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TCU Senate passes resolution for voter registration via iSIS

BY MARISSA PECK
Contributing Writer

The Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate at its Feb. 2 meeting unanimously passed a non-binding resolution to confront problems with the student voter registration process and to increase active citizenship among Tufts students.

According to sophomore Senator James Golden, the TCU Senate hopes to alleviate and streamline the registration process, working with the university and groups such as Tufts Votes and Tufts Democrats to enable students to register to vote on the Integrated Student Information System (iSIS).

The current prototype would incorporate a program called TurboVote with iSIS. Golden explained that the program enables students to enter their information online, where it is then delivered in a pre-stamped envelope and requires only their signature.

"TurboVote fills everything out for you and all you have to do is sign a piece of paper," Jacob Wessel, the president of Tufts Democrats, said. "In Massachusetts, you can't register to vote online. You have to print it out and send it via snail mail and there are a lot of problems with the addresses at Tufts."

The program would identify "bottleneck times," like class registration period or freshman orientation, in which it would prompt students to register to vote online on iSIS, added Wessel, a senior.

"It will make things more convenient for everyone," he said.

According to Alan Solomont, the Pierre and Pamela Omidyar Dean of the Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service, students in the past have encountered many problems with registration.

"Students have some unique barriers to overcome because they are typically living in a community on campus or around Tufts that is separate from where they come from, even if they are local," said Solomont. "Figuring out where they are going to vote and where they are going to register is an additional hurdle to overcome."

Wessel explained that current voter registration initiatives on campus are managed by student volunteers. He said that if they did not step up, there would be no registration drives on campus. While many students do sign up through these drives, Wessel stressed that they do not come close to registering the entire eligible student body.

A program like TurboVote would increase the accessibility of the process, would reach everyone and would not have the same reliance on the largely partisan voter registration events on campus, according to Wessel.

Golden emphasized the Senate's desire to make voter registration non-partisan.

"Another purpose of this whole thing is to kind of gain independence for Tufts Votes and kind of getting a standing leadership going," he said.

Part of this leadership could involve the creation a new position at Tisch College, according to Golden. He added that Tisch College could potentially fund TurboVote.

"We're in talks with Tisch College to see if they would agree to actually fund us for [those] $4,000," Golden said. "Basically,

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CAROLINE GEILING / THE TUFTS DAILY
Retired General Stanley McChrystal speaks at yesterday's Service and Leadership Symposium.

Tufts officially launches pre-matriculation service program

BY JOSH WEINER
Daily Editorial Board

The Jonathan M. Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service yesterday unveiled its new "Tufts 1+4 Program" during its Symposium on Service and Leadership, in which retired General Stanley McChrystal spoke at Cohen Auditorium.

The event began with a welcome from University President Anthony Monaco who introduced Alan Solomont (A '70), the recently appointed dean of Tisch College. Solomont emphasized Tufts' commitment to community service.

"The Tisch College offers testimony to the fact that fostering civic engagement is not peripheral to the Tufts mission," he said. "It is central to it. It lies at the heart of what makes this university exceptional."

Solomont then introduced two undergraduate students, freshman Lydia Collins and sophomore Philip Ellison, who took gap — or bridge — years before their freshman year. Both students spent this time performing community service similar to that which fuels the "1+4 Program."

"I have an understanding of the difficulty of making the world a better place," Collins, who spent the 2012-2013 school year volunteering in Ecuador, said. "Hopefully myself and those with similar experiences as me, will be able to harness that knowledge and use it to make communities better."

Ellison, who spent time working in the South Bronx with City Year, an education-based volunteer organization, echoed this sentiment and explained the important lessons he learned during his gap year.

"Our work seemed like it never ended, but to us, that was the point," Ellison said. "The year was a rare opportu-

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ETHAN CHAN / THE TUFTS DAILY
Seniors Jay Dodd and Aaron Walck discuss Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy and ideals through a pie social event.

Research team at Tufts Medical approved for funding award

BY DANA GUTH
Daily Editorial Board

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) approved a funding award for a research team at an institute within the Tufts Medical Center, the Institute for Clinical Research and Health Policy Studies (ICRHPS).

With the award, the team will develop a method that determines patient eligibility for particular clinical trials. The full title of the project is "A Method for Patient-Centered Enrollment in Comparative Effectiveness Trials: Mathematical Equipoise," according to Dr. Harry Selker, Executive Director of ICRHPS and Dean of Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

"The goal of this project is to improve patient-centered enrollment in randomized clinical trials, and to help researchers determine which trials should be conducted in the future," Selker said.

This Mathematical Equipoise will require approximately $1 million to develop and implement, according to Selker.

"We will use [the] records to find patients with knee osteoarthritis who would be likely to benefit equally from either total knee replacement or non-surgical treatment," Selker said. "These patients could then be recommended for a comparative effectiveness randomized clinical trial."

The Mathematical Equipoise project received one of 82 awards approved by the PCORI, according to Associate Director of Media Relations at PCORI Christine Stencel. The funding award recipients were selected from a pool of 624 applicants. They were notified in December, she said.

PCORI is an independent, non-profit organization that Congress authorized in 2010 to provide funding to research organizations working on medical issues, according to Stencel.

"[The institute's] mission is to fund research that provides patients, their caregivers and clinicians with the evidence-

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Inside this issue

Report reveals lack of diversity among students who participate in study abroad while at Tufts.

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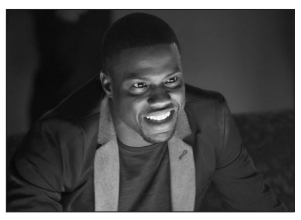
'About Last Night' defies romantic comedy tropes.



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Senate resolution could streamline voter registration process

SENATE

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they would run an application position that would be the Tufts Votes registration director [who] would be an officer of Tisch College, but would be a student."

TCU could also potentially allocate the necessary money for the new program, Golden explained.

"We're going to get [Tufts Votes] recognized through the normal TCU Judiciary system," he said. "Following that, we will apply for funding as a new group from the Allocations Board, and, hopefully, they will grant us that $4,000 startup fee that TurboVote asks for.

The resolution, which was sponsored by Golden and sophomore Senator Ethan Finkelstein, stemmed from the university's commitment to active citizenship, according to the resolution's text.

Solomont echoed this commitment and explained that the Tisch College would like to see more students participate in the political process because they are impacted by government decisions.

"Anything that makes [the registration process] less complicated, that clarifies where and when and how, I think should increase the number of students who get to vote," Solomont said. "As a university committed to educating its students to be active citizens, we'd like to be able to showcase the fact that students at Tufts vote in greater numbers than at some of their peer institutions, as a way of setting a good example and proving that, with a little bit of encouragement, students will vote and they will participate."

CAROLINE GEILING / THE TUFTS DAILY

The TCU Senate earlier this month passed a resolution to improve Tufts students ability to register to vote.

JOE DUARA / TUFTS DAILY ARCHIVES

A research team at the Tufts Medical Center recently received a funding award from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute.

Research team's work focuses on improving patient access to clinical trials

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based information they need to make better informed healthcare decisions," Stencel said.

ICRHPS is one of those organizations. Selker explained that the award will help it to fulfill its mission, which involves conducting research that will improve research methods in fields including biomedical and clinical sciences, behavioral and social sciences, community-engaged research and public health policy studies."

In the past, faculty at ICRHPS has received research grants from PCORI, according to Selker. These projects have included "Assessing and Reporting Heterogeneity of Treatment Effect in Clinical Trials" and "Comparative Effectiveness of Adolescent Lipid Screening and Treatment Strategies," which both received the award in 2012.

According to a Jan. 27 press release from Tufts' Clinical and Translational Science Institute, Mathematical Equipoise was chosen because of its work on current healthcare needs.

"This project was selected for PCORI funding not only for its scientific merit and commitment to engaging patients and other stakeholders, but also for its potential to fill an important gap in our health knowledge," Joe Selby, the PCORI Executive Director is quoted as saying in the press release.

Richard Karas, Tufts' Medical Center's Chief Science Officer explained that the Mathematical Equipoise project has the potential to make significant changes in the research community.

"The Mathematical Equipoise project may change the way randomized clinical trials (RCTs) are developed throughout the research community as a whole," Karas said. "This shift to patient-centered enrollment will allow researchers to address important clinical problems for which RCTs have not been previously conducted."

General McChrystal highlights the values of service

SERVICE

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nity to do meaningful work alongside families and communities that had been there forever. During the gap year, you begin to understand the world around you in a way that the classroom really can't provide."

Provost David Harris followed Collins and Ellison with an announcement of Tufts new "1+4 Program." He emphasized the value of these yearlong service experiences and said that the program seeks to facilitate more students' participation in similar programs.

"Philip and Lydia shared with us the transformational experiences they had before coming to Tufts, making a positive difference in local and global communities while discovering what is common across people and what makes us different," Harris said. "Starting with the young people who will apply to Tufts this fall, 1+4 will allow up to 50 students each year to have the kind of transformational experiences that only a select number of young people enjoy currently."

He explained that the program fits well with both the goals of the Tisch College and the Aspen Institute's Franklin Project, which McChrystal chairs.

"This is a student-centered research university where we push students outside their comfort zone, to put them in stressful situations in which they integrate their personal development with their intellectual development," Harris said. "This is a university committed to innovative approaches to local and global challenges."

McChrystal followed with his keynote address, extolling the benefits of partaking in national and international service. He said that current destructive trends are negatively impacting people of all backgrounds and regions.

"We are stuck in a political gridlock that is being bemoaned by everyone but fixed by no one," McChrystal said. "Voting rates — such a basic right of our citizens — are tremendously lower than the standards set not just by history, but by other nations around us. This is not consistent with our values."

McChrystal explained that the United States has faced and resolved such problems before. He said this was especially true during the World War II era, when 16 million Americans joined the military and many more offered their service back home.

"These accomplishments were amazing," he said. "Not because of what [the American people] did in the war, but because they came together during a depression and the threat of a second world war. It changed a generation."

He explained that while the service was widely seen as compulsory during that era, many in today's generation would object to anything mandatory. However, he said he hopes the current generation will display a similar dedication.

