

## China Blocks MIT Web Addresses

By Keith J. Winstein  
NEWS EDITOR

The Chinese government has been blocking access to the "mit.edu" Internet domain since late August, according to several Chinese reports and an examination by *The Tech*.

It is unclear why China has imposed the block, which includes access to OpenCourseWare and all MIT Web sites, but not e-mail sent to MIT students and faculty through Web-based services such as Hotmail.

A spokesperson for the Chinese embassy in Washington, who asked that his name not be used, confirmed that China was blocking access to MIT Web sites, but said neither he nor his colleagues in China knew why it was imposed.

"I don't think that this kind of Web site should be blocked," he said, indicating that he did not think China would block access to an "edu" educational domain.

### DNS servers give bad directions

The method of blocking involves misdirecting Chinese surfers looking for "mit.edu" sites, by having domain name servers in China give intentionally wrong answers. Domain name servers translate the computer names that users type in, such as "web.mit.edu," into the numeric addresses by which computers on the Internet are known.

When examined last week, Chinese domain name servers, including those run by the Chinese government, repeatedly gave out an incorrect answer for any query con-

China, Page 15

## Dorm Fire Alarms Disrupt Students' Lives

By Marissa Vogt  
STAFF REPORTER

The residents of Burton-Conner were evacuated from the dormitory on Wednesday evening for the seventh time this month when problems with a smoke detector caused the fire alarm to go off.

The evacuations this month have been due mostly to equipment malfunctioning and overcooked food, according to MIT officials.

"Some [of the alarms] have been due to cooking, where food was left on a stove, and then set off the smoke alarm, but we've also had some that are under investigation," said Director of Housing Karen A. Nilsson.

Burton-Conner President Jennifer C. Shih '03 said that Wednesday's alarm was caused by dust in one of the smoke detectors. The cause of some of the alarms is not yet known. They may have been caused by other safety equipment malfunctioning or by something accidentally bumping into a sprinkler head.

"When we get [an alarm] that doesn't have an apparent reason, the Department of Facilities comes in to see what the problem is. If there is a

systems problem, it will be repaired," Nilsson said.

### Alarms annoy dormitory residents

Many Burton-Conner residents are becoming frustrated by the

alarms and the disruption they bring. The majority of the alarms have been between the hours of 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., interrupting study hours, although one of the alarms occurred at 6 a.m.

"Understandably, most residents are not happy with the alarms going off, and they were not very excited about having to get out of bed so

Alarms, Page 20



JOHN CLOUTIER—THE TECH

Burton-Conner residents have taken measures, often involving duct tape, to silence fire alarms and mask their flashing lights in response to seven fire alarms in the past month.

## Institute Uncertain on Housing Plans

By Kevin R. Lang  
NEWS AND FEATURES DIRECTOR

MIT's housing situation for next year is rife with unknowns, especially regarding how many students will be housed on campus, and where. One certainty remains, however — MIT will not allow crowding for 2003–2004.

"No," said Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict. "Not if I'm going to work here."

Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75 first vowed to eliminate crowding in Institute housing early last year. By reducing the incoming class size to 980 students and hous-

ing seniors in various graduate dormitories and members of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority in Sidney-Pacific, Clay achieved his goal.

"That was such a good thing to do for the Institute, for the student body," Benedict said. "Overcrowding is not an option as far as I'm concerned."

### More off-campus moves needed

However, with only 295 students currently pledging fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups, MIT may need to find extra space on campus, barring an extraordinarily successful spring rush. David N. Rogers, director of FSILGs, said he did not expect many

more pledges later on this year.

"This year, maybe not," Rogers said. "Maybe in the ILGs."

Moreover, some pledges will inevitably remain on campus. Phi Beta Epsilon, for example, has more pledges than it will have empty beds next fall. Other students may simply choose to remain on campus, since nothing technically requires them to move after pledging.

Denise A. Vally, assistant director of undergraduate, summer, and guest housing assignments, said MIT was worried that too many students might remain in dormitories next fall.

Housing, Page 16

## UMOC Results

These are the final results for the top five finalists in the UMOC competition. The fundraiser ended last Friday and the winner was announced Thursday afternoon.

Candidate	Total
Skuffe Party	
Shutdown	\$333.54
Simmons Hall	\$283.48
Freshmen on Campus	\$204.92
Random Hall Milk	\$188.36
People who Think Simmons is Ugly	\$166.11

See story, page 18.

SOURCE: ALPHA PHI OMEGA



AARON D. MIHALIK—THE TECH

(Left to right) Sonal N. Patel '06, Christine K. Yang '05, and Jenna A. Karagianis '06 play Hungry Hungry Hippos to help raise money for the Cambridge and Somerville Program for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Rehabilitation (CASPAR) as a part of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. The booth was sponsored by the MIT Hunger Action Group and charged students \$1 per play, with a goal of raising \$1,000.

## Chris Vu Tackles Obstacles Along Way to Idol Stardom

By Eun J. Lee  
FEATURES EDITOR

For most MIT students, "chasing after a dream" means drifting to sleep in lecture after pulling an all-nighter.

The vast majority of dreams during the term are limited to getting sleep and passing.

Earlier this month, Christopher D. Vu '04 made the gamble of taking a week off of school and flying to Austin, Texas, in pursuit of his dream to be on the Fox reality television series *American Idol 2*.

After a whirlwind week of auditions in Austin, Vu advanced to the second round of the competition, which will be held in Los Angeles Dec. 9. If he advances to the top 30 during this second round, he will take next term off and compete on the show this January.

Austin was not Vu's first choice.

He found out about the casting call for the show from its Web site. Of the seven cities and dates listed, the New York audition was the closest.

He and fellow Logarithms member Collins P. Ward '03 drove to New York in late October, but they got there too late. Wristbands, indicating the chance to audition, were only given to the first 1,500 people, most of whom had camped out on the street nights in advance.

Ward and Vu drove back to MIT disappointed and empty-handed. "I don't think I've ever seen [Vu] that devastated before. He was pretty much speechless for about an hour after we left the line," Ward said.

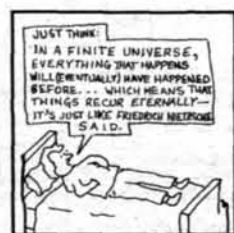
"I was so depressed because I left with the whole 'what if' question in my mind... As many times as people tell me [I'm talented], I can't believe them because I grew

Vu, Page 10



MIT ROTC  
cadets train  
for military  
service.

Page 11



Comics

Page 7

OPINION

Bryan Adams criticizes the  
attempted alcohol policy reforms  
at MIT.

Page 5

World & Nation	2
Opinion	4
Events Calendar	9
Features	10
Arts	13
Sports	24



# WORLD & NATION

## Spaniards Begin Finger-Pointing Over Oil Tanker Spill

THE WASHINGTON POST

As the breakup of the oil tanker Prestige turned into a slow-motion disaster, Spaniards' early focus on cleaning up the mess gave way Thursday to second-guesses and recriminations.

The first of many pointed questions from residents of the Galician coast was why a rickety, 26-year-old, single-hulled ship was sailing so close to shore. Under international treaties, they pointed out, oil shippers have until 2015 to junk single-hulled vessels and exclusively use double-hulled ships that offer an extra measure of safety by having external and internal shells. And European Union rules already say tankers must stay 21 miles off shore — all the more urgent along this storm-prone area shore called the Coast of Death.

Spanish Defense Minister Federico Trillo revealed that officials earlier in the crisis considered bombing the Prestige to try to incinerate the fuel. But Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar's government rejected the proposal as too risky.

The decision to tow the vessel south and out to sea after it got into trouble Nov. 13 also aroused criticism. If the Prestige had been towed into harbor, the damage would have been heavy, but localized, residents of the region complained. Instead, pollution from the 20 million gallons of fuel oil carried by the ship might spread hundreds of miles.

## Reform Groups Claim Parties Acting to Evade 'Soft Money' Ban

THE WASHINGTON POST

Four campaign finance advocacy groups filed a formal complaint Thursday with the Federal Election Commission accusing officials of both parties and two prominent Republican lobbyists of conspiring to evade the new ban on party-raised "soft money."

The complaint appears likely to become a test of the enforcement of the McCain-Feingold law that went into effect Nov. 6. The political parties and a number of political operatives are openly, and in some cases secretly, forming groups to get around the law and continue the flow of large contributions known as soft money from corporations, unions and the wealthy into federal campaigns.

The complaint filed by Democracy 21, Common Cause, the Campaign and Media Legal Center and the Center for Responsive Politics names the Democratic and Republican Congressional Committees; the Democratic National Committee and its chair, Terence McAuliffe; Joseph Carmichael, chairman of the Democratic State Parties Organization (DSPO); the Leadership Forum and two Republican lobbyists, Bill Paxon and Susan Hirshmann, who are forum officers.

## Department of Defense Allows Northrop-TRW Merger

THE WASHINGTON POST

The Pentagon has approved Northrop Grumman Corp.'s proposed purchase of TRW Inc. and passed the matter on to the Justice Department for final action, sources familiar with the situation said Thursday.

The \$7.8 billion deal, which would create a defense, aerospace and information technology powerhouse big enough to rival industry leader Lockheed Martin Corp., has been hung up at the Defense Department for weeks, reportedly because top Pentagon officials were focusing on the possible war with Iraq.

Getting a green light from the Defense Department, the companies' primary customer, usually ensures that a defense industry merger will be approved by antitrust regulators at Justice.

But sources said Thursday that the approval hinges on obtaining a consent decree from Northrop Grumman to protect competition in the satellite industry. Without that, a source said, Defense will oppose the merger.

# NATO Focuses on Terrorism After Approving Expansion

By David Holley  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

PRAGUE

NATO leaders approved a historic expansion Thursday that will take the alliance beyond the borders of the former Soviet Union and, moving even further from the old Cold War posture, endorsed a shift in emphasis toward fighting terrorism.

The Baltic nations of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania were invited to join, as were Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. They are due to join by May 2004, after their parliaments and those of current members ratify the enlargement.

In what Bush administration officials saw as an important diplomatic success, the leaders also warned Iraq to give up all weapons of mass destruction, approving a statement demanding that Iraq "comply fully and immediately" with disarmament demands in a recent U.N. resolution.

"A deadly cocktail of threats is now menacing free societies," NATO Secretary-General George Robertson declared in opening the summit. "Terrorists and their backers, the failed states in which they flourish and proliferating weapons of mass destruction, pose a genuine

threat. ... A transformed and modernized alliance is at the very heart of the free world's response."

The 19-nation alliance issued membership invitations to seven formerly Communist-ruled countries, including the three Baltic states that once were part of the Soviet Union, the enemy that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was formed to stand against.

The NATO leaders pledged Thursday to build more mobile and high-tech forces, and streamline command structures, to cope with new threats wherever they arise. They also stressed that enlargement is meant to consolidate democracy and stability in Europe, not threaten Russia.

"By welcoming seven members, we will not only add to our military capabilities, we will refresh the spirit of this great democratic alliance," President Bush said. "We believe today's decision reaffirms our commitment to freedom and our commitment to a Europe which is whole and free and at peace."

The leaders' statement on Iraq set the stage for members to contribute to a U.S.-led war effort if Iraq flouts the U.N. demands, but stopped far short of pledging NATO

to fight as an alliance.

"It will be no exaggeration to compare today's decision on the enlargement of NATO with the fall of the Berlin Wall," Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov said.

Enlargement marks a "historic moment when Europe is finally reunited, and when Europe and North America reassert the inseparable nature of their security," French President Jacques Chirac said.

The invitees' leaders expressed joy that their nations would no longer feel shunned by the continent's richer and more established democracies.

The incoming members celebrated joining what they see as not just the world's premier security organization but also a kind of elite club that provides a stamp of democratic legitimacy and promotes full integration in Western economic and political life.

Moscow, while not pleased about NATO expansion, has muted its criticism for a variety of reasons, ranging from acceptance of the inevitable to a belief that Russia's future lies in cooperation, not confrontation, with the rest of Europe.

# Hamas Bomber Kills 12 on Bus, President 'Disturbed' by Attack

By Molly Moore and John Ward Anderson  
THE WASHINGTON POST

JERUSALEM

Seconds after Doron Kimche saw the hulking green commuter bus explode during Thursday morning's rush hour, he sprinted out of his truck and began helping other passers-by pull charred and bloodied survivors from the wreckage of a suicide bombing that killed 12 passengers, including the bomber, and injured 47 people.

In the midst of the screams and mayhem, another volunteer rescuer hit Kimche with words that froze his heart: "Don't you know? Your son's in the hospital."

Kimche sped the agonizing 1 1/2 miles to the nearest hospital and dis-

covered that his son Maor, 15, suffered a leg wound. In a way, that made him one of the more fortunate riders on the bus.

Blood and body parts were strewn around the remains of the vehicle. The street was littered with shoes, ripped clothing, schoolbooks and other personal possessions. The doors and part of the roof were blown off by the explosion, which shattered the windows and left the inside a charred and twisted wreck. About five cars parked on the street had their windows shattered.

The military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement, or Hamas, claimed responsibility for Thursday's bombing, calling it retaliation for the killing of its military commander, Salah Shehade, on July 23.

Hamas identified the bomber as Nael Abu Hilayel, 22, of Bethlehem, which has been one of the calmest Palestinian cities in the West Bank since the Israeli military withdrew its forces to the edge of town in August.

President Bush, attending a NATO summit in Prague, said he was "greatly disturbed" by the attack and added, "It is clear that those who want to use terror to stop any process for peace are still active. In order to achieve peace, all countries in that region must ... take responsibility, do their best to fight off terror."

The attack came at the start of an election season in Israel that is focusing intense debate on the handling of a two-year-old uprising by Palestinian militants.

# WEATHER

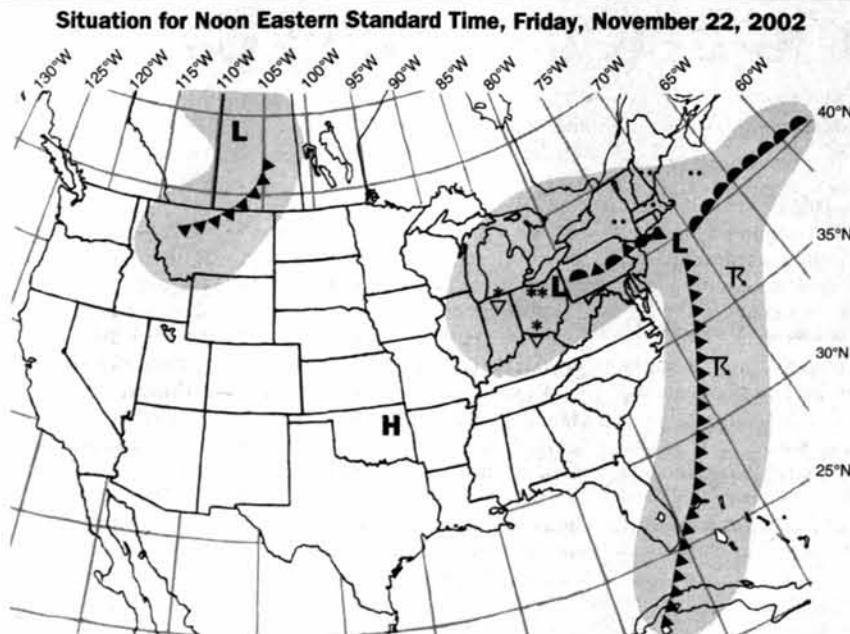
## Nasty November Weather

By Bill Ramstrom  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

While it is said that it never rains on Harvard's graduation, the fans at this year's Harvard-Yale football game will not be so lucky. So, anyone planning a hack there should anticipate the weather and make sure the hack is waterproof. One storm system will pass offshore of Cape Cod today, while another will move in from the Ohio Valley tonight, moving close to Boston by early Saturday morning. This succession of storms will keep the weather cool and wet through much of Saturday. Seasonably cool air will move in for Sunday, with clear skies. On the plus side, it will not be as windy as last weekend, nor quite as chilly. This pattern of two unsettled weekends in a row indicates that there is an appreciable signal at about 7 days in the atmospheric power spectrum.

### Extended Forecast

- Today:** Rain, heavy at times. High 52°F (11°C).
- Tonight:** Rain continues. Low 44°F (7°C).
- Saturday:** Sporadic showers, cloudy. High 47°F (8°C).
- Saturday Night:** Breaking clouds, chilly northwest wind. Low 34°F (1°C).
- Sunday:** Clear and blustery. High 51°F (11°C).



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
<b>H</b> High Pressure	Trough	Snow	Fog
<b>L</b> Low Pressure	Warm Front	Rain	Thunderstorm
Hurricane	Cold Front	Light	Haze
	Stationary Front	Moderate	
		Heavy	

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech



# U.S. Identifies al-Qaida Leader In Custody as Cole Mastermind

By Robin Wright  
and Richard A. Serrano  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

U.S. authorities said Thursday that they have captured a top al-Qaida leader who allegedly masterminded the 2000 attack on the USS Cole and is a suspect in the bombing of two U.S. embassies in East Africa.

Abd al Rahim al Nashiri was identified as one of a dozen key terrorist leaders about whom the FBI had been seeking information. Federal law enforcement officials called his recent arrest a major setback to Osama bin Laden's plans to strike again.

"This is a serious blow to al-Qaida and a significant success in the fight against terrorism, to catch a guy like this," said one high-placed official.

Word of the capture first surfaced last week. At that time, Congressional Democrats were questioning the wisdom of starting a war with Iraq when many senior al-Qaida leaders were still on the loose and a fresh

audiotape made by bin Laden threatened more strikes against the United States and its allies.

Responding to their critics, administration officials insisted that they had made progress in combating al-Qaida. Unnamed officials were quoted in press reports as saying a senior al-Qaida member had been captured, but they refused to name him. On Sunday, Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge confirmed that a top al-Qaida member had been apprehended, but again declined to give details. Ridge said the detainee was providing U.S. interrogators with insight into al-Qaida's operations.

Thursday, U.S. officials provided few details of the capture or of Nashiri's status. They said he was arrested earlier this month at an undisclosed location abroad and is now in U.S. custody, although officials refused to say where he was being held, or why they were confirming his identity now.

A Justice Department official, while confirming the capture, said

that Nashiri, who is close to bin Laden, is not in their custody but that the matter was being handled by other federal agencies abroad.

"He's one of the most top wanted guys. He's on the list," the Justice official said. "We don't have him in our custody, but he could be in military custody or in the custody of some foreign government with our guys getting access to him."

Nashiri is considered the most senior al-Qaida operative arrested since the capture of Abu Zubaydah, bin Laden's operations chief, in Pakistan last March. Top U.S. officials on Thursday described him as the terrorist network's chief operative in the Persian Gulf.

U.S. intelligence considers the Saudi-born Nashiri to be the brains behind the attack on the USS Cole off Yemen, when two suicide bombers detonated an explosive on the ship's hull and killed 17 U.S. sailors. He also is believed to have had a hand in the U.S. embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, which claimed 224 lives.

# Pakistan Elects Musharraf Ally New Prime Minister Amid Strife

By John Lancaster  
THE WASHINGTON POST

NEW DELHI

Pakistan's new parliament chose a prime minister from the main pro-government party Thursday, rejecting the candidate of fundamentalist Islamic parties and ending a protracted struggle over the shape of a new ruling coalition more than five weeks after national elections.

Zafarullah Khan Jamali, a career politician and tribal leader from the province of Baluchistan, captured a narrow majority in the National Assembly with 172 votes of 328 votes. Fazlur Rahman, a Muslim cleric opposed to Pakistan's cooperation with the United States in the war on terrorism, ran a distant second with 86 votes.

The outcome came as a relief to the military government of President Pervez Musharraf, the army chief of staff, who seized power three years ago in a coup d'etat. It signaled the emergence of a ruling coalition led by Jamali's party, the pro-government Quaid-e-Azam faction of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-Q), and including independent lawmakers as well as defectors from the opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP) led by former prime minister Benazir Bhutto.

The new coalition, analysts say, is unlikely to challenge Musharraf's alliance with Washington or his domestic policies, including gradual economic reform. They noted, however, that the coalition's slender majority means that the new government could prove unstable and prone to an early collapse.

Many Pakistanis remain deeply cynical about the elections as well as the horse-trading that followed, accusing Musharraf of manipulating the process to ensure a favorable outcome. Under constitutional amendments he imposed by fiat last summer, Musharraf will still retain ultimate power in Pakistan, including authority to dismiss parliament.

Musharraf defended his record in an hour-long speech Wednesday night, presenting himself, as he often does, as a modest military man who stepped in reluctantly to save the country from incompetent and venal civilian leaders. "The ship of the nation has been steered clear out of the stormy seas and is well set on its destination," he declared, promising to turn over executive authority to the new government within the next few days.

Jamali, the 58-year-old new prime minister, is a largely unknown figure outside Pakistan.

He is a career politician from the Jamali tribe in Baluchistan, on the lawless frontier with Afghanistan, according to news reports and diplomats in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad.

He served three times as chief minister of Baluchistan, most recently in 1996, and was a deputy minister for rural development in the military government of Gen. Zia ul-Haq, who died in a plane crash in 1988. He was elected to the National Assembly in 1985 and subsequently served as a minister for water and power. He is said to speak English extremely well and is a former field hockey player who has been active in promoting the sport in Pakistan.

The runner-up in the contest, Rahman, was the candidate of a six-party religious alliance known as the Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal, or MMA. In part because Musharraf had barred a number of potential challengers — including Bhutto and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif — from participating in the elections on corruption grounds, the religious parties did far better in the Oct. 10 contest than analysts had predicted, finishing third in the balloting behind the PML-Q and Bhutto's PPP.

# American Missionary, 2 U.S. Soldiers Shot in Recent Middle East Attacks

By Michael Slackman  
and John Daniszewski  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

KUWAIT CITY

Two U.S. soldiers were shot and seriously wounded Thursday in this tiny nation bordering Iraq and an American missionary was gunned down in Lebanon, the latest in a spate of attacks that suggest it has become increasingly dangerous to be American in the Arab world.

Threats and assaults on U.S. citizens and businesses have become more frequent in recent weeks, even in countries such as Kuwait and Jordan that had long been considered among the safest and most pro-American in the region.

Some of the incidents may be spontaneous, traceable to rising anti-American sentiment fueled by the possibility of a U.S.-led war against Iraq, and by what is seen as Washington's unquestioning support for Israel. But other attacks, observers say, may be part of an

orchestrated campaign by al-Qaida and its supporters to follow Osama bin Laden's recent dictate to kill Americans and their allies.

Although authorities here and in Lebanon said it was too soon to identify a motive in either assault, the incidents underscore the reality that Americans were forced to confront on Sept. 11: that extremists have declared them all fair game.

As security is increased at official U.S. sites, terrorists will seek "softer" targets, the State Department warned in a worldwide alert Wednesday. These may include facilities where Americans live or visit, such as residential neighborhoods, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, schools, hotels, outdoor events or resorts.

