



DONG WANG—THE TECH

Freshmen express interest in a capella groups during the Activities Midway last Friday.

## A Capella Groups Span Spectrum

By Keith J. Winstein  
NEWS EDITOR

As MIT students, we may all be able to study the science behind melodious waves, but that doesn't mean we can all produce them.

### Reporter's Notebook

Every year, MIT student-run vocal groups (fittingly named after scientific or mathematical terms with

musical puns) audition hundreds of prospective members, accepting only a select few. As someone who has twice auditioned unsuccessfully for the Chorallaries (another classic group name), I decided to investigate what goes on behind the scenes of a capella auditions.

Few groups wanted to allow me into their auditions, and zero let me into their decision-making process.

Even the Cross Products did not want to allow me to see their decisions behind the scenes, but not, they said, because their assessments were

too brutally honest.

"We're not harsh," said one of the group's representatives at the Activities Midway. "If somebody's bad, we

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## Tribunal Rules Evidence 'Sufficient' in Shin Case

By Jennifer Krishnan  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A Middlesex Superior Court medical malpractice tribunal ruled that there is enough evidence for a medical malpractice trial in the case of five MIT Medical professionals, defendants in the suit filed by the parents of Elizabeth H. Shin '02.

"There is sufficient evidence to raise a legitimate question as to liability appropriate for judicial inquiry" in all five cases, the decision, signed by Justice Raymond J. Brassard, said.

The Shin family alleges that MIT Medical mental health doctors Linda L. Cunningham, Peter Reich, Kristine Girard, Lili Gottfried, and Anthony Van Niel acted negligently and failed to provide an adequate standard of care, ultimately leading to Shin's suicide in April 2000.

"What it means is that the claims that have been brought by the Shins against the individual medical professionals at MIT have legal sufficiency," said Shin family attorney David A. DeLuca.

### Shins have 'sufficient evidence'

The goal of the tribunal was "to make sure there's enough evidence to go forward with the case,"

DeLuca said.

If the tribunal had found in favor of the defendants, the Shins would be allowed to pursue the medical malpractice claims only after paying \$6,000 per claim. This fee would be refundable if the case were ultimately successful, and payable to the defendant for attorney fees and witness fees if the ultimate decision were for the defendant.

"The threshold [for a ruling in favor of the plaintiff] is low," DeLuca said. "You don't have to prove your case beyond a reasonable doubt."

The plaintiff's burden is to "provide evidence that satisfies this panel that there's evidence to support these claims," he added.

However, DeLuca said the ruling was significant because it means the Shins' "claims have been determined by disinterested parties to have weight and credibility as far as the malpractice claims are concerned."

The tribunal was composed of a judge, a practicing psychiatrist, and an attorney.

DeLuca said an actual trial was "probably months away."

MIT lawyers could not be reached for comment.

## Former Tech Staffers Implicated in Thefts

By Keith J. Winstein  
NEWS EDITOR

Four former MIT students, including three former members of The Tech's business staff, have been charged with embezzling from the organization's bank accounts, and criminal prosecutions are ongoing. After their arraignments, three of the students failed to appear at subsequent court hearings and the court issued warrants for their arrest.

The accusations were made in two applications for criminal complaints filed with the Cambridge District Court on Feb. 28 and March 19, 2002, but not discovered by *The Tech* until recently.

The alleged thieves are Huanne T. Thomas '02, Jasmine Richards '02, Dashonn Graves '03, and Stacey Winston '02. Thomas and Richards have each served as The Tech's business manager, an executive-level position. Graves is a former member of the business staff.

Thomas and Graves were still listed as members of the business staff in the paper's masthead, but Sandra M. Chung '04, chairman of

The Tech, said a production error was responsible.

John E. Driscoll, deputy chief of the MIT Police, signed the applications, accusing the four of larceny and credit card fraud of between \$250 and \$25,000. Members of The Tech's managing board have previously estimated the total amount of money stolen at \$50,000.

The court accepted Driscoll's applications and issued criminal complaints, which officially started the criminal proceedings, against Thomas and Graves on April 2, and against Richards and Winston on May 1. The office of the Middlesex district attorney is handling the cases against the four defendants, who are expected to be tried separately.

### Thomas signed statement on thefts

As part of its submissions in the cases, the prosecution has included a March 7 statement, signed by Thomas, that seems to confess embezzlement and implicate Richards, Graves, and Winston.

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## Some Dorms Undercrowded After Lottery

By Brian Loux  
NEWS EDITOR

There is now "no crowding" in any of MIT's undergraduate dormitories, according to Assistant Director for Undergraduate Housing Denise A. Vallay.

Though some dormitories have vacancies, there are still upperclassmen on waiting lists for undergraduate housing.

"Most dorms have waiting lists ... and some people still want to

move from their dorms," Vallay said. She estimates that around 140 people are on dormitory waiting lists.

### Most dorms reduce room capacity

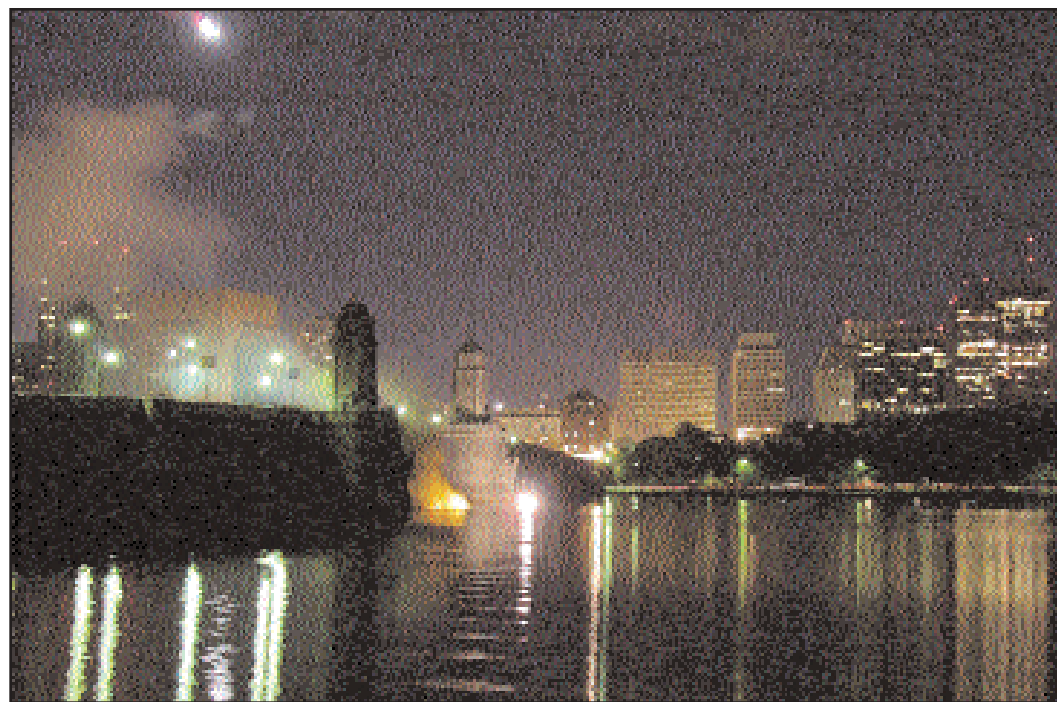
"We had no [quintuple rooms] this year," said Baker House President Joshua Ornstein '03. In fact, the large quadruple rooms of Baker were reduced to triples. "We actually had to move some freshmen into singles; that was the first

time freshmen got singles."

Because of undercrowding, many dormitories were able to scale back the occupancy of rooms that were previously crowded.

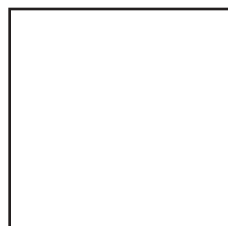
"During the 1999-2000 crowd, some suite lounges in MacGregor were converted into doubles. That is now gone," said President of MacGregor House Tyler J. Bronder '03. "This year we are not

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MATT T. YOURST—THE TECH

Hundreds of students gather on Longfellow Bridge for Third East's annual Sodium Drop. The event involves launching a block of solid sodium metal into the Charles River, leading to a violent explosion on contact with water.



MIT reduces Zipcar fees for the MIT community.

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### FEATURES

From Orientation to first classes, Veena Ramaswamy '06 describes what it's like to be a freshman.

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# WORLD & NATION

## 'Tens of Thousands' Probably Infected by West Nile Virus in '02

LOS ANGELES TIMES

"Tens of thousands" of Americans have probably been infected by the West Nile virus this year, and the number will continue to grow through the end of September, government officials said Thursday.

Historically, the last week of August and the first week of September represent the peak period of transmission, said Dr. Lyle Petersen of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But he cautioned that the vast majority of those infected have not suffered any significant symptoms other than a mild flu-like illness. There have been 854 confirmed cases of severe illness — meningitis or encephalitis — caused by the virus in 28 states, and 48 deaths.

Florida officials said Thursday that the suspected West Nile infection of a 71-year-old female transplant recipient had been confirmed. That means all four people who received organs from a Georgia accident victim have now been confirmed to be infected.

The fact that all four recipients contracted the virus "would implicate the receipt of organs as potentially the mode of transmission," Petersen said.

## Senate Democrats Reject Bush's Choice for Appeals Court

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Senate Democrats rejected President Bush's choice of Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen for a U.S. appeals court Thursday, calling her a conservative "judicial activist" who had regularly sided with big business and insurance companies over injured workers and consumers.

However, 79 of Bush's judicial picks have won the panel's approval. They include New York Judge Reena Raggi, who was put on the federal bench by President Reagan in 1987. Bush selected her for the U.S. court of appeals in New York, and she won a quick, unanimous approval on Thursday.

With Thursday's vote, Democrats — who hold the slimmest of majorities on the committee — said they were sending a message to the White House that conservative "activists" and "ideologues" would face trouble.

## Administration Hopes to Speed Up Forest-Thinning Projects

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Bush administration on Thursday asked Congress to exempt as many as 10 million acres of federal forest land from environmental reviews and citizen appeals in order to speed up logging and thinning projects aimed at reducing forest fires.

"The Healthy Forests Initiative will reduce catastrophic wildfire threats to communities and the environment," Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton and Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman said in a letter to Congress.

Environmentalists hotly criticized the plan, saying it would force the public out of decisions on the future of forests.

"The president made an attempt to sugarcoat the proposal, but this is anything but balanced," said Jay Watson, California representative of the Wilderness Society, a national environmental organization. "It's truly dangerous. It effectively removes the public from having any kind of say on how the forests are managed."

But Mark E. Rey, the undersecretary of agriculture with jurisdiction over forest policy, asked that the critics stop "howling" and participate in the administration's effort to find a new way to thwart fires in just 5 percent of the 190 million acres of federal forests that face a high risk of burning.

# Congressional Debate Heats As Bush Pushes Iraq Matter

By Nick Anderson and Edwin Chen

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

Faced with the growing likelihood of a major vote this fall on Iraq, members of Congress on Thursday raised a host of pointed questions they say President Bush must answer if he seeks their approval for sending U.S. troops to topple Saddam Hussein.

Bush, meanwhile, reiterated in strong terms that he is resolved to move against the Iraqi president, even as the administration's precise plan for doing so remains unclear.

"I meant it when I said I'm going to consult with Congress," Bush said at a political fundraiser in Louisville, Ky., a day after announcing he would seek congressional approval before taking action.

"One thing is for certain: I'm not going to change my view," he added. "And my view is, we cannot let the world's worst leaders blackmail America, threaten America or hurt America with the world's worst weapons."

The debate over Iraq could dominate the next few weeks of this year's congressional session and, possibly, influence some critical

contests in the Nov. 5 midterm elections.

On a number of fronts Thursday on Capitol Hill and on the congressional campaign trail, there were signs of the intensifying debate:

A spokesman for the House International Relations Committee said the panel would quiz Bush administration officials closely on Iraq in classified briefings and public hearings starting in the middle of this month.

Eighteen liberal House Democrats and one independent sent Bush a letter with sharp questions about a potential military strike against Iraq, laying the groundwork for antiwar arguments should the president decide on a full-fledged invasion.

Several Senate candidates, Democrats and Republicans alike, announced they would support Bush or were leaning toward backing a bid for congressional approval of action against Hussein. Some Democrats, however, remained skeptical or noncommittal.

Senators from both parties took to the floor to raise questions that outlined the evolving debate and the growing chorus for more details on the threat that the administration says is posed by Hussein.

Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) wondered when the administration would demonstrate that Hussein has, or is close to having, nuclear weapons. "Where is the evidence?" he asked. "We have a duty to ask questions because we are living in a very perilous time, and the war drums are beating all around us."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) said a strike at Iraq could complicate efforts to settle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and set back the United States' declared war on al-Qaida and other terror networks. She added that launching a major invasion of another nation "leads to the questions of whether a preemptive war is morally right, legally right, or politically the right way for the United States to proceed."

Other senators who support the president, such as Democrat Zell Miller of Georgia, said Bush must still convince the public. "I don't think the president has made the case with the folks back home," Miller said. "He can, and I think he will, but he hasn't yet."

Bush sought Thursday to build support. He declared in four speeches his conviction that the United States must force a "regime change" in Baghdad.

# Summit Delegates Head Home

By Kenneth R. Weiss

LOS ANGELES TIMES

JOHANNESBURG

Delegates headed home from an international summit Thursday clutching a 65-page plan that vows to attack nearly every ill on Earth.

The 10-day global gathering here, once hailed as a broad effort to help preserve the planet, ended as a success more for its promises than its achievements, participants say.

"Oh boy, is it ambitious," said Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and a special advisor to U.N. secretary-general Kofi Annan SM '72. "If this were actually carried out, it would be very good for the world. But there is no absolutely no evidence of a real strategy to accomplish these goals."

Although public expectations of action are high, a fundamental problem exists: The plan — which cov-

ers everything from rebuilding fisheries, forests and protecting the diversity of species to bringing water, energy and medicine to the poor — is nonbinding.

To avoid continuing stagnation, the United Nations nudged participants at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to join into partnerships and pick a project, large or small, that will begin to chip away at environmental or development problems.

Annan's burgeoning "era of partnerships," as he calls it, flourished during the conference. Hundreds of governments, private groups, businesses and foundations lined up during the conference to announce "partnerships" — sometimes with old partners or even old adversaries.

Environmental activists from Greenpeace and representatives of British Petroleum, who once battled over an oil platform in the North

Atlantic, joined hands to push for binding government commitments to stem global warming. Israel and Jordan pledged to work together to breathe life into the Dead Sea, which is ebbing from a shortage of water.

A foundation of Shell Oil teamed up with World Resources Institute to curb vehicles with the dirtiest exhaust in the world's biggest cities. "It caught our attention when Shell was giving us money to drive off customers that use their product," said Jonathan Lash, the institute's president.

The United States rolled out a series of partnerships to protect the Congo rain forest, to battle AIDS, and to bring clean water and cleaner energy to impoverished and isolated regions of the world.

Bush administration officials have been vague about financial commitment to these projects.

# WEATHER

## Hello, Dolly!

By Robert Lindsay Korty  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Tropical Depression Edouard crossed Florida Wednesday night, and emerged in the Gulf of Mexico as little more than a weak swirl of low clouds. In the open Atlantic this week, Dolly, which was the first storm to form off of the African coast this summer, dissipated as strong winds aloft tore the towering convection away from the circulation. Fay formed in the western Gulf of Mexico yesterday and is headed slowly for the Texas and Louisiana coast, bringing the threat of flooding rains. Though six storms have formed in the Atlantic basin this year, all have been unexceptional, weak cyclones (though Fay might strengthen some today). When an El Nino develops in the eastern tropical Pacific, Atlantic hurricane activity is muted. The reasons why this is so are poorly understood, but there is speculation that westerly winds aloft become stronger, on average, over much of the tropical Atlantic during these events; such winds can limit the growth of incipient tropical cyclones by tilting or shearing the convection that blooms around their centers. But severe storms can still form during an El Nino year: Hurricane Andrew did catastrophic damage when it hit south of Miami in 1992, but it was one of only six storms to form in the Atlantic that year.

