

TUFTS VOLLEYBALL

Jumbos lose in NESCAC championship, look to NCAA match

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'Doctor Strange' revives Marvel movies
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Tisch College's CIRCLE releases poll on millennial voting trends

by **Anar Kansara**
Contributing Writer

Tisch College's Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) conducted a new poll of millennial voters from ages 18 to 34 between Sept. 21 and Oct. 3, demonstrating that while millennials have a high interest in the election, less than 30 percent have been contacted by campaigns in 2016. About 66 percent of millennials have said that they are "likely" or "extremely likely" to vote in the upcoming election, according to the poll.

The poll was conducted through a nationally-representative online respondents' panel that surveyed 1,605 millennials across the country. CIRCLE partnered with professional polling firm GfK to conduct the survey. The results were rebalanced by oversampling in certain demographics, including battleground state residents and black and Latino voters, according to CIRCLE's report of the study.

According to Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg,

director of CIRCLE, having little campaign contact with voters can be problematic. Young people are half as likely to be contacted as other voter groups due to the idea that young people are unreliable voters, Kawashima-Ginsberg said.

"It is unfortunate that campaigns are more interested in reaching out to voters they know are more reliable rather than mobilizing youth and their power to vote," she said.

Kawashima-Ginsberg added that she uses this information to encourage young people to vote.

"Young people who are contacted by campaigns are more likely to vote," she said. "[They] have less voter turnout so when someone asks them to come out and vote, especially someone they know and trust, they are more likely to do so."

Certain states, especially battleground states, have had up to 40-45 percent more resources allocated to outreach and mobi-

see **POLLS**, page 2

Obama, Trump hold rallies in New Hampshire preceding Election Day

by **Daniel Nelson**
Assistant News Editor

President Barack Obama rallied voters for Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton yesterday at the University of New Hampshire's Whittemore Center Arena. New Hampshire is considered a critical piece of the electoral map by both Democrats and Republicans, Obama said during the rally.

"There are some scenarios where [Clinton] doesn't win if she doesn't win New Hampshire," Obama said.

After being introduced by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Governor Maggie Hassan, Obama lauded Clinton for her long history in public life. However, much of his speech was spent criti-

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DANIEL NELSON / THE TUFTS DAILY

The crowd waves "USA" posters while listening to President Barack Obama speak at a Get Out the Vote rally on the eve of the 2016 presidential election in Durham, N.H. on Nov. 7.

TCU President delivers State of the TCU at weekly Senate meeting

by **Vibhav Prakasam**
Staff Writer

The Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate held its weekly meeting in the

Sophia Gordon Hall Multipurpose Room to discuss the current state of TCU as well as to discuss supplementary funding requests from several student groups.

TCU President Gauri Seth opened

the meeting with her State of the TCU speech, in which she discussed the Tufts community as a whole and the progress that Senate and TCU have made over the first half of the semester.

Seth, a senior, described the community as "strong, with great momentum and determination," specifically pointing toward acts such as the recognition of Indigenous People's Day (IPD), the reinstatement of the cognitive and brain sciences minor, the installation of a printer in Mayer Campus Center and the successful negotiation of contracts for janitors as indicative points of progress in the Tufts community.

She also talked about existing problems, including the divide created by the housing lottery, through which students are forced to choose between living with their friends and trying to find students with higher lottery numbers. Seth said that the administration needs to do a better job of supporting upperclassmen in finding housing, especially with the rapidly increasing cost of off-campus rent prices.

Seth also discussed issues with the Financial Aid Office, saying that it should be held more accountable for its lack of transparency as well as expand its resources and set aside drop-in hours for students.

Following Seth's speech, Elections

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MAX LALANNE / THE TUFTS DAILY

The TCU Senate is pictured during their its meeting on Oct. 16.



Sunny
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CIRCLE poll shows high millennial interest in election

POLLS

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lization relative to other states, resulting in more young voter turnout, Kawashima-Ginsberg said. Furthermore, intent to vote was 81 percent among those who had multiple contacts with campaigns in contrast to 62 percent among those who were not contacted, she added.

Millennials can have a significant impact on elections and the direction of American democracy as shown by the 2008 and 2012 elections, when President Barack Obama drew 66 percent of the youth vote in 2008 and 60 percent in 2012, she said.

According to Kawashima-Ginsberg, Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton is not drawing nearly as much support as Obama had in previous elections, and the same goes for Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's support as compared to support for Mitt Romney in the 2012 election.

"Forty percent of Clinton supporters are ambivalent about [the election]," she said. "They are voting for her but don't have positive feelings towards her."

The reason behind this, Kawashima-Ginsberg suggests, is that unlike the 2008 and 2012 elections, young people feel as though they do not have much of a voice in this election and that the candidates do not represent the interests of young people very well.

However, she said, young voters are "keenly aware of the weight of this election" and are therefore taking it seriously, whether or not they are excited about the candidates they are supporting.

Tisch College Professor of the Practice David Gregory noted in a Nov. 1 Boston Globe article that while many millennial voters are engaged in the process, they see voting as an ineffective measure to make change.

"Millennials are the most diverse generation in American history," he wrote. "And though they are very civically engaged by some measures — like volunteering and activism — they do not always see voting and political participation as an effective means to change, according to CIRCLE and others."

There is also a wider gap between young people's support of each 2016 candidate. The poll's findings show that 48 percent of young people intend to vote for



EVAN SAYLES / THE TUFTS DAILY

Tufts students exit Medford City Hall after casting early ballots on Oct. 26.

Clinton while 28 percent intend to vote for Trump. However, the poll also shows that Trump's supporters may be more likely to actually vote, with 76 percent saying they will vote compared to 68 percent of Clinton supporters.

In the study, it was noted that black youth were equally likely to be contacted as the general millennial population but that Latino youth were less likely, with 25 percent being personally contacted. Black youth have shown more support for Clinton than Trump, with 80 percent planning to back Clinton, CIRCLE's poll showed.

Four percent of former Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) supporters are choosing to vote for Trump, 64 percent say they will choose Clinton, 25 percent say they will vote for Libertarian presidential nominee Gary Johnson or Green Party presidential nominee Jill Stein and 7 percent say "other," according to the poll data.

According to Kawashima-Ginsberg, it is clear that Clinton has a much higher chance of winning, but it is not guaranteed.

"It is difficult for researchers and pollsters to predict the minds of voters, and they have very little understanding of American voters," she said.

When asked about the poll findings and if they represented the Tufts community, Kawashima-Ginsberg responded with a firm "no."

According to Kawashima-Ginsberg,

a small percentage of millennials are college students, so only 300 of the 1,600 millennials surveyed were actually college students. Furthermore, the poll consisted of mostly young people in the middle and working class, while Tufts students tend to be more on the wealthy side of the national population, she believed.

Gregory agreed, noting that as Tufts students attend an elite private institution, their voting trends differ from those of the same age group.

"We know that a higher level of educational attainment corresponds with a higher likelihood to vote," he wrote.

Additionally, Kawashima-Ginsberg said that the Tufts student body has more of an overall liberal perspective than other universities in different geographic locations. Therefore, Tufts is not very representative of the findings, which were meant to represent national trends, she said.

Kawashima-Ginsberg strongly encouraged young people to go out and vote, not only in this election but in future elections as well. Politicians look at voter files and cater their campaigns towards groups that have shown reliable voter history, she said.

"Once you vote, politicians see that on the voter file and the campaigns see that on the voter file and they start to realize that you are somebody that matters," she said. "We don't really have a voice without taking that step and voting."

Obama encourages N.H. rally crowd to channel energy into voting

RALLY

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cizing Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

Audience members responded to the president's characterizations of Trump with jeers, and Obama reminded the crowd, "Don't boo, vote!" — a common sentiment expressed in Obama's recent stump speeches.

The event was Obama's final major public appearance of the 2016 campaign cycle. He reminisced about his long-shot 2008 candidacy, when he said he was "a skinny guy with a funny name."

But Obama made clear that this rally was about more than looking back. He reminded the audience of approximately 15,000 that it had a job to complete on Tuesday.

"The fate of our democracy depends

on what you do when you step into that voting booth tomorrow," Obama said. "It depends on whether you're telling your friends, your neighbors, your relatives, that they have to vote."

Later that night, Trump and Republican vice presidential nominee Mike Pence held a rally together at Manchester, NH, according to sophomore Adam Rapfogel, who attended the event.

The event was held in the Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) arena, and according to Trump, 28,000 people were in attendance, Rapfogel said. The SNHU arena seats 11,700 people.

At the rally, Trump repeated some of the controversial lines that have come to define his candidacy. He charged Clinton as being the "most corrupt person ever to seek the presidency of the United States," lamented that in black communities, "it's so bad you can't walk down to the store without being shot;" and said that Massachusetts "is represented by Pocahontas" because its senator, Elizabeth Warren, has Cherokee ancestry.

Trump was confident about the Election Day returns, according to Rapfogel.

"We will win tomorrow. We are going to drain the swamp," he said.



COURTESY ADAM RAPFOGEL

Donald Trump speaks during a rally on the eve of the 2016 presidential election at SNHU in Manchester, N.H. on Nov. 7.

