Applicants Markedly Increase

By Eric J. Cholankeril

Applications for admission to MIT's graduate programs are up by more than 800 this year, or about 10 percent, as many college graduates face a crowded job market due to the weak economy.

According to Associate Director of Admissions Elizabeth S. Johnson, 11,617 graduate applications have been entered thus far into the MIT admissions office database for matriculation in the 2002-2003 school year. This number does not include applicants to the Sloan School of Management or Master of Science in Engineering (MEng) applicants from a year ago.

Last year, the Admissions Office recorded a total of 10,798 applications, excluding applicants to the Sloan School and internal MEng applicants.

"Many feel that application numbers are up this year for graduate programs mainly due to the faltering economy," said Johnson, noting that the numbers were not final. "We're definitively up, but we'll be up even more when the dust settles."

Faltering economy to blame

Some may attribute the increase to increasing concerns that academic aid at MIT are being grossly underused, according to MIT Student Financial Services (SFS). For example, 11.7 percent of Federal Work-Study (FWS) funds allocated to students receiving financial aid at MIT are being grossly underused, according to MIT Student Financial Services (SFS).

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by Christine R. Fry

Federal Work-Study (FWS) funds allocated to students receiving financial aid at MIT are being grossly underused, according to MIT Student Financial Services (SFS).

Students interested in community service programs may still be underusing FWS grants have not been used for service opportunities available to them.

"We haven't presented FWS community service programs," said Kelly A. Miller, a section editor of The Tech. "We're going to spend as much money as we can," she said. "Let's see what we can do for the students."
Interrogations to Begin Soon For Illegal Mideastern Aliens

By Dan Eggen

Federal agents will soon begin apprehending thousands of illegal Middle Eastern immigrants who have ignored deportation orders, seeking ways to prosecute any who have ties to terrorism and compiling the results of interviews in a new computer database, according to a Justice Department memo.

The Jan. 25 memo instructs federal agents to find methods of detaining some of the immigrants for possible criminal charges, rather than merely expelling them from the United States as previously planned.

The tactics are part of the Immigration and Naturalization Service's efforts to locate an estimated 314,000 foreign nationals, known as "absconders," who have ignored court orders to leave the country. Justice Department and FBI officials have said that the operation would focus on about 6,000 immigrants from countries identified as al-Qaeda strongholds, though the vast majority of absconders are Latin Americans.

Thursday, officials said the arrests will begin next week with a group of fewer than 1,000 illegal immigrants, most from the Middle East and Pakistan, who are believed to be the most dangerous because they are convicted felons.

The "Absconder Apprehension Initiative" is the latest example of the Justice Department's wide-ranging efforts to thwart terrorism by increasing its focus on domestic intelligence gathering. So far this campaign has involved, in part, compiling information on foreign nationals living in the United States both legally and illegally.

The internal department memo, sent to anti-terrorism officials by Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson and obtained by The Washington Post, shows that the FBI and Justice Department have created a special, computerized reporting system that already includes information gathered from recent interviews with thousands of Middle Eastern men who were invited to come forth voluntarily. Results from the new round of interrogations will be added to the database.

U.S. officials are forming special "apprehension teams" that include agents from the FBI, the U.S. Marshals Service and the INS, according to the memo.

Justice Department officials said it is logical to start the absconder program by gathering information on people living here who may have ties to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda terrorist network, which has been blamed for the Sept. 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington.

"We can't go after 314,000 people at a time, so it only makes sense to prioritize them in a way that makes sense from a law enforcement perspective," said one senior Justice Department official. "If we didn't do this, then we should be criticized." But the absconder program's initial focus on Middle Eastern nationals has renewed complaints from Arab American and civil liberties groups that the Bush administration is practicing racial profiling in its war on terrorism.

Khalil Jahan, vice president of the American-Arab Anti-Defamation Committee here, said Thursday that information in the special terrorist database could be used to unfairly smear the reputations of innocent individuals.

"This whole path the government is taking is clearly a case of racial profiling," Jahan said. "It's clearly a case of selective enforcement. These half-baked methods seem totally isolated from a whole tradition of respect for civil liberties.

Sharon Presses Bush on Arafat

By Alan Sipress

President Bush assured visiting Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon Thursday that he would continue to press the Palestinian authority to crack down on terrorism but balked at the Israeli leader's call for isolating Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Sharon's visit comes at a time when the United States has all but abandoned its effort to solve the Palestinian problem in the Middle East. Palestinian violence and that peace talks can only resume after Arab militant groups are brought to heel.

Bush made clear his longstanding exasperation with Arafat, whose credibility in Washington has been damaged by a new last month after Israeli commandos intercepted a ship seeking to deliver weapons to the Palestinians.

