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THE TUFTS DAILY

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AP Biology changes; effects uncertain for Tufts students

BY ELIZABETH MCKAY
Daily Editorial Board

As part of a sweeping overhaul of its entire AP program, the College Board announced earlier this month that it has completed revisions to its Advanced Placement (AP) Biology program that will take effect during the 2012-13 academic year.

While Department of Biology Chair Juliet Fuhrman approved of the College Board's proposed changes, administrators who determine the university's AP credit policy have yet to decide how it will affect whether Tufts students will continue to receive credit for passing the exam.

Questions on the new exam are designed to test understanding of larger concepts and critical thinking, as opposed to simple memorization of facts. The number of free-response questions will more than double, while multiple-choice questions will be cut almost in half. The College Board's AP Biology curriculum focuses on teaching fewer concepts in greater depth.

Fuhrman hopes that the updated course will better reflect the material taught in college-level biology classes.

"We will be thrilled to see if these changes align the course with our way of teaching biology," she said.

A 2002 study by the National Research Council, prompted changes to College Board's AP science programs, Jennifer Topiel, executive director of communications for the College Board, told the Daily.

The study criticized the AP science programs for the "daunting" scope of their curricula, which the study asserted was incompatible with student development of deeper understanding of subject areas.

Jack Ridge, the chair of Tufts' Educational Policy Committee (EPC), was skeptical of the College Board's changes. Even with the proposed course revisions, he said, AP students may still not learn to think at the critical level demanded in college.

"A lot of AP courses teach to the exam, and there's a lot of training of how to take the exams," he said. "They become more of a formula than actually learning how to think critically."

Ridge, who is also a professor of geology, chaired the EPC in 2009 when the committee voted to overhaul Tufts' AP credit policy. The current policy limits students in the School of Arts and Sciences to five pre-matriculation credits — which include credit from AP and SAT II exams, as well as international baccalaureate credits — and School of Engineering students to eight. Students are allowed to count only one credit toward any individual distribution area.

Concern about the legitimacy of AP exam results prompted the EPC at the time to reevaluate the school's treatment of AP credit, according to Ridge.

"A lot of the faculty was starting to doubt the validity of AP exams as indicators of whether students had done college-level work or were prepared to succeed in college," he said.

Ridge added that concern about the fairness of allowing students to earn credit for AP scores, when not all students had the opportunity to take AP courses, also prompted the committee's decision.

Many of Tufts' peer institutions have stopped accepting AP credit, Ridge said. He anticipates that Tufts is headed in the same direction.

"We're in a wait-and-see mode," he said. "I'm not particularly happy with [the current policy]."

Tufts' Department of Biology currently awards one credit for a score of 5 on the AP Biology exam. Students who receive a 5 may use the credit to replace either a Biology 13 or 14 credit.

A committee composed of AP teachers and college faculty designed the new AP Biology curriculum, according to Topiel. The National Science Foundation made the revisions possible with a $1.8 million grant to the College Board in 2006 to redesign its science programs, she said.

The Department of Biology consistently reviews the AP Biology program to determine whether or not to award incoming students credit for AP scores, Fuhrman said. The department will do so again

see BIOLOGY, page 3

Tufts Student Fund to head up third year of campaign

BY MARTHA SHANAHAN
Daily Editorial Board

The Tufts Student Fund (TSF) campaign on Wednesday will kick off its third year of collections with a larger online presence, more student involvement in the fund's committee and features like a "text-to-give" function and a new slogan.

The Tufts Fund for Arts, Sciences and Engineering established the fund in 2008 in response to the economic downturn to ease student financial stress. The funds raised go to a single student each year who needs help paying his or her tuition bill.

This year's TSF slogan, "It's better to give than to receive," represents the campaign's redefined focus on student participation, rather than monetary accumulation, according to senior Kyle Sircus a TSF Committee co-chair.

"It's something that was mildly provocative but in the best way possible," he said. "It really is meant to be something that's really truthful to the campaign. It's meant to be about participation but also about giving back to the school that we've received so much from."

see FUND, page 3

DANAI MACRIDI/TUFTS DAILY

The Tufts Student Fund will next week kick off its third year of collecting donations to help ease the cost of tuition for a needy student.

New gun laws would permit firearms on campus

BY SARAH KORONES
Daily Editorial Board

Allowing guns on campus is not typically the first solution that comes to mind when trying to combat school shootings, but the idea is certainly up for debate.

Nine states — though not Massachusetts — are currently considering legislation that would permit students, faculty and staff to carry concealed handguns on campus. In the forefront of the debate is Texas, a state notorious for its gun culture and one that is poised to pass a bill allowing for the presence of concealed firearms on college campuses.

David Burnett, president and spokesman of Students for Concealed Carry on Campus, supports the impending legislation and believes that the constitutional right to carry a gun should not end once a person steps on campus.

"If someone has a concealed weapon permit and is already certified by the state to carry a firearm with them for their own protection, they should be allowed that same right on a college campus that they have off a college campus," he told the Daily. "[Many states that permit concealed carry] already have a process in place that requires background checks and fingerprinting."

College campuses would be the latest in a long list of locations where possession of a concealed firearm is legal, according to Burnett.

"These people can already carry firearms to places like churches, banks, shopping malls, movie theaters, grocery stores — they already responsibly carry and they already have the right to defend and protect themselves against others," he said. "We're saying, what's different about a college campus that colleges can deny someone that right when the colleges cannot guarantee students or faculty or staff personal safety?"

Burnett's group was created in the wake of the 2007 shooting at Virginia Tech in which a student opened fire and killed 32 others before eventually shooting himself.

According to Burnett, allowing students to carry concealed firearms on campus would serve to protect students in the event of a critical on-campus threat.

"I can't say that the outcome of Virginia Tech would have been any different," he said. "We feel that we [can] contribute a chance of self-defense … if we allow professors or former marines or anyone with a concealed carry permit to carry on a college campus."

But not everyone agrees that having more guns on campus would lead to greater

see GUNS, page 2

Genocide survivors discuss harrowing experiences

JUSTIN MCCALLUM/TUFTS DAILY

Survivors of multiple 20th-century genocides shared their stories in Cabot Auditorium last night at "Survivors Speak: An evening with extraordinary survivors of genocide," an event sponsored by Tufts Hillel. From left to right: Armenian genocide scholar Khatchig Mouradian, Holocaust survivor Maurice Vanderpol, Bosnian genocide survivor Jasmina Cesic, Rwandan genocide survivor Eugenie Mukeshimana and Sayon Soeun, a Khmer Rouge child soldier and genocide survivor. See Monday's Daily for coverage of the talk.

