

ResLife extends gender-neutral housing offerings

BY N'DEA HALLETT
Contributing Writer

The Office of Residential Life and Learning (ResLife) announced earlier this month that it is now offering open housing, more commonly known as gender-neutral housing, in some rooms in Bush Hall and Latin Way. This program is an option for students who feel more comfortable living with someone of another gender.

In an email sent to Tufts students on Feb. 3, ResLife Director Yolanda King said that the option is available for all returning sophomores, juniors and seniors.

"Open housing is an arrangement whereby two students, regardless of sex, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation may mutually agree to share a room within designated residence hall(s) and apartment(s) on campus," King said in the email.

Tufts has offered gender neutral housing in apartment suites for a number of years but is now extending the option to rooms, according to the email.

"This year, we are adopting the practice of many other colleges and universities around the country by extending the option to bedrooms," King said in the email.

Because the option is in its experimental stages, gender-neutral housing will only be available in certain rooms in Bush Hall and specific suites in Latin Way.

see HOUSING, page 2

West offers critique of democracy, power structures

BY BRIONNA JIMERSON
Daily Editorial Board

Well-known scholar, activist and advocate for global and domestic civil rights Cornel West, who is a professor in the Center for African American Studies at Princeton University, addressed a packed Cohen Auditorium in a lecture last night with a message calling for critical personal and social analysis, emphasizing the significance of the plight of working class individuals in advocating for democratic and social reform.

West's lecture was part of the Faculty Progressive Caucus's American Democracy in Crisis Series and was made possible largely through his academic and personal relationship with Tufts Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering Jerry Meldon, according to James Glaser, Dean of Undergraduate Education for Arts, Sciences and Engineering.

"He's very outspoken, he has a great sense of right and wrong and isn't afraid to speak truth to power," Meldon told the Daily.

The Tufts Diversity Fund, the Peace and Justice Studies program, the Africana Center, the Office of Intercultural and Social Identities Program, the Office of Student Affairs and the Office for Campus Life co-sponsored the lecture.

West began his lecture with an air of comfortable familiarity and lightheartedness, expressing his desire to unsettle Tufts students in their political and social beliefs in order to incite academic and social change in students.

"I hope I say something that unsettles



TOBIAS REEUWIJK / TUFTS DAILY

Well-known scholar and activist Cornel West analyzed current political structures and the plight of working class individuals in a lecture last night in a packed Cohen Auditorium.

you, unnerves you," he said.

During the lecture, West challenged attendees to confront their own location in the democratic process and to learn to "die" — that is, to shrug off preconceived notions of others and themselves in an effort to renew their own expansion capabilities.

"Democracies must be reborn continually," he said. "It's a process of critically examining yourself. It's about learning how to die. When you 'die,' you let go of assumption or prejudice or prejudice or judgment, that's a form of death, and you don't grow without that kind of death."

West critiqued and analyzed current political structures, including public political offices, and their involvement, or lack thereof, in

assisting and advocating on the behalf of the working class and poor demographic groups in the United States.

"When I talk about democracy, I always begin with those catching hell, the wretched of the earth," he said, referring to members of historically and socially "marginalized" groups based on class, race and often history.

"What does American democracy look like from the vantage point of indigenous brothers and sisters?" West asked.

"World War I has been going on since 1492," he continued, prompting applause from the audience.

see WEST, page 2

27th EPIIC symposium kicks off

BY MAHPARI SOTOUDEH
Daily Editorial Board

An expert-led panel discussion exploring power transitions in the 21st century last night kicked off the 27th Annual Norris and Margery Bendetson Education for Public Inquiry and International Citizenship (EPIIC) International Symposium. The program is sponsored by the Institute for Global Leadership (IGL) and this year is focusing on the theme of "Conflict in the 21st Century."

The five-day-long event, which will conclude on Sunday, is composed of a series of student-moderated panels on issues of rising importance, including drone warfare and the implications of the "Mr. Y" doctrine. There will be a day-long robotics workshop and student presentations by EPIIC colloquium members and other IGL-affiliated groups.

The symposium will feature an esteemed group of prominent intellectuals, activists and political figures including Boston University Professor Andrew Bacevich, Harvard University Professor Steven Pinker, Col. Mark Mykleby and Capt. Wayne Porter, co-authors of the "Mr. Y" doctrine, and Ariel Levite, among numerous other distinguished figures.

IGL Director Sherman Teichman, who founded the EPIIC program at Tufts, remarked that the 2012 symposium is particu-



SCOTT TINGLEY FOR THE TUFTS DAILY

EPIIC students wore blank masks and pieces of paper containing names and stories of individuals affected by conflict to emphasize the human, personal aspect of conflict, according to EPIIC student Michael Fishman, a junior.

larly significant because this year's topic is paradigmatic of the theme of the reconfiguration of global security in light of the constantly evolving nuances of international relations.

The topic crystallizes the future-minded outlook that is the driving force behind the IGL, according to Teichman.

"While it was chosen in the context of the 10th anniversary of 9/11, what it really does is create a crucible for all 26 years of the [IGL] and its EPIIC program, which has been dedicated to defining security behind the kinetic and to

make it more complex in terms of environmental issues, technological advances and unit security," Teichman said.

Each incoming EPIIC class designs the symposium according to the students' input, according to IGL Associate Director Heather Barry. The members of the EPIIC class have the freedom to decide which issues they view as the most critical and to then construct a symposium that addresses those issues, Barry said.

"[Students] learn what it

see EPIIC, page 2

Tufts alumni discuss careers in Hollywood

BY SHANA FRIEDMAN
Daily Editorial Board

Hollywood veterans and Tufts alumni Prudence Fraser Sternin (J '77) and Robert Sternin (A '77) gave a talk yesterday afternoon about their careers in the television industry, which have included developing or producing close to a dozen series, including "Three's Company" (1977-1984), "Who's the Boss?" (1984-1992) and "The Nanny" (1993-1999).

The event, titled "Meet the Producers," occurred in an Aidekman Arts Center classroom and was co-sponsored by the Department of Drama and Dance, the Communications and Media Studies Program and the Office of Advancement. The Sternins, who are married, were both awarded 2011 P.T. Barnum Awards for Excellence in Entertainment last June in an annual ceremony that recognizes Tufts alumni for exceptional work in media and entertainment.

Robert Sternin recounted his decision to pursue a career in the television industry.

"I was told by my parents that you could be a doctor or you could be a lawyer," he said. "I came [to Tufts] as a pre-med [student]."

While at Tufts, a professor of an

English class that Sternin was taking to fulfill a basic requirement noticed his penchant for writing heavily dialogue-based short stories and recommended that he instead enroll in a playwriting course. His first assignment, the script for a single scene, landed him in the office of Sherwood "Jerry" Collins, a former screenwriting professor at Tufts.

"And [Collins] said, 'I think you should do this,'" Sternin said. "It never occurred to me that you could do something you loved to do — and not be a doctor."

Collins helped Sternin put on his first play through the Drama Department at Tufts, and the opening night performance confirmed his that he wanted to pursue a career in play- or screenwriting.

"The first laugh that the play got on the first page, I thought 'there's no way I'm not doing this,'" he said. "If it weren't for that and for Tufts, a lot of people would be dead, because I'd be a doctor."

After meeting in a directing class during their senior year, Prudence and Robert Sternin moved to Los Angeles, where Robert Sternin received a Master of Fine Arts degree in playwriting

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Inside this issue

The university alcohol policy continues to change as the administration searches for the right approach.



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The Daily breaks down the favorites, longshots and snubs in its preview of Sunday's Academy Awards.



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Police Briefs

"Alarm? That's just the music!"

Tufts University Police Department (TUPD) officers at 1:09 a.m. on Feb. 18 responded to a fire alarm set off at the Alpha Tau Omega (ATO) fraternity house at 134 Professors Row. When the officers entered the house, they saw people exiting through the back door and dropping clear plastic cups. When officers asked residents why they did not immediately exit the building when they heard the fire alarm going off, the residents said they thought it was part of the party.

Good Samaritans

Two female students at 12:07 a.m. on Feb. 19 called TUPD after finding another female student lying down on the ground next to the Professors Row tennis courts. Although they did not know the apparently near-

unconscious student, they took her to their off-campus house and called for help. The student was transported to Lawrence Memorial Hospital for treatment.

False alarm

A fire alarm at the Zeta Psi fraternity house went off at 12:30 a.m. on Feb. 20, alerting TUPD. When officers arrived at the house, there was no fire to be found, but a fire extinguisher had been used for an unknown reason. The fraternity brothers present said they did not know who had set off the alarm and deployed the fire extinguisher, but that they would call TUPD when they found out. As of press time, TUPD had not yet received a call with further information.

—compiled by Nina Goldman

West urges crowd to avoid prejudice

WEST

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He acknowledged the high crime, alcohol abuse, substance abuse and incarceration rates among individuals living on Native American reservations in the United States.

"With these 312 [Native American] reservations, there is very little visibility in public discourse," he said. "And our indigenous brothers and sisters don't have to be in the room for us to be sensitive to their suffering. They're as precious or priceless as anyone else."

West expressed his excitement about the younger generation's involvement in the Occupy movement. He has personally participated in several Occupations.

"When you have a deep compassion for suffering, you can't stand there being treated unfairly, unjustly," he said. "That's the kind of fire we need among the younger generation. That's why I get

excited by [the] Occupy movement."

His forthcoming work, "The Rich and the Rest of Us: A Poverty Manifesto," aims to discuss the different faces of poverty.

"As long as we see only black and brown, it'll be difficult," he said.

In closing, West reminded the audience that fights for justice and equality, while often appearing insurmountable, are long-term ventures contingent on lifetime dedication that continues into post-graduate life.

"The question is, how rigorous, how robust and how much courage will students have after they graduate? How courageous will you be?" he said.

"You've got to be a long distance runner," he added. "Many are happy to 'break the glass ceiling,' but what about those in the basement? That's the kind of sensibility required to be a person in the long run ... It's about action and an intellectual, moral, and spiritual collective."

Sternins emphasize role of luck in breaking into television industry

PRODUCERS

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from the University of California, Los Angeles, and Prudence Sternin briefly pursued a career in acting. The two then worked at a script processing and casting company while they attempted to break into the screenwriting business.

"In the beginning you're waiting tables or doing whatever job while you're hoping that this works," Prudence Sternin said.

The couple's opportunity arrived when Robert Sternin spotted the producers of the season's top television show from behind.

"I'm walking down the street at Warner Bros. and I see the producers walking in front of me," he said. "I knew I had to accidentally bump into them."

He sprinted around an adjacent soundstage to put himself directly in their path, which led the couple to a meeting to pitch their scripts.

"And I said, 'I can't believe I acci-

dentially bumped into you guys, I'd love to come in and pitch you stories,'" he said.

"He ran into the apartment and said, 'Put your shoes on! We have a meeting,'" Prudence Sternin said.

One meeting can change the course of a career in television, she explained, and getting that first meeting is the most difficult part of breaking into the business.

"You have to be ready, you have to make your own luck, and you have to be ready when you get lucky," Robert Sternin said.

He added that one of the keys to succeeding in the television industry is to cater to the egos of the people in charge.

"Part of the TV business is to placate a lot of people and make them feel important, which is probably good advice in any business, but particularly in TV because people's egos are so amazingly large and fragile," he said.

One of the couple's most recent

projects is a play called "Under My Skin", a comedy about sex, love and the healthcare business that is slated to debut in New York this year. They are also currently consulting producers for "Happily Divorced," a new series that premiered on TV Land last summer. Its second season is scheduled to run this spring.

"Television, if you make it, can be very lucrative, which is why we now can do theater," Prudence Sternin said.

"[Television] is a very high-pressure business ... You never know until you shoot the show if it's going to be good or terrible," her husband added. "With theater, you have much more time."

Robert Sternin also addressed the question most often asked of the couple.

"People ask how we're married and do this together. How could you be married and not do it together, because you have no life except this," he said.



OLIVER PORTER / TUFTS DAILY

Tufts alumni Prudence Fraser Sternin (J '77) and Robert Sternin (A '77) yesterday afternoon visited the Hill to talk about their television production careers and the influence of their experiences at Tufts on their careers.

Gender neutral housing initiated after student-led effort last year

HOUSING

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King explained that registration for gender-neutral housing will take place manually using a brief application rather than electronically. The application, which can be found on the ResLife website, is due by 5 p.m. on March 2 to the ResLife office in South Hall.

The application consists of a one-page mutual request form. After the application is complete, an appointment will be scheduled for the students to pick rooms based on their lottery numbers, King said.

All applicants will be notified of their appointment times beginning March 12 and will need to visit the ResLife office between March 13 and March 16 at their scheduled time. The goal is to ultimately make the application process available electronically, according to King.

Since the option is new, there is concern that students may not know about this alternative to standard housing arrangements, according to King. ResLife has advertised the information by posting the information on the ResLife website as well as in the Housing Lottery Selection Information booklet.

King said that she is excited that the university is offering another living option, as many of Tufts' peer institutions already do.

Grainne Griffiths was actively involved in the decision to make this housing option available to returning students.

Griffiths, a sophomore, entered the process as a member of Students Acting for Gender Equality (SAGE), a student activism group that is affiliated with the Women's Center.

Griffiths said that the idea for the process was sparked by former University President Lawrence Bacow's email to the Tufts community last spring asking for feedback on ways the administration could show support after a string of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) suicides. In response, SAGE prepared a three-part proposal,



ANDREW SCHNEER FOR THE TUFTS DAILY

Beginning next year, returning students will be permitted to have a roommate of a different gender in some rooms of Bush Hall and specific suites of Latin Way.

according to Griffiths.

"One part of the proposal was a request for gender-neutral, or open, housing," Griffiths said. "The administration responded favorably, and SAGE, led by [then-senior] Tom Calahan, put together an extensive proposal for an open housing program based on programs at several other schools."