Yet Americans should not draw the false conclusion that everyone hates their country, insisted one government spokesman in this oil-rich emirate that U.S. troops liberated from Iraq 11 years ago.

"There is no anti-Americanism

at all in Kuwait," said Yahqoub Abdullah of the Kuwaiti Information Ministry. "A bunch of kids is ruining our relations — doing illegal things. We in Kuwait appreciate what you have done for us."

Bonnie Whitherall, 31, of Washington, was the first victim Thursday. A nurse and Christian missionary, Whitherall was volunteering at a clinic for the poor in the biblical Lebanese port city of Sidon. As she opened the front door at about 8:30 a.m., someone shot her in the head three times.

The two soldiers were shot by a Kuwaiti traffic police officer who then fled across the border to Saudi Arabia, authorities here said. Authorities are working to extradite the suspect.

The attack on U.S. servicemen in Kuwait — the third in slightly more than a month — is particularly striking because the Pentagon is relying on the emirate as a launching point for a potential invasion of Iraq.

# Boeing To Cut Another 1,500 Jobs

LOS ANGELES TIMES

In another sign that the slump in the telecommunications industry has been far more severe than anticipated, Boeing Co. said Thursday it may slash another 1,500 jobs at its satellite manufacturing operation in El Segundo, Calif.

Boeing also said it plans to vacate buildings and consolidate workers into under-utilized facilities, further jarring El Segundo's teetering commercial real-estate market. El Segundo is still trying to recover from the aerospace downturn of the 1990s and has one of the highest office vacancy rates in the region.

The additional Boeing job cuts are on top of the nearly 1,500 jobs that the satellite unit has already slashed from its payroll this year. By June, Boeing Satellite Systems' total work force could shrink by more than a third to 5,800, from 8,800 that occupied the sprawling complex before Boeing began the major cutbacks earlier this year.

The announcement came a day after Boeing said it was laying off 5,000 commercial aircraft workers in Washington and Oregon. Those cuts were on top of 30,000 jobs Boeing slashed this year because of a downturn in the commercial aircraft market after last year's terrorist attacks.

# File-Sharing System in Contempt Of Court, Motion Says

LOS ANGELES TIMES

A group of record companies and music publishers has asked a federal judge to hold the Madster online file-sharing system in contempt of court for allegedly failing to halt piracy.

The motion, filed late Wednesday, came a week after Madster told U.S. District Judge Marvin E. Aspen in Chicago that it was "impractical" to comply with a pretrial injunction he issued last month to stop copyright infringements. The labels and publishers asked Aspen to appoint someone to shut down Madster until it complies with the order and to cut off the estimated \$45,000 per month that Troy, N.Y.-based Madster collects from its users.

Originally known as Aimster, Madster enables users to find and copy digital music, movies and other files from each others' computers for free. Like the pioneering file-sharing service from Napster Inc., however, Madster eventually was sued for copyright infringement by the major record labels, music publishers and movie studios.

The plaintiffs want Madster to filter copyrighted works out of its file-sharing system, as a federal judge in San Francisco required Napster to do last year. In the meantime, they want Madster to pull the plug on the computers they say are critical to the system's operation.

The motion by the labels and publishers accuses Madster of taking no steps at all to comply with the injunction. If granted, Madster would be compelled to show Aspen why it should not be found in contempt, put under a compliance officer and fined.

# Scientists Aim to Create Synthetic Chromosome with Grant

NEWSDAY

A scientist who played a key role in unraveling the human genome has started a project that could lead to creation in the lab of novel organisms with synthetic genes, a step some ethicists say should be considered carefully.

J. Craig Venter announced Thursday that his Institute for Biological Energy Alternatives in Rockville, Md., had received a \$3-million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to develop a synthetic chromosome. That would be a first step toward Venter's dream of making single-celled organisms that could do useful tasks such as produce hydrogen gas for fuel or remove excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

"We believe that building a synthetic chromosome is an important step toward realizing these goals because we could potentially engineer an organism with the ideal qualities to begin to cope with our energy issues," Venter said in a statement Thursday. Venter also announced that Dr. Hamilton O. Smith, a Nobel laureate in medicine, had joined his institute as scientific director.

Although details were sketchy Thursday, the Venter group is not proposing to assemble a living cell artificially from scratch — a task considered beyond the reach of current technology.

# Report Says More Vaccine Funds Could Save Twice as Many Kids

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Three million lives are saved each year through childhood vaccines and immunizations, but that annual success rate could double with more funding and support, according to a new report on the state of vaccines worldwide.

Major progress has been achieved controlling measles, tetanus, tuberculosis and whooping cough, and steps are being made to tackle influenza and strains of hepatitis, according to the 116-page report produced jointly by the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the World Bank.

Polio is nearly eradicated, the report says. Pockets of the scourge remain only in the most destitute areas of 10 nations in Africa and Southeast Asia, the report said, and the disease was wiped out in Congo in 2001, despite fierce fighting there. However, only \$725 million of the estimated \$1 billion needed between now and 2005 to fight the disease has been secured, casting doubt on a final push to end polio worldwide.

"In many regions of the world it is more the rule than the exception for children to die of common childhood conditions such as measles, which alone causes 700,000 deaths a year," said Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, director-general of WHO, in a statement announcing the report's release this week. "We need to act fast and effectively to ensure that children and adults everywhere have access to life-saving vaccines."

With an additional investment of \$250 million a year, at least 10 million more children would have access to basic vaccines, WHO said. Also, newer vaccines, such as hepatitis B and Haemophilus influenzae type B, or Hib, would cost only \$100 million more a year. Together the two diseases kill 970,000 children in developing nations each year.



# OPINION



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**"This will be our last session. I've been hired to work at the Department of Homeland Security."**

## Letters To The Editor

### Student Life Fee Should be Prorated

Beginning this fall, students are being charged a \$100 Student Life Fee every semester. In principle, I don't object to the charging of such a fee, because it is common practice at many colleges and universities. As an undergraduate, I was required to pay a similar fee, which was used to fund student activities and to bring entertainment to campus. However, according to the press releases concerning the Student Life Fee, the largest portion is earmarked to cover operating costs associated with the new fitness center. The new athletics complex is a considerable improvement in the facilities available over the past few years, and probably worth some additional expense to students.

I had to schedule my thesis defense for late September, which necessitated registering for the fall semester, though I left MIT on Oct. 4, about two weeks after the opening of the new athletics complex. Upon inquiring about the many charges on my student bill, I found that although the Institute prorates most fees, including tuition, medical insurance, and parking, no such provision had been made for the Student Life Fee.

I explained my situation to the Dean for Graduate Students, Isaac Colbert, the MIT official empowered to make decisions regarding this fee for graduate students, and suggested that the fee should either be waived, considering I had only been able to access the fitness center for a very short time, or prorated like other fees. I was told the fee could not be waived, and furthermore

that graduate student stipends had been increased in order to cover this new fee. In addition, Dean Colbert explained that although the fitness center was indeed the largest reason for the fee, the Student Life Fee also would provide additional services to improve student life. I was displeased with the first part of this explanation because stipends are only paid up until the date a student leaves the institute, and I could therefore not collect all the money designated to offset the fee.

I requested an explanation about how the Student Life Fee funds had been used prior to the opening of the athletics facility to improve student life, pointing out that anyone who left the Institute would be unable to benefit from any future expenditure. In response, Dean Colbert provided no explanation, but appealed to my altruistic nature, stating, "these funds are being used for worthy purposes, so I hope that you will not remain terribly upset about the charge."

In addition to Dean Colbert, I presented my case to both Dean Benedict and Chancellor Clay, but to no avail. I credit Dean Benedict for meeting me personally and taking my case to Dean Colbert and other MIT officials for consideration; however, I remain unhappy with the results. Probably only a limited number of students will be faced with this situation in the future, but for the few who are, I think the situation will be quite frustrating. This experience has been a very negative one, and has left a bad final impression on me about how some MIT officials seem to disregard students. I am considering making the Student Life Fee I paid to be my first, last and only charitable dona-

tion to MIT.

Shawn Burdette PhD '02

### Focus on MIT's Own WMBR

Phillip Burrowes column ["Member Madness," Nov. 19] was a shot in the face to an amazing resource at MIT: its own radio station! Mr. Burrowes focused the first part of his article on the fundraising efforts of local station WERS of Emerson College, unaware that the MIT station (WMBR, 88.1 FM) had concluded its very own annual fundraiser the day before. Both stations are non-commercial and run by volunteers, and take only one week out of the year to raise money for their operating costs. I think it would have been more effective to *The Tech's* audience to focus on an event taking place on our very own campus rather than the mirror image occurring somewhere else.

Ben Kochan '05

## Erratum

An article about the fencing team ["MIT Wins 'Big One,' 12 Medals," Nov. 12] misspelled the name of a female sabrist. She is Priscilla del Castillo, not Pricilla del Castillo.

### Opinion Policy

**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, executive editor, news editors, features editor, and opinion editors.

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# Our Collective Alcohol Failure

Guest Column  
Bryan Adams

The timing of Fiji's settlement with the family of Scott Krueger is ironic. It should be a chance for everyone in the MIT community to reflect on how we behave more responsibly with alcohol. We should be looking at how we reformed an out-of-control system to create a new culture around drinking. We should say to ourselves, with confidence, that we have done everything possible to eliminate the chance of losing another student to dangerous alcohol use.

We cannot say any of these things. If we're honest with ourselves, we'll admit that our changes have been largely ineffective. And we'll admit that the circumstances are ripe for another alcohol-related injury or death. This is not to say that no one has done anything. MIT sums up its contributions on a page entitled "What MIT Has Done to Curb Alcohol Use," and I don't question the veracity of this self-reporting. The IFC has a similar litany of improvement: a better risk management policy, increased sanctions, and a re-dedication to enforcement. Again, I don't deny the accuracy of their claims.

I will say that the sum of these actions has not come close to making a dent in the dangerous behavior that takes place every weekend. And the proof is all around us. I won't make the case by pointing to the recent turmoil in the IFC, or by citing conversations I've had with MIT administration officials about alcohol, although both provide important pointers to the depth of the problem. I will simply report what I've seen with my own eyes. Drinking remains out of control in many of MIT's FSILGs.

I lived in a fraternity all four undergraduate years, and I'm in my third year as a resident advisor at a different house. I was a junior when Scott Krueger died, and I saw what drinking was like in fraternities both immediately before and immediately after his death. I have seen parties at a number of FSILGs this year, and I've heard (from students and Resident Advisors at FSILGs) about many more. And I can tell you that we have not learned our lesson about alcohol use from the death of one of our own.

One Resident Advisor confidentially told

me that his house had served alcohol to two female guests at a party only to find out later that both were from a local high school. A widely distributed e-mail promoted "IM BEIRUT," an IM drinking game league. I've seen a liquor luge (a large ice block used for drinking alcohol shots) used in the back room of an open party. These are only the most dangerous occurrences I've seen; more mundane violations of policy such as underage drinking, mass alcohol purchases, and communal alcohol funds are so commonplace as to be unremarkable.

I'm amazed that no one has applied the simplest test to our body of alleged reforms: "Would this new effort have prevented Scott Krueger's death?" I have not yet seen a single reform for which I would answer affirmatively. Resident Advisors? Almost always closed out of ritual (and semi-ritual) events. Party registration? Most houses don't bother to register brothers-only events. Freshmen on campus? Nothing stops freshmen from being at the houses for events, and even MIT doesn't object to their staying overnight from time to time. The truth is that an exact replica of a Scott Krueger event could happen and no new safeguard would stop it.

What steps can be taken to make real changes? A few modest suggestions:

Clearly define some measurable goals with regard to alcohol use and strive to achieve them. Since day one, the issue of alcohol use on campus has been lost in a nebulous haze of anecdote and rhetoric (I sheepishly include myself in this indictment). Find a way to seriously measure alcohol use, and then look to improve the measurements. We cannot claim success until we know what success would look like.

Simplify the rules so that everyone knows exactly what they are. FSILGs are awash in a sea of arcane and disperse rules. Insurance carriers. The IFC. National chapters. MIT.

State and federal law. They need to be summarized concisely and made perfectly clear to everyone who lives in an FSILG. Ignorance cannot be an excuse.

Put pressure on the group that bears perhaps the most responsibility: the alumni corporations. How the alumni have received so little scrutiny for their absentee role in preventing alcohol abuse at FSILGs is a mystery. These groups have a huge investment in the system and serious clout with the undergraduates. They should be active participants in finding a solution and they have not been. I point to myself here: I am a house corporation president, and I've seen how reluctant we are to get involved. The entire community needs to ask for (and

receive) the cooperation of the Association of Independent Living Groups (AILG) in working on this problem.

Get serious about enforcement. Having fellow undergraduates stop by registered FSILG parties during designated hours to look for violations is not nearly enough. A serious enforcement body should randomly check the houses as often as is reasonably possible. This will require cooperation

between MIT, the alumni, the IFC, and the houses themselves. It will also require a significant investment of resources. Both are utterly necessary.

As an alumnus of the MIT FSILG system, I can honestly say that I learned and benefited from it a great deal. I am also aware that another injury or death at an FSILG will probably spell the end of the entire system. "Choice in housing" has been a battle cry for many at the Institute: without effectively addressing the problems around alcohol use, all FSILG choices will be wiped out and another student lost. We cannot let that happen.

Bryan Adams is a graduate student in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

*I'm amazed that no one has applied the simplest test to our body of alleged reforms: 'Would this new effort have prevented Scott Krueger's death?' I have not yet seen a single reform for which I would answer affirmatively.*

## Libelous Liberals

Guest Column  
Robert F. Eaton Jr.

It is rare that a column gracing these pages espousing liberalism and condemning conservatism does so without resorting to the grossest sorts of hyperbole, half-truths, and brazen lies. Talking down from their ivory towers, full of bombast and self-righteousness, these demagogues of the American Left proclaim theirs as the one true political faith. They contend that only misguided, uninformed, or simply evil people would find virtue in any vision but their own, and the failures of their leaders and policies can thereupon be blamed. If they could only succeed in bringing the benighted American people out from the dark, and educate them with the Truth, then never again would a Republican be elected to office.

The slander casually tossed about regarding the Republican party and its constituents is nothing short of shameful — the result of an unfortunate mix of passion for a cause, ignorance of the facts, and perhaps some measure of calculated deceit. They would have you believe that tenets of the Republican party include keeping women in the kitchen, gays in the closet, and blacks in the prisons, and that the American public has been duped into going along.

To compensate for their policy failures, liberals have chosen to adopt reactionary politics of fear intended to scare the American public away from the right. They paint vivid images of a Himmler-like John Ashcroft seeking to impose totalitarian control upon the actions and opinions of the American people, with police-state tactics and a shredding of the Constitution. Rumsfeld, Cheney, and Bush become hawkish warmongers who believe in war for the sake

of war, and war for the sake of oil. Domestically, Democratic political advertisements have gone so far as to show Bush pushing the disabled down a sharp line representing a decline in Social Security and other entitlement funding. Republicans clearly want to rape the environment, abandon the poor and elderly, and give their savings to the rich.

In a tribute to their political savvy, the American people have not been swayed by these wild accusations. Their choices in the most recent election were educated ones that are a reflection of their satisfaction with the leadership of the Bush administration. Much as the Left treated it with derision, the President's hard line on foreign policy has result-

ed in significant changes in the global scene. The phrase "axis of evil" was treated as childish ranting from an inexperienced leader, but realize this — since that phrase entered the diplomatic vernacular, Iraq has submitted to inspections, North Korea has come clean about its nuclear program, and Iran's theocracy is teetering on the brink of collapse. The willingness of the administration to work with both sides of the aisle has resulted in comprehensive changes to the government's approach to education, taxation, and national defense, all of which are supported by the American people.

The simple fact is that, for the first time in decades, the plurality of the American people associate themselves with the Republican party. Liberals in the country are losing clout not because they lack a clear vision, or the guts to "stand up" to the President, but because their policies of the last decade have been an abject failure. They hitched their wagon to political correctness, expansion of entitlements, and appeasement of lunatic regimes, all of which have proven

to be nags in a political climate searching for thoroughbreds. Democrats have failed not because they moved too far to the right, but because they moved too far to the left. Emboldened by American guilt over the civil rights movement, Vietnam, and the excesses of the 1980's, they pushed forth an increasingly left-wing agenda that was no longer a reflection of the will of the people, but a pseudo-socialist vision of benevolent government taking care of its constituents.

Therein lies the intrinsic arrogance of modern liberals; their policy has been predicated on the notion that the American people are unable to make informed choices about their own lives, and thus mandate a government to guide them along the right path. They cannot be trusted to be unbiased and fair, so government must enforce affirmative action to ensure that they are. They are too irresponsible to save for their own futures, so government needs to take their money from them and lock it away, safe from their frivolous hands. They are unable to objectively look at their history, so government must shame them for the crimes of their forefathers. They make irrational choices when buying SUVs, or guns, or cigarettes, so government must eventually try to prevent them from buying any of the three. That Americans are disinclined to have such restrictions imposed upon them comes as an absolute shock to liberal politicians, who feel that Americans should be grateful for such efforts to mitigate their baseness.

It is perhaps the greatest irony of modern politics that while the Democrats paint the Republicans as the party seeking to strip Americans of their rights and liberties, it is they themselves who put forth legislation that most limit the freedoms of American citizens. It is not until liberals recognize and reconcile this fact that they will be able to win back the hearts, minds, and votes of the American people. Given modern liberals' decidedly un-liberal tendency to outright reject any ideas but their own as crass and unenlightened, this won't be happening any time soon.

Robert F. Eaton Jr. is a graduate student in Department of Chemistry.

## Save The Planet Today

Vivek Rao

Make no mistake about it. The "Save the Environment" bandwagon is headed back to the forefront, and people will inevitably hop on for a quick ride before it rumbles off into the recesses of public consciousness. I know I've already purchased my ticket for a quick and delusional sojourn.

Every couple of years, a major event occurs to briefly shake the average citizen's mindset regarding the environment. Just a couple days ago, when a Spanish tanker called the *Prestige* broke in two and sunk into the depths of the Atlantic Ocean, threatening one of the worst oil spills in recent memory, most people expressed initial reactions of shock, fear, and perhaps most commonly, seemingly genuine concern. And people are no doubt concerned. The question is: will we remain concerned a month or two from now when the Spanish spill is forgotten and the modern industrialized world continues its powerful push to the future? If past evidence is any indication, the answer is a tragic no.

I am not some tree-hugging environmental nut who would have the rest of the world burn in hell for abusing our planet. On the contrary, I consider myself to be quite environmentally challenged, a point proven by the Pepsi can I carelessly threw into a dumpster while lamenting the fate of the Spanish coast. Nonetheless, I do not think it is hypocritical of me to say that society has a major problem. While we all tend to possess an episodic fixation on major environmental disasters, there is a disturbing lack of focus on our daily impact on the world around us. A large element of this is information, of the lack thereof.

Despite significant progress over the last quarter century, public awareness of environmental issues remains critically low. We may now be convinced that recycling is beneficial, but do we know exactly what we can and cannot recycle? We may be cognizant of endangered species, but do we know how their extinction would impact the planet? Some people probably do know the answers to these and other environmental questions, but I feel quite confident that they are in the minority. The rest of the population, myself included, is relatively illiterate when it comes to this area.

The cynics out there would likely argue that those who are uneducated about the future of Earth simply wish to live without the burden of the environment on their minds. I would argue that if we were all truly aware of how limited our natural resources are and how precious the current global situation is, we would make a far more genuine commitment to the natural world. There is something about preserving all that we have for future generations to enjoy that appeals to most people.

By what means would this turnaround in attitude would take place? A simple solution would be some semblance of a massive and universal project undertaken by governments throughout the world. I have no doubt that such efforts already exist. The United Nations has shown great concern for the environment, and it is likely the organization best suited to coordinate a widespread reeducation project.

However, it would be naïve to believe that such a fundamental change in our attitudes toward the environment can be brought about solely by some centralized program. Instead, we should probably rely more on localized initiatives. Schools, companies, colleges, religious centers, and other social institutions should probably beef up and expand environmental awareness programs, because only with daily exposure are people's existing beliefs and perceptions truly changed. Of course, our society is not quite as environmentally backward as I may have painted it to be. Much progress has been made in recent years, and there are a number of organizations out there that are admirably working to preserve our planet. The sad truth remains, however, that for every two steps forward we take, we seem to be taking one back, and with the environment deteriorating at its present pace, we simply do not have that kind of time.

So while it is certainly far better to show concern for the Spanish oil spill situation rather than to ignore it completely, be aware that a more long-term awareness is needed. Plan to use the revolving doors near the Med Center, recycle all scrap paper, and walk home from the mall rather than cabbing it. Maybe it is just a pipe dream, but I am hopeful that the bandwagon will end up being something more akin to a mobile home.



# Speaking While Palestinian

Aimee L. Smith

You have probably heard about the sarcastic quip, "Driving While Black" in response to racial profiling. "DWB" burst into mainstream awareness with the 1996 lawsuit against New Jersey Turnpike Authorities that documented that Troopers on I-95 were almost five times more likely to pull over drivers of African descent over other drivers. I can personally attest that members of my family have been pulled over on the New Jersey Turnpike, with a complete unwarranted search of the vehicle being made, only when traveling with African Americans. As problematic as this behavior is, the lawsuits and publicity had opened up the dialog to the point where even white Americans and law enforcement officials were condemning the practice of racial profiling. That was pre-9/11.

The response to 9/11 led not only to an increase in the profiling and illegal detention of people of Arab descent and practitioners of Islam and a wave of hate-crimes against people perceived to be in one of these categories, but it also led to a return to widespread acceptance of racial profiling. Over 1,000 immigrants of Arab or Pakistani origin have been swept up and detained in INS jails, often without informing their friends and family. The exact numbers are still unknown and many have not had access to legal representation.

*Apparently, Amer Jubran's exercising of his right to have the benefit of legal counsel during an FBI interrogation is considered 'not cooperating.'*

Even an American citizen, Jose Padilla, has been stripped of his constitutional rights to due process as the government has condemned him without a trial as an enemy combatant. He is currently being held in a military base and has been denied access to a lawyer. None of this would be possible if it weren't for the acquiescence of the United States citizenry, who have been bombarded with messages of hatred, xenophobia, nationalism and fear since that fateful day.

On Nov. 2, I and many others participated in a legal protest for Palestinian rights in the streets of Boston with respected community activist and Palestinian Amer Jubran. The following Monday at eight in the morning,

Jubran, a legal United States resident, was visited at his home by INS and FBI agents. His home was illegally entered and he was taken in for questioning. Amer was told that if he cooperated with the FBI, he could be home in time for lunch. If he

failed to comply, they could let him rot in jail for 50 years. Apparently, exercising his right to have the benefit of legal counsel during an FBI interrogation is considered "not cooperating," because he remains in jail to this day. Amer spent first 24 hours in the prison with hands and legs shackled in solitary confinement. When he told one of the guards that this treatment would not satisfy the standards of Amnesty International, the guard reportedly said, "Amnesty International standards do not apply in here, my

friend."