Inside this issue

As spring nears, baseball fans gear up for the start of the MLB season.

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Author Erin Kelly offers readers a thrilling book perfect for spring bring.

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Fans await return of 'America's pastime'

BY SARAH STRAND
Daily Editorial Board

Nature is taunting. As the mounds of snow melt away to reveal the semi-green of Tufts' campus, spring seems imminent. Though a few more bitterly cold days will probably keep the sunshine at bay for now, certain students on campus — baseball fans, to be exact — are already following spring training and gearing up for the 2011 season.

"Baseball is spring and spring is coming," Director of the Latino Center Ruben Salinas-Stern, a die-hard Major League Baseball follower, said.

Team loyalty runs deep, especially in the Northeast. With so many squads to choose from — the Yankees, Red Sox, Phillies, Mets and Orioles, among others — it isn't difficult to find people who love and actively root for their favorites. And it may be even easier to find those who actively trash rivals.

"There are some people who have allegiances that I deeply respect," freshman Jamie Hoagland, a Red Sox fan, said. "For example, the Cubs. It's like whipping yourself in the back. But the Yankees are not a team; they're mercenaries. They're hired guns."

It's naturally easier to find Red Sox and Yankees fans on campus. With Massachusetts and New York among the most-represented states at Tufts, it is not uncommon to find born-and-bred enthusiasts of either team.

Massachusetts native Rob Carter, a freshman and Red Sox aficionado, was particularly effusive about "his" team's recent success.

"The 2004 World Series was the best day of our lives," Carter said, speaking for Red Sox fans collectively.

As demonstrated by last year's World Series, in which the San Francisco Giants snagged the title, the baseball obsession certainly isn't limited to the East Coast. Freshman Jaime Morgen, who hails from the Bay Area, admits she abandoned all homework last year to watch her team in the World Series. But how widespread is this fanaticism at Tufts?

If fan support at Tufts' own games serves as an indicator, the community can't be deemed sports-obsessed. Stern, who runs a team called "Ruben's Cubans" in the Latino Center's fantasy baseball league, agrees that the sports scene on campus seems a bit subdued — though not for lack of success on the NESCAC-winning baseball team's part.

"I used to work in public schools and sports were a big deal," Stern said. "And I felt when I got here, sport wasn't a big passion. Maybe it's academia."

According to Professor Sol Gittleman, that just might be.

"I don't root anymore. I thought it would be unfair for my students to think of me as a partisan," Gittleman said. "But I still go to Fenway [Park] and as a kid I was a Yankees fan. I knew everything."

Though Gittleman may no longer openly favor the Yankees, he did write a book about the team titled "Reynolds, Raschi and Lopat: New York's Big Three and the Great Yankee Dynasty of 1949-1953" (2007).

Even without the luxury of openly gloating on behalf of Derek Jeter, Alex Rodriguez and the like, Gittleman's passion for baseball endures. An entire bookcase devoted to tomes about the sport stands prominently in his office.

Gittleman currently teaches the seminar America and the National Pastime — that pastime, of course, is baseball. The course covers baseball's history from the Civil War to the present. For Gittleman, baseball is more than a sport — it's a major piece of American history.

"[Baseball] is really a mirror of what America has been," Gittleman said. "Race, integration, segregation, all of that."

Director of the Office of Diversity and Education Margery Davies also appreciates the sport for its rich history and colorful characters. Davies can often be found gardening in Red Sox-branded Crocs while listening to baseball games on the radio, but she doesn't count herself among the truly obsessed.

"I know I'm not a real fan because I would never cry [over a game]," Davies said. "It's a business and I think the ticket prices are terrible."

Lecturer of Education Steven Cohen — who counts himself among the Mets' devotees — has no qualms about openly picking sides.

"As a Mets fan, by definition you have to hate the Yankees," he said.

Cohen was working at the Cambridge School in Weston, Mass. when the Mets made it to the World Series in 1986. After driving to Shea Stadium for Game 7, a rainout pushed the showdown against the Red Sox back a day. Cohen was determined to witness his team's victory and, after alerting the school that he wouldn't be at work, Cohen cheered the Mets to a historic World Series win. Upon his return, the excitement of the game still had not died down.

"The next morning, I had a group of kids lined up at my door," Cohen said.

Only after numerous "congratulations" had been murmured, Cohen said, was school officially in session. Maybe baseball can trump academia, at least for one day.

More guns would curb school shootings, advocates say

GUNS

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feelings of safety or protection. According to Rebecca Seferian, a junior at the University of Texas (UT) at Austin, a campus in which the debate is in full swing, additional guns would pose an unnecessary risk.

UT in 1966 became home to what was then the deadliest school shooting in history when former marine Charles Joseph Whitman climbed to the top of the school's observation tower armed with seven guns, eventually killing 16 people and wounding 32 others. Last September, the school experienced another incident when a student fired several shots with an AK-47 in the university library, but turned the gun on himself before anyone else was injured.

While gun advocacy groups like Students for Concealed Carry point to these examples as proof that gun-free zones are ineffective, Seferian believes that allowing concealed guns on campus is not the answer.

"I would feel less safe on campus if students were allowed to carry guns," Seferian told the Daily. "I do not feel that I need a weapon as a means of protection. A lot of people were startled by the incident in September and I think seeing someone with a gun on campus now would cause panic."

John Rosenthal, founder of Stop Handgun Violence, a nonprofit organization in Newton, MA, believes that allowing students to carry guns on campus would only compromise public safety.

"I think it's a terrible idea," Rosenthal said. "In states that have lax gun laws that allow for easy concealed carry, there is much greater incidence of injury and deaths from firearms than states with strict gun laws and discretionary permitting for concealed carry."

The mass shootings discussed by proponents of the gun legislation are relatively rare, according to Rosenthal. Instead, a greater number of people would be harmed as a result of potentially careless gun use at colleges.

"More guns lead to more gun violence," Rosenthal said. "There is irrefutable evidence of that. It is a complete fallacy to say that more guns on campus would somehow result in less gun violence. In addition, who could possibly think that having guns and a beer party is a good idea on campus?"

MCT

Nine states are mulling over legislation that would permit the concealed possession of handguns on college campuses.

Rosenthal, who lives and works in Massachusetts, believes the state is on the right track, especially in comparison with the likes of states with more relaxed gun regulations.

"Massachusetts has comprehensive gun violence prevention laws," he said. "We have among the strictest laws in the nation.

Massachusetts has the lowest firearm mortality rate of any urban industrialized state, with 3.5 deaths per 100,000 people, according to figures released last year by the Violence Policy Center, a non-profit gun control advocacy group. By contrast, Arizona, where no permit is required for concealed carry, had 15.9 firearm deaths per 100,000 residents.

