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The Tufts Daily

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VOLUME LXVIII, NUMBER 25 | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2014 | TUFTSDAILY.COM

New signs, maps unify health sciences campus

BY EEMAN MALIK
Contributing Writer

The Tufts health sciences campus in Boston completed a new system of signage last spring. The initiative, which was spearheaded by Marketing Communications, a part of the University Relations division, was intended to help visitors identify the campus and find their way around, according to Director of Marketing Communications Lisa Gregory.

Gregory explained that the rebranding consisted of adding new signage and maps that help make the campus more recognizable and assist people in navigating the health sciences buildings spread across Chinatown. These buildings on the Boston campus include the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, the Tufts University School of Medicine, the School of Dental Medicine, Tufts Medical Center, the Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences and the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging.

Large metal signs in brown and blue that read "Tufts" now hang from building entrances on Kneeland St. and Washington St. as well as on Harrison Ave, according to Gregory. Campus maps were affixed to walls at key points where visitors are most likely to be seeking directions, and free-standing kiosks holding maps were installed across the campus as well.

"The new signage fits with the pre-existing architectural styles," Gregory said. "The brand personality of the signage visually connects Tufts University with Tufts Medical Center."

see SIGNS, page 2

Station House Chili Fest recognizes safety groups in community

BY MARIANNA ATHANASSIOU
Contributing Writer

Tufts Dining Services will host the 12th annual Station House Chili Fest in Carmichael Dining Center today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., open to local police officers, firefighters and emergency medical services teams, as well as members of Tufts University Police Department, Tufts Fire Safety, Tufts Emergency Medical Services, students and faculty.

The event, which takes places during October's "National Fire Prevention Month," aims to recognize those who help keep students and the local community safe, while also promoting education about fire safety in a fun environment, according to Director of Dining and Business Services Patti Klos. Chili Fest combines important aspects of campus life, including tradition, respect and culinary creativity, she added.

"A whole bunch of thoughts coalesced into the realization that we work very hard to nourish our student body, particularly those that live on campus, but that there are folks behind the scenes that help make those places warm and safe," she said.

see CHILI, page 2

NICHOLAS PFOSI / THE TUFTS DAILY

Tufts students assemble and rally for equal pay for part-time faculty in a march from the Tufts academic quad to 200 Boston Ave on Oct. 10.

University, part-time faculty reach tentative agreement

BY NINA GOLDMAN
Daily Editorial Board

After eight months of negotiations, representatives of Tufts and its part-time faculty reached a tentative contract agreement this Friday.The terms of the three-year contract will not be made public until all part-time lecturers vote to ratify the contract later this month, according to Director of Public Relations Kim Thurler.

The part-time lecturers, represented by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), unionized last September and entered negotiations with the university in February. The university had already agreed to many of their requests prior to Friday's bargaining session, according to bargaining committee member Andrew Klatt, who has taught for 18 years in the Department of Romance Languages.

"Up until now, the negotiations have been incredibly positive," Larry Alcoff, SEIU's chief negotiator for Tufts' part-time faculty, said before meeting with the administration on Friday.

This most recent session was focused on lecturers' financial concerns, which Klatt said had caused friction previously. Part-time faculty members, as the only members of Tufts' staff not to receive raises since a 2008 pay freeze, have taken an effective 11 percent pay cut in real dollars over the past six years. The university initially offered a 2.25 percent salary increase in a Sept. 17 bargaining session, which Klatt said would not stand.

"The negotiations have been congenial until the last meeting," he said. "The reaction from the union bargaining committee was strong."

The union's central demand was "equal pay for equal work," meaning the same payment per class as first-year full-time

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Hnida discusses sexual assault experience in college athletics

BY DANA GUTH
Daily Editorial Board

Katie Hnida, the first woman to ever play and score points in Division I-A college football, visited Tufts last night to discuss her experience with sexual harassment and rape in college athletics. Hnida, who was hosted by the Tufts Athletics Department's Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), spoke to a full audience in the film room of the Steve Tisch Sports and Fitness Center.

The committee introduced Hnida as an active and well-known proponent of female empowerment in sports, as well as a welcome addition to the department's established roster of guests, which they noted has shown a lack of female speakers in recent semesters.

"It was 11 years ago that I started speaking," Hnida said, thanking the audience, which was made up mostly of student athletes, for their attendance. "It all started because I absolutely adored the game of football."

Hnida opened with her experience growing up in a markedly inclusive community in the 1990s, where she was able to join her varsity high school football team as a freshman back-up kicker with little to no difficulty.

"On a whim, I propped up the ball and took a swing at it," she said, describing her first experiences playing football as a 13-year-old. "I spent the night kicking and thought — 'could I ever actually get onto a football field?'"

Hnida added that after some initial "murmurs and laughter" in tryout season, her peers easily adjusted to the relatively rare addition of a female to the high school football team. She said she bonded with her fellow players, earned the homecoming queen crown and was invited to apply for the position of kicker at the University of Colorado.

It was there, Hnida explained, that reactions to her gender on the field turned "sour." She recalled being bombarded with derogatory comments and threats that flew under the radar all throughout her off-season training.

"The [player next to me] said, 'go home prom queen, girls can't play football,'" she said. "I was scared to death. Not only were the guys being verbally abusive with me, but they were also exposing themselves to me starting the second day of practice."

Hnida underscored the disregard for the harassment she experienced while on the team.

"I was so confused because so much of this harassment was happening right out in the open," she explained. "Coaches were witnessing guys reaching between

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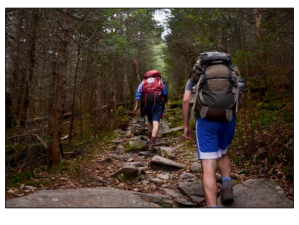
Inside this issue

Tufts students travel to New Hampshire for TMC's Peak Weekend.



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Tufts field hockey earns win at Conn. College, falls to Trinity over weekend.

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Part-time faculty push forward on negotiations

PART-TIME

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lecturers, which they estimated would cost the university approximately $1.5 million per year, according to Klatt. The university's yearly operating expenses totaled $767 million in fiscal year 2013, according to the university's Budget Office.

"Given the context of the rest of the budget, we think it's completely reasonable," said Daniel Weaver, a sophomore who organized Tufts Labor Coalition's (TLC) rally to support the part-time professors before Friday's meeting.

According to a union fact sheet, $1.5 million is 10 percent of what the university spent on just travel for administrators in fiscal year 2013 alone.

"They certainly treat their bigwigs pretty swell, don't they?" Klatt shouted to the crowd at the rally.

Tufts' union, which only includes members of the School of Arts and Sciences, is part of a growing movement across the country in support of what are usually called adjunct professors at other universities. While unions have formed at other Boston-area schools including Northeastern University and Lesley University, Klatt said that Tufts' values make it a logical testing ground for union success.

"It's not just a question of dollars and cents. It's a principled position," Klatt said. "Tufts is very proud of itself, Tufts wishes to be a model and Tufts should show the way."

On Friday afternoon, upwards of 75 students joined union members on their walk past Ballou Hall to 200 Boston Ave., where the final round of negotiations took place. TLC President Lior Appel-Kraut noted that students and parents pay the same tuition and expect the same quality of education for each course, regardless of the professor's part-time status.

"We hope that the administration will see why it's crucial," Appel-Kraut, a sophomore, said. "They are devaluing our education."

Klatt, who teaches Spanish language and translation, said he takes his students' needs as seriously as a full-time professor would and makes a full commitment.

"Some of my most fulfilling classroom experiences have been with part-time professors," Blaine Dzwonczyk, a sophomore who attended Friday's rally, said.

In previous meetings, administrators had told Klatt that, from an economics standpoint, the lecturers were disposable and thus did not require pay increases, according to Klatt.

"You can't hide behind the market," Alcoff said. "That's not an acceptable argument."

According to Klatt, however, the administration had already agreed with union representatives to reduce this "disposability" by providing longer-term contracts — for up to three years — for professors who have spent more than eight years at Tufts. He said that they would also guarantee part-time lecturers a certain number of courses per semester based on the average number of courses taught in the past three years, which is crucial as the lecturers are paid per course. They also resolved the issue of canceled courses, for which professors currently receive only $750 but in the future would be fully compensated for, according to Klatt.

Most lecturers supplement their Tufts salary with outside work — Klatt teaches private Spanish lessons and completes translations — but none of these part-time jobs provided health insurance. Klatt said the university had not yet agreed to a healthcare subsidy prior to final negotiations.

"Currently we are known as 'at-will employees,'" he said. "The university decided that we were the most vulnerable."

Although the extent to which the union's demands have been met remains unclear, a joint statement released by the university and SEIU expressed unilateral support for the proposed contract.

"We recognize the valuable contributions our part-time Arts and Sciences faculty make to the vibrant academic environment at Tufts," Interim Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences James Glaser said in the statement. "We believe this contract reflects our commitment to recognizing those contributions within the overall context of the university's priorities."

Thurler said the university looks to conclude the process in October, after a vote of the entire part-time teaching staff — about 200 people, making up approximately one-third of the instructional faculty.

"Our tentative agreement with Tufts University reflects the institution's long tradition of an inclusive and collaborative environment," Klatt said, declining to comment specifically on the results of Friday's negotiations. "Our negotiations were not always easy, but were always conducted in a respectful, honest and collegial manner with the Tufts administration's committee. We will recommend this proposal to all the part-time lecturers who will vote to approve it later this month. We believe it sets a high standard and balances the university's stated need for flexibility and our goal of winning greater stability and security as members of the Tufts faculty."

Tufts works to distinguish presence on Boston campus

SIGNS

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The project was a collaborative initiative between both the Boston and Medford/Somerville campuses, according to Gregory.

"It couldn't have been accomplished without the collaboration of Community Relations, Tufts Medical Center, Tufts Shared Services and design from Roll Barresi & Associates," she said.

Gregory added that the new signage system is the result of several years of work.

"We needed to plan carefully with the city and pursue approvals with the Boston Redevelopment Authority and with our Chinatown neighbors," she said.

Director of Community Relations Barbara Rubel explained that Tufts collaborated with the surrounding neighborhood on the new signage process.

"We met with a group of Chinatown leaders to advise us on the colors for the banners and the kiosks," Rubel told the Daily in an email. "They patiently reviewed the possibilities we were considering and explained various cultural preferences and taboos. We took their advice."

Harris Berman, dean of the School of Medicine and professor of public health and community medicine, said that the project had been under consideration for several years, but because of costs, action could not be taken until this year, despite its importance.

"Many blocks are encompassed by the health sciences campus, and we want people to know we are there," he said. "Earlier, people didn't notice much, and the fact that the campus is spread out in Chinatown added to that confusion."

