Vandals Mar Smoot Marks, LCA House with Anti-Gay Graffiti

By Zareena Husain

On Friday morning, brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha were shocked to find the Smoot markings on Harvard Bridge had been vandalized. The Smoot markings, a well-known piece of MIT history, date back to a LCA prank from 1938. The markings, which identify the length of the bridge as “364.4 Smoots + 1 ear,” are still maintained by LCA.

Friday morning, the markings were marred by graffiti saying “LCGY.” In addition, “Halfway to Hell” was changed to “Halfway to Queererville,” said Duane Dreger ’99, president of the Interfraternity Council.

Fraternity house also vandalized

LCA President Andrew Bankert ’99 said that the house was also vandalized. Someone painted “LCGY” in purple paint “at the foot of the house on the concrete, right on the sidewalk in front of Bay State Road,” he said.

The vandalism was “cowardly, senseless, and very homophobic in nature,” Bankert said. “The fraternity is very displeased with the incident.”

Before LCA brothers could remove the vandalism from the bridge themselves, most of the paint was cleaned up by the Metropolitan District Commission. Bankert said that the MDC would try to remove the final traces of the graffiti over the course of the next few days. “We are aware of it and very interested in getting it off,” he said.

Bankert said that the markings on the house had also been erased. “We painted over the markings on the house with gray paint, so it’s pretty much gone now.”

No legal action taken so far

No complaints have yet been filed with Massachusetts, Boston, or MIT police. According to representatives from the MDC, the Smoot markings “have not been confirmed.”

By Carina Fung

Since September, there have been several temporary outages of the Bell Atlantic 411 Directory Service on campus. The last outage, which was the most visible, started in early February and was not resolved until early April.

The 411 service offers directory information inside the 617 area code. Normally, Bell Atlantic changes a small fee for each use of 411 from a normal telephone.

The interruption was caused by Bell Atlantic in each case, said Louise T. Koshane, the team leader of 5ESS operations services in Information Systems.

“This was caused by a software change. Since the new software did not interface with ours, we had to reroute traffic,” said Valerie L. Hartz, Supervisor of Operator Services in Information Systems.

Software update causes outage

Bell Atlantic, like MIT 5ESS operations services, performs software updates all year long. “Each time they performed a software upgrade, they would knock [out] 411 services,” Koshane said.

Since most of MIT’s telephone connections have special restrictions, Bell Atlantic was unable to resolve how to configure them after it performed a software upgrade, and, therefore, blocked 411 as a feature, she said.

“Part of the problem with this was that Bell Atlantic never informed MIT’s 5ESS service team that it would be performing this service,” Koshane said. “Therefore, we could not inform the community, nor be available during the upgrade to perform our own testing.”

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New ASA Leaders Study Funds, Summer Mailings

By Christina Chow

The Association of Student Activities, the student organization that governs all student groups on campus, elected a new executive board Thursday.

Van L. Chu ’99 was elected president of the ASA. Matthew L. McGann ’00 was elected treasurer, and Eleanor S. Kane ’00 will serve as secretary.

“I feel like I was the strongest candidate,” Kane said. “I think I am very psyched,” Chu said.

“Improving the efficiency of the executive board, and looking to see if there is something that we can do for the community at large,” are major goals for the ASA, Chu said.

“My hope for the year is not only to improve upon normal ASA administrative functions, but also to direct ASA in more long term projects,” Chu said.

Board will examine funding issues

ASA will confront two major issues in the coming year. The first is whether student groups will, in fact, get access to the $300,000 released by Provost Joel Moses to increase funding for student groups this year. McGann said that the Provost Joel Moses’s decision “has not been confirmed.”

In addition, the ASA will also enter the debate on how to fund activities containing a mix of undergraduate and graduate students. Currently, any organization with graduate and undergraduate members may apply to either the Undergraduate Association Finance Board or the Graduate Student Council Funding Board, but not both.

Although the ASA has no direct authority over this funding, the group “wants to look into the feasibility of a central allocations board” that would address all financial applications, McGann said.

“Common sense would say that there should be a student activities board that would combine the GSC and Finance Board,” Chu said.

An attempt to create such a board failed last year. “We can’t create the board now, Chu said, but “we do want to look into the feasibility of a central allocations board.”