TCU Senators provide State of Treasury, Diversity and Community Affairs

SENATE

continued from page 1

Commission member Ryan Hartney, a senior, took the floor to lead the body in electing a new chair for the Services Committee. Five senators who already serve on the committee were nominated and three first-year senators were accepted: Kevin Gleason, Shannon Lee and Olive Baerde. The body voted for Gleason to take the position.

TCU Treasurer Chris Leaverton then took the floor to speak about the State of the Treasury.

Leaverton, a sophomore, described the Treasury Procedure Manual's recent simplification. He reported that TCU's surplus fund is currently at \$626,000, the buffer fund is at \$13,000 and money can be comfortably moved from the surplus to the buffer as needed.

Leaverton, a sophomore, said that accessibility has been a key theme for TCU this year. He said that Senate as a whole is trying to increase accessibility for campus resources.

Next, trustee representatives took the floor to discuss the first Trustee committee meetings of the academic year. Gregory Chin spoke about the Administration and Finance Committee (AFC) meeting, in which

administrators met with a group of several trustees and proposed some specific projects. Some of the issues discussed were the inspection of Carmichael Hall's infrastructure and either renovating or replacing Carmichael Dining Center, as well as increasing property acquisitions around campus, he said.

Chin, a junior, also discussed the relationship between administrators and student activists based on his experience at the AFC meeting. He said that although it may be hard to see tangible results, he believed the trustees and administrators recognize the activist voices on campus and take them seriously, deciding which they want to respond to and how they want to respond.

Sophomore Cecilia Rodriguez spoke next about her experience at the Academic Affairs Committee meeting, which featured discussions about admissions statistics, financial aid, the creation of a data analysis center in the near future and the expansion of opportunities in Tufts' graduate schools.

The final update came from junior Ben Kesslen, who had attended the Committee for University Advancement meeting. According to Kesslen, Tufts is preparing for an intensive six-year fundraising effort. The committee wants to significantly increase its endowment in order

to boost its public image and essentially rebrand Tufts, which it argues would lead to easier professor recruitment, higher rankings and more selective admission rates, among other benefits.

Diversity and Community Affairs (DCA) Officer Benya Kraus then took the floor to provide the State of DCA speech. Referencing recent national events that "shook the social psyche of this nation and this world," such as the Standing Rock protests and the Orlando shooting at Pulse nightclub, Kraus said the resulting pain and destruction of current events were not things that students could detach themselves from within the bubble of the Tufts community. However, Kraus, a junior, said she is still inspired to be hopeful by many actions of the Tufts community, including community measures such as Take Back the Night, the first IPD celebration, the football team honoring #BlackLivesMatter and more.

TCU Vice President Shai Slotky, a senior, then took the floor next to ask for updates from committee chairs. At this time, the Culture, Ethnicity and Community Affairs committee reached out to several contacts for various projects in order to map out timelines, the Education Committee discussed continued logistics of the School of the

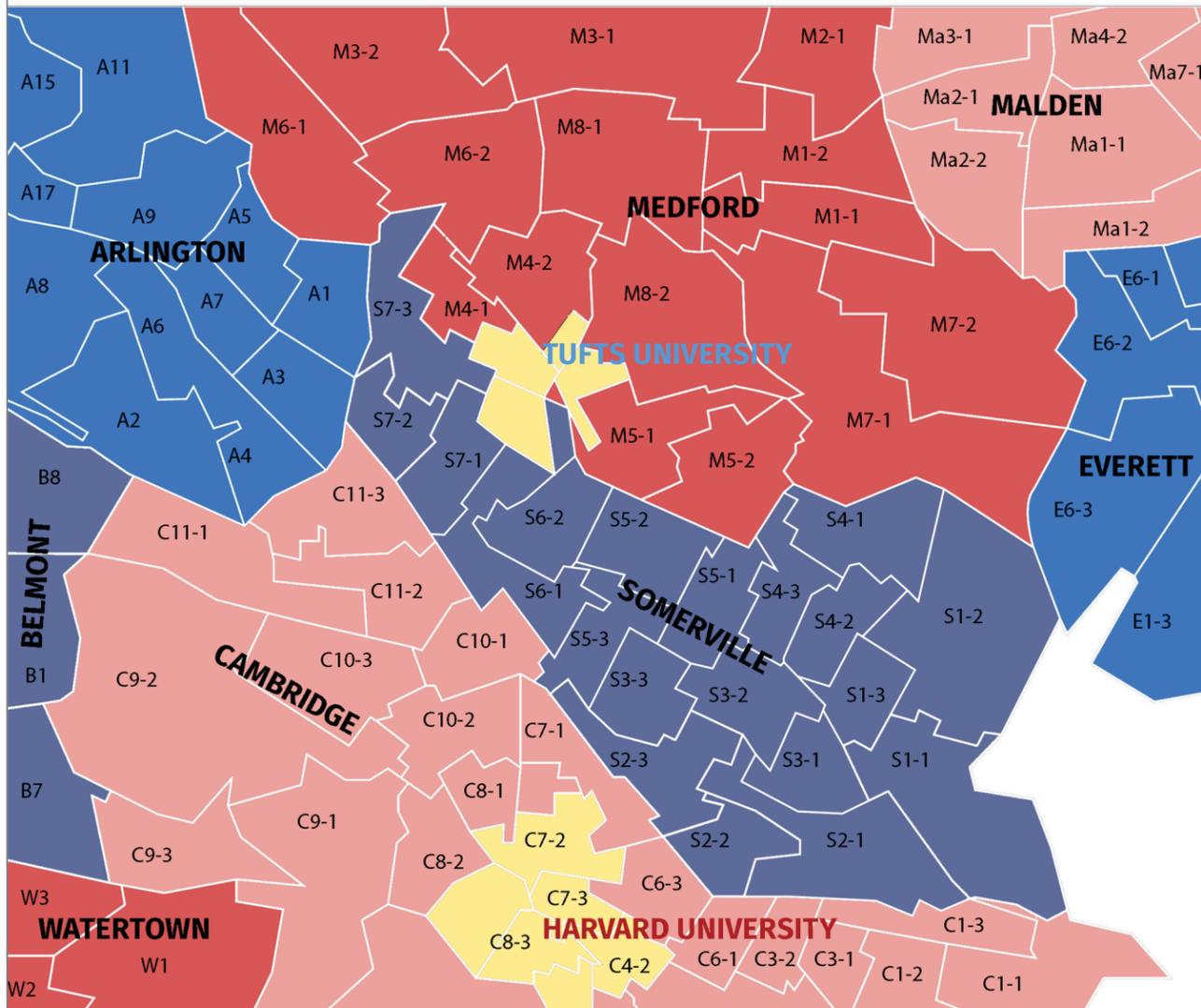
Museum of Fine Arts (SMFA) acquisition, the Student Outreach committee talked about the Senate Student Leadership dinner on Nov. 17 and the Services committee discussed the improvement and finalization of the Turkey Shuttle.

The meeting concluded with Leaverton discussing supplementary funding requests from the student groups on campus. There were requests from Tufts University Pre-Dental Society, TuftScope, Another Option, Tufts sQ!, Spoken Word Alliance at Tufts and the History Society. All Allocations Board (ALBO) recommendations for funding passed by acclamation except for the History Society's request, which moved to a debate on the floor with speakers from the body. Ultimately, ALBO's recommendation for the History Society passed in a vote of 13-12 with 4 abstentions.

A representative of the Committee on Student Life (CSL) reported that CSL is working with Greek life on a question prompt for the Wendell Phillips Award. This was followed by an update by a TCU Judiciary representative, who noted that Spoon University Tufts, the university's chapter of a national food recipe and restaurant review group, was not recognized as a student group. The body then moved into its closed session.