"What we need to do is change our culture so that civilian service is voluntary, but expected of everyone," McChrystal said. "People everywhere in America should have the opportunity to serve, because after you serve you feel differently about things."

Participating in service is invaluable to both oneself and the global community, McChrystal explained.

"The value has no price tag," McChrystal said. "I think that the idea[s] that it costs too much, that it's too hard, that it might make some people uncomfortable, [are] dwarfed by the idea that in the inside we all think it would be a better place if we each did more."

Following McChrystal's speech, the other speakers returned to stage to take questions from the audience. The questions ranged from how to pay for a national service program, to the military agreement between the United States and Afghanistan to overcoming failures. McChrystal emphasized the importance of not allowing failure in service to prevent one from continuing.

"The message that is worth conveying is that accepting failure is part of the process," he said. "This is really an ongoing struggle to make little improvement both in yourself and in the world around you. Refus[ing] to accept cynicism is the answer."

CAROLINE GEILING / THE TUFTS DAILY

McChrystal speaks with members of Tufts JumpStart during the community service fair that followed the symposium.

McChrystal also emphasized the importance of education and its role in promoting active citizenship.

"You really need to invest your money in things that pay off long term," he said. "When I think of national service and I think of education, I think of them as a yin and a yang. They're almost interconnected."

McChrystal explained that the current generation of students has the potential to fill a much needed void in national service.

"The generation that's going to have to do [national service] is the one we want in the driver's seat," McChrystal told the Daily. "I want to ... stimulate thinking about that."

Features

tuftsdaily.com

Office seeks to expand diversity in study abroad programs

BY CAITLIN MCCLURE
Daily Editorial Board

Acclaimed for its study abroad programs, Tufts lacks diversity in its enrollment, according to a December 2013 report from the Council on Diversity.

During their four years at Tufts,, just 30 percent of African American students, compared to 53 percent of white students, will study abroad.

"While these rates of participation exceed those at peer schools, the university must ensure that all barriers to participation are understood and addressed," the Council wrote in the report.

The report recommends Tufts improves its opportunities for inclusion in these international study opportunities. The Council expressed concerns that African American students may feel that they do not have equal opportunities to study abroad.

"We have such a high rate of students who study abroad, we want to really open it to all students," Director of the International Center Jane Etish-Andrews said.

Financial aid concerns are one of the largest barriers, according to students and administrators interviewed in the report. Thirty-two percent of African American students forego studying abroad because of financial reasons, according to the report. Though the university currently has made an effort to ease these limitations, some are more fiscally feasible than others.

"Students who go on [official Tufts study abroad] programs remain enrolled at Tufts," Associate Dean of Programs Abroad Sheila Bayne said. "The credits are Tufts credits and the grades are Tufts grades, and whatever the financial aid package is, it goes with the student 100 percent on Tufts programs."

But for students who study abroad outside of the 10 Tufts programs, there is an added cost.

"There's a $400 study elsewhere fee that goes to administrative costs of transfer of credit," she said. "Otherwise, students can go shopping and comparison shop, and decide what program is best for them taking into account all of the different considerations."

While Tufts programs are usually the best option for students with financial aid, there are resources for students to get financial help on a non-Tufts program, according to Foreign Study Advisor Brian Libby.

"The total cost of some non-Tufts programs is lower than Tufts' tuition," Libby told the Daily in an email. "Additionally, students have a variety of locations to choose from among the approved non-Tufts programs, some in places where the in-country cost of living is very affordable. This can be an important factor when considering potential out-of-pocket costs."

Personal educational loans and federal financial aid, such as a Stafford Loan or Pell Grant, can provide financial aid for non-Tufts programs, Libby explained. There are also scholarships designed specifically for study abroad.

Aside from the price tag, scheduling can present another major barrier to students who wish to study abroad. These concerns are particularly relevant for students in the School of Engineering, where there are several graduation requirements not relevant to those in the School of Arts and Sciences.

"Not many engineers went abroad," senior Oluseye Bankole, a chemical engineering major, said. "In fact, by and large, I think it was discouraged, just because of the hard requirements that we have to fill for our majors."

Andy Berman, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering and quantitative economics, shared similar sentiments.

"I initially was planning to go abroad for a semester, but in order to do that, you need to really pack each semester," he said.

JODI BOSIN / TUFTS DAILY ARCHIVES
For Tufts' study abroad programs, like Tufts in Paris, students' financial aid transfers over.

While it is complicated to fulfill these requirements while studying abroad, it is not impossible. Bankole studied abroad in London for a semester, and Berman studied abroad over the summer.

Originally from Nigeria, Bankole noted that it is a common misconception that international students hesitate to go abroad because they are already studying abroad at Tufts.

"Given my background, I've studied in multiple places — I've lived in multiple places," he said. "So that knowledge of being confined by boundaries just doesn't occur to me. If given the chance to study elsewhere, why not take advantage of it?"

Bayne and Etish-Andrews emphasized the need for Tufts to increase its study abroad outreach among international students.

"I think because the world is more global in industry and business, it's good to have these experiences," Etish-Andrews said. "I think international students see similar benefits that American students do."

Beyond the ethnic and racial diversity, Etish-Andrews said she hopes to increase the number of first-generation college students who study abroad while at Tufts.

"It's not as known to their family or to think, 'Well, why would you study abroad?'" she said. "They may not have passports or they may not have really thought about those opportunities, so we're trying to really open up the community."

The study abroad office has already responded to the report, meeting with the Group of Six to brainstorm how to improve their outreach efforts. Among the changes on the table is finding a way to address costs including airfare and visas that are not currently covered by Tufts financial aid, according to Bayne.

"For students with need, the Tufts programs will be covered entirely," she said.

Bayne said she would like to start communicating with students about studying abroad earlier in their time at Tufts, especially students from underrepresented groups and students who receive more financial aid.

"What we're afraid of is a lot of people think, 'Oh, I can't afford that,' and that's the end of the conversation," Bayne said. "We want to make it clear that there are possibilities, there are scholarships out there."

Both the study abroad office and the International Center have put together plans for more collaboration.

"We would like to do some programming right in the culture centers, have some study abroad meetings down there on a regular basis and talk to students who are part of the culture centers, and bring in students of that group who have gone abroad to talk to one another," Bayne said.

To maintain its strong international community, Tufts will have to continue to expand study abroad opportunities to all students, Bayne said.

"We've got a lot of ideas," Bayne said. "As the report says, we're doing better than our peer institutions, but ... we could do better."

EVA BATALLA-MANN | VALUABLE DELUSIONS

Tattoo sleeves

I completely disagree with it and think it's wrong, but you're an adult and you can do what you want." I wasn't surprised that this was coming out of my mom's mouth because this was the phrase I had told my friends she would use if I ever broached the subject of getting a tattoo. It's curious how the subject of getting "tatted up" surfaced in the conversation, considering I'm not even thinking about getting one. Since we've had that conversation, however, I've taken the "What Kind of Tattoo Should You Get?" quiz on BuzzFeed and it has been determined that I should get a tattoo sleeve, because, apparently, I am a "wild child with an addiction to adrenaline."

I was home in California last weekend, where I was able to catch up on some of those parental moments you miss out on when you're at school. This whole concept of technically being an adult still throws me. My parents always use this as a way to counteract whatever strong advice they have given me. Just like with the tattoos, they tell me that they are completely opposed to something that is ultimately my decision. Unfortunately, I trust them and value their opinion so I just can't win. This is something that maybe one day I will understand and be able to grapple with, just like white-rimmed sunglasses or curling in the winter Olympics.

Being home last weekend, I think I saw everyone who has been integral in my upbringing. It was like a real life list of all the people I'm going to thank when I win my Oscar. And I managed to cram all of my favorite home activities into about two short days. I spent an afternoon at the farmers' market, an evening at a local art gallery with a show consisting primarily of oil paintings of Barbie dolls, and, of course, I stopped by an after-hours taco truck. I went home for a wedding, which was a perfect and breathtakingly beautiful celebration. It started off with the couple's dog (who was part of the ceremony) darting toward the street, only to have the groom run after him and grab him. Luckily he did, because I can pretty much guarantee that a doggy death would have put a damper on their special day.

In college, people always tell us that our future spouse is probably the person sitting next to you in your feminist poetry class, or the person that sells you your midnight coffee before cramming for a midterm. Not only does that inspire unnecessary anxiety, but it's not necessarily true. Sitting there during the ceremony I saw a group of people that all met each other at different points in their lives — some in high school, some in college and some after. I also saw a line of groomsmen in cuffed khakis and flip flops — welcome to Southern California. I started to realize that even if you don't marry someone you meet in college, many of the friends you meet during this time will be there for all your important life events — a scary thought, but also an extremely heartening one.

Getting back to campus early on Monday morning after taking the redeye from Los Angeles, I immediately crawled into bed. After about a six-hour nap, I woke up surrounded by a winter wonderland and all these beautiful, funny, kind, ridiculous people that I call my friends. And just like that tattoo that my mom doesn't want me to get (but I'm an adult so I can make the decision for myself), they are going to be around for a while.

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Campus literary culture is exclusive, lacks of creativity

Tufts groups form to remedy lack of inheritable literary culture

JONATHAN JACOB MOORE FOR THE TUFTS DAILY

Members of the Spoken Word Alliance at Tufts, known as SWAT, listen as a student performs at an open mic event. SWAT strives to create a culture of collaboration and creativity, and attempts to bring relevant and open programming to the Tufts community.

BY VERONICA LITTLE
Daily Editorial Board

Last spring, the annual Tufts Idea Exchange (TEX) conference — a TED-X style lecture series in which select Tufts students and faculty share their thoughts on various creative subjects — included a lecture by Molly Wallace (LA '13) titled "Putting the 'Arts' Back in Liberal Arts." In her talk, Wallace, the founder and former editor-in-chief of the Tufts Canon, spoke about the lack of inheritable literary culture at our university.

