was with a group of students who had won the recycling competition, and they had a little luncheon in their honor, and when I told them this they didn't believe it...so I picked up 3 water bottles and I juggled. It's actually not easy juggling water bottles. You want something that you can catch much easier than a water bottle. You've gotta be conscious of how it's rotating, so you can catch it the right way, but I did it. It was a success. ☺

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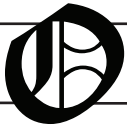
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The Public Editor on extending anonymity in the press to students involved in bias incidents

BY JEREMY WHITE

On Monday, the Tufts *Daily* led with an article detailing an incident in which a student allegedly assaulted members of the Korean Student Association (KSA) with racial slurs and, eventually, physical violence. The name of the student was withheld, and he was referred to throughout as simply “the freshman”. His identity, at least for now and for most, remains a secret. Before I explore the *Daily*’s choice to grant him this anonymity, I want to pose a question: why do such bias incidents seem to capture the campus’ imagination, spur action and inflame opinions?

As of the time of my writing this, there are 94 comments on the article on the *Daily*’s website. I think this deluge occurs because bias incidents speak to our beliefs about the character of the Tufts community, about the contours that delimit it and the fractures that run through it. Often these bias incidents puncture our assumptions about what type of mutually supportive community we live in.

In the aftermath of someone hurling racial invectives or a publication printing something similarly offensive, we seem to scramble for justifications and answers. We seek an explanation and a name for whatever person, organization, or pathology has led to an expression of prejudice that seems so unsettlingly at odds with our essential values. Clearly this is larger than just “the freshman,” and can be abstracted and applied to the broader questions of community, inclusiveness, and justice. How do campus publications sift through the anger and the hurt to mediate these issues?

Objectivity does not exist, and I have no doubt that some *Daily* people had the same visceral reaction to the incident when reporting and editing the incident as other students did while reading about it on page one. But the ethical constraints of journalism enjoin them to refrain from vilifying or passing judgment so they are able to present the most accurate and comprehensive

picture possible. Beyond its editorial page, the *Daily* should neither prosecute nor defend “the freshman”; its job is to present the available evidence, give voice to the witnesses, and let the student body act as a jury. Facts are presented and sources are quoted not tendentiously but so that students can make up their own minds.

Editor-in-chief Evans Clinchy spoke to this in an editorial on Monday that discussed the *Daily*’s assiduous attempts to convey “exactly what we believe happened”. Note the use of the word “believed”, because there is always an element of interpretation involved in reporting: the preconceptions of the reporter, the various (and sometimes contradictory) versions offered by sources, and the omissions which limited page space necessitates all equivocate the final product. To the *Daily*’s credit, they held off until they were “confident that we had the whole story.”

As far as I can tell, the *Daily* strove to capture the whole story. Ben Gittleson quotes several different KSA members, allowing them to articulate both the chronology of the incident and their shocked reactions. And despite “the freshman’s” seemingly despicable actions he too is given a chance to defend himself. He receives ample room to present his perspective, although the fact that he communicated on the record with the *Daily* through a written statement suggests that he wanted to carefully control his response, rather than submit to a reporter’s direct questioning. This detracts from his credibility, though I doubt how many people buy his story; after all, it is his word against that of a group of people who were, unlike him, sober at the time.

Many of the comments on the *Daily*’s website fault the *Daily* for juxtaposing “the freshman’s” version with that of Korean students. These critics accuse the *Daily* of lending validity to an explanation—“the freshman’s”—that in their eyes is totally apocryphal. I understand that people are looking for vindication and probably a redress of grievances, but the *Daily*’s busi-

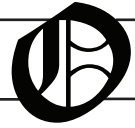
ness is not to condemn “the freshman,” no matter how evident his guilt may be to some. Journalists must remain disinterested—despite being members of the community on which they report—for otherwise they risk capitulating their status as reliable purveyors of information.

As to extending anonymity to “the freshman,” Gittleson explained to me that after carefully discussing the situation, the managing board decided to keep “the freshman” anonymous largely because the administration has yet to take any action against him. Printing “the freshman’s” name would prematurely establish his guilt and potentially expose him to the opprobrium of Tufts’ “small and insular” community, Gittleson told me.

If “the freshman” were a public figure—an administrator or an elected official like a TCU Senator—the standard would be different. By putting themselves in a position where they are fixed in the campus’ consciousness, such people agree to higher standards of accountability. Their actions merit more intense scrutiny, and their names are a matter of public record. Those are the terms of the contract they have entered into with the student body that they are committed to serving.

But “the freshman” is not a public figure, so the *Daily* must uphold his right to privacy and to a fair and thorough analysis of whether the allegations against him are true or false. If and when his identity becomes public knowledge, his reputation will probably be irredeemably damaged. For most people who read the article in the *Daily* is clearly deserving of such stigmatization. But this is for the readers to conclude. The *Daily* cannot risk printing inaccurate or false information, no matter how troubling an event is for writers on a personal level. ☉

You can read the Public Editor’s columns and respond at <http://ase.tufts.edu/publiceditor>, and you can reach the Public Editor at jeremybw1@gmail.com or at 301-807-7976.



NEWS: NO LONGER FIT TO PRINT

Although it has been a lucrative business for well over a century, the newspaper's place in our society has been almost completely superseded by television and the Internet. Circulation has been falling for decades, but it has begun to take a sharp plunge in recent years. The decline in readership is mostly generational, with only 20% of those aged 18-25 reading a daily paper. Even the largest publications, with vast international audiences, are facing serious trouble.

The New York Times Company, the parent of company of such behemoths as the *New York Times* and the *Boston Globe*, is in danger of defaulting on its large amount of debt. In a desperate attempt to raise cash, the New York Times Company has mortgaged its new New York headquarters and is looking to sell its stake in the Boston Red Sox. The company is also placing serious pressure on the *Boston Globe* to accept massive layoffs and budget cuts, threatening to close the Boston daily if its

employee unions do not accept the changes. Other large media corporations have been in similar trouble or worse — The Tribune Company, owner of 12 large newspapers including the *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Baltimore Sun* is currently in bankruptcy.

In an attempt to save money and weather the crisis, most newspapers have started online editions, and some have gone online-only. But the crisis is much deeper than a change in format. The entire business model of the traditional paper has been undermined, if not completely destroyed, by

new media. Newspaper revenues primarily come from traditional advertising, classified ads, and subscriptions. New internet companies have rendered this business model obsolete. Craigslist, for example, allows users to place classified ads for free, decimating the classified ads market. Subscriptions have plummeted, with readers moving to online editions where they expect content to be free. The drop in readership has been accompanied by a drop in print advertising,

we can access a seemingly endless amount of free information. The issue then, is not a lack of information, but the quality of that information. Good journalism requires carefully cultivating sources, conducting expansive research, and a thorough editing process. These important tools truly stand to be lost in a transition from print journalism. It takes large newsrooms with large budgets to pay for the numerous expenses that are required by every story. These budgets have

always come from traditional revenue streams, and, unless someone figures out how to make enough money from online ads, which is unlikely, modern journalism will not survive the age of free online content.

In the end, there is only one hope for traditional media—a change in the attitudes of the modern consumer. The expectation that every newspaper will put its content online for free is ludicrous, unsustainable, and destructive. The media are truly the

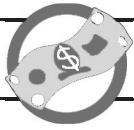
and, though online advertising has grown in recent years, newspaper companies have yet to figure out how to extract enough revenue from free online content.

Newspapers and magazines have not shied away from reporting on their own demise; countless articles have been published warning readers of the dangers of the downfall of traditional journalism. But should anyone care? Is the collapse of print journalism really a disaster? After all, the Internet is a much more efficient and easy to use way to replace traditional classifieds, and

fourth estate of democracy and an important check on our government. A well-functioning government and society demands a corps of educated, financially-supported, and credible reporters. Americans must be ready and willing to pay for online subscriptions if they don't want to see an institution built over centuries crumble before the bits of the modern age. To the survival of modern journalism, media corporations must act now to introduce online subscription models for their content, and consumers must support these efforts. ©



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The “Redistribution” Bogeyman: Why Taxing the Rich is a Moral Necessity

BY TAYLOR BATES

Flipping through channels one day, my concentration stops and is fixated on Fox News. Some blowhard congressman has the camera locked in a staring contest, and he aggressively intones a set of phrases sure to tickle his constituents: “class war,” “death tax,” and “flat tax.”

