2005 Class Elections Finish After Re-Ballot
Alejandro Removed Following Complaints

By Jing Han Tang

MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

MIT finally dedicated the new graduate dormitory at 224 Albany Street, commonly known as The Warehouse.

MIT President Charles M. Vest spoke at yesterday's ceremony, noting the significant contribution the new dormitory makes toward housing graduate students on campus.

"The opening of 224 Albany St. is a huge step toward one of MIT's longstanding goals to accommodate 50 percent of graduate students on campus, and also part of general physical enhancement of campus," Vest said.

The new dorm houses about 120 first year graduate students in studio-style apartments. Each has a small kitchen and bathroom.

Minor construction continues

Most residents were temporarily housed in the University Park Hotel while contractors finished construction. The building is fully occupied now, but work still continues.

"All the rooms were ready when we moved in, but communal areas, such as laundry, weight room and first floor lobby still needed work," said resident Arundhati Singh G, who lives in NW30. "The work is nearly finished, but there are minor jobs which still need to be done."

Since the building is not connected to MIT's main water supply yet, a temporary water tank is used to provide water.

"I have never experienced a shortage of hot water, but the pressure is low sometimes," said Sripriya Natarajan G, one of the dorm's eight Resident Advisors.

"We are expecting this problem to be resolved by the end of fall at latest," said Steven L. Lerman '72, housemaster of The Warehouse. In addition to the water supply, there are currently some problems with the air conditioning. "I am not supposed to turn my AC off and the noise drives me mad sometimes," said Sanjii Sethi G.

"There are two types of AC in..."
situation for noon eastern daylight time, tuesday, october 2, 2001

WEATHER

situation for noon eastern daylight time, tuesday, october 2, 2001

work-week weather reprise

by Greg Lawson

staff meteorologist

there's good news for the weather ahead; it will not resemble yesterday's at all. The nasty cut-off low which brought us unseasonably chilly weather and gusty winds last weekend has finally pushed-off to sea. A weak high pressure system will be moving in over the area in its absence. This will bring us clear skies and dry air, the combination of which will allow for much warmer temperatures by day—look for high temperatures above 70° F (21° C) until Friday. Overall it should be warm and pleasant. There should even be a few scattered high clouds which will make for pretty sunsets.

However, as is the rule with weather in new england, it won't last long. Today a weak surface low will begin tracking east from the tui-ota (mn, nd, sd) and it will arrive in our area some time today thursday, but it will be forced to our north by our weak high pressure shield. Unfortunately, the low's associated cold front will still pass over us, so the clear skies and thursday afternoon precipitation is unlikely on thursday, but it is possible the front may be strong enough to bring some light, short-wave breaks. Depending on the details, there is a chance of a small amount of precipitation on Friday. then for a cooler weekend.

today: Warm sunny day with mostly clear skies. Light westerly breeze. high 70° f (21° c).

tonight: Clear skies. Very light breeze. low 53° f (13° c).

friday: Mostly clear skies. Winds shift to southeasterly. high of 73° f (23° c).

saturday: Clouds arriving early afternoon. Increased winds. High in the low 70s f (21° c). Low in the mid 60s f (16° c).

sunday and beyond: Chance of light rain on friday. Cooler weekend to follow with mostly cloudy skies.
The federal government spends no end of time and money trying to predict and prepare for terrorist attacks commissioning expert studies, sponsoring mock exercises to test its readiness. But the Sept. 11 attacks exposed a kind of government that’s not only unthinking but also, for all the talk of post-attack laws, unprepared. This was the theory, partly in fear of inspiring terrorism. There were several reasons for this, concluded that bombings, hijackings and other low-tech missions were far more likely. As a result, few federal exercises even came close to predicting the Sept. 11 attacks, let alone New York and Washington. One expert panel commissioned by the National Transportation Safety Board discussed how an airplane could be used to bomb national landmarks. The report concluded that such attacks were beyond the agency’s “technical capability.”

"It was considered radical thinking, a little too scary for the time," conceded John Edmonson, a former Transportation Department’s Office of Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict. "After all, it left a met a quiet death."

