‘dog’ Ruffs Up the Opposition
In 6.270 RoboGolfer Tourney
By Douglas H. Hieimbarger

A simple design turned out to be the key for Holly G. Gates ’98 and Leila M. Hasan ’98, who beat out 49 other teams to win last Wednesday’s 6.270 Autonomous Robot Design Contest. This year’s contest, entitled “RoboGolf,” challenged competitors to build robots that would collect foam balls from the playing field and drop balls that were initially on the robot onto the table. Gates’ and Hasan’s creation, entitled “dog” and appropriately numbered as team one, drove across one side of the board, collected six neutral balls, worth two points each, and dropped several balls into holes on the board to score additional points.

Unlike many teams, which used a variety of optical, infrared, and mechanical sensors, “dog” used a set of mechanical flaps to steer around corners without the need for complex programming, Hasan said. “We’re one of the few robots not to use feedback” in the design.

The second place robot, “General Gau,” built by John S. Reese ’98 and Jesse N. Pavel ’00, also used a simple strategy. “We intended to do just one thing — go down [the ramp] and drop six balls

Computer Thefts, Network Invasions Prompt Security Changes in Bldg. 54
By Susan Buchman

Building 54 has experienced a rash of security breaches in the past six months, with thieves stealing items ranging from the almost valuable to a computer worth tens of thousands of dollars. There have been seven computers stolen in the past six months. In addition, ‘packet sniffers’ have compromised the security of network connections. The wave of thefts has led to an increase in security and new access restrictions for the building.

“Generally we’ve been identifying different ways of making the building more safe and secure and reminding people that it is important to use common sense: keep doors closed and locked when offices and labs are unattended, report any and all suspicious activity, and avoid confrontations with any strangers,” said William Heres, Systems Manager.

The Wave of Thefts

Thefts have increased this year, with thieves stealing six months, with thieves stealing items ranging from the almost valuable to a computer worth tens of thousands of dollars. There have been seven computers stolen in the past six months.

Thefts have increased this year, with thieves stealing items ranging from the almost valuable to a computer worth tens of thousands of dollars. There have been seven computers stolen in the past six months.

Baker Renovations
To Begin in Summer
by Naveen Sunkavally

The fruits of several years worth of planning will finally be realized as Baker House receives massive renovations during the next two summers. Plans to renovate the dorm were approved in the middle of January in a discussion between President Charles M. Vest, Provost Joel Moses, and Senior Vice President William R. Dickinson.

Dickson put the figure for the cost of renovating Baker at $25 million, compared to the $11 million spent on reconstructing Senior House. Dickinson said, however, that much more work will be done on Baker than on Senior House. "We’re going to raise as much as we can," he said. "The rest will most likely be covered through a low-interest loan.

Plan to Respect Aalto’s Vision
The renovations, whose expected completion date will coincide with Baker’s 50th anniversary, will encompass all components of the dormitory. Tracy M. Sadowski ’99, Baker’s Student chair of Building renovations, said reconstruction of the kitchen, basement, the dining room, the commons, and other areas will take place during the upcoming summer, while student rooms will be renovated during the summer of 1999.

“Generally we’ve been identifying different ways of making the building more safe and secure and reminding people that it is important to use common sense: keep doors closed and locked when offices and labs are unattended, report any and all suspicious activity, and avoid confrontations with any strangers,” said William Heres, Systems Manager for Earth Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences.

Computers a Popular Target
One of the biggest incidents was the theft of two computers from a file cabinet that had been barred shut in a locked room. The key to the room in which the file cabinet was kept was reported stolen on Friday, November 28, 1997. Sometime during the following night the theft occurred.

According to Professor Ralph E. Newell of EAPS, John Lam, a visiting professor from the Hong Kong Polytechnic Institute, had left his personal computer in the file cabinet while he was out of town for four days. Stolen on the computer was data Lam had been compiling since 1993 as well as programs designed to interpret that data.
'Army of God' Claims Responsibility For Alabama Clinic Bombing

LAVELLE WM JONES

The sheathless group that took responsibility for two bombings in Alabama last year now claims to have planted the bomb that ripped through a Birmingham, Ala., abortion clinic last week, killing one woman and injuring 11 others.

Letters sent Monday to the Reuters news agency and the Alabama Journal-Constitution said the crude, homemade bomb that ripped through the American Women's Health Care clinic on Thursday was the work of the Army of God, a militant religious group that has supposedly stepped up its campaign to halt abortion procedures in the wake of the partial-birth procedure ban.

Monday's letters were the latest in a string of communications sent by the group to the media in recent months.

At a news conference here late June, officials released excerpts from the Army of God letters, hoping someone would recognize the strange writing or the angry anti-abortion, anti-government language.

Blair Supportive of Clinton

NATHANIEL ROSEN

British Prime Minister Tony Blair praised President Clinton Monday for keeping his focus on "the big picture, the issues that really concern people" despite the upheaval over his relationship with a White House intern.

"I just think we need a sense of perspective and balance," Blair said, speaking to American journalists as he prepared to leave Washington for the G8 Summit in France. "It's a very busy time, and of course for the United States it can't be at the level of a sort of gossip column." Blair said he had a "long" meeting with Clinton this week.