The program was pitched to the academic steering committee by Dean of Student Affairs Bruce Reitman and subsequently deemed necessary, according to Griffiths.

Griffiths said that she and Alyson Weiss, a senior, took over the project once Calahan graduated.

"Last semester, Dean Reitman convened an open housing working group to create the actual policy," Griffiths said. "Together, we worked to hammer out logistics and pulled together a [frequently asked questions] section with help from other members of SAGE."

"I think that this open housing program is tremendously important," she added. "Many students may feel uncomfortable living with someone of their assigned sex, and open housing ensures that everyone has the opportunity to live with someone they are comfortable with in a way that is in accordance with our non-discrimination policy."

Annual EPIIC symposium to feature prominent figures, focus on security

EPIIC

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means to have an idea and put it into reality because of all the logistical work it involves," Teichman said. "It's an intellectual exercise."

Teichman said that the main aim of the conference is to expand the concept of security by incorporating all the emerging concepts that could exacerbate or mitigate violence and war — ranging from the technology-oriented Arab Spring movement to innovations in cyber warfare — in order to facilitate comprehension of global conflict.

"We're trying to redefine security and make this a broader conception to understand the implications of war and violence and conflict," Teichman said.

Aparna Ramanan, a member of the EPIIC class, explained the class' decision to use a thematic structure for this year's symposium rather than a regionally-focused structure. She said that with a topic as broad as "Conflict in the 21st Century," a regional focus would have necessitated either a myopic focus on specific indigenous topics or broad regional synopses that lacked any real depth.

"We decided that looking at disparate issues that are linked by similar themes might be a more effective way of dealing with such a vast range of conflict," Ramanan, a junior, said. "At the same time, our breakout sessions on Saturday will be dealing with more specific regional conflict, so we feel like we got the best of both worlds in that situation."

This year's symposium is also remarkable in that it features an unprecedented number of foreign student delegations, from countries such as Iraq, Rwanda, South Korea, Tunisia, Israel, China, Russia and Singapore, that will attend the conference.

Konrad Gessler, a member of the EPIIC class, plans to seize the opportunity to communicate with experts in the various fields that the class has studied and considered.

"The most important thing to get out of the symposium is to really challenge these experts on the issues that they're going to be discussing," Gessler, a sophomore, explained.

According to EPIIC student Chloe Tomlinson, part of the reasoning behind the board's decision to explore many of the themes outlined in the symposium and to institute a daylong workshop on robotics stemmed from a sense that obviating open discussion of emergent issues such as robotics warfare and neuroscience could result in their unregulated usage on the battlefield.

"I think through our readings and what we heard from speakers, we heard that these issues are becoming huge and growing exponentially outside our control, and international law and governance are not recognizing how big these issues are becoming," Tomlinson, a senior, said.

Despite the focus on defining and exploring the future, the symposium also emphasizes the past. It is dedicated to the memory of IGL Program on Narrative and Documentary Practice Board member Tim Hetherington, a war journalist who was killed in April while reporting in Libya.

For Teichman, who has been at Tufts since 1984 and who maintains close ties with many of his former students, one of the most important aspects of this year's symposium is the network of IGL-affiliated individuals and alumni who will be returning to contribute to the symposium.

"This is a beautiful vignette in terms of the institute because my student of 26 years ago is now head of the [Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University] and helped us bring a Russian delegation of students here," Teichman said. "We have Oliver Wilcox, who was my student many years ago, and is now [Peace and Security Policy Program Chief for the U.S. Department of State]. We're honoring Rachel Brandenburg and Amir, the author of Zahra's Paradise."

Features

tuftsdaily.com

Probation policy cracks down on dangerous alcohol use, emphasizes forgiveness

BY LILY SIERADZKI
Daily Editorial Board

Alcohol and drugs play an undeniable role in the college lifestyle, and when the use of these substances goes too far, there are consequences. Tufts' probation system aims to curb and eliminate dangerous drinking, as well as uphold the federal and state laws surrounding substance use.

"The real worry about alcohol use from all of us is dangerous drinking," Dean of Student Affairs Bruce Reitman said. "Yes, we have to pay attention to what is legal and what isn't, but our real concern isn't someone having a beer with pizza. It's doing shots of hard alcohol, because that's what gets people sent to the hospital."

The current alcohol and drug disciplinary process consists of a warning followed by Disciplinary Probation One ("pro-one") and Probation Two ("pro-two"), and the speed with which a student progresses through them is dependent on whether they commit a Level A or Level B violation. According to Judicial Affairs Officer Veronica Carter, Level A is a lesser offense and can include possession of alcohol, public drinking or possession of small amounts of marijuana. Level B offenses are more serious and include excessive and irresponsible drinking that leads to disorderly conduct or a need for medical attention. Level B violations result in more severe consequences.

Director of Alcohol and Health Education Ian Wong explained that the program's main goal is to identify and aid those students with serious drinking problems, despite the possible consequences for students who simply make a mistake.

"We want to make sure that students who have a substance abuse disorder get help," he said. "Unfortunately, sometimes with this big net we put out there, we catch students who don't have a problem. I'd rather throw out that bigger net than shrink the net and miss the students who really do have a problem."

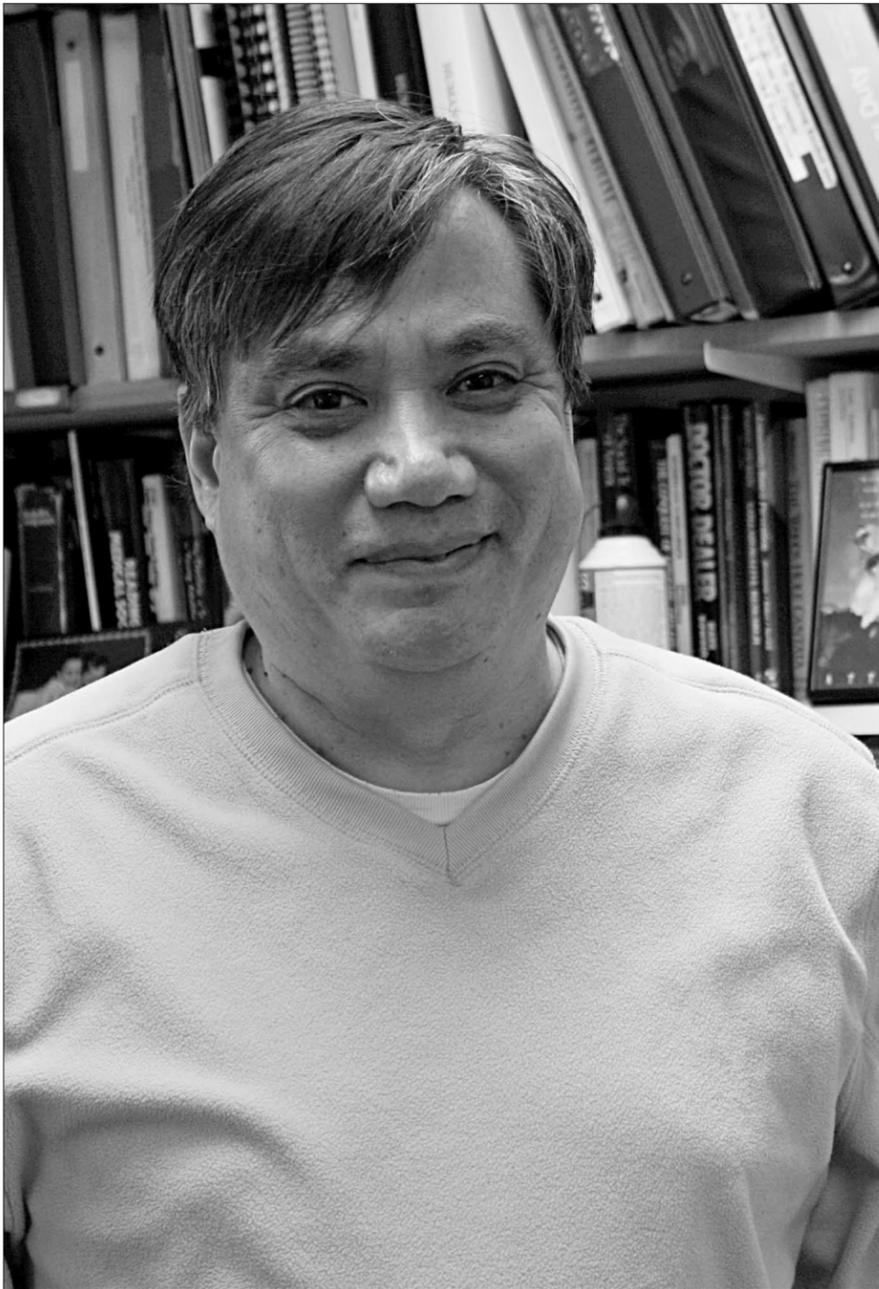
Wong uses this screening procedure as a way to filter out one kind of student from the other, in order to provide assistance to those who need it. In implementing this policy, he routinely interviews students about their drinking habits, asking them to fill out a survey with questions such as, "How often do you have six or more drinks on one occasion?" and "Have you or someone else been injured because of your drinking?"

Wong stressed the importance of the immediate nature of this screening because it has a greater impact on the individual when it happens closer to the actual event. He also noted the delicate balance the school must strike between upholding federal drinking laws — at the risk of the state and institution losing federal support — and making sure risky drinking is prevented.

"We don't want to make it too punitive, so that students will hide," he said. "But we also want to make sure we're meeting our obligations to the federal government. Some schools have an amnesty policy, but by turning a blind eye, some students may not get what they need."

During the 2009-2010 school year, Reitman convened an Alcohol Task Force in an effort to strike a balance between these two extremes. The task force and the TCU Senate proposed the addition of a warning prior to pro-one. The policy had previously put students directly on pro-one after their first offense.

Reitman gave two reasons for the shift towards leniency. First, going directly to pro-one discourages stu-



MISAKO ONO FOR THE TUFTS DAILY
Ian Wong develops programs and policies to reduce alcohol-related health issues on campus.

dents from calling Tufts Emergency Medical Services for their friends, endangering the friends' safety. The second was that pro-two meant that a student was no longer in good standing with the university which affected access to certain programs such as study abroad.

The approach to dealing with alcohol and drugs has shifted not only at Tufts, but also throughout the wider college community. According to Reitman, colleges' approaches have evolved from a focus on cracking down on rampant binge drinking to "social norming" — raising awareness to correct misconceptions about drinking — to a recent move toward bystander intervention.

"Bystander intervention is educating the community with tools and tips for how to intervene when you see someone in trouble, either on a given night, or better yet, in general," Reitman said. "There will be a new program at new student orientation next year specifically on this."

Carter added that the new program would encourage positive bystander behaviors.

"When students see someone who's really intoxicated, they're afraid not to call, and that's a good thing for Tufts students," she said.

According to both Wong and Reitman, statistics show that at Tufts, alcohol violations due to dangerous drinking occur most often in the fall of students' freshman year. This phenomenon seems to be a result of experimenting with a newfound freedom and a lack of "protective factors," including direct accountability to parents, Wong said.

"If you want to take 10 shots before the party, no one's going to say anything per se," he said. "If you want to stay out Thursday night until four in the morning and not go to class the next day, no one's going to say anything."

Wong and the Alcohol Task Force are working on several initiatives to provide some form of these "protective factors." These include a panel during next year's Undergraduate Orientation where upperclassmen give advice on drinking based on personal experience, as well as an electronic handbook for parents.

"The handbook for parents is for beginning a conversation with their sons and daughters about substance use, so they're part of that conversation, rather than just letting the students come to campus and make the decisions on their own," Reitman said.

"The forgiveness policy encourages calls for medical help, which increases our transport numbers," Reitman said. "With a severe intervention system that gives out harsh discipline, I would see that number go down, and I would think of it as a disaster."

Both Reitman and Carter agreed that the current drinking age affects Tufts' policy as well, saying that 21 makes no sense as the drinking age on campuses like Tufts'.

"It drives the problem underground," Reitman said. "It is a lot harder for peer leaders, residential staff, all of us, even the police, to talk about responsible approaches, responsible uses of these things." I would rather have it out in the open, as a social accompaniment for those who choose to do it."

JACK WEBSTER AND HANNAH FURGANG |
A PIECE OF ADVICE

100 Problems

Dear Jack and Hannah, I arrived in college expecting a significant change in my love life — that is, to start having any semblance of one at all. Unfortunately, this does not seem to be the case, and I remain regrettably single and even more regrettably celibate. My question, therefore, commences thusly: How do I make every Tufts girl lust after me? Thanks for your help, Lonely in Lewis

Bro. First of all, your question is 69 words long. Nice work! (Note: Hannah doesn't really get why this is funny.) But seriously, don't overthink this. Perhaps your swag is a bit underdeveloped, or maybe you suffer from chronically, acutely low self-esteem. We can't say for sure.

Hannah, being a girl, happens to know a thing or two about what girls find attractive in guys. Jack would like you to know that he has no trouble getting ladies, but he can't explain why. So we'll leave it to the fairer sex to dole out the advice. If you adhere to the following rules, you'll be sure to have the women (or at least Hannah) flocking to you in no time:

Take a class in the Community Health Program. There is such a scarcity of CH males that the magnetic pull you exert on females will increase about ninefold. Girls will probably be sitting on your lap. In fact, you should probably just bring your iPod and ask that cute one next to you to dance, in fact just ask her out on a date. There is nothing, literally nothing, more romantic than discussing vectors of disease over a candlelit dinner of filet mignon with blue cheese butter and truffle oil pommes frites, and maybe some football on TV. (Sorry. Jack wrote that section and got distracted.) But you get the point.

Sweater vests. Ohhhhhh baby, if you can pull that off, you are SET.