No tropical cyclones are in the forecast for the Northeast, but it will warm quickly this weekend as high pressure moves offshore to our south.

### Extended forecast

**Today:** Sunny. High 73°F (23°C).

**Tonight:** Clear. Low 56°F (13°C).

**Saturday:** Sunny. High 82°F (28°C).

**Sunday:** Sunny. High 88°F (31°C), low 60°F (16°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, September 6, 2002



# White House Details Iraqi Case Before Congressional Leaders

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Administration officials began detailing their case against Iraq to congressional leaders in secret Thursday, as the Senate's top Democrat said President Bush would have an easier time winning backing from Congress for the use of force if he could first gain U.N. Security Council approval for tougher action.

Responding to demands for specific evidence about the threat posed by Iraq, Vice President Dick Cheney and intelligence chief George Tenet provided a highly classified briefing to the top four leaders of Congress.

Afterward, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) told reporters the session was "helpful" and gave the leaders a chance to ask many questions that have been bothering them. Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.), the minority leader, described the meeting as "interesting and troubling," suggesting that administration officials imparted

information not previously disclosed.

The briefing followed recent warnings from lawmakers in both parties that they would have difficulty supporting military action against Iraq without new intelligence information that would justify a pre-emptive U.S. attack. Administration officials indicated they possess new information about Iraqi capabilities, but have shared none of this in public or in earlier closed-door briefings.

Although Bush expressed the hope earlier this week of receiving a vote of support before Congress recesses in a few weeks, Daschle indicated Thursday that his own backing and that of other senators would hinge in part on Bush's success in gathering international support. He suggested that Bush try to get the kind of U.N. Security Council resolution — authorizing the use of "all necessary means" to evict Iraqi forces from Kuwait — that Bush's father obtained before the 1991 Persian Gulf war.

"That, too, will be a central factor in how quickly the Congress acts," Daschle told reporters. "If the international community supports it, if we can get the information we've been seeking, then I think we can move to a resolution. But short of that, I think it would be difficult for us to move until that information is provided and some indication of the level of international support is also evident."

Daschle stopped short of insisting that Bush must first win a Security Council resolution. Bush hasn't indicated whether he'll seek a U.N. resolution, and administration officials said the most they could expect would be language backing more aggressive inspections in Iraq, leaving open the possibility of military action should Iraqi President Saddam Hussein resist.

Iraq also was the focus of discussion at two other closed-door administration briefings Thursday: Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld joined Cheney and Tenet to talk about weapons proliferation with 25 senators at a Pentagon breakfast.

# Pentagon Supports International Peacekeepers Around Afghanistan

By Vernon Loeb and Thomas E. Ricks

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Senior Bush administration officials Thursday endorsed expansion of an international peacekeeping force in Afghanistan and hinted at deeper, broader and possibly longer U.S. involvement in the country after a gunman attempted to assassinate President Hamid Karzai in Kandahar and powerful bombs rocked Kabul, the Afghan capital.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz issued the Pentagon's first explicit endorsement of deploying peacekeepers outside of Kabul in a speech Thursday morning. He said that the international force could be used to patrol outside the capital and assist new units of the Afghan army that the U.S. military is helping train.

Zalmay Khalilzad, the special White House envoy for Afghanistan, indicated deep concern for security in Afghanistan and said the administration is considering a variety of ways to bolster security in Kabul and elsewhere in the country.

He ruled out the use of U.S. forces in Afghanistan to expand the International Security Assistance Force — a step numerous adminis-

tration critics say is crucial to improving security throughout the country.

But Khalilzad said steps are being considered to accelerate the training of Afghan forces, and Wolfowitz disclosed that State Department Foreign Service officers have been stationed in several regional centers to work with U.S. Special Forces in diffusing local conflicts. The U.S. military has 8,000 troops in the country not part of the peacekeeping force but have been involved in a variety of operations from combat to school construction.

Defense and intelligence officials said they do not know who was behind Thursday's attacks, which underscored the precarious security situation in Afghanistan and the enormous challenges that remain in reconstructing the impoverished, war-devastated nation.

The security situation in Afghanistan is better than it was a year ago, Khalilzad said, "but we have a long way to go."

President Bush expressed relief that Karzai had not been injured in the assassination attempt and said he is looking forward to meeting with Karzai next week at the United Nations in New York.

"We're not leaving," Bush said

of the U.S. presence in Afghanistan during a Republican fundraiser in Louisville.

Barnett Rubin, a New York University expert on Afghanistan, said that Thursday's bombings in Kabul were more significant than the July assassination of Afghan Vice President Abdul Qadir because they are the worst yet in a growing series of terrorist attacks in the capital.

"This shows there is now an underground devoted to violence and disruption, probably to try to drive out the foreigners and destabilize the government," said Rubin, who traveled around Afghanistan last month.

He and other experts also said they believe that support for the ousted Taliban regime is coming back in southern and eastern Afghanistan.

"People in the Pashtun areas are increasingly resentful," said Rubin, and tend to believe that the U.S. military has a bias against them.

Wolfowitz, the Pentagon's number two official, said the administration's top security issue in Afghanistan remains finding a country to assume leadership of the International Security Assistance Force once Turkey's six-month commitment expires in December.

# Senate Vote Allows Commercial Pilots To Carry Handguns in Airline Cockpits

By Sara Kehaulani Goo

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Despite concerns raised by the Bush administration and airlines, the Senate Thursday overwhelmingly voted to allow commercial pilots to carry guns in cockpits to prevent hijackings.

The 87 to 6 vote, on an amendment to a bill creating a Homeland Security Department, came after an intense lobbying effort by pilots, who have argued that security since the Sept. 11 hijackings has not improved enough to keep terrorists off their planes.

In July, the House approved, by a 310 to 113 vote, a separate measure giving pilots the right to have guns in cockpits.

Sen. Robert Smith (R-N.H.), a key sponsor of the Senate amendment, told reporters that the "overwhelming support" in both houses made him optimistic that Congress would pass a measure arming pilots. Supporters said differences between

the House and Senate measures would be worked out in a conference committee on Homeland Security legislation, or the Senate would pass a stand-alone bill, if the Homeland Security bill should falter.

Under the Senate plan, the Transportation Security Administration must set up, within 90 days, a training program for pilots to carry guns.

The Bush administration for months has opposed the pilots' efforts to get guns. Thursday, James Loy, the new TSA chief, took a more conciliatory tone. In a letter to lawmakers, Loy said he would work with them to create a program, but he warned that the government must address a series of complex issues — including liability, international legal issues and cost.

The Senate amendment, sponsored by Smith and Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), would arm any commercial pilot who agrees to undergo training. Unlike the House bill, the Senate measure requires airlines to provide flight attendants

with more self-defense training and with wireless devices to communicate with pilots in emergencies. It also directs airlines to install video cameras in aircraft cabins to allow pilots to see what is happening.

"We cannot sit on our hands and let (Sept. 11) happen again," said Boxer, citing news reports that airport screeners are still failing to detect weapons in carry-on luggage. "The security checkpoints are not doing what they should."

In his letter, Loy recommended that pilots keep guns in a lockbox, which would be used to transport the weapon to and from the aircraft. He said arming pilots presents international legal and liability issues, because of gun control laws abroad.

Loy said TSA would need to work extensively with other countries to clarify rights and responsibilities of armed airline employees traveling abroad and decide if employees of foreign air carriers could carry guns into the United States.

# U.S. Textile Makers Seek To Restrict Chinese Imports

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Domestic textile manufacturers battered by the retail slowdown and a surge in cheap imports filed a petition Thursday with the U.S. government seeking temporary restrictions on imports of knitted fabric and apparel from China, which is fast becoming a center for global manufacturing.

After China joined the World Trade Organization late last year, the U.S. lifted the quotas on some Chinese apparel and textile products. That led to a sharp increase in Chinese textile imports — up 119 percent in the first six months of this year — and a collapse in prices, according to the American Textile Manufacturers Institute, a Washington trade group, which filed the petition. In one dramatic case, imports of Chinese knit fabric ballooned 22,000 percent over the same period the previous year and the price per kilogram dropped from \$12.66 to \$5.03.

"We always knew China would increase rapidly, but people are stunned by the size of the increase," said Cass Johnson, a spokesman for the institute, which is asking for quotas to be temporarily reimposed on knitted material, gloves, bras, nightgowns and fabric luggage.

Already under fire from its trading partners for recent actions to protect steelmakers and farmers, the United States is now in the awkward situation of responding to yet another controversial request for support from a politically powerful industry. Taking such a step will also make it more difficult for the United States to pressure China to open up its economy to U.S. farmers and high-tech companies and strengthens the position of those within China who opposed the decision to join the WTO, explained Nicholas Lardy, a China expert at the Brookings Institution.

# Northern Va. Malaria Cases Shock Health Officials

WASHINGTON POST

Two Loudoun County, Va., teenagers contracted malaria locally last month, an extremely rare occurrence that has prompted officials to launch a search for infected mosquitoes and other stricken residents, local and state health officials said Thursday.

Officials said a 15-year-old boy and a 19-year-old woman who had not traveled abroad and who live within about a mile of each other in suburban eastern Loudoun were likely bitten and infected by mosquitoes that had sipped blood from a someone who contracted malaria overseas.

"The fact that you have a cluster of two cases among people who have not traveled overseas is impressive, and it suggests there is a small malaria outbreak in Loudoun County," said Peter Hotez, chairman of the Department of Microbiology and Tropical Medicine at George Washington University.

Officials said they were heartened by the fact that the type of malaria found in Loudoun, the vivax strain, is not deadly. The Loudoun boy, a high school student, was hospitalized, while the woman, a college student, was treated and released. Both suffered high fevers, chills, fatigue and headaches.

# Canadian Panel Backs Legalizing Marijuana

THE WASHINGTON POST

TORONTO

A Canadian Senate committee has proposed that Canada legalize marijuana, allow it to be grown by licensed dealers and perhaps be sold in corner stores to people 16 or older. Such a policy would make Canada one of the world's most tolerant countries toward the drug.

In a report, the committee found that marijuana was less harmful than alcohol and shouldn't be treated as a criminal problem, but as a public health issue. The report called for amnesty for people convicted of marijuana possession.

"Whether or not an individual uses marijuana should be a personal choice that is not subject to criminal penalties," Sen. Pierre Claude Nolin, chairman of the committee, said at a news conference. "But we have come to the conclusion that, as a drug, it should be regulated by the state much as we do for wine and beer."

It wasn't clear whether the committee's proposal would become law. But it nonetheless prompted a debate in Canada and the United States about whether it would promote drug use here and increase drug trafficking to the United States.

# Consumer-Credit Consultants Targeted In FTC Sweep

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

More than 30 consumer-credit consulting companies have been targeted in a nationwide Federal Trade Commission sweep against credit and telemarketing fraud, officials announced Thursday.

The FTC action, dubbed Operation No Credit, targeted a wide range of fraud allegations involving credit-repair services, payday-loan companies, debt-adjustment programs and advance-fee credit cards.

Officials said that the agency monitors the Internet, e-mail, consumer complaints and television and newspaper advertisements to find and target companies for investigation.

Two Southern California debt-negotiation companies, Jubilee Financial Services Inc. and Jabez Financial Group Inc., used advertisements, spam and telemarketers to attract debt-ridden consumers with promises to reduce their unsecured debt by 40 percent to 60 percent, according to U.S. District Court filings. The companies kept upfront fees, which could total more than \$1,000 for an individual case, according to the FTC.

Jubilee and Jabez, housed in the same building in the Los Angeles suburb of Downey, told their clients to stop payment on all unsecured debt. This, the companies said, would put the individuals in a "hardship" condition, strengthening their position in negotiating a settlement with their creditors, according to the filing.

# OPINION

## Rush Changes for the Worse

Though Orientation 2002 may have run smoothly from the administrative point of view, its merits and weaknesses cannot be fully assessed until well after rush 2002 is over. *The Tech* urges the entire MIT community to participate in a thorough assessment of this year's residence selection system. This assessment should compare the success rates of choices based heavily on firsthand experience — as in past years — and those based on summer mailings. The success rate of the summer housing lottery is not simply the number of freshmen who did not request a transfer in the adjustment lottery, but the proportion of freshmen who will be happy in their housing several months from now.

Freshmen are not the only people on campus whose happiness matters, either. MIT administrators must be as much a part of the MIT community as the faculty and undergraduates, and to do so they must understand the source of upperclassman concerns about recent and anticipated changes in rush structure. Even if the summer housing lottery turns out to be highly successful in placing freshmen, the consequences of dormitory squatting and delayed FILG and sorority rush on upperclassmen may be unacceptable.

This year's Orientation and residence selection system were drastically different from those of recent years. The simultaneous implementation of several major changes spawned confusion among freshmen and upperclassmen dealing with unfamiliar and untested policies with unexplored ramifications. The multitude and depth of the changes will also complicate their assessment.

Some of the more complex implications of housing all freshmen on an already crowded campus were inadequately addressed in the rush to meet a deadline. Requiring freshmen to live in Institute residence halls and delaying rush stacks a recruiting disadvantage on top of unfair pressure on FILGs and sororities to alleviate crowding in undergraduate residence halls. It seems shortsighted to provide just enough additional undergraduate housing to accommodate all freshmen in residence halls for one year, with the hope that enough upperclassmen will move into FILGs and sororities to prevent the next year's freshman class from pushing residence halls past their capacities. If they fail in that plan, crowding will continue to be a major problem for all of the MIT community in years to come.

*The Tech* encourages freshmen to make the best of rush 2002 by actively exploring the lifestyles and perspectives of fraternities, sororities and independent living groups, both for the freshmen's sake and for the sake of FILGs and sororities. Bad rushes in FILGs and sororities will cause them significant financial difficulty and lead to several years of housing shortages and crowding in residence halls.

Graduate students also stand to lose housing in the event of an unsuccessful rush. Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75 has made the suggestion that graduate residence halls would be used to alleviate undergraduate crowding, spurring last year's strenuous debate over the future of Ashdown House, which ended in vocal protest from MIT graduate students. The temporary Senior Segue program already offers spots in graduate buildings to rising seniors who plan to pursue gradu-

ate studies at MIT.

Problems with the new Orientation are not limited to future crowding concerns.

The new housing system was designed to lessen the pressure on freshmen to make important housing decisions, and from all appearances it succeeded in doing so. The dormitory squatting option eliminated the pressure to relocate, the presence of parents and worldly belongings at the beginning of Orientation increased the inclination to stay put despite readily available moving assistance, and a much shorter residence selection period packed with early-morning advanced standing exams and subsequent important and seemingly mandatory events left freshmen little time to be burdened with the examination of other housing options. However, that lack of a burden is not necessarily a good thing.

Orientation is a crucial period for freshmen to meet and get to know the people who will shape their lives throughout the next four years. The inclusion of the I3 CD-ROM and booklet in the summer mailing increased the amount of housing information available to the freshmen, but this year's short, modified Orientation schedule cut back significantly on crucial interactions between upperclassmen and freshmen. The resulting cultural gap between upperclassmen and freshmen fosters hostility and ignorance more than it does community.

A little bit of pressure necessarily increases the intensity and thoroughness of the search for housing, and leads to better-informed decisions; after all, MIT students work best under fire. The convenience and brevity of Orientation may have pleased parents, but parents are not living in Institute residence halls and attending MIT classes for the next four years; ultimately, the students' needs should determine the course of Orientation.

