

Tufts beats Conn., falls to Trinity in weekend matches

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Mindy Kaling's new book "Why Not Me?" provides honest, humorous look at comedienne's life
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NICHOLAS PFOSI / THE TUFTS DAILY

Sheep from the Tufts Veterinary School visit campus to promote an open house at the school later in the week on Wednesday, Sept. 16.

Common Reading book author Eboo Patel speaks about faith

by **Catherine Perloff**
Contributing Writer

The author of this year's Common Reading book, Eboo Patel, spoke about interfaith work, the exploratory nature of college life and other ideas from in his book to a large audience in Cohen Auditorium last night.

Patel's book "Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation" was sent to all incoming first-years and transfer students as part of the Common Reading Program. The program was sponsored by the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service, the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate and Graduate Students and the University Chaplaincy.

Patel's memoir discusses the author's religious renewal founding and heading the Interfaith Youth Core, leading the call to action for religious pluralism.

Dean of Undergraduate and Graduate Students John Barker delivered an introduction, saying that the event sought to spark discussion about these issues outside the classroom.

Patel started his talk by listing examples across disciplines where faith is crucially important but often misunderstood. He referenced Madeleine Albright's lamentations about the lack of religious experts in the State Department and conflicts between doctors and patients when religion conflicts with treatment.

"The bottom line is interfaith leadership frameworks, knowledge and skills are an absolutely essential set of tools that you will need to be a leader in 21st century," Patel said.

Patel went on to explain the necessity of interfaith cooperation.

"One of the areas we need leadership in the most is what it means to be in a healthy, religiously diverse democracy," Patel said.

He elaborated on "religious-ly diverse democracies," clearing up common misconceptions about the terms "democracy" and "diversity."

"Diversity is not all samosas and egg rolls," Patel said. "Diversity is not just the differences you like. It's the ones you don't like."

After presenting religious problems and solutions, Patel offered some practical advice for becoming an interfaith leader.

First, he discussed the development of an "interfaith radar-screen," which he defined as an awareness of religious issues. This awareness can be developed by going through New York Times articles and noting all of the articles relating to faith — something that Patel said he does daily.

After picking out all the religious pieces, there isn't much left in the paper, he said.

see **EBOO PATEL**, page 2

New Student Life website replaces TuftsLife

by **Roy Yang**
Assistant News Editor

The new Student Life website launched last week to replace TuftsLife, the student-created website that, for the past decade, has served as a platform for students to find online information regarding Tufts.

According to Student Services Communication Specialist Caitlin Felsman Pfitzer, who led the development of the new site, Student Life was created to provide an easily accessible, central platform for all Tufts student resource websites. The site contains student resources for 41 different departments across campus, eases interactions with university offices and lists news, announcements and events.

The need for a new student life-centered website became apparent after former student group TuftsLife lost recognition from the Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate last spring. In its last few years, TuftsLife had become unreliable, according to Pfitzer.

"When I was a student here, [TuftsLife] was every student's homepage," Pfitzer said. "But it had changed hands, and it was hard to find information [on TuftsLife], and there was also this disconnect between information ... If a faculty or staff member wanted to post on it, we had no access."

The TuftsLife website, though it still exists and appears to have undergone formatting changes, is currently empty of content. Pfitzer said that TuftsLife is unlikely to return.

Pfitzer explained that she hopes Student Life will take over TuftsLife's role as a conglomerate of information that provides both students and university staff with what they need.

"One of the challenges that Tufts had in the past was having so many different platforms — and they don't really work together," Pfitzer said. "There's been very little done in terms of standards of information...so we are looking for a more uniform branding and more uniform message."

John Barker, dean of undergraduate and graduate students, who worked with Pfitzer to create the new website, said the website will feature more interactive ways for Tufts students to

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N NEWS

Cummings School creates \$2,500 prosthetic leg for local chicken

by **Arin Kerstein**
News Editor and Features Editor

Doctors at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine fitted a local chicken with a \$2,500 prosthetic leg last Friday as part of an unprecedented amputation procedure.

The chicken's owner, Andrea Martin, said the Cummings School professionals are unsure what the rehabilitation process will be like for the chicken, named Cicely, since the surgery is the first of its kind to be completed at the Cummings School, and the first to be carried out on a chicken.

"I didn't think much of this [process] until the vet said, 'We're just gonna try. No one's ever done this,'" Martin said.

Martin, a chicken and horse behaviorist at the Black Thistle Farm in Clinton, Mass., discovered that Cicely was suffering from a slipped tendon after she rescued the chicken in July. Cicely's previous owner had told Martin that the chicken had grown up with an unidentifiable injury, she said.

"Her leg injury was shocking,"

Martin said. "I was thinking we were going to have her put down, but we were hoping that maybe there could be some surgical repair ... I made an appointment [with the Cummings School] the next day."

Emi Knafo, a specialist in avian orthopedics, surgery and wound healing at the Cummings School, explained to the Worcester Telegram that it is common for fowl to suffer from slipped tendons, which usually occur at birth.

"The foot tendons contract in an abnormal place," Knafo said. "It puts them at risk for sores and infections, and the choices were euthanasia, or try to manage it with pain medication. It could be an uncomfortable life. But as a veterinarian, we always try to evaluate and intervene in a positive way."

Martin said she brought Cicely in for an appointment with Knafo, who felt that euthanasia and amputation were the only options appropriate for Cicely's condition. Martin felt there was no choice to be made and committed to financing the \$2,500 prosthesis herself.

Knafo amputated Cicely's right leg on Aug. 5, Martin said. During the amputation surgery, Knafo's team used a CT scan to obtain a mirror image of Cicely's left leg in order to replicate the right leg for the prosthesis. The plastic prosthetic leg was created on the Medford/Somerville campus with a 3D printer.

According to Martin, two weeks of healing time were scheduled between the surgery and the prosthesis fitting. Delays in creating the prosthesis, however, pushed the fitting date back to more than six weeks after the surgery, Associate Director of Public Relations Katherine Cinnamond Benoit said.

Martin said the prosthesis still needs some adjusting — at the moment the new leg is causing the chicken's body to twist — so the duo will be returning to the Cummings School for more "tweaking" in the near future.

Though Cicely is the first chicken to receive a prosthetic leg, similar procedures have been successfully carried out on a rooster and a duck in other locations, Martin said.