Authorities are quick to note that no one ever called 2001’s "war against terrorism" accurately predict the acts of detrimed suicidal terrorists. But the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon have heightened the government’s determination to broaden the scope of its counterterrorism planning. For example, the Homeland Security Director General David Walker called on federal emergency managers before Sept. 11 to make a "concerted effort to “prevent and deter threats to our homeland.”"

The反正 Accounting Office, the investigatory arm of Congress, concluded in several studies in the last year that many federal counterterrorism programs were useless, or perhaps even "counter-intuitive" at worst. The study's "worst-case scenarios" that presented an "exaggerated view" of the likelihood of a terrorist attack, "would make the 1986 Skyjacking at the cost of the USS Liberty or the 1995 explosion at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City seem like a mere scratch." But within a day or two, the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon have heightened the government's determination to broaden the scope of its counterterrorism planning. For example, the Homeland Security Director General David Walker called on federal emergency managers before Sept. 11 to make a "concerted effort to ‘prevent and deter threats to our homeland.’"

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Letters To The Editor

One More In the Ring

I’m sorry your reporter was apparently unable to connect with me in person for your deadline for your story on the City Council race. The only MIT aloh on the council is retiring, and as far as I know, I’m the only one running.

Many of the candidates (including me) have web pages linked to http://www.rwters.com/. More information on candidates will also be available in the Cambridge Chronicle, which will have a special section on October 17th with a statement from each candidate.

Steven Jene ‘98

Candidate for Cambridge City Council

Opinion Policy

Editors 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, feature editors, and opinion editors.

Disreputes are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish a disagreement with the editorial.

Columns and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor welcome. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397629, Cambridge, MA 02139-7629, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-248. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, address, and phone number. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of The Tech. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters, shorter letters, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of The Tech. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters, shorter letters, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.
On September 11, thousands of Americans died.

On every day since September 11, thirty-five thousand children have starved to death.

Ken Nesmith

Something Lost, Something Gained?

Nothing comes in the convenient form of a single rule. There’s much complaint among those who have experienced direct, personal loss, and calling for the death of Timothy McVeigh is less emotionally satisfying, perhaps, than it would be if we were to talk about administrative policies and sociopolitical issues that depict suffering in foreign countries and appeal for help.

We have too much on our minds besides academic pursuits. The cultural shells we build around us seem to exhibit. The sickening aloneness of a row of seats. That, and the bus driver snaps holes in the kitchen, bathroom, and common areas. Expecting, if not demanding, that the custodians look after our careless and unappreciative use of these great tools to have our way with the world. It is, is dedicated primarily to buying and selling off on the weekends to go help others? No, some have found an ideological publish and bellowing or creeching laughter to a minimum.

peers and others, at least, they don’t understand.

null

Don’t litter. When the Athena clusters are abandoned, drooling onto the keyboards. There is no place here at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that is less constructive than the use of Satan’s computers.

Shower daily. This is also applicable for those who have no interest in the production of an invidious publication and manner. Most don’t deep the furthering of knowledge.

Take your laundry out and dryers promptly after the end of the cycle. Not many people enjoy riling through other people’s personal garments ...

Whenever the Athena clusters are being used for this reason that we must walk into the world of academia, but a visit to any Athena cluster will show you a student sitting in the world of academia, but a visit to any Athena cluster will show you a student sitting...
Events Calendar
Visit and add events to Events Calendar online at http://events.mit.edu