Where to vote

Voting precincts near you



SOURCE: SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Arlington Precinct

- A1: 187 Everett St
- A2: 52 Lake St
- A3: 187 Everett St
- A4: 52 Lake St
- A5: 187 Everett St
- A6: 52 Lake St
- A7: 54 Medford St
- A8: 730 Massachusetts Av
- A9: 54 Medford St
- A11: 25 Columbia Rd
- A15: 422 Summer St
- A17: Park Av Ext

Belmont Precinct

- B1: 336 Concord Avenue
- B7: 266 School Street
- B8: 97 Waterhouse St

Cambridge Ward and Precinct

- C1-1: 48 Sixth St
- C1-2: 25 Eighth St
- C1-3: 15 Lambert St
- C3-1: 61 Willow St
- C3-2: 243 Harvard St
- C4-2: 795 Massachusetts Av
- C6-1: 344 Bway
- C6-2: 8 Dana St
- C6-3: 1575 Cambridge St
- C7-1: 28 Sacramento St
- C7-2: 28 Sacramento St
- C7-3: 48 Quincy St
- C8-1: 44 Linnaean St
- C8-2: 5 Longfellow Park
- C8-3: 58 Plympton St
- C9-1: 167 Lexington Av
- C9-2: 450 Concord Av
- C9-3: 110 Cushing St
- C10-1: 2050 Massachusetts Av
- C10-2: 44 Linnaean St
- C10-3: 66 Sherman St
- C11-1: 1 Jackson Pl
- C11-2: 70-R Rindge Av
- C11-3: 50 Churchill Av

Everett Ward and Precinct

- E1-3: 410 Bway
- E6-1: 105 Woodville St
- E6-2: 19 Norman St
- E6-3: 19 Norman St

Malden Precinct and Ward

- Ma1-1: 150 Cross St
- Ma1-2: 150 Cross St
- Ma2-1: 89 Pearl St
- Ma2-2: 177 West St
- Ma3-1: 401 Pleasant St
- Ma4-2: 200 Pleasant St
- Ma7-1: 150 Cross St

Medford Ward and Precinct

- M1-1: 3000 Mystic Vly. Pkwy
- M1-2: 340 Salem St
- M2-1: 441 Fellsway West
- M2-2: 235 Court St
- M3-1: 170 Governors Av
- M3-2: 475 Winthrop St
- M4-1: 161 College Av
- M4-2: 22 Walkling Ct
- M5-1: 37 Hicks Av
- M5-2: 37 Hicks Av
- M6-1: 26 Harvard Av
- M6-2: 388 High St
- M7-1: 3600 Mystic Valley Pkwy
- M7-2: 3004 Mystic Valley Pkwy
- M8-1: 101 Riverside Av
- M8-2: 114 Mystic Av

Somerville Ward and Precinct

- S1-1: 150 Glen St
- S1-2: 50 Cross St
- S1-3: 50 Cross St
- S2-1: 220 Washington St
- S2-2: 290 Washington St
- S2-3: 651 Somerville Av
- S3-1: 81 Highland Av
- S3-2: 81 Highland Av
- S3-3: 5 Dante Terr
- S4-1: 530 Mystic Av
- S4-2: 115 Sycamore St
- S4-3: 115 Sycamore St
- S5-1: 17 Franey Rd
- S5-2: 201 Willow Av
- S5-3: 265 Highland Av
- S6-1: 5 Cherry St
- S6-2: 31 College Av
- S6-3: 14 Chapel St
- S7-1: 167 Holland St
- S7-2: 177 Powder House Blvd
- S7-3: 405 Alewife Brook Pkwy

Watertown Precinct

- W1: 25 Bigelow Av
- W2: 1 Concord Rd
- W3: 25 Bigelow Av

Community members discuss Question 2's potential local impact

by **Constantinos Angelakis**
Features Editor

Massachusetts voters will decide today on four ballot questions as part of a state referendum. One of these, Question 2, calls for the approval of up to 12 new charter schools or the expansion of enrollment in existing charter schools each year.

Among the charter schools that have already been established in Massachusetts is Prospect Hill Academy. Founded in 1996, Prospect Hill serves the Somerville and Cambridge communities and is currently the only charter school in Somerville, according to State Senator Patricia Jehlen, whose district includes Medford and Somerville. Jehlen added that some students from Somerville attend charter schools elsewhere.

Jehlen explained that Prospect Hill's beginnings are unlike those of most charter schools today, which she feels is reflective of the changing role of charter schools in the education system.

"Prospect Hill was formed by a group of parents," she said. "That doesn't happen anymore."

Today, she explained, it is more common for charter schools to be founded by a board of directors, who are not parents of schoolchildren and might not even live in the community. For this reason, she said that school committees may be hesitant to follow the lead of these boards of directors.

"That's why school committees across the state are saying, 'This is local tax money, these are local schools. Don't have [non-local people] make decisions about how our children should be educated,'" Jehlen said.

The current Massachusetts charter school system allows charter schools greater freedom to operate but subjects them to increased accountability compared to traditional public schools, according to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website.

The Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993 allowed for the establishment of charter schools in the commonwealth but set a limit of 25 operating at any given time. The results of subsequent elections raised this cap, according to Jehlen. Today, the cap is 120 schools, and there are 78 charter schools currently operating in Massachusetts, according to an Oct. 20 CBS Boston article.

According to Jehlen, though charter schools were initially supposed to work alongside public schools, she feels they have now become an exclusive class of public schools, not necessarily extending their strengths to the rest of the system.

"It does appear now that there is a different view of what charter schools are for," Jehlen said. "The proponents feel that urban schools in particular are failing and parents need to have a choice of where to send their kids."

Price Figurelli-Reid, president of Tufts Republicans, said he is voting "yes" on Question 2 because he believes this choice is not being provided to all families in the state, particularly low-income families.

"Charter schools provide an option to families in more urban and poor districts to send children to [other] districts — an option that's available to wealthier students in the form of private schools but isn't available to poorer students," Figurelli-Reid, a junior, said.

He stressed that charter schools have proven to be successful in Massachusetts since they first appeared in the early 1990s, with approximately 32,600 students on waitlists throughout the state during the 2016-2017 academic year.

"Students in charter schools have significantly outperformed students ... in some of the best public school districts in the state," Figurelli-Reid said. "So [Tufts Republicans] think[s] that with 32,000 students on the waitlist and with a proven track record of academic success, it makes perfect sense to raise the cap on charter schools."

On the other hand, Carrie Normand, chair of the Somerville School Committee, said that charter schools are actually reducing the choices left for students attending public schools.

"What I see happening is, instead of it becoming a system of improving all publicly-funded schools, you're getting more and more of a two-tiered system," Normand said. "And I don't think that's what tax-payers are interested in, and I don't think it's good for kids. Because there are some good things happening at some charter schools, and we should be sharing that."

Normand said that charter schools exist largely on their own without contact with other schools.

"Charter schools were designed to be innovation labs, and there's no mechanism to share what they've learned," Normand said. "There are some individual [district school] principals or some district superintendents that might have relationships with individual charter schools, but there's no mechanism to truly foster that kind of shared professional development."

Mary Skipper (LA '89) is the superintendent of Somerville Public Schools and was formerly the assistant superintendent of Boston's public pilot schools. She believes that success is possible in various types of academic institutions.

"I think you will see a range of performance in any type of school environment. No one type of school is inherently better than another," Skipper told the Daily in an email. "In my almost 30 years in education, I have seen some outstanding work in non-charter public schools."

Both Normand and Skipper pointed out that Somerville High School is categorized by the Massachusetts Department of Education as a Level 1 high school, which is the highest accountability rating a high school can achieve. There are also a number of new initiatives being offered in the Somerville public school system, such as the installation of a makerspace in one school and an annual "Hour of Code" event that offers students the opportunity to code, according to Skipper.

"We're doing all of this while also expanding opportunities in music, art, world languages and extracurricular programs," Skipper said.

Jehlen said that district schools would lose the ability to offer such programs if more charter schools were introduced, since charter schools also receive state funding.

"The state Board of Education is essentially appropriating money from the central budget and spending local taxpayer money," Jehlen said.

While people on both sides of the argument have been raising money to support their causes, large donations from out of state have been made especially in support of Question 2, according to a Sept. 12 WGBH News article.

Normand said that she opposes the influence of outside donations used to fund the "Yes on 2" effort.

"All of the investment bankers in New York, Michael Bloomberg, all of them who are writing these huge checks — they're done with this question [after] Nov. 8," Normand said. "I'm the one who's going to have to take the vote to decide what beloved program, what beloved school they have to close and what negative effect that will have on the remaining students in the district."

As an elected representative for Somerville, Normand said that she feels accountable for the decisions of this election, although the results are largely out of the community's control. She pointed out that communities across the state would be impacted differently by this decision.

"The charter schools have felt the need to say, 'District schools are failing.' ... Across the state, the poorest children go to the schools with the least resources. And then, [un]surprisingly enough, they have the worst test scores," Jehlen said. "So we say the schools are failing? We're failing the schools. We're not giving them enough resources to teach the children. We're not giving kids preschool education that would allow them to come into kindergarten prepared."

Skipper also thinks that resources should be allocated toward public school districts in need of funds.

"Is it important for families to have choices? Sure, but I don't believe choice should come at the expense of another system," Skipper said. "New charter schools often end up not only impacting public school enrollment but having a negative impact on limited financial resources that allow public school districts to adequately serve students by redirecting financial resources to a new entity with 'increased freedom.'"

While Normand does not entirely oppose charter schools, she does not feel that expanding the cap will benefit the school system.

"For me, voting 'no' on 2 is not a condemnation of charter schools," Normand said. "It is saying, 'It's too much, too fast, too far.'"

She feels that regardless of personal positions on this issue, it should ultimately be decided based on its impact on the group it will affect the most: students.

"I think everybody is coming at it with the best interest [for] kids," Normand said. "We may have different ways of getting there, but to me, this isn't how we best serve kids."

Attention SENIORS!

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Wednesday November 9:	9 am – 5 pm
Thursday November 10:	12 pm – 8 pm
Friday November 11:	10 am – 4 pm
Monday November 14:	10 am – 5 pm
Tuesday November 15:	12 pm – 8 pm
Wednesday November 16:	9 am – 5 pm
Thursday November 17:	12 pm – 8 pm
Friday November 18:	9 am – 4 pm

All Sessions in the Mayer Campus Center Room 112

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Today's gamble: Casino project underway across Mystic River

by **Hermes Suen**
Contributing Writer

Under the Massachusetts Gaming Act of 2011, the state permits the operation of one slot parlor and up to three destination resort casinos, each located in a distinct region of the state. Question 1 on today's Massachusetts ballot, "Expand Slot Machine Gaming" initiative, seeks to add an additional slot machine in Massachusetts.