Executive Associate Dean of the School of Dental Medicine Mark Gonthier noted that the signs add to the campus' overall cohesiveness.

"The new signage visually knits the campus together, reflecting the collaborative nature of the health sciences schools and professions," he said.

Associate Director of Public Relations on the Boston campus Siobhan Gallagher said she also felt that the signs were an important addition to campus.

"The new signage delineates the Boston campus for people from inside and outside the Tufts community, and I appreciate them every morning on my walk into work," she said.

Gregory added that she has received positive feedback on the new signage system thus far.

"People love the maps," she said. "The clarity about where you are and strategic placement was just what the campus needed."

Hnida encourages student athletes to take collective responsibility

HNIDA

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my legs, rubbing me, feeling whatever they could. One player on the team took to throwing footballs at my head … and the coach responded by saying, 'what do you expect, he's from Texas.'"

Hnida shared with the audience that these abuses led to harassment in elevators and locker rooms, accompanied by threats of getting kicked off the team if she reported another player.

"It was like a living hell," she said. "I couldn't understand why no one was saying anything. Why did these coaches not care? I went into survival mode, thinking this is just something I'd have to put up with."

She continued with this attitude until her rape by a trusted teammate rendered her mentally and physically incapable of continuing her time at the University of Colorado. To this end, Hnida underscored that the assailants are often people the victim knows.

"Back then, we were warned of strangers and alleyways and unguarded drinks," she said. "No one actually addressed real kinds of sexual assault. I'm hoping it is different now, at Tufts and across the nation — the way they talk to you about sexual assault to reinforce that you can speak up and it's never your fault. Instead, I convinced myself it couldn't be rape because it was someone I trusted."

Although Hnida described a long period in her life during which she was haunted by this assault, keeping it to herself, she said she eventually opened up to her loved ones and sought help. Hnida explained that she then went on to play for University of New Mexico, where she found a more accepting community and scored what would be the first points for a woman in NCAA football history.

"We forgot about gender roles," she said. "I like to cook and I like to kick a football. It's that simple."

Before opening the conversation up to questions from the audience, Hnida cautioned the audience against blind loyalty towards teammates taking precedence over the recognition of a real or potential safety risk. Closing the presentation, however, she noted the positive aspects of college athletics.

"Really enjoy this time in your life. There is something so absolutely amazing about being on a team in college," Hnida said. "And if each of us pick one thing wrong in this world and really work at it, get passionate about it … we'll be able to fix a hell of a lot of problems."

Police Briefs

Sign Stealer

At 7:55 a.m. on Oct. 3, an incident of possible vandalism at a residence on West Adams St. was reported to the Tufts University Police Department (TUPD). The owner of the residence stated that a "No Trespassing" sign and a "Keep Off Fence" sign had been removed during the night by an unknown male whom the resident believed to be a Tufts student. The resident noted that a video recorded by his home video surveillance shows an apparently intoxicated male collide with the fence. The person then removed both of the missing signs before leaving. The resident further explained that there was an ongoing issue between him and Tufts students who were living in the same neighborhood. TUPD is unsure of whether the vandal was a Tufts student.

Roomless for the Night

Outside Carmichael Hall at 2:00 a.m. on Oct. 4, a person not affiliated with Tufts approached a TUPD officer and asked whether he could be let into a room in Carmichael Hall. He explained that he was staying with his girlfriend. After being told by the officer that he could not enter someone's room without the resident's permission, he stated that his girlfriend was intoxicated and passed out in the room. After learning this, officers entered the room and the student was transported to Lawrence Memorial Hospital. The boyfriend was not allowed to stay in the room.

Crowded House

A loud party on College Ave. was reported to TUPD at 1:40 a.m. on Oct. 5. TUPD officers, upon arriving, saw 12 to 15 people on the house's front porch. Inside the house, more people were discovered, as well as a bar and loud music. The party was quickly shut down and about 75 people in total were removed.

Public Indecency

At 2:00 a.m. officers observed someone on the President's Lawn. Upon closer investigation, the person was seen to be urinating on the lawn. TUPD officers then told the miscreant to leave and recorded his identification information.

—by Daniel Bottino

Chili Fest brings together public safety personnel from local communities

CHILI

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The menu this year will include old favorites, like Cincinatti Chili, as well as new items, such as Seafood Chili and Turkey Chili, according to Unit Manager of Carmichael Peter Kourafalos. Following the recipes of the chosen chilies, the chefs in Carmichael began to prepare the meal one day in advance of the event.

Approximately 1,200 to 1,400 people are expected to attend the event, which makes catering to everyone's needs and including a variety of opitions extremely important, Kourafalos noted.

Lyza Bayard, communications specialist of Dining and Business Services, explained that the purpose of the event is to serve the people who serve the Tufts community. Dining Services created invitations and flyers reflecting themes of warmth and spice — key elements of both fire and chili — to get the word out among Tufts' public safety groups and their counterparts in Medford and Somerville.

"I have made a concerted effort to find out who we should communicate to and how to do that," she said. "It's worked well, and [the local community] feels invited and welcomed."

There are approximately 30-50 people total working in the creative, planning, publicizing and cooking processes, according to Bayard. She said that a big part of publicizing the event happens through communication between Tufts' public safety groups and their respective counterparts in Medford and Somerville, trying to make the people in the local community feel invited.

The original idea for Chili Fest came from David Kelley, former unit manager of Carmichael, who had developed good relationships with many of the public and fire safety faculty at Tufts, Klos said. He hoped to spread awareness about the work firefighters contribute in the community since two of his sons became emergency medical technicians.

Klos noted that although Chili Fest continues to grow in popularity, it has stayed true to Tufts tradition and has not changed significantly over the years.

SUCH GREAT HEIGHTS

Students collectively summit 48 peaks at annual Peak Weekend

Photography by Ari Schneider Alex Cherry

ALEX CHERRY / THE TUFTS DAILY

TMC members Clare Blackwell, Jeff Wu, Rachel Wahlert and Andrew Wofford begin to descend from the peak of Mount Moosilauke during TMC's Peak Weekend.

BY GRETA JOCHEM
Daily Staff Writer

For three days over the long weekend, Tufts students flocked to the Loj in Woodstock, New Hampshire for Peak Weekend. Sponsored by Tufts Mountain Club (TMC), the annual expedition saw students summit the 48 tallest peaks in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

"So much flannel it's blinding … I didn't get the memo," freshman Stephanie Chen Schmidt said as she first stepped into the Loj late last Friday afternoon.

Hikers were divided into small groups that collectively hike to the top of all 48 peaks. According to Sophie Dulberg, one of this year's coordinators, there were 34 total trips with a range of distance and difficulty. Hikers chose what level of difficulty they preferred. Dulberg and co-coordinator Luke Burkhalter then matched groups with a corresponding hike.

According to Dulberg, the average hike was around ten miles, but there were some as short as six miles and two longer than 20 miles — the Presidential Traverse and the Twins/Bonds.

While the weekend drew many experienced hikers, there were a lot of people with different levels of outdoor experience and involvement in TMC.

"There are people who love TMC and are here representing that, and also a lot of people here who want to try something new," Dulberg said. "It's a good opportunity because there are a lot of other people doing the same."

"I really believe anyone can come, even if [they] usually don't come a lot … everyone has it in them to come out to the Loj and have a really great time," sophomore Erynne van Zee said. "It brings out that wilderness vibe in everyone — even if they don't usually have it."

After a day of hiking, students regrouped at the Loj to play board games like Settlers of Catan, throw frisbees on the lawn and socialize over tea in the living room. Some curled up with books from the bookcase in the Loj that holds a broad collection, with options ranging from old Tufts yearbooks to works of fiction.

The Loj has a distinct feel — walls are adorned with old photographs and vintage signs and the kitchen is filled with mismatched mugs. For dinner this weekend, an enormous pan of vegetable pasta was served after people snacked on "Loj nachos," a crunchy, cheesy dish typically accompanied with a spontaneous twist like chocolate chips or hot sauce.

Peak Weekend, and the Loj in general, offers students a chance to get off campus and get a breath of fresh air, as well as meet new people.

"It's a nice place to get away," sophomore Kate Hirsch said. "I don't think about anything except what I'm doing here."

"I like it because I like that I have a disconnect from technology and revert to simpler things," Dulberg said. "For example, we cook our own food, wash our own dishes … that just doesn't happen at school. I appreciate those things."

Along with events like Newcomer's Weekend and Pass the Torch, Peak Weekend is one of TMC's major annual events. However, it is notably unique because everyone is bonded by a greater purpose: collectively summiting all 48 peaks. Inside the Loj, a whiteboard tracks which of the forty-eight 4,000-foot peaks have been climbed.

"It's one of those weekends where everyone's going for a goal — let's summit peaks, go back to the Loj and bond over what we've hiked," van Zee said. "It has that special energy that coming up to the Loj for a cozy weekend doesn't have."

ARI SCHNEIDER / THE TUFTS DAILY

From left to right, Archie Troxell, Deanna Bessy and Chris Schumacher take a break at the cabin near the summit of Mount Cabot.

ALEX CHERRY / THE TUFTS DAILY

TMC members Jeff Wu, left, and Andrew Wofford embrace at the peak of Mount Moosilauke.

"There are people who love TMC and are here representing that, and also a lot of people here who want to try something new."

Sophie Dulberg

"So much flannel it's blinding."

Stephanie Chen

LAUREN SAMUEL | WANDERERS IN SPACE

A walk to remember

Sometimes in college, disease is rampant and the stress of midterms and a slight cold makes you want nothing more than to retreat home. So, I did. Unfortunately, that ended up forcing me to cancel my intended apple-picking trip and left me here without a weekly adventure (because as much as maneuvering the Greyhound and chilling in dirty Jersey was an adventure for myself, it really is not relevant to the Tufts public.) Luckily, since the weather has just made a turn for the better, an old excursion I had documented from the first warm day of spring is still relevant … Change this to the last warm day in fall and I think we could make this work!

I went for a walk. Now, if someone told me that, I would raise my eyebrows, give them a scoff and a "whoop-di-doo," but this was a really refreshing walk — perhaps the highlight of my second semester. On a brisk Saturday afternoon my friend and I decided to go on an adventure. With limited research he invited me to go to a coffee shop-bookstore that he thought was off Park Street. It wasn't. What it was, though, was a beautiful day and the first weekend the flowers were in bloom along the Boston Common. So, naturally, The "Good Will Hunting" (1997) in us made us spend an hour roaming the premises, observing the tulips, watching the ducks, witnessing a croquet match performed by people in grand corset dresses and soaking in the view from the brownstone houses to the pond. This might sound mediocre, but for a girl who had been waiting on bended knee for the barren, long winter to finally run its course, such beauty was truly magical.

