



Students, faculty reflect on a year with Trunk

BY JACOB PASSY
Daily Staff Writer

When students returned to the Hill in September, they encountered the newest member of the Tufts community — not University President Anthony Monaco, but Trunk. The learning management system (LMS) made its debut amid much debate, with both students and faculty unsure of how to approach the transition.

University Information Technology (UIT) announced in October 2010 its selection of the open-source platform Sakai to replace Blackboard as its new LMS.

Director of Educational and Scholarly Technology Services Gina Siesing said that the decision came after years of planning. UIT was given the go-ahead from the university during the last academic year, leading to its announcement of the planned turnover in the fall of 2010, she said.

“Blackboard was an end-of-life product, so we knew we had to replace it,” Siesing said.

She added that the decision to go with an open-source system came from looking at salient trends in educational technology.

“We really looked toward peer institutions to see what they were using,” Siesing said. “We wanted to be in good company.”

The open-source nature of Trunk is one of the attributes that many find appealing.

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SCOTT TINGLEY / THE TUFTS DAILY

TCU presidential candidates Wyatt Cadley and Logan Cotton participated in a debate in Braker Hall last night and answered questions from audience members. The next debate will be held on Monday at 9 p.m. in Barnum Hall room 008. Voting begins at midnight on Tuesday.

Junior develops modern interpretation of Guess Who? game

Brett Andler, a junior, is developing a new game called Whoizit after pitching the idea at Startup Weekend Boston in February.

“Whoizit is like the ‘90s board game Guess Who?, except instead of using generic cartoon characters, the game board becomes your mutual friends on Facebook,” Andler told the Daily in an email.

The game allows participants to ask more detailed questions and get personally involved because it uses information from Facebook, Andler explained.

Startup Weekend Boston is a three-day event that brings together developers, graphic designers and business experts to build and develop web application products that attendees suggest.

Andler pitched the idea for Whoizit on a whim and said he couldn’t believe the positive responses it elicited at the event.

“I got some incredible feedback and the second-most votes out of any of the 80 or so pitches given, allowing me to form an official team and work on the idea for the next 56 straight hours with them,” he said.

“The team fluctuates in size, but at its core, it consists of three developers, two [user interface] designers and a handful of business personnel that jump in and out of the project as the need

arises,” Andler said.

He added that although the team is mostly comprised of college students, it also includes a high school senior and some professional developers who work on the project when not at their regular jobs.

After working with the team, they pitched the idea a second time at the end of the weekend and won the Audience Choice Award, Andler said.

The Whoizit team has decided to launch a campaign on Kickstarter, a creative funding platform that requires projects to be fully funded if they are to receive any funding at all.

The goal is to raise \$10,000 in 60 days, Andler said.

“We’re rallying everyone we can to spread the word and spread awareness for the game and the Kickstarter campaign in the hopes we can hit our funding goal,” he said. “While we’ve struggled on the actual funding end, where we’ve excelled is in the media [and public relations] department, where we’ve been successful in getting stories in a whole bunch of cool outlets.”

If the team is able to reach its goal, it will put the finishing touches on Whoizit. If the goal is not met, the members will still look into alternative funding and investment options for the game, Andler said.

—by Victoria Leistman

Energy conference begins today

The seventh annual Tufts Energy Conference kicks off this afternoon at the Cabot Intercultural Center and will run until tomorrow.

The conference will feature speakers from industrial, governmental and nonprofit organizations and panels on the topics of nuclear energy, wind and solar energy; energy production and water consumption; financing renewable energy; energy demand in developing countries and fossil fuels. The keynote speakers are Senior Fellow of the United Nations Foundation Mohamed El Ashry, Tufts alumnus and Managing Director of Clear View Partners Kevin Book (LA ‘94) and Undersecretary for Energy at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Barbara Kates-Garnick.

The second annual Tufts Energy Competition will also be held this afternoon. The winning team will receive up to \$3000 to implement its project, while the runner-up will receive \$2000. Conference attendees will vote for two winners among the five projects in the finals, including projects on a split-junction solar concentrator for generating electricity, ecological sanitation projects, a kinetic sculpture near Olin Hall and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy that would generate electricity, ocean-based algae energy for biofuel and the introduction of low-cost solar power in areas of Pakistan.

—by Laina Piera

Tufts promotes sexual assault awareness

BY N’DEA HALLETT
Contributing Writer

Tufts’ Department of Alcohol and Health Education this month is hosting Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), which features various organized events and programs scheduled on campus throughout April.

Director of Alcohol and Health Education Ian Wong currently oversees all the health education pieces at Tufts Health Service, including sexual assault education.

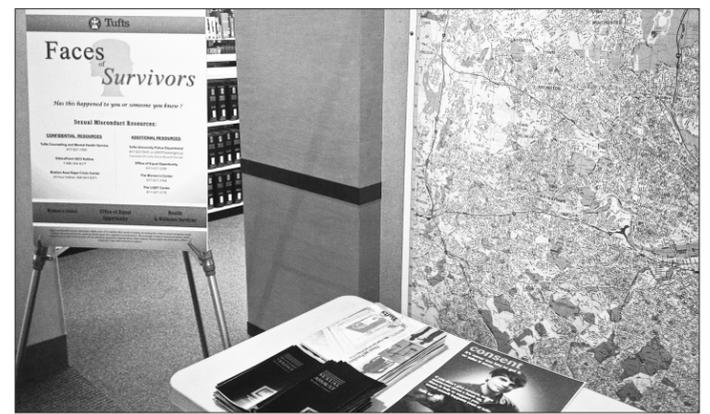
“We try to do a diverse set of programs. Some are workshops, others are discussions,” he said. “What’s hard about sexual assault is it affects almost everyone, but we just don’t talk about it. I know a lot of students are inserted in the

topic, but it is hard to talk about it because of the nature of it.”

Prior to her recent departure from Tufts, Elaine Theodore, former Violence Prevention Education Coordinator, organized programs with Prevention, Awareness & Community at Tufts (PACT) to recognize SAAM on the Hill. Tufts typically observes SAAM in October due to scheduling conflicts, although it is nationally observed in April, Wong said.

The decision to designate April as SAAM in the United States stems from a goal to “raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence,” according to the

see SAAM, page 2



WILLIAM BUTT / THE TUFTS DAILY

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is being recognized both on and off campus this month.

Inside this issue

Inspired by “The Walking Dead,” Tufts students bring zombie horror to Medford with “Dead Campus.”



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Senior co-captain Matt Collins has overcome Tommy John surgery to return to the field this spring.



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Wong encourages students to speak out about sexual assault

SAAM

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National Sexual Violence Resource Center website.

In order to acknowledge SAAM on Tufts' campus, PACT has organized various events and programs throughout April to educate and support students.

Throughout this week, an exhibit at Tisch Library entitled Faces of Survivors: Voices Reclaimed showcases photographs of survivors of sexual assault, abuse and domestic violence in an effort to celebrate the strength of sexual assault survivors. The exhibit is cosponsored by the Office of Equal Opportunity and the Women's Center.

Tufts Voices for Choice (VOX), a student group that focuses on reproductive rights and health, on Wednesday cosponsored the Safe SEXpo, a fair that recognized the national Get Yourself Tested campaign.

"[Get Yourself Tested is] a national campaign targeted at young people to encourage them to get tested and talk openly with partners about [sexually transmitted

infections]," VOX President Aliza Gordon, a sophomore, said. "It aims to dispel common myths about STI symptoms and transmission. It focuses instead on opening the conversation so that people can get medically accurate information and ask their questions in a safe environment."

