

silly the next Saturday night and wound up in the infirmary. ("I remember hearing about that," Nathans says with a knowing smile.) And then, having exorcized my demons, I began the long recovery process, with a little help from Tolstoy.

WHILE MANY FAMILY MEMBERS feared I would not be able to complete the semester, or would struggle academically under the circumstances, I finished the year with near-perfect grades. It was when I had nothing to do that I felt the most pain, so I set up camp in the library and worked consistently for the last month of school. But academic endeavors were not my only recourse. Whenever a memory of my father, or my family, would pierce me, I found a network of new friends by my side. Although my grade-school friends tried to console me, I found it easier to talk to my college friends about my father: unlike those old friends, my new friends had no context, no concept of who my father was, no idea of my home. It was to my friends at school that I cried; I confronted my parents and friends from home with a straight face.

Although I didn't realize it until late in freshman year, many of my friends and acquaintances here had experienced similar loss in their first months at the College. Around this same time, grandparents start to fade—this year alone, four of my block-mates have experienced such a loss, or near loss. Several of my friends freshman year were coping with the anxiety caused by seriously ill parents. We may feel that our world here is completely isolated, but perhaps this detachment makes dealing with outside pain all the more difficult. The knowledge that there were many other freshmen experiencing their own family traumas was a great source of comfort.

Looking around me, I realized that many of my peers were shouldering the responsibilities of family life. For me, news of the divorce (more than the events and circumstances of the split) marked a sharp divide between life before and life after. I was suddenly aware of adult pains that cannot be erased. I also took on the role of an absentee grown-up in the family, supporting my mother and sister through the initial stages of recovery. In my case, it seemed that my sister and I were more mature than our parents, who were quickly enmeshed in

legal skirmishes. Apart from literature and music, this was how I grappled with the shock of change at home.

It is a somewhat paradoxical imposition of adulthood: we leave the house only to find ourselves laden with familial troubles, we assume new roles as participating adults in the family we had always counted on to support us. Moreover, I was struck by how my friends, many of them not yet 20 years old, were infinitely more capable of understanding and comforting me than any adult I encountered. It wasn't that they had the right vocabulary, or all the right answers. If they didn't understand my circumstances, they understood that the biggest lesson of freshman year, of college in general, is that we are not just students, but new participants in the economy of adult feelings and real-life events, and while we will still sometimes need to fall back into the arms of whatever familiarity is left at home, it is now our duty to bolster ourselves.

What all college students can relate to is the quiet shift in one's relationship to the family, the barely perceptible change in dynamic between child and parent that takes place even without household upheaval. It was my father himself who tied this change to literature, only a few weeks before he broke the news of the divorce. I

**The newest Rhodes: Shazrene Mohamed '04, from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, is Harvard's seventh Rhodes Scholarship winner for 2004 (see "The Rhodes Roster," March-April, page 79). Her concentration combines astronomy, astrophysics, and math; she plans to work toward a Ph.D. in astrophysics at Oxford.**



JONATHAN SHAW

was home for the weekend in late March. My father and I were sharing Greek food in the kitchen, standing around the counter, much to my mother's chagrin. My sullen mood was not lost on my father, who offered me the following aphorism: "I know it's hard to come back here. Thomas Wolfe had it right when he said, 'You can't go home again'." With that, he dispatched the remainder of his sandwich in one gulp. Of course, it was another few weeks until I realized how right he was. But even before he changed the family, the family had changed for me—it was true that I'd felt oddly out of joint since the first weeks of college. Now, a year into my first year of adulthood, I can go home again, not as a girl somewhere between the ages of Jane Eyre and Elizabeth Bennett, but as a woman with new responsibilities, and a new perspective. ▽

*Berta Greenwald Ledeccky Undergraduate Fellow  
Rebecca O'Brien '06 prefers Tolstoy to Thomas Wolfe or William Faulkner.*

## SPORTS

# The Swinging Lingmans

*Two siblings who aren't rivals but fellow warriors*

IN COLLEGE TENNIS, there are no mixed doubles: athletes play only against their own sex. Still, the men's and women's teams root for each other, and two Harvard players take this mutual support to its biological extreme. They are senior David Lingman and his sister, junior Susanna Lingman, who play at number one and number two, respectively, for the

Crimson tennis squads. "He watches all my home matches and I see all of his at home," says Susanna. "We talk after every match, whether away or at home. Dave is the person I'm closest to in the world. He knows every aspect of my life."