Britain has emerged as the United States' closest partner in the current confrontation, sending one of its three aircraft carriers to the Persian Gulf to add political and military muscle to demands that U.S. weapons inspectors be granted full access to suspected weapons sites.

Blair said he and Clinton will discuss the Northern Ireland peace talks and the world economy, as well as such domestic issues as education, health care, crime and living standards.

Number of AIDS Deaths in U.S. Drops 44 Percent

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The number of AIDS deaths in the United States dropped 44 percent in the first half of 1997 compared to the same period in 1996, with experts attributing the greater decline to "education, health care, crime and living standards." According to the newest figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released here Monday, the number of new AIDS cases dropped 12 percent during the same period, through the number of people living with AIDS rose 12 percent to 259,000.

The improvements in statistics for both deaths and severe illness are due to new forms of therapy, particularly advancement in protease inhibitors about a year ago. When a protease inhibitor is combined with other drugs, the likelihood of transmission is reduced, according to a report this week by the world's leading AIDS group. The report also noted that the plan failed to reach many of the world's 30 million people living with AIDS.

Weather

THE WASHINGTON POST

By Gerard Roe

In the short term, our weather will be rather mundane and very west to east, according to the National Weather Service forecast. The extremity of potential trouble. All eyes should be trained for the arrival on late Wednesday morning the track (and our fate) will be clear.

In any event, the mid-level steering flow continues to be highly active, and becomes quite cold. High around 35°F (2°C). Low around 25°F (-4°C).

Saturday: Our brush with snow, which will be an interesting phenomenon to watch, particularly as the clouds start to clear out.
Researchers Link Gene to Short-Term Memory

It is hard to think of something more abstract and fragile than a memory. Nevertheless, like all brain functions, memory is ultimately a physical phenomenon, and obviously a fairly durable one. Although how the machine of memory runs is still a mystery, neuroscientists have located some of its nuts, bolts and moving parts. And now, researchers at the Baylor College of Medicine have found a new one. Michael S. Grotewiel, Ronald L. Davis and their colleagues report in the Jan. 29 Nature that they have discovered a gene they named Volado, or "abent-minded" in the Chilean dialect of Spanish. It appears necessary for short-term memory formation.

The researchers showed that fruit flies with a defective form of the gene are unable to register or retain the memory of odors. Using genetic engineering techniques, the researchers also created flies with a Volado gene that could be temporarily activated if the insect were put in an unusually hot environment for 15 minutes. These flies performed poorly on a memory test before the heat treatment, normally after it, and poorly again 24 hours later. This suggests the protein encoded by Volado has a limited lifespan and needs to be present at the moment of learning for memories to form.

The Volado protein is an "integrin." Integrins regulate the physical contact between cells and help control their chemical signaling. How these activities contribute to memory, however, remains unknown.
No fair praying for me to leave power.
Politics Must Make Way for Safety

Naveen Sunkavalli

With the spring semester approaching fast, I find myself walking past MIT's many student organizations and clubs. Some are small, like the Student Council, whose meetings take place in a tiny room with a few tables and chairs. Others are large, like the Infinite Buffet, which offers a variety of food options, open 24 hours. The Infinite Buffet is a popular spot for both students and faculty, offering a welcome break from the stresses of academic life.

The problem, however, is the collection of posters that cover the walls of the Infinite Buffet. They are a constant reminder of the ongoing debate about free speech and the role of student organizations on campus.

Last year, at the request of the administration, the Infinite Buffet posted a sign that read: "No solicitation of any kind, please." This sign was meant to prevent the proliferation of posters and other forms of advertising. However, the sign was quickly ignored by the student organizations, who continued to post in the area.

The problem is that the Infinite Buffet is located in a high-traffic area, and students often pass by while they are looking for food. This makes it difficult to remove the posters without causing disruption.

The administration has tried to address this issue by providing students with poster racks, but these have proved ineffective. Poster racks are often ignored, and the posters continue to spread.

I believe that the solution lies in a more comprehensive approach. The administration should work with student organizations to establish clear guidelines for the use of space and to enforce these guidelines. In addition, the administration should provide resources to help student organizations find alternative ways to promote their events and activities.

An educational institution is much more than a room for its students. It is also a place where ideas are exchanged and new knowledge is created. The posters on the walls of the Infinite Buffet are a distraction from these important activities.

It is time for the administration to take action and ensure that the Infinite Buffet is a place where students can learn and grow, rather than a collection of outdated posters and promotional materials.
Orientation 1998 To Be Finalized
As Student Groups Are Consulted

By Zareena Hussain

Last year’s debates over alcohol, housing, and Residence and Orientation Week may be a distant memory to some, but work continues on changing the existing system.

Within the next few weeks major changes to R/O will be finalized by a committee composed of concerned faculty, deans, and administrators, said Dean for Undergraduate Curriculum Kip V. Hodges PhD '82. This committee will be responsible for formulating what is in essence “a bill of rights” to set the framework for planning the upcoming changes, Hodges said.

In the coming weeks Hodges will meet with various student leaders representing dormitories, fraternities and independent living groups to present the committee’s decisions about R/O. “At this point, I have not brought students in the process,” Hodges said.

However, the discussion is still ongoing. “The changes are not yet clear,” Hodges said. “I’m telling students everything I know.”