While the debate over gun control is certainly not as loud in Massachusetts as it is in other states, gun culture is not completely absent from Tufts. Tufts Gun Club, founded by sophomore Nick Vik, held its first meeting on Feb. 23 in Wren Hall. According to Vik, the club seeks to fill a void at Tufts for those who are interested in sport shooting or hunting.

Vik, who has experience with recreational shooting and a family history of fur trapping, intends for the club to educate students on all issues of gun use and plans to bring in both advocates and opponents of gun control for future debates.

Although the discussion of guns and the use of firearms for recreational or protective purposes are not as frequent at Tufts as schools like UT, Vik believes there is a definite interest.

"I don't think people at Tufts really have a lot of experience with guns, but when I made the Facebook group for the event and when I discussed it, the perception was overwhelmingly positive," he said. "So even though there's not a strong gun culture at Tufts, I think students are interested [in] improving their knowledge of guns."

But with or without increased knowledge of guns, Burnett vows that allowing concealed carry on campus isn't likely to increase the actual volume of guns.

"We're not changing who can carry," he said. "We're saying that if you've got the permit in your wallet or in your purse, you are protected by the state and authorized and capable. If you have that permit then you… should have the same rights for self-protection on a college campus that you do off."

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DANAI MACRIDI/TUFTS DAILY

The biology department is uncertain whether the College Board's changes to its AP Biology curriculum will affect how it accepts AP credit.

Revamped AP Biology may mean changes to department's credit policy

BIOLOGY

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given the changes.

"We will need to see the new test and other [data] from the College Board before we change our current advising on AP credit," she said. "Based on the material tested, we may reconsider how we advise students to use their AP credit."

The biology department will continue to consider its approach to AP credit on a case-by-case basis, Fuhrman said.

"Each student has a unique experience, depending on their high school and how the class is taught," she said. "There is such a wide range of resources available to teachers for laboratory sciences that it's still nearly impossible to standardize our practice."

Senior Edward Chao is opposed to Tufts' existing AP credit policy. In 2009, he co-sponsored a Tufts Community Union Senate resolution expressing concern with the EPC's proposed restriction on AP credit.

The resolution, which passed 15-5 with two abstentions, reflected the Senate's belief that there should be no cap on AP credits accepted towards matriculation and foundation requirements, according to Chao.

"What we really wanted was for individual departments to be making the decision [about whether to award credit for AP scores]," Chao said.

Ann Dannenberg, who teaches AP Biology at Newton North High School, was pleased that the revamped course will more closely align with her teaching style, which emphasizes big-picture understanding and the development of critical thinking skills, as opposed to rote memorization.

"[It's] much more about science and much less about being able to spit things back," she told the Daily. "In the confines of the current curriculum, I try to do that. This will give us a little more leeway."

Freshman John Slakey received a 5 on his AP Biology exam, but opted to take both Biology 13 and 14 anyway. Although his high school AP Biology teacher did not teach to the exam, he said, he does not consider his high school class to be comparable to his college ones.

"Biology 14 is more advanced than my high school AP Bio class, but my high school class provided a good background," he said.

A revised AP U.S. History program was originally scheduled to be unveiled at the same time but was delayed after reviewers identified problems with the draft version. The new U.S. History program is slated for publication next fall.

Revisions to other AP programs in world languages, history and science are also in the works and should be ready for implementation in time for exams in 2014 or 2015.

TSF will use $50,000 matching challenge, social media to garner donations

FUND

continued from page 1

Two anonymous alumni donors have this year promised a combined matching donation of $50,000 if TSF can encourage at least 1,852 students to contribute by the time the campaign ends in April, Sircus said. The number of participants corresponds to the year the university was founded.

The lessened emphasis on the total amount of funds raised is due to criticisms from students who have challenged TSF's impact given the university's already comparatively high tuition.

"That's why we're going focus on the number of student participants rather than a total dollar amount," he added. This is a way to make it much more about the act of giving as opposed to how much we're giving, Sircus said.

TSF last year generated more than $40,700 from both student donations and matching grants from two anonymous alumni.

Senior Daniel Slate, the TCF Committee's other co-chair, said he expects this year's donations to accumulate to the full value of one student's tuition by the time the campaign ends in April.

"The goal is to make the biggest impact … and the full scholarship makes the biggest impact," he said. "The student fund's $50,000 is something they don't have to pull from their operating budget."

Volunteer coordinator for the Tufts Fund for Arts, Sciences and Engineering Sarah Pease said that while TSF in previous years has been mostly staff-driven, she has seen an increase in student involvement on the TSF Committee, which runs the initiative.

"We have a student committee that is far larger than last year," she said. "There's always student involvement, but this year they've really driven the efforts."

Slate agreed that the campaign will this year focus on meeting the alumni donors' challenge rather than the monetary amount of students' contributions.

"This year, we're really focusing on the challenge," he said. "We want people to think of this as not a monetary donation but as a participation challenge."

To help meet the donors' challenge, TSF is also directly challenging student groups. The campus student group that reports the most donors among its members will receive a prize, a method that Slate said will mean more recognition for students who choose to donate.

The administration, rather than TSF's student leaders, are entirely responsible for choosing the student who receives the collected money, according to Sircus.

"The decision is entirely handled by the financial aid office," he said.

The office has in the past given the money as a scholarship to rising seniors whose neediness may have changed since they came to Tufts.

The increased use of online media and social networking sites, Sircus said, has helped to popularize the campaign.

"We are really relying on our Facebook page; we'll have Twitter updates," he said.

Pease said the fund has been collecting video messages and other online-media messages from alumni encouraging students to donate.

"We have a number of alumni who have come on video and said why they give to Tufts, what a Tufts education has done for them," she said. "We're hoping that it will be a momentum to the campaign to have a video and online presence, to really use word of mouth to … spread the word about the challenge."

As a new feature, TSF will also enable students to give to the fund using their cell phones.

"Students will be able to text a given number, and it's an automatic $5 donation," Sircus said.

Jenny White contributed reporting to this article.

Spring 2011 Dance Events

Presented by the Tufts Dance Program
Dept of Drama and Dance

Info: x72556 or dance@tufts.edu
Jackson Dance Lab

www.ase.tufts.edu/drama-dance/dance

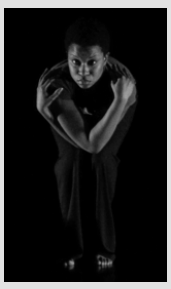

Photo by Liza Voll of Aiesha Powell

The Dance Program sponsors the Bread and Puppet art-bus in the Cousens lot from **January 23 to 30th**. Available for public viewing.

