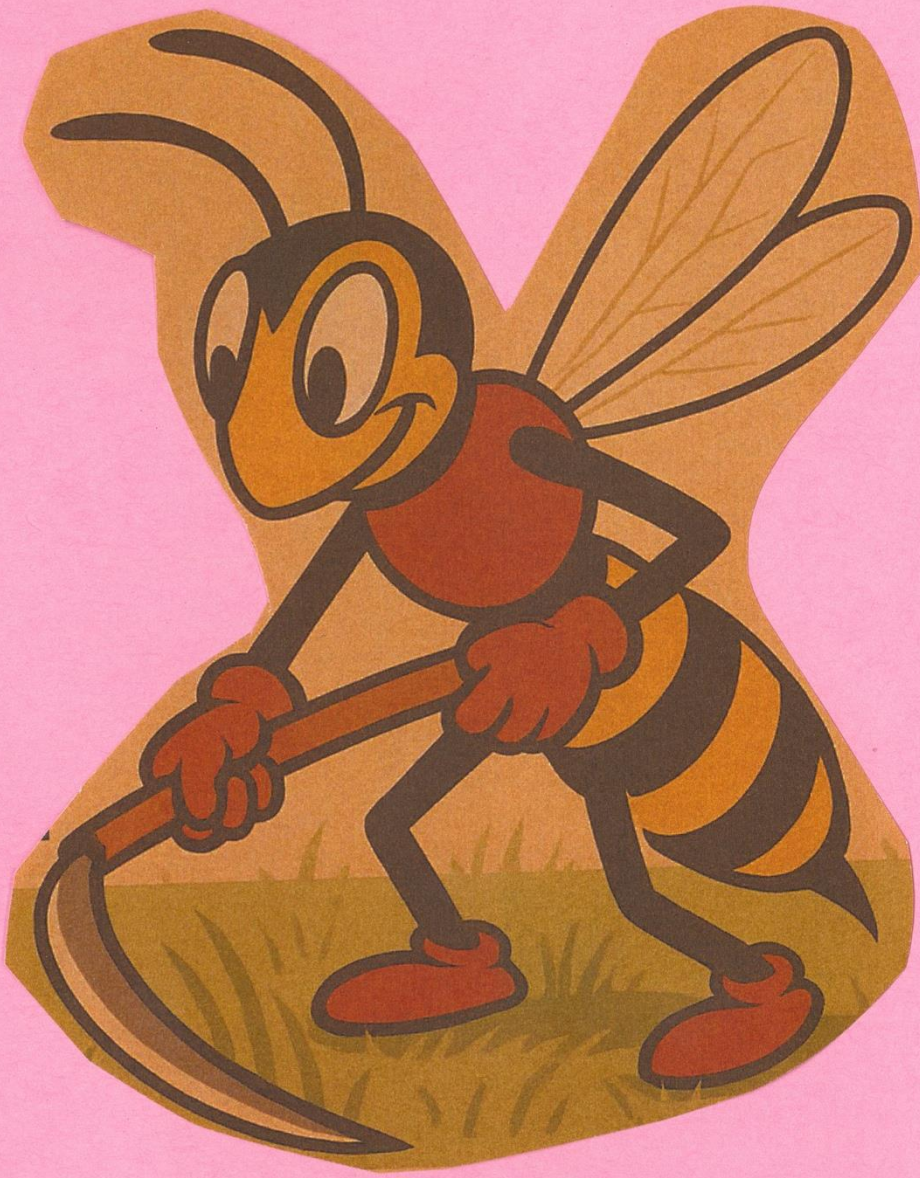
Welcome
Oilseeds
TUFTS
Campus
Ecologies
AND
COMMONS



2026

Campus Ecologies & Commons

Zines are intimate, handmade documents that often record fleeting encounters and moments in time. This one emerged on an October afternoon as part of the University Ecologies Project at Tufts University. A small group of faculty and students met and crafted collaged responses to a pair of prompts that asked about meaningful features of the campus environment and forms of commoning that appear in it. The prompts also invited consideration of the visible and invisible as well as biotic and abiotic elements of the Tufts campus ecologies. The pages that follow feature dead birds, pet dogs, falling leaves, and native grasses. There are also Adirondack chairs, close encounters with autumn, open questions about dwelling, and a memorable cosplaying Harry Potter on a unicycle that once appeared as if in a dream.