While the bulk of changes to R/O will be finalized in the coming weeks, some changes have already been made. R/O 1998 will be renamed Orientation 1998 to reflect a greater emphasis on introducing freshmen to the Institute rather than on residence selection during a student’s first week on campus. Project Move Off Your Assumptions will still exist, but in a different format. MOYA leaders will now have to be associate advisors in order to participate, said Elizabeth Oragnano, coordinator of student programs.

In addition, the timetable for freshmen arrival next year will not be markedly different from those used in previous years. At most, students might arrive on a Wednesday evening as opposed to Thursday afternoon, Hodges said. The Interfraternity Council President’s Council previously recommended that Orientation begin on Monday with an academic component taking place before the beginning of rush on a Friday.

Plans are also already in the works to enact the recommendations of the O/R committee to offer freshmen a more informative guide giving objective information about all residences, Hodges said.

Student input still will be included. For now the major focus is on defining larger goals such as the desire to make R/O a less stressful experience for students, to provide better information about residences and academic opportunities and to foster the feeling among students that they are part of a greater community, Hodges said.

After these larger goals are defined students will be involved in offering input in the decision making process, their role in official decision making is likely to be minimal early in the process. Students will be more involved working out the details of implementing proposals, he said.

“We faculty and deans have to ask ourselves the hard questions of what we want our students to get out of orientation,” Hodges said.

“Within the time frame that this whole freshman on campus issue,” he said. “The sense I felt very strongly was “us against them.”” he said. Hodges will attempt to contact leaders of student government and FSILG to get their feedback in order to avoid the acrimony that accompanied some of the open forums of last term.

Dormitory Council President Adesh P. Shah '90 objected to the time frame at this stage, saying that it made it far more difficult to change in the future. “What you have a grass-roots process... people can [later] come together and make the changes that need to be made.”

A more “top-down” process can lead to problems. “A lot of students feel they get the runaround when...
The GSC Funding Board deadline for the Spring term is Tuesday, Feb. 3, 5:00 PM.

The GSC Travel Grants application is available from Room 50-220, or download from the GSC homepage! Deadline: February 6, 1998!

Friday Social

5:30 PM, Friday, Feb. 6 * GSC Lounge, 50-220.
Assorted snacks and beverages.
*Proper ID is required.

Funding Board Meeting *
General Council Mtg. *
Spring Orientation Social *
Night on the Town
Activities Meeting *

* at 5:30 PM in Rm. 50-220. All graduate students are welcome. Food is provided.

The Student Advantage cards are still available at the GSC office for FREE ($25 value)!

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The American Civil Liberties Union of Utah is looking into reports that University of Utah administrators improperly used student academic records in the most "egregious," complaint against the University was filed by fresh- man Brandon Winn, a Daily Utah Chronicle sportswriter who, in the Oct. 13, 1997, issue of the Chronicle, offended parks and recreation and tourism chair Professor Gary Ellis and undergraduate advisor John Crossley.

In his column, Winn complained about the "fair-weather fan" of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. "The problem with these fans is they are about as smart as parks and tourism major," Winn wrote.

Crossley and Ellis obtained a copy of Winn's academic record and confronted a Chronicle reporter in their office on an unrelated assignment. Crossley vocally expressed his opinion regarding Winn's "tongue[l] and "level of brightness" and referred to Winn's confidential academic record.

In a letter to Chronicle Editor-In-Chief Robert J. Jones and Business Manager Robert McComber, Crossley and Ellis exposed details contained in Winn's academic records, which according to Gnaede, is a "gross" violation of the Family Education and Privacy Act (FERPA) and university policy. When asked about the memo regarding Winn, Ellis said, "The Chronicle feels that it can print irresponsible and immature information," and refused to comment further.

Crossley said he "felt that the letter was appropriate in dealing with [Winn's] stupid statement," and that he was "going through the appropriate channels." Later, he said he did not believe he had obtained Winn's records appropriately. He said that illegitimate access of student academic information "probably happens all over the university."

University legal council said that "The university is compliant [with privacy laws] in policy and practice."

Under threat of a lawsuit, the Georgia Institute of Technology's Undergraduate Student Council and Graduate Student Senate voted to charter ReJOYce in Jesus Campus Ministry after more than a year of discussion.

Both groups were concerned about the group's constitution, which states that "a voting member of this organization shall agree to conduct himself or herself in accordance with the following standard of personal conduct set forth herein." One of these standards states, "A voting member of this organization shall not commit those acts which are expressly forbidden in Scripture, including idleness, premarital or extramarital sex, homosexual behavior, drunkenness, theft, profanity, occult practices, and dishonesty.

Some members SGA balked at the exclusion of homosexuals as voting members. While some current groups have similar restrictions on officers, none have them on voting members, said Elaine Newton, Vice President of Undergraduate Student Council, who broke a deadlocked 21-21 vote in USC by voting for the bill.

The Board of Regents' policy reads, "No student [of the University System] on the ground of race, color, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age or handicap, [may] be excluded from participa-
Philadelphia, Pittsburgh departures. Other cities may qualify for reduction. Price is per person based on quad occupancy; NYC, BWI, Washington, Cincinnati, on 12/15/97. Peak-week surcharges/ off-week discounts may apply. Availability. Subject to change without notice. Add $30 handling charge. Additional. Taxes (currently 15%) apply.