October 2, 2001
Tuesday, October 2
12:00 p.m. - 1:55 p.m. - Architecture Faculty and Staff Consort., Prekahons John Fernandez, Stephen Semutia and William Peiter, and staff members (e.g. Agustina, Rebecca Chamberlain, and, and Adams) will be held in 3-220.位2001
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Exxon User Group. The M.I.T. Exxon User Group meets September - June on the first Tuesday of the month 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. in building 520. Its purpose is to provide a means of support for members of the MIT community. The topic for each month's meeting will be announced to all members of the group. The next meeting is planned for Tuesday, October 2nd. Details will follow by email.
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Nanoscience Seminar Series. In collaboration with the MIT VSL Seminar Series "Near Field Photolithography: Exploring the Resolution Limits of Patternning with Light". free. Room: E34-101 (refreshments served at 3:30 pm). Sponsor: Nanostructures Laboratory.
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - EEM Seminar. Poroplastic Properties of Calcium Leached Cement-Based Materials. Lemaster, R. Melrose, H. Miller and I.M. Singer. free. Room: 2-131. Sponsor: Topology and Analysis of Manifolds with Geometric and Spectral Properties. Department of Mathematics. When calcium leaching of cementitious materials occurs, it may result in increased porosity and/or reduced mechanical strength. This in turn can result in decreased durability. These changes may be due, at least in part, to poroplastic processes which occur on scales, in hydrostatic compression and triaxial compression. By way of conclusion, we propose a poroplastic concept - the first model of its kind for new processes. This is especially useful for predicting future trends in the development of new materials for new bases. The presentation will be followed by questions and answers.
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Adaptive Observations and the Ensemble Kalman Filter. free. Room: 54-1611. Sponsor: MIT Atmospheric Science Seminars.
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Pragmatic and Analytical Dilemmas. Developing new applications of the Ensemble Kalman Filter and its variants to current problems in a variety of fields. free. Room: 2-131. Sponsor: Statistics Seminar. Department of Mathematics.
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Renaissance Dancing. There are many forms of Renaissance Dancing that we practice. From thank-bait to courtly pavans, to English and Dutch dance and much more. There is an open invitation to all to practice and enjoy. free. Room: W20 (Sal a or 407 or 491). Sponsor: Society for Creative Anachronism. The director of The Tectonic Theater Project will discuss his two latest works: Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde and The Laramie Project as well as he theories and techniques that led to them. Reception follows. free. Room: E34-101. Sponsor: Center for International Studies.
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - Q&A followed by a thirty minute presentation to be followed with 15 minutes of future topics suggestions and Q&A followed by a thirty minute presentation to be followed with 15 minutes of questions and answers. Contact information for all events is available from the TechCal Calendar web page.

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, injuries, or damage that occur from using this information.

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

The Tech Page 7
Atlantis Sinks Hearts
Hopkins Drowns in Mediocre Performances, Script
By Dan Robey

Based on the novel by Stephen King
Starring Anthony Hopkins, David Morse,
Hope Davis
Rated PG-13

The profound force Hopkins brings to the film becomes off-putting and banal dialogue. Many of the scenes between Bobby and his childhood sweetheart (Mika Boorem, The Patriot) feel forced, as if the two are amateurs reading the script for the first time. The best part of David Morse’s performance as the adult Bobby is the look on his face when Hopkins defines the word “blueness” in a very, very famous way.

Bobby’s mother (Hope Davis) is one of the few characters that do not seem completely flat. She has to be about Bobby’s dead father, completely distrusts Hopkins, and is completely self-absorbed. What little money the family has, she spends on herself, buying new dresses and giving her son a free library card for his birthday. She works in a terrible job with virtually no future, and her boss constantly hits on her. Her reactions to situations are the most realistic moments of the film, considering that everyone else is lost in a world in which seconds stretch to minutes, and even the vaguest statements carry immense meaning. While all the others are starry-eyed, pondering Ted’s traumas, she responds convincingly to her environment.

Some intriguing notions in the film deserve more exploration. Ted’s mental powers allow him to see others’ thoughts, as if through a window into their minds. Shadowy figures hunt him, apparently to harness this power to their own ends. His powers can pass to another person with a single touch, a peculiarity which brings about a brilliant surrealistic scene in which Bobby outfits a card shark. We are never told how long this “window of insight” lasts, or how he first discovered his abilities.

Hearts in Atlantis is betrayed by its script and actors. Writer William Goldman chose to forgo interesting technical details for endless, excruciating dialogue. The few poignant moments do not elevate the movie enough to make it worthwhile. Subplots weave in and out of the film, destroying the cohesion that is realized only through predictable motions. The only things a viewer takes from this film are the beautiful cinematography, and the feeling that he just lost two hours of his life.