Yet, nothing quite requires you to change your course more than a rumbling stomach. Reminded of coffee, pastries and a place to buy a book that was not the Tufts University Bookstore's basement, we exited the park, put on Google Maps and decided to walk. Once again, a seemingly simple task became an awesome adventure. Though I always knew that Back Bay had a tree-lined path that cut through the city, I don't think I had ever realized how long that path is, how many statues are erected along its walkway or how many beautiful buildings line its sides. As my friend and I took in the fresh, though still slightly chilly April air we also took in the rich history of a city I knew little about and the beautiful architectural sights I never knew existed so easily and so publicly.

By now we had gone from the Common to the Boston Public Library and were awfully close to the mysterious bookstore-coffee shop, which I now know is called Trident Booksellers & Cafe and is relatively popular in the area. Walking down the stairs of the shop I found myself in this adorably bright bookstore. Wooden bookshelves overlaid most of the space directly to the left of the entrance. They had a variety of books from high school classics to hipper reads such as Anton Chekhov, David Foster Wallace and Maya Angelou, and finally to non-narrative aesthetically pleasing coffee table books on topics ranging from basketball to Wes Anderson movies. Upstairs was a beautiful cafe with large windows and interesting sandwiches. After splitting one with my friend and having two cappuccinos, I felt the warmth of a solid day. As I left the shop, with a new book, a full stomach and sore feet, I felt pretty joyful.

Lauren Samuel is a sophomore declaring peace and justice studies. She can be reached at Lauren.Samuel@tufts.edu.

TV REVIEW

'The Flash' puts lighthearted spin on superhero theme

BY GRACE SEGERS
Daily Editorial Board

BAGOGAMES VIA FLICKR

"The Flash" provides a new take on an old theme.

The Flash

★★★½☆

Starring Grant Gustin, Candice Patton and Danielle Panabaker

Airs Tuesdays at 8 p.m. on The CW

"The Flash," which premiered Oct. 7 on the CW, is far from the only superhero show out there. On the contrary, it seems that the superhero theme is nearly ubiquitous on both the small and silver screens. Every summer seems to bring in another crop of comic book films featuring Marvel and DC characters battling to save the world, while studios simultaneously battle to win audiences. Superheroes have successfully conquered the box office, and now the fight has come to television.

Every major network seems to be jumping on the superhero bandwagon, from Fox's Batman-prequel "Gotham" (2014), to ABC's "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." (2013), to the CW's "Arrow" (2012). "Gotham" and "Arrow," which are each based on DC Comic narratives, present dark, gritty insights into the nature of heroism and vigilantism. Even "Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." — which began as an optimistic and lighter take on the Marvel Cinematic Universe — has shifted to an edgier narrative in its second season.

see **FLASH, page 6**

MOVIE REVIEW

GREG SMITH COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

While fans of "The Conjuring" may be excited about the spin-off film, "Annabelle" fails to impress.

'Annabelle' a disappointing follow-up to 'The Conjuring'

BY ABIGAIL FELDMAN
Daily Editorial Board

Annabelle

★★☆☆☆

Directed by **John R. Leonetti**
Starring **Ward Horton, Annabelle Wallis and Alfre Woodard**

Some stories are better left untold, and some subplots are better left in the background. While fans of "The Conjuring" (2013), the film which first introduced audiences to the haunting, evil-eyed doll which stars in its spin-off — might wish otherwise, the tale behind "Annabelle," would have been better left to the imagination.

The movie, which hit theaters on Oct. 3, opens with Mia Gordon (Annabelle Wallis) and her husband John (Ward Horton) navigating the struggles of beginning a life together, and preparing for the arrival of their unborn daughter. After a fight, John gives Mia a rare vintage doll to add to her collection, but the doll's appeal is soon ruined. That night, the couple is attacked by members of a satanic cult — the daughter of their next door neighbors, Annabelle Higgins (Keira Daniels) and her vicious boyfriend. The attackers perish in the assault and Mia and John escape shaken, but relatively unharmed. In their act of violence, however, the cult members succeed in planting something malignant in Mia's vintage doll — something that Mia, with the help of her friend Evelyn (Alfre Woodard), must stop before it destroys her family.

The real problem with "Annabelle" is that it lacks cohesion. The plot is so full of red herrings — both thematic and narrative — that each twist and turn feels random, as if the filmmakers had so many ideas that they ended up throwing several together. At times the film feels like a historical nod to doomsday cults, or a summons back to faith in the church or a critique of domesticity. In reality, however, it is none of those things. Perhaps if "Annabelle" focused on just one or two of these elements, borrowing less from past films, the result would be less generic.

In terms of scariness, fans of "The Conjuring" will likely find this film underwhelming and disappointingly unoriginal. Whereas "The Conjuring" combined traditional stock tricks with

see **ANNABELLE, page 6**

TV REVIEW

'Modern Family' lacks charm, spark in sixth season

BY SAFIYA NANJI
Contributing Writer

Modern Family

★★☆☆☆

Starring Ed O'Neil, Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Julie Bowen

Airs Wednesdays at 9 p.m. on ABC

For religious "Modern Family" (2009 – present) viewers, hopes and expectations were set quite high for the ABC series' sixth season. Yet, within the first five minutes of the premiere, the show had already proven to be a disappointment. Now, only a few episodes into the new season, viewers are already nostalgic for the fresh laughs that were commonplace in previous years. Season six has become every viewer's worst nightmare, with a stale, lackluster beginning.

Last season's finale left the Dunphy-Pritchett clan celebrating Cameron Tucker (Eric Stonestreet) and Mitchell Pritchett's (Jesse Tyler Ferguson) wedding, and over the summer hiatus the newlyweds went on a honeymoon. Fast forward three months and the gang is now back to their everyday lives — all except for Cam, that is. He's still stuck in the lovey-dovey honeymoon phase. Mitch has now begun to get tired of the endless back rubs, flowers and workday visits and now wants Cam to move on to the next phase of their relationship. Mitchell's sister Claire (Julie Bowen), however, tells him to keep that to himself.

Meanwhile, the Dunphys have been enjoying an accident-free, blissful, nearly perfect summer, in which nothing has gone wrong. But when Alex (Ariel Winter) comes home early from her service trip, the family dynamics start to unravel. Elsewhere, Jay (Ed O'Neil) and Gloria (Sofia Vergara) butt heads when Jay no longer feels the need to dress in presentable clothes. Gloria decides she will have none of that and she decides to dress as a slob in order to prove her point.

see **MODERN, page 6**

EVA BATALLA-MANN |
HOW TO MAKE A MIXTAPE

The infinite abyss

Last week I went to go see the new Bill Hader and Kristen Wiig lovechild of a movie, "The Skeleton Twins" (2014). The dramedy follows the fraught but beloved relationship between a brother and sister who are both disillusioned with the current state of their lives. The pivotal moment of the film (probably only in my opinion) consists of Milo (Bill Hader) valiantly lip-syncing "Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now" (1987) by Jefferson Starship and dancing through the living room in an attempt to cheer up Kristen Wiig's character, Maggie, until she eventually joins in, leading to a finale with high kicks, modulations and emotion-filled facial expressions. This perfectly crafted, funny and sweet musical moment brought a whole new dimension to the movie and left me moved and happy, cheeks tired from smiling so much.

This made me think of movies that utilize music to emphasize a moment or a feeling that often sticks with you long after the film is over. I think of "The Breakfast Club" (1985) when "Don't Forget About Me" (1985) by Simple Minds is played as the gang's manifesto is read, "the criminal" throwing his fist victoriously up in the air. Or the dancing scene in the library when Anthony Michael Hall plays "We Are Not Alone" (1984) on the record player as every kind of eighties dance move is demonstrated. After I saw that movie for the first time, I tried tirelessly to emulate Molly Ringwald's sassy stairwell dance, but I never quite got it.

Eighties teen movies did a good job of incorporating music scenes that echoed the spirit of what it is to be young. There are still few things less romantic than John Cusack holding a boombox playing "In Your Eyes" (1986) outside Ione Skye's window in "Say Anything" (1989), and the "Twist and Shout" (1961) scene in "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" (1986) conjures up pure exuberant joy. And even as Duckie (Jon Cryer) gives his all to Otis Redding's "Try a Little Tenderness" (1967) in "Pretty in Pink" (1986), Andie (Molly Ringwald) will not give him the time of day.

These moments can be profound, funny or terrifying. The "Hip to Be Square" (1986) scene in "American Psycho" (2000) is chilling and, unfortunately, established the film's rather morbid connection to Huey Lewis and The News. Conversely, there are moments of comedic gold in "Stepbrothers" (2008) and "Anchorman" (2004) , which feature a cappella renditions of "Sweet Child O' Mine" (1987) and "Afternoon Delight" (1976), respectively. In the former, an overbearing stage dad almost gets his family into a music-induced car accident; in the latter, a motley crew of anchormen sing together, trying to understand what love feels like.

A more profound example of a music-centric scene is the moment in "Shawshank Redemption" (1994) in which Mozart's 18th-century composition, "Letter Duet," resonates throughout the prison yard, shining a light on an unjust place void of beauty and grace. Morgan Freeman's voice-over says that he didn't know what the women were singing about and didn't want to know. Instead, he preferred to think that they were singing about "something so beautiful it can't be expressed in words and makes your heart ache because of it."

Music in film can create those moments in life that we feel but don't exactly know how to express in words. Screaming into a New Jersey rock quarry while wearing plastic ponchos in the rain turns into standing on the edge of "the infinite abyss" with the addition of Simon and Garfunkel's "Only Living Boy in New York" (1970) in a scene from "Garden State" (2004). Holly Golightly (Audrey Hepburn) sits on the fire escape softly singing "Moon River" (1962) with a scarf around her head, cutting past her cocktail party persona and showing that she is a vulnerable, sincere person just as scared of getting hurt as everyone else.

Where words leave off, music picks right back up.

Eva Batalla-Mann is a junior majoring in Peace and Justice Studies. She can be reached at eva.batalla_mann@tufts.edu.