"I can't be any more clear in my position, and that is that he must do everything in his power to fight terror," Bush told reporters after the nearly hourlong meeting. "Obviously, there are some Americans who are frustrated and then extremely disappointed when the Karzai A showed up, loaded with weapons, weapons that could've only been intended for one thing, which was to terrorize." Sharon's visit to the White House, his fourth since taking office last year, has come as Israel and the United States have called for Arafat's evacuation from Wash ington. Once a frequent visitor during the Clinton administration, Bush has refused him an invitation.

But the president's harsh rhetoric and diplomatic snubbing of Arafat fall short of making the Palestinian leader "irrelevant," as Sharon desired. While the Bush administration may be unwilling to smush Arafat aside in its plans, Sharon wants to bypass him in any way, Sharon wants to bypass him and seek out other Palestinian leaders who would act more vigorously to protect Israelis.

"I personally, myself and my government, regard Arafat as an obstacle to peace," Sharon told reporters. "Arafat has chosen a strategy of terror and formed a coalition of terror. Therefore, we believe that pressure should be put on Arafat in order, we hope, to have an alternative leadership in the future.

State Department officials in recent days have noted several positive steps taken by Arafat's security forces toward containing violence, including arresting some militants and breaking up militant factions.

The Palestinian leader, meantime, sent a letter last week to Secretary of State Colin Powell via the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem acknowledge ing American concerns about the smuggling plot and promising to punish those Palestinians who were involved.

Sharon promises Bush on Arafat

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Bush Grants Taliban Detainees Geneva Convention Protection

By Mike Allen

Following protests from allies around the world, President Bush announced Thursday that the United States will grant the protections of the Geneva Convention to detainees who fought for Afghanistan’s Taliban but will continue to deny them to members of the al-Qaida terrorist network.

Until now, the administration had denied that the 158 captives at the U.S. Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, were covered by the Geneva Conventions, which ensure treatment of wartime captives is humane and subject to international law.

International lawyers said it could be argued that Bush’s decision will not end some tactics being used in interrogating Talibani fighters at the detention center, nicknamed Camp X-Ray. The lawyers said the decision strengthens the argument that the Talibani captives should be repatriated when hostilities cease.

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer, announcing the decision at a hastily scheduled afternoon briefing, said the decision about the detainees “will not change their material life on a day-to-day basis.” The United States said it already was providing food and medical treatment and allowing the captives to practice their religion, which are other issues covered by the convention.

Fleischer said the administration is making the distinction in status of defenders of the Talibani regime, which controlled Afghanistan, and al-Qaida because Afghanistan is a party to the Geneva Convention.

“Although the United States does not recognize the Talibani as the legitimate Afghan government, the president determined that the Talibani members are covered under the treaty because Afghanistan is a party to the convention,” Fleischer said. “Al-Qaida is an international terrorist group and cannot be considered a state party to the Geneva Convention.”

Bad Weather Prevents Verification Of CIA Strike on al-Qaida Convoy

By Steve Vogel and Walter Pincus

Bad weather is preventing U.S. military forces from surveying the site of a CIA-launched missile strike in eastern Afghanistan to verify whether a senior al-Qaida leader and other members of the terrorist network were killed in the attack, defense officials said Thursday.

Gen. Tommy Franks, head of the U.S.-Central Command, said the Hellfire missile fired by an unmanned aircraft hit its intended target, but he said the weather in the mountainous area made it difficult to establish who was killed.

“Police can’t get to it,” another defense official said. “It’s at 11,000 feet. It’s extremely difficult because of the weather.”

The attack Monday near Zhawar Kili, 30 miles southwest of the city of Khost, was launched by an armed Predator surveillance drone operated by the CIA. The Predator had come across and followed for two days a convoy of up to 15 vehicles because U.S. intelligence officers determined they could be al-Qaida leaders, U.S. officials said.

On Monday, the vehicles were posted at a previously known al-Qaida camp and the officers noticed a group, protected by security personnel, in which other individuals were showing “a great deal of deference to a person much taller than the others,” according to a senior administration official.

With no U.S. fighter aircraft in the vicinity, the CIA officers fired a Hellfire missile at the group. The explosion apparently killed one or more of the individuals, the official said. Officials said they were not claiming the tall individual was Osama bin Laden, the al-Qaida leader whose whereabouts have been unknown since December. Bin Laden is believed to be between 6 feet 4 inches and 6 feet 6 inches tall.

In Afghanistan, an Afghan leader announced Thursday that the United States will grant the protections of the Geneva Convention to detainees who fought for Afghanistan’s Taliban regime, which controlled Afghanistan, and al-Qaida because Afghanistan is a party to the Geneva Convention.

