

'The Circus' is entertaining, well executed and that's the issue

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'Blue Mountain State' movie provides laughs with its satirical absurdity
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Jumbos head to conference championships with good chances of rising in NESAC
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Craig Steven Wilder discusses universities, racism and slavery at Africana Distinguished Lecture

by **Catherine Perloff**
Assistant News Editor

MIT history professor Craig Steven Wilder was featured as this year's Africana Distinguished Lecture at Breed Memorial Hall last night, where he explored the relationship between racist visual imagery, protest and the American university system. The event was sponsored by a total of nine departments and centers, including the Africana Center and the Center for the Study of Race and Democracy (CSRD).

Before the lecture, the CSRD offered a bus tour of the Tufts Black Freedom Trail. The tour included several sites that reflect the racial history of Tufts and Medford, including the Royall House, Slave Quarters and other sites connected to abolitionism and the African



SOFIE HECHT / THE TUFTS DAILY

see **AFRICANA LECTURE**, page 2 Africana Center's Distinguished Lecturer Craig Wilder on Feb. 11, 2016.

Chris Swan assumes role as associate dean of Tisch College

by **Isha Fahad**
News Editor

Chris Swan stepped into his new role as associate dean of the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service on Feb. 1, succeeding former associate dean Miriam Nelson.

Swan explained that he assumed this position after working at Tufts for 21 years first as an assistant professor in the department of civil and environmental engineering, then serving as the department chair and later as the associate dean in the School of Engineering for undergraduate curriculum development.

Swan said he was incredibly excited to take on his new role at Tufts.

"When I officially started [Feb. 1], I had that kid-in-the-toystore kind of feeling," he said. "For me, it was a shining moment where I had a willingness and desire to make [Tisch] a cornerstone for Tufts...It feels great to be involved in this over the last week, and getting to see the impactful work of Tisch on the community. Meanwhile, I am also in touch with the School of Engineering, and am looking forward to maintaining a connection with them in the future as well."

Late last year, Nelson announced that she will be taking a new opportunity as deputy chief sustainability officer and director at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) beginning in March, according to a Dec. 3 UNH press release.

According to Dean of the Tisch College Alan Solomont, following this development, Tisch College began looking for people at Tufts who would be suitable to take Nelson's position. Ultimately, Tisch College settled on Swan, who was well-suited for the role based on his previously demonstrated commitment to Tisch College and his expertise in service learning, Solomont said.

"Chris is an expert and believer in the value of service learning," he said. "He knows Tufts, knows Tisch and has the perfect combination of skills, values and commitment."

Solomont explained that Swan has had a long history with Tisch College. The new associate dean has been associated with Tisch College since its inception in 2000 and, during his time at Tufts, he has also been involved in other positions across campus pertaining to education, research

see **SWAN**, page 2

Norovirus outbreak strikes campus

Health Services sent out an email last night at 6:56 p.m. about an emergence of norovirus has occurred this week on campus.

Norovirus can be spread through contact with an infected person, contaminated food, water or surfaces, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Symptoms of the highly-contagious intestinal virus include vomiting, diarrhea, nausea and body aches. The virus can also be spread via contact with fecal matter.

"Norovirus is not usually dangerous, but unfortunately it can make you feel miserable," the email, written by Medical Director of Health Service Margaret Higham and Dean of Graduate and Undergraduate Students John Barker, read.

The emergence of the virus follows a norovirus outbreak that occurred last semester leading up to Homecoming Weekend, according to an Oct. 26, 2015 article in the Daily. At the time, approximately 20 athletes from Tufts football and field hockey teams fell ill, causing them to be absent from practice. According Higham, the virus spread to 13 field hockey team members after a trip the athletes took to Wesleyan University.

Norovirus is characterized by various symptoms, including vomiting, diarrhea and sometimes headache and muscle ache. The disease is highly contagious among people in close proximity and can be acquired through ingesting food contaminated with fecal matter. While the outbreak that occurred during the fall semester mainly affected Tufts football and field hockey teams, the email noted that the current outbreak does not appear to have a common source. The email added that there is no evidence that the outbreak is related to food service on campus.

Hank Weinstock, Executive Director of Tufts Emergency Medical Services (TEMS), said that TEMS has witnessed cases of the outbreak today. Weinstock, a junior, could not confirm how many cases have been reported to TEMS at this time.

"We've seen a little bit of it with our patients, and we were told by Health Services that they're seeing a bunch of it," he said.

He recommended that students regularly wash their hands vigorously with soap and warm water.

"Wash your hands a lot and know that Purell does not kill the virus," Weinstock said.

-Arin Kerstein

Tufts ends negotiations over sale of historic Medford Gates House after local resident disapproval

by **Liam Knox**
Assistant News Editor

Tufts halted the sale of a historic piece of property at 21 Touro Ave in Medford this week, after the city's residents expressed concerns over potential consequences at a Jan. 26 meeting of the Medford Zoning Board of Appeals (MZBA).

Built in 1840, the property is locally known as the "Gates House," named for its first owner, Gardiner Gates, a businessman, according to the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

According to Tufts Real Estate Director Robert Chihade, Walnut Hill Properties, Tufts' real estate company, had made a tentative agreement to sell the property to contractor Carl Crupi with the caveat that no damage be done to the Gates House, and that efforts to preserve and refurbish it, which had been undertaken by Walnut Hill since it

see **GATES HOUSE**, page 3



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Africana Studies Distinguished Lecturer discusses his book, university racism

AFRICANA LECTURE

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American community of West Medford, according to the program's brochure.

"Tufts itself sits on the middle of what was once a slave plantation," H. Adlai Murdoch, director of Africana Studies, said. "This is not generally known or as well known as it should be. Part of our goal with this will be to bring this [knowledge] more into the public domain and discuss what some of its ramifications are."

