

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Tufts clinches undefeated season with Seniors Night win

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Mark Brimhall-Vargas discusses career of fostering campus activism in open interview



ALEX KNAPP / THE TUFTS DAILY

Chief Diversity Officer Mark Brimhall-Vargas gave an open interview with Provost David Harris on Feb. 12.

by **Abigail Feldman**
News Editor

About 50 people, mostly faculty and staff, gathered to hear Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) and Associate Provost Mark Brimhall-Vargas speak about his career and his experience at the university in the Coolidge Room last Friday afternoon.

Brimhall-Vargas, who joined the

administration last April, was informally interviewed by Provost and Senior Vice President David Harris.

Harris began the discussion event by asking Brimhall-Vargas about the path that shaped his career.

"I'm guessing that Mark Brimhall-Vargas, age 10, was not thinking, 'Someday I'm going to be a CDO,'" Harris said. "So how did you end up in this space?"

Growing up in New Mexico, Brimhall-Vargas explained that he had several experiences that led him to realize his interest in diversity and inclusion. His mother, who moved to the United States from Peru, faced housing discrimination and other types of racism while working to save up for a home, he said.

"It was always part of our family conversation to unpack the things that happened to us, particularly because we were an unusual family," he said. "A Peruvian home, biracial kids in a largely Mexican American community... That created the awareness and interest."

He recounted that his mother once signed up herself, Brimhall-Vargas and his brother to be extras in a movie being filmed in their town, only for his mother eventually be excluded because of her race.

"They needed a woman with two kids to walk down the street," Brimhall-Vargas said. "The people came and looked at her, and then looked at me and my brother — and, you know, my father was white. So, [the movie representative] looked at my mom, [asking] 'You're their mother?' She said, 'Yeah these are my kids. We'd love to do this.' And they said, 'No, we need somebody else.' And they ended getting a white woman to be our mother."

Harris then asked Brimhall-Vargas about his activist work in college and his experiences working with faculty members and administrators.

"One of the things I always think is interesting — and maybe students sometimes have trouble thinking about this — is you were a student yourself, and we were dealing with some of these issues on the other side," Harris said.

Brimhall-Vargas, who attended Pomona College for three years as an undergraduate, recalled reestablishing the Lesbian and Gay Student Union as a student.

"We didn't have a B or T at that time," he said, referencing the two letters that stand for "bisexual" and "transgender" people in the commonly used acronym LGBT.

He added that at the time, he also worked to get more Latino students into college.

Brimhall-Vargas said that as a student, he developed strong relationships with members of the faculty, who not only encouraged his activism but also shaped his academic career by helping him apply for fellowships and programs. However, he said that his relationship with certain administrators was sometimes less amicable.

"I was kind of at odds with the Dean of Student Affairs," Brimhall-Vargas said. "But I realized that they were really there to help foster a sense of how do you engage with people who don't agree with you... [Even though] I was sometimes angrily yelling at them, then they'd be like, 'You want to go to the coop and

see **BRIMHALL-VARGAS**, page 2

TCU Senate announces Late Night Dining program expansion, gives updates

by **Vibhav Prakasam**
Assistant News Editor

The Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate met last night to vote on two project approvals, a resolution and a bylaw change, as well as to discuss supplementary funding requests from several student groups.

TCU President Brian Tesser opened the meeting by announcing an update to current Late Night Dining options. Starting Feb. 26, Late Night Dining will be available in the Carmichael Dining Center, in addition to the current Late Night Dining program in The Commons Marketplace. Tesser, a senior, said that this is a trial program for the rest of the semester. Unlike the checkout system used at The Commons Marketplace, Carmichael Dining Center will require a single meal swipe upon entering, similar to the system during normal dining hours, he said. For students without a meal plan, JumboCash may be used during Late Night hours, which fall between 9 p.m. and 1 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Tesser proceeded to discuss progress with his four-part housing revision project. This past week, a trial-version of the planned sophomore roommate survey was sent out to first-year senators. Other aspects of the project are a revised

first-year survey, more support for finding off-campus residence and further examination of all first-year and mixed housing.

He also spoke about a project TCU Senators are working on to bring a pub onto campus, of which there is substantial administrative support at this time.

TCU Treasurer Shai Slotky then took the floor to discuss student group funding requests from Enigma, Jumbo Jugglers, the International Club, the Consent Culture Network and GlobeMed. Each of the Allocations Board recommendations for each of the funding requests was passed by the voting body.

TCU Vice President Gauri Seth then asked the body for project updates. Some of these updates included the introduction of a Spring Break shuttle to South Station and Logan International Airport, the revival of the Senate bulletin board in the Dewick-MacPhie Dining Center and the creation of a Tufts "Month in Review," similar to Google's "Year in Search," which involves a short video on current Tufts events for alumni and parents.

The Trustee representatives announced that there has been approval for funds for ongoing construction projects. According to the representatives, the new Science & Engineering Complex should be completed

by fall 2017, and new potential projects may include roof renovation in some residence halls and the construction of a new dorm or the potential expansion of an existing one.

The Sustainability Council representative announced a potential Symposium for Sustainability at Tufts, similar to one that took place at Yale, in order to get ideas from the whole student body. In addition, there was discussion of an internal carbon tax for excess emissions from all campus departments and buildings.

The body then went on to approve two other projects. The first was for the revival of the Cognitive Brain Science (CBS) and Linguistics minors, approved by a vote of 27-0-0. The classes that go along with these minors will no longer be offered if the minors are not reestablished.

The second project discussed was a database where alumni can register to become mentors for undergraduates in an effort to increase alumni giving and involvement. The database would be open to students of all classes and would be a sort of revamp of the existing Tufts Career Advisory Network. This project was also approved unanimously.

Senate then passed a second resolution pertaining to Indigenous Peoples Day. This additional resolution was drafted because some students felt that the original resolution

was lacking in the connection between the history of Columbus Day and the significance of current discrimination of certain indigenous groups. The new resolution conveys a greater understanding of the significance of the change from Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day, which the authors see as a huge lobbying tool for their cause. After general revisions and two question-and-answer periods, the resolution passed in a vote of 23-0-1.

This resolution is officially on the faculty agenda and will be voted upon on Feb. 24. Both the original and the new resolution will be presented; they work in conjunction and the new one is like an addendum.

Senate then voted on a bylaw change drafted by sophomore Benya Kraus that aimed to task the Outreach Committee to distribute video updates and potentially other multimedia updates to the student body and to the greater Tufts community, building on the existing "Two-Minute Thursday" videos. After a single amendment, the resolution passed in a vote of 27-0-0.

Finally, the TCU Judiciary announced that they had recognized Tufts Animal Welfare, completed internal elections and derecognized Students for Sensible Drug Policy for not sticking to its goals or performing as well as it should have.



Rainy
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16 TODAY

"Gill Fellow Lunch & Learn Series: Ethan Michaeli"

Details: Ethan Michaeli, author of "The Defender: How the Legendary Black Newspaper Changed America," will touch on his work with The Chicago Defender and will explore how the newspaper influenced African Americans in the twentieth century. *When and Where:* 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m., Center for the Study of Race and Democracy
Sponsors: Center for the Study of Race and Democracy

17 WEDNESDAY

"EPIIC Symposium: 'Europe in Turmoil'"

Details: Opening this Wednesday, this year's 31st annual Norris and Margery Bendetson EPIIC International Symposium showcases international policymakers, military and security experts, academics and more throughout its five days of programming. Experts will discuss contemporary issues in European society and how the continent's affairs affect the rest of the global community.

When and Where: Feb. 17 to Feb. 21, Cabot

VISITING the hill THIS WEEK

International Center and Cohen Auditorium
Sponsors: Tufts Institute for Global Leadership, Council for European Studies at Columbia University, Center for the Study of Europe at Boston University, Student European Conference of the Fletcher School, The John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Harvard Business School

18 THURSDAY

"Tisch College Distinguished Speaker Series: David Gregory"

Details: Television journalist David Gregory will discuss the intersections of media and politics, drawing on his own personal experiences and insights. Gregory served as NBC's former Chief White House Correspondent, is a former "Meet the Press" moderator and is author of "How's Your Faith?: An Unlikely Spiritual Journey."