Tufts, which proudly advertises itself as a bastion for creative young adults to collaborate and grow, has a few different identities that are constantly in conflict. There is the liberal arts version of Tufts — an identity that includes campus publications like the Zamboni and the Public Journal: quirky, exciting ventures not necessarily geared towards those seeking a serious literary environment. There is also the research university version of Tufts that the administration is eager to promote in order to elevate the school's ranking and academic prestige. But in between these two identities lies a confused place, a place filled with a slew of campus publications and clubs. Here, things initially appear open and accessible, but oftentimes, they prove to be disappointing.

Where does this conflict leave earnest students interested in joining the creative sphere? Wallace argued that it left them bereft of a campus culture. This past semester, almost as if in response to Wallace's plea for a community in this vein, two groups sprung up that challenge campus notions of creative success and collaboration.

Dissatisfied freshmen

Parnassus, an arts and literary collective that focuses on work-shopping poetry and prose, and the Spoken Word Alliance at Tufts (SWAT) were both formed by students who couldn't quite find their niche in the creative community at Tufts. Julia Malleck, a sophomore and the president and founder of Parnassus, came to Tufts expecting to find a burgeoning literary community that was open to all. Unfortunately, Malleck found the environment on campus to be stifling: to her, the Tufts Observer seemed like a processing mill — finding work, editing it and then publishing — while Tufts Canon was too raw and unedited.

"I didn't feel like there was a forum for me to write and share, or to work on my writing," Malleck said. In response to her experience, Malleck dedicated herself to the creation of an accessible forum for writers and artists of all skill levels to come together and share or create new work.

In a similar vein, freshman and Daily editorialist Jonathan Jacob Moore was inspired to create SWAT while scouring the Internet for spoken word clubs at Tufts. A native of Detroit who grew up with spoken word as a popular outlet of expression, Moore was shocked to find that Tufts lacked not only a team to compete at spoken word conferences, but also a spoken word club at all. Moore, determined to make substantial progress before he arrived on campus, used Facebook to find interested incoming students and create a group specifically for spoken word poets.

"It's coming out of ... the fact that there's a huge absence of spoken word presence on campus," Moore said as to the inspiration for the creation of SWAT.

Using the social networking site, Moore was able to bring together students from all backgrounds to participate in the creation of Tufts' first ever spoken word collective. Moore, currently the president of the club, is particularly cognizant of creating an environment conducive to the discussion and debate of challenging social topics — and the medium of spoken word is certainly a medium famous for addressing issues surrounding social justice, race, class, gender and sexuality among others.

Role in the Tufts community

Both Parnassus and SWAT have, since their respective inceptions, been eager to reach out to students who may not consider themselves particularly artistic or literary. This goal, however, has been difficult to achieve; last November, both Parnassus and SWAT were denied recognition by the Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate. In the case of SWAT, the denial came down to misfiled paperwork and, ultimately, confusion among several leaders. For Parnassus, however, the case was much more subjective.

"The second TCU heard 'publication' they just shut down," Malleck said. "I don't think that they realize that when we say 'collective' we mean we want people to be able to meet to workshop, to exchange — the publication is a byproduct and not the end goal of the club."

Since failing to be recognized, Parnassus has been unable to reserve spaces for its weekly club meetings or recruit relevant speakers to come to campus. Much like SWAT, the ultimate aim of Parnassus is to get students at Tufts invested in stimulating, creative dialogue without the pressure of publication or the more hierarchial structures that often exist within other campus groups or literary journals. Indeed, both Malleck and Moore spoke exhaustively about their desire to create a sustainable literary and arts community by fostering the talents of students from all disciplines and interests.

Though both clubs are currently unrecognized, the leadership of Parnassus and SWAT continue to plan meaningful programing for their members and the Tufts community at large. Parnassus continues to have regular meetings and also creates campus-wide events to promote literary culture, like passing out love poems on Valentine's Day, while SWAT is still producing open mic nights and working toward creating a competitive slam team at the college level.

Now what?

Ultimately, the Tufts literary and spoken word scenes speak to the very niche aspects of campus culture. And, although there seem to be clubs attempting to remedy the perceived lack of inheritable literary culture, they have been met with tepid responses. What Parnassus and SWAT seem to be hoping to achieve is a more creative, approachable campus community — something Tufts students seem to crave.

Though some freshmen — similar to Malleck and Moore — may have assumed this community existed when they came to Tufts, their dissatisfaction seems to speak to a larger trend of creative alienation on campus.

Students at Tufts, torn between the conflicting identities that the university is attempting to project, may find their voices stifled. Groups like Parnassus and SWAT have pledged themselves to the cultivation of a vibrant cultural community at Tufts, one that precedes prejudice or preconception.

"I was part of my literary magazine in high school, and I loved writing and drawing and being able to share with [peers]," Malleck said. "It felt like that community did not exist here on campus. If you want to be around kids who like that or want to continue doing that ... then you should check out our club."

Looking ahead

Both Parnassus and SWAT will continue to shape the campus culture at Tufts despite their setbacks. Now so more than ever, it seems imperative that smaller clubs, independent groups and student cooperatives are embraced and recognized by the Tufts community. With some students feeling disappointed or lost creatively, there is room for improvement and growth; embracing newcomers is the first step to creating the culture that so many Tufts students desperately want.

"We're still here and the excitement has not died down ... We're looking for all sorts of people to be a part of our childhood and maturity," Moore said. "Just come and contribute ... to the community that a lot of kids here at Tufts say they want. We want the campus community to define our future."

What's Up This Weekend

Looking to make your weekend artsy? Check out these events!

Printmaking Workshop: The Tufts University Art Gallery will be hosting a printmaking workshop tonight, where participants can create their own set of postcards through monotype transfers and relief printing. The workshop will be led by printmaker and School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA) faculty member Rhoda Rosenberg, and is organized with the exhibition "Tanja Softic: Migrant Universe." (Tonight at 6 p.m. in the Remis Sculpture Court. Admission is free but space is limited, RSVP to dorothee.perin@tufts.edu.)

Tufts Alumnus Performs Original Music: Founding member of Tufts S-Factor, Alexi Paraschos (LA '09) will be holding an album release show this weekend to celebrate the release of his first full-length album, "Something Greater." Paraschos has been working as a soul musician in the Boston area, and his music combines soul and pop, as well as elements of gospel and neo-soul. (Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at Johnny D's Uptown Restaurant and Music Club, 17 Holland Street, Somerville. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased online or at the box office.)

Community Concert Series: In the latest edition of the Sunday at Tufts concert series, the Yaeko Miranda Elmaleh Quintet will be performing a concert with Jewish and Roma instrumental music. The Quintet features acclaimed klezmer violinist Yaeko Miranda Elmaleh. (Sunday at 3 p.m. in Distler Performance Hall. Admission is free.)

A Midwinter Lieder Abend: This weekend will feature a concert by soprano Kathleen Flynn and pianist Edith Auner, performing Lieder from the 19th and 20th centuries. Works performed will include pieces by Wagner, Schoenberg and Liszt. (Sunday at 7 p.m. in Distler Performance Hall. Admission is free.)

—compiled by the Daily Arts Department

THEATER REVIEW

Poe is brought to life on stage

BY NICHOLAS HATHAWAY
Contributing Writer

JOHANNA AUSTIN COURTESY ARTSEMERSON

Virginia (Sophie Bortolussi) towers over her husband, Poe (Ean Sheehy).

Red-Eye to Havre de Grace

★★★★½

Directed by **Thaddeus Phillips**

ArtsEmerson
559 Washington Street Boston, MA 02111

"Red-Eye to Havre de Grace" (2012), an action-opera brought to Boston as part of ArtsEmerson's "Pioneers" series, details the last days of Edgar Allan Poe's life. More shocking than conventional, the show contains a little history — as told through Poe's letters to his mother — and a lot of artistic interpretation, especially of the author's deteriorating mental health. Before the curtain rises, a man walks on stage and introduces himself as Ranger Steve (Jeremy Wilhelm), a representative from the Edgar Allan Poe House in Philadelphia. He takes the audience through a short — if unexpectedly casual — description of the historical context of the play. As he concludes, Ranger Steve pulls out a crumpled sheet of paper to recite one of his favorite poems by Poe while the lights dim and a piano builds slowly in the background. A few lines into his reading, Ranger Steve goes from open-mic-night-at-the-local-library mode to a full-blown operatic rendering of Poe's "Ligeia" (1838).

This trick sets the tone for the whole performance. The show proceeds with a mix of history and humor as "Red-Eye" constantly interrupts Poe's somber poetry with the blunt, low-brow jokes of our anachronistic park ranger. At one point in the show, Neil Diamond's song "Done Too Soon" (1967) plays over Poe's passionate reading of "The Raven" (1845), only to end with a blithe comment from Ranger Steve. In fact, the character often interrupts the intensity of the play with quips, as he changes roles from train conductor to hotel clerk to ambient clarinetist. In another scene, Poe (Ean Sheehy) grieves over his dead wife Virginia (Sophie Bortolussi) as she climbs over him and through a patch of fake grass, disappearing into the floor of the stage. Here, when the lights are at their darkest, Ranger Steve interrupts the moment to ask Poe if he needs a chair.

Brought to Boston through the combined efforts of Lucidity Suitcase Intercontinental and musical duo Wilhelm Bros. & Co., "Red-Eye" is an innovative work of theater. As explained on Lucidity Suitcase Intercontinental's website, the show makes use of "'rough media,' documentary footage, transformational scenography, improvisation and research" to pioneer new forms of theatrical storytelling.

The set, too, interacts beautifully with its actors. As Poe walks to his hotel room, Ranger Steve manipulates three four-legged platforms to convey him walking up the stairs. These same platforms are re-purposed throughout the show as doors, ticket windows and rooms, forming a world built in Poe's deranged mind. In addition to these platforms, a few other set pieces function as both minimalistic representations of setting and metaphorical images, including eight flickering light bulbs and a bed suspended from the ceiling that, at one point, lowers Virginia onto the set.