Go for the pizza slices with stuff on them. There is a pretty strong correlation between your adventurousness in epicurean pursuits and your general spontaneity. Girls dig spontaneity. If you're too afraid to put neat things on your plate, your lady friends will assume you're too lame to try crazy cool things in real life. Cheese pizza can be a real deal-breaker. At least let the tomatoes be in chunks or something.

Always be down for a dance party. They are not just for the weekends, you know. Anytime there's music playing is fair game.

Master the Jurassic Park theme on the Ocarina iPhone app. You'll have her feeling love struck and woozy in no time.

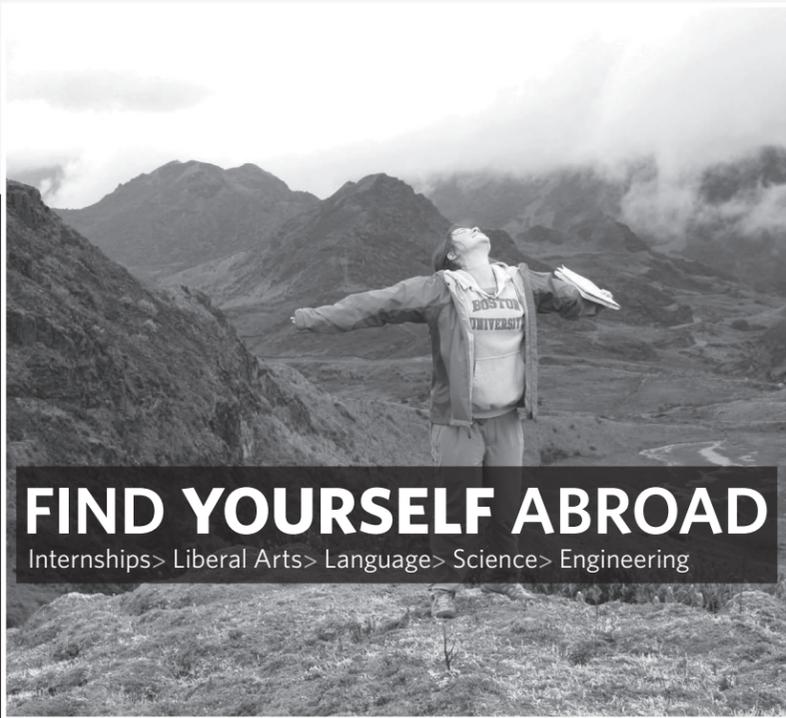
If you're an upperclassman after a freshman, don't ask her to guest meal you in all the time, unless you're really, really good looking. You don't want to push your luck.

And finally, be funny, but not, like, too funny. You know, sometimes a girl needs her guy to be serious and sensitive. But not all the time. You just have to find the right balance. Like, if a girl is feeling a little down, she really needs to feel appreciated, but at the same time you don't want to totally coddle her. It's all about balance. A little goofy is fun sometimes, but you don't want to be, like, weird or anything. All we're ever really asking for is someone to care for us and listen to us and like our favorite TV shows and rub our feet when they're sore and tell us that Jessica is such a b-word and it wasn't our fault and gaze lovingly into our eyes and promise to hold us forever.

Hope that helped! If it didn't, shoot Hannah a call.

Jack Webster and Hannah Furgang are both freshmen who have not yet declared a major. Jack can be reached at John.Webster@tufts.edu and Hannah can be reached at Hannah.Webster@tufts.edu.

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WEEKENDER FEATURE

And the Oscar goes to...

BY ZACH DRUCKER
Daily Editorial Board

This Sunday at 7 p.m. on ABC, Billy Crystal will host the 84th Annual Academy Awards, doling out those illustrious gilded men to the most deserving players in Hollywood from the past year. To preview the ceremony, the Daily will take you through the six main categories (Best Supporting Actress and Actor, Best Actress and Actor, Best Director and Best Picture), enumerating the favorite frontrunners and the reprehensible snubs along the way. So, grab some popcorn and get prepared for the drawn out speeches and, if we're lucky, some wild waterworks. It's Oscar time!

Best Supporting Actress

Octavia Spencer is this year's Mo'Nique: after a career marked by bit parts and forgettable comedic appearances, Spencer has catapulted to overnight fame after her role in "The Help" (2011). Her portrayal of forthright maid Minny Jackson has garnered critical acclaim, resulting in the first major acting awards of Spencer's career. Having taken the Golden Globe and the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Award, Spencer seems like a shoo-in for the Oscar a la Mo'Nique's triple crown run in 2009.

Not many expected Melissa McCarthy to reel in a nomination, especially considering her "Bridesmaids" (2011) character violates an Academy faux pas by defecating in a sink onscreen. Apparently, the Academy could not avoid the McCarthy bandwagon, though they may have overlooked some stunning performances. One of the biggest misses was Shailene Woodley, who flaunted her precocious acting chops in "The Descendants" (2011), meshing admirably with her counterpart, George Clooney. The 20-year-old Woodley will have to wait for her next big role to see a coveted Oscar nomination.

Best Supporting Actor

The Best Supporting Actor category boils down to two 82-year-old foreign actors: the Canadian, Christopher Plummer, and the Swede, Max von Sydow. Despite the fact that both have had prolific careers and have been nominated for Academy Awards twice, neither man has ever won an Oscar. Unfortunately for von Sydow — who brilliantly portrayed the mute Renter in "Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close" (2011) — Plummer's golden statuette is a bit longer overdue. In a banner year that also saw him play the Vanger patriarch in "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" (2011), Plummer truly shone in "Beginners" (2010) as an elderly father who reveals to his son that he is gay. Expect him to complete the trifecta sweep of a Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild Award and Academy Award.

On the other end of the emotional spectrum, this night of celebration will be one of misery for Albert Brooks. Normally known for his comedic roles, Brooks is garnering mass critical acclaim for his portrayal of ruthless gangster Bernie Rose in "Drive" (2011). But who ever heard of comedians being nominated for Oscars upon switching to more serious roles? Oh, that's right: Jonah Hill holds a nomination under identical circumstances for his part in "Moneyball" (2011). Sorry, Albert, though many can rightfully complain about the academy's overlooking of your achievement in "Drive," critics would be hard-pressed to deny the five current nominees a spot on the list.

Best Actress

Ranging from up-and-comers like Rooney Mara ("The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo") to familiar staples like Glenn Close ("Albert Nobbs" (2011)), this year's Best Actress pool is one of the strongest in recent memory. The women's troupe is so strong, in fact, that Tilda Swinton was glaringly omitted from the lineup. Swinton took home the Best Supporting trophy several years ago for "Michael Clayton" (2007), but her latest role as a mother coping with the murderous ways of her son in "We Need to Talk About Kevin" (2011) may have been her most emotive and chilling performance yet.

Swinton definitely deserved the nod over Meryl Streep, whose over the top portrayal of Margaret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady" (2011) continues to gain acclaim, baffling average moviegoers. Alas, Streep's unmerited nomination proves that there is nothing she can do to lose Hollywood's unwavering support — she even managed to garner a nomination for "The Devil Wears Prada" (2008)!

Nonetheless, the story of the night will be the masterful ladies of "The Help." After watching Spencer scoop up Best Supporting Actress gold, stay tuned to see Viola Davis as she is crowned Best Actress for her rendering of Aibileen Clark. Davis, who could have just as easily seen a Best Supporting Actress nomination for her tear-inducing role in "Extremely Loud," hopes to ride the coattails of her SAG award to an Oscar victory. Her only true competition is Streep, Davis' former counterpart in the film that put her on the map, "Doubt" (2008). But fans also should not count out Michelle Williams, who has seen surging support for her depiction of Marilyn Monroe in "My Week with Marilyn" (2011) following her Golden Globe win.

Best Actor

Not many critics expected Mexican actor Demián Bichir to get a Best Actor nod. But Bichir, who plays Carlos, an immigrant gardener scraping to get by in "A Better Life" (2011), certainly adds some low-budget flavor to a group of silverscreen juggernauts. Furthermore, Gary Oldman received a nomination purely out of professional respect. In one of the most egregious crimes in recent cinematic memory, Oldman had never been nominated for an Oscar until his latest role. His depiction of John le Carré's famous protagonist, George Smiley, in "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" (2011) is not even one of his best performances, much less the best performance of the year.

Ryan Gosling could have easily supplanted either Bichir or Oldman, but critics have been disconcertingly dismissive of Gosling's stoic performance in "Drive." He did not even obtain a Golden Globe nomination for it, instead receiving a nomination for his other dramatic role in "The Ides of March" (2011). The only plausible rationale for snubbing Gosling in both awards shows is that his "Drive" character has very little dialogue or emotion. But ironically enough, Oscar favorite Jean Dujardin will most likely take top prize for his part in the silent film "The Artist" (2011)!

In any other year, George Clooney might have garnered his second Oscar for his performance in "The Descendants." But the Academy is consistently enraptured by novelty and eccentricity, so the formerly unknown Frenchman, Dujardin, should go home with the precious britannium man.

Best Picture

The Best Picture category is the biggest tossup of the major groups. With nine acclaimed films, one might think the Academy covered all of its bases. But

"Drive" and "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" are two glaring absences from the list. Either of these films could have readily replaced "War Horse" (2011) or "Extremely Loud," a pair of melodramatic works that never lived up to the hype they generated. Perhaps the most egregious snub, however, is "50/50" (2011). Considering the Academy's surprising affinity for comedies this year, the mixture of wit and poignancy in "50/50" should have been enough to solidify a spot in the year's top nine.

As with the next category, the Best Picture Oscar will fall into the hands of "The Artist" or "The Descendants." These two films have jockeyed for the top prize after successful Best Picture runs at the Golden Globes ("The Artist" won for Best Comedy or Musical and "The Descendants" won for Best Drama).

"The Descendants" is more moving, as it follows a man's personal journey to connect with his children and come to terms with the misdeeds of his comatose wife. "The Artist," however, is more unique and, thus, may be more appealing to Academy voters. Filmed entirely in black and white, "The Artist" pays homage to the era of silent film, portraying the romance of an aging silent film star and a blossoming actress. The film itself is mostly silent and has dazzled audiences since its debut at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival.

The dark horse in the Best Picture race is "Moneyball." Rather than fall victim to classic sports movie clichés, "Moneyball" featured fantastic performances from Hill, Brad Pitt and Philip Seymour Hoffman, a fluid, nuanced script written by Steven Zaillian and Aaron Sorkin and adept directing by Bennett Miller. "Moneyball" is the total package, but Hollywood seems too entranced by "The Artist" and "The Descendants" to facilitate an upset champion.

Best Director

The Best Director category features three old-timers with Oscar history: Woody Allen ("Midnight in Paris" (2011)), Martin Scorsese ("Hugo" (2011)) and Terrence Malick ("Tree of Life" (2011)). The gold statue, however, will probably be gifted to one of the two younger guns, Alexander Payne ("The Descendants") and Michel Hazanavicius ("The Artist"). Though Scorsese won at the Golden Globes, most foresee "The Artist" and "The Descendants" locking horns in both the Best Picture and the Best Director categories. Unfortunately for Payne, Hazanavicius' work is favored in both regards. Do not feel too bad for Payne, though; he already has a Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar glistening on his mantle for "Sideways" (2004).

The true losers on Sunday will be David Fincher and Nicolas Winding Refn. After first watching their respective works, "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" and "Drive," omitted from the Best Picture category, they find themselves out of the running for Best Director as well. Both men rightfully deserved a nomination, but in the extremely competitive Best Director race, only five directors earned bids.

Of those five, expect Hazanavicius to win his first Oscar. He has an outstanding rapport with his two "The Artist" leads, having directed Dujardin and Bérénice Bejo in two other feature films. Not to mention, Hazanavicius and Bejo are married with two children. So, for the French filmmaker and his two leads, a night of raucous merriment and unforgettable victories should be in store.



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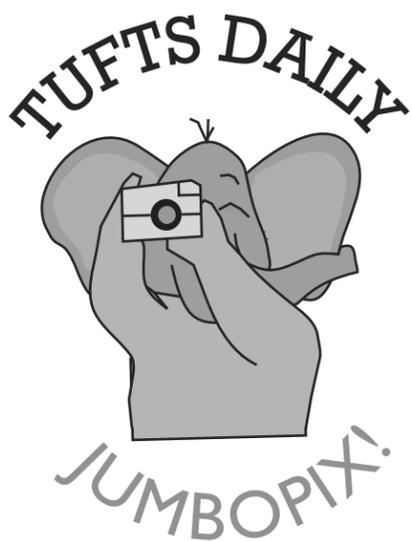
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MOVIE REVIEW

'The Secret World of Arrietty' brings whimsical story to dazzling life

BY DAVID GITTESS
Daily Staff Writer

"The Secret World of Arrietty" looks to shrink us down, both in size and in age, to a smaller, simpler world

The Secret Life of Arrietty



Starring **Saoirse Ronan, Mark Strong, Bridgit Mendler**
Directed by **Munehisa Sakai**

where little people inhabit the walls and an empty meadow holds all the promise and potential of imagination. It is nothing short of captivating and magical, and although both words are well overused when describing a Studio Ghibli movie, there is simply no other way to say it.

This world comes to the screen by way of English children's writer Mary Norton and her successful series, "The Borrowers." In this universe, mazes are constructed through walls, dollhouses and floorboards to allow miniature versions of people, called "borrowers," in and out of the "beings" world — the realm of normal-sized humans. Borrowers live by a credo to take what they need and nothing more, with the one condition that a being can never notice what's been taken. Here, a single tealeaf will last for a week, a sugar cube a month and a tissue possibly forever. Water drops in slow beads like syrup, and when it rains, the bor-

rowers are able to brush off each drop individually. At the same time, cats and other animals appear mountainous, and a brush with a creature as small as a rat can be fatal.

