

Black Student Union hosts week of activities

BY HANNAH ROBINSON
Contributing Writer

Beginning last Sunday, Tufts' first Black Student Union (BSU) hosted a week-long series of events in hopes of gaining official Tufts Community Union (TCU) recognition next semester.

According to Co-Founder and Chair of the Executive Board Darien Headen, the

new group aims to focus on the black experience on campus through social programming initiatives.

"We are really making an effort to connect with alumni, to spotlight the black culture, and not in a political or cultural sense," Headen, a junior, said. "We are making a huge push to connect with faculty."

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TONY CANNISTRA / TUFTS DAILY ARCHIVES

As of last Tuesday, students can purchase \$4 Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority passes, valued at \$5, at the information booth located in the Mayer Campus Center.

Leadership Dinner spurs collaboration

BY DANIEL BOTTINO
Daily Editorial Board

The Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate Outreach Committee last Thursday evening hosted the fifth annual Student Leadership Dinner at the 51 Winthrop Street Function Hall.

The event's purpose is to present a forum for discussion among a diverse set of student groups, according to TCU President Joe Thibodeau.

"[The dinner] is to celebrate the work that groups have already put in for the year ... [and] an opportunity for the leaders of the groups to come together and to have a good meal and to celebrate what they've done," Thibodeau, a senior, said. "It is also for groups to connect."

Senator Brian Tesser, who organized the event as the chair of the Student Outreach Committee, said he hoped student groups would use the dinner as a time to discuss ways to collaborate. Tesser was also pleased with the attendance, which was higher than expected.

"The capacity that we could hit was 150 [people] ... and we had 120 to 130, which is pretty high," Tesser, a sophomore, said. "We were thinking we were going to get

around 100, so last minute we had a lot of really late RSVPs, which was totally fine, because the more people the better."

Since most groups sent two representatives, Tesser estimated that about 50 groups were in attendance at the dinner.

After all the group members had arrived and had taken their seats, Thibodeau and Tesser made brief introductory speeches explaining the purpose of the evening. Both said they were looking forward the potential results and benefits of the dinner.

"There are so many great passionate people here at Tufts, and we don't often get the opportunity to talk to each other," Thibodeau said.

The various groups were each assigned to tables by type. One table, for example, hosted student religious groups, while another hosted groups concerned with intentional affairs.

Tesser believed that sorting groups by areas of common interest allowed group leaders to collaborate more effectively.

"I spoke to some of the people sitting at the sorority table, and they

see LEADERSHIP, page 2

TCU Senate, OCL offer discounted MBTA passes

BY ROY YANG
Contributing Writer

In a joint effort, the Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate and the Office for Campus Life (OCL) last Tuesday began sales for round-trip Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) passes. The tickets, valued at \$5, are available for \$4 at the Mayer Campus Center's Information Booth.

According to TCU Vice President Stephen Ruggiero, a senior, these passes are mainly targeted toward student groups in order to help them budget MBTA-related costs.

In the past, Ruggiero explained, bus and T fares were not subsidized by the university. Only taxicab rides and rent-

ed vans could be reimbursed.

Ruggiero said that now, in order to receive a subsidized ticket, students can fill out an Interdepartmental Requisition (IDR) sheet, necessary to purchase goods or services from the university. After obtaining a signature from any member of TCU Treasury, group leaders can bring the form to the OCL booth to receive passes for traveling students.

Though the student groups have to apply for these passes a week in advance, Ruggiero believes that the passes represent a positive step forward.

TCU Treasurer Adam Kochman said he initially proposed these passes as a solution to logistical problems facing student groups who travel on the T.

"I was frustrated that students could not get reimbursed for these [MBTA receipts], so I wanted to create a way for students to be able to take the T and have it subsidized by the Treasury because a lot of activities are in Boston where students need to take an MBTA service," Kochman, a sophomore, said. "Now, with these new passes, I'm hoping student groups will use these because they're cost effective and cheap."

Kochman acknowledged that these passes, though beneficial to student groups, are not for regular T users. Individuals who would find them most helpful are those who want to occasionally go in and out

see MBTA, page 2

TCU Senate update

The Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate held its next-to-last weekly meeting of the semester in the Sophia Gordon Multipurpose Room last night, which included discussion on projects relating to diversity, food availability on campus and the off-campus housing search.

Council on Diversity representative Darien Headen spoke about his two projects. The first involved planning a Community Forum, which would focus on the incident concerning non-Tufts affiliates who shouted racial slurs at students earlier this month. Headen also hoped to head a "Community of Silence" project, a week-long event designed to combat the many forms of societal "violence," such as cultural appropriation, body objectification and micro- and macro-aggression.

Services Committee Chair Christie

Maciejewski talked about her organization's projects-in-development, including the creation of a student bar on campus and continued advertising for tomorrow's "Turkey Shuttle." She also announced that the kosher deli in the Mayer Campus Center will open on Dec. 2 and that the Commons Deli and Grill will accept meal plans on Friday and Saturday evenings as of next semester.

Sophomores Caroline Higley and Ethan Finkelstein of the Administration and Policy Committee received project approval for a joint initiative named the Off-Campus Housing Improvement, which will assist students in securing housing as upperclassmen. Finkelstein also got project approval for his personal Voter Registration Project, which aims to streamline the process of voter registration for U.S. citizens at Tufts.

Two student members of the Race and Ethnicity Working Group outlined the organization's projects for the semester.

Senate allocated \$2,000 to the Tufts Cape Verdean Student Association (CVSA) to sponsor a joint community service trip to Cape Verde with students of University of Massachusetts Amherst over spring break.

The Senate then assessed the Primary Source's request for its 2014 fiscal year budget. Allocations Board proposed granting the Primary Source a reduced fund of \$4,909, and the Senate upheld this decision by a vote of 26-1-0.

Senate approved Tufts Liberty in North Korea (LiNK)'s fiscal year budget of \$164 by a vote of 14-12-1. Senate also voted 19-7-1 to provide \$1,801 for 180 Degrees Consulting and voted 25-2-0 to give \$1,560 to Cheap Sox, which

is traveling to an improv workshop in Los Angeles in January. The Sophomore Class Council, responsible for organizing the "winter event" which will be held instead of Winter Bash, requested \$49,550 for this cause; the Senate upheld this by a unanimous vote.

The Judiciary closed the meeting by announcing the recognition of two new student organizations, Tufts DREAM and Tufts Autism Speaks.

—by Josh Weiner

Inside this issue

Students will soon see the impact of the T-10 Strategic Plan.



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Trite plays and nostalgia define the film 'Delivery Man.'



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Students get access to discounted T travel

MBTA

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of Boston and save a dollar doing it, Kochman said.

In order to obtain the passes, OCL Director Joe Golia said he contacted the MBTA and purchased passes in bulk at a discounted price. He said the process was simple, as Tufts is a non-profit organization and therefore is eligible for discounts on large purchases.

Golia added that because passes do not expire, unused passes at the end of semester can be stored and sold again in the spring semester. He believed it made sense to sell the tickets, as workers in the booth already sell similar passes for such things as movie tickets.

"Anything we can do to offer another service to students at our information booth is great," Golia said. "This is very easy for us. Since we already have a system in place of selling things, it's very easy to do. It's very easy for us to add one more thing to sell, so this was simple to do. We are happy to distribute these passes."

Kevin Campbell, president of the Taiwanese Association of Students at Tufts, voiced his perspective as the leader of a student group.

"I don't think MBTA costs were ever a reason for student groups not to go to Boston for

events," Campbell, a senior, said. "However, these [passes] are a nice little bonus that we can definitely use. I can already see half a dozen times that these passes can be used in our own club."

So far, out of the 300 passes available, only a few passes have been purchased, Golia said. While the passes are still very new, he and members of TCU Senate believe that the discounted tickets will be useful to students.

"We are excited about this," Kochman said. "This was a simple solution to make the lives of students easier and that's our main goal. ... I think we accomplished some of that with this step. We are excited, and we hope students take advantage of this opportunity."

TCU President Joe Thibodeau hopes that groups will utilize the new discounts.

"We are really hoping that through this, [we] could encourage groups to engage in opportunities in Boston and bring ideas back to these communities to make their events and activities even stronger and more wide-reaching," Thibodeau, a senior, said. "[Students should] develop contacts with professionals as well as other students in Boston, as there are so many different resources to take advantage of."



COURTESY JENN STRAITZ

Members of Programming Board, along with students from about 50 other organizations, gathered for the fifth annual Student Leadership Dinner.

Organization leaders gather for forum discussion

LEADERSHIP

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said that they were able to talk, [and] I know that the Leonard Carmichael Society was at a table with a lot of the fraternities, so they were able to talk about different ways to integrate Greek life with community service," he said.

Graham Goudeau of the Tufts Futurism Society, a group that discusses the issues that arise with the advancement of technology, explained that the group was satisfied with the dinner discussion and hoped to expand their activities as a result.

"This is a cool event. We got to meet other groups, [and] it seems they are interested in the future,"

Goudeau, a freshman, said.