CSRD Interim Director Kendra Field explained the tour's purpose later during the lecture, in her introduction of Wilder.

"Students are here for four years and then they go, so we're really interested in building historical memory and institutional memory as well," she said.

At the lecture, Wilder discussed his book, "Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America's Universities."

The topic is particularly relevant given recent demonstrations questioning university institutions named after racist or slave-owning figures of American history, including protests to rename Calhoun College at Yale University and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

"From the very beginning of the American college [system] the relationship between colleges, conquest, and slavery is set," Wilder said.

While opponents often object to student protesters on the grounds of tradition, Wilder said that racist imagery and institutions are rooted in protests.

"A lot of the visual culture of the American campus in fact has these deeply historical and racialized themes [and] many of them began as protest themselves," he said.

Wilder spent much of his talk focusing on Dartmouth College. He explained that in 1934, Mexican muralist José Clemente Orozco painted a provocative mural at Dartmouth which implicitly criticized the detrimental effects of industrialization, colonization and the conquest and degradation of indigenous people that helped create America. The Dartmouth community of students and parents protested what it argued was a threat to its traditions, he said.

In response, Dartmouth alumnus and artist Walter Humphrey persuaded the university president to allow him to paint what would become Dartmouth's Hovey murals, he said. The paintings were a series of racist drawings of native Americans, which depicted indigenous people as a drunken, sexually-loose and unenlightened. Wilder spoke about this example to explain how this racist imagery, which would later be protested by Native American students at Dartmouth in

1971, was actually a form of protest against a more progressive trend.

"The rebel yell of the American academy [against protesters] is tradition," Wilder said. "That's ridiculous. Much of [Humphrey's counterprotest] was racist protest."

The CSRD also used Wilder's talk as an opportunity to talk about Tufts history. At the event's venue, a photo gallery displayed notable moments in Tufts racial history.

The lecture was followed by a student-led dialogue and dinner about race, class and college campuses today at the CSRD, according to the Facebook event.

Wilder ended his lecture with a challenge to students and faculty at universities across the country.

"Every university on this planet has an obligation to have an open, honest dialogue about its history," he said. "Colleges and universities are the last places that we should be afraid of our own past."



SOPIE HECHT / THE TUFTS DAILY

An archival exhibit of the public history of slavery and freedom in Medford that was created by CSRD students is displayed in Breed Memorial during the Africana Center's Distinguished Lecture with author Craig Wilder on Feb. 11

New associate dean points to student engagement, service learning as top priorities

SWAN

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and community engagement. Swan was among the very first Tisch College faculty fellows, Solomont said.

"He was a member of Tisch College, and had a secondary appointment here for many years," Solomont said. "Swan leads quite a number of programs here including Engineers without Borders."

Solomont believes that because of Swan's previous experiences at Tufts, he is respected by both the faculty at Tisch and at the engineering department.

Swan said that in his new role, he is looking to help further develop Tisch College's mission and values. He emphasized the importance of student engagement at Tisch College.

"Their feedback on how the process can be changed or improved here at Tisch is extremely valuable," Swan said. "I look forward to having more in-depth discussions with students in the future ... It is a good way to learn about what is happening around Tisch by gaining different inputs and ideas and therefore to make [Tisch College] a better place ... for the Tufts community."

According to Solomont, Dean of Engineering Jianmin Qu also thought of this appointment as a great way to solidify the relationship between Tisch College and the School of Engineering.

Gabrielle String, a Ph.D candidate in Mechanical Engineering, explained that she first met Swan while conducting her master's research on Engineers Without Borders programming, the group Swan advises.

String said she thinks that Swan's appointment as associate dean is a "great step for both him and Tisch College."

"Dr. Swan helped to advise an Active Citizenship Summer International project that I worked on a few years ago, and also helped advocate for a project in our department to pair graduate students with local high school science classrooms," String told the Daily in an email. "I've always admired Prof. Swan's advocacy for student learning through service programs, and think his work in this area is so critical, particularly for engineers, who by definition will become public servants."

String said she had a very positive experience working with Swan as an engineering student.

"From my time working with the Engineers Without Borders team, I remember that Chris was always good about giving students their space to problem solve and innovate on their own, and was very supportive of the team taking ownership of their projects," she said.

String explained that she's watched Swan speak at a number of engagement events for Tisch College, and has found that people unfamiliar with Swan's work were still very excited about what he said about service learning, engineering and developing responsible and engaged engineers.

"For the five years that I have been here at Tufts, I've known Chris as a proponent of Tisch College and of getting students in engineering and graduate students involved in the programs at Tisch," String said. "I'm excited to see how he helps to lead Tisch's programming and develop new visions for the impact that Tisch has on both the Tufts community and the communities in which Tufts serves."



SOPIE HECHT / THE TUFTS DAILY

The new Associate Dean of the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service.

Walnut Hill responds to Medford resident discontent over property sale

GATES HOUSE

continued from page 1

purchased the property in 1980, he continued after the sale. Crupi planned to divide the property into three lots, with the intention to build a new house on each side of the Gates House without damaging the historical property, Chihade, who also serves as Walnut Hill's general manager, said.

He explained that after discussing the sale at length over the course of four meetings, the Medford Historic District Commission had approved the transaction based on the provision that the Gates House would be preserved.

Despite this agreement, Chihade noted that the sale was terminated this past week due to public opposition expressed at the MZBA meeting.

"It was pretty evident that people were opposed, so we asked [Crupi] to withdraw the application to the zoning court, which [the contractor has] done," Chihade said.

Chihade said Walnut Hill had made the agreement with the intention of listening to community input.

"The way we sculpted the deal was so that residents had a voice, and they did," he said. "We explicitly sought feedback from the community."

Residents' concern over the aesthetic impact of Crupi's building plan fueled much of the opposition, according to Medford resident Tim Powers, who testified at the MZBA meeting.