In this dangerous yet fascinating world, Pod (Will Arnett) has started to teach his daughter Arrietty (Bridgit Mendler) how to navigate through the walls as well as the various climbing techniques required of any successful borrower. While hunting for a tissue, however, they are seen by a twelve-year-old boy, Shawn (David Henrie), who is resting in the country before undergoing surgery on his failing heart. Arrietty and Shawn eventually become friends, but in keeping with the borrower code, Arrietty's parents decide they must move because they've been discovered. The old caretaker, Hara (Carol Burnett), long suspicious of the borrowers' existence, has other plans and tries to trap the borrowers to prove once and for all that she is not crazy.

Part of what makes the environment of "The Secret World of Arrietty" so compelling is the lack of any immediate antagonist or villain to push the plot along, allowing the magnificent visuals to shine through. Sure, the occasional crow or cat saunters along to chase the borrowers around the house, but these actions are more a compulsion than ill will. Similarly, Hara seeks them out not to destroy or hurt them, but rather because she cannot help herself.

Instead, the real conflict is found in



VLADD VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS
'The Secret Life of Arrietty' is surprisingly philosophical.

the juxtaposition of Arrietty's magic wonderland with the truth of Shawn's cruel circumstances — that life is just not fair to some people. When the beings' recognition of the borrowers' world forces Arrietty's family to move, she must confront the unfortu-

see **ARRIETTY**, page 9

TV REVIEW

'Alcatraz' tempers ambitious plot with genre cliches

BY AMEYA LELE
Contributing Writer

"On March 21st, 1963, Alcatraz officially closed. All the prisoners were transferred off the island. Only that's not what

Alcatraz



Starring **Sarah Jones, Jorge Garcia, Jonny Coyne**
Airs **Saturdays at 11 p.m. on FOX**

happened. Not at all."

Bolstered by orchestral background music, these lines serve as the introduction to Fox's new midseason show, "Alcatraz."

"Alcatraz," the most recent J.J. Abrams production, was built to create a new

sci-fi phenomenon on network television, similar to Abrams's previous success with "Lost" (2004-2010).

Numerous parallels between the shows can be made. Both stories are set on islands, and the plots contain an unusual amount of time travel. The new show also stars "Lost" alumnus Jorge Garcia.

The story centers on San Francisco Detective Rebecca Madsen (Sarah Jones), who stumbles upon a strange discovery while working a homicide case: The main suspect is a former Alcatraz inmate who supposedly died more than 40 years ago. Even odder, the suspect, one of the last inmates on the island before it was closed, hasn't aged at all. Rebecca then decides to enlist the help of Alcatraz expert Dr. Diego "Doc" Soto (Garcia) to help uncover the

see **ALCATRAZ**, page 8



COURTESY FOX BROADCASTING COMPANY

A lack of character development from main cast members fails to leave the audience intrigued.

CONCERT REVIEW

Bonobo brings groove to Paradise Rock Club

BY MELISSA MACEWEN
Daily Editorial Board

Can you dance to downtempo? Simon Green sure can. Bonobo, the moniker of the British electronic musician, played a packed show at the Paradise Rock Club in Boston last Thursday, proving that even the most whimsical electronic music can groove when the right artist is at the helm.

While bands like Air, Portishead and Thievery Corporation have long been making rounds in lounges and jazz clubs, Bonobo's innovations furthered the genre's appeal enough for him to be deemed a downtempo innovator by his contemporaries. With his self-produced, and mostly self-instrumented, release of "Animal Magic" in 2000, Green shepherded in a new era of electronic music. Like his present work, the album featured a groundbreaking mix of jazz, electronica and trip hop. Bonobo's fan base is somewhat small but rapidly growing as he gains international exposure. He has been featured on countless compilations and has appeared on the soundtracks of shows including "Skins," "CSI," "Californication" and "House." He has gained further acclaim for performing on tour with a full band, accompanied by a singer, saxophonist, string section, drummer and keyboardist, in addition to supplemental electronics, while he plays bass.

Unlike other big-name performers, Bonobo's music has always featured a sort of dreamy

see **BONOBO**, page 8

NIKI KRIEG | QUEEN OF CIBO



Happy-tizers

I think it's an understatement when I say that I love February. The Super Bowl comes and goes -- never mind that I'm still waiting for a Gang Green win after 43 years; Valentine's Day means cute date nights, mushy Hallmark cards and all that discounted candy come Feb. 15; and I turn the big 2-2 in February, which this year also happens to be the night of the Academy Awards (Jonah Hill, represent!). In all seriousness, February is a great month because of one thing: lots and lots of parties.

For college kids, parties come to be associated with a sort of sleaziness: sweaty dancing in a cinder block basement, a floor littered with Keystone Light and lost keys. Kids line up outside the frats, waiting for an "in" to a night they probably won't remember come the next morning. That was never my scene and, with only three months to go at Tufts, it probably never will be.

I've instead always been one for themed parties — parties that take extensive planning, brainstorming, decorating and certainly, cooking. I threw a World Cup party back in 2010 when Spain took home all the marbles, and beside my golden afro, the air horns, the Martinez family crest and the 3x5 Spanish flags that hung throughout my living room, guests got to consume Spanish-themed food and drinks. For my "Christmas in July" party, my friends and I drank punch and ate what foods I usually associate with Christmas. I cooked a 21-pound turkey for my friends at the Daily last semester and sprinkled my autumn-themed tablecloths with leaf- and turkey-shaped sequins. To spare you more examples, when it comes to parties, I'm all about themes, and I'm all about foods that match those themes.

It was recently my aunt's birthday, and to celebrate that — plus the Detroit Lions' long-awaited playoff standing, which just tickled my mom's fancy — I felt compelled to make some finger-food appetizers. Inspired by my five-month stint in Rome, I made bruschetta, and though I am no fan of tomatoes (a capital sin, I know), it got rave reviews, from myself included. I made a hot clam dip that eventually made a return appearance at my mom's Super Bowl party; and then I made stuffed mushrooms that quite simply knocked my family's socks off — and I think they could very well wow you, too.

I don't believe people usually immediately think of "stuffed mushrooms" when they consider finger-food appetizers, but when I was browsing through my church congregation's cookbook, I found one of my aunt's recipes for her famous stuffed mushrooms — ones that I've eaten at countless family parties and that have become one of my all-time favorite appetizers. Based on the positive feedback I got, I was glad to do her recipe some justice.

For your upcoming party or even a simple dinner soiree, unless you're somebody who can't even stomach the sight of mushrooms, I suggest you give Diane's mushrooms a shot.

Ingredients:

- 1 pound of large mushrooms -- I used baby portabella mushrooms, but you can use white button mushrooms if you so choose
- 3 tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 clove fresh garlic, pureed
- 1 small onion, minced
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 1 tbsp. parsley
- 2 tbsp. melted butter
- 6 tbsp. olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Remove the stems from the mushrooms, and then wash and chop them up.

Add the cheese, garlic, onion, bread crumbs, butter, parsley and salt and pepper to the minced stems.

Spoon this mixture into the mushroom caps, and place the stuffed mushrooms into a shallow baking pan lined with 2 tbsp. oil.

Drizzle the remaining oil over the mushrooms and bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Serve them hot.

Party on, my fellow Jumbos!

Niki Krieg is a senior who is majoring in Italian studies and history. She can be reached at Nicole.Krieg@tufts.edu.

Even after three hours, experimentation keeps Bonobo's set lively

BONOBO

continued from page 7

intellectualism. Songs typically build linearly and deliberately — not so that they can spiral into a massive, skull-pounding bass drop, but rather to evolve and explore. One of Bonobo's most popular tracks, "Ketto," from "Days to Come" (2006) is a particularly good example of this. Airy and nebulous at the start, "Ketto" develops into a complex array of chimes, vocals and animal noises, all underlain by a rich, throbbing bassline.

Green has long been a DJ under his alter-ego Baraka, a side project that gives him the opportunity to explore DJ sets comprised of drum and bass, funk, break beat and jazz. Still, prior to the show, a full set by Bonobo seemed slightly dubious. As Moby, Steve Aoki, Skrillex and Deadmau5 are all too eager to demonstrate, a "performance" can consist of little more than pressing a play button and occasionally bantering with the audience.

Bonobo's luscious, trippy soundscapes are amazing when you are listening through headphones or in a lounge, but do they really have the aggression and energy needed to drive a full-fledged DJ set? The answer is a resounding yes.

To start, the only Bonobo tracks Green played were from his recently released "Black Sands Remix" (2012) album. These remixes barely share the same DNA as their predecessors on "Black Sands" (2010) — vocals, bass lines and loops have morphed them into entirely new beasts. While tracks on "Black Sands" like the ambling "Kong" and "El Toro" stand out for their charm, the grittier remixes generally feel more like bass-heavy dance music. The Paradise audience rose gorgeously to the occasion as throngs of fans swarmed the dance floor.

Green livened up the show by never pigeonholing himself into a particular genre for his set. Though he used tracks from his remix as a starting point, his choice of songs rapidly evolved beyond this. Green played off of the energy of his crowd, traipsing through tracks ranging from "Crystalized" by the XX to Aphex Twin samples to acid jazz to "54-46 That's My Number" by Toots &



MELISSA MACEWEN / TUFTS DAILY

Bonobo's "Black Sands" transitioned successfully from album to dance floor.

the Maytals. Arguably the most engaging moment of the show was when Green unexpectedly segued into his operatic Banks remix of "The Keeper." Let it be known — Bonobo knows how to use wobble. The crowd went absolutely wild in a swaying, downtempo

frenzy. There might have been a bit too much reggae towards the end of the show and in the overly generous encore, but it didn't detract from the show's strength overall. It was only a full three hours after beginning his set that Green stepped down.

Finally, it probably helped that this wasn't your typical DJ set crowd. Despite being composed of the standard group of Boston students, the crowd was mellow and respectful. They smiled. They asked to dance with one another. Maybe it's just a downtempo thing.

EVENTS BOX

What's Up This Weekend

Looking to make your weekend artsy? Check out these events!

Dan Dillen's Massive Disco/Metal Birthday Bash | Come see Dille with a variety of acts, like Tragedy, an All Metal Bee-Gee's Tribute and The Lights Out, who will perform Michael Jackson. The event starts Feb. 25 at 8 p.m. and lasts until Feb. 26 at 1:30 a.m. at the Middle East Downstairs. Tickets are \$15; 18+ only).

Production of "Our Class" Our Class, an award-winning play, examines the tragedies of the Holocaust through the experiences of 10 Jewish and Christian Polish children. The play will be staged on Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. and again at 8 p.m. in the Balch Arena Theater. Admission is \$1.

Aviflora: Plants and the Birds that Love Them | Enjoy an exhibit that highlights the interaction between birds and plants. Four bird photographers put the finest photos they took at the Arnold Arboretum on display at Harvard's Hunnewell Building Lecture Hall. The exhibit is on today until 4:00 p.m. Admission is free.

Lauryn Hill at House of Blues | She's been called the mother of hip-hop, and Fugees lead singer Lauryn Hill is once again touring, performing her 1998 Grammy-winning "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill." The concert is tonight at the House of Blues at 8 p.m. General admission tickets are \$60.

—compiled by the Daily Arts Department

'Alcatraz' reuses 'Lost' formula with poorer results

ALCATRAZ

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truth behind the island's mystery.

Their investigation leads them to federal agent Emerson Hauser (Sam Neill), who heads a secret government agency dedicated to finding the nearly 400 people who disappeared from Alcatraz in 1963 — the "63s" as they come to be called. Now, they must all work together to keep the identities of the '63s a secret while figuring out what the conspiracy is really about.

The performances from supporting characters Dr. Lucille "Lucy" Banerjee (Parminder Nagra), the second in command on the '63 project, and Ray Archer (Robert Forster), Rebecca's protector and former Alcatraz guard, aid the show tremendously.

Flashbacks bring the show to the 1960s, giving insight into the lives of the inmates, guards and the other Alcatraz employees. Currently, the flashbacks are the best storytelling component; the exploration of the relationships between inmates, guards and wardens creates the most intrigue and character development. Deputy Warden "E.B." Tiller (Jason Harner) steals the show with his paradoxical layers of stubbornness and vulnerability, a complexity not shown within the other characters.

"Lost" had a great ability to delve into a character's past and humanize him or her. Suddenly, Sawyer (Josh Holloway) was not the jackass he started out as, and Benjamin Linus (Michael Emerson) was not the cold-blooded killer he was once believed to be. In "Alcatraz" thus far, viewers have only discovered more about the recurring characters, while Madsen and Soto's stories seem far away.

Although fans of Abrams' work will expect ambitious storylines and compelling characters, the show has yet to truly



COURTESY FOX BROADCASTING COMPANY

If "Alcatraz" is to reach its potential, its characters need to find some depth.

utilize its cast from an emotional standpoint. Jones, a girl whose grandfather was once an inmate and whose partner died, has yet to step into her character completely and seems too free of internal conflict. Currently, she's simply a cop with an attitude. Furthermore, her performance as the protagonist is predictable, reusing the well known role of stubborn young detective.

Neill's character leaves much to be desired as well. He has yet to show anything but angry-old-man syndrome.

Despite Garcia's comedic relief, "Alcatraz" seems to remain a cop procedural, trying somewhat unsuccessfully to

break free of that mold. If the writers find some way to add depth to the characters, the show could reclaim some of the network television glory "Lost" once knew.

There is potential for "Alcatraz" to truly embrace its mysteries and build its characters around their connections to the prison. While it may never truly reach the heights of "Lost," it has the ability to create a cult following a la Abrams' "Fringe." As of right now, "Alcatraz" is only mildly entertaining. Hopefully the writers will create something much more profound as the series progresses. From the looks of it, that might be the only chance "Alcatraz" has of escaping cancellation.