"The SEXpo stressed thoughtful communication with sexual partners and the importance of discussing sexual health as a whole," VOX Webmaster Jennifer Wang, a sophomore, said. "I think that these themes are found within the overall themes of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and our SEXpo definitely contributes to the overall goal of education within Sexual Assault Awareness Month."

Students can also participate in off-campus activities that acknowledge SAAM. The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center on Sunday will host the seventh annual Walk for Change. The event invites survivors, families, friends, teams and volunteers to participate together in the walk, according to the event flyer.

"[We need to] give support to survivors

and also respect them," Wong said. "It can be an empowering month but also a very triggering month. We don't want anyone to be traumatized."

Ultimately, Wong said, the goal of hosting SAAM is to educate the campus about the existence of sexual assault at Tufts.

"We also want to give a voice to the survivors that we know this is happening and we are trying to do the best that we can to support them," Wong said.

Wong advised students to help combat sexual assault by speaking out against it.

"If you see something sketchy, you need to take that opportunity to speak up. Students see things happening before we can, and it's important for them to speak up," Wong said.

"We know it's awfully hard, and you don't want to seem like you're speaking out of place, but you don't want to live with knowing you could have stopped something," Wong said. "When students educate themselves, they have the power to stop this from happening."

UIT pleased with smooth transition to Trunk

TRUNK

continued from page 1

according to Janet Hill, the manager of LMS Services at UIT. She pointed to its ability to integrate with various tools, such as math editing software, i-Clicker compatibility and a Turnitin.com feature.

"It's nice that there's a platform where we can offer up these kinds of tools in one place," Hill said.

However, some think that the university has not done enough to make use of the possibilities presented by the open-source software.

Sophomore Amelia Cohen said that Trunk's interface could be improved.

"I think the layout could be more efficient," she said.

Senior Lecturer of Economics Anna Hardman also said Trunk's interface lacks attributes that were seen in its predecessor. According to Hardman, the wider array of formatting selections on Blackboard made it easier for users to find resources.

"On Blackboard, you could use different colors on the text to give people a signpost that there are different tabs," Hardman said.

Beyond Trunk's interface, Cohen identified other difficulties she has had with the system.

"I've never understood the difference between 'announcements' and 'messages' and why both are a function," she said.

Trunk has posed difficulties for students uploading assignments, according to Hardman, which has led to miscommunications with her students about the completion of those assignments.

Sophomore Kelly O'Hara also cited issues with the site's functionality with regard to uploading documents.

"A lot of times things wouldn't go through, and we had a lot of deadlines that got messed up," she said.

Kristina Aikens, the associate director of writing resources at the Academic Resource Center (ARC), said that trouble arose when adapting Trunk course sites to the ARC's Writing Fellows program. Because fellows are not enrolled in the classes for which they consult students but are not officially teaching assistants, professors have struggled to give them access to the appropriate information, Aikens said.

Hardman, who utilizes the writing fellows program for her courses, agreed that this is an issue.

"I want my Writing Fellows to be able to access assignments," she said. "I certainly don't want them to be able to access grade information."

Hill explained that UIT has worked to accommodate these complaints, including a ticketing system for Trunk incident reports that was rolled out last November. She said this system allowed UIT to organize and respond to student and faculty problems with the site.

But Siesing said it is more difficult for UIT to address the rumors of displeasure that are



In its inaugural year, Trunk has received mixed reviews from students and faculty.

not communicated through this resource.

"It is hard when the unhappiness proliferates in the community, but we haven't officially heard about it, so we can't address it," she said.

That said, Siesing and Hill maintain that the turnover was generally a success for UIT — a sentiment shared by most individuals.

"I love Trunk. I didn't find Blackboard very user-friendly, but Trunk was so intuitive, and I'm not a computer specialist by any stretch," Gail Bambrick, a senior marketing communications writer for Tufts and a teacher at the Experimental College, said.

Bambrick said that she never used Blackboard prior to Trunk and communicated with students solely by email.

Bambrick was not alone. According to Siesing, the switch to Trunk resulted in a large uptick in the number of professors who created LMS sites for their courses.

Junior Sydney Rubin said she appreciates the Gradebook feature on Trunk.

"At least of one my professors uses it for grading, and that's helpful because it breaks paper grades down by section," she said.

Siesing also pointed out that Trunk's project sites have been used more extensively, in addition to its course pages. Aikens said she found these sites useful for the writing fellows program.

"I've found [project sites] to be an easy way to coordinate schedules and to share and archive information," she said.

Junior Ezra Dunkle-Polier said that he also found it easier to obtain materials off of Trunk's sites for his classes. But he also noted that there was no one to show him the ropes when he started using Trunk.

"I didn't have many professors show me how to use it, but it was pretty easy to pick up," he said.

Rubin expressed a similar sentiment, finding some of Trunk's features — including the "My Workspace" section of the site — confusing.

"I had no idea why that was useful, so I uploaded a picture of Bugs Bunny on it to be

funny and to cheer me up when I do homework," she said.

Overall, Rubin remained indifferent to the added functionality of Trunk compared to Blackboard.

"It's not a huge deal if there's extra stuff on Trunk — I just don't use it," she said.

Many students observed that Trunk's success largely depends on how active professors are.

"This isn't Trunk's fault, but I feel like a lot of professors don't utilize it as much as they could," O'Hara said.

Bambrick acknowledged that she wants to increase her use of the site in the future.

"It's a really good interactive tool, and it has a lot more potential than everyone is using," she said.

Lecturer of Russian Scarlet Marquette agreed that Trunk has the potential to improve, particularly in the realm of classroom discussions.

"I hope that Trunk can eventually move towards [instant messaging or] chat forums and more personalized sharing platforms," she said, adding that improved discussion through Trunk could help professors be more productive during office hours and review sessions.

Although she remained critical of the system, Hardman conceded that her complaints are relative.

"When you use a tool like this, you take for granted the good things. By this point, I've forgotten the issues with Blackboard, and now I'm very aware of my grumbles with Trunk," she said.

Siesing said UIT is planning to implement some improvements over the summer after working with faculty liaisons to learn what changes needed to be made. She also added that, during the year, the switchover was met with much less anger and anxiety than she expected.

"We felt that if there was no armed rebellion among students and faculty, that we'd have been fairly successful," she said. "And it's been much better than that."

Correction

The April 19 editorial entitled "Beyond the campaign promises" incorrectly stated that the Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate had not made any progress regarding its plans to produce a newsletter. In fact, the TCU Senate published the inaugural issue of the monthly TCU Newsletter on Feb. 27.

MOVIE REVIEW

'Dead Campus' gives zombie apocalypse a Medford twist Tufts students shoot movie on campus over spring break

BY ZACH DRUCKER
Daily Editorial Board

If and when the zombie apocalypse strikes Tufts University, will you be ready? Since the days of

Dead Campus



Starring JT Vancollie, Kevin Antwi, John Asare
Directed by **Sam Zuckert**

George A. Romero's seminal work "The Night of the Living Dead" (1968), the idea of a re-animated corpse feasting on human flesh has intrigued viewers and artists alike. Recently, zombies have been the subjects of numerous films, ranging from intense horror flicks such as "28 Days Later" (2002) to slacker comedies such as "Shaun of the Dead" (2004) to a dramatic AMC series, "The Walking Dead."