"If you build these properties on this land, you're detracting from the whole historic aura of the [Gates] House," he said to the Medford Transcript.

According to Chihade, Walnut Hill owns 80 properties in the area, most of them residences for faculty and graduate students, along with a few community amenities like the Danish Pastry House. Chihade said that Walnut Hill had been trying to sell this piece of real estate because it no longer made economic sense for the university to continue to hold on to the property.

"It's a big house that's far from campus, not sought after by Tufts affiliates and it runs expenses. So it seemed time to liquidate assets that are not desirable to our audience and expensive to maintain," he said. "There's a tendency to characterize this as a disinterest in preserving historic properties. But we absolutely have interest in this."

Chihade believes that if the sale were to have taken place, it would not only have benefited Walnut Hill and Crupi, but also the Medford community as a whole.

"The Gates property would be worth more if two new houses were built on it, because money would be invested from the new homes," he said. "That would provide additional tax revenue and income to Walnut Hill, which would be invested in our many properties throughout the community."

According to Justin Hollander, an associate professor of urban and environmental planning, it is fairly common for community efforts to halt property sales.

"It's a staple of the zoning system in Massachusetts, which provides for a simple and modest standard for development," he said. "If you want to do more, you have to go to town, and these things are publicized,



ALEX KNAPP / THE TUFTS DAILY

21 Touro Avenue in Medford, also known as Gates House, is being sold by Tufts University.

and community members get invited to the meetings. The idea is that if the community supports it, then they're happy to allow variance, and if they are concerned, it doesn't go through usually."

Hollander, who also serves as co-chair of the Campus Planning and Development Committee for the School of Arts and Sciences, a faculty group that offers guidance and feedback to administration about community development, said building projects like these have varying results for different parties.

"The people of South Medford know what it looks like right now, and they like it...you can see in Cambridge and Somerville how

older neighborhoods were transformed, and they're aware," he said.

But in the case of Crupi's building plan, Hollander said he does not see many downsides to the sale.

"I would think that because the historic building is being preserved and new, probably luxury housing is being brought to the area, it's probably going to increase property value," he said.

Chihade echoed Hollander's sentiments, noting the benefits of the sale for Medford residents.

"It was a win-win across the board as long as the community was okay with it, which they weren't," Chihade said.

Correction:

The Feb. 10 story "Students explore audio storytelling through courses and podcasts" mistakenly identified Craig LeMoult as a Senior News Reporter from NPR, when he is in fact a News Reporter at WGBH. In addition, the article misidentified LeMoult as an alumni of Tufts who graduated in 1988, when he actually graduated in 1998. The Daily regrets these errors.

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TV REVIEW ★★★★★

‘The Circus’ is great entertainment, and that’s part of the problem

by **Jonah Allon**
Assistant Arts Editor

In 1985, the academic Neil Postman published “Amusing Ourselves to Death,” a scathing polemic on how modern media has degraded public discourse by reducing everything — politics, religion, education and journalism — to entertainment. His dire warnings, which might once have seemed alarmist in a pre-Internet era, now ring eerily

prophetic, especially in the realm of politics. Case in point: the fact that reality TV star and real estate mogul Donald Trump, a man whose only qualification for the U.S. presidency is his skill as a brander, is now one of the leading contenders for the Republican presidential nomination. One can only speculate whether Postman, who passed away in 2003, would feel vindicated or horrified. Probably a little bit of both.

It would be harder to guess what

he’d make of “The Circus: Inside the Greatest Political Show on Earth” (2016), a new documentary series about the 2016 presidential race produced by Showtime in partnership with Bloomberg Media. The series keeps its distance from the kind of breathless media coverage that has characterized the campaign so far, even as it perpetuates the kind of pol-

see **CIRCUS**, page 5



John Heilemann and Mark Halperin, pictured here at an interview with the Miller Center on Jan. 8, 2014, are two of the hosts of the new documentary series “The Circus” about the current presidential race.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★★★

‘Blue Mountain State’ movie gives fans what they want

by **Josh Podolsky**
Arts Editor

Fans of “Blue Mountain State” (2010-2011), Spike TV’s ridiculous satire of football culture at state colleges, rejoice! After departing with the show’s almost-inexplicable cancellation after three seasons, the Mountain Goats are back for a last big hurrah with “Blue Mountain State: The Rise of Thadland” (2016), a feature-length homage that brings back a lot of old faces and classic jokes.

Watching this movie without having first seen the TV series is doable, but inadvisable. Many of the supporting characters’ jokes that will have fans rolling on the floor will leave those not in the know scratching their heads or cradling their stomachs. The writers, Eric Falconer, Alan Ritchson and Chris Romano (aka Romanski), did a good job of bringing in just about every supporting character from the series, even those who had left early on, making sure every fan gets a bit of their favorite shenanigans. Sammy (Romanski) is obsessed with being the mascot, Harmon (James Cade) is the druggie of druggies and Larry (Omari Newton) is still a hilarious sidekick.

The real star, of course, is the man

himself, Thad Castle (Alan Ritchson). Everything hinges on the hilarious, larger-than-life personality of this living, breathing caricature. This movie is an experiment in taking the Thad character to the least (most?) logical extreme possible and reveling in the carnage that ensues.

There are plenty of subplots in “Thadland,” and most of them have nothing to do with the overarching plot of the movie. In fact, what little there is of an overarching plot is purely a device on which to hang the numerous antics documented for this film. A decent portion of the movie is dedicated to trippy montages of a carnival that can only be described as the hellish combination of the dreams of a six-year-old and an over-sexed young adult — some of the results are absolutely terrifying, while others, like a hot tub full of mojitos, almost sound like good ideas (emphasis on almost). With these images in mind, overlay some color filters to simulate the actual drug trips of the characters and you have a decent idea of what the film looks like.