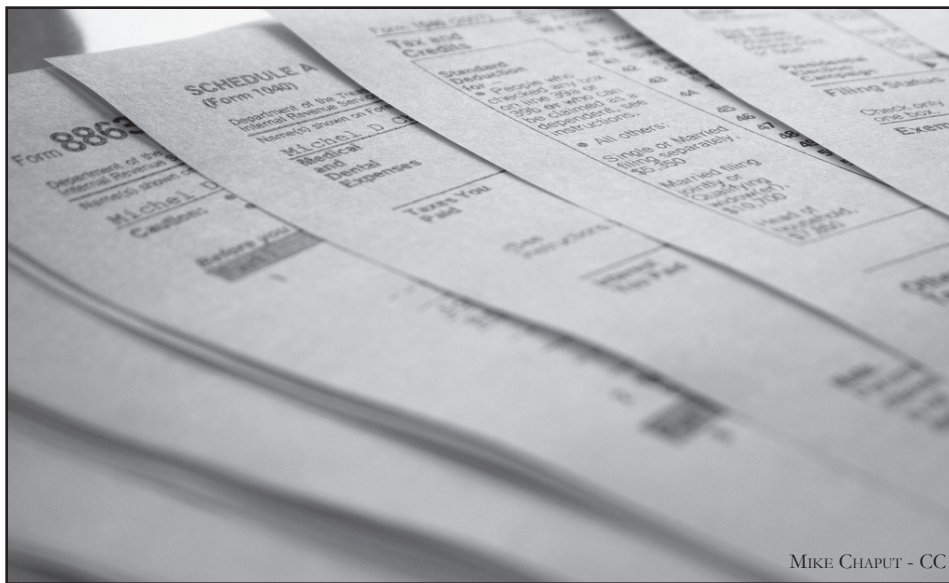
“Amen,” mumbles one of my uncles sitting nearby. This particular uncle is a lawyer from Indianapolis. “Paying my fair share as it is.”

I haven’t seen this particular uncle’s tax returns, but it’s clear that this uncle is in the top tax bracket. In America, that means paying 35% of your income every year as part of progressive taxation. Under a progressive tax, the government gradually takes more money as your income rises; under a regressive tax, the lowest earners pay a greater share of their income.

In the last days of the 2008 campaign, the Republican Party picked up on taxes as a last-ditch offensive, shifting its emphasis to “redistribution” fears about Barack Obama’s tax hikes for the rich. Their rhetoric vastly overstated the size of this tax—Obama’s plan raised the income tax on those making over \$250,000 per year, returning the top tax rates to about 39%, their place in the Clinton era. To put this in perspective, the top tax rates until 1960 were about 90%, and as late as the Reagan presidency the rich paid 50% taxes.

The opponents of such progressive taxation often point to economic efficiency to justify a flatter or even regressive tax system. To

them, taxation is a zero-sum game between efficiency and equality—there can be no increase in equality without the overall economy suffering. This is a simplistic view of economic goals. The purpose of a society is to improve the lives of its people; what is the point of economic efficiency if it doesn’t make people better off?



MIKE CHAPUT - CC

If we look at the distribution of living standards, the case for progressive taxation becomes compelling. Taxing a millionaire at 40% does not significantly harm his standard of living, but the money gained from that taxation could free dozens of people from the poverty trap of poor education, lack of healthcare, and unemployment.

There is still a reason to temper the need to redistribute—if the government taxes the rich too much, they will have less of an incentive to create wealth. While this has been a concern in classical economics, recent studies suggest that talented, highly-educated people will work the same amount under higher taxes. After Bill Clinton raised taxes on the richest Americans, their total change in output was statistically insignificant, according to Austan Goolsbee’s 2000 study in the *Journal of Political Economy*. This is because most of the income of top earners does not come from actual productivity increases, but from their ability to distort

market forces for their own benefit.

Recently, the average income in the top 1% of the population rose to over a million dollars, according to the IRS. They generally represent the executive class—the figureheads at the top of the business and financial world, with greater discretion over their own salaries.

In this level of the income distribution, the Paris School of Economics has shown that most income is comprised of “rents,” or unearned benefits accrued through leverage and status. For the very wealthy, the connection between earnings and actual productivity falls away. Without a compelling link between earnings and actual productivity, the richest members of society cannot claim a moral right to every dime of their income.

In America, wealth has become vastly unequal. The top 10% are paid vastly more than the next segment of society, the top 1% average million-dollar incomes, and the top .01% extend into the region of the gratuitously wealthy. Despite all these levels of wealth, we tax all these groups at the same rate. This robs society of a vast range of opportunities—we have millions of children unable to attend college, a crumbling infrastructure, and an addiction to fossil fuels, none of which can be addressed by the private sector alone. Because of the pressing need to solve these problems while maintaining widespread prosperity, it’s time we realized that a dollar invested in our materialistic desires of a Porsche or a flat screen TV counts less than a dollar invested toward fighting society’s challenges. ☐

Taylor Bates is a freshman who has not yet declared a major.









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1900/1910



A Financial Fiasco: Reevaluating Need-Blind Admissions

BY ELIZA MILLS

Whenever someone uses the term “need-blind,” I picture a horse drawn carriage pulled by a huge Clydesdale wearing blinders. The people in the carriage are college applicants, being pulled steadily towards their destination by someone who can’t see them. When I applied to college, I assumed (sometimes wrongly) that schools were need-blind. How could any school deny admission based on financial need? Endowments are huge; it would be unjust.

Now that I’m settled at Tufts, I realize that the endowment is actually not an infinite resource, and, while it would certainly be ideal to have need-blind admissions policies and cover everything, it’s not possible in our failing economy. This means that Tufts has to compromise, to prioritize; should we be more concerned with keeping up need-blind admissions or with meeting current students’ financial aid requirements?

The students at Tufts are what make it such an amazing place; people with incredibly diverse interests and a common passion

for learning have come together to create a thriving community. If certain members of our community were forced to leave because of increased financial burden, Tufts wouldn’t be the same. The economic turmoil our country is dealing with has already jeopardized students’ ability to enroll in the university. Current students shouldn’t worry about having to suffer a decrease in financial aid; we’re already here and being given a significantly larger bill would, at the least, cause major stress and, at the worst, cause displacement.

If maintaining current students’ financial aid needs means putting an end to need-blind admission, it’s a necessary move. Tufts guarantees to meet the needs of its students financially. Accepting students whose needs could not be met would be problematic. If admitted students were left with an unmanageable bill, current students would be impacted in the attempt to pay it.

The admissions office is dedicated to meeting the same standards it always has, and the change from the need-blind policy doesn’t mean that they’re not letting in students with financial need. In fact, the admissions process this year was mostly need-blind;

only 5% of applications were considered on a financial level. The officers who read students’ applications read them need-blind before they crunched the numbers, meaning that in the actual reading of the application, the admissions office was blind to any need. While a drastic change in admissions policy might be detrimental and entirely unfair, this mild shift seems like a small price to pay for keeping current students enrolled.

The current economy has everyone concerned for the financial future, and, thus far, Tufts has done everything it can to keep students from feeling the impact of economic downfall. Next year, financial aid for current students will be increased by 12%; the university is making every attempt to accommodate students’ needs. While it is definitely hard to deny acceptance based on money, it would be unrealistic to think that Tufts could cover everyone in a rough economy. It’s more important to fully take care of current students than to partially meet everyone’s need. ☺

Eliza Mills is a freshman who has not yet declared a major.



CAMPBELL KLIEFOTH



THE *LOJICAL* DECISION?

TCU'S VERDICT TO GIVE RECOVERED FUNDS TO THE LOJ

BY MADELINE CHRISTENSEN

Nestled amongst the pines of Woodstock, New Hampshire, sits a small cabin. Inside is a kitchen, well-stocked with ingredients for nachos and trail mix, a common area with couches, armchairs, and a wildly out-of-tune piano stashed with Beatles music, several rooms with hand-made bunk beds, two bathrooms, and a library with a few shelves of random college textbooks, tales of survival, and romance paperbacks creased to open at horrendously-written love sequences.

This building is the Tufts Loj. A two-hour car ride away from campus, the university-owned building is technically classified as a dorm. It is perhaps one of the many unique quirks of the Tufts campus. And in recent weeks, the TCU Senate-approved addition of a \$230,000 Trips Cabin to be built next to the Loj has been a source of hot contention amongst the student body.

The attitude of Senate changed drastically from last fall to this spring, when it finally approved the project. "In the fall, it was voted down almost immediately because we thought no one wanted it; we thought it wouldn't benefit enough people," said Joel Greenberg, also a Freshman Senator of this year. But the persistence and organization of Tufts Mountain Club, along with their willingness to negotiate, persuaded Senate to vote 20 to 5 in favor of the Trips Cabin. "The difference from fall to spring is that we sat down and talked to these people, and they were more than willing to talk to us. And . . . it's been on the table for a long time. Mountain Club has been the only group that has been able to come up with a proposal."