With this impressive pedigree in mind, Sam Zuckert decided to make a movie. At the start of the fall 2011 semester, Zuckert, a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering, began outlining the skeletal structure for his first feature.

"I think it's funny when problems that come up a lot have really simple solutions," Zuckert said. "So, I thought it would be really funny if zombies could be cured by something stupid." Over winter break, he hatched this simple idea into a full-fledged script and "Dead Campus" was born — er, reborn.

The film follows a college-age girl, Shad (portrayed by Tufts senior JT Vancollie), as she seeks to find a cure for the zombie epidemic that has overrun her college campus. In her efforts, she teams up with a friend to seek out a recluse who is rumored to possess the sole remedy for the zombie disease. Her journey soon evolves from a simple



VIMEO.COM

'Dead Campus' utilizes Tufts to create a humorous and delightful short film.

act of survival into a frightening encounter with the very catalyst of the zombie apocalypse.

Zuckert and his team of Tufts students filmed "Dead Campus"

over spring break, utilizing the vacant, apocalyptic quadrangles and the ample time that a week off affords to shoot the zombie thriller. The result is a comedy

through and through, featuring off-putting, eccentric characters in goofy situations. The humans discuss the zombies with uncharacteristic nonchalance; their blase

attitudes contrast sharply with the panicked, often maniacal human characters viewers are used to see-

see **DEAD**, page 4

Wandering aimlessly? Find a drink in Davis Square

BY CHRIS POLDOIAN
Daily Editorial Board

For Jumbos over the age of 21, there is a wide range of options for enjoying a drink off campus. While the pleasures and economics of drinking inside one's own apartment are great, the communal aspect of watering holes stands high. Below is a small but solid list of some of the best places for a drink in Davis.

Foundry on Elm: This classy restaurant features bistro-inspired food, making it a popular dining destination for students sick of Dewick-MacPhie Dining Center. From a culinary perspective, Foundry is a big fish in a small pond, with tasty ideas (the scallop casserole comes slathered in a carrot-maple cream) but sub-par kitchen service during peak hours. Foundry remains the default dinner destination in Davis. While many come for the food, they stay for the drinks. The full-service bar features a wide range of beers, with a constantly changing menu and seasonal options on draught. For burgeoning oenophiles, the old-world-centric wine list offers a variety of by-the-bottle and by-the-glass options. The cocktail prices hover around ten dollars. Highlights include the Natasha Rose, which combines the ambrosial daintiness of cassis (blackcurrant liqueur), St. Germain (elderflower liqueur) and a vodka and cava base for a citrus-y effervescent delight.

Saloon: This prohibition-style speak-easy oozes with atmosphere. Owned by Foundry, Saloon is a fun destination for students seeking a different, classier atmosphere. While the cocktails feature some interesting ingredients — wheatgrass juice and pork belly-infused whisky, for instance — the prices are a little steep. The appeal of Saloon is its encyclopedic compendium of spirits. Specializing in whiskies of all ages and places, from scotch to bourbon, Saloon has enough booze to make your head spin. Less than a year old, Saloon still has many kinks to work out but will find its stride as time passes.

Sligo Pub: There is a lot of pretension at Tufts, but for those Jumbos who couldn't care less about the utilization of locally roasted cacao beans in their craft beer, head to Sligo Pub. For budget-minded students, this is the place to go. Pints of Pabst Blue Ribbon can be had at a mere \$2.50 — the cheapest beer to be had away from Professor's Row. For the ultimate dive-bar experience, head over on a Saturday afternoon. The relaxed atmosphere and darkened interior allow you to booze contently. The bathroom door lacks a locking mechanism, but that's all part of the appeal. The wooden tables invite guests to carve a message or a pair of initials.

Unless you consider Wise Potato Chips to be some gourmet appetizer,

see **BARS**, page 4



DAN 4TH VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

The Foundry offers a wide array of accompanying dishes for drinks.



Aaron Ratoff plays one of the first casualties in the zombie apocalypse. VIMEO.COM

'Dead Campus' gives amusing take on zombified Tufts

DEAD
continued from page 3

Senior Luke Pyenson shines as The Chemist, the aforementioned expert whose scientific revelations generate the human rebellion against the zombie aggressors. He plays the role with a silly smirk and a general sense of apathy that is at once surreal and hilarious. But he is perhaps upstaged by sophomore Jay Dodd, who makes an unforgettable cameo as the supernatural Zombie King in the waning moments of the film.

The acting is complemented by a bass-driven, hip-hop soundtrack that turns slow-motion attack scenes into hyperbolically intense action sequences. The flooring strangeness of watching zombie assaults set to rap ballads makes the film all the more amusing.

Due to its constant search for laughs, "Dead Campus" is certainly not devoid of discontinuity problems, but the raw, unrefined

style makes the film surprisingly endearing. In one particularly hysterical turn of events, sophomore John Asare assumes the place of sophomore Kevin Antwi in playing the secondary protagonist, Darren Walking. The film never acknowledges the unusual switch but supplants Antwi with Asare as if nothing had changed. Though easily interpreted as a comedic overture, Zuckert admits that Antwi went home for spring break before all of his scenes were shot.

On Thursday, April 12, Zuckert showcased the film in the Sophia Gordon multipurpose room to a group of friends and supporters. Though he has no other screenings planned, the film is available online at www.vimeo.com, and Zuckert clearly relished the opportunity to present his work to a small assemblage of his peers.

"I think it would be cool if more stuff like this happened," he said. "More people should get involved in going to and making things. That's what's cool about college."

These six bars offer quality beverages

BARS
continued from page 3

I'd hesitate to use the word gastro-pub to describe Sligo. The staff and decidedly townie crowd are friendly. Twice I have been challenged to raucous arcade games of Big Buck Hunter.

The Burren: A popular destination for Tufts students on Thursday nights, The Burren's expansive backroom is a perfect spot to meet up with friends. The Burren was opened in 1996 by two young Irish musicians with the goal of sharing live Irish music with the community through a warm and cheerful atmosphere. Ironically, most students associate The Burren with Scattershot, the 1980s cover band that performs every Thursday night.

Five Horses Tavern: The only place on this list that isn't locat-

ed on Elm Street, this Highland Street watering hole is home to 37 rotating draughts and 80 different bottles of beer. This is the perfect place to explore new beverages, and the staff is more than willing to help educate, such as by explaining the difference between ales and lagers. The menu is organized by style of beer, allowing you to decide whether the sour Geuze or hop-driven IPA is more to your taste. More than half of the draught beers come from the New England area, and the bottled beer menu even includes products from local microbreweries such as Teele Square's SlumBrew.

The Painted Burro: This new kid on the block has large shoes to fill. Taking over the space previously occupied by Gargoyles on the Square, The Painted Burro comes from upstanding culinary pedigree

(the owner of Posto and the former chef of Mistral), offering Davis Square a frenetic competitor to the delicious Olé in Inman Square. If you want to learn about tequila, then this is the place for you. Most Jumbos could probably name only one or two tequilas — unfortunate, given the deep, proud history of this West Mexican liquor. Tequila tests are available, allow for sampling of different styles and aging processes, such as Mezcal, which gets its strong, smoky flavor from maguay agave, and Anejo, which is aged between one and three years in oak barrels. The margarita list is focused, allowing the tequila to shine brightly through the supporting flavors. The cocktail list is fun, with ingredients like a Mexican Coca-Cola Reduction and cayenne-pineapple juice.