When and Where: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Coolidge Room, Ballou Hall
Sponsors: Tisch College, Tufts Hillel, Film & Media Studies program

"Climate Change: How Massachusetts Can Lead The Way"

Details: A panel featuring State Senator James B. Eldridge, State Senator Marc Pacheco, State Representative Christine Barber, Julia Dougherty, campaign organizer with Environment Massachusetts and President of Tufts Energy Group Ellen Osborn will share their insights about how Massachusetts can be a leader in efforts against climate change.

When and Where: 6:30 p.m., Cabot 206
Sponsors: Tufts Sustainability Collective, Environment Massachusetts

21 SUNDAY

"Tufts Day of Remembrance: Bend"

Details: Theatre artist Kimi Maeda will perform her solo piece, which explores the lives of two men living in a Japanese American Relocation Camp during World War II.

When and Where: 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Aidekman Arts Center

Sponsors: Asian American Center; Japanese Culture Club; Department of Drama and Dance; Consortium of Studies in Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora; AS&E Diversity Fund

Chief Diversity Officer shares goals on transparency, student activism

BRIMHALL-VARGAS

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get some coffee or something?"

Harris asked Brimhall-Vargas why he chose to leave his position as the Deputy Chief Diversity Officer at the University of Maryland (UMD) and to work at Tufts. Brimhall-Vargas answered by saying that UMD was always taking two steps forward and one step back in its diversity efforts. He said that after seeing Tufts' 2013 Diversity Report, he felt that he could accomplish something more productive by building off of the groundwork that Tufts had previously established.

"It was so clear about where the institution was and wasn't, and [the report] had very clear recommendations that were brought about through what I observed to be a democratic process involving faculty and students and administrators and staff," he said. "So for me that indicated that Tufts had done a certain level of work that I could pick up from."

Brimhall-Vargas then spoke about his role at Tufts and the role of CDOs more broadly, since more and more schools have hired CDOs in the months following November protests at the University of Missouri. He explained that being a CDO means being fundamentally concerned with three things — diversity, equity and inclusion. An individual serving in the CDO position must understand the larger systems and structures of the university and how they treat people living within them, as well as pay attention to the university's composition and climate, he said.

"We need people going where [members of the university] are and asking about their actual lives on campus," he said. "So, I try to maintain that double awareness of what does the institution look like as a whole, but also meeting with people and being open to them saying, 'For me this is working and here's what's not working, and this one small piece may be something that I needed.'"

Brimhall-Vargas said that he is excited to the launch the "diversity dashboard," the university's upper-level diversity website, in March. The new website will offer detailed information on the composition of the university, displaying demographics according to federally mandated reporting methods and the university's more precise reporting style, he said. For example, the dashboard will break down Tufts racial demographics by discipline and provide information on students' religious affiliations — statistics not required by the federal government.

"I think this is going to make Tufts a national leader in terms of transparency about who we think we are," Brimhall-Vargas said. "We're going to tell the world, potential students and their parents, 'This is what happens here at Tufts. This is what we look like, at least in terms of composition.' And I think that we will, through example, challenge other institutions

that think we're better than us, and I think that we will be better than them."

Brimhall-Vargas also said that he is pleased with activist efforts he has witnessed on campus.

"There have been some colleagues on campuses that said, 'Oh student activism. How's that?,' giving me the elbow like 'Enjoying Tufts yet?'" he said. "I think the piece that many people overlook is that the Chief Diversity Officer welcomes student activism."

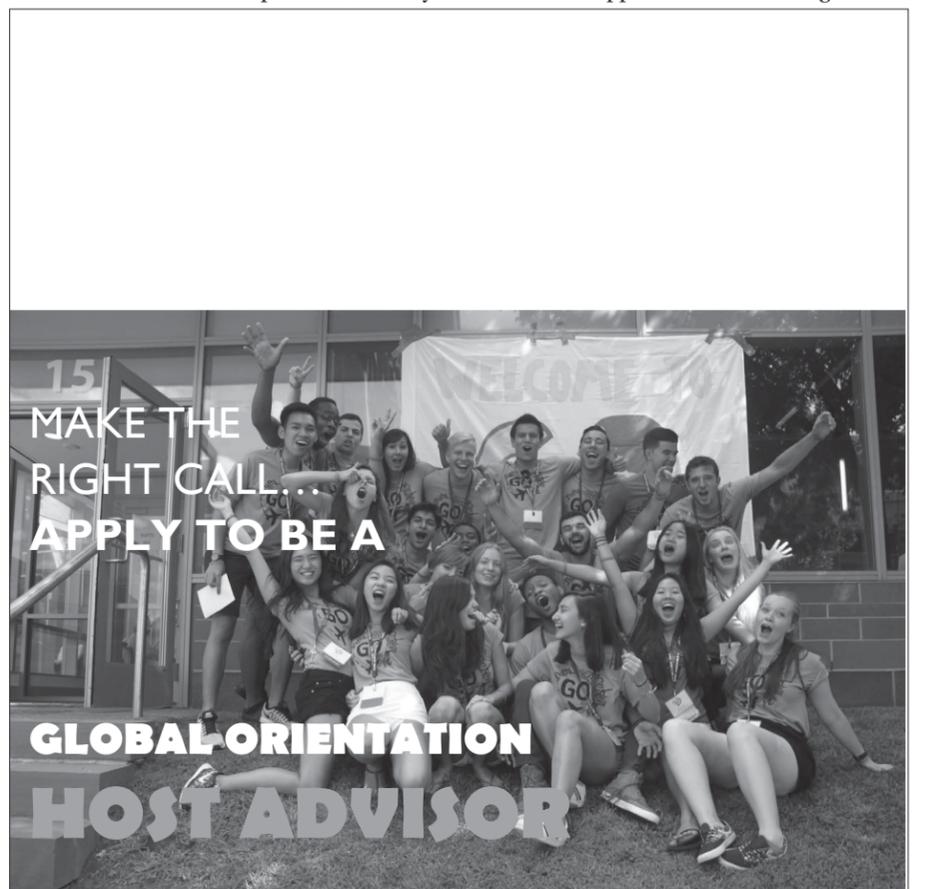
If students had not raised their voices, he said the university never would have been made aware of certain bad policies and structures, like antiquated rules surrounding the use of metal detectors at public events pointed out by #TheThreePercent in November.

"I firmly believe in this one phrase that I got from this colleague of mine that said, 'Complaint reveals commitment,'" Brimhall-Vargas said. "If students care enough to raise their voices about their experience, that says

something positive. Even if we're not engaging in a way that always feels good, they're trying to make the institution a better place.

Harris concluded by asking Brimhall-Vargas about the kind of things he would like to see happen at Tufts five or 10 years down the road. Brimhall-Vargas said he believes that Tufts should provide more resources to the faculty is key in helping professors take care of their students. He also stressed the importance of creating an infrastructure to improve campus climate through diversity training — something that is missing on Tufts' campuses.

"If you think about Tufts as a car and I'm going to be one of the people driving the car, if I don't shift the wheel a little bit, I'm not really doing anything," he said. "There are going to be points when I'm going to have to wrestle with people a little bit. There is one place where I think that we're struggling, and that is as an institution, the recognition that we need infrastructure to support some basic changes."