Regardless of the outcome of this ballot question, however, Tufts will soon be affected by the opening of a casino in its backyard.

Wynn Boston Harbor is scheduled to open in June 2019 in Everett, Mass., just across the Mystic River from Somerville, according to the executive director of brand marketing for Wynn Resorts Greg John. The project, along with MGM Springfield, a \$950 million project expected to open in 2018 in Springfield, Mass., hold the state's two casino resort licenses.

Over the course of 2015, Wynn Boston Harbor faced opposition from local government, initially from Boston and then from Somerville, in its construction plans for the casino. Much of the pushback in Somerville came from Mayor Joseph Curtatone, who has campaigned heavily against the casino. According to an Aug. 22 Boston Globe article, the City of Somerville spent approximately \$400,000 in total legal fees to fight the project, starting in July 2015.

Curtatone's main concerns with the project related to the potential environmental impacts and transportation issues due to increased traffic going to and from the casino, but the city ultimately reached an agreement with Wynn in August 2016.

"The city of Somerville successfully resolved a number of our community's core concerns regarding the Wynn casino project," Curtatone released in a statement in August. "While we did not get everything we asked for, the appeal did yield significant and meaningful results for our residents, so we feel the process worked."

John agreed that Wynn worked to ameliorate Somerville's concerns, providing \$58 million to improve road infrastructure in the surrounding area as part of its construction plans. A portion of this money will go toward the revamping of Boston's Sullivan Square, located near the casino site.

"Most of that money will be prior to us opening," John explained. "This includes a \$25 million payment that will support

a long-term plan for Sullivan Square. In Sullivan Square, we're doing an \$11 million pre-opening and \$25 million are going toward long-term solutions, which the City of Boston is working on."

Wynn will also be hosting a ferry service to and from the Boston Harbor to its casino and subsidizing \$208 million to improve the infrastructure of the MBTA Orange Line, according to John. Additionally, the company will install a pedestrian bridge that would go over Mystic River and connect to an Orange Line station.

"[Wynn] will be the first private developer to subsidize the operations of any MBTA [project]," John said.

Though Somerville ultimately agreed to the construction of the casino, Tufts Associate Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning Justin Hollander said he believes Curtatone's concerns had merit and that the project should therefore be of interest — or concern — to the Tufts community.

"The literature is pretty clear that casinos have a range of negative impacts on the surrounding communities and by any reasonable definition, the Medford campus is part of the community that this casino will be impacting," Hollander said.

He added that when the casino is built, it will likely promote a wider acceptance of gambling because of the increased accessibility of the activity.

Regarding the ballot question that Massachusetts voters are deciding today, Hollander said its passing would create concerns for the future of gambling in Massachusetts.

"If this referendum passes, it will open the floodgates to much more widespread gambling," he said.

Support for the referendum is leaning toward "no," with 57 percent of voters against the new referendum, according to an Oct. 27 Boston Globe article.

Professor Anamarija Franki of the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMass Boston) said she urges the people of Massachusetts to look at the bright side of the construction of Wynn Boston Harbor, which began in August and will continue regardless of the outcome of Question 1. Currently serving as an advisor on the board of the Mystic River Watershed Restoration Initiative, Franki is also the founding director of the Green Harbors Project at UMass Boston.

She said that while different organizations and individuals have been trying to clean up the Mystic River, the construction of Wynn's casino could be a plus for the river and its surrounding communi-

ties, because Wynn has agreed to clean up the area.

"There has been a larger community ... working in the last decade to address the hotspots of pollution that are degrading the water quality not just for natural species, but also for humans," Franki said. "We live in Boston, one of the most powerful cities in the world, and we still have one of the dirtiest rivers in the United States."

A significant aspect of the construction of Wynn Boston Harbor involved spending \$30 million cleaning up the entire area, according to John.

"There are not many opportunities for someone to open up a large, beautiful waterfront in an urban setting," he said. "In most major cities, every waterfront is already taken, already used. We are opening up a gorgeous waterfront that most people do not know exists."

Franki said the site used to be home to a Monsanto Chemical Company plant, which caused environmental and public health problems for Everett residents.

"[The area] has every single unhealthy polluted type of industry in the Lower Mystic," she said. "You have the largest scrap metal industry there [along with] all the boats coming in and out with oil and gas."

It is the opportunity for clean up that brings Franki to ultimately support the casino project.

"If we have such a degraded environment right in front of our noses and nobody wants to touch it, if having someone like Wynn Resorts is going to improve the condition, not only for the local environment but for the whole watershed, then we [should] embrace the opportunity that somebody wants to clean it up," she said.

According to John, Wynn will also install a 6.5 acre park that will be open to the public.

"The way we designed this building is so that the actual gaming area is to the side, so families can go use the outside area and people can go in to use the hotel, shop or dine and never see a gaming machine or gaming table if they choose not to," he said.

Hollander said that while the construction of the casino is essentially a done deal at this point, community leaders can still work to ensure that it does not lead to more gambling in the area, including within the Tufts community.

"There are a lot of things that advising, guidance offices and different mental health services on campus can marshal their efforts into pushing against the gambling effort," he said. "What we can do is make the best of [the casino and] plan ahead to ameliorate some of the concerns."

**Natasha Khwaja
and Faryal Jafri**
Karachi vs. Kansas



Go vote (then think)

Natasha (N): As much as I hate to add to the frenzy of opinions that bombard us on a daily basis in relation to the presidential race, today is Election Day. That means a lot of different things to different people. For us, it means that millions of people will be casting their vote for a man who has openly classified followers of our religion as enemies. So, it's the perfect time for us to get some closure on how we've been feeling about this.

Faryal (F): I think what scares me the most is what this election has revealed about the American people. At the end of the day, as crazy as we make Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump sound, he has a lot of support. There are people with opinions as extreme or more extreme than his. He has essentially validated their feelings, which existed long before him.

N: I think it's crucial to realize that Donald Trump merely filled an empty slot, so regardless of the outcome, this election cycle has released a lot of hate, which likely won't just evaporate once the ballots are cast.

F: This isn't a trendy issue that will be fixed overnight. This open animosity toward Muslims is being further ingrained into our American culture every passing day. It's not just going to blow over.

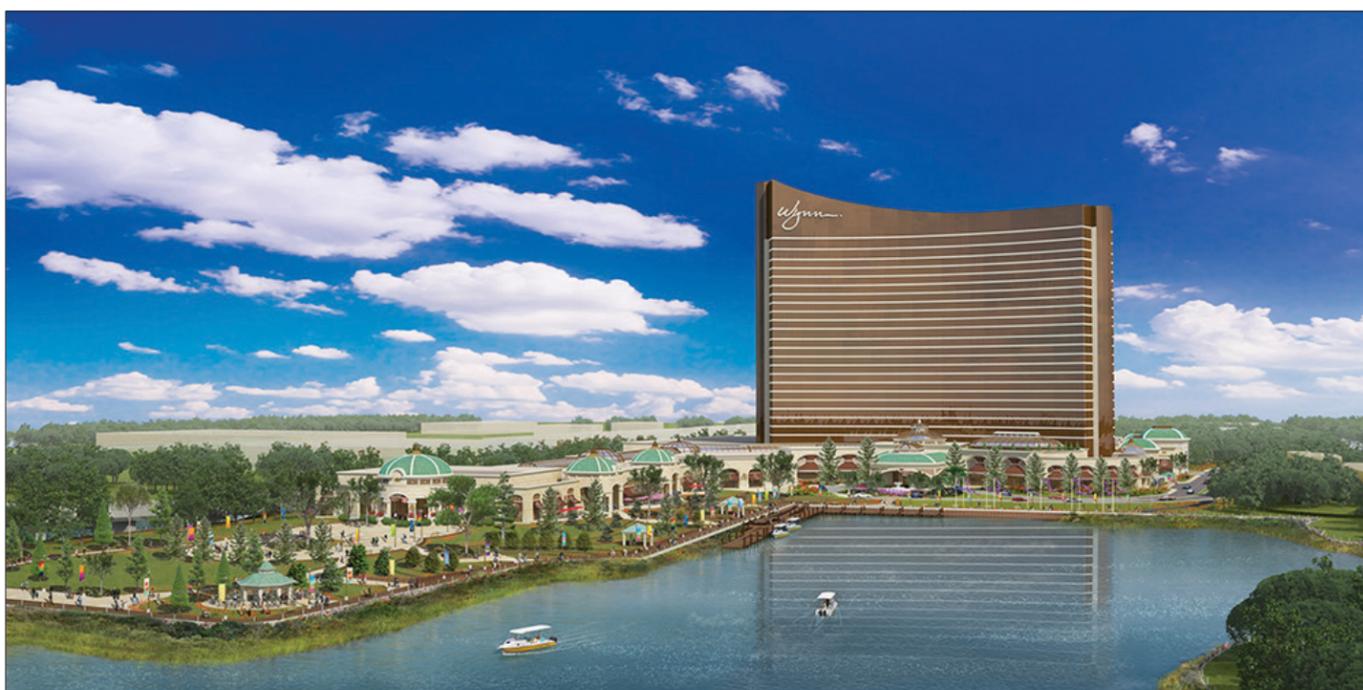
N: On a happier note though, this race has caused a new mass mobilization of Muslims that we haven't really seen before. Seeing prominent and admired Americans such as Huma Abedin and Fareed Zakaria, just to name a few, "come out" as Muslim is a critical first step in enhancing the collective civic engagement of this extremely varied demographic.