"Cicely is going to be the first one that involves the hock joint," she said, making reference to the bird's "ankle" bone. "I couldn't believe it. [I] didn't know it was that strange."

While the chicken's journey to recovery is not yet complete, Martin said she is confident she made the right decision for Cicely.

"What we try to do here at Black Thistle Farm is to make people more aware of what chickens are like, what their personalities are like, what to expect and to raise awareness about the welfare of farm animals," she said. "[We ask people] to not treat animals differently because some are labeled farm animals and some are labeled pets."

Martin and Knafo believe the surgery will improve Cicely's quality of life.

"People would not think twice about [the procedure] for another kind of animal," Knafo was quoted in the Telegram. "We want to give her as much of a pain-free life as possible."

Patel encourages students to examine importance of religion

EBOO PATEL

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Patel also advocated for developing a knowledge of interfaith history — not simply listing instances of religious warfare — and curating an appreciative understanding of other traditions.

He recounted a story in which an audience member at one of his previous lectures asked a question along the lines of, "What the hell is wrong with you Muslims?"

"You only know that version of Islam [that is in] the first minute of the evening news," Patel said in response to the audience member. "You know nothing of the poetry of [Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi]. You know nothing of the courage of Malala Yousafzai. You know nothing about the fact that the Sears Tower was designed by a Muslim architect."

For Patel, this interaction underscored the necessity of building knowledge about other religions.

Patel concluded his talk with a note of optimism for the first-year audience members.

"I want to close with just how exciting it is to be at the beginning," he said. "The world never felt as new or as open or as possible as when I was 17 years old in my first classes."

After the talk, Patel held a question and answer session and a book signing.

One student asked about Patel's emphasis on religion over racial, cultural and socioeconomic diversity.

Patel responded that while all kinds of diversity are important, religion is the one he feels is left out of mainstream conversation most often.

Many students, such as first-year Hunter Silvestri, said they enjoyed the presentation. Silvestri said he wished Patel had spoken more about his personal experience but that he was happy he had engaged with the material.

"It made me think of things that I hadn't thought about before," he said.



ALEX KNAPP/TUFTS DAILY

Eboo Patel talks to Tufts students, faculty and staff about the importance of interfaith interactions and his organization, the Interfaith Youth Core.

University-developed Student Life aims to facilitate information sharing

STUDENT LIFE

continued from page 1

connect as a community.

According to Barker, the new Student Life website comes as part of Tufts' larger effort to organize and systematize information in a user friendly way.

"We wanted to make sure the information that was going out was correct, that we create a seamless transition," Barker said. "And part of that is having a website that, one, addresses the community and lets them know what's happening, and, two, has reliable and trustworthy resources."

According to Barker, the site also aims to highlight student achievements and student engagement with social and humanitarian movements. He hopes the website can serve as a medium for faculty and students to post and discuss global current events online.

"We have faculty talking about the

Syrian human crisis, and all of our students may not be able to take classes on that right now, but they should have the opportunity, if they want to dive deeper in that, to know the starting point in a discussion," Barker said.

The website utilizes "info cards" to provide answers to commonly asked questions, connecting students to contact information and links to external websites, Pfitzer said. She explained that students can search for information on the site based on their class year or the type of resource they need, or scroll through preview cards of all the resources and Student Life topics.

"[The cards] are so that students don't have to search up a whole website to look up how to get to some place," Pfitzer said. "It's really to help students navigate easier."

The new website also features a news and announcements section, which

lists upcoming events, Pfitzer said. It also supports an events calendar system that notifies students about various academic deadlines and due dates.

Pfitzer added that a calendar specifically for student groups — separate from the academic calendar already online — will make its debut in a few weeks. Student groups will be able to upload their events onto the main calendar by filling out a submission form, which will go through an approval process led by the Office for Campus Life.

The site also has a resource explaining the various campus departments and their missions on campus, Pfitzer said.

A final feature of the website is the social media section, which pulls content from the university's Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts so students can stay up to date on campus news, Pfitzer said.

Barker explained that the new

Student Life website will be evaluated and tweaked throughout the year, and he hopes that it can connect students to the university and its services in a way that it has not before.

"What we want is a student-centered experience," Barker said. "We want people to know that our default setting is to listen to students and really to advocate what we think, as a community, is best for the student experience."

Senior Tommy To said the Student Life website could have come faster but that it is a huge upgrade.

"I think students need a central place where everything Tufts-related is held," To said. "The system that was in place before this website forced many of us to just Google 'something Tufts' and find our resources that way. Hopefully, this new website gets rid of that need."

Students discuss study abroad cultural activity stipends

by Nicole Brooks
Features Editor

Around 40 to 45 percent of Tufts undergraduates study abroad during their junior year, and very often, they do so through Tufts programs. The university has programs in 10 different locations, and the expenses it covers vary depending on factors such as location, transportation availability and students' living situations.

Clarifying a misconception that the costs of studying abroad far exceed those of staying on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus, Associate Dean of Programs Abroad Sheila Bayne said the costs of these programs are roughly equivalent to the fees at Tufts including tuition and room and board.

"On the bursar bill, you can see it's divided into tuition and what they call comprehensive fee," she said. "How that is spent overseas depends on the program, but it should not cost you more than it would cost you to study at Tufts for a semester or a year."

Bayne added that the financial aid package a student receives from Tufts also helps the student to go abroad.

"If you go to a Tufts program, whatever your financial aid package is, it goes with you 100 percent on a Tufts program," she said.

According to Tufts' study abroad information website, a semester abroad through a Tufts program costs \$31,849, and the price of participating in such a program for the full 2015-2016 academic year is \$63,698.

However, Bayne believes that the Tufts programs are worth the costs.

"I always tell students that our Tufts programs we feel like, you know, they're not the cheapest study abroad programs," she said. "Just like Tufts isn't the cheapest school you could go to. But we feel like you get good value for money on a Tufts program, and I think that students who have attended these programs would agree with that. We offer a lot of things that other programs don't."

Though each of the Tufts Programs Abroad cost the same amount, they offer different monetary distributions to students throughout the program. Many of these stipends are given to students as food, cultural, travel and extracurricular allowances, as shown on the program website.

Madeline Krahn, a senior who studied under the Tufts in Paris program for a full year, believes that the stipend helped her better allocate her expenses.

"I thought the program was awesome," Krahn, a double major in economics and international relations, said. "It's frustrating because it's so much money up front, but it does help you budget better. So I think the sti-

pend was very useful to know that you would have the 450 euros per month."