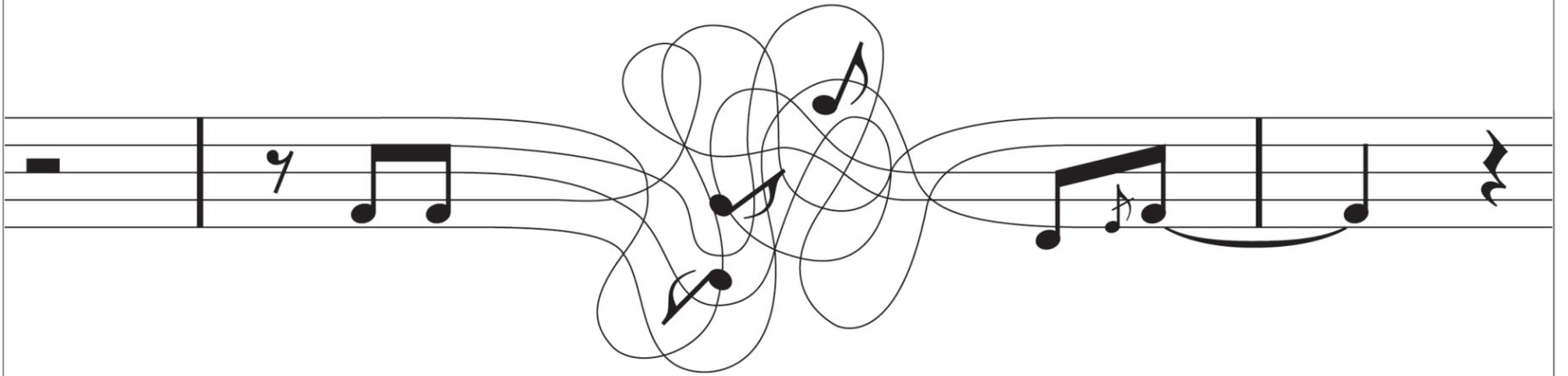
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Humanist Chaplaincy, Freethought Society discuss future at Tufts



The University Chaplaincy Humanist in Residence Walker Bristol (LA'14) in front of Goddard Chapel on Feb. 10.

ZI QING XIONG / THE TUFTS DAILY

by **Constantinos Angelakis**
Features Assistant Editor

Chaplaincies in American universities have long been associated with just a few major religions. Tufts was founded by Unitarian Universalists and used to host a Unitarian Universalist seminary, the Crane Theological School. Since its early days, Tufts has gone on to expand the University Chaplaincy to include several religious traditions. However, as the number of non-religious students at Tufts has grown, the University Chaplaincy has sought to make itself a more welcoming space for non-religious students.

"According to our incoming student spiritual interest surveys, over 30 percent of Tufts students claim identities within the broad Humanist umbrella [such as] atheist, agnostic, Humanist, nonreligious, spiritual but not religious, etc.," Reverend Gregory McGonigle, the university chaplain, wrote in an email to the Daily.

In response to this trend, and following efforts by the Tufts Freethought Society, Tufts established a Humanist-in-Residence position as part of the University Chaplaincy through a two-year pilot program, starting in 2014. This position was the first university-funded Humanist chaplaincy in America. According to McGonigle, the chaplaincy is here to stay.

"Based on the success of the pilot program over the past year and a half, I can confirm that President Monaco has approved the continuation of the Humanist in Residence position going forward," he said. "We are very excited that it will continue as a regular part of the University Chaplaincy staff team starting July 1, 2016."

Walker Bristol (LA '14) is currently the Humanist in Residence for the Chaplaincy. He is also pursuing a graduate degree at the Harvard Divinity School. Bristol has started several programs through the chaplaincy, including bi-weekly discussion meetings and holding weekly office hours to meet with students individually. He described the position as relatively flexible, depending upon what

the students who reach out require from him.

"As we have better articulated what a chaplaincy does and the chaplaincy has grown its presence on campus, I think people of these different perspectives last year and this year have started to want to access those resources in different ways," Bristol said. "And I think this position itself is a really important component of that, because it makes the chaplaincy a more accessible space to people who don't identify as religious in the traditional sense."

Bristol described how Humanism can encompass a wide set of beliefs. He serves students ranging from pure atheists to those simply unsure of their religion.

"Humanism as a movement, with a capital 'H', is something that is relatively new, and it's essentially, for most people who identify as Humanists, Humanism is a way for them to express an affirmative value system in the absence of being part of another religious tradition," Bristol said.

The Humanist Chaplaincy also often cooperates with Tufts Freethought Society, a group that played a large role in bringing a Humanist chaplaincy to Tufts. Bristol himself was involved in Freethought as an undergraduate, and the group continues to co-sponsor events with the Humanist Chaplaincy, including a "Humanism in Action Panel" held last year.

"Freethought tries to create a space where people can discuss ... questions that are important to them or important to their life or just, you know, the world's big mysteries," Corrinne Smith, Freethought's current vice president, said.

According to sophomore Smith, the Humanist chaplaincy provides a more personal opportunity for pastoral care to students, while Freethought offers a larger community of students.

Despite differences across faiths, Bristol enjoys working alongside the other chaplains, including through the chaplaincy's interfaith service programs.

"I definitely appreciate being able to work on a team of Chaplains and a religiously diverse team and a team of people who

come from different backgrounds," Bristol said. "Building this connection is just by working in the same building as people and meeting with them regularly and knowing the kind of projects that we're working on, which are at once independent and complimentary to one another."

Sophomore Marina Rakhilin, the current interfaith chair of Tufts Freethought, said that Freethought features the same openness to interfaith discussion and interaction.

"I never considered I would be going and ... talking casually with the Reverend on a weekly basis," she said. "When I came in freshman year, I had never had a religious or church community ever and to find Freethought, to find this whole world, I want to do that more for more freshmen."

In the future, Bristol hopes to have someone in the Chaplaincy position who can provide more of a full-time commitment and hold regular programs for students. Currently, given his graduate work and other job commitments, it is difficult for him to dedicate more time and resources towards the chaplaincy.

"I love the Tufts community because it's been my home for so long and I hope that somebody can do this for a long period of time and become a real presence on campus who loves the community the way that I do and who can invest their whole self into it," said Bristol.

While Tufts is one of only a few universities that offer a Humanist chaplaincy, the changes in American religious demographics suggests that it may be the beginning of a larger trend.

"As the number of Americans who claim identities within the broad Humanist umbrella grows, university chaplaincies are increasingly asking the question of how we provide spiritual and ethical support to the changing demographics of our campus populations," McGonigle said in an email. "I think Tufts is charting a course that others are likely to follow in seeking to serve the unique demographics and needs of spiritual life at this time."

Melissa Feito
The Story of Stories



No time for games

Video games construct stories by moving through the narrative and inhabiting a direct perspective. When you watch a film, you simply bear witness to the events depicted for you; when you read, you create your own personal construction of the events in your head. Theater is a space of co-creation between audience and performers, a medium which allows no two performances to be experienced in the same way. But games construct their narrative through interaction, either with the environment or with the characters, often requiring decisions to be made, in order to build an experience deeply personal to each player.

Next week I'll delve more into how more mainstream AAA titles are changing in terms of narrative style, but first let's discuss "That Dragon, Cancer". The indie title was created by Ryan Green (developed by Numinous Games) to memorialize his young son Joel's long and emotional battle with cancer, which he lost in 2014 at the age of five. In a recent Radiolab episode, Ryan explains that he wanted to share the experience of watching Joel fight and slowly die with others. Amy, Joel's mother, claims she never understood why people would want to play a game about a child dying of cancer. But people are playing.

The game totals about two hours, accompanied by voiceovers by Ryan and Amy. Some are mundane voicemails, complaining about traffic after taking Joel to chemo, while others are deeply poetic and devastatingly poignant reflections on Joel's inevitable death. For much of the game you inhabit the faceless perspectives of the story's principal characters. But at times you take a third-person perspective, a ghostly presence able to interact with the environment and push the story forward, but unable to say or change a thing.

Critics of gaming culture complain that games are egoist because the player directly controls events through the proxy of the protagonist. I generally take issue with this, but this is especially untrue of That Dragon, Cancer. You can rock Joel to sleep, explore the colorful hospital with him. You can try to escape the room in a small rowboat as it fills with water, as the doctor explains painfully that the prognosis is terminal. The water overtakes the boat, and eventually you lose Joel in the waves as the game's controls fail. You can't save him.

I haven't been able to finish this game yet. There's a scene where I had to stop, where you take on the perspective of a bird who watches Amy and Joel adrift in the open ocean, careening towards a lighthouse on a small craft. Ryan is drowning in his sorrow, his doubt in God, and he's begging Amy to let him do so. But Amy refuses to let them give up. The hopelessness of not being able to steer the craft to safety, to pull Ryan out of his misery, became unbearable for me. And I imagine this is how the people in Joel's life felt as they were losing a loved one.