In addition to regulating student organizations throughout the term, the ASA is also in charge of the summer mailing advertising the

ASA, Page 15

Newly Installed Software Causes Outages in 411 Directory Service

By Carina Fung

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Since most of MIT’s telephone

The weather is dominated by a cutoff cyclonic circulation in the mid- atmosphere, which has the consequence that nothing goes anywhere fast. This is demonstrated by the events of Wednesday when a line of showers passed through the area. The line of showers brought a refreshing breeze and some sun, probably followed by more showers in the future.

Tuesday: Continued chance of rain. Low 52°F (11°C).


Thursday: Some clearing possible. High around 69°F (18°C) Low 57°F (14°C)
Three VMl Seniors Indicted on Hazing, Harassment Charges

By Patricia Davis

The Virginia Military Institute’s judicial council has indicted three first-year cadets on federal charges alleging that they routinely assualted him with a belt.

The misdemeanor indictments came less than two months after Gordon Saunders, the commonwealth’s attorney in Rockbridge County, Va., grand jury after a former student’s conviction that he beat and bruised, dropped out of VMI in November. VMI suspended three cadets after an internal investigation of Wade’s allegations. Two of those cadets—identified as seniors Charles Clemmons and Jonathan Gonzales—were among those indicted Monday. The third cadet—identified by the Virginia’s attorney, who said the beatings left him and other freshmen with welts and bruises—dropped out of VMI in December. VMI suspended three cadets after an internal investigation of Wade’s allegations. Two of those cadets—identified as seniors Charles Clemmons and Jonathan Gonzales—were among those indicted Monday. The third cadet—identified by the Virginia’s attorney, who said the beatings left him and other freshmen with welts and bruises—dropped out of VMI in December.

Maj.eneral Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 6

1. Graduate Housing Briefing
2. Institute Committee Reports
3. Installation of New Officers

Institute Committees

Graduate students, get involved in running MIT!!

Do you want to have a say in how certain decisions within the Institute are made? Institute Committees are now being accepted. Check out the GSC’s web page or an application and link to committee descriptions. Contact GSC-Vice-President@mit.edu for more information.

Applications are due Friday, May 8

General Student Council • GSC • GSC-Officers@mit.edu

Western Digital to Team Up With IBM on Hard Drive Product

Western Digital Corp. said Monday it will team up with IBM Corp. to build new disk drives for personal computers. IBM will sell Western Digital a series of computer components that read and write data from the disk and allow the computer’s disk drives to store more information than other technologies.

Financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed. In November, Western Digital stock rose 25 cents, to $19.88 a share; IBM shares fell 25 cents to $116.63.

Analysts say the proposed deal allows IBM access to new outlets to distribute its products and gives Western Digital a jump on emerging technologies and manufacturing lead-time.

"It's an excellent agreement for both of them," said Matthew Russo, an analyst with Sanders Brothers & Co. "It also helps that there was a pro-sitting tie between the two firms."

That link is Chuck Haggerty, chief executive of Western Digital and a former IBM vice president. Haggerty, who worked at Big Blue for 28 years before joining Western Digital, said he had been in talks with IBM staff about the proposed agreement for the past six months.

"This gives us an advantage to be able to introduce our products much faster—such as six months faster," said Haggerty, who expects the new product line to be introduced in 1999.

Tel Aviv Mayor to Run for Prime Minister, Head New Party

Roni Milo, Tel Aviv’s mayor and a leader moderating on Middle East peace in the Likud Party of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, announced Monday he will seek Israel’s top office in 2000 at the head of a new centrist party.

The announcement by Milo—a former ally of Netanyahu and considered a potential rival to the Likud leader—came as the prime minister held critical talks in London on a U.S. plan to break the yearlong stalemate in Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking. It also appeared timed to take advantage of escalating concerns here over what political commentators are calling a “culture war,” the widening rift between religious and secular Jews in Israel.

An outspoken opponent of the growing influence of religious parties in the government, Milo, 48, said Monday that he will seek the post of prime minister was triggered in part by continuing controversy here over a canceled modern dance performance at last week’s 50th anniversary gala.

The Barbra Streisand withdrew rather than to accede to demands by ultra-Orthodox politicians to change part of its program in which dancers, moving to the tune of a religious song, were to perform in revealing costumes. Although many Israelis, not just the religious, have privately questioned the propriety of the planned performance, Milo on Monday put himself on the side of the dancers and others who have angrily accused religious leaders of trying to curtail artistic expression.