Members of Alliance Linking Leaders in Education and the Services (ALLIES) explained that the dinner gave them a great opportunity to meet other student organizations. Brian Pollock, a sophomore, said that ALLIES is hoping to attract a more diverse body of participants by taking a multi-disciplinary approach to civil-military relationships. He hoped the dinner would allow the group to explain its purpose to more people.

Tesser also mentioned a few potential logistical improvements that the Student Outreach Committee could make to next year's dinner.

"One of the things we could do

better in terms of planning is making sure that everyone who's coming is fully aware of when it is, and making sure that people are excited to come," he said.

Tesser said that this year, the committee had difficulty assigning student organizations to tables. In the future, he hopes to ask groups about what they are expecting from the dinner, so that they can be placed with like-minded people.

After the event concluded, Tesser expressed optimism about future Student Leadership Dinners.

"Hopefully we can find things that worked, [and] do those again, and things that didn't work we can definitely tweak for future years," he said.



CAROLINE GEILING / THE TUFTS DAILY

Discounted round-trip Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority passes are now available at the Mayer Campus Center's Information Booth.

Visiting the Hill this week

MONDAY

Recreating the Nile in Pompeii: Caitlin Barrett

Details: Caitlin Barrett, an assistant professor of classics at Cornell University, will discuss cultural, religious and trade connections between Egypt and the rest of the ancient Mediterranean world. **When and Where:** 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Barnum Hall 008

Sponsor: Department of Classics

Urban and Environmental Engineering in Israel

Details: Shahar Solar, head of environmental planning and green building division in the Ministry of Environmental Protection, will speak about ways that Israel can become more flexible and environmentally sustainable in planning development projects.

When and Where: 6:30 p.m.; Tufts Hillel

Sponsor: Tufts Hillel

—compiled by the Tufts Daily News Department

Black Student Union to hold social activities

BSU

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This will be the first official Black Student Union."

According to the group's Facebook event page, BSU collaborated with other student groups and organizations to host four events, including a Thanksgiving dinner, a "Discussion on Hair Politics," a viewing party for the television show "Scandal" as well as a BSU mixer.

While the past week of events will help to show the group's active presence on campus, the events alone are only part of the recognition process, Headen said. According to him, the group must also show proof of student interest, along with a mission statement, a constitution and other supporting documents.

If recognized, BSU would be able to request funding from TCU Senate, which would permit them to host more events in the future, Headen and Co-Founder and Finance Chair Solana Davis said.

"The events that we would like to hold in the future ... require money," Davis, a junior, said. "It would be nice to have TCU Senate's support in the creation of the BSU. The name and the reputation behind being a recognized group would really help both students coming to our events as well as our reputation."

While BSU will concentrate on organizing social gatherings,

Davis noted the group's potential to host a wide variety of activities.

"We will hold mostly social events, but also some academic and educational events because we think that is also important in celebrating and understanding the black lived experience," Davis said.

Headen also hopes the group will provide networking opportunities, both within the Tufts community and with other BSU organizations off campus.

"One of the biggest things that I would like to see the group do — and one of the key ideas that I had in creating the group — was making sure that this group could branch out to other schools," Headen said.

While other black affinity organizations already exist on campus, the BSU plans to take a predominately social route, rather than a cultural or political route, Davis said.

"We didn't think it was fair for the [Pan-African Alliance] to have to be both the political and the social aspect on this campus for discussing and celebrating the black experience," Davis said. "One of our main goals is to create more social opportunities on campus for students."

Davis added that BSU also differs from other groups in terms of racial and ethnic distinctions.

"African and black is not the same thing," Davis said. "Though black is a race and African is an ethnicity, it is unfair to clump the two

together. The BSU is going to focus more on the black American experience while still recognizing the historical connections between African students, African American students and black American students."

Before gaining TCU Judiciary recognition, group founders hope to fill a few more executive board positions for younger students.

"We want to have space for first year and sophomore students," Headen said. "We want to make sure that the group sustains and that we can look back years from now and still see that the group is functioning on campus."

Headen also hopes that BSU will serve as a unifying organization among the other black affinity groups.

"I would love to see more collaboration, especially groups that work more closely with the Africana Center," Headen said.

Both Headen and Davis are optimistic about the large degrees of support they have already received across campus. Davis also hopes that BSU will contribute to making Tufts an open-minded environment.

"The BSU will celebrate and encourage people to understand that there are different perspectives," Davis said. "We all have different identities, and we need to acknowledge as well as celebrate and come together based on them."

Features

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Students have been involved in the process of formulating the Strategic Plan that was approved earlier this month, and administrators say that concrete change will soon be conspicuous.

Strategic Plan approved by Board of Trustees, ready for implementation

BY CHARLOTTE GILLILAND
Daily Editorial Board

When the strategic plan initiative was announced last October, University President Anthony Monaco declared it a process of identifying the priorities and values of Tufts that will create a road map for the university's next 10 years.

"This is an opportunity for us, as a community, to envision a trajectory for Tufts — where it needs to be, and should be, in a decade's time," Monaco announced to the community.

On Nov. 2 of this year, the Board of Trustees officially approved the T10 Strategic Plan. The full plan is a 45-page document focusing on four themes: Foundational Initiatives, Transformational Experiences, Engaging and Celebrating

Commonalities and Differences and Creating Innovative Approaches to Local and Global Challenges.

After months of planning and a series of student focus groups to incorporate perspectives from across the university, the plan was completed. According to Provost David Harris, students will begin to see specific change at Tufts very soon related to interdisciplinary learning, diversity, gap years and financial aid.

"What it isn't is a detailed roadmap for the next 10 years," Harris, who led the initiative, said. "What it is, is a framework for the university ... It's a 10 year plan, but that doesn't mean that nothing happens for 10 years. Some of these things you're going to start seeing very soon."

Interdisciplinary learning

One key component of the Strategic Plan is Bridge Professorships. This involves the hire of two new faculty members who will be tenured in more than one department in order to help bridge the gap in interdisciplinary ventures, according to Associate Provost Kevin Dunn.

"The purpose of this [program] is to enable those new fields and knowledge to be productively pursued here at Tufts," Dunn said. "What we felt here from the beginning is that they are being pursued and the faculty are trying to do this. So instead of simply being in their way, the administration is trying to say, 'Here, let us help you.'"

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Professor Bailey explores human adaptation to heights in final Taste of Tufts

NIMARTA NIRANG
Contributing Writer

Associate Professor of Anthropology Stephen Bailey wrapped up this semester's Taste of Tufts, the Experimental College's weekly lecture series, on Friday. His discussion focused on the physical adaptations of human beings to extreme environments in which they live, which is also the topic of a class he will be teaching next spring called Extreme Environments: Human Adaptability to Novel Habitats. Specifically, his research has focused on human beings' ability to adjust to living in high altitudes.

"I am a believer in serendipity," Bailey said at the start of his discussion.

This belief became increasingly evident as he revealed how he double majored in biology and anthropology with the full intent of becoming a newspaper reporter. He worked as a reporter for a year until a fateful lunch with the biological anthropologist who convinced him to go to graduate school and change the course of his career. He eventually earned his Master's degree in clinical hematology, or the study of blood, blood-forming tissues and related medical disorders.

Bailey said he served as a research assistant for his advisor who studied human growth. He was offered a research opportunity in Bolivia to study high altitude populations, a topic that would later become the center of his work. The study involved comparing lowland and highland indigenous populations by looking at differences of basic genotypes of populations at 12,000 feet to those at 1,200 feet.

"It was like 1940 again," Bailey said. "In fact, the equipment we used had been donated by the U.S government, and it was apparently dated to the '30s. One thing I learned in fieldwork is to not expect for everything to go according to plan. Once we had a shipment held up in customs long enough for it to go spoilt."

After this experience in Bolivia, Bailey worked in Jamaica and Costa Rica to study the risk of diseases. This experience influenced his dissertation.

"Then in 1994, actually right at Tufts, I got a call from a fellow at Indiana State University to come and study kids in high altitudes," he said.

The two collaborated and the next year joined a team to the province of Abba in Tibet, Western Sichuan. Their study took

place in a city called Barkam, where they studied elementary school children and how they responded to high altitudes.

"This study also compared children of different [ethnic groups] under the same kind of environmental stresses," Bailey said.

According to Bailey, the ethnic groups studied included the Tibetan, the Hui and the Han.

Bailey explained how the Chinese government was concerned about the Han children experiencing adverse effects at high altitudes.

"In fact, if you were a Han family at high altitude, you [would] send your kids to relatives at sea level for their first few years of life," he said.

Bailey's most recent work was on a research study of children in Northwestern Sichuan, examining a whole school of five different ethnic groups, each with different genetic history and lifestyle.

Bailey then commented on the logistical difficulties of planning research abroad.

"It's very complicated to work in China," he said. "There is lots of paperwork, per-

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LEX ERATH | SUGAR AND SPICE

A social experiment



Like a normal human, I try to avoid doing things that will cause me extreme pain. Unfortunately, sometimes these things are unavoidable, like taking Orgo or eating in Carm. But sometimes my sense of self-preservation takes a vacation and I decide to do ridiculous things.