When I bought the game and explained it to a friend, she asked, "Wait, but how do you win?" You can't win. There's nothing to win. But there's a whole life of a little boy to experience. This isn't a game; it's a higher form of empathy, and it's changing everything.

Melissa Feito is a senior majoring in English. She can be reached at Melissa.Feito@tufts.edu.

MOVIE REVIEW ★☆☆☆

Michael Bay's '13 Hours' dishes up conservative propaganda

by Lancy Downs
Arts Editor

Hillary Clinton haters around the country are surely rejoicing: Michael Bay has made a movie just for them! Indeed, the director's latest flick, "13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi," is unabashedly tailored to the conservative crowd, and, for Clinton detractors eager for another chance to rehash their opinions about the former Secretary of State's handling of the Sept. 11, 2012 attack on the American diplomatic outpost in Benghazi, it is Christmas come early. Yes, this is the very movie that inspired your Donald Trump-supporting uncle's latest rambling anti-Hillary Facebook tirade. Spoiler alert: It is not very good.

That being said, however, it is hardly fair to go into a Michael Bay movie expecting it to be good. Good is beside the point. Bay specializes in movies in which everything gets blown up and attractive men run around saving the day, and "13 Hours" is more than willing to serve up these moments. The result is, of course, entertaining enough for moviegoers who like their films heavy on gender norms and machine guns but light on subtlety and historical accuracy.

The plot is expectedly straightforward. Jack Silva (John Krasinski) arrives in Benghazi — one of the most dangerous places on earth, or so the movie tells us, to join a team of highly trained military contractors operating out of a (not-so) top-se-



John Krasinski attended the premiere of "13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi" at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016.

cret CIA base in the city. The work is dangerous but fairly routine. Enter Chris Stevens (Matt Letscher), the U.S. Ambassador to Libya, who has come to stay at a nearby American diplomatic compound. That this is a poorly protected enclosure and not a well-fortified embassy becomes immediately clear. It is vulnerable and tensions are running high in Benghazi. On the night of Sept. 11, the compound comes under attack from local militants, and the military contractors are forced to protect both this compound and, soon, their own CIA base. The rest of the movie plays out over the course of this increasingly violent and tragic night.

As is perhaps obvious from the plot description, the contractors spend most of the movie engaged in a limited number of activities. There are lengthy sequences devoted to their firing seemingly endless rounds of ammunition into the night. They shoot indiscriminately at anyone and everyone who doesn't look like them (i.e. not white and muscular), and the soldiers themselves even admit several times that they have no idea who they are aiming at. Let us be clear, though — this does not stop them from shooting at anyone with brown skin and a gun. Fans of bland, generalized patriotic statements or pseudo-philosophical musings about war will also find much to love in "13 Hours." Even in the midst of a firefight, the contractors enjoy a nice reflection on what it means to fight for the good ol' US of A — or else they crack a joke, which is the movie's way of reassuring us that, even in the most traumatic and violent situations, these brave soldiers can still be funny. They are very resilient men and American as apple pie, thank you very much.

With the contractors, Bay attempts to resurrect the war hero of a bygone era; each one feels like Captain America-lite, inserted into our modern age of purposeless wars. Needless to say, it does not work. It is a premise too simplistic, unoriginal and ill-suited to characters fighting a war most Americans likely do not even believe in. We are not fighting Hitler anymore, and this conflict's moral gray area is too obvious for the good-guy-war-hero character to feel relevant.

What is most problematic (and curious) about "13 Hours" is its attempt to offer a thought-provoking commentary about the never-ending American presence in the Middle East. Though the contractors explicitly acknowledge that this fight is not theirs, that they do not know why or who or what they are fighting, that these deaths of Americans and Libyans feel needless, their words ultimately ring false given the content of the movie itself. All "13 Hours" cares to tell us about Libyans is that they are scary and Muslim and have brown skin and that it is okay, good even, to shoot and kill them with reckless abandon in the name of protecting America. This is not to say that there were only good-hearted innocent people among the militants, nor is it an attempt to write off the deaths of Americans killed in the attack. Nevertheless, it feels reductive to have yet another movie in which brown people are the villains and the handsome, white Americans get to kill them and then save the day. Filmmakers need to create movies that challenge this trope, not uphold it. In this age of campaign trail-fear mongering about Muslims, to do anything else simply feels dangerous.

Natalie Girshman

The ABC's
of Literature

Alice Hoffman

Being a fan of a prolific author is always a double-edged sword. On the one hand, the odds of running out of books to read are significantly lower and you can look forward to a new book at fairly regular intervals. On the other, quality can sometimes vary wildly and an author who produces a stunning novel one year can crank out a quietly ordinary one the next. Author Alice Hoffman illustrates this problem.

At her best, Hoffman is practically luminescent in her writing, crafting modern fairytales with dark consequences and hopeful endings or transporting her readers back to historical periods from ancient Israel to nineteenth-century Paris with a few choice phrases and indelible characters. However, the fable-like tone of her writing can sometimes lead instead to the reader feeling removed from the characters and the immediacy of what happens to them. For example, "The Museum of Extraordinary Things" (2014), set in turn-of-the-century Coney Island, is full of intriguing ideas like the titular museum but keeps its protagonist Coralie behind glass, both literally and metaphorically, as she performs as a mermaid in her father's show and remains an emotionally distant character throughout much of the novel.

Ultimately, the key to enjoying Hoffman's work lies in deciding which sub-genre of her novels appeals to you most. First, there are her magical realist novels, usually set in New England and featuring families of strong women, gentle humor, second chances at love and magic that can both fade into the background and permanently disrupt the fabric of its protagonists' lives. These characteristics are exemplified in one of Hoffman's best-known novels, "Practical Magic" (1995), the story of two sisters in a long line of magical, cursed women. Simply put, "Practical Magic" is a delight to read, a heart-felt story about every kind of love there is. If you enjoy "Practical Magic," there's also "The Probable Future" (2003), about a family of women with supernatural gifts and the mystery that draws them all back together, and "The River King" (2000) where the death of a student at a prestigious prep school upends the boundaries in one small Massachusetts town.

Second, there's her historical fiction, including her other popular novel "The Dovekeepers" (2011), which tells the story of four women at Masada in Israel. It's heartbreaking and elegantly written, and one of those books that someone you know is bound to have also read and enjoyed. If you're looking to found a book club, "The Dovekeepers" might be the right choice. However, my favorite Hoffman novels are her dark modern-day fairy tales like "The Third Angel" (2008) and "The Story Sisters" (2009), packed with tragedy, redemption and everything in between. They're not the easiest books to read and their characters, like the drug-addicted and emotionally scarred Elv of "The Story Sisters," go tumbling down some dark rabbit holes, but what comes before makes the hope of Hoffman's endings all the more powerful. These books also contain some of her loveliest writing and most powerful imagery, as every page packs a devastating punch and keeps you hooked.

Natalie Girshman is a senior majoring in history and drama. She can be reached at natalie.girshman@tufts.edu

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MOVIE REVIEW ★★☆☆☆

Spike Lee's 'Chi-Raq' is an abject failure

by Jonah Allon
Assistant Arts Editor

Subtlety isn't Spike Lee's forte. It never has been, and it never will be. In some respects, his heavy-handed approach suits his body of work, which is as political and moral as it is artistic — as concerned with imparting a strong message as it is with entertaining its audiences, if not more so. So maybe the nicest thing that can be said about Lee's "Chi-Raq" (2015), which was just released for streaming on Amazon Prime, is that it succeeds in imparting this strong message — sort of. It's certainly topical, taking on the scourge of gun

violence in Chicago and the innocent victims it leaves in its wake. And its message is urgent, if a little tired.