Advanced Ballet Master Class Teacher Dean Vollick
Subsidized by the Dance Program; Co-sponsored with Sarabande
starting January 28th, six Fridays 4:30-6pm

Modern Dance Master Classes
with Meghan McLyman/**T Feb 8**; Andy Taylor-Blemis/**T Mar 1**;
Tara Murphey/**T Mar 15**; Kurt Douglas/**Th April 7**
4:30-5:45--observers welcome

Rough and Ready: Boston Dance Experiments
Anikai! Lecture-Demonstration: Wendy Jehlen and Dancers
March 3 (Th) 7pm

Beyond the Steps (Ailey Documentary) with Discussion
March 9 (W) 10:30 pm/Open class for Dnc 184

Tufts Choreographers Concert
Student Works Directed by Daniel McCusker
Sat. April 23, 4pm and Sun April 24, 7pm

World Dance Night
Samples of African, Kathak, Hip Hop Fusion, and Salsa Dance
Class Demonstrations
April 27 (W), 7:30-8:30pm

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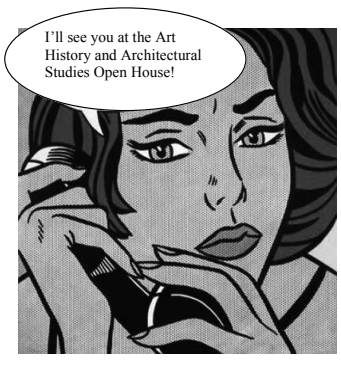

Monday, February **28, 2011**
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BOOK REVIEW

‘The Poison Tree’ makes for thrilling debut novel

Author Erin Kelly effortlessly alternates time periods in tale of college-age free spirits

BY LAURA MORENO
Senior Staff Writer

Karen Clarke is a woman who has everything to lose. Indeed, she seems to have a perfect, albeit boring, life as a talented, straight-A English major who has just graduated from university in London. But she is not fond of her boyfriend or her friends and her life seems to lack passion and vitality. As her college career comes to an end, she meets a free-spirited bohemian girl, Biba, who propels her into a new life.

The Poison Tree
Erin Kelly
★★★★☆
Pamela Dorman Books / Viking

“The Poison Tree,” Erin Kelly’s first novel, develops the character of Karen to its fullest potential.

After Karen meets Biba for the first time at the university, she makes the rash decision to move into Biba’s mansion for the summer. Without hesitation, Karen drops her boyfriend, her former friends and even her family in order to fully immerse herself in the new and exciting lives of Biba and Rex.

Biba and Rex are two young orphaned siblings who welcome Karen into their lives with open arms. Karen is quickly absorbed into the magical life of excess, where drugs and alcohol are plentiful.

This psychological thriller flawlessly alternates between the narration of a crazy summer and the events that occur ten years later. Rex has been released from prison, Biba is nowhere to be found, and an older Karen constantly alludes to the day that ruined everything, and to a secret that permeates her soul.

Karen’s first social encounter with Biba’s world occurs at a colorful party at the mansion, where Karen instantly feels at home. The scene is a wild one, and Karen dives right in. After Karen swallows an Ecstasy pill, she embarks on a crazy adventure from which she does not fully return until Rex, whom she has married in the interim, gets out of jail 10 years later.

The reader is kept in constant suspense as to why Rex is serving time or why Biba has disappeared from the story. Additionally, Alice is introduced as the daughter of Karen and Rex, whom we learn early on were together during that mystifying summer. The little girl is an eerie replica of Biba.

As well as being the daughter of Rex and Karen, Alice is the metaphor for the lasting effects of the summer on all three main characters. Her name is an allusion to Alice in Wonderland, who, like Karen, thoughtlessly falls into a rabbit hole in which she finds a fantastic but scary new life.

The changes portrayed between young and old Karen are poignant. Kelly convincingly writes about a young and carefree Karen, as well as about the grown-up Karen who has experienced the hardships of life.

But both versions of Karen contain evident flaws. Younger Karen is selfish and irresponsible, while older Karen is irritable and controlling. Both versions of Karen belittle and mistreat Rex. Her tendency to blame others for her foolish mistakes creates a lack of sympathy for the main character.

The character of Biba is also multi-layered and convincing, but much more likable. She represents the free-spirited, fun-loving, but extremely irresponsible friend feared by parents everywhere. She uses her charming personality to lure Karen into her world, and to manipulate those around her. With Biba, Kelly successfully creates a complex character that readers love and hate at the same time.

Biba’s brother, Rex, is unfortunately treated as a superfluous character by Karen, Biba and the author. Although he drives much of the intrigue, as a character, Rex remains underdeveloped; his role as Karen’s boyfriend, an ex-prisoner and a resident of the mansion is reduced.

Kelly’s background is in journalism, having freelanced for well-renowned British publications such as the Daily Mail, Psychologies and Look, yet her newest work is that of a promising new author.

The novel is full of surprises and secrets. Kelly creates suspense through repeated use of foreshadowing. At times, the clues are overwhelming and leave little room for deduction, but for the most part, they propel the novel forward. And even with the use of foreshadowing, Kelly delivers an unpredictable ending and an exciting finish to her debut novel.

“The Poison Tree” is a fast and easy read. Divided into short chapters, it would make the perfect read over spring break. If a light, interesting, suspenseful and beautifully written novel is what you’re looking for, Kelly will not let you down.

THEATER REVIEW

‘Glass House’ tackles family issues in drawn-out script

BY LAURA MORENO
Senior Staff Writer

“Glass House” is a controversial play that addresses troublesome social issues, albeit with a fair dose of comic relief embedded throughout.

Glass House
★★★☆☆
Written and directed by **Moise Robert**
At the Durell Theatre at the YMCA Cambridge through Feb. 26
Tickets $15

The production is currently showing at the Durell Theater at the YMCA Cambridge through tomorrow, and is staged by the Revolution Drama Crew, a company “dedicated to unveiling social issues, and bold programming with a highly comedic and dramatic insight,” according to its website.

As the title suggests, the premise of the play is that of a metaphorical glass house, which is eventually shattered by several issues developed throughout the performance.

The play, which runs for two and a half hours, is divided into two acts, each introduced by a pleasant woman. Her agreeable disposition, as well as the astounding chemistry between the performers, demonstrates how well the performance has brought its players together.