When TCU received \$714,000 in recovered funds, they reviewed and addressed the proposals of student groups as well as broader suggestions on how to spend the money. "Basically, when we were deciding what to spend the recovered funds on, there were a certain amount of



projects that came forward. We were able to do most of them, except for the Loj, and when we had the Loj before us, we had enough money to pay for it, and we had nothing else that had really come forward over the past year," explained Aaron Bartel, who served as a Freshman Senator this year.

Yet despite the lack of organized opposition to the Trips Cabin project before the vote, many students have expressed discontent with the Senate decision, arguing that the Trips Cabin would benefit too few students for the money to be justified.

Freshman Elliott McCarthy was one of the five senators who voted down the Trips Cabin decision. McCarthy said that many of the students that he had encountered after the decision did not feel that the Loj would be something that they could, or necessarily would want to, use in the future. "They [TMC] made the case that the Loj is accessible to everyone, which in my opinion is where opinions diverge," he said.

TMC President Katie Bond argued that the Trips Cabin was needed in large part due to the increasing popularity of the Loj and that the new add-on would give

TMC the opportunity to publicize the Loj and reach out to more students. "Something that we negotiated with the Senate as we were working towards approving this is that we're going to do a lot more to bring more people up to the Loj," she said. "We had a waitlist of seven groups just this semester . . . and we just didn't have the space for them. So . . . maybe we can have two groups up a weekend now . . . we can do a lot more outreach."

Biology Professor George Ellmore, who coordinates the Wilderness Program, commented upon the value that trips like the ones the Mountain Club offers students might have. "The appeal to being outdoors is often one of self-reliance," said Ellmore. "When you're going into Boston, you start seeing all these wonderful things that you could want . . . And now that you know they exist, they start manufacturing want and desire in your head . . . Whereas being outside sort of purifies us and makes us recognize how very little material things we need and really what strengthens our life and our experiences is what we carry with ourselves almost spiritually."

As part of negotiations, TMC and

Senate have been in dialogue about potential ways to make the Loj more accessible and more attractive to students. “We might try to get the Loj on JumboCash. We might be trying to do some special themed weekends to really get a lot of members of the Tufts community out there,” said Bond.

Though some students may feel that they need a Mountain Club “in” to go to the Loj without a student group, Bond insisted that TMC was open to everyone. “Our club leads trips for all experience levels. And that’s—I think—one of the best ways to get into the social aspect if you don’t know anyone . . . You’re gonna make friends with your trip leader, with the other people on there, you’re gonna bond over whatever crazy thing you end up doing,” she said.

McCarthy remained skeptical about general student interest in the Loj. “No matter how hard you campaign, no matter how hard you advertise something, if somebody just really doesn’t wanna go, they’re not gonna go,” he said. “And that was sort of the vibe that I got from a lot of people, was that, ‘Yeah, it’s there, but I just don’t want to use it.’”

“I still think that we need to dedicate ourselves to improving life for everybody on campus, not just the people who wish to or can get out to certain places,” he said.

Brian Gilling, a sophomore who had also been instrumental in the campaign for the Loj, stressed that the addition of the Trips Cabin was not simply an issue of com-

fort but of safety. “It sleeps 26 legally, most weekends are maybe 46 people,” explained Gilling. “It’s not a huge deal . . . But there are weekends when there are 80 plus people at the Loj.

And there are people sleeping in the most absurd places . . . Yeah, it’s uncomfortable to have to sleep on a wood floor. But it’s unsafe to have to sleep two feet away from a wood-burning stove.”

Bond said that the Loj offers students a unique experience as well as a respite from the grind of campus life. “We don’t allow hard alcohol there, and it’s great . . . to go with some friends and just not even have to worry about the option of like, ‘Oh, are we just gonna get smashed tonight and do something stupid.’ We’re gonna like maybe have a nice beer or two, but we’re definitely gonna goof around and do something fun and relax. And it’s much different than the Tufts atmosphere in almost every way you



can imagine,” she said.

Bond said that TCU achieved their goal of funding a lasting cause for the University with the Trips Cabin. “The recovered funds represents an opportunity to do something great that’s gonna be around forever. And I’m glad the Senate decided not to blow it all on small things and decided to make a lasting distance for the university,” she said.

McCarthy disagreed. “Longevity is certainly an argument to make . . . but it doesn’t matter how many generations you affect if it doesn’t touch that many people to begin with,” he said.

How many students will use the Trips Cabin may currently be impossible to tell. “We took a risk,” said Greenberg. “The student body wasn’t pleased initially . . . We won’t know [if] it’s a mistake for probably a few years.”

The Trips Cabin has the potential to positively impact the Tufts community for generations. To do so, the Loj may well have to become much more accessible and visible to students. Whether the Trips Cabin is fated to become a place for a small niche of the Tufts student body or a popular retreat from the stresses of campus life remains to be seen. ☺

ALL PHOTOS ISAAC FREEMAN



Regular attendees enjoy a weekend at the Loj



EXPLORING THE URBAN JUNGLE

BY MIKE SNYDER

Every April, Masters students from the Museum School of Fine Arts exhibit their artwork at the Tufts University Arts Gallery. This year's batch of MFA candidates continues to express their postmodern creativity and push the limits of what is art. Ursula Ziegler and Lana Citowsky, in particular, are two artists whose Masters theses explore unconventional environmental themes. Their works will be on display at the Aidekman Arts Center until April 26.

"GUIDED CITY HIKES"

Among the nine artists featured at the Art Gallery is Ursula Ziegler, who has created installation/performance art that is sure to tire you out—in a good way. Her interactive piece, titled "Guided City Hikes," is actually a series of walking tours that take her and up to five other people from the Museum School in Boston all the way to the Tufts Medford/Somerville campus. Instead of a traditional outdoor or wilderness hike, Ziegler's ver-



COURTESY OF URSULA ZIEGLER

sion explores the urban jungle of greater Boston. Her routes span industrial waste sites, parks, and shopping malls in order to "transplant wilderness behavior into an urban context."

Although Ziegler's hikes seem more in line with Tufts Wilderness—they last over seven hours each and require hiking poles, waterproof gear for rowing across

the Charles, and backpacks—she explores serious themes about being aware of one's spatial environment and the role of walking in our daily lives. "Walking brings me to a very balanced level of being," Ziegler explained, "And I encourage that in other people." Along the way, she questions under what circumstances people choose to walk, whether for physical and mental

SOMALI PIRATES!

Oops. Just another corporate media construct to guise moral transgression on the part of the Global Corporate apparatus.

Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, the UN envoy for Somalia, confirmed to *Al Jazeera* that "reliable information" exists confirming that European and Asian companies have been dumping toxic waste, including that of the nuclear variety, off the Somali coastline since circa 1990. The coastal waters had, until recently, been an economic staple and an important food source.

It is known that the pirates are not engaging in their illegal hijackings with any humanitarian goals, and it seems obvious that engaging in piracy will not solve the issue. However, the keen of intellect may be able to perceive the

link between piracy for cash, and the environmental injustice that has left them bereft of a traditional means of putting food on the table.

The self-professedly keen of intellect may identify conventional stories of the piracy as being resultant from Somalia's teetering upon failed statehood. This is undoubtedly part of the story. But after twenty years of ignored outcries concerning this transgression, perhaps the Somalis should be cut some slack in proportion to the extent that the global corporate regime has crippled their ability to feed themselves. ☪

health, pilgrimage walking, meditative walking, walking from point A to B because the bus or the T breaks down, or walking for walking's sake.

After a full day, Ziegler and her companions conclude their hike at the Tufts University Art Gallery, where she has created four separate objects that serve as the installation portion of her work—a table, a tree, a rock, and a pool of water.

According to Greek mythology, these four items together constitute a natural meet-up point (or “site”) because of access to water, shelter, and community; however, this tree is made out of fur and the pool is no more than a large cooler of bottled water. A clever play on wilderness versus manmade elements, these objects serve to “transform the familiar into the unfamiliar” and “reframe habitual routines.” To be sure, Ziegler’s artwork is anything but routine.

“VISUAL LITERACY”

“Beat around the bush” is an English phrase whose meaning is widely understood all over the United States. But would people understand if somebody actually grabbed a stick and started to beat the ground around a bush? Lana Citowsky, another MFA candidate at the Museum School, explores this strange incongruity in her installation piece titled “Visual Literary.” A smart yet humorous work, “Visual Literary” involves a series of plasma television screens, each of which play a short movie depicting a different idiom. Ever wondered what it looks like to “Go out on a limb” or “Jump to conclusions?” Citowsky visually expresses these and other phrases on the TV screen *literally*, a process she describes as “giving concrete form to idiomatic phrases” in order to “enlarge language and personalize the sublime.”