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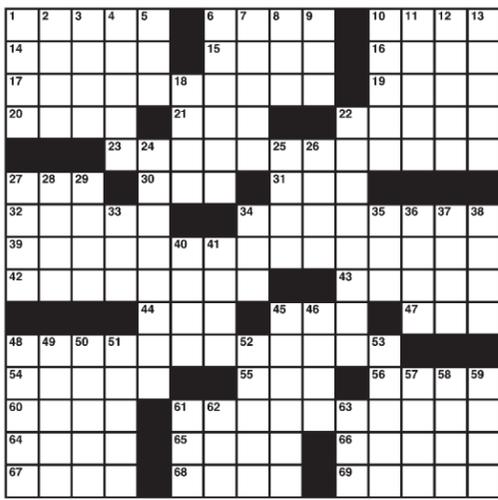
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CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hidden drawback
 - 6 "Hold your horses!"
 - 10 Clean, as erasers
 - 14 Like Cirque du Soleil performers
 - 15 Takes outside
 - 16 First name in country
 - 17 Starting pitcher?
 - 19 "___ Almighty": Steve Carell sequel
 - 20 Clothes line
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 - 23 Strike zone?
 - 27 ___ Schwarz
 - 30 Wahine's strings
 - 31 Ballot abbr.
 - 32 Dispense in shares
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 - 44 NL East city, on scoreboards
 - 45 New Deal fig.
 - 47 Eastern theater genre
 - 48 Left field?
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 - 55 Over there, quaintly
 - 56 Chianti, in Chianti
 - 60 Year in Trajan's reign?
 - 61 Batter?
 - 64 Go off
 - 65 Fanny ___
 - 66 Worth of the theater
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 - 68 Easter celebration
 - 69 When brunch may begin
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 - 3 "Bossypants" writer Fey
 - 4 Move up
 - 5 Mother ___
 - 6 Shilly-shally
 - 7 Garlicky mayo
 - 8 Like the vb. "go," e.g.
 - 9 Cluck of reproach
 - 10 Fish hamper
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 - 12 Peter out
 - 13 Cultivated violet
 - 18 Goggle
 - 22 Getting up on the wrong side of bed, say
 - 24 Lasts longer than
 - 25 Lake Nasser feeder
 - 26 Migratory antelopes
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 - 29 Gold medalist Korbout
 - 33 Omega, to a physicist
 - 34 "I'm c-c-cold!"
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 - 36 Monopoly token
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 - 38 Nasty cut
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 - 41 Use one's outside voice
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By Marti Duguay-Carpenter 4/20/12

THURSDAY'S SOLUTION

S	A	G	A	C	M	V	I	Z	O	O	M
C	U	R	L	H	O	A	R	E	R	I	E
O	J	A	I	U	N	P	O	T	B	E	L
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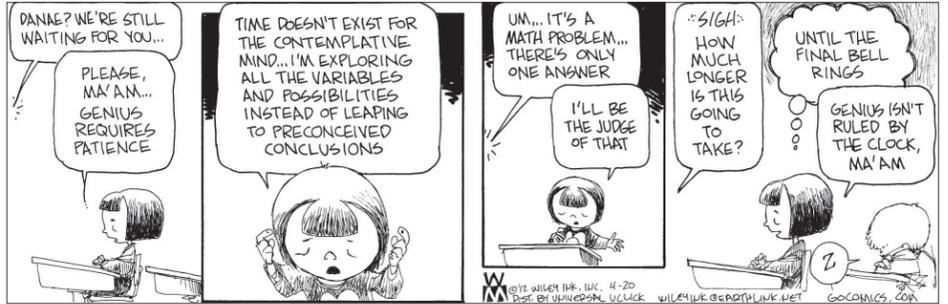
DOONESBURY

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

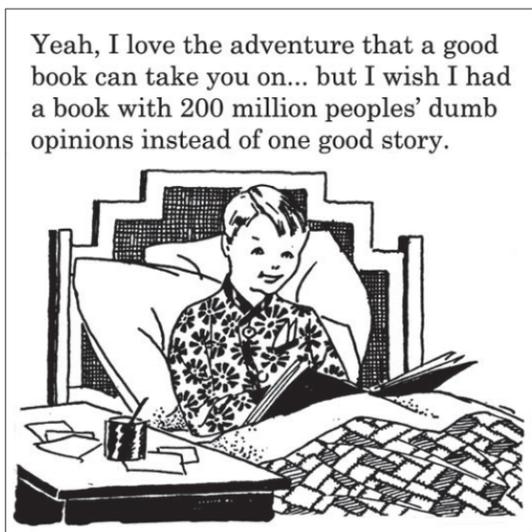


NON SEQUITUR

BY WILEY



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JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LUPEM

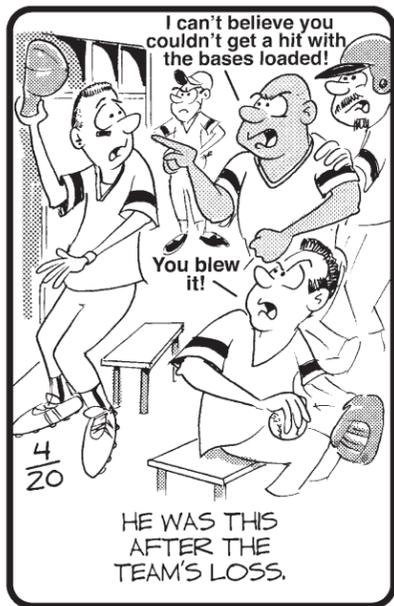
ANGIT

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XICEES

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: [Circled letters from the jumbles]

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: KAZOO ADOPT TATTLE BUSILY
 Answer: Even though he didn't think he'd be good at spearfishing, he — TOOK A STAB AT IT

SUDOKU

Level: Sinking an unsinkable ship

					8	6		
							1	9
3				1			2	
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Thursday's Solution

1	9	5	6	7	3	8	2	4
6	8	3	1	2	4	7	5	9
7	4	2	9	8	5	6	1	3
4	3	8	2	6	7	1	9	5
5	1	6	4	9	8	2	3	7
9	2	7	3	5	1	4	6	8
3	5	4	7	1	6	9	8	2
8	6	9	5	4	2	3	7	1
2	7	1	8	3	9	5	4	6

LATE NIGHT AT THE DAILY



Craig: "Scrub my bunions, Falcon."