Fantasy, reality intermingle beautifully in ‘The Secret World of Arrietty’

ARRIETTY
continued from page 7

nate reality that it was a result of her own carelessness. Likewise, Shawn and those around him remain silently fixated on the fact that he will not survive in the coming weeks. His talk of death and the pointlessness of existence is sharp, especially coming from someone his age.

It is only when Shawn is willing to believe in the mystical around him that he can confidently look toward his future with all the imagination and wonder he deprived himself of as a child. Meanwhile, Hara’s single-mindedness in tracking down the borrowers will never end until she is willing to

quit hunting and just believe.

The real heart of the movie is found in Hayao Miyazaki’s tradition and Hiromasa Yonebayashi’s flourishing, modest direction. While Peter Hewitt and John Goodman’s “The Borrowers” (1997) may have been impressive in the technical details, “The Secret World of Arrietty” manages to retain the mystique without sacrificing the tone for slapstick. There are no moments where Arrietty’s femininity superficially stands in the way of her capability, nor does the movie trade quick jokes for a hollow laugh. Instead, this is an animated movie in the classic style of greatness: full of heart, sincerity and confidence in its message.

TOP TEN | CELEBRITY COLLABORATIONS

After the cyber-brouhaha regarding the musical collaboration between Rihanna and Chris Brown, we decided to come up with some musicians who should join forces.

10) Nicki Minaj & Tony Bennett: It doesn’t get more super bass than Tony Bennett.

9) Zoey Deschanel & R. Kelly: In our reinvention of the musical duo She & Him, our favorite quirk is paired with the rap world’s Don Juan. Together, they can continue the Trapped in the Closet saga!

8) Celine Dion & Insane Clown Posse: Celine would look great in Juggalo makeup.

7) Lou Reed & Metallica: No, but actually.

6) Nickelback & Creed: Two negatives make a positive, right?

5) Black Keys & White Stripes: This bluesy, soulful collaboration will hereafter be referred to as “Piano.”

4) The Lonely Island & Flight of the Conchords: The newest song from this duo of folk parody groups: “I Just Had Sex with the Most Beautiful Girl in the Room.”

3) Chris Brown & Miranda Lambert: They’ve had their words on Twitter, now it’s time to belt them out.

2) Justin Timberlake & Betty White: Who needs Andy Samberg? Betty White’s reinterpretation of the SNL sketch will be called “It’s my Box in a Box.”

1) Skrillex & Deadmau5: If CB and Rihanna can reconcile their differences, then certainly these two competitors can let bygones be earsplitting bygones.

—compiled by the Daily Arts Department



ASHLEY SEENAETH FOR THE TUFTS DAILY

A junior transfer to Tufts, Emily Weinrebe quickly found her niche with sQ!

The Artsy Jumbo: Emily Weinrebe

For junior Emily Weinrebe, a cappella has been the perfect introduction to life on the Hill. Weinrebe transferred to Tufts at the beginning of this year and joined the co-ed group sQ! shortly thereafter.

“The one thing I knew I wanted to do at Tufts was a cappella for sure and I stalked all of the groups before coming here,” she said. “sQ! was definitely on my radar and so I got here and auditioned not thinking it would work out ... but it worked out and it has by far been ... the greatest part of my Tufts experience.”

Weinrebe sings alto — and occasionally tenor — for sQ!, and described its dynamic as “fresh, current, kind of goofy [and] accessible.” She values the group’s inclusive song selection

process — in which all members have the opportunity to make suggestions for performances — and particularly appreciates her colleagues.

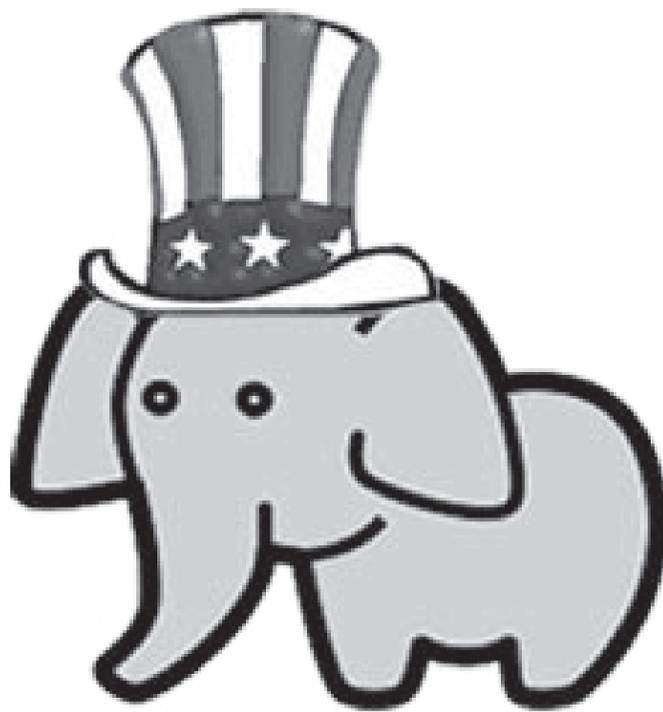
“Everyone has such a wild sense of humor that even though rehearsals can be intense, it’s just so great being there and it always brings up my mood,” she said.

What’s on Weinrebe’s iPod?

“I love people that ... really have a mastery over the piano so ... Regina Spektor and Ben Folds,” she said. “But I also really really like electronic music so ... SBTRKT and ... James Blake.”

Look for this artsy jumbo to perform in sQ!’s final on-campus concert of the year on March 31.

—by Adam Kulewicz



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EDITORIAL

Inadequate gender-neutral housing

The Office of Residential Life and Learning (ResLife) announced earlier this month that it would be offering gender-neutral housing in certain dormitories. The option will be available by application to sophomores, juniors and seniors and will be restricted to the Latin Way suites and the Bush Hall double bedrooms.

Gender-neutral, or open, housing is an option that is becoming more prevalent at colleges around the country each year. The prospect of choosing a roommate regardless of gender identity is an issue that is most directly relevant to the transgender community, but the demand for gender-neutral housing does not end there. There are a number of reasons Tufts students may feel more comfortable living with a member of the opposite sex, not to mention that some may simply want to live in an apartment with their friends regardless of gender.

While we are pleased that ResLife has begun to implement a long overdue gender-neutral housing policy, these steps don't go nearly far enough. By restricting gender-neutral living options to the Bush Hall and Latin Way dormitories (other than Sophia Gordon Hall and handful of other highly coveted apartments, where mixed-gender suites were already permitted), students who desire a mixed-gender living situation are unfairly deprived of attractive options like West Hall, Wren Hall, and Hillside Apartments. By limiting the gender-neutral options to just two dorms, ResLife may not be able to meet the demand for gender-neutral housing, needlessly leaving some students in what

might turn out to be uncomfortable living situations.

Though the issue most directly concerns transgender students, many students have friends of the opposite gender with whom they'd like to live, and as long as students consent to living in a suite together, there's no reason they shouldn't be allowed to do so.

ResLife's current guidelines for mixing genders in most on-campus apartments are, to be blunt, nonsensical. Under the current policy, during the apartment lottery, students may only form single-gender groups if they want to live in any apartment outside of those in Latin Way or Sophia Gordon. But if not all apartments are filled during apartment selection, they will be opened up to the general lottery, and both males and females will be allowed to populate a single apartment. It simply doesn't make sense that a group of mixed-gender friends can't elect to live together in a Hillside apartment, but a group of mixed-gender strangers can end up doing so by accident.

The common argument against gender-neutral housing is that allowing students of opposite genders to room together opens the door to romantically involved students sharing a living space. Frankly, it's not ResLife's job to police the living decisions students make. In most cases, it probably isn't a good idea for couples to live together on campus, but that's a decision couples should make on their own and not have forced upon them by way of an outdated housing policy.

That argument also ignores the fact that gay couples at Tufts — of which there are plenty — are already able to live together

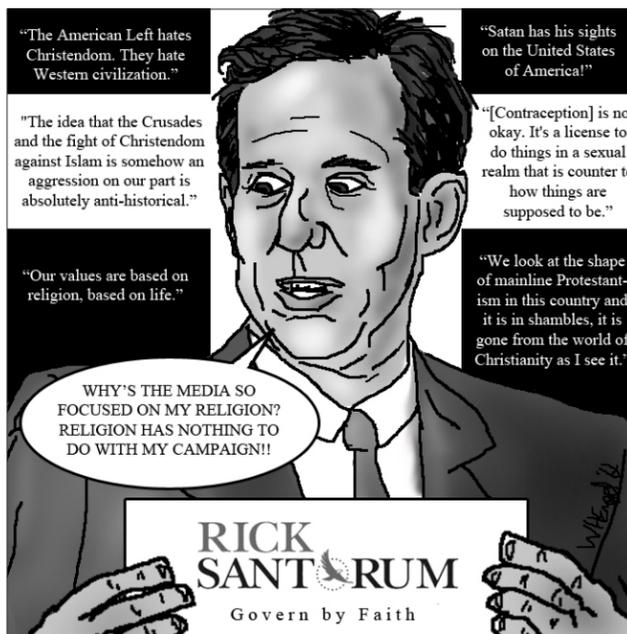
under the current housing rules, so attempting to prevent couples from rooming together is not only misguided and presumptuous but futile as well.

Another issue with the new policy is that it excludes freshmen, the group that perhaps most needs access to gender-neutral housing. When gender-neutral housing isn't available, transgender upperclassmen can at least select a student to live with who they know will be tolerant of their gender identity. But freshmen students have no idea with whom they will be paired, and without a gender-neutral policy to opt into, no safeguard exists to prevent them from being paired with a hostile roommate. (This applies not only to transgender students but to all students on the LGBT spectrum.)

The flaws in the new policy notwithstanding, ResLife did an extremely poor job of advertising the availability of gender-neutral housing. Most apartment selections occur in mid-to-late February, but ResLife did not announce the new policy until Feb. 3, leaving students who might have considered living in a mixed-gender environment little time to make a decision and get a group together. And the details of the policy have been spotty. An email describing the availability of gender-neutral housing that students were told to expect on Feb. 13 was never received.

We commend ResLife for initiating a gender-neutral housing policy on campus. It was sorely needed. But for it to be effective, ResLife must broaden the availability and do a better job communicating the specifics of the policy to the student body.

WES ENGEL



OFF THE HILL | UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Pre-existing conditions unfortunate, but should not be covered

BY TRENTON WINFORD
Daily Mississippian

John has an unfortunate story. He and his wife want to start a family, so they began searching for a house. The house they ended up buying had a few problems, but it was a good starter house. The roof leaked, the cabinets needed to be replaced and the foundation had some problems.

After buying the house, like any responsible couple, they shopped for home insurance. They were told that the foundation would need to be repaired within the next year, so no insurance plan would cover the home's foundation at a price John could afford.

This makes business sense from the side of the insurance company. Because insurance is based on calculating risk, the company does not want to take on coverage of a home that is guaranteed to need repairs.

If John can only pay an insurance premium of \$1,000 a month, then he will not receive coverage for a repair that will cost \$20,000 almost immediately. Why not? Let's

analyze.

If John purchases the home and insurance in January and four months later needs the foundation to be repaired, he has paid the insurance company \$4,000. That means that the insurance company is down \$16,000. If John drops his coverage after the repair, then the company loses that money. If he stays with the company, then the company doesn't break even until August the following year, assuming no other repairs were needed.

John will either have to pay a higher premium or have to choose not to cover his foundation. Of course, the insurance company has the option of keeping John's premium at \$1,000 while slightly raising other customers' premiums to compensate, which is unfair to the other customers.

Compare John's situation with Jane's. Instead of home insurance, Jane is shopping for health insurance. However, she has a pre-existing condition that will require a high amount of medical expenses in the near future.

Like John, the insurance company does not want to cover Jane at a normal rate.

Instead, they want to either charge her a higher premium or not cover her altogether.

With the Affordable Health Care for America Act, insurance companies will be forced to cover Jane, no matter the pre-existing condition, at a rate that she can afford. As a result, the insurance company will be paying out far more than it is taking in on Jane.

Because insurance companies are businesses, they want to make up the lost money on Jane. They do so by raising premiums on other customers. While Jane's situation may only affect the other customers slightly, there are thousands of others in Jane's situation, meaning that each premium will be slightly affected thousands of times.

While many feel sorry for John, they would not push for the insurance company to cover him at \$1,000 a month. However, they will push, and even force, the insurance company to cover Jane.

Both home and health are considered necessities in America, and we know that unfortunate situations do arise. In the end, though, we should not believe that everyone should pay for others' misfortunes.

Climate change and conflict

BY GABE ROJKIND

It's been quite a warm winter. So warm in fact, that it reached almost 60 degrees in my hometown of Chicago in the middle of January. While this has much more to do with the temperature variability caused by the cycles of El Niño and La Niña than global warming per se, the lesson to be drawn is that 2012 can only mark the initial stages of our foray into the erratic weather patterns humanity will be forced to contend with in the century to come.

Assuming the world doesn't end in 2012, climate change is occurring and its repercussions will be felt strongly in the future — whether you embrace climate change as man-made or would prefer to see it as something humanity has no role in (and thus forgo established science as well). As arctic sea ice melts, it will exacerbate existing weather patterns. Global warming doesn't mean it gets really hot suddenly; it means rainy climates get rainier, and dry climates get dryer. In other words, wet climates experience flooding and dry climates experience drought. Add this to ocean levels that could rise several meters over the century and the consequences become very real — consequences that will undoubtedly have strong social, political and economic dimensions.