Orientation should emphasize the importance of exploring dormitories and spending time with residents. No CD-ROM or booklet can capture the real personality and environment of a residence hall, which is defined as much by how it approaches rush as it is by how it acts during the rest of the year. *The Tech* advocates a return to the temporary housing system of the Classes of 2004 and 2005, in which freshmen arrived with fewer belongings, sparsely educated and with the understanding that the next week was dedicated to the exploration of living groups, MIT, and Boston. *The Tech* also recommends the return of Parent Weekend to its original later date, so that parents experience a more accurate and holistic picture of a student's living environment — classes and dormitory life included.

If the rush status quo holds, three years from now the Class of 2009 will enter an Institute with a drastically different culture retaining few or no traces of the rush system familiar to present upperclassmen. Undergraduate culture is a treasured and defining aspect of MIT life whose color and diversity should be preserved. The new freshman housing system does a disservice to the unique, highly diverse MIT culture by eliminating much of the power of living groups to cultivate and maintain their own personalities through active recruitment of new members.

Keith J. Winstein recused himself from this editorial.

## Letters To The Editor

### Not Like it Used to Be, but Not Too Bad

I would like to note my wholehearted agreement with Jordan Rubin's column "Not Like it Used to Be" in *The Tech* on Aug. 30. Among the chorus of "Back in the day..." stories, it's good for freshmen (and other newcomers to the Institute) to hear somebody talking about how cool the Institute still is today.

Jeffrey Barrett '02

### Freshman Apathy For A Nonexistent Entity

At last year's Killian Kickoff, the freshman opener to days of dorm and FSILG festivities, several MIT students dressed in black carried a tombstone lamenting the future absence of the very rush activities that were

about to commence at that point. I had no idea that the symbolic rush 'funeral,' cute as it was to me in those early days, would actually reflect the future state of dorm affairs. So when *The Tech's* article ["Freshmen Apathetic About Hall Rush," Aug. 29] describing freshman apathy towards this year's hall 'rush' events, I was reminded of that day at the Kickoff, when upperclassmen advised us to savor our first and last rush.

That's right: having perished in the worst way possible, rush is dead. Not even disco was brought down by administrative decisions. Detailing the "perception of apathy" among freshmen, the article, too, is nostalgic for a time when steak and lobster dinner was as bountiful as the sea and the Daily Confusion was true to its name. But reading the article was a painful experience. Unfortunately, it is flawed not only in its analysis of freshman "apathy," but also in expressing the nature of this year's artificial rush.

"Some residents," generalized the article, seemed to be apathetic in their housing choices. While some residents were indeed apathet-

ic, her statistics were surprisingly weak. Among them, one floor chair noted that he was a "little worried" about freshmen not wanting to leave their rooms, and some even discredited the notion that indifference existed. Alone, these comments are entirely too weak to be conclusive.

However, perhaps we should examine the motives (really, the lack thereof) behind the freshmen in the article. MIT can't expect freshmen to be ecstatic about something that will ultimately be marginalized as the administration continually undermines the existence of rush-like activities. But beyond all that, you can't be apathetic towards something that doesn't exist.

So what is the article trying to prove? Hall rush is only a remnant of the old rush. Of course it's "low-key"; hall rush wasn't meant to be spectacular, nor will it ever fill the void rush left behind. The article does nothing more but remind me of last year's final rush when important things like choice and individuality actually made a difference.

Sheeva Azma '05

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

**Dissents** are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their 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** are 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 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m.

two days before the date of publication.

**Letters and cartoons** must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, 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 will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

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*The Tech's* telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. *The Tech* can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.



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# Let's Not Starve Africans

Ken Nesmith

About 100 black farmers marched in front of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture two weeks ago to protest the department's failure to comply with the ruling of a 1999 class action lawsuit by 22,000 black farmers, in which the government was convicted of racially discriminatory loan practices. About half of the farmers who won the lawsuit have yet to see any of the \$50,000 awarded them as recompense for decades of denials of loans granted to other farmers.

Our agricultural system is not kind to nonwhites. Of course, back in the olden days, black slaves did all the work, and this was not pleasant. Today, migrant farm workers born into ignorance in the abysmal depths of poverty, stumbling on the edge of death and working through incomprehensible misery merely to stave off starvation and gain the right to another day, staff farms throughout the country, harvesting food for our tables and living in hovels. Globally, subsistence farmers struggle to live a painful lifestyle too often romanticized by comfortable leftists here. African cotton farmers, forced to brush their teeth with tree roots and live in mud shacks, can rarely make a profit.

This is unfortunate. But objectively, tragic pain in this world is about as difficult and depressing as an MIT freshman in February. The real crime, the jaw-dropping, why-do-I-pay-taxes, please-stop-starving-poor-people crime is our nation's policy of forcing poor nations to compete in the world market with our own subsidized farmers, an act which amounts to coaxing a weak opponent onto the playing field unarmed, proceeding to pull out a gun, and shooting him.

Last spring, Congress chose to give \$118 billion of our money to American farmers in the next six years. It is the largest such bill ever passed. This time, Europe joins in the morosity instead of offering asinine critiques from the peanut gallery per tradition: all told, the west subsidizes agriculture to the tune of \$343 billion. The U.S. program works like this: farmers grow the food, and sell it on the market. The government then gives them

more money.

The funds do not sustain some pastoral farming tradition or American heartland lifestyle; in fact they hurt that lifestyle. Two thirds of the funds go to the largest ten percent of farms, which are primarily corporate agribusiness operations. This taxpayer support makes it nearly impossible for smaller farms to compete with the large corporate outfits. The Bush administration, advocate of reduced taxes and fiscal austerity, fully supported this crime of a bill — hypocrisy so flagrant and destructive that it should make one cringe.

When Third-World nations need capital in order to produce goods and services and thereby raise their standard of living, they go to the World Bank/International Monetary Fund tag team. This organization gives the nation in question a loan, but attaches to those loan funds certain guidelines and qualifications concerning the restructuring of government and economic controls to ensure that the money is not squandered. Rather than simply pouring economic fuel into a broken engine, they try to fix the engine as well so that all may be spared painful and ruinous waste and inefficiency.

Of course, the tag-team is not always the best fixer of engines. Most infamously, user-fees, charged to each user of government services such as education and health care for each incidence of use, brought about the denial of vital services to those most qualified to receive them. The WB/IMF have abandoned that ill-conceived policy, as they have some others that sharply deepened the Asian recession of the late 90s.

There are plenty of other bad ideas still in practice at the bank, however. Minutes of meetings where these important decisions are made are kept entirely secret. Efforts to reform the bank — even efforts launched from within — are stalled and mired in bureaucracy. Here's the policy that's relevant to our farming crime: countries receiving IMF assistance must develop export economies. They must not produce crops that will be bought and consumed within the country; they are instead mandated by the IMF to produce crops that can be sold to other nations on the world markets so they can gain currency to

use for other costs and debts. These rules furthermore mandate that no tariffs or subsidies shall be enacted upon these crops; the free market is to be free.

Is the horror of our crime not yet clear? Through the powerful World Bank and IMF, over whom we hold great control, we sweep away the protectionist defenses that an extensive investigation published in the New York Times reveals to be almost the only successful means of raising a nation from poverty. This move on its own is fairly neutral. Leveling the playing field and letting the invisible hand of the market work its magic is a reasonable enough way to govern trade between nations.

Yet another hand appears beside the invisible hand — it is ours, and it wields a blade long and sharp against which these poor nations have no defense. They are forced to compete not only with the technologically advantaged American farmers, but with farmers who need not worry about running their farms profitably and producing the optimal amount of crop, as they are simply fed bits of the wealth of our nation. Our subsidies substantially depress market prices and make African farms unprofitable. Oxfam, the international hunger-relief group, estimates that a one-percent increase in Africa's share of world exports would increase the continent's revenues by \$70 billion, a sum five times the aid it receives.

This absurdity is intolerable, and to say that it is political necessity is ignorant and dishonest. Senator Chuck Hagel, a Republican from Nebraska with a reputation for favoring common sense in the face of distorted political idiocy, voted against the farm bill. Think about that for a moment. Nebraska's economy depends primarily on agriculture and food processing. Like other farm states, its residents clamor for a fat slice of the stolen pie. Yet Senator Hagel refused to participate in the crime; he refused to grant this murderous act of theft a stamp of legitimacy.

President Bush added a colorful stroke to his curious self-portrait painted for the world when he signed this bill. He perhaps doesn't bear primary responsibility for this debacle, but his complicity in the murder is upsetting. That a senator from a farm state could stand confidently against the powerful political tide simply to do the right thing and live to tell about it is a welcoming bit of encouragement in an otherwise horrifying story. Maybe other politicians will follow his lead.

*Our nation's policy amounts to coaxing a weak opponent onto the playing field unarmed, proceeding to pull out a gun, and shooting him.*

## The Bygone Traditions

Guest Column

Jennifer A. Frank

Yesterday I opened three residence halls for over five hundred residents at my college, most of them freshmen. These newly arrived students moved hundreds of cardboard boxes of their belongings into a multitude of identical brick and mortar boxes that will be their homes for the next nine months. The furniture is largely fixed in place; each half of the room is the mirror image of the other half. The walls are white, or brick, or both. The building carries the scent of fresh carpeting. The new lounge furniture is straight from the Ethan Allen catalog.

Shortly after they move in, the freshmen are all herded over to an opening convocation with the president of the university. Immediately following this, they dutifully attend their first floor meetings with their resident advisor, in this case. Each RA is responsible for looking out for approximately forty freshmen, a Herculean task if ever there was one.

I make a brief appearance at each of these meetings, introduce myself, give them a taste of my background (rarely mentioning where my degrees are from), my role in the hall — "Discipline, but I won't ever be seeing any of you for that, now will I?" — and my expectations of them. This last part is, to me, the most important, but I don't think they yet have any understanding of why I say it. My message to them: "I will assume you are all adults, and I will treat you as such unless you otherwise prove that you are not worthy of this treatment."

Sometimes it amazes me how much my experiences at MIT have colored my perception. I reflect fondly on all of the protests about freshmen on campus, about the timing of rush, about how college-age students are adults and should be allowed the freedom to make choices, even — Gasp! — mistakes, on their own. There was so much life within the

student population, so much activity, and despite the differences, a unity that I do not see in the population of students I currently work with. This is not to say that they are not intelligent, capable individuals. It is just that I do not see in them the same spark I saw, and still see, in the MIT student population.

*Most of all, I miss the fight. I miss the fact that students at MIT take the time to fight — they don't just give in. You know what you want and what you need, and you don't let anyone take it from you.*

When I was an undergraduate considering student affairs as a profession, I kept thinking that I should keep a journal of how I felt about certain issues. I didn't want to lose sight of that perspective, the viewpoint of the student who was actually in the middle of it all. I never kept this journal, and I regret it, even now, only two years removed from my time as an undergraduate. During graduate school, I could feel myself changing positions, seeing the other side of the issues.

I would like to think that I have not lost my understanding of the undergraduate position just yet; in fact, I am quite sure I have not. More often than not, I find myself arguing with my more experienced colleagues and taking the students' side. Still, there are days when I check my MIT mail and cringe at the latest scheme thought up by some students; the liability issues race through my head and I thank my lucky stars that my residents would never come up with a scheme like that.

I spent this evening being nostalgic. I flipped through old photo albums — pic-

tures of me and a whole pig the year we had a luau, snapshots of a graffitied wall being demolished with a chain saw, hundreds of freshmen amidst dozens of fraternity signs at Killian Kickoff. On Web sites I saw faces of people who were my inspiration when I was a freshman. And I took a look at what people are doing this year: all of the activity, all of the strength of certain traditions, like the Freedom Trail to East Campus. I am currently in a land with few true traditions, and none that are held onto so dearly by the students.

I miss the incredible closeness of the residents of each building. I miss cooking a metric butt load of food to feed hundreds of residents and freshmen each day. I miss tie-dyeing and hair-dyeing and moon bounces. I miss melting toasters full of burning Pop Tarts, courtyard explosions, and CDs in microwaves. I miss overnight room-assignment sessions as we determined the fate of dozens of freshmen, overly-pierced desk workers, and hundreds of Victoria's Secret catalogues, destined to become advertisements for parties.

But most of all, I miss the fight. I miss the fact that students at MIT take the time to fight — they don't just give in. You know what you want and what you need, and you don't let anyone take it from you. My message to the class of 2006: don't take the easy route — don't give in. You have come too far to succumb now. You have so many choices ahead of you. Discover what is important to you, find your passion, and do whatever you have to in order to keep it. And never forget how fortunate you are to have all of the opportunities afforded you — not everyone is prepared to handle that kind of responsibility. Prove that you are.

*Jennifer A. Frank is an alumna of the Class of 2000.*

# MIT Race Relations

Guest Column

Matthew Brown

Astounded. That is how I felt when I first read the description of one of the events in this year's Orientation booklet. For the benefit of those of you who are either not freshmen or who don't want to go digging through a plethora of official MIT Orientation information, here it is: "Minority Orientation Welcome Luncheon: The Office of Minority Education will host a luncheon to welcome African American, Mexican American, Native American and Puerto Rican students to the MIT community." Maybe people as a whole don't have a problem with this event, and maybe one could call me over-optimistic about the state of the world, but I seem to recall people saying that one should not be judged on his or her racial or ethnic background.

It is easy to defend the event, in fact, as most people are used to similar events and organizations that they see absolutely nothing wrong with it. Those who see a problem can also write it off as a necessary evil — a way to help groups of people that, for some reason or another, MIT considers to need special attention. But when I see that headline, I am furious, not because I expect to be included, but because I and many others are actively excluded. While personally, I would not feel the need to attend, there may be some who would, were the language of the announcement not so prohibiting to them. But I am, and expect everyone else to be, very angry that an event such as this is taking place, and even more so that it is sponsored and run by MIT.

Some of those who are angry, I am sure, are saying "Why was I not included? I am a(n) (insert race here), and I am even more of a minority than (insert other race here)," they are skirting the issue entirely. Maybe if the specific racial qualifiers were removed, the event would not be as offensive, but that concession would still only barely rectify the big problem inherent in the existence of organizations like MIT's Office of Minority Education.

These types of offices, organizations, and the like only serve to further separate races, destroying any progress that has been made in the widespread acceptance of racial equality. While they will say that their purpose is to promote equality, their intentional and accidental accomplishments are counteractive; effectively, they destroy communication between the races through a method of political correctness.

Would the same lack of attention be given had the event read "Majority Orientation Welcome Luncheon: For Whites Only"? Of course not, for there is a huge double standard in the concept of what is and is not acceptable when it comes to racial restrictions. We don't find the real event as offensive as the aforementioned hypothetical one simply because we have become so used to seeing minority-only groups that it has become acceptable to exclude again.