Amer Jubran is being held on some alleged immigration technicality that does not even warrant incarceration. But his real crime, as far as the FBI is concerned, is his willingness to exercise his first amendment rights of assembly and speech in the streets of Boston, followed by his refusal to be interrogated without benefit of legal counsel. This is not the logic of security; this is the logic of repression.

I suppose if we American citizens really fell for the line about the 9/11 hijackers — "they hate us because of our freedoms" — then fear without reflection might make us willing to give up those very freedoms so that "they" would have no reason to hate us anymore. The fact is, the reasons that drive desperate people to violent acts are much more complicated than the rhetoric we are made to believe, and we really aren't stupid enough to accept the empty Bush administration analysis.

The United States has been the perpetrator of many crimes against humanity, has created and funded the creation of many weapons of mass-destruction, and is the only nation to have dropped the atomic bomb on regions with dense civilian populations. There is much in our history to feel shame about. But at the same time, there is one major thing that we should feel proud about, and that is the promise of the enshrinement and protection of rights that are offered by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. How closely these promises are realized is directly proportional to how willing each and every citizen and resident of this land will fight to protect them. It is a lot like maintaining strong and healthy muscles: use them or lose them.

# The New Media

Tao Yue

The Information Superhighway. A road providing unfettered access to all types of information. A place where books, newspapers, television shows, music, movies, shopping, research, and other resources would flow to your home in electronic form in the touch of a button.

That was the view presented a decade ago by pundits breathlessly predicting the advent of the information age. We have seen much progress in infrastructure and services. You can get the day's news without ever picking up a newspaper, find out what Roger Ebert thinks of a new film without tuning in to his show, and get MP3s of the newest album without having to make a trek to the nearest music superstore.

That is the technological promise, at least. Clearly, the MP3 example runs into copyright issues, but so do the first two. *The New York Times* may make their articles available for free on their web site, and Roger Ebert may post streaming clips of his television show, but they are free because there is no easy way to charge for them. A sporadic reader can buy a paper copy of the *Times* for a dollar, but the transaction fee on a similar online purchase makes it not worth the bother of charging. The same is true of a television show. Both can run advertisements, but as we all know, advertising on the Internet simply doesn't do well enough pay the bills.

Micropayment technologies have not taken off, so credit cards, with their high transaction fees and alarming frequency of fraud, remain the only truly universal payment scheme online. But sites cannot lose money forever, and eventually they will figure it out or close down. In any case, these are the pioneers. Like the poor homesteaders of the nineteenth century who got a hundred and sixty poor

acres of land and went into debt cultivating it, they are losing money now to pave the road for the future.

There is, however, another promise that has been stifled — the promise of keeping works alive forever. Peeking into the past has always been difficult. Books go out of print, copies of rare works are lost to the elements, and those works that do survive are difficult to locate. Digital archiving promises to keep works in a pristine state, quickly accessible, and most importantly, easily searchable.

Some resources have taken full advantage of the technology. Newspapers traditionally used libraries on microfilm, for example, but they have made the leap to using full-text searchable PDFs located online. The MIT Libraries subscribe to several of these, including the ProQuest deep backfile of *The New York Times* — every issue from 1851 to 1985:

But beyond these traditionally-archived areas, there is little else that has seized on the technology. There are certainly advantages to holding a book rather than an eBook (which currently sell far more than the paperbacks). Nevertheless, with xerography-based publish-on-demand technology, there is no reason for any book to go out of print. Given the electronic layout and text, a book can be printed and bound at relatively minimal cost. A quick search on amazon.com locates many out-of-print titles, some printed quite recently.

With the advent of CD burners, the lack of a glass master is no reason for a CD to be out

of print either. There have been forays into the technology, including an early implementation that put kiosks in music stores, capable of burning some rarer CDs. But record labels are very uneasy nowadays over any nontraditional digital technology, and that early implementation only burned whole CDs, not selected tracks. Attempts to distribute that music as MP3s surely never even entered their minds.

Unfortunately, even specialty labels do not take advantage of the technology. They might strike a few thousand copies of a CD, have them sitting around for two or three years selling a few at a time, but eventually run out of stock. Case in point: Paul Robeson recordings.

Paul Robeson, an actor and singer out of place in a white industry, led one of the more interesting lives on record. He was almost like the late Byron White in a sort of Renaissance Man way that cannot exist in today's specialized world — a star football player while acting in dramas and winning awards at oratory, ultimately delivering the valedictory speech at his Rutgers commencement. His recordings had a very limited market, with several CDs packed with his work, but they are almost all out of print.

Oh well, eBay time. The place where laserdiscs and LPs find a new life long after their main market had disappeared. If the holders of copyright are not taking advantage of the promises of the information age, selling their wares as bits (or at least selling physical bits manufactured-on-demand), at least the collectors have a way to trade amongst themselves.

*There is another promise that has been stifled — the promise of keeping works alive forever. Digital archiving promises to keep works in a pristine state, quickly accessible, and easily searchable.*

# Fraud At LaVerde's

Basil Enwegbara

Sometimes, I wonder why one should always insist on justice and fairness. I wonder this because of the costs that such insistence imposes on a person. You collide head-on with the system as soon as you begin to question things that go wrong around you. When you disagree, when you stand up to say no, and when you refuse to accept unfair practices, no matter how small they might be, you notice you are in fierce confrontation with the status quo. Because most of us cannot withstand the costs of these oppositions, many things around us continue to go wrong.

The acceptance of wrongs is selfish and is against collective interest. It does not prepare you to be a leader or a good citizen. Even here on the MIT campus, you would be amazed by how people continuously take advantage of you and other students with impunity. Most of these things that go wrong would not exist if some brave students could stand up to oppose them. You should start by pointing out such wrongs whenever you come across unjust activities designed to take advantage of students. They might divert you from your busy academic schedule and homework, but at the

*Recently, I have noticed some irregularities in charging at LaVerde's. Check this out, and take your calculator with you.*

end of the day, they are worth pursuing.

Recently, I have noticed some pricing and charging irregularities at LaVerde's Market. If you care to find out, you should check this out, and I would advise you to take your calculator with you. You will be amazed by what you will discover. I discovered that the total price printed on the receipt does not match up with the total amount charged to the card. Students I shared my experience with have had similar experiences at LaVerde's. As one student viewed it, these poor practices are "just a common thing among shop cashiers." Another student also expressed how he had similar experience at LaVerde's and now demands that the cashier to redo the billing whenever he suspects unfair practice. However, most other students simply concurred that it is just a rip-off and there is nothing one can do than overlook it.

But my question remains: if something is not working properly, why shouldn't we complain? Why shouldn't we take the time to point out unfair practices in our community? Or have things gone so wrong that there is little we can do to effect a change? Perhaps we are simply afraid of the consequences. If everyone should be unconcerned, who then should bring the change?

We are the freest nation in the world, and this is MIT, the world's leading center of excellence. Shouldn't MIT excel at being the world's watchdog? Isn't the cost worth bearing in order to benefit the larger society? While I ask myself these difficult questions, I suggest that other students pose to themselves these same questions.

The students must oppose whatever goes wrong on campus. Opposing it makes MIT a better place for us and for future MIT students. Doing so is another way to stop new Enrons from emerging. Unfair practices are the cancer the society must fight. Fighting it brings out the best society, one we can all cherish. In fact, opposing the slightest unfair practice is the best way we can shine as leaders. MIT students do not deserve to be taken advantage of by anyone.

Flaming  
on your  
mind?



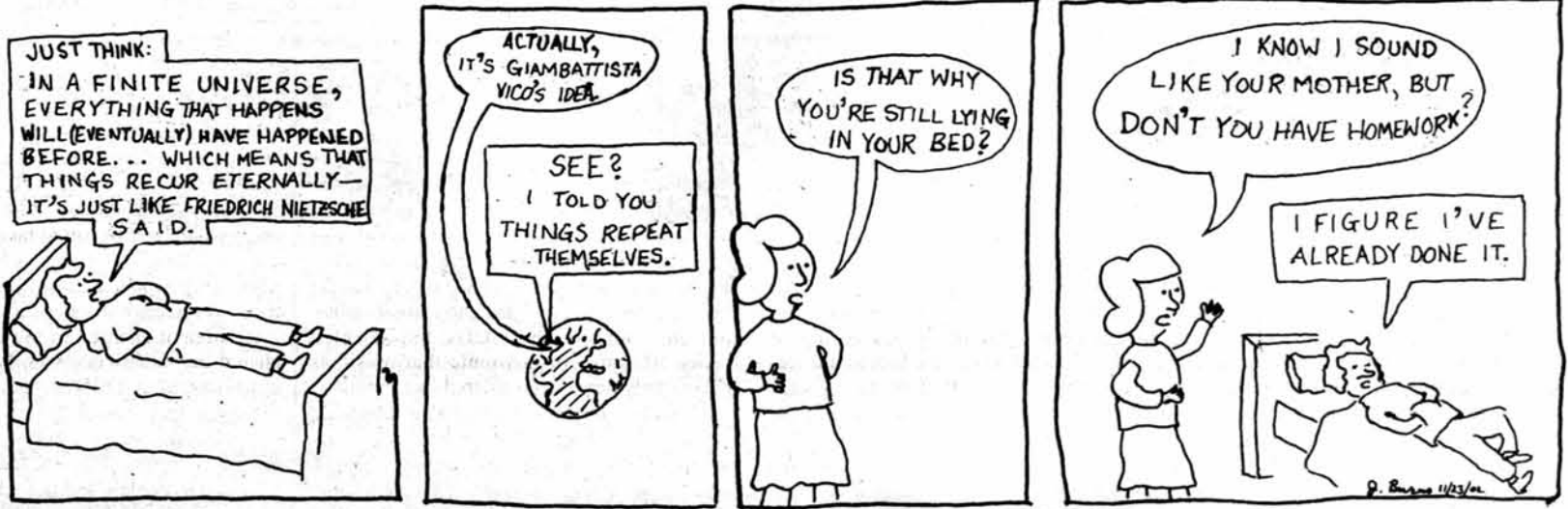
Join *The Tech's*  
Opinion Department!

Call Roy or Jyoti at 253-1541





*Filler Space*: RETURN OF THE FILLER FRONTIER



PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER



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## Crossword Puzzle

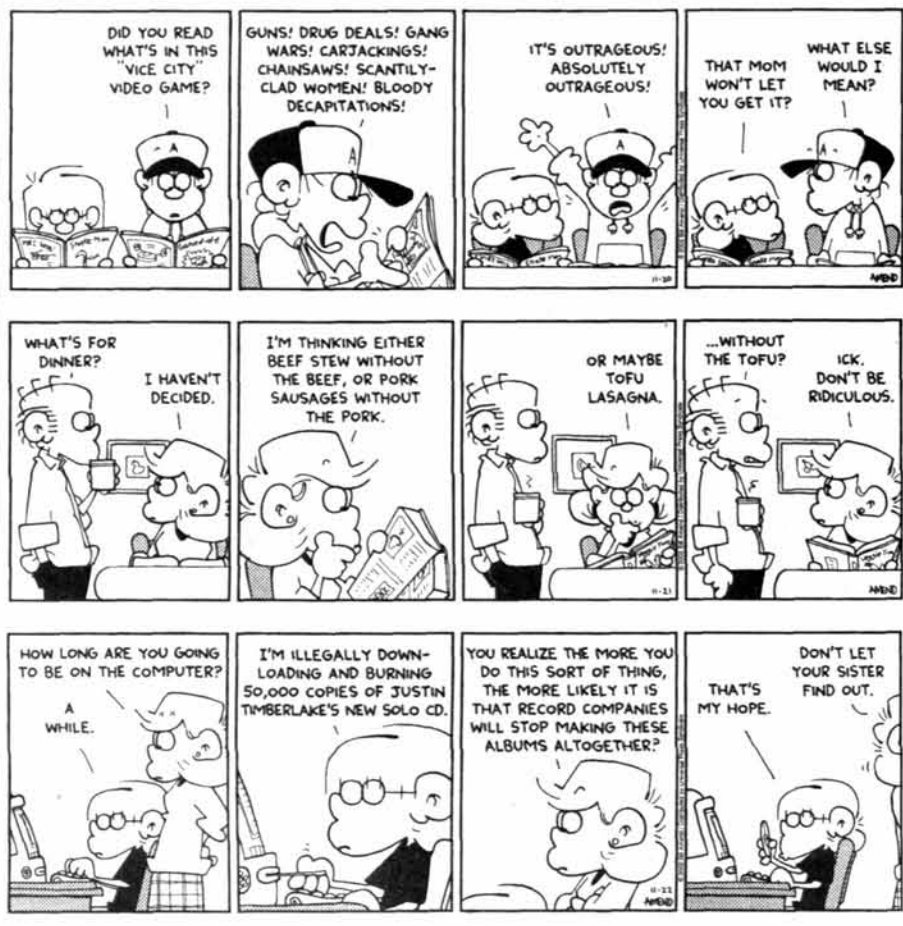
Solution, page 17

- ACROSS**
- 1 Wine choice
  - 5 Saudis
  - 10 Complacent
  - 14 Visa rival
  - 15 Opera boxes
  - 16 Diet word
  - 17 Canadian tribe
  - 18 Double fastener
  - 19 "\_\_\_ Sanctorum"
  - 20 Another nickname for a robe?
  - 22 Questioner
  - 23 Breathe heavily
  - 24 Disks under nuts
  - 26 Return-mail guarantee
  - 30 Those people
  - 31 \_\_\_ Darya River
  - 32 Zaire's Mobutu \_\_\_ Seko
  - 33 Prepared coffee, one way
  - 36 Demolish
  - 38 Buddy
  - 40 Rescue
  - 41 Plant fungus
  - 44 In a fog
  - 47 2nd-smallest state
  - 48 Danny or Stubby
  - 49 FSU team member
  - 51 Licoricelike flavoring
  - 54 Took the bus
  - 55 Soviet space program
  - 56 Another nickname for a vehicle?
  - 61 Emulate eagles
  - 62 Singer Gorme
  - 63 Story
  - 64 Huber of tennis
  - 65 Bravery
  - 66 Delineate
  - 67 Fertility goddess
  - 68 Utopias
- DOWN**
- 1 Pair of antlers
  - 2 Katz of "Hocus Pocus"
  - 3 Appear
  - 4 Free from
  - 5 Female graduates
  - 6 Mechanical performance
  - 7 Greek contest
  - 8 Underneath
  - 9 Concorde, e.g.
  - 10 Cutters
  - 11 Another nickname for an operetta?
  - 12 Say
  - 13 Cogwheels
  - 21 Gabs
  - 22 Arthur of tennis
  - 25 Org. of Sampras
  - 26 Cowboy's companion
  - 27 Actor Sharif
  - 28 Another nickname for an entree?
  - 29 Bargains
  - 34 First name in daredevils
  - 35 Proofreader's removal
  - 37 Rubbed-out spots
  - 39 Duress
  - 42 Court crier's word
  - 43 Golfer's gadget
  - 45 Tobacco fans
  - 46 Neat
  - 50 Get snug
  - 51 Brazilian palm
  - 52 Middays
  - 53 Wood nymph
  - 57 Stagnant
  - 58 Razor's cut
  - 59 Gifts to the needy
  - 60 Took off
  - 62 Night before

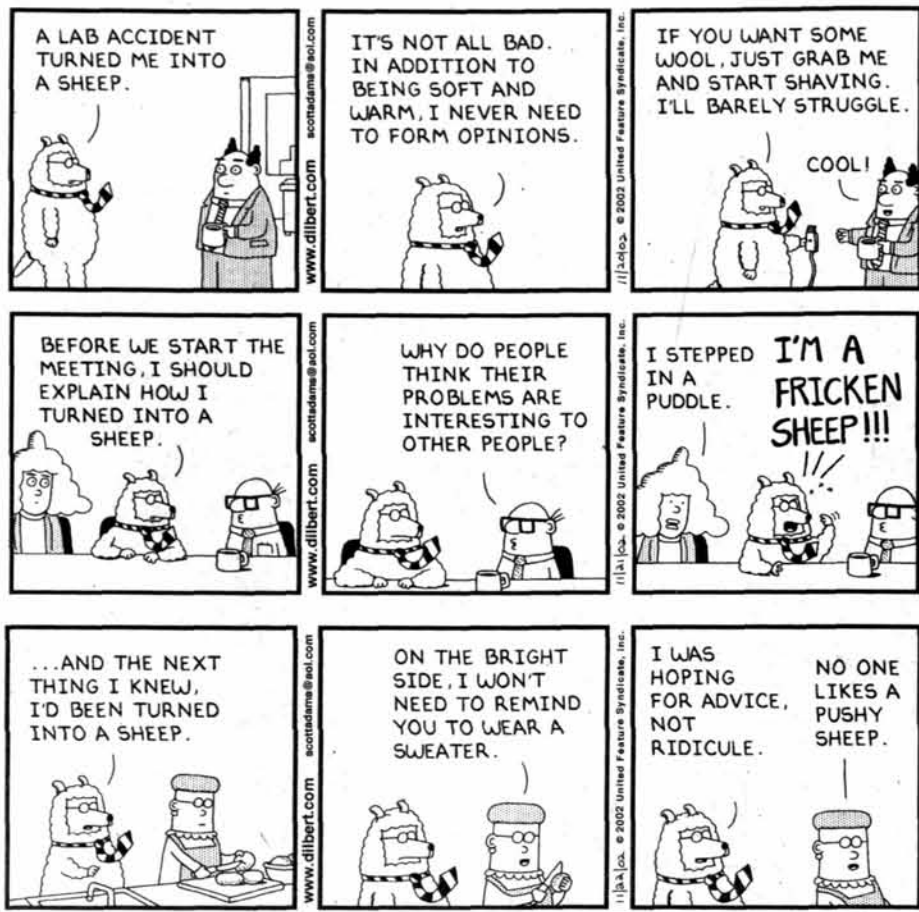
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# FoxTrot by Bill Amend



# Dilbert® by Scott Adams



# Fun With Fire IV

## Matches

By Michael Short

COLUMNIST

This installment consists of three tricks to do with matches and matchbooks. As usual, be safe. Do these tricks in open areas and be careful when working with fire. Remember, only you can prevent forest fires.

### Flaming Presidents

**Materials:**

- A 'strike on box' match
- A U.S. currency note

**What to do:**

Strike it! While you're only supposed to be able to light these matches on the striking edge, the roughness of the fibers on a \$1 bill is just right to heat up and ignite the potassium chlorate in a match head. You can use any bill you want - it just depends on how much you value your money.



### Smoky Fingertips

**Materials:**

- A quarter
- A matchbook's striking edge
- A match

**What to do:**

Tear only the striking edge off the matchbook, leaving as little paper on the edge as possible. Fold it in half (like an upside-down 'V') and stand it on the quarter. Now light it on fire and let it burn.

Once it's done, there will be a yellow, oily residue on the quarter. Take half of it on your index finger and half on your thumb and rub them together.

If you've got optimum viewing conditions, a small amount of smoke should be generated. Note: This one's hard — I still can't get it right all the time.

### Tennis Ball Conflagration

**Materials:**

- A tennis ball
- A pocket knife
- A buttload of 'strike-anywhere' matches
- Duct tape

**What to do:**

Take the tennis ball and cut a small hole (1 cm) in the top. You heard me — the top of the ball. Cut the heads off of a lot of strike-anywhere matches, and carefully put them in the tennis ball. Do not stuff them! Now replace the top part of the ball and duct-tape it closed. Now lob, do not throw, the tennis ball at a brick wall or concrete floor away from people. The strike anywhere match heads should ignite quickly, resulting in a little conflagration.

**WARNING:** Do not throw it hard! Reports have been made of a person who threw the loaded ball hard, and it exploded in his hand. Don't let this happen to you!

# Down the Hatchet

## A Tribute to Tofu Turkey

By Akshay Patil

COLUMNIST

For those of you who are utterly oblivious, Thanksgiving is nearly upon us. The upcoming four-day break has certainly got me thinking about those things I'm thankful for, so I thought I might give tribute to all the little things in life that go without notice or thanks all too often.

- Liquid soap.** Just because it rocks.
- Toilet Paper.** Try going without it, it's not a pretty thing.
- FM Radio.** AM is boring; plus it's much cooler to modulate the frequency than to modulate amplitude.
- Scissors.** Cutting with a knife can suck... and hurt.
- Qwerty keyboards.** Uhm, duh.
- Staplers.** And God bless staple guns, too.
- Paper.** Dried, beaten tree pulp; too bad it lacks the yum humid parchment smell.
- Paper clips.** Using bent wire to hold paper together and stick in electrical sockets? Genius.
- Tape.** Because glue can't do it all.
- Mouthwash.** Mmm, minty fresh.
- Toothpaste.** Could you have made dental soap a reality?
- Tissue paper.** Because Athena paper cuts.
- Electronic razors.** Even if you're a fan of razor blades, you've got to admit that electric saves on toilet paper.
- Comic strips.** Hello, penguins?
- Band-aids.** Because it's hard to print a picture of Snoopy on medical gauze.
- Zippers.** What About Mary? XYZ.
- Velcro.** Leave it to NASA to come up with such a great invention. Still underutilized in today's society.
- Cans/can-openers.** Stays longer, now with a fresh new metallic taste.
- Dryer sheets.** Static sucks and Snuggles rocks.
- Wax.** It was a twisted individual who thought of dipping things in animal fat, but it works.
- Bread.** Put yeast in wheat and then heat it?

- Weird, but ohh so good.
- Milk chocolate.** Beans and milk never tasted better.
- Air conditioners.** Now that's a no-brainer.
- Follicular.** Someone, somewhere, must have come up with the word... ok, I know, stop obsessing.
- Elevators.** Elevator go up! Elevator go down! Teddy go down the hole.
- Aluminum foil.** Wrapping up leftovers in metal? Now you're just getting crazy.
- Saran wrap.** Main Entry: sa-ran; Etymology: from Saran, a trademark; Date: 1940; a tough flexible thermoplastic resin.
- The word **thermoplastic.** Because it's similar to, but not quite, thermosetting.
- Penguins.** Created in Newark in 1912... and the Earth isn't round either, it's shaped like a burrito.
- Contact lenses.** Suffer from poor vision? Here, stick these shards of glass in your eyes.
- Toaster ovens.** Remember back in the day when everyone had normal toasters?
- The shower.** Baths are nice and relaxing, but when you've got class in 15 minutes, you don't want to wait for the tub to fill up.
- Wrist watches.** Pocket watches are more suave, but the attached Fresh Off the Boat can get annoying.
- Ketchup.** Tastes good on fish and pisses off the French — can a condiment get any better?
- Nutella.** Hey, if ketchup makes the list, how can I pass on my favorite fish topping?
- Bean bag chairs.** I never knew that sitting on an amorphous blob could be so fun.
- Rubber.** The maple syrup of the maple tree... minus the sugar and plus the Nike logo.
- Sporks.** Not that they really work, I just like saying the word.
- All things dairy.** Would you have thought to drink the stuff coming out of a cow's udder?