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Trexler, 1982
Donald Curran



Aguirre, 2009
Liza Voll



Gue, 2009
Liza Voll

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Dept. of Drama and Dance

Spring Dance Concert: In Closing

Modern Dance Works by
Assoc. Prof. Alice Trexler
Aline Gue '12 & Christina Aguirre '12

Guest Dancers
Jessica Chang, Jaclyn Waguespack,
Ara Glenn-Johanson, and Julia Novina

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Jackson Dance Lab
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by 4/19 to dance@tufts.edu

* *Sunday, 4/22 concert almost full*

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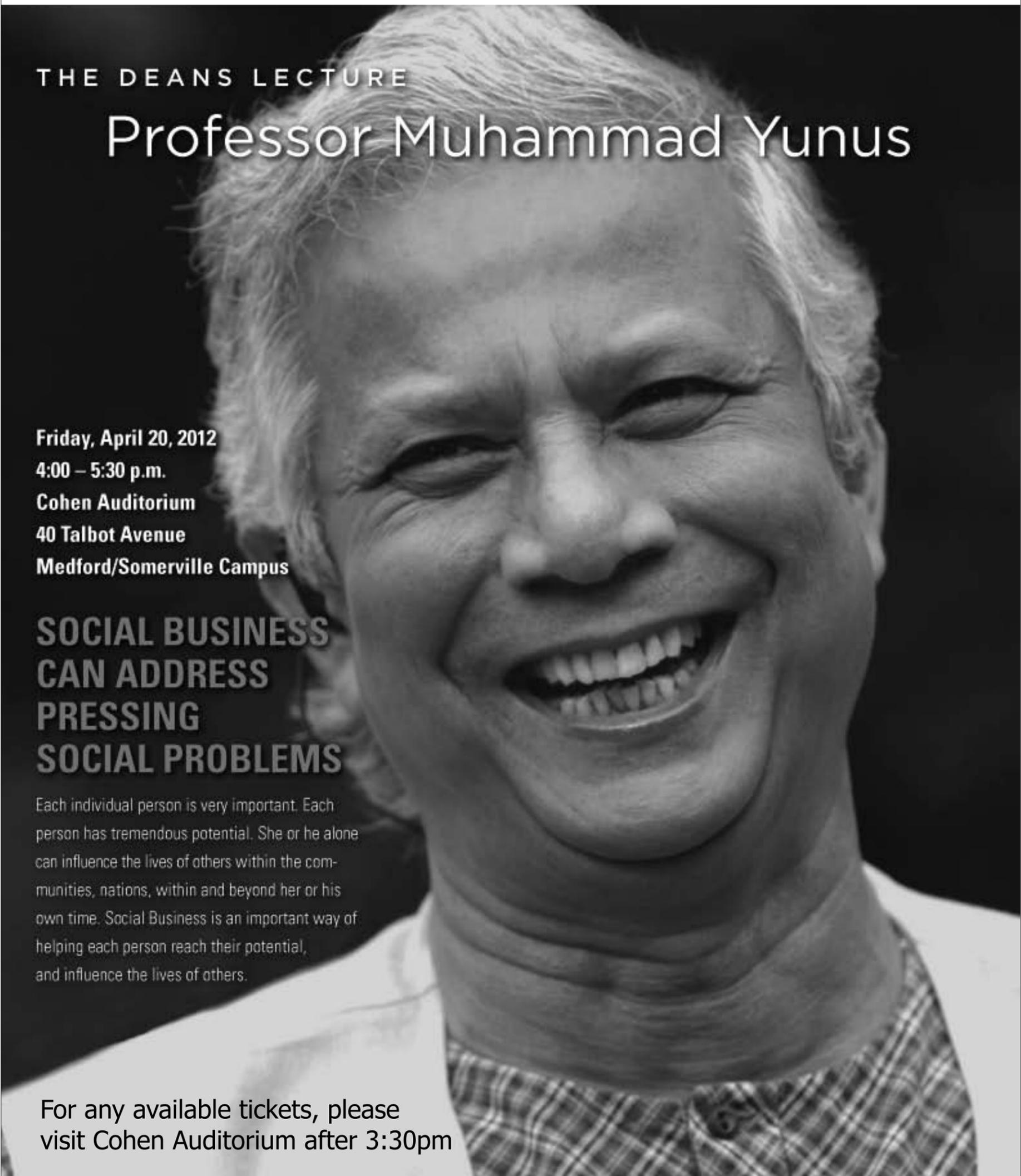
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THE DEANS LECTURE

Professor Muhammad Yunus

Friday, April 20, 2012

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Cohen Auditorium

40 Talbot Avenue

Medford/Somerville Campus

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Professor Muhammad Yunus

Professor Yunus is famous worldwide for his successful application of the concept of microcredit, the extension of small loans to entrepreneurs too poor to qualify for traditional bank loans. In 1973, Professor Yunus founded Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. In 2006, he and Grameen Bank were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "for their efforts to create economic and social development from below." Professor Yunus has also received other international honors, including the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom (2009), the ITU World Information Society Award, the Ramon Magsaysay Award, the World Food Prize, and the Sydney Peace Prize. Professor Yunus holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Vanderbilt University and a M.A. and B.A. from Dhaka University in Bangladesh. He is the author of *Banker to the Poor*, *Creating a World Without Poverty*, and *Building Social Business*.

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After returning from Tommy John surgery, Collins is in top form

BASEBALL

continued from Back

league games. Collins explained that he hadn't been going.

When baseball players suffer elbow injuries, the first name that surfaces is always Tommy John, the three-syllable curse for pitchers and fielders alike. Named after a former major-league pitcher, the surgery is serious but recovery rates are now close to 100 percent. Still, going under the knife means prolonged recovery periods, not exactly a bright light for Collins heading into his final season with the Jumbos.

Indeed, Collins had fully torn his ulnar collateral ligament (UCL). Reconstructive surgery was on the table. The decision came down to the timetable. Undergoing Tommy John gave Collins the opportunity to serve as the designated hitter and play first base for Tufts this season.

With the decision in his hands, Collins chose surgery.

"I learned that you have to make decisions based on what you think is right given the information you have at the present time," Collins said. "When you're making a decision at the moment, you can't try to think of what-

ifs. It's important to use the information in your present hand."

The surgery itself, performed by Dr. Luke Oh at Massachusetts General Hospital, lasted three to four hours. When Collins got wheeled into the surgery room, already injected with some Valium to relax, he began giving a woman a hard time. She was wearing a Pittsburgh Steelers bandana. Collins, a Hopkinton, Mass., native, is a Patriots fan.

Any nerves Collins might have experienced before undergoing his first major surgery were alleviated by Oh, who specializes in Tommy John procedures. One night before the surgery, Oh spent an hour on the phone with Collins, talking about the decision he had made. Collins had been going back and forth, unable to decipher the optimal choice.

"That night, he stepped out of his doctor role and became a person who genuinely cared about me and my health," Collins said. "That was really awesome. I knew I was in good hands."

The rehab process included covering up the cast when he showered and making sure his arm stood straight up when he slept. Little things like that were frustrating. The bright side was that he

already knew how to do things with his left hand after the broken wrist.

Between a cast and a robotic arm that limited his elbow's range of motion, Collins spent eight weeks with his elbow immobilized. Tack that onto the eight weeks prescribed for his wrist injury, and Collins has spent more than a quarter of the past year in a cast.

Some have expressed surprise that Collins returned to the diamond so quickly. Though the 2011 NESCAC Defensive Player of the Year won't suit up behind the plate for the Jumbos, he's hitting .373 with 20 RBIs and eight doubles through Thursday. And he's right on schedule with rehabilitation. He asked his doctors and physical therapists for an aggressive timeline. He wanted to play in six months.

"Me dwelling on the fact that I can't catch this year, it wouldn't be productive for my personal performance or for my team in any way," Collins said. "As a freshman and sophomore, I would always get caught up in everything in the game as opposed to just focusing on playing. As I've gotten older and better understood the key tenets of Tufts baseball, I've grown out of that old mentality."

Alongside senior shortstop co-captain Sam Sager, who was playing for Watertown when Collins tore his elbow, Collins hasn't missed a game for Tufts this spring, starting 17 at DH, four at first base and two in right field, returning to the location of the pop. And he's helped guide freshmen Nick Barker and Bryan Egan, hitting .314 and .311, respectively, in the Tufts way behind the dish.