Throwing this kind of deranged carnival may seem like a strange way to save the football team’s club house, but that is exactly the reasoning behind it. A lot of the motivations surrounding the movie are unclear.

For the writers and the fans, the central motivation is to have a satisfying close to Alex Moran’s (Darin Brooks) college career — the show followed this character from his first day at Blue Mountain State college. For the characters who do everything in defiance of common sense, the motivations are more muddled. In the end, it turns out that the team cannot save their house, so they blow it up — perhaps the most logical cause and effect sequence in the whole movie.

The humor is not for everyone. While it seems to be done in good faith and as a satire of the machismo and bravado of state college football culture (whatever that is, to begin with), much of the behavior and language is easily construed as misogynistic. Viewers just have to remember that the writers and actors are consciously doing exactly what nobody should do.

Despite its absurdity, there are apparently enough people that are fans of the humor — the movie was largely funded by a Kickstarter campaign, taking in \$1.5 million from enthusiastic fans. Originally slated for a September 2015 release, “Blue Mountain State” was pushed back due to an initial NC-17 rating. Now rated R, the movie was released online by Lionsgate on Feb. 2 and is available from the usual crowd of online streaming services.

Parker Selman
Style Spotlight



Ellie Gan

Ellie Gan is a sophomore in Chi Omega who works at LF, a women’s clothing store, in Harvard Square. Ellie describes her style as unique yet refined. I sat down with Ellie to hear about her fashion inspirations, her style recommendations and to learn more about her everyday fashion.



PARKER SELMAN
/ THE TUFTS DAILY

Parker Selman: Who are your fashion inspirations?

Ellie Gan: My fashion inspirations are my big, Georgia Kay, and my grand-big, Minari Karunatilake. They’ve really taught me what it means to be stylish rather than trendy and how important it is to have your own sense of what you like and what you think looks good rather than what everyone else thinks looks good.

PS: Which fashion blogs do you follow?

EG: Sincerely Jules, Sea of Shoes, We Wore What and Song of Style.

PS: What is your process for picking out an outfit for school?

EG: I just like to wear what makes me feel good. If I feel particularly bad that day, I’ll try and dress up more. I try to look good and presentable for class every day.

PS: What is your quintessential wardrobe piece?

EG: I was wearing it earlier but it’s a turtleneck woolen Aritzia sweater, and it’s so comfy and soft and perfect and it looks good dressed up or dressed down.

PS: What is your favorite store and who is your favorite designer?

EG: My favorite designer is Chloe even though I only have three Chloe things. My favorite store is...I don’t know! Can I take a pass?

PS: Where do you like to shop on a budget?

EG: Well LF because I get an amazing employee discount. I also just go to online sales. If you find something you like you can almost always find it on sale on some website. I do a lot more online shopping than anything else.

PS: Where do you like to shop online?

EG: REVOLVE or Shopbop. I also like Need Supply. A lot of Need Supply’s stuff is very utilitarian, as in you’d have to be very chic to pull it off, but it’s a cool store to check out all the same.

PS: How would you describe your daily style?

EG: I think I tend to dress up more for class than I do for going out, because I don’t want to ruin my clothing when I go out. I like to get dressed up to go to class. I think it makes a difference in how you present yourself to your professor and a lot of it is honestly “look good, feel good.” When you look put together, you act put together, and then you tend to do well.

Parker is a first-year student who has yet to declare a major. Parker can be reached at parker.selman@tufts.edu.

TV REVIEW ★★☆☆☆

‘Jane the Virgin’ attempts to reinvent itself in its second season

by **Stina Stannik**
Contributing Writer

CW’s telenovela-inspired “Jane the Virgin” began in 2014 with a simple premise: Jane Villanueva (Gina Rodriguez), a young teacher-in-training and aspiring romance novelist, promises her devout Catholic abuela that she will wait until marriage to have sex, but she is accidentally artificially inseminated by Dr. Luisa Alver (Yara Martinez). Alver has also just found out that her wife is cheating on her and in her grief mixes up two of her patients, AND the father of Jane’s impending baby turns out to be Rafael Solano (Justin Baldoni), a reformed playboy and wealthy hotel-owner whom Jane kissed once five years ago and who also happens to be Luisa’s half-brother.

...So maybe the premise is not that simple.

That elaborate but cheekily self-aware set-up allows for a tremendous first season, but since the not-so-immaculately-conceived baby is born at the end of that initial run, the show has had something of an uphill battle to reinvent itself now that it has outgrown its original conception. Though its irreverence, style and vibrancy remain undiminished, the plot constructions holding these zany characters together have grown more tenuous.