F: I agree. I think that this election has forced many Muslims to come to terms with their identity. We're no longer a model minority that can hide and stay passive. Our civil rights are in danger and no one can fight for them as well as we can. Empirically, the United States cycles through bouts of hate. One day, one group might be used as a scapegoat for a hardship; the next decade, another group — maybe yours — might be blamed for society's woes.

N: As both an observer and a participant in civil society, I feel that Islam's encounters with the civic realm have this permanent strain because radical conservatives seem to have the loudest collective voice. This has prevented the formation of a cohesive political identity. While there is a more clearly-defined POC stance on various elements of the election, the only reason Muslim Americans joined the discourse is because of Trump's "Muslim Ban" comments. This has forced us to reconcile two emerging political identities and decide how to filter our political stances. While we can all collectively stand against Trump, I worry that our approaches and more intricate views will be tougher to unify or even establish once the race is won.

F: Vote the way you want to this Election Day. Just remember that it's not just you who will be affected. Your neighbors, classmates and other Americans will be affected by this elections for decades to come.

Faryal Jafri is a junior majoring in international relations and minoring in economics. Faryal can be reached at faryal.jafri@tufts.edu. Natasha Khwaja is a junior majoring in international relations and anthropology. Natasha can be reached at natasha.khwaja@tufts.edu.



COURTESY WYNN BOSTON HARBOR

MOVIE REVIEW ★★☆☆☆

Latest addition to Marvel Cinematic Universe, 'Doctor Strange,' shines



COURTESY MARVEL STUDIOS

Benedict Cumberbatch stars in Marvel's newest film, "Doctor Strange."

by **Elliott Shin**
Contributing Writer

"Might I offer you some advice? Forget everything that you think you know," quotes secondary protagonist Karl Mordo (Chiwetel Ejiofor) in the newest Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) film, "Doctor Strange" (2016). Fourteen movies in the ever-expanding MCU need refreshment after the large-scale superhero clash in the previous "Captain America: Civil War" (2016). While some trepidation when walking into these formulaic films is understandable, thankfully this movie does not fall victim to the constraints imposed by its franchise.

"Doctor Strange," which was released on Nov. 4, follows a master neurosurgeon, Stephen Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch), who injures himself in a car crash that leaves his hands permanently disabled. After numerous unsuccessful surgeries, he ventures to Nepal and takes refuge in a secret monastery called Kamar-Taj. He trains in the mystic arts under The Ancient One (Tilda Swinton) and his newfound companion, Mordo, in the hopes of improving

his condition. Meanwhile, he discovers that a renegade sorcerer, Kaecilius (Mads Mikkelsen), plots to overthrow their society and subjugate the world under his ideals.

The film's most notable quality lies in its well-crafted effects. Director Scott Derrickson crafts a resplendent universe that feels larger than the MCU itself. Under his direction, time lapses, realities bend, buildings fold, surfaces become twisted and characters fight each other while warping through alternate dimensions and vivid seas of purples, greens and reds. These "Inception" (2010)-grade effects induce a feeling of distortion, which Derrickson intends. Fortunately, he doesn't abuse the special effects, for he also gives the story proper attention.

Dr. Strange's quest for self-redemption engages heavily in world-building yet doesn't force it. Marvel movies (and their DC Comics counterparts) partake in this habit of prioritizing universe construction over delivering a satisfying narrative, but "Doctor Strange" does it naturally and in a fluid manner that keeps it relevant to the plot. It also feels more self-contained, with minimal ref-

erences to the MCU and almost no setup for future films.

Though the film is visually astonishing, it also services its characters well. Cumberbatch impresses as the titular character, undergoing a compelling transformation from repugnant narcissist to altruistic protector. Though he is unlikable at first, he becomes more of a sympathetic figure as his character unravels. The insecurities and intellect that Cumberbatch so convincingly displays makes it easy to become invested in "Doctor Strange." He shares similarities with Tony Stark in terms of personality but doesn't become a carbon copy of him.

While Cumberbatch does headline the flick, the supporting cast does just as good of a job. Ejiofor plays Mordo with pinpoint anger and conviction, showing unwavering dedication to his ideals. He and Cumberbatch develop a good camaraderie. Swinton also does well with the material she's given, commanding the screen as the omnipotent head sorcerer. Some of her lines veer more toward delivering exposition or overlong monologues on spirituality and time, but Swinton's tremendous screen presence makes her pompous dialogue more bearable. Even

Wong (Benedict Wong), a minor supporting character, steals his respective scenes with his stone-faced look and deadpan mannerisms.

This adventure has fun with itself and never becomes too serious. However, it sometimes chooses to have a little too much fun. Occasionally, the jokes either don't hit their intended beat or flat-out disturb the tone of more serious scenes. None of them were overly flagrant, but they did, at times, detract from the movie.

Mikkelsen works his hardest with the material given. He plays great villain roles, most notably Bond villain Le Chiffre in "Casino Royale" (2006). As Kaecilius, however, he has neither much screen time nor ample character development. The villain is not insufferable by any measure, as he does have an interesting backstory and some nice juxtaposition with the main protagonist. However, the story sidelines him, making this character more of a missed opportunity rather than another MCU baddie.

Despite some issues concerning the villain and script, "Doctor Strange" thrives due to Derrickson's strong directorial effort, a visually immaculate world and dedicated performances from its cast.

BlizzCon Recap: winners and losers

by **Isaac Brown**
Arts Editor

At the kickoff of Blizzard's annual convention, BlizzCon, on Nov. 5, game developers informed fans about upcoming content and provided an opportunity for a deeper look into what is coming next for the company's titles. Blizzard's eternally-popular multiplayer online role-playing game "World of Warcraft" (2004) and well-received arena shooter "Overwatch" (2016) revealed plenty

of exciting features in the pipeline.

"World of Warcraft" launched its sixth expansion, "Legion," on Aug. 30, to much fanfare, pushing the concurrent player population to heights not seen since the "Cataclysm" expansion in 2010. Developers said that they wanted to focus on discussing their plan for "Legion" and fleshing it out even further with more content. A smaller Patch 7.15 is up next with some class balancing, and then it's on to the next major patch, Patch 7.2. This one will

add a new raid called Tomb of Sargeras, which features nine bosses along with a new four-boss dungeon, Cathedral of Eternal Night. In addition, there will be dozens of new bosses added to the Brawler's guild, new quests and a new faction called Armies of Legionfall.

"Overwatch" developers announced the long-awaited addition to the hero roster, Sombra, with another animated short and gameplay trailer. A mobile, elusive sub-machine-gun-wielding hacker with disruptive skills, Sombra

could shake up a meta-game that revolves around shields and barriers. "Overwatch" also plans to revamp the weekly Brawl mode and turn it into an Arcade mode featuring several different types of games such as a 1v1 duel mode and a 3v3 elimination match where players don't respawn until the end of the round. A major change is also bringing an aspect of Competitive mode to Quickplay: the single-hero limit.

see **BLIZZCON**, page 7

A Real-time strategy games spark interest at BlizzCon



BAGOGAMES VIA FLICKR

The cover art for "World of Warcraft: Legion," the sixth expansion which was released on Aug. 30.

BLIZZCON

continued from page 6

The days of teams comprised of six Winstons or Meis in Quickplay is over; players will have to go to the Arcade for that kind of chaotic fun. Another major announcement is that Blizzard is creating an "Overwatch" League, an e-sport organization that will add structure and stability to the "Overwatch" pro scene, ensuring its longevity.

"Hearthstone: Heroes of Warcraft" (2014) received press attention for its upcoming criminal underworld-themed expansion, "Mean Streets of Gadgetzan," along with some card reveals and gameplay. This expansion revolves around three factions vying for power: the Grimy Goons (Hunters, Paladins and Warriors), the Jade Lotus (Druids, Rogues and Shamans) and the Kabal (Mages, Priests and Warlocks). Some cards in the expansion will be tri-class cards, a new mechanic that allows these cards to work with multiple classes. They also seem to be doing more with the Discover mechanic that players heralded as an example of well-designed variance after it made its debut in last year's adventure, "League of Explorers" (2015). "Mean Streets of Gadgetzan" is expected for release later this year.