Los Angeles Times

Malaysian Finance Chief Defends Bailout of Hobbled Companies

By Evelyn Irltanl

Malaysia’s trade minister on Monday defended her government’s decision to bail out sever al hobbled companies, saying they were needed to prevent a financial meltdown throughout Asia. Since last summer’s currency and stock market collapse, the government has unsuccessfully struggled to jump-start the economy.

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"This gives us an advantage to be able to introduce our products much faster—such as six months faster," said Haggerty, who expects the new product line to be introduced in 1999.
On Friday morning, the hundreds of pedestrians and bicyclists who cross the Harvard bridge saw the bridge vandalized with blue, green, and purple graffiti. Some time between Thursday evening and early Friday morning, unknown individuals used the Harvard bridge as a platform to spew obscene, homophobic rhetoric. This behavior is outrageous and intolerable, and that the appropriate party involved should be punished.

More on the Innocent

Naveen Sankavally pointed a very sad picture of the death penalty and introduced it: "A Shameful Punishment," April 28, 1998, but his arguments were characterized by a functional form of flow. The problem with his argument is that it assumes unlimited resources to devote to the housing of these criminals. In the current system, a death penalty sentence will end up costing the state even more than it saves. The costs of execution, for example, are currently much higher than the costs of life imprisonment. It is stating the MIT is actually a police state. Having the buildings secured better, in most likely result in a rapid decrease in the number of thefts, from the out-of-the-way places on campus, and those who contemplate it being unfair or a hassle to carry around the MIT Card, I don't see how it differs from carrying around a driver's license or ATM card. It's a way to keep a person in prison. I'm not sure, but if the thoughts in such a public place. The Harvard bridge is crossed by hundreds of people a day, and, after tearing at the statement on the sidewalk, every single one of them is going to wonder about the type of institution that could produce people who would stoop to such a level.

is right now, it really isn't much of a challenge to get into the building from Building 66. More on the Innocent

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Getting Barbie Some New Makeup
Mattel should redress pop culture icon to reflect diversity.

Eaine L. Yan

Is your dream guy tall with short blonde hair, a muscular build, and a golden tan? Does your dream girl have long blonde hair, blue eyes, cherry lips, and an hourglass body? If so, chances are you were raised by Barbie dolls. If you ask the first question, allow me to introduce you to Ken. If you answered yes to the second question, let me introduce you to Barbie. That is, Mattel's Barbie doll.

I got my first Barbie doll when I was too young to forget her name, but she had silty long blonde hair, a perfect figure, sparkling eyes, slender arms and legs, a white complexion, and a week brush. I believe she came with a cassette tape, too. If you didn't have a Barbie doll when you were a child because "boys don't play with dolls" (which is not true), you probably had a G.I. Joe action figure instead.

My Barbie doll is probably buried in some landfill right now.

By the end of this year, Barbie will be forty years old.

Consequently, many companies make their dolls so thin or so masculine? Are dolls truly a reflection of society? If not, why is our society so preoccupied with thinness? How can one make an effort to improve his physical features if he is made to feel that his image is socially unacceptable?

As one of the world's bestselling toys, Barbie is marketed in over 130 countries.

Otnes was surprised when he learned that most men believe that Barbie dolls are designed specifically for girls.

Many girls today play with Barbie dolls, and these dolls can have a significant impact on what they think about themselves and their future. If toys are reflections of what society considers as ideal, then girls who play with such toys may believe that they should look like Barbie or Ken may feel that they fail to meet expectations and are unvalued.

In the 1950s, girls in Germany had more diverse in their appearance, although consumers are still predominantly white. New additions to the Barbie family include Blek Blast Christie, African-American Barbie, Twistie Makeup Teresa, Hispanic, and Native American Barbie. Mattel considered making European-American Barbie, but decided against it because Barbie wouldn't be able to get in the "Barbie Dream House."

Out of forty commercials from the past four decades, Otnes noticed that only too bad have been about the Armenian genocide.

Eating disorders are a problem among young people today. Staying thin is healthy but becoming too thin can be unhealthy. In 1996, the already high housing prices have increased approved by the Institute every year. The most important step that the Institute can take towards improving the quality of life for graduate students is to seek the increase of graduate student stipends by $500 a month.