"We did, and Matt wanted to be back sooner," coach John Casey said, when asked whether he expected Collins to return to All-NESCAC from this quickly. "It was just his doctors, and too many NESCAC schools wanting to graduate lawyers, I guess. From that standpoint, having Matty back gave us some flexibility in the lineup."

Right after the injury occurred, Collins trotted in to warm up at first base for Watertown. He soon discovered that he couldn't throw. He had nothing. The power evaporated. His slingshot regressed into an oversized, powerless noodle.

Later that game, Collins was called on to pinch-hit.

Pop!

He singled up the middle.

Tufts looks to lock up top playoff spot in next two games

MEN'S LACROSSE

continued from Back

transition game. Those kind of goals always help create a ton of momentum."

Bates got one back with a buzzer beater from Hines, and Tufts went into halftime with a slim, 8-7 lead.

"It wasn't surprising to us that we got their best game," Schafer said. "At halftime, we focused on executing our gameplan and not committing the same mistakes twice."

Coming out of the break, the Jumbos executed beautifully. In the third, Schafer and Bates freshman attackman Jack Strain traded goals before McCormick sparked a blistering three-goal run with a finish at the 5:36 mark. Just 18 seconds later, junior midfielder Sam Diss made it 11-8, before McCormick buried another goal with 4:29 remaining to conclude the run and give Tufts a 12-8 edge.

"Lacrosse is a game of momentum," Schafer said. "After taking their run we put pressure on them with our transition game and unselfish team offense. The three-goal run was just doing that, with two assisted goals from the midfield and a goal in transition. From end to end, we attacked them by playing fundamental defense, communicating well and just moving the ball upfield."

Junior midfielder Rob Highland pulled the Bobcats within three entering the final quarter, but the Jumbos went on a 4-2 fourth-quarter tear to cement the victory. Schafer kicked off the scoring in the final stanza, and Bailey added two assists, helping Schoenhut and McCormick make two late Bates goals from Strain and Hines irrelevant. To cap off the evening, Kirwan notched a goal of his own on a feed from sophomore defender Dan Alles with just over four minutes remaining.



OLIVER PORTER / THE TUFTS DAILY

Freshman Cole Bailey had two goals and two assists on Tuesday as Tufts topped Bates on the road, 16-11.

"My shot was in transition," Kirwan said. "Alles blew by a few defenders during the clear and my defenseman slid to pick him up, so I just slipped behind him. Dan hit me on a nice feed, and I just bounced it to the top shelf."

"It was nice to string a bunch of nice plays together to help put the game away. [Bates is] a great team and they came out firing, so to be able to run away with it a little bit at the end was nice," Kirwan added.

Going forward, the Jumbos control their own destiny. On Saturday, they host the Cardinals, who knocked the Bantams out of the top spot just

two days ago. The Cardinals will look to do the same to the Jumbos at Bello Field.

Tufts must also gear up for No. 16 Bowdoin, which it will host on April 25 in the teams' final regular season game. Last spring, the Polar Bears handed the Jumbos their only NESCAC loss in the regular season finale, upsetting them in a devastating 15-9 decision.

With a challenging pair of games looming on its schedule and Trinity breathing down its neck with a 6-2 conference record Tufts must win against both Wesleyan and Bowdoin — the fourth- and third-place teams in the conference,

respectively — to clinch the No. 1 seed and home-field advantage in the NESCAC tournament.

Luckily for the Jumbos, controlling their own destiny is something they have done well in the past.

"Our team is squarely focused on improving and winning the next game on the schedule," Schafer said. "In the back half of the season, we know the mission and recognize each game as a new challenge in the path to our ultimate goal. We're approaching this Saturday like we're fighting for our postseason spot. There are no guarantees."

Tufts has two shots to clinch first place

SOFTBALL

continued from Back

win] heading into this weekend," senior tri-captain first baseman Lena Cantone said. "Win or lose the last game, we'd prepare for this next series the same way."

This afternoon, Tufts will begin a three-game set with a doubleheader against conference rival Bates. The Jumbos, who can notch the NESCAC East's No. 1 seed with just one win this weekend, will have their hands full.

After getting off to a slow start, Bates has completely turned its season around. The Bobcats are in the midst of a nine-game winning streak that includes an impressive three-game sweep over the Colby Mules. With a 4-2 mark in conference play, Bates can steal the NESCAC East throne from Tufts with a series sweep and then a series victory against Bowdoin to conclude the season.

But the Jumbos, who have won 13 of their last 14 games, are unfazed by any opponent.

"We approach every game the same way," Cantone said. "Every game is tough, but as long as we come in ready to play our game with our mentality I think we can get the job done."

Tufts will need to get ahead early, as Bates boasts a strong relief unit led by freshman Brenna Callahan. In 11 appearances, Callahan has a 2.10 ERA and has held opponents to a team-best .207 batting average.

Due to the possibility of rain, the doubleheader of the three-game set will be played on Friday instead of the usual Saturday twin-bill. That means today, the Jumbos will have two chances to seal the top spot in the division this afternoon.



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MEN'S CREW

Despite improvement, victory eludes varsity crew

BY GJ VITALE
Senior Staff Writer

This past Saturday, the men's crew team joined the women's team on the Malden River to host Tufts' 11th annual regatta with Bates, Wesleyan, Wellesley and the University of New Hampshire. Racing out of the William A. Shoemaker Boathouse, warm weather provided the rowers with optimal conditions.

Entering the action at the 23-race card — the largest regatta of the spring 2012 season — the men's varsity eight was winless, while the novice eight was undefeated.

The varsity squad has faced many larger, more experienced teams this season, and the story was similar on Saturday as Tufts went up against larger squads from Wesleyan and New Hampshire, which have both proven themselves to be well-oiled machines this spring. Against Wesleyan, the Jumbos' time of 6:47.9 came up short of the Cardinals' 6:16.9, a 31-second differential. Squaring off against New Hampshire, Tufts finished in 6:39.6 to UNH's 6:23.9.

Despite the large differentials, the Jumbos' times show some promising signs. Even though they did not come away with a win in either race, the Jumbos improved eight seconds from their first race to their second, suggesting that they have the stamina to handle long days of competition.

The team was also able to achieve one of its pre-regatta goals.

"We wanted to improve our second 500 meters," sophomore coxswain Jeremy Rosenblatt said. "That section of the race has been a problem for us, and we wanted to lower our average in the area below 1:40. We did that on Saturday."

Despite strong efforts in the second 500-meter race on Saturday, Tufts came up short, and in both races, victory was clear for the opponent by the time Tufts passed the boat-house. Wesleyan and UNH were even faster when they went head-to-head, with both turning in six-minute times in more competitive races.

Although the Jumbos' competition was simply faster than they were on Saturday, the rowers were able to stay levelheaded and take away both positives and negatives from the regatta.

"We wanted to concentrate on our personal finishes," sophomore three-seat Lex Clary said. "We made a strong push with our power 10 in the second 500 meters but paid the price as we began to tire later in the third 500 meters."

The "power 10" is the most intense portion of the race when, for 10 seconds, the rowers push their absolute hardest while attempting to stay in sync. While the maneuver increases the speed of the shell, it comes at the price of tiring the rowers more quickly. In the end, the push was not enough to lead the Jumbos to victory.

Meanwhile, the novice eight defeated Bates 6:26.9 to 6:40 to remain undefeated on the year. This success has hardly been a surprise to the members of the varsity squad.