In “Glass House,” writer and director Moise Robert is a jack-of-all-trades, stepping out from behind the scenes and playing the role of both male characters in the production. He first appears as the reverend who comes to the stage with the sole purpose of marrying an already married woman, Rachel (Chioma Agunwamba). His second role is that of John, Rachel’s husband.

The play is set in the invariably charming living room of Johnny (Robert) and Rachel’s home, where daughter Helina (Obiageli Robert) is guiding her mother through a series of aerobic exercises intended to make her shine for her 20th wedding anniversary. The initial impression is that of a happy home. The family’s clumsy grandma (Irene Kiarie), soon joins the fun and offers comedic relief when her large body falls on the floor.

Rachel and John’s marriage, however, is revealed to have several cracks and their seemingly stable household quickly crumbles. For starters, John is an alcoholic and physically abusive to Rachel. In fact, he is revealed to have raped Rachel before they were married. Grandma attempts to deal with the abuse by advising Rachel to reciprocate with more violence. The family dynamics become even more muddled when Helina reveals that her boyfriend Jake got her pregnant.

Rather than working out their problems together, the family members all eventually turn to the words of God in extended and unconvincing monologues. The lack of music in the play contributes to making these seem painfully long. Rather than having a positive impact, these dramatic monologues provoke impatience and anxiety in the audience.

Still, the light direction in the play is wonderful — it darkens in tune with the mood of different situations throughout the play and helps to flesh out the actors’ performances.

Among the actors, Agunwamba definitely takes the trophy as the most talented performer. In her role as Rachel, she successfully takes on an array of personalities, including that of a snazzy wife preparing for her 20th anniversary, a mother who has just found out about her daughter’s pregnancy and a victim of domestic abuse.

After a few too many extended soliloquies by John, it becomes clear that Moise Robert has over-cast himself in his own play. Taking on the roles of both John and the reverend means that he makes far too many appearances on stage and has an excessive number of lines, a fact which sometimes outshines the great performances of the play.

The play comes to its tragic end about 30 minutes after the audience is ready for it to end. In an effort to make the play touch as many controversial issues as possible, the writer decides to afflict John, and consequently Rachel and Helina, with HIV.

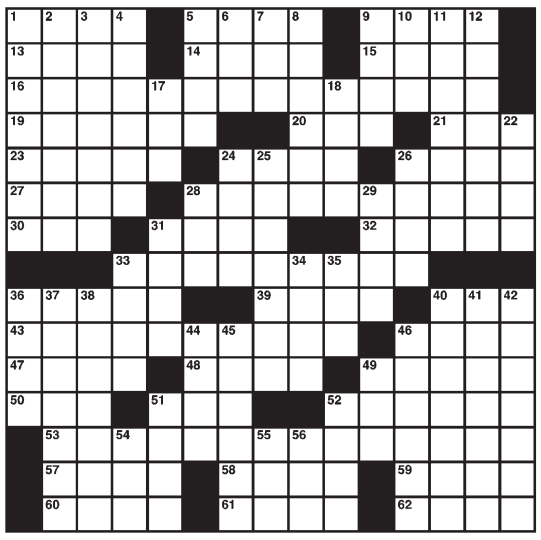
The play ends on this tragic note, with the last of John’s extended soliloquies directed at God, in which he prays to be cured from his alcoholism. Although somber and too drawn-out, it is nonetheless a fulfilling experience that deserves to be seen.

There’s still a chance to laugh at the ‘Trivial Comedy for Serious People’ this weekend

COURTESY TUFTS DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA AND DANCE

The Tufts production of Oscar Wilde’s ‘The Importance of Being Earnest’ wraps up its run this weekend, with performances tonight and tomorrow at 8 p.m. in the Balch Arena Theater. Tickets may be purchased for $7 at the Cohen Box Office.

CROSSWORD



By Annemarie Brethauer 2/25/11

ACROSS
1 Rigged support
5 Curve of a cabriole leg
9 Sheet of stamps
13 "So that's how it's going to be"
14 Anago and unagi
15 An amulet may ward it off, purportedly
16 Move from Crystal to Caesar's?
19 Danish poker star Gus
20 Curling surface
21 Texter's "Heavens!"
23 Oscar night figure
24 Small, vocal bird
26 __ market
27 Cliff, Carlos and Derrek of baseball
28 Antelope of questionable virtue?
30 Mag wheels?
31 Pound output
32 Has a powerful desire (for)
33 "Another regulation, sorry to say"?
36 Gait between walk and canter
39 Wine Train valley
40 MoveOn.org, e.g.: Abbr.
43 Greengrocer's grab bags?
46 Hole maker
47 Mongol sovereign
48 Trap, in a way
49 "Cheers" waitress
50 Sixth rock from the sun: Abbr.
51 Rye go-with
52 Repartee
53 1997 Kevin Spacey film, and a hint to this puzzle's theme
57 Lowdown
58 "Exodus" novelist
59 Compass __
60 Riding
61 Took off
62 Dot and Flik, in "A Bug's Life"

DOWN
1 "Glee" star Lea __
2 Embarrassed
3 Medium settings
4 Time indicators of a sort
5 Gung-ho
6 Rebirth prefix
7 "The Silmarillion" being
8 Uses binoculars, say
9 Athlete dubbed "O Rei do Futebol"
10 Gardner of "Mayerling"
11 French president Sarkozy
12 Gold or silver
17 "Hmm ..."
18 Embarrassing marks
22 Roams
24 Troubles
25 Jennifer Crusie's genre
26 Obstacle for Santa?
28 Mauna __
29 2004 Anne Hathaway title role
31 Responded in court
33 King of comedy
34 Shed tool
35 Adds to
36 Sets a price
37 Jackson dubbed "Queen of Gospel"
38 Sticking out
40 Helping
41 In any case
42 River to Boston Harbor
44 Seven-time N.L. batting champ Musial
45 Two or three bags of groceries, say
46 Transforming syllable
49 Lockup
51 Stud alternative
52 As good as it gets
54 Corp. exec
55 Fury
56 "What's the __?"