Hearts in Atlantis is a coming-of-age film with a hint of the supernatural. During a fatal summer, young Bobby Garfield (Anton Yelchin), who is neglected by his widowed mother, befriends a mysterious visitor named Ted. As the story unfolds, glimpses of Ted’s strange power glean in the summer sunlight that illuminates half of the film. The other half contains long, stagnant silences that pretend to be deep and suspenseful.

Atlantis brings the watcher to the magical places that children find in summer happiness, and this is one of the only places where the film shines. Days of wonder in golden forests and young summer love fill the air with promise and hopes that are dashed in the scenes that follow.

MOVIE REVIEW

Technical Mastery, Skill, and Artistic Zeal
Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra
Stars in Season Opener
By Amy Meadows

F rom sadness to joy, from traditional to modern, the Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra’s music and style spans many extremes. Whatever your preconceived notions are of chamber orchestras, Metamorphosen is sure to break it. In its first concert of the season, the chamber orchestra proved that innovation, style, and talent is thrilling.

The evening began with a short but poignant nod to the events of September 11. The group’s composite-in-residence, Jeffery Cotton, was in New York’s Lincoln Center, south from the tower of the World Trade Center on the day of the tragedy. He was evacuated, only to find that it was destroyed when the towers collapsed. After spending several days helping rescue workers, he retreated to his Jersey City home to reflect. What came out during this time was the first piece, “Elegy.” Elegy was a great depiction of the composition. Cotton remarked, “It’s about the emotion and loss — not about the violence.

The highest power of art is to evoke a unity with the human.” “Elegy” connected all those in the audience each other. Sad and slow, the piece brought another dimension to the tragic event. In lieu of applause, the audience and orchestra observed a moment of silence at the end of the piece.

The next selection, John Adams “Shaker Loops,” is in many ways an experimental minimalist piece, consisting of many repetitious elements and small variations over time. Adams is one of the most renowned modern American composers. The piece known for his opera, Nixon in China, “Shaker Loops” was written in 1985. “Shaker Loops” is in many ways a jarring in blue sequined dress (against the music.

While “Elegy” was slow and deliberate, “Shaker Loops” was wrought with tension, speed, and passion.

Melodic and sweeping, the third piece of the evening, “Missouri Dreamscape,” again marked a change from the previous two. While the title itself provides sentiment behind the piece, the ethereal, almost ethereal vision of a faraway and unfamiliar land, “Missouri Dreamscape” was intriguing and searching. The composer, Andrew List, explained that his homestead was Missouri and stated, “It’s a spiritual and subconscious interpretation of how I feel when I’m there.”

Jeffery Cotton referred to the next piece as “10 stupid violin tracks” and that each variation is more outrageous than the last.” Indeed, Henryk Wieniawski’s “Original Variations” was intended to be played by an extraordinarily gifted violinist. Tricia Park played a skilful but passionate solo, and the audience found her performance one of the most riveting of the night. Although she was initially jarring in blue sequined dress (against the stark black of the rest of the orchestra), her outfit soon faded into the background as her performance became more and more complex and challenging.

The concluding piece of the evening was Tschaikovsky’s Serenade in C minor, which was composed during the same period as his more famous “1812 Overture.” “Serenade,” an intimate and charming piece, was Tschaikovsky’s clear favorite of the two. The second movement transferred itself from a whirling dance to a slow promenade, incorpoating all the essential elements of a melodic waltz. The final proved that the orchestra was in full blossom and that the orchestra has a clear grasp of more traditional chamber music. It united technical mastery, skill, and artistic zeal — elements the audience could only hear fragments of in other pieces. In short, the Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra is nothing less than stunning.
CONCERT REVIEW

The Ptolemy Players

Concert B-sides

Some Bright B’s and Some Flat B’s

By Bogdan Fedele

last Friday, the Ptolemy Players presented their full concert in the intimate atmosphere of Kilian Hall. The concert, funded in part by the Council for the Arts at MIT, featured classical selections written by composers whose last names begin with the letter "B." To bring the title theme to an extreme, all the pieces chosen have at least one movement in B or B-flat. Pieces by Bach, Brahms, and Beethoven, interspersed with songs by Britten, Byrd, and the Beatles, enchanted the enthusiastic audience, although some of the performances were not as bright as the title may have implied.