The monthly allowance given to students for food, distributed by each Tufts program's residential directors, depends on the program and whether students live in a homestay or in university housing, Bayne said. The amounts of these allowances vary according to how many meals are provided by host families as well as the local costs of food.

Many students attempted to budget and save these allowances to help with other costs during their time abroad. Robert Korycinski, a senior double majoring in Spanish and international relations, studied with Tufts in Madrid last spring. Like Krahn, he saw the monthly stipends as a useful budgeting tool.

"I would say food-wise the stipend was absolutely perfect for people who ate a lot like me," Korycinski said. "For people who don't eat quite as much, the food prices are so much lower in Spain that you can take some of that extra money and use it however you want... So I wouldn't change a thing about the reimbursement procedures."

According to Bayne, the process for allocating allowance funds for cultural activities differs from program to program as well. Local residential directors are provided with funds to reimburse students for cultural activities. These activities can include concerts, plays, athletic events and museums, all of which showcase the country's culture. This is to encourage students to delve deeper into the culture around them.

"Each resident director has the fund and makes sure there are some group activities that everyone goes on, and then an opportunity to do something on their own," Bayne said.

These group excursions or activities, according to senior Sylvia Montijo, who studied with Tufts in Chile last year, help create a "home base" for students who are in different homestays and don't often see each other.

"Once school is started and you move in with your host family, [these group activities] kind of to get us back together again, and you get free meals there, and you go to a cool place," she said. "I think that students should take advantage of those. I don't know for other programs how many cultural excursions they have, but we had a good amount of them."

According to Korycinski, the Madrid program offers reimbursements for travel within Spain, including for expenses such as train or bus tickets. For the Paris program, however, the cultural reimbursement only accounts for the ticket costs of cultural events without travel, according to Krahn.

The reimbursements for travel also proved beneficial for students studying in

Chile, where travel to other South American countries is very expensive, with hefty visa requirements. This financial obstacle is particularly pronounced in comparison to the lack of travel visa requirements within the European Union, Montijo said.

"We have a certain fund set up for travel," she said. "So I went to the salt flats in Bolivia. That was probably the best experience out of my entire [time abroad]."

Though travel is covered for some programs, many students have still had to figure out how to commute to class. This proved to be another cost that students had to face if they lived far from their classes and their program fees did not cover expenses to get to and from class.

According to Montijo, transportation was one of the most significant costs she had to budget for during her time abroad.

"I think that may have been the biggest expense for all of us," Montijo said. "Just transportation. I was one of two students able to get a student metro card out of the entire program...and that's just because the faculty that we had a class with kind of sped up the progress for us. It usually takes a really long time. So instead of paying maybe \$2.25 we paid 50 cents. But transportation really becomes a lot."

According to Bayne, program fees also include orientations — both at Tufts and on-site — prior to the start of the program. These help students adjust to their homestays, address health and safety concerns and introduce students to the culture.

"I think Chile has the longest program orientation out of all the Tufts programs," Montijo said. "That's because Chile's history is just so dense, and I really appreciate that about the program because there is just so much history going through, they give us time. Even two weeks isn't enough."

Throughout the program students have their respective local residential directors for support, whether through managing their finances or adjusting to a new culture. Korycinski, however, wished he had more opportunities for feedback with administrators during his abroad experience.

"There was kind of that opportunity between our peer mentors," he said. "But I personally don't know how often they met. We didn't see as many of the administrators around as much as I would have liked."

After their programs abroad, all students are invited to submit written evaluations and attend debriefings with their residential directors and Tufts Programs Abroad to help accommodate new trends and concerns, Bayne said.

"We ask students to do a written evaluation," she said. "Then we have a debriefing meeting for each program, where Melanie Armstrong and I sit down with the students who have something to tell us, and often, it's not a lot of students that come to those meetings."

These debriefings prove necessary for addressing structural program changes and providing resources for students looking for immersive cultural experiences abroad.

"That's very valuable for us because it's kind of like a circle," Bayne said. "We run the program, it goes for that semester, the students come back and they have some ideas, suggestions or things come up that we hadn't thought of. Then we work with the resident directors to make some changes, and we run it again and see how it works. Things are changing all the time, so the programs have to evolve just like anything else."

Clara Wagner

To Life, Sincerely Clara

An open letter to dining hall workers

Dear dining hall workers, I'm a freshman — I've been at Tufts for exactly 15 days. I'm almost completely certain that you have no idea who I am. But nevertheless, I've decided that I already owe you a thank you. As a semi-socially awkward and overall introverted person, the dining hall isn't necessarily my favorite place. Plus, after being thrown head-first into this college life of homework, getting lost, making friends and figuring out some semblance of a schedule, I'm often headed into Carm or Dewick with my head already spinning.

But you are my breath of fresh air. In the midst of my spiraling stress, excitement, panic and exhaustion, you remind me to get outside of my own head. Every time I go into the dining hall, I make eye contact, say hello and ask you how you're doing. You swipe my card and answer — sometimes you even call me honey.

And that's all I need. After walking by hordes of college-aged strangers with my eyes to the ground, actually having someone meet my gaze is a grounding force. It reminds me that in this moment, I am here, in this dining hall, and you are there, acknowledging my presence. It snaps me out of a world of thinking and worrying and figuring out, and into one of here and now.

I am a person who likes routine, and the reliable comfort of having someone to look at and say hi to means more than you might think. No matter what's going on in the world or my life, I can take root in the fact that you will be there to smile and ask me how I'm doing.

I also need to thank you for being so kind. You say excuse me even when I'm the one in the way, and on more than one occasion I've watched you make an extra effort just to make sure a student has the food they were looking for. Every day, at every meal, that inspires me.

I'm sure that you hate your job sometimes — that by the end of some shifts you're worn out, cranky and in need of some serious quiet. On those days, I hope you'll be able to be honest when I ask you how you are and admit that it's been a long day. I get that you aren't niceness-superheroes. But you don't have to be, you just have to be there.