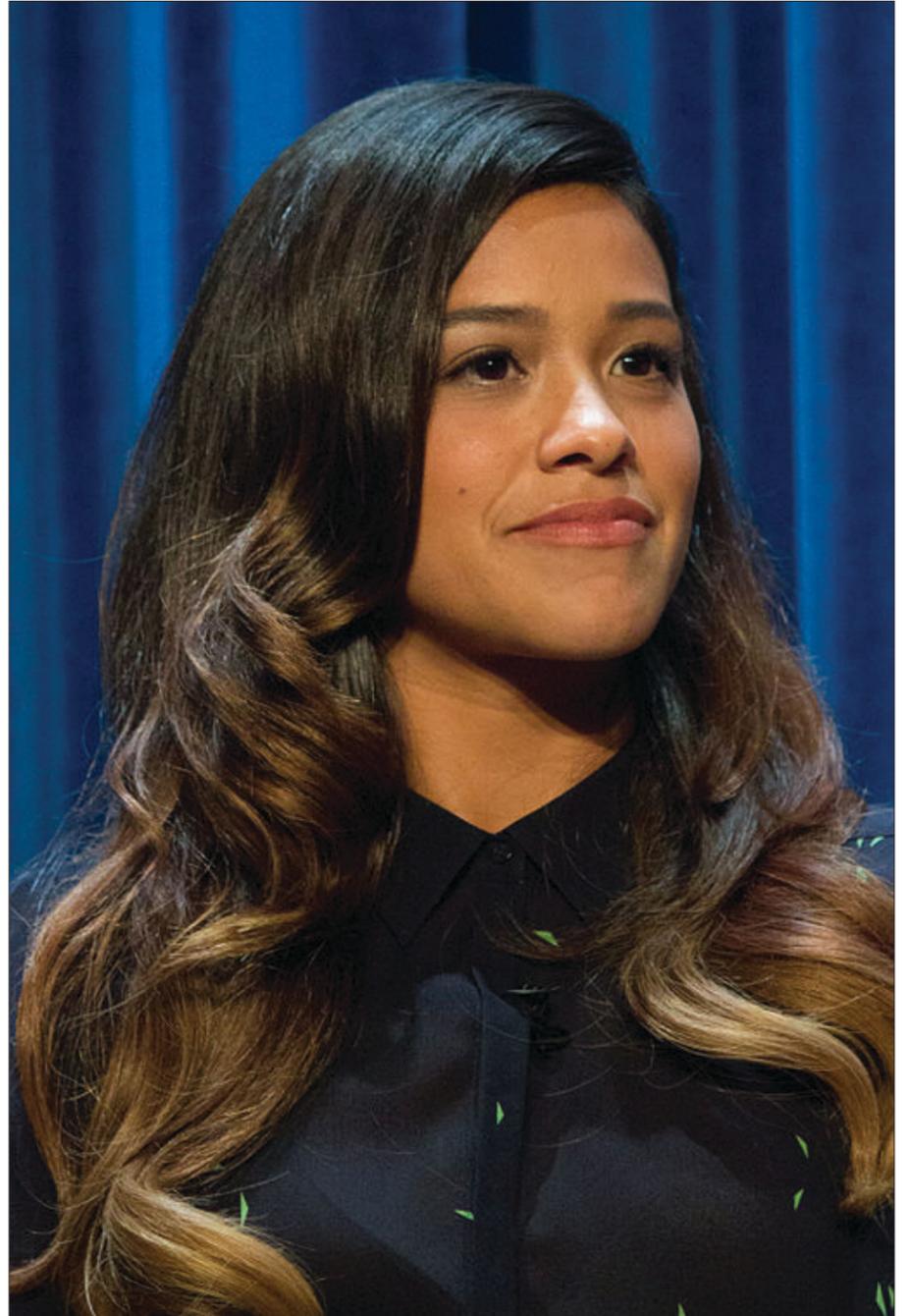
Last week’s episode, “Teacher Crush,” demonstrates the strengths and limitations of the show in its second season. Without getting too involved in the intricate plot details (really, it would take all day): Jane, who is still a virgin, has the hots for her writing advisor Professor Chavez. Jane’s father, international telenovela superstar Rogelio de la Vega (Jaime Camil), volunteers to babysit Mateo, Jane’s infant son, despite Jane’s reservations about Rogelio’s competence. Xiomara (Andrea Navedo), Jane’s mother, attempts to reinvigorate her singing career. And on the other side of town, Rafael and his ex-wife Petra (Yael Grobglas) scramble to keep their hotel afloat in the wake of entanglement with murders, kidnappings and drug lords (or ladies).

Clearly these characters and plots could easily descend into absurdity. Yet “Jane” only takes itself seriously enough to pull the viewer in without forgetting that the entire show pays homage to telenovelas, a genre known for the outlandish. It’s a fine line to be sure, but “Jane” manages it through a combination of the effortless charm of the cast, led by Emmy winner Gina Rodriguez, and the deftness of the writing team. Tropes are embraced but quickly subverted: after Xiomara and Jane discover a ring in Rogelio’s apartment, it is revealed that Rogelio is planning to propose and Xiomara tries on the ring, only to have it get stuck, predictably, on her finger just as Rogelio enters the room. Rather than extending the situation, as would happen in a lesser comedy, Jane immediately tells Rogelio what happened. Jane, one of the most admirable, fierce and lovable heroines currently on TV, is the main reason that the show remains at a level above soap opera. She actually makes good decisions, apologizing quickly for mistakes and pursuing honesty and clarity rather than prolonging confusion.

The style of the show, so well suited to CW, also makes it a standout in this Golden Age of Television. A cheeky narrator, text and emoji overlays within scenes, Jane’s voice-over monologues and the interweaving of Spanish and English promote a creativity, flexibility and playfulness which counteract the melodrama and keep fans engaged.

Where the show has struggled this second season is in elucidating its broader purpose. The characters are fun to hang out with, but this is not a sit-com: it requires some grander framing to convince viewers to return week after week. In the first half of this season, Jane’s affections are torn between baby daddy Rafael and devoted ex-boyfriend Michael (Brett Dier), but that triangle could only be drawn out for so long. On this side of the winter hiatus, Jane’s virginity has become central again, focusing once more on the questions of when and with whom she will choose to take what she sees as a monumental step.

Despite its limitations, “Jane” remains



DOMINICK D VIA FLICKR

Gina Rodriguez at the 2014 PaleyFest. Rodriguez stars in the TV series “Jane the Virgin.”

a show to root for. The warmth of the relationship between the three women at the center of the show — Jane, Xiomara and Jane’s grandmother Alba (Ivonne Coll) — is powerfully endearing. Ultimately, just as Rogelio quotes Ryan Gosling in what ends

up being a vulnerably honest proposal to Xiomara, all of the show’s most ridiculous aspects are mere vehicles for telling a surprisingly wholesome story about sex, babies and love in all its forms.