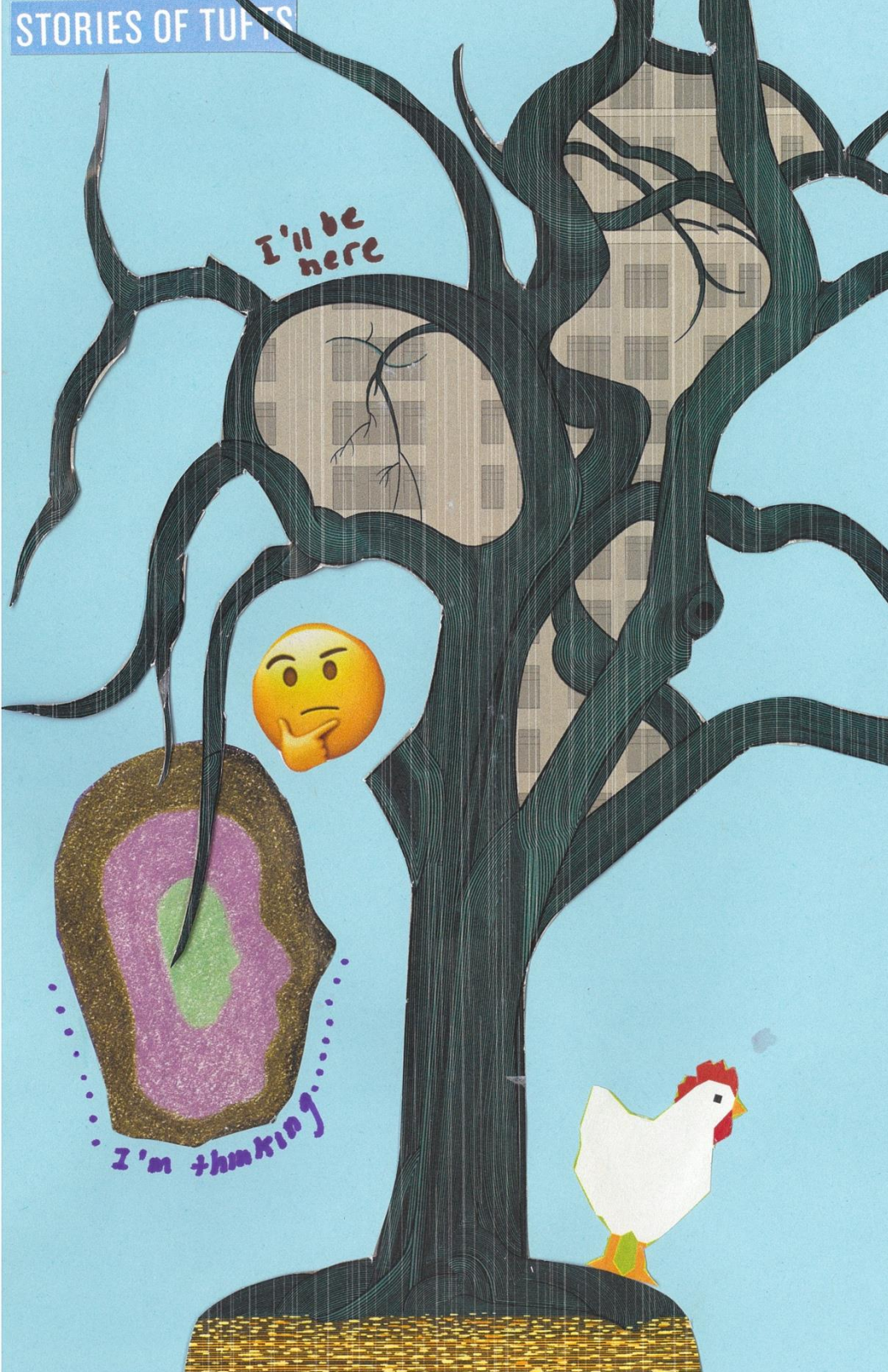
In the process of making these pages, there were scissors borrowed and swapped. Magazines sourced, torn, and chopped. Questions raised and responses offered. And murmured appreciations for the chance to work with one's hands, collaging, gluesticking, making a little bit of a mess on a bright afternoon.

What's not necessarily obvious or explicitly referenced here is the commons that is time, and the value of sharing it. This feels especially important when no one seems to have quite enough of it these days.

We hope this record of our shared time is something you'll appreciate. And if you've taken the time to read these words, then we hope that you are finding opportunities, moments, and communities in which you are able to share it too.



I HAD NEVER SEEN A TREE TURN RED BEFORE


I'll be here
I'm thinking...