That’s because each short movie is

shot outdoors in a variety of settings, each uniquely chosen to evoke a particular mood (for “Beating around the bush,” think desert and creosote). The emphasis on nature and beauty gives these seemingly mundane, illogical behaviors an almost reverential quality.

She also delves into her native language, Russian: a TV displaying an image of two wobbly (yet environmentally friendly) wind turbines corresponds to the Russian idiom “Tilt around the windmills.” This clever touch adds multiple layers of meaning and also casts the idea of visual literary (and illiteracy) into a new light. Ultimately, Citowsky experiments with the nuance of language and turns colloquial phrases into an ironic and meditative “natural” art form. ☺

Michael Snyder is a senior majoring in American Studies

FOX NEWS SAY:

Watch out for grass smoking web trolls!*

* “Internet” or “web trolls” are nefarious participants in online forums who find malicious delight in posting erroneous, inflammatory comments that sow unnecessary controversy and divert from meaningful dialogue. After President Obama was inundated by questions concerning cannabis for one of his internet “town hall” meetings, Fox News stated that a most loathsome event had occurred: “a plague of Internet ‘trolls.’” However, this is incorrect. It would seem that said “trolls” actually do desire meaningful dialogue—about marijuana.





The Elephant's Fear of Speaking Up: What Discrimination Says About Us

BY CRYSTAL BUI

There's a widely known myth that elephants are afraid of mice. Mythbusters, a program on the Discovery Channel, ran an experiment to test this theory. It seems when an elephant is confronted by the movement of a small rodent, it does, in fact retreat to avoid confrontation. But why would a big animal fear such a small one? As the Mythbusters detectives prove, this reaction seems logical, or at least plausible, given the vast list of phobias that humans have developed over the centuries. When it comes to the Tufts community, it seems that mice are not the only things we Jumbos fear. Take any issue regard-

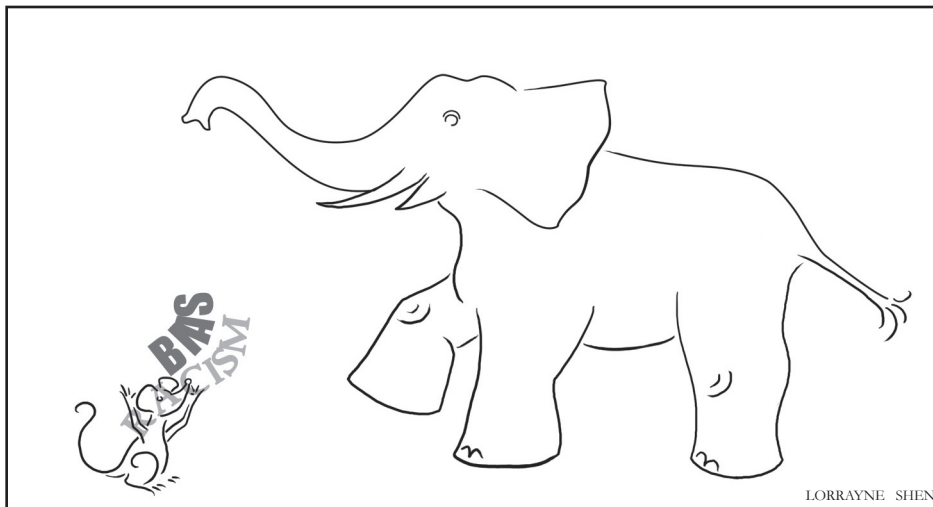
Pub," report a homophobic altercation that occurred on the bus to Tufts' senior pub night. This incident involved one male stating to another, "Calm down you faggot!" Although the disagreement occurred on a crowded bus, there was no mention of any individual speaking up or disagreeing with the student's blatant discrimination. It stands to reason then that the rest of the bus that sat uncomfortably, while simmering in their self-imposed silence, were unable to muster up the confidence and protest the hateful words spoken.

If "Prejudice at the Pub" was not enough to alarm the student body, I can only hope that this latest incident that occurred early morning on April 9th in

the incident apparently involved "a physical altercation and racial epithets among students," which brings to question the events that transpired, why no one did anything to stop it, and how we should now proceed.

From the conjecture that is now surfacing through websites, e-mails, and various student groups aimed to stop discrimination, it seems that the confrontation in question was directed toward members of Tufts' Korean Students Association (KSA). The rumor is that the suspect in question, a white freshman male living in Lewis Hall, approached members of KSA practicing their dance. He allegedly insisted several times that the KSA members teach him the moves to their dance. When KSA supposedly asked to be left alone, the situation allegedly evolved to the freshman stating, "This is the gayest shit I've ever done." There is also speculation that the freshman began to physically harass the dancers, also spitting at one member. As the situation escalated, the freshman allegedly shouted, "Fuck you all, you fucking chinks, go back to China! Go back to your fucking country. You don't belong in this country." The altercation was later mitigated by the freshman's friend and his girlfriend, who supposedly watched from the side and then finally stepped in to pull him away. While not all parts of this event have been confirmed due to the university's ongoing investigation, enough information has surfaced that the student body should react with a sense of outrage and not let an incident like this fade from memory.

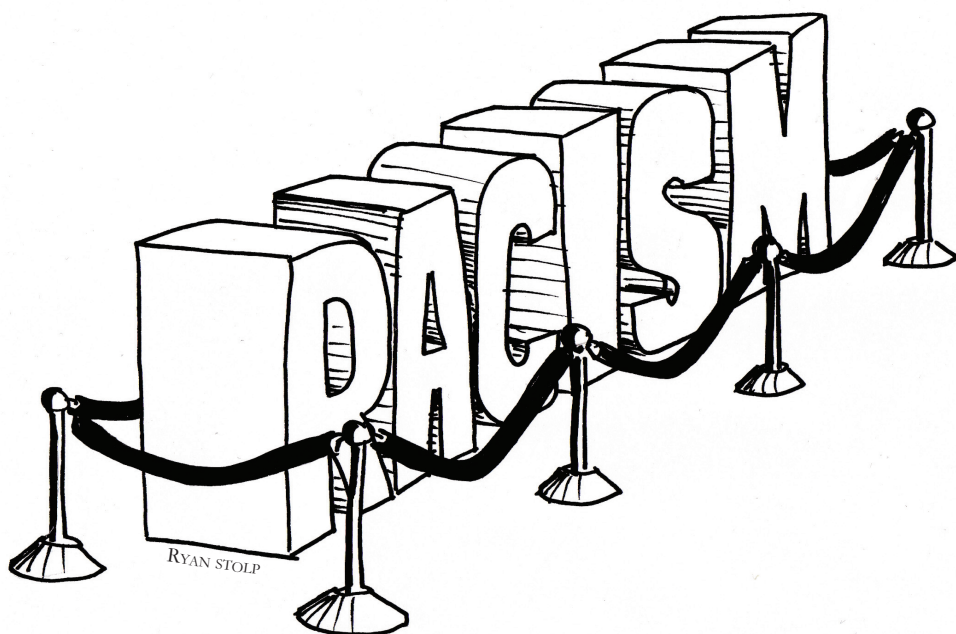
We know enough to corroborate that a specific minority group at Tufts was the target of racial epithets. From look-



ing homophobia, sexism, or racism and like the elephant, we are afraid of getting involved or actively speaking out in order to prevent hate-crimes on campus.

Just last month Tyler Bugdon wrote an opinion piece in the March 6 issue of the Observer, titled "Prejudice at the

one of the residence halls on campus, is enough to incite some sort of reaction by the student body and by the administration regarding consequences for such deliberate discrimination. An official e-mail sent out to the student body from Bruce Reitman, Dean of Students, stated



ing at the alleged dialogue, it seems that not only was race discriminated against, but also the sexuality of the dancers were scrutinized and, thus, victimized.

So here, we have an altercation in the middle of Lewis Hall. And, despite the fact that the building houses students in pursuit of the intellectually-diverse and “open-minded” liberal arts education, no passersby, no onlookers, no eavesdroppers dared to say or do anything. Not even a “Hey man, that’s not cool, leave them alone” was spoken. So the students coming in and out of the building glanced over, saw some of the alleged events take place, and continued on their way back to their dorm rooms, and their own lives. The next morning, the same students in the vicinity of the alleged event, casually discussed what happened with their friends in dining halls. Their stories are met with an “Oh, that’s terrible” and then, later, “Oh well.”

It should not take an event like this to awaken us to harsh reality of discrimination.