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Visas Not Accepted

The Feb. 5 article entitled “Proposed Visa Ban Mobular Students” quotes Middle Eastern Club President Mohib Yahyaqma’s obstruction to the new restriction on the granting of visas to people from countries that sponsor terrorism: “This bill makes everyone from certain nations guilty until proven innocent.” This comment misappropriates a famous re-interpretation that many people in this country consider to be a natural law of fairness for use in a context in which it does not belong.

“Guilt” and “innocence” only apply to governmental actions in the sense that a government may use an individual’s guilt as a justification to deprive that person of rights that any innocent person is entitled to. Crossing a border into a foreign country in order to reap the benefits of that country’s unique qualities, however, is not a right to which people are entitled, but a privilege that governments may grant or deny at their discretion. Visa restrictions are a tool governments can use to benefit their own country’s inhabitants. I have read coverage in The Tech of Elzbieta Shion’s suicide and her family’s lawsuit. I work at a small private university in Seattle, Washington. Besides my general interest in academic policy, I am the parent of a daughter who completed her bachelor’s degree at Columbia in 1994. I am very sorry for the Shion family’s loss, and for the terrible impact the suicide must have had on Ms. Shion’s family and others. I agree with the editorial position that the Shion family would do well to share any settlement with MIT. Even more strongly, I feel that their case is weak. Surely they knew that their daughter was a very troubled person. There is a moral limit to the amount of responsibility any one can assign to “others” when a family member is in trouble, and I hope the court finds that there is also a legal limit.

Susan Mullen
Seattle, Washington

Innocents Abroad

Akshay Patil believes that his time in Inchon International Airport gave him a “small glimpse into Korean culture.” Indeed, I could have written a column not comprised of the author’s experiences. A little tolerance goes a long way. In the future, I hope The Tech will only publish travel journals that display greater sensitivity to other cultures.

Gina Kim ’02

Limited Liability

I have read coverage in The Tech of Elzbieta Shion’s suicide and her family’s lawsuit. I work at a small private university in Seattle, Washington. Besides my general interest in academic policy, I am the parent of a daughter who completed her bachelor’s degree at Columbia in 1994. I am very sorry for the Shion family’s loss, and for the terrible impact the suicide must have had on Ms. Shion’s family and others. I agree with the editorial position that the Shion family would do well to share any settlement with MIT. Even more strongly, I feel that their case is weak. Surely they knew that their daughter was a very troubled person. There is a moral limit to the amount of responsibility any one can assign to “others” when a family member is in trouble, and I hope the court finds that there is also a legal limit.

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Opinion Policy

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

Letters 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 that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are welcome. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to news@the-tech.mit.edu. Hand copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397129, 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.

To Reach Us

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 who, letters and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter, to reach them, 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.
While I hesitate to quote in the pend- ing lawsuit, I must take exception to the ac- cusations made by Dawna Perliner [’01] in her letter [“Parental Attention, Mortal Sin,” Feb. 5] and Michael J. Salib G in his guest column [“Give Us the Whole Truth”].

Let’s begin with the former. Perliner states, “It seems to me the parents are failing to take responsibility for their role in their daughter’s death.” I think this is a sad commentary on today’s generation. I was never a carry-on with my family, and I knew I was leaving when I was 11 years old — what is the matter with today’s youth?

If one concludes that “Elizabeth wanted to die because she felt she could not be the daughter her parents expected,” it is nothing short of absurd. If one cannot fulfill the expectations of the people around you, how can your life be justified in con- text with your parents? I know firsthand that the idea of a “cycle of suffering” has driven many MIT students to overconcern with the complex issues of depression and suicide, and it overlooks the fact that many, if not the majority, of the problems children face are probably not their own. The idea of expecting any future by today’s youth is a wonderment.

Perliner goes on to state, “If her parents had not been notified about her problems, they could have helped the problem. If her parents had not been notified, they would have done everything in their power to keep their daughter safe.” All parents, given a choice, would rather die than see their children die.

I hope the last paragraph of the letter was a joke. Let’s just get to the guest column. Salib is not presenting his story in the first-person perspective. I guess his family probably embarrasses her and only add to her stresses, making her death even more immedi- ate. If her parents had known, they would have done anything in their power to keep her safe. I can only imagine the stress on their daughter. All parents, given a choice, would rather die than see their children die.

I have always wondered about the phrase of the “joke of the day.” Is it just to get to the guest column. Salib tries to portray himself as an enlightened skeptic on the “Shin’s” warping of conclusion or taking sides. But it seems to mean that he has been already done both.