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**Student Leaders Uniformed as Orientation Evolves**

Many student leaders still remain largely in the dark about proposed changes, however, and are not sure of the extent to which decisions have been made. "The administration knows and sometime this week we are going to find out," said Interfraternity Council President Duane H. Dreger '99. "It is just sort of this cloud hanging out there: waiting to see what [the changes] will be," Dreger said.

One major concern is the lack of separation between residence selection and academic orientation, Dreger said. For example, shortly after students choose a residence they must quickly move to academic and administrative concerns, he said. As a result, both aspects of orientation are compromised by the conflict between residence and orientation.

Other groups have also been working to change R.O. "[Independent Living Groups] are planning to put out their own rush guide" said Christopher D. Beland '99 a president of Fenway House. In addition, ILGs may formalize the current consortium of ILGs and turn it into an official organization, he said. Beland said that he wasn't "expecting very many problems" with the work being done by the committees examining orientation. "Everything is in the details and we will be watching those very closely," he added.

*Dan McGuire contributed to the reporting of this story.*

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James Hsiao '99 serves the ball for the Engineers on Saturday at the MIT Invitational tournament. MIT lost in the quarterfinals.
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...in the holes," Reese said. Originally, the team was going to drop and pick up balls, "but we realized that picking up would be too hard."

Placing third was "Tigger," designed by William C. Chen '90, Jack V. Ching '99, and Bruce C. Po '99. The team aimed to collect the same six neutral balls as "dog," while it did not attempt to drop balls at the same time. "It grabs the balls and hangs on to them," Po said.

Intermediate qualifier added

An increase in the number of participating teams from 40 to 50 this year necessitated a second, intermediate round of competition. The round was held on Wednesday morning following initial cuts. 34 teams entered the final rounds of competition, said Michael S. Allen, an organizer of the contest.

Even the three finalists faced stiff competition in the double-elimination preliminary rounds. "There were several teams that could have beaten us," Hasan said.

There was still room for creative entries in the contest, however. Among the more humorous entries was "Millennium Falcon," designed by Angel X. Chiang '99, Mukul Kundra '99, and Amy W. Ng '99. The team's entry, which nearly reached the finals, was designed in about three hours when the team realized that its original code would not work, Kundra said.

"We decided to make it entertaining," she said. The robot was designed to "jump off the cliff, do a 360 [turn] and bound around the walls." Several times the robot almost attempted to jump off the table. Nevertheless, it succeeded in gathering points on almost all rounds.

First final rounds ends in tie

Once the three teams reached the final rounds they were paired off against each other in a round-robin competition. Each team won one of its two matches, resulting in an unprecedented tie. Misfortune struck "dog" when a switch telling the robot its position was set in the wrong position, causing the robot to go the wrong way when the round started against "General Gau." "We were so excited that we forgot to set the switch," Gates said.

During both final rounds strategies clashed. "Tigger" and "dog" met head to head in both matchups. However, "dog" emerged as the victor due to its faster speed; it managed to score more than 5 points while itself scoring between 15 and 20 points.

When the correctly-set "dog" competed against "General Gau," both robots performed to expectation. Yet "dog" beat out "General Gau" to win the competition by a score of 22-14.

The level of competition in the final rounds "is unprecedented for 6.270," Allen said. Had the robots not work, Kundu said.

Contest remains well attended

The contest, funded in part by the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Motorola, Microsoft, and Lego, among others, remains one of the Institute's best-attended events. Room 26-100 was filled to capacity throughout the competition, with late comers directed to Room 34-101, where live video feeds were broadcast. The contest was also televised live on MIT Cable and the Internet.

Each year's contest is run by a team of organizers and teaching assistants, who had, for the most part, previously competed in 6.270. Participants can earn six units of credit for the competition by completing a journal during the design phases, said Edwin Foo '98, another of the organizers.

Teams pay a $150 fee to enter the competition, but receive components worth about $750 to keep provided they qualify for the contest.

Next year, the contest will feature vastly upgraded board computers. The new controller boards will have 32-bit processors with 4 megabytes of RAM and the potential for additional sensing equipment, possibly including imaging. Foo said. Still, one of the key goals of the contest is teaching students the value of simplicity in design.

For the winning team, simplicity was incorporated into all aspects of the design. "It was so simple there wasn't much room for failure," Hasan said. The robot almost failed to qualify before the competition, as its flaps malfunctioned. Nonetheless, the robot managed to get some of the balls wedged under its structure and it remained undefeated until the final round.
The Fantasticks
Captions (above clockwise):
• Kevin McMahon and Sally Chou '98 sing their love from across the wall in Metaphore.
• A happy ending, but it’s only act one....
• Stephen Peters G and Tarik Alkasab '92 celebrate their deception in Never Say No.

Photos by: Gabor Csanyi, Greg Kuhnen

Sexual Perversion in Chicago
Captions (below, clockwise):
• Jenny James Matta '98 and Ania Busza '99 argue over Ania’s new boyfriend.
• Ania Busza '99 pounces on her love, Brett Taylor G.
• Brett Taylor G and Frenando Paiz '98 drown their troubles.