Life is crazy. Sometimes it gets me carried away with dreams, plans and an obsession with how wonderful our world is. Other days it traps me in pits of procrastination and pessimism. But it's the little things that keep me sane, let me zoom out from my own perspective and see that, miraculously, the rest of the world is still there, and in fact is utterly oblivious to my internal goings-on. For the past 15 days, you have been one of those little things. Thank you for swiping my card, for meeting my eyes, for saying hello. Thank you for calling me honey, going out of your way to smile and never getting frustrated while I fumble around in my pockets in search of my ID. Please know that these things, and everything else you do, are truly great. They're not just important to me — they're important in making the world a place where people smile, and are decent to each other, and know how to be kind. So thank you for the last 15 days and thank you in advance for the four years to come. I'll see you at the next meal.

Sincerely,
Clara Wagner

Clara Wagner is a first-year who has not yet declared a major. She can be reached at clara.wagner@tufts.edu.



48STATES VIA WIKIPEDIA

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- Tufts in London:** Tues., 10/20 @ 6pm in Dowling Milmore Room
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BOOK REVIEW ★★☆☆☆

‘Star Wars: Aftermath’ is mixed bag for franchise fans

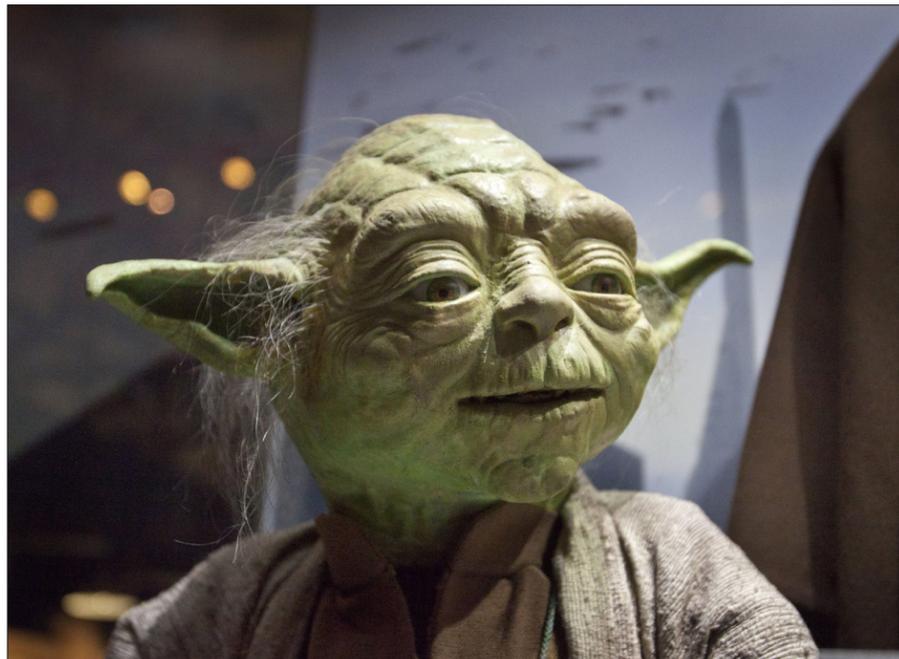
by John Gallagher
Assistant Arts Editor

George Lucas’ series of sprawling space operas, “Star Wars” (1977–present), has always been packed with more stories than could fit within the confines of the films. Who was the enigmatic bounty hunter that delivered Han Solo to Jabba the Hutt? Did the Jedi Order rise again after the fall of the Empire? Was Chewbacca anything more than a roaring, muscular carpet? The “Star Wars” films spawned generations of fans who hungered for answers to these questions — or simply for more “Star Wars.”

The “Star Wars Expanded Universe” rose to satisfy these hungers with a mound of tie-in content that ranged from books to video games. Unfortunately, the quality of these tie-ins has been variable at best; the “Star Wars” novels, for example, are particularly infamous for their uneven literary merit. But, as evidenced by the recent “Force Friday” merchandising event, Disney’s marketing machine is in full swing in anticipation of the December release of the movie “The Force Awakens,” and new “Star Wars” fiction is a part of that strategy. As a result, “Star Wars” fans are in the midst of the release of a raft of new “Star Wars” fiction, dubbed “Journey to Star Wars: The Force Awakens” (2015).

Chuck Wendig’s “Star Wars: Aftermath” (2015) has unquestionably become the most prominent piece of the fiction blitz that is “Journey to Star Wars: The Force Awakens” — but not because of its literary brilliance (or lack thereof).

The book has been catapulted to mainstream prominence largely on the back of a deluge of one-star Amazon reviews



The “Star Wars” universe continues to expand with the “Journey to Star Wars: The Force Awakens” franchise kicking off before the arrival of Disney’s cinematic additions.

penned by “Star Wars” fans outraged by Wendig’s inclusion of gay characters. This upwelling of homophobia amongst a section of “Star Wars” fans coincided with Kentucky clerk Kim Davis’ infamous detention for refusing to issue marriage licenses to gay couples and the ensuing national debate about discrimination. The sudden cultural relevance of gay “Star Wars” characters, when paired with Wendig’s deliciously wrathful response (in which he compared critics of homosexual characters to “squawking saurian[s]” destined for annihilation by a “fabulously gay Nyan Cat meteor with a rainbow trailing behind it”), made ideal fodder for blogs and social media while turning the

attentions of those outside the “Star Wars” faithful toward “Aftermath.”

But beyond the controversy that hurled “Aftermath” into the limelight and onto the New York Times Best Seller List, one must ask: is the book actually any good? Does Wendig successfully leverage the “Star Wars” universe’s rich lore to create a compelling story? Does the story strike the right balance of originality and homage to the series’ storied history? Perhaps most importantly, does Wendig’s writing style help or hinder the whole enterprise?

Fortunately, “Star Wars: Aftermath,” for the most part, does pretty well on all of

see **AFTERMATH**, page 6

BOOK REVIEW ★★☆☆☆

Mindy Kaling asks ‘Why Not Me?’ in new book

by Cassidy Olsen
Contributing Writer

It was 6:55 on Monday, Sept. 14, and Mindy Kaling was seated in a folding chair near the entrance of the Brookline Booksmith in Brookline, Mass.. A long, long line of eager fans wrapped around the street’s corner and down the block, all of them waiting for the

doors of the warmly-lit bookstore to open and to celebrate the release of the comedienne’s second book, “Why Not Me?” Kaling, most famous for her dual role as actor and writer on the Emmy-winning series “The Office” (2005–2013), is having quite the week. The publication of “Why Not Me?” on Sept. 15 coincides with the release of season four of her series “The Mindy Project”

(2012–present) on Hulu, which picked up the show after its cancellation by Fox last May.