The siblings share many similarities, including strong, supple bodies: they are gazelles, not draft horses. (Think James



**Brother forehand, sister serve: varsity siblings Susanna Lingman and David Lingman on an indoor tennis court at Harvard's Murr Center.**

Blake '01 and Justine Henin-Hardenne, not Boris Becker and Jennifer Capriati.) The Lingmans have tracked parallel courses since they arrived at Harvard. Both were Ivy League Rookies of the Year and both have made the First Team all-Ivy roster in both singles and doubles for two years running. Last season, Dave ("Ling" to teammates) was selected as Ivy League Player of the Year. His sister (a.k.a. "Slinger") has yet to emulate that particular honor, and to do so she will have to contend with stiff competition that includes her doubles partner (and Harvard's number-one singles player), Courtney Bergman '05. Both Lingmans also serve as cocaptains of their squads, Dave for the second time.

The siblings' parallel careers also in-

clude comebacks from debilitating medical problems. Last July, following a routine checkup, Susanna had a benign tumor surgically removed and was confined to bed for two weeks. "It was hard to recover—going from doing so much to doing nothing," she says. "Especially getting my stamina back. Cardio was very hard. It took my summer away. But now I'm moving well again and have good timing."

Dave supported his sister in her recuperation, drawing on his own experience. Osteomyelitis, a rare type of bone marrow infection, struck him during a top junior tennis event, the Orange Bowl, in 1995 when he was 14. "This came at an especially high point in my tennis development," he recalls. "I had gotten to the round of 16 where I lost to [cur-

rent world number-one player] Roger Federer. I won one consolation match, but then I got delirious in the hotel. The infection was misdiagnosed for a while; it may have come from something I ate."

He was hospitalized for two weeks and at one point his life was in danger; he was on intravenous antibiotics for three months and did not play tennis, or even walk, for six. However, he got help from "the best physical trainer in the world. They got me back much sooner than expected." The next summer he won four tournaments, and had his best performance at junior nationals. "You want to make it up really quickly," he explains. "You feel you've been robbed of this time. It's horribly frustrating."

Hence, last summer and fall, "Dave was very helpful because he had gone through it," Susanna explains. "Actually he has gone through a lot of the stuff I go through."

PARENTS Eric and Belle Lingman (now amicably divorced) are not particularly athletic, but they did take up tennis at one point, and their children quickly became interested. Soon both were winning junior tournaments around the country and leading their teams at Woodbridge High School in Irvine, California, south of Los Angeles, where Susanna was a three-time team MVP and attained a national junior ranking as high as 35.

The Lingmans have highly competitive temperaments, but where Dave is explosive, Susanna is more of a steady-state warrior. "I'm a laid-back California girl," she says, grinning. (The 13 consecutive opponents she destroyed during her freshman year probably wish she were laid back a little further.) "There's an inner drive with that woman you don't see in a lot of players," says head women's coach Gordon Graham. Men's tennis coach David Fish '72 reports, "Dave hates to lose! His internal fire is like a nuclear reactor—if you pull just enough rods out, the reaction is controllable and produces very useful energy. Take too many rods out, and Three Mile Island!" Lingman notes that Dave Fish "has helped me learn to manage my energy level. Sometimes I get too high or too low. I'm learning to channel my aggressive behavior into something positive." An example occurred on the final point of a doubles match this March against Furman University. The winning shot was an overhead from the baseline that Dave drilled straight at the chest of an opponent camped at the net. As his mother, Belle, dryly observed at the time, "He's not shy."

As a girl, Susanna, a psychology concentrator, admired the great German champion Steffi Graf. Like Graf, she is an aggressive baseliner with a strong forehand, although, unlike Graf, she never runs into the ad-side doubles alley to hit it—Susanna's two-handed backhand is just fine, thank you. "My forehand is more powerful, my backhand's more consistent," she says. In fact, according to Dave, the backhand is her best shot. "Timing is Susanna's strong point," he says. "And

pace doesn't bother her—she can handle a guy's pace. She likes to dictate play." Susanna is not one of those patient retrievers who win by waiting for opponents to make an error. "She likes to go after you and pound away," says Graham. As Susanna puts it, "I like to finish my points."

Dave uses more spin than his sister and is far more comfortable at net. "He has great offensive capabilities," says Fish. "Dave's forehand and his speed are his greatest assets. He doesn't get a lot of free points from his serve, but he uses it effectively to set up his points." Susanna says that Dave "is smart about the way he plays his points. He's not just trying to hit winners. He will pick away at their armor."