GANTGER



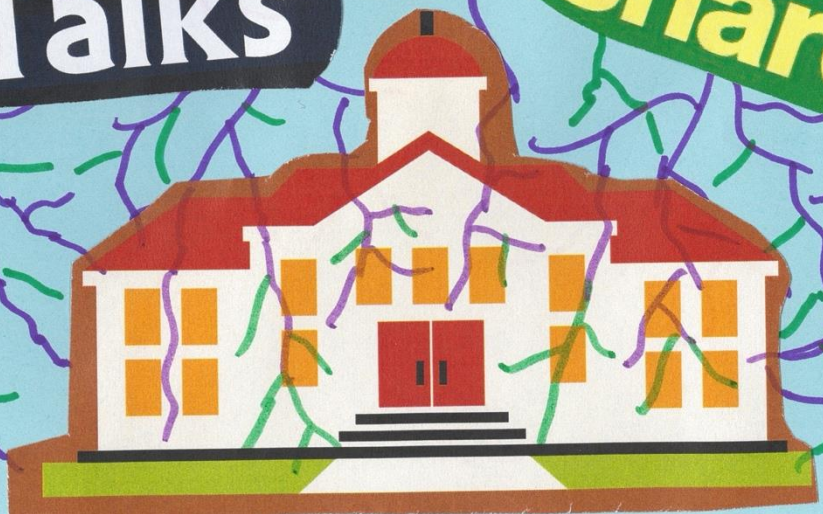
Conversation

questions

try

Talks

share

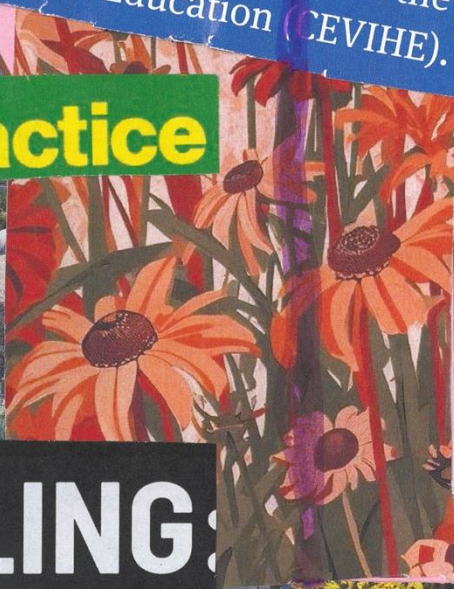


MAYBE... THEY SHOULD EXIST

When we think of a university education, we can see it as an invitation to think more deeply, question assumptions, test ide and encounter perspectives that stretch the boundaries of our xperiences. At Tufts, this vision is reflected in the launch of the enter for Expanding Viewpoints in Higher Education (CEVIHE).

Abolitionist Practice





DWELLING:



THINGS THAT DON'T EXIST AT TUFTS, THAT PEOPLE THINK DO EXIST....

.... like native grasses

A Commoning Infrastructure

As I Recall It

Rhizomatic Systems Points of Lived Convergence And

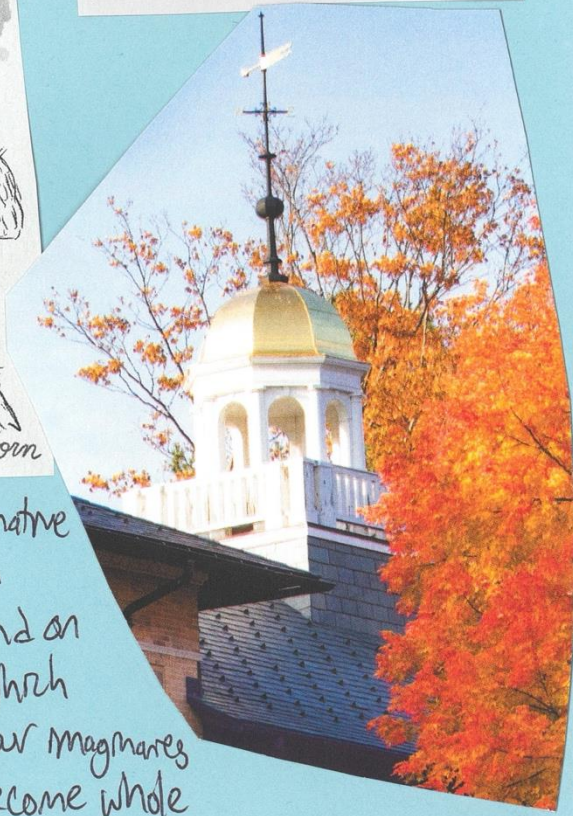


certain straying gaps for light enter the field of collective laying-out on memory and transformation along the traced paths and wet green life



a child is a spire and a spire is beside a hearth and under a harvest and a landscape stretches out from these formative sites of intimate imagery on which we make ourselves and on which our imaginaries become whole

As David Berman sings on the Silver Jews track "The Wild Kindness," "I'm gonna shine out in the wild silence / And spurn the sin of giving in."



"I feel like I can lose myself there."