Wearing a monochromatic Bella Freud sweater and black and green Kenzo skirt, Kaling was dressed in a decidedly more reserved fashion than is typical for her public events. One thing she noted that she and her character, Mindy Lahiri, have in common is their penchant for loud, bold patterns and bright colors — a preference that has led to both praise and criticism from the world of fashion bloggers. The sophisticated playfulness of her outfit on this night, however, is no fluke. It pairs perfectly with the portrait of newfound maturity presented in so many of her essays throughout “Why Not Me?”

While her first book “Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me? (And Other Concerns)” (2011) depicts a twenty-something comedienne dealing with relatable neuroses on her path to success, “Why Not Me?” presents Kaling as a comedienne with the same neuroses, but this time they’re coupled with the hard-earned confidence of a show-runner and a bona fide TV star. Although she continues to divulge details about past relationships, offer tongue-in-cheek advice about health and beauty and share anecdotes about professional experiences, Kaling’s perspective on herself and the world has



Known for her roles on “The Office” and “The Mindy Project,” Mindy Kaling continues her successful streak with her second book “Why Not Me?”

see **KALING**, page 6

Maya Blackstone

A Semester of Netflix

Let’s get started

To all readers present and maybe future: this is not going to be your typical Tufts Daily column. Over the upcoming weeks, I’ll be writing on the phenomenon of “Binge Watching.”

Binging has very recently become a popular phenomenon with the advent of television streaming over the internet. Now, it’s a common term used by people in our generation and beyond. It is so popular, in fact, that hearing someone discussing their plans for binge watching has become as normal as someone announcing their plans to sleep.

To those of you who are currently living under a rock — the only way you wouldn’t know what binge watching is — I’m going to explain it. Basically, binge watching is just watching a lot of the same television show chronologically in a short period of time. The Merriam-Webster dictionary definition of “binge” is “an act of excessive or compulsive consumption.” With binge watching, the activity in question is television.

At the risk of sounding too much like a Mass Communications and Media Studies minor, which I am, I personally think that the art of binge watching has changed the way we consume television. Instead of waiting a week or even more to watch a show, we can now watch as many episodes as we want in a row. I think this makes individuals more immersed in the show’s plot and its characters. It also intertwines characters and stories with our daily lives. I know I personally associate television shows with certain periods of my life. When these shows end for me, it’s like I’ve moved on from a certain time in my life. For example, I associate the end of freshman year at Tufts with binge watching DVD box sets of “The Office” (2005–2013). I’m certain “The Office” is what got me through finals that semester.

I also think the art of television has always had a unique power compared to movies. In essence, to captivate an audience over a period of months is always more powerful than to captivate one over the short length of a movie. The question I want to answer is: how is the power of television advanced through binge watching? When an entire television series can be watched in a shorter period of time, even a matter of days, the viewer can watch the show on their own terms. The power to decide when and what to watch is completely theirs. What I want to explore is: How does this ability really impact us as viewers?

Over the course of the semester I’m going to binge watch various shows and review them, as well as analyze their impact on me. By the end I hope to have given people some recommendations for great series to binge watch. I also hope to personally walk away with a greater understanding of why binge watching really is better than regular television.

Will my grades suffer from so much television? Will my eyes burst out of their sockets from overexposure to my computer? Will my friends still remember who I am after I’ve been locked in my room all semester watching Netflix? Stay tuned for the answers to these questions and more in the weeks to come.

P.S. I will be taking binging suggestions, snacks and company as I start my television-watching journey! Happy Binging!

Maya Blackstone is a junior majoring in Drama. She can be reached at maya.blackstone@tufts.edu

A & L

ARTS & LIVING

New book brims with Mindy Kaling's hard-earned confidence

KALING

continued from page 5

noticeably shifted and grown in the four years since her last publication.

In essays like “Bad Sport” and “Some Thoughts on Weddings,” Kaling’s writing manages to be simultaneously hilarious and vulnerable, and she frames her jokes with compelling honesty about her fears and shortcomings. She is able to shift with ease from griping about the bridesmaid-groomsman disparity of responsibility (“Being asked to be a groomsman means you get to give an incredibly inappropriate two-minute speech and every woman there will still want to sleep with you.”) to exploring the pain of lost female friendship. “Soup Snakes” delves deeper into her complicated relationship with former “The Office” co-star B.J. Novak and is a treat for readers already familiar with their history.

The book is not without its faults: one section presented in a “You’ve Got Mail” (1998) style email exchange between Kaling and a fictional teacher at the Dalton School in Manhattan is funny at first but continues on for much too long and, in the end, doesn’t amount to much. Her style is not for everyone, but fans of

her shows and previous book will find much to love, including the depth of her comedy. She takes risks, devoting many pages to small ideas and a few pages to big ones, and ultimately inspires laughs (and even some tears) throughout.

In an essay on the perks and disadvantages of her “minor fame,” Kaling writes, “One very gratifying compliment I sometimes hear is that women want to be my best friend,” and it’s no wonder as to why. For her Brookline signing, Kaling made an arrangement with Paris Creperie to provide a service that would deliver crepes and frozen chocolate concoctions to the people waiting in line. She also had her favorite candies sent with the first 2,500 online pre-orders of “Why Not Me?” accompanied by small pins and notes. In her book, she claims she isn’t fighting for the “best friend” title so many fans have awarded her, but rather that she just enjoys sharing what she loves.

In the end, it’s not actually the gift giving that makes her so accessible and beloved; it’s her honesty and talent. In this book, Kaling not only recognizes her desire to people-please but also chooses to focus on where hard work has got-



DOMINICK D VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

Kaling’s new book “Why Not Me?” is a funny and heartfelt effort from the comedienne.

ten her, a value she learned from her immigrant parents and years of fighting to be heard in the spaces she occupies. Though this sense of hard-earned confidence permeates “Why Not Me?,” it

is perhaps best exemplified in the book’s introduction. Kaling writes, “If my childhood, teens, and twenties were about wanting people to like me, now I want people to know me. So, this is a start.”

‘Aftermath’ stirs up controversy in buildup to ‘The Force Awakens’

AFTERMATH

continued from page 5

these fronts. Wendig clearly loves the “Star Wars” setting and works assiduously (and successfully) to craft a story that feels like it belongs in a galaxy far far away.

