

A Tradition All Their Own



**THE CREATION AND REDEFINITION OF THE
TUFTS CANNON AND NAKED QUAD RUN
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR**

Research Statement



The changes of the Cannon tradition and origins of the Naked Quad Run reflect conflict, protest, and unrest in students' response to the Vietnam War on campus. The creation and redefinition of these student traditions reflect students' behavior and the tangible connections student traditions hold on the Tufts student experience.

Research and Resources



- Tufts Digital Collections and Archives
 - Primary Sources
 - ✦ Russell Millers' Card Catalog
 - ✦ Periodicals
 - The Tufts Observer, Criterion, Weekly, Daily, The Tufts Jumbo, Tufts Magazine, Tufts Journal, and Tufts Hilltopper
 - ✦ Buildings and Grounds Department Records (correspondence)
 - ✦ Facilities Management Records (images) correspondence)
 - ✦ Office of the President Records (correspondence)
 - ✦ Yearbooks
 - ✦ Images
 - Historical Materials Collection
 - Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy Records
 - Thomas Hart Photograph Collection

Research and Resources



- **Secondary Sources (DCA)**
 - Jumbo Footprints
 - Light on the Hill, Russell Miller
 - Concise Encyclopedia of Tufts History, Anne Sauer
 - Tufts University, College History Series, Anne Sauer
 - Diary of a Dean: Campus Revolution, Elizabeth Ahn Toupin

 - Campus Life, Horowitz
 - Sex in the Heartland, Bailey

 - Additional sources – Vietnam War, campus violence and protest, campus traditions, women’s liberation, Antiwar movement

The Cannon



- Cannon given to Tufts in 1956
 - ✦ Replica cannon from the USS Constitution
- Cannon given to Medford as a gift for raising money to restore the USS Constitution
- Found in city storage – exposed to rapid degradation
 - ✦ Emma Gray-Francis
- Symbol of military presence on campus and honoring war



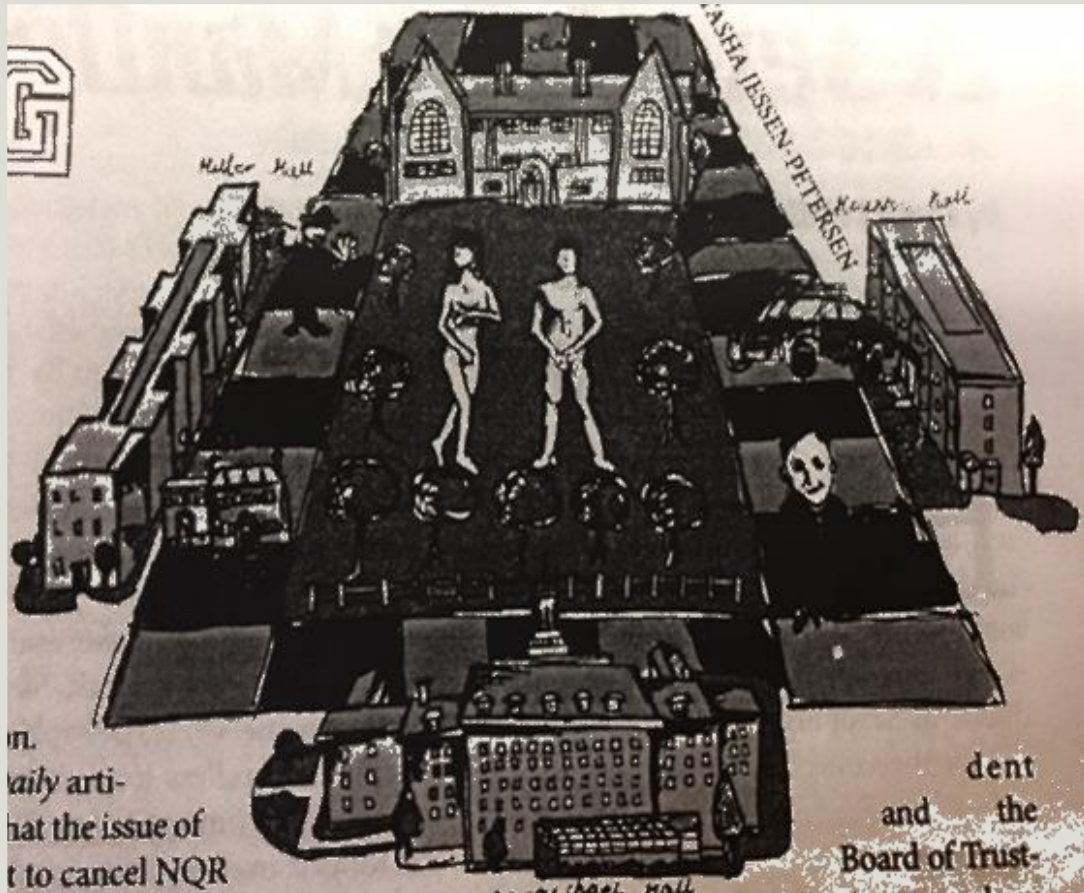
- Cannon was removed in the late 1960s for repairs to its oak base and protection from student protest
 - ✦ Students protested cannon – viewed as instrument of war
- Cannon returned to campus in 1977 (Requested by alumni)
- Cannon painted for the first time in the Spring of 1977
 - ✦ To protest the Marcos family, dictatorship of the Philippines







The Naked Quad Run



Women Take on the Run



- **Women's Movement**
 - Sexual equality and autonomy
- **Student Responsibility Movement**
 - Sexual freedom and social control
 - Abandonment of 'loco parentis' and curfews
- Seven women ran the NQR for the first time in 1987.
 - ✦ Debbie Brown



“We are fighting so hard for equality. If we don't have the guts to run around the quad naked with the guys, what do we expect?”

- *Tufts Daily*

Creation and Redefinition



- Cannon began as a symbol of military success and war
 - Redefined into a cannon painting tradition, as a result of students' reaction to protest and the Vietnam War (Anti-war Movement)
 - ✦ Cannon taken on by student culture as a student tradition
- NQR
 - Created in response to the Student Responsibility Movement and Vietnam War - women's participation in response to sexual equality and autonomy
 - ✦ Originated as a student tradition within student culture

Continuing the Research



- **Medford Historical Society Records**
 - Condition and transport records, documentation on authenticity
- **Time lapse of Cannon painting**
 - Layers of paint and designs overtime
- **Interviewing Alumni who have painted the cannon**
- **Future preservation of Cannon**
 - Looking into why the University has not sandblasted the cannon again – last time was 1996
- **Interviewing Naked Quad Runners**
 - Alumni
 - Finding out more about the run's origins (through original runners)