'Annabelle' overreaches, does not succeed

ANNABELLE

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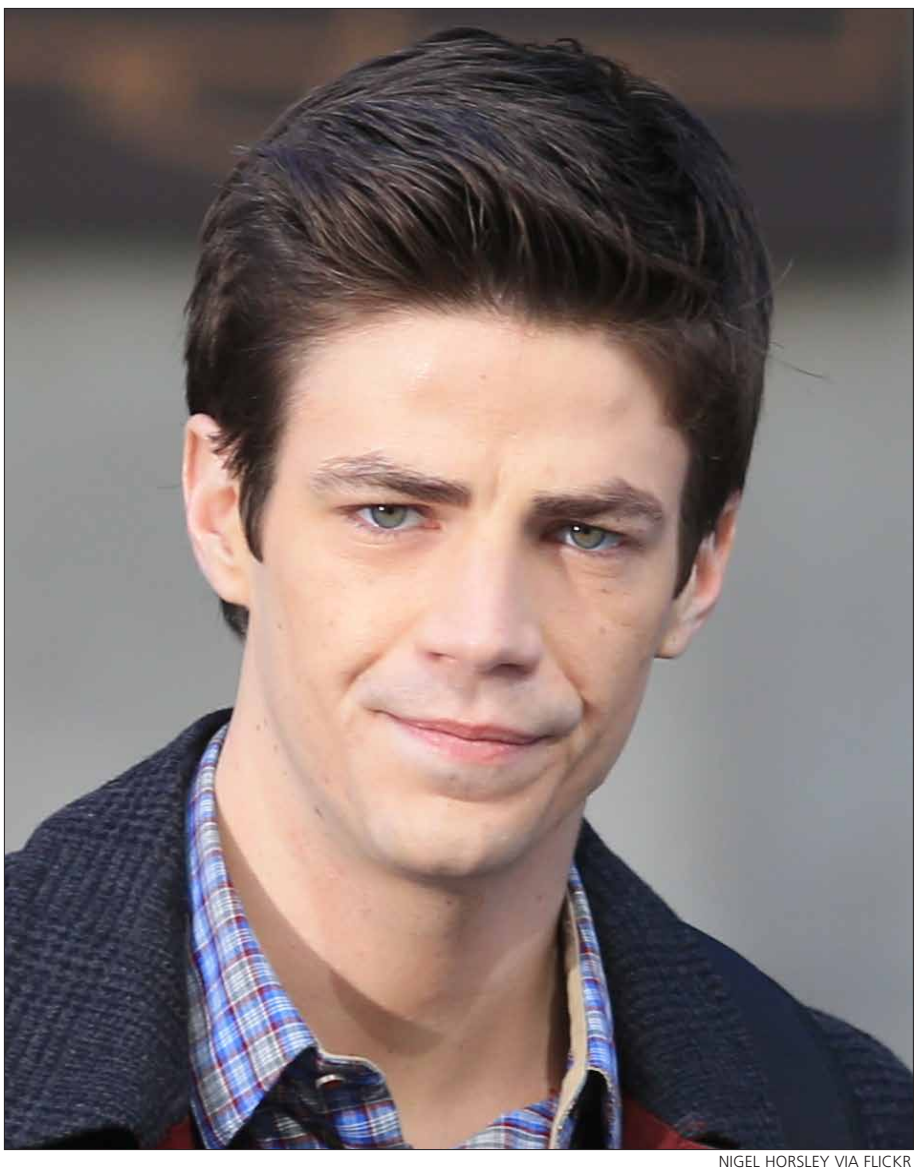
genuine suspense to make a compelling film, "Annabelle" relies too much on short, over-strained tension scares to impress horror fans.

"Annabelle" also somewhat neglects the aspect that made the original Annabelle story so creepy in the first place — the doll itself. Admittedly, the doll is pretty scary-looking, and there are plenty of shots where audience members find themselves simply staring at Annabelle, waiting for her to suddenly come alive. But the main focus of "Annabelle" is curtailed to the demon that manipulates the doll and the lingering spirit of the Higgins' crazed daughter. The emphasis on these two figures obliterates the eerie conception of the doll as an inanimate figure with a mind of its own and instead turns it into a mere vessel, controlled by less mysterious, less intriguing forces.

Possibly as an attempt to recapture Annabelle's creepiness, the filmmakers do an interesting job of turning all things domestic and motherly into something menacing and dangerous, drawing inspiration from films like "Rosemary's Baby" (1968) to do so. Mia's sewing machine mysteriously starts running on its own. The oven turns on by itself and starts a house fire. Mia's baby stroller, astonishingly similar to Rosemary's iconic black pram, suddenly becomes prone to being hit by a truck. All these things seem an ironic twist on Father Perez's (Tony Amendola) words to Mia — only mothers share God's blessed gift of creation.

The film has many faults, but its casting, for the most part, is not among of them. Wallis gives an admirable performance as the story's frightened but endearing protagonist, especially when one considers how much time she spends alone onscreen independently sustaining the film. Horton, as Mia's husband, also does a decent job with the role given to him. Woodard's character is somewhat disappointing, but the actress can't really be blamed; beyond some very superficial character development, Evelyn is nothing but a pure "Magical Negro" archetype. (Yes, from the very moment that Evelyn explains that God let her survive a fatal accident because He had another purpose for her, one can be sure that that purpose will have something to do with saving the white family at the center of the film.)

In short, those still looking for a Halloween season horror that will leave an impression should hold out for a little while longer. Don't waste your money; just rent "The Conjuring" instead.



NIGEL HORSLEY VIA FLICKR

Grant Gustin proves he can carry "The Flash" in the pilot episode.

Grant Gustin shines in new CW series

FLASH

continued from page 5

While each of these series presents comic book-inspired sets and action, they are still grounded in a darker portrayal of reality.

This is why "The Flash" is so unique. The pilot episode gives a refreshing, almost naïve look at a man confronting newfound powers. The show centers on Barry Allen (Grant Gustin), a charming young forensic investigator who was struck by lightning at the same time that a particle accelerator malfunctioned. The lightning (and particle accelerator science-y magic) not only puts Barry into a coma for nine months, but also gives him the powers of super speed.

In this day and age of emphasis on realism in superhero stories, Flash's origin story is a little improbable and even ridiculous. However, the premise is made more believable by Gustin's performance — he plays Barry as a likeable, ordinary guy who just happened to get superpowers. At one point, Barry looks at his power-enhanced physique and asks, "Lightning gave me abs?" It's this type of tongue-in-cheek humor, along with Gustin's excellent delivery, which makes the show worth watching.

"Flash" also promises overlap with "Arrow." Barry Allen was introduced in the second season of "Arrow" last winter, and the premiere episode of "The Flash" featured a cameo by "Arrow" hero Oliver Queen (Stephen Amell). While it's clear that the two shows will continue to be intertwined in some capacity, thankfully the first episode of "The Flash" proved that Gustin can hold his own as a series lead.

Starting strong, "The Flash" presents some serious moments and mysteries in the first episode. Barry's mother was killed in unknown circumstances and his father was blamed for the murder and sent to prison. Overall, however, the show has an incredibly hopeful tone. Barry takes giddy runs to test his power, and the audience feels entertained and amused as he discovers his limits (or lack thereof). It's nice to have a hero be a genuinely good guy, devoid of excessive brooding and giant personality flaws.

In terms of plot, the pilot is incredibly heavy on exposition and lighter on actual storytelling. Obviously, at this point the writers are more focused on introducing each character than providing those characters with meaningful interactions. For instance, the viewer already knows that Barry has feelings for his childhood friend, Iris West (Candice Patton), because there are several trope-filled moments in which the two discuss their relationship. Barry's interactions with the science team that assists him with his powers is similarly stilted, although the character of Harrison Wells (Tom Cavanagh) provides an intriguing interpretation of the traditional superhero mentor.

For now, the relationships on "The Flash" remain very one-dimensional. Hopefully this is just a pilot episode side effect, and the dynamics between characters will develop and improve as the season continues.

"The Flash" is, in a word, enjoyable. It isn't groundbreaking television, but it provides a solid hour of light, almost joyful, entertainment. In a television lineup of brooding superhero stories, it's hard not to be charmed by the unabashed fun of "The Flash."

ABC's beloved family comedy slips

MODERN

continued from page 5

Despite these mini-dramas, the season's new material lacks a certain energy. The anticlimactic premiere was thought to be resolved once the show got back into a groove, but now three episodes in, the spark of the show has not been reignited. The jokes seem predictable, forced and mediocre at best, the characters have become stagnant and little is happening in terms of plot development. Viewers were left chomping at the bit in anticipation of the new season after Cam and Mitchell's fourth-time's-the-charm wedding, but so far these expectations haven't been met.

The current sluggishness may stem from the fact that since the children have gotten older, the writers of "Modern Family" have not taken care to develop the characters further. For example, helicopter mom Claire has started to become redundant because her main function was looking after the kids, a one-dimensional role the writers gave her. Yet there are so many possibilities for ways to further develop the character. Future episodes could include more scenes between Claire and Gloria or explore the former's relationship with her brother, Cam. Other topics to alleviate the tedium could include Phil (Ty Burrell) and Jay's awkward encounters, Lily's (Aubrey Anderson-Emmons) development or even Manny's (Rico Rodriguez) quirks.

Ultimately, three episodes is far too long to wait for a show to pick up steam, especially considering the fact that "Modern Family" is not new to comedy or television.

Although "Modern Family" has been following a downward spiral, one can hope that it's only temporary — after all, the writers have so many options for new directions in which to take the show and its various characters. Hopefully, the creative minds behind "Modern Family" will take note of their current boring trajectory and spruce up their content. The fourth episode of the new season will air today and maybe, just maybe, the show will catch a light and start a new fire. Fans and critics alike can tune into ABC to see if "Modern Family" will break free of its funk and get back to being a memorable show that audiences can continue to love and adore.

RUBENSTEIN VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

Ty Burrell and Julie Bowen's characters could use more development in the new season.

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EDITORIAL

Tufts must practice what it preaches: fair labor

Tufts administrators came to an agreement with Tufts part-time faculty yesterday. The part-time faculty, as part of Adjunct Action, a greater Boston adjunct organization supported by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), have been negotiating with the administration since the spring. Part-time lecturers earn significantly less than other professors but there is no difference in the quality of their classes. Students earn the same credit for a class taught by a part-time professor as by full-time professors. Some part-time professors have to work at multiple universities to make enough money to pay bills. A life of low pay, weak job security and a lack of benefits can be combated on college campuses if students are willing to join faculty in challenging the university to do more.

Students have a great deal of power in determining the university's priorities. As major sources of revenue for the university and as the largest segment of the community, students can affect the final outcome. Members of the Tufts Labor Coalition (TLC) have been advocating for workers on campus for multiple semesters, and they deserve credit and support for providing an example of the pressure students can apply on the university. We commend students for rallying last Friday before negotiations between part-time faculty and the university, and applaud the tentatively positive negotiations results.