"Most of these guys are very experienced from rowing in high school and have the talent to compete with the best," Clary said. "They are adjusting very well to the program and have been able to gel as a racing unit rather quickly."

The varsity team will look to notch its first win next Saturday against Middlebury in another race at home on the Malden River.

SCHEDULE | April 20 - April 24

	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
Softball	at Bates 3 p.m. at Bates 4:30 p.m.	at Bates 11:30 am	at Brandeis 12 p.m. at Brandeis 2 p.m.		
Baseball	at Daniel Webster 3:30 pm	at Williams 1 p.m. at Williams 4 p.m.	at Daniel Webster 1 p.m.		
Women's Lacrosse		at Wesleyan 12 p.m.			
Men's Lacrosse		vs. Wesleyan 1 p.m.			
Women's Tennis		vs. Williams 1 p.m.			
Men's Tennis				vs. Brandeis 4 p.m.	
Women's Track & Field	at Larry Ellis Invitational 6 p.m.	at MIT Spring Invitational 12 p.m.			
Men's Track & Field	at Larry Ellis Invitational 6 p.m.	at MIT Spring Invitational 12 p.m.			
Women's Sailing		at New England Championships 9:30 a.m.	at New England Championships 9:30 a.m.		
Co-ed Sailing		at Admiral's Cup 9 a.m.	at Admiral's Cup 9 a.m.		
Women's Crew		vs. Middlebury 10 a.m.	at Lake Quinsigamond 8 a.m.		
Men's Crew		vs. Middlebury 10 a.m.	at Lake Quinsigamond 8 a.m.		

NESCAC ROUNDUP

Each week, the staff at NESCAC Insider, The Tufts Daily's NESCAC blog, will compile a roundup of the top news throughout Div. III's top conference. For more up-to-the-minute analysis and comprehensive coverage of the NESCAC, visit blogs.tuftsdaily.com/nescacinsider or follow on Twitter @NESCACInsider.

Playoff update | Tufts softball one win away from clinching NESCAC East

With the NESCAC playoffs just around the corner, here's an update on the postseason landscape in baseball, softball, men's lacrosse and women's lacrosse:

Baseball — At 8-1 in the NESCAC East, Trinity has clinched a spot in the tournament and can wrap up hosting rights this weekend at Bates. Bowdoin has the inside track on the second seed, but at 3-3 will need to close strong in its final six games. Tufts has an outside shot, especially given that the Jumbos will face the Polar Bears in Brunswick, Maine next weekend, a three-game series that will likely decide the division's other seed.

In the West, Amherst is undefeated at 6-0 and can earn the top seed with a Wesleyan loss. If both the Cardinals and the Lord Jeffs run the table, Amherst will need just one win against Wesleyan in two weeks to get the division's No. 1 seed.

Softball — Behind freshman ace Allyson Fournier, the Jumbos have clinched one of the East Division's two berths and need one more NESCAC win to earn the top seed in the East. With Amherst and Middlebury both at 6-0, the West is more crowded, though both are all but assured of reaching the postseason.

Men's Lacrosse — Tufts moved into sole possession of first place with a 14-8 win at Bates and looked very strong in a 15-5 dismantling of Amherst. Still, Trinity is within one game of first place, and Bowdoin is 1.5 games back. Four more squads — Wesleyan, Amherst, Colby and Conn. College — are all of national caliber and can make noise in the tournament.

Women's Lacrosse — The top three seeds are basically wrapped up; it's just a matter of what the order will be. Trinity is 8-0 in the NESCAC and 12-0 overall, while Colby and Middlebury are each one-loss teams, though both came close to beating Trinity. The Panthers host the Mules on Saturday with second place on the line.

Coaching changes | Weaver, Solomon newest to join NESCAC ranks

Wesleyan and Bowdoin each made a major hire last week.

The Polar Bears hired Brianne Weaver as their new women's soccer head coach, according to a press release sent out on Wednesday by athletics director Jeff Ward. Weaver previously worked as the head coach at St. Mary's College of Maryland, her alma mater, where she led the Seahawks to three conference championships through six seasons. In 2008, she was named the Capital Athletic Conference coach of the year.

Weaver will take over for Maren Rojas, who stepped down in February. Bowdoin went 6-6-3 last fall, and while five of those six losses came by a single goal, Weaver will have to deal with replacing senior Ellery Gould, the NESCAC's second-leading scorer, who put up 14 goals and a league-high 2.13 points per game this past season.

Over at Wesleyan, the Cardinals named longtime NESCAC veteran Peter Solomon as the faculty head coach of men's and women's swimming and diving, as well as the school's aquatics director.

Solomon led the Middlebury swimming program for 14 seasons and was named the NESCAC coach of the year five times. He served in the same capacity at Amherst for four seasons.

"I have been fortunate to work at some of the most elite colleges in the country and feel as though I bring a wealth of experience as a swimming coach and recruiter in Div. III and in NESCAC," Solomon said in a press release. "I believe this will pay big dividends in helping me build a stronger and deeper team here at Wesleyan."

Construction | Amherst's Pratt Field to receive makeover

The Lord Jeffs' Pratt Field will receive an extensive makeover, including a new field-house, grandstands and track, according to NESCAC.com. This will allow Amherst to host championship-level track meets for the first time since 1996.

The project is scheduled to be completed by 2013 and will cost an estimated \$12.5 million, funded entirely by donations.

"The ultimate aim of the renovation project is to retain the character and appeal of the 121-year-old Pratt Field complex, while at the same time replacing its outdated components, such as the Debevoise Fieldhouse," Amherst athletics director Suzanne Coffey said in a press release. "We anticipate and expect that people will continue to feel that this is the Pratt Field that they know and love."

—by Alex Prewitt



WILLIAM BUTT / THE TUFTS DAILY

Sophomore Gabby Horner tied a career high with five goals on Tuesday night to lift the Jumbos over the Bobcats, 14-8, and into sixth place in the NESCAC with two regular season games remaining.

Jumbos to face struggling Cardinals

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

continued from Back

The contrast was like night and day, as the Jumbos committed fewer turnovers and took more shots than they did against the Lord Jeffs. An offense that had been held to just four goals against Amherst exploded for 14, while the defense held an opponent to single-digit scoring for the seventh time this season.

"The biggest difference between the Amherst game and the Bates game was our confidence with the ball," senior defender Maggie Casey said. "The attack played patiently but dynamically, and took all the right risks. On defense, we tried to shut down their fast-break chances. Once we were in settled defense, we were able to read where they liked to feed the ball from and where their cutters were beating us, so we could make adjustments to our zone."

Tuesday was Senior Day for the team, which honored its eight members of the Class of 2012 before its last regular season game at Bello Field. All eight have been an integral part of the team during the last four years, and the game gave them a chance to reflect on their college careers, which included a NESCAC regular season title and two NCAA tournament appearances.

"Lacrosse has been a huge part of my Tufts experience and through it I've made some really great friends," Lotz said. "Being on a team creates a special bond, and after having been with the other seniors now for four years, I think we've become a very close group and

have been through a lot together."

"We say this all the time, but we're really lucky to get to play every day with a team of our best friends," Casey added. "The girls on this team, more than any other team I have played for, really play for each other, and I think win or lose, that alone makes the time we spend worth it. It's definitely becoming bittersweet, and I was worried I would lose it after the game on Tuesday because it's unlikely we will be playing on Bello again. But luckily it was a great win and it kept us from getting too nostalgic."