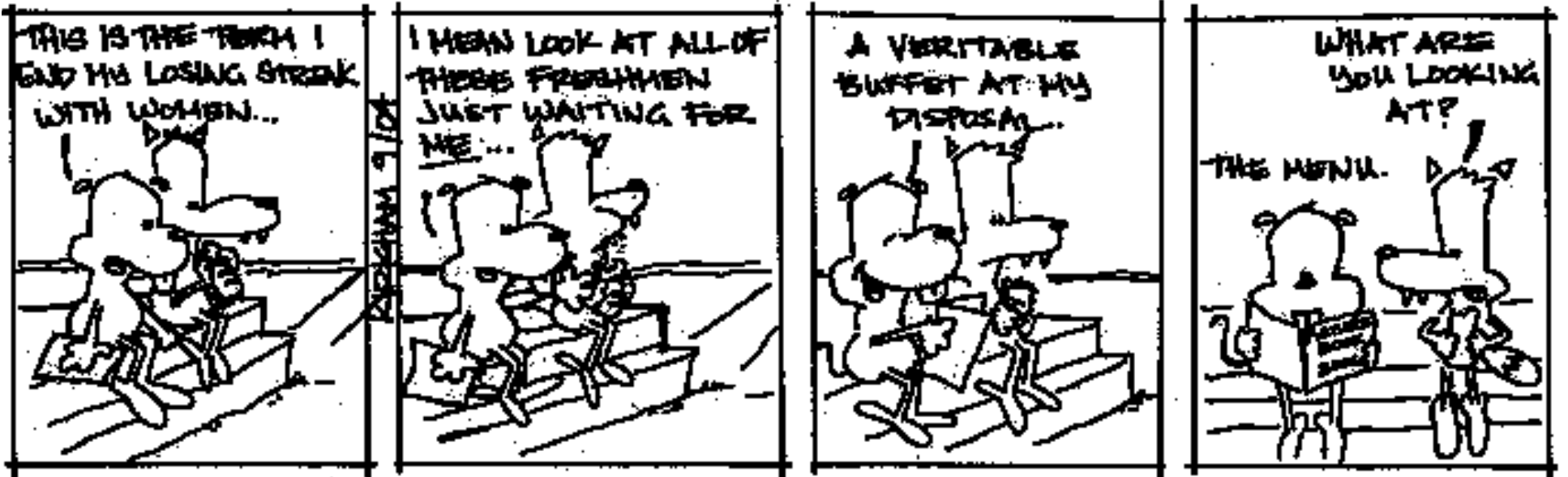
For some reason, it is "politically correct" to exclude the majority groups from something, yet offensive to exclude the minority groups. But why are we excluding anybody at all? This is the real question, because it is this concept of political correctness which has demolished any chance of true equality. With the double standard in place, there will always be first and second class citizens, there will always be people who are not included in something, no matter how trivial or important it may be, simply because of the color of their skin or their ethnic background.

So what are we to do? Simply take the opportunities that are provided by the Office of Minority Education and similar organizations away from people who really need it? Of course not; that would be unfair and completely contrary to maintaining progress towards equality. But I call for MIT, and everyone affiliated with it, to set an example, and stop excluding people based on race and background. Services and opportunities should be given to those who need it, whether they are African American, Mexican American, Native American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Asian American, Caucasian American, not American at all, or in any group that I have failed to mention.

In actuality, I have failed everyone by mentioning those groups, for humanity cannot hope to succeed until these labels, which we now still consider to be inextricably bound to each person, have all been destroyed or rendered meaningless. Only then will the double standard finally die and people will be judged on their abilities rather than their appearances.

*Matthew Brown is a member of the Class of 2006.*

## the crass rat



## MANGOS

VEL - VICTORY - FAME - HYPER COMBO - SOUL - NERF

VGI's **BEHIND THE JOYSTICK**

URE - TOASTY - GLAMOUR - POWER-UP - GLORY - H

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT... -SIGH- IF YOU WANT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PREVIOUS EPISODES, CHECK OUT: [http://web/pjaff/www/mangos/n\\_btj.html](http://web/pjaff/www/mangos/n_btj.html).

(WARNING: FILLER SPACE)

NOT THAT ANYONE'S GONNA LOOK... STUPID REKUN RULES... NOTHING'S GOING RIGHT... I CAN'T SEEM TO GET A DECENT HAMBURGER OR A NICE PAIR OF SLIPPERS...

OR EVEN A SOUL CALIBUR 2 MACHINE IN MY LOCAL ARCADE!

(MORE FILLER)

何? もない? とんてん? ジュンちゃん 強い心 本るかす 頑強なる!

「don't be ridiculous! WHAT? Ju-chan, as you are strong of heart, you can do anything! OH... YOU'RE RIGHT!

よーっしょ! やくするつもりだ!

三番のシーズン。このマンガをちゃんと始めよう!

(END FILLER)

YOOGOOSH!! I'LL DO IT! 'ah... season #3! let's start this "mangos" right!

(OK back to the story.)

DESPITE THE DERILITATING HARDSHIP, MOON GOD ATTEMPTED A RETURN TO PROMINENCE, WHICH UNEXPECTEDLY PUT HIM BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE.

BEHIND THE JOYSTICK

MOON GOD HEAL IN 22 MARCH OF VIXEN SHARPT OOH BRAINZAC THIRST OOH PLAYA JIGGLA OOH

INSERT COINS TO KEEP READING!!!

BUT AFTER A MIRACULOUS TURN OF EVENTS FOR WHICH WE HAVE NO FEASIBLE METAPHOR, THE MOON GOD WAS FINALLY ABLE TO GET HIS GROOVE ON-ER, UM... BACK.

PERFECT GREAT!!!

366 22

Back to find, to find my samurai.

OMG! WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO?! THIS IS AWFUL!!!

KIANA XI

DON'T WORRY, WE JUST WANTED TO SHOW HOW INFLUENTIAL YOU WERE IN MOON GOD'S COMEBACK—

INFLUENTIAL?! I WAS TIPEY!!! YOU'RE SO DUMB! ... UGH... I KNEW THAT PARTY WAS A BAD IDEA...

AND NOW, DESPITE DAYS WITHOUT SUN AND SENSELESS PUNS, THIS MANGOS™ SAGA IS FAR FROM DONE.

I'M... GOING... TO KILL... YOU.

MY, HOW FORTUNATE I AM TO BE DESTINED TO DIE IN THE LAP OF SOMEONE SO BEAUTIFUL...

OH MY GOSH, YOU'RE SUCH A PERV!

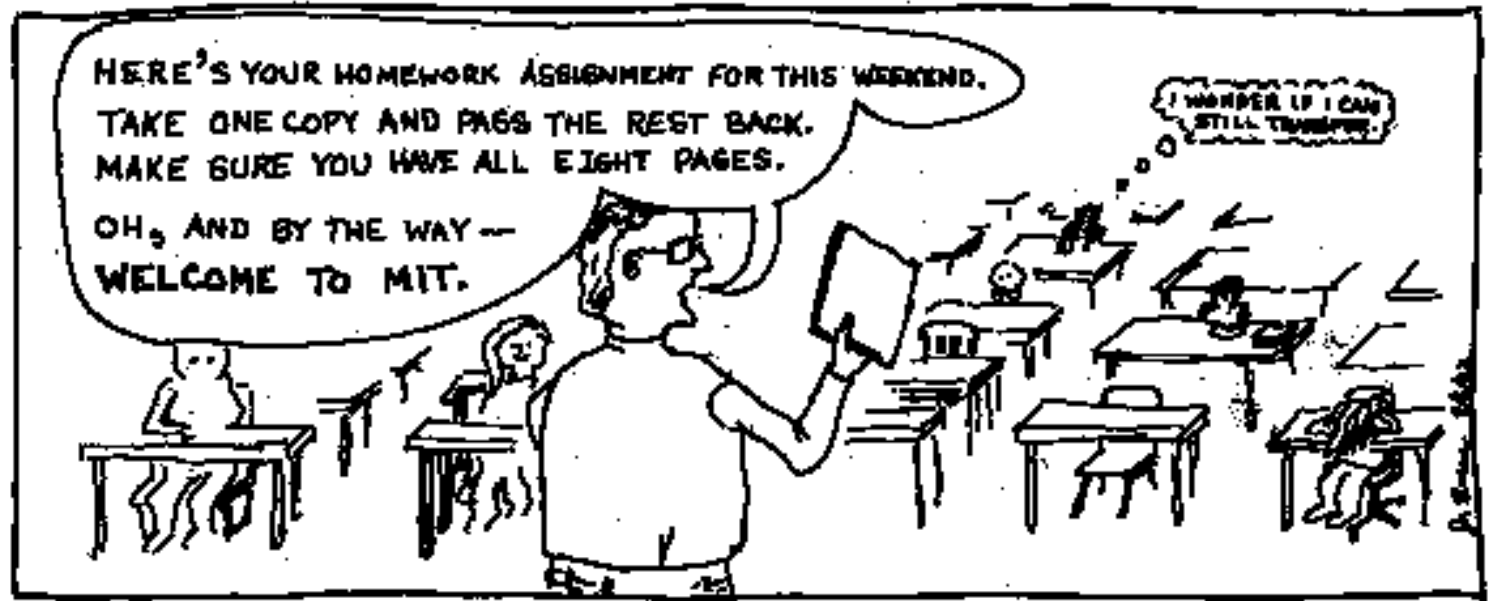
SUGOI!! SHE'S WELL READ TOO!!! WHAT A WONDERFUL DAY THIS IS!!!

VGI BEHIND THE JOYSTICK

makin' colors in the sky

## Filler Space

YOU ASKED FOR IT, YOU GOT IT!



# **FoxTrot** by Bill Amend

# **Dilbert**<sup>®</sup> by Scott Adams

# **Crossword Puzzle**

*Solution, page 14*

# Events Calendar

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

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

## Friday, September 6

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

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

**2:00 p.m. – Admissions Information Session.**

**2:45 p.m. – Campus Tour.**

**7:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. – MIT Anime Club First Term Showing.** Come one, come all! Whether you're just curious or a hardcore fan, we've got the best animation for you. Showing: Two best episodes of Ranma 1/2; NieA Under 7 1-3; Mahoromatic 1-2. Memberships, refreshments, and library checkouts available. free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: Anime Club, MIT.

**8:00 p.m. – Assassins.** Stephen Sondheim musical. Call to check performance times and ticket prices. \$9, \$8 MIT community /other students/seniors, \$6 MIT/Wellesley students, \$3 new MIT students; group rates available in advance. Room: Kresge Little Theater. Sponsor: Musical Theatre Guild, MIT.

## Saturday, September 7

**1:00 p.m. – Field Hockey vs. New England College.** free. Room: Jack Barry Turf. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

**1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – MIT MSA Welcome BBQ.** Come meet the MIT Muslim community over a delicious barbeque at Tang hall. This is a great chance for freshmen and upperclassmen to get to meet one another. Grad students are also invited to meet their peers at this event. There will be light sports and a bake-contest with exciting prizes. Don't miss it!. free. Room: Tang BBQ pits, 550 Memorial Dr. Sponsor: Muslim students' Association.

**1:00 p.m. – Women's Soccer vs. Grinnell College.** free. Room: Steinbrenner Stadium. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

**5:00 p.m. – Men's Cross Country Alumni Meet.** free. Room: Franklin Park. Sponsor: Department of Athletics.

**8:00 p.m. – Assassins.**

## Sunday, September 8

**1:00 p.m. – 9/11 New York Firefighters Talk with Children.** Children ages 7-12 are invited to an informal program with Mike Bellone and New York firefighter Bobby Barrett

to talk about what happened at Ground Zero, what has happened there in the past year and what it means to be a firefighter. (Parents may accompany children to the program.) Registration is required for this free event. To register, please contact the MITAC office at 617-253-7990 before Friday, September 6th. free, registration required by Sept. 6th. Sponsor: September 11 Anniversary Committee.

**2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. – 9/11 Tribute: Honoring Those Who Served.** This event honors MIT community members and area residents who raised funds, gathered donations and traveled by bus to Ground Zero in New York to assist the cleanup crews there. Representatives from the FDNY and other Ground Zero workers will be among the speakers and a New York sanitation worker will sing "God Bless America" as he did every morning at Ground Zero. An informal reception immediately follows the event. Admission to the event and reception is free; no advance registration required. Further information: sept8@mit.edu. free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: September 11 Anniversary Committee.

## Monday, September 9

**7:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. – PE Classes Begin.** \*\*See Web page for class schedule. free. Room: \*\*Varies with class. Sponsor: Physical Education.

**10:00 a.m. – Admissions Information Session.**

**10:45 a.m. – Campus Tour.**

**12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. – Overview of Purchasing on the Web Quick Start.** This demo integrates all aspects of using SAPweb for purchasing including requisitioning external vendors, internal providers and preferred partners. In this session we will introduce the SAPweb requisitioning form, the new online catalogs and purchasing procedures for buying from preferred partner vendors, including Office Depot, VWR, BOC Gases and NECX. We will demonstrate how the new online ordering system interfaces with SAPweb and we will talk about how this new process differs from the ECAT purchasing process. Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

**12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. – The Sick Building Syndrome and Building-Related Illnesses.** free. Room: 7-431 AVT, Dept. of Architecture. Sponsor: Building Technology Program.

**1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. – Web Publishing Overview.** A prerequisite for the Web Publishing: Basics course, this three-hour lecture/demonstration session gives an overview of the electronic publishing process as it works at MIT, focusing on: how to code files using HTML tags (HTML, the HyperText Markup Language, is the standard for publishing on the web) how to upload files to the Athena system for delivery through MIT's primary web server, web.mit.edu. Special attention is paid to issues affecting web sites at MIT (MITnet rules of use, Athena file conventions, special services available on web.mit.edu, etc.) Room: N42 Demo. Sponsor: Information Systems.

**2:00 p.m. – Admissions Information Session.**

**2:45 p.m. – Campus Tour.**

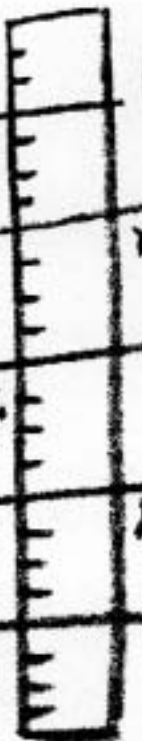
**3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – "MIT's Responsibility in a Dangerous World".** A panel discussion on what 9-11 means for MIT as an institution, led by Prof. Rosalind Williams of the Program on Science, Technology and Society (STS). For related Sept. 11 anniversary events please go to: <http://web.mit.edu/events/sept11/>. free. Room: Killian Hall, Bldg. 14. Sponsor: Center for International Studies, September 11 Anniversary Committee.

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Samuel A. Worthington, National Executive Director, Childreach with a sponsored child in Fajita, Bolivia.

This space donated by *The Tech*

## Fun with Science

By Michael Short



**WARNING:** This experiment is not intended for young children. Always be careful when handling sharp objects or inflammable materials. This demo uses fire! Do this one in a safe, open area outdoors. Do not do it in a hallway, near people, in bed, etc.

### Materials

- 1 Plastic Soda Bottle (1/2, 1, 2 or 3 liter) with cap
- 1 Bottle of 90-95% Isopropyl Alcohol (NOT 70%)
- Barbecue Lighter (a long lighter that keeps the flame away from your hands)
- Pocketknife or something similar

### What to do

With the pocketknife, bore a 1 centimeter hole directly in the center of the cap. If the hole is too off center, the rocket could spin around and hit you or one of your accomplices. Pour a small amount of alcohol into the bottle — use about 25 ml for each liter the bottle holds. Screw the cap on and turn the bottle sideways.

Swirl the alcohol in the bottle for a couple of minutes, making sure not to spill any. This helps to evaporate the alcohol, making a good fuel/air mixture. Then, with your finger over the hole in the cap, turn the bottle upside down and right side up again.

Take your now alcohol-soiled finger and smear it around the edge of the cap. This makes the missile easier to light. Then set it on the ground, point it in a safe direction, and light the lighter, keeping the flame right at the hole of the cap.

The alcohol will light quickly and may spray a little fuel out of the back, so stand a safe distance to the side of the bottle. Seconds after the alcohol is lit, the bottle should project forward with a loud "SWOOSH."

Pick up the bottle after it has stopped completely. It should be warm to the touch. Take the cap off and squeeze the bottle a few times. If this causes the bottle to turn cold, that means that there is more alcohol evaporating on the inside of the bottle. You can use this as remaining alcohol as fuel for another launch. Now put the cap on again, set it down, and light it again!