Although these negotiations have ended, we hope that the student body will show equal, if not more, support to Tufts' janitors in the coming weeks. The custodial provider, DTZ, has previously been accused of breaching their contracts with their workers by not giving them enough hours, which put them in a precarious position in terms of pay and benefits. Now, however, the university is forcing DTZ to make significant staffing cuts in a money-saving effort. As it is, janitors work every day to keep the university running and are not treated the way they deserve, often spending long hours for little pay. If the university cuts the number of janitors it employs through DTZ, janitors will be far more overworked and underpaid. This proposed move, while benefiting Tufts, comes at the human cost of these highly vulnerable Tufts employees. The Tufts community should stand up to this unfair move.

Tufts students are lucky to have a community of professors and workers who provide us with the space and education to help us get where we want to be. While we're here, however, we must stand in solidarity with them. We must make an effort to show that we, the Tufts community, support those without whom the university could not subsist. Tufts must practice, not just preach, social justice.

JENNIFER LIEN

OFF THE HILL | UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Carbon dioxide levels rise with problem

BY KIRK HENDRICKS
The Daily Wildcat

While some pollutants in the atmosphere have been reduced, including — thankfully — lead concentrations, carbon dioxide levels continue to rise as world oil demand and use increases, causing worldwide climate change that no one is truly willing to stop.

Electric cars still cannot compete with the affordability and mileage of gas-powered vehicles, and even if they could, it would take years to eliminate the gas-powered vehicles on the road today. Oil use is here to stay.

Cars are the most difficult source of pollution to handle since there is no one specific source to deal with. Millions of cars traverse highways all across the United States daily emitting greenhouse gases. To reduce a factory's emissions, one could simply add a chemical scrubber to a smokestack, but cars require a more imaginative solution.

This is where direct carbon capture comes in. If it's futile to eliminate gas-powered cars or outfit each and every one of them with a high-tech pollution-capture device, then the next step is to take carbon dioxide directly out of the atmosphere, no matter how it got there.

However, a device on a large enough scale to affect the global atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide is, at best, extremely expensive and, at worst, impossible to implement with current technology.

Xubin Zeng, an atmospheric sciences professor, specializes in several areas of research, including climate modeling. According to Zeng, there is a lack of technology and research on direct carbon capture in the area and there is no economically viable mechanism able to have an effect on a global scale.

Even if the technology was available, the problem becomes how to store the captured carbon and how to power a carbon capture machine without fossil fuels, which would simply release more carbon into the air.

Carbon Engineering (CE), a Canadian-based company beginning to commercialize direct carbon capture, believes that it has solutions to these objections. Having developed and created several prototypes for both capturing carbon dioxide in a factory setting and directly from the atmosphere, the company believes it can use wind as a source of power to avoid polluting the atmosphere. The technology then sequesters carbon into an inert solid that can be returned to the ground. While this sounds well and good, it doesn't acknowledge the major problem with such a promising technology: Air is a public good.

The problem is not so much with creating the technology or doing the research. If a company such as CE sets its collective mind to developing carbon capture, carbon capture will happen.

The problem is how humans deal with a resource that everyone can pollute but no one needs to clean up. While scientists work on the technology, the world's population needs to take responsibility for what's been put into the atmosphere over hundreds of years.

This is an overarching problem when dealing with global environmental issues. No one has to do anything. Dumping trash in the ocean and killing coral reef communities, overfishing international waters and endangering fish populations or adding pollutants into the atmosphere and perpetuating climate change — all of these things are not easily regulated.

No country or individual is held accountable because these things belong to everyone. Carbon capture could easily act as a major component of a solution to climate change and seems to be on the horizon technologically, but it — and every other climate solution — is not economically viable as of yet. Until it is, people must step up and actually be held accountable for preventing pollution and cleaning up what already exists.

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OP-ED

Sex: the myth of masculinity

ANONYMOUS

On a recent Saturday night, I found myself in an uncomfortably familiar place … not contributing to my end of a sexual partnership. Despite the numerous legitimate reasons I was quickly able to surmise — a new and untrusting partner, a night of festivities, etc. — I still found myself feeling frustrated and inadequate. I don't think it is much of a stretch to say that strong sexual performance is a tenet in almost any conception of manliness and thus anxiety of satisfying that standard underlines a lot of my and many other men's troubles. So what? Am I not a "man?" Am I inadequate because I failed to have an erection with a strange, naked woman? Deep in the bedrock of our societal subconscious, I think we are trained to say yes, but that could not be further from the truth.

For college students, at least those to my knowledge in the heterosexual population, I think men fall into three major categories: those with healthy sexual experiences and mentalities, those with the Superman-Pornstar, f–k-everything-as-hard-as-I-can-like-the-guy-in-the-video approach and those, like me, who are to some extent limited by their anxieties. To the immediate liberal arts counterpoint — yes, those lines are often blurred and often vary depending on context. But, for the sake of simplicity, I am staking my claim that at least 50 percent of the Tufts male population, if they are honest with themselves, can relate to the feelings of the above described "Pornstar" or "Pussy."

I hope the first reaction readers have to that statement is to mentally turn down past and future judgments because sexual discomforts, in whatever form they manifest, are just as much the rule as the exception. I hope the second reaction would be to ask: Why are there so many stresses around sex, such an inherently pleasurable activity? I of course credit it largely to myths of masculinity. While easily dismissed as too large an issue to tackle, when we look deeper we see that we are all to blame in perpetuating toxic notions. An easy proof is my above choice of the word "pussy" as a counterpoint to the Superman-Pornstar, which will rightfully offend some but nonetheless communicates my point.

An even stronger example for me is my fraternity. I have often argued with my brothers that a large appeal of fraternities to new members is the idealization of upperclassmen and the pursuit of their image of masculinity. Of course, fundamental to the vast majority of fraternity conceptions of masculinity is sexual performance. Joining as an insecure freshman myself, I was struck by the incessant and broadly advertised conversations about getting laid. Even more unhealthily, it is almost always discussed in the context of conquests, often "blackout" conquests, rather than pleasurable, intimate and respectable experiences. This is so abundantly clear that fraternity rush criteria, an embodiment of social currency and value systems, has been stereotypically and rather accurately defined by the "chill-to-pull ratio." And of course, members with sexual anxieties, despite the fact they are perpetuated by the very institution they are a part of, do not pull and are not chill.

As a brief aside, it is not truly my objective to provide answers for those guys currently yelling to themselves, "I am not alone." However, I do want to assure them that you absolutely are not, and as I tell myself: With time, patience and an openness to risk taking, it will all work out. And I will add that having talked to several sexual partners — all who have valued my sensitivities — be very glad you are not the Pornstar type.

Having said that, I will state my sincere objective in this op-ed: to proclaim that I am a man. I find the expectation of manliness that you must possess the ability to f–k women indiscriminately is perverse, as if we are all animals in the crudest sense. I find the double standard around men and women is ridiculous — that it is more understandable when a woman has sexual inhibitions with the underlying notion that women are supposed to be the sensitive and guarded ones, despite the obvious fact that, with slight degrees of variation, we are all governed by the same biological interests. And I find the notion that a man who doesn't perform must be gay is abhorrent, as the gross misjudgment and the implied offense toward homosexuals reflects a fundamental impediment to a more open-minded society, accepting of the spectrums of sexual identities. Again, I will express my hope that readers recalculate their judgments and ask why and how we got here.

I want to conclude with two important points for future thought. First, if I brushed over other important sensitivities and issues, it was not my intention to be inconsiderate or dismissive — there is only limited space to create a cohesive argument and I have only limited experiences I feel comfortable writing about. My hope would be to have this foster a more open dialogue about other issues such as the assumed relationship between sexual and gender identities or the influence ideas of masculinity play in the over 300,000 incidents of rape that occur annually on American college campuses. For example, under the influence of alcohol, in a stereotypical pathology, is it possible that the alleged Supermen roaming campuses "misinterpret" the meaning of the word "no," as they use the conquests of women to validate their sense of desirability and power?

Some of you may come to the end of this piece and be determined to speculate on who I am, but I would sincerely ask that you respect my anonymity. Instead, question the issues I raise and how their solutions can foster an improved community where we sympathize with our peers of diverse experiences and fight the harm caused by societal misconceptions of masculinity.

OP-ED

Support our janitors

BY SAM BOAS, ANNA GAEBLER AND BEN HOSKING

CAROLINE GEILING / TUFTS DAILY ARCHIVES

Each and every day, Tufts students have the privilege of waking up to a beautiful campus. After strolling across the quad to class, we sit through lecture in academic buildings, grab lunch in the dining hall, hang out in the Campus Center and at the end of the day, return to the dorm we have learned to call home. With all the hustle and bustle of life at Tufts, it becomes easy to forget the people who make all of these spaces neat, clean and conducive for us to learn.

Tufts janitors are valued members of our community, but they often go unnoticed and unseen. Without their hard work day in and day out, Tufts would not be the institution it is. We owe a great deal to these devoted individuals.

Unfortunately, Tufts administration is failing to treat janitors with the respect they deserve. According to union representatives, the administration seeks to cut costs by firing janitors through its contractor, DTZ. Tufts will not announce these cuts publicly or all at once — they plan to cut janitors quietly and slowly without drawing significant attention.

As students, we cannot let these cuts go unnoticed. By keeping these details hidden, the administration is not giving janitors the respectful treatment they deserve. These often-unseen members of our community contribute to making Tufts the university we all know and love.

Already, few janitors receive full-time benefits and all of them are overworked and paid low wages for long hours. The proposed personnel cuts will only exacerbate these problems. The remaining janitors will have to take on a larger load, and there will not be nearly enough staff to properly clean the campus and dorms. The cuts would result in each janitor having to clean one or more entire building by themselves per day.

Most importantly, these cuts would devastate the lives of laid off janitors and their families. After leaving the Tufts campus, these individuals do not just disappear — they go home to husbands, wives, sons and daughters whom they work so hard to support. If these individuals are laid off, we as students have the privilege to go on about our daily lives, our greatest worry being a midterm next week. But we cannot maintain dignity as members of the Tufts community while allowing the livelihoods of these workers to be snatched away from them.

We, the Tufts community, must stand against the administration. We must stand up for our valued janitors. We must demand that Tufts executives find other ways to cut costs than decimating the livelihoods of hardworking members of our community. If you want to take a stand with us, come learn more and meet the janitors at Tufts Labor Coalition's Support Our Janitors Luncheon, on Friday, Oct. 17 from 1-3 p.m. in Distler Lobby in Granoff Music Center.