From the famously clunky technology that the Rebel Alliance must use to references to lines from the films — Han Solo’s ridiculous “fly casual” line was choice — “Aftermath” is filled with tasteful references to the original trilogy of “Star Wars”

films that ground the book in its setting. The Empire of “Aftermath” is also on the back foot, reeling as it is from the destruction of the second Death Star. Seeing the Empire removed from the dominant position it occupied during the original three films is a refreshing change to the “Star Wars” formula.

However, Wendig’s writing style is a mixed blessing. Much of the book is narrated in the present tense. While this has a particular kinetic purpose that is, at

times, effective, it is mostly a jarring departure from literary convention that makes swaths of the book read like the script for some yet-to-be-recorded movie voiceover. Dialog often sounds forced and can also be hard to follow at times, as identifying the speaker can often be a difficult task. It takes a deft hand to make “Star Wars,” with its myriad particularisms, sound like anything other than sci-fi mumbo-jumbo, and Wendig misses more than he hits in this regard.

When all is said and done, “Star Wars: Aftermath” is an interesting “Star Wars” romp that provides a few hours of escapism. Fans of the series will appreciate getting a look at the state of affairs in the “Star Wars” galaxy ahead of the release of “The Force Awakens,” but the uninitiated will be confronted with clunky dialogue and bizarre use of the present tense. Those who aren’t diehard “Star Wars” fans can safely wait until the release of “The Force Awakens” for a more accessible “Star Wars” story.

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EDITORIAL

Viola Davis' historic Emmy win marks important stride for Hollywood

Sunday night was an historic one in Hollywood. At the 67th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles, actress Viola Davis became the first woman of color to win Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series for her universally acclaimed role as criminal defense professor Annalise Keating on the sudsy ABC hit "How to Get Away with Murder" (2014-present).

In recent years, television has been taken more seriously as an artistic medium than it has in the past. Cultural critics, actors, writers and producers alike have noted that it is television series, and no longer films, that are offering the most exciting, innovative, high quality work in Hollywood. Perhaps even more significantly, it is a medium that is increasingly invested in depicting minority, female and LGBTQ characters in dynamic, meaningful ways.

This makes Davis' victory all the more important — especially in a year that has seen Hollywood, and especially the film industry, devote little consideration to the representations and narratives of all but the most privileged. In January, there was uproar after the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences did not nominate any actors of color or any female directors, despite films like 2014's "Selma" featuring strong work from black actors and

African-American director Ava DuVernay. A study from the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California released in August made headlines for its findings about the absence of women, people of color and LGBTQ characters in popular films released between 2007 and 2014.

However, the historic win symbolizes no more than a step in the right direction. Even as television producers seem to act more progressively than many mainstream filmmakers on diversity, the former still have plenty of room for improvement. A February study from UCLA's Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies found that though the U.S. population is more than 50 percent female and about 40 percent people of color, films and television series released from 2012 and 2013 failed to represent minorities on screen in the same proportions.

Some have made the argument that studios and network executives continue to push white, male-dominated stories because those are the ones that bring in the most money at the box office or yield higher viewership. Yet Bunche Center's study found that this is not necessarily true. American audiences are not only tolerant of diverse stories and characters but

are, in fact, demanding them. According to the Bunche Center's report, movies and TV series with more diverse casts actually did better at the box office and garnered higher ratings than less diverse shows did.

This whitewashing is problematic because it means that millions of Americans do not see themselves reflected in our most prominent cultural products. While we can cheer Davis' victory, it would be a mistake to see it as an opportunity to pat the culture industries on the back. Davis' win does not mean that network executives, producers and writers alike should cease efforts to make the stories of women, people of color and LGBTQ characters central ones on our television — or laptop — screens. It does not suggest that the exclusion of compelling, complex, nuanced narratives about minorities is now a thing of the past, nor does it absolve Hollywood of the blatant sexism, racism and homophobia that pervades nearly every aspect of creating and producing films and TV.

"The only thing that separates women of color from anyone else is opportunity," Davis said in her emotional acceptance speech Sunday night. "You cannot win an Emmy for roles that are simply not there."

Let's hope that Hollywood heeds Davis' call.

THE DANGERS OF TISCH

BY TY ENOS



O OPINION

OP-ED

It is about time we re-named the Joey

by **Miranda Siler**

Dear Tufts,

I think it is time to acknowledge the elephant in the room: our dear Joey is no more. In a very sly and undercover move by the administration, Tufts has stopped using Joseph's Limousine & Transportation in favor of A&A Metro Transportation. With this change brings cleaner and more environmentally friendly buses and friendly new drivers. But it also brings about a crisis regarding identity. What is this bus if it is not the Joey? What can I call it? I believe that we need to choose a new name for our beloved bus shuttle.

How does one go about naming a bus shuttle? Let's look at how the Joey was named. The Joey was a reference to the providing transportation company, Joseph's. It's both cute and concise, easy to remember and to say. What about A&A Metro? Are there any possibilities for nicknames that already exist within our vocabulary? One might think about the phrase "double-A." Unfortunately, this conjures up more images of batteries and bra sizes, not buses. The Metro? That's already been done, and may cause some confusion. How about an acro-

nym — AAM, perhaps? I'm not sure that we would be able to reach a conclusion regarding the pronunciation, and even if we did, it's not very fun. Our new transportation company just doesn't lend itself to good nicknames.

If we can't build upon (or pare down) existing names, a logical next step is to look at the function and essence of the thing we are naming. I always found the Joey to be a particularly great name, not only due to its self-referential nature, but also because of the other images it brought up. Maybe I'm alone in this, but I always imagined a baby kangaroo in its mother's pouch whenever I thought of the Joey. The Joey bus performed in much the same way, providing a safe, enclosed space in which students could get from one place to another without exerting much physical effort. It also captured the bumpy and jumpy nature of the Joey, both nauseating and endearing.

So what is the essence of our new shuttle system? What makes it stand out? It's bright and shiny. It also provides a smoother and cleaner transportation experience to students. Taking all of this in mind, I am now officially proposing that

we call our new shuttle "the TUB" (Tufts University Bus).