# Clubs

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

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

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

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

# Popular Music

**Axis**  
13 Lansdowne St., Boston, MA. 617-262-2437  
Sept. 24: The Beatnuts  
Sept. 28: The Pietasters  
Sept. 29: Gus Gus  
Oct. 24: No Use For A Name

**Avalon**  
15 Lansdowne St., Boston, MA. 617-262-2424  
Sept. 18: Bone Thugs-N-Harmony  
Sept. 19: Doves  
Sept. 21: The Sheila Divine  
Sept. 23: Rusted Root  
Sept. 25: Bouncing Souls  
Sept. 26: Gomez  
Oct. 6: Redman  
Oct. 22: Badly Drawn Boy  
Oct. 17: Reel Big Fish  
Nov. 22: Ani DiFranco

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

Sept. 22: Raffi  
Oct. 4: The Dave Holland Big Band  
Oct. 25: Herbie Hancock  
Nov. 20: Branford Marsalis

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

Sept. 6: The Camp Calm Kerrville Reunion Show  
Sept. 7: Cliff Eberhardt

# On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston  
September 6 - 12

Compiled by Devdoot Majumdar

Send submissions to [ott@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:ott@the-tech.mit.edu) or by interdepartmental mail to "On The Town," The Tech, W20-483.



JOSH ROTHSTEIN

**The Walkmen** — piano, organ, lap steel, and drums included — bring their discordant, garage rock panache to the Paradise Rock Club this Saturday, Sept. 7. Tickets \$10 (18+).

Sept. 8: Sharon Katz  
Sept. 9: Open Poetry Night  
Sept. 11: Rose Polenzani and others for benefit event  
Sept. 12: DaVinci's Notebook  
Sept. 13: Bill Staines  
Sept. 14: Paul Geremia

Boston, MA. 617-562-8804

Sept. 7: The Walkmen  
Sept. 12: Kay Hanley  
Sept. 13: The Cavedogs  
Sept. 15: Graham Nash  
Sept. 17: Seven Nations  
Sept. 18: John Butler Trio  
Sept. 19: Allison Moorer  
Sept. 20: Percy Hill  
Sept. 21: Mason Jennings  
Sept. 22: Bob Gedolf

**Roxy**  
279 Tremont St., Boston, MA. 617-931-2000

Nov. 17: Galactic, North Mississippi Allstars

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

Oct. 29: Mana

**Tweeter Center**  
885 South Main St., Mansfield, MA. 617-228-6000

Sept. 7: Enrique Iglesias, Soluna  
Sept. 27: The Who  
Oct. 6: Nelly  
Oct. 12: Korn

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

Sept. 6: Evan Dando, Blake Hazard, Scott Janovitz  
Sept. 7: Lifestyle, Bad Wizard, Dalek  
Sept. 8: Ugly Casanova, TK Webb  
Sept. 9: Kelli Eagan, Joe Kowan, Keith Hampton  
Sept. 10: Jack's Smirking Revenge  
Sept. 12: Labb, Goldboxer, Linus  
Sept. 13: Jim's Big Ego, Rana  
Sept. 14: The Raging Teens, King Memphis, Satan's Teardrops

# Jazz

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

shows nightly, call for details.

Sept. 7: Aardvark Jazz Orchestra  
Sept. 11: Roswell Rudd  
Sept. 12-14: Ann Hampton Callaway  
Sept. 17: John Payne Sax Choir  
Sept. 18: Either/Orchestra  
Sept. 19-20: Patricia Barber  
Sept. 24: Garrison Fewell Trio with Cecil McBee & Grover Mooney  
Sept. 24: Fernando Huerco Quintet

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

Sept. 6: Kendrick Oliver and the New Life Jazz Orchestra with Christian McBride  
Sept. 12-13: Angela Bofill  
Sept. 17-18: Joe Sample  
Sept. 19: Greg Abate Quartet  
Sept. 20-21: Scott Hamilton Quartet

# Classical Music

**Boston Symphony Orchestra**  
Tickets: 617-266-1492.  
Performances at Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, unless otherwise noted. Student rush tickets, if available, can be obtained at 5 p.m. on the day of the concert (one ticket per person). <<http://www.bso.org>>

Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos leads the BSO in Verdi's *Requiem* with Barbara Frittoli (soprano), Larissa Diadkova (mezzo-soprano), Giuseppe Sabbatini (tenor), and Reinhard Hagen (bass). Performances on Sept. 26 (6:30 p.m.), and Sept. 28 (8 p.m.).

Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos leads the BSO in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 6, Pastoral*, and Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*. Performances on Oct. 3 (8 p.m.), Oct. 4 (1:30 p.m.), Oct. 5 (8 p.m.), and Oct. 8 (8 p.m.).

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

Oct. 4: Cecilia Bartoli  
Oct. 6: London Philharmonic Orchestra, Kurt Masur  
Oct. 11: David Sedaris  
Oct. 16: Anne-Sophie Mutter  
Oct. 20: Jose Van Dam  
Oct. 25-27: Paul Taylor Dance Co.

# Theater

**A Month in the Country**  
The Huntington Theatre Company presents Russian poet Ivan Turgenev's 1850 work, "a portrait of love and indolence in the Russian countryside." BU Theatre, 264 Huntington Avenue. 617-266-0800. September 6 through October 6. Prices range from \$12 to \$62.

**A Night With Dame Edna: The Family Show**  
A rambunctious woman with purple hair shares her experiences from Sept. 24 - Oct. 6, 2002 at the Colonial Theatre. For tickets, call 617-880-2400.

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

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

Sept. 6-7: Steve Sweeney  
Sept. 8: Jimmy Keys  
Sept. 13-14: Margaret Cho  
Sept. 18: Don Gavin & Harrison Stebbins

**Hamlet**  
The Publick Theatre's latest Shakespearean production runs until September 15 in their signature outdoor setting. Wednesday and Thursday, at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday. Cost is \$25, for more information, call 617-782-5425.

# Exhibits

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

**Museum of Fine Arts**  
465 Huntington Ave., Boston. (617-267-9300), Mon.-Tues., 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; Wed., 10 a.m.-9:45 p.m.; Thurs.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. West Wing open Thurs.-Fri. until 9:45 p.m. Admission free with MIT ID.

**MFA Film Showings:**  
Sept. 6: *Sade* (6 p.m.), French Comedies — *Gregoire Moulin Versus Humanity* (8 p.m.)  
Sept. 7: *Sade* (11 a.m.), *GMVH* (1 p.m.), *Gigantic (A Tale of Two Johns)* — the They Might Be Giants story (3 p.m.)  
Sept. 8: *My Father, The Genius* — a film about architect Howard Small (11 a.m.), *GMVH* (1 p.m.), *Sade* (3 p.m.)  
Sept. 11: *Sade* (6 p.m.), *GMVH* (8 p.m.)  
Sept. 12: *Rape Is...* (6 p.m.), *Dance on Film: Nijinsky: The Diaries of Vaslav Nijinsky* (8 p.m.)

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

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

# Other

**Jacqueline Kennedy: The White House Years**  
Through Feb. 28. At the John F. Kennedy Library, Columbia Point, Dorchester, MA. Using the Kennedys' path to the White House as a framing device, *Vogue* editor Hamish Bowles presents outfits along with related material. Photos of events and appearances are blown up, and correspondence with designers proves that Kennedy's seemingly effortless grace was part of an overall exacting attention to detail. Open most weekdays and weekends 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission \$15-\$8. May be crowded.

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

Currently featuring the films of Fritz Lang:  
Feb. 25: *Metropolis*  
Feb. 27: *Die Nibelungen Part II: Kriemhild's Revenge*

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# FEATURES

## Freshman Diaries

*'You think you know, but you have no idea'*

By Veena Ramaswamy

*This is the diary of an MIT freshman. It will be a recurring column throughout the year.*

It only hit me that I was in "college" when I stepped into the bathroom on my first day of orientation and found a half naked guy standing in front of me casually brushing his teeth. That was my first eye-opening experience to the freedom and independence that epitomize the college experience.

The days preceding my arrival to MIT were filled with mixed emotions. Academically, I knew it was time to move on and face greater challenges. Socially, though, I was not ready to leave behind my friends and the only community that I had known. This is the typical dilemma that many freshman face: leaving behind familiar people and places. But after completing the first week of Orientation, my desires to be back at home slowly vanished.

Orientation was a great way to get to know my fellow classmates. Although some of the activities seemed a bit juvenile, their underlying goal, to get to us know as many people as possible, was commendable. The activities began with "Welcome to MIT brunch" held by the dorms. This was an excellent way to start the Orientation because it allowed me to get to talk to the people who I'll be living next to for the next four years.

One of the other events called "PlayFair" was fun, though a bit too long. During this activity, Orientation leaders and freshmen played a series of get-to-know-you games in Johnson Athletic Center (I can't tell you how many times I said my name in one night). Although I was able to meet many people at the "PlayFair," the meetings were so abrupt that all I remember is a jumble of names and not many faces.

Orientation was also filled with many free meals, which were of surprisingly decent quality. I was told by an upperclassman that if I ended up paying for a meal during Orientation, then I did something wrong. So let's just say that there was a lot of free food to go around. There was so many opportunities for free food that I would often spot upperclassmen disguised as freshmen to get their share of the food.

One Orientation highlight was Katie Koestner's talk about rape and sexual assault, entitled "No-Yes." I must admit that like many of my classmates, I was not looking forward to the talk because I assumed with the level of intelligence and education of students in the MIT student body, such issues would not be a concern. Yet after listening to Koestner's gripping talk about her own experience with rape, I began to reconsider my outlook on the subject. A lot of important issues were brought up in the discussion groups after the talk. It was comforting that many of my male classmates approached the subject with seriousness and maturity. For these reasons, I think "No-Yes" should be an annual Orientation event.

Another main event of orientation that I thought was valuable was the housing adjustment lottery and floor rush. The idea of allowing a freshman to choose his or her own roommate and room is a good one that should be continued. It forced me to be very outgoing and social with everyone that I met in the first few days here, and this helped me find a roommate with whom I was compatible and make some new friends.

Orientation's end meant only one thing: the beginning of classes. Much to my surprise, my first day of classes wasn't all that bad. My lecturers were pretty interesting (especially Professor Sadoway, my 3.091 professor — I can already tell that his class will be one of my favorites). Also, there wasn't a lot of unfamiliar material thrown at me all at once, which was something I initially feared. Despite my content with my first day of classes, I was warned later that day by a very wise upperclassman, "Yeah, at first you (freshmen) think you're kicking some MIT ass, but then when the quizzes and tests start, MIT begins to kick your ass."

Nevertheless, I do not fear the workload that looms ahead. I will face my first semester of college with faces that are now familiar to me and a campus that has readily welcomed me. I don't think I've met so many national scholars or humble people in my life. And if this is what MIT is like, I know that I'm really going to like it here.

## Campus Profile

8.01 Professor 'Eddie' Farhi shares insights into life and freshman physics

By Brian Loux

NEWS EDITOR

*The Tech* had the opportunity to speak one-on-one with MIT physics Professor Edward H. Farhi the day before fall classes began. This semester marks the third year that Farhi has taught the notorious freshman class — 8.01, Physics I.

*The Tech:* Do you have any nicknames?

*Professor Farhi:* Everyone calls me Eddie. It just started as a kid. My mom called me Eddie and it became my name.

*TT:* Where did you grow up?

*Farhi:* I grew up in the Bronx. I attended the Bronx High School of Science. I already became interested in physics when I was in high school. A lot of my friends went to MIT.

*TT:* But you didn't?

*Farhi:* No, I went to Brandeis University in Waltham, MA. It's about 10 minutes away from Boston.

*TT:* So after being there and here for a while, do you feel like you are a resident of Boston or not?

*Farhi:* I still feel that my roots are from New York. I wish that MIT was in Manhattan. That would be perfect.

*TT:* What other courses do you teach?

*Farhi:* I've taught every single possible quantum mechanics and relativity class at MIT. Those are my real interests.

*TT:* So how did you become the teacher for freshmen physics?

*Farhi:* They basically said, "say yes now or say yes later." (*Laughs.*) It's a different adventure.

*TT:* Were you initially interested in teaching?

*Farhi:* No, more in research actually. I would say that I dreamt more of

being a research scientist than a teacher when I was growing up. But I like teaching.

*TT:* How do you stay on track when you are giving a lecture that is one hour or longer?

*Farhi:* Hmm ... I don't really think about it too much. I basically just follow my instincts. I don't plan every word I say. So each class is different, and I hope to improve some things in the second class of the day.

*TT:* Do kids that sleep during the lectures tick you off?

*Farhi:* I've gotten used to it. Well, over it, I'll say.

*TT:* Do the kids that sit up front and correct you tick you off?

*Farhi:* That I don't mind. Students who are engaging I like. But what I don't like is when I say I'm covering something deep like the origin of the universe and "it won't be on the

test" and people leave.

*TT:* How well did you do on your first college physics exam?

*Farhi:* I did very well on it. I was a good college physics student.

*TT:* Do you guys really do the exams to be sure you can do them?

*Farhi:* Yes, we do. We don't sit in a quiet room and do them, but it is definitely checked over by the staff.

*TT:* Has the line "I'm an MIT Professor" ever given you unusual special privileges?

*Farhi:* I would say it brings you acceptance in any social circle.

*TT:* Who is your role model in the realm of physics?

*Farhi:* Lots of physicists I respect. As scientists in terms of achievement. The living physicists I respect the most are Murray Gellman, Steven Weinberg, and Gerard 't Hooft.

It's not important that they have Nobels, it's important what they accomplished.

*TT:* What is the most interesting thing that people at MIT do not know about you?

*Farhi:* (*thinks for a minute*) I was rejected from the astronauts. I applied to NASA and they didn't accept me.

*TT:* Do you like physics jokes?

*Farhi:* Yeah. I like any jokes as long as they're funny.

*TT:* What kind of car do you own?

*Farhi:* A 1989 Toyota Camry.

*TT:* Pretty dependable, eh?

*Farhi:* Very much so.

*TT:* Using the laws of Physics, explain why the Boston Red Sox will win or lose the World Series.

*Farhi:* Hmm ... who are the Red Sox?

*TT:* All right, last question. What's your favorite ice cream flavor?

*Farhi:* Anything from Tosci's.



BRIAN LOUX—THE TECH

## Logarhythms Serious About Keeping the Beat

A Capella, from Page 1

just say, "Oh, that person wasn't meant for a capella."

This seemed pretty harsh to me, at least coming from the Cross Products. God didn't make everyone for a capella? Dude.

But probably God helps those who help themselves sing in tune.

Out of typically 50 to 100 candidates, each group usually skims off its top 15 to be called back on the next day, and only a select few actually make the group. For this reason, many auditionees try out for as many groups as they can.

### Making the Logs

For this article, the Logarhythms allowed me to sit in on an hour of their initial auditions, under the condition that I use no names and allow the Logarhythms to review and retract quotations from the brief conversations they had about each auditionee between auditions.

The most striking thing about the Logs' auditions was how formal they were, and how strongly the Logs strove to be professional with every auditionee. I only sat through a small percentage of the 52 total auditions, but there was more than enough bad singing (with not so much good singing to break up the pattern) for me.

A Logs audition starts, as do all a capella auditions, with a paper form. But the Logs' form, unlike most of the other groups', is completely humorless. While Resonance asks for their auditionees' favorite muppet, and the Chorallaries include all sorts of crazy questions, one year asking for bra sizes ("We used to be called the Boobalaries," said former member Mira E. Wilczek '03), the Logs' form is a sea of white, asking only the auditionee's vocal part, choral and arranging experience, and a list of five favorite songs.

The actual audition is similarly serious. The group's president, Collins P. Ward '03, asks each candidate about his commitments

and instructs him that "This is a very serious group, and we take music very seriously."