I am by no means a masochist and I am most definitely not a runner (I am firmly of the belief that humans should run only when they are being chased), but this past Monday, I inexplicably decided to embark on a five-mile run, and there was only so much my workout playlist could do to distract me from the torture. To keep my mind off what I was putting myself through, I decided to conduct a little social experiment. Any runner I passed going in the opposite direction, I would try to high-five. Just runners, mind you; walkers weren't working hard enough to deserve that sort of encouragement, and I'd have probably gotten run over if I tried to high-five a bicyclist.

I passed seven runners. Are you an optimist, expecting a full seven out of seven? Or are you accustomed to the general coldness of New Englanders — rivaled only by the iciness of their winters — and predicting a measly one or two? Here's a quick recount:

Number one: a middle-aged guy doing a pretty reasonable pace. I run awkwardly close to him and hold up a hand. He looks surprised but grins and gives me a high-five. Success! One for one. Next is a youngish guy in a button-up and dress pants. Respect to this guy for squeezing in a run during his coffee break. He also looks surprised but very happy to slap my hand. Two for two.

Third up is an older woman, steadily chugging along, and I pretty much have to run directly at her to get her to look up. She's a little slow on the uptake, but she manages to hit my hand. Three for three! Number four is a tiny Asian man, running at a pace that puts me (and everyone else on this trail) to shame. When I hold up my hand, he gives me an awkward wave and averts his eyes. Ouch. Three for four.

My confidence is a little shaken after that, so it's with a trembling heart that I approach number five, a young woman in a neon pink running outfit so bright you can see it from Pittsburgh. Again, she looks surprised but gratified as she gives me an enthusiastic high-five, giving me enough energy to finish the last two miles. Four for five! Just 100 yards later, I approach a girl my own age. She regards my proffered left hand with suspicion and fixes me with a glare so hostile you'd think I was trying to skin her baby kitten instead of provide a little motivation. Four for six.

I'm on the home stretch now and really want to finish on a positive note, so as I approach number seven, a buff Army type, it's with more than a little desperation that I flash him my most winning smile and hold up my hand. And, success! He smiles back and hits my hand with enough force to add 10 seconds to my pace.

So, overall, a quite respectable five for seven, and I'd like to think I provided some encouragement to five other runners out there toiling away. Definitely an experiment I would conduct again, especially now that I've mastered the art of getting someone to look up by running directly at them. I'll let you know how it goes the next time I go running, but it takes me a while to recover, so you can expect a report in about five or six months.

Lex Erath is a sophomore who has not yet declared a major. She can be reached at Alexandra.Erath@tufts.edu.

Final version of Strategic Plan reflects voices across university

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Current faculty members will be able to make proposals for new bridge professorships.

"[The program] allows [faculty] to say, 'The field I'm working in is really important, let me have a colleague,'" Dunn said. "It's also forcing them to work with people in other schools, other departments, other units."

Provost Harris highlighted the immediate changes that these positions will bring to current students.

"These are folks who will come to campus as new senior faculty members and they will affect immediately the curriculum," he said.

Diversity, gap years and financial aid

Another change that Harris said will immediately affect students is the plan's initiatives regarding issues on diversity. The third theme, "Engaging and Celebrating Commonalities and Differences," focuses on diversity, and has created a short-term goal of hiring a university-wide chief diversity officer who will ensure that the goals of the new President's Council on Diversity are implemented completely.

"I've already committed that by the end of this calendar year, we will have launched the search for the diversity officer," Harris said. "That's something concrete."

The plan also launches an initiative that will encourage students to take gap years, called the 1 + 4 Undergraduate Program. The program provides students with opportunities to participate in national or international service during their gap year before attending Tufts. The plan intends to make each program financially accessible through fundraising.

"The idea is that there's a whole notion of the gap year, there's a notion of service and then there's another issue around access," Harris said. "We believe there is value in service and there is value in a gap year."

According to the plan, the university may partner with approved service programs through Tisch College to support students during their gap year and provide

"transformational experiences" as they explore new communities.

"We don't think that [gap years] are something that should be reserved for wealthy kids. Culturally, there are some kids [for whom] it's not really part of their thinking," Harris said. "We want to make it possible for a broad number of students to consider."

The Strategic Plan also focuses on enhancing and expanding undergraduate financial aid. The university is no longer incorporating need-blind financial aid practices but is striving to continue to widen opportunities for students with need.

"In the short term, the president asked for a two year goal of \$25 million, and we're already over \$20 million raised," Harris said. "That is more resources for us to bring in students who need financial aid and that will have an impact on the class entering this year. There are people who will come to Tufts that would not have been able to."

According to Harris, the university hopes to achieve need-blind admissions policies eventually, but must be sure that the university is up to the high standards of quality that current students need.

"The university is thoroughly committed to financial aid," he said. "If we get there, we get there, but it's a tall order."

Junior Kumar Ramanathan, who attended many of the open planning meetings for the Strategic Plan, said that although it is difficult to have such large-scale planning that the plan proposes, he found it lacking in one area.

"In the appendix [of the plan], it says there are 10 core commitments of Tufts. All of these things pop up at various places within the plan," Ramanathan said. "The one that I personally notice doesn't pervade the rest of the plan is the last one [listed], which is wellness."

Ramanathan explained that because Tufts is such a high-pressure academic environment, the plan ought to give greater attention to student's mental well-being.

"I don't know the exact numbers, but I

know that Counseling and Mental Health Service (CMHS) has seen a huge uptake in the past decade in the number of students using their resources," he said. "When you look at that, when you look at more students going to CMHS, I think it's important to recognize that that is part of what we need to care about. We need to care about students accessing mental health resources."

Student wellness, which can encompass anything from physical to mental health, is cited in the Appendix under Tufts' Foundational Values and Core Commitments.

Jonathan Garlick, professor of oral pathology at the Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences, felt that the while the document does not give specific goals toward wellness, the second theme on creating transformational experiences will guide the students in their academic journey and support their wellness.

"Even though it's not spelled out as clearly ... I think that the spirit of the document really resonates with a sense of student empowerment," Garlick, who also served on the Teaching and Learning committee, said. "I think that there are many levels of how that empowerment can inform wellness."

Harris claimed the university is inherently interested in student wellness and mental health.

"The point is that we want to put you in situations that help you leave your comfort zone," Harris said. "But we want to be there with you and make sure that we help you get through these situations and help you interpret them so you can think about how it affects your personal development. And that's the wellness piece."

The student perspective and the future

Many students' voices were incorporated in the formation of the plan through focus group meetings. In terms of teaching and learning, Garlick said that hearing from a large number of students across the schools of the university was an inspiring process.

"We had the opportunity to hear many, many voices around the university," he

said. "And that was absolutely inspiring to hear how students especially feel that their learning can become both student centered and transformative and that's what we really listened very carefully to."

While students came from different schools and areas of study, Garlick noted a spirit across the board that is highly representative of Tufts' values.

"We really spoke to students at every school around the university," he said. "What was really exciting about this was that we heard a voice that is uniquely 'Tufts,' and that voice really echoed some of the shared values that connect our very diverse campus community."

Garlick also discussed the importance of viewing the plan as both a blueprint for the next decade but also a source of motivation for the future.

"When it comes to inspiration, I think that we read this and we think about our future and our immediate experience at Tufts with the sense that we are one university," he said. "We are gathering together to have a shared experience that really is going to be in the service of the greater good."

Both Garlick and Harris underscored the importance of viewing the document as an inspirational guide to both defining the current spirit and values of Tufts as a whole and looking toward where Tufts wants to be in the year 2023.

"What is the Tufts brand for the future?" Garlick asked.

Harris added that the plan extends beyond 10 years.

"There are two things we want to do. We want to look at Tufts and say over the next decade, what are the things we really to focus on. How can we build on the successes that we've had over the last 20 to 30 years," he said.

Harris said that another expected key result that will come out of implementing the Strategic Plan will relate to marketing.

"The second [outcome] is the story of Tufts," he said. "There's some piece that's the message. It's both enhancements and it's messaging. It's ways to share our story."



CAROLINE GEILING / THE TUFTS DAILY

Stephen Bailey presented the final lecture in the Experimental College's lecture series, A Taste of Tufts, on humans' adaptation to extreme environments.

Genes also play role in humans' living at high altitudes

TASTE
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mission granting, and it takes years to plan even one trip. You think we have bureaucracy in the U.S.; you have no idea."

Bailey also spoke on the contrasts among the different types of physical adaptation to the extreme heights.

"We had gone into China believing strongly that one size fits all in terms of high altitudes and that our bodies adapt in a certain way," he said. "But in fact, it is a whole different story."

He described how the Andean Indians tend to have big barrel chests, polycythemia and other kinds of adaptations to high altitude. He found, however, that the Tibetan youth were slender and had narrower chests and that generally their bodies were adapted in different ways. The Ethiopians, even more surprisingly, seemed to have no physiological responses to living above 3,000 meters.

"They look like you and I just walking down the street," Bailey said.

Bailey distinguished between the effects of genetics and environmental adaptations in his research.