Sheehy — sporting a long suit, black mustache and beaten brown shoes — deftly re-creates the stiff, ghoulish gait typically associated with the dead author. There is a visual tension between Sheehy's dark appearance and the white-robed innocence of Bortolussi. Enhanced by her excellent choreography, the two are set against each other both metaphorically, presenting the idea that Poe's grief drove him to death, and physically, as the audience witnesses several physical altercations between the two actors. Bortolussi's fierce, spasmodic choreography creates a conflict that mirrors Poe's addiction to alcohol and opium.

Overall, the effect is light-hearted and — for a play about alcoholism, insanity and death — pretty whimsical. The cast meshes tone and subject matter, and history and fantasy to create a final product that is simaltaneously entertaining and heartbreaking. ArtsEmerson advertises the production as "experimental" programming — a label which is certainly fitting for "Red-Eye," with its use of projections and Ranger Steve's seemingly third-wheel antics. Even among Poe's dramatic monologues and choreographed routines, director Thaddeus Phillips plugs in bits of humor, casting the grim author in a new, playful light.

JOHANNA AUSTIN COURTESY ARTSEMERSON

'Red-Eye' utilizes a minimalist, avant-garde set design.

ARTSY NUGGET

Following plagiarism scandal, Shia LaBeouf acts out

This past week, Shia LaBeouf continued his series of apologetic and attention-grabbing antics following a plagiarism scandal by starring in his own solo interactive art exhibit, called "#IAMSORRY." Running from Tuesday, Feb. 11 until this past Sunday in L.A., the exhibit allowed visitors to sit across from LaBeouf, who wore a paper bag with eyeholes cutout. On it read the message, "I AM NOT FAMOUS ANYMORE."

LaBeouf's bizarre actions began in December, when it came to light that a short film he wrote had significant monologues and scenes directly lifted from a graphic novel by Daniel Clowes. LaBeouf's film, "HowardCantour.com," which debuted online late last year, starred Jim Gaffigan as a disgruntled film critic. Public outrage and disbelief continued when some pointed out that LaBeouf's apology on Twitter was, in fact, plagiarized from a Yahoo! Answers definition of "plagiarism."

Although the young actor "retired from public life" in January, according to his Twitter, he has still been drumming up significant media attention. He arrived at the premiere of Danish director Lars von Trier's somewhat controversial new film "Nymphomaniac," in which he stars, hiding his face behind a paper bag identical to the one he wore at his exhibit.

What comes next for LaBeouf is unclear, but it is doubtful that he will actually begin to stay out of the public eye. As for now, it sure seems that he likes it there.

—by Brendan Donohue

MOVIE REVIEW

Raunchy humor elevates 'About Last Night'

BY LAUREN SAMUEL
Daily Staff Writer

Throughout the past year, amidst serious dramas and intense con movies, the romantic comedy has slightly fallen by the wayside. Perhaps this is due to one of the inescapable trademarks of the genre: cliché. It seems that some audience members are becoming amateur critics — their eyes are hungry for new images, their brains thirsty for novel plotlines. Yet there is still much value in the rom-com. While you may not be fond of platitudes about love and predictable stories, the genre — when it features solid chemistry and cleverly bold jokes — is often worth watching.

About Last Night

★★★☆☆

Directed by **Steve Pink**
Starring **Kevin Hart, Michael Ealy, Regina Hall, Joey Bryant**

COURTESY MATT KENNEDY / SCREEN GEMS PRODUCTIONS
Comedian Kevin Hart brings a raunchy comedic nature to 'About Last Night,' along with the rest of the main cast.

"About Last Night," a contemporary romantic comedy that centers around two sets of best friends and their entangling love lives, falls into this category. While the plotline is, in practically every way, nothing new, the film still has its merits and viewers will leave the theater feeling more satisfied than if they had stayed at home and tried one of the storybook rom-coms on Netflix. The difference between director Steve Pink's work and the dull tales of love that have been permeating the movie scene these past few years is that he has at least dressed up his cliché with gripping humor.

Comedian Kevin Hart is known for his self-deprecating hilarity, his fearlessly loud remarks and for brazenly telling it straight. These elements are abundant in "About Last Night," and his whimsically blunt jokes are a breath of fresh air in a film that had the potential to feel tired and flat. This raunchy comedic nature — which comes not just from Hart, but from the film as a whole — surprisingly enhances the movie and allows for it to feel shockingly real. From the frank sex talk to the bromantic jibes, Hart and the other actors develop a chemistry that gives more insight into their friendships than any subtle interactions could.

However, the film does have its flaws. While the personalities of the characters and the way they collide with one another is delightful to watch, the writing is slightly tedious. This puts the viewer in an odd position, because, although the banter between the characters is engaging and enables audience members to connect to their quirkiness, the plot is dry and somewhat stale. This is most noticeable in the relationship between Danny (Michael Ealy) and Debbie (Joy Bryant). Originally very cute, their interactions slowly become highly passive and aggressive, and though it's clear they are falling apart, neither the viewers nor the characters themselves know what went wrong. When Danny asks, "What are we fighting about this time?" the viewer is left wondering the same exact thing.

COURTESY MATT KENNEDY / SCREEN GEMS PRODUCTIONS
While the main actors develop a realistic chemistry, certain plot elements hold the film back.

Furthermore, even the scenes of reconciliation (of which there are many) and tenderness are too short to evoke a realistic understanding of the relationships. Brief conversations do allow for many funny one-liners and the constant cycling of characters and settings helps to keep the movie going, yet some moments still lose their potential to be touching. This is evident when Bernie (Hart) and Joan (Regina Hall) engage in a terse exchange that eventually becomes the turning point that catalyzes their reunion. At a party, Bernie tries to flirt with Joan — who then points out that she is with another man. She introduces the two, later stating that Bernie will now go to a bar and try to pick up a girl with low self-esteem. When Bernie denies her claim and declares that, "The only girl with low self-esteem I wanted tonight was you," Joan's face is shocked and filled with warmth. While such jibes are funny in Hart's usual declaratory voice, this time he delivers his lines in a quiet, more subdued tone. Instead of being comical, this moment feels jarring and puzzling.

Yet despite some plotline gaps, numerous cliché and strange references to the 1986 original film — which Danny and Debbie watch together while eating Chinese takeout — as well as some strangely copied seasonal transitions that highly echo Marc Webb's "(500) Days of Summer" (2009), the film does find its own voice solely through the shamelessly raunchy humor and the willingness of all four central characters to plunge in head first, interact passionately with one another and see what happens. The result? A refreshing take on the romantic comedy that has been sorely missed these past few years.

ARTSY JUMBO

Alice McDonald Games takes her drawing skills to market

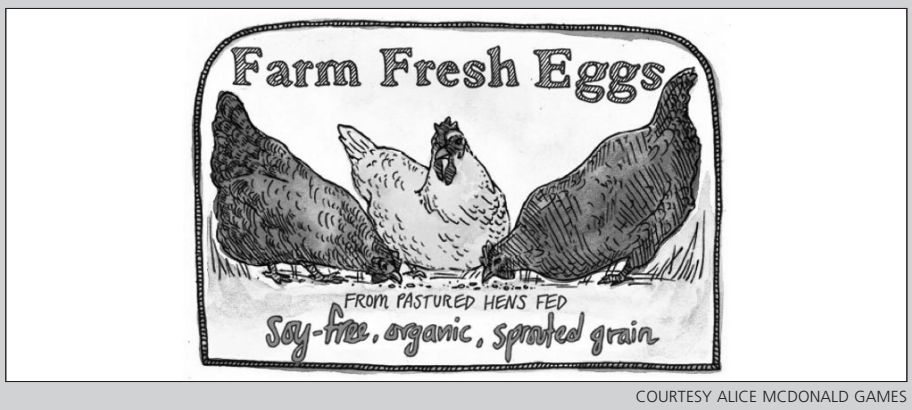
Alice McDonald Games, a junior, recently designed the website art, logo and brand labeling for Earnest Farms. Based in Bolton, Mass., the company sells pasture-raised, soy-free and organically-fed chicken eggs and pork. Started just two years ago, Earnest Farms is still new to the local farming scene and relatively small — guaranteeing that McDonald Games would have creative freedom and a prominent role in developing the image and reputation of the brand.

Though small, Earnest Farms products can be found in at least three Foodies Markets around the greater Boston area or directly from the company itself.

"It's crazy," McDonald Games said of going into the store and seeing her design as a label.

In fact, Earnest Farms' size is something that the logo intentionally emphasizes.

"I think [the owners of the farm] wanted something that looks personal," McDonald Games said, "I don't think it would make sense to make it look like a big corporation when the fact that it is so small appeals to a lot of people."



COURTESY ALICE MCDONALD GAMES

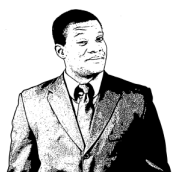
With a plump rooster and speckled eggs, the logo intentionally conjures old-time imagery, and — like all of McDonald Games' artwork — it is hand drawn.

McDonald Games is not new to the field of visual art. As a child, she took drawing lessons and upon entering college, enrolled in Tufts' dual degree program with the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (SMFA). Though she later switched to the School of Arts and Sciences to pursue a degree in International Relations, she continues to draw and maintains a blog, ammgart.tumblr.com, where she posts her work.

—by Drew Robertson

NASH SIMPSON | THROWBLACK THURSDAY

Money is the motivation



In 1978, recording artist and DJ Grandmaster Flash assembled the first of hip-hop's most influential rap groups — The Furious 5 — that more than lived up to its name. Until Sir Aubrey Graham, better known as Drake, picked up his microphone and ruined everything, this group's foundational sentiment provided hip-hop with a contagious aura of fury that stood the test of time. In other words, the Furious 5 set a "hard" precedence for hip-hop: "hard" in the sense that rappers were expected to be rough and tough, fresh off the streets of the poorest and most dangerous black ghettos of urban America. The harder a given rapper's childhood was, the more popular he could become. Other rappers respected him and eager listeners adored him. Perhaps most importantly, fans felt compelled to buy his records. Why the loyalty? Well, simply because this rapper was "hard" — that's why.