Photos by: Greg Kuhnen
Captions (left to right, top to bottom):

- Stefan Hurwitz prepares the robot “Rasenmäher” in lab.
- Jeffrey Steinheider filling “Mr. Hankey” with red balls as Jeffrey Pearlman holds it up.
- “Cartman” getting prepared for a game of potting.
- “Sabotage” gets a cheer from its maker after a successful round.
- Leila Hasan and Holly Gates celebrate a well-earned victory.
- “dog”, the winning golfer.

Photography: Ajai Bharadwaj, Gábor Csánya, Ying Lee, Wan Yusof Wan Morshidi, Chun Hua Zheng
Perhaps...

The subway could be extended to include the entire MIT campus...

By Jennifer DiMase

THE T MAP

New House
Baker
17 Mass Ave
Building 54
Media Lab

by jessica

I HATE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS... I CAN NEVER KEEP MY EYES OPEN!

WHY IS IT STILL DARK? WHERE IS EVERYONE?

SHOOT! MY WATCH IS STILL IN PACIFIC STANDARD TIME!

Off Course

by Hugo

LET ME SEE YOUR CLASS SCHEDULE

3.069? I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU HAD AN INTEREST IN MATERIAL SCIENCE

WHAT? I'M JUST SIGNED UP FOR A CLASS ON POTTERY. I FIGURED IT WOULD BE AN EASY A

I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT THEY MEAN BY CERAMICS PROCESSING

only in The Tech!

bartholomew squeak
noun poetry
perhaps
THE STORY SO FAR: When Rhino-Man returned to his apartment, he was surprised to find a briefcase lying by his door. Upon opening it, he discovered it was filled with stacks of cash.

Good morning, Professor. The weirdest thing happened to me last night.

Turn the page for more comics!

Check out what's new at Walker Memorial!

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- Mango Tropics
- Strawberry Tropics
- Lemon Tropics

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- Oriental
The School of Humanities and Social Science Congratulates

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Paul Czerniak '99
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Shawdee Eshghi '99
Paraskevi Farazi '99
Carina Fung '99
Marion Groh '99
Ana Isasi '99
Damian Isla '99
Jean Lee '99
Fenny Lin '99

Matthew Lozow '99
Amalia Miller '99
Andrew Nevins '00
Carolyn Phillips '99
Eric Plosky '99
Zhelintentice Scott '00
Ja Hyun Shin '99
Pooja Shukla '99
Samuel Siddiqi '99
Peter Siu '99
Ami Vasamanawa '99
Wesley Watters '99

The Burchard Scholars Program brings together distinguished members of the faculty and promising sophomores and juniors who have demonstrated excellence in some aspect of the humanities, arts, and social sciences as well as in science or engineering. The Burchard Program format is a series of dinner-seminars held during the academic year to discuss topics of current research introduced by MIT faculty members.

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THE DEAN'S OFFICE
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE
The political landscape of Renaissance Italy was crowded with the rivalries between several powerful families who vied for offices of power, including the papacy. The de' Medici family from Florence produced three men who held the position of pope during the sixteenth century: Giovanni, Giulio, and Giovanni Angelo, who became Leo X, Clement VII, and Paul IV, respectively.

This week’s winners will each win a LSC movie ticket and one large tub of popcorn, courtesy of LSC.

Send your answers to trivia@the-tech.mit.edu by 3 p.m. Wednesday. Two random drawings from all of the correct entries will be held to determine this week’s two winners.

This feature was brought to you by the CAC Program Board. Today’s factoids are by the MIT Quiz Bowl team. Members of the Quiz Bowl team are not eligible.

Across
1. Naughty
4. Faxes
7. Even
10. Arizona Indian
11. Vocal
12. Elderly
14. Concert
16. Pine tree resin
18. Cold personality
20. Black Metal
22. Cupola
24. Direction (abbr.)
25. Boating lowly
26. Alt water
27. Vocab
29. Grinding tooth
31. Securing
35. Pasta
39. Confederate commander
40. Calmative
43. Blemish
44. Much
45. Vehicle
46. Speed (abbr.)
47. Malt beverage
48. Run away to sea
50. Tail fin
52. Dream big
53. Pans

Down
1. Prickly flower (var.)
2. Diced
3. Pelt
4. Chore
5. A Gershwin
6. Join
7. Public land
8. Past
9. Set again
13. Eat upper
15. Frozen water
17. Mail box
20. Burn
22. Distinguished Service Medal (abbr.)
23. Office of Economic Opportunity (abbr.)
24. Time zone (abbr.)
25. Pig’s home
27. Raised (abbr.)
28. Female aide (abbr.)
30. Presidential nickname
31. Against the law
33. New form
34. Receive
36. Devil
37. Plant native to Mexico
38. Greek (abbr.)
39. High road
41. Weep hay
42. Ceter
44. Wrigley structure
46. Nothing more than
47. Assistant (abbr.)
48. Vegetable
51. Picnic item
52. Directive (abbr.)
53. Black bird

46. Speed (abbr.)
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53. Black bird
An evening of Improbable Research

with Marc Abrahams, emcee of the Ig Nobels, Scientist/Supermodel Symmetra, and others

"Advances in Improbable Research" An evening with Marc Abrahams, editor of The Best of the Annals of Improbable Research (W.H. Freeman publishers), and other contributors to A. I. R. Special guest appearance by scientist/supermodel (and MIT graduate) Symmetra. The evening will feature a lecture, slide show, video highlights of the Ig Nobel Prize ceremonies, and a performance of part of the opera, "Lament del Cockroach."