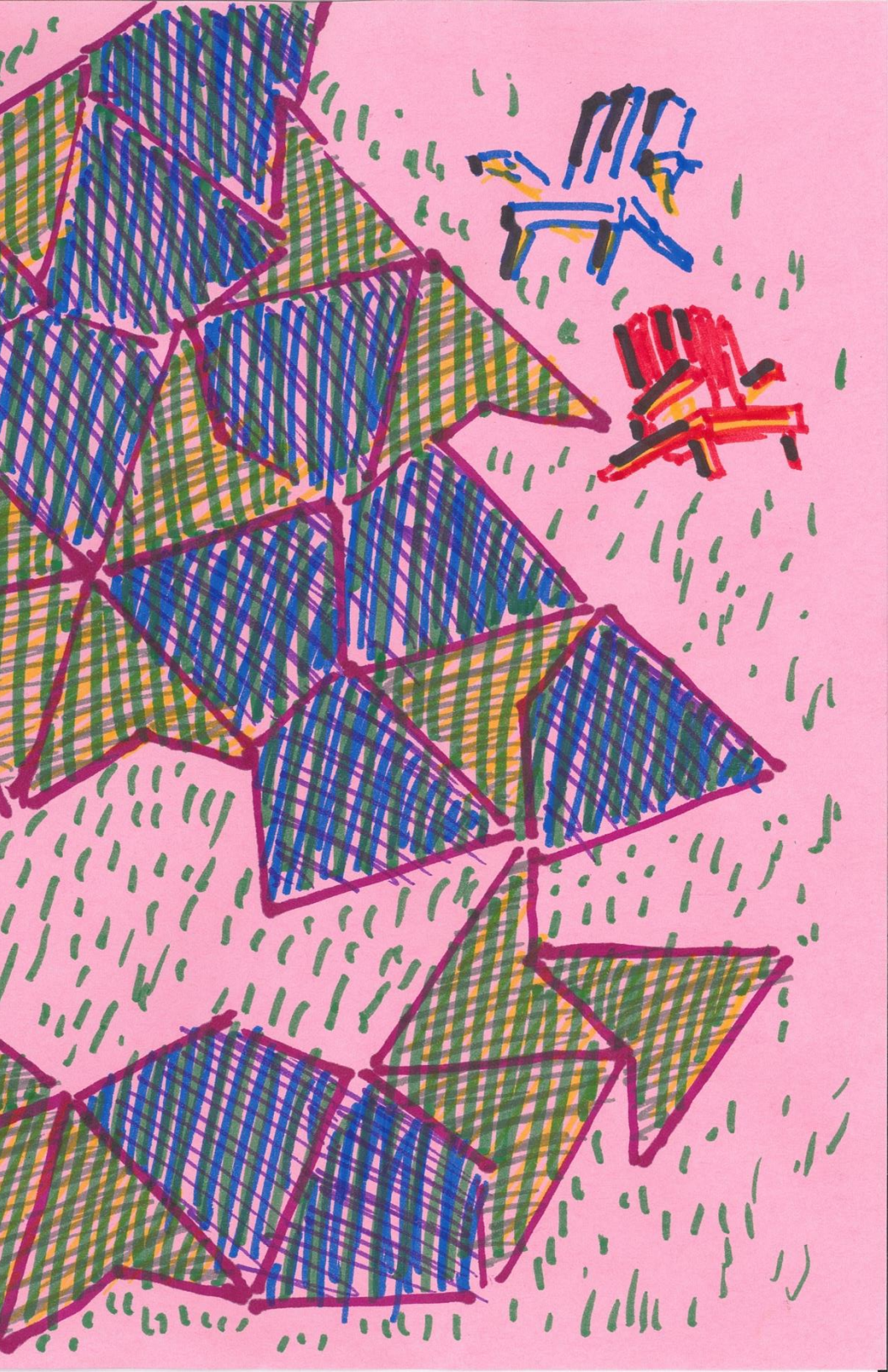
The Medford Campus As a DOGS' Commons

Dogs are a major connector between the neighborhood and the university, as they regularly walk humans on campus paths.

Penrose tile Arrangement of



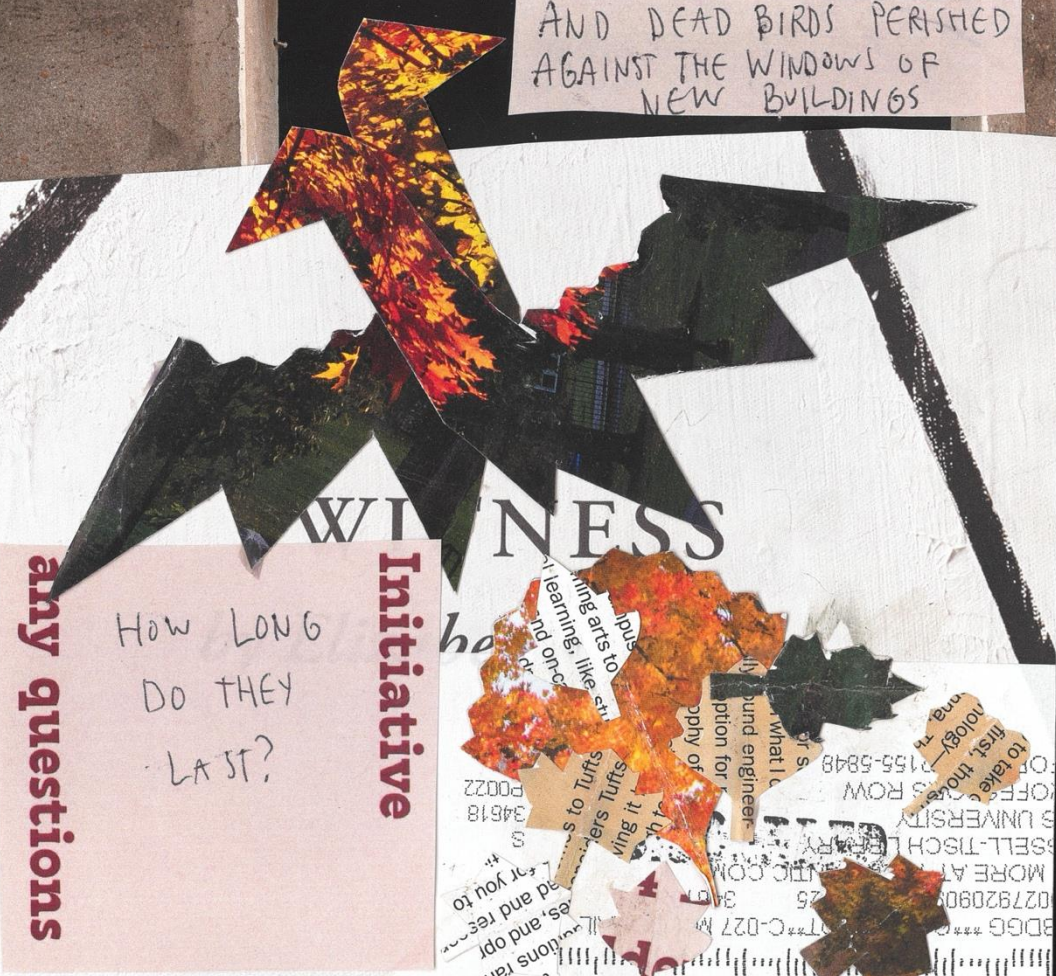
ADIRONDACKS



THE WAR ABOUT NOTHING

LOOKING DOWN I SEE SIDEWALK LEAF PRINTS MADE BY RAIN + TIME.