And the “sympa- they” phrase is backed onto the end was most unconvincing. Given the author’s persistent use of “the Shin’s” sensationalism in general, with the saddest selflessness presented in the beginning of the word, I wonder about the author’s passion to their students? For my part, I doubt he has even made $27 million would you and the current students have to pay? Are you saying that the Shin’s don’t work hard? Are you calling them thieves? You’ve probably much already called them liars.

The reader can probably tell, reading these paragraphs, that the authors’ positions stemmed from their ignorance of such issues as being an Asian- American woman. I have decided to give my own personal self. I shall make my own personal choices and to do absolutely nothing to deserve, but I think the flavor presented is worth reading.

There are many misunderstandings between first-generation and second-genera- tion Asian-Americans. Very often, the parents have made a big leap despite coming to this country with next to nothing. They want their chil- dren to do what they decided they were only way they know how to facilitate that is through education. They pressure their chil- dren to excel (and judging by their picture, the Shin look pretty hardcore), and communica- tion seems to have been very limited in the Shin’s latest achievements. This, in addition to gaps in age, culture, and language, can elimi- nate dialogues of a personal nature. As the chil- dren feel implicit and explicit pressure to suc- ceed, out of honor, pride, even fear. Too often, they shy away from developing proin- lems, especially personal ones. Think Chris- topher wool to be, Old Testament style. Getting the idea?

One of the most difficult obstacles of depression to overcome is the fact that many problems are not centered on the individual but of shame, guilt, and possibly per- sonal embarrassment. Combine these two factors, and you have someone who is essentially reluctant to talk about their personal problems. Personally, if I want to hurt myself, I’d just want my parents to know about it (whether I liked it or not). I’d want to know if there were other kids who were having problems. It’s not about being treated like a baby. It’s about life, love, and death.

Should the Shin “release the medical records to the public.”?

It’s a serious problems with MIT’s Mental Health Office. I’m not sure who is responsible for every student who decides to bite the dust? Certainly not. Anyone can point to the 2001 Krueger aftermath. Where was the outrage? The whole MIT community. Let’s take the letter first. Perlner states “It’s not about being treated like a baby. It’s about life, love, and death.”

If one concludes that “Elizabeth wanted to die because she felt she could not be the daughter her parents expected.” If one cannot fulfill the expectations of the people around you, how can your life be justified in context with your parents? I know firsthand that the idea of a “cycle of suffering” has driven many MIT students to overconcern with the complex issues of depression and suicide, and it overlooks the fact that many, if not the majority, of the problems children face are probably not their own. The idea of expecting any future by today’s youth is a wonderment.

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the crass rat

You know how when two people are friends, there's always the one who's always the 'good looking one'...

And then there's the one who has to be taken for the team?

So yeah, I just wanted to say thanks for being my friend...

You're welcome, friend...

INTEGRAL FORCE

Yeah, so let's reflect shall we? How did we do last term?

Toward quite miraculously.

And what can I learn from that?

Just stupid. It really doesn't matter how hard I try. I just gonna get screwed over anyway.

Yeah, like major last running it went b easy.

The really crooked.Ioplerapy, is it back in wannin' in sayin'? I need a step class again? More punch more hammer? Drivers license?

Serious like, if my grades is gonna suck had better start. I'm tellin' you. It's a life changer.

LETS GO...

WAIT VECtor. I HAVE TO DO ONE MORE THING.

MANGOS

I keep these with me to remind me to keep focus.

Keep these with me to remind me to keep focus.

LUNAR

This is what happened.

This is what happened.

EXCLUSIVE ONLINE FEATURES

Especially for you.

Especially for you.

I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND

I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND
Hello, I just spent $300 on textbooks. I'm probably not even going to need...

Hey Spike, Anime Marathon Tonight. Interested?

Sorry Pam, I got Hot Dates With Miss Right.

Funny, you'd think by how he'd be on a first name basis with her...

I call Miss Left Jenna

---

FoxTrot
by Bill Amend

What can I do to avoid getting computer viruses?

Give your power cord a spinal adjustment once a week to prevent disease.

I was skeptical until he said there's anecdotal evidence that it works!

I worked all weekend to get the bugs out of the database.

But now the data make us look bad. Put back the bugs.

Can you teach me to be apathetic like you?

Only if you have a strong desire not to learn.

---

Dilbert®
by Scott Adams

What am I doing now?

What's your favorite food?

You're a popular person.

No one said they had a healthy population.

I don't get it. You backflip so well with your arms in the air.

The best part is I didn't even notice your hands.

I think I'll just lie here a while to keep the swelling down.

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---

Dear Miss O'Malley,

Please excuse my snot, runny nose, and fever, and know this is the only time I'll ever ask for a day off.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Fox

Jason will you stop论坛al sorts and go home?

Can't I cook that momentous test?

I just had a good meeting.