This is how it begins. The everyday phrases: *That’s so gay. Stop being a pussy. That’s so Jewish. You’re so Asian.* We live in a culture that perpetuates hate through the many incidents of “casual” discrimination we confront on a daily basis. Yet, by listening and remaining silent, we do nothing to stop prejudice from occurring. By failing to denounce these incidents,

we implicitly encourage their happenings by default. These sayings leak through our peers’ mouths everyday, with (not so subtle) prejudicial and racial undertones, yet, we are too uncomfortable to speak up and speak out against the insidious destruction. Together, in our silence and compliancy, we create an environment where it is acceptable to discriminate without second thought. Whether the discrimination is against people that are of a difference race, gender, or sexuality, it simply isn’t being dealt with. It is then too late when we begin to feel the sense of guilt. So we join Facebook groups; we sign petitions—anything that’s indirect and passive-aggressive—attempting to show “how much we care.” There is nothing inherently homosexual, female, or Asian, about any situation—yet we still allow others to make those remarks and assumptions. In the alleged altercation on April 9th, it is claimed by other students that groups of people traveled in and out of the building during this time, though no one said a single thing to dissuade the discrimination. Just like the way no one said anything, aside from those involved, during the altercation last month on the bus to senior pub night. By acting like cowardly elephants when faced with the “race, sexuality, and gender” mouse, we allow people like this freshman to promulgate the idea of discrimination instead of readily squashing

it. Rather than confront the issue, we make a mad dash to rush away.

What then, is the point of our “well-rounded” liberal art instruction that we receive at Tufts if that all goes to waste the instant we are given the opportunity to apply our studies to real-life situations? Sure, we immerse ourselves into our textbooks, memorize different dialects, understand the causes for civil disobedience, and produce a paper that explores “active” citizenship. But when the situation arises where we are asked to take what we learned and turn it into action, we revert, becoming passive and utterly afraid.

I hope that this situation reaches some kind of resolution at Tufts where those once discriminated against feel comfortable again in their educational environment and those who discriminate no longer see their actions as acceptable. I hope that the administration acts after a thorough investigation that shows the consequences that result when hate crimes occur. After all, if, at Tufts, a person is subjected to expulsion hearings or be at risk for suspension due to violations such as plagiarizing, then I would hope that the administration sees that an offense which targeted and aimed to hurt a specific group of people should be dealt with in the same way, if not more severely. I hope that the freshman in question sees his wrongdoings and at least understand the importance of issuing an apology, both to the KSA members and to the general Tufts community—so that we can maybe use this as a teachable moment to discuss the harms of intolerance. At a certain point, we need to realize that if we don’t attempt to stop prejudice the cycle will only continue. Discrimination will escalate from race to gender, to sexuality, to a person’s height, to a person’s weight, to a person’s economic status.

This is not the first time discrimination has occurred on campus. If we fail to take action and play terrified elephant when faced with a mouse, then it surely will not be the last. ☹

Crystal Bui is a freshman who has not yet declared a major.



TUFTS CULINARY SOCIETY: FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Unveiling the College Kid's Palate: A Guide to The Best Eateries Around Tufts

BY STEPHANIE CHIN AND
MELISSA LEE

When we first set foot on the bill with our empty stomachs, Devick-MacPhie Dining Hall seemed to be the new Magic Kingdom of food. You could get a whopping supply of ice cream (viz. Sundae Sunday nights) and wash it down with fries and chicken parm. Even Carmichael makes you feel unique on one of their specialty nights, whether that be Stir-Fry Night or Fondue Night. But in some way over your college career, you've probably found even the constant supply of pizza to be limiting. Fear not; good food on that other nearby planet called "off-campus" isn't as far as it seems. Your unlimited meal plan will no longer feel like a lifeline once you hit the jackpot around Davis, Porter and Harvard Squares. Now who wants to be a millionaire?

BRUNCH

Renee's Café, 198 Holland St, Somerville

Relatively unnoticed on the corner between Teele and Davis Squares, Renee's seems to take a backseat to the more popular brunch places like Sound Bites and The Broken Yolk. If Sound Bites is too crowded for you, don't fret; Renee's is very similar in menu. Note: their home fries are actually pan-fried goodness, not the Sound Bites concoction of mashed potatoes. Psh. Having equally good options for both the sweet and savory breakfast-goer, Renee's is known for their special Ham Apple n' Brie Omelet and their Sunday specials (Crab Cakes Eggs Benny!) When you go, don't be shy about picking your favorite table because no one will seat you. Like most other places for brunch on Sunday, don't get there late. Doors close at the owner's whim (think 1pm!)

LUNCH

Dave's Fresh Pasta, 81 Holland St, Somerville

Ah, the smells of fresh homemade Italian pasta, spicy cured meats and mozzarella that would make Polly-O run for cover. Dave is all about the small-town pride. Come to Dave's for any of the great specialty sandwiches, our recommendation being the Avocado BLT, but get it to go considering all of the renovation renders seating nonexistent. It's justifiable considering the shop has recently given birth to a wine shop, where regular tastings are held. Enjoy the free samples lying around, from the homemade cheeses to the hot peppers by the register (ow ow!). And talk to Dave 'cause he's a cool guy – a cool guy who fancies donating a delicious Crostini platter to a Tufts club with no food budget, fyi.

DINNER

Mr. Bartley's Gourmet Burgers, 1246 Mass Ave, Cambridge

Better known as Bartley's, this busy restaurant is a venerable Boston landmark serving some of the best burgers and frappes around. The burger menu rotates frequently to keep up with current events. You can show off your Red Sox pride with the Dice K ("worth every penny"), which has garlic, teriyaki, and coleslaw; or celebrate the end of an era with the George Bush ("don't blame me, I'm retired"), a double cheddar barbecue burger with sweet potato fries. Most of the burgers are under \$10. You can also get soups, salads, sandwiches, and other

comfort-food dinners like macaroni and cheese. No Bartley's meal would be complete without one of their famous frappes. Try the mocha with York Peppermint Patty.

DATE RESTAURANT

Rialto, 1 Bennett Street, Cambridge

Want some romance, eclectic Italian fare, and not a long commute? Take your V.I.P. to Rialto in The Charles Hotel in Harvard Square and ask for the champagne room. Foodies stick up their noses and say Rialto is a stuffy place to bring your Grandma or some big-shot politician. While this is partly true, the exceptionally wonderful



staff will decorate your table to be fit for any occasion. The ambiance is great, and the food is even better. Bless renowned Chef Jody Adams for her travels through the Ital-



ALL PHOTOS STEPHANIE CHIN AND MELISSA LEE



ian countryside and for constantly updating her menu to highlight the food secrets of each region. For the best value, try the Pre-Fixe Dinner, which is usually a three-course deal for \$40.

SUSHI BAR

Snappy Sushi, 420 Highland Ave, Somerville

Did you know that one cup of white sushi rice has about 700 calories? Eek! Fortunately, Snappy Sushi eases your carb woes since their sushi is made with brown

rice. Eat guilt-free and enjoy not only the touch of brown rice, but go for a Fancy Roll. No, a simple Spicy Tuna won't do here. The best thing to try is the Tuna Gone Wild Roll, six decadent bites of white tuna, topped with black fish roe and a miso sauce infused with lettuce and avocado. This roll will convince any naysayer to commit to this Japanese staple. If you feel like sushi take-out, go to www.diningin.com for pain-free delivery.

PIZZA

Pini's Pizzeria, 511 Broadway, Somerville

An obscene number of pizza places surround Tufts, and since half of them are on MOPS, you make think you've tried them all. But please, PLEASE stay away from Domino's and try a lesser-known gem like Pini's. (Secret: Pini's is where all the Dowling Hall folks order pizza when they have parties.) They have lots of specials of campusfood.com and a wide assortment of gourmet flavors, such as bacon double cheeseburger, ranch chicken and bacon, and two varieties of white pizza.

DESSERT

Lyndell's Bakery, 720 Broadway, Somerville

Here's another secret: the Dowling Hall party-throwers get all of their desserts from here. This bakery has stayed alive since 1887 for good reason. The carefully swirled pastel cupcakes are cute and simple. The specialty cakes have elaborate decorations. The cake is not too dry, and the frosting is not too sweet. Lyndell's has struck the perfect balance between light and rich.

CAFÉ

Café Zing at Porter Square Books, Porter Square Shopping Center, 25 White Street, Cambridge

This café is more fun than places like Diesel because you can read books with your coffee without having to endure Starbucks and Barnes & Noble. The drinks are all Equal Exchange (fair trade), and they have some vegan pastries in addition to

the regular assortment. The hot and iced coffees are both good bets, but stay away from the Thai iced tea. (In fact, do not ever get Thai iced tea from any place but a Thai restaurant.) The staff is knowledgeable and accommodating, and they have a frequent-customer program that they track in the register with just your name (no little cards to stamp and lose and no forms asking for your life history).