Okay, this reviewer is going to drop the suffocating pretenses of a critic and just speak to you as an aggrieved viewer who had to sit through this smoldering dumpster fire of a movie for two (2!) whole hours on a Saturday night: "Chi-Raq" is bad. It's upsettingly bad, it's incomprehensibly bad, it's frustratingly bad. And this is coming from someone who desperately wanted it to be good — not just for personal enjoyment, but for the sake of everyone who fundamentally agrees with Lee's



Writer and director Spike Lee holds a press conference outside St. Sabina Church on Chicago's South Side on Thursday, May 14, 2015 regarding his planned controversial movie "Chiraq." Lee, along with the Rev. Michael Pfleger, second from right, and actor John Cusack, right, and parents of victims of gun violence spoke to a large crowd in the church's courtyard.

underlying message and wanted to see their raw frustration with the current state of race relations in this country transmuted into art, as it was in Kendrick Lamar's "To Pimp a Butterfly" (2015) and D'Angelo's "Black Messiah" (2014). The script, co-written by Spike Lee and Kevin Willmott, feels like it was hastily dashed off on a lazy afternoon. How else does one explain the clunkers uttered by real human actors who voluntarily participated in this project (another head-scratcher) like, "You are crazy like glue" and "Peace and hair grease?" Or even this line straight from the mouth of Nick Cannon, who plays

the male lead, Chi-Raq: "Guess I better press my luck. You just like my credit: bad as fuck." Wow. You've come a long way since your "Wild 'N Out" (2005 – present) days, Nick.

Now curious readers might be wondering, what's with all the rhyming? "Chi-Raq" is a modern adaptation of the ancient Greek comedy "Lysistrata" by Aristophanes, which chronicles the efforts of the titular character to bring an end to the Peloponnesian War by rallying women on both sides of the conflict to boycott sex with their husbands until the men can negotiate a peace agreement. Lee changes the setting to modern Chicago, the title a nod to the shocking (and shameful) fact that more American lives have been lost in Chicago between 2001 and 2015 than in both the Iraq War and the War in Afghanistan combined, and updates the script with some contrived colloquialisms. Otherwise, he retains most of the elements of the original play, including the characters' names, the names of the warring factions (Spartans and Trojans) and the rhyming in the script. He even incorporates Samuel L. Jackson as a kind of one-man Greek chorus named Dolmedes. Jackson is great, per usual, but having just seen him play a much better, feistier role in Quentin Tarantino's "Hateful Eight" (2015), it's hard not to be a little disappointed with his trite diatribes on police brutality, gang violence and the power of love — or lust — to effect social change.

If Jackson's role is a bit of a letdown, then Teyonah Parris' is a travesty — a failure to make better use of an impressive talent. That doesn't mean she can't hold her own in the role. Parris' performance here is electrifying and captivating, if a little over-the-top—a far cry from her star turn as Don Draper's secretary on "Mad Men." But unlike the AMC show, the material here does her a tremendous disservice, not allowing her to showcase her full range of abilities. Along with everyone else in the movie, she is puffed up into caricature, with nary a human moment shining through. Pretty ironic, considering that the whole movie has to do with the horrific consequences that arise from the casual devaluation of black lives and black humanity. Whatever message Lee is trying to send by the end of the film — some swirling potpourri of personal responsibility, systemic change and female empowerment — is ultimately muddled by its shoddy delivery.

Isaac Brown
Pop Filter



A cappella: choir for millennials

A cappella is choral ensemble for millennials, according to my extended family who refer to my cappella group as a "chorus." They aren't completely off the mark, but I hesitate to correct gram and gramps to inform them that a cappella is not simply choral music minus the piano. Pedantry has no place at the dinner table with people you see but once a year. It does, however, have a place in an a cappella column.

Choir is bound by a certain rigidity both in mind and body, whereas collegiate a cappella must straddle the line between a unified, controlled sound and the musical freedom of the soloist to ensure that everyone can have fun without devolving into chaos. That's not to say both types of groups aren't having fun, but a cappella is under greater pressure to communicate that fun to the audience, emotionally and physically, in order for them to build a connection. To put it another way, the choir is about using a group to present the music, whereas a cappella is about using the music to present the group.

Now that we've got our terms squared away, let's talk about that oft-ignored but integral piece of the a cappella puzzle: the arranger. When a group performs any piece, half of what you hear is vocal ability, and the other half is the arranger's imagination. What arrangers typically do is a combination of transcription and translation of music to convert something that can't be sung like a guitar riff or arpeggiated piano into something that the human voice can express.

I build arrangements with two goals in mind: making an engaging, energy-infused background and providing the soloist with a canvas upon which they can show off their voice. While it's tempting to lift entire sections note for note out of the original and save time, the result tends to be aural agony. A successful and interesting arrangement takes more than ctrl + c and ctrl + v; it means restructuring, rewriting and sometimes composing new sections to ensure that the result is not purely a cover.

The great power the arrangers hold over a group's sound cuts both ways; they endure the crushing disappointment when a piece ends on cricket chirps and pity claps, and the pride that pumps through their veins during standing ovations. One's ability to arrange directly translates to overall sound quality, which improves public perception, boosts audition turnout and increases the aggregate talent within the group. With better vocalists, a group is able to extend the range of its repertoire, learn pieces more efficiently and perform more gigs at better venues to larger audiences, further improving public perception. Arrangers are necessary to keep this wheel greased, but at Tufts it's safe to say demand for this kind of talent exceeds supply. It's an art form with low barriers to entry and a high skill ceiling; all you need to get started is a rudimentary knowledge of music theory and some experience listening to a cappella, so I encourage anyone with even the slightest musical inclination to learn about how it's done.

Isaac Brown is a junior, an English major and a contributing writer at the Tufts Daily. He can be reached at isaac.brown@tufts.edu.



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EDITORIAL

Be wary of effects of Green Line extension

The butt of many jokes, the Green Line Extension project (GLX) is nevertheless a substantial infrastructural undertaking with considerable repercussions on the Boston Metro Area. The project has been in the planning stages since the 1990s, and construction finally began in 2012 — four years ago. The extension is nowhere near finished.

The latest headlines concerning GLX revolve around the increased cost of the project and the effect this cost will have on the government's budget. However, another concerning consequence of the Green Line extension is the hike in housing prices. This consequence is extremely important to Tufts students and residents of the Somerville/Medford area.

For those who have not yet seen a map of the proposed GLX, the plan is to add six stops to the MBTA's Green Line and relocate one current stop. Among these new stops is one at the intersection of College Avenue and Boston Avenue, right on campus (very close to Brown and Brew). The addition of a T-stop on campus is more than welcome for those who need to get to Boston quickly and for those tired of the "Tufts bubble." Even the Tufts administration is thrilled by the addition of the College Avenue stop. This sentiment is clearly expressed by the announcement

that Tufts will build a new 100,000 square-foot building above and around the T-stop.

Although the addition of a T-stop along College Avenue may seem like a convenient measure for both Tufts students and faculty, the repercussions of GLX should continue to give pause to those members of the Tufts community worried about the implications of having so many new people in the area.

According to an article published by The Boston Globe in 2014, rent in the areas near new MBTA stops could increase by as much as 67 percent. In Somerville, this is important as around two-thirds of the residents are tenants rather than landlords. Students at Tufts are affected as well, especially those on financial aid. The Tufts Office of Financial Aid allots \$13,094 to students who receive financial aid for room and board. This amount does not change regardless of whether students live on or off campus. However, the amount is based on a nine-month school year, not the regular 12-month lease, forcing students to stretch that allowance to cover the extra three months. Additionally, Tufts does not take into account the increased rent prices in its calculations of financial aid.

While low-income students will certainly have to bear the burden of

increasing rent prices in the area, it is a burden that they will, in all likelihood, only have to bear for two years. Residents of Somerville that are not affiliated to Tufts will experience the negative impact of the new stop in the long run. Most permanent residents of Somerville will have to seek lower rent prices elsewhere.

This story of displacement is not new — the Davis Square T-stop was added in the 1980s. One could argue that adding another T stop will set off a whole new age of the Somerville-Medford area, whatever follows young, yuppie, hipster professionals warring against longtime residents. Similar repercussions to the ones currently predicted were observed then. For decades, Tufts University has been a large contributing factor to the gentrification of the Somerville/Medford area. And while Davis Square may now be "prettier," it has also lost much of the diversity in class and life experience, that attracts people in the first place.