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SOMEONE ELSE AND POOJA SIVARAMAN | NEW YORK STYLE DELHI

When hairy met Sally (Hansen)

First off, we have to thank everyone who submitted to our Google Doc. You are all our reason to keep writing. An overwhelming theme in the questions was hair. While Pooja has perfect Indian hair — the kind that weaves and wigs are made of — I have curly, unruly hair. After trying numerous products and treatments, I have settled on a method that works for me: the Chi. My relationship with my Chi straightener is my longest relationship and by far my healthiest one. I use it every day — I am clearly the dependent one in the relationship. Some people actually think that my hair is naturally straight! Although it is a product that has almost burnt my house down more times than I care to admit, it is a love affair I don't plan on ending. Anyways, let's get into the questions!

Dear NYSD, Do you hate Beyoncé for how impeccable her weaves are? (Does she have a weave or is it real?)

Rebecca: While I can't say much about Beyoncé's weave, after seeing her in concert last winter, I can say that her hair is flawless. She dances around in the limelight with her hair down and doesn't even break a sweat! While I may not hate Beyoncé for her effortless hair, I am definitely jealous. If you're reading this Beyoncé, you should email me with your stylist's information. I do not know if Bey has a weave, a wig, tracks or natural hair but one thing is for sure — I'll have what she's having.

Dear NYSD, Is it true that growing an Afro and maintaining it in North America is difficult because of the weather?

Rebecca: While I am unsure about how one with an Afro might deal with the North American climate, I can attest to the fact that humidity is hair's worst enemy. The only thing worse than muggy air is rain, which those of us in Somerville have had a lot of this season. I would venture to say not only is maintaining an Afro in North America challenging, but having a *good* hair day of any kind is also nearly impossible.

Dear NYSD, Are eyebrows considered facial hair?

Pooja: Yes. If you have seen the recent wave of Internet frenzy over pictures of celebrities without eyebrows, you'll know that not only are eyebrows considered facial hair, they are also a face's best asset. Having spent some very awkward pre-teen years with a uni-brow, I learned the importance of eyebrow grooming the hard way. Like Rebecca's relationship with her Chi straightener, I have such with the scarce amount of threading salons in the vicinity — to the extent that I've had numerous discussions about psychological implications of eyebrow thickness and the mathematical derivation of the perfect arch degree. So to answer your question — not only are eyebrows facial hair, they are an outright way of life.

Dear NYSD, How can someone wear multicolor nail polish?

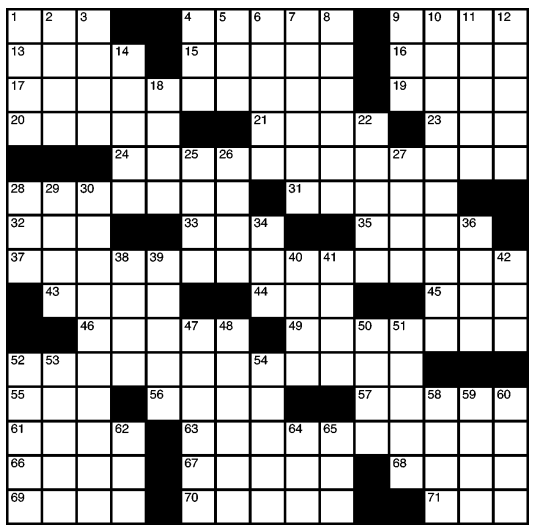
Pooja: The way some take up meditation, physical exercise and sleeping as methods of relaxation, I have done so with nail art. While others battled the stress of freshman year with the comfort of good music and human companionship, I did so with Essie's Fall color collection. So, to answer your question, there are many ways one can wear multicolor nail polish. Ever since moving off campus, I have had far too much time with cable television, especially pointless reality TV shows. So, dear reader with single-colored nails, I suggest you watch Oxygen's new show "Nail'd It" (2014) for an educational yet utterly pointless exploration of manicure techniques. It may make you feel like a wastage of life, but at least you'll be well-primped.

That's all we have for this week! Please submit your questions, queries and complaints to our Google Doc!

Rebecca Solomon and Pooja Sivaraman are both juniors majoring in economics. Rebecca can be reached at rebecca.solomon@tufts.edu, and Pooja can be reached at pooja.sivaraman@tufts.edu.

OP-ED POLICY The Op-Ed section of The Tufts Daily, an open forum for campus editorial commentary, is printed Monday through Thursday. The Daily welcomes submissions from all members of the Tufts community; the opinions expressed in the Op-Ed section do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Daily itself. Opinion articles on campus, national and international issues should be 600 to 1,200 words in length. Op-Ed cartoons are also welcomed for the Campus Canvas feature. All material is subject to editorial discretion and is not guaranteed to appear in the Daily. All material should be submitted to oped@tuftsdaily.com no later than noon on the day prior to the desired day of publication; authors must submit their telephone numbers and day-of availability for editing questions. Submissions may not be published elsewhere prior to their appearance in the Daily, including but not limited to other on- and off-campus newspapers, magazines, blogs and online news websites, as well as Facebook. Republishing of the same piece in a different source is permissible as long as the Daily is credited with originally running the article.

CROSSWORD



By C.C. Burnikel 10/15/14

ACROSS
1 Tell tales
4 Animal that can learn limited sign language
9 Barely open
13 OS X-using computer
15 Invisible vibes
16 Tiny parasites
17 Project windup
19 Accident scene figs.
20 Fit to be tied
21 Romance writer Roberts
23 Baltimore Ravens mascot
24 Subject of an antique auto owner's quest
28 Wheaties box figure
31 Take turns?
32 "Just like I said!"
33 Ambient music innovator Brian
35 Take it easy
37 Me, for one
43 Hannity of talk radio
44 "Well, of course!"
45 Washington Wizards' org.
46 Hits a high fly, in baseball lingo
49 "Supposing ..."
52 Badlands or Death Valley
55 Brouhaha
56 "The Lion King" queen
57 Kmart section
61 "If you don't mind ...?"
63 "Just in case" strategy, and a hint to a hidden letter sequence in 17-, 24-, 37- and 52-Across
66 Slaughter with 2,383 career hits
67 Vulgar language?
68 Place in order
69 "Cream of" serving
70 Overplay the part
71 Malibu mover

DOWN
1 "For the Game. For the World" sports org.
2 Words while anteing
3 Loud noise
4 Graduation flier
5 "What?"
6 Tabriz citizen
7 Bricks-and-mortar workers
8 Watch closely
9 Yard sale?
10 "The Big Bang Theory" star
11 10-Down, e.g.
12 Pedometer button
14 Winter air
18 Strings for Orpheus
22 Last Olds model
25 Cal.-to-Fla. route
26 Rowlands of "Hope Floats"
27 Hammer head
28 Nile Valley danger
29 Concert souvenirs
30 Clinking words
34 Antique
36 Big brass
38 Storytelling nom de plume
39 Scallion kin
40 "__ Free": Minute Maid spec
41 Three-toed bird
42 Anti vote
47 Pave the way for
48 Peace, in Arabic
50 Mouse catcher
51 Bypasses, as online ads
52 Designates
53 Fictional Sicilian town in a Hersey novel
54 Milk: Pref.
58 Walk with effort
59 "Good Morning America" co-anchor Spencer
60 Tolkien tree giants
62 DSL offerer
64 First-aid aid
65 Cézanne's one

TUESDAY'S SOLUTION

A	B	B	E	Y		A	H	A	B		S	C	A	B
C	R	O	N	E		R	U	L	E		H	O	B	O
T	A	R	T	S		B	R	E	A	K	O	P	E	N
A	V	E	R		B	O	O		T	A	U	T	L	Y
S	O	D	A	J	E	R	K		E	L	L			
			P	A	L			C	R	E	D	I	T	S
H	U	E		P	O	L	A	R			E	R	I	E
O	N	T	H	E	W	A	T	E	R	F	R	O	N	T
P	I	T	A			N	E	W	E	L		N	T	H
S	T	A	N	D	E	E			T	E	A			
			D	E	A		H	A	R	D	B	A	C	K
F	A	I	R	E	R		I	V	Y		D	O	I	N
U	N	D	E	R	F	I	R	E		S	U	R	G	E
S	E	E	S		U	S	E	R		O	C	T	A	L
S	W	A	T		L	U	S	T		S	T	A	R	T

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JUMBLE

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

DARFU

KAYLE

VISLEW

MABCEE

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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

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.

A: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AROMA PRINT DECODE POLLEN
Answer: To get their fancy new church spire, they — PAID TOP DOLLAR

LATE NIGHT AT THE DAILY

Want more late-night laughs? Follow us on Twitter at @LateNiteAtDaily

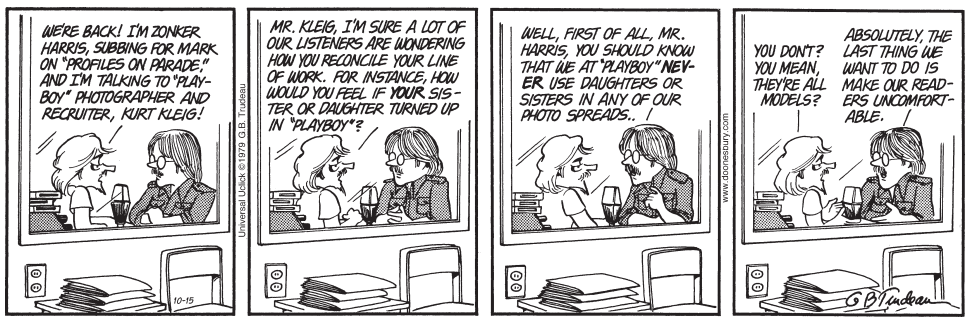
Andrew: "Do you want to start dating before the end of October so I can dump you for a pumpkin spice latte?"

Lily: "Are you asking me out?"

Please recycle this Daily.