BUBBLE TEA

Tapicha, 1815 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge

Don't know what bubble tea is yet? Shame on you. This Taiwanese drink is either a cold or hot tea prepared with chewy tapioca balls ("boba") or coconut jelly that is both fun to eat and delicious. Most Jumbos seek out the popular Boston T Stop in Harvard, which is usually crowded with Harvard geeks playing Monopoly. We say cut your T ride short to the Porter Exchange Mall, and go to Tapicha, which was founded by Tufts students. This teeny tiny Bubble Tea stand has an impressive flavor list, all run by a one-woman show. The boba is much softer here, and the flavors are anywhere from traditional (vanilla, zzz...), to the exotic (Apple Pie). Our pick? Try the ginger for a little zest, but remember that this flavor only comes hot.

DRINKS

Orleans, 65 Holland Street, Davis Square, Somerville

Classier than Joshua Tree or Sagra, this restaurant still packs a good Tufts crowd on Thirsty Thursdays. They know how to keep the party going with trivia on Wednesdays, live acoustic music on Thursdays and Fridays, a DJ on Saturdays, and RockBand Sundays. Beware that the bar service is slowww, but at least your drink will be good. Try something sophisticated like a Grey Goose on the rocks. ☺

This is the third installment in a mini-series from the Tufts Culinary Society, "Food for Thought" which will explore the bonds between food and culture.



Subject: Comment on Weed
From: Reginald Hubbard <reggiehubbard@gmail.com>
To: Lawrence S. Bacow <bacow@tufts.edu>

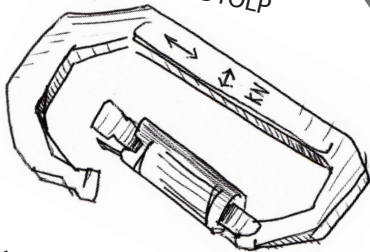
President Bacow,

I am writing a column for the Observer about the marijuana market on this campus. I have interviewed many students who use and sell marijuana and other drugs here and I would like to balance that with comments from the administration. I am especially interested in your response considering your recent support of the Amethyst Initiative. A serious and honest response on marijuana is something seldom seen from people in powerful positions like yours. I, along with the 500+ regular smokers here, would be appreciative of a candid response on an issue that turns all of us into law-breakers and our friends and classmates who provide marijuana to the campus into criminals.

Thank you,
Reggie Hubbard

NAL GENES AND NORTH FACES

BY RYAN STOLP



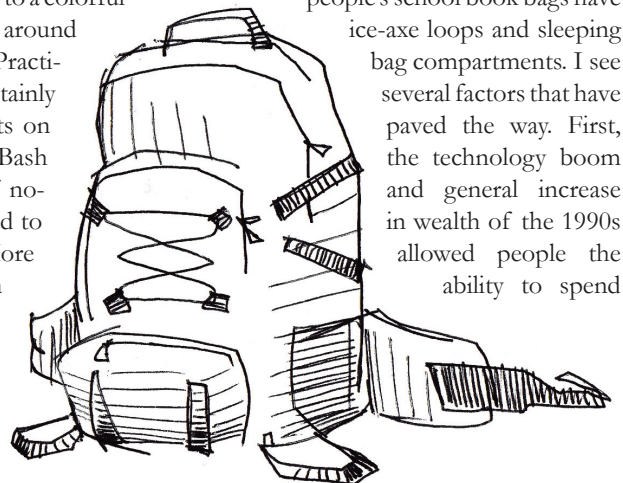
I love camping. It appeals to both my love of the outdoors and my inner tech junkie. So you can only imagine how thrilled I was to get a job in 2005 working at the Great Outdoor Provision Co., a local camping chain in North Carolina. It never really felt like work because I was essentially getting paid to shop. I could try on backpacks, test out stoves and boots, play with the climbing gear, and occasionally get some free stuff. I really enjoyed offering my input to the people who walked through our doors because I felt that I could help them find a product that would work with their camping needs.

In the last four years however, it seems that camping products are not just for

camp-ers anymore. I learned this working my first holiday season when parents and grandparents and kids would come in on a mission for a very specific gift. They'd say "Where are your North Faces?" This seemed an odd question to me—The North Face™ makes everything from tents to sleeping bags to backpacks and clothes. Of course, they always meant they wanted the Denali fleece. I'm sure if someone asked you if you had seen his North Face, you would know immediately that he was referring to a colorful fleece jacket with nylon sewn around the upper torso and elbows. Practically everyone has one (I certainly saw more than a couple posts on TuftsLife.com after Winter Bash for lost North Faces). Out of nowhere, it seemed everyone had to have *the* North Face fleece. More recently it has been Mountain Hardware's™ Monkey Man and Monkey Woman jacket, the one that makes you look like a fuzzy teddy bear (they're great if you like to get hugs).

A salesman, I always tried to provide objective information and personal experience to the customer when making a pitch for a product. To be honest, many people didn't need a North Face or a Monkey Man. They'd replace their all-around winter jacket with a North Face (which is neither water proof nor wind proof), or they'd insist on a Monkey Man, despite the fact that it is intended as a mid layer—anyone who owns one will tell you that the wind comes through it without fail. For more than a few people the price of the North Face jackets was a reach but rarely prohibited them from a purchase (they retail for about \$175.00). Again, being a person who thinks every situation calls for a specific piece of gear, I ask myself why?

In the last, say ten years, there seems to be a trend that has made camping apparel and equipment, well, trendy. Everyone knows about Smart Wool socks, you're not cool if you don't own a North Face, and people's school book bags have ice-axe loops and sleeping bag compartments. I see several factors that have paved the way. First, the technology boom and general increase in wealth of the 1990s allowed people the ability to spend



more and made previously prohibitively expensive equipment and clothing more attainable (at least previously). Secondly, a force that I will call The iPod Factor, for lack of a better term, seems to have drastically changed people's expectations when it comes to consumer products. We now expect things to be customizable and tailored to our body, as well as to serve more purposes (the iPod can browse the web, keep your calendar, play games, and, oh yeah, play music occasionally). We buy only the songs we like online and we like

our book bags to have compression straps for when we don't have to carry three textbooks to class. Furthermore, and more recently, there is the environmental trend, which encompasses both a consciousness for the natural environment, as well as the behavioral changes associated with energy conservation and resource scarcity. People buy North Face jackets for several reasons then. They can make them warmer or cooler by adjusting the pit-zips, those handy zippers under the arms that let the breeze in and the musk out. They also buy them because they want to buy a product that will last a long time (camping equipment is designed to be durable when you're on top of a mountain and depending on it for survival) and save them money in the long run. Finally, they buy North Face jackets because when they wear them, they will perhaps *look* like they go camping and have an appreciation for the outdoors. The recent environmental movement single-handedly made almost everything in Great Outdoor Provision Company's inventory cool. Think about Nalgene™ and Sigg™ bottles. They are for more than just campers now as people try to reduce their waste by using a reusable bottle that is synonymous with the camping image (or else they'd simply reuse a Gatorade bottle).



Subject: Re: Comment on Weed
From: Lawrence S. Bacow <bacow@tufts.edu>
To: Reginald Hubbard <reggiehubbard@gmail.com>

Reggie,

As a result of this influx of "cool," companies have changed how they market and even design products. Patagonia, an industry leader, has recently been making more and more urban clothes, and their newly-released line of shoes has more dress shoes than hiking shoes. Patagonia's website describes their Classic Retro-X Jacket as ideal for "chilly morning surf checks, dirtbagging in Peru, around town and at the farmers market." Companies like Patagonia and The North Face, among others, have also been rapidly re-releasing retro styles, such as the Retro-X Jacket and even the North Face Denali (it was originally released sometime in the '70s). It seems that outdoor companies have been capitalizing on a newfound brand image, that is, camping equipment = environmentalism.