AND DEAD BIRDS PERISHED AGAINST THE WINDOWS OF NEW BUILDINGS



WITNESS

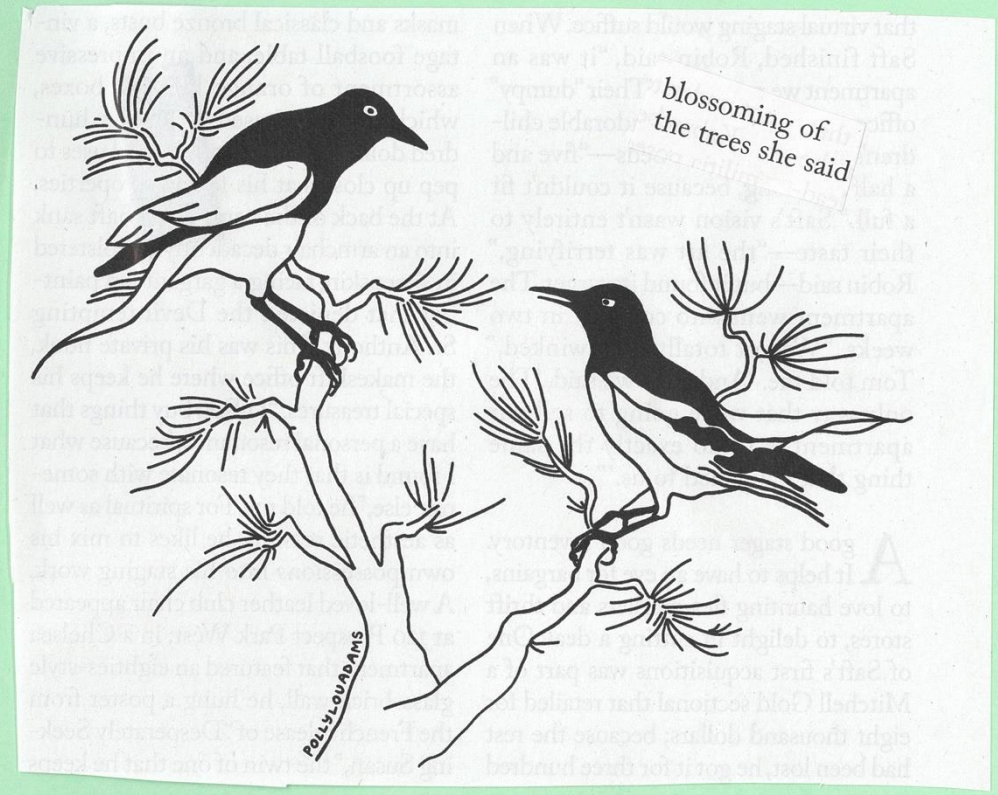
HOW LONG DO THEY LAST?

Initiative

any questions

visions that spring forth:
the warping of sound around buildings and the traversed realms of inhabitance . . .