Have a great Thanksgiving.

This space donated by The Tech

- ? a) Depression is a bunch of symptoms exhibited by weak people.
- b) Depression is an unbearable suppression of brain activity that can strike anyone.

Straightening out all the misconceptions, the correct answer is 'b'. It's a concept we should all understand and remember, and here's why. Depression strikes millions of young adults, but only 1 out of 5 ever seeks treatment for it. Too many just drag themselves along or eventually seek relief through suicide. Why not treatment? Partly lack of awareness. Partly the unwarranted negative stigma. This is what needs fixing. This is where we need you to change your attitudes. It's an illness, not a weakness. And it's readily treatable. Spreading the word and making this common knowledge is everybody's assignment.

**UNTREATED DEPRESSION**

\*1 Cause of Suicide

Public Service message from SA VE (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education)

<http://www.save.org>



# Events Calendar

Events Calendar appears in each issue of *The Tech* and features events for members of the MIT community. *The Tech* makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and *The Tech* shall not be held liable for any losses, including, but not limited to, damages resulting from attendance of an event. Contact information for all events is available from the Events Calendar web page.

Visit and add events to Events Calendar online at <http://events.mit.edu>

## Friday, November 22

**9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Childrens' Skating Registration.** Skating instruction is available for 6-12 year old children of the MIT community. A series of eight lessons for both beginner and intermediate level skaters will begin Saturday, December 7. Class sizes are limited, and registration is available on a first-come basis. Deadline for enrollment is Dec. 7, 2002. Course will be held on Saturdays: 12n -Beginners; 1p - Intermediates. Adult lessons are also available providing there is sufficient interest by parents. Students registered prior to Nov. 26 will receive a \$5 reduction in fee. \$65 with MIT Athletics Card; 75 w/o. Room: W35-297X. Sponsor: Physical Education.

**9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - BOOKSALE.** MIT Libraries' Booksale. Books in Engineering, Computer Science, History/Biography, Fiction, Sciences, Urban Studies and Miscellaneous General Interest. Proceeds benefit the MIT Libraries' Preservation Fund. free. Room: Bush Room, Bldg. 10-105. Sponsor: MIT Libraries Gifts Office.

**10:00 a.m. - Admissions Information Session.** Admissions Office Information Session gathers at the Admissions Reception Center (10-100). Enter MIT at the main entrance, Lobby 7, 77 Massachusetts Ave (domed building with tall pillars). Proceed down the center corridor to Room 10-100 on the right. Following the Admissions Information Session is a Student Led Campus Tour which begins in Lobby 7 (main entrance lobby). Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. free. Room: Admissions Reception Center, Building 10, Room 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

**10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Chanukah Sale.** Sale of Chanukah related items including menorahs, candles, dreidels, Chanukah decorations, chocolate gelt, and small gift items. free. Room: Lobby 10. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT.

**10:45 a.m. - Campus Tour.** Student Led Campus Tours are approximately 90 minutes long and provide a general overview of the main campus. Please note that campus tours do not visit laboratories, living groups or buildings under construction. Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. Campus tours start at the conclusion of the Admissions Information Session. The Campus Tour begins in Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - FileMaker Pro Quick Start.** This class introduces users to the FileMaker environment and its functions using an existing database as a model. Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Large scale monitoring of atmospheric heavy metal deposition using mosses.** Note special day and time. free. Room: 54-915. Sponsor: MIT Atmospheric Science Seminars.

**2:00 p.m. - Admissions Information Session.** free. Room: Admissions Reception Center, Building 10, Room 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

**2:45 p.m. - Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Chemical Engineering Dept Fall Seminar Series.** Molecular Sieve Films. free. Room: 66-110. Sponsor: Chemical Engineering.

**4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - PSFC Seminar.** "Accretion Flows in Black Hole Binaries." free. Room: NW17-218. Sponsor: Plasma Science and Fusion Center.

**4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. - Ten Years of Work on the Brown-Cobourn Conjecture.** Refreshments will be served at 3:30 PM in Room 2-349. free. Room: Room 2-338. Sponsor: Combinatorics Seminar. Department of Mathematics.

**5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Evaluating and Negotiating Job Offers.** This session will demonstrate how to effectively evaluate and differentiate between different job offers and how to make an informed career decision. free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: OCSPA.

**5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - "Alberti's Media Lab: Analog and Digital in Image-Making Technologies of the Early Renaissance."** HTC Forum series event. free. Room: 3-133. Sponsor: History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture and Art.

**6:00 p.m. - Gallery Talk: Bill Arning.** Bill Arning, List Visual Arts Center's curator, will give a gallery tour of the exhibition, "After the Beginning and Before the End." free. Room: E15, List Visual Arts Center. Sponsor: List Visual Arts Center.

**7:00 p.m. - 12:15 a.m. - Anime club showing: Rah-Xephon, Azumanga, NieA.** Watch a selection of new and classic animation from Japan, as well as take advantage of our extensive library of Japanese animation. Tonight: Rah-Xephon (an enigmatic, stylish exploration of the giant-robot theme), Azumanga Daioh (the wildly popular comedy about a set of high-school friends), NieA\_7 — comic stories from the other side of the crater from the creators of Serial Experiments: lain. free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: Anime Club, MIT.

**7:00 p.m. - Rear Window (1954).** Regarded as one of Alfred Hitchcock's best films, *Rear Window* tells the story of wheelchair-bound photographer Jeffries (Jimmy Stewart) who passes time by spying on his neighbors from his apartment window. One night, he sees something suspicious and becomes convinced that one of his neighbors has murdered, cut up, and buried his wife. He enlists the help of his society model girlfriend (Grace Kelly) and his nurse, and races to dig up evidence to ensure that justice is done. Described by famed French director Francois Truffaut as "one of those rare movies without imperfection," *Rear Window* mixes romance, humor, and bloody murder to grab your attention like no other film. \$3.00. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

**8:00 p.m. - Pirates of Penzance.** \$10; \$8 MIT community, seniors, other students & children; \$6 MIT/Wellesley students. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Gilbert and Sullivan Players, MIT.

**8:00 p.m. - CHORALPALOOZA: KNOW YOUR CHORALLARIES.** Join the chorallaries of MIT at its fall concert, with guest group harmonic motion of brown university. FREE. Room: 54-100. Sponsor: Chorallaries of MIT, The.

**8:00 p.m. - "The Merchant of Venice."** Faculty Workshop production directed by Michael Ouellette. free. Room: Kresge Rehearsal Rm B. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

**8:00 p.m. - MIT Concert Choir.** William Cutler, music director. Beethoven's Mass in C (with orchestra), Brahms Four motets, Op. 29 (a cappella), Margaret O'Keefe, soprano; Majie Zeller, mezzo-soprano; Frederick Urrey, tenor; David Kravitz, baritone. \$5 at the door. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

**8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - "Underground."** HTC Film Series; Directed by Emir Kusturica, Starring Miki Manojlovic, Yugoslavia, 1995, 167 mins. (in 7-431). The story starts from an underground manufacture of weapons of Belgrade, during the WWII, and evolves into fairly surreal situations. The black marketeer who smuggles the weapons to partisans forgets to mention to the workers that the war is over, and they keep producing. 50 years later, they become suspicious, and break out of their underground "shelter" — only to convince themselves that the guy was right: the war is still going on. free. Room: 3-133. Sponsor: History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture and Art.

**10:00 p.m. - Rear Window (1954).** \$3.00. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

## Saturday, November 23

**9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Childrens' Skating Registration.** Room: W35-297X. Sponsor: Physical Education.

**1:00 p.m. - Men's & Women's Swimming vs. Babson & Bowdoin Colleges.** free. Room: Zesiger Pool. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

**2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - TMRC Open House.** The Tech Model Railroad Club of MIT invites everyone to our annual fall open house. Come see the finest HO scale model railroad on the MIT campus and our new, fully computerized control system. free. Room: N52-118. Sponsor: Tech Model Railroad Club (TMRC).

**2:00 p.m. - Concert Band Fall Concert.** free. Room: Kresge Auditorium. Sponsor: Concert Band.

**2:00 p.m. - Pirates of Penzance.** \$10; \$8 MIT community, seniors, other students & children; \$6 MIT/Wellesley students. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Gilbert and Sullivan Players, MIT.

**6:00 p.m. - Women's Basketball MIT Tip-Off Tournament.** free. Room: Rockwell Cage. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

**7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - TMRC Open House.** The Tech Model Railroad Club of MIT invites everyone to our annual fall open house. Come see the finest HO scale model railroad on the MIT campus and our new, fully computerized control system. free. Room: N52-118. Sponsor: Tech Model Railroad Club (TMRC).

**7:00 p.m. - Screening of Radical Harmonies and Panel Discussion.** Radical Harmonies chronicles the Women's Music Cultural Movement and its evolution from a "girl with guitar" to a revolution in the roles of women in music and culture. The movement gave birth to an alternative industry that changed women and music forever. \$15 or free with college ID. Room: E51-115 Wong Auditorium. Sponsor: Women's Studies Program, President's Office. Graduate Student Office, Associate Provost for the Arts, LBGT Speakers Series, De Florez Fund for Humor, Counseling and Support Services, Committee on Campus Race Relations.

**7:00 p.m. - Men's & Women's Swimming vs. Springfield College.** free. Room: Zesiger Pool. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

**7:00 p.m. - The Importance of Being Earnest.** Rupert Everett, Colin Firth, Frances O'Connor, Reese Witherspoon, Tom Wilkinson, and Judi Dench star in this elaborate adaptation of the famous comedy by Oscar Wilde. Amusements abound as two women are each determined to marry someone named Ernest. Each thinks she has found the love of her life, only later realizing that she has been misled. Will love triumph over the confusion and controversy which arises? Rated PG for mild sensuality. \$3.00. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

**8:00 p.m. - Pirates of Penzance.** \$10; \$8 MIT community, seniors, other students & children; \$6 MIT/Wellesley students. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Gilbert and Sullivan Players, MIT.

**8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. - November Dance.** Featuring an evening of Ballroom and Latin dancing with a Free beginner lesson at 7:30 with admission! Come dance Cha cha, Waltz, Tango, Rumba, Swing and more. No partner required. Refreshments will be served Semi-Formal Attire Free Lesson at 7:30. \$6 students, \$10 adults. Room: Walker Memorial: Morss Hall. Sponsor: MIT Ballroom Dance Team.

**8:00 p.m. - "The Merchant of Venice."** free. Room: Kresge Rehearsal Rm B. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

**10:00 p.m. - The Importance of Being Earnest.** Rated PG for mild sensuality. \$3.00. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

## Sunday, November 24

**9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Childrens' Skating Registration.** Room: W35-297X. Sponsor: Physical Education.

**9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Buddhist Meditation and Prayers.** Meditation in Buddhist Tradition: sitting and walking meditation followed by chanting. free. Room: Mezzanine Lounge, Student Center. Sponsor: Buddhist Community at MIT.

**1:00 p.m. - Women's Basketball MIT Tip-Off Tournament.** free. Room: Rockwell Cage. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

**1:00 p.m. - Squash vs. Navy.** free. Room: Squash Courts. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

**2:00 p.m. - Pirates of Penzance.** \$10; \$8 MIT community, seniors, other students & children; \$6 MIT/Wellesley students. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Gilbert and Sullivan Players, MIT.

**2:00 p.m. - Family Afternoon at the Movies-The Tigger Movie.** \$2. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: MITAC.

**4:00 p.m. - Carnatic Vocal Concert.** Featuring T.V. Sankaranarayanan, vocal; Delhi P. Sunderarajan, violin; Thiruvurur M. Bakthavatsalam, mridangam. Presented by MITHAS (MIT Heritage of South Asia) in cooperation with Sangam. \$18, \$14—members, \$10—students. Room: Wong Auditorium. Sponsor: MITHAS.

**7:00 p.m. - Rear Window (1954).** \$3.00. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

**10:00 p.m. - The Importance of Being Earnest.** Rated PG for mild sensuality. \$3.00. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

## Monday, November 25

**9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Childrens' Skating Registration.** Room: W35-297X. Sponsor: Physical Education.

**10:00 a.m. - Admissions Information Session.** free. Room: Admissions Reception Center, Building 10, Room 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

**10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Chanukah Sale.** Sale of Chanukah related items including menorahs, candles, dreidels, Chanukah decorations, chocolate gelt, and small gift items. free. Room: Lobby 10. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT.

**10:45 a.m. - Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Blood Drive.** Come help save lives by donating blood or volunteering to help with our drive! See our web page for more information or to make an appointment to donate. free. Room: Student Center - La Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: American Red Cross Team and Network, Blood Drives.

**2:00 p.m. - Admissions Information Session.** free. Room: Admissions Reception Center, Building 10, Room 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

**2:45 p.m. - Campus Tour.** free. Room: Lobby 7 (Main Entrance Lobby at 77 Massachusetts Ave). Sponsor: Information Center.

**3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Rainbow Lounge Open.** MIT's resource lounge for lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgendered members of the community offers a place to hang out, various activities, and a lending library during its open hours. free. Room: 50-306. Sponsor: lbg@MIT.

**4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - "Counting rational curves with arbitrary singularities in projective spaces."** free. Room: 2-143. Sponsor: Differential Geometry Seminar. Department of Mathematics.

**5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Figuring Form.** Part of the colloquium REGULATING PLACE: Standards and the Shaping of Urban America. free. Room: Room 10-485. Sponsor: Department of Urban Studies and Planning.

**9:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. - Monday Night Football at The Ear.** Watch the game on The Thirsty Ear's big screen TV every Monday night. Tonight: Philadelphia vs. San Francisco Pub Hours: Monday: 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Tuesday - Thursday: 7 p.m. - 1 a.m. Friday: 4 p.m. - 1 a.m. The Thirsty Ear Pub is located in the basement of Ashdown House. Enter through the courtyard. Must be over 21. Proper ID required. Free. Room: The Thirsty Ear Pub. Sponsor: The Thirsty Ear Pub.

# Ask Arista

Dear Arista,  
Sometimes in recitation, no one says anything and I feel like I should speak up to break the silence. But I usually don't have anything important to say, so I end up saying stuff that doesn't make sense and feeling dumb. Can you suggest anything?

—Uncomfortable Undergrad

Dear Uncomfortable,  
It sounds like you have a hard time dealing with silence. Many people do. To make matters worse, the classroom setting often carries with it a pressure to participate, to prove to your instructor that you know your stuff and deserve a good grade, or at least that you're making an effort. Unfortunately, while your mouth may want to help you out in such situations, your brain may panic and refuse to deliver coherent sentences. Thus, the dilemma becomes whether to keep your mouth shut and let people wonder if you're a fool, or to open it and confirm their suspicions.

If the students in the room are drifting on unresponsive auto-pilot when the instructor asks a question, chances are they all have massive hangovers from their wild parties the night before, or more likely at MIT, they don't know what is going on in class. If this happens, you don't need to blurt out the first thing that pops into your head just to fill the void.

Take a moment. Ask yourself, "Do I understand what the teacher is asking?" I bet at least half the time when a teacher meets a stone wall of blank faces, it's because the students don't quite get what is being asked. Don't be embarrassed to ask for clarification. It will help everyone get closer to an answer and show that you're really thinking about the question and not just zoning out in class.

If you're clear on the question but still floundering for words, ask yourself "Am I comfortable enough with the subject matter to formulate a meaningful response?" If not, it may be a sign that you need to prepare more for this class. If things just aren't making sense, talk to a TA or a knowledgeable acquaintance. You may need to spend more time on the material or change your approach to your studies.

On the other hand, instructors sometime ask questions to which they don't expect students will know the answers. It may be to get students to think outside of what they've been taught, to hone their open-ended problem solving skills, or just to make them squirm. If you can recognize this sort of situation, feel free to hazard an educated guess and don't worry about how it sounds.

Finally, if you understand the question and have a fabulous response all planned out in your head, but it spirals cruelly away from you the minute you open your mouth and plunges you into an abyss of driving idiocy, you may be letting your anxiety get the better of you.

Not everyone finds it natural or easy to speak spontaneously in front of a crowd. I'd advise you to picture everyone in your class in their underwear, but let's face it, we're not at UCSD, and that's not necessarily something you'd want to see. Try jotting down the key points you want to make before you start speaking so you'll have something to reference if you lose your train of thought halfway through your response.

Good luck!

—Arista K.

Do you have a question you're dying to ask Arista? E-mail your question to <AristaK@mit.edu>, and it could appear in the next installment of "Ask Arista!"

# Recycled Clip Art

By Katie, Kailas, Karen and Jason



If I only had a brain... I could stop you from shitting on my arm little raven!

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## FEATURES

## Campus Profile — Christopher D. Vu

American Idol finalist discusses long road from singing in the shower to becoming a Log

By Eun J. Lee  
FEATURES EDITOR

Christopher D. Vu '04 showed his talent as a singer at MIT long before the Fox television show American Idol came along. The Course VI-2 (Electrical Engineering and Computer Science) major sings the part of tenor in the MIT Logarithms and also choreographs their performances. Vu is a member of Phi Kappa Theta fraternity and is originally from San Jose, California.

**The Tech:** When did you first start singing?

**Chris Vu:** My mom and dad had a karaoke machine when I was in fourth grade. Vietnamese people love to sing even if they're really bad. I lost a lot of sleep as a little kid because my mom's friends would sing 'til four in the morning. That's probably why I'm so short. (Editor's note: Vu is 5-foot-4.) One day I went out in the kitchen and tried to sing on the machine, and when my mom saw me, she pointed and laughed at me.

I was so embarrassed. I tossed the mic down on the floor and ran and vowed never to sing in front of anyone again. It was my first attempt to sing, and she laughed at me ... I was so intrigued by black vocalists that I spent my whole life in the shower basically trying to emulate that.

I started slowly coming out of my shell senior year. I decided to try out to sing the national anthem for my high school graduation. That was my dream, but I never thought it would happen.

I went up against this 5-person female a capella group — one girl brought her personal voice instructor to the audition, another had sung the national anthem since she was a freshman, and then there was me — the guy who sang in the shower since the fourth grade. When I opened my mouth and sang, the music director loved it. So, I sang the national anthem at my graduation. Ninety-five percent of the peo-



YI XIE—THE TECH

**Chian H. Chuu G interviews Christopher D. Vu '04 following a Logarithms performance. Chuu will feature Vu on her show "All Music," which features MIT music groups. This segment of the show was taped on Sunday at Sidney-Pacific Graduate Residence and will air Dec. 8 on MITV 36.**

ple there had never heard me sing before and they were just shocked I could sing at all. Someone even told me I made them cry — that meant a lot to me.

With that in my bag — that's what I put on my audition sheet when I tried out for the Logs — I came here and wanted to be in a singing group. I auditioned for the Chorallaries, Toons, and the Logs, and I almost didn't make it into any of them. I couldn't read music when I came to MIT, but I could sing. The Chorallaries and Toons butchered me on the sight reading parts of their auditions. Afterwards, I felt like I'd failed 3.5 tests. The Logs almost didn't take me, too, because I couldn't pick up the music very quickly since I'd never done it before. But [Collins P. Ward '03] and [Karl A. Erdmann

'02] fought for me, saying "He's got a voice. Let's put our money on him," and I'm glad they did.

**TT:** So who is your idol?

**Vu:** Stevie Wonder. He made 40 years of music. He has been blind from birth, and he's a lot of people's idol. His first album came out when he was 12 — it was called "12-year-old Genius." He has a distinct and legendary voice. I can only hope to do him justice when I sing his songs.

**TT:** Do you ever find that audiences that aren't familiar with your singing are skeptical when you first walk on a stage?

**Vu:** Oh yeah, and you know what? I love that. I like being the underdog. [Randy Jackson's] comment to me — "I never thought a

voice like that could come out of a body like yours" — that's exactly what I want to hear because it gives me an advantage. They can make any assumptions they want — if they make bad ones, all the more reason for me to prove them wrong.

**TT:** Do you find that the ability to sing well helps you pick up chicks?

**Vu:** No, because it would be a little odd if I were just to come up to a girl and start singing. I think that having a reputation as a singer helps me meet people. I'm not interested in getting girls because I'm very happy with my short little lovely lady at home.

**TT:** What is your vocal range?

**Vu:** About four octaves. More specifically, on the low end, an E flat or F, and on the high register, it would be the C [an octave] above the high C that I sing in "Man in the Mirror." I can hit it every now and then.

**TT:** What is it like to go on tour with the Logs?

**Vu:** You feel like a rock star, plain and simple. Everywhere we go, we sing, and the crowd goes crazy. I think even if I didn't get this opportunity to be on American Idol, I still think that I've already gotten a taste of what it is like to be a rock star from being a Log, and I treasure that.

**TT:** What's a typical day like for you?

**Vu:** I wake up, I go to school, I try to find every spare moment I can to go to the piano because I really, really want to learn. I want to be able to sing and play and write my own music, which I started doing only this term. I go to Logs rehearsal and do my thing. Then I come home to my house and do homework. This term is lab, lab, lab. I hate 6.111 [Introductory Digital Systems Laboratory]. It makes my life suck, but it teaches me a lot. I'm very grateful for that — my brain is definitely bigger.

**TT:** What's your favorite ice cream flavor?

**Vu:** I don't have one, but I'm open to new things.

## Vu beats out thousands in 'American Idol' auditions

Vu, from Page 1

up believing I was a bad singer," Vu said.

Determined to get an answer, Vu decided to fly to the next audition he could make, which was being held in Austin, Texas. He tried to finish his work early, which was tough for Introduction to Digital Systems Laboratory (6.111), fondly known as "digital death lab." "I didn't finish my lab on time, but I bought the plane ticket. It didn't matter how much it cost," Vu said.

**Vu arrives in Austin, waits in line for days**

Vu booked a flight to Austin leaving on Nov. 4 and returning six days later. "For all I knew, I could have been cut there the first day and stuck there for 6 days," Vu said.

He was picked up at the airport by members of the Kappa Delta Phi sorority, and he stayed with them during the week. The women are local friends of his sister, who is in the same sorority at the University of California, San Diego.

The auditions began two days later, but Vu was prepared to start waiting in line to beat the crowd. The line was allowed to form outside the Austin DoubleTree Hotel starting at 11 a.m. the day after he arrived. "There was a

hoard of people waiting. It was like a race — people started running to get in line," Vu said.

Each person in line got a number — Vu was #187. For the next 36 hours, he sat on the cement in the blazing sun. By that night, over 5,000 people were in line. Of these, only 2,000 got wristbands. In the morning, Vu got a wristband and audition number. He was the 11,581st person to audition for the show.