Thursday, February 5 7:30 pm
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CEO of garage.com and Apple Fellow

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8:00 PM
Room 10-250
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Light refreshments will be served after the presentation.

http://web.mit.edu/50k/www/
Ravi Sastry ’98 takes the lead in the 55 meter hurdles on Saturday at the Quad Cup Invitational. MIT won the meet, beating close rival Springfield College and several other teams.

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Strategic Innovation Group

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Rutherford, NJ 07070
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Fax: 201-507-6939
Email: ROBBIK@pfizer.com
Renovations to Displace Students

Baker, from Page 1

vision sets or hi-fi systems,” Watson said. The kitchen area, meant at first to service 900 students will be reduced in size since only 200 students frequent the area now, Personette said.

In addition, the plan calls for adding air conditioning to the main lobby and for an expansion of the convenience store. The housemaster’s suite, designed originally for a couple, will be increased in size in response to the number of housemasters with small children, Watson said.

In addition, Watson said, the sprinkler systems will be redone and, as a consequence of the Americans for Disabilities Act, a ramp will be built for front-door wheelchair access and elevators will be modernized.

Students will be displaced

As a result of renovations, students who would originally occupy Baker during the two summers will be forced to live elsewhere. Though plans have not been fully laid out as to where students will be housed, “MIT is anxious to find places for students and is quite aware of its obligations,” Watson said. A plan for student summer housing will be laid out in about two weeks, he said.

“Students are 100 percent behind it,” Personette said. She said all students in Baker are fully aware that they will not be allowed to live in Baker during the summers. Students will most likely be housed in surrounding residences on either side of Baker, such as Burton-Conner, MacGregor, or Bexely, she said. Students living in rooms that will be restored to their original state as lounge areas will move elsewhere in the dormitory.

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APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 11, 1998
This file cabinet was broken into during a rash of recent larcenies. Security in Building 54 is being tightened to prevent future thefts.

Password Sniffers Pose Added Threat to Building 54 Security

Thieves, from Page 1

While he had backed up the data, the program, the result of months of work, were lost. Because none of the information was classified and had been published, it appears that the only goal was the computer itself. The other stolen computer belonged to the EAPS department. The file cabinet was so damaged that it had to be thrown out.

Newell later discovered a metal tool and a pair of gloves, possibly used to break into the file cabinet, in an unused file cabinet in a locked room. How the burglar knew that Lam was out of town or had locked his computer in that cabinet is still unknown.

A few weeks later two more computers were stolen from the 18th floor, also on a Saturday night. The computers stolen contained research and a portion of a student's thesis.

In another theft during the fall, Professor Laura Molina stepped out of her office for a few minutes and returned to find her purse missing. It was found shortly thereafter, although all the money had been taken.

Security Changes Implemented

Past problems and the theft of a computer valued at $40,000 prompted a change in security measures for Building 54, said Robin C. Elices, administrative officer for Building 54. The department and MIT have combined their efforts to increase security. Recent changes include re-keying the entire building, securing expensive equipment, and restricting access to the building by requiring card access after hours, Elices said. The Campus Police have posted a patrol in Building 54 at all times.

"The tricky part for us is finding a balance between locking down a building and allowing the staff to carry out their work with as little inconvenience as possible," said Here.

MIT has an open campus policy which allows faculty, staff and students access to MIT facilities at any given time in order to carry out their work. Unfortunately, the open campus policy also allows strangers to enter our buildings and cause trouble for us from time to time," said Here.

Newell said that it is impossible to identify strangers who might have malicious intentions on the eighteenth floor because it is very well traveled. Athletes ascend the stairs as a training exercise and then stop on the eighteenth floor for a water break. There has even been an instance of a woman selling photos door-to-door on the eighteenth floor. According to Newell there will now be tighter restrictions on the keys given out within the department.

'Sniffers' Pose a Threat

The security problems in 54 have not been limited to the physical realm. "By far the biggest threat to us and the rest of MITnet are password sniffers and the unencrypted transmission of information including passwords," said Here.

Here said that it was difficult for the department to implement encrypted connections because researchers needed to access facilities outside of MIT. The department has taken steps to address the issue by working with other sites to implement encrypted sessions, he said.

Professor Newell said that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was called when a password protected workstation was broken into. EAPS researchers are involved in research projects with a number of government agencies. While the FBI was unable to comment on this particular event, spokesman Peter Ginieres said that the FBI generally gets involved "in a major theft" or if there is a threat to the electronic infrastructure was involved, such as when computers or electronic devices involved in sensitive research are stolen.

"Luckily for us, no real damage has been reported, and no specific project, program, or data set has been targeted," Here said.

Here said that the department has been working with Information Services and that "while we're not perfect, the systems managers at EAPS and elsewhere are becoming more and more proficient in detecting and preventing compromises."

Brett Alcock contributed to the reporting of this story.
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**Information Session**

**Date:** Thursday, February 5th

**Time:** 6:00pm

**Place:** Room 4-270

**Interviews:** Friday, February 6th

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**Fiji Witnesses Help Clear U.Penn. Man**

**Short Takes, from Page 9**

arms around — did not amount to a criminal charge.