Even with the emotions of the end of the season setting in, the team knows that it must stay focused on the task at hand, beginning with its game at Wesleyan tomorrow. Although the Cardinals have traditionally been a conference cellar dweller and have only one NESCAC win this year, the unpredictable nature of the NESCAC means no team can be taken lightly.

"For the Wesleyan game, we're going to try to build on our progress from Bates," Casey said. "I think if we can continue to be patient with the ball and minimize turnovers in transition, we will spend less time in our defensive end, and hopefully the attackers can use that time to wear Wesleyan down and find the best openings."

"Every game from now on is huge, especially these next two for NESCAC standings and NCAA bids as well," Lotz added. "We're going to continue focusing on our attack and our transition, trying to perfect the small things in our game."

MEN'S LACROSSE

First-place Jumbos control own destiny

BY KATE KLOTS
Daily Editorial Board

As unranked Wesleyan toppled No. 15 Trinity, 12-8, early Tuesday evening, bumping the Bantams out of first place in the NESCAC, the No. 5 men's lacrosse team was sitting in rush-hour traffic. The Jumbos were heading to Lewiston, Maine to face off against the Bates Bobcats, a team that notched a 6-5 overtime win over that same Wesleyan squad on March 17. Although the Jumbos were not aware of it prior to their 7 p.m. game time, the night presented an opportunity to take over first place — one they could not afford to squander. And they didn't.

Up by just one goal on the Bobcats with six minutes remaining in the third quarter, the Jumbos used a 67-second, three-goal run to pull away, locking up a 16-11 win and sole possession of first place in the NESCAC at 7-1. Senior co-captain midfielder Kevin McCormick, senior midfielder Geordie Schafer and freshman attackman Cole Bailey paced Tufts with four points apiece.

Bates senior midfielder Jason Hichborn gave the host Bobcats an early edge, scoring off his own rebound to open the game. He doubled the Bobcats' advantage with another tally two minutes

later, this one assisted by junior attackman Dan Hines.

The Jumbos answered shortly thereafter as freshman Chris Schoenhut took a feed from junior pole John Heard to the rack, but the Bobcats finished twice more in succession to put the Jumbos on their heels trailing 4-1.

"We came out lacking the energy we needed to play at our level," Schafer said. "When we don't dictate the tempo on good teams, they take advantage of it, and Bates outplayed us in the first quarter."

By the end of the first quarter, however, Tufts had pulled within two, as senior midfielder Nick Rhoads and junior defender Matt Callahan sandwiched a Bates goal with tallies of their own. In the second quarter, the Jumbos dominated, outscoring the Bobcats 5-2. McCormick, Schafer and sophomore attackman Beau Wood each scored once, while Bailey notched his first two goals of the night.

"We just got dialed in after that," senior co-captain Sean Kirwan said. "We were missing that focus and intensity to start the game, but going down 4-1 definitely woke us up. We just started by getting back the basics, everyone just doing their job, and our defense made some bigtime plays and helped us tremendously in our

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BASEBALL



WILLIAM BUTT / THE TUFTS DAILY

Despite being unable to start behind the plate this season after recovering from Tommy John surgery, senior co-captain Matt Collins has started all 23 games and is hitting .373 with 20 RBIs.

Battered, broken, but not out

BY ALEX PREWITT
Daily Editorial Board

Pop!
Matt Collins heard the noise. He felt the snap. Standing out in right field during warm-ups for an Intercity League game on a blistering summer afternoon with the Watertown Reds, Collins let one fly. Not exactly the wisest decision made by the baseball team's senior co-captain and starting catcher.

Three weeks earlier, Collins had a cast removed from his wrist, the plaster remnant of a broken bone suffered against Bowdoin on April 30, 2011. After rehabbing with trainers at Tufts, Collins was cleared to play again.

He got a little ahead of himself, a little too eager to be back on the diamond. He amped it up faster than he should have.

Pop!

The first reaction was the

most drastic. Panic arrived. Between the feeling and the noise, Collins knew it wasn't just an average tweak. He wondered if he would ever play again.

For a week after, Collins didn't talk about the injury much, hoping that maybe it would begin to feel better on its own, that the pain would go away. He finally told his mother after she asked about her son's summer

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SOFTBALL

Familiar formula propels Jumbos to victory

BY ZACHEY KLIGER
Daily Editorial Board

After blanking Bridgewater State 4-0 on Wednesday afternoon, the softball team will begin a critical three-game weekend series today at Bates, Tufts' final NESCAC East series of the regular season.

On Wednesday, a lethal combination of dominant pitching and timely hitting propelled the Jumbos to their 24th victory. Freshman Allyson Fournier tossed a complete game one-hitter against a Bears offense that had scored a combined 29 runs in its previous three games.

Fournier might have notched her third perfect game of the year, if not for a sixth inning bunt single by sophomore Corrie McCue.

"Allyson has been solid all year long," sophomore catcher Jo Clair said. "She can't lose sight of the little things, though. She has to keep hitting her spots and making her pitches, and then I think the success will continue."

The rookie sensation fanned the first eight batters she faced in the outing, accumulating 15 strikeouts in the game to go along with zero walks. With the win, Fournier improved to a perfect 12-0 on the season and lowered her ERA to a remarkable 0.46.

Fournier's counterpart, Bridgewater State sophomore Amber White, was equally impressive in the early going, limiting Tufts to just one hit through the first three innings.

But with the game scoreless in the bottom of the fourth, sophomore right fielder Kayla Holland put the Jumbos on the board with a two-out, two-run home run. Clair added two insurance



SCOTT TINGLEY / THE TUFTS DAILY

Sophomore Kayla Holland broke a scoreless tie in the fourth inning of Wednesday's game against Bridgewater State, blasting a two-run homer to propel Tufts to a 4-0 victory.

runs in the sixth with her own two-run blast, her league-leading seventh long ball of the year. With Fournier on the mound and in top form, the game was in good hands, and the Jumbos' 4-0

advantage held up as the final score. "Any win for us is good, but I wouldn't say we needed Wednesday's

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Tufts looks to climb conference standings as playoffs approach

BY DAVID MCINTYRE
Daily Editorial Board

In what has already been a roller-coaster season, the No. 14 women's lacrosse team is now rumbling toward the finish line, starting with its second-to-last regular season game at Wesleyan tomorrow. The matchup with the Cardinals comes on the heels of a critical 14-8 win at home against Bates on Tuesday that boosted the Jumbos into sixth place in the NESCAC standings.

Tufts (8-4 overall, 4-4 NESCAC) is now hoping to jump even higher in the conference standings, knowing that a fifth-place finish would allow the team to avoid the conference powerhouses — national No. 3 Trinity, No. 6 Middlebury and No. 8 Colby — in the first round of the playoffs. Since Tufts' last game is against Bowdoin, which is currently in fifth with a 5-4 record, the Jumbos are guaranteed to finish at least fifth if they win their last two games.

Tufts will certainly be boosted by its victory over Bates on Tuesday. The 14-8 win was a complete turnaround from the team's disappointing showing against Amherst last weekend, as both the offense and defense seemed to regain the fluidity and confidence that evaporated against the Lord Jeffs.

"We played infinitely better against Bates than we did in Amherst," senior tri-captain defender Katie Lotz said. "I think as a whole our team was more confident, and on attack we were more patient and dynamic, which made a huge difference. To be honest, we didn't really change much defensively; [we] just made sure we were communicating all the time, since that is a huge part of playing a zone defense."

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