There is an old Latin proverb that says "living is not about surviving, but about having a life. " With the recent elimination of dormitory space for graduate students, the Institute asking graduate students to give up their life and just survive. Some will argue that having peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for dinner, patching soft, and using milk crates for furniture is part of being a graduate student. But the situation is worse.

The average graduate student stipend adds up to a little less than $200 a month. According to the financial aid office, the average cost of living off-campus, including rent and utilities, is $1,500 per month. Throw in money for food, medical insurance, entertainment on weekends, books, travel, clothes, parking fees, gas, taxes, spending money, and you are left with a deficit of $500.

Sure, you can economize a bit, but is that having a life, or merely surviving? The recent increase in cost of living is not to urge graduate students to apply for financial aid anyway. The number of students asking for aid in addition to their stipend is indicative of the fact that the real cost of living is not a fraction of a dollar greater than the so called cost of living increases approved by the Institute every year. The most important step that the Institute can take towards improving the quality of life for graduate students is to seek the increase of graduate student stipends by $500 a month.

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With the elimination of rent control in 1996, the already high housing prices have risen by an additional $200. This represents a significant cost of living for graduate students who have no off-campus living options. The most important step that the Institute can take towards improving the quality of life for graduate students is to seek the increase of graduate student stipends by $500 a month.
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FRESH MELONS

Straczynski and Jablokov Discuss Television, the Future

By Brett Itschul

The MIT News

A crowd of several hundred people came to Kresge Auditorium Monday evening to hear science fiction authors Alexander Jablokov and J. Michael Straczynski. Jablokov read one of his short stories, and Straczynski, the creator of the television show Babylon 5, spoke on his experiences with science fiction and the media. Straczynski also provided several videotapes of special effects shots that were shown during the presentation.

Jablokov's new story, detailed a young professional's visit to the isolated country housing development where his eccentric parents had recently moved. The development had been conceived as a place for friends who met on the Internet to come together and live. The son discovers that his father and the rest of the community have been cloning extinct animals for many years, and that his mother and her friends have begun hunting wild life. The show is a unique blend of science fiction and human interest, and the story builds to a satisfying climax.

Straczynski's talk on television began by comparing two very different television genres - cop shows and science fiction - and how they are treated by Hollywood. Before Dragnet, police shows were considered low-quality dramas, he said. Dragnet changed that by portraying the police as real people, and basing the show around their characters. Since then, all cop shows have followed the same lead, and the genre has become an expected form of television drama, he said.

For science fiction, Star Trek could have played a similar role, but it did not, Straczynski said. For cop shows, or lawyer shows, or anything else, you hire somebody with experience, to make it good, he said. In science fiction, that isn't done.

Old television industry attacked

Straczynski harshly criticized the Hollywood establishment's treatment of science fiction. The attitude about science fiction shows was, "Either you buy into it or you don't. This kind of thing seems to be for people who can't read."

Executives did not realize that science fiction does not have to be for kids, he said. Most science fiction shows have extraneous cute characters like "Walter Kibbly, the40 cats and robots as regulars on the show," he said. "We have them as guest stars, and we kill them." Changing TV shows promise

People who grew up with the classic epics of fantasy literature, and quality British science fiction shows, like The Prisoner and Doctor Who, are now making shows on their own. Straczynski said he included himself among the new generation who understand science fiction.

"I realized that television has a unique potential for telling long stories," he said. "You don't get a pay-off at the end of the show, or sometimes even for several years!"

"The questions TV asks tend to be trivial and ephemeral," Straczynski said. "But it is still hard to come up with shows that try to present real issues like those we actually face."

There are questions that have no answers," he said. "I put them in there for you to argue about them. If I can start a bar fight, I'm happy."

Moreover, the scripts are all written by authors who know the overarching storyline, he said. "The only place that's been done before is in science fiction, and this is the first time in television history, I think." Straczynski said. "This kind of thing seems to be for people who have no life."
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Ensuring the future for those who shape it."
A militant Junta (Eric R. Traub '99) struggles against the common Thug (Dylan J. McConaghy '00) at Senior House's annual Steer Roast.

Steer Roast '98 begins with the ceremonial lighting of the pit.

Jennifer E. Grucza '98 plays the viola in the MIT Symphony Orchestra and Concert Choir last Friday in Kresge Auditorium.