Now on to the humorous reality that Chris Rock's famed 1993 film, "CB4" satirizes: middle or upper class rappers who have always been considered "soft." There was a time when such rappers had no chance at all for success. This exclusivity embodied the glory days of hip-hop. Now, don't get me wrong: I don't necessarily condone the discriminatory practice of devaluing the work of good rappers just because they haven't been to jail once or twice ... or three times, because good citizens can rap too — kind of. It's just that back in the late '80s and early '90s, hip-hop had a venerable cause that needed authentic voices to represent specific experiences. Hip-hop provided a creative way for these talented individuals, previously trapped by the perils of the hood life, to publicly vent their opposition to the oppressive system that had actively prevented their success. These rappers spoke the cold, hard truth. Therefore, it was nearly impossible for someone who hadn't fallen through the trap doors of static ghetto life to rap about certain experiences with true passion.

"CB4" makes fun of the posers that still managed to slip through the cracks — the Drakes of the rap industry, who beat the odds and got away with pretending to be "hard." Rock plays the middle-class Albert, who realizes that the only way for him to sell records in the industry is to steal the identity of Gusto, an OG — original gangster — brilliantly portrayed by Charlie Murphy. Rock's character names himself MC Gusto and assembles a rap group of his own, naming it Cell Block 4 (CB4). In an attempt to secure the group's false identity, Albert overdoes the "hard" act, embodying only the negative elements of what he perceives to be the "hard" life.

Meanwhile, he completely disregards hip-hop's true purpose of speaking against modes of oppression. In one particular scene, a representative from a record label, ironically named TrustUs, asks CB4, "Do you cuss on your records? Do you defile women with your lyrics? Do you fondle your genitalia on stage? Do you glorify violence or advocate the use of guns as a way of solving a simple dispute?" The rap group affirms all these questions. Then, "Do you respect anything at all?" "Not a goddamn thing," Albert responds, along with the rest of CB4.

Albert represents the posers who I believe were responsible for hip-hop's transition from being a genre that allowed for artists to chronicle shared experiences, to becoming ... whatever TrustUs wanted it to be.

An intriguing paradox in "CB4" is that Gusto is the movie's villain, despite the fact that he's really the victim. Predictably, the posers eventually win. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is exactly what has happened in real life. Hip-hop no longer has a political purpose. The posers have won and, as a result, many would argue that hip-hop is dead. Oh, well. Take the reins, Drake. You got it.

Nash Simpson is a senior majoring in English. He can be reached at Nash.Simpson@tufts.edu.

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EDITORIAL

New voter registration approach is step in right direction

The Tufts Community Union Senate passed a resolution at its Feb. 2 meeting, urging the university to implement a streamlined voter registration process for its students. The proposed registration process would greatly improve students' ability to participate in elections and alleviate the chaotic voter registration process on campus.

The senate resolution proposes utilizing TurboVote, a non-profit organization, to streamline the registration process. Students would be prompted to register to vote at a "bottleneck time," when every student must go through the same process, like when they register for classes on iSIS or complete matriculation forms through the university's Connections website.

TurboVote would compile a student's registration information and, in partnership with Tufts Votes, mail the student a pre-paid, pre-addressed envelope. To complete the registration process, students would sign the registration documents mailed to them and place the pre-addressed envelope back in the mail.

Implementing a streamlined voter registration process is directly in line with the university's goal of encouraging "active citizenship" amongst its students. In light of the large number of Tufts students who were discouraged from voting in 2012 by Medford poll workers who found inconsistencies with their registration forms, pre-registering students en masse, either during class registration or during matriculation is a good idea.

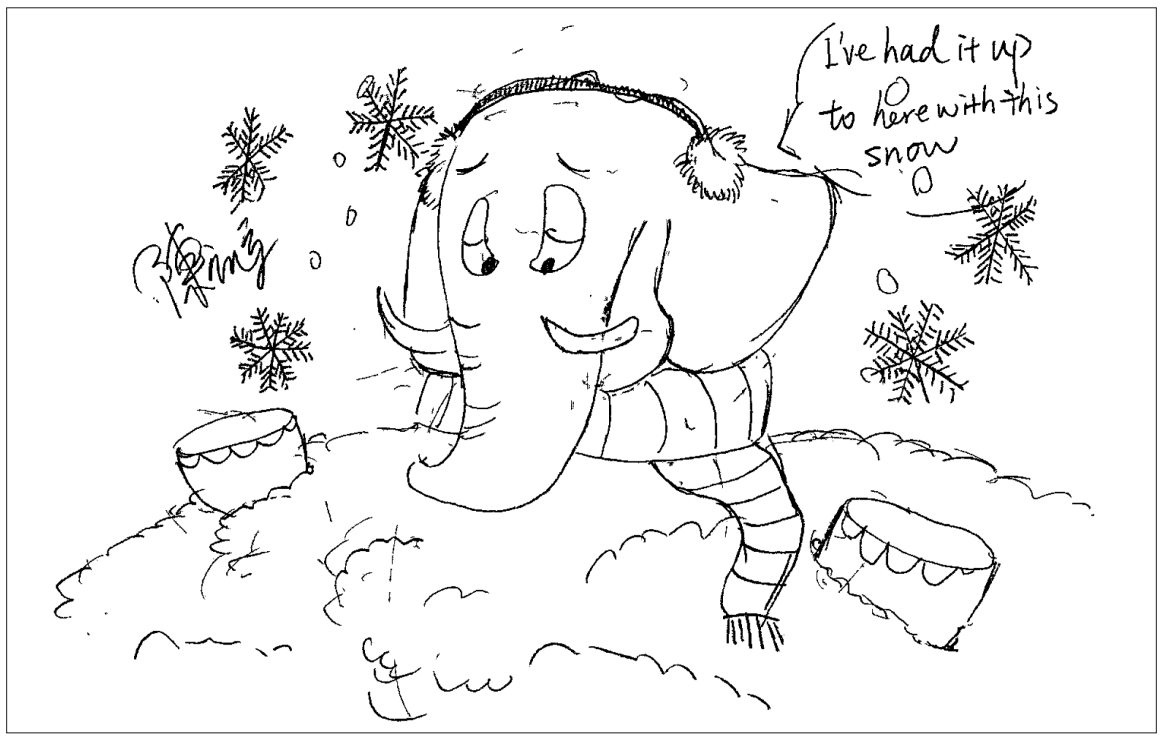
The Tufts Democrats and Tufts Votes provide the major existing mechanisms for Tufts students to register to vote, generally through get-out-the-vote campaigns and registration drives that involve approaching students as they enter the dining halls or the Mayer Campus Center. Streamlining a process that largely involves convincing people to stop at a table for five to 10 minutes will go a long way toward ensuring that every eligible Tufts student who wants to vote is able to do so.

The resolution also calls for a reorganization of Tufts Votes to ensure its nonpartisanship and better equip it to deal with the large number of forms that it would presumably have to handle after TurboVote's implementation.

The concept of creating an online system to streamline Tufts students' voter registration process is certainly a positive one. However, given the wave of problems iSIS has faced since its inception, a proper implementation of TurboVote is incredibly important in encouraging Tufts students to utilize the program and thus ensure its success. Should including voter registration in iSIS prove too complex or faulty, the matriculation process is another ideal time when the university can efficiently reach a large number of students.

In order to help Tufts students be active citizens, the university should heed the Senate resolution and work to implement an online, streamlined registration process that gives every Tufts student an easy opportunity to register to vote.

KERAN CHEN



OFF THE HILL | UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN AT EU CLAIRE

An educated stance on education

BY KARL ENGHOFER
The Spectator

A college education used to be a no-brainer if you wanted to succeed. It got you a solid profession, out of your parents' home and into one of your own.

Today, however, those who can afford the increasing tuition (first qualifying for federal loans) outperform their classmates and often land a job right after graduation.

Forbes reported some alarming statistics: The national college student debt amounts to $1.2 trillion (surpassing the national credit card debt total), the average debt after college is $26,600 and one in 10 students rack up more than $40,000.

The future is looking brighter in Tennessee, though, as Gov. Bill Haslam introduced a plan last week in his State of the State address, calling for two years of free schooling at community and technical colleges for any resident with a high school diploma. It would cost $34 million a year, paid for by diverting surplus revenue from the state lottery.

I think Haslam's proposal is a move in the right direction. Even though it's a minor fix to an enormous problem, it would give people opportunities they otherwise couldn't get, and could spark an emphasis on higher education nation-wide.

Community colleges are an option for those who might not have the grades or money to attend four-year universities. A full year's tuition and fees at a community college is $3,300 on average in the U.S., but tuition isn't the only cost of college.

Those outside of Tennessee who opt for the cheaper degree are still, on average, $7,000 in the red when all is said and done. This doesn't account for opportunity cost either, meaning what students are potentially losing with their sizable investment in education.

For example, someone attending college misses out on two years of income, so not only are they $7,000 in debt, but they're also out an additional two years of income. Or if they depleted their savings account to pay for schooling, they're also losing out on interest accumulated if that money just stayed in their account.

In today's competitive workforce, higher education is always preferred.

Person A, who saves money and earns an associate degree, competing against Person B, who spent the extra money to earn a bachelor's degree, is like Wile E. Coyote vs. the Roadrunner — guess who's getting the job?

Times are changing though.

A 2012 Harvard Graduate School of Education study reported the U.S. is expected to create 47 million new jobs by the end of 2018, and one third of them will require only an associate degree.

An associate degree is a way to kill two birds, or maybe more, with one stone.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, registered nurses make a median annual salary of $65,950. The field is expected to grow at a rate of 26 percent each year, demanding 120,000 new spots be filled. And the best part is it only requires an associate degree.

Person A just got a great starting salary in a field begging for more employees, saved a boatload of money on school and loans, and did it two years before Person B, who is jobless, degree-less and steadily accumulating more debt.

The student debt crisis has a ripple effect on the U.S. economy. If more states adopt something like the Gov. Haslam's proposed plan, jobs will be filled faster. Americans can also pay off their student loans faster, and they'll have money to stimulate the economy by buying houses and cars.

This seems like a worthy public investment to me.