we are birds plucking our way through and beyond the leaves of communion



let us flourish above the grounds of our entry

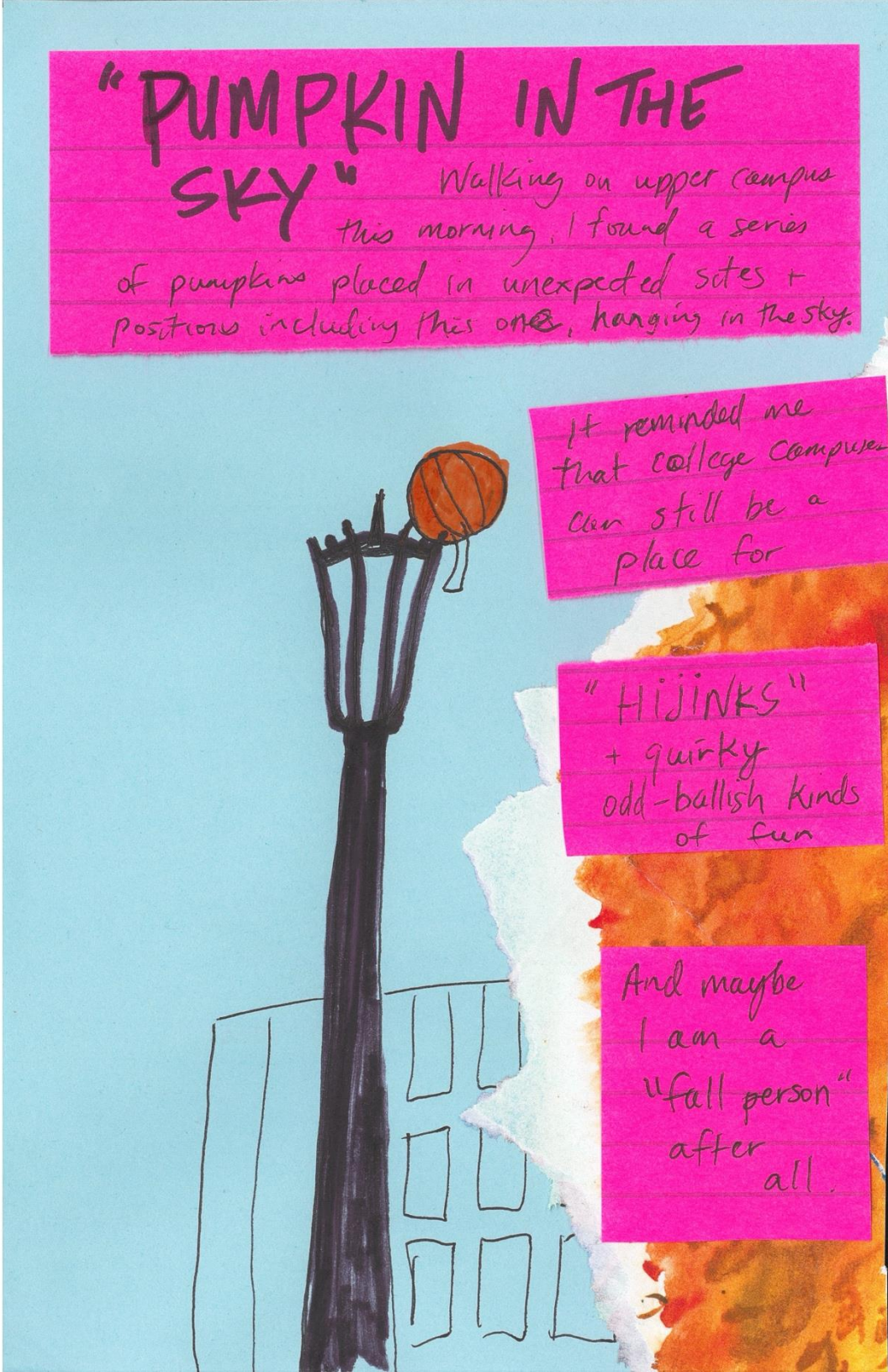
"PUMPKIN IN THE SKY"

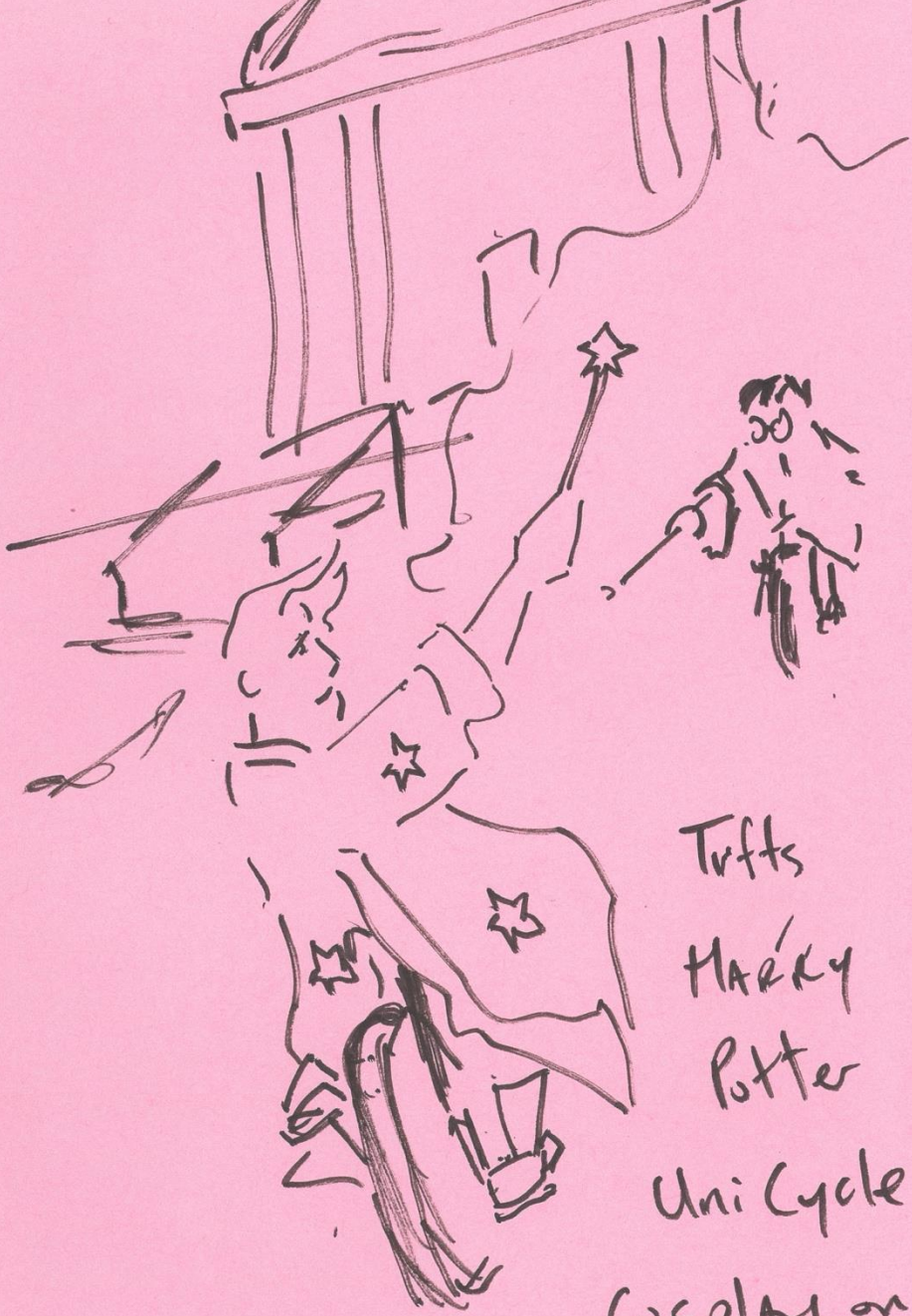
Walking on upper campus this morning, I found a series of pumpkins placed in unexpected sites + positions including this one, hanging in the sky.