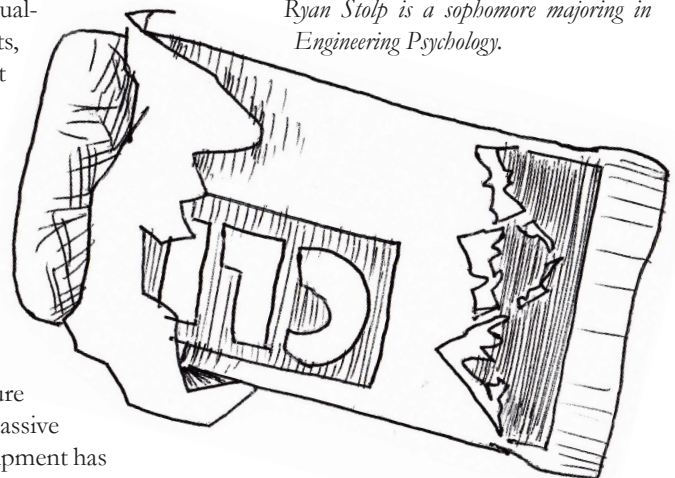
As camping equipment has become more mainstream, it has obviously had an effect on fashion. People are starting to recognize the high quality brands and the products, and an Arc'teryx™ jacket begins to seem comparable to a pair of designer jeans. As the industry changes there will be companies that cater to their more fashion-oriented consumers, and there will be those that remain strictly idealistic and true to their adventure roots. As much as the massive popularity of camping equipment has changed the elitist image of outdoor adven-

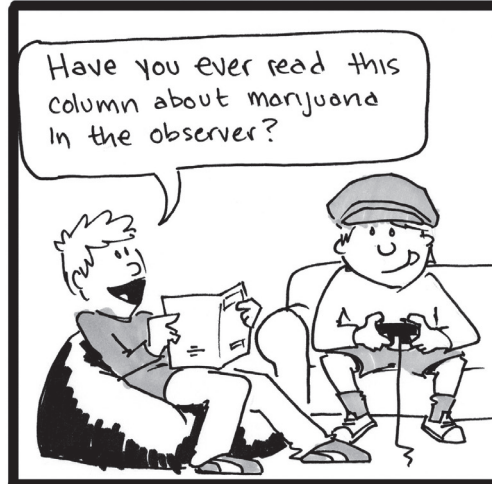
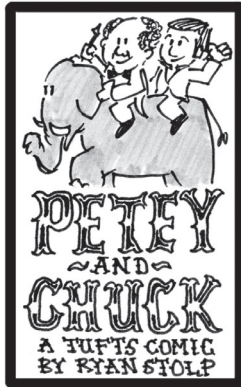
I went off to college in 1969. Marijuana was used heavily by many of my classmates (not me). There are some who have romanticized that era. Not I. I recall too many of my classmates who went through college in a drug-induced haze and candidly never recovered from it. They missed out on so much. I would hope that this generation would learn from our mistakes and not just repeat them.

Larry Bacow

ture sports, there will always be athletes and enthusiasts who demand quality gear, just as there will be companies that provide a quality product. For this reason, the outdoor industry is and should continue to be a very steady and healthy face in the fashion world, especially considering the current economic climate. Also, ice axe loops on your book bag look badass in Spanish class. ☺

Ryan Stolp is a sophomore majoring in Engineering Psychology.





BAC/ Tufts 2009 Solar Decathlon

The Boston Architectural College (BAC) and Tufts University have joined forces as Team Boston to compete in the 2009 Solar Decathlon. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratories (NREL) sponsor this biannual international competition. Over the course of two years, each team designs and builds a fully operational, energy-efficient, and marketable 800 sq. ft. home that is entirely solar-powered. Our home will be built on Tufts campus, and then showcased to the public on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. in October 2009.

EARTH DAY

April 22nd 11am-2pm. Starting in Sophia Gordon Hall with speakers Bill Moomaw (Fletcher School), Mayor McGlynn (Medford), and Jeff Stein (BAC)

Not around on Earth Day but want to get involved this semester? Will you be around this summer and want to learn how to build a to-be-famous zero energy house? Contact colin.booth@mac.com



THE FOOL

AN ILLUMINATING TRIP TO A BOSTON CLAIRVOYANT

BY CRYSTAL BUI

When faced with tough situations, emotional crises, or times of uncertainty, I've noticed people have different ways of handling life's setbacks. Some make lists of pros and cons. Others vent to their friends, looking for advice. Me? I decide that something more drastic and more severe, would be suitable for these circumstances. It was with this irrational logic that I found myself trekking toward The Original Tremont Tearoom, home to Boston's (in)famous psychics.

The Original Tremont Tearoom, located off the Park Street stop on the Red Line, is easily accessible with a 20-minute ride from Tufts' Davis Square stop, followed by a short five-minute walk toward Beacon Street. Concealed from the normal hustle and bustle of the surrounding area, The Original Tremont Tearoom is among Boston's unusual finds. Arriving at 101 Tremont Street, I was greeted with two glass doors which led me across marble floors toward an elegant elevator. Six floors later, I peered into a quiet and rather curious room at the end of the hallway. This is where the situation started becoming slightly sketchy, but I was in no position to care. A simple walk or a run to work out my problems is a little too predictable and ordinary. A visit to the local psychic? Now that would produce a story worth telling.

Before crossing the threshold, I sent off a quick text to my friend: "Something of soul searching. If I'm not in Dewick in two hours, send police. I'll tell you all about it later." I opened the door.

For the elaborately upscale building that houses The Original Tremont Tea-

room, I was hoping for something a little bit more mystical, something a bit more... magical. For those who are familiar with the Harry Potter series, I'll admit I hoped to stumble upon something closer to Professor Trelawney's attic classroom. Unfortunately, what I found was a lackluster room with four small coffee tables located in different corners and a couple of flickering candles. It was anticlimactic.

I hesitantly walked in. "Half-hour reading?" the guy asks. I decided to cough up the \$35 for the Wednesday and Thursday special and enjoy the shits and giggles that would surely result. I left expectations behind and decided to file this in the "life experience" category.

"I feel something with you and anti-matter," he said in an overdramatic and pseudo-spiritual voice. I'm not sure I even know what that means.

"Shipwrecks. Your love life is something of a shipwreck." Right-o, sir. I am the captain aboard some harsh cataclysmically storming seas. In these dark times, the light-house is not in sight. The storm's getting stronger, and I'm sinking into the endless abyss of my destruction.

I try to hold a straight face.

"Have you ever dated someone who owns a boat?" I begin thinking how funny it would be to have a buzzer go off every time this guy incorrectly states something as though factual. I debated whether or not I wanted to remain polite or if I should start playing along. I tried to be polite first.

"No, I don't believe so," I said as I thought to myself, this cost 35 dollars. I can't get those 35 dollars back.

He tried again.

"Would you say that when you were 23, something drastic happened?"

I was about to lose it. Every ounce of musculoskeletal strength went towards keeping a straight face. "No, nothing comes to mind," I said, thinking of the wrinkles across my face. Apparently, college has aged me. I changed my mind. Politeness was not going to work. The least I could do was enjoy myself.

12 tarot cards later, this is what I learned of myself: I like control. I like to have the last word. I tend to burn bridges. I have trust issues. I do not let myself fall. Ignore the fact that these are blanket statements that are more or less applicable to everyone.

Then, the psychic started considering my background. This was followed by Asian stereotypes. He sensed that my upbringing was a part of me. He sensed some sort of tradition—perhaps a different language—that has contributed to my growth.

Then, the psychic started considering my gender. He saw my longing for a fairytale ending, a knight in shining armor, a big diamond ring.

Nice try, I thought, but you're still wrong on all counts. That gender-construct Disney fantasy made me want to gag.

After a lot of excruciating pain, the reading ended.

Let's say my emotional crisis had been dealt with. Have I learned anything about myself? The answer is yes. I've learned that the next time I decide to do something exciting, I'll do something that doesn't involve superstition. ☹

*Original Tremont Tearoom
101 Tremont Street
Suite 609, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 338-8100*



INSANE

BY LILIA CAREY

It started with music.

Those distorted, screeching rhythms pummeled one another
and boiled the nature of sound.

We both rejected the harmony,
and fell into a monstrous, noisy love.

You were upfront— said you wanted most to be conceited and cruel.

I couldn't help but be disgustingly honest and shatter your dreams.

It was meant to last.

We tried the cordial approach,
but that was short lived, like a scab we couldn't help but pick.

Everything came forth, frothing and foaming from our disposal minds,
trash receptacles compressing and churning,
the aromatic garbage of our brains spilling out onto the floor.

Neither of us could resist a taste of that
thrilling insanity, crude and embracing.

Wrapping ourselves in its hot arms, we took on the world.

We were no ordinary animals.

We loved our freckles and our real names,
dressed disproportionate bodies in warm colors,
and pondered the one constant for us both: food.

We were mutts, stuffing our faces with

blue raspberry, steak and potatoes, and red velvet cupcakes.

With crumbs on our lips, we discussed

Andy Warhol

and how he killed our fathers,

the techniques for catching crabs, and the

brain pollution of rotting, granulized

media.

We were intellectuals, wannabe savants, col-

lective freaks, and crap sarcastics.

Our catastrophe was always consumed

by glorious, stinking music.

Parasites of songs dug deep under our skin.

We were crawling, yes,

infested with blaring, thunderous sounds.

And with no cure to be found,

we lived together,

insane.



CC



POLICE BLOTTER

Sunday, April 5

A student on Dearborn Rd. made a belated report on Tuesday, April 7 regarding a robbery by a presumed aspiring movie director, as he stole a camera, camcorder, and backpack. It has not yet been released to the public when filming will begin.