The opening piece was Bach’s “Brandenburg Concerto No. 2,” which celebrates the 250th anniversary of Bach’s death (or rather it has been 251 years since Bach died in July 1750). One of the most difficult pieces for piccolo trumpet, the piece was handled admirably by an ensemble made up of 2 violins, viola, cello, double bass, flute, oboe, trumpet, and harpsichord. A new presence in Kilian Hall, the harpsichord intensely revived the spirit of baroque music with dry, unsettling arpeggios and scales. The other instruments were also played in a baroque style (almost no vibrato on strings and flute, and very precise intonation), adding to the overall detached, yet joyful atmosphere of the piece. Steven Tistaert delivered a very convincing performance with his dry, unsettling arpeggios and scales. The other instruments were also played in a baroque style (almost no vibrato on strings and flute, and very precise intonation), adding to the overall detached, yet joyful atmosphere of the piece.

By Bogdan Fedele

MUSIC REVIEW

Out There Live

Dar Williams Is Out There

By Vanessa Selbst

Recorded during her sold-out tour for her new album, “Green World,” the concert presented a solid set with lots of variations on the songs from her solo album, as well as a couple of new numbers.

Michelle Branch opened the evening, singing a song from thelp of her new album, “The Calling.” Only eighteen years old, Branch continually expressed surprise at fan adulation and asked Branch for her songs to one of the fans. She was charmingly personable, saying, “I love hearing from you, my favorite city,” and begging the audience not to tell her hometown Arizona about it. She told the audience that she would do an encore in 101, and then delivered with the energy and guts of “Everywhere.” “Everywhere” stayed within her strongest vocal range and was easy to hear; the effect of a cold on her voice hindered her higher notes and weakened her range. She ended her set with “Something to Sing To” and exited the stage calling out, “Thank you!”

“Better Things” feature accompaniments with synthesizer overtones but lacking the melodic complexity of “No Name Face,” which is a distant cousin of the title track of the movie “That Thing You Do.”

“Someplace In Between” and “Trying” had vocals and was a highlight of the show. Williams featured Wade on acoustic guitar and drumming guitar chords. Williams commented that “Trying,” a song of personal importance to him, was the product of a breakup. “Trying” was used by Williams on the honky-tonk singer as she searches for souls, and the line included on occasion the chord or key on every note.

The mood mellow before “Breathing,” but the band returned to electric instruments and sang off the track “Babe, you can do better” over the fan heavy bass reverb. Wade introduced the other members of the band and launched into a piece filled with heavy bass and guitar chords. The piece was a cover of the Doors’ “When the Music’s Over.”

Riding on the momentum of “By A Moment,” the band played an acoustic “Science Between Band and left the stage.

After introducing himself, Wade thanked the audience and sang “Quasimodo,” the song that he wrote after the night of which the song was written. “This is the first time I’ve busted out a better than the first new song and a likely candidate for a single off the upcoming album.”

Several songs highlighted the standoff quality of Wade’s voice. “In the Morning’s Song,” the song where Wade holds the microphone in both hands and needing an occasional chord on the guitar, was a highlight of the show. Wade’s vocal capacity and ear for musical intonation were unmatched in everything solo.

Dar Williams will be playing at HMV on November 10.

The Arts

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THE TECH

October 2, 2001

Mortal City.

“Mortal City,” and begging the audience not to tell her hometown Arizona about it. She told the audi-

Singing “Sweet Misery” and strumming a blue

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TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIPS
Informational Meeting

Tuesday, October 2, 2001
4:30 p.m., Room E51-095

Are you considering a career in government, education, or other public service sector? Find out how you can apply for a $30,000 scholarship during the fall of your junior year. Scholarships are awarded to juniors for use during senior year and graduate school. See exception below.