"We realized that these different people bring a different set of genes to the table," he reflected. "The Andean Indian brought basic Indian American genes that had genotypes adaptive to low altitude. The Tibetan brought a different set of genes, and we realized it was all due to a substance called nitric oxide, a vasodilator making arteries bigger. It's not only the set of genes you bring to the table, but also the way you live."

Bailey is enthusiastic about the findings so far, and while he is starting to wrap up research, he has not ruled out the possibility of going on one more trip.

"These findings have implications for economic development, politics and medical treatments," he said.

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MOVIE REVIEW

Feel-good 'Delivery Man' is campy, full of heart

BY ANTHONY MARTINEZ
Daily Staff Writer

It's fair to say that when we go to the movies, all we're really doing is picking a particular brand of the

Delivery Man



Directed by **Ken Scott**

Starring **Vince Vaughn, Chris Pratt, Cobie Smulders, Andrzej Blumenfeld**



COURTESY DREAMWORKS PICTURES

Vince Vaughn plays a down-on-his-luck debtor who discovers he has fathered 533 children in 'Delivery Man.'

make-believe — be it action, comedy, romance or fantasy — to immerse ourselves in for a few hours. Of these options, feel-good movies are certainly some of the phoniest. This is why it is surprising that "Delivery Man," every bit a feel-good movie, works as well as it does. Granted, the film isn't perfect. But in the realm of campy cinema, it is a gem.

The film revolves around David Wozniak (Vince Vaughn), a 40-something delivery man whose heart of gold is matched only by his insatiable appetite for get-rich schemes and, subsequently, his perpetual debt. One day David discovers that his girlfriend, Emma (Cobie Smulders), is pregnant and intends to raise their child without him. Imagine his surprise when he also finds out that a mistake at a sperm clinic has rendered him the biological father of 533 children — all now roughly between the ages of 18 and 23. Several of them are suing the sperm bank — and, by extension, David — in order to learn the identity of their biological father. Upon hearing this, David decides to track some of them down and help with their various life problems.

The elements of the plot alone make for an amusing situation: 533 children requires at least as many donations. Absurd and overblown, it is fodder for feel-good moments. And feel-good moments, of course, ensue. David's attempts to act as a guardian angel for some of his children are depicted in a sequence of pure, fuzzy joy. He pretends to fall off a diving board so that one of his sons, who is a lifeguard, will get credit for rescuing him. He gets a manicure and pedicure from one of his daughters at the salon where she works. He watches and applauds as another son, who works as a historical tour guide, gives his spiel. You can't help but enjoy the irony as David's kids unwittingly interact with the man

they're suing, baffled by his kindness. Even in moments when the movie could veer into a more serious tone, it strays back to its cheerful core. When David poses as a pizza delivery man in order to interact with another one of his daughters (Brit Robertson), he walks in on her overdosing on heroin. Once he's taken her to the hospital, David pretends to be her father so that he can sign her out. What ensues is a debate between the doctor and the heroin addict daughter, with David ping-ponging back and forth between them, trying to decide whether to check her into rehab or to let her go so that she can work at her

see **DELIVERY**, page 6

ALBUM REVIEW

Dev Hynes delivers solid album in 'Cupid Deluxe'

BY CHRIS GARCIA
Daily Staff Writer

Dev Hynes — recording under his latest moniker, Blood Orange — has set out to capture the spirit of the streets of New

Cupid Deluxe



Blood Orange

Domino Records

York in his latest album, "Cupid Deluxe." By combining musical influences from the '80s with innovative, forward-thinking pop, the album embodies the feel of the city — where anything and everything can happen after sundown — with style and poise.

The U.K.-born musician has been able to capture the city in a way that only an outsider can. With a style that harkens back to the soulful, sultry R&B sound of a previous generation, the thematic content of Hynes' songs tends to deal with

see **CUPID**, page 6



ALTERNA2 VIA WIKIMEDIA CREATIVE COMMONS

Hynes' 'Uncle Ace' articulates the musician's connection to the LGBTQ community.

TV REVIEW

Meyers is commanding as 'Dracula' lead

BY SABRINA CHISHTI
Daily Staff Writer

NBC's new series, "Dracula" — filled with plenty of intrigue, gorgeous mansions and beautiful people — would be a

Dracula



Starring **Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Robert Bathurst, Miklós Bányai, Jessica De Gouw**

Airs **Fridays at 10 p.m. on NBC**

middling success were it not for its star. The handsome and charming Jonathan Rhys Meyers plays the eponymous character, and he brings enough mystery — and more than a hint of danger — to keep both his character and the show interesting. The talent Meyers possesses is undeniable, and he commands every scene he is in, playing the legendary vampire with intensity and charm.

The pilot opens with Meyers' Dracula posing as an American businessman named Alexander Grayson as he hosts an extravagant party in London. Ostensibly he is there to expand his business holdings as a newcomer to the city, but, in reality, he is intent on destroying an organization called the Order of the Dragon, whose members killed his wife and cursed him with a life of immortality long ago. Though this beginning should be engaging and mysterious, it is too vague; the viewer is left with more questions

see **DRACULA**, page 6

RYAN BUELL | THIS WEEK IN HIP-HOP

Yeezus rises: Kanye's cultural takeover



Say what you will about the man's behavior and public persona, but never question Kanye West's musical genius. He is an innovator — someone who refuses to be confined by expectations, whether it be in music or in life. Need proof? Look no further than his current "Yeezus" tour, which I was lucky enough to attend on Nov. 17 at Boston's TD Garden. Equal parts hip-hop concert and rock opera, the show was a raw, visceral experience.

'Ye opens with "On Sight," the first song on his July release "Yeezus," and ends with "Bound 2," its last. What occurs in between is a two and a half hour onslaught of hit songs, arranged into something of a plot arc. The display of dramatized thematic descriptions — "Fighting," "Rising," "Falling," "Searching" and "Finding" — organized the show into something of a journey. Gospel choir interludes, a barrage of biblical imagery and even the appearance of a Christ figure gave the show a sense of reincarnation. Indeed, throughout the night, 'Ye contextualized his career and cultural significance within the lines of his Christian beliefs, portraying himself as a cultural savior.

The moment 'Ye emerged on stage — head enshrouded, among spotlights and a group of white-clad dancers — it became quite clear what was in store for the rest of the evening: a religiously-driven poignant display, posing questions of success, race and society. Kanye quickly launched into rhymes over the screeching beat of "On Sight" and then followed up with "New Slaves." Watching thousands of people — many white — singing along to lyrics such as, "They wasn't satisfied unless I picked the cotton myself," was a surreal experience. Kanye is effectively bringing these racially charged lyrics into the mainstream — and, more importantly, into white America's mainstream.

What is Kanye trying to achieve with these provocative statements? Is he simply asserting his cultural influence by demonstrating that he can popularize even the most controversial of music? Perhaps he is intent on challenging racial norms by desensitizing racial issues. Or maybe, to go a step further, he is holding up a mirror, forcing us to ask ourselves why we are okay with singing adamantly along to "New Slaves."

This racial overtone is present throughout the "Yeezus" album and tour: The Confederate flag peppers the tour merchandise, and "Blood on the Leaves" samples the Nina Simone version of "Strange Fruit" (1965). Even the newly released "Bound 2" music video pushes the issue. From the haunting lynching imagery of the "Strange Fruit" sample, to the degraded white American tropes featured in the "Bound 2" video, Kanye is challenging the way race is viewed in American society. By sending "New Slaves" and "Blood on Leaves" into the mainstream, 'Ye is using his pop culture presence to create a social reaction to the persistent issue of race relations.

In the "Bound 2" video, he essentially reduces stereotypical American tropes — the open road, motorcycles and even his tie-dye shirt — into corny visuals. He replaces the standard white "lone ranger" male with a "Black Skinhead." Here, he opts to transfer racial standards onto himself in a cultural coup d'etat. By realigning the traditional perception of these issues, he is weakening the stigma of race — even if no one realizes it. As he states in "I'm In It," he is trying to "pop a wheelie on a zeitgeist."

I can't be sure what Kanye's true intentions are or where he is headed, but I am certain of one thing: He is doing important things in music, and when all is said and done, his impact may well define a genre and a generation. His creative prowess is transcending music as he attempts to shift an entire culture — and its attitude towards race and religion — in his direction.

Ryan Buell is a sophomore who has not yet declared a major. He can be reached at Ryan.Buell@tufts.edu.

Mediocre tracks do not detract from album's overall success



MAGNUS D VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

Dev Hynes, performing as Blood Orange, captures the energy of New York with 'Cupid Deluxe.'

CUPID

continued from page 5

romantic relationships and sexual situations. Though it definitely has a broad appeal, "Cupid Deluxe" specifically speaks to the experiences of members of the LGBTQ community through Hynes' stated appreciation of New York City's gay culture.

The album focuses on love and lust through various atypical narrative voices. Indeed, significant parts of the album appear to be told from the perspective of a drag queen or perhaps a transgender individual. Hynes has an obvious admiration for '80s New York drag culture — something that is evident not only in his music, but also in the album art, which depicts a man wearing

yellow heels, a light blue bikini and a white masquerade-type mask. Throughout the record, Hynes relates the struggle of these marginalized groups to his own. Growing up in England, Hynes, although straight, was bullied because of the way he dressed and for having gay friends. In one of the stronger tracks on the album, "Uncle Ace" — a glam and disco fusion right out of a high-end fashion show — Hynes' connection to the LGBTQ community is pronounced and clear.