Saturday, April 11

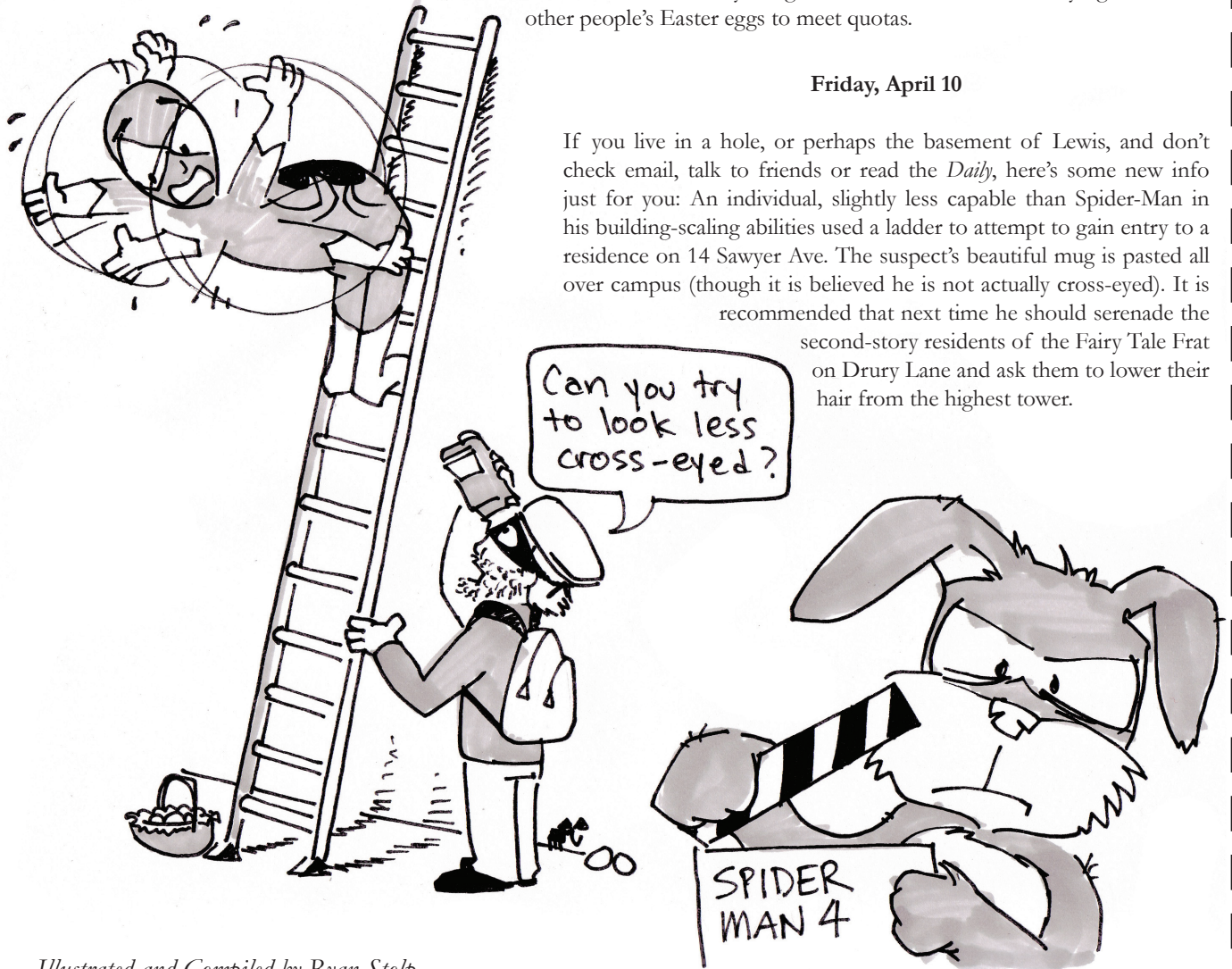
A tense scene, pilfered from the horror movie genre, unfolded at 11:23 p.m. on Sawyer Ave. A resident, likely in the house with a dead phone and the lights off, heard somebody trying to open the front door of her house. The door knob wiggled, rattled, and shook as the handle was jostled from the outside. When her faithful dog barked at the noise, the mysterious figure fled down the street.

Saturday, April 10

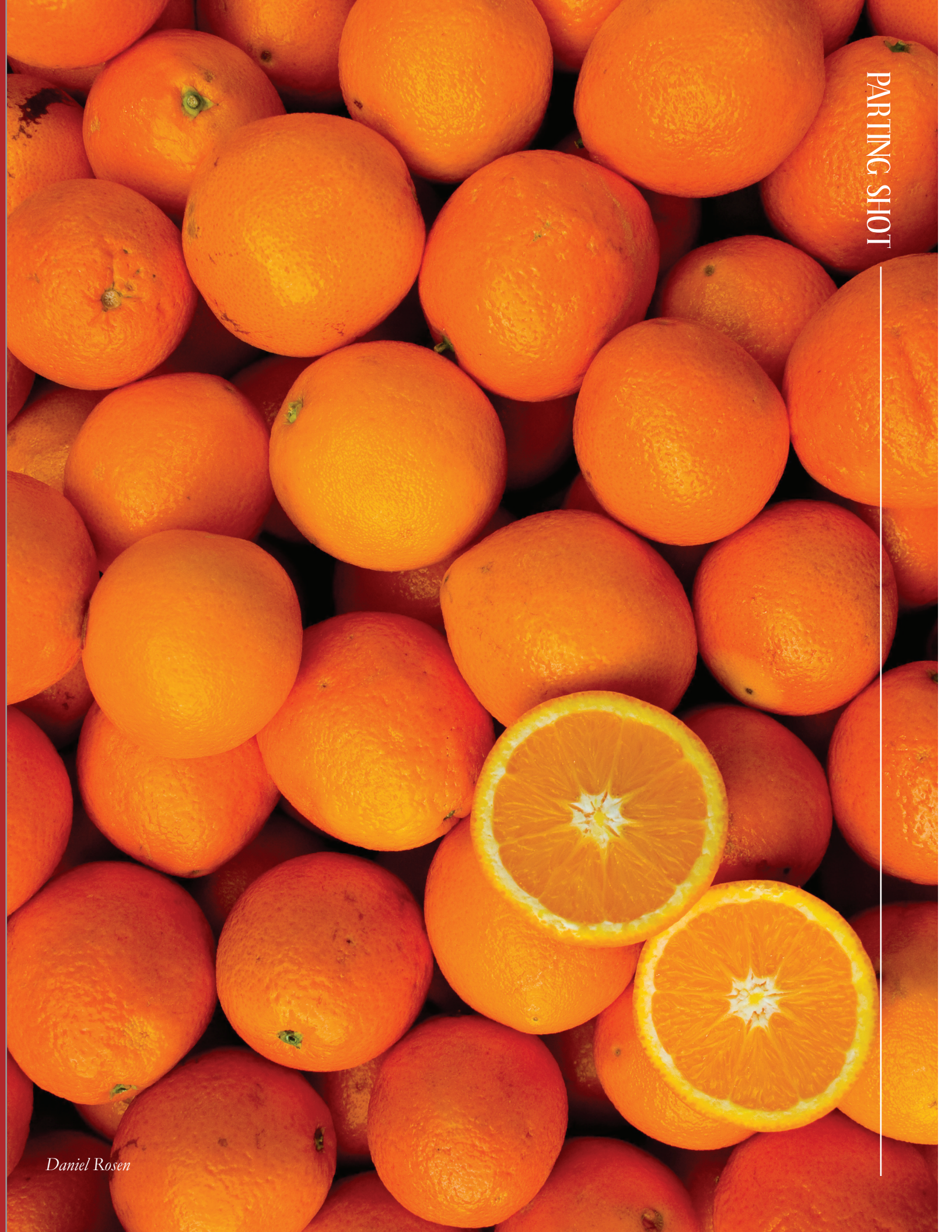
A preemptive Easter Bunny strike occurred in the Cousens Gym parking lot when a set of golf clubs, a GPS and an Easter basket were stolen from a student's car. It is believed that recent Easter Bunny budget cuts have forced the holiday figure to steal other people's Easter eggs to meet quotas.

Friday, April 10

If you live in a hole, or perhaps the basement of Lewis, and don't check email, talk to friends or read the *Daily*, here's some new info just for you: An individual, slightly less capable than Spider-Man in his building-scaling abilities used a ladder to attempt to gain entry to a residence on 14 Sawyer Ave. The suspect's beautiful mug is pasted all over campus (though it is believed he is not actually cross-eyed). It is recommended that next time he should serenade the second-story residents of the Fairy Tale Frat on Drury Lane and ask them to lower their hair from the highest tower.



—Illustrated and Compiled by Ryan Stolp



PARTING SHOT

Daniel Rosen

Tufts Observer

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