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OP-ED

New CSL policy excludes religious students

BY CHARLES SKOLD AND ALEXANDRA NESBEDA

ROANOKECOLLEGE / WIKIMEDIACOMMONS

The Committee on Student Life's (CSL) recent decision limits and excludes religious expression at Tufts. The new policy, announced in an op-ed in the Daily on Feb. 6, prohibits religious student groups from selecting their religious leaders using the religious beliefs the group promotes. We commend the CSL for trying to foster "openness and inclusion" for all student organizations, but their decision undermines this value by excluding some religious Tufts students who wish to organize on campus in a way they see as authentic to their religious convictions.

As Tufts alumni who were involved in the formerly recognized InterVarsity chapter, Tufts Christian Fellowship, and as current campus ministers with InterVarsity New England and InterVarsity International Student Ministry, allow us to explain why having leaders who affirm the central beliefs and practices of the group's religious tradition was, and is, important.

There are numerous understandings of who Jesus is, among the roughly one-third of the world's population that self-describes as Christian. Therefore, different groups of Christians across time have come up with specific ways of verbally articulating their faith. InterVarsity chapters articulate our understanding of Jesus in our Doctrinal Basis, commonly held by students on over 500 campuses nationwide that organize with the beliefs and mission of InterVarsity. Protestant and Catholic leaders have affirmed that our Doctrinal Basis is consistent with historic Christian beliefs. This Doctrinal Basis affirms, among other points, our belief in "The only true God, the almighty Creator of all things, existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit full of love and glory;" and "Jesus Christ, fully human and fully divine, who lived as a perfect example, who assumed the judgment due sinners by dying in our place, and who was bodily raised from the dead and ascended as Savior and Lord;" and "The indwelling presence and transforming power of the Holy Spirit, who gives to all believers a new life and a new calling to obedient service." Believing in this God is not just about upholding certain tenets of religious dogma, but about embracing a transformative new life brought through God's very presence. This is the God who leads believers by living within and among them. This is the God we want our leaders to follow.

Because the mission of the group is to be a community where students can grow in relationship with this God, leaders need to themselves be growing in relationship with this God. Those who believe in this God, and are being led by this God, are able to authentically lead their peers in following this God and help new believers enter into that relationship. InterVarsity student leaders don't just have functional roles like that of secretary or treasurer; they serve in religious roles where being exemplars in faith and character is paramount. In asking leaders to uphold the Doctrinal Basis, InterVarsity students are not aberrant, but rather in-line with the myriad of examples from Scripture and the history of Christianity that affirm the need for Christian leadership for the Christian community. Selecting leaders who believe in our God for ourselves is crucial to living out our faith and promoting it together as students here.

We understand that not all Christian students would articulate their faith in the same way we do, nor would many students who are part of different faiths or philosophical traditions. That's okay! We hope all students will have the opportunity to organize at Tufts around their religious or philosophical beliefs, and desire the presence of multiple such organizations to thrive at Tufts through religious practice and discussions surrounding faith and life. Tufts will only be the inclusive and diverse community we all want it to be when it fully welcomes all faith and philosophical communities.

A group of Tufts students first organized the Tufts InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in 1946 because they wanted to follow Jesus together as students at Tufts in a way they saw as authentic to their faith. Though numbers have fluctuated from under 10 to over 110, Tufts InterVarsity students have, across the generations, continued to stay true to their beliefs, while fostering an environment where all students are welcome to explore God and consider for themselves the claims of Jesus Christ. For many years, students have come to Tufts with these beliefs, or taken them up during their time here, and have desired to practice and promote them together as a vibrant part of the diverse Tufts community. There are students currently here, and more to come, that desire the same. Let's welcome these students, and all students who desire to practice their religion at Tufts, with open arms. In some cases, that means allowing religious students to explicitly organize with religious leadership.

The new CSL policy unfortunately denies these religious students the freedom to authentically organize around their faith at Tufts. Why deny their ability to reserve meeting rooms on campus? Why prevent their student organization from contributing to campus diversity? Why make them feel singled out as unwelcome at Tufts? That is not promoting openness and inclusion for students of all religious beliefs. That is not embracing authentic diversity. That is a policy of religious exclusion, and it is inconsistent with Tufts' ideals.

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OFF THE HILL | UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA AT LAS VEGAS

Once a felon, still a human

BY ELSHA YOLANDA-HARRIS
The Rebel Yell

An article in The Las Vegas Review-Journal was posted regarding the issue of restoring voting rights to former inmates. Attorney General Eric Holder has led the charge towards reform on the issue.

Earlier this week, Holder urged a group of 11 states to give former inmates their right to vote as a means of remedying flaws in our system. He feels that this voting limitation has the most impact on racial minorities.

"Let ex-felons vote, U.S. attorney general urges Nevada," the article reported.

A total of 5.8 million Americans are not able to vote because of a prior or current felony conviction. Of this 5.8 million, approximately 2.2 million are African-American.

Nevada is one among many states such as Arizona, Nebraska, Florida, Alabama, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Virginia and Tennessee that restrict the voting rights of former inmates.

After reading the article, I automatically put myself in the shoes of a convicted felon.

When a person commits a crime of any degree, they put themselves in a position to lose all of the freedoms that they once enjoyed as a law-abiding citizen. People make their own choices, and regardless of whether these choices are good or bad, they must live with their consequences.

My lack of knowledge of what a felony is had prevented the formation of a balanced opinion. After doing some research, I found out that felonies are any of the following: rape, murder, kidnapping, aggravated assault, treason, robbery, grand theft, fraud, burglary, racketeering, espionage and battery.

The punishments for these crimes vary from community service all the way up to the death sentence.

These crimes are vicious — they don't "just happen." They take some kind of thought process from the person who is about to carry it out.

Specific crimes that involve the violation of others are of the worst kind — especially in the case of rape. A person who consciously rapes another person does not, and should not, get the right to vote, nor should they enjoy any other privileges.

But then, I started thinking about all the mistakes I have made and all the second chances that I have been given. I started thinking about the teenagers who, trying to make friends, decided to rob a house.

Or the father who killed the man that took advantage of his little girl. A crime is still a crime — I'm not trying to ignore that, but the intent behind the crime is not always malicious, so do these people not deserve the chance to vote?

Whether or not they get the right to vote isn't up to me, but I do believe that everyone should get the chance to right a wrong that they have made in life.

I say this knowing that what applies to one must apply to all, but the process to acquire any rights that may have been lost during the course of the individual's imprisonment should not be taken lightly, nor should it be done in a quick manner; it deserves the proper time and attention.

So, should former felons get the right to vote? The answer isn't easy to come to, and I am no closer to a solution than when I started this article.

"Every choice you make has an end result," motivational speaker and author Zig Ziglar once said.

The end result may not always be so clear, and people often get caught up in the moment and throw caution to the wind. One simple action can set off a chain of events that have an end result far beyond what was expected.

Every choice you make in life has consequences. So choose wisely.

JONATHAN MOORE | POLITICALLY ERECT

Why aren't you outraged?

I had the privilege of attending a lecture given by former Black Panther Party leader, activist, political prisoner and writer Dorhuba al Mujahid bin Wahad on Tuesday, and what a remarkable experience it was. Without detailing his biography in this column, just know that his words were not only fiery and impassioned, but of the most sincere conviction: experience. He spoke of the importance of activism being guided by love instead of hate and urged those of us in the audience to stand up against the racial injustice that continues to permeate the fabric of our society. Perhaps his most riveting question was this: "Why aren't you outraged?" I swallowed the knot in my throat as he peered into the audience. Again, he asked, "Why aren't you outraged?"

I am outraged — or, at least I believe I am most of the time. As a writer who advocates for critical thinking and feeling about race, gender, class, sexuality and the like, one could say my bread and butter is watering down outrage to fit for print; encapsulating the essence of sit-ins and protests and judicial actions into a 600-word column or 140-character tweet, fit for consumption. And so this has got me thinking. Am I really outraged? If so, why am I doing so little to turn that outrage into action?

Much can be said about the power of writing and the necessity for written thought and opinion to be expressed and shared — its contributions to dialogues and debates cannot be understated. But something I've been struggling with recently is how we move beyond this often academic, sometimes theoretical, superficial analysis, critique or commentary sideshow to something real, something tangible and something revolutionary. Sure, I can sit here all day and talk about queer liberation and the importance of safe spaces for youth and the dire need for more inclusive sexual education in public schools. But how does this translate into anything remotely beneficial to the queer youth of color back in my hometown of Detroit that are caught up in a multi-faceted system of disadvantage and oppression? When does thoughtful conversation verge on academic masturbation? When does activism in the names of millions verge on self-aggrandizement for the person we stare at in the mirror?

I understand I often ask more questions here than I attempt to answer, and this is for two reasons: 1.) I don't know the answers, and 2.) I know I'm not the only college student asking myself these questions, especially on a campus like Tufts', where nearly everyone is passionate about something and we all feel as though we're "radical" and "revolutionary." I'm beginning to understand that in an effort to be supremely politically correct and hyper-aware of social issues we are losing the ability to ask tough questions that remain unanswered, drowning in information with which we have nothing to do with, and vying to be the Ash Ketchum of the oppressed ("to save them is my real test").

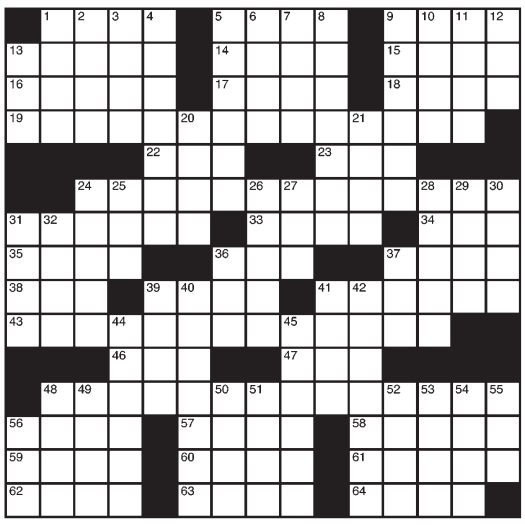
The reality is that no matter what I write about in this column — sexism, racism, wealth inequality, the destruction of our planet, mass incarceration, you name it — and no matter how outraged you believe you would be about it — what's the likelihood that it will ever turn into action? Where do we even begin when the task is building a movement? Perhaps we start with words — columns, articles, talk shows, banter, debates, forums, polls and studies. Or maybe we say this time, in my life, in my now, I act now. I shout now. I fight now. I risk now.