The title "Uncle Ace" comes from the nickname given to the ACE line of the New York City subway, where many homeless adolescents — a large number of whom are homosexual — seek

shelter. The song describes a narrator shedding his or her own inhibitions and finding someone to take home. The identity of the narrator is purposefully ambiguous — although the song is sung by Hynes, lyrics such as "Not like the other girls" portray the speaker as either female or transgendered. This indistinct voice once again showcases Hynes' ability to normalize and humanize the plight of the LGBTQ community in New York, as he pays homage to a collective culture that is so often exaggerated, ridiculed and mocked.

Hynes' singing also contributes to the confusing sexual identity of the narrator. His voice alternates between his normal tenor and a higher-pitched quasi-falsetto. This creates an androgynous persona that Hynes expertly layers over deft musical production. Known predominantly as a producer — Hynes has created songs for Sky Ferreira, Solange Knowles and The Chemical Brothers — it comes as no surprise that the album has sonic flow and effortless continuity.

"Cupid Deluxe" elicits a nostalgic feel while avoiding overly indulgent samples and gimmicks. Such polished production is best exemplified in the song "Always Let U Down," where Dev takes a back seat and allows for some of the impressive guest musicians featured on the album to take the lead.

"Cupid Deluxe" is the strongest work the 27-year-old Hynes has released to date. That being said, it is not a perfect work. Although the album has a strong beginning and ending, there is a clear slump in the middle. The tracks that fall in this awkward limbo lack the same allure of the opening numbers and fall flat when compared to the rest of "Cupid Deluxe." Regardless, "Cupid Deluxe" proves that Hynes has the talent to become a major force in pop — not just as a producer, but as a musician in his own right.

Vince Vaughn is sincere, yet funny in 'Delivery Man'

DELIVERY

continued from page 5

new job while getting clean. All the drama and emotional resonance is sucked out of the scene (in no small part because David's daughter looks like the J. Crew model of heroin addicts). What's left is David's anxiety as he tries to get one of them to tell him what to do. While this is somewhat disappointing, the film's ability to make light of such a serious situation is almost impressive.

Not every scene is successful, however. One, in which David's kids gather for a huge family outing, is — both literally and figuratively — so campy that it feels palpably fake. When the mob harasses David for the money he owes them, their torture (holding his head underwater in a bathtub) is as brief as it is mild — you don't come off feeling like David is in any real danger. Yet these shortcomings manage to avoid ruining a film that is ultimately

about fatherhood. In one scene, David's father (Andrzej Blumenfeld) recounts their history as Polish immigrants, recalling the time when his own father gave him all the money he had to send him to America. Fittingly, David's father decides to give him the money he needs to pay off his debts from the lawsuit. This scene, trite but moving, is endemic of the entire film.

It is worth noting that, regardless of a somewhat ridiculous plot, the actors are exceptionally believable. Vaughn radiates sincerity in a role that is at least more genuine than his usual oeuvre of fast-talking characters, and Chris Pratt deserves some serious credit as Vaughn's friend and attorney. Blumenfeld also delivers an amazing performance, despite its brevity.

"Delivery Man" may be a sledgehammer of optimism that hits viewers over and over again, but at least it gets the job done.



COURTESY DREAMWORKS PICTURES

Chris Pratt (left) plays Vaughn's friend, a disbarred lawyer, in 'Delivery Man.'

'Dracula' borrows pieces from original novel, creates new plot



VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

NBC's new series is based on Bram Stoker's classic novel, but does not follow the original story's plot.

DRACULA

continued from page 5

than answers, and this confusion fails to compel the audience to keep watching.

Meyers, however, is extremely entertaining, even if the plot is difficult to follow. At the party, he presents his guests with light bulbs, which, much to everyone's surprise, light up wirelessly in their hands. This party trick, however, is not simply meant as a treat for his guests — Dracula has other intentions; the Order of the Dragon is rich in petroleum, but its money would evaporate if Dracula's magnetosphere-created energy could become a viable alternative. Meyers conveys his character's ulterior motives smoothly, and his expressive face captivates his audience both on and off screen.

An array of supporting characters rounds out the cast, though some are more successful than others. Mina Murray (Jessica De Gouw) is a scientist who feels an inexplicable pull to Dracula — it is hinted that she perhaps may be the reincarnation of Dracula's wife who burned at the stake centuries ago. She attends lectures taught by Professor Van Helsing (Thomas Kretschmann) as the only female student. Though she is dedicated to pursuing her medical goals — receiving top marks on her exams — she suffers, as Van Helsing unsympathetically tells her, in the practical technique.

Mina seems to be the show's strongest female character, with a rich, full life consisting of more than merely parties and gowns. Despite her intellectual depth, however, she remains quite busy in the romance department. Mina is involved in a would-be love affair with a reporter named Jonathan Harker (Oliver Jackson-Cohen). With the exception of this subplot, the young scientist is otherwise headstrong and bright, and hopefully her character development will continue on this promising path. The writers would do well by

giving Mina more scenes that explore her medical career — doing so would set her character apart from Dracula and make her a stronger presence on the show.

Harker, the object of Mina's affection, accompanies her to the party and ends up landing an interview with Dracula. This interaction functions solely to establish the tangible tension between Dracula and Harker, who jots down notes describing Dracula as a "visionary" and also "delusional." Harker toys with the idea of asking Mina to marry him, but he ultimately believes that she deserves someone better. With this deliberation at the core of his character, it seems that Harker is destined to remain pigeonholed as Mina's jealous lover when Dracula inevitably competes for her affection. Because of this rather uninspired love-triangle premise, his character comes off as boring and contrived.

"Dracula" is, of course, based on Bram Stoker's original 1887 novel, though it does not follow the book's storyline. Instead it tries to harness the novel's ominous tone and Victorian sensibility, which it does fairly well with luxurious houses and a dark, rich color scheme. The characters have familiar names — many of them, including Van Helsing, Mina and Harker — are straight from the novel. With an altered plot, it will be interesting to see how the well-known characters will react in new situations.

With mysteries abound and a skillful Meyers playing Dracula, the show seems to be heading in a promising direction. However, it isn't quite there yet. "Dracula" also has the potential to devolve into a bad adaptation of a classic work of literature, with a vague, often confusing plot and a campy feel detracting from the show's overall intrigue. As of now, it's unclear which route the writers will take, so audiences will just have to wait and see where this fledgling series takes them.

THE TUFTS DAILY

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EDITORIAL

Joey service warrants improvements

While it may be the butt of jokes, the Joey is a very important part of life on the Hill, especially as the temperature drops. The Joey provides students with a quick and warm ride to Davis Square and back, allowing safe passage to the Davis Square T Stop, restaurants, convenience stores and everything else that Davis has to offer. That is, the Joey provides safe passage when it actually comes on time.

With all the talks of a shuttle to Boston, we must not forget that our very own bus has some problems of its own. Mainly, the Joey suffers from a lack of an accurate tracker. While the drivers may try their best to adhere to a set schedule, traffic, overcrowding and other unforeseen circumstances often leave shivering students stranded in the square. Although there are alternatives, such

as the crowdsourced iPhone app "Party Bus," an official site, app, or even a Twitter feed with everyone's favorite white bus' location would save students time as well as keep them safer in the colder weather and on the darker evenings.

However, the lack of a tracker is not the only problem with the Joey. Within the past few weeks, the Joey has been involved in two accidents with students. Whether this is an issue with driver competence or students' ignorance of traffic laws, there is obviously a problem. Similarly, overcrowding, especially in the winter months when more students are hitching a ride, calls into question the safety of riding the Joey.

The Department of Public and Environmental Safety (DPES) should take note of this safety hazard; though two Joeyes already run during busy

days and times like Friday nights, DPES should begin to run additional Joeyes on certain days of the year when there is known overcrowding and high demand for the Joey. For example, this week, students will struggle to find a seat aboard the bus, even with the addition of the Turkey Shuttle to the roster of available transportation. Thanksgiving week, the week before winter break and the week before spring break are all opportune times for another bus to run on the circuit.

DPES stands by this announcement: "Public Safety is aware of the ongoing issues with the Joey Tracker. We are working to replace the current system. We wish to thank everyone for all of your ideas and assistance." With a few cheap, simple fixes, perhaps the Joey can act as more than a punch line and be the transportation service all Jumbos want it to be.

DENISE AMISIAL



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

It is important to get the facts straight when discussing election results, and I would like to offer a correction to the article "Against unionization" published in the Daily on Thursday, Nov. 21. With respect to the recent vote by part-time faculty to form a union, Dean James Glaser is quoted as saying that the administration's arguments "were not persuasive to roughly 65 percent of the people who voted." In fact, publicly available results of the election show that nearly 69.2 percent

of those who voted supported unionization. This was a resounding victory, a more than two-to-one vote for the union and a sharp rebuke to the administration's position that a more democratic workplace would be inconvenient and possibly prejudicial to the interests of part-time faculty.