Music and Theater Arts Lecturer James R. O'Dell directs the MIT Festival Jazz Ensemble last Sunday at Kresge Auditorium.
May 5, 1998

Off Course
by Hugo

WELL, I GUESS THAT WHALE COOL. BUT MESS IS DONE WITH.

YES.

ONE THING, THOUGH.

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THE NERD POLICE?

WE KNOW YOU'RE ARMED! COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!

ASSASSIN'S GUILD?

NEVER!

THE STORY SO FAR: The Yakuza offered to leave Sector 9 alone if Rhino-Man will confess to false charges and commit suicide. But a hidden container of gasoline and his lit cigar change the situation.

Rhino Man

You don't seem to understand, Shimuraka: You killed the woman I love. There will be no deals tonight.

I've already accepted death, Shimuraka. Have you?

I know you're armed, come out with your hands up!

Assassin's Guild?

NeVER!

Whoosh!

by Zachary Emig
By Jennifer DiMase

WHAT THE...?
CAN'T YOU READ?!?
MIT STUDENT?
SHEESH.

By Scott Adams

CATBERT: EVIL H.R. DIRECTOR
I'M HAVING TROUBLE FINDING QUALIFIED EXTERNAL APPLICANTS.

ALL I HAVE ARE A HEADLESS MAN, A MIME, AND A FROZEN CRO-MAGNON GUY WE FOUND IN A GLACIER.

DOES THE MIME BRING HIS OWN INVISIBLE CUBICLE? I LOVE THOSE!
ONLY IF WE PAY HIS RELOCATION COSTS.

CATBERT: EVIL H.R. DIRECTOR
I HAD A STRANGE DREAM LAST NIGHT.

RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT NOTHING IS LESS INTERESTING THAN HEARING ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE'S DREAM.

...BUT THIS WAS NO ORDINARY GRAPE. IT WAS A SEEDLESS!
MY BRAIN IS GNAWING ITS WAY OUT!

CATBERT: EVIL H.R. DIRECTOR
ALICE, THE EXPERTS SAY YOU NEED TO BALANCE WORK AND HOME LIFE.

YOU WORKED 80 HOURS LAST WEEK. THAT'S LESS THAN HALF OF THE HOURS IN A WEEK.

GIVE US SOME BALANCE, YOU SELFISH HAG.

THIS CONVERSATION TOOK A NASTY TURN.
Trivia Corner

Accidents Happen

Freak accidents often claim the lives of public figures. The abstract expressionist painter Jackson Pollock was killed in a car crash while out driving with his mistress. Keith Relf, the lead singer for The Yardbirds (the seminal British Rock band which produced guitar legends Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, and Jimmy Page) died from electrocution. This past winter, Michael Kennedy and Sonny Bono were both killed in skiing accidents.

What Austrian composer was accidentally shot and killed by a soldier in the U.S. occupation force near Salzburg at the end of World War II?

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

Showing this weekend:

Friday 7:30 p.m. in Room 10-250
Shuff

Friday 7 and 10 p.m., Sunday 7 p.m.
In Room 26-100
The Replacement Killers
Saturday 7 and 10 p.m., Sunday 10 p.m.
In Room 26-100
Amistad

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, LSC, and The Tech are not eligible.

By Anthony R. Salas

ACROSS
1. Common contraction
2. Certain tools
14. Forever, abbr.
15. Allen
16. Guiness
17. Gillette Razor
18. Presto!
19. Burn quickly
20. About 78°F
23. Waterman, e.g.
24. Metric measure, abbr.
25. Female sheep
28. Monitor colors
30. Poetic Inits.
31. Pronoun
32. Gau station island
33. Re
34. Boob tube
39. Humping
40. Donald's vamp
41. Sword
42. Treasure Island author
44. Double curve
45. Half the sound of disapproval?
47. Wee bit
48. Steamy
49. Asian holiday
50. Nervous twitch
52. Jurassic Park author
61. It's
62. Purple
63. Navy’s archrival
64. Nelson
65. Camera brand name
66. Mathematics Descartes
67. Not moving
68. Skiing city
69. Classroom play
70. 962-973
71. Famous fiddler
72. Lady's love
73. Retaliation
75. Gold, e.g.
76. Vessel
77. Wan
78. Carol's game
79. Ship's poles
80. Color of cheese?
81. Close
82. Farm unit
83. Short
84. Ripen
85. Name in cosmetics
86. Credo
87. Rough
88. Treasure Island author
89. Emperors
90. Large container
91. Chilly
92. Location of Sistine Chapel
93. Russia's refusal
96. Treasure Island author
97. Speed contest
98. Space expedition
99. Classroom play
100. Large container
101. Treasure Island author
102. Location of St. Peter's