THURSDAY'S SOLUTION

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

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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

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

KULCC

HOPNY

CLYMAL

WHERDS

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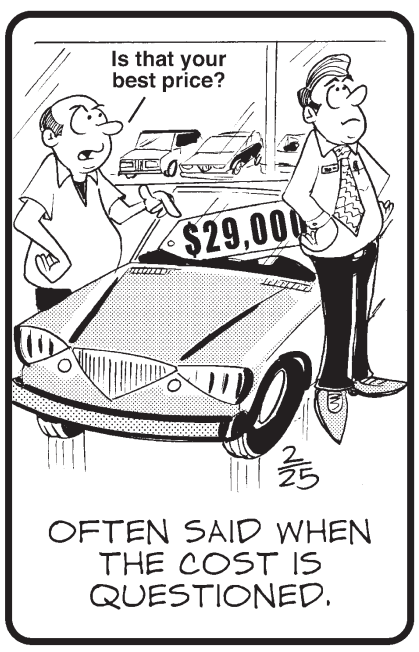
NEW BIBLE Jumble Books Go To: http://www.tyndale.com/jumble/



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

Print answer here: ○○○ ○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FOYER ALBUM BEWARE POISON
Answer: How the novice skier felt when he started down the slope — HE WAS "UP" FOR IT

LATE NIGHT AT THE DAILY

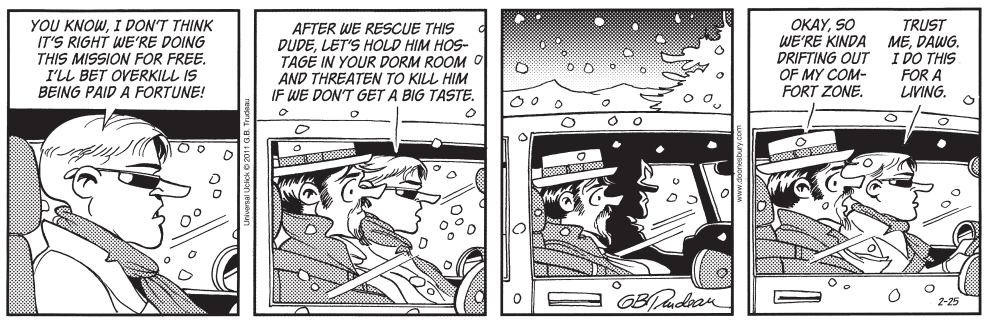
Kochman: "I'm efficient with my words."

Alexandra H.: "In writing."

Please recycle this Daily.

DOONESBURY

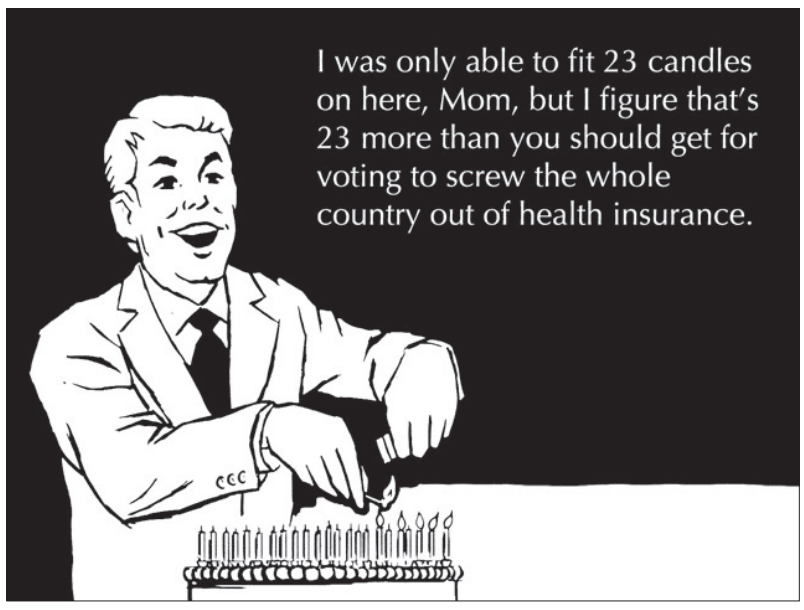
BY GARRY TRUDEAU



NON SEQUITUR

BY WILEY

MARRIED TO THE SEA



www.marriedtothesea.com

SUDOKU

Level: Liking green eggs and ham

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

Thursday's Solution

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

Wanted	*Housing*	*Housing*	*Wanted*	-	-
5 Sunny and Spacious Rooms. 2 Bedroom apt. Close to Tufts Great location! Large living room, dining room, ceiling fans. Modern eat-in kitchen features plenty of cabinets, dishwasher, gas range, and refrigerator. Close to bus lines, easy access to rt 93 & 16 & other public transportation. Plenty off-st parking. No laundry - laundry mat 1 block away. No smoking or pets. $1300/mo. Avail March 1st. Please call (781) 507-6351 or after 4PM (781) 395-9096.	**4 and 6 BR Near Tufts** Next to Campus! Will not last 4 and 6 BR units Great condition! Free washer/dryer! Parking included. Sunny! Avail 6/1/11 to 5/31/12 call or text (617) 217-1239.	**1 Bedroom Apartment** Gorgeous 1 Bed Apartment. 2 Blocks to Tufts, Large Sunny Rooms, New Bathroom & Kitchen, Refinished Hardwood Floor, Huge Thermal Pane Designer Windows. Off Street Parking available 09/01/11. Amazing Apartment No Fees. $1,000. Contact (781)396-4675	**$$ SPERM DONORS WANTED $$** Become a California Cryobank donor and earn up to $1,200/month, receive free health and infectious disease testing, and help people fulfill their dreams of starting a family. Convenient Cambridge location. Apply online: SPERMBANK.com		

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In rarity, Jumbos to face Div. I teams

WOMEN'S TF

continued from page 8

The uniquely speedy track of BU will play an interesting role in that pursuit, though times will be adjusted due to the banked track.

"BU has one of the best tracks in the area," Kabongo said. "It is banked, so people run faster times when they compete there."

As the season revs into its final gear, so does the Jumbos' intensity, including that of Kabongo, who jumped 36-6 1/4 in the triple jump last weekend, and recorded a personal best 17-8 1/4 in the long jump.

"I just need to do better than my best this weekend." Kabongo said. "Several of us have yet to put all the pieces together to do what we are really capable of. This weekend I need to jump far and I plan on doing just that."

In toughest meet yet, Amherst is Tufts' main competition for No. 2 spot

MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

continued from page 8

"This is probably the strongest team I've been on in my four years," Jenkins said. "From freshman to senior class, we're pretty much loaded in all areas, distance and sprint events. We can compete with anyone. We don't necessarily have a national champion; we have a bunch of really good guys that make each other better, and we surprise people."

In what is largely an individual sport, the team this season has struck a distinctive balance between intense individual focus and a sense of camaraderie and support.

"We emphasize the personal performance and the personal struggle, overcoming obstacles, overcoming challenges to persevere," Lessard said. "I think the biggest thing we have going for us as a team is that mentality. People look to Tufts, and they see a team that's full of spirit, full of fight, full of excitement. We have the unique ability to dominate a pool deck."