Maybe it just didn't last long enough to reveal the incompetence of the attendees.

That's what I call a good meeting.

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Events Calendar

Visit and add events to Calendar online at [http://events.mit.edu](http://events.mit.edu)

Friday, February 8

7:30 p.m. – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast. Twins Smiley, television correspondent, author and political commentator will be the keynote speaker at MIT’s 28th annual congratulatory breakfast to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He will address the theme of this year’s celebration, “From Dreams to Reality: The Illusion of Full Inclusion.” Free. Room: Mona Mead (Walker Memorial). Sponsor: Office of the Provost.

12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Dreamweaver Quick Start. Dreamweaver is a powerful tool for creating and managing complex websites. This session introduces users to the Dreamweaver interface and gives a brief overview of publishing practices at MIT. Free. Room: 14-M2 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.


4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Opening Reception: Process, Scale, Invisibility. Exposition of the Big Dig by Zach Kramer (Lit Art ’102). Exhibit on view Feb 1-28. Free. Room: Rotch Library (Room 7-238). Sponsor: List Visual Arts Center.

Saturday, February 9

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Graduate Student Volunteer Fair. Representatives from various local organizations will be present to look for internship through the traditional methods and the hands-on job market. Pre-registration is required. Free. Room: 4-159. Sponsor: OCSPA.

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Innovation and Brand Strengthening: An Operations Perspective. Free. Room: Wong Auditorium, Tang Center. Sponsor: Office of Corporate Relations/UJ.

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – “Fukaya categories and deformations.” Free. Room: 32-682. Sponsor: OCSPA.

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – “A Virtuosic Work in Every Aspect.” Presented by Todd Solondz. Offically Selected Offically Selected)

Sunday, February 10

12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Blood Drive. Come help save lives by donating blood or volunteering to help with our drive! See our Web page for more information or to make an appointment to donate. Free. Room: La Sala. Sponsor: American Red Cross Team and Network, Blood Drive.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Web Publishing Overviews. A prerequisite for the “Web Publishing: Basics” course, this three-hour lecture/demonstration session gives an overview of the electronic publishing process as it exists at MIT, focusing on how to use files using HTML tags, how to upload files to the Athena system for delivery through MIT’s mail server, www.mit.edu. Special attention is paid to issues affecting websites and MIT’s MITNet rules of usage. All scholarships are sponsored by a graduate student group. At the end of the day there will be the keynote speaker at MIl’s 28th annual celebratory break-

Monday, February 11

12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Blood Drive. Come help save lives by donating blood or volunteering to help with our drive! See our Web page for more information or to make an appointment to donate. Free. Room: La Sala. Sponsor: American Red Cross Team and Network, Blood Drive.

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – “A Virtuosic Work in Every Aspect.” Presented by Todd Solondz. Offically Selected Offically Selected)
A weekly guide to the arts in Boston February 8 – 15
Compiled by Devydot Muddmaer

 Clubs

Avalon
15 Lansdowne St., 617-244-9515
Tuesdays: Open Mic at 8 p.m. (sign up at 7:30). $5. See Call for schedule.

Avalon, Modern
15 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2424
Thursdays: Groove Factor.

Popular Music

Avalon
15 Lansdowne St., 617-244-9515
Tuesdays: Open Mic at 8 p.m. (sign up at 7:30). $5. See Call for schedule.

Popular Art

Paradise Rock Club
969 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215, 617-868-6004
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MIT to Admit Fewer Freshmen To Ensure Smaller Class Sizes

By Brian Loux

"Mit is taking extra precautions in its undergraduate admissions policies this year to ensure that the incoming class of 2006 does not exceed 1000 students. Fewer bids will be sent out to prospective freshmen starting this year in hopes of maintaining this number. "We do everything possible not to overshoot this year," said Dean for Undergraduate Education Larry G. Benedict. The Executive Committee of the MIT Corporation decided to reduce the number of incoming freshmen to 1000 students beginning with the class of 2004. While this number was overshot slightly for 2004, the class of 2005 had thirty more students than planned. Although this represents a small percentage of the class, this overflow of freshmen exacerbated the already fragile crowding situation on campus.

However, while the class will consist of 1000 students, 20 of the slots have been set aside for transfer students. "In essence, the freshman target goes down by 20 from original thinking," said Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict.

Smaller classes to be maintained

Administrators are taking steps to make certain that next year's class will not be overcrowded, and to avoid future problems, the administration will maintain freshman class size at 1000 for the indefinite future. "The goal was not to diminish the freshman class until Simmons was built," Benedict said. "Even with Simmons built, we don't have enough spaces in our undergraduate halls to accommodate all the undergraduates that want on-campus housing.