Because the investigation’s rejection of the whole of the allegation was based on the premise that Sofield resisted arrest, the Sofield student later added that may they “take things further” now that Sofield was found not guilty of the charge.

In November, when the Fiji eye-witnesses first came forward with their allegations, a source close to the Sofield family said that while the Sofield’s would not rule out a trial, Sofield’s first priority was to “take care of [his] children.” In other words, they would not make any formal complaints until then.

Now, with the charges cleared, a civil suit is a likely possibility. The Sofield’s lawyer, Walter Phillips, has hired a private investigator to look into the University blasting the findings of the so-called ‘truth commission’.

“I pointed out what I thought were major flaws and deficiencies in the investigation,” Phillips said yesterday. “The campus police just completely rejected what the [Fiji] brothers said.

But yesterday, Delcon said that when he thought Bill Sofield was ‘not truly the culprit.’

A civil case could hurt the family because of the actions of Richard Sofield.

“If anyone had a problem, it was [Bill’s] brother,” Delcon said. “He was just drunk... and if his father wants to keep on presssing this, he’s got to look at what his older son did.”

Unlike his two companions, Richard Sofield did not leave the scene and allowed University Police Officer Jeff Dougherty to handcuff him and arrest him. But Dougherty testified that Sofield was also bellicose and used his status as an assistant U.S. attorney to taunt the officer.

Although Sofield denied making such remarks, two Fiji brothers testified that he was “visibly intoxicated” and that the fact that he supplied his underage brother with a great deal of alcohol during the evening could potentially mar his career if it is further publicized.

Any information about the incident came out during Bill Sofield’s non-jury criminal trial, which lasted one week and a half hours.

“Your Honor, he’s an attorney and he has his younger sibling around with him and they were drinking at every place, margaritas and Jamaican cuisine, and then they went back to the [Fiji] house and had 460,” said Delcon. “That’s not going to look good.”

Managing Director of Public Safety Tom Seamann said that even though Delcon acquitted Sofield, he still believed the freshman had resisted arrest and that the charges were proper.

“The district attorney agreed with me,” Seamann said in reference to a preliminary hearing where Bill Sofield’s charges were upheld.

“We were disappointed with the ruling, but I still don’t believe that changes the facts of anything that happened that night,” Seamann said.

[Daily Pennsylvania, 02/02/98]

**U. Arizona engineering students**

University of Arizona student engineers are petitioning NASA to give their satellite a free ride to outer space.

The satellite, still in the conceptual stage, is part of a student-science project aimed at studying space, unexplained red gasses that rise above thunderclouds during storms.

Students hope the satellite can get a piggy-back launch on a NASA space shuttle's Hitchhiker Ejection System, said Chris Lewicki, aerospace and mechanical engineering graduate student and student satellite project head.

Lewicki said he is optimistic they will get NASA's approval for the launch.

"It's a good opportunity to show a group of college students at a university have the capability to do real science and work," he said.

The satellite will be ready for launch in time for a major solar eclipse that NASA will be helping build the International Space Station, a collaboration project between several nations to build a lab in outer space.

"Our satellite could literally be just a few feet from some of the hardware for the International Space Station," he said.

Once in space, the satellite will orbit the earth once every 90 minutes, sometimes pointed toward distant stars to assess their brightness,

The idea for the fully student-built and designed satellite came up casually during a November 1996 lunch between physics Professor Ke Chiang Hsieh, aerospace and mechanical engineering faculty.

"We were having our lunch and I asked them, "What if you had the money to do a satellite?"" said Hsieh, mentor for the project.

"They said, 'no,' so I said, 'Let's do it.'"

The satellite passed its conceptual design review in November, when 17 student proposals were reviewed and ideas, were culled from each by a panel of professors and top industry engineers.

The project is now moving into the preliminary design phase where different aspects of the satellite — from radio control to structure and stress — are split among seven teams that will formulate and test designs in the lab.

The seven plans eventually will be pulled together as the satellite, which will be able to be controlled from a radio station atop the Engineering building. The radio station was built to guide the University of Alabama-Huntsville's student-built SEDSAT satellite.

The 150-pound satellite will surpass the SEDSAT and Arizona State University's student-built ASELSAT satellite in size, Lewicki said.

Hsieh said student specifics came on the project after the students pragmatically pushed it forward in a short amount of time.

Lewicki said students are excited because the project is a shot at doing real-world design — far different from class projects like building a better doorstop.

"After you do those design projects, they go in the closet," he said. "Here, we get to apply stuff people only get to do in big corporate places."

A free ride from NASA would ensure greater publicity for the satellite project, Lewicki said, after factoring costs for student stipends and travel expenditures.

About $10,000 is needed to launch one year's worth of equipment into space, which would make the cost of launching the 150-pound satellite too much, Lewicki said.

Creighton Anderson, a structure and stress team member, brought in a $1,000 grant from NASA so he could continue with the project.

"I never dreamed I'd develop a satellite, yet here we are," said Anderson, a aerospace and mechanical sciences junior.

The group filed approval papers this week with NASA's Wes Huntress, associate administrator for science programs.

[Arizona Daily Wildcat 02/02/98]
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RVSI-CiMatrix, Canton, MA provides technologies necessary for implementation of 1-D bar code and 2-D symbologies in material handling, distribution and process control. Our Data Matrix 2-D symbology has been widely adopted as a standard to provide the direct marking of manufactured parts for process control, serialization, and tracking. A recently announced joint venture with Polaroid Corporation will apply the best of each company’s expertise to new products.