This team has no problem with confidence. But the Jumbos will need to persevere in the season's most intense meet to back up their brash talk. A dethroning of the Ephs may be unlikely, but this group of seniors is keeping their minds open to all possibilities.

"Hey, you never know," Jenkins said. "Either way, we're all going to have to swim well. But nothing's out of the picture."

VIRGINIA BLEDSOE/TUFTS DAILY

Freshman Liam Cassidy will be anchoring the Tufts' Distance Medley Relay in the 1,600-meter leg at Boston University's banked track this weekend.

Against tough competitors, Distance Medley Relay hopes to make Nationals

MEN'S TF

continued from page 8

"I don't really like to pick out individuals," Barron said. "But anyone who can qualify for this meet is capable of doing some pretty impressive things."

The field team will look to use the strong competition this weekend to improve on early-season performances, with sophomore Brad Nakanishi looking to best his 14-11 mark in the pole vault from Div. III's. He will be accompanied in the event by senior co-captain Sam Read.

Meanwhile, sophomore Curtis Yancy, after throwing 13.32 meters in the shot put last weekend, is trying to finish with a good enough performance at All-New Englands to set him up for success later in the season and in coming years.

"I'm just hoping for a PR," said Yancy. "Honestly, it would be hard to set a new PR, but if I could do it, I would provisionally qualify for nationals in only my sophomore year. That would be great to build on going into my junior season, but I know it will be difficult to get."

Regardless of whether Yancy reaches his goal, he can be proud of his performances throughout the year, especially on Feb. 12, when the Jumbos hosted the Tufts Invitational III. At that meet, Yancy dominated in the weight throw with a distance of 52-3 1/4, capturing first place in that event, as well as notching a fourth-place finish in the shot put.

"If [qualifying for nationals] happens, then it happens," Yancy said. "I know it will be very difficult, but I want to do the best that I possibly can."

Accompanying Yancy in the meet this weekend will be classmate Vinnie Lee in the 60-meter dash, while sophomore Jeff Marvel and junior Connor Rose will compete in the 800-meter run. Freshmen Jamie Norton and Bobby McShane and sophomore Adam Brosh will race the 1,000-meter.

Competing in the triple jump will be sophomore Gbola Ajayi, looking to best his performances this season.

The Jumbos also have put together a foursome to compete in the Distance Medley Relay (DMR). Freshman Brian McLaughlin will lead off the relay in the 1,200-meter leg, handing off to sophomore Lawrence Xia in the 400, followed by sophomore Dan Kirschner in the 800 and freshman Liam Cassidy anchoring in the 1,600 leg. Earlier in the season, Tufts ran a DMR at BU that provisionally qualified for NCAAs. In the weeks to come, the squad will look to build a team that can improve on that NCAA qualifier and secure a time that will guarantee a trip to nationals.

"[This weekend] is an opportunity for everybody on the team to do well," coach Barron said. "We are facing top-class competition, so hopefully that will push every runner to do better."

Tufts Hillel

Semi-Formal

At the:

deCordova

Sculpture Park and Museum

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

8:30PM-11:30PM

TICKETS COST $10 AND INCLUDE BUSING, ADMISSION TO THE MUSEUM, FOOD, AND DRINK.

10% of all proceeds will go to Foundation Tzedakah (la Fundación Tzedaká), an Argentinian non-profit that helps the socially isolated and poverty-stricken members of the Argentine Jewish community.

Tickets are available for purchase at the *Campus Center Info Booth* and the *Granoff Family Hillel Center*

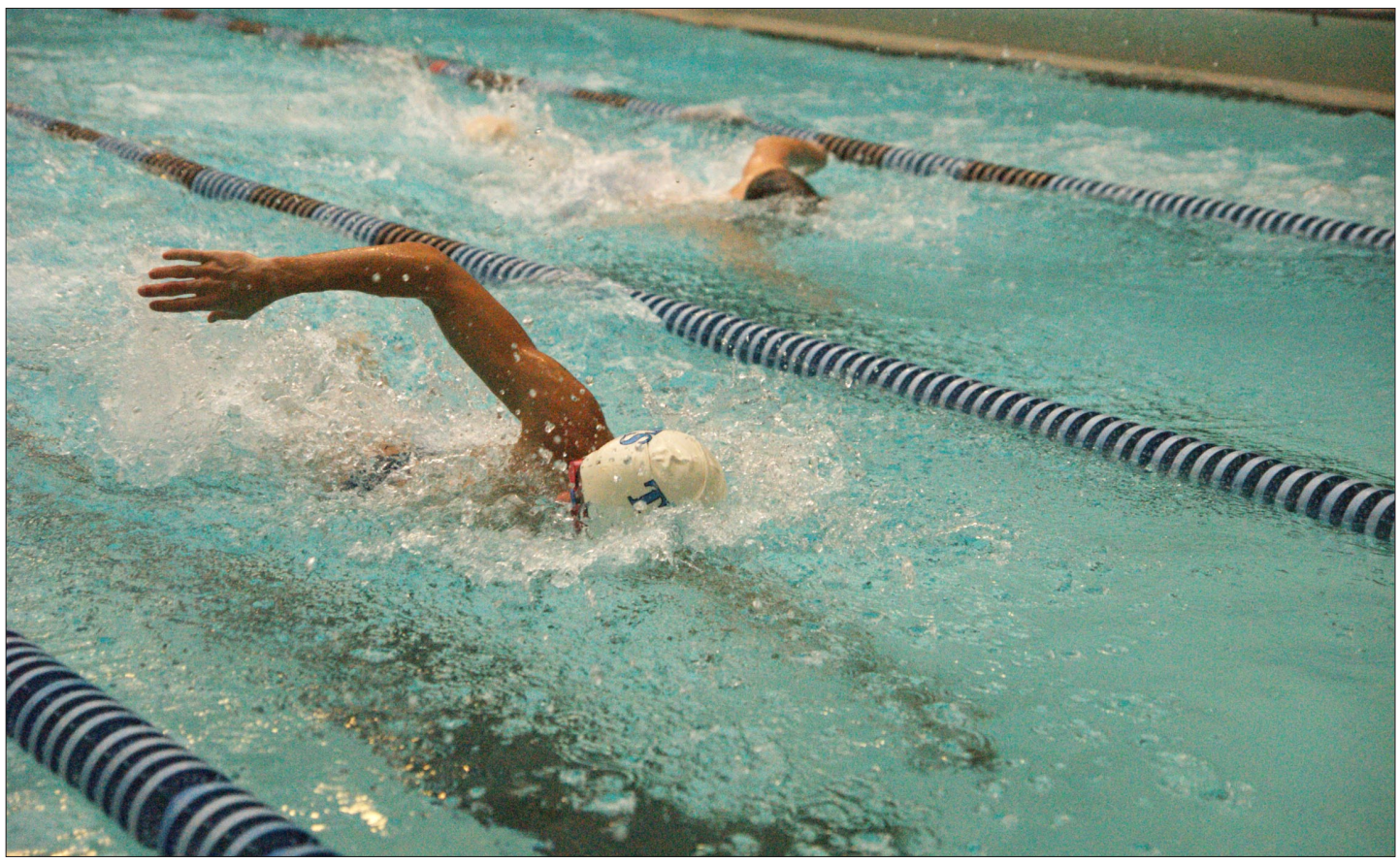
tufts hillel

Sports
tuftsdaily.com

MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Jumbos to battle for conference title this weekend at Bowdoin