In recent years, the long-term size of the freshman class has remained in question. Many assumed that student numbers would bounce back after the move of freshmen onto campus had settled. However, it now appears that future freshmen classes will remain around 1000 students instead of the 1050 from five years ago. "Long term, we believe that a class size of about 1000 will fit well with our available housing and with our capacity for providing a quality education for those students," Redwine said.

How the admissions changes will affect student life at MIT remains to be seen. "Overall, I think it won't have a day to day student impact," said Undergraduate Administration President Jaime E. Devereaux '02. "But we don't know what impact it will have on the FSILG community.

MIT gets higher matriculant yield

If factors continue on their present trends, the class of 2006 will most likely trump 2005 as the most selective class in MIT history. "We overshoot the target last year because of fewer than expected 'melts' over the summer, Redwine said. He noted "melts" as those students who reply to the acceptance letter but decide not to come in the fall.

This could be quite a challenge to the admissions staff, as applications to MIT and the subsequent acceptance rates have risen in recent years. "MIT seems to be becoming more popular," Benedict said. "Students in the past who wouldn't show up in September are now showing up.

Regular action applicants will be notified of their admission decisions on the first of April. Dean for Admissions Marilee Jones could not be reached for comment.

Tuition may rise more than usual

Students might see a sharper jump in tuition than usual in the coming year. When MIT decided to decrease the number of acceptances in 2000, tuition rose by $1,650. The usual yearly increase for the past ten years has been around $900.

However, many other factors will contribute to the cost of tuition, and the recession may eclipse the admissions cut as the guiding factor this year. "From the perspective of MIT's finances, improving the comfort of students vastly exceeds the relatively insignificant amount of tuition money lost with a marginaly smaller class size," Devereaux said.

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Smaller classes to be maintained

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Course VI TA Raise Has Little Impact on New Assistantships

Grad Students, from Page 1

G. who recently applied to the PhD program in Course VI, felt that the economy did not affect her decision to apply. "I feel like I could get a job if I really wanted to but I want to go into teaching," Kaminski said. "I guess I'm lucky that it is my decision."

Course VI numbers up 20 percent

The Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (Course VI) has received "close to 2800" applications for graduate degree programs, according to Course VI administrator Calestine M. Carney. This is an increase of over 500 from 2001, when 2230 applications were received.

Anne M. Hunter, another Course VI administrator, said that about 360 applications for the MEng program have been received. "My impression is that it stayed consistent from previous years," Hunter said.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering (Course II) has received over 120 more applications for graduate programs this year, according to Course II administrator Leslie Régan. About 740 applications have been processed this year compared to 620 last year.

Electronic applications accepted

Another possible explanation for the increase in applicants this year may be the fact that it was easier to turn in application materials — this was the first year that applicants were allowed to apply for most of MIT's graduate programs online. "Over 90 percent of the applications, excluding Sloan, came in electronically," Johnson said. "It may have increased applications somewhat."

Carney agreed, also noting that students were able to pay application fees over the Web with credit card for the first time.

Stipend raise has little effect

The increased stipend awarded to Course VI teaching assistants has had almost no effect on the number of applications for teaching assistantships.

According to Course VI Executive Officer and Professor Frederick C. Hennie '55, 207 students applied to be TAs for the spring. In the fall of 2001, 205 students applied. "I don't think it had a major effect," Hennie said. "I don't think too many students knew about the increases, but those who did seemed excited."

Only doctoral candidates who have previously served as teaching assistants are eligible for the $185 bonus, beginning this term. There are "at least 20" teaching assistants who are receiving the pay raise, Hennie said. Normally, TAs are paid $1850 per month; those eligible for the increase are paid $2035 per month, beginning this term.

Everest W. Huang G, a TA for Stochastic Processes, Detection, and Estimation (6.432), benefited from the increase. "It was a nice addition, but I probably would have [been a TA] anyway," Huang said.

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Legal Experts Question Some Claims in Shin Lawsuit

Shin, from Page 1

master answer" for the malfeasance of its employees, Klein also sought to hold Brown accountable. Although the Rhode Island Supreme Court found this argument to be valid, the jury in this case did not find any fault on the part of either Brown University or the psychologist.

Unlike the Klein case, the Shin case is not about MIT for medical malpractice. They are, however, claiming malpractice against five MIT doctors individually. This is because of a 1971 Massachusetts law which limits "tort claims" against educational and charitable institutions to $20,000. DeLuca said the term "tort" refers to a civil injury, such as medical malpractice, for which a person harmed can seek damages in court.

