DiBiaggio responds to beating

Over the weekend, a Tufts senior who had been attending an off-campus party was attacked as he left the private residence. As the victim was attacked, the assailant purportedly yelled vulgar anti-gay slurs. The student suffered a broken nose and a badly bruised jaw and ribs. Another student came to the victim’s rescue and also sustained injuries, less serious in nature.

This sort of behavior goes against everything we at this University value as a community. Violence against another is wrong; violence against another because of sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, or religious beliefs is unacceptable to this community and will not go unaddressed.

A crime such as this is a serious violation of our community. Any incident of intolerance against any member of our community affects each and every one of us. Each of us has a responsibility to do all that we can to prevent such incidents from taking place and to respond if and when they occur.

The Dean of Students Office is working closely with the Tufts and Medford police to investigate and prosecute this federal felony to the fullest extent of the law. The assailant has been described as a white male, 5’9” tall, with dark blonde hair, wearing a white tank top and jeans. Anyone having information that may help this investigation is urged to contact either the Dean of Students Office or the Tufts Police.

I ask your help in making Tufts University a safe and welcoming place for all of its members.

— President John DiBiaggio

Students assaulted in hate crime, suspects unknown

by DANIEL BARBARISI
Daily Editorial Board

Tufts was rocked this weekend by what appears to be a violent hate crime, one that left two students in the hospital and the Tufts University Police Department (TUPD) searching for an unknown assailant.

The assault, which took place at 4:10 a.m. Sunday morning, occurred on Emory St., while the two students, whose names have been withheld, were returning from an off-campus party, according to TUPD Captain Mark Keith.

“There was a party at a residence on Winthrop St.,” Keith said. “As the two males were leaving the party they encountered a third male, who momentarily blocked their exit. It is unclear if words were exchanged at this time.

“The two males continued on their way down the street,” Keith continued. “As they came down Emory, the third male came running after them, yelling at them from behind. He ran up to one of the individuals, knocked him to the ground, and punched and kicked him.

“The second victim tried to help, but was punched and kicked as well. The suspect then fled on foot,” Keith concluded.

When asked what the third male said to the two victims, Captain Keith responded that the suspect repeatedly yelled, “Faggots.”

The first victim suffered a broken nose, a number of cuts, bruises, and abrasions, as well as bruised ribs, while the second victim suffered only minor bruises.

The suspect’s identity, as well as whether he was a Tufts student, remains unknown, although a physical description given by the two victims lists him as a white male, 5’9”, with dirty blonde hair over his ears and a muscular build. The suspect was wearing a white tank top, blue jeans, and was clean shaven. The possibility exists, Keith said, that the assailant had been at the party with the two victims prior to the assault.

“She’s some indication that the suspect may have been at the party. It’s believed that there may have been some individuals at the party who may have seen him there,” Keith said.

University President John DiBiaggio expressed his extreme displeasure at the incident in a press release. He said, “We take all acts of violence like this against our students extremely seriously, and pursue every means available to us to see that justice is served.

“In this case, we are additionally disturbed and saddened to hear that hateful slurs were leveled against our students. Incidents of intolerance against any member of our University community affects every one of us,” DiBiaggio said.

The case is still under investigation, and more details will be released as they become available. The police urge anyone in possession of information that may help the investigation to contact them at x7-3030.