BY AARON LEIBOWITZ
Daily Editorial Board



ANDREW MORGENTHALER/TUFTS DAILY
Senior quad-captain Joe Lessard is realistic about Tufts' goal of finishing second but believes the team's chances of pulling off an upset are undersold.

Tufts heads to Bowdoin this weekend in search of its fourth consecutive runner-up finish at the NESCAC Championships, which begin this morning and will end Sunday evening.

Each day will feature a round of preliminary heats followed by a round of championship races.

While first place is not out of the question for the Jumbos, to get there they will have to unseat a Williams program that has won eight straight conference titles and nine out of the last 10, including the third-highest score in meet history last year. The Ephs edged out the Jumbos 175-123 on Jan. 15.

Tufts will also have to overcome Amherst, which defeated Williams 132-111 in a dual meet on Jan. 8. The Ephs, Jumbos and Lord Jeffs have occupied the top three spots at the conference meet each of the past five years.

Based on recent history, it seems likely that Tufts and Amherst will take enough points away from each other to secure first place for Williams. However, the Jumbos and Lord Jeffs could also conceivably steal points from the Ephs and pave the road for a new champion.

But Tufts is staying realistic and aiming for a second-place showing.

"We always want to win," senior quad-captain Joe Lessard said. "We've never won the conference meet, so that's the loftiest goal there is for us. The realistic goal is we want to get second this year. Amherst is certainly coming on strong, and Williams is the perennial favorite, but I think more so than ever before the top three is going to be really close."

In spite of the Jumbos' success in recent years, the team still feels that it needs to prove its worth to other NESCAC schools.

"Every year, we get undersold by other teams as 'Oh yeah, Tufts is good, but we're going to beat them,' or 'Tufts is good, but they'll only get third this year," Lessard said. "[That's] not to say we fly under the radar — that's certainly not the case, because we're definitely one of the contenders — but we certainly come in discredited by a lot of other programs in terms of what people expect from us and what people think we can do."

The Jumbos have been tapering off their training since the Wheaton Invitational on Feb. 4-5, shifting their focus from speed and physical strength to the technical and mental aspects of a race.

"We start focusing on the details — things like starts, finishes, turns, race strategies," Lessard said. "Practices have gotten shorter, but they've also gotten more focused. So while the intensity physically isn't there, practices are a lot more mentally intense now because you're trying to be perfect every single yard. There's really no margin for error at the championship meet."

The swimmers are confident that their coach, Adam Hoyt, has prepared them well for the variety of challenges the conference meet presents.

"If you look at our past results, we're always one of the best-coached teams in terms of how we taper and how we respond to the rest and to the championship environment," senior quad-captain Gordy Jenkins said. "We never get there and get surprised."

With a strong core of senior leaders and fast swimmers across the board, the Jumbos appear poised for a stellar showing.

see MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING, page 7

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Jumbos gearing up for All-New Englands

BY STEVEN SOROKA
Contributing Writer

The women's track and field team will face some of its stiffest competition yet in the All-New England Championships at Boston University this weekend.

New England area schools participate in this meet regardless of division affiliation, meaning that Tufts will square off against not only traditional Div. III rivals — such as Williams, MIT and Middlebury — but also Div. I powerhouses like 18th-ranked UConn as well.

With the stiff competition, the Jumbos are not expecting to place first in many events. Instead, the team will use the talented opposition as an opportunity to bolster its own times. If the Jumbos can achieve personal bests, they may be able to both boost confidence and help themselves qualify for Nationals.

"The standards are higher because there are Div. I and Div. II athletes there," senior tri-captain Rosie Xia said. "However, we plan to do the same thing [that we always do]. The athletes we have who qualified for the meet are very talented, and they will keep the same mentality."

One of those talented athletes is freshman sprinter Jana Hieber, who continued her standout season by anchoring the 4x400-meter relay at Div. III New Englands last week. The team of Hieber, junior Dayorsha Collins and sophomores Samantha Bissonnette and Alyssa Corrigan took first place with a time of 4:03.34.

"Some of our athletes have a chance to have a phenomenal end to their seasons," Xia said. "Jana [Hieber], the triple jump and the 4x4 are things to look out for at All-New Englands."

Given the highly competitive nature of the All-New England Championships, not all Tufts athletes qualified for the meet. But this will not dampen the spirit of the team, the athletes said.

"Only those who have qualified can compete, but Tufts track athletes are very supportive of one another, so many more than just the competitors will be present at the meet this weekend."" senior tri-captain Kanku Kabongo said.

Many Jumbos who are not competing this weekend still have more competition to look forward to, as the ECAC Championships in New York City on March 4 and 5 prolong the team's season.

The competitors this weekend will be looking for one last chance to qualify for the NCAA championships at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio.

VIRGINIA BLEDSOE/TUFTS DAILY
Freshman Jana Hieber hopes to keep up her blistering pace this weekend at the All-New England Championships.

see WOMEN'S TF, page 7

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Tufts looks to continue strong performances

BY DAVID MCINTYRE
Daily Editorial Board

After finishing an impressive sixth out of 25 teams at Div. III New Englands in Springfield last weekend, the men's track and field team will be looking to build on its promising early season performances this weekend at the All-New England Championships, which includes all of Div. I, II and III.

Although an overall team win is unlikely, the meet — one of the last of the season — represents a prime opportunity for many members of the team to set new personal records (PRs) before time runs out.

"It's one of the best chances for PRs, because it's a championship meet with unbelievable competition," coach Ethan Barron said. "We're not necessarily going for a team title, but it's one of the best individual meets of the year."

Several members of the team are looking to keep up their strong performances at Div. III New Englands, at which Tufts captured five top-five finishes overall, including sophomore Sam Haney placing third in the mile and sophomore Matt Rand placing fourth in the 5,000-meter event.

see MEN'S TF page 7