It is clear that the extension of the Green Line will be a positive change in a variety of ways. However, it is imperative to look at the situation from outside of the Tufts upper-middle class bubble and realize that convenience often comes with a cost.

Luke Sherman

Earth On Fire



Facebook, Tinder and ... climate change?

We each play a role in our families. Your grandma drags everyone to church on Easter, your uncle recounts his tour in Vietnam every Thanksgiving and your dad orders you to make your bed each morning even though, well, you're in college. In my family, I'm known as the environmentalist and the Luddite.

So suffice it to say that I was hardly surprised when on Christmas morning, I opened the presents my brothers had given to me. Both were books: from my twin, sociologist Sherry Turkle's "Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in the Digital Age," from my older brother, Pope Francis's second encyclical, "On Care for Our Common Home."

My brothers purchased these books for me for obvious reasons. I'm turning 22 this March, and despite my dad's repeated attempts to force me to enter the 21st century, I still insist on keeping my flip phone. I've nagged my entire family about the need to diligently recycle since I watched "An Inconvenient Truth" in the seventh grade. What I never realized until reading these two books back-to-back, however, was the degree to which our use of personal technological devices and climate change are intimately connected.

In his encyclical, the pope posits that environmental degradation has one principal cause: humans' lack of empathy for their counterparts, nature and other non-human beings. In recent years, we as a species have become less empathetic because of our increasing use of social networking applications like Facebook and Snapchat and devices like iPhones and computers.

Pope Francis argues that this decline in empathy occurs because social media and our gadgets suppress "real relationships with others, with all the challenges they entail" and tend "to be replaced by a type of Internet communication which enables us to choose or eliminate relationships at whim, thus giving rise to a new type of contrived emotion which has more to do with devices and displays than with other people and with nature."

Turkle contends that dating applications have similar psychological impacts on our ability to form stable romantic relationships. With hundreds of potential partners in our immediate vicinity, we no longer have to settle for the person we're currently dating. As Turkle writes: "In fact, technology brings significant complications to the conversations of modern romance. We feel we have permission to simply drop out."

Young people today appear more self-centered than previous generations, as Turkle and the pope maintain, and they reason that this is because our rush to post our entire lives on Twitter and Vine subconsciously makes us feel as though the universe revolves around us.

Taken together, the effects are highly damaging. Our use of technology and new digital applications has three major impacts on us: It engenders a throwaway culture, causes us to feel as though our stories and thoughts are the most important and diminishes our capacity for empathy.

Tackling climate change will require much more than the passage of a carbon tax or a repudiation of capitalism. If we want to ensure a livable future for ourselves and future generations, we'll have to call into question our cultural habits, including our use of personal technologies. Let's get started.

Luke is a senior majoring in Environmental Studies. He can be reached at Luke.Sherman@tufts.edu.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

BY SHANNONGEARY



The Tufts Daily is a nonprofit, independent newspaper, published Monday through Friday during the academic year, and distributed free to the Tufts community. The content of letters, advertisements, signed columns, cartoons and graphics does not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Tufts Daily editorial board.

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ADVERTISING All advertising copy is subject to the approval of the Editor-in-Chief, Executive Board and Executive Business Director.

MAJORS WEEK

FEBRUARY 22—26

Majors Week is coming up!

Save the dates and check out the [Student Life Events Calendar](#) for more information on individual department/program events:

<http://students.tufts.edu/events>

And check back here in The Daily for a full listing of events each day next week!

In preparation for Majors Week, come hear from your peers
at the

MAJORS PANEL

Thursday, February 18 from 6-7pm

Hill Hall Lounge

Declared Arts & Sciences students will share their paths to major declaration. Pizza will be served.

Questions? Contact cta@tufts.edu

COMICS

LATE NIGHT AT THE DAILY

Jack: "I think the new frontier of human rights is Cheeto marriage."



DIM SUM CAFE

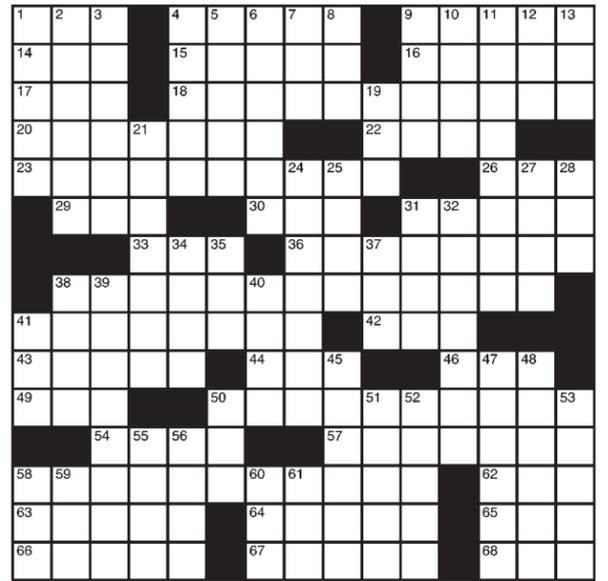
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CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mud wrap venue
 - 4 Bridge, to Botticelli
 - 9 On a cruise
 - 14 Knock gently
 - 15 Unalaska inhabitant
 - 16 With 27-Down, striped holiday treat
 - 17 Tycoon Onassis
 - 18 Add to the language
 - 20 North Atlantic hazard
 - 22 Perching on
 - 23 Unusually high temperatures, often
 - 26 Letters used in old dates
 - 29 Beirut's country: Abbr.
 - 30 ___-Cat: winter vehicle
 - 31 Skin-and-bones sort
 - 33 Fish and chips option
 - 36 Wonton, e.g.
 - 38 Law enforcement slogan
 - 41 Felix Unger et al.
 - 42 "Atlas Shrugged" author Rand
 - 43 Many opera villains
 - 44 Grassland
 - 46 Uncertainties
 - 49 Braying beast
 - 50 Dessert with swirls
 - 54 Canyon feedback
 - 57 Ice-T or Jay Z
 - 58 What the starts of 18-, 23-, 38- and 50-Across can be part of "Who am ___ judge?"
 - 63 German river, to Germans
 - 64 Adult insect
 - 65 Not quite Ige.
 - 66 Chore list entries
 - 67 Web surfing tool
 - 68 Beverage suffix
- DOWN**
- 1 Step between landings
 - 2 Part of UPS
 - 3 Unit-pricing word
 - 4 Hoosier hoopster
 - 5 Grace opening
 - 6 Sounds from a stable
 - 7 Vineyard vat
 - 8 Approximate touchdown hr.
 - 9 Vier und vier
 - 10 Hawaiian root
 - 11 Feature of most fedoras
 - 12 Newspaper hires, briefly
 - 13 Vote for
 - 19 ___ on the back
 - 21 Spotted members of the lynx family
 - 24 Laptop buyer, for one
 - 25 Month after juillet
 - 27 See 16-Across
 - 28 Urge (on)
 - 31 Energetic
 - 32 Outpatient treatment sites
 - 34 Upscale hotel chain
 - 35 Printer resolution spec.
 - 37 ___ Nashville: country label
 - 38 Bering and North
 - 39 Like graduation caps
 - 40 St. with a panhandle
 - 41 Steph Curry's org.
 - 45 In Europe, say
 - 47 Daughter of Muhammad
 - 48 Enjoyed the ice
 - 50 Comfy slip-on
 - 51 "Tootsie" actress Jessica
 - 52 Word with Downs or salts
 - 53 Slowly eat into
 - 55 Ad writer's award
 - 56 Feathered brooders
 - 58 Dated PC hookup
 - 59 "So that's it!"
 - 60 Bob Cratchit's boy
 - 61 I believe, in texts