Why the TUB? First, the acronym encapsulates the basic function of the object; it is in essence a Tufts University Bus. Second, it is fun to say. Imagine it now: telling your friend about "a funny thing that happened in the TUB," or "taking the TUB to Davis." It rolls off the tongue quite nicely. Third, the visual likeness is almost uncanny. The new busses really look a lot like bathtubs chugging down the street. Taking a bath is also a joyful, clean and relaxing experience, something I think we all hope our new shuttle will offer. Lastly, it has the benefit of not being tied to a particular company, so Tufts won't be stuck in another Joey debacle. The TUB is everlasting... at least until we switch over to hovercrafts.

I do realize that change can be hard, even when it is concerning something as silly as the name of a bus. Tufts students loved the Joey, brake slamming and claustrophobia included. It will be hard to let go of. But we have now arrived into a new age of Tufts shuttles, so rather than fight it, let's embrace it. The time has come to say goodbye to the Joey and hello to the TUB!

by **Aren Torikian**

THE ARENA

A two-year marathon

With the amount of coverage surrounding the 2016 elections in the media, it can be hard to remember that polls do not open for another 14 months. Before that, two teams will have won the World Series, millions of babies will be born, and a similar amount will be added to our tuition bills. The United States is more or less unique in having a system of almost two-year-long elections for president. According to The Daily Beast, for instance, British election campaigns cannot be longer than 17 working days by law. Our own system takes more than 17 (working) months.

With no legally set dates, the temptation of a first mover advantage drives candidates to declare as early as possible. Ted Cruz declared as the first Republican in March of this year, more than 600 days before the election. Joe Biden was the first relevant Democrat to announce his bid for nomination before the 2008 elections in January of 2007.

But the American process has its benefits. For one, in a longer campaign, voters are exposed to more information. The system draws everything out of candidates, including personal beliefs that could affect voters. Republican candidate and former Governor of Arkansas Mike Huckabee recently stated that Dred Scott "is still the law of the land." (The 1850s court case Dred Scott v. Sanford asserted that African Americans were not American citizens. Beyond being a terrible and racist decision, Dred Scott was replaced by the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.) Perhaps in a shorter election, a ridiculous remark like this — apparently meant to show Huckabee's support for Kim Davis, the county clerk that refused to issue gay marriage licenses — would never happen. With a longer election campaign, blithering idiots like Huckabee get found out much earlier. Only candidates at least acceptable to the majority in a given party last until the general election. That's why Trump and Huckabee stand little to no chance in the long run.

Second, long elections bring otherwise fringe candidates and figures opportunities to express their views on a larger scale. I don't give Republican Rand Paul much of a chance at the nomination, but his libertarian views such as bringing back the gold standard and taking apart the NSA deserve some level of discussion in our society. On the Democratic side, Senator Bernie Sanders, a socialist from Vermont, has brought forward views like free public education through university. Of course the extreme of fringe candidates is Donald Trump. I never said the system was perfect.

Third, the process is just fun. There are always debates and speeches happening as well as candidates saying dumb things. This column isn't going to look at every single event and analyze it out of context trying to make it relevant; that's CNN's job. When voters in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids head to their local caucuses on Feb. 1, 2016, the events that are happening this week probably won't stand out in their decisions. On the contrary, it is much more important at this point to look at larger trends and themes in the election process.

Aren Torikian is a sophomore who has not yet declared a major. He can be reached at aren.torikian@tufts.edu.

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S SPORTS

Four-game road stretch up next for Jumbos

WOMEN'S SOCCER

continued from back

2-2 record in NESCAC play going into Sunday's game. Saturday also marked the first career shutout for rookie goalkeeper Emily Bowers.

Sunday's game played out much differently than Saturday's, with both teams getting on the scoreboard in the first half. Weiller put home Tufts' only goal in the 42nd minute of the game; Trinity had scored earlier in the half at the 13-minute mark. At halftime, the teams were tied 1-1.

The second half saw Trinity take the lead early on, with junior Laura Nee scoring just over three minutes in. She would follow that with another goal at 74:50 to seal the win for Trinity. With the 3-1 loss to the Bantams, the Jumbos fell to 2-3 on the season.

Despite coming up short against the Bantams, the Jumbos remain concentrated on the future, rather than the past. All eyes are set on the NESCAC championship at the end of the season, where the Jumbos hope to find success.

"We have no doubt that we can turn it around in our next games," Weiller said. "We hope to face Trinity again in the [NESCAC] tournament and show them what kind of team we are. [Sunday's game] showed us some things we still need to work on, and some things we are confident in."

The weekend was filled with highs and lows for Tufts, whose goal remains constant improvement in search of the NESCAC title.

"Even though we've been inconsistent, we are a very resilient group,"

Capone said. "As a team, I know we definitely want to make the NESCAC tournament and prove to the NESCAC and the country that we're a team that needs to be reckoned with."

The Jumbos, currently ranked No. 4 in the NESCAC, look to stay focused as they face four straight away games in the next two weeks. Next up for Tufts is Brandeis on Saturday, Sept. 26, and then the team will travel to MIT on Tuesday, Sept. 29 for the second of two non-conference games.

Gould, Fahey lead the Jumbo stampede

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

continued from back

Beltrani added her thoughts as well.

"The strategy was to lace up our spikes, take to the line and dust off those summer cobwebs," she said. "After a long summer of training, we wanted to get back into race mode and remember what it was like to roll in the 'Bos stampede."

In their first collegiate race ever, the first-year class performed well. Barnett was fourth for the team, while runners such as Kelsey Tierney (27th, 19:42.2), Sarah Perkins (34th, 20:11.8) and Julia Noble (44th, 20:24.8) also impressed with their strong showings.

"I think more than anything the [first-years] will bring depth to our team," Gould said. "We likely will have a few crack the top 10, but keeping them all healthy is more important because they're a super

strong class that will be key for us this season and [in] seasons to come."

Although it seemed like things went perfectly according to plan for the Jumbos, Gould noted there are still areas the team needs to work on.

"Everyone came out of the race knowing what they have to work on individually," she said. "Generally working on surges and gear changes toward the end when it gets tough, especially when we move up to 6k, is something we have been and will continue to practice in workouts."

The Jumbos, who were among the top 20 teams nationally last year, will be shooting for nationals once again this year.

"It's not a big goal unless you can't go bigger — nationals is always on our radar," Beltrani said.



COURTESY TY ENOS

Tufts saw its runners come in first and second at Saturday's quad meet at Pineland Farms.