Candidates are told to come prepared with a solo piece and a joke. After a series of range exercises, the auditionee sings the solo, and is sometimes also asked to sing back atonal sequences of notes to test "tonal memory," while members take notes and maintain studiously impartial faces.

### Making tough decisions

The auditionees spanned a wide range of vocal quality, and the Logs sometimes appeared to be struggling to suppress pained expressions, especially when several candidates each repeatedly asked for help after forgetting the lyrics to their solos.

But they were always professional to the auditionees, even ones whose singing made me question why I had agreed to write this story.

I was surprised by how quickly the Logs' minds were made up. Frequently, members of the group would write down "No callback" on their notecards after only one or two verses of a solo. The fastest decision I observed was for the only candidate that I saw receive a recommendation for a callback, when group members wrote down "callback" only a few notes through the range exercises.

Nonetheless, all auditionees were told to "be sure to check your e-mail tonight to see if we want you back for callbacks." This courtesy was probably a necessary component of basic professionalism, but the Logs' fastidiousness was still impressive.

Members were even tactful in their private notes: for one auditionee that I thought would be a definite no, a member wrote down, "decent, but definitely not one of the 3 — not worth wasting his or our time."

Between auditions, the Logs would briefly discuss the most recent auditionee. I expected that the gloves might come off here, and although disparaging — and more rarely, appreciative — comments about vocal quality were certainly exchanged, the harshest criti-

cism was reserved for joke-telling quality.

### Comparing group auditions

Compared with the Logarhythms' friendly but serious audition process, the Resonance callbacks, which I also was allowed to visit on condition of anonymity to all speakers, were like a slip-n'-slide party: fun, informal, and involving people unafraid to look silly sometimes.

Candidates, who had been in the top echelon of first-round auditionees, swayed and bopped around as they joined with others to sing a 12-measure section of "Who Needs Sleep?" over and over and over again, while group members walked around. Resonance not infrequently erupted into an orgy of shouted committee-of-the-whole decision making.

Group members played up the informal atmosphere. "We're the lowest-commitment a capella group on campus," one member addressed the candidates, even though the group's practices — a total of six hours a week — are on par with other groups. A group of candidates learning "vocal percussion" gradually expanded to include the entire group, and one member couldn't stop herself from repeatedly jumping out of her seat to join in an improvised rendition of "Under Pressure."

Nevertheless, members privately discussed what one described as the "angsty" decision-making process of whom to choose.

### Not a member, but still a fan

The capstone to my a capella journalism came when I followed the Chorallaries around as they sang in new members.

It would be dishonest not to confess to a certain amount of longing as I stood outside a Next House freshman's door, peering in as the Chorallaries sang a rendition of their "Rubber Ducky."

At least those of us who didn't make the cut have the solace of being able to go to concerts or buying our own copies of the "Pretend You're a Member of the [insert group name here]" take-home kit (that is, the groups' albums). And plus — there's always next year. See you there.

**TECH OPEN HOUSE THIS SUNDAY**  
Student Center room 483, 3-5 p.m.

## Ask the Editor

By Eun J. Lee

FEATURES EDITOR

Dear Editor,

For the past two years I have lived on the same floor as someone with incredibly bad body odor. I feel awkward confronting this person, but the stench is often unbearable. What makes it even harder is that this person often encroaches on other people's space without asking, such as sitting on other people's beds and usurping common lounge areas in the dorm. I'm sick of putting up with it. What should I do?

—Holding my nose in Next

Dear Nose Holder,

Like it or not, funky odor is an inevitable part of life here at MIT. According to a recent study, more than 90 percent of students have had to deal with some form of B.O. during their years here, and these encounters most often occur in Athena clusters (41 percent) or in living groups (29 percent). B.O. in Athena clusters is so common that the administration has developed its own acronym for the phenomenon: Athena Super-olfactory Stench (A.S.S.). Despite the prevalence of A.S.S. and B.O. in general, there are very few who actually confront the culprits. This apathy among those of us who suffer from others with B.O. is probably why it still exists in our day in age. In fact, many people who are spreading the stink don't even know they have a problem, so knowing is half the battle.

There are subtle ways you can let your friend know he smells without coming off as strong as their smell. My personal favorite classic trick is making a face when walking into the room and say-

ing "Man, what smells like A.S.S. in here!!" Be creative. For example, if he is sitting on your bed, say you have to do laundry and ask him kindly to get off. Then you can say "Oh, by the way, you smell like A.S.S... good luck with yourself!"

There is actually a Web site you can go to that will send an anonymous letter along with deodorant to your friend. For more information, go to <http://www.give-a-hint.com>. Hope this helps!

Dear Editor,

I get really annoyed with the people I live with because they keep using my dishes. I've made it pretty clear that they're not communal property, but no one listens. What should I do?

—Fed up in Burton-Conner

Dear Fed up,

Here's a foolproof way to keep anyone from using your dishes. In most cases, you probably know the person (or at least suspect someone) who is using your dishes. Let it known to everyone you live with that you are sick and tired of everyone using your stuff. Tell them that you're so mad, you're going to lick random items you own so that no one will use them.

Then, while everyone is gone, lick all of the things you own along with all of the things that the person who you know is using your stuff owns. Even though they are unlikely to use the latter, it will make you feel better to have a safety net.

If you have any questions you would like to be featured in an advice column, send them to [fea-submit@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:fea-submit@the-tech.mit.edu). We guarantee confidentiality and anonymity.

## Down the Hatchet

This is the end of the innocence

By Akshay Patil  
COLUMNIST

Well, welcome back beavers, hope you all enjoyed your summer break. Summer is a wonderful time to relax and make a quick escape away from all the problems that hound us during the year. It's a time for carefree sleeping, eating, and bathroom use. I greatly enjoyed my summer break on campus, but I have to say that I certainly was not ready for the harsh reality of the term to set in.

I know it happens to most of us, but the end of my summer innocence was a horrible jolt back to reality — I still remember it vividly like it was right-after-freshmen-arrived-on-campus.

The morning had started of like any other; I got out of bed and went to the bathroom to take care of hygienic needs. As I went to go use the toilet, carefree mind you, I was suddenly wrenched out of my summer security to cruel actuality-- there was pee on the toilet seat.

Now I don't know about you, but we were doing JUST fine not peeing on the toilet seat all summer. Rare was the occasion that close inspection of the porcelain buttstall was needed, but those times were apparently over. Heartbroken, I fled from the scene and sought refuge in the adjacent stall — only to find that the vandal had been methodical in his work. Both toilets in the bathroom were marred by the yellow calling card of a truly sick person.

Not that this is anything new. Problems with misplaced pee plagued my hall's bathroom last year. We tried using strategically placed attempts at education (signs were posted above seats informing people that "We don't care if you leave the seat up, just don't pee on it"), but such measures were deemed ineffective as the epidemic continued. Some even took matters into their own hand (no, not like that, sicko) and mounted investigations as to determine the identity of the culprit.

Everyone (err, male that is) was a suspect. If pee was found, it was important to note whether it was dried or not. Lookouts (often disguised as people brushing their teeth) would monitor bathroom habits and do discrete checks. Thousands of taxpayer dollars were spent.

In the end two suspects were tagged, but as they were both leaving the dorm soon, no major action was taken.

I thought all would be well this year until that fateful morning when my hopes were shattered.

People, or I guess the "guys" would be more appropriate in this case, what gives you the urge to display your urine to the rest of your bathroom mates? Does it make you feel proud? Healthy? Certainly shouldn't make you feel accurate. Was it really so much of a hassle to go through the simple action of lifting up the toilet seat so as to spare the rest of us from your unpleasantries?

Maybe I'm being a bit unfair. Maybe at home your family believed in peeing all over the toilet seat. Maybe someone taught you that manly men like their beers cold, their women hot, and their pee all over the place.

But you're at MIT now, you can build airplanes with your bare hands — it can't be that hard for you to buckle down and master using a simple toilet.

Of course, I have to concede that some progress in the matter has been made. Some salty upperclassmen have told me horror stories about matters back in the day.

Apparently there was once a phenomenon infamously know as "s\*\*\* on the shore" that haunted a particular bathroom for a year. I am happy to report that, as of yet, nothing that vile has revealed itself in a bathroom I've used — and I'm intent on keeping things that way.

I know that it's hard to change our ways, but for the good of the campus, I'd really appreciate it if everyone just took the time to do his/her part in solving this epidemic. Just raise your right hand and declare "I, <insert name here>, promise to make sure that everything goes down the toilet." Or look yourself in the mirror and say "Today, I WILL lift the toilet seat."

The solution to our problem is in the home — more specifically in the bathroom — so do it for your neighbors, do it for MIT, and do it without getting it all over the place.

## USES FOR THE MIT CARD

The MIT card is being taken at many new locations this year as a result of changes in campus dining. Here is a quick recap of all the places where you can use the TechCASH on your MIT card.

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To find out more ways to get discounts using your MIT, visit the MIT Activities Committee at <http://web.mit.edu/mitac>.

Manage your MIT card account online at <http://web.mit.edu/mitcard/onlinegmt.html>. This Web site allows you to check your balance, view recent purchases, suspend your card or add funds to your account.

For more information, visit the MIT Card office website at <http://web.mit.edu/mitcard/>.

Dear Editor,

I am a freshman and I am not sure how many extracurricular activities I should take on this term and still stay mentally sane. I am currently enrolled in 8.01, 3.091, 18.02 and a HASS-D. Can you give me advice?

—Clueless in McCormick

Dear Clueless,

It's definitely hard for anyone to juggle classes and extracurricular activities. I say give everything a try at first, but then narrow your activities down as you go. Also remember that you are on pass/no record, so you should try things while you still can — before you get into a set routine. I'm actually available for one-on-one schedule consultations with freshmen this Sunday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in W20-483. There will be free ice cream, so drop by!

**Do you like giving advice?**

**Would you like to write a regular advice column like the one above?**

**If so, join The Tech's features staff by e-mailing [join@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@the-tech.mit.edu).**

Heard any insightful or funny quotes lately from your professors?

The Tech is starting a new regular feature with collections of quotes from MIT faculty. E-mail your quote submission along with who said it to [fea-submit@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:fea-submit@the-tech.mit.edu). You and your professor could be immortalized in our next issue!

## Welcome Back Students!

*From the MIT Board of Chaplains*

Representing many of the world's religions, the chaplains serve both their own religious communities, as well as the MIT community at large. Chaplains' offices are located in the Religious Activities Center, Bldg. W11. We are available for conversation, support, guidance, and can help you find other resources in times of need. We wish you a wonderful Fall Semester!

Miriam Rosenblum	<i>Jewish - Hillel</i>	3-2982	<i>miriamr@mit.edu</i>
Kevin Ford	<i>InterVarsity Christian</i>	2-1782	<i>ivcf@mit.edu</i>
John Wuestneck	<i>Protestant Student Fellowship</i>	2-1780	<i>chaplain@mit.edu</i>
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Johanna Kiefner	<i>Lutheran</i>	3-2325	<i>jkiefner@mit.edu</i>
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Ben Lanckton	<i>Jewish (Conservative)</i>	3-2982	<i>rabbiben@mit.edu</i>
Alice Brown-Collins	<i>Black Christian Fellowship</i>	508-429-6322	<i>bcoll27210@aol.com</i>
Lewis Clark Christian	<i>Mormon/Latter Day Saints</i>	617-547-6188	<i>cesboston@juno.com</i>
Michael Dean	<i>Southern Baptist</i>	3-2328	<i>mdean@mit.edu</i>
George Hinman	<i>Campus Crusade for Christ</i>	508-358-4280	<i>hinman@mit.edu</i>
Suheil Laher	<i>Muslim Student Community</i>	617-666-3473	<i>msa_imam@mit.edu</i>
Cyrus Mehta	<i>Zoroastrian &amp; Vedanta</i>	617-661-2011	<i>mmehta@cvtel.com</i>
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# Committee on Discipline Held Hearings on Thefts

Thefts, from Page 1

"The three others who may have charged (credited) their credit card accounts are Dashonn Graves, Stacey Winston, and Jasmine Richards," reads the handwritten statement. "Of these three, only Dashonn Graves and Jasmine Richards have explicitly admitted their involvement to me. Similar to the checks I wrote in payment of my credit card bills, I am aware of at least one instance where Jasmine Richards did the same."

The statement appears to refer to the already-known method of embezzlement — using The Tech's credit-card point-of-sale terminal to issue phony "refunds" to credit card

accounts that had never previously been billed — as well as a more direct technique: writing undocumented checks drawn on The Tech's bank account, which Richards, and later Thomas, supervised.

In a brief interview, Thomas said she was "not at liberty to say" under what circumstances she had signed the statement, nor to discuss her case. Graves, Winston, and Richards could not be reached for comment.

Thomas' attorney Willie J. Davis said he was not aware of the statement, but that "just because she made a statement that's tantamount to a confession doesn't mean the court will hear it, because there's always a motion to suppress ... depending on the circumstances in which the statement was made."

### Three students become fugitives

After being arraigned on June 5, Graves, Winston, and Richards failed to appear at subsequent pre-trial hearings in August, and warrants were issued for their arrest.

Donald F. DeMayo, who was Winston's court-appointed attorney until she failed to appear, said "her whereabouts are unknown."

"Sooner or later she'll be picked

up or something," he said. "They'll just put her in cuffs and bring her in. At that point she'll be appointed a new lawyer."

Richards' court-appointed attorney, Thomas R. Glover, said her arrest warrant was the result of a clerk's failure to note in her case file that a motion to reschedule a hearing had been granted.

Graves' attorney, also court-appointed, did not return calls seeking comment.

None of the defendants' attorneys reached by *The Tech* were willing to discuss the substance of the accusations.

### COD held hearings into thefts

Although the criminal proceedings were initiated in February and March and have included several hearings over the summer, *The Tech's* news department did not learn of their existence until recently. MIT officials and The Tech's internal investigatory committee had refused to discuss the theft investigations' progress, because of then-ongoing hearings before the MIT Committee on Discipline, according to MIT officials.

Thomas' attorney Davis said there were hearings before the MIT Committee on Discipline, but said

he did not know the outcome. MIT officials acknowledged the existence of the hearings, but declined to reveal their outcome. The chair of The Tech's internal investigatory committee, Senior Editor Rima Arnaout '02, did not return calls seeking comment.

Although they are former members of the class of 2002, Thomas, Winston, and Richards are not listed in the Alumni Association's database of graduates, but it is unclear whether this is a result of a disciplinary committee decision.

### COD may not have known of cases

Even while holding hearings into the matter, the Committee on Discipline may have been unaware of the concurrent criminal cases. Assistant Dean Carol Orme-Johnson, staff to the committee, appears not to have known of their existence when she spoke to *The Tech* in late April, when she said she did not know if the investigations into the thefts had identified any suspects, and that "There may be criminal charges if the thief is identified."

Informed in a recent interview that MIT had first filed its accusations on Feb. 28, two months before her comments, she seemed surprised, saying, "In February. Wow,

that's interesting to know."

"I don't have any first-hand knowledge of court cases," she said. "I hear lots of things, but I can't comment on various stories I hear around the Institute."

Professor Derek Rowell, the disciplinary committee chair, declined to comment, saying his committee had secured an agreement that *The Tech* would not publish articles "on that issue whatsoever," and that this article would constitute a breach of that agreement.

"If you're going to publish anything, there will be repercussions for The Tech," he said in an interview.

Tracy F. Purinton, the assistant dean for student activities, said she was unaware of such an agreement.

Instead, she said, "I think the agreement was that those students [on The Tech's investigatory committee] who were privy to that information would not report on it."

"*The Tech* never made any agreement with the COD not to publish information which is freely available to the public in court documents," said then-Editor in Chief Kevin R. Lang G.