‘The Circus’ showcases absurdity of U.S. political process

CIRCUS

continued from page 4

itics-as-entertainment that Postman so presciently denounced over 30 years ago. The show, hosted by political strategist Mark McKinnon and “All Due Respect” co-anchors John Heilemann and Mark Halperin, winks at the absurdity of the whole spectacle in its title; the question of whether it refers to the political circus or the media circus is kept ambiguous. Although it never questions and perhaps cynically ignores whether the spectacle itself is inherently problematic. The documentary series occupies the roles of both detached observer and willing participant.

Mark Halperin and John Heilemann, pictured here at an interview with the Miller Center on Jan. 8, 2014, are two of the hosts of the new documentary series “The Circus” about the current presidential race.

Still, if you can shake off all that epistemological angst, it’s a pretty fun watch. Each half-hour episode (the season is now four episodes in) centers on a different aspect of the 2016 campaign: the surprising surge of “outsider” candidates on both sides, the crowded establishment lane on the Republican side and the “prisoner’s dilemma” it poses for each of the

candidates, the contentiousness of the Iowa caucuses and the importance of political momentum going into the New Hampshire primary. Heilemann, Halperin and McKinnon prove to be deft guides through this thorny and oftentimes baffling terrain, prefacing each episode with their insights on the shape of the race before hitting the ground. As veterans of the presidential campaign circuit and political journalism overall, Heilemann and Halperin know the game inside and out. They are also pretty chummy with a few of the major candidates, so they enjoy enviable access, and the show captures plenty of interactions between the hosts and the candidates, from the brief exchanges between town hall events to the more extensive sit-down interviews.

If there’s any reason to check out “The Circus,” it’s for these kinds of moments. Because the campaign season seems to stretch on indefinitely, the media is so focused on constructing artificial narratives, we’re so accustomed to the candidates speaking in canned platitudes (with the notable exception of Trump)



ANTHONY ANTONELLO VIA YOUTUBE

Candidates for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination appear on stage at the Fox News Republican Debate on August 6, 2015.

and partisanship often lumps ideological opponents into groups and strips them of their individuality, it’s easy to forget that the people vying for the highest office in the land are just that: people. They’re subject to the same laws of gravity, political and Newtonian, as the rest of us. And around Heilemann and Halperin, they seem looser and more at ease. Bernie Sanders reveals he has a dry, acerbic wit. Marco Rubio admits to an obsession with Eazy-E. Ted Cruz does an impression of Homer Simpson scarfing down donuts.

Away from the harsh glare of media scrutiny, they’re just regular folks.

But regular, at least in this absurd election cycle, is a relative term, and “The Circus” is acutely aware of that. In the first episode of the series, Mark Halperin offers this fairly vanilla assessment of the race thus far: “Every election’s crazy. This one’s already been crazier than almost any one I’ve ever covered.” That’s a contender for Understatement of the Year. Now let’s just hope it doesn’t decide to run for president.



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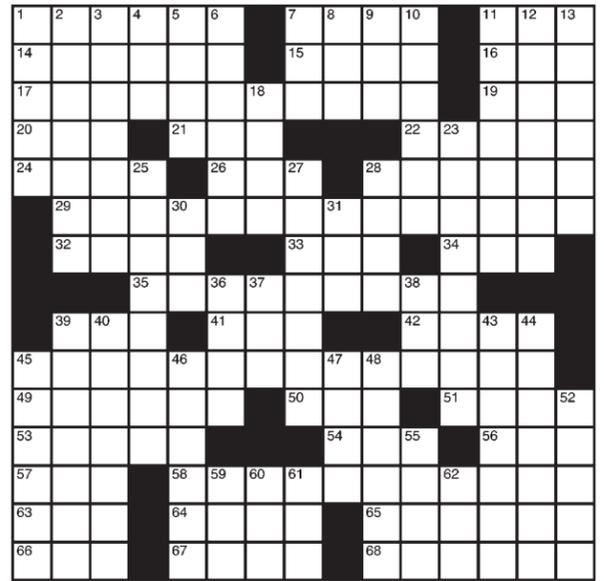
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CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Item in a '60s drug bust
 - 7 Marshal Tito, for one
 - 11 Friendly address
 - 14 Make effervescent
 - 15 Queen's place
 - 16 Move on water
 - 17 Generic City Hall dog?
 - 19 Caustic chemical
 - 20 ___ Toy Barn: "Toy Story 2" setting
 - 21 Japanese volcano Mount ___
 - 22 Guzzle
 - 24 Half a prison?
 - 26 Suffix for professionals
 - 28 Toon who often wore a Metallica T-shirt
 - 29 Why some seek a certain cactus?
 - 32 Bacchanal vessel
 - 33 Rested
 - 34 Cholera
 - 35 Essay on meditation?
 - 39 Arboreal critter
 - 41 "___ believer!"
 - 42 Icon with a curved arrow
 - 45 Eschew medical attention?
 - 49 Certify
 - 50 LAX stat
 - 51 "Let her not say ___ that keep you here": "Antony and Cleopatra"
 - 53 Language from which "julep" is derived
 - 54 Centrifuge site
 - 56 Rosamund's "Gone Girl" co-star
 - 57 Green beginning?
 - 58 Fighter whose stock greeting affects 17-, 29-, 35- and 45-
- DOWN**
- 63 However, to texters
 - 64 ___ dixit
 - 65 Shape, as dough for cloverleaf rolls
 - 66 Strong desire
 - 67 Lacking a date
 - 68 Adam, of the "Bonanza" brothers



By Jeffrey Wechsler

2/12/16

Thursday's Solution

N	I	T	A	R	C	E	D	O	P	E	R	A
A	D	A	T	A	H	O	E	M	E	L	O	N
G	O	T	O	P	L	A	N	B	E	P	S	O
S	L	U	R	P	I	S	T	O	L	P	E	T
E	N	O	T	E	S	R	A	T	T	R	A	P
P	I	N	O	N	S	O	L	E	D	O	I	
E	T	E	R	N	A	L	O	P	T	I	M	I
E	T	A	M	O	S	M	O	O	S	E		
S	I	L	K	T	I	E	S	P	A	S	S	E
E	E	N										
R	I	O	T	P	O	L	I	C	E	O	M	I
I	R	A	T	E		P	L	O	T	T	W	I
T	I	T	L	E		G	E	N	I	E		G
A	S	H	E	S		A	R	E	N	A		O