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See our presentation on February 5 at 6:00pm in Room 2-139.
Refreshments will be served.
Athletes of the Week

Gymnast Sonja Ellefson ’01 broke the MIT record on the balance beam in a meet against Northeastern and the University of Bridgeport with a score of 9.35/10. Runner Mike Parkins ’99 ran for first-place finishes in the 1600-meter and 800-meter races and anchored the winning distance medley relay team in the men’s indoor track team’s recent victory over Bates College, Bowdoin College, and Colby College.

Mike Parkins ’99
Indoor Track and Field
Age: 21
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Prairie Village, KA
Years playing sport: 3
Most memorable moment: Coming within one point of being the first New England team to beat Williams College in four years last year.
Future plans: Humiliate Williams every chance I get.
“I hope we can get a few guys to make a name for MIT in indoor track.”

Sonja Ellefson ’01
Gymnastics
Age: 18
Major: Undeclared
Hometown: Edina, MN
Years playing sport: 14
Most memorable moment: Almost making nationals last weekend.
Future plans: Have fun and go to nationals.
“I have never been on a team that has so much fun before.”

By Karl Richter

The heavyweight and lightweight men’s crews concluded their two-week winter training trip to southern Florida with a sweep of the University of Miami at the Miami Invitational Regatta on Jan. 17. In five races between the MIT heavyweight, the MIT lightweight, and the University of Miami on an 800-meter course in Miami Beach, the Beavers held the Hurricanes to five last place finishes.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, February 3
Men’s Basketball vs. Suffolk University, 8 p.m.
Women’s Basketball vs. Wheaton College, 6 p.m.
Women’s Gymnastics vs. Gustavus Adolphus College, 7 p.m.
Squash vs. Tufts University, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, February 4
Men’s Ice Hockey vs. Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 7 p.m.
Squash vs. Harvard University, 4 p.m.

Thursday, February 5
Men’s Basketball vs. Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, 5:30 p.m.
Women’s Basketball vs. Suffolk University, 7:30 p.m.

The MIT heavyweights won the Varsity Four, the Varsity Eight, and the Freshmen Eight events, while the lightweights took the Junior Varsity Four event. A combined boat of heavyweight and lightweight MIT freshmen was able to defeat the University of Miami in the Junior Varsity Eight event.

“I thought these were gratifying races because they demonstrated our success at improving in the areas we had been working on the whole two weeks [of the training trip]. They were the difference in our performance,” said Varsity Coach Gordon Hamlin.

In the Varsity Four race, the first contest of the day, the heavyweights (2:33.1) steadily pulled away from the lightweights (2:35.3) and Miami (2:42.6) to win the race with a controlled rhythm and cadence. Miami was able to keep pace with the two MIT fours for the first part of the race, but dropped back quickly after the 500 meter mark.

Each coach had prioritized this Varsity Four race and had entered his fastest lineup. The winning combined boat of heavyweight and lightweight MIT freshmen was included Jen Lykens ’99 (cox), Solar Oluigebhode ’98 (bow), Mike Perry ’99, Bernard Asare G, and Karl Richter ’99 (stroke).

Place finishes were the same in the Varsity Eight event. Despite not entering their fastest lineup for this event, the heavyweights (2:30.9) rowed aggressively to defeat the lightweights (2:34.2) and Miami (2:44.1). The heavyweight eight included Mike Dewberry ’00 (bow), Eugene Vaynestein ’00, Duane Dreger ’99, Derek Ransom ’98, Mike Salamina ’90, Jen Keiper ’99, Dan Parker ’99, Matt Coates ’98 (stroke), and Jen Lykens ’99 (cox). The Miami eight included Miami’s top oarsmen, while the MIT heavyweight eight did not include the four oarsmen from the Varsity Four.

Last two years widen difference

In a similar matchup last year, when the MIT heavyweights had raced their strongest Varsity Eight, the Beavers trounced the Hurricanes by 19 seconds. That result, combined with this year’s 13 second victory from a mixed lineup, shows the speed difference that has emerged between these two programs in the last two years. Before 1996, the annual Varsity Eight race with the Hurricanes had never been decided by more than 2 seconds.

In the Freshmen Eight race, the young heavyweight Beavers (2:30.4) nipped the more experienced MIT freshmen lightweights (2:31.9) and dominated Miami (2:47.0). The winning eight included Demian Brosnan ’99 (bow), Joe Lewis ’01, Mike Mills ’01, Roman Luz ’01, Andy Copeland ’01, Mark Jhon ’01, Chris Penny ’01, Jim Morash ’01 (stroke), and Christina Carvey ’99 (cox).

“We have definitely improved as a team, in working together and getting a feel for rowing together, and in our interest in rowing well with enthusiasm,” Morash said.

The crews will surface next at the CRASH-B World Indoor Rowing Championships in Boston on Sunday, Feb. 22, where the Beavers will be competing against the best collegiate and international athletes in a 2000-meter ergometer (indoor rowing machine) event.

The spring racing season opens for the Heavyweights against Columbia University on Apr. 4 at MIT’s home course on the Charles River.