DOWN
1. Letter opener
2. Holy Roman Emperor
3. Famous fiddler
4. Lady's love
5. Retaliation
6. Gold, e.g.
7. Vessel
8. Man
9. Carroll's game
10. Ship's poles
11. Color of cheese?
12. Close
13. Farm unit
14. Short
15. Ripen
16. First name in cosmetics
17. Spies
18. Santa's helpers
19. Chilly
20. Treasure Island author
21. Emperors
22. Treasure Island author
23. Common bibliography entry
24. Locomotive fuel
25. Trailer
26. Treasure Island author
27. Treasure Island author
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102. Treasure Island author

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

By Anthony R. Salas

MIT Dining Services

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Tuesday, May 5, 1998

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Lobdell Food Court

5:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Baker House

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
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No Smoot Charges

The sidewalk In front of the Lambda Chi Alpha house was vandalized last week. Bankert said that LCA had not called the police. As of yet "no one has brought any charge," Dreger said. However, the IFC Judicial Committee is investigating several leads, Dreger said.

Because of the homophobic nature of the vandalism, if Judcom does find a culprit they will likely prosecute, Dreger said.

"As far as I know they don't have any hard proof at the moment," he said.

If an IFC member is found guilty of the vandalism, the punishment will likely take the form of a public apology to LCA and the IFC, as well as a community service sanction, Dreger said.

LCA is unlikely to bring charges of its own, instead letting the IFC prosecute, Dreger said. LCA is unlikely to bring charges of its own, instead letting the IFC prosecute, Dreger said.

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Grateful, from Page 1

The Technology and Culture Forum at MIT

On-Line Learning:
What Are the Implications for Education??

Producers
William Durden
President, InterAcademia, Wilson Learning Systems, Inc.
Richard C. Larson
Director, Center for Advanced Educational Services, MIT
Sonney Taragin
Vice President for Technology, Career Learning Network, Inc.
Jack M. Wilson
Professor, Physical Education, MIT
Acting Dean of the Faculty, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

May 7~7:00pm~MIT Room 6-120

The Technology and Culture Forum at MIT
(617) 253-6100 --- http://web.mit.edu/culture/www/home.html

PHOTO BY ZHENG - THE TECH

The sidewalk In front of the Lambda Chi Alpha house was vandalized last week.

M.I.T. Community
Summer Softball
1998

Organizational Meeting
New Team Entries Accepted

Wednesday 6 May
5:30pm

1-190

For more information, contact:
Mark S. Throop, MITCSS Coordinator
MIT Rm. 50-222,
Messages:978-734-3639,
508-877-9263(h)
February and lasted for approximately four weeks. This outage would have been extended if not for the MIT's 5E Service team, Keohane said. Bell Atlantic, which was in contact with MIT's 5ESS service team everyday during the outage, responded by stating they did not know how to remedy the problem, he said.

LiS developed a method that would allow the problem to be fixed before calls left MIT. After coming up with their solution in early April, MIT told Bell Atlantic to remove all blocking from student telephone connections, Keohane said.

The first correction Bell Atlantic made enabled students to reach 411, but those calls were routed to an automated system and most likely resulted in busy signals. MIT's 5ESS operations services again helped them to correct this problem, Keohane said.

"Bell Atlantic was not very helpful in fixing this problem because they did not have the technical expertise behind them," Keohane said. Once the MIT 5ESS service team figured out why the outages were occurring and found a solution, Bell Atlantic began to work with MIT to make the corrections, he said.

Keohane believed that there were two methods available while working through the problem to alert the MIT community that 411 was out of service: students could contact the computing help desk via phone or e-mail, or students could have been informed by the operators when students complained by phone or e-mail. "No one expected it to take as long as it did, and at times, the trunk was operational when dialing 411," he said.

MIT covers costs for 411 service
Keohane said that MIT is allowed 7,770 calls per month to 411 Directory Service and that MIT's generally exceeds that number. Recent usage figures will probably come in lower that due to the recent outages in 411. The number also fluctuates at different times of the year, based on usage, he said.