- 36 One of a biblical trio
- 37 Global financial org.
- 38 Tournament elimination point
- 39 Diplomatic case
- 40 Dutch landowner in colonial America
- 43 Court action
- 44 Bony
- 45 ___ pin
- 46 Pluto's Egyptian counterpart
- 47 Alternative to de Gaulle
- 48 Buster who portrayed Flash Gordon
- 52 Uncalled for
- 55 Canaanite deity
- 59 Decide
- 60 Lee side: Abbr.
- 61 Cooper's creation
- 62 Honorary legal deg

SUDOKU

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

Difficulty Level: Tufts closing for snow days.

Thursday's Solution

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

JUMBLE

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

REXET

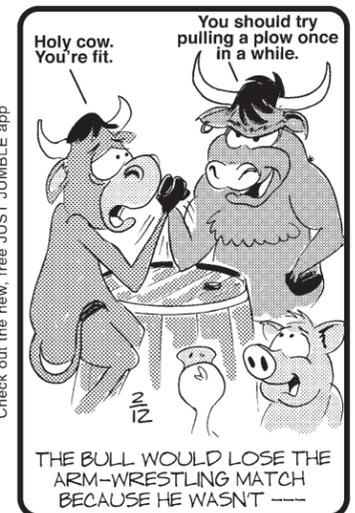
GINAA

NESOSA

NASLOM

Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

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

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's | Jumbles: PLANT USHER FORBID ELIXIR
 Answer: The spaceship's orbit encircling the planet was a — ROUND TRIP

NON SEQUITUR
 BY WILEY MILLER



Coming up for the weekend in Sports

by **Onat Tarimcilar**
Staff Writer

As the winter athletics season continues to wind down, various Tufts teams are heating up in preparation for postseason play, so once again we break down the schedule of this weekend's contests and why they matter.

In arguably the marquee event of the weekend, the women's swimming and diving team is up at Middlebury through Sunday for their NESCAC Championships. Following their most promising season in the last few years, the Jumbos' hopes are high for this weekend. The men's team has the weekend off as they continue their training in preparation for their championship meet next weekend.

After splitting their two games last weekend against the top two teams in the conference, the men's basketball team heads out

to Williams this evening for its final regular-season game ahead of the NESCAC tournament. Sitting at 6-3 in conference play and in fourth place in a tight NESCAC race, the Jumbos are looking to beat a 4-4 Ephs team which could, with some help from other conference opponents taking down the Middlebury Panthers and the Wesleyan Cardinals, send them into the tournament with momentum and the No. 3 seed.

Women's basketball remains undefeated in conference play and the team is in sole possession of first place after handing Amherst its first NESCAC loss of the year last Saturday — its first loss at home since Jan. 31, 2009. The Jumbos wrap up their season at home tonight with a game against Williams at Cousens Gym on Friday at 7 p.m. as they look to wrap up the No. 1 seed ahead of the NESCAC tournament. As usual, postseason expectations are high for the team as it sets its sights on a NESCAC

title and a deep NCAA run.

After dominating Conn. College in a pair of games last weekend, hockey, at seventh place in the NESCAC, is on the road this weekend, traveling to Amherst on Saturday for a very winnable game against the No. 6 team. The Jumbos will follow that game up with a tougher match-up against the No. 3 Hamilton Continentals on Sunday as they hope to stay competitive in the middle of the NESCAC pack in their penultimate weekend of conference action.

The men and women's squash teams, fresh off of their NESCAC tournaments last weekend, look to build some momentum going into the College Squash Association team nationals next weekend. The men's team erased from their memory a disappointing showing at last weekend's tournament with a decisive 9-0 win over Brandeis on Tuesday and looks to continue building momentum as they face

a trio of matches tomorrow at Wesleyan against the hosts, Vassar and Bard. The women's team is also at Wesleyan tomorrow with a pair of games against the hosts and Vassar. First-year Hannah Burns won NESCAC Player of the Week after going 4-0 against Boston College, Trinity, Wesleyan and Bates last weekend, making her the third Jumbo on the team to win Player of the Week honors this season.

The men and women's track and field teams look to continue their hot starts to the season as they take part in the David Hemery Invitational this weekend at Boston University. Both teams are carrying momentum into the weekend with a number of their runners holding top-10 times in the nation, a good sign as they gear up for the New England Div. III Indoor Championships next weekend. The men's team will also be sending a contingency to Cambridge this weekend for the MIT Invitationals.

Jumbos have confidence after best regular season in past few years

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

continued from page BACK

have a competitive and talented group of ladies this year and I know if we focus and race our hearts out we will accomplish great things. We have been training hard this entire season and are excited to see all of our hard work pay off."

Gottschalk is ranked fifth in the NESCAC in the 200 breaststroke with a 2:25.99 seed time, eighth in the 400 individual medley with a 4:40.41 seed time and 18th in the 200 individual medley with a 2:13.45 seed time. With those seed times, Gottschalk is set up to have a potentially big weekend for the Jumbos.

Among these rookie standouts that the Jumbos will be counting on is first-year Caroline McCormick—she carries a 28.56 time in the 50-meter backstroke which is 18th in the NESCAC, as she enters this weekend's competition.

"Individually, I hope to drop time in all my events and make it back to finals, hopefully in the top eight heat," McCormick said. "In order to perform our best, the team needs to stay confident and race the people next to them. Additionally,

we need to win the close races that come down to a touch out."