It reminded me that college campuses can still be a place for

"HIJINKS" + quirky odd-ballish kinds of fun

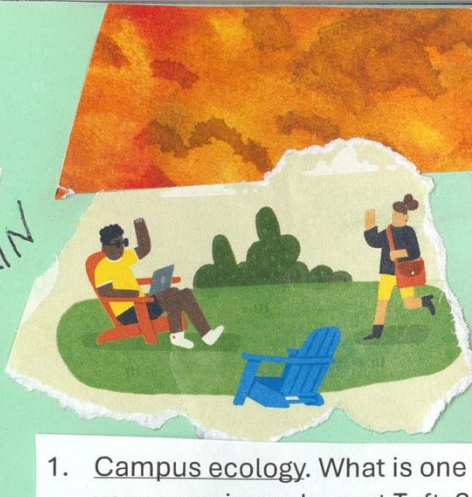
And maybe I am a "fall person" after all.





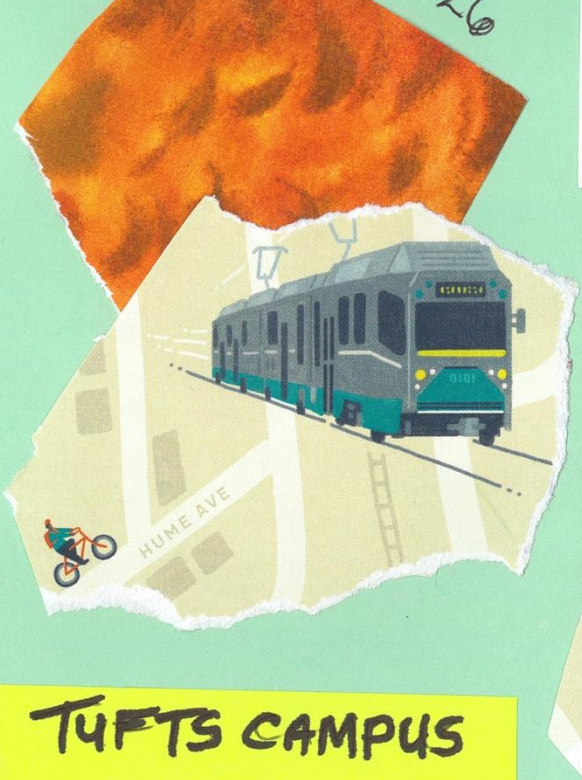
Tufts
Harry
Potter
Uni Cycle
Cosplay on
the LAWN
Circa 2014.



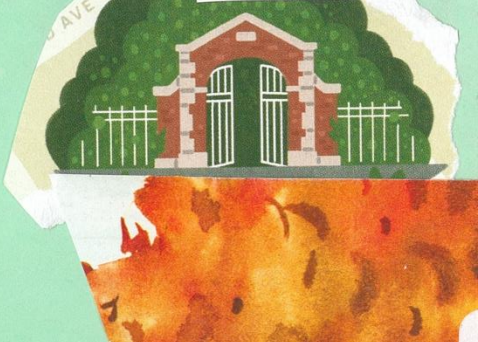


OCTOBER 29, 2026

1. Campus ecology. What is one your experience here at Tufts? spot to sit, a squawky squirrel' What other surrounding eleme Think of what you can see & to directly sense or apprehend. F also the soils, shoots, and roo beyond the biotic elements tha environment or infrastructures these niches on campus.



2. Campus common Identify one that y happen there? Thi temporary circles between two trees consider imaginin see (or make happ whom?