As it stands, we're already past the tipping point. While the Earth's atmosphere has historically contained about 275 parts per million (ppm) of carbon dioxide its makeup today stands at about 392 ppm. The current scientific consensus is that 350 ppm is the greatest amount of CO₂ that can be present in the atmosphere before climate change brings about severe consequences. As it stands, the world currently adds 2 ppm of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere per year. Thus, irreversible changes are beginning to occur: melting glaciers that provide drinking water for hundreds of millions of people, rising sea levels that threaten coastal establishments, drought that hinders food production, increasingly acidic oceans that kill marine life, and flooding. Alone, flooding poses a major threat that can devastate entire regions, as the 2010 floods in Pakistan demonstrated, submerging one fifth of the country, creating 2 million refugees and destroying crop yields and infrastructure.

In 2006, the UK's Meteorological Office demonstrated that if current trends con-

tinue, half of the Earth's land surface will suffer drought while one-third will be desert by 2100; during the same period, the proportion of land in extreme drought will increase from today's 3 percent to 30 percent. Read that last sentence again.

So while it's possible that things might not be so bad come 2100, it's also more likely that the Earth's state of affairs will be worse in 2100 than predicted now. And given that the UN forecasts humanity's population to exceed 10 billion by 2085, with the majority of growth taking place in developing countries, this has enormous implications for everyone. The convergence of poverty with increasing scarcity will be felt both at the international and local levels. Consider the new dimensions the Kashmiri conflict will take when Indian-controlled Kashmir contains four of the five rivers that provide almost all of Pakistan's water, or how growing giants India and China will be forced to juggle dwindling water resources with growing populations and environmental degradation. Consider how growing desertification will continue to push rural communities into cities, expanding urban slums and worsening already appalling poverty and health conditions as well as crime, such as in the Brazilian favelas. Or how Yemen, an extremely unstable country, will fare when it runs out of water.

But while it may be easy for security experts to look at climate change and consider the potential it has to ignite conflict, unravel national governments or create support for terrorism, this misses the point. No matter what precise form global warming takes, it will certainly create and exacerbate human suffering en masse. Make no mistake: As vital resources dwindle and the occurrence of extreme weather intensifies, people will fight over what we've thus far taken for granted. It may play out as what some are already coining water wars. Water, food and electricity will be in short supply. Or it may play out as the disintegration of economies that sap governments of their revenues, thereby disallowing them to provide even basic public services, such as in Kyrgyzstan. Water, food, and electricity will be in less supply everywhere in the developing world when they're already in short supply. Climate change consequently means political unrest, economic frailty, an upsurge in crime and organized violence, ethnic polarization (as people



MCT

band together and scapegoat others) and widespread human suffering in general. Indeed, the correlation between increasing scarcity and increasing violence is a strong one, one that is already beginning to play itself out, from the pastoralist corridors of Kenya to the northern cities of Mexico.

In the song "Sleeping In" by the Postal Service, Ben Gibbard sings, "Concerns about the world getting warmer, the people thought they were just being rewarded... now we can swim any day in November." As excited to swim in November as I am (and as cheesy as quoting the Postal Service in an op-ed is), there is a larger connection to be made. The advanced and industrialized countries of the Global North will most likely weather the effects of climate change intact. Venice might sink, but Europeans and Floridians alike will most likely be evacuated in an orderly and responsible manner; there will be no Canadian refugees. Meanwhile, Chicagoans might enjoy more tolerable winters. Europe and North America won't truly bear the crises to come. Rather, it will be 16 percent of Vietnam underwater and 35 percent of its people becoming refugees or many island nations simply disappearing that we have more to be concerned about. It will be Sub-Saharan Africa and India experiencing intense drought and a Philippines battered with

continually stronger storms that will have the most on their plate.

Thus, in the decades to come, discussions of the weather might no longer make for small talk. As a prospective international relations major, it's expected that I'd classify contending with global warming as a political hurdle. But if the technology exists to mitigate emissions to required levels (and the technology already exists), and the money exists to put it into action (it does), then dealing with climate change is effectively a matter of policy and political will, which only governments have the power to put into action. It's imperative that we do what we can to mitigate our impact on climate change and try to cut our losses now, but much of the damage has already been done. Policies to mitigate our impact on the planet must now go hand in hand with policies to prepare, adjust and adapt to this new world.

Come and discuss the new shape the world will take from the effects of climate change, both meteorological and social, at EPIIC's international symposium Feb. 25, in the context of Conflict in the 21st Century.

Gabe Rojkind is a freshman who has not yet declared a major.

Neuroscience and the military

BY LAUREL WOERNER

What if the government could read your mind? If they choose to utilize recent research from the field of neuroscience, they already can — several recent studies have used computing power to match brain scan patterns with what a person thinks and feels, effectively reading their mind.

A person experiencing fear or looking at a picture of a bird can be identified with great accuracy simply by correlating their MRIs with existing data. And as scary as that thought is, all sorts of practical applications to learning to read someone's mind have nothing to do with the government or military, and many of involve helping those with damage to their bodies regain function. In the case of "mind reading" by interpreting the brain's electrical impulses, people with paralyzing brain damage might be able to communicate via thought that is translated by a computer, the accused could prove their innocence by essentially passing the ultimate lie detector test or someone missing a limb could control where the limb goes simply by thinking about it.

Though trying to read what people are thinking about (neuroimaging) is an especially controversial area of research, it's a good example of the phenomenon of dual use, where a technology has both constructive and destructive applications.

Most neuroscience research has aspects of dual use that go unrecognized by both the public and scientists actually conducting the research, who either don't understand what the military might use their research for or think the benefits outweigh such potential uses.

The military is of course interested in neuroscience for the advantages it can provide in war and conflict. Interesting areas of advancement are in improving the soldier and incapacitating the enemy; neuroscience is getting much better at human-machine interfaces and brain-machine interfaces — meaning humans controlling machines with their minds — and the military is interested in how soldiers might be able to control weapons like robots and guns with thoughts. Other military research interests include improving soldiers' memories and mental functions with drugs, incapacitating the enemy with non-lethal weapons like paralyzing chemicals or designing successful interrogations with the aid of neuroscience.

What directions would unchecked military research take us in? Besides the freaky aspect of some of these technologies, the military sways research directions like no other single organization and thus the areas it chooses deserve some scrutiny. At times, transparency can be difficult, and at times even researchers don't know where all their

funding comes from. Without disclosure of what motives lie behind each project and thinking through the implications of research, technology risks outstripping the wisdom of society. A classic example is the use of chemical weapons in WWI, a new technology adopted by the military that was later deemed inhumane. Technology that makes its way into society can also have harmful effects: radioactive novelties were widespread before radiation poisoning was understood. Outside of health effects, imagine a world where soldiers were given brain implants that allowed them to access knowledge and memory at will and then the technology entered society. What if we had a society where the rich could afford mental enhancements and the poor could not? While a scenario of brain chips is extreme, it and the other technologies in this article are all either already possible or going to be in the next 50 years. Our society must decide where we want to be focusing our efforts and which capabilities we want to gain or avoid. Answers to these questions should direct what research is going on in the present, not the military.

So what should be done? It would be foolish to put a stop to research with obvious benefits to the unhealthy, and possibly immoral to deny those for whom help could be available. But putting more types of research through ethical review, pressur-

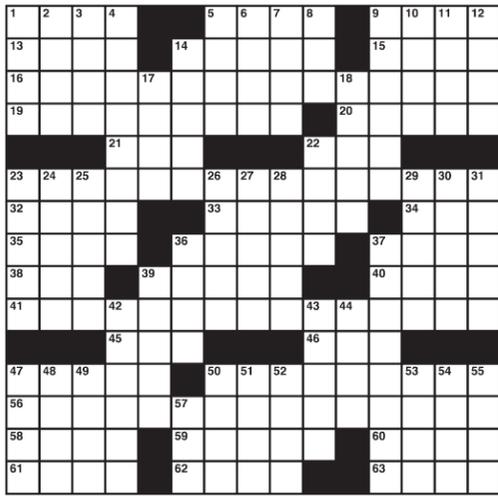
ing for transparency in what research the military is funding and raising awareness of dual use possibilities in the scientific community could go a long way toward creating a wiser and more peaceful future. Ethical reviews of neuroscience research could be conducted by the institution carrying out research, using the system already in place for reviewing other research, the Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB could also require scientists to submit the dual-use potential of their research along with the rest of their forms for evaluation, ensuring that each researcher has thought through the possibility of the use of their technology by the military. While the military is often cagey about revealing budget information, it's necessary that at least for civilian research the public be informed about who funds each study and legislation should be enacted requiring the military to do so. Perhaps all it will take to avoid making irreversible mistakes is a bit more awareness on all our parts.

This topic, and others, is being discussed at the EPIIC Symposium (this year's topic is "Conflict in the 21st Century"), from now until Feb. 26.

Laurel Woerner is a sophomore majoring in international relations.

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
 1 Payment option
 5 The Arthur Ashe Award for Courage is one
 9 Detergent target
 13 Peek-___
 14 One-named singer of "Rolling in the Deep"
 15 Creepy lake?
 16 Joint Chevrolet/Kia vacation package?
 19 Burns rubber
 20 Sources of inspiration
 21 Spy novelist Deighton
 22 Pres. before RWR
 23 Joint GMC/Hyundai vacation package?
 32 Sheepshank, e.g.
 33 Cleveland's Quicken Loans



By Rich Mausser 2/23/12

- 34 Blend
 35 Elihu for whom an Ivy is named
 36 Took the wheel
 37 Colada fruit
 38 Sidewall letters
 39 Glistened
 40 Feature of American paneling, but not British?
 41 Joint Ford/Chrysler vacation package?
 45 Chap
 46 ICU workers
 47 Two-time loser to Ike
 50 Sought at auction
 56 Joint Dodge/Toyota vacation package?
 58 Clock radio letters
 59 Colleague of Thomas
 60 Pale-green moth
 61 Homer's tavern
 62 Legendary Brazilian footballer
 63 Celtic land

- DOWN**
 1 Cleveland cagers
 2 Contribute to, as a crime
 3 Sound measure
 4 Portable cooker
 5 Site of an early exile
 6 Space exploration org.
 7 It's hatched
 8 Ja or da, stateside
 9 Take off, as a discount
 10 Malleable metal
 11 Thieves' group
 12 Earl Grey et al.
 14 Rice-___
 17 App downloader
 18 Colleague of Clarence
 22 Dick's partner
 23 Internet telephony provider
 24 Jawbone of ___; Samson's weapon
 25 Type of acid found in veggies
 26 Mystic's medium
 27 Home to Maine's Black Bears
 28 Lowest card in Klüberjass

WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTION



(c)2012 Tribune Media Services, Inc. 2/23/12

- 29 Essential acid
 30 Of a higher quality
 31 Praise
 36 Played, but not in the field, briefly
 37 Ice cream truck offering
 39 1992 Summer Olympics country
 42 Roosters, at times
 43 Lyre-playing Muse
 44 Ladies' court gp.
 47 Stuck, after "in"
 48 Major-___
 49 Rapper ___ Fiasco
 50 Pulitzer-winning WWII journalist
 51 \$150 Monopoly prop.
 52 Carry
 53 Gloomy
 54 Present opening?
 55 Asian flatbread
 57 "The Purloined Letter" monogram

U OF ZOO

BY BROOKE WEBER



NON SEQUITUR

BY WILEY



MARRIED TO THE SEA



JUMBLE

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

HUVCO
 GRUEP
 PORMIT
 NEROEC

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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

Answer: [Circled letters] " [Circled letters] " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VALVE SWEPT SHADOW SHOULD
 Answer: The prison play wasn't going well because they all wanted to — STEAL THE SHOW

LATE NIGHT AT THE DAILY



Want more late-night laughs? Follow us on Twitter at @LateNiteAtDaily!

Dan: "The bill is going to get drenched in Chris Christie's homemade BBQ sauce."
 Adam: "His homemade BBQ sauce?"
 Dan: "I was trying to make a fat joke."
 Adam: "Oh, I thought you were trying to make a semen joke."



Please recycle this Daily.

SUDOKU

Level: Crossing the widest river

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

Wednesday's Solution

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

Housing	Housing	Housing	Housing	Wanted
Two newly rebuilt apartments, four beautiful bedrooms each. Large kitchens with granite countertops, new stoves dishwashers, microwaves, and refrigerator. Washers, dryers, and off street parking, disposal and a large living room. Please call George at 617-407-1114 or Danny at 781-396-0303.	4 Bedroom, 2 Bath Apartment Amazing Location – 2 Blocks to Tufts, Newly Renovated, Stunningly Beautiful. Huge Sunny Rooms, New: Bathrooms, Hardwood, Designer Windows, Heating, Electric, Kitchen. Parking negotiable. Available 09/01/12. \$2,500. No Fees. (781) 396-4675	7 bedrooms- \$4,900 Located on Boston Avenue. Steps to campus. Includes 2 baths, eat-in kitchen to be renovated w/ all new appliances & cabinets. Hardwood floors throughout rest of apt. to be newly finished. Non Coin-op laundry in basement. NO FEES, \$4,900. Avail 6/1/12. Call Angela @617-852-2215 or e-mail: angelam@kssrealtypartners.com	3 & 4 Bedroom Apartments Both Beautiful Apartments have been completely refinished. Entire House Rebuilt. Stunning. Great Location super close to Main Campus. Parking available. \$1,900 & \$2,400. No Fees. 09/01/12. (781) 526-8471.	\$\$ SPERM DONORS WANTED \$\$ Earn up to \$1,200/month and give the gift of family through California Cryobank's donor program. Convenient Cambridge location. Apply online: SPERMBANK.com

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Wesleyan is most likely underdog to pull off first-round upset

ICE HOCKEY

continued from page 16

tied for last in the league in goals per game with Conn. College, a team that did not even qualify for the tournament. However, they also boast the second-best defense in the conference, an achievement made more impressive by the fact that they have two goalies — senior John Yancheck and freshman Dan Fullam — in the top five in the league in goals against average.