"Heroes of the Storm" (2015) players are getting two heroes from the "Warcraft" universe, Varian Wrynn and Ragnaros the Firelord, along with a whole bunch of quality-of-life improvements such as the ability to voice chat with teammates and swap their heroes with those of teammates before the start of the game. In an effort to get "Overwatch" players to test out "Heroes of the Storm," Blizzard created a cross-promotional "Nexus Challenge" in which players must play 15 games of "Heroes of the Storm" with a friend in order to unlock goodies in "Overwatch," such as the Oni Genji skin.

The additions to "StarCraft 2" (2010) and "Diablo III" (2012) were unimpressive in comparison, but more content is better than no content, right? Blizzard is trying to incentivize "StarCraft" players to play more by giving them rewards such as cosmetic skins for their units if they play more games. The cooperative mode is getting two new maps, Miner Evacuation and Dead of Night, along

with a new commander, the part-Zerg, part-Terran Alexi Stukov. While interest in the real-time strategy genre has been in decline for some time, the arena used for the StarCraft tournament at Blizzcon was packed and at one point the game was number one on Twitch.tv with over 130,000 viewers.

"Diablo III" players walked away with a few minor additions and not much to

get excited about other than a new Necromancer class and a temporary dungeon modeled after "Diablo" (1996) to celebrate the title's 20th anniversary. Developers said players would have to purchase the Necromancer class when it is expected to release in fall 2017, but they did not specify the price. Many were hoping for a hint at a potential "Diablo IV." Not this year, it seems.

Tommy Gillespie

The Reel World



'Election'

Since the election will finally be over after today, I feel it's only appropriate to approach political films in this column. This is mostly a byproduct of my habit of actively ignoring all remotely political news and kind of just hoping it will go away. However, as Election Day drew nearer and nearer, the focus moved away from rhetoric and rallies to ground game, early voting and the down-and-dirty machinations of politics. This brought to my mind what is, in my opinion, the greatest political film of all time. I am not referring to "The Manchurian Candidate" (1962) or "All the President's Men" (1976); I am referring to Alexander Payne's "Election" (1999).

Starring a 23-year-old Reese Witherspoon, "Election" is a strange and wonderful little movie. It follows Witherspoon as conniving overachiever Tracy Flick, who runs a campaign to be elected student council president at her suburban Omaha, Neb., high school. A popular teacher who hates Tracy, Mr. Jim McAllister (Matthew Broderick) decides she does not deserve the title and begins conspiring against her campaign, persuading other candidates to run against her and eventually attempting to stuff the ballot box against her.

As Selina Meyer (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) from the HBO series "Veep" (2012-present) frequently says, politics is about people. Indeed, "Election" proves to be a fascinating exploration of the intersection between politics, suburban life, educational culture and generational divides. Witherspoon provides a bravura performance as Tracy, the snobbishly annoying, know-it-all, ambitious high school student. However, Mr. McAllister's dislike for her raises questions about the treatment of characters like Tracy in film, politics and society as a whole.

Central to this debate are three issues. Tracy, despite her self-importance, is only trying to follow her ambitions, and in fact, generally does quite well for herself. The other characters in the film are the ones who allow themselves to be offended by her ambition. Tellingly, industrious yet hateable characters like Tracy are almost exclusively young and exclusively female.

Though Tracy is portrayed as a selfish "try-hard" who does too much, there is an underlying caveat that her actions would be seen as much more acceptable for a male character. Mr. McAllister's antipathy toward Tracy introduces a generational conflict. He looks down on the young Tracy as annoying and disrespectful, though over the course of the film, it is revealed that he was not unlike Tracy when he was her age.

"Election" works so well because it is all-encompassing, showcasing how personal jealousies and accepted attitudes drive social politics within a high school, with the implication that in the next generation, the situation will play out similarly. It also hilariously (and depressingly) predicted the future: When Mr. McAllister gets a burnt-out, apathetic student named Tammy (Jessica Campbell) to run against Tracy, Tammy makes her speech a diatribe against the school and promises to disband the student council, hoping to get thrown out of the race. Instead, she gets a standing ovation. I'll let you draw your own conclusions.

Tommy Gillespie is a first-year who has not yet declared a major. Tommy can be reached at thomas.gillespie@tufts.edu.

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OP-ED

A response to the Observer article 'Abolish Fraternities'

by Shawn Patterson

My name is Shawn Patterson, president emeritus of Pi Rho Omega, and I am writing in response to the recent Observer article's vicious accusations against my fraternity. I agree with the sentiment that much about Greek life at Tufts needs to be improved, but the published statement about my organization is a false account derived from second-hand rumors. As the incumbent president of Pi Rho Omega during the incident referred to in the article, I feel that the accusation levied against Pi Rho Omega is a libelous attack on my leadership and the organization that I sought to improve. I am writing on behalf of my organization to set the record straight.

In January 2015, several members of my executive board learned that an individual had been sexually assaulted by a member of our organization. Horrified by the information, we reached out to the staff at the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) and the Office of Judicial Affairs. We filed official reports with as much information as we knew, and a friend of the survivor encouraged the survivor to report their story as well. The administration ordered us not to take any action against the assaulter as a fraternity. It was a waiting game.

Over the following months, we cooperated fully with the administration to

provide information about the case as soon as we heard anything relevant. On several occasions, we asked why it was taking so long to remove the individual from campus and if we could do something to help. Again, the administration ordered us not to act and to keep all information about the assault confidential to the small group of reporters within our organization. Despite the consistent message from the administration, we did everything possible to keep the assaulter away from our social events and away from our organization.

Furthermore, those of us aware of the situation reached out to people who had mentioned any rumors or stories about the individual's actions from even before he was a member of our organization. From the information we gathered, we reached out to both witnesses and alleged survivors and encouraged them to file official reports with the OEO. The "pending assault cases" mentioned in the Observer article were filed directly as a result of the work of myself and other members who were trying to get swift and concrete action against the assaulter from the information we could find.

It was not until November 2015 that the administration's investigation reached a point where the assaulter could be removed from campus. At this point, we were able to formally remove him from our fraternity in conjunction with the

administration. By that time, he had been effectively marginalized from the organization in every respect, so his removal represented a formal recognition on the part of the administration of his wrongdoing. The administration finalized its investigation by interviewing members of our fraternity as well as other witnesses. The assaulter was expelled from Tufts.

This difficult and draining process led our chapter to have many conversations about Greek life and rape culture on campus and to independently educate our members about sexual assault prevention and bystander intervention. In the future, we hope that the administrative process can change to better support survivors and witnesses throughout the reporting process.

Regardless of the false accusations made against our chapter, I sympathize with the sentiments of the Observer article. As I was quoted in an Oct. 12, 2015 Observer article entitled "Contested Spaces and the Rise of Greek life," members of the Greek system need to be made aware of the problematic nature of Greek life and the systems of discrimination present in Greek traditions. As I told the Daily in a Nov. 18, 2015 article when our fraternity disaffiliated from our national chapter, we did so to diverge from these traditions and find a more productive meaning to "brotherhood." We are still working to change the culture of our chapter.

If you were a first-year student asking me if you should join Greek life, my honest answer would be, "I don't know." Fraternity means different things to different people. For some, it means subscribing to the privileged debauchery and exclusivity to which the Observer article writer Ben Kesslen rightfully calls attention.

As a first-generation first-year coming from rural poverty, finding a fraternity ironically meant finding a shelter from the immediate class alienation that I felt on campus (and still feel today). Students join Greek life for the same reasons that they join any other community at Tufts: some reasons good, some reasons bad.

There is no doubt that Greek life has gone uncriticized and unobserved for too long. I understand that. But this is a dialogue that needs to acknowledge the facts rather than drive a wedge between our community with unsourced, rumor-driven attacks.

Editor's note: If you would like to send your response or make an op-ed contribution to the Opinion section, please email us at tuftsdailyoped@gmail.com. The Opinion section looks forward to hearing from you.

Shawn Patterson is a senior majoring in international relations. Shawn can be reached at shawn.patterson@tufts.edu.

PINKY SWEAR?



"LET'S BE HONEST WITH ONE ANOTHER AGAIN."

BY STEPHEN DENNISON

OP-ED

Election Day: Final thoughts from Tufts Democrats

by Ben Kaplan

After a long, difficult campaign season, this election is nearly over. All that is left is the final decision. You know the stakes.

This election has been covered continuously by the media; every comment of every candidate has been endlessly scrutinized, analyzed and dissected from all angles. You know that one candidate has 30 years of experience in public service. You know that one candidate has built his fortune on bankruptcies and shady business dealings. You know that one candidate has fought for children and families her whole life. You know that one candidate has been openly racist, misogynistic and homophobic. You know that one candidate has detailed policy positions on everything from immigration to healthcare to tax reform. You know that one candidate wants to build a wall. You know that one candidate sent emails the wrong way. You know that one candidate bragged about assaulting women and called into

question the very integrity of our electoral system.

This election has often been reduced to a choice between two comparable candidates. Simply put, there is no comparison. In previous elections, Democrats and Republicans have vehemently disagreed over policy, but the candidates in both major parties have always had the best interests of the United States in mind. This is no such election. We are faced with a Republican candidate who has attacked the very bedrock of our democracy — who threatens to tear down the norms that prevent our nation from descending into tyranny.