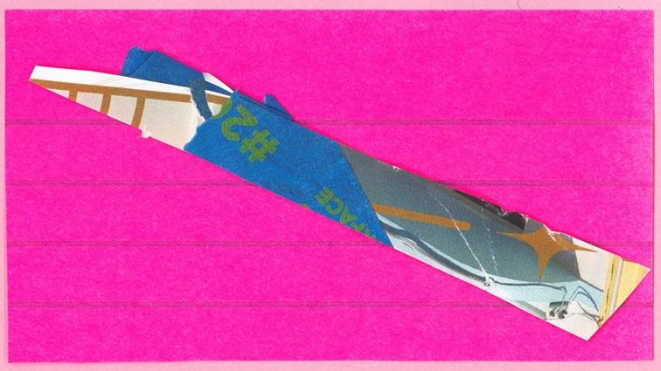


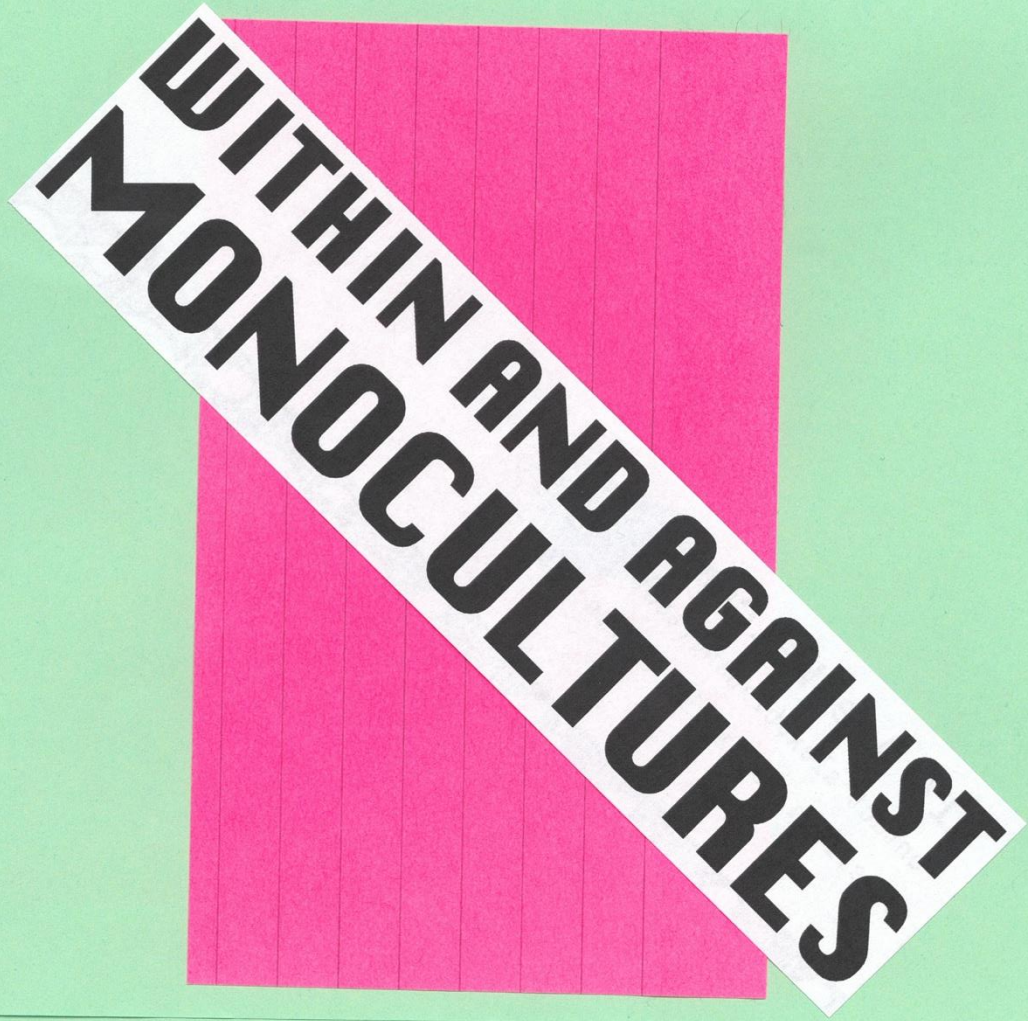
TUFTS CAMPUS ECOLOGIES + COMMONS

PROMPTS (FOR PAGE-MAKING)

element or niche within the campus ecology that grounds
Be specific! Is there a bumpy bend in a sidewalk, a sunny
s nest, or a single oak tree that you find yourself drawn in by?
nts make up that particular pocket of the campus ecology?
uch (& smell & hear & taste!), but also that which you can't
or example, consider not only botanical life above ground but
s below. At the same time, encourage yourself to think
t define these ecologies, including elements of the built
(both visible and invisible) that support and help constitute

s. Think about different forms of commons that you see on campus.
ou're particularly fond of. What are notable activities of "commoning" that
s may include the active carving out of such common space, through
of friends, slack lines tightened and balanced upon, or hammocks placed
. Or, if there isn't a particular campus commons that jumps to mind, then
g and sketching out a commons (or form of commoning) that you'd like to
en) on campus. What would you do there? When and how and with

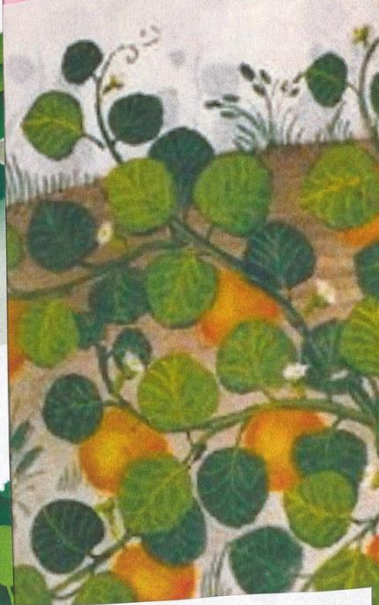



WITHIN AND AGAINST
MONOCULTURES

Contributors

Amahl Bishara
Alex Blanchette
Silvia Bottinelli
Coco Gomez
Mira Guth
Nick Kawa
Mikey MacMahon
Spencer Vernier





Tufts UNIVERSITY | SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Environmental Studies
Hoch Cunningham Environmental Lectures

University Ecologies Project

Ecotopia Now