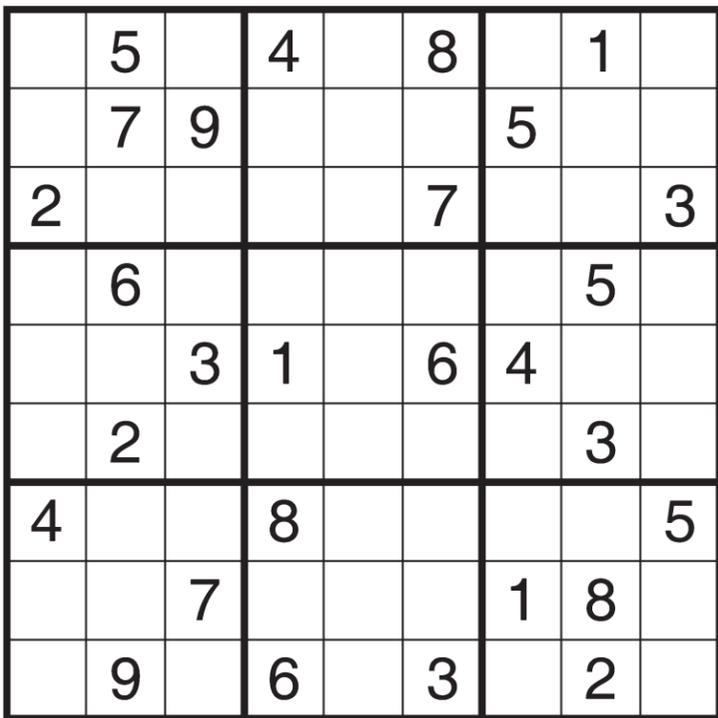
By Mark McClain

2/16/16

Friday's Solution

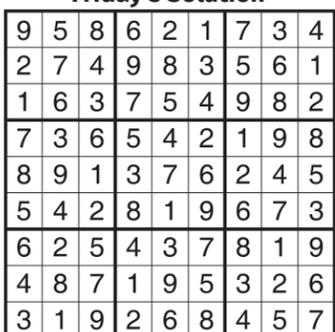


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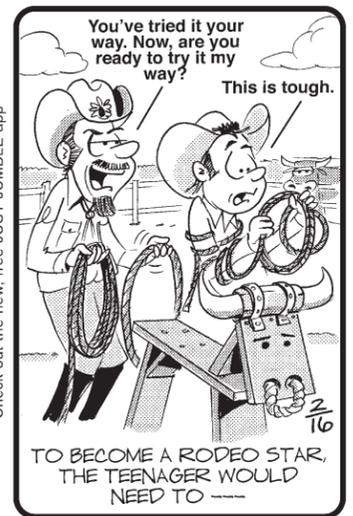
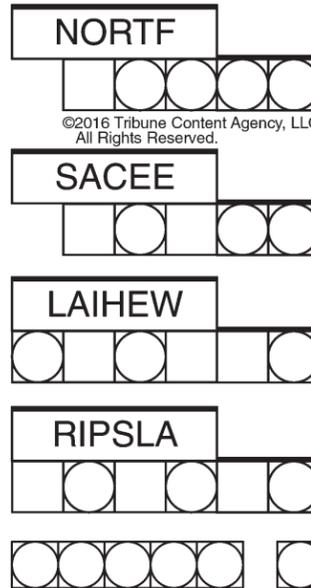
Difficulty Level: Hamilton not becoming president after he published the "Reynolds Pamphlet". #nevergoingtobepresidentnow

Friday's Solution



JUMBLE

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



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



Yesterday's | Jumbles: AVOID OCTET FORBID OBLONG
Answer: Sasquatch was easy to track because he had a — BIG FOOT

NON SEQUITUR

BY WILEY MILLER



Tufts to take on visiting Middlebury in NESCAC quarterfinal

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

continued from back

pushing the Ephs' lead to 7-2 halfway through the first quarter. Tufts struggled mightily on the offensive end at first, scoring just 10 points in the first quarter on 4-for-19 shooting from the floor and 0-for-9 shooting from beyond the arc.

The Jumbos' defense, however, gave them a little cushion so that by the end of the first period they were holding onto a 10-9 lead. By the middle of the second quarter, Tufts had a lead it would not relinquish. Folliard kicked off a 12-1 run with a 3-pointer which lasted until Dillon answered with a 3 of her own more than two minutes later. Led by North and sophomore Melissa Baptista, both of whom scored eight

points in the first half, Tufts built a 30-18 lead going into the intermission.

The third quarter saw Tufts go on another big run, with Williams' offense becoming stifled. The Ephs shot just 25.9 percent from the floor (15-for-58) for the game and converted 3-of-17 from downtown. While Williams held a 45-40 advantage in rebounding, Tufts outscored its opponents 21-3 on points off turnovers. During the Jumbos' 13-3 run in the final half of the third quarter, Dillon posted eight points. In the fourth quarter, Tufts' lead would grow as large as 30 points on two occasions before settling on a 25-point margin of victory. With the game never in doubt in the second half, the Jumbos began emptying their bench to give their seniors and the whole roster more playing time before the postseason begins.

Baptista had a stellar performance all the way around, packing the stat sheet with a game-high 15 points, six rebounds, three blocks, two steals and two assists. At times she created offense out of her strong defensive play, with steals leading to fast break layups.

Dillon also scored in the double digits, pouring in 11 points along with her three assists and three steals. Junior Josie Lee had eight points and five rebounds, while North finished with a team-high eight rebounds. On the other side, Williams senior Oge Uwanaka reeled in a game-high 10 rebounds and tacked on six points. Junior Devon Caveney added six points and seven rebounds.

Though this game against the Ephs proved to be all Jumbos throughout, the team acknowledges how hard it has

had to work — and must continue to work — if it wants to keep on winning.

"It's no easy feat — we had a lot of close and hard-fought games," Dillon said. "On the other hand though, our end goal is that NESCAC championship. Coach let us have that night to be happy, but now we're on to the next and have our sights set on the quarterfinal game versus Middlebury this Saturday."

Though no win can ever be taken for granted in NESCAC tournament play, the Jumbos are the clear favorites in the first round. Middlebury is tied for the second-worst scoring offense in the league in overall play this year, while Tufts has the second best defense. The Jumbos will host the Panthers at Cousens Gym at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon.

Tufts prepares for New England Div. III Championships

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

continued from back

this is my last year to give it my all in a sport that I love. I watch technique videos of professional athletes, put in the extra effort at practice and have a more intense focus because I want to leave this program knowing that I did the best I could."

A number of distance women were also in action over the weekend, hoping to qualify or improve upon their seeds for the Div. III New England meet. Senior quad-captain Sydney Smith started the day off strong for the Jumbos in the 800 meters, running an indoor PR of 2:15.25 for 51st overall. Sophomore Sara Stokesbury set a huge three-second

PR in the event and put herself on an entirely new level, running 2:21.40 for 95th overall, while classmate Prudence Sax ran her second-fastest time ever in 2:25.61. Junior Sam Cox had a big day in the 1000 meters, setting a PR of 3:02.93 to place 44th overall and qualify for Open New England.

"Having a good start and giving myself space to run as opposed to getting boxed in definitely helped this weekend," Stokesbury said. "Not being afraid to take the lead and push the pace in the last lap-and-a-half also helped me run a fast time. In terms of my race strategy, I wanted to get out of the start well and try to push the pace for each of the four laps regardless of how the rest of the girls in the race were running."

On the longer-distance side, first-year Livvy Barnett was 95th overall in the mile in 5:13.25, her season best, while senior quad-captain Audrey Gould kept the energy going into the night with her 10:06.24 time, 68th-place finish in the 3,000 meter run. Junior Sarah Corning rounded out the distance action for Tufts, running 19:38.35 in the 5,000 meters for 55th overall. However, early on Saturday morning, the distance medley relay team of sophomore Margot Rashba, Allen, Cox and Smith returned to BU to run 12:22.18 for 20th overall.