In addition, the dean's statement that "roughly 65 percent of those who voted" were not persuaded by the administration's arguments might be interpreted to imply that this was a low turnout election. But turnout was also 65 percent,

far higher than we are accustomed to in the United States for even our highest profile political elections. These numbers make it perfectly clear that a very large proportion of part-time faculty took the proactive step of voting, and a resounding majority of them expressed their support in a landslide vote for collective bargaining and the democratization of the workplace.

Respectfully yours,

Andy Klatt

Lecturer in Romance Languages

OFF THE HILL | THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO



VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

I think I might have scurvy

BY ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ
The CU Independent

It dawned on me during a routine WebMD search to check if I had scurvy — a medical condition caused by a lack of vitamin C and poor diet that I typically associate with pirates — that maybe my eating habits needed a little tweaking.

I usually wake up seconds before it's time to flee my home for class, feel my blood sugar drop about 30 minutes into note-taking and grab a midday coffee and protein bar to get me through the rest of the day. For dinner, I stagger into a cheap fast food place, nearly comatose with hunger, and inhale three times my weight in McNuggets.

While the rush of feeling like I'm going to faint every day and the sluggishness and fatigue that stems from having ketchup and pizza sauce as my main source of vegetables is great, I wanted to take a closer look and figure out why I can't seem to properly nourish my body. I concluded that it's in large part because I feel like I have no time for a "good" meal, my bank account is perpetually cents away from over drafting and I think

I need quick energy like coffee and energy bars to stay alive.

It's a running joke that college kids live off of ramen and Bagel Bites, but the consequences aren't very funny.

Biology and nutrition lecturer Donna Louie said that a lack of nutrition in your college years can lead to detriments like low self-esteem due to weight gain, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, trouble focusing, fatigue and even cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Louie does not think the average college student receives proper nutrition, and she attributes this to a few reasons.

"At this age, I think what's in their mind is, 'I'll eat whatever I want because I'm free,'" Louie said. "I think they have a tendency to pick food that tastes good — fatty, sweet or salty foods that are high in calories and sugar."

Dr. Louie added that students overeat because they wait too long and wind up starving, or they don't budget enough time to make a proper meal.

"A lot of students skip breakfast because they want to sleep for as long as possible, but that's what keeps your day going," Louie said. "Because they don't have time to eat, they eat

quick, sugary drinks and sugary bars to make it through class. We consider those empty calories."

OK, I get it. I'm one candy bar away from scurvy. But what's a gal short on time and money to do when she needs to eat something that won't take a year off her lifespan? Dr. Louie makes it sound a lot easier than my nutrient-depleted brain makes it out to be.

She stressed that eating breakfast was the most important thing to keep in mind, and I wondered if my mom had called her ahead of time to relay this information.

"Within the first hour you wake up, eat something with carbohydrates like bananas," she said. "Buy some cereal; even a bowl of cereal is better than a latte. You need the nutrients: the vitamins, the minerals and the protein. Then go eat a wholesome lunch. Eat when hungry and stop eating when you're 80 percent full."

I felt healthier just listening to her. I guess a healthy lifestyle in college is possible. It might mean one less snooze on the alarm clock, but I think that's an infinitely better alternative than health problems now and down the road.

WALT LAWS-MACDONALD | SHOW ME THE MONEY!

Bitcoin or Bitcon?



Currency is the foundation of any economy. As a concept, currency has been around for millennia, and for good reason. Say I'm a shepherd, and you're an investment banker peddling non-investment grade foreign debt. Okay, that was a joke. I'm a shepherd and you grow wheat. You want to buy a sheep from me, but I don't want your grain. I am Novak Djokovic, shepherd — and for the uninformed, gluten-free — your grain is worthless to me. So we agree to initiate trade through a common currency. I sell you a sheep, and you give me some bronze coins, which I can then use to buy something else.

Over the years, currency has evolved from rough chunks of metal, to beautifully designed paper currency, to simply a dollar sign on a computer screen. You can be a perfectly functioning human being and carry nothing but a debit or credit card.

Billions of dollars of trade occur entirely online. Amazon, eBay and even clothing retailers like Gilt have proven that a physical storefront is no longer necessary to have a significant market presence. Enter Bitcoin, by way of a pseudonymously written 2008 paper — an entirely online currency, free of any sort of regulatory institution or central bank.

With the paper and accompanying software, so-called Satoshi Nakamoto outlined the idea for a currency that avoids many of the issues that faced past "e-currencies" by keeping track of every transaction made in a public ledger called the "blockchain." The blockchain prevents Bitcoins from being spent twice and allows buyers and sellers to safely keep track of their transactions.

That being said, Bitcoins quickly found their way into less than legal markets. The "Silk Road," an online black market that the FBI shut down in October, was one of the earliest adopters of the currency and popularized it beyond its early fringe community. Despite the benefits of the blockchain, authorities have had little success in linking Bitcoin accounts to their real-world owners.

But more recently, Bitcoin has earned the attention of both investors. The Winklevoss twins of (not) Facebook fame announced in September that they would be creating an investment fund based entirely on Bitcoins. Though Bitcoins are technically a currency, they behave nothing like it in financial markets. Currency exchange rates typically fluctuate extremely little — moves are often quoted in basis points, or hundredths of a percentage point.

Last week, the exchange rate for dollars to euros went from 1.3503 to 1.3479, a change of about 0.2 percent. In the same time frame, the exchange rate for dollars to Bitcoins went from around \$550 to nearly \$800 per Bitcoin — a change of more than 45 percent.

How is that possible? Without the intervention of a central bank, the price of a Bitcoin is based on a simple supply and demand function. As more and more stores and institutions begin to accept Bitcoins, people will be willing to pay more for them, driving the price up.

The supply side is more interesting — Bitcoins are produced by computers working on a complex algorithm. The rate at which Bitcoins are produced is constantly declining, and eventually no more Bitcoins will be produced.

You can buy just about anything with a dollar, and the government pumps in new dollars to increase the monetary base constantly. With Bitcoins, this relationship is skewed. Its value is entirely derived from the demand for itself, creating incredible risk — and reward — for users. Bitcoin's meteoric rise is bound to stall at some point, and I don't expect large companies to take on its inherent risk until its valuation settles down. I'll stick with cash 'til then.

Walt Laws-MacDonald is a junior who is majoring in quantitative economics. He can be reached at Walt.Laws_MacDonald@tufts.edu.

OFF THE HILL | DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Retractions are for inaccurate facts, not opinions

BY THE TRIANGLE EDITORIAL BOARD
The Triangle

This week marked the sesquicentennial of the Gettysburg Address, the most famous speech of Abraham Lincoln's presidency. In a rare and unexpected journalistic move, the Harrisburg Patriot-News chose to recognize this occasion on Nov. 14 by retracting an editorial published by its predecessor, the Patriot & Union, shortly after Lincoln gave the address. The retracted editorial referred to the address as "silly remarks" and claimed that it didn't deserve to be remembered. In light of how the address turned out to be anything but forgettable, today's successors of the editors responsible for this commentary decided that an apology was not enough. They formally took back the misjudging remarks as if they never should have been made.

Things often make more sense in retrospect, especially when 150 years have passed. Now, Lincoln's speech is revered and celebrated as one of the best in the history of the United States. With historical context, and now that we can see the impact of the speech, it's clear that it was undervalued at first. But that doesn't change the fact that it was indeed undervalued at first. That's an interesting

part of the story, because people at the time genuinely thought that it was "silly" and should be ignored. Retracting the Gettysburg Address editorial does not erase the sentiment of that time; it is just an attempt to smooth over the feelings of the time, which we now see as misguided.

Newspapers are important historical documents that can be used not only to know what was going on during a certain time, but also to understand the sentiments of the people. Newspaper content is not the same as a company mission statement or a political party platform. It's not something that indefinitely represents the official views of an organization until amended or repealed. If it was, news organizations all over the world would need to look through their archives on a regular basis in search of anything they wrote that might not be politically correct anymore in light of recent events. Think of all the content in historical newspapers that spoke favorably of slavery and the Jim Crow laws or expressed opposition to the proposal of women's suffrage. Must today's journalists now take it all off the record to prove that they're not racist or sexist?

If news organizations were expected to retract any content that appears ludicrous by today's standards, The

Triangle would be no exception. In the 1950s, our predecessors published articles that directly condoned campus-wide hazing of Drexel freshmen by listing the rituals and rules that freshmen were required to follow. Obviously, we now unequivocally condemn all forms of hazing, and we regret that it was once an openly accepted part of our campus culture. Still, we can't change the fact that it happened, and those articles in The Triangle are the only reason that our current Editorial Board is even aware that it happened.

Is there even value in retracting an article? Perhaps it displays a certain amount of respect to the now revered event as the newspaper's current editors acknowledge the mistakes of their predecessors. There's nothing wrong with these intentions, but a retraction is not the right way to handle this. Retractions are only meant to be used for false information that was erroneously published as if it were factual. The editorial in question here contained a judgment that proved to be very inaccurate, but because it was presented as an opinion, there is no need to retract it. It would have been sufficient just to write an editorial acknowledging the inaccuracy without any mention of a retraction.