Conversely, we have been afforded a Democratic candidate who cares deeply about the United States. She is the most qualified person ever to run for president. She has fought for children, for families, for the middle class and for those who do not have a voice. When she could have taken a well-paying job after graduating from Yale Law School, she instead chose to work for the Children's Defense Fund,

fighting discrimination in schools. She has served as a senator and as Secretary of State at critical moments of national importance. She has fought for affordable healthcare, education reform and issues that often go unnoticed. Her rhetoric has uplifted this election just as his has torn it down. Whether because of her husband, her ambition or the fact that she is a woman, she has never gotten fair treatment in the media. Her character and trustworthiness are routinely questioned by reporters more interested in the latest overblown scandal than her detailed understanding of policy. Despite all of this, she has remained hopeful, optimistic and strong in the face of extreme adversity.

There is only one candidate in this race deserving of your vote. When you go to the polls, we ask that you cast your ballot for her.

Ben Kaplan is a senior majoring in political science and the president of Tufts Democrats. Ben can be reached at benjamin.kaplan@tufts.edu.

OP-ED

Election Day: Final thoughts from Tufts Republicans

by Price Figurelli-Reid

The past several months have been host to one of the most historic and media-driven presidential elections in recent memory, a season marked not only by its many departures from “normal” election proceedings but also by its potential to affect our national future for far more than the four or eight years to come. This tumultuous election season has been marred by sexual assault allegations, federal investigations into improper email handling, refusals to release tax returns and closed-door speeches; but at the end of the day, it will leave the country with much more than its next commander-in-chief. With an open Supreme Court seat and three elderly justices who may be poised to retire from the court in the coming years, the next president has the potential to appoint up to four justices. Beyond policy promises, the potential influence our next president may have on the Supreme Court should weigh heavily on the minds of every citizen voting in this election.

Three months ago, the Tufts Republicans decided that the Republican nominee for president, Donald Trump, did not adequately represent the conservative values and platform of the Republican

party. Differences of opinion led the group to decide not to endorse a candidate for president and instead to focus our attention on the other important races and ballot measures happening this election cycle. Our greatest hope for Election Day is that the American people are resisting the flashy trap of 24/7 presidential race media coverage and devoting time to educating themselves (and voting) on the down-ballot elections and ballot measures in contest across the country. All 435 national House of Representative seats are up for election, and congressional races endanger a Republican-controlled Senate — but not by much. While Republicans hold the majority of the 34 Senate seats currently up for re-election, these Republicans have the proven advantage of incumbency. Polls show that the odds of the Senate changing hands are about 50/50, giving citizens all the more reason to be serious and informed about how they vote in these down-ballot Senate elections.

Today, on the state-wide level, a staggering 80.2 percent of the nation's state legislative seats (5,923 out of 7,383 seats) are up for election. While media coverage of the races for state legislative seats is largely overshadowed by that of the presidential election, the lasting day-to-day effects of state-level legislation on the

average citizen arguably overshadow even those of the president.

In addition to the races for national and state legislative seats, there are over 150 ballot measures up for consideration by voters across the country, including four here in Massachusetts. Since these ballot measures are decided by popular vote alone, voter turnout is incredibly important.

Our reflections on this election cycle have taken a step back from the race for the White House in an effort to emphasize how much more there is to our political system than the Executive Branch — and how much more every ballot represents. A vote is more than a binary decision between candidates: It is a comprehensive voicing of support for representation at every level of government, with the potential to make lasting change for far longer than four years. So when the election results come in, we will be paying attention to far more than the presidential results, and you should, too. We, Tufts Republicans, look forward to this next great chapter of American politics.

Price Figurelli-Reid is a junior majoring in cognitive and brain sciences and is the president of Tufts Republicans. Price can be reached at price.figurelli_reid@tufts.edu.

Jake Lawicki
Jumbo Steps*Election sagas*

I wonder if viewership ratings for “The Real Housewives of Whatever Botox County” have gone down this past year. Because, honestly, why tune into that sort of cheap entertainment when CNN and Fox News can give you even better drama? I mean, let's be real: This election cycle has been a complete and utter s—show. And that's quite unsettling.

Today is Tuesday, the day our cognitive dissonance gets stripped from us; the day we realize this twisted Trump-Hillary narrative is, in fact, nonfiction; the day we may decide on a whim to study abroad in Canada for the next four years; the day we learn who will preside over (or reign or destroy or terrorize — pick your poison) our country.

Who will our “Number 45” be? A (seemingly) benevolent advocate who thinks she can run a country correctly (but can't run an email server right) or a bigoted misogynist who prefers to defame his opponent rather than beat her with logic?

Wow, I can hardly decide. They both sound so marvelous!

I am not impressed with our current selection of presidential candidates. In fact, I'm terrified with our selection. I'm embarrassed. I wonder what my international friends will think of the United States post-election. What about the pillars of the international community? Will the United States be respected more or less if a certain candidate prevails over the other? What about at the domestic level? Will my grandparents still receive Social Security? Will I have to enlist in a mandatory draft in the near future? What will happen to some of my undocumented friends?

In my opinion, our two major party candidates uphold such polarizing views of what the United States ought to become that the fate of our country is honestly a toss-up. The silver lining? We, as new voters, can influence this coin-toss. How? By deciding to vote.

I received my absentee voting ballot in the mail just a few days ago and deposited the California-bound envelope in the mailbox soon after that. I never thought mailing a couple pieces of paper would feel so weird, but it did. Upon hearing the thick envelope thud against the bottom of its tin receptacle, I was reminded of an important fact: I actually do have a say in this supposed train wreck.

I am humbled by my ability to partake in making such a selection. I'm fortunate to have an official say, no matter how numerically insignificant it may be.

If you are eligible to vote but have not done so yet, I urge you to hit the polls before the end of today. As hard as it may be, search for some merit in both major parties' candidates and make an educated and informed choice — because your vote doesn't affect just you. It affects me. It affects the wellbeing of your unborn child.

Your vote affects all aspects of everybody's lives, either in some direct or nuanced way. You have no excuse not to cast a ballot.

Jake Lawicki is a sophomore who has not yet declared a major. Jake can be reached at jake.lawicki@tufts.edu.

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VOLLEYBALL

Tufts falls to Middlebury in NESCAC Championship game, receives NCAA bid

by Sam Weidner
Staff Writer

Despite an unblemished regular season in conference play, Tufts faltered against Middlebury in the NESCAC championship game on Sunday. The Jumbos must again wait to capture the NESCAC volleyball conference championship, which they have not won since 1996.

Tufts was as focused a team as it had been all season heading into the tournament this past weekend, and it played together at as high of a level as it has all season.

"Though our other season goals extend beyond NESCACs, we are focused on staying in the present moment, which is one of our team mantras," senior middle hitter McKenzie Humann said.

It was a thrilling five-set NESCAC Championship match that saw Middlebury come out on top at Cousens Gym. This marks the second time in three years in which Tufts has captured the No. 1 seed for the NESCAC tournament, only to fall in five sets in the championship. In 2014, Tufts lost a five-set match to Williams in the championship game.

The Jumbos came out strong on Sunday, winning the first set 25-14 behind a dominant offensive attack. However, the Panthers responded quickly to even the match with a 25-19 second set win.

The third set was back-and-forth to start as well, but after a brief 13-13 tie, the Panthers went on a 6-2 run and never looked back. They captured the third set 25-19.

The fourth set was the closest of the day and a good indication of the intensity with which both teams played. The set was decided in extra points, with Tufts holding on for a 26-24 win off of a kill from first-year outside hitter Brigid



EVAN SAYLES / THE TUFTS DAILY
Outside / opposite hitter first-year Maddie Stewart hits the ball over a Middlebury player in the NESCAC championship game against the Middlebury Panthers on Nov. 6.

Bell and an error from the Panthers. In the deciding fifth set, Tufts initially held the momentum, taking a 10-6 lead. However the Jumbos lost seven straight points — six of which came while junior outside hitter Becca Raffel was serving — and dropped the set 15-11 and the match 3-2.

Bell and Humann led Tufts' offense, tallying 15 and 10 kills, respectively. First-year libero Kelly Klimo posted 31 digs on the day, and the setting was largely handled by sophomore and first-year setters Angela Yu and Rachel Furash with 24 and 17 assists, respectively.

"This past week was challenging in many ways both academically and athletically, and yet our team had some of their best practices all season prior to the tournament," coach Cora Thompson told the Daily in an email. "Although we were incredibly disappointed with the outcome of the tournament Sunday, we

played some of our best volleyball over the course of the weekend."

In order to get to the NESCAC championship, Tufts had to pick up a couple key victories earlier in the weekend.

On Saturday, Tufts defeated Bowdoin in four sets in Cousens Gym. After trailing most of the set, the Jumbos dropped the first set 25-21. As the teams began to trade points again in the second set, it looked like the Polar Bears might have been headed for an unlikely upset, but the Jumbos pulled away to an 8-4 lead on Furash's serve and never trailed again in the set. They led by as many as eight points at 17-9 before Bowdoin mounted a comeback to within one point. However a kill from junior outside hitter Katie Kim, immediately followed by two from sophomore outside hitter Mackenzie Bright, iced the set for Tufts and evened the match at 1-1.