Besides Harrison in the long jump at BU and Caruso in the triple jump at MIT, there was little field action for Tufts on the day. First-year Brita Dawson — who also competed in the 200 meters earlier in the day with a 27.08 time

— was 40th in the long jump in 16 ft., 4 1/4 in. In the throws, sophomore Toluwa Akinyemi heaved the shot put 29 ft., 10 3/4 in. for 49th overall, while classmates Amylee Anyoha and Jennifer Sherwill hurled the standards in the weight throw, 44 ft., 9 1/2 in. and 38 ft., 4 in., for 30th and 45th, respectively.

Next weekend, a well-rested Jumbos squad will travel to Middlebury for the annual Div. III New England Track and Field Championships. Last year, the Jumbos placed sixth overall with 50 points, but will be hoping to improve on that mark come next weekend.

"We want to be in the top three at Div. IIIs this year, and we want to come out of the meet confident that we gave our best effort," Harrison said.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Jumbos close out regular season with win on Seniors Night



Tufts guard Michelle Wu, LA'16, charges down the court after gaining possession of the ball from an Emmanuel player on Tuesday, Jan. 26.

by Alex Schroeder
Sports Editor

For the third year in a row, the Jumbos are undefeated during the NESCAC regular season. With a dominant 62-37 win over Williams on Seniors Night, No. 6 Tufts captured yet another 10-0 conference record and is primed to host this year's NESCAC championship over the next two weekends. Having beaten every team in the conference, Tufts will be the top seed and favorite heading into the postseason, though the road to a

third consecutive NESCAC crown will not come without adversity.

"We feel that being undefeated in the regular season is a great accomplishment and something that we are extremely proud of, but it inspires us to keep on pushing forward to win even more," Michela North, a junior, said. "We look ahead one game at a time and make sure we focus on each game just as much as the next. Every team in the NESCAC is out to get us and will play to their fullest potential, so we always need to bring it too."

In honor of those Jumbos playing in the last home regular season game of their

respective careers, Cousens Gymnasium was decorated with signs and streamers to host to a pregame ceremony. The four seniors — Michelle Wu, Maura Folliard and tri-captains Emma Roberson and Nicole Brooks — started the game against Williams and continued to have an impact throughout the contest. Each one of the seniors scored and recorded at least one rebound, as every Tufts player who was suited up to play got time on the floor.

This group of four seniors has been along for quite the ride over the past four years, although they're most likely far from done. They were just sophomores when Tufts captured its first NESCAC championship in 2014. While there is still a lot of work to be done to secure the program's third NESCAC crown, this accomplishment — finishing 10-0 in the regular season yet again — is an impressive feat on its own.

"It was the perfect way to end their last regular season," Lauren Dillon, a sophomore, said. "They've had such a successful career and brought so much to this program that the only way it felt right was to get a huge win."

While the game started out a little shaky for Tufts, the Jumbos were never in any real trouble. Williams sophomore Amanni Fernandez, who is currently fifth in the NESCAC with 15.4 points per game, started out strong as she scored four points,

see **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**, page 11

WOMEN'S TRACK

Jumbos compete well at Valentine Invitational against top athletes

by Chris Warren
Sports Editor

Over the weekend, the women's track and field team traveled a few miles down the road to the Boston University Track and Tennis Center for the annual David Hemery Valentine Invitational. BU Valentine, as it is known, is one of the most famous indoor meets in the nation on the weekend of Valentine's Day, on par with the Iowa Invitational. The meet annually brings in nationally ranked athletes from the Div. I, II and III level, including those from track powerhouses Florida State, Auburn and Georgetown.

The majority of the team took the day off to rest for next weekend's Div. III New England Championships, held at Middlebury. However, a number of Jumbos still took to the reputed "fastest indoor track in the nation" to run some quick times.

"Since so many teams and athletes compete at BU it is always difficult to get all of our athletes into the meet," senior quad-captain Alexis Harrison said. "Those that do compete at BU get an opportunity to go against elite competitors and those that sit out get the chance to get a great workout in as well as focus their energy into next weekend [for Div. III New Englands]."

The sprints squad had an impressive day for the Jumbos, as they ran some very fast times as a tuneup for Div. III New Englands next weekend. Harrison placed 57th overall in the 200-meter run, with a time of 25.65

seconds for a season's best. She also competed in the long jump, taking 30th overall in 16 ft., 10 3/4 in.

Classmate and fellow quad-captain Marilyn Allen, the 60-meter hurdle stud, was 71st in the 200 meters, finishing in 25.88 seconds, a season's best time as well. She also placed well in the 60 meter hurdles, taking 37th in 9.28 seconds. Senior Mary Ellen Caruso, who has been having a career year in her final year running track, was 149th with a personal record of 26.93 seconds.

Later on Saturday, Caruso traveled a few miles up the road to MIT for the Gordon Kelly Invitational to compete in the triple jump, where she leapt 34 ft., 2 3/4 in., good for sixth out of 18. Junior

Rita Donohoe also came up big in the 400 meters as she ran a PR of 1:01.10 seconds, taking 142nd overall and winning her heat. Sophomore Julia Prusaczyk added to these fast times as well with her 29th place finish in the 500 meters, running 1:19.72 seconds.

This season, Harrison has been leading this group of fast middle-distance runners. She has consistently run well almost every meet and has even PR'd in the 60-meter dash.

"The biggest change this year for me is my mindset," Harrison said. "Since this is my senior year, I go into every practice and every meet knowing that

see **WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD**, page 11



Tufts track runners compete at the Tufts Stampede meet at the Gantcher Center on Jan. 30.

Yuan Jun Chee

On the Spot



Why Louis van Gaal needs to go

At some point, one wonders if the Theatre of Dreams has turned into a theatre of nightmares. Or if dreams even exist anymore at Old Trafford.

Twenty-six years of attacking football under Alex Ferguson may have given Manchester United fans a right to demand attacking football. Even under David Moyes, United tried to keep to the hallowed traditions of this famous club. Not under Louis van Gaal though.

There's nothing wrong playing possession football — great teams like Arsenal and Barcelona used to dominate opponents with the way they moved the ball around the field; Manchester United keeps the ball but does almost nothing else with it. The statistics tell an even more damning story.

Prior to the Feb. 2 3-0 home win over Stoke, United had not scored a first-half goal at Old Trafford since late September, and went through December without a win. In the January FA Cup tie against Sheffield United, its first shot on target did not come until after 67 minutes into the match.

When van Gaal claims he is loosening the shackles, I cringe. Critics may argue that United has been harder to break down, but mistakes against Wolfsburg, Sunderland, Southampton and Norwich suggest otherwise, and just when United thought it turned a corner against Stoke, it floundered at Chelsea. This style of play makes the result and the performance even harder to stomach.

Despite spending £250 million, Manchester United looks like it has regressed. He's had 18 months, but van Gaal has not been able to impose his so-called "philosophy" on the pitch. There should be no excuse for not finishing in the top four, nor should he be saying that the Europa League is United's best bet for Champions League qualification.

With possession-based philosophies, you need both pace and incisiveness in the final third. Yet he benches Ander Herrera and sometimes Juan Mata. You would also want a player who can run behind the defenders and get behind the proverbial parked bus. Yet he's hardly put his fastest players in those positions. Van Gaal put Ashley Young at full-back, loaned James Wilson out and benched Memphis Depay, so when he claims he doesn't have enough pace in his team, I'm not sure if the Dutchman is blind or if he's completely lost the plot.

I wouldn't be surprised if it's the latter. Players today can't just be treated as robots. This isn't FIFA16 or Football Manager — it's 22 humans on the field trying to win a game. Players need room to breathe, and can't be told to eat together every session, or train in a certain way. Van Gaal himself seems robotic — abnormally quiet on the bench and leaving Ryan Giggs to bellow instructions from the touchline. This is disheartening; it's almost as if he doesn't see the need to be actively involved in the game — especially when you consider that arch-rival Liverpool has that kind of active manager in Jurgen Klopp.

Dreams certainly do not come out from this supposed hell-hole that is Louis van Gaal's methods. His strategies haven't worked on the field, and his personnel-management methods seem antiquated.

Maybe soon he will be too.

Yuan Jun Chee is a first-year majoring in History. He can be reached yuan.chee@tufts.edu.