Tufts will also look to standout first-year Jen Lucius to contribute big points in the distance events, as she swam an impressive 5:23.35 500 meter race earlier this season.

"My individual goal is to swim season best times in my 500, 1000 and 1650 [meter races]," Lucius said. "I want to be able to take my races out faster in addition to finishing them well. Our team goals are to swim as fast as possible and to show off all the hard work we put in during training. Of course, we want to have as much fun as a team as possible too, and we want to use the positive energy to our advantage."

The Jumbos also feature one of the conference's top divers in junior Kylie Reiman, who has consistently won diving events for the team this season. She finished fourth in the one-meter and sixth in the three-meter at last year's NESCACs, and she has only improved this season. Other athletes to watch include junior Sarah Elghor in breaststroke, first-year Colleen Doolan in the

butterfly and senior tri-captain Molly Levene in freestyle.

"My individual goal is to place higher than I did last year," Reiman said. "I'm trying some new harder dives and I really hope that they will be able to push me to where I need to be. It's not the end of my season [since I have NCAA Zones in two weeks] but I'd really like this meet to be a good warm up for the kind of competition I'm going to go against at Zones."

Rising in the NESCAC will undoubtedly be a challenge, especially as the Jumbos rely on a fast but inexperienced group of first-years racing at their first NESCAC meet. But that does not diminish the optimism of a team that has already received significant dividends from their underclasswomen this season, and its accomplishments thus far are promising; the last time Tufts did this well against its NESCAC opponents in the regular season was the 2008-2009 campaign, a year that ended with a third-place finish at the conference championships and a 30th-place finish at the NCAA championships.

"Team-wise, we're trying to place as high we can against the other schools," McCormick said. "But specifically we have goals to beat Middlebury and Connecticut College while keeping an eye out for the other hard-hitters like Bowdoin and Bates. Relay-wise, we hope to put our A relays into the top eight heat which scores the most points."

Breaking into the top five finishers this year does not seem like too tall of an order for this fast-rising, young and energetic team. Using such a first-year-heavy roster is certainly a gamble, but Head Coach Adam Hoyt is confident in his team's preparation.

"We're looking forward to seeing how the hard work we've put in this season plays out at the conference championship," Hoyt said.

Gottschalk expressed excitement for the upcoming meet.

"NESCACs is a high energy competitive meet and we are hoping to use that energy to fuel our racing," Gottschalk said.

The action kicks off with preliminaries at 10 a.m. this morning and the first set of finals at 6 p.m. this evening.

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WOMEN'S SWIMMING

First-year-heavy Tufts team heads to NESCAC Championships this weekend

by **Soven Bery**
Staff Writer

Tufts women's swimming looks to cap off its best season since its 2011-2012 campaign with a strong showing at this weekend's NESCAC Championships at Middlebury College. With a 4-3 record in head-to-head meets this season, the Jumbos finish the regular season with a winning record for the first time in the last four years, likely improving the seventh-place finish received at NESCACs the last two seasons. Williams College, the perennial conference champions, captured last year's NESCAC title by amassing a conference-record 2103.5 points. Bates, Middlebury, Amherst and Bowdoin round out the top five with Tufts at seventh for the second year in a row.

The Jumbos, however, have set their sights on dethroning the conference's usual top teams this year, and their goal seems attainable.

In a bold move, Tufts has named 12 first-years to its 22-women roster, and the move to lean on the team's youth could be a major key to success this weekend. The team started off the fall semester portion of its season strong, falling to Middlebury – a team that placed the third at last year's NESCAC championships and has consistently finished near the top of the conference — by just two points while beating Conn. College in the season-opening

tri-meet. The Jumbos went on to put a 172-126 beatdown on the Wesleyan Cardinals last Dec. 11. Tufts continued to put up increasingly dominant performances as the season ended,

showing no trouble against Wheaton College on Seniors Day and putting up a slew of impressive individual performances at the Middlebury Invitational two weeks ago.

“As a team, we would love to improve upon our seventh-place finish last year,” junior Amanda Gottschalk said. “We

see **WOMEN'S SWIMMING**, page 7



JULIA PRESS / THE TUFTS DAILY

Tufts first-year Colleen Doolan swims butterfly for the women's swimming and diving team as it faces off against Wheaton on Jan. 23.

ELEPHANTS IN THE ROOM

	Happy or sad about Panthers winning the Super Bowl?	What was your favorite Super Bowl snack?	You just won the Super Bowl. You're now going to...	Favorite snow day activity?	Valentine's Day plans?
Emma Roberson Senior tri-captain guard Women's basketball	Sad, I'm a Pats fan... the halftime show was the best part of the Super Bowl	Buffalo chicken dip, Lauren Dillon's mom makes it the best!	Go on tour with Beyoncé	Sledding and drinking hot chocolate	Going home for my grandfather's 80th birthday party, he's my valentine every year
Stephen Haladyna Junior guard Men's basketball	Disappointed the Pats didn't make it	Nachos	Going to Disneyland	Sledding	Dinner with the girlfriend
Mitchell Black Senior tri-captain Men's track and field	Sad for the Panthers. I have a cousin from Greensboro who is a lifetime fan.	I tried to make guacamole but the avocados weren't ripe enough so it didn't come out great. You appreciate more the things you make yourself though, so I'll go with chunky guac.	I would only win the Super Bowl as team ball boy, so I would probably start looking for another job in the offseason.	Pond hockey. Legs have only been broken twice.	Not sure, but I suspect it has something to do with hypotheticals.
Chad Goldberg Sophomore forward Men's hockey	I think it's cool that Peyton Manning got another one before he retires but overall I was pretty indifferent to the outcome	Didn't have much time to prep this year, so the simple spread of BBQ and buffalo wings did the job	Fiji	I like both ends of the spectrum. I can stay in and watch movies or go out skiing and snowboarding. I like it all	Netflix without the chill