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WOMEN'S SOCCER

Tufts splits weekend series at home



EVAN SAYLES / THE TUFTS DAILY

Tufts sophomore forward Alex Scheman competes for possession against a Lesley player on Wednesday, Sept. 9.

by **Eddie Samuels**
Staff Writer

Following Saturday's overtime victory over defending NESCAC champion Conn. College at Kraft Field, the women's soccer team lost a close game to Trinity College on Sunday, 3-1. For Tufts, the story for much of the weekend was one of constant improvement, as nearly half the team is made up of new players.

"[The first-years] could not fit in any better," senior forward Allie Weiller said. "This team is the closest of any I've been on. As far as we're concerned, there are no freshmen, sophomores, juniors or seniors; there's one team and one goal."

Saturday's game featured an impressive showing from offensive players, as both teams racked up shots — 24 for Tufts and 20 for Conn. Neither the Jumbos nor the Camels, however, were able to take advantage of those ample scoring opportunities. Tufts first-year Alex Aronson managed the most shots for the Jumbos with seven, but none found the back of the net before the game was pushed into overtime. Much like the regulation time play, the first overtime was marked by an absence of goals. It wasn't until the second overtime when junior Jess Capone scored on a header, propelling the Jumbos to a 1-0 victory.

"Saturday's game was a great showing of our team," Weiller said. "We worked so hard, we came together, we connect-

ed passes and we didn't stop fighting. Our energy level and pressure were on point, and we ended up getting the win in overtime. Jess Capone had a great header to win it."

Having already suffered one loss in overtime this year, the Jumbos were not keen to have that repeated.

"Saturday we had really good energy, and we pressured [Conn. College] all over the field," Capone said. "Going into overtime, we knew what it was like to lose like that [after coming up short against] Lesley [on Sept. 9], and we didn't want to feel that again."

Capone's goal was her first of the season, and it lifted the Jumbos to a

see **WOMEN'S SOCCER**, page 11

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Jumbos off to hot start with win at Bates Invitational

by **Chris Warren**
Sports Editor

The women's cross country team opened up its season on Saturday with a quad meet at Pineland Farms in New Gloucester, Maine for the Bates Invitational. Although the meet was small, with only four teams competing — Tufts, Bates, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Wellesley — three of the four teams are ranked among the top 35 teams in the nation: Tufts is ranked No. 21, RPI is No. 29 and Wellesley sits at No. 33. Tufts, using its tight front three and a slew of great performances down the line, took the decisive victory with 122 points in a meet in which the team's top 10 runners score. Bates and Wellesley tied for second with 240 points, while

RPI finished fourth with 254 points.

The 5000-meter course was rather challenging. The majority of the race took place on very hilly, and sometimes rocky, trails in the woods. Senior co-captain Audrey Gould opened up with a victory once again, completing the 5000-meter course in 18:31.7. Tufts' No. 2 runner, junior Kelly Fahey, a cross country All-American last year, was right behind Gould in second with a 18:35.4 time. After a pack of Wellesley and RPI runners came through the chute, senior Olivia Beltrani hopped in, taking sixth in 18:50.5. Newcomer Olivia Barnett, a first-year, was Tufts' No. 4 on the day in 19:03.4, while junior Sam Cox, who will be a critical component of the Jumbos' top pack this season, finished just behind Barnett in 19:05.6, taking 11th

overall. Sophomores Brittany Bowman and Olivia Nicholson, who both showed great potential for the future of the team, rounded out the Jumbos' top seven scorers taking 15th and 16th in 19:16.4 and 19:17.0, respectively.

According to Gould, the team showed great signs of potential in its first meet of the season.

"We were racing today, but more so using it to gauge our level of fitness and where people fall into place on the team," she said. "Based off that, I was thrilled with our team's performance. For some of our veteran runners it was a rustbuster, and for others it reaffirmed the good things we have been seeing in workouts."

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by **Phillip Goldberg**

Fantasy Football with Phil

Fantasy Football with Phil

Aside from intramural flag football last year, I have never played a down of football. However, I study fantasy football more than most of my classes and I promise this column will be honest above all. If I'm wrong, I'll admit it.

Whether you are a first-time fantasy football player or a pro dominating four leagues, I want to help with your actual dilemmas, not just explain why I took Chris Ivory in all three of my leagues. There's no point in my writing a column that might not help my readers, so I've decided to take your specific questions. Ask me about to let you know which players to pick up, to explain whose value is rising/falling and even to weigh in on your trade offers. I also give pretty good life advice, but let's try to keep it to fantasy. Email me your questions at Tuftsfantasyfootball@gmail.com. Make sure to let me know your league settings as well — PPR, how many teams, flex or 3 WR and so on.

Two weeks into the season, a number of noteworthy players have been injured. The Packers' star wide receiver Jordy Nelson is out for the season. His "replacement," sophomore Davante Adams, is now slowed by an ankle injury. The recommended play would be to stash James Jones on your bench just to be safe, as Adams, despite returning to Sunday's game against the Seahawks, is banged up. Nelson, the No. 2 wide receiver in an Aaron Rodgers-led offense, has averaged roughly 950 yards and seven touchdowns over the last seven years.

The quarterback position is no longer quite so deep after Tony Romo's collarbone broke and Jay Cutler pulled his hamstring. I recommend Andy Dalton, Marcus Mariota and Tyrod Taylor as replacements who might still be unowned in your league.

Dez Bryant's injury, coupled with Romo's, pose existential questions for the Cowboys' offense. Backup Brandon Weeden has a career TD/Int rate of 27:28. Despite their dominant offensive line and their so far effective defense, the Cowboys are now a recommended defense streaming target.

Speaking of high-powered offenses failing to get off the ground: Chip Kelly's Eagles look like a sports car stuck in neutral. A rocket-armed quarterback, the deepest stable of running backs in the league and a formerly dominant offensive line combined for 21 total yards in the first half Sunday against the Cowboys. The running game, which most pundits assumed could support both DeMarco Murray and Ryan Matthews, posted negative yards in the first half. Kelly has promised to "evaluate" everyone involved in the offense, but this is a backfield to avoid for now.

Despite a 2-0 record, the Carolina Panthers haven't inspired confidence in their offense. Cam Newton will get his superman scores as he did in Week 2, but his wide receiver corps hasn't done him any favors since Kelvin Benjamin went down. Rookie Devin Funchess is clearly not ready to step up — he has caught two of seven targets for 24 yards thus far. A recommended stash play in the preseason, I am willing to cut ties at this point.

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