Freshmen runners impress during first Nationals try

MEN'S XC

continued from back

157th with a time of 26:17.7.

Senior tri-captain Ben Wallis closed out his impressive four-year career for the team with his 197th place, 26:33.9 time. Classmate tri-captain Jamie Norton did the same, finishing five seconds behind Wallis in 210th place in 26:38.9.

"The race went out pretty fast in the beginning, and everyone was very bunched up before the race strung out," Norton said. "As a team, we tried to each run our own races while working our way up through the packs of racers in front of us."

Although Tufts only finished one spot behind its national ranking, the runners weren't overly happy with their performance.

"As a team, this was not our best race," Norton said. "We definitely think we could have cracked the top 10."

"All of us have things we wish we could have done differently during the race," Nichols added. "We think we did okay as a team, [but] the race was not an accurate reflection of our performance all season."

Norton said that although the team did not perform as well as they should have, a few members on the squad ran impressive races.

"Both our freshmen, Tim [Nichols] and Luke [O'Connor], ran very well," he said. "Tim was even the fourth freshman to finish in the entire race. Having both of them in our top seven so early will bode well for the future."

As he was only a freshman in a national-caliber race, Nichols discussed his experience at the meet.

"It was such a neat experience since not many freshmen get to race in this meet," Nichols said. "I definitely got a feel for what competition is truly like at the national level."

Nichols has begun looking to next season, as the Jumbos will have to recover from the losses of Shapero, Wallis and Norton.

"With losing three great seniors in



COURTESY ANNIE LEVINE

Tufts men's cross country capped off its 2013 season with a 17th place finish overall at the NCAA Div. III Championships on Saturday, taking third place among other NESCAC teams.

our top seven, we will have to adjust and work together differently, and think about what can be done differently," Nichols said.

While the Jumbos were disappointed with their performance on the day, they were pleased with the cheers from the

"Tufts Crazies," other members of the track team that traveled to Indiana to support their teammates.

"The 'crazies' were awesome," Nichols said. "They drove 17 hours to Indiana to support us. They were out on the course in the cold the entire time

chanting everyone's names, and that really inspired us to give it more than our all during the race."

After a grueling end to the cross country season, the Jumbos will get about 10 to 14 days off before starting to train for the indoor track season.

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Tufts cruises against Brandeis to move to 4-0

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

continued from back

slow. It was great this year to turn it around come out with a double-digit win."

Sparked by strong play from Kanner, senior guard Liz Moynihan and junior guard Hannah Foley, Tufts held a 35-20 lead at the break. The Jumbos would effectively put the game away in the first six minutes of the second half, using a 15-5 spurt to bring their lead to 25 with 13:15 remaining.

The Judges managed to cut the lead to 20 but got no closer, and the final ten minutes saw both teams empty their benches, trading buckets before an eventual 24-point win for Tufts.

"Brandeis is a very good team," Rocchi said. "We pretty much consider them one of our bigger rivals so it's always big to go there and come away with the win."

Kanner dominated every facet of the game, scoring 19 points on 8-of-13 shooting to go along with seven rebounds and seven blocked shots. Foley chipped in with nine points and eight rebounds, and freshman forward Michela North continued her stellar rookie campaign, coming off the bench to score nine points and grab a team-high 13 boards.

"What's nice about our offense this year is

that we've been getting contributions from everyone," Kanner said. "In the past, we would rely on [current assistant coach] Kate Barnosky, [who played as a graduate student last year], to carry us for whole stretches of games. But this year we're getting help from our young players off the bench, and our old veterans continue to play strong."

The Jumbos will not face a NESCAC opponent until January, so it is critical that they use the first two months of the season to get into top form. And, as usual, it is on the defensive end that coach Carla Berube sees the most room for improvement.

"We're always working on our defense," Rocchi said. "Coach calls it our bread and butter. It's something we can always lean on and count on in tough games."

"The number one thing Coach has always stressed since I've been here has been defense," Kanner added. "That hasn't changed. It's nice to see our offense coming together, and the offensive execution has been very good so far this year. But Coach doesn't care how many points we score if we're slipping up on the defensive end."

The Jumbos will have a week off to enjoy the holiday break before returning to action next Sunday to take on Clark College.



NICK PFOSI / THE TUFTS DAILY

The women's basketball team, led by junior Hayley Kanner and her 19-point performance, had a strong showing against Brandeis, taking home a 67-43 victory.

JORDAN BEAN | SACKED



He thinks we're dumb

It's unbelievable what Alex Rodriguez is trying to do with his case against Major League Baseball. In what was supposed to be a case against his steroid use, he has found every excuse in the world to make it about anything but that — and in the public eye, it's working.

The ordeal began when he supposedly slammed his fist and stormed out of a meeting that was meant to help determine whether his 211-game suspension would be upheld or not. He cited the lack of presence of Commissioner Bud Selig as the reason he refused to talk, although Selig rarely ever makes appearances at situations like these.

There was a press release waiting for him practically as he was leaving the building, almost as if the debacle had been staged the whole time. He admonished Major League Baseball for their cowardly behavior and vowed that he was no longer going to be part of this process that was out to get him.

He later took to the airwaves with radio host Mike Francesa to plead his case to the public. He played to the public's hearts, saying he had never done anything wrong and on top of that Major League Baseball had even forced him to miss his daughter's birthday by dragging him to New York for the meeting, although there would not have been a meeting if he didn't repeatedly cheat in the first place.

He has shifted the focus of the case from steroid use to the personal vendetta that MLB has against him. He's trying to play himself as the underdog fighting this great big bully that is the commissioner's office. He criticizes the flawed system that is forcing him to go through all of this — the same system that allowed him to play for the remainder of the season while his suspension was being appealed.

Isn't it funny how Rodriguez had no problem when the system worked in his favor, but now that he finds himself on the other side of it he can only pass the blame?

It truly is an insult what he's trying to do to us, the sports viewers. He's not only fighting a 211-game suspension, but denying any wrongdoing at all. Conveniently, he does this behind the shield of a radio show or his host of lawyers. He has the opportunity to speak on the record and under oath, but he instead goes where he knows that his words are meaningless.

There are situations in which steroid use could have been understandable. There's no doubt in my mind that trying to live up to a contract worth more than \$250 million is not unreasonable but rather impossible. If he had said that he took steroids in order to try and earn the contract that he was given, I, for one, would have understood. Not supported him, but respected his honesty and reasons.

Now, instead, he continues the battle. He's trying to rally the support of the baseball fans to take down Major League Baseball. His defense is that he never failed a drug test. Do you know who else never failed a drug test? Who else attacked anyone who spoke out against them? Lance Armstrong. A man now scorned for all the people he took down in his path to clear his guilty name.

Rodriguez's desire to restore his tarnished name is only creating a bigger web of lies that will someday come crashing to the ground. He thinks by putting on a fresh suit and pointing the finger at others, people will welcome him back. Don't buy what he says. Don't feel bad for him. He got himself into this situation, and I have no intentions of bailing him out. To all the supporters of A-rod — you're sacked!

Jordan Bean is a sophomore who is majoring in economics. He can be reached at Jordan.Bean@tufts.edu.

Barker leads Jumbos, receives All-American honors

WOMEN'S XC

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35 All-American spots, so people are aggressive right from the start. I should have better anticipated this, but it was definitely more overwhelming than I had remembered the last time I ran at Nationals."

Senior Laura Peterson rounded out the scoring for the Jumbos, placing 185th with a time of 23:15. Senior Molly Mirhashem and freshman Lindsay Atkeson finished sixth and seventh, respectively, for Tufts. Mirhashem placed 224th overall with a time of 23:36, and Atkeson finished 236th with a time of 23:45.

At a meet of this importance, the pressure affects athletes in different ways. According to Barker, she was able to keep her nerves in check and run the best race she could.

"I enjoy competing in big races, because even though there is more pressure, it's more rewarding and more significant when you do well," Barker said. "I was anxious for the race, but out of excitement. And as long as I have the right perspective, I think this nervousness helps me race better. This was the last cross country race of my college career, so I figured it was worth it to take a risk and see what happened."

But for Creath, the importance of the race negatively affected her performance.

"As a senior, this was also the last cross country race of my college career, so I wanted it to be the best," Creath said. "I built it up in my mind a lot and just couldn't channel that energy when the gun went off. I was really anxious and just couldn't

perform. I am really disappointed. Looking at the bright side, I was running best times up until this race, so I am happy with my season as a whole."

While individuals' showings varied, the team's performance this season was strong.

"I'm really proud of how our team finished the season," Barker said. "Not only the seven girls who ran at Nationals, but everyone who has raced this season, because our success comes from the whole team. Even though there have been some setbacks, our team has improved consistently throughout the season, and performed well when it counts. I can't believe this is my last season running at Tufts, and I can't wait to see what happens next year."