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The Sloan Subject Prioritization System

Bidding Dates for Fall, 1998 Classes
<http://sloanbid.mit.edu>

Round I (Sloan students only)

Round II (Institute-wide, Sloan and non-Sloan students)
Opens 12:00 noon, Saturday, May 9
Closes 5:00 p.m., Thursday, May 14

Round II results will be posted on the bidding website in mid-August

I/S Fixes Phone Software Problems

411, from Page 1

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After Extropian Mailing, Groups Will Not Get Freshmen's Addresses

ASA, from Page 15

dent organizations to the incoming freshmen.
This year, because of changes to
Orientation, "the administration is
planning to cut down on mailings in
general," McGann said. This may
include restricting the number of
flyers in the ASA mailing, he said.
There will also be administrative
changes designed to keep the fresh-
men's addresses confidential. "No
students will see the [address] label-
ings," McGann said.
There will not be a repeat of last
year's Extropians mass mailing, he
said. Although student groups were
only supposed to send mail to fresh-
men's addresses confidential. "We
will only send mail to freshmen
for official purposes," McGann said.
The ASA punished the
Extropians by not allowing them to
apply for official recognition until
September, 1998.
"There will definitely be a sum-
mer mailing in July [concerning] all
the activities," Chu said.
"We are working in conjunction
with the deans" so that the ASA can
"best represent all the student
groups," McGann said.

Van L. Chu '99 is the new president of the Association of Student
Activities.

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"A mother is not a person to lean on
but a person to make leaning unnecessary."
—Dorothy Canfield Fisher
Athletes of the Week

This week’s athletes are Tracy Sadowski ’99 and Justin Verdirame ’00. Sadowski, with a team-leading 29 goals, was named most valuable player by the women’s lacrosse team. She was also named to the All-Conference team. Verdirame recently led the men’s lacrosse team to victories over Western New England College and Clark University. His play also earned him All-Conference honors.

The Athletes of the Week feature is sponsored by the MIT Varsity Club.

Tracy Sadowski ’99
Women’s Lacrosse
Age: 20
Major: Chemical Engineering
Hometown: Toms River, N.J.
Years playing sport: 3
Most memorable moment:
Putting chopped up banana in Maddy Burke’s bed during spring break trip.
Future plans: To graduate and join the real world.

“Roll in your banana slime, witch, roll.” – Marilyn Vogel

Justin Verdirame ’00
Lacrosse
Age: 19
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Suffolk, Va.
Years playing sport: 8
Most memorable moment:
The spring break trips to California.
Future plans: Finding a career in mechanical engineering.

“It ain’t over ‘til it’s over.”

SPORTS

Merchant Successfully Defends Squash Title Despite Injuries

By Jim Taylor

On Saturday Ali Merchant G fought his way into his third straight Massachusetts Squash Rackets Association (MSRA) A final despite hand and forearm cramps as well as a blister the size of a silver dollar on his foot. The A’s are the top flight in MSRA squash. Merchant is also the defending champion.

In his semi-final match, Merchant beat Enamullah Khan, a professional squash player from the Cambridge Racket Club, 3-1. Merchant lost the first game playing quite tentatively. In the final three games, despite the cramps, he played very aggressively and moved Khan around the court. The squash was at a very high level with lots of shot making and very few errors by either player. Several very long points that Merchant won seemed to take most of the energy from Khan. However, Khan fought valiantly despite his fatigue. Merchant earned the win with his superior shot-making and court coverage.

On Sunday Merchant successfully defended his State Championship against Jeremy Goulding, a native of the United Kingdom and currently playing for the Concord Acton Squash Club. Merchant dominated in the final, winning 3-0.

there were a few close game scores, it was plain that Merchant was going to be in command from the start. His superior hitting pace, better court coverage, and clean touch paid off in a relatively easy victory for Merchant.

“Merchant is the best squash player that has been at MIT in the forty years that I have been associated with MIT squash,” said Coach Jim Taylor. Although Merchant was not an undergraduate at MIT, his game has improved over the last four years while he has been here. Merchant works with the MIT Varsity Squash Team and with local players when he is not engaged in his graduate studies.

Satoshi Asari ’94 spikes the ball in last Saturday’s doubles volleyball tournament. Asari and his partner Mike Margetts ’97 came in first place.

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