**Vu beats out 2,000 competitors in Austin**

During the first round of the auditions, Vu was asked to sing for only a minute in front of Jon Entz, an executive producer of the show.

At the last minute, Vu had to ditch the song he was planning to sing, "At Last" by Etta James. The producers named it among a list of songs that they were sick of hearing. The others included "A Moment Like This" by American Idol 1 winner Kelly Clarkson, "Hero" by Mariah Carey, and anything by Whitney Houston.

Vu opted to sing one of the songs he was learning for the Logs — "I Wish" by Stevie Wonder. However, he hadn't fully memorized the lyrics yet. During his audition, he forgot the words. Despite this mistake, Vu was

among 250 others to make it past this first test.

In the next round, Vu made sure he had his song memorized and also sang "You Remind Me," another song he learned with the Logs. "I was so used to singing it, there was no way I could forget the words," Vu said. He auditioned in front of co-executive producer Nigel Lythgoe and moved on further with only sixty others.

The final audition in Austin was held at the Hyatt Regency. This time, the auditions were taped one by one in front of the three judges on the show: Paula Abdul, Simon Cowell, and Randy Jackson. "The judges are definitely the way they appear on TV. Simon is a walking asshole," Vu said.

Vu sang "I Wish" for the judges "the way I would sing for the MIT community." With a vote of 2 to 1 (the one vote of no coming from Simon), he moved on to Hollywood.

"Randy said, 'I never imagined a voice like that coming out of a body like yours,'" Vu said. Vu was one in about 15 out of 2,000 that moved on to the final round from Austin.

**Son's imminent fame unknown to parents**

Vu's family had no idea he was in Austin. "My mom doesn't need another thing to worry about," he said. "She's a little woman."

Three days before he left for Austin, Vu's family lost their house. His father was also recently in a car accident and currently cannot walk. After he found out he was going to Hollywood, the show's producers gave him a phone to call his mom.

Vu's mom didn't believe him when he first told her about the competition. "I had to hand the phone over to the producer to convince my mom this is for real," Vu said.

**Vu may be absent from Logs fall concert**

Only around 200 people will be at the Hollywood callbacks. Everyday, around 30 will be cut until the field is narrowed down to the top 30. If Vu makes it to the end, he will return home on Dec. 14.

This means he might miss the Logs' home concert, which will be held in Kresge Auditorium on December 13.

"The home concert at MIT is everything to us. The farther I make it, it's going to tear me apart," Vu said. The Logs are preparing two different sets for their winter performance — one with and one without Vu.

"Of course the concert will not be the same without him," Ward said. "But we wish Vu the best and [hope] he will advance ... He deserves it."

Pioneers in Science And Engineering  
Alfred Nobel

By Tomas Lin

What comes to your mind when you think about the Nobel Prize? You might think of the MIT faculty or other brilliant people who have won one. But would you think of Alfred Nobel, the man for whom the prize was named? Not only was Nobel a great engineer, but his life's work was a great benefit to society.

Nobel was born in Sweden in 1833. From a young age, he started showing interest in science, particularly Chemistry. Nobel was self-taught and did not attend college.



Being extremely devoted toward the advancement of science, Nobel spent his days and nights studying and working. He pursued inventions in many fields, particularly synthetic materials. His work led to 355 patents over the course of his lifetime. However, despite his successes, Nobel remained a modest man.

Nobel's best known invention is dynamite, which is especially useful in building and construction.

Above all, Nobel wanted to be of service to mankind. He accomplished this not only through his inventions, but also through the wealth he amassed from his worldwide business enterprises. After he died in 1896, it was discovered that he had left the majority of his estate to a fund known today as The Nobel Foundation. Since 1900, the fund has awarded monetary prizes and medals each year to

individuals whose works have benefited mankind. The Nobel Prize, as it came to be called, has become a prestigious award that recognizes notable individuals for their contributions to society.

Nobel Prizes are awarded in the areas of Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Peace.

Nobel's dreams were to advance science and to be a service to mankind. A hundred years after his death, he continues to help society through his fund, which recognizes other people who have contributed to society.

*Pioneers in Science and Engineering* will spotlight the work of a notable scientist or engineer every week. Contributors are members of MIT's chapter of the National Engineering Fraternity Tau Beta Pi.



# Ask SIPB

## STUDENT INFORMATION PROCESSING BOARD

Mailing lists are an important part of life here at MIT — it seems like every group has one, if not six. Maintaining mailing lists is easy, if you learn a few simple tools. This week, we will be answering questions about mailing lists at MIT, which use a system called Moira.

**Question:** How can I easily manage the mailing lists I am on?

**Answer:** At the Athena prompt, type:  
athena% mailmaint  
Then, choose an option from the menu, and follow the instructions.

**Question:** What is a mailing list administrator?

**Answer:** The administrator has the power to add and remove members, and to alter list settings such as list name, description, public/private, and visibility. If no administrators are specified, all list members are administrators by default — note that if the list is also public, any Athena user can add himself and become an administrator. (Only Athena accounts can be list administrators.)

**Question:** What is a "Membership ACL" and what is it good for?

**Answer:** A Membership ACL (Access Control List) is a way to allow a person or persons to add/remove people from a list, without giving full administrative powers. Since the Membership ACL users cannot change the attributes of the list (description, public/private, visibility, etc.), they cannot "steal" the list, but they can take care of most day-to-day operations.

To separate membership control from settings control, e-mail <accounts@mit.edu> with your request. The Membership ACL can be controlled with listmaint or blanche, and the ACL can even be set to the list itself.

**Question:** How can I determine the administrators of a mailing list to ask a question about the list?

**Answer:** It is considered impolite to send questions about a mailing list, such as requests for removal or other help, to the list itself. The reasoning is simple — when you send such mail to the list, many people have to read your message, while only a handful are likely to be able to help you.

These requests should instead be sent to the list administrators. For MIT mailing lists, you can find information about a mailing list and its administrators by typing:

```
athena% blanche -i listname
```

Alternatively, run mailmaint, and choose option 4.

The list administrator, or owner, should be listed. You can then e-mail that address with questions or requests.

If that fails, there are a couple of conventions that may help. Given a list such as <listname@mit.edu>, the two most common addresses to try are <listname-request@mit.edu> and <owner-listname@mit.edu>.

**Question:** How do I get on/off this list?

**Answer:** Many lists will allow you to perform these operations yourself. In this case, you can type:

```
athena% blanche listname -d username
```

```
athena% blanche listname -a username
```

to add yourself to the list. Sometimes, however, you will get an error message like

```
/usr/athena/bin/blanche: Insufficient permission to perform requested database access while ...
```

In this case, you need to contact the administrators of the list as described above.

If you prefer a menu-driven system, you can use mailmaint instead. Run mailmaint, and choose option 5 to add yourself to a list, or choose option 6 to delete yourself from one.

**Question:** How can I see which mailing lists I am subscribed to?

**Answer:** To find out what mailing lists you are on, run mailmaint, and choose option 3. This is helpful for checking

whether you are on a certain list, or for determining what lists you might want to unsubscribe from.

**Question:** How can I find who is subscribed to a mailing list?

**Answer:** Sometimes, it is helpful to see whether other people are subscribed to a particular mailing list, or just get an idea of how many people are subscribed.

At the Athena prompt, type:

```
athena% blanche listname
```

Alternatively, run mailmaint, and choose option 2.

**Question:** How can I manage mailing lists over the Web?

**Answer:** There is a Web-based system available for managing Moira mailing lists. It is located at <<http://web.mit.edu/moira/>>. It allows you to do several of the most common mailing list administrative actions, though it is somewhat less powerful than the tools on Athena. MIT Certificates are required.

**Question:** What does it mean for a list to be public?

**Answer:** Public lists are open to everyone, and you can freely add yourself to them without any special approval. Private lists, on the other hand, are restricted, and only the list administrators or the membership administrators can add users to the list.

**Question:** How can I create my own mailing list?

**Answer:** If you have an Athena account, you can create an MIT mailing list by filling out <<http://web.mit.edu/accounts/www/make-a-list.html>> (or send the information to <accounts@mit.edu>). For more on list creation, see <[http://web.mit.edu/answers/accounts/accounts\\_listmaint.html](http://web.mit.edu/answers/accounts/accounts_listmaint.html)>.

If you have any other questions, feel free to e-mail us at <[sipb@mit.edu](mailto:sipb@mit.edu)>. We'll try to get back to you, and we might put your answer in our next column. Visit our Web site at <<http://web.mit.edu/asksipb>>.

## Training to Serve

MIT's ROTC cadets may play active role in U.S. war with Iraq

By Michelle Povinelli

STAFF WRITER

Unlike other graduating seniors, Boris A. Bosch '03 doesn't have to fill out any job applications. Nor does he have to write a resume. As a Navy ROTC cadet, he has a guaranteed job. In the spring, he will find out whether he can get his top choice: a surface warfare post in Japan.

In the event of U.S. military action in Iraq, Bosch is one of the MIT students who are likely to be involved. "Iraq is such a hot spot, you kind of end up there sooner or later, no matter where you're assigned," he said. "My mom is scared to death."

For him, though, it is all part of the job. "You know you've been trained well to do what you do," Bosch said. "If everyone else is trained well, too, your personal safety isn't really at risk."

There are roughly 180 students in the Army, Navy, and Air Force ROTC programs at MIT, which also include students from Tufts and Harvard. Of these, about 35 will graduate this year. During their time at MIT, students in ROTC do coursework in military science and participate in leadership and professional training activities, in addition to their usual course loads. In return for scholarship assistance, they commit to serving a minimum of four years in the military after graduation, depending on their specialty.

### Commissioned to duty

After graduating from MIT, cadets are commissioned into the armed forces. The type of job they are assigned depends on the branch of the military they are in. Air Force cadets for the most part enter engineering jobs in the US, working in areas like research and development or acquisitions.

In contrast, about 95 percent of Navy ROTC students go into warfare positions. "We produce officers to go out and drive ships and to fly airplanes into combat," said Navy Lieutenant Kelly Baker, instructor in naval science.

Army cadets tend to go into active duty in combat branches as well, although the engineering branch of the Army is also popular with MIT students.

Army cadets can also choose to serve in the reserves or National Guard. After graduating from MIT, Cadet Aneal Krishnan '02 will be going to New York to work as an investment banker at Goldman Sachs. At the same time, he will be a platoon leader in the New York National Guard. In event of military action in Iraq, units like his could be called up to active duty. Part of his job will be to help "maintain a base level of combat readiness in case mobilization happens," he said.

### Political awareness instilled in cadets

After they are commissioned, ROTC



Adam Aviles, a Harvard senior in the Air Force Cadet Wing based at MIT, draws a diagram on his clipboard to show Cadet Isabel M. Bernal '05 where to march with her flag. The drill was part of the leadership workshop that Air Force cadets attend each Monday in Johnson Athletic Center.

cadets will be operating within a strict structure of military command. However, this does not prevent them from developing their own views on current political issues. "We give [our cadets] general public affairs guidelines," said Captain Alan Wiernicki, Army ROTC training officer. "But we stop short of telling them what to say."

According to Bosch, developing political awareness is an important part of his training as a naval officer. "It's important to understand what's going on, because you are definitely part of the news — you are the instrument by which America exerts its will," he said. In his Navy ROTC lab, cadets presented current events updates and discussed the pros and cons of specific issues, in particular the situation in Iraq.

Krishnan says that although he often wears his uniform on campus, other students rarely ask him about his views. "When I'm on the T,"

he added, "I get people asking me questions."

### Life as an MIT student and ROTC cadet

Like other Air Force ROTC students, Melanie S. Woo '03 has to get up early on Monday mornings — leadership laboratory begins at 6:30 a.m. Aside from the early mornings, she says that one of the hardest parts of being a cadet is "balancing the time you spend in ROTC with your other coursework." On this particular day, she is teaching younger cadets how to bring in the American flag during the Color Guard ceremony. Other senior cadets are instructing groups in rifle- and flag-handling procedures. A group of new cadets, not yet in uniform, are learning the basics of marching.

These activities are "largely to train discipline and concentration," said Captain David Henry, commandant of cadets in the Air Force ROTC program.

Aside from occasional marching, the

leadership labs, which are part of all three ROTC programs, include professional development training, military training, and athletics. Students must also complete coursework in military science. Navy ROTC students, for example, take one course in Naval Science per semester, including NS.201, Naval Weapons Systems, and NS.402, Leadership and Ethics.

"It really cuts into your sleep schedule," Bosch said of his 7:30 a.m. classes. "You have to be just that much more on top of things."

Field training is also important. Army ROTC cadets, for example, attend one week-end-long exercise per semester, where they "run an obstacle course, live in barracks, and do different leadership activities," according to Wiernicki. They also train at the rifle range and learn field infantry tactics.

### Reasons students join ROTC

"I've wanted to be in the military ever since I was young," Woo said. "I originally wanted to fly for the Air Force, but didn't make the height requirement. So I decided to be an [Air Force] engineer instead."

Bosch comes from a family with a long history of military service. "I probably wouldn't have been able to come to MIT without the scholarship," he said. "And on top of that, I want to do it for my country."

ROTC scholarships vary somewhat from program to program. Most Navy cadets are on full scholarship, while some Army cadets receive tuition only. Some cadets receive cost of living stipends, ranging from \$250-\$400 per month. While the financial incentive is important, Woo feels that its importance should not be overestimated. "I think that serving your country is on the top of everyone's list here," she said.

### ROTC teaches lessons for life

"The Army's focus is on leadership," said Colonel Brian Baker, Battalion Commander for the Army ROTC program. "We look to train the best leaders in the world." He likes to point out that MIT President Emeritus Paul E. Gray '54 and Harvard President Neil L. Rudenstine both got their initial leadership training in ROTC.

When this year's graduating cadets get to their new posts, some will find themselves with up to 35 people under their command. Cadets agree that preparing for this type of leadership role is something that happens in ROTC — not in most other MIT classes. "How to talk to your people, how to inspire them — that's important," Bosch said. For now, his job prospects are secure. But if, like the rest of this year's graduating class, he ever finds himself on the job market, he hopes the skills learned in ROTC will help to set him apart from the competition.



# Life's Lessons

## Tailoring curricula to solve community issues

By Cathy Yao

Ten Odyssey High School Students and eighteen MIT freshmen crowd into a small classroom one Thursday afternoon for a section of the introductory writing class: Culture Shock! Writing, Editing, and Publishing in Cyberspace (21W.731).

The two groups of students are meeting to collaborate on creating an online magazine for the class. The last magazine, created in Fall 2000, was a compilation of the freshmen students' best essays. This year, the class is hoping to include submissions from their writing buddies at Odyssey.

This project is in collaboration with Write-Boston, a program which coordinates local high schools with universities to form programs to improve writing and inspire a love for the art.

"Culture Shock!" is just one example of the abundant and various forms of service learning going on at MIT. Service learning is a teaching method that brings community service projects into the academic curriculum to enrich both the student's learning experience and the surrounding community. Working in real-life community projects reinforces the principles taught in the classroom while at the same time offering help to the local community.

### Service learning in engineering

The Product Engineering Process (2.009) is a capstone course in the course for mechanical engineering. This term, ten teams of sixteen students each are developing a device to help people with developmental disabilities shower by themselves. Showering, a task many often overlook as a small part of daily life, is a large source of personal dignity for the disabled.

Arthur Musah '04 and Rachana D. Oza '04 have designed a way to manufacture charcoal briquettes from waste products in the timber industry of Ghana, providing a new alternative source to wood for fuel, in their public service design seminar.

An effort to organize and support 'service learning' at MIT was started two years ago by Sally Susnowitz, Director of the Public Service Center, and Amy Smith of the Edgerton Center. Service learning classes incorporate a component of service to the community. The goal was to not only bridge the gap between theory and practice, but also to increase student awareness of impact they can make in the application of their studies.

"Service learning can not only help students understand the material better, but it also gets them more excited about how the work fits into the world and what they can do with their skills for the greater good," said Amy Banzaert, Service Learning and Outreach Coordinator of the

PSC.

Service learning is meant to provide a better understanding of community dynamics, global moral and ethical issues, and civic responsibility.

Ongoing service learning programs have been established in freshman advising seminars, public service design seminars, certain elective,

core, and capstone classes, and thesis projects. There are currently 15 classes with service learning integrated into their curricula, ranging from "Culture Shock!" to 2.009.

In freshman advising seminars, service learning can be a transition between high school and college by allowing freshman to become

more familiar with their new community.

Public service design seminars have a number of different focuses. In one project, students are making security grates for homeless shelters.

Another way to get involved in community service is to participate in the campus-wide IDEAS Competition, based on the same principle as MIT's \$50K competition. In the IDEAS Competition, the best student-proposed community service projects are awarded up to \$20,000 to help implement the ideas. This year's funded projects range from making a watch that helps the deaf deal with telephones and doorbells to helping homeless children in Nairobi.

According to Banzaert, service learning at MIT is heading for further growth. Although it will remain an optional student opportunity, it will grow "as much as appropriate, no more, no less, but at this point, there has been plenty of positive feedback."

### Service opportunities beyond the classroom

Besides service learning, which must be done for credits, there are many many other opportunities to do community service outside of the classroom, particularly as the holiday season comes upon us.

The Giving Tree is an annual holiday toy drive with a twist. Sponsored by the PSC and the Panhellenic Association, Giving Tree matches members of the MIT community with underprivileged families from various local community organizations. Participants are given the name, age, sex, and gift requests of a child. This year, the PSC has around 800 children that would otherwise not receive any presents this holiday season.

"The Giving Tree is a really satisfying endeavor because it's a toy drive that's much more personal because we can match people," said Heather Trickett, project coordinator and office manager of the PSC. "Folks really like the idea of knowing the child instead of just dropping off a toy in a box."

### Student-led initiatives encouraged

Aside from the many programs set up through the PSC, there are also countless programs initiated and run by students. For example, the CommuniTech program coordinated by students bridges the technological divide by refurbishing old computers for needy families and also teaching them how to use them.

"If nothing else, I want people to leave knowing that the PSC is the place to go for community service, big or small," Banzaert said. Students are welcome any time in the office, currently located on the fifth floor of the student center in W20-547. In early December, the PSC will be moved to the more central location of room 4-104 in the Infinite Corridor.

## Service Opportunities

Looking to do some community service? Here is a list of some of the programs that are coming up or ongoing at the PSC or around MIT.

### Holiday drives:

**Blood Drive, sponsored by the American Red Cross**

A blood drive will be held in La Sala de Puerto Rico (second floor of the Student Center) next Monday and Tuesday from noon to 6 p.m. To make an appointment to donate or for more information, go to <http://web.mit.edu/blood-drive/www/>.

**The 2002 Community Giving at MIT Campaign, sponsored by United Way of Mass. Bay, MIT Community Service Fund, and other Charities**

The Campaign runs from Oct. 31, 2002 through Dec. 31, 2002, and participants may contribute to a broad variety of local health and human services agencies. For more information, go to <http://web.mit.edu/community-giving/index2.html>.

**The Giving Tree, sponsored by the PSC and Panhel**

Get matched up with an underprivileged child and make his Christmas wishes come true by fulfilling his gift request. There will be a booth in Lobby 10 Nov. 25 to 26, and from Dec. 2 to 12.

**All-We-Can-Carry Thanksgiving Food Drive, sponsored by Sigma Nu**

This week, the 2006 Pledge class will wear black sashes and carry around donated canned goods, pastas, and other non-perishable foods for The Greater Boston Food Bank and The Salvation Army.

**Rice Sticks and Tea Asian Food Drive Program, sponsored by the Chinese Students Association**

Donate Asian foods to asian immigrants and refugee families. The project is in cooperation with the Asian Food Pantry Collaborative.

**Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, sponsored by the Chinese Students Association**

Donate linens and toiletries to battered asian families, from Nov. 20 to 27.

**Hungry Hungry Hippos, sponsored by the Hunger Action Group**

Donate to CASPAR (a homeless shelter near MIT) and get the chance to play the game Hungry Hungry Hippos on the first floor of the Student Center, Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

### PSC year-round service opportunities:

**CommuniTech and the MIT Used Computer Factory (UCF)**

These two programs work together to refurbish old computers and give them to families in need as well as train them to use the technology through Families Accessing Computer Technology (FACT).

**MultiCity**  
MIT students mentor and tutor at Tutoring Plus' Homework Center.

**ReachOut**  
Tutors are matched with local kids to help with writing and reading skills.

**Science Mentoring**  
MIT mentors are matched with high school students specifically in science areas.

**Keys to Empowering Youth (KEYS)**  
Mentors girls interested in science and technology.

**LINKS**  
Volunteers fill a wide range of roles in Cambridge Public School science classrooms.

**The Science Expo**  
This annual spring science fair brings hundreds of Cambridge Public School middle schoolers to MIT to showcase their science projects.

This information was compiled by Cathy Yao.

# Gadget Review

## Ceiva Digital Photo Receiver

By Kailas Narendran

STAFF WRITER

As our world spins into a digital cataclysm, those silver-haired wonders we call grandparents (and sometimes parents) are left behind the technological divide.

Despite the best laid plans of software giants, I don't really see many seniors leaving their comfort zone, embracing and leveraging opportunities presented by the internet. It seems like when you become a grandparent (or a retired parent), the only thing you love more than golf and sunshine are your offspring.

The million-dollar question is how to keep in touch with your beloved elders — without buying tickets to Florida, sending snail mail, or making those calls before their bedtime of 8 p.m. The folks at Ceiva have answered the call with their Digital Photo Receiver.

### Internet enabled photo frame

The Ceiva Digital Photo Receiver is a brilliant solution to the perfect problem of this age. I like to call it an "Internet enabled photo frame." The unit, with a subscription to the service, allows you to send digital pictures to the frame through the Internet.

Every night, the unit uses a standard phone line to access a local dial-up number to keep its collection of pictures up to date. The beautiful part is that it requires almost no technical knowledge from the person that is using the receiver.

Right out of the box, the device looks like a nicely matted 4-inch-by-6-inch picture frame.

What I liked most about this product was the simple installation. All the recipient has to do is plug in the phone line, plug in power,

and hold down the white button on the back of the unit.

Upon initial power up, the LCD lights up as the unit calls a toll free number to download its configuration information, entered through the Ceiva Web site with a subscription to the service. From that point onward, the device calls a local number to automatically download new images every night.

This device is an amazing blend of various

everything important. In the end, however, the ease of use of the control site isn't as important as the ease of use of the receiving frame, since the "administrator" of the frame, if you will, can be someone who is comfortable navigating the Web.

### Remotely administering frame settings

From the Web site you can control which pictures are showing on the frame, settings



The Ceiva Digital Photo Receiver downloads digital images directly from the internet.

technologies that push the burden of knowledge onto the giving party, who is responsible for uploading pictures to the frame via the Web, and for configuring the device. I think the design of the control Web site is a bit cluttered, but with a little searching you can find

such as slideshow pause time, what time of the day the frame turns off, dial-up numbers, and a number of other settings. In addition, you can tweak pictures and add custom messages and borders to them. You can even schedule when pictures are actually sent to the

frame, creating a unique substitute for greeting cards.