Then, and only then, will I honestly be able to say that I'm not just outraged, I am furious. And that fury will no longer be for me alone.

Jonathan Moore is a freshman who has not yet declared a major. He can be reached at Jonathan.Moore581594@tufts.edu.

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

CROSSWORD



By Paul Hunsberger 2/20/14

ACROSS
1 __ Club
5 Eat __
9 Film __
13 Sleep __
14 Mata __
15 "I'm __ you!"
16 "__ to please!"
17 __-steven
18 SWAT __
19 Blank
22 __ of bounds
23 Electric __
24 Blank
31 "It __ to reason"
33 "You're taking a big __"
34 __-TURN
35 Good for what __ you
36 Costa del __
37 __ Elevator Company
38 "I Like __"
39 __ the scales
41 San Diego __
43 Blank
46 Hopping __
47 Jacqueline Kennedy __ Bouvier
48 Blank
56 Quod __ demonstrandum
57 __ to one's senses
58 Shed __
59 __-Honey
60 "Rock of __"
61 From beyond the __
62 __ nuts
63 "__-a-Cop": 1988 film
64 "Jane __"

DOWN
1 X-Ray __: U.K. punk band
2 Take __: doze
3 Golda __
4 "It's the __ story"
5 __ of drawers
6 __ Shankar
7 __ Cakesters
8 __ circle
9 __ motel
10 "A Room of __ Own"
11 "Take __ a compliment"
12 CD-__
13 "I'm in __": "Wow!"
20 Soap __
21 __ and potato soup
24 Van __
25 Carry-__: luggage
26 Victoria __
27 Olive __
28 __-level
29 Peau de __: satin-weave cloth
30 __ 22-Across: solve
31 Set __
32 __ torch
36 Day __
37 "__ to Joy"
39 Suit __
40 __ Series: auto races
41 __-à-porter: ready-to-wear
42 __ Joe
44 Caveat __
45 Civil __: protest
48 __ Canal
49 __ for life
50 Rib __
51 "__ to that!"
52 "Lord knows __!"
53 __ Abby
54 __ birth to
55 "... __ I saw Elba"
56 __ and flow

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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

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JUMBLE

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

NEHTT

INGAA

DOIPMU

YIMADS

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Jumble puzzle magazines available at pennydellpuzzles.com/jumblemags

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

Ans. here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HEFTY AWARD MYSELF POETRY
Answer: They didn't let the detour — DETER THEM

LATE NIGHT AT THE DAILY

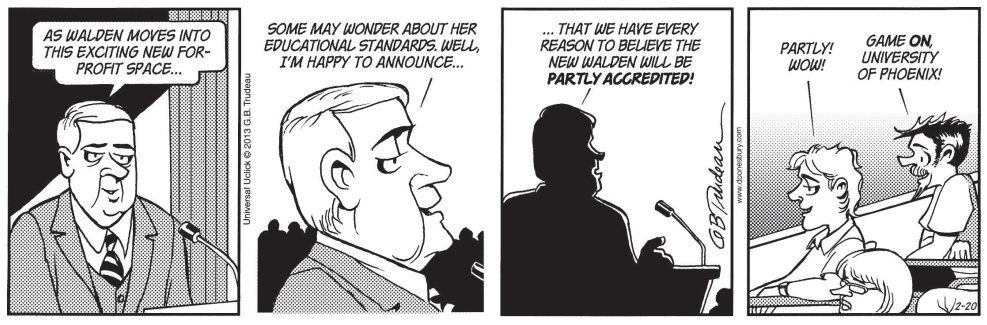
Want more late-night laughs? Follow us on Twitter at @LateNiteAtDaily

Ja'mie: "'Regimen' and 'regiment' are different. If you had a workout regiment it would literally be a 1000-solider army jazzercising."

Please recycle this Daily.

DOONESBURY

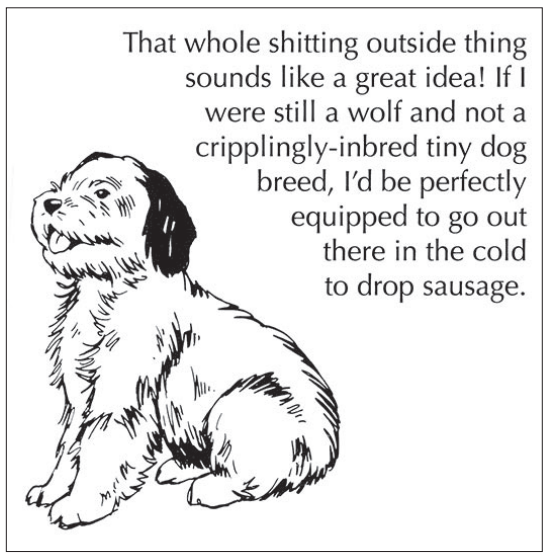
BY GARRY TRUDEAU



NON SEQUITUR

BY WILEY

MARRIED TO THE SEA



www.marriedtothesea.com

SUDOKU

Level: Breaking a story on Slugline.

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

Thursday's Solution

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

Wanted	*Services*	*Housing*	-	-	-
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CAROLINE GEILING / THE TUFTS DAILY

Sophomore Stephen Haladyna will need to continue his stellar play if the Jumbos want to go far in the NESCAC tournament.

Jumbos look to carry momentum into NESCAC tournament

MEN'S BASKETBALL

continued from back

fourth-leading scorer. Ferris, who has been battling injuries all season, was once again sidelined — this time with a knee injury. Teammates have said he is practicing and will hopefully be healed to play Saturday after the week to prepare.

Depending on the result of Saturday's game, four Jumbo seniors — tri-captains Firempong, Oliver Cohen and Andrew Dowton, and Tommy Folliard — may play their last game in the brown and blue this weekend. For a team that has faced adversity on and off the court this season, they said they have played every game as if it were the last.

"We've had so many injuries this year that have brought light to a bigger perspective on life, as far as any time you get on the floor it could be your last game," Firempong said. "So that's our mentality. It's a do-or-die situation. Regardless of [whether] it's the playoffs or the regular season, I always have that mentality."

While the Jumbos may not have faced the easiest road on their way to the postseason this year, they are looking forward to making the most of this potential opportunity.

"At the beginning of the year, our goal was to finish at the top of the NESCAC, and then we weren't able to get a home playoff bid for the first round," Firempong said. "We didn't reach some of the expectations that we had, but we still have a great opportunity in front of us."

Berube seeks success, consistency at Tufts

BERUBE

continued from back

rent position in 2002. From a packed stadium in Storrs, Conn. where fans chanted "Ber-uuuu-beee," to relative anonymity in Cousens Gym, it took Coach Berube "a little while to figure out Tufts," Athletic Director William Gehling said.

"But once she figured it out, she realized she is a really good fit," Gehling added.

The tiny Tufts gym, and accompanying close-knit athletic community, has been more than enough, Berube said.

"You're never going to have the same degree of attention that UConn women [basketball players] get," she said. "We'll take a little piece of what we got here — the students, or the local kids who watch us play, or the grandfathers that just really enjoy the game of basketball."

For Berube, working at a smaller school like Tufts has not precluded her from interacting with big-time successes — namely Colleen Hart (E '11), arguably the most talented women's basketball player at Tufts. Hart still holds Tufts records for most points and 3-pointers scored.

Similar to what her coach at UConn did for her, Coach Berube helped Hart build a future in basketball. Among other things, Coach Berube helped Hart secure a spot on a professional basketball team in Basel, Switzerland, where Hart was the starting point guard and averaged over 11 points per game in her one season there.

"People weren't really searching for a five-foot guard from a Div. III school [to play professional basketball], and [Coach Berube] got me the contact for the agent, helped me train in the offseason," Hart said. "She was really supportive, pretty much doing whatever she could to help me."

Although people doubted Hart's chances of playing basketball professionally, Berube said she never did.

Perched on the edge of the couch where her players, coaches and friends have gathered over the last 12 years, Coach Berube's characteristic humble confidence is on display. Not defined by her victorious basketball statistics — Berube remains among UConn's top 30 scorers — Coach Berube is now known for her prowess as a coach.

"I was bred to coach, coming from UConn," Berube said. "It was ingrained in me that this is the way you have to teach it, this is the way you have to play it. When I'm on the court coaching, I feel like it's my niche. It's where I feel very comfortable and feel very confident with what I'm saying."

That confidence and comfort on the sidelines has developed over a decade as Coach Berube, who first took the team at age 26, grew with a Jumbos' basketball program that had "room for improvement," Gehling said.

As Tufts has now had eight straight winning seasons, and, not including this season, has made the NESCAC tournament five of the last six years, it is hard to deny that Coach Berube has done her job exceedingly well.

"Bill Gehling has just been so supportive of whatever I need to do. If I have to be home for a good amount of the day then that's great as long as [I'm] getting [my] job done," Berube said. "And hopefully that's what I'm doing."

Increasingly in the national college sports media spotlight, with great focus on Coach Berube's influence on the program, she has had offers to climb the coaching ladder. But, at least for now, Coach Berube said Medford, Mass. has been a newfound basketball home.

"I love my job here," Berube said. "I have a lot of goals — a national championship being one of them, and being in an environment to raise a family and being happy is number one. As for the future, I don't know, but as of right now, [Tufts] is exactly where I want to be."

AARON LEIBOWITZ | THE FAN

Incognito's world

The NFL was meant for Richie Incognito. It protects him. The NFL was not meant for Jonathan Martin. It does not protect him.

Last Friday, Ted Wells released a 144-page report detailing Incognito's harassment of Martin over the last two years with the Miami Dolphins.

The report finds that Incognito relentlessly bullied Martin with racial taunts, calling him a "half-n----- piece of s---," a "liberal mulatto b----" and a "stinky Pakistani." He physically assaulted Martin at a Christmas party. He made sexually explicit jokes about Martin's sister. As king of the team's "kangaroo court," he fined Martin $10,000 for not attending an offensive line trip to Las Vegas.