Professor Meg Jacobs, MIT's Truman faculty representative, and Sanjay Basu, a 2001 Truman Scholar will provide information regarding requirements and the application process.

If you are a U.S. citizen or U.S. national and in the top half of your class, you may be eligible to apply. Residents of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, America Samoa, and the Northern Marianas must have senior level standing.

For more information, please contact the History Office at 253-4965, or visit the Truman Scholarship Foundation web site at http://www.truman.gov/.

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We welcome those interested to apply via your career services office by Tuesday, October 2, 2001. For further details on all of our opportunities, please visit the graduate careers section on our website: www.ubswarburg.com

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The Philosophy of Conflict Resolution

Monday, October 15, 2001
Kresge Auditorium • 7:00 PM
http://web.mit.edu/nobel-lectures

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Free Pizza!

Freshmen
What do you think about RUSH and ORIENTATION?
**Wireless Ethernet**

**In Use For Classes**

Wireless, from Page 1

it even more of a problem," says Chris Sue-Hao ’02. ‘Giving people Internet access — you can’t really regulate what they’re doing, so it probably can’t be all that productive.’"

"I think it’s an amazing technology, but I’m not sure if there’s any use for it in the actual classroom," added Aimee R. Ginley ’03. ‘Why do you need Internet access in your class?’

Still, some students have already found the technology useful. ‘I do keep it open during lectures and it has been useful to look up a formula or a fact," said Michael F. Lin ’05. ‘Of course, I also get instant messages from my friends.’

Original plans scaled back

The wireless deployment team has been active for nearly seven months now, but the current plan represents a slightly scaled-down version of more ambitious coverage plans proposed by Provost Robert A. Brown. High costs were cited in the decision to scale back service. Currently, the vast majority of the access points are fully operational. Through the use of leftover funds, more access points will be added as network traffic increases in certain areas.

However, due to limited access speed. ‘Wireless will never be considered a replacement for wired Ethernet," said Thomas C. Murphy, wireless team leader. ‘It’s not meant to move large files around.’ Still, at 11 megabits per second, it provides ample speed for common Internet tasks such as e-mail and web surfing.

MIT Information Services noted that very few problems have been reported to date. The pilot program in Sloan also proved highly successful. In addition to the wireless access available by MIT, individuals and fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups may set up their own wireless networks to be compatible with MIT’s network. A complete list of the classrooms and libraries that offer wireless access can be found online at <http://web.mit.edu/network/wireless-locations.html>.

**Finboard Adjusts Allocations**

By Brian Loux

The Undergraduate Association Financial Board has recently completed the full appeals process, increasing total allocations to student groups to $42,210. A new funding policy, however, allocates more funds than Finboard can actually support.

Over the past four years, the Office of the Dean for Student Life has doubled the funds given to student organizations such as Finboard. However, student groups are often conservative about spending their funds for the year, and many are not fully aware of their financial situation. As a result, groups usually end up with money left over.

"The extra money returns to the USA, and piles up with us as a surplus," said Finboard Vice Chair Jennifer Li ’02. ‘There was some debate over how to use the extra funds, but we eventually decided that we would over-allocate to the groups, in hopes that the money they spend would in actuality make them break even. It’s a little risky, but it should allow us to spend all the money we’re given.’

"Everybody pretty much knew that we would be over-allocating our funds this term," Li said. ‘The student group treasurers were on the ball about our intentions, and the situation worked out quite well. We gave out all the money we could.” Most appeals were approved unanimously. The success or failure of this new policy will not be clear for some time, given its infancy. ‘We’ve only started this policy a year ago,” Li said. ‘We have tracked it and have found good news, but it is far too early to draw a trend.’

Finboard noticed a dramatic decline in the surplus in the spring of 2001, but Li explained this by saying that most student groups spend more on activities in the spring.

The results of the allocations can be found online at <http://web.mit.edu/finboard/www>.

Preliminary database in progress

Finboard, the Graduate Student Council, and the Association of Student Activities are continuing to develop a web site that will eventually computerize all records for the three organizations.