Instead of suing MIT directly for the alleged malpractice of its employees, the Shin's are asserting four non-tort causes of action against MIT. Three of these claims are action that MIT violated expressed or implied contracts with the Shin's to provide "appropriate medical diagnoses and treatment," "act in loco parentis," and "to provide necessary and reasonable medical services, and that since "she didn't get that, she lost the benefit of the bargain." However, several legal experts were skeptical of this attempt to describe MIT's alleged wrongdoing as a breach of contract and consumer fraud.

A source close to the Shin case is said it is miscommunication between the Massachusetts plaintiffs to try to turn negligence claims into contract claims in order to circumvent the $20,000 limit.

DeLuca argued that MIT "is an institution engaged in trade or commerce," and an act of "unfair and deceptive business practice" in failing to "provide adequate and coordinated mental health services" as well as "to maintain the fire suppression system in Random Hall," according to sources.

"I understand that the complaint is rather broad, and it has to be," DeLuca said. "It's our obligation to bring all claims that are arguable." Experts question Shin's claims.

DeLuca said the $20,000 limit on tort claims is "what necessitates the bringing of those claims in breach of contract form." DeLuca added that the precedent set by the 1993 Massachusetts case, Hypolite v. City of Boston, appears to make it difficult for the Shin's to maintain their claims. In that case, a plaintiff seeking psychiatric services was unable to maintain a malpractice claim under the same law against the Boston City Hospital. The court found that the hospital was not interacting with its patients in a "business contract" sense. Moreover, the City of Boston was thus not engaged in "trade or commerce.

An attorney unrelated to the case who specializes in healthcare liability said that even if the Shin's are to convince the court that their claims against MIT are properly brought as contract-related claims, they will not be able to get their claimed $27.7 million in actual damages from MIT.

Remedies in breach of contract cases are generally limited to the actual value of the contract, which in this case would be Shin's tuition, the attorney said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In each of the cases made against MIT, MIT's doctors, Elizabeth Shin's former housemaster, MIT administrators and campus security officers, it will be the judge's responsibility to hear the facts of the case and then decide the amount of monetary damages to award, said a source close to MIT.

Malpractice claims seen valid

Experts generally agreed that the Shin's malpractice claims against MIT's doctors sound considerably stronger than their claims against the hospital.

Meek criticized MIT Staff Psychi- atrist Anthony Van Neil's alleged behavior. The complaint alleges that Van Neil "decided that he had no need to see or evaluate Ms. Shin in person," after speaking to Shin over the telephone two days before her suicide.

According to Meek, a psychia- trist "would have to meet with the person," because "it's incredibly difficult to do an assessment of the patient over the telephone." Meek said a claim of malpractice, however, would depend on Van Neil's diagnosis of Shin, something not found in the complaint.

Hearing that Shin had been re- commended to a program of "Disease- tics for Treatment Therapy," Meek said that treatment is "really only for [a diagnosis of] borderline per- sonality disorders.

Patients with this disorder, Meek said, "often engage in low-risk suicide attempts in an effort to gain attention.

Shin asked MIT not to tell parents

The Shin's asserted that MIT never informed them of Elizabeth's declining mental health because of an over-reliance on confidentiality. According to DeLuca, the Shin's were never advised that they could ask Elizabeth to sign a confidentiality waiver that would have allowed them to become more involved in their daughter's medical treatment.

As to whether this was legal- ly relevant, Meek said, "I don't think there's any duty at all for the mental health providers to inform the parents that the plaintiff can sign a release."

MIT has countered that Eliza- beth specifically demanded that doc- tors not involve her parents.

The difficulty in this case is that "[Elizabeth] clearly didn't want her parents involved — that was one of her specific concerns," Robert M. Randolph, the senior associate dean for students, told The Boston Globe six weeks after the suicide.

"The question we have been reviewing is whether we should specifically counter the wishes of individuals," Randolph added.

Randolph recently confirmed that Elizabeth's reluctance to involve her parents in her treatment was "clearly known to a lot of people."

"I think we're confident that the situation as it was handled was handled well," Randolph said. "The tragedy was that the outcome was un- fortunately.

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Medical records quoted in Globe

It is unclear how Shin's medical records from MIT and MIT Mental Health Services were obtained by The Boston Globe.

In a Jan. 25, 2001 story by Patrick Healy, published three days before the Shin's lawsuit was filed, the Globe cited McLean "hospital records" which indicated that Shin had spent a week at McLean psychiatric and mental health hospital after hav- ing "feared psychosis the previous fall."

This article also appears to be the first published disclosure that Shin had mental health issues prior to attending MIT, saying she had "told doctors" that "she had cut her wrists superficially after earning an incomplete grade" in high school.

The story attributes to "one MIT medical health record" that Shin threatened to commit suicide in the spring of 1999 "following a breakup with a boyfriend." The article also directly quotes "an MIT Mental Health Services memo on March 21, 2000."