Throughout Wells' report, Incognito comes across as ignorant and stupid. But his bullying crushed Martin. In a text message sent to his mother last April, Martin reportedly wrote: "I figured out a major source of my anxiety. I'm a pushover, a people pleaser. I avoid confrontation whenever I can, I always want everyone to like me. I let people talk about me, say anything to my face, and I just take it, laugh it off, even when I know they are intentionally trying to disrespect me."

Avoids confrontation? Wants people to like him? He sounds almost... human?

Some columnists have speculated that Wells' report could forever change NFL locker room culture. I can't think of a single reason it would. The report, though disturbing, doesn't teach us much we didn't already know. We learn that Incognito is a horrible person. We learn that awful things go on in NFL locker rooms.

We can learn more by looking at the upshot of the incident. Martin, the victim, is out of football. After leaving the team last October, he immediately checked himself into a mental health facility. His teammates, following the same protocol that told Martin not to speak ill of his comrades, have not said a word on his behalf.

Dolphins offensive line coach Jim Turner — who reportedly took part in the taunting of an unnamed player for his perceived homosexuality — allegedly sent Martin the following text message last November: "Richie incognito is getting hammered on national TV. This is not right. You could put an end to all the rumors with a simple statement. DO THE RIGHT THING. NOW." The Dolphins fired Turner yesterday in an attempt to save face. But if not for a massive investigation, he'd still have his job.

Meanwhile, the perpetrator — the racist, homophobic, violent Incognito — will likely serve a several-game suspension and get back to work. The Miami Herald's Armando Salguero recently suggested he could make $3 to $4 million on a one-year deal. Numerous teammates and NFL players have come to his defense.

While Wells' report shows us what goes on inside the locker room, it won't actually change what goes on inside the locker room. It won't change who the NFL does and does not protect.

Chris Kluwe, punter and gay rights activist, is out of a job. Mike Priefer, the Vikings' special teams coordinator who allegedly told Kluwe he'd "[burn] in hell with the gays," is on the Vikings' staff for next season.

What would Priefer or Incognito say and do to Michael Sam, the University of Missouri defensive end who may soon become the league's first openly gay player?

"The good news, hopefully," wrote Ashley Fox of ESPN.com, "is that Wells' report should serve notice ... that bullying, taunting and hazing are not appropriate locker room behaviors."

But in a "no snitching" environment, the players are often the only ones who really know what's going on — especially if the harassment arrives via text message.

And while the Incognito case is extreme, bullying undoubtedly occurs in all 32 NFL locker rooms. When it gets bad, who is there for the victims?

Aaron Leibowitz is a senior who is majoring in American studies. He can be reached at Aaron.Leibowitz@tufts.edu.

Sports
tuftsdaily.com

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Former UConn star continuing legacy at Tufts

BY ALISON KUAH
Daily Editorial Board

Nineteen years after she played to clinch a 35-0 season for the University of Connecticut (UConn), Carla Berube has resettled in college basketball, coaching the Tufts women's basketball team to a near perfect season.

"[My coach] got the most of me as a player, and helped me grow as an individual and leader, and I hope that's what I'm helping my own players do — build confidence, build great leaders for tomorrow," Berube said.

As Tufts pursues its first NESCAC Championship, Coach Berube has already lead Tufts' resounding 92-55 dismissal of Bowdoin — who beat them in the NESCAC Championship opening round last year. Berube has helped motivate an overwhelming hunger in the Jumbos to win their first conference championship.

"It's the No. 1 on our goals, and it's the only focus right now," Berube said. "The only thing I'm thinking about is the NESCAC tournament, and never winning the NESCAC tournament is a huge deal."

Although success has often come naturally to Coach Berube, the transition from star player at a Div. I school to NESCAC head coach has taken a while — she began in her cur-

see BERUBE, page 11

COURTESY TUFTS ATHLETICS

Coach Berube, who is leading possibly her best team yet, has already cemented her place in history at Tufts.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Tournament could be fresh start for Tufts

BY ALEX SCHROEDER
Daily Editorial Board

It came down to the last game of the regular season for the men's basketball team. In fact, it really came down to an hour or so after the Jumbos' 66-62 win over Bowdoin at home on Saturday.

After the rules had been read and reread, the Jumbos' celebrated as they heard confirmation they will be the No. 7 seed in the 2014 NESCAC Championship Tournament this weekend.

Despite the dramatic manner in which Tufts closed the regular season and slipped into the playoffs, the real work is yet to be done. Tufts will face Williams, the conference's second-ranked team and the No. 9 team in the country, in Williamstown on Saturday.

The Ephs defeated the Jumbos less than two weeks ago when the teams played on Feb. 8. After the first 15 minutes of the game, the score knotted at 23 points apiece, Williams went on a 21-2 run in the last 5:33 of the first half to all but kill Tufts' chances for an upset.

"We were in the game for most of the first half, and they went on one big run at the end of the first half, and that sort of put the game away," senior tri-captain Kwame Firempong said. "Not scoring on offense and mistakes on defense led to a big run for the other team, that sort of put the game away right then and there. They didn't dominate the game as a whole, it was more of a big run and they were able to sustain that lead through the rest of the game."

Tufts will have to avoid a similar extended lapse if it wants to take down Williams — a team hungry for a championship after losing to Amherst by just one point in last year's final. Coming off two wins against playoff contenders Bowdoin and Colby, Tufts is up for the challenge.

"These two wins this past weekend have given us a lot of momentum and confidence going into this Saturday," sophomore Stephen Haladyna said. "We're going into the game confident we can beat them, even though they kind of took it to us last time we played them. So, we're just going to come in with a new game plan. We'll have more confidence going into this matchup."

Haladyna led the way for the Jumbos in the back-to-back home matchups last weekend. He was named NESCAC Player of the Week in men's basketball for his 19 points per game average, 68.8 percent shooting from the field and 66.7 percent shooting from beyond the arc across the two games. He also matched his career-high of 23 points in the contest against Bowdoin.

One player noticeably missing from Saturday's game was junior Ben Ferris, the Jumbos'

see MEN'S BASKETBALL, page 11

INSIDE MLB

MLB offseason recap: dollars and players fly

BY ALEX SCHROEDER
Daily Editorial Board

It feels like just yesterday that the beards of the 2013 World Series champion Boston Red Sox were parading down Boylston Street. But with pitchers and catchers already at spring training, the 2014 season is near. During this time of year, an opportunity for hope arises. Managers feel their teams have improved in the offseason, and are optimistic they are World Series contenders. As opening day approaches, the Daily recaps the biggest stories of the 2014 offseason.

Robinson Cano signs 10-year deal with Seattle

The Mariners landed the prize of the 2014 free-agent class, signing the MLB's best second baseman to a 10-year, $240 million deal, outbidding the New York Yankees by more than $70 million. In prying Cano away from the Bronx Bombers, the Mariners got one of the best hitters in the game to man the middle of their order.

Cano has averaged 29 home runs and 106 RBIs while hitting .310 over the past three seasons in New York. He will add some much needed punch to a weak Seattle lineup that ranked in the bottom third of the league last season in runs, hits and on-base percentage.

In the field, Cano is as steady-handed as they come, combining smooth hands with a superb throwing arm that has led to two Gold Gloves awards. It still remains to be seen if Seattle has enough talent to compete in the tough AL West, but signing Cano is definitely a step in the right direction.

The New York Yankees Spending Frenzy

Not to be outdone by the Mariners, the Yankees have had their own spending spree this offseason.

Last time the Yankees missed the playoffs in 2008, they reacted by shelling out over $400 million in the offseason to sign CC Sabathia, AJ Burnett and Mark Teixeira — which led to their 2009 World Series Championship.

Following suit, general manager Brian Cashman has given out over $450 million worth of contracts this offseason, hoping to catapult the Yankees back into title contention. Entering the offseason with a major hole in its starting rotation, New York went out and signed the best pitcher on the market, Japanese import Masahiro Tanaka, who figures to slot in nicely in the top half of the rotation.

They also shored up their offense with the additions of center fielder Jacoby Ellsbury, right fielder Carlos Beltran and catcher Brian McCann. With Ellsbury, the Yankees get arguably the best lead-off hitter in the game who also has unmatched skills on the base paths. McCann's power from the left side will play nicely with the short porch in Yankees Stadium.

While there still are a few holes to fill in the Yankee infield, it seems New York is in good position to compete for a spot in the 2014 playoffs.

Blockbuster deals in Texas

Following back-to-back appearances in the World Series, the Texas Rangers took a step back, failing to make the postseason in 2013. Needing to shake things up, the Rangers made the first blockbuster move of the offseason dealing second baseman Ian Kinsler to the Detroit Tigers for powerful first baseman Prince Fielder. While Fielder had a down year by his standards in 2013, he's only 29 years old and stands to benefit from the friendly confines of the Arlington Ballpark. Furthermore, despite his size, Fielder has proven to be among the most durable players in baseball, playing in at least 157 games each season since he became a starter in 2006. Kinsler, on the other hand, has begun regressing as he turns 32 this season, and with superstar prospect Jurickson Profar waiting in the wings, he became expendable.

The Rangers, however, weren't done dealing there. With Nelson Cruz's contract expiring, the team went out and signed Shin-Soo Choo to a $130 million deal. Choo will be among the top 15 outfielders in baseball this season while providing elite on-base skills to stabilize the top of the Rangers' lineup.

The end of the Alex Rodriguez saga

The Alex Rodriguez saga finally came to an end about a month ago, when he accepted the 162-game suspension given by baseball. A-Rod ran out of people to blame and finally came to terms with the fact that it was essentially impossible to overturn the arbitrator's ruling. While he has yet to admit to his involvement in Tony Bosch's Biogenesis ring, Rodriguez has come to terms with the fact he won't take the field in 2014, so the rest of the baseball world can refocus their energy to on the field activities.

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The Seattle Mariners hope newly acquired second baseman Robinson Cano can launch them into contention in the competitive AL West.