DAILY DIGITS

13, 17

The respective finishes for the women's and men's cross country teams at the NCAA Div. III Championships on Saturday in Hanover, Ind. The women's team was led by senior tri-captain Abby Barker who finished 16th overall, earning her All-American honors. The men's team's top performer was senior Andrew Shapero, who finished in 59th place overall.

12.4

The average passer rating for New York Jets quarterback Geno Smith over the last two games, which were losses to Buffalo and Baltimore. The West Virginia product has looked lost in the pocket recently, despite getting off to a 5-4 start this season. Smith has also tossed 16 interceptions and fumbled four times. As a result, the Jets coaching staff has limited his downfield throws and re-employed the Wildcat formation.

0

Passing yards compiled on just three incomplete passes by the Georgia Southern Eagles in their 26-20 win over the Florida Gators on Saturday. The loss was the first against a lower-division school for the Gators, as they could not stop the Eagles from racking up 429 rushing yards on the day. Georgia Southern actually made \$550,000 for making the trip to Gainesville.

9

Current national ranking for the Tufts women's basketball team. The Jumbos are now 4-0 to start the season, coming off one of their most successful campaigns where they started the season with 22 straight wins. The team's top performer has been junior Hayley Kanner, who is averaging 14.5 points and 5.3 rebounds per game. The team's next contest will be Dec. 1 against visiting Clark College.

14

Slam dunks on the season so far for freshman center Hunter Sabety of the men's basketball team. Sabety, a 6-foot-8 rookie, has been catching alley-oops and dominating the paint en route to his team high 15.8 points per game average and nine blocks through five games. The Jumbos, currently 4-1, will take on MIT on Tuesday night.

237

Total receiving yards for Cleveland Browns wideout Josh Gordon in Sunday's matchup with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Gordon entered the fourth quarter with just 89 receiving yards, but went on to reel in one touchdown and 148 yards. Despite the remarkable display, the Browns still lost 27-11 to the Steelers, and the team fell to 4-7 overall.

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Jumbos run to 17th place at Nationals

BY CHRIS WARREN
Daily Staff Writer

The men's cross country team closed out its 2013 campaign on Saturday at the NCAA Div. III Cross Country Championships in Hanover, Ind., by finishing in 17th place with 446 points. Ranked No. 16 in the country coming into the race, the Jumbos finished 10 spots lower than their seventh-place effort one year ago.

At the front of the pack, nationally-ranked No. 3 St. Olaf College (84 points) pulled off a shocking upset over previously ranked No. 1 North Central College (86 points) by a slim two-point margin to take the national title.

The Jumbos took third place among NESCAC schools, with Williams placing fifth and Middlebury finishing seventh. Senior Michael LeDuc of Conn. College ran to a national title with his 24:29.3 finish over the eight-kilometer course.

With temperatures below freezing and severe wind gusts dominating the open

course, conditions were not exactly optimal for fast times, but the Jumbos were able to handle the course.

"Conditions were pretty solid," freshman Tim Nichols, who was second for the Jumbos on the day, said. "The course was a bit hilly, and it was freezing and windy, but other than that we were able to manage it."

Senior Andrew Shapero continued his domination as Tufts' top runner, finishing first for the Jumbos in 59th place with a respectable time of 25:37.8. Nichols followed, finishing in 100th place in 25:53.6, while junior Liam Cassidy was only 14 seconds behind him in 131st place, running 26:07.6.

The rest of the Tufts scoring pack followed suit, as the Jumbos' fourth and fifth runners finished within 10 seconds of Cassidy. Sophomore Nick Guarnaccia ran to a solid 26:14.8 time as the 153rd harrier to cross the line, and freshman Luke O'Connor finished right on his heels in

see MEN'S XC, page 10

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Tufts takes home best results from Nationals since 2006

BY ALEX CONNORS
Daily Editorial Board

The women's cross country team placed 13th at the NCAA Div. III Championships meet on Saturday, the team's best showing since finishing fifth in 2006. The only other NESCAC schools to compete, Williams and Middlebury, finished second and third overall, respectively. The meet was a showcase of the NESCAC's strength, proving that it is one of the most competitive conferences in the country.

The eight-kilometer course, located at Hanover College in Hanover, Ill., consisted of rolling grassy hills and mud patches from rain.

"There were patches of mud that were slippery, but luckily the weather stayed cold enough to keep the mud from being too soft," senior tri-captain Abby Barker said.

Barker placed first for the Jumbos, finishing 16th overall with a time of 21:45. This finish earned her All-American honors for the first time in her career. According to Barker, how she started would dictate where she could finish.

"I knew that I had to put myself up front in the beginning in order to finish where I wanted to, and not



COURTESY KELLY FAHEY

The women's cross country closed its fall 2013 season with a 13th-place overall finish at the NCAA Div. III Championships in Hanover, Ind. on Saturday.

get stuck too far back" Barker said. "[Sophomore] Audrey [Gould] and [sophomore] Olivia [Beltrani] are great at getting out hard, so they helped push me to that from the start. I always tried to stay on the shoulder of someone and not allow myself to fall off anyone."

Beltrani finished next for Tufts, placing 55th with a time of 22:15, followed by classmate Gould, who finished 82nd with a time of 22:29 and also competed individually at

last year's nationals. Senior tri-captain Lauren Creath crossed the line in 176th place, with a time of 23:10. For Creath, her performance was not satisfactory.

"My race did not go according to plan at all," Creath said. "I just had an off day. The race went out really fast, but I did not get off the line the way I had intended. Everyone is fighting for those top

see WOMEN'S XC, page 11

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Huge second half propels Tufts past Wentworth

One day after dropping their first game of the season at Emerson, 78-71, the Jumbos appeared destined for back-to-back losses Saturday as they took on the Wentworth Leopards at Cousens Gym. Tufts fell behind big in the first half and again in the second, but an explosive offense showed up eventually to score 57 second-half points and win 84-73.

The Jumbos were ice cold early, starting the game 1-for-13 from the field. The Leopards took full advantage, grabbing leads of 18-3 and 27-7.

But Tufts began to come alive as freshman point guard Tarik Smith hit a layup and a pair of free throws. Then, senior

forward Tommy Foliard and senior tri-captain guard Kwame Firemong each nailed a three. Trailing 34-19 with 3:33 left in the first half, the Jumbos scored the last eight points of the period to decrease the margin to 34-27.

Early in the second half, the Leopards took over once more to regain a double-digit lead, 52-39. But once again the Jumbos scraped their way back. With 6:20 left, they tied the game at 61 on an alley-oop from Smith to freshman center Hunter Sabety.

In a game of runs, the Jumbos had the last and longest laugh, outscoring the Leopards 23-12 in the final six minutes. After

earning its first three victories comfortably, Tufts showed some resiliency to come from behind and improve to 4-1.

It was a tale of two halves for the Jumbos. They shot 33.3 percent from the field in the first 20 minutes and 64.3 percent in the second 20. They hit 7-of-12 3-pointers in the second half.

Foliard continued his renaissance season offensively, converting 4-of-6 4-pointers to finish with a career-high 20 points. The senior is now shooting nearly 67 percent from the field and has reached double figures in points in all five games.

Firemong led the Jumbos with 23 points, while Sabety posted 18 points and nine

rebounds. Sabety is first on the team in points (15.8), rebounds (7.6) and blocks (1.8) per game.

For the Leopards, the lone player to score more than 11 points was sophomore guard Ronnie Turner, who finished with 27. But Turner also turned the ball over eight times, helping Tufts score 22 points off turnovers.

The Jumbos, who have won four of their first five games for the second time in three years, have seven non-conference games remaining before they begin their NESCAC schedule on Jan. 12. They host MIT tomorrow at 7 p.m.

—by Aaron Leibowitz



ANAMARIA MURPHY FOR THE TUFTS DAILY

The men's basketball team took on Wentworth at home, clinching an 84-73 win after a lacking first half.

WOMENS BASKETBALL

Jumbos override Judges, stay perfect on season

BY ZACHEY KLIGER
Daily Editorial Board

The No. 9 women's basketball team remained perfect this weekend, improving to 4-0 with

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
(4-0 Overall, 0-0 NESCAC)
at Waltham, Mass., Saturday

Tufts	35	32	—	67
Brandeis	20	23	—	43

a 67-43 victory over Brandeis on Saturday.

For the second straight season, the Jumbos have won their first four contests, outscoring their opponents by an average of 18 points per game. And while this year's squad is a long way from reaching the 22-game win streak that opened last season, the aspirations remain high, and thus far all signs suggest such a feat might be within reach.

"We're playing well but obviously it's early in the season," senior tri-captain forward Ali Rocchi said. "Hopefully we're not even close to where we can be."

The Jumbos got off to a slow start Saturday. In front of their home crowd, the Judges jumped out to an early 9-2 lead thanks to five quick points from senior guard Kasey Dean and four points from senior forward Nicolina Vitale. But Tufts would stall the home team's early momentum and rip off a 13-0 run to take the lead for good.

"As long as I've been here, Brandeis has been a tough place to play," junior forward Hayley Kanner said. "In our history, those games have been pretty ugly. My freshman year we barely came out with a win, and this time around we started off really

see WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, page 11