Members of The Tech investigatory committee referred inquiries to Arnaout, who did not return calls seeking comment.

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NIGHTLINE NIGHTLINE NIGHTLINE

DEF  
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### Solution to Crossword

from page 7

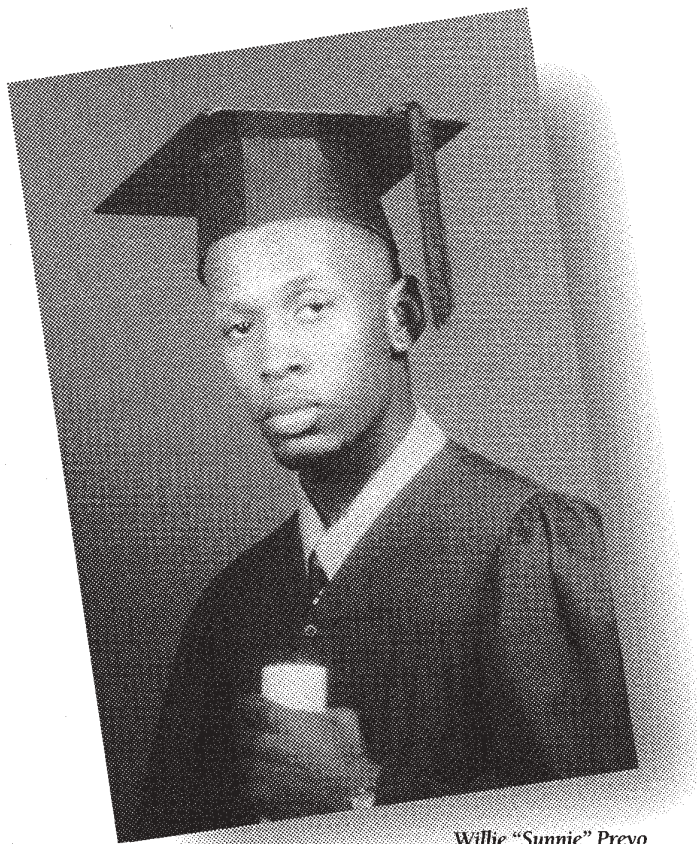
T	Y	P	O	B	L	E	D	R	A	C	E	S
H	E	E	D	L	I	L	I	A	B	O	R	T
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C	H	I	G	N	P	A	S	T	R	A	L	
K	I	C	K	E	D	A	L	T	S	I	T	E
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B	O	R	E	D	B	O	A	R	D	A	M	I
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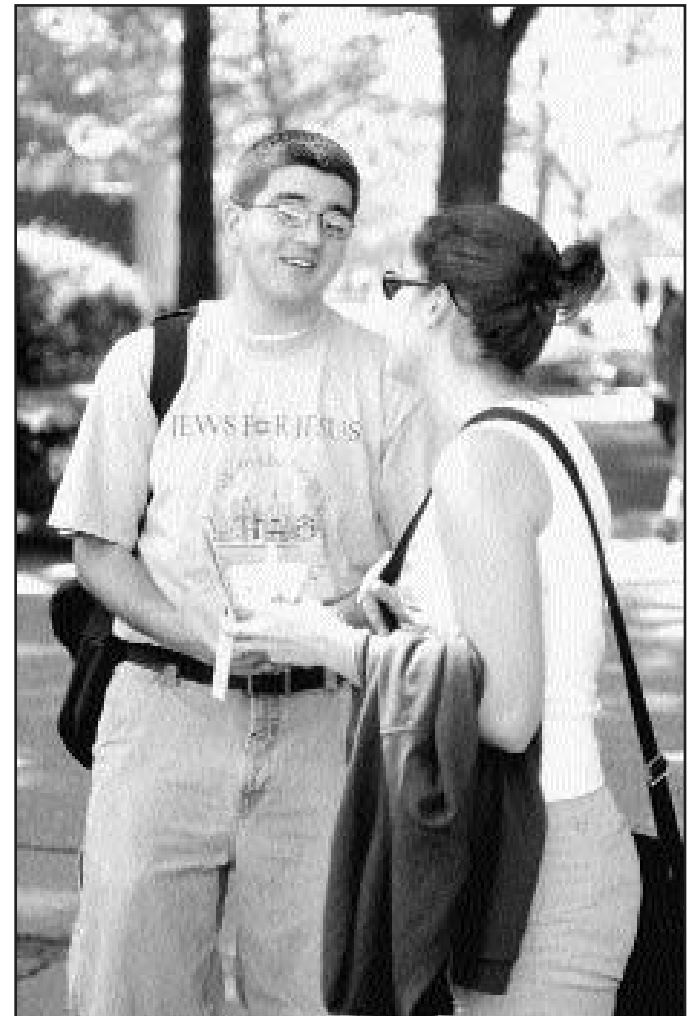


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JONATHAN WANG—THE TECH

Noah Cohen, a member of Jews for Jesus, hands out pamphlets on the sidewalk across from 77 Mass. Ave. The MIT Police gave the group a trespassing warning and advised them that a repeat offense would lead to arrest.

## TECH OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, Sept. 8, 3–5 p.m.  
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The Council for the Arts at MIT is a volunteer group of alumni and friends established to support the visual, literary, and performing arts at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Since its founding in 1972 by MIT President Jerome B. Wiesner, the Council for the Arts has worked "to foster the arts at MIT...[and]... to act as a catalyst for the development of a broadly based, highly participatory program in the arts." Appointed by the President of MIT to three-year terms, Council members serve as advocates and advisors to MIT's Associate Provost for the Arts.

# MIT Forms Alliance With Zipcar Service

By Jessica A. Zaman  
STAFF REPORTER

Getting around Boston this fall will be easier for MIT staff and graduate students. MIT Parking and Transportation has formed an alliance with Zipcar, a company that allows subscribers to drive cars placed around the city.

In an effort to make Zipcar services more accessible for staff and graduate students, MIT recently moved to subsidize the standard deposit and application fees for membership with Zipcar.

Lawrence R. Brutti, operations manager of MIT Parking and Transportation, felt the initiative has proved itself successful within a few short months. "The program was just kicked off after a meeting in late July," Brutti said. "We've already got a couple hundred graduates and staff participating."

## Subsidies make Zipcar affordable

MIT Parking and Transportation has formed a relationship with Zipcar over the years, said Steve Oakley, Zipcar director of operations.

Over the past few months, Zipcar has worked with MIT to make Zipcar transportation affordable for members of the MIT community.

MIT affiliates have the advantage of a significant price break in comparison to the typical Zipcar customers. MIT subsidies help cover the standard insurance deposit of \$300 and the \$50 application fee.

Staff and graduates pay only an annual fee of \$20 in addition to rental charges. The fee is credited to driving time.

Hourly rental charges for MIT affiliates ranges from \$5 to \$7. Maximum daily charges are \$55 to \$75.

## 'Car-sharing' a big success

Oakley said "250 MIT staff and graduates are currently Zipcar members."

Zipcar surveyed 50 MIT Zipcar customers.

"Twenty percent indicated that they would not be buying a car because of Zipcar services," Oakley said.

"I've always had very good results with Zipcar," said Erica Schultz, Electronic Publishing Coordinator for MIT Press. Schultz, who has been a Zipcar member for two years, is happy to see MIT supporting Zipcar. "This alternative transportation is very cutting edge," Schultz said.

Publicity for MIT's alliance with Zipcar was primarily "distributed organically over MIT's e-mail network and spread by word of mouth," Oakley said.

## Undergrads may soon be eligible

Because of insurance coverage issues, Zipcar does not extend their services to MIT undergraduates. Zipcar driving restrictions make students under 21 ineligible. Past restrictions prohibited students ages 21-25 from driving on nights and weekends. This restriction has been lifted, but Zipcar is in the process of reducing other restrictions.

"This is still a very new concept," Oakley said. "The insurance companies don't know what to expect. We want to be very careful in the beginning."

## Not your average rental car

Zipcar, a company founded by MIT Sloan School graduate Robin Chase '86, allows members to use their access cards (Zipcards) to drive the 90 Zipcars parked in locations throughout the Boston metro area.

Zipcar is not a typical rental-car company. It is based on a European idea, giving people who aren't car owners access to cars whenever they need.

Operations for Zipcars are primarily Web-based. Interested consumers subscribe for membership online. When in need of a ride, members search for cars available in the area. Reservations may be made in advance, or on the same day at least an hour in advance.

Zipcar members can reserve cars throughout the city of Boston, and even have access to cars in New York City and Washington D.C.

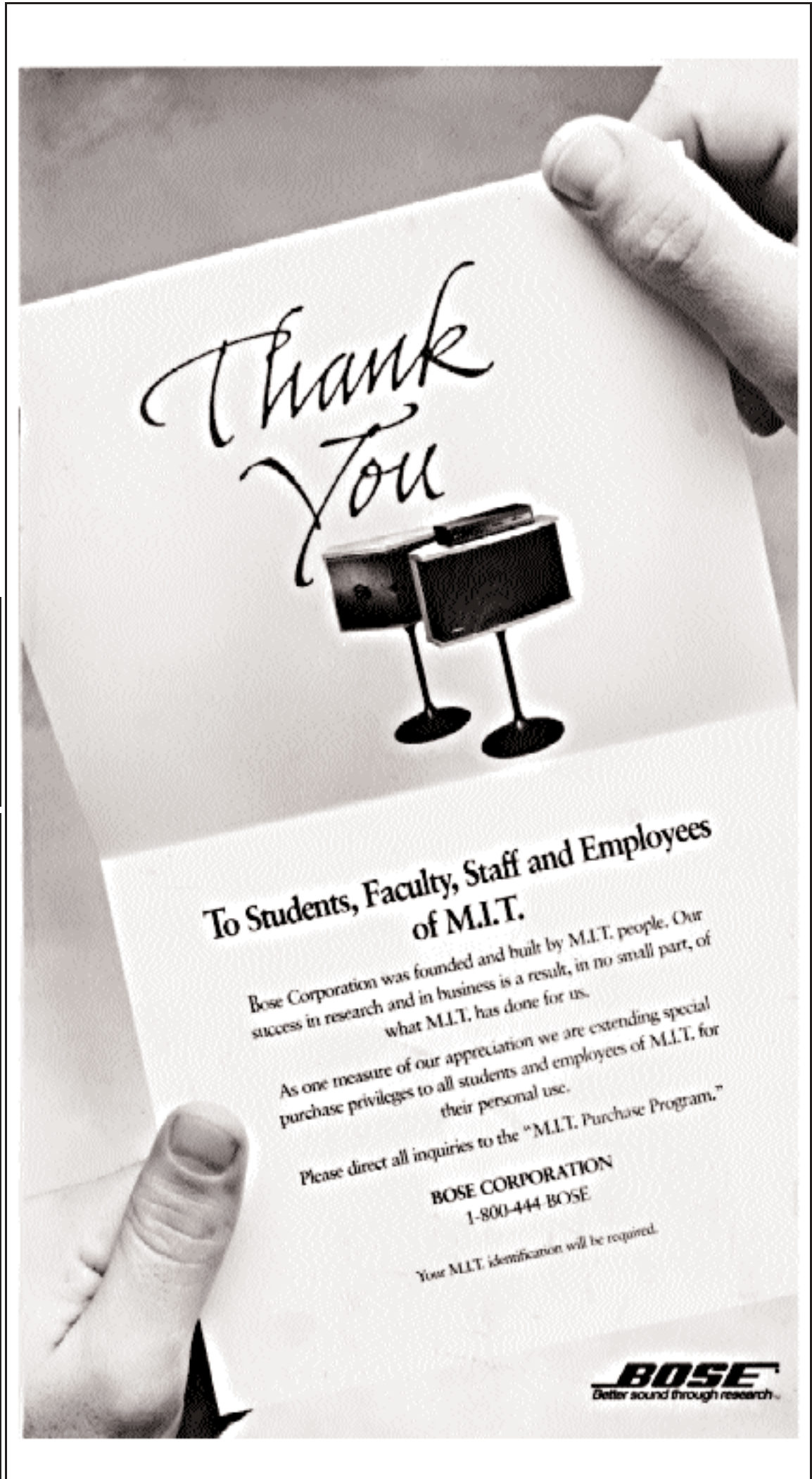
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# Extra Space Pleases Dormitory Residents

Dorms, from Page 1

crowded, but we are ... full to our capacity."

East Campus, however, fought last year to keep "traditional crowds," or large singles that have consistently served as doubles. On average, the dormitory has three crowded singles and less than one official double per hall.

"People tend to enjoy this for financial reasons because the housing costs for a single are cut in half, but more importantly people enjoyed the social aspects of the rooms," said President of East Campus Ryan D. Williams '04. "Each hall now has about eight freshmen. If all of them [the rooms] decrowded, we would have only had room for three of four per hall."

Fewer freshmen moved into East Campus than expected. The dormitory hopes to receive undergraduate transfer students as the year goes on.

Currently, about half of Next House residents are members of the class of 2006. "This is an unusual year because all the triples were converted to doubles," said Next House Housing Chair Mayur V. Kenia '03. "Thus, there is no crowding and we were able to house all our residents."

Simmons Hall was in a "different situation," according to Simmons Rooming Assignment Chair James W. Humphries '03. "From the beginning, it was impossible to crowd; it was never an option," he said.

Upperclassmen took the dormitory's singles during last spring's lottery and the Simmons Steering Committee set aside a balanced number of freshmen rooms on each floor last year as well. As a result of planning from last year, Simmons is at full capacity.

### Residents pleased with decrowding

Vallay, along with many of the dormitory housing chairs, said the lottery went well.

"I haven't heard any negative things from the freshmen or received any complaints as housing chair," Kenia said.

"I think we made our intentions clear, so there was no dissent.

Everyone seems pleased with where everyone ended up," Humphries said, regarding the regulated situations surrounding Simmons rush. "The lottery went really smoothly."

There were, however, some minor complaints. "We didn't fill the halls up. Now [some freshmen] are pissed off because there are singles open that they want. But they will eventually be filled," Williams said. Nevertheless, he too felt that the outcome was a positive one. "We have a reasonable proportion of freshmen to upperclassmen," he said.

"The in-house lottery for freshmen housing took almost until 2 a.m.," said Robert W. Cheng '04 of Next House. "They [the house government] shouldn't do it like they do."

### New dorm populations emerge

There has been a shift of gender and class ratios in many dormitories, but residents have not noticed any detrimental effects of these changes.

"One hundred and one [freshmen] is more than we've had in the past, so it's definitely different," Ornstein said about Baker.

"The consistency of the floors have also dramatically changed," Kenia said about Next House. "The cultural mix is more diverse."

The RLSLP does not plan to attempt to equalize the dormitories in any manner. "I don't feel comfortable in asking someone to leave a place they like. We're looking for happiness overall," Vallay said. "Hopefully with the upcoming lotteries, the classes will randomly change."

"One of the keys that the [plan to redesign the MIT residence system, issued by former Chancellor Lawrence S. Bacow '72.] mentions is the upperclass transfer lottery at the end of each semester ... [to assist] liquidity in movement," said Vallay about her agenda for the future. "We want to remove the stigma in changing dorms."

Undergraduates who want to apply for another dormitory apply online at <<http://web.mit.edu/rslslp/undergrad/application.html>>.

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# ABET Gives Engineering Accreditation to Course II-A

By Masha Kamenetska

Course II-A (Mechanical Engineering) has been accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. Students graduating from this major will now receive a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering upon grad-

uation.

Before the accreditation, students who chose the Course II-A path received a Bachelor of Science, rather than a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Course II-A offers students the opportunity to study mechanical engineering while also focusing on

another area of academic interest.

### Accreditation called unimportant

"[I do] not believe the lack of accreditation makes any difference," wrote Head of Course II-A Seth Lloyd on the Course II-A Web page. "The record shows that II-A graduates have been no less suc-

cessful in getting into graduate school than regular Course II students."