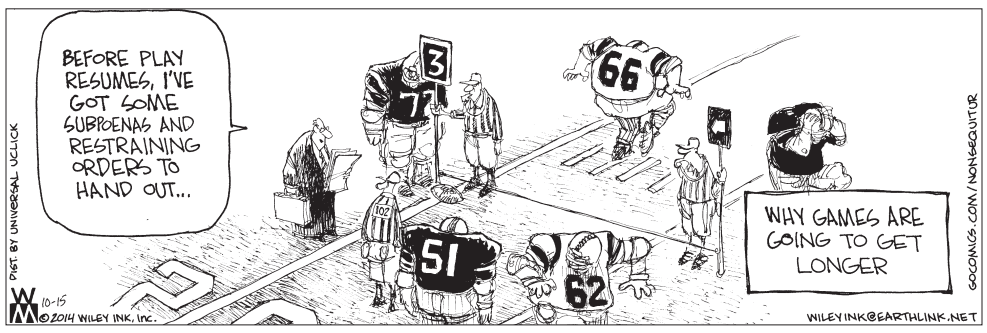
DOONESBURY

by Garry Trudeau

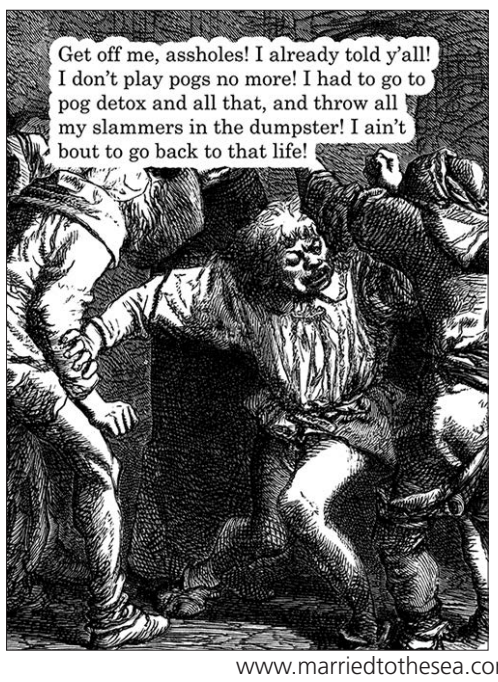


NON SEQUITUR

by Wiley



MARRIED TO THE SEA



www.marriedtothesea.com

SUDOKU

Level: Making your own pumpkin spice latte.

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

Tuesday's Solution

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

Wanted	*Wanted*	*Wanted*
$$SPERM DONORS WANTED$$ Earn up to $1,500/month for less than 5 hours' time. Help families through California Cryobank's donor program. Apply online: SPERMBANK.com	FREQUENT MIGRAINE HEADACHES? Medvadis Research is seeking volunteers for new treatments for migraine headaches. Confidential. Compensation paid for your time and travel. Referral bonuses. Please inquire about our other clinical trials. 72 Mount Auburn Street, Watertown, MA, 617-744-1310.	BABYSITTER WANTED 2 children, flexible hours from Monday to Friday, duties include helping with homework, meals, errands, and picking up from school. $25/hr. Contact g.saatchi@live.com

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CHRISTIE WU / THE TUFTS DAILY

Senior forward Brittany Norfleet runs up the field during a 4-0 victory at home over Wesleyan on Sept. 16, 2014.

Jumbos prepare for important conference games

FIELD HOCKEY

continued from back

The day before, Tufts came out much stronger against Conn. College. The Jumbos claimed an early lead in the 13th minute that they maintained throughout the game. Junior midfielder Dakota Sikes-Keilp, last year's leading scorer, received a ball off of a penalty corner and sent it home for her second goal of the season.

The rest of the first half was relatively quiet and the score remained 1-0 going into halftime. Early in the second half, though, junior midfielder Rachel Terveer added to Tufts' tally, knocking in a cross from Zarrella to put her team up by two. She increased that lead to three 14 minutes later when she redirected a ball in the circle into the back of the net. The goals were her third and fourth of the season.

Late in the second half, freshman midfielder Mary Travers knocked in a rebound in front of the cage for her fourth goal of the season and the Jumbos' fourth and final goal of the day. With under a minute and a half to play, a late Tufts defensive slip-up led to a two-on-one against Tufts senior goalkeeper Bri Keenan and resulted in a goal for Conn. College preventing a shutout for Tufts.

"I think the difference [between the games] was how strong we came out to begin the game," junior defender Alexandra Jamison said. "Connecticut College is a really good team but from the first whistle we played our game and put pressure on their defense and were able to score first. Against Trinity, we seemed to come out a little more flat at the beginning and allowed ourselves to get behind pretty early, which is hard."

The win was an important one for Tufts, which needed to bounce back and stay in the top tier of the conference. Admittedly, the Conn. College was 1-4 in conference play going into the game and are now 1-6. But as an indication of the difficulty of playing in the NESCAC, they are 3-1 in non-conference games.

"Every team is strong in the NESCAC so it really just comes down which team comes more ready to play on game day," said Artz. "We want to focus on the basics: strong fundamentals and fast-paced hockey."

The weekend's results bring coach Tina McDavitt Mattera's squad to 8-3 on the season and 4-3 in conference play, putting them in a tie for fifth place with Williams. The final four games of the season — three of them against NESCAC foes, including Williams and first place Bowdoin — will be crucial in determining Tufts' seed going into the postseason tournament.

"We're going to work on stepping up and dropping back as a unit and really taking full advantage of our system," said Jamison. "We're also focusing on doing all the little things right all over the field. Both defense and offense are total team efforts."

The next challenge for Tufts will be a 5:00 pm showdown this evening against No. 9 Wellesley on Bello Field. Though it won't count for conference standings, it will be huge in building or undercutting the team's momentum going into the final games of the season.

Jumbos hope to climb standings in final four games

WOMEN'S SOCCER

continued from back

would have liked to send [the game] into overtime because I feel that given one more chance we could have put [the game] away, and have that game end in a win."

The Camels held a slight advantage over the Jumbos in shots, notching 14 to the Jumbos' 11, and were able to take advantage of opportunities under pressure, a problem that has plagued the Jumbos' attack over the past two weeks.

Arguably the turning point of the season was the Sept. 23 game against Suffolk, when senior forward Alex Farris suffered a season-ending injury. The Jumbos have gone 2-4 since then after a 4-0-1 start to the season. The attack line, missing the leadership and experience of Farris, has scored just three goals since then and remained scoreless in all four losses. The team remains positive, relying in part on their sophomore defenders — Pius and Stefanie Brunswick — to initiate the attack.

"[The scoring chances] have been slipping by, but I don't think it's any indication of [how we play] moving forward," Pius said.

The Jumbos had a chance at redemption on Sunday against Trinity, but a slow start put them in an early 2-0 hole from which they were unable to recover from.

"The loss on Saturday really pushed us, and motivated us," Pius said. "Instead of waiting a whole week until Saturday, [we had] the opportunity to improve and prove ourselves within 24 hours. Unfortunately we didn't get the result on Sunday. We're headed into the later half of the season and every game is so crucial to our standings in the NESCAC."

The Bantams scored two goals within a minute of each other. In the 27th minute, sophomore Laura Nee came down the right side of the field and played a ball into the box. The ball ended up on the foot of Karyn Barrett who netted her team-leading sixth goal of the season. Just a minute later, Nee scored herself goal, sending the ball sailing past a Tufts defender and sophomore goalkeeper Eileen McGarry.

"They held on to the ball better and we didn't do as great of a job playing our possession game," sophomore midfielder Robin Estus said. "We struggled in that half to keep the pressure on [Trinity] and get the ball back [and] we were turning the ball over a lot. Coach [Martha Whiting] was disappointed in the way we played, but also positive in terms of pushing on. We had two options — to give up or to keep fighting. In the second half we really stepped up — unfortunately it was too late."

Trinity senior tri-captain Elisa Dolan scored an insurance goal early in the second half and held off any Tufts comeback attempts late in the game.

The Jumbos have just four games left in the regular season, three of which are against conference opponents. Despite its recent slump in the NESCAC of late, the team is confident that there is still time to change its fate before the postseason arrives.

"It's the quality of the competition," Pius said. "I don't think our mentality has really changed, it's a matter of need[ing] to capitialize on the chances we get. When we play quality competition, the chances are fewer. At the beginning of the season, we had the chances to get warmed up against teams that aren't as highly ranked. We had like 20 opportunities and we were able to convert on a lot of them. When you play teams that are really evenly matched [and] both have talented players, it comes down to heart. We're not intimidated at all by anybody. We are a talented team [and] we have the potential to win in any given situation. It's really about who shows up that day."

TYLER MAHER | BEANTOWN BEAT

The Pats are back

If there were any lingering doubts about the New England Patriots, who just a few weeks ago looked hopelessly lost at sea, there aren't any now. Not after New England's decisive victory in Buffalo on Sunday, a game the Pats really needed to win coming off their biggest win of the season against the previously undefeated Bengals. Against the Bills, with whom they shared a tie for first place in the AFC East, the Patriots continued to roll with a 37-22 win. They were especially dominant in the second half, piling on 24 points to put the game away.

After a scoreless first quarter, the Patriots kicked it into gear as the game developed into a shoot-out. Though New England's ground game was stifled by Buffalo's suffocating run-defense — the Patriots managed just 50 net rushing yards in 27 plays (a meager 1.9 yards per carry) — Tom Brady had by far his best game of the season. For the second week in a row Brady was in top form, completing 27 of 37 pass attempts for a season-high 361 yards and four touchdowns.

With Brady picking apart Buffalo's defense, the New England offense was once again the prolific point-scoring machine that Patriots fans are used to seeing. After scoring just 80 points through their first four games (32 of which came via Stephen Gostkowski), the Pats have ripped off 80 over their past two against formidable defenses. Much of their newfound success can be attributed to an improved offensive line, which has done a much better job limiting mistakes and protecting their signal-caller. Given more time to survey his options, Brady has been able to limit his own miscues as well. He had more turnovers (five) than touchdowns (four) through the first four weeks, but over the last two he has six scores against zero turnovers. Brady looks like an elite quarterback again rather than a handsomer Ryan Fitzpatrick.

In fact, nobody on New England turned the ball over, which is pretty impressive considering Buffalo forced 10 turnovers through Week 5. Meanwhile, the Patriots defense induced three turnovers, recovering two fumbles and intercepting Kyle Orton. Those giveaways proved costly for Buffalo, leading to 13 New England points.

After slogging through September, the Patriots look like a new team in October, which is to say they resemble the Patriots of old. It's been fun watching them play mostly error-free football over the past couple weeks, but nobody's perfect. Their offensive line has been better, to be sure, but on the whole is still having issues (looking at you, Nate Solder). Their defense doesn't scare anybody and just allowed 299 passing yards to Eli Manuel's replacement. Given that New England hasn't even faced an above-average quarterback yet, it's scary to think how they'll fare against one. We'll find out in November, when the Pats will be tasked with stopping Peyton Manning, Andew Luck, Matthew Stafford and Aaron Rodgers.

For now, New England can look forward to an easy home matchup against another hapless QB. The resurgent Pats should be able to maintain their momentum against the 1-5 Jets tomorrow night. New England's formerly competitive division rivals have dropped five in a row, are winless on the road and should be easy prey for Brady with their soft secondary. New York's Geno Smith-led offense doesn't pose much of a threat, either. Expect another blowout, and expect that New England will extend its first place lead over the rest of the division.

Two weekends ago the Patriots proved they weren't washed-up yet. On Sunday they reaffirmed that, establishing themselves as a team to fear going forward. Tomorrow night that team merely has to show up.