The individual who controls the subscription can also invite anyone with an e-mail address to send pictures to the frame as well, providing an easy interface to a group gift.

I have to say that I was very impressed with almost all aspects of this system. The demo frame I received was actually pre-configured from the factory. When I plugged it in and pressed the button, it actually gave me error messages saying it couldn't connect to the local dial-up. As the helpful technical support people were trying to figure out what was wrong, the frame figured it out itself (it was configured for a California dial-up number), and redialed the main 800 number, reconfigured itself, and started working fine. Needless to say, I was impressed with the robustness of the system.

### Unit operator interface remarkably simple

The operator interface on the frame itself consists of only two buttons: a brightness button on the back, and a white button that forces a reconnect. The LCD on the frame isn't as sharp as a computer monitor, but it does a decent job. The viewing angle is about 15 degrees up and down, and about 45 degrees to either side, perfect for desk use.

Another amazing aspect of this whole setup is the cost. You can buy a new frame through the Ceiva Web site for \$150, but I've found them online for as low as \$100. The cost of service varies from \$5 to \$8 per month, depending on how long you sign up for. I'm not sure how they do it, but all of this seems like a great deal to me. For more details about the system, check out <http://www.ceiva.com>.



# Clubs

**Axis**  
13 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2437  
Sundays: See Avalon below.  
Mondays: *Static*. Gay, casual dress. \$5, 18+.  
Thursdays: *Chrome/Skybar*. Progressive house, soul, disco; dress code. \$10, 19+; \$8, 21+.  
Fridays: *Avalandx*, with Avalon.  
Saturdays: *X-night* (rock, alternative, techno, hip-hop) downstairs and *Move* (techno) upstairs.

**Avalon**  
15 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2424  
Sundays: *Gay Night* (with Axis on long weekends). Featuring hardcore house and techno. \$10, 21+.  
Thursdays: *International Night*. Eurohouse. \$10, 19+.  
Fridays: *Avalandx*, with Axis. House. \$15, 19+.  
Saturdays: *Downtown*. Modern house, club classics, and Top 40 hits. \$15, 21+.

**Karma Club**  
9 Lansdowne St., 617-421-9595  
Sundays: "Current dance favorites" by guest DJs. Cover varies.  
Tuesdays: *Phatt Tuesdays*. With Bill's Bar, modern dance music. \$10.  
Wednesdays: *STP*. Gay-friendly, house. \$15, 21+.  
Thursdays: *Groove Factor*. House.  
Fridays: *Spin cycle*. Prog. house. 19+.  
Saturdays: *Elements of Life*. International House. \$15.

**ManRay**  
21 Brookline St., Cambridge, 617-864-0400  
Wednesdays: *Curses*. Goth. Appropriate dress required. \$5, 19+; \$3, 21+.  
Thursdays: *Campus*. Popular tunes. House. Gay, casual dress. \$10, 19+; \$8, 21+.  
Fridays: *Fantasy Factory* (First and third Friday of the month. Features kinky fetishes and industrial music.) *Hell Night* (every second Friday.) 19+. Includes Goth music. *Ooze* (the last Friday of the month.) \$10, 21+. Reduced prices for those wearing fetish gear.  
Saturdays: *Liquid*. Disco/house and New Wave. \$15, 19+; \$10, 21+.

# Popular Music

**Axis**  
13 Lansdowne St., Boston, MA. 617-262-2437

Dec. 11-15: *Mighty Mighty Bosstones*  
Dec. 30: *Catch 22*

**Avalon**  
15 Lansdowne St., Boston, MA. 617-262-2424

Nov. 22: Ani DiFranco  
Nov. 23: Beenie Man  
Nov. 27: Frank Black and the Catholics, The Bennies  
Dec. 2: The Wallflowers, Ours  
Dec. 3: Stone Sour, Chevelle  
Dec. 5: Ben Folds, Rubyhorse, Dishwalla  
Dec. 6: Melissa Ferrick, Pamela Means  
Dec. 9: Insane Clown Posse, E-Sham, Anybody Killla  
Dec. 10: Everclear, Audiovent  
Dec. 11: New Found Glory  
Dec. 30: The Slip

**Berklee Performance Center**  
Berklee College of Music, 1140 Boylston St., Boston, MA.  
Free student recitals and faculty concerts, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. some weekdays. For info on these concerts, call the Performance Information Line at 617-266-2261.

Dec. 13: Charlie Haden

**Bill's Bar**  
5.5 Lansdowne St., Boston, MA. 617-421-9678

Nov. 22: Default Outfit

# On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston  
November 22 - 28  
Compiled by Devdoot Majumdar

Send submissions to <ott@the-tech.mit.edu> or by interdepartmental mail to "On The Town," The Tech, W20-483.

Nov. 23: Allister, Don't Look Down  
Nov. 25: Confront

**Club Passim**  
47 Palmer St., Cambridge, MA. 617-492-7679  
Tuesdays: *Open Mic at 8 p.m.* (sign up at 7:30). \$5. See <http://www.clubpassim.com> for complete schedule

Dec. 5: Stephen Kellogg  
Dec. 7: Sam Shaber  
Dec. 11: Rose Polenzani  
Dec. 14: Jim's Big Ego

**FleetCenter**  
One FleetCenter, Boston, MA. 617-931-2787

Nov. 25: Peter Gabriel  
Nov. 30: Shakira  
Dec. 2: Guns N' Roses  
Dec. 14: Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers  
Dec. 15: Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer  
Jan. 12: The Rolling Stones

**The Middle East**  
Central Square, 617-354-8238  
Ticketmaster: 617-931-2787.  
Venue has two floors. Upstairs (U), Downstairs (D)  
<http://www.mideastclub.com>

Nov. 22: Karate, Check Engine  
Nov. 23: Flag of the Shiners (D), Mare Wakefield and Ksena Mack (Free)  
Nov. 24: Planet X  
Nov. 25: Mancini/Colburn (21+ Free)

Nov. 26: Dick Tate  
Nov. 27: Isle of Citadel  
Nov. 29: Eyes, Adrift, Bleu  
Nov. 30: Caberet Diosa, Bio Ritmo  
Dec. 1: Anodyne, Cable  
Dec. 2: Fixer, Midget Jesus  
Dec. 3: The Procepy, Named by Strangers, GEL  
Dec. 4: Redshift 6, Boatyard Resin, Oddfellows  
Dec. 5: Roger Meritt and the Disasters, Jeepers H Crackers  
Dec. 6: DJ Spooky, Moonraker  
Dec. 7: Denali, The French Kicks, The Realistics, Certainly Sir  
Dec. 8: El Vez  
Dec. 11: The Vines, Interpol  
Dec. 12: The Slackers, Mass Hysteria  
Dec. 13: Iluminada, The Tourist, Reuben

**Orpheum Theatre**  
1 Hamilton Pl., Boston, MA. 617-679-0810

Dec. 5: Guster  
Dec. 6: Martin Sexton  
Dec. 10: Indigo Girls, Aimee Mann  
Dec. 11: Coldplay, OK Go  
Dec. 14: Jon Stewart

**Paradise Rock Club**  
967 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA. 617-562-8804

Nov. 22: Peter Wolf  
Nov. 23: The Gentlemen  
Nov. 27: Tribe of Judah, Must  
Nov. 29: Deep Banana Blackout  
Nov. 30: The Push Stars  
Dec. 5: Robert Randolph  
Dec. 6: Leftover Salmon  
Dec. 11: Moby  
Dec. 14: Los Straightjackets  
Jan. 31: Averi



ALBERT SANCHEZ

Never has *The Tech* chanced missing the opportunity to spotlight Ani DiFranco, who comes to Avalon tonight, with a \$35 pricetag.

**Tsongas Arena**  
300 Arcand Dr., Lowell, MA. 978-848-6900.

Nov. 29: JoDee Messina  
Dec. 11: KISS 108 Jingle Ball with Nelly, Kylie Minogue, O-Town, Destiny's Child  
Dec. 28: Trans Siberian Orchestra  
Jan. 30: David Gray

**TT The Bear's**  
10 Brookline St., Cambridge, MA. 617-931-2000.  
<http://www.ttthebears.com>

Nov. 22: The Shods, Damone  
Nov. 23: Superdrag  
Nov. 24: The Fleece, Inverness, Die Electric, Gallery  
Nov. 25: Seether, Stage, No December  
Nov. 26: Simi Anderson  
Nov. 27: Trillionaires  
Nov. 18: Gloria Record  
Nov. 29: Stereo Total  
Nov. 30: Dude of Life  
Dec. 1: The Pilot Light  
Dec. 3: Paula Kelley  
Dec. 4: Corporate Whore CD Release  
Dec. 5: The So and So's  
Dec. 6: The Detroit Cobras  
Dec. 7: AdFrank & The Fast Easy Women  
Dec. 8: Alicia Champion  
Dec. 9: Katie McD  
Dec. 10: Todd Deatherage Band  
Dec. 11: SR-71, Sugarcult  
Dec. 12: The So and So's  
Dec. 13: Black 47  
Dec. 14: Slobberbone

**Worcester's Centrum Centre**  
50 Foster St., Worcester, MA. 508-755-6800

<http://www.centrumcentre.com>

Dec. 22: Boston Pops Holiday Concert

**Worcester Palladium**  
261 Main St., Worcester, MA. 617-797-2000  
<http://www.thepalladium.com>

Nov. 27: Saves the Day

# Jazz

**Regattabar**  
1 Bennett St., Cambridge, MA. 617-662-5000, <http://www.regattabar.com> Usually two shows nightly, call for details.

Nov. 22: Luciana Souza, Romero Lubambo  
Nov. 23: Donna Byrne Quintet  
Nov. 26: Armandinho and The Tuscan Trio  
Nov. 27: Panorama: Calypso & Sorca Ensemble  
Nov. 29: The Bruce Katz Band  
Nov. 30: The New Black Eagle Jazz Band  
Dec. 26-29: Chick Corea New Trio

**Ryles Jazz Club**  
212 Hampshire St., Cambridge, MA. 617-876-9330  
Venue has two floors. Upstairs (U), Downstairs (D)

<http://rylesjazz.com>

Nov. 23: Ken Clark Organ Trio

**Scullers Jazz Club**  
DoubleTree Guest Suites, 400 Soldiers Field Rd., Boston, 617-562-4111. <http://www.scullersjazz.com>. Call for schedule.

Nov. 22: Diane Schuur  
Nov. 23: Eliane Elias  
Nov. 26: Carol O'Shaughnessy  
Nov. 29-30: Monty Alexander, Russell Malone, John Clayton

# Classical Music

**Boston Symphony Orchestra**  
Tickets: 617-266-1492.

Performances at Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, unless otherwise noted. Student rush tickets, if available, can be obtained at 5 p.m. on the day of the concert (one ticket per person).  
<http://www.bso.org>

Cleveland Orchestra Musical Director Christoph von Dohnanyi and the BSO present a program of Ades' *Asyla*, Schumann's *Symphony No. 4*, and Dvorak's *Symphony No. 9, 'From the New World.'* Performances on Nov. 21 (8 p.m.), Nov. 22 (1:30 p.m.), and Nov. 23 (8 p.m.). Nov. 22 concert accepts college card.

**FleetBoston Celebrity Series**  
20 Park Plaza, Suite 1032, Boston, MA 02116. 617-482-2595. Venues vary by concert, consult Web site for further details, <http://www.celebrity-series.org>

Nov. 22: Robert Kapilow, Juith Blazer: *What Makes It Great?*  
Nov. 24: Itzhak Perlman  
Dec. 1: Daniel Barenboim  
Dec. 6-7: Vienna Choir Boys  
Dec. 14: The Polar Express

# Theater

**Marty (Nov. 24)**

A "touching, exuberant new musical" based on the Academy Award-winning film, *Marty*. The latest production from the reputed Huntington Theatre Company, *Marty* is the story of a guy who's having a bit of trouble finding love. An added bonus, though, is the guy searching is John C. Reilly, who made a name for himself through his roles in *Boogie Nights*, *Magnolia*, and *The Thin Red Line*. At the BU Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave, Boston. For more information, call 617-266-0800, tickets \$12-67.

**Our Town (Nov. 17)**

Boston Theatre Works presents Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize Winning play about "birth, love, marriage, and death in early 20th century New England." Playing at the Tremont Theatre, 276 Tremont Street, Boston. For more information, call 617-939-9939,

tickets \$20 (students) - \$25.

**Blue Man Group (Ongoing)**

Charles Playhouse, 74 Warrenton Street, Boston, indefinitely. Curtain is at 8 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, at 7 and 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 3 and 6 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets \$35 to \$45. Call 617-426-6912 for tickets and information on how to see the show for free by ushering.

**Comedy Connection**

Mon.-Wed. at 8 p.m.; Thurs. 8:30 p.m.; Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m., 10:15 p.m.; Sun. 7 p.m. The oldest comedy club in Boston. At 245 Quincy Market Place, Faneuil Hall, Upper Rotunda, Boston. Admission \$8-20. Call 617-248-9700 or visit <http://www.comedyconnectionboston.com>.

# Exhibits

**Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum**

280 The Fenway, Boston. (617-566-1401), Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$10 (\$11 on weekends), \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students with ID (\$3 on Wed.), free for children under 18. The museum, built in the style of a 15th-century Venetian palace, houses more than 2,500 art objects, with emphasis on Italian Renaissance and 17th-century Dutch works. Among the highlights are works by Rembrandt, Botticelli, Raphael, Titian, and Whistler. Guided tours given Fridays at 2:30 p.m.

**Museum of Fine Arts**

465 Huntington Ave., Boston. (617-267-9300), Mon.-Tues., 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; Wed., 10 a.m.-9:45 p.m.; Thurs.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. West Wing open Thurs.-Fri. until 9:45 p.m. Admission free with MIT ID. Currently on exhibit until Oct. 20 is "Jasper Johns to Jeff Koons: Four Decades of Art from the Broad Collections," an exploration of contemporary artists ranging from those named above to Warhol to Lichtenstein.

MFA Film Showings:

Nov. 15: *The Exam* (6:15 p.m.), Films from Iran: *Bemani* (8 p.m.)  
Nov. 16: *A Teddy Bear's Picnic* (10:30 a.m.), *Queen of the Gypsies*, a portrait of Carmen Amaya (12 p.m.), *Adrift* (1:45 p.m.), Films from Iran: *That is Life and Women Like Us* (3 p.m.), Films from Iran: *White Dream* (5 p.m.), Boston Jewish Film Festival: *You Shouldn't Worry!* (7 p.m.), Jewish Film Festival: *Gloomy Sunday* (9:15 p.m.)

Nov. 21: Film and Concert: *Showbiz is My Life* (7 p.m.)  
Nov. 22: Films from Iran: *The Longest Night*, French Costume Drama: *The Children of the Century* (8 p.m.)

For further listings, check <http://www.mfa.org/film/>

**Museum of Science**

Science Park, Boston. (617-723-2500), Daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission free with MIT ID, otherwise \$9, \$7 for children 3-14 and seniors. The Museum features the theater of electricity (with indoor thunder-and-lightning shows daily) and more than 600 hands-on exhibits. Admission to Omni, laser, and planetarium shows is \$7.50, \$5.50 for children and seniors.

# Other

**Harvard Film Archive**

465 Huntington Ave., Boston. (617-267-9300), Mon.-Tues., 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; check <http://www.harvardfilmarchive.org> for more details.

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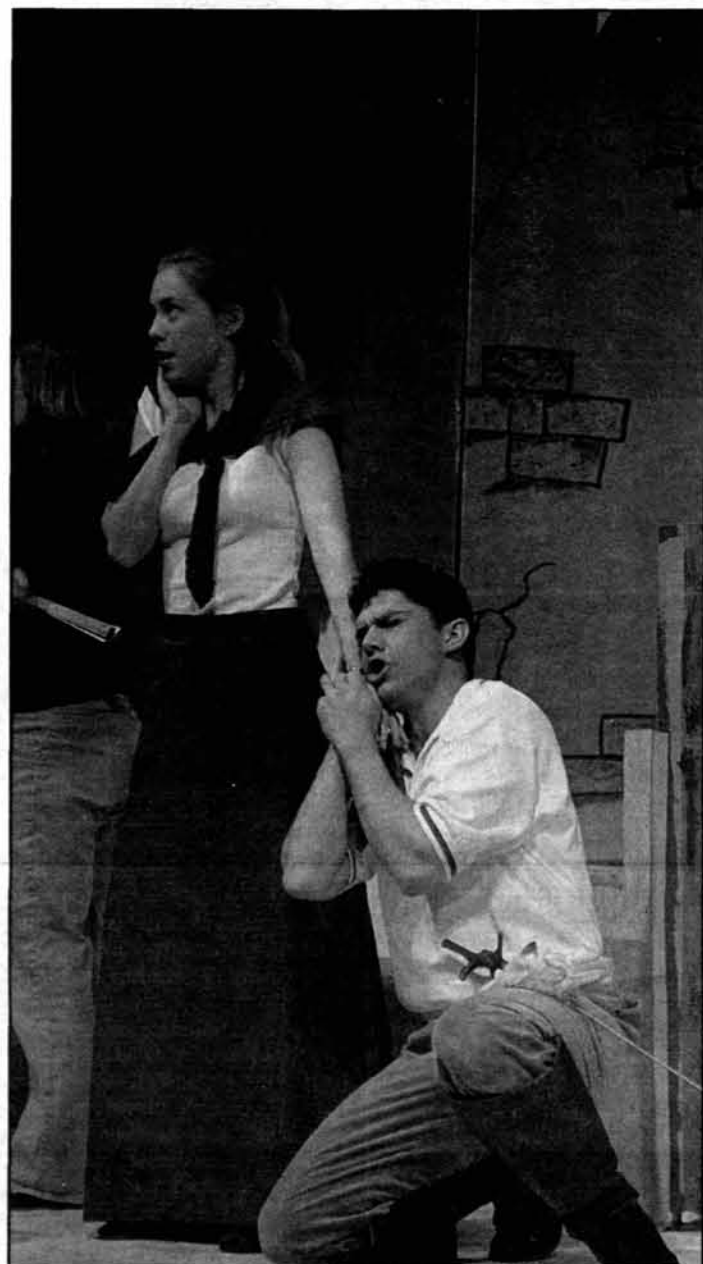
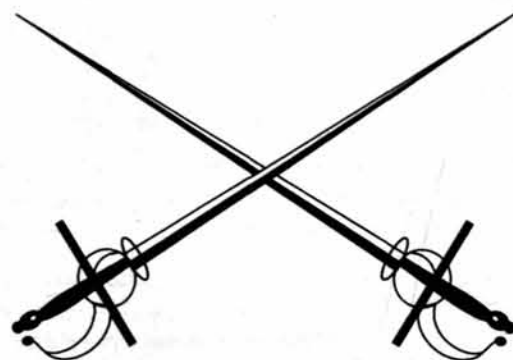
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# A Taste of 'Pirates of Penzance'

*Nov. 21-24 in La Sala de Puerto Rico*



The MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players present "The Pirates of Penzance" this weekend in La Sala de Puerto Rico. Showings are Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m.

(upper left) Frederic (Stuart A. Stanton '04) and Ruth (Sonya C. Tang '04) listen intently as the Pirate King reveals the most ingenious paradox.

(above left) A pirate (Marleigh Norton '99) checks to see if the pirate band has been followed during the raid of Tremorden Castle.

(above right) Frederic begs Edith (Vanessa Quinlivan '06) for her love.

(left) Edith sings of the daughters' wonderful journey to the rocky beach.

(below) The Stanley Daughters try to fend off the pirates, who intend to capture and marry the girls.

*Photography by Dong Wang*





# OCW, MIT-China Programs Affected by China Block

China, from Page 1

taining the text "mit.edu."

The incorrect answer is the same address given, also incorrectly, for sites such as "www.falundafa.org," which discusses the Falun Gong spiritual movement banned by Chinese authorities.

## OCW sees little traffic from China

"It disappoints us when a large segment of the population can't benefit from [our work]," said Anne H. Margulies, the executive director of OpenCourseWare, MIT's program to post homework, tests, and other teaching material for its classes on

the Internet at <<http://ocw.mit.edu>>.

"When we originally opened our site to the public on Sept. 30, we watched the traffic," she said. "We could see that we were initially getting traffic from China."

"Then we got a handful of messages from individuals in China," Margulies said. "They e-mailed us that they could no longer get to our site. That went on for a couple of days. Then we checked our stats and saw that there was, indeed, no traffic from China."

Margulies said that "oftentimes, the Chinese find workarounds" to blocks by, for instance, accessing sites directly by numeric address,

but "that's obviously a vast minority," she said.

## Block affects MIT-China program

Sean Gilbert, coordinator of the MIT-China program, said the block has "become an inconvenience, but it hasn't hurt us at all."

MIT students studying in China through the program have found that "they're not able to access all their MIT e-mail or the MIT Web site," he said. These students have adapted by forwarding their mail to Hotmail or other non-MIT e-mail services.

In the future, Gilbert said, the program is looking into using MIT's OpenCourseWare site to teach in

China, but "if you can't access the MIT Web site, then we won't be able to do it," he said.

"Some people think there's a formal strategy in China to block these sites," Gilbert said. "Other people think it's kind of haphazard."

## DNS block one of several methods

Benjamin G. Edelman, a Harvard Law School student researching China's filtering behavior, said the sort of block used on the "mit.edu" domain — giving an incorrect address — was one method China uses to block Web sites, but "not the primary method."

China's "primary method is to

configure routers to discard requests destined for prohibited Web servers," Edelman said. China also filters e-mail and requests in URLs "for prohibited terms," he said. For instance, Chinese Internet users may access the Google search engine, but are prohibited from searching for Falun Gong-related keywords.

With Professor Jonathan Zittrain of Harvard Law School, Edelman has created a real-time tester of China's Internet blocks, at <<http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/filtering/china/test/>>. However, when tried this week, the tester appeared to be malfunctioning, erroneously reporting all sites as "accessible."

## China Gives Bad Directions

The Tech compared the numeric addresses given out by Chinese domain name servers and by servers outside of China. When a site, such as "www.falundafa.org" or "www.mit.edu," is blocked, Chinese servers give out an incorrect address, leading surfers into oblivion.

It is possible to use the "dig" command on Athena to examine the addresses that Chinese and non-Chinese servers give for various computer names.