Some Course II-A students agree that the state of accreditation was not vital to their choice of major.

Jeremy D. Schwartz '05 and Sheila A. Longo '05 both said that they would have chosen Course II-A even if it did not get accredited this year.

"I want to do what I want to do," Longo said. "It's just a title."

### Accreditation still meaningful

While the state of accreditation might not be crucial to some, these efforts are nonetheless appreciated by members of the Course II community.

Mary K. Thompson G, former president of the MIT chapter of Pi Tau Sigma, the national mechanical engineering society, said that everyone in Course II is "excited" about the accreditation. "This development is very good news and it reflects the effort of the mechanical engineering faculty, staff, and students who worked with the accreditation board to make this possible," she said.

"When I found out [Course II-A] was going to be accredited this year, I thought, 'so much the better,'" Schwartz said.

### II-A allows many options for study

Lloyd points out on the Course II-A Web page that "II-A is a sort of a dual degree" in mechanical engineering as well as in the concentration that the student selects.

Longo, for example, wants to study II-A with an emphasis on Art and Architecture, a degree which would allow her to pursue a career in design with a solid engineering background. While she said she is not sure what exactly she wants to

do, she believes that as she continues in the major and "learn[s] more, [her] options will open up."

### Much effort put into accreditation

Regardless of its importance, accreditation did take a considerable amount of effort on the part of members of engineering and mechanical engineering departments. Undergraduate Academic Administrative for the Mechanical Engineering Department Peggy E. Garlick, who helped Administrative Assistant Doris Elsemiller compile the necessary information for the ABET, said that the process required a lot of work.

She said that she had to collect "the syllabus, the book, everything" from faculty members that had taught Course II-A classes in the past.

Garlick, Elsemiller, and others organized the collected information into a booklet, which was then sent to ABET.

### ABET accreditation unique

Although accreditation from program-specific organizations such as ABET has not been received for some MIT programs, the university as a whole has always been accredited by the New England Association for Schools and Colleges.

As a result of the NEASC accreditation, every MIT major is entitled to a Bachelor of Science or Arts. However, some courses of study fall "under different accrediting standards" than those enforced by NEASC, and therefore require accreditation by separate organizations, according to Coordinator for Institutional Research Beatrice A. Frain.

Frain said that ABET has "stringent accreditation requirements" that are difficult to satisfy.

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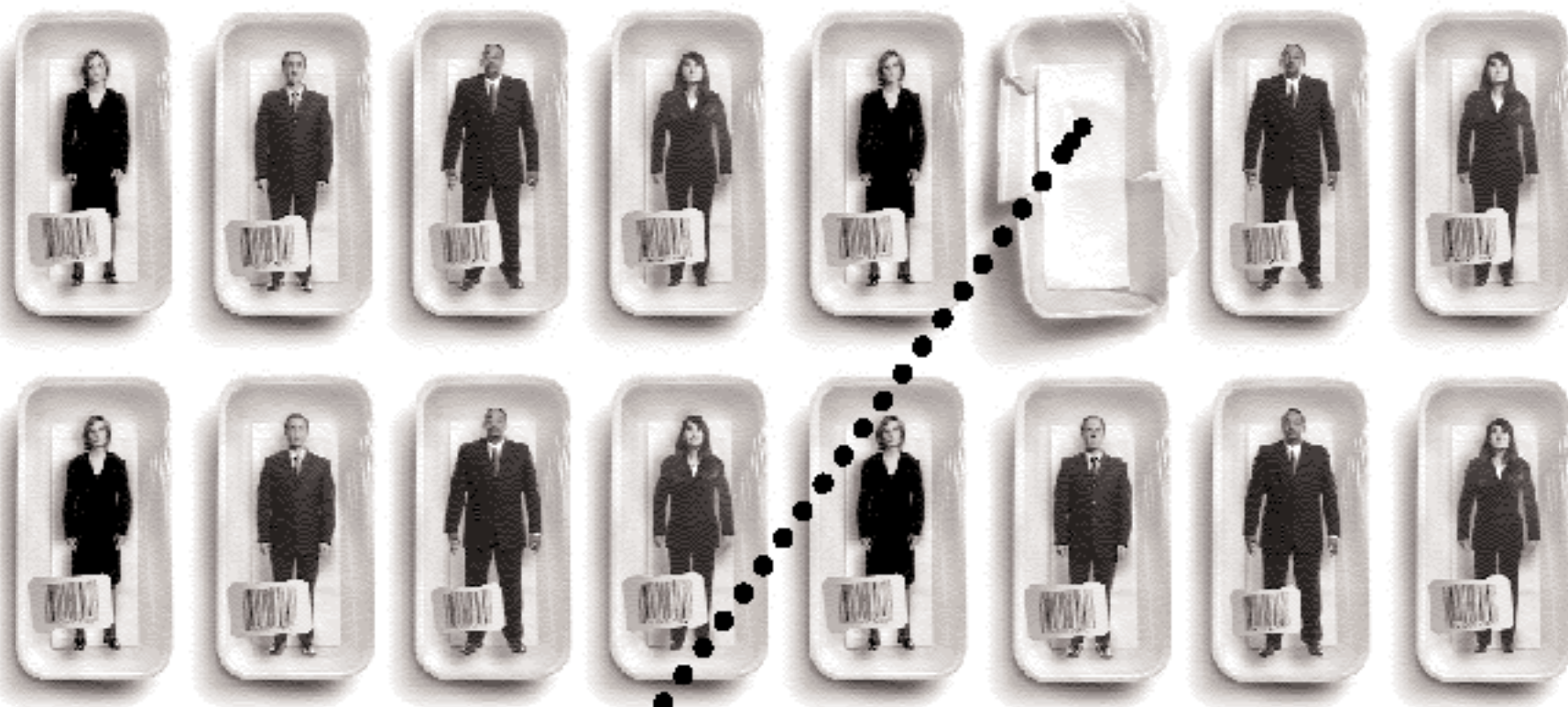
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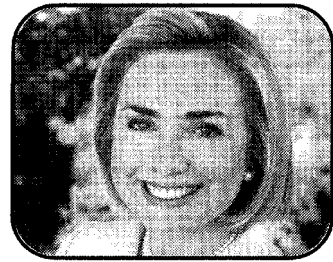
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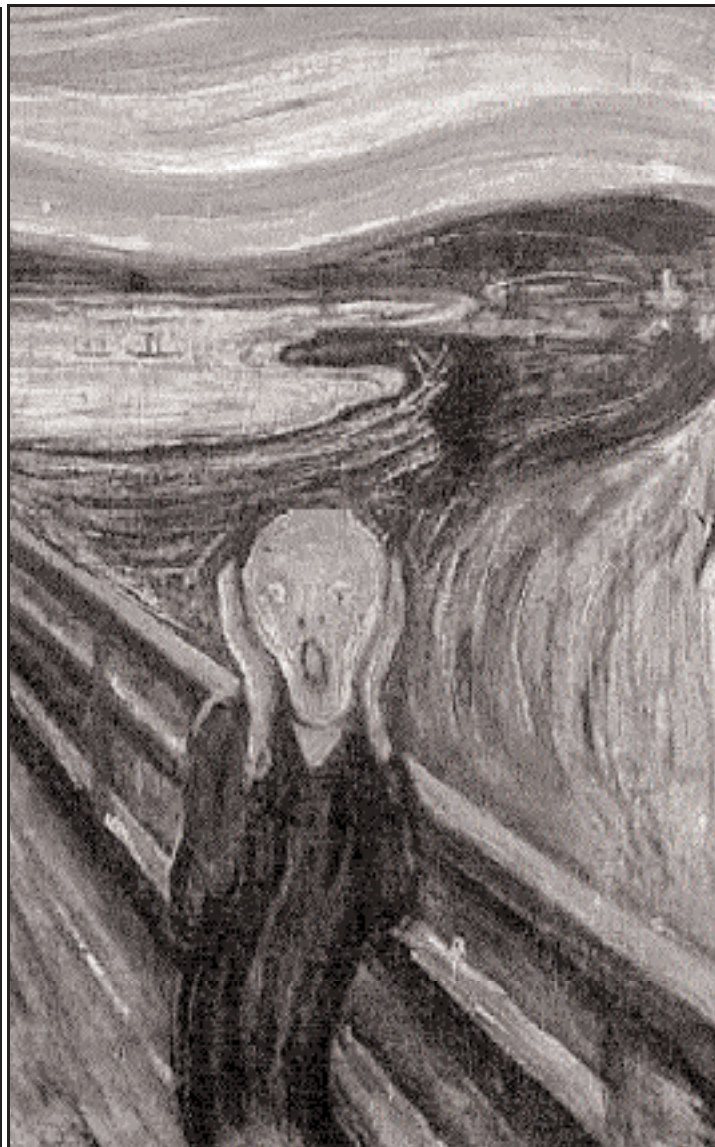
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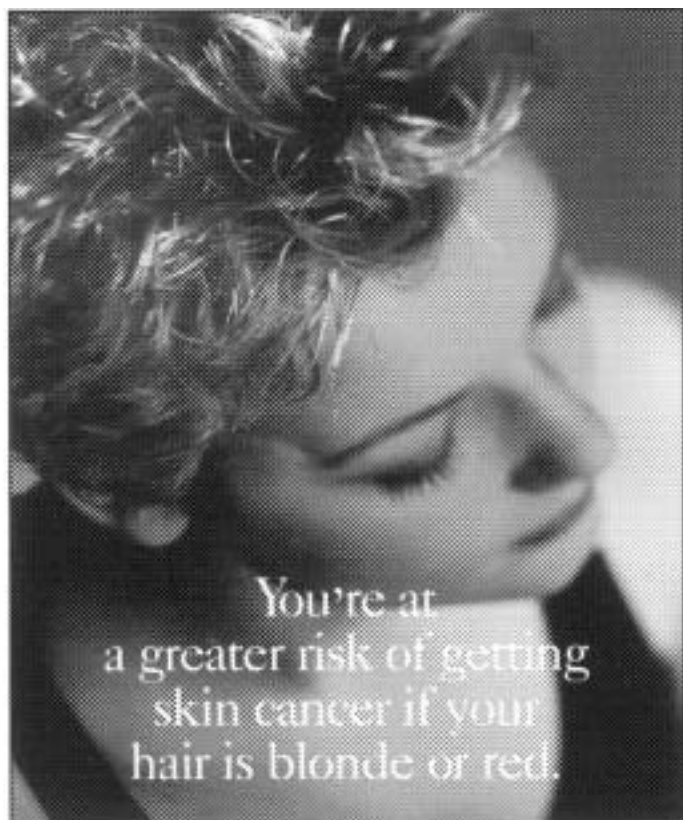
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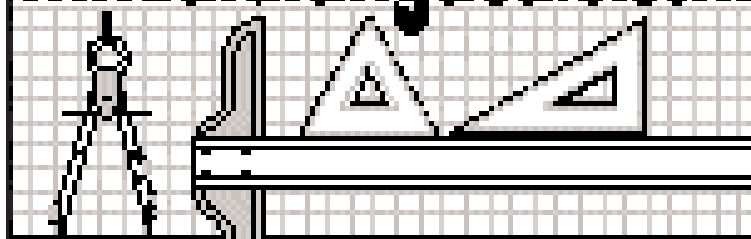


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Thomas J. Kilpatrick '05 breaks a tackle after a reception during a football scrimmage last Saturday. MIT lost to Norwich 14-0 and will play WPI this weekend. AARON D. MIHALIK—THE TECH



MIT Bhangra Club members perform a traditional folk dance of Punjab during the Activities Midway last Friday in Johnson Athletic Center. DONG WANG—THE TECH

## Tech Open House Sunday



**When:** Sunday, Sept. 8 3–5 p.m.  
**Where:** Student Center room 483  
**Who:** Anyone interested in newspaper production, writing, photography, business, or technology

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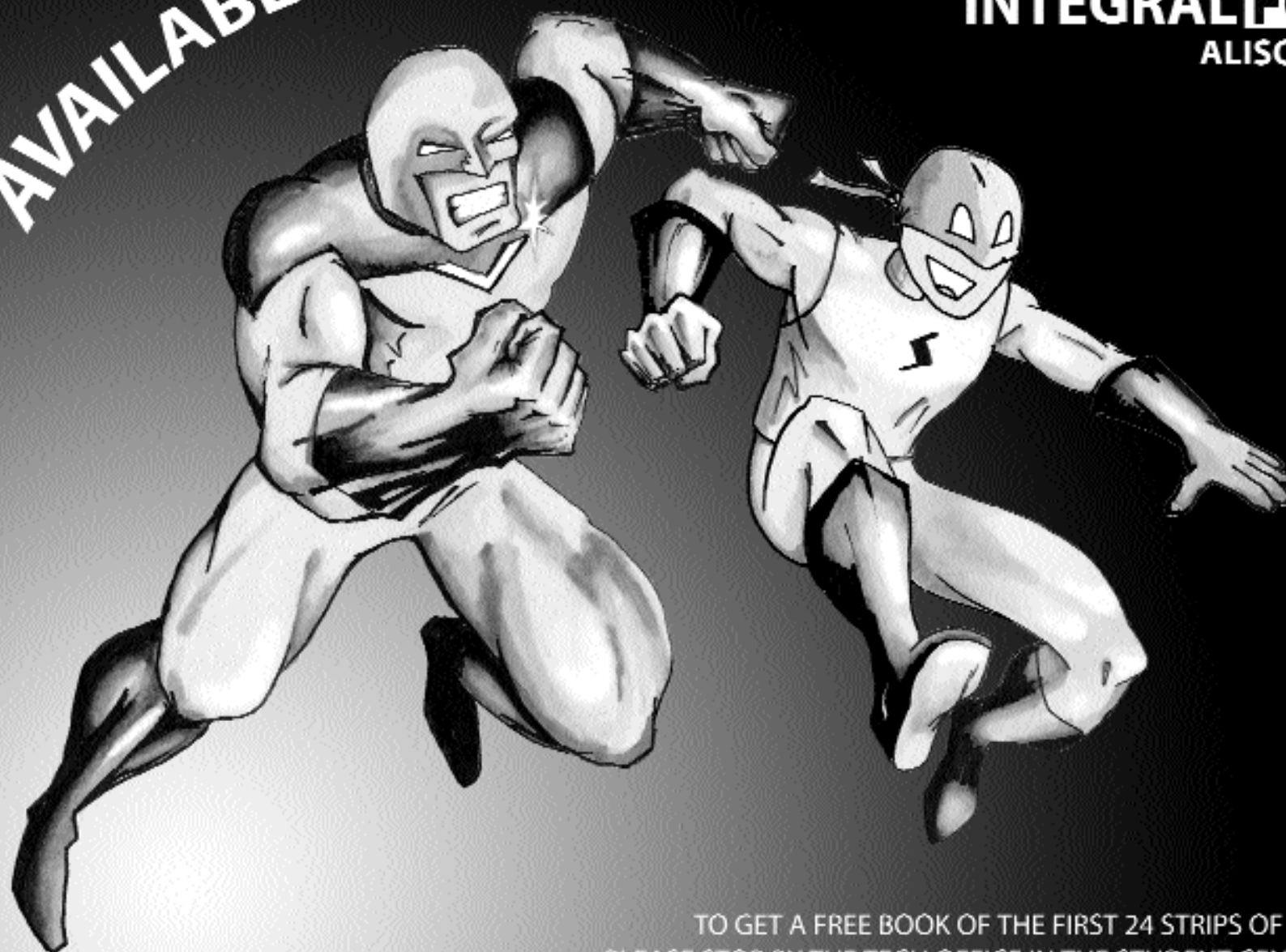
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