Tyler Maher is a senior majoring in economics and English. He is also a Sports Editor at the Tufts Daily. He can be reached at tyler.maher@tufts.edu

Sports

tuftsdaily.com

WOMEN'S SOCCER

NICHOLAS PFOSI / THE TUFTS DAILY

Senior co-captain midfielder Carla Kruyff fights for the ball during a 2-0 loss to Amherst on Sept. 27, 2014.

Jumbos' struggles continue with two weekend losses

BY ALISON KUAH
Daily Editorial Board

Tufts entered its two-game weekend schedule with a must-win mentality against NESCAC opponents. In two away contests, Tufts fell just short against Conn. College, conceding a late-game goal to lose 1-0, and found themselves on the wrong side of a 3-0 loss to Trinity. With the pair of losses the Jumbos fall to 6-4-1 on the season and just 2-4-1 in the NESCAC, tying them with the Bantams for eighth place in the 11-team conference.

WOMEN'S SOCCER
(6-4-1 Overall, 2-4-1 NESCAC)
at Hartford, Conn., Sunday

Tufts	0	0	—	0
Trinity	**2**	**1**	—	**3**

at New London, Conn., Saturday

Tufts	0	0	—	0
Conn. College	**0**	**1**	—	**1**

On Saturday, the Jumbos traveled to Hartford, Conn. to play the Conn. College Camels. Facing the harshest conditions of the season thus far with temperatures in the low 50s, Tufts was unable to score in front of Conn. College's homecoming crowd. With the win, the Camels' 5-1-0 conference record launches them into second place in the NESCAC, tied with the Williams Ephs.

Tufts junior Allie Weiller broke free in a one-on-one situation with the Conn. College keeper, sophomore Bryanna Montalvo, for Tufts' best chance to break the scoreless stalemate in the 82nd minute, but Montalvo sprinted out off her line and dove to make a punch save. Conn. College forward Annie Higgins, a sophomore, scored off a corner kick with a header just a minute later. The team then held off Tufts' attempts to take the game into overtime.

"Conn. College was another rainy game [and] it was their homecoming," sophomore defender Alexa Pius said. "We came out a little bit slow but it was an even match; we both had our chances and it was one of those days that anything can happen. I really

see WOMEN'S SOCCER, page 11

FIELD HOCKEY

Jumbos split weekend road trip

BY MACLYN SENEAR
Daily Editorial Board

The Jumbos' NESCAC road trip to Connecticut this weekend had mixed success. Tufts traveled down to Connecticut on Saturday and beat Conn. College 4-1 before falling to Trinity 3-1 on Sunday.

FIELD HOCKEY
(8-3 Overall, 4-3 NESCAC)
at Hartford, Conn., Sunday

Tufts	0	1	—	1
Trinity	**1**	**2**	—	**3**

at New London, Conn., Saturday

Tufts	**1**	**3**	—	**4**
Conn. College	0	1	—	1

The win against the Camels was a much-needed, albeit expected one for the Jumbos coming off of a tough loss the weekend before to the Middlebury Panthers. Sunday's loss to Trinity, which had just broken into the national top 20 early that week with a No. 17 ranking, was an upset for No. 7 Tufts.

Both the Jumbos and the Bantams came out Sunday afternoon tired from games the day before, but the Bantams started strong in the opening minutes. Striking early, Trinity took a 1-0 lead in the ninth minute when freshman forward Brenna Hobin knocked in a rebound off a shot from senior co-captain Sophie Doering.

The first half continued with both teams taking runs and trading shots, though the Bantams held the advantage and maintained ball possession for longer.

The Trinity advantage continued into the second half, and Tufts went down by two goals when the host's junior forward Olivia Tapsall scored 15 minutes into the period off another assist from Doering.

The Jumbos got on the board a few minutes later, though, when sophomore forward Dominique Zarrella drove home an unassisted goal for her team-leading seventh goal of the season. Despite this, Tufts struggled to sustain their offensive pressure and could not get anything more going against Trinity.

To seal the win, Hobin found the back of the net again with just over two minutes remaining to put the hosts up 3-1, which would be the final tally.

Throughout the game the Bantams looked more in control than the Jumbos, finishing with 25 shots, 13 on goal and six penalty corners, while holding the Jumbos to 8 shots, only three of which were on goal, and two penalty corners.

"It comes down to possession of the ball," sophomore forward Annie Artz said. "Too many turnovers in transition hurt us. Trinity is a great team with strong defensive sticks. We needed to step up to the ball more and just in general maintain possession especially in our attacking 25."

see FIELD HOCKEY, page 11

INSIDE THE MLB

Exploring what makes playoff teams win

BY MORRIS GREENBERG
Contributing Writer

As the divisional series of the Major League Baseball playoffs came to an end, sportswriters around the country found themselves following a simple narrative: The Goliath-like Angels, Tigers and Dodgers had been eliminated, while the David-like Royals, Orioles, Cardinals and Giants moved on.

But there's more to this story than just some dumb luck from plucky upstarts. While the postseason lends itself to unexpected outcomes, some teams are simply more likely to win playoff games. And with 162 games as a sample size, it's worth taking a look at what metrics might predict postseason success to explain how these small-market teams have done it.

In 2006, Nate Silver and Dayn Perry conducted an excellent study of this sort in "Baseball Between the Numbers". Using a statistic called Playoff Success Points (PSP), Silver and Perry found that closer performance, pitcher strikeout rate (K%) and team defense had the greatest impacts on a team's playoff success.

If we take these findings and look at this year's playoff teams, we can better understand this year's results, to an extent. The Royals and the Orioles were the best two teams defensively this year (61.1 and 54.8 Ultimate Zone Ratings (UZR), a number that quantifies how many runs were saved or given up through fielding, for the year, respectively), while the Cardinals were the third best NL team in UZR (after the Reds and Braves).

Additionally, Orioles' closer Zach Britton, Giants' closer Santiago Casilla and Royals' closer Greg Holland finished third, fifth and seventh respectively in Win Probability Added (WPA) among closers, and were the top three closers of any playing into October. The Athletics and Nationals saw the impact of a less than stellar closer in the playoffs this year, as both teams lost a game in extra innings after blowing ninth-inning leads.

However, the Royals, Orioles, Cardinals and Giants are not strikeout teams. The Royals and Orioles actually were the two worst playoff teams by far in terms of strikeout percentage, while the Dodgers, Angels and Nationals were the best playoff teams by this measure.

Why is the strikeout not as large of a factor in the postseason today as it was in Silver and Perry's study? To be fair, these are five-game series, so there is plenty of randomness. Just pointing to randomness, however, probably is not the complete story. K% in recent years has increased dramatically, and strikeouts now happen more than 20 percent of the time, as opposed to 13 percent of the time 40 years ago and 17 percent of the time 10 years ago. Since the strikeout is more common now than in the past, perhaps the value of every additional strikeout has diminished.

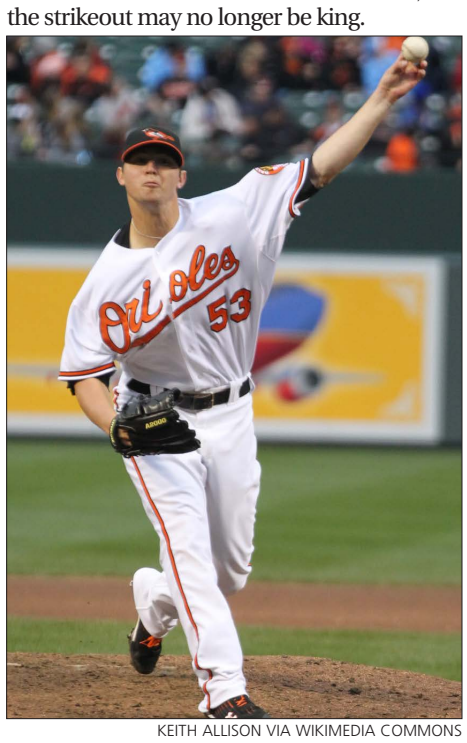
Another potential reason for why the strikeout is not as valuable now is that the distance between teams' ability to strike players out has narrowed. If the gap between the best and worst strikeout team has decreased, then maybe the characteristic difference between the best playoff strikeout teams and the worst is much smaller now. The strikeout, therefore, may have less pronounced of an impact on winning in the postseason. We can measure such potential changes in the distribution of strikeout talent in terms of variance of team strikeout rates.

2003 and 2001 had the highest variance in team K% (0.054 percent and 0.048 percent) in the sample Silver and Perry used. In 2003, the Cubs, Marlins, Yankees and Red Sox were the top four playoff teams in terms of strikeout rate, and were the four teams to make the championship series. They beat the Athletics, Giants, Twins and Braves, who had much lower strikeout rates. In 2001, the Diamondbacks, Yankees, Braves and Mariners played in the championship series, while the Astros, Indians, Athletics and Cardinals lost in the first round. It may seem surprising that the Mariners advanced with the lowest strikeout rate of those playoff teams, but the 2001 Mariners had the highest regular season winning percentage of any team since 1954 (0.716). They were so stacked everywhere else that they were able to overcome a small K% to beat the Indians three games to two and subsequently get pummeled by the Yankees four games to one, despite having 21 more regular season wins.

On the other side of the spectrum, 1977 and 1991 had the lowest strikeout percentage variance (0.012 percent and 0.015 percent respectively). The playoff format was different in 1977 and 1991 from today, as only four teams made the playoffs. In 1977, the Yankees (12.5 percent) won the World Series over the Dodgers (15.2 percent), while the Phillies (14 percent) and Royals (13.9 percent) lost in the pennant round. In 1991, the Twins (14.4 percent) won the World Series over the Braves (16 percent), while the Blue Jays (15.8 percent) and Pirates (15.2 percent) lost.

This year the variance of K% across the league was 0.028 percent. In years where the gap between the best and worst K% teams is narrower, K% just does not matter as much in the playoffs. It is likely that other factors with a larger variance across the league impact the game more in the playoffs in those years. Middle relief production tends to be highly variant today. As the Royals won three consecutive extra-inning games and the Orioles came back in two of their three games against the Tigers in the eighth inning, maybe dominant middle relief is the newest indicator of future success for playoff teams.

Yogi Berra once said, "You can observe a lot just by watching." Although the common observation from just watching this postseason might be that the most successful teams in the regular season are not necessarily the most successful ones in the playoffs, the reality is that the game may be changing and past signals to playoff success (K%) may now just be noise. Time will tell if this remains true, but the strikeout may no longer be king.



KEITH ALLISON VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Baltimore closer Zach Britton finished in the top three closers in the league going into October.