The ASA has broken ground on moving their present database “SetupASA,” which contains all pertinent records for each student group, to a web site. ‘The database is how the all the offices get the necessary information and paperwork for their groups,” said ASA Treasurer Philip B. Tan G. ‘We are presently moving that to a web system instead of our text database.”

“We hope to have SetupASA onto a full Oracle database around the end of the term,” said Alvar Santos Otero G, who is working on the project with Tan. ‘Right now it seems we will make our initial goal of the end of this term, but we will have to see how the term goes.”

The ASA transition is actually the first stage in a larger project. The ultimate goal is for the UA, GSC, and the ASA to create one web page from which all student group officers can manage their administrative affairs.

The first step will be the creation of the ASA’s web database, which will serve as a guinea pig for the future web databases. Next, approval for putting financial and administrative data online must be obtained from the Dean of Residential Life and Student Life Programs.

The third step will be to link the three databases all together under one site to be accessible by the ASA house page. Santos Otero said the ASA hopes to have all three groups on the same database within a year.

**Colon Cancer**

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**Colon Cancer**

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BROADBAND IS SOARING IN GEORGIA.
Kanamori Victorious
Hopes to Improve School Spirit at Institute

Elections, from Page 1

Kanamori looks forward to activities promoting school spirit. He said that MIT students are very dedicated to their own activities, but not enough people go watch arts and sports events on campus.

He said that after seeing ten people attending a play and one person watching a soccer game, he realized that "one thing the school’s not showing is school spirit."

"I’m thinking about a class formal to bring everyone together," Kanamori said.

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SEMICONDUCTOR CORPORATION
14.03 Grades Upped
Department Overrules Visiting Professor
By Helana Kadyszewski
All 70 students who were enrolled in Applied Intermediate Microeconomics (14.03) last spring will receive a third-of-a-point boost in their final term grades. The decision to adjust the final grades, which were made by Course XIV (Economics) Department Head and Professor Olivier Blanchard, came after three students enrolled in 14.03 filed complaints alleging that visiting professor Wallace Mullin PhD '92, an associate professor of economics from Michigan State University, had graded them unfairly. Blanchard received the complaints via e-mail from students over the summer and early this fall. After reviewing the individual cases with Mullin, the two agreed that, indeed, Mullin had graded based on a distribution with a lower mean than was normally seen in 14.03. In concert, Mullin and Blanchard decided that the swiftest way to remedy the situation was to raise each student's grade by a third of a point. The decision was made entirely within the Economics Department. On September 17, Blanchard notified students of the grade adjustment in an e-mail 14.03. Students said that the adjustment will raise grades from a B- to a B+, and from an A- to an A, and so forth. Blanchard called the change "a rough adjustment, but the only feasible and fair way of doing something at this late stage." The adjustment should be reflected in student records on WebSIS in the near future. However, plus/minus grading is still only an internal MIT system; only the prefix letter grade is counted toward one's grade point average or reported on external transcripts.

Elie Kreay '02, whose complaint to Professor Mullin went unanswered, wrote to Blanchard early this term. "I commend Professor Blanchard for his prompt investigation into this matter and am grateful for his decision," she said. "I gather that many of the students in the class who did not register complaints felt as I did and also welcome the adjustment." Grade adjustment unprecedented Both Blanchard and Course XIV Undergraduate Administrator Gary J. King remarked that the decision was unprecedented. "These were special circumstances," King said. "Mullin was a visiting professor who had an apparently different grading distribution in mind. We don't expect to face similar situations in the future." Mullin, a faculty research fellow in the Program in Industrial Organization, National Bureau of Economic Research, was unavailable for comment. He is currently serving as a senior economist with the Council of Economic Advisers in Washington, D.C.

In their end-of-term evaluations of the class, 27 of his students gave Mullin an average above overall rating. However, Mullin's marks in the area of grading were unsatisfactory, registering 3.4 on a seven point scale. 14.03 is a required 12-unit subject for undergraduates majoring in economics. It is also a HASS Elective.

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