Chinese servers give the same correct address (128.103.60.24) for Harvard's Web site as servers outside of China:

```
Non-China:
athena% dig @18.70.0.160 www.harvard.edu
+noall +answer
;<<> DIG 9.2.1 <<> @18.70.0.160 www.harvard.edu +noall +answer
;; global options: printcmd
www.harvard.edu ..... nancy.harvard.edu
nancy.harvard.edu ..... 128.103.60.24

China:
athena% dig @202.108.255.202 www.harvard.edu
+noall +answer
;<<> DIG 9.2.1 <<> @202.108.255.202 www.harvard.edu +noall +answer
;; global options: printcmd
www.harvard.edu ..... nancy.harvard.edu
nancy.harvard.edu ..... 128.103.60.24
```

... but China sends Falun Gong to a wrong address (64.33.88.161), not the right answer (216.127.147.243).

```
Non-China:
athena% dig @18.70.0.160 www.falundafa.org
+noall +answer
[...]
www.falundafa.org ..... 216.127.147.243

China:
athena% dig @202.108.255.202 www.falundafa.org
+noall +answer
[...]
www.falundafa.org ..... 64.33.88.161
```

... and the Chinese servers send "www.mit.edu" to the same wrong address (64.33.88.161) as Falun Gong, not the right answer (18.181.0.31).

```
Non-China:
athena% dig @18.70.0.160 www.mit.edu +noall +answer
[...]
www.mit.edu ..... DANDELION-PATCH.mit.edu
DANDELION-PATCH.mit.edu ..... 18.181.0.31

China:
athena% dig @202.108.255.202 www.mit.edu
+noall +answer
[...]
www.mit.edu ..... 64.33.88.161
```



The Chorallaries rehearse on Wednesday night for their upcoming concert, Choralpalooza. The a capella group rehearsed from 9 p.m. to midnight Monday through Wednesday this week, performing songs such as "Superman" and "Kiss This." Choralpalooza will be held in 54-100 tonight at 8 p.m. with Brown University's Harmonic Motion as the guest group.

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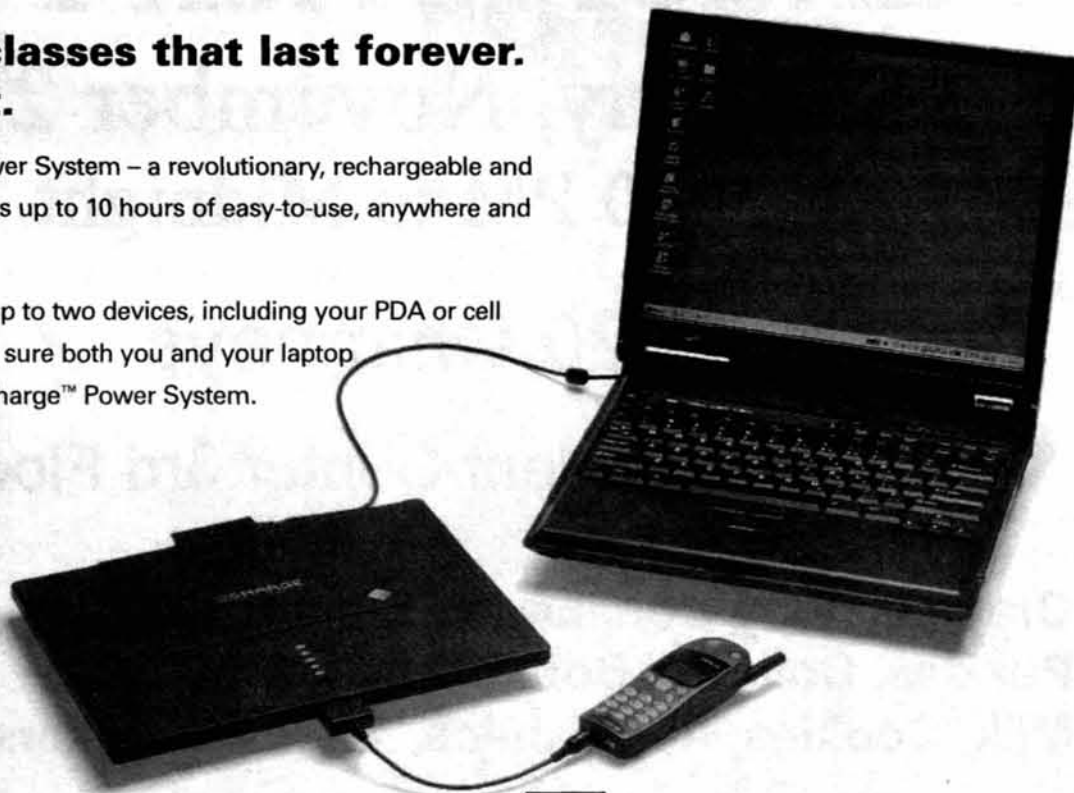
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# Use of Graduate Student Dormitory Beds Debated

Housing, from Page 1

"I am concerned that we're not going to have enough students move out to the FSILGs," Vallay said. "We've seen the benefits of no crowding, so we're anxious to have that continue."

Emily E. Cofer '04, Dormitory Council housing chair and chair of the Undergraduate Association Committee on Housing and Orientation, said she was confident that the current availability of on-campus beds and MIT's possible actions for next year would be sufficient to ensure no crowding. With the potential for more FSILG pledges during January's Independent Activities Period and the near-guarantee of Cambridge-MIT Institute exchange students living in FSILGs as they did this year, Cofer said she did not expect the system's

capacity to be a problem.

## MIT begins planning for '03-'04

Benedict attended a Wednesday meeting to discuss possible on-campus housing plans, and he said MIT is currently looking at a range of options for next year.

One option is to reduce the incoming class size even further, Benedict said. "How many of those 295 are really likely to move off campus?" he asked, saying that MIT's estimates of this number could impact the class size.

Vallay, too, said that MIT was trying to plan based on early estimates of off-campus moves and the potential for next year's Senior Segue, but that her office had "no plans" to offer some sort of incentive to encourage students to move out of dormitories and into FSILGs.

FSILGs, however, certainly have

an incentive to encourage their pledges to move off-campus. While MIT will continue to offer subsidies for empty beds through the 2004-2005 academic year, Institute funds fall short of what a resident would pay. Rogers said MIT is funding 240 empty beds this year, but the maximum number of allowed empty beds will decline each year, as will the funding.

## Use of grad beds uncertain

In addition, MIT is discussing the possibility of revising the Senior Segue program, where rising seniors who intend on completing an MEng are allowed to live in graduate dormitories.

"They're working now as we speak to evaluate the program," Benedict said.

Clay's original plan to keep the Senior Segue for three to five years

still stands, Benedict said, but he expects some changes to the program, including moving the sign-up date earlier. Last year, many students had already made their housing plans by the time the Senior Segue was made available.

Benedict said he did not expect more Sidney-Pacific beds to be opened up for sorority use, after Alpha Epsilon Phi declined the offer last year. "At this point, I don't know," he said. "That has not come up in the conversation."

Barun Singh G, a co-chair of the GSC housing and community affairs committee, and Nelson C. Lau G, a Tang Hall graduate coordinator, are working with Benedict's Housing Strategy Group. Dormcon is also involved in the Housing Strategy Group, but Cofer said that "right now the focus in Dormcon is on trying to preserve what's left of dorm rush," citing the group's ongoing petition to change the dormitory rush process for next year.

## GSC seeks to preserve grad beds

Lau is chair of an Housing Strategy Group subcommittee evaluating the Senior Segue. He said that Benedict and Dean for Graduate Students Isaac M. Colbert seemed "pretty serious" about focusing on the MIT community's priorities for housing.

"It's a good avenue for them to see what the hot issues are that need to be tackled," Lau said.

The Housing Strategy Group was formed last year after Clay's no-crowding announcement, in part to address the need for more long-term housing strategy, Singh said. Its subcommittees are working on summer housing, evaluating the Senior Segue, graduate rent, family housing, and non-Institute off-campus housing.

Lau said he thought MIT was "being more responsive, and that's a step."

"Evaluating Senior Segue will be tricky because, while grad students want to very earnestly do their part to help overcrowding, at the same time we don't want to lose any more

beds that grad students sorely need," Lau said.

"We realize that overcrowding is not an option for MIT," Lau said. However, he said that graduate students felt they had already made a significant contribution to help MIT through the Senior Segue, and that "we have to look out for our own interests."

"We also want to see the administration make more of an effort to either build new housing for undergrads or keep enrollment rates steady, and help the FSILGs more strongly to rebuild their rush," Lau said. He said he hopes that in a few years, when the new housing system is more stable, it will be easier to make better decisions.

Christina E. Silcox G, the second co-chair of the housing and community affairs committee, said that the GSC maintained its long-held position that MIT should not take graduate beds if there are openings in the undergraduate system, as there are currently.

"That's always our main position," Silcox said. "There's no excuse for taking graduate beds ... while there are still empty undergraduate beds."

Moreover, she said the GSC would continue to fight the administration's perception of graduate dormitories as a buffer for fluctuations in class size, transfer students, and students who de-pledge FSILGs. Although Sidney-Pacific has more than 100 empty beds this year, this has been largely blamed on the way the housing lottery was run — many students had already signed off-campus leases when notified of their room assignments in August.

## No final plans until early 2003

With so many uncertainties for next year, Benedict said MIT would continue to discuss housing options for approximately another two months, but he stressed that "there's not a firm deadline." Still, Benedict said that by the beginning of February, MIT would probably need to begin finalizing plans for next year.

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**Solution to Crossword**

from page 7

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C	R	E	E	U	B	O	L	T	A	C	T	A	
K	I	M	M	Y	M	O	N	O	A	S	K	E	R
P	A	N	T	W	A	S	H	E	R	S			
P	O	S	T	P	A	I	D	T	H	E	Y		
A	M	U	S	E	S	E	P	E	R	K	E	D	
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K	A	Y	E	S	E	M	I	N	O	L	E		
A	N	I	S	E	E	D	R	O	D	E			
S	O	Y	U	Z	R	I	C	K	Y	S	H	A	W
S	O	A	R	E	Y	D	I	E	T	A	L	E	
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**CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

**Vassar Street**

For several weeks, due to an underground telecommunications ductbank project, doors exiting to the rear between buildings 34 and 38 will be closed. There will still be one exit from the Building 34 lobby in the direction of Building 26. The pedestrian route from the Albany St. garage through Building 34 to the main campus will not be available. People should enter the campus using the pedestrian walkway under Building 39. Curb placement on the south side of the street is underway. Traffic to Building 39 will use the normal exit and entrance lanes once again. These lanes will stay in effect for 3 or 4 weeks until the next phase of the project. The lanes will again change to one-lane in and one-lane out from one entrance as construction sequencing dictates. North side sidewalk construction will begin in December.

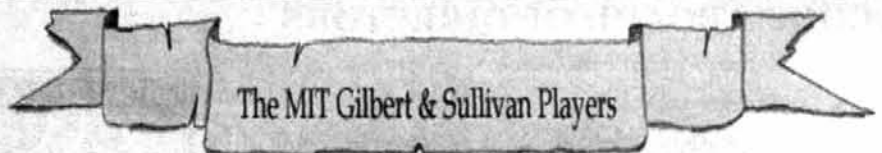
**Stata Center**

Construction of tunnel connection from Stata Center to Building 26 is underway. Some odor may result from this work; air fresheners are available for offices that experience problems. Preparation for utility work between Building 56 and the Alumni Pool has begun.

**Dreyfus Chemistry Building**

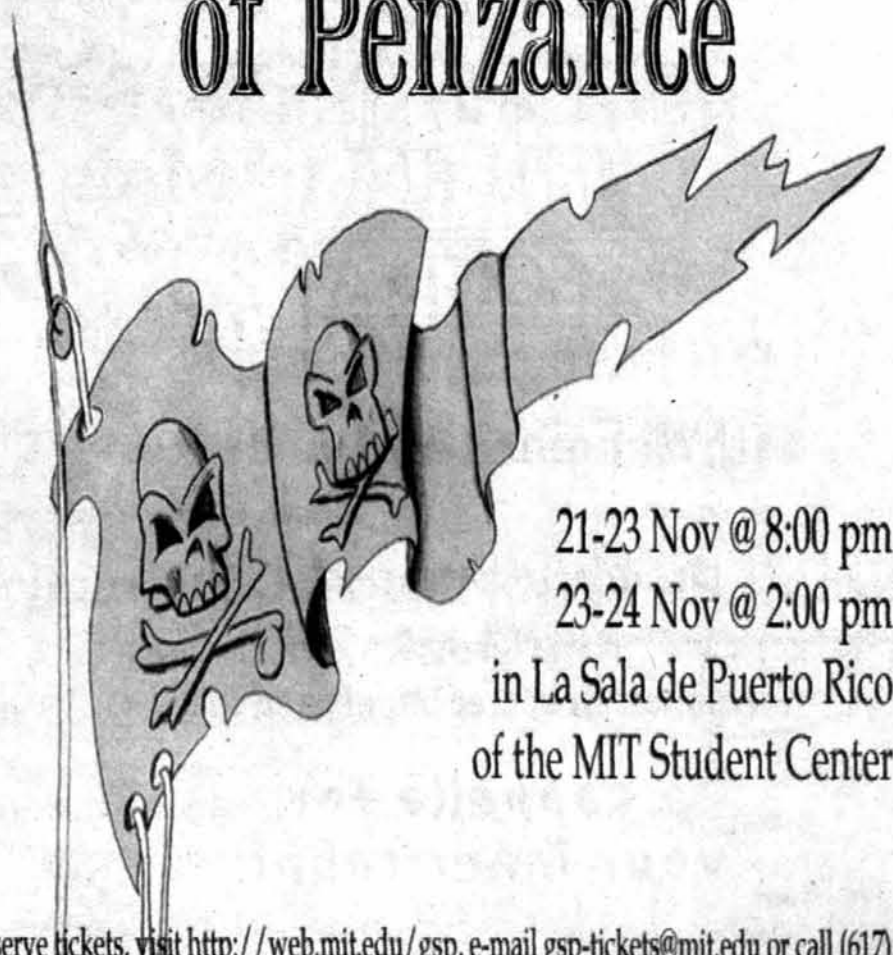
Chilled Water to Building 18 has been shut off temporarily and will be restored on December 13. The shutdown is required to allow for the relocation of piping in the sub basement. Repair work on the east concrete façade is nearing completion. Installation of mechanical systems continues. Installation of exterior metal panels to roof penthouse is in progress.

For information on MIT's building program, see <http://web.mit.edu/evolving>  
This information provided by the MIT Department of Facilities.



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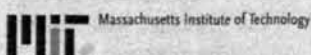
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# Boston Officials Win 'Ugliest' Competition

By Christine R. Fry  
NEWS EDITOR

The results of the Ugliest Manifestation on Campus charity fundraiser were announced to an intimate crowd of approximately ten in Lobby 10 yesterday. The overall winner was the "People Shutting Down Skuffle," amassing \$333.54.

The contest raised a total of \$1222.43, which will be given to the Skuffle charity, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

"One of you here today is unspeakably ugly," said Michael J. Salib '03, Alpha Phi Omega's UMOG project chair, to the crowd of mostly UMOG contestant representatives. He then announced the top five contestants and their earnings.

"This year's first place prize is a framed certificate authorizing Mr. [Jake C. Pinato '04] and his brothers at PKS to hold a Halloween party anywhere they want, without penalty from Alpha Phi Omega," Salib said in an e-mail to the umoc-interested mailing list.

"We're delighted that we collected so much money for charity," Salib said after the award ceremony. The amount of money that was raised this year was more than has been raised in each of at least the last three contests. Salib said that last year the contest earned approximately \$500.

### Frat party beats out Simmons

Skuffle, the annual Phi Kappa Sigma Halloween charity event, was cancelled this year after the City of Boston turned down requests for work permits. Pinato, a member of the fraternity, entered Skuffle Shutdown in the UMOG contest. Pinato was not available for comment.

UMOG organizers said the top contestants received much of their votes on the final day of the contest, last Friday. The crowd was visibly surprised at the results of the contest because the perennial favorite, Random Hall Milk, finished fourth, and this year's early frontrunner, Simmons Hall, finished second.

"One of these days a dorm will beat a frat," said Ross E. Benson '03. He said that on the final day of the contest, he set up a collection jar at the front desk of Simmons for residents to cast their vote for the

dormitory. Benson then took the money to the official collection jar in Lobby 10. He said that Simmons might have fared better in the contest if the collection jar had been at the front desk of Simmons for the duration of the contest.

### Simmons calls for milk to retire

"I think the milk will return victorious," said David A. Lepzelter '04, the milk's representative at the ceremony. However, "I think Simmons is pretty ugly," he said.

Benson thinks that it is time for the milk to retire. "I don't think it's ugly. Smelly, yes," he said.

The Random Hall Milk turned eight years old this year. Lepzelter said the milk was left in a Random Hall refrigerator by a lactose-intolerant resident after a botched attempt to make macaroni and cheese.

### Some think Simmons is beautiful

Mark F. Rios '05, who does not live in Simmons Hall, entered the People Who Think Simmons Is Ugly as a contestant in UMOG. He felt that these people lack "architectural taste."

"I think I was robbed," Rios said about the contest. "I bequeath to [people who think Simmons is ugly] strip malls and Harvard dormitories."

He says that next year he will probably enter either Objectivism or John Ashcroft in the UMOG competition. He hopes that one of his nominees will win UMOG before he leaves MIT.

### UMOG is an annual tradition

The UMOG fundraiser began at MIT in 1953 as the Ugliest Man on Campus. It is not unique to MIT; chapters of APO at other universities hold the competition each year. In 1992, the name of the competition was changed to Ugliest Manifestation on Campus to encourage women and people representing non-human entities to enter the contest.

Each year, jars for the candidates are set up in Lobby 10 and members of the MIT community can cast votes. One cent equals one vote.

Past contestants have included Aramark and the Undergraduate Association.



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

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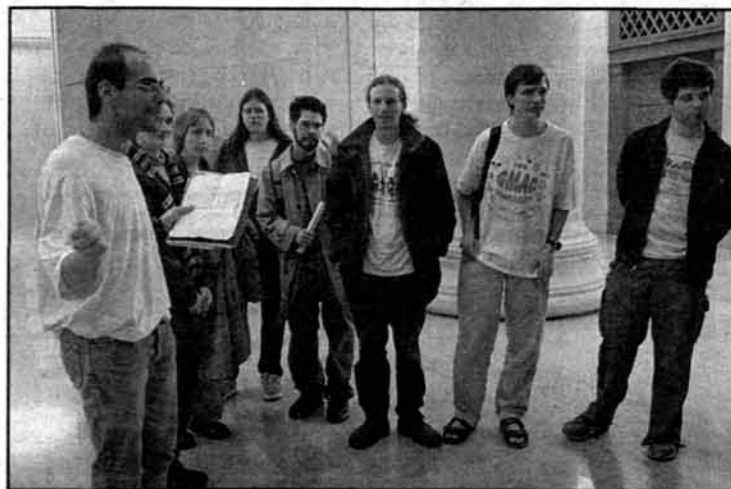


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JINYANG LI—THE TECH

Michael J. Salib '03 (left), the Ugliest Manifestation on Campus project chair from Alpha Phi Omega, announces the final results at the UMOG award ceremony in Lobby 7 on Thursday. The Skuffle shutdown emerged as this year's winner, with \$333.54 in votes.

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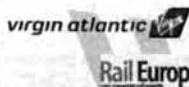
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# Bad Kitchen Habits Cause Some Alarms

Alarms, from Page 1

early," Shih said.

"They're obnoxious as hell," said Burton-Conner resident Alice S. Tsay '03. Tsay said that she and other residents re-enter the building as soon as the alarm stops going off. "We're pretty sure they're false by now," she said.

Some residents say that they have started to ignore the alarms because they happen so frequently, and that next time there is an alarm they will not leave the dormitory.

"We're getting accustomed to the alarms. Next fire alarm, I'm not going to leave if I'm in bed," said Gregor B. Cadman '06.

### Residents asked to be more careful

The Department of Facilities is looking into the exact cause of the alarms, but in the meantime residents are being asked to be more careful with their methods of food preparation.

"I think people need to be a little more careful with their cooking," Shih said.

One of the problems, Tsay said, is that "they have smoke detectors in common areas and kitchens but not general hallways," making it easy for smoke from cooking to set

off an alarm.

Shih also mentioned that e-mails have been sent out to make people more aware of the problem and to ask them to close suite doors or to open windows while cooking to prevent the alarms from going off.

### MIT unlikely to receive fines

Despite the large number of false alarms, Nilsson says that it is unlikely that the Cambridge Fire Department will fine MIT unless the alarms are pulled intentionally.

"When they come to an alarm and the smoke detector has gone off, the fire department does not charge us. If we had deliberate false alarms people deliberately pulling an alarm or knocking off a sprinkler head, they could. We're fortunate [that] that does not usually happen here at MIT, for that inconveniences the entire building," Nilsson said.

Burton-Conner has had problems with its fire alarm system in the past. Similar events happened last March, when faulty equipment and burnt food prompted three false alarms in one weekend. An alarm system installed in summer 2001 caused a string of false alarms last fall that continued through finals week.

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For information or an application, contact: Dean's Office, SHASS, E51-255 (x3-8961) or the HASS Information Office, 14N-408 (x3-4443).

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According to a recent poll by *The New York Times* and *CBS News*, both political parties lack a clear vision for the country. In sharp contrast, Harry Braun, author of *The Phoenix Project: Shifting From Oil to Hydrogen*, observes that "Just as Caesar found Rome a city of clay and left it a city of marble, we have found our country addicted to fossil and nuclear fuels that are highly polluting and being exponentially consumed -- and we have the opportunity to replace them with solar-sourced hydrogen, which is inexhaustible and pollution-free."



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Author Harry Braun  
H2Pac Chairman



### The Fair Accounting Act

Congressional Hearings are needed in order to pass Fair Accounting Act legislation that is outlined in Chapter 9 of *The Phoenix Project*. This is the legislative "trigger mechanism" for shifting to a hydrogen economy because it would end the subsidies to fossil and nuclear fuels and provide tax credits to encourage individuals and fleet owners to modify their existing automotive vehicles -- including trucks, trains and aircraft -- to use hydrogen fuel. If a fair accounting system is used, solar-sourced hydrogen will be the least expensive fuel.

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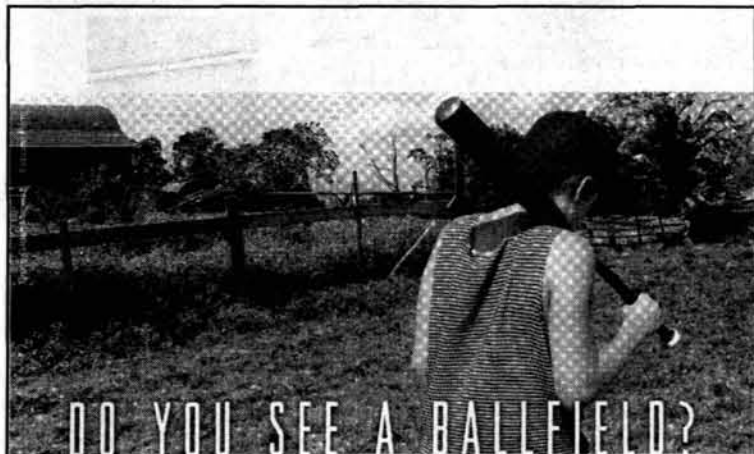
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EDWARD PLATT—THE TECH

Aaron P. Moronez '03 and Virginia L. Corless '04 rehearse as Bassanio and Portia for *The Merchant of Venice* workshop. The adaptation of the Shakespeare classic is set in fascist Italy and is intended to focus on the performers' engagement of the text. Theater Arts and Dramashop will be presenting the workshop Friday and Saturday in Kresge rehearsal room B at 8:00 p.m.