But Middlebury will have to rely on more than just defense and goaltending if it wants to surpass Amherst and Bowdoin in the tournament. The Panthers will need a big effort from senior forward Charlie Strauss, their leading scorer, as well as improved play from several underperforming forwards, to make a run to the championship game.

No. 4 seed: Tufts (12-10-2, 9-8-1)

The Jumbos had an excellent bounce-back season. One year after a miserable 6-16-1 campaign that saw them finish dead last in the conference, they ended this season in fourth place. In fact, this is the first time in the NESCAC era that the team has finished in the top half of the league standings.

The squad was undoubtedly led this year by senior tri-captain goalie Scott Barchard, who faced an incredible 835 shots in over 1,300 minutes of playing time, the most in the conference. In comparison with last year, though, the Jumbos were much more potent on offense, with sophomore forward Kyle Gallegos building on a strong freshman season to finish with 16 goals and nine assists. This will be considered a successful

year for the Jumbos no matter their results in the tournament, but Tufts will be looking to at least reach the semifinals.

No. 5 seed: Williams (11-8-5, 8-8-2)

The Ephs finished the year leading the bottom half of the bracket, a disappointing result for a team that was second in the conference and reached the championship game last year. Everything about this season was middling for Williams, as the squad finished fourth in the conference in both goals for and goals against.

The Ephs do not have a player in the top 10 in scoring, a fact that underscores their lack of explosiveness. The Ephs might upset the Jumbos, but they will be hard-pressed to get past the semifinals.

No. 6 seed: Wesleyan (12-10-2, 7-9-2)

Despite finishing in the sixth position, Wesleyan boasts the best individual scorer in the conference, sophomore forward Nik Tasiopoulos, who has a 1.42 points per game average. Junior goalie Glenn Stowell has also performed admirably, allowing 2.8 goals per game in almost 1,000 minutes of action.

If any squad has the potential to pull off a first-round upset, it is the Cardinals, as they will face a vulnerable Panthers team. However, even if it reaches the semis, Wesleyan lack of balance makes a trip to the title game unlikely.

No. 7 seed: Trinity (9-12-2, 6-10-2)

Trinity slogged through the season, posting a sub-.500 record and losing four of its last five games, all against conference opponents. To their credit, the Bantams



OLIVER PORTER / TUFTS DAILY

Fourth-seeded Tufts will square off against fifth-seeded Williams at Malden Forum on Saturday in the Jumbos' first-ever NESCAC playoff game on their home ice.

narrowly lost an away game to the powerhouse Lord Jeffs by just one goal, showing that the team has what it takes to at least compete with the NESCAC's best.

In order to have a chance of getting past the first round, Trinity will need big performances from sophomore goalie Benjamin Coulthard, who struggled for parts of the season, as well as junior forward Jeffrey Menard, who led the team with 12 goals.

Bowdoin will be a tough challenge in the first round, but Trinity has at least a fighter's chance of pulling off the upset.

No. 8 seed: Hamilton (8-13-3, 4-12-2)

In the school's debut season as a full NESCAC participant, the Continentals handled the tough conference opposition fairly well. Still, they should consider themselves lucky to be in the tournament because they only edged out Conn. College based on the head-to-head record tiebreaker. Regardless, Hamilton will have to hope for a miracle against Amherst. Sophomore goalie Joe Quattrocchi had a decent season, and the Continentals have some solid individual scorers, but they will probably make an early exit at the hands of the Lord Jeffs.

Elephants in the Room

Coaches Edition

	I can't believe my players _____	Strangest thing another coach has said to me	What I'd do if I wasn't coaching	Pregame ritual
 <p>Bob Sheldon Head Coach Men's Basketball</p>	Watch "Gold Rush"	"Don't call me for a game next year."	Probably be on the PGA tour	Go to Nick's Pizza for a salad
 <p>Nancy Bigelow Head Coach Women's Swimming</p>	Shave their legs	"Are you really the head coach?"	Travel agent	Take a walk
 <p>Ethan Barron Head Coach Men's Track</p>	Spend so much time arguing hypothetical track situations	"I've got a great plan for today. How about we stop sucking?"	Open an elementary school	1. Figure out plan A 2. Figure out backup plans B through Q 3. Double check backup plans 4. Watch an episode of "30 Rock"
 <p>Carla Berube Head Coach Women's Basketball</p>	Speak with fabricated accents	That my team plays NBA defense ... Was that a compliment?	Teacher by day, karaoke singer by night	Chew Trident Original gum

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A long climb to the top, Skerry braces for the journey

SKERRY

continued from Back

College Ave. from Cousens Gym, where Bernie spent a decade watching her boys pass through coach Bob Sheldon's program, one by one, sometimes side by side.

Pat and John, the middle child two years behind the eldest, started out as hockey players, enduring 5 a.m. wakeup calls alongside the Sacco brothers — Joe, the Colorado Avalanche head coach who spent 14 seasons in the NHL, and David, who enjoyed a brief stint with Toronto and Anaheim in the mid-1990s. Hockey in the morning, hoops in the afternoon.

Pat eventually singled out basketball in seventh grade, trading skates for Converse sneakers and filming three-way grudge matches on 7-foot Michael Jordan Jammer hoops they wheeled out into a driveway shared with the neighbors. Viewing the videos became a road-trip favorite for the Jumbos years later. As long as there wasn't any blood, everything was OK with their mother.

"Here you have this little boy at 6 years of age, putting masking tape on his wrists and dribbling the ball with both hands in the basement," Kelley-Leccese said, a metal bracelet clanking on her wrist as she mimes the motion. "It's like, for God's sake, go out and ride your bike. But he wanted to play basketball."

To this day, the three brothers remain linked by the bonds formed during dunk-offs, intense whiffle ball games or backyard wrestling matches on Wyman St. in West Medford and Daniel St. near Medford Square. Brian now works as a consultant in Abu Dhabi. John practices law in Miami. Pat has a wife, Kristen, and two sons, Ryan and Owen. Spread across the world, they talk every day.

Summers were either spent on courts or traveling between them. Five-Star camps and East Coast Invitationals doubled as vacations. Sometimes, just to fire off a few extra jumpers at Cousens, they'd sneak in through the locker room, or have Chris, Pat's favorite security guard, let them in. Open windows also worked on more than one occasion.

"He's a true Meh-fuh boy," said Sheldon, mimicking Skerry's thick local accent that reminds his players of Ben Affleck's "The Town" (2010).

Pat was his generation's boss around the house, especially after fourth grade, when his father moved out following a separation. Pat drove his brothers around after getting his driver's license. He'd delegate chores, telling his brothers where to sit and what to do. And then he'd dream of leading.

"He used to tell me, 'I'm going to be the coach, mom,'" Kelley-Leccese said. "I was like, 'Oh, OK. Go walk the dog.'"

"I'd be proud of him if they called him 'The Private.' Moms and dads just want their kids to be happy in whatever they're doing."

"I don't consider coaching to be a real job ... I'm in here 70 hours a week during the basketball season. But it's not 70 hours I dread." — Pat Skerry, *The Tufts Daily*, March 13, 1995

"I may have thrown Pat out of practice more than I have any other player in 24 years," said Sheldon, sitting in his office overlooking the gym that Skerry snuck into as a kid, played at in a Jumbos uniform for four years and then graced the sidelines for three seasons.

Explanations for dismissal ranged from fighting to insubordination. In retrospect, the underlying cause was Skerry's strong will. Sheldon wasn't booting Skerry for being a jerk; his actions surfaced from a fire forged during the driveway skirmishes just miles away.

For 11 years, Sheldon had at least one Skerry brother in practice every day. Unless

he threw them out first.

The Sheldon-Skerry relationship ended on rocky terrain. An assistant at Clark, Sheldon met Skerry on a recruiting visit, where a subpar handshake and below-average height turned Sheldon off immediately. Skerry wanted to play at Tufts for Rod Baker, anyway. Baker began recruiting Skerry after watching him play pickup in Cousens, but left for Holy Cross shortly thereafter. Once Skerry matriculated at Tufts, he marched into Baker's former office and found Sheldon sitting there. Rather than complain or transfer, Skerry won the starting point guard position midway through the team's season-opener. Typical Skerry resolve.

Left-handed and fearless, the 5-foot-8 point guard who ranks 13th in NCAA Div. III career assists per game once took a charge from a Salem State player built like a Div. I linebacker, knocking out a few front teeth. He didn't miss any action. Even players twice his size gravitated to Skerry. No cockiness, just seriousness. That he's progressed so quickly through the college ranks, from beside Sheldon after graduation to Stonehill, to Curry, Northeastern, William & Mary, College of Charleston, Rhode Island, Providence, Pittsburgh and finally Towson, is no surprise.

"You hear stories about Bill Belichick, when he was at his earlier stops he was painting lines on the football field," said John Skerry, who later referred to his brother's travels as indicative of a basketball gypsy. "Pat was like that. He was working on his master's at Tufts, coaching the JV team, answering phones. He'd work at coaching clinics on the weekend, picking up guys like Jim Boeheim, John Calipari and Jim Calhoun. He really knew what he wanted to do, and he wouldn't let other things get in the way of that."

It's a long slow climb and a quick fall in this business, Skerry says. But when you're doing what you love, you don't mind 15- or 16-hour days. Coaching is coaching. No matter where you do it.

"Later that afternoon, I asked Skerry how he managed to recruit anyone while coaching the worst basketball team in America. He walked over to his jacket, pulled out his keys, and tossed them on his desk. At first, I had no idea what was going on; then I realized this was the pitch. 'Heah ya go,' he said, ratcheting up his accent, because this is the kind of stuff you play up when you're chasing after fickle 18-year-olds. 'I need guys who can drive the cah.'" —Michael Weinreb, *Grantland.com*, Jan. 31, 2012

At halftime of Towson's Valentine's Day visit to Northeastern, a blonde emcee brought three courtside fans to the center circle for an impromptu dating game, alternating between enthusiasm and sarcasm while soliciting answers for a blindfolded bachelorette. One contestant had a phone number Sharpied onto his shirtless chest. Across his back was written, "Let's Get Weird."

At 1-28, Towson has grown accustomed to strangeness. Thirty-five minutes before tipoff, five seats at Matthews Arena had occupants. When the teams later retreated to their respective locker rooms, some Northeastern students chucked shots from midcourt, whooping it up whenever they struck rim. Cheerleaders, dance team members and the pep band outnumbered actual fans at tipoff. The difference wasn't even close.

Behind the Northeastern bench, Skerry leaned up against the hockey boards, his white shirt split down the middle by a dirty-mustard tie, shaking hands with a few friends. Between 40 and 50 eventually trickled in to witness The General once again march the sidelines on a Beantown battlefield.

After trading baskets to open the game, things unraveled, as they are wont to do for a squad that's lost 47 of its past 48, including a



COURTESY TOWSON UNIVERSITY

Pat Skerry has endured a tough first season.

much-publicized 41-game losing streak that the Tigers snapped against UNC-Wilmington on Jan. 28. Towson eventually lost to the Huskies 70-51, dropping to 1-15 in the CAA. Another night, another fight, another loss.

But armed with the administration's backing and a six-year contract, Skerry has assembled the CAA's best incoming class, which ranks sixth for all non-BCS schools. The class includes Frank Mason, Virginia's leading scorer out of Petersburg (Va.) High School, poached from the backyard of conference rival VCU, a 2011 Final Four team. Also on the horizon is a new 5,200-seat arena, slated to open in August of 2013.

By that time, Skerry hopes his program can shed the losing tradition. He envisions college basketball's biggest turnaround. His mother, sporting a Towson sweater and scarf in the Northeastern stands, guaranteed a winning season in 2012-13, and a Big Dance appearance on the horizon.

"Why not be part of something really good?" Sheldon said. "Why not take a program that's going to win two games in two years and bring it from the ashes to the top? He's selling them a chance for them to come in and do something no one's done at Towson."

Sitting among the contingent of local well-wishers who arrived to support Skerry on Tuesday, Sheldon remarked that his protegee seemed "calm" while patrolling the sidelines, — a characterization akin to a cheetah calling a gazelle slow. The animated and energetic Skerry rarely regressed to his seat. That spot belongs to players who need a few words before reentering.

The General perpetually exists between the bench and the court, his dark dress shoes moving in tune with the action. Whenever he explodes onto the hardwood to bark instructions, like a cavalry leader sounding the charge, his assistants follow suit, leaping as one. From the ground up, the man who once got cut from the BC High basketball team his freshman year, transferred to Malden Catholic and started as a sophomore, is slowly constructing a winning program.

"As you can see," he said after the Northeastern game, pausing to glad-hand a few more friends, "I'm not someone who's easily discouraged."

With the keys in tow, so the General marches, on and on.

ALEX ARTHUR | KING ARTHUR'S COURT

Time is up



The Chelsea Football Club is in the midst of a serious crisis. For a team that has seen Russian billionaire owner Roman Abramovich spend more than \$750,000,000 on player transfers alone since he bought the club in 2003, Chelsea's performance over the past season and a half has been subpar. With a managerial vacancy to fill, Abramovich paid \$17.6 million to E.C. Porto for their 33-year-old superstar Andre Villas-Boas. Villas-Boas, who last season led Porto to a league cup, a first-place league finish and a Europa League championship, was expected to come to Chelsea and bring hardware to the club like his mentor and former Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho. Needless to say, this season has not gone according to plan.

Chelsea currently sits in fifth place in the league and is on the verge of exiting the only two tournaments they are still in: the FA Cup and the Champions League. Chelsea, winless in any match since Jan. 28, is starting to hear it from the fans and media, who are calling for Villas-Boas' head after just over a half of a season. While that may not seem like a long enough time for a young coach to get acclimated to the squad, Chelsea is an extremely talented team, rife with world-class players at every position. They should be winning. Villas-Boas accepted the position knowing the expectations that come with managing a world-renowned club. The shouts for his job perhaps came a bit too early. However, Villas-Boas and Chelsea have responded to the pressure with a dip, not an increase, in their form.