Both Lingmans swing Babolat racquets—Dave plays the blue "Pure Drive" stick, favored by Andy Roddick, Kim Clijsters, and many top professionals; Susanna's red "Pure Control" model is less seen on the pro tour but a deadly weapon in her hands. Both sport stylish earrings, though they claim not to advise each other on jewelry. And both train with Ken Matsuda, whose charges have included Michael Chang, Jim Courier, Paradorn Srichiphan, and Taylor Dent.

Matsuda's take-no-prisoners workouts have paid off in quick starts, leg speed, strength, and endurance. "Tennis is all about legs, way more than arms," Susanna says. "Legs and movement, getting to the place where you can best hit the shot you want to hit." Dave says, "The most important thing in my game is speed, getting my legs under me."



Jantzen (left) and Harkness in St. Louis

COURTESY OF JESSE JANTZEN

### Wrestling

At the NCAA tournament in March, Jesse Jantzen '04 (above) became only the second Harvard grappler to win a

Matsuda, he says, "is from the old school. He will only take people who are driven internally." The workouts include a lot of movement and agility drills on the court: "You don't want to waste steps," Dave explains. "Move with the least amount of energy, nothing extra mentally or physically." There's also cardio work with stairs, treadmills, and resistance conditioning with harnesses and elastic bands. "The more I give, the more he'll give," Dave says. "My improvement was remarkable."

Dave had a strong career as a junior player; opponents included current top pros Andy Roddick and Taylor Dent. Yet he stopped competing in his senior year in high school. "There was a lot of pressure and I started not to enjoy tennis," he recalls. "I felt I was losing out on a lot of other things, like the ability to be at home and have friends." He lost his ranking and wasn't offered full tennis scholarships, but was still recruited. Musing on his college decision, Dave recalls thinking, "Go to the best school in the nation, or go somewhere else and try to really develop my tennis? Then I realized that James [Blake] had played at Harvard and gone on to a higher level in tennis. I felt I could improve my own game there and also help the team improve."

In 2000, after his freshman year, Dave left Harvard to try his luck on the pro tennis tour for a year and a half; he returned a far more seasoned competitor, having faced "guys playing for bread money and also calling their own lines," he says. This year, by late March he was ranked twenty-seventh in the nation in singles and, with his partner, Jonathan Chu '05, thirty-eighth nationally in doubles.

Harvard's men's and women's teams, ranked as high as twelfth and eleventh, respectively, in the country this year, are once again the powers of the Ivy League. The Crimson have dominated Ivy tennis for the past two decades, with each program winning or sharing 13 of the 20 league titles contested among their peers since 1984. This year, the women's team has battled injuries to several players, including Susanna and her doubles partner Bergman (the country's nineteenth-ranked doubles team), but like the men, were favored to repeat as league champions.

With his cocaptain Cliff Nguyen '04, Dave, an economics concentrator, has encouraged teammates to "pump it up and really get down and work hard in practice without making excuses for yourself," he says. "You tell other guys, 'This is what you need to work on—if I were playing you, this is what I'd do to you.' If you aren't doing that, you're taking practice away from other guys. I chose tennis because it was an individual sport; I always wanted to be the master of my own destiny. But I have really enjoyed the team aspect. You can actually bring each other up."

Yes, you can, including your sibling. In addition to weekly dinners together and innumerable phone calls and e-mails, Susannah and Dave go out on the tennis court and hit balls, usually early in the morning, once a week. After college, both expect to play on the professional tour—where four tournaments *do* have mixed doubles events. Some day, you just might see a Lingman-Lingman team out there, playing in one of the Grand Slams.

—CRAIG LAMBERT

## Winter Champions

national championship, which he did in the 149-pound class. (John Harkness '38, who won at 175 pounds in 1938, saw Jantzen's victory in St. Louis.) Jantzen's dominance earned him the title of Most Outstanding Wrestler for the tourney.

### Ice Hockey

For the first time ever, one college won both the men's and women's ECAC

Championships. The Crimson men vanquished Clarkson, 3-2, while the women took out St. Lawrence, 6-1. Maine's men rallied to beat Harvard, 5-4, in the NCAA first round; the icewomen went all the way to the NCAA final before falling to Minnesota, 6-2. Senior defender Angela Ruggiero won the Patty Kazmaier Award as the top player among college women.