DeLuca said that he is in posses- sion of those records, but he insisted that he did not reveal their contents to the Globe. He says he did send them to MIT's attorney in the case, Jeffrey Swope of the law firm Palmer & Dodge "in the interests of full disclosure."

Swope said, "We are not making general substantive comments since the matter is in litigation."

Healy, the author of the Globe article, said that "McLean asked as well" how he obtained the records. DeLuca said that Shin's reported mental health issues in high school were not relevant to the case. "It's really beside the point. I'm sure that a lot of students come to MIT with bumps and bruises, and it's the responsibility of the service to respond to the whole person, regard- less," DeLuca said.

DeLuca said that Shin believed a civil case was an appropriate forum for her concerns, since an attempt to involve the District Attorney or a malpractice complaint before the state regulatory board "would be over- reaching at this point."

MIT has three weeks from the complaint's filing date on Jan. 28 to file a paragraph-by-paragraph answer, which will likely consist only of "admit" or "deny" for most paragraphs, according to sources close to the tinus.

If the parties do not reach a set- tlement, the case may go to trial in 2005 or later, according to DeLuca, citing standing rules of the Massachusetts Trial Courts that put medical malpractice lawsuits on a three-year schedule.

Qian Wang contributed to the reporting of this story.
The image contains text related to a career fair event held on February 8, 2002, at the Rockwell Cage. The fair is hosted by the Tau Beta Pi, Massachusetts Institute of Technology chapter. The event is scheduled from 10 AM to 3 PM. Various sponsors and companies are listed, including NVIDIA, Schlumberger, and others. The format of the text suggests it is a flyer or poster advertising the career fair.
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Dan Relihan '04 completed the first-ever service UROP last semester. He created an online physics resource specifically for physics students at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School. The UROP allowed Relihan to learn some technical information and a great deal of practical skills.

"My challenge was to get [the physics information] on their level. I enjoyed it," he said.

Summer programs to be expanded
The PSC is working to expand its Summer Fellowship program, which it hopes will encourage FWS students to participate in community service work. This program pays students for 10 weeks during the summer to help community and non-profit organizations.

The goal of the program is to better community organizations, even after students leave their summer positions. "When [the students] leave, the agency is better off," Susnowitz said.

FWS part of financial aid
Through the FWS program, undergraduate and graduate students with financial need can work either at their school or, in the community to earn money to help pay education expenses. Only students with FWS in their financial aid package can receive payment for community service activities.

Smith said that FWS community service students must be doing work that benefits the public. For example, a student working in a museum is doing community service work because the museum is open to the public.

Some universities comply with this by employing students in the university libraries, since, technically, the libraries are open to the public. According to Smith, MIT does not do this because this would "water-down" the community service experience.

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UROPs help students volunteer
In addition to tutoring programs, the PSC and SFS are working jointly to develop service learning classes, service Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programs (UROP), and summer fellowships to increase service opportunities for FWS participants.

Students participating in service learning classes receive credit for volunteering in the community. "We like the idea that people can meet several needs at once," Susnowitz said. Through service learning, students can receive FWS money, receive class credit, and participate in community service.

"Service UROPs are a relatively new form of UROP," Susnowitz said. "One of the functions of a service UROP would be to allow a student to continue or finish a project that was started during service learning. Often, students are not given an opportunity to complete service learning projects because they are limited to a semester time frame.

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"Service UROPs are a relatively new form of UROP," Susnowitz said. "One of the functions of a service UROP would be to allow a student to continue or finish a project that was started during service learning. Often, students are not given an opportunity to complete service learning projects because they are limited to a semester time frame.

Dan Relihan '04 completed the first-ever service UROP last semester. He created an online physics resource specifically for physics students at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School. The UROP allowed Relihan to learn some technical information and a great deal of practical skills.

"My challenge was to get [the physics information] on their level. I enjoyed it," he said.

Summer programs to be expanded
The PSC is working to expand its Summer Fellowship program, which it hopes will encourage FWS students to participate in community service work. This program pays students for 10 weeks during the summer to help community and non-profit organizations.

The goal of the program is to better community organizations, even after students leave their summer positions. "When [the students] leave, the agency is better off," Susnowitz said.

FWS part of financial aid
Through the FWS program, undergraduate and graduate students with financial need can work either at their school or, in the community to earn money to help pay education expenses. Only students with FWS in their financial aid package can receive payment for community service activities.

Smith said that FWS community service students must be doing work that benefits the public. For example, a student working in a museum is doing community service work because the museum is open to the public.

Some universities comply with this by employing students in the university libraries, since, technically, the libraries are open to the public. According to Smith, MIT does not do this because this would "water-down" the community service experience.

UROPs help students volunteer
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