Sets three and four were both close the whole way, though both times Tufts was

able to pull out to a slight lead and maintain the advantage all the way, winning 25-23 and 25-21, respectively. Bright and senior co-captain middle hitter Elizabeth Ahrens led the charge with nine kills each on the day, and Yu took care of most of the setting with 30 assists.

Tufts defeated Connecticut College on Friday in the NESCAC Quarterfinal. The Jumbos dispatched the Camels in four sets in Cousens Gym. Tufts won the first two sets by a combined margin of 24 points. Conn. College came out fast and strong in the third set, though. The visitors led by as many as 10 points and nothing was clicking for the hosts as the Camels captured the third set 25-17. Tufts quickly stifled any hope of a comeback, as it proceeded to dominate the fourth set 25-5, including a 17-1 run, while Bell served to take the match.

Even though Tufts did not win the conference and obtain an automatic bid, it was granted an at-large bid for the Div. III NCAA tournament on the strength of their 24-3 record on the season. The team is currently ranked No. 27 in the nation for Div. III by the AVCA Coaches' poll. Having been granted a second chance, Tufts is ready to play.

"Those games (against Bowdoin and Middlebury) showed just how much grit and determination this team has and certainly we feel as though we have a lot of ball left in us," Thompson said. "So we are going to be grateful for an NCAA at-large bid and make the most of our opportunities going forward."

Tufts will host the NCAA Regional this weekend and take on Maine Maritime Academy at 8 p.m. on Friday in the NCAA first round. At 4 p.m. on Saturday, the victor of that contest will play the winner of the game between UMass Boston and Johnson and Wales University. Sunday's Regional final begins at 1 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Jumbos fall 1-0 to Bantams in NESCAC tournament quarterfinal

by Liam Finnegan
Contributing Writer

The fifth-seeded Jumbos were eliminated from the NESCAC tournament in the quarterfinals by the fourth-seeded Trinity Bantams on Oct. 29. This marks the second consecutive year that Tufts has

been defeated in the NESCAC quarterfinals. As the Jumbos did not receive a bid to the NCAA tournament, the loss was their final contest this season.

"That's four years that [have] gone by for us that we haven't been in the [NCAA] tournament, and that's pretty disappointing," senior co-captain midfielder Robin

Estus said. "We are in the most competitive conference in the country, so I guess that's just one of the byproducts of that."

The Jumbos got off to a quick start and applied pressure early against the Bantams. Tufts nearly scored early in the first half on a shot that landed on the goal line, but the linesman ruled no goal to the dismay of many Tufts players. Finishing was the only thing the Jumbos lacked: They bombarded the Bantams' goal, registering four shots within the first 20 minutes, and earned the majority of chances in the first half, managing five shots to the Bantams' two.

Despite this, Tufts could not get a goal to take the lead and the first half ended 0-0. The only goal of the game eventually came in the 55th minute when Trinity sophomore midfielder/forward Taylor Kirchgessner jumped on a loose ball at the top of Tufts' 18-yard box and placed a curled shot around sophomore goalkeeper Emily Bowers, which ended just inside the left post. The Jumbos tried for an equalizer, with shots on goal from junior midfielder Chandler Quintin and junior forward Mariah Harvey-Brown in the last 10 minutes of the game, but junior goal-

keeper Julia Pitino swatted the shots away to preserve her shutout, and the game ended 1-0 for the Bantams.

Tufts outshot Trinity 11-7, though Trinity held the advantage in corner kicks taken with five to Tufts' three. However, the Bantams' stout defense consistently limited the Jumbos to shots that Pitino saved with relative ease. Though the Jumbos were unlucky not to score, it was the Bantams defense that won the day.

Senior forward Jess Capone said she thought the Jumbos played well against Trinity in what she called a "high-stakes game."

"We were trying to just focus on playing our game and not really focusing on the pressure, because when we play tense, things get rough," she said. "I think we came out really strong, dominated the first half and put a lot of pressure on their backs, but unfortunately, the result didn't go our way."

Despite being knocked out of the NESCAC tournament, the Jumbos had a solid season overall, consistently managing to play well against tough opponents and almost



MATTHEW SCHREIBER / THE TUFTS DAILY
Senior forward Jess Capone chases down the ball during Tufts women's soccer's 2-1 loss to Williams on a soaked Kraft Field.

Artz leads Jumbos to NESCAC Championship



EVAN SAYLES / THE TUFTS DAILY

Playing in a NESCAC tournament on Ounjian Field for the first time, the first-seeded Jumbos rolled through their opponents en route to a NESCAC championship. In the 3-1 championship win against fourth-seeded Middlebury, Tufts built up a two point lead in the first half and weathered Middlebury's second half goal by knocking in a late shot. Tufts held Bates and Williams scoreless in the quarterfinal and semifinal round respectively, racking up seven total points in the statement wins. Senior Annie Artz earned NESCAC Player of the Week honors for her three weekend goals, two of which came against Middlebury. More details to come on Thursday.

—by Phillip Goldberg

Jumbos improve record in unlucky season

WOMEN'S SOCCER

continued from page 10

upsetting Williams, the defending NCAA Div. III national champions. Throughout the season, the Jumbos struggled to convert scoring opportunities and their opponents managed to sneak in lucky goals to win, regardless of how well Tufts played.

Estus said that she feels that the Jumbos had “rotten luck” throughout the season.

“Games like Williams, and both Trinity games and a handful of others were games where we were the better team and deserved to win but didn't get the result, and that was unfortunate, because we had a really talented group of kids,” she said. “Our freshmen came in really strong, our sophomores had a year under their belts and juniors stepped into leadership roles.”

Graduating seniors on the team include defenders Alexa Pius and Stefanie Brunswick, midfielders and forwards Sarah Pykkonen, Brooke Fortin, Estus and Capone. Capone led the Jumbos in goals with five on the season and Estus' four assists tied with sophomore Taylor Koscho for the most on the team. Pius anchored Tufts' defense, starting each of the 16 games. Each senior was vital to the team this year, but the Jumbos believe that the team will remain strong and continue to improve.

“I think the program is definitely in a good spot,” Estus said. “It's on the up-and-up still, and I look forward to watching them in the future.”

The Jumbos finished 5-4-1 in the NESCAC conference and 7-6-3 overall, an improvement on last season's 4-5-1 NESCAC finish and 6-8-2 overall record.

Nicky Shapiro

Under the Lights



Pettiness lives

We knew Thursday's matchup between the Oklahoma City Thunder and the Golden State Warriors, pitting ex-superstar teammates Russell Westbrook and Kevin Durant against each other, was going to be epic. We couldn't have imagined, though, that it would be so delightfully petty.

Durant and Westbrook spent almost a decade together playing for the Thunder, providing the most dynamic one-two superstar punch in the NBA and leading the ex-Seattle SuperSonics to the heights of the 2012 NBA Finals and last year's Western Conference Finals. It was there that the beginning of their eventual breakup began to take shape; after being defeated in seven games by the Warriors, Durant decided this summer to spurn Westbrook and company in free agency in favor of the very team they had just failed to overcome.

That's where the real fun began. On the day Durant announced his decision to leave Oklahoma City, Westbrook posted an Instagram photo of a stack of cupcakes — a seemingly innocuous gesture thought to be a simple Fourth of July post. According to Lee Jenkins of Sports Illustrated, though, that post was actually a not-so-subtle shot at Durant; the two had called each other “cupcakes” to tease each other for being “soft” in practice. They then exchanged veiled shots through the media, arguing about the semantics of the word “selfless” for an entire week without ever actually saying a word to each other. The passive-aggressive feud culminated last Thursday when Westbrook showed up to the arena wearing an orange vest that read “Official Photographer.” Though he's known for his extravagant outfits, the vest was an overt attempt to get under Durant's skin; the new Warrior is fond of photography, even getting credentialed to take photos at the Super Bowl earlier this year.

There's been a lot of “they should just shut up and play the game” talk this week surrounding the Durant and Westbrook situation, and I couldn't disagree more. Sports — particularly basketball, which, unlike its competitors, is not marred by any large, looming issue like concussions or steroid use — exist because of the pettiness, not despite it.

Westbrook's ridiculous vest was less an act of protest and more a healthy reminder to sports fans of what this is all about: entertainment. We don't need to take the non-serious stuff so seriously. Westbrook wearing a bright orange vest with “Official Photographer” on the front into the arena before a game with photographers waiting to take his picture is ridiculous and hilarious — both words that describe our relationship with sports perfectly.

We consistently fill 20,000-seat arenas with screaming fans losing their minds over whether a certain team wearing their preferred color scheme is able to throw an inanimate round object into a metal hoop more effectively than the players wearing the other color scheme. It's easy to get all holy and sanctimonious about each game, but ultimately, that scene is what sports are. Stop fighting the pettiness. Embrace it.

Nicky Shapiro is a first-year who has not yet declared a major. Nicky can be reached at nicholas.shapiro@tufts.edu.



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