Chelsea faced the Italian side Napoli Tuesday night in the Champions League quarterfinals. With the Champions League being Chelsea's only realistic chance at hardware this season, they were expected to come out motivated and deliver their embattled manager an away draw if not a victory. Chelsea did just the opposite, as they were defeated 3-1 at Stadio San Paolo in a game in which Napoli could have easily put five goals past Chelsea. The Blues played uninspired and unorganized soccer and were completely undone by Napoli's stellar attacking trio of Marek Hamsik, Edinson Cavani and Ezequiel Lavezzi. Villas-Boas elected to start Raul Meireles and Florent Malouda in midfield — both of whom are consistently indifferent to their defensive assignments — ahead of veterans Michael Essien and Frank Lampard. Essien and Lampard substituted for the midfield pair in the 70th minute, and Chelsea immediately began not only defending better but also applying much more pressure in the attacking third of the field.

Even as players publicly come out and support their manager to the media, their effort on the pitch can only be described as lackadaisical. On each of Napoli's three goals, the lack of effort by various Chelsea players was abundantly clear. On Lavezzi's first of two goals, Meireles allowed Lavezzi about 10 yards of space to shoot, and instead of closing down and attempting to block the shot, he cowered further away. On Cavani's goal, defender Branislav Ivanovic, who had one of his worst days ever for Chelsea, allowed Cavani to jog by him and deflect in a cross. These were just two of the many shocking displays by Chelsea players, and if it were not for the heroics of goalkeeper Petr Cech in two one-on-one situations, I would further be roasting the Chelsea backline.

It is always difficult in sports to determine how much blame should be apportioned to a manager for his team's poor play. But in situations where the players appear to be checked out, while the manager frantically shouts on the sidelines, it is clear that a change must be made. And for a club that has had five managers in as many years, sadly, it is time for another one.

Alex Arthur is a sophomore who has not yet declared a major. He can be reached at Alexander.Arthur@tufts.edu.

After three straight wins, Jumbos to compete in C division

WOMEN'S SQUASH

continued from Back

Division C, which contains teams ranked 17th through 24th. Tufts will square off against some familiar regular-season opponents — Bowdoin, Amherst, George Washington University, Wesleyan, Colby, Conn. College and Wellesley.

"We're looking to play our best game yet," Barba said. "Of course, [coach Belkys Velez] hopes we win C division."

Based on the latest rankings, Tufts would be looking at a first-round match against 18th-ranked Amherst, which has already handed Tufts two 9-0 losses during the regular season, including the defeat in the first

round of the NESCAC tournament. If they were to pull off an upset, the Jumbos would then face the winner of the match between George Washington and Conn. College in the semifinals.

"We know that we'll be playing teams right around [our rank], that we can beat them," Vinoski said. "We just have to play tough and play consistent."

"A tough mental game [will be key]," she added. "It's something we've battled with, something we're constantly working to overcome, but we're improving."

Last season, Tufts started off ranked 26th nationally but was able to rise to 24th by the end of the regular season. Matched up

against then-No. 17 Franklin and Marshall College in the first round of the 2011 Howe Cup, Tufts fell 9-0. But the Jumbos were able to beat Colby 5-4 in the consolation-round semis, followed by a 6-3 victory over Vassar in the consolation finals. For their efforts, the Jumbos jumped up three spots following the tournament to rank 21st nationally.

The Jumbos earned the No. 21 ranking in the nation before this season began and have since dropped down two spots.

This weekend at Harvard will be the last opportunity for Tufts to improve its team ranking. The squash season concludes with the Individual Championships at Amherst March 2-4.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Son of Medford, 'The General' is a student of the game

BY ALEX PREWITT
Daily Editorial Board

How do you win a battle when defeat nears inevitability? Aim for the war.

Announcer Dick Vitale first dubbed legendary college coach Bobby Knight "The General" when Knight took over at Indiana in the early '70s. His blend of tactical brilliance and loyalty, the fiery temper and military-like precision, elicited comparisons to Patton and Grant. An alternative approach indeed, but it constantly succeeded, even if the frontlines lay littered with broken chairs and soul-scarring obscenities afterward.

Two decades later, Pat Skerry (A '92) began wearing the badge while attending Tufts. The Medford-born eldest of three sons led his brothers. He led his teams. He led his troops.

Skerry landed his first Div. I head coaching job last year at Towson, knowing full well that a steep climb lay ahead for the General and whatever soldiers stuck around at one of college basketball's most despondent programs.

The nickname has disappeared over time, fading as he moved from college to college throughout the East coast, scaling the coaching ladder and advancing on his dream. Though men's basketball coach Bob Sheldon and fellow Jumbos know Pat Skerry as "The General," his Tigers know him as someone else, someone Skerry has envisioned himself becoming since high school, someone who will hoist Towson out of the cellar and into the national spotlight for the

right reasons. They know him as Coach.

It takes an elevator — or exactly 80 stairs across six floors, depending on your commitment to exercise — to find the woman who raised The General.

Behind the door to room C603 in the Fletcher School sits Bernadette Kelley-Leccese, the endearing Irish-Catholic mother you wish you had. Miniature elephants from across the world — India, Belize and Panama, to name a few — overlook a candy cane jar, cutout shamrocks and snapshots of her three beloved sons as a shortwave radio provides a soothing, classical soundtrack.

It's the same office to which Bernie, as she's known to friends, returned after watching her son coach Pittsburgh in the NCAA Tournament in Washington, D.C., last spring. While gazing at the April sky over Packard Ave., she received a call from Pat, who told her to pack her bags yet again. She was needed for an introductory press conference in Towson, Md.

An "eternal Jumbo" with 30 years of service at Tufts, Bernie, Program Manager for the Southwest Asia and Islamic Culture program, is now a Tiger too. After meeting Skerry's players over Thanksgiving at his house, she now refers to them by first name. She's been a Husky in the past. And a Panther. And a Cougar. And all the other mascots at the pit stops on Skerry's journey.

The Skerry brothers grew up in Medford, attending the Eliot-Pearson nursery just up

see **SKERRY**, page 15

ICE HOCKEY

Lord Jeffs favored heading into NESCAC tournament

BY DAVID MCINTYRE
Daily Editorial Board

This year, the NESCAC men's hockey tournament will be entering uncharted territory — there will be no defending champion, since Bowdoin's title was vacated after a violation of institutional policy. Nevertheless, the puck will drop this weekend, and No. 4 Tufts will take on No. 5 Williams at home after its best season in the NESCAC era.

To get you ready, the Daily breaks down the tournament team by team, starting with top-seeded Amherst.

No. 1 seed: Amherst (20-3-1 overall, 17-1-0 NESCAC)

Unquestionably the most dominating squad in the conference this year, Amherst comes into the NESCAC tournament looking to cap off a tremendous regular season in which the team nearly went undefeated in conference play. The Lord Jeffs have the most balanced squad in the league, finishing second in goals per game and first in goals allowed.

Interestingly, though, the Lord Jeffs have nobody in the top 10 in the league in individual scoring, a testament to the depth that brought them success during the course of the regular season. Between the pipes, the strong performances have all come from senior goaltender Jonathan La Rose, who leads the league in goals against average and has played over 1,000

minutes this season. Amherst will be the squad to beat this year, and if the Lord Jeffs continue their impressive regular season form, they should walk away with the title.

No. 2 seed: Bowdoin (15-5-3, 12-3-3)

Bowdoin responded nicely from the specter of the scandal that caused last year's title to be vacated and finished the season on a nice roll, winning its last four games. The Polar Bears are led by senior goalie Richard Nerland — who is second in the league in goals against average, behind La Rose — as well as sophomore forward Colin Downey, who is tied for fourth in the league in points per game.

Bowdoin also was the only squad in the NESCAC to beat Amherst, notching a 7-4 victory over the Lord Jeffs on Jan. 6. However, that game was played in the friendly confines of Sidney J. Watson Arena, and Bowdoin lost the return leg 3-1 at Amherst on Feb. 3, suggesting that the Polar Bears might need a bit of luck to upset the odds-on favorite in the tournament.

No. 3 seed: Middlebury (12-9-3, 11-6-1)

Middlebury finished just a peg below Bowdoin and effectively rounds out the list of elite squads in the NESCAC this year. Without question, the Panthers' weakest facet was their offense; they are

see **ICE HOCKEY**, page 13

MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Jumbos look to crack top three for seventh straight year

G.J. VITALE
Contributing Writer

Tomorrow through Sunday, the men's swimming and diving team will compete at Williams in the annual NESCAC Championships. Williams is in search of its 10th straight conference title, and after the Ephs' 201-93 regular season win over the Jumbos, it appears that Tufts will not be the biggest threat to their hopes. That title will more likely belong to the Amherst Lord Jeffs, who managed a 145-98 victory over the Ephs in January.

Still, regular-season results do not always correlate with outcomes later in the year. The 2011 Ephs lost to the Lord Jeffs, 132-11, in the regular season but beat them in the NESCAC Championships by more than 100 points, 1,741.5 to 1,614.5.

For the Jumbos, consistency at NESCACs has not been an issue — they have secured a top three finish in each of the past six seasons. Last year, Tufts finished the meet with a total of 1,318 points, good for third place behind Amherst and first-place Williams.

This year, a strong senior class — co-captains Owen Rood and Joe McLoughlin, Peter Debbaut, E.J. Testa, Alex Strittmatter and Lou Tamposi — will return to the championships looking to use its experience to the team's advantage.

"We've got a great group of leaders, starting with our senior class," head coach Adam Hoyt said. "They will lead the way this coming weekend for us. Having graduated eight guys from our conference team last season, however, we'll need all 24 guys to step up and score points to have a great meet. Our non-conference team members had stand-out swims a few weeks ago at the Wheaton Invitational, and those performances, coupled with our



DAILY FILE PHOTO

Co-captain Owen Rood is part of a strong senior class that will lead the Jumbos at this weekend's NESCAC Championship meet.

women's team's [third-place finish at NESCACs] this past weekend, give our conference team a ton of confidence."

Returning from last year's third-place team is sophomore Johann Schmidt, who won the three-meter diving event at the 2011 championships and finished second in the one-meter dive.

Rood and Testa also had great performances at last year's conference meet. Rood finished fourth in the 100-yard freestyle and fifth in the 50-yard event, and was part of the second-place 200-yard medley relay and third-place 200-yard freestyle relay teams. Testa placed fourth in the 50-yard backstroke, fifth in the 50-yard butterfly and seventh in the 100-yard backstroke and swam for both the second-place 200-yard medley relay and the fifth-place 400-yard freestyle relay squads.

"We have a lot of talent on this team," sophomore Craig Olynyk said. "We have taken into account [Hoyt's] advice for which races we will swim — each swimmer has a limit on the number of races he can swim [at NESCACs] — and will give

it our best this weekend." The Jumbos will need to be at their best to challenge the Ephs and Lord Jeffs, who were 6-2 and 7-1, respectively, in dual meets this season. Williams is led by junior Paul Dyrkacz, who is returning after winning Swimmer of the Meet honors for his performance at last year's championships.

A third-place finish is no guarantee, especially since Conn. College has a chance to challenge Tufts. The Camels have improved since last year's fifth-place finish in the conference meet, and they defeated the Jumbos 150-130 in the regular season. Camels senior Tim Walsh — who set records in all three backstroke events last year and has swept the races for two consecutive years — looks poised to repeat his success this weekend.

The three-day event will take place at the Samuelson-Muir Pool at Williams College beginning tomorrow. Preliminary heats each morning will be followed by championship races in the late afternoon. Live results and a complete schedule will be available at www.NESCAC.com in the coming days.

WOMEN'S SQUASH

Tufts trending up for team championships

BY ANDY WONG
Contributing Writer

Since falling 9-0 to Amherst in the first round of the NESCAC tournament, followed by losses to Colby and Conn. College in the consolation round, the women's squash team has come roaring back. The Jumbos, who are ranked 23rd nationally, closed out their regular season as winners of three games in a row. They will look to ride that wave of momentum this weekend at the Howe Cup Team Championships at Harvard.

After their disappointing showing at NESCACs, the Jumbos rolled to an 8-0 victory over Northeastern and followed it up with an 8-1 win against Vassar College three days later. Then, most recently, the Tufts defeated archrival Wellesley College 7-2 on Senior Night this past Friday. As they prepare for the national tournament that will begin tomorrow and conclude Sunday, there is no question that the Jumbos are riding high.

"The win against Wellesley was crucial," senior co-captain Mercedes Barba said.

"It helped us going into this next weekend, mentally," senior

co-captain Alyse Vinoski said.

Barba led the charge on Friday night against Wellesley's Sara Del Balzo in the No. 1 spot with an impressive three-game win (11-8, 11-3, 11-7). Four other Jumbos took their matches in three games as well — juniors Ushashi Basu and Desen Ozkan and freshmen Charlotte Griffiths and Paige Dahlman. In match No. 4, Dahlman allowed only 13 total points against her opponent.

After falling behind 2-0 in the No. 5 match against Marguerite Sulmont, Vinoski proceeded to take over, earning decisive victories in the final three games, 11-3, 11-3 and 11-6.

The third consecutive win brought the team's regular season to a close with a 10-12 record.

"[The regular season] has been good," Vinoski said. "I think we've fought really hard. It didn't always pan out in our favor, but we fought."

At the national team championships — which are divided into five divisions based on national ranking — the Jumbos will be competing for the Walker Cup in

see **WOMEN'S SQUASH**, page 15



DAILY FILE PHOTO

Senior co-captain Mercedes Barba, the No. 1 player in the Jumbos' ladder, will look to help the women's squash team to victory this weekend at the Howe Cup Team Championships at Harvard.