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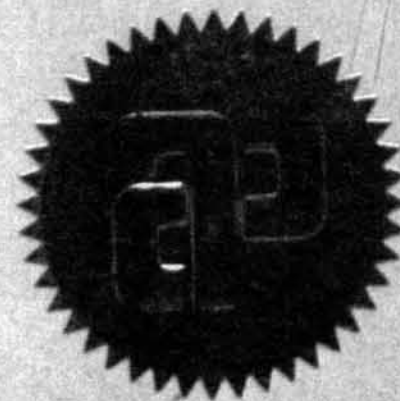
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*Tom E. Rolnicki*  
Tom E. Rolnicki  
ACP Executive Director

*The Tech congratulates its staff  
on winning the 2001–2002  
National Newspaper Pacemaker award  
from the American Collegiate Press.*



# Women's NCAA Loss Ends Successful Run

By Paul Dill  
TEAM COACH

The Engineers' quest for a "Sweet 16" bid after earning their first NCAA tournament berth in four years fell just short last Friday, as a loss to second-seeded Gordon ended the most successful MIT women's volleyball campaign in nearly two decades. At 34-5, MIT posted the best record for the program since 1984, with a first round victory over Johnson & Wales marking their first NCAA tournament triumph since 1986.

After earning one of only five at-large bids nationwide, MIT was seeded third in the New England region, looking forward to the chance to avenge one of their rare regular season losses, a 3-0 setback against Gordon (34-1) on Sept. 28. Behind six kills from outside hitter Joy N. Hart '06, the Engineers overcame a sluggish opening game performance to level the match at 1-1 with a 30-28 victory. Opposite Arlis A. Reynolds '06 contributing eight of her team-high 20 digs to help contain a Fighting Scots attack led by New England Region Player of the Year Lauren Barnes, a Gordon junior, who led all hitters with 27 kills.

## Gordon edges out MIT in four

The Engineers, having claimed the second game without really finding their characteristic rhythm, could not sustain the momentum and fell in the third frame by a 30-21 score. The fourth set saw eleven lead changes and looked to be within reach as the Engineers led 23-21, but a decisive defensive display brought the Fighting Scots level at 25-25 and a brisk run of points sealed the Engineers' defeat 30-25.

A variety of off-speed attacks from the Gordon hitters consistently forced the Engineers into difficult transition plays, upsetting the normally balanced MIT offense. Hart took a whopping 50 attempts in the four games, collecting a team-high 17 kills, with the next closest contributor being middle blocker Kelly A. Martens '03 with 11 kills on 37 attempts. Reynolds added nine kills on just 27 attempts, and outside hitter Nydia M. Clayton '04 and New England Region Rookie of the Year setter Austin Zimmerman '06 offered seven kills each to round out an Engineer attack that registered an encouraging 59 kills.

## Martens takes kill, block records

Defensively, the Engineers

received help from Hart's 19 digs, 15 digs from middle blocker Caroline D. Jordan '06, and 12 from defensive specialist Jacklyn Y. Wang '06. Martens led the Engineers at the net with three blocks, closing a distinguished career as MIT's career leader in kills (1653) and blocks (365), displacing alumnae Betsy Sailhamer '98 and Kamilah Alexander '96, respectively. Middle blocker Lauren E. Frick '03, Zimmerman, and Clayton each provided two "roofs" as well.

## Engineers defeat J&W

In NCAA opening round action, the Engineers thoroughly trounced Johnson & Wales (25-13). Overcoming early tentative play that saw them trailing 20-9 in the opening set, they stormed back to a 30-28 victory behind six of Clayton's match-high 15 kills on just 23 swings to hit at an authoritative 0.565 clip.

The second set saw the Engineers assert their superiority, as five more kills from Clayton and four of Martens' 11 kills paced MIT to a robust 0.344 hitting efficiency en route to a 30-11 rout, with Hart and outside hitter Jill M. Kaup '03 combining for another six points on the attack.

MIT closed the match in style 30-21, as libero Alice H. Chou '05 and defensive specialist Jennifer Teng '05 saw their first tournament action, collecting three digs, and setter/opposite Jenny C. Alexander '06 ripped two kills and added a block in Reynolds' stead. Never challenged by the Johnson & Wales offense, all six Engineer starters registered at least six digs, with Reynolds leading the defense with 12 and Jordan providing 10. Martens and Zimmerman each added three blocks, with Frick and Clayton adding two apiece.

## Future looks bright

Despite graduating Martens, Frick, and Kaup this season, the Engineers look forward to continuing their dominance in the region in 2003 behind the depth of the '06 contingent and Clayton's offensive firepower.

Such a successful season would not be complete without players garnering personal accolades. Martens added to her already crowded mantle with a selection to the Verizon CoSIDA Academic All-American All-District First Team, and Martens and Zimmerman were named to the New England All-Region Second Team.

# Swimming, Diving Nab Two Wins

By Jonathan A. Goler  
TEAM CAPTAIN

The MIT men's swimming and diving team opened the 2002-03 season with a win against the U.S. Coast Guard Academy on Saturday, 125-117.

After enduring defeat in the 400-yard medley relay, the MIT men came back to sweep the 1000-yard freestyle, led by captain Christopher G. Lucas '03 with a time of 10:27.95. Additional wins were racked up by John H. Rogers '06 in the 200-yard individual medley and 200-yard backstroke, Nicholas O. Sidelnik '05 with a come-from-behind victory in the 200-yard butterfly, Josiah B. Rosmarin '06 in the 500-yard, and Bruce J. Di Bello '05 in the 200-yard breaststroke.

The meet was a nail-biter, and

the score was close until the very end. In the final relay, the 400-yard freestyle, the MIT men handed a stinging defeat to the Coast Guard. The relay, with Rosmarin, Nathan H. Vantzelfde '04, Erdem M. Kiciman '04, and Jonathan S. Varsanik '04, clocked in at an impressive 3:17.25 to clinch the victory.

The women, plagued by injuries, faced a tough battle, and were defeated, 128-106. Nevertheless, they still clocked in some impressive times and victories. The medley relay of Erin M. Zoller '06, Melissa E. Dere '06, captain Kirstin M. Alberi '03 and Kathryn M. Duffy '04 won the relay with a time of 4:11.60. More wins were achieved by Caroline S. Reilly '06 in the 1000-yard freestyle, Duffy in the 200-yard and 100-yard freestyle, Alberi in the 200-yard backstroke, and Georgene M. Hilb '04 in the

500-yard freestyle.

## MIT women dominate Wellesley

The MIT women dominated Wellesley on Tuesday evening, crushing them 179-121. From the outset, MIT won the medley relay, followed with wins by Hilb in the 1000-yard and 500-yard freestyle, Duffy in the 200-yard freestyle, Zoller in the 100-yard and 200-yard backstroke, and Yihvan Vuong '03 in the 100-yard breaststroke.

By the first break in the meet, it was clear that the MIT women were going to end up on top. For the remainder, MIT continued to crank out victories: Alberi won the 100-yard freestyle, and MIT divers achieved a 1-2 sweep in the 3-yard competition.

On Saturday, Nov. 23, MIT will host Babson and Bowdoin for a tri-meet at the Zesiger Sports Center.

# Fencing Grabs First at Home Tourney

By Marissa A. Cheng  
and Lynn H. Wang  
TEAM MEMBERS

The MIT fencing team placed first out of seven schools at their meet last Saturday, Nov. 16. The team competed in Johnson Athletic Center along with fellow NCAA teams Wellesley College and Brown University, as well as club teams from Smith College, the University of New Hampshire, the University of Massachusetts, and Boston University.

The women's epee squad won 43 total bouts, the strongest finish of any epee squad at the competition. Most notable was the performance by Lucy R. Mendel '06, who, coming off a strong second place finish at the Big One Competition two weeks ago, was able to defeat all three starters for Brown University, MIT's most difficult opponent. The squad, which included starters Rim Lue '03, Mika A. Tomczak '06, and Mendel, defeated five out of six schools, including two 9-0 victories, against BU and UNH, and two 8-1 victories, against Smith and UMass.

## Dorfman leads women's foil

The women's foil starters (Suki

Dorfman '05, Christine A. Yee '03, and Gemma L. Mendel '06) boasted an amazing record on Saturday, winning a total of 46 out of 54 bouts. Squad leader Dorfman went undefeated on the day. Alternate Cassie Huang '06 had a strong showing in her meet debut.

Despite the injuries that had plagued the women's sabrists over the past week, the squad did an outstanding job on Saturday. Defeating every other university at the meet, the MIT squad's best victories were against NCAA teams Brown and Wellesley, where they won 7-2 and 6-3 respectively. Starters Priscilla del Castillo '04, who only lost one bout during the day, and Sasha R. Manoosingh '03 barreled through their opponents, and alternates Naimata C. Saucer '05 and Marissa A. Cheng '05 also won the majority of their bouts.

## Despite absences, men take charge

The men's squads dominated the competition, with solid victories over Boston University and UNH (22-5 and 24-3, respectively). Led by the flawless performances of Samuel N. Korb '05 and Matthew R. Levy '04, the epee squad amassed a 31-5 record, despite the absence of starter Galen E. Pickard '05.

Pickard, who took second place at the Big One two weeks ago in men's epee, was out with pneumonia. Levy and Korb were assisted by strong bouting from new squad members Robert A. Figueiredo '05 and armorer Michael N. Beregovsky '06.

Though the men's foil squad was missing regular starter Douglas J. Quattrochi '04, who was out with a back injury, new members David Lee '06 and Luis C. Loya '06 along with regular starters Vincent Chen '05 and Sam H. Kendig '05, posted a 28-8 record. Lee defeated nine of his 12 opponents, including an exciting win over the UMass fencer who had defeated him at the previous tournament.

In men's saber, team captain Anthony P. Reinen '03 and Jason M. Levine '03 both went 7-1 for the day, with solid assistance by Michael P. Pihulic '04, Brian J. Quattrochi '06, and William T. Walsh '06. The most exciting moment came during the team's competition against Brown, where Levine won a dramatic 5-4 bout against Paul Friedman, a three-time New England champion and this year's winner of the Big One.

The team's next meet is on Sunday, Nov. 24, at Brandeis University.

# Season Closes for Rest of Men's X-C Team

Cross Country, from Page 24

maybe even in the top 15."

## MIT closes out 2002 season

The rest of the men's cross country team, however, ended their season in a disappointing fashion. In what was supposed to be a con-

tentious fight for the fourth and last qualifying spot, MIT finished seventh, behind Connecticut College, Trinity College, and Tufts University. Keene State won their fourth consecutive team title, and Ryan Bak from Trinity took first individually.

With their #3 runner, Stephen K. Maltas '06, out with a back injury, the Engi-

neers struggled to make up for lost ground. Brian Anderson '05 and Eric A. Khatchadourian '06 finished in 41st and 72nd places, respectively. They were among the bright spots during the cold, snowy day.

"Brian Anderson ran an awesome race," said Taylor. And "Eric [Khatchadourian] just went out there with the attitude that he would do whatever he could to contribute."

Albert S. Liu '03 concluded his collegiate running career with a 64th place finish in 26:28. Carlos A. Renjifo '05 (26:47) and Craig B. Wildman '03 (27:22) placed 76th and 112th, respectively.

# The Football Fanatic

By O.B. Usmen

COLUMNIST

This was not a good week for starting quarterbacks. Three teams in playoff contention are now looking to their backup quarterbacks to carry them to the playoffs after a series of injuries side-lined some big names.

The Eagles (7-3) will be without Donovan McNabb for six to eight weeks. After breaking his ankle on the third play of the game, McNabb stayed in the game to lead the

Eagles to a 38-14 victory over the faltering Cardinals (4-6). Koy Detmer will be asked to shoulder the quarterbacking responsibilities while McNabb recovers.

The Broncos (7-3) had no trouble with Seattle (3-7), winning 31-9. Brian Griese sprained his knee in the third quarter with the score at 10-6. With their starting quarterback hurt, the Broncos stepped it up, scoring 21 points in the fourth quarter behind two touchdowns passed by Steve Beuerlein. Griese will be out at least a week.

Pittsburgh (5-4-1) didn't fare as well as the

Broncos and the Eagles without their quarterback. They fell 31-23 to the resurgent Titans (6-4). Tommy Maddox suffered a spinal contusion but miraculously left the hospital Monday at near full strength. Oft-maligned Kordell Stewart played well in relief, completing 13 of 17 passes for 124 yards and two touchdowns. But Stewart's effort wasn't enough to contain the Tennessee offense, led by two rushing touchdowns from Eddie George.

The Rams (5-5) pulled back to .500 with a Monday night victory over the Bears (2-8) 21-16. Marc Bulger remained undefeated as the starting quarterback for St. Louis, with a 357-yard effort. Still, Mike Martz has made it clear that Kurt Warner will be starting in next week's game against Washington (4-6). Martz will have a lot of questions to answer if Warner can't deliver the team's sixth straight victory.

## Julius Peppers suspended

This past week, Panthers (3-7) defensive end Julius Peppers was suspended for four games for violating the league's substance policy. Peppers, a strong candidate for rookie of the year, having registered 11 sacks so far, tested positive for ephedrine, a stimulant often found in diet pills. The league made it very

clear before the season that ephedrine was a banned substance, and the punishment would be a four-game suspension even for a first time offense.

Many feel that this suspension was overly harsh, but I disagree. Sure, the league doesn't suspend a player for being caught with illegal drugs, but the fact is ephedrine is a banned substance because it can cause football-related seizures or strokes. What a player does in his personal life is relevant to the NFL only in the image it wants to project, but a player's health as it is related to playing the game of football is entirely within the jurisdiction of the NFL. I support such harsh sanctions because the NFL doesn't want to take a chance of something happening on the field of play. This suspension will make everyone check twice before taking a diet supplement, and that accomplishes the NFL's goal. It is a shame to end Peppers' incredible season, but the greater gain is increased safety for the players in the NFL.

*Fantasy pick of the week: Mark Brunell, quarterback for the Jacksonville Jaguars. Brunell has played solid all season, and should put up big numbers against a suspect Cowboys defense.*

# UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Friday, Nov. 22

Women's Basketball vs. Emerson, MIT Tip-Off Tournament — Rockwell Cage, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 23

Rifle, Admiral's Cup — 9 a.m.  
Men's and Women's Swimming vs. Babson & Bowdoin Colleges — Zesiger Pool, 1 p.m.

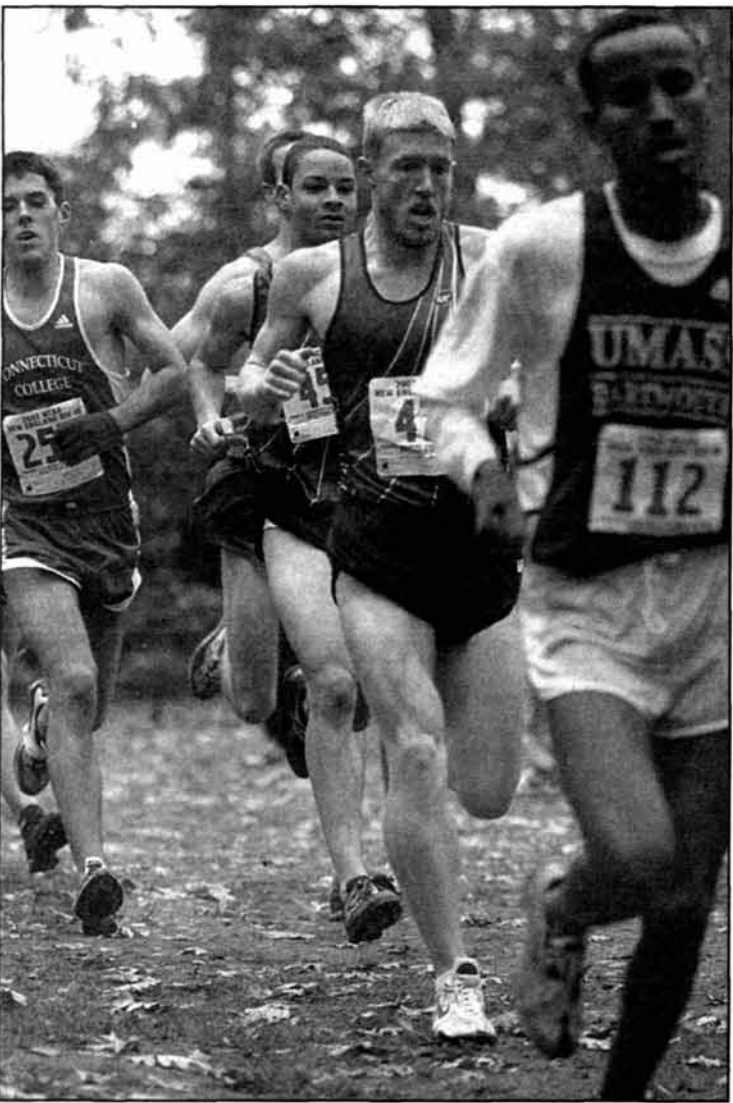
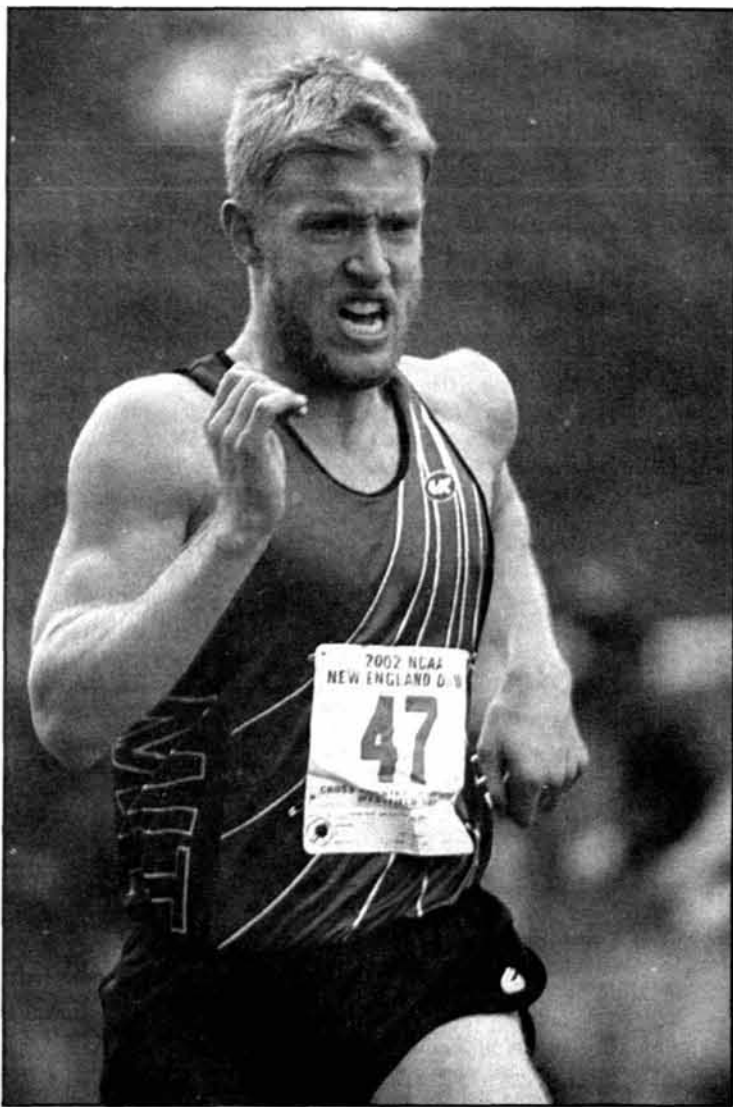
Women's Basketball, MIT Tip-Off Tournament consolation and championship games — 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 24

Squash vs. Navy — 1 p.m.



# SPORTS



## Top Two Earn NCAA Spots for Men's X-C

By Stanley Hu  
STAFF REPORTER

Sean P. Nolan '03 has run hundreds of miles to erase the disappointments of the past year.

Now, he has just one more race to go — one last crack at redemption.

Nolan and teammate Benjamin A. Schmeckpeper '05 qualified for the NCAA Division III Men's National Cross Country Championship last Saturday, cruising to sixth and 10th place finishes, respectively, in the regional championship at Westfield State College. Nolan clocked 24:58 over the five-mile race. Schmeckpeper finished five seconds later in 25:03.

"I'm pleased with the way they raced," Coach Halston W. Taylor said. "But as well as they ran, they could have run better. They have yet to put their best races together."

### Pair to compete in Minnesota

Nolan and Schmeckpeper will get a chance to do just that when they compete at Nationals, which will be held tomorrow at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

Nolan, who holds the school record in the indoor 5000 meters, won the Codfish Bowl Invitational and the NEWMAC championship races decisively earlier in the season. He has been to a national championship three times: twice for cross-country and once for indoor track. But during the past two trips, he struggled to run well, returning empty-handed and disappointed.

"There's some mystique about Nationals that shakes his confidence," Taylor said. "I think you need to approach it as a normal race: be aggressive, get out, and do what you do with such passion that you overcome the fear."

Nolan and Schmeckpeper will need every edge they can get. Schmeckpeper will be returning for his second national championship, and he has never been in better shape. He has run 100 miles in a week. The training paid off — last month, he posted the second fastest time (24:44) at Franklin Park by an MIT runner.

"I think they can both be All-Americans," Taylor said. "I'm hoping they'll finish in the top 25,"

Cross Country, Page 23

Counterclockwise from top right:

Benjamin A. Schmeckpeper '05 (#47) and Sean P. Nolan '03 (#45) get out amid the sea of runners during Saturday's NCAA Division III Regional Championships at Westfield State College.

Schmeckpeper sprints to the finish to qualify for the NCAA Division III Cross Country National Championships, which will be held tomorrow at St. Olaf College in Minnesota. He placed 10th, behind teammate Nolan, who qualified with a sixth place finish.

Nolan (#45) and Schmeckpeper (#47) work together through the second mile of the course.

The top seven members of the men's cross country team get together for one last cheer during Saturday's NCAA Division III Regional Championships at Westfield State College.

Brian C. Anderson '04 (#39) battles a Tufts runner to finish third for the MIT team. Anderson set an all-time personal best, clocking 25:58 over the 5-mile course. "He ran an awesome race," said Coach Halston W. Taylor.

Photography by Stanley Hu

